

January - 25

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court has directed the local bodies in Madurai, Dindigul, Theni, Sivagangai and Ramanathapuram districts to come up with an action plan with a timeline for the rejuvenation of the Vaigai river.
- ❖ The hills Trails in Yelagiri-Swamimalai, Gudiyam caves near Chennai, Baraliyar, Coutrallam - Shenbagadevi falls and Nagalur-Sanniyasimalai peak have emerged as top destinations among trekkers in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying organized a conclave, themed “Dialogue for Holistic Development of Livestock Sector in North East India” in Shillong, Meghalaya.
- ❖ The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) had organised the National Tribal Health Conclave in New Delhi to addressing the critical health and well-being challenges faced by tribal communities.
- ❖ The three-day Flamingo Festival was held in Andhra Pradesh including Pulicat Lake and Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary.
- ❖ The Uttarakhand government has approved the rules for the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) and the government would issue a gazette notification for the legislation by the end of January.
- ❖ The Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI), situated at Raja mahendravaram, Andhra Pradesh, was officially renamed as the National Institute for Research on Commercial Agriculture (NIRCA).

## TAMIL NADU

### Growing Revenue Deficit - Tamilnadu

- ❖ Tamil Nadu’s revenue deficit has mostly been on the rise since 2013-14.
- ❖ It was in 2012-13 that the State had last posted a revenue surplus, which was around ₹1,760 crore.
- ❖ If the revenue expenditure exceeds the revenue receipts, the shortfall is called revenue deficit.
- ❖ The revenue deficit reached a peak in 2020-21 — the COVID-19 pandemic year — when the receipts went down substantially and the expenditure rose.
- ❖ The revenue deficit was estimated at ₹49,279 crore in the Budget Estimates of the current year.
- ❖ The debt outstanding was around ₹4.86 lakh crore at the beginning of 2021-22.

- ❖ It is expected to touch ₹8.33 lakh crore by March 2025.
- ❖ The total borrowings ceiling for 2024-25 has been fixed at 3.44% of GSDP.

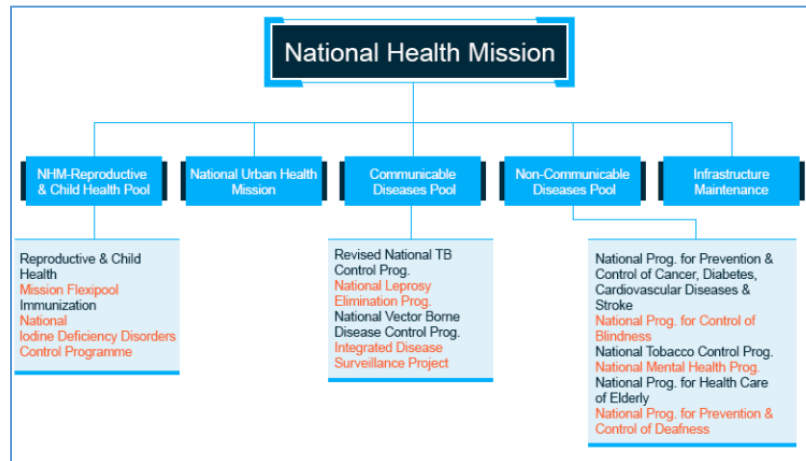
Year	Revenue Surplus or Deficit	
	(₹ in crore)	Over TRR (%)
2010-11	-2,728.69	-3.89
2011-12	1,364.10	1.6
2012-13	1,760.27	1.78
2013-14	-1,788.24	-1.66
2014-15	-6,407.56	-5.23
2015-16	-11,985.35	-9.29
2016-17	-12,964.13	-9.24
2017-18	-21,593.88	-14.76
2018-19	-23,459.45	-13.5
2019-20	-35,908.82	-20.57
2020-21	-62,325.88	-35.8
2021-22	-46,538.03	-22.43
2022-23	-36,215.15	-14.86
2023-24	-45,121.12	-17.05
2024-25*	-49,278.73	-16.48

