

VETRIL IAS STUDY CIRCLE

Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

DECEMBER 2022 - PART 1



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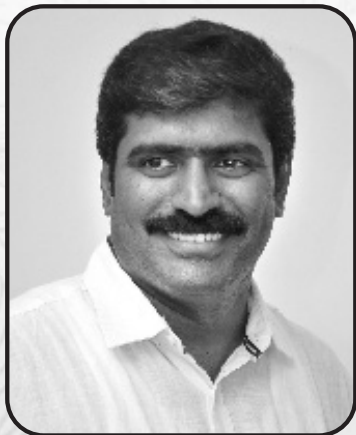
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Preface



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Director

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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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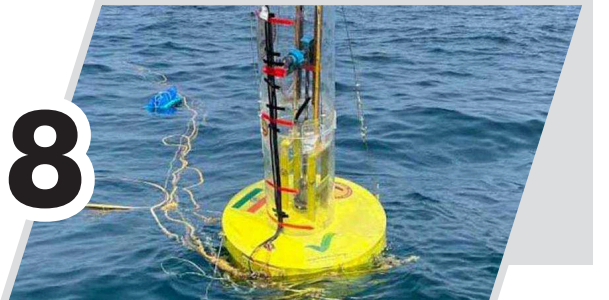


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1. HISTORY



1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
November 30	Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The day is commemorated on November 30 every year.▪ The day aims to encourage efforts for eliminating the use of chemical weapons and remember those who have suffered because of such warfare.▪ The Chemical Weapons Convention was adopted in 1993 to remember the victims of chemical warfare. It came into force on April 29, 1997. <p>About OPCW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Formation - 29 April 1997.▪ Headquarters - The Hague, Netherlands.▪ Director General - Fernando Arias.▪ The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) is an intergovernmental organisation and the implementing body for the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).
November 27	National Organ Donation Day 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ National Organ Donation Day is being celebrated every year on November 27 to commemorate the contributions made to society by deceased donors and their families.▪ India ranks third in the world only behind the USA and China as per the data available on the Global Observatory on Donation and Transplantation (GODT) website. <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ World Organ Donation Day is annually observed across the globe on August 13.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
December 1	World AIDS Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World AIDS Day has been observed on 1 December every year since 1988. The International day is dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of HIV infection and mourning those who have died of the disease. The acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) is a life-threatening condition caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Theme for 2022 is "Equalize" <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tamil Nadu stands first in the National AIDS Control Organisation ranking for big states for AIDS-related works. Tamil Nadu has bagged the first rank for various programmes in AIDS control and prevention. In Tamil Nadu, 0.18% of the population is infected with HIV and 0.24% at a national level.
December 2	National Pollution Control Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is observed on December 2 every year to commemorate those who lost their lives in the 1984 Bhopal Gas tragedy on the night of December 2nd and 3rd. A poisonous gas known as Methyl Isocyanate (MIC), caused many deaths following leak from a pesticide plant. The individuals who did not die were exposed to cancers, blindness, loss of livelihood. In terms of industrial pollution disasters, the Bhopal Gas Tragedy ranks among the worst. <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In India, around 7 million people die due to air pollution each year, of which 4 million are killed by indoor air pollution. Air pollutants are so tiny that they can pass through mucus membranes and other protective barriers to harm the lungs, heart, and brain.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
December 3	International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) is observed on December 3 every year. ▪ It aims to spread awareness about the rights and well-being of people with disabilities. ▪ Theme for 2022 is ‘Transformative solutions for inclusive development: The role of innovation in fuelling an accessible and equitable world.’ ▪ The observance of International Day of Persons with Disabilities began in 1992. ▪ Later in 2006, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) was also adopted with an aim to work towards creating equal opportunities for persons with disabilities through the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As per statistics by the United Nations, the world population is over 7 billion people and more than one billion people, which is approximately 15 percent of the world’s population, live with some form of disability; 80 percent live in developing countries.
December 4	Navy Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is marked annually on 4th December to recognise the achievements and role of our naval forces. ▪ The day also pays tribute to all Navy personnel who sacrificed their lives in service of the nation. ▪ The day is observed on the anniversary of Operation Trident, which took place during the 1971 Indo-Pak War.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
December 5	World Soil Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is celebrated every year on 5th December and aims at highlighting the importance of soil. The day raises awareness about the need of managing soil resources in an eco-friendly manner. It encourages people to make efforts for the improvement of soil health. The theme for 2022 is "Soils, where food begins". <p>History</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The day was first recommended by the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) as an initiative in 2002. In December 2013, the UN General Assembly responded and announced 5 December 2014 as the first official World Soil Day. <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme was launched in 2015 to assess the current status of soil health, and when used over time, to determine changes in soil health. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana was launched on July 1, 2015 to prevent soil erosion, regeneration of natural vegetation, rainwater harvesting and recharging of the groundwater table. National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) launched in 2014-15 has schemes promoting traditional indigenous practices such as organic farming and natural farming.
December 7	India Armed Forces Flag Day 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7th December is observed as the Armed Forces Flag Day throughout the country to honour the martyrs and the men in uniform who valiantly fought & continue to fight on our borders to safeguard the country's honour. The nation commemorated the First Armed Forces Flag Day on December 7, 1949 The Defence Minister's Committee established the First Flag Day Fund in 1949. The Indian Ministry of Defence combined associated welfare funds into a Single Armed Forces Flag Day fund in 1993.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
December 8	55th Submarine Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Indian Navy observes Submarine Day every year on December 8. ▪ The day marks the formation of Indian Navy's submarine arm with the commissioning of its first submarine, erstwhile INS Kalvari, on December 8, 1967 into Indian Navy. ▪ INS Kalvari is the first Scorpene class submarine in India. <p>Note to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Indian Navy currently operates sixteen diesel powered submarines. ▪ India's submarine fleet is based at two locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh on the east coast • Mumbai, Maharashtra on the west coast.
December 9	International Anti-Corruption Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The day is observed globally on 9 December to raise awareness about corruption and the ways to combat this global ill. ▪ The day seeks to highlight the role of every part of society - individuals, non-governmental organisations, law enforcement, governments and media persons – in tackling the issue of corruption. ▪ Theme 2022 - "Uniting the World Against Corruption". <p>History</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the United Nations Convention Against Corruption on 31 October 2003. ▪ The Convention, which came into effect in 2005, is a legally binding universal anti-corruption instrument, with a majority of countries being party to the Convention. <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ India's rank improved one place to 85 among 180 countries in a corruption perception index (CPI) of 2021, according to a new report by Transparency International.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
December 10	Human Rights Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The day is observed every year on December 10 to honour the day when the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948. It signifies the absolute rights to which all human beings are entitled, irrespective of any race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinions, national or social origin, property, birth or another status. Theme 2022-"Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All" and the call to action is #StandUp4HumanRights
December 11	International Mountain Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Day is observed annually on December 11 to raise awareness of the significance of mountains. Conservation of the mountains is one of the major factors for sustainable development and is a part of Goal 15 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The United Nations adopted a document "Managing Fragile Ecosystems: Sustainable Mountain Development" during the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) in 1992. This led to a need for safeguarding and preserving the mountains. The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed December 11 as International Mountain Day in 2003. <p>Significance of Mountains</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mountain conservation plays a crucial role in long-term development. Nearly 27% of the Earth's land is covered by mountains. According to the United Nations, around 15% of the world's population resides in the mountains. However, with several environmental issues, the life of mountains are also under threat.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
December 12	Universal Health Coverage Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The day is observed every year on 12 December and it marks the date to call on leaders to make smarter investments and accelerate efforts towards “Health for All”. ▪ The Day aims at raising awareness on the need for strong and resilient health systems and universal health coverage with multi-stakeholder partners. ▪ Universal health coverage (UHC) lifts people out of poverty, promotes the well-being of families and communities, protects against public health crises, and moves us toward health for all. ▪ Theme 2022 - “Build the world we want: A healthy future for all” <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On December 12, 2012, the United Nations General Assembly had endorsed a resolution urging countries to accelerate progress toward universal health coverage (UHC).

1.2 PROFILE OF STATES

‘Vanikaran’ project

- The Forest department of Kerala in association with Noolpuzha grama panchayat has launched the ‘Vanikaran’ project.
- It is an afforestation project to root out **invasive plants**, especially **Senna spectabilis** and restore natural forests.
- It is being executed in Sulthan Bathery forest range of Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Its pillars include planting saplings of Bamboo, fruit plants etc. and rainwater harvesting.
- Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary is an **integral part of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve**.

About Kerala

- Capital - Thiruvananthapuram
- Governor - Arif Mohammad Khan
- Chief Minister - Pinarayi Vijayan

1.3 DEFENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND TERRORISM

Yudh Abhyas 2022

- The 18th edition of Indo - US joint training exercise "Yudh Abhyas 22" was conducted in Auli, Uttarakhand.
- Exercise Yudh Abhyas is conducted annually between India and USA with the aim of exchanging best practices, Tactics, Techniques and Procedures between the Armies of the two nations.
- The joint exercise will also focus on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations. Troops from both nations will practice launching of swift & coordinated relief efforts in the wake of any natural calamity.

ICG commissions Advanced Light Helicopter Mk-III squadron

- The Coast Guard Region East, 840 Sqn (CG), an Indian
- Coast Guard Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Mk-III squadron, was commissioned by the Director General of Coast Guard VS Pathania at ICG Air Station, Chennai.
- The commissioning of 840 Sqn (CG) is indicative of the leap towards self-reliance in the field of helicopter manufacturing, in line with the government's vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.
- It will provide a major fillip to the abilities of the Indian Coast Guard in the security sensitive waters off Tamil Nadu and Andhra region.
- The ALH Mk-III helicopters are indigenously manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- The helicopters feature state-of-the-art equipment including advanced RADAR as well as Electro optical sensors, Shakti engines, full glass cockpit, high-intensity searchlight, advanced communication systems, automatic identification system as well as search-and-rescue homer.
- A total of 16 ALH Mk-III aircraft have been inducted into the Indian Coast Guard in a phased manner and four of these aircraft are positioned in Chennai.

Coastal Security Conference in Chennai

- Coastal Security Conference (CoSC) under the aegis of Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) was inaugurated at Chennai.
- The heads of the Coast Guard of member countries India, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Mauritius and observer countries- Bangladesh and Seychelles-participated in the conclave.
- The theme of the Coastal Security Conference 2022 is "collaborative efforts for coastal security".
- The 5 basic principles to address issues of Maritime Security include
 - Legitimate maritime trade
 - Settling maritime disputes by peaceful means
 - Mitigating natural disasters & maritime threats
 - Preservation & protection of maritime environment
 - Encouraging responsible maritime connectivity for increasing maritime trade through creation of sustainable infrastructure.

About Coastal Security Conference

- The CSC, was formed in 2011 as a trilateral maritime security grouping of India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives.
- The grouping is in line with India's vision of "SAGAR: Security and Growth for all in the Region" and now it includes Mauritius as a full-time member and Bangladesh and Seychelles as observer countries.

