

# VETRI IAS STUDY CIRCLE

## Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

**APRIL 2024 - PART 1**



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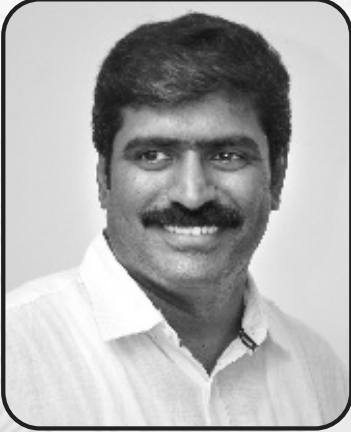
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# Preface



**M. SHUNMUGAM**

Director

Vetrii IAS Study Circle.

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My Dear Aspirants,

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

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

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

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

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

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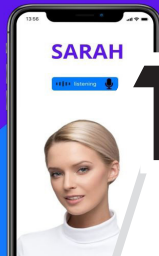
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# 1. HISTORY



## 1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
<b>April 1</b>	<b>RBI Foundation Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) completed <b>90 years on April 1, 2024</b>.</li><li>▪ RBI was established on <b>April 1, 1935</b>.</li><li>▪ First Governor - <b>Sir Osborne Smith</b>.</li></ul>
<b>April 2</b>	<b>World Autism Awareness Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Every year <b>April 2</b> is observed as <b>World Autism Awareness Day</b> to raise awareness about autism among the general public.</li><li>▪ The day was first observed by <b>United Nations in 2007</b>.</li><li>▪ Theme 2024: '<b>Empowering Autistic Voices</b>'</li></ul>
<b>April 3</b>	<b>International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The <b>International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action</b> is observed every year on <b>April 4</b> to raise public attention towards mine action activities.</li><li>▪ The day was first observed in <b>2006</b>.</li><li>▪ The day is observed mainly by <b>United Nations Mine Action Service (UNAMS)</b>.</li><li>▪ UNAMS was established in <b>1997</b>.</li></ul>
<b>April 5</b>	<b>National Maritime Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ National Maritime Day is celebrated on <b>5 April</b> every year in India to raise awareness about the international economy and promote maritime trade.</li><li>▪ The day was first observed on <b>5 April 1964</b>.</li><li>▪ <b>Theme 2024:</b> "Navigating the future: safety first!"</li></ul>

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
<b>April 6</b>	<b>International Day of Sport for Development and Peace</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The <b>International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP)</b> is observed annually on <b>April 6</b>.</li> <li>▪ The day aims to recognize the positive role sport and physical activity play in communities and in people's lives across the globe.</li> <li>▪ <b>Theme 2024: "Sport for the Promotion of Peaceful and Inclusive Societies"</b>.</li> <li>▪ The day was first observed in <b>2013</b> by the United Nations General Assembly.</li> </ul>
<b>April 7</b>	<b>World Health Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>World Health Day 2024</b> is celebrated every year on <b>April 7</b> to raise awareness around various health issues worldwide.</li> <li>▪ Theme 2024 : '<b>My health, my right</b>'.</li> <li>▪ The day commemorates the <b>founding of the World Health Organisation (WHO)</b></li> <li>▪ The day was first observed in <b>1948</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>April 9</b>	<b>Central Reserve Police Force valor Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This day is celebrated on <b>April 09</b> every year to celebrate the bravery and selfless sacrifice of the <b>Central Police Force (CRPF) soldiers</b>.</li> <li>▪ The day marks the anniversary of the <b>1965 war</b> between the <b>Central Samaj Police Force</b> and the <b>Pakistani Army</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>April 10</b>	<b>World Homeopathy Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>World Homeopathy Day</b> is observed every year on <b>April 10</b> to mark the birth anniversary of <b>Dr. Samuel Hahnemann</b>.</li> <li>▪ He is the <b>founder of homeopathy</b>.</li> <li>▪ <b>Theme 2024:</b> 'Empowering Research, Enhancing Proficiency: A Homeopathy Symposium'.</li> </ul>
<b>April 11</b>	<b>World Parkinson's Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ World Parkinson's Day is observed annually on <b>April 11</b> to raise awareness about <b>Parkinson's disease</b>.</li> <li>▪ It is a <b>neurodegenerative disorder</b> that affects millions of people worldwide.</li> <li>▪ The day commemorates the birthday of <b>Dr. James Parkinson</b>.</li> <li>▪ He <b>first described the symptoms of the disease</b>.</li> </ul>

