

February - 17

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ A conch shell, which used to make bracelets, has been unearthed at Marungur near Panruti in Cuddalore district.
- ❖ The Madras High Court held that, the Caste cannot be a criterion to appoint temple trustees rather religious faith, deep devotion towards God and a virtuous behaviour should be considered.
- ❖ The International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS) and the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) was successfully concluded the IIAS-DARPG India Conference 2025.
- ❖ The International Conference on “Innovations in Unani Medicine for Integrative Health Solutions – A way forward” organized as part of Unani Day 2025 in New Delhi
- ❖ Oil marketing companies have selected 26 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) out of 286 applications for setting up retail petrol and diesel outlets.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India is to issue New ₹50 Notes with the Governor Sanjay Malhotra's Signature.
- ❖ Asia’s first hyper-realistic life-sized animatronic elephant, Ellie, was unveiled at St. Joseph’s School in Bengaluru captivating students while delivering a message on animal welfare.
- ❖ The Indian Prime Minister announced that India will host the next Global AI Summit, following discussions at the AI Action Summit in Paris.
- ❖ The Vice President of India has launched the much-anticipated book, “I Am?” compiled by Gopichand P. Hinduja, Chairman of the Hinduja Group.

TAMIL NADU

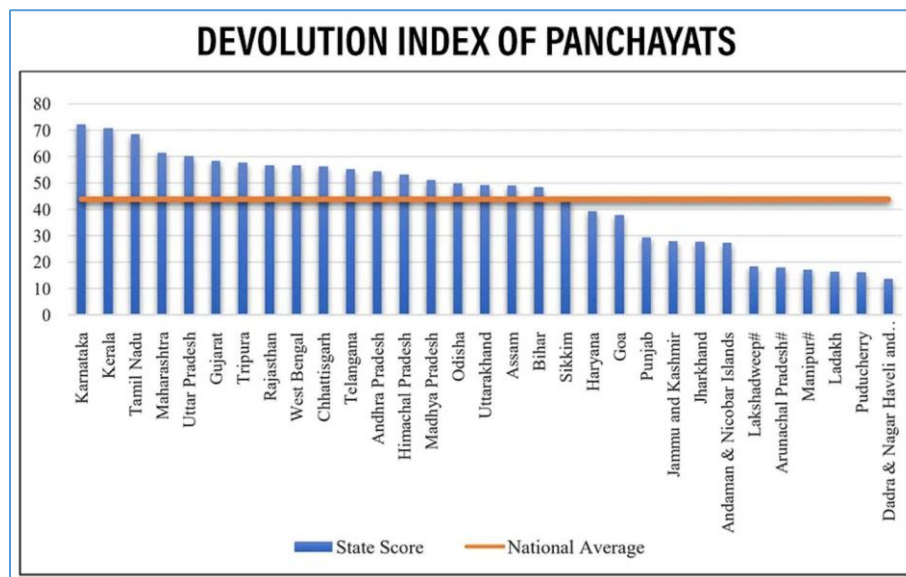
Fourth DISHA Meeting – Tamil Nadu

- ❖ The fourth state-level review meeting of the District Development, Coordination and Monitoring (DISHA) Committee was held at Secretariat.
- ❖ The Centre was yet to provide Rs 2,118 crore which was due as wage arrears for the workers under the MGNREGA Scheme.
- ❖ In 2023-24, TN provided 59 days of work, more than the national average of 52 days.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu was a pioneer in India in implementing the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

- ❖ A total of 3,43,958 houses out of 3,61,591 houses that were sanctioned for 2021-2022 have been constructed under the PM housing scheme.
- ❖ In 2023-24, financial assistance of Rs 45.52 crore was provided to 1,51,674 pregnant women.
- ❖ In the current year, the assistance was being provided to mothers giving birth to their first child and second daughter too.



