

VETRI IAS STUDY CIRCLE

Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

APRIL 2024



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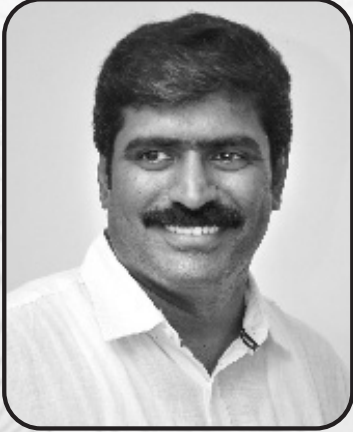
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Preface



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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 !

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CONTENTS

HISTORY 01



10 POLITICAL SCIENCE

GEOGRAPHY 13



14 ECONOMICS

SCIENCE 16



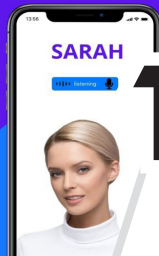
**NATIONAL-DIARY OF
EVENT**

17



SARAH

THE WORLD'S FIRST AI THERAPIST



19

**INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS**

TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

20



1. HISTORY



1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
April 1	RBI Foundation Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) completed 90 years on April 1, 2024.▪ RBI was established on April 1, 1935.▪ First Governor - Sir Osborne Smith.
April 2	World Autism Awareness Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Every year April 2 is observed as World Autism Awareness Day to raise awareness about autism among the general public.▪ The day was first observed by United Nations in 2007.▪ Theme 2024: 'Empowering Autistic Voices'
April 4	International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action is observed every year on April 4 to raise public attention towards mine action activities.▪ The day was first observed in 2006.▪ The day is observed mainly by United Nations Mine Action Service (UNAMS).▪ UNAMS was established in 1997.
April 5	National Maritime Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ National Maritime Day is celebrated on 5 April every year in India to raise awareness about the international economy and promote maritime trade.▪ The day was first observed on 5 April 1964.▪ Theme 2024: "Navigating the future: safety first!"

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
April 6	International Day of Sport for Development and Peace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP) is observed annually on April 6. ▪ The day aims to recognize the positive role sport and physical activity play in communities and in people's lives across the globe. ▪ Theme 2024: "Sport for the Promotion of Peaceful and Inclusive Societies". ▪ The day was first observed in 2013 by the United Nations General Assembly.
April 7	World Health Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Health Day 2024 is celebrated every year on April 7 to raise awareness around various health issues worldwide. ▪ Theme 2024 : 'My health, my right'. ▪ The day commemorates the founding of the World Health Organisation (WHO) ▪ The day was first observed in 1948.
April 9	Central Reserve Police Force valor Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This day is celebrated on April 09 every year to celebrate the bravery and selfless sacrifice of the Central Police Force (CRPF) soldiers. ▪ The day marks the anniversary of the 1965 war between the Central Samaj Police Force and the Pakistani Army.
April 10	World Homeopathy Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Homeopathy Day is observed every year on April 10 to mark the birth anniversary of Dr. Samuel Hahnemann. ▪ He is the founder of homeopathy. ▪ Theme 2024: 'Empowering Research, Enhancing Proficiency: A Homeopathy Symposium'.
April 11	World Parkinson's Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Parkinson's Day is observed annually on April 11 to raise awareness about Parkinson's disease. ▪ It is a neurodegenerative disorder that affects millions of people worldwide. ▪ The day commemorates the birthday of Dr. James Parkinson. ▪ He first described the symptoms of the disease.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
April 12	International Day for Street Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The International Day for Street Children is observed on April 12 every year to raise awareness about the plight of street children and to promote their inclusion and well-being. ▪ The day was first observed in 1989 when the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted. ▪ Theme 2024 : "Belonging."
April 12	International Day of Human Space Flight 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The International Day of Human Space Flight is observed on April 12 every year to commemorate the beginning of the space era for mankind. ▪ It was on April 12, 1961 that the Russian cosmonaut, Yuri Gagarin made the first human space journey in Vostok 1. ▪ Theme 2024: "Encouraging Scientific Curiosity"
April 13	105th Anniversary of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ April 13, 2024 marks the 105th Anniversary of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre. ▪ It is also known as the Amritsar Massacre. ▪ The massacre was held on 13 April 1919 in Amritsar, Punjab.
April 14	World Chagas Disease Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Chagas Disease Day was observed by World Health Organisation every year on April 14 to raise awareness about the disease. ▪ The day was celebrated for the first time in 2020. ▪ Theme 2024 : "Tackling Chagas disease: Detect early and care for life"
April 15	National Transgender Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Every year April 15 is observed as National Transgender Day to commemorate the NALSA Verdict. ▪ On April 15, 2014 the Supreme Court in National Legal Services Authority vs. Union of India identified transgender people as the 'third gender' and made the Fundamental Rights under the Constitution equally applicable to them

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
April 18	World Heritage Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Heritage Day is celebrated annually on April 18 to honour and preserve our heritage. ▪ The day is also known as International Day for Monuments and Sites (IDMS) ▪ Theme 2024 : Discover and Experience Diversity.
April 21	National Civil Service Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Civil Service Day is observed on April 21 every year by the Government of India to acknowledge the exemplary work done by civil servants across the country. ▪ The day commemorates the address given by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel who was the first Home Minister of Independent India, to probationary officers in 1947. ▪ In the address he referred to civil servants as 'the steel frame of India'.
April 22	World Earth Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Earth Day also known as International Mother Earth Day is observed on April 22 every year to raise awareness and promoting the sustainability of our planet. ▪ Theme 2024 : 'Planet vs Plastics'. ▪ Earth Day was first observed in 1970. ▪ In 2009, the United Nations designated Earth Day as International Mother Earth Day.
April 23	Important Days World English Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World English Day also known as United Nations (UN) English Language Day, is celebrated annually on April 23 to recognise and celebrate the impact of the English language globally. ▪ The day is observed to honour the birth and death anniversary of William Shakespeare. ▪ It was established first time by UNESCO in 2010.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
April 24	National Panchayati Raj Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The National Panchayati Raj Day is observed every year on 24th April to commemorate the 73rd Amendment Act, 1992 of the Constitution which came into effect in the year 1993. ▪ The day is recognized annually by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
April 25	World Malaria Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Malaria Day is observed on April 25 every year to raise awareness about the prevention and control of malaria. ▪ Theme 2024 : "Accelerating the fight against malaria for a more equitable world." ▪ The day was established by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in 2007. ▪ Malaria is spread by the bite of female Anopheles Mosquito.
April 26	World Intellectual Property Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Intellectual Property Day is celebrated annually on April 26th by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to promote the role of intellectual property (IP) in stimulating innovation and creativity. ▪ Theme 2024 : 'IP and the SDGs: Building Our Common Future with Innovation and Creativity' <p>About WIPO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is an United Nations specialised agency ▪ Headquarters - Geneva, Switzerland ▪ Founded - 14 July 1967
	World Veterinary Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The World Veterinary Day is observed on the last Saturday of April to honour the contributions of veterinarians to society. ▪ Theme 2024: Veterinarians are essential health workers. ▪ The day was first celebrated in 2000 by World Veterinary Association (WVA).

1.2 DEFENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND TERRORISM

Defence exports cross Rs.21,000 crore

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh stated that India's defence exports crossed Rs.21,000 crore for the first time.
- The defence exports in India had grown by 31 times in the past 10 years compared with FY 2013-14.

Agni Prime Missile tested successfully

- Agni-Prime was successfully tested from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.
- It is a New Generation Ballistic Missile
- It was tested jointly by the Strategic Forces Command (SFC) and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Note

- Agni-Prime is a surface-to-surface missile capable of hitting targets at ranges of 1200-2000 kilometres.

Akashteer system

- The Indian Army has recently begun the induction of control and reporting systems under 'Project Akashdeep' to strengthen its air defence capabilities.

About 'Project Akashdeep'

- Aim** - To enhance the operational efficiency and integration of the Army's air defence mechanisms.
- Under this project, the defence systems are developed by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).

Poorvi Leher

- The Indian Navy recently carried out an extensive exercise, "Poorvi Leher" along the East Coast.
- The exercise was conducted to check preparedness of Indian Navy to meet any maritime security challenges.

BrahMos Cruise Missiles

- India's BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles were delivered to the Philippines by BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL) recently.
- The missiles were delivered as part of a \$375 million deal which was signed by the two countries in 2022.

About BrahMos

- It is a long-range nuclear-capable supersonic cruise missile system.
- It is named after the rivers Brahmaputra and Moskva (Russia).
- Tested for the first time in 2001.

Note

- BAPL is a joint venture company of India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

DURGA - 2

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is planning to test a prototype of its indigenous laser weapon system, DURGA-2.
- DURGA-2 stands for Directionally Unrestricted Ray-Gun Array.
- It can neutralise drone or ballistic missile attacks.
- It travels at the speed of light.

Nirbhay cruise missile

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted the flight test of a long range subsonic indigenously developed cruise missile called 'Nirbhay' successfully.
- It was tested from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.
- It was developed by the Bengaluru-based DRDO laboratory Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE).

