

July - 27

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Pi Approximation Day on July 22 (22/7) celebrates the number pi (π) and its importance in math and science, encouraging fun learning with the theme “Math Made Simple.”

TAMIL NADU NEWS

1000-year-old Chola Gangam Lake



- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced that the ‘Chola Gangam’ lake would be developed at a cost of ₹12 crore.
- ❖ He also announced that tourist activities at the site would be developed at a cost of ₹7.25 crore.
- ❖ It was announced on the birth anniversary of the legendary Tamil king Rajendra Chola I on Aadi Thiruvathirai on July 23 this year.
- ❖ Chola Gangam was also known as ‘Ponneri’.
- ❖ It was dug by King Rajendra Chola I.
- ❖ It was to celebrate his very northern campaign, according to the Tiruvalangadu Copper Plates.
- ❖ As per the announcement made by the Chief Minister, the banks of the tank spread over 700 acres would be strengthened.

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has been celebrating the birth anniversary of the legendary Tamil king Rajendra Chola I on Aadi Thiruvathirai since 2021.

GI tag for Kanchipuram Idli

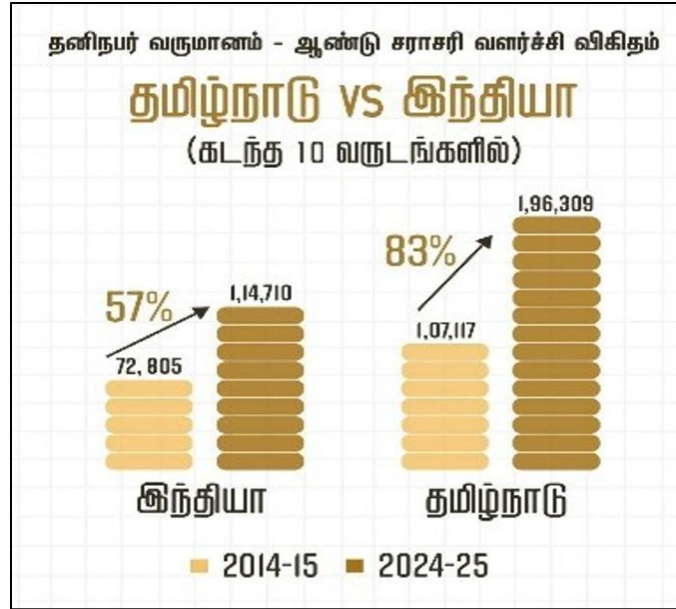
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Food Processing and Agriculture Export Promotion Corporation (TNAPEX) has applied for a GI Tag.
- ❖ It is seeking a Geographical Indication (GI) tag for the famous Koil (temple) idli or Kancheepuram idli.
- ❖ It is made using coarsely ground parboiled rice and black gram (urad dal)
- ❖ It gives it a dense and grainy texture
- ❖ It was unlike the smooth and fluffy South Indian idlis.
- ❖ It is one of the offerings at the Sri Varadharaja Perumal temple in the town.
- ❖ This town is mostly known for its silk sarees.
- ❖ The Madurai Agribusiness Incubation Forum was the facilitator for this application.
- ❖ Madurai Agribusiness Incubation Forum is an initiative of NABARD and TNAU.



Per capita net state domestic product 2024/25

- ❖ Tamil Nadu stood second in the country in terms of the per capita net state domestic product.

- ❖ It was also pointed out that the State is registering 9.69 per cent growth, which was the highest in the past 10 years.
- ❖ Karnataka's per capita income for 2024-25 is the highest among all states and union territories.
- ❖ It was crossing the Rs 2 lakh threshold.
- ❖ Karnataka's income nearly doubled over the past decade, outperforming most major states.
- ❖ It was as per the provisional estimates of GDP released by the National Statistical Office.
- ❖ National Statistical Office was under the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- ❖ The per capita net national income at constant prices for 2024-25 stood at ₹1,14,710.
- ❖ It was up from Rs 72,805 a decade ago, a growth of 57.6 per cent.
- ❖ The figures for Tamil Nadu during this period were ₹1,96,309.
- ❖ In the decade-long growth, Karnataka ranks second in the country with a 93.6% increase.
- ❖ It was just behind Odisha, which recorded a 96.7% rise.



