

April - 07

TNPSC BITS

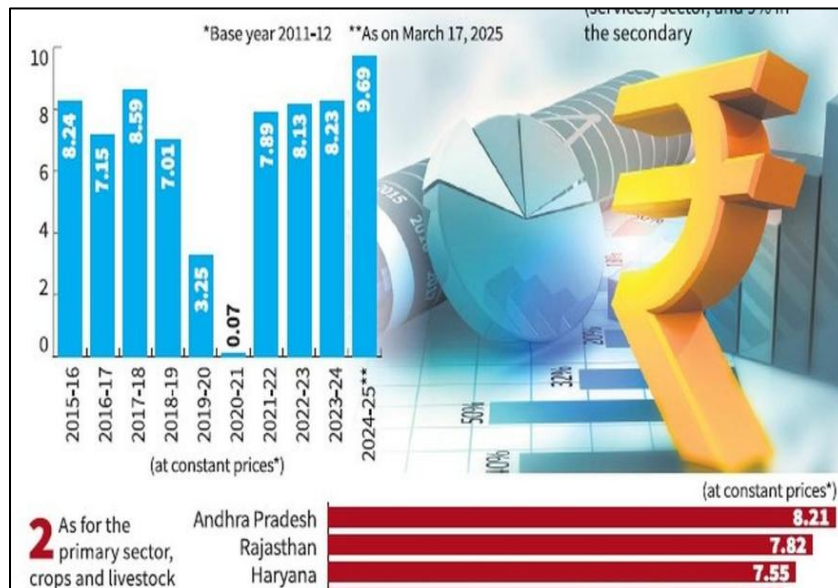
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government is planning to establish parks for pets in Chennai and Coimbatore.
- ❖ The President Droupadi Murmu has withheld assent to Tamil Nadu's Bill seeking exemption from the mandate of National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET)-based admissions for undergraduate medical courses in government medical colleges.
- ❖ Chennai and Kamarajar Ports together have recorded an operating income of over ₹2,200 crore and crossed 100 million metric tonnes (MMT) of cargo handling.
- ❖ Out of the 35 approved locations, 5 Multi-Modal Logistics Parks at Jogighopa in Assam, Chennai, Bengaluru, Nagpur and Indore are under the development and expected to be operational in FY 2025-26 and FY 2026-27.
- ❖ Kathak Kendra, a unit of Sangeet Natak Akademi, has hosted the 37th Kathak Mahotsav 2025 in New Delhi.
- ❖ Kerala's tribal handicraft Kannadippaya have been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ❖ Thailand hosted the sixth BIMSTEC Summit, under the theme of "BIMSTEC: Prosperous, Resilient and Open".
- ❖ Lok Sabha on April 3, 2025, made a record when the Zero Hour lasted for more than five hours and a whopping 202 MPs spoke.
 - Earlier, on July 18, 2019, 161 MPs had spoken during the extended Zero Hour.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Real Economic Growth Rate 2024-25

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's real economic growth rate of 9.69% for 2024-25 marks the highest for any State in the country.
- ❖ It was according to Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- ❖ This is being the highest for the State in the past 10 years.
- ❖ At the constant prices (base year: 2011-12), the value of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of Tamil Nadu, estimated at ₹15,71,368 crore for 2023-24.
- ❖ It had risen to ₹17,23,698 crore for 2024-25.
- ❖ The previous high was 8.59% during 2017-18.

- ❖ The lowest (0.07%) was recorded during 2020-21, the year of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ At least Tamil Nadu recorded a positive growth, whereas many States had posted a negative growth then.
- ❖ The term, real growth rate, denotes the rate that is exclusive of inflation.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's nominal growth rate for 2024-25 is 14.02%, also the highest among States.
- ❖ The State's performance has been driven by a 12.7% growth in the tertiary (services) sector and 9% in the secondary.
- ❖ The primary sector's performance is abysmally poor, with 0.15%.
- ❖ In the primary sector, crops and livestock are the dominant segments.
- ❖ The tertiary sector's contribution to the State's Gross State Value Added is around 53%, followed by the secondary with 37% and the primary with 10%.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu had been "consistently achieving" 8% or more since 2021-22.
- ❖ If it maintained 9.7% in the coming years, along with strong exports, it would be a trillion-dollar economy by 2032-33.



NATIONAL NEWS

SC on Police arrests

- ❖ The Supreme Court has said that the police "cannot exceed its limits" and asked them to adhere to all prescribed norms while making arrests.

