

# VETRI IAS STUDY CIRCLE

## Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

**JANUARY 2024**



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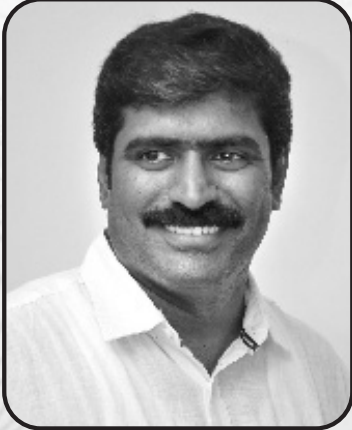
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# Preface



**M. SHUNMUGAM**

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.

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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 !

Pages : 68

Size : (240 × 180) mm

Price : ₹ 40

Published by:

**VETRII IAS STUDY CIRCLE**

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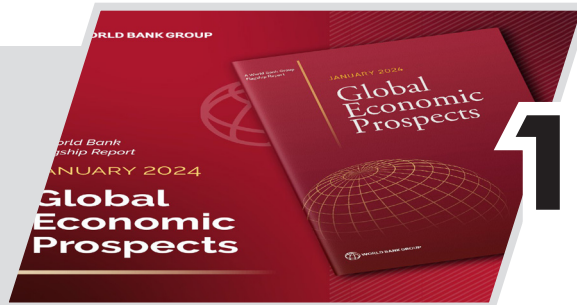
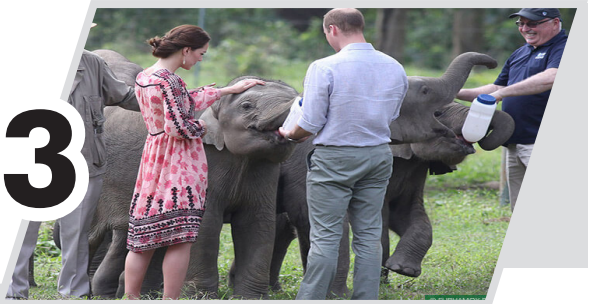
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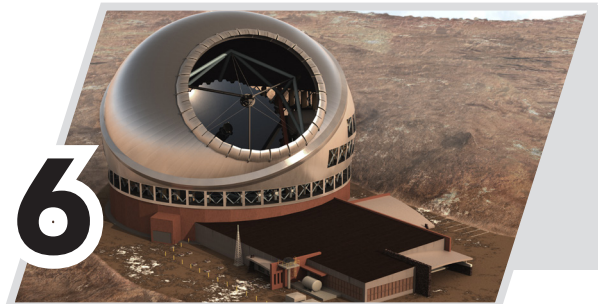
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# 1. HISTORY



## 1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
<b>January 1</b>	<b>DRDO Foundation Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Recently, DRDO celebrated the <b>66th foundation Day on 1st January, 2024.</b></li><li>▪ It is the Research &amp; Development wing of the Ministry of Defence.</li><li>▪ It was formed in 1958.</li></ul>
<b>January 3</b>	<b>77th foundation day of BIS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is the National Standards Body of India</li><li>▪ It is a statutory body functioning under the <b>Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.</b></li></ul>
<b>January 4</b>	<b>World Braille Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>World Braille Day</b> is annually observed on January 4 to recognize the right of access to braille by blind people.</li><li>▪ The day commemorates the birth anniversary of <b>Louis Braille, the inventor of Braille.</b></li><li>▪ <b>Braille</b> is a tactile writing system used by visually challenged people.</li></ul>
<b>January 9</b>	<b>Pravasi Bharatiya Divas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Pravasi Bharatiya Divas</b>, also known as <b>Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Day</b>, is celebrated on <b>January 9</b> to mark the contribution and achievements of the overseas Indian community to the development of India.</li><li>▪ The day also commemorates the <b>return of Mahatma Gandhi, from South Africa to India in 1915.</b></li><li>▪ The day was first celebrated in <b>2003</b></li></ul>

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
<b>January 12</b>	<b>National Youth Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>National Youth Day 2024</b> is observed in India every year on <b>January 12</b> to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda who was born on <b>January 12, 1863, in Kolkata</b>.</li> <li>▪ Vivekananda delivered his famous speech at the Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago in <b>1893</b>.</li> <li>▪ <b>Theme 2024</b> : "MYBharat - Viksit Bharat@2047- By the Youth, For the Youth"</li> </ul>
<b>January 10 to January 18</b>	<b>Startup India Innovation Week</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The <b>Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)</b> under <b>Ministry of Commerce and Industry</b> launched the <b>Startup India Innovation Week 2024</b> from <b>January 10 to January 18</b> to unite the nation's startups, entrepreneurs, investors, policymakers, and stakeholders.</li> <li>▪ The National Startup Day is observed on <b>January 16, 2024</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>January 15</b>	<b>76th Army Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Every year <b>January 15</b> is celebrated as <b>Army Day</b> in India to remember the troops and all soldiers who have sacrificed their lives for the country.</li> <li>▪ It was on this day in <b>1949</b> that <b>Field Marshal Kodandera M Cariappa</b> became the first Indian <b>Commander-in-Chief of Independent India</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>January 23</b>	<b>127th birth anniversary of Subhash Chandra Bose</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>January 23</b> marks the <b>127th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose</b>.</li> <li>▪ The day is observed as <b>Parakram Diwas</b>.</li> <li>▪ <b>Parakram Diwas</b> aims to instil fearlessness and patriotism, especially among the youth, inspiring them to stand strong in the face of challenges.</li> </ul>
<b>January 24</b>	<b>National Girl Child Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Every year <b>January 24</b> is observed as <b>National Girl Child Day</b> with the aim of creating a positive environment that values the girl child.</li> <li>▪ The day was first observed by the <b>Ministry of Women and Child Development in 2008</b>.</li> </ul>

