VETRII IAS STUDY CIRCLE
Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

MAY 2025 - PART 1

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Preface
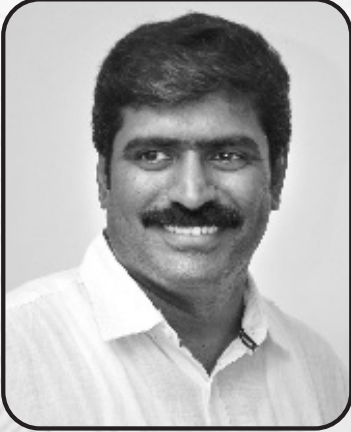
M. SHUNMUGAM
Director
Vetrii IAS Study Circle.

My Dear Aspirants,

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

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

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

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

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

CONTENTS
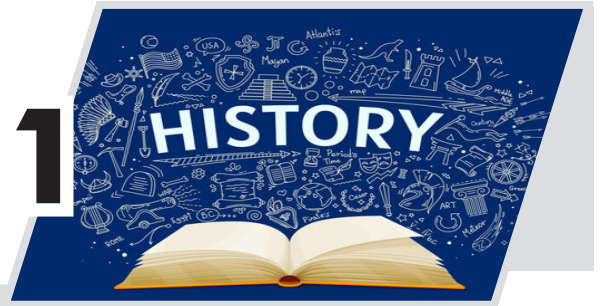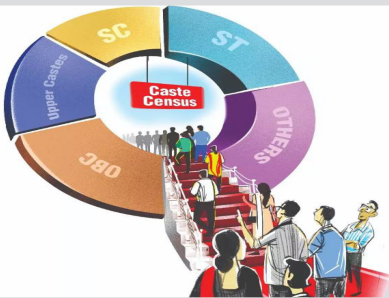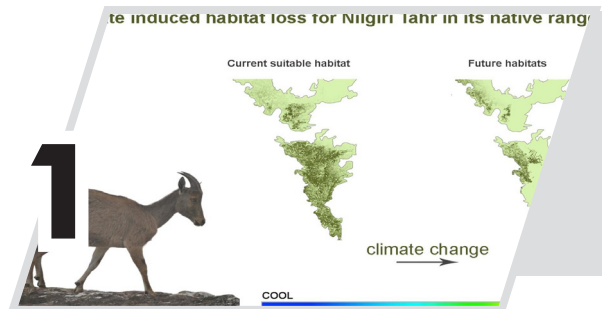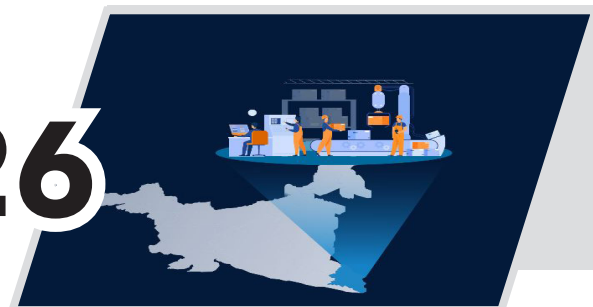
1. HISTORY

1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

2Date	Day	Theme / Remark
May 1	*International Labour Day 2025*	▪ **International Labour Day,** also known as Global Workers Day and May Day, is marked every year globally on **May 1** as a celebration of working-class people, recognising their contribution to society and promoting workers' rights and opportunities. ▪ The first Labour Day in India was held on May 1, 1923, in Chennai under the leadership of the Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan. It was led by Malayapura 4 ▪ Singaravelu Chettiar, a prominent communist leader, who petitioned the government to recognise May 1 as a national holiday. ▪ Theme for International Labour Day 2025 · 'Social justice and decent work'.
May 3	*World Press Freedom Day*	▪ **World Press Freedom Day** was celebrated on **May 3** every year since 1993. ▪ It celebrates the 1991 Windhoek Declaration for the Development of a Free, Independent, and Pluralistic Press. ▪ The theme for this year is **"Reporting in the Brave New World – The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Press Freedom and the Media."**

