

May - 22

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Department of Posts has released commemorative postage stamp to celebrate the 125 years of the Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (KSO).
- ❖ The RBI is going to issue Rs 20 denomination Banknotes in Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series bearing the signature of Sanjay Malhotra, Governor.
- ❖ Rajasthan's Sangri - the slender bean that adds a unique flavour to Rajasthani kitchens - has just been awarded a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Annual Credit Plan for 2025-26

ELIGIBLE CATEGORIES UNDER PRIORITY SECTOR

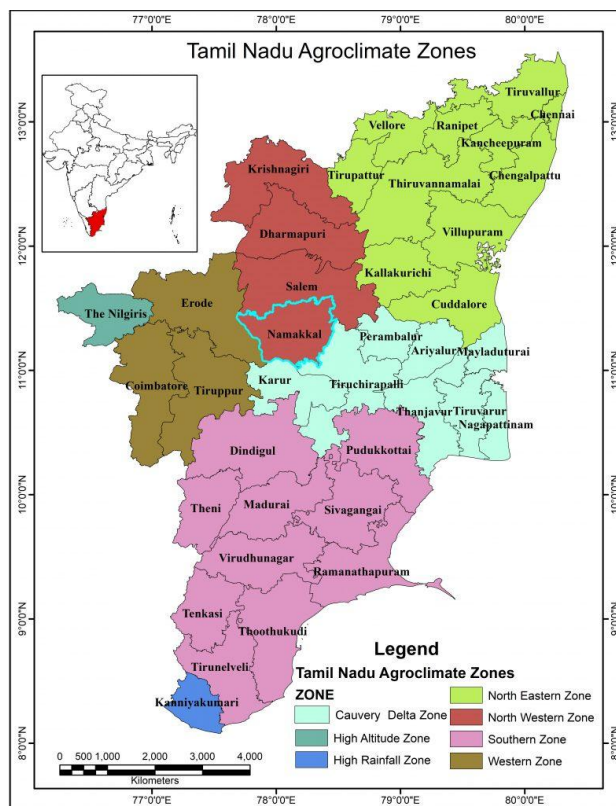


- ❖ The Annual Credit Plan of ₹9,00,181 crore has been fixed under priority sector lending in Tamilnadu.
- ❖ This is an estimated growth of 21.12% over 2024-25.
- ❖ The credit-deposit ratio of 126% in the State is one of the best in the country.
- ❖ The priority sector advances increased from ₹6,63,993.27 crore as of March 2024 to ₹7,43,194.33 crore as of March 2025.

19 new crop varieties

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) of Coimbatore released 19 new crop varieties suiting different agro-climatic regions, for 2025.
- ❖ Three varieties of rice, a maize hybrid, a black gram variety, a drought-tolerant groundnut variety, and a semi-dwarf castor hybrid were included this.

