



July - 24

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Finance Minister has released a commemorative book titled Thisaiyayiram, honouring veteran epigraphy scholar S Rajagopal.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has announced the establishment of India's first Centre of Excellence for Hornbill Conservation at the Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR) in Coimbatore district.
- ❖ The 4-day-long "Saaral Vizha 2025" was inaugurated at Courtallam, Tenkasi District.
- ❖ A team of scientists from ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore, has been honoured with the 'Rashtriya Krishi Vigyan Puraskar – 2025' under the category 'Innovation & Technology in Agriculture & Allied Sciences'.
- ❖ Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava was sworn in as the 54<sup>th</sup> Chief Justice of the Madras High Court.
- ❖ The UN General Assembly (UNGA) designated 12 July as the International Day of Hope as a global invitation to act to cultivate environments where hope can thrive and cultivate shared humanity.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly observed 12 July as the International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms to recognise that their negative impacts at the different scales are issues of international concern.

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

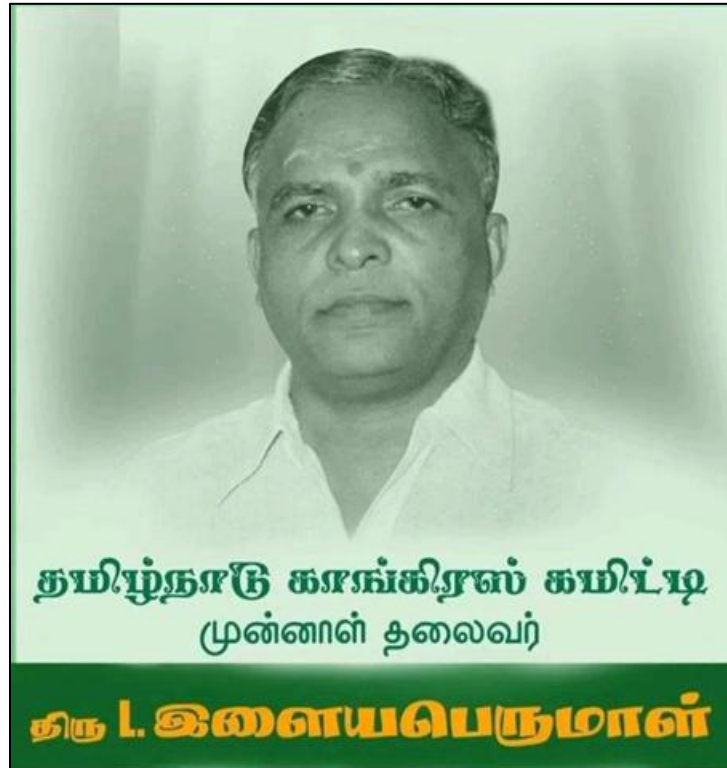
### Crop loans in Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Crop loans to the tune of ₹53,340 crore were provided to over 66.24 lakh farmers across the State through the Cooperation Department during the past four years.
- ❖ It has also waived jewel loans worth ₹4,904 crore that benefited over 11.70 lakh people.
- ❖ Self-help group (SHG) loans amounting to ₹2,118.80 crore were waived for over 1.01 lakh self-help groups.
- ❖ Over 11.88 lakh farmers received ₹6,372 crore in loans for livestock development.
- ❖ The Loans totalling around ₹225.94 crore were provided to 47,221 differently-abled individuals.
- ❖ About 16,500 working women received loans to the tune of ₹470 crore in loans.
- ❖ Over 49,000 women entrepreneurs were provided with ₹283.27 crore in loans.

- ❖ Under the Annal Ambedkar Business Pioneer Scheme, 86 sanitation workers had received ₹52.34 crore in loans to become entrepreneurs.
- ❖ Loans totalling ₹18.80 crore have been provided to 4,494 folk artists so far.



