



December - 19

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Indian cricketer Shikhar Dhawan unveiled his autobiography 'The One: Cricket, My Life and More' in New Delhi.
- ❖ India launched DHRUV64, its first fully indigenous 1.0 GHz, 64-bit dual-core microprocessor, developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) under the Microprocessor Development Programme (MDP).
- ❖ Sai Jadhav became the first woman officer to graduate from the Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun.
 - The Indian Military Academy was established in 1932 and had trained only male officers for 93 years.
- ❖ Miyana Railway Station, Madhya Pradesh, has received the National Energy Conservation Award 2025 and was recognised as the Best Performing Unit in the Transport Category (Railway Station) by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).
 - Goa won the second prize in Category 4 of the National Energy Conservation Awards 2025 for promoting energy efficiency and sustainable practices.
- ❖ Dr. Reddy's Laboratories will manufacture Nuzolvence through its unit Aurigene Pharmaceutical Services and seek market authorisation in Thailand and South Africa.
 - Gonorrhoea is caused by the bacteria Neisseria gonorrhoeae, classified as "high priority" by WHO due to increasing antibiotic resistance.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Economic growth of TN 2025

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at current prices increased from ₹26.88 lakh crore in 2023-24 to ₹31.19 lakh crore in 2024-25.
- ❖ Thus, it is registering a growth of 16%.
- ❖ The State has recorded double-digit growth at current prices over the past four years, with the manufacturing sector playing a crucial role.
- ❖ Over the same period, Tamil Nadu's manufacturing GSDP increased by ₹1.46 lakh crore.
- ❖ The State has nearly 40,121 factories providing employment to about 24.75 lakh people.

- ❖ The construction sector has also made a significant contribution to growth, recording close to 11% growth in 2024-25.
- ❖ The services sector accounts for nearly 53% of the State's Gross Value Addition.
- ❖ It registered a real growth of 11.3% in 2024-25.
- ❖ The fiscal deficit is projected at 3% of GSDP in 2025-26, while the debt-to-GSDP ratio has declined from 27% in 2021-22 to 26% in 2024-25.




Green Hydrogen Pilot Project

VOC Port, Tuticorin

PIONEERING GREEN HYDROGEN IN INDIAN PORTS

- First port to produce and use green hydrogen on campus
- Clean fuel for port operations and utilities
- Major step towards net-zero, low-carbon port

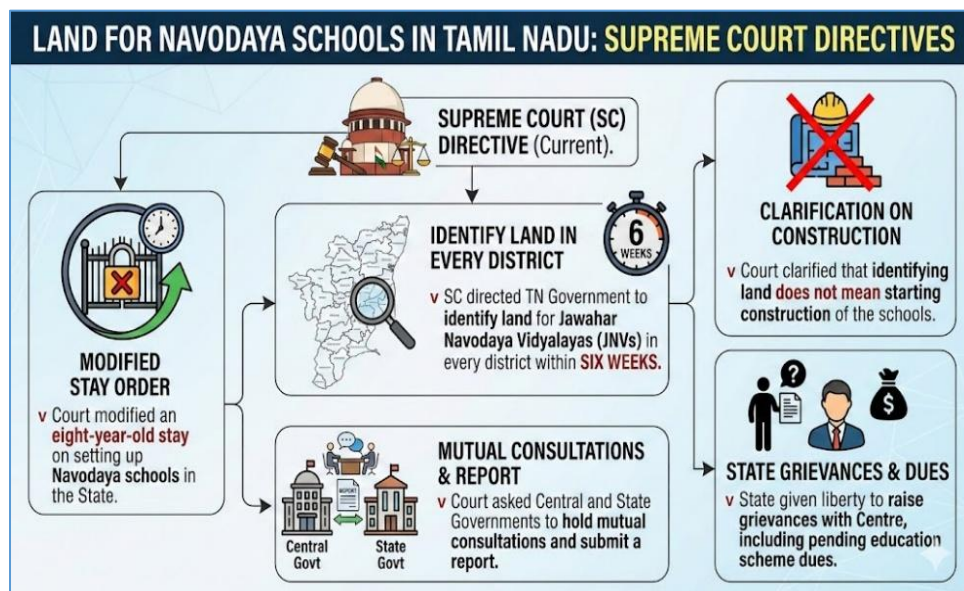


- ❖ The V.O. Chidambaranar (VoC) Port in India will launch a Green Hydrogen Pilot Project.

- ❖ The project will set up a bunkering (refuelling) facility for green hydrogen and its derivatives.
- ❖ The facility will support ships operating on domestic and international routes.
- ❖ The project aims to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from the shipping sector.

