

Target

TNPSC

WEEKLY

CURRENT AFFAIRS
(ENGLISH)

For TNPSC Group I, II/IIA,
IV & VAO Exams

April week - 4, 2022



Table of Contents

Tamil Nadu News	3
Tamil Nadu budget highlights	7
National	14
International	27
Science & Technology	32
Personalities & Places	35
Important dates	36
Sports	39
Books & Authors	40
Awards	41

Tamil Nadu News

Namma Oru Thiruvizha

It is a **folk art & culture festival** that held in Island grounds, Chennai.

It showcased over 30 folk art forms presented by more than 400 artists from across Tamil Nadu.

The Thiruvizha is being organised jointly by the **Departments of Art and Culture and Tourism.**

Programme started with Tamil Thai Vazhthu by students of Chennai Government Music College.

Arts forms Performed:

Kattai koothu

Kombu isai

Periya melam

Thudumbu Melam

Pambai Melam

Naiyandi Melam

Thol paavai koothu

Mayil attam

Poikkal kuthirai attam

Karagam, mayil, kaalai attam

Saattai kuchi attam

Jikkattam

Todar attam

Servai attam

Since the event is part of celebrations of 75 years of Independence, 75 videos depicting folk art forms of Tamil Nadu have been produced by the State government.

Source: The Hindu

Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Memorial Marriage Assistance Scheme

Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Memorial Marriage Assistance Scheme is transformed to Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Higher Education Assurance Scheme.

The new scheme will provide assistance for a girls' higher education, this would boost the Gross Enrolment Ratio.

It aims to empower women by way of encouraging higher education among them.

The reason for change:

Only 46 percent of women enroll in higher education in Tamil Nadu.

The number of eligible applicants for the earlier scheme was less.

Benefit : All girl students, from class 6 to 12, who study in government schools will be paid Rs **1,000 per month** by way of **direct bank transfer**. This benefit will continue till they complete their undergraduate degree, diploma and ITI courses.

Budget outlay : Rs 698 crore for the scheme

Moovalur Ramamirtham

A Tamil social reformer.

She worked for the abolition of the **Devadasi system** in the Madras Presidency.

She fought for the education of Devadasi women.

Her novel 'Dasigalin Mosavalai alladhu madhi pettra minor' exposed the plight of the Devadasis.

History of the scheme

Launched by Dr.Karunanidhi in 1989

Benefit: Financial assistance of 50000 rupees and 8 grams of gold exchanged for thali. For women from poor family.

Source: The Hindu

Tamil Nadu Non-Resident Tamils' Welfare Board

The Tamil Nadu Non-Resident Tamils' Welfare Act, 2011 was amended to change the **composition** of the Tamil Nadu Non-Resident Tamils' Welfare Board with the **Chairman and members** instead of the Managing Director and Directors.

Strength of the board was increased from 13 to 15.

The Commissioner of Rehabilitation and Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils was also made as the ex officio Member Secretary of the Board.

Source: The Hindu

Road accidents in Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu has made significant progress in **reducing the number of deaths in road accidents** in the country **by 24 per cent** between August 2021 and February 2022, the maximum anywhere in the country.

There has been a 10 per cent reduction in the number of deaths due to accidents in the country in the last five months ever since the passage of the new Motor Vehicles Act by Parliament.

A total of 5 lakh accidents happen in the country and around 1.5 lakh people lose their lives in these accidents. Of these, 65 per cent people die in the age group of 18 to 35 years, he said.

In Kerala there has been a rise of 4.9 per cent in deaths due to road accidents and Assam has shown 8 per cent rise.

The scheme "Innuyir Kappom Thittam Nammai Kaakkum 48" launched to reduce deaths due to road accidents had benefitted 33,000 families since its launch.

29,142 people were treated in government hospitals, and 4,105 people in private hospitals under the initiative.

The state government had spent Rs. 29.6 crore under the pioneer scheme so far.

The state had already announced a good Samaritan award and Rs. 5,000 cash prize for those saving their lives.

Source: Hindustan Times

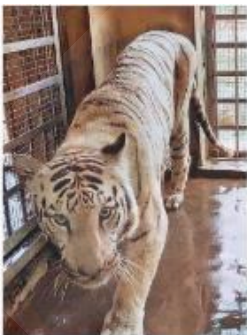
Akansha – White tigress

A 13-year-old tigress named Akansha, a **white tiger**, died at the **Vandalur zoo** in Chennai.

Akansha was born in the Vandalur zoo in 2009.

The female white tiger has been suffering from **ataxia**.

Ataxia is a term for a group of disorders that affect co-ordination, causes in-coordination within the nervous system.



BIG CATS DEATHS IN VANDALUR ZOO IN 2022			ANIMAL DEATHS IN 2021		
Date	Animal	Cause			
6th Jan	Jaguar (Ricky)	Anthracosis	Jan 4	Tiger	Septicemia
15th Jan	Lion (Vishnu)	Shock Rupture of esophagus and pulmonary hemorrhage	May 5	Lion	Nephritis
17th Jan	Leopard (Jaya)	Asphyxiation	June 3	Lioness	Acute pneumonia*
23rd March	White Tigress	Ataxia	June 16	Lion	Pneumonia
TOTAL: 4			July 13	White Tiger	Toxaemia
			Oct 26	Lion	Multi-organ Neoplasia
			Dec 4	White Tiger	Neonatal encephalitis
			Dec 16	Leopard	Pneumonia
			TOTAL: 8 *DEATH DUE TO COVID-19 INFECTION		

Source: The Hindu

Project Nilgiri Tahr

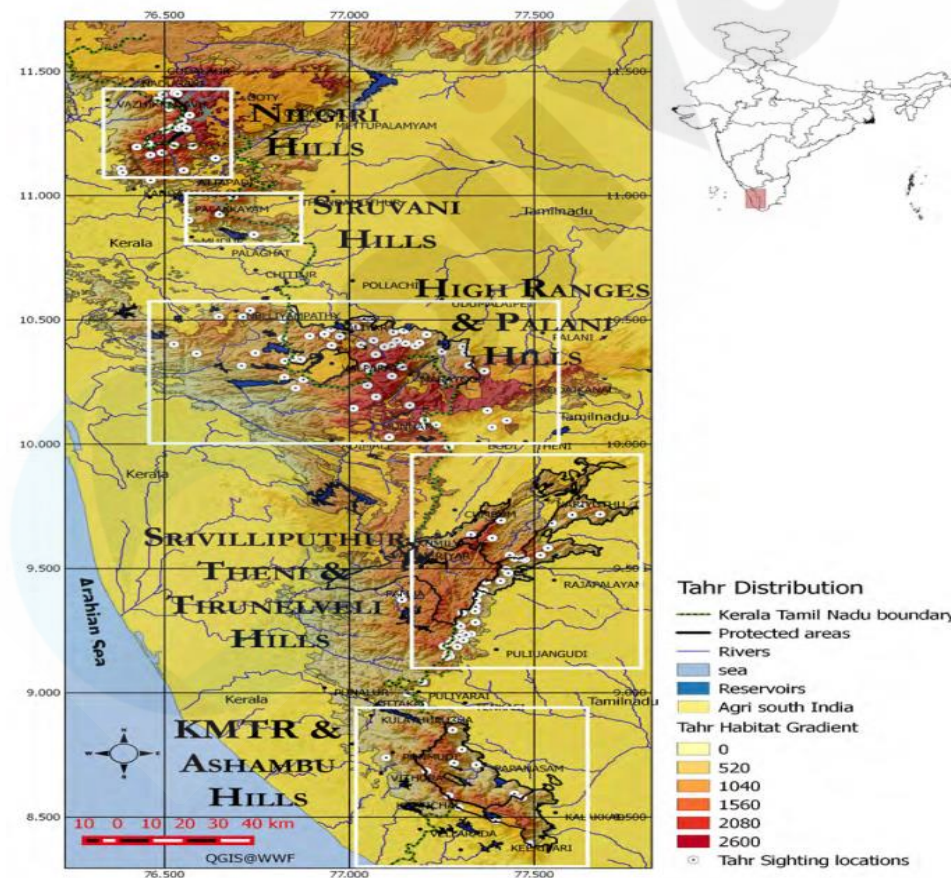
The Tamil Nadu government has allotted Rs 10 crore for its 'Project Nilgiri Tahr' to protect and conserve the **State animal**.

Nilgiri Tahr is also known as **Nilgiri Ibex**

Scientific name: **Nilgiritragus hylocrius**

Nilgiri Tahr is the state animal of Tamil Nadu.

It has been listed as "**Endangered**" by IUCN. It has been listed under **Schedule 1** of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972



IUCN

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

It releases Red List of Threatened Species - the world's most comprehensive inventory of the global conservation status of plant and animal species.

Created in 1948.

Headquarters: Switzerland.

Narasingapettai Nadhaswaram

Geographical Indication tag has been awarded to the Narasingapettai Nadhaswaram under the category of musical instruments.

Narasinghapettai nadhaswaram is a **classical wind music instrument**.

The unique feature of the nagaswaram is its production process - it **is handmade** in Narasingapettai village in **Thanjavur**, unlike the other machine-made ones.

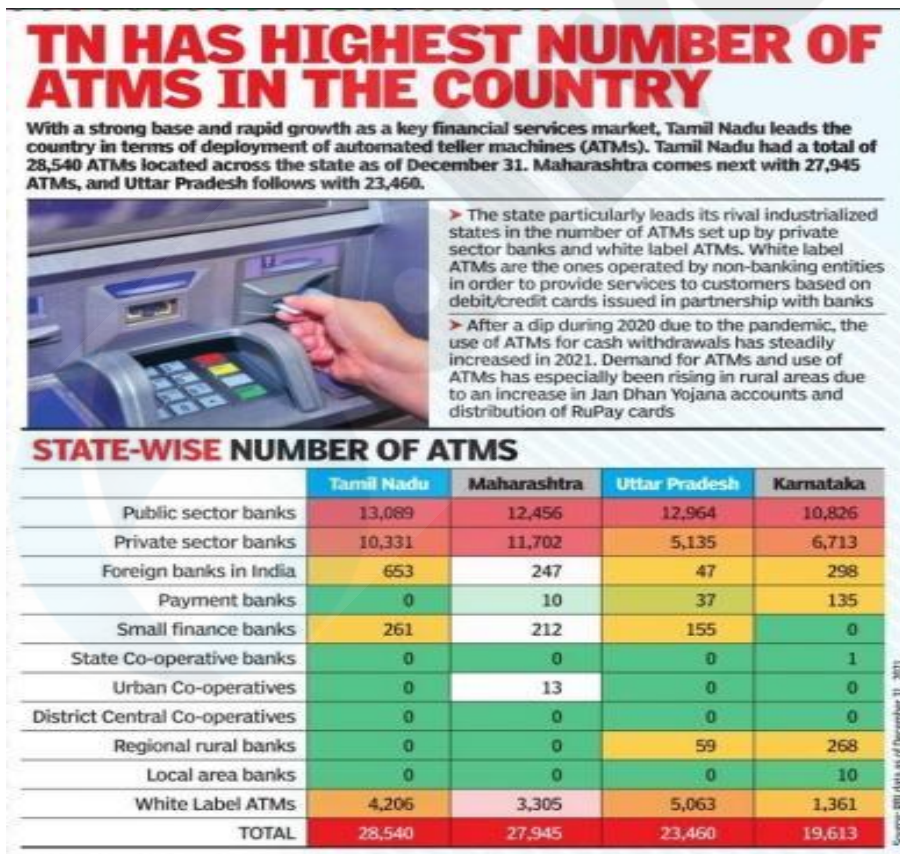
Nadaswaram is made with **Achcha wood**.

