



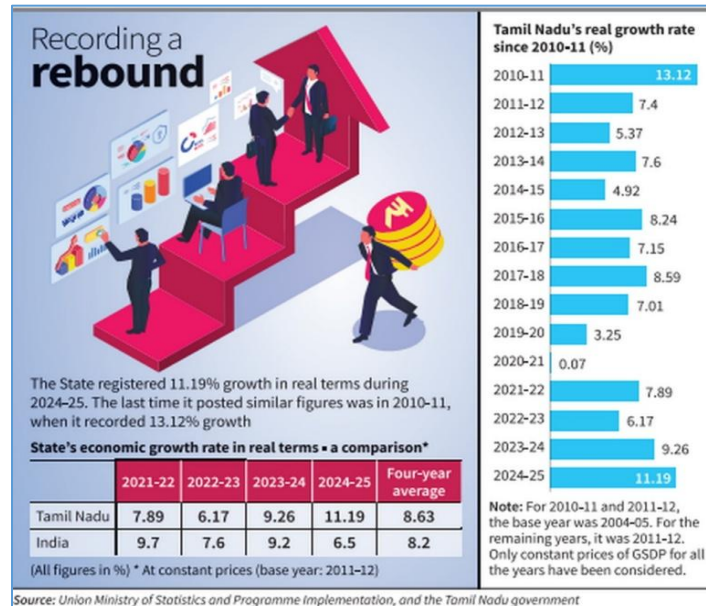
August - 07

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Operation Akhal, a high-intensity joint anti-terror operation, was conducted by the Army, J&K Police, and CRPF in Kulgam's Akhal area of South Kashmir.
- ❖ BSNL and Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) signed an MoU to deploy India's first 5G Captive Non-Public Network (CNPN) in the refinery sector for secure and real-time industrial connectivity.
- ❖ Magnus Carlsen of Norway clinched the title at the first-ever Chess Esports World Cup by defeating Russia's Ian Nepomniachtchi in the final.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Double-digit economic growth



- ❖ After 14 years, Tamil Nadu records double-digit economic growth in real terms.
- ❖ The State has posted 11.19% during 2024-25.
- ❖ It was according to the revised estimates of the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- ❖ It has exceeded the forecast made in the Tamil Nadu Budget, presented early this year, by nearly 2.2%.
- ❖ In 2010-11, the State registered 13.12%. Coincidentally, on both occasions, the DMK was in power.



- ❖ Fifteen years ago, the base year was 2004-05, whereas it is 2011-12 now.
- ❖ The growth was attributed by the strong performance by the tertiary and secondary sectors.
- ❖ About five months ago, when the State-wise advance estimates were made public, Tamil Nadu's real economic growth was 9.69%.
- ❖ The latest figure marks an increase of about 1.5 percentage points.
- ❖ Apart from having finished the topper, Tamil Nadu has accomplished what no other State has done — recording the double-digit growth.
- ❖ It may be noted that the data for six States — Goa, Gujarat, and four northeastern States — have not been made public yet.
- ❖ The State government was modest in projecting Tamil Nadu's nominal Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) to grow at 14.5% in 2024-25.
- ❖ It was with real growth at 9% and an average inflation of 5%.
- ❖ But the real growth is higher by nearly 2.2%.
- ❖ At constant prices (base year: 2011-12), Tamil Nadu's GSDP is estimated at ₹17,32,189 crore for 2024-25, up from ₹15,57,821 crore in 2023-24.
- ❖ The revised figures also indicated stronger performance for 2023-24, with the real GSDP growth revised upward from 8.23% to 9.26%.
- ❖ However, the growth estimated for 2022-23 had been reduced from 8.13% to 6.17%.
- ❖ Going by the data on per capita Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) at current prices, Tamil Nadu ranked third among major States in 2024-25, with an estimated per capita income of ₹3,61,619,
- ❖ It is following Telangana (₹3,87,623) and Karnataka (₹3,80,906).

15 million tonnes of cargo

- ❖ The V.O. Chidambaranar Port in Thoothukudi crossed the 15-million tonne mark in cargo handling in this financial year on August 3.
- ❖ This milestone has been achieved 11 days ahead as compared to the previous financial year.
- ❖ The port had handled 2,98,107 TEUs (Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit) of containers up to August 3 this financial year.
- ❖ It is registering a growth of 9.75% compared to the 2,71,620 TEUs handled during the corresponding period of the previous financial year.
- ❖ The major commodities that contributed to this achievement include coal, limestone, salt, rock phosphate, edible oil, and construction material.

