



TATHASTU
Institute Of Civil Services

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

1st December, 2025



TATHASTU
Institute Of Civil Services



9560300770



www.tathastuics.com



enquiry@tathastuics.com

Plot No.B 22, Bada Bazar Road, Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi-110060

Topics Covered

- **AIDS and TB fight, Pg-8**
- **Commonwealth Games, Pg-8**
- **India needs research pipelines, Pg-9**
- **Kashi Tamil Sangamam , Pg-14**
- **Electricity related fatalities in India , Pg-9**
- **Great Nicobar Projects's biodiversity site, Pg-14**

AIDS and TB fight — Tamil Nadu shows the way again

On World AIDS Day today (December 1), let us rewind to the mid-1980s, when Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) was devastating a whole generation of young adults in southern and eastern African nations. Many countries in this region had prevalence rates that were in double digits. With no treatment at that time, almost everyone infected with HIV developed AIDS in a few years and “opportunistic infections” such as tuberculosis (TB) or diarrhoea, which resulted in high levels of mortality.

By the early 1990s, India was in a similar situation, with HIV prevalent in almost all parts of the country – though below 1% of the adult population, mainly transmitted through unprotected heterosexual sex, except in a few north-eastern States where it was transmitted through the sharing of needles by youngsters addicted to narcotic drugs.

The TNSACS model

The Government of India responded quickly and launched the National AIDS Control Project in 1992 with a soft loan of \$84 million from the World Bank. Every State government set up an AIDS Cell in the respective medical directorates. But fund flow through the Central and then the State government machinery was very slow. A solution was found in 1994 by Tamil Nadu. The State AIDS Cell was converted into a Registered Society named the Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society or TNSACS (www.tnsacs.in) under the Societies Registration Act. This facilitated a direct fund flow to TNSACS with a fair degree of autonomy in implementation.

With no cure or even treatment for HIV at that time, quickly raising awareness among the adult



S. Ramasundaram

is a retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, Tamil Nadu, and, formerly, Project Director, TN State AIDS Control Society (1996-98) and Consultant, The World Bank for India's National AIDS Control Project (1998-99)

The Tamil Nadu model will help in TB control, just as it helped cut HIV infections in the 1990s

population through targeted campaigns was the best strategy. This led to a steep drop in new infections and a plateauing of cumulative infections in Tamil Nadu, once considered a “hot spot” for HIV infections.

On witnessing the success of this model, the Government of India and the World Bank mandated the Tamil Nadu model for all the States in the Second National AIDS Control Project (1997-2002). Soon, every State converted its AIDS cell into an AIDS Control Society and launched vigorous awareness campaigns. As a result, India's adult HIV prevalence rate came down from a peak of 0.54% in the year 2000 to a low of 0.22% now.

The 2025 Global TB Report of the World Health Organization (WHO) paints a grim picture for India – 25% of the total number of people infected with TB globally (36 million) are in India. Compare this with the numbers for the AIDS epidemic – 7.5% of the global total number of people living with HIV (40 million) are in India. TB is the most common opportunistic infection in HIV-infected people, accounting for 25% of AIDS deaths in India. Further, India also has 25% of the global total number of people infected with multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB).

Response to the AIDS and TB epidemic

While the global target date for elimination of TB is 2030, India had set an ambitious target of achieving this by 2025, five years ahead of the global target date. Though this target has not been achieved in India as the year 2025 is coming to a close, the pace of decline in new TB cases is faster in India when compared to the global level. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has accorded very high priority for the testing and reporting of TB

infections in achieving the eradication of TB from India. This is critical, especially in view of the HIV-TB co-infection and high MDR-TB cases in India. The Pradhan Mantri TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (PMTBMBA) supports the treatment of TB patients and the support of the community and corporate social responsibility programmes.

Replication in other States

As in the case of almost all social and economic indicators, there is wide variation among the States of India in TB infections also. Just five States – Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan account for 56% of the total TB infections reported in India during 2024. Tamil Nadu has become the first State in the country to integrate a model, which predicts the possibility of TB deaths among patients, with the existing State-wide application which screens them at diagnosis.