Geographical indication tag

A geographical indication (GI) is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.

Source: Times of India

ATM's in Tamil Nadu



Tamil Nadu budget highlights

The Finance Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, presented the budget for the state for the financial year 2022-23 on March 18th, 2022.

Thirukkural mentioned by finance minister in budget speech:

Absence of disease, plenty in harvest, wealth, general happiness and security, these five are the jewels of a country. (Kural-738)

Important Data from budget document:

The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of Tamil Nadu for 2022-23 is projected to be Rs 24,84,807 crore (at current prices), a growth of 14% over the revised estimate of GSDP for 2021-22 (Rs 21,79,655 crore).

In 2021-22, GSDP (at current prices) is estimated to grow by 14.6% over the previous year.

2. Expenditure (excluding debt repayment) in 2022-23 is estimated to be Rs 3,33,251 crore, an increase of 11% over the revised estimates of 2021-22 (Rs 3,00,651 crore).

In addition, debt of Rs 27,128 crore will be repaid by the state in 2022-23.

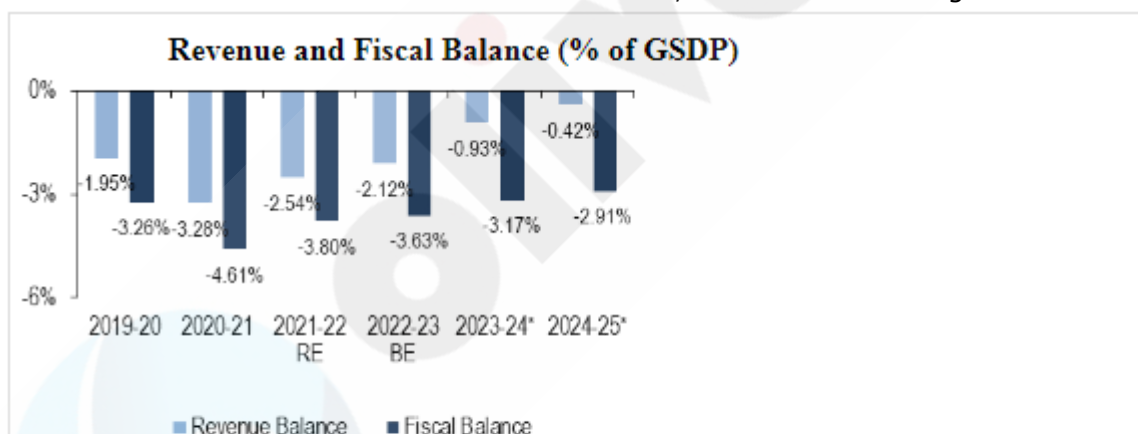
In 2021-22, expenditure (excluding debt repayment) is estimated to be 3% lower than the budget estimate.

3. Receipts (excluding borrowings) for 2022-23 are estimated to be Rs 2,36,638 crore, an increase of 13% over the revised estimates of 2021-22 (Rs 2,09,824 crore).

In 2021-22, receipts (excluding borrowings) are estimated to be 1% higher than the budget estimate.

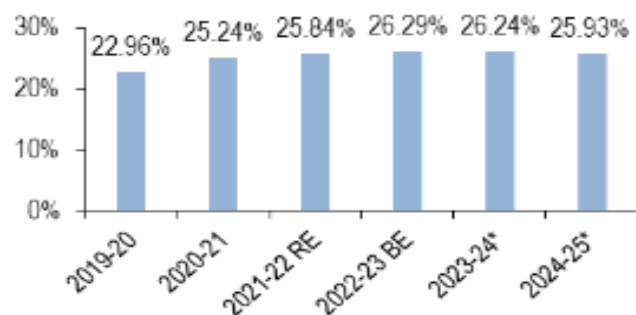
4. Fiscal deficit for 2022-23 is targeted at Rs 90,114 crore (3.63% of GSDP). In 2021-22, as per the revised estimates, fiscal deficit is expected to be 3.80% of GSDP, lower than the budget estimate of 4.33% of GSDP.

5. Revenue deficit in 2022-23 is estimated to be Rs 52,781 crore (2.12% of the GSDP). In 2021-22, revenue deficit is estimated to be 2.54% of GSDP, lower than the budget estimate of 2.75% of GSDP.



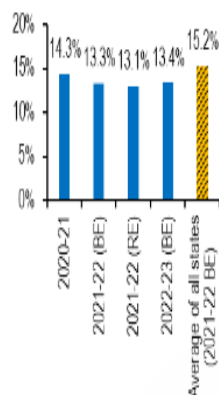
Note: RE is Revised Estimates; BE is budget estimates. Positive sign indicates a surplus, negative sign indicates a deficit. *Figures for 2023-24 and 2024-25 are projections.

Outstanding debt (% of GSDP)

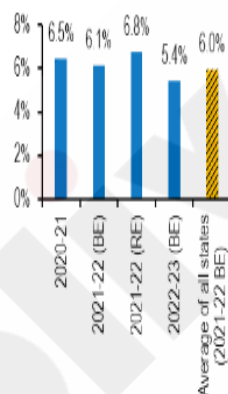


Note: BE is budget estimates. *Figures for 2023-24 and 2024-25 are projections. Number for 2019-20 is as per CAG report.

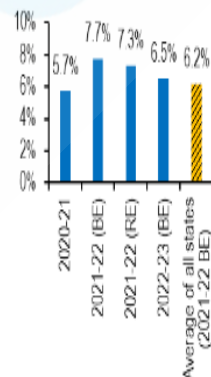
Spending on education as a % of total expenditure



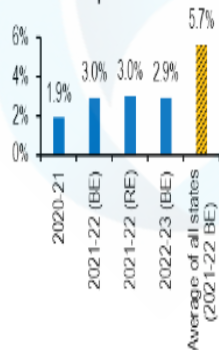
Spending on health as a % of total expenditure



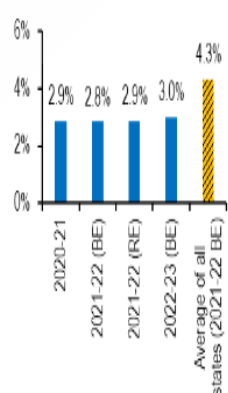
Spending on agriculture as a % of total expenditure



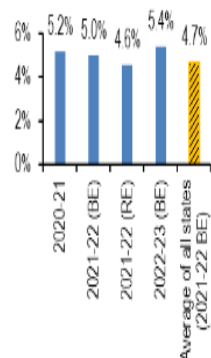
Spending on rural development as a % of total expenditure



Spending on police as a % of total expenditure



Spending on roads and bridges as a % of total expenditure



BUDGET AT A GLANCE

TAMIL NADU'S FINANCES

The fiscal deficit as a % of GDP reduced to **3.8%** in revised estimates, from **4.33%** in budget estimates

Total revenue receipts expected to be **₹2.31 lakh crore**

Revenue expenditure expected to be **₹2.84 lakh crore**

Revenue deficit estimated at **₹52,781 crore**

Fiscal deficit estimated at **₹90,113 crore**

State's tax revenue estimated to be **₹1.42 lakh crore**

Non-tax revenue projected to be **₹15,537 crore**

Reduction of revenue deficit by over **₹7,000 crore** reversed trend of increasing deficits since 2014

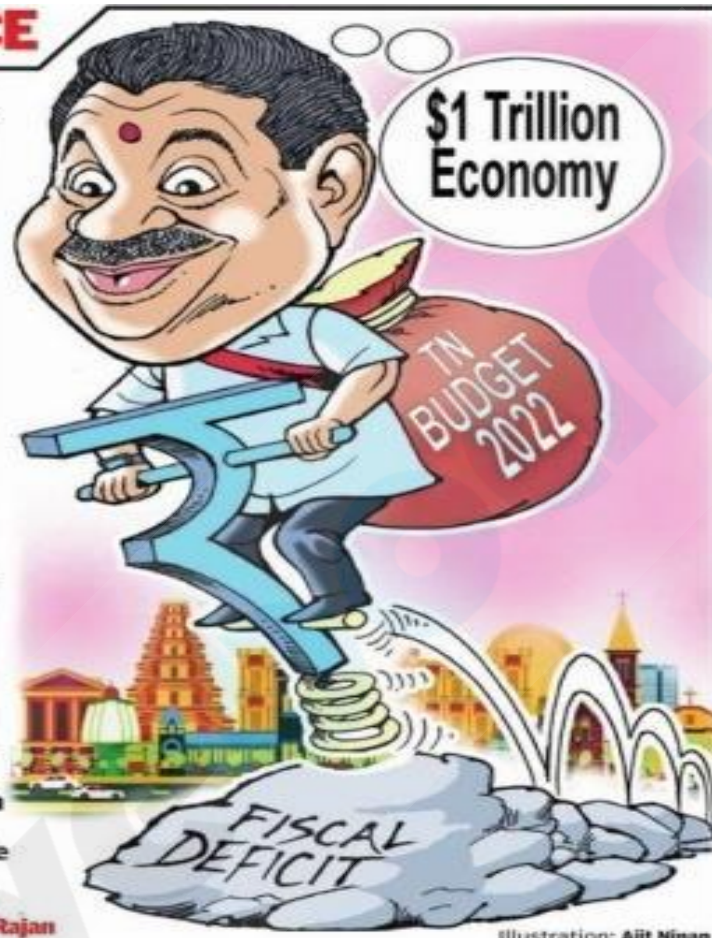
As economy bounces back, govt pushes to "rebalance priorities and focus on social infrastructure and development without compromising on welfare schemes"

Government's action taken report on state finance commission's recommendations to be soon released

FOR SPORTS

At **₹25 crore**, 'Olympics Gold Quest' programme will work to identify hidden sporting talent in TN

“ This budget has been prepared with a vision keeping in mind not just the present but the future, including generations of Tamils yet unborn – Palanivel Thiaga Rajan



Budget allocation for various departments and new initiatives:

A collection of **Periyar's written works** will be published in print and digital editions in 21 Indian and World languages at a cost of 5 crore rupees.

