VETRII IAS STUDY CIRCLE
Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

DECEMBER 2022 - PART 2

Head Office

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

Branches

www.vetriias.com

Preface
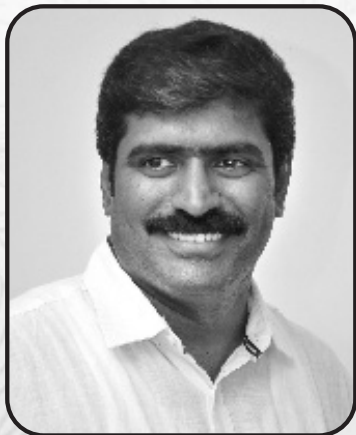
M. SHUNMUGAM
Director
Vetrii IAS Study Circle.

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.

The class room coaching at VETRII IAS Study Circle is meticulously planned to equip the aspirants with all the relevant facts and fundamentals of the subjects. Further the VETRII IAS Study Circle Study materials aim to support the candidate by providing the most relevant study material in a comprehensive manner.

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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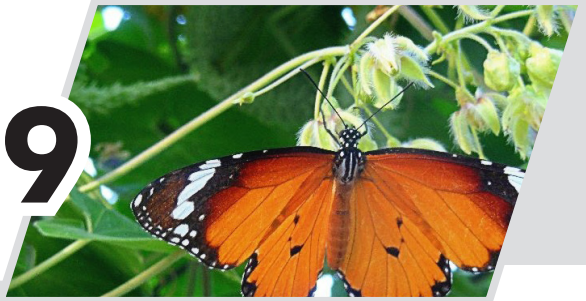
NATIONAL–DIARY OF EVENT 27

35 INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

TAMILNADU AFFAIRS 36

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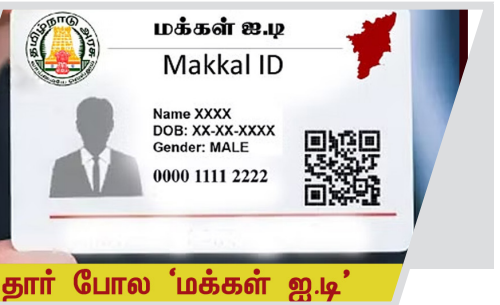
1. HISTORY

1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
December 14	*National Energy Conservation Day*	▪ The day is annually celebrated across India to raise awareness on limiting energy loss and showcase the achievements of India in energy efficiency and conservation. ▪ The National Energy Conservation Day is organised by the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** which operates under the Ministry of Power. ▪ Theme 2022 : **Save the Planet in Style.**
December 16	*VIjay Diwas*	▪ December 16 is a day recognised to honour the valour of soldiers who helped India emerge triumphant over Pakistan in 1971 war. ▪ The year 2022 is the 51st anniversary of the event, which led to the creation of Bangladesh.
December 18	*Minorities Rights Day*	▪ The Day is observed every year to create awareness among the people about the rights of minorities. ▪ The day aims to safeguard the individual rights of the religious, ethnic, racial, or linguistic minorities in the country. ▪ On December 18, 1992, the United Nations adopted the day as Minorities Rights Day.
December 19	*Goa Liberation Day*	▪ **Goa Liberation Day** is celebrated on **December 19** to commemorate the state's liberation from Portuguese rule in 1961. ▪ As part of **Operation Vijay**, the Indian armed forces used the armed forces trifecta with the help of local resistance movements to eradicate European rule from the country.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
December 20	*International Human Solidarity Day (IHSD)*	▪ The day is observed on **December 20** to create awareness about the need to reduce poverty in independent nations and to boost the economic, social and cultural solidarity of people all over the world. ▪ As part of the UN's Sustainable Development agenda, 2030 IHSD is promoted by the **World Solidarity Fund and United Nations Development Programme** ▪ On December 20, 2002, the UN General Assembly introduced a World Solidarity Fund to help counter global poverty
December 22	*National Mathematics Day (NMD)*	▪ The day is annually celebrated on **December 22** to mark the birth anniversary of renowned Indian Mathematician **Srinivasa Ramanujan** ▪ The day is marked to recognise and celebrate the works of Srinivasa Ramanujan and highlight the importance of Mathematics. ▪ 22nd December 2022 marks the **135th birth anniversary** of Srinivasa Ramanujan. ▪ It was on **February 26, 2012**, the government announced that December 22 will be observed as NMD ▪ The year **2012** was declared as **National Mathematics Year.**
December 23	*National Farmers' Day, or Kisan Diwas*	▪ The day is celebrated on **December 23** every year to celebrate the life and achievements of the farmers and to highlight their efforts and importance to the country. ▪ The day also marks the birth anniversary of **Chaudhary Charan Singh.** ▪ He was the **fifth Prime Minister of India** (July 28, 1979 to January 14, 1980) and is known for his contributions to empowering Indian farmers. ▪ He was famously called as **'Champion of Indian Peasants'**

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
December 24	*National Consumer Day or Bhartiya Grahak Diwas*	▪ The Day is annually observed across India on December 24 to create awareness about consumer rights and responsibilities. ▪ The day also aims to commemorate the enactment of the Consumer Protection Act of 1986 (Received President's Assent on 24th December 1986) ▪ The day is also known as National Consumer Rights Day. ▪ Observed for the first time on 24th December 1986. ▪ Theme for 2022 - "Fair Digital Finance."
December 25	*Good Governance Day or Sushasan Divas*	▪ The day is being celebrated on **December 25** to commemorate the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee since 2014 ▪ The day aims to create awareness amongst the citizenry, especially young people, who are the future of the country. ▪ **Good Governance Day** acts as a reminder to the government that it should be unbiased, transparent and development-oriented.
26 December	*Veer Bal Diwas*	▪ India observed the **first Veer Bal Diwas** to commemorate the martyrdom of the **sons of Guru Gobind Singh - Sahibzada Baba Zorawar Singh and Sahibzada Baba Fateh Singh.** ▪ Last week of December is observed as Shaheedi Saptah - starting with the martyrdom of Guru Gobind Singh's elder sons **Sahibzada Ajit Singh and Sahibzada Jujhar Singh.**

1.2 PROFILE OF STATES

India's First and World's Second Infantry Museum

- **India's first and World's 2nd Infantry Museum** and Research Centre was inaugurated in the **Mhow cantonment in Indore district, Madhya Pradesh.**

- The museum was inaugurated on the eve of 75 years of raising of the Infantry School and to commemorate the Vijay Diwas (December 16, 2022)

- It has been set up under the aegis of **The Infantry School, Mhow.**

Palm- leaf manuscript

- **India's first palm leaf manuscript museum** was inaugurated at the **Central Archives at a Fort in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.**

- Palm-leaf manuscripts are one of humanity's most ancient and widespread technologies for transmitting and preserving knowledge in written form.

- The museum will feature a rare collection of over 1 crore of palm-leaf manuscripts available with the Archives Department including administrative documents from the Venad era and political and social documents from **Travancore, Kochi and Malabar.**

- The museum will also display manuscripts featuring **ancient alphabets** including **Vattezhuthu, Kolezhuthu and Malayanma.**

Maternity Leave to Pregnant Students

- In a first in Kerala, the Mahatma Gandhi University (MGU) in Kerala has decided to grant maternity leave of 60 days to UG and PG students of 18 years and above

- The move will help the girl students continue their studies without any interruptions.

- According to the university, maternity leave can be taken before or after delivery, but will be granted only for the first or second pregnancy and only once during the duration of a course.

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

Goa Liberation Day

- **Goa Liberation Day** is celebrated on **December 19** to commemorate the state's liberation from Portuguese rule in 1961.

History
- **Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia** led the Goa liberation movement **on June 18, 1946**, with the aim of liberating Goa by gathering the people.

- **On 19 December 1961**, under the **Prime Ministership of Jawaharlal Nehru** Indian Armed Forces carried out Operation Vijay that resulted in annexation of Goa, Daman and Diu into the Indian Union

- They were constituted as a Union Territory (UT) by 12th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1962.

- Later, in 1987, Goa was conferred a statehood. Consequently, Daman and Diu was made a separate UT.

About Goa
- Capital - Panaji
- Governor - P. S. Sreedharan Pillai
- Chief Minister - Pramod Sawant

1.3 DEFENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND TERRORISM

India testfires Agni V ballistic missile with 5,000 km range

- India successfully test fired nuclear capable ballistic missile **Agni V** from the **APJ Abdul Kalam Island off Odisha coast.**
- It can strike targets at **ranges up to 5,000 km,** marking a significant boost to the country's strategic deterrence.
- Agni V can bring almost the entire Asia including the northernmost part of China and regions in Europe under its striking range.

Note
- Agni-V is a **nuclear capable Intercontinental ballistic missile** developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**

About DRDO
- Formation - 1958
- Functions under the Minister of Defence - Rajnath Singh.
- Chairman - Dr Sameer V Kamath.

KAZIND – 2022
- The **6th Edition of India – Kazakhstan** joint training exercise **"KAZIND-22"** is being conducted at **Umroi in Meghalaya** from 15 to 28 December 2022.
- The Joint annual training exercise with the Kazakhstan Army was instituted **in 2016 as Exercise Prabal Dostyk,** which was later upgraded to a company level exercise and renamed as **Ex Kazind in 2018.**

About Kazakhstan
- Capital - Astana.
- Currency - Kazakhstani Tenge.
- President - Kassym-Jomart Tokayev
- Prime Minister - Älihan Smaiylov

INS Marmagoa Commissioned
- INS Mormugao, the second of four stealth guided missile destroyers being built under Project 15 B.
- It is built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDSL).
- It is the second of Project 15B.
- The ship, named after a key port in Goa, was commissioned a day before the 60 th Goa Liberation Day celebrations from the Portuguese Rule.

About Project 15B
- Under Project-15B, the contract for construction of four ships was signed in January 2011 at a project cost of about Rs.29,643.74 crore.
- The design of the ships has been developed by the Directorate of Naval Design and constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd., Mum¬bai
- The other three ships under Project 15 B are
  - INS Visakhapatnam (commissioned in 2021)
  - INS Imphal and INS Surat are at various stages of outfitting and trials.

Surya Kiran
- The 16th edition of Indo-Nepal joint training exercise "Surya Kiran-XVI" between India and Nepal will be conducted at Nepal Army Battle School, Saljhandi (Nepal), from December 16 to 29, 2022.
- The annual exercise is held with the goal of improving interoperability in jungle warfare and counter-terrorism operations in mountainous terrain, as well as **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR under the UN mandate).**
- The first edition **'Surya Kiran I'** India took place in **Vairengte (Mizoram) in 2011.**

About Nepal
- Capital - Kathmandu.
- President - Bidya Devi Bhandari
- Prime Minister - Sher Bahadur Deuba
- Currency - Nepalese rupee

INS Vagir
- INS Vagir is the **fifth Scorpene** class conventional submarine.
- It was delivered to the Navy by **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. (MDL) in Mumbai.**

- The ship is scheduled to be commissioned into service in **January 2023.**
- The **sixth and last** of the Scorpene class submarines is **INS Vagsheer.**

About Project 75

- Project 75 is a $3.75¬billion deal signed in **October 2005.**
- Under the project, **Six Scorpene class submarines** are being built by **MDL** under technology transfer from the Naval Group of France.
- The **six submarines** are
    - **INS Kalvari,** was commissioned in December 2017
    - **INS Khanderi** in September 2019
    - **INS Karanj** in March 2021
    - **INS Vela** in November 2021.
    - **INS Vagir** in January 2023
    - **INS Vagsheer** launched in April 2022
- Under **Project - 75I**, six more advanced conventional submarines will be launched.
- The Indian Navy currently has **15 conventional and one nuclear submarine in service.**

India's First anti-submarine warfare ship

- The Indian Navy launched the **INS Arnala.**
- It is the **first of eight indigenously built Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)** at shipbuilding facility of Larsen & Toubro (L&T) in **Kattupalli, Chennai.**
- It is built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd. (GRSE),** Kolkata, West Bengal.
- The ship's name, **"Arnala"** honours the strategic maritime significance that was bestowed on the **Island of Arnala** by the **Maratha ruler Chhatrapati Shivaji.**

Note

- On **April 2019, the Ministry of Defence and GRSE,** Kolkata, signed a deal for the construction of eight ASW-SWC ships.

