

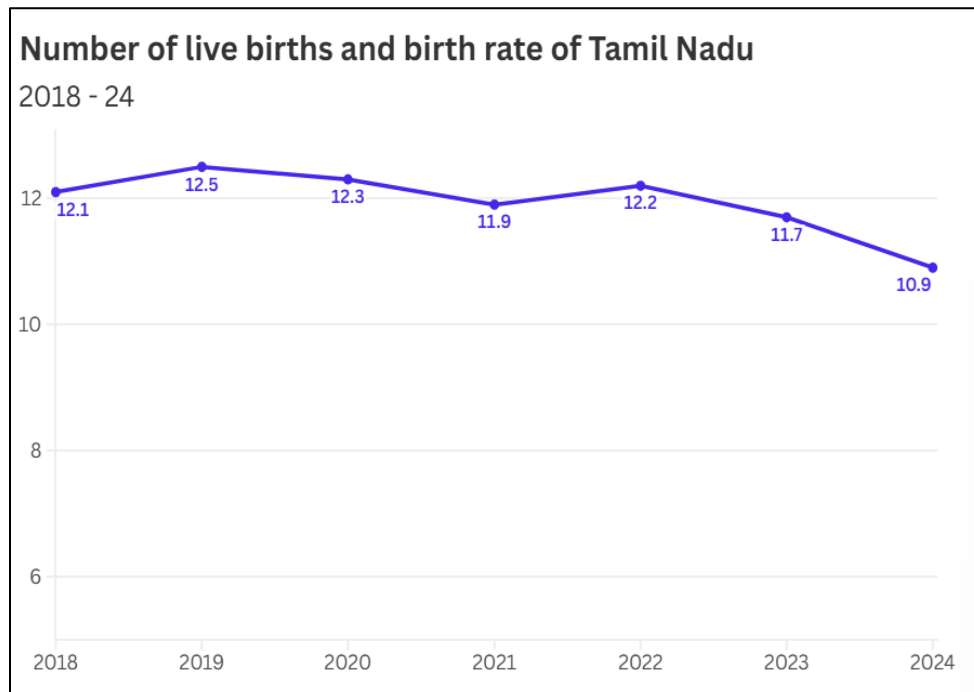
January - 31

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister unveiled the foundation stone for the construction of a new mall, to be named 'Unity', in Egmore, Chennai.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme till 2025-26 with a total budget of ₹69,515.71 crore.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu players won 14 medals at the 10th Asia Pacific Deaf Games-2024 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

TAMIL NADU

Tamil Nadu's birth rate in 2024



- ❖ In 2024, the number of live births fell sharply to 8,42,412.
- ❖ In at least five years leading up to 2024, the number of live births stayed above the nine-lakh mark.
- ❖ The number of live births fell by 6.6% last year as the preceding year (2023) recorded 9,02,306 births.
- ❖ The State's birth rate stood at 10.9 in 2024 as against 11.7 the previous year.



- ❖ TN's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) stands at 1.4, which is lower than the replacement level of 2.1.
- ❖ The decline in birth rates will lead to a decrease in the productive workforce and increasing the dependent populations.

Kalaignarin Kanavu Illam 2025

'கலைஞரின் கனவு இல்லம்' திட்டம் - ரூ.500 கோடி நிதி ஒதுக்கீடு!

