

January - 03

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Defence declares 2025 as 'Year of Reforms'.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet has extended the one-time special subsidy on fertilizer Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) at a rate of ₹3,500 per metric tonne till from January 1, 2025 till further orders.
- ❖ The Steel Authority of India Limited has been recognized as 'Great Place to Work' by the Great Place to Work Institute, India, for the second consecutive period.
- ❖ Ministry of Textiles organised the 3rd edition of the Mega event "Viraasat Sari Festival 2024" to celebrate Handloom Saris of various parts of India in New Delhi.

## TAMIL NADU

### Creation of 13 municipalities

**மறு சீரமைப்பு**  
**செய்யப்படும் இடங்கள்**

- பெருநகர சென்னை மாநகராட்சி, மதுரை, திருச்சி உள்ளிட்ட 16 மாநகராட்சிகள் 4 நகராட்சிகள், 5 பேரூராட்சிகள் மற்றும் 149 ஊராட்சிகள் இணைப்பு
- திருவாரூர், திருவள்ளூர், சிதம்பரம் உள்ளிட்ட 41 நகராட்சிகளுடன் 147 ஊராட்சிகள் மற்றும் 1 பேரூராட்சி இணைத்தல்
- கன்னியாகுமரி, அரூர், பெருந்துறை உள்ளிட்ட 13 புதிய நகராட்சிகள் அமைத்துருவாக்கம்
- ஏற்காடு, காளையர்கோவில், திருமயம் உள்ளிட்ட 25 பேரூராட்சிகள் அமைத்துருவாக்கம்
- 29 கிராம ஊராட்சிகளை 29 பேரூராட்சிகளுடன் இணைத்தல் என மறுசீரமைப்பு செய்யப்படவுள்ளது.

- நகராட்சி நிர்வாகம்(ம்) குடிநீர் வழங்கல் துறை.

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has announced the contours of the now proposed reorganisation of numerous local bodies.
- ❖ It will be including the merger of a large number of village panchayats with urban local bodies.
- ❖ The proposal also covers the creation of 13 municipalities and of 25 town panchayats.
- ❖ Among the proposed new municipalities are Kanniyakumari, Harur, and Perundurai.



- ❖ The government has also proposed establishing 25 town panchayats, including Yercaud, Kalayarkoil and Thirumayam.
- ❖ Besides, 29 village panchayats are likely to be merged with 25 town panchayats.

### Tamil Nadu borrowings in Q4 2024-25


Month	Proposed Date	Expected quantum of borrowing (in ₹ Cr)	States/UTs who have confirmed participation and the tentative amount of borrowing (in ₹ Cr)	
January, 2025	January 07, 2025	37000	Andhra Pradesh	3000
			Karnataka	4000
			Kerala	2000
			Maharashtra	4000
			Punjab	2000
			Rajasthan	1000
			Tamil Nadu	2000
			Telangana	3000
			Uttar Pradesh	3000
			West Bengal	4500
	January 14, 2025	24719	Jharkhand	1000
			Karnataka	4000
			Maharashtra	5000
			Mizoram	119
			Punjab	500
			Tamil Nadu	1000

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government plans to borrow ₹45,000 crore in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2024-2025.
- ❖ Till the first half in 2024-2025, Tamil Nadu has raised ₹50,000 crore through issue of SDLs (State Development Loans).
- ❖ The borrowing ceiling is 3% of the projected Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) from 2023-24 onwards.
- ❖ An additional borrowing of 0.5 per cent of GSDP for a period of four years from 2021-22 to 2024-25 on fulfilment of Power Sector Reforms.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu had an outstanding liability of ₹5,96,619.2 crore from issue of SDLs as at the end of March 31, 2024.
- ❖ This is estimated to increase to ₹6,87,034.3 crore as at the end of March 31, 2025.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's total outstanding liabilities stood at ₹8,47,022.7 crore at the end of March 31, 2024.
- ❖ It is estimated to be ₹9,55,690.5 crore at the end of March 31, 2025.

### Guidelines for prevention of scrub typhus

- ❖ The Directorate of Public Health of Tamilnadu has released guidelines for the control and prevention of the disease.

- ❖ The mite-borne zoonotic disease, where humans are accidental hosts, has been reported various places.
- ❖ The incubation period for this disease is one to two weeks.
- ❖ Agricultural workers, outdoor enthusiasts, and those living near shrubs or bushy areas with potential exposure to mice and mites.
- ❖ Cold fogging, cleaning the ground of bushes in and around villages, reducing the rodent population are the control and prevention methods.