1.3 WORLD ORGANISATIONS – PACTS AND SUMMITS

COP 15 of CBD

- **The 15th Conference of Parties (COP15)** to the **UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** adopted the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).**
- The framework has **4 goals and 23 targets** that the world needs to achieve by **2030**.
- Nature is critical to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals and limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees.
- Adoption of a global biodiversity framework that addresses the key drivers of nature loss is needed to secure our own health and well-being alongside that of the planet.
- The framework's **four overarching global goals** are
  - GOAL A -increasing the area of natural ecosystems by 2050.
  - GOAL B - Supporting the achievement of sustainable development, for the benefit of present and future generations by 2050.
  - GOAL C - The monetary and non-monetary benefits from the utilization of genetic resources, and digital sequence information on genetic resources, and of traditional knowledge of the indigenous peoples and local communities are substantially increased by 2050.
  - GOAL D - Progressively closing the biodiversity finance gap of $700 billion per year,and aligning financial flows with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity.

About Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

- CBD is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources.
- CBD was signed in **1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro**, and entered into force in December 1993.
  - Members - 196 Parties
- The supplementary agreements to the CBD.
  - **The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety** (11 September 2003; ratified by 173 parties)
  - **Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing**. (12 October 2014; ratified by 135 Parties.)

1.4 EMINENT PERSONS

50th memorial day of Rajagopalachari

▪ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin visited the photography exhibition by the Information and Public Relations Department on the premises of Anna Centenary Library to mark the **50th memorial day of Rajagopalachari, popularly known as Rajaji.**

About Chakravarti Rajagopalachari (December 10, 1878 to December 25, 1972)

▪ He was the last Governor-General of India as India became a republic in 1950 and also the first Indian-born Governor-General of Independent India.

▪ In 1916, he formed the Tamil Scientific Terms Society, an organisation that translated scientific terms of chemistry, physics, mathematics, astronomy and biology into simple Tamil words.

▪ He became the chairperson of the municipality of Salem in 1917 and served there for two years.

▪ **Chief Minister of Madras State from 1952-1954**

▪ Bharat Ratna – 1955.

Brazilian soccer legend Pelé dies at 82

▪ Pelé, the **Brazilian soccer legend** who won **three World Cups** and became the **sport's first global icon**, has died at the age of 82.

Achievements

▪ His **1,279 goals in 1,363 games**, which includes friendlies, is recognised as a Guinness World Record.

▪ Part of **three FIFA World Cup**
  • 1958 (Sweden)
  • 1962 (Chile)
  • 1970 (Mexico)

▪ Scored a total of **77 goals in 92 games for Brazil over 14 years** at international games.

▪ In total, he has scored **655 goals in 700 games** including league matches

About Srinivasa Ramanujan

▪ Born - **22nd December 1887 in Erode.**

▪ He studied mathematics at **Cambridge University** and was chosen as a fellow at the prestigious **Royal Society of London**, United Kingdom (UK) in 1918.

▪ Second Indian to receive Royal Society Fellowship after Ardaseer Cursetjee in 1841.

▪ **First Indian** to be elected as a Fellow of Trinity College.

▪ His biography **"The Man Who Knew Infinity: A Life of the Genius Ramanujan"** was authored by **Robert Kanigel** and published in 1991.

▪ The biopic **"The Man Who Knew Infinity"** (2015) is based on his life.

▪ He passed away on April 26, 1920 in Madras at the age of 32.

▪ About Atal Bihari Vajpayee (25 December 1924 – 16 August 2018)

▪ He was an Indian politician and statesman who served three terms as the **10th Prime Minister of India.**

▪ **First for a term of 13 days in 1996**, then for a period of 13 months from 1998 to 1999, followed by a full term from 1999 to 2004.

Political Career

▪ He began his political career as a freedom fighter and took part in the Quit India movement of 1942.

▪ He, along with Advani and Bhairon Singh Shekhawat founded the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 1980 and was appointed its first president.

Achievements

▪ Conferred with the **Padma Vibhushan** for his contribution to the country **in 1992.**

▪ The **Kanpur University** honoured him with an **Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy in 1993.**

▪ In 1994, he was recognized as the best Parliamentarian.

▪ Conferred the **Lokmanya Tilak Puruskar in 1994.**

▪ In 2015, Vajpayee was conferred the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award

▪ Guru Gobind Singh (1671 -1708) was the 10th

Sikh Guru born at Patna Sahib, Bihar.

- He created the Khalsa Panth and fought the battles of Anandpur (1700) and Chamkaur (1704) against Mughals.

- He wrote Zafrnamah in **1705**.

Note

- Guru Gobind Singh's **4 sons:**

- Sahibzada Ajit Singh (1687 – 1705)
- Sahibzada Jujhar Singh (1691 – 1705)
- Sahibzada Zorawar Singh (1696-1705)
- Sahibzada Fateh Singh (1699-1705)

- All four of them were executed by Mughal forces before the age of 19.

1.5 SPORTS AND GAMES

FIFA World Cup

- The **22nd edition** of the FIFA World Cup was concluded in **Qatar**. The **mascot** for the FIFA World Cup 2022 is **'La'eeb'.**

- **Argentina** won the 22nd FIFA World Cup

- Argentina won by defeating the defending champions **France 4-2 in a 'penalty shoot-out'.**

- Argentina has won the **World Cup for the 3rd time**. Previously it had won **in 1978 and 1986.**

- Argentina is the **third team** to win the championship through penalty shootout. **The first team was Brazil (1994), the second was Italy (2006).**

Awards and Honour

- **Golden Ball Award** is given to the best player of the tournament
  - Golden Ball - Lionel Messi (Argentina)
  - Silver Ball - Kylian Mbappé (France)
  - Bronze Ball - Luka Modrić (Croatia)

- The **Golden Boot or Golden Shoe award** is given to the top goalscorer of the FIFA World Cup.
  - Golden Boot - Kylian Mbappé (France) - 8 goals
  - Silver Boot - Lionel Messi (Argentina) - 7 goals
  - Bronze Boot - Olivier Giroud (France) - 4 goals

- **Golden Glove** – Emiliano Martínez (Argentina) (Best Goalkeeper Award)

- **FIFA Young Player Award** - Enzo Fernández (Argentina)

- **FIFA Fair Play Trophy** - England

- The **Player of the Match (POTM) - Lionel Messi** (Argentina)

- A cash prize of Rs.347 crore was given to the winners (Argentina). The runner up (France) received Rs 248 crore.

French football player Blaise Matuidi retired

- Former France midfielder Blaise Matuidi has announced his retirement from professional football.

- Matuidi won the World Cup with France in 2018 and has spent the last two years of his career at Inter Miami

- Mattudi has played 84 times for France and scored 9 goals.

New World Record

- Indian cricketer Ravichandran Ashwin has set a new record of scoring 1000 runs and crossing 400 wickets in Test Cricket.

- Ashwin became the second fastest, only behind New Zealand Richard Hadlee to reach 3000 runs and over 400 wickets in Test cricket.

- Ravichandran Ashwin is the only player to achieve this feat after former Indian captain Kapil Dev.

- Kapil Dev, Shaun Pollock, Shane Warne and Richard Hadlee were the only 5 players who had achieved the record of 400 wickets and 3000 runs in Test matches. Ashwin has become the 6th person to achieve this feat.

1.6 BOOKS & AUTHORS

Saurabh Kirpal's book was launched

- Saurabh Kirpal a senior: Advocate has recently launched his book, 'Fifteen Judgments: Cases that Shaped India's Financial Landscape'.

- The book maps out 15 judgments of the Supreme Court which had a far-reaching impact on the financial topography of the country.

1.7 AWARDS & HONOURS

Tamizh Semmal Award announced

- Tamil Orator and speaker Mr. Shanmugavadivel (86) has been selected for the Tamizh Chemmal Award by Tamil Development and Information Department of Government of Tamil Nadu.

Awards and Honour

- Radhakrishnan Award of Chennai Kamban Kazhagam
- Nattramil Nallasaan Award of Tamil Writers Association
- Muthamiz Murasu Award of Children Poetry Association.

Notable Works

- Tamizh Vazhartha Saandrorgal (தமிழ் வளர்த்த சான்றோர்கள்)
- Elangovadigal in 21st century (21–ஆம் ஆண்டு நூற்றாண்டில் இளங்கோவடிகள்)
- Vaai Vittu Sirikkirar Valluvar (வாய்விட்டு சிரிக்கிறார் வள்ளுவர்)
- Thirukkural kathai amudham (திருக்குறள் கதை அமுதம்)
- Sevinugar suvaigal (செவிநுகர் சுவைகள்)
- Glory of the woman in the great Purana (பெரிய புராணத்தில் பெண்ணின் பெருமை)
- Kurundogai Nalam (குறுந்தொகை நலம்)

Mrs World 2022

- Sargam Kaushal from India won Mrs World in Las Vegas, USA.
- India is winning the title after 21 years
- Previously, Actress Aditi Govitrikar from India won the title of Mrs World in 2001.

Note

- Mrs World is the first contest for married women. The pageant was started in 1984.

NCRB awards

- TN Police Woman Head Constable **Thangamalar Mathi** was awarded the **National Crime Records Bureau 2022.**

About NCRB

- Formation - 11 March 1986
- Parent department - Ministry of Home Affairs
- Headquarters - New Delhi.
- An Indian government agency responsible for collecting and analyzing crime data as defined by the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Special and Local Laws (SLL).

Digital India Awards (DIA) 2022

- The **Smart Cities Mission of the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** has won the Platinum icon award in the **Digital India Awards (DIA) 2022** under the **Data Sharing and Use for Socio Economic Development category** for the initiative **"DataSmart Cities: Empowering Cities through Data".**
- DIA honours innovative digital solutions by government entities in realising **Digital India vision.**
- 2022 marks the **7th edition of the Digital India Awards (DIA).**

About Digital India Awards (DIA):

- It is instituted under the aegis of **National Portal of India** to honour and encourage innovative digital solutions by government entities at all levels.
- The National Portal has been designed and developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- The Awards are presented under 7 categories

About DataSmart Cities (DSC) initiative

- It was launched under the **National Urban Digital Mission (February 2021)** which aims to harness the power of data for better governance in **India's 100 Smart Cities.**
- It uses a **three-pronged approach – People, Process, Platforms –** to imbibe a culture of data awareness and data usage in city functioning.

About Smart Cities Mission

- Launched on **June 25, 2015.**
- Responsible Ministry - Union Ministry of Urban Development.

