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AGRICULTURE**FAIR, REMUNERATIVE PRICE FOR SUGAR CANE INCREASED****SUBJECT: AGRICULTURE**

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by PM Narendra Modi, approved an increase in Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for sugar cane on April 30, 2025.

- FRP for 2025-26 season (October-September): ₹355/quintal (up from ₹340/quintal in 2024-25).
- Based on sugar recovery rate of 10.25%; FRP ensures profitability
- Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP):**
- Introduced in 2009, replacing the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP); set by the Central Government under the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966.
- Determined by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) based on production costs, recovery rate, and market conditions.
- Applicable to sugar cane; ensures minimum payment to farmers by sugar mills.
- Minimum Support Price (MSP):**
- Covers 22 crops (e.g., paddy, wheat); also recommended by CACP but differs from FRP in applicability and calculation.
- MSP ensures price stability; FRP focuses on sugar cane with recovery-based adjustments.

FROM PLOUGHS TO PANELS CULTIVATING A SOLAR POWERED FUTURE FOR FARMERS**SUBJECT: AGRICULTURE**

- Agrivoltaics (APV):** Co-locates solar PV panels with crops; enables dual land use (energy + farming); proposed in 1981 by German scientists.
- Benefits:** Reduces evapotranspiration;
- Improves crop microclimate;
- Protects crops;
- Enables energy sales;

- Suits smallholder farmers.
- Challenges in India:** High capital costs; no policy clarity; land use ambiguity; ground-mounted PVs dominate.
- Global Examples:** Germany mandates 66% crop coverage; Japan, South Korea offer subsidies, FiTs.
- Policy Recommendations:** Integrate APV into PM-KUSUM; offer subsidized loans, FiTs; reform land categorization

SMALL SNAIL INFESTATION A GROWING THREAT TO CARDAMOM FARMERS IN IDUKKI DISTRICT**SUBJECT: AGRICULTURE**

- Small snail infestation threatens cardamom plantations in Idukki, Kerala, after heavy summer rains.
- Snails are devouring new panicles and flowers, causing significant crop damage;
- Snail attacks noted since October last year, worsened this year.
- Response:** Farmers using metaldehyde pellets to kill snails, as advised by the Cardamom Research Station (CRS) of Kerala Agricultural University, Pampadumpara.
- Farmers (Kumily, Puliyannmala, Anavilasom, Pathumury, Chakkupallom) report increased complaints about snail attacks.

PADDY, PULSES ACREAGE HAS INCREASED THIS KHARIF SEASON**SUBJECT: AGRICULTURE**

- Paddy:** Increased by 3.44 lakh hectares (28.57 lakh hectares in 2023-24).
- Pulses:** Increased by 2.20 lakh hectares (20.67 lakh hectares in 2023-24).
- Oilseeds:** Increased by 1.70 lakh hectares.
- Coarse Grains:** Increased area noted but not quantified.
- Comparison with Previous Years:** Paddy: 9.76 lakh hectares more than 2023-24.
- Pulses:** 0.47 lakh hectares more than 2023-24.
- Stock Levels:**

- Rice: 389.05 lakh tonnes (buffer: 135.8 lakh tonnes).
- Wheat: 177.08 lakh tonnes (buffer: 74.6 lakh tonnes).
- Water storage in reservoirs: 117% of last year, 161% of 10-year average.

HOW DID INDIA DEVELOP GENOME EDITED RICE

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURE

- India became the first country to develop two rice varieties using genome editing technology.
- The varieties are: DRR Dhan 100 (Kamala)—derived from Samba Mahsuri
- Pusa DSR Rice 1—derived from MTU1010
- Developed under ICAR's leadership using Site-Directed Nuclease (SDN)-3 technology.
- These crops are not GM since no foreign genes are inserted; they are considered non-transgenic.
- What is genome edited rice?
- Genome editing involves precise mutation using technologies like SDN-1, SDN-2, and SDN-3.
- India used SDN-3 which edits the plant's own genome without introducing foreign DNA, hence exempt from GM crop regulation in many countries.
- The process enhances desired traits—like yield, early maturity, and resilience—via site-specific genetic edits.

BILATERAL

CAN THE INDUS WATERS TREATY BE SUSPENDED UNILATERALLY

SUBJECT: BILATERAL

- India announced the IWT will be held in abeyance after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.
- The 1960 Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) grants India full control over the eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej), while Pakistan controls the western rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab).

- Article XII of IWT clearly states that it cannot be altered unilaterally
- **Is unilateral suspension legal?**
- "Hold in abeyance" is not a term recognized under international treaty law (VCLT 1969). The proper term is "suspension" or "termination."
- Vienna Convention Article 62 permits treaty withdrawal if there's a "fundamental change in circumstances".
- However, the ICJ (Fisheries Jurisdiction and Hungary-Slovakia Dam cases) held that political/environmental changes alone are insufficient to justify such action unless the threshold is extremely high

INDIA AND U.K CONCLUDE LANDMARK TRADE DEAL

SUBJECT: BILATERAL

- India and the United Kingdom have finalized a historic Free Trade Agreement (FTA). }
- The FTA ensures that 99% of Indian exports to the U.K. will benefit from zero-duty access.
- The deal aims to double bilateral trade by 2030.
- U.K. to benefit from tariff reductions on whisky, gin, and automotive imports.
- India to gain from reduced import duties on cosmetics, medical and aerospace devices, electrical machinery, chocolates, lamb, salmon, and biscuits, enhancing consumer access.
- **Free Trade Agreement (FTA):** A pact between two or more nations to reduce trade barriers—such as tariffs and import quotas to facilitate increased trade and investment.
- **Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA):** Prevents businesses or individuals from being taxed twice on the same income in two countries.

DEFENCE

THE STATE MUST NOT STIFLE DEMOCRATIC DISSENT IN THE NAME OF NATIONAL SECURITY

SUBJECT: DEFENCE

- The editorial critiques unchecked state surveillance, warning against using national security as a justification for stifling dissent and civil liberties.
- Refers to ongoing Supreme Court hearings into alleged Pegasus spyware use on politicians, journalists, judges, and civil society actors.
- Raises concerns over the lack of transparency, oversight, and legal safeguards in electronic surveillance.
- Surveillance must follow due process with judicial and institutional checks to prevent abuse and protect democratic values.
- The court's framing of the debate not about whether the state can use spyware, but who qualifies as a legitimate target is a vital democratic inquiry.
- Criticizes arbitrary labeling of critics and opposition as anti-national, and misuse of executive power in the absence of legal standards.

HAL CLEARS ARMY AND AIR FORCE VERSIONS OF DHRUV HELICOPTER

SUBJECT: DEFENCE

- The armed forces had temporarily grounded all their 330 ALHs following the January 5 crash of an ALH Mark-III of the Indian Coast Guard in Porbandar, Gujarat during a training sortie that killed all three crew members aboard the helicopter
- Based on the Defect Investigation (DI) Committee recommendations, the Army and Air Force versions of the helicopter had been cleared for operations

INDIA LAUNCHES OP SINDOOR STRIKES 9 TERRORIST SITES IN PAKISTAN & POK

SUBJECT: DEFENCE

- The operation was launched in the wake of the Pahalgam attack, reflecting India's stated commitment to hold those responsible accountable.
- The press release suggests that this was a retaliatory measure to deter future terrorist activities originating from across the border.

- **Objective:** The operation aimed to strike terrorist camps and infrastructure from where attacks against India were being planned and directed.
- **Execution:** The Indian Armed Forces carried out precision strikes, hitting nine specific terrorist sites.
- The operation was described as focused and non-escalatory, meaning it deliberately avoided targeting Pakistani military facilities to prevent broader conflict escalation

HOW AIR DEFENCE SYSTEMS WORK

SUBJECT: DEFENCE

- India's air defense systems were critical during military operations against Pakistan following aerial attacks on Thursday, targeting terror camps after the Pahalgam attack (April 22, 2025, 26 killed).
- **Challenges in Countering Aerial Threats:**
- Pakistan's attacks involved military hardware, software systems, drones, and missiles.
- Threats are complex due to their ability to cause damage; air defense systems are crucial in modern warfare.
- India repulsed Pakistani attacks in Amritsar on Thursday morning.
- **How Air Defence Systems Work:**
- **Detection:** Radar systems (ground/air-based) detect threats; satellites provide additional data.
- **Tracking:** Radars track the target's trajectory; systems like IFF (Identification Friend or Foe) distinguish between friendly and enemy targets.
- **Interception:** Missiles, anti-aircraft guns, or electronic countermeasures neutralize the threat.
- **India's Deployment of IAI Harop Drones:**
- **Type:** Loitering munition (suicide drone) by Israel's IAI; India used it to strike Pakistan.
- **Features:** Equipped with an explosive payload; loiters over targets for up to 9 hours.

- High precision; uses RF (radio frequency) seekers for targeting.
- Can strike targets 1,000 km away; effective against time-critical, high-value targets.
- **Successor:** Harop is an upgrade of the Harpy (1980s); more autonomous, precise.

INDIA BRIEFS ENVOYS OF 13 SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

SUBJECT: DEFENCE

- Post-Operation Sindoos strikes on Pakistan (Wednesday).
- **Briefing:** Foreign Secretary Vikram Misrito 13/15 UNSC members (Pakistan, Sierra Leone excluded).
- Strikes were a “response” to Pahalgam attack (26 killed), not escalation. Targeted, measured, non-escalatory; aimed to deter future attacks.
- Pakistan escalated by shielding The Resistance Front (TRF) in UNSC resolution.
- India will respond to any military escalation by Pakistan.
- **Envoy's Queries:** U.K.: Damage to mosques? India: Only terror camps targeted.
- Damage to Indian infrastructure: Too early to assess.
- **Strategy:** Counter Pakistan at UNSC 1267 (terror listing) and FATF; Indian Mission in New York engaging UNSC members

PAK USED 400 DRONES POSSIBLY FROM TURKIYE

SUBJECT: DEFENCE

- Pakistan launched 300–400 drones across 36 locations from Leh to Sir Creek on May 8–9, including an armed UAV targeting Bhatinda military station.
- Indian forces retaliated with strikes on four air defence sites in Pakistan; one radar destroyed.
- The drones, likely of Turkish origin (Asisguard Songar), intended to test Indian air defences.
- India accused Pakistan of using civil airliners as shields to delay Indian response

- **Drone Swarm Intrusion:** Coordinated mass drone attacks to overwhelm radar and test air defence.
- **Air Defence Systems (AD):** Networks of radars, missiles, and sensors that detect and neutralize aerial threats

INDIA, PAK AGREE TO TAKE STEPS TO REDUCE TROOPS ON BORDERS

SUBJECT: DEFENCE

- India and Pakistan agreed to “consider immediate measures to ensure troop reduction” from the borders and forward areas
- Their commitment to not fire a single shot or initiate any aggressive and inimical action will continue.
- The agreement came during talks between the Directors-General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan.
- The agreement effectively takes forward the understanding reached between the DGMOs to stop all firing and military activity.

INDIGENOUS WEAPON SYSTEMS HIGHLY EFFECTIVE SAYS CENTRE

SUBJECT: DEFENCE

- Indian Air Force struck Pakistani targets with minimal losses.
- Used Akash short-range surface-to-air systems.
- **Effectiveness:** Precision-guided munitions (PGMs) hit targets accurately.
- Cost: ₹3,622 crore (2024-25); ₹686 crore (2013-14).
- **Systems:** Drones, combat vehicles, missiles (Akash, BrahMos).
- Integrated with AkashTeer, IAF networks, Air Command Systems.
- **Impact:** Neutralised Pakistani tech; border situation calm.
- Army conducted strikes on May 13-14, 2025, without escalation

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL SECURITY

- **Operation Sindoos Success:** The Indian Armed Forces' joint airstrike, Operation Sindoos, on May 6-7, 2025, targeted terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and PoJK, retaliating for the Pahalgam attack, showcasing India's defense resolve.
- **Akashtee System Efficacy:** The indigenous Akashtee Air Defence System neutralized threats during recent India-Pakistan tensions, bolstering air defense capabilities.
- **Drone Detection System:** Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) signed a contract with the Indian Army for the DRDO-developed Integrated Drone Detection and Interdiction System (IDDIS), enhancing aerial threat countermeasures.
- **BrahMos Production Boost:** The new BrahMos facility in Lucknow, inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, strengthens India's missile production capacity.
- **Sagar Defence Milestone:** Sagar Defence Engineering's autonomous surface vessel completed a 1,500-km journey from Mumbai to Thoothukudi, advancing naval technology.
- **BEL's AI Innovations:** BEL secured ₹572 crore in orders for AI-based solutions for ships and software-defined radios, reinforcing defense modernization.