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
<b>January 24</b>	<b>International Day of Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The <b>International Day of Education</b> is annually observed on <b>January 24</b>.</li> <li>▪ The theme for 2023 is '<b>Learning for Lasting Peace</b>'.</li> <li>▪ The day was first observed on <b>January 24, 2019</b> based on the resolution passed by the <b>United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)</b></li> </ul>
<b>January 24</b>	<b>Uttar Pradesh Foundation Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Uttar Pradesh Foundation Day</b> is celebrated on <b>January 24</b> every year.</li> <li>▪ The United Province was renamed as Uttar Pradesh on <b>January 24, 1950</b>.</li> <li>▪ The Uttar Pradesh government declared <b>January 24</b> as <b>Uttar Pradesh Foundation Day</b> in <b>May 2017</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>January 25</b>	<b>13th National Voters' Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>National Voters' Day</b> is celebrated every year on <b>January 25</b> to encourage, facilitate, and maximise enrolment, especially for new voters.</li> <li>▪ The day is observed by the <b>Election Commission of India</b> since <b>2011</b>.</li> <li>▪ <b>25th January 1950</b> is the foundation day of the <b>Election Commission of India (ECI)</b></li> <li>▪ NVD 2024 theme - '<b>Nothing Like Voting, I Vote For sure</b>'.</li> </ul>
<b>January 25</b>	<b>National Tourism Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>National Tourism Day</b> in India is celebrated every year on <b>25 January</b>.</li> <li>▪ The day is observed to create awareness among people about the benefits of tourism for the economy of the country.</li> <li>▪ Theme 2024 - "<b>Sustainable Journeys, Timeless Memories</b>."</li> <li>▪ National Tourism Day in India was <b>first celebrated in 1948</b>.</li> </ul>

<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Theme / Remark</b>
<b>January 25</b>	<b>54th Himachal Pradesh statehood day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>January 25th is celebrated as the Himachal Pradesh statehood day every year.</li> <li>Himachal Pradesh came into existence on <b>25th January 1971</b> as the <b>18th state of India</b>.</li> <li><b>Indira Gandhi</b> was the then <b>Prime Minister of India</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>January 26</b>	<b>International Customs Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The day is observed every year on <b>January 26</b> to honour and spread awareness about the role played by Customs authorities in the smooth movement of goods across borders.</li> <li>Theme 2024 : <b>Customs Engaging Traditional and New Partners with Purpose</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>January 26</b>	<b>World Leprosy Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>World Leprosy Day</b> is observed every year on the <b>last Sunday of January</b>.</li> <li>The day aims to create awareness against the stigma attached to the disease.</li> <li>Leprosy is also known as <b>Hansen Disease</b>.</li> <li><b>Theme 2024 : "Beat Leprosy"</b></li> <li>Leprosy is caused by the bacteria <b>Mycobacterium leprae</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>January 30</b>	<b>World Neglected Tropical Disease Day (WNTDD)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day (WNTDD)</b> is celebrated on <b>January 30</b> every year to create better awareness of the devastating impact of NTDs on the poorest populations around the world.</li> <li>Theme 2024 : <b>Unite.Act.Eliminate</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>January 30</b>	<b>Martyrs' Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India observes <b>Martyrs' Day</b> or <b>Shaheed Diwas</b> on <b>January 30</b> every year commemorating the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.</li> <li>Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated by <b>Nathuram Vinayak Godse</b> in <b>1948</b>.</li> </ul>



## 1.2 DEFENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND TERRORISM

### C-130J Super Hercules aircraft

- The Indian Air Force successfully conducted a night landing of the C130-J transport aircraft at the Kargil airstrip.
- This marks the **first time a night landing** has been carried out at the airstrip, situated near the **Line of Control (LoC) in the Ladakh region**.
- It was manufactured by **US aircraft maker Lockheed Martin**.

### Sahyog Kaijin

- **Japan Coast Guard (JCG) Ship Yashima** arrived at **Chennai port** to participate in a joint exercise planned with the Indian Coast Guard, code-named as '**Sahyog Kaijin**'.
- The visit of the coast guard ship is part of the **Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)** signed between **India and Japan in 2006**, to promote interaction between the two coast guard organisations

### India, U.K. ink 2 deals

- **India and U.K.** recently signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for bilateral International Cadet Exchange Programme** and also a **Letter of Arrangement (LoA)** on defence collaboration in Research and Development.
- The LoA on R&D was signed between **India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and UK's Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL)**.

### Drishti 10 Starliner

- Indian Navy unveiled India's first indigenously manufactured Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) called **Drishti 10 Starliner**.
- It is an advanced intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) platform.

### Akash missile

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** conducted a successful flight test of the **New Generation AKASH (AKASH-NG) missile at Chandipur in Odisha**.
- It is a **surface to air missile (SAM)**.

### MILAN 24 Exercise

- **MILAN 24** which is Indian Navy's multi-national exercise is set to be held in **Visakhapatnam from February 19 to 27 in 2024**.
- **MILAN** is a biennial multi-national naval exercise which was started in 1995 with participation of **four foreign countries (Indonesia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand) in consonance with India's 'Look East policy**.

### Ex-Ayutthaya

- **India and Thailand** conducted their first naval bilateral exercise, named '**Ex-Ayutthaya**' recently.
- The name Ayutthaya symbolises **two ancient cities - Ayodhya (Uttar Pradesh) in India and Ayutthaya in Thailand**.

### Vijayaraghavan Committee

- **K. Vijay Raghavan Committee** submitted its report to the government recently.
- It is a nine-member committee which was formed to restructure and redefine the role of DRDO.

### Key Recommendations

- Formation of the **Defence Technology Council (DTC)** headed by the **Prime Minister**, with the **Defense Minister and National Security Advisor as Vice Presidents**.
- DRDO should concentrate exclusively on research and development.
- **Laboratory Consolidation** by reducing the number of DRDO labs from **40 to approximately 10 national-level facilities**.

## 1.3 WORLD ORGANISATIONS – PACTS AND SUMMITS

### New members of BRICS

- Five new countries namely **Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates** formally joined the **BRICS Grouping**.
- It is multilateral group comprising the world's major emerging economies.
- The group comprising **Brazil, Russia, India, and China** was created in **2006**.
- **South Africa** was added in **2010**.

## 1.4 PLACES IN NEWS

### UNESCO World Heritage List

- India has nominated the “**Maratha Military Landscapes**” for inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage List for 2024-25.
- It is a network of forts that showcase the strategic military powers of Maratha rule that include **12 forts**.
- The **12 forts** includes the forts of **Salher, Shivneri, Lohagad, Khanderi, Raigad, Rajgad, Ratapgad, Suvarnadurg, Panhala, Vijaydurg and Sindhudurg** in Maharashtra and **Gingee** in Tamil Nadu.

## 1.5 SPORTS AND GAMES

### Khelo India Youth Games 2023

- **Khelo India Youth Games 2023** was inaugurated at **Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium** in Chennai by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- This is the **first time** the Khelo India Youth Games will be held in **southern India**.
- The games will be hosted in the **four cities of Chennai, Madurai, Tiruchirapalli and Coimbatore**.
- **Silambam** which is a traditional sport of Tamil Nadu is being introduced as a **demo sport** for the **first time in the history of Khelo India Youth Games**.