New museums will be built in **Villupuram and Ramanathapuram** districts at an estimated cost of Rs.10 crore.

Rs.50 crore allocated for to retrieve and protect Government lands, including water bodies from encroachments.

Rs.4,131 crore has been allotted for loan waiver in this year's Budget.

The Government has sanctioned a special desilting scheme for 4,964 km of canals at a cost of Rs.80 crore in 10 districts in the delta region.

The Government will set up a **botanical garden** at a cost of Rs.300 crore **near Chennai** in partnership with Kew Gardens of London.

Vallalar Animal Husbandry Reserves to be set up at a cost of Rs.20 crores announced

Plant Ayyal Park near Chennai will be constructed at a cost of Rs.300 crores.

Vallalar Biodiversity Reserves Rs.20 crores for the maintenance of unsupported and abandoned animals

Mobile information centres to be launched for migrant workers.

Tamil Nadu government will **provide 2,000 electric buses** this year.

Rs 50 crore allocated for '**Naan Mudhalvan**' scheme.

Rs 20 crore allocated for remodelling the Guindy National Park.

Rs 300 crore allocated for a new park/botanical gardens to come up in Chennai.

Steps would be taken to **protect Nilgiri Tahr**, the state animal of Tamil Nadu, at a financial outlay of Rs 10 crore.

Rs. 125 crore for Model schools will be established in 15 more districts.

Rs 7,500 crore sanctioned towards subsidy for public distribution system.

Rs.36 crore allotted for to establish District Central Libraries with modern infrastructure.

The government sets aside **Rs 36,895 crore for school education** department.

Scheme to improve **government colleges' infrastructure** at the cost of Rs. 1000 Cr during the next 5 years. It will be named after former CM Kamarajar as '**Perum Thalaivar Kamarajar higher education development project**'.

Professor Anpalagan school Development Project will be implemented over the next five years to **modernise public schools**, with the construction of 18000 new classrooms and the creation of efficient classrooms and state-of-the-art computer labs,

Book fair will be organised **across Tamil Nadu**.

Rs 17,901 crore allotted for health and family welfare department.

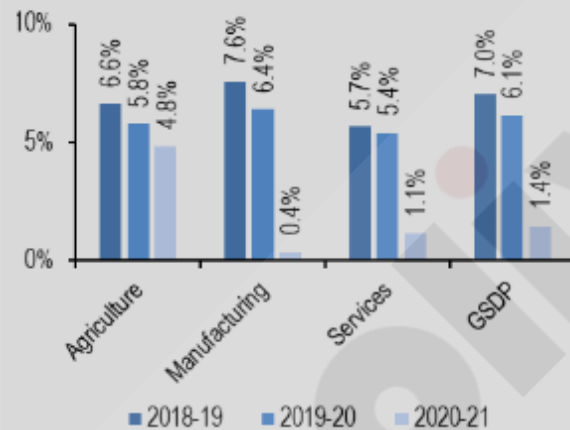
Singara Chennai 2.0 initiative will be allocated Rs 500 crore.

Rs 3,000 crore allocated for Jal Jeevan Scheme.

For the MGNREGA scheme, Rs 2,800 crore allocated

1,000 more houses will be built for people hailing from the **Irular community** at a cost of Rs 500 crore

Figure 1: Growth in GSDP and sectors in Tamil Nadu at constant prices (2011-12)



Note: Agriculture includes mining. Figures as per 2011-12 constant prices, i.e., they have been adjusted for inflation.

EYE ON EDUCATION

➤ **TN allocates ₹200 crore in budget to continue with Illam Thedi Kalvi for next year as well.** Currently, 1.8 lakh volunteers teach 30 lakh children to bridge the learning gap

➤ **In order to promote education in Tamil medium, the government has extended the scheme providing free textbooks and notebooks to students studying in private schools. ₹15 crore has been allocated**

➤ **To ensure students from government schools get admissions in reputed academic institutions, the government will establish 15 more model schools in the coming year at a cost of ₹125 crore**

➤ **The government will establish central libraries in newly established six districts at the cost of ₹36 crore**

➤ **Book fairs will be organised in**

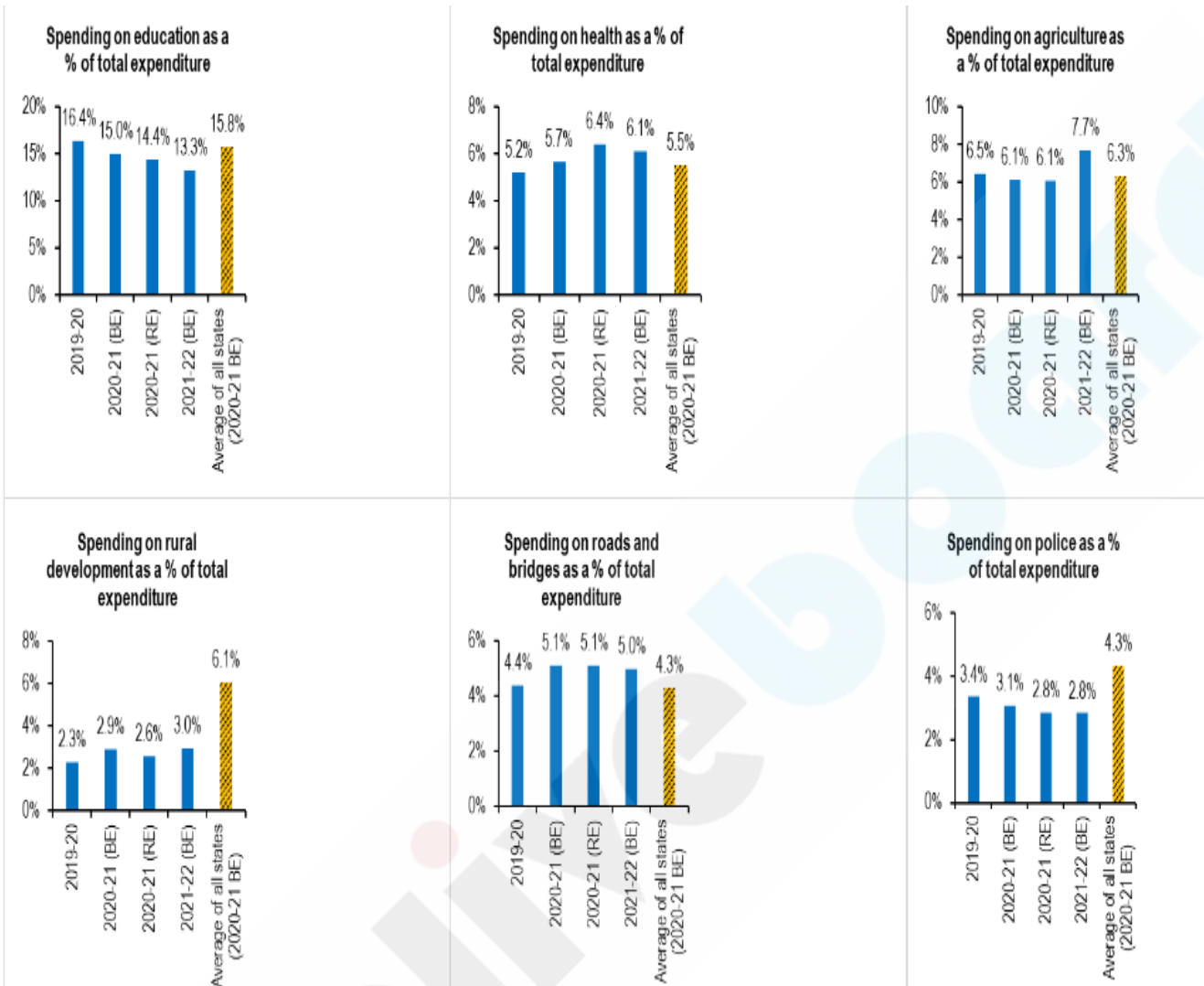


all districts from next year at a cost of ₹5.6 crore

➤ **Allocation of school education has been increased to ₹36,885 crore from ₹32,599 crore last year. The budget allocation for higher education is increased**

from ₹5,369 crore to ₹5,669 crore this year

➤ **₹204 crore allocated towards reimbursement of fees for government school students who join professional courses under 7.5% special reservation**



Agriculture budget highlights:

Tamil Nadu Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister MRK Panneerselvam - presented the second agriculture budget of the State for the year 2022-23 on March 19.

The Tamil Nadu Government will take steps to achieve 126 lakh Metric Tonne of food grains production in the year 2022-23

According to the Minister, the area of agriculture in the state had increased to 53.50 lakh acres in 2021-2022.

“**Sustainable Cotton Cultivation Mission**” will be implemented at a budget of Rs.15.32 crore with Union and State Government fund, in order to enhance the cotton yield during the year 2022-23

The budget allocated ₹300 crore in 2022-23 for the ‘**Kalaignarin All Village Integrated Agriculture Development Programme**’ which was announced in the first agriculture budget.

The project has been designed to be implemented in village panchayats identified under the Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam every year

It is being implemented by the Department of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj.

Special measures are being taken to increase soybean cultivation in Thanjavur, Salem, Tiruvallur, Nellai and Villupuram districts of the state

As per the sixth assessment report of the Inter-governmental Panel for Climate Change, 29 districts in Tamil Nadu are vulnerable to climate change.

Special package will be provided to encourage the farmers to take up alternative crops such as **millets, pulses and oilseeds in Kar, Kuruvai, Sornavari** season in an extent of 66,000 acres at an outlay of Rs 10 crore.

Two special zones will be set up for **millets and a special red gram zone** will be set up covering **Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Tiruvannamalai** and **Salem** districts

Millet festivals will be conducted in the state and districts to create awareness about millets

One uzhavar sandhai in each district will be permitted to sell millets and pulses in the evening

An **industrial estate for agro products** will be set up in **Tiruvarur** district.

The Tamil Nadu government has allocated Rs 30.56 crore for the '**Vaazhnthu Kaatuvom**' scheme which is being implemented to develop manufacturers groups and community farm schools.

Three new **food parks** will be set up in **Theni, Tindivanam and Manaparai** at a cost of Rs 381 crore

A budget of Rs 3 crore will be allocated for ginger and turmeric cultivation.

