



January - 16

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ The Regional Office of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) was inaugurated at Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ India Post launched Speed Post 24 and Speed Post 48, a premium express delivery options within the Speed Post suite to provide faster mail delivery.
- ❖ Italy has conferred the Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia on Goa-based industrialist Shrinivas Dempo.
- ❖ Indian army officer from Bengaluru, Major Swathi Shantha Kumar, has won the UN Secretary General's Award 2025 for her project Equal Partners, Lasting Peace.
- ❖ The first deck has been launched on India's first-ever road bridge, being built over an active Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) underground tunnel.
  - The Teynampet-Saidapet flyover in Chennai is the world's first road bridge constructed above a running metro tunnel.
- ❖ The National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT), Japan, achieved the world's first 2 terabits per second (Tbit/s) free-space optical (FSO) communication.
  - The experiment used small optical terminals that can be mounted on satellites and High-Altitude Platform Stations (HAPS).
- ❖ The Indian Army has conducted Exercise "Sanjha Shakti" at Dighi Hills Range, Maharashtra, to strengthen civil-military coordination.
  - It is a Military-Civil Fusion exercise held under the Southern Command (Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa Area).

## **TAMIL NADU NEWS**

### **Tamil Nadu State Awards 2026**

- ❖ The Thiruvalluvar Award 2026 will be given to Dr. Sathiyavel Muruganar.
- ❖ The Kamarajar Award 2025 will be given to Idhayathulla.
- ❖ The Mahakavi Bharathiyar Award 2025 will be awarded to Nellai Jayantha, and the Pavendhar Bharathidasan Award 2025 will be given to poet Yugabharathi.
- ❖ The Thamizh Thenral Thiru. Vi. Ka. The Award 2025 will be given to the writer and former Chief Secretary Iraiyanbu.

- ❖ Scholar M.P. Sathiyavel Muruganar will receive the Ayyan Thiruvalluvar Award for spreading the ideals of Thiruvalluvar.
- ❖ Advocate A. Arulmozhi has been named for the Thanthai Periyar Award for work towards social justice.
- ❖ M. Sinthanai Selvan will receive the Annal Ambedkar Award for work for Adi Dravidar (Scheduled Caste) and tribal communities.
- ❖ Duraimurugan, a senior DMK leader and Minister, will be given the Perarignar Anna Award.
- ❖ Each awardee will receive ₹5 lakh in cash and a one-sovereign gold medal, which will be presented by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin.

 <b>Tamil Nadu State Awards 2026</b>	
Award	Recipient
The Thiruvalluvar Award 2026	Dr. Sathiyavel Muruganar
The Kamarajar Award 2025	Idhayathulla
The Mahakavi Bharathiyar Award 2025	Nellai Jayantha
The Pavendhar Bharathidasan Award 2025	Yugabharathi
The Thiru. Vi. Ka Award 2025	Iraiyambu
Thanthai Periyar Award	Advocate A. Arulmozhi
Annal Ambedkar Award	M. Sinthanai Selvan (VCK)
Perarignar Anna Award	Duraimurugan

Each Awardee will receive ₹5 Lakh and a One-Sovereign Gold Medal.

Awards to be presented by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin



### **Tamil Nadu Circular Economy Investment Policy 2026**

- ❖ The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has released the Tamil Nadu Circular Economy Investment Policy, 2026, in Chennai.
- ❖ The policy aims to promote the recycling, resource efficiency, and investment in circular economy industries in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The policy provides special incentives for recycling units and technology enablers, in addition to incentives under the MSME Policy, 2021, and Facilitating MSMEs of Tamil Nadu (FaMe TN) Sponsorship Policy.
- ❖ Companies investing at least ₹20 crore and creating a minimum of 25 net new jobs are eligible for a capital subsidy of 10% of Eligible Fixed Assets (EFA), subject to a maximum of ₹3 crore.
- ❖ The capital subsidy will be disbursed over five years in equal annual instalments after the start of commercial operations.

