

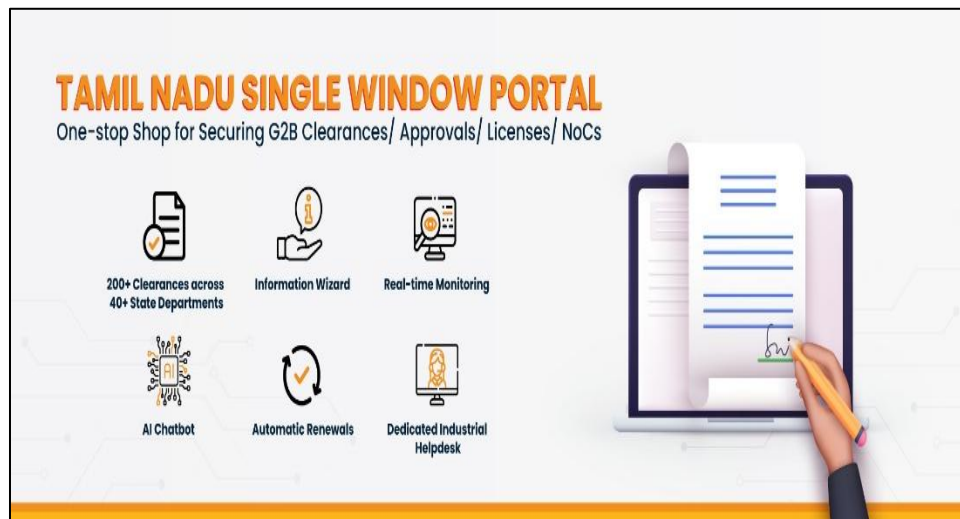
December - 15

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government would begin observing U. V. Swaminathar's birthday, which falls on February 19, as Tamil Literary Renaissance Day.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu government has increased the prize amount for the Kottai Ameer Communal Harmony Award from ₹25,000 to ₹5 lakh.
- ❖ For the first time in the world, IIT Madras released the most detailed 3D high-resolution images with 5,132 brain sections of the foetal brain.
- ❖ Artificial intelligence-enabled cameras will be installed at the Maha Kumbh 2025 to ensure an accurate headcount of devotees visiting one of the world's largest religious gatherings.
- ❖ Union Ministry of Education launched PM e-VIDYA Channel 31, a DTH channel dedicated to sign language.
- ❖ India's stealth guided missile frigate INS Tushil was commissioned into the Indian Navy at Kaliningrad, Russia.
- ❖ Japan's sake, a quintessential rice wine integral to its cultural heritage, has been added to UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list.

TAMIL NADU

TN Hostels and Homes for Women and Children (Regulation) Act, 2014



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has decided to modify the procedure for grant of licence to hostels, lodging houses and homes for women and children.

- ❖ It has moved a Bill in the Assembly that seeks to suitably amend the Tamil Nadu Hostels and Homes for Women and Children (Regulation) Act, 2014.
- ❖ It seeks to receive the application for licence of such hostels, lodging houses and homes in the electronic form and are to be “auto-generated” subject to some conditions.
- ❖ Earlier, the applications were to be made to the respective Collector.
- ❖ While the validity was for three years, the Bill now seeks to extend it for 10 years.

First Supplementary Estimates of 2024/25

Trend tracker

A look at Tamil Nadu's fiscal deficit over the years



Year	Fiscal deficit (₹ in crore)	(% of GSDP)	Year	Fiscal deficit (₹ in crore)	(% of GSDP)
2011-12	17,274	2.3	2018-19	47,334.89	2.9
2012-13	16,519	1.93	2019-20	60,178.64	3.35
2013-14	20,584	2.13	2020-21	87,742.11	4.61
2014-15	27,162.44	2.49	2021-22	73,739.28	3.38
2015-16	32,627.56	2.69	2022-23	81,885.82	3.46
2016-17	56,171.35	4.2	2023-24*	94,059.72	3.45
2017-18	39,839.52	2.72	2024-25**	1,08,689.91	3.44

*Revised Estimates **Budget Estimates

Source: T.N. Finance Department documents

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government presented the First Supplementary Estimates for a sum of ₹3,531 crore for 2024-25 in the Assembly.