### **Elayaperumal statue**





- ❖ The CM Stalin inaugurated the memorial hall and statue of former Tamil Nadu Congress Committee (TNCC) president L. Elayaperumal, a prominent leader who belonged to the Scheduled Caste, in Chidambaram.
- ❖ The recommendations of the Committee on Untouchability, Economic and Educational Development of the Scheduled Castes, headed by L. Elayaperumal, formed the basis for the historic amendment to the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, passed by the Tamil Nadu Assembly in 1970.
- ❖ The fact that Elayaperumal was only 41 years old when he was appointed to head the eight-member committee in 1965, the first such in Independent India.
- ❖ The committee travelled across India and submitted its comprehensive findings in 1969.
- ❖ However, its recommendations were never implemented by the Union government.
- ❖ He was born on June 26, 1924, at Themmur near Chidambaram in Cuddalore district.
- ❖ He became an MP, contesting as a Congress candidate from Chidambaram (reserved) in the country's first election in 1952, when he was just 27.
- ❖ Elayaperumal was the first recipient of the Annal Ambedkar Award instituted by the DMK government in 1998.
- ❖ He died on September 9, 2005.

### Ungaludan Stalin and AMMA

AMMA Rural Infrastructure Development	Ungaludan Stalin Scheme
❖ Launched: 2013	➤ Launched: 2021
👤 By J. Jayalalitha (AIADMK Government)	👤 By M.K. Stalin (DMK Government)
○ Objective: Provide basic infrastructure such roads, drinking water, streetlights, community halls, and underserved villages	○ Objective: Directly receive and address public grievances by enabling people to interact with Chief Minister or district administration

- ❖ USS has been introduced by bringing all major government departments under one roof in every local body for addressing the genuine grievances of the public within 45 days from the day of submission of their petition.
- ❖ The launch of the Ungaludan Stalin Scheme (USS) is likely the Assured Maximum Service to Marginal People in All Villages (AMMA) scheme, launched in 2013.



- ❖ AMMA scheme was implemented by the previous AIADMK government when Jayalalithaa was Chief Minister.
- ❖ The two schemes have a common objective - providing government services at the people's doorstep.
- ❖ Apart from redressing the grievances of the people, both the schemes pave the way for enrolment of new beneficiaries under various schemes.
- ❖ The two schemes differ in scope, according to a perusal of the government orders issued in March 2013 (on the AMMA scheme), and in June 2025 (on USS).
- ❖ The key difference between the two schemes is that while the former took care of only those in rural areas, the latter will cover people in urban areas, too.
- ❖ As per the G.O. issued by the Public (Mudhalvarin Mugavari) Department, a total of 10,000 camps would be held in the next four months (till November).
- ❖ In urban areas, 3,768 camps would be conducted and, in rural areas, 6,232.
- ❖ Among districts, Salem accounts for the highest number of camps at 432, followed by Chennai (400) and Tiruvallur (389).
- ❖ The current government's latest initiative is an improved version of Makkaludan Mudhalvar, which was inaugurated in urban areas in November 2023 and extended to the remaining areas gradually.
- ❖ The USS had been launched with a "door-to-door campaign".
- ❖ Ungalai Thedi Ungal Ooril was another outreach programme of the government launched in January 2024.
- ❖ Here Collectors would stay in a given taluk on a designated day for 24 hours to take up field visits, interact with the public, and get feedback on government schemes.
- ❖ The Mudhalvarin Mugavari programme was launched in 2021.
- ❖ The Makkaludan Mudhalvar programme was launched in 2023.

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **VP Dhankar resignation**

- ❖ The Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar's resignation has triggered a mid-term vacancy, marking only the third such event in India's history.
- ❖ Earlier, V.V. Giri and R. Venkataraman had stepped down to contest presidential elections.
- ❖ They were succeeded by Gopal Swarup Pathak and Shankar Dayal Sharma, respectively.

