



June - 18

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has filed applications seeking the Geographical Indication (GI) tag for Kollimalai Coffee and Kollimalai Palappazham.
- ❖ India's First Agri-Drone Indigenization Facility, which was built by Garuda Aero space, was inaugurated at Chennai.
- ❖ The Lieutenant Commander Yashasvi Solanki has been appointed as an Aide-de-Camp (ADC) to President of India and becoming the first woman officer from the Indian Navy to hold the position.
- ❖ The Indian Air Force and US Air Force have conducted their first-ever joint special operations exercise, "Tiger Claw" in Chandinagar, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of Exercise Shakti-2025, a joint military exercise between India and France, will be held in France.
- ❖ South Africa have clinched their first ICC title in 27 years by beating Australia in the World Test Championship (WTC) final 2025, held at London.

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### 'Nalam Kakkum Stalin' scheme

**“நலன் காக்கும் ஸ்டாலின் திட்டம்”**

‘நலன் காக்கும் ஸ்டாலின்’ திட்டம் ஓரிரு வாரங்களில் தொடங்கி வைக்கப்படும். அரசு, தனியார் பங்களிப்புகளை திட்டத்தில் முழுமையாக உடற்பரிசீலனை செய்யலாம்.

புதிய மருத்துவ கட்டமைப்பு உருவாகி வருகிறது. அதில் சென்னைக்கு சிறப்பான இடம். வெளிநாட்டில் இருந்து 25% பேர் தமிழ்நாட்டிற்கு மருத்துவம் பார்க்க வருகை - அமைச்சர் சுப்பிரமணியன்

- ❖ Chief Minister would soon launch a 'Nalam Kakkum Stalin' scheme.
- ❖ Under this, as many as 1,256 special medical camps will be held across the State.
- ❖ It will be facilitating master health check-ups for the needy and diff-abled nearer to their homes.



- ❖ At the camps, the differently-abled people can get the certificates with disability percentages, and the identity cards under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme.
- ❖ Cancer tests will also be performed at these camps to be held by December-end.

### Coercive recovery of micro-loans

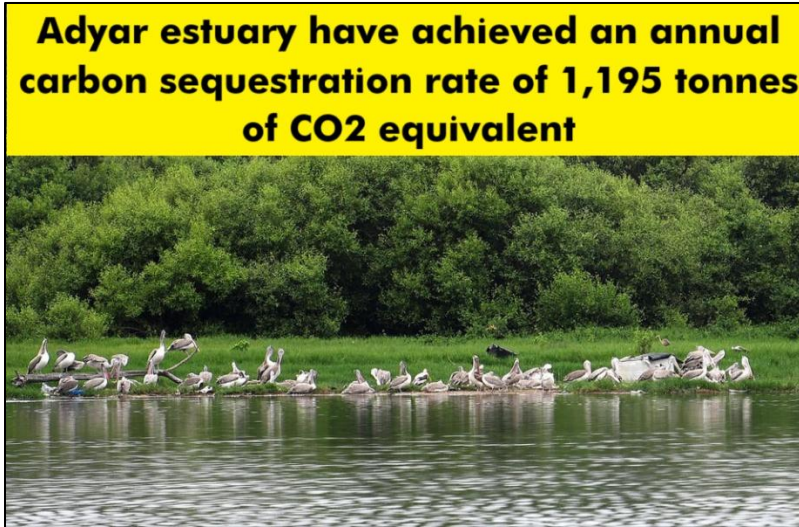
#### **TN Cracks Down On Loan Recovery Harassment**

**The TN Money Lending Entities (Prevention of Coercive Actions) Act, 2025, has come into force to prevent harassment by money-lenders during loan recovery. The law protects vulnerable groups like farmers, women, and self-help groups from threats or violence. It covers both traditional and digital money-lenders. Coercive actions like intimidation, violence, or seizing vital documents can lead to imprisonment of up to 3 years, a fine of up to ₹3 lakh, or both. Complaints will be handled by a special authority.**

- ❖ The Tamilnadu State government has notified the Tamil Nadu Money Lending Entities (Prevention of Coercive Actions) Act, 2025.
- ❖ It aims to prevent coercive recovery of micro-loans by money-lending entities.
- ❖ The Assembly has passed the legislation in April, and it received the Governor's assent on June 9.
- ❖ The Act is aimed at protecting the weaker and vulnerable groups and individuals - especially farmers, women, and self-help groups.
- ❖ It will be protecting from the coercive recovery of loans by money-lending entities such as the micro-finance institutions and money-lending agencies operating in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The provisions of the Act relating to coercive action against the borrower shall apply to the non-banking financial companies registered with the RBI and co-operative banks and societies.
- ❖ The Micro-loan means a loan given to a household having an annual household income of up to ₹3 lakh.
- ❖ A household means an individual family unit including the husband, wife, and their unmarried son and daughter.
- ❖ Borrower means an individual or group of individuals or a self-help group or joint liability group.

