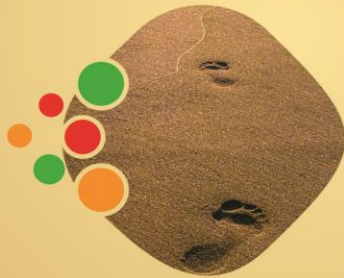


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TAMIL NADU



STATES



NATIONAL



INDIA & THE WORLD



INTERNATIONAL



SCHEMES



DEFENCE



SCIENCE &  
TECHNOLOGY



EVS



ECONOMY



COURT VERDICTS



CONFERENCES &  
SUMMITS



AWARDS



PERSONALITIES



BOOKS & AUTHORS



SPORTS



RANKS & REPORTS



DAYS



OBITUARY



NEWS OF THE MONTH



KNOWLEDGE



APPOINTMENTS



COMMITTEES



APPS / PORTALS



MISCELLANEOUS

**CURRENT AFFAIRS – AUGUST (1 - 31), 2021**

Sl. No	TOPICS	Pg.No
1	Tamil Nadu	3
2	State	10
3	National	12
4	Scheme	18
5	Court Verdict	18
6	Committees	18
7	International	19
8	India & other countries	20
9	Conferences & Summits	21
10	Defence	22
11	Economics	23
12	Books and Authors	30
13	Ranking	30
14	Appointment	30
15	Awards	31
16	Personalities	32
17	Science, Technology & Environment	32
18	Sports	34
19	Obituary	36
20	Important Days	37



# TAMIL NADU

- **T.N.'s Seroprevalence at 66.2%**
  - ✓ Tamil Nadu has an overall **seroprevalence** of 66.2%, according to the Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine's phase-III cross-sectional survey conducted during July.
  - ✓ Among the 38 districts, **Virudhunagar** had the highest seropositivity at 84% while Erode had the lowest at 37%.
- **T.N. legislature turns 100**
  - ✓ Tamil Nadu witnessed elections in **November 1920** when electors (only men), accounting for **just 3% of the population**, were enrolled, as a result of the **Montagu-Chelmsford Report** and the Government of India Act of 1919.
- **Highlights in 100 years of legislation :TN Legislative Assembly**
  - ✓ In its first session in April 1921, resolved to provide **voting rights to women**.
  - ✓ **Muthulakshmi Reddy**, the well-known medical practitioner and social activist, became the first woman member of the Council and, in no time, became the **Deputy President of the Council**.
  - ✓ **C. Subramaniam**, as Finance Minister, was the first to make a budget speech in Tamil in 1957-58.
  - ✓ "**Tamil Thai Vazhthu**" was rendered in July 1991 for the first time at the beginning of the Governor's address.
  - ✓ During the two-year rule of the DMK founder **C.N. Annadurai**, the Assembly, in July 1967, adopted a motion renaming **Madras State as Tamil Nadu**
  - ✓ Several landmark laws for the welfare of women, such as **Devadasi abolition, equal rights to women in property** and constitution of the **State Commission for Women**.
- **Key milestones- TN Assembly**
  - ✓ **January 1921-:** The Madras Legislative council, the biggest body of its kind in India, constituted with 127 members, including 98 elected representatives, and a fixed term of three years.
  - ✓ **April 1921:** Council adopts removal of **sex disqualification** on women for franchise.
  - ✓ **July 1937: Bi- Cameral Legislature** formed with the Legislative Assembly having 215 members and the Legislative council having 56.
  - ✓ **March 1952:** The **first Assembly after Independence** is constituted with 375 seats 243 single - member constituencies and 66 double- member constituencies.
  - ✓ **April 1957:** Subsequent to reorganisation of **states on linguistic lines**, the legislative Assembly strength went down to 205.
  - ✓ **April 20 to May 9, 1957:** The only occasion when the Assembly and the council met outside **Chennai- Aranmore palace, Udhagamandalam**.
  - ✓ **November 1986:** Legislative council Was abolished..
- **Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam – TN Govt .**
  - ✓ '**Makkalai thedi maruthuvam**', an initiative to take healthcare services to the doorstep of the people, in **Samanapalli, Krishnagiri district**, said Health Minister Ma. Subramanian.

- ✓ This is the first-of-its-kind scheme in the country, which will include physiotherapy-related therapies, testing and providing medicines to the poor and for non-communicable diseases at their doorsteps.
- ✓ The CM also inaugurated the scheme in Madurai, Coimbatore, Salem, Thanjavur, Trichy, Tirunelveli and Chennai districts through video-conferencing.
- **T.N. to provide 7.5% quota to government school students in professional courses, this Move follows the recommendations made by Justice Murugesan Commission.**
- **Dr. Radha Krishnan award to 385 Teachers**
- **To exceed hydro power generation target for 2021-22**
  - ✓ Tamil Nadu hopes to exceed the hydro power generation target fixed by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for 2021-22. The CEA has fixed 3,853 million units.
- **Tamil Nadu weavers - received more loans under the Mudra scheme than all other states put together in the last three years**
  - ✓ This was announced by the Union textile minister **Piyush Goyal** in a statement made in Rajya Sabha on August 5
  - ✓ According to the Minister, 41,568 Tamil Nadu weavers were provided loans under the **Mudra scheme in 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21.**
- **White paper on the state's finances, four days ahead of his first budget, at Secretariat in Chennai**
  - ✓ The white paper highlighted the state's fall from a revenue surplus of Rs.1,760 crore in 2012-13 to a **deficit of Rs.61,320 crore** (or 3.16% of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) in 2020-21.
  - ✓ As per the white paper, Tamil Nadu's agricultural sector registered growth in the past 15 years, even though employment in the sector reduced by 10% – from 54% to 44% between 1981 and 2010.
- **R. Velraj New V.C of Anna University**
  - ✓ Governor Banwarilal Purohit - appointed R Velraj as new **vice-chancellor** of Anna University.
- **Paperless budget after Himachal Pradesh and Odisha**
  - ✓ This year, Tamil Nadu government will present a paperless budget after **Himachal Pradesh and Odisha.**
- **The Tamil Nadu tourism, culture and religious endowments department - announced that the birth anniversary of Rajendra Chola I will be celebrated as a government event.**
- **The state government - has appointed former IAS officer P W C Davidar -as Adviser (digital and simplified governance) to Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency.**
- **The Chennai Corporation - has launched 30-minute free wi-fi facility at 49 locations in Chennai from August**
  - ✓ The locations include Anna Tower Park, CDH, Tondiarpet, Gemini Junction, Marina Beach, Ashok Pillar, T Nagar and CMBT.

- **100 Days of Government of Tamilnadu-Achievements**
  - ✓ Saving people from Corona pandemic
  - ✓ Rs.4,000 and 14 grocery items to 2.07 crore family rice cardholders.
  - ✓ Petrol price reduced by Rs. 3 per litre.
  - ✓ Aavin milk price reduced by Rs. 3 per litre.
  - ✓ Free bus travel for women, differently-abled and transgenders.
  - ✓ A Multi-Speciality Hospital at a cost of Rs.250 crore in the campus of King Institute, Chennai.
  - ✓ **"Kalaingar Memorial Library"** with modern facilities at a cost of Rs.70 crore in Madurai.
  - ✓ 49 Industrial Projects through **"Investors First Destination - Tamilnadu."**
  - ✓ Rs. 28,508 crore investment.83,482 employment opportunities.
  - ✓ **"Health at the Doorsteps Scheme" - First in the Country.**
  - ✓ Appointment of Archagars from all castes.
  - ✓ Poojas in **"Annai Thamizh" in Temples**
  - ✓ **10.5% Special Reservation for Vanniars, Seermarabinar Tribes and other MBCs.**
  - ✓ **"Separate Annual Budget for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare" - First in the State.**
  - ✓ Fixed Deposit of Rs.5 lakh and Rs.3 lakh to Children who lost their parents due to Corona disease.
  - ✓ Journalists announced as frontline workers. Rs.10 lakh compensation to the families of those who die of Covid-19.
  - ✓ Financial allocation of Rs. 4,508.23 crore to Free Electricity Scheme.
  - ✓ Re-introduction of **"Anna Marumalarchi" and "Namakku Naame" Schemes.**
  - ✓ **Kalaingar Anai thu Grama Orunginaintha Velaan Valarchi Thittam"** at a cost of Rs. 1,245.45 crore.
  - ✓ Financial allocation of Rs. 1,149.79 crore for the **"Welfare of Fisherman."**
  - ✓ **"Kalaingar Urban Development Scheme"** at a cost of Rs. 1,000 crores.
  - ✓ Rs. 2,750 crore loans to Women Self Help Groups waived. Rs. 20,000 crore loan assistance.
  - ✓ **"Thagaisal Thamizhar Award"** constituted for eminent persons who contribute to Tamilnadu and Tamils.
  - ✓ **"Economic Advisory Council"** with World renowned Economists.
  - ✓ **"Singara Chennai 2.0"** to improve Chennai to the international standards
- **The Nilgiri Mountain Railway (NMR) - is all set to get an indigenous coal-fired locomotive on August**
  - ✓ The X-class steam locomotive was made at Golden Rock Railway Workshop in Trichy
  - ✓ This is the first such meter gauge coal-fired loco being manufactured in the Workshop.
- **E - Paarvai**
  - ✓ **Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency's (TNeGA)** award-winning mobile app, **E-Paarvai** - is helping government hospitals identify people with cataracts.
  - ✓ The **Artificial Intelligence-based** app named '**E-Paarvai**' allows healthcare workers to identify cataracts on-the-spot with 91% accuracy.
  - ✓ Untreated cataracts are one of the primary reasons for blindness in Tamil Nadu.
- **Veteran BJP leader and the party's former Rajya Sabha MP L Ganesan - has been appointed as the governor of Manipur**

- **IN TAMIL NADU, Six airports in the state including Chennai, 491 km of national highway and the Nilgiri Mountain Railway (NMR) - are among the infrastructure assets identified by the Centre under the National Monetisation Plan.**
  - ✓ Solar power capacities of NLC India, gas pipelines in the Cauvery basin, some port assets of **VOC Port in Tuticorin**, railway stations of **Puducherry and Chennai**, **Hotel Ashok in Puducherry** are among the chosen assets to witness joint leasing by the Union government
  - ✓ Trichy airport has been identified for monetisation through brownfield PPP models in FY22.
  - ✓ This will be followed by **Madurai and Coimbatore airports** in FY23, and Chennai airport in FY24
  - ✓ The national highway stretches identified for monetization over FY 2022-2025 in the State include listed below.

