

TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

May 01 to 31, 2023

1. HISTORY

1.1. Important Days

Centenary of May Day in Madras

- The **first May Day** was celebrated in **Madras (now Chennai)** in **1923** by trade union leader **M. Singaravelu**.
- The **Labour Kisan Party** introduced May Day celebrations in Madras.
- Comrade Singaravelar presided over the meeting.

Singaravelar

- He is known by his title, '**Sinthanai Sirpi**'.
- He was the first communist of south India.
- In December 1925, he presided over the first communist conference in Kanpur.

International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers - May 29

- It was established by the **United Nations General Assembly** in 2002.
- It aims to pay tribute to the men and women who serve in UN peacekeeping operations and to honour those who have lost their lives in the cause of peace.
- The **theme** of 2023 is 'Peace begins with me'.
- This year marks the 75th Anniversary of the UN.

World No Tobacco Day - May 31

- It aims at raising awareness about the health risks associated with tobacco consumption.
- The World Health Organization in 1987 adopted the resolution for the creation of a global observance day.
- The first **World No Tobacco Day** was observed on **May 31, 1988**.
- **Theme for 2023** is "We need food, not tobacco."

Note

- After china, India is the country to produce cigar and cigarette largely.

1.2. Profile of States

Top borrowing states

- According to the **Reserve Bank of India**, **Tamil Nadu** has been the **top borrowing state** for the third consecutive year.

TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

May 01 to 31, 2023

- In the last financial year 2022-23, Tamil Nadu has borrowed Rs. 68 thousand crores in the first 11 months.
- **Next to Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh** has borrowed Rs.51,860 crore and **Maharashtra** has borrowed Rs.50 thousand crore.
- Tamil Nadu was the highest borrowing state in the previous 2 financial years.
- Compared to these two financial years, the borrowing of Tamil Nadu in the financial year 2022-23 has decreased slightly.

Note:

- At the same time, Tamil Nadu has borrowed less than the loan amount recommended by the Finance Commission.

Tamil Nadu - Where the World comes to Heal

- Chief Minister inaugurated a two-day medical value travel conclave.
- The event was called **Tamil Nadu - 'Where the World comes to Heal'**.
- This was organised jointly by the **Tourism and Health departments**.
- It is aimed at bringing together hospitals from 21 source countries with hospitals in Tamil Nadu.

Note:

- Already, **Tamilnadu** is known as the **hub of Medical Tourism in India**.

India's first cable-stayed rail bridge

- **The country's first cable-stayed rail bridge** called "**Anji Khad bridge**" has now been completed.
- The cable-stayed rail bridge has 96 cables and the cable strands' total length is 653 km.
- It will connect **Katra and Reasi** in the state of **Jammu and Kashmir** through **Indian Railways**.
- The bridge was built as part of the national project "**Udhampur-Srinagar- Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) Project**".

1.3. Defence**ASEAN INDIA MARITIME EXERCISE (AIME-2023)**

- The **AIME-2023**, held in two phases from May 2 -8 and two **Indian Naval Ships (INSs)** **Satpura and Delhi** also reached Singapore to participate in the exercise.

TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

May 01 to 31, 2023

- The **Harbour Phase** of the exercise held at **Changi Naval Base** from May 2 to 4 and the **Sea Phase** conducted from May 7 to 8 in the **South China Sea**.
- The exercise will provide an opportunity for **Indian Navy** and **ASEAN navies** to work closely and conduct seamless operations in the maritime domain.
- The ships, during their port call at Singapore, will also participate in the **International Maritime Defence Exhibition (IMDEX-23)** and **International Maritime Security Conference** being hosted by **Singapore**.
- **INS Delhi**, India's first indigenously-built guided missile destroyer and **INS Satpura**, an indigenously-built guided missile stealth frigate are a part of Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet based at **Visakhapatnam**.

About ASEAN

- The Association of South East Asian Nations
- **Established** - 1967 in Bangkok (Thailand)
- To accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development and to promote peace and stability in the region
- **ASEAN Countries** - Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam

Ajeya Warrior - 2023

- Military troops of **India and the United Kingdom (UK)** kick-started the seventh edition of '**Ajeya Warrior**' 2023.
- Ajeya Warrior is a biennial training event with the UK which is conducted alternatively in both countries.
- The last edition was held at Chaubatia, Uttarakhand in October 2021.

Decommissioning of INS Magar

- **INS Magar**, the oldest landing ship of the Indian Navy, was decommissioned recently.
- It did a prestigious service to the country for 36 years.
- **INS Magar** was launched on November 16, **1984**.
- It participated in amphibious exercises and humanitarian missions and operations including Samudra Setu.

TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

May 01 to 31, 2023

Note:

- In 2018, the vessel was converted into a training ship and joined the First Training Squadron at Kochi.

25 years of Pokhran II Test

- On May 11, 1998, India conducted three **nuclear bomb test explosions** at the **Indian Army's Pokhran Test Range**.
- Two days later, on May 13, two more bombs were tested.
- Codenamed **Operation Shakti**, these tests would display **India's capability to build fission and thermonuclear weapons**.

About Pokhran-I

- On May 18, 1974, with support from **Indira**, India carried out its **first nuclear test** at the **Pokhran test site**.
- **Pokhran-I** was codenamed **Operation Smiling Buddha**.

INS Vikrant

- An Indian Navy **MiG-29K fighter jet** on 24 May 2023, landed on the **indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant** for the **first time at night**.
- The aircraft carrier is currently sailing in the Arabian Sea.
- It was commissioned into the navy 2022 September by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The carrier is the first to be built in India and was constructed by the Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) in Kerala.

Note:

- The namesake Vikrant is a tribute to **India's first aircraft carrier INS Vikrant (1961)**.
- Vikrant means "**courageous**".

EXERCISES**Samudra Shakti-23:**

- It is an **India-Indonesia Bilateral exercise**.

TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

May 01 to 31, 2023

Jal Rahat:

- It is **flood relief exercise** that was jointly conducted by Indian Army, Sashastra Seema Bal, National and State Disaster Response Force (NDRF), District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) and police representatives at **Hagrama Bridge on Manas River in Assam**.

Sudarshan Shakti 2023:

- It was conducted by **Sapta Shakti Command of the Indian Army** along the **western borders in Rajasthan and Punjab**.

Maritime Exercise Al Mohed Al Hindi 23:

- The **bilateral exercise 'Al Mohed Al Hindi 23'** is between **Indian Navy and Royal Saudi Naval Force (RSNF)**.

1.4. World Organizations – Pacts and Summits

G7 Hiroshima summit

- In **2023**, as the G7 Presidency, **Japan** will **host the G7 Summit in Hiroshima**.
- This year, the leaders of Australia, Brazil, Comoros, Cook Islands, India, Indonesia, South Korea and Vietnam are invited.

G7 Countries

- Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.

About G7

- The Group of Seven is an informal group of **leading industrialized nations**.
- The **first summit** was in **1975**, when **France** hosted what was then a **Group of Six**.

International Pathogen Surveillance Network (IPSN)

- IPSN launched by WHO**, is a global network to help swiftly **detect threat from infectious diseases**, like COVID-19, and share the information to prevent their spread.
- IPSN will provide a platform for connecting countries and regions, improving systems for collecting and analysing samples.
- IPSN will rely on pathogen genomics to analyse the genetic code of viruses, bacteria and other disease causing organisms.

TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

May 01 to 31, 2023

Sixth Indian Ocean Conference (IOC)

- Conference has been **jointly organized by the Bangladesh's foreign ministry and the India Foundation, a New Delhi-based think tank.**
- **Theme:** Peace Prosperity and Partnership for a Resilient Future.
- It is a forum to discuss how the **countries of the Indian Ocean region (IOR)** can promote **economic development** while maintaining peace and stability.
- **First IOC was held in 2016 (Singapore)** and with time it has emerged as the flagship consultative forum for countries in the region over regional affairs.
- It provides a common platform to countries to deliberate upon the prospects of regional cooperation for **Security And Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).**
- **SAGAR was launched in 2016** to promote cooperation among the state actors and creates an environment of peace and stability.

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Accreditation

- **Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI)** defers NHRC accreditation.
- For the second time in a row, GANHRI deferred accreditation of NHRC citing objections like **political interference in appointments, involving police in probes into human rights violations, poor cooperation with civil society** etc.
- Without the accreditation, **NHRC will be unable to represent India at UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC).**
- GANHRI is responsible for reviewing and accrediting National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI) in compliance with **Paris Principles** every five years.
- **Paris Principles, adopted in 1993 by U.N. General Assembly,** helps in development of standards for NHRI across the world.

1.5. Place in news

Foundation for Glass bridge at Kanyakumari

- **Minister E. V. Velu** laid the **foundation for a glass bridge** to connect the 133-foot-tall Thiruvalluvar Statue with the Vivekananda Rock Memorial in **Kanniyakumari**, on 24 May 2023.