Panchayat devolution index 2024



- ❖ The report - Status of Devolution to Panchayats in States (2024) – An Indicative Evidence Based Ranking’ - was launched by the Union Minister of State for the Panchayati Raj.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has been ranked third at the all-India level under the Panchayat Devolution Index (PDI).
- ❖ The State has received a score of 68.38 next to Karnataka (72.23) and Kerala (70.59).

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has the highest score at the national level with 60.24 with regard to the dimension of “functions.”
- ❖ In Tamil Nadu, there are 12,525 village panchayats, 388 panchayat unions and 37 district panchayats.
- ❖ For Tamil Nadu, the share of panchayats’ revenue in the State’s Own Revenue was 0.31% during 2021-22.
- ❖ Three southern States - Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka - had higher share with 2.84%, 2.42% and 0.67% respectively.

NATIONAL

4-tier Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD) mechanism



- ❖ Government has taken various measures to address the issue of illicit narcotics trade and to improve cooperation between local police and anti-narcotics efforts.
- ❖ A 4-tier Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD) mechanism will be established.
- ❖ This will ensure the better coordination between the Central & State Drug Law Enforcement Agencies and other stake holders in the field of controlling drug trafficking and drug abuse in India has been established.
- ❖ An all in-one NCORD portal has been developed for information related to drug law enforcement.
- ❖ To monitor the investigation of the important and significant seizures, a Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) under the Chairmanship of Director General, Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has been set up.



- ❖ A dedicated Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) headed by the Additional Director General / Inspector General level Police Officer has been established in each State / Union Territory.
- ❖ The Government has empowered National Investigation Agency under NDPS Act, 1985 in the year 2020 for investigation of narco-terrorism cases.
- ❖ A National Narcotics Helpline “Madak-Padarth Nished Asoochana Kendra” (MANAS) has been created as a 24x7, toll-free number - 1933 National Narcotics Call Centre.
- ❖ A Toll-free Helpline No.-14446 for de-addiction is being maintained by the Government for providing primary counselling and immediate assistance.
- ❖ India has launched Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) in 272 identified most vulnerable districts, later on extended to all districts of the country.

Exemption from Labour laws

Article 33

1. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 3 of this article, a diplomatic agent shall with respect to services rendered for the sending State be exempt from social security provisions which may be in force in the receiving State.
2. The exemption provided for in paragraph 1 of this article shall also apply to private servants who are in the sole employ of diplomatic agent, on condition:
 - (a) that they are not nationals of or permanently resident in the receiving State; and
 - (b) that they are covered by the social security provisions which may be in force in the sending State or a third State.
3. A diplomatic agent who employs persons to whom the exemption provided for in paragraph 2 of this article does not apply shall observe the obligations which the social security provisions of the receiving State impose upon employers.
4. The exemption provided for in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article shall not preclude voluntary participation in the social security system of the receiving State provided that such participation is permitted by that State.
5. The provisions of this article shall not affect bilateral or multilateral agreements concerning social security concluded previously and shall not prevent the conclusion of such agreements in the future.

- ❖ Foreign diplomatic missions in India cannot claim any exemption from following the labour and social security laws of the country, the Madras High Court has held.
- ❖ Indians serving in foreign diplomatic missions here need not obtain the Centre's permission, under Section 86 of the Code of Civil Procedure, before approaching an industrial tribunal against their employers.
- ❖ Parliament had enacted the Diplomatic Relations (Vienna Convention) Act, 1972, to give a force of law to a convention adopted by India at the UN Conference on Diplomatic Intercourse and Immunities held in Vienna on April 14, 1961.
- ❖ Article 33 of the Convention clearly states that only foreign nationals serving in a diplomatic mission would be exempt from the social security laws of the receiving State.

- ❖ Therefore, the exemption provided for in the Article is not applicable to the nationals of the receiving State.
- ❖ Section 25F of the Industrial Disputes (ID) Act, 1947, requires an employer to pay compensation equivalent to 15 days' average salary for every completed year of service before retrenching a permanent employee.

