

VETRI IAS STUDY CIRCLE

Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

AUGUST - 2023



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Head Office

Old No. 52, New No. 1, 9th Street,
F Block, 1st Avenue Main Road, (Near Isthia Siddhi Vinayakar Temple), Anna Nagar East – 600 102.
Ph: 044-2626 5326 | 98844 21666 | 98844 32666

Branches

SALEM

No. 189/1, Meyanoor Road,
Near ARRS Multiplex, (Near
Salem New Bus Stand), Opp.
Venkateshwara Complex,
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KOVAI

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Kovai - 641 009.
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THANJAVUR

Muthu Complex, (Pantaloons
Showroom Basement) No. 243,
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Opp. New Housing Unit,
Thanjavur - 613 005.
Ph: 78711 69099 | 78715 71819

KOVILPATTI

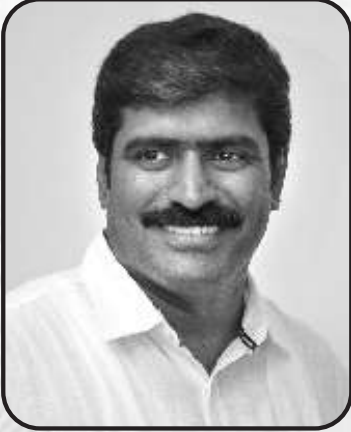
No. 15, Kathiresan Kovil Road,
Behind Kaliyamman Temple,
Kovilpatti - 628 501.
Ph: 90037 90335
81222 80685

THIRUCHENGODE

Vivekananda Educational Institutions
Elayampalayam (Po),
Thiruchengode (Tk),
Namakkal (Dt) - 637205.
Ph: 7845779908

www.vetriias.com

Preface



M. SHUNMUGAM

Director

Vetrii IAS Study Circle.

My Dear Aspirants,

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

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

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

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

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

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F Block New No. 1, 9th Street,

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Anna Nagar (E), Chennai - 102.

Phone : 044-2626 5326

98844 72636 | 98844 21666 | 98844 32666

E-mail : enquiry@vetriias.com

Web : www.vetriias.com

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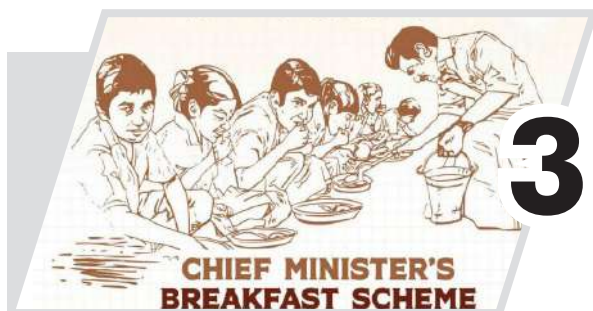


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1. HISTORY



1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
August 7	National Handloom Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Theme 2023 - “Handlooms for Sustainable Fashion” ▪ It honours the Swadeshi Movement, which began on this day in 1905 in Calcutta Town Hall. ▪ The Swadeshi Movement, inspired by Bal Gangadhar Tilak's Swadeshi doctrine, aimed to boycott foreign goods, promote self-sufficiency and revive domestic production.
August 9	International day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Theme 2023 - “Indigenous Youth as Agents of Change for Self-determination”
August 10	World Lion Day	<p>About Asiatic Lion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Naturally found in India only. ▪ Found in Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary in India. ▪ 2020 Official Lion Population Estimate: 674 ▪ Scientific Name - Panthera Leo Persica ▪ IUCN Status - Endangered
	World Biofuel Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The day takes inspiration from German engineer Sir Rudolf Diesel who successfully ran an engine on oil derived from peanuts.
August 12	World Elephant Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Theme 2023 - “Ending the Illegal Wildlife Trade”.
	International Youth Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Theme 2023 - 'Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World'
	National Librarian’s Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To commemorate the Birth Anniversary of Padmashri Dr. S. R. Ranganathan. ▪ He is also known as the ‘Father of Library Science’ in India.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
August 20	Sadbhavana Diwas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our nation celebrates Sadbhavana Diwas to commemorate late former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's birth anniversary. In English, 'Sadbhavana' means 'goodwill'. Sadbhavana Diwas key theme is to encourage national unity and social goodwill across people of various faiths and cultures.
	Akshay Urja Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To raise awareness regarding the importance of renewable energy.
	World Mosquito Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme 2022 - Harness innovation to reduce the malaria disease burden and save lives.
August 21	World Entrepreneurs' Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To honor the innovators, creatives and risk-takers who are making huge changes in their communities with their businesses.
	World Senior Citizens Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme 2023 - "Resilience of Older Persons in a Changing World".
	International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme 2023 - "Legacy: Finding Hope and Building a Peaceful Future".
August 29	National Sports Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand Singh. Theme - "Sports are an enabler to an inclusive and fit society".
August 30	National Small Industry Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To recognize the importance of small industries in the Indian economy.

1.2 PROFILE OF STATES

Tamilnadu received award for organ and tissue transplantation

Note

- Tamil Nadu received the award for the **best State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (SOTTO)** from the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO), on the occasion of the 13th Indian Organ Donation Day.
- The inception of the deceased donor **organ transplantation programme in Tamil Nadu in 2008**, since there have been 1, 706 donors.

- Tamil Nadu has the highest number of government and private hospitals possessing organ retrieval licenses in the country.
- The Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme provides coverage of up to ₹22 lakh for organ transplants.

Megalithic site found in Kerala

- Kerala State Archaeology Department found a new Megalithic site at Nagaparamba in Kuttippuram village, near Tirunavaya, in Malappuram district.
- A large number of megalithic hat stones, burial sites and relics were found from the site.

About Hat Stones

- Hat stones, popularly called **Thoppikkallu** in Malayalam, are hemispherical laterite stones used as lids on burial urns during the megalithic period.

About Kerala

- **Capital** - Thiruvananthapuram
- **Chief minister** - Pinarayi Vijayan
- **Governor** - Arif Mohammed Khan

Karnataka government launches Gruha Lakshmi scheme

- The Karnataka government launched the India's largest money transfer scheme **Gruha Lakshmi** scheme.
- Under the guarantee scheme, the **women head of the families** will receive the **financial aid** of ₹2,000.

Other Basic Income Schemes for Women

- **Lakshmir Bhandar** - West Bengal
- **Magalir Urimai Thogai scheme** - Tamil Nadu

- **Ladli Bahna Yojana** - Madhya Pradesh

About Karnataka

- **Capital** - Bengaluru (Executive Branch)
- **Chief minister** - Siddaramaiah
- **Governor** - Thawar Chand Gehlot

Jammu and Kashmir get GI Tag

- In Jammu and Kashmir, two world-famous local specialty products have earned coveted Geographical Indication (GI) Tag.
 - **Bhaderwah Rajma** (Red beans) of Doda district
 - **Sulai Honey** of Ramban district

Note

- Sulai Honey was presented to England Queen by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his UK visit.

About Jammu & Kashmir (UT)

- **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.**
- The union territory of Jammu and Kashmir is administered under the provisions of Article 239 of the Constitution of India.
- **Lieutenant Governor** - Manoj Sinha
- **Capitals** - Srinagar (summer capital - May to October), Jammu (winter capital - November to April).

1.3 DEFENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND TERRORISM

Bilateral naval drill 'Zayed Talwar'

- Two Indian Navy ships, **INS Visakhapatnam** and **INS Trikand**, conducted a bilateral naval maritime partnership exercise with the **United Arab Emirates (UAE) Navy** under the bilateral exercise named 'Zayed Talwar'.

President Murmu launches warship Vindhyagiri

- President Droupadi Murmu launched **INS Vindhyagiri**, the last in the series of **three Project 17A (Alpha) frigates** built by the Indian Navy at the **Kolkata based Garden Reach Ship builders and Engineers (GRSE)**.

- The launch was a step towards achieving the goal of **Atmanirbhar Bharat** through **indigenous shipbuilding**.

Note

- Following the launch, **Vindhyagiri** will join its two sister ships at the **Out-fitting Jetty** at **GRSE**.

About Project 17 A

- **Project 17 Alpha frigates (P-17A)** were launched by the Indian Navy in 2019.
- To construct a series of indigenous stealth guided-missile frigates.

- Constructed by two companies - Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders (MDL) and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE).
- The first stealth ship launched under Project 17A was the Nilgiri, which was launched in 2019.
- Specific stealth design has radar-absorbent coatings and is low-observable which can make its approach undetectable for the enemies.
- The missile release was successfully carried out from the aircraft at an altitude of about 20,000 ft.

About Astra

- Astra is a Beyond Visual Range (BVR) air-to-air missile to engage and destroy highly manoeuvring supersonic aerial targets.
- It is designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Research Centre Imarat (RCI) and other laboratories of the DRDO.

About DRDO

- Chairman - Samir V Kamat
- HQ - NewDelhi
- Founded - 1958

Bright-Star exercise

- The biennial Tri-Services exercise, Bright-Star, a 21-day multilateral war game, is taking place at Cairo (West) Air Base in Egypt.

Participants

- U.S.,
- Saudi Arabia,
- Greece,
- Qatar,
- Egypt (host country),
- India

Note

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) deployed five MiG-29 combat jets, six transport aircraft and a group of its Special Forces personnel.
- It is for the first time that the IAF is participating in the exercise.

About Egypt

- **President** - Abdel Fattah El-Sisi
- **Capital** - Cairo
- **Currency** - Egyptian Pound

27th edition of Malabar naval exercise

- The 27th edition of the multilateral naval exercise Malabar 2023 was concluded in Sydney, Australia.
- The exercise saw the participation of Ships, Submarines, and aircraft from
 - Indian Navy
 - Royal Australian Navy
 - Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force
 - US Navy
- Indian Navy was represented by indigenously built
 - Destroyer INS Kolkata
 - Frigate INS Sahyadri
 - P8I Maritime Patrol Aircraft

Note

- The MALABAR naval exercise commenced in 1992 as a **bilateral exercise** between **Indian Navy and US Navy**.
- Later it included **four prominent navies** in the **Indo-Pacific Region**.

LCA Tejas successfully test-fires Astra

- The Indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas successfully fired the Astra indigenously air-to-air missile off the coast of Goa.

1.4 WORLD ORGANISATIONS – PACTS AND SUMMITS

First-ever global Summit on Traditional Medicine

- The first World Health Organization **Global Summit on Traditional Medicine** was inaugurated at **Gandhinagar, Gujarat** alongside the **G20 health ministerial meet**.

- **Theme** - "Towards Health and Well-being for All"

About Traditional Medicines

- Dhanvantari - God of Ayurveda.
- Yoga - first propounded by Maharishi Patanjali

- Unani – based on the teaching of Buqrat (Hippocrates) and Jalinoos (Galen)
- Siddha - Siddhar Agasthiyar is called the Father of Siddha Medicine.
- Sowa-Rigpa - the traditional medicine of the Himalayan regions.
- The Ministry of Ayush (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy) - responsible for developing education, research and propagation of traditional medicine systems in India.

About WHO

- **Director-General** - Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
- **Headquarters** - Geneva, Switzerland
- **Founded** - 7 April 1948

G-20 Ministers of Digital Economy

- The G20 Digital Economy Ministers' Meeting was concluded in Bengaluru.
- The Meeting showed absolute consensus on the concepts and application of **Digital Public Infrastructure, Cyber security** and **digital skilling** which were the **three priority areas** put forth under G20 India Presidency.

About G20

- **Formation** - 26 September 1999.
- **Headquarters** - New Delhi 2023 (Current Capital city of G20 Host)
- **Membership** - 20 members
- **Chairman (Incumbent)** - India - Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India

Note

- **JAM trinity** – Jan Dhan Bank accounts (August 28, 2014), Aadhaar (2009) and Mobile – to revolutionise and digitalise financial inclusion in India.
- **Digital India initiative** – 2015

BRICS's New University Ranking System

- **BRICS Education Ministers' Meeting** was held in Mpumalanga province of South Africa.
- It was decided to launch an **independent university ranking** system in the meeting.

