

VETRI IAS STUDY CIRCLE

Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

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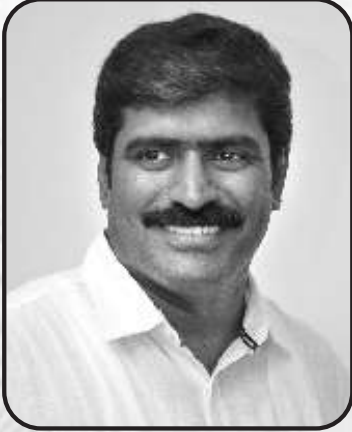
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Preface



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 !

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1. HISTORY



1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
October 01	Breast cancer awareness month	<ul style="list-style-type: none">It is called "Pink October"Theme 2023 - 'Keeping Her in The Picture'
October 01	International Day of Older Persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none">2023 Theme - Fulfilling the Promises of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for Older Persons: Across Generations.
October 02	International Day of Non-violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi is observed as the International Day of Non-violence.The day was established on 15 June 2007 by United Nations General Assembly resolution.Theme 2023 - "Embrace Diversity, Unite around Common Humanity to Overcome Rising Tensions, Create More Peaceful World"
October 03	World Nature Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The day was established by the World Nature Organization (WNO) in 2010.
October 04	World Animal Welfare Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Theme 2023 - "Great or Small, Love Them All".World Animal Day has been marked since 1925.
October 04 to 10	World Space Week	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Theme 2023 - "Space and Entrepreneurship"
October 5	World Teacher's Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Theme 2023 - "The teachers we need for the education we want: The global imperative to reverse the teacher shortage". <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">World Teachers' Day has been celebrated since 1994 by UNESCO.
October 05	Vallalar's 200th birth anniversary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">October 5, the birth anniversary of Arul Prakasha Vallalar, is observed annually as Thaniperkarunai Day.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
October 06	World Smile Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Smile Day is celebrated on the first Friday of October each year. World Smile Day Theme 2023: "Do an act of kindness - help one person smile". <p>NOTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World smile day is celebrated since 1999.
October 07	Nilgiri Tahr's Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Tamil Nadu government has announced that Wildlife Conservator E.R.C. Davidhar's birthday will be celebrated as Nilgiri Tahr Day since 2022. Accordingly, Tahr Day is observed on 7th October every year.
October 08	Indian Air Force Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme 2023: IAF - Airpower Beyond Boundaries.
October 09	World Post Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is celebrated every year on 9 October to commemorate the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874 in the Swiss Capital, Bern. Theme 2023 - Together for trust: Collaborating for a safe and connected future.
October 10	World Mental Health Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme 2023: Mental Health is a Universal Human Right
October 10	National Postal Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The day is observed every year to raise awareness about the enduring role of the Indian Postal System, which has served the nation for over 150 years. India Post commences celebration of National Postal Week from 9th to 15th October.
October 10	First National Current Good Manufacturing Practices Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first National Current Good Manufacturing Practices (cGMP) Day was celebrated across India to create awareness about the critical role of cGMP in the pharmaceutical industry, ensuring the quality and safety of medicinal products. Theme 2023: "cGMP: Transforming Healthcare"
October 11	International Day of the Girl Child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme 2023 - Invest in Girls' Rights: Our Leadership, Our Well-being. First celebrated in 2012.
October 12	World Sight Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme 2023 - Love Your Eyes at Work.



Date	Day	Theme / Remark
October 12	World Arthritis Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The day is observed every year to create awareness about rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs). ▪ Theme 2023 - Living with an RMD at all stages of life. ▪ It was first observed on 1996.
October 13	International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2023 Theme: Fighting inequality for a resilient future.
October 13	World Egg Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The day is celebrated on the second Friday of October each year. ▪ 2023 theme: 'Eggs for a healthy future'
October 14	World Standard Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Theme 2023 - "shared vision for a better world: Incorporating SDG 3". ▪ It was first celebrated in October 14, 1946.
October 14	World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Theme 2023 - "Water: Sustaining Bird Life."
October 15	International Day of Rural Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Theme 2023 - "Rural Women Cultivating Good Food for All"
October 16	World Food Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Theme 2023 - "Water is life, water is food. Leave no one behind." ▪ The day was first observed in 1979.
October 16	World Anesthesia Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It aims to commemorate the first successful demonstration of diethyl ether anaesthesia by William T. G. Morton on 16 October 1846. ▪ Theme 2023 - "Anaesthesia and Cancer Care"
October 17	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2023 –	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The day is observed to raise awareness about the people who are struggling and living in poverty. ▪ It is also known as End Poverty Day ▪ Theme 2023 : Ending poverty and ensuring dignity for all
October 20	World Osteoporosis Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Theme 2023 : Step Up for Bone Health-Build Better Bones
October 20	World Statistics Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Theme for 2023 have not been disclosed yet.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
October 20	National Solidarity Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India celebrates the National Solidarity Day on October 20, 2023 to honor and remember the commitment, courage and sacrifices of Indian Military forces. The day aims to commemorate the 1962 War between India and China.
October 23	Mole Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is celebrated every year to commemorate the chemistry's measuring unit called "Avogadro's Number" (6.02×10^{23}). Theme 2023 : Dispicamole Me.
October 24	World Polio Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme for 2023 is yet to be announced.
October 24	United Nations Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> United Nations Day marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter. 2023 Theme : "The Frontlines of Climate Action"
October 27	75th National Infantry Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is observed annually to commemorate and pay tribute to the brave Indian infantry soldiers. It was on this day in 1947 that Infantrymen from Indian Army, led by the Sikh regiment, landed at Srinagar Airfield and saved the State of J&K from Pakistani invasion.
October 27	76th Shaurya Diwas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 76th 'Shaurya Diwas' (Valor's Day) was celebrated to commemorate the Indian Army's repulse of Pakistani encroachments in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
October 27	World Stroke Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme 2023: 'Together we are Greater Than Stroke.'
October 31	World Thrift Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme 2022 - "Savings Prepare You for a Better Future."
October 31	National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Unity Day or Rashtriya Ekta Diwas is observed every year to mark the birth anniversary of the "Iron Man of India" Vallabhbhai Jhaverbhai Patel, who is endeared as 'Sardar'. 31st October 2023 marks the 148th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. It was celebrated for the first time in 2014. In 2018, the Government of India unveiled the 'Statue of Unity' in Gujarat to mark the 143rd birth anniversary of Sardar Patel.
October 31	World Cities Day (WCD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The day was first observed on 2014. Theme 2023 : 'Financing a Sustainable Urban Future for all.'

1.2 DEFENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND TERRORISM

HADR Exercise CHAKRAVAT 2023

- The Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Exercise (AJHE), "CHAKRAVAT 2023" was conducted by the Indian Navy at Goa.
- AJHE is the outcome of the directive issued during the Combined Commanders' Conference of 2015.
- It promises to further synergize national efforts and expand its scope by involving eight countries from the Indian Ocean Region.

Note

- First edition - 2015.
- Conducted on rotation basis by the Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force (IAF) since 2016.

About Indian Navy

- Formation - 26 January 1950
- Headquarters - New Delhi
- Navy Day - December 4

Project Udbhav

- Recently, Project Udbhav was launched by the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- Project Udbhav is a collaboration between the Army and the United Service Institution of

India (USI) which is a defence services think tank.

- **Objective** - To synthesise ancient wisdom with contemporary military practices and to forge a unique and holistic approach to address modern security challenges.
- The project aims to tap into ancient Indian treatises such as Chanakya's Arthashastra, Kamandaka's Nitisara, and the Thirukkural by the Tamil poet-saint Thiruvalluvar to glean insights on statecraft, strategy, diplomacy, and warfare.

'KAZIND-2023' joint military exercise

- A 120-strength of Indian Army and Indian Air Force contingent left for Kazakhstan to participate in the 13-day India-Kazakhstan joint military exercise Kazind 2023.
- The exercise will be held from 30th October to 11th November in Otar, Kazakhstan.
- This exercise has been further developed into a two-way exercise involving air squadrons from both sides.

Note

- This training was started in the year 2016 under the name of Prabal Dostyk.

1.3 WORLD ORGANISATIONS – PACTS AND SUMMITS

International Solar Alliance to release report on global adoption of solar technology in November

- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) has planned to compile and release a 'global solar stock-take report'.
- The report is inspired by the first ever 'Global Stocktake' of the United Nations Conference of Parties, scheduled in Dubai.
- In the report countries are expected to give an account of the actions taken until now to transition their economies away from fossil fuel.
- The countries also lay out plans to course correct, if their commitments are insufficient to prevent runaway global warming.

- The Global Stocktake follows from the Paris Agreement signed in 2015 and is expected to be released once in five years.

About ISA

- **Alliance of more than 120 signatory countries** most being sunshine countries, which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.
- Launched by India and France
- **Launch** - 30th November 2015, at the 21st session of United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP-21) in Paris, France.
- **Objective** - To work for the efficient consumption of solar energy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

1.4 EMINENT PERSONS

Norman Pritchard

- October 30 marks the 94th death anniversary of Norman Pritchard, India's first Olympic medallist (in 1900).
- Norman Pritchard was the first Asia-born athlete to win an Olympic medal

1.5 SPORTS AND GAMES

Asian Games 2023

- The 19th edition of Asian Games was 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.
- Mascots** : Chenchen, Congcong, Lianlaian
- India won **28 gold, 38 silver and 41 bronze** with a total of **107 medals**.
- Medal tally

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.

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	People's Republic of China	201	111	71	383
2	Japan	52	67	69	188
3	Republic of Korea	42	59	89	190
4	India	28	38	41	107
5	Uzbekistan	22	18	31	71

2028 Los Angeles Olympics adds 5 sports

- Five Sports** have been officially included as additional sports on the programme for the Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028 (LA28).
- The decision has been taken by the 141st Session of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).
- The five sports include
 - Baseball/softball
 - Cricket (T20)
 - Flag football
 - Lacrosse (sixes)
 - Squash

About Olympics 2028

- Host** - Los Angeles, United States.
- Motto** - Together we create the future

About International Olympic Committee

- Formation** - 23 June 1894.
- Headquarters** - Lausanne, Switzerland
- President** - Thomas Bach
- Director General** - Christophe De Kepper

37th National Games inaugurated

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **37th National Games at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Goa**.
- The event is being held in **five Goan cities** - Mapusa, Margao, Panjim, Ponda and Vasco.

- Goa is hosting the National Games for the first time in its history.
- Sqay martial arts, rollball, sepaktakraw, kalaripayattu, pencak silat and mini golf have been added in the 37th edition
- Yachting and taekwondo, excluded in Gujarat 2022, are back in Goa.

About National Sports

- Motto** - Get Set Play
- Launch** - 1924
- Headquarters** - New Delhi
- Conducted by** - Indian Olympic Association.

The 4th Asian Para Games 2023

- The 4th Asian Para Games 2023 held in Hangzhou, China.
- The multisport event held a year before the Paris 2024 Paralympics.
- Indian Para athletes achieved a record 111 medals with **29 gold, 31 silver, and 51 bronze medals**, placing fifth in the medal count.
- India surpassed 2018's best Asian Para Games tally of **72 medals**.

