Current Affairs Revision

October '24 to May '25

TAMIL NADU

Geographical Indication (GI) Tag: An Overview

A Geographical Indication (GI) tag is a certification granted to products originating from a specific geographical region, possessing qualities, reputation, or characteristics inherent to that location. This tag ensures that only those registered as authorized users within the designated

area can use the product's name, protecting its authenticity and preventing misuse.

Legal Framework in India:

 In India, the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, governs the registration and protection of GI tags. The Act came into force on 15 September 2003, aligning with India's obligations under the World Trade Organization's Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement.

6 மண்சார் உணவுப் பொருட்களுக்கு புவிசார் குறியீடு!

தமிழ்நாட்டில், செட்டிக்குளம் சின்ன வெங்காயம், பண்ருட்டி பலாப்பழம், பண்ருட்டி முந்திரி, புளியங்குடி எலுமிச்சை, விருதுநகர் சம்பா வத்தல், ராமநாதபுரம் சித்திரை கார் அரிசி ஆகிய 6 பொருட்களுக்கு புவிசார் குறியீடு அங்கீகாரம் வழங்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. இதன்மூலம், தமிழ்நாட்டின் புவிசார் குறியீடு அங்கீகாரம் பெற்ற பொருட்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 69 ஆக உயர்ந்துள்ளது.

- As of April 2025, Uttar Pradesh holds the distinction of having the highest number of Geographical Indication (GI) tagged products in India. The state has achieved a total of 77 GI tags, surpassing Tamil Nadu, which has 69 GI tags
- Puliyangudi lemon city of India, Tamil Nadu State Agricultural Marketing Board and Melapuliyangudi Farmers' Association applied for the GI tag for the Puliyangudi acid lime.

The Fifth Police Commission

- Headed by former Judge of the Madras High Court C.T. Selvam submitted its final report to CM.
- It is covering various aspects of policing from the stage of recruitment into the force till retirement.

Tamil Nadu SC/ST Commission

- Retired Justice **S. Tamilvanan**, formerly of the Madras High Court, has been appointed as the **Chairperson of the Tamil Nadu State Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes**
- The Commission comprises a **Chairperson**, a **Vice-Chairperson**, and **five other members**, all appointed by the state government.

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- Imayam (V. Annamalai), a Sahitya Akademi Award-winning writer, has been appointed as the Vice-Chairperson.
- New members include **S. Selvakumar** (Coimbatore), **S. Ananda Raja** (Thanjavur), **M. Pon Dhous** (The Nilgiris), and **P. Ilanchezhian** (Tirunelveli).

Formal Classification

- **Tamil Nadu** was the first state in India to implement a formal classification within its Backward Classes (BC) category by establishing the **Most Backward Classes (MBC)** and **Denotified Communities (DNC)**.
- In October 2024, Haryana became the first state in India to implement sub-quotas within the Scheduled Castes (SC) category for government jobs, following a Supreme Court ruling in August 2024 that allowed states to sub-categorize SCs for reservations

UN Award for 'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam' Scheme

- Award Received: Tamil Nadu's Health and Family Welfare Department was honored with the 2024 United Nations Interagency Task Force (UNIATF) Award under the Ministries of Health category.
- Announcement Date: The award was announced during the **79th UN General Assembly** held in New York on **September 25, 2024**.
- **Purpose of the Award**: Recognizes outstanding contributions in addressing **Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)** and mental health through innovation and technology.

Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam' Scheme

• Launch Date: Initiated on August 5, 2021, in Krishnagiri district by Chief Minister

Tamil Nadu Artificial Intelligence Mission (TNAIM)

- The Tamil Nadu Artificial Intelligence Mission (TNAIM), established by the state government in 2024, is a strategic initiative aimed at positioning Tamil Nadu as a leading hub for artificial intelligence (AI) innovation and application over the next five years.
- Launched: February 2024
- **Duration**: 5 years (2024–2029)
- Allocated Budget: ₹13.93 crore for the first two years
- Implementing Agency: Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA)
- Vision
 - Position Tamil Nadu as a leading hub for AI research, innovation, and application, focusing on governance, education, healthcare, and industry.

Kurian Joseph Committee

- Established by: Tamil Nadu Government
- Announcement Date: April 15, 2025

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• **Purpose**: To review Centre-State relations and recommend measures to safeguard the rights of states and enhance federalism

Members of the Committee

- 1. Justice Kurian Joseph (Chairperson)
 - Former Supreme Court Judge (2013–2018)
 - Known for landmark judgments, including the triple talaq case
 - \circ $\;$ Accepted the role on an honorary basis, without remuneration

2. Ashok Vardhan Shetty

- o Retired IAS officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre
- Former Vice-Chancellor of the Indian Maritime University

3. Professor M. Naganathan

• Economist and former Vice-Chairman of the Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission

Gagandeep Singh Bedi Committee

The **Gagandeep Singh Bedi Committee** is a three-member panel constituted by the Tamil Nadu government in February 2025 to evaluate and recommend an appropriate pension scheme for state government employees. This initiative addresses the longstanding demands of employees advocating for the restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS).

Objectives and Mandate

The committee is tasked with:

(Coaching for Civil Services - IAS, IFS, IPS, IRS etc.)