15th BRICS Summit

- 15th BRICS Summit was held under **South Africa's chairship, in Johannesburg**, South Africa.
- The outcome of the summit - **Johannesburg Declaration**.
- **Bilateral Meetings**: Apart from the main BRICS events, PM Modi meetings with leaders from
 - China (Xi Jinping)
 - Senegal
 - Mozambique
 - Ethiopia
 - Iran
- India invited the participant countries to join bodies such as:
 - International Solar Alliance
 - One Sun, One World, One Grid
 - Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure
 - One Earth, One Health
 - Big Cat Alliance
 - Global Centre for Traditional Medicine
- **BRICS Expansion**: It was decided to expand BRICS by adding six new countries.
 - Iran
 - United Arab Emirates
 - Saudi Arabia
 - Argentina
 - Egypt
 - Ethiopia

About BRICS

- **Formation** - September 2006
- 1st BRIC summit 16 June 2009 (Yekaterinburg)
- **Headquarters** – Shanghai
- **Members** - Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (joined in 2010)
- **Current Chair of BRICS** - South Africa (President Cyril Ramaphosa)
- **New Development Bank** – 2015 (Fortaleza declaration)

1.5 EMINENT PERSONS

Bindeshwar Pathak

- **Bindeshwar Pathak, Sulabh International founder, Padma Bhushan recipient, and social worker, died.**
- Credited with bringing in the revolutionary **Sulabh Complex public toilet system to India**, which contributed significantly to **reducing open-defecation and manual scavenging.**
- Mr. Pathak had **founded Sulabh International Social Services Organisation in 1970 to introduce a public toilet system in India.**

Note

- He was given the **Padma Bhushan in 1991** for social work and he later **became an ambassador for the government's Swachh Bharat Mission.**
- The Sulabh International organisation was given the **Gandhi Peace Prize for 2016**, jointly with the Akshaya Patra Foundation.

Life-size statue of T.M. Soundararajan unveiled

- Chief Minister M.K.Stalin unveiled the bronze life-size statue of renowned playback singer late T.M.Soundararajan, at Madurai.

About T.M. Soundararajan

- Popularly known as TMS, was born in Madurai in 1923.

- He was given, the title 'Ezhisai Mannar' and was awarded the Padma Shri in 2003 and the Kalaimamani in 1973-74. He died in 2013.

Commemorative coin in honour of N.T. Rama Rao

- The ₹100 commemorative coin of former A.P. Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao was unveiled by President Droupadi Murmu in Delhi.

About N.T.Rama Rao

- Indian actor, filmmaker and politician
- Served as Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh for seven years over three terms. (1983-84; 1984-89; 1994-95)
- Founded the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) in 1982.

Awards and Honour

- Padma Shri – 1968
- NTR National Award

- It is a national award in honour of Rao.
- Instituted in 1996 by the Government of Andhra Pradesh
- To recognise notable film personalities for their lifetime achievements and contributions to the Indian film industry

1.6 SPORTS AND GAMES

World University Games

- **India bags fourth in the event, at the World University Games in Chengdu, China.**
- Overall, **India won 17 medals including nine gold**, three silver and five bronze to sit fourth in the medal standings behind China (17-5-4); Korea (10-10-4) and Japan (10-6-7).

World Aquatics Championships 2023

- Katie Ledecky won her **16th gold medal** at the **2023 World Aquatics Championships** in Fukuoka, Japan.

- Ledecky won a gold medal in the 1,500 free, tying Phelps' record. She also took home silvers in the 400-meter free and the 4x200-meter free relay in Japan.
- Katie Ledecky is the most decorated of female swimmer in history with six **individual Olympic gold medals and 14 individual long course world titles** to date.

- Ledecky's victory also made her **the first swimmer to win six consecutive world championships** in the same event.

World Archery Championships: Indian women's compound team wins

- The Indian women's compound archery team clinched a gold medal at the World Archery Championships held in Berlin, Germany.
- This victory marked India's first-ever gold at the archery world championships in any category.
- The team comprised Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Parneet Kaur and Aditi Gopichand Swami.

Grand Master Gukesh

- Teen chess champion Gukesh D ended Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand's 37-year reign as India's highest-ranking chess player in the live world (FIDE) rankings.
- With this, Gukesh replaced Viswanathan Anand to move up to World No. 9 in the classic open category, while the five-time World Champion Anand slipped to the 10th spot.
- Anand, first made it to the World's top 10 in July 1991, has remained India's top-ranked player in all published lists since January 1987.

World Dwarf Games 2023

- Thambi Balasubramaniam from Pudukottai district, Clinches Gold in Badminton category at the World Dwarf Games 2023 in Berlin, Boosting Tamil Nadu's Sports Ambitions.

Asian Champions Trophy 2023: Hockey

- India sealed a 4-3 win vs. Malaysia to clinch their record-fourth ACT trophy, at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium in Chennai.

International Surf Open: Tamilnadu

- The opening ceremony of the International Surfing Competition was held at the Surf Turf Kovalam beach.
- Tamil Nadu Government Youth Welfare and Sports Development Department, Tamil Nadu Surfing Association (TNSA), Surfing Federation of India (SFI) are jointly organising the International Surf Open in Tamil Nadu for the first time in India. The event will be held from August 14 to 20 at Mamallapuram.

Tamil Nadu International Kite Festival 2023

- The second edition of the Tamil Nadu International Kite Festival was organised by Global Media Box in collaboration with the Department of Tourism Tamil Nadu, at the stunning TTDC Ocean View Mahabalipuram.
- Environmental conservation and protection of marine life are central themes of this kite festival in 2023.
- International kite teams from eight countries, including Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam and France will let over 200 kites take to the sky in a mesmerising display of colours.

Junior World Wrestling Championship

- Amit Kumar became the first Indian wrestler to win Jr world champion since 2019 after edging past Russia's Eldar Akhmaduninov in the 61kg final held in Jordan.

Note

- Deepak Punia, was the last Indian to win a World Jr C'ship in 2019.

India's first-night street races

- In a first, the Tamil Nadu government launched the Chennai Formula Racing Circuit that will host India's first-night street circuit races – Formula 4 Indian Championship and the Indian Racing League – in December 2023.
- Youth Welfare and Sports Development Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin signed a Memorandum of Understanding of three years with race promoter Racing Promotions Pvt Ltd (RPPL), during the launch of the street circuit.
- The 3.5 km layout will be the longest street circuit in India and South Asia that will host a night race, stretching across Island Grounds, Victory War Memorial and the Napier Bridge in the city.

Shooting World Championships

- The Indian squad warmed up with the men's air pistol team bronze medal in the World Championship shooting in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- Shiva Narwal, Sarbjot Singh and Arjun Singh Cheema were together got the medal behind China and Germany.

ISSF World Shooting Championships 2023

- 53rd ISSF World Shooting Championships 2023 held in **Baku, Azerbaijan**.
- **Esha Singh and Shiva Narwal won the mixed air pistol gold.**
- **Tiyana Phogat, Sakshi Suryavanshi and Kirandeep Kaur won gold medal in 50m Free Pistol Event.**
- India completed **second** on the medals table in the World Championship.

Note

- It also serves as a qualification event for 2024 Summer Olympics.

Medal Tally

- First - China
- Second - India
- Third - USA

Note

- The Event also serves as a qualification event for 2024 Summer Olympics.

Wrestling U20 World Championships

- The World U20 Wrestling Championships 2023 held in Amman, Jordan.
- **Antim Panghal** becoming the **first Indian woman wrestler to win back-to-back U20 world titles** as she defended her **53kg crown.**
- Savita (62kg) too crowned herself a world champion as the Indian women team won the team title at a world championship for the first time in the history of sport.
- **Priya Malik** had won the **76kg title.**
- In a phenomenal result for Indian wrestling, seven wrestlers from the country won medals, including three gold medals, one silver and three bronze.

Note

- Panghal had become first Indian woman grappler last year to win a junior world championship title.

ICC ODI World Cup Mascots

- **One Day World Cup (ODI World Cup 2023)** series will be held in **India** in 2023 (Oct & Nov).

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) unveiled the **pair of brand mascots** for the World Cup.
- The introduction event held in **Gurugram, India.**
- It represent **gender equality and diversity.**
- The mascots, a male and a female, originate from a distant cricket paradise called the **Crictoverse.**

Tamil Nadu International Surf Open

- **Tamil Nadu International Surf Open** World Surf League (WSL) Qualifying Series (QS) 3,000 event was held at **Mahabalipuram, Chennai.**
- **Japanese duo Sara Wakita and Tenshi Iwami** have claimed victories at the inaugural Tamil Nadu International Surf Open.

FIFA Women's World Cup final

- **Spain** defeated England 1-0 in the **Women's World Cup final** to lift its **first-ever trophy.**
- It was **hosted by Australia and New Zealand.**

Chess World Cup 2023

- The **2023 FIDE World Cup** held in **Baku, Azerbaijan.**
- **Norwegian Grand Master (GM) Magnus Carlsen** won the FIDE World Cup for the first time.
- Indian Grand Master **R Praggnanandha** secures **Runner-up.**

Note

- Praggnanandha has secured a ticket to the 2024 Candidates Tournament that will take place in Toronto, Canada in 2024.

IBSA World Games 2023:

- **IBSA (International Blind Sports Federation)** World Games 2023 held in **Birmingham, England.**
- The world's biggest gathering of athletes with visual impairments.
- **India women's blind cricket team** beats Australia in final and **claim gold medal.**
- **India men's blind cricket team** wins **silver medal** after defeat against Pakistan.

Note

- Cricket is included in the IBSA World Games for the first time and India's both men's and women's blind teams reached finals to make history.

World Athletics Championships 2023

- World Athletics Championships 2023 was concluded in Budapest, Hungary.
- **India won one gold medal** and finished 18th in the Medals table.
- **Neeraj Chopra won India's only medal in the event - gold in the men's javelin throw competition.**
- **This was India's third medal ever at the World Athletics Championships 2023 after Anju Bobby George's long jump bronze at Paris 2003 and Neeraj's silver at Oregon 2022.**

Note

- Indian men's 4x400m relay team also created an Asian record at the meet.
- Parul Chaudhary broke the national record and qualified for Paris 2024 Olympics in the women's 3000m steeplechase event.

BWF World Championships

- BWF World Championships 2023 took place in Royal Arena, **Copenhagen, Denmark.**
- Star Indian shuttler **HS Prannoy** claiming his **first-ever BWF World Championships medal, bronze medal.**

1.7 SPORTS AND GAMES

'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas' book released

- A two volume book consisting of the speeches and addresses given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from June 2020 to May 2022 was released in Bhopal.

- The volumes have been compiled by the Publications Division of the Information & Broadcasting Ministry.

Note

- Minister of Union Information & Broadcasting (I&B) - Anurag Thakur.

1.8 AWARDS & HONOURS

Thagaisal Thamizhar award

- Dravidar Kazhagam president **K Veeramani** has been chosen for the **Thagaisal Thamizhar award** of the Tamil Nadu government for the year 2023.
- Chief Minister **MK Stalin** present the award to Veeramani during the independence day celebrations at Fort St George.
- The state government **instituted the Thagaisal Thamizhar award in 2021** to honour eminent personalities who contributed to the development of Tamil Nadu and Tamils. Veteran Communist leaders **N. Sankaraiah** and **R. Nallakannu** received the awards in **2021 and 2022** respectively.

Lokmanya Tilak National Award

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the **Lokmanya Tilak National Award** at an event in **Maharashtra's Pune.**
- The award that was **constituted by Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust in 1983.** It honours the legacy of Lokmanya Tilak.
- It is presented on **August 1** every year to mark the **death anniversary of Bal Gangadhar Tilak.**

CM's award for best performing corporation

- **Tiruchi Corporation** has bagged the **Chief Minister's Award** for the best performing municipal corporation for 2023.