- ❖ The government sanctioned a sum of ₹1,634.86 crore as additional loss funding grant to the Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Limited.
- ❖ This was as per the guidelines for Additional Borrowing Space of 0.50% of GSDP linked to performance in power sector formulated by the Union government.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Contingency Fund Act of 1954 has been amended and enhanced the contingency fund from ₹150 crore to ₹500 crore.
- ❖ The government has sanctioned ₹70 crore to the Tamil Nadu Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited as grant for providing incentive to milk producers.

Ban on Bike taxi

- ❖ The state government is clarified that, there is no effective ban on bike taxis, and they can continue operating in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Union government has not provided the clear rule on the use of two-wheelers for rental or commercial purposes.
- ❖ Madras high court banned bike taxis in 2018, but the order was stayed on appeal.
- ❖ The state is home to over four lakh workers associated with the platforms such as Rapido, Ola, Uber, Swiggy, Dunzo, and Zomato.



Forest Rights in Anamalai Tiger Reserve

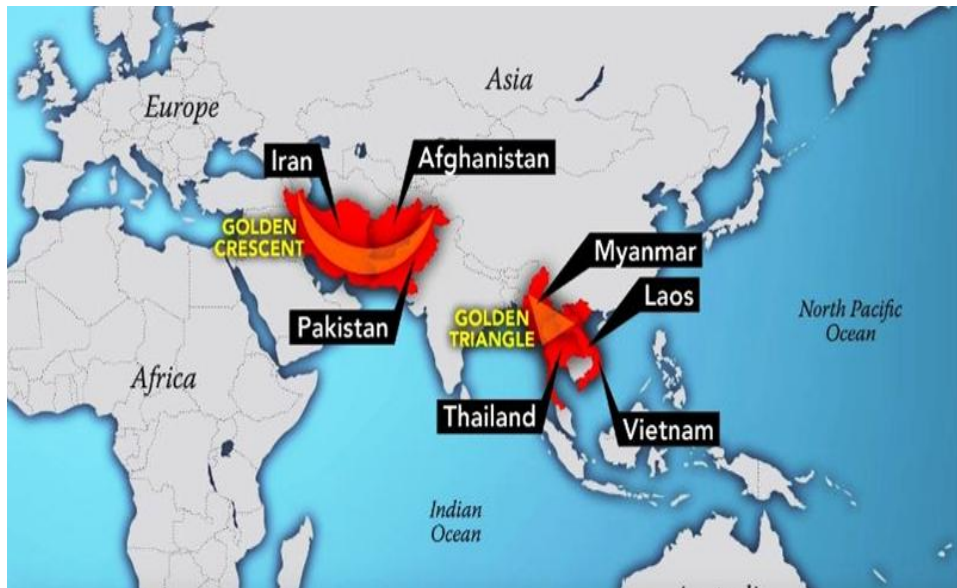
- ❖ Coimbatore District Collector accorded community forest rights under the Forest Rights Act, 2006, to three tribal settlements in the Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR).

- ❖ It provided individual forest rights offered under the Act to 14 families in the ATR.
- ❖ Nagaroothu I, Nagaroothu II and Chinnarpathi tribal settlements were given community rights to collect forest produces other than timber.
- ❖ The Residents of these settlements can collect minor forest products, including mango, amla, honey, tamarind and grass for making brooms.
- ❖ The individual forest rights titles were accorded to some 14 families from the Old Sarkarpathy tribal settlement.



NATIONAL

Smuggling in India report 2023/24



- ❖ A recent report titled “Smuggling in India 2024” is released by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI).

- ❖ The agency recorded 47 cases in 2023-24 of smuggling of cocaine through the air route, against 21 cases the previous year.
- ❖ 1,319 kg of gold seized during 2023-24 compared to 600 kg the year before.
- ❖ It recorded cases of FTA misuse worth ₹1,427 crore during 2023-24 compared to ₹481 crore in 2022-2023.
- ❖ This region - Death Crescent, comprising Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, is a primary source of heroin trafficked into India.
- ❖ This area - Death Triangle encompassing Myanmar, Laos and Thailand, is a significant source of synthetic drugs and heroin.