• Studying Existing Pension Schemes:

- Old Pension Scheme (OPS): which was in effect until 2003.
- Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS): Implemented for state government employees joining service on or after April 1, 2003.
- Unified Pension Scheme (UPS): Introduced by the Union Government on January 24, 2025.

Sathyanarayanan Committee

The **Sathyanarayanan Committee** is a one-member panel established by the Tamil Nadu government in July 2024 to review and recommend state-specific amendments to the newly enacted central criminal laws. This initiative reflects Tamil Nadu's commitment to preserving its legal and linguistic heritage within the framework of India's federal structure.

Committee Composition

• Chairperson: Justice M. Sathyanarayanan (Retired Judge, Madras High Court)

Justice B. Gokuldas Committee

Kallakurichi Hooch Tragedy

- Date of Incident: June 20, 2024
- Location: Karunapuram, Kallakurichi district, Tamil Nadu

Ramsar Sites in Tamil Nadu — Sakkarakottai & Therthangal

- Newly Designated Sites:
 - Sakkarakottai Bird Sanctuary
 - Therthangal Bird Sanctuary
- Location: Ramanathapuram district, Tamil Nadu
- As of May 2025, **India has 89 Ramsar sites**, making it the country with the highest number of Ramsar-designated wetlands in South Asia.
- **Tamil Nadu** leads all Indian states with **20 Ramsar sites**, followed by **Uttar Pradesh** with 10 sites.

Bird Park

Tamil Nadu's Deputy Chief Minister inaugurated the **Trichy Bird Park** on **February 9, 2025**, at **Kambarasampettai**, located on the banks of the **Kaveri River** in **Tiruchirappalli**.

This park is notable for housing **India's largest aviary**, spanning approximately **60,000 square feet**

Coaching for Civil Services - IAS, IFS, IPS, IRS etc.)

The park is designed with five thematic zones inspired by ancient Tamil literary classifications:

- Kurinji Mountainous Zone
- **Mullai** Forest Zone
- Marutham Agricultural Zone
- Neithal Seashore Zone
- Palai Dry Land Zone

Tamil Nadu Prohibition (Amendment) Act, 2024

• Enhanced Punishments: The amendment increases the term of imprisonment and the quantum of fines for various offenses under Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, and 11 of the Act.

- Specifically, the maximum punishment has been raised to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) and a fine of up to ₹5 lakh.
- In cases where the consumption of illicit liquor leads to death, the punishment for offenders has been escalated to life imprisonment and a fine not less than ₹10 lakh.

TIDEL Neo Initiative

- **Objective**: To establish mini IT parks in Tier II and Tier III cities across Tamil Nadu, thereby fostering local employment opportunities and reducing migration to metropolitan areas.
- **Implementation**: Spearheaded by TIDEL Park Ltd, in collaboration with the Department of Information Technology and Digital Services, and supported by agencies like TIDCO and ELCOT.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister virtually inaugurated two Neo TIDEL mini IT parks in Thanjavur and Salem, marking a significant step in the state's initiative to decentralize IT infrastructure and promote employment in Tier II and III cities.

TIDEL Park is a pioneering initiative by the Government of Tamil Nadu to bolster the Information Technology (IT) sector across the state. Established in 2000 in Taramani, Chennai, it was among the first and largest IT parks in South Asia, developed collaboratively by TIDCO and ELCOT.

Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO)

• Established: 1965

Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu (ELCOT)

- Established: 1977
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu

(Coaching for Civil Services - IAS, IFS, IPS, IRS etc.) Best Tourism Villages Competition

- Initiated in 2023, the Best Tourism Villages Competition by the Ministry of Tourism aims to recognize villages that preserve and promote cultural and natural heritage through sustainable and community-based approaches.
- In its second edition in 2024, 36 villages across eight categories were honored, with Keeladi being one of the five recognized in the Heritage category.
- Keeladi, a village in Tamil Nadu's Sivaganga district, was honored with the Best Tourism Village 2024 award under the Heritage category by the Union Ministry of Tourism. The award was presented during the World Tourism Day celebrations held in New Delhi on September 27, 2024.

Nallosai (For College Students)

• **Objective**: To enhance holistic skills among college students.

- **Focus Areas**: Arts, science, sports, information technology, soft skills, and work-related competencies.
- **Implementation**: Conducted after regular college hours to provide students with additional opportunities for personal and professional growth.

Katral Inithu (For School Students)

- **Objective**: To nurture holistic development in school students.
- **Focus Areas:** Similar to Nallosai, this program emphasizes arts, science, sports, information technology, soft skills, and work-related skills.
- **Implementation**: Activities are organized after school hours, allowing students to explore and develop diverse skill sets.

'Amudha Karangal' scheme

• The 'Amudha Karangal' scheme was launched in Kolathur, Chennai to provide food to 1,000 people at various places every day till February 19 next year.

Statue of Wisdom

• The **Statue of Wisdom** is indeed the **Thiruvalluvar Statue** located in **Kanyakumari**, **Tamil Nadu**. On **January 1, 2025**, during its **25th anniversary celebrations**, the Tamil Nadu government officially declared the statue as the "Statue of Wisdom" to honor the profound philosophical teachings of the Tamil poet and philosopher Thiruvalluvar

ARCHAEOLOGY

• The 800-year-old inscription discovered at the Renabali Murugan Temple near Devipattinam in Ramanathapuram district, Tamil Nadu, was unveiled in October 2024 by the Ramanathapuram Archaeological Research Foundation.

