

VETRI IAS STUDY CIRCLE

Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

SEPTEMBER 2023



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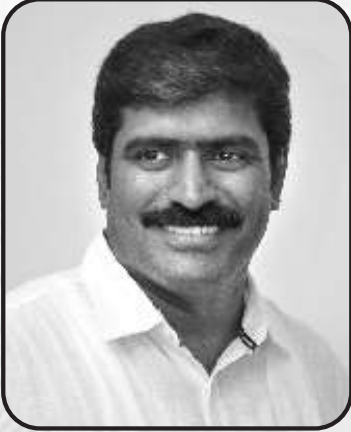
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Preface



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 !

Pages : 68

Size : (240 × 180) mm

Price : ₹ 40

Published by:

VETRII IAS STUDY CIRCLE

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CONTENTS

HISTORY 01



28 POLITICAL SCIENCE



GEOGRAPHY 39



42 ECONOMICS



SCIENCE 46



**NATIONAL-DIARY OF
EVENT 48**



**56 INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS**

TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

57



1. HISTORY



1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
September 1 to September 7	National Nutrition Week (Bharat Nutrition week)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Nutrition Week is observed every year from September 1 to September 7. ▪ Objective - To raise awareness about the importance of nutrition for the human body and measures to eradicate hunger and malnourishment. ▪ Theme 2023 - "Healthy Diet Going Affordable for All". <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Indian government has been conducting the National Nutrition week since 1982.
September 2	World Coconut Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is celebrated every year on 2 September to create awareness among people about the countless benefits of coconuts across the globe. ▪ Theme 2023: "Coconuts: Transforming Lives." <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ India is the largest coconut-producing country in the world. ▪ Top three coconut producing states <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karnataka • Tamil Nadu • Kerala
September 5	International Day of Charity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Theme 2023 - "Global Solidarity to End Poverty" <p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The date of 5 September was chosen in order to commemorate the anniversary of the passing away of Mother Teresa. • In 1928 she came to India. • In 1948 became an Indian citizen. • She founded the order of Missionaries of Charity in Kolkata. • Received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
1st to 8th September 2023	Literacy Week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ministry of Education observes Literacy Week from 1st to 8th September 2023 under ULLAS: Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram. <p>About ULLAS (Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Launch - July 29, 2023 in New Delhi (3rd anniversary of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020) ▪ Centrally Sponsored Scheme ULLAS on Education for All (erstwhile termed as Adult Education) ▪ Implementation during FYs 2022-27 in alignment with National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scheme has five components namely • Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, • Critical Life Skills • Basic Education • Vocational Skills • Continuing Education. <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Literacy Day - Septemebr 8, 2023.
September 5	Teacher's Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Teachers' Day is celebrated every year since 1962 on September 5 to recognise and celebrate the works of educators including teachers, researchers and professors in India. ▪ It marks the birth anniversary of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. ▪ Theme 2023 - "Teachers at the heart of education recovery" <p>About Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born - September 5, 1888 in Tiruttani, Tamil Nadu • Fourth Vice-Chancellor of Banaras Hindu University (1939 to 1948) • Ambassador of India to the Soviet Union (1949 to 1952) • First Vice-President of India (1952 to 1962) • Second President of India (1962 to 1967) • Bharat Ratna -1954
September 7	International day of clean air for blue skies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Theme - Together for clean air.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
September 8	International Literacy Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The day has been observed since 1967 to promote the importance of literacy for dignity and human rights, and a literate and sustainable society. ▪ The day is observed by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). ▪ Theme 2023 - 'Promoting literacy for a world in transition: Building the foundation for sustainable and peaceful societies'. <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As per 2011 census <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India's Literacy rate - 74.04 per cent (82.14 for males and 65.46 for females) • Top Three states <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kerala - 93.91 per cent 2. Lakshadweep - 92.28 per cent. 3. Mizoram - 91.58 per cent. • Last three states <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bihar - 63.82 per cent 2. Arunachal Pradesh - 66.95 per cent 3. Rajasthan - 67.06 per cent.
September 9	World First Aid Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Theme 2023 - "First Aid in the Digital World." <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CM flags off special vehicles to rescue accident victims. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To make Chennai's roads safe, a rescue vehicle has been developed to save road accident victims trapped inside the mangled and crashed vehicles. • Under this pilot project, a special vehicle, VEERA (Vehicle for Extrication in Emergency Rescue and Accidents) will be used by police personnel. • The initiative had been launched under a corporate social responsibility (CSR) project. <p>Innuyir Kaapom / Nammai Kaakkum - 48</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State government bears the expenses of emergency care for accident victims for the first 48 hours.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
September 9	Himalayan Diwas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Celebrated every year across India especially in Uttarakhand to preserve the Himalayan ecosystem and region. ▪ It was officially declared as Himalaya Day by the then chief minister of Uttarakhand, Harish Rawat, in 2014.
September 10	World Suicide Prevention Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Triennial theme (2021-2023) - "Creating Hope Through Action."
September 11	102nd Memorial Day of Subramania Bharati	<p>Bharathiyar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Name - C. Subramaniya Bharathiyar • Parents - Chinnaswamy Iyer & Lakshmi Ammal • Born - 11 December 1882, Ettaiyapuram • Died - 11 September 1921, Triplicane, Chennai
	National Forest Martyrs Day 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The day is observed as an annual commemoration of the Khejarli massacre (September 1730) and to remember, and honour people who sacrificed their lives to protect forests and Wildlife in India. <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Khejarli massacre occurred in Northern India, when 363 Bishnois (a community) were killed while trying to peacefully protect a grove of Khejri trees. • The massacre later became known as a precursor to the 20th century Chipko movement. • Chipko movement - Sunderlal Bahuguna in the Garhwal forests. It is a non-violent forest conservation movement in India.
September 12	International Day for South-South Cooperation 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is annually observed across the globe to highlight the importance of cooperation among countries of the developing world, known as the Global South. ▪ Theme 2023 - "Solidarity, Equity, and Partnership: Unlocking South-South Cooperation to Achieve the SDGs" <p>About United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director - Dima Al-Khatib • Headquarters - New York, United States of America (USA) • Established - 1974



Date	Day	Theme / Remark
September 14	Hindi Diwas or National Hindi Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is celebrated every year to mark the day of adoption of Hindi as the official language by the Constituent Assembly of India in 1949. ▪ Hindi was legalised as an official language of India by the Constitution of India on January 26, 1950. <p>About Hindi Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the eighth schedule languages. • Neither a classical language nor a national language. • Article 351 pertains to the 'Directive for development of the Hindi language'. • Official language of India the other being English. • Fourth most spoken language in the world.
September 15	National Engineer's Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Celebrated every year to recognise and honour the achievements of the Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya. ▪ Theme 2023 - "Engineering for a Sustainable Future" ▪ First observed - 1968 by Government of India. <p>About Visvesvaraya</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Born - September 15, 1861, Karnataka. ▪ Achievements - Numerous water management systems across the country, including the renowned Krishna Raja Sagar dam in Mysuru ▪ Notable Books <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconstructing India (1920) • Planned Economy of India (1934) ▪ Awards/Honours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1915 - Knighthood while serving as the Diwan of Mysore. • 1955 - Bharat Ratna
September 16 (3rd Saturday of September)	International Coastal Clean-up (ICC) Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is annually observed across the world to raise awareness of the problem of marine litter. ▪ International Coastal Clean-up Day 2023 was observed on 16th September 2023. ▪ Theme 2023 - Sea the Change.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
September 16	World Ozone Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer observed annually raise awareness about the importance of the ozone layer and how its depletion is leading to global warming and climate change across the world. ▪ Theme 2023 - "Montreal Protocol: Fixing the Ozone Layer and Reducing Climate Change". ▪ The day is recognised to commemorate the Montreal Protocol. ▪ About Montreal Protocol ▪ Adoption - 1987 ▪ Objective - To protect the ozone layer by curbing global production and consumption of substances that deplete it. ▪ Only UN treaty that has been ratified by all 198 member-states
September 17	Hyderabad Liberation Day/ National Integration Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ September 17 is commemorated by the Union government as 'Hyderabad Liberation Day' and by the government of Telangana as 'National Integration Day'. ▪ It was on this day that Hyderabad was integrated into the Indian Union. ▪ On September 17, 1948 the Nizam of Hyderabad Mir Osman Ali Khan, had surrendered in the wake of Operation Polo, the military invasion of Hyderabad by Indian forces when Vallabhbhai Patel was the Home Minister of India.
September 16	International Red Panda Day 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is annually observed across the globe to create awareness about the importance of the conservation of Red Pandas and to promote and encourage people to save them. ▪ The Red Panda Network (RPN) introduced the International Red Panda Day in 2010. ▪ About Red Panda ▪ IUCN Status - Endangered ▪ It is the State animal of Sikkim. ▪ They are found in Eastern Himalayas, especially ▪ Singalila National Parks - Darjeeling, West Bengal ▪ Neora Valley National Parks - Darjeeling, West Bengal

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
September 18	World Water Monitoring Day 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Water Monitoring Day (WWMD) is annually observed across the globe to raise awareness about the significance of monitoring water sources regularly. ▪ The Water Environment Federation (WEF) and the International Water Association (IWA) coordinate WWMD internationally. ▪ Note ▪ India accounts for about 2.45% of world's surface area and 4% of the world's water resources ▪ Groundwater extraction in India ▪ Only 8% of the extracted groundwater in India is used for drinking. ▪ 80% goes to irrigation ▪ Remaining 12% goes to industrial uses.
September 18 to 24	International Week of Deaf People 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is annually observed across the globe during the last full week of September and concludes on the final Sunday of September. ▪ It aims to raise awareness about the rights of people who are deaf or hard of hearing/hearing impaired. ▪ Theme 2023 is "A World Where Deaf People Everywhere Can Sign Anywhere!"
September 21	International Day of Peace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is observed every year to strengthen the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire. ▪ Theme 2023 - "Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the Global Goals" ▪ The Day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1981.
September 21	World Alzheimer's Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The day is observed every year to raise the awareness about Alzheimer's and Dementia. ▪ Theme 2023 - Never too early, never too late ▪ Note ▪ Alzheimer's disease was first diagnosed in 1906.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
September 22	World Rose Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Also known as the Welfare of Cancer Patients Day is observed every year to honor and support individuals worldwide who are courageously battling cancer. ▪ The World Rose Day was first observed in the honour of 12-year-old cancer patient Melinda Rose from Canada, who was diagnosed with Askin's Tumour in 1994 and died in 1996.
	World Rhino Day 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The day is observed every year to raise awareness about the critical plight of the rhinoceros species and advocating for their protection. ▪ Note ▪ Great Indian rhinoceros ▪ Also known as One-horned rhino. ▪ Native to the Indian subcontinent. ▪ IUCN status - Vulnerable.
September 23	International Day of Sign Languages (IDSL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is celebrated annually across the world along with International Week of the Deaf to promote the linguistic and cultural diversity of deaf communities worldwide. ▪ In 2017, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution to designate September 23rd as the International Day of Sign Languages. ▪ Theme 2023 - "A World Where Deaf People Everywhere Can Sign Anywhere!" ▪ Note ▪ Indian Sign Language (ISL) is used in the deaf community all over India. ▪ In 2011, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment approved the establishment of the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Center (ISLRTC).
September 23	Organ Donation Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organ Donation Day is observed on September 23 in Tamil Nadu every year to commemorate the tragic death of AP Hitendran in 2008. ▪ Hitendran's parents, a doctor couple - Dr Pushpanjali and Dr Ashokan donated his organs who was declared brain dead.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Note ▪ National Organ Donation Day is observed on August 3. ▪ The day has been shifted from November 27 to 3rd August in 2023.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
September 24	World Rivers Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Rivers Day is celebrated on fourth Sunday in September every year to spread public awareness about all rivers in the world and their importance. ▪ Theme 2023: Rights of Rivers. ▪ Note : ▪ The rivers of India can be classified into four groups viz., Himalayan rivers, Deccan rivers, Coastal rivers, and Rivers of the inland drainage basin.
September 25	World Pharmacist Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The day is commemorated every year with the goal of highlighting and advocating the pharmacist's contribution to health improvement. ▪ Theme 2023 - Pharmacy strengthening health systems. ▪ Note ▪ The pharmaceutical industry in India was valued at an estimated US\$42 billion in 2021 and is estimated to reach \$130 billion by 2030 ▪ As of 2023, Indian pharmaceutical industry is the world's 3rd largest by volume and 13th largest by value.
September 26	World Environment Health Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The day is observed every year to create awareness about the impact of environmental health on human lives. ▪ Theme 2023 - "Global Environmental Public Health: Standing up to protect everyone's Health each and every day." ▪ First announced by International Federation of Environmental Health in 2011. ▪ Note ▪ World Environment Day - June 5
September 26	World Contraception Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The day is observed to mark the importance of choice-based approaches to family planning, aiming to meet unmet needs and promote comprehensive reproductive health services. ▪ Theme 2023 - "The Power of Options." <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India was the first country in the world to have launched a National Programme for Family Planning in 1952.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
September 27	World Tourism Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The day is observed annually to highlight the significance of tourism in fostering cultural exchange, economic growth and sustainable development. ▪ Theme 2023 : “Tourism and green investment” ▪ The day was first observed by the United Nations World Tourism Organization since 1980. <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism - 4.6% of the India's GDP. • India ranks 6th according to World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) in terms of Travel & Tourism total contribution to GDP in 2022. • Ministry of Tourism designated the 2023 as the 'Visit India' year. • Tamil Nadu received the highest number of domestic tourists (over 11 crore) in India in 2021 as per the Ministry of Tourism’s Indian Tourism Statistics 2022.
September 28 (last Thursday of September)	World Maritime Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Maritime Day is celebrated on the last Thursday of September every year to honor the tireless work of the international maritime industry workers. ▪ Theme 2023 - “MARPOL at 50 – Our commitment goes on” <p>About International Maritime Organization's (IMO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headquarters - London, United Kingdom • Founded - 17 March 1958 • Head - Secretary-General; Kitack Lim <p>About MARPOL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MARPOL - International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships. ▪ International convention covering prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships from operational or accidental causes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption - November 2, 1973 at IMO.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
September 28	World Rabies Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The day is observed annually to raise awareness about the world’s deadliest infectious disease and bring together partners to enhance prevention and control efforts worldwide. ▪ Theme 2023 – “All for 1, One Health for all”. <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero by 30: World Health Organisation’s Global strategic plan to end human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030.
September 29	World Heart Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Heart Day is celebrated every year to raise awareness of cardiovascular disease, the world’s number one killer. ▪ Theme 2023 - 'Use Heart, Know Heart'. ▪ The first World Heart Day was celebrated in 1999 to mark the anniversary of the foundation of the World Heart Federation which was established in 1978.
September 29	International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste is observed every year to raise awareness of the importance of food loss and waste. ▪ Theme 2023 - “Reducing food loss and waste: Taking Action to Transform Food Systems”. <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Globally, around 13 percent of food produced is lost between harvest and retail, while an estimated 17 percent of total global food production is wasted in households, in the food service and in retail all together. • Number of people affected by hunger has been slowly on the rise since 2014.
September 30	International Translation Day 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Translation Day (ITD) is celebrated every year to highlight the significant role of translators all across the world. ▪ Theme 2023: Translation unveils the many faces of humanity. ▪ The day was first observed by the International Federation of Translators (FIT) in 1991.

Poila Baisakh is West Bengal

Foundation Day

- The West Bengal Legislative Assembly passed a resolution declaring **Poila Baisakh, the first day of the Bengali calendar, as Bangla Dibas, or West Bengal Foundation Day.**
- The Assembly also passed a proposal of making **Rabindranath Tagore's 'Banglar Mati Banglar Jol' (Bengal's soil and Bengal's water) as the official song of West Bengal.**

About West Bengal

- Capital - Kolkata
- Chief minister - Mamata Banerjee
- Governor - C. V. Ananda Bose

Goa launched Griha Adhar Scheme to Empower Homemakers

- Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant distributed **Griha Adhar sanction orders to numerous beneficiaries to financially support homemakers, promoting their independence and improving their quality of life.**
- Objective - To provide support to the housewives/homemakers **from middle, lower middle and poor section of the society, to maintain a reasonable standard of living for their families.**
- Under the scheme, a **monthly disbursement of an amount** as prescribed will be provided every month directly to the hands of the housewives/homemakers to achieve the objective.

About Goa

- Capital - Panaji (Executive Branch)
- Chief minister - Pramod Sawant
- Governor - P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

First woman Speaker of Odisha assembly

- Odisha Revenue and Disaster Management Minister and six-time MLA **Pramila Mallick** is set to become the **first woman speaker of Odisha Legislative Assembly.**

Note

- First woman speaker of a State Assembly in India - **Shanno Devi** became the speaker of Haryana Legislative Assembly from 6 December 1966 to 17 March 1967.
- **Rukmini Lakshmi Pathy** - First women deputy speaker of Madras Presidency Legislative Assembly in the 1937 elections.