### Australia Open 2024

- The Australian Open is a tennis tournament held annually at Melbourne Park in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.
- **Winners of Australian Open, 2024.**
  - **Men's Singles** - Jannik Sinner
  - **Women's Singles** - Aryna Sabalenka
  - **Men's Doubles** - Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden.
  - **Women's Doubles** - Hsieh Su-wei and Elise Mertens.
  - **Mixed Doubles** - Hsieh Su-wei and Jan Zieliński.

## 1.6 AWARDS & HONOURS

### M.S. Swaminathan Award 2024

- **Prof.B.R. Kamboj**, the Vice Chancellor of **Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University** has been awarded the **M.S. Swaminathan Award 2024**.
- The Award was instituted in 2004 to recognize life time contributions of eminent persons who have made global impact in the **field of agriculture in India**.

## National Sports Awards 2023

- National sports awards were conferred by President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award for 2023:
  - Chirag Shetty and Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy (badminton).
- Arjuna Award - 26 sportspersons
  - Vaishali (Chess) from Tamil Nadu
- Dronacharya Award (regular category) for outstanding coaches:
  - Lalit Kumar (wrestling)
  - RB Ramesh (chess)
  - Mahaveer Prasad Saini (para athletics)
  - Shivendra Singh (hockey)
  - Ganesh Prabhakar Devrukhkar (mallakhamb)
- Dronacharya Award (life-time category) for outstanding coaches:
  - Jaskirat Singh Grewal (golf)
  - Bhaskaran E (kabaddi)
  - Jayanta Kumar Pushilal (table tennis)
- Dhyan Chand Award for lifetime achievement:
  - Manjusha Kanwar (badminton)
  - Vineet Kumar Sharma (hockey)
  - Kavitha Selvaraj (kabaddi)
- Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy 2023:
  - Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar

## Swachh Survekshan Awards 2023

- The President of India Droupadi Murmu conferred Swachh Survekshan awards 2023 at New Delhi recently which was hosted by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- Surat and Indore were ranked 1 in Overall category
- Varanasi was named as the Cleanest Ganga Town.
- Maharashtra was named as the Best Performing State.

- Chennai has been ranked 199 among 446 cities in the country in Swachh Survekshan.
- The city has also been declared ODF++.

## Bharat Ratna Award

- President Droupadi Murmu announced that the Bharat Ratna Award will be presented to the late socialist leader Karpooi Thakur (posthumously).
- He had served twice as the Chief Minister of Bihar.

## Padma awardees from T.N

- Eight persons from Tamil Nadu have been selected for the Padma awards 2024.
  - Padma Vibhushan (Second highest civilian award)
    - Vyjayanthimala Bali
    - Padma Subrahmanyam
  - Padma Bhushan
    - Vijayakant
  - Padma Shri
    - Badrappan M
    - Joshna Chinappa (Sports)
    - Joe D'Cruz (literature and education)
    - G. Natchiar (Medicine)
    - Nagaswaram artist Seshampatti T. Sivalingam (Arts)

## TN State Awards

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin presented the Kottai Ameer Communal Harmony Award, 2024, to Alt News cofounder Mohammed Zubair.
- The Chief Minister's Special Award was presented to U. Aayi Ammal, alias Pooranam, from Madurai district, who donated her 1.52 acres of land for the upgrade of Madurai East Panchayat Union Middle School as High School.
- Anna Medal for Gallantry 2024 - Yasaar Arafat, D. Daniel Selvasingh and S. Sivakumar.
- C. Narayanasamy Naidu Award for the highest productivity in rice - S. Balamurugan
- Best Police Station - C3 S.S. Colony police station, Madurai.

## 1.7 APPOINTMENTS

### Head of 16th Finance Commission

- The Central government appointed former NITI Aayog Vice Chairman **Arvind Panagariya** as Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission.
- It will recommend the tax revenue sharing formula between the Centre and the States for a **five year** period.
- Arvind Panagariya is the first Vice Chairman of the NITI Aayog, which replaced the Planning Commission, from 2015 to 2017.

### Rohit Kumar Singh Committee

- The **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)** conducted its first meeting of the **Rohit Kumar Singh Committee**.

- The committee was constituted to **prepare Guidelines with respect to misleading advertisements in coaching sector on 8th January, 2024.**

- The Guidelines shall be applicable to all the coaching institutes whether **online or physical.**

### Army's first woman Subedar

- Havildar Preeti Rajak has become the Army's first woman Subedar.
- She won the silver medal in shooting during the 19th Asian Games 2022.



# 2. POLITICAL SCIENCE

## 2.1 INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

### India and Pakistan

- **India and Pakistan** exchanged a list of their nuclear installations under a bilateral pact, 'Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations and Facilities'.
- The pact prohibits the two sides from attacking each other's atomic plants.
- It was signed in 1992.

### Free Movement Regime (FMR)

- India has decided to end **Free Movement Regime (FMR)** along international border with Myanmar.
- FMR allows people residing on either side of the **India-Myanmar** border to venture 16 km into each other's territory without visa.

### India – Nepal

- The **7th meeting of the India-Nepal Joint Commission** was held in Kathmandu recently.
- Nepal and India have inked an agreement setting the target to reach **10,000 megawatts** of electricity export to India in **next 10 years**.
- **New Space India Limited and the Nepal Academy of Science and Technology** signed an agreement to help launch **Nepal's Munal satellite**.

### India - Saudi Arabia

- India and Saudi Arabia signed the **Bilateral Haj Agreement 2024**.
- Under this agreement, India has been allocated a quota of **1,75,025 pilgrims** for the annual Haj pilgrimage in 2024.
- **1,40,020 seats** being reserved for pilgrims to proceed through Haj Committee of India.

### India and UAE

- **UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan** hold bilateral meetings with the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**.
- **Four MoUs** were signed between India and the UAE.
  - **Three MoUs** were on investment cooperation in renewal energy sector, innovative healthcare projects and food park development.
  - **One MoU** was signed between **Gujarat** and the company based in **Dubai**.

### India-France

- French President Emmanuel Macron is set to arrive in Jaipur, Rajasthan on January 25.
- Macron has been invited as the chief guest for the 75th Republic Day celebrations.
- During the visit, he will consolidate the renewal of the France-India strategic partnership that was decided through the "Horizon 2047 Roadmap".
- India and France have agreed to conduct **Joint Surveillance Missions**.
- **Defence Industrial Roadmap** for cooperation on defence production was announced between the two countries.
- **Integration of the respective defence industrial sectors** of the two countries.

## 2.2 LATEST COURT VERDICTS

### Bilkis Bano case

- The **Supreme Court** has struck down the remission granted to **11 men convicted in the Bilkis Bano gang rape case of 2002.**

### Note

- Under **Articles 72 and 161 of the Constitution**, the **President and Governors** of states can

pardon a convict, and can also suspend, remit, or commute a sentence passed by the courts.

