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Tamil Nadu: 19-04-2024

Tamil Nadu tops electronics exports

Exceeds Target



\$9 bn

Target set by state for 2023-24

₹4.6 bn

Electronic exports from Karnataka

15

leading electronics manufacturers in TN, including Foxconn, Tata Electronics, Salcomp and Pegatron

48%

TN, Karnataka share in electronics exports from India

32.8%

TN's share of electronics exports from India

*Source: Department of Commerce

Why in news?

- **Tamil Nadu** has become a **major hub for electronics exports in India**.
- In the financial year **2023-24**, Tamil Nadu achieved a record-breaking **\$9.56 billion in electronics exports**.
- This accounts for around **33% of the total exports of the country**.

Key points:

- The significant growth is largely due to the **aggressive India push from global major Apple and its contractors** such as Foxconn and Pegatron, along with suppliers like Tata Electronics and Salcomp.
- The two southern states, **Tamil Nadu and Karnataka**, together **contribute to nearly 50% of electronics exports** from the country.
- This growth has occurred even as India's total exports contracted by 3%.

Tata's \$1 bn plant in TN to make Jaguar Land Rover

Why in news?

- **Tata Motors** is planning to build a **new plant in Tamil Nadu, India**, with an investment of **\$1 billion**.
- The new plant will **manufacture Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) luxury cars**.

Key points:

- This marks the **first time that JLR-branded cars will be manufactured from scratch in India**.
- The plan includes both **domestic sales and exports**.
- This is a significant development for the automotive industry in India and for Tata Motors in particular. It also **reinforces Tamil Nadu's position as a major hub for automobile manufacturing**.

Election related issues heard by Madras HC

Why in news?

- The **Madras High Court** observed that the **cash seized from persons or premises related to BJP**



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	<p>candidate Nainar Nagendran does not warrant disqualification of his candidature.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The court dismissed another petition seeking cross-verification of votes polled in EVM with the Voter Verification Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT). The court said that the Supreme Court was already apprised of the issue. <p>About EVMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) are used to record and tally votes in an electronic format, replacing traditional paper ballots and manual counting methods.• Purpose: To streamline the voting process, enhance accuracy, and speed up the tallying of election results.• EVM Components: Typically consists of two units, the control unit and the balloting unit, linked by a cable. The control unit is operated by election officials, while voters interact with the balloting unit.• The Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) were first used in India in 1982 during a by-election in the Parur Assembly constituency of Kerala. <p>About Voter-Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• VVPAT is a system that provides a physical printout of the voter's ballot as it was cast electronically.• It serves as a means for voters to verify that their vote has been recorded accurately and to audit the electronic results.• It was first introduced in India in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections.
<p>'Forever chemicals' in Chennai water bodies</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Southern Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has expressed concerns about the presence of 'forever chemicals' in Chennai waterbodies.• The bench took suo motu cognisance of chemical contamination in Buckingham Canal, Adyar River, and Chembarambakkam Lake based on news reports on a study done by Indian Institute of



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Technology Madras.

Key points:

- The study noted the presence of **polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)**, **synthetic chemicals** that **do not degrade in the environment**, in surface level waters, groundwater, and even treated water treatment plant near the lake.
- PFAS are known to have **adverse health effects** such as liver damage, hormonal imbalance, immune system effects, and even cancer.

About forever chemical:

- "Forever chemicals" is a colloquial term commonly used to refer to **per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)**.
- These are a **group of man-made chemicals** that are notable for their **persistence in the environment and in human and animal bodies**, where they can accumulate over time.
- **Persistence:** PFAS are extremely durable and **resistant to typical environmental degradation processes**, which is why they are called "**forever chemicals**."
- **Widespread Use:** These chemicals have been used in various industries since the 1940s for their water- and grease-resistant properties.



Vote-from-home exercise in Idukki

Why in news?



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Lok Sabha constituency

- A special polling team trekked 18 kilometres inside the deep forest under the Idukki Lok Sabha constituency to record a single home vote.
- The trek was part of the 'vote-from-home' exercise meant for senior citizens aged above 85 and differently abled voters.
- The team trekked to the Nooradi tribal settlement under the Munnar forest division.

About Vote-from-home exercise:

- The "Vote-from-home" option is designed to make voting more accessible to certain segments of the electorate who may find it difficult to visit polling stations due to health or mobility issues.
- **Targeted Voters:** Primarily aimed at elderly voters above the age of 80 and persons with disabilities (PwD).
- **Voluntary Participation:** Eligible voters can choose to opt for this method voluntarily; it is not mandatory.
- **Application Process:** Voters must apply in advance to avail themselves of this facility. They need to fill out a form (**Form 12D**) and submit it to the returning officer.



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Who is eligible to avail the vote-for-home facility?



People aged 85
and above



Persons with
Disabilities

The disability shall
not be less than 40%
of the prescribed
handicap and
certified by the
certifying authority



Mediapersons
covering
'polling day
activities'

Carrying
authorisation letters
from the Election
Commission



Workers from
essential
services

Services such as
metros, railways and
health care



Service voters

Personnel of the
armed forces posted
away from their
hometowns, Central
Armed Police Forces
personnel deployed
away from home and
those on poll duty

TNAU invented a lever-operated sugarcane mother shoot cutter

Why in news?

- The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) has invented a lever-operated sugarcane mother shoot cutter for the Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative (SSI).

Key points:

- The tool is designed to cut the plant just one inch above the ground once sugarcane seedlings are established.
- Traditionally, secateurs, knives, and sickles are used for this task, but their operational efficiency is limited.
- This invention not only reduces cultivation costs but also significantly alleviates the toil experienced by agricultural labourers.
- It contributes to enhancing even tillers and increasing the number of millable canes per plant.
- The tool can cut approximately 1200 sugarcane mother shoots per hour.



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- The cost of the tool is ₹1,000.
- TNAU has secured patent rights from the Central Government for 20 years.