- ❖ Eligible units will receive reimbursement of the employer's Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) contribution for one year with a limit of 50 employees.
- ❖ They can get up to ₹10,000 per employee per month for Tamil Nadu-domiciled workers.
- ❖ The policy also provides skilling incentives and a payroll subsidy.



### **Tamil Nadu Warehousing Policy 2026**

- ❖ The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu released the Tamil Nadu Warehousing Policy, 2026, in Chennai.
- ❖ The policy aims to promote modern warehousing infrastructure and strengthen the supply chain and logistics in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The policy provides incentives to market participants, operators, and developers in the warehousing sector for a period of five years.
- ❖ Warehouses must be located in Tamil Nadu, and the developer or operator must have a registered office in the State to claim incentives.
- ❖ Greenfield warehouses starting operations during the policy period and brownfield expansions carried out during the period are eligible for incentives.

- ❖ The New warehouses can receive a green incentive of 25% of the cost of green initiatives, subject to a maximum of ₹2 crore.
- ❖ The policy also provides training subsidies and special incentives for warehouse development in Category C and Delta districts.



### **India's First Sovereign AI Park**

- ❖ The Government of Tamil Nadu signed a MoU with Sarvam AI to set up India's first ₹10,000-crore Sovereign Artificial Intelligence (AI) Park.
- ❖ The project will be established as a full-stack AI district with compute the infra structure, secure data systems, research labs, and innovation clusters.
- ❖ It will generate about 1,000 high-skilled deep-tech jobs in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The AI Park will include an Institute for AI in Governance to support public sector use of AI.
- ❖ Data, models, and computing will remain within the State's trust boundary to ensure a sovereign and secure AI ecosystem.



- ❖ Sarvam AI, selected under the IndiaAI Mission, will build foundational AI models for Indian languages, voice, and reasoning.



### **Gopuram Construction at Pazhayarai Temple**

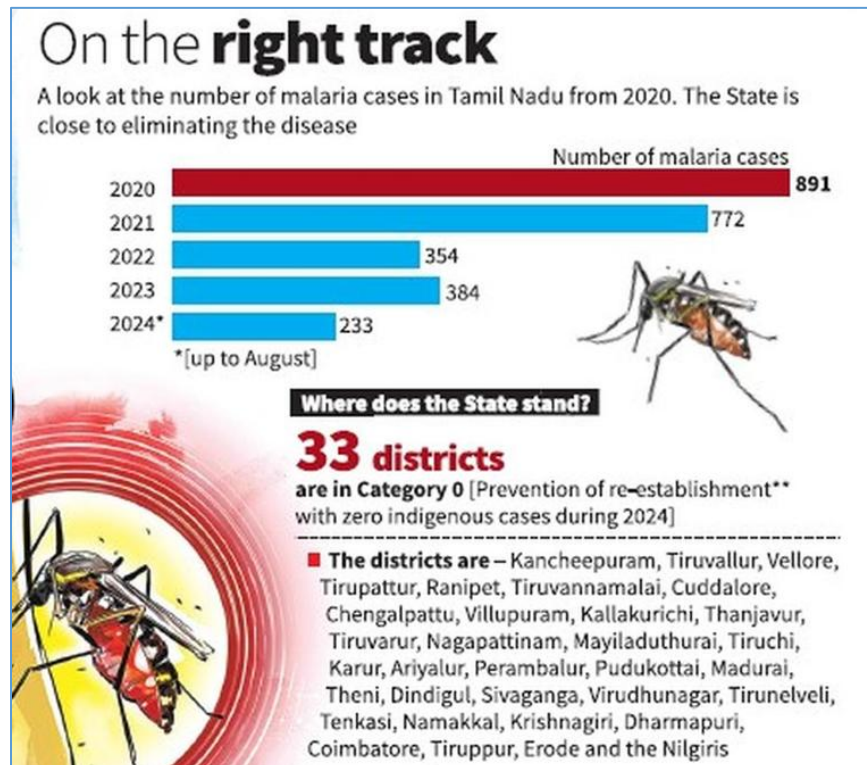
- ❖ The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department has started building a seven-tier gopuram at the Somanathar Temple in Pazhayarai near Kumbakonam.
- ❖ The National Institute of Technology (NIT) studied the soil and the existing temple structure before recommending the construction of a seven-tier gopuram instead of the earlier five-tier plan to match the broad foundation.
- ❖ The temple previously had a neglected east-facing gopuram, called the mottai gopuram (unfinished tower).
- ❖ Pazhayarai was an important Chola capital before moving to Thanjavur.
- ❖ A royal order by Uttama Chola was recorded from the Pazhayarai palace, highlighting its historical importance.
- ❖ The temple is one of the important Saivite temples, praised in verse by Appar, Sambandar, and Sundarar.
- ❖ It is also called Kara Koil because its mahamandapam (main hall) is designed like a chariot.
- ❖ As per K.A. Nilakanta Sastri notes, Pazhayarai had the Arulmolideva-Isvara Temple, with a palace that was the residence of Rajaraja Chola's sister Kundavai, and for some time, of Rajaraja himself.

