

March - 19

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu announced that the second World Classical Tamil Conference would be held in Chennai in June 2025, for five days.
 - The first World Classical Tamil Conference was held in June 2010 in Coimbatore.
- ❖ Chief Election Commissioner announced the schedule for the upcoming 18th Lok Sabha elections, and for the Assembly seats in Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim.
 - Lok Sabha 2024 elections will be held between April 19 and June 1, across seven phases.
- ❖ Ratan Tata, former chairman of Tata Sons, was bestowed with the prestigious PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award for his outstanding philanthropic contributions.
- ❖ Chameli Devi Jain Award 2024 for Outstanding Woman Media Person of the Year has been given jointly to independent journalist Greeshma Kuthar, and Ritika Chopra of the Indian Express.
- ❖ The Maharashtra govt decided to rename Ahmednagar district as 'Ahilya Nagar' in honour of the 18th-century Maratha queen Ahilyabai Holkar.
- ❖ The Centre has announced that it will celebrate September 17 every year as 'Hyderabad Liberation Day'.
 - The region was liberated from Nizam's rule on September 17, 1948 after police action namely 'Operation Polo'.

TAMIL NADU

Impact of Pudhumai Penn Scheme

- ❖ Over 49,600 more girl students studying in Tamil medium at aided schools across Tamil Nadu will benefit from the Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Higher Education Assurance Scheme-Pudhumai Penn Scheme.
- ❖ 49,664 Tamil medium girl students were studying at aided schools, including 23,560 students at minority institutions.
- ❖ The government issued an order to expand the scope of the scheme to cover the Tamil medium students who have studied from Class VI to Class XII at all aided schools.
- ❖ The scheme was launched by Chief Minister in September 2022.

- ❖ It aims to empower girls, especially those who have studied Classes VI to XII at government schools, by providing an incentive of ₹1,000 a month to each.

49K More Girl Students In TN To Get Rs 1K Every Month

Over 49,000 more girl students studying in Tamil-Medium in government aided colleges across Tamil Nadu will get a monthly stipend of Rs.1000 in their bank accounts under the Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Higher Education Assurance Scheme-Pudhumai Penn Scheme. The state government yesterday issued orders expanding the scheme to the students of aided colleges.

Single certificate to De-notified communities

DENOTIFIED TRIBES - MEANING

- **DE notified Tribes** (DNTs), also known as *Vimukta Jati*, are the tribes that were originally listed as "Criminal Tribes" and "addicted to the systematic commission of non-bailable offences."
- Once a tribe became "notified" as criminal, all its members were required to register with the local magistrate, failing which they would be charged with a "crime" under the Indian Penal Code.

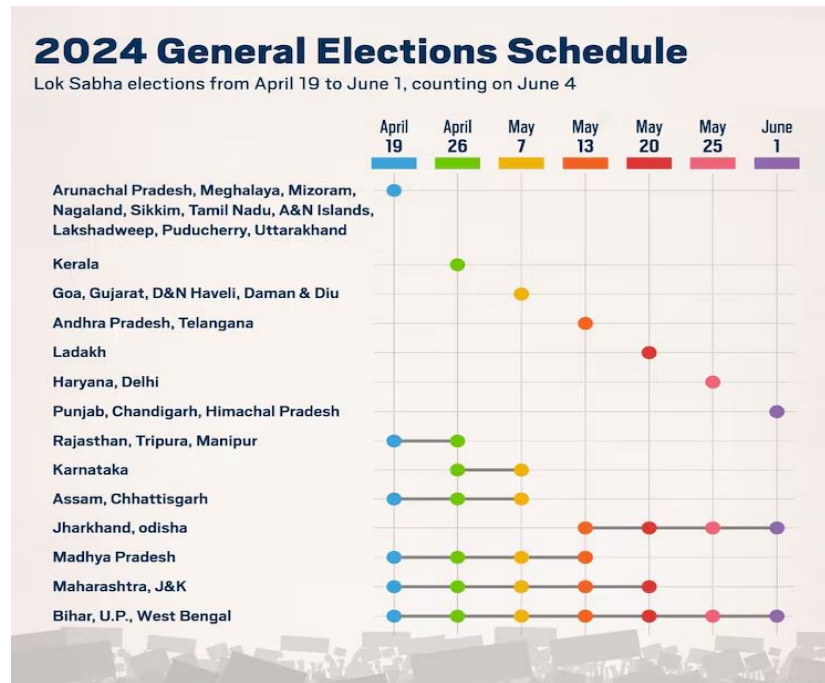


- ❖ TN Govt ordered that De-notified Communities and De-notified Tribes be issued a single certificate as against separate certificates.
- ❖ The People from these communities who were affected by the Criminal Tribes Act during the British rule in the pre-Independence era were classified under the 'Denotified Communities'.
- ❖ They are given a 20% reservation among the most backward communities.