Tamil Chemmal Awards 2021

- TN Chief Minister M.K.Stalin presented Tamil Nadu State Awards 2021 to the Tamil scholars who have made great contributions to the Tamil language.
- **38 scholars were given 'Tamil Chemmel' awards and 10 scholars were given 'Best Translator' awards for the year 2021.**

The Tamil Chemmal awardees are

- C. Siva Chidambaram (Ariyalur)
- M. Jothi (Ranipet)
- Puzhavar A.Mayazaku (Ramanathapuram)
- Muthurathanam (Erodu)
- A.Nagarajan (Cuddalore)
- Kadavur Manimaran (Karur)
- I.Duraimurugan (Kallakurichi)
- Puzhavar S. Kandasamy Pillai (Kanyakumari)
- A. Rathinakumar (Krishnagiri)
- Maanur Pugazhendi (Coimbatore)
- V. Thenappan (Sivagangai)
- MK Subramanian (Chengalpattu)
- V. Maanikaathaal (Chennai)
- I. Mohankumar (Salem)
- Aarumukaseetharaman (Thanjavur)
- Poet Kannimai (Dharmapuri)
- Durai Dhillan (Dindigul)
- K. Pattabhiraman (Tiruchi)
- V. Balasubramanian (Tirunelveli)
- Dheiva. Sumathi (Tirupathur)
- A. Lokanathan (Tiruppur)
- K. Paramasivan (Thiruvannamalai)
- S. K. Shanmugam (Thiruvallur)
- I.R. Shanmukha Vadivel (Thiruvarur)
- Poet. A. Ganesan (Thoothukudi)
- A. Sivarama Krishnan (Tenkasi)
- Theni Seerudayan (Theni)
- M. Chokkapan (Nagapattinam)
- C. Kailasam (Namakkal)
- N. Sokkalingam (Madurai)
- P. Manivanan (Nilgiris)
- S. Paulraj (Mayiladuthurai)
- A. Subramanian (Virudhunagar)
- V.K. Kasturinathan (Pudukottai)
- S. Vinodhini (Perambalur)
- M. Narayanan (Vellore)
- Late I. Ellappan (Kanchipuram)
- Late P. Vettavarayan (Villupuram)

Best Translator Awardees are

- S.Sukumaran
- S.Rajeswari
- M.Valarmathi
- R.Vivekananda Gopal
- A.S.Ilangovan
- V.Chandran
- R.Jamuna Krishnaraj
- Prof. Tamilselvi
- Late N.Das
- Late M.Sambathkumar

Note

- The Chemmal Award includes a reward of Rs.25 thousand, certificate of appreciation and gold medal.
- The Best Translator Awards includes a reward of Rs.2 lakh each, a certificate of merit and a gold medal.

Sahitya Akademi Awards 2022

- Sahitya Akademi, announced its annual Sahitya Akademi Awards in **23 languages.**
- 7 books of poetry, 6 of novels, 2 of short stories, 3 Play/Dramas, 2 Literary Criticism, one each of Autobiographical Essays, Collection of Articles and Literary History have won the Sahitya Akademi Awards 2022.
- Award in Bengali language will be announced on a later date.

▪ SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARD 2022

Language	Title and Genre	Name of the Author
Assamese	Bhool Satya (Short Stories)	Manoj Kumar Goswami
Bodo	Sansrini Modira (Poetry)	Rashmi Choudhury
Dogri	Chhe Roopak (Drama)	Veena Gupta
English	All The Lives We Never Lived (Novel)	Anuradha Roy
Gujarati	Gher Jatan (Autobiographical Essays).	Gulam Mohammad Shaikh
Hindi	Tumadi Ke Shabd (Poetry)	Badri Narayan
Kannada	Bahutvada Bhaarata mattu Bouddha Taatvi-kate (Collection of Articles)	Mudnakudu Chinnaswamy
Kashmiri	Zael Dab (Literary Criticism)	Farooq Fayaz
Konkani	Amrutvel (Novel)	Maya Anil Kharangate
Maithili	Pen-Drive Me Prithvi (Poetry)	Ajit Azad
Malayalam	Ashaante Seethayanam (Literary Criticism)	M. Thomas Mathew
Manipuri	Leironnung (Poetry)	Kojam Shantibala
Marathi	Ujavya Sondechya Bahulya (Novel)	Praveen Dashrath Bandekar
Nepali	Saino (Drama)	KB Nepali
Odia	Dayanadi (Poetry)	Gayatribala Panda
Punjabi	Main Aynghosh Nahi (Short Stories)	Sukhit
Rajasthani	Alekhun Amba (Play)	Kamal Ranga
Sanskrit	Deepmanikyam (Poetry)	Janardan Prasad Pandey 'Mani
Santali	Sabaraka Balire Sanan' Panjay (Poetry)	Kajli Soren (Jagannath Soren)
Sindhi	Sindhi Sahit Jo Mukhtasar Itihas (Literary History)	Kanhaiyalal Lekhwani
Tamil	Kaala Paani (Novel)	M. Rajendran
Telugu	Manodharmaparagam (Novel)	Madhuranthakam Narendra
Urdu	Khwab Saraab (Novel)	Anis Ashfaq

Sahitya Akademi Translation Awards 2022

▪ It is a literary honour in India, presented by Sahitya Akademi given to outstanding translations of creative and critical works in 24 major Indian languages.

Language	Title of the Translation	Translator	Name of the original book, Genre, Language & Author
English	Poonachi or The Story of a Black Goat	N. Kalyan Raman	Poonachi (Novel), Tamil, Perumal Murugan
Tamil	Yaad Vashem	K. Nallathambi	Yaad Vashem (Novel), Kannada, Nemichandra

About Kala Pani (Black Water)

- It is a historical novel written by former **IAS officer M. Rajendrana.**
- he novel **depicts the defeat and exile of 72 people**, including Vengai Periya Udayanna Devar, the ruler of Sivaganga, an**d Duraisamy, son of Chinna Marudu,** after the **Kalayarkoil war June.**
- Deporting people to an unknown island was called Kala Pani, also referred to as Theevanthira Thandanai
- The novel was published by **Agani Publishers in 2020.**
- The novel begins with the exile of the 72 people in a ship on February 11, 1802. They reached Penang after 62 days.

About Sahitya Akademi Awards

- The Sahitya Akademi award is the **second-highest literary honour** by the Government of India, after the Jnanpith award.
- The award was established on **March 12, 1954.**
- Akademi gives **24 awards** annually to literary works in the languages it has recognised
- It has recognised **24 languages (22 language**s enumerated in the Constitution of India, **English and Rajasthani)**
- Also known as **India's National Academy of Letters**
- **Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar** is given to an author based on his/her total contribution to **children literature**.
- **Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar** relates to books published by an author of the age of **35 and below.**

GRIHA Exemplary Performance Award 2022.

- The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) Headquarter in New Delhi has won the prestigious GRIHA Exemplary Performance Award 2022,** a top national level Green Building Award.
- UIDAI believes and promotes the idea of recycling and reuse to reduce carbon footprint. It has been harnessing solar power to meet a portion of its energy consumption.

It is recycling and reusing water and has been adhering to sustainable waste management practices.

About GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment)

- GRIHA was developed by **TERI (The Energy and Research Institute)** and was adopted as a national rating system for green buildings by the Government of India in 2007.
- It evaluates environmental performance of a building holistically over its entire life cycle, thereby providing a definitive standard for what constitutes a 'green building'.
- GRIHA is also recognized as **India's own green building rating system in India's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC)** submitted to **UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)**

Breed Conservation Award 2022

- Every year Breed Conservation Award is presented by the ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research - National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resource, Karnal (Haryana) for conserving and maintaining the registered Breeds of livestock and poultry.
- Annually four breed conservation awards will be conferred on 23rd December (Kisan Diwas).
- **A.Sathish from Tamil Nadu** won the **'Breed Conservation Award 2022'** under the **individual category** for the conservation of over 100 indigenous dogs in his dog farm – **"Dolly's Kennel".**
- He was recognised for his efforts in conserving **'Chippiparai'**, a hound variety native breed of TN.
- Dolly's Kennel is situated in **K.Pothampatti village** covering the foothills of **Puthur Malai in Usilampatti in Madurai.**
- Other indigenous dogs in is farm includes
  - Rajapalayam
  - Kanni
  - Kombai
  - Ramanathapuram Mandai

IAF test-fires extended range BrahMos cruise missile from SU-30MKI

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully fired the **Extended Range (ER) version of BrahMos** cruise missile.
- It was launched against a ship target from a **SU-30MKI fighter aircraft.**
- The test was conducted in the **Bay of Bengal region.**
- The test signifies a capability boost to carry out precision strikes from SU-30MKI aircraft against land/sea targets over very long ranges.

- The test gives the IAF a strategic reach and allows it to dominate the future battlefields.

About Brahmos:

- It is a **joint venture** between the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Russia's NPO Mashinostroyeniya**
- The missile derives its name from **Brahmaputra and Moskva rivers.**
- The missile is capable of being launched from land, sea, sub-sea and air against surface and sea-based targets. Range - **450 kms.**

1.8 CULTURAL PANORAMA

16th century Vijayanagara inscription near Tirupattur

- Vijayanagara inscription belonging to 16th century AD has been found near **Tirupattur**.
- The inscription has been found at Annandapatti near Tirupattur in the field study conducted by K. Mohan Gandhi, professor of Tamil Department of Sacred Heart College, and 'Kani Nilam' M. Munisamy.
- The inscription is engraved in 22 lines on the front side and 13 lines on the back side on a 3 feet high slab stone.
- This inscription was written during the reign of Vijayanagara king Venkatapati Deva Raya who ruled in the 16th century.

- This inscription is written in a mix of both Tamil and Grantha script.
- This inscription glorifies **Venkatapati Raya as Maha Mandaleshwaran and Rajathi Raja Raja Parameswaran.**
- This inscription mentions Tiruppettroor (Tirupathur) in Ail Nadu. Here Thiru means wealth.
- Currently Tirupattur is a separate district. Tirupattur has been a prosperous town for the last 500 years.
- There **were 79 countries in Thondai Nadu**. Ail Nadu is one of them.

1.9 INDIA AND ITS NEIGHBOURS

About 1971 Indo-Pak War

- The struggle for independence in East Pakistan started on December 3, 1971, and ended later on December 16, 1971 with the surrender of the Pakistan army.
- On December 16, 1971 the then Major-General in the Pakistan Army, **Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi,** surrendered to the joint forces of Indian Army and Bangladesh's Mukti Bahini.
- Niazi signed the **'Instrument of Surrender' at Ramna Race Course in Dacca** (now Dhaka, capital of Bangladesh).
- The **'Instrument of Surrender'** was signed and accepted by Lieutenant General Jagjit Singh

Aurora, the then General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of India's Eastern Command.

- As a result, Bangladesh was brought on the world map, which was until then East Pakistan.
- Bangladesh celebrates the day as **'Bijoy Dibos'** to mark the country's formal independence from Pakistan.

About Bangladesh

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

1.10 APPOINTMENTS – WHO IS WHO?

New chairperson of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)

- Senior nuclear scientist **Dinesh Kumar Shukla** has been appointed as the **chairperson of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)** for a period of three years.
- Shukla, who has been the executive director of the AERB, succeeds G Nageswara Rao.

Note

- Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) was formed to carry out certain regulatory and safety functions envisaged under the Atomic Energy Act, 1962.

New Commander of Air Force Station Tambaram

- Air Commodore **Ratish Kumar** took over the **command of Air Force Station Tambaram.**

Note

- Air Commodore Ratish Kumar is an alumnus of National Defence Academy with vast flying experience of over 5000 hours on Sukhoi-30, Mig-21, Kiran and HPT aircrafts.
- He is a Category `A' Qualified Flying Instructor.

- He had earlier commanded a premier Su-30MK\Squadron.
- The officer was serving as Commanding Officer of Flying Instructors School, Tambaram before assuming the current appointment.

New Vigilance Commissioners

- **Praveen Kumar Srivastava** and **Arvinda Kumar** took oath as Vigilance Commissioners.
- They were sworn in by the **Central Vigilance Commissioner, Suresh N Patel** at the office of the Central Vigilance Commission, Satarkata Bhawan, New Delhi

About Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)

- Formation - February, 1964 based on the recommendations of the **Santhanam Committee.**
- It was given statutory status in 2003 by **Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003**
- The **CVC Act, 2003** provides for the appointment of a Central Vigilance Commissioner and two Vigilance Commissioners.
- The tenure of the Vigilance Commissioner is **of four years** or till the incumbent attains the age of 65 years.