About Odisha

- Capital - Bhubaneswar
- Chief minister - Naveen Patnaik
- Governor - Ganeshi Lal

Team from Buddhavanam project visits Buddhist rock caves in Sri Lanka

- A **Buddhavanam team from Telangana** visited the **third century BC Buddhist rock cut caves at Mathale on the Colombo Kandy route in Sri Lanka.**

About Buddhavanam

- Inauguration - **May 14, 2022.**
- Buddhavanam is a massive Buddhist heritage theme park developed by the Telangana government at Nagarjunasagar.

About Sri Lanka

- Capitals - Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
- Currency - Sri Lankan Rupee
- President - Ranil Wickremesinghe
- Prime minister - Dinesh Gunawardena

Note

- Buddha's teachings called **Tripitaka - Sut, Vinaya and Abhidhamma pitakas** were written on palm leaves under the auspices of **Sri Lankan king Devanampiya Tissa.** He is a **contemporary of King Ashoka.**
- The **first discoveries** were made in **Nagarjunakonda in 1926 by French archaeologist Gabriel Jouveau-Dubreuil.**

1.3 DEFENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND TERRORISM

INS Mahendragiri

- INS Mahendragiri was commissioned by Sudesh Dhankher (Second Lady of India) at the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders in Mumbai.
- Mahendragiri is Indian Navy's final and 7th stealth frigate constructed as part of Project 17A frigates.
- It is named after a mountain peak in the eastern Ghats located in Odisha.

About Project 17 Alpha

- Launch - 2019
- To construct a series of **stealth guided-missile frigates** (total 7 ships).
- Constructed by two companies
 - Four ships by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders (MDL), Mumbai.
 - Three ships by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.
- **Other Six**
 - Nilgiri - 2019
 - Himgiri - 2020
 - Udaygiri - 2022
 - Dunagiri - 2022
 - Taragiri - 2022
 - Vindhyagiri - 2023

India takes delivery of first C295 transport aircraft

- IAF (Indian Air Force) Chief Air Marshal VR Chaudhari and Indian Ambassador to Spain Dinesh K Patnaik received the first Airbus C295 aircraft at Seville in Spain.
- The 56 C-295 aircraft are set to replace its ageing Avro-748 fleet.
- 16 aircraft will come in flyaway condition while 40 will be manufactured by Airbus jointly with Tata Advanced Systems Ltd. (TASL) in C-295 transport aircraft manufacturing facility in Vadodara, Gujarat.
- It will be manufactured under India's first-ever 'Make in India' Aerospace programme in the private sector.

- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) had the monopoly over **manufacture of military aircraft** in India so far.

Note

- India has **world's third-largest defence expenditure**, as of 2021, and expects to export equipment worth US\$ 15 billion by 2026.

Defence ministry clears proposal to buy 'Pralay' ballistic missiles for Army

- Ministry of Defence granted approval for acquisition of a regiment of **Pralay ballistic missiles**.

About 'Pralay' Ballistic missiles

- **Developed by** - DRDO
- **Type** - Surface-to-Surface short-range ballistic missile that is capable of being launched from a mobile launcher.
- **Operational range** - 150 to 500 kms
- **Payload capability** - 350 to 700 kgs of conventional warhead.

About DRDO

- **Formation** - 1958
- **Functions under the Minister of Defence** - Rajnath Singh.
- **Chairman** - Dr Sameer V Kamath.
- **Headquarters** - New Delhi

Swavlamban 2023

- The 2nd Edition of the Indian Navy's Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) Seminar 'Swavlamban 2023' is scheduled to be held on October 4-5, 2023 in New Delhi.
- The seminar will showcase 75 prototypes of indigenous technologies/products developed by start-ups under the 'SPRINT Challenges' initiative.

About SPRINT initiative

- It is a collaborative initiative being undertaken in conjunction with the Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO).

- It stands for Supporting Pole-Vaulting in R&D through Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), NIIO and Technology Development Acceleration Cell (TDAC).
- It aims to boost the usage of indigenous technology in the Indian Navy.

Note

- The **1st edition** of the seminar was held in **July 2022** in New Delhi.

India's first C-295 transport aircraft inducted into IAF

- The **first C-295** medium tactical transport aircraft was inducted into the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**.
- 16 aircraft will come in flyaway condition while 40 will be manufactured by **Airbus jointly with Tata Advanced Systems Ltd. (TASL)** in a manufacturing facility in Vadodara, Gujarat.
- It will be the first aircraft to be **manufactured under 'Make in India' Aerospace programme** in the private sector.
- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** had the monopoly over manufacture of military aircraft in India so far.

About C-295 MW transporter

- It is a transport aircraft of **5-10 tonne capacity** with contemporary technology.
- **Can transport up to 71 troops or 50 paratroopers**, airdrop cargo, be deployed for medical evacuation, and take off and

land in short and unpaved runways.

- It will replace the **HS-748 Avro aircraft**.

Note

- As of **2021**, India has **world's third-largest defence expenditure** and is expected to export equipment worth **US\$ 15 billion by 2026**.

19th edition of YUDH ABHYAS

- The **19th edition** of "EXERCISE YUDH ABHYAS" is being conducted from 25th September to 8th October 2023 in **Fort Wainwright, Alaska, USA**.
- The **theme** is 'Employment of an Integrated Battle Group in Mountain/ Extreme Climatic Conditions' under Chapter VII of the United Nations mandate.
- It is an **annual joint exercise** between the **Indian Army and the US Army**.
- It was started in **2004** under the **US Army Pacific Partnership Program**.

Other Exercises between India and USA

- **Army:** Vajra Prahar
- **Navy:** MALABAR (Multilateral)
- **Air Force:** Cope India, Red Flag (Multilateral)

About US

- **Capital** - Washington, D.C.
- **President** - Joe Biden
- **Vice President** - Kamala Harris.

1.4 WORLD ORGANISATIONS – PACTS AND SUMMITS

African Union to join G-20, as Sherpas reaches a deal

- The **African Union (AU)** is set to join the G20 as negotiators agreed on clearing its membership, at the **Sherpa meeting in New Delhi**.

President Droupadi Murmu to inaugurate NHRIs conference

- **President Droupadi Murmu** will inaugurate the **biennial conference of the National**

Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) of Asia Pacific in New Delhi on September 20.

- The conference is being organised by the **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India, in collaboration with the Asia Pacific Forum**.

About Asia-Pacific Forum

- **Formation** - 1996
- The Asia Pacific Forum (APF) is one of **four regional networks of national human rights institutions (NHRIs)**.

- It is a coalition of 25 national human rights institutions across the region.

G20 Summit 2023

- The **G20 New Delhi Summit** was held in New Delhi, hosted by **India as the G20 Presidency** on September 9 and 10.
- **Location** - Bharat Mandapam in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, India
- **Theme** - "One Earth, One Family, One Future."
- **India's G20 Sherpa** - Amitabh Kant
- **Important issues discussed** - food security, climate and energy, development, health and digitalization.
- The **G20 New Delhi Leader's Declaration** was issued as the summary of the discussions.
- The declaration places emphasis on strong, sustainable, balanced, and inclusive growth.

Schedule

- **Day 1**
 - Session 1 "One Earth"
 - Session 2 "One Family"
- **Day 2**
 - Session 3 "One Future"

Session 1 "One Earth"

- Discussed issues - World economy, food security, climate and energy, and environment
- Regarding Russia's aggression against Ukraine, emphasized the importance of observing the United Nations Charter and achieving peace in Ukraine.
- Affirmed the need for the G20 to respond to the aggression's increasing adverse impact on the world economy.

Session 2 "One Family"

- Discussed issues - Inclusive growth, the SDGs, health and other issues
- Importance of reducing poverty and inequality, accelerating efforts toward the achievement of SDGs, and preparing for pandemic

Session 3 "One Future"

- **Discussed issues** - Multilateral reforms, digital and other issues

Key highlights of Delhi Declaration

- All states must refrain from the threat or use of force to seek territorial acquisition against the territorial integrity and sovereignty or political independence of any state.
- Terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. All acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever, or by whomever they are committed.
- Protecting the vulnerable through promoting equitable growth and enhancing macroeconomic and financial stability.
- Focus on strong and sustainable growth, accelerating progress on sustainable development goals, a green development pact, and reinvigorating multilateralism.
- G20 member countries are dedicated to promoting unrestricted, open and fair trade in the fields of agriculture, food, and fertilizers, with a commitment to refrain from imposing export restrictions.
- The G-20 nations agree to remain committed to strengthening the global health architecture. Countries will enhance the resilience of health systems and support the development of climate-resilient and low-carbon health systems in collaboration with multilateral development banks (MDBs).
- Necessity of aligning financial flows with climate objectives while expanding finance, capacity-building, and technology transfer with a focus on the priorities and needs of developing countries.

Important Decisions

- Union of Comoros President and **African Union chairperson Azali Assoumani took the seat as a full member of the G20.**
- India-led initiative of **International Biofuels Alliance.**
 - The US and Brazil, two of the world's largest biofuels markets, are joined.
 - Aim to boost demand for the lower-emissions energy source.

- India proposes **G20 satellite for climate observation**.
- **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)**
 - Aims to bolster economic development by fostering connectivity and economic integration between Asia, the Arabian Gulf, and Europe.

About African Union

- **Formation** - 2002 (Announced by Sirte Declaration, 9 September 1999)
- **Member States** - 55
- **Chairperson** - Azali Assoumani
- African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) - 1 January 2021

About G 20

- **Formation** - 26 September 1999
- **Headquarters** - New Delhi 2023 (Current Capital city of G20 Host)
- **Membership** - 20 members
- **Chairman (Incumbent)** - Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India
- **G-20 Theme** - "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" or "One Earth, One Family, One Future".

G20 Presidency

- India Prime Minister Narendra Modi completed the transition by handing over the **ceremonial gavel of the presidency to Brazil President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva**.
- India has had the presidency of the G20 since Dec. 1, 2022 when it took over from Indonesia.
- India will continue to hold the position until Nov. 30, 2023.

About G20

- **Established** - 1999

G20 member countries

- Japan, India, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, European Union.

India hosts inaugural UNCITRAL South Asia Conference

- **India** recently hosted the inaugural **United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) South Asia conference**.
- It was jointly organized by the Ministry of External Affairs, UNCITRAL, and the organization's national coordination committee for India.

About UNCITRAL

- **Formation** - 1966
- A **subsidiary body of General Assembly of UN** with a mandate to further harmonization and unification of law of international trade.
- It is composed of 70 Member States elected by General Assembly for a term of six years.
- India will be a member till 2028

U.N.'s Climate Ambition Summit

- The **Climate Ambition Summit (CAS)** which was conducted as part of the United Nations General Assembly in New York was concluded on **September 21**.
- The summit was marked by the absence of major economies like China, United States and India whose actions significantly influence the future of global emissions.
- They collectively account for about 42% of global greenhouse gas emissions and are the top three emitters.
- Only representatives from **34 states and seven institutions** were listed as speakers on the summit.
- All the G20 governments will be asked to commit to presenting, by 2025, more ambitious economy wide Nationally Determined Contributions.

India's climate targets

- India last updated its climate pledges in 2022 of **reducing emissions intensity or the volume of emissions per unit of gross domestic product (GDP) by 45% from 2005 levels by 2030**.
 - It is a 10% increase from what it agreed to in 2015.

- India committed to meet **50% of its electric power needs from renewable, non-fossil fuel energy sources by 2030** up from 40% committed at the Paris agreement.
- India assured to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3bn tonnes of CO₂-equivalent [GtCO₂e] through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.
- India committed to India achieving **net zero by 2070**.

Foreign Ministers IBSA Meeting

- External Affairs Minister S.Jaishankar, who is visiting the **United States to address the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** and for plurilateral and

bilateral meetings.

- He met with his Brazilian and South African counterparts as part of the **IBSA group**, to further strengthen South-South cooperation.

About UN General Assembly

- Formation – **1945**.
- Headquarters - **New York**.
- Head - **Dennis Francis**

About IBSA

- Formation - **6 June 2003 (Brasilia Declaration)**.
- Members - **India, Brazil and South Africa**.
- Objective - to promote **South-South cooperation** and build consensus on issues of international importance.

1.5 EMINENT PERSONS

ISRO scientist Valarmathi passes away

- N. Valarmathi, an ISRO scientist**, who lent her voice on all countdowns for rocket launches in Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, passed away in Chennai.
- Chandrayaan-3 was her last countdown.

- Two steamships - S.S. Gallia and S.S. Lawoe

1908 - Coral Mill Strike

- 7 July 1908 - V.O.C. and Subramania Siva were found guilty and imprisoned on charges of sedition for celebrating 'Swarajya Day' (to mark the release of Bipin Chandra Pal from prison) in Tirunelveli.

Notable Achievements

- She was the first person to receive the APJ Abdul Kalam award in 2015.
- The Award was instituted by the Government of Tamil Nadu in honour of the former president APJ Abdul Kalam in 2015.
- She was the project director of RISAT-1, India's first indigenously developed Radar Imaging Satellite in 2012.

Indian American Mathematician CR Rao dead

- One of the world's most eminent **statistician, Calyampudi Radhakrishnan Rao** died in the United States.
- He is known for
 - Cramér–Rao bound
 - Rao–Blackwell theorem
 - Orthogonal arrays
 - Score test

V.O.C's 152nd Birth Anniversary

- September 5, 2023 marks the **152nd birth anniversary of V.O. Chidambaranar**.

About V.O. Chidambaranar (5 September 1872 - 18 November 1936)

- Valliyappan Olaganathan Chidambaram Pillai also known as **Kappalottiya Tamizhan** ("Tamil Helmsman") was born in **Ottapidaram, Tirunelveli District**.
 - 1906 - Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company (SSNC)**

Awards

- Padma Bhushan - 1968**
- Mahalanobis Centenary Gold Medal of the Indian Science Congress - 1993
- Padma Vibhushan - 2001**
- National Medal of Science, the highest award in US in the scientific field - 2002

- International Mahalanobis Prize of the International Statistical Institute - 2003
- Srinivasa Ramanujan Medal of the Indian National Science Academy - 2003
- India Science Award; the highest award in a scientific field presented by government of India - 2010
- **International Prize in Statistics - 2023** (Considered as Noble Prize for Maths)

Birth Anniversary of Acharya Vinoba Bhave

- **Vinoba Narahari Bhave** was a human rights activist and follower of non-violence.
- **Profile**
 - **Born** - September 11, 1895, Gagoji village (present-day Gagode Budruk) in the Konkan region of **Maharashtra**.
 - The name Vinoba was conferred upon him by Mama Phadke.
- **Bhoodan Movement or Land Gift movement** : The Land Gift movement was a voluntary land reform movement started by him in 1951.
- **Awards/Honours**
 - First recipient of the international **Ramon Magsaysay Award** for Community Leadership - 1958.
 - **Bharat Ratna** awardee-1983 (posthumously)
 - **First Individual Satyagrahi**.
- He died on 15 November 1982 after refusing food and medicine for a few days by accepting "Samadhi Maran" / "Santhara" according to Jainism.

Ian Wilmut dies at 79

- **Ian Wilmut**, the cloning pioneer whose work was critical to the creation of **Dolly the Sheep** in 1996, has died.
- He is considered to be the **Father of Cloning**.
- Dolly is the **first cloned mammal (1996)**.

Note

- The lamb was **initially referred to as "6LL3"** and was later named Dolly, after the singer **Dolly Parton**.

Conjeevaram Natarajan Annadurai (15 September 1909 – 3 February 1969)

Profile

- **Other names** - Anna, Arignar Anna or Perarignar Anna.
- Fourth and last Chief Minister of Madras State (1967 until 1969)
- First Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for 20 days (**after Madras State was renamed Tamil Nadu**) before his death.
- **Achievements**
 - **1967** - Legal status to Self Respect Marriage.
 - **1967** - Scheme For Rice at Re.1 was launched at Chennai
 - **1967** - Inauguration of the Coom Improvement Scheme.
 - **1967** - Sanskrit word "Shree" was changed to "Thiru" for the Government letter transactions.
 - **1968** - Two language Policy as State official Language
 - **1968** - Organised 2nd World Tamil Conference in Chennai
 - **1969** - Vaimayae Vellum was announced as state's slogan
 - **1969** - Madras state was renamed as Tamil Nadu.

Erode Venkatappa Ramasamy (17 September 1879 – 24 December 1973)

- **145th birth anniversary** of E.V. Ramasamy was celebrated on September 17.
- Also Known as **Periyar or Thanthai Periyar**.
- Indian social activist and rationalist who rebelled against Brahminical dominance and gender and caste inequality in Tamil Nadu.
- **Father of the Dravidian movement**.
- Since 2021 Tamil Nadu celebrates his birth anniversary as '**Social Justice Day**'

Timeline

- 1918 - Chairmanship of Erode Municipality
- 1919 - Joined the Indian National Congress.
- 1924-25 - Vaikom Satyagraha
- 1925 - Resigned from Congress
- 1925 - Started the Self-Respect Movement.