- ❖ Even a criminal, under the law of our land, enjoys certain safeguards in order to ensure protection of his person and dignity.
- ❖ The court has issued a fresh ultimatum to police personnel of all states and Union Territories to strictly abide by the rules prescribed under the CrPC/BNSS 2023.
- ❖ It is including following the “checklist” prescribed under Section 41(1)(b)(ii) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Section 36 BNSS).
- ❖ The apex court’s earlier judgment also made the same kind of observations in the Somnath vs State of Maharashtra (2023) case.
- ❖ Article 22 of the constitution also protects the rights and liberties of individuals who are arrested or detained by the authorities.



Report on Forest encroachment in India

- ❖ Over 13,000 sq km of forest area is under encroachment in 25 States and Union Territories.
- ❖ This area is more than the total geographical area of Delhi, Sikkim and Goa combined.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh had the highest forest encroachment among all states and UTs, with 5,460.9 sq km affected as of March 2024.

- ❖ Assam has 3,620.9 sq km of forest area under encroachment.
- ❖ A total of 863.08 sq km of forest land in Karnataka is under encroachment.
- ❖ It is followed by 575.54 sq km in Maharashtra and 534.9 sq km in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has 157.68 sq km of encroached forest land.
- ❖ Forest area or The Recorded Forest Area (RFA) includes land officially designated as forest by the government, even if it does not have tree cover.
- ❖ RFA is further divided into three categories:
 - Reserved forests, - Have full protection, with activities like hunting and grazing generally banned
 - Protected forests, - Some activities are allowed unless specifically restricted and
 - Unclassed forests, - Not classified as reserved or protected.



US Nuclear Reactors in India

- ❖ The US Department of Energy granted Holtec International a critical regulatory approval, to transfer small modular reactor (SMR) technology to India.
- ❖ The deal is under the restrictive regulations of the US, '10CFR810', with the approval being valid for 10 years and will be re-evaluated every five years.
- ❖ The India-US Civil Nuclear Agreement, also known as the 123 Agreement, was signed in August 2007 by then PM Manmohan Singh and Bush.
- ❖ It aimed at enable full civil nuclear energy cooperation between the two nations.

- ❖ Currently, India has 22 operating reactors, with an installed capacity of 6780 MWe.

What It Means for India

1: What Just Happened?

The U.S. Department of Energy (DoE) has finally approved Holtec International to transfer SMR (Small Modular Reactor) technology to India.

This is the first major step in executing the India-U.S. Civil Nuclear Agreement signed in 2007.

2: Why Was This Delayed for 20 Years?

India's Nuclear Liability Laws made foreign companies hesitant. Long legal, regulatory, and technological discussions were needed. U.S. companies needed clearances to transfer sensitive technology.

3: What Does This Approval Mean?

Nuclear Power Expansion: More nuclear reactors will be built in India.
Energy Security: Reduces dependence on fossil fuels & imports.
Green Energy Boost: Supports India's clean energy and carbon reduction goals.
Stronger India-U.S. Ties: Deepens strategic and technological cooperation.

4: What's Next?

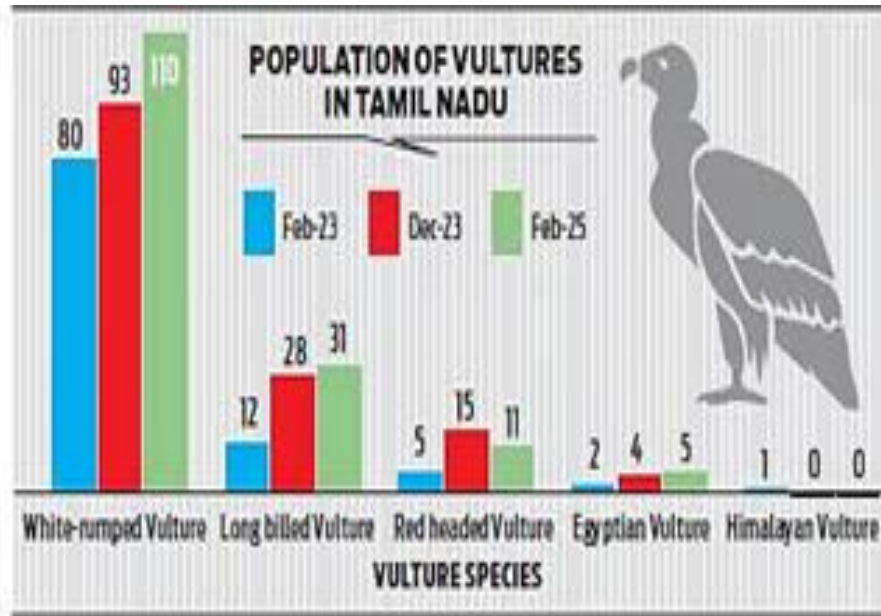
Holtec will work with Tata Consulting Engineers Ltd and Larsen & Toubro to set up nuclear power plants. India will explore further nuclear collaborations with the U.S.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Synchronized Vulture Survey 2025

