

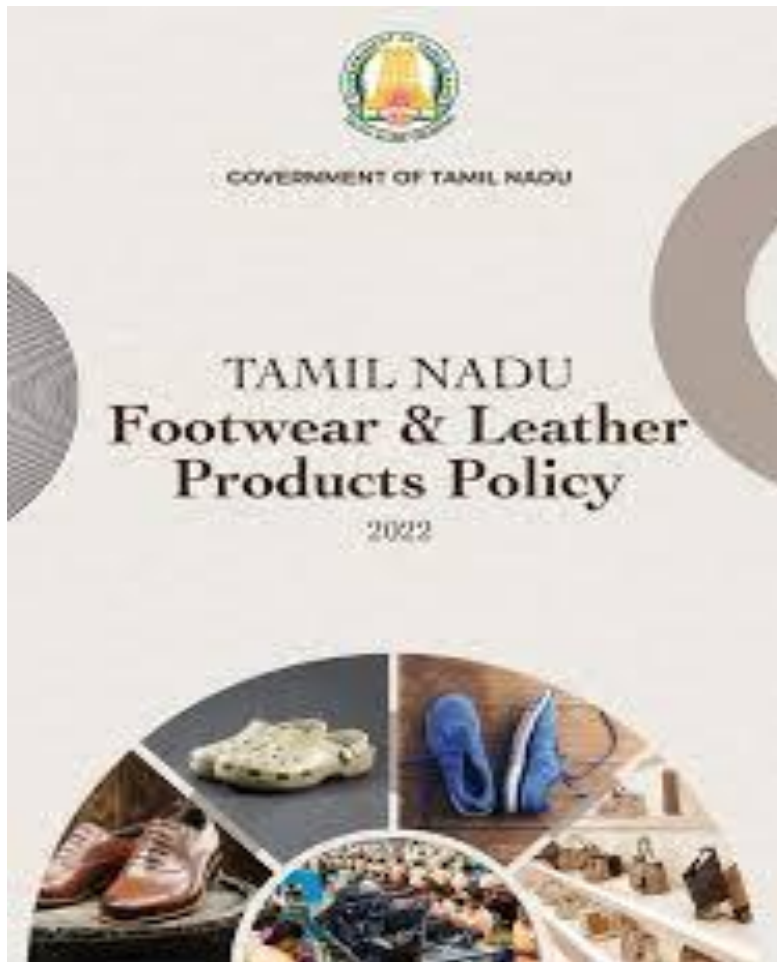
February - 02

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tarlochan Singh Bedi, a veteran academican who translated Tirukkural into Punjabi, and father of Gagandeep Singh Bedi died recently in Ludhiana, Punjab.
 - It was published by the Central Institute of Classical Tamil, Chennai, in 2012.
- ❖ Archaeologists of Tamil Nadu have found a 13-cm-long iron knife in the ongoing excavation site in Marungur, Cuddalore district.

TAMIL NADU

Economic Survey 2024-25 on Tamil Nadu




- ❖ The Economic Survey 2024-25 highlights the Tamil Nadu government's strategic initiatives to foster footwear manufacturing and Illam Thedi Kalvi (education at the doorstep).

- ❖ Tamil Nadu is a leader in the traditional leather sector and now championing the growth of non-leather footwear.
- ❖ The State contributes a 38% share to India's footwear and leather products output and accounts for 47% of India's total leather export.
- ❖ This sector generates more than 2 lakh jobs.
- ❖ The State has launched a dedicated Footwear and Leather Products Policy, 2022.
- ❖ Illam Thedi Kalvi (education at the doorstep) was launched to bridge the gap in education caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the digital divide.
- ❖ The initiative focuses on education through physical methods.
- ❖ Among the bigger States, Tamil Nadu leads the pack with the highest concentration of factories per person, followed by Gujarat.

Childhood cancer registry - first report

Tracking treatment

The Cancer Institute (WIA), Adyar, has published the first report from the Chennai Population-Based Childhood Cancer Registry (PBCCR). Here are some of the key findings



Cancer

- In 2022, the PBCCR registered **241 paediatric cancer cases** — among 139 boys and 102 girls — in the GCC. Of these, 170 were high-resolution data and the remaining routine data included from T.N. Cancer Registry Project
- The age-standardised rate for paediatric cancer in the city was **136.3 per million population** — 152.7 per million boys and 118.5 per million girls
- Among high-resolution cases, **81.2% received curative treatment**. The median time from symptom onset to diagnosis was 12.5 days, and the treatment started within two days of diagnosis

- In survival outcomes, at the two-year follow-up of all cases, of the **241 children, 143 were alive (59.3%); 40 were deceased**; and status was unknown for 58. For the high-resolution data, 120 of the 170 children were alive. Among them, 97 were disease-free; 15 had not achieved remission, 5 had relapsed, and 3 had an unknown disease status. Thirty-eight children died, and survival status was unknown for 12

Comparison of PBCCR with Indian registries in all cancers among 0-19 age group (both boys and girls)

When compared with other cities, Chennai's age-standardised paediatric cancer incidence rate (136.3 per million) was among the highest in the country

Places	ASR [per million population]
Delhi [2012-16]	159.1
Chennai [2022]	136.3
Thiruvananthapuram [2012-16]	129.95
Kollam [2012-16]	119
Bengaluru [2012-16]	103
Mumbai [2012-16]	92.75
Kamrup [2012-16]	87.15
Bhopal [2012-16]	73.6
Ahmedabad [2012-16]	68.4
Kolkata [2012-16]	59.5
Pune [2012-16]	57

Source : Chennai Population-Based Childhood Cancer Registry, Cancer Institute (WIA), Adyar

- ❖ The Chennai PBCCR (Chennai Population-Based Childhood Cancer Registry) is the country's first dedicated childhood cancer registry.
- ❖ It registered 241 paediatric cancer cases (139 boys and 102 girls aged up to 19) in the Greater Chennai Corporation in 2022.
- ❖ Of the 96,000 new patients diagnosed with cancer in Tamil Nadu in a year, 2,500 are children.
- ❖ One of the key findings was that the median time from symptom onset to the diagnosis was 12.5 days.
- ❖ Also, the median time from diagnosis to the start of treatment was two days.
- ❖ Among the high-resolution cases, 81.2% received curative treatment.



- ❖ Chennai's age-standardised paediatric cancer incidence rate (136.3 per million) ranks among the highest in the country, among the Indian population-based registries.

NATIONAL

Economic Survey 2025

ECONOMIC SURVEY 2024-25

- GDP growth forecast for FY26 between 6.3-6.8%
- All sectors are performing well
- Retail headline inflation softens from 5.4% to 4.9%
- Unemployment rate declines to 3.2%
- Services sector exports grew by 11.6% in the first nine months of FY25
- Food inflation driven by factors such as supply chain disruption, extreme weather condition

- ❖ The Economic Survey is a document which provides a summary of the Indian economy's performance, the government policies, and outlook for the upcoming financial year.
- ❖ The Economic Survey is prepared by the economic division of the Department of Economic Affairs headed by the Chief Economic Advisor (CEA).
- ❖ The survey has projected GDP growth to be 6.4 per cent for the financial year 2025-2026 (FY26).
- ❖ In the last fiscal year, construction sector showed exponential growth, growing about 15 per cent above its pre-pandemic trend.
- ❖ India's real GDP growth of 6.4 per cent in FY25 remains close to the decadal average.
- ❖ The gross non-performing assets declined to a 12-year low of 2.6 per cent of gross loans and advances.
- ❖ The aggregate demand in the economy is estimated to grow by 7.3 per cent, driven by a rebound in rural demand.

