

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

## HISTORY

### 1.1. IMPORTANT DAYS

| Date     | Day                                     | Theme/Remark  |
|----------|---|---|
| April 05 | National Maritime Day                   |   |
| April 07 | World Health Day                        | "Health For All"  |
| April 10 | World Homeopathy Day                    | "One Health, One Family"  |
| April 14 | "Ambedkar Jayanti"                      | 'Day of Equality'   |
| April 18 | World Heritage Day                      | The theme for 2023 is "Heritage Changes"  |
| April 21 |   | Theme 2023: "Viksit Bharat (Developed India)"   |
| April 22 | World Earth Day                         | "Invest in Our Planet"  |
| April 23 | World Book Day                          | The theme for World Book Day 2023 is "Indigenous Languages."  |
| April 24 | National Panchayat Raj Day              |   |
| April 25 | World Malaria Day                       | Theme 2023: "Time to deliver zero malaria: invest, innovate, implement".  |
| April 26 | World IP Day                            | Theme 2023: 'Women and IP: Accelerating Innovation and Creativity.'   |
| April 28 | World Day for Safety and Health at Work | the theme for World Day for Safety and Health at Work is "A safe and healthy working environment as a fundamental principle and right at work". |

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

## 1.2. DEFENCE

- The country's Defence exports have touched an all-time high of ₹15,920 crore in FY 2022-23
- This is nearly ₹3,000 crore more than the previous fiscal year and a 10-fold increase from 2016-17.
- India currently exports to 85 countries.
- With over 100 companies currently exporting defense products, the Indian industry has showcased its design and development capabilities to the world.
- The growing defense exports and participation of 104 countries in Aero India 2023 is a testament to India's growing defense manufacturing capabilities.
  - Aero India is a biennial air show and aviation exhibition held in Bengaluru, India at the Yelahanka Air Force Station.
  - It is organised by the Defence Exhibition Organisation, Ministry of Defence.
- The country exports key platforms such as Dornier-228, 155 mm Advanced Mounted Artillery Guns (ATAGs), BrahMos missiles, Akash surface-to-air missiles, radars, simulators, mine protected vehicles, armored vehicles and Binaka rocket launchers.
- Global demand for light combat aircraft (LCA)-Tejas, light combat helicopters, aircraft carrier, maintenance, repair and overhaul activities is increasing.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said this achievement is a clear manifestation of India's passion for 'Make in India'.

## 'SLINEX-2023'

- The 10th edition of annual SLINEX-2023 **bilateral maritime exercise** between **India and Sri Lanka** has commenced in **Colombo, Sri Lanka**.
- The exercise will be conducted from 03-08 April 2023.
- The exercise is divided into two phases, the Harbour Phase and the Sea Phase, each lasting three days.
- The Indian Navy is represented by INS Kiltan and INS Savitri.
- SLINEX is being organised since **2005**.
- The aim of the exercise is to **enhance inter-operability, improve mutual understanding, and exchange best practices and procedures in multi-faceted maritime operations between both navies**.

## Exercise Cope India 23

- Exercise Cope India 23, a **bilateral Air Exercise** between the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and the **United States Air Force (USAF)** is to be carried out at Air Force stations Kalaikunda (West Bengal) and Agra in UP.
- The exercise also includes the presence of Japanese Air Self Defence Force aircrew, who will participate in the capacity of observers.

## Exercise Orion

- It is a multilateral exercise.
- Besides Indian Airforce and French Air and Space Force (FASF), Air Forces from Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Spain and United States of America would also be flying in this exercise.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

## Exercise INIOCHOS 23

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) will be participating in Exercise **INIOCHOS 23**, a multinational air exercise hosted by the Greece Air Force from April 24 to May 4.
- This will be the **third exercise** that the IAF will be taking part simultaneously.
- The Exercise **Cope India** with the **U.S** is under way at **Kalaikunda** and **four Rafale fighters** are taking part in multilateral exercise **Orion** hosted by **France**. The exercise will be conducted at the Andravida Air Base in Greece and the IAF will be participating with **four Su30 MKI** and **two C17** aircraft.
- The objective of the exercise is to enhance international cooperation, synergy and interoperability amongst the participating Air Forces.

## India conducts successful trial of BMD (Ballistic Missile Defence) interceptor missile

- India has successfully conducted the maiden flight trial of a sea based endo atmospheric interceptor missile off the coast of **Odisha**.
- The missile test was conducted by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and the Navy.
- The purpose of the trial was to engage and neutralise a hostile ballistic missile threat, thereby elevating India into the elite club of nations having Naval BMD capability.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

## India 4th biggest military spender in world: SIPRI

- India, which has sharpened its focus on building its defence capabilities and strengthening military infrastructure along the China border, was the **fourth biggest military spender** in the world in 2022 after the **United States, China and Russia**, According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)
- **Saudi Arabia** was in **fifth place**.
- The five countries accounted for 63% of the world's military spending.

## Exercise 'Ajeya Warrior 2023 '

- **India, UK** begin two-week **joint military exercise 'Ajeya Warrior'**
- Military troops of India and the United Kingdom (UK) kick started the 'Ajeya Warrior 2023', a two week joint military exercise **at UK's Salisbury Plains**, as part of efforts to consolidate the overall military ties.
- The military exercise will be conducted from April 27 to May 11
- This is the **7th edition** of the exercise.
- The primary objective of the exercise is to improve interoperability between the Indian and British armies while carrying out operations in accordance with UN mandates.

## 1.3. World Organizations Pacts and summits

### Preparedness and Resilience for Emerging Threats initiative (PRET)

- It is a **WHO initiative** to improve the **disease pandemic preparedness**.
- PRET focuses on improving pandemic preparedness for groups of pathogens based on their modes of transmission.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- PRET operates under the aegis of the International Health Regulations (IHR), which is a critical international legal instrument for managing public health emergencies.
- PRET recognizes three tiers of systems and capacities relevant for pandemic preparedness:
  1. those that are cross-cutting for all or multi-hazard,
  2. those that are relevant for groups of pathogens,
  3. those that are specific to a pathogen.

## India host two day Global Buddhist Summit in New Delhi.

- Inaugural session of the Global Buddhist Summit held in New Delhi
- The two day Summit is being hosted by the **Ministry of Culture in collaboration with International Buddhist Confederation (IBC)**.
- The theme of the Global Buddhist Summit is '**Responses to Contemporary Challenges: Philosophy to Praxis.**'

## India to host SCO Defence Ministers' meeting

- India as the chair of **SCO** in 2023 will host the **SCO Defence Ministers Meeting** on 28 April 2023 in New Delhi.
- The Defence Ministers will discuss amongst other issues matters concerning regional peace and security, counter terrorism efforts within SCO and an effective multilateralism.

## About SCO:

- SCO is a permanent intergovernmental international organization.
- It was created in **2001**.



# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- It's a Eurasian political, economic and military organization aiming to maintain peace, security and stability in the region.
- **India host the SCO summit in 2023.**
- **Member nations:** Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan.
- Head Quarters: **Beijing, China.**
- The SCO would probably be the **largest regional organisation in the world**, representing **40% of the global population**, **25% of the global GDP** and **22% of the world's total land area.**

## "The Big Catch-up"

- WHO, UNICEF, Gavi (Global Alliance for Vaccine and Immunization), the Vaccine Alliance and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, along with Immunization Agenda 2030 and other health partners, are implementing the "The Big Catch-up".
- It is a targeted **global effort to boost vaccination among children** aiming to reverse the declines in childhood vaccinations driven by COVID-19 pandemic.
- It will have a particular **focus on 20 countries including India** where three quarters of the children who missed vaccinations in 2021 live.
- It will strengthen healthcare workforces, improve health service delivery, build demand for vaccines and address obstacles to restoring immunization.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

## 1.4. Eminent Persons

### Sahitya Akademi winner Sarah Thomas no more

- She is best known for her 1978 novel **Narmadipudava**.
- The book won her the **Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award** in 1979.
- She also received the Kerala Sahitya Akademi award in 2010 for **overall contribution to Malayalam literature**.
- April 29th is the **birth anniversary** of revolutionary poet **Pavendar Bharathidasan**
- In 2016, the Tamil Nadu Assembly announced that the birth anniversary of poet Bharathidasan would be celebrated as **Tamil Poets' Day**.

### About Pavendar Bharathidasan:

- He was born on **April 1891, 29** in **Puducherry**.
- His real name was **Kanakasubiratnam**. He changed his name to Bharathidasan because of his love for **Mahakavi Subramanya Bharathiyar**.
- He worked as a Tamil writer.
- The revolutionary poet, affectionately known as Pavendar, was known by all for his inspiring writings.
- Bharathidasan wrote in Tamil in all forms of poetry, music, drama, short stories, novels and essays.

### Literary Works of Bharathidasan:

- Unexpected Kiss
- Kurinjithittu
- Kudumba Vilakku
- Dark House



# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- Azhagin Sirippu
- Tamil Movement
- Isaiyamudu
- Kuyil
- Thamizhachiyin Kaththi
- Pandian Prize
- Bharathidasan Aathisudi
- Women's Liberation
- Pisiranthaiyar
- Mayilam Sri Subramaniam Thudhiyamudu
- Mullai Kadu
- Kalai Mandram and so on

## Awards and recognitions:

- Bharathidasan was conferred with the title of "**Puratchi Kavingyar**" (meaning the "Revolutionary Poet") by **Periyar**.
- He won the **Golden Parrot Prize** in **1946** for his play **Amaithi-Oomai** (Peace and Dumbness).
- He was given the **Sahitya Academy Award**, posthumously in 1970 for his play **Pisiranthaiyar** (He died in 1964 but he was given this award in 1970 after he died).
- On 9 October 2001, a commemorative stamp of Bharathidasan was released by the Postal Department in Chennai.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

## 1.5. PLACES IN NEWS

### Zojila Tunnel

- This tunnel will provide year-round connectivity between **Kashmir Valley and Ladakh**. The tunnel is Asia's longest and strategic bi-directional tunnel.
- It will pass under the Zojila Pass in the Himalayas between Ganderbal in Kashmir and Drass town in Kargil district of Ladakh.
- It is strategically important because Zojila Pass, located on the Srinagar-Kargil-Leh National Highway, is closed in winters due to snowfall.

## 1.6. SPORTS AND GAMES

### Miami Open tennis tournament

- Russian Daniil Medvedev won the men's singles title for the first time.
- In women's doubles, USA's Jessica Pegula-Coco Kauff defeated Townsend-Leila Fernandez to win the title for the first time.

### Savita shri wins women's grandmaster title

- Chess player Savita Shri, who hails from Tamil Nadu, has won the women's grandmaster title.
- Savita Shri is the **25th chess player** in India to win the women's Grandmaster title.

### 'Asian Wrestling Championships 2023'

- The Asian Wrestling Championships 2023 held in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- India finish with 14 medals

### India's medal winners:

- Aman Sehrawat (men's 57kg freestyle) - gold

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- Anirudh Kumar (men's 125kg freestyle) - bronze
- Deepak (men's 79kg freestyle) - bronze
- Rupin (Greco-Roman 55kg) - silver
- Neeraj Chikara (Greco-Roman 63kg) - bronze
- Sunil Kumar (Greco-Roman 87kg) - bronze
- Vikas (Greco-Roman 72kg) - bronze
- Antim Panghal (women's 53kg freestyle) - silver
- Nisha Dahiya (women's 68 kg freestyle) - silver
- Anshu Malik (women's 57kg freestyle) - bronze
- Sonam Malik (women's 62kg freestyle) - bronze
- Manisha (women's 65kg freestyle) - bronze
- Reetika Hooda (women's 72kg freestyle) - bronze
- Priya (women's 76 kg freestyle) - bronze

## 'Asian youth athletics championships'

### Priyanshu and Rahul bring gold and silver in 1500m

- Priyanshu won the boys 1500m gold while fellow-Indian Rahul took the silver in the fifth Asian youth athletics championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. India also won two bronze medals, through Arati (girls 5 km walk) and Mubassina Mohammed (long jump).