From	To	Distance
Ulundurpet	Padalur	94 km
Ulundurpet	Tindivanam	73 km
Trichy	Padalur	38 km
Krishnagiri	Thopurghat	63 km
six laning of Hosur	Krishnagiri	60 km
Tambaram	Tindivanam	46.5 km
Trichy	Karaikudi including Trichy bypass	117 km

- **T.N. launches 100 cr. Urban Employment Scheme**
  - ✓ The Tamil Nadu government will implement an urban employment scheme on the lines of the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)** at a cost of 100 crore to improve the livelihood of urban poor, Minister for **Municipal Administration, Urban and Water Supply K.N. Nehru** said in the Assembly on Tuesday.
  - ✓ The objective of the programme was to provide employment to urban poor, who had lost their jobs because of the COVID-19 pandemic as recommended by the committee headed by former **RBI Governor C Rangarajan**.
- **IIT Madras develops India's first indigenous motorised wheelchair 'NeoBolt'**
  - ✓ IIT Madras has developed India's first indigenous **motorized wheelchair** vehicle named 'NeoBolt', which can be used not only on roads but even on uneven terrains. It has a maximum speed of 25 kmph
- **Six municipalities in Tamil Nadu – Tambaram, Kancheepuram, Kumbakonam, Karur, Cuddalore and Sivakasi – would soon be upgraded into corporations** by merging adjoining areas with them.
- **On August, the Tamil Nadu legislative assembly - unanimously passed a bill to provide 7.5% horizontal quota to government school students for admissions to undergraduate professional courses**



- ✓ The Bill was framed on the basis of the recommendations provided by retired Judge, Justice D Murugesan committee.
- **T.N. renames Development policy council**
  - ✓ **The Tamil Nadu government on Wednesday renamed the State Development Policy Council as the State Planning Commission.**
  - ✓ The government issued an order making the change with immediate effect.
  - ✓ In 2020, consequent to the abolition of plan, non-plan distinction, orders were issued replacing the State Planning Commission, which was constituted in 1971, with the **State Development Policy Council (SDPC).**
  - ✓ The SDPC was tasked with preparing **short, medium and long-term plans and strategy documents, monitoring, evaluation and policy advocacy,** creating policy coherence and implementation of special programmes.
- **The Tamil Nadu government - has announced "Chief Minister Road Improvement Scheme" to widen the roads connecting taluk headquarters and the district headquarters in the next ten years.**
- **The state government - announced cancellation of the "performance-based maintenance contract (P BMC)" scheme of the previous AIADMK government, which encouraged "monopoly of contractors".**
- **Tamil Nadu assembly - passed a resolution urging the Union government to repeal the three contentious farm laws that are not suitable for the country's agricultural growth and the farmers' welfare.**
- **Singara Chennai 2.0**
  - ✓ Tamilnadu CM revives the '**Singara Chennai**' project. After the DMK won in the 1996 Local Body elections, M K Stalin, who was then the mayor of the capital city, rolled out a slew of projects to keep the city clear of garbage and spruce it up with road infrastructure like flyovers under the '**Singara Chennai**' umbrella.
- **Naatukozhi hatchery in Tirunelveli**
  - ✓ As there is an increasing demand for **naatukozhi** (country chicken) meat and eggs, the government will set up an exclusive naatukozhi hatchery unit in Abishekapatti, Tirunelveli,
  - ✓ **Minister for Fisheries, Fishermen Welfare and Animal Husbandry Anitha R. Radhakrishnan** said in the Assembly on Saturday.
  - ✓ **Siruvidai chicken breed,** at a cost of 1.52 crore, will be set up in Madhavaram, Chennai.
- **Sugar-free milk kova unit in Salem**
  - ✓ Milk and Dairy Development Minister S.M. Nasar on Saturday announced a cattle fodder manufacturing unit in **Pudukudi, Thanjavur** district, at a cost of 25 crore.
  - ✓ He said a **sugar-free milk kova** unit would be set up at the **Salem District Co-operative Milk Producers' Union** to increase the revenue of milk producers and meet the increasing demand for sugar-free milk kova. The total allocation for the unit is 8 crore.



- **Tamil Nadu - ranked fifth in fines collected through e-challans for traffic offences since September 2019, collecting Rs.140.9 crore as penalty**
- **On August, V O Chidambaranar (VOC) Port - set the new record of handling a ship with the largest parcel size of 93,719 tonnes.**
- **On August 15, Chief Minister MK Stalin - hoisted the Tricolour for the first time at the ramparts of Fort St George on the occasion of 75th Independence day and received a guard of honour provided by Tamil Nadu police**
  - ✓ **During his speech, the CM also recalled his father and former CM Dr. Kalam's letter to former PM Indira Gandhi that has started the tradition of CMs unfurling the tricolour on August 15 from the year 1974**
  - ✓ **Till 1973, state Governors used to unfurl the national flag on both Independence Day and Republic Day.**
  - ✓ **CM Stalin also unveiled a 'commemorative pillar' to mark the Diamond Jubilee (75th year) celebrations of India's Independence**
  - ✓ **The Chief Minister announced that the monthly pension for freedom fighters would be increased from Rs.17,000 to Rs.18,000 while their family pension would be hiked from Rs.8,500 to Rs.9,000**
  - ✓ **He also said the Mahatma Gandhi Museum in Madurai will be upgraded at a cost of Rs.6 crore so as to attract even youngsters towards Gandhian principles**
- **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin - presented various awards on the occasion of the Independence Day on August 15, 2021**
  - ✓ **Kalpna Chawla award for Courage and Daring Enterprise was presented posthumously to Dr P Shanmugapriya (late) Medical Officer, Anuppanadi, Primary Health Centre, Madurai, which was accepted by her Husband.**
  - ✓ **APJ Abdul Kalam award was presented to Dr M Lakshmanan, Professor of Eminence, Bharathidasan University**
  - ✓ **Dr M Lakshmanan is a specialist in the field of non-linear dynamics in Theoretical Physics and has been named in the top 2% of World Scientists as per California Stanford University' recent list.**
  - ✓ **Avvaiyar award was given to Dr D Santhi Duraisamy who is in the business of pure spice and masala powder manufacturing in recognition of her service to the disabled and other social service activities**
  - ✓ **Best Third Gender award was conferred on Grace Banu, Thoothukudi, for services rendered towards the welfare of society.**
  - ✓ **Thanjavur received the best municipal corporation award**
  - ✓ **Udhagamandalam, Tiruchengode and Chinnamanur received first, second and third prizes for the best municipalities in the State**
  - ✓ **Best Town Panchayat awards were given to Kallakudi (Trichy), Melapattampakkam (Cuddalore) and Kottaiyur (Sivagangai) respectively**
  - ✓ **The Chief Minister's State Youth Award was presented to Aravind Jayabal, Chennai district, N Bazurudeen, Thiruvarur district, S Ranjith Kumar, Nilgiris district, G Maheswari, Dindigul district, J Amala Jenifer Jayarani, Cuddalore district and S Meena, Chennai district.**
  - ✓ **The Chief Minister's Best Practices Award for taking personal efforts was conferred to K. Narayanasamy, Director, Government Corona Hospital, Guindy for restructuring the National Institute of Ageing building at the King Institute Campus into a dedicated hospital for Covid-19 patients.**

- ✓ **J. Partheeban, District Revenue Officer, Vellore** district, was presented the award, for simplifying land acquisition process using e-modules and ensuring transparency in fixation of compensation.
- ✓ The Holy Cross Service Society, Tiruchirapalli, P. Padmapriya, Medical Officer, Salem, social worker Maria Aloysius Novamoney, Nagercoil, **We are Your Voice, Chennai, and Erode Central Co-operative Bank** were awarded for Exemplary Service for the Welfare of the Differently Aabled.
- ✓ The Chief Minister also gave away Chief Minister's State Youth Award, awards for police and fire personnel.
- **On August 14, the Chief Minister had presented the first Thagaisal Thamizhar Award to veteran Communist leader and centenarian, N. Sankaraiah alongwith a cheque of Rs. 10 lakh.**
- **The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board - has been adjudged the second best board in the country.**
- **The state government - has appointed former IAS officer P W C Davidar as adviser (digital and simplified governance) to Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency.**
- **Tamil Nadu - is ranked as the best performing state in the progress of Smart Cities Mission**
  - ✓ **Chennai and Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu, Indore, Bhopal and Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh, and Surat and Rajkot in Gujarat figure among the best performers on different criteria**
  - ✓ **The Smart Cities Mission was launched in 2015 to redevelop 100 cities across the country**
- **9 New Supreme Court judges, including 3 women, takes oath**
  - ✓ **Nine new judges, including three women, have been administered the oath of office as judges of the Supreme Court by Chief Justice of India (CJI) NV Ramana**
  - ✓ **Justice Vikram Nath**
  - ✓ **Justice BV Nagarathna**
  - ✓ **Justice PS Narasimha:**
  - ✓ **Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka**
  - ✓ **Justice Jitendra Kumar Maheshwari**
  - ✓ **Justice Hima Kohli**
  - ✓ **Justice CT Ravikumar**
  - ✓ **Justice MM Sundresh**
  - ✓ **Justice Bela M Trivedi**