- ❖ The Synchronised Vulture Survey 2025 was organised in the States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka Forest Departments.
- ❖ The Survey covered Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, and Nellai Wildlife Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu; Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala; and Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Tiger Reserve and Nagarhole Tiger Reserve in Karnataka.
- ❖ A total of 157 vultures were recorded in Tamil Nadu, showing an increase in the vulture population in the State.
- ❖ The white-rumped vulture is the most abundant species, accounting for 110 individuals.
- ❖ It is closely followed by the long-billed vulture (31 individuals), the red-headed vulture (11), and Egyptian vulture (5).
- ❖ Mudumalai Tiger Reserve is home to a significant breeding population of vultures with 60 active nests, which hosts an estimated population of 120 vultures.

- ❖ This population mainly comprises white-rumped vultures (108), followed by long-billed vultures (10), and red-headed vultures (2).
- ❖ Notably, 34 chicks were also recorded, indicating a thriving breeding ground.



Naini Lake issue

MAJOR CAUSES OF WATER DEPLETION

CLIMATE CHANGE

ERRATIC RAINFALL AND REDUCED SNOWFALL PATTERNS DISRUPT THE LAKE'S NATURAL REPLENISHMENT CYCLE, LEADING TO LOWER WATER LEVELS.

URBAN ENCROACHMENT

UNREGULATED CONSTRUCTION AND ENCROACHMENT IN THE CATCHMENT AREA BLOCK RECHARGE ZONES, PREVENTING WATER INFILTRATION INTO THE LAKE.

DEFORESTATION AND SOIL EROSION

LOSS OF VEGETATION IN SURROUNDING HILLS INCREASES SOIL EROSION AND SILTATION, REDUCING THE LAKE'S STORAGE CAPACITY AND OVERALL WATER LEVELS.

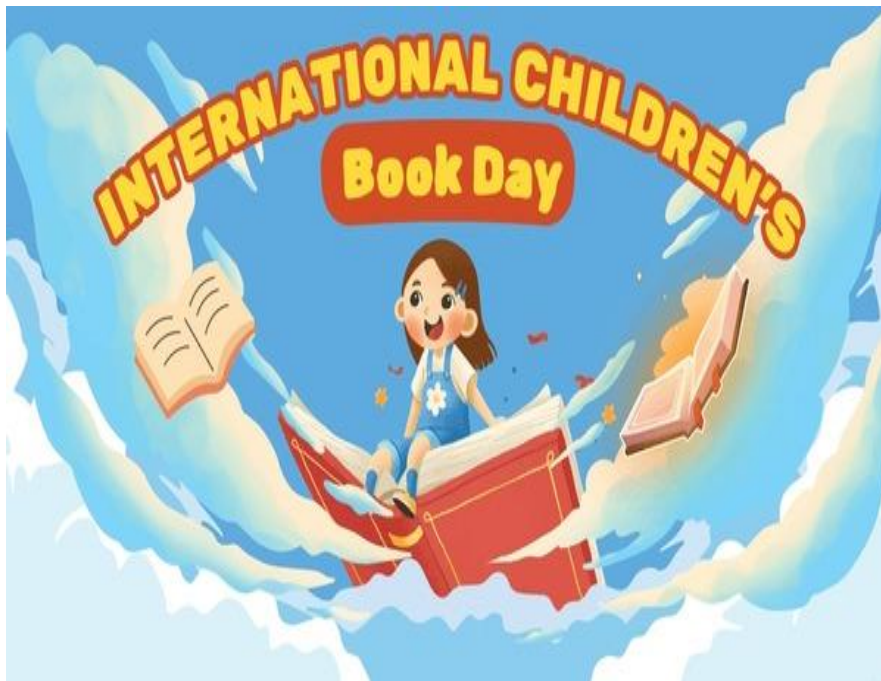
- ❖ The Naini Lake, one of Nainital's key attractions, has recorded a water level of 4.7 feet — marking a five-year low.

