



**December - 16**

## **TNPSC BITS**

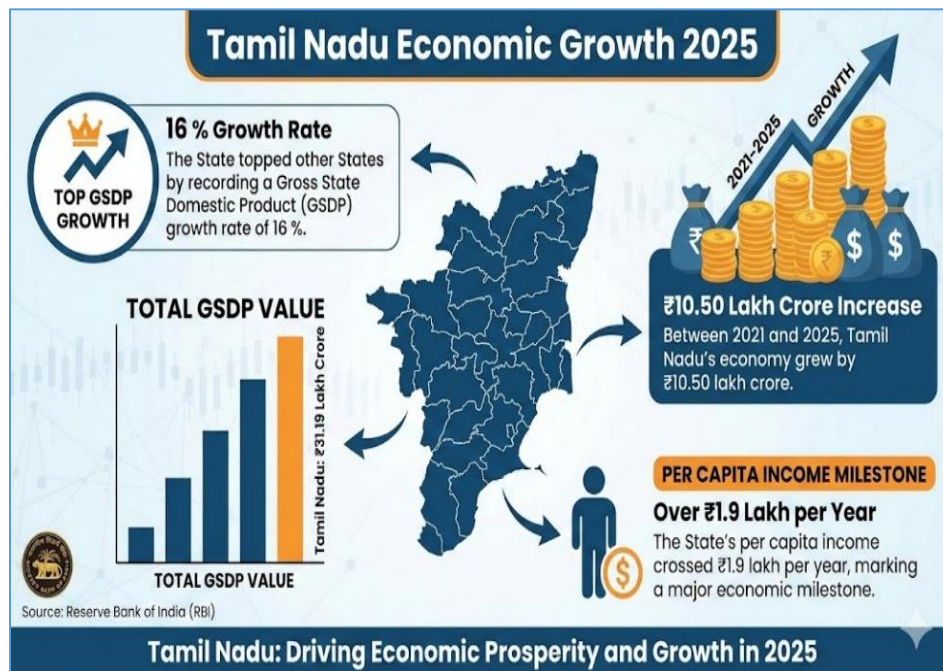
- ❖ Sagar Defence Engineering Pvt. Ltd will set up the world's first autonomous maritime shipyard in SPSR Nellore district, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ The Indian Navy commissioned DSC A20, the first vessel of the indigenously designed and constructed Diving Support Craft (DSC), at Kochi.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh has won the National Energy Conservation Award for the fourth consecutive year, securing First Prize in the Group II category.
  - The State scored 89.25 points in the State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI-2025), up from 87.25 in 2024, awarded by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).
- ❖ The government has launched the Census Management & Monitoring System (CMMS) portal, a dedicated digital platform developed to manage and monitor the Census of India 2027 in real time.
  - It enables the centralized supervision of data collection across all phases, including the House listing & Housing Census and Population Enumeration.

## **TAMIL NADU NEWS**

### **Tamil Nadu Economic Growth 2025**

- ❖ The State of Tamilnadu topped other States by recording a Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) growth rate of 16 %.
- ❖ This growth figure was reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ❖ The report 'Handbook of Statistics on Indian States, 2024-25' was released by the RBI.
- ❖ Between 2021 and 2025, Tamil Nadu's economy grew by ₹10.50 lakh crore.
- ❖ The total GSDP value of Tamil Nadu stands at ₹31.19 lakh crore.
- ❖ The State's per capita income crossed ₹1.9 lakh per year, marking a major economic milestone.
- ❖ The GSDP at current prices increased from Rs 26.88 lakh crore in 2023-24 to Rs 31.18 lakh crore in 2024-25.
- ❖ In this regard, Tamilnadu was outpacing Maharashtra and Gujarat.