- ❖ The Constitution does not provide for an acting Vice-President.
- ❖ However, since the Vice-President is also the ex officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, the Deputy Chairman will preside over the House in his absence.
- ❖ In the case of the President, the Constitution requires that a vacancy be filled within six months.
- ❖ But for a Vice-Presidential vacancy, there is no such fixed deadline.
- ❖ The only requirement is that the election be held “as soon as possible” after the post falls vacant.
- ❖ The Election Commission will announce the schedule.
- ❖ The poll is conducted under the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952.
- ❖ As per the convention, the Secretary General of either House of Parliament is appointed as the Returning Officer, in rotation.
- ❖ The elected candidate will serve a full five-year term from the date of assuming office — not just the remainder of Dhankhar’s tenure.



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### **The world’s largest Dam on the Brahmaputra River**

- ❖ China has started building a mega-dam on the Yarlung Zangbo River in Tibet.
- ❖ It could become the world’s very largest source of hydroelectric power when it is completed.
- ❖ The stations are expected to generate more than 300 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity annually.



- ❖ The Yarlung Tsangpo is the world's highest river, reaching some 5,000 metres (16,404 feet) above sea level, and is considered sacred to Tibetans.



### **World's first planned migration – Tuvalu.**

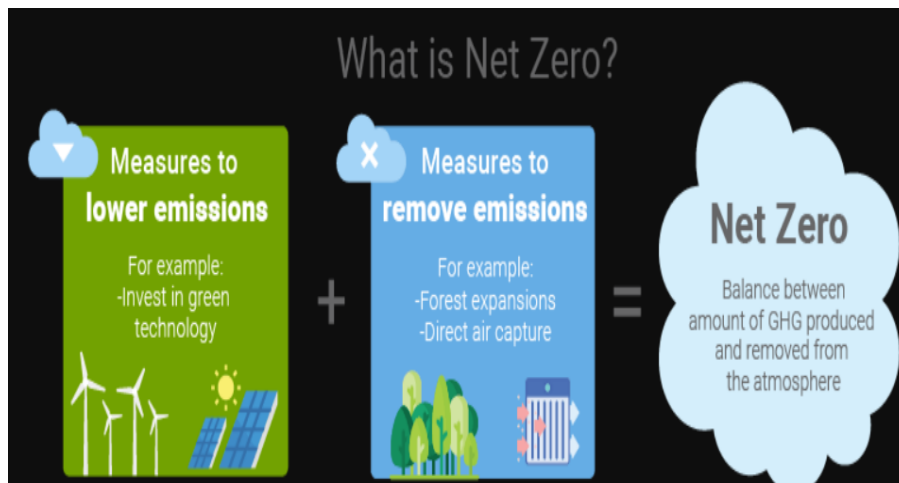


- ❖ More than 5,000 people have applied for a first-of-its-kind migration visa that offers residents of a Pacific island.
- ❖ Under its terms, 280 Tuvaluans can relocate to Australia each year from 2025 through a ballot system.

- ❖ It is the world's first planned migration of an entire nation, giving the residents of Tuvalu the right to live.
- ❖ Tuvalu sits midway between Australia and Hawaii in the South Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ The country consists of nine low-lying atolls — ring-shaped islands surrounded by coral reefs.
- ❖ Tuvalu's highest point is 15 feet (4.5 meters) above sea level, but the country's mean elevation is just 6 feet (2 m) above sea level.
- ❖ Much of the country's land and critical infrastructure will be below high-tide level by 2050.
- ❖ This makes it extremely vulnerable to sea level rise, flooding and storm surges due to climate change.