The model, developed by the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Epidemiology (ICMR-NIE) will aid the State in bringing down the TB mortality rate. While screening with rapid test kits remains the first step, followed by reporting, starting treatment, nutrition support (in that order), Tamil Nadu has used ICMR-NIE software to reduce the TB burden in the State. The State National Health Mission team and the Central government's State TB Office work closely as partners with the same goal. Such rapid adoption of technologies and an efficient government delivery system of Tamil Nadu are the best model for eradication of TB in India in the next few years, just as the AIDS epidemic was controlled in India in the late 1990s and early 2000s, by adopting the TNSACS model.

The views expressed are personal

Page-8 , GS-3

2030 for 2036

India is trying to showcase Ahmedabad's sports infrastructure in Olympics bid

Exactly two decades after hosting its maiden Commonwealth Games (CWG), India will welcome the quadrennial extravaganza's centenary edition to its shores in 2030. The move is another unmistakable sign that India wants to be seen as a sports destination of repute. The choice of Ahmedabad as the host city is strategic too, for India has submitted the Letter of Intent to hold the 2036 Olympics with Ahmedabad as the front runner. However, while the Olympics retains its allure and grandeur, the CWG has been beset with difficulties. Once signifying the imperial unity of the British empire, the CWG is struggling for relevance in the post-colonial world. Successful host cities have dropped out citing rising costs – Birmingham replaced Durban in 2022; Glasgow has come to the rescue for 2026 after the Australian State of Victoria withdrew, and Ahmedabad has stepped in for the Canadian province of Alberta. Not so long ago, India itself was cold to the competition, with the then Indian Olympic Association president Narinder Batra, in 2009, calling it "sub-standard" – albeit in his personal capacity – and strongly pitching for India's withdrawal. Also, when New Delhi conducted the Games in 2010, there were allegations galore of large-scale corruption and incompetence. So, what merit does India see now? First, it is an important soft-power medium. Second, the nation's sporting aspirations have grown manifold, and though performances by its sports-persons have not kept pace, there is a genuine push toward diversifying on-field excellence and going beyond just cricket. India has world-class heroes such as double-Olympic medalist javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra to showcase, and there is hope that big ticket events, when held in one's backyard, can inspire a generation. There is the infrastructural uplift they can trigger, helping not just the athletes but also the public at large. But there are potential pitfalls too. In sporting terms, the CWG stands diminished. Glasgow 2026 will feature just 10 disciplines, and those such as badminton, hockey, shooting and cricket have been excised. There are very few sports that match up to international standards, for nations such as the United States and China are not part of the Commonwealth. India has won 61, 66, 64, 101 medals in the last four editions, but in the subsequent Olympics, it has secured just six, seven, two and six medals, respectively. India also has an escalating problem with doping, which can mar its standing if left uncontrolled. The financial outlay for the CWG should be kept in mind too, for costs can be prohibitive. Ahmedabad 2030, thus, offers opportunity and hope. It should be used to display a strong present and shape a glorious future.

Page-9, GS-3

India needs research pipelines

India will not meet its growth ambitions on public grants alone. The countries that turned science into industry did one thing well: they matched firm outlays to campus strengths and kept that link steady for years. The policy question is clear: How do we move private research outlays from episodic Corporate Social Responsibility to a predictable pipeline that buys lab time, funds doctoral cohorts, and books pilot lines?