- ❖ Section 20 of the Act also lists what constitutes coercive action.

### **Restored mangroves in Adyar Estuary**

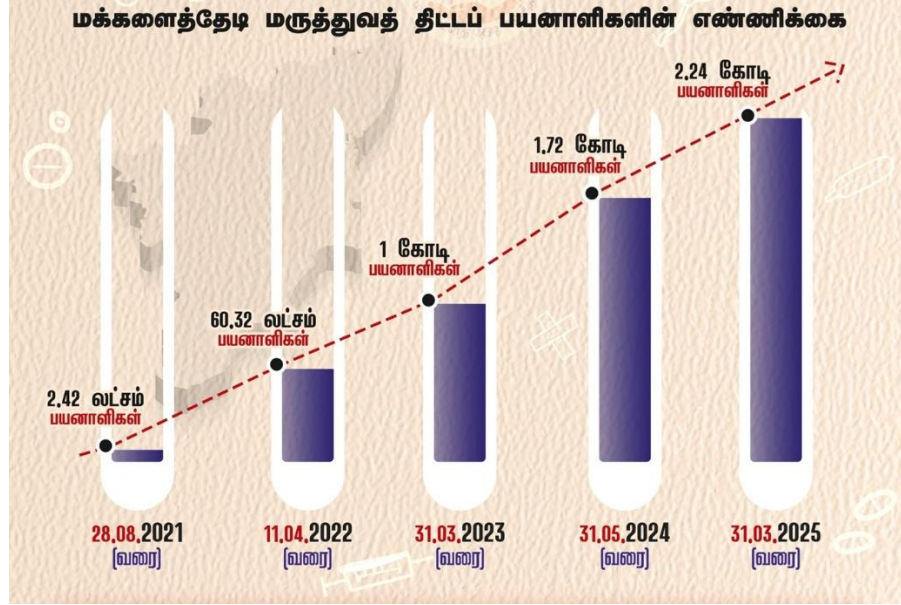


- ❖ The restored mangroves in the Adyar estuary have stored a significant amount of carbon.
- ❖ These mangroves have achieved an annual carbon sequestration rate of 1,195 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent.
- ❖ An afforestation drive has been undertaken by the Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust between 2008 and 2016.
- ❖ So far, the mangrove ecosystem comprising six species has stored 2,288 tonnes of carbon (or 8,397 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent).
- ❖ Further the mangrove ecosystem has showed carbon sequestration rate of 325.71 Mg C per year.

### **CM's health insurance data**

- ❖ Over the past four years, more than 81 lakh beneficiaries received free treatment worth Rs 5,878 crore under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme.
- ❖ The emergency 'Innuyir Kaappom Nammai Kaappom' initiative has saved 7.4 lakh accident victims at a cost of Rs 648.12 crore.
- ❖ The government has distributed nutrition kits worth Rs 1,149.24 crore to 54 lakh pregnant women and 31.75 lakh mothers.
- ❖ Five new hospitals were established at Rs 1,046 crore in the state, alongside Rs 151 crore spent on India's second National Centre for Ageing in Guindy.

- ❖ The Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam scheme delivered doorstep healthcare to over 200 lakh people.
- ❖ School-based vision screenings provided free spectacles to 13.11 lakh children.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu reduced Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) of 8 per 1,000 live births, against the national average of 28.
- ❖ The state has clinched 545 awards for the medical excellence, including in rural medicine, TB elimination, and organ transplantation.



## NATIONAL NEWS

### Rare Earth Exports to Japan by India

- ❖ India has asked state-run miner IREL (Indian Rare Earths Limited) to suspend a 13-year-old agreement on rare earth exports to Japan.
- ❖ The Govt asked IREL to stop its exports of rare earths, mainly neodymium, a key material used in magnets for electric vehicle motors.
- ❖ Under a 2012 government agreement, IREL supplies rare earths to Toyotsu Rare Earths India.
- ❖ China has curbed its rare earth materials exports since April, pressuring the automakers and high-tech manufacturers worldwide.
- ❖ India has the world's fifth-largest rare earth reserves, at 6.9 million metric tons.
- ❖ But there is no domestic magnet production.
- ❖ India relies on imported magnets, mainly from China.



- ❖ In the fiscal year to March 2025, India imported 53,748 metric tons of rare earth magnets.
- ❖ IREL has a rare earths extraction plant in the eastern Indian state of Odisha and a refining unit in Kerala, in southern India.



### **Forest Rights Act Cells**

**Forest Rights Push: Centre Sets Up 324 District-level Cells to Boost Implementation of FRA**



**Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs Funds Structural Mechanism to Support States in Providing Rights to Forest-Dwellers**

- ❖ The Union government has started funding structural mechanisms to “facilitate” the implementation of the law meant to give forest rights to ST and forest-dwelling communities.
- ❖ The Forest Rights Act (FRA) came into being in 2006.
- ❖ Implementation of the FRA, for the last 19 years, has been the domain of State and union territory governments.