- ❖ The Naini Lake is a natural lake in Nainital, surrounded by seven hills.
- ❖ With its deepest point at 89 feet, the Naini Lake has a gauge level of 12 feet.
- ❖ The Uttarakhand Jal Sansthan extracts 10 million litres every day from the lake to supply drinking water to the city.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Children's Book Day 2025 - April 02

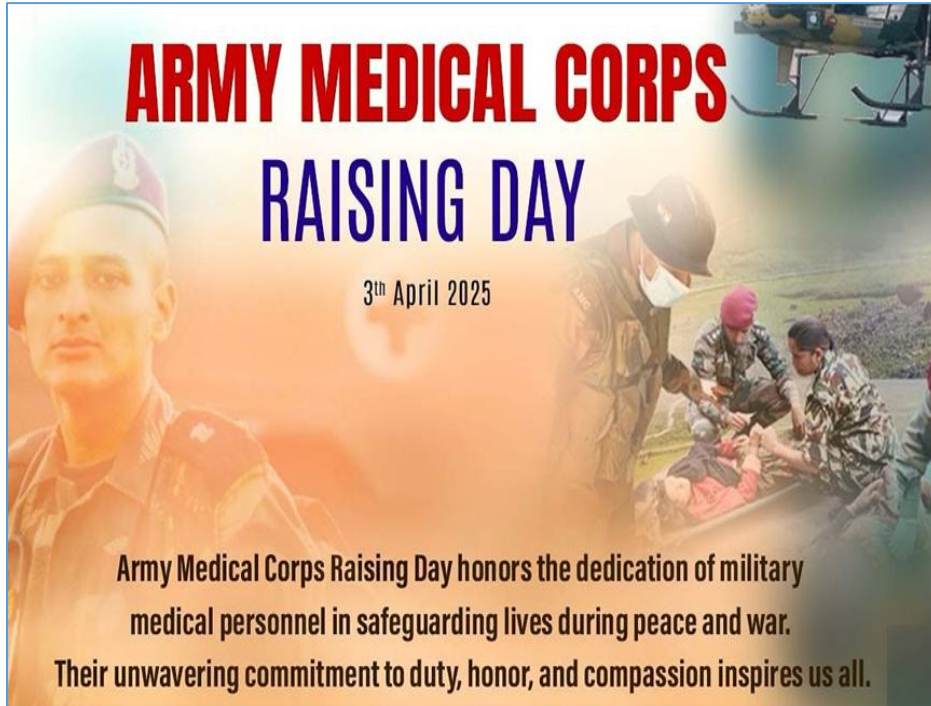
- ❖ Since the year 1967 this day has been observed on the birthday of Hans Christian Andersen.
- ❖ He is a famous Danish children's author known for The Princess and the Pea and The Ugly Duckling.
- ❖ The theme for 2025 is "The Freedom of Imagination".



Raising Day of Army Medical Corps 2025 - April 03

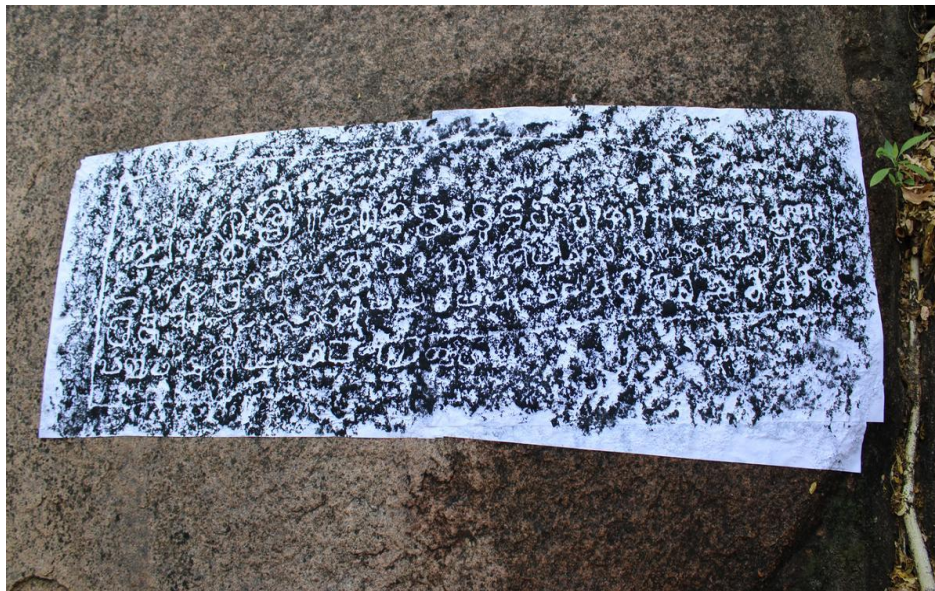
- ❖ The corps service was established in the year 1764.
- ❖ It came to be known as Army Medical Corps (AMC) on April 3, 1943.
- ❖ The Indian Medical Service, Indian Medical Department, and Indian Hospital Corps were unified into a unified corps in 1943.