- ❖ The rapid growth in exports from Tiruppur, Coimbatore, and Karur has increased the container volumes.
- ❖ The operationalisation of North Cargo Berth-III for handling bulk cargo is another major contributor to the port's improved performance.
- ❖ It was recently dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister on July 26.



VinFast EV plant



- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister inaugurated Vietnamese electric vehicle (EV) maker VinFast's first manufacturing plant in India at Thoothukudi.



- ❖ The facility is part of a ₹16000 crore investment pact signed during the 2024 Global Investors Meet with the Tamil Nadu government.
- ❖ The project is expected to create over 3500 jobs in the next five years and supports local youth employment under the Naan Mudhalvan scheme.
- ❖ VinFast plans to make the Thoothukudi facility its largest export hub for South Asia, the Middle East and Africa.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu accounts for 40 per cent of all electric vehicles sold in India.

Caste column for police appraisals

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Fifth Police Commission has recommended removing the caste or community column from performance appraisal forms of Head Constables and Special Sub-Inspectors.
- ❖ The panel led by former Madras High Court Judge C T Selvam said caste details are irrelevant for assessing professional work and could lead to bias.
- ❖ Caste reference is not included in the Annual Confidential Reports (ACR) of higher police ranks, including Indian Police Service (IPS) officers.
- ❖ The report also suggests for ending the practice of recording the caste of the complainants and accused at police stations since no legal provision supports it.
- ❖ The Commission has urged the government to hold all-party talks to remove caste names from streets and boundary markers in villages.
- ❖ It has also called for setting up Special Intelligence Cells (SIC) in caste-sensitive districts to monitor caste-related developments affecting law and order.

The 5th Tamil Nadu Police Commission has recommended a pay hike for police constables, aligning their salaries with counterparts in the Union govt and other States. It proposed raising the pay scale from ₹18,200-₹52,900 to ₹21,700-₹69,100. The report also suggests increasing the minimum educational qualification to Class XII and addressing police mental health issues through periodic reviews and well-being programs. The commission, formed in 2022, submitted its recommendations to Chief Minister M.K. Stalin recently.

NATIONAL NEWS

PM Ekta Malls

- ❖ Twenty-seven States have received approval for Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) to set up PM Ekta Malls under the 2023-24 capital investment scheme.

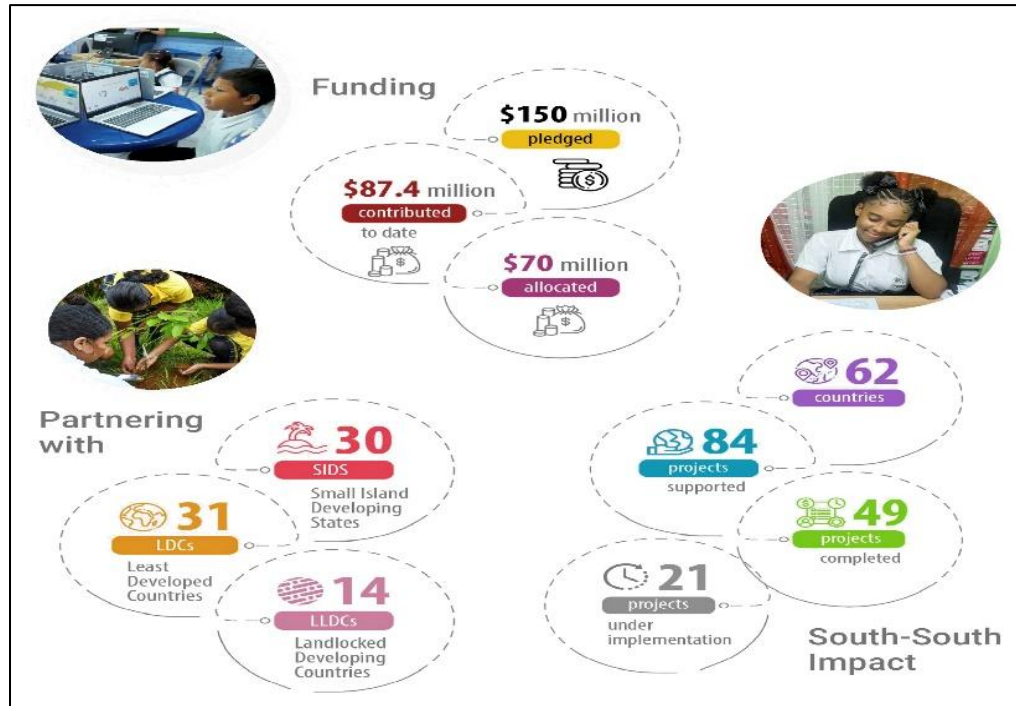
- ❖ PM Ekta Malls aims to promote and sell One District One Product (ODOP) items, GI goods and traditional handicrafts from all regions.
- ❖ The initiative was announced in the Union Budget 2023-24 to support artisans and strengthen local economies.
- ❖ A total of ₹5000 crore was allocated under Part-VI of the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme by the Ministry of Finance.
- ❖ The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has also recommended the projects for approval by the Department of Expenditure.