### **Net Zero Banking Alliance (NZBA) – HSBC**

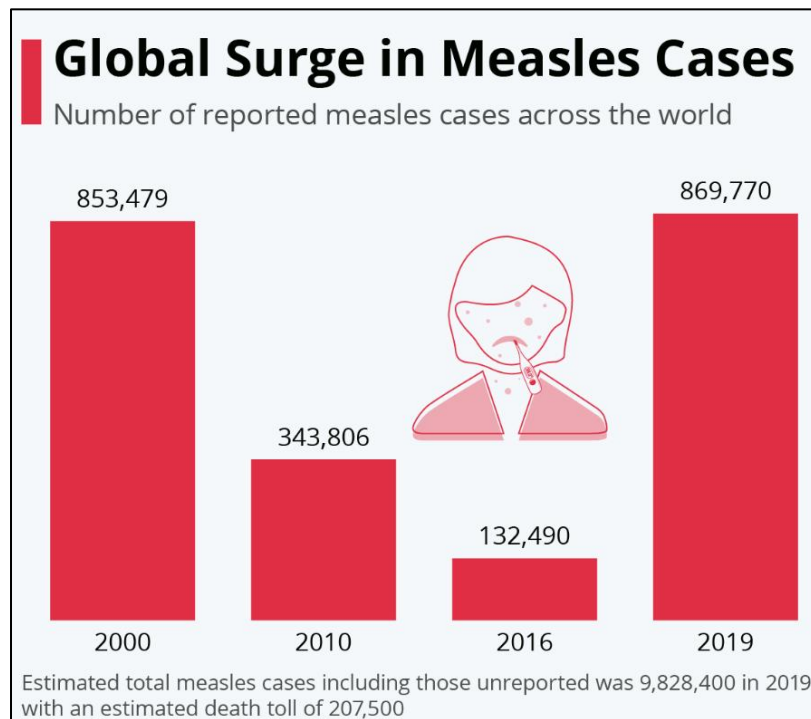
- ❖ The HSBC (Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation) is one of the world's largest banks and a founding member of the Net Zero Banking Alliance (NZBA).
- ❖ It has become the first UK lender to withdraw from the coalition committed to aligning the sector's activities with net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
- ❖ However, HSBC reiterated its commitment to pursue its net-zero by 2050 goal.
- ❖ This decision follows a wave of recent exits by major US and Canadian banks.
- ❖ The NZBA was launched in 2021 under the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative.



### **Global Measles Surge 2025**

- ❖ The Scientists have raised concerns over the alarming and sharp resurgence of measles cases in the United States and around the world.

- ❖ The USA has recently reported the highest number of cases recorded in the past 30 years.
- ❖ This resurgence is due to declining vaccination rates.
- ❖ The WHO noted that over 10.3 million cases were reported across the world in 2023, from just 10,000 in 2022.
- ❖ Nearly half of all major outbreaks were found in Africa.
- ❖ In Europe, 41 of 53 countries on the continent reported confirmed measles cases.
- ❖ Measles is a highly contagious and serious airborne disease.

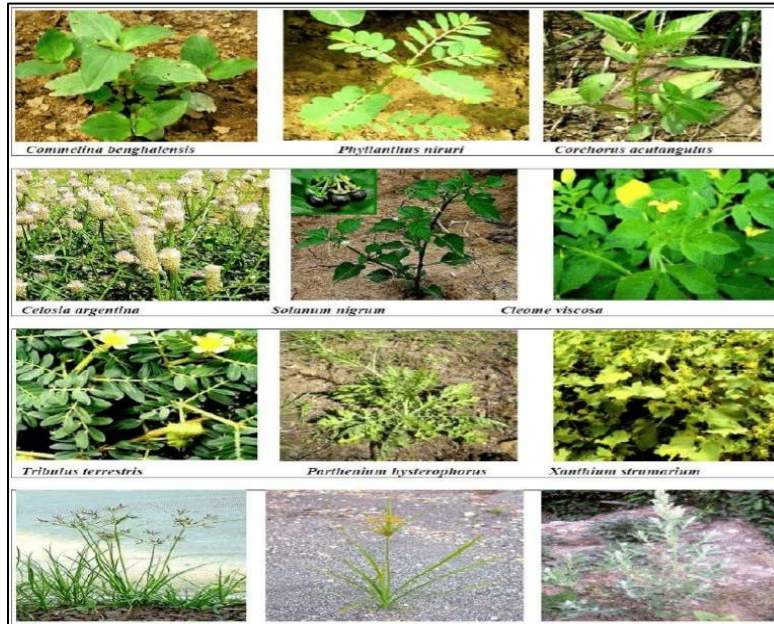


## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### Alien plant species on tropical diversity

