

February - 15

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Integral Coach Factory (ICF) has unveiled air-conditioned train set for the Chennai division of Southern Railway.
- ❖ The Indian Army and IAF have successfully conducted the joint 'Winged Raider' exercise in the Eastern Theatre, focusing on airborne operations to enhance coordination and readiness.
- ❖ India's first indigenous Automated Biomedical Waste Treatment Plant is named "Srjanam" and inaugurated at AIIMS New Delhi.
- ❖ The United Kingdom has announced the formal launch of "Defence Partnership-India", or DP-I, a dedicated cell within the U.K. Ministry of Defence for deepening cooperation with India.
- ❖ IIT-Madras, and the ISRO have developed an indigenous aerospace quality Shakti-based semiconductor chip.
- ❖ India's Pankaj Advani secured his 36<sup>th</sup> overall national title and 10th men's snooker crown at the Yashwant Club, Indore in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Three Indian computer science students from New Delhi won the Bronze Award at the Global Best M-Gov Award 2025 during the World Government Summit (WGS) in Dubai.
- ❖ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has introduced 'Culinary, Crafts & Clicks – Moods & Magic' festival to highlight India's cultural richness through food, traditional arts, and photography.

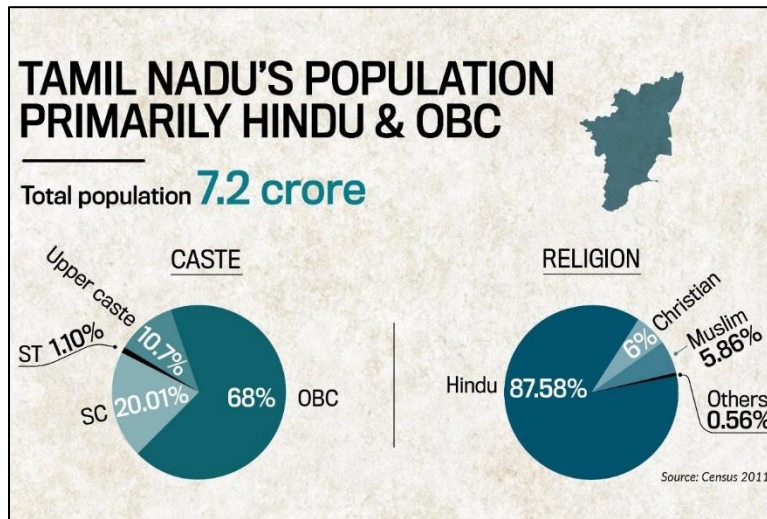
## TAMIL NADU

### Update in BCs list of Tamil Nadu

- ❖ The Tamilnadu State government has allowed the delinking of the Thuluva Vellalars community from Agamudayars in the list of Backward Classes (BCs).
- ❖ This marks the end of the 80-year-long "association" of the community with the Agamudayars, who are one of the three constituents of 'Mukkalothars', the other two being Kallars and Maravars.
- ❖ The First BC Commission, headed by veteran civil servant A.N. Sattanathan, was functioned during November 1969-70.
- ❖ This Commission, used the term 'Agamudayan', had received representations that "like the Kallars, Agamudayans also migrated from the southern districts

but there is no relation between them and the Agamudayan Mudaliar and the Thuluva Vellalars of Madras.

- ❖ The Second BC panel (1982-85) was headed by J. A. Ambasankar.
- ❖ The Second Commission had carried out a caste survey, stated that no separate count of the Thuluva Vellalars was possible, going by the way they had identified themselves.



## Inter-faith marriages and Special Marriage Act of 1954

### About

- Special Marriage Act of 1954 enables inter-faith or inter-caste couples to marry without giving up their religious identity or resorting to conversion.
- **Eligibility:** Applicable to the people belonging to all faith, including Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Christian, Jain & Buddhist communities.
- **Minimum age:** The minimum age to get married under the SMA is 21 years for males and 18 years for females.
- The parties involved will have to give a notice in writing to the "Marriage Officer" of the district, in which one of the parties has resided for 30 days preceding the notice.
- The marriage will only be solemnized if the parties and three witnesses sign a declaration form before the Marriage Officer.
- The parties will be given a "Certificate of marriage" once the declaration is accepted.

