

April - 06

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu-based publishing house Kalachuvadu Publications has won the Publisher of the Year 2023 award.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu filed a suit in the Supreme Court accusing the Union government of treating the people of the State in a “step-motherly” manner by delaying the release of disaster relief funds to the tune of nearly ₹38,000 crore.
 - This is sought by the state to help tide over the twin calamities of Cyclone Michaung and unprecedented floods in the southern districts.

TAMIL NADU

Top borrower state in 2024

To bridge fiscal deficit

The Tamil Nadu government raises funds through the issue of bonds known as State Development Loans (SDLs).



According to the RBI, the State plans to borrow ₹37,000 crore from January-March 2024. Tamil Nadu has been the top borrowing State in recent years.

Gross market borrowings

Year	Amount (in ₹ crore)
Fiscal 2023-24*	53,000
Fiscal 2022-23	87,000
Fiscal 2021-22	87,000

Repayment of market borrowings

Year	Amount (in ₹ crore)
Fiscal 2023-24*	21,320
Fiscal 2022-23	21,278.30
Fiscal 2021-22	14,500

*Data pertain to April-Sept.

Outstanding liabilities from SDLs

Year	Amount (in ₹ crore)
At end of Mar. 2024	6,00,992.9
At end of Mar. 2023	5,18,367
At end of Mar. 2022	4,50,364.5

Total outstanding liabilities

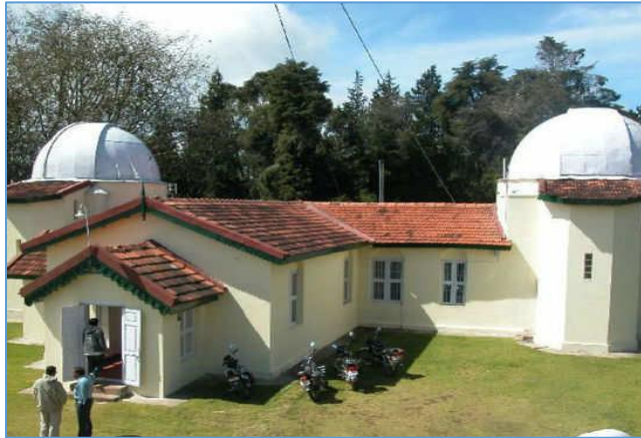
Year	Amount (in ₹ crore)
At end of Mar. 2024	8,34,543.5
At end of Mar. 2023	7,41,497.7
At the end of Mar. 2022	6,67,974.9

Source: Reserve Bank of India's report titled State Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2023-24

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has ended fiscal 2023-24 with gross market borrowings at ₹1,13,000 crore.

- ❖ Thus, it was emerging the top borrowing State for the fourth successive fiscal year.
- ❖ Maharashtra stood next with borrowings of ₹1,10,000 crore, Uttar Pradesh at ₹97,700 crore, Karnataka at ₹81,000 crore, Rajasthan at ₹73,600 crore and Andhra Pradesh at ₹68,400 crore.
- ❖ The States, including Tamil Nadu, borrow from the market by auctioning bonds known as State Development Loans (SDL).
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's gross market borrowings remained at ₹87,000 crore in fiscal 2022-23, as well as in fiscal 2021-22.
- ❖ The State government plans to borrow a total amount of ₹1,55,584.48 crore during 2024-25.
- ❖ The outstanding debt as on March 31, 2025 will be ₹8,33,361.80 crore, according to Tamil Nadu Budget for 2024-25.

