



April - 22

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu govt has increased the subsidy provided for applying for Geographical Indications (GI) tags to ₹1 lakh from ₹25,000.
- ❖ South India's first AC EMU was launched on the Chennai Beach-Chengalpattu corridor.
- ❖ India has signed an agreement with the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) to establish its headquarters and secretariat in India.
- ❖ The Maharashtra State Wildlife Board has officially approved the declaration of DPS Flamingo Lake as a conservation reserve.
- ❖ India and Slovakia have signed their first defence MoU to co-develop technologies for next-generation combat vehicles under India's indigenous manufacturing initiative.
- ❖ The New York City Mayor Eric Adams has proclaimed April 14, 2025 as Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Day in New York City.
- ❖ The Volcanic Mount Lewotobi, located in the Indonesia's East Nusa Tenggara province, erupted recently.
- ❖ National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Private Limited (NHPC) has completed the trial run for Unit 2 (200 MW) of the Parbati-II Hydroelectric Project in Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ India revised its Domestically Manufactured Iron & Steel Products Policy for 2025 to boosting the competitiveness of local manufacturers.
- ❖ WHO has published its first-ever reports addressing the critical lack of medicines and diagnostic tools for invasive fungal diseases, showing the urgent need for innovative research and development (R&D) to close these gaps.
- ❖ The Academy awards (Oscars) have announced the creation of new category as 'the Achievement in Stunt Design', and the award will be introduced at the 100th Academy Awards for films released in 2027.
- ❖ US troops will be allowed to deploy troops in areas adjacent to the Panama Canal, according to an agreement signed between the two nations.

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### Kalaigarn Kaivinai Thittam 2025

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has launched 'Kalaigarn Kaivinai Thittam', an artisan development scheme.

- ❖ This would serve as the State government's very alternative to the Centre's PM Vishwakarma scheme.
- ❖ This is more inclusive and comprehensive, and does not discriminate on the basis of caste.
- ❖ The scheme covers 25 trades and anyone can pursue a trade of their choice.
- ❖ The minimum age of 35 years for the Kalaingar Kaivinai Thittam.
- ❖ The Govt will provide loans in the range of ₹50,000 to ₹3 lakh with subsidy.
- ❖ In 2023, union government at the Centre introduced the Vishwakarma scheme.
- ❖ They said that the scheme would cover 18 trades and focus on upskilling and providing loans of up to ₹3 lakh.

**இத்திட்டத்தின் சிறப்பம்சங்கள்**

- ரூ.3 இலட்சம் வரை பிணையற்ற கடன் உதவி
- ரூ. 50,000 வரை மானியம்
- 5% வரை வட்டி மானியம்
- திறன் மேம்பாட்டிற்கான சிறப்புப் பயிற்சிகள்