B-21 Raider nuclear stealth bomber

- Northrop Grumman Corporation (US) has recently unveiled its new B-21 "Raider" jet, the first of a new class of long-range stealth nuclear bombers for the United States Air Force.
- The B-21 Raider will utilize cutting-edge stealth technologies for nuclear missions and long-range bombardment. The B-21 Raider aircraft will be subsonic. The average speed is 563 miles per hour.

39th Edition of India - Indonesia Coordinated Patrol

- The 39th edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT) between the Indian Navy and the Indonesian Navy is being conducted from 08 - 19 December 2022.
- **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Karmuk**, an indigenously built Missile Corvette participated in the pre-deployment briefing at Belawan, Indonesia.
- The CORPAT will be executed along the **International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL)**.
- **INS Karmuk**, L-58 (indigenously built Landing Craft Utility vessel) and Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft will be participating in the CORPAT.

About Indonesia

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

Defense Logistics Industry Corridor

- To achieve the goal of self-reliant India and to achieve the goal of manufacturing in India, the Central Government has established **two Defense Logistics Industrial Corridors (DICs)** in the country, one in **Uttar Pradesh** and the other in **Tamil Nadu**.
- **Six terminals** namely **Agra, Aligarh, Chitrakoot, Jhansi, Kanpur and Lucknow** have been identified for development of **Uttar Pradesh Defense Logistics Industrial Corridor (UPDIC)**.
- Similarly, **five terminals** namely **Chennai, Coimbatore, Hosur, Salem and Tiruchirappalli** have been identified for development of **Tamil Nadu Defense Logistics Industrial Corridor (TNDIC)**.
- The government moots to create a better defense manufacturing ecosystem.
- Based on the data from the TN Government, MoUs have been signed with 53 companies for

investments of 11, 794 crore rupees in the state and have already received 3,847 crore rupees as investment.

- It has been reported that 910 hectares of land has been acquired for the **Tamil Nadu Defense Logistics Industry Corridor**.

About Indian Navy

- The Indian Navy is the naval branch of the Indian Armed Forces led by the President of India as Commander-in-Chief.
 - The Chief of the Naval Staff directs Indian Navy operations and administrative management from the Ministry of Defence's integrated.
 - **Headquarters: Integrated Defence Headquarters, Ministry of Defence, New Delhi.**
 - The Indian Navy is the maritime arm of the Indian Armed Forces, with the President of India as commander in chief.
 - The **Maratha Emperor, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj** is considered the **Father of the Indian Navy**.
 - The Indian Navy was established by the East India Company in 1612.
 - Later it was named as **Royal India Navy and post-Independence**, it was reconstituted as the Indian Navy in 1950.
- ### Interesting Facts about the Indian Navy
- Earlier called the Royal Indian Navy, the naval wing of the armed forces of India was renamed the Indian Navy on January 26, 1950, as India became a Republic.
 - Indian Naval Academy, **Ezhimala** is **Asia's largest naval academy**. Situated in Kerala, the campus occupies an area of 2452 acres, with a total perimeter of 22 km. The Academy also includes a beach stretch of 7 km.
 - Indian Navy's **BrahMos missile** is the **fastest cruise missile in the world**.
 - The **INS Arihant** is the **first ballistic missile submarine** to be built by a **nation other than the five permanent members of the UN Security Council (UNSC)**.

- IN completed an expedition to the **South Pole and the North Pole in 2006 and 2008** respectively. The Indian Navy became the **only organisation** in the world to conquer **all three poles viz. South Pole, North Pole and Mount Everest**.
- Sagar Pawan is the Indian Navy's aviation arm's aerobatic demonstration team. It is one of only two naval aerobatic teams in the world, the other being the US Navy's Blue Angels.
- The **new ensign of the Indian Navy** was unveiled on **September 2, 2022**, which is inspired by the seal of Indian emperor Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. The move came to do away with the colonial past as the previous naval ensign consisted of the St. George's Cross.

1.4 WORLD ORGANISATIONS – PACTS AND SUMMITS

India assumes monthly presidency of UNSC

- India assumed the **monthly rotating presidency** of the **UN Security Council (UNSC)** on December 1 for the second time in its two-year tenure as an elected member of the Council in 2021-22.
- India had earlier **assumed UNSC presidency in August 2021**.
- Under India's December presidency of UNSC, there are two signature events at the ministerial level, scheduled for **December 14 (Reformed Multilateralism)** and **December 15 (Counter-Terrorism)**.
- The other signature event planned is the high-level briefing on the theme **"Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts: Global Approach to Counter Terrorism – Challenges and Way Forward"**, scheduled for December 15.

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.
- At Present, **India** is a non permanent member whose **tenure ends in December 2022**.

India to assume Chairmanship of Wassenaar Arrangement (WA)

- India will assume the chairmanship of the **Wassenaar arrangement** on January 1, 2023.
- Wassenaar Arrangement is a **multilateral export control regime (MECR)** that works to promote transparency and responsibility in transfers of conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies through regular exchanges of information among its members.
- WA was established in **1996**. It is a **voluntary export control regime** consisting of 42 members.
- **India joined WA in 2017 as its 42nd participating state.**

Note

Multilateral Export Control Regimes

- MECR are **voluntary and non-binding agreements**. It prevents proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) which includes nuclear, radiological, chemical, biological or other weapons.

Other regimes under MECR includes

Nuclear Supplier Group (NSG), 1975:

- Prevents nuclear proliferation by implementing guidelines for nuclear and nuclear-related exports.
- India is not a member of NSG

Australia Group, 1985

- Ensures that exports do not contribute to development of chemical or biological weapons.
- 43 members **including India** and EU.

Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), 1987

- Prevent proliferation of missile and unmanned aerial vehicle technology capable of delivering WMD.
- It is **not legally-binding** treaty.
- 35 members **including India**.
- China is not a member of MTCR.

17th Asia and Pacific Regional Meeting (APRM) of ILO

- The 17th APRM of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) was held in Singapore to discuss national action to deal with the issue of dwindling wages of workers, inflation and unemployment in Asia, Pacific and Arab State.
- It focuses on actions to enhance job-rich growth that is inclusive and transformative.
- Meeting concludes with adoption of the **Singapore Declaration**.

Key highlights of Singapore Declaration

- Strengthen social dialogue and labour market institutions to a sustained inclusive growth.
- Ensure labour protection for all through effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining.

- Strengthen governance frameworks to protect rights of migrant workers.
- Strengthen foundation for social and employment protection and resilience.
- Revitalizing productivity growth and skills development with focus on digital transformation, digital divides and lifelong learning.

About International Labour Organisation (ILO)

- A **specialised agency** of the United Nations (UN)
- Formation - **1919** as part of the Treaty of Versailles.
- **Only tripartite U.N. agency** which brings together governments, employers and workers of 187 member States.
- Headquarters - Geneva, Switzerland
- Key Reports Published by ILO are:
 - **World Employment and Social Outlook**
 - **Global Wage Report**

1.5 EMINENT PERSONS

Remembering Tantya Bhil (Jan 26 1842 - December 4, 1889)

- Known as the **"Indian Robin Hood"**, Tantya Bhil symbolized the feelings of tribals and general masses with his indomitable courage and passion for uprooting British rule.
- Going by the British accounts of that time, he has been described as a criminal but was considered a heroic figure by Indians.
- He was popularly called **"Mama"** by people of all age groups. This address of Tantia became so popular that the Bhils still feel proud of being addressed as "Mama".

About his life:

- Tantya Bhil, who belonged to the **Bhil tribe of the indigenous Adivasi community**, was born in 1840 in **Badada village** under East Nimar, now known as Khandwa, in Madhya Pradesh.

- Tantya is hailed as one of the revolutionaries who waged an armed struggle against British rule for 12 years.
- As per reports, he used to plunder the treasuries of the British government and the wealth of their followers to distribute it among the poor and needy.

Note

- In 2021, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister, Mr, Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced that the **Patalpani railway station in Indore to be renamed after Tantya Bhil**.

Manohar Devadoss passes away

- **Manohar Devadoss** was 85 and had been battling an irreversible eye condition since he was in his 30s; he was known for his intricate ink drawings of Madurai and Chennai

- Devadoss has written several books and illustrated them.
- Padma Shri in 2020.

Notable Works

- Green Well Years, about his childhood in Madurai.
- From an Artist's Perspective
- Multiple Facets of my Madurai
- A Poem to Courage
- Dreams
- Seasons and Promises
- Mahe and Mano: Challenges, Resilience and Triumphs
- His last book, Madras Inked: Impressions of an Artist and an Architect, was co-authored by Sujatha Shankar.

141st Birth Anniversary of Subramania Bharati

- TN CM MK Stalin inaugurated Mahakavi Bharathi's memorial house and his bust in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh to commemorate the 141st birth anniversary of Subramania Bharati.

About Mahakavi Bharathiyar (11 December 1882 to 11 September 1921)

- Born in Ettayapuram in Tirunelveli district (present-day Thoothukudi)
- Worked as a journalist with many newspapers, including The Hindu, Bala Bharata, Vijaya, Chakravarthini, the Swadesamitran and India.
- Other names - Bharathi, Subbaiah, Sakthi Dasan, Mahakavi, Mundasu Kavignar, Veera Kavi, Selly Dasan.
- Notable Works - Kuyil paattu (Song of Nightingale; 1912) (குயில் பாட்டு), Kannan paattu (1917; Songs to Krishna), Panchali sapatham (1912; Panchali's Vow).

Statue erected for Rajanarayanan.

- **Rajanarayanan**, fondly known as **Ki Ra** who popularised **black literature** ('**Karisal**') worldwide, passed away recently.
- The Tamil Nadu government renovated the **Edaiseval Panchayat Union Middle School** in Kovilpatti where the writer studied, without altering its architectural and heritage values and converted it into a museum in his memory.
- The museum will house his works and rare photographs to help the public and students learn about his literary skills.
- His first short story "**Mayamaan**" was published in **1959**.

About Ki.Ra

- He was an eminent folklorist and acclaimed writer from Kovilpatti.
- Some of his popular works include
- Gopalla Grammam
- Gopallapurathu Makkal
- Mayamaan
- Nattupura Kadhai Kalanjiyam

Awards and Honour

- Tamil valarchi araichi mandram award - 1971
- Ilakkiya chinthanai award - 1979
- Santhome International Christian Society Best Writer Award - 1990
- Sahitya Akademi Award for his novel Gopallapurarthu Makkal - 1991
- M.A. Chidambaram award - 2008
- Literary achievement special award from The Tamil Literary Garden - 2016

1.6 SPORTS AND GAMES

Vijay Hazare Trophy

- **Saurashtra** beat Maharashtra by 5 wickets in the final to win the Vijay Hazare Trophy at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- **Player of the tournament** - Ruturaj Gaikwad.

1.7 AWARDS & HONOURS

National Sports Awards 2022

- President Droupadi Murmu conferred the National Sports Awards 2022 to the awardees at a function at Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.
- National Sports Awards are given every year to recognize and reward excellence in sports.

