

VETRI IAS STUDY CIRCLE

Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

MARCH 2024



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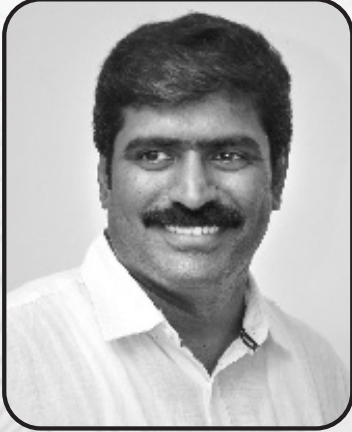
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Preface



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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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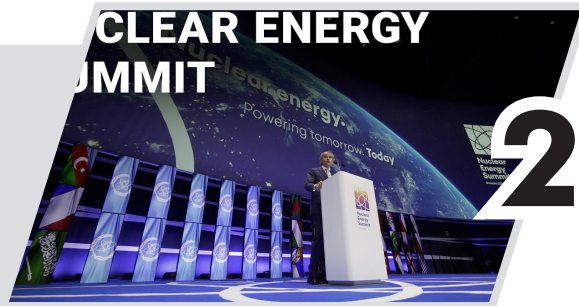
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1. HISTORY



1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
March 1	World Seagrass Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">World Seagrass Day is celebrated annually on March 1 to raise awareness about seagrass and its important functions in the marine ecosystem.Theme 2024: Healthy seagrass, healthy planet.
March 1	Zero Discrimination Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Zero Discrimination Day is celebrated every year on March 1 to promote equality, inclusion, and tolerance across the world.Theme for 2024: To protect everyone's health, protect everyone's rights.The day was first celebrated on March 1, 2014.
March 3	World Wildlife Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">World Wildlife Day is observed annually to raise awareness about the importance of wildlife conservation.Theme 2024: "Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation."The day was first observed in March 3, 2014.
March 4	National Safety Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">India observes National Safety Day every year on March 4 to promote safety awareness and practices across various sectors.Theme 2024: Safety Leadership for Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Excellence.
March 4	World Obesity Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">World Obesity Day is observed on March 4 every year to raise awareness about obesity.Theme 2024: 'Let's Talk About Obesity And...!'

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
March 7	Jan Aushadhi Diwas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jan Aushadhi Diwas is observed on March 7 every year. ▪ The day aims to raise awareness about the Jan Aushadhi program and encourage the usage of generic medications. <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) is launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers in November, 2008 to provide generic medicines at affordable prices
March 8	International Women's Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Women's Day is observed on March 8 every year to raise awareness about several issues related to women like gender equality, women's reproductive rights, gender violence, abuses against women, women's education, etc. ▪ Theme 2024: "Invest in Women: Accelerating Progress". ▪ The day has been observed by United Nations since 1975.
March 10	55th CISF Raising Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CISF Raising Day is observed every year on March 10 to commemorate the establishment of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) in 1969. ▪ CISF is a paramilitary security force. ▪ It functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
March 15	World Consumer Rights Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The World Consumer Rights Day is observed on March 15 every year to create awareness about the rights of all consumers against fraud, discrimination, and other such practices. ▪ 2024 Theme: 'Fair and Responsible AI for Consumers'. ▪ The first World Consumer Rights Day was celebrated in 1983.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
March 16	National Immunization Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Immunization Day also known as National Vaccination Day is observed on March 16 to raise awareness about the importance of vaccines for human health. ▪ Theme 2024: Vaccines Work For All ▪ National Vaccination Day was first observed in 1995 when the first dose of oral polio vaccine was given in India.
March 21	International Day of Forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The International Day of Forests is celebrated every year on March 21 to raise awareness of the importance of forests and trees for the survival of humanity and its planet. ▪ Theme for 2024 : Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World. ▪ The day was first celebrated by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012.
March 21	World Down Syndrome Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Down Syndrome Day is observed every year on March 21 to raise awareness about Down syndrome. ▪ Theme 2024 : 'End The Stereotypes'. ▪ The day has been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012.
March 22	World Water Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Water Day is celebrated on March 22 every year to highlight the importance of water. ▪ Theme 2024: Leveraging Water for Peace. ▪ The day was first celebrated in 1993
March 23	World Meteorological Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Meteorological Day is observed annually on March 23 every year. ▪ The day commemorates the formal establishment of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). ▪ Theme 2024 : At the Frontline of Climate Action

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
March 24	World Tuberculosis Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World TB Day is celebrated every year on March 24 to raise public awareness about the devastating health, social and economic consequences of tuberculosis (TB). Theme 2024: "Yes! We can end TB". The date marks the day in 1882 when Dr. Robert Koch discovered the Mycobacterium tuberculosis that causes TB.
March 25	Earth Hour 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2024 Earth Hour is observed on March 25. Earth Hour is the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF)'s annual initiative that began in 2007. It encourages people from more than 180 countries to switch off the lights for 1 hour
March 27	World Theatre Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Theatre Day is annually observed across the globe on March 27 to promote theatre in all its forms across the world. The Day has been annually celebrated by the International Theatre Institute (ITI) and the World Organization for the Performing Arts.
March 30	International Day of Zero Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Day of Zero Waste is annually observed across the globe on March 30 to highlight the importance of improving waste management. The day is observed by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). The day was first observed in 2023.