- 1938 - "Tamil Nadu for Tamilians" slogan was first raised by E.V. Ramasamy
- 1939 - Head of Justice Party
- 1944 - Justice Party's name changed as Dravidar Kazhagam
- 2008 - Sangeet Natak Akademi Award
- 2013 - Padma Bhushan

Journals and Books

- 1925 - "Kudi Arasu" edited by himself to spread the principles of Self-Respect.
- 1928 - Published "Revolt" (English magazine)
- 1930 - "Family Planning" (book)
- 1933 - 'Puratchi'
- 1934 - Tamil weekly 'Pagutharivu'
- 1934 - Why Were Women Enslaved? ("Pen Yenn adimaiyanaal?") (1st edition)
- 1935 - 'Viduthalai' as Tamil Daily Newspaper.
- 1950 - Periyar imprisoned for the publication of his book 'Ponmozhigal' (Golden sayings).
- 1970 - bi-monthly "Unmai"

Gita Mehta passes away at 80.

- Gita Mehta, writer, journalist and elder sister of Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik passed away.
- She has written five books
 - Karma Cola
 - Snakes and Ladders: Glimpses of Modern India
 - A River Sutra
 - Raj
 - Eternal Ganesha: From Birth to Rebirth
- In 2019 she had declined the Padma Shri award bestowed on her by the Union government.

Saroja Vaidyanathan passes away

- Bharatanatyam dancer Saroja Vaidyanathan dies at 86.
- She was known for her extensive contribution to Bharatanatyam and Carnatic music in the form of 10 full length ballets and nearly 2,000 choreographies.
- Awards and Honour
 - 2002 - Padma Shri

Books authored:

- The Science of Bharatanatyam and the Classical Dances of India.
- Bharatanatyam- An In-Depth Study

200th Birth Anniversary of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar (1820-1891)

- Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar was a visionary & social reformer who worked relentlessly for social emancipation and contributed greatly towards women upliftment & widow remarriage.
- He was given the name of "Vidyasagar" which means "ocean of knowledge".

Profile

- Born - September 26, 1820 (Bengal)
- Vidyasagar with other reformers— Ramgopal Ghosh, Madan Mohan Tarkalankar and others founded schools for girls in the 19th Century.
- He opened schools for girls and brought significant reforms in the education sector by bringing justice and equality for women through education.

116th Birth Anniversary of Bhagat Singh

- The 116th birth anniversary of Bhagat Singh is celebrated on September 28.

Bhagat Singh's Life (28 September 1907 – 23 March 1931)

- 1926 - Founded Naujawan Bharat Sabha.
- September 1928 - He reorganised Hindustan Republic Association as Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)
- April 8, 1929 - Threw bombs in the Central Legislative Assembly.
- 1930 - Wrote "Why I Am an Atheist", an essay in Lahore Central Jail
- March 23, 1931 - Executed along with Rajguru and Sukhdev.
- The day is observed as Martyr's Day (Shaheed Diwas) to pay tribute to Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev.

MS Swaminathan: Father of Green Revolution dies at 98

- Renowned agricultural scientist **Dr. Mankombu Sambasivan Swaminathan** who is regarded as the **Father of India's Green Revolution** passed away at his residence in Chennai.
- He is known as the "**Father of Economic Ecology**" by the **United Nations Environment Programme**.
- He coined the term '**Evergreen Revolution**' in 1990

Timeline

- Born - **August 7, 1925, Kumbakonam**.
- 1972 - 1979 - Director-General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- 1979 - Principal Secretary of the Agriculture Ministry of the Indian government.
- 1981 - 85: Independent Chairman of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).
- 1984-90: President of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.
- 1989-96: President of the World Wide Fund for Nature (India)
- 2004-06 : As the head of the National Commission on Farmers he recommended the Minimum Support Prize
- 2007 - 2013: Nominated member of Rajya Sabha for one term.

Awards and Honour

- 1961 - Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award
- 1965 - Mendel Memorial Medal
- 1967 - Padma Shri
- 1971 - Ramon Magsaysay award
- 1972 - Padma Bhushan
- 1987 - Won the first World Food Prize Laureate
- 1989 - Padma Vibhushan

About Green Revolution in India:

- 1943 - Bengal famine** which is one of the world's worst recorded food crisis. It led to the death of approximately 4 million people due to hunger.
 - This inspired **M.S.Swaminathan to study agriculture**.
- Green revolution** - Refers to a period when Indian Agriculture was converted into an industrial system due to the adoption of modern methods and technology such as the use of HYV seeds, tractors, irrigation facilities, pesticides and fertilizers.
- Funded by the **US, Indian Government and the Ford and Rockefeller Foundation**.
- Dr. Swaminathan worked closely with two Agriculture Ministers, **C.Subramaniam (1964-67)** and **Jagjivan Ram (1967-70 & 1974-77)** for the success of the Green Revolution.

1.6 SPORTS AND GAMES

FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023

- Host Nations (3)** - Philippines, Japan and Indonesia
- Champion** - Germany
- Runner-up** - Serbia

US Open 2023

- Location** - Newyork, United States
- Men's Singles**
 - Champion** - Novak Djokovic (Serbia)
 - Runner-up** - Daniil Medvedev (Russia)
- Women's Singles**

- Champion** - Coco Gauff (US)
- Runner-up** - Aryana Sabalenka (Belarus)

Note

- Men's Doubles**
 - Champion** - Rajeev Ram (US) / Joe Salisbury (UK)
 - Runner-up** - **Rohan Bopanna (India)** / Matthew Ebden (Australia)

Major Grand Slams

- Australian Open (January)
- French Open (late May to early June)

- iii. Wimbledon Open (late June to early July)
- iv. US Open (late August to early September)

Elavenil claims air rifle gold in Rio World Cup

- **Elavenil Valarivan** won gold medal in women's 10m air rifle final.
- It was the second World Cup individual gold for Elavenil.
- She won the first medal in **2019 in Rio World Cup**

Asian Games 2023

- The **19th edition of Asian Games** is scheduled to

be held in **Hangzhou, China** from **September 23 to October 8, 2023**.

- The Indian contingent list in the Asian Games is 921, including 655 athletes, 260 coaches, and support staff.

About Asian Games

- Held every fourth year among athletes from all over Asia.
- Second largest multi-sport event after the Olympic Games.
- First event - New Delhi (1951)
- 2026 Asian Games - Nagoya, Japan.

1.7 PLACES IN NEWS

Santiniketan finds its place on UNESCO's World Heritage List

- Santiniketan, located in **West Bengal's Birbhum district** became **India's 41st World Heritage Site** to join the UNESCO's World Heritage List.

About Santiniketan

- It is a town established by Nobel laureate **Rabindranath Tagore**
- Santiniketan - means "**abode of peace**"
- Established in **1901**
- Tagore laid the foundations of **Visva Bharati University** in Santiniketan.
- **Santiniketan Griha** the oldest house in Santiniketan, built by Rabindranath Tagore's

- father, **Maharshi Debendranath Tagore** around 1853-54.

Note

- **World Heritage Site** - designated by UNESCO for having cultural, historical, scientific or other forms of significance.

About UNESCO

- Headquarters - Paris, France
- Formation - 16 November 1945
- Director-General - **Audrey Azoulay** (France)

About West Bengal

- Capital - Kolkata
- Chief minister - **Mamata Banerjee**
- Governor - **C. V. Ananda Bose**

1.8 BOOKS & AUTHORS

The Changing Mediascape

- **The book** - The Changing Mediascape
- **Authored by** - Veteran journalist **B.R.P. Bhaskar**
- **Released by** - Chief Minister **M.K. Stalin**
- **At an event in** - Chennai by the Kerala Media Academy

1.9 AWARDS & HONOURS

65th Ramon Magsaysay Award 2023

- **Surgical oncologist R. Ravi Kannan**, Director of the Cachar Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (CCHRC) in Assam was selected as one of the **Ramon Magsaysay award for 2023**.
- He is credited with **revolutionising cancer treatment in Assam** through people centric and pro poor healthcare.

Other Winners

- **Korvi Rakshand** - Bangladesh
- **Eugenio Lemos** - Timor-Leste
- **Miriam Coronel - Ferrer** - Philippines

About Ramon Magsaysay Award

- **Creation** - August 31, 1957
- To commemorate the **birth anniversary of the Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay**.
- Conceived as **Asia's Nobel Prize** to honour greatness of spirit shown in service to the peoples of Asia.
- Awarded under six categories
 - Government Service
 - Public Service
 - Community Leadership
 - Journalism, Literature, and Creative Communication Arts
 - Peace and International Understanding
 - Emergent Leadership

Note

- The **first Indian to win** the Ramon Magsaysay Award is **Vinoba Bhave in 1958** under the category of Community Leadership.

World Innovation Award

- Telangana's First woman Chief Innovation Officer (CIO) **Shanta Thoutam** has been presented with the World Innovation Award at the first BRICS Innovation Forum hosted at Moscow.
- The award is given for outstanding contribution to the Sustainable Development Goal-4 that ensures inclusive and equitable quality education and promotes lifelong opportunities for all.

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)

Kalaignar Semmozhi Award 2023

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin handed over the **Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi Semmozhi Tamil Award** to Tamil scholar **K. Ramasamy**.
- The award is presented by the **Central Institute of Classical Tamil**.
- He was the former Deputy Director of the Central Institute of Indian Languages.
- The award is given for the **best contribution to classical Tamil studies** by a researcher or a research institution in specified areas.
- The award carries a **cheque for ₹10 lakh, a citation plaque, and a bronze replica of the donor, Karunanidhi**.

Note

- **Prof. Asko Parpola** is the **first recipient of the Kalaignar Semmozhi Award (2009)**

National Teacher's Award 2023

- President Droupadi Murmu conferred **National Awards to Teachers to 75** selected awardees at **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**.
- Each award carries a certificate of merit, a cash award of Rs.50,000 and a silver medal.
- **From 2023**, the ambit of **National Teachers' Award has been expanded to include teachers of the Department of Higher Education and the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship**.

- In 2023, 50 School Teachers, 13 teachers from Higher education and 12 teachers from Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship were awarded. (CSIR).
 - It is usually announced on the foundation day of the institution on September 26.

Award winners from Tamil Nadu

- T. Godwin Vedanayagam Rajkumar, Government Boys HR Sec. School, Alanganallur, Madurai
- S.S. Malathi, Government Higher Secondary School, Tenkasi
- Dr. S. Brinda, HoD PSG Polytechnic College, Coimbatore.
- S. Chithrakumar, Assistant Training Officer, Government Industrial Training Institute (Women), Dindigul

Note: A total of 396 teachers from across Tamil Nadu were given the Dr. Radhakrishnan Award on the occasion of Teachers' Day by the State government.

Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) awards for 2022 announced

- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has publicised the list of winners of the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) awards for 2022.
- It is considered as one of the most prestigious prizes for science in India.
- 2022 awardees constitute 12 scientists below the age of 45
 - Ashwani Kumar
 - Maddika Subba Reddy
 - Akkattu Biju
 - Debabrata Maiti
 - Vimal Mishra
 - Dipti Ranjan Sahoo
 - Rajnish Kumar
 - Apoorva Khare
 - Neeraj Kayal
 - Dipyaman Ganguly
 - Anindya Das
 - Basudeb Dasgupta

Note: SSB Prize was instituted in the memory of the first Director-General (DG) of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

About CSIR

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

Plant Genome Saviour Farmer Rewards

- Four farmers have bagged the prestigious Plant Genome Saviour Rewards.
- The awards were declared by the Registrar, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Authority (PPV&FRA).
- The award consists of certificate and cash prize of ₹1.5 lakh each.
- Awardees for 2020-21 - Praseed Kumar Thayyil and Sunil Kumar M. of Wayanad district.
- Awardees for 2021-22 - John Joseph of Kozhikode district and Vinod E.R. of Thrissur district.

About PPVFRA

- Statutory body under the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare and Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare.
- It provides an effective system for the protection of plant varieties, the rights of farmers and plant breeders and to encourage the development of new varieties of plants.
- Chairman - Dr. H. S. Gupta

One-time Sangeet Natak Akademi awards for 84 artists

- The Sangeet Natak Akademi announced special onetime awards, commemorating 75 years of Independence, to 84 artists who are above the age of 75 and have not been accorded any national honour in their career.
- The awards would be given by Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar.
- Awardees from Tamil Nadu include,
 - Gowri Kuppaswamy - Carnatic Vocal
 - Upparayan Chinnathambi - Hindustani Instrument (Nagaswaram)

- iii. Ramamurthy Sundaresan – Acting
- iv. V.A.K Rangarao - Music for Dance (Bharatanatyam)
- v. Ramani Rangan - Carnatic Instrumental (Veena)

About Sahitya Akademi Awards

- **Second-highest literary honour** by the Government of India, **after the Jnanpith award**.
- **Established** - March 12, 1954.
- It has recognised **24 languages** (22 languages enumerated in the Constitution of India, English and Rajasthani)
- Also known as India's National Academy of Letters
- President: Chandrashekhara Kambara

TrackD application received 3rd Prize

- TrackD application received the third prize under the category **“Comparative Evaluation of Technical Application Available with States/U.T. police”** at the **fourth Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS) Hackathon and Cyber Challenge 2023**.
- The event was organised by the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) in New Delhi**.

About TrackD (Tracking Known Delinquents) application

- Implemented by – Tamil Nadu Police in 2022.
- An application and integrated data management system for criminal profiling and tracking.
- Profiles of around 30,000 history sheeted antisocial elements were digitised in the app.
- Prem Anand Sinha conceptualised TrackD and ensured its implementation across TN.

Centre introduced new science awards - Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar

- The Union government is set to institute the **Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar – 56 prizes** to felicitate **scientists, technologists and innovators**.
- Similar to the prestigious Padma awards, these

awards will not include any cash component. It will bestow a certificate and a medallion on the awardee.

- RVP will comprise
 - **Three Vigyan Ratna**
 - **25 Vigyan Shri**
 - **25 Vigyan Yuva Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar**
 - **Three Vigyan Team awards**
- It will be awarded under **13 categories** including the 13th category as ‘others’
- The RVP awards will commence **from 2024**.
- The awards will be **announced annually on May 11**, which is **National Technology Day**, and will be **awarded on National Space Day, August 23**.

Norman Borlaug award 2023

- Agriculture scientist **Swati Nayak** won the prestigious **Norman E. Borlaug Award for 2023**.
- She is the **third Indian** and **first Odia** to receive the award.
- She won the award for introducing the **drought tolerant Shahabhazi Dhan rice variety in Odisha**.
- She is famously called **Bihana Didi (Seed Lady)**

About Norman Borlaug award

- Instituted by **World Food Prize Foundation**
- Instituted in honour of Nobel Laureate and Green Revolution’s chief architect **Dr Norman E Borlaug**.
- Other Indian recipients:
 - **Aditi Mukherji (2012)**
 - **Mahalingam Govindaraj (2022)**.

Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award for 2021

- The veteran Bollywood actor **Waheeda Rehman** was announced the **Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award for 2021** in honour of her stellar contribution to Indian cinema.
- The award will be presented during the **69th national film awards ceremony**.

About Waheeda Rehman

- Ms. Rehman has worked in more than 90 films.
- **Achievements**
 - National Award for the best female actor - 1971
 - Padma Shri - 1972
 - Padma Bhushan - 2011
- Made her film debut with the Tamil film 'Alibabavum 40 Thirudargalum' as a dancer.

About Dadasaheb Phalke Award

- India's **highest award** in the field of cinema
- Presented **annually** at the National Film Awards ceremony by the **Directorate of Film Festivals**.
 - It is an **organisation** set up by the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**.
- **Award comprises**,
 - Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus) medallion
 - A shawl
 - Cash prize of ₹ 1,000,000
- **First awarded** - 1969
- **First recipient** - Devika Rani

India Smart Cities Award Contest (ISAC) 2022

- The **fourth edition** of the **India Smart Cities Award Contest (ISAC) 2022** was held in **Indore**.
- The **ISAC** is being organized under the **Smart Cities Mission, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**.

Award Winners

- **Best Smart City Category**
 - **First** - Indore (Madhya Pradesh)
 - **Second** - Surat (Gujarat)
 - **Third** - Agra (Uttar Pradesh)
- **Best State Category**
 - **First** - Madhya Pradesh
 - **Second** - Tamil Nadu
 - **Third** - Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh
- **Best Union Territory** - Chandigarh
- **Coimbatore** secured first place in the 'built environment' category.

Note

- There were no **awards in 2021** because of the COVID-19 pandemic

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.

TN grants ₹1 lakh aid to Kalaimamani awardees

- TN Chief Minister M.K. Stalin distributed **₹1 lakh (porkizhi)** each to **Kalaimamani awardees** who live in indigent circumstances on behalf of the **Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram**.
- The awardees are,
 1. K. Kalyanasundaram
 2. S. Samuthram,
 3. N. Parvathy Udhayam
 4. K. Kumaravel,
 5. P. Muthuchandran,
 6. K. Muthulakshmi,
 7. P.R. Durai,
 8. R. Kalyanasundaram
 9. M.S. Mohammed Masthan,
 10. T.N. Varalakshmi

About Kalaimamani Awards

- **Highest civilian award** in the state of Tamil Nadu.
- **Distributed by** - Tamil Nadu Iyal Isai Nataka Mandram (literature, music and theatre). It is an unit of the Directorate of Art and Culture, Govt. of TN.
- **Secretary** - Chitra Visweswaran.
- **First Awarded** - 1954.