A **new soil testing centre** will be set up in **Mayiladuthurai** at Rs 75 lakhs

The Tamil Nadu government will implement a new scheme called State Agricultural Development Plan at a budget of Rs 71 crore.

The budget allocated ₹ 132 crore for the Chief Minister's Dry Land Development Mission.

Nel Jeyaraman Traditional Paddy Varieties Conservation Mission is being implemented in order to preserve and restore the traditional paddy varieties of the State

Inter-crop cultivation will be promoted in coconut, mango, guava and banana orchards in 38,000 acres.

All technologies from seed to yield can be obtained electronically through **Uzhavan Mobile Application**.

An exclusive portal called "**Tamil Mann Valam**" will be launched in co-ordination with the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in which the farmers can get the soil fertility status of their lands - survey number wise - in printable format.

Source: tn.gov.in

National

WGC Report on India's gold mines

The **World Gold Council** (WGC) launched a report titled '**Gold Mining in India**'.

Important facts given in the report:

In 2020 gold mine production was 1.6 tonnes.

India has a rich heritage of gold mining

World largest consumer of gold and small scale of market operators.

According to Ministry of Mines:

India's current defined **gold reserves** total **70.1 tonnes**.

88 per cent of India's gold reserves are in the state of **Karnataka**;

12 per cent are situated in **Andhra Pradesh**

Less than 0.1t are found in Jharkhand.

From 1947 - 2020, **Hutti Gold Mine** in Karnataka, has produced some 84 tonnes of gold and is currently the only significant gold producer in India.

Source: Financial express

Buddhist manuscripts

Bihar government is has started a project to to translate and publish hundreds of original Buddhist manuscripts from **Nalanda and Vikramshila**.

This process has been started by the **Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies (CIHTS)** at Sarnath.

These manuscripts were saved during the burning of the ancient universities in the 12th and 13th centuries by **Bakhtiyar Khilji's** army and later brought back to India from Tibet by traveller, freedom fighter and monk **Rahul Sankrityayan**

The manuscripts were written in **Sanskrit** by scholars of the two universities between the seventh and 12th centuries AD.

It is going to be translated **to Hindi**.

Source: the Hindu

CIHTS

A Deemed University founded in Sarnath, in 1967.

An autonomous organisation under Union Ministry of Culture.

It was founded by Jawahar Lal Nehru in consultation with Tenzin Gyatso, the Dalai of Lama.

Deep ocean mission

India has plans to introduce eight deep ocean gliders to strengthen the capacity of observations in the Indian Ocean as part of its 'Deep Ocean Mission'.

The Oceansat-3 is also scheduled to be launched next year.

With the help of these in situ and satellite data of sea temperatures, currents, salinity etc., we can try predicting various climatic conditions and the monsoons accurately as possible.

5th Indian Ocean Conference

Recently took place in UAE

Theme: 'Indian Ocean: Ecology, Economy, Epidemic'.

Chaired by Sri Lankan President: Gotabaya Rajapaksa

Deep Ocean Mission

RS. 4,077 crore has been committed over a five year period.

Objective: To bolster sustainable ocean development in mining of deep sea and coastal resources, off-shore energy and climate services.

What is Blue Economy?

Sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of ocean ecosystem.

Source: the Hindu

Cyclone Asani

Formed over the Bay of Bengal

Name suggested by Sri Lanka.

'Asani' roughly translates to 'wrath' in Sinhala, one of the official languages in Sri Lanka.

Route: Bangladesh-north Myanmar coasts

Tropical cyclone Asani has become the first-ever tropical cyclone to hit Andaman and Nicobar Islands in March.

Asani is the first cyclone to be formed in the 21st century in Bay of Bengal in the month of March.



Procedure for naming of cyclone

There are **six regional meteorological centres** across the world with the mandate of naming tropical cyclones.

The **Indian Meteorological Department** is one of the six.

New Delhi is mandated to name tropical cyclones that develop over the north Indian Ocean (NIO) including the Bay of Bengal (BoB) and the Arabian Sea (AS). For the same, the IMD follows a standard procedure.

Names are proposed by **thirteen member countries** - Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Iran, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

A list of 169 names, 13 suggested by each of the 13 nations, was drawn up in 2020. The names were listed country-wise, with the nations ordered alphabetically. The names are picked up sequentially from the list such that the nations name cyclones one by one.

Source: The India today

Mustard Seeds

Central Organisation for Oil Industry & Trade has estimated mustard seed production at 109.5 lakh tonnes in 2021-22.

The output of mustard seeds, which is grown in rabi (winter-sown) season, stood at 85 lakh tonnes in 2020-2021.

Facts on mustard and edible oil

Mustard seeds are grown only in rabi season and the sowing starts from October, while harvesting begins in March.

It is a cash crop

Rajasthan is the largest producing state in the country.

India imports about 60-65 per cent of its total domestic demand for edible oils.

Source: Economic Times

Oil imports from USA to rise

India imports around 85 per cent of its needs.

India buys most of its oil from the Middle East, but the **United States has emerged as the fourth-biggest source** and this year supplies will rise substantially.

Iraq supplies 23 per cent, followed by Saudi Arabia at 18 per cent, and the United Arab Emirates at 11 per cent.

National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) programme

Nagaland became India's first State Assembly to implement the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) programme.

e-Assembly or Paperless Assembly is a concept that involves electronic means to ease Assembly work. The entire law-making process, sharing of information, tracking of documents and decisions is automated under e-Assembly.

NeVA

Aim: to bring all the legislatures of the country together, in one platform thereby creating a massive data depository and Digital house(paperless)

One Nation-One Application

NeVA deployed on NIC cloud or Meghraj

Nodal Ministry: Ministry of parliament Affairs

NIPUN Bharat

Launched on **July 5 2021**

Launched and implemented by **Ministry of Education**

NIPUN Bharat: National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy Bharat Programme

Aim: To achieve **universal foundational literacy and numeracy** in primary classes and to ensure that all children attain grade level competencies in reading, writing and numeracy by the end of Grade 3, **by 2026-27**.

It has been launched under the aegis of the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha.

National AIDS programme

National AIDS programme is extended to March 31, 2026.

The programme is fully funded by the Government of India.

At present its in the fifth phase.

The national AIDS response was initiated by the Indian government in 1992. It was launched as National AIDS and STD Control Programme (NACP).

HIV-AIDS

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is a retrovirus. It causes the HIV infection which over time leads to AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome).

After entering the body, HIV multiplies itself and T cells, thus damaging the human immune system.

World air quality report

Report is published by **IQAir**, a Swiss Organization.

It access PM 2.5 (particulate matter 2.5) levels.

Totally 106 countries' air quality assessed.

New Delhi - the world's most polluted **capital**, followed by Dhaka (Bangladesh), Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia), Kabul (Afghanistan), Doha (Qatar).

Hotan in China is the most polluted city followed by **Ghaziabad** in Uttar Pradesh. New Delhi is the 10th most polluted city.

Bangladesh - the most polluted **country**.

The **least polluted country** is **Puerto Rico**, followed by New Caledonia, US Virgin Islands.

The least polluted cities of India: Satna, Mysuru and Kochi.

11 of the world's 15 most polluted cities were in India, as of 2021.

World's Most Polluted Capital 2021

CITY	Average annual PM2.5 concentration (Qg/m ³)
1 New Delhi (India)	85
2 Dhaka (Bangladesh)	78.1
3 N'Djamena (Chad)	77.6
4 Dushanbe (Tajikistan)	59.5
5 Muscat (Oman)	53.9
6 Kathmandu (Nepal)	50.9
7 Manama (Bahrain)	49.8
8 Baghdad (Iraq)	49.7
9 Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan)	48.3
10 Tashkent (Uzbekistan)	42.8

Source: IQAir



Chokehold on Indian cities

Among the world's most polluted cities, Rajasthan's Bhiwadi fared the worst followed by Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad. Delhi featured as the fourth most polluted city, while also being the most polluted capital in the world, according to the IQAir World Air Quality Report 2021

WORLD'S MOST POLLUTED

11 of the world's 15 most polluted cities were in India, according to the IQAir World Air Quality Report 2021

MOST POLLUTED CITIES

	Avg annual PM2.5 conc.
1 Bhiwadi, India	106.2
2 Ghaziabad, India	102
3 Hotan, China	101.5
4 Delhi, India	96.4
5 Jaunpur, India	95.3
6 Faisalabad, Pakistan	94.2
7 Noida, India	91.4
8 Bahawalpur, India	91
9 Peshawar, Pakistan	89.6
10 Bagpat, India	89.1
11 Hisar, India	89
12 Faridabad, India	88.9
13 Greater Noida, India	87.5
14 Rohtak, India	86.9
15 Lahore, Pakistan	86.5

DELHI TOPS MOST POLLUTED CAPITALS

New Delhi	96.4
Dhaka (Bangladesh)	78.1
N'Djamena (Chad)	77.6
Dushanbe (Tajikistan)	59.5
Muscat (Oman)	53.9
Kathmandu (Nepal)	50.9
Manama (Bahrain)	49.8
Baghdad (Iraq)	49.7
Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan)	48.3
Tashkent (Uzbekistan)	42.8

source:iqair

Sujalam 2.0

Ministry of Jal Shakthi has launched 'Sujalam 2.0'.

It is launched for **grey water management**.

Objective: to reuse grey water, or run-offs from kitchens, bathing and laundry,

It will be done through the **participation of the people and communities** such as schools, panchayats, and anganwadis to help in greywater management.

Greywater

Greywater refers to the domestic wastewater that is generated in households, office buildings from streams without faecal contamination.

Sources of greywater include showers, sinks, washing machines, baths, dishwasher etc.

As greywater contains fewer pathogens than domestic wastewater, it is generally safer to handle and easier to treat and reuse.

After recycle it can be used for the purpose of landscape, toilet flushing, crop irrigation, etc.

Source: PIB

Biplobi Bharat Gallery

PM Modi Inaugurated Biplobi Bharat gallery at Victoria memorial hall, Kolkata on the occasion of Shaheed Diwas.