1.2 DEFENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND TERRORISM

INS Jatayu

- The **Indian Navy** commissioned the **second Naval base INS Jatayu**, at **Minicoy Island** in the **Lakshadweep Islands**.
- INS Dweeprakshak** in **Kavaratti** is the **first Naval base** which was commissioned in **2012**.
- The base strategically located islands near the **Nine Degree Channel**.

- Nine Degree Channel** separates the island of **Minicoy** from the **Lakshadweep archipelago**.

ADITI Scheme

- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** unveiled the **Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI) scheme**.
- The scheme aims to promote innovations in critical and strategic defence technologies,

providing start-ups with significant grants for research and development.

Naval Commanders' Conference

- The first edition of the **Biannual Naval Commanders' Conference 2024** was concluded recently in **New Delhi**.
- The important maritime security issues at the Military-Strategic level was discussed at the conference.
- The inaugural session of the Conference was held onboard the aircraft carrier **INS Vikramaditya**

Nausena Bhawan

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** inaugurated a dedicated headquarters '**Nausena Bhawan**' at **New Delhi**.
- It is the first independent headquarters of Indian Navy.
- It is equipped with modern facilities and cutting-edge technologies.

Exercise Lamitiye 2024

- The **Tenth edition of Joint Military Exercise "LAMITIYE-2024"** will be held in **Seychelles**.
- It is a Joint Military Exercise between **Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces**.

Ex Tiger Triumph – 24

- **Tiger Triumph - 24** is a bilateral tri-Service **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief**

(**HADR**) **Exercise** between India and **USA**.

- It is held onboard **INS Jalashwa**.

IMT TRILAT- 2024

- **Indian Navy** is set to participate in the **second edition of IMT TRILAT Exercise**.
- It is the joint maritime exercise between the navies of **India, Mozambique and Tanzania**.
- The first edition of the **IMT TRILAT exercise** was conducted in **October 2022**.

Op Sankalp

- **March 23** marked the **completion of 100 days** of the ongoing maritime security operations under the aegis of '**Op Sankalp**'.
- '**Operation Sankalp**' was launched by the **Indian Navy** in the **Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman** as a measure to assure the safety and security of the Indian vessels.

LCA - Mk1A flight test

- The **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** successfully completed the first flight of indigenous **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mark 1A fighter jet in Bengaluru**.
- **LCA - Mk1A** is the most advanced version of **Tejas**.
- **Tejas** is an indigenously built multi-role fighter aircraft.

1.3 EMINENT PERSONS

Bronze statue of Lachit Borphukan

- A **125-foot bronze statue of Lachit Borphukan** was unveiled at his burial site in **Jorhat district of Assam**.
- The statue is **84 feet tall** which is set on a **pedestal of 41 feet** making the total height of the figurine **125 feet**.
- **Lachit Borphukan** was an army commander of the **Ahom kingdom**.

PwD National Icon

- **Ms. Sheetal Devi** was announced as the **National Icon in the PwD category Persons with Disabilities** by the Election Commission of India recently.
- She is a distinguished **Para-archer, and Arjuna Awardee**.

1.4 WORLD ORGANISATIONS – PACTS AND SUMMITS

International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

- The Union Environment Ministry plans to set up and coordinate an **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)**.
- IBCA will be headquartered in **India**.
- India has already committed **₹150 crore** for five years.
- So far **16 countries** have given their written consent to be part of the IBCA

Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Startup Forum was held in New Delhi.

- The initiative aimed to increase startup relationships among SCO Member States.

About SCO

- Launch - **June 15, 2001**.
- It is a **permanent inter governmental international organization established in Shanghai, China**.
- It has **9 member countries including India**.

4th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Startup Forum

- The **fourth edition of the Shanghai**

1.5 SPORTS

Paris Olympics 2024

- The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) named table tennis player **Achanta Sharath Kamal** as flagbearer for the **Indian Olympic contingent**.

- The IOA appointed boxer **Mary Kom** as the **chef de mission** of the **Indian Olympic contingent**.
- **Paris Olympics 2024** is set to be held from **26th July to 11th August 2024 in Paris, France**.

1.6 AWARDS & HONOURS

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards

- **President Droupadi Murmu** presented the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for 2022 and 2023** to eminent artists in the field of performing arts.
- She also presented the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship, or Akademi Ratna**, to seven eminent artists.
- It is the highest honour given to artists for his or her exceptional contribution to a performing art form.
- The **Akademi Awards** were first given in **1952**.

Susairaj alias Bhamu who made a significant contribution field of literature.

- Her novel "**Karukku**" was translated into English and won the **Crossword Book Awards** for **2000**.
- The award was instituted to mark the International Women's Day by former **Chief Minister J.Jayalalitha in 2012**.
- The Award aims to encourage women excelling in social reforms, women's development, communal harmony, arts, science, culture, journalism and administration etc.

Avvaiyar Award 2024

- The **Avvaiyar Award** for the year 2024 has been announced for the writer **Bastina**

National Creators Award

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented the newly formed National Creators Award to online content creators.
- The Award was presented to 23 creators which also include three International creators.
- Keerthika Govindhasamy from Tamil Nadu won the award for Best Storyteller.

Oscar Awards 2024

- 96th Academy Awards ceremony was presented in Los Angeles
- Some of the important awardees are,
 - Best Actor: Cillian Murphy, "Oppenheimer"
 - Best Actress: Emma Stone, "Poor Things"
 - Best Picture: "Oppenheimer"
 - Best Director: Christopher Nolan, "Oppenheimer"
 - Best Score: "Oppenheimer"
- The first Academy Awards presentation was held on May 16, 1929.

