

January - 09

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Prime Minister virtually inaugurated the new Jammu Railway Division (69th of India), as development of Jammu and Kashmir's connectivity and infrastructure.
- ❖ The All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has designated 2025 as the "Year of Artificial Intelligence" to position India as a global leader in AI.
- ❖ Uttarakhand is going to host the 38th National Games for the first time.
- ❖ Union Home Minister chaired the 7th meeting of the Island Development Agency (IDA) in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Prime Minister has inaugurated Grameen Bharat Mahotsav 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- ❖ The 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention is being held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha under the theme of "Diaspora's Contribution to a Viksit Bharat".
- ❖ The 82nd Annual Golden Globe Awards was held at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, California, USA.

TAMIL NADU

Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls, 2025 - Tamilnadu

- ❖ The integrated final version of the Special Summary Revision of Photo Electoral Rolls, 2025 was released.
- ❖ It was published recently by the Tamilnadu Chief Electoral Officer Archana Patnaik.
- ❖ Nine lakh additional voters have been listed in the electoral rolls of Tamil Nadu since October last year.
- ❖ As on Jan 5th, the Tamil Nadu electorate stood at around 6.36 crore.
- ❖ Of the 6.36 crore voters, 3.24 crore are women, 3.11 crore are men and 9,120 are of the third gender.
- ❖ Sholinganallur continued to be the Assembly constituency with the highest number of electors at 6.90 lakh.
- ❖ Kavundampalayam (Coimbatore) stood second with 4.91 lakh electors.
- ❖ Kilvelur in Nagapattinam district has the lowest number of voters with 1.76 lakh voters and followed by Harbour in Chennai.
- ❖ There are 3,740 overseas electors in the rolls and 4,78,007, who are persons with disabilities (PwD), figure in the rolls.

- ❖ Out of the total applications received for inclusion during the revision period, 4,10,069 electors in the age group of 18-19 were enrolled.

■ இந்திய தேர்தல் ஆணையத்தின் உத்திரவின்படி சென்னை மாவட்டத்திலுள்ள 16 சட்டமன்ற தொகுதிகளுக்கான வரைவு வாக்காளர் பட்டியல், கடந்த 29.10.2024 அன்று வெளியிடப்பட்டன.

■ இன்று (06.01.2025) வெளியிடப்பட்டுள்ள இறுதி வாக்காளர் பட்டியலில் சென்னை மாவட்டத்தில்

■ 19,70,279 ஆண் வாக்காளர்களும்,

■ 20,44,323 பெண் வாக்காளர்களும்

■ மற்றும் 1,276 மூன்றாம் பாலினத்தவர் என மொத்தம் 40,15,878 நபர்கள் வாக்காளர் பட்டியலில் உள்ளனர்.

■ மேலும் பொதுமக்கள் இணையதளம் முகவரி <http://voters.eci.gov.in/> மூலமாகவும் பார்த்துக் கொள்ளலாம்.

Highest numbers of Man-days – Tamilnadu



தமிழ்நாடு அரசு
தலைமைச் செயலகம்

தமிழ்நாடு
EMPLOYMENT

அதிக வேலை வாய்ப்புகளை வழங்குவதில் இந்தியாவில் தமிழ்நாடு முதலிடம்

மனித வளங்களை வளர்ப்பதில் (Mandays) மகாராஷ்டிரா, குஜராத் மாநிலங்களை விட தமிழ்நாடு மாவரும் சாதனை

தமிழ்நாடு 8,42,720 மனித உழைப்பு நாள்கள்
மகாராஷ்டிராவில் 7,29,123 குஜராத் 7,21,586

- ❖ With a total of 8.42 lakh mandays, the state has firmly established itself as a hub of vibrant industries, particularly in the manufacturing and service sectors

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has outperformed states such as Maharashtra and Gujarat to clock the highest number of mandays in the country.
- ❖ It also leaves Gujarat and Maharashtra behind in average mandays per employee.
- ❖ Maharashtra, with 6.45 lakh employees, and Gujarat, with 5.28 lakh employees, have greater capital investment than TN, which has 4.81 lakh employees.
- ❖ TN's average man days per employee is 1.75, compared to 1.13 in Maharashtra and 1.37 in Gujarat.

Faecal coliform in Adyar river



- ❖ Levels of faecal coliform in the Adyar River have been found to be more than 10 times the prescribed safe limit.
- ❖ The tests showed high levels of faecal coliform - 1026 MPN/100 ml, far exceeding the permissible limit of 100 MPN/100 ml.
- ❖ MPN is Most Probable Number, an estimation used to measure microorganisms in water.
- ❖ The significant contamination is believed to be the reason behind the fish kills observed in the Adyar eco-park in June 2024.