2Date	Day	Theme / Remark
May 8	*World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day*	▪ World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is observed every year on May 8, a tradition that began in 1948. ▪ The day marks the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant (1828–1910), the founder of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the first recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. ▪ The theme for this year (2025) is: **"Keeping Humanity Alive."**
May 11	*National Technology Day 2025*	▪ National Technology Day was observed on May 11, 2025, with the theme: "YANTRA – Yugantar for Advancing New Technology, Research & Acceleration". ▪ This day commemorates significant milestones achieved on May 11, 1998, including: ▪ India's successful nuclear tests under Operation Shakti ▪ The maiden flight of the indigenously developed Hansa-3 aircraft ▪ In recognition of these achievements, former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee declared May 11 as National Technology Day.
May 12	*International Nurses Day*	▪ International Nurses Day is celebrated on May 12 by the International Council of Nurses (ICN) to honor the compassion and care provided by nurses around the world. ▪ The date marks the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. ▪ Florence Nightingale was a British nurse, statistician, and social reformer, renowned for her service during the Crimean War (1854–56) where she cared for British and allied soldiers. Her efforts earned her the nickname **"The Lady with the Lamp."** ▪ Theme for 2025: **"Our Nurses. Our Future. Caring for nurses strengthens economies."**

1.2 DEFENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND TERRORISM

HADR exercise

▪ INS Sharda reached the Maldives' Maafilaafushi Atoll to participate in a joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise. This bilateral exercise with the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) runs until May 10

▪ It highlights operational synergy in humanitarian missions and reflects India's strategic maritime vision, **"MAHASAGAR" – Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions.**

Operation Sindoor – India's Counter-Terror Response (2025)

▪ In response to the April 2025 Pahalgam terrorist attack, India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, 2025, targeting nine terror infrastructure sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK).

▪ The operation was jointly conducted by the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force from Indian Territory.

1.3 SPORTS AND GAMES

Khelo India Youth Games

▪ Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the seventh edition of the Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) in Patna, Bihar.

This edition, marking a significant milestone for the state, features 27 medal sports and the introduction of esports as a demonstration event.

1.4 EMINENT PERSONS

Dr M. R. Srinivasan, pioneering Nuclear Scientist Passes Away

▪ Renowned for his instrumental role in India's nuclear energy programme, he served as the former Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and was the founding Chairman of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL).

▪ In 1959, he was appointed Principal Project Engineer for India's first atomic power station.

1.5 AWARDS AND HONORS

Pulitzer prize

▪ The Pulitzer Prize is considered America's most prestigious honor in the field of journalism.

▪ This award was started in the year 1917,

▪ The Pulitzer Prizes for the year 2025 were given in a total of 23 categories, including 15 categories of journalism and 8 categories of books, drama, music etc.

▪ Fiction: Percival Everett won the award for his novel 'James' , which tells the story of

'Huckleberry Finn' from the point of view of a slave.

World press freedom prize

- The UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize for 2025 was awarded to the Nicaraguan newspaper La Prensa.

- This recognition acknowledges La Prensa's resilience and commitment to independent journalism, particularly in the face of government repression and the confiscation of their assets in 2021

- The award was announced on World Press Freedom Day, which is celebrated on May 3rd

World Food Prize 2025

- Brazilian microbiologist Mariangela Hungria has been announced as the recipient of the 2025 World Food Prize.

- The World Food Prize is a prestigious international award recognizing individuals who have advanced human development by improving the quality, quantity, or availability of food worldwide.

- It was founded in 1986 by Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

- Often referred to as the "Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture."

1.6 APPOINTMENTS – WHO IS WHO?

Appointment of UPSC Chairman

- Under Article 316(1) of the Constitution, Dr. Ajay Kumar has been appointed as the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) by President of India.

- Apart from the Chairman, the Commission can have a maximum of 10 members.

- The UPSC Chairman is appointed for a term of six years or until the age of 65, whichever is earlier.

- The Chairman is not eligible for reappointment after the completion of the term.

- Removal (Article 317): The Chairman can be removed by the President.

- Removal can only be done on the grounds of misbehavior.

- Misbehavior must be proved through an inquiry conducted by the Supreme Court and its report.