1.3 PLACES IN NEWS

Phanigiri site

- A coin hoard was unearthed recently at **Phanigiri in Suryapet district in Telangana.**
- Phanigiri is a renowned **Buddhist heritage site.**
- It was found that the coins belong to the **Ikshvaku period.**

Note

- Phanigiri is one of the important **Buddhist monasteries** located on **Dakshinapatha (ancient trade route)**
- Ikshvaku period is dated between **3rd century and 4th century Common Era.**

Padta Bet

- **Skeleton, along with pottery artefacts and animal bones** were excavated recently from the archaeological site called **Padta Bet in Kutch, Gujarat.**
- The excavation denotes the presence of a **5,200-year-old Harappan settlement.**
- The site is located near an **Early Harappan necropolis** called **Juna Khatiya.**
- Necropolis is the **mass burial ground.**

1.4 AWARDS & HONOURS

GD Birla Award for Scientific Excellence

- **Dr. Aditi Sen De** has won the **2023 GD Birla Award for Scientific Excellence** recently.
- She is the **first women** to receive the Award.
- The award recognises outstanding contributions by Indian scientists who are **under the age of 50** and living and working in India.
- The award is given annually by the **KK Birla Foundation** since 1991.

CIDC Vishwakarma Awards 2024

- The **Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL)** has been awarded the **Construction Industry Development Council's (CIDC) Vishwakarma Awards 2024** in multiple categories recently.
- Categories include,
 - **India's best Metro Rail network.**
 - **Award for Best Construction Projects**
 - **Construction Health, Safety and Environment**

About CIDC

- Established by the Union government in conjunction with industries.

- Apex representative organisation of the Indian construction industry.

WOW World Literature Prize

- A renowned Kannada poet, writer, and an activist **Mamta G. Sagar** won the **WOW World Literary Prize** from the **World Organization of Writers (WOW).**
- She won the award for her contributions to the world of literature.

John L. "Jack" Swigert Jr.

- **Chandrayaan-3** mission team of **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has received the **John L "Jack" Swigert Jr. award 2024** for Space Exploration.

About Chandrayaan - 3

- **Launch - 14th July 2023**
- India became the **fourth nation** to soft-land on Moon and **first nation** to soft-land on Moon's south pole on **August 23, 2023.**
- **Launch Vehicle - LVM3**
- **Lander - Vikram**
- **Rover - Pragyan**
- **Site name - Shiv Shakti Point**

Awards and Honour Laureus World Sports Awards 2024

- The winners of the **2024 Laureus World Sports Awards** were announced recently.

Award Categories:

- Laureus World Sportsman of the Year - **Novak Djokovic**
- Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year - **Aitana Bonmati**

- Laureus World Team of the Year - **Spain Women's Football Team**

About Laureus World Sports Awards

- It is an annual award ceremony honouring individuals and teams.
- Most awards - Switzerland Roger Federer

1.5 WORLD ORGANISATIONS – PACTS AND SUMMITS

NATO's 75th Anniversary

- North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) recently completed 75 years since its conception.
- Sweden is the latest country to join the Alliance on **7 March 2024**.

About NATO

- Formation - **April 4, 1949**
- Members – **32 countries**
- Headquarters – **Brussels, Belgium**

World Energy Congress 2024

- The **26th** edition of the World Energy Congress

was held at **Rotterdam in Netherlands** by **World Energy Council (WEC)** recently.

- Theme of the summit is '**Redesigning energy for people and planet**'.

- India aims to achieve **500 GW** of non-fossil-fuel energy capacity by the year **2030**.

- India commits to achieve **Net Zero emissions** by the year **2070**.

About WEC:

- Formation – **1924**
- Headquarters – **London, UK**

1.6 SPORTS

Chanu qualified for Paris Olympics 2024

- **Saikhom Mirabai Chanu** became the only Indian weightlifter to qualify for the Paris Olympics 2024.
- **Paris Olympics 2024** is set to be held from **26th July to 11th August 2024 in Paris, France**.
- She won the silver medal in **Tokyo Olympics 2020**
- She is the **second Indian weightlifter** after **Karnam Malleswari** to win an Olympic medal.

Candidates tournament

- **17-year-old Grandmaster Gukesh Dommaraju** became the **youngest** man to win the **Candidates tournament**.
- Gukesh will face **Ding Liren** who is the reigning world champion for the world title later this year.

Note

- The **2024 Candidates Tournament** was an eight-player chess tournament, held to determine the challenger for the **World Chess Championship 2024**.

