

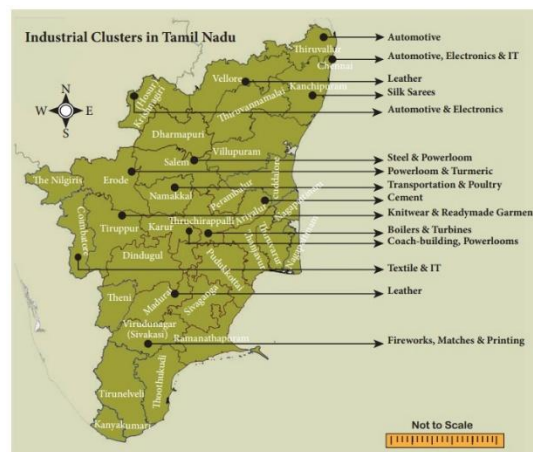
March - 18

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The celebrations of the 160th year of Madras Bar Association and 75th year of adoption of the Constitution of India was held in Chennai.
- ❖ R. Narumpoo Nathan (64), one of Tamil Nadu's leading writers, passed away recently.
- ❖ A small cellar was found at 1,000 years old Savaite temple at Patteeswaram near Kumbakonam in Thanjavur district.
- ❖ The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) is becoming the first water board in India to receive certification from the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) for its piped drinking water supply management system.
- ❖ Google has released Gemma 3, the latest addition to its family of lightweight open AI models that are designed to run directly on phones, laptops, and other devices.
- ❖ Tanzanian have declared the end of the country's second Marburg virus disease (MVD) outbreak after 42 days passed without any new cases.
- ❖ The International Day to Combat Islamophobia is observed annually on 15 March to uphold the equality, human rights, and dignity, and build inclusive societies regardless of their faith.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

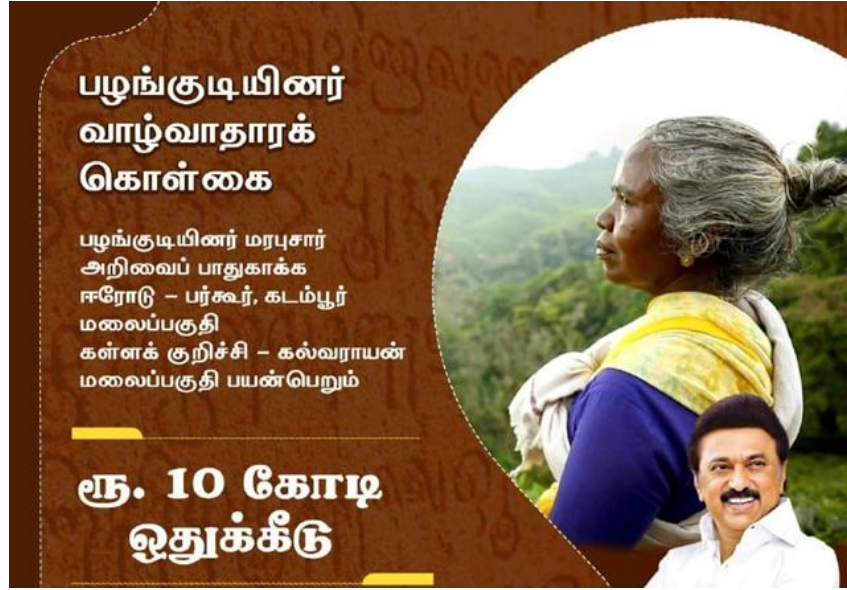
Electronics manufacturing clusters



- ❖ Two more electronics manufacturing clusters would be established in Tamil Nadu at Pillaipakkam in Kancheepuram and Manalur in Tiruvallur at a cost of ₹1,112 crore.

- ❖ Electronics goods have become the second-largest export item in the country.
- ❖ Almost 36% of all electronics exports from India has been from Tamil Nadu — almost entirely from this zone [Sriperumbudur].
- ❖ Also, Tamil Nadu was home to the largest beneficiaries of the electronics PLI (the Production Linked Incentive) scheme.