2. POLITICAL SCIENCE

2.1 PROBLEMS IN CONDUCT OF PUBLIC ELECTIONS

ECINET: Unified Electoral Technology Platform by the ECI

▪ The Election Commission of India (ECI) has launched ECINET, a unified digital platform for election technology, serving as a single-point interface for voters, election officials, political parties, and civil society stakeholders.

▪ To integrate and streamline more than 40 existing mobile and web applications of the Election Commission into a user-friendly platform.

▪ To simplify access by eliminating the need for multiple logins.

▪ To ensure data accuracy, as data on ECINET can only be entered by authorized ECI officials.

▪ This new initiative is expected to benefit nearly 1 billion voters and the entire election administration.

Caste Census in India

▪ The Government of India has approved the inclusion of caste data in the delayed 2021 national population census.

▪ This revives a practice that had been discontinued after independence.

▪ Driven by growing political and social demands, this move is expected to have a significant impact on governance, affirmative action, and social justice initiatives.

Recent Developments

▪ The last major exercise involving caste data was the 2011 Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC), which aimed to assess socio-economic conditions along with caste identities.

▪ Recently, states like Bihar, Karnataka, and Telangana have conducted their own caste surveys, highlighting the continued relevance and demand for such data at both state and national levels.

2.2 PUBLIC AWARENESS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Election Commission Unveiled Three New Voter-Centric Reforms

▪ The ECI will now electronically obtain death data from the Registrar General of India.

▪ VIS design updated to highlight serial and part numbers in larger fonts.

▪ BLOs will now be issued standard photo ID cards under Section 13B(2) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

Private Member's Bills (PMBs) in India

▪ Recently, the Vice President of India described Private Member's Bills (PMBs) as "visionary, future-oriented, and a goldmine for India's democracy." His remarks underline the declining relevance of PMBs in Parliament despite their potential to strengthen legislative initiative by non-government members.

▪ What Are Private Member's Bills?

▪ PMBs are legislative proposals introduced by Members of Parliament (MPs) who are not ministers (i.e., not part of the government).

▪ They enable MPs to raise issues of public importance and suggest new laws or amendments independently.

▪ MPs must give at least one month's notice before introducing a PMB.

2.3 GOVT – WELFARE ORIENTED GOVT SCHEMES

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

▪ According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, 97% of all claims registered under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and the Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) have been settled across India. a

▪ Goa, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu have achieved 100% claim settlement, while Tripura, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh, and Sikkim have claim settlement rates ranging from 91% to 51%.

About PMFBY

▪ Launched in 2016, the PMFBY is a central government scheme designed to provide financial protection to farmers against crop losses caused by natural disasters, pests, or diseases.

▪ As of 2023–24, based on the number of enrolled farmers and the area covered, PMFBY has become the largest crop insurance scheme in the world.

Cashless Treatment Scheme for Road Accident Victims, 2025

▪ In a landmark move to ensure swift and hassle-free medical services for road accident victims across the country, the Government of India has launched a revolutionary cashless treatment scheme. Key Highlights

▪ Under this scheme, any person injured in a road accident involving a motor vehicle on any public road in India is eligible to receive

cashless medical treatment at designated hospitals.

- The maximum benefit under this scheme is capped at Rs.1.5 lakh, and is valid for up to seven days from the date of the accident.

- To ensure seamless implementation, the National Health Authority (NHA) will function as the coordinating agency.

- The scheme will be implemented in coordination with the police, hospitals, and respective state health departments.

- In each State and Union Territory, the State Road Safety Council will act as the nodal agency responsible for implementing the scheme within its jurisdiction.

3. GEOGRAPHY

3.1 POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

The first phase of the annual tiger census

- The first phase of the annual tiger census in the Gudalur forest division in the Nilgiris has begun.

- "Following the successful completion of the third phase of tiger estimation training using camera traps in the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Gudalur Forest Division, the first phase of the annual tiger census will go on from April 28 to May 5.

- As part of the operation, 27 transects have been selected across six forest ranges.

Nilgiri tahr count

- The Forest Department said the census for the State animal — Nilgiri tahr — was successfully completed last month. It was carried out in the Mukurthi National Park.

