



GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

SECTION A – PAPER 1 - TNTRB

1. R.N. Ravi unveiled "Param Vir Chakra" garden in Chennai

- April 4, 2024 Tamil Nadu Governor, R.N. Ravi, inaugurated the Param Vir Chakra garden at Kanchi Maha swami Vidya Mandir in Tambaram, showcasing statues of the 21 awardees.
- Ravindra Narayana Ravi is an Indian politician and former bureaucrat serving as the 15th governor of Tamil Nadu.
- He also served as the governor of Nagaland and Governor of Meghalaya.



PARAM VIR CHAKRA



- The **Param Vir Chakra (PVC)** is India's highest military decoration, awarded for displaying distinguished acts of valour during wartime
- **Gallantry Awards in India (History):**
Post-Independence, **first three gallantry awards** namely Param Vir Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra and Vir Chakra were **instituted** by the government of India on **January 26th 1950** which were deemed to have effect from August 15th, 1947.
- Thereafter, other three gallantry awards – the Ashoka Chakra Class-I, the Ashoka Chakra Class-II and the Ashoka Chakra Class-III – were instituted in 1952, which were deemed to have effect from August 15, 1947.
- These awards were renamed as **Ashoka Chakra, Kirti Chakra and Shaurya Chakra** respectively in January 1967.
- **People Eligible for the Awards:**
All officers of all ranks of the Army, Navy and the Air Force or of any of the reserve forces, **territorial army** and any other lawfully constituted armed forces.



2. Tamil Nadu govt launched Neengal Nalama Scheme to uplift the families

- The Tamil Nadu government launched the 'Neengal Nalama' scheme on March 6, 2024, aiming to support all families in the state and assess the effectiveness of current initiatives.
- Rural Development Minister I. Periyasamy and Chief Minister M.K. Stalin have initiated the scheme.
- This scheme has been introduced as a comprehensive welfare measure, enhancing the government's outreach.



- The primary objective of the "**Neengal Nalama**" plan is to evaluate the effectiveness of important government schemes and to provide assistance to people facing any issues or challenges.
- The plan was launched on March 6, 2024.
- The plan was inaugurated by **Minister of Rural Development I. Periyasamy**, along with the presence of **Chief Minister M.K. Stalin** and other significant dignitaries.
- The plan involves contacting beneficiaries across the state of Tamil Nadu to assess their well-being and to address any concerns or problems they may have encountered.
- The plan is also known as the '**Are you alright plan**' or the **Neengal Nalama Scheme 2024**.
- It is a comprehensive initiative aimed at providing support to all families in T Nadu.



3. New GI products for Tamil Nadu

- The GI registry is to confer GI recognition for Jaderi Tiruman (Namakatti) of Tiruvannamalai district, Matti Banana of Kanyakumari district and the Chedibutta sarees of Tirunelveli district.
- The GI Hall of fame has nearly 420 products so far.
- Tamil Nadu's tally has reached 58 and topped in the list.
- Uttar Pradesh is in second position with 50-plus products, followed by Karnataka with 48.



What is a Geographical Indication (GI) Tag?



- A GI tag is a name or sign used on certain products that correspond to a specific geographical location or origin.
- The GI tag ensures that only the authorized users or those residing in the geographical territory are allowed to use the popular product name.
- It also protects the product from being copied or imitated by others.
- A registered GI is valid for 10 years.
- GI registration is overseen by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Legal Framework and Obligations:

- The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 seeks to provide for the registration and better protection of geographical indications relating to goods in India.
- It is governed and directed by the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

4. Women's basic income scheme

- The Tamil Nadu government has identified 1.06 crore women, as eligible to benefit from the Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thogai (women's basic income) scheme.
- The eligible women would have the sum credited into their bank accounts
- Women above the age of 21 with an annual family income of less than Rs 2.5 lakh, family land holding not exceeding 5 acres (wetland) and 10 acres (dryland), and annual household electricity consumption below 3,600 units are eligible.
- Under the scheme, ₹1,000 will be given as rights grant every month to 1.06 crore women heads of family in the State.
- The Tamil Nadu government will incur an expenditure of ₹12,000 crore annually, to implement this scheme.



5. Committee on Vishwakarma scheme

The Tamil Nadu government has constituted a four-member committee to study the Union government's Vishwakarma scheme.

