



தமிழ்



Tamil Nadu: 15-07-2024

<p>Adichanallur On-site Museum</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Adichanallur archaeological site, a 3,000-year-old Iron Age settlement spanning 125 acres, is currently facing severe neglect. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Location: Adichanallur, Thoothukudi District, Tamil Nadu• Area: 125 acres• Control: Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)• Notable Artefacts: The site includes urn burials, skeletons, skulls, potteries, metal objects, and more, some dating back to 905 BCE, as determined by carbon dating. <p>Museum and Site Condition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• On-Site Museum:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Opened by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on August 5, 2023, it features artefacts such as urn burials, skeletons, and various pottery and metal objects, all kept in-situ with glass covers.○ However, the museum lacks staff to explain its significance to visitors.• Shelters:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Site B has artefacts displayed in glass cases, while site C contains over 300 burial urns, pots, iron and bronze objects, and sample pots with millets and rice husk.○ These artefacts are stored in thatched roof shelters, awaiting display in a proposed museum.
<p>Pollution Monitoring Directive by CPCB to TNPCCB</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has issued directives to the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCCB) to intensify monitoring of pollution levels in several cities across Tamil Nadu.• This directive comes in response to alarming levels of ambient air pollution observed in cities like Hosur, Thoothukudi, and Tiruppur.



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	<p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Pollutants Monitored: Lead (Pb), arsenic (As), Nickel (Ni), and benzo[a]pyrene (BaP).● Findings: Concentrations of lead and BaP have exceeded national standards in several cities.● Specifically, lead levels in Hosur exceeded standards on consecutive days, while BaP levels were found elevated in Tiruppur, Thoothukudi, Villupuram, and Tiruvarur. <p>National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS-2009):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The CPCB highlighted the NAAQS-2009, emphasizing that exceeding pollution limits on consecutive monitoring days warrants regular or continuous monitoring and further investigation.● This necessitates immediate action from state pollution control boards, including the TNPCB. <p>Action and Reporting Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Directive: State boards are instructed to institute continuous monitoring and submit detailed reports by August 7 on actions taken.● Affected Cities: 32 cities nationwide have shown elevated levels of monitored pollutants.
<p>Expansion of Breakfast Scheme</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin is set to launch the expansion of the state government's breakfast scheme for primary school children to government-aided schools on July 15, coinciding with the birth anniversary of K Kamaraj, a revered leader. <p>Key points:</p> <p>Beneficiaries and Scope:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● This initiative will benefit 2,23,536 children enrolled in 3,995 government-aided primary schools across Tamil Nadu.● The scheme aims to ensure nutritional support to students, enhancing their learning environment. <p>Launch Details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The launch event will take place at St Anne's school in Keelacheri village, Tiruvallur district.● This date holds significance as 'Kalvi Valarchi Naal,' or Education Development Day, honoring K Kamaraj's legacy in educational reform.



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	<p>Scheme Progression:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Initially launched on September 15, 2022, the scheme covered 1.14 lakh students in Classes 1 to 5 across 1,545 government primary schools.Following its statewide expansion on August 25, 2023, it extended to all 30,992 state-run primary schools, benefitting approximately 18.50 lakh students.Including government-aided schools, the total beneficiaries now reach 21.87 lakh students.
<p>Amendments to Tamil Nadu Prohibition Act</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The recent amendments to the Tamil Nadu Prohibition Act, 1937, have officially come into force.These changes were implemented following the state government's notification and the passage of the bill by the Assembly on June 29. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The amendments introduce several significant changes to the Act.Notably, the penalties for offences such as the manufacture, possession, and sale of illicit liquor have been significantly increased.The fines for heinous offences, which include the loss of lives, have been raised from Rs 5,000 to Rs 10 lakh.Additionally, all movable properties used in committing these offences will be confiscated, and unlicensed premises used for the consumption of liquor will be sealed.Heinous offences under the Act have been classified as non-compoundable, meaning they cannot be settled out of court.The Principal Act already mandates a life sentence for individuals involved in such offences when they result in fatalities.For other offences, the amendments stipulate rigorous imprisonment for a term ranging from a minimum of five years to a maximum of ten years, accompanied by fines ranging from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh.