

VETRIL IAS STUDY CIRCLE

Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

NOVEMBER 2022 - PART 2



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Head Office

Old No. 52, New No. 1, 9th Street,
F Block, 1st Avenue Main Road, (Near Istha Siddhi Vinayakar Temple), Anna Nagar East – 600 102.
Ph: 044-2626 5326 | 98844 21666 | 98844 32666

Branches

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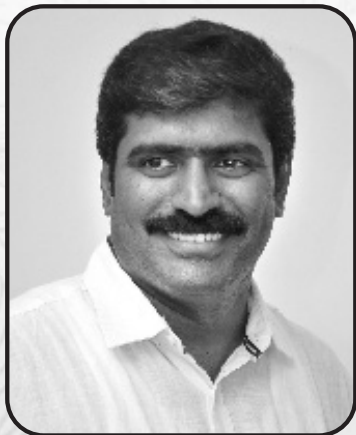
No. 199, Dharshini Tower,
1st Floor, Vaigai Colony,
Anna Nagar,
Madurai - 625 020.
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KOVILPATTI

No. 15, Kathiresan Kovil Road,
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Kovilpatti - 628 501.
Ph: 90037 90335 | 81222 80685

www.vetriias.com

Preface



M. SHUNMUGAM

Director

Vetrii IAS Study Circle.

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My Dear Aspirants,

Greetings to all of you! "What we think we become" Gautama Buddha. We all have dreams. To make dreams come into reality it takes a lot of determination, dedication, self discipline and continuous effort.

We at VETRII IAS Study Circle are committed to provide the right guidance, quality coaching and help every aspirants to achieve his or her life's cherished goal of becoming a civil servant.

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We also thank other family members of Vetrii for making this effort a reality.

We wish the aspirants ALL THE VERY BEST
for their journey in Civil Services !

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F Block New No. 1, 3rd Floor, 9th Street,
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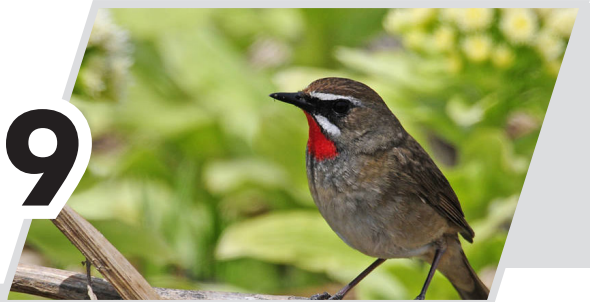
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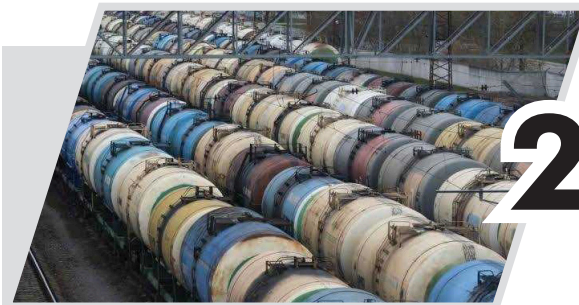
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1. HISTORY



1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
November 19	World Toilet Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Toilet Day is celebrated on November 19 every year to raise awareness about people living without access to safely managed sanitation and initiate action to tackle the global sanitation crisis. The United Nations aims to explore how poor sanitation systems spread human waste into rivers, lakes and soil, polluting underground water resources. The UN General Assembly declared World Toilet Day an official UN day in 2013 after Singapore had tabled the resolution. It is the same day the World Toilet Organization came into existence in 2001. Under PM Modi's flagship program "Swachh Bharat Mission" the nation saw an acceleration in the efforts to achieve universal sanitation coverage and to put the focus on sanitation.
November 14-20	Child Safety Week 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Child Safety Week is organised by an NGO Arpan since 2019, Child Safety Week is a collaborative movement to encourage collective action towards addressing the issue of Child Sexual Abuse. Important dates in the Child Safety Week 14th November: Children's Day, India 18th November: World Day for Prevention, Healing and Justice to End Childhood Sexual Violence 19th November: World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse 20th November: World Children's Day

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
November 26	Constitution Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constitution Day, also known as 'Samvidhan Divas', is celebrated in our country on 26th November every year since 2015 to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India. On 26th November 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India, which came into effect from 26th January 1950.
November 25	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is observed on November 25, every year to pay tribute to the Mirabal sisters, the Dominican Republic activists who were murdered at the order of Rafael Trujillo in 1960. In 1993, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution for the Elimination of Violence Against Women to raise awareness about gender-based violence against women. In 1999 the General Assembly proclaimed 25 November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Theme 2022 - 'UNITE! Activism to End Violence against Women and Girls.'
November 26	National Milk Day 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Milk Day is observed on November 26 to commemorate the birth anniversary of the "Father of the White Revolution in India", Dr Verghese Kurien, who was fondly known as the 'Milkman of India'. National Milk Day is annually organised by the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying. Theme 2022: 'Dairy Net Zero'

1.2 DEFENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND TERRORISM

Sea Vigil – 22' drill tests security forces' preparedness in TN

- The exercise is being held from November 15 to November 18 in Chennai to check the preparedness of security forces and intelligence agencies against possible terrorist attacks along the entire coast of India.

- About 1,000 personnel were drafted for the exercise from the Navy, the Coast Guard, the Central Industrial Security Force, the National Security Guard (NSG), the Fisheries Department, the Directorate –General of Lighthouses and Lightships, intelligence agencies, the Mercantile Marine Department, Immigration, Customs, the Coastal Security Group and the police.

Operation – Sea Sword 2

- INS Trikanth participated in the 'Sea Sword 2', which is a Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) led Focused Operation held in the Northwest Arabian Sea to counter terrorism, prevent narcotics trade and stop smuggling entities from using the seas.
- The Indian Navy's long range maritime patrol aircraft also participated in the operation and provided air support.
- This effort is a part of the Indian Navy's commitment towards ensuring safety of the seas and collective security in the region, supported by Prime Minister's SAGAR vision.

About INS Trikanth:

- INS Trikanth (F51) is the third and the final ship of the 2nd batch of Talwar-class frigates of the Indian Navy.
- INS Trikanth was built by the Yantar shipyard in Kaliningrad, Russia.
- The other two Talwar-class frigates, INS Teg and INS Tarkash were commissioned in 2021 at the Western Fleet.

Exercise Garuda Shakti (8th Edition) 2022

- The 8th edition of the India-Indonesia bilateral joint training exercise "Garuda Shakti" began at the Sangga Buana training centre in Karawang, West Java, Indonesia.
- Garuda Shakti 2022 is a part of military-to-military exchange programs.

Note

- The first edition of Exercise Garuda Shakti was conducted in 2012 in India.

About Indonesia

- Capital - Jakarta
- Currency - Indonesian rupiah
- President - Joko Widodo

Harimau Shakti-2022

- The India-Malaysia joint military exercise, 'Harimau Shakti-2022', commenced at Pulau, Kluang, Malaysia.
- The exercise is an annual training event between the Indian Army and the Malaysian Army that has been held since 2012.

- The joint military exercise involving troops of India and Malaysia aims to enhance inter-operability in the planning and execution of various operations in the jungle terrain.

About Malaysia

- Capital - Putrajaya (administrative /Judicial Capital) Kuala Lumpur (ceremonial and legislative)
- Monarch - Abdullah
- Prime Minister - Anwar Ibrahim

Samanvay 2022

- The Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise "Samanvay 2022" from 28th to 30th November 2022 at Air Force Station in Agra is being conducted by the Indian Air Force.
- The exercise aims to provide a unique platform for the exchange of domain knowledge, experience and best practices with the participating Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member countries.
- In India various national and regional stakeholders are involved in Disaster Management.
- The exercise will promote a synergistic approach by involving various institutions like the Armed Forces, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Border Roads Organisation (BRO), India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Civil Administration.

About NDMA

- NDMA is the apex statutory body for disaster management.
- It was formally constituted on 27th September 2006, in accordance with the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- Chairperson - Prime Minister.

Ikshak launched at Chennai

- Indian Navy's third Survey Vehicle 'Ikshak' has been launched in Chennai at Larsen and Toubro (L&T)'s Kattupalli facility.
- Ikshak is the third of the four Survey Vessels (Large) (SVL) Project which was built by

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE) and Larsen and Toubro (L&T) for the Indian Navy.

Note

- Contract for building **four SVL ships** was signed between the **Ministry of Defence and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata** in October 2018 for a total cost of Rs 2435 Crores.

- The first ship 'Sandhayak' was launched on Dec 5, 2021 at GRSE, Kolkata.
- The **second ship, 'Nirdeshak'** was launched on 26 May 22 at Kattupalli, Chennai.
- The fourth vessel is under construction.

1.3 WORLD ORGANISATIONS – PACTS AND SUMMITS

COP– 27 at Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt

- The 27th United Nations Climate Change conference is being held from 6 November until 18 November 2022 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.
- At COP 27 India along with some countries stated that Carbon border taxes, which could result in market distortion and aggravate the trust deficit among parties, must be avoided.
- European Union has proposed a policy called the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism to tax products such as cement and steel, which are extremely carbon intensive, with effect from 2026
- BASIC, a group comprising Brazil, India, South Africa and China, large economies that are significantly dependent on coal has for several years voiced common concerns and reiterated their right to use fossil fuels during their transition to clean energy.
- BASIC countries call for a united solidarity response by developing countries to any unfair shifting of responsibilities from developed to developing countries.

About Conference of the Parties (COP)

- The COP is the supreme decision-making body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- All States that are Parties to UNFCCC are represented at the COP.
- The first COP meeting was held in Berlin, Germany in March, 1995.

COP–27 sets up loss and damage fund

- The **27th United Nations Climate Change conference is held from in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.**

- The COP27 made history by establishing a fund for losses and damages arising from climate change – a demand developing countries facing the devastating impacts of global warming have made for decades, and that has been consistently blocked by rich countries until now.
- COP27 President Sameh Shoukry** announced that the loss and damage fund would serve the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

G20 Summit at Bali, Indonesia

- The 17th G20 Heads of State and Government Summit took place in Bali from 15-16 November 2022.
- The Summit was the pinnacle of the G20 process and intense work carried out within the Ministerial Meetings, Working Groups, and Engagement Groups throughout the year.
- Leaders of the G20 grouping in a joint declaration at the end of the G-20 summit in Bali said that the Ukraine war was causing economic difficulties and insecurity worldwide, and the threat of using nuclear weapons was "inadmissible".
- In the event, Indian PM Modi held meetings separately with the leaders of Australia, France, Germany, Italy, Singapore and the U.K.

India's Presidency of G 20 in 2023.

- India's G20 presidency will be "inclusive, ambitious, decisive, and action oriented.
- India stated that it would give priority to "women led development" on its G20 agenda, which would be driven by the theme of "One Earth, One Family, One Future" which was unveiled recently.

- India is expected to showcase its geographical and cultural diversity during the year, and will hold approximately 200 G20 meetings at different locations across the country.

About G20

- The G20 or Group of Twenty is an **intergovernmental forum** of major developed and developing economies comprising 19 countries and the European Union (EU).
- Formation - **26 September 1999**
- Chairman - **Joko Widodo, President of Indonesia**
- First Meeting in **Cologne, Germany**
- G20 Countries - Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Japan, India, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union.

India to hold 'offsite' on Andaman as it prepares for G20 presidency

- As India is about to take over the G20 presidency formally, the Union government plans to fly diplomats from all missions of G20 countries, invitees and United Nations agencies to a resort on the **Andaman Island for a special briefing by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the G20 Secretariat.**
- The "offsite" for 30 to 40 diplomats will take place at **Taj Exotica hotel on Havelock Island from November 25 to 27.**
- At the event the G20 'Sherpa' Amitabh Kant, 'Sous Sherpa' Abhay Thakur, and **G20 National Coordinator and former Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla** will give the diplomats a preview of India's plans for the next year of its presidency.
- India has already announced that in a departure from the previous G20s, which stick to a single venue for most events, it hopes to hold the 200 or so G20 official meetings in about 50 locations, including all the States and Union Territories across India.
- Another key decision was to hold the G20 summit in September, rather than November, given the levels of pollution in Delhi due to crop burning at the later time.

19th Meeting of the CITES

- The 19th meeting of the **Conference of the Parties (CoP19) to CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)**, also known as the 19th World Wildlife Conference took place from 14 to 25 November 2022 in Panama Convention Center, Panama City, Panama.
- Two Indian turtle species – the red-crowned roofed turtles (*Batagur kachuga*) and Leith's soft-shell turtle (*Nilssononia leithii*)** have been added to the **Appendix I** of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

Red-crowned roofed turtle:

- It is native to **India, Nepal and Bangladesh** and known to be widely found in the Ganga and Brahmaputra River basins, according to the Wildlife Institute of India (WII).
- At present in India, the National Chambal River Gharial Sanctuary is the only geographic area where the species is found in substantial numbers.