- ❖ 68 communities getting the State government reservation were classified as the Denotified Communities.
- ❖ But for availing of Union government benefits, they were classified as Denotified Tribes.

NATIONAL

Model Code of Conduct 2024



- ❖ The Election Commission of India (ECI) announced on March 16 that the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) comes into effect.
- ❖ The country would vote in seven phases in the Lok Sabha elections, from April 19 to June 1 and the results will be announced on June 4.
- ❖ The Model Code of Conduct is a set of guidelines issued by the Election Commission to regulate the campaigning of political parties and the candidates during elections.
- ❖ Its main aim is to conduct free and fair elections by preventing any activities that could influence voters or disrupt the poll process.
- ❖ The Model Code of Conduct was first used during the 1960 Assembly elections in Kerala.
- ❖ Following its success, the Election Commission introduced it nationwide during the 1962 Lok Sabha elections.

- ❖ During the 1991 Lok Sabha elections, the poll panel decided to enforce the MCC more strictly due to repeated violations of election norms and concerns over corrupt practices.
- ❖ MCC has no statutory backing.
- ❖ Simply put, this means anybody breaching the MCC can't be proceeded against under any clause of the Code.
- ❖ The EC uses moral sanction or censure for its enforcement.

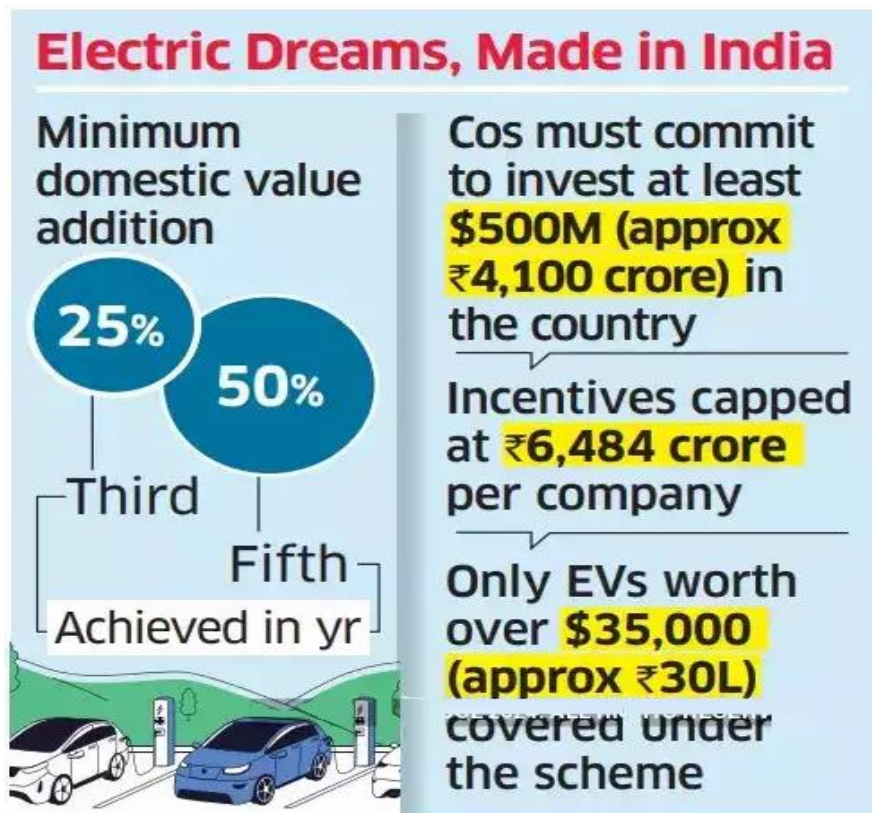
Panel for Simultaneous Elections

HOW, WHAT & WHEN OF JOINT ELECTIONS		
<p>How will elections be synchronised? In 2 stages, says panel report. Step 1: Simultaneous polls to be held for Lok Sabha, state assemblies. Constitutional amendment needed, but no ratification by states required. Step 2: Local body polls to be held within 100 days of LS & assembly elections. Amendment for this will require ratification by at least half the states.</p> <p>How will a cutoff date be fixed and varying assembly tenures adjusted? President will, through a</p>	 <p>Former President Kovind gives report to President Murmu</p>	<p>are held after this date will have tenure only till next Lok Sabha elections (which will be simultaneous)</p> <p>What happens if there is a hung House or governing party loses trust vote? Elections will be held for the remaining period of the five-year term</p> <p>When will simultaneous elections kick in? After legislative changes are undertaken, President will notify the 'appointed date' on the first day the newly elected LS sits</p>
<p>notification, bring simultaneous polls into force on the date of first sitting of Lok Sabha after a general election. This becomes the 'appointed date'. Assemblies for which elections</p>		