SECURITY AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

- Operation Sindoos Supported: CM Stalin praises Operation Sindoos, with a Chennai rally planned to boost defence personnel morale.
- Coastal Surveillance Enhanced: Tamil Nadu coordinates with the Indian Navy to strengthen maritime security in coastal districts.
- Ex-Servicemen Welfare Boosted: The state allocates ₹5 crore for welfare programs supporting retired defence personnel.
- Birds Park Supports Ecology: Deputy CM Udhayanidhi Stalin's ₹18.63 crore birds park in Tiruchirappalli aids biodiversity, indirectly supporting environmental security.
- Cybersecurity Training Expanded: Tamil Nadu aligns with Bharat NCX 2024, training state

officials to counter cyber threats to critical infrastructure.

- **Defence Corridor Development:** The state advances its defence manufacturing corridor, attracting investments for indigenous production.

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL SECURITY

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TAMIL NADU'S DEFENSE CONTRIBUTIONS

- **Support for Armed Forces:** CM M.K. Stalin's planned rally in Chennai underscores Tamil Nadu's solidarity with the Indian defense forces, particularly in response to Pakistan's recent aggressions.
- **Operation Sindoos Controversy:** An assistant professor at SRM University in Tamil Nadu was suspended for criticizing Operation Sindoos, India's military strike on terror camps

- in Pakistan, highlighting tensions between academic freedom and national security.
- **Maritime Sector Gender Equity:** The Sagar Mein Samman policy, unveiled by Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, promotes women's participation in Tamil Nadu's maritime sector, with a 649% growth in women seafarers from 2014 to 2024.

National Defense Highlights

- **Autonomous Surface Vessel Achievement:** Sagar Defence Engineering's autonomous vessel completed a 1,500-km journey from Mumbai to Thoothukudi, showcasing India's advancements in defense technology.
- **Defense Minister's Initiatives:** Rajnath Singh flagged off a defense expedition on April 3, 2025, from New Delhi, emphasizing India's commitment to strengthening defense capabilities.
- **International Defense Cooperation:** India's participation in LIMA 2025 in Malaysia, led by Sanjay Seth, aims to enhance defense ties and showcase India's maritime and aerospace capabilities.
- **Operation Sindoar Global Outreach:** The multi-party delegation led by MPs is spreading awareness of India's anti-terror operations internationally, reinforcing India's defense diplomacy.

INDIAN NAVY INDUCTS ANCIENT STITCHED SHIP AT KARWAR

SUBJECT: DEFENCE

- The Indian Navy formally inducted a replica of a 5th-century CE stitched ship at Naval Base, Karwar, on May 21, 2025, presided over by Minister of Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.
- The ship, inspired by Ajanta Cave paintings, was constructed using traditional methods by Kerala artisans under master shipwright Babu Sankaran.
- This initiative showcases India's maritime heritage and traditional shipbuilding techniques.

- The project aligns with the Navy's efforts to promote cultural and historical awareness alongside defense capabilities.
- The stitched ship symbolizes India's ancient maritime trade connections with Southeast Asia and beyond.
- Concepts: Maritime Heritage – India's historical naval prowess; Project Sagarmala – Aims to enhance port-led development and maritime connectivity.

OPERATION SINDOOR: INDIA'S AIRSTRIKE ON TERRORIST INFRASTRUCTURE

SUBJECT: DEFENCE

- The Indian Armed Forces conducted *Operation Sindoar*, a joint airstrike targeting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (POJK) on May 6–7, 2025.
- The operation, monitored by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was a retaliation for the Pahalgam terrorist attack on April 22, 2025, which killed 26 tourists.
- It involved the Indian Air Force, Army, and Navy, showcasing India's integrated defence capabilities.
- The strike underscores India's zero-tolerance policy toward cross-border terrorism.
- Concepts: National Security Strategy emphasizes preemptive and retaliatory actions to counter terrorism.
- The operation strengthens India's deterrence posture in the region, particularly against Pakistan-sponsored terrorism.
- International reactions are mixed, with some nations calling for de-escalation to avoid further regional instability.

INDIAN ARMED FORCES' OPERATION SINDOOR TARGETS TERROR INFRASTRUCTURE

Subject: Defense

- The Indian Armed Forces conducted **Operation Sindoar**, a joint airstrike on terrorist infrastructure in **Pakistan and PoJK** on May 6–7, 2025.

- The operation, monitored by **PM Narendra Modi**, was a retaliation for the **Pahalgam terrorist attack** (April 22, 2025), which killed 26 tourists.
- Involved **Indian Air Force, Army, and Navy**, showcasing integrated defense capabilities.
- **Concepts:** National Security Strategy; role of the **Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS)** in authorizing such operations.
- Tamil Nadu's defense manufacturing units, part of the **Defence Corridor**, contribute to India's self-reliance in military hardware.
- The operation reinforces India's **zero-tolerance policy** toward cross-border terrorism.
- Global reactions highlight concerns over escalating tensions in South Asia.

INDIA'S LARGEST TITANIUM PLANT INAUGURATED IN LUCKNOW

Subject: Defence

- Union Defence Minister and Uttar Pradesh CM inaugurated India's largest Titanium and Superalloy Materials Plant in Lucknow.
- Operated by Aeroalloy Technologies, the plant has a 6,000-tonne annual capacity, boosting defence manufacturing.
- It supports indigenous production for fighter jets and naval vessels.
- Tamil Nadu's aerospace sector is expected to collaborate for component supply chains.
- Concepts: Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence production and strategic self-reliance.
- The plant positions India as a global leader in titanium technology.

INDIA STRENGTHENS DEFENCE TIES WITH MALDIVES VIA HADR EXERCISE

Subject: Defence/International

- Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sharda concluded a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise with the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) at Maafilaafushi Atoll.

- The exercise, held from May 4–10, 2025, focused on disaster response, search and rescue, and medical aid coordination.
- It aligns with India's MAHASAGAR vision for regional security and growth across the Indian Ocean Region.
- The drill included joint training to enhance preparedness for natural calamities, strengthening India-Maldives defence cooperation.
- India's proactive role underscores its commitment to the 'SAGAR' (Security and Growth for All in the Region) initiative.
- **Concept:** Soft Power Diplomacy – Leveraging humanitarian missions to build strategic partnerships.
- **Context:** The exercise comes amid efforts to counterbalance China's growing influence in the Indian Ocean.

OPERATION SINDOOR: INDIAN ARMED FORCES CONDUCT AIRSTRIKE IN RESPONSE TO TERROR ATTACK

Subject: Defence/National Issues

- The Indian Armed Forces launched Operation Sindoor, a joint airstrike targeting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and PoJK on May 6–7, 2025.
- The operation, monitored by PM Narendra Modi, was a retaliation for the Pahalgam terrorist attack on April 22, 2025, which killed 26 tourists.
- It involved coordinated efforts by the Indian Air Force, Army, and Navy, showcasing integrated military capabilities.
- The operation aligns with the ongoing push for Integrated Theatre Commands to enhance joint operations.
- India raised concerns at the IMF about Pakistan's misuse of funds linked to terrorism financing.
- The strike underscores India's zero-tolerance policy toward cross-border terrorism, amid strained India-Pakistan relations.

- Domestic consensus on national security remains critical to avoid politicization of such operations.

INDIA STRENGTHENS DEFENCE TIES WITH RUSSIA VIA INDRA NAVAL EXERCISE

Subject: Defence/International

- The 14th India-Russia bilateral naval exercise, INDRA, commenced off Chennai, Tamil Nadu, from March 28 to April 2, 2025.
- The exercise includes a harbor phase with professional exchanges and a sea phase with advanced naval drills.
- Russian naval ships Pechanga, Rezkiy, and Aldar Tsydenzhapov joined Indian Navy vessels for the drill.
- INDRA aims to enhance maritime security cooperation and interoperability between the two navies.
- The exercise reflects India's strategic balancing in defence partnerships amid global geopolitical tensions.
- It strengthens India's role in the Indo-Pacific, aligning with the Sagarmala Project for maritime development.
- Local Tamil Nadu communities benefit from economic activity during the harbor phase.

INDIA-PAKISTAN TENSIONS ESCALATE AFTER OPERATION SINDOOR

Subject: International/Defence

- The Indian Armed Forces conducted Operation Sindoos, an airstrike targeting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (POJK) on May 6-7, 2025.
- The operation, monitored by PM Narendra Modi, was a retaliation for the April 22, 2025, Pahalgam terrorist attack that killed 26 tourists.
- The joint operation involved the Indian Air Force, Army, and Navy, showcasing inter-service coordination.
- India called for reviving SAARC/BBIN dialogues to focus on shared economic and security goals.

- The operation has raised concerns about regional stability and its impact on India's foreign relations.
- Tamil Nadu's strategic coastal location strengthens its role in India's maritime security framework.
- Analysts urge political solutions to complement military actions for sustainable peace in South Asia.

INDIA CONDUCTS MOCK DRILL ALONG PAKISTAN BORDER FOR SECURITY PREPAREDNESS

Subject: Defense

- A large-scale mock drill was conducted on May 29, 2025, in states bordering Pakistan, including Rajasthan and Punjab, to test security readiness.
- The exercise involved the Indian Army, Air Force, and Border Security Force to simulate responses to cross-border threats.
- Follows 'Operation Sindoos,' a joint airstrike on terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir in early May 2025.
- Project Kusha, India's indigenous air defense system, was tested during the drill, enhancing strategic capabilities.
- Aims to strengthen coordination between agencies amid rising cross-border tensions.
- Concept: National Security: India's defense strategy emphasizes self-reliance through indigenous systems like Project Kusha.

Operation Shield Mock Drill Conducted in Punjab

Subject: Defense

- Punjab conducted a mock drill under "Operation Shield" on May 31, 2025, to enhance civil defense preparedness against potential hostile attacks.
 - Ordered by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the drill involved multiple state agencies to simulate responses to security threats.
 - The exercise focused on coordination between civil and military authorities along India's western border.
 - This follows heightened security concerns

after the Pahalgam terrorist attack on April 22, 2025, which killed 26 tourists.

- Tamil Nadu is likely to participate in similar drills, given its strategic coastal location.
- **Concept:** Civil Defense – Measures to protect civilians and infrastructure during national emergencies, often coordinated under the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

ECONOMY

MODI CHAMPIONS ORANGE ECONOMY AT WAVES

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- PM Modi urged global companies to “Create in India, Create for the World”, asserting that India is evolving as an “orange economy” driven by culture, creativity, and content.
- Emphasised that Indian content is gaining global acceptance, especially through subtitled entertainment.
- The WAVES Summit 2025 served as a global platform showcasing India’s creative potential in the audio-visual and entertainment sectors.
- Over 90 countries participated, including media icons like Rajinikanth and Mukesh Ambani.
- PM stressed on “responsible creativity”, balancing cultural sensitivity with innovation
- **What is the Orange Economy?**
- Refers to the creative economy which includes industries based on creativity, culture, and intellectual property.
- Encompasses sectors like media, entertainment, design, and arts

SEBI ACCUSES ADANI KIN OF INSIDER TRADING, HE SEEKS TO SETTLE

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) has accused Pranav Adani, a director of several Adani Group firms and the nephew of Gautam Adani, of insider trading related to the 2021 acquisition of SB Energy Holdings by Adani Green Energy.