- ❖ The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court observed that, a person of Hindu faith who wishes to marry a person of another faith, then such a marriage should be registered under the Special Marriage Act of 1954.
- ❖ This will avoid the marriage being declared illegal and void.



- ❖ The procedures prescribed in the personal law for the Hindus indicated that at the time of marriage both the parties should be the Hindus and should perform marriage rites according to the Hindu customs and rites.
- ❖ If one of the parties did not belong to the Hindu faith, the proper procedure was to register the marriage under the Special Marriage Act.

### **Additional State Expert Appraisal Committee**



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government intends set up an additional State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC).
- ❖ This move will be aiming at granting speedy clearances to growing number of infrastructure and development projects in the State.
- ❖ The tenure of the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) and the State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) are set to end in April this year.
- ❖ The TN government had requested to expedite the clearance to its proposal for reconstituting these panels.
- ❖ It requested for sanctioning a project for creating a green shield for enhancing coastal and forest ecosystems in Thoothukudi district.
- ❖ The project aims to halt sea erosion in several coastal areas in the district through nature-based solutions.

## **NATIONAL**

### **New Income Tax Bill 2025**

- ❖ Finance Minister tabled the new income tax bill to cut through the jargon in the 1961 Income Tax Act and make it easier to understand.
- ❖ The present law had over 800 sections whereas the proposed law had only 536.



- ❖ The new tax system is built on five core principles, which make it 'S.I.M.P.L.E' for people to follow and to enforce.
- ❖ These five principles were explained as: "**S**treamlined structure and language, **I**ntegrated and concise, **M**inimised litigation, **P**ractical and transparent, **L**earn and adapt, and **E**fficient tax reforms".
- ❖ There are 23 chapters, fewer than half the 47 chapters in The Income-tax Act.
- ❖ There are 16 schedules, two more than in the Act.
- ❖ The Bill introduces the concept of "tax year", which has been defined as the 12-month period beginning April 1.
- ❖ Virtual digital assets such as cryptocurrencies have been included in the definition of property to be counted as a capital asset of the assessee.
- ❖ The bill was referred to a joint parliamentary committee - which will examine the new tax proposals and make changes, if needed.
- ❖ The new law will take effect from April 1, 2026.

<b>INSIDE BILL INTRODUCED IN PARLIAMENT</b>		
<b>Particulars</b>	<b>Income-tax Act, 1961</b>	<b>Bill tabled in LS</b>
Chapters	47	23
Sections	819*	536
Words	5.12 lakh	2.60 lakh

*\* Effective sections. About 1200 provisos and 900 sections have been removed in the new Bill.*

<p><b>SCHEDULE II (16 ROWS)</b> Incomes exempt, such as agricultural income</p> <p><b>SCHEDULE III (39 ROWS)</b> Certain persons eligible for exemption on certain income such as partners of firms and HUF, etc.</p> <p><b>SCHEDULE IV (14 ROWS)</b> Exemptions to non-residents</p>	<p><b>SCHEDULE V (8 ROWS)</b> Exemption to business trusts, Sovereign Wealth Funds, etc.</p> <p><b>SCHEDULE VI (12 ROWS)</b> Exemptions to IFSC units</p> <p><b>SCHEDULE VII (48 ROWS)</b> Persons exempt from tax</p>
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### **Revised MIS guidelines**

- ❖ The agriculture ministry has revised the guidelines for the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS).
- ❖ It is increasing the procurement limit of crops to 25% from 20%.
- ❖ The MIS is implemented for procurement of various perishable agricultural / horticultural commodities such as tomato, onion, potato, etc.
- ❖ For these goods, the minimum support price (MSP) is not applicable.

- ❖ The MIS will be implemented only when there is a minimum reduction of 10% in the prevailing market price as compared to the previous normal year.

## MARKET INTERVENTION SCHEME (MIS)

Making Procurement System for Farmers Easier

- **Procurement of Agricultural and Horticultural Commodities** which are **Perishable** in nature & not covered under **Price Support System (PSS)**
- **Protecting the growers** of these commodities in the **event of a bumper crop** during the peak arrival period



### SHREYAS Scheme Scholarships

<u>SHREYAS for SC</u>				
Financial Year	Expenditure (in Crore)	Male beneficiaries	Female beneficiaries	Total beneficiaries
2019-20	272.3	3938	2450	6388
2020-21	218.89	4778	2372	7150
2021-22	261.64	5720	2628	8348
2022-23	306.33	5320	2557	7877
2023-24	372.22	5470	2779	8249

- ❖ The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment provides scholarship to the Scheduled Castes (SC), Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Divyangjan.
- ❖ Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers (SHREYAS) for Scheduled Castes (SC) is a Central Sector Umbrella Scheme.
- ❖ It is implemented by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment and comprises 04 sub-schemes.
- ❖ SHREYAS for (OBC) and others comprises two sub-schemes.