Leith's soft-shell turtle:

- The species inhabits rivers and reservoirs mainly in southern peninsular India, in states like Odisha, **Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.**
- Its presence is substantial in the **Cauvery, Tungabhadra, Ghataprabha, Bhavani, Godavari and Moyar** drainages.

About CITES

- CITES, also known as Washington Convention, is a multilateral treaty to protect endangered plants and animals from the threats of international trade.
- India is a member country.
- Signed on 3 March 1973.
- Location - Geneva, Switzerland.

22nd Edition IORA

- India participated in the **22nd Council of Ministers** meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA-COM), which was held at Dhaka in Bangladesh.
- Bangladesh is the current IORA Chair.**

- The Indian delegation was led by the Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh.
- The meeting adopted the '**IORA's Outlook on the Indo-Pacific**' (IOIP) which would guide enhancement of IORA's engagement in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The 22nd COM Meeting also adopted **Dhaka Communiqué**, as the outcome document and the COM also endorsed **India's candidature for IORA Vice-Chair for the period 2023-25 by consensus**.
- India will set up an **e-Office at the IORA Secretariat** and also announced provision of e-subscription by **India to Mahatma Gandhi Library at IORA Secretariat**.

About IORA

- IORA is an intergovernmental organization dedicated to fostering regional cooperation and sustainable development in the Indian Ocean region.
- Formation - 1997
- Secretary General - H.E. Salman Al Farisi
- Headquarters - Ebene, Mauritius
- Members - 23 Members and 10 Dialogue Partners

1.4 EMINENT PERSONS

Birsa Munda Birth Annivesary (Janjatiya Gaurav Divas)

- **President Droupadi Murmu**, who was appointed **India's first tribal woman president**, visited **Ulihatu village in the Khunti district of Jharkhand** - the birthplace of '**Bhagwan**' **Birsa Munda** - and paid floral tributes.

Note

- The Munda tribe inhabits the **Chota Nagpur region** of the present-day Jharkhand.
- Birsa Munda was born in **1875**, during the time when the British were attempting to establish control over and exploit forest lands, disrupting the tribal way of life.
- A feudal zamindari system was introduced, destroying the **tribal "Khuntkatti" agrarian and land ownership system** that was more community-based.
- The Raj brought in outsiders - moneylenders and contractors, as well as feudal landlords - to aid them.
- Munda received his early education under the guidance of his teacher Jaipal Nag. Influenced by him, Birsa converted to Christianity in order to join the **German Mission school but discontinued later**.

- The **Sardar Agitation (1886-1890)** had a strong impact on him and he became a part of the anti-missionary and anti-government programmes.
- The **Ulgulan movement of 1899** involved the use of weapons and guerrilla warfare to drive out foreigners.
- Munda encouraged the tribals to refuse following colonial laws and paying rent.
- He encouraged changes in the social sphere too, challenging religious practices to fight against superstition, and became known as '**Bhagwan**' (God) and '**Dharati Aba**' (Father of the earth) by his followers.

Rani Lakshmibai (November 1835 - June 1858)

- **Maharani Laxmibai** is regarded as one of the leading figures of India's rebellion in 1857 against the British, which is also referred to as the first war of independence.
- She was also known to have fiercely guarded Jhansi against the British till her death in 1858.

About her life

- She was born in **1835** in Varanasi. She was initially named **Manikarnika Tambe**.
- She was married to **Gangadhar Rao Newalkar, the Maharaja of Jhansi, in 1842**.

- The East India Company took advantage of the Maharaja's death and applied the Doctrine of Lapse.
- As per Doctrine of Lapse, any princely state under the direct or indirect control of the East India Company where the ruler did not have a legal male heir would be annexed by the company.
- She was determined to not give up on the Dominion of Jhansi and started assembling an army of rebellions, including women.
- She was supported by **Tantia Tope and Nana Sahib**.
- After a fierce war, when the British army entered Jhansi, Rani Lakshmibai tied her son Damodar Rao to her back and fought bravely using two swords in both her hands.
- She **died on June 17, 1958**, martyring her life for India's freedom.
- Rani Lakshmibai's **tomb** is situated in the **Phool Bagh area of Gwalior**.

Tamil scholar Avvai Natarajan dies at 86

- Tamil scholar Avvai Natarajan, who served as the Vice-Chancellor of Tamil University in Thanjavur and known for his exceptional oratorical skills, died in Chennai
- He taught Tamil in Raja Serfoji Government College in Thanjavur and Thiagarajar College in Madurai for a few years in the late 1950s and 1960s. He worked as news reader in All India Radio.
- He was brought to the Department of Information and Public Relations of Tamil Nadu government when M. Karunanidhi was the Chief Minister in 1974.
- He served as the Secretary of the Department of Tamil Development and Culture.
- He was the Vice-Chancellor of the Tamil University from 1992 to 1995.
- Later, he served as the Vice Chairperson in the Governing Board of Central Institute of Classical Tamil.
- He was the General Secretary of the 5th World Tamil Conference (WTC) held in Madurai.
- He was the member of the committee for the 7th World Tamil Conference (WTC) which was held in Mauritius.

Awards and Honour

- Padma Shri - 2011
- Kalaimamani Award - 2009
- Perarignar Anna Award - 2010
- Notable Works
- Vazvikka Vantha Vallalar (வாழ்விக்க வந்த வள்ளலார்)
- Peraringar Anna (பேரறிஞர் அண்ணா)
- Kambar Virunthu (கம்பர் விருந்து)
- Kambar Kaatchi (கம்பர் காட்சி)
- Bharathi Palsuvai (பாரதி பல்சுவை)
- Tirupaavai Vilakkam (திருப்பாவை விளக்கம்)
- Tiruvenpaavai Vilakkam (திருவெம்பாவை விளக்கம்)
- Sangam Age Literary Feminist Poets (சங்க இலக்கியப் பெண்பாற் புலவர்கள்)
- Arulukku Avvai Sonnathu (அருளுக்கு அவ்வை சொன்னது)
- Thirukkovaaiyar (English) (திருக்கோவையார்)
- Pulamai Selviyar (புலமைச் செல்வியர்)

About Dr Verghese Kurien:

- He was born on **26th November 1921** in Kozhikode.
- He was an Indian engineer and entrepreneur who is credited with starting the “white revolution” also known as **Operation Flood**, which turned India from a dairy importer to the world’s greatest milk producer by implementing a farmer-cooperative system.
- He was the **Founder and Chairman of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)** from 1965 to 1998.

Awards and Honour

- Ramon Magsaysay Award - 1963
- Padma Shri - 1965
- Padma Bhushan -1966
- Padma Vibushan -1999
- World Food Prize - 1989

About the Indian Dairy Association (IDA):

- President- Dr R.S. Sodhi
- Headquarters- New Delhi.
- Formation - 1948

1.5 SPORTS AND GAMES

Youth World Boxing Championships, Spain

- Indian boxers **Vishwanath Suresh, Vanshaj, and Devika Ghorpade** won gold medals at the IBA Youth Men's and Women's World Championships 2022 in **La Nucia, Spain**.
- Vishwanath Suresh won **India's first gold** at the prestigious championships.
- Bhawana Sharma and Ashish won silver medals.
- With 11 medals, India topped in the ongoing edition of the event, followed by Uzbekistan (10), Ireland (7) and Kazakhstan (7).

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Uzbekistan	5	3	2	10
2	India	4	3	4	11
3	England	2	2	3	7
	Kazakhstan	2	2	3	7

7 sixes in an over

- Ruturaj Gaikwad creates history by hitting 7 sixes in an over in Vijay Hazare Trophy to create a world record.

1.6 BOOKS & AUTHORS

New Books on Siddha Medicine launched

- The book release ceremony of '**Sugam Tarum Siddha Maruthuvam**' (சுகம் தரும் சித்த மருத்துவம்), a collection of Siddha Medicine articles published in Dinamani by Government Siddha Doctor **Cho.Thillaivanan**, '**Noi Nadi Siddha Maruthuvam Nadi**' (நோய் நாடி சித்த மருத்துவம் நாடி) and '**Ver Paru Thazhai Paru**' (வேர் பாரு தழை பாரு) was held at **Devaneya Pavanar District Library Hall in Anna Salai in Chennai**.
- The English translation of the book '**Odalam Vanga**', written by **Minister M.Subramanian** called "**Come Let's Run**" which is about the 125 marathons he ran will also be released.
- For the first time in Tamil Nadu, the government is cultivating **200 acres of herbal plants in Dindigul**. The farmers of these areas have been trained on the method of cultivation.
- An office has been built for **Siddha Medical University at a cost of Rs.2 crore**.

- The university will be set up on 25 acres at **Madhavaram Dairy in Chennai**.
- Union AYUSH Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has approved the establishment of Siddha Hospitals at 100 places in Tamil Nadu and on these lines Siddha Medical College and Siddha Hospital with 50 beds each will be established at Namakkal and Palani.

Note

- Siddhargal" or Siddhars** were the premier scholars of this system in ancient times. Siddhars, mainly hailing from Tamil Nadu laid the foundation for Siddha system of medicine. Hence, it is called Siddha medicine.

Book by former Reserve Bank of India Governor C. Rangarajan was released

- The book "**Forks in The Road - My Days at RBI and Beyond**", written by the former Reserve Bank of India Governor C. Rangarajan was released at a function in Chennai.

1.7 AWARDS & HONOURS

T.N. wins 'Reformist State' award

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin felicitated **Finance Minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan** and senior officials in the Finance Department over **Tamil Nadu receiving the 'Reformist State' award** during the 4th TIOL National Taxation Awards 2022 ceremony held in New Delhi.

About TIOL National Taxation Awards 2022

- The objective of the awards is to motivate, encourage, acknowledge the contribution of compliant taxpayers, tax technology service providers, active facilitators, positive-minded fiscal journalists, tax-friendly commissionerates, reform-minded States to the wheels of economic growth and act as a reliable channel providing Taxpayers' feedback to the Policy Makers.
- The Jury which consists of former judges and former secretaries select the winners under various categories.
- The fourth edition of the TIOL Tax Congress 2022 was held on November 7 at Taj Palace at New Delhi.
- The winners under the 'Reformist State Category' are
 - Gold - Rajasthan
 - Silver - Odisha
 - Jury - Haryana
 - Jury - Tamil Nadu
 - Jury - Bihar

India receives EXCELL Award at International Conference on Family Planning

- India's family planning measures got appreciation on a global stage with the country receiving **Excellence in Leadership in Family Planning (EXCELL) Awards -2022**.
- The award was received at the **International Conference on Family Planning** held in Pattaya, Thailand.
- India came out as the only country which bagged this award in the 'country category' at the conference.

- The International Conference of Family Planning focuses on universal access to family planning. It provides a platform to discuss various issues pertaining to family planning and awareness about the same.

National Family Health Survey (NFHS)

- First conducted in 1992-93 and the latest one in 2019-21 - NFHS 5 is a survey that is conducted nationwide in a representative sample of households.
- The survey is being conducted with an aim to provide high-quality data on the health and family welfare situation of the country and simultaneously highlight the main issues pertaining to the areas.

Mission Parivar Vikas

- The mission is one of the flagship schemes of the Government.
- Under the scheme, **145 districts in 7 states of Assam, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh** are identified to be in high focus based on the **Total Fertility Rate (TFR)**.

Tamil Isai Sangam Awards

- Marking the 80th anniversary of the **Tamil Isai Sangam**, Musician **Dr.S.Sowmya** will be presented with the **Isai Perarignar Award** and **Pann Isai Perarignar Award** will be given to **Mayilai P.Sargurunatha Odhuvar**, a renowned **Thirumurai music songs scholar**.
- At the 80th anniversary function of the Tamil Isai Sangam at Raja Annamalai Forum, Chief Minister M.K.Stalin will present the two awards, a silver medal, a gold medal and a prize money of Rs.10,000 to each awardees.

Gandhi Mandela Award

- The Tibetan spiritual leader **Dalai Lama** was conferred the **Gandhi Mandela Award 2022**, the peace prize from the **New Delhi-based Gandhi Mandela Foundation** at Thekchen Choeling in Dharamshala's McLeodGanj by Himachal Pradesh governor **Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar**.

- A government of India registered Trust, the **Gandhi Mandela Foundation** is a **non-profit organisation**, formed with the motive to promote Mahatma Gandhi's and former President of South Africa Nelson Mandela's values of non-violence. It has constituted an international prize, the Gandhi Mandela Award.
- The **foundation** instituted the award on the **150th birth anniversary** of the Father of the Nation, MK Gandhi.
- The award is given to personalities who have carried forward the legacies of Gandhi and Mandela by making significant contributions in the fields of Peace, Social Welfare, Culture, Environment, Education, Healthcare, Sports and Innovation.