- **The State governments** also have the power to remit sentences under **Section 32 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).**

## 2.3 PUBLIC AWARENESS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

### Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules of 2021 amended

- The Centre has amended the **Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules of 2021**, to allow women government employees and pensioners to **nominate their children for receiving family pension over their spouse.**
- Till now, the rules provided for the family pension to first go to the surviving spouse and the children became eligible to receive it only after the death of the spouse.

### Sub-categorisation of SCs

- The **Union government** has formed a **five member committee** of Secretaries to evaluate and work out a method for the equitable distribution of benefits, schemes and initiatives to the **most backward communities amongst the over 1,200 Scheduled Castes (SCs).**
- The committee will be chaired by the **Cabinet Secretary.**
- Previously, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced the constitution of a committee on empowering the **Dalit (Scheduled Castes) communities**, including the **Madiga community.**

### Road maps for critical tech sectors

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** has released the draft road maps for conducting indigenous research and development for **critical technological sectors.**
- The **road maps** were prepared by the **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC).**

- It aims to solve a series of cyber issues and prevent cyber crimes .

### Rajya Sabha Elections

- **Election Commission** released the date for the **Rajya Sabha elections to 56 seats from 15 states** of India.
- In the current **Rajya Sabha**, there are a total of **238 elected members.**
- **Rajya Sabha** is the permanent House of the Parliament in which members are appointed for a 6 year tenure.
- **One-third of the members** retire every two years, which ensures the continuity of its proceedings.

### Diamond Jubilee of Supreme Court

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** launched the **citizen-centric information and technology initiatives** during **Diamond Jubilee celebration of Supreme Court.**
- These include
  - **Digital Supreme Court Reports (Digi SCR):** It will make Supreme Court judgments available to citizens of country free of cost and in electronic format.
  - **Digital Courts 2.0 :** Launched under **e-Courts project** which aims to make court records available to Judges of district courts in electronic format.
  - **A new website of Supreme Court** to be available in both **English and Hindi language.**

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

### Aadhaar linked pay made mandatory for MGNREGS

- From January 1, 2024 it has been mandated that the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) workers should be paid only through an **Aadhaar based payment system (ABPS)**.
- The first order to enforce the system was issued on January 30, 2023, followed by extensions till February 1, March 31, June 30, August 31, and December 31.

### 'Prerana' Programme

- **Department of School Education & Literacy** under the **Ministry of Education** has launched '**Prerana: An Experiential Learning program**'.
- It is an **experiential and inspirational learning program** for students with the best-in-class technology where heritage meets innovation.
- It is a week-long residential program for selected students of **class IX to XII**.

### PLI-Auto Scheme

- The Ministry of Heavy Industries to announce the extension of the tenure of the **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Automobile and Auto Components** by one year.
- The Scheme is focused on **Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs), Battery Electric Vehicle and Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vehicle**.
- The incentive under the scheme is applicable from **FY 2022-23 to FY 2026-27 (5 years' period)**.
- The PLI scheme was launched in **March 2020**.

### PRITHVI VIGYAN scheme

- The government has launched the scheme **PRITHvi VIGyan (PRITHVI)** recently.
- The scheme encompasses **five ongoing sub-schemes** namely

- **Atmosphere and Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems and Services (ACROSS)**
- **Ocean Services, Modelling Application, Resources and Technology (O-SMART)**
- **Polar Science and Cryosphere Research (PACER)**
- **Seismology and Geosciences (SAGE)**
- **Research, Education, Training and Outreach (REACHOUT).**
- **Objective** - To develop modelling systems for understanding and predicting weather, ocean, and climate hazards and understanding the science of climate change.

### 'SMART 2.0' launched

- The **Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)** along with **National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM)** has launched '**SMART 2.0**' (Scope for **Mainstreaming Ayurveda Research among Teaching professionals**) program recently.
- **Objective** - To promote robust clinical studies in priority areas of **Ayurveda**.

### Yuva Nidhi Scheme

- **Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah** launched the "**Yuva Nidhi**" scheme.
- The scheme aims to provide unemployment assistance to graduates and diploma holders.
- The scheme offers monetary assistance of **₹3,000 to graduates and ₹1,500 to diploma holders** who passed out in **2022-23**.

### PM – JANMAN

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to release the first instalment of funding amounting to **₹540 crore** for pucca homes under the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin (PMAYG)** to one lakh **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)** beneficiary families.

- The instalment is delivered as part of the recently launched **PM - JANMAN** scheme (Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan Scheme)

**Environment, Forest and Climate Change** under the **Amrit Dharohar Capacity Building Scheme, 2023.**

### **Mukhya Mantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan scheme**

- The Chief Minister of Assam **Himanta Biswa Sarma** launched the '**Mukhya Mantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan**' scheme recently.
- The scheme aims to develop 4 million Self-Help-Group (SHG) women as rural micro-entrepreneurs.
- Under the scheme, eligible women gets Rs 35,000 over three years.

### **Report cards in government schools**

- The Central government has allocated ₹102 lakh for printing of students' report cards in **government schools in Tamil Nadu** which covers around 2.5 lakh students of classes 1 to 5.
- The initiative is undertaken as a part of **Sarva Shiksha Abhyan (SSA)**.
- SSA aims to provide parents with detailed **insights into both academic and extracurricular** performance of their wards.

### **MPLADS e-SAKSHI App launched**

- **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** has launched the **MPLADS e-SAKSHI App** recently.
- The app aims to enhance transparency, accessibility, and efficiency in the execution of **Member of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) Scheme**.

### **Solar Rooftop Scheme**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of '**Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana**'.
- It is a government scheme under which **one crore households** will get **rooftop solar power systems**.
- The new scheme aims to help India to reach the **target of 40 GW rooftop solar capacity**.

### **Amrit Dharohar Initiative**

- The Central Government has launched the pilot project under **Amrit Dharohar initiative** recently.
- It was launched in **June 2023** to promote unique conservation values of Ramsar sites across India.
- **16 Ramsar sites** have been identified under the initiative and five of them have been taken up as a pilot project.
- These **five wetlands** are
  - **Sultanpur National Park (Haryana)**
  - **Bhitarkanika Mangroves (Odisha)**
  - **Chilika lake (Odisha)**
  - **Sirpur (Madhya Pradesh)**
  - **Yashwant Sagar (Madhya Pradesh).**

### **Boeing Sukanya Program**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the **Boeing Sukanya Program**.
- The program aims to support the entry of more **girl children into the aviation sector**.
- The program will provide opportunities for girls and women to learn critical skills in **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)** fields and train for jobs in aviation sector.