<b>DANGER OF BEING UNDETECTED</b>		
<p><b>CAUSED BY</b> Bacteria called orientia tsutsugamushi</p> <p><b>CARRIED BY</b> Mite called <b>Leptotrombidium</b>, also known as chigger</p> <p><b>SYMPTOMS</b>   Fever, muscle pain, cough, gastrointestinal symptoms, liver and spleen enlargement, and meningitis in extreme cases</p> <p><b>TREATMENT</b>   Doxycyclin, fluids, supportive measures</p>		<p><b>WHERE DO CHIGGER MITES STAY?</b></p> <p>➤ Moist, grassy areas like fields, forests, lawns, lakes and streams</p>
		<p><b>BABY BITES</b></p>
		<p>➤ Adult chiggers do not bite. It's the babies, at the larval stage, that you have to watch out for</p> <p>➤ They're red, orange, yellow, or straw-coloured, no more than 0.3mm in length</p>

## NATIONAL

### Amendments to Prison Manual rules 2025

- ❖ It aims to check discrimination and classification of inmates in jails on the basis of their caste.
- ❖ To address the issue of any caste-based discrimination of prisoners, the 'Model Prison Manual, 2016' and the 'Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act, 2023' have been amended.
- ❖ According to the new addition in the manual, the prison authorities will have to strictly ensure that there is no discrimination, classification, segregation of the prisoners on the basis of their caste.
- ❖ The Changes have also been made in the 'Miscellaneous' of the Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act, 2023.
- ❖ A new heading titled 'Prohibition of caste-based discrimination in Prisons and Correctional Institutions' was added as Section 55(A).

- ❖ The Manual scavenging or hazardous cleaning of a sewer or a septic tank inside a prison shall not be permitted.



**Home Ministry Adheres to SC Ruling, Revises Prison Manual Rules to End Caste-based Discrimination**

The amendment comes following the SC's order on a PIL filed by The Wire's Sukanya Shantha regarding discriminatory prison manual provisions in states.

## Extension of Agri schemes

Continuation of

**PM Fasal Bima Yojana and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme**

Cabinet approves continuation of the two schemes till 2025-26



**01-01-2025**  
**CABINET DECISION**

- Overall outlay of **₹69,515.71 Crore** from 2021-22 to 2025-26
- Cabinet has also approves creation of Fund for Innovation and Technology with Corpus of **₹824.77 Crore**
- Fund to be utilised towards funding technological initiatives under the scheme namely, **YES-TECH, WINDS, etc as well as R&D**
- Fund to cause
  - Large scale technology infusion in implementation of the scheme
  - Increasing transparency and claim calculation and settlement

- ❖ The Centre on January 1 extended two crop insurance schemes for one more year till 2025-26.

- ❖ They are Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and the Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS).
- ❖ It has also created a separate ₹824.77 crore fund for technology infusion in the implementation of flagship schemes.
- ❖ The Cabinet has also approved the creation of a separate Fund for Innovation and Technology (FIAT) with a corpus of ₹824.77 crore.
- ❖ The fund will be utilised towards the funding technological initiatives under the scheme namely, YES-TECH, WINDS.
- ❖ The Yield Estimation System using Technology (YES-TECH) uses remote sensing technology for yield estimation with a minimum 30% weightage to technology - based yield estimates.
- ❖ The Weather Information and Network Data Systems (WINDS) envisages setting up Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) at the block level and Automatic Rain Gauges (ARGs) at the panchayat level.

### Good Governance Index 2023

- ❖ The Centre has decided not to release the Good Governance Index 2023.
- ❖ It is the biennial ranking of states and Union Territories (UTs) scheduled to be released during Good Governance Week (December 19 to December 25).
- ❖ It is now planning to publish the next edition in 2025.
- ❖ The index covers over 50 indicators across the sectors, including agriculture, economic governance, public health, and citizen-centric governance.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu and Gujarat got first place among big states in the 2019 and 2021 rankings, respectively.

