VETRII IAS STUDY CIRCLE Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

APRIL 2024 - PART 2



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Preface



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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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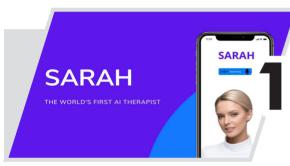
GEOGRAPHY 08



SCIENCE



NATIONAL-DIARY OF EVENT



2 INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

TAMILNADU AFFAIRS 1

1. HISTORY





1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
April 13	105th Anniversary of	- April 13, 2024 marks the 105th Anniversary of
	the Jallianwala Bagh	the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre.
	Massacre	• It is also known as the Amritsar Massacre .
	(P	• The massacre was held on 13 April 1919 in
		Amritsar, Punjab.
April 14	World Chagas	• World Chagas Disease Day was observed by
	Disease Day	World Health Organisation every year on April
		14 to raise awareness about the disease.
	F	• The day was celebrated for the first time in 2020 .
	5000	• Theme 2024 : "Tackling Chagas disease: Detect
	Si	early and care for life"
April 15	National Transgender	• Every year April 15 is observed as National
	Day	Transgender Day to commemorate the NALSA
		Verdict.
		On April 15, 2014 the Supreme Court in
		National Legal Services Authority vs. Union of
		India identified transgender people as the 'third
		gender' and made the Fundamental Rights under
		the Constitution equally applicable to them
April 18	World Heritage Day	• World Heritage Day is celebrated annually on
		April 18 to honour and preserve our heritage.
		The day is also known as International Day for
		Monuments and Sites (IDMS)
		• Theme 2024 : Discover and Experience Diversity.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
April 18	National Civil Service Day	 National Civil Service Day is observed on April 21 every year by the Government of India to acknowledge the exemplary work done by civil servants across the country. The day commemorates the address given by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel who was the first Home Minister of Independent India, to probationary officers in 1947. In the address he referred to civil servants as 'the
April 22	World Earth Day	 steel frame of India'. World Earth Day also known as International Mother Earth Day is observed on April 22 every year to raise awareness and promoting the sustainability of our planet.
	VETRII	 Theme 2024: 'Planet vs Plastics'. Earth Day was first observed in 1970. In 2009, the United Nations designated Earth Day as International Mother Earth Day.
April 23	Important Days World English Day	 World English Day also known as United Nations (UN) English Language Day, is celebrated annually on April 23 to recognise and celebrate the impact of the English language globally. The day is observed to honour the birth and death anniversary of William Shakespeare. It was established first time by UNESCO in 2010.
April 24	National Panchayati Raj Day	 The National Panchayati Raj Day is observed every year on 24th April to commemorate the 73rd Amendment Act, 1992 of the Constitution which came into effect in the year 1993. The day is recognized annually by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
April 25	World Malaria Day	• World Malaria Day is observed on April 25 every year to raise awareness about the prevention and control of malaria.
		• Theme 2024 : "Accelerating the fight against malaria for a more equitable world."
		• The day was established by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in 2007.
		Malaria is spread by the bite of female Anopheles Mosquito.
April 26	World Intellectual	• World Intellectual Property Day is celebrated
	Property Day	annually on April 26th by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to promote the role of intellectual property (IP) in stimulating innovation and creativity. Theme 2024: 'IP and the SDGs: Building Our
	# A	Common Future with Innovation and Creativity' About WIPO
	E	It is an United Nations specialised agency
		Headquarters - Geneva, Switzerland
		• Founded - 14 July 1967
	World Veterinary Day	• The World Veterinary Day is observed on the last
	Si	Saturday of April to honour the contributions of
		veterinarians to society.
		• Theme 2024: Veterinarians are essential health workers.
		• The day was first celebrated in 2000 by World Veterinary Association (WVA).

1.2 DEFENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND TERRORISM

Poorvi Leher

extensive exercise, "Poorvi Leher" along the East Coast.

• The exercise was conducted to check • The missiles were delivered as part of a \$375 preparedness of Indian Navy to meet any maritime security challenges.

BrahMos Cruise Missiles

- The Indian Navy recently carried out an india's BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles were delivered to the **Philippines** by **BrahMos** Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL) recently.
 - million deal which was signed by the two countries in 2022.

About BrahMos

- It is a long-range nuclear-capable supersonic cruise missile system.
- It is named after the rivers Brahmaputra and Moskva (Russia).
- Tested for the first time in 2001.

Note

 BAPL is a joint venture company of India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

DURGA - 2

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is planning to test a prototype of its indigenous laser weapon system, DURGA-2.
- DURGA-2 for Directionally stands Unrestricted Ray-Gun Array.