Global benchmarks

Leading tech firms run innovation budgets at industrial scale. In 2024, Meta's research outlay reached about \$44 billion, near a third of revenue. Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, IBM, and Microsoft also reported multibillion-dollar programmes. In the U.S., enterprises booked roughly \$692 billion of domestic research against about \$14 trillion in net sales in 2022, a ratio near 5%. Policy instruments translate that investment into campus partnerships. The National Science Foundation's Industry-University Cooperative Research Centers pool company fees for pre-competitive university work. The Semiconductor Research Corporation funds multi-university consortia that train talent while tackling industry-relevant problems. China's Huawei reported an R&D expenditure at 179.7 billion yuan in 2024, equal to 20.8% of revenue. More than half of Huawei's workforce is in R&D roles. Build Your Dreams, a Chinese multinational auto company, invested \$4.2 billion yuan in 2024 on R&D against roughly 77 billion yuan of revenue, an intensity of nearly 7%. These examples demonstrate one trait. Corporate research works with campuses through joint centres, shared lines, long-horizon consortia and open talent pipelines. India should scale this on Indian terms. The goal is self-reliance with open doors to global science while anchoring



Mamidala Jagadeesh Kumar
Former Chairman, UGC and former Vice-Chancellor, JNU

discovery to India's needs. Private research outlays need size, predictability, and structured linkages with higher education institutions (HEIs).

Today, India's GERD sits near 0.65% of GDP, with enterprises funding about two-fifths. Advanced economies show a higher firm share. Yet India has bright spots. Tata Motors reported revenue of about ₹4.38 lakh crore in FY24 and R&D outlay of ₹29,398 crore, an intensity of 6.7%. Sun Pharma invested 6.7% of global revenues in R&D in FY24. Dr. Reddy's spent ₹22.9 billion, about 8.2% of sales. Bharat Electronics dedicated 6.24% of turnover to R&D in FY24, an important signal in a strategic sector. Reliance Industries recorded over ₹4,400 crore of R&D expenditure in FY2024-25.

In terms of partnerships, India already runs strong platforms. IIT Madras Research Park hosts more than 200 companies near faculty labs and student teams, creating a daily flow of ideas and talent. The Ministry of Defence promotes startup and research lab teaming through IDEX. The India Semiconductor Mission pairs industry investments with skill pipelines and academic partnerships, as seen in the Micron ATPMP project at Sanand.

Policy actions

These strands form a workable base. The task now is to scale them and set clear expectations for private R&D expenditure and university linkages across sectors. First, we must set three-year R&D-to-sales ratios for autos, pharma, electronics, defence, space and energy that climb year by year, balanced with export goals and cash-flow realities. We must use shared IP frameworks that reward publication and commercialisation together. Second, reward co-funded projects and shared facilities and offer matching grants where industry rupees flow through HEIs for multi-year projects with open data deliverables and

industry-relevant key performance indicators. Create a dedicated line item for university-managed pilot lines and testbeds that industry can book by the hour. Seed multi-university centres around a portfolio of problems rather than isolated projects. Third, modernise tax instruments for research. Weighted deductions can focus on measurable outputs such as patents, standards contributions, clinical milestones or field trials. Link incentives to proof of collaboration with accredited HEIs and to hiring graduate researchers into industry roles. Fourth, teach collaboration. Support campus programmes that train faculty and PhD scholars to work with industry, negotiate IP, and run transitional projects. Bring more PhDs into product groups, create dual-track roles with adjunct appointments, and sponsor doctoral cohorts aligned to corporate roadmaps. Fifth, ask listed companies to report R&D investment and the share of spend that flows to Indian HEIs. Disclosure nudges boards to treat research as strategic, not incidental. Publicise results in Indian languages and in practitioner-friendly formats. That builds prestige around research careers and attracts talent.

India's university campuses sit next to some of the world's most dynamic markets, and they carry knowledge traditions that examine technology as part of a broader human inquiry. When corporate research engages that heritage, solutions gain depth and context and match what high-performing corporate R&D needs. India has the labs, talent, and markets. The task before the industry is clear: set transparent targets, match grants that buy real lab time, and collaborate better. The task before academic institutions is straightforward: shape research for measurable value, welcome industry questions, and show evidence of success. Do that, and research becomes a national supply chain, not wishful thinking.

The countries that turned science into industry did one thing well: they matched firm outlays to campus strengths and kept that link steady for years.