- ❖ For the year 2023-24, the very highest annual growth was recorded in Mizoram (125.4%), followed by Gujarat (90.7%), Goa (89.9%), Karnataka (88.5%), Telangana (84.3%), and Odisha (83.4%).
- ❖ Punjab recorded only a 41.3% increase over the decade, Uttarakhand had 33.5%, and Puducherry had 32.8%, the lowest among all reporting states.

- ❖ The Ministry has also attributed the uneven growth to varying levels of economic development, sectoral composition, structural constraints, and governance quality.
- ❖ However, complete data for 2024-25 remains unavailable for several states and union territories.
- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Kerala, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Delhi and Ladakh, among others, are marked as 'not available' in the government's reply.

Early synchronization of Unit 2



- ❖ The Neyveli Uttar Pradesh Power Limited (NUPPL) is a joint venture between NLC India Limited and Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited.
- ❖ It has successfully carried out Turbine Generator (TG) rolling and synchronisation of Unit-2 (660 mW) of NUPPL's 1980 mW supercritical thermal power plant in Ghatampur Tehsil, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The synchronisation of the thermal power plant with the 765 kV grid was carried out in a single, seamless attempt.
- ❖ The synchronisation of Unit-2 marked a crucial step forward in NUPPL's journey towards Commercial Operation Declaration (COD).

Marungur Excavation 2025

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (TNSDA) has completed the Marungur excavation in Cuddalore district.
- ❖ It was unearthing a habitation-cum-burial site dating from the Iron Age to the Early Historic Period.
- ❖ It is located between the Thenpennai and Vada Vellar rivers.



- ❖ It was part of the ancient Naduvil Mandalam.
- ❖ It is using remote-sensing techniques such as Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) mapping and LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) to assess various attributes of the site.
- ❖ Marungur was one of the few places in Tamil Nadu where both the habitation mound and its associated burial site were found.
- ❖ It has revealed that the habitation mound and burial site were positioned at an elevation of 100 metres above mean sea level.
- ❖ The government, on June 18, 2024, launched the archaeological excavation at Marungur from the State Secretariat.
- ❖ It was along with excavations at Keeladi and its cluster (Kondagai) in Sivagangai district; Vembakottai in Virudhunagar; Kilnamandi in Tiruvannamalai; Porpanaikottai in Pudukkottai; Tirumalapuram in Tenkasi; Sennanur in Krishnagiri; and Kongalnagaram in Tiruppur.
- ❖ It was noted that three potsherds with Tamil Brahmi inscriptions were discovered at an urn burial site in Marungur.
- ❖ This is the first time that such inscribed pots with Tamil Brahmi letters, usually placed as grave goods in urn burials, have been recovered from any archaeological site in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ One was inscribed with “a-ti-y(a)-ka-n”, and the others with “a-ma-n” and “a-ta”.
- ❖ These inscribed potsherds could be dated back to the second or third century BCE, on palaeographic grounds.
- ❖ 95 items, including Tamil-Brahmi potsherds, terracotta ware, microliths, beads, bone tools, conch shells, iron implements, antimony rods, and Chola-era coins, were also found.
- ❖ Megalithic urn burials with the concentric laterite stone circles, grave goods, iron swords, and jasper beads were found.
- ❖ The Trench layers showed clear anthropogenic activity up to 6 m, revealing continuous occupation.
- ❖ Various potsherds, including the black-and-red ware, red ware, red-slipped ware, coarse red ware, rouletted ware with intricate designs, grey-rouletted ware, brown-slipped ware, and the perforated ware, were found during the excavation, indicating remarkable diversity in ceramic usage.
- ❖ They also include 12 graffiti-bearing potsherds, with some of the graffiti resembling Indus signs.
- ❖ Several burnishing tools, used to polish the surface of the pottery and terracotta wheels, were also found.