- The award was also in recognition of the implementation of innovative infrastructure projects under the Smart Cities Mission.
- The government has selected Thiruthuraipoondi and Mannargudi in Tiruvarur district as the second and third best performing municipalities, and they will get a cash prize of `20 lakh and `10 lakh, respectively.
- Alangudi town panchayat in Pudukottai district is selected as the best performer in the Town Panchayat category and will get a cash prize of `10 lakh.

TN govt awards for Good Governance

- The Tamil Nadu government has announced awards to three district collectors including a former collector from the central region for their services to the people will be receiving the awards from chief minister M K Stalin during the 76th Independence Day celebrations in Chennai.
- Karur district collector Dr T Prabhushankar is receiving both the Good Governance and Best Collector awards.
- Prabhushankar has been chosen for the Good Governance award for rolling out 'Udhiram Uyarthuvom' a pilot project for helping adolescent girls tide over anaemia.
- Under the project, launched in December 2022, the programme covered 17,047 students from classes 9 to 12 in 175 government, government-aided and private schools across the district.
- Trichy district collector M Pradeep Kumar bestowed with Best Collector award.
- District collector of Cuddalore, A Arun Thamburaj, who also served as former district collector of Nagapattinam, bestowed with Good Governance award.
- Thamburaj has made coordinated efforts to bring down maternal mortality rate (MMR) and infant mortality rate (IMR) as well as improving the female child sex ratio during his stint as Nagapattinam collector.
- Prabhushankar and Kumar will receive the Best Collector award for providing **best services to the differently-abled people** and helping them get the schemes of the government, respectively.

2023 International Young Eco-Hero award

- Five youths from India have been named among 17 teen environmental activists from across the globe to receive the 2023 International Young Eco-Hero Award who have taken initiatives to tackle the world's most pressing environmental challenges.
- The young eco-warriors who were recognised for their efforts by the US-based non-profit organisation, 'Action For Nature', are Eiha Dixit from Meerut, Manya Harsha from Bengaluru, Nirvaan Somany and Mannat Kaur from New Delhi and Karnav Rastogi from Mumbai.

Note

- The International Young Eco-Hero Awards programme recognises and **encourages children and teens from ages 8 to 16 who have taken action towards solving the most critical environmental issues.**

69th National Film Awards

- The winners of the 69th National Film Awards were announced at the **National Media Center in New Delhi.**
- Feature and non-feature films **certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)** between January 1, 2021, and December 31, 2021, were **eligible for National Film Awards 2021.**

List of winners at the 69th National Film

Awards:

- Best Feature Film: Rocketry
- Best Director: Nikhil Mahajan, Godavari
- Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment: RRR
- Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration: The Kashmir Files
- Best Actor: Allu Arjun, Pushpa
- Best Actress: Alia Bhatt, Gangubai Kathiawadi and Kriti Sanon, Mimi
- Best Music Director (Songs): Devi Sri Prasad, Pushpa
- Best Music Direction (Background Music): MM Keeravaani, RRR
- Best Male Playback Singer: Kaala Bhairava, RRR

- Best Female Playback Singer: Shreya Ghoshal, Iravin Nizhal
- Best Hindi Film: Sardar Udham
- **Best Tamil Film: Kadaisi Vivasayi**
- Best Children's Film: Gandhi and Co
- Special Jury Award: Shershaah, Vishnuvardhan
- Special Mention (Non-feature film): Srikanth Deva, Karuvarai
- **Best Educational Film: Sirpigalin Sirpangal**
- Third - Agra (Uttar Pradesh)
- **Best State Category**
 - First - Madhya Pradesh
 - Second - Tamil Nadu
 - Third - Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh
- **Best Union Territory - Chandigarh**

Note

- There were no awards in 2021 because of the COVID19 pandemic.
- Coimbatore won first prize in the India Smart Cities Awards Contest (ISAC) in the 'Built environment' category for the Development of Lakes and Model roads under the Smart Cities Mission.

About National Film Awards

- **First awarded - 10 October 1954**
- Awarded for - Excellence in cinematic achievements for Indian cinema
- Presented by - Directorate of Film Festivals
- Director - Senthil Rajan

Smart Cities Award Contest (ISAC), 2022.

- The ISAC awards for 2022 is organised under the Smart Cities Mission by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- This is the fourth edition of the ISAC awards.

Award Winners

- **Best Smart City Category**
 - First - Indore (Madhya Pradesh)
 - Second - Surat (Gujarat)

About Smart Cities Mission

- Launched - 25 June, 2015
- Objective - to promote cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to its citizens, a clean and sustainable environment through the application of 'Smart' solutions.
- 100 cities - selected through a two-stage competition.

1.9 LATEST TERMINOLOGY

Juice Jacking

- A form of **cyber-attack** where a **public USB charging port is tampered** with and infected using hardware and software changes **to steal data or install malware** on devices connected to it.

Deep-fake scams

- The **Cyber Crime Wing of the Tamil Nadu Police** has issued an advisory on fake video calls that are being made by scamsters using **artificial intelligence (AI) technology**.

- **Deepfake technology** is being used to perpetrate several types of fraudulent scams, by creating highly convincing and realistic fake content, often using AI to manipulate audio, video or images.

1.10 APPOINTMENTS – WHO IS WHO?

Centre extends cabinet secretary's tenure

- The Centre extended the term of **Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba** by one year beyond August 30, 2023.
- Mr. Gauba, a former Union home secretary, was in **2019 appointed** to the country's top bureaucratic post for two years.
- The Centre has already given two one-year extensions to Gauba. This is the third extension for Rajiv Gauba to the post.

Note

- The Centre relaxed the **All-India Services (AIS) rules** to extend the tenure of Rajiv Gauba by another year.
- The Cabinet Secretary's **term length** was extended to a **maximum of four years**.

Union Home Secretary

- Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla was given a one-year extension till August 22, 2024, according to a Personnel Ministry order. This is his fourth extension in the post.
- He was to retire in November 2020 after attaining 60 years of age.
- His tenure was first extended on October 17, 2020 till August 22, 2021. Bhalla's term was extended for one-year each in 2021 and in 2022. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved extension in the service of Bhalla for a further period of one year beyond August 22, 2023 i.e. up to August 22, 2024.

About Home Secretary

- **Appointment by** - Appointments Committee of the Cabinet
- **Term length** - Two years, term can be extended

Major General Ignatius Delos Flora

- Ignatius Delos Flora becoming the first woman to reach the rank of Major General in the Military Nursing Service from Kanniyakumari, **Tamilnadu**.

First woman cavady of Theppakadu elephant camp

- In recognition of the dedicated service and special efforts of **V Belli** in successfully rehabilitating orphaned elephant calves, the **Tamil Nadu government** has appointed her as the **first woman cavady (assistant to Mahout)** in the **Theppakadu Elephant Camp**.
- Belli has been working as a **temporary caretaker**.
- **Belli and her husband Bomman** were in the news after a **documentary film** on how they reared orphaned baby elephants won an **Oscar award**.

One-man panel after caste violence incident

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has appointed **K. Chandru, a retired judge of the Madras High Court**, as the **one-man committee to advise the government on measures to be taken to eliminate caste and racial differences among students** at educational institutions.
- The decision comes after the incident at Nanguneri in Tirunelveli district in which two school students of the Scheduled Caste were hacked by a group of students of an intermediate caste.

Note

- One-man committee headed by retired Madras High Court judge K. Chandru to recommend measures for effective **administration of the homes functioning as per the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act of 2015**.
- Justice Chandru who led the **four-member committee tasked with giving recommendations on online gaming** in the state Tamilnadu.

Panel to curb stress in realty sector

- An expert committee headed by former NITI Aayog CEO **Amitabh Kant committee** was set up in March 2023 to tackle the problem of incomplete real estate projects based on the recommendation made by the Central Advisory Council under the **Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016**.

Key Findings of the Panel

- Identifying financial viability as the primary reason for stress in real estate projects.
- Judicial interventions such as **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)** (formed in 2016) should be used as a last resort.

Kaziranga National Park to get its first woman Field Director

- The Assam government **Indian Forest Service officer Sonali Ghosh** as the next **Field Director of the park**.
- She became the **first woman to hold charge as the head of the Kaziranga National Park**.

About Kaziranga National Park

- Established - 1904
- Location - Assam
- UNESCO World Heritage Site - 1985
- The park hosts two-thirds of the world's **Indian rhinoceroses**

First woman to head Indian mission in Pakistan

- **Geetika Srivastava** will be appointed as the new **Charge d'Affaires (CDA)** at the Indian High Commission in Islamabad.

- This is the first time since Independence that India's head of mission in Pakistan will be a woman.
- She is a 2005 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer.

Note

- A **charge d'affaires** is a diplomat who temporarily heads a **diplomatic mission** in a foreign country in the absence of the Ambassador or High Commissioner.

Diplomatic missions

- Between Commonwealth countries - High Commissions
- Between non-Commonwealth countries - Embassies.
- India and Pakistan have no High Commissioners since August 2019 (abrogation of Article 370)

About Pakistan

- **President** - Arif Alvi
- **Capital** - Islamabad
- **Currency** - Pakistani Rupee

2. POLITICAL SCIENCE

2.1 INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

Government Launches Portal for International Students

- Government launched the **Study in India (SII Portal) Website**.
- The website will provide an **integrated one-stop solution** for the **student registration and visa application** process.

India-ASEAN Meet

- The 20th **ASEAN India Economic Ministers' meeting** was held in **Indonesia**.
- During the meeting, India and the ASEAN countries reached an agreement to review their **free trade pact** for goods and decided to conclude the review by 2025.
- The **Free Trade pact - ASEAN - India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA)** was signed in 2009.

About ASEAN

- **Formation** - 8 August 1967.
- **Headquarters** - Jakarta, Indonesia.
- **Members** - 10 countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam).

India-Greece

- India and Greece agreed to upgrade bilateral ties to the level of strategic partnership.
- Both countries decided to expand their cooperation in the fields of defence and security, infrastructure, agriculture, education, new and emerging technology, and skill development.
- PM Modi was conferred with **"The Grand Cross of the Order of Honour"**.
- India and Greece plan to double their bilateral trade by 2030.

Note

- The last Indian Prime Minister to visit Greece was Indira Gandhi in 1983.

About Greece

- Capital - Athens
- President - Katerina Sakellariopoulou
- Prime Minister - Kyriakos Mitsotakis

2.2 LATEST COURT VERDICTS

SC unveils handbook to eliminate gender stereotypes from law

- The 30-page Handbook on Combating Gender Stereotypes aims to free the judiciary and the legal community from the mechanical application of gender stereotypical language in judgments, orders, and court pleadings.

About Supreme Court of India

- Established - October 1, 1937
- Chief Justice of India - Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud
- Total Strength - 34 (33+1)
- Constitutional Provisions - Article 124 - 147

2.3 PUBLIC OPINION

All-woman panel to oversee relief in Manipur

- Chief Justice of India D.Y.Chandrachud announced in open court that the Supreme Court would appoint an **all-woman committee of three former High Court judges, headed by Justice Gita Mital**, former Chief Justice of the Jammu & Kashmir High Court.
- Justice Shalini Phansalkar Joshi, a retired Bombay High Court judge, and Justice Asha Menon, a former Delhi High Court judge, will be the member of the committee.
- The committee will be constituted to **supervise, intervene and monitor relief and rehabilitation**, restoration of homesteads, religious places of worships, better relief work in Manipur.

2.4 PROBLEMS IN CONDUCT OF PUBLIC ELECTIONS

Common electoral

- Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said the Law Commission in its 255th report had endorsed introduction of common electoral rolls for parliamentary, assembly and local body elections.
- The government proposes to have 'one nation one voter list' as suggested by the Law Commission.
- The proposal is under examination of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice.
- Electoral reforms are continuous and ongoing process in order to improve the existing electoral practices in the country.
- EC will sign a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** of three years with Tendulkar in New Delhi.

About Election Commission of India (ECI)

- Autonomous constitutional body responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India.
- **Formation** - January 25, 1950 (celebrated as National Voters' Day)
- **Constitutional Provisions** - Part XV (Article 324-329)
- **Chief Election Commissioner of India** - Rajiv Kumar.
- **Election Commissioners**
 - Anup Chandra Pandey
 - Arun Goel

Sachin Tendulkar to be EC's national icon for three years

- Former Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar will become a "national icon" of the Election Commission (EC) and spread awareness of the need for greater voter participation in the electoral process.

