



July - 15

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's CM released the book 'Tirukkural - Treasure of Universal Wisdom,' jointly published by Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation and the International Tamil Language Foundation, Chicago, USA.
- ❖ YouTuber and actor Prajakta Koli become the first India-born creator featured on TIME magazine's inaugural TIME100 Creators list.
- ❖ The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has, in an operation code named "Operation Fire Trail", successfully traced, and seized huge quantities of Chinese firecrackers/fireworks.
- ❖ Telangana received the India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA) Industry Excellence Award 2025 for State Leadership in Battery Manufacturing and the new energy technology ecosystem.
- ❖ Uttarakhand Police have initiated 'Operation Kalanemi,' a statewide crackdown on individuals falsely presenting themselves as the religious figures/saints and exploiting people's faith.
- ❖ Mumbai's very iconic Carnac Bridge, which was rebuilt after demolition, has been renamed after Operation Sindoor in view of Indian armed forces' success during the mission.
- ❖ The Indian Army has launched the Operation SHIVA 2025 to ensure the safe and smooth conduct of the Shri Amarnath Yatra in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ The Microsoft has launched BioEmu, an AI system designed to accelerate the understanding of protein behavior in the human body.
- ❖ Google launched the Agricultural Monitoring & Event Detection API (AMED API) to enhance crop monitoring and field-level data analysis in India.
- ❖ Indian women's rights activist Varsha Deshpande has been awarded the 2025 United Nations Population Award in the individual category.
- ❖ The Arthunkal police station in Alappuzha of Kerala becoming India's first police station to receive the IS/ISO 9001:2015 certification from the Bureau of Indian Standards.

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### UNESCO World Heritage Site - Gingee Fort

- ❖ It is now inscribed as UNESCO World Heritage Site

- ❖ The Gingee Fort in Villupuram district along with 11 other forts was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- ❖ It is known as the 'Troy of the East'.
- ❖ It is part of the Maratha Military Landscapes, and the only site from Tamil Nadu for this tag
- ❖ The decision was taken during the ongoing 47th session of the World Heritage Committee (WHC) being held in Paris, France
- ❖ The Maratha Military Landscapes of India includes 12 components distributed across diverse geographic regions.
- ❖ Other 11 sites are in Maharashtra.
- ❖ This is located atop three hillocks — Rajagiri, Krishnagiri, and Chandragiri.
- ❖ It was Built by Ananta Kon of the Konar Dynasty in 1,200 CE.
- ❖ His successor fortified the northern hill in 1,240 CE and called it Krishnagiri.
- ❖ It was under the possession of several empires, such as the Vijayanagar Nayaks, Marathas, Mughals, Nawabs, the French, and the British.
- ❖ The Gingee fort was captured by Chhatrapati Shivaji in 1677.
- ❖ It remained under Maratha rule till it came under the control of the Mughals in 1698.

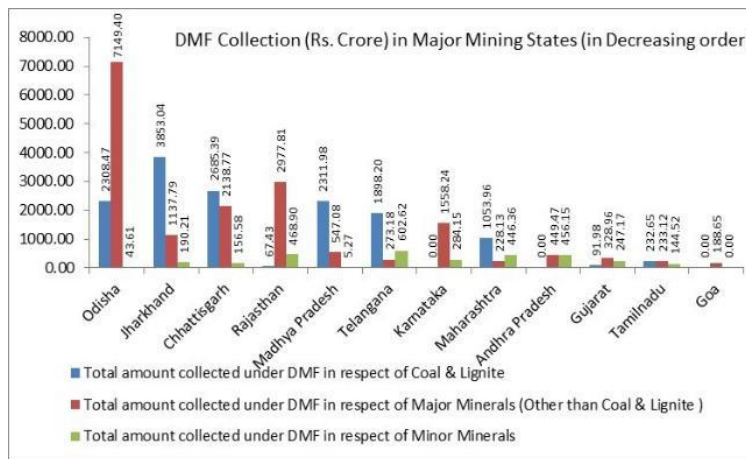


- ❖ It was ruled by Raja Desingh (Tej Singh) for a brief period before it was taken over by the Arcot Nawabs in 1714 and remained under their control till 1749.
- ❖ The fort was with the French from 1750 to 1770 before slipping into the hands of the British.

