

December - 25

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Alexander Dunn, a mathematics professor from Georgia Tech, USA, received the Sastra Ramanujan award 2024.
- ❖ The President of India has appointed the retired Supreme Court Justice V. Rama Subramanian as the Chairperson of National Human Rights Commission.
- ❖ The USA President-elect Donald Trump has appointed Indian-origin entrepreneur Sriram Krishnan as Senior Policy Advisor for Artificial Intelligence.
- ❖ India has secured the inaugural U10 Women's Asia Cup T20 title by victory over Bangladesh in the final in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- ❖ The Veteran filmmaker Shyam Benegal, a pioneer of Indian parallel cinema, passed away.
- ❖ India's most celebrated para-athlete, Dr. Deepa Mali's memoir is released in the name 'BRING IT ON: The Incredible Story of My Life'.

## TAMIL NADU

### TN sustainable land use policy - draft version



- ❖ Twenty years after the state government devised a Draft Tamil Nadu Land Use Policy 2004, the State Planning Commission (SPC) has prepared a draft Sustainable Land Use Policy of Tamil Nadu (SLUP).



- ❖ It aims to address the urbanisation, environmental conservation, and economic development by aligning land use with long-term sustainability goals.
- ❖ It proposes the zoning land into development, conservation, agricultural and transition zones to optimise the urban growth, to protect ecosystems, to support agriculture, and regulate development.
- ❖ The policy also emphasises coordinated spatial planning, sustainable practices in resource management, and alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ❖ The other three policies submitted were the Tamil Nadu Employment Policy 2023, the Water Policy, and the Community Dog Management and Regulation Policy.

### T.N. capital expenditure 2024-25

Committed Expenditure	2022-23 Actuals	2023-24 Budgeted	2023-24 Revised	% change from BE 23-24 to RE 23-24	2024-25 Budgeted	% change from RE 23-24 to BE 24-25
Salaries	68,588	77,240	75,546	-2%	84,932	12%
Pension	32,177	41,232	37,542	-9%	42,509	13%
Interest payment	46,911	54,676	54,669	-0.01%	62,456	14%
<b>Total Committed Expenditure</b>	<b>1,47,676</b>	<b>1,73,148</b>	<b>1,67,756</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>1,89,897</b>	<b>13%</b>

Sources: Annual Financial Statement, Tamil Nadu Budget 2024-25; PRS.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's capital expenditure declined about 8.4% to ₹16,283.84 crore in the first half of fiscal 2024-25, from ₹17,773.80 crore in first half of fiscal 2023-24.
- ❖ For 2024-25, the State has estimated a total capital expenditure of ₹47,681 crore.
- ❖ It is a growth of 12.11% over the Revised Estimates of ₹42,532 crore in 2023-24.
- ❖ On aggregate, for the top 20 states' capital expenditure declined 9.8% in the first half of 2024-25.
- ❖ The contraction in Capital expenditure was particularly sharp in Andhra Pradesh (-72% Y-o-Y), Telangana (-56%), Haryana (-38%), Uttarakhand (-35%), and Uttar Pradesh (-16%).
- ❖ However, a few states such as Punjab, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Rajasthan, reported double-digit growth in capital expenditure in the first half of 2024-2025.

### Tamil Nadu's forest cover 2023

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has seen a 9.09% increase in its forest cover over the last decade, adding 2,205.01 sq.km of greenery.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's forest cover was stood at 24,245.21 sq.km, and by 2023, it had expanded to 26,450.22 sq.km.
- ❖ A comparison between 2023 and 2021 shows a loss of almost 61 sq.km of forest cover in the State.
- ❖ The term “forest cover” includes all lands with at least one hectare in area and a canopy of 10% or more, regardless of ownership or legal status.
- ❖ Of the total 26,450.22 sq.km of forest cover in the State,
  - Only 13% (3,586.19 sq.km) is classified as very dense forest,
  - 41.7% (11,027.03 sq.km) is moderately dense, and
  - 44.83% (11,837 sq.km) is categorised as open forest.