- ❖ Since the 1950s, the spread of alien plant species has increased exponentially.
- ❖ At present, at least four per cent — nearly 13,939 to 18,543 species — have settled outside their biogeographic ranges.
- ❖ The Greater Tropics contains around 9,831 established alien plants.
- ❖ The tropics and subtropics, collectively termed as the 'Greater Tropics'.
- ❖ By 2050, the introduction of alien species would increase by approximately 21 per cent (669 species) across South America, 12 per cent (503 species) across Africa and 10 per cent (227 species) in the tropical regions of Asia.





## IMPORTANT DAYS

### Day for Commemoration of the 1995 Genocide in Srebrenica 2025 - July 11

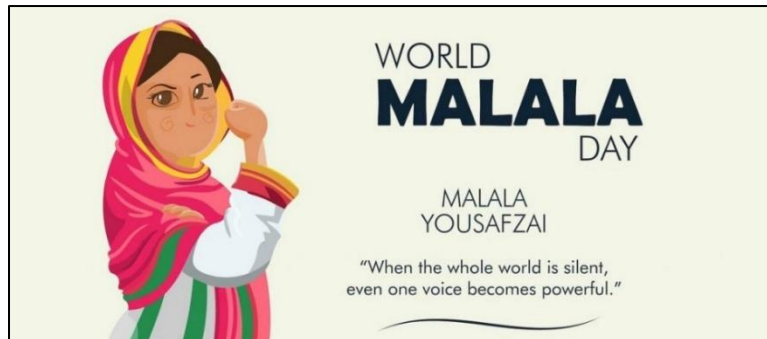
- ❖ In July 1995, the Bosnian Serb army overran Srebrenica and brutally murdered thousands of pupils there.
- ❖ This was the largest massacre in Europe since the Holocaust.
- ❖ In May 2024, the United Nations General Assembly designated this day.
- ❖ The theme for 2025 is 'Remember Yesterday, Act Today.'



### International Day of Malala 2025 - July 12

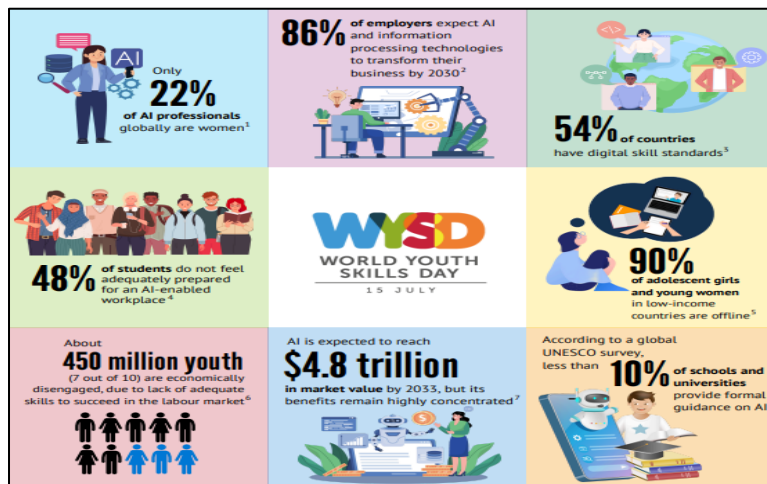
- ❖ This day honours the prominent Pakistani activist for female education - Malala Yousafzai.
- ❖ Talibans shot a young Malala in 2012 for her stance on women's education.
- ❖ She survived and is now a global ambassador for women's education.