2.5 GOVT – WELFARE ORIENTED GOVT SCHEMES, THEIR UTILITY

75.51 lakh houses completed under PMAY-U

- A total of **75.51 lakh houses** have been completed out of which 71.39 lakh have been occupied till now under the **Prime Ministers' Awas Yojana (PMAY-U)**, the Centre's flagship programme to provide housing to the urban poor.
- **Uttar Pradesh** had the **largest number of houses** completed at 12,87,307.

NOTE:

- PMAY-U is implemented by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MOHUA)**.
- It was launched in 2015.

Prayaas Scheme 2023

- The government of India established the **Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)** as a statutory entity.
- To ensure continuous service delivery of its services to its subscribers throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, it has implemented a number of policies and digital initiatives.
- The **Prayaas scheme** is one such effort by the EPFO to assist the subscribers.
- The EPFO is attempting to **disburse the employee's pension amount**, or PF (Provident Fund) amount, **on the day of his or her superannuation** under the Prayaas plan.

303 Smart Classrooms inaugurated in Radhapuram Assembly constituency

- Chief Minister M.K.Stalin inaugurated 303 Smart Classrooms, built at a cost of Rs.6.86 crore, in **Radhapuram**.
- The **Radhapuram Assembly** segment now becomes the **first legislative constituency in the country to get Smart Classrooms in all government and government-aided schools**.

Note

- State government's Manarkeni mobile app had been installed in these classrooms to make learning easier.

Scheme to help civil services aspirants

- The **Tamil Nadu government** has rolled out a scheme to help **civil services aspirants** access better coaching facilities and materials to reverse the declining number of students from the State clearing the **UPSC civil services examination**.
- Under the scheme, which was announced in the State Budget 2023-24, 1,000 civil services aspirants would be shortlisted every year through a test and each of them would be provided **₹ 7,500 a month for 10 months** to prepare for the preliminary examination.
- The **Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC)** would implement the '**Naan Mudhalvan**' scheme in coordination with Anna Administrative Staff College. The TNSDC would conduct a screening test, '**Naan Mudhalvan UPSC prelims scholarship exam 2023**'.

PM launches revamp of 508 Amrit Bharat railway stations

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** virtually **laid the foundation stone** for the redevelopment of **508 railway stations** across the country at a cost of over 24,470 crore.
- The work was part of the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, under which 1,300 prime railway stations in the country would be redeveloped.
- These stations will have better seating on platforms, upgraded waiting rooms, free Wi-Fi and other conveniences.

Note

- **By 2030**, India will be a country whose railway network will **run on net-zero emissions**.

Cabinet clears 1.39-lakh-cr. funding to scale up BharatNet

- The Union Cabinet approved an outlay of 1.39-lakh crore for **BharatNet**, a project to provide **Last-mile connectivity** across 6.4 lakh villages.
- BharatNet is one of the biggest rural telecom projects in the world, implemented in a phased manner in all **2.5 lakh gram panchayats (GPS)** in the country for **last-mile broadband connectivity**.

- The project was **first approved** by the Cabinet in **October 2011** and executed by **Bharat Broadband Network Ltd. (BBNL)**.
- BBNL, which is an arm of state-run Bharat Sanchar Nigam (BSNL), will be partnering village level entrepreneurs (VLES) to provide the connectivity.

TN govt to extend Millet mission to 20 dists, allots 50,000 acres land for millet cultivation

- **Tamil Nadu Minister for Food and Civil Supplies R.Sakkarapani** announced that state Government is set to extend the implementation of the **five-year Millet Mission to 20 districts**.
- This move will **ensure crop diversification in agricultural land**, he said, while inaugurating the three-day international conference on **'Mighty Millets for Food, Nutrition and Health Security'** hosted by M S Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF).
- The State Government has **allotted 50,000 acres land for millet cultivation** under **Tamil Nadu Millet Mission**.
- Millets provide good nutritional benefits, and have calcium, phosphorus, fibre and protein.

TN sanctions financial aid to transport bodies of guest workers to native places

- The state government has announced **financial aid for bereaved families to transport to their native places the bodies of guest workers, who die in mishaps on workplace**.
- A **government order (GO)** was passed to give effect to the financial sanction. In case of death of guest workers involved in the construction sector at the work site, the state government would **provide a maximum of one lakh to transport their bodies** either through **ambulances, trains or flights**.
- The funds would be given from the **Tamil Nadu construction labourers' welfare board** through the **district collectors**.
- Similarly, the welfare board would bear the expenses for **transporting the bodies of construction workers from Tamil Nadu**, who die in mishaps at the construction sites.

Immunisation of pregnant women and children begins

- An **immunisation campaign** under the **Intensified Mission Indradhanush 5.0** was launched the programme would be implemented in three phases.
- Under the **intensified immunisation drive**, Measles-Rubella (MR) vaccine will be administered to **pregnant women and children aged below five** who missed a dose or were left out.

Note

- The focus would be on improving the coverage of MR, Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine and fractional dose-Inactivated Polio Vaccine.

'Naan Mudhalvan' scheme Extended

- **Naan Mudhalvan scheme** launched with the objective to provide skill training to youth and help them get jobs has registered a big success in the first year by providing training to over 13 lakh students and ensuring jobs for a large number of them.
- During the celebrations to mark the **success of the first year of the scheme**, the state government signed memorandums of understanding with 12 renowned companies in the presence of CM MK Stalin.
- On the occasion, the Chief Minister **extended the Naan Mudhalvan Scheme to polytechnics and industrial training institutes**.
- Besides, he also launched the web portal - niralthiruvizha.naanmudhalvan.in.
- As many as 2.5 lakh students have benefitted so far from the **Uyarvukku Padi scheme**, launched to encourage students to **pursue higher education**.

Ensure Nutrition Program

- The Tamil Nadu government has launched the **'Ensure Nutrition' scheme** to address **malnutrition among children under 6 years of age**.
- Under the scheme, **9.3 lakh moderately and severely malnourished children up to 6 years of age** were screened.

- Out of which **43,200 children** were given various **medical treatments including surgery** at district primary care centres.
- Also, under this scheme, **3,038 children with congenital defects** such as congenital heart disease, congenital brain malformation, congenital visual impairment, congenital deafness, congenital leg deformity, etc. have undergone **surgery and are currently doing well**, according to the Tamil Nadu government.

Note

- An e-bus is any bus whose propulsion and accessory systems are powered exclusively by a zero-emissions electricity source.

'FloodWatch' app

- **The Central Water Commission** launched an app, called **'Floodwatch'**, which can **forecast the chances of floods a day in advance**.
- It also provides a seven-day advisory on the chances of floods at various stations in the country.
- The app has a map of India with coloured circles at water stations across the country indicating the current risk of flooding. A 'green' circle indicates 'normal'; yellow, above normal; orange, 'severe' and red, 'extreme'.
- Clicking on a circle shows the current water level at the station, the highest level historically attained the danger level and warning level.

Note

- Floodwatch uses advance technologies such as "satellite data analysis, mathematical modelling and real-time monitoring to deliver accurate and timely flood forecasts".

Renaming of Women's Fare-Free Bus Travel Scheme to Vidiyal Payanam

- The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, **Mr. Stalin** has announced a renaming of the women's fare-free bus travel scheme as **'Vidiyal Payanam.'**
- The Chief Minister highlighted the need to **address inequalities between different classes and genders**.

Vishwakarma Yojana for traditional artisans

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, announced a **scheme for artisans Vishwakarma Yojana** with an allocation of up to 15,000 crore to help skill development among the youth.
- **Families of weavers, goldsmiths, blacksmiths, laundry workers, barbers, and others** will be empowered through the 'Vishwakarma Yojana'.
- The Centre was working with **women's SHGS** with the aim of **creating two crore lakhpati didis** in villages.

PM e-bus Sewa scheme

- The Union Cabinet approved a scheme to add 10,000 e-buses to city bus services across the country, and to shore up urban infrastructure under green mobility initiatives with a focus on cities having no organised bus services.
- The PM e-bus Sewa scheme will have an estimated cost of 157,613 crore, of which the Centre will provide 20,000 crore and the remaining will be borne by the States.
- The scheme will be implemented in two segments.

Green Fellowship programme

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin launched a two year **Chief Minister's Green Fellowship Programme (CMGFP)** at the Secretariat.
- The scheme was announced in the Assembly as part of the 2021-22 Budget.
- **Nodal Agency** - Department of Environment & Climate Change.
- **Knowledge partner for implementation** - Institute for Energy Studies (IES), Anna University, Chennai.
- A total of **40 Green Fellows** (38 at District level and two at the State level) will be selected under CMGFP.
- Primary role of fellows will be to Support the District Administration in the implementation of the three Mission mode projects of the Government of Tamil Nadu viz.,
 - Green Tamil Nadu Mission
 - Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission
 - Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission

Note

- **Green Tamil Nadu Mission** (September 24, 2022) – Increasing the green cover in the state from 23.7% to 33% in 10 years.
- **Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission** - To expand collective human action to respond to climate change and to reduce Green House Gas Emissions.
- **Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission** - Identify and map 100 wetlands in 5 years.

T.N. announces aid for families of non-resident Tamils

- **The Non-Resident Tamils' Welfare Board** will issue implementation guidelines with regard aid for families of non-resident Tamils in cases of deaths abroad.
- **Benefits**
 - Financial assistance of ₹12,000 for educational expenses of the deceased's son/daughter.
 - Financial assistance of ₹20,000, for wedding expenses of the deceased's son/daughter.

Note

- Applicants should be registered with the Board, in order to be able to avail of these benefits.

Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme

- Chief Minister MK Stalin inaugurated the state wide launch of the **Chief Minister's breakfast scheme in Thirukkuvalai, Nagapattinam district.**
- The scheme has now been extended to all 31,000 government schools across the State, benefiting 17 lakh students.

About the Scheme

- **Launched – September 15, 2022 at Madurai**
- **Objective** - To provide breakfast to **primary school children from 1st to 5th standard** studying in Government schools **on all school working days**

- **Aim** - To reduce hunger, **prevent malnutrition**, achieve average height in children, prevent underweight in adolescents, **prevent anaemia** as well as **vitamin B12 deficiency**

Evolution of Breakfast Scheme in Tamil Nadu

- September 16, 1920 - Mid-day meal scheme in a Corporation School at Thousand Lights under Sir PT Thiyagarayar (Mayor of Madras Corporation)
- 1957 – Revival of Mid-Day Meal Scheme under K Kamaraj.
- 1982 - Nutritious Meal Programme under MG Ramachandran.
- 1989 – Serving of egg with nutritious meal under M Karunanidhi.
- 2013 - J Jayalalithaa adds variety rice dishes to the menu.
- 2022 – Chief Ministers Free Breakfast Scheme by MK Stalin.

9 years of Jan Dhan Yojana

- August 28, 2023 marks the completion of the nine years of the **Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY).**

About PM Jan Dhan Yojana

- **Announcement** - 15th August 2014
- **Launch** – August 28, 2014
- A **National Mission for Financial Inclusion** to ensure access to financial services and provide banking services to all the households in the country.

Objectives:

- Ensure access of financial products & services at an affordable cost.
- Use of technology to lower cost and widen reach.

2.6 PUBLIC AWARENESS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Panel submits report on sub-categorisation of OBCs

- The **Justice G. Rohini Commission** for the sub-categorisation of **Other Backward Classes (OBC) caste groups** submitted its report to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, nearly six years after the Union government first assigned the task to it.
- It had received up to 14 extensions from the government in the past six years.

Note

- The government had **formed the commission in 2017**, to be headed by former Delhi High Court Chief Justice, **Justice G. Rohini**.
- The commission was asked to examine the extent to which reservation and other benefits for OBCs are concentrated among some dominant caste groups.
- The commission has **suggested breaking the caste groups into broad categories**, with the dominant castes [with most access to benefits] getting the smallest share of the 27% reservation, and the historically crowded-out caste groups getting the largest share of the reservation pie.