2. POLITICAL SCIENCE

2.1 INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

India - Australia ECTA comes into force

- **Economic and Cooperation Trade Agreement (ECTA)** provides an institutional mechanism to encourage and improve trade between India and Australia and covers almost all tariff lines dealt by the two countries.
- After the **India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement,** ECTA will be the second trade agreement for India that will be operationalised in 2022.

Benefits of signing ECTA.

- Raise bilateral trade to **USD 45-50** billion in next five years.
- Create an additional employment of at least **10 lakhs jobs in India.**
- Create opportunities for investment, promotion of start-ups.

Key features of ECTA

- India will benefit from preferential market access provided by Australia on 100% of its tariff lines, including all labour-intensive sectors of export interest to India, such as **Gems and Jewellery, Textiles, leather, footwear etc.**
- Australia has offered wide ranging commitments in several services sub-sectors like IT, ITES, Health, **Education.**
- A separate Annex on Pharmaceutical products which will enable fast-track approval for patented, generic and biosimilar medicines.
- Covers areas like **Rules of Origin, Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, Dispute Settlement, Movement of Natural Persons etc.**

2.2 PUBLIC AWARENESS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Parliament passes Anti-Maritime Piracy Bill

- Parliament passed the Anti-Maritime Piracy Bill. The Bill would provide an effective legal instrument to combat maritime piracy.

Key highlights of the bill

- Presently, India does not have a separate domestic legislation on piracy. Once enacted, the Bill will bring into law the **UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**, (ratified by India)
- The Bill provides for stringent punishment to those convicted of such crimes.
- It will apply to **all parts of the sea** adjacent to and beyond Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of India, i.e., **beyond 200 nautical miles from the coastline.**

- **Defines piracy** in accordance with UNCLOS.
- Empowers the Central government to make Rules on subjects such as powers of arrest, investigation and prosecution, designated court and its jurisdiction, and trial of the offenses by designated court.

Note

- UNCLOS is an **international agreement** that establishes a legal framework for all marine and maritime activities. It was signed on **10 December 1982.**

Winter Session 2022

- The **Winter Session of Parliament** adjourned four working days ahead of its schedule, making it the **8th consecutive session** to be adjourned ahead of schedule in the current Lok Sabha.

- According to the statistics published by the voluntary organization **PRS Legislative**, the number of parliamentary session days has decreased by half since the 1950s and 1960s.
- The winter session 2022 has been held for **13 days only.**

Highlights:
- Lok Sabha functioned **for 88% of scheduled time (of actual sitting days), while Rajya Sabha functioned for 94%.**
- **Seven Bills** were passed in the Session.
- Two of these were introduced in the same session. So far, in the 17th Lok Sabha, 72% of the Bills (94 of 130) have been introduced and passed in the same session.

Note
- Adjournment sine die means terminating a sitting of Parliament for an indefinite period, that is, when the House is adjourned without naming a day for re-assembly.
- The power lies with the presiding officer of the House

EC to begin delimitation exercise in Assam
- The **Election Commission of India ECI** has initiated the delimitation process for assembly and parliamentary constituencies **in Assam**, as per **Section 8A of Representation of People Act (RPA), 1950.**
- Last delimitation of constituencies in Assam was done on the basis of 1971 census figures.
- The process will be based on Census data from 2001
- As per Section 8A of the Representation of People's Act RPA 1950, the President can order a delimitation exercise to be carried out in four North East States (NES)-Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur and Nagaland.

Note
- Delimitation is the process of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies in a country or a state with a legislative body.
- The job of delimitation is assigned to the Delimitation Commission or a Boundary Commission.

- It has been constituted 4 times – in 1952 under the Delimitation Commission Act, 1952, in 1963 under Delimitation Commission Act, 1962, in 1973 under Delimitation Act, 1972 and in 2002 under Delimitation Act, 2002.
- Its orders cannot be questioned before any court.
- Members : A retired Judge of SC, Chief Election Commissioner of India, State Election Commissioner (of respective state).

Lokayukta Bill passed by Maharashtra Assembly
- Maharashtra became the first state to pass a Lokayukta Bill that brings the Chief Minister of the state and the council of ministers under the ambit of the anti-corruption watchdog.

Key Highlights
- Under the new bill, the Lokayukta will have the power to recommend action based on its investigation and also be able to direct the state agencies to conduct further investigations.
- It will have all the powers of a civil court i.e. the power to summon government officials.
- The Lokayukta can initiate the investigation against the Chief Minister with the prior approval of the Assembly.

History
- The Lokayukta is the apex anti-corruption ombudsman that holds the power to investigate complaints and corruption allegations against government officials and lawmakers.
- Maharashtra is known as the first state to establish Lokayukta in 1971.

Note
- The **National Commission for Minorities** was set up under the National Commission for Minorities Act **1992.**
- In India, **six religious communities** have been notified as minority communities - **Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists, Christians, Zoroastrians and Jains.**

Minorities Rights Day
- The Day is observed on December 18 every year to create awareness among the people about the rights of minorities.

Constitutional Provisions

- **Article 30(1)** – Right of all religious and linguistic minorities to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice

- **Article 30(2)** – Freedom of minority-managed educational institutions from discrimination in the matter of receiving aid from the State.

National Consumer Day or Bhartiya Grahak Diwas

- The Day is annually observed across India on December 24 to create awareness about consumer rights and responsibilities.

About the Consumer Protection Act, 2019

- The Consumer Protection Bill of 2019, was passed by Parliament in 2019.

- It replaced the Consumer Protection Act of 1986.

- Rights of the consumers recognised under the Act are

    - Right to information
    - Right to protection against goods and services that can be dangerous to life and property.
    - Right to be protected from unfair or restrictive trade practices.
    - Right to access a variety of goods and services at competitive prices.
    - Right to redressal.

Remote EVM

- The Election Commission (EC) made an-announcement regarding the development of a prototype of a multi constituency remote electronic voting machine (RVM) to enable remote voting by migrant voters.

- The machines can handle multiple constituencies from one remote booth.

About ECI

- It is a constitutional body **under Article 324.**

- The body administers **elections** to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, State Legislative Councils and the offices of the President and Vice President of the country.

- Chief Election Commissioner of India - Rajiv Kumar

- Election Commissioners of India
    - Anup Chandra Pandey
    - Arun Goel

2.3 GOVT – WELFARE ORIENTED GOVT SCHEMES, THEIR UTILITY

'Namma School' scheme was launched

- TN Chief Minister MK Stalin launched the **Namma School Foundation**, an initiative of the school education department.

- The scheme aims to **improve infrastructure facilities at government schools** in the state by attracting investments via CSR (Corporate social responsibility) Funds.

- The initiative aims at creating a web page for each school in which they could update details about teacher-student ratio, number of buildings, classrooms and lab facilities among others.

- This will help corporations and individuals (alumni) to identify the schools that need funds.

- In the first phase, details of 100 schools that are randomly selected will be uploaded on the page.

TN launches mental health helpline and support forum for students

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin launched the **MaNaM Initiative (Mananala Nallaadharavu Mandram - Mind Health Support Forum).**

- The forums will be created in all **the government medical colleges** to offer **counseling programmes** to improve students' mental health.

- The programme will be extended to all colleges and schools.

- The helpline 14416 was also introduced to reach out to psychiatrists at government medical colleges.

Cabinet approves distribution of free food grain till December 2023

- The Cabinet approved the decision to make distribution of ration free for 81.3 crore poor for one year under **National Food Security Act,** 2013.

About NFSA, 2013

- The **National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013** was passed on July 5, 2013
- Upto **75% of the rural population,** as well as **50% of the urban population**, are legally entitled to receive subsidised food grains through the Targeted Public Distribution System
- Schemes such as the **Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), the Public Distribution System (PDS),** and the **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)** are included under the Act.
- The Act covers two-thirds of the entire population under two categories of beneficiaries:
    - Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households
    - Priority Households (PHH)
- The Act entitles 35 kg of food grains per AAY Household per month, whereas 5 Kg of foodgrain per PHH Person per month.

Note

- Meanwhile, the government decided not to extend the free ration scheme **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY).**
- **PMGKAY** was launched during the lockdown in **April 2020**, and was scheduled to end on December 31, 2022.
- Under PMGKAY, five kg of foodgrains were distributed for free for the poor were distributed for **28 months.**

Mental health helpline receives 20k calls in two months

- The **International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIITB)** reported that **Tele Mental Health Assistance and** **Networking Across States (MANAS) toll free 24/7 number (14416)** received over 20,000 calls since its launch.

- The **Top five States/UTs** from where maximum number of calls were received are
    - Tamil Nadu - 3,631
    - Maharashtra - 2,125
    - Madhya Pradesh - 1,892
    - Jammu and Kashmir - 1,338
    - Telangana - 1,056

About Tele - MANAS

- An initiative of the **Health Ministry.**
- Launched on October 10 on World Mental Health Day.
- The initiative aims to open at least one Tele-MANAS cell in each State/U.T.
- National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) was appointed as the nodal center for the helpline
- IIITB has been providing technical support for the initiative.
- It is based on the Karnataka government's e-Manas service, which was launched during the first wave of COVID-19.

e-HRMS (Electronic- Human Resource Management System)

- **Revamped e-HRMS 2.0 Portal** was launched by the **Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).**
- **e-HRMS** was introduced **by DoPT** to facilitate a digital working environment, and streamline Human Resource services for Government employees.
- Revamped portal was launched because the e-HRMS launched earlier was limited in scope, where employees could avail limited services and it was not connected with other HR applications.
- Revamped **e-HRMS 2.0 is the first digital system in Government of India** to provide end-to-end HR Services.
- It will also save several thousand man-hours and tonnes of printing paper.

Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSC)

- Indian Railways is planning to **modernise 1,000** small yet important stations under ABSC.
- It aims to identify developing cities with potential and envisage railway stations as city centres that would link not just various parts of the city but also between different cities in future.
- Modernisation of stations will be done in a cost-effective manner and a special fund will also be armarked with divisional railway managers (DRMs).
- Redevelopment will be done under **"Khurda (Station in Odisha) model of redevelopment".**

National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS)

- 0Centre has made digital capturing of MGNREGA attendance universal from January 1, 2023 through NMMS.
- Capturing of attendance through **NMMS is compulsory at worksites where 20 or more workers** are employed under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGREGS).

About NMMS

- It is a mobile application which was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development in 2021.
- It aims to bring more transparency, and ensure proper monitoring of schemes.
- It permits taking real time attendance of workers at MGREGS worksites along with geo-tagged photographs.

2 key initiatives to upgrade Urban Rejuvenation

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launches 2 key initiatives - 'City Finance Rankings, 2022' and 'City Beauty Competition' to upgrade India's Urban Rejuvenation journey to next level.

- **City Finance Rankings**

- Launched to evaluate, recognize and reward ULBs on the basis of their strength across key financial parameters.
- The rankings aim to motivate city/state officials and decision makers to implement municipal finance reforms.
- The participating ULBs will be evaluated on 15 indicators across three key municipal finance assessment parameters, namely:
  - Resource Mobilization
  - Expenditure Performance
  - Fiscal Governance.

- **City Beauty Competition**

- Aims to encourage and recognize the transformational efforts made by cities and wards in India to create beautiful, innovative and inclusive public spaces.
- Wards and public places of cities would be judged against the five broad pillars
- accessibility
- amenities
- activities
- aesthetics and
- ecology

3. GEOGRAPHY

3.1 POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

TN allows quarrying near reserve forest

- TN government has rescinded the prohibition of quarrying and mining activities within one kilometre radius of reserve forests.
- As per a government order issued by Industries, Investment Promotion and Commerce Department in 2021, prohibition of mining, quarrying and crushing activities within one kilometre radial distance from the boundaries of Reserve Forests were prohibited
- Based on this, an amendment has been made in **Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959** which removed 'reserve forests' from the line "national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, tiger reserves, elephant corridors and reserve forests".