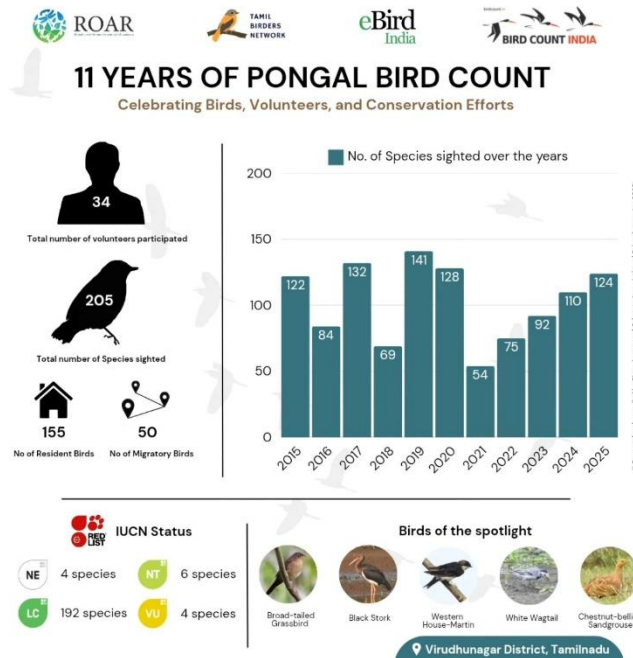
**'கலைஞரின் கனவு இல்லம்' திட்டத்தின் கீழ்
2024 -25ஆம் ஆண்டில் ஒரு லட்சம்
புதிய கான்கிரீட் வீடுகள் கட்டுவதற்கு மேலும்
ரூ.500 கோடி நிதியை ஒதுக்கீடு செய்து
முதலமைச்சர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின் அறிவிப்பு!
2023 ஆம் ஆண்டிற்குள் ஊரக பகுதிகளில் 8 லட்சம்
வீடுகள் கட்டித்தர அரசு திட்டமிட்டுள்ளது.**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has sanctioned a sum of ₹500 crore more towards constructing new houses under the 'Kalaignarin Kanavu Illam' programme for 2024-25.
- ❖ Under the programme, 1 lakh houses are to be constructed at a cost of ₹3,100 crore with the unit cost of each house being ₹3.10 lakh.
- ❖ Besides the grant of funds from the State government to the tune of ₹2,369 crore, devolution grants of about ₹714 crore and ₹15 crore from the mines fund are to be utilised for the State-level housing programme.
- ❖ Funds from these three sources to the tune of ₹1,549 crore have already been received.
- ❖ Total Sum of ₹108.71 crore is sanctioned for the Union government's national programme, which aims to enhance the socio-economic conditions of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
- ❖ Under the programme, houses are to be sanctioned to the six PVTG communities living in Tamil Nadu -- Irulas, Kattunayakans, Kotas, Kurumbas, Paniyans and Todas.
- ❖ Houses for them are to be constructed in 21 districts of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The unit cost 2 lakh is being shared in the ratio of 60:40 between the Centre and the State.

- ❖ The Government of India has also fixed 4,811 as target for 2023-24 under the programme and the target for 2024-25 was 6,885.

Pongal Bird Count (PBC) 2025

- ❖ The Pongal Bird Count was coordinated by the Tamil Birders Network and Bird Count India.
- ❖ It is an annual bird monitoring programme for the state of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ It was first conducted in 2015 and this year marks the 10th Bird Count.
- ❖ It aims to know the snapshot of distribution and abundance of the birds of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The number of birds is lower (332) during this year, where last year a total of 345 bird species spotted.



NATIONAL

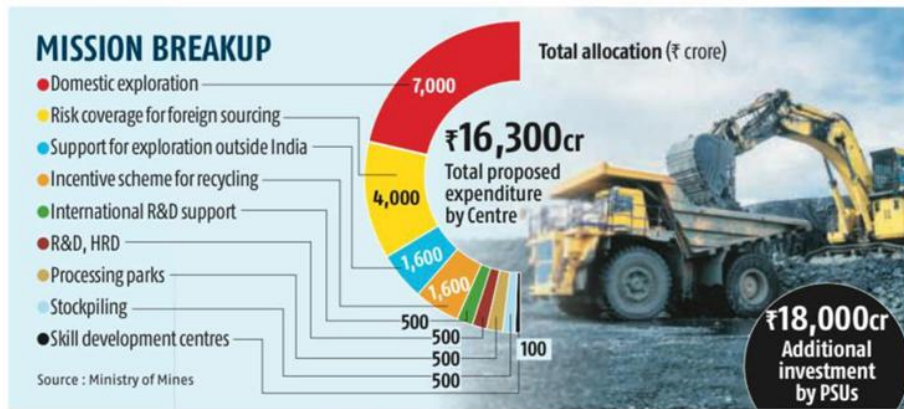
India and Cape Town Convention

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the "Protection and Enforcement of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2024 (Cape Town Convention Bill)".
- ❖ The Cape Town Convention (CTC) Bill 2018 aims to implement the treaty India had signed in 2008.

- ❖ It basically assures lessors that their expensive assets like aircraft and engines will not get stuck here when Indian carriers default on paying rentals or go belly up.