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
<b>April 12</b>	<b>International Day for Street Children</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The <b>International Day for Street Children</b> is observed on <b>April 12</b> every year to raise awareness about the plight of street children and to promote their inclusion and well-being.</li> <li>▪ The day was first observed in <b>1989</b> when the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted.</li> <li>▪ Theme 2024 : <b>"Belonging."</b></li> </ul>
<b>April 12</b>	<b>International Day of Human Space Flight 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The <b>International Day of Human Space Flight</b> is observed on <b>April 12</b> every year to commemorate the beginning of the space era for mankind.</li> <li>▪ It was on <b>April 12, 1961</b> that the Russian cosmonaut, <b>Yuri Gagarin</b> made the first human space journey in <b>Vostok 1</b>.</li> <li>▪ Theme 2024: <b>"Encouraging Scientific Curiosity"</b></li> </ul>

## 1.2 DEFENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND TERRORISM

### Defence exports cross Rs.21,000 crore **Note**

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh stated that India's defence exports crossed Rs.21,000 crore for the first time.
- The defence exports in India had grown by 31 times in the past 10 years compared with FY 2013-14.
- **Agni-Prime** is a surface-to-surface missile capable of hitting targets at ranges of 1200-2000 kilometres.

### **Akashteer system**

- The Indian Army has recently begun the induction of control and reporting systems under 'Project Akashdeep' to strengthen its air defence capabilities.

### **Agni Prime Missile tested successfully**

- **Agni-Prime** was successfully tested from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.
- It is a **New Generation Ballistic Missile**
- It was tested jointly by the **Strategic Forces Command (SFC)** and **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- **About 'Project Akashdeep'**
- **Aim** - To enhance the operational efficiency and integration of the Army's air defence mechanisms.
- Under this project, the defence systems are developed by **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**.

## 1.3 PLACES IN NEWS

### Phanigiri site

- A coin hoard was unearthed recently at **Phanigiri in Suryapet district in Telangana.**
- Phanigiri is a renowned **Buddhist heritage site.**
- It was found that the coins belong to the **Ikshvaku period.**

### Note

- Phanigiri is one of the important **Buddhist monasteries** located on **Dakshinapatha (ancient trade route)**
- Ikshvaku period is dated between **3rd century and 4th century Common Era.**

## 1.4 AWARDS & HONOURS

### GD Birla Award for Scientific Excellence

- **Dr. Aditi Sen De** has won the **2023 GD Birla Award for Scientific Excellence** recently.
- She is the **first woman** to receive the Award.
- The award recognises outstanding contributions by Indian scientists who are **under the age of 50** and living and working in India.
- The award is given annually by the **KK Birla Foundation since 1991.**

- She won the award for her contributions to the world of literature.

### John L. "Jack" Swigert Jr.

- **Chandrayaan-3** mission team of **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has received the John L "Jack" Swigert Jr. award 2024 for Space Exploration.

### About Chandrayaan - 3

- Launch - **14th July 2023**
- India became the **fourth nation** to soft-land on Moon and **first nation** to soft-land on Moon's south pole on **August 23, 2023.**
- Launch Vehicle - **LVM3**
- Lander - **Vikram**
- Rover - **Pragyan**
- Site name - **Shiv Shakti Point**

### CIDC Vishwakarma Awards 2024

- The **Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL)** has been awarded the **Construction Industry Development Council's (CIDC) Vishwakarma Awards 2024** in multiple categories recently.
- Categories include,
  - **India's best Metro Rail network.**
  - **Award for Best Construction Projects**
  - **Construction Health, Safety and Environment**

- Launch Vehicle - **LVM3**

- Lander - **Vikram**

- Rover - **Pragyan**

- Site name - **Shiv Shakti Point**

### About CIDC

- Established by the Union government in conjunction with industries.
- Apex representative organisation of the Indian construction industry.