Champions of the Earth Award 2022

- The **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** has announced the 2022 Champions of the Earth Award, honouring five environmental protectors – a conservationist, an enterprise, an economist, a women's rights activist, and a wildlife biologist—for their transformative efforts to prevent, halt, or reverse ecosystem degradation.
- The UNEP Champions of the Earth 2022 awards highlight global efforts to protect the environment in the backdrop of the **United Nations (UN) Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030)**.
- **Dr Purnima Devi Barman** has been honoured with the U.N. Environment Programme's 2022 Champions of the Earth award in the **Entrepreneurial Vision** category.

About Purnima Barman

- Dr. Barman is an Indian wildlife biologist.
- She leads the "**Hargila Army**", an **all-female grassroots conservation movement** dedicated to protecting the **Greater Adjutant Stork (Hargila)** from extinction.
- The women create and sell textiles with motifs of the bird, helping to raise awareness about the species while building their own financial independence.

About Hargila – The Greater Adjutant Stork

- Hargilas are **five-foot-tall birds** that live in wetlands in parts of Southeast Asia, including India and Cambodia. In India, they can be found in **Assam and Bihar in India**.
- According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List, there are only about 1,200 Hargilas left in the world, categorizing the species as "endangered."

About UNEP Champions of the Earth

- The award was first established in 2005.
- It is the highest environmental honour bestowed by the United Nations (UN).
- It recognizes individuals and organizations whose actions have a positive impact on the environment.
- The Champions of the Earth are acknowledged in **four categories: Policy Leadership, Inspiration and Action, Entrepreneurial Vision, & Science and Innovation**.

About the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

- Formation – **June 5, 1972**
- Headquarters – **Nairobi, Kenya**
- Head- **Inger Andersen**

Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar Award 2022

- The Tamil Writer **Annamalai** has been selected for the **Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar Award 2022** by the **Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Prathishtana (Trust), Kuppali, Karnataka**.
- The national award was instituted in memory of the late poet laureate Kuvempu of Kannada Literature
- Since 2013, the memorial foundation named after him has been honoring the best writers in each language with the Rashtriya Puraskar National Award.
- The award carries a cash award of ₹5 lakh, a silver medal and a citation.

About Annamalai

- Annamalai writes under the pen name **Imayam**.

- He has authored seven novels, six short story collections and a novella.
- He has brought new sensibilities to his writings in Tamil.
- His debut novel 'Koveru Kazhudaigal' has been translated into English, French and many other Indian languages.

About Kuvempu

- First Kannada writer to receive the **Jnanpith Award in 1967**.
- **Rashtrakavi ("National Poet") in 1964**.
- **Karnataka Ratna in 1992**.
- **Padma Vibhushan in 1988**.
- He penned the **Karnataka State Anthem** *Jaya Bharata Jananiya Tanujate*.

UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2022

- The awards winners are
 - **"Distinction of Merit"** for the restoration of the 17th century stepwells inside the **Qutb Shahi Tombs Complex in Hyderabad, Telangana**.
 - **"Award of Merit"** for the conservation work on the **Domakonda Fort**, built in the 18th century in **Kamareddy district, Telangana**.
 - **Byculla Station of Mumbai** also won the **"Award of Merit"**.
 - The restoration of the 100-year-old **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya in Mumbai** has won the **Award of Excellence**. The museum is a part of the Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai's world heritage property. It was established as the **Prince of Wales Museum of Western India in 1922**.

Note

- The **UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation ('Awards')** recognizes exemplary efforts by individuals

and organizations to restore or conserve structures, places and properties of heritage value in the region.

About UNESCO

- Headquarters - Paris, France
- Formation - 16 November 1945
- Director-General - Audrey Azoulay (France)

Shilp Guru and National Awards

- 30 Shilp Guru Awards and 78 National Awards for the year 2017, 2018 and 2019 were presented to master craftspersons at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

About Shilp Guru Awards:

- The Shilp Guru Awards are given to **legendary master crafts persons in recognition of excellent craftsmanship**, product excellence and the role played by them as gurus in the continuance of crafts to other trainee artisans as a vital part of traditional heritage.
- The Awards were **started in 2002**, to celebrate the **Golden Jubilee of the resurgence of Handicrafts in India**.
- The Award consists of a gold coin, 2.00 lakhs prize money, a Tamrapatra, a shawl and a certificate.

National Awards:

- The Awards are being awarded **since 1965 for outstanding craftsmanship in different craft categories**.
- The main crafts for which the Awards have been given are Metal Engraving, Chikan Hand Embroidery, Khurja Blue Pottery, Mata Ni Pachedi Kalamkari, Bandhani, Tie & Dye, Hand Block Bagh Print, Warli Art, Stone Dust Painting, Sozni Hand Embroidery, Terracotta, Tanjore Painting, Sholapith, Kantha Hand Embroidery, Palm leaf Engraving, Brass wire inlay on wood, Wood Tarkashi, Madhubani Painting, Gold Leaf Painting, straw craft etc.
- The Award consists of 1.00 lakh prize money, a Tamrapatra, a Shawl and a certificate.

Winners from Tamilnadu and Pudhucherry			
Year of Awards	Name	Crafts	Awards
2017	Shri. V.K.Munusamy (Pudhucherry)	Terracotta	Shilp Guru
2019	Shri V.Panner Selvam (TN)	Tanjore Painting	Shilp Guru
2019	Shri. K.Venkateshan (Pudhucherry)	Terracotta	National
2019	Shri Sri Masilamani (Pudhucherry)	Sholapith Craft	National

National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG)

- The Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) in association with the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir organized the 25th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) in Katra, Jammu & Kashmir.
- The theme of the Conference is “Bringing Citizens, Industry and Government closer”.
- The National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) was presented under 5 categories of the NAeG Scheme - 2022 to 18 e-Governance initiatives at Central, State and District levels, Academic & Research Institutions and Public Sector Undertaking. This includes 9 Gold and 9 Silver Awards.

The Gold Awardees are:

Category I - Excellence in Government Process Re-engineering for Digital Transformation		
Central level initiatives	e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project (eGramSwaraj & Audit Online)	Ministry of Panchayati Raj
State/UT level initiatives	MINE MITRA	Directorate of Geology & Mining, (Uttar Pradesh)
Category II - Excellence in Providing Citizen Centric Delivery		
Central level initiatives	Judgement & Orders search Portal (High Courts of India)	eCommittee, Supreme Court of India.
State UT level initiatives	eRegistration (Self Help Portal) for document registration	Department of Registration & Stamps. (Maharashtra).
Category III- Excellence in District level initiative in e-Governance		
North - East States + Hill States	Parvarish (A step Towards Kuposhan Mukta Bharat)	District Cachar, (Assam).
UTs (including Delhi)	GAASH	District Srinagar, (Jammu and Kashmir).
Other States	Gang Canal Regulation Computerization Project	District Sri Ganganagar, (Rajasthan).
Category IV- Outstanding research on Citizen Services by Academic/Research Institutions		
Category IV	Video Analytics for Safety and Compliance Applications	Indian Institute of Tehnology, Bombay
Category V	Trinetra: Integrated Command and Control Center (i3C)	Police Department, (Gujarat).

Kappalottiya Thamizhan V.O.C. Award

- TN CM Mr. Stalin handed over the newly incorporated 'Kappalottiya Thamizhan V.O.C. Award' to port management expert Ennarasu Karunesan, who is known for having introduced innovations in port management and maritime infrastructure.

Note

- The award was incorporated in **2021** to mark the **150th birth anniversary of VOC**. Kappalottiya Thamizhan V.O.C. Award would be awarded every year to a Tamil, **who has excelled in ship-building and related technology**. A cash prize of **Rs.5 lakh** and a citation would be part of the award.

1.8 CULTURAL PANORAMA

Tamil estampages to be moved from Mysuru to Chennai

- The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** on January 6, 2022 directed the Director (Epigraphy), ASI, in Mysuru, to transfer the estampages and other connected Tamil documents and inscriptions to the Office of the Deputy Superintending Epigraphist, South Zone, ASI, in Chennai.
- These unpublished estampages will help unearth more information about Tamil Nadu's history and culture. Estampages are exact replicas of inscriptions copied from stone or copper plates to paper using specialised ink.

- These are made by pressing wet paper on to the rock or metal face, and wiping a specialised ink on it.
- The ASI move follows an order of the Madras High Court order dated August 19, 2021.
- The court also directed the ASI to **name the Chennai branch as 'Epigraphy Branch-Tamil'**. It also asked the Tamil Nadu government to provide assistance to the ASI to set up the branch.

Note

- The ASI was established in **1861 by Alexander Cunningham**.

1.9 APPOINTMENTS – WHO IS WHO?

New Full Time Member for NITI Aayog

- The government has appointed senior economist Dr Arvind Virmani as a full-time member of the NITI Aayog.
- Virmani, founder-chairman of the non-profit public policy organisation Foundation for Economic Growth and Welfare, has served as the Chief Economic Advisor in the Ministry of Finance during the Manmohan Singh-led UPA government from 2007-09.
- The NITI Aayog, the government's premier think tank headed by the Prime Minister, at present has three members – Dr V K Saraswat, Professor Ramesh Chand and Dr V K Paul.

About NITI Aayog

- Formation - January 1 2015
- Chairperson - Prime Minister
- Vice Chairperson - Suman Bery

New Governor of West Bengal

- Former bureaucrat CV Ananda Bose has been appointed as the new Governor of West Bengal.
- Mr Bose is the recipient of the Jawaharlal Nehru Fellowship. He is also the first ever Fellow of the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration in Mussoorie, which trains top civil service officers.

Note

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Arun Goel appointed as Election Commissioner

- Former secretary of the Ministry of Heavy Industries Arun Goel has been appointed as the **New Election Commissioner of India**.
- The post of one Election Commissioner in the three-member Commission has been vacant since May 15, 2022, when the former Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar took charge as the Chief Election Commissioner upon the retirement of Sushil Chandra from the post.

Note

- **Article 324** of the Constitution provides that the **power of superintendence, direction, and control of elections to parliament**, state legislatures, the office of the president of India, and the office of vice-president of India shall be vested in the election commission.
- The **Election Commissioner Amendment Act, 1989** was adopted on **1 January 1990** which turned the commission into a three members body.

New President of Indian Olympic Association

- Legendary athlete P.T. Usha has been elected as the First Woman President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).

About PT Usha

- She is a retired Indian track and field athlete.
- Born in Kuttali, Kozhikode, Kerala.
- Won 4 Asian gold medals and 7 Silver medals.
- Often called the "Queen of Indian track and field".
- Nominated member of the Rajya Sabha.
- Padma Shri in 1985



2. POLITICAL SCIENCE

2.1 INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

UK govt approves 3,000 visas for Indians per year under new scheme

- The UK government led by Rishi Sunak has approved 3,000 visas for young Indian professionals to work in the country every year.
- Under the UK-India Young Professionals Scheme, the UK will offer 3,000 places to Indian Nationals with degrees aged between 18-30 to come to the UK to live and work for two years.
- According to the UK Home Office data, around 118,000 Indian students received a UK student visa in the year ending June 2022, an 89 per cent rise from the previous year. Besides this, the British government said it is also strengthening the ability to remove immigration offenders.

About United Kingdom

- Capital - London
- Monarch - Charles III
- Prime Minister - Rishi Sunak
- Currency - Pound sterling

8th Norway-India Joint Working Group Maritime Meeting held in Mumbai

- 8th Norway-India Joint Working Group Maritime Meeting held in Mumbai.
- Both sides joined hands on the Norway-India cooperation on a green maritime future, and presented their visions and plans for a green maritime sector.
- Discussions were held on use of alternative fuels like green ammonia and hydrogen for futuristic shipping.
- India and Norway are a part of the Green Voyage 2050 project.
- Green Voyage 2050 project: Launched in May 2019, this project is a partnership between Norway and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to transform the shipping industry towards a lower carbon future.

- The Ministry of Ports Shipping and Waterways has prepared Maritime India Vision 2030 and identified more than 150 initiatives across various maritime sectors.

About Norway

- Capital - Oslo
- Prime Minister - Jonas Gahr Støre
- Currency - Norwegian krone

India –Australia trade pact set to open up opportunities

- The Australian Parliament ratified the Free Trade Agreement with India which will significantly open up opportunities for many Indian business sectors like IT sector, pharmaceutical and textile sector.
- The India - Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (INDAUS ECTA) was actually signed by India with the previous Australian administration under Prime Minister Scott Morrison.
- However the present government under Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese extended the bipartisan support to the agreement which would create a potential for jobs by attracting Australian investments to India and improve the manufacturing in India at a scale to serve the Indian market and the rest of the world from India.

Note

- India - U.A.E. Free Trade Agreement can be compared with the INDAUS ECTA.
- India - U.A.E. FTA was signed on February 18, 2022 and the agreement came into Force on May 1, 2022.