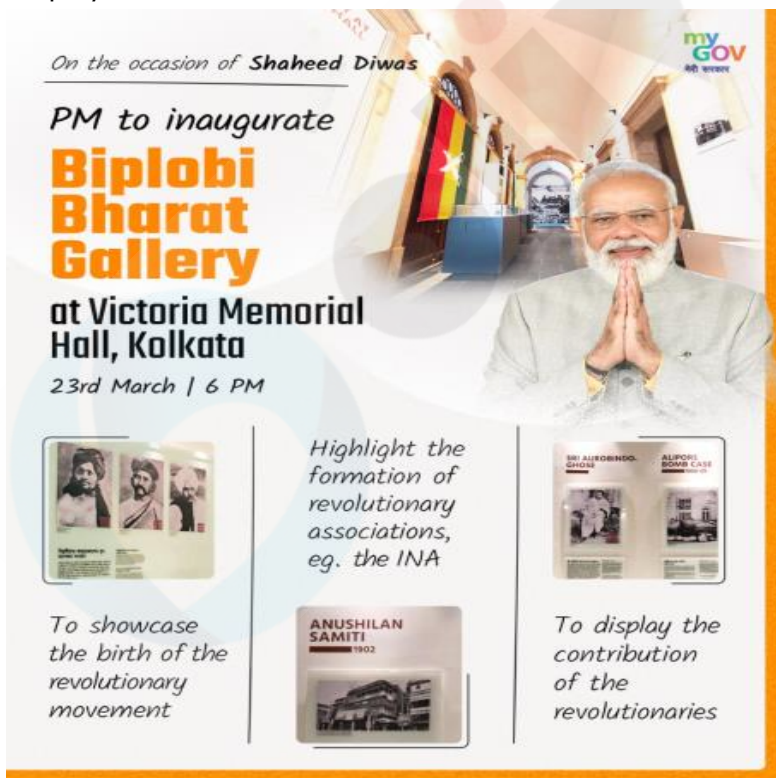
Gallery depicts the contribution of the revolutionaries towards the freedom struggle of India and provides a holistic view of the events that led to 1947, according to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

It is opened to :

Showcase the birth of the revolutionary movement.

Highlight the formation of revolutionary associations.

Display the contribution of the revolutionaries.



Source: PIB

Disaster management act

On March 24, 2020 the Centre had, for the first time, issued orders and guidelines under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 to contain the spread of Covid-19 in the country. This order expires on March 31st 2022.

As because now there is overall improvement in the situation and preparedness of the government to deal with the pandemic, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has decided that is no further need to invoke provisions of the DM Act for Covid containment measures.

Now on Covid-19 won't be considered as a disaster.

States are advised to continue their own active monitoring mechanisms for effective management of Covid-19.



WHEN WAS DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT INVOKED?
March 24, 2020: The MHA invoked sections of the Act to issue orders related to the pandemic – a procedure that was crucial since it gave Centre legal power to do so across federal lines
THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME that the law, drafted after the 2004 tsunami, was used in India

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?
The law allowed the central government to lay down rules for the entire country and for states and the Union government to enforce punitive measures. States can now enforce their own rules.

HEALTH MINISTRY'S ADVISORY ON MASKS
In a separate letter, health ministry issued an advisory to states.
MASKS, SOCIAL DISTANCING, and hand hygiene as part of Covid-appropriate behaviour would need to be followed till WHO formally declares the pandemic to be over
TRACK TRAJECTORIES and keep a close watch on case numbers
REVIEW CONTAINMENT MEASURES if the positivity rate breaches 10% or the number of hospital or ICU beds occupied exceeds 40% of capacity



THE ROAD AHEAD

MHA GUIDELINES

- Wearing masks and social distancing norms to continue
- MHA had issued first orders invoking DM Act on March 24, 2020
- Latest order by MHA on February 25 expires on March 31

MoHFW GUIDELINES

- Offline classes can resume in educational institutes
- Marriages, funerals to be allowed
- Shopping complexes, gyms, swimming pools, spas, restaurants, cinema halls, religious places, sports complexes can operate at full capacity
- Public transport to operate at full capacity
- All industrial and scientific establishments – public and private – may be allowed

Disaster Management Act, 2005

It was enacted by the Parliament of India on December 23, 2005.

It is a national law that empowers the Central government to declare the entire country or part of it as affected by a disaster and to make plans for mitigation to reduce "risks, impacts and affects" of the disaster.

Nodal ministry: Ministry of Home Affairs

To manage disasters it puts into place a systematic structure of institutions at the national, state and district levels

Source: Hindustan times

Non- Performing Assets

Non-performing assets (NPA) or bad loans of banks have come down to their lowest levels.

Gross NPA was 6.9% of all loans, according to RBI's Financial Stability Report (December 2021) now it has decreased to 6.5%.

Financial stability report released by RBI.

Capital adequacy ratio has also improved (bank's capital by its risk-weighted assets).

Capital Adequacy Ratio

Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) is the ratio of a bank's capital in relation to its risk weighted assets and current liabilities.

Source: Hindustan times

Unemployment rate

Unemployment rate in urban India came down between June to September 2021, according to Periodic labour force survey.

Unemployment rate is still higher than pre pandemic levels.

Periodic labour force survey is released by the National Statistical Office.

Source: Hindustan times

SARTHAQ

SARTHAQ: Students' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement through Quality Education.

Launched on 8th April 2021.

Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education has developed NEP(National education policy) Implementation Plan for School Education called SARTHAQ.

This implementation plan delineates the roadmap and way forward for implementation of NEP, 2020 for the next 10 years.

Source: PIB

One Nation One Ration

Aim: To ensure hassle-free delivery of subsidized food grains to all migratory beneficiaries anywhere in the country through nation-wide portability under National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013.

Launched: Aug 2019 as pilot for Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, maharsashtra

Tamil Nadu joined in October 2020.

Now Available in 35 states/UT and covers 77 crore people.



77 Crore People covered under One Nation One Ration Card scheme



Ensuring access to food grains anywhere across the country



Scheme is now available in 35 states/UTs

Source: PIB

Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Padhati (BPKP)

Introduced during 2020-21 as a **sub scheme of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)** for the promotion of traditional indigenous practices **including Natural Farming**.

Objective: **exclusion of all synthetic chemical** inputs and promotes on-farm biomass recycling with major stress on biomass mulching, use of cow dung-urine formulations and other plant-based preparation.

Financial assistance of Rs 12200/ha for 3 years is provided for cluster formation.



Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Padhati (BPKP)

Why in news?

From 2020 to 2021, the government will adopt Bhartiya Prakritik Padhati (BPKP) as a sub-scheme of the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY).

Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)

It is detailed component of the National Mission of Sustainable Agriculture project, Soil Health Management (SHM), Which was launched in 2015.

About BPKP

The program focuses on eliminating all synthetic chemical inputs and promoting on-farm biomass recycling.

Biomass Mulching

Applying protective covering on the ground plants, such as bark chips, straw, or Plastic sheeting, to reduce weed development, preserve soil moisture, or avoid root freezing.

The Scheme Envisages

- » Certified organic farming is used to promote commercial organic production.
- » The food will be free of pesticide residues.
- » It will increase farmer income and provide dealers with a potential market.

Agrimentors chandigarh
Experience the real agriculture...

Source: AIR

Naya Savera

Aim: To provide **free coaching** to students/candidates belonging to **minority communities** for qualifying in **entrance examinations** of technical/medical professional courses and various competitive examinations.

Implemented by **Ministry of minority affairs**

There are six notified minority communities: Jain, Buddhist, Parsi, Sikh, Christian, and Muslim.

Source: Ministry of Minority Affairs

GeM: Government e Marketplace

GeM crosses **annual procurement of Rs 1 lakh crore** in FY 2020-21.

Government e Marketplace (GeM) is an online platform for public procurement in India.

Launched on August 9, **2016**.

Under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.

GeM has brought in the visibility and transparency in public procurement.

Source: PIB

Solid, Liquid Waste Infrastructure

According to the parliamentary standing committee, only 12% of the villages that were supposed to get infrastructure for liquid waste management for year 2021- 2022 have achieved their goal under the second phase of the Swacch Bharat Mission.

The implementation of solid waste management infrastructure also lagged behind with only 22% of target villages covered during 2021-22.

Swacch Bharat Mission phase 1 aimed to provide a toilet in every rural household and claimed to have achieved its goal in 2019.

Swacch Bharat Mission phase 2 involves more complex community-level infrastructure — including facilities for collection and segregation of solid waste, compost pits and biogas plants for biodegradable waste, greywater management, soak pits, and treatment of faecal sludge — has not been able to meet targets.

The allocation to Jal Jeevan Mission was reduced in the budget to Rs. 45,011 and the actual expenditure incurred so far is only Rs.28,238 crore.

Only three States — Himachal Pradesh, Manipur and Meghalaya — have fully used their allocation from the Centre.

Some of the largest States have the poorest performances, with Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu all have used less than 25% of their funds from the Centre.

Source: The Hindu

India's exports reach a record high of \$400 billion

India's annual merchandise exports have **hit \$400 billion for the first time**.

The \$400 billion figure would be far higher than the previous record of \$330 billion achieved in 2018-19.

Engineering goods, petroleum products, gems and jewellery, chemicals and ready-made garments of all textiles were the top five commodities exported from India.

India is now exporting more and more value-added and high-end products.

Exports of petroleum showed the sharpest jump of 114%.

India's merchandise exports to GDP ratio has been on a declining trend. It stood at 10.94% in FY21, falling from 11.07% the previous year and 12.2% in FY19.

India's largest exports

TOP 5 PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES	
1	Petroleum products \$55,423 mn
2	Pearls, precious & semi-precious stones \$24,815 mn
3	Iron and steel \$20,870 mn
4	Drugs formulations, biologicals \$17,263 mn
5	Gold and other precious metal jewellery \$9,323 mn

TOP 5 COUNTRIES	
1	United States \$68,775 mn
2	UAE \$24,669 mn
3	China \$19,687 mn
4	Bangladesh \$14,883 mn
5	Netherlands \$10,434 mn

Sources: Commerce Dept. up to April-June 2021-22

Source: Business standard

Securities Transaction Tax

The central government's revenue receipts from the Securities Transaction Tax (STT) has risen 25% this financial year.

STT is levied on purchase and sale of listed securities on the gross consideration.

It is paid by both the buyer and the seller.

STT is a direct tax paid on the value of securities transactions on a stock exchange.

Source: economic times

Money bills

Recently Parliament amended the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) Act of 1956 by considering it as a money bill. This was challenged in Supreme Court under Finance Act of 2021.

Recently Supreme Court clarified that there is no constitutional illegality in Parliament having amended the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) Act of 1956 by way of a 'Money Bill' for floating an Initial Public Offering (IPO) and parting with its shareholding in the corporation.

Supreme Court said that Lok Sabha Speaker has classified the Finance Bill 2021 as a Money Bill.

Speaker's decision should be treated as final as per **Article 110(3)** of the Constitution, to determine if a bill is money bill or not.

Article 110(3)

Article 109 lays down special procedures in respect of Money Bills.

Such Bills could be **introduced only in the Lok Sabha** and not in the Rajya Sabha.

After the Lok Sabha passes them, they should be transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for the latter to make its recommendations within 14 days.

if any question arises as to whether a Bill was a Money Bill or not, **the decision of the Lok Sabha Speaker** would be final as per Article 110(3) of the Constitution.

