

# VETRI IAS STUDY CIRCLE

## Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

**JUNE 2025 - PART 2**



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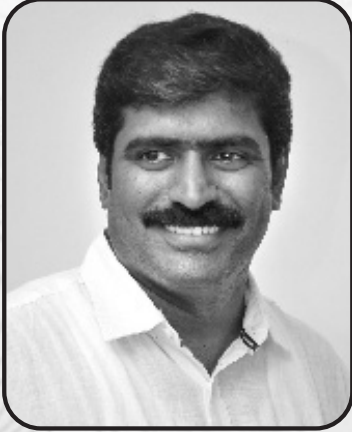
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# Preface



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Director

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My Dear Aspirants,

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

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

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 !

Published by:

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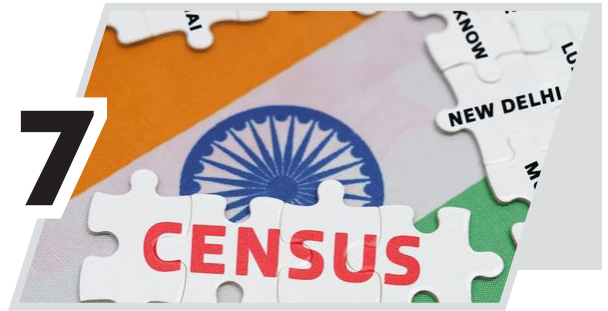
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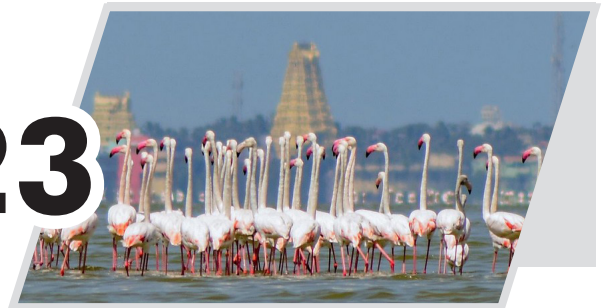


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# 1. HISTORY



## 1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
<b>June 17</b>	<b>World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>It is observed annually by the UN on 17th June to raise awareness on desertification and drought, promoting sustainable land management.</li><li>It marks the adoption of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in 1994, the only global legally binding agreement linking environment, development and sustainable land management.</li><li>The theme for 2025 is 'Restore the Land. Unlock the Opportunities'.</li></ul>
<b>June 21</b>	<b>International Day of Yoga</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The International Day of Yoga, celebrated every year on 21st June, is more than just a symbolic observance;</li><li>In 2025, this internationally celebrated day enters its 11th edition, bringing with it a renewed sense of commitment to both personal well-being and planetary health.</li><li>Theme for International Yoga Day 2025 : "Yoga for One Earth, One Health"</li></ul>
<b>June 23</b>	<b>International Olympic Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Every year on June 23, the world comes together to observe International Olympic Day—a tribute to the birth of the modern Olympic Games and a powerful reminder of the role of sports in uniting people across borders.</li><li>This year's theme is a global call-to-action encouraging everyone—regardless of background or fitness level—to combat inactivity.</li></ul>

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
<b>June 23</b>	<b>United Nations Public Service Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each year on June 23, the world observes United Nations Public Service Day to honor the vital contributions of public servants and the public sector in driving development and improving the quality of life for citizens across the globe.</li> <li>Theme for 2025: "Five Years to 2030: Accelerating Public Service Delivery for a Sustainable Future"</li> </ul>
<b>June 27</b>	<b>International Day Against Drug Abuse</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2025: Being globally observed, June 26.</li> <li>It aims to increase action and collaboration in the effort to end illicit drug use throughout the globe.</li> <li>The theme for 2025, "Break the Cycle. #StopOrganizedCrime",</li> </ul>
<b>June 27</b>	<b>World MSME Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The United Nations designated June 27 as International MSME Day.</li> <li>Theme for 2025 - "Enhancing the Role of MSMEs as Drivers of Sustainable Growth and Innovation."</li> <li>In India, they are a key pillar of growth; contributing around 30% to the GDP and over 45% to the country's exports.</li> <li>In India, they are emerging as the second-largest employer after agriculture.</li> </ul>

## 1.2 DEFENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND TERRORISM

### Exercise Shakti 2025

- A joint exercise between the militaries of India and France is scheduled to be held from June 18 to July 1.
- The aim of the exercise is to enhance joint military capability of both sides to undertake Multi Domain Operations in a Sub Conventional scenario.

### Cyber Suraksha

- The Defence Cyber Agency has launched 'Cyber Suraksha', a national-level cyber security exercise, aimed at enhancing India's cyber defence readiness.
- 'Cyber Suraksha' is a multi-phased cybersecurity drill simulating real-world cyber threats in a high-paced, gamified environment for national-level stakeholders.



- It was launched by the Organised by the Defence Cyber Agency (DCyA).
  - It aims to boost cyber resilience at the national security level and train personnel to effectively respond to advanced cyberattacks.
  - This initiative will foster a security-first culture in defence institutions.
- Global Nuclear Emergency Preparedness Exercise ConvEx-3 (2025)**
- The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Romania are conducting the largest international nuclear emergency exercise to date.
  - The event, named ConvEx-3 (2025), will take place from 24 June and simulate a severe accident at the Cernavodă Nuclear Power Plant.
  - This exercise involves over 75 countries and 10 international organisations, denoting the global focus on nuclear safety.

## 1.3 BOOKS & AUTHORS

### Varalaru Koorum Tamil Nattu Kaasugal Book

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister released two volumes of a book titled Varalaru Koorum Tamil Nattu Kaasugal (Coins that speak Tamil Nadu History)
- It was written by Minister for Finance Thangam Thennarasu and numismatic researcher Arumuga Sitharaman.
- The book sheds light on the different types of coins that have been in use in the Tamil landscape over the past 2,000 years and how they have evolved throughout history.