Note:

- Ferry services are being operated from the **Poompuhar Shipping Corporation's jetty** to the Vivekananda Rock Memorial every day.

TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

May 01 to 31, 2023

Sceptre in New Parliament

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** installed a **sceptre (Sengol)**, on 25th May 2023, was given by the British to Indian's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to represent the transfer of power in 1947.
- The sceptre, which was kept in a museum in Prayagraj (Allahabad), installed near the podium of the Lok Sabha Speaker.

About

- The five-feet-long intricately carved, unbending gold-plated silver sceptre, with a finial of Nandi (bull deity), was specially commissioned by the then Thiruvavaduthurai Adheenam.

Brick channel unearthed at Gangaikondacholapuram

- A portion of a **brick channel**, has been exposed by archaeologists at **Maligaimedu near Gangaikondacholapuram in Ariyalur district**, where the third season of excavations by the State Archaeology Department.

Note:

- Gangaikondacholapuram, the city that King Rajendra Chola I (1012-1044) built after his victorious expedition up to the Gangetic plains.
- It was the capital of the Cholas for about 250 years from 1025 CE.

1.6. Sports

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty won historic gold at Badminton Asia Championships

- India's top men's doubles pair **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty** won gold after beating the Malaysian pair of Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yi.
- The final of the **Badminton Asia Championships** held in Dubai.

Triple jumper Selva Prabhu breaks National junior record

- Triple jumper **T. Selva Prabhu** win gold at the Venizelia-Chania International meet, a World Athletics Continental Tour-Bronze event, at Chania on 28 May 2023.

1.7. Awards & Honours

Verchol Dalit Literary Award

- Art critic, writer, translator and Sahitya Akademi Award winner **Indran (B.G. Rajendran)** received the Verchol Dalit Literary Award.

TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

May 01 to 31, 2023

- The award was instituted by Neelam Cultural Centre (NCC) as a part of Vaanam Arts Festival to commemorate Dalit History Month and entails a ₹1-lakh cash prize.

Note:

- His most important work, is **Araikul Vandha Africa Vaanam (1982)**, a book of essays, stories and poems of 31 African countries.
- In **1986**, he published, **Katrukku Thisai Illai**, an introduction to Indian literature.
- In **1994**, he published a work of poems from third world countries (apart from India) called **Pasitha Thalaimurai**. His translated works created an impact.

Australia's highest civilian honour

- **Ratan Tata**, the Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons, was conferred with **Australia's highest civilian honour, the Order of Australia**, for his efforts in strengthening the India-Australia bilateral relations.

57th Jnanpith Award

- Renowned **Konkani novelist** and short story writer **Damodar Mauzo** won the **57th Jnanpith Award**.

About Jnanpith Award

- The Jnanpith Award is the oldest and the **highest Indian literary award** presented annually.
- It was given by the **Bharatiya Jnanpith a literary and research organization**, based in New Delhi.

Note:

- Damodar Mauzo was awarded the **Sahitya Akademi Award** in 1983.
- The **first Konkani writer** to win this literary award was **Ravindra Kelekar** in 2006.
- **Assamese poet Nilmani Phookan** won the **56th Jnanpith Award**.
- Phookan is the third Assamese writer to have received the Jnanpith

1.8. Latest Historical Events

Tippu's Sword

- The bedchamber **sword of Tippu Sultan**, the 18th century **ruler of Mysuru**, has sold for ₹ 140 crore at an auction in London.

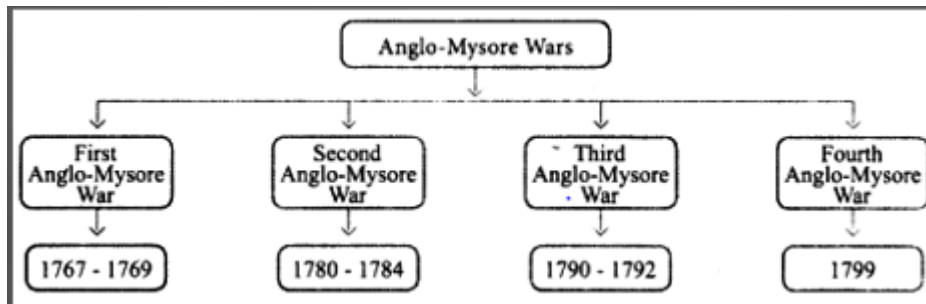
TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

May 01 to 31, 2023

- Tippu Sultan commonly referred to as the **Tiger of Mysore**.