1.7 CULTURAL PANORAMA

Bohag Bihu 2024

- **Bohag Bihu**, also known as **Rongali Bihu** was celebrated in **Assam** recently.
- The festival is celebrated by the indigenous ethnic groups of Assam.
- It marks the beginning of the **Assamese New Year**.
- Bihu is a tri-annual festival, with **Bohag Bihu** being celebrated as the first of the three.
- The other two **Bihu** festivals, **Kati Bihu** and **Magh Bihu** are celebrated in October and January, respectively.

1.8 APPOINTMENTS

New Head of National Judicial Academy (NJA)

- The Supreme Court has appointed Justice **Aniruddha Bose** as the new Director of the National Judicial Academy (NJAC).
- The Director is appointed by the Chairperson of the NJA.

About National Judicial Academy

- It is an independent society, established in 1993 under the **Societies Registration Act, 1860**.
- Chairperson-Justice **D.Y. Chandrachud** (Chief Justice of India)

Panel for LGBTQ community

- The **Ministry of Law and Justice** notified a six-

member committee to address issues related to the queer community.

- The committee will be headed by the **Cabinet Secretary**.
- It will suggest measures to ensure that the queer community does not encounter any discrimination in accessing goods and services, social welfare schemes, or face threat of violence among others.

New Navy chief

- **Vice-Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi** has been appointed recently as the **next Chief of the Naval Staff**.
- He is currently the **Vice Chief of the Navy**.

2. POLITICAL SCIENCE

2.1 LATEST COURT VERDICTS

Article 142

- The Supreme Court used its extraordinary powers under **Article 142 of the Constitution** to do “complete justice” to permit the medical termination of pregnancy of a 14-year-old rape survivor in **Maharashtra**.

Key Provisions of Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2021

- Duration of Pregnancy Procedure for Termination

- **Up to 20 weeks** - Opinion of 1 doctor is needed for abortion.
- **20-24 Weeks** - Opinion of 2 doctors is needed for abortion.
- **Beyond 24 weeks** - Advice of a medical board is needed.

2.2 PUBLIC AWARENESS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

National Digital database of organ donors

- Centre plans to create a **national digital database of organ donors** for smooth transplants.
- As per the **NOTTO's** data, India witnessed 16,041 organ transplants in **2022**, as against the wait list of nearly 500,000 organ failure recipients.

Note

- **NOTTO** National level organization set up under **Directorate General of Health Services**, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Citizen's 'climate rights'

- The Supreme Court has recognised the right against the adverse effects of climate change as a distinct fundamental right in the Constitution.

- It is recognised by **Articles 14 (Right to Equality) and Article 21 (Right to Life)**
- The verdict links the **Right against Climate Change to Articles 14 and 21** as the Rights to life and equality could not be fully realised without a clean, stable environment.

Suvidha Portal

- Over 73,000 applications received on **Suvidha portal** since the announcement of Lok Sabha elections.
- Maximum requests were received from **Tamil Nadu (23,239)**

About Suvidha Portal

- Developed by **Election Commission of India**.
- **Aim** - To promote transparency in election management

India Post in Antarctica

- Recently India Post opened a post office at its **Bharati station in Antarctica**.

- It has already set up post offices at **Dakshin Gangotri Station in 1984** and another at **Maitri Station in 1990**.
- Navchetana is the **activity-based curriculum**.
- The document was titled '**Navchetana**' which is the activity-based curriculum that follows the **National Education Policy 2020**.

About India Post

- **Founded** – October 1, 1854
- **Headquarters** - New Delhi

Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC)

- The **42nd Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) annual meeting** was held at **Bengaluru** recently.
- **ISRO Chairman S.Somanath** announced that India aims to achieve **debris-free space missions by 2030**.
- Currently, **India** has **54 spacecraft** in the orbit.
- India is planning to set up its own space station '**Bharatiya Antriksh Station**' by 2035

About IADC

- It is an **international governmental forum** to co-ordinate efforts to deal with debris in orbit around the Earth.
- **Formation – 1993**
- **Members** - Space agencies of 13 countries including India (ISRO)

Navchetana

- The **National Framework of Early Childhood Stimulation 2024** was finalised recently.

- It calls for a **continuum of learning**.
- Staff in **14 lakh angan wadis** will be given training on the curriculum.
- The document lays down **month-by-month activities** to be conducted by parents, anganwadi staff and ASHA workers for children from birth to the age of three.

Special Learning Disabilities

- The Union government is planning to introduce a new test to diagnose **specific learning disabilities (SLDs) in adults in India**.
- The test is being designed by the **National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID)**.

About NIEPID

- Autonomous organization
- It functions under **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.
- **Objective** - To empower mentally handicapped people.

- **Location** - Secunderabad in Telangana.