**விண்ணப்பிக்கும் தகுதி**

- 35 வயது நிரம்பியவராக இருத்தல் வேண்டும்; எந்த வகுப்பினராகவும் இருக்கலாம்

கீழ்க்காணும் கைவினைக் கலைகள் மற்றும் தொழில்களில் உள்ளோர் இத்திட்டத்தின் கீழ் பயன் பெற விண்ணப்பிக்கலாம்.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ கட்ட வேலைகள்</li> <li>▪ மரவேலைப்பாடுகள்</li> <li>▪ பாரம்பரிய முறையில் ஜவுளி அச்சிடுதல்</li> <li>▪ தோல் கைவினைப் பொருட்கள், காலணிகள் தயாரித்தல்</li> <li>▪ மின் வலை தயாரித்தல்</li> <li>▪ மலர் வேலைப்பாடுகள்</li> <li>▪ மூங்கில், நெய்தல், சணல், பனை ஓலை வேலைப்பாடுகள்</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ நகை செய்தல்</li> <li>▪ சிகையலங்காரம், அழகுக்கலை</li> <li>▪ துணி நெய்தல், துணிகளில் கலைவேலைப்பாடுகள்</li> <li>▪ கதை வேலைப்பாடுகள்</li> <li>▪ பூட்டு தயாரித்தல்</li> <li>▪ உலோக வேலைப்பாடுகள்</li> <li>▪ பழங்குடியினரின் இயற்கை சேகரிப்புகள், கைவினைப் பொருட்கள்</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ தையல் வேலை</li> <li>▪ கூடை முடைதல், கபிறு, பாய் பின்னாறுதல், துடைப்பான் செய்தல்</li> <li>▪ மண்பாண்டங்கள், கடுமண் வேலைகள்</li> <li>▪ பொம்மைகள் தயாரித்தல்</li> <li>▪ படகுக் கட்டுமானம்</li> <li>▪ பாசிமணி வேலைப்பாடுகள்</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ துணி வெளுத்தல், தேய்த்தல்</li> <li>▪ சிற்ப வேலைப்பாடுகள், கற்பினை வடித்தல்</li> <li>▪ ஒலியம் வரைதல், வண்ணம் பூசுதல்</li> <li>▪ கண்ணாடி வேலைப்பாடுகள்</li> <li>▪ பாரம்பரிய இசைக்கருவிகள் தயாரித்தல்</li> </ul>
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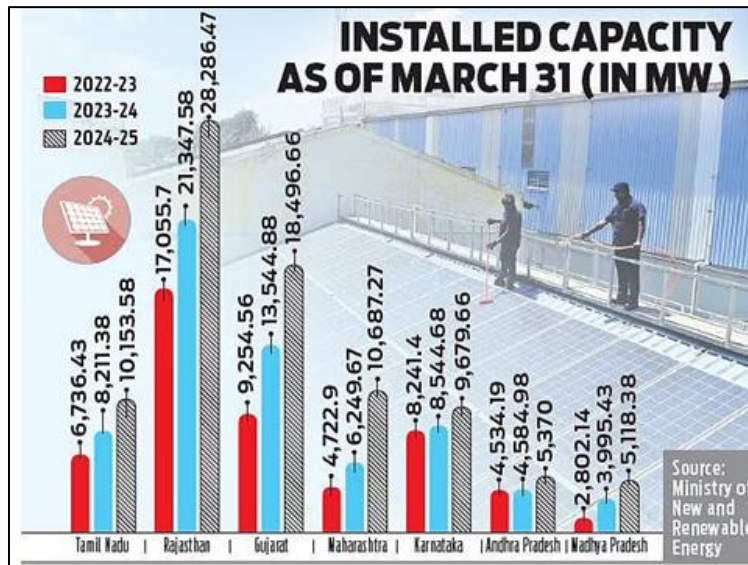
**விண்ணப்பிக்கத் தேவையான ஆவணங்கள்**

ஆதார் அட்டை | வங்கிக் கணக்கு விவரங்கள் | கையேபி ஏன்

## Tamil Nadu's installed power capacity

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's total installed power capacity was 42,772.20 MW as on March 31 this year.
- ❖ It is increasing from the previous year's 39,805.97 MW.
- ❖ Of the total capacity this year, coal-fired power capacity was 12,835.49 MW.
- ❖ Of this, 4,320 MW was from the State sector, 5,490.17 MW from the private sector and 3,025.32 MW from the Central sector.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's lignite-based thermal capacity stood at 1,959.16 MW.
- ❖ 1,709.16 MW came from the Central sector and 250 MW from the private sector.
- ❖ Gas-based power plants' capacity was 1,027.18 MW, with 524.08 MW coming from the State Sector and 503.10 MW from the private sector.
- ❖ As per CEA data, 1,448 MW of nuclear power capacity came from the Central sector.

- ❖ The State's renewable energy installed capacity stood at 25,290.67 MW as of March 31.
- ❖ Of this, 11,739.91 MW was from wind energy, 10,153.58 MW was from solar energy, and 2,178.20 MW was from hydro projects.
- ❖ Gujarat has taken the lead in wind energy capacity for the second time in a row, with a capacity of 12,677.48 MW.