Tamil Nadu	23,188	Bamboo forest (0.49), Eucalyptus (7.47), Eucalyptus with Miscellaneous (1.89), Khair forest (0.25), Low land Hardwood (0.25), Mangrove (0.11), Miscellaneous forest (82.67), Mixed bamboo (1.15), Orchard (0.16), Teak (0.33), Teak with Misc (0.66), Not Applicable (4.59)
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### Local bodies elections 2025

Details of PRIs and ULBs	PRIs		ULBs	
	District Panchayats <sup>#</sup>	36	Municipal Corporations <sup>1</sup>	21
Block Panchayats	388	Municipalities	138	
Village Panchayats	12,525	Town Panchayats	490	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>12,949</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>649</b>

- ❖ The election to rural local bodies in 28 districts in the state whose tenure ends in January 2025 is likely to get delayed.
- ❖ The state government has informed the Madras High Court that the polls would be held only after completing the process of delimitation and reservation.
- ❖ On December 27 and 30 of 2019, approximately 77% of a total of about 3.31 crore voters — around 2.55 crore participated in election of local bodies.

- ❖ They have elected representatives for 515 district panchayat (DP) wards, 5,090 panchayat union (PU) wards, and 76,746 village panchayat (VP) wards, spread over 27 districts.
- ❖ In addition, the poll was conducted to elect 9,264 VP presidents.
- ❖ The remaining nine districts went to elections in October 2021.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture 2024**



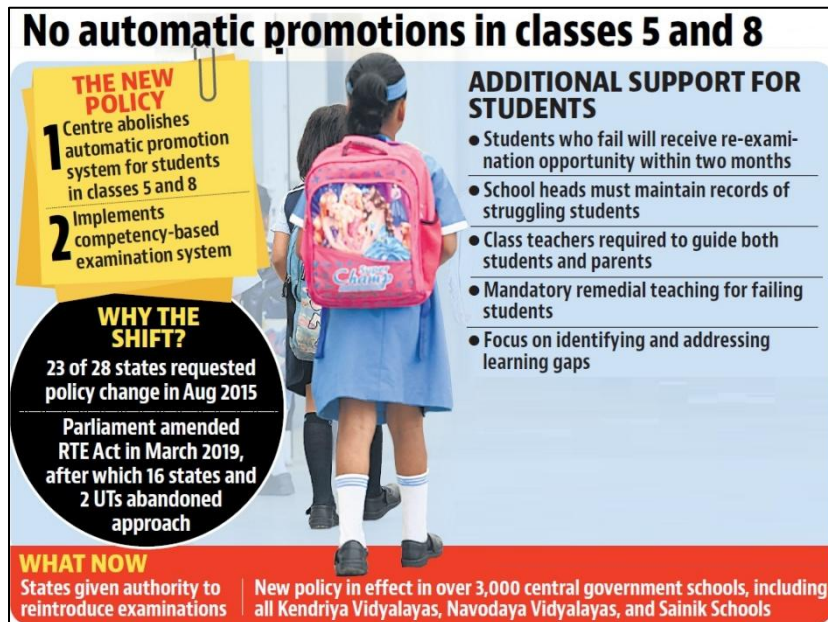
#### **Parliamentary Standing Committee Recommends Implementation of Legally Binding MSP, Farm Loan Waiver**

- ❖ A parliamentary committee has recommended implementing a legal guarantee on Minimum Support Price.
- ❖ The committee, chaired by former Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi.
- ❖ It has recommended subsidies for farmers to keep non-milching animals so that they can manage the problem of stray cattle.
- ❖ The panel asked the Centre to increase the allocation for insuring livestock.
- ❖ The panel said there is also need to prevent further growth of stray cattle from the already existing livestock population of 193.46 million cattle and 109.85 million buffaloes.
- ❖ The committee has recommended that farmers be compensated for managing and disposing of crop residue, or parali, to prevent them from burning it.
- ❖ The committee has proposed increasing monetary support under the PM-KISAN Samman Nidhi scheme from Rs 6,000 per annum to Rs 12,000 per annum.
- ❖ It also asked to introduce a scheme to waive off the debts of farmers and the farm labourers to combat the rise in farmer distress and suicides over debt repayment.