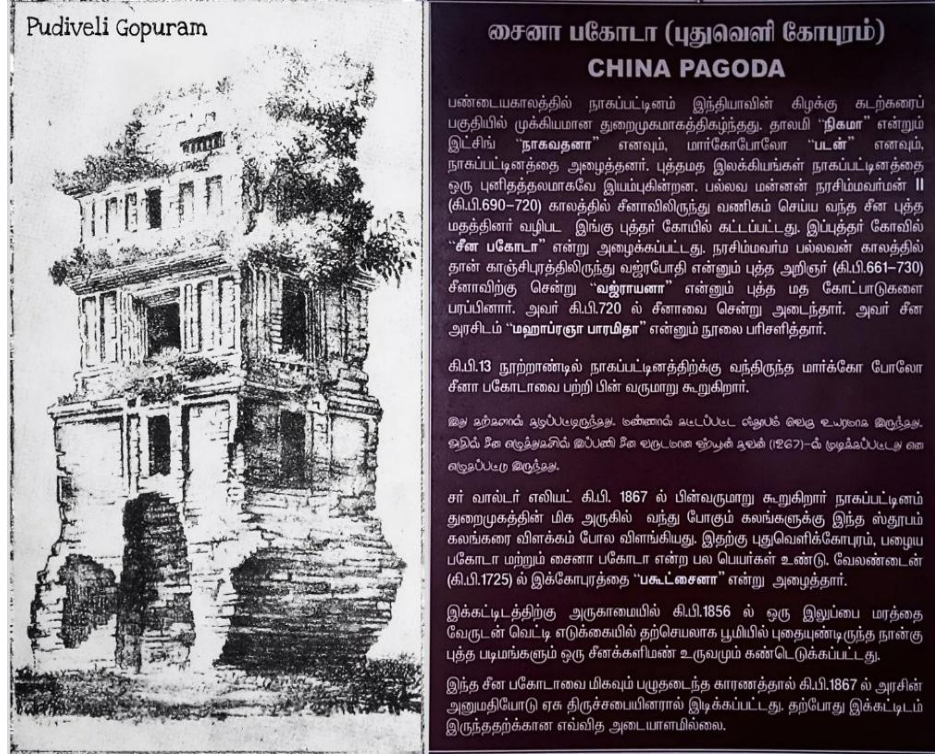
- ❖ The three rice varieties constituted a semi dwarf drought-tolerant CO 59 and two medium slender-grain varieties ADT 56 and ADT 60.
- ❖ The maize hybrid was termed COH(M) 12.
- ❖ The black gram variety VBN 12 was suited for irrigated and rice fallow conditions.
- ❖ The drought-tolerant groundnut variety was named CTD 1 and the semi dwarf castor hybrid YRCH.
- ❖ In horticultural crops, four varieties in vegetable crops and an ash gourd variety PLR 1 having compact fruit type were released.
- ❖ As for fruit crops, the three new varieties included a non-lodging dwarf mutant banana variety Kaveri Vaaman, Avocado TKD 2 and an acid lime variety SNKL 1.
- ❖ one flower crop Thovalai 1 Nerium, a spices crop (Nutmeg PPI 1), a coconut crop ALR, and a medicinal crop variety CO 1 Sirukurinjan were released.
- ❖ Also, a mushroom variety KKM with better shelf life was released.
- ❖ TNAU has released 929 crop varieties over the last 100 years of its existence.



Survey for excavation in Nagapattinam

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Archaeology Department is exploring the potential for launching an excavation in the port town of Nagapattinam.

- ❖ It aims to find the remains of the famous Buddhist monastery, Chudamani Vihara, believed to have been built during the reign of Rajaraja Chola I (985-1014 CE).
- ❖ Nagapattinam is believed to have been a citadel of Buddhism in South India.
- ❖ The nearby ancient port city of Poompuhar, also known as Kaveripoompattinam, was the capital of the early Cholas.
- ❖ The State government has announced plans to take up the deep-sea excavations between Poompuhar and Nagapattinam this year.