Tribal Livelihood Policy

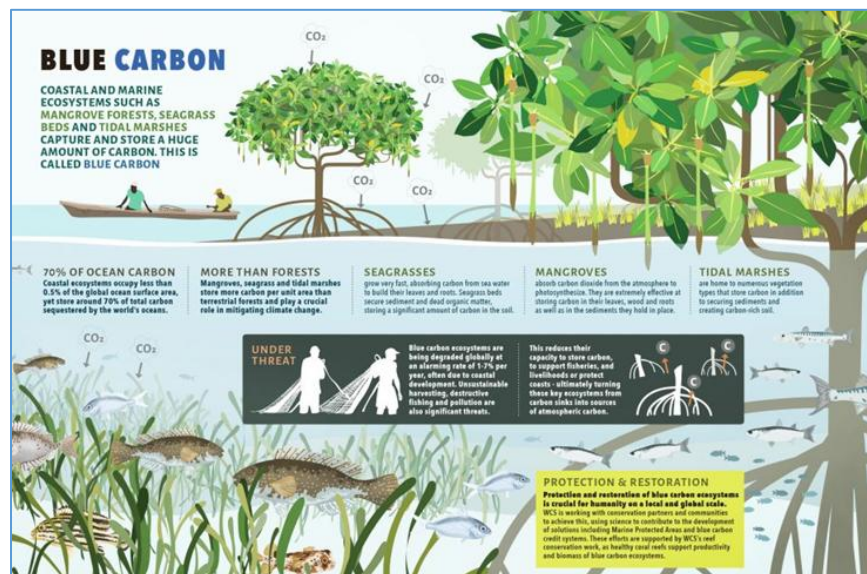


- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Government has planned to formulate a Tribal Livelihood Policy.
- ❖ It aims to ensure easy access to various welfare measures for members of tribal communities and to preserve and leverage their traditional knowledge in the bio diversity conservation.
- ❖ There are 37 tribal communities having distinct cultural identities residing on the hilly areas of western and eastern ghats.
- ❖ The policy will also focus on implementing area-specific special schemes.
- ❖ Bargur and Kadambur hills in Erode district and Kalvarayan hills in Kallakurichi district have been chosen for implementing special schemes in the first phase.

State's Mangrove cover 2024

- ❖ The mangrove forest cover in Tamil Nadu has almost doubled in the last few years, expanding from 4,500 ha in 2021 to 9,039 ha in 2024.
- ❖ The new plantations are making up 40.1% (3,625 ha) of the total area and existing mangrove forests comprising 59.9% (5,414 ha).

- ❖ The report, titled 'Blue Carbon Monitoring for Mangroves of Tamil Nadu', says the Tiruvarur district has the largest mangrove area, covering 2,142 ha.
- ❖ Thanjavur closely follows with a total of 2,063 ha, consisting of 854 ha of the plantations and 1,209 ha of natural mangroves.
- ❖ Together, these two districts alone account for almost half of Tamil Nadu's total mangrove and plantation area.
- ❖ The mangrove covers in Cuddalore, Tiruvarur, and Thanjavur also have the very substantial carbon storage capacities, with total carbon stocks of 249 tonnes/ha, 145 tonnes/ha, and 77.5 tonnes/ha, respectively.
- ❖ Mangrove areas with lower density, such as those in Villupuram (2.59 tonnes/ha) and Tiruvallur (13.1 tonnes/ha), capture smaller quantities of carbon.

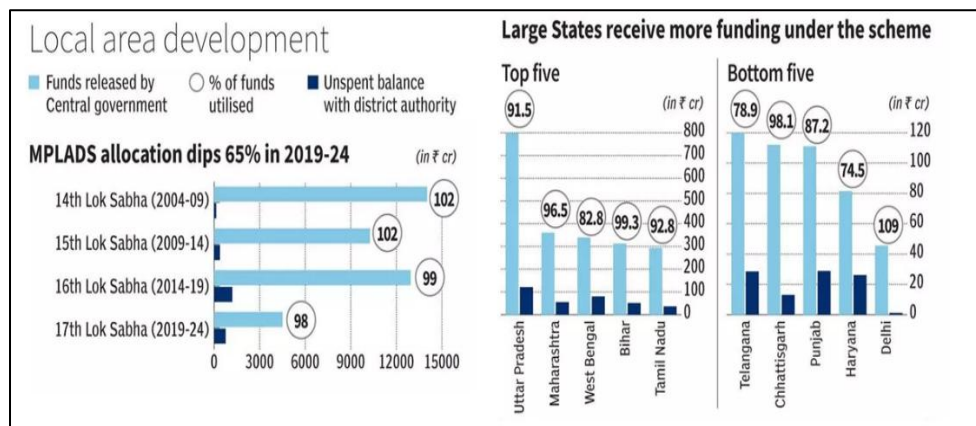


NATIONAL NEWS

Decline in MPLADS Funds in 2019-24

- ❖ The Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) funds released by the central government covering the period of 17th Lok Sabha (2019 to 2024) was around ₹4,510 crore.
- ❖ It was registering a decline of 65.2 per cent over the funds released in the previous Lok Sabha.
- ❖ During the period covering the 14th Lok Sabha, the central government had disbursed ₹14,023 crore to all the MPs.
- ❖ In the period covering the 16th Lok Sabha, the funds decreased to ₹12,945 crore.