Land for Navodaya Schools

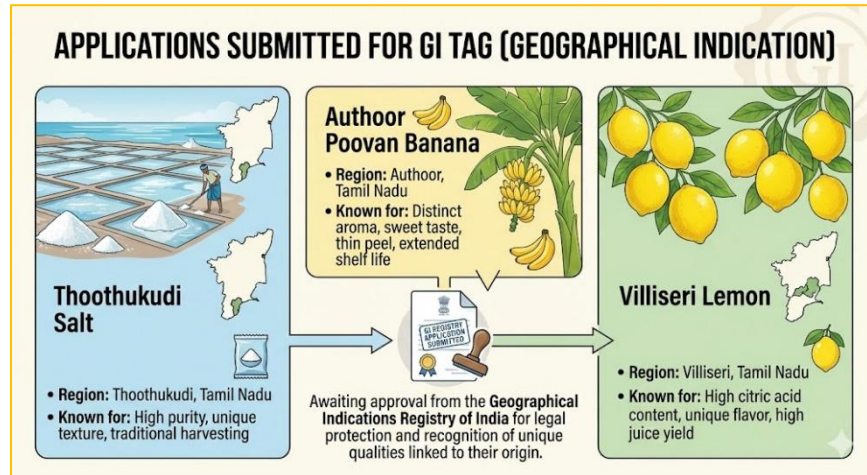
- ❖ The Supreme Court (SC) directed the Tamil Nadu government to identify land for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) in every district within six weeks.
- ❖ The court modified an eight-year-old stay on setting up Navodaya schools in the State.
- ❖ The court asked the Central Government and the State Government to hold mutual consultations and submit a report.
- ❖ The court clarified that identifying land does not mean starting construction of the schools.
- ❖ The State was given liberty to raise its grievances with the Centre, including pending education scheme dues.



GI Tag for Thoothukudi Products

- ❖ The applications for GI tag have been submitted for Thoothukudi salt, Authoor Poovan banana, and Villiseri lemon.


- ❖ Thoothukudi salt is made using the solar evaporation method and contributes about 30% of India's total salt production.
- ❖ Poovan banana is cultivated in Authoor and nearby villages along the Thamirabarani canal irrigation region.
- ❖ Villiseri lemon from Kovilpatti is known for its strong aroma, high juice content, fewer seeds, and long shelf life.



Farm Sector status in Tamil Nadu 2025

- ❖ Agriculture is the weak spot of Tamil Nadu's economy and has recorded negative growth in the last two years, 2023–24 and 2024–25.
- ❖ This is based on the RBI Handbook of Statistics on Indian States.
- ❖ Despite weak agricultural performance, the State's economy has grown well due to the strong performance of the secondary and tertiary sectors.
- ❖ Total food grain production (rice, pulses, and coarse cereals) ranged between 107 and 120 lakh tonnes.
- ❖ The highest production was 119.98 lakh tonnes in 2021–22, after the COVID-19 pandemic, and the lowest was 107 lakh tonnes in 2023–24.
- ❖ Rice is the main food grain in the State, followed by coarse cereals, especially millets, while pulses contribute only a small share.
- ❖ Production of rice and coarse cereals has remained largely stable over the years.
- ❖ Pulse production is low at around 3.6 lakh tonnes, compared to 7.5 lakh tonnes in 2014–15.
- ❖ Production of non-food crops such as cotton, sugarcane, and oilseeds has shown a declining trend.

- ❖ Oilseed production was about 11.5 lakh tonnes 20 years ago and has not crossed that level since.
- ❖ Cotton production declined to 2.1 lakh bales last year from 6.86 lakh bales in 2014–15.
- ❖ Sugarcane production fell sharply to about 133.5 lakh tonnes, compared to 411 lakh tonnes in 2006–07.
- ❖ Experts cite erratic monsoon conditions, market price fluctuations, lack of procurement for crops other than rice, and non-availability of new crop varieties as key reasons.
- ❖ Experts suggest giving more importance to horticultural crops, especially in rain-fed areas, to improve farm sector performance.

Negative growth					
A look at the performance of the agriculture sector in Tamil Nadu					
			Net State Value Added (added by economic activity)		
			Agriculture (At constant prices - Base: 2011-12)		
			Year	Value (₹ in lakh)	Y-O-Y growth rate
			2020-21	46,79,987	4.00%
			2021-22	51,36,564	9.76%
Rice production (in thousand tonnes)			2022-23	54,58,837	6.27%
			2023-24	52,83,120	-3.22%
			2024-25	51,86,276	-1.83%
			Total foodgrains production (in thousand tonnes)		
			Year	Quantity	Y-O-Y growth rate
2020-21	6,881.20	-4.04%	2020-21	10,823.60	-3.96%
2021-22	7,906.60	14.90%	2021-22	11,998.00	10.85%
2022-23	7,557.00	-4.42%	2022-23	11,680.40	-2.65%
2023-24	6,799.20	-10%	2023-24	10,700.10	-8.40%
2024-25	7,093.60	4.33%	2024-25	10,926.40	2.11%

Note: Total foodgrains include rice, pulses, and coarse cereals

NATIONAL NEWS

Nationwide Egg Safety Surveillance

- ❖ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched a nationwide egg safety drive.

