

February - 18

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ V. Sripathy, 23-year-old woman from the Malayali tribe in Yelagiri Hills, Tirupattur district, has scripted history by becoming the first civil judge from her community.
- ❖ Bargur Cattle Research Station was awarded third place in the large ruminant category (institutions) by ICAR - National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR) for conservation of the Bargur breed.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu legislative assembly adopted two resolutions opposing the scheduled delimitation exercise for redrawing of poll constituencies in 2026 and the Centre's proposed "one nation and one election" policy.
- ❖ Noida has been honoured as a "water warrior" city by the Union water ministry for outstanding efforts in wastewater treatment and reuse.
- ❖ Off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin became the second Indian bowler after former skipper Anil Kumble to take 500 Test wickets.
- ❖ India's top-ranked men's singles tennis player Sumit Nagal secured the 98th spot in ATP's top 100 rankings after his Chennai Open Challenger victory.
 - Only 10 Indian men have ever reached the top 100 since the introduction of ATP rankings in 1973.

TAMIL NADU


Groundwater seepage at Konthagai



- ❖ Konthagai excavation site in Sivagangai district, part of Keeladi cluster was found submerged in water due to seepage into the excavation sites from below.

- ❖ The site is situated less than a couple of kilometres away from Keeladi site.
- ❖ Two burial urns were unearthed in 2022.
- ❖ With one of them is containing 20 offering vessels, including shallow bowls, miniature pots and a ring stand, which were things buried along with the dead.
- ❖ An iron sword measuring 40 centimetres was also found at the site in 2022.
- ❖ And it is believed to be a part of ‘grave goods’.

10 achievements of Tamilnadu government



the country

- First in the export of **electronic goods**
- Created a conducive climate for **industrial investment**
- Second place in the field of **education**
- First in **innovative industries**
- **Improved the status of women, persons with disabilities, youth, and the oppressed**

Leading the way: Chief Minister M.K. Stalin says his government has made some historic achievements.

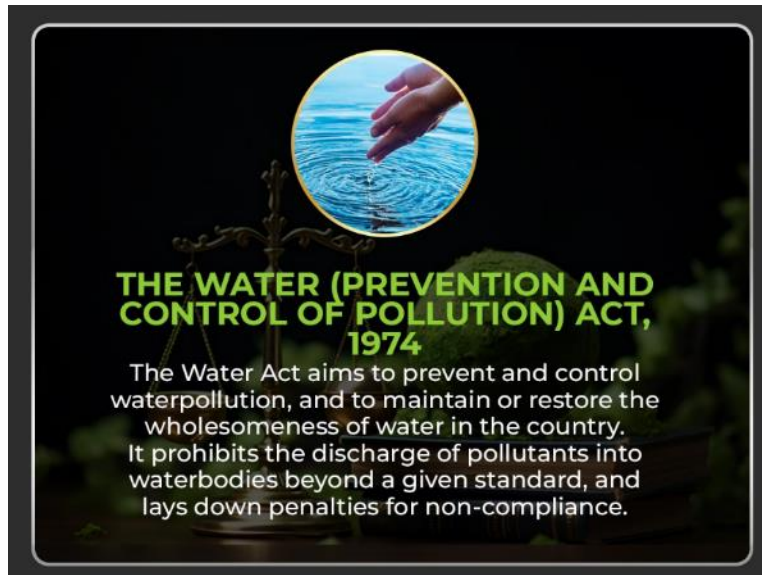
- A contribution of **9% to the Indian economy**
- Secured the **second place** in contribution to the Gross Domestic Product of the nation
- Logging a **growth rate of 8.19%**, when that of the country was 7.24%
- Registered a decline in **inflation to 5.97%**, against the national average of 6.65%
- Topped the **Export Preparedness Index** in

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister listed 10 achievements of the current government.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu’s nine per cent contribution to the Indian economy -- this showcased the State’s economic growth.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has secured the second place when it comes to contributing to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the nation.
- ❖ The state’s growth rate has become 8.19 per cent while the country’s growth rate is 7.24 per cent.

- ❖ The state had controlled inflation, which had fallen to 5.97 per cent while the national figure was 6.65 per cent.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has topped the list of the Export Preparedness Index in the country, and this is the fifth achievement.
- ❖ Tamilnadu is ranking first in the export of electronic goods.
- ❖ Government had created a conducive climate for industrial investment and this had helped Tamil Nadu reach the third position, up from the 14th position, in the country.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu was elevated to the second place in the field of education.
- ❖ The State has also secured the first place in innovative industries.
- ❖ The 10th achievement of the government is improvement of status of that women, young people, persons with disabilities, and persons on the margins and the oppressed.