### WOW World Literature Prize

- A renowned Kannada poet, writer, and an activist **Mamta G. Sagar** won the **WOW World Literary Prize** from the **World Organization of Writers (WOW).**



## 1.5 WORLD ORGANISATIONS – PACTS AND SUMMITS

### NATO's 75th Anniversary

- North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) recently completed 75 years since its conception.
- Sweden is the latest country to join the Alliance on 7 March 2024.

### About NATO

- Formation - April 4, 1949
- Members - 32 countries
- Headquarters - Brussels, Belgium

## 1.6 SPORTS

### Chanu qualified for Paris Olympics 2024

- Saikhom Mirabai Chanu became the only Indian weightlifter to qualify for the Paris Olympics 2024.
- Paris Olympics 2024 is set to be held from 26th July to 11th August 2024 in Paris, France.

▪ She won the silver medal in Tokyo Olympics 2020

▪ She is the second Indian weightlifter after Karnam Malleswari to win an Olympic medal.

## 1.7 APPOINTMENTS

### New Head of National Judicial Academy (NJA)

- The Supreme Court has appointed Justice Aniruddha Bose as the new Director of the National Judicial Academy (NJAC).
- The Director is appointed by the Chairperson of the NJA.

### About National Judicial Academy

- It is an independent society, established in 1993 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- Chairperson-Justice D.Y. Chandrachud (Chief Justice of India)

# 2. POLITICAL SCIENCE

## 2.2 PUBLIC AWARENESS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

### National Digital database of organ donors

- Centre plans to create a **national digital database of organ donors** for smooth transplants.
- As per the NOTTO's data, India witnessed 16,041 organ transplants in **2022**, as against the wait list of nearly 500,000 organ failure recipients.

#### Note

- **NOTTO** National level organization set up under **Directorate General of Health Services**, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

### Citizen's 'climate rights'

- The Supreme Court has recognised the right against the adverse effects of climate change as a distinct fundamental right in the Constitution.

- It is recognised by **Articles 14 (Right to Equality) and Article 21 (Right to Life)**
- The verdict links the **Right against Climate Change to Articles 14 and 21** as the Rights to life and equality could not be fully realised without a clean, stable environment.

### Suvidha Portal

- Over 73,000 applications received on **Suvidha portal** since the announcement of Lok Sabha elections.
- Maximum requests were received from **Tamil Nadu (23,239)**

### About Suvidha Portal

- Developed by **Election Commission of India**.
- **Aim** - To promote transparency in election management

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

### One Vehicle, One FASTag

- The National Highways Authority of India's (NHAI) launched the 'One Vehicle, One FASTag' scheme recently.
- **Aim** - To enhance efficiency of the Electronic Toll Collection system and provide seamless movement at the Toll Plazas.

#### Note

- FASTag is an national electronic toll collection system operated by NHAI.
- It uses Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology.

### START Programme

- ISRO has launched the 'Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START)' programme recently.
- It is a new introductory-level online training programme for post-graduate and final-year undergraduate students of physical sciences and technology.

### SEBI Scores

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) unveiled an upgraded version of SEBI Complaint Redress System (SCORES).
- It is an online system where investors in the securities market can lodge their complaints.
- It was launched in **June 2011**.

#### About SEBI

- It is a **regulatory body** for securities and commodity market in India.
- **Chairperson** - Madhabi Puri Buch

### NICES project

- The **National Information System for Climate and Environmental Studies (NICES)** project has been jointly launched by **ISRO** and the **Department of Space**.
- It aims to enhance the contribution of academics and research institutions in addressing the challenges related to climate change.



# 3. GEOGRAPHY

## 3.1 POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

### Chital Deer

- Chital deer has become an **invasive species** in Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Island (formerly Ross Island).
- The herbivore was brought to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands for hunting in the early 1900s by the British.