National Critical Mineral Mission 2025

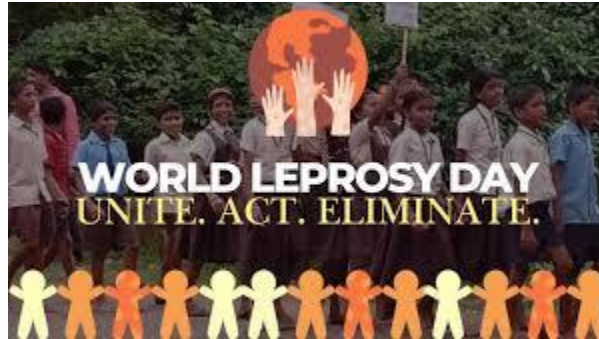


- ❖ The government approved a ₹16,300-crore National Critical Mineral Mission.
- ❖ It is envisaging a total outlay of ₹34,300 crore spread over seven years.
- ❖ It aims to achieve the self-reliance and accelerate India's journey towards green energy transition.
- ❖ Public sector enterprises are expected to contribute ₹18,000 crore to the mission.
- ❖ The Critical minerals such as copper, lithium, nickel, cobalt and rare earth are essential raw materials required to fuel the growth of rapidly growing clean energy technologies.
- ❖ 24 critical minerals have been identified.

- ❖ The NCMM will encompass all stages of the value chain, including the mineral exploration, mining, beneficiation, processing, and recovery from the end-of-life products.
- ❖ The mission will intensify the exploration of critical minerals within the country and in its offshore areas.
- ❖ The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has undertaken 368 exploration projects for critical minerals over the past three years.
- ❖ 195 projects are currently underway in 2024-25.
- ❖ In 2025-26, GSI will take up 227 projects for various critical minerals.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Leprosy Day 2025 - January 26

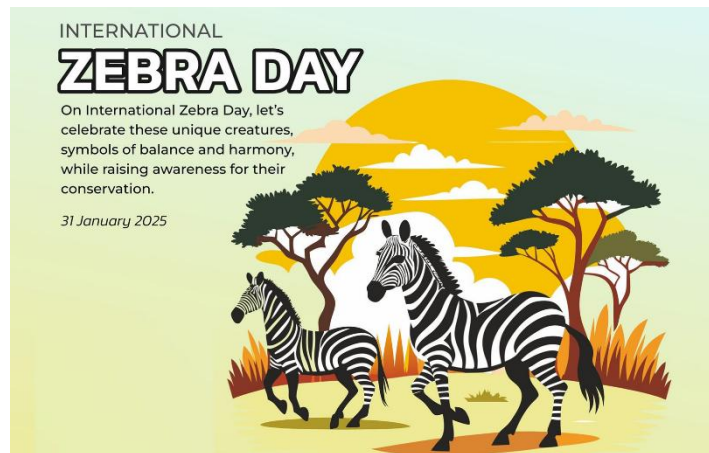


- ❖ The World Leprosy Day is observed on the last Sunday of January.
- ❖ In India, it is observed on January 30 every year.
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness of leprosy and demonstrate support for those who are afflicted.
- ❖ Leprosy is a neglected tropical disease (NTD) that still occurs in more than 120 countries, with over 2,00,000 new cases reported every year.
- ❖ India accounts for 53 per cent of the global leprosy cases.
- ❖ The theme for 2025 is "Unite. Act. Eliminate."
- ❖ Leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, is a chronic infectious disease caused by the bacteria *Mycobacterium leprae*.
- ❖ It primarily affects the skin, nerves, and mucous membranes.

International Zebra Day 2025 - January 31

- ❖ It aims to spread awareness about conservation efforts to protect their future.

- ❖ They are native to Africa, they roam across countries like Kenya, Namibia, and South Africa.
- ❖ The plains zebra is found across much of eastern and southern Africa.
- ❖ The mountain zebra, however, is restricted to the dry upland plains of Namibia and South Africa.
- ❖ The rarest, the Grévy's zebra, is found only in the sparsely wooded areas of Kenya and Ethiopia.
- ❖ One of its six subspecies, the quagga, has already become extinct.
- ❖ The Grévy's zebra has officially been declared extinct in Somalia and Sudan.



MISCELLANEOUS

SSI Mantra



- ❖ In a first doctors in India use the tele-robotic system to do two heart surgeries in Jaipur.

- ❖ It is India's indigenous surgical robotic system, SSI Mantra.
- ❖ It has successfully conducted two robotic cardiac surgeries via telesurgery over a distance of 286 km (SSI's robotics control in Gurugram and another at the Manipal Hospital in Jaipur).
- ❖ Both were cardiac surgeries - Internal Mammary Artery Harvesting procedure and Robotic Beating Heart Totally Endoscopic Coronary Artery Bypass (TECAB).
- ❖ It is a first in the world.
- ❖ The SSI Mantra 3 Surgical Robotic System is the only robotic system in the world to have received regulatory approval for telesurgery and tele-proctoring.
- ❖ It was approved by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).
- ❖ The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) is under the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Government of India.