## NATIONAL NEWS

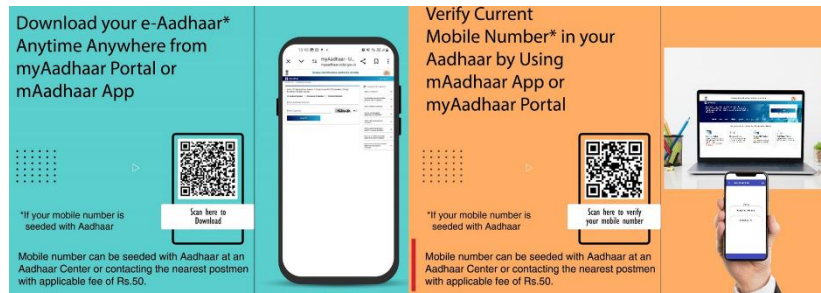
### Solar Installations in Indian Railways



- ❖ Indian Railways has installed 2,249 solar power plants at railway stations and service buildings across the country.

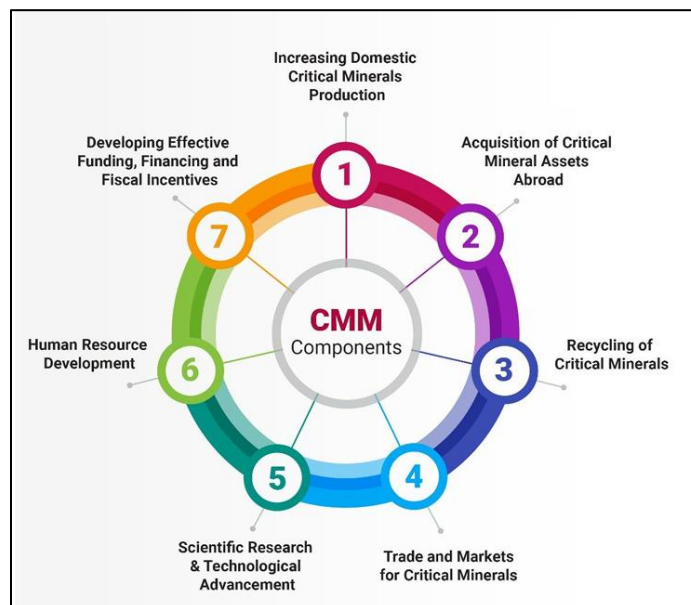
- ❖ In the last five years, Indian Railways has installed 1,489 solar units, which is 2.3 times more than the 628 units installed in the preceding five years.
- ❖ Rajasthan has emerged as the leading state in this initiative, with around 275 installations, the highest among all states and Union Territories.

### New mAadhaar App



- ❖ The new app has a revamped design, compared to the existing mAadhaar app.
- ❖ It also has a facial recognition feature to securely share the Aadhaar data with “requesting” entities without the need to share a hard copy.
- ❖ The app will essentially allow users to avoid sharing a physical Aadhaar card or photocopy at hotels, airports and other places where the document is used as an ID proof.

### National Critical Mineral Mission 2025



- ❖ India launched the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) in 2025 to establish a robust framework for self-reliance in the critical mineral sector.



- ❖ It aims to secure India's critical mineral supply chain by ensuring the mineral availability from domestic and foreign sources.
- ❖ Under this mission, the Geological Survey of India (GSI) has been tasked with conducting 1,200 exploration projects from 2024-25 to 2030-31.

### **ANPR-FASTag system**



- ❖ The government clarified that there is no plan to launch a satellite-based toll system now.
- ❖ However, the government has said that the new ANPR-FASTag-based barrier-less tolling system will be rolled out at selected toll plazas across India.
- ❖ It will use a mix of two technologies:
  - ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition): Uses cameras to read vehicle number plates.
  - FASTag: Uses RFID to automatically deduct toll charges
- ❖ With this system, vehicles will not have to stop at toll plazas.
- ❖ The toll will be charged automatically.

### **Shinkansen trains to India**

- ❖ Japan is set to gift two of its iconic Shinkansen trains to India for the trial and inspection purposes.