India-UN global capacity building initiative

- ❖ The first four projects under the India-UN Global Capacity Building Initiative 2025 were launched on August 1 by the Ministry of External Affairs in very collaboration with the United Nations.
- ❖ The initiative supports South-South cooperation and aims to help developing countries achieve SDGs through specialised training.
- ❖ The projects include rice fortification and supply chain management in Nepal with World Food Programme support.
- ❖ A digital health platform will be developed for Zambia and Lao PDR with the United Nations Development Programme.
- ❖ Census preparedness will be supported in five Caribbean countries with the United Nations Population Fund.

- ❖ A vocational training programme will be launched in South Sudan with support from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.



Patalpani-Kalakund Line

- ❖ Indian Railways has resumed the operation of the historic (155-year-old) Patalpani-Kalakund heritage train in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ It is a 9.5-kilometre section on the Dr Ambedkar Nagar (formerly Mhow) to Khandwa route.
- ❖ The line was proposed by Maharaja Tukoji Rao Holkar II, who ruled from 1844 to 1886.
- ❖ In 1870, he offered a loan of Rs 1 crore for 101 years and free land to build the railway to Indore.
- ❖ The princely state of Indore became a British protectorate under the Holkar dynasty in 1818, which created the need for railway development.
- ❖ The Patalpani-Kalakund line is considered one of the six heritage lines of Indian Railways, but still awaits official certification from the Railway Board.
- ❖ In 2008, the Union Cabinet has approved the conversion of the 472.64-kilometre Ratlam-Mhow-Khandwa-Akola corridor to Broad Gauge (BG).
- ❖ Broad Gauge work on the Patalpani-Kalakund section was not possible due to geological difficulties.

- ❖ Indian Railways later decided to restore this historic stretch for the heritage train operations.



Airbus C295



- ❖ India received the last of 16 Airbus C295 military transport aircraft from Seville, Spain, on 3 August 2025.
- ❖ Under the 2.5 billion United States dollar deal, 40 of the total 56 aircraft will be made in India by Tata Advanced Systems.

- ❖ The C295 is a multi-role tactical airlifter used for transport, surveillance, medical evacuation and other missions.
- ❖ This is the first Make in India project in the defence aircraft sector.

Ayurveda Aahara Products

- ❖ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has released a very definitive list of Ayurveda Aahara products in consultation with the Ministry of Ayush.
- ❖ This list is based on the Food Safety and Standards Ayurveda Aahara Regulations 2022.
- ❖ The formulations are drawn from classical Ayurvedic texts listed in Schedule A and issued under Note 1 of Schedule B.
- ❖ The move aims to help the food business operators with a reliable reference for manufacturing Ayurveda Aahara.



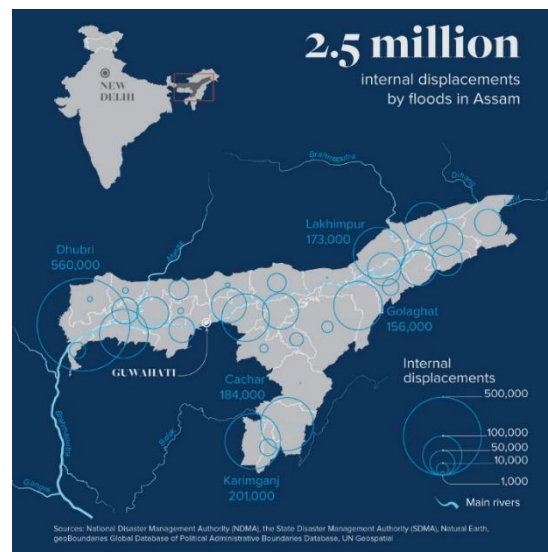
Amendments in Edible Oil Regulations

- ❖ The Ministry of Consumer Affairs has notified amendments to the Vegetable Oil Products Production and Availability (Regulation) Order 2011 under the Essential Commodities Act 1955.

