

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 8th 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 பங்களிப்புடனான 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

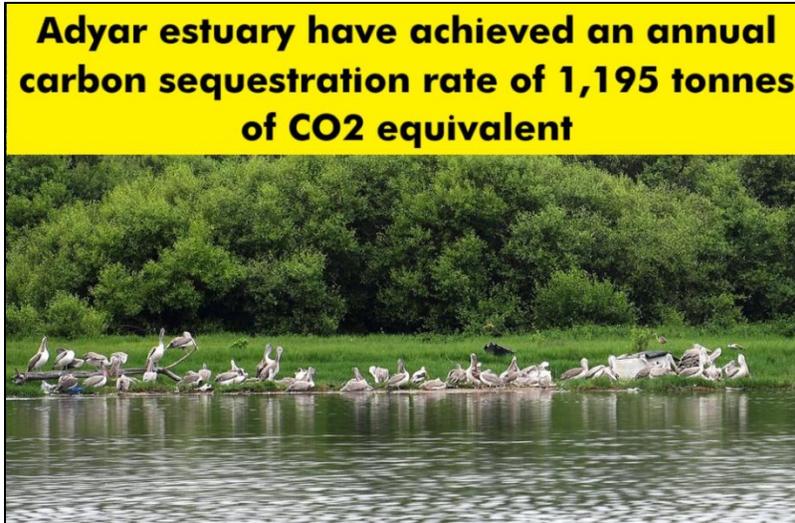
TN Cracks Down On Loan Recovery Harassment

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

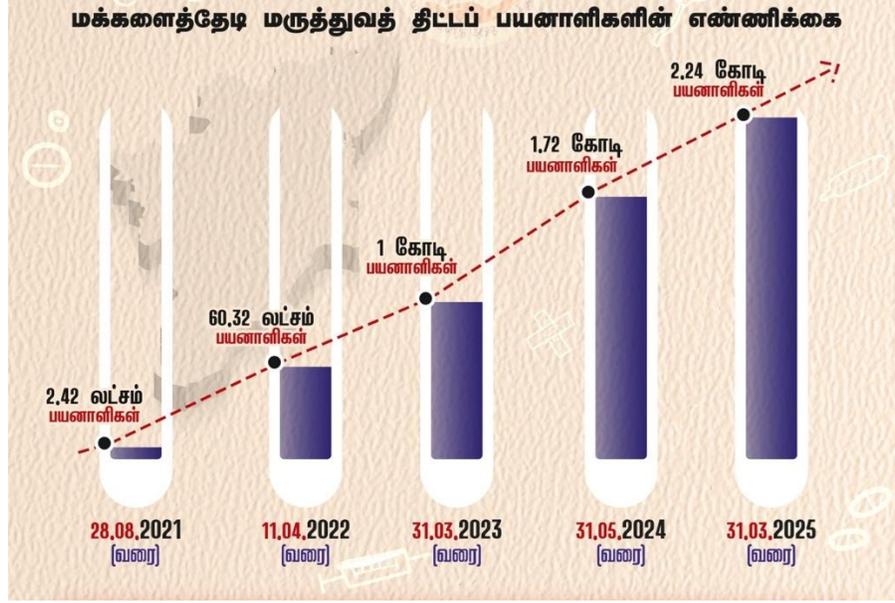


- ❖ The restored mangroves in the Adyar estuary have stored a significant amount of carbon.
- ❖ These mangroves have achieved an annual carbon sequestration rate of 1,195 tonnes of CO2 equivalent.
- ❖ An afforestation drive has been undertaken by the Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust between 2008 and 2016.
- ❖ So far, the mangrove ecosystem comprising six species has stored 2,288 tonnes of carbon (or 8,397 tonnes of CO2 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



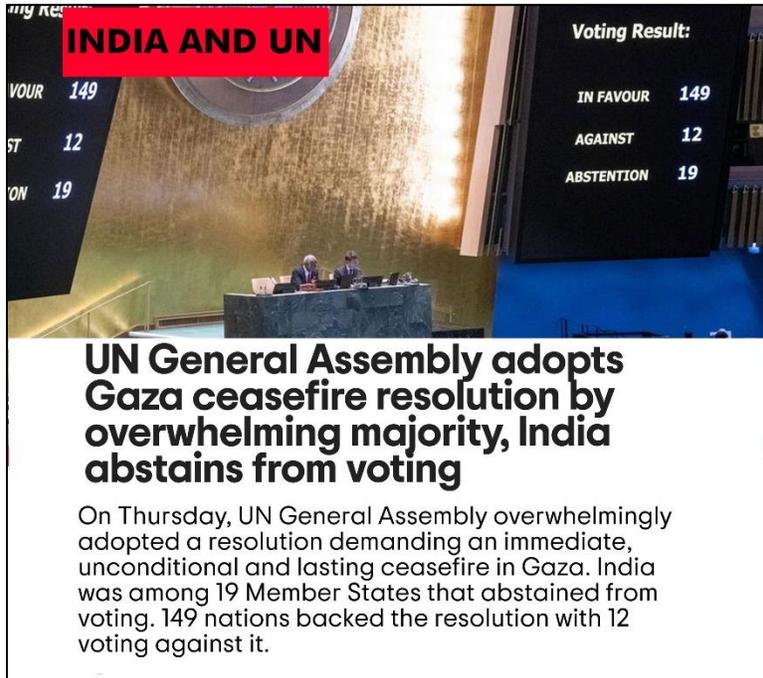
Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs Funds Structural Mechanism to Support States in Providing Rights to Forest-Dwellers

- ❖ 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



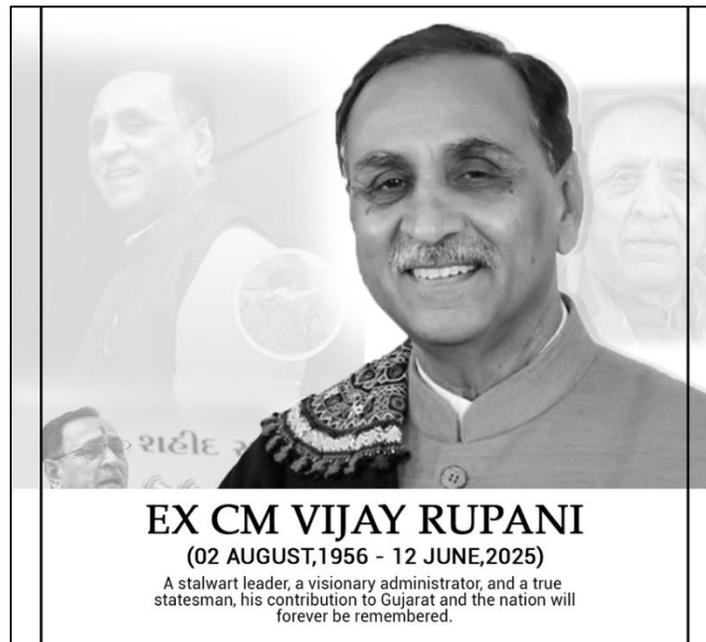
- ❖ Tea exports from India have increased by 9.92 per cent at 254.67 million kg, from January to December 2024.
- ❖ This was 231.69 million kg in the previous calendar year.
- ❖ In south India, the production volumes from January to December 2024 stood at 99.86 million kg.
- ❖ It was 90.69 million kg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