Invasive mussel in Ennore and Pulicat

- **Mytella strigata or Charru mussels** is an invasive mussel species **native to South America.**
- The species is spreading in the coastal waters of Tamil Nadu and Kerala due to the discharge of ballast waters from ships visiting the ports of **Kattupalli and Ennore.**
- The South American Mussel is locally known as kakka aazhi.
- Its spread is threatening the existence of the locally prevalent yellow clams (manja matti) and green mussels (pachai aazhi).

RBI releases Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2021-22

- The report is a statutory publication in compliance with **Banking Regulation Act, 1949.**
- The report presents the performance of the banking sector, including co-operative banks and non-banking financial institutions.

Key Highlights of report

- Consolidated balance sheet of **Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs)** registered double digit growth in 2021-22, after a gap of seven years.
- **Gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio of SCBs** has declined from 9 percent in 2017-18 to 5.8 percent at end-March 2022.
- Financial performance of urban co-operative banks showed **improvement.**
- **Non-banking financial company (NBFC) sector** improved in 2021-22. With strong capital buffers, adequate provisions, and sufficient liquidity,
- The reasons for declining NPA include Loan write-off by PSBs (public sector banks) Upgradation of loans in PVBs (private banks), reduced Share of large borrowings

Nilgiri Tahr conservation project launched

- The Tamil Nadu government launched an initiative for the **conservation of the Nilgiri Tahr** at a cost of Rs.25.14 crore.
- Nilgiri Tahr is designated as the **State animal of Tamil Nadu** in recognition of its ecological and cultural significance.
- Under the Nilgiri Tahr project, the government plans to
  - Develop a better understanding of the Nilgiri Tahr population through surveys and radio telemetry studies
  - Reintroduce the Tahrs to their historical habitat
  - Address proximate threats
  - Increase public awareness of the species.
- The project is to be implemented from **2022 to 2027.**

- The funds for the project are to be provided by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board.

- The Government announced that October 7 will be celebrated as 'Nilgiri Tahr Day' in honour of E.R.C. Davidar, who was responsible for pioneering one of the first studies of the species in 1975.

Challenges in the conservation of the Nilgiri Tahrs

- Potential local extinction due to highly fragmented populations

- Invasion of exotic species into the habitat

- Forest fires

- Overexploitation of forest resources

- Lack of ecological data and understanding.

Historical References

- References are found in Tamil Sangam literature dating back to 2,000 years with reference to Nilgiri Tahr.

- The late Mesolithic (10,000-4,000 BC) paintings highlight the significance of the Tahr in folklore, culture and life.

About Nilgiri Tahr

- It is an **endangered species** and the **sole Caprinae species** found in the tropical mountains of southern India.

- The animal inhabits meadows with steep cliffs at elevations between 300 metres and 2,600 metre above sea level.

- It is estimated that there are **3,122 Nilgiri Tahrs** in the wild.

- Found mostly in **Western Ghats (around Kerala and Tamil Nadu)**

- It has become **locally extinct in around 14%** of its traditional shola forest grassland habitat.

U.N. recognises Ganga project among 10 initiatives restoring natural world

- The **10 global environmental initiatives** which aim to restore more than 68 million hectares including **Ganges River Rejuvenation project from India** were declared as World Restoration Flagships, under the banner of the **United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.**

- United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration is a global movement coordinated by the UN **Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).**

- was launched in 2014 as Namami Ganga Initiative.

About The Ganges River Rejuvenation project

- **Namami Gange Programme'**, is an Integrated Conservation Mission, approved as 'Flagship Programme' by the Union Government **in June 2014** with budget outlay of Rs.20,000 Crore to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga.

- Main pillars of the Namami Gange Programme are:-

  - Sewerage Treatment Infrastructure
  - River-Front Development
  - River-Surface Cleaning
  - Biodiversity
  - Afforestation
  - Public Awareness
  - Industrial Effluent Monitoring
  - Ganga Gram

First ever butterfly survey conducted in Mudumalai reserve

- The **first Butterfly Survey** was conducted at the **Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR)** (688.5-sq.km)

- The survey was conducted by the TN Forest Department with the assistance of the Nature and **Butterfly Society (TNBS), Coimbatore** and the **Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF-India).**

- The survey revealed that MTR is home to 175 species of butterflies.

- The TN State butterfly, Tamil Yeoman, was also recorded during the survey

4. ECONOMICS

4.2 NEW ECONOMIC POLICY AND GOVERNMENT SECTOR

GST Council keeps tax rate same, but defers key reforms

- The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council met over video conference under the chairmanship of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman
- Important decisions taken at the council
  - Decision to scrap the 5% GST levy on a cattle feed ingredient — husk of pulses
  - Reduction of the levy on ethyl alcohol used by refineries to blend with petrol to 5% from 18%
  - Extending the 5% tax levy for ethyl alcohol, allowed for oil marketing companies to blend with petrol, to refineries will further reduce our dependence on imported crude and save the foreign exchange.
  - Decriminalisation of petty GST offenses.
  - Doubling of threshold limits of tax amounts for initiating prosecution from Rs.1 crore to Rs.2 crore for all offences other than those involving fake invoices.
  - The compounding amount under certain offenses has been reduced from 50% to 150% of the amount, to 25% to 100% of the amount involved
- However, the decisions would take time to implement as States would have to amend their respective GST legislations, while the Centre would include these changes in the Finance Bill of 2023-24.

About GST:

- GST was launched on July 1, 2017 through 101st Constitution Amendment Act, 2016 by amending the Artcile 279A
- GST had 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%.**

About GST Council

- It is a constitutional body for making recommendations to the Union and State Government on issues related to Goods and Service Tax.
- It is chaired by the Union Finance Minister and other members are the Union State Minister of Revenue or Finance and Ministers in-charge of Finance or Taxation of all the States.

4.3 CURRENT TRENDS IN INDIAN ECONOMY

India's direct tax collection grows 26% to ₹13.63 lakh cr for FY23

▪ According to the Income Tax Department of India, India's gross direct tax collections for the financial year 2022-23 have registered a growth of 25.90%.

▪ The gross collection stands at ₹13,63,649 crore as of 17 December 2022. Last year, in the corresponding period it was at ₹10,83,150 crore.

▪ The Budget had estimated a direct tax collection of ₹14.20 lakh crore this financial year, higher than the ₹14.10 lakh crore collected last fiscal (2021-22).

▪ The largest share in Net Direct Tax collection is of Corporation Tax then Personal Income Tax (PIT) including Security Transaction Tax (STT) constitutes the rest.

Note

▪ A direct tax is a tax that a person or organization pays directly to the entity that imposed it. Example: income tax, real property tax, personal property tax, or taxes on assets.

$13 bn FDI in non-conventional energy sector

▪ India's Domestic non-conventional energy sector has received over **USD 13 billion** through Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) route in the **last 22 years.**

▪ **100 percent FDI through automatic route** is allowed for the promotion of solar power generation in the country.

▪ Non-conventional sources of energy include solar, wind and other renewable sources.

▪ As per the country-wise details of FDI/ equity inflow during the period April, 2000 to September, 2022, India received USD 13.034 billion as offshore investment.

▪ The **top contributor is Mauritius**, followed by the **United Kingdom, Singapore, Netherland and UAE.**

4.4 REPORTS AND INDICES

Global Wage 2022-2023 Report

▪ The report **"Global Wage Report 2022-23: The impact of COVID-19 and inflation on wages and purchasing power"** was released by the **International Labour Organisation (ILO)**

▪ According to the report, it is estimated that the global monthly wages fell in real terms to **minus 0.9 percent (-0.9%)** in the first half of 2022.

▪ This is the first time in a century that the real global wage growth has been negative.

▪ In Asia and the Pacific, real wage growth increased to 3.5% in 2021 and slowed down in the first half of 2022 to 1.3%.

Key Findings:

▪ Among advanced G20 countries, real wages in the first half of 2022 are estimated to have declined to minus 2.2% and the real wages in emerging G20 countries grew by 0.8%, 2.6% less than in 2019.

▪ The rising inflation has a greater impact on the cost of living on low income earners because they spend most of their disposable income on essential goods and services.

▪ Inflation also affects the purchasing power of minimum wages.

▪ The reports highlight the need to apply well-designed policy measures to maintain the purchasing power and living standards of wage workers and their families.

About ILO

▪ Formation - April 11, 1919.

▪ Headquarters - Geneva, Switzerland

▪ Director General - Gilbert Houngbo (Togo)

▪ Awards - Nobel Peace Prize (1969)

▪ Indices

India Skills Report 2023

- It was released by **Wheebox in partnership with All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** and others.
- It examines the strategic overview of India's Skills and Talent Economy by 2030.
- **Key Highlights of the report**
  - India's employable workforce has increased **from 46.2 % to 50.3 %.**
  - **52.8** % of the **women workforce** are **employable,** higher than the 47.2 % of employable men.
  - Although, little over 33% of women were working, **the ratio of men to women** indicates that more **men are employed** than women.
  - Significant **skills gap** exist in the fields of **data science, cloud computing, healthcare, and finance.**
  - Soft- skills such as adaptability and flexibility, problem-solving, stress management, etc. will become non-negotiable for every job position.
  - The report has recommended to instill the required vocational and skill development programs in our secondary, high secondary, and undergraduate education.
- Government Initiatives for Skill Development
  - National Policy on Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, 2015.
  - Skill India Mission 2015.
  - PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana (2015) for recognition and standardisation of Skills.
  - Initiatives to boost Skill India Mission.
  - Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP - January 19, 2018)
  - Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE)

Coal 2022: Analysis and forecast to 2025

- It is an **annual report of International Energy Agency (IEA)** which offers a thorough analysis of recent trends in coal demand, supply, trade, costs and prices.

Key highlights

- Global coal use is set to rise by 1.2% in 2022, surpassing 8 billion tonnes in a single year for the first time.
- India, along with China, is world's largest coal producer, consumer and importer. India's coal production will **surpass a billion tonnes by 2025 and will surpass China.**
- Its coal consumption has doubled since 2007 at an **annual growth rate of 6%.**

About IEA

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

GLASS Report 2022

- Global antimicrobial resistance and use surveillance system **(GLASS) report, 2022** was released by the **World Health Organisation (WHO)**
- WHO launched the Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System (GLASS) in 2015. It is the first global collaborative effort to standardize AMR surveillance.
- In 2015 WHO launched the Global Action Plan to tackle **AMR (GAP-AMR).** The goal of **GAP-AMR** is to foster Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) surveillance and inform strategies to contain AMR.
- The report summarises global AMR and Antimicrobial Consumption (AMC) data to date.
- The report shows high levels (above 50%) of resistance were reported in bacteria frequently.

Note

- AMR occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites change over time and no longer respond to medicines making infections harder to treat.
- Government of India has taken following initiatives to increase awareness about antibiotics misuse:
- ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) has initiated antibiotic stewardship program (AMSP) on a pilot project basis in 20 tertiary care hospitals across India to control misuse

and overuse of antibiotics in hospital wards and ICUs.

- ICMR worked in collaboration with Indian Council of Agriculture Research, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries and the DCGI to ban use of Colistin as growth promoter in animal feed in poultry.

- **National action plan on containment of Antimicrobial Resistance (NAP-AMR)** focusing on One Health approach was launched in **April 2017.**

- AMR Surveillance Network: ICMR AMR surveillance and research network (AMRSN) comprising 30 tertiary care hospitals, both private and government, to generate evidence and capture trends and patterns of drug resistant infections in the country.

- AMR Research & International Collaboration: ICMR develops new drugs/medicines through international collaborations in order to strengthen medical research in AMR.

