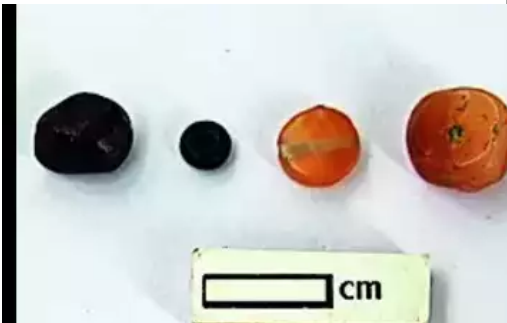




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TN CA 25 July 2024

<p>Artificial reefs</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artificial reefs are man-made structures placed on the seabed to mimic natural reefs. • Recently, 300 such reefs were deployed off the coast of Rameshwaram, Tamil Nadu, to boost sustainable fishing and marine biodiversity. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These reefs, made of sand, blue metal, cement, and steel, provide a habitat for various marine species, including fish, algae, and corals. • By attracting fish to these areas, they reduce pressure on natural reefs and help increase fish populations. • These reefs will benefit hook-and-line fishermen from the fishing villages of Erakadu, Karaiyur, Kudiyiruppu, Mangadu, Olaikuda, Serankottai, Vadakadu and Sembai. • The artificial reefs were deployed at three locations, 3 nautical miles offshore, at a depth of 6 metres. The project is supported by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India (MOEF&CC) GEF SGP, UNDP and TERI, and is reportedly worth `40 lakh.
<p>52 beads unearthed at Porpanai Kottai site</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A recent excavation at the Porpanaikottai archaeological site in Pudukottai district, Tamil Nadu, yielded a significant discovery of 52 ornamental beads. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While the second phase of excavation is underway in six trenches — B21, B22, C20, C22, A22, and G27, the carnelian beads were found in B22 and A22 trenches at 13-15 cm from the ground level. • One of the carnelian beads was found drilled with a hole, likely to create an ornamental jewel. • The hole on the other bead remains unfinished. • The beads weigh 0.2g and 0.7g respectively. • The presence of an unfinished carnelian bead and the large quantity of beads suggest the possibility of a thriving bead-making industry in the region.



தமிழ்



Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The discovery of carnelian beads is particularly noteworthy as these stones are primarily found in North India. • This indicates active trade and commercial relations between the northern and southern parts of the Indian subcontinent during the period. • Other artifacts unearthed at the site include conch bangles, pottery fragments, a gold nose stud, and copper objects. • These findings collectively contribute to a deeper understanding of the region's history, culture, and trade networks.
<p>Applications invited for Tamil Nadu tourism awards</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tamil Nadu Tourism Department has invited applications for the third edition of Tamil Nadu Tourism Awards. • The awards aim to recognize and reward excellence in the tourism industry. • This annual event, held in conjunction with World Tourism Day celebrations on September 27, honors achievements, leadership, and innovation within the state's tourism industry. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective: To encourage competition, innovation, and overall improvement in the tourism sector. • Eligibility: Open to various stakeholders including tour operators, hotels, restaurants, travel partners, and individuals. • Award Categories: Best inbound tour operator, best domestic tour operator, best travel partner, best airline partner, best accommodation, best restaurant, Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation star performer, tourism promotion award (best district), cleanest tourism destination, etc.,
<p>TN's electronics exports to hit \$12 billion mark in the current fiscal (FY25)</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tamil Nadu is poised to achieve a significant milestone in electronics exports. • The state is projected to reach a remarkable \$12 billion in exports during the current fiscal year (FY25). • This represents a substantial increase from the previous year's record-breaking \$9.6 billion exports during FY24, accounting for nearly 33% of India's total exports in the segment. • It thus solidified Tamil Nadu's position as a leading electronics manufacturing hub in India.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This growth is expected to create numerous high-quality jobs and contribute significantly to the state's economy.
<p>Aadhaar mandatory for 'Tamil Pudhalvan' scheme</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Tamil Nadu government has announced that Aadhaar will be mandatory for all beneficiaries of the 'Tamil Pudhalvan' scheme.The scheme aims to provide financial assistance to students pursuing higher educationIt will now require beneficiaries to submit their Aadhaar number in order to be eligible for benefits.The government has stated that this move is aimed at ensuring that benefits reach only the genuine beneficiaries and to prevent fraudulent claims.The decision has been met with mixed reactions from the public, with some welcoming the move and others expressing concerns about the privacy implications of Aadhaar being made mandatory for government schemes. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Tamil Pudhalvan is a financial assistance scheme introduced by the TN government to support male students pursuing higher education. <p>Key Features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Monthly Stipend: Eligible students receive a monthly stipend of Rs. 1,000/- to cover educational expenses like books, stationery, and fees.Eligibility: The scheme is primarily targeted at boys who have completed their schooling in government schools.Objective: To encourage higher education among male students from government schools and improve their overall academic performance.
<p>Minister Saminathan represents TN at UNESCO's Heritage Committee session</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">TN Minister for Information and Publicity, MP Saminathan, represented the state at the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee held in Delhi.This significant event, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, focused on India's rich heritage and cultural legacy.Minister Saminathan's participation underscores Tamil Nadu's commitment to preserving its historical and cultural heritage on a global platform.The session provided an opportunity to highlight the state's unique contributions to India's rich tapestry.



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