- ❖ Spread over 11 acres, the fort houses a stepped well, a Kalyana Mahal, a durbar hall, a cannon, a clock tower, an armoury, an elephant tank, a stable, a granary, a gymnasium, the Venkataramana temple, and the Sadathtulla mosque.
- ❖ The fortress had two elaborate systems for water supply, corresponding to the Nayaks and the Nawab period.
- ❖ The other UNESCO sites of Tamilnadu are, the Great Living Chola Temples, the monuments at Mamallapuram, the Nilgiri Mountain Railway, and the Western Ghats.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### District Mineral Foundation (DMF) Program



- ❖ Centre has released guidelines for the Aspirational District Mineral Foundation (DMF) Programme.
- ❖ The programme aligns the DMF efforts with the Aspirational District Programme (ADP) and Aspirational Block Programmes (ABP) to improve the socio-economic conditions in underserved mining regions.
- ❖ DMFs have supported health, education, infrastructure, and nutrition in mining-affected areas, exemplifying cooperative federalism.
- ❖ States like Jharkhand, Maharashtra, and Odisha were recognized for adopting revised guidelines and timely audits.

### Reform in State Science Funding

- ❖ NITI Aayog suggests that the Department of Science and Technology (DST) reduce core grant support to State S&T (Science and Technology) Councils and shift to project-based funding.

- ❖ Central funds make up a tiny part of State S&T Councils' budgets, for example, Gujarat gets only ₹1.07 crore from the Centre, and Kerala gets none.
- ❖ Funding for the State S&T Councils were increased by 17.65%, but some states like Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, and Uttarakhand experienced budget reductions.



### **TALASH Platform**



- ❖ The NESTS and UNICEF launched TALASH (Tribal Aptitude, Life Skills and Self-Esteem Hub), a platform for career guidance and life skills.



- ❖ TALASH uses the psychometric assessments which are inspired by the NCERT's Tamanna initiative.
- ❖ So far, 189 teachers from 75 EMRSs have been trained for TALASH.
- ❖ NESTS also signed a five-year deal with Tata Motors for the Kaushalya Program.
- ❖ The Kaushalya Program offers a Diploma in Engineering combined with on-the-job training.
- ❖ National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- ❖ The NESTS has launched initiatives to improve education, life skills, and job opportunities for tribal students in Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs).
- ❖ These programs will support over 130,000 tribal students across India.

### **MVIS Systems**



- ❖ Indian Railways signs MoU with Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL) to enhance train safety.
- ❖ The Agreement for installation of Machine Vision-Based Inspection Systems (MVIS) using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML).
- ❖ The MVIS captures high-resolution images of the train under-gear and detects hanging, loose, or missing parts automatically.

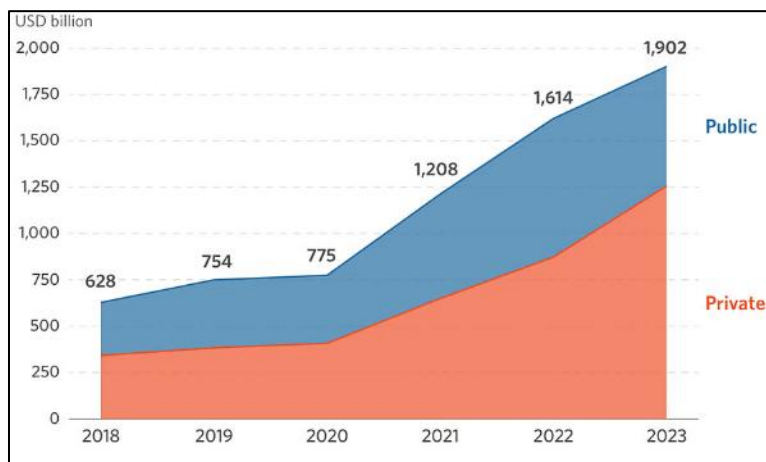


- ❖ The MVIS aims to improve an operational safety, reduce manual inspections, and prevent accidents and service disruptions.