- ❖ The train sets from would be used to make trial runs in the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train corridor, which is currently under construction.
- ❖ The Mumbai–Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Corridor, once constructed, will be India's first high-speed rail line, with a top speed of 320 km/h.
- ❖ The high-speed rail system is also known as bullet train.

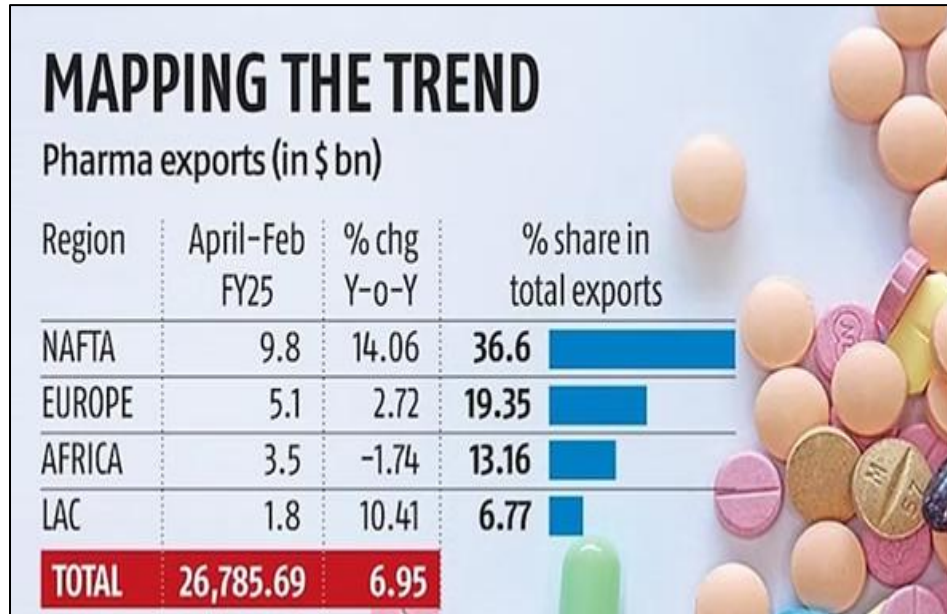


## ECONOMY NEWS

### India's Pharma Exports in FY25

- ❖ The pharmaceutical exports reached \$30,467.32 million in FY25, more than 9 percent increase than \$27,851.70 million in FY24.
- ❖ Pharma exports in March rose 31.21 percent YoY to \$3681.51 million (\$2805.71 million).
- ❖ The exports to the US (in value terms) has increased 14.29 percent at \$8,953.37 million in FY25.

- ❖ Other countries on top of India's pharma exports were the UK, Brazil, France and South Africa last fiscal.



## India's top trading partner 2024/25

### What Does India Export To The US?

#### Top export items:

- Drug formulations & biologicals: USD 8.1B
- Telecom instruments: USD 6.5B
- Precious stones: USD 5.3B
- Other major exports: petroleum products, gold jewellery, cotton garments, and iron & steel products.