- ❖ It was re-designated as the Army Medical Corps (AMC) effective from 26th Jan 1950.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

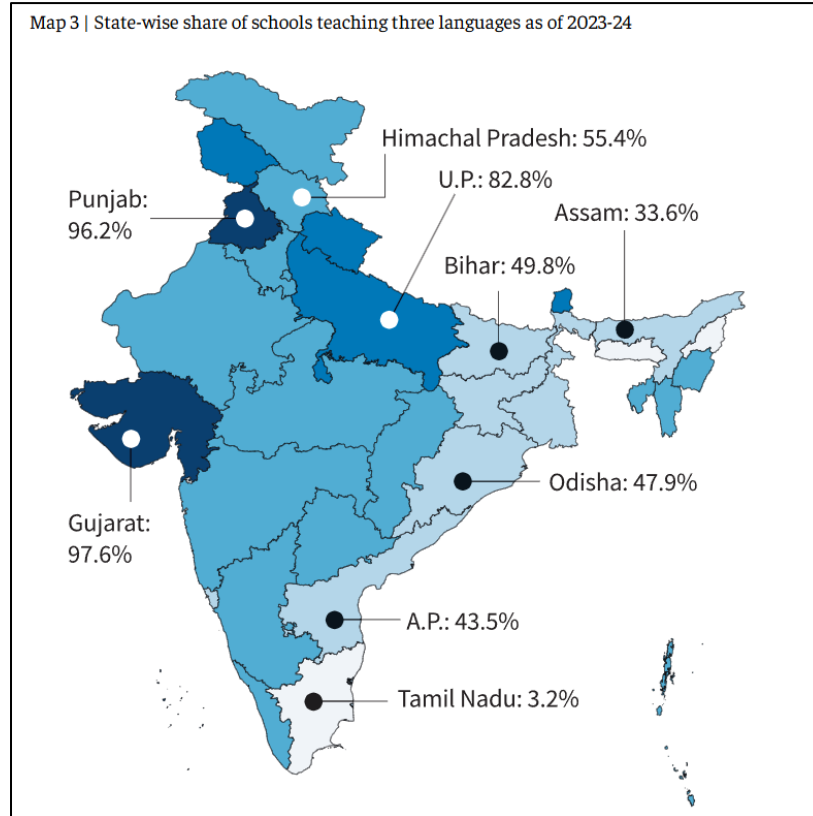
Discovery of Rajaraja Chola Inscription



- ❖ A new inscription pertaining to Rajaraja Chola, has been discovered in Somagiri hills at Melavalavu near Melur in Madurai.

- ❖ The inscription could be around 1,000 CE.
- ❖ The inscription begins with the honorific title - Raja Raja Mummudichola, a unique salutation found in this region, known as the Pandya country.

Sanskrit and Hindi as 3rd languages



- ❖ As per the last available survey, in Bihar, 99.1% of schools have taught Hindi, 64% taught English, and 56% taught Sanskrit in the primary stage, with only 8% teaching other languages.
- ❖ Similarly, in Uttar Pradesh, 94% taught Hindi, 75.3% taught English, and 65.2% taught Sanskrit in the primary, with just 7% offering other languages.
- ❖ For Uttarakhand, the numbers were 99.5% Hindi, 85.5% English, 79.4% Sanskrit, and 2.6% others.
- ❖ In Gujarat, over 97% schools had taught Gujarati and 20.9% taught English, and 64% taught Hindi in the primary stage, with only 2.2% teaching other languages.
- ❖ In Karnataka, 97.5% offered Kannada, 86.2% English, 30.4% Hindi, and just 15% others.
- ❖ In Punjab, 79.2% schools offered Hindi, with less than 1% offering languages other than English and Punjabi.



- ❖ According to this trend, in non-Hindi speaking States, the third language is mostly limited to Hindi.