- ❖ The high-level committee on 'one nation, one election' submitted its report to the President Droupadi Murmu.
- ❖ The panel was led by former President Ram Nath Kovind.
- ❖ The committee is put unanimous opinion that simultaneous polls should be held.
- ❖ At first, the Lok Sabha elections and state polls should be held simultaneously followed by synchronised local body polls within 100 days.
- ❖ The Constitution would have to be amended to introduce the concepts of a “full term” and an “unexpired period” (where the House or the assembly is dissolved sooner than the expiry of its “full term”).
- ❖ Also, the provisions have to be made so that the elections held where the House or an assembly is dissolved sooner than its “full term” would be considered to be a “mid-term” election.
- ❖ The election held after the expiry of five years would be considered a “general election”.

- ❖ In the event of a mid-term dissolution, the term of the reconstituted legislature shall be for the remaining unexpired period of the original term of five years.
- ❖ Then the next election to the legislature concerned could take place with “general election”.
- ❖ Conducting polls simultaneously was the norm in India until 1967 and four elections were held this way.
- ❖ The practice stopped after some state assemblies were dissolved prematurely in 1968-69.
- ❖ The Lok Sabha was also, for the first time, dissolved a year ahead of schedule in 1970 and mid-term elections had been held in 1971.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy 2024

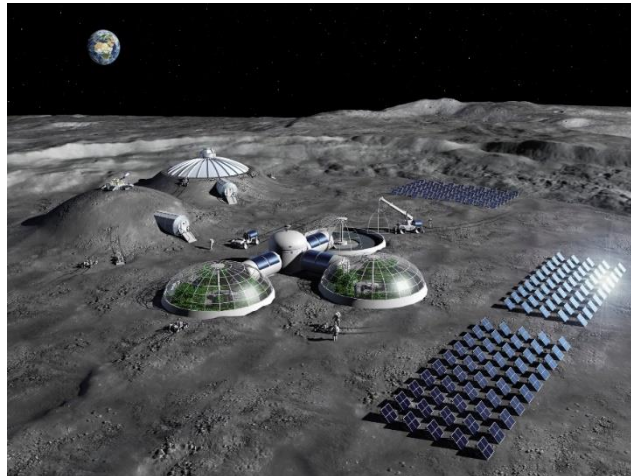


- ❖ The union government announced a new electric vehicle (EV) policy.
- ❖ It is expected to provide a major boost to Tesla's plans to start operations in India.
- ❖ As part of the new policy, the government will lower import taxes on certain electric vehicles for companies.
- ❖ Interested companies must commit a minimum investment of Rs 4150 crore (USD 500 Mn).

- ❖ However, there is no limit on maximum investment.
- ❖ They will be granted a three-year period to establish local manufacturing facilities for electric vehicles (EVs).
- ❖ They must reach 50 per cent domestic value addition (DVA) within 5 years at the maximum.
- ❖ The Domestic Value Addition (DVA) refers to the percentage of localised components used in manufacturing.
- ❖ Companies must achieve a localization level of 25 per cent by the 3rd year and 50 per cent by the 5th year.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Lunar Colonies by 2040



- ❖ NASA plans to create human settlements on the moon by 2040.
- ❖ It has developed the Artemis program, a multifaceted initiative that aims to return humans to the lunar surface and set up a sustainable presence.
- ❖ It aims to develop the architecture for habitable structures to facilitate prolonged human presence and scientific endeavours on the moon.
- ❖ The key challenges are, create a secure living space shielded from the moon's harsh elements like extreme temperatures, micrometeorite impacts and cosmic radiation.

Anthrobots

- ❖ Researchers have developed miniature robots using human cells capable of both movement and healing neurons within a laboratory setting.

- ❖ They are termed as 'Anthrobots'.
- ❖ These bioengineered entities consist of human tracheal cells and possess the ability to autonomously configure themselves into various forms and dimensions.
- ❖ These biobots can be used as the innovative instruments for the purposes of regeneration, recovery, and the management of diseases.