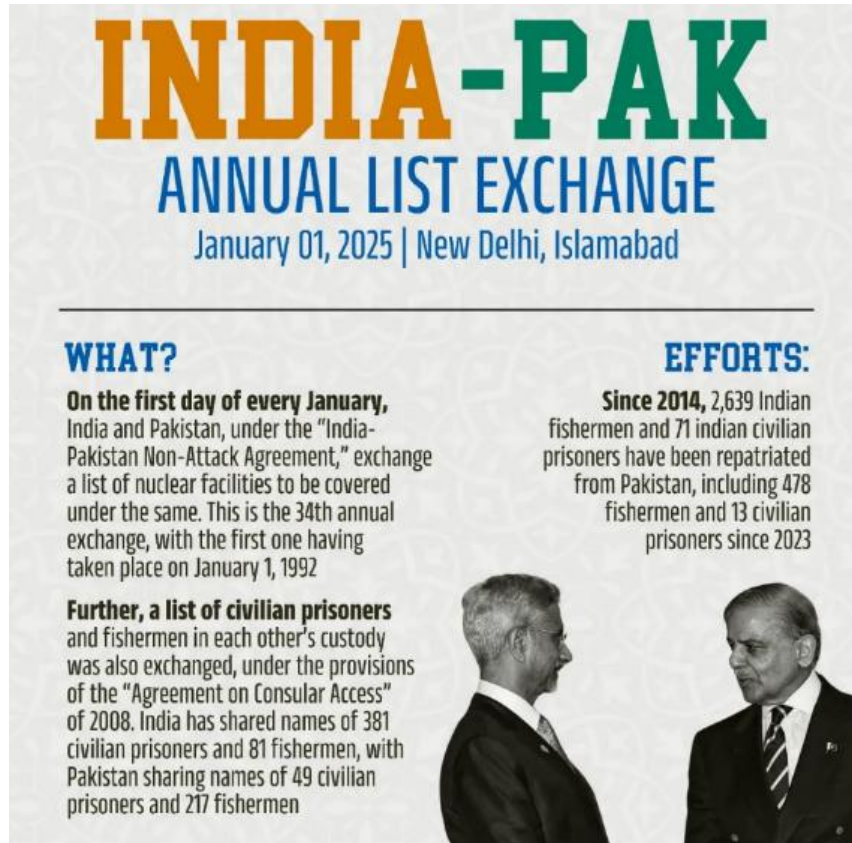
Other States – Group A		Other States – Group B	
Rank	States	Rank	States
1	Gujarat	1	Madhya Pradesh
2	Maharashtra	2	Rajasthan
3	Goa	3	Chhattisgarh
4	Haryana	4	Jharkhand
5	Kerala	5	Uttar Pradesh
6	Karnataka	6	Bihar
7	Tamil Nadu	7	Odisha
8	Punjab	8	West Bengal
9	Telangana		
10	Andhra Pradesh		

### Exchange list of nuclear installations 2025

- ❖ India and Pakistan on January 1 exchanged a list of their nuclear installations in continuation of an over-three-decade practice.



- ❖ Under a bilateral pact that prohibits the two sides from attacking each other's atomic facilities.
- ❖ The agreement was signed on December 31, 1988 and entered into force on January 27, 1991.
- ❖ The pact mandates the two countries to inform each other of the nuclear installations and facilities to be covered under the agreement on January 1 of every calendar year.
- ❖ This is the 34th consecutive exchange of such lists between the two countries.




**INDIA-PAK**  
**ANNUAL LIST EXCHANGE**  
January 01, 2025 | New Delhi, Islamabad

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**WHAT?**  
**On the first day of every January,** India and Pakistan, under the "India-Pakistan Non-Attack Agreement," exchange a list of nuclear facilities to be covered under the same. This is the 34th annual exchange, with the first one having taken place on January 1, 1992

**Further, a list of civilian prisoners** and fishermen in each other's custody was also exchanged, under the provisions of the "Agreement on Consular Access" of 2008. India has shared names of 381 civilian prisoners and 81 fishermen, with Pakistan sharing names of 49 civilian prisoners and 217 fishermen

**EFFORTS:**  
**Since 2014,** 2,639 Indian fishermen and 71 Indian civilian prisoners have been repatriated from Pakistan, including 478 fishermen and 13 civilian prisoners since 2023



### **Groundwater Resource Assessment Report 2024**

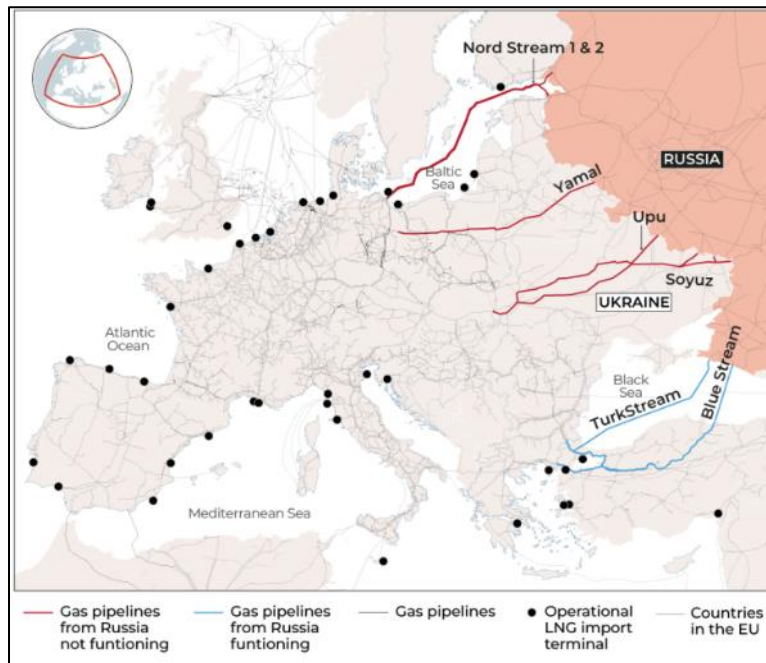
- ❖ The total annual groundwater recharge in the country has been assessed as 446.90 billion Cubic Meter (BCM).
- ❖ Keeping an allocation for natural discharge, the annual extractable ground water resource has been assessed as 406.19 BCM.
- ❖ The annual groundwater extraction for all uses is 245.64 BCM.
- ❖ The average stage of groundwater extraction for the country stands at 60.47 %.