- ❖ The construction is part of the Tamil Nadu government's programme to restore and repair 1,000-year-old temples, under which around 4,000 temples have already undergone kumbabishekam (ritual consecration).

### Seven Tier Gopuram Rises At Pazhayarai

The HR&CE Department has begun constructing a seven-tier gopuram at the Somanathar Temple in Pazhayarai near Kumbakonam, at a cost of ₹7.95 crore. HR&CE minister P. K. Sekarbabu said the temple is part of efforts to restore ancient shrines. Pazhayarai holds major Chola-era significance, having served as an early royal residence before the capital shifted to Thanjavur, during early Cholas.

### Malaria Elimination in Tamil Nadu



- ❖ Tamil Nadu is close to eliminating malaria, with 33 out of 38 districts reporting zero indigenous cases in the past three years.

- ❖ Chennai, Ramanathapuram, Thoothukudi, Chengalpattu, and Salem are the five districts still reporting cases, accounting for 37%-45% of the State's malaria cases.
- ❖ Malaria cases in Tamil Nadu have declined from 5,587 in 2015 to 321 in 2025. Cases in Chennai have reduced from 173 in 2023 to 121 in 2025.
- ❖ The Most reported cases in recent years have been imported rather than locally transmitted: 330 of 384 in 2023, 208 of 347 in 2024, and 203 of 321 in 2025.
- ❖ The Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine conducts surveillance through blood smear testing, monitoring fever cases at Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Government Hospitals (GHs), and tracking migrant labourers.
- ❖ Annual Parasite Incidence has fallen below 1%, and there have been no malaria outbreaks in the past three years.

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **District-Led Textiles Transformation (DLTT) Initiative**



