

February - 06

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa clinched the Tata Steel Masters 2025 title in Netherlands by defeating World Champion D Gukesh.
- ❖ Avaada Group is going to build India's largest green ammonia plant in Gopalpur, Odisha, with a production capacity of 1,500 tonnes per day.
- ❖ The Garuda Aerospace invests ₹100 crore in Andhra Pradesh is to establish India's first 'Drone City', aiming to revolutionize drone technology.
- ❖ Budget 2025-26 proposed to raise the foreign investment limit to 100% from 74% in the insurance sector as part of new-generation financial sector reforms.
- ❖ The Central Zoo Authority (CZA) has approved India's first white tiger breeding centre in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa district.
- ❖ The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha was awarded the Maharaja Hari Singh Award.
- ❖ The United Kingdom is set to become the first country to introduce laws against artificial intelligence tools used to generate sexualised images of children/ Child Abuse.
- ❖ The 13th edition of the joint India-Maldives military exercise 'Ekuverin' is being hosted by Maldives.
- ❖ The Social media platform X announced the launch of a digital wallet and peer-to-peer payments services named X money in collaboration with Visa.

## TAMIL NADU

### T.N. Climate Summit 3.0

- ❖ The T.N. Climate Summit 3.0 was held in Chennai.
- ❖ During the event, the Chief Minister launched a website for the voluntary rating of industries to encourage them to reduce their environmental impact by adopting production technologies that are more eco-friendly.
- ❖ He unveiled the 'Lifestyle for Climate' document, which introduces a certification programme for industries.
- ❖ An action plan for decarbonising Rajapalayam in Virudhunagar district was also launched.
- ❖ It is a specific plan to transform the industrial sector in the area into a model for low-carbon growth.

- ❖ CM also announced the establishment of eco-clubs in all schools in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ It is the part of the government's plan to teach students about climate change and its impact from a young age.



## Guidelines for transportation of cattle



- ❖ The Madras High Court has ordered an end to the practice of smearing the chilli flakes on the eyes of cattle to keep them awake during long journeys and also to prevent them from sitting/lying down inside the truck.

- ❖ It has laid down elaborate guidelines to be followed by the cattle transporters.
- ❖ Ramps and loading docks should be designed to prevent the cattle from slipping or falling.
- ❖ The vehicles, transporting cattle, must be properly ventilated and the warm temperatures must be ensured.
- ❖ They must also be periodically checked for signs of distress/injury/illness during the journey.
- ❖ The motor vehicles should be cleaned thoroughly before being used for the transportation of cattle in order to avoid spread of diseases from one animal to another.
- ❖ Further, the transporters must ensure the medical certificates issued by the authorised veterinarians certifying the distance and the duration for which the animals could be transported.

### **Porpanaikottai excavation 2025**

- ❖ A bone point, probably used as a tool for weaving, and a tiny broken piece of gold, have been unearthed by archaeologists at Porpanaikottai in Pudukottai district.
- ❖ Significantly, the archaeologists found a gold stud in floral design at the site during the first season of excavation in 2023.
- ❖ So far around 1,743 antiquities, including hopscotches, glass beads and bangles, soapstone beads, crystal beads, iron nails, terracotta wheel, antimony rod, copper coins, rubbing stone etc found in this site.