NATIONAL NEWS

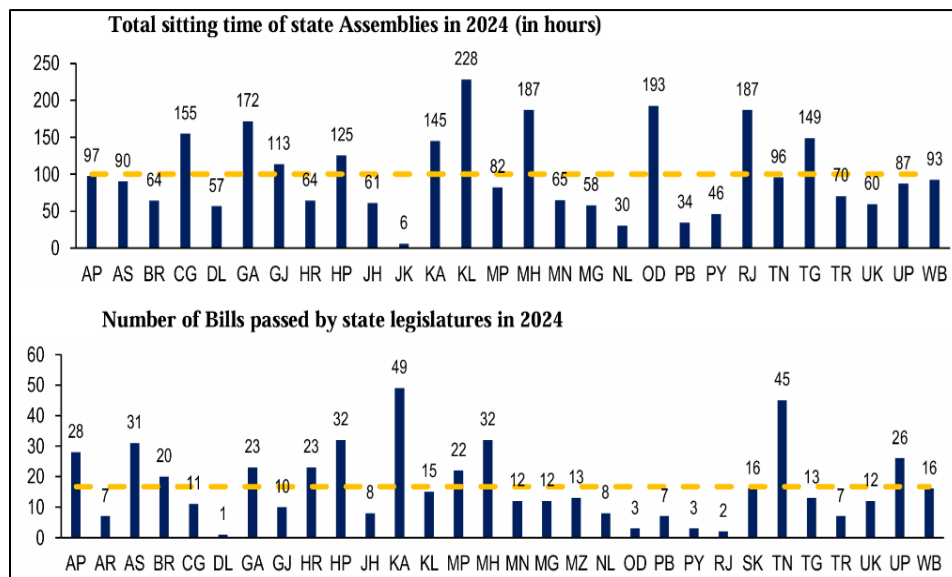
Vanashakti vs. Union of India case

- ❖ The Supreme Court has struck down and held illegal a 2017 notification of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).
- ❖ This notification has introduced a regime of granting ex-post facto clearances to projects.
- ❖ In March 2017, the MoEF&CC issued a notification providing a "one-time" six-month window for industries to apply for environmental clearance.

- ❖ The bench cited two past judgments – Common Cause v. Union of India (2017) and Alembic Pharmaceuticals v. Rohit Prajapati (2020) – to reaffirm that ex-post facto clearances were alien to environmental law.

SUPREME COURT BANS RETROSPECTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCES IN INDIA	
<p>Case Title: <i>Vanashakti vs. Union of India (2025 INSC 718)</i></p> <p>BENCH: Justice Abhay S. Oka & Justice Ujjal Bhuyan</p>	
<p>LEGAL PROVISIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 21 – Right to life includes right to pollution-free environment Article 51A(g) – Fundamental duty to protect environment Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 EIA Notification, 2006 	<p>ANALYSIS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ex post facto ECs undermine EIA process Violates precautionary & sustainable development principles Encourages non-compliance and harms public health
<p>CONCLUSION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2017 Notification and 2021 OM declared illegal Ex post facto ECs banned prospectively Already issued ECs upheld Central Govt restrained from future similar actions. 	<p>CURRENT SCENARIO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A landmark environmental verdict reinforcing environmental rule of law MoEFCC restricted from enabling regularization of illegal project

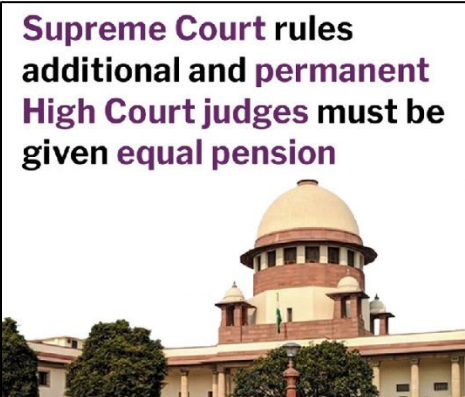
Report on Performance of State Assemblies 2024



- ❖ The Indian state legislative assemblies continue to meet for less than 30 days on average.
- ❖ The Assemblies met for 28 days on average in 2017.

- ❖ The number of sitting days of Assemblies came down to 16 during the pandemic affected 2020.
- ❖ Since then, it has remained close to 20 days a year.
- ❖ The average duration of each sitting was 5 hours in 2024.
- ❖ Odisha met for the highest number of days (42), followed by Kerala (38).
- ❖ Among the larger states, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh met for 16 days of each.
- ❖ In 2024, states discussed budgets for seven days on average.
- ❖ Between 2017 and 2024, Kerala met for 44 days on average, followed by Odisha (40) and Karnataka (34).
- ❖ Article 178 of the Constitution requires the Assemblies to choose two members as the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker as soon as possible.
- ❖ However, Jharkhand has not elected one for over 20 years.
- ❖ Incidentally, the Lok Sabha too has not had a Deputy Speaker since June 2019.
- ❖ As far as bills go, states on average passed 17 of them last year.
- ❖ Of the over 500 bills passed, Karnataka passed the highest (49), followed by Tamil Nadu (45).
- ❖ Delhi passed just 1 bill, followed by Rajasthan with 2.
- ❖ Fifty-one per cent or over 250 of all bills passed, were passed within a day of introduction.
- ❖ Eight states passed all bills within a day of introduction.