## 1.4 AWARDS AND HONORS

### Cyprus' highest civilian

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III, Cyprus' highest civilian honour, on June 16, 2025, by President Nikos Christodoulides.
  - The award is named after Archbishop Makarios III, the first President of Cyprus, and is reserved for global leaders and dignitaries who have made outstanding contributions to international relations and peace.
  - Cyprus is the third largest Mediterranean island after Sicily and Sardinia.
- Bal Sahitya Puraskar Award**
- Writer Vishnupuram Saravanan has been awarded the Bal Sahitya Puraskar of the Sahitya Akademi for 2025 in the Tamil language category for his children's novel Otrai Siragu Oviya.
  - Published in 2019 by Books for Children, an imprint of Bharathi Puthakalayam, the novel

blends elements of fantasy, ecology, and socio-political themes.

- He is currently associated with children's magazine initiatives of the Tamil Nadu School Education Department.

### **Sahitya Akademi - Yuva Puraskar Award**

- The Sahitya Akademi (India's National Academy of Letters) announced the Yuva Puraskar award for 23 writers for 2025.
- The awardees include Advait Kottary in English, Parvati Tirkey in Hindi, Latshmihar for Tamil and Prasad Suri for Telugu. There is no Yuva Puraskar in Dogri this year.
- Other winners include Suprakash Bhuyan for Assamese, Sudeshna Moitra for Bengali, R. Dileepkumar for Kannada, and Akhil P. Dharmajan for Malayalam.

### **About Sahitya Akademi**

- It is an autonomous organisation established

in 1952 and formally inaugurated in 1954, dedicated to the promotion of literature in the languages of India. It was registered as a society in 1956 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

- It has its head office in Delhi and regional offices in Kolkata, Bangalore, Mumbai, Chennai, and Agartala.

### **Digital Payments Award 2024-25**

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), a 100% government-owned payments bank under the Department of Posts, has been conferred the prestigious Digital Payments Award 2024-25 by the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance.
- IPPB stood 1st among all Payments Banks in India in the DFS Performance Index and received a Special Mention for its FY 2023-24 efforts.

## **1.5 APPOINTMENTS**

### **First Female and African President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC)**

- On June 23, 2025, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) celebrated its 131st anniversary.
- Kirsty Coventry, a former Olympic swimmer from Zimbabwe, was officially inaugurated as the first female and first African IOC President.
- She is a two-time Olympic gold medallist in swimming and one of Zimbabwe's most celebrated athletes.



# 2. POLITICAL SCIENCE

## 2.1 PUBLIC AWARENESS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

### Parliamentary committees

- Lok Sabha Speaker emphasized the need for governments and officials to take Parliamentary committees recommendations seriously and ensure their implementation in both letter and spirit.
- A Parliamentary Committee is a body constituted by the Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha, or nominated by the Speaker/Chairman, to carry out functions delegated by Parliament.
- Parliamentary committees, originating from the British Parliament, in India derive their authority from the Indian Constitution under Article 105 (powers and privileges) and Article 118 (regulation of business).
- Types of Parliamentary Committees – Financial Committes, Standing Committes(DRSC), Ad-hoc/Select Committes, Administration committees.

## 2.2 GOVT – WELFARE ORIENTED GOVT SCHEMES, THEIR UTILITY

### Dharti Aba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyaan (DAJGUA) Package

- The government has held over 22,000 “jan seva” camps as part of its push to take the Tribal Affairs Ministry’s flagship scheme saturation package, the Dharti Aba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyaan (DAJGUA).
- Under this initiative the government had reached over 53 lakh Scheduled Tribe individuals, helping them get government scheme benefits.

### About DAJGUA

- The DAJGUA package was launched in 2023.
- Originally coined as the PM Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PM-JUGA), the scheme is a package for basic scheme saturation in tribal-majority villages
- It aims to address critical gaps in social infrastructure, health, education, and livelihood development across approximately 63,000 tribal villages.
- Tenure: 5 Years (2024-25 to 2028-29)

- Funding to be shared between Centre and State.
- Monitoring under PM GatiShakti Portal
- It aims to give momentum to the 'sunrise' fisheries sector through consolidated efforts from various schemes and initiatives.

### **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**

- ₹1,156.15-crore worth projects sanctioned to T.N under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).
- Additional fund of ₹262.42 crore was released for implementation of the Blue Revolution Scheme (during 2017-18) to Tamil Nadu for implementation of the projects approved under the PMMSY.
- About Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)
- It is the flagship scheme of the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, and was launched in 2020.
- The PMMSY is an umbrella scheme with two separate Components namely Central Sector Scheme (CS) and Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS).
- India is the 3rd largest fish producing and 2nd largest aquaculture producing nation in the world.
- India is the 4th largest exporter of fish and fisheries products with a growth in exports of 26.73% in terms of quantity between FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23.
- Andhra Pradesh is the largest fish producer in the country followed by West Bengal and Gujarat.





## 3. GEOGRAPHY

### 3.1 ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

#### India Marks 50 Years of Crocodile Conservation Project

- On World Crocodile Day (June 17, 2025), India celebrates the 50th anniversary of its pioneering Crocodile Conservation Project (CCP), which began in 1975 at Bhitarkanika National Park, Odisha.
- This milestone highlights India's successful journey in conserving all three native crocodilian species, including the critically endangered Gharial.
- Odisha stands out as the only Indian state with all three native crocodilian species thriving in the wild.
- India hosts 80% of the world's wild gharial population, underlining its global significance in crocodilian conservation.
- This project Supported By: UNDP and FAO.
- Species Conserved: Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*) – Critically endangered, Mugger (*Crocodylus palustris*) – Vulnerable, Saltwater Crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) – Least Concern but locally threatened.