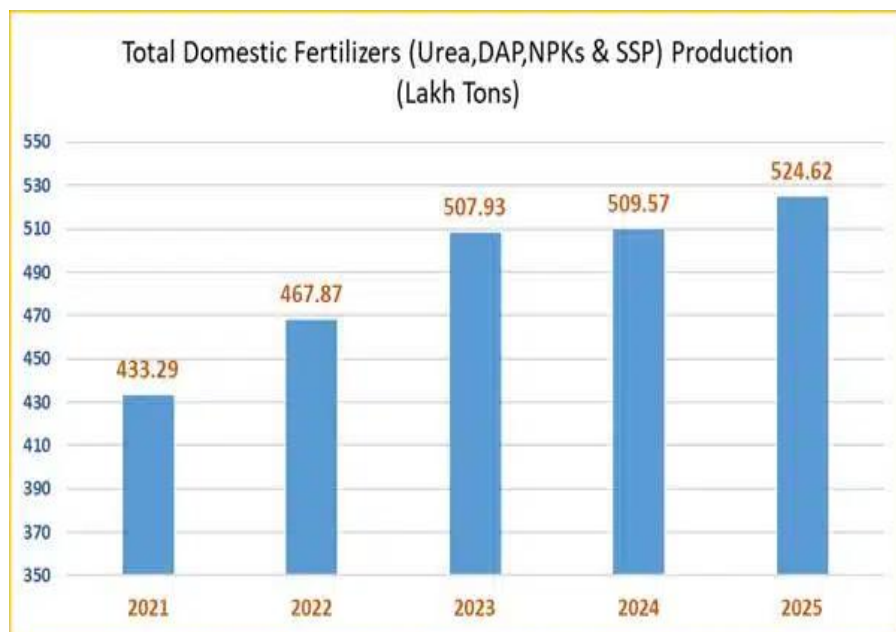
- ❖ The Ministry of Textiles launched the District-Led Textiles Transformation (DLTT) initiative at the National Textile Ministers Conference in Guwahati.
- ❖ The scheme aims to develop 100 Global Export Champion districts and 100 Aspirational districts in the textile sector.
- ❖ These Districts are selected using data on exports, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and workforce strength.
- ❖ Champion districts will get Industry 4.0 technology and Mega Common Facility Centres for advanced growth.



- ❖ Aspirational districts will receive skill training, Raw Material Banks, and support to Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

### **Fertiliser Production in 2025**

- ❖ India has produced 524.62 lakh tonnes of fertilisers in 2025, meeting nearly 73 percent of domestic demand.
- ❖ This includes urea, DAP (Di-Ammonium Phosphate), NPKs (Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium), and SSP (Single Super Phosphate).
- ❖ Fertiliser production has steadily increased over five years, from 433.29 lakh tonnes in 2021 to 467.87 lakh tonnes in 2022.
- ❖ It was 507.93 lakh tonnes in 2023, 509.57 lakh tonnes in 2024, and reaching 524.62 lakh tonnes in 2025.



### **All India Major Port Cultural Meet**

- ❖ The 25th All India Major Port Cultural Meet 2025–26 concluded at Paradip Port, Odisha.
- ❖ The event was organized by the Paradip Port Authority (PPA) in association with the Major Ports Sports Control Board.
- ❖ The Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Authority was declared the Overall Champion, Mumbai Port Authority was the Runners-up, and Deendayal & Cochin Port Authorities were Joint Second Runners-up.



- ❖ The meet promotes cultural exchange, unity, and camaraderie among India's port employees and strengthens national integration in the maritime sector.