About Mysore Wars



First Woman to Everest from Tamilnadu

- Chief Minister M K Stalin congratulations to **Muthamizh Selvi**.
- Muthamizh Selvi, became the **first woman from TN to scale Mount Everest**.
- She reached the summit on May 23 and returned to Kathmandu on 26 May 2023.
- It took her 56 days to reach the summit and return to base camp.

Note:

- **Bachendri Pal** - The first Indian woman stood on top of Everest on 23 May 1984

1.9. Appointments

New Madras HC Acting Chief Justice

- President Droupadi Murmu has appointed justice **S. Vaidyanathan**, the senior most judge of the Madras High Court, as its **Acting Chief Justice (ACJ)** from 25 May 2023, since the incumbent ACJ, T. Raja, retired from service on 24 May 2023.

Note:

- He is expected to perform the duties of the Chief Justice until the Centre takes a call on the Supreme Court Collegium's recommendation to appoint Bombay High Court's ACJ S.V. Gangapurwala as the Chief Justice of Madras High Court.

CBI Director

- Karnataka DGP **Praveen Sood** has been appointed as the new director of the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**.
- His tenure two-years.
- The appointment is made by the Centre on recommendation by a **three-member Appointment Committee**.
- Committee comprises the Prime Minister as the chairperson, the leader of the opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India, or a Supreme Court judge nominated by him.

TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

May 01 to 31, 2023

About CBI

- It is not a statutory body.
- It derives powers from the **Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946**.
- The Central Bureau of Investigation was established on 1.4.1963 through Government of India's **Resolution by Home Ministry**.

New Chief Justices appointed to Madras High Court

- Justice Sanjay V. **Gangapurwala**, who is officiating as the Chief Justice of Bombay High Court, has been appointed as the **Chief Justice of Madras High Court**, names were recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium.

Srivastava sworn in as Central Vigilance Commissioner

- Vigilance Commissioner **Praveen Kumar Srivastava** was sworn in by President Droupadi Murmu as the **Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC)** on May 29, 2023.

About CVC

- **Formed** – 11th February 1964
- **Recommendation of** – The Committee on Prevention of Corruption (Chairmanship of K. Santhanam).

Composition:

- The Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) and two Vigilance Commissioners (VCs)
- **Tenure** - Four years or the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier.

2. POLITICAL SCIENCE

2.1. Govt. Welfare Schemes

UDAN 5.1

- The **Ministry of Civil Aviation** has launched **UDAN 5.1**.
- It is a new version of the **Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)** specifically designed for **helicopter routes**.
- The scheme aims to democratize air travel and promote tourism, hospitality, and local economies.
- **UDAN 5.1** is allowing routes where one of the origin or destination locations is in a priority area.
- It will be reducing airfare caps by up to 25% to make helicopter travel more affordable.

TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

May 01 to 31, 2023

SUPREME initiative

- **Ministry of Science and Technology** launched the **Support for Up-gradation Preventive Repair and Maintenance of Equipment (SUPREME)** initiative recently.
- It seeks to provide financial support for the upgradation and maintenance of **analytical instrumentation facilities (AIFS)** created under the ministry's support.
- It is a first of its kind programme to extend financial support for repair, upgradation, maintenance, retrofitting, or acquiring additional attachments.
- The duration of support will be for a period not exceeding 3 years.
- The funding pattern in the scheme would be **75:25** for all private and government-owned institutions

START Program

- **ISRO** has announced a new introductory-level online training program called **Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START)**.
- START is aimed at postgraduate and final-year undergraduate students of Physical Sciences and Technology.
- The programme is intended to provide students with an introductory level training in Space Science and Technology.
- For the Indian academic institutes, offering post-graduate / under-graduate courses on physical sciences/technology
- Research Opportunities in Space Science & Technology a course of lectures by scientists from ISRO/DOS, IISc, IA, IG, TIFF, IISER.

National Program for non-communicable diseases

- **The Health Ministry** has added new diseases to the **National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS)**
- The addition of many new diseases or disease-groups and new health initiatives have prompted the Central government to widen the NPCDCS.
- It has decided to rename 'NPCDCS' as '**National Programme for Prevention & Control of Non-Communicable Diseases [NP-NCD]**'.
- NPCDCS is being implemented under the National Health Mission (NHM) across the country.
- The proportion of deaths due to NCDs in India have increased from 37.9% in 1990 to 61.8% in 2016.

TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

May 01 to 31, 2023

The four major NCDs

- Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs), cancers, chronic respiratory diseases (CRDs) and diabetes.