## REPORTS AND INDICES

### Public Climate Funding - 2023

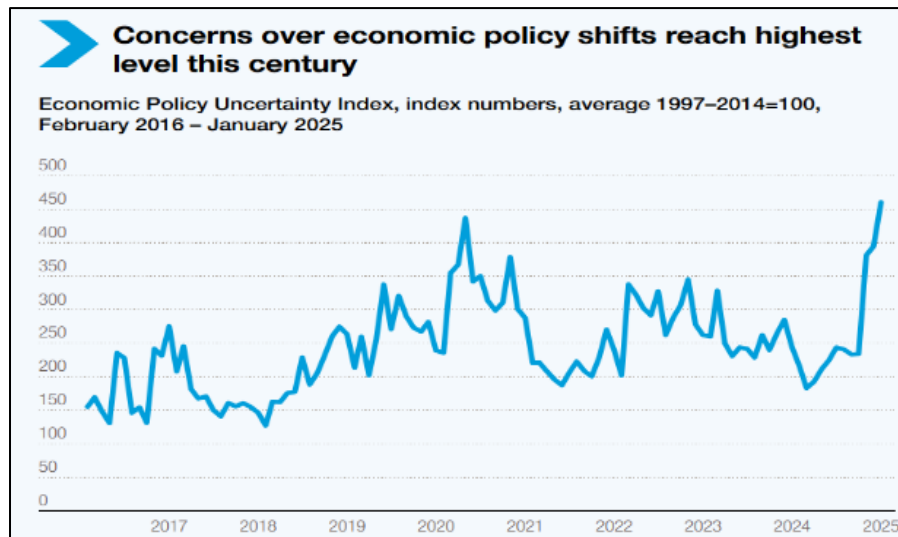
- ❖ The research group Climate Policy Initiative (CPI) released its Global Landscape of Climate Finance 2025 report.
- ❖ The report found that global climate finance reached a record \$1.9 trillion in 2023 — a 15% increase over 2022.
- ❖ Finance with both mitigation and adaptation benefits tripled since 2018, reaching \$58 billion in 2023.
- ❖ Private finance surged past \$1 trillion for the first time.
- ❖ It was driven by the household investments in electric vehicles (EVs) and rooftop solar, while public finance dropped 8% amid fiscal tightening in major economies.
- ❖ Climate finance remains regionally concentrated, with 79% flowing to East Asia and the Pacific (mostly China), Western Europe, and North America, where 89% of funds were domestically sourced.
- ❖ Sub-Saharan Africa and other EMDEs sourced just 23% of their climate finance domestically.
- ❖ International public finance to EMDEs doubled to \$196 billion since 2018.



### Financial Markets Volatility

- ❖ UNCTAD's Trade and Development Foresights 2025 report says global growth will slow to 2.3% in 2025, down from 2.8% in 2024.

- ❖ Financial markets are unstable in 2025, with the Volatility Index (VIX) very high.
- ❖ Long-term borrowing costs are rising, even after rate cuts in late 2024.
- ❖ More than half of low-income countries face debt problems in 2025.
- ❖ South-South trade and trade within Asia are still strong.
- ❖ East and South Asia made up over 40% of global growth in 2024.
- ❖ India is a top growth driver in 2024 and 2025.
- ❖ Global trade of goods has dropped since April 2025 because of tariffs and fewer shipments.
- ❖ But trade in digital services keeps growing in India, Indonesia, and Latin America.
- ❖ Rich countries are spending more on defence.
- ❖ Meanwhile, aid to poor countries will fall by 18% from 2023 to 2025, risking progress in health and education.



## STATES' NEWS

### Uttarakhand's Geothermal Policy

- ❖ Uttarakhand has approved its first Geothermal Energy Policy.
- ❖ It aims to harness the highly natural geothermal springs for the sustainable energy, development, and environmental goals.
- ❖ The policy targets the high utilization of 40 identified geothermal springs in the Himalayan region for clean power, heating, and other applications.
- ❖ It follows a partnership with Iceland's Varkis Company to explore high-altitude geothermal resources.

- ❖ Its implementation will be managed by the Department of Energy, Uttarakhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (UREDA), and Uttarakhand Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited (UJVNL).



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Kiswahili Language Day 2025 - July 07



- ❖ It was recognized by UNESCO in 2022, as the first African language to receive its own international day.



- ❖ Kiswahili has a global footprint, with over 200 million speakers worldwide.
- ❖ On July 7, 1954, the Swahili was adopted as a language of unity for the people fighting for independence from colonial rule.

### **World Bioproduct Day 2025 - July 07**



- ❖ It aims to raise the awareness of the importance of bioproducts in our daily lives, environmental sustainability and climate action.
- ❖ Bioproducts refer to products derived from renewable biological resources, such as plants and algae, to produce industrial goods, food, and energy.
- ❖ The theme for 2025 is 'The BioE3 Way.'
- ❖ India aims to build a \$300 billion bioeconomy by 2030.