Social Progress Index (SPI) for States and Districts

- Social Progress Index (SPI) for States and Districts is prepared by the **Institute for Competitiveness and Social Progress Imperative.**

- SPI measures a country's social progress at the **national and sub-national levels** (district and local level)

- The index assesses states and districts based on **12 components across three critical dimensions** of social progress - Basic Human Needs, Foundations of Wellbeing, and Opportunity.

- The index uses **89 indicators at the state level and 49 at the district level.**

- Based on the SPI scores, states and districts have been ranked under six tiers of social progress

- The tiers are
  - Tier 1: Very High Social Progress
  - Tier 2: High Social Progress
  - Tier 3: Upper Middle Social Progress
  - Tier 4: Lower Middle Social Progress
  - Tier 5: Low Social Progress
  - Tier 6: Very Low Social Progress.

- Tamil Nadu ranked **highest in Opportunity dimension** with the score of **72.00**

- Puducherry topped in two Components, Personal Freedom and Choice and Access to Advanced Education

- Overall SPI score

State	SPI	Rank
Puducherry	65.99	1
Lakshadweep	65.89	2
Goa	65.53	3
Sikkim	65.10	4
Mizoram	64.19	5
Tamil Nadu	63.33	6

IGX launches India's First Gas Price Index

- The **Indian Gas Exchange (IGX)** launched **GIXI** which is the first ever, nationwide price index to reflect benchmark natural gas prices for India.

- The index has been developed with the purpose to derive a single price for the country in line with international benchmarks.

- The Price Index was introduced in line with the Central Government's vision of achieving 15% share of natural gas in India's energy mix.

- Established in 2020, the **IGX is India's first automated national-level gas exchange** for the physical delivery of natural gas.

- The gas trade takes place at multiple delivery points, such as - **Dahej, Hazira, Ankot, Mhaskal, Bhadhbhut, Dabhol, KG Basin, and Gadimoga.** It covers **six regional gas hubs**, namely, the western hub, southern hub, eastern hub, central hub, northern hub, and northeastern hub across India.

Financial Stability Report (FSR) released by RBI

- FSR is a **bi-annual report** that reflects risks to **financial stability** and the **resilience of the Indian financial system.**
- Based on the inputs from all financial sector regulators, it reflects the overall evaluation of the Sub Committee of Financial Stability and Development Council.

Key highlights of the Report

- Gross non-performing asset (GNPA) ratio of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) fell to a seven-year low of 5.0%
- **Net NPA (Non Performing Assets)** have dropped to ten-year low of 1.3% in September 2022.
- Buoyant demand for bank credit and early signs of a revival in the investment cycle.

Note

- **Global Financial Stability Report** is released by **the International Monetary Fund.**

5. SCIENCE

5.1 LATEST INVENTIONS ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Bharat Biotech's nasal COVID vaccine as booster

- Health Minister Mansukh Manda¬viya announced that **nasal vaccine iNCOVACC** would henceforth be available for public use as **booster dose.**
- The vaccine is co-developed by **Hyderabad Bharat Biotech** and the **U.S. based Washington University,** was approved in November 2022, for **'restricted emergency use'** for those aged 18 or older.
- The appointments for the nasal vaccine would be available via the **CoWIN website.**

Vainu Bappu Observatory (VBO)

- The **Vainu Bappu Observatory** celebrated its **50 years anniversary** since its inception in 1972.
- It is an **astronomical observatory** owned and operated by Indian Institute of Astrophysics.
- Located at Kavalur in the **Javadi Hills**, near **Vaniyambadi in Tirupathur district**
- Stellar discoveries of the 40-inch telescope at VBO were highlighted at its 50-year celebration.
- Telescope was set up in **1972 by Professor Vainu Bappu.**
- It is credit with discoveries like presence of rings around planet Uranus, new satellite of Uranus, presence of an atmosphere around Ganymede which is a satellite of Jupiter.

5.2 NEW SCIENTIFIC LABORATORIES

M Centre for Responsible AI at IIT-¬M

- The **Indian Institute of Technology Madras** has received a grant of $1 million to set up a new multidisciplinary centre for research and development on responsible artificial intelligence.
- The Centre for Responsible AI is under the aegis of the Robert Bosch Centre for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (RBC¬DSAI).
- The center will be established in partnership with **Google**.
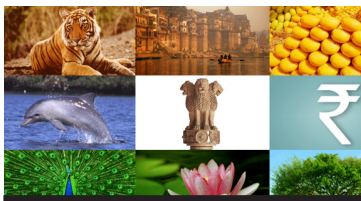
Nine products from across country get GI tag

▪ The Union government has granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag to **9 products** from across the country.

▪ With this, the total number of registered GI products in India stands at 432.

▪ The **top five states** with the most GI tags are
  • Karnataka (48)
  • Tamil Nadu (42)
  • Kerala (35)
  • Uttar Pradesh (34)
  • Maharashtra (31

▪ The 9 GI tags were given for:

Sl.No.	Product	State
1.	Assamese Gamocha	Assam
2.	Alibag White Onion	Maharashtra
3.	Tandur Redgram	Telangana
4.	Raktsey Karpo Apricot	Ladakh
5.	Attappady Thuvara (Attappady red gram)	Kerala
6.	Kanthalloor Vattavada Garlic (Kanthalloor Vattavada Veluthulli)	Kerala
7.	Kodungallur Snap Melon (Kodungallur Pottuvellari)	Kerala
8.	At pady Aattukombu Dolichos Bean [Attappady Aattukombu Avara]	Kerala
9.	Onattukara Sesame (Onattukara Ellu)	Kerala

Note

▪ A GI is a label that is applied to products that have a specific geographical origin and have characteristics that are related to that particular location.

▪ Administered under Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.

▪ Darjeeling tea became the first GI tagged product in India, in 2004–05.

▪ Head Office for GI Tag is situated at Chennai.

Launch of 'EV-YATRA PORTAL' Mobile App

▪ The **Mobile application "EV Yatra"** has been designed and developed to facilitate in-vehicle navigation to the nearest public EV charger.

▪ The App was developed by the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency.**

▪ A website to disseminate information on various central and state-level initiatives to promote e-mobility in the country, and a web-portal to enable CPOs to register their charging details securely into the National Online Database was also launched.

About BEE

▪ An agency of the Government of India under the Ministry of Power created in **March 2002** under the provisions of the **Energy Conservation Act 2001.**

Swar Dharohar Festival

- **Ministry of Culture and Swar Dharohar Foundation** organised the **"Swar Dharohar Festival"** under Kalanjali at Central Vista, New Delhi.

- Under **Kalanjali**, cultural programmes are being organised at Central Vista every week.

- It is a Music, Art and Literature Festival to showcase the iconic art and culture of India and the rich literary Art and Heritage of Indian States.

ICMR-NARFBR at Hyderabad

- **Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya** inaugurates ICMR-NARFBR **(National Animal Resource Facility for Biomedical Research) at Genome Valley, Hyderabad.**

- ICMR-NARFBR has potential to make India a key global player in Biomedical research in 21st-century and play a crucial role in improving health and welfare of the nation.

- NARFBR is an **apex facility** which will provide **ethical care and use** and welfare of **laboratory animals** during research

New office complex Vaigai at Custom House in Chennai.

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman laid the foundation for a nine-story new office complex **Vaigai** to be built at a cost of Rs. 92 Crore **at the Custom House in Chennai.**

- The building will facilitate India's commitment to improving trade, export and import, the office complex will be housing all the necessary offices required for customs clearances in one place.

- A creche is included in the complex for the benefit of the women employees and the building will be energy efficient

Golden Jubilee of North Eastern Council

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah attended the **Golden Jubilee celebrations of the North Eastern Council (NEC) in Shillong in Meghalaya.**

About NEC

- **North Eastern Council (NEC)** was constituted as a **statutory advisory body** under the **NEC Act 1971** and came into being on **the 7th November, 1972 at Shillong.**

- The **eight States of Northeast** India viz. **Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim**, are members of the council, with their respective Chief Ministers and Governors representing them.

- The headquarters of the council is situated in Shillong and functions under the **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DONER).**

Good Governance Week 2022

- Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh to inaugurate **Good Governance Week 2022, "Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore" a Nationwide Campaign**.

- 3,120 New Services identified by District Collectors across the country will be added for Online Service Delivery during the 5-day "Prashasan Gaon ki Ore campaign.

- During the good governance week, or Sushasan Saptah grievances received on **Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)** will be redressed along with grievances received on state portals.

- Tamil Nadu districts have identified 1,38,621 grievances for redressal, it added.

Note

- CPGRAMS was created in **June 2007** by the **Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances.** It is a Public Grievances Redressal Mechanism.

25th Eastern Zonal Council Meeting in Kolkata

- Minister highlighted the near-end of Left-Wing Extremism in India's Eastern region, and the need to accelerate the campaign against drugs with the help of **Artificial Intelligence (AI).**

- India is highly vulnerable to drug trafficking as it is wedged between two largest sources of illicit drugs in South Asia, i.e., Golden Crescent (Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran) and Golden Triangle (Myanmar, Thailand and Laos).

About Zonal Councils

- Zonal Councils are the statutory (and not the constitutional) bodies established by the States **Reorganisation Act of 1956**.
- **Five Zonal Councils** set up under **States Reorganisation Act, 1956 are**
- **Northern**: Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Punjab, Rajasthan, NCT of Delhi and UT of Chandigarh.
- **Central:** Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.
- **Eastern:** Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal.
- **Western:** Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
- **Southern:**Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry
- Composition
- Chairman - Union Home Minister is the Chairman.
- Vice Chairman: The Chief Ministers of the States included in each zone act on a rotational basis for one year

India Water Impact (IWI) Summit, 2022

- **7th edition of IWI Summit** was concluded at **New Delhi.**
- Theme of Summit is **'Restoration and Conservation of Small Rivers in a Large Basin'.**
- Its emphas is on the select aspects of 'Mapping and Convergence o**f 5Ps' – People, Policy, Plan, Programme, and Project.**

Key highlights

- Consensus over need to form a National River Framework among all stakeholders
- Framework would determine the parameters for monitoring river health, process and responsibility.
- Establish a system for exchange of official information in water-related issues.
- Discussion on the Impact of Land use on Rejuvenation of Small Rivers.

Project Vanni

- The project was launched by **Google India** in partnership with the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc).**
- It aims to build an artificial intelligence/ machine learning (AI/ML) model to collect language samples **from 773 districts across India.**
- It will be an **AI-based language model** that can understand diverse Indian languages and dialects.
- Potential use of such datasets is in building apps in areas such as health, agriculture, and financial inclusion.

Note

- Google has granted a fund of $1 million to **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** to build **India's first Responsible AI center.**
- The center aims to research on various aspects of bias in artificial intelligence (AI) in Indian perspective.

Three more sites added to tentative list of UNESCO

- Three more sites have been added to the tentative list of UNESCO taking the total number to 52 sites on UNESCO Tentative List.
- The **three new sites are**
- Gujarat's Vadnagar town :
  - Situated in **Mehsana district, Gujarat.**
  - Ancient name was **Anartapura**
  - A Buddhist location visited by **Xuanzang in 640 C.E.**
  - Birthplace of Narendra Modi
- Sun Temple at Modhera :
  - Hindu temple dedicated to the solar deity Surya.
  - Located at **Modhera village of Mehsana district, Gujarat**
  - Situated on the bank of the **river Pushpavati.**
  - Built during the **reign of Bhima I of the Chaulukya dynasty** and dates back to 8th century BC.
  - Recently, Modhera was declared as the **first solar-powered village.**

- Rock cut sculptures of Unakoti in Tripura:
  - It is a **'Shaiba' (Saivite) pilgrimage site** and dates back to **7th – 9th centuries**
  - It has the **largest rock-cut images** and stone idols of **Lord Shiva in India.**
  - The word 'Unakoti' means "one less than a Crore".