About Australia

- Capital - Canberra
- Currency - Australian dollar
- President - Anthony Albanese

India ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting

- The **first India-ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting** was held at **Siem Riep, Cambodia** to commemorate the **30th Anniversary of India-ASEAN relations in 2022**.
- The year **2022** has been designated as **ASEAN-India Friendship Year**.
- The meeting was co-chaired by **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence of Cambodia General Tea Banh**.
 - India made two proposals for expanding the scope and depth of the India-ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) defense relations.
 - India-ASEAN Initiative for Women in UN Peace Keeping Operations which would underline the importance of women officers in peacekeeping missions for ensuring lasting peace.

- India-ASEAN Initiative on Marine Plastic Pollution which includes channelising of the energy of the youth towards addressing the critical issue of marine pollution.
- The centrality of ASEAN in the Indo Pacific region is the cornerstone of India's Act East Policy.

About ASEAN

- ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) is a political and economic union of 10 member states in Southeast Asia, which promotes intergovernmental cooperation and facilitates economic, political, security, military, educational, and sociocultural integration between its members and countries in the Asia-Pacific.
- Formation - 8 August 1967 (**Bangkok Declaration**)
- Secretary-General - Lim Jock Hoi.
- Headquarters - Jakarta, Indonesia

2.2 PUBLIC AWARENESS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Transfer of seven High Court judges

- The Supreme Court Collegium led by **Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud** published its resolution recommending the transfer of **seven High Court judges**.

Procedure of transfer of HC judge:

- **Article 222** of the Constitution makes provision for the **transfer of a Judge (including Chief Justice) from one High Court to any other High Court**.
- The initiation of the proposal for the transfer of a Judge should be made by the Collegium consisting of Chief Justice of India (CJI) and the four seniors most Judges of the Supreme Court.
- The proposal once referred to the Government, the Union Minister of Law and Justice would submit a **recommendation to the Prime Minister** who will then advise the President as to the transfer of the Judge concerned.
- After the President approves the transfer, the notification will be gazetted and the judge remains transferred.

RTI portal of Supreme Court launched

- The Supreme Court launched its **Right to Information (RTI) portal** to help people access information about the Supreme Court.
- The RTI portal would help the people to file RTI applications online.

About RTI Act, 2005

- The **RTI Act, 2005** sets out the rules and procedures regarding citizens' right to information. This act was enacted in order to consolidate the fundamental right in the Indian constitution 'freedom of speech'.
- **It replaced the former Freedom of Information Act, 2002.**

Consultation meeting for the Union Budget of 2023-24

- The States urged the Centre to rein in its reliance on raising revenues through cesses and surcharges which reduce the State's share in the divisible pool of taxes.
- The proposition was made by the states at a **consultation meeting for the Union Budget**

of 2023-24, steered by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and attended by Chief Ministers, Deputy CMs as well as Finance Ministers of States.

- Tamil Nadu Finance Minister Palanivel Thiagarajan noted that the share of cesses and surcharges had grown from 10.4% of gross tax revenue in 2011-12 to 26.7% in 2021-22 which has deprived the States of their legitimate share of revenue collected by the Union Government.

- Some states raised concern about the pending dues from the five year GST compensation window for States that expired on June 30, 2022.

Note

- The **Compensation Cess** is a Cess that will be collected on the supply of select goods and or services or both till 1st July 2022. The Cess will compensate the states for any revenue loss on account of implementation of GST.

2.3 GOVT – WELFARE ORIENTED GOVT SCHEMES, THEIR UTILITY

Over 12.5 lakh to be enrolled in Naan Mudhalvan portal

- The Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation Managing Director, J. Innocent Divya, called on the corporates to partner with the **Naan Mudhalvan project** to help students passing out of various institutions to acquire new skills and find jobs.

About Naan Mudhalvan Scheme

- Launched on **March 1, 2022**.
- The scheme was launched as a skill development program for the students of Government Schools and Colleges.
- TN Government also launched the '**Kalloori Kanavu**' programme under the '**Naan Mudhalvan**' initiative which aims to guide and counsel students who have completed Class XII.
- **Naan Mudhalvan portal** was launched by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on August 29, 2022 which is aimed to get over **12.5 lakh students** registered on the portal by the end of the year.

Women save money due to free bus travel, finds T.N. Planning Commission study

- The study, 'A Report on the Zero Ticket Bus Travel Scheme for Women in State Owned Bus Transport Corporations,' was conducted by the State Planning Commission.

- The study was conducted among the women passengers in the three districts of Nagapattinam, Tiruppur and Madurai.
- Nagapattinam was chosen to see how women in the agriculture belt commute.
- Tiruppur was taken to see how women in industrial belts commute.
- Madurai was chosen for being a major trading centre as well as a tourist destination.

Key Highlights of the Study

- Women passengers in Nagapattinam, Madurai and Tiruppur, who avail themselves of the zero ticket bus travel scheme, save on an average ₹888 every month.
- Savings across different occupational categories of women passengers range from ₹756 to ₹1,012 a month.
- Though the scheme is operational in buses originating from urban centres, women from rural households benefit more than urban users.

2.4 COMMITTEE AND COMMISSIONS

Sinha Committee to look into MGNREGA's efficacy

- The Government has constituted a committee under the leadership of former Rural Development secretary **Amarjeet Sinha** to review the implementation of the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)** scheme to assess the programme's efficacy as a poverty alleviation tool.
- The Committee has been given **three months to submit its suggestions**.
- The Committee will study the various factors behind demand for MGNREGA work, expenditure trends and inter-state variations, and the composition of work.

- The scheme will suggest the required changes in focus and governance structures to make MGNREGA more effective

About MGNREGA

- The scheme was launched in 2005.
- The scheme guarantees **100 days of unskilled work per year for every rural household** that volunteers.
- The scheme was launched as a poverty alleviation instrument for the rural region providing them with a safety net in the form of guaranteed work and wages.
- It is implemented by the **Ministry of Rural Development (MRD)**.





3. GEOGRAPHY

3.1 POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

Siberian rubythroat recorded in the Nilgiris

- A rare winter migrant, **Siberian rubythroat (Calliope calliope)**, has been recorded in the Nilgiris recently
- The bird breeds in the **coniferous forests of Siberia** and is known to **winter in Thailand, India, Indonesia and Bangladesh.**
- The Siberian rubythroat is a ground loving song bird. The male has a red throat edged with a narrow black border and a broad white border. Females lack brightly coloured throat and borders.

Note

- According to the data posted on the eBird website, the bird had been seen only once in Tamil Nadu, in Chennai.

World's largest active volcano in Hawaii erupts

- Mauna Loa, the **world's largest active volcano**, has erupted for the first time in nearly four decades.
- It is the volcano's first eruption since 1984.

Note

- The active volcano in India is Barren Island and is uninhabited, located about 140 km from Port Blair.

NITI Aayog proposes decarbonising of industrial emissions

- NITI Aayog and MN Dastur & Company jointly prepared a report on the policy framework of the CCUS.
- **Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage (CCUS)** is the technology which can be used for **decarbonising carbon dioxide (CO₂)** from high polluting sectors such as steel, cement, oil, gas, petrochemicals, chemicals and fertilisers.
- It has a critical role to play for the country to **halve CO₂ emissions by 2050**, CCUS technology would help in promoting the low carbon-hydrogen economy and in removal of the CO₂ stock from the atmosphere.
- India needs a sustainable solution for the decarbonisation of sectors that contribute to 70% of emission.
- CCUS has an important and critical role to play for **India to accomplish net-zero by 2070.**

About NITI Aayog

- Formation - 1 January 2015
- Headquarters - New Delhi
- Chairperson - Prime Minister
- Vice Chairperson - Suman Bery



4. ECONOMICS

4.1 CURRENT SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

Over 10% increase in area under wheat and oilseeds cultivation

- Cultivation of wheat, the main rabi crop, begins in October every year. The harvesting takes place in March-April.
- Apart from wheat, other important crops like pulses and mustard are cultivated during Rabi season of 2022-23 crop year (July to June).
- It has been reported that wheat cultivation area has increased by 10.5 percent and oilseeds cultivation area by 13.58 percent during Rabi season.

Crop	Cultivated area (last year) lakh hectares	Cultivated area (Current year) lakh hectares
Wheat	138.35	152.88
Paddy	8.33	9.14
Oil seeds	66.71	75.77
Pulses varieties	94.37	94.26
Corn, barley and cereals	26.70	26.54

4.2 NEW ECONOMIC POLICY AND GOVERNMENT SECTOR

Das to meet CEOs of banks to discuss slow deposit growth

- Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das will hold a meeting with CEOs of public sector banks on Wednesday to discuss issues concerning slow deposit growth and the sustainability of high credit demand.
- According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, deposits rose by 9.6% compared with 10.2% on a year-on-year basis, while credit offtake witnessed a jump of 17.9% as against 6.5% a year earlier.
- The meeting would also review the functioning of Digital Banking Units unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently.

About Digital Banking Units

- It is a specialised fixed point business unit or hub, set up by scheduled commercial banks, housing certain minimum digital infrastructure for delivering digital banking products and services as well as servicing existing financial products and services digitally in self-service mode at any time.

- The DBUs are being set up to ensure the benefits of digital banking reach across the country.

CCI to take up anti-profiteering matters

- The government notified changes to empower the Competition Commission of India to take charge of matters relating to the anti profiteering provisions of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, starting December 1.
- The CCI will now be entrusted with assessing whether firms have passed on benefits of GST rate reductions or input tax credits through commensurate price reductions for consumers.

Note

- So far, National Anti-profiteering Authority (NAA) is the anti-profiteering watchdog of GST and it is all set to be subsumed into the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

Centre sets standard for e-commerce reviews

- The Centre is planning to bring out a standard for publishing product reviews on e-commerce platforms titled **"Indian Standard (IS) 19000:2022 Online Consumer Reviews – Principles and Requirements for their Collection, Moderation and Publication"**
- The standard will initially be voluntary for compliance by all e-commerce platforms. BIS will also develop a Conformity Assessment Scheme for the standard to assess compliance.
- The framework for the standard was prepared **by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**.
- The framework was meant to safeguard and protect consumer interest from fake and deceptive reviews on e-commerce platforms.
- Once made mandatory, if required, the violation of the standards by any entity may be considered as an unfair trade practice or violation of consumer rights and a consumer may submit such grievances to the National Consumer Helpline, Consumer Commissions or the CCPA.
- Taking cognizance of the impact of fake and deceptive reviews and protection of consumer interest in e-commerce, the **Department of Consumer Affairs constituted a committee** to develop a framework on checking fake and deceptive reviews in e-commerce on **10th June, 2022**.

- The committee included various stakeholders including e-commerce companies, industry associations, consumer organizations and law chairs.

Meesho included on the government's 'ONDC' site

- All e-commerce companies have joined the **'Open Network for Digital Commerce' (ONDC)** platform created by the Central Government to facilitate the sale of goods at competitive prices.
- Customers who become members of ONDC can compare and buy products marketed by all e-commerce companies on the platform.
- 'ONDC has joined the central government's platform to provide more opportunities for the products of small traders and to make online trading a public welfare activity.

Note

- Open Network for Digital Commerce, (ONDC), is a private non-profit company established by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** to develop **open e-commerce**. It was incorporated on December 31, 2021.

4.3 CURRENT TRENDS IN INDIAN ECONOMY

Widening Trade Deficit

- India's merchandise exports shrank 16.7% in October to \$29.8 billion as the global slow down dented overseas demand for the country's goods.
- The first contraction since February 2021 dragged outbound shipments below the \$30 billion level for the first time in 20 months.

- The Imports grew 5.7% year-on-year to \$56.7 billion, widening the trade deficit in October to \$26.91 billion, as per data released by the Commerce Ministry.

Note

- October was the fourth successive month when the gap between India's imports and exports exceeded \$25 billion.

- It is stated by the Ministry of Commerce that the October trade data was impacted by the Deepavali, Dussehra festive period as factory workers tend to go on leave and production drops.

Government earned Rs 33,422 crore from asset monetization, till date in FY23

- According to reports, the government has already monetized assets worth Rs 33,422 crore under the National Monetization Pipeline (NMP) for 2022-2023.
- The Coal Ministry has raised the most money, at Rs 17,000 crore, and the Ports and Shipping Ministry has surpassed its total budgetary target.
- By executing transactions of Rs 1 lakh crore in 2021-2022, the government exceeded the program's first-year objective of Rs 88,000 crore.
- The government's most recent assessment indicates that it will be difficult to reach its overall asset monetisation goal of Rs 1,62,422 crore in 2022-2023, which is expected to result in a shortfall of Rs 38,243 crore.

Note

- National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP)** estimates aggregate monetisation potential of **Rs 6 lakh crores** through core assets of the Central Government, over a four-year period, from FY 2022 to FY 2025.
- Assets liquidated in FY 2022-23 (Ministry wise Monetisation)
 - Coal - Rs.17,000 crore
 - National Highways - Rs.4,100 crore
 - Railway - Rs.1,829 crore
 - Energy - Rs.2,000 crore

Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) released by the National Statistical Office (NSO)

- According to the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** released by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**, the unemployment rate in urban areas for persons above the age of 15 eased to 7.2% in July - September from 9.8% a year ago and 7.6% in the previous quarter.