1.10 APPOINTMENTS – WHO IS WHO?

First woman to head Railway Board

- **Jaya Verma Sinha** was appointed as the **Chairperson of the Railway Board**, the top decisionmaking body of the Railway Ministry.
- She replaces **Anil Kumar Lahoti**.
- She becomes the **first woman to head the Board** in its 118year history (Since 1905).

History of Railway Board

- **Constituted in 1901** based on the recommendations of Sir Thomas Robertson Committee.
- In 1905, its powers were formalised by Lord Curzon's government.

Actor Madhavan to head Film & Television Institute of India

- **Actor R. Madhavan** was appointed as the **president of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII)** Society and chairperson of the governing council.

About FTII Society

- **Established** – 1960.
- Autonomous Society under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Note

- Madhavan made his **directorial debut** with **'Rocketry: The Nambi Effect'**, which won the **Best Feature Film Award at the 69th National Awards** announced recently.

New Chairperson of National Green Tribunal

- **Justice Prakash Shrivastava** has been appointed as the new **Chairperson of National Green Tribunal (NGT)**.
- He replaced Justice A.K Goel who was retired in July, 2023.

About National Green Tribunal (NGT)

- **Quasi-judicial body** formed under **National Green Tribunal Act, 2010** in 2010.
- It aims to provide speedy and effective justice to cases related to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.

- **Headquarters** - New Delhi

- **Five Zonal benches** - Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata, Chennai, and Guwahati.

- Headed by a Chairperson who is a retired judge of the Supreme Court or the High Court.

Vijay Raghavan Committee

- A nine-member committee headed by former Principal Scientific Advisor to government, **K Vijay Raghavan**, has been set up by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to review functioning of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) .
- The committee is instituted to suggest “restructuring and redefining” of its role to improve the output of the state-owned agency, aiding government’s move to make India self-reliant in military sector.

About DRDO

- **Formation** – 1958
- Functions under the Minister of Defence - **Rajnath Singh**.
- **Chairman** - **Dr Sameer V Kamath**.
- **Headquarters** – New Delhi

T.N. govt. forms committee to study Vishwakarma scheme

- The Tamil Nadu government has constituted a **five member committee headed by J. Jeyaranjan** to study the guidelines of the Union government’s **Vishwakarma scheme**.
- It would analyse to see if the scheme would be detrimental to educational and social mobility of artisans and confine them to their traditional **caste based occupations**.

About Vishwakarma scheme

- **Launch** - September 17, 2023.
- **Central Sector Scheme**
- **Objective** - To support artist, craftsman and small business owner financially and help them to grow their business by providing them capital support.
- **Nodal Ministry** - Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise.

New PTI Chairman

- K.N. Shanth Kumar, the director of The Printers (Mysore) Pvt. Ltd, publishers of Deccan Herald, was elected as the new Chairman of the Press Trust of India's Board of Directors.
- Praveen Someshwar, the Chief Executive Officer of Hindustan Times was also elected

as the new the Vice-Chairman of PTI.

About Press Trust of India

- **Formation** - 27 August 1947
- **Headquarters** - New Delhi.
- **Non Profit Cooperative** and the **largest news agency** in India.

Vetrii IAS Study Circle



Vetrii IAS Study Circle

2. POLITICAL SCIENCE

2.1 INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

- **12 point proposal to expand India - ASEAN cooperation**
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented a 12 point proposal to expand cooperation between India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in areas such as connectivity, trade, and digital transformation at the annual ASEAN-India Summit in Jakarta, Indonesia.
 - India announced the establishment of a multimodal connectivity and economic corridor linking Southeast Asia, India, West Asia, and Europe.
 - 12-point plan unveiled by India in Jakarta during the **India-ASEAN Summit**:
 - i. Establishing **multi-modal connectivity and economic corridor** that links **South-East Asia-India-West Asia-Europe**
 - ii. Offer to **share India's Digital Public Infrastructure Stack** with **ASEAN partners**
 - iii. **ASEAN-India fund for Digital Future** focusing on cooperation in digital transformation and financial connectivity.
 - iv. Renewal of support to **Economic and Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)** to act as knowledge partner for enhancing engagement.
 - v. Call for collectively raising issues being faced by Global South in multilateral fora
 - vi. An invitation to **ASEAN countries to join Global Centre for Traditional Medicine** being established by WHO in India
 - vii. Call for **working together on Mission LIFE**
 - viii. Offer to share India's experience in providing **affordable and quality medicines to people through Jan-Aushadhi Kendras**
 - ix. A call for **collective fight against terrorism, terror financing and cyber-disinformation**
 - x. Invitation to ASEAN countries to **join Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure**
 - xi. Call for **cooperation in disaster management**
 - xii. Call for enhanced **cooperation on maritime safety, security and domain awareness**
- **Note**
- PM Modi also addressed the 18th East Asia Summit in Jakarta on the side-lines in which he reinstated that India believes a code of conduct for South China Sea should be **effective and compliant with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**
- About ASEAN**
- **Formation** - 8 August 1967.
 - **Headquarters** - Jakarta, Indonesia.
 - **Members** - 10 countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam).
- About East Asia Summit**
- **Formation** - 2005 (1st Summit - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)
 - **Membership** - 18 countries (ASEAN countries plus six - Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, and the South Korea. US and Russia joined in 2011)

About United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

- **Signed** - 10 December 1982.
- The international agreement that establishes a legal framework for all marine and maritime activities.

Bilateral meeting between India and Saudi Arabia

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** held a **bilateral meeting with Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud** after the conclusion of the G 20 summit.
- **India and Saudi Arabia signed eight agreements** to boost cooperation in a range of areas – from energy to interconnectivity, digitalisation and electronic manufacturing to finance and security.

Key Decisions

- A joint task force to fast track the **West Coast refinery project**.
- First meeting of the **India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council** which was set up in 2019.
- India will be connected to Saudi Arabia by railroad under the **multinational India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC)** that was announced on the side lines of the G20 Summit.
- **Cooperation between**
 - i. India's Central Vigilance Commission and Saudi's anti-corruption unit
 - ii. Investment entities
 - iii. Small and medium enterprises banks
 - iv. National Archives of the two countries
- Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed regarding information technology, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals and human resources, among other sectors.

About Saudi Arabia

- **Prime Minister** – Mohammed bin Salman
- **Capital** – Riyadh
- **Currency** - Saudi Riyal

India-UK hold 12th Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD)

- The 12th Round of Ministerial **India-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue** was held in New Delhi.
- The Dialogue concluded with the adoption of the Joint Statement by Union Finance Minister of India and Chancellor of Exchequer of United Kingdom.
- India and U.K. agreed to promote financial services and investment activities in **GIFT IFSC** (GIFT International Financial Services Centre)
- On the side lines, **India-UK Financial Partnership (IUKFP)** meeting was also held.

About UK

- **Capital** – London
- **Currency** - Pound sterling (GBP)
- **Monarch** - Charles III
- **Prime Minister** - Rishi Sunak

India, Bangladesh Sign 3 MoUs

- **3 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** were signed by **Narendra Modi and Sheikh Hasina**, to strengthen bilateral cooperation between India and Bangladesh.
- **3 MoUs are**
 - i. MoU on Cooperation in **Digital Payment mechanisms between National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Bangladesh Bank**.
 - ii. MoU on renewal of the **Cultural Exchange Program (CEP)** between India and Bangladesh for 2023-2025.
 - iii. MoU between **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC)**.

About Bangladesh

- **Prime Minister** - Sheikh Hasina
- **Capital** – Dhaka
- **Currency** – Bangladeshi Taka
- **Major River** – Padma River
- **Major Port** – Chittagong Port

Quad Ministers hold talks on rules-based order, UN reform

- On the sidelines of 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Foreign Ministers of the Quad (India, Australia, Japan and the U.S.) met and reaffirmed the group's commitment to a free and open Indo - Pacific region.

Key highlights of the discussion

- Quad Counterterrorism Working Group's Consequence Management Exercise's Outcome:** It studied how the Quad could help regional countries that had experienced terror attacks.
- Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI):** The Quad also backed the UN's efforts to restart the BSGI. It is a deal that secures the export of grain from Ukraine and Russia.

About QUAD

- Formation - 2017
- Objective - To counter China's aggressive behaviour in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Members - Australia, India, Japan, United States
- Quad Plus additional members - New Zealand, South Korea and Vietnam.

2.2 PROBLEMS IN CONDUCT OF PUBLIC ELECTIONS

Government panel to study simultaneous polls to LS, State Assemblies

- A committee has been formed under the headship of former President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, to look into the feasibility of simultaneous elections to State Assemblies and the Lok Sabha.

Note

- Holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and Assemblies would require at least five constitutional amendments which include
 - Article 83** relating to the duration of Houses of Parliament

- Article 85** relating to the dissolution of the Lok Sabha by the President
- Article 172** relating to the duration of the State legislatures
- Article 174** relating to the dissolution of the State legislatures
- Article 356** relating to the imposition of President's Rule in States.

- A parliamentary panel and Election Commission of India had already examined the issue.
- The matter now stands referred to the Law Commission for further examination.

2.3 POLITICAL PARTIES AND POLITICAL SYSTEM IN INDIA

Special Session of Parliament from September 18 to 22

- The Union government announced a Special Session of Parliament from September 18 to 22 shortly after the conclusion of the G20 Summit here on September 10.
- The government has not revealed the agenda of the session.

About Sessions of Parliament

- Under Article 85 of the Constitution.
- Convened by the President of India (Decided by the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs)
- By convention Parliament meets for **three sessions in a year**.
 - Budget Session
 - Monsoon Session
 - Winter Session
- The gap between two sessions of the Parliament cannot exceed 6 months.

Swachhata Special Campaign 3.0 Portal launched

- **Union Minister of State** (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, **Dr Jitendra Singh** launched the **dedicated web-portal for Swachhata Special Campaign 3.0**, <https://scdpm.nic.in>.

About Special campaign 3.0

- Focus on Swachhata (clean) and Reducing Pendency in Government Offices with a saturation approach

- **Nodal Agency** - Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).
- Preparatory phase of Special Campaign 3.0 from 15th September, 2023-30th September, 2023- Part of Special campaign 3.0 between 2nd October- 31st October, 2023.

Udhampur Railway Station as Martyr Capt. Tushar Mahajan (MCTM) Railway Station

- **Union Minister of State** (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, **Dr Jitendra Singh** unveiled the re-naming of **Udhampur Railway Station as Martyr Capt. Tushar Mahajan Railway Station**.

About Martyr Capt. Tushar Mahajan

- **Captain Tushar Mahajan** was an officer in the Indian Army.
- He was a part of the 9 Para Special Forces unit, also known as the "9 Parachute Commando."
- Captain Tushar Mahajan was born on May 25, 1987, in Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir, India.
- He made the ultimate **sacrifice in the line of duty during a counter-terrorism operation in Pampore, Jammu and Kashmir, in February 2016**.

2.4 GOVT – WELFARE ORIENTED GOVT SCHEMES, THEIR UTILITY

E-buses will be allotted to cities based on population

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation issued the guidelines on the implementation of the PM-eBus Sewa scheme to the States.
- It is notified that the 10,000 electric buses under the scheme would carry a uniform branding provided by the Union government.
- The 169 eligible cities would be categorised into four groups based on their population and e-buses would be allocated based on the population as
 - Between 15 and 20 lakh – 150 buses
 - Between 10 and 15 lakh – 100 buses
 - Between five and 10 lakh – 100 buses
 - Less than five lakh. – 50 buses

About PM-eBus Sewa

- The scheme aims to introduce 10,000 Electric Buses through a **Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model**.
- The scheme has two segments
 - Segment A: Augmenting City Bus Services (169 cities) 10,000 e-buses will be deployed in PPP Model in 169 cities.
 - Segment B: Green Urban Mobility Initiatives (181 cities) Infrastructure will be upgraded under the green urban mobility initiatives in 181 cities.

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) completes seven years.

- Seven years has been completed since the government unveiled its ambitious ₹20,000crore **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)**.

About NMCG

- It was registered as a society on 12th August 2011 under the Societies Registration Act 1860.
- Acts as implementation arm of **National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and**

Management of River Ganga (referred as National Ganga Council)

- The Act envisages five tier structures at national, state and district level to take measures for prevention, control and abatement of environmental pollution in river Ganga
 - **National Ganga Council** under **chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India**
 - **Empowered Task Force (ETF)** on river Ganga under **chairmanship of Union Minister of Jal Shakti** (Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation)
 - **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)**
 - **State Ganga Committees**
 - **District Ganga Committees** in every specified district abutting river Ganga and its tributaries in the states.

Other information related to Ganga River Cleaning

- **Clean Ganga Fund (CGF): Established in 2015** as a trust under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882, to enable Resident Indians, Domestic and Overseas Corporates / Trusts, and NRIs / PIOs to contribute towards the conservation efforts of River Ganga.
- **Namami Ganga Programme: Launched in June 2014.** Its main objective is to ensure that no untreated sewage flows into the river.
- **Bhuvan-Ganga Web App:** It ensures involvement of the public in monitoring of pollution entering into the river Ganga.
- Ganga was declared as the '**National River**' of India in 2008.

Iyothee Thass Pandithar Habitation Development Scheme

- The state has allocated Rs.1000 crore for a new scheme called "**Iyothee Thass Pandithar Habitation Development Scheme**"

- 200 crores were allotted for the year 2023-24.

Aim

- To ensure **basic amenities in Adi Dravidar habitations** in both urban and rural areas
- **Comprehensive socio-economic development** over a period of five years

“Engal palli; milirum palli” (Our school, shining school) launched

- The School Education Department launched a special campaign called ‘**Engal palli, milirum palli,**’ (Our school, shining school) in an attempt to promote **cleanliness and hygiene on school campuses.**
- The campaign also seeks to encourage greening drives in the campuses for environment conservation and raise awareness among students on nutrition.
- District, block and school level committees are to be formed for implementing the campaign in coordination with various government departments.

ASI launches revamped ‘Adopt a Heritage 2.0’ programme

- The Archeological Survey of India (ASI) launched a revamped version of the ‘**Adopt a Heritage 2.0**’ programme along with **Indian Heritage app** and an **e-permission portal.**

Adopt a Heritage Programme:

- **Launched** - 2017
- Under the Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with the ASI.
- The programme encourages corporate stakeholders to utilise their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds to adopt and **enhance facilities in over 3,000 protected monuments** spread across the country.
- ‘**Adopt a Heritage 2.0**’ is the upgraded version of ‘Adopt a Heritage’ programme.

The e-permission portal:

- It has been designed to simplify and speed up the process for acquiring approvals for photography, filming, and developmental initiatives concerning heritage monuments.

Indian Heritage app:

- Provides a comprehensive guide to monuments under ASI’s ambit.
- It lists historical structures along with pictures, public facilities available on site and geo-tagged locations.

Himachal launches SABAL Yojna to Empower Specially-Abled Children

- Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh **Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** launched the **Mukhya Mantri Sporting Abilities, Rebuilding Aspirations and Livelihood Scheme (SABAL).**
- The scheme intends to **improve the lives of specially-abled children** in the state by integrating them into the mainstream.

About Himachal Pradesh

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

75 lakh more consumers to get LPG connections

- The Union Cabinet decided to extend the **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)** to **75 lakh more consumers** by providing them **LPG connections over three years from 2023-24 to 2025-26.**

About PMUY

- **Launch** - May 1, 2016 in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh
- **Objective** - To make clean cooking fuel such as LPG available to the rural and deprived households which were otherwise using traditional cooking fuels.
- **Ujjwala 2.0** - Additional allocation of 1.6 Crore LPG Connections under PMUY Scheme with special facility to migrant households.
- **Nodal Ministry** - Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG).

Basic income scheme to benefit 1.06 crore women

- Chief Minister **M.K. Stalin** launched the **Kalaigarnar Magalir Urimai Thittam**

(Kalaingar Women's Rights Grant Scheme) in Kancheepuram on September 15 marking the birth anniversary of former Chief Minister C.N. Annadurai.

- In the 2023-24 Budget, the state government announced an allocation of Rs 7,000 crore for the implementation of the scheme.

About Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thogai Thittam

- The scheme ensures a **basic minimum income of Rs 1,000 per month for eligible women heads** of families.
- **Beneficiary** - Woman, hailing from eligible families, who has completed 21 years of age (born before September 15, 2002)
- 1.06 crore women who will benefit from the scheme.

Note

- **Other Basic Income Scheme for Women**
 - Lakshmir Bhandar - West Bengal
 - Gruha Lakshmi scheme - Karnataka
 - Ladli Bahna Yojana - Madhya Pradesh

Telangana to launch free breakfast scheme in schools

- The **Telangana** government is set to **launch Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme for students of Classes 1 to 10**.
- It will be implemented in all schools run by the government and local bodies.
- The scheme was formulated on the sidelines of Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme

About the TN Break Fast 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.

PM unveils ₹13,000 crore Viswakarma scheme

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the **Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana (PMVY)** for the upliftment of the artisans and crafts people with a financial outlay of 13,000 crore.
- The scheme would equip crafts people with the technology to augment their skills for the modern market.

