TAMIL NADU

- Tamil Nadu Forest Policy 2018

- Released by – Hon’ble CM, Tamil Nadu

- Received by – Dindugal C Srinivasan, Forest Minister, Tamil Nadu
 **Keypoints**

- The state to enforce strictly the norms stipulated by Forest (conservation) Act, 1980
- To increase forest and tree cover to 33% by 2030, as per the Nation Forest Policy, 1988, from the present 21.76%
- To enhance Women participation in village forest communities
- To remove the encroachments inside the reserve forests
- To provide all the required facilities to Forest protection staff
- To train special teams for anti-poaching operations
- To seek the help of local villagers for re-afforestation
- To develop Mangroves as ‘Bio shield’ along the coast
- To progressively increase the budget allocation for Forest department every year to fulfill these goals of the Policy

 **Tamil Nadu** - has about 30.92% of the forest declared as 'protected areas' and has

- 15 wildlife sanctuaries,
- 5 National parks,
- 15 bird sanctuaries,
- 3 biosphere reserves and
- 4 project tiger areas
- Tamil Nadu - Vandalur Zoological Park (Chennai) – A new 6 month old Lion cub named as ‘Jaya’ by the CM
  - He also announced a new Rhinoceros from Patna Zoological park to be brought to Vandalur Park

- India’s largest lithium-ion battery factory to come up in Krishnagiri
  - The Raasi Group, in partnership with the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research-Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CSIR-CECRI), Karaikudi, is planning to set up a 1 GW lithium-ion battery manufacturing plant in Krishnagiri at an outlay of Rs. 1,000 crore. The company is co-developing lithium-ion cells with the two institutes under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model.

- Bihar – passes Bihar Prohibition and Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2018 – diluting some of the stringent provisions in the earlier Act

- Bihar – launches ‘online’ direct transfer of Diesel subsidy to the farmer’s bank accounts

- Uttar Pradesh – submits its 1st draft of ‘Vision Document’ on Tajmahal

  **Key points**
  - The entire zone to be declared ‘plastic-free’
  - All polluting industries in the region to be closed
  - More tourism hubs to be created
  - No construction on Yamuna floodplains and river banks
✓ To formulate a comprehensive traffic management plan for pedestrian movement

➢ Odisha – launches ‘Green Mahanadhi Mission’

✓ Inaugurated by – Mr Naveen Patnaik, CM of Odisha

✓ Objective – a plantation drive to plant 2 crore saplings along the river Mahanadi and its tributaries – to stop the soil erosion and groundwater recharge
- **Maharashtra** - Tata Technologies & Vidarbha Defence Industries Association – signs MoU for setting up an aerospace and defence centre in Nagpur

- **Rajasthan** – launches ‘Bijli Mitra’ App – for replacement of defunct Transformers within 6 hours of the complaint registration

  ✓ Launched from Jhalwara district on a pilot basis by the CM, Vasundhara Raje

- **Parliament** – passes **Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, 2018**

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- **Bribery**
  - **What is new**
    - Giving a bribe is now an offence, punishable by a 7-year prison term
  - **What it was**
    - No specific provision, except as abetment

- **Pre-investigation approval**
  - **What is new**
    - Police officer cannot begin probe without prior approval of relevant authority or govt (except when caught red-handed)
  - **What it was**
    - No such provision in the Act, but a rule similar to it was struck down by Supreme Court

- **Sanction for prosecution**
  - **What is new**
    - Sanction needed for prosecuting former officials for offences done while in office
  - **What it was**
    - Sanction was required under PCA for serving officers only

- **Criminal misconduct**
  - **What is new**
    - Only two forms of criminal misconduct.
  - **What it was**
    - There were five kinds: omitted ones are taking bribe habitually, getting anything free or at a concession, obtaining pecuniary advantage for oneself or for another without public interest

- **Forfeiture of property**
  - **What is new**
    - Section introduced for Special Court under this Act to attach and confiscate property
  - **What it was**
    - This was not done under the Prevention of Corruption Act, but under a 1944 ordinance through civil courts
‘Childline 1098’ - India’s first 24-hour, toll-free, emergency phone service for children in need of aid and assistance

Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018 - launched in UP, Jharkhand and Maharashtra