Medal Tally

Rank	Countries	Gold Medal	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal	Total
1	China	214	167	140	521
2	Islamic Rep. of Iran	44	46	41	131
3	Japan	42	49	59	150
4	Republic of Korea	30	33	40	103
5	India	29	31	51	111

1.6 BOOKS AND AUTHOR

Maniam 100: 1924-2024

- Artist and actor Sivakumar launched the book **Maniam 100: 1924-2024**.
- The book commemorates the life, art, and journey of the legendary artist Maniam.
- He was an illustrator for **Tamil magazines** known for his reconstructions of the past in illustrations for popular historical fiction.
- He illustrated the serialized novels **Sivagamiyin Sapatham** which was set in the **Pallava kingdom**, and the classic **Ponniyin Selvan** which depicts the **Chola age**.

The Lords of Wankhede book launched

- The book, "**The Lords of Wankhede**", was written by former India cricketer **W.V. Raman** and senior **journalist R. Kaushik**.
- The book explores the evolution of Indian cricket for **28 years** since India's triumph at the **1983 World Cup**.

Note

- India won the **World Cup** again in **2011**.

1.7 AWARDS & HONOURS

National Service Scheme Awards for the year 2021-2022

- The **President of India, Droupadi Murmu** presented the **National Service Scheme (NSS) Awards for the year 2021-2022 at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.**
- The award was given to 52 persons to recognize their outstanding contributions towards voluntary community social service.
- It was awarded under **3 different categories - University/ +2 Council, NSS Units and their Programme Officers and NSS Volunteers.**

About NSS Awards

- Instituted by the **Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.**
- Presented every year to the NSS Volunteers, Programme Officers, NSS Units and the Universities/+2 Councils to recognize their voluntary service.

About National Service Scheme (NSS)

- **Launch** - 24th September, 1969
- **Director**- Pankaj Kumar Singh
- **Headquarters** - New Delhi.

2023 Nobel Prize in Medicine or Physiology

- The **2023 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine** has been awarded to **Katalin Karikó** and **Drew Weissman** for their research that enabled the development of mRNA vaccines against COVID-19.
- They were awarded the prize for their "discoveries concerning nucleoside base modifications that enabled the development of effective mRNA vaccines against COVID-19".
- The **first vaccines** to use the **mRNA technology** were those made by **Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna** against COVID-19 - **GEMCOVAC-OM.**
- RNA as a therapeutic was first promoted in **1989**

About mRNA vaccines

- mRNA stands for **messenger RNA.**

- A form of nucleic acid which carries genetic information.
- It activates the immune system to produce antibodies that help counter an infection from a live virus by introducing **spike protein (protein found on the membrane of the virus)**
- It does not expose individuals to the virus itself.

About Nobel Prize

- **Ceremony date** - 10 December 2023
- **First awarded** - 1901
- **Categories** - Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature, and Peace. Memorial prize in economic sciences was added in 1968.
- **Reward** - A gold-plated green gold medal, a diploma, and a monetary award of 11 million SEK.
- Established by the **Swedish inventor** and businessman **Alfred Nobel** through his last will.
- **First Noble Prize Winner in India and Asia** - **Rabindranath Tagore** for his work **Geetanjali** in 1913.
- **Indian Nobel Prize laureates from 1913 to 2023**

- **Rabindranath Tagore (1913)** - Literature
- **C.V. Raman (1930)** - Physics
- **Har Gobind Khorana (1968)** - Physiology or Medicine
- **Mother Teresa (1979)** - Peace
- **Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar (1983)** - Physics
- **Amartya Sen (1998)** - Economics
- **Kailash Satyarthi (2014)** - Peace
- **Abhijit Banerjee (2019)** - Economics

ISRO scientists from T.N were rewarded

- Chief Minister **M.K. Stalin** announced a cash reward of ₹25 lakh each for nine space scientists from Tamil Nadu.
- The awardees are
 - Mr. Sivan, former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairperson.

- Mylswamy Annadurai, former Director of ISRO's Satellite Centre
- **V.Narayanan**, Director of ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre
- **A.Rajarajan**, ISRO's Launch Authorisation Board chief
- **M. Sankaran**, Director of U.R. Rao Satellite Centre
- **J.Asir Packiaraj**, ISRO's Propulsion Complex Director
- **V.Vanitha**, Project Director of the Chandrayaan2 lunar mission
- **Nigar Shaji**, Project Director of the AdityaL1 mission
- **P. Veeramuthuvel**, Chandrayaan3 Project Director.

Note

- TN announced a scholarship programme for nine engineering students pursuing graduation with financial assistance under the 7.5% reservation for government school students.
- The nine scholarships would be named after the nine rewarded ISRO scientists from Tamil Nadu.

Nobel Prize for Physics 2023

- **Award winning Scientists** - Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz and Anne L'Huillier
- **Contribution** - "experimental methods that generate attosecond pulses of light for the study of electron dynamics in matter"

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2023

- **Scientists** - Moungi G. Bawendi, Louis E. Brus and Alexei I. Ekimov
- **Contribution** - The discovery and development of quantum dots
- **Award presented by** - The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
- **Cash award** - 10 million Swedish kronor (nearly 7.5 crore indian rupees)
- **Awarded on** - December 10 (the anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death)

Quantum dots

- These tiny particles have unique properties and now spread their light from television screens and LED lamps.
- They catalyse chemical reactions and their clear light can illuminate tumour tissue for a surgeon.

Nobel Prize for Literature 2023

- The Nobel Prize for Literature 2023 has been announced to Norway's famous writer Jan Fosse (64).
- **Contribution** - He has been given the honor for bringing out hitherto unspoken ideas through his wide range of writings ranging from plays, novels, poetry and children's books.

Nobel Peace Prize 2023

- Nobel Peace Prize 2023 has been announced to Iranian human rights activist **Narges Mohammadi**.
- **Contribution** - Narges Mohammadi has been given this honour for her tireless work against the oppression of women in Iran and for insisting on democracy, despite facing numerous arrests and years of imprisonment.

About Narges Mohammadi

- 'He has been jailed 13 times, convicted 5 times and sentenced to a total of 31 years in prison and 134 lashes,' said the Nobel Committee.
- **Awarded by** - The Norwegian Nobel Committee
- **Cash Prize** - The Nobel Peace Prize carries a prize money of **\$1 million** (roughly Rs. 8.32 crore) along with a gold medal and a certificate.
- Presentation of Award - 10th December

Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences 2023

- American woman economist **Claudia Goldin (77)** has been awarded the **Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences**.
- **Contribution** - For her research in understanding the participation of women in the labor market and the gender gap in the workplace.
- She is **third women** to be awarded the noble for Economics.

Saraswati Samman Award

- Tamil writer Sivasankari was presented with the 'Saraswati Samman' 2022 for her book of memoirs Surya Vamsam.
- The award was instituted by the **K.K.Birla Foundation**.
- It carries a citation, a plaque, and prize money of ₹15 lakh.
- **Surya Vamsam** is a book of memoirs published in **two volumes**.

About Sivasankari

- Authored 36 novels, 48 novelettes, 150 short stories, five travelogues, seven collection of essays and three biographies.

About Saraswati Samman Award

- Annual award for outstanding prose or poetry literary works in any of the **22 languages** of India listed in **Schedule VIII of the Constitution of India**.
- First recipient - Harivansh Rai Bachchan (1991)

Other Literary awards instituted by KK Birla Foundation

- Bihari Puraskar
- Vyas Samman

Guidance Tamil Nadu bags UN Promotion Award 2023

- **Guidance Tamil Nadu** has received the prestigious **United Nations Promotion Award 2023** for Excellence in Investment Promotion at the 8th World Investment Forum held in Abu Dhabi recently.
- It received the award for excellence in scaling up energy transition investments.

About Guidance TN

- Formation - 1992
- Guidance TN - Nodal agency for investment promotion and single window facilitation under the Department of Industries, Investment Promotion and Commerce.

69th National Film Awards

- **President Droupadi Murmu** gave away the **national film awards for 2021** under various categories at the **69th edition of the ceremony at New Delhi**.

- Feature and non-feature films certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) between January 1, 2021, and December 31, 2021, were eligible for National Film Awards 2021.

List of winners at the 69th National Film Awards:

- Best Feature Film: Rocketry
- Best Director: Nikhil Mahajan, Godavari
- Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment: RRR
- Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration: The Kashmir Files
- Best Actor: Allu Arjun, Pushpa
- Best Actress: Alia Bhatt, Gangubai Kathiawadi and Kriti Sanon, Mimi
- Best Music Director (Songs): Devi Sri Prasad, Pushpa
- Best Music Direction (Background Music): MM Keeravaani, RRR
- Best Male Playback Singer: Kaala Bhairava, RRR
- Best Female Playback Singer: Shreya Ghoshal, Iravin Nizhal
- Best Hindi Film: Sardar Udham
- **Best Tamil Film: Kadaisi Vivasayi**
- Best Children's Film: Gandhi and Co
- Special Jury Award: Shershaah, Vishnuvardhan
- **Special Mention (Non-feature film): Srikanth Deva, Karuvarai.**
- **Best Educational Film: Sirpigalin Sirpangal**
- Dada Saheb Phalke Award - Waheeda Rehman.

About National Film Awards

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

Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award

- American actor and producer Michael Douglas will be honoured with the Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award at the 54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)
- IFFI is planned to be held in Goa from 20th to 28th November, 2023.

About Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award

- Launch - 1999 (30th IFFI)
- Presented to individuals for their outstanding contribution to the growth and development of World cinema.
- Spanish film Director **Carlos Saura** was awarded with Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement award in 53rd IFFI in 2022.

About IFFI

- **Formation** - 24 January 1952
- **Location** - Goa
- **Conducted by** - National Film Development Corporation of India (under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting) and the State Government of Goa.

Note

- **Michael Douglas** is an American actor and film producer

- He had won two Academy Awards, five Golden Globe Awards, and an Emmy Award.

Gujarat's Dhordo awarded as Best Tourism Village by UNWTO

- **Dhordo village** in Kutch district of Gujarat was awarded as the **Best Tourism Village** by the **United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)**.
- It is famously called as the **gateway to the Great Rann of Kutch**.
- The award is given to the villages that are doing exceptional work in terms of rural development, maintenance of the original landscape, cultural heritage and diversity, local values and food traditions.

About UNWTO

- An United Nations agency working to promote tourism for sustainable development.
 - **Formation** - November 1, 1975
 - **Headquarters** - Madrid, Spain
 - **Secretary-General** - Zurab Pololikashvili

About Gujarat

- **Capital** - Gandhinagar
- **Chief Minister** - Bhupendrabhai Patel
- **Governor** - Acharya Devvrat

1.8 APPOINTMENTS – WHO IS WHO?

Captain Bana Singh - Ambassador for 'War Against Waste' in J&K

- The Directorate of Rural Sanitation, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) has nominated **Param Vir Chakra (PVC) Awardee Captain Bana Singh** as the ambassador for the "War Against Waste", initiative to tackle sanitation challenges in rural areas of J&K.

Note

- The "War Against Waste" campaign attempts to resolve waste management and environmental conservation challenges in rural J&K.
- It is the part of the **Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS 2023)** campaign.

About Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS 2023)

- The Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS 2023) campaign was celebrated from 15th September to 2nd October 2023 under the joint aegis of the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MOHUA).
- **Theme of SHS-2023** - 'Garbage Free India' with a focus on visual cleanliness and the welfare of Safai Mitras (sanitation Workers).
- The campaign aims to mass movement through community participation to reinforce the concept of Sanitation as everyone's business.
- It also was part of **Swachh Bharat Diwas (2nd October)** with nationwide participation.

About Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)

- **Lieutenant Governor** - Manoj Sinha
- **Capitals** - (i) Srinagar (summer capital) May to October (ii) Jammu (winter months) November to April
- **Major rivers (4)** - Jhelum, Chenab, Indus and Ravi (National Waterways)

Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations

- **Arindam Bagchi** has been appointed as the next **Permanent Representative of India** to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva.
- At present he is the spokesperson of the **Ministry of External Affairs**.

About United Nations

- **Founded** - 24 October 1945
- **Headquarters** - New York
- **Secretary general** - António Guterres

New Governors of Odisha and Tripura appointed

- **Raghubar Das** have been appointed as the Governor of Odisha
- He was the **first non-tribal Chief Minister of Jharkhand** from 2014 to 2019.
- **Indra Sena Reddy Nallu** have been appointed as the Governor of **Tripura**.

About Odisha

- **Capital** – Bhubaneswar
- **Chief minister** - Naveen Patnaik

About Tripura

- **Capital** – Agartala
- **Chief minister** - Manik Saha

2. POLITICAL SCIENCE

2.1 INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

India –Argentina sign social security agreement

- **India and Argentina** signed Social Security Agreement to ensure legal rights of professionals in each other's domain that will assist in risk free international mobility.
- The agreement is aimed at ensuring rights of the growing number of Indian nationals employed in various Indian and international concerns in Argentina as well as for Argentine nationals seeking employment in India.
- The agreement has a legal framework which will enable professionals on both sides to claim old age and survivor's pensions.

About Argentina

- **Capital** - Buenos Aires
- **Currency** - Argentine Peso
- **President** - Alberto Fernández

Meeting of 18th India-Vietnam Joint Commission in Hanoi

- **External Affairs Minister Dr.S.Jaishankar** co-chaired the meeting of the **18th India-Vietnam Joint Commission in Hanoi** with his Vietnamese counterpart Bui Thanh Son.
- The discussions covered cooperation in
 - Political, defense and maritime security
 - Judicial
 - Trade and investment
 - Energy development
 - Education and training
 - Science and technology
 - Cultural domain
- On July 22, 2023 India handed over INS Kirpan to Vietnam at Cam Ranh.

About Vietnam

- **Capital** - Hanoi
- **Currency** - Vietnamese dong
- **President** - Vo Van Thuong
- **Prime Minister** - Pham Minh Chinh

India, UK hold '2 + 2' Dialogue

- The first "2+2" **Foreign and Defence Dialogue** was held between **India and UK in New Delhi.**
- It is held between the **Foreign and Defence Ministeries** of the two countries.
- Topics discussed:
 - Situation in the Indo-Pacific region
 - Trade and investment
 - Defence
 - Critical and emerging technologies
 - Civil aviation
 - Health
 - Energy
 - Culture and strengthening peoples connect.

About United Kingdom

- **Capital** - London
- **Monarch** - Charles III
- **Prime Minister** - Rishi Sunak

India also held 2+2 dialogue with

- Japan
- Australia
- Russia
- United States

Sri Lanka offers free visas to Indians to revive tourism

- Sri Lanka waived visa fee to issue free tourist visas to tourists from **China, India, Russia,**

Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Japan until March 31, 2024.

- The move aims to boost tourist arrivals and help rebuild the nation's battered economy following financial crash in 2023.
- In 2023 over 2 lakh Indian tourists constituting 20 % of the total tourist arrivals have visited Sri Lanka until September 2023.

Note

- Sri Lanka's tourism sector is struggling to bounce back after three major setbacks in the last few years
- The **Easter Sunday terror attacks in 2019**
- The **corona virus pandemic in 2020 and 2021**
- The **unprecedented economic crisis in 2022**.
- Until now, Indian tourists were **charged \$20 as visa fee**.

About Sri Lanka

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

Memorial to honour Indian heroes of 1971 war in Bangladesh

- A memorial is being built in Bangladesh to honour the Indian soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the **Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971 at Ashuganj**.
- It will have the names of around 1,600 Indian soldiers inscribed on it.
- It will be the **first memorial in Bangladesh** to exclusively honour Indian soldiers from the **1971 war**.
- The foundation stone for the memorial was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh **Prime Minister Sheikh Hasin in March 2021**.

About Bangladesh

- **Prime Minister** - Sheikh Hasina
- **Capital** - Dhaka
- **Currency** - Bangladeshi Taka
- **India** - Bangladesh share 4096.7 km. of border

2.2 LATEST COURT VERDICTS

Supreme Court (SC) upholds rights of an Unborn child

- The SC had turned down the plea of a pregnant woman seeking termination of her **27-week-old pregnancy as the foetus** was viable as per the medical board reports and poses no threat to the life of the women.
- The ruling upheld the provisions of the **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act (MTPA), 2021** as there are no provisions for the termination of a viable foetus **after 24 weeks**.

Key Provisions of MTPA 2021

- **Duration of Pregnancy Procedure for Termination**
 - **Up to 20 weeks** - Available to all women on the advice of one doctor

- **20-24 Weeks** - The right to seek abortion is determined by two registered medical practitioners under certain categories which include survivors of sexual assault or rape; minors, women with disabilities; or change in marital status during pregnancy etc.
- **Beyond 24 weeks** - Available only on the grounds of foetal abnormalities based on the advice of a medical board.

Note

- All state/ UTs are mandated to constitute a Medical Board consisting of gynaecologists, paediatrician, etc.

Supreme Court in Supriyo vs Union of India judgment verdict

- **Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court** held that only the legislature can recognise or regulate same sex marriage.

Key highlights

- **Recognition to Right to Marry:** The court observed that **marriage is a statutory right not a fundamental** right guaranteed by Constitution and hence its recognition is a subject matter for Parliament and state legislatures and not of Court.
- Thus, court declined to strike down or tweak provisions of Special Marriage Act, 1954 and other allied laws to include same sex members within their ambit.
- **Adoption rights:** Court upheld the **Regulation 5(3) of the CARA** which precludes unmarried couples from adoption in the "best interest of the child". Since 'Same sex couples' marriage is not recognised they are also precluded from adoption.

Previous judgments of SC for LGBTQIA

- **NALSA (2014):** Recognition of transgenders as third gender.
- **K.S. Puttaswamy (2017):** Recognition of the right to sexual orientation as an aspect of privacy.
- **Navtej Johar (2018):** Decriminalisation of same-sex relationships. (Related to IPC Section 377)

Supreme Court ruling on Manual Scavenging

- **Supreme Court Bench** headed by Justice S.R.Bhat held the Union and States duty-bound to the pledge to completely eradicate manual scavenging through the stringent implementation of the **Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013**.
- The court enhanced the compensation payable for sewer deaths to ₹30 lakh from the earlier ₹10 lakh.

Note

- Manual Scavenging was banned in India since 1993 with the introduction of
 - **Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993**
 - **Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013.**
- Supreme Court had reinforced the prohibition and directed the rehabilitation of people, engaged in the manual scavenging in its judgment in Safai Karamchari Andolan and others vs. Union of India.
- **National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)** was constituted in 1993 under NCSK Act, 1993.

2.3 PUBLIC AWARENESS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**Union Law Ministry recommends extension of fast track courts for another 4 years**

- The Union Law Ministry has recommended to the Union Cabinet to extend the **Fast Track Special Courts Scheme for another 4 years**.
- The Union Ministry has made this recommendation to provide speedy judgment in sexual assault cases.

About Fast Track Special Courts Scheme

- The Criminal Procedure Code was amended in 2018 and 1,023 fast-track special courts were set up in 31 states and union territories across the country, including 389 fast-track courts

to try cases under the POCSO (Prevention of Sexual Offenses Against Children Act) Act, for speedy adjudication of sexual assault cases.

Centre unveils tradeable Green Credit

- The government has introduced a special programme allowing an **individual or entity to earn Green Credit and trade it on a dedicated exchange**.
- It is being launched at the national level.
- It aims to leverage a **competitive market based approach for incentivising environmental actions**.
- To obtain credits one **needs to register the activity via a website**

- It will cover 8 types of activities, including
 - Tree plantation
 - Water management
 - Sustainable agriculture.
 - Waste management
 - Air pollution reduction
 - Mangrove conservation and restoration
 - It is a follow-up action of the 'LiFE' (Lifestyle for Environment) campaign.

Note

- **Green Credit:** Unit of an incentive provided for specified activities that deliver a positive impact on the environment.
- The Green credit under the programme is independent of the carbon credit provided under the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, 2023 under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.

About LiFE' (Lifestyle for Environment) campaign

- **Launch** – June 5, 2022.
- **Aim** - To live a lifestyle that is in tune with our planet and does not harm it. And those who live such a lifestyle are called "Pro-Planet People"

About Carbon Credit Trading Scheme

- **Objective** - To develop the domestic carbon market as the country aims at decarbonising the economy and has committed to cut emissions by 45% from the 2005 levels by 2030.
- **Launched by** - Ministry of Power

2.4 GOVT – WELFARE ORIENTED GOVT SCHEMES, THEIR UTILITY

Tele Manas Seva has counselled 3.5 lakh people so far

- The Tele Manas Seva has counselled more than 3,50,000 people till date and currently provides counselling to 2,000 people through 44 Tele Manas Cells.
- More than 1,000 calls are being received on this helpline every day.
- Recently the logo of Tele MANAS was launched.

States achieving highest number of calls Larger States category

- Tamil Nadu
- Maharashtra
- Uttar Pradesh

The smaller States category

- Telangana
- Jharkhand,
- Kerala

About Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele MANAS)

- **Launch** – October 10, 2022 (World Health Day)
- **Objective** - To provide free tele-mental health services all over the country.
- Comprehensive mental health care service with **2 tier mechanism**.
- Initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

'Mera Yuva Bharat' platform for young leaders

- The Centre has announced the setting up of a new government platform 'Mera Yuva Bharat' or My Bharat for youth development.
- It will be an **autonomous body**.
- It is aimed at **developing leadership skills among youth** to make them social innovators and leaders in the communities.
- Youth in the age **group of 15 to 29 years** can avail the benefits of the platform. It will be

launched on October 31 marking the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Vishwakarma Scheme launched in TN

- The **Vishwakarma scheme** has been launched in **7 districts of Tamil Nadu and 9 thousand 246 beneficiaries** have registered so far to benefit from the scheme.

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 re paid in 30 months).
- **Scope and Coverage:** It encompasses **18 traditional trades in both rural and urban areas.**

Note

- 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.**

Intensified Mission Indradhanush 5.0 (IMI 5.0) concluded all 3 rounds.

- Recently, the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** concluded all 3 Rounds of **Intensified Mission Indradhanush 5.0 (IMI 5.0) Campaign**
- All States/UTs **except Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Punjab** concluded all 3 rounds.
- As on 30th September 2023, over 34,69,705 children and 6,55,480 pregnant women were administered vaccine doses during the first 2 rounds of IMI 5.0 campaign across the country.

About the IMI 5.0 campaign

- **Launch** - 2023
- **Objective** - To enhance immunization coverage for all vaccines provided under the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) as per the National Immunization Schedule (NIS).

- Aims to eliminate **measles and rubella by 2023** by improving the coverage of vaccinations.
- Includes children up to **5 years of age (Previously up to 2 years).**
- It leverages the **U-WIN digital platform** for Routine Immunization in a pilot mode.