2.3 GOVT – WELFARE ORIENTED GOVT SCHEMES, THEIR UTILITY

One Vehicle, One FASTag

- The National Highways Authority of India's (NHAI) launched the '**One Vehicle, One FASTag**' scheme recently.
- **Aim** - To enhance efficiency of the Electronic Toll Collection system and provide seamless movement at the Toll Plazas.

Note

- FASTag is an national electronic toll collection system operated by NHAI.
- It uses Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology.

START Programme

- ISRO has launched the 'Space Science and

Technology Awareness Training (START) programme recently.

- It is a new introductory-level online training programme for post-graduate and final-year undergraduate students of physical sciences and technology.

SEBI Scores

- **The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) unveiled an upgraded version of SEBI Complaint Redress System (SCORES).**
- It is an online system where investors in the securities market can lodge their complaints.
- It was launched in **June 2011**.

About SEBI

- It is a **regulatory body** for securities and commodity market in India.

- **Chairperson** - Madhabi Puri Buch

NICES project

- The **National Information System for Climate and Environmental Studies (NICES)** project has been jointly launched by **ISRO** and the **Department of Space**.

- It aims to enhance the contribution of academics and research institutions in addressing the challenges related to climate change.





3. GEOGRAPHY

3.1 POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

Chital Deer

- Chital deer has become an **invasive species** in **Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Island** (formerly Ross Island).
- The herbivore was brought to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands for hunting in the early 1900s by the British.

About Chital Deer

- It is native to the Indian subcontinent.
- **IUCN Status:** Least Concern.

Artificial Reefs

- **210 artificial reefs** will be installed in the **Arabian Sea Worli Koliwada**.
- It is located near **Mumbai in Maharashtra**.
- The artificial reef will become a breeding ground for small fishes in 90 days and for large fishes in **six months**.

Note

- Artificial reefs were installed for the first time in India in **Pondicherry in 2023**.

Report by Global Forest Watch

- According to the latest data from the **Global Forest Watch**, India has lost **2.33 million hectares of tree cover since 2000**.
- **Between 2001 and 2022** forests in India emitted **51 million tons of carbon dioxide** equivalent a year and removed **141 million tons** of carbon dioxide equivalent a year.
- The maximum tree cover loss of **189,000 hectares** occurred in 2017.
- The highest rate of tree cover loss occurred in **Odisha**.

Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary

- The **Supreme Court** stayed the construction of four proposed dams inside **Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary**.

About Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Location** - in Yamunanagar district, Haryana.
- Largest wildlife sanctuary of **Haryana**.
- It's an **Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs)**

Natural Disasters – Safeguard

Measures. Union govt. releases disaster relief funds

- The Union government recently ordered the release of **Rs.3,730.32 crore** towards “relief assistance for natural calamity” from the **National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)**.
- The **Union Home Ministry** approved an assistance of **Rs.285.54 crore** and **Rs.397.13 crore** for the damage caused by **Cyclone Michaung in 2023** and the floods in December, 2023 in Tamil Nadu.

Note

- **NDRF** is constituted under **Section 46** of the **Disaster Management Act, 2005**.
- The Centre contributes
- **75% of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)** allocation for general category States and Union Territories
- **90% for special category States** (North Eastern States, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir).



4. ECONOMICS

4.1 REPORTS AND INDICES

Clean Energy Transitions Programme annual report 2023

- International Energy Agency (IEA) recently launched the Clean Energy Transitions Programme annual report 2023.

About Clean Energy Transitions Programme

- It is an initiative launched by IEA.
- **Launch** - 2017
- **Aim** - For accelerating progress toward a global net zero energy system.

"Global Unicorn Index 2024"

- Hurun Research Institute released the Global Unicorn Index 2024.
- It is the ranking of the world's start-ups founded in 2000s.

Key findings

- In 2023, India had 67 unicorn startups and placed third globally.
- USA led with 703 unicorns, followed by China with 340.

Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2024

- Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2024 was released by United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN - DESA) recently.

Key Findings

- Sustainable development prospects continue to diverge between developed and developing countries.
- Sustainable Development Goals financing needs are growing, but development financing is not keeping pace.

About UN – DESA

- Founded: 1948
- Headquarters: New York.

Global Trade Outlook and Statistics Report

- The World Trade Organisation (WTO) has recently published the latest edition of the Global Trade Outlook & Statistics Report.

Key Findings

- **World merchandise trade volume** is projected to grow 2.6% in 2024 and 3.3% in 2025.
- Inflation is expected to ease in 2024 and 2025.