Full Pension to All High Court Judges



Supreme Court rules additional and permanent High Court judges must be given equal pension

- (i) The Union of India shall pay the full pension of Rs.15,00,000/- per annum to a retired Chief Justice of the High Court;
- (ii) The Union of India shall pay the full pension of Rs.13,50,000/- per annum to a retired Judge of the High Court, other than a retired Chief Justice of the High Court;
- (iv) We direct that the Union of India shall follow the principle of One Rank One Pension to all the retired Judges of the High Courts irrespective of their source of entry i.e., District Judiciary or the Bar, and irrespective of number of years that they have served either as a District Judge or a High Court Judge and all of them shall be paid full pension as aforesaid;

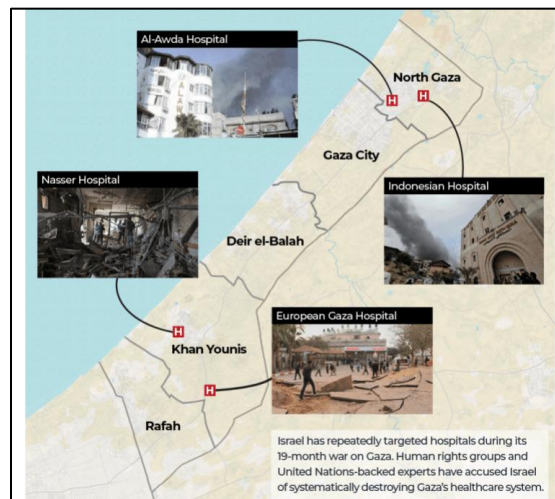
- ❖ The Supreme Court held that all high court judges, including those who retired as Additional Judges, will be entitled to full pension and retiral benefits.

- ❖ The varying standards of retirement and pension benefits among judgments would violate the right to equality under Article 14 of the Constitution.
- ❖ It direct to govt shall follow the principle of 'one rank one pension' to all the retired Judges of the high court's irrespective of their source of entry.
- ❖ The Union government has to pay the full pension of ₹15 lakh per annum individually to retired Chief Justices of High Courts.
- ❖ The government must pay a full pension of ₹13.5 lakh per annum to High Court judges who had not retired as Chief Justices of high courts.
- ❖ A retired judge of a high court shall also include such of the retired Judges of a high court who have retired as Additional Judge of the high court.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Operation Gideon's Chariots

- ❖ Operation Gideon's Chariots is a major ground offensive launched by Israel on the Gaza Strip.
- ❖ It aims to expand "operational control" in the Gaza Strip.
- ❖ Hamas is currently believed to be holding 57 hostages, 22 of whom are presumed alive.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

PSLV-C61 Mission

- ❖ India's PSLV-C61 mission, which intended to deploy the advanced EOS-09 Earth observation satellite, failed recently.


- ❖ Issues arose in the flight during the PS3 solid motor phase.
- ❖ PS3 stage employs hydroxyl-terminated polybutadiene (HTPB) fuel.
- ❖ The EOS-09 satellite, designed for all-weather surveillance using C-band Synthetic Aperture Radar.
- ❖ It is failed to reach its intended 525 km sun-synchronous orbit.
- ❖ This marks the PSLV's third failure in 63 launches and its first since 2017.

3RD-STAGE MOTOR MALFUNCTIONED?

➤ **Snag in 3rd-stage motor suspected.**
'There was a **fall in chamber pressure in the solid motor** and mission could not be accomplished,' says Isro chief V Narayanan

➤ **In 63 flights, PSLV has failed 4 times.**
1993 | PSLV-D1 (maiden flight); **1997** | PSLV-C1 (**partial failure**; IRS-1D placed in orbit lower than planned); **2017** | PSLV-C39 (heat shield failed to separate)

➤ 2nd failure for Isro in 2025 after **NVS-02 nav sat** didn't make it to final orbit in Jan



PSLV lifts off from Sriharikota on Sunday. The rocket failed 6 minutes into the flight

STATES' NEWS

Shirui Lily Festival

SHIRUI LILY FESTIVAL 2025

After a break of two years, the much-awaited 5th Edition of the Shirui Lily Festival is finally here!