- This inscription is attributed to the **Pandya period**, specifically during the reign of **Maravarman Sundara Pandyan I**, who ruled from **1216 to 1238 CE**
- In July 2024, researchers from the Virarajendran Archaeological and Historical Research Centre discovered significant inscriptions at the Thaleekeeiswarar Temple in Kovilpalayam, near Koduvai in Tirupur district, Tamil Nadu.
- Among the findings were a Vattezhuthu script inscription and eight Tamil inscriptions, shedding light on the temple's history and the region's cultural heritage.
- **Vattezhuthu Inscription**: A 12-line Vattezhuthu inscription was found on the Arthamandapam of the shrine. Vattezhuthu is an ancient Tamil script that was prevalent from the 5th to the 12th century CE.
- The eight Tamil inscriptions include:
 - One inscription from Kongu Chola ruler Virarajendran (1207–1256 CE).
 - The remaining inscriptions are from his grandson Vikrama Chola (1273–1305 CE).

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• The Vattezhuthu inscription attributes the construction of the temple to the medieval Chera ruler Kokkandan Viranarayanan, who ruled the middle part of the Kongu region in the 9th century CE.



Vizhinjam International Seaport

The **Vizhinjam International Seaport**, located near Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala, stands as India's first deep-water container transshipment port. This ambitious project, spearheaded by the Kerala government in collaboration with the Adani Group, aims to position India as a pivotal player in global maritime trade.

Stakeholders:

- Government of Kerala: 61.5% investment
- Government of India: 9.6% investment
- Adani Vizhinjam Port Private Ltd: 28.9% investment

Hyderabad's Landmark Achievement: India's First Solar Cycling Track – Healthway

Location: Hyderabad, Telangana

- Project Name: Healthway India's first solar-roofed cycling track
- Purpose:
 - Promote eco-friendly and active mobility
 - Encourage cycling as a sustainable transportation mode
 - Integrate **renewable energy** with urban infrastructure

India's First Wetland City – Udaipur

State: Rajasthan

Why Udaipur?

- Known as the "City of Lakes"
- Indore and Udaipur have become the first Indian cities to gain international recognition as accredited wetland cities under the Ramsar Convention.
- **Bhopal**, another city nominated from India, did **not receive accreditation** due to concerns raised about potential ecological damage from a proposed road project affecting the **Bhoj Wetland**.



Jharkhand – First State to Ensure Minimum Wages for Gig Workers

- State: Jharkhand
- Significance: First Indian state to initiate the inclusion of gig and platform workers under minimum wage protection.

First State to Introduce a Law for Gig Workers:

Rajasthan

- Law: Rajasthan Platform-Based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Act, 2023
- Passed: July 2023

First State to Implement Minimum Wage Protection for Gig Workers: Jharkhand

Semiconductor Policy

- The **Gujarat Semiconductor Policy** 2022–2027 is India's first state-level initiative aimed at establishing Gujarat as a leader in semiconductor manufacturing.
- Launched on July 27, 2022, the policy aligns with the central government's India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) and offers a comprehensive package of fiscal and non-fiscal incentives to attract investments in semiconductor and display fabrication units.
- India's semiconductor market, valued at \$15 billion in 2020, is projected to reach \$63 billion by 2026. Despite this growth, India remains heavily reliant on imports for its semiconductor needs. The policy aims to establish domestic manufacturing capabilities, thereby reducing dependence on countries like Taiwan and China
- By establishing a 'Semicon City' in Dholera Special Investment Region, the policy seeks to create a dedicated infrastructure for semiconductor manufacturing
- Import Value: In the fiscal year 2023–24, India imported semiconductor chips worth approximately ₹1.71 lakh crore (about \$20.7 billion), marking an 18.5% increase from the previous year.

100% piped water supply

As of December 2024, **Punjab** became the fifth state in India to achieve 100% piped water supply to all rural households under the central government's Har Ghar Jal scheme, part of the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Top 5 States with 100% Rural Piped Water Supply

Rank	State	Year Achieved
1	Goa	2020
2	Telangana	a 2021
3	Haryana	2022

Rank State Year Achieved

4 Gujarat 2023 5 Punjab 2024

The Har Ghar Jal initiative, launched in August 2019 under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, aims to provide every rural household in India with a functional household tap connection (FHTC)

Kerala's First Elderly Commission

- In March 2025, Kerala became the first state in India to establish a dedicated commission for senior citizens by passing the Kerala State Senior Citizens Commission Bill, 2025.
- This statutory body is tasked with safeguarding the rights, welfare, and rehabilitation of the elderly population. It will operate with the authority of a civil court, enabling it to investigate grievances and enforce protective measures.
- **Composition**: The commission will include a chairperson with the status of a government secretary and up to three members, ensuring representation from Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes and at least one woman

nPROUD - Safe Disposal of Unused Medicines

- **Kerala** has launched nPROUD (New Programme for Removal of Unused Drugs), a first-ofits-kind initiative in India aimed at the safe collection and disposal of expired and unused medicines.
- The program was inaugurated on February 22, 2025, in Kozhikode and is set to expand statewide

Operation SMILE

The Kerala government's "Operation Smile" project is a significant initiative aimed at addressing the longstanding landlessness of the Koraga tribal community in the Kasaragod and Manjeswaram taluks. This project seeks to provide land titles (pattas) to the Koraga people, thereby facilitating their access to housing and welfare schemes.