- ❖ Further, other indicators of water quality were also alarming, with the Biological Oxygen Demand at 133 mg/l (standard: 3 mg/l), Chemical Oxygen Demand at 136 mg/l (standard: 280 mg/l), and Total Nitrogen at 57.74 mg/l (standard: 23.697 mg/l),

NATIONAL

UGC guidelines for VC appointments

Highlights of the latest draft UGC regulations	
<p>Subject Flexibility: Candidates can teach based on their highest academic specialization, regardless of prior degree subjects or NET focus</p>	<p>Recognising Innovation: Criteria now include teaching innovations, digital content, and community engagement</p>
<p>Expanded Vice-Chancellor Eligibility: Professionals from fields like industry and policymaking with academic contributions are now eligible</p>	<p>Revised Librarian and Sports Roles: Emphasis on digitization, indigenous sports, and public health contributions</p>
<p>Inclusivity Focus: Relaxations for EWS and PwD categories alongside SC/ST/OBC, with emphasis on Indian languages in academia</p>	<p>Professor of Practice: Industry experts can join HEIs for teaching and research outside sanctioned posts</p>
<p>Transparent Recruitment: Teaching candidates will be assessed on practical teaching and research aptitude</p>	<p>Improved Leadership Selection: Vice-Chancellor appointments ensure transparency through expert-led committees</p>
<p>Fair Career Advancement: Promotions consider leave for maternity, childcare, or study.</p>	<p>Strict Compliance Measures: HEIs violating regulations risk penalties like exclusion from UGC schemes and degree programmes</p>

- ❖ The University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued new rules effectively give Governors in states broader powers in appointing Vice-Chancellors and opened the position to industry experts and public sector veterans.
- ❖ This was breaking from the tradition of selecting only academicians.
- ❖ The new regulations will give the Chancellors greater control over Vice-Chancellor selection.
- ❖ The Chancellor shall constitute the Search-cum-Selection Committee comprising three experts
- ❖ It also removed the cap on contract teacher appointments.
- ❖ The 2018 regulations had also limited such appointments to 10 per cent of an institution's total faculty positions.



- ❖ The new draft regulations also say that if the candidate's subject at the undergraduate or postgraduate level is different from the PhD subject, the candidate will be considered eligible for appointment as a teacher in the subject in which they obtained the PhD.
- ❖ Also, if the candidate's subject at the undergraduate or postgraduate level is different from their subject in qualifying exams like the NET or SET, the candidate will be eligible for appointment as a teacher in the subject in which they qualified in these exams.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

First meteor shower 2025

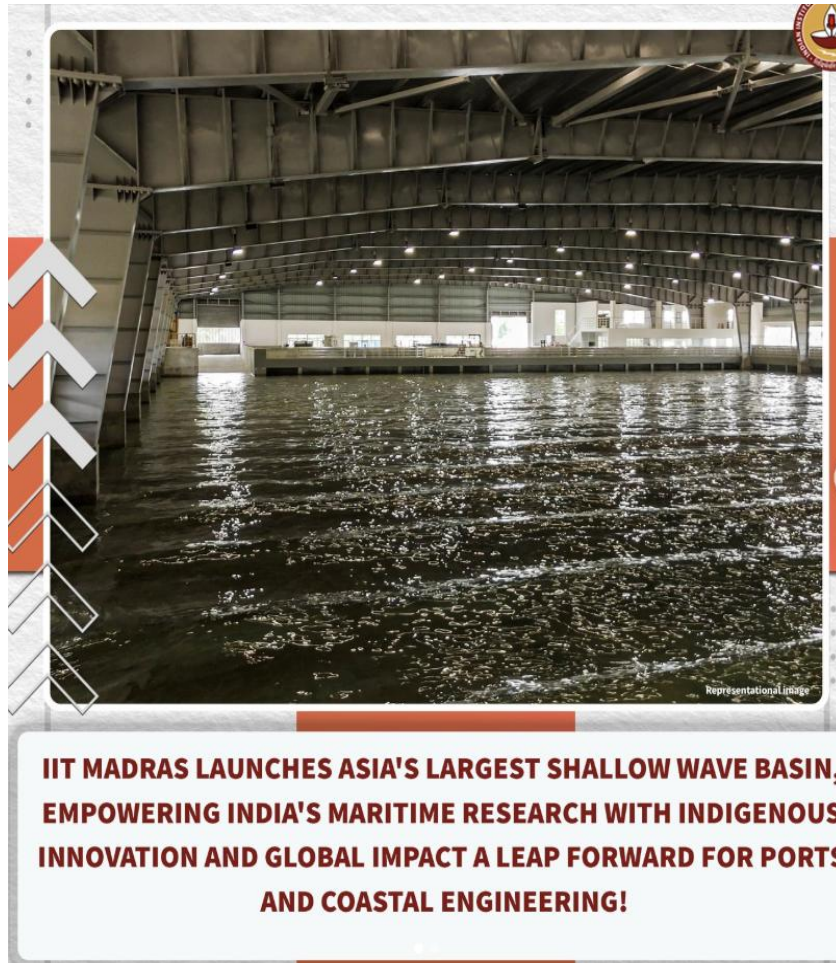
- ❖ The Quadrantid meteor shower occurs every year in early January.
- ❖ It is among one of the most intense annual meteor displays, and has a brief peak lasting only a few hours.
- ❖ It branches from the northeast corner of the Boötes constellation.
- ❖ The name Quadrantids comes from the now obsolete constellation Quadrans Muralis.
- ❖ The meteor shower was observed for the first time in the 1830s by Belgian astronomer Adolphe Quetelet.