Coal Gasification Incentive Scheme

- ❖ The Ministry of Coal has announced the selected applicants under Category-II of the Financial Incentive Scheme.
 - Jindal Steel and Power Limited
 - New Era Cleantech Solution Pvt. Ltd.
 - Greta Energy Limited
- ❖ With an ₹8,500 crore financial outlay, the scheme is designed to accelerate coal gasification, reduce carbon emissions, enhance energy security, and promote sustainable development.
- ❖ It was launched on January 24, 2024, the scheme encourages both the private companies and government PSUs to undertake coal gasification projects.



Coal Gasification Projects!!

Financial Incentive Scheme for Coal Gasification Projects will disburse incentives in two installments to promote sustainable energy solutions.

Incentives in two installments:

-  1st Installment after initial loan & **30% equity** contribution of the project.
-  2nd Installment after **50% production** capacity & 1 year of continued production.

Now, last day for bid submission is 11.11.2024

Rules on Lottery Taxation Authority

- ❖ The Supreme Court ruled that only state governments - not the Centre - have the authority to impose taxes on the sale of lotteries.

- ❖ Lotteries fall under the definition of “betting and gambling” as per Entry 62 of the State List in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.
- ❖ This was making it clear that only state legislatures have the power to tax them.
- ❖ The operation of lotteries is not uniform across the country - only some states allow and regulate lotteries, while others have outright banned them.
- ❖ The central government made Amendments to the Finance Act in 2010, 2012, 2015 and 2016 sought to levy service tax on lottery-related activities
- ❖ The Centre was arguing that the distribution, promotion, marketing, and sale of lotteries amounted to a taxable “service”.

Lottery Tickets Exempted From Service Tax

- No service tax on sale and purchase of lottery tickets, says Supreme Court
- The court holds that lottery distributors such as Future Gaming, Online Summit are not liable to pay service tax
- Says activities of lottery distributors do not have a service element, therefore no service tax.

*Alert: In 2012, Sikkim HC said there is no service element in the transaction
Alert: Centre had filed an appeal against this Sikkim HC verdict*

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

14AFAF 2025



- ❖ The 14th Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum (14AFAF) on the “Greening the Blue Growth in Asia-Pacific” was held in Delhi.



- ❖ The AFAF is a triennial event of the Asian Fisheries Society with its Headquarters in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- ❖ This event is being hosted in India for the 2nd time after the 8AFAF held at Kochi in 2007.

SPORTS

National Games 2025

Rank	State	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	SSCB	68	26	27	121
2	Maharashtra	54	71	76	201
3	Haryana	48	47	58	153
4	Madhya Pradesh	34	26	22	82
5	Karnataka	34	18	28	80
6	Tamil Nadu	27	30	35	92
7	Uttarakhand	24	35	44	103

- ❖ The 38th edition of the National Games was held in Uttarakhand with 28 states, the eight union territories and the Services Sports Control Board (SSCB).
- ❖ The Services bagged nine more medals, including three gold, for a Games total haul of 121 (68 gold, 26 silver, 27 bronze).
- ❖ It had finished second behind Maharashtra in the 2023 edition in Goa.
- ❖ Before that, it had topped the medal tally in four successive National Games (2007, 2011, 2015 and 2022).
- ❖ Maharashtra won more medals than Services with 198 (54 gold, 71 silver, 73 bronze) but the lesser number of golds.
- ❖ Even Haryana got more medals than Services with 153 (48 gold, 47 silver, 58 bronze).
- ❖ Tamil Nadu (27 gold, 30 silver, 34 bronze), Uttarakhand (24 gold, 35 silver, 43 bronze), West Bengal (16 gold, 13 silver, 18 bronze), Punjab (15 gold, 20 silver, 31 bronze) and Delhi (15 gold, 18 silver, 29 bronze) rounded off the top-10.
- ❖ In hockey competitions in Haridwar, Haryana defeat Madhya Pradesh the final to win the women's gold medal.



❖ In the men's event, Karnataka victory over Uttar Pradesh to win the gold.