TRR - Total revenue receipts  
\*Budget Estimates

Source: Mid-term review of trends in revenue and expenditure for 2024-25, Finance Department, Government of Tamil Nadu

## NATIONAL

### Assessment of National Health Mission (NHM)



- ❖ In FY 2021-22, the NHM has facilitated the engagement of 2.69 lakh additional healthcare workers.
- ❖ Additionally, 90,740 community health officers (CHOs) were engaged.
- ❖ Under NHM, the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has declined by 83% since 1990, which is higher than the global decline of 45%.

- ❖ Similarly, the Under-5 Mortality Rate (U5MR) has decreased from 45 per 1,000 live births in 2014 to 32 in 2020.
- ❖ It demonstrates a higher decline of 75% in the reduction of the mortality when compared with the global reduction of 60% since 1990.
- ❖ Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has fallen from 39 per 1,000 live births in 2014 to 28 in 2020.
- ❖ Moreover, the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) decreased from 2.3 in 2015 to 2.0 in 2020.
- ❖ The incidence of TB has reduced from 237 per 1,00,000 population in 2015 to 195 in 2023, and the mortality rate has decreased from 28 to 22 in the same period.
- ❖ In 2021, malaria cases and deaths declined by 13.28% and 3.22%, respectively, when compared with 2020.

### **MSP for Jute 2025-26**



**MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICES (MSP) OF**  
**Raw Jute for Marketing**  
**season 2025-26**

- **Cabinet approves**  
MSP of Raw Jute for Marketing season 2025-26 at **Rs.5,650/- per quintal**
- This ensures return of **66.8%** over all India weighted average cost of production
- This price is an increase of **₹ 315/- per quintal** over previous Marketing season 2024-25
- Government has increased MSP of Raw jute from ₹ 2400 per quintal in 2014-15 to **₹ 5,650 per quintal** in 2025-26, registering a **2.35 times increase**

**CABINET DECISION - 22-01-2025**

- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of Raw Jute for Marketing season 2025-26.
- ❖ The MSP of Raw Jute (TD-3 grade) has been fixed at Rs.5,650/- per quintal for 2025-26 season.

- ❖ This would ensure a return of 66.8 percent over the all India weighted average cost of production.
- ❖ The MSP of Raw Jute for Marketing season 2025-26 is an increase of Rs.315/- per quintal over the previous Marketing season 2024-25.

### **PLI Scheme for White Goods**



- ❖ 24 Companies selected under PLI Scheme for White Goods (ACs and LED Lights) with committed investment of Rs. 3,516 crores in Third Round.
- ❖ 18 new companies committed investments of Rs. 2,299 crore and 6 existing PLI beneficiary committed additional investment of Rs. 1,217 crores.
- ❖ Total of 84 companies under the PLI Scheme for White goods are set to bring the investments of Rs 10,478 crore.
- ❖ The PLI Scheme on White Goods is designed to create a robust component eco system for Air Conditioners and LED Lights Industry in India and make India an integral part of the global supply chains.
- ❖ The Scheme extends an incentive of 6% to 4% on reducing basis on incremental sales for a period of five (5) years subsequent to the base year and one year of gestation period.
- ❖ The White goods are traditionally refer to large home appliances such as stoves, refrigerators, freezers and washing machines.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **World's Longest Tunnel – China**

- ❖ China has completed the construction of the world's very longest express tunnel through the Tianshan Mountains.