- ❖ The committee suggested implementing compulsory universal crop insurance for smallholder farmers with landholdings of up to 2 acres.

### **No detention policy 2024**

- ❖ The Centre has scrapped the no-detention policy in schools governed by it.
- ❖ It is also including Kendriya Vidyalayas and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas.
- ❖ This allowing them to fail Classes 5 and 8 students who do not clear the year-end exams
- ❖ The Right to Education Act of 2009 was amended in 2019 to include a clause that allowed the “appropriate government” to decide on holding back children in Classes 5 and 8.
- ❖ Since school education is a state subject, states can make their decision in this regard.
- ❖ Already 16 states and 2 UTs including Delhi have done away with the no-detention policy for these two classes.



**No automatic promotions in classes 5 and 8**

**THE NEW POLICY**

- 1 Centre abolishes automatic promotion system for students in classes 5 and 8
- 2 Implements competency-based examination system

**WHY THE SHIFT?**

23 of 28 states requested policy change in Aug 2015

Parliament amended RTE Act in March 2019, after which 16 states and 2 UTs abandoned approach

**ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS**

- Students who fail will receive re-examination opportunity within two months
- School heads must maintain records of struggling students
- Class teachers required to guide both students and parents
- Mandatory remedial teaching for failing students
- Focus on identifying and addressing learning gaps

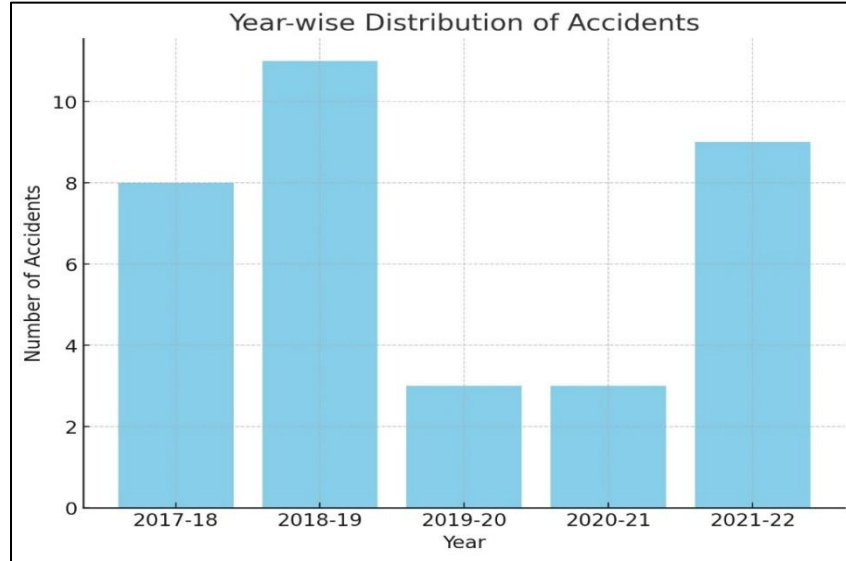
**WHAT NOW**

States given authority to reintroduce examinations | New policy in effect in over 3,000 central government schools, including all Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Vidyalayas, and Sainik Schools