Source: The Hindu

Renewable energy

The Ministry of New and Renewable energy has constituted a committee for preparing a roadmap to achieve **500 GW** of non-fossil fuel-based energy capacity **by 2030**.

The government has **installed renewable energy projects of 152.90 gigawatt (GW)** capacity as of February 28 2022.

50.78 GW from solar power,

40.13 GW from wind power,

10.63 GW from Bio-power,

4.84 GW from small hydro power

46.52 GW from large hydro power.

The government has installed **1,252 megawatt (MW) RTS (roof top solar) capacity** in the residential sector as of March 8 2022.

The government has installed 11 waste-to-energy plants of a total capacity of 132.1 MW as of February 28 2022 for generating power from municipal solid waste in India.

The government has sanctioned **56 solar parks** of a cumulative 38,266 MW capacity in 15 Indian states.

Source: down to earth

Reintroduction of cheetahs

Cheetahs in India went extinct long back in 1952 due to reckless hunting activities.

So government is going to re-introduce **African Cheetahs** from Namibia (Africa) into the **Palpur Kuno sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh** on an experimental basis.

Source: the hindu

Africa's boma in India

The Boma is a capturing technique, which is popular in Africa. It involves luring of animals into an enclosure by chasing them through a funnel-like fencing.

This technique is undertaken at **Keoladeo national park** (Rajasthan) to capture and relocate deers to **Mukundara tiger reserve** (Rajasthan). It is done to increase the prey base in Mukundara tiger reserve.

Already Madhya Pradesh adopted this method.

Source: the hindu

Forex of India

Despite the recent fall in foreign exchange reserves, India continues to be the country with the fifth-highest level of reserves.

The central bank is likely to adopt a more hands-off approach, and it will neither sell dollars, nor buy them.

A higher level of foreign exchange reserves helps the RBI to generate higher surplus funds — a part of which is transferred to the government.



FOREX RESERVES

Country	\$ bn	Chge YTD %
China	3,213.83	-1.12
Japan	1,384.57	-1.51
Switzerland	1,021.27	-0.65
Russia	630.20	-0.07
India	622.27	-1.79
Taiwan	549.99	0.29
Hong Kong	490.90	-1.19
South Korea	461.77	-0.29
Singapore	426.63	2.1
Saudi Arabia	446.79	-1.9

Compiled by BS Research Bureau Source: Bloomberg

Source: business standard

Wings India 2022

The Ministry of Civil Aviation, Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) is jointly organized Wings India 2022.

Held at **Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad, India.**

It is **Asia's largest event on Civil Aviation**

Objective: to transform the country into World's top aviation hub

Source: Times of India

International

World happiness report 2022

Report is released by **Sustainable Development Solutions Network** for the United Nations.

Ranks **149** countries

India has been ranked **139**. In 2020, India was ranked 144 out of 156 countries.

Countrywise:

Finland has been ranked as the happiest country in the world for the fourth consecutive year. Followed by Iceland, Denmark, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Sweden, Germany and Norway.

Afghanistan (149) is the most unhappy country.

City wise:

Helsinki is the happiest city in the world.

The bottom ten cities ranked in world happiness rankings include **Delhi** at 180.

Kabul in Afghanistan is ranked as the unhappiest city in the ranking

International Happiness Day

Celebrated every year on 20th March.

The United Nations started to celebrate the International Day of Happiness in 2013.

This resolution was first initiated by Bhutan.

Gross national happiness was first coined by the 4th King of Bhutan, King Jigme Singye Wangchuck, in 1972.



Source: The Hindu

India – Iran

Why oil import stopped?

Iran used to be India's second largest oil supplier but New Delhi had to halt imports after the former US president Donald Trump withdrew from the nuclear deal with Iran and re-imposed sanctions on its oil exports.

What is India's status?

India is highly dependent on imports for meeting its energy requirements as nearly 85 per cent of its crude oil requirement has to be imported.

India, the world's third biggest oil importer and consumer.

India's second largest oil supplier.

Iran's offer now:

Iran is ready to meet India's energy needs with deal that avoids 3rd Party through, Rupee-rial trade mechanism (this mechanism can help companies from both the countries deal with each other directly)

Source: Business standards

Boeing 737 plane crash

It was operated by China Eastern Airlines – crashed down into mountains in the Guangxi region of southern China on March 21.

The Boeing 737-800 (MU5735) was flying from Kunming in southwest China to the southern Guangzhou city.

'DROPPED 25,875FT IN JUST 3 MINS'

- A Boeing 737-800 flight (MU5735) of the China Eastern airline that crashed was carrying **123 passengers** and **nine crew members** from the city of **Kunming** to the southern hub of **Guangzhou**
- Flight tracker shows the plane **sharply dropped from an altitude of 29,100 feet to 3,225 feet in just 3 minutes**, before flight info ceased
- A villager tells a local news site the plane had 'completely fallen apart' & he had seen



CRASH SITE
Teng County,
Guangxi Province

forest areas destroyed by crash-triggered fire

- Airline said in a Jan report that it had 289 737-series jets in its 751-strong fleet. **Reports say it will ground all 737-800 planes**



Human rights violations in South Sudan

South Sudan gained independence from Sudan in June **2011**.

But has been engulfed in ethnic violence since December 2013, when forces loyal to Kiir began battling those loyal to his deputy, Machar.

The brutal **civil war** killed nearly 400,000 people and displaced millions.

So recently **UN Commission on Human Rights (OHCHR)** in South Sudan slammed government of South Sudan, pointing out its action amounts to war crimes.

Facts on South Sudan:

The newest internationally recognized country in the world is the African country of South Sudan, which declared independence on July 9, 2011

Juba is the capital and largest city.

Source: The Hindu

Hot poles

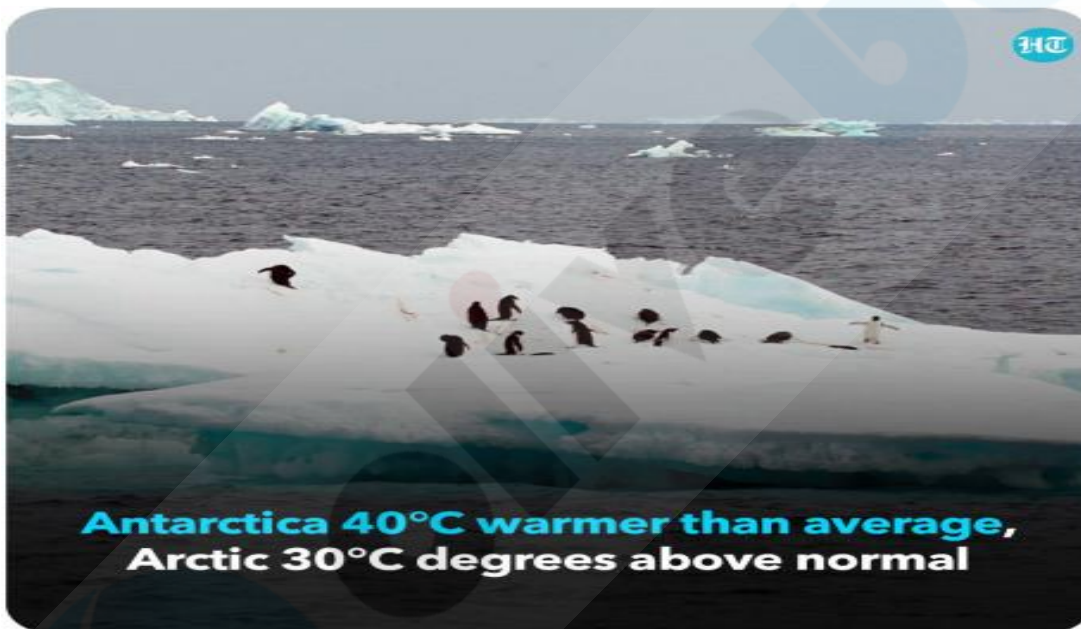
Earth's poles are undergoing simultaneous freakish extreme heat.

Parts of Antarctica are more than 70 degrees (40 degrees Celsius) warmer than average and areas of the Arctic are more than 50 degrees (30 degrees Celsius) warmer than average.

The Antarctic continent as a whole was about 8.6 degrees (4.8 degrees Celsius) warmer than a baseline temperature between 1979 and 2000.

The Arctic as a whole was 6 degrees (3.3 degrees) warmer than the 1979 to 2000 average.

The Arctic has been warming two to three times faster than the rest of the globe and is considered vulnerable to climate change.



Source: Hindustan times

G-20

G20 is an informal group of **19 countries and the European Union (EU)**, with representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Because of Russia's attack on Ukraine, it was expected that Russia won't attend the upcoming summit of G20. But with China's backing Putin might next the summit.

2022 G20 summit will take place in **Indonesia** in November 2022.

It has no permanent secretariat or Headquarters.

Members: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the EU.

G20 represents roughly half the world's land area, two-thirds of the world's population, 85% of global gross domestic product and over 75% of global trade.



Source: The Hindu

UN-WMO

United Nations and world meteorological organization to put every individual on the planet in early weather-warning systems range within the next five years.

This project aims to make the alert systems that are already in use in many rich countries available to the planet's developing countries.



Early Warning System

An Early Warning System for floods, droughts, heatwaves or storms, is an integrated system which allows people to know that hazardous weather is on its way, and informs how governments, communities and individuals can act to minimize the impending impacts.

These systems allow us to monitor the real time atmospheric conditions on land and at sea and to effectively predict future weather and climate events using advanced computer numerical models.

Source: un.org

Kinzhal

Russia has claimed to have used Kinzhal, its newest **hypersonic missiles**, for the first time in Ukraine.

Kinzhal is an air-launched hypersonic missile.

Range: 1,500-2,000km.

Kinzhal means dagger.

It can carry nuclear payload of 480 kg. This is 33 times the yield of the Fat Man bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

Source: Hindustan times

Science & Technology

Brain center

IIT - Madras has launched the **Sudha Gopalakrishnan Brain Centre**.

To power an ambitious global project **to map the human brain at the cellular and connectivity levels**, with a focus on **high-resolution brain imaging**.

This state-of-the-art Centre aims to become a world-renowned research centre, generating unprecedented human brain data, scientific output and technology tools.

Hadopathy

Jharkhand's rural development department has decided to promote 'Hodopathy'.

It is a traditional medicinal system belonging to **Jharkhand's tribal community**.

It is believed to cure many diseases by the use of **natural herbs and extracts** without having any side effect on the health of the patient

It is planned to be done by promoting medicinal gardens.

Under this initiative, saplings of the medicinal plants are being made available to women of Self Help Groups at subsidised rates.