✓ Ministry in-charge – Min of Drinking water and sanitation
✓ Launch – July 13th 2018

17 Iconic Tourist sites – to be developed by Min of Tourism

✓ Uttar Pradesh- Taj Mahal & FatehpurSikri
✓ Maharashtra- Ajanta & Ellora
✓ Delhi- Humayun’s Tomb, Red Fort & QutubMinar
✓ Goa- Colva beach
✓ Rajasthan- Amer Fort
✓ Gujarat- Somnath & Dholavira
✓ Madhya Pradesh- Khajuraho
Karnataka- Hampi
Tamil Nadu- Mahabalipuram
Assam- Kaziranga
Kerala- Kumarakom
Bihar- Mahabodhi

- **Reduction in Maternal mortality and Infant mortality in India** (for one lakh births)
  - Time period – 2011-2013 to 2014-16
  - Maternal mortality – 167 to 130
  - Infant mortality – 160 to 130
  - By 2025, MMR to come down to 70 per one lakh births
PM’s Visit to Uganda

- India & Uganda – sign 4 Agreements – in the areas of Defence cooperation, visa exemption for official and diplomatic passport holders, cultural exchange programme and material testing laboratory

- India announced two Lines of Credit worth nearly US $200 million to Uganda.

- India will also render vehicles, ambulances and cancer therapy machine to Uganda.

PM Modi also offered to build a commemoration centre in Kampala in memory of Mahatma Gandhi.

- PM Modi – becomes the 1st Indian PM to make keynote address at Ugandan Parliament

- Capital of Uganda – Kampala

- President of Uganda – Yoweri Museveni

- Currency of Uganda – Ugandan Shilling
10th edition of BRICS summit – begins in Johannesburg, South Africa on July 25, 2018

- Theme - BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for inclusive growth and shared prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution

- BRICS – acronym for the constituent countries, Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa

- Term BRIC coined by – Jim O’ Neill, Global economist at Goldman Sachs in 2001

- 1st BRIC Summit – 2009 – Russia

- South Africa – admitted into BRIC from 2010

- All the BRICS countries are members of G20
As per IMF, the BRICS countries generated 22.53 per cent of the world GDP in 2015 and contributed more than 50 per cent of world economic growth during the last 10 years.

➢ **2\(^{nd}\) Meeting of ‘National council on India’s Nutrition challenges’** under POSHAN Abhiyan - held in New Delhi

- Chairman – Rajiv kumar, Vice chairman of NITI Aayog

- National Nutrition Month – to be celebrated every year in September

- Poshan Abhiyan – launched by the PM on 8\(^{th}\) Mar 2018 from Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan
Myanmar – to host ASEAN Education Minister’s Meeting – in Oct 2018

☑️ ASEAN partners - India, China, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Russia, the US and Australia.

Ireland – to hold International conference of Female parliamentarians – in Sep 2018 at Dublin

Telstar 19 Vantage, a Communication satellite of Canada’s ‘Telesat’ – becomes the heaviest payload satellite ever launched by Falcon 9 rocket of SpaceX

☑️ It weighs over 7000 kg
DEFENCE EXERCISE

- **Pitch Black – 18 (PB-18)** – Indian Air Force participates for the 1st time in the Multinational exercise in Australia – hosted by Royal Australian Air Force

- PB-18 – 1st PB exercise took place in 1981

- This is IAF’s 3rd Multilateral Air combat exercise in the last 3 years, after Red flag (US-2016) and Blue flag (Israel-2017) exercises

- IAF contingent Composition - 145 air-warriors, including four Sukhoi Su-30 MKIs, an Ilyushin tanker, an Ilyushin Il-78 tanker, a Lockheed Martin C-130J-30 Super Hercules, and a Boeing C-17 Globemaster transport aircraft.

