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TN CA 24 July 2024

Tamil Nadu Protects Green Cover	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Tamil Nadu has been successful in conserving its forest cover, with only 127 hectares diverted for development projects in the last five years. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">This is the second-lowest diversion rate in India, after Meghalaya.The state has also seen an increase in forest cover in recent years, due to initiatives such as the Tamil Nadu Forest Department's Green Corridor Project.This project has helped to connect fragmented forest areas, and has also led to the creation of new wildlife habitats.
'Naan Mudhalvan' scheme	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">TN's 'Naan Mudhalvan' scheme is a transformative initiative aimed at empowering students from marginalized communities, particularly Adi Dravidars and Tribals.By providing comprehensive support, including coaching and mentorship, the program is enabling these students to crack highly competitive exams like JEE, NEET, and NIFT.Through 'Naan Mudhalvan', Tamil Nadu is making significant strides in creating a more inclusive and equitable society. <p>Key benefits of the scheme include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Bridging the gap: Leveled the playing field for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.Skill development: Focuses on holistic development, beyond academics, to ensure all-round growth.Increased representation: More students from marginalized communities are gaining admission to prestigious institutions.Inspiring hope: Serves as a beacon of hope, motivating students to dream big and achieve their full potential.
Tamil Nadu Breaks Mallakhamb World Record	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Tamil Nadu made history by setting a new world record in Mallakhamb.



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	<p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 1,000 athletes gathered to showcase their skills in this traditional Indian martial art, combining strength and agility. • The event, held in Villupuram, aimed to honor the 'Father of Mallakhamb', Ulagadurai, on his 85th birthday. • With 100 mallakhamb poles and 10 athletes on each, the participants performed for a continuous 17 minutes, creating a mesmerizing spectacle. • This achievement not only highlights the talent of Tamil Nadu's athletes but also brings global attention to the rich heritage of Mallakhamb. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mallakhamb is a unique and ancient Indian sport that combines elements of gymnastics, yoga, and martial arts. • It involves performing acrobatic feats on a vertical pole or rope. • It is believed to have originated as a training method for wrestlers, with "malla" meaning wrestler and "khamb" meaning pole. • Practitioners execute a variety of poses and movements, demonstrating incredible strength, flexibility, and balance.
<p>Centre Approves Site for New Tamil Nadu Airport</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Union government has granted site clearance for the development of a new greenfield airport in Parandur, Tamil Nadu. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This major step forward comes after a thorough evaluation by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, in consultation with relevant authorities. • The Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) is the lead agency for this project and will be responsible for its implementation, including land acquisition and funding. • With this approval, the state government can now proceed with the next phases of the project, aiming to alleviate air traffic congestion in Chennai and boost regional development.
<p>Madras HC Directs Protection of Nagara Mandapas</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Madras High Court has ordered the protection of historical Nagara Mandapas located along the Madurai-Kollam NH 744.



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Key points:

- These ancient structures, estimated to be around **400 years old**, are considered significant cultural heritage.
- The court expressed concern over the **dilapidated condition of these mandapas** and the threat of encroachments.
- It has directed the state archaeology department and district authorities to:
 - Identify all Nagara Mandapas in Madurai and Virudhunagar districts.
 - Take permanent measures to protect the identified mandapas within five months.
- This **decision aims to preserve these invaluable cultural artifacts for future generations.**