Sahitya Akademi Translation Prize 2023

- Writer Kannaiyan Dakshnamurthy's book 'Karunkundram' has been selected for Sahitya Akademi Translation Prize 2023.
- Kannaiyan Dakshnamurthy has translated Mamang Dai's English novel 'The Black Hill' into Tamil.

Order of the Druk Gyalpo Award

- Narendra Modi was awarded Bhutan's highest honour, the 'Order of the Druk Gyalpo'.
- Modi is the first foreign leader to receive the prestigious award.
- The award recognizes Narendra Modi's contribution to strengthening India-Bhutan friendship and his people centric leadership.

Madras Music Academy Awards 2024

- The Madras Music Academy conferred TM Krishna with the Sangita Kalanidhi Award for 2024.
- It is considered to be the highest award in the Carnatic music scene.
- Nriytha Kalanidhi award was presented to Dr. Neena Prasad for 2024.

Abel Prize

- The Abel Prize for 2024 has been awarded to French mathematician Michael Talagrand recently.
- The Award is given to scholar who has made a significant contribution to mathematics.
- It has been presented since 2003.

Bharat Ratna 2024

- President Droupadi Murmu conferred the Bharat Ratna 2024 on five personalities, namely,
 - P.V. Narasimha Rao
 - Chaudhary Charan Singh
 - Karpoori Thakur
 - Dr. M.S. Swaminatan.
 - LK Advani

- Four awards except for LK Advani were presented posthumously at a brief ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Note

- Bharat Ratna is India's highest civilian honour.
- Established - 1954
- It is awarded to people for their exceptional public service in fields like literature, science and art.

1.7 APPOINTMENTS – WHO IS WHO?

Arun Goel resigns

- **Election Commissioner Arun Goel** resigned from his post recently.
- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** consists of **three members**.
- ECI already had a vacant position, and now only the Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar remain on the poll panel.
- Elections Commissioner is selected by the **Selection Committee comprising**,
 - **Prime Minister (Head)**
 - A Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the PM
 - Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.
- He is later **appointed by the President of India**.
- **Article 324** - Superintendence, direction and control of elections to be vested in an Election Commission.

TN State Election Commissioner

- **B.Jothi Nirmalashamy** was appointed as the new **Tamil Nadu State Election Commissioner** recently.
- **Article 243 K and Article 243 ZA** were inserted to establish a **State Election Commission** in every state as a **constitutional body**.

New Haryana CM

- **Nayab Singh Saini** was sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Haryana recently.

- Haryana Governor **Bandaru Dattatreya** administered the oath of office to **Nayab Singh Saini**.

New Election Commissioners

- Retired bureaucrats **Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu** were appointed as new Election Commissioners.
- This is the **first time** that the Election Commissioners have been appointed in accordance with the **Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023**.

Committee for Preservation of Great Indian Bustard.

- The **Supreme Court** has recently appointed a **seven-member expert committee** for the preservation of the **Great Indian Bustard (GIB)**.
- **IUCN Status - Critically Endangered**.

New NIA director general

- The Centre has recently appointed **Sadanand Vasant Date** as the **Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA)**.
- He was appointed by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**.
- ACC is composed of the **Prime Minister of India** and the **Minister of Home Affairs**.

2. POLITICAL SCIENCE

2.1 INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

New Airstrip

- PM Modi and Mauritian PM Pravind Jugnauth jointly inaugurated new airstrip and 6 community development projects at the **Agaléga island of Mauritius**.
- Agaléga comprises **two islands** – the main North Island, and the smaller South Island.

India – EFTA Bloc

- India is likely to sign a long-negotiated free trade agreement with **European Free Trade Association (EFTA)**.
- EFTA includes four European countries - **Switzerland, Finland, Norway and Liechtenstein**.
- The proposed **India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)** is expected to bring investments **worth \$100 billion** into India and generate one million jobs

Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)

- India signed the **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** with **European Free Trade Association (EFTA)** recently.
- **EFTA** includes four European nations - **Switzerland, Finland, Norway and Liechtenstein**.
- **TEPA** aims to reach **\$100 billion in investments** in India and **one million jobs** within **15 years**.
- It is the **second such FTA agreement** signed after India's agreement with the **United Arab Emirates**.

India-Bhutan

- India has decided to double **Bhutan's assistance over the next five years**, from **₹5,000 crore in 2019-2024 to ₹10,000 crore** for the period **till 2029**.
- India lends support to the **'Gelephu Mindfulness City' Project of Bhutan**.

2.2 LATEST COURT VERDICTS

SC overrules JMM bribery case judgment

- **Seven-judge Bench of the Supreme Court** declared that parliamentary privilege or immunity will not protect legislators who take bribes to vote or speak in **Parliament or State Legislative Assemblies** from criminal prosecution.

- The Supreme Court overrules the judgment of **JMM Bribery Case of 1998** which granted immunity for legislators for bribery.
- **Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud** observed that the bribery is complete the moment bribery amount is accepted.

2.3 PUBLIC AWARENESS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Cabinet approves Fertilizer Subsidy

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the proposal of the Department of Fertilizers for fixing the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for Kharif Season, 2024 on Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers.
- Three new fertilizer grades was added under the NBS scheme.
- The tentative budgetary requirement for Kharif season 2024 would be approximately Rs.24,420 crore.