### **Coal Gasification**

- The Union Cabinet has approved an outlay of **₹8,500 crore** as financial aid for promotion of **coal/lignite gasification projects**.
- The incentive for coal gasification projects will be provided under **three categories**.

- The initiative was launched by the **Union Tourism Ministry** and the **Ministry of**





# 3. GEOGRAPHY

## 3.1 POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

### RTRCs in Coimbatore

- The **Tamil Nadu government** sanctioned ₹19.5 crore for the establishment of a **Rescue Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre (RTRC)** for wildlife at Pethikuttai near **Sirumugai in Coimbatore district**.
- TN Government already announced that RTRCs will be established in Coimbatore, Tiruchi, and Tirunelveli districts.
- RTRC will function as a centre of excellence to work on specialised treatment and care of injured and orphaned animals.

### Human- wildlife conflict

- The **Tamil Nadu government** has increased the compensation provided to those who suffer permanent incapacitation and to the families of those who lose their lives in instances of **human wildlife conflict** from ₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh.

### Kumki Elephants

- The **Odisha government** has sought the assistance of **Tamil Nadu** for providing

kumki elephants and mahouts to help manage the human elephant conflict.

- Tamil Nadu has a successful model whereby kumki elephants are trained and utilised for wildlife conservation purposes.
- **Kumki elephants** can be deployed strategically to manage and drive wild elephant.

### Snow Leopard Population Assessment

- The **Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPAI)** which began in 2019 was released recently.
- According to SPAI, India has an estimated **718 snow leopards**.
- The highest number of snow leopards was estimated to be in Ladakh (477), followed by Uttarakhand (124) and Himachal Pradesh (51).
- The current estimate puts the number of **Indian snow leopards between 10% and 15%** of the global population.



# 4. ECONOMICS

## 4.1 CURRENT ECONOMIC TRENDS

### NSO data on India's growth

- India's real GDP growth in 2023-24 is estimated at 7.3%, compared to 7.2% the previous year as per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).
- The growth in Gross Value Added (GVA) in the economy is expected to ease slightly from 7% in 2022-23 to 6.9%

### Discussion paper by NITI Aayog

- According to a discussion paper released by NITI Aayog, the share of India's population living in multidimensional poverty is estimated to have fallen to **11.28 per cent in 2022-23** from 29.17 per cent in 2013-14.
- The paper states that a total of **24.82 crore people** escaped multidimensional poverty in the last nine years.

### Oxfam's report

- The report titled '**Survival of the Richest: The India story**' was released by the Oxfam International recently.

### Key Highlights

- **Just 5 per cent of Indians** own more than **60 per cent of the country's wealth**.
- **Bottom 50 per cent** of the population possess only **3 per cent of the wealth**.
- India has the **world's highest number of poor at 228.9 million**.
- The total number of billionaires in India increased from **102 in 2020 to 166 billionaires in 2022**.

## 4.2 REPORTS AND INDICES

### Global Economic Prospects Report 2024

- World Bank released its flagship report '**Global Economic Prospects**' recently.

### Key Highlights

- The report forecasts a deceleration in global GDP growth, from an estimated **2.7% in 2023 to 2.4% in 2024**.
- The developing countries need to increase investments by about **\$2.4 trillion per year** to tackle climate change and achieve other key global development goals by **2030**.

### AISHE 2021-22

- According to the latest report of the **All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE)** released by the **Ministry of Education**.

### Key Highlights

- The total enrolment in higher education increased to nearly **4.33 crore in 2021-22**.
- The overall female enrolment increased to **2.07 crore in 2021-22**.
- Female Ph.D. enrolment doubled to **0.99 lakh in 2021-22** from 0.48 lakh in 2014-15.

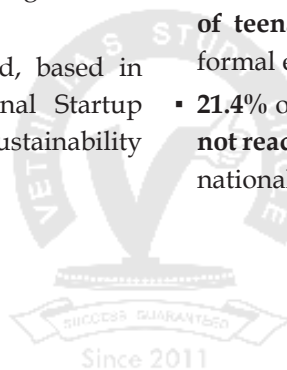
- **More women opted for science stream than men.**
- Atsuya Technologies Private Limited, based in Tamil Nadu received the Genesis Innovators of the year award.

### Startup Ranking 2022

- **Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala and Himachal Pradesh** are the five States placed under the 'Best Performer' category in the States' Startup Ranking 2022.
- Tamil Nadu received a maximum score of 100th percentile in three out of seven reform areas
- Institutional support
- Funding support
- Capacity building of enablers
- The Startup Ranking was launched in February 2018 to achieve the vision of building a robust start-up ecosystem in the country.
- **Greenviro Global Private Limited**, based in Coimbatore, received the National Startup Awards 2023 under the 'Sustainability Champion' category.

### ASER 2023

- The **Annual Status of Education Report (ASER)**, titled "**Beyond Basics**", was released by the civil society organisation Pratham.
- The study focussed on youth aged between **14 and 18 in rural India**.
- The last study was carried out in **2017**.
- The survey was conducted in **28 districts across 26 States**.
- In Tamil Nadu the **Perambalur district** was chosen for the survey.
- The survey found that in **Perambalur 97.2% of teenagers** were enrolled in some form of formal educational institution.
- **21.4%** of those surveyed in **Perambalur could not read a Class II** level text which is below the national average as 25%.





# 5. SCIENCE

## 5.1 SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) project

- An official delegation from the **Department of Science and Technology** visited **Mauna Kea**, an inactive volcano on the island of Hawaii in the U.S., to discuss about the **Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) project**.
- It is a **30 metre diameter** primary mirror optical and infrared telescope that will enable observations into deep space.
- It is a joint collaboration involving institutions in the **U.S., Japan, China, Canada, and India**.
- Indian participation in the project was approved by the **Union Cabinet in 2014**.

### Distress Alert Transmitter (DAT)

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has developed an upgraded **distress alert transmitter (DAT)** called **second generation DAT (DAT-SG)**.
- DAT - SG will enable advanced capabilities for fishermen at sea to send emergency messages from boats.

- The **first version of DAT** is operational since **2010**.
- Recently, the **Indian Immunologicals Ltd (IIL)** launched **India's first indigenously developed Hepatitis A vaccine 'Havisure'** in **Hyderabad**.
- **IIL** is a wholly owned subsidiary of **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)**.
- It is a **two-dose vaccine**.
- **Hepatitis A** is an inflammation of the liver caused by the **hepatitis A virus (HAV)**.