Amrit Gyaan Kosh Portal



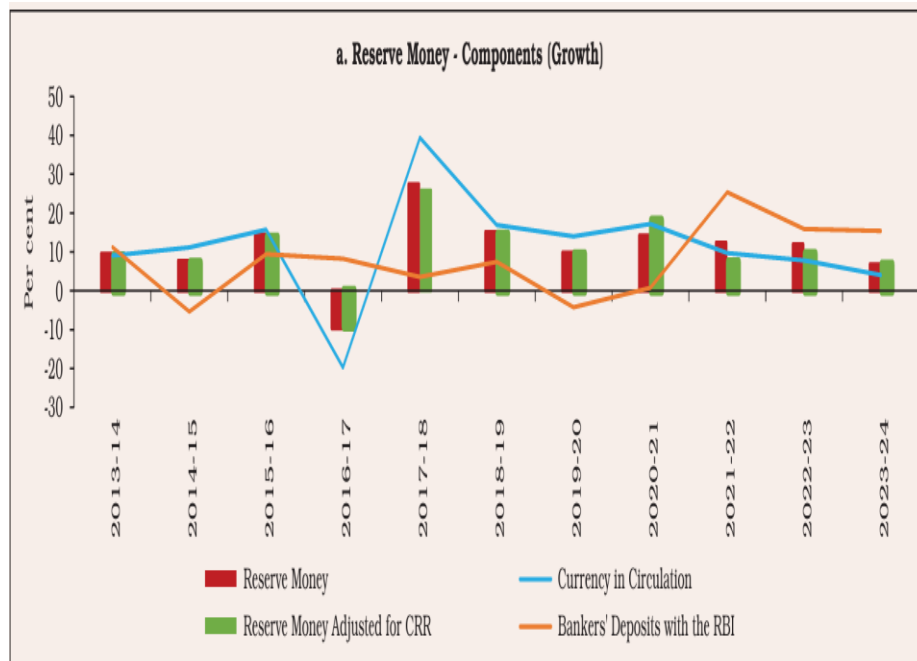
- ❖ Centre launched 'Amrit Gyan Kosh' Portal and 'Faculty Development portal' at the Civil Service Training Institutions Convention.
- ❖ The Amrit Gyan Kosh portal provides a shared knowledge bank with India-centric case studies.
- ❖ The Faculty Development portal focuses on training practitioners and faculty to improve knowledge delivery to civil servants.

ECONOMY

Handbook of Statistics on Indian States 2023-24

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India has published the latest edition of the Handbook of Statistics on Indian States for 2023-24.

- ❖ It also includes the vital information about demographics, health, and economic indicators.
- ❖ The data spans from 1951 to 2024, providing a historical context for analysis.
- ❖ Maharashtra SGDP remains the top contributor with ₹35.24 lakh crore.
- ❖ Other contributors include Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and Rajasthan.
- ❖ Kerala has the highest rural wages, often double the national average.
- ❖ A male construction worker in Kerala earns ₹894 per day.
- ❖ But in Madhya Pradesh gives the lowest wages at ₹292 per day.
- ❖ Kerala's construction wages were three times higher than Madhya Pradesh's.