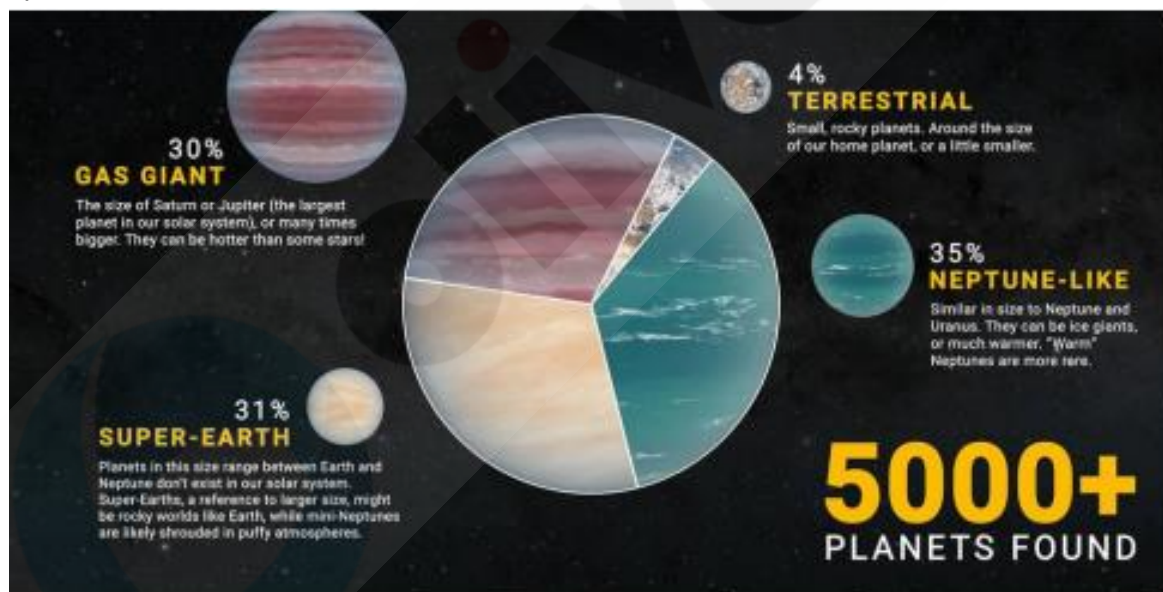
Source: New Indian Express

New Exo Planets

65 new planets have been discovered by NASA outside the Earth's solar system.

This new discovery takes the total number of exoplanets that have been discovered to over 5000.

Milky Way Galaxy is home to hundreds of billions of such planets and there are so many galaxies present in space.



Exoplanets

All of the planets in our solar system orbit around the Sun. Planets that orbit around other stars are called exoplanets.

Source: Hindustan times

Artificial intelligence

Artificial intelligence (AI) could contribute 10% of India's GDP by 2025, or by up to \$500 billion. Tech ecosystem is AI's largest adopter.

Vibrant SMEs can drive AI adoption.

AI market is led by IT sector, followed by BFSI, retail, and manufacturing.

India's talent infrastructure

India is the **largest exporter of technology services** globally

About **5.1mn people employed** by the Indian **IT services** industry

300-320,000: India's annual supply of AI and Big Data Analytics professionals

Annual demand is 430-450,000

Data and analytics are the fastest-growing area for IT service providers

10-15,000 fresh STEM graduates with AI/ML curriculum in 2020-21

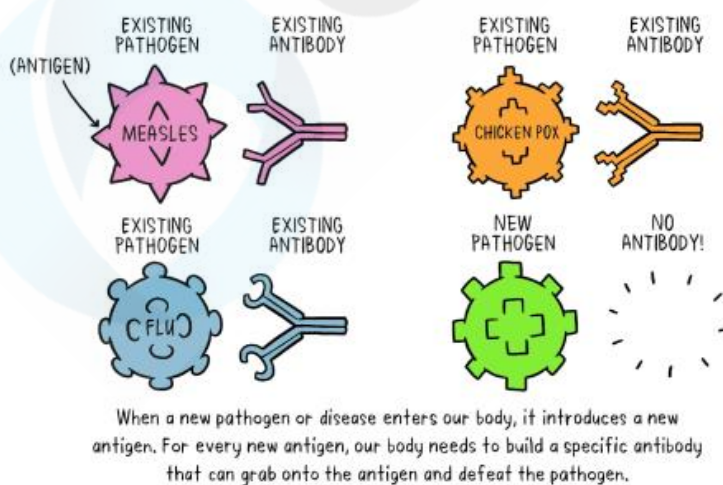


Source: Business Standards

Covishield

National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation has recommended administering the second dose of Covishield between eight and 16 weeks after the first dose.

Presently, the second dose of Covishield is given between 12-16 weeks after the first dose under the National COVID-19 Vaccination Strategy.



Vaccines contain **weakened or inactive parts of a particular organism (antigen)** that **triggers an immune** response within the body.

The **antigen** will help to build specific antigen for disease.

Body natural response to pathogen's

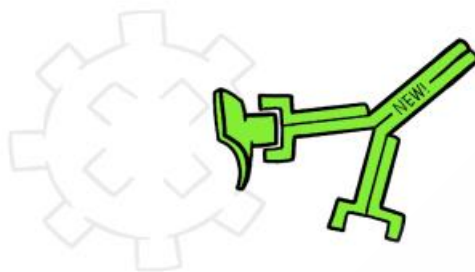
A pathogen is a bacterium, virus, parasite or fungus that can cause disease within the body.

The antibodies produced in response to the pathogen's antigen are an important part of the immune system

For every new antigen our body produces new antibody.

VACCINE

NEW ANTIBODY



A VACCINE is a tiny weakened non-dangerous fragment of the organism and includes parts of the antigen. It's enough that our body can learn to build the specific antibody. Then if the body encounters the real antigen later, as part of the real organism, it already knows how to defeat it.

NTAGI provides guidance and advice to the Union Health Ministry on immunisation services for the effective control of vaccine-preventable diseases in the country.

Source: Hindustan times

Personalities & Places

Jiya rai

Jiya Rai, a 13-year-old **autistic girl from Mumbai** – becomes the **youngest and fastest female swimmer** to swim the 29-kilometer Palk Strait in 13 hours and 10 minutes.

She swam a distance of 28.5 km from Talaimannar in Sri Lanka to Arichalmunai in Tamil Nadu's Dhanushkodi in a record time.

With this Jiya has joined the exclusive group of swimmers including Kutraleeswaran (1994), R Jai Jaswanth (2019), Edi Hu of the United States (2020), Shyamala Koli (2021), who swam from Sri Lanka to Dhanushkodi.

Additional judges for Madras High Court

Nidumoli Mala and S.Sounthar has been appointed as Additional judges for madras high court for a period of two years.

Chief Justice of high court administered the oath to the additional judges.

With this, the strength of the judges in Madras HC has increased to 59 against the sanctioned strength of 75 judges

Source: Times of India

First female Dubashi for TN Assembly

Rajalakshmi has been appointed as dubashi in Tamil Nadu assembly.

This is first time a woman has been appointed to the post.

Rajalakshmi joined the Legislative Assembly as an assistant in 1990.

Since the British period appointment of dubashi is done.

Dubash is basically helper of the speaker; dubash goes forward as the speaker moves from the speaker's room to the legislature and will wait outside the Assembly while speaker is in the Assembly.

Source: Dinathanthi

Important dates

Poet Kambar Memorial Day

In honour of poet Kambar, every year on March 24th, Department of Tamil Development pays homage to the statue of Kambar at Anna Square.

The Ramayana was translated by Kambar from Sanskrit to Tamil.

His memorial is located near Nattarasankottai in the Sivagangai district.

Texts composed: 'Sadagopar Anthadi', 'Sarawathi Anthadi', 'Thirukkai Vazhakam', 'Erezhupathu', 'Mummanikovai' 'Kambaramayanam' 'Silayelupathu'

Source: Nakkeeran

World Sparrow day

March 20th is celebrated as world sparrow day.

World Sparrow Day is an initiative of the Nature Forever Society, which is a non-government organisation (NGO).

The theme for this year is "Monitor the Sparrows & other common birds".



March 20 is celebrated as **WORLD SPARROW DAY**

SAVE THE SPARROW

Once the most commonly found bird species, their nos in India have dwindled

MAIN REASONS
excessive use of pesticides, microwave pollution, mobile phone towers, & construction

QUICK STATS

Height 16 cm	Length Wingspan of 21 cm	Weight 25-40 gm
		Flying speed 24 miles/hour
		Vision Retina has 4 lakh photoreceptors/sq mm

Scientific Name
PASSER DOMESTICUS

IT IS THE STATE BIRD OF NEW DELHI



Source: Economic Times

World Puppetry Day

World Puppetry Day is celebrated on **March 21**

This day aims to **recognize puppetry as a global art form.**

It is also an attempt to pay tribute to and honor puppeteers from around the world.

Theme of 2022: 'THE SEA'

Source: Hindustan times

World Down Syndrome Day

March 21st is observed every year as world down syndrome day on to increase awareness about the Down Syndrome.

The UN General Assembly in 2011 adopted a resolution to observe World Down Syndrome Day annually.

Theme of 2022 – 'Inclusion Means'

Source:un.org

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

March 21st is observed every year as International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, to raise awareness about equality and to end all forms of racism and racial discrimination.

On October 26, 1966, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a resolution for this.

Theme of 2022 - "Voices for action against racism"

Source: un.org

World Water Day

March 22 is observed as World Water Day.

Theme of 2022 : "Groundwater: Making the invisible visible"

It is observed since 1993, United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution for the same.

World Water Day celebrates water and raises awareness taking action to tackle the global water crisis.

A core focus of World Water Day is to support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030.