Note

- On the sidelines PM also inaugurated the first phase of the ₹5,400 crore state of the art India International Convention and Expo Centre named **Yashobhoomi at Dwarka in New Delhi**.
- Yashobhoomi will be one of the world's largest **MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions)** facilities.

About Vishwakarma scheme

- Launch - September 17, 2023.
- Central Sector Scheme
- Objective - To support artist, craftsman and small business owner financially and help them to grow their business by providing them capital support.
- Nodal Ministry - Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise.
- The scheme offers collateral free enterprise development loans of ₹1 lakh (first tranche to be repaid in 18 months) and ₹2 lakh (second tranche to be repaid in 30 months).

Govt. plans to establish primary animal rescue centres in all districts

- At the **eighth State Wildlife Board** meeting chaired by **Forest Minister M. Mathiventhan** the decision was taken to set up a primary animal care centre in each district using MP MLA funds.
- The new centres will be meant for emergency or primary care for wildlife and are proposed to be set up using **Members of Legislative Assembly Local Area Development Scheme (MLALAD)** and **Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLAD)** funds.

Note

- Efforts to expedite sea turtle conservation was also discussed at the meeting.
- In January 2023, TN Government announced the setting up of a sea turtle conservation centre in Chennai at ₹6.30 crore.

About MPLAD

- **Launch** - December 23, 1993
- **Objective** - To enable the MP to suggest and get executed developmental works of a capital nature based on locally felt needs with an emphasis on the creation of durable assets.

- Under the scheme, MPs receive **Rs.5 crore in two instalments (Rs.2.5 crore)** every year.
- Funds under MPLAD Scheme are **non-lapsable**.

About MLALAD

- **States' version of MPLAD.**
- **Objective** - To create **local need based infrastructure**, to create assets of public utility and to remove regional imbalances in development.
- Amount allocation per MLA varies across the states. Delhi has the highest allocation under MLALAD.

2.5 PUBLIC AWARENESS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

India marks one year of launch of National Logistics Policy

- The National Logistics Policy (NLP) was launched on **17th September 2022** to complement **PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP)**.
- While the PM Gati Shakti NMP addresses integrated development of the fixed infrastructure and network planning, the NLP addresses the soft infrastructure and logistics sector development aspect.

About National Logistics Policy

- **Launch** - September 17, 2022
- **Vision** - To drive economic growth and business competitiveness of the country.
- **Targets**
 - Reduce cost of logistics in India
 - To improve the Logistics Performance Index ranking (among top 25 by 2030)
 - To create data driven decision support mechanism.
- **Comprehensive Logistics Action Plan (CLAP)** includes eight actions

Four Major Steps Under National Logistics Policy

- **Integration of Digital System (IDS):** Different systems of seven different departments will be integrated digitally.

- **Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP):** It will also enable information exchange on a real-time basis in a confidential manner.
 - NICDC's (National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation) Logistics Data Bank Project to develop ULIP.
- **Ease of Logistics (ELOG):** To simplify the rules and ease the logistics business.
- **System Improvement Group (SIG):** monitoring all logistics-related projects regularly and tackling all obstacles.

Parliament's Special Session

- The special session of the parliament is being held from **September 18 to 22**.
- **4 bills** to be discussed include,
 - **The Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2023,**
 - **The Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill, 2023**
 - **The Post Office Bill, 2023**
 - **The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023.**
- A discussion was held on the subject **'Parliamentary Journey of 75 years starting from Samvidhan Sabha - Achievements, Experiences, Memories and Learnings.**

Key Highlights

- **Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal** tabled the **Women's Reservation Bill** termed as '**Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam**' to reserve **33 per cent of seats in Lok Sabha** and **all state legislative assemblies for women**.
- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla announced that the **old Parliament building** will now be called '**Samvidhan Sadan**'
- **New Parliament building** will be called '**Parliament House of India**' in English and '**Bharath's Sansad Bhawan**' in Hindi.

About Sessions of Parliament

- **Article 85** of the Constitution - Deals with prorogation and dissolution of Parliament.
- **Convened by the President of India (Decided by the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs)**
- By convention Parliament meets for **three sessions** in a year.
 - **Budget Session**
 - **Monsoon Session**
 - **Winter Session**
- There is **no fixed schedule** but the Article 85 specify that the President must summon the Houses to meet at least once within six months.
- **Special Session:**
 - It is **not explicitly mentioned** in the Constitution or in the rulebooks of the two Houses of Parliament.
 - There are **no specific guidelines** on how or when such a session can be convened.
 - **Article 352**, which deals with the proclamation of Emergency, **refers to a 'special sitting' of the House**.
 - This clause was added through the 44th Amendment Act in 1978 as a safeguard.

ISI mark made mandatory for gas stoves

- Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Chennai announced that the domestic gas stoves compatible with piped natural gas (PNG) and utility lighters will have to compulsorily bear the ISI mark from February 9, 2024.

- Domestic gas stoves compatible for Liquefied petroleum (LPG) gas are already under the ambit of mandatory BIS certification.

About BIS

- National Standard Body of India established under the **BIS Act 2016**.
- Functions under **Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution**.
- Headquarters - New Delhi
- President - Pramod Kumar Tiwari.

Note

- **Piped Natural Gas (PNG)** is natural gas - mainly Methane and supplied through mild steel (MS) and polyethylene (PE) pipes to cater to the natural gas demand.

Central Govt launches Kisan Rin Portal, WINDS Manual and Door to Door KCC Campaign

- **Union Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman** and **Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoAFW) Narendra Singh Tomar** inaugurated **Kisan Rin Portal (KRP), Weather Information Network Data Systems (WINDS) Manual and Door-To-Door Kisan Credit Card (KCC) campaign (Ghar-Ghar KCC Abhiyaan)** in New Delhi.
- **Kisan Rin Portal (KRP):** It provides a comprehensive overview of farmer data, loan disbursement details, interest subvention claims, and the progress of scheme utilization.
- **WINDS Manual:** The instructional manual will enhance the impact of the Weather Information Network Data Systems (WINDS) initiative.
 - **WINDS** : An instrumental innovation, leverages advanced weather data analytics to provide stakeholders with actionable insights on weather.
- **Door-To-Door Kisan Credit Card (KCC) campaign:** An ambitious campaign to extend the benefits of the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme to every farmer across India.

Parliament passes Women's Reservation Bill

- Parliament has passed the Constitution (**One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Amendment**) Bill, 2023 which seeks to reserve one-third of the total number of seats for women in Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies and Delhi Assembly.

About Women's Reservation Bill

- It is the historic **first legislation** being introduced in the new Parliament House.
- The Bill aims to provide **one-third reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies**.
- The quota will **not be implemented in 2024 general election**.
- It can be implemented only after a delimitation exercise which is scheduled to be done in 2026 is completed.
- Within the women's quota itself, **one-third of the seats will be reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes**.
- There is **no separate quota** for women belonging to **other backward classes**.
- After becoming an Act the law will be in force for **15 years**.
- The seats reserved for women will be rotated after every delimitation exercise.

Constitutional Amendments

- The 2023 bill proposes an amendment to one constitutional provision, i.e., Article 239AA (Special provisions with respect to Delhi), and the insertion of three new articles namely Articles 330A, 332A, and 334A.
 - Article 330A and 332A:** Seeks to introduce 33 percent in Lok Sabha and the state legislative assemblies respectively.
 - Article 334A:** Seeks to introduce the reservation of seats for after an exercise of delimitation is undertaken for this purpose.

Innovative Mobile Application and Web Portal for General Crop Estimation Survey (GCES)

- Manoj Ahuja, Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW)

launched the mobile application and the web portal for GCES (General Crop Estimation Survey).

- It was designed to transform agricultural practices across the nation and also ensures transparency and accuracy.
- Developed by Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare**

Key Features:

- Comprehensive Information** - Provide a comprehensive repository of yield estimation including village wise GCES plan.
- Geo-referencing:** Enables the primary worker to draw the boundary of the experimental plot and upload photos of the plot as well as of the crops through it.

About General Crop Estimation Survey

- Conducted **annually** to obtain the **estimates of average yield per hectare (productivity)** and total production of principal crops by conducting crop-cutting experiments.
- Conducted by the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**.

Panel on 'One Nation, One Election' holds first meet in New Delhi.

- The high-level committee, headed by former **President Ram Nath Kovind**, to examine the possibility of simultaneous elections held its first meeting and decided to invite national and regional political parties to submit their views and suggestions on the issue.

Note

- Holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and Assemblies would require at least five constitutional amendments which include.
 - Article 83** relating to the duration of Houses of Parliament
 - Article 85** relating to the dissolution of the Lok Sabha by the President
 - Article 172** relating to the duration of the State legislatures.
 - Article 174** relating to dissolution of the State legislatures.

- **Article 356** relating to the imposition of President's Rule in States.

Key changes to TV network rules

- The **Information and Broadcasting (I & B) Ministry** has issued a notification amending the **Cable Television Network Rules, 1994**.

Key Changes include:

- A procedure for the renewal of **Multi System Operator (MSO) registrations** was introduced.
- Provision for the sharing of infrastructure by the cable operators with the broadband service providers to promote Internet penetration to the last mile.
- The cable operators will have to apply for the registration or renewal of registration online at the **Ministry's Broadcast Seva Portal**.
- The registrations will be granted or renewed for **10 years**.
- The renewal procedure is in line with the government's commitment to ease of doing business as it will provide certainty to cable operators to continue their services without interruption.

Law Commission advises against changing age of consent under POCSO Act

- The **22nd Law Commission**, headed by **Justice (Retired) Ritu Raj Awasthi**, submitted its report to the **Law Ministry**.
- The report states that the government should not tinker with the **age of consent (currently 18 years)** under the **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act**.

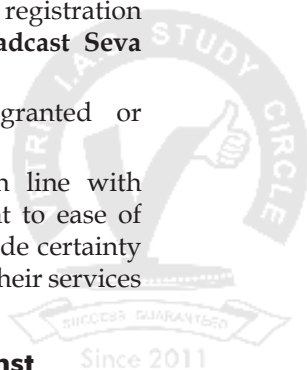
Key Findings of the report

- Reducing the age of consent would have a direct and negative bearing on the fight against child marriage and child trafficking.
- Certain amendments would be required in the **POCSO Act, 2012** to remedy the situation in cases involving tacit approval on the part of children aged between 16 and 18 years.

- Recommends judicial discretion in the matter of sentencing in cases involving tacit approval of children between 16-18 age.

About Law Commission

- Formation - 1834
- Objectives - Reforming the law for maximising justice in society and promoting good governance under the Rule of Law
- Headquarters - New Delhi
- Chairman - Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi (22nd Law Commission)
- Ministry - Ministry of Law and Justice





3. GEOGRAPHY

3.1 POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

BSI gets patent for reusable straw made from bamboo

- The patent office of the Government of India has granted a patent to the Botanical Survey of India for 'reusable straw and its manufacturing'.
- The straw is developed from a species of endemic bamboo plant, *Schizostachyum andamanicum* which is found on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- This species of bamboo was characterised by thin large hollow erect culm (stem) with long internodes.

About Botanical Survey of India

- Headquarters - Kolkata
- Founded - 1890
- Objective - exploring the plant resources of the country and identifying plant species with economic virtue.
- Director - Dr A. A. Mao

Elephant Corridor Report 2023 released

- Elephant Corridor Report 2023 was released by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India (MoEFCC).
- The Elephant corridor is a strip of land that facilitates the movement of elephants between two or more viable habitat patches.

Key Highlights of the Report

- 60 new elephant corridors were identified taking the total number of elephant corridors to 150.
- 74 out of the 88 elephant corridors that were listed in 2010 Elephant Task Force report (Gajah report) are still active.
- West Bengal leads with the highest number of elephant corridors in India, accounting

for over 17 percent of corridors found in India.

- There are six transnational corridors between India and Nepal.

Note

- Status of Elephants in India
 - IUCN Red List: Endangered
 - CITES: Appendix I
 - Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I
- Conservation of Elephant
 - Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) programme - 1997
 - Project Elephant - 1992
 - Elephant Reserves - 33 (5 in TN)

Existence of 36 elephant corridors in TN says study

- A recent field study conducted by Elephant Corridor Committee has revealed the existence of 36 elephant corridors in Tamil Nadu.
- Of them, 17 have been identified in the south of Palakkad and 19 in the north of Palakkad.
- A publication titled 'Right of Passage: Elephant Corridors in India' released by the Wildlife Trust of India had mentioned 19 elephant corridors in Tamil Nadu

Note

- Elephants die after biting country made bombs (Avattukai) used by poachers to hunt wild boars.

Status of Elephants in India

- IUCN Red List: Endangered
- CITES: Appendix I
- Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I

Conservation of Elephant

- **Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) programme** - 1997
- **Project Elephant** - 1992
- **Elephant Reserves** - 33 (5 in TN)
- **Elephant Corridors** - 150 (as per Elephant Corridor Report 2023)
- **Top three states** with highest number of elephants
 - i. Karnataka - 6,049
 - ii. Assam - 5,719
 - iii. Kerala - 3,054

AI cameras to curb poaching in Madhya Pradesh

- AI cameras installed in Kanha-Pench corridor in Madhya Pradesh captured the poachers for the first time.
- These new set of camera traps or cameras with infrared sensors are installed to count wild animals and monitor the movement of potential poachers with the help of artificial intelligence (AI).
- The new kind of camera set-up being experimented is called **TrailGuard AI camera-alert system**.

Features

- It is Shaped like a pen, **13.8 cm long and 1.4 cm wide**.
- The system has embedded software that can be instructed to take pictures of specific species of interest.
- It can be set to specifically capture humans or species of interest – lions, tigers, cheetahs.
- The 'AI' element or 'embedded AI' as it is technically known is used in this system in which the camera only sends pictures of interest to forest officials.
- The product was developed by **RESOLVE**, an international non-profit organisation.

Note

- **Kanha-Pench corridor** is India's **first dedicated corridor** build for wild animals connecting two famous wildlife parks – Kanha and Pench National Parks.

Cheetah Re-introduction Plan

- India's ambitious **Cheetah reintroduction programme under Project Cheetah** completed one year on 17th September 2023.
- It is aimed at establishing a self-sustaining population of about 35 cheetahs in the country over the next decade.
- However it has faced several criticisms with the death of 9 cheetahs (6 adults and 3 cubs) out of the 20 translocated cheetahs from Namibia and South Africa.

Project Cheetah (Cheetah reintroduction programme)

- Launch - September 17, 2022
- First batch- **8 African cheetahs (Acinonyx jubatus jubatus)** translocated on **September 17, 2022**.
- Second batch-**12 cheetahs** from South Africa arrived on **February 18, 2023** at Kuno Palpur National Park.
- It is the first ever intercontinental wildlife translocation.
- India planned to bring 12-14 cheetahs from South Africa/Namibia/ other African Countries, annually for the next 5 years.
- Other alternative sites for cheetah introductions - **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary and Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary, both in Madhya Pradesh.**

Note

- Cheetah is world's fastest land mammal that lives in Africa and Asia.
- There are **two species of Cheetah**
 - **African Cheetah**
 - **Asiatic Cheetah (declared extinct in India in 1952)**

State of the Rhino 2023

- Recently, the **International Rhino Foundation (IRF)** released the **State of the Rhino, 2023 report** which documents current population estimates and trends for the five surviving rhino species in Africa and Asia.

Key Findings

- India is estimated to be home to **3,262 rhinos**.

- The collaboration among **India, Bhutan, and Nepal**, along with strict government protection and management, has led to a **20 per cent increase** in their population over the past decade.
- **Black rhino populations** are increasing despite poaching pressure.
- South Africa is grappling with devastating poaching losses of its white rhinos, particularly in certain reserves.
- The status and whereabouts of 12 of the approximately 76 remaining Javan rhinos are unknown.
- **Sumatran rhinos** are also increasingly difficult to find, raising uncertainty about their population in the wild.
- The report underscores the need for continued efforts to protect and conserve

rhinos and their habitats, address poaching, and mitigate the effects of climate change to ensure the survival of these iconic species.

Note

- Types of Rhinos found in the world
 - **White Rhino** - Near Threatened
 - **Greater One-Horned Rhino (Indian Rhinoceros)** - Vulnerable
 - **Black Rhino** - Critically Endangered
 - **Javan Rhino** - Critically Endangered
 - **Sumatran Rhino** - Critically Endangered
- Conservation of Indian Rhinoceros
 - **National Rhino Conservation Strategy** - 2019
 - **Population** - Beyond 3600 as of 2020.

3.2 CURRENT TRENDS IN INDIAN ECONOMY

Indian Economy grows 7.8%

- India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the Gross Value Added (GVA) grew at 7.8% in the first quarter of the financial year 2023-24 (April-June period).
- Agriculture, forestry and fishing GVA grew 3.5%
- Financial, real estate and professional services GVA grew 12.2%.
- GVA from trade, hotels, transport, communications, and services related to broadcasting rose 9.2%.

- GVA from public administration, defense, and other services, as well as the employment intensive construction sector, rose 7.9% each.