- ❖ During the 17th Lok Sabha, it has further gone down to Rs 4,510 crore due to Covid.
- ❖ During the period covering the 17th Lok Sabha, the MPs of Uttar Pradesh (₹798 crore), Maharashtra (₹360 crore), and West Bengal (₹339 crore) have received the highest funds.
- ❖ But, MPs of states like Delhi (₹45 crore), Haryana (₹81 crore), and Punjab (₹111 crore) received the lowest funds from the central government.
- ❖ The MPLADS is a government scheme through which each Member of Parliament (MP) in India receives ₹5 crore annually.
- ❖ The scheme was launched in 1993 and is fully funded by the central government.



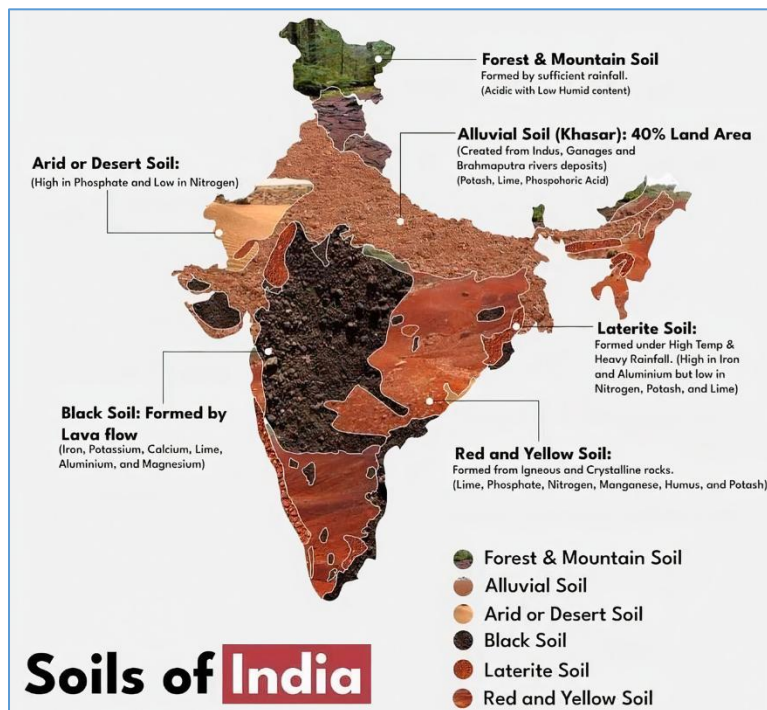
Parliament Committee's Recommendations on Farm Workers' Welfare



- ❖ A parliamentary panel recommended that the benefits under the central income support scheme (PM-Kisan) be extended to farm labourers.

- ❖ Nearly 55 per cent of the country's population is engaged in the farm sector but not all as landowners.
- ❖ Currently, only the landholder farmer families receive an annual Rs 6,000 each under the scheme in three equal instalments of Rs 2,000 every four months.
- ❖ There are around 14 crore such landholder farmers in the country, but not all cultivate their land themselves.
- ❖ The panel has recommended financial assistance of Rs 100 per quintal of paddy to farmers as compensation for the cost incurred in collecting 'Parali' (paddy residue).

Soil Fertility Mapping in India



- ❖ The Soil & Land Use Survey of India (SLUSI) is generating of district/village-wise digital soil fertility maps through geo-spatial techniques using Soil Health Card (SHC) data.
- ❖ The Soil fertility maps provide a detailed spatial information about the nutrient composition and health of the soil.
- ❖ It helps the farmers in application of fertilizers and soil amendments judiciously, reducing the risk of overuse or underuse.
- ❖ Geospatial techniques, including remote sensing & AI based tools, are used in soil fertility mapping.

- ❖ The Soil Health Cards are generated under Soil Health & Fertility Scheme of Government of India.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Armenia-Azerbaijan Peace Treaty 2025




- ❖ Armenian and Azerbaijani officials had agreed on the text of a peace agreement to end nearly four decades of conflict between them.
- ❖ During the late 1980s, Nagorno-Karabakh broke away from Azerbaijan with the support of Armenia.
- ❖ This region in Azerbaijan had a mostly ethnic Armenian population at the time.
- ❖ These two countries' 1,000 km (621-mile) shared border is very closed and heavily militarised.