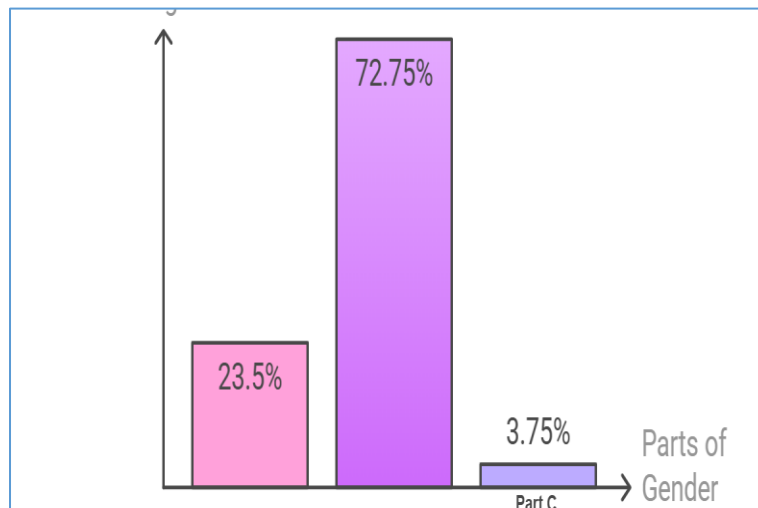


## **NATIONAL**

### **Gender Budget 2025-26**

- ❖ The share of Gender Budget allocation in the total Union Budget has increased to 8.86% in FY 2025-26 from 6.8% in FY 2024-25.

- ❖ An allocation of Rs. 4.49 lakh crore has been reported for welfare of women and girls in the gender budget statement of FY 2025-26.
- ❖ This is an increase of Rs. 37.25% over the GBS allocation of Rs. 3.27 lakh crore in FY 2024-25.
- ❖ Part A (100% women-specific schemes) got ₹1,05,535.40 crore (23.50% of total GBS).
- ❖ Part B (30-99% allocation for women) got ₹3,26,672.00 crore (72.75% of total GBS).
- ❖ Part C (Below 30% allocation for women) received ₹16,821.28 crore (3.75% of total GBS).
- ❖ This year a total of 49 Ministries/Departments and 5 UTs have also reported allocations as against 38 Ministries/Departments and 5 UTs in FY 2024-25.
- ❖ Top 3 Ministries/Departments that also have reported more than 30% of their allocations in the Gender Budget for FY 2025-26 are
  - Ministry of Women & Child Development (81.79%),
  - Department of Rural Development (65.76%) and
  - Department of Food & Public Distribution (50.92%).
- ❖ Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana–Grameen (PMAY-G) show low implementation - only 23% of houses allotted to women.