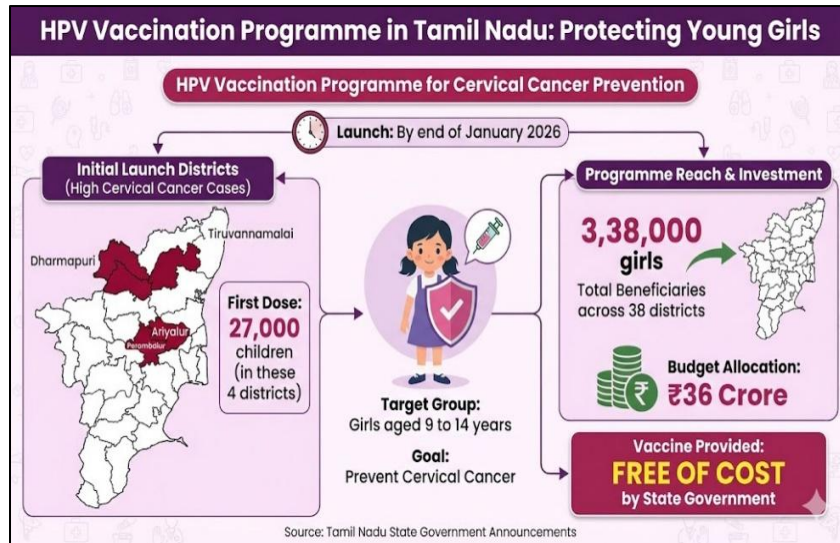
- ❖ This continues a consistent upward trend over the past three years, with Tamil Nadu recording growth of 14.47 per cent between 2021-22 and 2022-23, and 2023-24.
- ❖ Maharashtra, despite having the largest GSDP in absolute terms, reported slower growth compared with Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Karnataka saw consistent double-digit performance but remained behind Tamil Nadu in 2024-25 in terms of the pace of expansion
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh registered particularly strong growth between 2022-23 and 2023-24 but moderated in 2024-25.
- ❖ Tamilnadu ranks fourth in per capita income, behind Delhi, Telangana and Karnataka.
- ❖ It's per capita income also rose sharply to Rs 3,61,619 in 2024-25 from Rs 3,13,329 in 2023-24.



### HPV Vaccination Program

- ❖ Tamil Nadu will launch the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programme by the end of January 2026.
- ❖ The program will begin in four districts with high cervical cancer cases: Ariyalur, Perambalur, Tiruvannamalai, and Dharmapuri.
- ❖ The first dose will be given to 27,000 children in these four districts.
- ❖ Overall, about 3,38,000 girls across 38 districts will benefit from the programme.

- ❖ The programme is for girls aged 9 to 14 years to prevent cervical cancer.
- ❖ The State government has allocated ₹36 crore and will provide the vaccine free of cost.



## NATIONAL NEWS

### SHANTI Bill (Atomic Energy Bill, 2025)



- ❖ The Sustainable Harnessing of Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill was approved by the Union Cabinet in 2025.

- ❖ It is the biggest reform in India's nuclear sector since the Atomic Energy Act, 1962.
- ❖ The Bill is introduced by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) under the Prime Minister of India.
- ❖ It replaces old laws like the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010 (CLND Act).
- ❖ The bill aims to expand nuclear power, allow private participation, and reach 100 Gigawatt (GW) nuclear capacity by 2047.
- ❖ The Bill proposes an independent nuclear safety authority and clearer nuclear liability rules.

### **Pujya Bapu Gramin Rozgar Yojana**



- ❖ The government plans to rename the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) as Pujya Bapu Gramin Rozgar Yojana.
- ❖ The amended Bill may increase the guaranteed employment from 100 days to 125 days per household.
- ❖ Over the last five years, the average employment provided per household was 50.35 days.
- ❖ The scheme provides wage employment to adult household members willing to perform unskilled manual work.



- ❖ Proposed changes include revised fund utilisation, inter-state adjustments, and enhanced monitoring mechanisms.