ECONOMY NEWS

New Zero-Coupon Bond

- ❖ The Finance Ministry has notified Zero Coupon Bond (ZCB) for Power Finance Corporation.
- ❖ The company can raise up to ₹10,000 crore.
- ❖ The ZCB is an instrument that doesn't pay interest during its term, but instead is sold at a discount to its face value.
- ❖ When the bond matures, the investor receives the full-face value.
- ❖ There will be no periodic payment of interest.

- ❖ These bonds will have the maturity value of 121 months or 10 years and one month.

ZERO-COUPON BONDS	REGULAR BONDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More sensitive to both interest rate and inflation risk • A lack of cash interest payments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less sensitive to both interest rate and inflation risk • Regular interest payments
	
<p>Both zero-coupon bonds and regular bonds are subject to interest rate risk and inflation risk.</p>	

REPORTS AND INDICES

QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025

 IIM Ahmedabad is ranked

1st in India | 27th in the World

in QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025:
Business & Management Studies



- ❖ Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has maintained the top position for the 13th consecutive year in the QS World University Rankings 2025.



- ❖ Imperial College London take second and the University of Oxford and Harvard University are in third and fourth place respectively.
- ❖ The University of Cambridge rounds out the top five.
- ❖ IIT Madras ranks 31st globally in Engineering - Petroleum.
- ❖ ISM Dhanbad has secured the 20th rank in the world for Engineering - Mineral and Mining.
- ❖ IIT Bombay holds the 40th rank globally in Engineering - Mineral and Mining.
- ❖ IIT Kharagpur is ranked 45th in Engineering - Mineral and Mining.
- ❖ IIT Delhi has achieved the 47th rank in Engineering - Electrical and Electronic.
- ❖ IIT Bombay is ranked 50th globally in Engineering - Electrical and Electronic.
- ❖ IIM Ahmedabad is ranked 27th worldwide in Business and Management Studies.
- ❖ IIM Bangalore has secured the 40th rank in Business and Management Studies.
- ❖ JNU is ranked 29th in Development Studies.

SPORTS NEWS

World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2025

The graphic features a red background with a yellow horizontal band. At the top, the text 'WORLD PARA ATHLETICS GRAND PRIX DELHI' is written in white. Below this, 'INDIA TOPS MEDAL TALLY' is written in red on the yellow band. On the left, there is a logo for 'NEW DELHI 2025 WORLD PARA ATHLETICS GRAND PRIX' with the numbers 20 and 25 in large, colorful digits. On the right, a yellow-bordered box contains the medal counts: '45 GOLD' in red, '40 SILVER' in white on a black background, and '49 BRONZE' in brown.

Medal Type	Count
Gold	45
Silver	40
Bronze	49

- ❖ The New Delhi World Para Athletics Grand Prix was the first international para event hosted by India.
- ❖ It will be an annual event till 2028.

- ❖ India finished on top of the medal tally with a total haul of 134 - 45 gold, 40 silver, and 49 bronze.

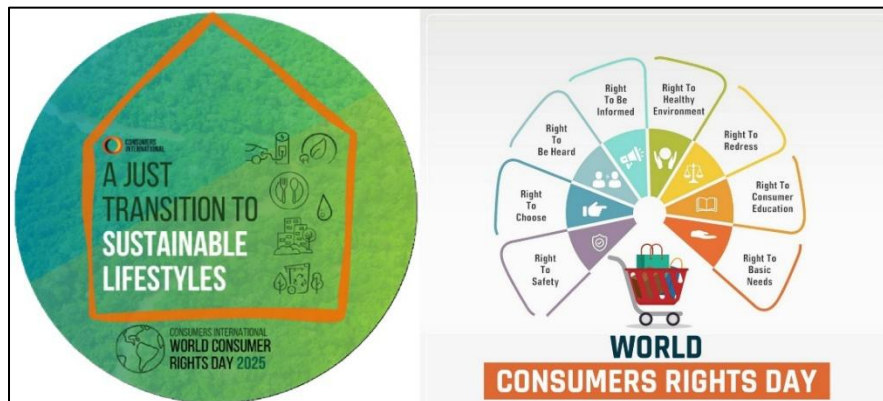
IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Action for Rivers 2025 - March 14

- ❖ This day encourages people to come together, raise awareness and take action to protect rivers.
- ❖ The International Day of Action for Rivers was first observed in 1997.
- ❖ It was established during a global meeting held in Curitiba, Brazil.
- ❖ The theme of this year is "Our Rivers, Our Future."



World Consumer Rights Day 2025 - March 15



- ❖ On this day in 1962, the then U.S. President John F. Kennedy introduced four fundamental consumer rights.



- ❖ This day aims to promote the basic rights of all consumers and encourage those rights to be respected and protected.
- ❖ The theme for 2025 is 'A Just Transition to Sustainable Lifestyles.'