# STATE

- **Nagaland and Assam Government - has signed an agreement for withdrawal of forces with a view to de-escalate tension along the Assam-Nagaland border**
  - ✓ The agreement was signed by the **Chief Secretary of Nagaland J Alam** and Assam **Chief Secretary Jishnu Barua** on July 31 in Dimapur in the presence of Nagaland Deputy Chief Minister Y Patton and Assam Education Minister Ranaj Pegu.
- **Meghalaya Youth Policy - 2021**
  - ✓ The Meghalaya state cabinet, held under the chairmanship of chief **minister Conrad K Sangma** - approved the Meghalaya Youth Policy, 2021 recently
  - ✓ It seeks to create pathways for Meghalaya's youth in achieving their fullest potential and becoming engaged, skilled, creative, responsible and empowered members
  - ✓ The policy was drafted by the sports and youth affairs department of the state government.
- **India's first earthquake warning system - is ready for launch in Uttarakhand on August**
  - ✓ A new app, the **Uttarakhand Bhookamp** Alert app, has been developed by the Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA) and the Indian Institute of Technology-Roorkee
  - ✓ Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama will launch the Uttarakhand Bhookamp Alert app.
- **Barack Valley**
  - ✓ Barak Valley districts of Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi, and Mamit and Kolasib in Mizoram.
- **GRAP**
  - ✓ **Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)**, there would be four types of alert levels, depending on the seriousness of the situation.
  - ✓ The four levels of color-coded alerts include **Level-1 (Yellow), Level-2 (Amber), Level-3 (Orange) and Level-4 (Red)**
- **Kakori Train Action**
  - ✓ The Uttar Pradesh government - has renamed a landmark freedom movement called "**Kakori Train Conspiracy**" as "**Kakori Train Action**"
- **Cabinet approves highest ever FRP for Sugarcane**
  - ✓ Union cabinet has approved the highest ever **fair & remunerative price (FRP)** for sugarcane farmers on August 25, 2021.
  - ✓ FRP for sugarcane has been increased to Rs 290 per quintal for 2021-22. This price will be based on 10% recovery.
  - ✓ If recovery is less than 9.5%, then farmers will be given a FRP of Rs 275 per quintile.
  - ✓ This approval is the highest ever FRP and is going to benefit 5 crore sugarcane farmers & their dependents.
- **Govt introduces "Bharat series (BH-series)" registration**

- ✓ Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has introduced a new registration mark for new vehicles i.e. "**Bharat series (BH-series)**". The vehicles bearing the BH-series mark will not have to require the assignment of a new registration mark when the owner of the vehicle shifts from one State to another
- **Karnataka has become the first state in the country to issue the order with regard to the implementation of the National Education Policy-2020.**
- **Kaziranga National Park (KNP)** in Assam has become the first national park in India to be equipped with satellite phones.



## NATIONAL

### ➤ **Strategic Petroleum Reserve**

- ✓ In accordance with the second phase of the **Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR)** programme.
- ✓ The government approved the establishment of two additional commercial and strategic underground storage facilities at Chandikhol (4 MMT) and Padur (2.5 MMT) with a total capacity storage of 6.5 MMT in PPP model.
- ✓ Proposals for the construction of these storage facilities are being finalized.

### ➤ **e- RUPI - Digital Payment Purpose**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi - launched the e-Rupi mode of digital payment system on August 2 via video conferencing.
- ✓ e-Rupi is a digital payments platform which was developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) in collaboration with the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and National Health Authority.

### ➤ **Insolvency and Bankruptcy code**

- ✓ The Rajya Sabha - passed **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2021**, on August 3, 2021 after a brief discussion during the ongoing monsoon session.

### ➤ **BRO (Border road organization)- World Highest Road**

- ✓ The Border Roads Organisation - has constructed the world's highest road in eastern Ladakh at an altitude of 19,300 feet.
- ✓ The world's highest motorable road at **Umlingla Pass** is constructed at an altitude of 19,300 ft, bettering previous record of a road near volcano Uturuncu in Bolivia at 18,953 ft
- ✓ The 52-km long tarmac road through Umlingla Pass connects the important towns in Chumar sector of Eastern Ladakh.

### ➤ **Lok Sabha passes Tribunals Reforms Bill**

- ✓ **Tribunal Reforms Bill, 2021** seeks to replace Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance, 2021.
- ✓ The Bill was introduced by **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** on August 1, 2021.
- ✓ The Bill provides for abolition of tribunals or authorities under several Acts by amending **Cinematograph Act of 1952, Copyrights Act of 1957, Customs Act of 1962, Patents Act of 1970, Airport Authority of India Act of 1994** as well as **Trade Marks Act of 1999**.
- ✓ The Bill will also abolish the tribunals under **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act of 1999, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act of 2001, and Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act of 2002**.
- ✓ It also provides for uniform terms and conditions of service for chairperson and members of certain tribunals.

### ➤ **Lok Sabha - passed the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2021, for setting up a central university in the name of 'Sindhu Central University' in Ladak**

### ➤ **Constitution Amendment Bill** Rajya Sabha - passed three bills –

- ✓ 1. **the Constitution (Scheduled Tribe) Order (Amendment) Bill,**
  - ✓ 2. **the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Bill and**
  - ✓ 3. **the Essential Defence Services Bill.**
- **PMG DHISHA(pradhan mantri grameen digital saksharata abhiyan)**
- ✓ It is a government initiative launched with an objective to impart digital literacy among the people residing in rural areas
  - ✓ Under the **PMGDISHA** scheme, people in the rural area will be trained to operate a computer, tablet, smartphones, etc.
  - ✓ They will be provided training on how to access the Internet, government services, undertake digital payment, compose e-mails, etc.
  - ✓ The marginalised sections of society like Scheduled Castes (SC)/Scheduled Tribes (ST), Minorities, Below Poverty Line (BPL), differently-abled will be covered exclusively under the scheme.
  - ✓ Illiterate people between the age group 14-60 years, nominated from every eligible rural household, are qualified to be included the scheme.
- **E -Waste 2020**
- ✓ India - has generated a total of 10,14,961.2 tonnes of **e-waste** in 2020, which is an increase of 31.6% when compared to the previous year.
- **Kandla Special Economic Zone (KASEZ)**
- ✓ It has become the **first Green SEZ** in the country after receiving the IGBC Green Cities Platinum Rating for Existing Cities.
  - ✓ IGBC Platinum rating has been awarded for '**Green master planning, policy initiatives and implementation of green infrastructure**' by CII's **Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)**.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** - to release Rs 19,500 crore to over 9.75 crore farmers as part of the 9th instalment under **PM-Kisan income support scheme on August**
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** - to launch **Ujjwala 2.0** that provides free cooking gas connections to poor families through domestic LPG cylinder connections at Mahoba in Uttar Pradesh on August
- **The first report of mixed immunization with Covishield and Covaxin** - indicated better immune response and safety, as per ICMR
- **Urban areas in India** - generate around 1.41 lakh tonnes of municipal solid waste (MSW) per day, while 68% of the MSW is processed scientifically
- ✓ 'National Inventory of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs)' published this March
- **Lok Sabha** - passed the 127<sup>th</sup> **The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2021** that seeks to restore the power of states to identify backward castes.

➤ **79 years of “Quit India Movement”**

- ✓ Union Minister of Culture, Tourism, and Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) inaugurated an exhibition on August 8, 2021 to mark 79th anniversary of the ‘Quit India Movement’ at National Archives of India in New Delhi.

➤ **PM - DAKSH**

- ✓ The 'Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) Yojana' is being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment from the year 2020-21.
- ✓ Now, any person can get all the information related to skill development training in one place by visiting the 'PM-DAKSH' portal.

➤ **PM - e Vidya**

- ✓ The Minister mentioned **about PM eVidya programme** launched with a mix of online, television and radio modes through various initiatives **SWAYAM, DIKSHA, SWAYAM PRABHA etc**

➤ **PM announced Rs 1,625 crore for women SHGs**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with members of women self-help groups (SHGs) under the “Aatmanirbhar Narihalti se Samvad” event on August 12, 2021 across the country and announced to release capitalisation support funds of Rs 1,625 crore.
- ✓ Highlights Capitalisation support fund will benefit over 4 lakh SHGs.

➤ **National Vehicle Scrappage Policy launched**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the National Vehicle Scrappage Policy on August
- ✓ The **National Vehicle Scrappage Policy** is also dubbed as “voluntary vehicle-fleet modernisation programme”.
- ✓ This programme aims to modernise India’s “**vehicular population**”.
- ✓ Under the policy, vehicles will be scientifically tested through authorised and automated centres before it is finally scrapped.

➤ **Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021**

- ✓ Environment Ministry notified the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021 on August 13, 2021.
- ✓ These plastic products comprise of **ear buds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, candy sticks, plastic flags, ice-cream sticks, thermocol for decoration, cups plates, cups, glasses as well as cutlery like knives, spoons, forks, trays, straws, wrapping or packing films, invitation cards and cigarette packets as well as PVC banners of less than 100 microns.**

➤ **“Gati Sakthi” - National Infrastructure plan.**

- ✓ India to launch a 100 trillion rupee (\$1.35 trillion) national infrastructure plan called “**Gati Shakti**” that will help boost productivity of industries, generate jobs and boost the economy.