- The unemployment ratio is defined as the percentage of persons unemployed among the persons in the labour force.

- The unemployment rate was 6.6% for men and 9.4% for women in July-September 2022. The rate was 9.3% and 11.6%, respectively, in July - September 2021.

- The WPR- Working Population Ratio is defined as the **percentage of employed persons in the population**.

- The WPR in urban areas for persons aged 15 and above stood at 44.5% in July-September 2022, an increase from 42.3% in the corresponding period in 2021. It was 43.9% in April - June 2022.

- The WPR among men was 68.6% and among women, 19.7%. It was 66.6% and 17.6%, respectively, in 2021.

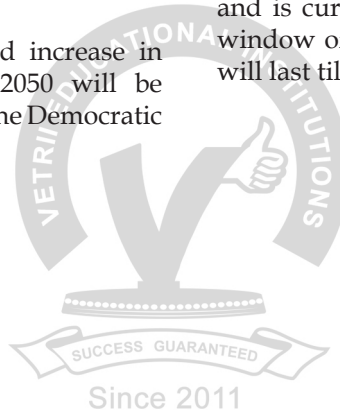
- The **labour force participation rate (LFPR)**, defined as the **percentage of persons in labour force who are working or seeking or available for work in the population**.

- The LFPR among men was 73.4% and 21.7% among women. In 2021, it was 73.5% and 19.9%, respectively.

4.4 INDICES

The Global Population achieved 8 billion

- According to the **United Nations (UN) World Population Prospects 2022: Summary of Results (27th edition)**, the global population is projected to achieve 8 billion on November 15, 2022, and India is expected to **overtake China as the world's most populated country in 2023**.
- The UN population report said the **global population is growing at its slowest rate since 1950**, having fallen under 1 per cent in 2020. The world's population could grow to **around 8.5 billion in 2030 and 9.7 billion in 2050**. It is projected to reach a **peak of around 10.4 billion people** during the 2080s and to remain at that level until 2100.
- More than half of the projected increase in the global population up to 2050 will be concentrated in eight countries: the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines and the United Republic of Tanzania. Countries of sub-Saharan Africa are expected to contribute more than half of the increase anticipated through 2050.
- As per UN estimates, over 27 per cent of the country's population is between the ages of 15-29. At 253 million, **India is also home to the world's largest adolescent population (10-19 years)**.
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has noted that **India has its largest ever adolescent and youth population**. According to UNFPA projections, India will continue to have one of the youngest populations in the world till 2030 and is currently experiencing a demographic window of opportunity, a "youth bulge" that will last till 2025.





5. SCIENCE

5.1 LATEST INVENTIONS ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Mission Prarambh

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched **India's first privately built rocket - 'Vikram-S' (VKS)**, a suborbital launch vehicle, from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh**.
- The rocket "**Vikram-S**," which is the **first in the Vikram series**, is named after **Vikram Sarabhai**, the father of the Indian Space Programme and founder of ISRO.
- It is being developed under the mission "**Mission Prarambh**" (the beginning), which represents a new beginning.
- **Prarambh** is the **maiden mission of Hyderabad-based space-tech startup Skyroot Aerospace**, and received support from ISRO as well as the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (INSPACe).
- The engine used in the launch vehicle is named after former president Dr A P J Abdul Kalam called '**Kalam-80**'.

About 'Vikram-S' Rocket & Prarambh Mission

- **Vikram-S** is one of the **world's first all-composite rockets with 3-D printed solid thrusters** for spin stability of the launch vehicle.
- According to **Skyroot Aerospace**, the **Vikram-S** is the **quickest and most affordable voyage to space**.
- It has a body mass of 545 kg, a length of 6 metres, and a diameter of 0.375 metres.
- The three satellites carried by **Vikram-S** includes one by SpaceKidz India called FunSat,

parts of which were developed by school students.

- The **Vikram** rockets will be able to carry between 290 kg and 560 kg payloads into sun-synchronous polar orbits.

About the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

- Chairman - **S. Somanath**
- Headquarters - **Bengaluru, Karnataka**
- Formation - **August 15, 1969**

ISRO to attempt 200th successful launch of sounding rocket in a row

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** will attempt the 200th consecutive successful launch of the **Rohini RH-200** sounding rocket from **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thumba, Kerala**.
- **RH-200** is a **solid motor powered**, expendable rocket capable of climbing up to a height of **70km bearing payloads** designed to study the upper atmosphere.

Note

- An **RH-200** had lifted off successfully from Thumba for the **199th time in a row in October, 2022**.
- **VSSC Director - S. Unnikrishnan Nair**.

About ISRO

- Headquarters - **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
- Formed - **15 August 1969**
- Chairman - **Sreedhara Panicker Somanath**

5.2 SPACE

NASA's Artemis 1 Launch

- NASA's Artemis 1 mission was launched from Launch Complex 39B of the Kennedy Space Center in Florida at 12.17 PM IST on November 16, 2022.
- Around eight minutes after launch, the core stage engines cut off and the core stage separated from the rest of the rocket.
- After this, the Orion spacecraft was propelled by the Interim Cryogenic Propulsion Stage (ICPS).
- NASA also deployed the Orion spacecraft's four solar arrays.
- After completing "translunar injection," Orion separated itself from ICPS and is on its way to lunar orbit.
- Artemis II will follow in Artemis I's footsteps.

PSLV-C54 successfully launched

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in one of its longest missions successfully placed **nine satellites, including an Earth Observation Satellite (EOS - 06)** in multiple orbits with the help of the space agency's **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV- C54)**.
- The vehicle took off precisely at **11.56 a.m. from the first launch pad (FLP)** at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), SHAR, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- This is the **56th flight of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)** and the 24th flight of the PSLV - XL version with 6 PSOM - XLs
- The **eight nano satellites** include
 - ISRO Nano Satellite - 2 for Bhutan (INS - 2B)
 - Anand - India's first private earth imaging satellite.
 - Astrocast (four satellites),
 - Two Thybolt satellites.
- Notably, EOS - 6 is the Oceansat series' third generation satellite.

IndiaBhutan SAT or ISRO Nano Satellite 2 for Bhutan (INS2B)

- BhutanSat (aka INS-2B) is the collaborative mission between India and Bhutan.
- The INS - 2B satellite has two payloads .
 - NanoMx, a multispectral optical imaging payload developed by SAC,
 - APRSDigipeater, which is jointly developed by DITTBhutan and URSC.

About the Indian Space Research

Organisation (ISRO)

- Chairman - Sreedhara Panicker Somanath
- Headquarters - Bengaluru, Karnataka
- Formation - August 15, 1969

China sends new crew to Tiangong space station

- China successfully launched **Shenzhou-15 spaceship**, a spacecraft carrying three astronauts to **Tiangong (China's under-construction space station)** atop the **Long March-2F Y15** carrier rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China.
- The spacecraft carried three astronauts - **Fei Junlong, Deng Qingming, and Zhang Lu.**

Note

- Tiangong (Palace in the Sky) is a space station constructed by China and operated by **China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) in low Earth orbit** between 340 and 450 km above the surface.

Sriharikota gets India's first private space launchpad

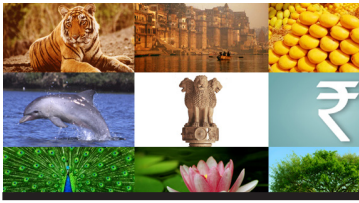
- India's first ever launchpad for a private launch vehicle was established at Satish Dhawan Space Center, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- The launch pad was established by **Agnikul, the Chennai headquartered space tech start-up.**

- The facility, which was designed by Agnikul and executed with the support of ISRO and Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACE), has two sections: the Agnikul launchpad and the Agnikul mission control Center.
- Its successful test-firing in early 2021 made Agnikul, the first company in the country to test its engines at ISRO.
- Agnibaan and Agnilet will be used in the Agnikul's first launch.

Note

- Agnibaan is Agnikul's highly customizable, two stage launch vehicle, capable of carrying up to 100 kg in payload to orbits 700 km high.
- **Agnilet is the world's first single piece 3D printed engine**, fully designed and manufactured in India.





6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENT

No Money for Terror” Conference

- The **3rd Ministerial “No Money for Terror” (NMFT) Conference** held from November 18 and 19, 2022 in **New Delhi**.
- The major topics discussed at the 2022 NMFT Conference spanning **four sessions** are
 - Global trends in terrorism and terrorist financing
 - Use of formal and informal channels for terrorism
 - Emerging technologies and terrorist financing
 - International cooperation to address challenges in combating terrorist financing.
- India has proposed a permanent secretariat for ‘No Money for Terror’ (NMFT), a ministerial conference, in order to sustain the global focus on countering the financing of terrorism.

About NMFT Conference

- The Ministerial No Money for Terror (NMFT) Conference aims to create platform for international discussions on countering terror financing.
- The conference includes discussions on technical, legal, regulatory and cooperative aspects of the terrorism financing. It aims to set pace for other high-level official and political discussions focusing on terror finance.
- The **inaugural edition** of this conference was held in **Paris, France, in 2018**. The **second edition** of the NMFT took place in **Melbourne, Australia, in 2019**.
- The **third edition** was set to take place in **India in 2020 but was postponed because of COVID-19** pandemic that caused the global-level restrictions on travel.

Biggest iPhone manufacturing unit near Hosur;

- Telecom and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the biggest unit to manufacture Apple iPhone in India is coming up near **Hosur in Bengaluru**, which will employ around 60,000 people.
- Apple has outsourced the manufacturing of iPhone enclosures to Tata Electronics, which has a plant at Hosur.
- The company gets iPhones manufactured by electronics giants - **Foxconn, Wistron and Pegatron in India**.

WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM)

- On the sideline of G20 summit being held in **Bali, Indonesia** **World Health Organisation (WHO)** chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for collaborating with the world health body on hosting and building the global traditional health centre.
- Prime Minister Modi, **World Health Organisation Director-General Ghebreyesus and Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth** laid the foundation stone for the **WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM) in Gujarat's Jamnagar city in April 2022**.
- The centre, supported by an investment of USD 250 million from India, aims at harnessing the potential of traditional medicine from across the world through modern science and technology to improve the health of people and the planet, according to the WHO.

Note

- The World Health Organization (WHO) defines traditional medicine as "the sum total of the knowledge, skills, and practices based on the theories, beliefs, and experiences indigenous

to different cultures, whether explicable or not, used in the maintenance of health as well as in the prevention, diagnosis, improvement or treatment of physical and mental illness"

About WHO

- Formation - 7 April 1948
- Headquarters - Geneva, Switzerland
- Director-General - Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (Ethiopia).

69th All India Cooperative Week

- Minister of Slum Clearance Board of Tamil Nadu T. M. Anbarasan distributed the welfare assistance in 69th Cooperative Week Festival at an event in Kancheepuram.

Note

- The Cooperative Week is celebrated every year from 14th to 20th November, 2022.
- It is an occasion to highlight the achievements of the cooperative movement and chalk out future strategies.
- The theme for 2022 is "India@75" Growth of Cooperatives and Future Ahead".
- The Cooperative Credit Societies Act of India was enacted in 1904

Constitutional Provisions

- The Constitution (97th Amendment) Act, 2011 added a new Part IXB regarding the Cooperative Societies.
- Article 43B was added in the Directive Principles of State Policy (Part IV) regarding the "promotion of cooperative societies".

5th Meeting of NIIF's Governing Council

- Ministry of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman presided over the 5th meeting of the Governing Council (GC) of the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) which was held in New Delhi.
- NIIF is India's largest infrastructure and private equity fund manager.
- The GC has approved significant updates regarding the bilateral engagements under NIIF.
- The MoU signed between the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIFL) and the Japan Bank for International

Cooperation (JBIC) suggests creating the first bilateral fund of the NIIF called the "India Japan Fund".

- About the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF):
- NIIF is a collaborative investment platform for international and Indian investors, anchored by the GoI.
- Formation - 2015
- Headquarters - Mumbai.

Kashi Tamil Sangamam

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Kashi Tamil Sangamam in Varanasi.
- Both regions Tamil and Sanskrit are the centers of the oldest languages, Sanskrit and Tamil.
- The Programme is introduced as a part of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'.
- The knowledge partners for the programme would be IIT Madras and the Banaras Hindu University.
- Uttar Pradesh government would be the host State.

About Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat

- The programme was launched on 31st October, 2015 on the occasion of the 140th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- It aims to enhance interaction & promote mutual understanding between people of different states/UTs through the concept of state/UT pairing.

Personalities with link between Kashi and Tamil Nadu

- Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, who was born in Tamil Nadu, was the Vice Chancellor of the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- The renowned Vedic scholar Rajeshwar Shastri lived in Kashi, even though he had his roots in Tamil Nadu.
- Kashi Kaam Koteswar Panchayatan Mandir, which is a Tamil temple on the banks of Harishchandra Ghat, and the 200 year old Kumarswamy Matt and Markande Ashram on Kedar Ghat.
- The 3rd Ministerial "No Money for Terror" (NMFT) Conference is being held in New Delhi.