- Researchers from the Advanced Institute for Wildlife Conservation and volunteers from the Worldwide Fund for Nature participated in the exercise

4. ECONOMICS

4.1 REPORTS AND INDICES

Enhancing MSMEs Competitiveness in India

▪ The NITI Aayog has recently released a report titled 'Enhancing MSMEs Competitiveness in India'. It was developed in collaboration with the Institute for Competitiveness

▪ The report identifies sector-specific challenges and opportunities.

▪ **Focus areas include:**
   • Textiles & Apparel
   • Chemical Products
   • Automotive
   • Food Processing

▪ **Improvement in formal credit access (2020–2024):**
   • Micro & Small Enterprises: 14% → 20%
   • Medium Enterprises: 4% → 9%
   • Despite this, only 19% of total MSME credit demand was met in FY21.

International Economic Report

▪ According to the International Monetary Fund's global economic report, India will overtake Japan to become the fourth largest economy in terms of economic growth this year.

▪ India's Gross Domestic Product (nominal GDP) is estimated to reach 4,187,017 billion dollars in 2025, that is, in the current 2025-26 financial year.

▪ It is expected that by 2028, India will surpass Germany to emerge as the third largest economy in terms of economic growth.

▪ In the list of top 10 countries with the largest economies, the United States and China have maintained the first two positions this year.

23rd Annual South Asia Press Freedom Report 2024-25.

▪ The report, titled **'Frontline Democracy: Media and Political Churn'**

▪ Norway led the list in 2025, as it did last year, followed by Estonia, Netherlands, Sweden and Finland.

▪ India's rank in the World Press Freedom Index, released by Reporters Without Borders, is 151st,

▪ The report reviews the state of press freedom in India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives.

Human development index

▪ In the 2025 **Human Development Report, 'A Matter of Choice: People and Possibilities in the Age of AI'**

▪ India ranks 130 out of 193 countries, from 133 in 2022.

▪ It registered an HDI value increase to 0.685 in 2023 from 0.676 in 2022.

- India's life expectancy, at 72 years in 2023, is the highest level it has reached since the inception of the index in 1990 (58.6 years).

NITI Aayog Report on MSMEs in India

- NITI Aayog, in collaboration with the Institute for Competitiveness, has released a comprehensive report identifying key challenges hindering the growth of MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) in India. The report proposes strategic reforms to enhance their competitiveness and economic impact.

Key Highlights from the Report

- Over 90% of MSMEs in India operate in the informal sector.

- Despite efforts like the Udyam Portal (which has 95 lakh registrations compared to the estimated 6.34 crore total MSMEs), high compliance costs and regulatory burdens discourage formalization and restrict access to credit, schemes, and global value chains.

5. SCIENCE

5.1 LATEST INVENTIONS ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

ICAR developed two genome-edited rice varieties

▪ The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has successfully developed two genome-edited rice varieties,

▪ The ICAR said the development of such seeds was the "first-ever such achievement" in the country using cutting-edge technology.

▪ The first variety, named as DRR Dhan 100 Kamala, was developed from a popular high-yielding green rice Samba Mahsuri

▪ The second variety is from Maharashtra Technology University 1010 (MTU1010), which is also widely used by farmers across the country.

▪ The new variety developed from Samba Mahsuri can be harvested 15-20 days ahead of its original. The yield is almost 25% more. Each panicle of the paddy will give 450 to 500 more grains in this variety than the original crop.

▪ This is climate-friendly as this variety uses water and minerals judiciously. This is tolerant to increase in temperature too

▪ Named as Pusa DST Rice 1, the variety developed from MTU1010 is a 'salinity tension tolerant' crop.

▪ When cultivated under areas that have national average of salinity, the new variety produced 9.66% additional yield than MTU1010. Similarly, in alkaline conditions, the new variety gave 14.66% more yield and under 'salinity tension' conditions, the yield was 30.36% higher.

High-Altitude Pseudo Satellite (HAPS) Platform

▪ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted the first flight trial of the High-Altitude Pseudo Satellite (HAPS) platform in Sheopur, Madhya Pradesh.

▪ The HAPS platform was developed by DRDO's Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE) based in Agra.

▪ It is designed to provide valuable data through internal sensors for the creation of high-reliability simulation models for future high-altitude airship platforms.