About the Koraga Tribe

• **Classification**: The Koraga are recognized as a Scheduled Tribe (ST) and are listed among India's 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) .

Me Gong Festival 2024 - Meghalaya

- Theme: "Echoes of Tradition"
- Dates: 29th–30th November 2024
- Venue: Baljek Airport, Jengjal, West Garo Hills, Meghalaya

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• **Purpose**: To celebrate and preserve the rich cultural heritage of the Garo people, an indigenous community predominantly residing in Meghalaya.

25th Hornbill Festival 2024 – Nagaland

- **Dates**: 1st–10th December 2024
- Venue: Kisama Heritage Village, near Kohima, Nagaland
- **Significance**: Known as the "Festival of Festivals," the Hornbill Festival brings together all tribes of Nagaland to celebrate their diverse cultures and traditions

Kreeda App

- The **Kreeda App** is a pioneering mobile application launched by the Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP) in December 2024.
- It stands as India's first comprehensive digital platform dedicated to streamlining sports management across the state.

Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park

- **Location**: Bankhandi area, Dehra assembly constituency, Kangra district, Himachal Pradesh.
- Significance: Set to become India's first zoo certified by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) for sustainable and eco-friendly infrastructure.

BIRSA MUNDA

- **Birth**: Born on **November 15, 1875**, in **Ulihatu**, Khunti district, Chotanagpur Plateau (now in Jharkhand).
- **Tribal Affiliation**: Member of the **Munda tribe**, also known as **Dharti Aba** (Father of the Earth).
- **Religious Reform**: Founded the faith of **Birsait**, promoting monotheism, abstinence from alcohol, and a return to indigenous beliefs.
- **Ulgulan Movement (1899–1900)**: Led the **Munda Rebellion** against British colonial and local exploitation, emphasizing control over **land**, **water**, **and forests**.
- **Chotanagpur Tenancy Act (1908)**: Advocated for the **Chotanagpur Tenancy Act**, which restricted the transfer of tribal land to non-tribals, safeguarding tribal land rights.
- Janjatiya Gaurav Divas: His birth anniversary on November 15 is celebrated as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas to honor tribal freedom fighters.

President's Rule in Manipur

Constitutional Provision

• **Article 356** of the Indian Constitution empowers the President to impose President's Rule in a state if the state government is unable to function according to constitutional provisions.

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Frequency and Timeline

• Manipur has experienced President's Rule 11 times, the highest among Indian states.

Reasons for Imposition

- **Political Instability**: Frequent government collapses due to defections and internal conflicts.
- Law and Order Breakdown: Ethnic violence, notably between Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities.
- Governance Issues: Corruption allegations and administrative failures.

Notable Judicial Intervention

• **S. R. Bommai v. Union of India (1994)**: The Supreme Court ruled that the imposition of President's Rule is subject to judicial review, preventing its arbitrary use.

10-year Road Safety Action Plan

- **Rajasthan** has become the first state in India to adopt a comprehensive 10-year Road Safety Action Plan, aiming to reduce road accident fatalities by **50% by 2030**.
- This initiative is part of the state's commitment to enhancing road safety and aligns with global efforts to improve road safety standards.

Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary — Tiger Reserve

- Location: Madhya Pradesh
- New Status: Declared as a Tiger Reserve in 2024
- Significance:
 - Madhya Pradesh's 8th tiger reserve

VI V I L. VI. I

• India's **57th tiger reserve** overall

Cheetah Reintroduction Project

India's **Cheetah Reintroduction Project** has expanded beyond Kuno National Park to include two additional sites:

- 1. Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh
- 2. Banni Grasslands Reserve, Gujarat

NATIONAL

Bharat Tex 2025

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Dates & Venues

- Main Event: February 14–17, 2025
 - Location: Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
- **Co-located Event**: February 12–15, 2025
 - o Location: India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida
- Government Vision: Accelerate the "Farm to Fibre, Fabric, Fashion, and Foreign Markets" (5F) initiative
- **Export Target**: Increase textile exports from ₹3 lakh crore to ₹9 lakh crore by 2030

National Turmeric Board (NTB)

• Purpose:

To regulate, promote, and develop the turmeric industry in India — improving production, processing, export, and marketing of turmeric.

- The Ministry of Commerce & Industry launched the National Turmeric Board (NTB) with its headquarters at Nizamabad, Telangana.
- Global Position: India is the largest producer, consumer, and exporter of turmeric globally.
- GI Tag: Lakadong turmeric (Meghalaya), Kandhamal turmeric (Odisha), Erode turmeric (Tamil Nadu), Armoor turmeric (Nizamabad, Telanagan) among others have got GI tag. .

ISRO Chairman S. Somnath Receives World Space Award

- Award Recipient: ISRO Chairman S. Somnath has been honored with the IAF World Space Award for the year.
- Awarding Organization: The award is presented by the International Astronautical Federation (IAF).