Date: 20th – 24th May 2025
Venue: Ukhrul, Manipur

Come and witness the mesmerizing Shirui Lily in full bloom and immerse yourself in the vibrant culture, music, art, and traditions of the region.

Stay tuned for schedules, artists, events, and more exciting updates.
Let's celebrate nature, culture, and unity — together!

#ShiruiLilyFestival #Ukhrul2025 #ManipurTourism



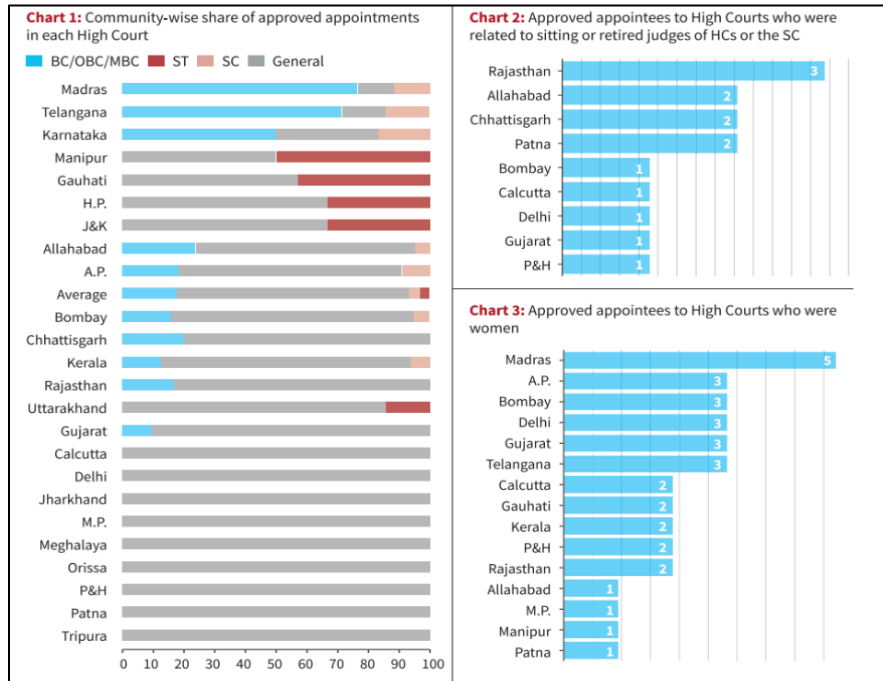
- ❖ The Shirui Lily Festival is a celebrated annual cultural event in Manipur.
- ❖ It is dedicated to the rare and endangered Shirui Lily (*Lilium mackliniae*).



- ❖ This species grows only in the Shirui Hills of Ukhrul district.
- ❖ The flower was first discovered in 1946 and awarded global acclaim at the 1950 London Flower Show.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Madras HC judge picks



- ❖ During the tenure of the Chief Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and Sanjiv Khanna, authorities appointed 15 out of 17 judges to the Madras High Court from BC, OBC, MBC, SC, or ST communities.
- ❖ Out of 34 women appointed, several were belonged to BC, OBC, MBC, SC, or ST communities.
- ❖ 5 women were appointed at the Madras High Court, including one from BC, one from MBC, and three from OBC categories.
- ❖ The States like Telangana, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Guwahati, and Manipur have women appointees from various non-general groups.
- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh High Court recorded a 27.3% share of appointees from the non-general categories, which is higher than the national average of 24.4%.
- ❖ The representation of individuals from the non-general categories was relatively higher in the southern States.



- ❖ Only in Kerala, less than 20% of the approved appointees were from non-general categories.
- ❖ On contrast, all the appointees approved to nine High Courts — Calcutta, Delhi, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Orissa, Punjab and Haryana, Patna, and Tripura — were from the general category.
- ❖ In Gujarat, Uttarakhand, and Rajasthan, the share of approved appointees from the non-general categories was below 17%.
- ❖ Bihar, which has over 12.2% of India's OBC population, contributes less than 8% of OBCs in higher education nationwide.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is home to about 10% of India's OBC population, it accounts for about 13% of OBCs enrolled in higher education nationally.