Living Proof certificate available online

- The central Government has ordered that the pensioners of the central government and Pensioners of the Employee Provident Fund must provide a proof of living certificate (Jeevan Praman) from 1st November.
- However, pensioners, and senior citizens, face a huge lot of hardships in directly visiting the concerned office and furnishing Proof of Living.
- Now, the union government made provisions that pensioners have to furnish the details of their Aadhar card number, Mobile phone number, PPO Number and pension details and register the fingerprint to get the Digital Proof of Living Certificate online.

The International Film Festival of India (IFFI)

- The 53rd IFFI was conducted jointly by the **National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)** and the **Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG)** at **Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium in Goa**.
- The theme of the opening ceremony was **"Evolution of Indian Cinema in the last 100 years"**.
- The legendary Spanish filmmaker **Carlos Saura** was given the **Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award**. Carlos Saura's daughter, Anna, accepts the award on behalf of the filmmaker at the opening ceremony of the IFFI.
- The Telugu film veteran actor Chiranjeevi was conferred 'Indian Film Personality of the Year 2022' award.

Note

- IFFI was first held in **1952** and has since been held annually to provide a common platform for the best cinema at an International level to project excellence in the art of filmmaking.

India Launches Official Website of SCO for 2023 – "For a SECURE SCO"

- India has launched the official website of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** "For a Secure SCO," as it will hold the next SCO summit as chairman in 2023.

- **India will preside over the SCO Council of Heads of State** in for the first time from September 2022, lasting for one year till September 2023.
- The official website of India's Chairmanship of the SCO Council of Heads of State is <https://indiainsco.in/home>.
- At the 22nd Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State 2022 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, India took over the rotating presidency of the SCO from Uzbekistan.
- **Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev chaired the 22nd SCO summit in Samarkand.**

Note

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed the concept of 'SECURE' at the 2018 SCO Summit in China.
 - "S" represent security for citizens
 - "E" for economic development
 - "C" for connectivity in the region
 - "U" for unity
 - "R" for respect for sovereignty and integrity
 - "E" for environmental protection.

Health ministry includes coronary stents in National List of Essential Medicines, 2022

- The Union Health Ministry has notified the **inclusion of coronary stents in the National List of Essential Medicines, 2022.**
- The inclusion is based on the recommendations by an expert committee constituted to review the inclusion of stents in the list based on requirement.
- A move that will help make these life-saving medical devices more affordable.
- The **National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)** will fix the price of coronary stents.
- The **Standing National Committee on Medicines (SNCM)** had submitted its recommendation for inclusion of coronary stents in the **National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), 2022 in two categories - Bare Metal Stents (BMS) and Drug Eluting**

Stents (DES) which include metallic DES and bioresorbable vascular scaffold (VBS)/ biodegradable stents.

- Several anti-cancer drugs, antibiotics and vaccines were among 34 new additions to the National List of Essential Medicines released on September 13, 2022 taking the total number of drugs under it to 384.

Note

- The **National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM)** is a list released by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- The **first** National List of Essential Medicines of India in 1996 consisted of 279 medicines. This list was subsequently revised in **2003, 2011, 2015 and 2022**.
- The medicines listed in the NLEM are sold below a price ceiling **fixed by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)**.
- In India, it was framed on the lines of the **Essential Medicines List (EML) released by the WHO**.

Union Health Ministry launches India's first suicide prevention policy

- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** announced a **National Suicide Prevention Strategy, the first of its kind in the country**, with time bound action plans and multi sectoral collaborations to achieve reduction in suicide mortality by 10% by 2030.
- The recent **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** report stated that **1.64 lakh people died by suicide in 2021**. This is **10 per cent higher** than the COVID deaths in India 2020, and 6.8 times the maternal death (23800) in 2020.
- The **UN's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.4** aims to reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases by one-third, through prevention and treatment, and promote mental health and well-being. One of the indicators for this is the suicide rate.
- In India, more than one lakh lives are lost every year to suicide, and it is the **top killer in the 15-29 years category**.
- In the past three years, the suicide rate has increased from 10.2 to 11.3 per 1,00,000 population.

- The most common reasons for suicide include family problems and illnesses, which account for 34% and 18% of all suicide-related deaths.

PM Rojgar Mela

- PM Modi will launch the second phase of the **Rojgar Mela**.
- PM Rojgar Mela 2022** was initiated by the Government of India and was announced by the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi on October 22, 2022 via a video conference.
- Rojgar Mela is an initiative by the Government of India wherein **10 lakh jobs** will be available for **candidates to apply in Group A and B Gazetted Posts, Group B Non-Gazetted and Group C Non-Gazetted posts**.
- Earlier in the month of October 2022, in the first phase appointment letters were handed over to 75,000 new recruits.
- In the second phase, 71000 people will be given employment orders.
- Appointments will be made for the posts of Teacher, Lecturer, Nurse, Nursing Officer, Doctor, Pharmacist, Radiologist and other technical and paramedical posts. In particular, more appointments will be made in the Central Armed Police Forces.
- PM Modi will also launch online training courses for newly appointed candidates.
- According to the Prime Minister's Office, the training includes Code of Conduct for Government Servants, Workplace Ethics-Coordination, Human Resource Policies, Benefits and Steps for Government Servants.

Zorba, India's first dog on anti-poacher duty, is dead

- Zorba, India's first dog to be deployed for tracking down poachers, has died of age-related ailments in Guwahati.
- The 12-year-old male Belgian Malinois was a member of 'K9', the nation's first dog squad to fight wildlife crime.
- Zorba was the first dog of the squad.
- Zorba retired from service in 2019 and was honored with a traditional Assamese gamosa (a scarf) and a citation on Independence Day on 2022.

- Zorba served mostly in the Kaziranga National Park from 2012 till his retirement.

Railways to simulate accident to test preparedness of relief teams

- In a first, the **Indian Railways** is assessing the **preparedness and performance of its accident relief teams** in real time by simulating a major accident, involving derailment of coaches and huge casualties in Bengaluru.
- The exercise is being organised by the **Indian Railway Institute of Disaster Management, Bengaluru**, in association with the **National Institute of Disaster Management, New Delhi**.
- About 40 senior railway officers, 50 officials in-charge of Accident Relief Trains from across Indian Railways and 75 disaster management experts drawn from different fields will participate in the programme.

New guidelines for travel to the UAE

- The **National Advance Information Center - UAE** has notified that the passport holder should have their primary (first name) and secondary (surname) names mentioned properly in their passports.
- The passengers with a single name (word) either in surname or given name will not be accepted by the UAE immigration and the passenger will be considered inadmissible.
- This is applicable only to passengers with visit visa, visa on arrival, employment, and temporary visas and is not applicable to existing UAE resident card holders.

EV Charging Station at Chennai Airport

- First of its kind, an electric vehicle charging station was installed at the **Chennai airport**.
- **Airports Authority of India, Chennai Airport and Indian Oil Corporation** have jointly set up an electric vehicle charging station at Chennai Airport.
- The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has set up an electric vehicle charging station at the airside of Chennai airport for charging ground handling vehicles and passenger shuttle buses.
- This is the first electric vehicle charging station opened by Indian Oil Corporation outside retail outlets.

- EV Charging station will not only help reduce the carbon footprint within the airport, but will also be cost-effective in terms of daily operational costs.

Note

- **e-AMRIT (Accelerated e-Mobility Revolution for India's Transportation)** is a one-stop portal for creating awareness about **electric mobility through Electric Vehicles (EVs) in India**.
- The portal aims to ease the transition from fossil fuel driven vehicles to electric vehicles by providing all information about policies, incentives, charging stations, business requirements.

India's First Private Agricultural Mandi at Nashik

- The Sahyadri Farmer Producer Company (FPC) (based in Nashik) is set to launch the first ever private agricultural mandi (market) for grapes in Mohadi village in Dindori taluka, Nashik, Maharashtra.
- The world-class infrastructure will be established in the next three months at a financial outlay of Rs. 25 crores.
- FPC will develop a 100-acre dedicated market space integrated with world-class infrastructure along services from banking to storage, processing, and packaging under one roof.

Note

- Sahyadri FPC became the first farmer producer organisation in India in November 2022 to get the license to set up a private Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) market.
- So far, the traditional agricultural produce market committees (APMCs) have played a major role in regulating the market for agricultural produce and have established a monopoly.

North East's first RRIUM in Silchar, Assam

- Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (AYUSH), inaugurated the Regional Research Institute of

Unani Medicine (RRIUM), the first of its kind institute for Unani Medicine in North East, in Silchar, Assam.

- The state-of-the-art institute will play a vital role in the promotion of Unani medicine, a traditional medicinal practice in the Ayush system.
- The complex was developed by the National Projects Construction Corporation (NPCC) Limited and handed over to the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM), an autonomous organisation under AYUSH Ministry.

About Assam

- Capital - Dispur
- Governor - Jagdish Mukhi
- Chief Minister - Himanta Biswa Sarma
- Pre-Launch of International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023
- Representatives from over 60 countries attended the pre-launch celebration of the IYM 2023.
- Objective was to spread awareness about millets and engage with other nations for IYM 2023.
- In 2018, India proposed to United Nations to declare 2023 as IYM.

About Millets

- They are collective group of small seeded annual grasses that are grown as grain crops.
- Grown on marginal land in dry areas of temperate, sub-tropical and tropical regions.
- **India accounts for 80% of Asia's production and 20% of global production.**
- **Major Millets in India: Pearl Millet (Bajra) (highest share), Jowar (Sorghum), and Finger Millet (Mandua/Ragi).**
- **Major producer States: Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka.**

Significance of millets

- Millets are considered as **superfood** (foods that have a very high nutritional density).
- Do not require high-quality soil and can withstand drought.
- Short growing period.

- Ability to sequester carbon and assist in climate adaptation.

Initiatives for promotion of Millet

- **National Year of Millets** was celebrated in 2018.
- Millets notified as nutri-cereals and included under **POSHAN Mission Abhiyan**.

Himalayan yak gets food animal tag

- The **Himalayan yak**, a multi-purpose bovine found in high-altitude areas of the Himalayan region, has been designated as a **food animal** by the **Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI)** based on the recommendation from the **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD)**.
- National Research Centre on Yak (NRCY) based in Dirang in Arunachal Pradesh, said his institution had submitted a proposal to the FSSAI in 2021 for considering the yak as a food animal.
- The FSSAI's recognition will help farmers rear the yak economically and open up several vistas of economic benefits for both farmers and food processors.

About FSSAI

- It is a **statutory body** established under the **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006**.
- Formation - September 5, 2008
- Chairperson - Rajesh Bhushan.

Chief guest for Indian Republic Day 2023

- **Egyptian President Abdel Fateh el-Sisi** will be the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations in January 2023.
- Both countries, **India and Egypt** are celebrating the **75th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations in the year 2022**.
- Egypt and India were founding members of the movement for **non-alignment** in international affairs during the 1950s.

About Egypt

- Capital - Cairo
- President - Abdel Fattah el-Sisi
- Prime Minister - Moustafa Madbouly
- Currency - Egyptian pound

Bihar launches Har Ghar Gangajal Scheme

- Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar launched the Har Ghar Gangajal scheme, under which piped Ganga water will be supplied to every household, at Rajgir in Nalanda district.
- Har Ghar Gangajal scheme is a part of the Bihar government's Jal, Jivan aur Hariyali mission.
 - In the first phase, two districts of Nalanda and Gaya will be covered.
 - In the second phase, Nawada district will be covered.

About Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

- JJM is envisioned to provide **safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India.**
- JJM was launched **on August 15, 2019.**
- 100 % tap connectivity are accomplished in Goa, Telangana and Haryana among the states and Puducherry, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu among the UTs (Union Territories)
- **Tamil Nadu has 39.28 % tap connectivity.**

Mahatma Gandhi's bust to be inaugurated at UNHQ

- **A bust of Mahatma Gandhi** will be inaugurated as a gift from India to the United Nations during India's presidency of the Security Council.
- It will be installed at the **headquarters in New York.**
- The bust was made by renowned Indian sculptor and Padma Shri awardee Ram Sutar, who also designed the Statue of Unity in Gujarat.

Note

- Another gift from India which is on display at the UN Headquarters is an **11th century black-stone statue of 'Surya', the Sun God**, dating from the late **Pala period**, was **donated on July 26, 1982**, by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

About UNSC

- One of the six organs of the UN.
- Formation - 24 October 1945

- Membership - 15 countries (5 permanent and 10 non-permanent members)
- The permanent members are China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- 10 non-permanent members are elected for a term of two years.
- India is a non-permanent member whose tenure ends in December 2022.