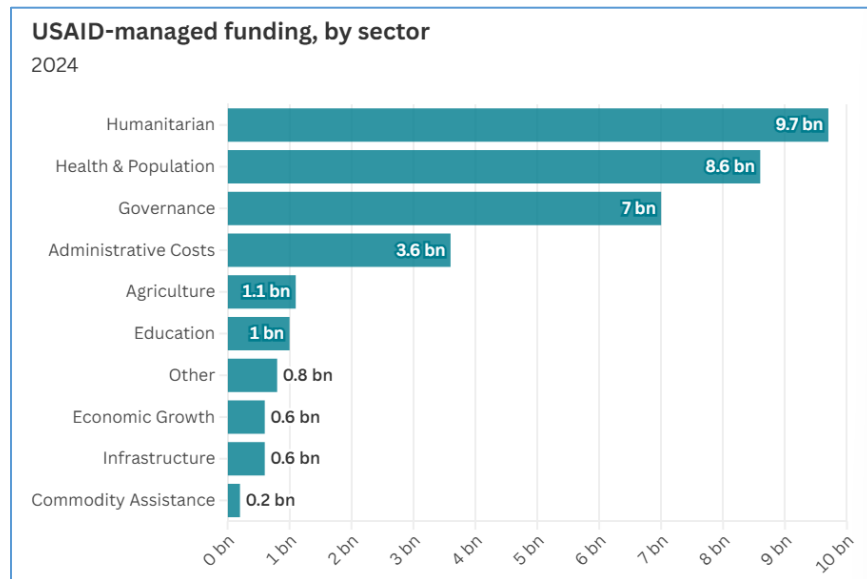


## INTERNATIONAL

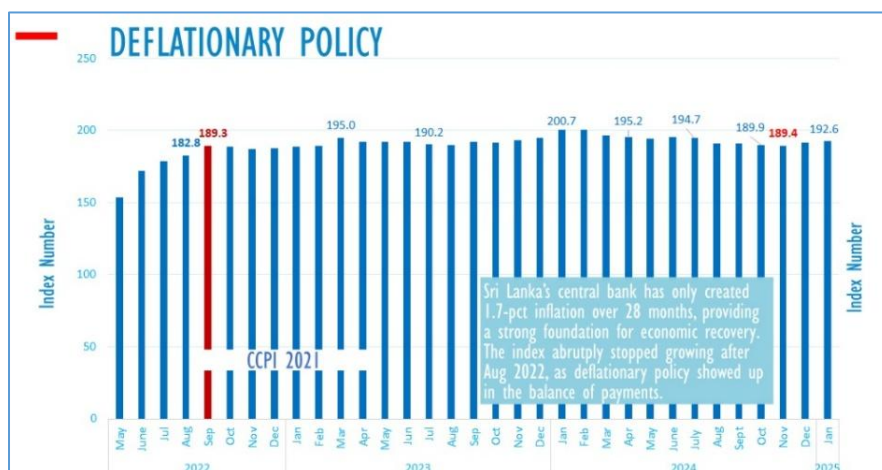
### USAID status 2025

- ❖ The President Donald Trump's administration has made significant changes to the U.S. agency charged with delivering humanitarian assistance overseas.

- ❖ The Then-President John F. Kennedy had established the U.S. Agency for the International Development, known as USAID, during the Cold War.
- ❖ The Congress passed the Foreign Assistance Act and Kennedy set up USAID as an independent agency in 1961.
- ❖ USAID supporters argued that U.S. assistance in countries counters Russian and Chinese influence.
- ❖ On his first day in office, Trump had also implemented a 90-day freeze on foreign assistance.



## Deflation in Sri Lanka

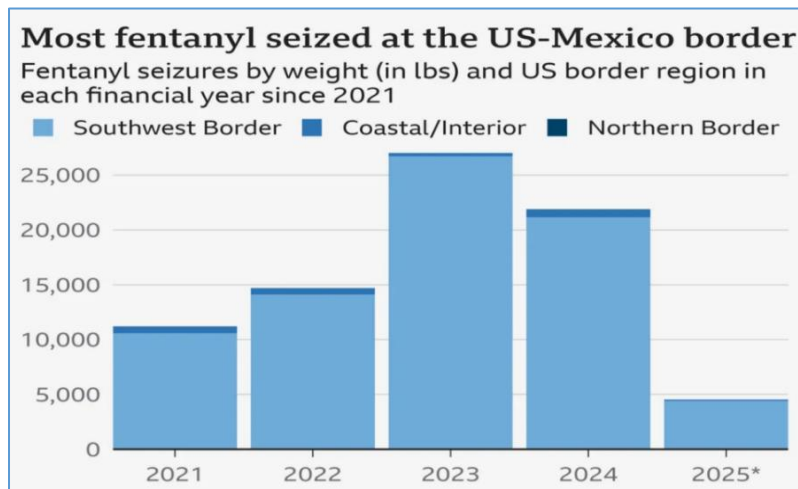


- ❖ Sri Lanka's consumer prices fell by 4.0 percent in January 2025.
- ❖ This is the highest deflation rate since July 1960.

- ❖ January was the fifth consecutive month of deflation, according to the Colombo Consumer Price Index.
- ❖ Deflation is the sustained decline in the general price level of goods and services.
- ❖ It occurs when supply exceeds demand, leading to reduced consumer spending.
- ❖ Inflation has hit a record 69.8 percent in September 2022 at the height of the country's economic crisis.
- ❖ Sri Lanka had secured a \$2.9 billion bailout loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) after the 2022 crash.