Tripartite Agreement

- The Government of India, the government of Tripura, and the Tipraha Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance (TIPRA) signed a tripartite agreement recently.
- The agreement was signed to address the issues faced by the indigenous people of Tripura, who make up 33% of the population.

Sudha Murty nominated to Rajya Sabha

- Philanthropist and author in Kannada and English Sudha Murty was nominated to the Rajya Sabha by President Droupadi Murmu.
- Under Article 80(3) of the Indian Constitution a person can be nominated to the Rajya Sabha if he has special knowledge in Arts, Science, Literature or social service.

Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024

- The Union Home Ministry officially released the rules for the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).
- Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024 amends the Citizenship Rules, 2009 and is notified to enforce Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019.

- It will enable the persons eligible under CAA, 2019 to apply for the grant of Indian citizenship.
- Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019 aims to offer Indian citizenship to persecuted non-Muslim migrants.
- This includes Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis, and Christians who migrated from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan who arrived in India before December 31, 2014.

UCC Bill, 2024

- President Droupadi Murmu gave assent to the UCC Bill, 2024 recently.
- Uttarakhand became the First State in Independent India to have a Uniform Civil Code.
- President gave assent to the bill under Article 201 of the Constitution of India.
- The Bill has 392 Sections under seven Schedules.

Report on One Nation One Election

- The committee led by former President Ram Nath Kovind submitted an extensive report on the 'One Nation One Election' initiative to President Droupadi Murmu.
- The report states that the central government must develop a legally tenable mechanism to restore the cycle of simultaneous elections.
- The committee was formed on September 2, 2023.

Captive Elephant (Transfer or Transport) Rules, 2024

- The Centre has notified a set of rules called the Captive Elephant (Transfer or Transport) Rules, 2024.

- The Rules liberalise the conditions under which elephants may be transferred within or between states.

Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2024

- **Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** has recently notified the rules under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986** to amend **Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules, 2016**. The Rules revises provisions relating to plastic packaging and

commodities made from compostable plastics or biodegradable plastics.

E- Vehicle policy 2024

- The Cabinet recently approved the **E-Vehicle policy** to promote India as a **manufacturing destination for EVs**.
- The policy aims to promote India as a manufacturing destination so that e-vehicles (EV) with the latest technology can be manufactured.

2.4 GOVT – WELFARE ORIENTED GOVT SCHEMES, THEIR UTILITY

PM Free Electricity scheme

- The **Union Cabinet** has recently approved **PM Free Electricity scheme (PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana)**
- The scheme aims to provide free electricity up to **300 units every month** for **One Crore households** with a total outlay of **Rs.75,021 crore** for installing rooftop solar panels.

Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojna (PM-AJAY)

- **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** laid the foundation stone for **34 residential hostels** across various states **under PM-AJAY**.
- The scheme aims to foster a conducive **learning environment for socially and educationally backward communities**.
- **PM - AJAY** is a merged scheme of three Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely
 - **Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY)**
 - **Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCA to SCSP)**
 - **Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana (BJRCY)**

Mera pehla vote desh ke liye

- The **Ministry of Education, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** have jointly launched a nationwide awareness campaign **“Mera pehla vote desh ke liye (My First Vote for the Country)”** recently.
- The scheme aims to encourage the first-time voters to participate in the **2024 Lok Sabha election**

Umbrella body for urban cooperative banks

- **Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah** inaugurated an umbrella organisation for **urban cooperative banks (UCB) – the National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation Limited (NUCFDC)**.
- The organisation had a collective strength of **11,000 branches** with **1,500 banks**, deposits of **₹5 lakh crore** and loans totaling **₹3.50 lakh crore**

V-SAT Stations

- The **Tribal Affairs Ministry** is planning to collaborate with the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** to deploy **V-SAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal) stations**.

- The **V-SAT stations** will be set up on a pilot basis for **around 80 tribal villages in Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Maharashtra.**
- It will bring Internet services to these villages that are geographically remote and have difficult terrain.

Namo Drone Didi scheme

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi handed over drones to 1,000 women chosen to operate drones for agriculture and related purposes under **Namo Drone Didi scheme.**
- Under the scheme, **rural women** are trained to become **drone pilots for agricultural purposes.**
- **Objective** - To enhance economic empowerment and financial autonomy among women, especially in rural areas.

PM-SURAJ portal

- Prime Minister recently launched the **Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthanevum Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan (PM-SURAJ)** portal recently.
- The portal is launched to provide credit support to entrepreneurs from disadvantaged sections of society.
- The portal will be a one-stop point where people from disadvantaged sections of society can apply for and monitor the progress of all loan and credit schemes already available to them.

SAKHI App

- The **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)** has developed a multi-purpose app called **SAKHI-Space-borne Assistant and Knowledge Hub for Crew Interaction.**
- The App will help the astronauts stay connected with Earth and also alert them about their dietary schedules.
- ISRO is planning to launch the **Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission in 2025.**

Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme (EMPS), 2024

- **Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI)** has proposed to implement the **Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme (EMPS), 2024** recently.
- The scheme aims to promote the adoption of **electric two-wheelers (e2W) and three-wheelers (e3W).**
- The scheme does not cover electric **four-wheelers (e4Ws) and e-buses.**

BhashaNet portal

- The portal was launched jointly by the **National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)** and the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).**
- BhashaNet portal is a **Multilingual Internet and Universal Acceptance Initiative.**
- The portal provides an eco-system to enable citizen to easily create, communicate, transact, process and retrieve information with ease in digital medium without language barrier

Revised wages under the MGNREGS

- The Union government recently notified the revised wages under the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)** with States reporting a hike in wages by eight to 10%.
- Haryana offers the highest wages at ₹374 per day and Uttar Pradesh offers the lowest wages at ₹237.
- Tamil Nadu revised the wages Rs.294 to 319.