Shallow Wave Basin Research Facility

- ❖ IIT Madras has launched the Asia's largest Shallow Wave Basin Research Facility that can cater to Indian research and industry requirements.

- ❖ This can address challenging problems in Indian ports, waterways and coastal Engineering.
- ❖ It is a multi-directional shallow wave basin that can handle complex wave and current interactions.
- ❖ The basin can be used for harbour, coastal, offshore, inland waterways and the shallow water manoeuvring-related projects.



IIT Ropar's new Bluetooth system

- ❖ IIT Ropar launched its state-of-the-art AWaDH's Bluetooth Low Energy Gateway and Node System.
- ❖ This first-of-its-kind cost-effective system connects Bluetooth-enabled sensors to cloud platforms.
- ❖ It provides seamless data transmission, real-time environmental monitoring, and advanced analytics across diverse sectors such as agriculture, logistics, and environmental resilience.

- ❖ It supports data transmission up to 1 km in line-of-sight (LOS) scenarios.



Bluetooth
Low Energy Gateway

AWaDH
IIT Ropar-TIF

- Low Power Consumption
- Wireless Connectivity
- Compatibility
- Real-Time Monitoring
- 100+ Nodes Connected
- Data Aggregation
- Firmware Over-The-Air
- Compact Design
- Range upto 1km

The advertisement features a central image of a grey Bluetooth gateway device with three antennas. The background is light blue with various icons representing the listed features.

ENVIRONMENT

Banded Royal Butterfly – Tripura



- ❖ The rare Banded Royal butterfly, scientifically known as *Rachana Jalindra Indra*, has been spotted at the Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary in Tripura.

- ❖ There are three sub-species of Rachana Jalindra found in India.
- ❖ It is including
 - Macantia from south-west India to Goa,
 - Rachana Jalindra Tarpina in the Andamans and
 - Rachana Jalindra Indra from Orissa to lower West Bengal and Bangladesh.
- ❖ This species is legally protected under the Schedule II of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Biden Awards Presidential Medal of Freedom 2025



Joe Biden awards Presidential Medal of Freedom to George Soros, 18 others

- ❖ The US President Joe Biden recognised the contributions of 19 public figures in politics, entertainment, sports and more.
- ❖ The honourees were included “best-known leaders and boosters: Hillary Clinton, philanthropist and major Democratic donor George Soros, and Robert F. Kennedy, who was given the recognition posthumously.
- ❖ Argentinian footballer Lionel Messi, anthropologist Jane Goodall and actor Denzel Washington also in the list.

- ❖ The Presidential Medal of Freedom is the United States' highest civilian honour, often given in recognition of a body of work over a person's lifetime.
- ❖ It was created by President Harry S. Truman (1945 to 1953) in 1945.

SPORTS

Kho Kho World Cup 2025 Trophies and Mascots



- ❖ India is to host the historic first edition in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI) unveiled the trophies for the first-ever Kho Kho World Cup.
- ❖ The tournament will showcase 21 men's and 20 women's teams from 24 countries across six continents.
- ❖ The World Cup will feature two trophies – a blue trophy for the men's championship and a green trophy for the women's event.
- ❖ The KKFI also introduced 'Tejas' and 'Tara,' a duo of gazelles serving as the official mascots for the tournament.
- ❖ These mascots embody the sport's core attributes of speed, agility, and teamwork.
- ❖ Tejas, symbolising brilliance and energy, and Tara, representing guidance and aspiration.

MISCELLANEOUS

13th Century Saint Narahari Tirtha's Idol

- ❖ A researcher has found a three-foot idol of the 13th Century saint, Narahari Tirtha recently.
- ❖ He may have hailed from the Chikakolu town (the present Srikakulam).

- ❖ Tirtha's ancestors were aristocrats in the Gajapati empire in what is now the Odisha state.
- ❖ Available epigraphical evidence suggests that the kings of Eastern Ganga dynasty were assisted by the saint for three decades.
- ❖ This was indicating he was already ordained into the fourth order by Acharya Madhva then.
- ❖ His contributions on this front are well documented in inscriptions available in the Simhachalam and Srikurmam (Srikakulam) temples.
- ❖ Some honorific prefixes were being used along with the name of this saint are: 'Loka Surakṣaṇa Ati Nipuṇaḥ', 'Yo Avati Kalinga Bhu Sambhavān'.