#### Revised Green India Mission

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) released the revised Green India Mission (GIM) plan for 2021–2030 on World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, observed on 17th June 2025.
- The Green India Mission (GIM) is one of the 8 missions under India's National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), launched in February 2014.
- It aims to respond to climate change through a combination of mitigation and adaptation strategies, primarily focusing on forest-based ecosystem restoration.
- GIM's effective implementation is crucial for achieving 33% forest cover, as per national policy, and meeting India's 2030 climate commitments.

#### New Species of Dravido Geckolepis

- Researchers from the Wildlife Biology Department of Ooty Government Arts College have discovered a new lizard species in the Western Ghats.
- Abhinesh, Naveen, Srikantan, Naveen, Srikantan, Babu, and Ganesh conducted research on lizard species found in the Western Ghats in the Coonoor forest area over the past few months.
- It is noteworthy that this research paper has been recently published in an international

research journal called Western Ghats Bionomina of India.

### India's First Butterfly Sanctuary

- Kerala has become home to India's first butterfly sanctuary.
- The Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary in Kannur district has officially been renamed the Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary, marking a first-of-its-kind move in the country.

### Review of Project Elephant

- The Union Environment Ministry reviewed key initiatives under Project Elephant (1992), highlighting the completion of Phase-I of the synchronized elephant population estimation in North-eastern states.
- In another development, the National Board for Wildlife committee recommended the inclusion of the Sloth bear and Gharial in the Species Recovery Programme.
- Karnataka recorded the highest elephant population, followed by Assam and Kerala.
- In terms of protected areas, Sathyamangalam forest division has the highest number of elephants.
- IUCN Red List- Endangered.
- Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 – Schedule I

### Secondary pollutants, especially ammonium sulphate, constitute a third of PM2.5 pollution

- According to the study by the Centre for

Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), Secondary pollutants, particularly ammonium sulphate, that results from the reaction between sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) in the atmosphere.

- They are responsible for nearly one-third of India's fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) pollution.
- Primary pollutants are those that result from the burning of fossil fuels from automobiles, coal plants and organic matter.
- These pollutants, once they climb into the atmosphere, react with each other or other gases or water vapour in the atmosphere to form more complex particles – some of which are harmful. These are called secondary pollutants.
- CREA's study says the nationwide average concentration of ammonium sulphate is 11.9 microgram per cubic metre, accounting for approximately 34% of the PM<sub>2.5</sub> mass.
- The main driver of ammonium sulphate formation and more than 60% of SO<sub>2</sub> emissions in India originate from coal-fired thermal power plants.
- "This makes them a critical target for reducing secondary PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution through the implementation of flue gas desulphurisation (FGD) systems.



# 4. ECONOMICS

## 4.1 REPORTS AND INDICES

### Global Education Monitoring Report

- According to the Global Education Monitoring Team (GEM) report the global out-of-school population is now estimated to be 272 million, over 21 million more than the last estimate.
- It is an annual publication produced by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)
- The GEM Report was launched in 2002 as the Education for All Global Monitoring Report and transitioned to its current name in 2016.
- Its primary purpose is to monitor and analyze global education trends and provide policy recommendations to governments and stakeholders to improve education systems and outcomes.

### Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) – Report

- According to the report, nearly all of the nine nuclear-armed countries, including India and Pakistan, continued intensive nuclear modernisation programmes in 2024, upgrading existing weapons and adding newer versions.
- According to the SIPRI estimates, India's stored warheads increased to 180 in January 2025, from 172 in January 2024.
- 9 nuclear-armed countries: USA, Russia, UK, France, China, India, Pakistan, North Korea, Israel.

- The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) is a global think tank.

### Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2.0 report

- Chandigarh has been adjudged the best performer in school education for the academic year 2023-24, while Meghalaya appears in the lowest rung of the Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2.0 report.
- It was released by the Union Education Ministry.
- The States are graded on a wide range of indicators, including learning outcomes and quality, access, infrastructure, equity, governance processes, and teacher education and training, for a total of 1,000 points.
- The report shows that 24 States and Union Territories improved their scores in 2023-24 from the previous year's, while the remaining 12 States and Union Territories saw declining scores.
- Chandigarh achieved a score of 719, and is the sole State to reach Grade Prachesta-1, for scores between 701 to 760.
- Ten States and Union Territories — Punjab, Delhi, Gujarat, Odisha, Kerala, Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu, Haryana, Goa, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan — have scored between 581 and 640, called Grade Prachesta-3.

- At the other end of the scale is Meghalaya, which scored 417, thus falling into the category of scorers between 401 and 460, labelled as Akanshi-3.
- In the middle ranks are 14 States and Union Territories – Puducherry, Himachal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Lakshadweep, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, and Ladakh – which scored between 521 and 580, labelled Akanshi-1.
- distant in the past.
- The base year should ideally be updated every 5 to 10 years to ensure national accounts reflect the most recent data.
- The upcoming 2026 revision will be the eighth base year update, following seven earlier revisions, starting from 1948-49 to 1960-61 in August 1967 and most recently from 2004-05 to 2011-12 on 30th January 2015.
- The first national income estimates for India were compiled by the National Income Committee (chaired by P.C. Mahalanobis) in 1949.