➤ **New Cooperative Ministry created after the Cabinet reshuffle and assured small farmers that the government was working for their welfare.**



- **National Hydrogen Mission**
  - ✓ The launch of **the National Hydrogen Mission** was announced by PM Modi. The aim is to make India a global hub for the production and export of green hydrogen.
  - ✓ The proposal for the National Hydrogen Mission was made in the Budget 2021 to launch NHM that would enable the generation of hydrogen **“from green power sources”**.
  - ✓ Hydrogen fuel is a **zero-emission fuel burned with oxygen**. It can be used in fuel cells or internal combustion engines. It is also used as a fuel for spacecraft propulsion.
- **New National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)- in 2022**
  - ✓ The new standard will incorporate more pollutants, including ultra-fine particulate matter of less than PM 2.5.
- **Four more wetlands from India - have been recognised as Ramsar site of international importance**
  - ✓ The **Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary**, a human-made freshwater wetland and the largest one in Haryana, supports more than 10 globally threatened species
  - ✓ The **Sultanpur National Park** from Haryana supports more than 220 species of resident, winter migratory and local migratory waterbirds, along with supporting more than 10 globally threatened and critically endangered birds
  - ✓ The **Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary** from Gujarat lies on the Central Asian Flyway and supports more than 320 bird species
  - ✓ The **Wadhvana Wetland** is important as it provides wintering ground to migratory waterbirds, including over 80 species that migrate on the Central Asian Flyway.
- **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs - has recently launched 'SonChiraiya'**, a single brand and logo to promote and market the products made by urban Self-Help Groups (SHG)
- **DCGI approves ZyCoV-D vaccine for Emergency Use Authorization**
  - ✓ The Drug Controller General of India (DGCI) has approved ZyCoV-D vaccine by Zydus Cadila for Emergency Use Authorization.
- **NTPC commissions India's largest floating solar PV project**
  - ✓ The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Limited on August 21, 2021, commissioned India's largest floating solar PV project of 25MW on the reservoir of its Simhadri thermal station in Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
  - ✓ The 2000 MW coal-based **Simhadri thermal station** is the first power project that implemented an open sea intake from the Bay of Bengal.
  - ✓ Generate electricity from more than 1 lakh solar PV modules that will aid in lighting up approximately 7,000 households.
- **Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman - launched a four-year road map for a Rs.6-lakh-crore asset monetisation plan.**
  - ✓ **The National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP)** lists out the government's infrastructure assets to be sold over the next four years.
- **The National Asset Monetisation Pipeline -NITI Aayog**

- ✓ The assets include roads and highways, pipelines, power transmission lines, telecom towers, railways station re-development, private trains, tracks, goods sheds, dedicated freight corridor, **15 railways stadiums, 25 airports, 31 projects in nine major ports, 160 projects in coal mining, 761 mineral mining blocks, two national stadia, re-development of colonies** and hospitality assets
  - ✓ There are over 20 asset classes across 12 ministries, which have been identified for the pipeline and these are **brownfield de-risked assets**, which will be offered for private investment.
  - ✓ **Railway is the second biggest sector, after road, identified in the ambitious national monetisation plan**
  - ✓ A total of **400 stations, 90 passenger trains, railway stadiums and colonies**, and the famed **Konkan and hill railways** are among the assets identified by the government for monetisation
  - ✓ Railway assets would contribute 26% of the Rs 6 lakh crore National **Monetisation Pipeline (NMP)**.
  - ✓ The government has announced plans to monetise the iconic **Jawaharlal Nehru (JLN) Stadium** in the national capital along with another national stadium and two regional centres.
  - ✓ States, which raise money through disinvestment of state PSUs or give up control, will be given an equal amount by the Centre.
  - ✓ The states will be incentivised to monetise public sector assets, with 30 to 100% interest-free loan assistance, depending on the monetisation mode.
- **Operation Devi Shakti**
- ✓ Operation Devi Shakti name has been given by **India to its operation of evacuating its citizens from war-torn Afghanistan**.
  - ✓ This announcement was made after 78 people, including 25 Indian nationals, were brought to India from **Dushanbe (Tajikistan)** in a special Air India flight.
  - ✓ They were brought out of Taliban-controlled Kabul to Dushanbe in aircraft of Indian Air Force (IAF).
- **e-Sharm Portal: Centre to launch National Database for Unorganised Workers on August**
- ✓ Union Labour Ministry will launch e-Sharm Portal-National Database for Unorganised Workers on August.
  - ✓ The portal will be launched for the overall welfare of crores of unorganized workers of the country after seven decades of independence.
- **On August, Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman - announced changes in the pension scheme for state-run bank employees**
- ✓ The pension payout to bank staff was hiked by 30% of last drawn salary, as per the new announcements.
- **Madhya Pradesh becomes 2nd state to implement National Education Policy 2020**
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh on August 26, 2021, became the 2nd state after Karnataka to implement the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
  - ✓ **CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan** announced the implementation of the Policy in the presence of Governor Mangubhai Patel.
  - ✓ **The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** was launched by the Centre on July 29, 2020

- **Union Minister for AYUSH Sarbananda Sonowal** - to launch the Y-Break App on September 1, 2021, from **Vigyan Bhawan** to commemorate **Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav**.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** - **praised his** government's flagship scheme '**Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana**' as it completed seven years with total deposits of over Rs 1.46 trillion
- **PFRDA increases the entry age in National Pension System (NPS) to 70 years**
  - ✓ **The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** has increased the entry age for the **National Pension System (NPS)** from 65 years to 70 years.
- **India's nuclear power capacity is expected to reach 22,480 Mega Watts by 2031 from the current 6,780 MegaWatts.**
- **There are presently 22 reactors with a total capacity of 6780 MW in operation and one reactor, KAPP-3 (700 MW) has been connected to the grid on January**
- **Indian Railways** has launched an integrated one-stop solution "**Rail Madad**" in which the national transporter has merged a number of existing helplines that were used for various purposes into one.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced a Rs 11,000 crore **National Edible Oil Mission-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP)** to make India self-sufficient in cooking oils, including palm oil.
- UN Women have joined hands to launch the **Amrit Mahotsav Shri Shakti** Innovation Challenge 2021..
- The initiative will promote '**Nari Sashaktikaran**', and empower women to help them achieve their full potential.
- India's cleanest city, Indore in Madhya Pradesh, has achieved another feat of being declared as the country's first 'water plus' certified city, under the **Swachh Survekshan 2021**.
- The Government of India has given a three-year extension to **Rekha Sharma** as Chairperson of the **National Commission for Women (NCW)**.

# SCHEME

## ➤ **Samagra Siksha Scheme**

- ✓ Cabinet approves **Samagra Shiksha** scheme extension till March 2026.
- ✓ The Samagra Shiksha scheme, which has been extended till March 2026, will have a financial outlay of ₹2.94 lakh crore, including a Central share of ₹1.85 lakh crore.,

## ➤ **“Atma Nirbhar Naari Shakti Se Samvad” programme**

- ✓ Nalla Panjampatti Plastic Recycling Centre (shredder), Dindigul, was among the five SHGs selected from across the country to interact with the Prime Minister.
- ✓ Panjampatti has been recycling plastic they collect from the village and the shredded plastic is used for laying roads

# COURT VERDICT

- **In a landmark decision, the Supreme Court - has issued an interim order allowing women to take the National Defence Academy (NDA) exam scheduled on September 5, 2021**
- **The Supreme Court - held that the ‘creamy layer’ among the backward communities has to be decided on the basis of a mix of social, economic and other relevant factors and not the economic criteria alone.**
- **The Madras high court - disallowed 10% quota for economically weaker sections (EWS) among forward castes in MBBS admissions under All India Quota (AIQ)**
- **The Madras high court - has set a three-month deadline for the state government to constitute a ‘Press Council of Tamil Nadu**

# COMMITTEES

## ➤ **Data Protection Bill**

- ✓ Lok sabha MP Daya Nithi Maran from Tamil Nadu was appointed as a member in Joint committee for data protection bill.

# INTERNATIONAL

- **World's first ever 3D-printed steel bridge - was opened for public use in Amsterdam, the Netherland.**
- **Afghanistan's president, Ashraf Ghani - flees the country to Tajikistan, as the Taliban takes over the control of capital, Kabul**
  - ✓ Taliban had captured most of the country in the span of 10 days, twenty years after being removed from power in a U.S.-led invasion.
- **Taliban Commander Abdul Ghani Baradar is the new President of Afghanistan**
  - ✓ Abdul Ghani Baradar, Taliban Commander, has been announced as the new President of Taliban acquired Afghanistan.
  - ✓ The former President Ashraf Ghani had fled to Tajikistan as Taliban fighters took control of the Capital City Kabul and the palace.
  - ✓ Afghanistan has also been renamed by the Taliban "the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan."
- **The First-ever G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment was held at Santa Margherita Ligure, Italy.**



# INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) - released a stamp on the heritage Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR) that was declared a UNESCO heritage site in 1999.**
- **India - will hold a series of high-level 2+2 bilateral talks with Australia next month**
  - ✓ Australia's foreign minister **Marise Payne** and new defense minister **Peter Dutton** visit India for the 2+2 dialogue with their counterparts S Jaishankar and Rajnath Singh.
- **Ismail Sabri Yaakob becomes Malaysia's new Prime Minister**
  - ✓ Former Deputy Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob on August 21, 2021, was appointed as the new Prime Minister by Malaysia's King Al-Sultan Abdullah.
  - ✓ Ismail will be sworn-in on August 21, 2021, as Malaysia's third Prime Minister in three years. He received the support of 114 out of 222 members of Parliament, which is more than the 111 required for a simple majority, the Palace said.
- **India - has launched a new technology platform named 'UNITE Aware' in collaboration with the United Nations to help protect UN peacekeepers**
  - ✓ UNITE Aware is a situational awareness software programme that will utilise modern surveillance technology for real time threat assessments to peacekeepers
  - ✓ It is aimed at ensuring the safety and security of peacekeepers who are operating in an increasingly complex and risky environments across the world.
- **India, Russia sign deal to procure 70,000 AK-203 Assault Rifles**
  - ✓ India and Russia on August 19, 2021 signed a deal for the immediate procurement of 70,000 AK-200 series assault rifles.
  - ✓ AK-203 is the latest version of the AK-47 rifle. These rifles will replace the 5.56×45mm **Indian Small Arms System (INSAS)** rifles that are currently being used by the Indian Army, Navy and the Air Force besides other security forces.
- **India & Maldives inks pact on mega Greater Male Connectivity Project**
  - ✓ The Government of India and Maldives inked the contract for the mega **Greater Male Connectivity project (GMCP)**, on August 26, 2021.
  - ✓ The Greater Male Connectivity project (GMCP) is the largest-ever civilian infrastructure project in Maldives.
  - ✓ The Government of India is funding the implementation of GMCP through a USD 400 million **Line of Credit (LoC)** and USD 100 million grant.
  - ✓ The USD 400 million LoC will be provided by Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank).
  - ✓ The project will be developed by Indian construction and engineering firm, AFCONS, based in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
  - ✓ The Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP) comprise of 6.74 km long bridge and causeway link that will connect the national capital Male with three neighbouring islands namely. **Villingili, Gulhifahu and Thilafushi**