India's first Buddhist varsity

- The foundation stone will be laid for the **International Buddhist University at Manu Bankul in Sabroom** of South Tripura district, near **Agartala in Tripura.**
- The Dhamma Dipa International Buddhist University (DDIBU) is expected to become the first Buddhist-run university in India to offer Buddhist education.

About Tripura

- Capital - Agartala
- Chief Minister - Manik Saha
- Governor - Satyadev Narayan Arya

IIT Madras racing team develops electric racing car

- The student formula racing team of the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** has **developed its first electric racing car.**
- The new electric car, RF23, is expected to offer a significant upgrade in terms of speed and lap time as compared to the internal combustion (IC) engine-based previous model.
- The e-racing car is expected to take off in January 2023 at the Kari Motor Speedway in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.
- The IIT Madras team is planning to develop a driverless race car by 2025 and participate in the 'driverless category' of Formula Student racing events.

International Gita Mahotsav

- President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the International Gita Mahotsav (IGM)-2022 at Kurukshetra in Haryana and launched 'Nirogi Haryana', a health checkup scheme, and an e-ticketing system of public road transport facilities.

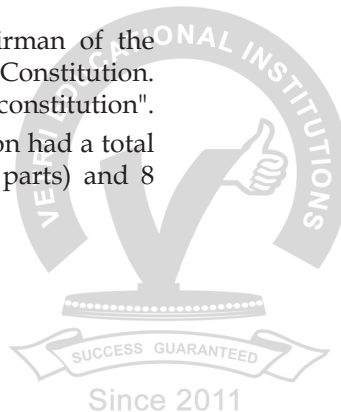
- Nepal is the partner country, while Madhya Pradesh is the partner State for this year's edition of IGM.
- Families, with an annual income less than Rs.1.8 lakh, can avail free health check-up and treatment under the Nirogi Haryana scheme.

About the Constitution of India

- The framing of the Constitution took over 2 years, 11 months and 17 days.
- There were 299 members in the Constituent Assembly and 15 were women and when the constitution was adopted in 1949, 284 members finally signed it.
- During this period, it held 11 sessions covering 165 days, and its members submitted around 7,600 amendments to the draft Constitution.
- Dr. Rajendra Prasad was the chairman of the Constituent Assembly.
- Dr BR Ambedkar was the chairman of the Drafting Committee of India's Constitution. He is known as the "Father of the constitution".
- Originally, the Indian Constitution had a total of 395 articles (divided into 22 parts) and 8 schedules.

Women in drafting of Constitution

- 15 women were the members of the Constituent Assembly that contributed in the making of the constitution.
- One of them is Dakshayani Velayudhan, who belonged to a marginalised community and made important interventions to protect the rights of the oppressed classes.
- Durgabai Deshmukh, Hansa Mehta, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Sarojini Naidu, Vijay Lakshmi Pandit and the other women members had contributed significantly on topics related to women





7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

World's 'Longest' Gas Supply Deal

- **Qatar and China** signed the **27-year natural gas supply deal** which will be the longest gas supply deal any country ever made.
- The **China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation (Sinopec)** will get 4 million tonnes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) annually from the state energy company's new North Field East project.
- The deal marks the **longest gas supply agreement in the history of the LNG industry**.
- Since Russia invaded Ukraine, European nations have become more interested in Qatar's gas, which is primarily sold to Asian nations led by China, Japan, and South Korea.

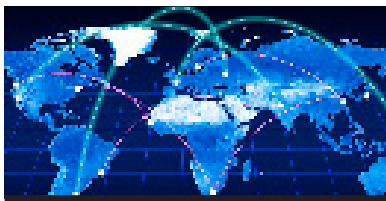
About Qatar

- Capital - Doha
- Prime Minister - Khalid bin Khalifa
- Currency - Qatari riyal

About China

- Capital - Beijing
- President - Xi Jinping
- Currency - Renminbi





8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

CM launches housing scheme for construction workers

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin launched a housing scheme for construction workers, who are registered members of the Tamil Nadu Construction Workers' Welfare Board.
- In the first phase, over 100 beneficiaries are to be covered under the scheme, which aims at benefiting over 10,000 construction workers annually at a cost of Rs.400 crore.
- The **Tamil Nadu Construction Workers Welfare Board** was constituted to extend all possible assistance for the education of the children of the members, marriage and other welfare schemes, including the construction of houses.
- Between May 2021 and October 22, welfare assistance to the tune of Rs 322 crores was provided to over 4 lakh beneficiaries.
- Besides, more than 771 lakh workers enrolled during this period.

Healthcare Conference 2022

- TN CM MK Stalin inaugurated the **Healthcare Conference 2022 in Omandurar Multi-Speciality Hospital in Chennai**. He stated that the reasons for institutes' and districts' poor performance will be ascertained and steps will be taken to improve the situation.
- The government plans to provide quality medical care in rural areas, and urged deans of medical college hospitals, deputy directors of health services, joint directors of health services, and other health officials to improve healthcare services.
- TN aims to reduce communicable diseases and non-communicable diseases, and improve mental health and accident and trauma care in line with Sustainable Development Goals.
- The Tamil Nadu Health and Family Welfare Department has ranked State-run healthcare

institutions, and rated districts based on 17 criteria including **Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR), Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), and out-patient treatment**.

- This is the first time the State has ranked primary healthcare centres (PHCs), healthcare sub-centers, district headquarters hospitals, and medical college hospitals. Tenkasi, Tirupathur, and Dindigul are at the bottom of the list, and Kancheepuram, Namakkal, and Thoothukudi districts have performed the best.

Note

- Schemes like **Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam, Nammai Kakkum 48** and **Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme** have been launched in Tamil Nadu to improve the healthcare infrastructure of the State.

Tamil Chair in Houston

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin handed over a cheque of Rs.2.50 crore for the setting up of a **Chair for Tamil at the Houston University in the USA**, on behalf of the **Tamil Development Department**.
- Houston Tamil Studies Chair Inc. president, Sockalingam (Sam) Kannappan and its secretary Perumal Annamalai received the cheque from the Chief Minister at the Secretariat in Chennai.

Elephant death audit framework was introduced

- Tamil Nadu's Forest Department has introduced an **elephant death audit framework** to establish a more detailed and transparent process for recording and monitoring deaths.
- It is a **first of its kind initiative in India**.
- It prescribes a systematic standard protocol for conducting post mortem to determine the reasons for death.

- It will help study the circumstances of preventable and unnatural deaths and formulate measures to avoid them.
- The baseline data will help the officials to determine whether the mortality rates of the elephant are a cause for serious concern or within acceptable limits.

Note

- There remains a lack of clarity on the natural vs. unnatural deaths of elephants and how this is affecting the population in the long term, all over Tamil Nadu for the death of elephants in the wild. The framework will help to solve this issue.

Chennai's only 'white' police station was ISO certified

- Flower Bazaar police station was awarded ISO 9001:2015 and WASH (Workplace Assessment for Safety and Hygiene) standard certificates after independent assessment of the standards by an autonomous body.
- At 146 years old, Flower Bazaar police station is one of the oldest in the city. It is also the only police station, painted white, a deviation from the red colour, which has now become synonymous with stations across the State.
- It is the **fifth police station in Tamil Nadu** and the **10th in India** to get both standard certificates.

Tamil Nadu Sustainable Energy Transformation Dialogues

- In the inaugural event Supriya Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary, Environment, Forests and Climate Change stated that Tamil Nadu is developing its own greenhouse gas emission inventory.
- The event is organised by WRI India, Auroville Consulting and Citizen consumer and civic Action Group (CAG).
- The steps Tamil Nadu had taken in its fight against climate change includes
- The declaration of 13 wetlands as Ramsar sites in six months, up from one
- Green Tamil Nadu Mission
- Climate Change Mission.

Challenges discussed regarding Sustainable Energy Transformation

- The higher peak demand usually occurs during summer, especially at night when the availability of renewable energy will be lower. So the reliance on coal based power plants will be higher at such times. So the fossil fuel based power plants would continue operating to meet the peak demand in summer.
- According to a study, though the installed capacity of renewable energy was higher, the unit consumption thereof had not crossed 21%, as mandated by regulation, at the national and State levels.
- According to WRI's working paper on 'Low Emissions Analysis Platform for Tamil Nadu', which was released at the event, the State could cut its emissions by 25%–32% if it integrated 60% of its renewable capacity.

Tamil Nadu Day event

- **Minister for Information and Publicity M. P. Saminathan** inaugurated the **Tamil Nadu Day celebrations** at the **41st India International Trade Fair at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi**.

About 41st India International Trade Fair

- Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal inaugurated the fair.
- The fair will be held from **November 15 to 27 November**.
- The theme of the trade fair for 2022 is **"Vocal for Local, Local to Global"**.

8th State Conference of Construction Workers' Union of the All Indian Trade Union Congress

- The **Construction Workers' Union of the All Indian Trade Union Congress' 8th State Conference** took place in **Ranipet**.
- In order to improve the academic performance of children of construction workers studying 6th to 9th standard will receive a grant of Rs. 1,000 from the current year.
- In case of death of construction workers in accidents, Rs. 2 lakh will be given and Rs.5 lakh in case of death of the worker at the construction site.

- For construction workers Rs.4 lakh subsidy, Rs.400 crore has been allocated for the scheme of building houses. 103 houses have been provided in the first phase.

5,035 children get cochlear implants under CMCHIS'

- As many as 5,035 children have undergone cochlear implant surgeries at a cost of Rs.358.44 crore under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS).
- Golden Jubilee of upgraded Ear, Nose and Throat Department at Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital, Chennai.
- The Department of Otorhinolaryngology was started in 1927 under the leadership of Dr. Cherian.
- In 1972, the department was elevated to the status of a Treatment Facility and the golden jubilee is being celebrated to mark 50 years.
- In 2010, the cochlear implant program was launched by the then Chief Minister Karunanidhi. It is now linked to the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme.
- Various advanced treatments include all advanced tests for hearing, speech lab for computerized voice analysis, treatment center for vertigo, sleep lab, polysomnography for snoring, endoscopy test for swallowing disorders, narrow band imaging for early detection of laryngeal cancer.

Naan Mudhalvan Scheme

- MoUs were signed with 6 industrial companies to provide training to engineering and polytechnic students while studying under the 'Naan Mudhalvan' project.
- 1,560 students will benefit from this agreement through 6 institutions namely Mando India (Sriperumbudur), VVDN Technologies (Pollachi), Sri Kannapiran Mills Limited (Coimbatore, Madurai, Perundurai), KG Group of Mills, Lakshmi Machine Works (Coimbatore), Gabriel India (Villupuram, Hosur).

About Naan Mudhalvan Scheme

- Launched on **March 1, 2022**.
- The scheme was launched as a skill development program for the students of Government Schools and Colleges.
- TN Government also launched the '**Kalloori Kanavu**' programme under the '**Naan Mudhalvan**' initiative which aims to guide and counsel students who have **completed Class XII**.
- Naan Mudhalvan portal was launched by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on August 29, 2022 which is aimed to get over 12.5 lakh students registered on the portal by the end of the year.

Tamil Nadu: Internet page on VOC launched

- Chief minister M K Stalin launched an **internet page on freedom fighter V.O. Chidambaram Pillai** at the Tamil digital library and released the 150th birthday souvenir magazine, on the occasion of his **86th death anniversary**.
- The internet page in the Tamil digital library consists of 11 books written by him including seven editions and four translations.
- The web page also has **e-books; 20 biographic books on VOC, six centenary year souvenirs**, a compilation of essays written on him, five research books and six other books on VOC.
- Besides, the web page has 17 documentaries, seven handwritten copies and 38 other documents on the life of VOC.
- Tamil virtual academy is involved in turning **all the books on VOC into e-books**.
- In view of **150th birthday of VOC on September 3, 2021**, Stalin had announced that Tamil virtual academy will take up the task of converting all the literature on VOC into e-books.

Online Processing of Government Documents

- A project is being implemented to process all files in government departments only via online.
- More than 2.5 lakh e-files have been generated so far.

- This would result in better utilisation of manpower, thereby, avoiding delays, leading to better governance.
- It would help improve efficiency, consistency and effectiveness of Government responses; reduce turnaround times and meet the demands of the citizen charter. It will also help in providing effective resource management to improve the quality of administration; transparency and accountability; and cost-effective e-storage facilities.
- As per the e-Governance scheme, all the files will be generated in a computerized manner.
- The Tamil Nadu government is implementing e-Office applications developed by NIC (National Informatics Centre) to process all the files electronically in all government departments/ PSUs/ boards/ agencies.

TN CM reviews implementation of five major government schemes

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin chaired a meeting of the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) to review the implementation of five major schemes in the State.
- The five schemes include implementation of the MPs Local Area Development Scheme, the National Health Mission, the Integrated Child Development Scheme, the National Food Security Act and the Prime Minister's Model Village Scheme.
- Procuring equipment designed by IIT Madras to avoid the death of workers while cleaning sewers, in-cresing the unit cost of houses constructed under the Prime Minister's Housing Scheme, renaming villages and streets with caste surnames, installing more electric crematoriums in local bodies, ensuring crematoriums for all sections of society and increasing the income slab for availing the Post Matric Scholarship were among the issues that had been raised at the meeting.