- It can neutralise drone or ballistic missile attacks.
- It travels at the speed of light.

Nirbhay cruise missile

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted the flight test of a long range subsonic indigenously developed cruise missile called 'Nirbhay' successfully.
- It was tested from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.
- It was developed by the Bengaluru-based DRDO laboratory Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE).

1.3 WORLD SUMMITS AND ORGANISATION

World Energy Congress 2024

- The 26th edition of the World Energy Congress was held at Rotterdam in Netherlands by World Energy Council (WEC) recently.
- Theme of the summit is 'Redesigning energy for people and planet '.
- India aims to achieve 500 GW of non-fossilfuel energy capacity by the year 2030.
- India commits to achieve Net Zero emissions by the year 2070.

About WEC:

- Formation 1924
- Headquarters London, UK

1.4 PLACES IN NEWS

Padta Bet

- Skeleton, along with pottery artefacts and animal bones were excavated recently from _ • Necropolis is the mass burial ground. the archaeological site called Padta Bet in Kutch, Gujarat.
- The excavation denotes the presence of a 5,200-year-old Harappan settlement.
- The site is located near an Early Harappan necropolis called Juna Khatiya.

1.5 SPORTS

Candidates tournament

- 17-year-old Grandmaster Gukesh Dommaraju became the youngest man to win the Candidates tournament.
- Gukesh will face Ding Liren who is the reigning world champion for the world title later this year.

Note

 The 2024 Candidates Tournament was an eight-player chess tournament, held to determine the challenger for the World Chess Championship 2024.

1.6 AWARDS & HONOURS

Awards and Honour Laureus World Sports Awards 2024

 The winners of the 2024 Laureus World Sports Awards were announced recently.

Award Categories:

- Laureus World Sportsman of the Year Novak
 Djokovic
- · Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year -

Aitana Bonmatí

 Laureus World Team of the Year - Spain Women's Football Team

About Laureus World Sports Awards

- It is an annual award ceremony honouring individuals and teams.
- Most awards Switzerland Roger Federer

1.7 CULTURAL PANORAMA

Bohag Bihu 2024

- Bohag Bihu, also known as Rongali Bihu was celebrated in Assam recently.
- The festival is celebrated by the indigenous ethnic groups of Assam.
- It marks the beginning of the Assamese New Year.
- Bihu is a tri-annual festival, with Bohag Bihu being celebrated as the first of the three.
- The other two Bihu festivals, Kati Bihu and
 Magh Bihu are celebrated in October and January, respectively.

1.8 APPOINTMENTS

Panel for LGBTQ community

- The Ministry of Law and Justice notified a sixmember committee to address issues related to the queer community.
- The committee will be headed by the Cabinet Secretary.
- It will suggest measures to ensure that the queer community does not encounter any discrimination in accessing goods and

services, social welfare schemes, or face threat of violence among others.

New Navy chief

- Vice-Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi has been appointed recently as the next Chief of the Naval Staff.
- He is currently the Vice Chief of the Navy.

2.2 LATEST COURT VERDICTS

Article 142

 The Supreme Court used its extraordinary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to do "complete justice" to permit the medical termination of pregnancy of a 14-year-old rape survivor in Maharashtra.

Key Provisions of Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2021

 Duration of Pregnancy Procedure for Termination

- **Up to 20 weeks** Opinion of 1 doctor is needed for abortion.
- 20-24 Weeks Opinion of 2 doctors is needed for abortion.
- **Beyond 24 weeks** Advice of a medical board is needed.

2.3 PUBLIC AWARENESS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

India Post in Antarctica

- Recently India Post opened a post office at its Bharati station in Antarctica.
- It has already set up post offices at Dakshin Gangotri Station in 1984 and another at Maitri Station in 1990.

About India Post

- Founded October 1, 1854
- Headquarters New Delhi

Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC)

- The 42nd Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) annual meeting was held at Bengaluru recently.
- ISRO Chairman S.Somanath announced that India aims to achieve debris-free space missions by 2030.
- Currently, **India** has **54 spacecraft** in the orbit.
- India is planning to set up its own space station
 'Bharatiya Antriksh Station' by 2035

About IADC

- It is an **international governmental forum** to co-ordinate efforts to deal with debris in orbit around the Earth.
- Formation 1993
- Members Space agencies of 13 countries including India (ISRO)

Navchetana

- The National Framework of Early Childhood
 Stimulation 2024 was finalised recently.
 - Navchetana is the activity-based curriculum.
 - The document was titled 'Navchetana' which is the activity-based curriculum that follows the National Education Policy 2020.
- It calls for a continuum of learning.
 - Staff in **14 lakh angan wadis** will be given training on the curriculum.
 - The document lays down month-by-month activities to be conducted by parents, anganwadi staff and ASHA workers for children from birth to the age of three.