### CoalSETU Policy

**CoalSETU Window** *for*  
Fair Access and Optimal  
Coal Utilisation

- › Cabinet approves the **Policy for Auction of Coal Linkage for Seamless, Efficient & Transparent Utilisation** by creation of new window "CoalSETU" in the NRS (Non-Regulated Sector) Linkage Auction Policy of 2016
- › The new window aims to allocate **coal linkages on auction basis** on long-term for any **industrial use and export**
- › Any **domestic buyer** requiring coal can participate in the **linkage auction**



- ❖ The government approved the CoalSETU policy for auctioning coal linkages for industrial use and export.
- ❖ CoalSETU stands for Coal linkage for Seamless, Efficient & Transparent Utilisation.
- ❖ The policy creates a separate window in the Non-Regulated Sector (NRS) Linkage Auction Policy of 2016.
- ❖ Coal obtained under this window can be used for own consumption, coal washing, or up to 50% export, but not resale in India.

### Pax Silica Initiative

- ❖ Pax Silica is a United States (U.S.)-led initiative focused on securing semiconductor, AI, and critical mineral supply chains.
- ❖ The initiative covers silicon, rare earth minerals, energy, advanced manufacturing, and computing infrastructure.
- ❖ It is led by the U.S. Department of State and was launched in December 2025.

- ❖ The grouping includes selected partner countries such as Japan, Australia, Singapore, South Korea, Israel, and the European Union (EU).
- ❖ India is not part of the Pax Silica initiative as of December 2025.

<b>What is Pax Silica?</b> Pax Silica is a US-led strategic initiative to build a secure, prosperous, and innovation-driven silicon supply chain	<b>Participating countries</b> Japan, Republic of Korea, Singapore, the Netherlands, the UK, Israel, the UAE, and Australia
<b>Aim:</b> The initiative responds to the growing demand to deepen economic and technological cooperation with the US	



### **INSV Kaundinya's Historic Voyage**

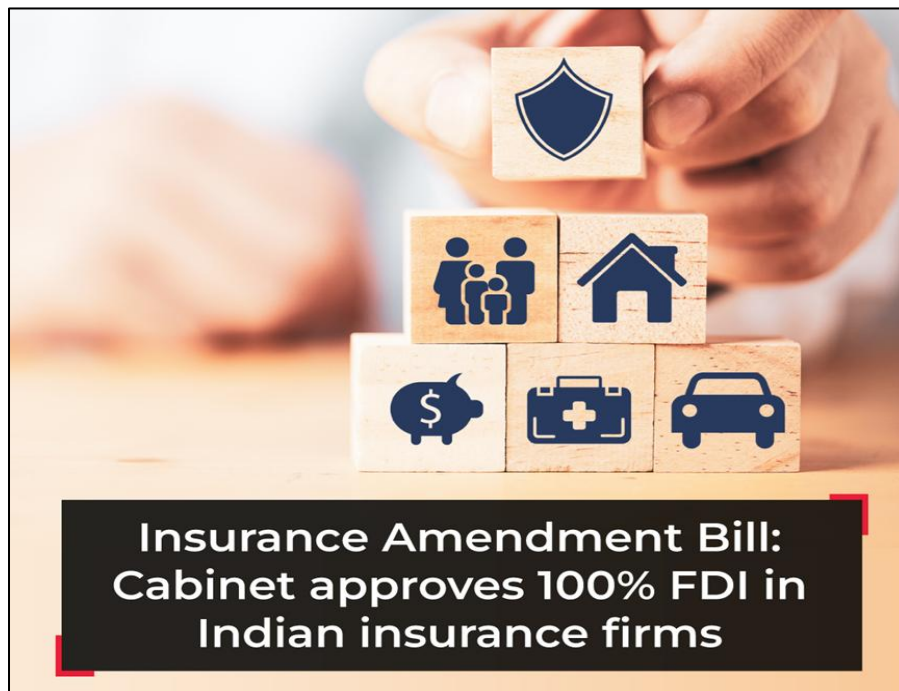


- ❖ Ancient Sea Route by INSV Kaundinya is an initiative to recreate the ancient maritime trade route.

- ❖ INSV Kaundinya is preparing for a historic voyage from India to Muscat.
- ❖ It is a hand-stitched wooden replica of a 5th-century Indian merchant ship.
- ❖ The ship is built using coconut husk rope, fish oil, and natural tree resin, with no modern structural materials.
- ❖ It was constructed at Divar Island in Goa based on ship depictions from the Ajanta cave paintings.
- ❖ The voyage will sail from Porbandar, Gujarat, to Muscat, Oman, retracing ancient maritime trade links.