- ❖ Antimony rods were unearthed, their blunt edges indicating that they were used for ornamental purposes.
- ❖ A medieval copper coin from the period of Raja Raja Chola I was also unearthed from the top layers.
- ❖ From the same stratigraphic layer, charcoal samples were retrieved, offering an opportunity for radiocarbon dating and further contextual analysis.
- ❖ Two inner cores of conch shells, one of which measured 7 cm in length, were unearthed at a depth of 3.6 metres.
- ❖ A 13-cm-long iron knife, broken into three pieces, weighing 22.97 grams and measuring 2.8 mm in thickness, was also recovered from a depth of 2.57 metres.
- ❖ At the burial site located in a cashew grove, the archaeologists dug two trenches.
- ❖ During excavation, two laterite stone circles were identified, confirming the presence of megalithic burials.
- ❖ The first megalithic structure revealed a laterite stone circle with a diameter of eight metres.
- ❖ The surface of the circle was covered with small laterite stones.
- ❖ It revealed two concentric stone circles.
- ❖ They were the inner circle composed of medium-sized laterite stones and the outer structure of larger stones.
- ❖ The stone circle was divided into four quadrants for methodical excavation.
- ❖ Initial layers yielded hard laterite stone.
- ❖ At the centre, a large capstone was found, placed to protect the burial urn beneath.
- ❖ The urn itself was placed within a laterite bedrock cavity.
- ❖ In the second megalithic burial area, beneath the laterite layers, a fine red soil stratum was encountered.
- ❖ From that, eight urns made of the red ware were exposed at varying levels and in different sizes.
- ❖ Iron swords were also found outside two of the urns, while other iron objects were recovered from inside the urns.
- ❖ In both the trenches, offering pots around the urns were recovered.
- ❖ These included black-and-red ware, red-slipped ware, black-slipped ware, and plain red ware pots.
- ❖ The charcoal samples will be sent to the Beta Analytic laboratory in Florida, U.S., for Accelerator Mass Spectrometry analysis for dating.

- ❖ While the pollen samples collected will be sent to the French Institute of Pondicherry.
- ❖ Further, archaeo-botanical investigations, phytolith and petrology analyses, and Optically Stimulated Luminescence and Thermoluminescence dating will be employed to determine the exposure of sediments and ceramics to heat or light.
- ❖ The University of Madras had already conducted excavations near Marungur, at Karaikadu and Kudikadu.
- ❖ This site also holds significance as it is located close to the ancient port cities of Arikamedu in the Union Territory of Puducherry and Poompuhar in the Mayiladuthurai district.
- ❖ The TNSDA has also mooted preliminary surveys at Manikkollai, nearly 30 km from Marungur, for conducting excavations during 2025-26.

Iron knife found from ongoing excavation in Marungur



Archaeologists have found a 13-cm-long iron knife broken in three parts in the ongoing excavation site in Marungur in present day Cuddalore district.

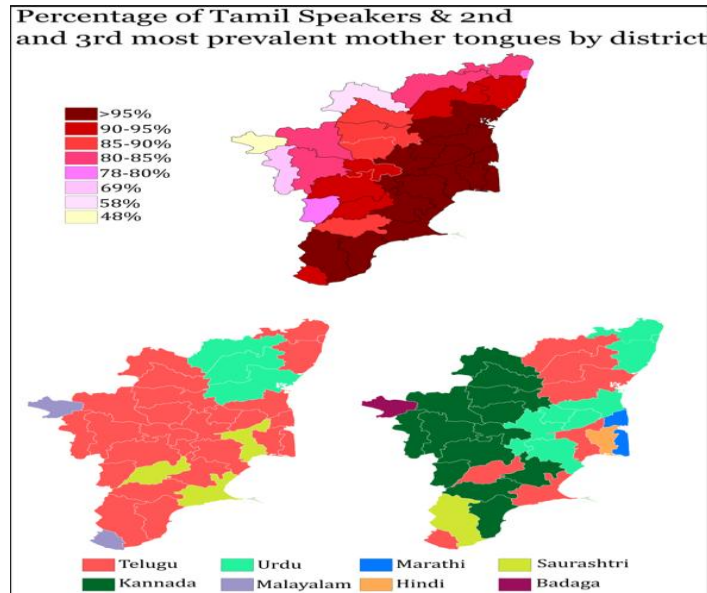
T.N. Language Atlas

- ❖ The linguistic profile of Tamil Nadu reveals a vibrant variety of languages.
- ❖ It includes Telugu, Kannada, Urdu, Malayalam, and English.
- ❖ It reflects the State's rich linguistic diversity.
- ❖ This was vividly captured in the Language Atlas of Tamil Nadu 2011.
- ❖ It was brought out by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, Ministry of Home Affairs.