### About Chital Deer

- It is native to the Indian subcontinent.
- **IUCN Status:** Least Concern.

### Artificial Reefs

- **210 artificial reefs** will be installed in the Arabian Sea Worli Koliwada.
- It is located near **Mumbai in Maharashtra**.
- The artificial reef will become a breeding ground for small fishes in 90 days and for large fishes in **six months**.

### Note

- Artificial reefs were installed for the first time in India in **Pondicherry in 2023**.





# 4. ECONOMICS

## 4.1 REPORTS AND INDICES

### Clean Energy Transitions Programme annual report 2023

- International Energy Agency (IEA) recently launched the Clean Energy Transitions Programme annual report 2023.

#### About Clean Energy Transitions Programme

- It is an initiative launched by IEA.
- Launch - 2017
- Aim - For accelerating progress toward a global net zero energy system.

### "Global Unicorn Index 2024"

- Hurun Research Institute released the Global Unicorn Index 2024.
- It is the ranking of the world's start-ups founded in 2000s.

#### Key findings

- In 2023, India had 67 unicorn startups and placed third globally.
- USA led with 703 unicorns, followed by China with 340.

### Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2024

- Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2024 was released by United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN - DESA) recently.

#### Key Findings

- Sustainable development prospects continue to diverge between developed and developing countries.

- Sustainable Development Goals financing needs are growing, but development financing is not keeping pace.

#### About UN - DESA

- Founded: 1948
- Headquarters: New York.

### Global Trade Outlook and Statistics Report

- The World Trade Organisation (WTO) has recently published the latest edition of the Global Trade Outlook & Statistics Report.

#### Key Findings

- World merchandise trade volume is projected to grow 2.6% in 2024 and 3.3% in 2025.
- Inflation is expected to ease in 2024 and 2025.

#### About WTO

- Founded - January 1, 1995
- Headquarters - Geneva

### Global Hepatitis Report 2024

- Global Hepatitis Report 2024 was recently released by the World Health Organisation (WHO)

#### Key Findings

- The estimated number of deaths from viral hepatitis increased from 1.1 million in 2019 to 1.3 million in 2022.
- Of these, 83% were caused by hepatitis B, and 17% by hepatitis C.
- India accounted for the second-highest number of cases of Hepatitis B and C in 2022 with 3.5 crore infections.

- **China** recorded the **highest** number of cases of **Hepatitis B and C**.

#### Note

- Hepatitis is a **viral infection** that causes the **inflammation of the liver**.
- There are five main strains of the hepatitis virus, referred to as types **A, B, C, D and E**.

#### India Gaming Report 2024

- The **India Gaming Report 2024** was jointly released by the **Interactive Entertainment and Innovation Council (IEIC)** and **WinZO** recently.

#### Key Findings

- India has the **largest gaming market** in the world.
- India has a user base of **568 million** gamers and over **9.5 billion gaming app downloads** in 2023.
- The annual revenue of the Indian gaming industry is expected to double by almost \$6 billion by **2028** from **\$3.1 billion in 2023**.
- India's online gaming industry will add **2.5 lakh more jobs** in the next 10 years.

## 4.2 CURRENT TRENDS IN INDIAN ECONOMY

#### India's Coal and Lignite Production

- **Union Minister of Coal, Pralhad Joshi** stated that India's coal and lignite production has crossed **one Billion tonnes** for the **first time**.
- Coal and lignite production has grown by more than **70 per cent** over the **last 10 years**.
- Coal sector mining helps India to achieve **Viksit Bharat**.

#### Note

- India has **5th largest coal reserve** and is **2nd largest consumer of coal** across the world.
- **Coal India Limited (CIL)** is the largest producer of coal in India
- India's total coal and lignite production increased to **1,039 million tonnes last fiscal year**.
- India has produced **937.22 million tonnes of coal and lignite** in **FY2023**.