C-Vigil app

- The Election Commission recently stated that over 79,000 complaints against violation of model code of conduct were received on C-Vigil app and over 99 per cent of complaints have been resolved.
- **"cVIGIL" App enable citizens to report on violation of election code of conduct.**



3. GEOGRAPHY

3.1 POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

First Herpeto-faunal survey

- The **first-ever herpeto-faunal survey** was conducted in the **Core Area** of the **Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR)**.
- Herpeto-faunal includes both **amphibians and reptiles**.
- The survey led to the recording of **82 different species**.
- It includes **51 species of reptiles** and **31 species of amphibians**.

Report on Status of Leopards

- **Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav** released the report on **Status of Leopards in India** at **New Delhi**.
- The **fifth cycle of leopard population estimation** was carried out by the **National Tiger Conservation Authority** and **Wildlife Institute of India**, in collaboration with **State Forest Departments**.
- India's leopard population is estimated at **13,874**.
- The Largest population of leopards in India is recorded in **Madhya Pradesh with 3907**, followed by **1,690 in Maharashtra**, **1,783 in Karnataka** and **868 in Tamil Nadu**.

India's first-ever dolphin research centre

- Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inaugurated **India's first-ever dolphin research centre - National Dolphin Research Center (NDRC)** in **Patna**.

- It is situated on the banks of the Ganges inside the **Patna University campus**.
- It will help students and researchers understand the behaviour of freshwater dolphins, particularly of those found in the Ganges.

Pandavula Gutta

- **Pandavula Gutta** has been officially recognised as the **Geo-heritage site in Telangana**.
- It is a geological marvel older than the Himalayan hills.
- Geo-heritage sites are announced by the **Geological Survey of India (GSI)**.

'Hottest Year' on record

- According to '**The State of Global Climate Report**' released by **World Meteorological Organisation 2023** is officially the **hottest year on record**.
- The global average near-surface temperature was **1.45 degrees Celsius** above the **pre-industrial baseline**.

Senna spectabilis

- The **Forest Department** stated that **Senna spectabilis** which is a highly invasive tree species has been removed from around **400 hectares of the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR)**.
- **Madras High Court** had ordered the removal of the tree from both **Mudumalai and Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserves**.

Note

- Invasive species are non-native species that significantly disrupts the ecosystems.



4. ECONOMICS

4.1 REPORTS AND INDICES

SIPRI REPORT

- According to Swedish think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), India was the top arms importer in the world in the period 2019-23.
- The imports have gone up to 4.7% compared with the period 2014-18.
- Russia remained as India's main arms supplier.

Human Development Index (HDI) 2023-24

- Human Development Report 2023-2024 is released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) recently.
- Theme of the report: "Breaking the Gridlock: Reimagining Cooperation in a Polarized World."
- India ranked 134 in 2022.
- India is in the medium human development category
- HDI value increase by 48.4 percent from 0.434 in 1990 to 0.644 in 2022 between 1990 and 2022.
- India's life expectancy at birth is 67.7 years in 2022.
- The expected years of schooling (EYS) is 12.6 years.
- Gross National Income (GNI) per capita is \$6,951.

Gender Inequality Index 2022

- The Gender Inequality Index 2022 was released by UNDP recently.
- India stands at rank 108 out of 193 countries with a score of 0.437.

- India improved 14 places from the 2021 ranking of 122 out of 191 countries, with a score of 0.490.

ILO Report

- The report titled "Profits and poverty: The economics of forced labour" was released recently by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Key Highlights of the Report

- The forced labour generates illegal profits worth \$36 billion per year with \$10,000 per victim.
- Total annual illegal profits from forced labour are highest in Europe and Central Asia followed by Asia.
- Top three sectors with the highest annual illegal profits from forced labour,
 - Forced commercial sexual exploitation.
 - Industries
 - Services

Air Quality Report 2023

- Air Quality Report 2023 is released by Swiss organisation IQAir recently.

Key Findings:

- India was third most polluted country after Bangladesh and Pakistan.
- New Delhi has been ranked as the World's most Polluted Capital City.
- Bihar's Begusarai has emerged as the world's most polluted metropolitan area.
- 42 of the world's most polluted 50 cities are in India.

World Happiness Report (WHR) 2024

- The **World Happiness Report** is published annually by the **United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network**.
- It is calculated using **six variables** – GDP per capita, healthy life expectancy, having someone to count on, freedom to make life choices, generosity, and freedom from corruption
- India ranked **126** in the Index.
- The report observed that in India, older age is associated with higher life satisfaction.
- **Finland** topped the list for the **seventh year in a row**, followed by **Denmark, Iceland and Sweden**.

UN World Water Development Report 2024

- **UN World Water Development Report 2024** focusing on **'Water for Prosperity and Peace'** was released recently.
- It was released by **UN-Water**.
- The report states that agriculture accounts for **70% of freshwater withdrawals**.

India Employment Report 2024

- The **India Employment Report 2024** was recently released by the **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** and the **Institute of Human Development (IHD)**.