▪ This innovation will significantly enhance India's earth observation, surveillance, and intelligence capabilities, positioning India among the few nations globally with such indigenous technologies.

Genetically Edited Rice Varieties

- India has released its first genetically edited rice varieties—DRR Dhan 100 (Kamala) and Pusa DST Rice 1—aimed at improving yield, climate resilience, and nutrient-use efficiency without introducing any foreign DNA.

- These varieties have been developed by ICAR using advanced CRISPR-Cas9 gene-editing technology.

- Since no foreign DNA is introduced, these varieties are comparable to traditionally cultivated crops.

DRR Dhan 100 (Kamala)

- This variety is based on the popular Samba Mahsuri rice and was edited using Site-Directed Nuclease 1 (SDN1) technology targeting the Cytokinin Oxidase 2 (CKX2) gene (also known as Gn1a) to enhance grain number.

- **Benefits:**

  - Early maturity (harvested 15–20 days earlier)

  - Drought tolerance, and

  - Higher nitrogen-use efficiency.

Pusa DST Rice 1

- Based on the Improved Samba Mahsuri (Maruteru 1010) variety, this rice enhances tolerance to drought and salinity.

- **Benefits:**

  - 30.4% higher yield under coastal salinity,

  - 14.66% higher yield in sodic soils, and

  - 9.67% higher yield in inland saline conditions.

5.2 SPACE

Shiv Shakti Point

- Scientists from the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) have identified the Shiv Shakti point as a valuable site for studying primitive mantle samples on the Moon.

- This site is where India's Chandrayaan-3 mission successfully landed on August 23, 2023.

- The findings suggest that this location may provide vital information about the Moon's early geological history.

- The Shiv Shakti point is situated in the southern high-latitude highlands of the Moon's nearside. It is noteworthy for being the first lunar landing site facilitated by India.

Satellite Bus as a Service (SBaaS) initiative by IN-SPACe

- The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) has introduced a new initiative named Satellite Bus as a Service (SBaaS).

- This initiative aims to encourage private companies in India to design and develop satellite-bus platforms.

- The goal is to reduce import dependence and encourage innovation within the Indian space sector.

- A satellite bus is the modular structure that forms the core of a satellite. It supports essential systems required for the satellite's operation.

About IN-SPACe

- IN-SPACe functions as an autonomous agency within the Department of Space.

- Established in June 2020, it promotes private sector participation in space activities.

- The agency is responsible for authorising and supervising various space projects, including satellite and launch vehicle development.

EOS-09 (Earth Observation Satellite-09)

- EOS-09 is an Earth Observation Satellite developed to enhance India's surveillance and imaging capabilities, especially in all-weather and daynight conditions.

Features of EOS-09 :

- Equipped with a C-band Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR).

- SAR technology allows the satellite to capture high-resolution images of the Earth's surface regardless of weather conditions (clouds, rain) or time of day (day or night).

- Key Applications of EOS-09: Disaster monitoring, Flood mapping, Agricultural assessment, Border surveillance, Urban planning.
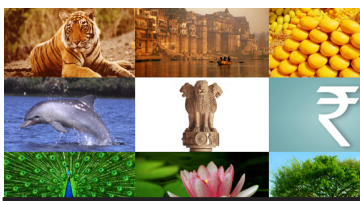
Vizhinjam International Seaport

- Leveraging cutting-edge technology, the Vizhinjam port is expected to be a game-changer in South Asia's maritime trade.

- Armed with an AI-driven control room and Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS) developed by IIT-M and Maritime Technology Pvt Ltd,

- The port could track ships approaching the port using radar and sensors, providing real-time location and movement updates to nearby vessels and optimising port traffic flow and berthing assignments.

- The port is also expected to reduce the dependence of the country on other international ports. Around 75% of the country's transshipment cargo is being handled at international ports, resulting in a loss of up to $200-220 million of potential revenue each year, rendering the Indian industries vulnerable to an increase in costs, potential inefficiencies and congestion issues, and creating long-term risks for India's trade competitiveness.

Protect vulnerable people from summer heat: NHRC to States

- Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Thursday asked 11 States to take immediate pre-emptive measures to protect vulnerable people, especially those from poorer communities.

- Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Thursday asked 11 States to take immediate pre-emptive measures to protect vulnerable people, especially those from poorer communities.

The National Security Advisory Board, which provides recommendations to the National Security Council Secretariat led by the Prime Minister, has been restructured.

- As there are reports suggesting a possibility of a major military operation by India in response to the Pahalgam attack, the central government's restructuring of the National Security Advisory Board has gained significance.

- Accordingly, former chief of the Indian Intelligence Agency (RAW), Alok Joshi, has been appointed as the new chairman of the board.

'SWAYAM PLUS'

- The Ministry of Education has launched the 'SWAYAM PLUS' platform to provide courses developed in collaboration with industry.

- IIT Madras operates the 'SWAYAM PLUS' platform. It aims to enhance employment opportunities for college students and continuing learners.

ECINET

- The Election Commission on Sunday announced that it was developing a user-friendly digital interface for voters and other stakeholders such as election officials, political parties, and the civil society.

- The new one-stop platform, ECINET, will integrate and reorient over 40 of the EC's existing mobile and Web applications. It will subsume existing apps, such as the Voter Helpline app, Voter Turnout app, cVIGIL, Suvidha 2.0, ESMS, Saksham and the KYC app, which together had clocked over 5.5 crore downloads.

'Simple user experience'

- The ECINET will have an aesthetic user interface and a simplified user experience by providing a singular platform for all election-related activities, the EC said.

- It is being developed after an elaborate consultative exercise involving 36 Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) of all the States and Union Territories, 767 District Election Officers (DEOs) and 4,123 Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) of their States and UTs

- The new digital interface will enable users to access relevant electoral data on their desktops and smartphones.

- The platform was proposed by the Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar during a recent conference of CEOs, EC sources said.

ECINET APP

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) is launching a new single-point app called ECINET for all stakeholders involved in electoral processes.

- This app will consolidate over 40 existing mobile and web applications into one platform, simplifying the experience for users.

- The data provided through ECINET will be strictly aligned within the legal framework established by the Representation of People Act 1950, 1951, Registration of Electoral Rules, 1960 Conduct of Election Rules, 1961

Operation Sindoor

- On May 7, 2025, the Indian Armed Forces launched Operation Sindoor, a series of precision air and missile strikes targeting Nine Terror Linked Sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir

- This operation was a direct response to the Pahalgam Terror Attack on April 22

Total Fertility Rate remains constant at 2.0 in 2021

- According to the Sample Registration System (SRS) report for 2021 released by the Registrar General of India (RGI) The Total Fertility Rate (TFR), the average number of children per woman, in the country has remained constant at 2.0

Elderly population

- Kerala recorded the highest percentage of population in the age group of 60 and above with 14.4% of the total population falling under this category. Tamil Nadu 12.9% and Himachal Pradesh 12.3%

MMR, U5R, NMR

- Three States in India Kerala, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu have attained the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets in MMR, U5MR, NMR.

- The targets in Maternal Mortality Rate or MMR are <=70 by 2030); Under-Five Mortality Rate or U5MR are <=25 by 2030); and Neonatal Mortality Rate or NMR are <=12 by 2030).

- Eight States have already attained the MMR SDG target, including Kerala (20), Maharashtra (38), Telangana (45), Andhra Pradesh (46), Tamil Nadu (49), Jharkhand (51), Gujarat (53), and Karnataka (63).

- India's MMR had shown a marked reduction, declining by 37 points from 130 per lakh live births in 2014-16 to 93 in 2019-21.

- India's Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) declined from 39 per 1,000 live births in 2014 to 27 per 1,000 live births in 2021.

National Super Computing Mission

- The National Supercomputing Mission (NSM), a flagship initiative launched by the Indian government, has been extended to December 2025.

- As of March 2025, the NSM has deployed 34 supercomputers with a combined capacity of 35 Petaflops across various institutions and research organizations

- Jointly steered by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), with implementation by C-DAC, Pune, and IISc, Bengaluru

- The mission focuses on developing indigenous hardware and software, including "Rudra" HPC servers and the "Trinetra" high-speed network.