- ❖ She is the youngest recipient of the 2014 Nobel Prize for Peace in history, winning it at the age of 17.
- ❖ She shared it along with Kailash Satyarthi, a child rights activist from India.



### World Youth Skills Day 2025 - July 15

- ❖ It aims to achieve better socio-economic conditions for today's youth as a means of addressing the challenges of unemployment and underemployment.
- ❖ 2025 marks the 10th anniversary of World Youth Skills Day (WYSD).
- ❖ About 450 million youth (7 out of 10) are economically disengaged, due to a lack of adequate skills to succeed in the labour market.
- ❖ The theme for 2025 is "Youth empowerment through AI and digital skills".

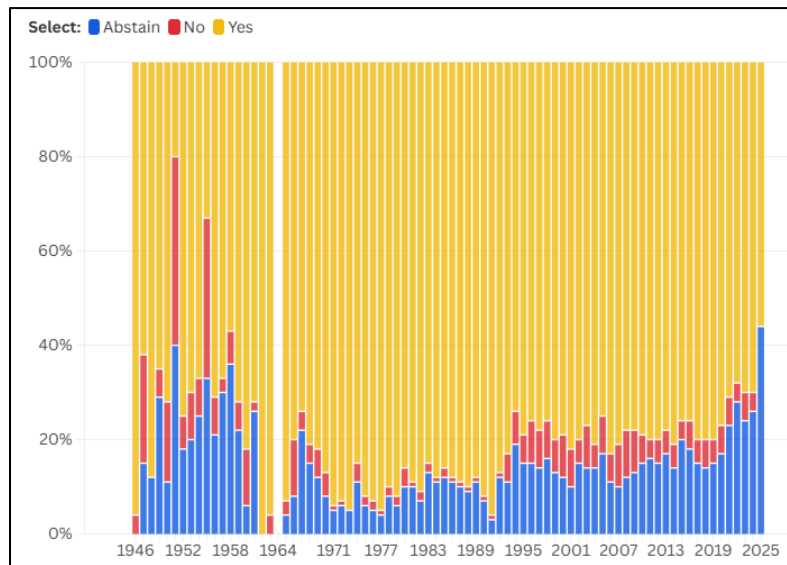


## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

### India's UN Voting Pattern 2025

- ❖ On more than 5,500 different resolutions in the United Nations, India had voted on between 1946 and June 2025.

- ❖ The recent data shows that the annual percentage of 'yes' votes by India has fallen to 56%, the lowest since 1955.
- ❖ On the other hand, the annual percentage of abstentions has increased to 44%, the highest share in India's history at the U.N.
- ❖ The data also show that this change in voting patterns began around 2019.
- ❖ The percentage of annual 'yes' votes swung between 20% and 100% during this period.
- ❖ The percentage of abstentions also fluctuated between 0% and 40% during this period.
- ❖ Between the mid-1990s and 2019, India's voting patterns in the U.N. became even more stable, with the share of 'yes' votes ranging between 75% and 83%.
- ❖ The share of abstentions ranged between 10% and 17%.



## 9 Karat Gold jewel - mandatory hallmark

<b>Grade/Designations</b>	<b>Declared Minimum Fineness in ppt</b>	<b>Purity in Karat (K) (Approximate)</b>
<b>24 KF</b>	999	—
<b>24 KS</b>	995	—
<b>23 K</b>	958	23
<b>22 K</b>	916	22
<b>20 K</b>	833	20
<b>18 K</b>	750	18
<b>14 K</b>	585	14
<b>9 K</b>	375	9



- ❖ The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) announced the inclusion of 9 Karat gold under the list of mandatory hallmarking categories, effective July 2025.
- ❖ The standard defines specifications for fineness and marking of gold jewellery and artefacts.
- ❖ With this inclusion, the list of hallmarking grades now comprises: 24KF, 24KS, 23K, 22K, 20K, 18K, 14K and now 9K.