- SEBI alleges that Pranav Adani traded based on unpublished price sensitive information (UPSI) before the deal was announced, thereby breaching insider trading regulations.
- Pranav Adani has sought to settle the charges with SEBI without admitting or denying the allegations.
- **Regulatory/Legal Concepts Involved**
- **Insider Trading:** The illegal practice of trading in securities (stocks, bonds, etc.) based on material non-public information.
- **Unpublished Price Sensitive Information (UPSI):** Information that is not publicly available and could significantly affect the price of a company’s securities if disclosed.
- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI):** The regulatory authority in India that oversees the securities markets and protects investors.
- **Settlement Mechanism:** A process by which individuals or entities accused of violating securities laws can resolve the matter with the regulator without admitting or denying guilt, often involving the payment of a penalty.

DEMISE OF FOREIGN AID IN INDIA

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- India’s declining foreign aid reliance; shift to FDI, trade partnerships over grants; FCRA restrictions curb NGO aid.
- **Historical Context:** Significant aid (1955-65); reduced post-1990s liberalization; focus on private capital.
- **FCRA Impact:** Amendments (2010, 2020, 2023) tightened NGO funding; many lost registration, especially advocacy-focused groups.
- **Reasons:** Economic nationalism; distrust of foreign influence; NGOs’ dissent on land, environment, rights.
- **Consequences:** Unemployment in voluntary sector; disrupted grassroots projects (health, education, tribal areas); weakened democratic oversight.

GOVT ONLINE COMPANIES SPAR IN SC OVER GST ON GAMES OF SKILL CHANCE

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- Dispute over GST applicability on online gaming (skill vs. chance). Government Stance(ASG N. Venkataraman):
- Betting/wagering on any game (skill or chance) is gambling; attracts 28% GST on the entire contest entry amount (prize pool).
- Gaming Companies' Argument(Sr. Adv. A.M. Singhvi):**
- Games of skill (e.g., rummy, chess) historically exempt; GST should apply only on platform fees/commissions, not prize pool.
- SC precedents (five/seven-judge benches) classify games of skill as distinct from chance-based games.
- Legal Context:**
- SC stayed ₹1.12 lakh crore GST show-cause notices to 50 online gaming firms (Jan 2024).
- Transferred 27 writ petitions from nine High Courts to SC; includes Karnataka HC ruling quashing ₹21,000 crore notice on Gameskraft (online rummy not gambling).

BANKS READY WITH ANTI-DDOS TO THWART CYBERATTACKS, FM TOLD

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- Coordinate with RBI and CERT-In for quick cyberattack responses.
- Designate two senior officers:one for reporting cyber incidents, another for operational matters (branches, ATMs).
- Report incidents to CERT-In and DFS on a real-time basis.
- Protection Measures:**
- Conduct mock drills to protect against massive cyberattacks. Ensure Security Operations Centres and Network Operations Centres are on high alert.
- Coordinate with CERT-In and NCIPC for critical infrastructure protection.

- Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) attack overwhelms a system, server, or network with excessive traffic to disrupt normal functioning.

BCRC SEEKS REMUNERATION REVIEW OF BANK MITRAS AS COSTS INCREASE

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- Business Correspondent Resource Council (BCRC) appeals to the Parliamentary Finance Committee to review Bank Mitras' remuneration.
- Bank Mitras' pay unchanged since 2014; costs have risen significantly.
- Bank Mitra**—shall be preferably a lady from amongst the community who is provided with the knowledge of doing subsidiary banking works like documents preparation of SHG's for account opening, credit linkage, receipt filling in the bank when the members reach the bank premises either for withdrawing or depositing the amount and supporting the bank with such similar works as required by the branch.
- Solution:** Use Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS)for rural banking remuneration.
- Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF)to subsidize costs in underserved areas.

ECONOMIC POLICIES AND TRENDS

- Aadhaar Transaction Milestone:** Aadhaar authentication transactions surpassed 150 billion, with 210 crore transactions in April 2025, driving India's digital economy and financial inclusion.
- RBI's Regulatory Actions:** The Reserve Bank of India fined Deutsche Bank AG (₹50 lakh) and Yes Bank (₹29.60 lakh) for non-compliance, reflecting stringent financial oversight.
- Tamil Nadu's Semiconductor Ambitions:** Tamil Nadu's Global Investors Meet in 2025 emphasized semiconductor growth, with policy discussions led by experts like Chris Miller, author of "Chip War."
- PLI Scheme Expansion:** Performance Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes across 14 sectors, including electronics and automobiles, continue to boost manufacturing and exports.

- **Green Steel Initiative:** India's new framework for green steel production supports sustainable industrial growth, aligning with net-zero goals.
- **Smartphone Export Surge:** India's rise as the third-largest smartphone exporter globally underscores economic diversification and manufacturing strength.

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- **SGST Collections Surge:** Tamil Nadu's robust SGST growth, driven by IT and manufacturing, supports ₹500 crore in infrastructure investments.
- **Glass Bridge Boosts Tourism:** The ₹37 crore glass bridge in Kanyakumari increases tourist footfall by 20%, enhancing local revenue.
- **Green Energy Investments:** The Green Energy Corridor-II Scheme attracts ₹1,000 crore for renewable energy transmission projects.
- **Semiconductor Policy Push:** The state courts global firms for semiconductor plants, aligning with India's tech self-reliance goals.
- **Fisheries Development:** Tamil Nadu plans aqua parks to meet fish demand, contributing to the state's economic diversification.
- **Rural Digital Access:** The Digital India Common Service Centre project expands e-governance services in rural Tamil Nadu.

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TAMIL NADU ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

- **SGST Growth:** Tamil Nadu has reported significant growth in State Goods and Services Tax (SGST) collections for 2024–25, reflecting robust economic activity and effective tax administration.
- **Green Energy Corridor-II (GEC-II):** This scheme enhances Tamil Nadu's renewable energy transmission capacity, aligning with national efforts to integrate sustainable energy sources into the grid.
- **Infrastructure Investments:** The ₹37 crore glass bridge connecting the Tiruvalluvar Statue and Vivekananda Rock Memorial in Kanyakumari, inaugurated by CM M.K. Stalin, boosts tourism and connectivity.

National Economic Trends

- **Digital India Common Service Centre (DICSC):** The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology launched the DICSC project to expand digital access, supporting economic inclusion and digital economy growth.
- **Fifteenth Finance Commission Grants:** The Union Government released grants for 2024–25 targeting rural local bodies, benefiting states like Haryana and Tripura, and indirectly supporting Tamil Nadu's rural economy.
- **Jal Utsav Initiative:** NITI Aayog's 15-day campaign promotes water management and sustainability, aligning with economic goals for resource conservation.
- **Startup India Innovation:** The Ministry of Commerce and Industry's Startup India Innovation Week continues to foster

entrepreneurship, with Tamil Nadu emerging as a hub for startups in renewable energy and technology.

TAMIL NADU REALLOCATES ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- Tamil Nadu reallocated its ₹50 crore Endangered Species Conservation Fund to the Advanced Institute for Wildlife Conservation (AIWC) to expedite urgent conservation projects.
- The move aims to protect species like the Nilgiri Tahr and enhance biodiversity in the Western Ghats.
- Economic benefits include eco-tourism growth and sustainable livelihoods for local communities.
- The fund supports research, habitat restoration, and anti-poaching measures, aligning with global biodiversity goals.
- Concepts: Sustainable Development – Balancing economic growth with environmental protection; Eco-Tourism – Leveraging biodiversity for economic gains.
- Tamil Nadu's initiative strengthens its position as a leader in conservation-focused economic policies.
- Challenges include ensuring transparency in fund utilization and measurable conservation outcomes.

TAMIL NADU'S GLOBAL INVESTORS MEET AND SEMICONDUCTOR PUSH

SUBJECT: ECONOMY

- Tamil Nadu's Global Investors Meet featured Chris Miller, author of *Chip War*, to foster discussions on the state's ambitions in the semiconductor industry.
- The state aims to position itself as a hub for semiconductor manufacturing, aligning with India's Performance Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes for electronics.
- Tamil Nadu's focus on technology-driven growth includes investments in AI and advanced manufacturing sectors.

- The state government is promoting policies to attract global tech giants, leveraging its skilled workforce and infrastructure.
- Concepts: PLI Schemes, covering 14 sectors, aim to boost India's self-reliance in critical industries like semiconductors.
- Economic Impact: Tamil Nadu's initiatives could contribute significantly to India's goal of becoming a global manufacturing hub.
- Challenges include global competition and the need for robust infrastructure to support high-tech industries.

INDIA'S CAPITAL MARKETS PROJECTED TO GROW STEADILY IN FY26

Subject: Economy

- A recent report projects steady growth for **India's capital markets** in FY26, driven by robust investor confidence.
- **BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty** hit record highs, reflecting optimism in banking and tech sectors.
- Tamil Nadu's **Global Investors Meet 2025** featured **Chris Miller**, author of *Chip War*, to boost semiconductor investments.
- **Concepts:** SEBI's role in regulating capital markets; impact of foreign portfolio investments (FPIs) on economic stability.
- Challenges include **global economic uncertainties** due to U.S.-China trade tensions and Trump's tariff policies.
- India's push for **self-reliance** in critical sectors like semiconductors aligns with **Make in India**.
- Tamil Nadu aims to attract ₹5 lakh crore in investments through its investor-friendly policies.

INDIA IMPOSES TARIFFS ON U.S. IMPORTS IN TRADE RETALIATION

Subject: Economy

- India announced tariffs on \$7.6 billion worth of U.S. imports, effective June 2025, in response to U.S. trade policies.
- The tariffs target agricultural products, electronics, and automotive parts.

- This follows the U.S.'s "One Big, Beautiful Bill Act," reducing remittance tax but impacting Indian workers.
- India aims to protect domestic industries while negotiating trade agreements with the U.S.
- Concepts: Balance of Trade and Retaliatory Tariffs under WTO guidelines.
- The move may escalate trade tensions but strengthens India's economic sovereignty.

INDIA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH FACES SLOWDOWN CONCERNS

Subject: Economy/National Issues

- Recent reports highlight a slowdown in India's economic growth, with GDP growth projected to dip to 6.5% in FY25.
- Key factors include reduced consumer spending, global trade disruptions, and inflationary pressures.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is under scrutiny to balance inflation control with growth stimulus measures.
- The government is promoting schemes like the Performance Linked Incentive (PLI) across 14 sectors to boost manufacturing.
- Tamil Nadu is leveraging its Global Investors Meet to attract investments in semiconductors and green energy.
- **Concept:** Fiscal Policy – Government's use of taxation and expenditure to influence economic growth.
- **Context:** India's economic challenges are compounded by global uncertainties, including trade wars and geopolitical tensions.

NITI AAYOG RELEASES FISCAL HEALTH INDEX REPORT 2025

Subject: Economy/National

- NITI Aayog's Fiscal Health Index Report 2025 ranks Odisha at the top for fiscal discipline, followed by Tamil Nadu.
- The report evaluates states on revenue generation, expenditure management, and debt sustainability.

- Tamil Nadu's strong performance is attributed to its robust industrial growth and effective tax collection mechanisms.
- The report recommends including coking coal in the critical minerals list to boost industrial growth.
- It emphasizes fiscal reforms to support India's \$5 trillion economy goal by 2030.
- States like Tamil Nadu are urged to invest in renewable energy to sustain economic momentum.
- The findings will guide the allocation of Fifteenth Finance Commission grants for 2025–26.

TAMIL NADU APPROVES SPACE INDUSTRIAL POLICY TO BOOST AEROSPACE SECTOR

Subject: Economy/Tamil Nadu

- The Tamil Nadu Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, approved the Space Industrial Policy to position the state as a hub for space technology.
- The policy aims to attract investments in satellite manufacturing, launch services, and space research.
- Tamil Nadu targets creating 10,000 jobs in the aerospace sector by 2030.
- The policy includes incentives for startups and collaborations with ISRO and private space firms.
- It aligns with India's national space reforms, including the opening of the private space sector in 2020.
- Tamil Nadu's Kulasekharapattinam spaceport is expected to play a pivotal role in this initiative.
- Challenges include land acquisition and ensuring environmental sustainability in space projects.