About Mission Indradhanush

- **Launch** - 2014
- Free vaccines against 12 life-threatening diseases Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, Hepatitis B, Pneumonia and Meningitis, Measles, Rubella, Japanese Encephalitis (JE) and Rotavirus
- Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) - **October 2017**
- Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0 - **2019-20**
- Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0 - **2021**
- Intensified Mission Indradhanush 4.0 - **2022**

Pramod Mahajan Grameen Kaushalya Vikas Kendras in Maharashtra

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched **511 Pramod Mahajan Grameen Kaushalya Vikas Kendras in Maharashtra.**
- These Kendras will conduct **skill development training programs** across various sectors to provide **employment opportunities to rural youth.**
- Each Kendra will train about **100 youngsters** in at least **two vocational courses.**
- The training will be provided by empanelled industry partners and agencies under the **National Skill Development Council.**

About National Skill Developmental Council

- **Launch** - July 31, 2008
- It is a **not-for-profit public limited company** constituted under **section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956.**
- **Objective** - To promote skill development by catalyzing creation of large, quality and for-profit vocational institutions.



3. GEOGRAPHY

3.1 POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

Chennai top node in tortoise trafficking network

- The study titled, 'From pets to plate' was published in the edition of *Oryx*, the International Journal of Conservation.
- The study found that the trafficking of soft shell turtles for meat was predominantly domestic in nature.
- The international trafficking of the reptile from or to India almost restricted to Bangladesh.
- Chennai is the highest ranked node in the tortoise and hard shell turtle trafficking network.

Note

- **Indian star tortoise**
 - Native to India.
 - IUCN Status - Vulnerable.
- **Indian flapshell turtle**
 - Freshwater species of turtle found in South Asia
 - IUCN Status - Vulnerable.

Pune researchers found new Damselfly Species in Western Ghats, Kerala

- Researchers from MIT-World Peace University (MIT-WPU) in Pune, Maharashtra have discovered *Protosticta Armageddonia* (**Armageddon Reedtail**), a new species of damselfly in the southern Western Ghats of Kerala.
- The name "Armageddon" symbolizes the global crisis of habitat loss and climate change affecting insect populations.

- The new damselfly species, *P.Armageddonia* belongs to the genus 'Protosticta' in the family Platystictidae and is endemic to Western Ghats in India.

About Kerala

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

Peak heat in September

- The European Union's Climate Observatory has reported that the world's average temperature reached a new record high in **September**.
- The average temperature of the global atmosphere in September was recorded at **16.38 degrees Celsius** (61.5 degrees Fahrenheit).
- This heat is the highest monthly average temperature ever recorded. Earlier it was registered in the year 2020
- The maximum mean temperature was The new peak, now recorded in September, is 0.5°C higher than the previous peak.

About the Paris Agreement

- In 2015, the annual UN conference held in the French capital Paris to control climate change. A historic agreement was struck at the conference.
- In that agreement, 195 countries, including India, agreed to limit global temperature rise to no more than **1.5 degrees Celsius** above pre-industrial levels and to gradually reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Study on Dhole or Asiatic wild dog

- The **dhole or Asiatic wild dog (Cuon alpinus)** is the endangered animal living in the tropical Indian forests and is considered at high risk of extinction.
- The study conducted at **Manas National Park in Assam** revealed that overlapping prey availability or habitat suitability dictate a positive association between dholes and tigers, facilitating coexistence or even cooperative

behaviours between the two species of carnivores, a new study has found.

- It revealed that the diurnal activity of the dholes had the highest temporal overlap with leopards.

About Dhole or Asiatic wild dog

- **IUCN Status** - Endangered.
- Protected under **Schedule II** of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

3.2 NATURAL DISASTERS – SAFEGUARD MEASURES

Death toll rises to 25 in Sikkim floods

- The death toll in flash floods in Sikkim has risen to 25. 7 of them are army personnel. Further, the search for 143 people, including 15 army personnel, continued for the third day.
- A **cloudburst** caused heavy rainfall in **Lonak Lakeregion of North Sikkim**. Subsequently, the **Deesta river** was flooded and the hydroelectric project dam broken in Chungdhang area. Due to this, 4 districts namely Mangan, Gangtok, Namsi and Bagyang were flooded.

About Sikkim

- **Chief Minister** - Prem Singh Tamang
- **Governor** - Shri Lakshman Acharya
- **Date of Creation** - 16th May, 1975
- **Capital** - Gangtok

Cyclone Tej in Arabian Sea

- The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** stated that a low-pressure area has been developed over Arabian Sea which later developed into a depression and intensified into a cyclonic storm.

- It was named by India as 'Tej', based on the formula followed for naming cyclones in the Indian Ocean Region.

- It was derived from the sanskrit word 'Tej' meaning light

- Tej is the second Cyclonic Storm formed in Arabian Sea after cyclone Biparjoy.

Naming of Cyclones

- **Named by** - The **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** and the **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for the Asia Pacific (ESCAP)** since 2000.

About WMO

- **Formation** - 23 March 1950
- **Headquarters** - Geneva, Switzerland
- **President** - Gerhard Adrian

About UNESCAP

- **Formation** - 28 March 1947
- **Headquarters** - Bangkok, Thailand.



4. ECONOMICS

4.1 CURRENT TRENDS IN INDIAN ECONOMY

No change in interest rates: Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has not made any change in the interest rate (repo rate) on short-term loans to banks.
- The interest rate remains unchanged at 6.50 percent for the fourth consecutive time.
- Earlier, the RBI raised the interest rate by 0.25 percentage points to **6.50 percent** in the Monetary Policy Committee meeting held last February.
- It has been decided to keep the interest rate unchanged in the four meetings of the

Monetary Policy Committee.

- In the financial year 2023-24, the economic growth of the country will be 6.5 percent. Our target is to keep inflation at 4 percent. However, inflation is likely to continue at 5.4 percent.

About Monetary Policy Committee

- **Created** - 2016
- **Recommendation** - Urjit Patel Committee
- **Head** - RBI Governor
- **Objective** - To maintain price stability
- **Target** - To control inflation within (4% +2%)

4.2 REPORTS AND INDICES

Bihar caste survey data released

- The survey report titled **Bihar Jaati Adharit Ganana, 2022 (Bihar caste based Survey, 2022)** was released by the Bihar Government recently. The report consists of the data of caste based census conducted in Bihar.

Key Findings of the Survey

- The total population of Bihar is over **13 crore**.
- **Population composition of Bihar** (% of total population of the State)
 - Other Backward Classes (OBCs) - 27.1286%
 - Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs) - 36.0148%
 - Scheduled Castes - 19.6518%
 - Scheduled Tribes 1.6824%.
 - Upper castes - 15.5224%.
 - Hindus - 81.9986%
 - Muslims - 17.7088%.

Caste Composition (% of the State population)

- Yadavs - 14.26
- Kushwa - 4.27%
- Kurmis - 2.87%.
- Musahar caste - makes up 3% of the State population
- Brahmins - 3.66%.
- Kasha community (uppercaste)- 0.68%

- **Other Backward Classes** and the **Extremely Backward Classes** together constituted 63% of the State's population — the EBCs constituted 36% and the OBCs 27.13%.

About Bihar

- **Capital** - Patna
- **Chief Minister** - Nitish Kumar
- **Governor** - Rajendra Arlekar

World Bank Report on Progress of Swachh Bharat Project

- The Swachh Bharat – Rural (SBM-G) program has been found to have benefited immensely.

Key Findings

- The report found that low-income states were the best performers and wealthiest states were partial performers in terms of overall increases in routine use of toilets.
- When the scheme started, there was a huge gap especially among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- More than 100 million toilets have been completed and access to toilets has improved. And the report comes as a vindication of the government's claims that practices such as open defecation and manual scavenging will no longer continue in India.

About Swachh Bharat Project

- **Commencement Date** – 2nd October, 2014
- **Quote** - A step towards purity
- **Launched in** - Raj Ghat
- **Objective** - To create an "Open Defecation Free" (ODF) India by October 2, 2019, the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

479 maternal deaths in Tamil Nadu in one year

- According to the Department of Public Welfare, 479 maternal deaths have occurred in Tamil Nadu in one year.
- 20 percent of people died due to high blood pressure. Similarly, it has been revealed that pregnant women died due to excessive bleeding and heart problems during childbirth.
- Various schemes are being implemented in Tamil Nadu to avoid maternal deaths. Apart from medical tests and treatments, special programs are being implemented to ensure nutrition for pregnant women.

About Tamilnadu Maternal Health

- Maternal Mortality 2018-2020 (1 Lakh) – 54
- 2nd place in Niti Aayog's health index
- Dr. Muthulaksumiretty Maternity Fund Scheme – Rs.18000

- One year maternity leave for women in government service

Global Hunger Index 2023

- The **Global Hunger Index 2023** was released by **Irish NGO Concern Worldwide** and **German NGO Welt Hunger Hilfe**.
- India ranks 111 out of a total of 125 countries.
- India's ranking is based on a **Global Hunger Index score of 28.7 on a 100 point scale** where 0 is the best score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst.
- This categorises India's severity of hunger as "serious"

Key scores:

- Child wasting - 18.7 per cent
- Rate of undernourishment - 16.6 per cent
- Under-five mortality - 3.1 per cent.
- Prevalence of anaemia in women aged between 15 and 24 years - 58.1 per cent.

About GHI

- **Objective** – To comprehensively measure and track hunger at global, regional, and national levels.
- **Four indicators**
 - Undernourishment
 - Child stunting
 - Child wasting
 - Child mortality

Note

- India has ranked 107 out of 121 countries in 2022

Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Annual Report 2022-2023 Released

- The **sixth Annual Report** is released by the **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)** on the basis of **Periodic Labour Force Survey** conducted during **July 2022-June 2023**.

Key Findings of PLFS, Annual Report 2022-2023

- **Increasing Trend in Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for persons of age 15 years and above:** In rural areas, LFPR increased from 50.7% in 2017-18 to 60.8% in

2022-23 while for urban areas it increased from 47.6% to 50.4%. LFPR for male in India increased from 75.8% in 2017-18 to 78.5% in 2022-23 and corresponding increase in LFPR for female was from 23.3% to 37.0%.

- **Increasing Trend** is observed in Worker Population Ratio (WPR) for persons of age 15 years and above.
- **Decreasing Trend** is observed in Unemployment Rate (UR) for persons of age 15 years and above
- India's unemployment rate for persons aged 15 years and above was recorded at a six-year low of 3.2 per cent during July 2022-June 2023.

Note

- **LFPR** - Percentage of persons in the labour force who are working or seeking or available for work.
- **WPR** - Percentage of employed persons in the population.
- **UR** - Percentage of persons unemployed among the persons in the labour force.

About Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)

Annual Report

- Launch - April 2017.
- Five Annual Reports have been released so far.

First edition of 'India AI' Report Submitted

- The first edition of 'India AI' Report Submitted by **Seven Working Groups (WGs)** of the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**
- It will serve as India's guiding roadmap for the development of its **Artificial Intelligence (AI) ecosystem**.

Key Recommendations

- **India AI Centres of Excellence (CoEs):** For conducting foundational research, supporting industry academia government collaboration, etc.
- **India Dataset Platform (IDP):** Define roles, responsibilities, etc. for data exchange platform, build technical infrastructure.

- **Institutional Capacity and Design of National Data Management Office (NDMO):** A non-statutory independent agency.