### 1.7. Books & Authors

- **Karisal**, one of the best novels of **Sahitya Akademi award-winning writer Ponneelan**, has been translated into English by his granddaughter and doctor Priyadarshini under the title 'Black Soil'.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- The novel 'Karisal' was published in 1976 on the theme of propagating left-wing ideologies and the formation of farmers' unions in and around Kovilpatti.
- **Ponneelan** won the **1994 Sahitya Akademi Award** for his **Tamil novel Pudhiya Dharisanangal**.

## 1.8. AWARDS & HONOURS

### Kiran Nadar conferred with France's highest civilian award

- The highest French civilian award comes in recognition of Nadar's outstanding contribution in the field of art, her commitment to providing greater access to culture both nationally and internationally, and her leading role in fostering Indo-French cultural ties.
- Philanthropist and art collector **Kiran Nadar** was recently conferred "Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur" (Knight of the Legion of Honour) by French Ambassador to India **Emmanuel Lenain**.

### Olivier Award:

- Chennai-born Singaporean actor **Anjana Vasan** has won the best supporting actress in a play at the 47th edition of **Olivier Awards**, for playing **Stella Kowalski** in the revival of American playwright **Tennessee Williams 'A Streetcar Named Desire'**.
- The Oliviers are the Oscars of London theatre and the 36-year-old is the first Singaporean to win the prestigious award.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

## Ma.Aranganathan literary award:

- Writers **K. Panchangam** and **SureshKumara Indrajith** will be conferred with the **Ma. Aranganathan Literary Award (2023)** on behalf of 'Munril' literary organisation.
- The 'Ma.Aranganathan Literary Award' presented on behalf of the Literary Association in the memory of M. Aranganathan, one of the distinguished creators of Tamil cinema.
- The award carries a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh each.

## Indian American C.R. Rao wins Nobel Prize equivalent in statistics at the age of 102

- The Indian American statistician **Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao** has been awarded the **2023 International Prize in Statistics** the equivalent of the Nobel Prize for statistics.
- It is awarded once every two years to an individual or team “for major achievements using statistics to advance science, technology and human welfare”.

## Raj Subramaniam honored with Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award

- **Raj Subramaniam**, the Indian-American CEO of global transportation giant FedEx, has been presented with the prestigious **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman**, the **highest civilian award given by India to persons of Indian origin and Indian diaspora**.
- Subramaniam was presented with the award by India's Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

## National Panchayat Awards

- President **Draupadi Murmu** gave away the **Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar award** to the winners
- This award is given to **carbon neutral Panchayats** by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- **Meenangadi grama Panchayat** of Tamil Nadu bagged the **1st prize** while **Bagmara (Tripura), Patoda (Maharashtra)** came **2nd, 3rd** respectively
- It is the first such award constituted by the Ministry of Panchayat Raj.
- This award carries an Medal, a citation and sum of ₹1 crore.

## Wing Commander Deepika Mishra becomes 1st woman IAF Officer to get Gallantry Award

- Wing Commander Deepika Mishra became the first woman officer in the Indian Air Force to be presented a **gallantry award**.
- **Deepika Mishra, a helicopter pilot**, was conferred a **Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry)** for an act of "**exceptional courage**" displayed during a **flood relief operation in Madhya Pradesh**.
- She is from Rajasthan.

## Harmanpreet Kaur created history to become the 'Wisden Cricketer of the Year'

- The Indian team captain Harmanpreet Kaur, created history by becoming the **first-ever Indian woman** to be named among the **Wisden Cricketers of the Year**.
- Harmanpreet Kaur, Ben Foakes, Matthew Potts, Tom Blundell and Daryl Mitchell are the five cricketers who have been awarded for the year 2023.



# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- Indian batsman **Surya Kumar Yadav** was named for **Leading T20 cricketer** of the year title.
- The Wisden Cricketers of the Year is a prestigious honor awarded by the Wisden Almanack, one of the most respected cricketing publications in the world.

## Goldman Environmental Prize

**Alessandra Korap has been awarded 2023 Goldman Environmental Prize**

- Alessandra Korap, a **Munduruku Indigenous woman** from the **Brazilian Amazon**, has been awarded a 2023 Goldman Environmental Prize.
- Alessandra Korap, a **leader of the Munduruku people** in the Brazilian Amazon, was declared winner of this prize for her fight against mining in the tribe's territory.
- The **Goldman Environmental Prize**, or the "**Green Nobel**" as some know it, is awarded yearly to activists from six regions of the world in recognition of their grassroots work. Winners get a \$200,000 grant to use how they see fit.

## Dalai Lama receives Ramon Magsaysay Award in person after 64 years

- Spiritual leader the Dalai Lama was presented the **1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award** personally by members of the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation after 64 years at his residence in the hill town of Dharamsala in Himachal Pradesh
- This was the **first international award** given to the Dalai Lama "for community leadership in recognition of his leadership of the Tibetan community's gallant struggle in defence of the sacred religion that is the

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

inspiration of their life and culture" by the Foundation in the Philippines in August 1959.

## About Ramon Magsaysay Award

- The **Ramon Magsaysay Award**, established in **1957**, is Asia's greatest honour and distinction.
- The award is managed by the **Ramon Magsaysay Awards Foundation (RMAF)**. It is named after Ramon Magsaysay, the third president of the Philippines.
- The award is regarded around the world as '**Asia's Nobel Prize**'.
- The prize is annually presented in a ceremonial ceremony in Manila, Philippines on August 31.
- The first Ramon Magsaysay Awards ceremony was held on 31st August 1958.

## HUDCO Award for cleanliness drive clinched by Uttar Pradesh

- The **Swachh Bharat Mission** has been awarded the country's prestigious **HUDCO (Housing and Urban development Corporation)** Award for 2022-2023.
- Cash prize of **Rs 1 lakh** was awarded in the Best practices to improve the living Environment 2022-2023 category for cleanliness.

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# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

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## **About Ramon Magsaysay Award**

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# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

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## Govt. names Mohanty as LIC chairperson and first CEO

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment of **Siddhartha Mohanty**, Managing Director (MD) and interim chairperson, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) as Chairperson till June 29, 2024
- Thereafter, Mr. Mohanty has been named as Chief Executive Officer and MD till June 7, 2025

## About LIC:

- It started its operations as a corporate firm in September 1956 after the Life Insurance of India Act was passed by India's Parliament in June 1956.
- The **LIC Act came into effect from July 1956.**
- It helped in the nationalization of the private insurance industry in India.
- LIC of India was formed by merging 154 life insurance companies, 16 foreign companies and 75 provident companies.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- It is one of the largest financial institutions in India.
- The headquarters of LIC is in **Mumbai, Maharashtra.**

## 1.9. LATEST HISTORICAL EVENTS

### Jallianwala Bagh Massacre 104th Anniversary

- The massacre is a sobering reminder of the brutalities under the British colonial rule, which completes **104 years in 2023.**
- The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre is one of the tragic and darkest events in the Indian history that led to the killing of several unarmed Indians and injuring many more.
- British military officer **General Dyer** on **April 13, 1919**, ordered his troops to open fire at an unarmed crowd that gathered in an open area near the Golden Temple in **Punjab's Amritsar** to stage peaceful protest against the arrest of nationalist leaders **Saifuddin Kitchlew and Satyapal.**

## 1.10. APPOINTMENTS

- Vice-Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh assumed charge as the Vice-Chief of Naval Staff (VCNS).
- He succeeded Vice Admiral SN Ghormade who retired after over 39 years of service.
- Anna University former vice chancellor **E. Bala Gurusamy** has been appointed academic advisor (honorary) to Jharkhand governor **C P Radhakrishnan.**



# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

## 2. POLITICAL SCIENCE

### 2.1. India's Foreign Policy

**Amit Shah chairs a meeting of the heads of departments of SCO member states in New Delhi**

- The Minister identified five major areas for the SCO to work on:
  - I. confidence building efforts in Asia,
  - II. collective responsibility approach,
  - III. expanding cooperation in communication and information sharing,
  - IV. identification of priority areas, and
  - V. the use of newly developed technology in disaster resilience capacity building.

### About SCO:

- SCO is a permanent intergovernmental international organization.
- It was created in **2001**.
- It's a Eurasian political, economic and military organization aiming to maintain peace, security and stability in the region.
- **India host the SCO summit in 2023.**
- **Member nations:** Kazakhstan ,China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan.
- Head Quarters: **Beijing, China.**
- The SCO would probably be the **largest regional organisation in the world**, representing **40% of the global population, 25% of the global GDP** and **22% of the world's total land area.**



# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

## NET Zero Innovation Virtual Centre

- **India and United Kingdom will create India-UK NET Zero Innovation Virtual Centre.**
- It was announced during the **India-UK Science & Innovation Council meeting.**
- It will provide a platform to bring stakeholders from both countries together to work in some of the focus areas including **Decarbonization of manufacturing process & transport systems and Green Hydrogen as renewable source.**

## 2.2. Latest Court Verdicts

### Supreme Court modifies order on buffer zones in protected areas

- The Supreme Court, modified its judgment to have mandatory **eco sensitive zones (ESZ)** of a minimum **one kilometre** around protected forests, national parks and wildlife sanctuaries across the country.
- The court made it clear that “mining within the national park and wildlife sanctuary and within an area of one kilometre from the boundary of such national park and wildlife sanctuary shall not be permissible”.

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# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

## 2.3. POLITICAL PARTIES AND POLITICAL SYSTEM IN INDIA

- Ahead of Karnataka assembly elections, the government approved issuance of electoral bonds on April 3.

### About Electoral Bond:

- The government announced the Electoral Bond Scheme, on **January 2, 2018**.
- Electoral Bond is a financial instrument for making donations to political parties.
- The bonds are issued in multiples of Rs. 1,000, Rs. 10,000, Rs. 1 lakh, Rs. 10 lakh and Rs. 1 crore **without any maximum limit**.
- **State Bank of India** is authorised to issue and encash these bonds, which are **valid for fifteen days** from the date of issuance.
- These bonds are redeemable in the designated account of a **registered political party**.

### Aam Aadmi recognised as a National party

- The Election Commission has recognised the **Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)** as a **national party** and withdrew the national party status of the **All India Trinamool Congress, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)** and the **Communist Party of India (CPI)**.
- With the removal of the NCP, the CPI and the Trinamool, there are now only **six national parties** in the country
  1. The Bharatiya Janata Party(BJP),
  2. The Congress,
  3. The National People's Party (NPP),

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

4. The Communist Party of India Marxist (CPIM),
5. The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), and
6. The latest addition, the AAP.

**For recognition as a NATIONAL PARTY, the conditions specified are:**

- a **6% vote** share in the **last Assembly polls** in each of **any four states**, as well as **four seats in the last Lok Sabha** polls; or
- **2% of all Lok Sabha seats** in the last such election, with **MPs** elected from **at least three states**; or
- recognition as a **state party** in **at least four states**.