### **Fentanyl Crisis**

- ❖ Two individuals have been charged in Canada after they were arrested for alleged possession of 8 kg of fentanyl, potentially amounting to millions of doses.
- ❖ US prosecution accused two Surat-based firms of shipping fentanyl precursors, mislabelling them as Vitamin C.
- ❖ Fentanyl is A highly addictive synthetic opioid.
- ❖ It is also considered approximately 50 times more potent than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine.
- ❖ In 2019, China classified fentanyl as a controlled narcotic and later added some of the chemicals used to make it to the list.



## **ECONOMY**

### **New Guidelines for Market Infrastructure Institutions**

- ❖ The SEBI has released the guidelines for the evaluation of the performance of statutory committees of market infrastructure institutions (MIIs).

- ❖ Under the guidelines, the MIIs are required to appoint an independent external agency to evaluate their performance and the functioning of their statutory committees. This needs to be done once every three years.
- ❖ MIIs are comprising stock exchanges, clearing corporations, and depositories.
- ❖ The first evaluation should cover the 2024-2025 financial year, with a report due by September 30, 2025.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Golden-headed Cisticola

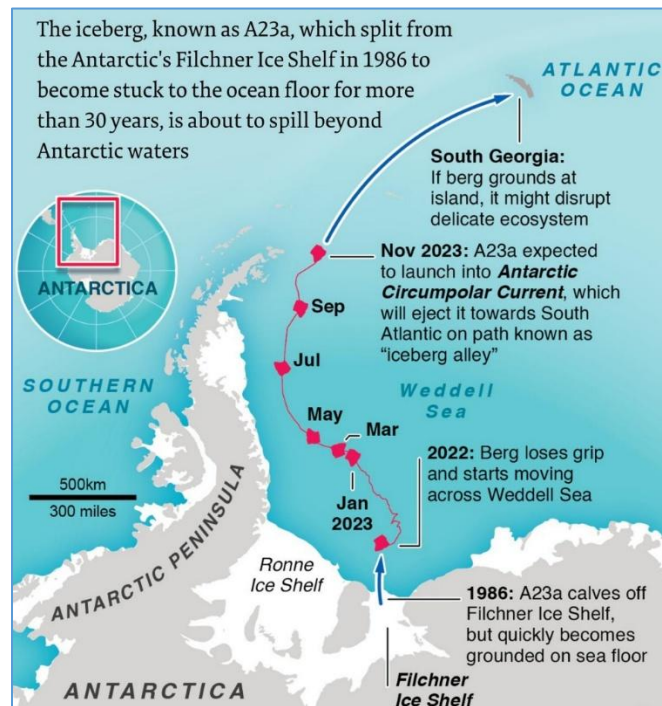


- ❖ The Golden-headed Cisticola (*Cisticola exilis*), usually found in grasslands, was recently discovered in the Mathikettan Shola National Park, Idukki, Kerala.
- ❖ This discovery marks the first sighting of the bird in the southern Western Ghats after an extensive gap.

- ❖ Earlier the Golden-headed Cisticola has been observed in parts of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and northern Kerala.
- ❖ The bird is usually found in grasslands in the mountain ranges.

### A23a in Atlantic Ocean

- ❖ A23a is the largest iceberg in the world was freed from the Filchner Ice Shelf in Antarctica.
- ❖ It was set afloat recently on his journey in the south Atlantic.
- ❖ It's about one trillion tons in weight and has an area of about 400 square miles.
- ❖ A23a had spent 37 years sitting on the ocean floor northwest of Antarctica before it was detached from the Antarctic Filchner Ice Shelf in 1986.
- ❖ The iceberg is currently 300 kilometers away from South Georgia Island and will arrive there in two to four weeks.



## STATES

### Deepor Beel Festival 2025

- ❖ The recent, 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Deepor Beel Winter Birding Festival 2025 saw an increase in the number of both migratory and residential birds compared to the count done in 2024.



- ❖ Deepor Beel is a perennial freshwater lake located on the outskirts of Guwahati, in the Kamrup district of Assam.
- ❖ It was recognised as a Ramsar Site in 2002 and as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) in 2004.
- ❖ It is the only Ramsar site in Assam.