OBC Commission

- First Backward Class Commission, 1953 – **Kaka Kalelkar**.
- Second Backward Class Commission, 1979 – **B.P. Mandal**.
- **Indra Sawhney v. Union of India** case, 1992.
- **National Commission for Backward Classes**, 1993.
- **123rd Constitution Amendment bill**, 2017.
- The bill got the President assent in August 2018 and provided the **constitutional status** to NCBC.

Lok Sabha passes Bill on birth registration

- The Lok Sabha passed the **Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2023** that paves the way for **digital birth certificates**

which will be a single document to be used for admission to educational institutions, applications for driving licences, government jobs, passports or Aadhaar, voter enrolment, and registration of marriage, and others.

- All States had consented to the provisions of the legislation that was also put up for consultation in public domain.
- The database will also update the National Population Register, ration cards, property registration.

Deadline for pharma firms' certification

- To bring in better quality management that will help Indian pharmaceutical manufacturers grow their business nationally and internationally, the Health Ministry has given six months for small manufacturers and 12 months to large units, to get their World Health Organization-Good Manufacturing Practices (WHO-GMP) certification.
- GMP comprises mandatory standards that build and bring quality to products by way of control on materials, methods, machines, processes, personnel, and facility or environment.

Note

- The GMP system was first incorporated in 1988 in Schedule M of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945.

e-clearance portal to bring bodies from abroad

- To **avoid delays in the transportation of bodies**, the Health Ministry announced the launch of an **e-clearance portal**, with the **Delhi airport** serving as the **nodal centre** for all international airports in the country, and providing 48-hour approval for the process.

4 key laws, get President's assent

- **President Droupadi Murmu** gave assent to **four key laws**.
- The laws were passed by Parliament in the recently concluded Monsoon Session.
- While the Government of **National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act** provides

for a three- member authority that will handle the transfer and postings of Group A officers under the Delhi government, the data protection law will provide for a framework to prevent the misuse of an individual's data by online platforms.

- Delhi Services Bill, 6 others get President's assent, become laws.

Seven new laws

- The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023;
- The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2023;
- The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023;
- The Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023;
- The Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Act, 2023;
- The National Dental Commission Act, 2023 and
- The Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2023.

'SAMUDRA' app

- The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), under the Ministry of Earth (MOES), launched a new mobile application **Smart Access to Marine Users for Ocean Data Resources Advisories (SAMUDRA)**.
- SAMUDRA offers **comprehensive information on all ocean-related matters**, useful for both seafarers and the fishing community.

Government unveils Green hydrogen standards

- In a significant move for the progress of the **National Green Hydrogen Mission**, the government has notified the **Green Hydrogen Standard for India**.

Key Highlights

- The standards outline the emission thresholds to be met for hydrogen produced to be classified as 'Green', i.e., from renewable sources.
- The scope of the definition of 'Green Hydrogen' includes both **electrolysis-based** and **biomass-based hydrogen production methods**.
- **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)**, Ministry of Power shall be the Nodal Authority for accreditation of agencies for the monitoring, verification and certification for Green Hydrogen production projects.

Note

- **The National Green Hydrogen Mission** - 4 January 2022
- Types of Hydrogen based on extraction Methods
 - **Grey Hydrogen:** It is produced via coal or lignite gasification, natural gas or methane.
 - **Blue Hydrogen:** It is produced via natural gas or coal gasification combined with carbon capture storage (CCS) or carbon capture use (CCU) technologies .
 - **Green Hydrogen:** It is produced using electrolysis of water with electricity generated by renewable energy.



3. GEOGRAPHY

3.1 POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

Tamil Nadu Elephant conclave 2023

- Tamil Nadu Elephant Conclave 2023 was **inaugurated in Coimbatore**.
- The Forest Department **released a handbook** on camp elephant management and a standard operating procedure for handling orphaned elephants.
- The Department also released a hand-book on Boundary Night Patrolling Team.
- Invasive species, a pressing threat to forestland, were also a point of discussion at the conclave.
- At the conclave, the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) announced the launch of 'Yaanai Thiruvizha', in collaboration with the government.

T.N. lays down rules for caring elephant calves

- The Tamil Nadu Forest Department has devised a **standard operating procedure (SOP) to take care of orphaned wild elephant calves**, in a **first-of-its-kind initiative in the country**.
- The document was developed based on scientific principles and the experience of staff, veterinarians, mahouts, and cavadis (assistants) of the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) and the Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR).

54th Tiger Reserve of India

- The **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** approved **Dholpur-Karauli in Rajasthan** as India's 54th Tiger Reserve of India.
- It will be Rajasthan's fifth Tiger Reserve (TR) following
 - Ranthambore TR
 - Sariska TR
 - Mukundra Hills TR
 - Ramgarh Vishdhari TR

About NTCA

- **Formation** – December 2005
- Statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC)
- Constituted under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- **Chairperson** - Minister of MoEFCC - Prakash Javadekar
- **Vice-Chairperson** - Minister of State of MoEFCC

About Tiger Conservation

- **Project Tiger** – 1973.

3.2 MISCELLANEOUS

India passes law allowing private firms to bid for and mine lithium

- India's **Parliament** passed a law allowing the government to **auction and mine its newly-discovered reserves of lithium**, among other minerals, increasing the mining of the critical input for EV batteries.
- Under the law, lithium, along with other minerals was **removed from a previous list of atomic minerals**, which prevented it from being auctioned to private companies.
- Upon removal exploration and mining of these minerals will be open to private sector.

- As a result, exploration and mining of these minerals is expected to increase significantly in the country.

NOTE

- **Lithium reserves** were discovered in **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- Other minerals that will now be open for mining and auction include titanium, beryl, niobium and zirconium.
- These minerals were earlier only allowed to be mined by state-run companies.

Cyclone frequency may rise over Indian coast from the warming of Pacific: study

- According to a study published in the journal Nature Communications Tropical cyclones that originate near the Equator have been devastating and are being unusually subdued in recent decades.
- The last major cyclone of this kind in India was **Cyclone Okchi, which devastated parts of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka in 2017**.
- The Journal highlights that a phenomenon called Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) are making such cyclones more frequent in the recent years.

About Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO):

- PDO is a long-term ocean fluctuation of the Pacific Ocean, which lasts over a long time, approximately every 20 to 30 years.
- PDO is a pattern of Pacific climate variability similar to El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) in character, but which varies over a much longer time scale.
- PDO is not an annual occurrence. It corresponds to a warmer than average Western Pacific Ocean and relatively cooler Eastern Pacific but it happens over much longer time.
- Unlike an ENSO, a 'positive' or 'warmer phase' of a PDO can be known only after several years of measuring ocean temperatures and their interaction with the atmosphere.

3.3 NATURAL DISASTERS – SAFEGUARD MEASURES

Himachal Pradesh govt. declares incessant rain as State calamity

- Following the heavy loss of life and property caused by incessant rain that triggered landslips and floods, **Himachal Pradesh** has been declared as a '**Natural Calamity Affected Area**'.

Note

- As per the Landslide Atlas of India prepared by the National Remote Sensing Centre, ISRO, Hyderabad, all 12 districts of Himachal are susceptible to landslides.

About Himachal Pradesh

- **Governor** - Shiv Pratap Shukla
- **Chief Minister** : Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu
- **Capitals** : Shimla (Summer), Dharamshala (Winter)

About Disaster Management in India

- Apex Body - National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)
- Head - Prime Minister of India
- Mandated by the Disaster Management Act, 2005
- Other Provisions
 - National Policy on Disaster Management, 2009
 - National Disaster Management Plan, 2019 (updated and revised)
 - Prime Minister's Ten Point Agenda on Disaster Risk Reduction



4. ECONOMICS

4.1 CURRENT SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

Controlling Wheat & Rice Prices

- Government announces **50 lakh tonne wheat and 25 lakh tonne rice Sale** to curb Price Increase in Country.
- Worried over the surge in the selling price of wheat within a span of month since the **open market sale scheme (OMSS)** auction commenced on June, the Union government took a couple of measures to control prices.
- The government would sell 50 LT of wheat and 25 LT of rice from the Central Pool in the open market to contain the price rise.
- There has been a sharp increase in prices of wheat and rice recently.
- On cut in reserve price of rice, the ultimate objective is to **keep the food inflation under check**.

Inflation

- Inflation measures the average price change in a basket of commodities and services over time.

Types

- **Demand Pull Inflation:** when aggregate demand in the economy becomes more than aggregate supply.

- **Cost push inflation:** when there is decrease in aggregate supply of goods and services results into increase in cost of production.

Ban on Basmati Rice

- The Union government **banned the export of Basmati rice valued at less than \$1,200 a tonne**.
- The step was taken to restrict possible **“illegal” shipment of plain white rice by wrongly classifying it as Basmati rice**.
- The export of non-Basmati white rice was prohibited on July 20, 2023 citing **the rise in domestic prices**.

Note

- Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is the agency responsible for regulation of export of Basmati rice.
- In September 2022, the Centre banned the export of broken rice.
- **India ranks second** in the **production of rice** in the world.
- **West Bengal** is the **largest producer of Rice in India**.

4.2 NEW ECONOMIC POLICY & GOVT. SECTOR

GST Council

- Decision to impose a **28% levy** on the **full face value of bets** placed on **online gaming, casinos and horse racing**, with implementing it from **October 1**.

About GST

- The Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 was passed as the **101st amendment act**.

- GST laws were implemented - **On July 1, 2017**.

Dispute settlement scheme

- The Centre launched settlement scheme the **Vivad se Vishwas II** scheme aims to **settle disputes** between **government and its vendors**.

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced the scheme, termed “Vivad se Viswas II - (Contractual Disputes)’ in this year’s Union Budget.
- The scheme will apply to all domestic contractual disputes where one of the parties is either the Government of India or an organisation working under its control.

RBI Introduces UDGM Portal

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has unveiled a groundbreaking solution for individuals seeking their **unclaimed deposits**.
- UDGAM (Unclaimed Deposits - Gateway to Access Information) portal** is designed to simplify the process of locating unclaimed deposits across various banks.

Note

- RBI collaborated with **Reserve Bank Information Technology Pvt Ltd (ReBIT), Indian Financial Technology & Allied Services (IFTAS)**, and select banks to develop this platform.
- Currently, the UDGM portal provides access to unclaimed deposit information from seven banks.
- Including prominent names like State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, South Indian Bank, Central Bank of India, Dhanlaxmi Bank, DBS Bank India and Citi Bank.
- For other banks, the search feature will be introduced in phases by October 15, 2023.

About RBI

- Governor** - Shaktikanta Das
- HQ** - Mumbai

- Established** - April 1, 1935

'Mera Bill Mera Adhikar' GST reward scheme

- The government will launch the '**Mera Bill Mera Adhikar**' **invoice incentive scheme**.
- It offers cash prize from ₹10,000 to ₹1 crore, from September 1, starting with six States and Union Territories.
- Aim** - at motivating customers to ask for a bill every time they make purchases

Objective

- The scheme is conceptualised in a way so as to incentivise citizens and consumers to ask for genuine invoices from the seller when making business-to-consumer (B2C) purchase of goods or services.
- launched in** - the States of Assam, Gujarat and Haryana; and the UTs of Puducherry, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
- App Launched by - **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)**

Eligibility conditions

- All invoices issued by Goods and Services Tax (GST) registered suppliers to consumers.
- The minimum purchase value for the invoice to be considered for lucky draw is ₹200. Individuals can upload a maximum of 25 invoices in a month beginning September.
- The invoice uploaded on the app should have the GSTIN of the seller, invoice number, amount paid and tax amount.

4.3 CURRENT TRENDS IN INDIAN ECONOMY

MPC Meeting

- The **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** of the Reserve Bank of India decided unanimously to keep the policy **repo rate unchanged at 6.5%** even as it raised the projection for **retail inflation** in the current fiscal year by 30 basis points to **5.4%**.
- The MPC retained its **projection for real GDP growth in 2023-24 at 6.5%**.
- To address the problem of excess liquidity with banks, the RBI decided that with effect from the fortnight beginning August 12, scheduled banks would maintain an incremental cash reserve ratio of 10% on the increase in their net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) between May 19, 2023 and July 28, 2023.