## **2.4. GOVT-WELFARE ORIENTED GOVT SCHEMES, THEIR UTILITY**

### **Jal Jeevan Mission achieves 60% of its target**

- Of India's total of 190.4 million rural households, 116 million now have a functioning water tap
- It is a flagship programme to connect every rural household in the country with a tap-water connection, has reached 60% of its countrywide target, adding 23.4 million households in the fiscal year ended 2022-23.
- At the start of the mission, less than 17% or 32.3 million households had a tap connection.
- "The country crossed another milestone in the journey towards 'Har Ghar Jal' with over 11.66 crore (60%) rural households provided with tap water supply in their homes,"
- As on date, Gujarat, Telangana, Goa, Haryana, Punjab and the Union territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Daman Diu & Dadra Nagar Haveli and Puducherry have achieved 100% coverage.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- Under the mission, 2,078 water testing labs have been installed, of which 1,122 are accredited with National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories.
- The programme has created direct and indirect employment in rural areas.

## About Jal Jeevan Mission:

- The Jal Jeevan Mission is one of the largest infrastructure-building programmes in the country, which involves **installing source-to-household water tap connections**.
- Launched in **2019**, it envisages supply of **55 litres of water per person per day to every rural household through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) by 2024**.
- It comes under **Jal Shakti Ministry**.

## Aim:

- The mission ensures functionality of existing water supply systems and water connections, water quality monitoring and testing as well as sustainable agriculture.
- It also ensures conjunctive use of conserved water, drinking water source augmentation, drinking water supply system, grey water treatment and its reuse.

## 'Stand-Up India'

- The Center has approved more than 40,700 crore to over 1,80,630 beneficiaries under the **Stand-Up India Scheme to encourage entrepreneurship at the grassroots level**.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- The Stand up India Scheme, which was introduced on **April 5, 2016**, has been extended till 2025 with an emphasis on economic empowerment and employment development.
- Stand-Up India was established to encourage **entrepreneurship** among **women, Scheduled Castes (SC) & Scheduled Tribes (ST)** categories, and to assist them in starting a **greenfield enterprise** in manufacturing, services or the trading sector, as well as activities related to agriculture, in recognition of the difficulties that prospective SC, ST and women entrepreneurs may encounter in turning their dream into reality.

## Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY)

- Banks and financial institutions have sanctioned Rs 23.2 lakh crore to over 40.82 crore beneficiaries under the Mudra Yojana since its launch in 2015.

### About PMMY:

- MUDRA stands for Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency Ltd.
- Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) was launched on **April 8, 2015**, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to facilitate easy collateral-free micro-credit of up to Rs 10 lakh to non-corporate, non-farm small and micro-entrepreneurs for income-generating activities.

### Three products:

- Mudra has developed three products namely 'Shishu', 'Kishore' and 'Tarun' as per the growth and financial requirements of the micro unit of the beneficiaries.
- **Shishu:** Paying off loans up to Rs.50,000.
- **Kishore:** Settlement of loans above Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 5 lakhs.



# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- **Tarun:** Settlement of loans above Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 10 lakhs.
- Loans under this scheme are unsecured loans.

## 2.5. Govt- Welfare oriented schemes, their utility

- Public sector banks (PSBs) have set a target for the sale of flagship government insurance schemes **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)** and **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)** in FY24.

### About PMJJBY:

- Launched on May 09, 2015.
- PMJJBY offers life **insurance cover of Rs 2 lakh**, in case of death due to any reason, to people in the age group of **18-50 years** having a bank or post office account, who give consent to join or enable auto-debit of premium.

### About PMSBY:

- Launched on May 09, 2015.
- The PMSBY offers **insurance cover of Rs 2 lakh for accidental death or total permanent disability** and **Rs 1 lakh for partial permanent disability** to people in the age group of 18-70 years with a bank or post office account, who give consent to join or enable auto-debit of premium.

## Vibrant Villages plan to be merged with PM Gati Shakti

- The Centre's ambitious **Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP)**, which aims to develop infrastructure and open up villages along the China border to tourists, will be integrated with the **Prime Minister's Gati Shakti mega project**.



# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

## About Vibrant Villages Programme:

- It is a Centrally sponsored scheme, announced in the Union Budget 2022-23 (to 2025-26) for development of villages on the northern border, thus improving the quality of life of people living in identified border villages.
- It will cover the border areas of **Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Ladakh.**
- Vibrant Village Action Plans will be created by the district administration with the help of Gram Panchayats.
- There will not be overlap with Border Area Development Programme.

## About PM Gati Shakti:

- On India's 75th Independence Day, Prime Minister announced that the Centre will launch 'PM Gati Shakti Master Plan', a Rs. 100 lakh-crore project for developing '**holistic infrastructure**'.
- It will incorporate the infrastructure schemes of various Ministries and State Governments like **Bharatmala, Sagarmala, inland waterways, dry/land ports, UDAN** etc.
- The digital platform of the Gati Shakti project brings **16 Ministries, including Railways and Highways**, together for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects.
- **Economic Zones** like textile clusters, pharmaceutical clusters, defence corridors, electronic parks, industrial corridors, fishing clusters, agri zones will be covered to improve connectivity & make Indian businesses more competitive.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- It will also leverage technology extensively including spatial planning tools with ISRO imagery developed by **BiSAG-N** (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics).

## 3. GEOGRAPHY

### 3.1 ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

**National Tiger Conservation Authority's (NTCA) fifth cycle of the Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) for 2022.**

- The **Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR)** and the **Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR)** ranked fifth and eighth among the **54 tiger reserves** in the country, besides improving their ranking from 'very good' to 'excellent'.
- The two are among the 12 tiger reserves in the 'excellent' category.
- The **Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR)** and the **Kalakkad and Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR)** continued to be in the 'very good' category
- **Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve**, which underwent its first MEE assessment after being declared a tiger reserve in 2021, was adjudged to be 'good'.

#### Periyar Tiger Reserve:

- The **Periyar Tiger Reserve** in Kerala is the **country's best-maintained tiger reserve**, according to the 5th cycle of Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) carried out by the Centre.

#### About Periyar Tiger Reserve:

- It is located in the Western Ghats of Kerala.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- It was declared a Tiger Reserve in 1978.
- It gets its name from the River Periyar, which has its origin deep inside the reserve.
- Two main rivers, Pamba and Periyar, drain the reserve.

## Bandipur Tiger Reserve:

- **Bandipur Tiger Reserve** in Chamarajanagar district of **Karnataka** has secured the second place. However, it shares the second slot with Satpura Tiger reserve in Madhya Pradesh.
- The government has been using the MEE to assess tiger reserves across the country since its inception in 2006. The MEE report is prepared based on conservation management plans, activities, process, and results.
- This helps formulating a mechanism for preserving the forest system by making good use of local resources.

## National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA):

- It is a **statutory body** under the **Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change**.
- It was established in **2005**.
- It was constituted under enabling provisions of the **Wildlife (protection) Act, 1972**, as amended in 2006, for strengthening tiger conservation, as per powers and functions assigned to it.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

## 4. ECONOMICS

### 4.1. CURRENT TRENDS IN INDIAN ECONOMY

#### 16th Finance Commission:

- Union government is gearing up to constitute **the Sixteenth Finance Commission in November this year** to recommend the formula for sharing revenues between the Centre and the States for the **five-year period beginning 2026-27**.

#### About Finance Commission of India:

- **Article 280** of the Indian Constitution laid down the provisions related to the constitution of the Finance Commission and the **Finance Commission Act of 1951** supplemented the provision of the constitution.
- **President** Constitutes the Finance Commission **every 5 years** or at such time he considers necessary.
- The **15th Finance Commission** was constituted by the President of India in November 2017, **under the chairmanship of NK Singh**. Its recommendations will cover a **period of five years from the year 2021-22 to 2025-26**.

#### Composition of Finance Commission:

The Finance Commission is a 5 member body that must have:

- A Chairman
- Four Other Members.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

## 5. SCIENCE

### 5.1 LATEST INVENTIONS ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- The **Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)**, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), has just launched **two fresh modern deep sea 'Slocum' gliders** in the Bay of Bengal, one programmed towards the north and other towards the south to study the physical and biogeochemical parameters of the sea and get an insight into the climate change.
- The gliders are equipped with sensors to track temperature, salinity, chlorophyll, dissolved oxygen, PAR – photosynthetic active radiation in the sea water among others.
- The gliders have been deployed from the Ocean Research Vehicle '**Sagar Manjusha**' of the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) these gliders can go underwater up to a depth of about **1,000 metres** and will surface four to five times a day, continuously giving data for the satellite to pick up and relay the same to the newly established 'National Glider Operations Facility'.
- The best part of these gliders which run on **lithiumion battery** and they can travel up to 15 km a day.

#### About INCOIS:

- INCOIS is an autonomous organization under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**.
- It is located in **Hyderabad** & was established in **1999**.
- It is a unit of the Earth System Science Organization (ESSO), New Delhi.



# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- It is mandated to provide the best possible ocean information and advisory services to society, industry, government agencies and the scientific community through sustained ocean observations and constant improvement through systematic and focused research.

## 'Artsens'

### IIT Madras develops device to assess blood vessels

- Researchers of the Indian Institute of Technology Madras have developed a novel, **noninvasive device to assess the health and age of blood vessels**, and thereby provide **early screening for cardiovascular diseases**.
- The device, known as **Artsens**, is designed in such a way that it can be used in the routine medical examination even by non-expert, to assess and predict vascular health. It is developed by the Healthcare Technology Innovation Centre at IIT Madras.
- The device can assess the effect of molecular and protein level changes in the blood vessel wall caused due to disease and ageing, by measuring the material property in a completely non-invasive and accurate manner.

## 5.2. SPACE

### 'NISAR satellite'

#### NISAR satellite to map Himalayas' seismic zones

- A forthcoming satellite, NISAR, jointly developed the Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (**NASA**) of the U.S. will map the most earthquake prone regions in the Himalayas with unprecedented regularity.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- The data this will generate can potentially give advance warning of land subsidence, as recently observed in Joshimath, Uttarakhand, as well point to places that are at greatest risk from earthquakes.
- The NISAR satellite will use **two frequency bands**: the **L band** and **S band** to image the seismically active Himalayan region that will, every **12 days**, create a “deformation map”.

## About NISAR

- NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR)
- It is a Low-Earth orbit (LEO) observatory being developed jointly by NASA and ISRO
- It will map the entire globe in 12 days and provide reliable spatial and temporal data for analysing the changes in Earth's ecosystems

## About ISRO

- Established in August 15, 1969
- It is the space agency of India
- Objective: To harvest the benefits of outer space for India and the mankind by involvement in science, engineering and technology
- Headquarters: Bengaluru
- Chairman: Shri S. Somnath
- **Reusable Launch Vehicle-Technology Demonstration (RLV-TD) programme**
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully carried out the landing experiment of the **Reusable Launch Vehicle -Technology**

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- **Demonstration** (RLV-TD) programme at the Aeronautical Test Range in Challakere, Chitradurga.

## About RLV-TD:

- The RLV-TD is a winged space vehicle launched like a rocket and flies back down like a glider.
- It can fly at hypersonic speeds: speeds greater than 5 times the speed of sound (6174 km/hr).
- 600 heat-resistant tiles cover the RLV-TD on its underside, protecting it from the high temperatures encountered while re-entering the Earth's atmosphere at hypersonic speeds.
- It is controlled like an airplane using control surfaces called elevons and rudder.
- The launch stack is made up of the RLV-TD vehicle and the rocket booster called HS9.
- The booster is meant to lift the vehicle into the upper atmosphere and accelerate it to hypersonic test speeds.

