



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEBRUARY 16, 2025

STATE

- **Govt Approves Nilgai Culling in Haryana**
- ✓ The Haryana government has recently introduced new Wildlife (Protection) Rules allowing the shooting of male Nilgais, also known as blue bulls.



- ✓ This decision aims to address the growing human-wildlife conflict, particularly the damage Nilgais cause to agriculture.
- ✓ However, it has sparked protests from environmentalists and local communities, particularly the Bishnoi community, who consider Nilgais sacred.
- ✓ Critics argue that culling is neither ethical nor a sustainable solution to the issue.

NATIONAL

- **New Income Tax Bill 2025**
- ✓ The New Income Tax Bill 2025 aims to modernise and simplify India's income tax framework.



- ✓ Scheduled to take effect on April 1, 2026, the bill introduces several changes while maintaining existing tax rates and principles.
- ✓ It focuses on clarity, coherence, and ease of understanding for taxpayers, addressing long-standing complexities in the current tax legislation.
- ✓ The bill is guided by three core principles – simplification of language and structure, continuity in tax policy, and preservation of existing tax rates.

REPORT

➤ Panchayat Devolution Index 2024

- ✓ The report - Status of Devolution to Panchayats in States (2024) – An Indicative Evidence Based Ranking’ - was launched by the Union Minister of State for the Panchayati Raj.



- ✓ Tamil Nadu has been ranked third at the all-India level under the Panchayat Devolution Index (PDI).
- ✓ The State has received a score of 68.38 next to Karnataka (72.23) and Kerala (70.59).
- ✓ Tamil Nadu has the highest score at the national level with 60.24 with regard to the dimension of “functions.”
- ✓ In Tamil Nadu, there are 12,525 village panchayats, 388 panchayat unions and 37 district panchayats.