India to Host First-Ever Kho Kho World Cup in 2025

- India will host the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup in 2025, marking a historic moment for the sport.
- **Organizers:** The event is being organized by the **Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI)** in collaboration with the **International Kho Kho Federation**.

National Commission for Women

Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar has been appointed as the ninth Chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW), succeeding Rekha Sharma

Classical Language Recognition

On October 3, 2024, the Union Cabinet of India officially conferred "Classical Language" status upon five languages: **Marathi**, **Bengali**, **Pali**, **Prakrit**, and **Assamese**. This decision expanded the list of classical languages in India from six to eleven. The existing classical languages include Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and Odia.

Timeline of Classical Language Recognition

- **2004**: Tamil was the first language to be granted classical status.
- 2005: Sanskrit followed suit.
- 2008: Telugu and Kannada were recognized.
- 2013: Malayalam received the designation.
- **2014**: Odia was added to the list.
- 2024: Marathi, Bengali, Pali, Prakrit, and Assamese were granted classical status.
- **Pali** and **Prakrit** are not among the 22 official languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution

Three AI Centres of Excellence

- The Government of India has approved the establishment of three AI Centres of Excellence (CoEs) with a total financial outlay of ₹990 crore.
- These centres aim to advance research and innovation in critical sectors: Healthcare, Agriculture, and Sustainable Cities.
- The initiative was announced by Union Minister for Education, Dharmendra Pradhan, on October 15, 2024, and is part of the government's vision to "Make AI in India and Make AI work for India."

Viksit Bharat 2047

(Coaching for Civil Services - IAS, IFS, IPS, IRS etc.)

- Government of India's visionary roadmap to transform the nation into a fully developed country by the centenary of its independence in 2047.
- The term "Viksit Bharat" translates to "Developed India," signifying a future where India stands as a global leader in various domains.

"Scam Se Bacho" campaign

- A national initiative launched by the Government of India in collaboration with Meta (formerly Facebook) to combat the rising threat of online scams and cyber frauds.
- The campaign aims to raise awareness and protect citizens from cyber threats, fostering a culture of digital safety and vigilance.

PM-YASASVI (Prime Minister's Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India)

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A government scholarship program designed to support students from Other Backward Classes (OBC), Economically Backward Classes (EBC), and Denotified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNT).

Who Can Apply: Indian students studying in Class 9 or 11.

Income Limit: Annual family income should be less than ₹2.5 lakh.

Scholarship Amount:

- Class 9: ₹75,000 per year.
- Class 11: ₹1,25,000 per year.

Atal Innovation Mission 2.0 (AIM 2.0)

- An enhanced initiative by the Government of India, approved in November 2024, to further strengthen the nation's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem. Building upon the successes of AIM 1.0, this phase aims to address existing gaps and scale up innovations across various sectors
- Implementing Body: NITI Aayog
- **Objective**: To expand, strengthen, and deepen India's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem, contributing to the vision of a **Viksit Bharat (Developed India)**.
- The **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) 1.0**, launched by NITI Aayog in 2016, laid the foundation for fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship across India.

BharatGen: India's Indigenous Generative AI Initiative

Launch Date: September 30, 2024

Inaugurated by: Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of Science and Technology **Implemented by**: IIT Bombay under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS)

Funding Agency: Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India **Project Duration**: Expected completion by 2026

Parametric Insurance

Unlike traditional insurance, which requires detailed assessments of actual losses, parametric insurance provides predetermined payouts based on specific parameters such as rainfall intensity, wind speed, or earthquake magnitude. This approach ensures swift financial assistance without the need for time-consuming loss evaluations.

Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2025

• The 7th Edition of **Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2025** marked a significant milestone for Bihar, as the state hosted this prestigious event for the first time. The games were held from **May 4 to May 15, 2025**

- **Mascot**: The official mascot, "**Gajsimha**", symbolizes the strength of an elephant and the courage of a lion, drawing inspiration from the Pala dynasty's heritage in Nalanda and Bodhgaya
- **Maharashtra**: Secured its third consecutive KIYG title with a record **158 medals** (58 Gold, 47 Silver, 53 Bronze), showcasing dominance across multiple disciplines .
- 6th edition happened in **Chennai** and it was started in 2018 in NewDelhi

Overseas Jan Aushadhi Kendra

- India's first overseas Jan Aushadhi Kendra (JAK) was inaugurated in Mauritius on July 17, 2024, marking a significant milestone in the India-Mauritius bilateral relationship.
- The Jan Aushadhi Kendra (JAK) is a retail outlet established under the **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)**, a Government of India initiative launched in 2008 to provide quality generic medicines at affordable prices.

INTERNATIONAL

ICA Global Cooperative Conference 2024

- Dates & Venue: Held from November 25 to 30, 2024, at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, India.
- **Historic First**: This was the **first time in the 130-year history** of the ICA that the Global Cooperative Conference and General Assembly were organized in India.
- **Theme**: **"Cooperatives Build Prosperity for All**" emphasizing the role of cooperatives in fostering inclusive economic growth and sustainable development.

Global Solar Research Satellite Missions (2000–Present)

India

Coaching for Civil Services - IAS, IFS, IPS, IRS etc.)