Key Highlights

- The youngsters account for **almost 83% of the India's unemployed workforce**.
- The share of those with secondary or higher education among the unemployed youth in India has almost doubled from **35.2% in 2000 to 65.7% in 2022**.
- **Labour from agriculture** was mainly absorbed by the **construction and services sectors**.

Global Trade Update Report

- **Global Trade Update Report** was recently released by **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**.

Key Highlights

- **Export of services** from India rose by **14% in 2023**.
- **Exports of goods** from India declined by **6%**.
- International trade is expected to rebound in **2024**.

Food Waste Index Report 2024

- **Food Waste Index Report 2024** was released by the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** and **WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme)**.

Key Highlights

- The households across the globe waste over **one billion meals a day in 2022**.
- **1.05 billion tonnes** of food waste were generated in **2022**.
- India's **per capita food waste is 55kg per year**.
- **India ranked 111** out of 125 countries in the index.

India TB report 2024

- **India TB report 2024** was recently released by the **Union Health Ministry**.

Key Highlights

- Since 2015, India has recorded a decline of **16% in incidence of TB (Tuberculosis)** and a **18% reduction in mortality**.
- The incidence rate in India is **199 per lakh population in 2022**.
- The mortality rate is **23 per lakh population in 2022**.
- India has set 2025 as the **target for eliminating TB**.

Note

- **National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP)** is guided by the **National Strategic Plan 2017-25** to accelerate the **TB elimination**.



5. SCIENCE

5.1 SPACE

Agni-5

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted the first successful flight test of indigenously developed Agni-5 missile with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-Entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology.
- It was tested at A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha under the name Mission Divyastra.
- The MIRV technology means a single missile can carry multiple warheads.

India's First liquid oxygen-kerosene rocket

- The Chennai based Space start-up Agnikul Cosmos Private Limited will be launching its First Rocket Agnibaan Sub Orbital Technology Demonstrator (SOrTeD) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, in Sriharikota.
- Agnibaan SOrTeD will be,
 - India's First launch from a private launchpad
 - India's First semi-cryogenic engine powered rocket launch
 - World's First single piece 3D printed engine designed and built indigenously.
- Agnikul Cosmos is the First company in the country to sign an agreement with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) under the IN-SPACE initiative

'Pushpak' Reusable Landing Vehicle

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully conducted the Pushpak Reusable Landing Vehicle (RLV) LEX 02 landing experiment
- The test was conducted at the Aeronautical Test Range (ATR), Chitradurga, Karnataka.
- The RLV LEX 02 landing experiment is the second of the series of experiments conducted by ISRO.
- RLV-LEX-01 mission was launched in 2023.

Statio Shiv Shakti

- The International Astronomical Union (IAU) officially approved the name "Statio Shiv Shakti" for the landing site of Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander.
- IAU is the internationally recognised authority for assigning names to planetary surface features.

POEM-3 mission

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced that Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle Orbital Experimental Module-3 (POEM-3) has re-entered the Earth's atmosphere with zero debris in orbit.
- PSLV-C58/XPoSat mission has left zero debris in the orbit.
- POEM-3 was configured with a total of 9 different experimental payloads to carry out technology demonstrations and scientific

experiments on the newly developed indigenous systems.

Kalam-250

- The leading space-tech company **Skyroot Aerospace** has successfully test-fired **Kalam - 250** recently.
- Kalam - 250 is the Stage-2 of Vikram-1 space

launch vehicle.

- It was successfully test fired at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

Note

- The Vikram is a series of launch vehicles developed by Skyroot Aerospace which is an Indian startup aerospace company.

5.2 LATEST DISCOVERIES IN HEALTH SCIENCE

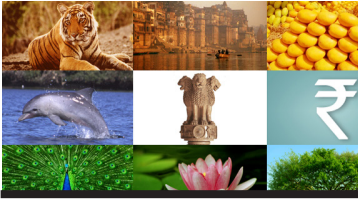
CoViNet

- Recently, the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** has launched a new network for coronaviruses, **CoViNet**.
- CoViNet is a **network of global laboratories**

with expertise in human, animal and environmental coronavirus surveillance.

- At present, it comprises **36 laboratories from 21 countries in all six WHO regions**.





6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENT

GI tags

- Recently some products has been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag recently, which include.
 - Cuttack Rupa Tarakasi (silver filigree)
 - Banglar Muslin - West Bengal.
 - Narasapur crochet lace products – Andhra Pradesh
 - Kutch rogan craft – Gujarat
 - Ratlam Riyawan Lahsun (Garlic) – Madhya Pradesh
 - Ambaji White Marble – Gujarat
 - Tripura Risa Textile – Tripura
 - Hyderabad Lac Bangles – Telangana
 - Majuli Mask – Assam
 - Majuli Manuscript Painting - Assam

BSF's first woman sniper

- Sub Inspector Suman Kumari became the Border Security Force's (BSF) first woman sniper.
- She is from Himachal Pradesh.

India's first Civil Aviation Research Organisation (CARO) Centre

- PM Modi inaugurated India's first Civil Aviation Research Organisation (CARO) Centre at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad.
- It was set up by the Airports Authority of India in Telangana.
- Objective - To upgrade and enhance research and development (R&D) activities in the civil aviation sector.

India's 1st Green Hydrogen Plant

- Union Minister for Steel and Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya M. Scindia recently inaugurated India's First Green Hydrogen Plant in Stainless Steel Sector.
- It is located at Jindal Stainless Limited, Hisar in Haryana.
- The plant will pave the way for sustainable steel production in India.