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **G - 20 Culture Minister Meeting**
  - ✓ Minister of State for Culture, **Meenakashi Lekhi** - participated in the G20 Culture Ministers' Meeting on 30 July, 2021 held in Rome, Italy through video conference.
- The Working Group of Agriculture from **Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS)** - met virtually recently for talks
- **First Indian PM to preside over a meeting of the UNSC**
  - ✓ India took over from France to assume **the presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the month of August 2021.**
  - ✓ This is the first presidency for India during its 2021-22 tenure as a non-permanent member of the UNSC. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the **first Indian PM to preside over a meeting of the UNSC.**





# DEFENCE

- **INS Vikrant**
  - ✓ The Indian Navy - has announced that India's first indigenously aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant - India's largest warship - is set to begin sea trials on August 4 off the coast of Kochi.
  
- **INS Talwar - has recently participated in the annual maritime exercise 'Cutlass Express 2021' in Mombassa, Kenya**
  
- **Prakriti Diksha**
  - ✓ Prakriti and Diksha became the first women officers to be deployed in combatised roles by the mountain warfare force.
  
- **Nirbhay land Cruise Missile**
  - ✓ Another flight-test of the indigenous 'Nirbhay' land-attack cruise missile - was unsuccessful on August 11 due to a technical snag.
  
- **India and Russia - signed a deal for the immediate procurement of 70,000 latest AK series of assault rifles for Indian Army under the provisions of emergency procurement.**
  
- **Ordnance Factory of Tiruchirappalli (OFT) - has launched a new variant of the indigenous Trichy Assault Rifle (TAR) to commemorate the 75 years of Indian independence**
  
- **The Ministry of Defence - signed a Rs.1,350 crore contract with Mahindra Defence Systems Limited (MDS) to manufacture 14 integrated anti-submarine warfare defence suites (IADS) for front-line warships of the Navy.**
  
- **India and Germany conducted naval exercise in Gulf of Aden**

# ECONOMICS

- **The Reserve Bank of India - announced the cancellation of license of Madgaum Urban Cooperative Bank Co., Ltd., located in Margao, Goa with effect.**
- **On August, RBI governor Shaktikanta Das - said that the central bank may launch a pilot of its digital currency by December 2021.**
  - ✓ However, the RBI is yet to finalise whether to launch the currency using distributed ledger technology (DLT) or a centralised ledger.
  - ✓ DLT is the platform on which cryptocurrencies are based, enabling them to be held and traded without any central authority.
- **The Reserve Bank of India has raised the limit for collateral-free loans to Self-Help Groups (SHG) under the DAY-NRLM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission) from Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 20 Lakhs.**
  - ✓ The DAY-NRLM is the flagship program of Govt. of India for promoting poverty reduction through building strong institutions for the poor, particularly women, and enabling these institutions to access a range of financial services and livelihoods.
- **The government has set the loans disbursement target under the PM Mudra Yojana (PMMY) at Rs 3 trillion for 2021-22 (FY22). This target is lower than the previous year. For FY21, the target was set at Rs 3.21 trillion.**
- **The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched the mobile application of its digital paperless solution, "ANANDA" for LIC agents. ANANDA stands for Atma Nirbhar Agents New Business Digital Application.**
- **RuPay has launched a strategic campaign titled - #FollowPaymentDistancing to promote and encourage contactless payments among customers.**

## ECONOMICS - TAMIL NADU

### BUDGET

- **Tamil Nadu Finance Minister P.T.R. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan - presented the government's first paperless budget for the year 2021-22 in Assembly on August**
  - ✓ **Tablet computers** have been given to all the legislators in the assembly to follow the presentation.
  - ✓ As per the revised budget estimates, the **revenue deficit for 2021-22** is expected to go up to **Rs.58,692.68 crore** from the interim budget estimates of Rs.41,417.30 crore
  - ✓ The total **revenue receipt estimates range from Rs.2,18,991.96 crore** in the Interim Budget Estimates to Rs.2,02,495.89 crore in the Revised Budget Estimates 2021-22
  - ✓ The **State's Own Tax Revenue estimates** in the Revised Budget Estimates 2021-22 are expected to be **Rs.1,26,644.15 crore**, as against the Interim Budget Estimates of Rs.1,35,641.78 crore

- ✓ Tamil Nadu presently bears an overall **debt burden of Rs 5,70,189 crore and public debt of Rs.2,63,976 per family**, as per the White Paper released by the finance minister on August 9
- ✓ Power body TANGEDCO was losing Rs 2.60 for every unit consumed and the transport sector was bleeding Rs 59.15 for every kilometre run, as per the White Paper
- ✓ The most significant finding in the White Paper is the deterioration of the **tax-GSDP ratio of the state from 8.48%** in 2006-07 to just 5.46% in 2020-21
- ✓ Tamil Nadu has already **borrowed Rs.36,000 crore** so far in 2021-22, and is the top borrower among the States.

### Highlights of the Budget

- ✓ Launch of a **Green Tamil Nadu Mission** to increase the total areas under forest and tree cover to **33% of the land areas in the state**.
- ✓ Launch of **Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission** to focus on climate change adaptation and mitigation activities at a budget of Rs.500 crore.
- ✓ World Bank-funded **Chennai City Partnership** will be implemented over a period of nine years (2021-2030) with a total estimated budget of \$1.43 billion for development of **institutions, infrastructure and systems**.
- ✓ A Rs 57 crore integrated stormwater drain network in Kosasthalaiyar Basin backed by the **Asian Development Bank**.
- ✓ **India's first integrated air quality** monitoring system to be set up under TN Pollution Control board
- ✓ To reduce travel time, Tamil Nadu plans to expand 8,900km of state highways under a **new scheme** named '**Chief Minister's Road Development Programme**'.
- ✓ The State government will establish a **Directorate of Textiles** to give a fillip to the sector in the State.
- ✓ Waiver of loans to the tune of Rs.2,756 crore due from self-help groups to the **co-operative credit societies**.
- ✓ Petrol price to become cheaper in the state by Rs.3 per litre, causing a loss of Rs. 1,160 crore to the government's exchequer.
- ✓ **Chief Minister's Insurance Scheme** will be implemented from this year at a budget of Rs.1,046 cror
- ✓ Announcement of a **subsidy of Rs. 703 crore** for free bus travel for women
- **INFRASTRUCURAL DEVLOPMENT**
  - ✓ **Singara Chennai 2.0**, chief minister M K Stalin's dream project, got a Rs. 500 crore boost
  - ✓ **Chennai Metro Rail Phase 2** will be completed by 2025 and announcement of three new flyovers for Chennai city at a budget of Rs. 500 crore and fully financed by loans from TN Urban Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation (TUFIDCO).
  - ✓ **A fintech city will come up in Chennai**, which will be developed in two phases at Nandambakkam and Kavanur
  - ✓ **The desalination plant at Perur on East Coast Road (ECR)**, with a capacity to generate 400 million litres a day (MLD) of drinking water, will be expeditiously implemented with financial assistance from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

- ✓ Allocation of Rs. 1,725 crore has been allocated for the **MGR lunch scheme for the year 2021-22.**
- ✓ Allocation of Rs 32,599 crore towards school education, which is Rs 1,582 crore lesser than the last year.
- ✓ Allocation of Rs 5,369 crore to higher education, which is Rs 316 crore more than the last year.
- ✓ State highways department got a **bumper allocation of Rs 17,899 crore.**
- ✓ **Comprehensive Road Infrastructure Development Programme, Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor, and Chennai Peripheral Ring Road Project at Rs.14,282 crore**
- ✓ **A TN Siddha University**, a proposal mooted by Kalaingar, will be established with an initial allocation of Rs 2 crore

#### ➤ **POWER SECTOR**

- ✓ Announcement of an installed capacity target of 17,970 megawatts over the next decade to offset the 2,500 megawatt power purchase that the state has made so far.
- ✓ While the state's average power demand is about 15,000MW, the installed capacity of Tangedco's own existing thermal power plants is only 4,320MW

#### ➤ **Rural housing and development**

- ✓ Allocation of Rs 3,954 crore towards building more homes in the effort to make Tamil Nadu a "hutless state" over the next decade that will house nearly 8 lakh homeless individuals
- ✓ Allocation of Rs. 3,800 crore **for rural housing.**
- ✓ Allocation of over Rs 8,000 crore to the implementation of food subsidies and Rs 6,600 crore to irrigation-related infrastructure.
- ✓ Allocation of Rs. 3954.44 crore **to Tamil Nadu slum clearance board**
- ✓ Rs. 405 crore has been allotted for **the fire service department.**
- ✓ The government will revitalise the **Common Effluent Treatment Plants** and set up new ones in Erode and Namakkal clusters.

#### ✓ **MSME-TN policy**

- ✓ A committee chaired by Dr.N.Sundaradevan, I.A.S. (Retd) has been established to study the financial, infrastructural and **other issues faced by MSMEs in Tamil Nadu and suggest measures to enable them to thrive.**
- ✓ Government will launch a **State Level Credit Guarantee Scheme** to enable more MSMEs, particularly micro enterprises to access credit

- ✓ **Tidel parks** will now be established in Villupuram, Vellore, Chidambaram, Tiruppur and Thoothukudi too.