## **ECONOMY NEWS**

### **100 percent FDI in Insurance**



- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved full foreign ownership (100% FDI) in Indian insurance companies.
- ❖ The reform is part of the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill 2025, to be introduced in the Winter session of Parliament.
- ❖ The Proposed changes include reducing paid-up capital requirements and introducing a composite licence system for insurers.
- ❖ The LIC board will get enhanced operational powers, including branch expansion and staff recruitment.

- ❖ The reforms aim to boost policyholder protection, improve services, increase competition, and attract global capital.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### ISRO's Aditya-L1



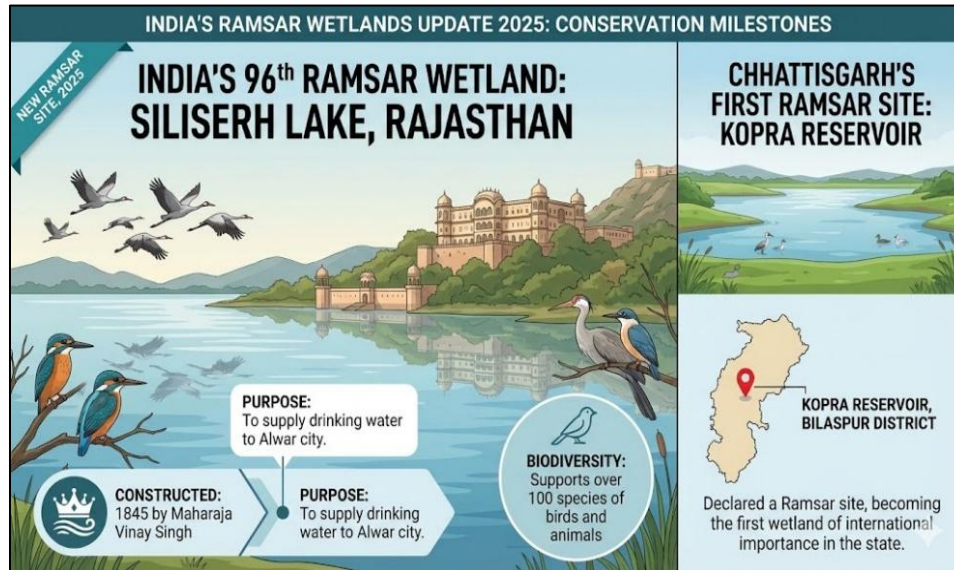
- ❖ ISRO's Aditya-L1 Joins Global Effort in Landmark Solar Storm Study.
- ❖ Aditya-L1 is India's first space-based solar observatory launched in September 2023 on PSLV C57.
- ❖ It is placed in a halo orbit around Lagrangian Point 1 (L1), 1.5 million km from Earth, providing continuous Sun observation.
- ❖ The mission has 7 payloads, including Plasma Analyser Package.
- ❖ Solar storms involve Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs), which are massive bubbles of hot gas and magnetic energy ejected from the Sun.
- ❖ During the May 2024 Gannon's storm, Aditya-L1, along with six U.S. satellites, observed magnetic reconnection, where CME magnetic field lines snapped and rejoined.



- ❖ The event caused a sudden magnetic field reversal, speeding up particles and intensifying the storm, affecting satellites, communication, GPS, and power grids.

## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### India's 96th Ramsar Wetland



- ❖ Siliserh Lake in Alwar district of Rajasthan has been declared a Ramsar site, becoming India's 96th wetland of international importance.
- ❖ Kopra Reservoir in Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh, has become the first Ramsar site of Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ Siliserh Lake supports over 100 species of birds and animals, including migratory cranes and resident kingfishers.
- ❖ Siliserh Lake was constructed in 1845 by Maharaja Vinay Singh to supply drinking water to Alwar city.
- ❖ Ramsar status aims to strengthen conservation measures, promote eco-tourism, and support sustainable livelihoods in both regions.