Global Space Exploration Conference (GLEX) 2025

- India will host the 12th Global Space Exploration Conference (GLEX 2025) from May 7 to 9, 2025, in New Delhi.

- The theme of GLEX 2025 is: "Expanding Frontiers: A Space Exploration Renaissance."

- This conference marks a milestone in India's expanding global leadership in space exploration.

- It also highlights India's transformation from a regional space power to a significant international space force.

Organizers of GLEX 2025

- International Astronautical Federation (IAF) – The world's leading space advocacy organization.

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) – The primary host.

- Astronautical Society of India (ASI) – Co-organizer

Kozhikode Recognized as an Age-Friendly City by WHO

- Kozhikode has received global recognition by becoming a member of the World Health Organization's Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC).

- In 2022, Kozhikode was also included in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network under the literature category, making it the first Indian city to be designated as a "City of Literature" by UNESCO.

What is an Age-Friendly City?

- An age-friendly city ensures that urban environments, infrastructure, and services are accessible and inclusive for elderly citizens.

- It aims to address challenges such as accessible public spaces (parks, transportation, buildings), affordable and appropriate housing, access to healthcare, and social support, age-appropriate

communication tools, Opportunities for participation in community activities.

Birth Rate in Delhi, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu Significantly Lower Than National Average

▪ The annual birth rates in Tamil Nadu, Delhi, and Kerala have declined to less than half the national average, according to the 2021 Sample Registration System (SRS) Statistical Report, released by the Registrar General of India.

▪ The SRS is the largest demographic survey in India, providing annual estimates of fertility and mortality indicators, including birth rates and death rates.

Major Findings from the Report:

▪ India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) remained constant at 2.0 in both 2020 and 2021. The replacement level fertility rate is 2.1, considered ideal for a stable population.

▪ The national average birth rate in 2021 was 19.3, and it has been declining at an average annual rate of 1.12% from 2016 to 2021.

▪ States with Fastest Decline in Birth Rate: Tamil Nadu - Decline of 2.35% per year, Delhi -Decline of 2.23% per year, Kerala - Decline of 2.05% per year.

50th Statehood Day of Sikkim

▪ On May 16, 1975, Sikkim became the 22nd state of India under the leadership of its first Chief Minister, Lhendup Dorjee Khangsarpa.

▪ Prior to this, Sikkim was known as the Kingdom of Sikkim, ruled by the Chogyal dynasty.

▪ Sikkim is located in the north-eastern part of India, in the eastern Himalayas.

▪ It shares its borders with the Tibet Autonomous Region of China to the north and northeast, Bhutan to the southeast, the Indian state of West Bengal to the south, and Nepal to the west.

▪ India's highest peak, Kanchenjunga, is situated in Sikkim.

7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

India's Commitment to UN Peacekeeping

▪ At the United Nations Peacekeeping (UNPK) Ministerial 2025 meeting in Berlin, 74 member states pledged to enhance the effectiveness and adaptability of peace operations amid evolving global challenges.

▪ India pledged a Quick Reaction Force (QRF), One male armed police (Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) or mixed armed police (CRPF), Women-led Police Unit, among others.

▪ As per UNPK data, India is currently the 4th largest troop-contributing nation with 5,375 personnel after Nepal, Rwanda and Bangladesh.

▪ **About UNPK:** The first UNPK mission, United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), was established in May 1948 to monitor the Armistice Agreement between Israel and its Arab neighbors with a small team of military observers.
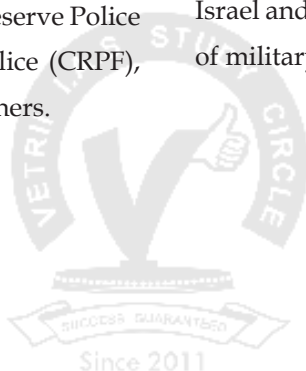
8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

Tamil Nadu Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister launched the Tamil Nadu Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme, which aims to promote the production of electronic components across the State.

- In an effort to attract companies that benefit from the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme of the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), the Tamil Nadu government would offer incentives that match the subsidies announced under the Union government's scheme.