- ✓ **New Sipcot** (State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu) complexes will be established in **Thiruvannamalai, Dharmapuri, Tirunelveli, Virudhunagar, Sivagangai, Villupuram, Namakkal, Theni and Nagapattinam to be spread across 4,000 acres**

- ✓ An industrial park will be established in **Thoothukudi** district with investment of Rs 1,000 crore in an area of 1100 acre

- ✓ An **e-vehicle park to be set up at Maanallur in Tiruvallur**, a medical devices park at **Oragadam**, a leather products park at Panapakkam in Ranipet, a dedicated furniture park in Tuticorin and three food parks at Manapparai, Theni and Tindivanam

- ✓ Setting up of **five mega clusters in pharmaceuticals**, petrochemicals, precision manufacturing, defence and aerospace, and smart mobility sectors
- ✓ A defence industrial park is also planned in Coimbatore on about 500 acres with an investment of Rs.3,000 crore
- ✓ 15 skill development centres will be set up in ITIs and a new skill centre will come up in partnership with NLC India at Neyveli.

#### ➤ WELFARE SCHEME

- ✓ **Kalaignar's 'Namaku Naame'** public participation scheme to expand green cover will be implemented again at a cost of Rs 100 crore. Launched in 1997-98 by CM Karunanidhi, the scheme was renamed twice when J Jayalalithaa was voted to power in 2001 and 2011, while the original name was restored by Kalaignar in 2006
- ✓ Relaunch of '**Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam**' with an outlay of Rs.1,200 crore
- ✓ '**Kalaignar M Karunanidhi Semmozhi Tamizh** award' will be given along with Rs 10 lakh cash prize every year in Central Classic Tamil institute. The award is set to be awarded every year on June 3. The award was last presented in 2010. A budget of Rs. 300 crore allotted for the award
- ✓ The government would revive the **Central Institute of Classical Tamil in Chennai**

#### ➤ DRINKING WATER

- ✓ Piped drinking water will given to each household in Chennai - 135 litres of water per person per day in city corporations, **90 litres of water per person per day in municipalities and 70 litres of water** per person per day in town panchayats to be ensured
- ✓ To supply at least 55 litres per capita per day (LPCD) of good quality drinking water to all households in the state by March 2024 and will implement **the Jal Jeevan Mission at Rs.2,000 crore for 2021-22**. As per government data, 83.92 lakh state households currently do not have water supply connections
- ✓ The Budget promises drinking water to 1.27 crore households in rural areas and to make the state becomes accident free in 10 years.
- ✓ Rs 500 crore has been allotted to ensure accident free Tamil Nadu

#### ➤ HEALTH SECTOR

- ✓ The state increased the allotment for the health sector by nearly 20% from Rs.15,863.4 in 2020-21 to Rs.18,933.2 in the revised Budget for 2021-22
- ✓ An outlay of Rs.257.2 crore has been set aside for '**Makklai Thedi Maruthuvam**'. Under this programme, healthcare workers will screen people for diabetes and hypertension, schedule doctor visits, give them drugs at their doorsteps and offer home dialysis, palliative care and physiotherapy.

#### ➤ FISHERIES

- ✓ Rs 1149.79 crore allotted for fisheries department, while Rs 6.25 crore allocated for establishing six fishing harbours in the state

#### ➤ ARCHEOLOGY- EXCAVATION

- ✓ A museum to be established near the archaeology site at **Keezhadi**.
- ✓ Announcement of **Rs. 5 crore** in the budget for excavations in the State, which is the highest amount allotted for the purpose among all states in the country

- ✓ The areas in **Keezhadi, Sivakalai and Kodumanal** where excavations have been carried out to be declared as protected archaeological sites
- ✓ The first stage of deep-sea excavation is to be undertaken in areas where Sangam age harbours of **Korkai and Azhagankulam** were located in coordination with the National Institute of Oceanography, National Institute of Ocean Technology and Indian Maritime University.
- **“SMART” governance.**
  - ✓ Launch of **“SMART (Swift, Measurable, Accessible, Responsive and Transparent) governance”** by deploying information and communication technology across all government departments
  - An effective **Samadhan scheme** will be launched to clear the pending dues of Rs.28,000 crore under Tamil Nadu value added tax and other legacy legislations.
- **SPORTS AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.**
  - ✓ Establishing mini sports stadia at a cost of Rs.3 crore each in all assembly constituencies that currently don't have sports facilities.
  - ✓ 12 sportspersons from the state who participated in the Tokyo Olympics were given a cash award of Rs.5 lakh each and two women among them were provided government jobs
  - ✓ The overall allocation for youth welfare and sports development is Rs.225.6 crore
  - ✓ Master plans to be developed for 539 temples to conserve their rich heritage and enhance the devotees' experience.

### **Agriculture Budget**

- **For the first time in the history of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, an exclusive budget for agriculture - was presented by the Tamil Nadu Minister for Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare MRK Pannerselvam on August 14 for the year 2021-22**
  - ✓ A total of **Rs.34,220.65 crore** has been allocated in the budget for agriculture and allied sectors, which include Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Revenue, Tamil Nadu Agriculture University, Agricultural engineering, Rural development and Panchayat Raj
  - ✓ In the previous budget, then ruling AIADMK government had allocated Rs 11,894.48 for these sectors.
  - ✓ 42% of Tamil Nadu's workers are farmers and, in rural areas, more than 58% of households depend on agriculture for a livelihood

#### **Highlights of the state's first ever Agriculture budget**

- ✓ The government is planning to implement a project called **'Kalaigarnar's Anaithu Grama Oruginaintha Velan Valarchi Thittam'** in the span of next five years to ensure all the **12,524 village panchayats** of Tamil Nadu attain overall agricultural development and self-sufficiency - The scheme is set to be implemented in **2,500 village panchayats** this year at a cost of Rs 250 crore.
- ✓ The government will convert **11.75 lakh hectares of fallow lands into farmland in the next 10 years to increase the area of cultivation from 60 to 75%.**
- ✓ A separate wing for **organic farming will be created under the Agriculture Department.**

- ✓ An **Integrated Farming System** will be implemented during this year to benefit the 13,300 farmer families in the state at an expense of Rs. 59.85 crore that will be met with central and state government funds.
  - ✓ **Nammazhavar Organic Farming Research Centre** will be set up at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in Coimbatore at an expense of Rs 3 crore.
  - ✓ A **16 point strategy** is proposed to be adopted for the growth of farm sector which includes value addition for agri products, ensuring reasonable prices for **milletts, fruits, and other agri products** and encouraging youth to be agri-entrepreneurs.
  - ✓ An **agro-industrial corridor** from **Trichy to Nagapattinam** in the Cauvery delta region, and a drumstick export zone in the districts of **Theni, Dindigul, Karur, Tuticorin, Ariyalur, Tirupur and Madurai** are the other highlights.
  - ✓ The government will increase the area of cultivation and set up a special export facilitation centre for drumstick exports in Madurai for Rs. 1 crore
  - ✓ Reflecting the DMK's focus on Tamil culture and heritage, the Budget made **permission from collectors mandatory for cutting down palmyra trees.**
  - ✓ Besides, **76 lakh palmyra seednuts** and **one lakh palmyra seedlings** will be distributed to farmers with full subsidy in 30 districts this year.
  - ✓ Also, measures will be taken to **sell palm jaggery at PDS shops.**
  - ✓ The purchase price of sugarcane will be increased from Rs 2,750 to Rs 2,900 per tone
  - ✓ The **Union-State Fund for Youth Entrepreneurship** will be implemented at a budget of Rs. 2.62 crore.
  - ✓ **Coconut Value Added Center for Delta Coconut Farmers will be set up at Thanjavur**
- **Uzhavar sandhais (farmers' market),**
- ✓ The brainchild of the late chief minister **Kalaignar M Karunanidhi**, will get a makeover, at a cost of Rs 12.50 crore.
  - ✓ As many as 10 new **Uzhavar Santhais** will be set up in town panchayats and other urban areas of **Cuddalore, Dindigul, Erode, Karur, Pudukkottai, Tirunelveli, Tiruchirappalli, Thanjavur, Vellore and Kallakurichi** districts at a cost of Rs. 6 crore.
  - ✓ To motivate the educated youth to take up agriculture to next level in their native places, a scheme of '**Rural Youth Agricultural Skill Development Mission**' will be rolled out -
  - ✓ **5000 solar powered pump sets** with a capacity of upto 10HP will be installed in the current year at 70% subsidy at an outlay of Rs.114.68 crore with state and Union government funding.
  - ✓ Subsidy will be **provided to improve soil fertility in 2000 villages** where vegetable cultivation is less
  - ✓ It is proposed to establish **modern cold storages** in two locations, **Oddanchattiram and Panruti**, based on the requests received from the farmers
  - ✓ About **three lakh rainfed farmers will get Rs.146.64 crore under the CM's dry land development mission.**
  - ✓ Over 1,100 farmer producer groups will also get a corpus fund of Rs.5 lakh each under collective farming scheme by coordinating 1.10 lakh farmers
  - ✓ A '**Modern Agricultural Marketing Centre**' will be set up at **Kolathur** in Chennai Corporation at a cost of Rs 1 crore to make the farm fresh vegetables available in Chennai.