India's First City-Specific Zero Carbon Buildings Action Plan (ZCBAP)

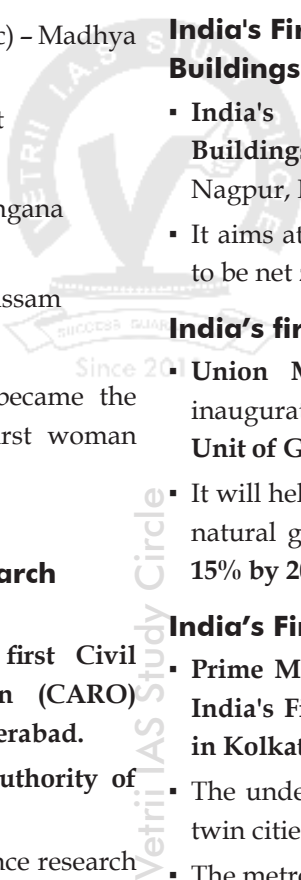
- India's First City-Specific Zero Carbon Buildings Action Plan (ZCBAP) launched in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- It aims at developing all buildings in Nagpur to be net zero carbon by 2050.

India's first Small Scale LNG Unit

- Union Minister Hardeep S.Puri recently inaugurated India's first Small Scale LNG Unit of GAIL at Vijaipur in Madhya Pradesh.
- It will help India's aim to increase the share of natural gas in the primary energy basket to 15% by 2030.

India's First-ever Underwater Metro

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's First-ever Underwater Metro Section in Kolkata.
- The underwater metro will connect Kolkata's twin cities, Howrah and Salt Lake.
- The metro covers a distance of 16.6 kilometers beneath the Hooghly River.



India's first Cooperative Museum

- India's first Cooperative Museum - International Cooperative Museum building is set to be inaugurated in Kozhikode, Kerala.
- Maharashtra has the maximum number of cooperative societies in India with 2.3 lakh cooperative societies and 5 crore members.
- Article 43B deals with the promotion of cooperative societies.

PBSHABD

- Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur launched the 'PBSHABD' recently.
- PBSHABD is Prasar Bharati's news sharing service and the revamped websites of DD News and Akashvani News.
- The PB-SHABD has been designed to provide daily news feeds in video, audio, text, and other formats to subscribers

Model Code of Conduct (MCC)

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) announced that the Lok Sabha elections would be conducted in seven phases from April 19 to June 1 and the results will be announced on June 4.
- The MCC is a set of guidelines issued to regulate political parties and candidates prior to elections.
- It is not legally binding.
- It contains eight provisions dealing with general conduct, meetings, processions, polling day, polling booths, observers, the party in power, and election manifestos.

Solar Waste

- According to a new study published by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and a climate think tank - Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) 600 kilotonnes of solar waste will be generated in India by 2030.
- The current solar capacity of India stands at 66.7 GW as of March 2023.

Operation 'Indravati' launched

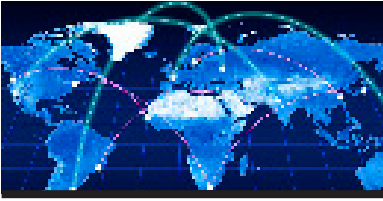
- India recently launched Operation 'Indravati' to rescue Indians from Haiti to the Dominican Republic.
- The security situation has deteriorated due to internal unrest in Haiti.

Rajasthan Water Resources Dashboard

- Rajasthan became the first state in India to launch a dedicated portal for water.
- The portal provides real time information on the water level in dams, reservoirs and canals in different parts of Rajasthan

Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs)

- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) releases the list of Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) for 2023-24.
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) and New India Assurance Company were identified as D-SIIs.



7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Pakistan's New President

- Asif Ali Zardari was elected as the 14th President of Pakistan recently.
- He became the **only civilian President of Pakistan** to be elected for the second time.
- He is the co-chairperson of the **Pakistan Peoples Party**.

32nd member of NATO

- Recently, **Sweden** has officially become the **32nd member of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**.
- NATO is a transatlantic political and military alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty (Washington Treaty), **1949**.
- **Headquarters:** Brussels, Belgium

Russian president

- **Vladimir Putin** was elected as the **President of Russia** again with winning 87.8% of the vote.
- He first became the **President of Russia** on **December 31, 1999**.

World's first ever Nuclear Energy Summit

- The **World's first ever Nuclear Energy Summit** was held in **Brussels in Belgium** recently.
- The summit was jointly organized by the **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** and the **government of Belgium** to promote nuclear energy.
- The Summit was attended by more than **30 countries including India**.

About IAEA

- **Formation - 1957**
- It is an **autonomous body under United Nations**.
- **Members - 178 (Including India)**



8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

Nammazhvar Award 2024

- TN CM MK Stalin presented the **Nammazhvar awards for 2023-24** for **three farmers** for practising and promoting organic farming.
- **K. Siddhar from Thanjavur** has bagged the top award which carries a cash prize of 2.50 lakh and citation.
- He was followed by **K.V.Pazhanisamy from Tirupur district** and **K.Ezhilan of Kancheepuram district**.

Thozhi hostels

- The **Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department** has proposed to renovate **10 hostels** functioning under it with amenities on a par with Thozhi hostels for working women.
- The government runs **21 working women hostels** in total.
- They were set up in **1980**.
- 10 of them were already converted into **Thozhi hostels at nine locations**.