- **India AI Future Design:** Establish a funding mechanism for promising AI Startups

- **India AI Future Skills:** Develop a comprehensive AI curriculum.

- Research fellowships and grants for building research capability in **tier 2-3-4 institutions**.

- **India AI Future Labs Compute:** Establish best-in-class AI compute infrastructure at five locations, with a capacity of 3000 AI Peta flops.

- **Semicon India AI Chipsets:** Design of AI chipsets with High-Performance Computing under Semicon India future Design Linked Incentive Scheme.

Peafowl population has increased: Survey

- **Research on peafowls** are being conducted at the **Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology (SACON)** in Coimbatore.
- The survey sought to address the possible reasons for the population rise and whether conflict has increased.

Key Highlights of the survey

- The population of peafowls has increased exponentially across Tamil Nadu in the last five to 10 years.
- Proliferation of peafowls is due to a drop in the numbers of predators such as jackals as a result of reducing thickets.
- Awareness about the legal protection peafowls enjoy has increased among farmers and narikuravars, who are known to collect and sell peacock feathers, peahen eggs, and oil.

Note

- **The Indian peafowl** (*Pavo cristatus*) is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Amendment Act, 2022.

Developed countries to overshoot carbon emissions goal, says study

- A study published by the **Delhi based think tank Council for Energy Environment and Water (CEEW)** shows that the developed

countries that are responsible for three fourths of existing carbon emissions will end up emitting **38% more carbon in 2030**.

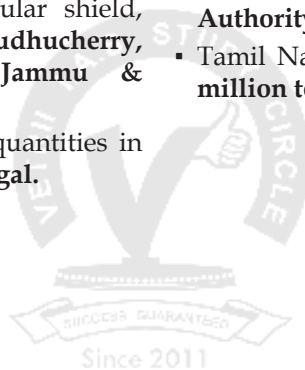
- The study comes ahead of the **28th Conference of Parties (COP28)** of the **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change** to be held in **Dubai**.

Provisional statistics released by Office of Coal Controller, Union Ministry of Coal.

- Tamil Nadu was the largest producer of lignite and produced 22.480 million tonnes (MT) in 2022-23, as per the provisional statistics released by Office of Coal Controller, Union Ministry of Coal.
- **Lignite deposits in India**
 - Primarily located in the southern and western parts of the peninsular shield, particularly in **Tamil Nadu, Pudhucherry, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Jammu & Kashmir**.
 - It is also available in minor quantities in **Odisha, Kerala and West Bengal**.

Key Highlights as per the provisional figures

- The overall production of lignite declined 5.27% to 44,990 MT in 2022-23 from **47,492 MT in 2021-22**.
- Tamil Nadu accounted for 49.97% of the production, followed by Gujarat at 27.37%, and Rajasthan at **22.67%**.
- In terms of despatch of lignite,
 - Tamil Nadu had the **highest share of 24.166 MT or 51.61%**, followed by Gujarat at **26.27%** and Rajasthan at **22.12%**.
 - **Tamil Nadu's lignite production stood at 23.635 MT in 2021 22**, followed by **18.026 MT in 2020-21**.
- Tamil Nadu accounts for **about 82% of India's lignite reserves of 40.9 billion tonnes**, as per the **National Electricity Plan Volume - I: Generation**, notified by the **Central Electricity Authority (CEA)**.
- Tamil Nadu has lignite reserves of **33,309.53 million tonnes**





5. SCIENCE

5.1 SPACE

ISRO gears for abort mission

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation** is planning to commence unmanned flight tests for the Gaganyaan mission.
- It has started to make preparations for the **Flight Test Vehicle Abort Mission1 (TV-D1)**.
- The abort mission is expected to be launched by the end of October from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota.

About TV-D1

- It is a **single stage liquid rocket**.

- The technical infrastructure for Gaganyaan was provided by KCP Ltd.

About Ganganyaan Mission

- **Objective** - To demonstrate the capability to launch human beings (three crew members) to low earth orbit of 400 km and bring them back safely to earth by landing them in either the Bay of Bengal or the Arabian Sea.
- Four pilots are undergoing training at the Astronaut Training Facility in Bengaluru.

5.2 NEW SCIENTIFIC LABORATORIES/ OBSERVATORIES/ CENTRES

India's first Robotic Process Automation (RPA) Lab

- India's first Robotic Process Automation (RPA) Lab under the Future Skill PRIME Project was launched in NIELIT Gorakhpur.
- It is funded by MeitY with an objective to upskill/reskill manpower in emerging technology of RPA.

About Future Skills Prime

- **Launch** - 2018
- A joint initiative by National Association of Software and Service Companies

(NASSCOM) and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. MeitY

- **Aim** - To make India a Digital Talent Nation.

Note

- **Robotic process automation (RPA), also known as software robotics**, uses intelligent automation technologies to perform repetitive office tasks of human workers.

5.3 LATEST DISCOVERIES IN HEALTH SCIENCE

Gaganyaan test flight successful

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has successfully completed its first test flight to demonstrate a crew escape system for the Gaganyaan mission.
- It was lifted off from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre**.
- The **Test Vehicle Abort Mission 1 (TV-D1) flight** was meant to simulate an abort situation, and demonstrate the system to safely carry the crew module out of the vehicle in case of emergencies.

About TV-D1

- It is a **single stage liquid rocket**.
- The payloads consist of the **CM and crew escape systems (CES), CM fairing (CMF)** and interface adapters.
- The technical infrastructure for **Gaganyaan** was provided by **KCP Ltd**.

About Gaganyaan Mission

- **Objective** - To demonstrate the capability to launch human beings (three crew members) to low earth orbit of 400 km and bring them back safely to earth by landing them in either the Bay of Bengal or the Arabian Sea.
- Four pilots are undergoing training at the **Astronaut Training Facility in Bengaluru**.

“DNA and face matching” systems to be launched under Criminal Procedure Identification Act , 2022

- The Centre is planning to launch the **“DNA and face matching”** systems at 1,300 police stations across India under the provisions of Criminal Procedure Identification Act
- Prisoners Act, 1920 was passed by Parliament in April 2022. The Act replaced the 100 year old Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920.
- The law enables the police and the Central investigating agencies to collect, store, and

analyse physical and biological samples, including retina and iris scans of arrested persons.

- The **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** was assigned the task of finalising the standard operating procedures (SOP) for police officials
- NCRB is tasked with rolling out the Act.
- **National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS)**
- It is database of fingerprint details.
- It is a unique 10 digit number of accused and convicts, across the country.
- This database is also being integrated with the Criminal Procedure Identification Act, 2022.

About NCRB

- **Formation** - 11 March 1986
- **Headquarters** - New Delhi
- **Director** - Vivek Gogia

5G services in India

- Within a year of the **introduction of 5G technology**, 4 lakh 5G hotspots were set up across the country and rolled out in **97 percent of cities covering 80 percent of the population**. Since then, mobile broadband speeds have tripled within a year.
- With this, **India moved up from 118th position to 43rd position in terms of broadband speed**.
- It has also become the **second largest producer of mobile phones in the world**.
- Today, India exports electronics worth **Rs.2 lakh crore annually**.

Note

- While **Samsung Fold-5** is already manufacturing handsets and **Apple iPhone-15** is already manufacturing in India. Google has now announced that it will manufacture its ‘Pixel’ handsets in India



6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENT

AFSPA extended in 4 districts of Assam

- The Assam government had extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act has been extended in four districts of Assam for six more months.
- The AFSPA was first imposed in Assam in November 1990.

About Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), 1958

- First came into effect in 1958 to deal with the uprising in the Naga.
- Section (3) of the AFSPA Act empowers the governor of the state or Administrator of Union territory to issue an official notification.

About Assam

- Capital - Dispur
- Chief Minister - Himanta Biswa Sarma
- Governor - Gulab Chand Kataria

Tawang Marathon – First ever high altitude marathon in the NE region.

- The event was held at more than 10,000ft above mean sea level.
- It is first-ever high-altitude marathon in the north-eastern region.
- It was jointly organised by the Indian Army and the Arunachal Pradesh government in consultation with and support from CYRUNS Sport LLP, a professional sports event management firm.
- The event comprised the Full Marathon (42.195 km), Half Marathon (21.0975 km) and 10 or 5 km races.
- Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu completed the 5km circuit.

About Arunachal Pradesh

- Capital - Itanagar (Executive Branch)
- Chief minister - Pema Khandu
- Governor - Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik

Setting up of National Turmeric Board, tribal university in Telangana

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced the setting up of a National Turmeric Board in Telangana and also ₹900 crore Sammakka-Sarakka Central Tribal University in Mulug.
- The Turmeric Board will be great boost for the farmers of the area as it will be provide necessary infrastructure support, value addition, research facility and help in exports in a professional manner

About Telangana

- Capital - Hyderabad
- Formation - 2 June 2014
- Chief Minister - K. Chandrashekar Rao
- Governor - Tamilisai Soundararajan

India's first Solar Roof Cycling Track in Hyderabad

- The state municipal administration and Urban Development Minister K. T. Rama Rao inaugurated the 23-kilometer cycle track fitted with solar panels, known as the Healthway Cycling Track in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- Around 16,000 solar panels have been installed to generate 16 megawatts (MW) of power, which can power 32,000 streetlights or illuminate 800 kilometers of city streets.
- The installed solar panels will be used to illuminate the track at night and protect cyclists from the sun, rain, and other weather conditions.
- This was also the world's second solar roof-covered cycle track due to its exceptional design.

About Telangana

- Governor - Tamilisai Soundararajan
- Chief Minister - K. Chandrashekar Rao
- Capital - Hyderabad

107 MPs, MLAs have hate speech cases pending

- As many as 107 MPs and MLAs of the country have cases pending against them for hate speech and the number of such cases in the last 5 years is that 480 candidates have contested the elections with background by the Organization for Democratic Reforms (ADR) has informed.

About hate speech

- According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the number of cases registered for promoting hate speech and enmity in society has increased tremendously.
- While only 323 cases were registered in 2014, it has increased to 1,804 cases in 2020.
- Section 295(A) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) makes any speech, writing or sign "with premeditated and malicious intent" to insult the religion or religious beliefs of citizens punishable with fine and imprisonment for up to three years.

Ramji Lal Modi Case (1957):

- In this case a five-judge bench of the Supreme Court upheld the legality of Article 295(A).
- The Supreme Court reasoned that Article 19 (2) permits reasonable limitations on freedom of speech and expression in the interest of public order.

GST Council affirms 28% tax on online betting from October 1

- The 52nd GST Council met under the Chairpersonship of Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi.
- 18 States had passed the necessary changes to their GST laws through ordinances or amendments to make the 28% gaming levy.

Key Recommendations

- Recommendations relating to GST rates on goods and services
- GST rates were modified on "Food preparation of millet flour in powder form, containing at least 70% millets by weight.
 - 0% if sold in other than pre-packaged and labelled form

- 5% if sold in pre-packaged and labelled form.

- Reduce GST on molasses from 28% to 5%.
- To keep Extra Neutral Alcohol (ENA) used for manufacture of alcoholic liquor for human consumption outside GST.
- Retain the existing exemption entries in services with no change.
- Exempt services of water supply, public health, sanitation conservancy, solid waste management and slum improvement and upgradation supplied to Governmental Authorities.