About MPC

- Under **Section 45ZB of the amended (in 2016) RBI Act, 1934**, the central government is empowered to constitute a six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).
- The **Monetary Policy Committee** shall determine the Policy Rate **required to achieve the inflation target**.

Composition: (MPC shall consist of 6 members)

- **RBI Governor** as its **ex officio chairperson**,
- Deputy Governor in charge of monetary policy,
- An officer of the Bank to be nominated by the Central Board,
- **Three persons** to be **appointed by the central government**.

Retail inflation surges

- **Retail inflation resurged** in July to hit 7.44% from 4.87% in June, with **consumers facing a sharp 11.5% spike in food prices**.
- This is the highest pace of retail inflation since April 2022 and the first time since September 2022 that price rise has been over 7%.
- Vegetable prices soared 37.3%, mainly due to tomato, while cereals and pulses became over 13% costlier, lifting the food bill by over 12.3% for urban consumers, while rural consumers encountered 11% food inflation.

4.4 REPORTS AND INDICES

State of India's Birds (SoIB) Report 2023

- SoIB is published by the State of India's Birds Partnership. It is a group of 13 government and non-governmental organisations.

Key Highlights of the Report

- The report assessed the status of 942 bird species largely using data uploaded by birdwatchers to the online platform eBird.
- Of the 942 Indian bird species assessed for conservation priority, the report found 217 species stable and 204 declining in the past three decades.
- As many as 178 species were classified under "high conservation priority" and 14 species, including Indian roller, were recommended for the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List reassessment.
- 60% of bird species declined in India over a period of 30 years

About e-bird

- Launch - 2002
- Developer - Cornell University and the National Audubon Society

6th Census Report On Minor Irrigation (MI) Schemes

- The **Ministry of Jal Shakti**, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation released the report on the **6th census on minor irrigation schemes**.

Key Highlights of the report

- **23.14 million minor irrigation (MI) schemes** have been reported in the country, out of which 21.93 million (**94.8%**) are **Ground Water (GW)** and 1.21 million (5.2%) are Surface Water (SW) schemes.
- **Uttar Pradesh** possesses the **largest number of MI schemes in the country** followed by Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- **Leading States in GW schemes are Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.**
- **In SW schemes Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Odisha and Jharkhand** have the highest share.
- GW schemes comprise dugwells, shallow tube wells, medium tube wells and deep tube wells.

- The SW schemes comprise surface flow and surface lift schemes.
- For the first time, **the information about gender of the owner of MI scheme was also collected** in case of individual ownership.
- Out of all the individually owned schemes, **18.1% are owned by women.**
- Around 60.2% schemes have single source of finance whereas 39.8% schemes have more than one source of finance.
- Majority of schemes (79.5%) are being financed by own savings of individual farmer.
- So far, five censuses have been conducted with reference year 1986-87, 1993-94, 2000-01, 2006-07 and 2013-14 respectively.

Vetrii IAS Study Circle



Vetrii IAS Study Circle



5. SCIENCE

5.1 LATEST INVENTIONS ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Cryptobiosis

- Scientists have revived a worm that was **frozen 46,000 years ago**.
- The **roundworm** survived 40 metres (131.2 feet) below the surface in the **Siberian permafrost** in a dormant state known as cryptobiosis.

About Cryptobiosis

- Cryptobiosis is the state of an organism when it shows **no visible signs of life** and when its **metabolic activity becomes hardly measurable** or comes reversibly to a standstill.
- Organisms in a cryptobiotic state can **endure the complete absence of water or oxygen** and **withstand high temperatures, as well as freezing or extremely salty conditions**.
- Since metabolism is a defining characteristic of life, cryptobiosis can be termed as a **temporary death of an organism**.

Cell-free DNA

- In the human body, **most of the DNA in a genome** is neatly **packed inside cells** with the help of specific proteins, protecting it from being degraded.
- However, **some fragments of DNA** are '**released**' from their containers and are present **outside the cell, in body fluids**.
- These **small fragments of nucleic acids** are widely known as **cell-free DNA (cfDNA)**.
- cfDNA refers to **small fragments of nucleic acids** that are released from cells and found outside the cell in **body fluids** as **plasma, urine and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF)**.

- cfDNA quantity in the blood increases under **pathological conditions** such as **auto-immune diseases, cancer etc.**

Application of cfDNA

- Detect **genetic abnormalities in foetuses**.
- Early detection, diagnosis and **treatment of cancers**.
- Monitor **immune response after organ transplantation** and can be used as a **biomarker**.

Tharosaurus Indicus

- The **fossilized remains** of an **ancient dinosaur** named '**Tharosaurus Indicus**' were recently recovered.
- **Tharosaurus indicus** is the name given to an ancient species of dinosaur discovered in the **Thar Desert region of Jaisalmer, India**.
- It is a type of dicraeosaurid dinosaur, which was a group of **long-necked, plant-eating dinosaurs** that lived during the **Jurassic period**.
- The fossils of **Tharosaurus indicus** were found to be around **167 million years old**, making them one of the oldest known dicraeosaurids and diplodocoids globally.

5.2 SPACE

Euclid Space Telescope

- European Space Agency's newest observatory, **Euclid**, has sent its first pictures of the cosmos.
- Euclid launched on July 1 from Cape Canaveral in Florida.
- Now floating about a million miles (**1.6 million km**) from Earth.
- It joined the **James Webb Space Telescope at the second Lagrange point**.
- The space telescope was designed to investigate some of the universe's biggest mysteries.
- This machine's purpose is to map out the dark side of our universe by **analyzing billions of galaxies** that reside up to about 10 billion light-years away.

Luna-25

- Russia's space agency **Roscosmos**, launched the **Luna-25** the country's first lunar lander in 47 years.
- Its landing on the moon would not impede India's Chandrayaan-3, which was launched on July 14, 2023, as the two missions had different landing areas.
- Luna-25 was launched from Russia's Vostochny spaceport.
- Its lunar lander is expected to **reach the moon on August 23, the same day on which Chandrayaan-3** is also expected to land on the lunar surface.

Note

- According to ISRO, there were six active lunar orbiters as of July 2023.
- Currently, the only operating rover is China's Yutu-2 rover released by Chang'e 4, which operated on the farside.
- India and Russia are both aiming to be the first ever country to **land on the moon's south pole**.

Periyar University gets patent for lunar soil manufacturing

- A team of researchers from **Periyar University** along with (ISRO) and NIT, Tiruchi, has **received patent** for the **lunar soil manufacturing process** developed by them for Chandrayaan-2 mission.

- The team manufactured 'Lunar' simulant soil from '**anorthosite**' rock collected from **Sithampoondi and Kunnamalai villages in Namakkal**.
- The lunar simulant soil was essential to conduct various tests as part of the mission.
- ISRO applied for patent rights in 2014 and after thorough processing, the patent was granted to the team on May 2020.
- Besides economic benefits, the patent would help in further research in resource utilisation and lunar mission explorations.

Background

- The team led by S.Anbalagan, Director of Centre for Geoinformatics and Planetary studies in Periyar University, helped ISRO identify and produce the 'lunar' simulant soil for its **lander and rover tests for the Chandrayaan mission**.
- They have been conducting research on **anorthosite soil** even before the Chandrayaan mission. Mayilswamy Annadurai, then Director of ISRO came to know about this and he formed a task force in ISRO.

Chandrayaan-3 successfully lands on the moon

- India joined an elite list of countries – the Russia, U.S. and China – **to achieve soft landing on the moon**.
- India has also become the first nation **to touch down on the polar region of the moon**.

Evolution of Chandrayaan

Chandrayaan-1

- It was India's first mission to the moon
- Mission Director – **Mylswamy Annadurai**
- Launched - October **22, 2008**
- Launch Vehicle - PSLV - C11
- The satellite orbited the moon more than 3,400 times.
- The mission concluded when communication with the spacecraft was lost on August 29, 2009.

- Achievement: The Chandrayaan-1 orbiter **confirmed water on the moon** using multiple instruments.
- **Chandrayaan-2**
 - Mission Director - **M Vanitha**
 - Launched - July 22, 2019
 - Launch Vehicle - **GSLV MkIII-M1**
 - It comprised an orbiter, a lander, and a rover to explore the South Pole region of the moon.
 - In this mission, India made its **first attempt to soft-land a robotic lander on the lunar surface** but the mission failed.
- **Chandrayaan-3**
 - Mission Director - **P Veeramuthuvel**
 - Launched by an **LVM-3 rocket on July 14, 2023** from Satish Dhawan Space Center (SDSC) in Sriharikota.
 - Lander - **Vikram**
 - Rover - **Pragyan**
 - **Mission Life** (Lander & Rover) - 1 Lunar Day (14 earth days)
 - It consists of an indigenous Lander module (LM), Propulsion module (PM) and a Rover

Note

- As the lander and rover are charged by solar panels, the time at which they **land should coincide with sunrise at their location on the moon.**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets ISRO scientists in Bengaluru

- **Mr. Modi addressed the scientists** at the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Telemetry Tracking and Command Network (**ISTRAC**) in Bengaluru.
- **The point on the South Pole of the moon** where the Vikram lander of Chandrayaan-3 landed will be called '**Shiv Shakti**'.
- **The point where Chandrayaan-2** left its footprint on the lunar surface will be called '**Tiranga**'.
- August 23 will be commemorated as **National Space Day**.

Note

- **US's landing site - Tranquility Base** (sea of Tranquility) by Apollo 11 (July 1969 where humans landed for the first time on moon)
- **Russia's landing site - Mare Crisium** (Sea of Crises) by Luna 24.
- **China's landing site - Station Tianchuan** by Chang'e 5

ISRO to launch Aditya-L1

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** announced that **AdityaL1** will be launched on September 2.

About Aditya-L1

- It is **India's first space based observatory to study the sun.**
- The spacecraft will be placed in a halo orbit around the **Lagrange point 1 (L1)** of the **sun-earth system**, which is about **1.5 million km from the earth.**

7 Payloads:

- The spacecraft carries seven payloads to observe the hotosphere, chromosphere and the outermost layers of the sun.
- They are
 - Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC)
 - Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (SUIT)
 - Solar Low Energy Xray Spectrometer (SoLEXS)
 - High Energy L1 Orbiting Xray Spectrometer (HEL1OS)
 - Aditya Solar wind Particle Experiment (ASPEX)
 - Plasma Analyser Package For Aditya (PAPA)
 - Advanced Triaxial High Resolution Digital Magnetometers.

Advantages of L1 point

- A satellite placed in the halo orbit around the L1 point has the major advantage of **continuously viewing the sun** without any occultation/eclipses.
- It will help in observing the solar activities and its effect on space weather in real time.

Other Solar Missions

Space Agency/ Country	Mission	Date
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)/US	Parker Solar Probe	August 2018
NASA and European Space Agency (ESA)	The Solar Orbiter	February 2020
NASA and JAXA	Transient Region and Coronal Explorer (TRACE), along with NASA, in.	1998
NASA, ESA and JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency)	Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO).	December 1995
JAXA	Hinotori (ASTRO-A)	1981
	Yohkoh (SOLAR-A)	1991
	Hinode (SOLAR-B)	2006
ESA	Ulysses	October 1990
China	Advanced Space-based Solar Observatory	October 9, 2022

Pragyan confirms sulphur near South Pole of moon

- ISRO informed that **Pragyan, the rover of the Chandrayaan-3 mission, has confirmed the presence of Aluminum (Al), Sulphur (S), Calcium (Ca), Iron (Fe), Chromium (Cr), Titanium (Ti), Manganese (Mn), Silicon (Si), and Oxygen (O) on the moon's surface, near its south pole.**
- The search for Hydrogen is underway.
- The Sulphur's presence was confirmed when the **Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS) instrument** of the rover made the first ever in situ measurements on the elemental composition of the lunar surface near the South Pole.