125 years of Kodaikanal Solar Observatory

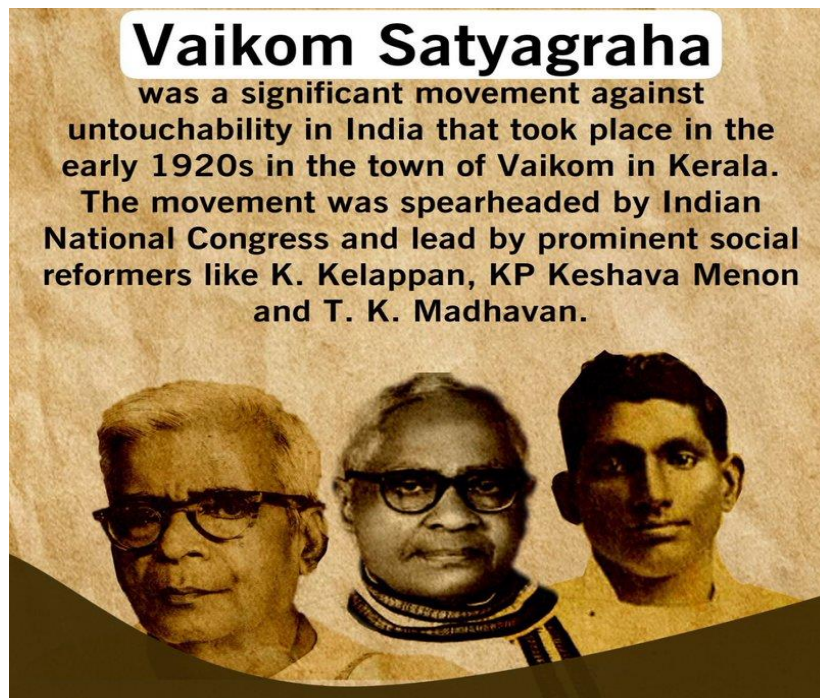


- ❖ Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (KSO) is India's oldest and one of the world's oldest solar observatories.
- ❖ On 1st April, the observatory celebrated its 125th birth anniversary.
- ❖ The observatory, started in the year 1899, is set an altitude of 2100 m on top of the pretty hills in the lap of the Western Ghats.
- ❖ It has a continuous daily record of the Sun, with over 1.2 lakh digitised solar images.

100 Years of Vaikom satyagraha

- ❖ Vaikom, a temple town in the princely state of Travancore, saw the start of a non-violent agitation on March 30, 1924.

- ❖ This is the first among temple entry movements that would soon sweep across the country.
- ❖ The satyagraha had foregrounded social reform amidst the growing nationalist movement, bringing Gandhian methods of protest to the state of Travancore.
- ❖ The Vaikom satyagraha was sustained for over 600 days.
- ❖ The issue of temple entry was first raised by Ezhava leader T K Madhavan in a 1917 editorial in his paper Deshabhimani.
- ❖ Madhavan met Gandhi in 1921, and secured the Mahatma's support for a mass agitation to enter temples.
- ❖ In the 1923 session of the INC in Kakinada, a resolution was passed by the Kerala Provincial Congress Committee to take up anti-untouchability as a key issue.
- ❖ In November 1936, the Maharaja of Travancore signed the historic Temple Entry Proclamation which removed the age-old ban on the entry of marginalised castes into the temples of the state.



NATIONAL

GI tags for 60 products

- ❖ Over 60 products from across India, including the famous Banaras Thandai, have been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ❖ This is the first time such a large number of GI tags have been given at a go.

- ❖ Six traditional crafts from Assam — Asharikandi terracotta craft, Pani Meteka craft, Sarthebari metal craft, Jaapi (bamboo headgear of rural Assam), Mishing handloom products, and the Bihu dhol — have bagged the GI tag.
- ❖ Thirteen other products from Assam have been given tags, including the Bodo Dokhona, the traditional attire of Bodo women; and Bodo Eri silk.
- ❖ The Tripura region secured two tags —the Pachra-Rignai, and Matabari Peda, a sweet preparation.
- ❖ Meghalaya Garo Textile’ weaving, which is linked to socio-cultural and religious rituals, and the ‘Meghalaya Lyrnai Pottery’ and ‘Meghalaya Chubitchi’, have also secured GI tags.
- ❖ With 69 GI-tagged products, Uttar Pradesh now surpasses Tamil Nadu, which has 58.
- ❖ Till date, around 635 products in India have been given the GI tag.
- ❖ The first GI tag in the country was given two decades ago to the famous Darjeeling tea.