## RLV – TD Mission programme

- The RLV-TD mission consists of 4 major steps before the development of the final Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV).
  - Hypersonic Flight Experiment (HEX) – it was conducted in May 2016.
  - Landing Experiment (LEX) – now done
  - Return Flight Experiment (REX)
  - Scramjet Propulsion Experiment (SPEX)

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

## Skyroot Aerospace test fires 3D printed cryogenic engine

- Skyroot Aerospace test fires 3D printed cryogenic engine
- Skyroot Aerospace, a private rocket builder, achieved a major milestone by successfully test-firing an advanced fully **3D-printed cryogenic engine** for a record **200 seconds**.
- The endurance test of 'Dhawan-II' was carried out at Solar Industries propulsion test facility in Nagpur, Maharashtra, using indigenously developed mobile cryogenic engine test pad.
- This achievement follows the November 2022 launch of **Vikram-S**, which made the firm the **first Indian private company to send a rocket into space**.

## The Indian Space Policy 2023

- The Indian Space Policy 2023 that seeks **to institutionalise the private sector participation in the space sector**, with ISRO focusing on research and development of advanced space technologies.
- The policy will allow the private sector to take part in end to end space activities that include building satellites, rockets and launch vehicles and data collection.

## About ISRO:

- ISRO or Indian Space Research Organisation is India's space agency founded in **1969**.
- ISRO is headquartered in **Bengaluru**.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- Its vision is to harness space technology for national development, while pursuing space science research and planetary exploration.
- **Shri S. Somanath** is the incumbent chairman of ISRO.

## ISRO launched 2 Singaporean Satellites under PSLV-C55/TeLEOS-2 Mission

- The Indian Space Research Organisation's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV C55) carrying two Singapore satellites, TeLEOS-2 as primary satellite and Lumelite-4 as co-passenger satellite, as part of the PSLV-C55/TeLEOS-2 Mission, from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- TeLEOS-2 carries a Synthetic Aperture Radar payload while Lumelite-4 is a technology demonstration nano satellite.
- This is the 57th flight of PSLV and 16th mission using the PSLV Core Alone configuration (PSLVCA).
- **PSLVC55** was a "dedicated commercial PSLV mission of New Space India Limited (NSIL), for an international satellite customer from Singapore.

## About TeLEOS-2:

- The TeLEOS-2 was developed under a partnership between DSTA (representing the Government of Singapore) and ST Engineering, a Singapore firm.
- It will be used to support the satellite imagery requirements of various agencies of Singapore. TeLEOS-2 will be able to provide all weather day and night coverage, and capable of imaging at 1 metre full polar metric resolution.



# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

## About Lumelite-4:

- Lumelite-4 was co-developed by the Institute for Info comm Research (I2R) of Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR) and Satellite Technology and Research Centre (STAR) of the National University of Singapore.
- It is an advanced 12U satellite developed for the technological demonstration of the High-Performance Space borne VHF Data Exchange System (VDES).
- Using the VDES communication payload developed by I2R and STAR's scalable satellite bus platform, it aims to augment Singapore's e navigation maritime safety and benefit the global shipping community.

## 6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENTS

### Foreign Trade Policy 2023(FTP 2023)

It is based on principles of 'trust' and 'partnership' with exporters.

#### Objectives:

- Raising the country's outward shipments to \$2 trillion by 2030,
- Making Indian Rupee a global currency and
- Incentivising e-commerce exports.

#### The approach:

- To move from 'incentive to remission' based regime.
- Encourage collaboration between exporters, states, districts and Indian Missions
- Reduce transaction cost and
- Develop more export hubs.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- While the policy will be open-ended, the schemes sanctioned under it will be time bound.
- It replaced the extant policy that had been in place since 2015.
- Opening up a new area of potential exports, the policy has included “merchanting trade” within its ambit.
- Exporters in India can source goods from another country and send them to a third country without touching Indian shores.
- This will also enable exports of restricted goods

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **diamond jubilee** celebrations of the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**.

- During the programme, an investiture ceremony for recipients of the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service and Gold Medal for Best Investigating Officers of the CBI will be held wherein he will present medals to the recipients.
- He also inaugurated the newly constructed office complexes of the CBI in Shillong, Pune and Nagpur. He will release a postage stamp and a commemorative coin marking the diamond jubilee celebration year of the CBI.

## About Central Bureau of Investigation:

- The Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946, was passed by Parliament in 1946. The purpose of the Act was to establish a Special Police Establishment, a specialized organization tasked with conducting inquiries and investigations into certain crimes.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- The Central Bureau of Investigation was established in 1963 as a result of a resolution passed by the Indian government.
- It provides assistance to the Central Vigilance Commission and Lokpal.
- It is also the nodal police agency in India which coordinates investigation on behalf of Interpol Member countries.

Committee related to CBI: Committee on Prevention of Corruption (Santhanam Committee).

## Sagar Setu Mobile App

- The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways launched the Sagar Setu Mobile App of NLMP. NLPM (National Logistics Portal Marine) is a national maritime single window platform encompassing complete end-to-end logistics solutions.
- It helps exporters, importers, and service providers exchange documents seamlessly and transact business.

## King Jigme Wangchuk's India trip

- Bhutan King Jigme Wangchuk is set to commence his 3-day trip to India from today.
- During the king's visit, both sides will review the bilateral cooperation between the two countries and further advance the bilateral partnership.
- The visit of King Jigme Wangchuk will give both India and Bhutan a chance to evaluate the whole range of bilateral cooperation as the two

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

countries have special friendship and cooperation which is defined by mutual trust and understanding.

## ABOUT BHUTAN

- The capital is Thimbu
- Official Language(s) Dzongkha, English
- King Jigme Kesar Namgyal Wangchuck
- Prime Minister Lothe Schering
- Currency Nugaldrum (BTN)

## India gets elected to UN Statistical Commission

- India has been elected to the highest statistical body of the United Nations for a four year term beginning January 1, 2024.

## About UN Statistical Commission:

- The United Nations Statistical Commission, established in **1947**, is the highest body of the global statistical system.
- It is the highest decision making body for international statistical activities, responsible for setting of statistical standards and the development of concepts and methods, including their implementation at the national and international level.

## Committee formed for rethink on NPS for Government employees

- The four member committee will be led by Finance Secretary **T.V. Somanathan** and includes the chairman of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) that oversees the NPS adopted for government employees hired on or after January 1, 2004.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

## About National Pension System:

- The Central Government has introduced the National Pension System (NPS) with effect from January 2004 (except for armed forces).
- NPS is being implemented and regulated by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) in the country.

## GI tag for Basohli painting and Ladakh's wood carving

- The world famous '**Basohli Painting**, popular for its miniature art style from **Kathua district of Jammu & Kashmir** has obtained the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag following approval by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) Jammu.
- **Ladakh's wood carving** has been given GI tag to make cultural traditions popular.

## About GI tag:

- A geographical indication (GI) tag is a sign used on locally produced products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities that are due to that origin. A product can be given a GI tag if it is a specialty of a given place.
- A total of 33 products have been given the GI tag during 2022-23.

## Mission to map rural India's cultural assets:

- In a bid to harness the unique cultural heritage of rural India, the government has identified and documented distinctive features of more than one lakh villages across the country.



# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

## Cultural Asset Mapping:

- In this cultural asset mapping, **villages have been broadly divided into seven-eight categories** based on
- whether they are **important ecologically, developmentally or scholastically,**
- if they produce **a famous textile or product,** and
- if they are **connected to some historical or mythological events such as the Independence struggle or epics like the Mahabharata.**

### 1. Ecological category:

- Bishnoi village near Jodhpur in Rajasthan, which is a case study for living in harmony with nature
- Uttarakhand's Raini village, which is famous for the Chipko movement.

### 2. Developmental importance:

- Modhera in Gujarat, which is the first solar powered village in India

### 3. Historical importance:

- Suketi in Himachal Pradesh, Asia's oldest fossil park,
- Pandrethan in Kashmir, the village of Shaivite mystic Lal Ded classified for their historical importance.

### ➤ **Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar (My Village My Heritage) programme:**

- The entire exercise has been carried out under the **Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar (My Village My Heritage) programme** of the **National Mission for Cultural Mapping (NMCM).**
- The NMCM aims to develop **a comprehensive database of art forms, artists and other resources across the country.**

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- The **Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA)** has undertaken the cultural asset mapping of these villages through field surveys.

## First paperless digital court

- The **Vashi court** in Navi **Mumbai** is the first paperless digital court in the country.

## E-Courts Project

- The e-Courts project was conceptualized on the basis of the “National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the Indian Judiciary – 2005” submitted by e-Committee, Supreme Court of India with a vision to transform the Indian Judiciary by ICT enablement of Courts.
- The e-Courts Mission Mode Project, is a Pan-India Project, monitored and funded by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India for the District Courts across the country.

## Significance:

- To reduce the load on the courts.
- speedy judgements.

## Sukhoi -30 MKI

- President and Supreme Commander of the armed forces **Droupadi Murmu** took a sortie in an Indian Air Force (IAF) Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter aircraft at the Tezpur Air Force Station in Assam.
- She is the **third President** and second woman President to undertake such a sortie.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- **A.P.J. Abdul Kalam** and **Pratibha Devisingh Patil** are other two Indian president who were flown in Sukhoi-30 fighter aircraft.

## India's First 3D Printed Post Office.

- BENGALURU will soon have India's first post office constructed using 3D printing technology.
- Building post offices with low-cost construction options using 3D printing technology.

## 50 years of Project Tiger

- At the inaugural session of the commemoration of **50 years of Project Tiger**, the Prime Minister released the latest tiger census data.
- According to the data, the tiger population was 1,411 in 2006, 1,706 in 2010, 2,226 in 2014, 2,967 in 2018 and **3,167 in 2022**.
- The Prime Minister also launched the 'International Big Cat Alliance' (IBCA) and released Amrit Kaal Ka Tiger Vision', presenting the vision for tiger conservation in the next 25 years.

## About project tiger:

- India launched 'Project Tiger' on April 1, 1973, to promote tiger conservation. Initially, it covered nine tiger reserves spread over 18,278 sq km.
- At present, there are 53 tiger reserves spanning more than 75,000 sq km (approximately 2.4% of the country's geographical area).

## National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA):

- It is a **statutory body** under the **Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change**.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- It was established in **2005**.
- It was constituted under enabling provisions of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, as amended in 2006, for strengthening tiger conservation, as per powers and functions assigned to it.

## 'International Big Cat Alliance' (IBCA)

- IBCA will focus on the protection and conservation of the world's seven major big cats: the Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar, and Cheetah.

## Vibrant Villages Programme:

- The Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) to be executed in 2,967 villages across 19 districts in four border States, including **Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh**, and the **union territory of Ladakh**.
- The project cost includes ₹2,500 crore for road connectivity from 2022-23 fiscal to 2025-26.
- The event was held at **Kibithoo** in **Arunachal Pradesh's** Anjaw district, which shares borders with China and Myanmar.