Special Learning Disabilities

- The Union government is planning to introduce a new test to diagnose specific learning ... It functions under Ministry of Social Justice disabilities (SLDs) in adults in India.
- Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID).

About NIEPID

- Autonomous organization
- and Empowerment.
- The test is being designed by the National Objective-Toempower mentally handicapped people.
 - Location Secunderabad in Telangana.





3. GEOGRAPHY

3.1 POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

Report by Global Forest Watch

- According to the latest data from the Global Forest Watch, India has lost 2.33 million hectares of tree cover since 2000.
- Between 2001 and 2022 forests in India emitted
 51 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent a year and removed 141 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent a year.
- The maximum tree cover loss of 189,000 hectares occurred in 2017.
- The highest rate of tree cover loss occurred in Odisha.

Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary

 The Supreme Court stayed the construction of four proposed dams inside Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary.

About Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary

- Location in Yamunanagar district, Haryana.
- Largest wildlife sanctuary of Haryana.
- It's an Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs)

Natural Disasters – Safeguard Measures. Union govt. releases disaster relief funds

- The Union government recently ordered the release of Rs.3,730.32 crore towards "relief assistance for natural calamity" from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF).
- The Union Home Ministry approved an assistance of Rs.285.54 crore and Rs.397.13
 crore for the damage caused by Cyclone Michaung in 2023 and the floods in December, 2023 in Tamil Nadu.

Note

- NDRF is constituted under Section 46 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- The Centre contributes
- 75% of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) allocation for general category States and Union Territories
 - 90% for special category States (North Eastern States, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir).



4. ECONOMICS

4.1 REPORTS AND INDICES

Trends in World Military Expenditure, 2023 Report

 Trends in World Military Expenditure, 2023 Report was recently released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

Key Findings

- India was the fourth largest spender globally in 2023 with military expenditure worth \$83.6 billion in 2023.
- India's spending was increased by 4.2 per cent from 2022 and by 44 per cent from 2014.
- As per the report the five biggest spenders in 2023 are
 - United States
 - China
 - Russia
 - India
 - Saudi Arabia

State of the Climate in Asia 2023 report

 The World Meteorological Organization recently released the 'State of the Climate in Asia 2023' report.

Key Findings

- The report states that **Asia** has warmed faster than the **global average**.
- The warming trend has nearly doubled since the 1961-1990 period.
- Asia faced most number of disasters in the world.
- 79 events associated with extreme weather, climate, and water-related hazards occurred in 2023 in Asia.
- It affected over nine million people in **Asia** directly killing over **2,000 people**.



5. SCIENCE

5.1 SPACE

Gaia-BH3

- Astronomers at the European Space Agency (ESA) have recently identified the biggest stellar black hole, named Gaia BH3.
- It was discovered in the Milky Way.
- It has 33 times the mass of the Sun.
- It was detected during data collection from ESA's Gaia mission.

- The mission will be sent to Saturn's massive moon Titan.
- It is the fourth mission under NASA's New Frontiers Program.
- The other three are
 - New Horizons
 - Juno
 - OSIRIS-Rex (also OSIRIS-APEX)

Dragonfly mission

• The **NASA** has recently announced that it will launch its **Dragonfly mission in 2028.**





6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENT

Kasturi Cotton

- The union government is planning to set up dedicated labs for testing high-grade cotton in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Punjab, Gujarat and Karnataka.
- The move aims to establish the Indian Kasturi cotton as a global brand.

About Kasturi Cotton

- It is a collaborative effort involving the Ministry of Textiles, the Cotton Corporation of India, trade bodies, and the textile industry.
- It aims to strength India's competitiveness in the global cotton market.

18 GW renewable energy produced

- According to the latest data of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, India has added a renewable energy capacity of 18.48 GW in 2023-24.
- However, India needs to add at least 50 GW of renewable energy capacity annually for the next six years to meet the ambitious target of 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030.
- As of March 31, 2024, India's installed renewable energy capacity is **143.64 GW**

KIA named best of regional airport in South Asia

- The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has been awarded the Best Regional Airport in India and South Asia at the 2024 Skytrax World Airport Awards.
- KIA's Terminal 2 also secured second position as the World's Best New Airport Terminal.

Note

 Terminal 2 has also received the UNESCO Prix Versailles World's Most Beautiful Airport award.

Shompen tribe cast their votes for first time

- The 7 members of the Shompen tribe in Andaman and Nicobar Islands cast their vote for the first time in the Lok Sabha election.
- Shompen tribe is a particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG) of Great Nicobar Islands.

Note

 Andaman and Nicobar Islands has a single Lok Sabha constituency.