- Aditya-L1 (Launched: September 2, 2023)
 - **Objective**: India's first solar mission to study the Sun's corona, chromosphere, photosphere, and solar wind.
 - **Orbit**: Located at the Sun-Earth Lagrange Point 1 (L1), approximately 1.5 million km from Earth.
 - **Recent Achievement**: Captured an X-class solar flare and a record-breaking plasma ejection in May 2025, showcasing its capability to monitor solar activity in near-ultraviolet light.

United States

- Parker Solar Probe (Launched: December 2018)
 - **Objective**: Closest approach to the Sun to study its outer atmosphere and solar wind.

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- Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO) (Launched: February 2010)
 - **Objective**: Monitors the Sun's activity and its impact on space weather.

European Space Agency (ESA)

- Solar Orbiter (Launched: February 2020)
 - **Objective**: Joint ESA-NASA mission to study the Sun's poles and inner heliosphere.
- **Proba-3** (Launched: December 5, 2024)
 - **Objective**: ESA's mission to study the Sun using a two-satellite system to create artificial solar eclipses.

Japan

- **SOLAR-C** (Planned Launch: 2028)
 - **Objective**: Planned follow-up to Hinode to study the Sun's atmosphere and the mechanisms behind solar phenomena.
 - **Instruments**: Includes the Extreme Ultraviolet High-Throughput Spectroscopic Telescope (EUVST) and the Solar Spectral Irradiance Monitor (SoSpIM).

China

- Chinese H-alpha Solar Explorer (CHASE) (Launched: October 2021)
 - **Objective**: Focus on solar flares and eruptions by observing the Sun in the H-alpha wavelength.

Global Climate Highlights – 2024 – VIIII

- 2024 is projected to be the **warmest year on record**, with a global mean surface temperature of 1.55±0.13°C above pre-industrial levels (1850–1900).
- This marks the **first calendar year** where the global temperature exceeded the **1.5°C threshold** set by the Paris Agreement.

The **Paris Agreement** is a landmark international treaty adopted at the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) in Paris on December 12, 2015, under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It entered into force on November 4, 2016, after ratification by at least 55 countries accounting for 55% of global greenhouse gas emissions .

Objectives of the Paris Agreement

1. **Limit Global Temperature Rise**: Aim to keep the increase in global average temperature well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C.

2. **Enhance Adaptive Capacity**: Strengthen countries' ability to deal with the impacts of climate change

International Solar Alliance (ISA) Leadership (2024–2026)

Re-election of Leadership: At the 7th General Assembly held in New Delhi in November 2024, India was re-elected unopposed as the President of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) for a two-year term (2024–2026). France was re-elected as Co-President after a contested election against Grenada.

India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP)

- **ICAP Targets**: India aims to achieve the following by 2037–38:
 - \circ $\,$ Reduce cooling demand by 20–25% $\,$
 - Reduce refrigerant demand by 25–30%
 - Reduce energy consumption for cooling by 25–40%
 - Train 100,000 technicians in servicing and maintenance
- **Kigali Amendment Commitment**: India ratified the Kigali Amendment in 2021, committing to reduce hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) by 85% by 2047.
- **Global Cooling Pledge**: At COP28, 63 countries, including India, committed to the Global Cooling Pledge to reduce cooling emissions.
- Wilmington Declaration (September 2024): The leaders of Australia, India, Japan, and the United States issued the Wilmington Declaration, underscoring their commitment to sustainable energy solutions, particularly focusing on high-efficiency cooling systems

UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards

The **2024 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation** recognized eight exemplary projects across five countries, celebrating outstanding achievements in heritage preservation. Among these, two projects received the prestigious **Award of Distinction**:

Award of Distinction Recipients

Abathsahayeswarar Temple Conservation Project

- o Location: Thukkatchi, Tamil Nadu, India
- Significance: This 1,300-year-old temple, associated with the Chola dynasty, underwent meticulous restoration that combined modern engineering techniques with traditional craftsmanship by local sthapathis (temple architects). The project successfully revitalized the temple's structural integrity and aesthetic grandeur, leading to its reconsecration in September 2023

India-U.S. Bilateral Trade Overview (2024-25)

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- **Total Trade Volume**: Approximately **\$129 billion**, making the U.S. India's largest trading partner.
- **Trade Surplus**: India maintained a surplus of about **\$45.7 billion**, with exports to the U.S. outpacing imports.

As of the 2024–25 fiscal year, **China** is India's **second-largest trading partner**, following the United States. Bilateral trade between India and China reached approximately **\$127.7 billionTrade Deficit for India**: \$99.2 billion.

BRICS

16th BRICS Summit Highlights

- Date & Venue: Held from October 22–24, 2024, in Kazan, Russia.
- Theme: "Strengthening Multilateralism for Fair Global Development and Security."

17th BRICS Summit

- Date: Scheduled for July 6–7, 2025.
- **Location**: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Côte d'Ivoire - First Country to Launch R21/Matrix-M Malaria Vaccine

- Launch Date: July 15, 2024
- Target Group: Children aged 6 to 23 months

The **R21/Matrix-M[™] malaria vaccine** is designed to prevent **malaria caused by the Plasmodium falciparum parasite**, which is the most lethal malaria species and highly prevalent in sub-Saharan Africa. It is primarily administered to **children aged 5 to 36 months**, who are at the highest risk of severe illness and death from malaria.