About WTO

- Founded - January 1, 1995
- Headquarters - Geneva

Global Hepatitis Report 2024

- Global Hepatitis Report 2024 was recently released by the World Health Organisation (WHO)

Key Findings

- The estimated number of deaths from viral hepatitis increased from 1.1 million in 2019 to 1.3 million in 2022.
- Of these, 83% were caused by hepatitis B, and 17% by hepatitis C.
- India accounted for the second-highest number of cases of Hepatitis B and C in 2022 with 3.5 crore infections.
- China recorded the highest number of cases of Hepatitis B and C.

Note

- Hepatitis is a viral infection that causes the inflammation of the liver.

- There are five main strains of the hepatitis virus, referred to as types **A, B, C, D and E**.
- India's spending was increased by **4.2 per cent** from **2022** and by **44 per cent** from **2014**.

India Gaming Report 2024

- The **India Gaming Report 2024** was jointly released by the **Interactive Entertainment and Innovation Council (IEIC)** and **WinZO** recently.
- As per the report the five biggest spenders in **2023** are
 - **United States**
 - **China**
 - **Russia**
 - **India**
 - **Saudi Arabia**

Key Findings

- India has the **largest gaming market** in the world.
- India has a user base of **568 million** gamers and over **9.5 billion** gaming app downloads in **2023**.
- The annual revenue of the Indian gaming industry is expected to double by almost \$6 billion by **2028** from **\$3.1 billion** in **2023**.
- India's online gaming industry will add **2.5 lakh more jobs** in the **next 10 years**.

Trends in World Military Expenditure, 2023 Report

- **Trends in World Military Expenditure, 2023 Report** was recently released by the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**.
- The **World Meteorological Organization** recently released the '**State of the Climate in Asia 2023**' report.

Key Findings

- India was the **fourth largest spender** globally in **2023** with **military expenditure** worth **\$83.6 billion** in **2023**.
- The report states that **Asia** has warmed faster than the **global average**.
- The warming trend has nearly doubled since the **1961-1990** period.
- **Asia** faced **most number of disasters** in the world.
- **79 events** associated with extreme weather, climate, and water-related hazards occurred in **2023** in **Asia**.
- It affected over nine million people in **Asia** directly killing over **2,000 people**.

4.2 CURRENT TRENDS IN INDIAN ECONOMY

India's Coal and Lignite Production

- **Union Minister of Coal, Pralhad Joshi** stated that India's coal and lignite production has crossed **one Billion tonnes** for the **first time**.
- Coal and lignite production has grown by more than **70 per cent** over the **last 10 years**.
- Coal sector mining helps India to achieve **Viksit Bharat**.

Note

- India has **5th largest coal reserve** and is **2nd largest consumer of coal** across the world.
- **Coal India Limited (CIL)** is the largest producer of coal in India
- India's total coal and lignite production increased to **1,039 million tonnes** last fiscal year.
- India has produced **937.22 million tonnes of coal and lignite** in **FY2023**.



5. SCIENCE

5.1 SPACE

Evidence of Ozone

- Researchers from the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) in Ahmedabad in Gujarat have uncovered evidence of ozone presence on Jupiter's moon Callisto.
- Callisto is Jupiter's second largest moon and third largest moon in solar system.
- It was discovered by Galileo Galilei in 1610
- Jupiter has 95 moons.
- Ganymede is the largest moon

Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (KSO)

- KSO completed 125 years of establishment on April 1, 2024.
- It functions under the Indian Institute of Astrophysics.
- It is located in Palani range in Tamil Nadu.

About KSO

- **Establishment** - April 1, 1899.
- **Aim** - To obtain data on how Sun heats up Earth's atmosphere and to understand the monsoon patterns.

TSAT-1A

- TSAT-1A satellite was successfully deployed into the space by SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket.
- The satellite was developed by Tata Advanced Systems Ltd. (TASL).

- It was placed in space as part of the **Bandwagon-1 mission**.
- It was launched from **Kennedy Space Centre at Florida in U.S.**

Gaia-BH3

- **Astronomers at the European Space Agency (ESA)** have recently identified the biggest stellar black hole, named **Gaia BH3**.
- It was discovered in the **Milky Way**.
- It has **33 times the mass of the Sun**.
- It was detected during data collection from **ESA's Gaia mission**.

Dragonfly mission

- The NASA has recently announced that it will launch its **Dragonfly mission in 2028**.
- The mission will be sent to **Saturn's massive moon Titan**.

- It is the **fourth mission** under NASA's New Frontiers Program.

- The other three are

- New Horizons
- Juno
- OSIRIS-Rex (also OSIRIS-APEX)

5.2 LATEST INVENTIONS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Empathic Voice Interface (EVI)

- Hume has introduced **world's first conversational AI** with emotional intelligence called **Empathic Voice Interface (EVI)** recently.