- ❖ The amendments aim to enhance transparency, prevent supply disruptions and ensure fair prices in India's edible oil sector.
- ❖ India is the world's largest importer of vegetable oils.
- ❖ Palm oil accounted for 59 per cent of imports, followed by soybean at 23 per cent and sunflower at 16 per cent.
- ❖ Import dependence decreased from 63.2 per cent in 2015-16 to 54.9 per cent in 2021-22.



District Flood Severity Index



- ❖ Researchers from IIT Delhi and IIT Gandhinagar have developed a District Flood Severity Index (DFSI).

- ❖ DFSI factors in the mean flood duration in days, percentage of district area historically flooded, total deaths, injuries and district population.
- ❖ The index uses data from the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) collected annually since 1967.
- ❖ Unlike earlier indices focused on flood magnitude, DFSI measures the impact of floods on people and affected areas.
- ❖ Patna ranks highest on the DFSI, while Thiruvananthapuram has the most flood events but lower severity due to fewer impacts.
- ❖ The index aims to improve flood management by helping identify severely affected districts and guiding targeted interventions.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

EU AI Code of Practice

- ❖ Meta Platforms refused to sign the European Commission's Code of Practice for General-Purpose AI (GPAI).
- ❖ The Code is a voluntary framework linked to the EU AI Act, effective August 2, 2025.
- ❖ It requires the documentation updates, bans AI training with paired content, and mandates risk assessments.



First BIMSTEC Traditional Music

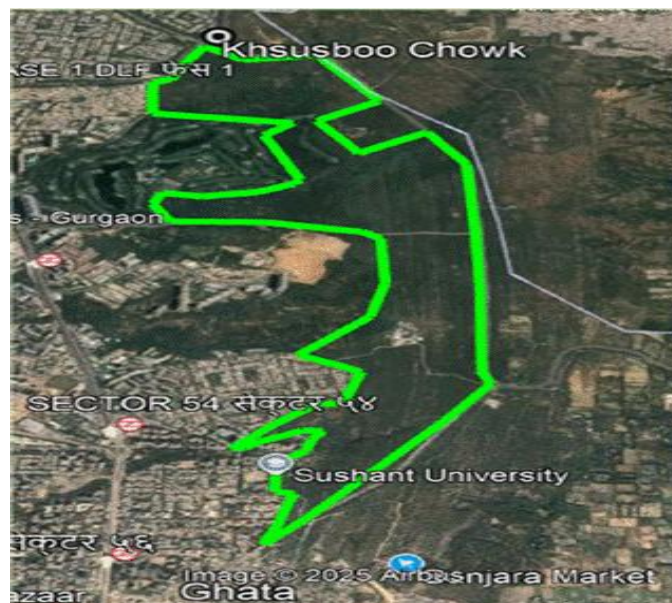
- ❖ The first Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Traditional Music Festival was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ Artists from India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand performed, showcasing the rich musical heritage of the seven member countries.

- ❖ The festival named 'SaptaSur: Seven Nations One Melody' was organised by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).
- ❖ The initiative follows the Prime Minister's commitment at the BIMSTEC Summit in Thailand to strengthen regional cultural ties through music.



STATES' NEWS

Matri Van Initiative

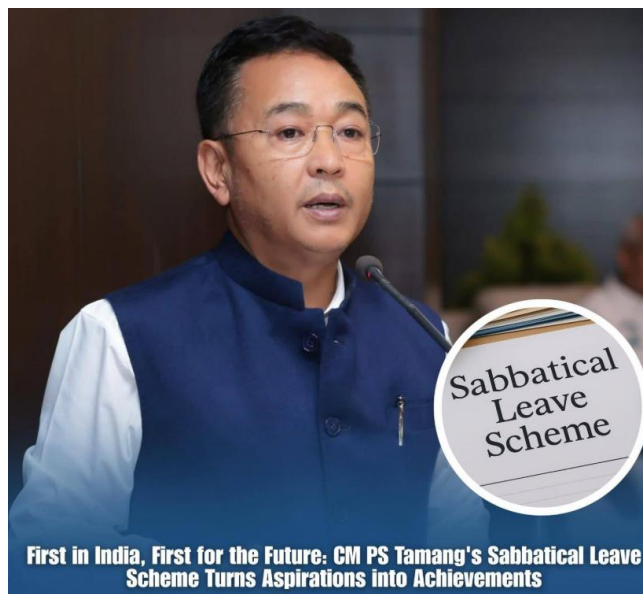


- ❖ The Matri Van Initiative was launched in Gurugram, Haryana.
- ❖ It aims to develop a 750-acre theme-based urban forest in the Aravalli Hill area along the Gurugram-Faridabad Road.