RBI's 90th Foundation Day

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was established on April 1, 1935.
- ❖ It is responsible for monetary stability, currency management, inflation targeting, regulating the banking system, and setting interest rates.
- ❖ Legislation to set up the Reserve Bank of India was enacted in March 1934.
- ❖ The provisions relating to the constitution of the bank, issue of share capital, and establishment of central and local boards became operative from January 1, 1935.

- ❖ The first Governor of the RBI was the Australian Sir Osborne Arkell Smith, one of the two managing governors of the Imperial Bank of India.
- ❖ Sir C D Deshmukh was the first Indian to become the RBI Governor.



'Bharat-Shakti' Exercise



- ❖ The combined demonstration of indigenous defence equipment was held in the form of a tri-services live fire and manoeuvre exercise Bharat Shakti at Pokhran in Rajasthan.

- ❖ In the last 10 years, equipment worth ₹6 lakh crore has been procured from Indian companies.
- ❖ During this period defence production of the country has doubled to more than ₹1 lakh crore.
- ❖ More than 150 defence startups have started and defence forces have given them orders worth ₹1800 crore.

AI & ML tech hub MATH



- ❖ The department of science & technology has joined hands with Telangana govt led T-Hub to set up a one-of-its-kind Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence Technology Hub (MATH).
- ❖ It aims to foster AI innovation, create job opportunities and provide a conducive ecosystem for AI startups.
- ❖ India's AI market is growing at a CAGR of 25-35% and is poised to reach \$17 billion by 2027.

INS Tushil

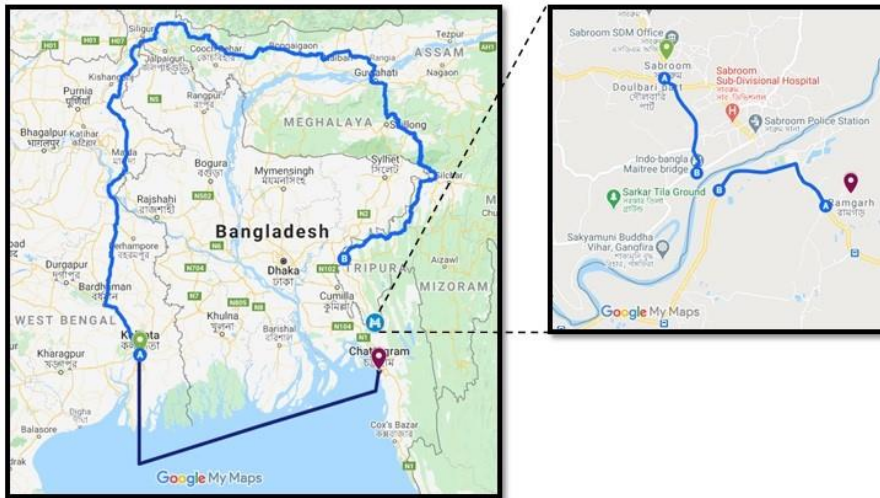
- ❖ INS Tushil, India's latest naval asset, initiated its sea trials from Russia's Baltiysk naval base.
- ❖ Tushil, the first of two additional Krivak/Talwar class stealth frigates, was constructed by Russia.
- ❖ The Tushil, which means “protector shield” in Sanskrit, is one of four follow-on frigates contracted by India from Russia.
- ❖ Two ships (INS Tushil and INS Tamala) are being constructed by Russia and the remaining two being built in India through technology transfer.

- ❖ The Indian Navy operates six Talwar-class frigates, which were acquired in two batches of three each in 1997 and 2006.