- Participating countries – 12 (Australia, Canada, India, Germany, Indonesia, France (New Caledonia), Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and United States)
PERSONALITIES

- Andrzej Bargiel (Poland) – becomes 1st person to ‘Ski’ down K2, World’s 2nd highest Mountain, in Pakistan

- K2 (of height 8,611 m) – is also called as ‘Savage Mountain’ and is considered more challenging to climb than Mount Everest (of height 8,848 m)

RANKINGS


- Rooftop solar installations in India have crossed 1 Giga Watt (at 1095.41 MW)

- Top 3 states
  1. Maharashtra (145.09 MW)
  2. Gujarat (136.21 MW)
  3. Tamil Nadu (123.91 MW)
Target by 2022 – 40 GW of grid connected rooftop solar capacity

SPORTS

15th National Junior Athletics Championships, Vadodara

Medal Winners from Tamil Nadu

- Gold – K Gokul (Triple jump)
- Silver – Thabita (100m race)
19th Kargil Vijay Diwas – celebrated for 3 days from 24th July to 26th July at Drass War Memorial in Jammu and Kashmir

Kargil War

- Period – May to July 1999 (2 months)
- Named as – Operation Vijay

BOOKS & AUTHORS

Ramachandra Guha

GANDHI
the years that changed the world
1914-1948
HISTORY OF LOK PAL

A long-drawn debate
A short history of the Lokpal Bill from the 1960s to the present

1963: The idea of an Ombudsman first came up in Parliament during a discussion on budget allocation for the Law Ministry

1966: The First Administrative Reforms Commission recommended two independent authorities — one at the Centre and one at the

State level — to probe complaints against public functionaries, including MPs

1968: Lokpal Bill introduced in Parliament, but was not passed. Eight attempts were made till 2011 to pass the Bill, but all in vain

2002: The Constitution review commission headed by M.N. Venkatachaliah recommended appointment of the Lokpal and the Lokayuktas. It also recommended that the Prime Minister be kept out of the Lokpal’s ambit

2005: The second ARC recommended that a Lokpal be established without delay

2013: Lokpal Act, 2013, passed in Parliament

2016: Lok Sabha agreed to amend the 2013 Act

2017: The SC on April 27 clarified that the Lokpal appointment process need not be stalled merely due to the absence of the Leader of the Opposition, who is a member of the Lokpal selection committee as per the 2013 Act
DIP IN LEFT WING VIOLENCE

RECENT FIRE IN EUROPE

Greece’s deadliest blazes in more than a decade have left 74 dead after wildfires ravaged the seaside areas around Athens. The bodies of 26 people, including children, were discovered in the courtyard of a villa at the seaside resort of Mati — the devastation blamed on winds of more than 100 kilometres per hour forcing the flames through the village. More than 160 people have been wounded, including several children, the government said.

Sweden’s emergency services said Tuesday there are 21 active wildfires across the country as much of Scandinavia baked in a heatwave. Some 62,000 acres of land has already gone up in smoke or continues to burn — an area twice the size of the city of Paris.

Finland

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Norway

Norway, which experienced its hottest May temperatures on record, has experienced several small fires. One firefighter was killed on July 15 trying to contain a blaze.

Latvia

Fires have raged for almost a week in Latvia, destroying more than 800 hectares in the Baltic state’s western regions.

Germany

The German Meteorological Service DWD has warned of a significant risk of fires in fields and forests due to high temperatures.

United Kingdom

Parts of the UK continue to experience a prolonged heatwave.

The government has issued a “heat-health watch” alert for much of east and south-east England. Twelve bridges in Amsterdam have been closed as the extreme heat could buckle the metal, the NOS public broadcaster reported.

Plants in my garden caught fire. I ran out of my house like a crazy person, got to the beach and put my head in the water. Then the patrol boats came.

Athenasia Oktapodi, resident of Attica, Greece
SCALE AND REACH OF FARM LOAN WAIVERS

Here is a look at how much of the loans of debt-ridden farmer households have been waived off across the country.

Amount in 2015-16 2016-17 2017-18 2018-19

Punjab
- 308.49
- 1372.39

Jammu & Kashmir
- 12.71
- 54.29
- 0.75

Uttar Pradesh
- 63.9
- 0
- 8457.68
- 496.12

Maharashtra
- 6339.82
- 467.2

Karnataka
- 8165

Chhattisgarh
- 129.77
- 5.37

Telangana
- 1482.99
- 1478.65
- 1479.46

Andhra Pradesh
- 84.043
- 763.496
- 675.52
- 23.64

Tamil Nadu
- 5318.75
- 0
- 0

Puducherry
- 19.31
- 0
- 0

[Map showing the scale and reach of farm loan waivers across different states with specific figures for each state and year.]