- ❖ Gross fixed capital formation (GFCF) (at constant prices) is estimated to grow by 6.4 per cent.
- ❖ On the supply side, the real gross value added (GVA) is estimated to grow by 6.4 per cent.
- ❖ The agriculture sector is expected to rebound to a growth of 3.8 per cent in FY25.
- ❖ The industrial sector is estimated to grow by 6.2 per cent in FY25.
- ❖ Growth in the services sector is expected to remain robust at 7.2 per cent.
- ❖ The Survey expects the real GDP growth in FY26 to be between 6.3 and 6.8 per cent.
- ❖ The percentage of self-employed individuals in India's workforce has increased to 58.4 per cent in 2023-24 from 52.2 per cent in 2017-18.
- ❖ India has tied with Germany, Vietnam, and UK in terms of the average weekly working hours at the highest level of 48 hours.
- ❖ Malaysia stands at the second spot, with an average weekly working hours of 45, and Singapore is third, with an average of 44 hours per week.
- ❖ The school dropout rates have steadily declined in recent years, standing at 1.9 per cent for the primary, 5.2 per cent for the upper primary and 14.1 per cent for the secondary levels.
- ❖ The India's school education system serves 24.8 crore students across 14.72 lakh schools with 98 lakh teachers.
- ❖ 313 Gram Nyayalayas disposed of more than 2.99 lakh cases from December 2020 to October 2024.
- ❖ The retail headline inflation softened from 5.4 per cent in FY24 to 4.9 per cent in April –December 2024.
- ❖ India's current account deficit stood at 1.2% of GDP in Q2FY25.
- ❖ The unemployment rate has reduced to 3.2 per cent in 2023-24 (July-June) from 6.0 per cent in 2017-18 (July-June).
- ❖ After the general elections, Capital expenditure has capex has grown by 8.2 per cent during July – November 2024 on a year-on-year basis.
- ❖ The net FDI inflows to India dropped from \$42 billion during FY23 to \$26.5 billion in FY24.

New rules for Aadhar authentication

- ❖ The UIDAI outlined a process for private entities to gain access to the Aadhaar authentication.

- ❖ The Aadhaar Authentication for Good Governance (Social Welfare, Innovation, Knowledge) Amendment Rules, 2025 make these additions to a brief framework originally published in 2020.
- ❖ The Language in the earlier rules that described their purpose as in the “interest of good governance, preventing leakage of public funds” has been removed now.
- ❖ Now, the firms will have to refer their use case to a Union or State government Ministry or department, which will then have to refer the proposal to the UIDAI.



Ethanol Procurement Price Revision for 2024-25

REVISION OF ETHANOL PROCUREMENT PRICE FOR ESY* 2024-25

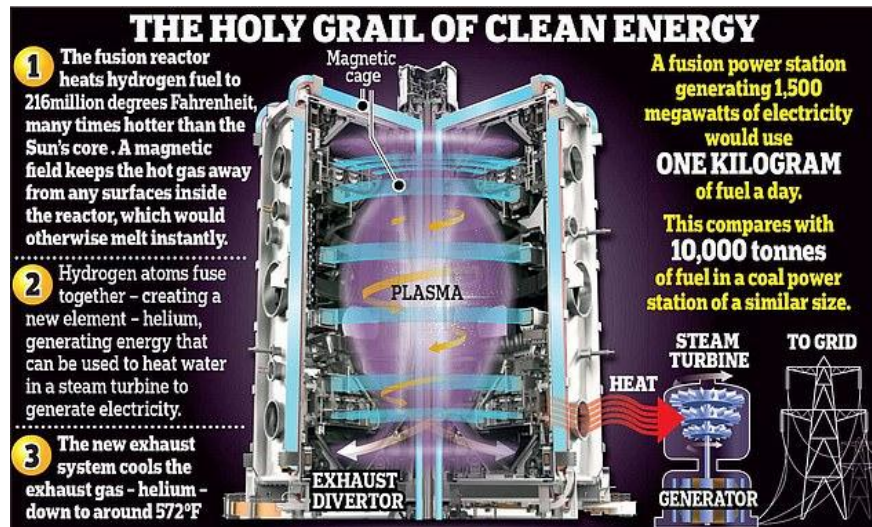
- ☑ Administered **ex-mill price** of **ethanol** derived from **C Heavy Molasses** fixed at **₹57.97/litre** for **ESY* 2024-25[^]**, under **EBP# Programme**
- ☑ To assure **sufficient availability** of **ethanol** to meet the increased blending target
- To provide **price stability & remunerative** prices for ethanol suppliers

- ❖ The centre approved the revision of ethanol procurement prices for public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for the Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2024-25.
- ❖ The period extends from November 1, 2024, to October 31, 2025, under the Government of India’s Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Program.
- ❖ The ex-mill price of the ethanol derived from C Heavy Molasses (CHM) has been increased from ₹56.58 to ₹57.97 per litre, marking a 3% rise.