- ❖ Under the Dharti Aba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyaan (DAJGUA), the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs has so far sanctioned the setting up of 324 district-level FRA cells across 18 States and union territories implementing the forest rights law.
- ❖ In addition, State-level FRA cells have been sanctioned for 17 of these States and union territories.
- ❖ The highest number of district FRA cells sanctioned so far has been in Madhya Pradesh, where 55 have been approved.
- ❖ This is followed by 30 in Chhattisgarh, 29 in Telangana, 26 in Maharashtra, 25 in Assam, and 24 in Jharkhand.
- ❖ This is the first time such FRA cells are being proposed by the Union government to speed up FRA implementation.
- ❖ The Odisha state government has been using a similar mechanism for the couple of years.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Gaza ceasefire resolution 2025



**INDIA AND UN**

**Voting Result:**

IN FAVOUR	149
AGAINST	12
ABSTENTION	19

**UN General Assembly adopts Gaza ceasefire resolution by overwhelming majority, India abstains from voting**

On Thursday, UN General Assembly overwhelmingly adopted a resolution demanding an immediate, unconditional and lasting ceasefire in Gaza. India was among 19 Member States that abstained from voting. 149 nations backed the resolution with 12 voting against it.

- ❖ India `abstained from voting during the resolution at the United Nations General Assembly for a ceasefire in Gaza.
- ❖ But the resolution was adopted with overwhelming support, as 149 countries voted in favour.

- ❖ India was among the 19 countries that abstained, even as key American allies like the UK, Australia and Japan voted in favour.
- ❖ The US, Israel and 10 other countries voted against.
- ❖ India stands alone as the only country in South Asia, BRICS, and SCO to abstain.
- ❖ India had twice voted in favour of the UNGA Gaza ceasefire resolutions – first in December 2023 and again in the same month a year later.

## ECONOMY NEWS

### India's Tea exports in 2024



- ❖ Tea exports from India have increased by 9.92 per cent at 254.67 million kg, from January to December 2024.
- ❖ This was 231.69 million kg in the previous calendar year.
- ❖ In south India, the production volumes from January to December 2024 stood at 99.86 million kg.
- ❖ It was 90.69 million kg in the previous calendar of 2023, registering a rise of 10.11 per cent year-on-year.

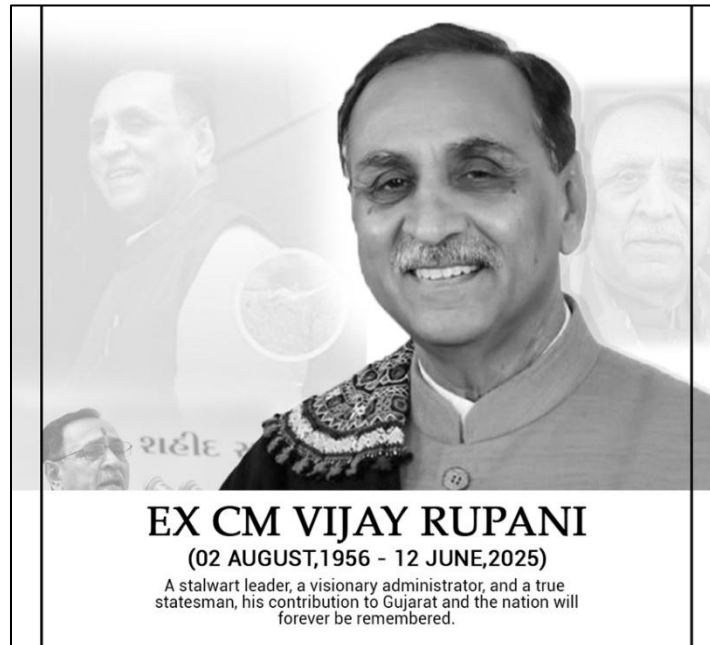
## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Former Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani

- ❖ Vijay Rupani, former Chief Minister of Gujarat, died in a tragic Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner crash in Ahmedabad.



- ❖ He was elected to the Rajkot Municipal Corporation in 1987, and served as the mayor of Rajkot from 1996 to 1997.
- ❖ He was elected as a member of parliament in the Rajya Sabha from 2006 to 2012.
- ❖ He served as a member of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly from 2014 to 2022.
- ❖ On 7 August 2016, Rupani was appointed chief minister of Gujarat and served until 2021 September.



### Order of Makarios III



- ❖ During the visit to Cyprus Indian Prime Minister received the Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III – the highest civilian honour of the Republic of Cyprus.
- ❖ It is awarded by that country which was named after the first President of Cyprus, Archbishop Makarios III.





- ❖ This is the first-ever visit by an Indian PM to the Mediterranean nation.
- ❖ India and Cyprus have traditionally enjoyed strong diplomatic relations since the establishment of ties in 1962.
- ❖ Cyprus, a member of the EU is set to assume the 'rotating presidency' of the EU, early next year.