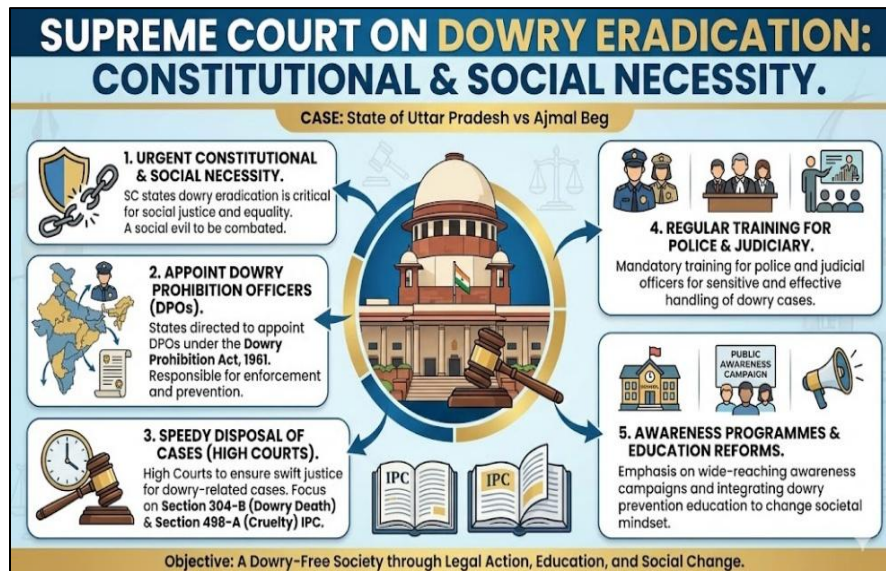
- ❖ The drive was initiated after reports of the presence of nitrofurans in eggs of a popular brand.
- ❖ Nitrofurans are banned veterinary antimicrobial drugs used earlier in food-producing animals.
- ❖ FSSAI is conducting surveillance and testing to detect residues of nitrofurans in eggs.
- ❖ Nitrofurans are banned in India due to their carcinogenic (cancer-causing) risk.
- ❖ The initiative aims to ensure food safety and compliance with food safety laws.



Supreme Court on Dowry Eradication

- ❖ The Supreme Court said that dowry eradication is an urgent constitutional and social necessity.
- ❖ The directions were issued in the case of State of Uttar Pradesh vs Ajmal Beg.
- ❖ The Court directed States to appoint Dowry Prohibition Officers (DPOs) under the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.
- ❖ High Courts were asked to ensure speedy disposal of cases under Section 304-B (dowry death) and Section 498-A (cruelty) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

- ❖ The Court directed regular training of police and judicial officers for proper handling of dowry-related cases.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India-Oman Strategic Partnership



- ❖ India and Oman are celebrating 70 years of establishment of diplomatic relations in 2025.

- ❖ India and Oman are likely to sign the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).
- ❖ The 14th India–Oman Strategic Consultative Group meeting was held in Muscat, Oman.
- ❖ India and Oman reviewed cooperation in political, defence, security, trade, energy, education and cultural sectors.
- ❖ Bilateral trade between India and Oman was USD 10.61 billion in the financial year 2024–2025.

Under 16 Social Media Ban



- ❖ Australia has become the world's first country to ban social media use for teenagers below 16 years of age.
- ❖ The law requires platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, YouTube, X, Snapchat, Reddit and Twitch to block users under 16.
- ❖ Parents and children will not face penalties for violations of the law.
- ❖ Technology companies can be fined up to 32 million US dollars for failing to comply with the ban.
- ❖ The ban has been introduced to protect children from harmful online content.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Maitri II - Antarctic Station

- ❖ Maitri II is India's proposed next-generation research station in East Antarctica, expected to be completed by 2032.

- ❖ The station will replace Maitri I, which has been operational since 1989 in the Schirmacher Oasis.
- ❖ The total estimated cost of Maitri II is ₹2,000 crore.
- ❖ Maitri II will support multidisciplinary research in climate science, glaciology, biology, atmospheric sciences, earth sciences, and long-term environmental monitoring.