Note

- 'Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award':** awarded for the spectacular and most outstanding 1 performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over the period of the past four years.
- Arjuna Award:** awarded for good performance over a period of the previous four years and for showing qualities of leadership, sportsmanship and a sense of discipline.
- Dronacharya Award:** awarded for coaches for doing outstanding and meritorious work on a
- consistent basis and for enabling sportspersons to excel in international events.
- Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime achievement in Sports and Games:** awarded to honour sportspersons who have contributed to sports by their performance and who continue to contribute to promotion of sports event after their retirement.
- Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar:** awarded to corporate entities (both in private and public sector), Sports Control Boards, NGOs, including sports bodies at the State and National level, who have played a visible role in the area of sports promotion and development.
- The overall top performing university in inter-university tournaments is given the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy

Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2022		
S.No.	Name of the sportsperson	Discipline
1.	Shri Sharath Kamal Achanta	Table Tennis
Arjuna Awards for outstanding performance in Sports and Games 2022 (From TN)		
1.	Shri R. Praggnanandhaa	Chess
Dronacharya Award for Outstanding coaches in Sports and Games 2022		
A. Regular Category		
S.No.	Name of the Coach (S/Shri/Ms)	Discipline
1.	Shri Jiwanjot Singh Teja	Archery
2.	Shri Mohammad Ali Qamar	Boxing
3.	Ms Suma Siddharth Shirur	Para Shooting
4.	Shri Sujeet Maan	Wrestling
B. Lifetime Category :		
1.	Shri Dinesh Jawahar Lad	Cricket
2.	Shri Bimal Prafulla Ghosh	Football
3.	Shri Raj Singh	Wrestling
d. Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime achievement in Sports and games 2022		
1.	Ms Ashwini Akkunji C.	Athletics
2.	Shri Dharamvir Singh	Hockey
3.	Shri B.C. Suresh	Kabadi
4.	Shri Nir Bahadur Gurung	Para Athletics

e. Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2022		
S.No.	Category	Entity Recommended for RashtriyaKhel Protsahan Puruskar, 2022
1	Identification and Nurturing of Budding and young Talent	TransStadia Enterprises Private Limited
2	Encouragement to sports through Corporate Social Responsibility	Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology
3	Sports for Development	Ladakh Ski & Snowboard Association
f. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy 2022 - Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar		

Award for Best Schools

- Under the **Perasiriyar Anbazhagan School Development Scheme**, 18,000 classrooms and toilets will be constructed in five years at a cost of ₹7,500 crore. This year, ₹1,300 crore has been sanctioned. As many as 2,500 schools that are functioning without adequate classrooms will get priority.
- This year, Rs 1,400 crore has been earmarked for the development of the school education sector and to improve the infrastructural facilities of schools.
- In honour of the centenary memory of former Minister Anbazhagan, a statue of Anbazhagan will be installed at the Tamil Nadu Government Department of School Education Commissionerate (TPI) premises.
- Chief Minister M.K.Stalin has announced that the best schools that exhibit multifaceted development such as learning and teaching, teacher skill development, leadership and student development will be given an award in the name of former minister Anbazhagan.
- Tamil Nadu nationalized 42 books written by Anbazhagan** and gave the license fee to the family.

Idol Wing hands out 'NFT' medals to its persone

- The **Tamil Nadu Police's Idol Wing** is the **first police unit in the world** to mint **Soul bound Tokens (SBTs)**, a non transferable form of NFTs, as 'digital medals' to motivate officers in the wing.
- Digital rewards will only augment the existing reward system and will not replace any of the existing rewards in the Police Department

- The **Tamil Nadu Police** is the **second police force in the world, after Dubai**, to mint its **own non-fungible tokens or NFTs** to award their personnel as rewards.

Note

- The **Idol Wing CID** is the **first police unit in the world to create a virtual museum (www.tnidols.com)** using augmented and virtual reality images of seized idols. The virtual museum was launched on February 27, 2022.

About NFTs

- NFTs are unique digital assets stored and corroborated **using blockchain technology**.
- Anything that can be converted into a digital form can be an NFT. Everything from drawings, photos, videos, GIFs, music, in-game items, selfies, and even a tweet can be turned into an NFT, which can then be traded online using cryptocurrency.
- Terra Nulius** was the first NFT (started in 2015) on Ethereum Blockchain

Indian Startup Kheyti among the five winners of The Earthshot Prize

- Indian startup **Kheyti**, which provides ground-breaking yet simple farming solutions, has been named as one of the five winners of this year's **prestigious Earthshot Prize, an initiative of Prince William** that rewards each winner with 1 million pounds.
- Kheyti, won in the category **Protect and Restore Nature** which offers a pioneering solution for local smallholder farmers to reduce costs, increase yields and protect livelihoods in a country on the frontlines of climate change, according to the statement on the Earthshot website.

- The prize is Prince William's initiative towards driving an impetus to save the planet by funding projects that provide innovative solutions to the ongoing climate change crisis.

Organization (UNESCO) Peace Tree award for her commitment to women's empowerment and girls' education.

Note

First Global Ambassador for Diabetes

- Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh, has been named the "Global Ambassador for Diabetes" by the International Diabetic Federation (IDF) at the opening ceremony of the World Diabetes Congress 2022 held in Lisbon, Portugal.
- She will be the first Global Ambassador for Diabetes.
- The title was conferred in recognition of her contribution to improving the lives of people living with diabetes.
- For the next 2 years, the global diabetes ambassador will be the voice of people living with diabetes all over the world.

About PM Sheikh Hasina:

- Sheikh Hasina served as Prime Minister of Bangladesh thrice
 - 1996-2001
 - 2009-2014
 - 2014-Present
- She is the longest-serving prime minister in the history of Bangladesh.
- In 2014, she received the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

- The International Diabetes Federation (IDF) is an umbrella organization of over 230 national diabetes associations in more than 160 countries and territories. The Federation has been leading the global diabetes community since 1950.

National Police Equestrian Competition

- **41st All India Police Equestrian Competition** was held at the **BSF Academy in Deccanpur, Madhya Pradesh.**
- Tamil Nadu Police officers who won medals and trophies in the event were felicitated by the TN CM MK Stalin.
- 18 teams from Central Armed Forces and State Police participated in the competition.
- In 2018, the Chennai Metropolitan Police Cavalry was formed for the first time as an Equestrian Team.
- It is the third time that the Tamil Nadu Police Equestrian Team is participating in the National Equestrian Competitions.
- Gold medal winners receive Rs 5 lakh, silver medal winners receive Rs 3 lakh and bronze medal winners receive Rs 2 lakh.

1.8 CULTURAL PANORAMA

Elephant-themed exhibition 'Aa Aana' in Fort Kochi

- **Aa Aana** is a month-long exhibition that will begin on **December 1 at Fort Kochi in Kerala.**
- The exhibition is a **part of 'Gajotsavam'**, a programme to raise awareness on the conservation of the elephant.
- The exhibition is organised jointly by the **Wildlife Trust of India and Whitley Fund for Nature and Cochin Collective.**
- The event is being organised as part of the **Cochin Carnival** and will showcase how

elephants are celebrated in art and culture and also presented in temple rituals.

About Indian Elephant

- IUCN Status - **Endangered**
- Indian Elephant is the **State animal of Jharkhand, Karnataka and Kerala.**
- **Karnataka has the largest number of elephants in India.**

Silchar-Sylhet Festival 2022

- The **first ever festival celebrating cultural ties** between the neighbouring regions of **India and Bangladesh, Silchar-Sylhet festival 2022,**

was held in Barak Valley, Silchar, Assam from **2 to December 4**.

- The festival celebrated the linguistic and cultural ties between the **Barak Valley region of Assam, India and the Sylhet segment of Bangladesh**.
- The event was organised by the **India Foundation under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture** in association with the **Bangladesh Foundation for Regional Studies**.
- The Silchar-Sylhet festival coincides with the **75th year of India's Independence** and the **50th anniversary of the liberation of Bangladesh from Pakistan**.

Note

- India and Bangladesh share **4096.7 km. of border**, which is the **longest land boundary** that India shares with any of its neighbours.
- India helped Bangladesh in its independence from Pakistan **in 1971**.
- **Rabindranath Tagore**, created the **National Anthems of both India and Bangladesh**.
- India and Bangladesh share **54 common rivers**. The Ganga Waters Treaty signed in 1996

About Bangladesh

- Capital - Dhaka
- Currency - Taka
- President - Abdul Hamid
- Prime Minister - Sheikh Hasina

1.9 APPOINTMENTS – WHO IS WHO?

New Principal Accountant General for T.N.

- Senior Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IAAS) officer **C.Nedunchezian** was appointed as the **Principal Accountant General of Tamil Nadu**.
- Mr. Nedunchezian was involved in the auditing of the Central and State government departments and also various agencies of the United Nations.
- He is a 1996 batch IAAS officer.

New Chief Minister of Himachal Chief Minister

- **Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** took oath as the 15th Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh in Shimla.

About Himachal Pradesh

- Capital - Shimla
- Governor - Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

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

About IOA

- Formation - 1927
- Headquarters - New Delhi

New Chief Minister of Gujarat

- Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader **Bhupendra Patel** was sworn in by **Governor Acharya Devvrat as the 18th Chief Minister of Gujarat** during a ceremony held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- He was sworn in as CM for the first time on September 13, 2021.

Note

- **The Article 164** contains the following:
- **Article 164 (1):** The Chief Minister is appointed by the Governor of the state.
- **Article 164 (2):** The Council of Ministers are collectively responsible to the Legislative Assembly of the state.
- **Article 164 (3):** The Governor administers the oaths of the minister.

2. POLITICAL SCIENCE

2.1 INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

Exhibition at Israel Museum

- A cultural event was organised at the **Israel Museum** where a new exhibition titled 'Body of Faith: **Sculpture from the National Museum of India**' was inaugurated.
- Recently, **India and Israel** celebrated the 30th anniversary of the establishment of full diplomatic relations.
- Body of Faith draws from **three major epochs** in the history of Indian sovereignties, namely, the **Gupta dynasty (4th – 8th century CE)**, the **mid-Chola dynasty (10th –12th century CE)**, and the **Pala dynasty (8th – 12th century CE)**.
- Among the 14 sculptures of Hindu deities in bronze and stone, eight have been loaned from the National Museum and other six are taken from the Israel Museum's own collection.
- The **loaned artefacts** from the Indian National Museum include
 - Nataraja (12th Century, Chola period, in bronze)
 - Ganesha (13th century, Pala period, in stone)
 - Vishnu (11-12th century, Pala Period, in stone)
 - Ganga (8-9th century, Pala Period, in stone)
 - Brahmani (12th century, Chola period, in stone)
 - Vishnu (12th century, Chola Period, in stone)
 - Saptamatikas (9th century, Northern India, in stone)
 - Surya (8-9th century, Chola period, in stone).
- The **display from the Israel Museum's own collection** include
- Child Saint Sambandar (9th century, Chola period, in bronze, Shivling (Gupta period in stone)

- Agni (10th century, northern India, in stone)
- Parvati (11th century, Chola period, in stone)
- Celestial Dancer (10th century, Rajasthan, in stone)
- Chamunda (10th century, Northern India, in stone)

About Israel

- Capital - Jerusalem
- President - Isaac Herzog
- Prime Minister - Yair Lapid

India to help Sri Lanka to boost dairy production

- Sri Lanka to scale up its dairy production to become self-sufficient has sought technical assistance from **India's National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)** and market leader **Amul**.
- The assistance will revive a collaboration that Sri Lanka attempted in the late 1990s, but failed to take forward.
- The former president of Sri Lanka **Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga** invited India's "**milk man**" **Verghese Kurien** to set up the '**Kiriya**' dairy project, named after the Sinhala word for milk.
- A \$20 million joint venture between the NDDB and Sri Lanka's MILCO was announced, but the project did not take off, in the wake of resistance from nationalist worker unions and powerful business lobbies in Sri Lanka.
- The **UN World Food Programme (WFP)** said that at least 56,000 children in Sri Lanka currently suffer from severe acute malnutrition.
- The severe acute malnutrition among children had increased to 1.4 per cent this year up from 1.1 per cent.