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%

About GST Council

- Joint forum of the Centre and the States
- Constituted under Article 279A
- Chairperson - Union Finance Minister.
- GST Council Secretariat - New Delhi
- Ex-officio Secretary to the GST Council - Secretary (Revenue)

Navy forms new appraisal mechanism for its officers

- The Indian Navy has institutionalised a new 'transformative initiative' of '360 Degree Appraisal Mechanism' for promotion of officers in which they will be rated by their juniors too.

- This step is a first for defence forces in the country.
- It is aimed to address the short fall in the present assessments by encompassing large scale surveys from suitably identified peers and subordinates for every officer being considered for promotion.

About Indian Navy

- Formation - 26 January 1950
- Headquarters - New Delhi.
- Navy Day - December 4

8 products get GI Tag

- The Intellectual Property of India (IPI) conferred Geographical Indication (GI) tags to a collective of 8 distinct products.

GI Tagged Products are

Arunachal Pradesh

- Yak Churpi
- Khaw Tai" (Khamti Rice)
- Tangsa Textile Product

Tamil Nadu

- Udangudi Panangkarupatti

Jammu and Kashmir

- Basohli Pashmina Woolen Products
- Udampur Kaladi

Odisha

- Kendrapara Rasabali

Goa

- Goa Cashew

About Udangudi Panangkarupatti'

- It is also referred to as **palm jaggery**.
- It is prepared using the palm sap collected from the inflorescence of palmyra trees.
- It grows on the red sand dunes in and around the **Tiruchendur region**, such as **Srivaikuntam, Thoothukudi, Eral, Sathankulam, and Tiruchendur taluks**.

Other GI Products from Thoothukudi

- Kovilpatti Kadalaimittai
- Authoor Vetrillai

'Operation Ajay' to evacuate Indians from Israel

- India has launched **Operation Ajay** to facilitate the return of citizens from Israel as the conflict between **Israel and Hamas** escalates.
- There are 18,000 Indians in Israel.

Note

- **Operation Ajay** will be the second evacuation in 2023, after **Operation Kaveri** that brought back several thousand Indian citizens from conflict torn Sudan in April May in 2023.
- **Hamas** - Sunni Islamist political and militant organization currently governing the Gaza Strip of the Palestinian territories.

About Israel

- Capital - Jerusalem
- Official Language - Modern Hebrew
- Prime Minister - Benjamin Netanyahu.

IRDAI issued Bima Vahak guidelines (BHG)

- IRDAI recently released the **Bima Vahak guidelines (BHG)** to establish women centric distribution channel that focuses on enhancing insurance inclusion and awareness in every village.
- It also aims to improve the accessibility and availability of insurance in every nook and corner of the country.
- It facilitates filling proposal forms, facilitating KYC process for customers, issuance of insurance policies, etc.
- It is a part of IRDAI's strategy to achieve its '**Insurance for All goal**'.

About IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India)

- Statutory body under the jurisdiction of **Ministry of Finance**.
- Constituted by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.
- Formation - 1999
- Chairperson - Debasish Panda
- Headquarters - Hyderabad.

Fourth G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) Meeting

- The **G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting** under the Indian Presidency was held during **12-13 October 2023 in Marrakech, Morocco**.
- The meeting was organised in two sessions covering the global economy, strengthening MDBs and crypto assets.
- The G20 Finance Track **saw key achievements in several areas, including –**
- Strengthening MDBs to address the shared global challenges of the 21st century;
- Advancing Financial Inclusion and Productivity Gains through Digital Public Infrastructure;
- Crypto Assets Agenda.
- Managing global debt vulnerabilities;
- Financing cities of tomorrow;
- Enhancing tax transparency and capacity-building, as well as advancing the work on the two-pillar solution for addressing the tax challenges arising from the digitalisation of the economy; and
- Mobilising climate finance and enabling finance for Sustainable Development Goals.

About G 20

- **Formation** - 26 September 1999
- **Headquarters** New Delhi (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"

Web Portal with Statistical Data of Chemical Sector

- The **Union government launched a web portal** providing statistical data related to the chemical sector for the benefit of all stakeholders.
- The portal **www.charak.chemicals.gov.in** will facilitate the collection of statistics related to various aspects of the chemical sector, such as

production, installed capacity, export, import, purchases and sales.

- It was developed by Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals along with the National Informatics Center (NIC).

About National Informatics Centre

- Works under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- **Formation** – 1976
- **Headquarters** - New Delhi
- **Director General** - Shri Rajesh Gera

Agreement for OVEP in India

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) with the Olympic Museum along with Reliance Foundation signed a new cooperation agreement to expand and promote the Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP) in India.

About OVEP Initiative

- Initiative of International Olympic Committee (IOC).
- **Objective** – To introduce young people to the Olympic values of excellence, respect and friendship.
- First launched in Odisha in collaboration with the Abhinav Bindra Foundation Trust (ABFT)

About International Olympic Committee

- **Formation** - 23 June 1894.
- **Headquarters** - Lausanne, Switzerland
- **President** - Thomas Bach

Centre seeks inclusion of traditional medicine on WHO's list

- The Union government has sought the inclusion of Ayurveda and related systems in the 11th revision of the World Health Organization's International Classification of Diseases (ICD).
- The move is meant to put the Indian system of medicine on the world map and provide it with a common standardised language.
- **ICD:** It provides a common language that allows health professionals to share standardised information across the world.

- Measures to develop Ayurveda in India
- Traditional Medicine module of the 11th revision:** It provides a list of diagnosis categories to collect and report on medicine conditions in a standardised and internationally comparable manner.
- National Ayush Morbidity and Standardised Terminologies Electronic portal (NAMSTE):** Provides Standardized Terminologies & Morbidity Codes for Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani systems of medicine.
- Ayush Health Information Management System:** Comprehensive IT platform to effectively manage all functions of health care delivery systems and patient care in Ayush facilities.

About WHO

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

First Ship Berths at Kerala's Deep Sea Vizhinjam Port

- The first ship arrived at the newly built Vizhinjam port. The ship was carrying cranes from China.
- Vizhinjam Port was built under a **Public Private Partnership (PPP) model** with Adani Ports Private Limited at **Vizhinjam near Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.**

About Kerala

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

India's 1st Women-centric Police Station to get ISO Certification

- The Mahila Thana is India's first women-centric police station to be certified with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9001:2015 certificate.
- It is located in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

Note

- ISO Certification specifies the requirement of an ideal Quality Management System (QMS).

- The certification is issued for three years.

About ISO

- Formation** - 23 February 1947.
- Non-governmental organization** with membership of about 160 countries.
- Objective** - International standards development
- Headquarters** - Geneva, Switzerland

Centre issues guidelines to set up 822 selfie points

- The Ministry of Defence (MoD)** has issued detailed guidelines to all its departments for the development of selfie points to showcase good works done or being done.
- The guidelines suggest that to showcase the growth in innovation, digital selfie points, displaying artificial intelligence techniques may also be installed to attract the youth.
- The suggested locations include war memorials, defence museums, railway, metro and bus stations, schools, colleges, tourist destinations and festival gatherings.
- Themes for the selfie points which include **Aatmanirbhar Bharat (DPSUs & three services), Sashaktikaran (three services), R&D and Innovation (DRDO & DDP), Nari Shakti (three services) etc.**

Global Maritime India summit 2023

- The third edition of **Global Maritime India Summit 2023** was organised by the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways in Mumbai.**
- The summit provides platform for attracting investment in the country's maritime sector.

Key highlights

- Amrit Kaal Vision 2047:** Blueprint for the Indian maritime blue economy was unveiled.
- Foundation stone for **Tuna Tekra Deep Draft Terminal at Deendayal Port Authority, Gujarat.**
- It will act as a gateway for Indian trade via the **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC)**

Note

- India's first ever maritime summit - 2016**

One Nation, One Student ID' for school students

- The **Union Education Ministry** recently notified the states to initiate the enrolment process for **One Nation, One Student ID**.
- This new initiative is named as **Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR)**.
- It will be a life-long ID that will track students' achievements and academic journeys across the country.

About APAAR

- It is an **Education Ecosystem Registry** or an 'EduLocker'.
- Introduced as part of the **National Education Policy (NEP) of 2020**.
- **Aim** - To create unique ID numbers for school students across India.

9th G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20)

- The **9th G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20)** was held at **Yashobhoomi** at **Dwarka, New Delhi**.
- The **first P20 summit** hosted by India in cooperation with the **Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)** under the broader framework of India's G20 Presidency.

About Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

- **Formation** – 1889
- **Global organization of national parliaments**
- **Objective** - To promote peace, democracy, and sustainable development around the world.
- **President** – Duarte Pacheco
- **Headquarters** – Geneva, Switzerland
- **Members** – 179 Members and 14 Associate Members

About G 20

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

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

India's first Nammo Bharat train

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the **country's first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS)** named as the **Nammo Bharat train**.
- RRTS connects **Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut**
- A total of eight RRTS corridors have been identified for development in the **National Capital Region**

About RRTS

- The RRTS is a new rail-based, semi-high-speed, high-frequency commuter transit system.
- **Speed** - 180 kmph.
- **Objective** – To provide a regional development initiative. It is designed to provide high-speed trains for intercity commuting every 15 minutes.

Star rating energy efficiency scheme for solar panels

- The **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** has expanded the **Standards & Labelling Programme (S&L)** for solar panels.
- The rating of solar panels through star labels indicate quality and energy efficiency.
- It will be voluntary for the first two years from **January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2025**
- A panel with efficiency of 17% to 18% will be rated 1star, 18% to 20% 2star and will be rated 5star for efficiency greater than 22%.

About S&L Programme

- **Launch** – May 2006
- **Launched by** – Ministry of Power
- **Objective** - To help consumers make an informed choice about various energy-consuming appliances, in terms of energy savings
- Rated for 29 appliances/equipments (Solar panel was added recently)

About BEE

- **Formation** - March 1, 2002
- Constituted by **Energy Conservation Act, 2001**
- Functions under **Ministry of Power**
- **Objective** - To develop programs which will

increase the conservation and efficient use of energy in India

Website of "Kasturi Cotton Bharat" launched

- **Union Minister of Textile, Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs and Food & Public Distribution** launched the website <https://kasturicotton.texprocil.org> of **Kasturi Cotton Bharat**.
- The website provide a **digital platform** for necessary information and updates on this initiatives.
- It highlights the registration process for ginners to produce Kasturi Cotton Bharat Brand and its processes that make the branded Indian cotton unique.

About the Kasturi Cotton Bharat

- **Launch** - October 7, 2023
- It is a **joint initiative** by the **Ministry of Textiles, the Cotton Corporation of India, Trade Bodies & Industry**.
- **Objective**
 - To work on the principle of self-regulation by owning complete responsibility of Branding, Traceability and Certification of Indian Cotton.
 - To enhance competitiveness of Indian Cotton in the global market and create a sustainable ecosystem for all stakeholders involved.

Note

- **World Cotton Day** - October 7.

First Agniveer to get killed in line of duty

- **Gawate Akshay Laxman** has become the **first Agniveer** to be killed in the line of duty since the Agnipath scheme for the recruitment of soldiers was introduced.
- He was deployed at the **Siachen glacier** which was the world's highest battlefield.

About Agnipath Scheme

- **Launch** - 14 June 2022
- The government has unveiled Agnipath scheme for recruiting soldiers in Armed forces across the Three services (Army, Navy and

Airforce) for a period of four years.

