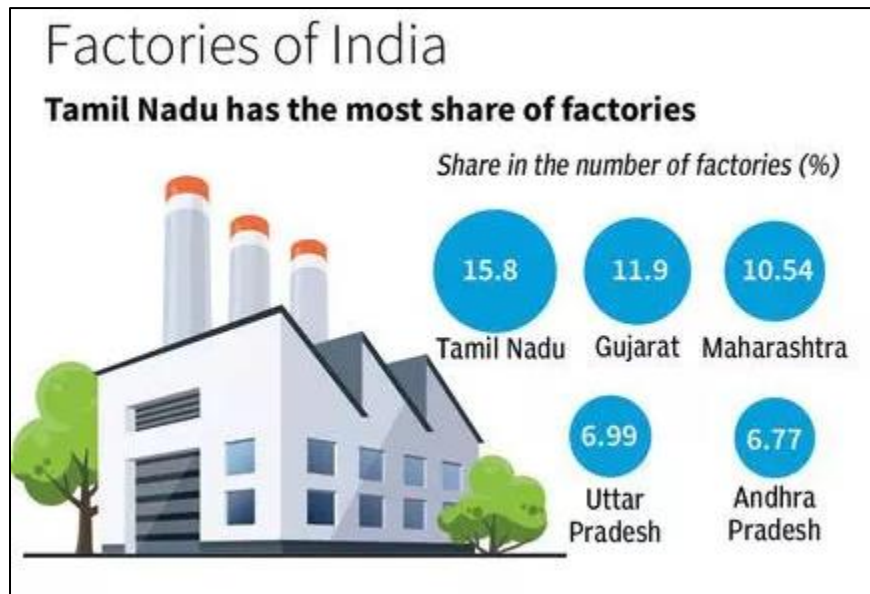# TNPSC BITS

❖ The Tamil Nadu government has nominated retired Madras High Court judge S. Tamilvanan as the chairperson of the Tamil Nadu State Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

❖ A two-day national 'Tholkudi' conference on 'Preservation and Promotion of Tribal Cultural Heritage of Tamil Nadu' was organised by Department of Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare and the Madras School of Social Work.

❖ Tamil Nadu govt developed TN-Alert, a bilingual mobile application, to inform the public about the real-time weather forecast, rainfall data, alerts and reservoir levels.

❖ The Manimegalai Awards for 2022-23 and 2023-24 was awarded to 70 SHGs and federations by the Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women.

❖ India's Gulveer Singh broke his national record in the men's 5000m event by clocking 13:11.82 to win gold at World Athletics Continental Tour in Niigata, Japan.

❖ The Maharashtra Government declared desi (indigenous) cows as 'Rajyamata-Gomata' considering factors like their significance since Vedic period.

❖ The India Sugar & Bio-Energy Conference was organized by the Indian Sugar & Bio-Energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) in New Delhi.

❖ India has become the World's third largest Producer and Consumer of Ethanol.

❖ Squadron Leader Mohana Singh has become the first woman fighter pilot to operating India's indigenously 'Made in India' LCA Tejas fighter jet.

❖ Center launched the Ideas4LiFE portal for inviting ideas related to products and services for inducing behavioural changes related to environment-friendly lifestyles.

❖ The central government launched the 5-year Cruise Bharat Mission, aiming to boost cruise tourism in India to 1 million passengers and create 400,000 jobs by 2029.

TAMIL NADU

Factory employment in the state

❖ The Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) 2022-23 was released by the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

❖ Tamil Nadu was the top State employing the highest number of persons in the manufacturing.

❖ 1,84,94,962 number of persons were engaged in factories across India, and Tamil Nadu accounted for 15%.

❖ The State also has the highest number of factories accounting for 15.66% of the total 2,53,334 number of factories.

❖ The top five States employing highest number of persons in manufacturing were Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka.

❖ These 5 states contributing about 55% of total manufacturing employment.

❖ Among the major states, in terms of Gross Value Added (GVA), Maharashtra ranked first in 2022-23.

❖ It is followed by Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh.

Factories of India
Tamil Nadu has the most share of factories
Share in the number of factories (%)

15.8 Tamil Nadu
11.9 Gujarat
10.54 Maharashtra
6.99 Uttar Pradesh
6.77 Andhra Pradesh

Inter-se seniority of Ministers

❖ Tamilnadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin stands third in the inter-se seniority of Ministers of the Tamil Nadu government.

❖ Prior to his appointment as Sport Minister, he stood 10th in the seniority list.

❖ His inter se seniority follows that of the Chief Minister and Minister for Water Resources Duraimurugan.

❖ On September 28, the Governor appointed Minister Udhayanidhi as the Deputy CM under Article 164 of the Constitution.