### **GDP Base Year Revised to 2022-23**

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) announced that the government is revising the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) base year from 2011-12 to 2022-23. The revised data will be released on 27th February 2026.
- The base year for Index of Industrial Production (IIP) will also be revised to 2022-23 while the base year for Consumer Price Index will be revised to 2023-24.
- GDP is the key metric for measuring a country's annual economic growth or its overall economic size, and the "base year" serves as the reference point for these calculations.
- The base year revision ensures the inclusion of new industries, removal of outdated ones, adoption of better data sources and methods, and more accurate measurement of real economic growth after adjusting for inflation.
- The base year should be a normal year i.e., it must not experience any abnormal incidents such as droughts, floods, earthquakes, pandemic, etc. Also, it should not be too
- In June 2024, MoSPI set up a 26-member Advisory Committee on National Accounts Statistics (ACNAS) to decide the base year for GDP data, under the chairmanship of Biswanath Goldar.
- It also focused on aligning GDP with other key macro indicators such as the WPI, CPI, and IIP.

### **RBI's Supervisory Data Quality Index (sDQI) Report**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has developed the Supervisory Data Quality Index (sDQI) to assess the quality of data submitted by Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs).
- This index evaluates banks based on four crucial parameters: Accuracy, Timeliness, Completeness, Consistency.
- The objective is to enhance transparency, promote data discipline, and assess adherence to the principles laid out in the Master Direction on Filing of Supervisory Returns 2024.
- According to the latest RBI release, the overall sDQI score for SCBs has improved from 88.6 in



March 2024 to 89.3 in March 2025.

### Global Energy Transition Index

- India's position in the global Energy Transition Index has shifted to 71st in 2025.
- This ranking was released by the World Economic Forum, which assesses the energy transition performance of 118 countries.
- Despite a drop from 63rd last year, alongside China, has shown improvements in energy access and transition readiness.

### Global Rankings Overview :

- Sweden leads the Energy Transition Index, followed by Finland, Denmark, Norway, and Switzerland.
- Other notable rankings include China at 12th and the United States at 17th.
- Pakistan ranks 101st, while Congo holds the last position.

### Global Drought Outlook Report

- Recently, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development released the Global Drought Outlook Report.
- It assesses how countries can strengthen drought management to adapt to a changing climate.
- It provides new insights into the rising human, environmental, and economic impacts of droughts and offers practical policy solutions to minimise losses, build long-term resilience, and support adaptation to a drier future.
- Droughts across the world: 40% of the world's land area faces increasingly frequent and severe droughts.
- Economic impact: 3% - 7.5% annual increase in the economic cost of an average drought

episode.

- 35% minimum projected increase in drought-related economic losses by 2035.

### World Investment Report 2025

- India raised a position to rank 15 among top global destinations for foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2024, despite a marginal dip in inflows at \$27.6 billion, according to the UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)'s World Investment Report 2025.
- It is an annual report published by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- It focuses on trends in foreign direct investment (FDI) worldwide, at the regional and country levels, and emerging measures to improve its contribution to development.
- India climbed in the global ranking of FDI outflows, moving to the 18th slot with \$24 billion in outward investments — up from 23rd in 2023, when outflows totalled \$14 billion.

### Fossil Fuel Finance Report 2025

- The Fossil Fuel Finance Report 2025 report marks that achieving net zero emissions by 2050 requires reduction in investment in fossil fuels.
- The International Energy Agency (IEA) states that annual investments must decline by over half by 2030.
- In 2024, the world's largest 65 banks committed \$869 billion to fossil fuel companies.
- Notably, the State Bank of India (SBI) was

among nearly 50 banks that increased their fossil fuel financing.

- This positioned SBI as the 47th largest lender in fossil fuel financing, up from 49th in 2023.
- Despite this, SBI aims to achieve net zero emissions by 2055.
- The bank plans for at least 7.5% of its domestic gross advances to be green by 2030.

conduct India's first comprehensive Household Income Survey.

- This initiative aims to provide a clearer picture of household incomes across the nation.
- A Technical Expert Group (TEG) has been established to guide the survey's methodologies and ensure reliability in the findings.
- The survey will also explore how technology adoption impacts wages.

### QS World University Rankings 2026

- The QS World University Rankings is an annual global ranking of universities published by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), a leading higher education analytics organization.
- The aim of these rankings is to help students, academics, and employers compare the performance of universities worldwide.
- India has 54 universities in the QS World University Rankings 2026, making it the fourth most represented country.
- The number of Indian universities in the rankings has grown from 11 in 2015 to 54 in 2026.
- IIT Delhi leads the Indian contingent. It is ranked 123rd globally, rising from 150th in 2025.
- IIT Madras recorded one of the biggest jumps, rising 47 places from 227 in 2025 to 180 in 2026.

### For first time, India breaks into top 100 in global SDG rankings

- 2025 edition of the Sustainable Development Report (SDR), released by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network.
- India ranks 99th out of 167 countries in the 2025 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index, a jump from 109th in 2024.
- Score: 67 out of 100.
- India has steadily improved its standing: it ranked 112th in 2023, 121st in 2022, and 120th in 2021.
- Finland, Sweden and Denmark hold the top three positions, with 19 of the top 20 countries located in Europe.
- Among India's neighbours, Bhutan ranks 74th (70.5), Nepal 85th (68.6), Bangladesh 114th (63.9), and Pakistan 140th (57).
- Maritime neighbours Maldives and Sri Lanka stand at 53rd and 93rd places respectively.

### India's First Household Income Survey

- In 2026, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) will

- Global Progress : Only 17 per cent of the SDG targets are on track to be achieved by 2030

### **‘Statistical Report on Value of Output from Agriculture and Allied Sectors (2011-12 to 2023-24)’**

- The ‘Statistical Report on Value of Output from Agriculture and Allied Sectors (2011-12 to 2023-24)’, released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- According to the report, The Gross Value Added (GVA) of agriculture and allied sectors at current prices registered a growth of about 225% over 12 years, increasing from ₹1,502 thousand crore in 2011-12 to ₹4,878 thousand crore in 2023-24.
- The report, consisting of detailed tables on values of output of crop, livestock, forestry & logging and fishing & aquaculture sectors of agriculture and allied activities from 2011-12 to 2023-24 at both current and constant (2011-12) prices
- The Gross Value of Output (GVO) from the agriculture and allied sector at constant prices has shown steady growth from ₹1,908 thousand crore in 2011-12 to ₹2,949 thousand crore in 2023-24, an overall increase of about 54.6%.
- The share of crop sector with GVO at ₹ 1,595 thousand crore remained the largest contributor to total GVO (at constant prices) of agriculture and allied sectors with share of 54.1% in 2023-24.
- Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Telangana and Haryana contributed nearly 53%.