Rome Declaration on Water Scarcity in Agriculture

• Adoption:

Member countries of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) adopted the Rome Declaration on Water Scarcity in Agriculture.

• Purpose:

The declaration aims to **address the growing challenge of water scarcity**, particularly in agriculture, which is being **worsened by climate change**.

AWARDS

• **The Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Award** was instituted by the Tamil Nadu government in 2015 to honor individuals who have made significant contributions in the fields of

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science, technology, humanities, and students' welfare. The award comprises a cash prize of ₹5 lakh, a gold medal weighing 8 grams, and a certificate.

- Dr. P. Veeramuthuvel, the Project Director of ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 mission, was honored with the Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Award by the Government of Tamil Nadu.
- Ayyan Thiruvalluvar award- M. Padikkaramu
- Anna Award- L. Ganesan DMK leader, who was at the forefront of the anti Hindi agitation
- Srinagar has become fourth Indian city to be recognised as a '**World Crafts City'** by World Craft Council (WCC), Jaipur, Malappuram and Mysore earlier recognized.
- **Agriculture Leadership Awards 2024**-Agriculture Today -Nagaland Best state in Horticulture
- **Booker Prize for Fiction Booker Prize Foundation** Samantha Harvey Won for her novel "Orbital," set on the International Space Station (ISS).
- 2024 **Vaikom Award** for social justice- Tamil Nadu government- **Devanura Mahadeva** Kannada writer and social activist
- Sahitya Akademi Award 2024- Sahitya Akademi- Chaman Arora Dogri Language for his book 'Ik Hor Ashwthama'.
- Kalaignar Ezhuthukol Award 2023 Tamil Nadu Government- Nakkeeran R. Gopal and Sugitha Sarangaraj.
- Sahitya Akademi Prize 2024 Sahitya Akademi P Vimala from Tamil Nadu Translation for her work 'Enatu Ankal' in Tamil
- **59th Jnanpith Award for 2024** Bharatiya Jnanpith Vinod Kumar Shukla Renowned Hindi poet and novelist
- Abel Prize for mathematics Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters Masaki Kashiwara. Japanese mathematician
- Hariman Sharma Padma Shri Awardee
 - A farmer from Himachal Pradesh, was recently conferred with Padma Shri for his transformative contribution to Indian agriculture.
 - He is popularly known as the 'Apple Man of India'.
 - He has developed an innovative, self pollinating, low chilling apple variety called HRMN-99. (Coaching for Civil Services IAS, IFS, IPS, IRS etc.)
- **Rohsni Nadar Malhotra** Made History by becoming first Indian women(5th rank) to enter top 10 of Huran Global Rich List for women.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- **October 02** International Day of Non-violence.The day is observed on the birth anniversary of MK Gandhi
- **October 06** World Habitat Day Engaging youth to create a better urban future
- October 10 World Mental Health Day Mental Health at Work
- **October 31** National Unity Day National Unity Day is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- **November 12** World Pneumonia Day It aims to raise awareness about pneumonia, a lifethreatening but preventable and treatable respiratory illness.

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- **November 19** International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women "Every 10 Minutes, a woman is killed. #NoExcuse. UNITE to End Violence against Women"
- **November 26** National Milk Day It honours the birth of Dr Verghese Kurien, the visionary behind India's White Revolution.
- **December 10** Human Rights Day This day marks the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948.
- **December 25** Good Governance Day It marks the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- **January 04** World Braille Day This day is a tribute to Louis Braille, the visionary behind the braille system.
- **January 12** National Youth Day In 1984, the Government of India has declared that Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary as National Youth Day
- January 25 Tamil language martyrs' day 2025 Tamil Mozhi Thiyagigal Naal
- February 02 World Wetlands Day "Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future"

EXERCISES

- Nomadic Elephant India and Mongolia, h<mark>os</mark>ted in Meghalaya Army
- Exercise Pitch Black 2024 India and Australia Air Force
- Mitra Shakti India and Sri Lanka Military
- 20th edition of YUDH ABHYAS-2024 India-USA Military
- 5th edition of VINBAX 2024 Vietnam-India Army
- 18th edition of SURYA KIRAN India and Nepal Military
- SLINEX Sri Lanka and India Navy
- Desert Knight India, France, and UAE Air Force
- Harimau Shakti India- Malaysia Military
- CINBAX India and Cambodia Army
- Dharma Guardian India and Japan (Japan) Military

REPORTS AND INDICES

Rule of Law Index 2024

- The **World Justice Project (WJP)**, an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C., released the **Rule of Law Index 2024** on **October 23, 2024**. The WJP aims to advance the rule of law worldwide through research and engagement initiatives.
- The Rule of Law Index is an annual report that evaluates adherence to the rule of law in 142 countries and jurisdictions. It assesses countries based on eight factors: Constraints on Government Powers, Absence of Corruption, Open Government, Fundamental Rights, Order and Security, Regulatory Enforcement, Civil Justice, and Criminal Justice.
- India ranks 79 out of 142 countries in the 2024 Rule of Law Index published by the World Justice Project.

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Henley Passport Index

- Purpose:
 - Ranks passports by the number of countries their holders can visit **without a visa**.
 - Helps understand **global mobility** and the **strength of passports**.