Modi urges people to take part in Kashi Tamil Sangamam

It will help strengthen the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat', he says in *Mann Ki Baat* address: PM highlights record production of food grain

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Describing Tamil as the pride of India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged people to participate in the upcoming Kashi Tamil Sangamam as part of the endeavour to strengthen the spirit of "Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat (One India, great India)".

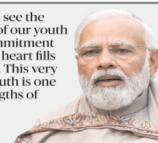
"Tamil culture is great. Tamil language is great. Tamil is the pride of India," Mr. Modi said in Tamil in his *Mann Ki Baat* address. The fourth Kashi Tamil Sangamam, organised on the theme "Learn Tamil-Tamil Karkalam", commences on December 2 at Namoo Ghat in Kashi.

Recounting various recent events, Mr. Modi noted that on November 26, a special event was held at the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan, the old Parliament House, on "Constitution Day". The 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram marked the beginning of an array of nationwide programmes.

Food grain production
Mr. Modi said the country had set a historic record with food grain production of 357 million tonnes, an increase of 100 million tonnes in 10 years. India being declared the host of Commonwealth Games is another major achievement.

Every time I see the dedication of our youth and the spirit of commitment of our scientists, my heart fills up with enthusiasm. This very dedication of the youth is one of the greatest strengths of Viksit Bharat

NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister



ment. He recently inaugurated the world's largest LEAP (leading edge aviation propulsion) engine maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facility in Hyderabad, marking a significant step in augmenting India's aircraft maintenance and repair capability.

Last week, the indigenous designed *INS Mahe* was inducted into the Navy. "People in Puducherry and the Malabar Coast were delighted by the name [of the vessel]. Itself... many in Kerala and Tamil Nadu noted that the warship's crest resembles the traditional flexible sword of Urumi and Kalari payattu," said Mr. Modi.

He underscored the importance of private space company Skyroot's Infinity Campus in giving a fresh boost to India's space ecosystem. He also mentioned a challenge organised by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to fly drones in conditions similar to that of Mars, where GPS navigation is not possible and drones would suddenly fall to the ground. "The drones had to fly with the help of their cameras and inbuilt software...", he said, praising a team from Pune that succeeded in flying its drone in such conditions for some duration after multiple attempts.

Winter tourism

Drawing attention to winter tourism, Mr. Modi urged people to visit the Himalayan valleys. He said this season Uttarakhand attracted a lot of people. He said the Winter Games would be organised there soon.

The "Wed in India" campaign had also picked up in winter, he noted. On Navy-related tourism, he mentioned museums in Gujarat's Diu and Goa and those located in *INS Droonichuray* (Fort Kochi), *Saundriya Naval Marine Museum* in Srivijayapuram, formerly known as Port Blair, *Rabindranath Tagore Beach* in Karwar; and *Visakhapatnam*.

Steady rise in electricity-related fatality rates in India

Most accidents in 2025 occurred due to accidental contact with live wires

DATA POINT

Cheta Sheth,
Yardhan Gupta
Sreekanth Nhalur

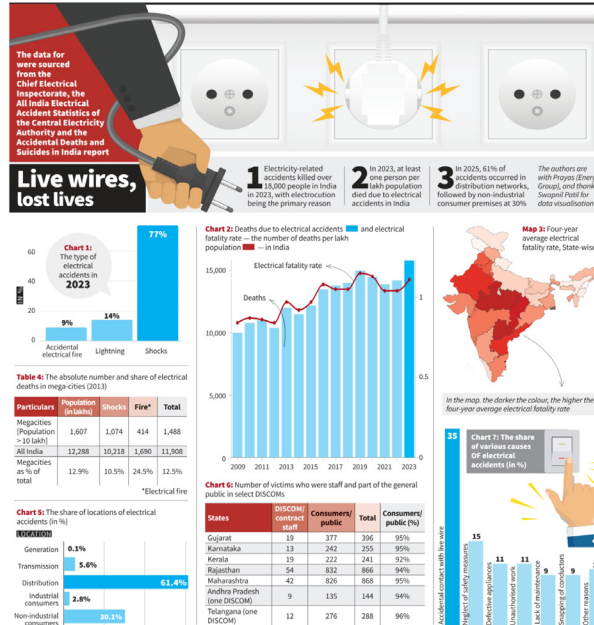
Electricity-related accidents killed over 18,000 people in India in 2023. Electrocution is the primary reason followed by lightning and electrical fire (Chart 1). Over the years, electrical fatality rate – the number of deaths per lakh population – has risen (Chart 2). In 2023, at least one person per lakh population died due to electrical accidents in India. In Japan, Australia, New Zealand, the U.K. and the U.S., the electrical fatality rate was between 0.01 and 0.04.