### India's Wildfire Management Resolution

- ❖ India's Resolution on Strengthening Global Wildfire Management was adopted at the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) in Nairobi, Kenya.
- ❖ The resolution promotes international cooperation, early warning systems, and risk assessment for wildfire management.

- ❖ It encourages regional and global collaboration for prevention, post-fire recovery, and ecosystem restoration.
- ❖ Support is provided for national and regional wildfire action plans and access to multilateral funding.
- ❖ In India, 36% of forests are prone to fires, with 4% extremely prone and 6% very highly fire-prone (ISFR 2019).



## REPORTS AND INDICES

### World's Most Overworked Countries



- ❖ India is among the world's most overworked countries, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO).

- ❖ Indian workers work an average of 45.7 hours per week, as per ILO data (2024).
- ❖ This is higher than in the most developed countries, where average working hours are lower.
- ❖ India is grouped with countries like Bangladesh, Mongolia, and Iran for long working hours.

## STATES' NEWS

### MahaCrimeOS AI Platform



- ❖ MahaCrimeOS AI was launched by the Maharashtra State Government to control cybercrime.
- ❖ It is developed jointly by the Government of Maharashtra and Microsoft.
- ❖ It is India's first Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based cybercrime investigation platform.
- ❖ The platform helps police investigate online fraud, identity theft, and digital crimes faster.

## SPORTS NEWS

### KIUG 2025 - Chandigarh University

- ❖ Chandigarh University became the first university in India to win the Khelo India University Games (KIUG) title for two consecutive years.

- ❖ At KIUG 2025, held in Rajasthan, the university won a total of 67 medals: 42 gold, 14 silvers, and 11 bronze.
- ❖ Canoeing and Kayaking were introduced for the first time in KIUG 2025, where Chandigarh University won 23 gold medals.



## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

**National Energy Conservation Day 2025 - December 14**



- ❖ The day is organized by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the Ministry of Power, Government of India.



- ❖ It has been observed annually since 1991 to support the efficient use of energy resources.
- ❖ This day aims to create awareness about energy conservation and efficient energy use.

## **International Day Against Colonialism in All Its Forms and Manifestations 2025 - December 14**



- ❖ The aim is to end the colonialism and support the right of people to self-determination.
- ❖ It was first observed in 2025 after being declared by the UN.
- ❖ The day was established through a UN General Assembly Resolution.
- ❖ It is based on Resolution 1514 (XV) (1960), called the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

## **MISCELLANEOUS NEWS**

### **UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Session 2025**

- ❖ India hosted the 20th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee (IGC) of UNESCO for the first time at the Red Fort, New Delhi.
- ❖ The session coincided with the 20th anniversary of India's ratification of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH).
- ❖ Twenty-four member States examined 67 living heritage elements during the session held from December 8–13, 2025.

- ❖ These included 11 elements on the List of ICH in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, 53 elements on the Representative List of the ICH of Humanity, and 1 programme on the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices.
- ❖ Two elements were shifted from the Urgent Safeguarding List to the Representative List, including Mwazindika spiritual dance (Kenya) and Dong Ho folk woodblock printing (Vietnam).
- ❖ Nine multinational elements were inscribed, and seven countries—Barbados, Chad, Comoros, El Salvador, Gabon, Libya, and São Tomé and Príncipe—received their first-ever inscription.
- ❖ With these additions, 849 cultural practices from 157 countries are now listed as UNESCO living heritage, with Africa contributing nine elements from 13 countries.
- ❖ Specific Elements Inscribed are:
  - Amateur theatre – Czechia
  - Cuarteto music – Argentina
  - Cuban Son (music and dance) – Cuba
  - Joropo – Venezuela
  - Mvet Oyeng musical art – Cameroon and Gabon
  - Rod Marionette Theatre of Brussels – Belgium
  - Bisht weaving and related practices – Qatar, Iraq, Jordan, United Arab Emirates
  - Zaffa wedding tradition – parts of Africa and the Middle East
  - Gifaataa New Year festival – Ethiopia
- ❖ China (Xiamen) will host the next ICH committee session in 2026.