INDIA FACES ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN CONCERNS AMID GLOBAL TRADE TENSIONS

Subject: Economy/National

- Recent data indicates a slowdown in India's economic growth, with GDP growth projected at 6.5% for FY 2025-26.
- Global trade tensions, including U.S. tariff hikes under President Trump, are impacting India's export sector.
- The Reserve Bank of India's Financial Stability Report highlights risks from global supply chain disruptions.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved a hike in Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for 14 Kharif crops, with nigerseed seeing the highest increase (Rs.820/quintal).
- India's coal sector faces challenges in transitioning to sustainable energy, despite being the 5th largest in coal reserves globally.
- Inflation control and job creation remain key priorities for the government.
- Tamil Nadu's industrial policies, like the Space Industrial Policy, aim to counter economic slowdown at the state level.

VIKSIT KRISHI SANKALP ABHIYAN LAUNCHED TO TRANSFORM INDIAN AGRICULTURE

Subject: Economy

- The Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan, a nationwide agricultural campaign, was launched on May 29, 2025, to enhance farming practices and support farmers.
- Aims to promote sustainable agriculture, increase crop yields, and improve farmer livelihoods through modern techniques.
- Focuses on integrating technology, such as precision farming and AI-based crop monitoring, to boost productivity.
- Includes financial support schemes and subsidies for small and marginal farmers to adopt climate-resilient crops.
- Aligns with India's goal of doubling farmers' income by 2030, emphasizing cooperative farming models.
- Pilot projects launched in states like Tamil Nadu, focusing on millet and organic farming.
- Concept:** Minimum Support Price (MSP): Ensures farmers receive a guaranteed price

for crops, recently hiked for 14 Kharif crops for 2025-26.

TAMIL NADU'S PUSH FOR SMART AUTOMOTIVE HUBS STRENGTHENS ECONOMIC GROWTH

Subject: Economy

- Tamil Nadu is emerging as a key hub for electric vehicle (EV) components and auto electronics under the 'Make in India' initiative.
- The state government announced incentives for EV manufacturing units at the Global Investors Meet 2025, attended by experts like Chris Miller.
- Investments focus on battery technology, mechatronics, and vehicle software to integrate Tamil Nadu into global value chains.
- Chennai's automotive corridor is set to create 50,000 jobs, boosting the state's economy.
- Aligns with India's Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, covering 14 sectors, including automobiles.
- Tamil Nadu's policies emphasize skill development through the 'Skill India' program to support high-tech auto jobs.
- Concept:** Global Value Chains (GVCs): Tamil Nadu's integration into GVCs enhances export competitiveness and economic resilience.

RBI PUSHES FOR RUPEE INTERNATIONALIZATION

Subject: Economy

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has sought government approval to internationalize the Indian Rupee.
- The move aims to allow domestic banks to facilitate international transactions in rupees.
- Tamil Nadu's export hubs, like Chennai and Coimbatore, stand to benefit from enhanced trade competitiveness.
- This aligns with India's goal of reducing dependency on the US dollar in global trade.
- Concept:** Currency internationalization enhances India's economic sovereignty.
- Tamil Nadu's automobile and IT sectors could see increased foreign investment.

- The RBI is also promoting digital payment systems to support rupee-based transactions globally.

India's Bioeconomy Surges to \$165 Billion

Subject: Economy

- India's bioeconomy reached \$165 billion in 2024-25, driven by 10,000 biotech startups, as per the India BioEconomy Report 2025.
 - Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launched Bio-Sarthi, a global mentoring initiative for biotech startups.
 - Tamil Nadu's biotech sector, centered in Chennai, contributes significantly with institutions like the National Institute of Siddha.
 - The state is positioning itself as a hub for biotech innovation, with policies to attract global investors.
- The report emphasizes sustainable growth in healthcare, agriculture, and industrial biotechnology.
 - Concept:** Bioeconomy – Economic activities derived from biotechnology, including biopharmaceuticals, biofuels, and bio-based products, aligned with India's self-reliance goals.

ENVIRONEMEN

IS NATURAL HYDROGEN THE FUEL OF THE FUTURE

SUBJECT: ENVIRONEMEN

- Natural hydrogen is being considered a potential low-cost, clean energy source, occurring geologically as a free gas in rock formations, deep earth cracks, and sedimentary basins.
- Known as "white" or "gold" hydrogen, it's untapped due to past perceptions of rarity and extraction difficulty.
- How it forms: Naturally produced via serpentinization of iron-rich rocks, radiolysis of water, and organic decay –without needing energy-intensive industrial processes.

- A major discovery in Mali in 1987 reignited interest when a hydrogen fire was found in a borewell and burned continuously for weeks.
- India's prospects: While India lacks mapped reserves, Deccan volcanic regions and Himalayan zones may hold potential. However, no official exploration is underway yet.

HOW CAN INDIA TAP ITS NATURAL HYDROGEN POTENTIAL

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENT

- India's hydrogen demand is projected to rise from 6 MT/year in 2020 to over 50 MT/year by 2070 to meet its net-zero targets.
- Natural hydrogen offers a cost-effective, low-carbon alternative to manufactured hydrogen, potentially reducing energy dependency.
- Recent geological studies point to India having 4.3–475 million tonnes of natural hydrogen reserves.
- Based on predictive geological modelling, India may not need to manufacture hydrogen extensively if its natural deposits are tapped.
- A comprehensive exploration strategy factoring geological, tectonic, and hydrocarbon indicators is necessary.
- Geologic Hydrogen:** Naturally occurring H₂ produced by rock-water reactions, decaying radioactive elements, or trapped in underground reservoirs.
- Hydrogen Seep Detection:** Using seismic, geochemical, and thermal imaging to locate micro-seeps of H₂.
- Carbon Sequestration Link:** Emerging tech may allow for simultaneous hydrogen production and CO₂ capture.

INDIA'S FOREST RIGHTS ACT STANDS APART FROM EXCLUSIONARY LAWS GLOBALLY

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENT

- Conservation laws often displace Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs); "fortress model" displaced 10-20 million globally.
- India's FRA (2006):**

- Recognizes land, livelihood, governance rights of forest dwellers (Scheduled Tribes, traditional communities).
- Grants Community Forest Resource Rights (CFRR); promotes decentralized decision-making.
- **Demographics:** 8.6% of India's population are Scheduled Tribes (2011 Census), mostly in forested areas.
- **International Alignment:** Supports Convention on Biological Diversity(Article 8(j)), UNDRIP (2007), Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework(2022).

BIRDS THAT THRIVE IN URBAN SPACES SPORT COLOURS DIFFERENT FROM LESS SUCCESSFUL ONES

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENT

- Urban birds show brighter/specific colours compared to forest birds; urban ecology shapes evolutionary patterns.
- **Study:** Analysed global bird species data with habitat types.
- **Finding:** Urban birds not less colourful; contradicts urban colour homogenisation hypothesis.
- **Less successful urban birds:** Brown, grey, black (cryptic colours).
- **Success traits:** Bright colours signal dominance, mating fitness, adaptability.
- **Ecological pressures:** Fewer urban predators, open environments favour bold colours.
- **Colour sources:** Carotenoids, structural reflection, melanin.
- Sexual dimorphism: Males vibrant for mating; females camouflaged for nesting.

CLIMATE CHANGE IS DISRUPTING THE HUMAN GUT IN A NEW PATH TO ILLNESS

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENT

- Climate change affects gut microbiota via food shortages, undernourishment.
- **Mechanism:** High CO₂ reduces plant micronutrients(phosphorus, potassium, zinc, iron)and proteins in crops(wheat, maize, rice).

- Disrupts microbial diversity; favors strains linked to malnutrition/diseases.
- **Vulnerable Groups:** Low/middle-income countries (LMICs), Indigenous communities.
- **Additional Factors:** Heat increases foodborne/waterborne diseases (Dialogues in Health study).
- Gut dysbiosis linked to eczema, diabetes, inflammatory bowel disease (The BMJ, 2018).
- **Research Needs:** Multidisciplinary approach; more data on microbial interactions; funding for metagenomics.
- **Indian Contribution:** GutBugBD database(IISER Bhopal) for microbiota drug interactions.

A SILENT BURDEN – THALASSAEMIA PATIENTS BATTLE DISEASE WITH HOPE AND HARSHSHIP

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENT

- **Disorder:** Inherited blood disorder; low haemoglobin, frequent transfusions needed. **Treatment Options**
- **Blood Transfusions:** Essential, often free at centres like Indira Gandhi Institute.
- **Iron Chelation:** Manages iron overload; drugs costly if not free.
- **Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT):** Curative but expensive (₹10-15 lakh for unmatched donors).
- Free at centres like Sankalp India for matched donors; limited to financial barriers. Prevalence in Karnataka: High, with many patients needing regular care.

SHIPPING INDUSTRY TACKLING EMISSIONS

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENT

- Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC-83)of the International Maritime Organization (IMO)
- MEPC-83 focused on global shipping emissions levy.
- **Objective:** Achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

- Proposals included a universal Greenhouse Gas (GHG) levy, managed by the IMO. Proposals Discussed:
- **Market-Based Measures (MBM):** First proposed in 2010; revisited at MEPC-83.
- **Universal GHG Levy:** Suggested by the Marshall Islands and others; not adopted due to geopolitical tensions.
- Carbon Levy: Supported by the EU but opposed by Brazil, China, India, and others due to economic concerns

INDIA'S RISING E-WASTE THE NEED TO RECAST ITS MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENT

- India generates 151.03% more e-waste in 2023-24 (1,69,233 metric tonnes) compared to 2017-18.
- Annual increase: 17,18,400 metric tonnes in 2023-24.
- Globally, India ranks among top e-waste generators (after China, US, Japan, Germany).
- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR):** EPR mandates producers to manage e-waste post-use, promoting sustainability.
- E-Waste (Management) Rules 2022 introduced stable pricing certificates.
- Only 10% of e-waste is formally recycled; 90% handled by informal sector.

TAMIL NADU BRACES FOR HEAVY RAINFALL AMID ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Subject: National/Environment/Tamil Nadu

- The India Meteorological Department forecasted heavy to very heavy rainfall in Tamil Nadu's Western Ghats, particularly in Coimbatore and the Nilgiris, on May 28, 2025.
- The state government issued alerts and deployed disaster response teams in vulnerable areas.
- Environmentalists raised concerns about deforestation and plastic pollution exacerbating flood risks.

- Tamil Nadu's Jal Utsav campaign, aligned with national water conservation efforts, promotes sustainable water management.
- The state's Human Development Index (HDI) report for tribal groups is under preparation, following Kerala's lead.
- Infrastructure resilience and climate adaptation are critical challenges for Tamil Nadu's urban centers.

GEOGRAPHY

S8 TENSION: COSMOLOGISTS CANNOT AGREE ON HOW CLUMPY UNIVERSE IS

SUBJECT: GEOGRAPHY

- Cosmologists are divided over measurements of "S8", a parameter that quantifies how clumpy or lumpy the universe is today.
- The discrepancy between data from galaxy surveys and cosmic microwave background (CMB) predictions has become a central issue in modern cosmology, termed the "S8 tension".
- What is S8? o
- A measure of how matter has clustered at large scales (~ 260 million light years).
- S8 combines the matter density of the universe and amplitude of fluctuations in the distribution of matter.
- Two Competing Observations:
- CMB-based predictions (from Planck mission): Suggest a higher S8 value (~ 0.83).
- Galaxy surveys using cosmic shear (gravitational lensing effects): Indicate a lower S8 value (~ 0.74), including recent findings from Japan's Subaru Hyper Suprime-Cam

VIZHINJAM PORT SET TO BOOST SOUTH ASIA MARITIME TRADE

SUBJECT: GEOGRAPHY

- PM Narendra Modi will inaugurate Vizhinjam International Seaport, Kerala's first deepwater transshipment terminal.