T.N. mahouts and cavadies set to train in Thailand

- **Thirteen mahouts/cavadies from the Anamalai and Mudumalai Tiger Reserves are set to visit the Thai Elephant Conservation**

Centre in Thailand for training and capacity building to learn how to manage camps and look after elephants better.

- The programme will involve an expenditure of Rs.50 lakh, and tiger foundation funds will be used for the purpose.
- Tamil Nadu is already a pioneer in the rehabilitation and maintenance of captive elephants. The camps at Theppakadu in the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve and Kozhikamuthy in the Anamalai Tiger Reserve. are some of the oldest elephant camps in the country. There are a total of 63 elephants, cared for by 37 mahouts and 28 cavadies, at these camps.
- On the occasion of **World Elephant Day 2022 (12 August)** Tamil Nadu notified Agasthyamalai Elephant Reserve as its 5th Elephant Reserve with a total area of 1,197.48 sq.km at Agasthyamalai in Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari district. This is India's 32nd Elephant Reserve. There are 5 elephant reserves in Tamil Nadu in total.
- **Other Elephant reserves are**
 - Nilgiris-Eastern Ghats - 4,663 km²
 - Nilambur Silent Valley in Coimbatore - 566 km²
 - Srivilliputhur - 1,249 km²
 - Anamalai - 1,457 km²
- Project Elephant was introduced in 1992.

About Indian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*)

- It is included in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES) and Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972.
- **IUCN Status - Endangered**
- The Project is primarily carried out in 16 States/ Union Territories (UTs): Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal.

Revenue from stamp duty and registration goes up in the State

- Tamil Nadu accounted for 9% of India's overall revenue collection from stamp duty and registration charges in the first half of 2022-23 (H1FY2023).

- The State came third after Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, respectively, as per a study by **Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited**.
- As per the report, the overall collections grew by 35% from Rs.70,120 crore in the first half of 2021-22 to about Rs.94,847 crore in the first half of 2022-23.
- The study examined 27 States and one Union Territory (Jammu and Kashmir).
- Tamil Nadu's revenue from stamp duty and registration charges grew by 39% from Rs.6,200 crore in the first half of 2021-22 to Rs.8,662 crore in the first half of 2022-23.
- As per the provisional figures of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), Tamil Nadu has achieved 53.07% of the budgeted revenue from stamp duty and registration charges for 2022-23.
- Karnataka and Telangana have been placed fourth and fifth.

Egg export soars to 4 crores

- The number of eggs exported **from Namakkal district to Qatar** have been increased to 2.5 crore from 1.50 crore due to an increase in demand owing to the FIFA World Cup in 2022 and a cheaper price compared with Turkish eggs.
- In Namakkal district, approximately 1,100 poultry farms are functioning, and these farms produce 5.5 crore to 6 crore eggs per day. Out of these, 1.50 to 1.75 crore eggs are sent to Kerala, 45 lakh eggs to the noon meal scheme, 40 lakh eggs to Bengaluru, and the remaining to various parts of the State and to various countries like Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Maldives etc.
- Earlier, 1.5 crore eggs were exported to Qatar, and now it has increased to 2 crore to 2.5 crore.
- The World Cup in Qatar has tripled the demand for eggs in Qatar.

Note

- According to the **Economic Survey 2021-22**, **India ranks third in production of eggs** and eight in meat production in the world.
- **Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra** are the top egg producers in the country.

Tamil Nadu gets its first biodiversity heritage site

- Based on the recommendation of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board the Tamil Nadu government issued a notification declaring Arittapatti and Meenakshipuram villages in Madurai district as the first biodiversity heritage site in the State.
- The declaration had been made under Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- The site comprises 139.63 hectares in Arittapatti village (in Melur taluk) and 53.58 hectares in Meenakshipuram village (Madurai East taluk).
- Arittapatti, known for its ecological and historical significance. It houses around 250 species of birds, including three important raptors — the Laggar Falcon, the Shaheen Falcon and Bonelli's Eagle. It is also home to wildlife such as the Indian pangolin, slender loris and pythons.
- The area is surrounded by a chain of seven hillocks, or inselbergs, that serve as a watershed, charging 72 lakes, 200 natural springs and three check-dams.
- The Anaikondan tank, built during the reign of the Pandiyan kings in the 16th Century, situated in the site.
- Arittapatti has been declared as a biodiversity heritage site to prevent the loss of biodiversity and preserve the cultural and architectural heritage of the bygone times.

'Dream House' scheme (Kanavu illam thittam) for 10 Tamil scholars and writers

- The State government has issued orders to provide a house under the **'Dream House' scheme (Kanavu illam thittam) for 10 Tamil scholars and writers**, who have received the **Sahitya Akademi awards or Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi Classical Tamil Award** or from the Central Institute of Classical Tamil.
- Houses would be provided either in their district of residence or in a place of their choice.
- The selected persons are:
 - G.Thilakavathi (Sahitya Akademi (SA) award, 2005)

- Pon.Kothandaraman (Kalaigarnar M.Karunanidhi Classical Tamil (KMKCT) Award, 2011)
- Su. Venkatesan (SA award, 2011)
- P.Marudhanayagam (KMKCT award, 2013)
- Maraimalai Ilakkuvanar(KMKCT award, 2015)
- R.Kalaikovan (Tholkappiyar award, 2015-16)
- S. Ramakrishnan (SA award, 2018)
- K. Rajan (KMKCT award, 2016)
- R.N. Joe D'Cruz (SA award, 2013)
- S. Kalyana Sun daram (SA award, 2016).

Director –General of Audit for T.N.

- Tamil Nadu is the first State to create the role of Director –General of Audit, and has hired an officer from the Indian Audit and Accounts Service for the purpose.
- The officer's responsibility would be to strengthen and streamline the functioning of internal audit departments so that they perform their functions professionally.
- The State government recognised the importance of internal audits, and had proper control mechanisms so that it could improve the efficiency of expenditure.
- The internal audit departments had been operating under the same department they were supposed to audit and there was no independence. The new post would ensure independence.

T.N. notifies police law providing for Complaints Division

- The State government has notified the Tamil Nadu Police (Reforms) Rules, 2022, which provide for a Police Complaints Division under the administrative control of the ADGP of the Crime Branch CID and under the overall control of the DGP.
- The complaints received will be referred to the division for inquiry under Sections 13 and 16 of the Act by the State Police Complaints Authority and the District Police Complaints Authority.

- The Police Complaints Division is to complete its inquiry within six months from the date of receipt of a complaint and send the report to the State Police Complaints Authority or the District Police Complaints Authority, as the case may be.
- The rules also provide for the State Security Commission, which is to meet at least once in a year.

Safe Surgery - Protocols and Checklists

- Health Minister Ma. Subramanian releasing the '**Safe Surgery - Protocols and Checklists**', a manual on safe surgery protocols and checklists which will be issued to nearly 5,000 surgical specialists in Tamil Nadu.
- It was announced that every surgery would be audited in the State. To facilitate it, four regional death audit committees will be constituted in **Madurai, Coimbatore, Tiruchirapalli and Chennai**.
- Four higher speciality doctors from surgery, medicine, anesthesia and orthopedics would be members of each committee.
- The State government had reduced the fee for foreign medical graduates to take up internship in the State from Rs.3.54 lakh to Rs.25,000 in February, 2022.

Incentives to sportspersons who won in national, global events

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin handed over incentives worth ₹4.85 crore to 190 sportspersons who won medals in various national and international events.
- **Athlete T. Selva Prabhu**, who bagged **men's triple jump silver in the World Under-20 Athletics Championships in Cali, Colombia**, and **Barath Sridhar**, part of the **Indian mixed 4x400 relay team** which won silver in the same event, received cheques for ₹4 lakh each.
- **S. Marees waran and S. Karthi**, who was part of the Indian team that secured **bronze medal in the Asia Cup Hockey Championship 2022**, received cheques for ₹10 lakh each.
- Winners in the **International Wheelchair & Amputee Sports Federation World Games in Sharjah in 2019**.

- R. Balasubramanian, who secured two gold medals in the 200 metre and 100 metre athletics, received a cheque for ₹10 lakh. A. Selvaraj, who won a gold medal in javelin event received a cheque for ₹5 lakh.
- G.Vijayarathay, who got two bronze medals in shot put and discus throw events, received a cheque for ₹4 lakh.
- TN CM also handed over incentives to 180 sportspersons who took part in the 36th National Games 2022 in Gujarat.

T.N. to implement scheme for persons with disabilities

- The Tamil Nadu government is planning to implement a scheme for persons with disabilities' rights, with a **financial assistance of ₹763.19 crore from the World Bank**.
- The scheme would be implemented in all districts over the next six years.
- Industrial training would be imparted to persons with disabilities by coordinating with different government agencies.
- Under the scheme, **arrangements for sign language interpreters** during important public meetings organised in Collectorates will be made.

About World Bank

- Formation - December 1945
- President - David Malpass
- Headquarters - Washington, D.C.

Tamil Nadu CM M K Stalin opens first of govt's five literary festivals in Nellai

- A two-day '**Porunai Literary Festival**' is being held in **Palayamkottai in Tirunelveli district**. TN CM Stalin virtually inaugurated the ceremony.
- Porunai is the first of **five literary festivals** conducted by the government of Tamil Nadu.
- The other literary festivals are **Vaigai, Cauvery, Siruvani and Chennai**.
- Porunai which is conducted on the **banks of Thamirabarani is a significant one**.
- The two-day event will see special lectures delivered by authors and literary figures.

- Archaeology is being established scientifically through various excavations and various initiatives, following Keezhadi, Sivagalai and Korkai.
- The Literary festivals are being held with the aim of taking this pride to the next generation and bringing the intellectual community to the fore.

Initiative to promote STEM education in T.N. government schools from Monday

- In a bid to encourage scientific thinking and to increase interest in science and mathematics among students, government schools across the State will form '**Vanavil Mandrams**' with a focus on STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) education.
- The School Education Department said that all 13,210-government middle, high, and higher secondary schools would initiate the forming of these STEM clubs from 2 p.m. for students of classes 6 to 8.
- To mark the beginning of this initiative, the teachers are asked to demonstrate some simple experiments in class.
- Every school has been allocated Rs.1,200 initially to buy materials for these experiments.

Permanent Walkway for the differently abled

- The country's first Permanent Walkway for Differently Aabled was inaugurated at a cost of Rs 1 crore 14 lakhs under Singara Chennai 2.0 project at Chennai Marina beach.
- Paved with eco-friendly wooden planks. The track is 263 m long and 3 m wide.
- 11 meters long and 6 meters wide ramps have been set up for the disabled to stand in between.

Small Grain Scheme Policy

- NABARD Bank has finalized the report for Tamil Nadu regarding Small Grain Scheme Policy.
- Till the last 25 years in Tamil Nadu, small grains such as millet, varaku, samaai, sorghum and sorghum and small grain crops like corn, rye and ragi were grown extensively. These were the traditional food items of Tamils.

- In recent years, the lack of acceptance of these food items among the people has decreased and the nutritional deficiencies have started to increase in the people and diseases like diabetes and high blood pressure have started to increase.
- Thus, the general public is reverting back to small grain foods.
- The Department of Agriculture has taken forward a scheme to implement the Small Grains Scheme with the financial support of Central and State Governments at Rs.12.44 crores.
- The Central Government entrusted NABARD Bank with the task of preparing the thesis for implementation of Tamil Nadu Small Grains Movement.

State's net market borrowings go down by 30.3%

- Tamil Nadu's net market borrowings (after adjusting for repayments) **have been down by about 30.3%** (₹24,403 crore) till September in FY 2022-23, from ₹35,000 crore in the same period last year, according to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- Tamil Nadu borrows from the market through the issue of bonds known as State Development Loans (SDLs).
- The State's gross borrowings were ₹33,000 crore till September compared with ₹39,000 crore last year. The lower borrowings reflect the improved financial performance of Tamil Nadu in the first half of 2022-23.
- As on September 30, 2022, Tamil Nadu's fiscal deficit stood at ₹18,726.32 crore and the revenue deficit at ₹4,184.10 crore.

Railways, India Post join hands to offer parcel service in Coimbatore

- Indian Railways and India Post have come together to offer 'Joint Parcel Product', an initiative to collect parcels at the doorstep of customers.
- The service would be rolled out in Coimbatore soon.
- The programme was announced in the Union budget and it was **first launched between Surat and Varanasi on March 8, 2022.**
- Under the initiative, India Post will provide the first-mile and last-mile connectivity and station-to-station connectivity will be provided by Railways.
- The service will benefit MSMEs and various industries like spare parts manufacturers. Apart from Coimbatore, it will also benefit the textile industry in Tiruppur, Erode and Salem.