### Three drug regimens for treating leprosy

- The Union government has approved a **new three-drug regimen for leprosy**.
- The steps are taken by the **National Leprosy Eradication Programme** to stop the transmission of Leprosy at the subnational level by **2027**.
- **Leprosy** is a chronic infectious disease caused by **Mycobacterium leprae**.

## 5.2 SPACE

### XPoSat mission

- The Indian Space Research Organisation launched its first **Xray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat)** on January 1, 2024 to investigate the polarisation of intense X-ray sources.
- The XPoSat is designed for observation from a low earth orbit.
- It will carry two scientific payloads.
- The mission life is expected to be approximately **five years**.
- The primary payload was developed by the **Raman Research Institute, Bengaluru, with support from ISRO centres**.
- The secondary payload was developed by the **U.R. Rao Satellite Centre, ISRO**.

### SpaceX's Falcon 9

- **New Space India Ltd. (NSIL)** will launch **GSAT20 (renamed GSATN2)** on board **SpaceX's Falcon 9** rocket during the second quarter of 2024.
- NSIL is the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation.
- The **GSAT20** will be fully owned, operated, and funded by the NSIL..
- The satellite is primarily used for meeting the broadband and cellular service needs.

### Chandrayaan – 3

- **NASA spacecraft** has successfully pinged India's **Chandrayaan - 3 lander - Vikram** on the moon.
- A laser beam was transmitted and reflected between **NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO)** and **ISRO's Vikram lander** for the **first time on the lunar surface**.

### NISAR Mission

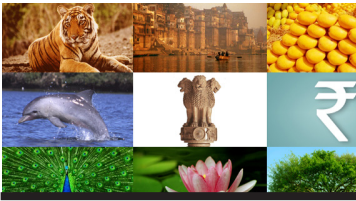
- It was officially stated that the **NASA ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) Mission** which was designed to observe the natural processes and changes in earth's complex ecosystems, is on track for an **"early 2024"** launch.
- **NISAR is a Low Earth Orbit (LEO)** observatory being jointly developed by **NASA and ISRO**.
- **NISAR** will provide spatially and temporally consistent data for understanding changes in Earth's ecosystem

### INSAT-3DS satellite

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has stated that the **INSAT-3DS** satellite was taken to the launch port at the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota**.
- The satellite is planned to be launched on board the **GSLV F14 next month**.
- It aims to provide continuity of services to the existing in **orbit INSAT-3D and 3DR satellites**.

### Japan's SLIM Mission

- **ISRO's Chandrayaan-2** mission helped the **Japan's Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) Mission** to successfully land on the Moon.
- SLIM Mission is also called '**Moon Sniper**'.
- This helped Japan to become the **fifth country** after **United States, Soviet Union, China** and **India** to make a soft lunar landing.



# 6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENT

## 4G services

- The Home Ministry in its year end review stated that the Union government has approved 4G mobile services for more than 1,100 border outposts along India's international borders, including the border with China at a cost of ₹1,545.66 crore.
- The **Home Ministry** said it had signed a tripartite agreement with the **Department of Telecommunications and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited** to execute the project.

## Petro Capital of India

- Gujarat will now be recognised as the “**Petro Capital of India**”.
- Gujarat houses **two major Oil refinery** namely, **Reliance Industry Limited's Jamnagar refinery** and **ONGC Petro Additions Limited (OPAL)'s** state-of- the-art petrochemical complex at Dahej in Bharuch district.
- Reliance Industry Limited's Jamnagar refinery is world's largest and most complex refinery

## KLI-SOFC Project

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated **Kochi-Lakshadweep islands submarine optical fiber connection (KLI-SOFC)** project in Kavaratti, Lakshadweep.
- **Lakshadweep** will be connected through **Submarine Optic Fibre Cable**.
- The **KLI-SOFC** project will lead to an increase in internet speed.
- **Lakshadweep** will play a strong role in the creation of a **Viksit Bharat**.

## India's Longest Sea Bridge

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Atal Bihari Vajpayee Sewri--Nhava Sheva Atal Setu** in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

- Atal Setu is the **longest bridge and also the longest sea bridge in India**.
- The bridge is about 21.8 km long six-lane bridge with about 16.5 km length over the sea and about 5.5 km of length on the land.

## Governing body of EPFO reconstituted

- The Union government reconstituted the **Central Board of Trustees (CBT)** of the **Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** by excluding representatives of the **Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC), All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) and All India United Trade Union Centrea (AIUTUC)** from the panel.
- In the place of INTUC, AITUC and AIUTUC, the Centre has newly inducted to the panel the **Trade Union Coordination Centre, Self Employed Women's Association and the National Front of Indian Trade Unions**.

## Modi unveils three projects

- **Prime Minister Modi** inaugurated **three infrastructure projects** totalling ₹4,000 crore in Kochi including
  - **India's largest new dry dock facility.**
  - **South Asia's largest ship – repair centre - International ship repair facility (ISRF)** of Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL)
  - **LPG import terminal of Indian Oil Corporation Limited at Puthuvypeen** which would help meet the LPG needs of Kochi, Kozhikode, Coimbatore, Erode, Salem, Madurai, and Trichy.
- These projects are in line with the vision to transform India's sports, shipping, and inland Waterways.

### World's tallest statue of Ambedkar

- The Andhra Pradesh government is set to unveil the **world's tallest statue** of the architect of the Indian Constitution, Dr BR Ambedkar at **Swaraj Maidan grounds in Vijayawada**
- The statue is called the “**Statue of Social Justice**”
- It is **206 feet tall (Statue - 125ft and pedestal - 81 ft)**

### India's first Dark Sky Park

- The **Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Maharashtra** has been designated as **India's First and Asia's fifth Dark Sky Park**.
- A dark-sky preserve is an area, typically surrounding a park or observatory, that limits artificial light pollution and encourages astronomy.
- **India's first dark-sky preserve** is the **Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO)** which is situated in Hanle, Ladakh.

### North Eastern Council Meeting

- The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah addressed the **71st Plenary Session of the North Eastern Council in Shillong** recently.

- It is the nodal agency for the economic and social development of North Eastern Region (NER).
- It is a statutory body created by Parliament through **NEC Act, 1971**.

### First naturopathy hospital NER

- Union **AYUSH Minister Sarbananda Sonowal** and **Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma** laid the foundation of the **Central Research Institute of Yoga and Naturopathy (CRIYN)** in Dibrugarh Assam.
- CRIYN would be the first yoga and naturopathy hospital in the Northeast.
- CRIYN would be developed as a centre of excellence in yoga and naturopathy for cardiovascular diseases in India

### 7th edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha

- Recently, the 7th edition of **Pariksha Pe Charcha** was held in **New Delhi**.
- The programme aims to bring together students, parents, teachers, and the society to foster an environment where each child's unique individuality is encouraged.