Note
- UNESCO tentative list is an "inventory of those properties which each State Party intends to consider for nomination

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

India's First Green Steel Brand
- Union Minister of Steel, Jyotiraditya Scindia launched **India's first Green Steel Brand, "Kalyani Ferresta" in New Delhi.**
- The brand is manufactured by a Pune-based Steel company, Kalyani group by using renewable energy resources, leaving zero carbon footprints in the environment.
- The Government of India is promoting **green steel manufacturing** and has framed the **National Steel Policy to achieve zero carbon emissions** by the steel industry to achieve its goal of **carbon neutrality by 2070.**
- The policy makes it mandatory for steelmakers to dedicate a certain percentage of their production lines for making green steel and also encourages its usage in government projects, as a promotion towards the use of the product.

Note
- The steel industry produces 7 percent of Carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions globally, while the Indian steel industry accounts for 12 percent of such emissions. It is a fossil free steel.
- **Green steel** is manufactured using low-carbon energy sources such as hydrogen, coal gasification and electricity rather than using coking coal.
- India is the **world's second-largest producer of** crude steel after China.

Govt projects record wheat production in 2022
- The government projected record wheat production in the ongoing 2022-23 crop year (July-June) as total area sown to the winter crop has increased by 3.18 per cent to 312.26 lakh hectares so far in the ongoing rabi (winter) season.
- Sowing of wheat, the main rabi (winter) crop, begins in October while harvesting starts in April.
- Mustard seed and gram are other major crops sown in the rabi season.
- The country's wheat production had declined to 106.84 million tonnes during 2021-22 crop year due to a heatwave in some key growing states, as against 109.59 million tonne in the previous year, as per official data.
- According to the ministry's latest data, wheat has been sown in 312.26 lakh hectares (ha) in the ongoing rabi season as of December 23, as against 302.61 lakh ha in the year-ago period.
- Higher area is reported from Rajasthan (1.99 lakh ha), followed by Gujarat (1.74 lakh ha), Uttar Pradesh (1.57 lakh ha), Bihar (1.51 lakh ha), Maharashtra (1.43 lakh ha), Madhya Pradesh (0.83 lakh ha), Chhattisgarh (0.64 lakh ha), West Bengal (0.24 lakh ha), Jammu and Kashmir (0.23 lakh ha), Karnataka (0.15 lakh ha) and Assam (0.01 lakh ha).

World's tallest Krishna statue
- The Gujarat government announced that the **tallest statue of Lord Krishna** in the world will come up in Dwarka town as part of the **'Devbhumi Dwarka Corridor'**
- The work on the first phase of which is expected to start in September, 2023.
- According to mythology, Krishna lived and ruled Dwarka.
- The world famous Dwarkatheesar temple is located in Dwaraka.
- The statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Iron Man of India) 'Statue of Unity' which is the world's tallest (182 meters) has been installed in Narmada district, Gujarat.

'Right to Repair' Portal

- Consumer affairs minister Piyush Goyal unveiled the **"right to repair"** portal.

- The Right to Repair Portal allows manufacturers to share repair manuals with customers, allowing them to repair products themselves or through a third party rather than relying on the original manufacturer.

NTH mobile app

- It is a new initiative launched by the **Ministry Food and Consumer Affairs**

- The app is designed to provide consumers with information and assistance related to their rights and to help them resolve any disputes or issues they may have with products or services.

- The app is intended to make it easier for consumers to access information and resources and to hold businesses accountable for providing high-quality products and services.

Note

- The **Right to Repair portal** and the **NTH mobile app** were launched to mark National Consumer Day. (December 24).

PAN – Aadhaar linking mandatory by March 2023

- As per the I-T Act, it is mandatory for all PAN-holders, who do not fall under the exempt category, to link their permanent account numbers (PAN) with Aadhaar before March 31, 2023.

- From April 1, 2023, the unlinked PAN shall become inoperative.

- The last date to link PAN with Aadhaar was extended by the **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** from **31st March 2022 to 31st March 2023.**

About Aadhaar

- A 12-digit unique identity number.
- Published by Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)
- Under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- It is the world's largest biometric ID system.
- Launched on **28 January 2009.**

- **First chairman of UIDAI** - Nandan Nilekani
- Present **CEO (Chief Executive Officer)** - Dr. Saurabh Garg.

About PAN

- A ten-character alphanumerics
- Issued by Income Tax Department under Indian Income Tax Act, 1961.

Cabinet approves MSP for copra for 2023 season

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved **Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for copra for 2023 season.**

- The approval is based on recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices and views of major coconut growing states.

- The MSP for Fair Average Quality of milling copra has been fixed at Rs. 10860/- per quintal and for ball copra at Rs. 11750/- per quintal for 2023 season.

- This is an increase of Rs. 270/- per quintal for milling copra and Rs. 750/- per quintal for ball copra over the previous season.

- The announced MSP of copra for 2023 season is in line with the principle of fixing the MSP at a level of at least 1.5 times all India weighted average cost of production as announced by the Government in the Budget 2018-19.

- **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) and National Cooperative Consumers' Federation (NCCF)** will continue to act as **Central Nodal Agencies (CNAs)** for procurement of copra and de-husked coconut under Price Support Scheme (PSS).

MEITY : Nodal Ministry for Online Gaming

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** has appointed MeitY as the central regulatory authority that will provide clarity and certainty to investors, industry and consumers.

- Online games refer to games that are played over some form of computer network, most often the Internet.

- As per All India Gaming Federation, India's online gaming industry is expected to be worth Rs.15,500 crore by 2023.

Types of online gaming

- **Game of skill**
- It requires a player's skill and mental or physical strength to win. It does not depend on sheer luck.
- **Games of chance**
- It is considered as gambling as it depends on factors like luck and unpredictability.
- The winnings from games of skill attract 18 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST). On the other hand, winnings from games of chance attract 28 per cent GST.

Road accidents in India 2021 report

- It is an annual report **based on parameters** of road accidents like the **number of accidents, fatalities, fatal accidents, injuries,** etc. by the ministry of road transport and highways

Key Highlights

- **Road accidents decreased by 8.1 % and injuries decreased by 14.8 %** in 2021 compared to 2019.
- **Fatalities, however, on accounts of road accidents** increased **by 1.9 percent** in 2021 corresponding to the same period in 2019.
- **In 2020**, there is an **unprecedented decrease in accidents, fatalities**, and injuries due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Uttar Pradesh** accounted for the **largest share of fatalities** at 13.8% followed by Tamil Nadu (10%).

Initiatives for road safety

- **The Road Safety Programme** funded by the **World Bank** for capacity building of states.
- **Integrated Road Accident Database (iRAD) system** for analysis of road accidents data to enhance road safety.
- **National Road Safety Board** under Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019.
- **Scheme for District Driving Training Centres.**
- **Awards for** outstanding work in the field of **Road Safety.**

- India is a signatory to **Brasilia Declaration on Road Safety (2015).**

138th Anniversary of Indian National Congress

- The first session of the Indian National Congress in Bombay in December 1885.
- It was attended by 72 delegates from all the Indian provinces.
- There were 54 Hindus, 2 Muslims and the rest were Jain and Parsi members.
- President (1st Session) - **Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee.**

PRASHAD Project launched in Telangana

- The President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the **PRASHAD proect in two temples in Telangana**
- **PRASHAD or Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive** was launched in 2014-15.
- It aims to provide integrated infrastructure development to pilgrimage and heritage tourism destinations in the country.'
- **Sri Seetha Ramachandra Swamivari Devasthanam, Bhadrachalam**
  - The temple, dedicated to Lord Rama, is situated on the left bank of the River Godavari.
  - Built in the **17th century**, the significance of the place goes back to the **Ramayana Era.**
  - It is documented to be constructed or reconstructed by Kancherla Gopanna, also known as Bhadrachala Ramadasu revenue officer (Tehsildar) under the reign of Abul Hasan Qutub Shah, the sultan of the Golconda.
- **Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Mulugu**
  - Popularly known as **Thousand Pillar Temple** and Ramappa temple, is a Shiva Temple (dedicated to Ramalingeswara Swamy).
  - It was built by Ramappa (sculptor) during the Kakatiya period (1123–1323 CE) under rulers Rudradeva and Recharla Rudra.

- In **2021** it was included in the **UNESCO World heritage List** (Cultural).

Stay Safe Online Campaign and G20 Digital Innovation Alliance (DIA) launched

- **Ministry of Electronics and Information and Technology (MeitY)** launched **the Stay Safe Online Campaign and G20 Digital Innovation Alliance (DIA)**
- **MeitY is the Nodal agency for the G20 Digital Economy Working Group (DEWG).**
- During India's G20 presidency, the MeitY will focus on three priority areas, namely Digital public infrastructure (DPI), cyber security, and digital skill development.
- Digital Public infrastructure comprises the physical resources necessary for the use of data, computerised devices, methods, systems, and processes – more resilient, agile, and futuristic for providing the public services.

About Stay Safe Online Campaign

- Its objective is to **raise awareness** among citizens to **stay safe in the online world** due to the widespread use of social media platforms and the rapid adoption of digital payments.
- It involves the dissemination of multilingual awareness content in the form of infographics etc.

About G20-DIA

- Its objective is to identify, recognize, and enable the adoption of innovative and impactful digital technologies developed by start-ups, from G20 nations as well as the invited non-member nations.
- It seeks digital solutions in **the six themes** viz. **Agri-tech, Health-tech, Ed-tech, Fin-tech, Secured Digital Infrastructure, and Circular Economy.**

Youth Co:Lab

- Atal Innovation Mission (set up by NITI Aayog in 2016) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India launched the 5th edition of Youth Co:Lab for Young Entrepreneurs.

- Youth Co:Lab was co-created in 2017 by UNDP Asia and the Citi Foundation
- It aims to support young social entrepreneurs who can be a powerful force in leading social change and furthering the implementation of SDGs target actions.
- It is Asia Pacific's largest youth innovation movement.

About UNDP

- Formation - November 22, 1965
- Headquarters - New York City
- Head - Achim Steiner.
- Parent organization - ECOSOC (United Nations Economic and Social Council)
- About NITI Aayog (National Institution For Transforming India)
- Formation - January 1, 2015 (replaced Planning Commission)
- Aims to foster cooperative federalism
- Composition of NITI Aayog
- Chairperson: Prime Minister
- Vice-Chairperson: Suman Berry (Appointed by PM)
- NITI Aayog CEO - Parameswaran Iyer.
- Governing Council - Chief Ministers of all states and Union Territories with state Legislature and Lt. Governors of other Union Territories.

7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

New PM of Nepal

- **Pushpa Kamal Dahal**, Chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal was appointed as the **new Prime Minister of Nepal.**
- He was sworn in for the 3rd time as the PM of Nepal succeeding Sher Bahadur Deuba of the Nepali Congress party.
- Bishnu Paudel, Narayankaji Shrestha and Rabi Lamichhane were appointed as the deputy Prime Ministers of Nepal

About Nepal:

- President– Bidhya Devi Bhandari
- Currency– Nepalese Rupee
- Capital– Kathmandu
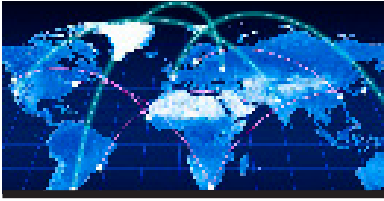
8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

LS clears Bill to include Narikoravan, Kurivikkaran tribes in ST list of Tamil Nadu

- The Lok Sabha passed the **Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Second Amendment) Bill, 2022**, to include the **Narikoravan and Kuruvikaran tribes of Tamil Nadu in the Scheduled Tribes list** of the State.
- Tamil Nadu's population is over seven crore and the two communities constitute just about 27,000 of the population.
- On the basis of the recommendation of Tamil Nadu and after consultation with the **Registrar General of India** and the **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes**, it is proposed to amend **Part XIV of the Schedule to the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.**
- Once the Bill is approved by Parliament and the rules are framed, the members of Narikoravar and Kurivikkarar communities will be entitled to all benefits which are provided to those belonging to the ST category, especially reservation in educational institutions and government jobs.