- The port features an AI-driven control room and advanced Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS).
- Expected to significantly reduce India's dependence on foreign ports for transshipment, especially Colombo, Singapore, and Dubai.
- Will potentially save India \$200-220 million annually in revenue lost to foreign ports.
- **Scientific/Technical Concepts Involved:**
- **Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS):** A marine traffic monitoring system integrating radar, AIS (Automatic Identification System), and AI for safe and efficient vessel navigation.
- **Transshipment Hub:** A port where cargo is transferred from one vessel to another, vital for global trade flows and cost optimization

PORT ECONOMY WILL DRIVE INDIA'S GROWTH SAYS PM

SUBJECT: GEOGRAPHY

- PM Modi commissioned the ₹8,800-crore Vizhinjam International Deepwater Seaport in Kerala, India's first dedicated container transshipment port.
- The port was developed through a public-private partnership (PPP) model by Adani Ports in coordination with the Kerala government.
- Modi emphasized that port-led development will be central to driving India's maritime and economic growth in the coming decade.
- Why Vizhinjam Port is Strategically Important
- Vizhinjam has a natural depth of 20 meters, enabling it to handle large cargo vessels without extensive dredging.
- Located close to the world's busiest shipping lanes, making it ideal for global transshipment operations.
- The port will help reduce India's dependence on foreign ports like Colombo and Singapore for cargo transhipment

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AS INDIA CLIMBS UP HDI RANKING RISING INEQUALITY POSES CHALLENGES

SUBJECT: INDEX

- **HDI Ranking (2025 Report):** India ranks 130/193 (up from 133 in 2022); HDI value: 0.685 (2023) from 0.676 (2022).
- **HDI Indicators:** Life expectancy: 72 years (2023), up from 58.6 (1990).
- Expected schooling: 13 years (up from 8.2 in 1990).
- GNI per capita: \$9,046.76 (2023) from \$2,167.22 (1990).
- **Key Programs:** MGNREGA, Right to Education Act, National Rural Health Mission.
- **Achievements:** 13.5 crore escaped multidimensional poverty (2015-16 to 2019-21).
- **Challenges:**
 - Income and gender inequality: HDI loss of 30.7% (highest in the region).
 - Female labor participation: 41.7% (2023-24), but ecosystem for retention lacking.
 - Delay in women's reservation in legislatures

INTERNATIONAL

ITBP TEAM SCALES MT. MAKALU FIFTH HIGHEST PEAK IN THE WORLD

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL

- The Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has successfully scaled Mt. Makalu—the world's fifth highest peak, at an altitude of 8,485 metres above sea level.
- The ascent to the Himalayan peak in Nepal was made on April 19.
- The International Mountaineering Expedition to Mt. Makalu and Mt. Annapurna (8,091 m) was flagged off from Delhi on March 21.
- ITBP Said "It was a historic twin summit attempt—the first of its kind in ITBP history."

- “Both peaks were being attempted for the first time by the force, adding to the challenge and legacy of this mission.”
- Both peaks are in Nepal.

CAN CHATGPT'S SHOPIFY DEAL HURT GOOGLE'S SEARCH BUSINESS

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL

- OpenAI integrates ChatGPT with Shopify for in-chat product discovery, recommendation, purchase; bypasses traditional search engines
- Threatens ad-driven model; reduces Click-Through Rates as users shop within ChatGPT; AI offers personalized, frictionless experience.
- Brands shift ad budgets to AI platforms; enhances visibility for small/niche sellers
- Builds user intent models; aims to rival Amazon, Google, Flipkart in e-commerce ecosystems.
- Signals shift to AI-native consumer platforms; redefines e-commerce, digital advertising; raises concerns over platform dominance, data ownership

EUROPE REVIEWS VALNEVA'S CHIKUNGUNYA VACCINE

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL

- The European Medicines Agency (EMA) is reviewing Valneva's chikungunya vaccine (Ixchiq) due to reports of serious side effects in older adults.
- Temporary suspension of the vaccine in people aged 65 and above.
- 17 serious adverse events, including 2 deaths, reported globally in individuals aged 62–89.
- Company is cooperating with health authorities; causal link not yet established.
- Chikungunya:** A mosquito-borne viral disease causing fever and joint pain.
- Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI): Unintended medical occurrences after vaccination, not necessarily causally related.
- EMA (European Medicines Agency): Regulatory authority overseeing drug and vaccine safety in EU countries.

INDIA'S GLOBAL DIPLOMACY

- India-Chile Bilateral Ties:** Four MoUs signed during Chilean President Gabriel Boric's visit to India in early 2025 strengthen trade, technology, and cultural exchanges, enhancing India's outreach in Latin America.
- BRICS Summit Follow-Up:** India's role in the 16th BRICS Summit (2024) continues to shape its stance on global economic and geopolitical issues, particularly with emerging economies like Iran.
- Chagos Archipelago Transfer:** The UK's transfer of the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius raises strategic concerns for India's interests in the Indian Ocean, prompting diplomatic engagement.
- Russia's Visa-Free Travel:** Russia's announcement of visa-free travel for Indians starting in 2025 boosts tourism and strengthens India-Russia ties.
- India's E-Passports Launch:** The introduction of biometric e-passports aligns India with global travel standards, enhancing border security and international mobility.
- Global Defense Dynamics:** The France-Poland defense treaty's mutual defense clause is being monitored by India for its implications on global security alignments.

CULTURAL AND DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENTS

- Thaipusam 2025 Global Reach:** Tamil Nadu promotes Tamil culture during Thaipusam celebrations, strengthening ties with the global Tamil diaspora.
- Siddha Therapy's Global Record:** The National Institute of Siddha's Guinness World Record for Varmam therapy boosts Tamil Nadu's global healthcare profile.
- Sister-City Agreements Explored:** The state discusses cultural trade partnerships with Southeast Asian cities to enhance tourism and goodwill.
- Global Investors Meet Preparations:** Tamil Nadu invites experts like Chris Miller to discuss semiconductor policies, aiming to attract international investments.

- **Kashi Tamil Sangamam Promotion:** The state supports the Kashi Tamil Sangamam 3.0, fostering Tamil-Kashi cultural unity under Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat.
- **UNESCO Heritage Push:** Tamil Nadu nominates ancient sites for UNESCO recognition, leveraging international cultural diplomacy.

INDIA'S GLOBAL ENGAGEMENTS

- **Jaishankar's Three-Nation Tour:** External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is on a tour covering the Netherlands, Denmark, and Germany to strengthen bilateral ties, focusing on trade, investment, and regional cooperation.
- **LIMA 2025 Participation:** India, led by Sanjay Seth, will participate in the 17th Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA 2025) in Malaysia, aiming to bolster defense cooperation under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
- **Operation Sindoorn Diplomacy:** MPs including Shashi Tharoor, Ravi Shankar Prasad, Supriya Sule, and Kanimozhi are leading all-party delegations to promote India's military strike on terror camps in Pakistan, emphasizing India's stance on global security.
- **Tamil Nadu's Solidarity with Defense Forces:** CM M.K. Stalin is set to lead a rally in Chennai to support Indian defense forces and denounce Pakistan's recent acts of terror, reinforcing India's firm international stance.
- **Cultural Diplomacy:** The Ministry of Culture's release of a 12-part comic book series in 12 Indian languages, including Tamil, aims to promote Indian knowledge systems globally, aligning with NEP 2020's Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat initiative.

INDIA-MAURITIUS STRENGTHEN BILATERAL TIES WITH INS IMPHAL'S VISIT

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL

- INS Imphal, a Project 15B Visakhapatnam-class destroyer, participated in Mauritius' National Day celebrations, reinforcing India-Mauritius strategic ties.

- The visit included a marching contingent, naval band, and helicopter flypast, with PM Modi as the chief guest earlier in March 2025.
- India and Mauritius signed eight MoUs, covering maritime security, currency settlement, and public administration training.
- The Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Public Service and Innovation, funded by India, was inaugurated to train Mauritian civil servants.
- Concepts: Global South – India's leadership in supporting developing nations; Soft Power Diplomacy – Strengthening ties through cultural and defense cooperation.
- The visit underscores India's commitment to maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region.
- Bilateral trade and development partnerships were further solidified through these engagements.

INDIA'S ROLE IN THE 24TH IORA COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL

- India, as the Vice-Chair of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), participated in the 24th Council of Ministers Meeting, hosted virtually by Sri Lanka under the theme "Sustainable Indian Ocean for Future Generations."
- Secretary (East) P. Kumaran led the Indian delegation, emphasizing sustainable maritime policies and regional cooperation.
- India advocated for enhanced maritime security and environmental sustainability in the Indian Ocean region.
- The meeting discussed economic collaboration, disaster risk management, and climate change mitigation strategies.
- Concepts: India's Act East Policy strengthens its engagement with Indian Ocean nations for strategic and economic benefits.
- IORA's focus aligns with India's vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

- The discussions are critical for India's geopolitical strategy amid rising Chinese influence in the Indian Ocean.

EAM JAISHANKAR'S EUROPE VISIT STRENGTHENS INDIA'S GLOBAL TIES

Subject: International

- External Affairs Minister **S. Jaishankar** is on a six-day visit to the **Netherlands, Denmark, and Germany** to deepen bilateral ties.
- Focus areas include **trade, defense cooperation**, and India's stance on inclusive global governance.
- India led calls for **inclusive energy governance** at the recent BRICS ministers' meet, emphasizing the Global South's role.
- Concepts:** Multi-alignment policy; India's strategic autonomy in navigating U.S.-China and Russia-West tensions.
- Discussions in Europe will cover **climate cooperation** and India's role in global forums like G20.
- Tamil Nadu's **export-oriented industries**, especially in IT and automobiles, benefit from such diplomatic engagements.
- Challenges include balancing relations amidst **Russia-Ukraine** and **U.S.-China** geopolitical tensions.

INDIA'S ROLE IN BRICS ENERGY GOVERNANCE SUMMIT

Subject: International

- India led discussions at the BRICS Energy Ministers' Meet in New Delhi, advocating for inclusive energy governance.
- Focus areas included renewable energy cooperation and reducing carbon emissions.
- India proposed a BRICS Green Energy Fund to support sustainable projects in member countries.
- Prime Minister Modi emphasized energy access for developing nations.
- Concepts:** Soft Power Diplomacy and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- India's leadership strengthens its global geopolitical influence in 2025.

OPERATION SINDOOR: INDIA'S RETALIATORY AIRSTRIKE IN POK

Subject: Defence/International

- India conducted 'Operation Sindoora,' a joint airstrike by the Indian Air Force, Army, and Navy targeting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) on May 6-7, 2025.
- The operation was a response to the Pahalgam terrorist attack on April 22, 2025, which killed 26 tourists.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi personally monitored the operation, signaling strong political resolve.
- The strike utilized drone technology, redefining India's deterrence strategy without ground troop deployment.
- Global concerns have emerged over potential escalation, with the UN calling for de-escalation between the nuclear-armed neighbors.
- Concept:** Preemptive Strike – Military action to neutralize imminent threats, balancing national security and international diplomacy.
- Context:** The operation escalates India-Pakistan tensions, impacting regional stability and India's diplomatic leverage at forums like the IMF.

INDIA STRENGTHENS DEFENCE TIES WITH FRANCE THROUGH AI AND NUCLEAR COLLABORATION

Subject: International/Defence

- India and France signed a declaration of intent on Advanced Modular Reactors and Small Modular Reactors during PM Modi's recent visit.
- The India-France Roadmap on Artificial Intelligence was launched, focusing on collaborative AI technology development.
- Both nations reiterated the need for UN Security Council reform to address global security challenges.

- The agreement strengthens India's defence capabilities through joint research in nuclear and AI-driven military technologies.
- This collaboration aligns with India's strategic vision under initiatives like MAHASAGAR for maritime security.
- The partnership is expected to enhance India's self-reliance in defence manufacturing under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

TAMIL NADU HOSTS GLOBAL INVESTORS MEET, FOCUSES ON SEMICONDUCTOR INDUSTRY

Subject: Economy/International

- Tamil Nadu's Global Investors Meet 2025, held in Chennai, featured Chris Miller, author of *Chip War*, to discuss semiconductor policies.
- The state aims to position itself as a hub for semiconductor manufacturing, aligning with India's PLI scheme for electronics.
- The event attracted investments in 14 sectors, including electronics and renewable energy, boosting Tamil Nadu's economy.
- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin emphasized sustainable industrial growth and job creation for the youth.
- The meet fostered international partnerships, with MoUs signed with global tech firms to enhance innovation.
- Tamil Nadu's policies align with India's self-reliance goals under the Atmanirbhar Bharat framework.
- The state's proactive approach strengthens its position as a leader in India's industrial landscape.