# 7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

## **New PM of Bangladesh**

- **Sheikh Hasina** was re-elected as the **Prime Minister of Bangladesh**
- She was elected for the **fifth term**.
- She became the world's longest-serving female head of the State

## **19th NAM Summit**

- 19th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement was held in Kampala in Uganda.

- Theme of the summit is "Deepening Cooperation for Shared Global Affluence".
- Kampala Declaration was concluded in the summit.

## **New King of Denmark**

- King Frederik X ascended the throne succeeding his mother Queen Margrethe II as the new King of Denmark.
- She was the queen for the past 52 years.







# 8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

## T.N. govt. plans to borrow ₹37,000 crores

- According to the indicative calendar of market borrowings released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) the Tamil Nadu government plans to borrow ₹37,000 crore in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2023-24.
- TN has remained the **top borrower** in the recent years.
- State Development Loans (SDLs) form a major component of Tamil Nadu's outstanding liability.

## 'TNEB Safety' App

- The Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco) has rolled out a mobile application to enhance the safety of hundreds of maintenance staff engaged in **rectification work for any power disruptions**.
- **Objective** - To prevent electrocution by enforcing the adoption of safety procedures and use of safety equipments.

## Reaching Roots Programme

- Under this initiative, a group of **58 Tamil diaspora youths** were selected from **Canada, Fiji, Sri Lanka and Australia**.
- **Reaching Roots is a 2 week cultural tour programme** by Government of Tamil Nadu for **Tamil Diaspora Youth** to help reconnect the present with the past and establish the umbilical link between generations.

## Tamil Nadu Coir Policy 2024

- The **Tamil Nadu Coir Policy 2024** which was unveiled by the Chief Minister M.K. Stalin recently.

- It aims to attract investments worth **₹3,000 crore** in the sector by 2030 and generate 60,000 jobs.

## Key highlights

- Setting up of Centres of Excellence exclusively for new, innovative coir products.
- To establishing a coir park and a coir test laboratory.
- To promote entrepreneurs from marginalised sections
- To promote and facilitate green initiatives
- To provide a thrust for the scaling up and diversification of coir MSMEs.

## 'Thozhi' Hostels

- **Chief Minister M.K.Stalin** virtually inaugurated 'Thozhi', a State government run hostel for working women at **Tambaram Sanatorium**.
- **Tamil Nadu Working Women's Hostels Corporation Limited (TNWWHCL)** was created under **Social Welfare & Women Empowerment Department** to create high quality affordable self- sustaining chain of hostels across Tamil Nadu

## STEPS survey

- Tamil Nadu **STEPS Survey - 2** to estimate prevalence of Non Communicable Diseases (NCD) risk factors has started across the state.
- STEP wise approach to NCD risk factor surveillance (STEPS) is a simple, standardised method for collecting, analysing, and disseminating data on key NCD risk factors.
- The survey is funded by the **World Bank**.

### Blockchain to protect documents

- The **Registration Department has tied up with Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNEGA)** to shifting various registered documents to the blockchain system to prevent tampering.
- The Department has also started issuing certified copies stamped with the seal of Nambikkai Inaiyam (blockchain logo) - to document owners engaged in registering documents.

### Excavations in four new places

- Tamil Nadu has sought permission from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) for carrying out excavations in four new places in 2024.
- The four sites would be:
  - **Marungur in Cuddalore**
  - **Kongalnagaram in Tiruppur**
  - **Thirumalapuram in Tenkasi**
  - **Chennanur in Krishnagiri.**

### Pilot study to determine population of Nilgiri Tahr

- The **Tamil Nadu government** has concluded a pilot study to determine the method to estimate the **population of Nilgiri Tahr.**
- The study was launched as the part of **Project Nilgiri Tahr.**
- According to 2015 report of WWF India **3,122 Nilgiri Tahrs** spread over 5,790 sq km in **Tamil Nadu and Kerala.**
- **Project Nilgiri Tahr** was launched in **October 12, 2023.**

### PICME software upgraded

- The **Pregnancy and Infant Cohort Monitoring and Evaluation (PICME)** software has been upgraded recently as **PICME 3.0.**
- The new **PICME 3.0** will promote self - registration for **RCH (Reproductive and Child Health) ID,** and share the data through **PICME**

with the **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)** scheme for monitoring of babies discharged from the **Special New born Care Units (SNCU).**

- The software captures the details of **nearly 11 lakh pregnant women** in the State every year.

### Global Investors Meet 2024

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin inaugurated the Global Investors Meet (GIM) 2024 in Chennai.
- Theme of the GIM 2024 is **'Towards a Resilient Economy, Sustainable Development, and Inclusive Growth'.**

### Key Highlights

- Tamil Nadu Vision \$1-Trillion report was released
- A comprehensive 'growth framework' has been designed to attract \$3.8 trillion to **\$4.3 trillion** in investments from the public as well as private sector to accelerate growth.
- Singapore announced plans to invest **₹ 31,000 crore** in Tamil Nadu.
- **Semiconductor and Advanced Electronics Policy 2024** was released.
- **Green Fuels Alliance India (GFAI) initiative** was launched to boost collaboration between the **India and Denmark** to achieve carbon neutrality.
- **'Tamil Nadu Repowering and Life Extension Policy for Wind Power Projects'** policy was released.
- A total of **₹ 6,64,180 crore** of investments were attracted.
- A total of **26,90,657 jobs** were expected to be generated.

### TN Semiconductor and Advanced Electronics Policy 2024

- **Semiconductor and Advanced Electronics Policy 2024** was released at the **Global Investors Meet 2024** recently.

### Key Highlights

- The policy seeks to attract anchor investments in semiconductor and advanced electronics manufacturing.
- Aims to create a skilled talent pool of over two lakh persons by 2030.
- Implementation will be facilitated by **Guidance Tamil Nadu**.
- Disbursement of incentives will be done by **State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Ltd. (SIPCOT)**

### Nalam Nandi app launched

- **Minister for School Education Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozi** unveiled the Nalam Naadi app.
- The app was launched by the **Tamil Nadu School Education department**.
- The app will help the special educators to **track students with learning disabilities**.

### World Tamils Economic Conference

- **10th World Tamils Economic Conference** is being held in Chennai.
- **Global Economic Summit** is also held on the side lines of the World Tamils Economic Conference.
- **The First World Tamils Economic Conference** was held in **Chennai in 2009**.