- After four years, 25% of the batch will be recruited back into their respective services, for a **period of 15 years**.
- **Age criteria - between 17.5 years and 23 years**.
- The recruits do not enjoy pension benefits.

First woman Director General of Army Medical Services

- Air Marshal Sadhana Saxena Nair was appointed as the Director General of Army Medical Services.
- She became the first woman to hold the post.
- She is also the second woman officer to be promoted to the rank of Air Marshal in continuous service in the Air Force.

Note

- Padma Bandho Padhyaya was the first woman to be promoted to the rank of Air Marshal in the Air Force.

Nano DAP plant of IFFCO

- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the newly built nano DAP (di-ammonium phosphate) plant of IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited) in Kalol, Gujarat.
- This is the second such IFFCO plant in Gujarat.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the world's first IFFCO's nano urea plant in May, 2022.

About Nano Urea

- It is urea in the form of a nanoparticle.
- It is a nutrient (liquid) to provide nitrogen to plants as an alternative to the conventional urea.
- Developed and patented by the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO).
- IFFCO Nano Urea is the only nano fertilizer approved by the Government of India and included in the Fertilizer Control Order (FCO).

About IFFCO

- India's largest multi-state cooperative society that is entirely owned by Indian cooperatives.
- It is primarily engaged in the production and distribution of fertilizers.

- **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India

Food labels to have QR code to help the visually disabled

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) have recommended the use of quick response (QR) codes on food products for accessibility by persons with visual disabilities.
- This would ensure access to safe food for all.
- The FSSAI under its Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020 has comprehensively outlined the information to be included on the labels of food products which includes:
 - Product name
 - Shelf life
 - Nutrition facts
 - Vegetarian/non vegetarian logos
 - Ingredient lists
 - Allergen warnings
 - Other product specific labelling requirements.

About FSSAI

- **Formation** - 5 September 2008
- **Headquarters** - New Delhi
- Functions under **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- Statutory body established under the **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006**.
- **Aim** - Responsible for protecting and promoting public health through the regulation and supervision of food safety.

Centre approves ₹22,303 cr subsidy on key fertilizers

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, has approved the proposal of the Department of Fertilizers for fixing the **nutrient based subsidy (NBS)** rates for the rabi season of 2023-24 (from October 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024) on phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilizers
- The government announced a ₹22,303 crore subsidy on P&K fertilizers for the current rabi season.

- It also announced that the farmers will continue to get key soil **nutrient DAP (diammonium phosphate)** at the old rate of ₹1,350 a bag (50 kg).

Note

- **PM-PRANAM** scheme was first announced in the **2023-24 budget**
- It is aimed at **restoring and nurturing** Mother Earth through the **use of biofertilizers**.

Maritime Economy of India

- **Maritime business** plays a major role in the economic development of our country.
- About **95 per cent of the country's trade in volume and 65 per cent in value** takes place through maritime transport.
- With **40 lakh fishermen, India is the second largest producer of fisheries** in the world. There are 2.50 lakh fishing boats here.
- Maritime Projects of India
 - Samudrayan Project
 - It is India's first unique **manned marine mission** as part of a Rs 6,000-crore deep-sea initiative.
 - The vehicle 'Matsya 6000' is intended to send **three crew members to a depth of 6000 meters to explore deep-sea resources** such as minerals.

Sagarmala Project

- The Union Cabinet approved the **Sagarmala Project in 2015**, which aims at comprehensive **port infrastructure development** through modernisation, mechanization and computerisation.

Karnataka launches 'HAWK' centralized wildlife crime management system

- **Hostile Activity Watch Kernel (HAWK) system** was **jointly** launched by the **Karnataka Forest Department and Wildlife Trust of India (WTI)**.
- HAWK is a specialised software platform to monitor all aspects of forest and wildlife crime.
- The initiative is supported by NTT DATA, an Information technology (IT) services provider, under its **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme**.

- The HAWK system would help the department monitor activities such as the death of wildlife, suspected criminal activities, and the movement of suspicious vehicles.

Note

- The system was **first launched in Kerala in 2021**.

Indigenous ATMAS inaugurated at Biju Patnaik Airport, Odisha

- The Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) in Bhubaneswar, Odisha adopted the indigenously built advanced air traffic management automation system (ATMAS)
- The ATMAS was jointly developed by Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).
- ATMAS provides enhanced safety and efficiency in flight handling.

Note

- The MoU for the joint development of the indigenous ATMAS was signed between AAI and BEL during Wings India-2022 in Hyderabad in 2022.

About Odisha

- Capital - Bhubaneswar
- Chief minister - Naveen Patnaik
- Governor - Raghubar Das

Vision India 2047 document to be released

- The government is in the midst of finalising a national vision plan to make India a developed nation by 2047.
- It ensures that the country does not slip into a middle income trap that several countries have fallen into at similar stages of development.
- The Vision Plan includes an outline of reforms and outcomes to be achieved by 2030, along with structural changes in governance that will be critical to make India a \$30trillion economy by 2047, with a per capita income of \$18,000 - \$20,000.

- NITI Aayog is consolidating ten sectoral thematic visions into one 'Viksit Bharat @ 2047' document.

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

PMMVY Portal and Mobile App launched

- A new PMMVY Portal (PMMVYsoft MIS) was launched
- The portal provides 'online and face authentication technology' for proper verification of eligible beneficiaries and ensures smooth fund transfers through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

About Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)

- A conditional cash transfer scheme for **Pregnant Women & Lactating Mothers (PW&LM)**.
- **Launch** - 2017
- In 2022, it was revised as **PMMVY 2.0**

About PMMVY 2.0

- **Ministry:** Minister of Women and Child Development
- **Objectives:** To provide financial incentives to compensate for wage loss during pregnancy, enabling women to rest adequately before and after childbirth.



7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

America's tallest Ambedkar statue to be unveiled on October 14

- The tallest 19 feet statue of Ambedkar outside India will be unveiled on **October 14 in Maryland, USA.**
- A 19-foot full-length statue of Ambedkar named '**Statue of Equality**' has been installed in **Ambedkar International Center (AIC)** which is being built in an area of 13 acres in Accokeek, Maryland, USA to honor the memory of Ambedkar who was the head of the Constitution Drafting Committee in the Constituent Assembly.
- The statue will be unveiled on **October 14, the day Ambedkar converted to Buddhism.**
- This statue is designed by famous sculptor Ram Sudhar. It is noteworthy that he designed the statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, known as the 'Statue of Unity', installed on the banks of the Narmada River in Gujarat.

About Ambedkar

- **Born in 1891 in the state of Maharashtra, B.R.** Ambedkar played a major role in shaping Indian politics.
- Served as **Union Minister of Law and Justice** in Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's first cabinet.
- Ambedkar led various social movements to protect the rights of oppressed people.

Global Declaration of River Dolphins by 2030

- Global Declaration of River Dolphins by 2030 was adopted by River dolphin range states namely Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Colombia, Ecuador, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru and Venezuela.
- River Dolphins are top predators in some of the world's greatest river systems and important indicators of river's health.

Science & Technology Clusters (STCs)

- The Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India chaired the first joint meeting of STC.

About STCs

- Launch - 2020
- Flagship initiative of the Office of the PSA.
- Aim - To establish as formal umbrella structures for S&T organizations in various cities for better synergy while retaining autonomy.
- The Office of the PSA was placed under the Cabinet Secretariat in August 2018.



8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

Excavations at Pudukottai, Ariyalur to continue

- Archaeological excavations carried out by the State Archaeological Department at **Gangaikondacholapuram in Ariyalur district** and **Porpanaikottai in Pudukottai district** are set to continue for at least another month in the present excavation season.
- The excavation season normally ends by **September**, ahead of the northeast monsoon.

Gangaikondacholapuram

- It is in the phase of third season at present.
- Archaeologists have excavated beyond Maligaimedu in Gangaikondacholapuram this season to the adjacent Ulkottai. It lead to the unearthing of a huge stone pillar, a remnant of
- Chola era palace.
- Excavations at Maligaimedu yielded more brick structures that are believed to be the part of a Cholaperiod palace, besides artefacts.

Porpanaikottai

- The Porpanaikottai site is being explored for the first time.
- A Sangam Age Fort is believed to have existed in the site.
- A three course brick structure was unearthed.

Central railway station awarded platinum shield for energy conservation

- The Dr.MGR Chennai Central Railway Station has been awarded the platinum certificate by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) for developing the railway station into a net zero energy building
- Central station was the **first station in the zone** to install rooftop solar plant of **1.80 megawatt**

(MW).

About IGBC

- **India's Premier certification** body, part of the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** (a non-governmental trade association)
- **Formation** - 2022
- **Vision** - To enable a sustainable built environment for all and facilitate India to be one of the global leaders in the sustainable built environment by 2025.

Gram Sabha Meeting

- The gram sabha meetings in village panchayats held across Tamil Nadu on October 2.
- Chief Minister M K Stalin makes opening remarks for the event, virtually, while ministers would take part in districts.
- The government has aiming at inclusive, accountable and public-centric local administration.

Theme - 'Everything for Everyone'.

- The meetings are held six times a year in Tamil Nadu, which had so far been held on four days.
 - Republic Day (January 26)
 - Labour Day (May 1)
 - Independence Day (August 15)
 - Birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi (October 2)
 - World Water Day (March 22)
 - Local Governance Day (November 1)

Govt. to take up 788 projects in constituencies

- The Tamil Nadu government decided to take up 788 different projects in 234 constituencies under the 'Chief Minister in your constituency' initiative, at a total cost of `11,239 crore, in 2023-24.
- The district level committees, which

included the Collectors and the MLAs, had recommended a total of 1,896 projects.

- A committee, headed by Chief Secretary Shiv Das Meena to select the projects.

About Chief Minister in your constituency' initiative

- **Launch** – 2022
- **Objective** - All 234 legislators should furnish a list of 10 long pending projects in their constituencies to the Collectors of their districts.

High speed passenger ferry service inaugurated

- The high speed passenger ferry service between **Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu and Kankesanthurai in Sri Lanka's Northern Province** resumed on October 10 after a gap of nearly four decades.
- The **High-Speed Craft (HSC) Cheriya Pani** is owned by the **Shipping Corporation of India (SCI)**.
- The IAF unveiled its new Ensign to mark the 91st anniversary.

Note

- **Nagapattinam** is a non major port located on the shores of the **Bay of Bengal** at the estuary of the River Kaduvaiyar, which flows south of the town **between Akkaraipettai and Keechankuppam villages**.

About Sri Lanka

- Capitals - Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
- Currency - Sri Lankan Rupee
- President - Ranil Wickremesinghe

State's total revenue receipts increase

- As per the provisional figures from the **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)**, Tamil Nadu's total revenue receipts increased marginally to ₹92,967.33 crore in 2023-24 (till August) from ₹91,812.08 crore in the same period in 2022-23.
- The total revenue receipts was projected to be ₹2,70,515.23 crore in the State Budget for **2023-24** and the State have reached 34.37% of the target so far.

▪ The State's revenue expenditure stood at ₹1,10,582.31 crore in **2023-24 (till August)**.

▪ The fiscal deficit stood at ₹33,142.75 crore till August in **2023-24**.

Note

▪ Tamil Nadu plans to borrow ₹18,000 crore in the third quarter (October - December) of 2023-24, as per the Indicative Calendar of Market borrowings by State Governments released by the Reserve Bank of India.