INDIA PUSHES FOR SAARC REVIVAL AMID REGIONAL TENSIONS

Subject: International

- India advocated for reviving SAARC dialogues at a multilateral forum on May 29, 2025, to address shared economic and environmental goals.
- Focus on countering Pakistan's interference in regional affairs, particularly terror financing networks.

- Tamil Nadu proposed hosting a SAARC cultural summit to foster regional unity, leveraging its Kashi Tamil Sangamam model.
- India emphasized the need for domestic consensus on national security to strengthen its regional stance.
- Aligns with India's leadership in forums like BRICS and the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA).
- **Concept:** Regional Cooperation: SAARC's revival hinges on trust-building and addressing cross-border issues like terrorism.

GLOBAL TEMPERATURE WARNING: WMO REPORT

Subject: International

- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) warned of a 70% chance of global temperatures exceeding 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
- This poses a severe threat to India's Himalayan glaciers, such as Siachen and Gangotri, accelerating their retreat.
- In Tamil Nadu, concerns grow over rising sea levels and heatwaves impacting coastal areas like Chennai.
- India is scaling up renewable energy and sustainable development to combat climate change.
- **Concept:** Paris Agreement aims to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C.
- Tamil Nadu's coastal zone management plans are being strengthened to mitigate climate risks.
- The WMO report calls for urgent global cooperation to reduce emissions.

INDIA-MAURITIUS STRENGTHEN BILATERAL TIES

Subject: International

- India and Mauritius signed eight MoUs on May 31, 2025, covering maritime security, water management, and financial crime cooperation.

- The Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Public Service and Innovation, funded by India, was inaugurated in Mauritius to train civil servants.
- INS Imphal participated in Mauritius' National Day celebrations, reinforcing defense ties.
- Tamil Nadu's cultural ties with Mauritius, home to a significant Tamil diaspora, were highlighted during the visit.
- The agreements include a Local Currency Settlement System to boost trade in rupees and Mauritian rupees.
- Concept:** Bilateral Diplomacy – Strategic partnerships to enhance economic, cultural, and defense cooperation, strengthening India's role in the Global South.

NATIONAL

INDIA GROWTH STRATEGY MUST FOCUS ON BOOSTING DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION

SUBJECT: NATIONAL

- April 2025 GST collection at ₹2.37 lakh crore (₹2.09 lakh crore net), up 12.6% YoY; driven by year-end filings, 87% fintech adoption, MSME compliance.
- Trade Dynamics:** Exporter refunds up 86%; GST from imports rose 20.8%; PMI (manufacturing) at 58.2, fueled by 14-year high in US export orders (pre-tariff rush).
- Fiscal and Taxation Context**
- Since its launch in 2017, the GST regime has consistently boosted indirect tax revenue.
- The current surge is also reflective of fintech-led transparency and better regulatory tracking of MSMEs.
- Refund speed has improved, benefiting small businesses struggling with working capital issues.
- Global Trade Shift** – A significant realignment of global supply chains is underway.
- India is emerging as an alternative to China, especially for U.S. markets due to tariff

uncertainties under ongoing U.S.-China tensions.

- Firms like Apple plan to source most iPhones for the U.S. from India in the upcoming fiscal.

HOME MINISTRY DIRECTS STATES TO CONDUCT CIVIL DEFENCE DRILLS

SUBJECT: NATIONAL

- Union Home Ministry has directed States to conduct civil defence drills at the village level in 244 districts, focusing on preparedness for hostile attacks.
- Drills include air-raid sirens, blackout measures, evacuation plans, and camouflaging vital installations.
- States asked to clean and activate bunkers, particularly in border areas of Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab.
- What is Civil Defence?** Civil Defence refers to organized non-military efforts to protect citizens from military attacks or emergencies.
- It includes training civilians, mock drills, sheltering mechanisms, public warning systems, and disaster response coordination.
- Governed under the Civil Defence Act, 1968, updated post-2001 to include responses to natural and man-made disasters.
- Background Context:** Follows the Pahalgam terror attack (April 22) and increased Indo-Pakistan tensions.
- India has closed Chenab dam ahead of schedule – a rare hydro-political step tied to the Indus Waters Treaty, signaling strategic posturing.

CENTRE PLAN REVISION OF SAFE HARBOUR CLAUSE

SUBJECT: NATIONAL

- Govt plans to revise Section 79 of IT Act (safe harbour provision) protecting intermediaries from user content liability.
- Triggered by fake news rise, especially post-Pahalgam attack.
- Section 79:** Intermediaries not liable if they follow govt rules.

- **Recent action:** 18 YouTube channels blocked for misinformation.
- **Proposal:** Platforms to proactively remove fake news, not just respond to orders.
- **Policy shift:** From self-regulation to statutory frameworks.
- I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw (Nov 2024): Emphasized platform responsibility.

CCI NOTIFIES NEW DEFINITIONS TO CURB PREDATORY PRICING

SUBJECT: NATIONAL

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has introduced new definitions for various costs to determine predatory pricing, aiming to ensure fair competition and reduce anti-competitive practices.
- **New Definitions:** CCI notified definitions for costs like average variable cost (total variable cost divided by total output during a period) to assess predatory pricing.
- **Predatory Pricing:** Pricing a product/service below its cost to eliminate competitors, as per the Competition Act, 2002.
- **CCI's Approach:** Will avoid sector-specific cost definitions and assess on a case-by-case basis.
- **Stakeholder Input:** After reviewing comments, CCI adopted a cost-based framework flexible for various industries, including the digital economy.
- **Objective:** Enable the CCI to consider unique features and dynamics of digital markets while evaluating predatory conduct

INDIA A PART OF WIDER TREND OF ERODING PRESS FREEDOM – REPORT

SUBJECT: NATIONAL

- The 23rd Annual South Asia Press Freedom Report (2024–25) flags a systematic erosion of press freedom in India and other South Asian countries
- **Objective:** To assess press freedom in South Asia and highlight structural and legal threats faced by journalists and media organizations.

- **Scope/Range:** Covers 8 South Asian countries—India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Afghanistan, Bhutan, and Maldives—with India flagged for systematic suppression.
- Highlights include intimidation, surveillance, arbitrary detentions, and the use of financial laws against media houses.
- The report warns of “every authoritarian effort being made to crush those who hold power to account,” via laws, raids, and control of ad revenues.
- The report notes India’s “growing trust deficit” in media, use of laws like UAPA and PMLA, and disinformation by political IT cells.
- References instances like the abduction and murder of journalist Mukesh Chandrakar as emblematic of rising impunity.

INDIA ABSTAINS FROM IMF VOTE TO GIVE MORE FUNDS TO PAK FLAGS ITS POOR TRACK RECORD

SUBJECT: NATIONAL

- India abstained from an IMF Executive Board vote to disburse \$1 billion to Pakistan under the Extended Fund Facility and \$1.3 billion under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility.
- The vote took place on Friday, and India raised concerns over Pakistan’s “poor track record” with IMF funds.
- **Objective:** India’s abstention intended to highlight Pakistan’s history of non-compliance with IMF reforms and potential misuse of international aid.
- **Scope/Range:** Pakistan has had 28 disbursements in 35 years, and 24 loans since 1958.
- India noted that Pakistan has become overly dependent on IMF bailouts.
- **Strategic Communication:** India emphasized its role as an “active and responsible member”, questioning “efficacy of IMF programmes” in achieving reform.
- Ministry of Finance cited that IMF is bound by “procedural and technical formalities” and

stressed India's responsibility as an IMF member.

JUSTICE B.R.GAVAI TAKES OVER AS CJI FOR A SIX MONTH TENURE

SUBJECT: NATIONAL

- Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai was sworn in as the 52nd Chief Justice of India (CJI) by President Droupadi Murmu.
- He will serve a six-month tenure until November 23, 2025.
- His tenure is expected to include hearings on Places of Worship Act and Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025.
- Justice Gavai is the first Chief Justice from the Scheduled Caste Buddhist community.
- **Concepts:** Article 124(2): Deals with the appointment of Supreme Court judges, including the CJI.
- Doctrine of Constitutional Morality: Often invoked in landmark rulings to uphold inclusive and secular values

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CHALLENGES IN TAMIL NADU

NATIONAL ISSUES

- **Scrub Typhus Outbreak:** Rising cases in Chennai, Vellore, Kanchipuram, Tirupattur, Tiruvallur, Chengalpattu, and Ranipet have prompted the Tamil Nadu Public Health Department to launch sanitation drives and medical camps to curb the bacterial infection.
- **Mumps Surge:** With over 150 monthly mumps cases, Tamil Nadu is advocating for the inclusion of the mumps vaccine in the national Universal Immunization Programme to address this public health concern.
- **Kallakurichi Hooch Tragedy Aftermath:** Post the 2024 tragedy, Tamil Nadu has bolstered anti-illicit liquor measures, including stricter enforcement and community awareness programs to prevent future incidents.
- **Urban Flood Preparedness:** Chennai's civic bodies are enhancing drainage systems to mitigate monsoon flooding risks, addressing urban infrastructure challenges in response to recurring floods.

- **Social Welfare for Tribal Groups:** Inspired by Kerala's Human Development Index model, Tamil Nadu has rolled out new welfare schemes targeting tribal communities, focusing on education, healthcare, and economic upliftment.

Other National Issues

- **Women's Safety Legislation:** Tamil Nadu's recent legislative amendments, introduced by CM M.K. Stalin, aim to strengthen punishments for crimes against women, reflecting a broader national push for gender justice.
- **Environmental Concerns:** The Tamil Nadu Forest Department is tackling the ecological threat posed by the invasive plant Senna tora, which is disrupting local ecosystems and agricultural productivity.

OBESITY CRISIS IN INDIA: ECONOMIC AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ISSUES

- A World Heart Federation report highlighted that obesity rates in Indian adults have quadrupled since 1990, posing significant health and economic challenges.
- Tamil Nadu reports high obesity prevalence, straining public health infrastructure and increasing non-communicable disease burdens.
- Economic costs include reduced productivity and increased healthcare expenditure, impacting GDP growth.
- Government initiatives like Fit India Movement aim to promote healthier lifestyles but face implementation challenges.
- **Concepts:** Public Health Policy – Integrating preventive healthcare into national planning; Economic Burden – Impact of health crises on fiscal resources.
- Urbanization and changing dietary patterns are key drivers of the obesity epidemic in states like Tamil Nadu.
- Policy recommendations include stricter food regulations and public awareness campaigns.

CERT-IN SAMVAAD 2025: NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY CONFERENCE OPENS IN TAMIL NADU

Subject: National/Defense

- The **CERT-In SAMVAAD 2025** national cybersecurity conference was inaugurated in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, to address emerging cyber threats.
- Organized by the **Computer Emergency Response Team-India (CERT-In)**, it focuses on strengthening India's cybersecurity framework.
- Key discussions include **cyber warfare**, AI-driven threats, and the implications of recent attacks like the **Hezbollah pager and radio set incidents**.
- Tamil Nadu's role as a tech hub is highlighted, with the state pushing for cybersecurity innovations.
- **Concepts:** National Cyber Security Policy 2013; evolving role of CERT-In in safeguarding critical infrastructure.
- The conference aligns with India's **Digital India** initiative, emphasizing secure digital governance.
- Industry leaders and policymakers aim to draft a roadmap for **cyber resilience** by 2030.

NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY CONFERENCE OPENS IN TAMIL NADU

Subject: National Issues

- CERT-In SAMVAAD 2025, a national cybersecurity conference, commenced in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- The event focuses on countering cyber threats to critical infrastructure and data privacy.
- Tamil Nadu's IT Minister highlighted the state's role in developing cybersecurity frameworks.
- Discussions include AI-driven cyber defense and public-private partnerships.
- **Concepts:** Data Protection under the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023.
- The conference aligns with India's push for digital security in the 5G era.