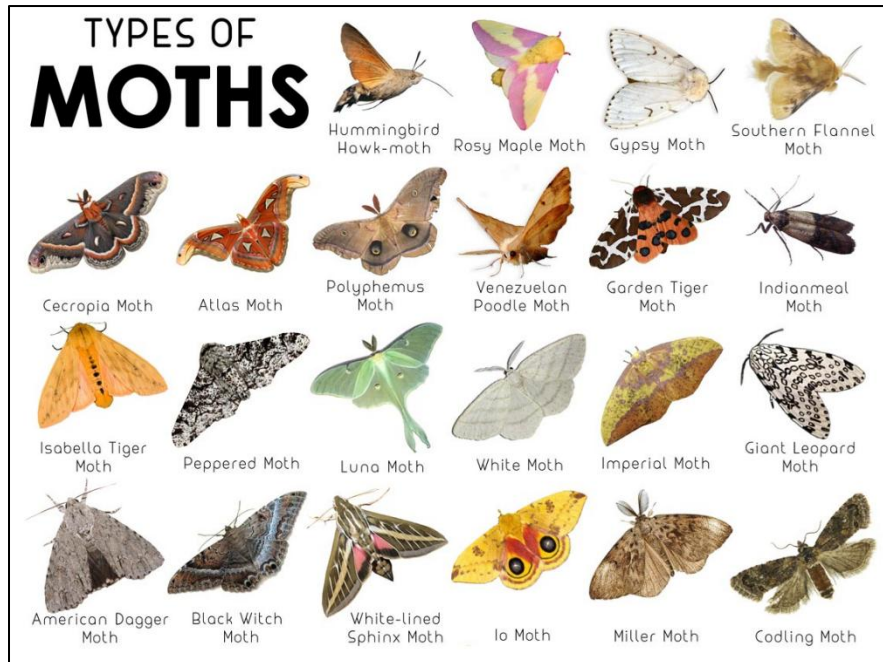


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Sound based selection

- ❖ Moths can hear the sounds emitted by the plants and rely on them to choose on which plant to lay their eggs.
- ❖ A moth species called the Egyptian cotton leafworm used clicks produced by stressed plants to decide where to lay their eggs.
- ❖ The researchers found that the moths preferred to lay their eggs on the “silent” plant.
- ❖ There are approximately 160,000 species of moth.

- ❖ Being highly adapted species, they are found in all climate types, except the polar habitats.
- ❖ Most species of moth are nocturnal, though there are also some diurnal species.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

UN Champions of the Earth 2024



- ❖ The Champions of the Earth award is the UN's highest environmental honour and recognizes pioneers from the public and private sectors, civil society and academia.
- ❖ It has been presented annually since 2005, with 122 laureates to date.

- ❖ This year's winners
 - Sonia Guajajara, Brazil's Minister of Indigenous Peoples.
 - Amy Bowers Cordalis, an Indigenous rights advocates.
 - Gabriel Paun, a Romanian environmental defender
 - Madhav Gadgil, an Indian ecologist
 - The SEKEM initiative in Egypt.

IMPORTANT DAYS

78th UNICEF Foundation Day 2024 - December 11



- ❖ On December 11 of 1946, the United Nations General Assembly and Ludwik Rajchman established UNICEF.
- ❖ It aims to address the needs of children in World War II-affected nations and give emergency aid to war-affected children and mothers.
- ❖ Its mandates were extended in 1950 to address the long-term needs of children and women in developing nations.
- ❖ In 1953, it became a permanent member of the United Nations system.

International Universal Health Coverage Day 2024 - December 12

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness of Universal health coverage (UHC).

- ❖ UHC aims to provide everyone, everywhere with access to quality health services without facing financial hardship.
- ❖ It was first launched on December 12 of 2012 by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
- ❖ This year's theme is "Health: It's on the government".



International Day of Neutrality 2024 - December 12




- ❖ It aims to raise the awareness regarding the importance of neutrality in the intergovernmental relations and to strengthen peace and security at the global level.
- ❖ Neutrality is a legal status resulting from a nation's decision to abstain from participating in wars between other states.

- ❖ Turkmenistan is recognized as a permanent neutral state by the UN since December 1995.

MISCELLANEOUS

Nicobarese connection with Austro-Asiatic

- ❖ The recent studies revealed connections to ancient Austroasiatic populations in Southeast Asia.
- ❖ Previous theories suggested that the linguistic ancestors of the Nicobarese settled in the Nicobar archipelago during the early Holocene, about 11,700 years ago.
- ❖ However, these new studies also suggest that the Nicobar islanders settled there approximately only 5000 years ago.

WHAT CCMB-BHU STUDY UNVEILS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Researchers made genetic analysis using DNA markers from mothers & fathers		<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Findings suggest Nicobar islanders settled about 5k years ago, not 11,700 years ago
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Study indicates Nicobarese share significant ancestral link with Austroasiatic people		<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Study highlights genetic affinity between Htin Mal community in Southeast Asia & Nicobarese people