## ECONOMY NEWS

### India's Fish Production in FY 2024-25

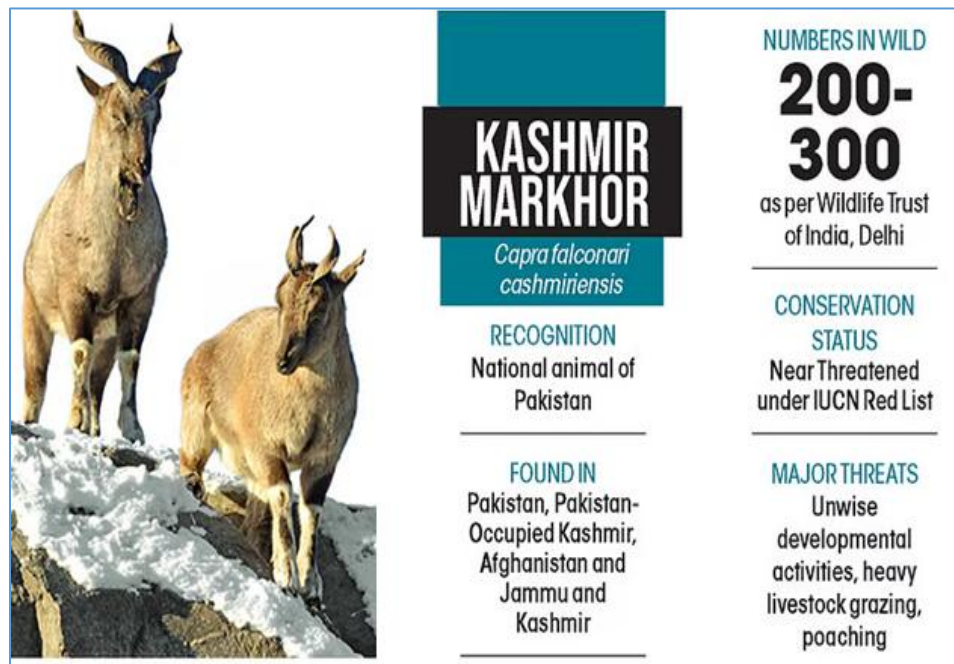


- ❖ India's Fish production has increased to 197.75 lakh tonnes in FY 2024-25.

- ❖ It was 95.79 lakh tonnes in FY 2013-14 and increased 106%.
- ❖ Average aquaculture productivity has increased to 4.77 tonnes per hectare.
- ❖ India exported 16.98 Lakh tons of seafood worth Rs ₹62,408 crore during 2023-24.
- ❖ India's seafood exports touched an all-time high in value during the financial year 2024-25 to Rs 62,408 crore.
- ❖ India exports over 350 seafood products to 130 countries, with aquaculture contributing 62% of export value.

## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### Kashmir Markhor



- ❖ The Kashmir markhor (*Capra falconeri cashmeriensis*), India's rarest wild goat, is facing local extinction with only 200–300 individuals left.
- ❖ It is a subspecies of Markhor (*Capra falconeri*) and shares the overall species status of Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List.
- ❖ The species is endemic to Jammu & Kashmir, mainly in Kazinag National Park, Hirpora Wildlife Sanctuary, Tattakuti Wildlife Sanctuary, and Khara Gali Conservation Reserve.
- ❖ Kashmir markhor is an ecological indicator, prey for snow leopards, leopards, and wolves, and helps maintain mountain vegetation and soil health.

- ❖ The name “markhor” comes from Persian, meaning “snake-killer”, reflecting ancient folklore.

## STATES' NEWS

### Boda Tyohar 2025

- ❖ The month-long festival "Boda Tyohar", was commenced in Nahan, Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ It is also called "Magho ko Tyohar".
- ❖ The festival is a part of the primitive traits and distinct culture of the Hati tribe.
- ❖ It is also celebrated in the Jaunsar Babar tribal belt of Uttarakhand.
- ❖ This festival symbolises the importance of women in Hati culture.
- ❖ Hati community was declared a Scheduled Tribe in August 2023.
- ❖ Though Polyandry is illegal under Indian law, the Himachal Pradesh revenue law has upheld the Hatti tribe's tradition of Jodidara.



## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

### Zehanpora Buddhist Complex in Kashmir

- ❖ The 2,000-year-old Zehanpora Buddhist stupa complex in Baramulla, Jammu & Kashmir, has been scientifically excavated.
- ❖ The site dates to the Kushan period (1st–3rd century CE) and spreads over 10 acres.



- ❖ It includes the multiple stupas, apsidal chaityas (prayer halls), viharas (monk residences), urban settlements, and artefacts.
- ❖ Zehanpora lies along the ancient Silk Route linking Kashmir with Gandhara (Afghanistan–Pakistan region).
- ❖ Buddhism in Kashmir began under Emperor Ashoka (3rd century BCE) and flourished during Kushan rule under Kanishka and Huvishka.

**Kashmir's 1st major excavation  
uncovers a 2,000-year-old Kushan  
era Buddhist settlement in Baramulla**