## About Vibrant Villages Programme:

- It is a Centrally sponsored scheme, announced in the Union Budget 2022-23 (to 2025-26) for development of villages on the northern border, thus improving the quality of life of people living in identified border villages.
- It will cover the border areas of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Ladakh.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- Vibrant Village Action Plans will be created by the district administration with the help of Gram Panchayats.
  - There will not be overlap with Border Area Development Programme.
  - **Assam** created **two Guinness World Records**, one for the largest **Bihu dance** performance in a single venue, and another for the largest ensemble of **dhulias** (drummers) along with other folk musicians in a single frame.
  - Both the records were created at the Sarusajai Stadium, Guwahati with 11,304 dancers and folk musicians performing Bihu.
  - The event was organised by the Assam government with the objective of taking Bihu to the world stage, with the largest Bihu performance in a single venue, and making it to the prestigious Guinness Book of World Records in the folk dance category.
- **Telangana** Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao unveiled a **125-foot tall bronze statue of Dr B R Ambedkar** at the Hussain Sagar lake on his **132nd birth anniversary**.
- The statue is the **tallest of Ambedkar in the country**, made of over 360 tonnes of steel and 100 tonnes of bronze, and cost nearly Rs 145 crore.

## Special train service to Saurashtra Tamil Sangam:

- The first special train service for Saurashtra-Tamil confluence was inaugurated from Chennai-Egmore railway station by Governor R.N. Ravi
- Saurashtra Tamil Sangam Festival held from April 17 April 26 for 10 days in **Gujarat state**.



# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

## 'Miss India 2023'

- The winner of Miss India 2023 is **Nandini Gupta** from Kota, **Rajasthan**.
- Nandini will represent India at the **71st** edition of the **grand Miss World** **pageant**, to be held in the **United Arab Emirates**.

## 'Separate budget for water'.

- Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the General water budget.
- For the first time in the country, a **separate budget for water** has been announced in **Kerala** to tackle the water scarcity during the summer season.

## India's population projected to reach 142.86 crore against China's 142.57 crore

- India has overtaken China as the world's most populous nation, according to UN data released on 19 April 2023.
- India's population surpassed **142.86 crore**, slightly higher than China's 142.57 crore people.
- According to a new United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) report, 25 per cent of India's population is in the age group of 0-14 years, 18 per cent in the 10 to 19 age group, 26 per cent in the age bracket of 10 to 24 years, 68 per cent in 15 to 64 years age group, and 7 per cent above 65 years.
- According to the UN data, the global population will have hit 804.5 crore by mid-2023.

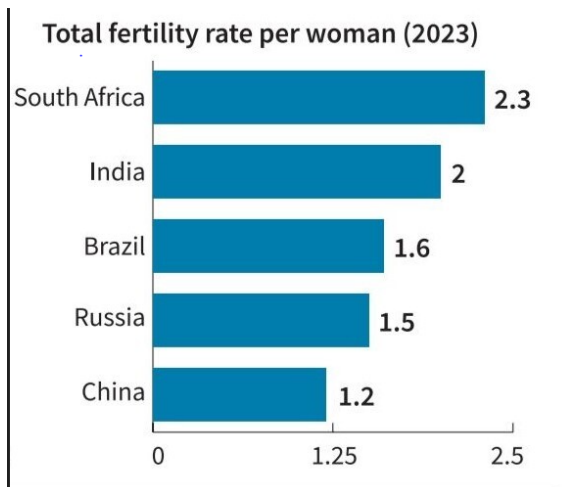
# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

## Rising strength:

- The United Nations said in a report that India will have about 2.9 million people more than China in the middle of 2023.
- India was not expected to become the most populous nation until later this decade.
- But it happened quickly due to a drop in China's fertility rate.
- Among BRICS nations, **India** has the **second highest total fertility rate of 2** while that of China's is the least at 1.2.



## Drug free India by 2047

- The Government of India has set a target to make **India** a **drug free country** by **2047**, when the 100th Independence Day to be celebrated.
- According to data compiled by the NCB, all the anti-narcotics agencies in the country have destroyed 5,94,620 kg of narcotics worth Rs 8,409 crore between June last year and March 24 this year.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

## About Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB):

- It was constituted by the Government of India in **1986** under the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985**.
- It is the apex coordinating agency under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- The National Policy on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances is based on **Article 47** of the Indian Constitution which directs the State to endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption, except for medicinal purposes, of intoxicating drugs injurious to health.
- Drug abuse control is the responsibility of the central government.
- It provides for the penalty of property derived from or used in illegal traffic in narcotic drugs.

## National Quantum Mission – 2023-2024

### Cabinet approves National Quantum Mission

- Total cost of **Rs.6003.65 crore** from 2023-24 to 2030-31
- Mission to develop magnetometers with high sensitivity in atomic systems and Atomic Clocks for precision timing, communications and navigation
- Support design and synthesis of quantum materials such as superconductors, novel semiconductor structures and topological materials for fabrication of quantum devices.
- Single photon sources/detectors, entangled photon sources to be developed for quantum communications, sensing and metrological applications.
- To be implemented by Department of Science & Technology in partnership with other departments.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

## SATHI Portal

### SATHI portal and new Mobile App launched by Union Government

- Agriculture Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar** launched the **SATHI portal** and **Mobile App** to deal with the challenges faced by farmers related to seed production, quality seed identification, and seed certification.
- Objective: Designed to curb the sale of spurious seeds and ensure that quality seeds reach farmers.
- **SATHI**- Seed Traceability, Authentication, and Holistic Inventory.

## 'PRAYAG Platform'

- PRAYAG stands for **Platform for Real time Analysis of Yamuna, Ganga and their Tributaries**
- Prayag is a real time monitoring centre for planning and monitoring of projects, river water quality, etc. through various online dashboards such as Ganga Tarang Portal, Ganga Districts Performance Monitoring System, etc.
- Launched by: **Ministry of Jal Shakti**, Under the ambit of **Namami Gange Programme**.

## About Namami Gange Programme:

- Namami Gange Programme is an Integrated Conservation Mission, approved as a 'Flagship Programme' by the Union Government in June 2014 to accomplish the twin objectives of **effective abatement of pollution and conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga**.
- It is being operated under the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- The program is being implemented by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), and its state counterpart organizations i.e State Program Management Groups (SPMGs).
- NMCG is the implementation wing of **National Ganga Council** (set in 2016; which replaced the National Ganga River Basin Authority - NGRBA).

**The main pillars of the programme are:**

1. Sewage Treatment Infrastructure
2. River Front Development
3. River Surface Cleaning
4. Biodiversity
5. Afforestation
6. Public Awareness
7. Industrial Effluent Monitoring
8. Ganga Gram

## **'Logistics Performance Index 2023'**

- World Bank released **Logistics Performance Index (LPI) 2023: India ranked 38** out of 139 countries.
- **Singapore and Finland** are the most efficient and highest ranked LPI countries as per the 2023 LPI.
- India is ranked 38 out of 139 countries, climbing six places from the previous Index.



# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

## 'One playground in one panchayat' project

- 'One playground in one panchayat' project launched by Kerala Chief Minister **Pina Rayi Vijayan** aimed at boosting the sports culture in Kerala by building quality stadiums at the local level.
- The work on the first playground under the project began at **Kallikkad panchayat in Thiruvananthapuram**.

## 'First Digital Science Park in Kerala'

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone for India's first Digital Science Park coming up at the Techno city campus
- The park will facilitate industry and business units as well as technology startups from the domains of Artificial Intelligence (AI), robotics, electronics, smart hardware, sustainable and smart materials in the initial phase.

## India's first water metro will be launched in Kerala's Kochi, Kerala

- The **first water metro** will be launched in **Kerala's Kochi** by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Manufactured by Cochin Shipyard Limited, the metro project will start with eight electric hybrid boats.
- The dream project is funded by the Government of Kerala and German firm KfW.
- Overall cost of the Kochi Water Metro project is ₹1,137 crore.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

## 'Sudan Crisis 2023'

- India and other countries have begun preparations for the evacuation of foreign nationals presently situated in different parts of Sudan which have seen **intense fighting between the army and a paramilitary force.**

## 'Operation Kaveri'

- India has started **Operation Kaveri to evacuate its nationals from conflict-torn Sudan**
- Nearly 3,000 Indians are stuck in various parts of Sudan, including the national capital, Khartoum, and distant provinces such as Darfur.
- Operation Kaveri gets under way to bring back our citizens stranded in Sudan. About 500 Indians have reached Port Sudan.
- Sudan crisis is causing alarm among its neighbors and other nations, which ranges from worries about the shared Nile and oil pipelines to worries about the makeup of a future government and the potential for a fresh humanitarian disaster.

## The Supreme Court has created a special webpage for the Kesavananda Bharati case

- **The Supreme Court of India** has dedicated a **special web page** containing details of arguments, written submissions, and the judgment in the Kesavananda Bharati case, which gave an important judgement regarding the **'Basic Structure' of the Constitution.**
- "We have dedicated a web page with all written submissions and everything related to the Kesavananda case for all world researchers to look at." said by Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- The judgement was delivered on the same day 50 years ago on April 24, 1973,"
- The Kesavananda Bharati case reached its 50th anniversary on April 24, 2023.

## Significance of Kesavananda Bharati Case:

- The judgement is said to be the second most important text after the Constitution of India.
- A **13-judge Bench** was set up by the Supreme Court, **the biggest so far**, to hear the case.
- In Kesavananda Bharati case, relief was sought against the Kerala government vis-a-vis two state land reform laws (under 9th Schedule), which imposed restrictions on the management of the religious property.
- **It held that Parliament could amend any part of the Constitution as long as it did not alter or amend the basic structure or essential features of the Constitution.**
- It was claimed as the 'God's decision' by the late Kesavananda Bharti: The seer lost the battle but won the war because the amending power was made subject to the basic structure.

## India's First Water Bodies Census

- **The Ministry of Jal Shakti** has released the report of India's first water bodies census, a comprehensive data base of ponds, tanks, lakes, and reservoirs in the country.
- The census was conducted in 2018-19, and enumerated more than 2.4 million water bodies across all states and Union Territories.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- Water bodies are usually of various types known by different names like tank, reservoirs, ponds etc. Oceans and rivers related water bodies have been excluded.

## The key features of the Census are as follows:

- 24,24,540 water bodies have been enumerated in the country, out of which 97.1% (23,55,055) are in rural areas and only 2.9% (69,485) are in urban areas.
- Top 05 States in terms of number of water bodies are **West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Assam** which constitute around **63% of the total water bodies** in the country.
- Top 05 States in terms of number of water bodies in **urban areas** are **West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and Tripura**, whereas in **rural areas**, top 05 States are **West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Assam**.
- 55.2% of water bodies are owned by private entities whereas 44.8% of water bodies are in the domain of public ownership.

## India Handmade Portal

- **Ministry of Textiles** has developed this **E-Commerce portal** for handicrafts and handloom sector.
- Handloom refers to the process of weaving cloth using a manually operated loom, while handicrafts are items made by skilled artisans using traditional techniques.
- India handmade portal offers a wide range of products, including clothing, home decor, jewellery, accessories, and more.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- Portal will provide an opportunity to total **62 Lakh weavers and artisans** become **future e-entrepreneurs**.
- It'll provide products from more than 35 Lakh Handloom weavers & 27 Lakh Handicraft artisans directly to consumers while eliminating middlemen.

## PM Modi Inaugurates NAMO Medical College In Silvassa

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **NAMO Medical Education & Research Institute at Silvassa** town in the **Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli**.
- The inauguration of the **first-ever medical college** in the UTs of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu has become a ray of hope for the people living in the region, 40 per cent of whom are tribals.
- The medical college complex has been constructed at a cost of ₹ 203 crore.