About LIBS

- It scientific technique that analyses the composition of materials by exposing them to intense laser pulses and generates localised plasma.
- The collected plasma light is spectrally resolved and detected by charge coupled devices.
- Since each element emits a characteristic set of wavelengths of light when in a plasma state, the elemental composition of the material can be determined.

About ISRO

- Formation** - 15 August 1969
- Headquarters** - Bengaluru, Karnataka
- Chairman** - Sreedhara Somanath

5.3 MASS MEDIA & COMMUNICATION**Defence Ministry switch to locally built OS**

- In the face of **increasing cyber and malware attacks on defence** as well as critical infrastructure across the country, the Defence Ministry has decided to replace the Microsoft Operating System (OS) in all computers connected to the Internet with a new **locally developed OS, Maya, based on open-source Ubuntu.**

- In addition, an **'end point detection and protection system', 'Chakravayuh',** is also being installed in these systems.

Note

- Maya was developed by **government development agencies** within six months.
- Maya would **prevent malware attacks and other cyber-attacks.**

5.4 NEW SCIENTIFIC LABORATORIES/ OBSERVATORIES/ CENTRES

India's first testing centre

- India's first Unmanned Aerial Systems (Drone) Common Testing Centre under Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS) will be established in Tamil Nadu.
- The testing centre would enable the State to be a significant contributor to the self-reliance of the country in the aerospace and defence sectors.
- Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) is the nodal agency for the implementation of the Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor (TNDIC).

About Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS)

- It was launched to boost domestic defence and aerospace manufacturing.
- Ministry of Defence (MoD) has launched the scheme on May 08, 2020.





6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENT

DGT inks MoU with Amazon Web Services to skill train students

- The Directorate General of Training (DGT) has signed an agreement with Amazon Web Services (AWS) India to provide students with skills in the fields of cloud computing, data annotation, artificial intelligence (AI), and machine learning (ML).
- The pact aims to provide students enrolled in DGT institutions with valuable self-paced online learning programs at no cost.
- This platform serves as a central repository of updated curriculum, course content, question banks, and learning videos for all courses under the Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS) and Crafts Instructor Training Scheme (CITS) offered by approximately 15,000 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and 33 National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs) across India.

Sahitya Akademi to publish poems from G-20 nations

- The Sahitya Akademi will bring out an anthology of poems with contributions from each of the G-20 nations to commemorate India's presidency of the grouping.
- The collection of poems, to be titled "Under the Same Sky," has been curated by noted poet Ranjit Hoskote.
- The collection of poems would be released during the G-20 leaders' summit in Delhi in September, 2023

Note

- The Sahitya Akademi is an autonomous body under the Union Culture Ministry.

Sanchar Saathi initiative

- Fraudulently mobile snatching have been identified with the help of the Artificial Intelligence and Facial Recognition technology (called ASTR) as part of the Sanchar Saathi initiative.

- Under the Centralised Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) initiative, the stolen or lost mobile phones would be blocked by the DoT.
- One of the features of Sanchar Saathi is the ASTR, which is aimed at detecting the SIM subscriptions obtained using forged documents.

India's First Post Office

- India's "first" post office bearing PIN code 193224 is located on the banks of the Kishanganga river, the de facto Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district with Pakistan-occupied territory just across the stream at a stone's throw.
- It was known as the last post office of the country until recently, when the India signboard near it described it as the "First Post Office of India", as it is the first one from the LoC or border in terms of distance.

Kerala Assembly passes resolution to rename state as Keralam

- The Kerala Assembly passed a resolution urging the Centre to rename the state as "Keralam" in the Constitution and all office records.
- The resolution, moved by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, was passed unanimously.
- The name of the state in Malayalam is Keralam, the resolution states.
- States were formed on the basis of language on November 1, 1956.
- That day is also observed as Kerala formation day.
- However, the name of our state in the first Schedule of the Constitution has been written as Kerala.

- This Assembly is unanimously requesting the Union Government to take immediate steps under **Article 3 of the Constitution** to change the name of the state to Kerala.
- Integrated GST (Amendment) Bill, 2023, and the Central GST (Amendment) Bill, 2023, include a provision that makes it mandatory for offshore online money gaming firms providing services to Indian users to register in India and pay taxes or face blockages.

Criminal laws bills

- Three Bills were introduced in the Lok Sabha to repeal the British-era Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Indian Evidence Act (IEA) and the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr.PC).
- The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill, 2023, replaces the IPC, prescribes capital punishment as the maximum sentence for mob lynching and suggests 10-year imprisonment for sexual inter-course with women on the false promise of marriage.
- The Bill for the first time defines terrorism and offences such as separatism, armed rebellion against the government, challenging the sovereignty of the country, which were earlier mentioned under different provisions of law.
- The Bill proposes 313 amendments that will change to the criminal justice system.

Note

- **Indian Penal Code, 1860**, will be replaced by Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).
- **Criminal Procedure Act, 1898**, will be replaced by Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).
- **Indian Evidence Act, 1872**, will be replaced by Bharatiya Sakshya (BS).

Parliament approves 28% GST on online gaming

- Parliament cleared amendments to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) laws to facilitate the **levy of 28% GST on online gaming**.
- Along with amendments to the Central and Integrated GST laws.
- States will also have to make legislative changes to their respective GST Acts for the 28% levy to kick in.
- October 1 is the target date to roll out the tax and an assured review of the levy six months after implementation.

India's first 3D printed post office

- The **3D printed post office in India** was inaugurated at Cambridge Layout in east **Bengaluru** by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.
- The post office was built with 3D Concrete Printing Technology by **Larsen and Toubro Construction**.
- It was originally scheduled to finish within 45 days. However, work was **completed in 43 days**. **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** helped the construction team with the structural design.

Note

- This is said to be the **first commercial building to have used 3D printing technology**.
- It has a built-up area of 1,000 square feet.

G-20 Health Ministers' meeting

- The **G20 Health Ministers' meeting** under G20 India Presidency was concluded at **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.

Key Outcomes

- Four side events includes
 - One Earth One Health Advantage Health Care - India 2023
 - WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit
 - India Med Tech Expo 2023
 - Sustain, Accelerate and Innovate to End TB in South-East Asia Region' Conference.
- The **three key health priorities** identified under the India G20 Presidency - **affordability, accessibility and usability**.
- The Members unanimously **adopted 25point document**.
- Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launched the **Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH)**, a network managed by the World Health Organization.

- It will promote equitable access to digital health by addressing challenges such as duplication of efforts and “products-focused” digital health transformation.

Bharat NCAP: India to get its own car crash testing programme

- **The Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP)** is an indigenous car testing programme where the car manufacturers can volunteer to get their models tested under an and get a star rating indicating their safety in a crash.
- Bharat NCAP is modelled on the **Global New Car Assessment Programme** (Global NCAP).
- A rating between one to five stars will be assigned to a vehicle after an evaluation of **three parameters**.
 - Adult occupant protection
 - Child occupant protection
 - Safety assist technologies present in the car.
- The test results will be approved by the Bharat NCAP Standing Committee and published on its website.
- The **Central Institute of Road Transport (CIRT)** will issue a certificate.

India’s first indigenous e-Tractor

- **CSIR Prima ET11, the first indigenous e-Tractor** was launched.
- It was developed by the Indian Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-CMERI), Durgapur.

About CSIR

- **Formation** - 26 September 1942
- **President** - Prime Minister of India
- **Director General** - Dr. N. Kalaiselvi (first women chief of CSIR)

Note

- The CSIR-CMERI will be celebrating the theme-based campaign “**One Week One Lab**” from 11-15 September 2023.

G20 Culture Ministers’ Meeting in Varnasi

- The **G20 Culture Ministers’ Meeting**, under India’s Presidency was concluded in Varanasi.

Key Highlights

- The Outcome Document of the Meeting - Kashi Culture Pathway.
- The report ‘G20 Culture: Shaping the Global Narrative for Inclusive Growth’ was launched during the meeting.
- A Special ‘Culture Unites All’ Stamp was released at the meeting.
- The G20 Orchestra ‘Sur Vasudha’ featuring national and international artists was organized.

G20 Culture Ministers’ Meeting in Varnasi

- The **G20 Culture Ministers’ Meeting**, under India’s Presidency was concluded in Varanasi.

Key Highlights

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B20 Summit India 2023

- **B20 Summit India 2023** was held in New Delhi.
- **Business leaders of G20 countries** take part in the summit.
- The theme for the B20 India 2023 is **R.A.I.S.E (Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable and Equitable) Businesses**.

About G20

- **Formation** - 26 September 1999
- **Headquarters** - New Delhi 2023 (Current Capital city of G20 Host)
- **Membership** - 20 members
- **Chairman (Incumbent)** - India - Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India

- **G - 20 Theme** - "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" or "One Earth, One Family, One Future"

51k new appointments under Rozgar Mela Programme

- PM Narendra Modi handed out 51,000 appointment letters to new recruits under **Rozgar Mela Programme**.
- These recruits will be joining the paramilitary forces, Narcotics Control Bureau, and Delhi Police as constable and sub-inspector (general duty) and in non-general duty cadre posts.

About Rozgar Mela Programme

- It is an employment strategy to fast-track the meeting of job seekers and employers.
- Organised by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under the aegis of **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**.
- These Rozgar Melas generally cater to the **youth in the age group of 18-35 Years**.
- **Academic qualification:** 8th/10th/12th Pass, ITI, Diploma, Graduates etc. including the trained and certified candidates conforming to National Skills Qualifications Framework.

Gujarat government hikes reservations for OBCs to 27% in Local-bodies

- The Gujarat government hiked reservations for **Other Backward Classes (OBCs)** from the existing 10% to **27% in the local bodies**.
- The **Jhaveri Commission** was appointed by the Gujarat government in July 2022 to make recommendations to the state government to fix the reservation quota for OBC communities in the election of local bodies.
- It had submitted its report to the state government in April 2023.

Note

- The Commission has estimated the **total average population of OBC communities in Gujarat at 49.20 per cent (52 per cent in rural areas and 46.43 per cent in urban areas)**.

About Gujarat

- **Chief Minister** – Bhupendra Patel
- **Governor** – Acharya Devvrat
- **Capital** – Gandhinagar
- **Major Port** – Kandla





7. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

Tamil Nadu tops GI chart with 58 tags

- **Three more products**, unique to Tamil Nadu, have obtained the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**, further strengthening the state's top rank in the list of GI products.
- The GI registry is to confer GI recognition for **Jaderi Tiruman (Namakatti)** that adorn the foreheads of top deities and Vaishnavites all over the world, the delicious **Matti Banana of Kanyakumari district** and the **Chedibutta sarees of Tirunelveli district**.
- While **Tamil Nadu's tally** has reached 58 now, **Uttar Pradesh is in second position with 50-plus products**, followed by **Karnataka with 48**, said IPR attorney P Sanjai Gandhi.

Jaderi Tiruman

- The finger-length white Jaderi Tiruman made of hyrous silicate minerals has immense cultural, religious and medicinal significance.
- About 120 families in the tiny village of **Jaderi in Tiruvannamalai district** have been making these **Namakatti for about three centuries** and supplying them all over India and abroad.
- The natural ingredients available in Thenpoondipattu village are collected.
- The selection of the appropriate kind of clay itself requires expertise.

Matti Banana

- The GI tag has been conferred on **Kanyakumari Matti Banana** based on an application by **Kanyakumari Banana and Horticulture Farmers Producer Company Limited**.
- **Matti banana (musa sapidisiaca)** is a diploid cultivar commercially grown in Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu is a traditional table banana cultivar having medicinal value.

- The fragrant fruit is known for its sweet and sub-acid flavor, firm texture and powdery nature.

Chedibutta Sarees

- Chedibutta Sarees, has been made by **Veeravanallur Sowrashttra Weavers Cooperative Production and Sales Society Limited in Tirunelveli district**.
- The name Chedibutta is a combination of two Tamil words -- '**Chedi**' (plant) and '**Butta**' (motif or design).
- Chedibutta saree has the iconic "plant and flower" motif woven on the border and Pallu (edge of the saree) and these small Buttas punctuated beautifully all over the saree.
- It is totally a **handloom product** made in in art **silk and cotton mix** fabric.