NATIONAL

Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Bill, 2024



- ❖ The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Bill, 2024 proposing changes to the Act was moved and cleared in both houses of the Parliament within a span of 72 hours.
- ❖ The legislation weakens the original Act that came into force 50 years ago.
- ❖ Central and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCB) are based on the 1974 Act.

- ❖ The amended version of the Act will currently apply to Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan and the Union territories.
- ❖ The original Act, passed in 1974, is applicable in 25 States.
- ❖ The most important change is that it removes the provisions of imprisonment for several violations, deemed “minor”, and replaces them with fines, to the tune of ₹10,000 extending up to ₹15 lakh.
- ❖ The amendments also give the Centre greater authority to over-ride SPCB in some instances.
- ❖ Operating or establishing an industrial unit without SPCB consent can still land you in jail for six years along with a fine.
- ❖ The Bill also adds that the Centre may issue guidelines for the grant, refusal, or cancellation of consent granted by the SPCB.
- ❖ It also penalises tampering with monitoring devices used in determining whether any industry or treatment plant can be set up.

Electoral Bonds Struck Down

Pulling the plug

Major takeaways from the Supreme Court verdict striking down the electoral bonds scheme:

- Issuance of electoral bonds to be stopped
- SBI to submit full details of bonds purchased by donors and subsequently encashed by political parties since April 12, 2019 to the Election Commission of India by March 6
- ECI to publish the entire information given by SBI on its website by March 13



- ❖ The Supreme Court struck down the electoral bonds scheme - on grounds it violated citizens' right to information, was unconstitutional.
- ❖ It may also lead to quid pro quo arrangements between the political parties and donors.
- ❖ The court ordered the State Bank of India to stop issuing bonds and provide details of donations made to the Election Commission.

- ❖ The scheme was launched in 2018.
- ❖ It is allowed political parties to not disclose contributions received via this route, meaning companies could make unlimited fund transfers.
- ❖ According to the Election Commission data, 28,030 electoral bonds worth ₹ 16,437.63 crore were sold between 2016 and 2022.
- ❖ The BJP got ₹210 crore in 2017-2018 at the start of the scheme and raked in ₹1,294.14 crore in 2022-23.
- ❖ The Indian National Congress is far below at ₹171.02 crore while the All-India Trinamool Congress (AITC) received ₹325 crore and the DMK received ₹185 crore in 2022-2023.

INTERNATIONAL

BAPS Hindu Mandir



- ❖ The BAPS Hindu Mandir, first Hindu stone temple in UAE, was inaugurated recently.
- ❖ Abu Dhabi's first Hindu temple has been made in the Nagara style of architecture.
- ❖ It has been built using ancient architectural methods clubbed with scientific techniques.
- ❖ The BAPS Hindu Mandir has been built with over 300 high-tech sensors to measure temperature and monitor seismic activity.
- ❖ No metal has been used in the construction of the temple.

- ❖ The land for the temple was donated by the UAE government.
- ❖ The UAE has three other Hindu temples that are located in Dubai.

STATES

Assam's State Fruit

- ❖ Assam's unique lemon variety, Kaji Nemu (Assam lemon), was declared as the state fruit.
- ❖ It is known for its aroma, flavour and health benefits.
- ❖ Kaji Nemu has already got the GI tag.
- ❖ It is one of the best-known fruits that have medicinal properties and special aroma which is not grown in any other state or country.
- ❖ It's proven that Kaji Nemu boosts immunity, reduces cholesterol levels in the human body and makes it stress free.



MISCELLANEOUS

200th Birth Anniversary of Dayanand Saraswati

- ❖ Swami Dayanand Saraswati was born as Mool Shankar Tiwari on 12th February 1824 in Gujarat.
- ❖ He was renowned for his seminal work 'Satyarth Prakash'.
- ❖ He founded Arya Samaj in 1875 to counter then-prevalent social inequities.



- ❖ Arya Samaj played a key role in the cultural and social awakening of the country through its emphasis on social reforms and education.

Hindu religious leader Dayanand Saraswati was born on Feb 12, 1824



'India for Indians'

Was the first to give the call for *Swarajya* as 'India for Indians'

"What is crucial in dealing with loss is not to lose the lesson"

Madam Cama, Vinayak Savarkar, Madan Lal Dhingra and Mahatma Hansraj were his followers

Was the first to call dalits as *Harijans*

Promoted *Swadeshi* and equal rights for women