❖ He is thirdly occupied the deputy chief minister Post.

- Since 2009, Tamil Nadu has had 2 deputy CMs, none of whom have served at least one full term.

- The first was former CM of Tamil Nadu M. Karunanidhi's third son, M. K. Stalin (2009-2011).

- O. Panneerselvam became the second deputy chief minister During 2017-2021 at Edappadi K. Palanisami's government.

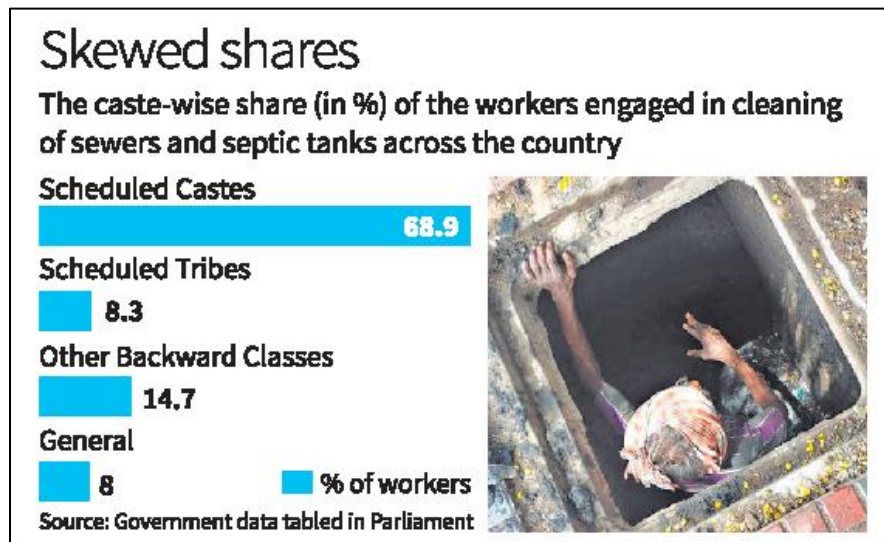- There are no provisions in the Constitution for the designation of Deputy Prime Minister or Deputy Chief Minister.

M.K. Stalin
Chief Minister

Portfolios: Public, General Administration, Indian Administrative Service, Indian Police Service, Indian Forest Service, Other All India Service, District Revenue Officers, Police, Home, Special Initiatives and Welfare of Differently abled persons.

Duraimurugan
Minister for Water Resources

Portfolios: Irrigation Projects including small Irrigation, Legislative Assembly, Governor and Ministry, Elections and Passports, Minerals and Mines.

Udhayanidhi Stalin
Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development

Portfolios: Youth Welfare, Sports Development, Special Programme Implementation Department & Poverty Alleviation Programme, and Rural Indebtedness

K.N. Nehru
Minister for Municipal Administration

Portfolios: Municipal Administration, Urban and Water Supply.

NATIONAL

Manual Scavenging Survey

- 91.9% of the 38,000 workers profiled so far belong to Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), or other backward class (OBC) communities.

- Of the profiled workers, 68.9% were SC, 14.7% were OBC, 8.3% were ST, and 8% were from the general category.

- Between 2019 and 2023, at least 377 people across the country have died from hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.

- The profiling of sewer and septic tank workers (SSWs) is being carried out by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment as part of its NAMASTE programme.

- This scheme aims to mechanise all sewer work and prevent deaths due to hazardous cleaning work.

❖ In 2023-24, this scheme was brought in to replace the Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS).

❖ Twelve States and UTs have completed the profiling process, while the exercise is still underway in 17 States.

❖ Tamil Nadu and Odisha are running their own programmes for SSWs, and are not reporting data to the Centre under this programme.

❖ Of the identified manual scavengers of 43,797, 97.2% of them were from the SC communities.

❖ The share of STs, OBCs, and others were each around 1%.

Skewed shares
The caste-wise share (in %) of the workers engaged in cleaning of sewers and septic tanks across the country

Scheduled Castes — 68.9
Scheduled Tribes — 8.3
Other Backward Classes — 14.7
General — 8
% of workers
Source: Government data tabled in Parliament