Among States, the four-year average electrical fatality rate varied widely, ranging from as low as 0.2 in some States to as high as 2.6 in others (Map 3).

Until 2003, the Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India report showed the break-up of electrical deaths in more than 50 megacities. In 2003, around 15% of the total electrical deaths in India occurred in megacities (Table 4). These cities also had a higher proportion of deaths due to electrical fires (25%) and a comparatively smaller share of deaths from shocks (41%).

According to the Chief Electrical Inspectorate, in 2025, 61% of accidents occurred in distribution networks, followed by non-industrial consumer premises at 30% (Chart 5). Given that most accidents occurred at the distribution level, we examined data from select distribution companies (DISCOMs). DISCOMs reported that more than 90% of the victims were general public (Table 6).

Most accidents in 2025 occurred due to accidental contact with live wire (35%) and neglect in safety measures or lack of supervision (15%). This shows poor attention to safety by the DISCOMs and low awareness among the public.



New finds highlight Great Nicobar project site's biodiversity

Pankaj Sekhsaria

A new species of snake with only four records till date, and a potentially new species of bird photographed only thrice in over a decade are among the latest finds from the site of the Great Nicobar Island mega infrastructure project. Described in November, the two are among the nearly 40 new species reported from here since 2021.

These include two species of frogs, four crabs, two geckos and a number of insects, including flies, moths, and beetles. Nearly half of these have been described in 2025 alone.

Named *Lycodon irwini* after the renowned Australian zookeeper Steve Irwin, the new wolf snake was described in the journal *Evolutionary Systematics* by a team of researchers that included R.S. Naveen and S.R. Chandramouli of the Pondicherry University, Zeeshan A. Mirza of the Max Planck Institute for Biology, and naturalist Girish Choure.

Restricted range

Given the snake's rarity, its sharply restricted range and potential threats, the researchers have recommended that it be classified as "Endangered" under the International Union for



A paper on the Great Nicobar Crake was published recently.

Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List criteria.

It is from the same east coast of Great Nicobar that birders Pia Sethi and Nitu Sethi from Delhi and Vikram Shil from Port Blair

had recently published a paper on the Great Nicobar Crake (*Rallina sp.*).

Writing in the journal *Indian Birds*, the authors note that very little is known of its "biology, dis-

tribution, or population status" and suggest this could be a new species to science given the "distinctive set of (its) morphological features, including several novel ones".

1,800 species of fauna

Great Nicobar Island is reported to have 650 species of plants and over 1,800 species of fauna. The region also boasts of remarkable genetic biodiversity, exhibiting about 24% endemism among some faunal groups. The regular discovery of new species, including the latest finds, highlights the island's rich biodiversity.

"I am delighted to hear

of the new snake and of a new species of crake that has been tentatively described from Great Nicobar," said Asad Rahmani, prominent ornithologist and former director of the Bombay Natural History Society.

"Great Nicobar has perhaps the finest tropical rain forest left in India and this calls for its total protection," Dr. Rahmani added.

(Pankaj Sekhsaria is author/editor of seven books on the A&N Islands, including *The Great Nicobar Betrayal* [The Hindu Group, 2024] and *Island on Edge-The Great Nicobar Crisis* [Westland 2025])