About GDP and GVA

- GDP and GVA are the two main ways to ascertain the country's economic performance.
- The GDP measures the monetary measure of all "final" goods and services produced in a country in a given period.
- The GVA calculates the national income from the supply side.



4. ECONOMICS

4.1 NEW ECONOMIC POLICY & GOVT. SECTOR

RBI decides to discontinue I-CRR

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to discontinue the **Incremental Cash Reserve Ratio (I-CRR)** in a phased manner.
- The measure was intended to **absorb surplus liquidity** generated by various factors, including the **return of 2000 notes to the banking system**.

The Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)

- The minimum amount of the total deposits which banks have to maintain as cash reserve with the Reserve Bank of India.
- Banks cannot use this amount for lending or for any investment purposes.

Note

- The RBI had announced last month that scheduled banks must maintain an I-CRR of 10% on the increase in their net demand.

About RBI

- **Governor** - Shaktikanta Das
- **HQ** - Mumbai
- **Established** - 1 April 1935
- Established with the provisions of **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**.

31 Benches of GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) notified

- The Finance Ministry notified the constitution of 31 Appellate Tribunals across 28 States and eight Union Territories for the Goods and Services Tax (GST) to resolve a growing number of taxpayer disputes with the Revenue Department.
- As of June 30, the number of pending appeals from taxpayers over Central GST levies had increased sharply to over 14,000.
- Uttar Pradesh will have the highest number

of Benches of the GST tribunals - Lucknow, Varanasi, Ghaziabad, Agra, and Prayagraj.

- Tamil Nadu along with Puducherry will have two Benches.

About GSTAT

- The **Central Goods and Service Tax Act, 2017 (CGST Act)** in Section 109 mandates for the constitution of a GSTAT and its Benches.

- **One principal bench in New Delhi** and as many benches or boards in states.

- **Composition** - Two technical and two judicial members.

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%.

4.2 CURRENT TRENDS IN INDIAN ECONOMY

Govt. limits wheat stocks to control price rise, hoarding

- Union government has decided to **reduce the stock limits of wheat for traders, wholesalers, retailers, big chain retailers and processors** in all States and Union Territories in order to **manage the overall food security** and to prevent hoarding and unscrupulous speculation.
- The Removal of Licensing Requirements, Stock Limits and Movement Restrictions on Specified Foodstuffs (Amendment) Order, 2023 was issued on 12 June 2023 and applicable until 31st March 2024 for all States and Union Territories.
- Central Government has decided to revise the Wheat Stock limit from 3000 MT to 2000 MT with respect to,
 - **Traders/Wholesaler- 2000 MT;**
 - Big Chain Retailer- 10 MT for each outlet and 2000 MT at all their depots
 - For other categories, there is no change in stock limits.
 - Department of Food and Public Distribution – watch over the stock position of Wheat to control prices and ensure easy availability in the country.

About Wheat

- **Second most important food crop** (Rabi season- October to March)
- Temperature: Between 10-15°C (Sowing) and 20-25°C (Ripening of grains) with bright sunlight.
- Rainfall: Around 75-100 cm.
- Soil Type: Well-drained fertile loamy and clayey loamy
- Top Wheat Producing States: Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

Decline in Wholesale Prices Continues for Fifth Consecutive Month

- The Government unveiled the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI) data** for the month of August, revealing a **persistent trend of declining wholesale inflation**.
- The wholesale inflation rate plummeted to -0.52 percent in August 2023, marking the fifth consecutive month as it has been negative since April 2023.

About WPI

- It represents the price of a basket of wholesale goods.
- Published by - Office of Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Base year – 2011-12
- Commodities - Goods only

ADB lowers India GDP growth outlook for this fiscal to 6.3%

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** forecasted India's economic growth in the current fiscal year to be 6.3% from 6.4% which was estimated earlier.
- It has stated the impact of declining exports and erratic rainfall patterns that could hit farm output as the reasons.

About Asian Development Bank

- **Formation** - 9 December 1966.
- **Headquarters** - Mandaluyong, Philippines
- **Membership** - 68 countries
- **President** - Masatsugu Asakawa

4.3 REPORTS AND INDICES

Report on Invasive Alien Species (IAS)

- Recently, a report on the status of invasive alien species (IAS) was released at 10th plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

Highlights of the Report:

- Anthropogenic introduction of IAS:**
 - 37,000 alien species have been introduced by human activities to regions and biomes around the world.
 - Such species played a key role in 60% of global plant and animal extinctions recorded.
- Driver of biodiversity loss:**
 - IAS is one of the five major direct drivers of biodiversity loss globally.
- Uninformed Choice:**
 - The IAS have been intentionally introduced for their perceived benefits, without consideration or knowledge of their negative impacts - in forestry, agriculture, horticulture, aquaculture, or as pets.
- Widespread IAS:**
 - The water hyacinth is the world's most widespread invasive alien species on land.
 - Lantana, a flowering shrub, and the black rat are the second and third most widespread globally.
 - The brown rat and the house mouse are also widespread invasive alien species.

About IPBES

- It is an intergovernmental organization established to improve the interface between science and policy on issues of biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- It is intended to serve a similar role to the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change**.
- Formation** - 2012

WHO releases first-ever report on global impact of high BP

- World Health Organization (WHO)** releases in its **first-ever report** on the **global impact of high blood pressure**.

Key Highlights of the report

- Hypertension** affects **one in three adults** worldwide leading to stroke, heart attack, heart failure, kidney damage and many other health problems.
- Approximately **four out of every five people** with hypertension are not adequately treated.
- The number of people living with **hypertension (blood pressure of 140/90 mmHg or higher or taking medication for hypertension) doubled between 1990 and 2019**, from 650 million to 1.3 billion.
- Hypertension is the most important risk factor for death and disability in India
- Less than one-fourth of hypertensive patients** in India had their blood pressure under control during 2016-2020.
- The **2019-2020 National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5)** reported a hypertension prevalence of 24% in men and 21% among women, an increase from 19% and 17% respectively from the previous round (2015-16).
- Prevention, early detection and effective management of hypertension are among the most cost-effective interventions.

Note

- India runs the **India Hypertension Control Initiative programme (IHCI)** which is a large-scale hypertension intervention under the **National Health Mission (NHM)**.

About IHCI

- Launch** - December 2021
- Aim** - To accelerate progress towards the Government of India's Non Communicable Diseases target.
 - India has adopted the "25 by 25" goal, which aims to reduce premature mortality due to non-communicable diseases (NCDs) by 25% by 2025

About NHM

- Launch** - 2005
- Encompasses **two Sub-Missions**

- **National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)**
- **National Urban Health Mission (NUHM).**
- **Objective** - Achievement of universal access to equitable, affordable & quality health care services that are accountable and responsive to people's needs.

UNFPA report on ageing in India

- The **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**, India, in its **2023 India Ageing Report** states that by **2046**, it is likely that the elderly population will have surpassed the population of children (aged up to 15) in India.

Key Highlights

- The **decadal growth rate** of the elderly population of India is estimated to be **41%** and its share of the total population is projected to **double over 20%** by 2050.
- More than **40% of the elderly in India** are in the poorest wealth quintile, with about **18.7% of them living without an income.**
- The population of people aged 80 and above will grow at a rate of around **279% between 2022 and 2050.**
- On an average **women at the age of 60 and 80**, had a **higher life expectancy** when compared with **men.**
- **Life expectancy of women at 60** is greater than 20 years in States such as **Rajasthan, Haryana, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh** and the **Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.** It raises concerns about their social and economic wellbeing.
- The **sex ratio (number of females per 1,000 males)** among the elderly has been climbing steadily since 1991, while the ratio in the general population has been stagnating.
- **Between 2011 and 2021**, the ratio increased in India as a whole and across all regions, barring the Union Territories and western India.
- Most States in the southern region and select northern States such as Himachal

Pradesh and Punjab reported a higher share of the elderly population than the national average in 2021. The gap is expected to widen by 2036.

India ranks 40th in Global Innovation Index 2023

- India retains **40th rank** out of 132 economies in the **Global Innovation Index 2023** rankings published by the **World Intellectual Property Organization.**
- India has been on a rising trajectory, over the past several years in the Global Innovation Index (GII), from a **rank of 81 in 2015 to 40 in 2023.**
- The **NITI Aayog**, in partnership with the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** and the **World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)** virtually hosted the **India Launch of the GII 2023.**
- For the **13th year in a row**, **Switzerland** secured **top spot** in the ranking followed by **Sweden, the United States, the United Kingdom and Singapore.**

About WIPO

- **Formation** - 14 July 1967
- **Headquarters** - Geneva, Switzerland
- **Head** - Daren Tang

About NITI Aayog

- **Formed** - 1 January 2015
- **Objectives** - Foster involvement and participation in the economic policy-making process by the State Governments of India
- **Headquarters** - New Delhi
- **Chairperson** - Narendra Modi

About Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

- **President** - R Dinesh
- **Formation** - 1895
- **Director General** - Chandrajit Banerjee
- Non-governmental trade association and advocacy group.



5. SCIENCE

5.1 SPACE

ISRO launch Aditya-L1

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched AdityaL1 on September 2.

About Aditya-L1

- 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**.
- Project Director:** Nigar Shaji (native of Tenkasi, Tamil Nadu)
- 7 Payloads:** The spacecraft carries seven payloads to observe the photosphere, 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

- Continuously viewing the sun without any occultation/eclipses.
- Help in observing the solar activities and its effect on space weather in real time.

Pragyan completed its tasks

- Chandrayaan3's rover Pragyan had completed its assignments and it had been safely parked and set into sleep mode.
- Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer (APXS) and Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscope (LIBS) payloads are turned off. Data from these pay loads is transmitted to the Earth via the Lander.
- The Chandrayaan-3's rover, Pragyan, has traversed over 100 metres from the lander Vikram on the surface of the moon.

About Chandrayaan - 3

- Launched by an LVM-3 rocket on July 14, 2023 from Satish Dhawan Space Center (SDSC) in Sriharikota.
- Lander :** Vikram
- Rover :** Pragyan
- 7 payloads
- Mission Life** (Lander & Rover) - 1 Lunar Day (14 earth days)
- It consists of an indigenous Lander module (LM), Propulsion module (PM) and a Rover

In second action by ISTRAC, Aditya-L1 enters new orbit

- The second earthbound manoeuvre of the Aditya L1 mission to study the sun has been performed successfully by the **ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC), Bengaluru**.

About ISTRAC

- ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC), Bengaluru is entrusted with the major responsibility to provide tracking support for all the satellite and launch vehicle missions of ISRO.

- ISTRAC has established a network of ground stations at Bengaluru, Lucknow, Mauritius, Sriharikota, Port Blair, Thiruvananthapuram, Brunei, Biak (Indonesia).

About ISRO

- **Founded** – 15 August 1969
- **Headquarters** – Bengaluru
- **Founder:** Vikram Sarabhai
- **Chairperson** – S. Somanath

LUPEX – ISRO's next mission to Moon

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is planning its **next lunar mission LUPEX, or Lunar Polar Exploration** in collaboration with **Japanese space agency, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)**.

- The mission is slated for 2024-25.

About Japan

- **Capital** – Tokyo
- **Currency** – Japanese yen (¥)
- **Prime minister** – Fumio Kishida





6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENT

India's First Indigenous 700 MW Nuclear Reactor

- India's first indigenous 700 MW nuclear power plant, Kakrapar Atomic Power Station situated in Kakrapar, Gujarat has initiated operations at its full capacity.

Nuclear Reactors in India

- Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS), Maharashtra
- Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS), Rajasthan
- Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS), Tamil Nadu
- Kaiga Generating Station (KGS), Karnataka
- Kudankulam Nuclear Power Station (KKNPS), Tamil Nadu
- Narora Atomic Power Station (NAPS), Uttar Pradesh
- Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPS), Gujarat

Note

- NPCIL is responsible for design, construction, commissioning and operation of nuclear power reactors.
- Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) is a Public Sector Enterprise under the administrative control of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).

First-ever multipurpose seaweed park

- Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Parshottam Rupala laid the foundation stone for the first-ever multipurpose seaweed park of the country at Vazhamavur near Ramanathapuram.
- It aims to improve the livelihood of the fishermen.

About Seaweeds Mission

- Launch - 2021
- Objective - Commercial farming of seaweeds and its processing for value addition towards boosting the national economy.
- Launched by - Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC)
 - An autonomous organization set up in 1988 under the Department of Science & Technology.

Utkela Airport inaugurated in Odisha

- Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia inaugurated the Utkela Airport in Odisha.
- The airport was launched under the UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) scheme.
- A direct flight was launched between Utkela and Bhubaneswar.

About UDAN Scheme

- Launch - 2016
- Launched by - Ministry of Civil Aviation
- Objective - Regional airport development and regional connectivity enhancement.
- Under the scheme, airlines have to cap airfares for 50% of the total seats at Rs. 2,500 per hour of flight.
- UDAN 5.0 - 2013
 - This round of UDAN focuses on Category-2 (20-80 seats) and Category-3 (>80 seats).

Centre signs MoU with Adobe to train children in classroom

- The Union Education Ministry signed an agreement with global software major Adobe to help children develop creative expression in classrooms using the application Adobe Express.

- As per the agreement, Training and certification in creativity and digital literacy will be provided to about 20 million students and five lakh teachers by 2027 using Adobe Express based curriculum.
- Adobe will provide schools across the country with free access to Adobe Express Premium.

Note

- **Union Education Minister** - Dharmendra Pradhan.

India's first UPI ATM

- **Hitachi Payment Services**, a subsidiary of Hitachi Ltd, in **Japan**, announced the launch of **Hitachi Money Spot UPI ATM**.
- The UPI ATM was launched in **collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**.
- It has been unveiled as a **White Label ATM (WLA)**.
- The UPI-ATM will also **eliminate the risk of card skimming by fraudsters**.

Note

- Card skimming is the theft of credit and debit card data and PIN numbers when the user is at an automated teller machine (ATM) or point of sale (POS).

Types of ATM

- **White Label ATM** – ATMs set up, **owned and operated by non-banks**.
- **Brown Label ATM** – ATMs where the machine is **owned by a service provider, but the cash management and connectivity are provided by a sponsor bank**.
- **Orange Label ATM** – ATMs **provided for share transactions**. (by investors and traders)
- **Yellow Label ATM** – ATMs are set up for the **purpose of e-commerce**.
- **Pink Label ATM** – They are set up to **provide safety and convenience to women customers**.
- **Green Label ATM** – ATMs are **provided for agricultural transactions**.

About NPCI

- Umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India.

- An initiative of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA)
- Under the provisions of the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**.

International Convention on Millets

- A two-day **international convention on millets will be held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha** on November 9 and 10.

About

- **Capital** – Bhubaneswar
- **Chief minister** - Naveen Patnaik
- **Governor** - Ganeshi Lal

IOC's Panipat ethanol plant to hit 100% capacity utilisation soon

- **Indian Oil Corporation's 900-crore 2G ethanol plant** that was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in August 2022, is set to reach 100% capacity utilisation in a few months from 30% now.
- The feed-stock for the bioethanol plant - rice husk (parali) – was available for collection only for about 45 days and would need to be stored for the entire year.
- The plant would need 1,50,000 tonnes of feedstock every year.
- Refiners including IOC are required to supply petrol that has **20% bioethanol by 2025**.
- IOC's blend would reach 12.5%, which would be raised to 15% next year and then, gradually, to 20% by 2025.

Note

- Part of the 2G ethanol would go to the production of **SAF (sustainable aviation fuels)**, which is also coming up near the Panipat refinery, under a joint venture with Lanzajet.
- The Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme of International Aviation (CORSIA) have said aviation fuels would need to incorporate 2% SAF blends.

Govt. Initiatives

- **TN Ethanol Blending Policy 2023**
- **Ethanol blending Programme 2025**
- To achieve 20% ethanol-blended petrol target by 2025

Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme

- Launched in - January, 2003
- Ministry - Petroleum and Natural Gas

Implementation of EBP programme

- During 2001, pilot projects on Ethanol Blended Petrol started at 3 locations i.e. at Miraj, Manmad (Maharashtra) and Aonla/Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh.
- The Government of India launched Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme in January, 2003 for supply of 5% ethanol blended Petrol.

First sea trial of Matsya 6000 in early 2024

- The submersible called **Matsya 6000**, under project **Samudrayaan** is likely to undergo its first sea trials in the **Bay of Bengal off the Chennai coast** in early 2024.
- If Mission will successful, make India only one among six countries (US, Russia, Japan, France, and China) to have piloted a crewed under-sea expedition beyond 5,000 metres.
- Matsya 6000 will be looking for **nickel, cobalt, manganese, hydrothermal sulphides** and **gas hydrates**.
- It will investigate the chemosynthetic biodiversity in hydrothermal vents and low temperature methane seeps in the ocean.

About Samudrayaan Project:

- India's **first manned mission** to explore the deep ocean.
- Part of Deep Ocean Mission, which supports the Central Government's **Blue Economy policy**.
- Nodal Agency - The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)

About Matsya 6000

- **Manned submersible vehicle** developed developed by National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai.
- It is a 2.1m diameter sphere to **carry three people**.
- Made up of 80mm-thick titanium alloy to **withstand 600 bar pressure** (600 times greater than the pressure at sea level) at **6,000 metres depth**.