First India-Central Asia meeting of NSAs

- The **first India-Central Asia Meeting** of the National Security Advisers was held in New Delhi.
- The National Security Advisor (NSA) of India **Ajit Doval** presided over the meeting.

- This is the first time India is hosting a conclave of top security officials including the National Security Advisors (NSAs) from Central Asian countries including **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan** focussing on the evolving security situation in Afghanistan and ways to deal with the threat of terrorism emanating from that country.

2.2 GOVT – WELFARE ORIENTED GOVT SCHEMES, THEIR UTILITY

Medicine kit under Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam scheme

- A total of **99,717 medicine kits in 15 zones** under the Greater Chennai Corporation were distributed under the **Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam scheme**.

About Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam Scheme

- Launched by CM MK Stalin on **5th August 2022 in Samanapalli village** in Krishnagiri district and 7 other districts (**Thanjavur, Tiruchi, Tirunelveli, Coimbatore, Chennai, Salem and Madurai**)
- The scheme will screen those above 45 years of age and others with infirmities through routine door-to-door check-ups and **detect non-communicable diseases**.
- The scheme will hinge on women public health workers, women health volunteers (WHVs), physiotherapists and nurses, who will provide healthcare at the doorstep.

Innuir Kappom - Nammai Kaakkum 48' Scheme

- 1.31 lakh people benefited under the Innuir Kappom - Nammai Kaakkum 48' Scheme.
- 500 accident prone places in Tamil Nadu have been identified under the scheme.
- The scheme is implemented through 679 hospitals (232 government hospitals, 447 private hospitals) located near those places.
- The government spends up to Rs 1 lakh through the insurance scheme for treatment provided immediately within 48 hours of the accident.
- So far 1,31,164 people have benefited under this scheme and Rs.116 crore has been spent.

About 'Innuir Kappom - Nammai Kaakkum 48' Scheme

- The scheme was launched on **December 18, 2021 in Melmaruvathur**.
- The scheme aims to reduce the loss of life in road accidents by providing free treatment up to 48 hours after the accident in government and private hospitals
- The government will bear the cost of emergency medical treatment for two days for those injured in road accidents.

PM SVANidhi extended

- The Centre has extended the PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme beyond **till December 2024**.

About PM SVANidhi

- PM SVANidhi is a **Central Sector Scheme**.
- It was launched with an objective to provide affordable working **capital loan up to ₹10,000 to Street Vendors** for facilitating resumption of their livelihoods adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic
- Targets to benefit over 50 lakh Street Vendors.
- Implementing partner **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**.

Sanitation Workers' Development Schemes

- Chief Minister M.K.Stalin inaugurated the **Sanitation Workers' Development Scheme** to protect the **welfare of conservancy workers in the State**.
- A mobile application was launched to help identify and collect census data of sanitation workers as part of the scheme.

- The scheme will be implemented on a pilot basis in select local bodies.
- Under the scheme, steps will be taken to
 - Ensure that the workers benefit from various government welfare schemes
 - Provide them the necessary training to gain skills essential in mechanised cleanliness drives. Ensure that they get pension and insurance
 - Ensure that their children have access to proper education, among other measures
- The sanitation workers will also be encouraged to start alternative businesses and be supported in their endeavor through loans.

Cancer Cases on the rise in India

- Based on the data from the **National Cancer Registry Program**, the central government has announced in the Lok Sabha that the number of people suffering from cancer in the country **will increase by 12.8 percent this year**.
- The **Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN)** offers financial aid to low-income patients from families that are below the poverty line who have serious life-threatening illnesses and need medical care at one of the super specialty hospitals or institutes or other public hospitals.
- Under the **Health Minister's Cancer Patient Fund (a component of RAN)**, Rs.216.98 lakh was utilised for 40 beneficiaries as on December 5, 2022, in the 2022-23 fiscal.
- During the previous fiscal year, 64 beneficiaries received Rs.585.05 lakh, while 196 patients received Rs.1,573 lakh in 2020-21 and 470 patients received Rs.2,677.08 lakh in 2019-20.

Government schemes for cancer patients

- Cancer treatment under the **Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana**.
- High-quality generic drugs at affordable price under **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)**
- **Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT)** pharmacy stores
- Free or subsidized treatment in government hospitals

- Funding for poor patients through **Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN)**

Infrastructural Development for Cancer Treatment

- Cancer Treatment Facilities in all 22 AIIMS Hospitals.
- Development of cancer treatment facilities in 13 State Government Medical Colleges-Hospitals.
- 20 Tertiary Cancer Care Centers (TCCCs)
- 19 State Cancer Institutes (SCIs)
- The establishment of the **National Cancer Institute in Jhajjar (Haryana) and the second campus of the Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute in Kolkata**

TB Elimination in India by 2025

- The **National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP)**, previously known as **Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP)**, aims to strategically reduce TB burden in India by 2025, five years ahead of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- In 2022, from January to October 20.16 lakh people were infected with TB (Tuberculosis) and 73,551 people died from the disease.
- According to the **Global TB Report 2022**, the incidence of TB in the country has decreased by 18 percent.
- In 2015, 256 out of 100,000 people in India were affected by the disease, while last year it was 210 out of 100,000.
- The central government plans to eliminate tuberculosis in the country by 2025 through measures such as state-district level program in areas where the incidence of tuberculosis is high. The screening for tuberculosis is done among weak and those suffering from other diseases.
- According to the statistics of the states, 1,864 primary health centers and 8,327 sub-health centers are functioning as **Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centers in the country**.
- States and Union Territories have been directed to convert 1.50 lakh rural and urban primary health centers in the country into Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres.

Note

- TB is caused by a bacterium called **Mycobacterium tuberculosis**.
- Currently, two vaccines **VPM (Vakzine Projekt Management) 1002** and **MIP (Mycobacterium Indicus Pranii)** have been developed and identified for TB which are **under clinical trials**.
- The World Tuberculosis (TB) Day is observed on **24th March every year**.
- The **Bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccine** is presently the sole vaccine available for the prevention of TB.

PARAVAI Programme launched

- Greater Chennai City Police launched the **PARAVAI (Personality and Attitude Reformation Assistance Venture for Affirming Identity) programme**.
- The programme focuses on the **reformation of first time petty offenders in the 18--24 age group** and their reintegration into society, thereby preventing them from turning to a life of crime.
- PARAVAI programme is a six stage process flow, wherein the young offenders are followed up on from the time they are arrested and lodged in the Saidapet sub jail and subsequently released on bail.
- The programme was officially launched in April, 2022.
- The Neighbourhood Police Officers (NPOs) nominated for each Assistant Commissioner range are tasked with ensuring that the youth undergo the six stage process.

Sanitary Napkin Scheme

- Under **Nirbhaya Fund**, Chennai corporation is to supply free sanitary napkins for corporation school students of classes VI-XII at a cost of Rs 4.67 crore
- Under the initiative 'Kanniyam' the sanitary napkins are distributed to promote menstrual hygiene management in corporation schools.
- Under the **Nirbhaya Niti, Girl Child Safety Scheme** in Chennai schools, a scheme to provide sanitary napkins to girl students from classes 6 to 12 was launched.
- Under this scheme, sanitary napkins will be provided to 25,474 girl students studying in Chennai Corporation schools.
- 20 sanitary napkins will be provided to the girl students every 2 months at the rate of 10 sanitary napkins per month.
- Under the scheme, 26.59 lakh sanitary napkins will be provided to schools in Chennai every year.

Note

- Nirbhaya Fund was an Indian rupee 10 billion corpus announced by the Government of India in its **2013 Union Budget**.
- '**Nirbhaya Fund**' for implementation of initiatives aimed at enhancing the safety and security for women in the country.



3. GEOGRAPHY

3.1 POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

Himalayan medicinal plant species

- **Three Himalayan medicinal plant species** have been added to the IUCN Red List.
- **Meizotropis pellita (Critically Endangered):** Endemic to Uttarakhand. Oil extracted from leaves possesses strong antioxidants and can be a natural substitute for synthetic antioxidants in pharmaceutical industries.
- **Fritillaria cirrhosa (Vulnerable):** Used in treatment of bronchial disorders and pneumonia.
- **Dactylorhiza hatagirea (Endangered):** Used in Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, and other alternative systems of medicine to cure fever, cough etc.

About IUCN

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature is an international organization working in the field of nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.
- Formation - **October 5, 1948**
- Headquarters - **Gland, Switzerland**

Single window system for Green Initiative

- A single window system will be used to approve green initiatives through '**Guidance TN**' in the State.
- It will play a major role in making Tamil Nadu a **trillion dollar economy by 2030**.

- Tamil Nadu is focusing on climate literacy to create awareness on climate change among school and college students.
- The government planned to raise Rs.1,000 crore towards a Green Climate Fund, and the State government had contributed Rs.100 crore to it.
- A **Climate Change Mission** was also launched.

About Guidance TN

- **Guidance Tamil Nadu (formerly Tamil Nadu Industrial Guidance and Export Promotion Bureau)** is the investment promotion agency of the Government of Tamil Nadu.
- It is constituted to reach out to prospective investors and make them invest in the state of Tamil Nadu.

About Climate Change Mission

- The Mission aims to protect the natural resources in the state besides restoring them on a long-term basis.
- The mission will ensure that the state shall achieve carbon neutrality much ahead of the 2070 target set by India.
- The state is first to launch its own Climate Change Mission to make Tamil Nadu a climate smart state.



4. ECONOMICS

4.1 CURRENT TRENDS IN INDIAN ECONOMY

GDP growth dips to 6.3% as manufacturing slides

- **Manufacturing and mining output contracted** year on year in the July - September quarter, dragging Gross Value Added growth to a slower than expected 5.6%, which together with high inflation and weak exports combined to slow overall Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth to a 6.3% pace, as per **estimates released by the National Statistical Once**.
- The April to June quarter of 2022 fiscal had witnessed **GDP growth of 13.5%**, with **GVA expanding 12.7%**.