Core loading of reactor

- PM Narendra Modi launched the core loading of **India's indigenous 500 Mwe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR)** in the nuclear complex at Kalpakkam.
- The initiation of the core loading of **PFBR** was developed by **BHAVINI (Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited)**

New Schemes launched

- **Two schemes** were launched by the Tamil Nadu government recently.

▪ Neengal Nalama scheme:

- To ensure the proper implementation of **various schemes implemented by the state government**.
- Under the scheme, the **Chief Minister, Ministers, Secretaries, and Collectors** will interact with beneficiaries through phone calls to get their feedback on various schemes and services offered by the government for further improvement.

- **Natham Online Patta Transfer Scheme:** To ease the challenges faced by people living in rural areas in getting pattas for their **Grama Natham lands**.

Thermal power plant in Athipet

- **Chief Minister M.K. Stalin** inaugurated the **₹10,158- crore supercritical technology-based North Chennai Thermal Power Station-III at Athipet in Tiruvallur district**.
- The power station was capable of producing **800 megawatts**.
- Its foundation was laid in **2010** by the then **Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi**.

TIDCO – IN - SPACe Agreement

- **Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited (TIDCO)** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **IN-SPACe**.
- **IN-SPACe** is a single-window **nodal agency** for all space sector activities of **non-government entities (NGE)** in India.

- The MoU intends to establish a **space industrial and propellants park** and a **Centre of Excellence (CoE)**.

HPV vaccination programme

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin recently inaugurated the **HPV vaccination programme** at the **Adyar Cancer Institute's screening centre** in the **Villupuram government hospital complex**.
- The free vaccination against cervical cancer will cover **girls aged 9-14 in Villupuram district**.
- This is the **first time such a scheme** is implemented in Tamil Nadu.
- **Two doses** of the vaccine will be administered to the beneficiaries.
- **Cervical cancer** is mainly caused by **human papillomavirus (HPV)**

Vada Chennai Valarchi Thittam

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin launched **87 civic infrastructure projects** in various parts of **north Chennai** under the **Vada Chennai Valarchi Thittam**.
- The State government had allocated **₹4,181 crore** for the implementation of infrastructure projects in north Chennai.
- **Vada Chennai Valarchi Thittam** was announced in the **TN Budget 2022-23**.

Marine Elite Force

- The **Tamil Nadu Forest Department** has launched a specialised unit called the **Marine Elite Force**.
- The unit aims to preserve and protect marine resources such as coral reefs, sea grass, and other marine flora and fauna in the eco-sensitive island against exploitation in the **Gulf of Mannar of the Palk Bay**.

Pudhumai Penn Scheme

- The government order issued by the Social Welfare Department has expanded the scope of the **Pudhumai Penn Scheme to students studying through Tamil medium at aided schools**.
- This would benefit **over 49,600 more girl students** studying through Tamil medium in aided schools across Tamil Nadu.
- **Pudhumai Pen Scheme** is launched on **September 5, 2022**.

Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam (MTM)

- A State-wide, cross-sectional survey has found that **Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam (MTM)** has reached the most vulnerable groups, such as women in rural areas and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.
- The survey found that diabetes and hypertension were the **most widely covered non-communicable diseases (NCDs)** under **MTM** and **cancer screening coverage** was extremely low.
- **MTM** was launched in **2021**.
- **Aim** - To deliver medical care at people's doorstep.

Panel for global conference on Lord Muruga

- The **Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department** has constituted a 20-member coordination committee for the **International Conference Lord Muruga**.
- The committee will be headed by **HR&CE Minister P.K. Sekarbabu**.
- The conference will be held in **Palani**.

Second World Classical Tamil Conference

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced that the second World Classical Tamil Conference would be held in Chennai in June 2025 for five days.
- The First World Classical Tamil Conference was held in June 2010 in Coimbatore under the leadership of then Chief Minister M.Karunanidhi.

Four New Municipalities

- The State government has ordered that Pudukottai, Namakkal, Tiruvannamalai, and Karaikudi be upgraded to Municipal Corporations.
- The new Municipal Corporations will be established in compliance with the procedures laid down under the Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies Act, 1998.

PM SHRI Schools scheme

- The Tamil Nadu School Education Department stated that the Tamil Nadu government has decided to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Union Education Ministry to implement the PM SHRI scheme in the state.
- PM SHRI is a centrally sponsored scheme that aims to showcase the implementation of the National Education Policy 2020.

- It will be implemented over a period of 5 years from 2022-23 to 2026-27.

'Mudhalvarin Grama Salaigal Membattu Thittam' (MGSMT)

- The Tamil Nadu government has recently sanctioned ₹1,000 crore to improve roads in village panchayats and panchayat unions under the 'Mudhalvarin Grama Salaigal Membattu Thittam' (MGSMT).
- The scheme aims to expand the network of quality roads to remote villages, road development works covering 2,000 km.

Pulikuthi pattangal

- Pulikuthi pattangal which dates back to Vijayanagara Empire was excavated near Kandhili in Tirupattur district.
- It is erected in memory of those who lay their lives while chasing tigers out of residential pockets

Tamil Nadu emerges as top borrower

- According to ratings firm ICRA Limited, Tamil Nadu emerged as the top borrowing State for the fourth successive fiscal year.
- Tamil Nadu borrowed ₹1,13,000 crore at the end of the fiscal year 2023-24.
- Tamil Nadu is followed by Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh in market borrowings.