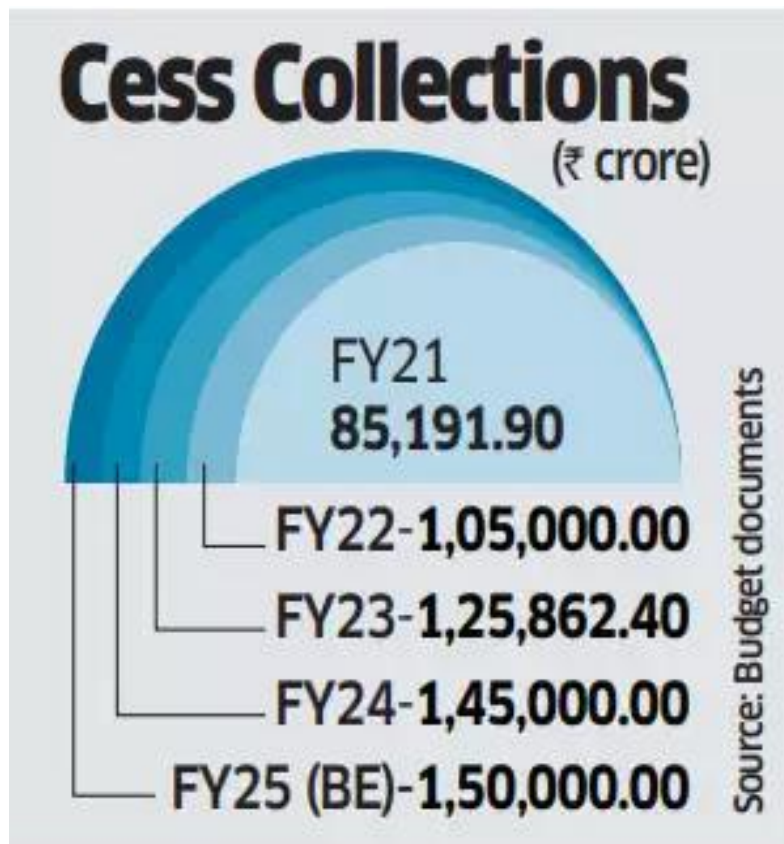# INTERNATIONAL

Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction

❖ India has signed an international agreement called the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement, or the "Treaty of the High Seas".

- The goal of the BBNJ Agreement is to protect marine life in areas of the ocean that are not owned by any one country.

- These areas start 370 kilometres from any country's coastline and cover two-thirds of the world's oceans.

ECONOMY

GST compensation Cess 2024

Cess Collections (₹ crore)

FY21	85,191.90
FY22	1,05,000.00
FY23	1,25,862.40
FY24	1,45,000.00
FY25 (BE)	1,50,000.00

Source: Budget documents

- The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council has set up a 10-member GoM, chaired by Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary.

- It is tasked to decide on the taxation of luxury, sin and demerit goods once the compensation Cess ends in March 2026.

- In the GST regime, compensation cess at varied rates is levied on luxury, sin and demerit goods over and above the 28% tax.

- The proceeds from the cess were originally planned for five years after GST roll-out or till June 2022.

- This cess is used to compensate States for revenue loss incurred by them post the introduction of GST.

- ❖ In 2022, the Council decided to extend the levy till March 2026.

- ❖ Currently, GST is a four-tier tax structure with slabs at 5, 12, 18, and 28%.

- ❖ However, as per GST law, tax of up to 40% can be imposed on goods and services.

ENVIRONMENT

New species of invasive flatworm

- ❖ A new species of invasive flatworm has been discovered in the United States and has been found in several states in the south.

- ❖ The species, named Amaga pseudobama, was discovered by researchers and first spotted in 2020 in North Carolina.

- ❖ It is thought to be native to South America.

- ❖ Later they found that this flatworm species was a completely different species.

- ❖ Terrestrial flatworms are known to kill other invertebrates, especially other native worms, snails, and slugs.

STATES

Urban Governance Index in India

- ❖ Kerala has secured first rank in the Urban Governance Index (UGI).

- ❖ Odisha came second with 55.10.

- ❖ In fiscal empowerment, Kerala managed to have high score of 23.22 out of 30, with Maharashtra coming second with 21.15.

❖ Only four States (Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Mizoram, and Odisha) mandate that every councillor should be part of at least one deliberative committee.

BEST PERFORMER

➤ Odisha ranked first for 'citizen's empowerment' under 2024 Urban Governance Index with a score of 21 out of 25, followed by Telangana (19) and Madhya Pradesh (17)	➤ In right to elect mayor and recall elected city representatives, Odisha scored 2 out of 5
	➤ In formal and active citizens' consultative mechanism, state scored 5 out of 5
➤ In the accessible open data portal category, Odisha scored 7.75 out of 8.75	➤ In active grievance redressal mechanism, it secured 6.25 out of 6.25

MISCELLANEOUS

Pillbox in Vizag

❖ Monsoon erosion in the sands of Visakhapatnam's beaches revealing a piece of the Pillboxes used during the Second World War.

❖ These pillboxes, built during the peak of the Second World War

❖ These are equipped with loopholes through which defenders can fire weapons.

❖ It enabled soldiers to fire weapons while being protected from enemy attacks.

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