November GST revenues rise 11%

- India's gross GST revenues were ₹1,45,867 crore in November 2022, **11% higher than** a year ago, but nearly 4% below October's collection.
- Revenues from import of goods were 20% higher while domestic transactions, including import of services, yielded 8% higher taxes than November 2021.
- State GST collections in November accounted for ₹32,651 crore of revenues, while the Integrated GST was ₹77,103 crore, including 38,635 crore collected on import of goods.
- GST Compensation Cess collections were at ₹10,433 crore, factoring in ₹817 crore collected on import of goods — marginally lower than the ₹10,505 crore collected in October 2022.
- **Six States recorded a contraction** in revenues in November, including **Gujarat, Rajasthan and Kerala (-2%), Punjab (-10%), Himachal Pradesh (-12%) and Goa (-14%)**.

About GST:

- GST was launched on July 1, 2017.

- GST has replaced the old Indirect tax regime in India.
- It was introduced with the idea of "One Nation- One Market- One Tax".
- 2022 marks the Fifth Anniversary of GST.
- GST is an indirect, multi-stage, consumption-based tax system. It subsumes several domestic indirect taxes like service tax, purchase tax, value-added tax, excise duty, and others under one head.
- It does not include Petroleum, Liquor, and stamp duty.
- The Three taxes application under the GST are CGST (Central) SGST (State) and IGST (integrated).
- The Four tax slabs are 5%, 12%, 18%, 28%.

World Bank raises India's growth projection to 6.9%

- The **World Bank** has released the **India Development Report** titled 'Navigating the Storm'.
- The World Bank raised its gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for India during the current financial year (FY23) **to 6.9 per cent from 6.5 percent**, citing the economy's relative resilience to external headwinds, and a strong out-turn in the second quarter of the current financial year.
- After three downgrades in its 2022-23 GDP growth estimates, Bank reverses course, citing strong Q2 growth and strong demand at start of Q3; report lauds strong macroeconomic fundamentals.
- Previously, the World Bank had cut India's FY23 GDP forecast to 6.5 per cent from 7.5

per cent in October 2022, which came in the wake of a series of growth downgrades by rating agencies, investment banks and other multilateral institutions.

About World Bank

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

RBI increase repo rate 35 bps

- India (RBI) raised the **policy repo rate by 35 basis points (bps) to 6.25%**, downshifting gears from consecutive increases of 50 bps, and scaled down GDP growth hopes for the year to 6.8% from 7%.
- A 100 basis points equals one percentage point.
- The central bank retained its inflation projection for 2022–23 at 6.7%, noting that inflation will ease but stay well above the 6% upper tolerance limit set for the RBI.

First Payment Gateway to support Credit cards on UPI

- Razorpay becomes India's First Payment Gateway to support credit cards on Unified Payments Interface (UPI)
- Razorpay in partnership with Axis Bank announced its readiness to support Credit Card Transactions on UPI.
- Earlier, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the linking of RuPay credit cards to BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money) UPI app.
- BHIM is a payment app that allows simple, easy and quick transactions through UPI.
- Benefits: No need to carry credit cards for payments, strengthen digital payments and boost India's credit penetration.
- Currently, only 6% Indians have access to credit cards.
- In a similar development, RBI will introduce 'single-block-and-multiple debits' feature on UPI platform.
- Under this, customers will create payment mandates against a merchant by blocking funds

in their bank account for specific purposes which can be debited, whenever needed.

- Benefits: Improve ease of making payments for online shopping, build trust among consumers etc.
- RBI also announced an expansion of Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) to include all payments and collections.
- BBPS is a one-stop ecosystem for all recurring bills with multiple features (see image).

About UPI

- UPI is a real-time payment system, launched in 2016 by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). It links multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application
- NPCI is an initiative of RBI and Indian Banks Association under Payment and Settlement Systems Act (2007). It is an umbrella organization for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India.

One District One Product Scheme

- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry informed that ODOP initiative is operationally merged with 'Districts as Exports Hub (DEH)' initiative.
- ODOP initiative is aimed at fostering balanced regional development across all districts of the country.
- It focuses on the district as a unit for converting into a manufacturing and export hub by identifying products with export potential in the district.
- ODOP was launched by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
- Under the 'Districts as Export Hubs Initiative', products and services (including GI products, agricultural clusters, toy clusters etc.) with export potential have been identified in all districts of the country in consultation with the stakeholders including the States/UTs.

Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme

- The RoDTEP scheme has been extended to chemicals, pharma, iron & steel. The RoDTEP scheme is under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- It refunds exporters the embedded duties/taxes that are not rebated under other schemes. This includes VAT on fuel used in transportation, mandi tax, duty and electricity used during manufacturing.
- The RoDTEP scheme replaces the earlier Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS) which violated provisions of WTO by giving export subsidies for a wide range of goods.

Wholesale price inflation fell to 5.85% in November

- According to the data released by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, India's wholesale

inflation measured by the wholesale price index (WPI) eased to a 21-month low of 5.85 per cent in November from 8.39 per cent in September.

- The decline in rate of inflation in November, 2022 is **primarily contributed by fall in prices of food articles, basic metals, textiles, chemicals & chemical products and paper & paper products** as compared to the corresponding month of the previous year.

Note

▪ Wholesale Price Index (WPI) represents the price of goods at a **wholesale stage** i.e. goods that are sold in bulk and traded between organizations instead of consumers. WPI is used as a measure of inflation in some economies.

- India uses **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** to measure inflation.

4.2 REPORTS AND INDICES

Climate Investment Opportunities in India's Cooling Sector

- The report titled, "**Climate investment opportunities in India's cooling sector**" was released by the **World Bank**.

Key Highlights of the Report

- **From 2030, 160 million to 200 million people** will be exposed to lethal heat waves in India every year, and nearly **34 million Indians** will face **job losses due to heat stress** related productivity decline.
- **By 2037**, the demand for cooling is likely to be **eight times more than the current level**.
- India should deploy alternative and innovative energy efficient technologies for keeping spaces cool which could open an **investment opportunity of \$1.6 trillion by 2040**, besides reducing greenhouse gas emissions significantly and **creating 3.7 million jobs**.
- There will be a demand for a **new air conditioner every 15 seconds** in the coming years.

- The report proposes a road map to support **New Delhi's India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP), 2019**, through new investments in **three major sectors: building construction, cold chains and refrigerants**.

- It proposed enacting a **policy for "district cooling"**. District cooling technologies generate chilled water in a central plant which is then distributed to buildings via underground insulated pipes. This brings down the cost for providing cooling to individual buildings.

About World Bank

- Formation - December 1945
- President - David Malpass
- Headquarters - Washington DC

Global Wage Report 2022-23

- Report, by **International Labour Organisation (ILO)**, presents an analysis of how concurrent crises - COVID-19 pandemic followed by cost-of-living crisis - have impacted wages and purchasing power across countries and regions.

Key highlights of the Report

- Rising inflation is causing real wage growth to dip into negative figures in many countries thereby reducing purchasing power.
- On average, Wage employees **lost six weeks of wages due to COVID-19 crisis**.
- Low wage earners, workers in the informal economy and women wage earners group suffered most.

India Inequality Report 2022 : Digital Divide released by OXFAM India

- It is an annual report to highlight ongoing inequality crises in the country.
- The 2022 report highlights the extent of digital divide in India and its impact on essential services such as education, health and financial inclusion.
- Oxfam India is a non-profit organization working to support child education, empowering women & fighting against inequality in India.

Key highlights of report

- **61% of men owned mobile phones in 2021**, compared to just **31% women**.
- Only **31% of the rural population** uses the Internet compared to **67% of their urban counterparts**.
- Use of computer devices has decreased (post-COVID) in rural areas. Likelihood of a digital payment by the richest 60% is four times more than the poorest 40% individuals, households, businesses
- **Maharashtra has the highest internet penetration**, while **Bihar has the lowest**.

Recommendations to bridge digital divide

- Improve internet availability in rural and hard-to-reach areas through community networks and public Wi-Fi/ internet access points.
- Government needs to improve affordability by investing in digital infrastructure, bringing a strong regulatory framework and lowering taxes on computers and phones.
- Conduct digital literacy camps, especially in rural India, and digitize panchayats and schools.

- Grievance redressal mechanism to handle EdTech and Healthtech related complaints.

Note

- Digital divide refers to "the gap between and geographic areas at different socio-economic levels with regard to both their opportunities to access information and communication technologies (ICTS) and to their use of the internet for a wide variety of activities.
- This is different from the State of Inequality in India Report released by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).

Renewable Energy (RE) Report 2022

- Report was released by **International Energy Association (IEA)**.

Key findings of the report

- RE will comprise 90 percent of global electricity capacity expansion in next five years and much of it will be in India.
- RE's installed power capacity addition will grow to 2,400 gigawatts (GW) between 2022 and 2027.
- With addition of 145 GW, India is forecast to almost double its renewable power capacity over 2022-2027.
- Solar photovoltaic accounts for three-quarters of this growth, followed by onshore wind (15 percent) and hydropower providing rest of it.

About IEA

- Formation - 1974
- Members - 31 (India not a member)
- Headquarters - Paris, France

World Bank's Report released

- The World Bank's flagship "**Toolkit on Enabling Gender Responsive Urban Mobility and Public Spaces in India**" was released.
- This toolkit will bridge knowledge gaps between policy making and program implementation for gender-responsive urban mobility and public space in India.
- It details **four-pillar implementation framework** for urban bodies
 - Assess the Ground Situation
 - Strengthen planning and policies

- Build Capacity and Raise Awareness
- Improve Infrastructure and Services
- Need for gender-responsive urban mobility
 - Women are amongst the biggest users of public transport across Indian cities.
 - On average, 45.4% women walked to work compared to 27.4% men.
 - Lower income groups have higher usage of public transport.
 - Urban mobility systems are often not designed to account for gender-based differences in mobility patterns. Lack of safe public transport deters women from accessing promising opportunities.
 - It also deters women from stepping out, creating a vicious cycle that lowers their presence in public spaces.
- **Initiatives** taken to gender-responsive urban mobility
 - **Integrated Sustainable Urban Transport Systems for Smart Cities (SMART-SUT)** focus on improving transportation systems and integrating social and gender equity solutions.
 - Delhi Government has made public transport free for women in the national capital.
 - Kerala's all women cab service 'She taxi'.
- Recommendations
 - Introduce digital ticketing systems and common mobility cards.
 - Introduce a text-based SOS system to indicate distress and awareness campaigns for popularising helpline numbers.

World Malaria Report 2022

- The report was published by the **World Health Organization (WHO)**.
- According to the report, the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted attempts to control malaria, resulting in 63,000 more deaths and 13 million more infections globally over the last two years.
- The report offers in-depth information on the latest trends in malaria control and elimination at global, regional and country levels.

- The report highlights progress towards global targets and describes opportunities and challenges for curbing and eliminating the disease.

Key highlights of the Report

- **Malarial Deaths** : High-burden malaria countries maintained a strong fight against the disease in 2021 despite the Covid-19 pandemic, with cases and deaths stabilising.
- While deaths came down to 619,000 in 2021 from 625,000 in the first year of the pandemic, it remained higher than the pre-pandemic level of 568,000 deaths in 2019.