### **Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defense 2024**

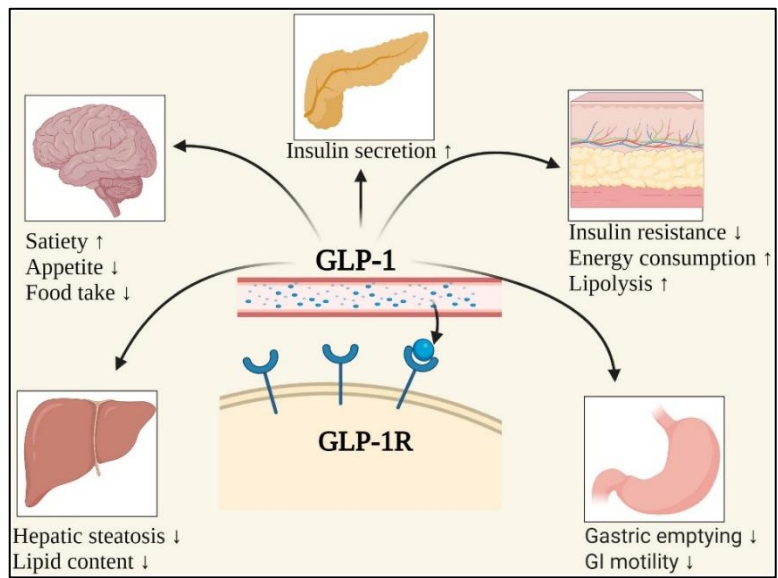
- ❖ Of 34 air accidents involving the Indian Air Force (IAF) between 2017-22, 19 were attributable to Human Error (Aircrew).
- ❖ This includes the Mi-17 chopper crash that killed the country’s first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Bipin Rawat.

- ❖ The ministry’s report noted a steady decline in the accident rate per 10,000 flying hours, which dropped from 0.93 (2000–2005) to 0.27 (2017–2022).
- ❖ The current rate for 2020–2024 stands at 0.20, reflecting the improved safety protocols.



## INTERNATIONAL

### New Obesity Treatment Options



- ❖ The WHO approved GLP-1 receptor agonists as a treatment for obesity, such as semaglutide and tirzepatide.
- ❖ They will mimic hormones that regulate appetite and blood sugar.

- ❖ The WHO emphasizes that while healthy eating and exercise are crucial, they alone cannot solve the obesity epidemic.
- ❖ In 2022, one in eight people worldwide was classified as obese, totalling 890 million adults and 160 million adolescents.
- ❖ In India, 44 million women and 26 million men were affected by obesity in 2022.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS**

### **Forbes 2024 - 3 Indian Women**

- ❖ The Forbes has unveiled its 21st annual list of The World's 100 Most Powerful Women.
- ❖ Among these global changemakers are three Indian women who have made remarkable strides in their respective fields.
- ❖ The number 28 on the list is Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman.
- ❖ Roshni Nadar Malhotra, the Chairperson of HCL Technologies ranked 81st on the list,
- ❖ Ranked at 82nd in the list is Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw as a trailblazer in the biotechnology.



## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Indian Prime Minister's Kuwait visit**

- ❖ Indian prime minister visited Kuwait after a 43 years gap.

- ❖ He attended the opening ceremony of the 26<sup>th</sup> Arabian Gulf Cup as 'Guest of Honour'.
- ❖ He was awarded with the Wisam Mubarak al-Kabeer, or the Order of Mubarak the Great.
- ❖ It is the 20<sup>th</sup> international award bestowed upon him by a country.
- ❖ The other recipients of this award include Queen Elizabeth II of England, former American Presidents George HW Bush and Bill Clinton, King Salman of Saudi Arabia and etc.
- ❖ The Indians constitute 21 per cent (1 million) of the total population of Kuwait and 30 per cent of its work-force (around 9 lakhs).
- ❖ Kuwait's bilateral trade valued at \$10.47 billion in the financial year 2023-24.
- ❖ Kuwait is India's sixth largest crude supplier, meeting 3% of the country's energy needs.
- ❖ Indian exports to Kuwait reached \$2 billion for the first time, while investments by the Kuwait Investment Authority in India exceeded \$10 billion.
- ❖ Earlier the then Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi visited Kuwait in 1981.

**India-Kuwait Relationship**

India was one of the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with Kuwait in 1961.

Before the development of oil, Kuwait's economy was primarily based on shipbuilding, pearl diving, fishing, and maritime trade with India.

The Indian community in Kuwait is a population with over one million.

**Significance of PM Modi's diplomatic Outreach**

PM Modi's proactive engagement has greatly strengthened India's position as a key partner in the Gulf.

India is set to navigate a complex web of relations with Arab states, Iran, Israel, and Turkey, balancing competing interests in the West Asia.

India has a chance to act as a bridge, encouraging greater Arab-Israeli cooperation, which could foster West Asian stability and support the 'Middle East Economic Corridor'.