- ❖ The Tianshan Shengli Tunnel is just over 22 kilometers (14 miles) and will reduce the travel time through the mountain range in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, from three hours to only 20 minutes.
- ❖ It is one of the longest stretches of mountains in the world.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Blood-Sucking Flies in Andaman

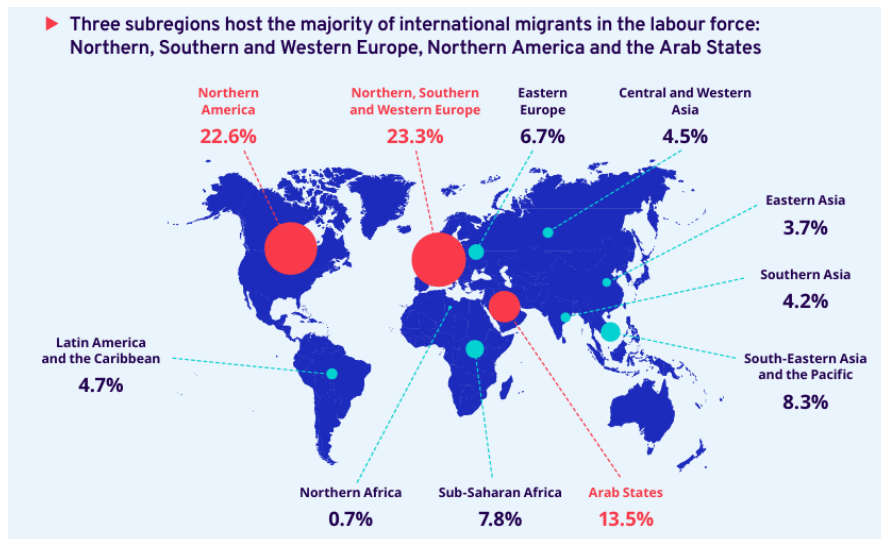


- ❖ Researchers have identified 23 species of blood-sucking flies in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, including 13 species previously unreported in India.

- ❖ Locally called 'Bhusi flies,' these insects belong to the Culicoides genus and are similar to mosquitoes in their feeding habits.
- ❖ They primarily feed on the blood of livestock like sheep, goats, and cattle, as well as wild animals such as deer.
- ❖ Five species of that can transmit the Blue Tongue Disease virus, a condition that can be fatal to livestock.
- ❖ 17 out of the 23 species identified also bite humans, though no human disease transmission has been reported so far.

## REPORTS AND INDICES

### ILO report on Global Migrant Workers 2022



- ❖ The fourth edition of 'Global Estimates on International Migrant Workers' was released by the International Labour Organization (ILO).
- ❖ In 2022, International Migrants (IM) made up 4.7% (167.7 million) of the global labour force, defined as both employed and unemployed (but available for work); over 30 million more than in 2013.
- ❖ An estimated 155.6 million were employed and 12.1 million unemployed.
- ❖ The share of IM men in the total employment for males globally was estimated at 4.7% and that of IM women at 4.4%.
- ❖ However, between 2019-2022, the rate of growth dipped annually to less than 1%, influenced among other factors by the pandemic.
- ❖ A higher proportion of IM males were employed — 61.3% out of a total of 102.7 million.

- ❖ Conversely, only 38.7% female IMs were employed out of a total of 64.9 million in 2022.
- ❖ At 74.9% (125.6 million), prime-age adult IM workers — those aged between 25 and 54 years, both men and women — constituted the largest majority of IM workers in the labour force in 2022.
- ❖ Less than one out of 10 IMs were below 25.
- ❖ Only 9.3% were young IM workers, aged between 15-24 years, numbering 15.5 million, in the global labour force.
- ❖ IMs aged between 55-64 years were 12.5% and those above 65 at 3.4%.

## Forbes Billionaires List 2025

Rank	Name	Net Worth (USD)	Source of Wealth	Country
1	Elon Musk	\$433.9 B	Tesla, SpaceX	United States
2	Jeff Bezos	\$239.4 B	Amazon	United States
3	Mark Zuckerberg	\$211.8 B	Facebook	United States
4	Larry Ellison	\$204.6 B	Oracle	United States
5	Bernard Arnault & Family	\$181.3 B	LVMH	France
6	Larry Page	\$161.4 B	Google	United States
7	Sergey Brin	\$154.0 B	Google	United States
8	Warren Buffett	\$146.2 B	Berkshire Hathaway	United States
9	Steve Ballmer	\$126.0 B	Microsoft	United States
10	Jensen Huang	\$120.2 B	NVIDIA	United States