It will study, is it would be detrimental to educational and social mobility of artisans and confine them to their traditional caste-based occupations.

J. Jeyaranjan, Vice Chairman, State Planning Commission (SPC), will be the Chairman of the committee.



PM Vishwakarma Scheme

- The scheme is designed to uplift traditional artisans and craftspeople engaged in various
- occupations like blacksmithing, goldsmithing, pottery, carpentry, and sculpting, with a focus on preserving cultural heritage and integrating them into the formal economy and global value chains.
- It will be implemented as a Central Sector Scheme, fully funded by the Government of India.
- Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME) is the Nodal Ministry for the Scheme.
- The Scheme will be jointly implemented by the MoMSME, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.



Features:

- Recognition and Support: Artisans and craftspeople enrolled in the scheme will receive a PM Vishwakarma certificate and an identity card.
- They will also be eligible for collateral-free credit support of up to Rs 1 lakh (first tranche) and Rs 2 lakh (second tranche) at a concessional interest rate of 5%.

Scope and Coverage:

- The scheme encompasses 18 traditional trades across both rural and urban areas.
- These trades encompass carpenters, boat-makers, blacksmiths, potters, sculptors, cobblers, tailors, and more.



6. India's first Green Energy Archeological Site

- The Shore Temple in Mahabalipuram is becoming India's first-ever green energy archaeological site.
- Dating back to the 7th century, built by Narasimha Varman II or popularly known as Rajamalla, this UNESCO World Heritage site is one of the oldest stone temples in South India.
- The Shore Temple will now be illuminated using clean and sustainable solar energy



7. Second spaceport of ISRO

- The second spaceport of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) will come up at Kulasekarapattinam in Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu.
- It will be dedicated exclusively for Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLVs) developed by the private sector.
- This project will be taking off in about two years from now.
- SSLV is a 3-stage launch vehicle capable of launching approximately 500 kg satellites in 500-km planar orbit.



8. Protected agricultural zone

- The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly adopted a Bill to include the newly-formed Mayiladuthurai district as a protected agricultural zone.
- It also included 'animal husbandry and inland fishery' within the ambit of the term 'agriculture'.
- The State government had enacted the Tamil Nadu Protected Agricultural Zone Development Act, 2020 to convert Thanjavur, Nagapattinam, and Tiruvarur districts and a few blocks in Pudukkottai and Cuddalore districts into a Protected Agricultural Zone.



9. Namma salai app

- Tamil Nadu Government launched a mobile application 'Namma Salai' that helps identify potholes in the city with public inputs.
- It aims to achieve the goal of an 'accident-free' Tamil Nadu and ensure pothole free roads.
- Through this app, people can upload photos of potholes in highways along with their geographical coordinates.
- They will be sent to the engineer and the potholes will be repaired within a stipulated time period.
- Then, photos of the repaired roads will also be uploaded in the application



10. Merlin hawk Aerospace in Tamil Nadu

- Merlin hawk Aerospace Pvt. Ltd. signed a joint venture agreement with Italy's Vega Composites.
- It aims to establish a manufacturing and design facility in the defence corridor in Tamil Nadu for advanced composites material-based products.
- The new entity will be called Merlin hawk Composites and Engineering Private Limited.
- The joint venture is the first such agreement signed between an Italian and Indian company, post the signing of the defense cooperation agreement between Italy and India



11. Top Indian city for women in 2023

- Chennai emerged as the top Indian city for women in 2023 in terms of inclusivity and conduciveness to working women.
- Tamil Nadu cities topped both categories that the study covered – 49 cities in the million-plus population category and 64 cities in the less than a million population category.
- Chennai topped the million plus category and Tiruchirappalli came on top of the less than a million category.
- The state also had a total of seven cities such as Coimbatore (Million plus), Tiruchirappalli, Vellore, Salem, Erode, and Tirupur (Less than a million) featuring in the lists.

12. TEALS Program

- The School Education Department of Tamil Nadu has partnered with Microsoft to expand the Technology Education and Learning Support (TEALS) program to more schools.
- The project was started on a pilot-basis in 14 schools of three districts -- 10 government schools, two government-aided schools and two private schools.
- Now, the project is in the process of being expanded to 100 schools.
- The teachers have been trained to teach the students HTML, C++, Python, game development and AI.
- The programme now aims to empower the teachers to train the students.
- The curriculum is designed by Microsoft and they hold online classes for the teachers.