TAMIL NADU'S LEGISLATIVE PUSH FOR WOMEN'S SAFETY

Subject: Polity/National Issues

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin introduced amendment bills in the state assembly to strengthen laws protecting women.
- The bills propose harsher penalties for crimes against women, including stricter punishments for sexual assault and domestic violence.
- A key focus is on expediting trials through fast-track courts to ensure timely justice.
- The state government aims to integrate technology, like AI-based surveillance, to enhance public safety.
- These amendments align with the national push for gender justice under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.
- **Concept:** Legislative Competence – State's authority to enact laws on public order and police under List II of the Seventh Schedule.
- **Context:** The move responds to rising demands for robust legal frameworks to address gender-based violence.

HINDI JOURNALISM DAY CELEBRATED

Subject: National

- Hindi Journalism Day is observed annually on May 30, commemorating the launch of the first Hindi newspaper, *Udant Martand*, in 1826 by Jugal Kishore Shukla.
- The day highlights the role of Hindi media in disseminating information to millions in their native language.
- In Tamil Nadu, the occasion underscores the importance of linguistic diversity and press freedom.
- Tamil media outlets were also recognized for their contributions to regional journalism.
- Events across India emphasized ethical journalism and combating misinformation.

- **Concept:** Freedom of Press under Article 19(1)(a) of the Indian Constitution ensures the right to free speech and expression.
- Tamil Nadu's media houses organized workshops to promote responsible reporting.

SUPREME COURT'S LANDMARK RULING: MATERNITY RIGHTS FOR TAMIL NADU TEACHER

Subject: National

- The Supreme Court ruled in favor of a Tamil Nadu teacher, granting maternity benefits despite her having two children.
- The decision sets a precedent for gender equality and women's reproductive rights in employment.
- It may prompt a review of maternity benefit policies across central and state governments.
- The ruling aligns with Tamil Nadu's progressive stance on women's welfare programs.
- **Concept:** Article 21 guarantees the right to life and personal liberty, including workplace rights.
- The judgment reinforces the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, ensuring non-discriminatory access to benefits.
- Tamil Nadu's Women's Welfare Department hailed the ruling as a step toward inclusive policies.

TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE REFORMS FOR WOMEN'S SAFETY

Subject: National Issues

- Chief Minister MK Stalin introduced amendment bills in the Tamil Nadu Assembly to strengthen laws protecting women.
- The amendments propose stricter punishments for crimes against women, addressing rising concerns about gender-based violence.
- Tamil Nadu's initiative aligns with national efforts to improve women's safety and gender equality. • The state is also implementing awareness campaigns and community policing to curb gender-based crimes.

- Challenges include ensuring effective enforcement and addressing societal attitudes toward gender issues.
- **Concept:** Gender Justice – Legal and social measures to protect women's rights and ensure equality, as mandated under Article 15 of the Constitution.

POLITY

ARUNACHAL PRADESH WAS IS AND WILL ALWAYS REMAIN PART OF INDIA

SUBJECT: POLITY

- India rejected China's renaming of places in Arunachal Pradesh, calling it "creative naming".
- MEA reaffirmed Arunachal Pradesh is an "inalienable part" of India.
- China's latest move follows previous attempts to standardize names of locations it calls "Zangnan".
- What's been happening? This is the third such naming attempt by China—similar moves were made in April 2023 and April 2024. China's Ministry of Civil Affairs has repeatedly issued lists renaming places in Arunachal Pradesh as part of its territorial claims.
- India maintains that these symbolic gestures do not change the ground reality or sovereignty.
- The move is viewed as part of China's assertion policy in disputed border regions, especially amid the ongoing India-China Line of Actual Control (LAC) tensions.
- In all instances, India has issued strong diplomatic protests.
- These renaming efforts often precede or follow military activity, political statements, or infrastructure expansion by China in the region

JUDICIAL AND LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

- **Justice B.R. Gavai as CJI:** Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai, sworn in as the 52nd Chief Justice of India on May 14, 2025, by President Droupadi Murmu, is overseeing key cases. His

six-month tenure until November 23, 2025, includes hearings on the Places of Worship Act and the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, shaping India's legal framework.

- Tamil Nadu Governor-State Tensions:** Ongoing friction between Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi and the state government continues, highlighted by his walkout from the Legislative Assembly in January 2025 over the national anthem issue, reflecting center-state polity challenges.
- Chief Election Commissioner Bill:** The Lok Sabha is deliberating the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners Bill to reform the appointment process, a critical issue for electoral integrity.
- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Discussions:** The Rajya Sabha is addressing this bill, proposing comprehensive reforms to India's criminal justice system, signaling legislative modernization.
- Tamil Nadu's Women Safety Laws:** Amendments introduced by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in the Tamil Nadu Assembly strengthen punishments for crimes against women, reinforcing state-level gender justice policies.
- Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill:** Under discussion in the Lok Sabha, this bill aims to streamline media regulations, sparking debates on press freedom and governance.

JUDICIAL AND LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

- Governor-State Tensions Persist:** Governor R.N. Ravi's January 2025 walkout from the Legislative Assembly over the national anthem issue fuels center-state friction.
- Women's Safety Laws Strengthened:** CM M.K. Stalin's amendments in the Tamil Nadu Assembly enhance penalties for crimes against women, prioritizing gender justice.
- Cabinet Reshuffle Stabilizes DMK:** Stalin reassigned portfolios, with Durai Murugan taking Law and S Regupathy handling Natural Resources, addressing internal challenges.

- Reservation Policies Debated:** The Assembly discusses bills to expand reservations for marginalized communities, reinforcing social justice commitments.
- Madras High Court Scrutiny:** The court reviews state policies on land acquisition for infrastructure, impacting local governance and public trust.
- Local Body Election Preparations:** The Tamil Nadu State Election Commission focuses on delimitation and voter list updates for upcoming local elections.

JUDICIAL AND LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

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- **Global Investors Meet Preparations:** Tamil Nadu invites experts like Chris Miller to discuss semiconductor policies, aiming to attract international investments.

- **Kashi Tamil Sangamam Promotion:** The state supports the Kashi Tamil Sangamam 3.0, fostering Tamil-Kashi cultural unity under Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat.

- **UNESCO Heritage Push:** Tamil Nadu nominates ancient sites for UNESCO recognition, leveraging international cultural diplomacy.

TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

- **Strengthened Anti-Illicit Liquor Laws:** Following the 2024 Kallakurichi hooch tragedy that claimed 34 lives, Tamil Nadu has intensified enforcement against illicit liquor, with Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announcing stricter penalties and increased raids to curb illegal distilleries.
- **Cabinet Portfolio Reshuffle:** CM M.K. Stalin reassigned key portfolios, moving the Law Department to Durai Murugan and Natural Resources to S. Regupathy, aiming to streamline governance amid political exits and controversies within the DMK.
- **Governor's Assembly Walkout:** On January 6, 2025, Governor R.N. Ravi exited the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly without delivering his customary address, citing the omission of the national anthem, highlighting ongoing tensions between the state government and the Governor's office.
- **Language Policy Debate:** The Tamil Nadu government's decision to replace the rupee symbol '₹' with the Tamil letter '₹' in its budget has fueled debates on linguistic identity, with CM Stalin criticizing the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 as a "saffronized policy" and resisting perceived Hindi imposition.
- **NEP 2020 Implementation:** Tamil Nadu is aligning with NEP 2020 by introducing reforms to enhance higher education access in rural areas, focusing on inclusive education and infrastructure development.

National Polity Updates

- **Chief Election Commissioner Bill:** The Lok Sabha is set to discuss the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners Bill, aiming to reform the

appointment process for election officials, sparking debates on electoral independence.

- **Anti-Corruption Legislation:** The Rajya Sabha is addressing the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and other bills, focusing on modernizing legal frameworks to combat corruption and streamline judicial processes.

TAMIL NADU'S FEDERALISM DEBATE INTENSIFIES WITH JUSTICE KURIAN JOSEPH COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: POLITY

- Tamil Nadu CM M.K. Stalin's high-level committee, headed by Justice Kurian Joseph, held discussions on Centre-State relations, revisiting the Rajamannar Committee's 1969 recommendations.
- The committee aims to address central overreach and enhance state autonomy in legislative, executive, and judicial domains.
- Key focus: Repeal of Article 356, criticized for enabling political manipulation of state governments.
- The initiative reflects Tamil Nadu's push for cooperative federalism and resolving disputes through dialogue.
- Concepts: Article 263 – Provides for an Inter-State Council to foster cooperative federalism; Federalism – Balancing power between Centre and States.
- The committee's findings may influence upcoming policy debates on fiscal federalism and state rights.
- Tamil Nadu's move signals a broader demand for revisiting India's unitary constitutional practices.

JUSTICE B.R. GAVAI'S STANCE ON FREE SPEECH AND JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

SUBJECT: POLITY

- Justice B.R. Gavai, the 52nd Chief Justice of India, has emphasized addressing social media criticism of the judiciary with an "iron hand," raising concerns about free speech restrictions.
- His remarks were made in the context of live-streamed court proceedings, highlighting the

risks of non-contextual clips being misused online.

- Critics argue that courts should earn dignity through justice delivery rather than threatening critics, sparking debates on judicial accountability.
- The Supreme Court, under Gavai, is set to hear a case on free speech listed before Justice Surya Kant's bench, raising concerns due to the bench's perceived conservative track record.
- Concepts: Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution guarantees freedom of speech and expression, subject to reasonable restrictions.
- Judicial Independence: Ensures courts operate without external pressures, but accountability to the public remains a balancing act.
- Public Perception: The judiciary's response to criticism influences public trust in its impartiality.

TAMIL NADU'S LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS FOR WOMEN'S SAFETY

SUBJECT: POLITY

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin introduced amendment bills in the Tamil Nadu Assembly to strengthen laws protecting women, focusing on harsher punishments for crimes.
- The amendments aim to revise existing legal frameworks to address rising gender-based violence, aligning with national efforts to enhance women's safety.
- Tamil Nadu's initiative follows a broader trend of states revising laws to ensure stricter penalties for offenders.
- Concepts: Article 15(3) of the Constitution allows the state to make special provisions for women and children.
- The bills are expected to address gaps in implementation and enforcement of existing laws like the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.
- Public response has been mixed, with some activists calling for better enforcement mechanisms alongside legislative changes.

- The state's proactive approach may set a precedent for other states in addressing gender-based violence.

TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS: FOCUS ON WOMEN'S SAFETY

Subject: Polity

- Tamil Nadu CM **M.K. Stalin** introduced amendment bills in the **Tamil Nadu Assembly** to strengthen laws protecting women.
- The bills aim to revise punishments for crimes against women, enhancing deterrence and victim support.
- Concepts:** State legislative powers under the **Seventh Schedule**; Article 15(3) enabling special provisions for women.
- Tamil Nadu passed **45 bills** in 2024, second only to Karnataka, with a focus on social welfare and governance.
- The state's **rapid bill passage** (many within a day) raises concerns about limited legislative debate.
- Recent controversy: **Governor R.N. Ravi** left the Assembly without delivering his address on January 6, 2025, due to procedural disputes.
- Tamil Nadu's legislative push aligns with India's broader **gender justice** initiatives under the **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita**.

TAMIL NADU STRENGTHENS ANTI-CORRUPTION MEASURES

Subject: Polity

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced amendments to the Tamil Nadu Prevention of Corruption Act to enhance transparency in governance.
- The amendments focus on stricter penalties for corrupt practices and faster case resolutions.
- A new Anti-Corruption Task Force will be established to monitor government contracts and public spending.

- The state plans to digitize vigilance processes to reduce bureaucratic delays, aligning with Digital India initiatives.
- Concepts: Article 309 of the Constitution empowers states to regulate public servant conditions.
- The move aligns with the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, for anti-corruption measures.
- Tamil Nadu's initiative is part of its broader governance reform agenda for 2025

SUPREME COURT HALTS ED PROBE INTO TAMIL NADU'S TASMAC

Subject: Polity/National Issues

- The Supreme Court of India has temporarily stayed the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) investigation into alleged irregularities at Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (TASMAC).
- The stay was granted amid concerns raised by the Tamil Nadu government, alleging misuse of central agencies for political motives.
- The case involves allegations of financial mismanagement in TASMAC's liquor procurement and sales operations.
- The court emphasized the need for a fair probe, directing the ED to submit a detailed report by June 10, 2025.
- This development highlights ongoing tensions between state and central governments over federal investigative powers.
- Concept:** Cooperative Federalism – The balance of power between central and state governments under Article 246 of the Constitution.
- Context:** The issue reflects broader debates on the autonomy of state-run enterprises and central oversight.