- ❖ Among the two, National Fellowship for OBC is alone a scholarship scheme.
- ❖ The Department of Persons with Disabilities does not implement any Scheme under the name of the Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers (SHREYAS).
- ❖ However, the Department is implementing an Umbrella Scheme namely the 'Scholarship for Students with Disabilities (Divyangjan)' which comprises six sub-schemes.
- ❖ All the above-mentioned Schemes are Central Sector Schemes; therefore, funds are not allotted to States/Districts.
- ❖ These Schemes are implemented on pan India basis and students from any State can avail benefit under the Schemes.

## New 15 Point Program 2025



- ❖ The Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programs for welfare of Minorities is unveiled recently.
- ❖ This programme covers the various schemes/initiatives of the participating the Ministries / Departments with an aim to ensure that the underprivileged and the weaker sections of six centrally notified minority communities have equal opportunities for availing the various schemes.
- ❖ The programme has the following broad objectives:
  - Enhancing opportunities for education;
  - Ensuring an equitable share for the minorities in economic activities and employment, through existing and new schemes, enhanced credit support for self-employment, and recruitment to State and Central Government jobs;
  - Improving the conditions of living of minorities by ensuring an appropriate share for them in infrastructure development schemes; and

- Prevention and control of communal disharmony and violence.

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

### **Architect of India's green revolution C. Subramaniam**

- ❖ A statue of the former Union Minister C. Subramaniam (CS) was unveiled at the National Agro Foundation (NAF)'s Centre for Rural Development premises at Illedu village in Cheyyur taluk of Chengalpattu.
- ❖ The NAF was founded by CS.
- ❖ There was a major drought in the several northern States in 1965-66 when CS became the Union Agriculture Minister.
- ❖ It was around that time that Norman Borlaug developed hybrid Mexican wheat and M.S. Swaminathan procured seeds of IR8 and Sonalika from Manila.
- ❖ CS took the risk and got the hybrid rice and wheat seeds and distributed them throughout the country.
- ❖ And by 1971, India became self-sufficient in food grains.



## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **International Darwin Day 2025 - February 12**

- ❖ This day honours the widely known naturalist Charles Darwin on his birth anniversary.
- ❖ Darwin famously published his work on evolution by natural selection in the book *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*.
- ❖ It is followed by a series of other articles that he penned between 1858 and 1859.

- ❖ He is also known as the Father of Evolutionary Theory.



### **World Radio Day 2025 - February 13**



- ❖ It is a day to recognise the importance of radio in promoting the information, education, and entertainment across diverse communities.
- ❖ The UNESCO proclaimed World Radio Day in 2011, officially recognising the impact of radio on spreading information.
- ❖ The date was chosen because it marks the anniversary of the establishment of United Nations Radio in 1946.

### **National Women's Day 2025 - February 13**

- ❖ This day marks the birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu, a freedom fighter, child prodigy and poet.
- ❖ Sarojini Naidu, also known as the Nightingale of India, was born on February 13, 1879.





- ❖ She was the first woman to become the President of the Indian National Congress in 1925.
- ❖ Later, she also became the first woman governor of United Provinces from 1947 to 1949.
- ❖ In 1929, she presided over East African Indian Congress in South Africa.
- ❖ She was awarded the Kaisar-i-Hind Medal by the British for her work during the plague epidemic in India.
- ❖ The Golden Threshold, her first collection of poems, was published in 1905.

**Sarojini Naidu**, freedom fighter and poet, was born on Feb 13, 1879

## The **Nightingale** of India

Began writing at the age of 12

Was the **second woman to become the president** of the Indian National Congress in 1925

Was the **first woman** to become a Governor in **1947**

Her famous works include, *Maher Muneer* & *The Golden Threshold*

**"Oh, we want a new breed of men before India can be cleansed of her disease"**