Rice Fortification

- According to **United Nations report**, India's **pilot project on rice fortification** had led to a significant drop in **prevalence of anemia among school- children**.
- Four large-scale pilots in different parts of country were done three in school lunch and one in **Integrated Child Development Scheme**.
- After witnessing success and feasibility of pilot project, in 2021 government announced that all rice distributed through food-based social assistance programs would be fortified by 2024.
- Fortification is the practice of deliberately increasing the content of one or more **micronutrients (i.e., vitamins and minerals)** in food or condiments (supplemental food) to improve nutritional quality of food supply.
- Food fortification is regulated under **Food Safety Standards (Fortification of Foods) Regulation, 2018**.
- Under Rice fortification, micronutrients such as **iron, Vitamin B12 and folic acid** are added for nutritional boost.

Benefits of Rice Fortification

- Combating malnutrition and anemia in a cost- effective manner as Malnutrition costs India at least 77,000 crore annually in terms of lost productivity, illness and death.
- Prevent **cretinism, goiter, thyrotoxicosis, brain damage** and improves foetal and neonatal health.

One Station One Product (OSOP) Scheme

- **Ministry of Railways** has launched OSOP scheme over Indian Railways to promote '**Vocal for Local**' vision and create additional income opportunities for marginalized section.
- Under the scheme, **OSOP outlets at railway stations** are allotted for showcasing, selling and giving high visibility to indigenous /local products.
- These OSOP stalls are designed by the National Design Institute for uniformity.
- OSOP are specific to that place and include artifacts made by indigenous tribes, handlooms by local weavers, etc.

TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

May 01 to 31, 2023

Vivad Se Vishwas I Scheme

- **Ministry of Finance** has launched scheme Vivad se Vishwas for providing relief to **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** for COVID-19 period.
- Scheme was announced in Union Budget 2023-24.
- It was launched by **Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance**.
- Under it, Ministries will refund performance security, bid security and liquidated damages forfeited/ deducted during COVID-19 pandemic.

Poshan Bhi, Padhai Bhi (PBPB) Scheme

- Union Ministry of **Women and Child Development (WCD)** launched PBPB Scheme.
- PBPB will focus on **Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)** (first six years of children) at anganwadis across the country.

Key Highlights of the Scheme:

- It envisages training of **anganwadi workers** through the **National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD)**.
- It targets children's development in every domain mentioned in the National Curriculum Framework, like physical and motor development, cognitive development etc.
- It will focus on promoting holistic and quality early stimulation and pre-primary education for children.
- ECCE refers to providing care including health and nutrition as well as early learning opportunities to all young children.
- A protective and stimulating environment consisting of play-based and developmentally appropriate activities is vital for children's physical-motor, cognitive, socio-emotional and language development.
- EECE is a crucial component of **Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0** (Mission Poshan 2.0) and it was foreseen under the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020.

Anganwadi centers in India:

- They are established under **Integrated Child Development Scheme (1975)**.
- 1.39 million operational Anganwadi centers across the country are providing supplementary nutrition and early care and education to around 80 million children under the age of 6 years.

TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

May 01 to 31, 2023

One-Stop Centres For Zero Waste

- Government will launch one-stop centres called Reduce, Recycle and Reuse which will serve as one-stop solution for citizens, commercial enterprises, etc. to deposit unused or used plastic items, clothes, shoes, footwear, books, and toys.
- Items will then be given to different stakeholders to be refurbished for reuse or would be made into new products contributing to a circular economy,
- These 'RRR' centres would be set up as part of a nationwide campaign 'Meri LIFE, Mera Swachh Shehar' ('My Life, My Clean City') under aegis of Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0).

3. GEOGRAPHY

3.1. Environment and Ecology

Cheetah cubs die at Kuno Park

- Two more cheetah cubs died and one is unwell at the **Kuno National Park (KNP)** in Madhya Pradesh.
- 20 of the animals were **relocated from Namibia and South Africa** to the park, in an experiment at establishing a community of cheetahs.
- The Union **Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change** has launched the '**Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India**' under which 50 of these big cats will be introduced in the next five years.
- The action plan was launched at the 19th meeting of the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**.
- NTCA is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.
- Year (2021), the Supreme Court lifted its seven-year-long stay on a proposal to introduce African Cheetahs from Namibia into the Indian habitat.

About:

- '**Reintroduction**' of a species means releasing it in an area where it is capable of surviving.
- Reintroductions of large carnivores have increasingly been recognised as a strategy to conserve threatened species and restore ecosystem functions.
- The cheetah is the only large carnivore that has been eliminated, mainly by over-hunting in India in historical times.

TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

May 01 to 31, 2023

- The conservation of the cheetah will revive grasslands and their biomes and habitat, much like **Project Tiger** has done for forests and all the species that have seen their numbers go up.

4. ECONOMICS

4.1. Current Socio-economic Problems

Non-tax revenue growth

- **Tamil Nadu** has projected a growth of 32% in its non-tax revenue for 2023-24. This is the **highest** in four years.
- Earlier, the State had seen over 30% growth in its non-tax revenue in 2018-19.

The State's revenue receipts:

- **Tax revenue** (own tax revenue plus the share in Union Taxes/Duties); **Non-tax revenue**; and **Grants** from the Government of India.

Non-tax revenue:

- Interest receipts; Dividend and profits; Mining and other departmental receipts.

4.2. New Economic Policies

E-Appeals Scheme

- **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** has notified an e- Appeals Scheme, 2023 to reduce pendency of appeals at the level of income tax commissioners.

About e-Appeals Scheme:

- Aggrieved assessee can appeal certain orders before Joint Commissioner (Appeals) passed by an assessing officer below the rank of Joint Commissioner (Appeals).
- A person shall not be required to appear either personally or through authorised representative in connection with any proceedings under this scheme.
- Appellant can, however, request a personal hearing, which would be done through video conferencing or video telephony.

TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

May 01 to 31, 2023

4.3. Indices

Internet in India Report 2022

- As per the report, **52% of the Indian population** or 759 million people are accessing the internet at least once a month in 2022.
- Out of that, 399 million are from rural India, while 360 million are from urban India. Approximately 71% internet penetration witnessed only 6% growth (in 2022).
- Bihar (32%) having less than half the level of internet penetration than the leading state Goa (70%).
- The active Internet users comprised of **54% male users**.
- While **57%** of all new users in 2022 were **females**.
- Digital payments in 2022 grew 13% over 2021 to reach an estimated 338 million users.

Note:

- It is estimated that by 2025, 65% of all new users will be women.

Future of Jobs Report 2023

- **World Economic Forum (WEF)** released **Future of Jobs Report 2023** Fourth edition (first edition in 2016) of this bi-annual series explores how jobs and skills will evolve over next five years (2023-2027).
- It tracks labour-market impact of Fourth Industrial Revolution, green and energy transitions, supply- chain shifts etc.

Key findings

- Key drivers of business transformation include technology adoption, followed by rising cost of living, slow economic growth, and green transition. 44% of workers' skills will be disrupted in next five years.
- 61% of Indian companies think broader applications of ESG standards will drive job growth, followed by increased adoption of new technologies and broadening digital access.
- 23% of jobs in next five years are expected to change.
- Strongest net job-creation effect is driven by green transition, broader application of ESG standards, and localization of supply chains.

TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

May 01 to 31, 2023

UNEP Report on Plastic Pollution

- **Go circular to end plastic pollution** stated a **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** report.
- Report titled '**Turning off the Tap** How the world can end plastic pollution and create a circular economy' addresses various issues associated with solution for circular plastics economy while also safeguarding livelihoods.
- **Circular economy** is an economic system where means of production are organized around reusing and recycling inputs to facilitate a sustainable and environment friendly mode of production.

Key highlights

- **Global plastic pollution can reduce by 80 percent by 2040** if market shifts to a circular economy.
- Currently, world produces 430 million metric tons of plastics each year of which over two-thirds are short-lived products.
- Plastic could emit 19% of global greenhouse gas emissions allowed under a 1.5°C scenario by 2040 and production is set to triple by 2060 if 'business-as-usual' continues.
- Plastic pollution occurs when plastic has gathered in an area and has begun to negatively impact natural environment and create problems for plants, wildlife, and even the human population.
- **Benefits from transformed plastics economy:** Opportunities for jobs, income, and innovation; Reduction in damage to human health and environment; and Reduction in liabilities, risks.

5. SCIENCE

5.1. Latest Inventions on Science and Technology:

Glioblastoma multiform drivers (machine learning-based computational tool)

- The **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M)** has developed a **machine learning-based computational tool** to detect malignant tumours in the **brain and spinal cord**.
- **Glioblastoma multiform drivers (GBMDriver)**, the tool is **available online**.
- Glioblastoma is a **fast and aggressively growing tumour with limited therapeutic options** and a **survival rate of less than two years from the time of initial diagnosis**.

TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

May 01 to 31, 2023

- The tool could be applied to other diseases; serve as important criteria for disease prognosis; and be a valuable resource to identify mutation specific drug targets to design therapeutic strategies.

World 1st Nano DAP fertilizer

- The Union home minister launched the "**world's first liquid nano DAP (Di- Ammonia Phosphate) fertiliser**" in Delhi.
- Liquid DAP is manufactured by the **Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd (IFFCO)**.
- It is being touted as a revolutionary product as it will help farmers reduce production costs and help them wean off chemical fertilisers.
- One 500 ml bottle of liquid DAP contains 8% of Nitrogen and 16% of Phosphorus.
- It can easily replace a 50 kg bag of traditional DAP.
- IFFCO owns a patent on its nano urea and nano DAP.
- This cooperative will get royalties for the product for the next 20 years.

5.2. Space

ISRO's GSLV rocket places navigation satellite

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** on May 29, 2023 successfully placed the **NVS-01 navigation satellite**, into Geo-synchronous Transfer Orbit.
- The **Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV)**, which placed the satellite, lifted off from the second launch pad at the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota**.
- The NVS-01 carried navigation payloads L1, L5 and S bands.
- For the first time, an **indigenous atomic clock** was flown in NVS-01.

Note

- **ISRO** was formed on August 15, 1969, envisioned by **Dr. Vikram Sarabhai (Father of the Indian Space Program)**.

Chinese mission with first civilian reaches space

- **China** sent three **astronauts to its Tiangong space station** as it pursues plans to send a crewed mission to the Moon by 2030.
- China was the **third country to put humans in orbit**, After the United States and Russia.

TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

May 01 to 31, 2023

6. NATIONAL DIARY OF EVENTS

100th Edition of Prime Minister's Mann Ki Baat

- To commemorate the **100th episode** of the popular radio program "**Mann ki Baat**" by the Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** on All India Radio, an exhibition titled '**Jana Shakti**' was recently inaugurated at the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) in New Delhi.
- It presents a variety of **themes** such as **Water Conservation, Nari Shakti, Awareness on Covid and India; the World, Swachh Bharat, Environment and Climate Change, Indian Agriculture, Yoga and Ayurveda, Indian Science and Space, Sports and Fitness, India @ 75 and Amrit kaal, and Celebrating North-East India.**

About Mann Ki Baat:

- It is a program broadcasted on the **All India Radio** through which the Prime Minister of India, addresses the citizens of India.
- The program is India's first visually enriched radio programme
- The programme was officially launched on **3 October 2014**.
- The main **objective** of the program is to **engage with citizens on day-to-day governance issues.**

Ludhiana gas leak

- **11 people died in the Giaspura area of Ludhiana after inhaling toxic gas emanated from a manhole**
- The tragedy struck the densely populated area in **Punjab's industrial hub.**
- Eleven people, including three children, died allegedly after inhaling toxic gas in the city's thickly populated Giaspura locality with high levels **Hydrogen Sulphide** detected in the air.

Hydrogen Sulphide (H₂S):

- It is a **highly toxic, colorless and flammable gas** having a strong odor of rotten eggs.
- It is **heavier than air**, it tends to accumulate at the bottom of poorly ventilated spaces.
- It is a central participant in sulfur cycle, the biogeochemical cycle of sulfur on Earth.
- It occurs naturally in crude petroleum, natural gas, and hot springs.

TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

May 01 to 31, 2023

Exposure to hydrogen sulfide causes.

- Irritation to eyes and respiratory system, apnea, coma, dizziness, headache, insomnia, etc.

Council Meeting of NITI Aayog

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, addressing the Eighth **Governing Council meeting of NITI Aayog** on May 27, 2023.
- **Objective** - "Viksit Bharat (Developed India)" in 2047.
- Mr. Modi chaired the meeting which was attended by CMs and Lieutenant Governors representing 19 States and Six Union Territories.
- NITI Aayog play a critical role in helping the States to develop their strategies.

Achievement

- **Mission Amrit Sarovar**, With a view to conserve water for the future. Around 50,000 Amrit Sarovar constructed in the country.

Note:

- NITI Aayog Founded - 1 January, 2015.
- Before NITI Aayog, there was a Planning Commission formed on 15 March 1950.

First Digital Census

- Home Minister Amit Shah, on May 22, 2023 inaugurated the **new Jagananna Bhavan (Census building)** in New Delhi, and released a report, "**The Treatise on Indian Censuses Since 1981**".
- The government announced the **first digital Census** giving citizens an opportunity to "self-enumerate".