Programme for first-time offenders

- Over 2,900 remand prisoners have passed **the programme, PATTAM** (Personality and attitude transformation through therapeutic assistance and management).
- The **rehabilitation of first-time petty offenders aged 18-24** and lodged in the Saidapet sub-jail, which has been implemented since August 2018 as per the directions of the Madras High Court.
- The project called the **PARAVAI** (Personality and Attitude Reformation Assistance Venture for Affirming Identity) **programme**, which is focused on the **reformation of first-time, petty young offenders in the 18-24 age groups** and their reintegration into society thus preventing them from turning to a life of crime.
- Till date 62 juveniles and 222 first-time young offenders have gone through the **PARAVAI programme**, and post release, 13 juveniles have rejoined their school/colleges, 35 have

obtained employment and 49 first-time young offenders have rejoined colleges, 35 placed in new jobs, 116 have been facilitated to rejoin their old employers.

Kalaigar Memorial International Marathon creates a world record

- A total of 73,206 persons participated in the fourth edition of the **Kalaigar Memorial International Marathon held in Chennai**.
- 50,629 men, 21,514 women, and 1,063 transpersons participated in the marathon, making it a **Guinness World Record for the largest running race series**.

Foundation stone laid for a museum in Adichanallur

- The **foundation stone** for the **museum in Adichanallur**, which will showcase artefacts from the ancient Tamil civilisation.
- The excavation in the '**parambu**' in **Adichanallur** had yielded several 3,400- year-old **burial urns** containing the remains of people from all walks of life as well as clothes, water, jewels and foodgrains, all of which had been placed inside the urns as a mark of respect for the dead.
- Union Minister for Finance **Nirmala Sitharaman** steps were being taken to bring back over 5,000 artefacts that were excavated in Adichanallur.

Note

- The Centre had allocated ₹6,000 crore towards creating 15 tourism circuits to connect 75 cultural and religious heritage sites in 30 States.

Renames TN Raj Bhavan's hall after poet Subramania Bharati

- President **Droupadi Murmu** renamed the imposing **Durbar Hall in Raj Bhavan** here as **Bharathiar Mandapam**, honouring the nationalist bard.
- The President unveiled a portrait of **Subramania Bharati 1882-1921** and a plaque renaming the spacious hall.

About Subramaniya Bharathiyar

- He was a **poet, freedom fighter and social reformer**.
- He was known as **Mahakavi Bharathiyar**.
- **Born on** - 11th December 1882, in Ettayapuram, Tirunelveli.
- **Parents** - Chinnaswamy and Lakshmi Ammal.

TN's elephant population recorded an increase

- Tamil Nadu has **2,961 elephants** as per the **Forest Department's synchronised elephant population estimation** done in the four southern States.
- This survey was conducted in **26 forest divisions of Tamil Nadu**.
- Six forest divisions (Madurai, Theni, Salem, Tirupattur, Vellore, Tirunelveli and Tiruvannamalai) did not report elephants, as per the report.
- Among the five elephant reserves, the **Nilgiris Eastern Ghats (Nilgiris) reserve had the highest estimated density** followed by Nilambur Silent Valley (Coimbatore) reserve, Anamalai elephant reserve, Srivilliputhur elephant reserve and the Agasthyamalai elephant reserve.

Note

- Project Elephant scheme launched - 1992.

Weighing unit unearthed in Keeladi

- A **weighing unit made of crystal quartz** was found in the ninth phase of the excavations in Keeladi.
- It was the **first time a crystal quartz** had been **unearthed in Keeladi**.
- It is somewhat spherical in shape with the top and the base cut off, making it flat.
- It has a smooth surface and is transparent with a diameter of 2 cm, it is 1.5 cm high and **weighs 8 gm**.
- This antiquity was found along with terracotta hopscotch, iron nail, black-and-red ware and red slipped ware.

- The excavation also yielded a fragment of a snake figurine made of terracotta. The eyes and mouth of the snake were intricately carved.

Chief Minister unveils logo of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin unveiled the logo of the Tamil Nadu Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), a unit formed recently to prevent wildlife crimes in the State.
- The WCCB operates in four zones Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai and Ramanathapuram.

Note

- Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

Chief Minister unveils logo for Global Investors' Meet 2024

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin unveiled the logo for the upcoming Global Investors' Meet 2024, to be held in Chennai.
- The logo is centred around the Tamil letter 'ஐ' which signifies the Tamil language, people and the State.

Note

- GIM would attract investments of several lakh crore rupees, boost employment opportunities, especially for women, and also help the State march towards the goal of achieving a \$1 trillion economy by 2030.

First fuel outlet run by women convicts

- The nation's first retail fuel outlet run by women convicts who are still serving their prison sentences was inaugurated by Tamil Nadu.
- Named **Freedom Filling Station**, it is located on Ambattur Road at Puzhal, abutting the Special Prison for Women (SPW-Puzhal).
- It will go a long way in **reforming and rehabilitating the convicts**, the Tamil Nadu prison department said.
- For the first time in India, a petrol retail outlet will be fully managed by convicted women prisoners.
- About 30 female prisoners will be employed at this petrol retail outlet.

Campaign to enrol women in ITI is launched

- "Our sisters in ITI," an awareness programme to increase the presence of women trainees in industrial training institutes (ITI), was launched at Ambattur ITI.
- The programme was launched to have more women trainees in the ITI with **Industry 4.0** infrastructure and training facilities following **collaboration with Tata Technologies**.

About Industrial Revolution 4.0:

- Industry 4.0 refers to a new phase in the Industrial Revolution that focuses heavily on interconnectivity, automation, machine learning, and real-time data.
- Industry 4.0, which encompasses IoTs and smart manufacturing, and operations with smart digital technology, Artificial Intelligence, and big data.

Background

- The **first industrial revolution** used **water and steam power** to mechanise production (the 1800s).
- The **second** used **electric power** to create mass production (the early 1900s).
- The **third** used **electronics and information technology** to automate production (the late 1900s).

TN 'Startup Thiruvizha'

- 'Startup Thiruvizha' is a two-day event organised by **StartupTN in Coimbatore**.
- The number of registered startups in the State in March 2021 was 2,300, and it stood at over 6,800 at present.
- Tamil Nadu is recognised as a **startup leader by startup India**.
- The State government gives seed fund (**TANSEED**) to start-ups.

Start-ups Initiatives

- **Vision of StartupTN** - To make Tamil Nadu a Global Innovation Hub and the most preferred destination for Startups by 2023
- **TANSEED** (Tamil Nadu Startup Seed Fund) - TANSEED 4.0 (2022)

- **TN SC/ST Startup Fund** – for startups run by entrepreneurs from the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe communities.

former executive director, National Health System Resource Centre, New Delhi.

About CMCHIS

- Launched - 2009
- The Scheme provides health insurance on a large scale to low-income, underprivileged families

Note

- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)** (launched in 2018) is a health insurance scheme at National Level.

T.N. plans to set up centre for advanced manufacturing

- The Tamil Nadu government in collaboration with the **World Economic Forum**, hosted a public-private discussion for establishing the centre for '**India Centre for Advanced Manufacturing**' in Chennai.
- The Centre aims to support companies in their innovation, sustainability, and R&D endeavours.

About World Economic Forum (WEF)

- Founded - 1971
- Headquarters - Cologny, Switzerland
- President/Chairperson - Borge Brende
- Founder - Klaus Schwab

Economic Indices of Tamilnadu

- The data was collated by the **Tamil Nadu's Department of Economics and Statistics**, in consultation with the **State Planning Commission**.

Key Findings

- **Tamil Nadu's economic growth has increased to about 8% at constant prices** in the Post COVID-19 years of 2021-22 and 2022-23.
- GSDP growth in 2022-23 was 8.19% at constant prices and 14.16% at current prices.
- In 2021-22, Tamil Nadu was ranked second in GSDP at current prices after Maharashtra and third in GSDP at constant prices after Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- Sector - Wise Contributions to Tamil Nadu's GSDP
 - **Primary sector/Agriculture** - 12.18% in

World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology (WAAVP) conference 2023

- The four - day conference was organized by WAAVP, **Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS)** and **Indian Association for Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology (WAAVP)**.
- **Theme:** "Parasites: Global Impacts, Local Solutions"
- An MoU between the (IAAVP) and the **Malaysian Society for Parasitology and Tropical Medicine (MSPRM)**.

Note

- TANUVAS instituted on **1989 in Chennai** is the **first Veterinary University of the country**.

Foundation stone laid for Southeast Asia's largest desalination plant

- **Foundation stone was laid** for the construction of a **new desalination plant at Perur** at a cost of ₹4,276.44 crore.
- It will have a capacity to treat 400 million litres of seawater per day.
- The plant will be the **largest of its kind in Southeast Asia**.
- The project will be executed by the **Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB)** with funding support from the **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**.

Note

- Chennai has two fully functional **desalination plants in Minjur, Nemmeli**.

T.N. forms panel to streamline CMCHIS

- The State government had constituted a committee to streamline the implementation of the **Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS)**.
- The **Committee is headed by T. Sundararaman**,

2021-22 and 11.73% in 2022-23 at constant prices.

- **Secondary sector/Industry** - 36.88% in 2021-22 and 37.36% in 2022-23.
 - **Services/Tertiary sector** - 50.94% in 2021-22 and 50.92% in 2022-23.
- The structure of Tamil Nadu's economy is broadly similar to that of the national economy.

Highest ever capital subsidy under NEEDS scheme

- The TN State government has disbursed the highest ever capital subsidy in 2022-23 under its flagship scheme NEEDS.

About NEEDS

- **New Entrepreneur cum Enterprise Development Scheme (NEEDS)** is a State funded programme which aims to **promote first-generation entrepreneurs**.
- The scheme is run by the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Department.

Subsidy

- Under NEEDS, the minimum project cost is ₹10 lakh and the maximum is ₹ 5 crore.
- The individual based capital subsidy under NEEDS is given at the rate of 25% of the project cost (not exceeding ₹75 lakh).
- An additional capital subsidy at 10% of the project cost for SC/ST/differentlyabled candidates is being given from 2021-22 onwards.

15 day training:

- The selected candidates are imparted training for 15 days by the Entrepreneurship development and Innovation Institute.
- The minimum educational qualification prescribed under the scheme is HSC pass.

CWMA directs Karnataka to ensure 5,000 cusecs for T.N.

- The **Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA)** directed Karnataka to ensure that 5,000 cubic feet per second (cusecs) of water be realised at Billigundulu on the inter-State boundary for the next 15 days – up to

September 12.

About CWMA

- **Established** – June 1, 2018
- Constituted under section 6A of the **Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956**.
- Cauvery Dispute involves 3 states and one Union Territory - **Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Puducherry**.

About Karnataka

- **Capital** - Bengaluru (Executive Branch)
- **Chief Minister** - Siddaramaiah
- **Governor** - Thawar Chand Gehlot
- **Major port** - New Mangaluru port (Gateway of Karnataka)

Panel headed by former CEA to study IGST issues

- The **Tamil Nadu government** has formed a **committee** to study the **pattern of settlement of the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) with the States**.
- The Committee will be headed by former Chief Economic Adviser Arvind Subramanian.

Note

- The **IGST was levied and collected by the Centre** on the inter State supply of goods and services and settled with the States.

About GST:

- **Launch** - July 1, 2017.
- GST had replaced the old Indirect tax regime in India.
- It was introduced with the idea of **"One Nation- One Market- One Tax"**.
- GST is an **indirect, multi-stage, consumption-based tax system**.
- Subsumes several domestic indirect taxes like service tax, purchase tax, value-added tax, excise duty, and others under one head.
- It does not include Petroleum, Liquor, and stamp duty.
- The Three taxes application under the GST are CGST (Central) SGST (State) and IGST (integrated)
- **Tax Slabs** - 0%, 5%, 12%, 18%, 28%.