Note

- **Revenue deficit** = Revenue Expense – Revenue Receipts
- **Fiscal deficit** = Total expenditure - Total receipts (excluding borrowings)

Rs.50 crore deposit fund for sanitation workers

▪ The Tamil Nadu government will allot Rs 50 crore for the welfare of sanitary workers under the **Sanitary Workers Development Scheme**.

About Sanitation Worker Development Programme

- **Launch** – December 9, 2022 in Madurai
- **Objective** – To provide various welfare schemes to sanitation workers and their families working in urban local bodies.
- All key sanitation workers will be registered with the **Tamil Nadu Sanitation Workers Welfare Board**.

Panel formed to 'monitor and curb' unauthorised construction

- The State government has constituted a **high level committee to "curb and monitor"** unauthorized construction in Chennai.
- The committee, headed by Greater Chennai Corporation Commissioner **J. Radhakrishnan**.
- It has been formed by the order of the Madras High Court.
- **The other members of the committee are**
- Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA)
- Member Secretary Anshul Mishra, CMDA Enforcement Cell Chief Planner.
- Joint Director in the Directorate of Town and Country Planning (DTCP).

Scheme to settle commercial tax dues

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced Samadhan Scheme to help traders settle their dues, penalty and interest as the commercial tax dues to the State government reaches ₹25,000 crore.

Key Highlights

- Scheme duration - **October 16, 2023 and February 15, 2024.**
- Different payment options for **five categories** of traders, depending on the size of their dues.
- Traders whose dues are **below ₹50,000** are eligible for a complete waiver.

ISRO's second spaceport to be set up in T.N.

- The **second spaceport of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** will come up in about two years at **Kulasekarapattinam in Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu.**
- It will be dedicated exclusively for **Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLVs).**
- It will be developed and used only by the private sector.
- No ISRO rockets will be launched from this spaceport.

Note

- On the side-lines, the Tamil Nadu government is planning to set up **Space Industrial Park and Propellants Park near Thoothukudi.**
- Kulasekarapattinam** is ideal for launches as there is **no land between that place and Antarctica.**

About ISRO

- Founded - 15 August 1969
- Headquarters - Bengaluru
- Founder - Vikram Sarabhai
- ISRO Chairperson - S. Somanath

Mayiladuthurai district announced as a protected agricultural zone

- The Tamil Nadu Assembly adopted a Bill to make **Mayiladuthurai district** as a **protected agricultural zone.**

- TN Protected Agricultural Zone Development Act, 2020** will be amended to facilitate the move.

Key Highlights

- Protected Agricultural Zone Development Authority will be created under the leadership of the Chief Minister.
- The water resources minister and food minister, water resources secretary, and food secretary have been included as members of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Zone Development Authority.
- The Bill brings **'animal husbandry'** and **'inland fishery'** within the ambit of the term, **'agriculture'**

Note

- Protected Agricultural Zone was created by the **Tamil Nadu Protected Agricultural Zone Development Act, 2020.**
- The zone includes **Thanjavur, Thiruvarur, and Nagapattinam,** certain blocks of **Cuddalore and Pudukottai districts.**

Tanjore Agricultural College to be named after MS Swaminathan

- Chief Minister M.K.Stalin announced that **Agricultural College and Research Institute at Eichangottai, Thanjavur district** will be named after **Dr. MS Swaminathan.**
- It will henceforth be known as **'Dr.MS Swaminathan Agricultural College and Research Institute'.**
- It was also announced that an annual award in the name of Dr. MS Swaminathan will be given to the student who gets the highest marks in the subjects of crop breeding and genetics in Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.

About MS Swaminathan

- Regarded as the **father of India's Green Revolution.**
- Called as **"Father of Economic Ecology"** by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP).
- He coined the term **Evergreen Revolution' in 1990.**

Project Nilgiri Tahr launched

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin launched the 'Project Nilgiri Tahr on October 12, 2023 with an outlay of ₹25 crore.
- The project aims to
 - Develop a better understanding of Nilgiri Tahr population
 - Distribution and ecology
 - Reintroduction of Nilgiri Tahr to their historic habitats
 - Addressing proximate threat to Nilgiri Tahr.

About Nilgiri Tahr

- **State animal of TN**
- **Nilgiri 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.

TN Ration Shops Launch Digital Payment Facility

- Tamil Nadu introduced the system of purchasing goods through **digital payment facility**.
- **562 out of 588 Fair Price Shops in Chennai and Ambattur and Avadi Suburbs** have implemented UPI payments to buy ration goods.
- It will be implemented soon in rest of the stores.
- In order to make people understand digital transactions, under the name of '**Mobile Muthamma**', awareness slogans have been put up in ration shops about how to buy goods through mobile without cash.

TN registers India's first case of tilapia parvovirus

- The **first occurrence of tilapia parvovirus (TiPV)** has been reported for the first time in

- India at ponds in **Walajah in Ranipet district**.
- The TiPV affects the farm bred tilapia which is a fresh water fish species.
- It causes a huge mortality rate.

Note

- The TiPV was **first reported in China in 2019 and in Thailand in 2021**.
- India is the third country to report its occurrence.
- Mozambique tilapia is considered as 'a poor man's fish'. It was introduced to Indian fresh water bodies in the 1950s.

AI based alert system for safety of elephants

- **Tamil Nadu's first artificial intelligence (AI)** based early warning system is nearing completion.
- The system aims to prevent wild elephants from getting hit by trains on railway lines along the **Ettimadai - Walayar section, which links Tamil Nadu and Kerala**.
- It provides an additional layer of **protection for elephants**.
- The towers for thermal imaging cameras have been installed in the highly vulnerable 7.05-km stretch of the Ettimadai - Walayar section, passing through Solakkarai reserve forest of Madukkarai range.

Note

- A total of 11 elephants were killed on the two railway lines linking Coimbatore and Palakkad from 2008 to 2022.

Status of Elephants in India

- IUCN Red List: Endangered

CITES: Appendix I

Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule

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

- Karnataka - 6,049
- Assam - 5,719
- Kerala - 3,054

PHCs in Tamil Nadu being ranked

- **Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in Tamil Nadu** are now being ranked based on **20 key indicators** to assess their performance and track their progress over a period of time.
- Tamil Nadu has a total of **2,127 PHCs**.
- It has been done for the first time by the **Directorate of Public Health (DPH) and Preventive Medicine**.
- The ranking include the subcategories of **upgraded PHCs, additional PHCs, urban PHCs and those located in hilly areas**.
- The exercise will be done on a **monthly basis**.
- The indicators enlisted for the ranking criteria include
 - Average outpatients/day/medical officer in position
 - Inpatient/month for the institution
 - Deliveries conducted per month
 - Sterilisation performed/month/functional operation theatres
 - Average laboratory

About Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine

- 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.

TN forms committee to resolve long pending land issues at Tamil Nadu Housing Board

- The Tamil Nadu government has constituted a **five member special committee** headed by the **Commissioner of Land Administration (CLA)** to resolve long pending land related issues and grievances at the **Tamil Nadu Housing Board**

(TNHB).

- The committee will also look into devising action plans to address issues, including encroachments on TNHB acquired lands, pattas issued to individuals for lands belonging to TNHB, and filing of appeals in court cases where TNHB's land acquisition proceedings were quashed without the board being a party to those cases.

About Tamil Nadu Housing Board

- **Formation** - 1961
- **Objective** - to cope up with the increasing demand in housing sector all over the state due to urban growth leading to migration to urban areas in search of employment opportunities.

Tamil Nadu Kasanoi Erappila Thittam (TN-KET)

- Under the scheme **Tamil Nadu Kasanoi Erappila Thittam**, meaning **TB death-free project (TN-KET)** the Tamil Nadu TB Cell with the help of volunteers provided food baskets containing a recommended portion of high protein food to **approximately 38,235 patients** across the State so far.
- The Tamil Nadu government has prioritised the nutritional status of patients diagnosed with tuberculosis (TB) and identified as severely ill and undernourished under the scheme.

About TN-KET

- **Launch** - April 2022
- It aims to **reduce the mortality rate** among people with tuberculosis.
- **Differentiated TB Care'** is the important feature of the initiative which aims at assessing whether people with TB need ambulatory care or admission in a health facility to manage severe illness at the time of diagnosis.

Note

- **Nikshay Poshan Yojna** aims to support every **Tuberculosis (TB) Patient** by providing a **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** of **Rs 500 per month for nutritional needs**.

Chennai ranked 1st amongst safest metro cities in India

- Chennai has been ranked the **safest metro city**

in the Country, according to a crowd-sourced online database, Numbeo.

- However, **Chennai holds the global rank of 127.**
- Other metropolitan Cities in India are ranked much behind **Chennai - Mumbai (161), Kolkata (174) and New Delhi (263)**
- The study was conducted based on the safest environment for women job goers and other factors.

'Health Walk' initiative to be launched

- Tamil Nadu Health department will launch the eight kilometre long **'Health Walk' initiative** in a stretch in Chennai and 37 districts from November 4.
- The walking track will have its **start and end point at Dr. Muthulakshmi Park in Adyar.**
- The initiative was inspired by an **eight km walking track Health Minister Ma. Subramanian** had come across during an **official visit to Tokyo, Japan.**
- The objective of the initiative was to highlight the importance of walking daily among the public
- Walking for **eight kilometres everyday equals 10,000 steps** which is advisable for good health.
- On **every first Sunday of the month**, health officers will organise medical camps in these health walk stretches to **check for blood sugar and blood pressure levels.**

Note

- **Post COVID-19**, the incidence of heart attacks has increased in people **between the ages of 40 and 50.** This scheme helps the public in managing such incidence of heart attacks.

TN releases handbook on antimicrobial therapy

- Health Minister Ma. Subramanian released the **Tamil Nadu Compendium of Case Reports and Guidance to Antimicrobial Therapy.**
- It would **help all doctors and medical students in knowing the challenges in treating infectious diseases** and providing appropriate treatment.

Other Initiatives

- The Directorate of Medical Education was renamed as **Directorate of Medical Education and Research** to encourage medical research.
- The Minister launched the **new logo of the Directorate of Medical Education and Research.**
- The Minister also released a list of district hospitals for post graduate (PG) medical students to take up the District Residency Programme (DRP).

Draft poll rolls put number of T.N. voters at 6.11 crore

- **The Election Commission of India (ECI)** published the integrated draft electoral rolls of Tamil Nadu Recently.
- According to that, the **electorate stands at over 6.11 crore.**
- The total electorate includes 3,10,54,571 women, 3,00,68,610 men and 8,016 of the third gender.
- **The Sholinganallur Assembly constituency in Chengalpattu district has the highest number of voters in the State with 6,52,065** including 3,25,279 women and 110 from the third gender.
- **Kilvelur in Nagapattinam district has the lowest number of voters with 1,69,030** including 85,591 women and three of the third gender.
- The integrated draft rolls have been published in all the districts in the designated locations (mostly polling booths which are school buildings) and hosted in <https://www.elections.tn.gov.in>
- Special campaigns would be conducted on November 4, 5, 18 and 19 at the designated locations (generally the polling booths).
- Forms for inclusion/deletion/linking of Aadhaar with EPIC/modification/transposition of entries in the electoral rolls would be available at these locations.

Note

- **Chief Electoral Officer of Tamil Nadu - Satyabrata Sahoo**