### What Does India Import From The US?

#### Top imports:

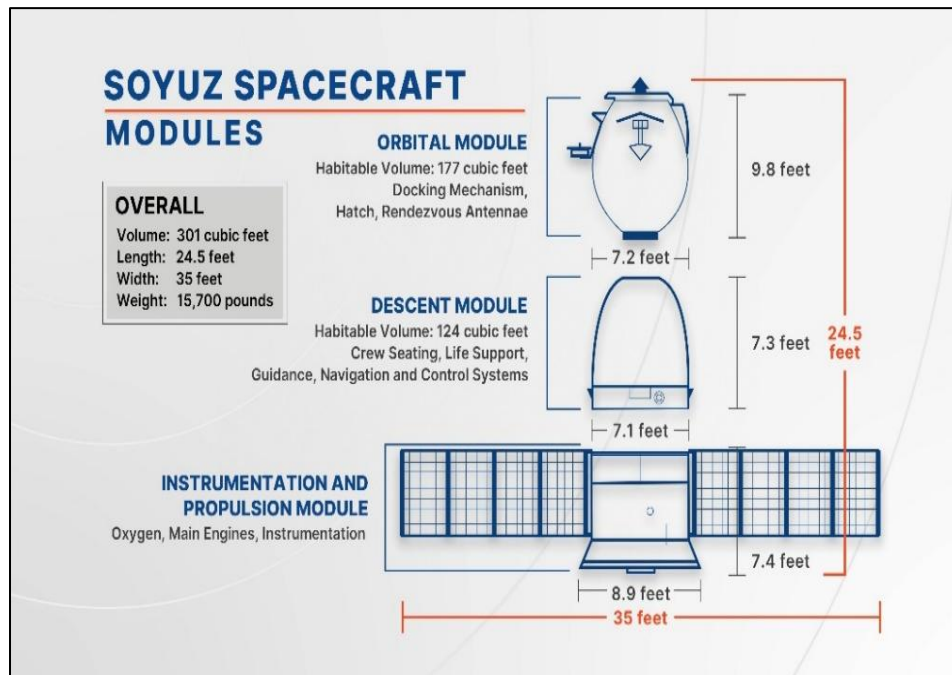
- Crude oil: USD 4.5B
- Other imports include: Petroleum products, coal and coke, electric machinery, aircraft parts, and gold.

- ❖ The US remained India's largest trading partner for the fourth consecutive year in 2024-25 with bilateral trade valued at USD 131.84 billion.

- ❖ India's trade deficit with China has widened to USD 99.2 billion during the same period.
- ❖ In the last fiscal, India's exports to China contracted 14.5 per cent to USD 14.25 billion as against USD 16.66 billion in 2023-24.
- ❖ The imports, however, rose by 11.52 per cent in 2024-25 to USD 113.45 billion against USD 101.73 billion in 2023-24.
- ❖ China continued to be the second largest trading partner of India with USD 127.7 billion two-way commerce in 2024-25 as compared to USD 118.4 billion in 2023-24.
- ❖ China was India's top trading partner from 2013-14 till 2017-18 and also in 2020-21.
- ❖ Before China, the UAE was the country's largest trading partner.
- ❖ The US has been the largest partner since 2021-22.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### Soyuz MS-26 spacecraft



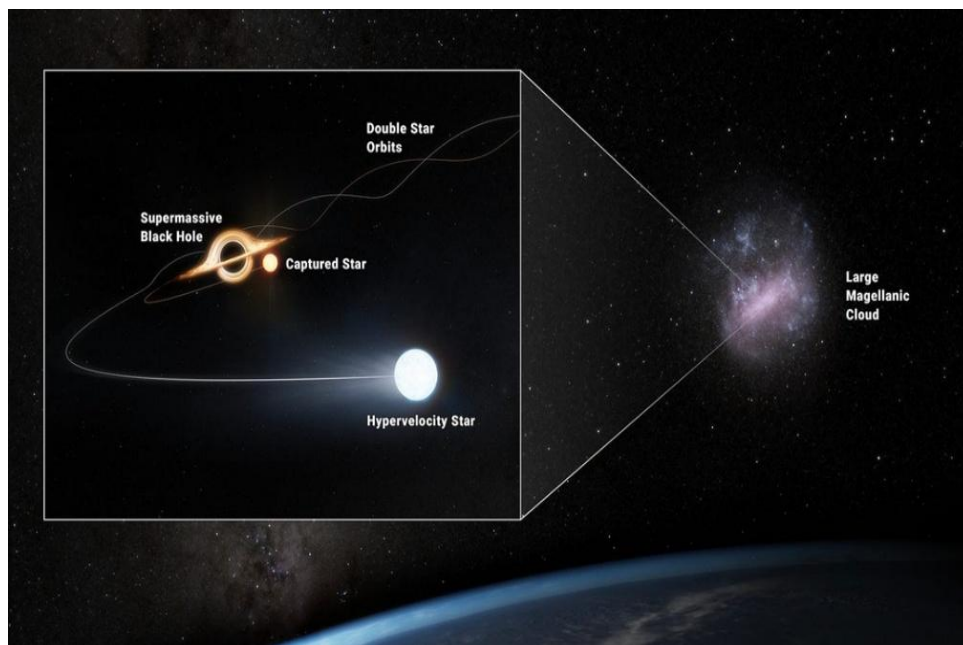
- ❖ The crew of the Soyuz MS-26 spacecraft, consisting of Oleg Ovchinin, Ivan Vagner, and Donald Pettit, landed in the Jezkazgan area in Kazakhstan.
- ❖ They worked in orbit from September 2024 to April 2025.