- ❖ The State had a total population of 7,21,47,030 that spread across an area of 1,30,060 square kilometres in 32 districts (based on Census 2011).
- ❖ Of this, 7,20,98,315 people (99.93%) reported speaking one of the 22 languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India.
- ❖ While only 48,715 people (0.07%) spoke other languages.
- ❖ A total of 96 languages were identified within the administrative boundaries of Tamil Nadu during the 2011 Census.
- ❖ In the Language Atlas, the term 'speakers' had referred only to individuals who reported a particular language as their mother tongue during the Census enumeration.
- ❖ This count excluded those who may have spoken the language but did not declare it as their mother tongue in the Census.
- ❖ Among the scheduled languages in Tamil Nadu, Tamil had a total of 6,37,53,997 speakers.
- ❖ They reported Tamil as their mother tongue in the Census schedules.
- ❖ It was along with 10,150 individuals whose mother tongues were classified under the Tamil language group.
- ❖ This was followed by Telugu with 42,34,302 speakers, Kannada with 12,86,175, Urdu with 12,64,537, Malayalam with 7,26,096, Hindi with 3,93,380, Gujarati with 2,75,023 and Marathi with 85,454 speakers.
- ❖ Among the non-scheduled languages, English had the highest number of speakers at 24,495, followed by Tulu with 2,636, Bhili/Bhilodi with 1,405, Arabic/Arbi with 1,119 and Kurukh/Oraon with 817.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu remained predominantly a monolingual State in terms of linguistic ability.
- ❖ According to the 2011 Census, 5,17,30,760 people (71.70%) spoke only one language.
- ❖ The number of bilingual speakers, excluding those who were trilingual, was 1,79,69,107 (24.90%), while 24,47,163 individuals (3.39%) reported speaking three languages.
- ❖ The Language Atlas also recorded the number of individuals who reported that they could speak various languages, irrespective of whether it was their mother tongue or not.
- ❖ In Tamil Nadu, a total of 6,94,04,292 people reported that they could speak Tamil (96.20%).
- ❖ It was followed by 1,33,37,789 people who reported that they could speak English (18.49%).

- ❖ A total of 58,04,634 individuals said they could speak Telugu (8.05%), 18,70,602 Kannada (2.59%) and 15,24,049 Hindi (2.11%).
- ❖ And 10,08,468 reported that they could speak Malayalam (1.40%).



Thiran Scheme 2025

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu School Education Department has launched the Thiran initiative (Targeted Help for Improving Remediation and Academic Nurturing) to bridge learning gaps among students of Classes VI to IX.
- ❖ The scheme aims to improve the student proficiency in English, Tamil, and Mathematics.
- ❖ It will be implemented during school hours in government schools.
- ❖ The initiative is expected to benefit approximately 13 lakh students in Classes VI to VIII.
- ❖ Vocational skills such as jewellery making and tailoring will be offered through adult literacy centres to enhance income opportunities, with support from community participation.
- ❖ A total of 12,000 vocational stream students in government higher secondary schools will be trained through government Industrial Training Institutes (ITI) and the State Skill Centre at a cost of ₹13 crore.
- ❖ Initiatives such as reading challenges and storytelling sessions will be conducted to build reading proficiency among students.
- ❖ A summer camp named Kalaisirpi will be organised for winners of Kalaithiruvizha competitions.

- ❖ The students in music schools will be awarded Class 10 and Class 12 equivalent certificates upon passing the language exams conducted by the education department.



NATIONAL NEWS

Palm Oil Production in India 2024

- ❖ Recently, India has emerged as Malaysia's largest importer of germinated oil palm seeds.
- ❖ India imported 3.03 million tonnes of palm oil from Malaysia in 2024.
- ❖ It represents 17.9% of Malaysia's total palm oil exports.
- ❖ It is making it the top destination for Malaysian palm oil.
- ❖ Palm oil is currently the world's most consumed vegetable oil.
- ❖ The top consumers are India, China, and the European Union (EU).
- ❖ India aims to rapidly expand palm oil cultivation to 1 million hectares by 2025-26.
- ❖ It was 3.5 lakh hectares during 2019-20.
- ❖ Current land distribution is 3, 70,000 hectares under palm oil cultivation as of mid-2025.