- Hume is a New York-based research lab and technology company.



6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENT

Paradip Port

- **Paradip Port** surpassed **Kandla** to emerge as the highest cargo handling major port of the country in the financial year 2023-2024.
- It was the first major port on the **East Coast** commissioned after independence.
- The port is located near confluence of river **Mahanadi and the Bay of Bengal**.

Note

- India has **13 major ports** and **205 minor and intermediate** ports.

Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR)

- India plans to build its **first privately managed SPR** by 2029-30.
- SPR aims to enhance stockpiles against potential supply disruptions.
- The project will be overseen by **Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd (ISPRL)**
- ISPRL is a **special purpose vehicle** created for building and operating SPR.

Note

- At present, SPRs are located at **Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh** and **Mangalore & Padur in Karnataka**.

Gene Therapy for Cancer

- The President of India, **Droupadi Murmu** launched **India's first home-grown gene therapy** for cancer at **IIT Bombay**.
- The line of treatment named **"CAR-T cell therapy"** is accessible and affordable.

Kasturi Cotton

- The union government is planning to set up dedicated labs for testing high-grade cotton in **Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Punjab, Gujarat and Karnataka**.
- The move aims to establish the **Indian Kasturi cotton** as a global brand.

About Kasturi Cotton

- It is a collaborative effort involving the **Ministry of Textiles, the Cotton Corporation of India**, trade bodies, and the textile industry.
- It aims to strength India's competitiveness in the global cotton market.

18 GW renewable energy produced

- According to the latest data of the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy**, India has added a **renewable energy capacity** of 18.48 GW in 2023-24.
- However, India needs to add at least 50 GW of renewable energy capacity annually for the next six years to meet the ambitious target of **500 GW of renewable energy by 2030**.
- As of March 31, 2024, India's installed renewable energy capacity is **143.64 GW**

KIA named best of regional airport in South Asia

- The **Kempegowda International Airport (KIA)** has been awarded the **Best Regional Airport in India and South Asia** at the **2024 Skytrax World Airport Awards**.
- **KIA's Terminal 2** also secured **second position** as the **World's Best New Airport Terminal**.

Note

- **Terminal 2** has also received the **UNESCO Prix Versailles World's Most Beautiful Airport** award.

Shompen tribe cast their votes for first time

- The 7 members of the Shompen tribe in Andaman and Nicobar Islands cast their vote for the first time in the Lok Sabha election.
- Shompen tribe is a particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG) of Great Nicobar Islands.

Note

- Andaman and Nicobar Islands has a single Lok Sabha constituency.

ISHAN Initiative

- India has recently launched the Indian Single Sky Harmonized Air Traffic Management at Nagpur (ISHAN) Initiative.
- Under the initiative, India is planning to unify its four airspace regions at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai, and a sub-flight information region at Guwahati.

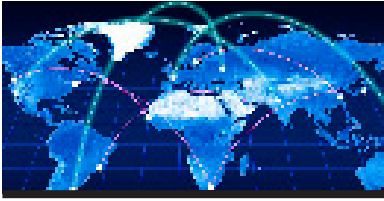
- It will streamline and enhance air traffic management.

- Indian airspace covers over 2.8 million square nautical miles which is controlled through four flight information regions (FIRs)

Climate Strategy 2030

- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) recently unveiled the Climate Strategy 2030 document.
- The document aims to address India's need for green financing.
- India requires approximately \$170 billion annually to reach a cumulative total of over \$2.5 trillion by 2030.
- The current green finance inflows are critically insufficient.





7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

S.A.R.A.H.

- S.A.R.A.H. was launched by the **World Health Organisation** recently.
- It is a **Smart AI Resource Assistant for Health (S.A.R.A.H.)** that denotes an evolution of
- **AI-powered** health information avatars.
- It uses new language models and cutting-edge technology.

About WHO

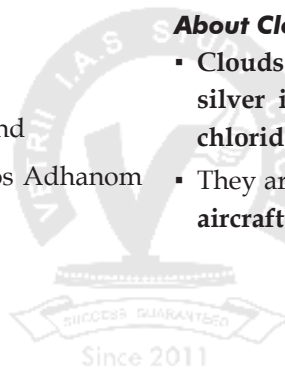
- Established - 7 April 1948
- Headquarters - Geneva, Switzerland
- Director-General of WHO - Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Heavy Flood in Dubai

- The Dubai recorded the heaviest rain after a severe thunderstorm hit the country.
- The primary reason for these heavy rains was a storm system, which was passing through the **Arabian peninsula** and moving across the **Gulf of Oman**.
- However the rains have been exacerbated by cloud seeding process.