- ✓ On a pilot basis, **30 mobile vegetable shops** will be operated in five corporations, viz, Chennai, Trichy, Coimbatore, Salem and Tiruppur
- ✓ The government will set up an integrated rural agricultural market complex at Edapally village situated on the borders of Coonoor and Kothagiri at Rs 2 crore
- ✓ The government will construct 28 drying yards in **Cuddalore, Villupuram, Salem, Namakkal, Krishnagiri, Erode, Trichy, Thanjavur, Pudukottai, Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Theni, Dindigul, Tiruppur and Kanniyakumari** Districts at a cost of Rs. 3.5 crore
- ✓ The government has also proposed a scheme for the establishment of an **Agricultural Export Facilitation Centre** for promoting export trade by farmers and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) at Guindy in Chennai at a cost of Rs 1 crore.
- ✓ The government has also allocated Rs 4508.23 crore to Tamil Nadu Electricity Board to provide **free electricity for agriculture**, while Rs 573.24 crore has been allocated to Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
- ✓ The government is planning to provide **a kit of agricultural equipment to half lakh farmers, which includes shovels, weeders, iron pots, crowbars and sickles which are required to undertake daily farming activities** at an outlay of Rs.15 crore.
- ✓ A separate **museum for agriculture will be set up in Chennai** at a cost of Rs. 2 crore to showcase the glory of agriculture to the younger generation.
- ✓ The best performing farmers who fetch maximum production by **adopting traditional organic farming practices** and the best performing exporters who excel in **agro exports will also be rewarded with prizes.**
- ✓ A high level committee for agriculture will be constituted at state level under the **chairmanship of Chief Secretary** to review farming related schemes and to suggest solutions for the problems faced by farmers.
- ✓ **Rs. 2,327 crore has been allocated for the crop insurance scheme for the year 2021-2022.**
- ✓ To encourage production of **fresh and residue-free vegetables** at households for daily needs and to enable children to learn about plants, two lakh seed kits consisting of **12 types of vegetable seeds will be distributed at subsidised rates in rural areas**
- ✓ A **new horticulture park will be set up at Vadalur** at the expense of Rs 1 crore.
- ✓ The government will take steps to get **GI tag for traditional unique produces such as Kolli Hills-Pepper, Panrutti-Jack and Ponni rice**
- ✓ Food Processing Incubation Centres will be launched in five locations including Nagapattinam for fish-based products, Coimbatore for coconut, **Trichy for banana, Erode for turmeric and Virudhunagar for millets**
- ✓ The government will focus on cultivation of horticultural crops such as greens and chillies in **Tiruvallur district, cashew and jackfruit in Cuddalore, pepper and onion in Namakkal and acid lime and amla in Tenkasi.**
- ✓ A new horticulture college will be set up at **Jeenur near Krishnagiri district while a Turmeric Research Centre will be established at Bavanisagar near Erode** - Tamil Nadu ranks fifth in the country for turmeric production.
- ✓ The government will set up **agricultural zonal committees** to support farmers based on water resources, fertility of soil and climatic conditions consisting of officials from **departments of agriculture, horticulture, agricultural engineering, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, water resources department, pollution control board, forest department, progressive farmers and environmental experts.**

## BOOKS AND AUTHORS

- **The Vice President, M. Venkaiah Naidu has released a book 'Accelerating India: 7 Years of Modi Government' at Upa-Rashtrapati Nivas.**
  - ✓ **The book commemorates the achievement and evaluation of two elected terms of PM Modi as the Head of Parliamentary**
- **CDS General Bipin Rawat was presented a book "OPERATION KHUKRI"**
  - ✓ **Authored by Major General Rajpal Punia & Ms Damini Punia.** The book highlights the Indian Army's successful rescue mission in Sierra Leone as part of the United Nations.
- **Eminent Bengali writer Buddhadeb Guha, has passed away.**
  - ✓ **He was the author of many notable works such as "Madhukari" (Honey Gatherer), "Koeler Kachhe" (Near the Koel bird) and "Sobinoy Nibedon" (Humble Offering).**
  - ✓ **He also won several awards including Ananda Purashkar in 1976, Shiroman Purashkar and Sharat Puraskar.**

## RANKINGS

- **Kerala - has the maximum proportion (16.5%) of elderly people in its population, as per 2021 data**
  - ✓ **Tamil Nadu (13.6%),**
  - ✓ **Himachal Pradesh (13.1%),**
  - ✓ **Punjab (12.6%) and**
  - ✓ **Andhra Pradesh (12.4%).**
- **India - was ranked at 122nd position among 181 countries in Global Youth Development Index, 2020, released by the Commonwealth Secretariat in London**

## APPOINTMENTS

- **Deepak Das takes charge as new Controller General of Accounts**
  - ✓ **Deepak Das has taken over as the Controller General of Accounts (CGA)**
- **Dhriti Banerjee**
  - ✓ **It as become the first woman to be appointed as director of the 105-year-old Zoological Survey of India (ZSI).**
- **N. K. Singh: New President of Institute of Economic Growth Society**
  - ✓ **Chairman of 15th Finance Commission, NK Singh, has been elected as the new president of Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) Society.**
  - ✓ **He succeeded former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh who was the President of IEG since 1992**

# AWARD

- **Lokamanya Tilak Award**
  - ✓ **Dr Cyrus Poonawalla**, chairman of the Pune-based vaccine maker Serum Institute of India (SII) - to be honoured with the **prestigious Lokamanya Tilak National Award for 2021**.
  
- **The Allahabad Central University - has announced its decision to give an honorary degree of D.Litt to eminent Bollywood lyricist, Gulzar**
  - ✓ **Gulzar** will be conferred with the degree for his contribution to poetry, film and culture.
  - ✓ Famous lyricist, poet, writer, screenwriter and film director **Gulzar** has been conferred with the **Padma Bhushan (2004) and Dadasaheb Phalke Awards (2013)**
  
- **The Union Government - has recently announced the Prime Minister's Shram Awards (PMSA) for the year 2018**
  - ✓ These awards are to be awarded to 69 workers employed in the Departmental Undertakings & Public Sector Undertakings of the Central and State Governments and Private Sector Units employing 500 or more workers
  - ✓ This year the Prime Minister's Shram Awards are given in three categories - Shram Bhushan Awards which carry a cash prize of Rs.1,00,000/- each, Shram Vir/Shram Veerangana Awards which carry a cash prize of Rs. 60,000/- each and
  - ✓ Shram Shree/Shram Devi Awards which carry a cash prize of Rs.40,000/- each
  
- **Khel Ratna Award renamed as Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award**
  - ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced that Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award will be renamed as Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award
  
- **Indian Film Festival of Melbourne Awards 2021 announced**
  - ✓ The Family Man 2 actors Manoj Bajpayee and Samantha Akkineni were among the winners of the latest edition of the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne Awards.
  
- **List of winners of the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2021:**
  - ✓ Best Feature Film: **Soorarai Pottru**
  - ✓ Best Performance Male (Feature): **Suriya Sivakumar** (Soorarai Pottru)
  - ✓ Best Performance Female (Feature): **Vidya Balan** (Sherni) & Honourable mention to Nimisha Sajayan (The Great Indian Kitchen)
  - ✓ Best Director: **Anurag Basu** (Ludo) & Honorary Mention Prithvi Konanur (Pinki Elli?)
  
- **The 144 Gallantry awards include:**
  - ✓ Ashok Chakra: Babu Ram (posthumously), ASI, Jammu and Kashmir Police.
  - ✓ Kirti Chakra: Altaf Hussain Bhat (posthumously), Constable, J&K Police.

# PERSONALITIES

- **Kerala-based Professor John Abraham - gets patent for producing biodiesel from the waste of slaughtered chicken**
  - ✓ As per the findings, 1 liter of biodiesel can be produced from 100 kg of chicken waste.
  - ✓ Indian Patent Office finally granted the patent recently to John Abraham, an associate professor at the veterinary college under the Kerala Veterinary & Animal Sciences University.
- **The West Bengal government - has decided to rename the NRS Medical College and Hospital boys' hostel after Dr Subhash Mukhopadhyay, the architect of India's first test tube baby.**

# SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- **Golden Rice**
  - ✓ Golden Rice was developed by the **Department of Agriculture-Philippine Rice Research Institute** in partnership with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) to contain additional levels of **beta-carotene**, which the body converts into **vitamin A**
  - ✓ **Golden Rice** is genetically engineered to provide up to 50% of the estimated average requirement for vitamin A of young children, the age group most susceptible to VAD in the Philippines.
- **The ISRO-NASA joint mission NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) - is proposed to be launched in early 2023**
  - ✓ **NISAR is a joint Earth-Observation mission** between ISRO and US space agency NASA for global observations over all land masses including the Polar cryosphere and the Indian Ocean region.
- **The four astronaut-elects of the Gaganyaan programme - will begin their India training from September first week**
- **C - BEEV**
  - ✓ Centre for Battery Engineering and Electric Vehicles Research (C BEEV) in IIT, Madras - has developed a range of motors and sub assemblies for e-rickshaws
  - ✓ The first of the motors for electric vehicles with design details will be delivered on August 15.
  - ✓ The C BEEV has started signing agreements with manufacturers for commercial usage
  - ✓ The missing part is cell manufacturing, which has been included by the government now as part of the PLI Scheme
  - ✓ Production linked incentive (PLI) scheme is an incentive package where a manufacturer gets fiscal incentives upon achieving targets.

