

President's Colours

August 4, 2022

In news— The Vice-President of India presented the prestigious 'President's Colours' for the Tamil Nadu Police to the Chief Minister.

Key updates-

- During the award ceremony it was highlighted that the Tamil Nadu Police is among the few police forces in the country to receive the coveted 'President's Colours'.
- Though the **'President's Colours' for the Tamil Nadu Police was approved as early as August 19, 2009** when late leader M. Karunanidhi was the Chief Minister, it could not be presented in all these years.
- The Vice president of India stated that **Tamil Nadu had the first women commando unit in the country.**
- It was under the Chief Ministership of late leader M Karunanidhi that **women police personnel were inducted into the force in 1973, a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country.**

About President's Colour Award-

- It is the **highest honour** that can be bestowed **upon any military unit of India.**
- It is **also known as 'Nishaan'** which is an emblem that is worn by all unit officers on the left-hand sleeve of their uniform.
- The presentation of the award or standards by the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of India (President of India) is **an acknowledgement of the unit's meritorious service.**
- The Indian Navy was the first Indian Armed Force to be awarded the President Colour by Dr Rajendra Prasad on 27 May 1951.

- **Uttar Pradesh Police was the first to receive the award(in 1952) among the States and UTs Police Forces.**
- While the practice of carrying the Colour into battle has stopped, the tradition of receiving, holding and parading the Colour continues even today in the Armed forces.
- To this day, the President's Colours is very significant, if the unit loses their colours, it is a disgrace for that unit and, if the unit captured the enemy's colours then it is a great honour for that unit.
- The **'Standards'** are awarded to Heavy Cavalry and the **'Guidons'** are awarded to Light Cavalry.