## PM lauds 'shared history' of Saurashtra and Tamil Nadu

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded the **"shared history of Saurashtra and Tamil Nadu"**.
- The Conclusion of the 'Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam' described the festival as the "confluence of nationalist fervour of **Sardar Patel** and famed Tamil poet **Subramania Bharati**".
- The Gujarat government organised the 'Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam' during which thousands of people in the southern State, with roots in Saurashtra, visited the places of their ancestors by special trains organised by the Centre.



# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- This celebration of the country's unity is also fulfilling the dreams of lakhs of freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives to see Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat [One India, Best India],"

## Nano DAP(di-ammonium phosphate)

- Union home minister Amit Shah launched the **world's first liquid Nano DAP**-a novel nano fertiliser containing **nitrogen and phosphorus** at New delhi.
- Nano DAP is the second such variant of fertiliser.
- **Nano Urea** was the **first one** in this series, launched in February, 2021.
- The manufacturing units of Nano DAP have been done by IFFCO which has patents of both the Nano variant of liquid fertilisers.

## About Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO):

- Established in **1967**
- It is a large scale fertiliser cooperative federation in India which is registered as Multistate Cooperative Society
- Headquarters - **New Delhi**

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# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

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# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

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## First solar city of India

- **Sanchi in Madhya Pradesh** is all set to become the first solar city of India
- Sanchi, a world heritage site located in the Raisen district of **Madhya Pradesh** near Bhopal is all set to become the first solar city of India in May 2023.
- **Modhera** in **Gujarat** state is India's first 'Solar Village' which was powered by solar all day, every day.

## Millets Experience Centre

- Union Agriculture Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar** will inaugurate agri cooperative-NAFED's exclusive Experience Millets Center at **New Delhi**.
- The millet experience centre has been designed with a distinct concept for millet-based products featuring a visual display of states that are major millet cultivators.
- It bears recalling that in order to further the cause of Millets, the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has collaborated with NAFED to successfully commemorate the **International Year of Millets (IYM)-2023** through a range of initiatives.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

## About National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED)

- The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) is an organisation of marketing cooperatives for agricultural produce.
- It was established on **October 2 ,1958** under the **Multi State Cooperative Societies Act**.
- It was set up with the aim of promoting co-operative marketing of agricultural produce that would benefit farmers.

## 7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

### MF Hydra, the first commercial ferry operating on liquid hydrogen entered regular service.

- Norway marked another first in the development of hydrogen-fueled shipping. After years of development, the MF Hydra, the first commercial ferry operating on liquid hydrogen entered regular service.
- MF Hydra is 270 feet long with a 56-foot beam. It has a capacity of 299 passengers as well as 80 cars and 10 cargo trailers.
- Norwegian company Norled has launched MF Hydra.
- **Finland becomes 31st country to join Nato.**
- Finland has officially joined Nato in a historic moment for the country

### About NATO:

- **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** is a **military alliance** established by the North Atlantic Treaty (also called the Washington

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

Treaty) of April, 1949, by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet Union.

- There are currently **31 member states**.
- Headquarters: **Brussels, Belgium**.
- Headquarters of Allied Command Operations: Mons, Belgium.

## G7 Ministers commit to work for carbon free electricity by 2035.

- The participants also agreed to accelerating solar and wind energy investments to produce 1,000 gigawatt (GW) by 2030 from solar power and 150 GW of wind power from offshore platforms.

## About G7:

- The G7, originally G8, was set up in **1975** as an informal forum bringing together the leaders of the world's leading industrial nations.

## G7 Countries:

1. France,
2. Germany,
3. Italy,
4. the United Kingdom,
5. Japan,
6. the United States,
7. and Canada



# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

**G7 summit 2023 to be held in Hiroshima.**

## 8. TAMIL NADU AFFAIRS

**11 products from Tamil Nadu got the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai.**

**Now Tamil Nadu has the highest number of GI Tags – 56 Products.**

**The list:**

1. Manapparai murukku
2. Cumbum panneer thratchai (grapes)
3. Marthandam honey
4. Ooty varkey
5. Manamadurai pottery
6. Salem sago (javvarisi)
7. Authoor vetrilai
8. Negamam cotton sari
9. Myladi stone carvings
10. Thaikkal Rattan craft and
11. Sholavandan betel vine.

### About GI tag:

- **Geographical Indication (GI)** is an indication used to identify goods having special characteristics originating from a definite geographical territory.
- The **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999** seeks to provide for the **registration and better protection of geographical indications** relating to goods in India.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- It is governed and directed by the **WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)**.
- The Tamil Nadu government has decided to **establish high-tech labs** in high and middle schools for Rs 157 crore.
- "To achieve the desired outcome, model school students and their parents are being provided an involved career guidance programme to develop a deeper awareness of higher education and career opportunities based on their abilities,"
- **Smart classrooms** will be established in 7,500 primary schools for Rs 150 crore.
- **Model schools** will be established in another **13 districts** at Rs 250 crore and in future, the government would take steps to establish at least one model school in each district of the State.
- Pointing out that the existing model schools in ten districts were functioning for Class 12 students from October 2021, the model school programme was extended to an additional **15 districts** across the State at Rs.125 crore.
- "A new scheme titled '**Tamizh Mozhi Karpom**' (We will learn the Tamil language) will be implemented for the **labourers from other states, who are employed in tamilnadu**.
- All the government schools will adopt awareness week throughout the year for the students and teachers to identify hateful news and misinformation in social and other media.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- The government would develop **digital textbooks** for the students, who were suffering from **less vision**.
- **Physical Education in Tamil Nadu schools.**
- The recent announcement by the School Education Department that physical education teachers will be appointed in all government schools has been a long-standing demand for many.
- In addition to this, teachers have also welcomed the announcement to set up Sports Schools of Excellence in each district.
- At present, there are over 37,000 government schools, which include primary, middle, high and higher secondary schools but just a little over 6,000 posts for physical education teachers.
- This announcement is a step in the right direction to ensure that physical education teachers are appointed in all schools irrespective of the strength.
- **Recent survey**
- In a survey carried out by Sportz Village, an EduSports in-school Physical Education and Sports programme, which involved 5,891 students across schools in Chennai from August to September 2022, a significant number of students performed poorly in various physical fitness parameters.
  - Two out of five children were found to have an unhealthy range with regard to their Body Mass Index.
  - One in three children were lacking when it came to flexibility.
  - Three out of five had poor upper body strength and
  - One out of two had poor lower body strength.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- a syllabus for physical education would be released.

## High-speed Internet service for homes at low rates.

### About Bharatnet Project:

- BharatNet is a flagship project implemented by Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL).
- It is a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) set up by the Government of India under the Companies Act, 1956 with an authorized capital of Rs 1000 crore.
- Currently, it is being implemented by the Department of Telecommunications under the Ministry of Communications

### National Optical Fiber Network:

- National Optical Fiber Network (NOFN) was launched in October 2011 and renamed as Bharat Net project in 2015.
- Aim: to achieve broadband connectivity to gram panchayats.
- The Ministry of Communications has launched a National Broadband Mission to facilitate universal and equitable access to broadband services across the country, particularly in rural and remote areas.

### Purpose:

- Facilitating delivery of e-Governance, e-Health, e-Education, e-Banking, Internet and other services to rural India.
- Connect all 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats in the country and provide 100 Mbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats.

### Kaveri - Gundar linkage project

- The linkage was started in the year 2006.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

## About Cauvery Godavari Linkage Project:

- Tamil Nadu has recently launched a project to link inter-state rivers by constructing a canal from Cauvery to Vaigai and Gundar as part of the Godavari-Kaveri Linkage Project.
- The rationale for the project, considering the environmental and geological features of the area, raises concerns that have developed over the years.

## Purpose

- The Cauvery – Gundaru Linkage Project is part of the Peninsular Rivers Development component of the National Perspective Plan.
- The latter envisages diversion of surplus flows from the Mahanadi basin and Godavari basin to the Krishna, Penneru, Cauvery, Vaigai and Gundaru basins in the south.
- The Cauvery – Gundaru Linkage Project seeks to divert surplus flow from the Cauvery to the water-scarce southern parts of the state.

## Tamil Learning SMS app in Other Languages to be released soon.

- In order to sensitise the people who are speaking other languages, about the sweetness of Tamil language and the pride of Tamil Nadu, a Directorate of Learning Tamil in other languages including Dravidian language is being established on behalf of the of Agaramudali.
- K Vijayaraghavan, project director of the Tamil Nadu government's 'Senthamamizh Etymological Dictionary', said the app, which will be developed at a cost of Rs 30 lakh, will be launched soon.



# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

## **Houston University inks MoU with ICCR on Tamil language, literature.**

- The University of Houston and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) have signed a memorandum of understanding to establish the ICCR Chair of Indian Studies to conduct research on Tamil language, literature and culture.
- "The Tamil language is considered the oldest in the world, and is one of the top five languages spoken in the United States, which is home to nearly 3,00,000 Tamil-Americans and this MoU will further enhance and deepen the US education and knowledge partnership,"
- The **All India Federation for Social Justice** announced that is organising its first national conference in **New Delhi**.
- On this occasion, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin will deliver the presidential address through virtual meeting.
- The theme of the event is "Taking Forward The Struggle for Social Justice and Joint National Programme for Social Justice Movement".
- Southern Zonal Council meeting in Tamil Nadu: It has been decided to hold a meeting of the Southern Zonal Council in Tamil Nadu which will be attended by the Chief Ministers of the Southern States.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin had demanded that the next year's meeting should be held in Tamil Nadu.
- In response to this request, it has been approved to hold a meeting of the Southern Zonal Council in Tamil Nadu.
- Since 1957, a meeting of the Southern Zonal Council has been held.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- This meeting is held once a year and has been held five times in Tamil Nadu. The last time it was held in Chennai on November 10, 1991.
- Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep are the representatives of the Council.
- Home Minister Amit Shah is the chairman of the council and Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan is the vice-chairman. Along with Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin, ministers Thangam Thennarasu and P K Sekar Babu also participated in this meeting.
- The Southern Zonal Council meeting was held five times in Madras in 1957, Udhagai in 1958, Ooty in 1967, Madras in 1978 and Chennai in 1992.
- **The 143rd birth anniversary of Varahaneri Venkatesa Subramaniam Iyer was celebrated.**
- Varahaneri Venkatesa Subramaniam Iyer (2 April 1881 – 3 June 1925), also known as **VVS Iyer**, was an **Indian revolutionary** from Tamil Nadu who fought against **British colonial rule** in India.
- His contemporaries included Subramania Bharati and VO Chidambaram Pillai, who subscribed to militant forms of resistance against the British colonial government.
- He was **exiled to Pondicherry, then under French rule**, where his **militant activities attracted an arrest warrant** from the British colonial government.

## **Literary work of VVS Iyer:**

- Returning to Chennai after World War I, Iyer worked as **editor of the newspaper Desapakthan (Patriot)**.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- As a writer, Iyer is often referred to as the **"founder" of the short story genre in Tamil.**
- Iyer translated the entire work of Kural text into English prose, the first complete English translation by a native scholar.

## Second Phase of Excavation at Vembakottai

- More than 3,200 artefacts such as carnelian beads, shell bangles, etc. were found in the first phase of excavations from March to September last year.
- Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology- Second Phase of Excavation has started at Vembakottai on the northern bank of Vaipparu river.