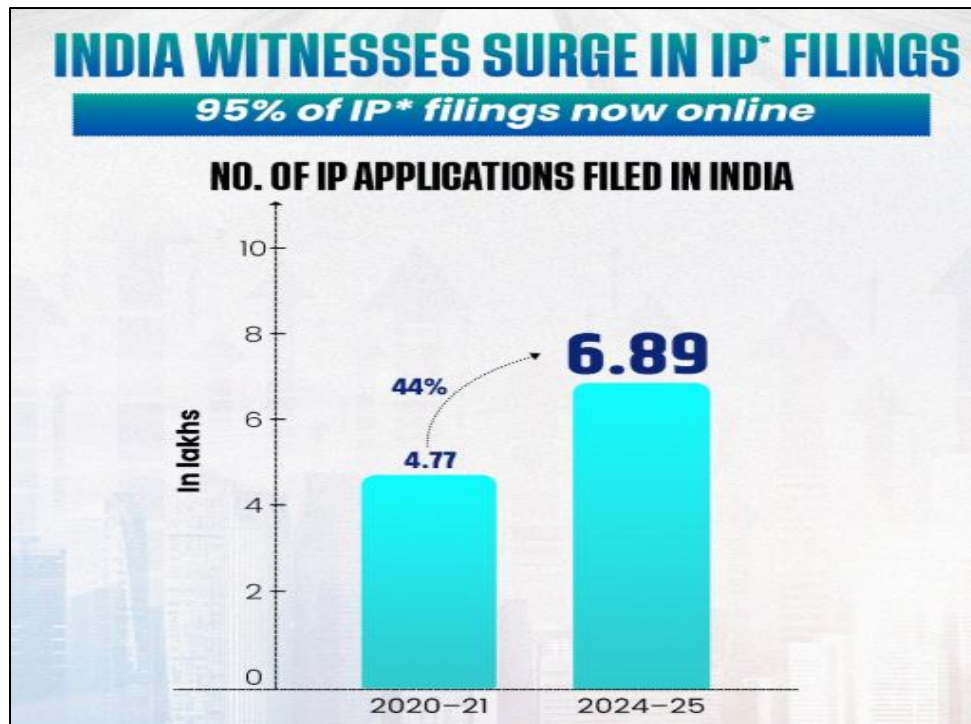
- ❖ And it aims to achieve nearly 2.8 million tonnes of crude palm oil production by 2029-30 under the National Mission on Edible Oils-Palm Scheme.
- ❖ The special Focused areas under this mission are the Northeastern States and island regions.
- ❖ Current Malaysian commercial seeds are suitable for cultivation in India with proper farming practices and adequate irrigation.