- The vehicle is designed to operate for 12 to 16 hours at a stretch.
- Oxygen supply will be available for 96 hours.

About NIOT

- **Director** - Dr. Gidugu Ananda Ramadass
- **Headquarters** - Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- **Formed** - 1993

Odisha's Koraput Kala Jeera Rice Gets GI Tag

- Odisha's '**Koraput Kala Jeera Rice**', which is also known as the '**Prince of Rice**' was granted the **Geographical Indication (GI) Tag**.
- The rice is known for its black colour, delightful aroma, excellent taste, and appealing texture.
- The rice variety has been **cultivated and domesticated by the tribal communities of the Koraput district, Odisha for thousands of years**.

About GI Tag

- It is applied to products that have a specific geographical origin.
- **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999**.
- **First GI Tag** - Darjeeling tea (in 2004-05)
- **Head Office** - Chennai.

About Odisha

- **Governor** - Ganeshi Lal
- **Chief Minister** - Naveen Patnaik
- **Capital** - Bhubaneswar
- **Major River** - Mahanadi
- **Major Port** - Paradip Port

States were asked to bring all data under one platform

- The Union Ministry of Education Ministry has asked the States to open **Vidya Samiksha Kendras (VSKs) under National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR)**.
- The **VSKs are data repositories** that will have data from **all schemes run by the Ministry of Education**.
- The platform will include data from
 - i. **PMPOSHAN midday meal programmes**

- ii. Teacher training data from the **NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement) portal**
 - iii. Textbook content from the **DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing)**
 - iv. School dropout and attendance related data on the **Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE+)**
 - v. Students' learning outcomes from the **National Achievement Survey**
 - vi. **Performance Grading Index**
- First broke out in Malaysia and Singapore in 1998 and 1999.
 - The disease **spreads through fruit bats or 'flying foxes'**
 - **Found in bat urine** and potentially, **bat faeces, saliva, and birthing fluids.**
 - **Symptoms** - Fever, headache, drowsiness, disorientation, mental confusion, coma and potentially death.
 - **Prevention** - Currently, there are no vaccines for both humans and animals. Intensive supportive care is given to humans infected by Nipah virus.

Note

- **PMPOSHAN Scheme** - Provide one hot cooked meal school children studying in Classes I-VIII in Government and Government-aided schools from 2021-22 to 2025-26 .
- **NISHTHA portal** - Flagship teacher training program to enhance the knowledge and skills of teachers.
- **DIKSHA** - Provides e-content for schools via an online portal and a mobile application
- **UDISE+** - Database about all recognised schools in India.
- **National Achievement Survey** - A national level survey conducted as Assessment Administrator for Grade 3, 5, 8 and 10 students of State Govt. schools, Govt. Aided schools, Private Unaided recognized schools and Central Government schools.
- **Performance Grading Index** - evaluates school education system at the State and Union Territory (UT) level.

Nipah breaks out again in Kerala

- **Nipah breaks out again in Kerala** as two deaths from the viral infection were being reported from Kozhikode district.

About Nipah Virus

- It is a **zoonotic virus (it is transmitted from animals to humans).**
- **Virus family** - Paramyxoviridae; genus - Henipavirus and is closely related to Hendra virus.

About Kerala

- **Governor** - Arif Mohammed Khan
- **Chief Minister** - Pinarayi Vijayan
- **Capital** - Thiruvananthapuram
- **River** - Periyar
- **Major Port** - Cochin Port

Union Cabinet approves third phase of e-Courts project

- The Union Cabinet approved the **third phase of the e-Courts project** with a financial outlay of ₹.7,210 crore to **upgrade digital infrastructure of the lower judiciary.**
- A total of 3,108 crore documents will be **digitised** under the project

SC joins National Judicial Data Grid

- **Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud** announced that the **Supreme Court is joining the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).**
- As a result, realtime data on the filing and disposal of cases in the Supreme Court will now be available for the common citizen to access.

About NJDG portal

- It is a **national repository of data** relating to cases instituted, pending and disposed of by all the courts across the country.
- It was **implemented under the e-courts project.**

About E-Courts Mission Mode Project

- Pan-India Project monitored and funded by Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice.

- Phase I - 2007.
- Phase II - Approval by Chief Justice of India (CJI) in 2014 and launched by the Government in 2015.
- e-Courts National portal (ecourts.gov.in) - August 7, 2013.
- eCommittee assist the CJI in formulating a National policy on **computerization of Indian Judiciary** and advise on technological communication and management related changes.

India seeks Australia's help in battle against Nipah virus

- India is planning to import monoclonal antibodies (m102.4) from Australia to treat Nipah virus infection in Kerala.
- The drug, m102.4, was initially developed for treating Henipavirus, another bat borne disease.
- Early-stage trials have shown its potential in managing Nipah Viral cases, which has a high mortality rate of 40-70%.

About Nipah Virus

- Zoonotic virus (it is transmitted from animals to humans).
- Virus family - Paramyxoviridae; genus - Henipavirus.
- First broke out in Malaysia and Singapore in 1998 and 1999.
- The disease spreads through fruit bats.
- Found in bat urine and potentially, bat faeces, saliva, and birthing fluids.
- Symptoms: Fever, headache, drowsiness, disorientation, mental confusion, coma, and potentially death.
- Prevention: Currently, there are no vaccines for both humans and animals.

About Australia

- Capital: Canberra
- Prime Minister - Anthony Albanese
- Currency - Australian Dollar.

Indian Knowledge Systems developed 6 indigenous indoor games

- The Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) has developed 6 indoor games including SarpRajju that are rooted in indigenous knowledge.
- These games will be introduced in schools from the next academic year (2023-24) under the Bhartiya Games programme

About IKS

- An innovation cell founded at the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) in 2020.
- Developed under the Union Ministry of Education
- Objective - To promote interdisciplinary research on aspects of indigenous knowledge.

About Bhartiya Games programme

- Objective - To ensure the inclusivity of the students living in the countryside where sports infrastructure is poor.
- Under the programme 75 indigenous games were introduced in schools.
- Some popular ones are Langdi-Taang (hopscotch), javelin throw, Patang Uddayan (kite flying), Seeta Uddhar (prisoner's base), Mardani Khel (a form of martial arts).

Hoysala Temples now India's 42nd UNESCO's World Heritage site

- The Hoysala temples at Belur, Halebid, and Somanathapur in Karnataka were declared by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) as India's 42nd World Heritage site.
- The three temples include,
 - Chennakeshava temple, Belur, Hassan District
 - Hoysaleshwara temple, Halebid, Hassan District.
 - Keshava temple, Somanathapur, Mysuru district.
- All three were officially nominated by the Centre as India's entry for 2022-23 in February 2022.

- The monuments were officially inscribed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites during the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- The nominations were entered as 'The Sacred Ensembles of Hoysalas'.

Note

- World Heritage Site - designated by UNESCO for having cultural, historical, scientific or other forms of significance.

About UNESCO

- Headquarters - Paris, France
- Formation - 16 November 1945
- Director-General - Audrey Azoulay (France)

Udaan Bhawan, pilot e-wallet facility in Delhi

- **Union Minister of Civil Aviation and Steel Jyotiraditya M.Scindia** inaugurated the 'Udaan Bhawan,' an, pilot e-wallet facility and Bharatkosh portal in New Delhi.
- **Udaan Bhawan** : It is an Integrated Office Complex at Delhi's Safdarjung Airport. It will facilitate better coordination between various regulatory authorities under Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)
- **e-wallet facility** : It will be particularly useful for processing of fees for various regulatory approvals in the Bharatkosh portal and act as a prepaid wallet that would enable registered users to add funds in advance.
- **Bharatkosh portal**: Portal would allow faster, quicker, more secure payment system.

About Ministry of Civil Aviation

- Nodal ministry responsible for the formulation of national policies and programmes for the development and regulation of civil aviation.
- Ministers responsible
 - Jyotiraditya Scindia (Cabinet Minister)
 - V. K. Singh (Minister of State)

Panel suggests GPS trackers to reduce overcrowding in prisons

- **Parliamentary Committee on Home Affairs** submits a report which suggest measures to reduce overcrowding in prisons.

Key Recommendations

- **Cost effective bracelets or anklet trackers** can be worn by the prisoners who have procured bail and are out of prison on bail.
 - **Bail is denied on three counts**: The under trial prisoner may influence or intimidate the witness or will try to leave the country or commit another crime.
- Prisoners from overcrowded jails may be transferred to other jails with vacant cells in the same State or other States.

About Prisons and their administration

- It is a **state subject** covered by **item 4 under the State List in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India**.
- **Status**:
 - According to the prison statistics published by the **National Crime Record Bureau for 2021**, there are **1,319 prisons in India**, with a **total capacity of 4,25,609 prisoners**.
 - The **actual inmates are 5,54,034** which shows that the occupancy capacity rate is 130.2%.
- **Committees**
 - 1980 - All India Committee on Jail Reforms Report (**Mulla Committee**) under Justice A. N. Mulla
 - 1987 - **Justice Krishna Iyer Committee** to conduct a study on women prisoners
 - 2018 - **Justice Amitava Roy (retd.) Committee** for Prison Reforms.

Lok Sabha adjourned sine die, registers 160% productivity

- The **Special Session of the Lok Sabha** that passed the landmark women's reservation Bill was adjourned sine die or indefinitely.
- The session had four sittings that lasted for about **31 hours** and the House recorded a **productivity of 160%**.

About Adjournment sine die

- It means terminating a sitting of Parliament for an **indefinite period**, that is, when the House is adjourned **without naming a day for reassembly**.
- The power of adjournment sine die lies with the **presiding officer of the House**.

National Medical Commission gets global recognition

- Recently, the **National Medical Commission (NMC)** of India has been awarded the coveted **World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) Recognition Status** for a tenure of **10 years**.
- All of the existing 706 medical colleges in India will become WFME accredited while new medical colleges, set up in the next 10 years, will automatically become WFME accredited.
- The move is expected to increase the international recognition and reputation of Indian medical schools and professionals.

About NMC

- Formation - **25 September 2020**
- **Regulatory body.**
- **Objective** - To deliver quality medical education and training across the country.
- **Chairperson** - Dr.Suresh Chandra Sharma.

About WFME

- **Formation** - 30 September 1972
- **Headquarters** - Copenhagen
- **Objective** - To enhance the quality of medical education worldwide, with the promotion of the highest scientific and ethical standards in medical education.

Government Unveils AI Chatbot for PM-Kisan Scheme

- The **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare** launched an **AI chatbot** for the **PM-KISAN** scheme.
- AI chatbot was launched by **Kailash Choudhary**, Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

About AI Chatbot

- Developed and improved with the support of **EkStep foundation and Bhashini**.
- **Objective** - Empower farmers with a user-friendly and accessible platform.
- **Languages** - Currently available in English, Hindi, Bengali, Odia and Tamil, and will soon be available in all 22 official languages.

About Digital India BHASHINI

- India's Artificial Intelligence (AI) led **language translation platform**.
- Part of the **National Language Translation Mission**.
 - The mission aims to ensure that as more Indians connect to the internet, they are able to access global content in their own languages.

About Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)

- **Launch** - February 2019.
- **Objective** - To transfer an amount of Rs 6,000 per year, in three equal instalments, directly into the bank accounts of all landholding farmers irrespective of the size of their land holdings.
- **Implemented by** - Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- **PM-KISAN Mobile App**: Developed and designed by the National Informatics Centre in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

International cricket stadium in Varanasi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for **first international cricket stadium in Ganjari in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**. (Modi's Lok Sabha constituency).
- The stadium, likely to be completed by **December 2025**, will have floodlights resembling a **trishul (trident)**, and the structure will resemble a **damaru (small two headed drum)**.
- The stadium will seat 30,000 and will have seven pitches.

Note

- **Narendra Modi Stadium** - Largest cricket stadium in the world.
- **The Eden Gardens Stadium** - oldest and second-largest cricket stadium in India and third-largest in the world.
- 3rd stadium in Uttar Pradesh
 - Kanpur's Green Park Stadium

- Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow

About Uttar Pradesh

- Capital - Lucknow
- Governor - Anandiben Patel
- Chief minister - Yogi Adityanath

108-ft statue of Adi Shankaracharya in Omkareshwar

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan unveiled the 108 feet tall statue of Hindu saint Adi Shankaracharya, named 'Ekatomata Ki Pratima' (Statue of Oneness) at Omkareshwar in Khandwa district, Madhya Pradesh.
- The design for the statue was conceptualised by painter Vasudeo Kamath, who found inspiration in Raja Ravi Verma's depiction of Shankaracharya.
- Adi Shankara, also called Adi Shankaracharya was an 8th-century Indian Vedic scholar and teacher
- He propounded Advaita Vedanta. It is a school of Hindu philosophy.

Other statues

- **Statue of Unity** (Vallabhbhai Patel, 182m) - Kevadia, Gujarat. (world's tallest statue)
- **Statue of Peace** (Swami Ramanujacharya, 216 ft) - Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir
- **Statue of Peace** (Jain monk Acharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj, 151 inch) - Rajasthan.
- **Statue of Equality** (Swami Ramanujacharya, 216 feet) - Muchintal, Hyderabad, Telangana.
- **Statue of Equality** (Dr.B.R. Ambedkar, 137.3 metres) - Mumbai, Maharashtra (third tallest statue in the world).

Dictionary to save Toto language from extinction

- The trilingual dictionary titled **Toto Shabda Sangraha**, will be released in Kolkata on October 7, 2023. The dictionary was written by Padma Shri Awardee Mr.Toto.
- Toto is a SinoTibetan language spoken by the tribal Toto people and is written in the Bengali script.

- It is a language spoken by barely 1,600 people living in parts of West Bengal bordering Bhutan is to get a dictionary, thanks to the efforts of a professor at the University of Calcutta.

IPACC, IPAMS and SELF-2023 organised in New Delhi.

- A three day event, IPACC, IPAMS and SELF-2023 was organised by the Indian Army along with the US Army as the co-host in New Delhi.
 - Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference (IPACC)
 - Indo-Pacific Armies Management Seminar (IPAMS)
 - Senior Enlisted Leaders Form (SELF)-2023
- The event united army leaders from 30 countries.

About Indo-Pacific Region

- The Indo-Pacific area encompasses the Pacific and Indian Oceans in Southeast Asia.
- The Indo-Pacific area, formerly known as the Asia-Pacific region, was recently renamed to exclude China.

Electoral bonds to go on sale from October 4

- The government announced the sale of the 28th tranche of electoral bonds from October 4 to 13 at all authorised branches of the State Bank of India.

About Electoral Bond Scheme

- **Launch - 2018** as an alternative to cash donations to political parties.
- **Only bank** authorised to issue and encash the bonds - **State Bank of India**.
- Purchased anonymously by donors.
- **Validity** - 15 days from the date of issue.
- **Denominations of Bond** - Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 crore.
- Available for purchase for a period of ten days each in the months of **January, April, July and October**.
- Recently this provision has been amended to conduct **extra fortnight sale** when states or Union territories have elections.



7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Ex-deputy PM Shanmugaratnam elected Singapore President

- **Tharman Shanmugaratnam**, an Indian-origin former Singaporean deputy prime minister, was elected president of Singapore.
- This was the city-state's first contested vote for the largely ceremonial position in more than a decade.
- He replaces incumbent Halimah Yacob who ran unopposed for her six-year term in 2017.

About Singapore

- **Capital** – Singapore
- **National language** – Malay
- **Official languages** - Malay, Chinese, Tamil and English
- **Currency** - Singapore dollar

First asteroid samples lands on Earth

- Seven-year voyage comes to an end when a NASA capsule landed in the Utah desert, with the largest asteroid samples ever collected.
- The samples were collected from **Bennu asteroid**.
- Four years after its **2016 launch**, the **Osiris-Rex probe** landed on the asteroid Bennu and collected roughly nine ounces (250 grams) of dust from its rocky surface.

About OSIRIS-Rex

- **Launch** - 8 September 2016
- **First U.S. mission** to collect a sample from an asteroid and return to Earth.





8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

Consultant to study potential for augmenting water storage, flood control

- The Water Resources Department has appointed Royal Haskoning DHV, a Netherlands-based consultant, to study the feasibility of projects to increase storage potential in water bodies and to make Chennai water resilient.
- The aim is to boost the availability of water resources to meet the needs of Chennai.

Major Reservoirs for Chennai

- Poondi
- Cholavaram
- Puzhal
- Kannankottai Thervoy Kandigai
- Chembarambakkam
- Veeranam

TN plans to achieve paddy procurement target of 50 lakh tonnes for 2023-24

- Tamil Nadu has set a target of 50 lakh tonnes for 2023-24 for the procurement process.
- TN has already procured about 44.22 lakh tonnes of paddy during 2022-23.
- As per the plan drawn up by the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation (TNCSC) for the current year, the grade 'A' variety of paddy will account for 35 lakh tonnes and common variety for 15 lakh tonnes.
- After taking into account the minimum support price (MSP) fixed by the Union government, the State government determined the MSP as ₹2,310 a quintal for grade 'A' and ₹2,265 a quintal for common variety.
- The two varieties carry the State government's incentive of ₹107 per quintal and ₹82 per quintal respectively.