### **MY NREGA App - Barmer, Rajasthan**

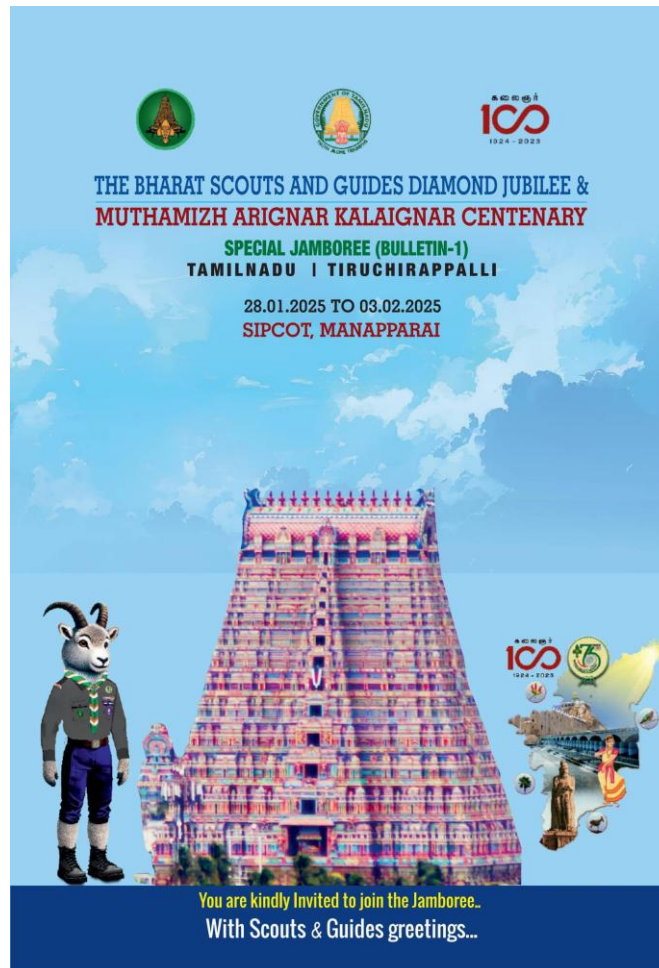


- ❖ 2020 batch IAS officer Siddharth Palanichamy took the initiative to develop the MY NREGA App.
- ❖ This app is designed to simplify the employment demand process for the MNREGA workers.

- ❖ It will be allowing them to apply for work with ease from their homes.
- ❖ Previously, the workers had to visit Gram Panchayats to submit Form No. 6 for employment, a process that often-consumed valuable time and effort.
- ❖ It also often led to missed applications and inefficient tracking of requests.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### K. Alamelu – Scout member



- ❖ The 75<sup>th</sup> Bharat Scouts and Guides' Diamond Jubilee function and Kalaignar Centenary Celebration held at SIPCOT complex near Manapparai.
- ❖ The celebration had attracted over 20,000 Scouts and Guides from different parts of the country and South East Asian and West Asian countries.
- ❖ The 91-year-old K. Alamelu, a resident of Chennai, stands as a torch-bearer of the motto participated in the event.

- ❖ She has attended 12 jamborees, usually held once in four years, in the post-Independence period, and numerous ‘camporees’ held in different States.
- ❖ She attended the silver jubilee of the movement in Haryana, golden jubilee in Chennai and diamond jubilee in Tiruchi.
- ❖ K.K. Khandelwal, National Chief Commissioner of the Bharat Scouts and Guides Movement, announced the prestigious Silver Elephant Award to Anbil Mahesh for his contributions to the Movement.
- ❖ The award will be given by President Droupadi Murmu.
- ❖ David Baden-Powell, the 5th Baron of Gilwell and a descendant of Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Scouts movement also attended the event.
- ❖ The Jamboree Committee is led by Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi as the Patron-in-Chief, Chief Minister MK Stalin as the Chief Patron, and Deputy Chief Minister as the Patron of the Jamboree Council.