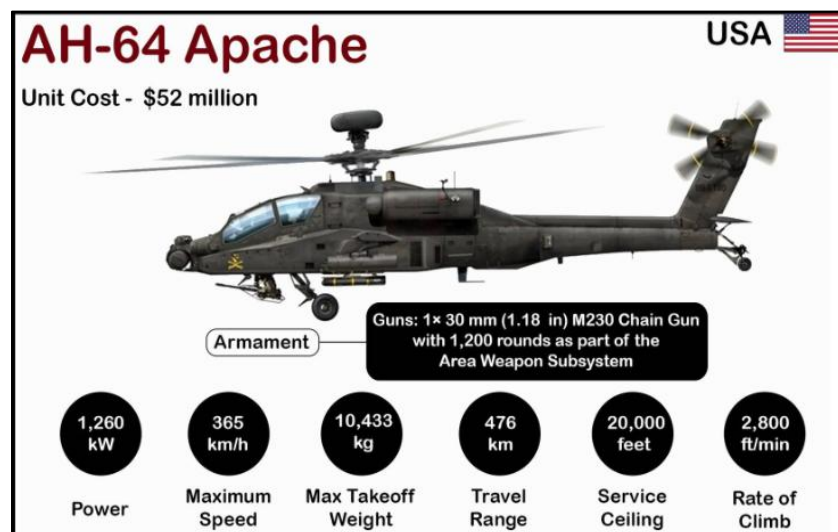
India's IP Filings 2020-2025

- ❖ India has observed a substantial 44% increase in Intellectual Property (IP) filings over the past five years.
- ❖ It was a development primarily driven by strategic policy reforms and extensive digitisation initiatives undertaken by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- ❖ The total number of IP applications from Indian citizens escalated from 477,533 in 2020-21 to 689,991 in 2024-25.
- ❖ Geographical Indications (GI) demonstrated remarkable growth, soaring by 380%,
- ❖ It is followed by Designs at 266%, Patents at 180%, Copyright at 83%, Trade marks at 28%, and Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout-Designs (SICLD) at 20%.
- ❖ Key reforms include the simplification of the IP laws and rules, the mandatory electronic submission of patent documents, and a 10% fee reduction for online patent filings.
- ❖ The examination period for patents has been reduced to 31 months, and the frequency for filing 'working statements of patents' is now triennial.

- ❖ Some Initiatives like the 'IP Sarthi Chatbot' and the National Intellectual Property Awareness Mission (NIPAM) have further bolstered IP awareness.
- ❖ As of today, 697 Geographical Indications have been successfully registered.



First Batch of Apache Helicopters



- ❖ Indian Army gets 1st batch of Apache helicopters from the United States.
- ❖ The Apache AH-64E is a combat-proven multi-role attack helicopter developed by Boeing.

- ❖ The Indian Air Force had inducted Apaches in 2019.
- ❖ But this is the first induction for the Indian Army.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

US and UNESCO 2025



- ❖ U.S. says it is leaving UN cultural agency UNESCO again.
- ❖ It is only two years after rejoining with that.
- ❖ It marks a repeat of the 2017 decision during Trump's first term.
- ❖ That had been reversed by President Joe Biden in 2023.
- ❖ The decision reflects the "America First" foreign policy.
- ❖ This will be the third time that the United States has left UNESCO.
- ❖ And it will be the second time during a Trump administration.
- ❖ The decision will take effect at the end of December 2026.
- ❖ The United States previously pulled out of UNESCO under the Reagan administration in 1984.
- ❖ It rejoined in 2003 during George W Bush's presidency.
- ❖ The US contributes around 8% to UNESCO's budget.
- ❖ The U.S. and Israel stopped financing UNESCO after it voted to include Palestine as a member state in 2011.
- ❖ UNESCO is based in Paris, France.

- ❖ It was established in 1945 to foster global peace through cooperation in education, science, culture, and communication.

Vanuatu and the International Court of Justice



- ❖ The Pacific nation of Vanuatu has played a key role in bringing a climate change case to the International Court of Justice (ICJ).
- ❖ The case was led by the Pacific Island nation of Vanuatu.
- ❖ And it is backed by more than 130 countries.
- ❖ It was seeking an advisory opinion on the legal obligations of countries regarding climate change.
- ❖ The U.N.'s top court delivers a landmark decision on tackling climate change.
- ❖ It is delivering an advisory opinion about nations' obligations to tackle climate change and its consequences.
- ❖ It said that the countries could violate international law if they fail to take measures to protect the planet from climate change.
- ❖ Though the verdict is non-binding, it could reshape international climate law.
- ❖ All UN member states, including major greenhouse gas emitters like the United States and China, are parties to the court.
- ❖ The US and Russia, both of which, are major petroleum-producing states.
- ❖ They are staunchly opposed to the court mandating emissions reductions.
- ❖ Last year, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that countries must better protect their people from the consequences of climate change.
- ❖ In 2019, the Netherlands' Supreme Court handed down the first major legal win for climate activists.