- ❖ The initiative will create a nature-inspired green space that promotes biodiversity, public well-being and sustainable urban living in Delhi-NCR.
- ❖ Citizens were encouraged to become Van Mitras by planting trees and preventing deforestation as part of climate action.

Sabbatical Leave Scheme

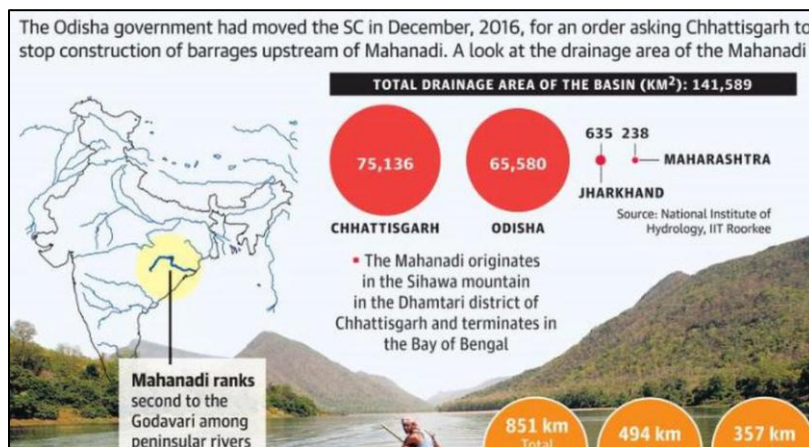
- ❖ Sikkim became the first Indian state to launch a formal Sabbatical Leave scheme in August 2025.
- ❖ The aim is to support personal growth, skill development and entrepreneurship among government employees.
- ❖ The Regular employees with five years of continuous service can take leave from 365 to one thousand and eighty days with fifty per cent basic pay.
- ❖ The scheme protects employee seniority and allows the government to recall them with one month's notice.
- ❖ Temporary staff are also covered after six months of the continuous service with equal benefits.



Mahanadi Water Dispute

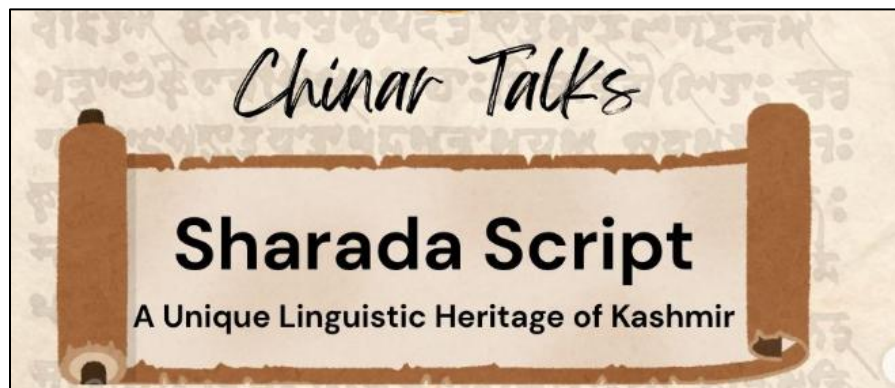
- ❖ Odisha and Chhattisgarh have expressed willingness to resolve the Mahanadi water dispute amicably before the Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal (MWDT).
- ❖ Both States will update the tribunal on the progress of settlement talks with secretaries required to be present.

- ❖ Odisha has proposed forming a joint committee under the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti, led by the Central Water Commission (CWC).
- ❖ The Mahanadi River originates in Chhattisgarh and flows 851 kilometres, with 494 kilometres in Odisha, before reaching the Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ Odisha alleges upstream constructions by Chhattisgarh have reduced river flow, affecting irrigation, drinking water and ecology.
- ❖ Chhattisgarh claims 52.9 per cent of the total catchment area of the river lies within its borders, justifying its water use.
- ❖ The dispute led to the formation of MWDT in 2018 following the Supreme Court direction under the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act 1956.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Kashmir's Sharda Script



- ❖ The first-ever exhibition dedicated to the Sharda script was held at the Chinar Book Festival in Srinagar.
- ❖ Sharda developed between the 8th and 9th centuries AD and was mainly used by Kashmiri Pandits.



- ❖ Few manuscripts survive, with many texts found between 1875 and 1925 on paper and birch-bark.
- ❖ Archaeological discoveries include 21 lines of Sharda inscriptions on hero-stones in Lolab Valley, Kupwara and finds in Baramulla district.