JUSTICE B.R. GAVAI ASSUMES ROLE AS 52ND CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

Subject: Polity/National

- Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai was sworn in as the 52nd Chief Justice of India (CJI) by President Droupadi Murmu on May 27, 2025.

- His tenure, lasting until November 23, 2025, is set to address critical cases, including the Places of Worship Act and Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025.
- As the first CJI from the Scheduled Caste Buddhist community, his appointment marks a historic milestone in India's judiciary.
- Article 124(2) of the Constitution governs the appointment of Supreme Court judges, including the CJI.
- Justice Gavai is expected to uphold constitutional morality, emphasizing inclusivity and secularism in judicial rulings.
- His leadership will focus on judicial reforms to address case backlogs and enhance access to justice.
- Prior to this, he served as a Supreme Court judge since 2019, known for rulings on social justice and human rights.

TAMIL NADU ASSEMBLY PASSES BILL TO ENHANCE WOMEN'S SAFETY

Subject: Polity/National Issues

- The Tamil Nadu Assembly introduced amendments to strengthen laws protecting women, led by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin.
- The bill revises punishments for crimes against women, aiming to deter gender-based violence and ensure swift justice.
- It aligns with national efforts to address gender inequality, a persistent issue in education, employment, and safety.
- The state government plans to establish fast-track courts to expedite cases related to women's safety.
- Public consultations were held to incorporate inputs from women's rights groups and civil society.
- The amendments are expected to complement the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, enhancing inclusivity.
- Tamil Nadu's proactive stance sets a model for other states in addressing gender-based challenges.

TAMIL NADU GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS SPARKS POLITICAL DEBATE

Subject: Polity

- Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi's absence from the Legislative Assembly on January 6, 2025, due to the non-playing of the national anthem, continues to stir debate.
- On May 29, 2025, the Tamil Nadu Assembly passed a resolution urging the Centre to clarify the Governor's role in state governance.
- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin criticized the Governor's actions as undermining federal principles, escalating Centre-State tensions.
- The resolution calls for amendments to Article 156 to limit gubernatorial overreach in state matters.
- Opposition parties in Tamil Nadu demand greater accountability from the Governor's office.
- Concept: Federalism:** The balance of power between the Centre and States, governed by Articles 356 and 156, remains a contentious issue.

TAMIL NADU GOVERNOR'S ASSEMBLY ADDRESS CONTROVERSY

Subject: Polity

- Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi walked out of the January 2025 Assembly session, citing the non-playing of the National Anthem.
- The incident sparked a political row, reigniting debates on Centre-State relations and the Governor's role.
- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin criticized the move as a violation of constitutional norms.
- The controversy has raised questions about the Governor's discretionary powers and adherence to legislative protocols.
- Opposition parties in Tamil Nadu demanded clarity on the Governor's responsibilities.
- Concept:** Article 176 of the Constitution mandates the Governor's address to the state legislature.

- The issue may lead to legal scrutiny of gubernatorial conduct in state assemblies.

TAMIL NADU STRENGTHENS PUSH FOR STATE AUTONOMY

Subject: Polity

- The Tamil Nadu government's high-level committee, headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice Kurian Joseph, held its first meeting to discuss strengthening state autonomy and federalism.
- The committee aims to address perceived central overreach in state subjects like education and health.
- Tamil Nadu opposes the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET), citing erosion of state control over medical education. The state has criticized delays in Governor's assent to state bills under Article 200, raising concerns about centralization.
 - The interim report is expected by January 2026, with a final report within two years.
- **Concept:** Federalism in India – The balance of power between the Union and States under the Constitution, with states lacking secession rights but entitled to autonomy in State List subjects.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

INDIAN SCIENTISTS HELP DEVELOP BRAIN COMPUTER INTERFACE THAT AIDS MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE STRUGGLING DUE TO PARALYSIS

SUBJECT: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- Indian-origin researcher Nikhilesh Natraj and UCSF team developed a Brain-Computer Interface (BCI) allowing a paralysed man to control a robotic arm via imagined movements.
- The system worked for months with minimal recalibration, representing a major leap in assistive tech for neurological disabilities.
- Sensors read neural signals from the brain's movement centres, decoding imagined movements into robotic actions.

- Demonstrated potential for real-world tasks like opening cabinets and using dispensers — crucial for independent living.
- What is BCI and How It Works
- The BCI involved sensors implanted on the surface of the participant's brain (not inside), tracking brain activity during imagined movements.
- Signals were interpreted by AI-based algorithms, which learned the presentation of motor intent over time.
- **Scientific Innovation:** Stabilising the Signal A major breakthrough was in overcoming signal drift, the change in brain signal patterns across days.
- Using high-dimensional sensor data, researchers predicted and compensated for these shifts, creating a stable BCI signal processing pipeline

GENOME EDITED SEEDS TO MARK BEGINNING OF SECOND GREEN REVOLUTION

SUBJECT: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- Two genome-edited rice varieties developed by ICAR; announced by Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan as "Second Green Revolution."
- Genome editing is a biotechnology method where specific genes are altered or deleted using tools like CRISPR-Cas9, without introducing foreign DNA.
- Unlike GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms), genome-edited crops may not involve transgenes, and face fewer regulatory hurdles in many countries.
- **Policy Vision and Farmer Involvement**
- The announcement aligns with the government's push for "Amrit Kaal Agriculture" focused on: Sustainable intensification
- Scientific breakthroughs via ICAR o Farmer-centric research and feedback integration
- ICAR Director General M.L. Jat emphasized demand-driven research to ensure alignment with real-world needs of farmers.

GOVT AMENDS SATELLITE INTERNET SERVICE RULES

SUBJECT: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- DoT issues new rules for satellite internet providers under Unified Licence (UL) and GMPCS authorisation.
- Triggered by security concerns post-Pahalgam attack.
- Geofencing:** Terminals disabled abroad to prevent misuse in sensitive zones.
- Surveillance:** Providers must allow web traffic monitoring.
- Make-in-India:** Terminals to be manufactured domestically within 5 years.
- Starlink Impact:** Delays in spectrum allocation due to compliance burden.
- Policy intent:** Ensure control and interception capabilities over satellite networks.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CHALLENGES

- Scrub Typhus Outbreak Alerts:** Rising cases in Chennai and Vellore prompt public health measures, including sanitation drives and medical camps.
- Mumps Surge Concerns:** Monthly mumps cases exceed 150, pushing the state to advocate for mumps vaccine inclusion in national immunization programs.
- Kallakurichi Hooch Tragedy Aftermath:** The state strengthens anti-illicit liquor measures following the 2024 tragedy that killed 34, focusing on enforcement.
- Education Access Initiatives:** Tamil Nadu aligns with NEP 2020, introducing reforms to improve higher education access in rural areas.
- Urban Flood Preparedness:** Chennai's civic bodies enhance drainage systems to mitigate monsoon flooding risks, addressing urban challenges.
- Social Welfare Expansion:** The state rolls out new schemes for tribal groups, inspired by Kerala's Human Development Index model.

SOCIAL ISSUES**SUBJECT: SOCIAL ISSUES**

- Despite being abolished in 1975, bonded labour persists in India, with recent cases in Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh revealing forced labour, trafficking, and abuse.
- It reflects deep structural injustice, where debt, poverty, and caste-based discrimination force entire families into servitude.
- Root causes:** include poverty, caste discrimination, lack of access to credit or education, absence of legal protections, and dominance of social elites in rural labour markets.
- Unorganised sector:** Around 90% of India's workforce is informal, making them highly vulnerable to exploitation, wage theft, and unsafe conditions.
- Policy implementation gaps:** Though 1.84 crore bonded labourers were targeted for rehabilitation till 2030, only about 12,000 were rescued annually between 2016–21.
- Investigations show that modern slavery continues through informal contracts, low wages, lack of legal rights, and absence of unionisation.

LISTING OF CASTES WILL BE THE FIRST CHALLENGE IN CENSUS, SAYS EXPERTS**SUBJECT: SOCIAL ISSUES**

- The 1931 Census was the last to enumerate all castes, recording over 4,147 distinct castes and sub-castes.
- SECC 2011 failed to generate a reliable caste count due to inflated responses and classification challenges.
- Why Enumeration is Challenging No standard list currently exists for enumerators to refer to.
- The Registrar General of India must compile a consolidated list after public consultations.
- In SECC 2011, citizens entered caste names as per their surnames or social identity, resulting in over 46 lakh caste names, making data unusable.

INDIA'S SHAME THE TRAP OF BONDED LABOUR

- Linguistic & Regional Issues Enumerators must account for linguistic variations and regional naming patterns, which vary even within a single community.
- Communities may self-identify differently (e.g., under umbrella terms) leading to difficulty in classification.

CASTE CENSUS PRESENTS BOTH CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

SUBJECT: SOCIAL ISSUES

- First caste census since 1931; aims to enhance affirmative action through targeted data.
- **Legal Momentum:** Supreme Court (2023): Allowed sub-categorisation within SCs/STs for equitable benefit distribution.
- Justice G. Rohini Commission (2023): Examined OBC sub-categorisation; report completed but undisclosed.
- **Historical Context:** SECC 2011: Identified 46 lakh+ caste names, mostly unstandardised.
- Post-independence censuses only recorded SC/ST data; OBCs relied on estimates.
- **Challenges:** Classification Issues: Difficulty distinguishing caste vs. sub-caste, clan vs. tribe; linguistic/regional variations.
- **No Central List:** Lack of standardized caste lists; leads to inclusion/exclusion disputes (court petitions).
- **Representational Inequity:** Dominant sub-groups within SC/ST/OBCs may exclude more marginalized sections.
- **Political Sensitivity:** Fierce debates in states like Bihar, Karnataka, Telangana post-enumeration

BIRTH RATES IN DELHI KERALA AND T.N DECLINING AT TWICE THE RATE OF NATIONAL AVERAGE: REPORT

SUBJECT: SOCIAL ISSUES

- Data corresponds with Sample Registration System (SRS) 2021 and Civil Registration System 2021.
- Indicates regional imbalance in population momentum, with southern states nearing or

already at replacement-level fertility. SRS 2021

- All-India crude birth rate: 19.3 (2016) to 1.12% (2021).
- Tamil Nadu: 2.35% decline yearly; Delhi: 2.22%; Kerala: 2.22%.
- **Decline Rates:** National average decline: 0.48%-1.09% (Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Uttarakhand).
- Southern states declining faster: Andhra Pradesh (1.26%), Telangana (1.67%), Karnataka (1.68%), Kerala, Tamil Nadu.
- **Trends:** 11 states saw birth rate rise (Maharashtra, Gujarat, Odisha, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, J&K).
- Total Fertility Rate (TFR) and Gross Reproduction Rate (GRR) above national average in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh.

SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PRIORITIES

- **Manipur Ethnic Strife:** Continued ethnic violence in Manipur remains a national concern, impacting governance and prompting discussions on administrative and security reforms.
- **Child Marriage Eradication:** The 'Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat' campaign, launched nationally, intensifies efforts to eliminate child marriage, addressing a pressing social issue.
- **Urbanization Challenges:** Rapid urbanization in India is under scrutiny, with calls for sustainable infrastructure to tackle housing, sanitation, and pollution issues in cities.
- **Education Data Insights:** The UDISE+ Data 2023-24 highlights gaps in educational access and quality, fueling policy debates on education sector reforms.
- **Disability Rights Implementation:** Discussions on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act focus on ensuring accessibility and inclusion through the role of State Commissioners.
- **Cultural Unity Initiatives:** The Kashi Tamil Sangamam 3.0, held in February 2025,

promotes Tamil-Kashi cultural ties, aligning with the Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat vision.

SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PRIORITIES

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