Precision-Guided Weapon - HAMMER

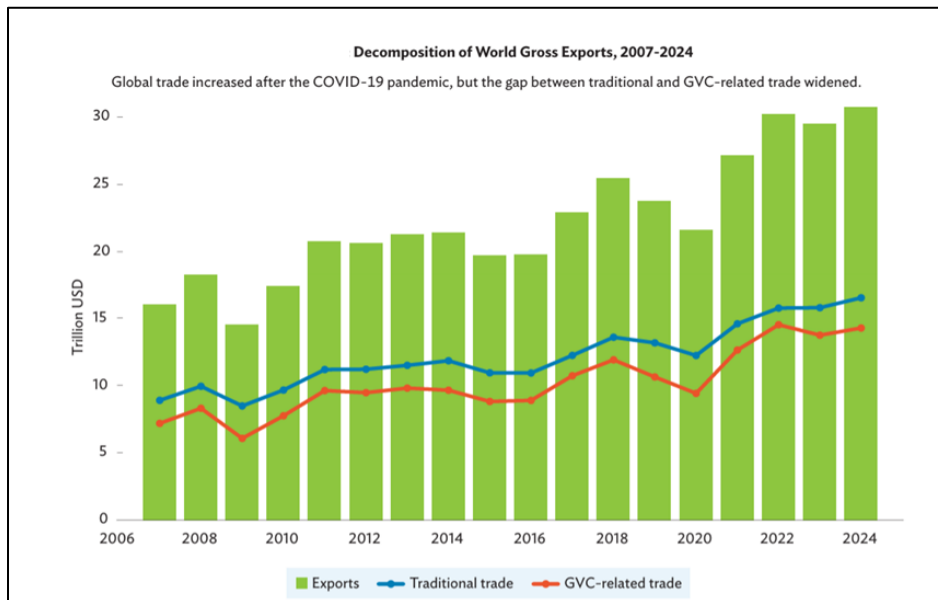


- ❖ HAMMER (Highly Agile Modular Munition Extended Range), also called AASM (Armement Air-Sol Modulaire), is a precision-guided air-to-ground weapon.

- ❖ India has signed an agreement with France's Safran to manufacture HAMMER weapons in India through a 50:50 joint venture between Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Safran.
- ❖ HAMMER converts conventional bombs into precision weapons using guidance and propulsion kits.
- ❖ It has guidance options such as INS-GPS (Inertial Navigation System–Global Positioning System), infrared and laser guidance.
- ❖ HAMMER can be used from stand-off ranges and is integrated with Rafale and planned for Tejas aircraft.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Global Value Chain Development Report 2025



- ❖ The report “Rewiring GVCs in a Changing Global Economy” was jointly published by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Trade Organization (WTO), and World Economic Forum (WEF).
- ❖ Global Value Chains (GVCs) are production sequences for a final consumer good, with each stage adding value, and at least two stages occurring in different countries.
- ❖ GVCs are being rewired, not reversed, due to the technological change, green transition, and shifting geopolitical conditions.
- ❖ The global share of GVCs in trade is 46.3%, slightly down from 48% in 2022.

- ❖ Services and digital trade now account for more than one-third of value added in manufacturing exports.
- ❖ Regional hubs dominate GVC trade: Asia, Europe, and North America; Latin America and Africa lag behind.
- ❖ Emerging trends include reshoring by China, the US, and the EU, and diversification of manufacturing despite China's dominance in sectors like electric vehicles (EVs) production (76.9% globally).
- ❖ India is among the top 10 value-adding economies, accounting for 2.8% of global domestic value added in exports (2024).
- ❖ GVC participation contributes to poverty reduction, with a 1% increase boosting per capita income twice as much as conventional trade.
- ❖ GVCs promote employment creation, especially labour-intensive and female-driven jobs, as seen in Bangladesh's export apparel sector.

STATES' NEWS

Holy Cities in Punjab



- ❖ The Punjab government has declared Amritsar, Sri Anandpur Sahib (Rupnagar district), and Talwandi Sabo (Sri Damdama Sahib, Bathinda district) as the Holy Cities.
- ❖ The declaration aims to protect the religious sanctity and cultural character of these cities.

- ❖ Sale and consumption of liquor and intoxicants are restricted within the notified municipal limits.
- ❖ The sale and consumption of meat are also banned in these areas.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

NCAER Report on Employment 2025

- ❖ A report titled “India’s Employment Prospects: Pathways to Jobs” was released by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER).
- ❖ The study finds that increasing the skilled workforce and the productivity of small enterprises can create substantial employment in India.
- ❖ Even a 1% increase in access to credit raises the expected number of hired workers by 45 %.
- ❖ Enterprises that use digital technologies hire 78 % more workers than those that do not use such technologies.
- ❖ Strengthening employment opportunities in labour-intensive manufacturing and services sectors could help sustain GDP growth at around 8%.
- ❖ Increasing the formally skilled workforce by 9-12% points could generate 9.3 million additional jobs or a 13 % increase in employment by 2030.