### World Tamil Diaspora Day – 2024

- **World Tamils Diaspora Day 2024** is inaugurated in Chennai Trade Centre by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin.
- **Enadhu Grammam (எனது கிராமம்)** scheme which aims to **improve the infrastructure** of the hometowns of the **NRT's (Non Resident Tamils)** will be launched during the function.

### Tamil Nadu Coastal Restoration Mission

- The TN government has issued orders to implement the **Tamil Nadu Coastal Restoration Mission**.
- The mission will be implemented over the **next five years at a cost of ₹1,675 crore in 14 coastal districts** with the support of **World Bank**.

### The mission has four focus areas:

- Enhancing coastal biodiversity
- Coastal protection
- Improving livelihood through the creation of blue flag beaches and sustainable tourism
- Pollution abatement.

- **Tamil Nadu Blue Carbon Agency** will be established as a **special purpose vehicle**.

### Organ donations increase in T.N.

- According to the Health & Family Welfare Department of Tamil Nadu, there is a 14% increase in the number of organ donations in Tamil Nadu in 2023 when compared with 2022.
- The number of deceased donors rose from 156 in 2022 to 178 in 2023 owing to increased awareness on organ donations.
- Tamil Nadu received the Best State Award for the highest number of donations in 2022.

### TN plans to procure Paddy

- The Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation (TNCSC) is planning to procure more than 20 lakh tonnes of the crop as the paddy harvest season is set to begin shortly.
- In 2022-23, about 44.22 lakh tonnes of paddy was procured from around 5.22 lakh farmers in the State.

### CM honours scholars and writers

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin presented awards instituted by **three government departments** to **nine individuals** for their contributions towards **Tamil language and social justice**.
- **Ayyan Tiruvalluvar Award** which was instituted by **Tamil Development Department** were presented to **Thavathiru Balamuruganadimai Swami for 2024**.
- **Perarignar Anna Award - 'Pathamadai' Parama Sivam (2023)**

- **Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Award**  
- U. Balaraman (2023)
- **Mahakavi Bharathiar Award**  
- Palani Bharathi (2023)
- **Paavendar Bharathidasan Award**  
- M. Mutharasu (2023)
- **Tamil Thendral Thiru Vi Ka Award**  
- S. Jayaseela Stephen (2023)
- **Muthamizh Kavalalar K.A.P. Viswanatham Award** - R. Karunanidhi (2023)
- The **Thanthai Periyar Award** which instituted by the Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare Department was presented to **Suba Veerapandian**.
- The **Ambedkar Award** instituted by **Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department** for 2023 was presented to **P. Shanmugam**.

### **Olive Ridley nesting season**

- Olive Ridley sea turtles have begun nesting along the coasts of Chennai and Chengalpattu.
- The **Bay of Bengal coast** is one of the major nesting sites for Olive Ridelys.
- The **famed mass nesting or arribadas** occurs on the **Odisha coast, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh coasts**.
- Each Olive Ridley found and a total of **38,721** turtle lays about **100 eggs** which take around **45 to 60 days to hatch**.

### **New Jallikattu arena**

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin will inaugurate the newly constructed **Kalaingar Centenary Jallikattu Arena** in **Keelakarai** near **Alanganallur in Madurai** district on January 24.
- The arena is situated on the **foothills of Vaithumalai**.
- It will have a viewers' gallery with **3,700 seats on two floors**.

### **Naan Mudhalvan Niral Thiruvizha**

- **Naan Mudhalvan Niral Thiruvizha Hackathon** is being organised by the **Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC)** for engineering students across the State to encourage innovation among youth.
- The hackathon will be executed with the support of **Anna University**.

### **Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam**

- **Tamil Nadu Health secretary** stated that Tamil Nadu's spending on **drugs for Non communicable diseases (NCDs)** has nearly tripled after the **Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam (MTM)** scheme was introduced.
- **Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam (TN Doorstep Healthcare Scheme)** was launched in **Krishnagiri** in 2021.
- The scheme is aimed at eliminating the need for patients to visit hospitals for treating non-communicable diseases.

### **EPR portal**

- The **Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB)** has directed all manufacturers, producers, refurbishes, and recyclers of electronic waste to register on the **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) portal**.
- The portal was developed by the **Central Pollution Control Board** under the **E-waste (Management) Rules, 2022**.

### **T.N. electorate data released**

- The integrated final electoral rolls was published by the **Election Commission of India** recently.

### **Key Highlights**

- The electorate of Tamil Nadu has risen by about seven lakh voters and stands at **6.18 crore now**.

- It includes **3.14 crore women, 3.03 crore men** and over **8,200 from the third gender**.
- The **Sholinganallur Assembly constituency in Chengalpattu** district has the highest number of electors at **6,60,419**.
- **Kilvelur Assembly constituency in Nagapattinam** district has the lowest number of electors with **1,72,140**.

### **New Policy for Women**

- Tamil Nadu Cabinet approved the **New Policy for Women**.
- The policy is aimed at the holistic development of women, and focused on empowering them through education, economic independence and power sharing
- A **State level committee** headed by **Chief Secretaries** and **district level committees** headed by **Collectors** will be constituted to monitor the implementation of the policy.

### **TN BEAT EXPO 2024**

- **“TN BEAT EXPO 2024 - Build Entrepreneurs in Adi Dravidars and Tribals”** conclave was conducted in **India**.
- It is one of south India’s biggest business conclaves for entrepreneurs from the **SC/ST community**.
- The event is organised by the Tamil Nadu government and **Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing and Development Corporation Limited (TAHDCO)**.

### **Thoothukudi Idukkam Kalaivom**

- The **Thoothukudi** district administration launched **‘Thoothukudi Idukkam Kalaivom’** (thoothukuditik.org) portal for mobilising funds to help the flood affected people.
- The website **Thoothukudi Rains Relief and Recovery Fund** was created to provide livelihood, financial emergency, support, and medical assistance to the affected families.

### **Idhayam Kappom initiative**

- Tamil Nadu’s **Idhayam Kappom initiative** has completed **six months** recently and covered over **5,000 beneficiaries**.
- It is a preventive heart health scheme that was launched in **June 2023**.
- The objective is to save lives in remote/difficult to reach areas, especially during transit.

### **Ungalai Thedi, Ungal Ooril (In your town, looking for you) scheme launched**

- Tamil Nadu launches the **Ungalai Thedi, Ungal Ooril (In your town, looking for you) scheme**.
- The scheme aims to **redress the grievances of the general public expeditiously**.
- Under the initiative, **every District Collector and senior district-level officials** will visit and stay in a taluk for one day in a **month (4th Wednesday)** to inspect government offices in that area and listen to the grievances of the general public.