- ❖ For Vanuatu, this case is not politics.
- ❖ It is a plea for justice, for dignity, and for the right to exist.
- ❖ Vanuatu is an archipelago in the South Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ It is a part of Melanesia
- ❖ It is situated east of northern Australia and west of Fiji.
- ❖ These islands are of volcanic origin.
- ❖ They feature mountainous terrains and coastal plains.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

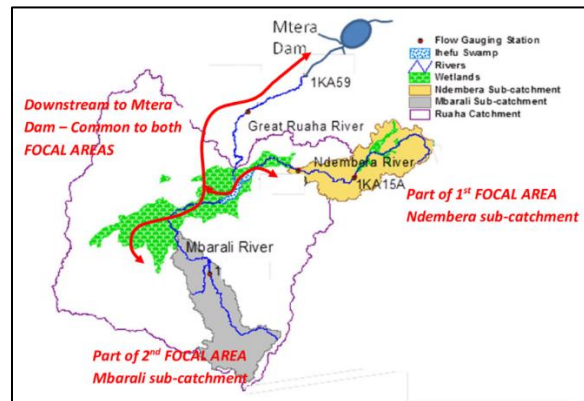
Genome of Matti Vaayan fish



- ❖ CIBA has successfully sequenced the genome of the gold-lined seabream (*Rhabdosargus sarba*).
- ❖ It is a team of researchers from the Central Institute of Brackish water Aquaculture (ICAR-CIBA), Chennai.
- ❖ It is locally known as Matti Vaayan in Tamil.
- ❖ The species is considered a promising candidate for expanding India's aquaculture sector.
- ❖ This species is one of the most preferred food fishes in India and has high demand in the domestic market.
- ❖ It is a euryhaline species.
- ❖ It has strong potential for farming across a wide range of salinities.

Great Ruaha River

- ❖ The Great Ruaha River is a major river in south-central Tanzania.
- ❖ It is flowing northeast through the Usangu wetlands and Ruaha National Park.
- ❖ It's a key component of the Rufiji Basin.
- ❖ It is drying up due to climate change and mismanagement driven by increasing human activities.



STATES' NEWS

India's First Mining Tourism Project



- ❖ Jharkhand has recently launched India's first mining tourism project.
- ❖ This is India's first eco-industrial tourism project in mining.

- ❖ Besides mining sites, the tourism circuit includes natural attractions such as Palani Falls, Patratu Valley, and Tiru Falls.
- ❖ It signed a five-year MoU with Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) to develop and promote mining tourism.
- ❖ Jharkhand holds nearly 40% of India's mineral wealth.
- ❖ The pilot phase will focus on the North Urimari open-cast mine in Ramgarh district.

SPORTS NEWS

World Police and Fire Games 2025

- ❖ Personnel from Tamil Nadu Police have bagged medals at the World Police and Fire Games-2025, which was held in Alabama, USA, from June 27 to July 6.
- ❖ In this international competition, Tamil Nadu Police personnel V. Dinesh, S. Arjun, B. Harikrishnan, V. Saranya and K. Elavarasi represented the All-India Police Team.
- ❖ They had won a total of 11 medals, comprising three gold, four silver, and four bronze.



IMPORTANT DAYS

Nelson Mandela International Day 2025 - July 18

- ❖ This day aims to honor Nelson Mandela's legacy by promoting the peace, freedom, justice, and public service.
- ❖ The day marks the birthday of Nelson Mandela, South Africa's first democratically elected President.

- ❖ It celebrates his 67 years of public service and lifelong dedication to human rights and equality.



International Moon Day 2025 - July 20

- ❖ This day is to promote global awareness, education, and collaboration in lunar exploration.
- ❖ It commemorates the Apollo 11 Moon landing in 1969 and aims to inspire future lunar missions and scientific curiosity.
- ❖ The theme for 2025 is "One Moon, One Vision, One Future."



International Chess Day – July 20

- ❖ This day is celebrated globally to mark the founding of the FIDE (the World Chess Federation) in 1924 and to promote the game of chess worldwide.
- ❖ It highlights chess as a tool for inclusion, education, empowerment, and mental well-being.



- ❖ The theme for 2025 is "Every Move Counts".