- The State government formulated the Tamil Nadu Semiconductor and Advanced Electronics Policy 2024, which paved the way for the State to emerge as a frontrunner in the production of electronic goods,

- **"Tamil Nadu becomes the first State in the country to launch a dedicated Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme."**

- Tamil Nadu recorded its highest-ever electronics exports of $14.65 billion in FY2025, accounting for 41.2% share of India's total electronics exports

- This would enable us in achieving our target of $100 Billion in electronic exports

9-Point Action Plan to Control Stray Dogs

- 500 doctors will be trained to perform sterilization surgeries for dogs, and 500 people in local bodies will be trained in catching dogs.

- Infrastructure will be improved in 100 government veterinary hospitals across Tamil Nadu to create facilities for animal birth control surgeries.

- 72 shelters will be established for abandoned, sick, injured, aged, and disabled dogs. The land for these shelters will be provided by local bodies.

- Additional surgery centers and dog shelters with veterinary facilities will be established in areas where animal birth control surgery facilities are not available.

- Additional funds will be allocated for dog population control and rabies vaccination programs at the district level through government and private hospital doctors.

- As per the notification of the Animal Welfare Board of India, a state-level Animal Birth Control Monitoring Committee has been recently ordered under the chairmanship of the Principal Secretary of Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department. Further, all local bodies have been instructed to form local monitoring committees to intensify dog birth control activities.

- The implementation of animal birth control surgeries by local bodies and NGOs will be monitored.

- In Greater Chennai Corporation, where 5 centers are already operational, work to establish 10 new dog birth control centers will be completed quickly. The Corporation has also been instructed to start 10 new veterinary hospitals.

▪ Chief Minister has announced that additional dog-catching vehicles will be immediately purchased to expedite birth control surgeries, considering the increasing number of dogs.

Tamil Week

▪ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister is set to take part in the valedictory event of 'Tamil Week', which is being observed to mark the birth anniversary of late Tamil poet Pavendhar Bharathidasan..

▪ During the event, the Chief Minister is also set to announce the nationalisation of the literary works of five Tamil scholars and hand over royalty to their families.

Literary works of late Tamil scholars nationalised

▪ The literary works of late Tamil scholars 'Kavikko' S. Abdul Rahman, Merwin and A. Palani, and poets Ku. Ma. Kothandam and Ilama Tamilnavan were nationalised.

▪ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin handed over the royalties at the valedictory of the 'Tamil Week', which was observed to celebrate the birth anniversary of Tamil poet 'Pavendhar' Bharathidasan.

"Five Free AI Courses in the 'SWAYAM PLUS' Education Program"

▪ Chennai IIT has introduced five online courses related to Artificial Intelligence (AI) through the **"SWAYAM PLUS"** education program. These online courses, ranging from 25 to 45 hours in duration, are being offered completely free of charge.

Suvadukal

▪ The **Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department** has initiated steps for an ambitious project to create a digital repository titled 'Suvadugal'

▪ The project aims to digitally archive thousands of indigenous art forms and oral traditions that are gradually fading with time.

▪ Over 560 art forms are still performed by these communities across the State. Some notable examples include ingari Melam from Dindigul, Radha Kavadi from Nagapattinam, Kaniyan Koothu from Tirunelveli, Periya Melam from Tiruvannamalai, Perum Parai from Anthiyur and Malai Koothu from Dharmapuri.

Nammazhvar Award for Excellence in Organic Farming

▪ Three farmers, one each from Coimbatore, Tiruppur, and Nagapattinam districts, received the Tamil Nadu government's Nammazhvar award for excellence in organic farming for this year.

▪ G. Sampathkumar from Coimbatore district secured the first prize, while T. Jagadeesh from Tiruppur district and V. Kalidoss from Nagapattinam district received the second and third prizes, respectively.

▪ The Nammazhvar award encourages and honours farmers who practice and promote organic farming and handhold fellow organic farmers.

▪ The Tamil Nadu government has been promoting organic farming in the State, and awareness campaigns were launched as part of its efforts to ensure chemical-free foodgrain production.

▪ It may be recalled that the Tamil Nadu government had also launched the Chief Minister's Mannuyir Kaathu Mannuyir Kaappom scheme to promote organic farming, enhance soil fertility, and ensure pesticide residue-free food, and to encourage farmers to transition to sustainable agricultural practices.