• Top Rankings:

- 1st place: Singapore visa-free access to 195 countries.
- 2nd place: France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain access to 192 countries.
- **8th place:** United States access to **186 countries**.
- 83rd place: India access to 58 countries.

Global Tuberculosis Report 2024

1. Global TB Burden

- **New TB cases**: 10.8 million in 2023, a slight increase from 10.7 million in 2022.
- **TB-related deaths**: 1.25 million in 2023, a decrease from 1.32 million in 2022.
- Global incidence rate: 134 cases per 100,000 population.
- Global mortality rate: 16 deaths per 100,000 population.
- **HIV-associated TB**: 6.1% of new TB cases were among people living with HIV.

2. Regional Distribution

• **High-burden countries**: India (26%), Indonesia (10%), China (6.8%), Philippines (6.8%), Pakistan (6.3%), Nigeria (4.6%), Bangladesh (3.5%), and Democratic Republic of the Congo (3.1%) together accounted for over two-thirds of global TB cases.

India's TB Control Measures

National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP)

- **Objective**: Achieve a "TB-free India" by 2025.
- **Strategies**: Focus on prevention, early detection, effective treatment, and building supportive systems.
- Services: Provides free, quality TB diagnosis and treatment across the country.

Nikshay Poshan Yojana

- **Purpose**: Provide nutritional support to TB patients.
- **Benefit**: Offers ₹1,000 per month to aid in purchasing nutritious food.

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• Implementation: Facilitates better treatment adherence and recovery.

World Population Prospects Report

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs • World's population is projected to peak around 10.3 billion people in mid-2080s • India's population is expected to reach its peak in early 2060s and is expected to remain world's largest throughout century.

Artificial Intelligence Preparedness Index (AIPI) 2024

International boost Monetary Fund (IMF) • Singapore (0.80), Denmark (0.78), and United States (0.77) highest-rated. • India ranks 72 in a total of 174 countries.

Global Liveability Index 2024

Economist Intelligence Unit • Vienna, Austria is world's most liveable city

Travel and Tourism Development Index 2024 report

• World Economic Forum India is ranked 39th among 119 countries

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCE

- International conference on Soils- Morocco New World Soil Health Index announced by UNESCO
- 24th Summit of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Kazakhstan (Astana) Belarus becomes 10th Member • Cooperation Program to Counter Terrorism, Separatism, and Extremism for 2025-2027 • Anti-Drug Strategy for 2024-2029 • SCO Development Strategy until 2035
- Global India AI Summit New Delhi Platform for Leading international AI experts to showcase their insights on key AI issues and challenges.



- **Bhuvan Panchayat Geoportal 4.0** Developed by ISRO, Space based Information Support for Decentralized Planning (SISDP) and empower citizens at grass root level in Panchayats.
- **eSankhyiki Portal** It aims to provide real-time inputs for planners, policy-makers, researchers and public at large. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) launched to streamline the sharing of official statistics through a comprehensive system designed to enhance ease of access and analysis
- **NIRMAN Portal** (Noble Initiative for Rewarding Mains Aspirants of National Civil Services Examination) Eligible candidates, permanent residents of Coal India Limited's 39 operational districts, will receive Rs 1 lakh.
- **MeDevIS** WHO launched MeDevIS, an open-access hub providing information on 2301 types of medical devices.

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- **U-WIN portal** One of the important steps towards halving the number of zero-dose children by 2030
- **Jiyo Parsi Scheme portal** Central Sector Scheme to arrest the population decline of the Parsi community in India.



- India@100: Envisioning Tomorrow's Economic Powerhouse Prof. K V Subramanian Indian economist
- Witness book by Sakshi Malik



- Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has recognised Indian **Kalarippayattu** Federation as Regional Sports Federation to promote 'Kalarippayattu' in country.
- India's first individual Olympic gold medallist **Abhinav Bindra** has been honoured with Olympic Order for his outstanding contributions to Olympic movement.
- **Neeraj Chopra of Haryana** won the silver medal in the men's javelin throw competition at the Paris 2024 Olympics.
- India's **Deepika Kumari** won the silver medal in the women's recurve event at the Archery World Cup Final 2024 in Tlaxcala, Mexico.

OLYMPICS 2024

- 2024 Summer Olympics is held from July 26 to August 11 this year at Paris, France.
- Games will feature 329 events in 32 sports.
- 5804 medals will be distributed during the Games.
- Both Olympic and Paralympic medals carry a piece of iron from the Eiffel Tower.
- Russia and Belarus are banned from the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris due to their involvement in the ongoing Ukraine war.
- 15 athletes from Russia and 18 from Belarus are set to compete as "Individual Neutral Athletes" or AINs.
- Gender Equality in Paris Olympics with 50 per cent male and female participation followed from Tokyo Olympics 2020.
- OLYMPICS 2024 Athlete Medal Manu Bhaker Bronze Event Women's 10m air pistol shooting
- Manu Bhaker-Sarabjot Singh Bronze Mixed team 10m air pistol shooting
- Swapnil Kusale Bronze Men's 50m rifle positions shooting
- Indian Men's hockey team Bronze medal
- Neeraj Chopra Silver Men's javelin throw
- Aman Sehrawat Bronze Men's 57kg wrestling