- ❖ Total Annual GW Recharge has increased (15 BCM) substantially and Extraction has declined (3 BCM) in 2024 from 2017 assessment.

<b>CATEGORIZATION OF ASSESSMENT UNITS</b> (Blocks/ Mandals/ Taluks etc.)							
Sl.No	Category	Number of Assessment Units		Recharge worthy Area		Annual Extractable Ground Water Resource	
		Number	%	in lakh sq. km	%	(in bcm)	%
1	Safe	4951	73.39	16.51	66.57	301.17	74.14
2	Semi Critical	711	10.54	2.82	11.40	45.76	11.27
3	Critical	206	3.05	0.88	3.55	13.23	3.26
4	Over-Exploited	751	11.13	4.20	16.93	46.02	11.33
5	Saline	127	1.88	0.38	1.55	NA	NA
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6746</b>		<b>24.80</b>		<b>406.19</b>	

## INTERNATIONAL

### End of Russian Gas via Ukraine



- ❖ Russian gas has stopped flowing to EU states via Ukraine after a five-year deal expired
- ❖ The Russian gas was less than 10% of the EU's gas imports in 2023, its figure was 40% in 2021.
- ❖ Austria, Slovakia and Moldova were relying on the transit route for their power supply.

- ❖ Europe has bought liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Qatar and the US, alongside piped gas supply from Norway.

## STATES

### Bhopal Toxic Waste Disposal



The infographic is divided into two main sections. The left section features a photograph of a white truck being loaded with hazardous waste by several workers. Above the photo is a red text box stating: "Toxic waste shifted from Bhopal's Union Carbide factory for disposal after 40 years". Below the photo is a white text box: "377 tons of hazardous waste moved from Bhopal to Pithampur industrial area, Dhar district, via a green corridor on Wednesday night." The right section features a photograph of a large industrial facility at night with many lights. Above it is a red text box: "Nearly 100 workers packed and loaded the waste in shifts, undergoing health checks every 30 minutes." Below the photo is a white text box: "The Madhya Pradesh High Court set a four-week deadline for waste removal, warning of contempt proceedings." At the bottom of the right section is a white text box: "Incineration will begin within three months; a special four-layer filter system ensures no air pollution." To the left of this box is another white text box: "Local activists raised concerns over environmental risks; officials dismissed them citing safety measures".

- ❖ Forty years after the Bhopal gas tragedy, the shifting of about 337 metric tonnes of chemical waste stored at the Union Carbide factory site commenced for its disposal.
- ❖ The disposal will take place at a facility in Pithampur, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The toxic waste includes 162 metric tonnes of soil, 92 metric tonnes of Sevin and naphthol residues, 54 metric tonnes of semi-processed pesticides, and 29 metric tonnes of reactor waste.
- ❖ On the night of December 2, 1984, a massive release of methyl isocyanate (MIC) gas from the Union Carbide plant.
- ❖ In 2015, a trial was conducted to incinerate 10 tonnes of the chemical waste.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### New year honors' list 2025

- ❖ The Former England football manager Gareth Southgate has been knighted in this year's New Year Honours list.



- ❖ 800 m Olympic Champion Keely Hodgkinson and heptathlete Katarina Johnson-Thompson, who won silver in Paris, both receive an MBE.
- ❖ Cyclist Tom Pidcock, swimmer Duncan Scott, and rower Helen Glover received OBEs for their contributions.
- ❖ Children's author Jacqueline Wilson becomes a Dame Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire.



## MISCELLANEOUS

### 10<sup>th</sup> Century Chola-period merchant guild inscription



- ❖ ASI deciphered a Chola-period merchant guild inscription found at Pilippatti village in Illuppur taluk in Pudukkottai district.



- ❖ It mentions trade groups of various territorial divisions, including Ainurruvars of Mangala Nadu, Puramalai Nadu, Poongundra Nadu, Manalur Nadu and Virapattinam of Kodumbalur.
- ❖ The inscription dates back to the 10th century and was probably installed during the reign of either Parantaka Chola or Uttama Chola.
- ❖ The inscription has various symbols including Ankush (sharp pointed hook then used to control elephants), Trishul and lamps.