## **4.2 NEW ECONOMIC POLICY & GOVT. SECTOR**

### **Special Economic Zones**

- The government recently relaxed key rules related to Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to further encourage the domestic manufacture of semiconductors and electronics.
- SEZs are special areas within a country that offer incentives to business and trade regulations operating in those areas.
- SEZs typically offer competitive infrastructure, duty-free exports, tax incentives, and other measures designed to make it easier to conduct business.
- The main objectives of the SEZ are generating additional economic activity, promoting exports of goods and services from the country, promoting foreign and domestic investment, and creating more employment opportunities besides the development of infrastructure facilities.
- The category ‘SEZ’ covers a broad range of zone types, few of which are free zones (FZs), industrial estates (IEs), free ports, free trade zones (FTZs), and export processing zones (EPZs).
- Asia’s first EPZ was set up in Kandla, Gujarat, in 1965, followed by seven more EPZs in the country.

**GDP Base Year Revised to 2022-23**

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) announced that the government is revising the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) base year from 2011-12 to 2022-23. The revised data will be released on 27th February 2026.
- The base year for Index of Industrial Production (IIP) will also be revised to 2022-23 while the base year for Consumer Price Index will be revised to 2023-24.
- GDP is the key metric for measuring a country's annual economic growth or its overall economic size, and the "base year" serves as the reference point for these calculations.
- The base year revision ensures the inclusion of new industries, removal of outdated ones, adoption of better data sources and methods, and more accurate measurement of real economic growth after adjusting for inflation.
- The base year should be a normal year i.e., it must not experience any abnormal incidents such as droughts, floods, earthquakes, pandemic, etc. Also, it should not be too distant in the past.
- The base year should ideally be updated every 5 to 10 years to ensure national accounts reflect the most recent data.
- The upcoming 2026 revision will be the eighth base year update, following seven earlier revisions, starting from 1948-49 to 1960-61 in August 1967 and most recently from 2004-05 to 2011-12 on 30th January 2015.
- The first national income estimates for India were compiled by the National Income Committee (chaired by P.C. Mahalanobis) in 1949.
- In June 2024, MoSPI set up a 26-member Advisory Committee on National Accounts Statistics (ACNAS) to decide the base year for GDP data, under the chairmanship of Biswanath Goldar.
- It also focused on aligning GDP with other key macro indicators such as the WPI, CPI, and IIP.



# 5. SCIENCE

## 5.1 LATEST INVENTIONS ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Ultra-Secure Communication Using Quantum Technology

- Scientists from IIT Delhi and DRDO have successfully demonstrated an ultra-secure communication system using entanglement-based free-space quantum secure communication.
- It marks a significant step forward in India's efforts to build quantum-secure networks under the National Quantum Mission (2023–2031).
- Earlier, in 2022, India's first intercity quantum link (Vindhyachal–Prayagraj) was set up using commercial-grade fibre.
- In 2023, QKD was extended to 380 km over standard telecom fibre (QBER 1.48%), followed by a 100 km demo in 2024.

## 5.2 LATEST DISCOVERIES IN HEALTH SCIENCE

### Newborn Screening for Sickle Cell Disease in India

- In recent years, India has made strides in addressing sickle cell disease (SCD) through newborn screening initiatives.
- A study conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) brought into light the effectiveness of early diagnosis and treatment.
- The findings suggest that early intervention can drastically reduce mortality rates associated with SCD.
- SCD is a serious inherited blood disorder that, if undetected, can lead to severe health complications.
- These include infections, anaemia, and strokes in infants.

### EMM-Negative Blood Group System

- The International Society of Blood Transfusion officially recognised a new blood group system named EMM-negative, also known as Gwada negative.
- This designation emerged from the unique case of a woman from Guadeloupe who is the only known individual to possess this rare blood type.
- The discovery puts stress on advancements in transfusion medicine and genetic research.
- Gwada negative refers to the EMM-negative blood group system, identified by the absence of the EMM antigen on red blood cells.
- This antigen is a high-incidence antigen, present in almost all humans.

- The lack of such a common antigen is medically and has led to the classification of this blood type as the 48th globally recognised system in transfusion science.
- While RTS,S has not yet been rolled out in India as part of a national immunization programme, its potential inclusion is under review.

### RTS.S - The first malaria vaccine

- Bharat Biotech International will start supplying world's first malaria vaccine RTS,S, developed by global biopharma major GSK, to vaccine alliance Gavi from 2026.
- RTS,S was the first malaria vaccine recommended by the World Health Organization in 2021.
- It is the First-ever malaria vaccine targeting Plasmodium falciparum, the deadliest malaria parasite.
- The recommendation was for the vaccine's use in children living in sub-Saharan Africa and other regions with moderate to high malaria transmission according to the World Health Organization (WHO).
- India's national malaria elimination goal: Eliminate malaria by 2030.

### Haemophilia A

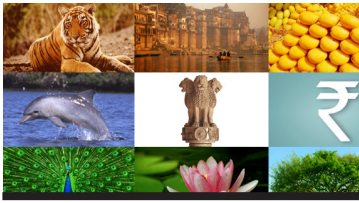
- A simple and affordable point-of-care test kit has been indigenously developed by the National Institute of Immunohaematology for early diagnosis of genetic bleeding disorders haemophilia A and Von Willebrand Disease.
- Haemophilia A is a genetic bleeding disorder caused by a deficiency or absence of clotting factor VIII.
- This leads to prolonged bleeding as the blood cannot clot properly.
- It is more common in males and is inherited in an X-linked recessive pattern.