Trend of Malaria Cases

- As for Malaria cases, the **upward trend** continued but at a slower rate – 247 million cases in 2021, compared to 245 million cases in 2020 and 232 million in 2019.
- Among the 11 high-burden countries, **five – the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, India, Niger and the United Republic of Tanzania – recorded a decline in deaths.**

Report by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and KPMG.

- The report titled '**Metaverse and web 3.0 opportunities in India – Nurturing Tamil Nadu's growth ambitions through nextgen technologies**' was released by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and KPMG.
- According to the report, a thriving and a vibrant culture has been noticed across the broad spectrum of new age technologies, including **Metaverse, Web 3.0, Blockchain and others in Tamil Nadu.**
- The report pointed out that all major Information Technology (IT) companies in Tamil Nadu are **focusing on Metaverse and Web 3.0 technologies via metaverse design, development, testing and support services.**
- Metaverse, Web 3.0 and related technologies will help propel the overall GSDP of the state and help Tamil Nadu achieve its target to become a \$1 trillion economy by 2030.

Note

- The **i-Tamil Nadu Technology (iTNT) hub, India's first Emerging and DeepTech Innovation Network**, is expected to be launched in early 2023.
- **Metaverse is a hypothetical iteration of the Internet** as a single, universal and immersive virtual world that is facilitated by the use of virtual reality and augmented reality headsets.
- **Web 3.0 Technology** is an idea for a **new iteration of the World Wide Web** which incorporates concepts such as decentralization, blockchain technologies, and token-based economics.

Ease of Living Index 2022

- **Ease of Living Index of Indian cities** is published every year by the **Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Governance**.
- The **EoL** is an assessment by the ministry based on the quality of life, economic ability of a city and its sustainability and resilience and the municipal performance index (MPI) to assess the performance of various cities.
- The assessment also incorporates residents' views on the services provided by the administration through a **Citizen Perception Survey**. The Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) urged people to take part in the **Ease of Living 2022 (EoL)**, a citizen perception survey and ensure that Chennai emerges on top of other Indian cities.
- Citizens can provide feedback on the cities they live in at <https://eol2022.org/CitizenFeedback%2c>.
- Public feedback will help the Corporation to know where it is lagging and improve its management and it will play an important role in helping Chennai in the 2022 national rankings.
- It has been informed that Rs.5,000,000 prize money will be given to the person who shares the most posts related to Chennai Corporation and Chennai Smart City.

4.3 MONEY & BANKING

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched**Retail Digital Rupee**

- RBI released the central **bank digital currency (CBDC)- digital rupee** or e-rupee - for retail customers and merchants.
- Earlier, RBI launched digital rupee in the wholesale segment to settle secondary market transactions in government securities.
- Initially, **four banks** will be involved in controlled launch of digital currency namely, **SBI, ICICI Bank, Yes Bank, and IDFC First Bank in Mumbai, New Delhi, Bengaluru and Bhubaneswar**.
- These banks will issue digital tokens in the same denominations as paper currency, which can be used to make and receive payments.
- This is an **Indirect model of CBDC**.
- It will be potentially available for use by all i.e., private sector, non-financial consumers and businesses.
- It will provide access to safe money for payment and settlement, as it will be a direct liability of the central bank.
- CBDC or Digital rupee is a **legal tender issued by RBI in digital form**.
- It is the same as fiat currency and exchangeable one-to-one with fiat currency.

Model for Issuance and Management of CBDC**About Retail e-rupee**

- Retail e-rupee will be an electronic version of cash and primarily meant for retail transactions.
- **Direct model (Single Tier model)** where the central bank is responsible for managing all aspects of the CBDC system viz. issuance, account-keeping and transaction verification.
- **Indirect model (Two-Tier model)** where central bank and other intermediaries (banks and any other service providers), each play their respective role.



5. SCIENCE

Sindhuja-I or 'Ocean Wave Energy Converter' by IIT Madras

- The researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) have developed a device called Sindhuja-I or 'Ocean Wave Energy Converter', that can generate electricity from sea waves.
- Sindhuja means "created from the ocean" in Sanskrit.
- The device was deployed approximately 6 kilometres (km) off the coast of Tuticorin at a location with a depth of 20 metres.
- The Ocean Wave Energy Converter targets generating 1 megawatt (MW) of power from ocean waves in the next 3 years.
- The device trials were completed during the second week of November 2022.
- It could assist India in meeting its climate change-related goals of generating 500 GW of electricity from renewable energy by 2030.

Drone Yatra, "Operation 777" by Garuda Aerospace

- Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurated a drone yatra organised by the Chennai headquartered startup Garuda Aerospace.
- India will become a hub of drone technology and would require at least one lakh drone pilots by next year.
- Garuda Aerospace made an announcement about India's first Drone Skilling and Training Virtual E-Learning Platform at its Chennai manufacturing facility.
- Garuda Aerospace's drone yatra, 'Operation 777' will educate and demonstrate the efficacy of drones for agricultural purposes across 777 districts in India.

- SWAMITVA scheme (Survey of villages and mapping with improvised technology), the survey of the land and houses were being prepared through drones in the villages.
- Drones are increasingly being used to sprinkle pesticides and nano fertilizers in the field

Asia's first Drone delivery hub

- The facility was unveiled by Meghalaya government in partnership with startup TechEagle.
- It aims to deliver vital supplies like drugs, diagnostic samples, vaccines quickly and safely to different regions of state using a dedicated drone delivery network.
- Benefits: Universal access to healthcare to 2.7 million people, overcome problem of lack of visibility, high delivery costs, etc.

About Meghalaya

- Capital - Shillong
- Chief Minister - Conrad Kongkal Sangma
- Governor - B. D. Mishra.

9th World Ayurveda Congress (WAC)

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi addressed the valedictory function of the 9th World Ayurveda Congress which was held in Goa.
- The three National Ayush Institutes were also inaugurated at the event
 - All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), Goa
 - National Institute of Unani Medicine (NIUM), Ghaziabad
 - National Institute of Homoeopathy (NIH), Delhi
- The 9th edition of the World Ayurveda Congress (WAC) and Arogya Expo witnessed the active participation of more than 400 overseas delegates representing over 50

countries, international students and various other stakeholders of Ayurveda.

- The theme of the 9th edition of WAC is "Ayurveda for One Health".

Initiatives to promote Ayurveda

- Ministry of AYUSH led to increased enthusiasm and trust towards Ayurveda.
- WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM) in Gujarat and All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in New Delhi.
- Creation of Ayush Research Portal for Evidence-Based Research Data etc.

Government to turn 36,428 villages as 'model tribal villages'

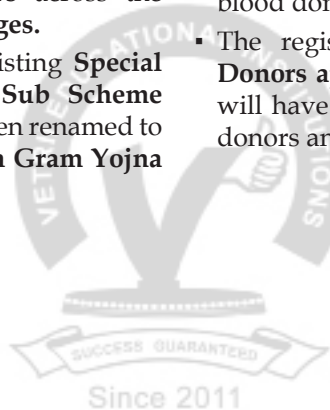
- The Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs planning to develop 36,428 villages with at least 50% tribal population and 500 STs across the country into 'model tribal' villages.
- The efforts were part of the existing Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Scheme (SCA to TSS), which has now been renamed to the Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojna

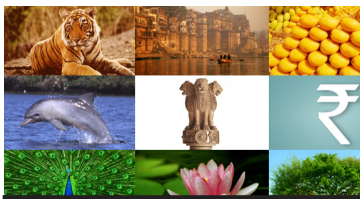
(PMAAGY), for implementation from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

- The project will cover as many as 4.22 crore tribal people in the country, which comprises around 40% of the total ST population in India.

RFID technology to monitor the blood

- The Tamil Nadu Health Department introduced the **Radio Frequency Identification Devices (RFID)** at the **Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital in Chennai** and the Government Rajaji Hospital, Madurai, to monitor the supply chain management of blood and blood products on **World AIDS Day 2022**.
- It also launched a computerised registry and mobile application with details of voluntary blood donors.
- The registry and the **Tamil Nadu Blood Donors app**, developed at a cost of ₹10 lakh, will have details of repeated voluntary blood donors and their blood groups.





6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENT

DigiYatra facility at Delhi, Varanasi, Bengaluru airports

- Under the **DigiYatra** initiative, passengers can use their face as a boarding pass from December 1 in the airports of **Delhi, Varanasi and Bengaluru**.
- The facial recognition can be used to access the security check area and pass the boarding gate.
- Providing Aadhaar details is mandatory for travelers to avail themselves of this service.

About DigiYatra

- The **Ministry of Civil Aviation** has launched the '**DigiYatra**' initiative to provide a digital experience for Air Travellers through DigiYatra Platform.
- The 'DigiYatra' is an industry-led initiative coordinated by the Ministry in line with the country's Digital India's vision to transform the nation into a digitally empowered society.
- Digi Yatra platform will be built on **4 key pillars, like Connected Passengers, Connected Airports, Connected Flying and Connected Systems**.

India took over G-20 Presidency

- India formally took over the G20 presidency for one year from **December 2022 to November 30, 2023**.
- Hundred centrally-protected monuments, including UNESCO world heritage sites spread across the country, will be lit up for a week from December 1 to December 7.
- All illuminated heritage structures shall "highlight the G-20 logo over the monument".
- In Tamil Nadu, **Brihadeeswara Temple was lit with the G-20 logo**. It is officially called **Rajarajeshwaram** and known locally as **Thanjai Periya Kovil and Peruvudaiyar Kovil**, is a Shaivite Hindu temple built in a **Chola architectural style** located on the south bank of the Cauvery river in Thanjavur

About G-20 Logo

- The logo draws inspiration from the vibrant colours of **India's national flag - saffron, white and green, and blue**.
- It juxtaposes planet Earth with the lotus, India's national flower that reflects growth amid challenges.
- The Earth reflects India's pro-planet approach to life, one in perfect harmony with nature.
- Below the G20 logo is **Bharat, written in the Devanagari script**.

G - 20 Theme

- **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam or One Earth One Family One Future**.
- The theme affirms the value of all life – human, animal, plant, and microorganisms and their interconnectedness on the planet Earth and in the wider universe.
- During the course of its Presidency, India will be holding about 200 meetings in 32 different sectors in multiple locations across the country.
- The first **G20 Sherpa meeting** under India's presidency was inaugurated in Rajasthan's Udaipur, Rajasthan.

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 - Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India**
- 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.

G-20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies meeting

- The **first G-20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies meeting** and the first Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting was held in **Bengaluru**.
- The meeting has marked the beginning of discussions on the finance track agenda under the Indian G-20 presidency.
- There will be 40 such meetings on Finance across the country.
- **Brand Karnataka** is promoted on the sidelines of the international event.
- **Karnataka will host 14 G20 meetings**. Among them 11 will be held in **Bengaluru**, **two in Hampi**, the world heritage site and one will be held in **Mysuru** the heritage city.
- The consultative meeting will examine India's G20 priorities and activities on 8 key tasks: Financial Mechanism, International Financial Framework, Global Economy, Infrastructure Investments, Sustainable Finance, International Taxation, Health and Finance, Financial Sector Regulatory Issues and Financial Inclusion.
- A coordinated approach to regulating crypto assets, managing debt vulnerabilities and reorienting global financial institutions have been identified as critical focus areas of the Finance Track agenda for India's G-20 Presidency.