About Cloud seeding

- **Clouds** are usually injected with salts like **silver iodide, potassium iodide, or sodium chloride**, which is the 'seed'
- They are dispersed into the cloud either using **aircraft or through ground based cannons**.





8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

Maa. Aranganathan Memorial Awards

- **Maa. Aranganathan Memorial Awards** for literary scholars will be conferred on Tamil scholars **Thea.Gnanasundaram** and **K.V. Balasubramaniam**.
- The Award is conferred by the **Maa. Aranganathan Foundation**.
- The foundation was launched in **2018**.
- It has been honouring Tamil scholars who have made contributions to literature, art, and heritage.
- The award includes a **cash prize of Rs.1 lakh and a citation**.

TN tops in electronics exports

- Tamil Nadu has ranked **No.1** in terms of **electronic goods exports** for the financial year **2023-2024** according to the **National Import-Export Record for Yearly Analysis of Trade**.
- TN's total exports for the financial year 2023-2024 stood at **\$9.56 billion**.
- **Karnataka** and **Uttar Pradesh** ranked **second and third** respectively.

TN closer to elimination of filariasis

- Tamil Nadu is at the brink of eliminating **lymphatic filariasis**.
- Tamil Nadu is the only **State in the country** to successfully attain a **microfilaria (Mf)** rate of below one per cent.
- Two to three decades ago TN was one of the **nine States** that contributed to **95% of the total** burden of lymphatic filariasis in India .

Note

- Lymphatic filariasis is a **neglected tropical disease**.

- The disease also known as **elephantiasis**, is a human infection that is caused by the transmission of parasites called **filarias** through **mosquitoes**.

Pulicat Bird Sanctuary

- The Tamil Nadu government is planning to denotify a sizeable area of the **Pulicat bird sanctuary**.
- Patta land in 13 revenue villages which is located inside the biodiversity-rich area may be excluded from the sanctuary under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972**.

About Pulicat lake

- It is located along the coast of **Bay of Bengal** at the border of **Andhra Pradesh** and **Tamil Nadu**.
- It is the **second largest brackish water lake** in India after **Lake Chilika** in **Odisha**.

TN State Affairs 150 girls receive HPV Vaccine

- Nearly 150 girls, aged nine to 14 years, received the first dose of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine under **Tamil Nadu's first HPV vaccination initiative**.
- The initiative was launched at **Adyar Cancer Institute's** screening centre at **Villupuram Government Hospital**.

Note

- Cervical cancer is mainly caused by **Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)**.

Nilgiri Tahr

- Tamil Nadu government is planning to conduct a **synchronised survey** of **Nilgiri Tahr** from April 29.

- The survey will be done to estimate the population of the **Nilgiri Tahr (Nilgiritragus hylocrius)** and to remove it from the endangered status.
- According to a report released by the **World Wildlife Fund India** in **2015** there are around **3,000** Tahrs in the Western Ghats.

About Nilgiri Tahr

- **State animal** of Tamil Nadu.
- **IUCN Status** - Endangered.
- It is protected under **Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**.
- **Project Nilgiri Tahr** was launched in **October 12, 2023**.

Liquid Nitrogen

- The **Tamil Nadu Food Safety department** has issued an order on the use of **liquid nitrogen** recently.
- The department stated that enforcement action will be taken as per **Food Safety and Standards Act 2006** against any **Food Business Operator** who is using liquid nitrogen for direct consumption along with food items.
- As per the order the liquid nitrogen should be fully evaporated from the food or drinks before serving.

About Liquid Nitrogen

- **Liquid nitrogen** is formed when nitrogen is cooled to temperatures far below zero.

Canal Project

- The T.N. government has accorded sanction for **phase II** of renovation of the **Grand Anicut Canal** system at a cost of **Rs.447** crore.

About Grand Anicut Canal

- It is a man made canal
- It is also known as Puthu Aru or Kallanai Canal
- The canal was designed by British Engineer Colonel **W.M.Ellis** on the request of **C.P.Ramaswami Iyer, the Diwan of Travancore**.
- It serves as a source of irrigation for **Thanjavur** and **Pudukottai** districts.

Elephant corridors

- The committee which was constituted by the Tamil Nadu government to identify elephant corridors in the State has identified **42 corridors**.
- The **Project Elephant** division of the **Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change** in 2023 had identified 20 corridors.

Note

- **Committee Chairman** - **V. Naganathan**
- **Members** - Officers of the Forest Department scientific experts, and scientific and conservation organisations.