## The India Justice Report 2022

- According to the India Justice Report 2022 Tamil Nadu has ranked in second position
- India Justice Report (IJR) 2022 the State of **Karnataka has achieved the top rank** among the 18 large and mid-sized States with populations over one crore, as per the justice delivery namely Police, Judiciary, Prisons, and Legal Aid.
- The State of **Tamil Nadu has ranked in second position** and Telangana in Third. The State of Uttar Pradesh is at rank 18 which is the lowest.
- The India Justice Report (IJR) was initiated by **Tata Trusts** in 2019, and this is the third edition.
- The report tracks the performance of States in capacitating their Justice delivery structures to effectively deliver mandated services. Based on latest official statistics, from authoritative government sources, it brings together

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

otherwise siloed data on the four pillars of Justice delivery - **Police, Judiciary, Prisons, and Legal Aid**

## CM launches new scheme for government school students

### Thiranari Thervu Thittam:

- Under the **Thiranari Thervu Thittam**, 1,000 students will be chosen from govt. schools to receive guidance in premier institutions and **monthly stipend** of ₹1,000 will be provided.
- “The aim of the scheme is to encourage students to pursue higher education, under the scheme would receive ₹12,000 as **annual stipend** during their **undergraduate** and **postgraduate** courses.
- He distributed electronics kits, developed by IITMadras, to government school students.

### Anaivarukkum IIT-M:

- He also launched the **Anaivarukkum IIT-M**, a joint initiative with the School Education Department.
- The Anaivarukkum IITM initiative is a **fore runner** of **Naan Mudhalvan** Project.
- The vision of the scheme was to inculcate scientific and technological fervour in young rural students.
- The 252 teachers, who are being trained as part of the initiative, will train one lakh students. Electronics is the foundation for many industries now and this initiative will go a long way in enabling the State to become a **\$1trillion economy**.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

## India Justice Report 2022

- The Tamil Nadu **Prison Department** has bagged the **first place** in the **India Justice Report (IJR) 2022** survey, held on the basis of various
  - parameters such as infrastructure, crowding and correctional efforts.
  - Tamil Nadu scored **6.4** in the 10 point scale. Karnataka followed with 6.01 and Telangana scored 5.35.
  - Chief Minister M.K. Stalin inaugurated, through videoconferencing, the **ninth phase of archaeological excavations at Keeladi in Sivaganga district**, the **second phase of excavations at the Thulukkarpatti archaeological site near Radhapuram in Tirunelveli district**, and the **first phase of excavations at Kilnamandi village near Vandavasi town in Tiruvannamalai district**.
  - The state archaeological department will undertake excavations in **eight places** this year and for the **first time**, the department will undertake simultaneous excavations at eight locations.
  - The eight places where excavations will take place this year are,
    1. **Keeladi** (Sivaganga district),
    2. **Gangaikondacholapuram** (Ariyalur district),
    3. **Vembakottai** (Virudhunagar),
    4. **Thulukkarpatti** (Tirunelveli),
    5. **Kilnamandi** (Tiruvannamalai),
    6. **Porpanaikottai** (Pudukkottai),
    7. **Poothinatham** (Dharmapuri) and
    8. **Pattaramperumbudur**.



# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- The CM also released a **Keeladi augmented reality app** with which people from across the globe can view the **200 artefacts** excavated in Keeladi in augmented reality and 3D mode.
- A **Tidel park** will be set up in **Trichy** at a cost of Rs 600 crore.
- **Mini Tidel Parks** will be set up at **Karaikudi** and **Rasipuram** at a cost of Rs 70 crore.
- Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation will be setting up a 250-acre strategic **electronics and defence industrial park** at **Karani in Thiruvallur district** at a cost of Rs.100 crore which will provide jobs to about 3,000 people.
- **TICEL innovation hub** will be developed at a cost of Rs 10 crore at **TICEL Biopark Limited in Chennai and Coimbatore**

## Transforming Connectivity, Empowering Tamil Nadu

- Inauguration, Flagging Off and Foundation Stone Laying of Airport, Railway and Highway Projects Worth Over 5200 Crore.

### Inauguration:

- New Integrated Terminal Building (Phase-I) of Chennai International Airport
- Gauge Conversion of 37 km. Rail Line from Metre Gauge to Broad Gauge of Tirturaipundi- Agasthiyampalli Section
- Four Lane Elevated Corridor from Madurai to Chettikulam of National Highway-785
- Four Lane Road from Natham to Thovarankurichi of National Highway-785

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

## Flagging Off:

- Tambaram-Sengottai Express Train
- DEMU Train from Tiruturaipundi to Agasthiyampalli

## Foundation Stone Laying:

- Construction of Four Lane Road for Thirumangalam- Vadugapatti Section of National Highway-744
- Construction of Four Lane Road for Vadugapatti- Therkuvenganallur Section of National Highway-744

## Tamilnadu Health Department received a Government of India's Medal for Eradication of Tuberculosis

- Tamil Nadu awarded medal for reaching tuberculosis free status in The Nilgiris district
- Gold Medal for Trichy and Thiruvarur Districts for effective implementation of the scheme to achieve TB-free status.
- Five districts Madurai, Thoothukudi, Kanyakumari, Thiruvannamalai and Karur will be awarded silver medals.
- Krishnagiri district was honoured with a bronze medal.

## Modern Telecobalt Tool

**State-of-the-art medical treatment to be launched at Royapettah Government Hospital for cancer patients.**

- Doctors have suggested that it is capable of destroying cancer cells more accurately than conventional radiation treatments.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- The '**True Beam Radiation**' method and the '**Tele cobalt**' method are considered to be one of the most sophisticated instruments installed for radiation therapy.

## STAR-3.0

- New portal to enable faster registration of documents, marriages
- The Registration Department will implement Project **STAR 3.0**, an advanced version of the comprehensive online portal for document registration and marriage registration for quicker delivery of services.

## Significance of Simplified and Transparent Administration of Registration - STAR 3.0 Project:

- It ensures quick, transparent and simplified registration process.
- It also eliminates middlemen.
- Through this, the documents relating to transfer of patta, will be sent to the revenue department offices once the document registration is over, thus saving time.

## Prohibition of Online Gambling and Regulation of Online Games Bill, 2022

- Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi granted his assent to the readopted **Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Online Gambling and Regulation of Online Games Bill, 2022**
- The Bill was first adopted in the Assembly on October 19, 2022.
- While reintroducing the Bill , the Chief Minister had recalled that it was drafted based on the recommendations of a committee headed by the retired Madras High Court judge, **Justice Chandru** and the School Education Department.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

## Mahila samman scheme:

- In order to encourage women investors, mahila samman small savings scheme has been launched in post offices.

## About the scheme:

- It is a one time small savings scheme for women to commemorate celebrations of **75 years of Independence**.
- It will be made available for a **two-year period** up to March 2025 and will be under the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.
- The small saving certificate will have a fixed **interest rate of 7.5%** for two years.
- The deposit can be made in the name of a woman or a girl child.
- The **minimum deposit** amount is **₹1,000** and the **maximum deposit** amount has been kept at **₹2 lakh** and the scheme will have a partial withdrawal facility as well.

## Tamil Nadu Police Academy wins Union Home Minister's trophy for best training institute.

- The Tamil Nadu Police Academy has won the Union Home Minister's trophy for the best institute in India for training Sub Inspectors.
- Every year, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) selects the best training infrastructure in the country for training the Sub Inspectors of police.
- It will be awarded the trophy and a grant of ₹20 lakh.

## Aadhar service through post office.

- **Tamil Nadu ranks 2nd** in the country for providing Aadhaar services through postal department.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- As many as 1,397 post offices in Tamil Nadu are providing Aadhaar services.

## 'Digital House Project':

- Speaker M Appavu announced that the 'Digital House' project has been launched as part of the plan to convert Tamil Nadu Assembly into a paperless assembly.
- under **National eVidhan application (NEVA)** the details of the ministers and MLAs who speak during the question hour were displayed in the four giant screens kept inside the assembly.
- Accordingly, the name of the member, photograph, subject matter to be discussed, details of the department, time of address etc. can be ascertained.
- Moreover, Speaker M Appavu announced that the live telecast can be watched on the touch screen computer through **eVidhan Application**.

## About eVidhan Application:

- It is a Mission Mode Project (MMP) comes under the **Digital India Programme**.
- **Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MoPA)** is the 'Nodal Ministry' for its implementation in all the 31 States/UTs with Legislatures.
- The funding for e-Vidhan is provided by the MoPA and technical support by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MietY).



# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

**50,000 new free power connections to be provided in the current financial year for agriculture.**

- During the current year, 50,000 new agricultural free electricity connections will be provided through ordinary line, self-financing scheme, special priority, tatkal, Kalaigiar's All Village Integrated Agriculture Development Project and Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing and Development Corporation Ltd schemes.

## **Wind Power Plants:**

- With a view to promote renewable energy, the Government of Tamil Nadu has set a target of generating 50 % of the total power generation through Renewable energy.
- In order to achieve this goal, 5,000 MW wind power plants will be established with public private partnership (PPP).

**Researchers from IIT Madras have developed a virtual-based education model for rural schools.**

## **'MemoryBytes' Mobile Application:**

- The app can work on Android and iOS platforms.
- The programme will help in achieving the UN's goal of ensuring equitable and quality education in all countries.
- This technology can be used to teach subjects including history, languages and science etc.
- The project will bridge the existing technological gap between urban and rural students.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

## Special Scholarship Scheme for sports person

- The Government has launched a special scholarship scheme for the Outstanding Sports person to provide need based financial assistance with the potential to win medals in Olympic and international level competitions.
- The amount for Elite Scheme for sportspersons has been increased from ₹25 lakh per year to ₹30 lakh.
- Asian Champions men's hockey tournament will be held in Chennai in August this year.
- Three Centres for Sports Science (CSS) will be opened soon in Madurai, Nilgiris and Chennai.
- For the first time in the country, dedicated para playgrounds will be developed in six district stadiums at a cost of Rs.6 crore to promote para sports in the State.

## Academy for Water games:

- For the first time in Tamil Nadu, a Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been prepared for setting up an Academy for Olympic Water games, in Ramanathapuram district.

## Namma Ooru Playground Project:

- Under the Namma Ooru Playground Project, playgrounds will be established in all the Panchayats in coordination with the Rural Development Department and the School Education Department.

## "Uttaramerur inscription"

- Uttaramerur inscription highlights the antiquity of Indian democracy

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- "India is the oldest democracy in the world, as can be seen from the 1,100 year old Uttaramerur Tamil inscription that talks about the rules of local bodies,".
- From this inscription, which is **1,100 to 1,200 years old**, one can learn the essence of democracy in the country.
- This inscription constitutes the constitution of the local grama sabha. The inscription mentions not only the manner in which the Grama Sabha functions, the qualifications of its members and the manner in which they are elected, but also the methods of disqualification of the members were included.

## "International Dugong Conservation Centre"

- Government of Tamil Nadu announced setting up of **"International Dugong Conservation Centre"** at **Manora in Thanjavur** at a cost of Rs.15 crores.
- It is located in Thanjavur district covering the sea area of **448 kilometers**.
- This will enhance the tourism and the safety environment of dugongs in the area.

## "Slender Loris conservation centre"

- "Slender Loris habitation are in forest areas of Karur and **Dindigul** districts, as well as in some parts of Wester Ghats.
- Tamil Nadu government has announced India's **first Slender Loris sanctuary** to cover 11,806.56 hectares in **Karur and Dindigul**.
- "To protect the threatened species, **Slender Loris conservation centre** will be set at **Ayyalur in Dindigul** Forest Division at a total cost of Rs. 20 Crore.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

## "Pallikaranai marshland"

- A **conservation centre** will be set up at Pallikaranai marshland, which was recently declared a **Ramsar site** at a cost of ₹20 crore.
- There are **14 Ramsar sites** in Tamilnadu.

