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History, Art and Culture

Maritime Expedition in South East Asia

- **Conquest by –** *Rajendra Chola I (1014 to 1044 AD)*, son of Rajaraja Chola I.
- He was the *1st Indian ruler to wage overseas campaigns*, expanding Chola power into South and Southeast Asia.
- **Campaigns in –** *Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Nicobar, Lakshadweep, Kedah, Tambralinga, and Burma*, marking the rise of one of India's first blue-water navies.
- **Title –** Kadaram Kondan ('Conqueror of Kedah') following his 1025 CE naval victory over the Srivijaya Empire in Southeast Asia."
- **Inscription –** *Tiruvalangadu copper plates* merely mentions kadaram conquest.

Conservation of Chola temples

- **List of Temples –**
  - Brihadeeswara temple, Thanjavur.
  - Brihadeeswara temple, Gangaikonda Cholapuram.
  - Airavateswarar temple, Darasuram.
- **Legal basis –**
  - Jurisdiction of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
  - Requirement and availability of resources subject to the National Policy for Conservation, 2014.
  - UNESCO guidelines.

Geography

National Mapping Data

- **Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS) –** A network of 1145 CORS, which is capable of providing real-time positioning service with centimetre level accuracy.
  - It has been established in collaboration with Survey of India.
  - High accuracy Geoid model for 10 states has been developed.
- **ABDB –** A single authoritative *Administrative Boundary Data Base (ABDB)* has been developed in collaboration with Survey of India and Office of the Registrar General of India and Census Commissioner.
- **Aligned with –** Internationally accepted standards, notified by *Bureau of India Standards (BIS)* and prescribed *by International Organization for Standardization (ISO)* and other global standard-setting bodies.
- **National Geospatial Mission –** Union Budget (2025-26) to develop foundational geospatial infrastructure and datasets.

Polity & Governance

PLASTINDIA 2026

- It is the 12th edition of this triennial event and among the world's largest plastics exhibitions.
- **Held in –** New Delhi, with the support of the **Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals (DCPC)**, Ministry of chemicals and fertilizers.
- **5 strategic pillars –** Trade, Technology, Talent, Tradition, and Tourism.
- **Theme –** "Bharat Next".
- **Active participation –** Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET).
- **Significance –** It aligns with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of **Atmanirbhar Bharat** and **Viksit Bharat.**

Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET)

- **Formerly known as –** Central Institute of Plastics Engineering & Technology (CIPET).
- **Established in –** 1968 by Government of India with the assistance of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at Chennai.
- **Objective –** To set up of this specialized institute was to develop manpower in different disciplines of Plastics Engineering & Technology as no similar institute was in existence in the country.
- **Executing agency –** International Labour Organization (ILO).
- **Initial project –** Between 1968 and 1973, it met its goals and was hailed as one of UNDP's most successful global projects.

Economy
Credit-Linked Schemes • **Implemented by –** Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, through *National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC).* • **Eligibility –** A persons having an annual family income of up to Rs.5.00 lakh. • **Objective –** To promote self-employment and income-generating activities among persons belonging to Scheduled Castes.
National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) • **Established in –** 1989, by Government of India with the name National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSCSTFDC). • **Incorporated as –** A fully owned Government of India Company under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013 (Previously Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956). • **Bifurcation into –** 2 separate corporations (one each for SCs & STs). • **Objective –** To promote prosperity among Scheduled Castes by improving flow of financial assistance and through skill development & other innovative initiatives. • **Assistance through –** Micro Finance Scheme, Term Loan Scheme, Educational Loan Scheme, Aajeevika Microfinance Yojana, and Udyam Nidhi Yojana.

Bharat Taxi

- India's 1st *cooperative-led ride-hailing platform.*
- **Established in –** 2025.
- **Registered under –** Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002.
- **Implementation –** It aims to expand to *all States and cities* across the country within the *next two years.*
- **Features –**
  - **Operates on –** A *zero-commission and surge-free pricing model*, with direct distribution of profits to drivers.
  - **Indigenization –** Alternative to *foreign investment-based aggregator platforms.*
  - **Social security** – For Sarathis through health insurance, accident insurance, retirement savings, and a dedicated driver support system.
  - **Support centres** – Operated at seven key locations in Delhi.
  - Rapid emergency assistance, verified ride data, and allows drivers the freedom to work on other platforms without any exclusivity clauses.
  - **Implementation of Bike Didi –** Over 150 women drivers have joined, advancing women's empowerment.

Security

13th edition of Exercise Khanjar

- **Joint Special Forces Exercise between –** India and Kyrgyzstan.
- **Commenced in –** Missamari, Assam.
- **Last edition conducted in –** Kyrgyzstan in 2025.
- **Objectives –** To exchange best practices and experiences in Counter Terrorism and Special Forces Operations in urban and mountainous terrain.
- To focus on developing advanced Special Forces skills of sniping, complex building intervention and mountain craft.
- **Significance –** It reaffirms the commitment of India and Kyrgyzstan towards fostering peace, stability and security in the region.