STATES

Land Port in Sabroom



- ❖ The 3rd Land Port at Sabroom in South Tripura was inaugurated along the India-Bangladesh border.
- ❖ It was connected to Bangladesh's Chittagong port via the Maitree Bridge on River Feni.
- ❖ It will enhance passenger and cargo movement between the two nations.
- ❖ Land port is an area on the international borders including portions of national, State highways and other roads, and railways.

- ❖ It is notified as land Customs station or immigration check-post under the Customs Act, 1962 or the Foreigners' Act, 1946.

Tripartite Agreement - Tripura

- ❖ The Centre recently signed a tripartite agreement with the Tripura government and the state's main opposition party, the TIPRA Motha.
- ❖ This is signed for a time-bound "honourable resolution" of the long-pending demands of the state's tribal population, including economic, political, land, linguistic and cultural rights.
- ❖ It has put an end to the indefinite fast-unto-death started by TIPRA Motha founder and Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarma.
- ❖ The Tipra Motha's demands include a "Greater Tipraland" — a separate state for Tripura's tribals.
- ❖ It seeks to include those living outside the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) area as well.
- ❖ The party has sought more powers for the TTAADC, including direct funding from the Centre, its own police force, and share of revenue from gas exploration in the state.
- ❖ It also wants the Roman script to be declared as the official script for the indigenous Kokborok language.

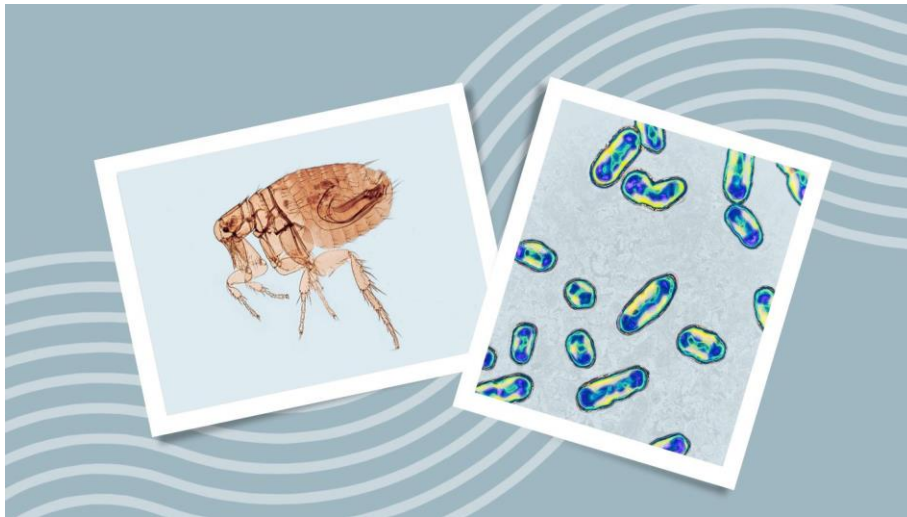


INTERNATIONAL

Rare Human Case of Bubonic Plague

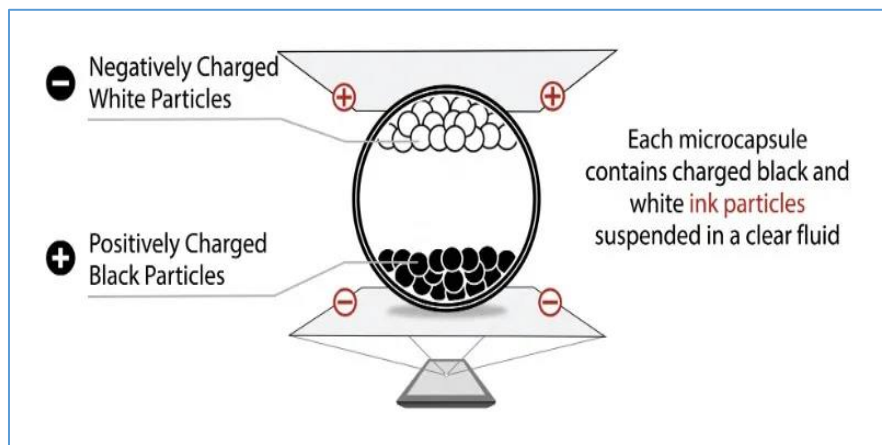
- ❖ A rare human case of bubonic plague has occurred in the US state of Oregon.