Note

- Article 342 deals with the provisions related to Scheduled Tribes.
- It states that the President after consultation with the Governor by public notification may specify a particular tribe deemed to be deemed as scheduled tribe.

TIDCO plans to develop six thematic industrial parks across the State

- **Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited (TIDCO),** a governmental agency in the state of Tamil Nadu is planning to develop **six thematic industrial parks — two in Chennai, three in Coimbatore and**

one space park at Kula sekarapattinam in Thoothukudi to support the micro, small and medium enterprises in the State.

- Tamil Nadu has been ranked third in the country in the Ease of doing business for 2020-21.
- The state aims to improve the ranking to number 1 by supporting the micro, small and medium enterprises in the aerospace and defense sector.

Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property

- The **Idol Wing CID (IWCID) of the Tamil Nadu** police stopped the auction of Nataraja Idol in France and insisted for its return under the **UNESCO Convention of 1970.**
- The rare variety bronze idol was **stolen from Kayathar in Thoothukudi district half a century ago.**

About UNESCO 1970 Convention

- The UNESCO 1970 Convention is an international treaty to take measures to prohibit and prevent the illicit trafficking of cultural property.
- The return and restitution of cultural property is central to the Convention.
- It entered into force **in 1972** and is **ratified by 143 states including India.**

Aadhaar now mandatory for all Government schemes

- The Tamil Nadu government issued a notification making possession of Aadhaar number or undergoing Aadhaar identification mandatory for availing various welfare schemes of the government.
- The **'Scheme' is the Integrated Financial and Human Resources Management System,**

administered **by the Treasuries and Accounts Department,** to make online payments of bills and payments to beneficiaries through the Electronic Clearing Service.

▪ Aadhaar will be mandatory now for registering on 'Scheme'

Note

▪ Recently, **TANGEDCO** has made it compulsory for the electricity consumers (only those seeking subsidies) to link Aadhar card with **TNEB (Tamil Nadu Electricity Board).**

▪ **Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB)** was formed on **July 1, 1957** under **section 54** of the Electricity **(Supply) Act 1948.**

▪ **TNEB was restructured** on 1.11.2010 into
  • **TNEB Limited**
  • **Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO)**
  • **Tamil Nadu Transmission Corporation Limited (TANTRANSCO)**

TN renames School Education Department campus after Anbazhagan

▪ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K.Stalin formally renamed the campus housing the School Education Department after Professor K.Anbazhagan to commemorate his centenary celebrations of his birth anniversary.

▪ Anbazhagan is credited with several reforms in the education sector during his tenure as a minister in Karunanidhi government.

▪ Widely known as 'Perasiriyar' (Professor) his full name is Kalyanasundaram Anbazhagan.

Books by 8 scholars were nationalised

▪ The state government announced that the **Literary Works of eight Tamil scholars** were nationalized.

▪ It is important that the literary works of Tamil Scholars should be made available to all. Hence the writings of the best Tamil scholars are nationalised by Government.

▪ The solatium will be given to their legal heirs having regard to the number of books written by them, their social impact and their literary value.

▪ The scholars whose books were nationalised are
  • Nellai S. Diwan
  • Viduthazhai Rajendran
  • Na. Mammadhu
  • Nellai Kannan
  • Kantharvan alias Nagalingam
  • Somalae
  • Dr. N. Rajaiah
  • Thanjai Prakash

Bill to include Narikoravan, Kurivikkaran tribes in ST list of Tamil Nadu passed

▪ Parliament passed the **Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Second Amendment) Bill, 2022,** to include the **Narikoravar and Kuruvikarar** tribes of Tamil Nadu in the Scheduled Tribes list of the State.

▪ Tamil Nadu's population is over seven crore and the two communities constitute just about 27,000 of the population.

▪ On the basis of the recommendation of Tamil Nadu and after consultation with the **Registrar General of India and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes**, it is proposed to amend **Part XIV** of the **Schedule to the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.**

▪ Since the Bill is approved by Parliament, the members of Narikoravar and Kurivikkarar communities will be entitled to all benefits which are provided to those belonging to the ST category, especially reservation in educational institutions and government jobs.

6 Lakh Trees in 4 hours

▪ **Tamil Nadu's Food and Civil Supplies Minister R.Sakkarapani** and his team have set out to create a **new Elite World Records by planting 6 Lakh trees in just 4 hours,** in a bid to honour the **Green Tamil Nadu Mission.**

▪ The Objective of the Mission is to increase its forest to 33 per cent cover from the present 23 per cent before 2030 to combat climate change.

▪ About 16,000 volunteers are involved in the huge plantation campaign in which saplings

will be planted at Idayakottai Village of Oddanchatram Constituency in Dindigul District.

Introduction of 'Blockchain technology in Tamil Nadu Idol Wing Police

- The **Idol Wing CID of Tamil Nadu Police** has launched an initiative on the blockchain where informants who wish to pass inputs on idol smuggling or possession or sale of illicit antique idols can anonymously give information to the police.
- The staff of Idol Wing can submit their grievances on the blockchain.
- The public wishing to lodge their complaints can also do so on the decentralised blockchain at complaints.tnidols.com.
- Blockchain Technology has been introduced for the **first time in Tamil Nadu.**
- A case will be registered within 7 days if the complaints are confirmed to be genuine.
- Similarly, complaints made by departmental police officers and officers will be **resolved within 15 days.**

Greenhouse Gas Inventory compendium for Coimbatore, Tiruchi and Tirunelveli

- TN government has launched **greenhouse gas inventory compendium for Coimbatore, Trichy and Tirunelveli.**
- The aim is to prepare a contextual and inclusive climate resilient action plan for these cities.
- The manufacturing and construction sectors accounted for the highest quantum of greenhouse gas emissions in Coimbatore (35%).
- In Trichy, the residential sector topped the list (35.6%), followed by waste (31.7%). Transport accounted for 15% in both Trichy and Coimbatore.
- The residential buildings were the largest contributor in Tirunelveli, at 51%, followed by road transport, at 22%.

Key Indicators

- Energy consumption and Green House Gas (GHG) emissions in three cities of Tamil Nadu in 2020-21.

Cities	Total energy use (GJ*)	Total GHG emissions	Per Capita Energy use (GJ)	Per capita GHG emissions t CO2e
Coimbatore	21,125,595	2,948,011	10.48	1.46
Tirunelveli	4,839,859	662,107	8.76	1.2
Tiruchi	8,634,240	1,758,457	8.42	1.71

UG in Siddha Medicine

- Undergraduate course in Siddha Medicine will be inaugurated at National Institute of Siddha (NIS) located in Tambaram Sanatorium, Chennai.

Note

- NIS was inaugurated by the then Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh in 2005.
- The Siddha Central Research Institute is located on the premises of NIS which is functioning under the name of Ayothidoss Pandithar Hospital.

ISO Certification for 4, 517 Fair Price Shops in TN

- 4,517 fair price shops in Tamil Nadu have been given **ISO** certification so far.
- There are 35,000 fair price shops in Tamil Nadu in total. Of these, 25,000 shops are operating as full-time shops and less than 10,000 shops are operating as part-time shops.
- The ISO certification in public distribution system means that the shops have established mechanisms to prevent adulteration or safety hazards to food items they handle and supply.

▪ Fair price shops across Tamil Nadu will be revamped with improved facilities.

Note
▪ Tamil Nadu follows the Universal Public Distribution System where classifications such as **BPL, APL, do not exist.**

▪ TN is providing **rice at free of cost under Public Distribution System** to all eligible card holders from **01.06.2011**.

▪ **Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation** procures the essential commodities **from Food Corporation of India** and stores them in godowns across the state.

Solution to repel Wild animals
▪ **Erode district administration** with the help of **Indian Council of Agricultural Research** is launching a sustainable solution to repel wild animals.

▪ In order to protect the crops and humans from the attack of wild animals, Herboliv manufactured by a private manufacturer will be sprayed in the crops.

▪ It is produced using a combination of different botanical extracts and other natural products.

▪ crop damage caused by elephants, pigs, deer, wild buffaloes, monkeys, rabbits, peacocks, rats and parrots due to the aroma emitted from it. can be prevented. It gives immunity to crops so that they grow well.

▪ Other schemes like Food processing Plants at village, biofortification of maize grains and Green fodder bank have been launched to help the farmers in the area of Western Ghats.

Makkal ID
▪ TN Government is planning to launch **Makkal ID**

▪ Under the unique individual identification system each individual will be provided with 'Makkal ID'

▪ The card will be issued for the seamless implementation of government schemes.

▪ **Makkal ID** will be generated as a random number (10 digits) and not as a pattern-based number with encoded information or the alphanumeric string.

Modernisation of Forest Force
▪ The **Government of Tamil Nadu** has decided to modernise **Tamil Nadu Forest Force** by equipping them with modern equipment and technology, training and capacity building etc.

▪ Strategic objectives include
  • Sustainable growth of forest resources.
  • Build an efficient and effective department.
  • Enable better protection and management of biodiversity and ecosystems.
  • Strengthen the service delivery infrastructure through regional facilities.
  • Ensure continuous updating of knowledge of forest personnel.
  • Improve the capability and mobility of field staff to handle Human wildlife conflict issues.

TNPL unit II, SIPCOT park inaugurated
▪ Chief Minister MK Stalin inaugurated **Unit-II of Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Limited** (TNPL) hardwood pulp mill at a capital outlay of Rs 1,385 crore at Mondipatti village near Manaparai in Trichy.

▪ The **first SIPCOT industrial park of Trichy** was inaugurated at Manapparai at a cost of Rs 47.44 crore.

Note
▪ **State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamilnadu Ltd (SIPCOT)** was established in the year 1971 to develop industrial growth in Tamilnadu.

▪ The **Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Limited (TNPL)** was established to produce newsprint and writing paper using bagasse, a sugarcane residue.

▪ The factory is situated at **Kagithapuram, Karur and Manapparai, Trichy.**

Portal for benefit of private schools
▪ The Tamil Nadu Government launched a portal established by the School Education Department for processing applications for opening private schools and getting fresh government recognition or extension of recognition for schools.

- Over 15,000 private schools will be benefitted from the portal.

Installation of Transponders

- TN Government launched a scheme for **installing transponders** in over 4,990 fishing vessels at a total cost of RS.18.01 crore.
- The transponders, developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), would help fishermen in the high seas communicate with the authorities in the mainland in case of emergency.

Initiatives for Startups

- The **Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission (StartupTN)** has announced special packages of assistance for green tech, rural impact and women led start-ups.
- The government launched a portal, startuptnmentors.com, to connect startups and aspirant mentees with mentors.
- The startups that qualified for the **Tamil Nadu Startup Seed Grant Fund (TANSEED)** are eligible for the financial assistance.

- Women led Startups are those startups that should be owned by women or co-founded by a group **of women having a minimum equity of 75% in the enterprise.**
- **Green tech Startups** which take upon commercially viable infrastructure projects that promote sustainability and circularity will be funded by the **Green Climate Fund.**

Note

- **TANSEED** was launched to support early stage startups with a seed **grant of up to Rs.10 lakh each.**

Blood art to be banned in Tamil Nadu

- TN government has banned the use of blood for art works or blood art.
- The government took the decision after considering the health and safety of the people.
- The ban was followed by the concerns about the hygiene followed by the artists while taking the blood which can result in the spread of infections like HIV.