## 5.3 SPACE

### Axiom-4 mission

- India's human space programme began with the launch of astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla on the Axiom-4 mission to the International Space Station from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.
- This is the first time an Indian has gone to orbital space since Rakesh Sharma in 1984.
- Rakesh Sharma was the first Indian to go to space when he did so in 1984 aboard the Soyuz spacecraft of the erstwhile Soviet Union.
- If the Dragon crew capsule docks successfully with the ISS on June 26, Mr. Shukla will also become the first Indian onboard the ISS.
- The 31 countries with representation in the Ax-4 mission include the U.S., India, Poland, Hungary, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Nigeria, the UAE, and nations across Europe.
- ISRO has included seven microgravity research experiments proposed by Indian investigators from various national R&D laboratories and academic institutions.
- Group Captain Shukla will be performing them during his stay on the ISS.
- ISRO and NASA will be participating in five joint science investigations and two in-orbit STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) demonstrations.





## 6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENT

### UNESCO Creative Cities Network

- Recently, Lucknow has officially submitted its nominations for inclusion in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) to be titled “City of Gastronomy”
- It was created in 2004 to promote cooperation among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development.
- It was launched to promote UNESCO’s goals of cultural diversity and strengthen resilience to threats such as climate change, rising inequality, and rapid urbanisation.
- The network is aimed at leveraging the creative, social, and economic potential of cultural industries.
- Ten Indian cities are a part of the network. Kozhikode (Literature) and Gwalior (Music) feature in this list. Earlier, Jaipur (Crafts and Folk Arts), Varanasi (Music), Chennai (Music), Mumbai (Film), Hyderabad (Gastronomy), and Srinagar (Crafts and Folk Arts) have also held the spot.

### Servants of India Society (SIS)

- Context: Tensions have flared between the Pune-based Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE) and parent Servants of India Society (SIS) over control of a key bank account.

### About Servants of India Society(SIS)

- The Servants of India Society (SIS) was founded by Gopal Krishna Gokhale, along with K.Devadhar, A.V. Patwardhan, and N.A.Draavid, in Pune, India, on June 12, 1905.
- The primary aim of SIS was to prepare selfless workers committed to the service of India. Its goals included:
  - Promoting political education and constitutional agitation.
  - Working for the national interests of the Indian people.
  - Encouraging service to the nation in a missionary spirit.
  - The members of the Society were considered as young missionaries of Indian nationalism.
- Several young Indian nationalists including S. Srinivas Shastri, Hriday Nath Kunzru, and A.V. Thakkar enrolled as members.
- Later M. K. Gandhi also became a member of Society under guidance of Gokhale.
- The organization has its headquarters in Pune (Poona) and branches in Chennai (Madras), Mumbai (Bombay), Allahabad, Nagpur among other places.
- The Society began publishing the Hitavada, its english-language journal from Nagpur, in 1911.

## Operation Sindhu

- As the conflict between Israel and Iran rages on, the Indian government launched Operation Sindhu on Wednesday to evacuate Indian nationals from Iran.
- As a first step, the Indian Embassy has evacuated 110 Indian students from northern Iran, and they will reach New Delhi.

## Gender Budgeting Knowledge Hub

- The Central government recently launched the Gender Budgeting Knowledge Hub, a dedicated digital platform aimed at strengthening gender-responsive planning across India.
- It is a dedicated digital platform designed to promote gender-responsive planning nationwide.
- It was launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- The portal's primary aim is to empower policymakers, researchers, and other stakeholders with a centralised repository of tools - "including policy briefs, best practices, and gender-disaggregated data - "to support the integration of a gender lens into all stages of planning and budgeting, both at the Central and state levels.
- The portal will equip stakeholders with evidence-based tools to better integrate gender perspectives into planning and budgeting.

## Visakhapatnam — the City of Destiny

- Visakhapatnam earned the moniker "City

of Destiny" due to its significant historical, industrial, and political contributions.

- Once known as Waltair under British rule, it evolved into a vital port city.
- Its coastal location facilitated trade and commerce, attracting settlers and traders alike.
- The inauguration of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1970 cemented its industrial importance, leading to its renowned status as the "City of Destiny."

## Vineet Joshi Panel

- The Center recently constituted a panel, headed by Higher Education Secretary Vineet Joshi, to suggest measures to reduce dependency of students on coaching centres and assess the effectiveness and fairness of competitive entrance examinations.
- It is a nine-member panel constituted by the Union Education Ministry
- The objective of the panel is to suggest measures to reduce the dependency of students on coaching centres and assess the effectiveness and fairness of competitive entrance examinations.
- The panel will also brainstorm on the gaps in the current schooling system that contribute to students' reliance on coaching centres, particularly the limited focus on critical thinking, logical reasoning, analytical skills, and innovation, and "the prevalence of rote learning practices".
- Apart from Mr. Joshi, Chairman of the CBSE, Joint Secretary (Institutions), Department of School Education and Literacy, representatives

of IIT Madras, NIT Trichy, IIT Kanpur, and the NCERT, and three school principals (one each from Kendriya Vidyalaya, Navodaya Vidyalaya, and a Private School—to be nominated by the Centre) will be members in the panel.