# 5. SCIENCE

## 5.1 SPACE

### Evidence of Ozone

- Researchers from the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) in Ahmedabad in Gujarat have uncovered evidence of ozone presence on Jupiter's moon Callisto.
- Callisto is Jupiter's second largest moon and third largest moon in solar system.
- It was discovered by Galileo Galilei in 1610
- Jupiter has 95 moons.
- Ganymede is the largest moon

### Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (KSO)

- KSO completed 125 years of establishment on April 1, 2024.
- It functions under the Indian Institute of Astrophysics.
- It is located in Palani range in Tamil Nadu.

### About KSO

- **Establishment** - April 1, 1899.
- **Aim** - To obtain data on how Sun heats up Earth's atmosphere and to understand the monsoon patterns.

### TSAT-1A

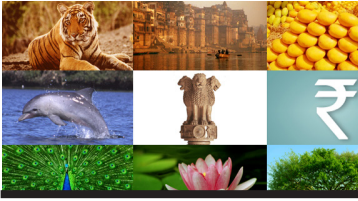
- TSAT-1A satellite was successfully deployed into the space by **SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket**.
- The satellite was developed by **Tata Advanced Systems Ltd. (TASL)**.
- It was placed in space as part of the **Bandwagon-1 mission**.
- It was launched from **Kennedy Space Centre at Florida in U.S.**

## 5.2 LATEST INVENTIONS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Empathic Voice Interface (EVI)

- Hume has introduced **world's first conversational AI** with emotional intelligence called **Empathic Voice Interface (EVI)** recently.

- Hume is a New York-based research lab and technology company.



# 6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENT

## Paradip Port

- **Paradip Port** surpassed **Kandla** to emerge as the highest cargo handling major port of the country in the financial year 2023-2024.
- It was the first major port on the **East Coast** commissioned after independence.
- The port is located near confluence of river **Mahanadi and the Bay of Bengal**.

## Note

- India has **13 major ports** and **205 minor and intermediate** ports.

## Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR)

- India plans to build its **first privately managed SPR by 2029-30**.
- SPR aims to enhance stockpiles against potential supply disruptions.

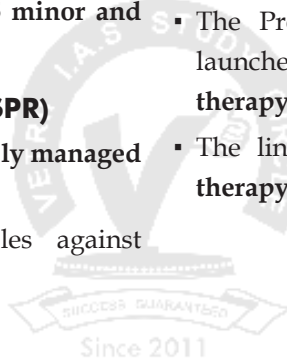
- The project will be overseen by **Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd (ISPRL)**
- ISPRL is a **special purpose vehicle** created for building and operating SPR.

## Note

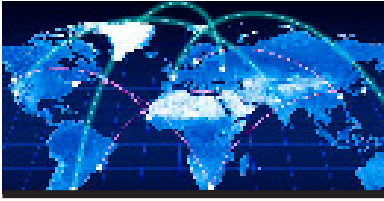
- At present, **SPRs** are located at **Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh** and **Mangalore & Padur in Karnataka**.

## Gene Therapy for Cancer

- The President of India, Droupadi Murmu launched **India's first home-grown gene therapy** for cancer at **IIT Bombay**.
- The line of treatment named **"CAR-T cell therapy"** is accessible and affordable.







# 7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

## **S.A.R.A.H.**

- S.A.R.A.H. was launched by the **World Health Organisation** recently.
- It is a **Smart AI Resource Assistant for Health (S.A.R.A.H.)** that denotes an evolution of
- **AI-powered** health information avatars.
- It uses new language models and cutting-edge technology.

## **About WHO**

- Established - 7 April 1948
- Headquarters - Geneva, Switzerland
- Director-General of WHO - Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus





# 8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

## **Maa. Aranganathan Memorial Awards**

- **Maa. Aranganathan Memorial Awards** for literary scholars will be conferred on Tamil scholars **Thea.Gnanasundaram** and **K.V. Balasubramaniam**.
- The Award is conferred by the **Maa. Aranganathan Foundation**.
- The foundation was launched in 2018.
- It has been honouring Tamil scholars who have made contributions to literature, art, and heritage.
- The award includes a **cash prize of Rs.1 lakh and a citation**.