- ❖ Officials have said that the infection was transmitted by a pet cat.
- ❖ Bubonic plague killed at least a third of Europe's population in the 14th Century during a pandemic known as the "Black Death."
- ❖ The disease, which remains potentially dangerous but treatable, is quite uncommon in developed countries.
- ❖ The bubonic plague is an infectious disease caused by the *Yersinia pestis* bacteria.
- ❖ It is often transmitted via fleas or rodents infected with the bacteria.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

E Ink displays

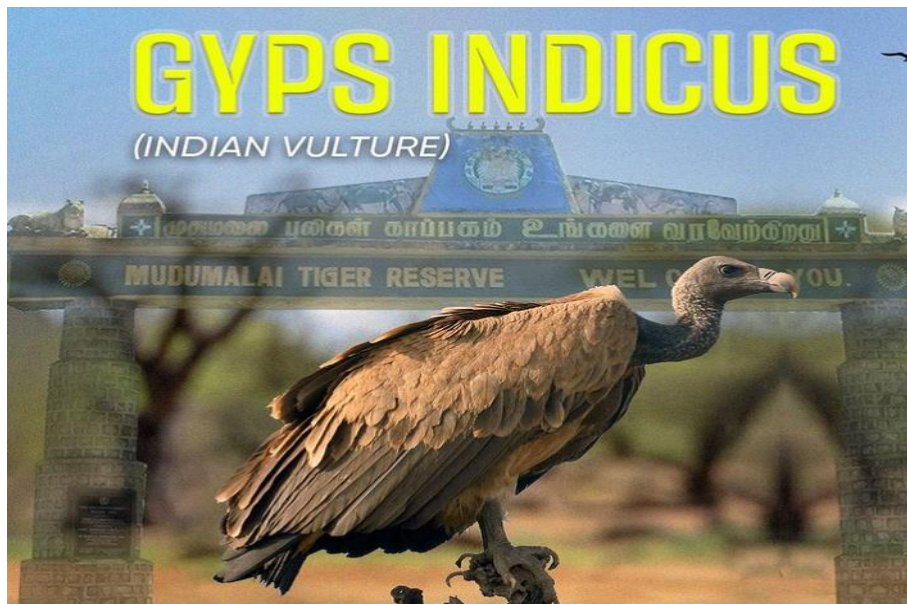


- ❖ E Ink displays are a special type of screen technology often used in e-readers like the Amazon Kindle.

- ❖ The technology was originally developed in the 1990s at MIT and is now owned by E Ink Corporation.
- ❖ The screens work using tiny microcapsules filled with positively charged white particles and negatively charged black ones suspended in fluid inside the display.
- ❖ By applying positive or negative electrical charges to different areas of the screen, the white or black particles can be made to rise to the surface, creating the text and images on the display.
- ❖ E Ink displays reflect light – just like paper.
- ❖ They also require very little power since they don't need a backlight and only use energy when the image changes.

ENVIRONMENT

GYPS Vultures - Moyar Valley



- ❖ It is the only region in peninsular India where you have the biggest nesting colony of Gyps vultures in the wild.
- ❖ Moyar valley or Maayar (invisible river) valley extends from Gudalur through the core area of Mudumalai Tiger Reserve.
- ❖ This entire stretch of nearly 85 km is a wildlife haven and important biome in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.
- ❖ It sheltering several vital species like tiger and elephant and the critically endangered Gyps vulture.



- ❖ None of the other southern states can boast of being such a good breeding ground for these birds.
- ❖ It has a common boundary with Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (Kerala) on the West, Bandipur Tiger Reserve (Karnataka) on the North, the Nilgiris North Division on the South and East, and Gudalur Forest Division on the South West.