## NAKSHATRA

- Recently, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has introduced its first high-performance computing facility NAKSHATRA at its National Institute of Virology (NIV) facility in Pune.
- It is the state-of-the-art high performance computing (HPC) cluster for virological research.
- The NAKSHATRA cluster includes 12 compute nodes, 700 cores, and a total storage capacity of 1 petabyte.
- It will support advanced bioinformatics workflows such as next-generation sequencing (NGS), transcriptomics, metagenomics, phylogenetics, and structural bioinformatics.
- It enables enhanced storage and optimises the pipeline for genomic research, which ensures better viral genomic surveillance capacity and national preparedness for any future pandemic.
- It is developed under the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PMABHIM), the facility forms the cornerstone of a new project, called the High Performance Computing Next Generation Sequencing Hub.

## Bhashini Platform

- BHASHINI, or the BHASHa INterface for India, is an artificial intelligence (AI)-powered language translation platform developed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) under its National Language Translation Mission.
- It aims to build a National Public Digital Platform for languages to develop services and products for citizens by leveraging the power of AI and other emerging technologies.
- It aims to help people translate content into various Indian languages.
- BHASHINI also aims to increase the content in Indian languages on the Internet substantially in the domains of public interest, particularly governance and policy, science & technology, etc., thus encouraging citizens to use the Internet in their own language.

## India's first Quantum Computing Valley

- India's first Quantum Computing Valley will be launched in Amaravati by January 2026, marking a major milestone in the country's quantum technology journey.
- The centre will operate in alignment with the goals of the National Quantum Mission, aiming to increase productivity and create wealth through advanced technologies.
- Educational institutions, healthcare providers, pharma companies, agri-tech, and med-tech industries across the country will be able to utilise the services of the Quantum Valley.
- The Amaravati Quantum Valley Tech Park would provide scope for lakhs of professionals

to work, contributing to research, innovation, and industrial growth.

### **Salkhan Fossil Park**

- Salkhan Fossil Park, located in Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh, has recently been included in UNESCO's Tentative List for World Heritage Sites.
- This recognition marks milestone for the region.
- The park is known for its ancient fossils, some dating back 1.4 billion years.
- Its inclusion in the tentative list enhances Uttar Pradesh's profile in geological and paleontological tourism.

### **NAVYA Initiative**

- NAVYA is a pilot initiative designed to equip adolescent girls aged 16–18 years, who have at least a Class 10 qualification, with vocational training.
- The focus of the training is primarily on non-traditional job roles to enhance their employment opportunities.
- This initiative will be implemented across 27 districts in the country, including Aspirational Districts and those in the North-Eastern States.
- It reflects the Government's inclusive and targeted approach to reach underserved regions and vulnerable populations.
- It is a joint pilot initiative by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
- NAVYA supports the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047 by promoting the women-led development.

### **Lakhpati Didi Initiative**

- The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) and the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) signed an MoU to strengthen the Lakhpati Didi initiative by empowering rural women from Self Help Groups (SHGs).
- A Lakhpati Didi is an SHG member earning Rs 1 lakh or more annually through sustainable livelihood activities. It is an outcome of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) under the Ministry of Rural Development, not a separate scheme.
- It aims to empower rural women through sustainable income generation, promote diversified livelihoods (agriculture, handicrafts, services, etc.), and transform SHG women into role models of economic self-reliance.
- As of June 2024, 1 crore Lakhpati Didis have been created. The Interim Budget 2024–25 raised the target from 2 crore to 3 crore women.
- Collaboration with government schemes such as Skill India, PM SVANidhi, and MGNREGA, and the private sector, ensures technical, financial, and institutional support to effectively scale up development efforts.

### **Amended BharatNet Program (ABP)**

- Gujarat became the first state to implement the Amended BharatNet Program (ABP) under a state led model.
- The Union Cabinet approved the Amended BharatNet Program (ABP) on 4th August 2023, to be funded by the Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN).

- DBN is a fund created to enhance the quality and reach of telecommunications services across India.
- It was introduced by the Government of India as a successor to the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).
- & Farmers Welfare, Commerce & Industry of the Union Government
- Government has set a target of achieving one billion dollars in turmeric exports by 2030.
- Turmeric from India, known for its high curcumin content, is in great demand globally.

#### **About BharatNet Program (ABP)**

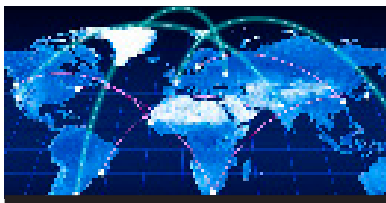
- The Government of India initiated the BharatNet project in October 2011 under the Ministry of Communications.
- This ambitious initiative seeks to deliver affordable high-speed internet connectivity to all Gram Panchayats across the country.

#### **National Turmeric Board**

- The headquarters of the National Turmeric Board has formally inaugurated in Nizamabad by Union Home Minister.
- It aims to provide leadership on turmeric related matters, augment the efforts, and facilitate greater coordination with Spices Board and other Government agencies in development and growth of the turmeric sector.
- Ministry: Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- Members from the Ministry of AYUSH, Departments of Pharmaceuticals, Agriculture

#### **Bihar becomes first State to vote using mobile app**

- In a first, voters exercised their franchise through mobile phones in Bihar.
- Country's first e-vote creating new history with e-voting in local body elections .
- The facility was made available for senior citizens, disabled persons, and pregnant women who may find it difficult to visit the booths.
- People were also able to use the State Election Commission website to vote.
- The app was developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).
- It has security measures like blockchain technology, face-matching and scanning.



# 7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

## UN Declares 2026 as International Year of the Woman Farmer

- The UN General Assembly officially declared 2026 as the International Year of the Woman Farmer.
- The move aims to draw global attention to women's contributions and challenges in agriculture, and promote gender-equitable policies.
- It holds particular significance for countries like India, where ~80% of economically active women work in agriculture but own just 8.3% of farmland.
- However, only 8.3% own farmland (NFHS), and 76.95% rural women are engaged in agri-work (PLFS 2023–24).