Note

- Top three procuring districts
 - Thanjavur - 9,73,805 tonnes
 - Tiruvarur - 8,36,445 tonnes
 - Mayiladuthurai - 3,00,629 tonnes

About Minimum Support Price

- The MSP is the rate at which the government purchases crops from farmers.
- It is based on a calculation of at least one-and-a-half times the cost of production incurred by the farmers.

T.N.'s first honey bee park

- Tamil Nadu's first honey bee park will be set up in Athipattu, one of the tribal hamlets in Jawadhu Hills in Tiruvannamalai.
- Spread over 14.8 hectares, the park will have at least 32 native tree species of the Jawadhu Hills that are honey-generating varieties.
- Three types of honey bees, such as European or Italian bees, Indian hive bees, and Dammer bees, were preferred at the new park as they are less aggressive and contain harmless stings.
- Apart from honey production, the park will also provide training for tribals on the latest methods in honey production

Note

- Apiculture is the technical term for beekeeping. It is the maintenance of bee colonies, commonly in man-made beehives.
- National Bee Board (NBB) - 2006
- National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM) - for three years from 2020-23

Paraikulam cave temple declared a protected monument

- The early Pandya era rock cut cave temple at Paraikulam in Virudhunagar district has been declared a protected monument.

- The declaration would prevent rock mining in a 300 metre radius of the monument.
- The temple was an Ekathala Kudavarai temple (a single cave temple).
- It is one of the 10 early Pandya Kudavarai temples (cave temples).

The other temples

- Pathinalamperi, Tirunelveli district
- Mahipalanpatti, Sivaganga
- Kurathiyarai, Kanniyakumari
- Sivagiri, Pudupatti
- Anaiyur, Madurai
- Sewilpatti, Moovaravendran, Thiruthangal in Virudhunagar.

Burial urns unearthed Vembakottai

- The state archaeology department's excavations in **Vembakottai in Virudhunagar district** are in the second phase.
- **Four burial urns**, including two which were intact, were found in a village four kilometres from the excavation site in Vembakottai by villagers of **Sivasangupatti**. These are about 2 thousand years old.

Note

- **Site director** - Pon Baskar
- First time those burial urns were being discovered near the excavation site.
- In the first phase, excavation was done in 12 trenches in the archaeological mound that stretches over 25 acres along the left bank of Vaippar River.

Govt. reconstitutes T.N. Street Vending and Shops and Establishments Workers' Welfare Board

- The Tamil Nadu government has reconstituted the **Tamil Nadu Street Vending and Shops and Establishments Worker's Welfare Board**.
- The **Minister for Labour Welfare and Skill Development** will be its **ex-officio chairperson**.
- Secretaries of the Labour Welfare and Skill Development and Finance Departments, Commissioner of Labour and Commissioner

of Municipal Administration are ex-officio representatives of the government in the panel.

Note

- **PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)** at national level.
- Launched by Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs
- It is a special **Micro-credit facility for street vendors**.

TN women to become assistant priests in temples for the first time

- **S. Krishnaveni, S. Ramya and N. Ranjitha** were appointed as the **assistant priests at Vaishnavite temples** in Tamil Nadu following the **Pancharatra Agama**.
- They are the **first three women to have undergone training as Bhattars in Tamil Nadu** and studied at the **Archakar Training School** run by the **Sri Ranganathar Temple in Srirangam**.

Note

- **Pancharatra Agama** is said to have been handed down by **Lord Sri Narayana to five rishis over five nights**.

Evolution of Appointment of Archakas in Tamil Nadu

- 1925 - The Madras Hindu Religious Endowment Act by Justice Party
- 1970 - Motion for appointment of non-Brahmin priests in temples
- 1972 - Supreme Court declared it as ineffectual
- **Maharajan commission (1982)**
 - Formed by the then CM **M.G.Ramachandran** to identify reform measures to be taken in temple practices.
 - It recommended that **persons from all castes be appointed as archakas** after they underwent proper training.
- 2006 - TN issued a **new order** again to **enable the appointment of non-Brahmin priests**.
- 2018 - **First non-Brahmin priest of Tamil Nadu T.Marichamy** was appointed.

Guidelines issued for seasonal flu in TN

- TN Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine (TNDPHM) has issued guidelines for the prevention and control of the seasonal flu, and clinical management of patients.
- According to the guidelines, people suffering from flu like symptoms should be classed under Categories A, B and C.
- Only patients falling under Category C should be tested for influenza.

About TNDPHM

- Responsible for the implementation of various National and State Health Programmes.
- Objective - Prevention and control of waterborne diseases like Acute Diarrheal Diseases, Typhoid, Dysentery prevention and control of sexually transmitted diseases including HIV / AIDS.
- Under Health and Family Welfare Department (Minister - Ma. Subramanian).

Note

- Seasonal influenza is an acute respiratory infection caused by influenza viruses
- 4 types of influenza viruses - Types A, B, C and D

Tamil Nadu set to become green hydrogen research hub

- IIT Madras has joined hands with Tamil Nadu Government and various partners, under the Hydrogen Valley Innovation Cluster in Tamil Nadu (HVIC-TN).
- The initiative is expected to contribute significantly towards the National Green Hydrogen Mission and help TN become a research hub.

About HCIV-TN initiative

- Aim - To make HVIC- TN the hub of industrial R&D requirements to bring green hydrogen at an economical price and scale
- Comprises 30 companies working in the hydrogen sector.

- Platform for stakeholders to network and enable faster green hydrogen adoption and transition.

About National Green Hydrogen Mission

- **Launch** - January 4, 2023 (From FY 2023-24 to FY 2029-30)
- **Objective** - To make India a global hub for production, usage and export of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives.
- **Expected outcomes** by 2030.
 - To reduce ₹ 1 lakh crore worth of fossil fuel imports
 - To reduce nearly 50 MMT per annum of CO2 emissions

Note: India is aiming to become an energy-independent nation by 2047.

State reported 4,048 dengue cases in the past eight and a half months

- According to data from the Directorate of Public Health (DPH) and Preventive Medicine Tamil Nadu has reported a total of 4,048 cases of dengue in eight and a half months in 2023.

Note

- Dengue was known as the seven day fever – the first three days were the acute viremic phase; and days four to six were the critical phase, followed by the recovery phase.

About Dengue (break-bone fever)

- Viral disease - Dengue virus (Genus Flavivirus)
- Spreads through the bite of two mosquitoes – *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*.
- There is no specific treatment for dengue.

Pandya-era Kurathiarai rock cut temple to be declared protected monument

- The Tamil Nadu government made a proposal to declare an early Pandya period rock cut temple at Kurathiarai in Kanniyakumari district as a protected monument.
- The temple was one among the 10 early Pandya period temples that would be declared as protected monuments

About the temple

- The locals worship the deity as **Avvayar Amman**, a poet of the Sangam age.

- However **Kavimani Desikavinayagam Pillai** stated it was the **image of Lord Vishnu** that was carved out of the rock.

Start up and Innovation Policy 2023 released

- According to the **Tamil Nadu Start up and Innovation Policy 2023**, which was released by Chief Minister M.K.Stalin, the Tamil Nadu government will set up a ₹100crore '**Co-creation Fund**', a unique model for investing in **private sector venture capital (VC) funds**.

About Co-creation Fund

- Managed by investors and coordinated by the **Tamil Nadu Start up and Innovation Mission (Start-up TN)**
- It is inspired by the '**Yozma**' (meaning '**initiative**') model.
 - '**Yozma**' model is established by the Israeli government in the 1990s to kick start innovative industries by investing in new venture capital funds.
- The State government will contribute
 - **40% (with a ceiling of ₹10 crore)** in regional, rural impact, women and climate action focused funds.
 - **20% (with a ceiling of ₹5 crore)** in other thematic funds promoted by the private sector.
 - 10 start-ups run by trans persons and persons with disabilities, that have failed to raise funds from mainstream sources will be given a grant in aid of ₹5 lakh, besides special attention in the Tamil Nadu Start up Seed Grant Fund (TANSEED).

About Tamil Nadu Start up and Innovation Policy 2023

- Policy is valid for a period of five years from the date of its notification, or till a new policy is formulated.
- **Start-up TN** - Nodal agency of Tamil Nadu responsible for promoting start up and innovation activities)
- Start-up TN will establish a **Social Justice Venture Lab**
 - It is a hybrid platform that assists SC/ST founders in validating their solutions.

- The policy consists of **50 'action points'**
- **Smart Cards for Start STEPs** (budding entrepreneurs) **and start up**: It will be issued with support features
 - To register companies.
 - To obtain recognition from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Industrial Trade (DPIIT)
 - To apply for patents and trademark.
 - To apply for statutory compliances, web presence, vital coaching services, technology up gradation, marketing, financial services and other support services.

Steps to count endangered Nilgiri tahr

- Tamil Nadu is now working on a standardised protocol to count the endangered population of Nilgiri Tahr.
- The Tamil Nadu Forest Department will also propose to its Kerala counterpart to conduct a synchronised census, as the animal is only found in select habitats in the two States.
- The Tamil Nadu Forest Department is proposing **two censuses**:
 - **In November** - after the southwest monsoon
 - **In March or April** - after the calving season.
- According to a **2015 study by WWF-India**, around **3,100 Nilgiri Tahrs** are found in the Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, ranging between the Nilgiris in the north and the Kanniyakumari hills in the south.

About Niligiri Tahr

- **State animal of TN**
- **Niligiri Tahr Day - October 7** (In honour of **E.R.C. Davidar**, who was responsible for pioneering one of the first studies of the species in 1975)
- It prefers montane grasslands, with steep and rocky terrains at an altitude between 300 metres and 2,600 metres above sea level.
- **Project Nilgiri Tahr**
 - An initiative for the conservation of the Nilgiri Tahr
 - Implemented from 2022 to 2027.

'Carnelian beads found at Keeladi

- 9th phase of excavations in Keeladi has yielded two carnelian beads, reaffirming Tamil country's trade links with the western part of India such as Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- The beads were traced at a depth of 17.5 cm and 20 cm respectively. The bead is 1.4 cm long and 2 cm wide.
- Carnelian stones are normally found in Gujarat and Maharashtra, and beads made of it proves the trade link between Tamil Nadu and the western part of India.

About Keeladi

- Location - 12 km southeast of Madurai in Sivaganga district Tamil Nadu.
- Excavations began in Keeladi in 2014.
- Sivanantham - Director of Keeladi Excavations (9th phase)
- 9th phase of excavations - April 6, 2023.
- Keeladi Museum - March 5, 2023

Tamil Nadu's second inter-city Vande Bharat express

- Narendra Modi inaugurated the Tamil Nadu's second Tirunelveli - Madurai - Chennai Vande Bharat Express.
- The Chennai - Vijayawada Vande Bharat express is the first train.

About Vande Bharat Trains

- Also known as Train 18 is an Indian intercity semi-high-speed, intercity train run by Indian Railways.
- It is designed and manufactured by Integral Coach Factory (ICF) at Perambur, Chennai under the Indian Make in India initiative within a span of 18 months.
- First service commenced on 15 February 2019 (between New Delhi and Varanasi)
- First locomotive-less train in the country.

Over 40% of e-vehicles sold were made in T.N

- According to data from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways' Vahan dashboard, of the 10 lakh electronic vehicles (EVs) sold in India in 2023 so far, over four lakh were manufactured in T.N.

- According to data, 10,44,600 EVs were registered with RTOs till September 20, 2023.
- According to the data shared by Guidance Tamil Nadu, Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) having a manufacturing facility in Tamil Nadu contributed more than 4,10,000 (0.41 million) units - over 40% out of the one million EVs sold in India.
- Top three OEMs are
 - Ola Electric (1,75,608 units) - Krishnagiri
 - TVS Motor (1,12,949 units) - Krishnagiri
 - Ather Energy (77,764 units) - Krishnagiri

Note

- TN regarded as the automobile capital of India.
- TN Electric Vehicles Policy - 2023
- Six cities have been identified as potential EV hubs - Coimbatore, Tiruchi, Tirunelveli, Madurai, Salem and Chennai.
 - Guidance Tamil Nadu - Investment promotion agency of Tamil Nadu.
 - Vahan - National vehicle registry.

5 women odhuvars appointed in Temples

- Tamil Nadu Hindu religious and charitable endowments (HR and CE) department appointed 15 odhuvars including 5 women odhuvars' in the temples managed by the department.
- M Dharani, P Charumathi, C Sivaranjani, M Gomathi and Bargavi were the five women 'odhuvars' given appointment orders.
- All five women 'odhuvars' were appointed in five different temples in Chennai.
- With the appointment, the total number of women 'odhuvars' in HR and CE temples reaches 10.

Note

- Recently S. Krishnaveni, S. Ramya and N. Ranjitha were appointed as the assistant priests at Vaishnavite temples in Tamil Nadu.

TN unveils tourism policy

- TN Chief Minister M.K. Stalin released the Tamil Nadu Tourism Policy, 2023.
- The policy aims to attract investments of ₹20,000 crore into the sector over the next five

years.

- It would be valid for a period of five years from the date of its notification, or till a new policy is announced.

Salient Features of the Policy

- i. It envisions the enhancing and upgrading of the existing tourism infrastructure and implementing of new green field projects.
- ii. **Target:** It sets targets for the next five years which include contributing at least 12% to the GSDP annually and employing 25 lakh people.
- iii. **Private sector:** Private sector investment would be supported in projects located in certain geographies designated as 'focus tourism destinations' and certain corridors classified as 'focus tourism corridors'.
- iv. **Single Window Portal:** It provides for a single window portal for necessary clearances, concessions in electricity tariff and other incentives for eligible tourism projects.
- v. **Tariff Rebate:** New hotel projects in focus tourism destinations will be eligible for **electricity tariff rebate** (i.e. the difference between commercial tariff and industrial tariff) for a maximum period of three years.
- vi. **Capital Subsidy:** Provides for a **capital subsidy** of up to ₹1.5 crore.
- vii. **Other Benefits:** Provides for interest subvention, payroll incentive, quality certification incentive and sustainability initiatives incentive.
- viii. **Other Features:** A feedback based rating system, activity operator licence, registration, accreditation and categorisation of tourism enterprises.
- ix. **Categorisation of Tourism Projects:**
 - **Category 'A'** (investment in eligible capital assets of up to ₹50 crore)
 - **Category 'B'** (investment in eligible capital assets of up to ₹200 crore)
 - **Category 'C'** (investment in eligible capital assets of more than ₹200 crore).

- x. **Tourism Facilitation Cell:** It will be created within the department to assist Guidance Tamil Nadu in monitoring and promoting tourism investment.
- xi. **Amusement Park:** Creation of large format amusement park on the lines of global theme parks such as Disney and Universal Studio.
- xii. **Cruise Services:** On various stretches of the **Chennai - Rameswaram - Kanniyakumari and Chennai - Port Blair routes.**
- xiii. **Gateway Hubs:** Towns and cities with good infrastructure would be developed as gateway hubs.
 - 5% of funds from the Smart City funds would be made towards enhancing tourism infrastructure in gateway hubs.
- xiv. It envisages developing **golf tourism, sports tourism and Film tourism.**

Note

- **Guidance Tamil Nadu** - Nodal agency instrumental in bringing investments into Tamil Nadu.

Organ donor's funeral conducted with state honours

- The Tamil Nadu government conducted an organ donor's funeral with state honours in **Chinnamanur Theni district** for the government employee, Vadivelu, whose organs were donated to other patients after he was declared brain dead by doctors.
- Vadivelu is the first person to be accorded State honours for Organ donation.

Note

- Tamil Nadu is a **leading state** in India in organ donation. (for six consecutive years from 2015 - 2020).
- Tamil Nadu received the award for the **best State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (SOTTO)** from the **National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO).**
- Regulated by - **Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994.**

- Organisation responsible - **TRANSTAN (Transplant Authority of TN).**
- **Organ Donation Day - September 23** (to commemorate the tragic death of AP Hitendran in 2008).
- **National Organ Donation Day - August 3** (In 2023 the day has been shifted from November 27 to 3rd August).

About Tamil Nadu Registration Department

- **Formation** – 1864.
- **Head** – Inspector General of Registration (IGR).

Tamil Nadu reconstitutes biodiversity board

- The State government recently reconstituted the **Tamil Nadu State Biodiversity Board**, and included three special invitees from the Industries Department, the Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Department and the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board.

Composition

- The **Minister for Forests** will be the **chairperson of the board.**
- **Ex-officio members of the panel**
 - Secretaries of the Environment, Climate Change and Forests, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj and Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Departments.
 - **Principal Chief Conservator** of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden.
- **Special invitees to the board**
 - Secretaries of the Industries, Investment Promotion & Commerce Department and the Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department.
 - The **Member Secretary of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board.**

Property photos mandatory for land registrations

- The **Tamil Nadu Registration** Department has made it mandatory to include photographs of properties with geographic coordinates as part of the registered document to curb fraudulent transactions resulting in revenue loss to the State government.
- It will help in ascertaining the exact location of the property in transaction and prevent registration of plots with buildings being shown as vacant land.