HIV Infection rate declines by 46% between 2010 and 2021: NACO

- The **National AIDS Control Organization (NACO)** has revealed that the country's annual rate of HIV infection has declined by 46% between 2010 and 2021 against a global average of 32%.
- Also, AIDS-related mortalities have declined by 76%.
- NACO, under the **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoH&FW)**, acts as nodal agency for activities of **National AIDS Control Program (NACP)**.
- MoH&FW also released several initiatives at the event. It includes
- **National Digital Repository**, a **Digital** hub where all resource materials related to HIV

and AIDS will be available for the common public.

- **National Data Hub of NACO**, central digital repository for key reports, documents and all approved data of NACO for internal use.
- **#AbNahiChalega campaign** to eliminate HIV-related stigma and discrimination.

Note

- Tamil Nadu State AIDS project cell was formed in **1993 and in 1994**, it has been registered as a **Society under the Societies act**, as **Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society (TANSACS)**, the first of its kind for the nation.
- TANSACS is **fully funded by the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO)**.

About HIV

- HIV is a virus that weakens a person's immune system by destroying important cells that fight disease and infection.
- Currently, **there is no effective cure for HIV**. But with proper medical care, HIV can be controlled.
- If HIV is not treated, it can lead to AIDS.
- In 2021, 52% of children living with HIV were accessing antiretroviral treatment (ART) globally.

India scores highest ever ranking in aviation safety

- India has been **ranked 48** in terms of comprehensive safety audits conducted by the **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)** which is among the top 50 countries of the world.
- India's ranking places it ahead of China (49).
- The ICAO undertakes the **Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP)**, **Continuous Monitoring Approach**, an ICAO Coordinated Validation Mission (ICVM) which was undertaken from November 9 to 16, 2022.
- **Amitabh Kant**, the **G20 Sherpa of India**, welcomed G20 guests to Udaipur. He stressed that Rajasthan is known for warm hospitality

and historical splendor and it is a "symbolic" beginning for G20 to demonstrate the tradition of 'Atithi Devo Bhava.' (Meaning - A guest is akin to God)

- The Sherpa meetings will work to establish consensus on key issues, which will be discussed in the various G20 workstreams, for inclusion in the Leaders' Declaration, which will be tabled at the G20 Summit in New Delhi in 2023.

Note

- India assumed the Presidency of the G20 for one year from December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2023 and the G20 Leaders' Summit will take place in New Delhi in 2023.

First Ministry for Divyang in India

- On the occasion of **International Day of Disabled Persons, a Ministry for Divyang (differently-abled)** was inaugurated in Mumbai to help the physically and mentally-disabled people in Maharashtra, educationally and professionally.
- Maharashtra is the first State in the country to have a separate Ministry for the disabled that aims to ensure the welfare of the disabled and effective implementation of various government schemes for them.
- The Ministry is expected to hire 2000 special trainers for different disabilities, however only 300 special trainers have been hired so far.

About Maharashtra

- Capitals - Mumbai, Nagpur (Winter capital)
- Governor - Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- Chief Minister - Eknath Shinde
- Deputy Chief Minister - Devendra Fadnavis

World's Longest double-decker viaduct (metro)

- **Nagpur Metro and NHAI (National Highways Authority of India)** has successfully created a Guinness World Record by constructing the **longest double-decker viaduct (metro) is 3,140 meters** located in the **Wardha Road in Nagpur, Maharashtra**
- The double-decker viaduct of **3.14 km on Wardha Road has three metro stations -**

Chhatrapati Nagar, Jai Prakash Nagar and Ujjwal Nagar.

- Double decker viaduct carries highway flyover at the first level and Metro Rail at second level making it a three-tier transportation system with the existing highway at ground level. This helped in avoiding additional land acquisition thus saving land cost and reducing construction time and project cost.
- The project has already bagged records from Asia Book and India Book.

India unveils plan to install Renewable Energy

- The committee constituted by the **Central Electricity Authority (CEA)** prepares a detailed Transmission Plan titled **"Transmission System for Integration of over 500 GW RE Capacity by 2030"**
- According to the plan, the installation of 500 GW (gigawatt) of renewable energy capacity by 2030 will involve an investment of at least ₹2.44 lakh crore or ₹2.44 trillion.
- The committee was headed by the **Chairman of the Central Electricity Authority.**
- The committee was tasked with setting out a plan for the transmission system required for having **500 GW of non-fossil fuel based installed capacity by 2030.**
- The transmission plan also includes systems required for transporting 10 GW of off shore wind based energy located in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu at an estimated cost of ₹28,000 crore.
- The plan has identified upcoming **non fossil fuel generation centers** in the country, including at **Fatehgarh, Bhadla and Bikaner in Rajasthan, Khavda in Gujarat, and Anantapur and Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh.**

Agriculture Investment Portal

- The Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare inaugurated the integrated Agriculture Investment Portal.
- It will be a centralized one stop portal for agri-investors to avail benefits of various government schemes implemented by various departments related to agriculture and allied sectors.

- Aim is to boost investments, ease the handholding process for investors, tap potential of all sub-sectors in Agriculture etc.
- Focus sectors for investment promotion include Agriculture machinery, Seeds, Fertilisers, agrochemicals, Precision agriculture, Logistics, warehousing and cold chain etc.

Supreme Court mobile app 2.0 launched

- The Supreme Court launched android version 2.0 of its mobile application.
- Android version 2.0 is available while iOS will be available in a week's time. Besides lawyers and advocates on-record, the application will give exclusive real-time access to all law officers and nodal officers of various Ministries of the Central Government. They can watch the court proceedings by logging in through this application

About Supreme Court

- Established - 28 January 1950
- Authorized by Article 124 of the Constitution of India
- Number of Judges - 34 (33+1)

Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022

- The Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022 was passed in the parliament.

Highlights of the Bill

- The Bill amends the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 to empower the central government to **specify a carbon credit trading scheme**.
- Designated consumers may be required to meet a proportion of their energy needs from non-fossil sources.
- The Energy Conservation Code for buildings will also apply to office and residential buildings with a connected load of 100 kilowatt or above.
- Energy consumption standards may be specified for vehicles and ships.
- The Bill seeks to mandate use of non-fossil sources, including Green Hydrogen, Green Ammonia, Biomass and ethanol for energy and feedstock and establish Carbon Markets.
- The Bill seeks to bring large residential buildings within the fold of the Energy

Conservation regime, enhance the scope of the Energy Conservation Building Code and amend penalty provisions.

India's First Carbon Neutral Farm

- **Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief Minister (CM) of Kerala, declared Kerala Seed Farm in Aluva, Ernakulam district as India's First Carbon Neutral Farm in India.**

- The total amount of carbon emission from the farm, located at Thuruthu in Aluva, in the last one year was 43 tons but its overall procurement was 213 tonnes.
- Compared to the emission rate, as many as 170 tons of more carbon have been procured at the farm, which helped it to be declared as the first carbon neutral seed farm in the country.
- Kerala Government aims to achieve **40%** of its energy needs from **renewable energy sources by 2025**.
- Kerala aims to establish Carbon-neutral farms in all 140 Assembly constituencies.

About Kerala

- Capital - Thiruvananthapuram
- Governor - Arif Mohammad Khan
- Chief Minister - Pinarayi Vijayan

India Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

- India IGF is an initiative associated with the UN Internet Governance Forum, a multi-stakeholder platform to discuss public policy issues related to the Internet.
- The second edition of IGF was held in New Delhi from December 9 to 12.
- Theme for 2022: **'Leveraging Techade for Empowering Bharat'**.
- Internet Governance is development and application by Governments, private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programs that shape evolution and use of the Internet.
- Internet Governance involves Internet Protocol Addressing (IP Addressing), Domain Name System (DNS), Routing, Technical Innovations, Standardization, Security, Public Policy, Privacy, Legal Issues, Cyber Norms, Intellectual Property and taxation.

- India supports a multi-stakeholder approach in matters on Internet Governance.

Challenges to Internet governance:

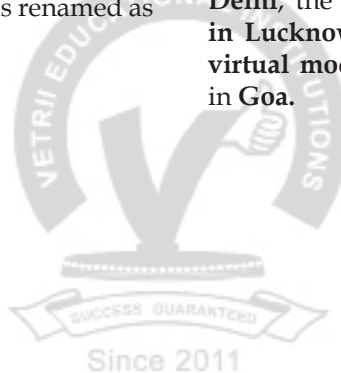
- Continuously evolving nature of the internet.
- Concentration of digital power in a few companies and countries.
- Decision making skewed to the supply side rather than to the demand side etc.

Note

- India is the largest 'connected' nation in the world with **800 million Indian users**.
- BharatNet** is a flagship mission implemented by Bharat Broadband Network Ltd. (BBNL) with an aim to **connect all the 2,50,000 Gram panchayats** in the country and provide **100 Mbps connectivity to all gram panchayats**.
- National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN)** was launched in **October 2011** and was renamed as **Bharat Net Project** in 2015.

India International Science Festival (IISF)-2022

- The IISF-2022 will be held in **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh in January 2023**.
- The IISF 2022 is the **eighth edition** since its **inception in 2015**.
- IISF is the initiative of the Ministry of Science & Technology and Ministry of Earth Science in association with **Vijnana Bharati**.
- Vijnana Bharati is a science movement with a swadeshi spirit led by eminent scientists of the country.
- IISF aims to engage creative and imaginative minds in India and across the globe to celebrate science through various programs and activities connected to Aazadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- The **first and second IISF** were held in **New Delhi**, the **third in Chennai**, the **fourth one in Lucknow**, **fifth in Kolkata**, **sixth through virtual mode** and the **seventh IISF** was held in **Goa**.





7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

New President of Peru

- **Dina Boluarte** was elected as the **first female president of Peru**.
- She became the president after ex-president Pedro Castillo was impeached.

About Peru

- Capital - Lima
- Currency - Peruvian sol

G7 Nations Establish an International Climate Club to Fight Global Warming

- The **Group of Seven (G7)** major economies have established an open, international '**Climate Club**' for countries that want to work together to combat global warming.
- The concept of a climate club was developed by **Yale economist William Nordhaus** in **2015** and has since gained popularity in policy circles. **Mr. Nordhaus also won the 2018 Nobel Prize in economics** for his work on climate change.
- Germany has held the G-7 presidency since January 1, 2022, when it took over from the United Kingdom (UK), and it will be passed on to Japan in 2023.

Key Points:

- The new International Climate Club will be a global endeavour rather than a **G-7 initiative**.
- The **Paris Agreement (2015)**, which aims to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius

(2.7 degrees Fahrenheit), will be swiftly and intensely implemented with assistance from the climate club.