- **Gisat - 1**
  - ✓ India - launched, Gisat-1, its most advanced geo-imaging satellite, on 12th August at 5:43 am from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota.
  - ✓ Gisat-1 will be placed 36,000 km above the Earth in the geostationary orbit and will provide real-time information about the large areas of interest.
  - ✓ **EOS-3** will also enable quick monitoring of natural disasters, episodic and short-term events. (But mission failed).
  - ✓ The satellite, capable of near real-time monitoring of floods and cyclones, will also enable monitoring of water bodies, crops, vegetation conditions and forest cover changes.
- **Chandrayaan-2 mission's orbiter - has detected the "unambiguous presence of hydroxyl and water molecules" on the Moon's surface**
- **Researchers of the Molecular Biophysics Unit, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) - have developed a method to block bacteria from flushing out antibiotics.**
- **Russian single-dose vaccine Sputnik Light - to be locally manufactured and launched in September 2021.**
- **Bharat Biotech's intranasal vaccine - is the first nasal vaccine that has received regulatory approval for phase 2 trials in the country.**
- **Rapid Covid - 19 Test**
  - ✓ Researchers - have developed a new cheaper, faster and more accurate Covid-19 diagnostic test that uses pencil lead
  - ✓ The Low-cost Electrochemical Advanced Diagnostic (LEAD) test gives 100% accurate results from saliva samples and up to 88% accuracy in nasal samples
  - ✓ Previously the research team worked on a Covid-19 testing kit called 'RAPID', which uses screen-printed electrodes.
- **Bharat Biotech's chikungunya vaccine candidate (BBV87) - has commenced a multi-country phase II and III clinical trials**
- **"Karmayogi"**
  - ✓ Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated "**Karmayogi**" Digital Learning Facility for Civil Servants.
  - ✓ Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, inaugurated the "Karmayogi" Digital Learning Facility for Civil Servants at the Institute of Secretariat Training & Management (ISTM) in Delhi.
  - ✓ The "Karmayogi" Digital Learning Facility will further boost the citizen-centric reforms initiated by the Government.
  - ✓ It will offer courses for upgrading the skills of Central Government officers and personnel. ISTM has released 75 courses with a running time of 75 hours on the Karmayogi Digital Learning Lab platform.

# SPORTS

- **National Women online chess title**
  - ✓ Delhi's Vantika Agarwal - has won the National women online chess title recently
  - ✓ Ninth seed Vantika scored 9.5 round from 11 rounds to emerge as the winner.
- **India's star badminton player PV Sindhu - defeated He Bing Jiao of China to win the women's singles bronze medal at Tokyo Olympics**
  - ✓ Sindhu became the first Indian woman to win two individual Olympic medals
  - ✓ Sindhu was also the first Indian badminton player to win a Silver medal at the Olympics.
- **India's Lovlina Borgohain - won bronze in the women's welterweight after losing to reigning World Champion Turkey's Busenaz Surmeneli 0-5 in the semifinal at the Tokyo Olympics**
- **Harshit Raja - became India's 69th Grandmaster after securing his third and final norm at the Biel Masters Open 2021.**
- **India men's hockey team led by Manpreet Singh - defeated Germany 5-4 to win the bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics on August .**
  - ✓ The last time India had won a medal in hockey was at the 1980 Moscow Games where they got the gold.
- **Indian wrestler Ravi Kumar Dahiya - clinched an Olympic silver medal after losing his 57 kg final to Russian two-time defending world champion Zaur Uguev on August**
  - ✓ This is India's second silver medal and fifth medal overall at the Tokyo Olympics.
  - ✓ Dahiya had lost to Uguev at the 2019 World Championship also
  - ✓ The prime minister will invite India's Olympic contingent to the Red Fort as special guests on 15 August when he will deliver his eighth straight Independence Day speech.
- **1st Women Hockey team in India**
  - ✓ Indian women's hockey team - loses to Great Britain in field hockey bronze medal play-off match at the **2020 Tokyo Olympics on August.**
- **India - sets a new Asian record in the men's 4x400m relay at the Tokyo Olympics**
  - ✓ The quartet of Amoj Jacob, Arokia Rajiv, Muhammed Anas and Noah Nirmal Tom bettered Qatar's 3:00.56 set at the 2018 Asian Games.
  - ✓ The Indian team finished fourth in Heat 2 of the relay with 3:00.25 seconds.
- **Neeraj Chopra - won the men's javelin event with a best throw of 87.58 metres, claiming a historic first Olympic gold in athletics for India**
  - ✓ With this win, the 23-year old Chopra became the first Indian track and field and second Indian athlete to win an Olympic gold after Abhinav Bindra's heroics in Beijing 2008.

- **Ace wrestler Bajrang Punia - became the sixth wrestler to clinch a medal for India at the Olympics on August**
  - ✓ Bajrang won gold at the 2018 Asian Games and then won silver at the 2019 World Championships.
- **7th August to be named "Javelin Throw Day" to honour Neeraj Chopra**
  - ✓ The Athletics Federation of India has decided that javelin throw day will be on 7th August every year in honour of Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra
- **Medal Tally:**
  - ✓ The **United States** has topped the overall medal table with 113 medals, which includes 39 Gold, 41 Silver and 33 Bronze Medal.
  - ✓ **Indian Contingent** managed to win **7 medals** comprising 1 Gold, 2 Silver and 4 Bronze Medals. The country stood at the **48th position** in the medal table out of 86 countries.
- **India in the Tokyo Olympics 2020**
  - ✓ India finished the Games with its best-ever Olympic medal tally of 7 in Tokyo Games 2020, surpassing the previous best record of 6 medals at the 2012 London Olympics.
  - ✓ **MC Mary Kom**, and men's hockey team skipper, **Manpreet Singh**, were flag-bearers for the Indian contingent at the opening ceremony.
  - ✓ **Bronze-medalist Bajrang Punia** was the **flag-bearer at the closing ceremony of the event.**

#### Indian Medal Winners List

##### Gold

- ✓ Men's Javelin Throw: **Neeraj Chopra**

##### Silver

- ✓ Women's 49kg Weightlifting: **Mirabai Chanu**
- ✓ Men's Freestyle 57kg Wrestling: **Ravi Dahiya**

##### Bronze

- ✓ Women's Welterweight boxing: **Lovlina Borgohain**
- ✓ Women's Singles Badminton: **PV Sindhu**
- ✓ Men's 65kg Freestyle Wrestling: **Bajrang Punia**

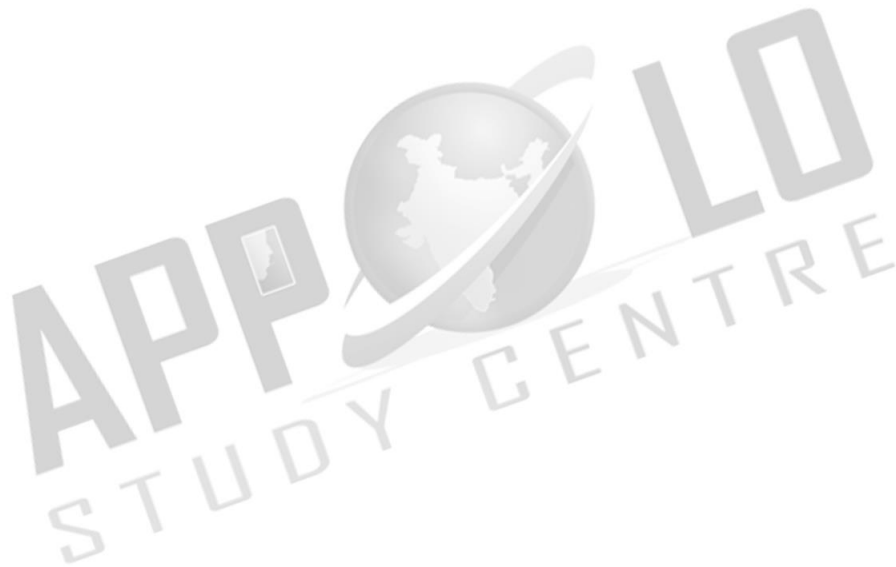
#### Men's hockey: India men's hockey team

- ✓ Indian wrestler **Bajrang Punia** has won the Olympic wrestling bronze medal match after 8-0 win over Daulet Niyazbekov of Kazakhstan in the men's freestyle 65kg category.
- ✓ **Neeraj Chopra** has won a Gold medal for India in the javelin throw event at Tokyo Olympics. With a throw of 87.03 metres in his first attempt, Neeraj killed the competition.
- **Mariyappan Thangavelu**, 2016 Rio Paralympic Games gold medalist will be replaced by Asian Games gold medalist Tekchand as the new flag-bearer of India at the opening ceremony.
- **India's Mariyappan Thangavelu has won the silver medal in the men's high jump (T63) at the Tokyo Paralympics.**
- **Tokyo Paralympics 2020, Indian shooter Singhraj Adana has won the bronze medal in the P1 Men's 10m Air Pistol SH1 final**



# OBITUARY

- **Former UP CM Kalyan Singh Passes**
  - ✓ Former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Kalyan Singh died at the Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences in Lucknow 21 August 2021.
  - ✓ In 1991, Singh became the first BJP chief minister of the country's most populous state.
- **Former minister and AIADMK presidium chairman E Madhusudhanan (81 years) -** died at a private hospital in Chennai on August 5 after a prolonged illness



# IMPORTANT DAY

Day	Theme	Significances
<u>Aug 1</u> <b>Muslim Women Rights Day</b>	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Triple Talaq</li> </ul>
<u>Aug 7</u> <b>National Handloom Day</b>	Hand Loom - An Indian Legacy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second-largest source of employment in India</li> </ul>
<u>Aug 1 to Aug 7</u> <b>World Breastfeeding Week</b>	“Protect Breastfeeding: A Shared Responsibility”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide them with essential nutrients and to protect them from many infections and diseases</li> </ul>
<u>Aug 12</u> <b>International Youth Day</b>	“Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is an awareness day designated by the United Nations.</li> </ul>
<u>Aug 12</u> <b>World Elephant Day</b>	Preservation and Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spreading awareness against poaching</li> </ul>
<u>Aug 18</u> <b>Zero Shadow Day</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your shadow was to be right under you</li> </ul>
<u>Aug 19</u> <b>World Humanitarian Day</b>	“The Human Race”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focuses on boosting up the global action in order to combat climate change and stand in solidarity with the vulnerable populations</li> </ul>
<u>Aug 19</u> <b>World Photography Day</b>	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To celebrate the art, craft, science and history of photography.</li> </ul>
<u>Aug 21</u> <b>World Senior Citizen Day</b>	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exhibit appreciation to seniors and to understand their achievements.</li> </ul>
<u>Aug 22</u> <b>Madras Day</b>	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Village of Madrasapatnam was purchased by the East India Company from the Vijayanagar Empire</li> </ul>