- ❖ This was launched to commemorate the 80th anniversary of World War II's conclusion.
- ❖ A Soyuz vehicle can carry up to three astronauts.
- ❖ It had over 1680 successful launches in total, including satellites and manned spacecraft.

### **Intermediate-mass black hole**

- ❖ The Indian astronomers have detected and measured the properties of an elusive intermediate-mass black hole (IMBH).
- ❖ It is located in a faint galaxy about 4.3 million light-years away.
- ❖ The black hole, situated in the galaxy NGC 4395, has been found to weigh about 22,000 times the mass of the Sun.
- ❖ The discovery was made using India's largest optical telescope, the 3.6-metre Devasthal Optical Telescope (DOT).



## **STATES' NEWS**

### **Village Level Antiquities Survey**

- ❖ Karnataka has embarked upon a village-level survey for documentation of the antiquities, the first-of-its-kind in the country.
- ❖ Once completed, it will provide a comprehensive inventory of the antiquities.

- ❖ There were more than 800 State-protected monuments in addition to over 600 protected by the Archaeological Survey of India.



### **Kerala - online permanent Lok Adalat services**



- ❖ Kerala has become the first state in India to introduce online filing and hearing facilities for Permanent Lok Adalats.
- ❖ The online platform is an initiative of the Kerala State Legal Services Authority (KELSA).
- ❖ It will help the applicants to file their cases online from anywhere in the State, thereby saving time, resources, and effort.
- ❖ Lok Adalat is an alternative dispute resolution platform through which disputes are amicably settled.

- ❖ Currently, Permanent Lok Adalats are held in Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam, and Kozhikode.
- ❖ Kerala also launched Athigeevanam, an interventional scheme for the victims of natural disasters.
- ❖ Samayam is another scheme for the peaceful and amicable settlement of civil, quasi-civil and compoundable criminal matters that come up before police stations.
- ❖ Samanvaya, a counselling mechanism for redressal of matrimonial and domestic disputes was also launched.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS**

### **The Most Influential People of 2025**



- ❖ Time magazine has released its 2025 list of the 100 most influential people.
- ❖ It features figures like US President Donald Trump, Elon Musk and Muhammad Yunus of Bangladesh.
- ❖ For the first time in the very recent years, not a single Indian citizen features in the influential lineup.
- ❖ Indian-origin Reshma Kewalramani, CEO of Vertex Pharmaceuticals, secured her place among the top 100.

### **WEF Young Global Leader 2025**

- ❖ The youngest cabinet minister of the union government, Ram Mohan Naidu, has been named as the WEF Young Global Leader 2025.
- ❖ He is one of seven Indians in the 2025 cohort of 116 leaders from across fifty countries.



❖ OYO's Ritesh Agarwal, Alok Medikepura Anil, Natarajan Sankar, Nipun Malhotra and Anurag Maloo also features in the list.

 <b>Anurag Maloo</b> Mountaineer, Entrepreneur & Founder at Orophile Ventures (Climbing4SDGs)	 <b>Nipun Malhotra</b> Founder at Nipman Foundation	 <b>Ritesh Agarwal</b> Founder and Group Chief Executive Officer at OYO Hotels and Homes
 <b>Alok Medikepura Anil</b> Founder and Managing Director at Next Big Innovation Labs	 <b>Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu</b> Minister of Civil Aviation at Ministry of Civil Aviation of India	 <b>Natarajan Sankar</b> Managing Director and Partner at Boston Consulting Group
 <b>Manasi Subramaniam</b> Editor-in-Chief and Vice President at Penguin Random House India		