Source: un.org

Shaheed Diwas/ Martyrs Day

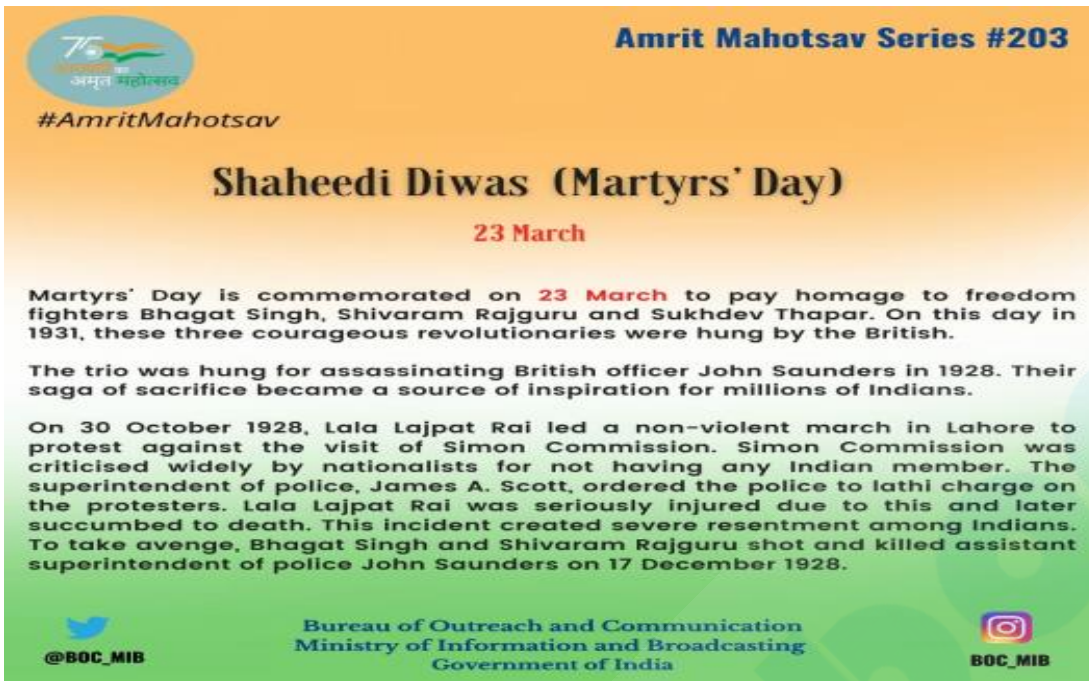
Martyrs Day is commemorated on **23 March**.

To pay homage to **Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, Sukhdev Thapar** who were hung on March 23rd 1931.

They were hang for Saunder's case:

James A Scott ordered lathi charge on Lala Lajpat Rai during Anti Simon protect, injured Lala Lajpat died shortly.

On 17 Dec 1928, Bhagat singh and Shivaram Rajguru killed John Saunders to avenge Lala Laapat Rai died.



Amrit Mahotsav Series #203

Shaheedi Diwas (Martyrs' Day)
23 March

Martyrs' Day is commemorated on **23 March** to pay homage to freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru and Sukhdev Thapar. On this day in 1931, these three courageous revolutionaries were hung by the British.

The trio was hung for assassinating British officer John Saunders in 1928. Their saga of sacrifice became a source of inspiration for millions of Indians.

On 30 October 1928, Lala Lajpat Rai led a non-violent march in Lahore to protest against the visit of Simon Commission. Simon Commission was criticised widely by nationalists for not having any Indian member. The superintendent of police, James A. Scott, ordered the police to lathi charge on the protesters. Lala Lajpat Rai was seriously injured due to this and later succumbed to death. This incident created severe resentment among Indians. To take revenge, Bhagat Singh and Shivaram Rajguru shot and killed assistant superintendent of police John Saunders on 17 December 1928.

Bureau of Outreach and Communication
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India

@BOC_MIB **BOC_MIB**

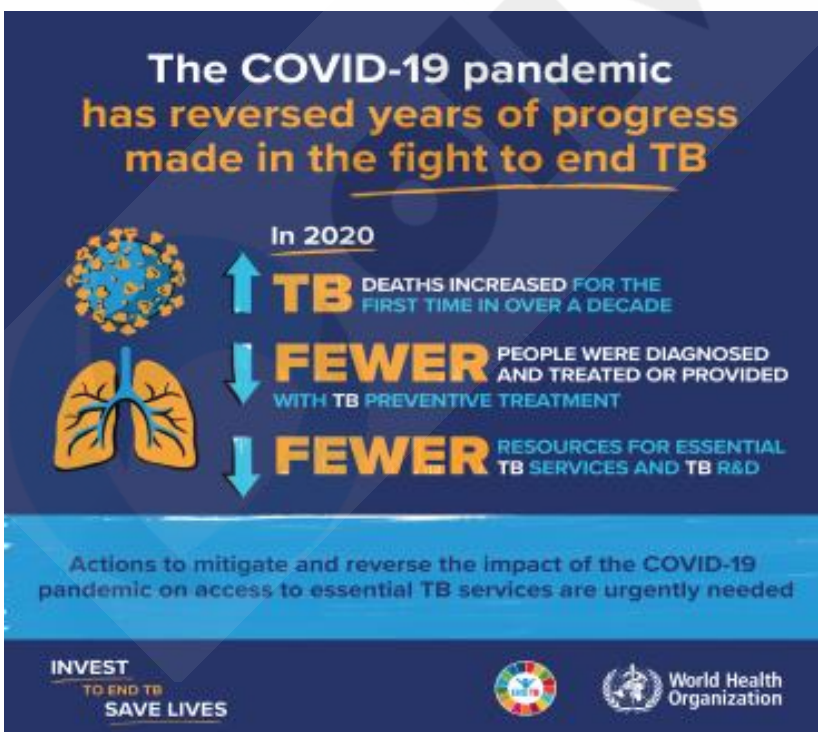
Source: PIB

World Tuberculosis Day

March 24th is observed as World Tuberculosis Day.

WHO commemorate this to raise public awareness about the devastating health, social and economic consequences of TB, and to step up efforts to end the global TB epidemic.

Theme of 2022: Invest to End TB. Save Lives.





The COVID-19 pandemic has reversed years of progress made in the fight to end TB

In 2020

- TB** DEATHS INCREASED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER A DECADE
- FEWER** PEOPLE WERE DIAGNOSED AND TREATED OR PROVIDED WITH TB PREVENTIVE TREATMENT
- FEWER** RESOURCES FOR ESSENTIAL TB SERVICES AND TB R&D

Actions to mitigate and reverse the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on access to essential TB services are urgently needed

INVEST TO END TB SAVE LIVES

  **World Health Organization**

Source: WHO

Sports

Ashleigh barty – retires

She is a tennis player from Australia.

Recently, announced early retirement from tennis at the age of 25 years.

She is the first Australian to win Australian Open in 44 years.

Ashleigh Barty is currently ranked world no. 1 in women's singles ranking.

Ashleigh Barty is a three-time Grand Slam singles champion and reigning Wimbledon and Australian Open champion.

She won the French Open in 2019, Australian Open in 2022 and Wimbledon in 2021.

She was the second Australian tennis player to be ranked No. 1 in the world in singles by the Women's Tennis Association after Evonne Goolagong Cawley.

Source: the Hindu

Lakshya Sen

Indian badminton player has won **silver** at the **England opens**.

He had become only the fifth Indian to reach the final of the prestigious tournament

He climb to No. 9 in the BWF (badminton world federation) rankings.

Source: The Hindu

Books & Authors

IMD'S e-Book

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) launched an e-book, **Climate Hazards and Vulnerability Atlas of India- State: Tamil Nadu**.

It is released as part of the **World Meteorological Day** celebrations.

The atlas is available at mausam.imd.gov.in for public access.

This e-atlas will help the **disaster management** agencies to take preventive steps against any disaster that they might face

Source: The Hindu

Awards

Padma Shri

The following seven from Tamil Nadu were awarded Padma Shri:

Recipient	Field
Sirpi Balasubramaniam	Literature and Education.
S Damodaran	Social Work
S. Ballesh Bhajantri, Sowcar Janaki, R. Muthukannammal and A.K.C.Natarajan	Art
Dr.Veeraswamy Seshiah	medicine.

Padma Shri

It is the **fourth-highest** civilian award of India.

Awarded in recognition of one's distinguished contribution to the arts, education, industry, literature, science, acting, medicine, social service and public affairs.

Padma Shri in Sanskrit means "**Noble One in Blossom**"

Bronze medal with Lotus symbol – circular shape

Source: PIB

Padma Vibhushan

President conferred Padma Awards 2022 at a civil investiture ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The following are Padma Vibhushan recipients:

Recipient	Field
General Bipin Rawat	Civil service
Shri Radheyshyam Khemka (Posthumous)	Literature and Education
Prabha Atre	Art
Shri Kalyan Singh (Posthumous)	Public Affairs

Padma Vibhushan

The Padma Vibhushan is the **second-highest** civilian award.

The award is given for "**exceptional and distinguished service**".

Bronze medal with Lotus symbol – circular shape.

Source: PIB

Sportstar Aces award 2022

Award	Recipient
Sportstar of the Year (Male)	Neeraj Chopra (Gold medal at Tokyo Olympics – Javelin throw)
Sportstar of the Year (Female)	Mirabai Chanu (Silver medal at Tokyo Olympics –Weight lifting)
Sportswoman of the Year, Individual Sports	Lovlina Borgohain
Parathlete of the Year, Female	Avani Lekhara
Parathlete of the Year (Male)	Sumit Antil
Special Recognition award	Pramod Bhagat and Arif Khan
Sportsman of the Year, Team Sports	Pal Singh
Sportswoman of the Year, Team Sports	Savita
Lifetime Achievement award	Ajith Pal Singh
Coach of the Year	Vijay Sharma
Young Athlete of the Year (Female)	Esha Singh
Young Athlete of the Year (Male)	Nihal Sarin
Sportsman of the Year (Individual Sports)	Ravi Dahiya
Sportswoman of the Year (Individual Sports):	Lovlina Borgohain
Sportswoman of the Year [Racquet Sports]	PV Sindhu
Sportsman of the Year [Racquet Sports]	Satwiksairaj Rankireddy/ Chirag Shetty
Best PSU for Promotion of Sports	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd
Best Corporate for Promotion of Sports	JSW Group
Best State for the Promotion of Sports	Haryana
Breakthrough Performance of the Year	Indian Women's Hockey Team/Aditi Ashok
Best Grassroots Coach/ Talent Mentor	Uday Pawar
Sportsman of the Year (Cricket)	Ravichandran Ashwin
Sportswoman of the Year (Cricket)	Mithali Raj
Sports for Social Good (Chairperson's choice)	Reliance Foundation
National team of the year	Indian men's hockey team
Sportsman of the Year Track and Field	Neeraj Chopra
Sportswoman of the Year [Track and Field]:	Kamalpreet Kaur

Source: Times of India

Women Transforming India Awards (WTI)

The Women Transforming India Awards has been presented since **2018** by **NITI Aayog**, under the aegis of Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP).

To highlight the commendable and ground-breaking endeavours of India's women leaders and change-makers, with a special focus on entrepreneurship.

NITI Aayog organised the **5th edition** of the Women Transforming India Awards (WTI).

As part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, to celebrate 75 years of India's independence, the WTI Awards **have been conferred 75 women achievers** their contribution towards a 'Sashakt Aur Samarth Bharat' (A strong and capable India)

Source:PIB

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