- ❖ The United States leads with a record 813 billionaires, followed by China with 473 and India claiming the third spot with 200 billionaires.
- ❖ Elon Musk is ranking as the world's richest person, with a net worth of \$433.9 billion.
- ❖ Jeff Bezos of amazon has been ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> with \$239.4 B.
- ❖ Meta founder Mark Zuckerberg has surpassed Oracle founder Larry Ellison to secure the position of the third-wealthiest individual globally.
- ❖ Jensen Huang, the CEO and co-founder of Nvidia, has entered the ranks of the top 10 richest people for the first time.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### Statehood Day 2025 - January 21

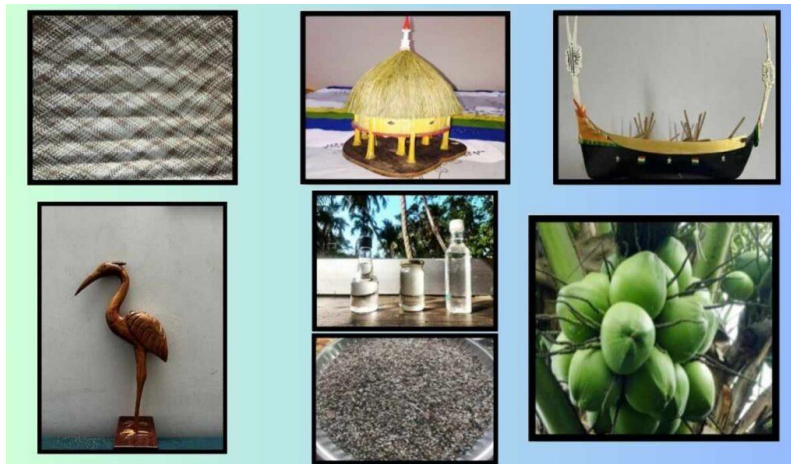
- ❖ The northeastern states of Manipur, Meghalaya, and Tripura celebrate their Statehood Day on January 21.

- ❖ They attained full statehood under the North Eastern Region (Reorganization) Act of 1971.
- ❖ Manipur known as the "Jewel of India", merged with India in September 1949.
- ❖ Meghalaya, which is called as the "Abode of Clouds," came into existence as an autonomous state within the state of Assam on April 2, 1970.
- ❖ Tripura was a princely state till the merger with India on November 15, 1949.



## MISCELLANEOUS

### New GI tags from Andaman and Nicobar Islands



- ❖ For the first time, seven products of Andaman and Nicobar Islands have received Geographical Indication (GI) tags simultaneously.



- ❖ The products are Nicobar Coconut, Nicobari Tavi-i-Ngaich (Virgin Coconut Oil), Andaman Karen Musley Rice, Hodi (an outrigger canoe), Nicobari Mat (Chatrai-hileuoi), Nicobari Hut (Chanvi Pati – Nyi hupul), Padauk Wood Craft.
- ❖ The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) facilitated the process.

### **Kalaripayattu and 38<sup>th</sup> National Games**

- ❖ In the 37<sup>th</sup> edition of the National Games, held in Goa in 2023, Kalaripayattu was included in the competition section.
- ❖ However, this year, the art form has been listed as a demonstration event.
- ❖ Kalaripayattu is one of the oldest and most scientific martial art forms in the world.
- ❖ It originated and is widely practiced in Kerala.
- ❖ There are two types of Kalaripayattu — northern and southern, which slightly differ from each other.
- ❖ In north, more weapons are used as compared to south, and all movements in northern Kalari are in a straight line — forward and backward.
- ❖ However, down south, people can move in any direction while practicing it.
- ❖ It is believed that Kalaripayattu was introduced to China at the Shaolin Temple in the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD by Bodhidharma.