ISHAN Initiative

- India has recently launched the Indian Single Sky Harmonized Air Traffic Management at Nagpur (ISHAN) Initiative.
- Under the initiative, India is planning to unify its four airspace regions at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai, and a sub-flight information region at Guwahati.
- It will streamline and enhance air traffic management.
- Indian airspace covers over 2.8 million square nautical miles which is controlled through four flight information regions (FIRs)

Climate Strategy 2030

- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) recently unveiled the Climate Strategy 2030 document.
- The document aims to address India's need for green financing.
- India requires approximately \$170 billion annually to reach a cumulative total of over \$2.5 trillion by 2030.
- The current green finance inflows are critically insufficient.



7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Heavy Flood in Dubai

- The Dubai recorded the heaviest rain after a severe thunderstorm hit the country.
- The primary reason for these heavy rains was a storm system, which was passing through the Arabian peninsula and moving across the Gulf of Oman.
- However the rains have been exacerbated by cloud seeding process.

About Cloud seeding

- Clouds are usually injected with salts like silver iodide, potassium iodide, or sodium chloride, which is the 'seed'
- They are dispersed into the cloud either using aircraft or through ground based cannons.



8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

TN tops in electronics exports

- Tamil Nadu has ranked No.1 in terms of electronic goods exports for the financial year 2023-2024 according to the National Import-Export Record for Yearly Analysis of Trade.
- TN's total exports for the financial year 2023-2024 stood at \$9.56 billion.
- Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh ranked second and third respectively.

TN closer to elimination of filariasis

- Tamil Nadu is at the brink of eliminating lymphatic filariasis.
- Tamil Nadu is the only State in the country to successfully attain a microfilaria (Mf) rate of below one per cent.
- Two to three decades ago TN was one of the nine States that contributed to 95% of the total burden of lymphatic filariasis in India.

Note

- Lymphatic filariasis is a neglected tropical disease.
- The disease also known as **elephantiasis**, which is a human infection that is caused by the transmission of parasites called **filarias** through mosquitoes.

Pulicat Bird Sanctuary

- The Tamil Nadu government is planning to denotify a sizeable area of the Pulicat bird sanctuary.
- Patta land in 13 revenue villages which is located inside the biodiversity-rich area may be excluded from the sanctuary under the Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972.

About Pulicat lake

- It is located along the coast of Bay of Bengal at the border of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- It is the second largest brackish water lake in India after Lake Chilika in Odisha.

TN State Affairs 150 girls receive HPV Vaccine

- Nearly 150 girls, aged nine to 14 years, received the first dose of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine under Tamil Nadu's first HPV vaccination initiative.
- The initiative was launched at Adyar Cancer Institute's screening centre at Villupuram Government Hospital.

Note

Cervical cancer is mainly caused by Human
 Papilloma Virus (HPV).

Nilgiri Tahr

- Tamil Nadu government is planning to conduct a synchronised survey of Nilgiri Tahr from April 29.
- The survey will be done to estimate the population of the Nilgiri Tahr (Nilgiritragus hylocrius) and to remove it from the endangered status.
- According to a report released by the **World Wildlife Fund India** in **2015** there are around
 3,000 Tahrs in the Western Ghats.

About Niligiri Tahr

- State animal of Tamil Nadu.
- IUCN Status Endangered.
- It is protected under Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

 Project Nilgiri Tahr was launched in October 12, 2023.

Liquid Nitrogen

- The Tamil Nadu Food Safety department has issued an order on the use of liquid nitrogen recently.
- The department stated that enforcement action will be taken as per Food Safety and Standards Act 2006 against any Food Business Operator who is using liquid nitrogen for direct consumption along with food items.
- As per the order the liquid nitrogen should be fully evaporated from the food or drinks before serving.

About Liquid Nitrogen

 Liquid nitrogen is formed when nitrogen is cooled to temperatures far below zero.

Canal Project

 The T.N. government has accorded sanction for phase II of renovation of the Grand Anicut Canal system at a cost of Rs.447 crore.

About Grand Anicut Canal

- It is a man made canal
- It is also known as Puthu Aru or Kallanai Canal
- The canal was designed by British Engineer Colonel W.M.Ellis on the request of C.P.Ramaswami Iyer, the Diwan of Travancore.
- It serves as a source of irrigation for Thanjavur and Pudukottai districts.

Elephant corridors

- The committee which was constituted by the Tamil Nadu government to identify elephant corridors in the State has identified 42 corridors.
- The Project Elephant division of the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change in 2023 had identified 20 corridors.

Note

- Committee Chairman V. Naganathan
- Members Officers of the Forest Department scientific experts, and scientific and conservation organisations.