



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 12, 2025

TAMIL NADU

- **Virudhunagar 'Samba Vathal' gets GI Tag**
- ✓ Virudhunagar Samba Vathal (Chilli) has got geographical indication tag based on the application made by Tamil Nadu State Agricultural Marketing Board and Virudhunagar Chillies Merchants' Association.



- ✓ A distinguished variety of chilli, Virudhunagar Samba Chilli is grown in Virudhunagar district and is known for its unique flavour, moderate heat and vibrant red colour.
- ✓ Its wrinkled texture and medium size make it stand out in South Indian cuisine.
- **Vembur Sheep**
- ✓ In the grazing lands of Thoothukudi and Virudhunagar districts thrives the Vembur sheep ('Pottu aadu').



- ✓ The Vembur sheep is one of Tamil Nadu's five indigenous hair sheep breeds, alongside Madras Red, Macheri, Chevadu, and Kilakarasal.
- ✓ It also holds significant cultural and economic importance for farmers who depend on them for their livelihood.
- ✓ But this treasured breed faces a threat to its very existence: the proposed SIPCOT industrial project in Thoothukudi district.

NATIONAL

➤ **Namami Gange Mission 2.0**

- ✓ The Namami Gange Mission 2.0 (NGM 2.0) is an extension of the original Namami Gange Programme initiated in 2014.



- ✓ This mission aims to effectively reduce pollution and rejuvenate the River Ganga. It is set to continue until March 2026.
 - ✓ These include sewage treatment, riverfront development, river surface cleaning, afforestation, and biodiversity conservation.
 - ✓ The mission's multifaceted approach seeks to restore the ecological and cultural significance of the Ganga.
- **National Critical Mineral Mission**
- ✓ India's green energy ambitions hinge significantly on the availability of critical minerals, indispensable to technologies like solar panels, wind turbines, electric vehicles (EVs), and battery storage.

NATIONAL CRITICAL MINERALS MISSION



- ✓ To secure these vital resources, the Government of India launched the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) in 2025.
- ✓ Spearheaded by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) and coordinated by the Ministry of Mines, the mission aims to reduce import dependency, strengthen domestic capabilities, and enhance global competitiveness through focused exploration, processing, and recycling of critical minerals.