- ❖ Ethanol blending by public sector OMCs surged from 38 crore litres in ESY 2013-14 to 707 crore litres in ESY 2023-24.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

China's tokamak's new record



- ❖ An experimental nuclear fusion reactor in China maintained its reaction for more than 1,000 seconds, or over 17 minutes, which is a new record.
- ❖ Nuclear fusion is what produces the energy in the Sun, or any other star.
- ❖ In December 2021, the United Kingdom-based JET laboratory set a new record in the amount of energy produced through fusion.
- ❖ It has produced about 12 MW of electricity for five seconds, enough to cater to the demands of about 10,000 homes for that period of time.
- ❖ There were at least 43 Fusion research companies operating in more than 10 countries.

ENVIRONMENT

New wetlands in Tamil Nadu 2025

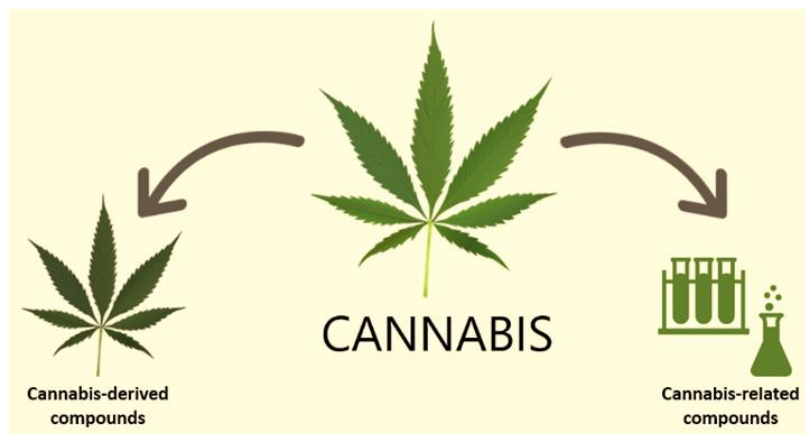
- ❖ Two bird sanctuaries in Tamil Nadu's Ramanathapuram district — Sakkarakottai and Therthangal — have been designated as Ramsar sites.
- ❖ With this, the State has 20 Ramsar sites and continues to have the highest number of Ramsar sites in India.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh follows with 10 sites.

- ❖ Ramanathapuram hosts two other Ramsar sanctuaries, that is Chitrangudi and Kanjirankulam.
- ❖ Other 2 new sites are the Khecheopalri Wetland (Sikkim), and the Udhwa Lake (Jharkhand).
- ❖ Thus, now India hosts total of 89 Ramsar sites.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu received its first Ramsar designation in 2002 for the Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary.



STATES

Cannabis Cultivation Pilot Project



- ❖ Himachal Pradesh Cabinet has approved a pilot study by two universities on the controlled cultivation of cannabis for medicinal and industrial purposes.

- ❖ In Madhya Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir, already such cultivation has been approved.
- ❖ If the pilot project is successful, Himachal Pradesh will become the fourth state to allow controlled cannabis cultivation.
- ❖ Countries such as the US, Canada and Germany also permit it.
- ❖ It is the regulated cultivation of the specific cannabis varieties having minimal intoxicating properties, along with strict monitoring to prevent misuse.
- ❖ Cannabis cultivation is largely prohibited in India due to its psychoactive properties.
- ❖ Section 2 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, prohibits the production and sale of cannabis resin and flowers.
- ❖ Uttarakhand is the first state to allow controlled cannabis cultivation in 2018.

Karnataka rules on Euthanasia



- ❖ On January 24, 2023, the Supreme Court ruled that the right to life guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution encompassed the right to die with dignity.
- ❖ The right to die with dignity is for people suffering from terminal illness, with no signs of recovery, and facing conditions of lifelong hardship.
- ❖ Karnataka Health Department issued an order to implement the Supreme Court's ruling allowing terminally ill patients to die with dignity.
- ❖ Karnataka is the second State after Kerala to implement the directive.



- ❖ The primary and secondary medical boards will take the decisions regarding the withholding of treatment after obtaining the consent of the patient's next of kin or the person nominated in the patient's advance medical directive.