About Census

- India has conducted the **Census every 10 years since 1881**.
- But in 2020, the decennial exercise for Census 2021 had to be postponed due to the pandemic.

101st episode of 'Mann Ki Baat'

- **Yuva Sangamam**, being organised by the Education Ministry, to build bridges between youngsters of diverse states said by PM Modi in 101th mann ki baat.

About

- **Mann Ki Baat (Speaking from heart)** is an Indian radio programme hosted by Prime Minister in which he addresses the people of the nation on All India Radio every last Sunday of month.

TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

May 01 to 31, 2023

- The **first show** on 3 October **2014**.
- The **100th episode** of Mann Ki Baat broadcasted on **April 30, 2023** and broadcasted worldwide.

7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

C20 Meet

- The governor R.N. Ravi participated as the chief guest in the '**C20 International conference in the spirit of 'Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam'**' organised by **Chinmaya Mission** in **Mahabalipuram** on May 27, 2023.
- C20 India 2023 is one of the official Engagement Groups of the G20 that provides a platform for **Civil Society Organizations (CSO)** around the world to voice people's aspirations to the world leaders in G20.

CAG of India elected as WHO Auditor

- **Girish Chandra Murmu, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)**, has been re-elected as the **External Auditor of the World Health Organization (WHO)** for a four-year term from 2024 to 2027.
- The CAG is already holding this position in the WHO since 2019 for a four-year term from 2019 to 2023.
- Election was held in the **76th World Health Assembly in Geneva**.

About WHO

- **Founded in** - 1948.
- **Headquarters** - Geneva, Switzerland
- **WHO** is the United Nations agency that connects nations, partners, and people to promote health, keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable.

8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

Factories Act

- Tamil Nadu Government announced that the **State's recent controversial Bill amending the Factories Act, 1948, to enable extended working hours in factories has been withdrawn**.

About the Bill:

- The bill providing flexible working hours for employees.
- Including the option for employers to increase the per day working hours of their staff to **12 hours from the current eight hours per day** schedule, in factories across the state.

TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

May 01 to 31, 2023

- The **bill** amended the **Factories Act, 1948** by **introducing a new section (section 65A)** which enables the state government to exempt any factory from restrictions relating to weekly hours, holidays, daily working hours, intervals of rest, spread over and prohibition of overlapping shifts.

Excavation at Porpanai Kottai

- The **State Archaeology Department** began excavation at **Porpanaikottai**.
- It is seeking to unearth an **ancient fort** in the village.
- This site is situated about 6.5 km to the east of **Pudukkottai** town.
- This is one of the new sites where the department has launched excavations this year.
- The earliest lithic evidence in the form of a memorial stone datable to **3rd - 4th century CE**, on the palaeographical ground, found at this site.
- It looks contemporary to the Pulankurchi inscription.
- The memorial stone was raised for a hero Kanankumaran.
- He was a soldier of the close circuit, who died in a cattle raid carried on this village by Ponkongar Vinnakon.
- The ruined fort was probably built in the **13-14th century CE**.

Vergalai Thedi Program

- A **Tamil arts and cultural program** was held in **Singapore** collaboration with Singapore Tamil Associations.
- Part of this event, Chief Minister Stalin inaugurated a **Scheme "Vergalai Thedi"** for foreign tamil youngsters.

"Namma Ooru Superu" campaign



- The **Kallakurichi district** administration has rolled out **"Namma Ooru Superu"** initiative.

TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

May 01 to 31, 2023

- It aims to ensure **better sanitary conditions** and cleanliness in the rural and urban areas of the district.
- The campaign would focus on creating awareness of drinking water, sanitation and solid waste management.

Tamil Nadu Champions Foundation

- It is an initiative to **partner with citizens and corporates** to revamp sports in the State.
- The foundation's mission includes identifying, nurturing, and supporting sportspersons.
- It also, aimed at putting in place state-of-the-art **sports infrastructure** and **sporting amenities**.

i-Tamil Nadu Technology (iTNT) hub

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister virtually inaugurated the **i-Tamil Nadu Technology (iTNT) hub**.
- The iTNT hub would coordinate efforts to use **artificial intelligence, machine learning, and blockchain technologies**, among others, to solve complex challenges in the State.
- The hub has been established on the **Anna University campus in Chennai** at a cost of Rs.54.61 crore.

Note:

- The Union government has contributed 50% of the funds.
- The T.N. government has spent 37% and industries have contributed 13%.