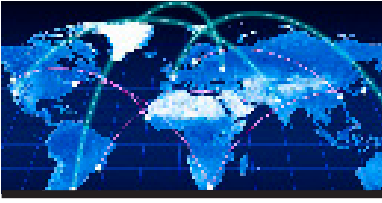
- The club will aim to expedite the industrial shift to cleaner energy sources and to create more emission-reduction initiatives.
- The club will provide assistance to committed developing and emerging countries so they may move forward with the transformation of their industries.

About Germany:

- President – Frank-Walter Steinmeier
- Chancellor – Olaf Scholz
- Capital – Berlin
- Currency – Euro

About Group of Seven (G7):

- The G7 consists of **Germany, France, the United Kingdom (UK), Italy, Japan, Canada and the United States (US)**.
- The European Union (EU) is also represented at all G7 meetings.
- In June 2022, **Germany hosted the “G7 Summit 2022,”** the annual summit of the G7 heads of state and government, at Schloss Elmau in the Bavarian Alps.
- The Presidency is rotated between members on an annual basis.
- Formation - March 25, 1973



8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

SIRPI scheme

- Tamil Nadu Government launched the 'Students in Responsible Police Initiatives' (SIRPI) for students of 100 State-run schools which would benefit around 5,000 students.
- SIRPI aims to inculcate discipline and social awareness among students.
- Under SIRPI, over 2,700 boys and 2,200 girls (on a voluntary basis) from 100 government schools in Chennai would report to the two nodal officers appointed in each of these schools every Wednesday.
- The students would be offered classes in physical fitness, sports and parades, among others, by police officers and experts.
- The students would be provided a booklet and food during the classes. They would be taken on camping trips to eight tourist spots.

TN inaugurates medical centers at five temples

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in Chennai virtually inaugurated medical centres at five temples under the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR and CE) Department.
- Medical centres have been set up at
 - Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar temple in Madurai
 - Arulmigu Mariamman temple at Irukkankudi
 - Arulmigu Bannariamman temple at Bannari
 - Arulmigu Kallazhagar temple at Alagarkoil, Madurai
 - Arulmigu Sankaranarayanawamy temple at Sankarankoil.

T.N. Increases monthly aid for persons with disabilities

- TN Government announced an increase in the monthly financial assistance to various

categories of persons with disabilities from ₹1,000 to ₹1,500.

- The Government is planning to create an environment in which they could work from home.
- The Government is providing training in computer software and laptops so that they could get employment.

Mudhalavarin Mugavari

- The Chief Minister's grievance departments (முதலமைச்சரின் குறைதீர்ப்பு துறைகள்) have been consolidated to form a new department. It is called as Mudhalavarin Mugavari (முதல்வரின் முகவரி).
- Mudhalavarin Mugavari Department plays an important role in addressing the grievances of the common people. This department is under the direct control of Chief Minister Office.
- Mudhalavarin Mugavari Department has launched a new quality assessment initiative to expedite action on petitions submitted by the public.
- Accordingly, three grades 'A', 'B' and 'C' will be awarded.
 - If a petition fully filed and solved then it is graded as 'A'.
 - If the petition submitted by the general public is under consideration of another department or under the consideration of the address department of the Chief Minister, it is subjected to 'B' grade queue.
 - In case the petitions are not processed, they are classified as 'C'. Through this, all the petitions received in the Mudhalavarin Mugavari department of the Chief can be analyzed according to the nature of the requests and actions can be taken quickly and systematically.

Tangedco launches 'Go Electric' awareness campaign

- The Chennai Central distribution circle of Tangedco has launched "Go Electric" awareness campaign to help people to switch over from combustion engines to electric vehicles.
- The campaign has been launched throughout the country by the Union government.
- Tangedco has been appointed as the nodal agency for creating charging infrastructure for electric vehicles by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency.

Note

- The Ministry of Power launched the "Go Electric" Campaign on 19th February 2021.
- The objective of this campaign is to create awareness among masses about benefits of switching over to Electric Vehicles (EVs), including various initiatives taken by Centre & State Governments to enhance acceptability of Electric Vehicles, and Electrical Cooking.
- This campaign is being implemented through State Nodal Agencies (SNAs) designated by States for coordinating activities related to rolling out Public Charging Infrastructure in States.

San Antonio - Chennai Corporation signs a Pact

- A consultation meeting was held under the leadership of the mayors of San Antonio, Ron Nirenberg and Chennai, Priya Rajan.
- The meeting was held at Ripon House under the Sister City Agreement.
- The two mayors said that as a merger of sister cities, they will work together to improve the creative relations of the people of the two cities and to improve education, health and basic structures, and to further enrich the character, intelligence and economy of the people of the two cities.

Note

- The **Chennai-San Antonio Sister City agreement** was signed on **February 27, 2008**, and laid the foundation for significant economic and cultural exchanges in areas

such as commerce, health, education, and technology.

Madurai Bench of Madras High Court gets its first woman mace-bearer

- **D. Lalitha**, has been appointed as the **first woman chobdar (mace-bearer) of the Madurai Bench** of the Madras High Court. She is the mace-bearer for Justice N. Mala.
- Earlier in **June 2022**, the **Madras High Court** had got its **first woman mace-bearer, R.N.Manjula**
- In the High Court, the mace-bearer walks in front of the judges so as to ensure free passage for them as they move from their chambers to the court halls.

Tamil Nadu Climate Summit 2022

- The **first ever Tamil Nadu Climate Summit** begins at **Chennai**.
- The **Tamil Nadu Green Climate Change Company** will focus on preparing decarbonisation pathways for various sectors; conceptualising and setting up finance models and a climate studio; climate budgeting; and partnerships with local agencies.
- **Tamil Nadu Climate Summit 2022** highlighted the State's flagship missions and initiatives, one of which is the Green Climate Change Company, a special purpose vehicle to steer Tamil Nadu to become a climate smart State.
- The summit was inaugurated with **three major missions** of the State government.
 - **Climate Change Mission** - The mission will help to strengthen the government's climate response at the grassroots.
 - **Green Tamil Nadu Mission** - The mission aims to Increase the State's green cover (areas including forest and the tree cover around it) from **23.71% to 33%**.
 - **Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission** - It aims to **restore 100 wetlands** across the state in five years

Climate-smart Agriculture

- At the first Tamil Nadu climate conference hosted in the city the experts emphasised that being climate-smart is the only way to adapt to

the effects of climate change on many sectors, especially agriculture.

- Presentations on diverse strategies for adaptation, problem-solving, and resilience to the effects of climate change on sectors like transport, agriculture, solid waste, innovation, and energy were given by experts from many professions, including the local communities.
- TN is preparing an inventory of greenhouse gases and has already completed it for Tirunelveli, Coimbatore and Trichy
- It was stated that real time crop advisory, use of drones to manage crops, and implementation of smart farming techniques using artificial intelligence were a few action points taken to achieve food security.

Body worn cameras to monitor prisoners activities in TN jails

- **Body worn cameras** to monitor the activities of high-risk prisoners in Tamil Nadu were introduced in Central prisons.
- Apart from **9 Central prisons in the State**, the facility will also be introduced in Pudukkottai district jail.
- Initially, the body worn cameras were introduced in Central prison Puzhal for the first time.
- In total, there are **142 prisons in Tamil Nadu** under the Prisons Department which includes 9 Central Jails, 14 District Jails, 96 Branch Jails, 5 Women's Special Jails, 12 Juvenile Schools (Borstal Schools), 3 Open Air Jails, 3 Special Jails.

Southern Railway headquarters celebrates centenary

- The interiors of the Southern Railway headquarters lit up in blue to celebrate its centenary.
- The building is marked by the displaying a **decommissioned steam loco engine, PL691** at the front.
- The building was inaugurated by **Lady Willingdon**, the wife of the then Governor of Madras **Freeman Freeman-Thomas**, on **December 11, 1922**.

- The **foundation** of the building was **laid by Lord Pentland**, the then Governor of Madras, in 1915.
- Designed by N. Grayson, an architect and employee of the **Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway**, it cost **Rs.30.76 lakh**
- It was constructed by **T.Samynada Pillai**, a Bengaluru-based building contractor.
- A postal cover to mark the centenary of the headquarters was released in **January 2022**.

Women Commandos in the core security team.

- The unit, called the **core cell**, is a **special unit** that provides security to the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister.
- The unit is attached to the **Security Branch-CID**.
- It provides foolproof and round-the-clock security at the places where the Chief Minister visits and to his convoy.
- The unit has so far been staffed by policemen. Now a team of policewomen will be inducted into the special unit.
- Currently **9 women commandos are appointed in the special division**.
- For this, women commandos with the status of Assistant Inspector of Police, Head Constable are selected through separate exams and after receiving special training, they are posted in the "Core Cell".
- The core cell comprises close protection teams, a bomb detection and disposal squad, the motor transport wing and the technical wing.
- This is the first time that women commandos have been appointed in Chief Minister's Security

Financing of Urban Infrastructure:

Exchange of Contracts for Tamil Nadu Projects

- Contracts for Tamil Nadu projects were exchanged in the presence of Chief Minister M K Stalin under the **Funding Scheme for Development of Sustainable Urban Infrastructure**.

- The **Joint Development Bank of India and the Government of Tamil Nadu** are implementing the Financing Scheme for Sustainable Urban Infrastructure.
- The objective of the project is to improve the capacity of urban local bodies to address climate resilience, drinking water supply, sewage disposal and related issues in urban infrastructure.
- The first phase of the project is worth Rs.1969.47 crore. Both phases of the project will be completed this month.
- The third phase of the project will be completed by June 30, 2030.

Aavin's ice cream plant in Salem inaugurated

- Chief Minister M. K. Stalin inaugurated a new ice cream plant at the **Aavin's Salem dairy**, the third such facility of the cooperative federation.
- The plant had been constructed at a cost of Rs.12.26 crore using funds from the Coimbatore, Erode and Salem unions of the **Tamil Nadu Cooperative Milk Producers Federation**, whose popular brand is Aavin.
- The plant has a capacity to manufacture 6,000 liters of ice cream per day and supply it to three districts.

Note

- Formation - 1958
- Aavin is a state government cooperative established under the ownership of Tamil Nadu Cooperative Milk Producers Federation Limited, Ministry of Cooperation.

TN Government approves inclusion of kabaddi, silambam for CM's trophy

- Youth Welfare and Sports Development Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin, who assumed office made three important announcements
- Inclusion of **silambam and kabaddi** at all levels in the State games conducted by the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu for the **Chief Minister's trophy**.
 - Earlier only 10 sports events were conducted under the Chief Minister's trophy.
 - Now, it has been decided to increase the number to 16 by including traditional games.
 - The participation of persons with disabilities, government employees and the general public will be encouraged.
- Rs.47.04 crore will be sanctioned towards the **Chief Minister's trophy** and for forming State Level coordination committees, district youth welfare and sports development committees and another committee to conduct district level sports events.
- Announcement regarding a scheme to **grant pension to needy sportspersons**.
 - They will receive Rs.3,000 per month from March 2022 to August 2022 and subsequently get Rs.6,000 per month.
 - **Rs.4 lakh reward was given to Ms. Niveditha Nair**, who won a silver medal in the pistol competition at the Junior World Championship held in Peru by the International Shooting Sport Federation in 2021