## 51st G7 Summit

- India's Prime Minister attended the 51st G7 Summit at Kananaskis, Canada.

### About G7

- The G7 (Group of Seven) is an informal forum of the world's most advanced economies – France, Germany, Italy, the UK, Japan, the US, and Canada.
- The G7 was formed in 1975 as the G6 (US, UK, France, West Germany, Japan, Italy) in

response to the 1973 oil crisis and financial turmoil, with Canada joining in 1976 to make it G7. The year 2025 marked the 50th anniversary of the G7.

- It became G8 in 1997 with the inclusion of Russia, but reverted to G7 in 2014 after Russia's expulsion over the annexation of Crimea.

## Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

- India declined to endorse the joint statement at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)
- India's Stand- Peace and prosperity cannot co-exist with terrorism and proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction in the hands of non-state actors and terror groups.
- SCO is an intergovernmental political, economic, and security alliance founded in 2001 by Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan.
- The first summit was held in Shanghai, China, in 2001.
- The SCO aims to promote cooperation and mutual support in areas such as trade, investment, energy, transportation, and security.





## 8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

### New Tamil Nadu government assistance program

- "A scheme to provide ₹1,000 monthly assistance to 7,618 children affected by HIV infection by the Tamil Nadu government was launched on Tuesday.
- Minister for Public Health and Family Welfare Ma. Subramanian launched the scheme during the World Blood Donor Day event held at the hospital."
- This appears to be a news report about a new government assistance program in Tamil Nadu providing financial support to HIV-affected children, announced during a World Blood Donor Day commemoration.

### Tamil Nadu – Growth

- With more than 35 lakh registered MSMEs, Tamil Nadu ranks third in India.
- These companies have created employment opportunities for 2.47 crore people.
- Tamil Nadu is ranked third in India, with exports of \$30.50 billion.
- In the manufacturing sector, Tamil Nadu accounts for 11.90% of India's total production.
- Tamil Nadu has created 14 industrial parks.
- Tamil Nadu ranks first in the production of motor vehicles, ready-made textiles, and leather goods.

- It ranks second in the production of textile machinery and electronic goods.
- Tamil Nadu accounted for 6.3 lakh (42%) of the 14.9 lakh women workers in the country, and 30% of the entrepreneurs in the State were women.

### T.N. govt. to give 4% quota in promotion to its staff with disabilities

- The Tamil Nadu government will provide 4% reservation in promotion to its employees with benchmark disabilities. It has issued instructions in this regard.
- One of the instructions allows the government to exempt any of its establishments from the provisions of Section 34 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.
- According to the instructions, the reservation in promotion for persons with benchmark disabilities is "applicable only to the identified posts notified by the government where the cadre strength of a post is more than five.
- Such identification shall be made only for posts carrying a pay level up to pay level 25 in each government establishment".
- The reservation is applicable in promotion as well as in recruitment by transfer (lower pay scale to higher pay scale).
- While 1% is reserved for blindness and low vision, 1% is reserved for deaf and hard of

hearing.

- One percent is reserved for locomotor disability, including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims, and muscular dystrophy.
- Another 1% is reserved for autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability and mental illness, multiple disabilities from among persons under clauses (a) to (b) including deaf-blindness.
- However, under one of the provisions, the government shall decide on exempting certain establishments from the reservation.
- The government, in consultation with the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, "may exempt any government establishment from the provisions of the reservation".
- Section 34 of the Act provides 4% reservation to persons with benchmark disabilities in appointment.
- But, as for promotion, one of the provisions says, "reservation in promotion shall be in accordance with such instructions as are issued by the appropriate government from time to time".

### "Sagar Kavach" Security Exercise

- The 36-hour security exercise named "Sagar Kavach," launched in Tamil Nadu's coastal districts to thwart terrorist infiltration, concludes this evening.
- The Sagar Kavach security exercise was launched yesterday morning at 6 AM by the police in 14 coastal districts of Tamil Nadu.

- This exercise involved participation from all security divisions including the Tamil Nadu Coastal Security Group, Armed Forces, Tamil Nadu Special Police Force, Coast Guard, and Crime Branch Police.
- A total of 8,000 police personnel have been deployed in this security exercise.

### Tamil Nadu government - Rosewood Conservation Act

- Tamil Nadu Rosewood Trees (Conservation) Act, 1994 has expired. Tamil Nadu will no longer have specific legislation to regulate rosewood exploitation.
- The legislation was enacted in 1995 to protect *Dalbergia latifolia*, commonly known as rosewood — a rare and valuable tree species whose numbers were declining due to illegal felling and trade.
- Initially passed for 15 years, the legislation was renewed in 2010 for another 15 years.
- The Tamil Nadu government is currently pursuing the objective of bringing 33% of its total land area under green cover, in line with the National Forest Policy.
- Tamil Nadu Preservation of Private Forests Act, 1949 and the Tamil Nadu Hill Areas (Preservation of Trees) Act, 1955 are not designed to address the conservation of individual species, like rosewood, in a targeted manner.
- IUCN Status – Vulnerable
- CITES – Appendix – II

## **Muthupet mangrove cover increased by 2,057 hectares in the last three years**

- Muthupet is home to the largest mangrove forest in the State, spanning 120 sq.km along the Palk Strait.
- According to an official document, the mangrove area in Muthupet has grown by 2,057 hectares from 2022 to 2025.
- The Muthupet wetland complex, encompassing six reserved forests, is an ecosystem that supports diverse wildlife, including over 100

species of migratory water birds like Lesser Flamingos and Spot-Billed Pelicans.

### **Natural shield**

- These mangrove forests, dominated by *Avicennia marina*, act as a natural shield against storm surges, tsunamis, sea-level rise, and coastal erosion.
- They also play a key role in the ecology of the Cauvery delta, and the hydrology of several important distributaries.