## "Green Tamil Nadu Project"

- The **green school scheme** will be implemented in **50 schools** at a cost of Rs 10 crore this year.
- To carry out the necessary eco development works to implement the objective of the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's **Green Tamil Nadu Project**, **25 schools** have been selected as green schools during **2022-23**, In **2023-24** also, the scheme will be implemented in **50 more schools** in Tamil Nadu.

## "Sign language"

- The proceedings of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly will be telecast in sign language as well to benefit people who are hearing impaired, Speaker M. Appavu announced.
- Efforts had been made to record and telecast the proceedings of the Assembly through YouTube in sign language, in compliance with the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act of 2016**.

## Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act of 2015

### K. Chandru to head one man panel to assess requirements of juvenile homes.

- The Tamil Nadu government has constituted a one man committee, headed by retired Madras High Court judge K. Chandru, to recommend measures for the effective administration of homes functioning as per the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act of 2015.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

## About Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act of 2015:

- Replaced the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000.
- **Aim:** To Comprehensively address **children in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection.**
- It mandates setting up Juvenile Justice Boards and Child Welfare Committees in every district.

## Best Transgender Award

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K.Stalin gave the **Best Transgender Award for 2023** to **P Aishwarya of Vellore** in recognition of **her contribution to her community over the past two decades.**
- Every year **April 15** is celebrated as the **Transgenders day** in Tamil Nadu **since 2021.**
- The Best Transgender Award is conferred by the Government of Tamil Nadu since 2021
- A cheque of Rs.1 lakh and a certificate of appreciation are also awarded to the transgender selected for the award.

## 'carbon neutral hubs',

- Tamil Nadu government has selected **Rajapalayam in Virudhunagar district** and the pilgrimage town of **Rameswaram** to be made '**carbon neutral hubs**'.

## 'BioCNG plants'

- To achieve carbon neutrality, establishing bioCNG plants for wet waste processing, promoting a low emission lifestyle through land use planning,



# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

removal of accumulated waste through bio mining, and increasing low emission transport systems.

## 'Increase carbon sink'

- Focus will also be on increasing the carbon sink through afforestation and establishing material recovery facilities to reduce ocean bound plastic.

## 'Asia's largest market'

- As a pilot project, the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board has initiated work to make Chennai's Koyambedu market, one of Asia's largest market complexes, carbon neutral at a cost of ₹25 crore.
- The project will involve strict implementation of the single use plastic ban

## Oru Panpattin Payanam – Sindu Muthal Vaigai Varai.

- CM of TN Mr. Stalin, released Former IAS officer **R. Balakrishnan's book** Journey of a Civilisation: Indus to Vaigai, translated into Tamil as **Oru Panpattin Payanam – Sindu Muthal Vaigai Varai.**

## The work of connecting Adi Dravidar welfare schools with the school education department has been intensified.

- An announcement was made in the current budget session that the schools running under Adi Dravidar, Tribal Welfare Department, Backward Welfare Department, Charities Department and Forest Department will be merged with the School Education Department in the coming academic year.
- In order to implement it, steps have been taken to bring 1,138 Adi Dravidian welfare schools across the state under the Department of School Education.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

## PM Modi calls for global movement against climate change

- Noting that when an idea enters the home from the discussion platforms, it becomes a massive people's movement, Prime Minister Modi called for people's participation and joint efforts of all countries in combating climate change.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the **World Bank Conference on Climate Change** through video conference.
- Role of international organizations: The World Bank's plan to increase its allocation for climate change from **26 percent to 35 percent** is welcome.
- International organizations should continue to encourage the actions and efforts of countries against climate change.
- If the World Bank provides additional funding to India's projects against climate change, such as Mission Life, the effects will be manifold.

## Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam

- **Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam** has helped in early detection of health issues.
- The preliminary report shows that among **6,503** people who were surveyed, 4,793 (73.7%) had undergone diabetes screening in the last one year. Of them, 3,433 persons (71%) were screened for diabetes mellitus through the scheme.

## About the scheme:

- This scheme was launched by Chief Minister MK Stalin on **August 05, 2021** in **Krishnagiri** district for assisting the patients with treating the **non-communicable diseases**.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- Under this scheme, the patients will be able to access health and medical care facilities for home treatment.

## 'Home again scheme'

- “For persons who have recovered from **mental illness**, the department will launch the '**Home Again**' scheme, which will focus on enabling them to lead a normal life and integrating them into the community.
- A sum of ₹50 lakh has been allocated for the first phase.
- A **4% reservation for persons with disabilities** in government departments would be implemented.
- While retrofitted petrol scooters are being given only to those who are unable to use both legs, the scheme has now been expanded to include those who have disability in one leg.
- The education assistance given to 22,300 students with disabilities in Tamil Nadu has been doubled.

## 'New deaddiction centres'

- The Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment will establish **three deaddiction centres** for **children below the age of 18** in **Chennai, Coimbatore, and Tiruchi**.
- Tamil Nadu anti-drug awareness day is observed on **August 11**

## Chennai to host Asian Champions Trophy in August

- The **seventh Asian men's Champions Trophy hockey tournament** will be held at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium from August 3 to 12.
- This is the **first time** the tournament will be held in **India**.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

## 'Community based cancer screening'

- Community based cancer screening will be taken up in **Erode, Tirupattur, Kanniyakumari** and **Ranipet** districts.
- The number of cancer cases was high in **Erode, Kanniyakumari** and **Ranipet**, and Ranipet was among the most polluted cities in the world.

## 'Community based screening programme for detection of haemoglobinopathy'

- To facilitate early detection and treatment for blood related disorders such as **sickle cell anaemia** and **thalassemia** among the tribal population, a community based screening programme for detection of haemoglobinopathy would be implemented for those living in tribal areas for three years.

## 'Registry for Type 1 diabetes'

- For the first time in the State, the Health Department would create a State level registry for Type 1 diabetes.

## 'Block Level Medical services for Tuberculosis'

- In order to achieve the goal of **TB free Tamil Nadu**, equipment worth Rs.20 crore will be provided to medical centres for testing activities.
- In addition to this, **medical services** will be provided at the **block level** so that TB tests and therapeutic drugs can be integrated and made available in one place.

## Mahabalipuram to host WSL QS 3000 surfing event

- **Mahabalipuram** will host the International Surf Open Tamil Nadu, **World Surf League (WSL) QS 3000** event, from August 14 to 20.
- This is the **first** ever World surfing event to be held in **India**.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

## Govt. to build a memorial hall for Social Reformer Elayaperumal

- The Tamil Nadu government will construct a memorial hall to mark the birth centenary of former president of Tamil Nadu Congress Committee (TNCC) **L. Elayaperumal** at his home town in **Chidambaram**.
- Elayaperumal was like the veteran leaders, **Iyothee Thass Pandithar**, **Rettaimalai Srinivasan**, **M.C. Rajah**, **N. Sivaraj**, **L.C. Gurusamy** and **Swami Sagajanandar**, among others, who worked for social reforms.
- He was a **three time MP** and also represented the **Egmore Assembly constituency**.
- **Karunanidhi** had conferred the first '**Annal Ambedkar Award**' on Elayaperumal in **1998**.
- Collegium proposes **Justice Gangapurwala** as **Chief Justice of Madras High Court**.

## About Collegium System:

- It is the **system of appointment and transfer of judges** that has evolved through **judgments of the Supreme Court (SC)**, and not by an Act of Parliament or by a provision of the Constitution.
- The SC collegium is **headed by the CJI** (Chief Justice of India) and comprises **four other senior most judges** of the court.
- A HC collegium is led by its **Chief Justice and four other senior most judges** of that court.
- Names recommended for appointment by a HC collegium reaches the government only **after approval by the CJI and the SC collegium**.



# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

- Judges of the higher judiciary are appointed only through the collegium system and the **government has a role only after names have been decided by the collegium.**

## Related Constitutional Provisions:

- **Article 124(2)** of the Indian Constitution provides that the **Judges of the SC are appointed by the President** after consultation with such a number of the Judges of the SC and of the High Courts in the States as the President may deem necessary for the purpose.
- **Article 217** of the Indian Constitution states that the **Judge of a High Court shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the CJI, the Governor of the State**, and, in the case of appointment of a Judge other than the Chief Justice, the Chief Justice of the High Court.

## Best Handloom Weaver-Designer Awards

- Chief Minister M.K.Stalin presented the awards to the **best weavers and designers.**
- To encourage handloom weavers, Best Weaver Award and Best Young Designer Award are given every year.
- **V.Rajalakshmi**, member of **Tirubhuvanam Pattu Handloom Co-operative Society**, won **first prize** of Best Weaver Award.
- Kanchipuram Anna Pattu Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society member **M. Suresh** - second prize.
- **Mani**, a member of Arani Pattukai Weaving Co-operative Society, was selected for the third prize.

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

## Statue for former Indian Prime Minister VP Singh in chennai

- Chief Minister MK Stalin announced in the State Assembly that a life-sized statue of former Indian Prime Minister VP Singh would be erected in the state capital to express the gratitude of the Tamil society to him.
- His achievements, mainly the constitution of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal were great. Hence, we are celebrating him in the august House now.

## About VP Singh:

- He participated in the **Bhoodan movement** and donated his land.
- In 1969, he contested and won the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. He held various positions as chief minister of the state and union minister.
- He became the **Prime Minister of India in 1989**.
- The starting point of the **Right to Information Act** and the **National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS)** was made during his regime.
- Implementation of the **Mandal Commission** recommendation on providing **27 per cent reservation for OBCs** in union government jobs during the Prime Ministership of VP Singh.

## Factories (Amendment) Act 2023'

- The Tamil Nadu Assembly passed the **Factories (Amendment) Act 2023** 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.
- The bill amended the **Factories Act, 1948** by introducing a new section (section 65A) which enables the state government to exempt any factory

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

from restrictions relating to weekly hours, holidays, daily working hours, intervals of rest, spread over and prohibition of overlapping shifts.

- The total working hours in a week would remain unchanged at **48 hours**.
- The amendment would give workers the option to **work for four days** in a week and avail **three days leave**.
- The three days would be **paid leave** and the existing rules on leaves, overtime, and salaries would remain unchanged.

## 'Mupperum Vizha'

- commemorating the **200th birth anniversary of Saint Vallalar**, the **156th** year of the starting of **Dharma Salai** and the **152nd** year of **Jyothi Dharisanam** the Government of Tamil Nadu has constituted a **14-member special committee** under the chairmanship of **Dr. P.K. Krishnaraj Vanavarayar** to conduct the Thiruvavur Prakasam Vallalar Mupperum festival in a grand manner.
- A meeting of the committee was held under the chairmanship of Endowments Minister Sekar Babu

## Event till October

- The 'Mupperum Vizha' has been observed in major cities across the State since October last year.
- It will go on until October this year.

## National Millet Summit 2023

- The National Millet Summit 2023, taking place on May 6th and 7th at SRMIST Kattankulathur Campus in **Chennai**, is a free workshop aimed at

# TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

April 1 to 29, 2023

**promoting millet cultivation and consumption in India**, in celebration of the International Year of Millets.

- **The National Millet Summit 2023: Innovations in Millet Science and Technology** is a significant event that aims to promote the cultivation, consumption, and value chain of millet in India.
- The conclave will be inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries **Prahlad Singh Patel**.
- The International Year of Millets – 2023.