Genome India Data Conclave



The Genome India Project, launched in 2020 by the Department of Biotechnology, is a pioneering initiative to map India's genetic diversity through large-scale genome sequencing.

HOW IT BENEFITS PUBLIC HEALTH

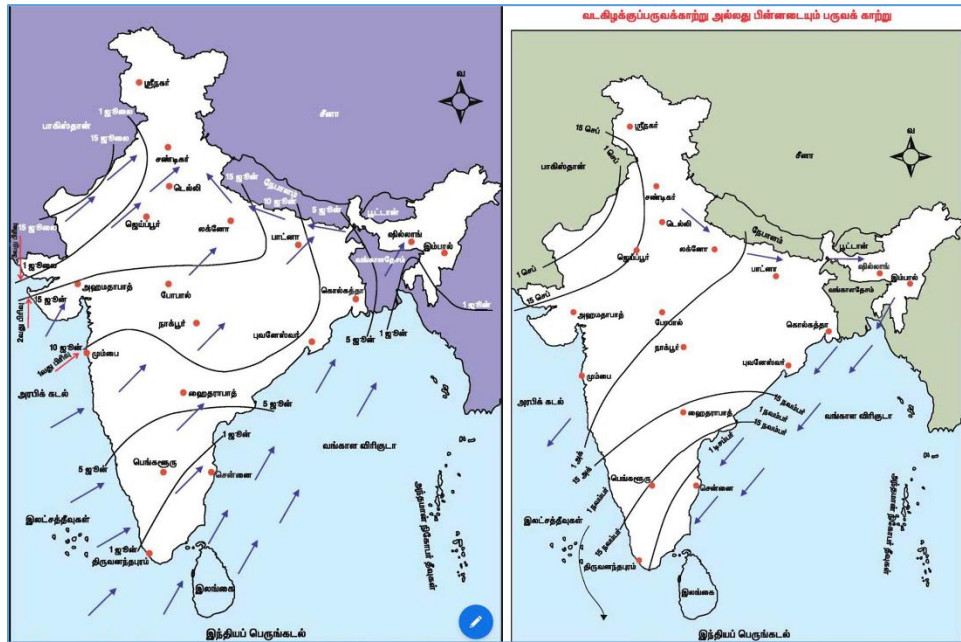
The data enables personalized medical solutions:

- Early detection and treatment of hereditary diseases.
- Risk prediction and therapies tailored to India's genetic diversity.

- ❖ Since, the Indian Genomic Data Set was unveiled by Prime Minister, India is no longer dependent on foreign genomic data.
- ❖ Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the 'Framework for Exchange of Data Protocols (FeED)' and the Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC) Portals.
- ❖ It makes 10,000 whole genome samples accessible to researchers across India and the globe.
- ❖ It was done under the 'Genome India' project, spearheaded by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
- ❖ It aims to create a robust and comprehensive database of India's genetic diversity.

- ❖ So, in India there is diversity not only in food, culture and geography but also in Genome.
- ❖ India's bioeconomy has surged from \$10 billion in 2014 to over \$130 billion in 2024, with projections to hit \$300 billion by 2030.
- ❖ India now ranks 12th globally in biotech and 3rd in the Asia-Pacific region.
- ❖ India is the largest vaccine producer in the world and the third-largest startup ecosystem.

Northeast monsoon 2024



- ❖ The Regional Meteorological Centre, Chennai has announced that NE monsoon ceased over the south peninsular region.
- ❖ Though the season was interspersed with gaps in rainfall, the movement of weather systems kept the monsoon active.
- ❖ This is one of the rare years when the monsoon prolonged till January end.
- ❖ Normally, the monsoon withdrawal would occur in between December 26 and December 30 every year.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu received nearly 58.9 cm of rainfall against its average share of 44.3 cm of rainfall during the core October and December monsoon months.
- ❖ The State experienced the most delayed monsoon of 1933-34 on January 28.
- ❖ The previous year's season spilled over to the next calendar year during one-third of the years since 1901.



- ❖ Monsoon had retreated from the State during the first 10 days of January during 28 years since 1901.
- ❖ This weather phenomenon of extended monsoon has become more frequent since 2011.
- ❖ Unlike Southwest monsoon, NE monsoon also called retreating monsoon, did not have a dramatic change in weather parameters like reversal in wind flow pattern during withdrawal.
- ❖ The Dip in rainfall was one of the major criteria taken into account for monsoon retreat.