National Flag Day 2025 – July 22

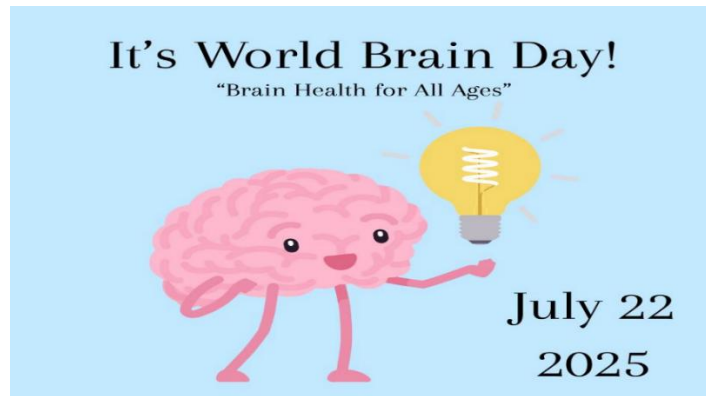


- ❖ This day is to honor the adoption of the tricolour by the Constituent Assembly in 1947.
- ❖ The day celebrates the flag's symbolism of unity, courage, and truth, reminding citizens to respect its dignity and uphold national values.
- ❖ The theme for 2025 is "One Nation, One Flag: United in Sacrifice, Committed to Peace."

World Brain Day 2025 – July 22

- ❖ It is to raise global awareness about brain diseases and neurological health.

- ❖ It was first celebrated in 2014 following the World Federation of Neurology's proposal to promote brain health worldwide.
- ❖ The day aims to increase the education, advocacy, prevention, access to care, and support for brain disease research.
- ❖ The 2025 theme is "Brain Health for All Ages".



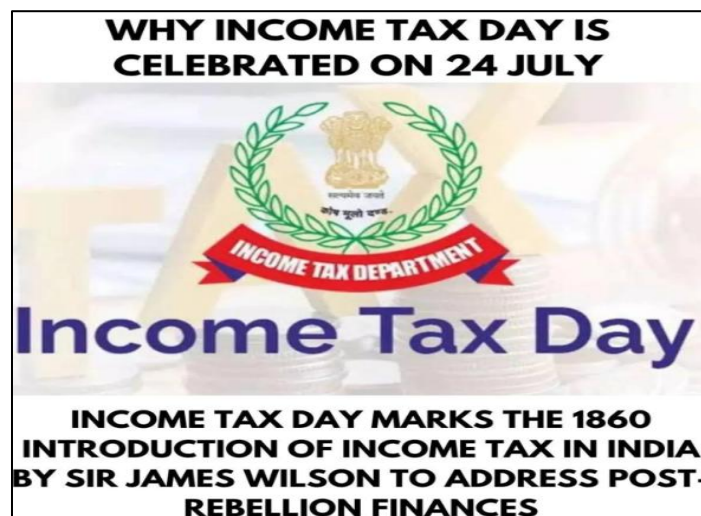
National Broadcasting Day 2025 - July 23



- ❖ It celebrates the start of organized radio broadcasting in India with the Indian Broadcasting Company in 1927.
- ❖ It was first observed to honor India's radio legacy and the evolution of All India Radio (AIR).
- ❖ The day aims to recognize radio's role in the education, national integration, and mass communication.

Income Tax Day 2025 - July 24

- ❖ This day is to mark the introduction of income tax in India by Sir James Wilson in 1860.
- ❖ It celebrates the historical evolution of India's tax system and the establishment of the Income-tax Act of 1922.
- ❖ The day recognizes the very key milestones like the creation of the Central Board of Revenue in 1924 and the tech upgrades like Central Processing Centre (CPC) Bengaluru in 2009.
- ❖ It aims to highlight the importance of a transparent, efficient, and citizen-centric tax administration in the country.



International Day for Judicial Well-being – July 25



- ❖ This day highlights the importance of mental, emotional, and physical well-being of judges and magistrates.
- ❖ It was first celebrated in 2024 following the Nauru Declaration and officially recognized by the UN in 2025.
- ❖ The aim is to destigmatize judicial mental health, promote wellness policies, and link well-being to justice quality.
- ❖ It emphasizes global judicial reform by encouraging dialogue and institutional change in legal systems worldwide.

World Drowning Prevention Day – July 25



- ❖ This day raises global awareness about the preventable tragedy of drowning.
- ❖ It was first recognized in 2021 by the United Nations General Assembly to address over 2 lakh annual drowning deaths, many among children.
- ❖ The day aims to promote water safety, swimming skills, and stronger prevention strategies worldwide.
- ❖ The 2025 theme is "Your story can save a life".

