

VETRI IAS STUDY CIRCLE

Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

JANUARY 2024 - PART 2



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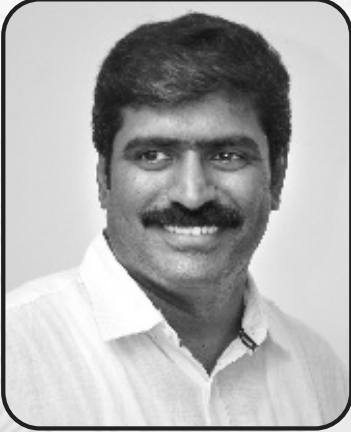
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Preface



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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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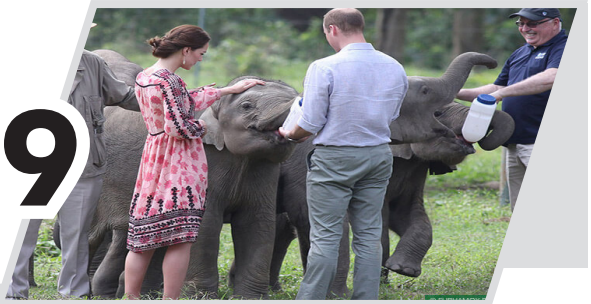
CONTENTS

HISTORY 01



06 POLITICAL SCIENCE

GEOGRAPHY 09



10 ECONOMICS

SCIENCE 12



**NATIONAL-DIARY OF
EVENT**

14



**INDIA'S LONGEST
SEA BRIDGE**



15

**INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS**

TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

16



1. HISTORY



1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
January 15	76th Army Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Every year January 15 is celebrated as Army Day in India to remember the troops and all soldiers who have sacrificed their lives for the country.▪ It was on this day in 1949 that Field Marshal Kodandera M Cariappa became the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of Independent India.
January 23	127th birth anniversary of Subhash Chandra Bose	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ January 23 marks the 127th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.▪ The day is observed as Parakram Diwas.▪ Parakram Diwas aims to instil fearlessness and patriotism, especially among the youth, inspiring them to stand strong in the face of challenges.
January 24	National Girl Child Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Every year January 24 is observed as National Girl Child Day with the aim of creating a positive environment that values the girl child.▪ The day was first observed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in 2008.
January 24	International Day of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The International Day of Education is annually observed on January 24.▪ The theme for 2023 is 'Learning for Lasting Peace'.▪ The day was first observed on January 24, 2019 based on the resolution passed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
January 24	Uttar Pradesh Foundation Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Uttar Pradesh Foundation Day is celebrated on January 24 every year. ▪ The United Province was renamed as Uttar Pradesh on January 24, 1950. ▪ The Uttar Pradesh government declared January 24 as Uttar Pradesh Foundation Day in May 2017.
January 25	13th National Voters' Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Voters' Day is celebrated every year on January 25 to encourage, facilitate, and maximise enrolment, especially for new voters. ▪ The day is observed by the Election Commission of India since 2011. ▪ 25th January 1950 is the foundation day of the Election Commission of India (ECI) ▪ NVD 2024 theme - 'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote For sure'.
January 25	National Tourism Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Tourism Day in India is celebrated every year on 25 January. ▪ The day is observed to create awareness among people about the benefits of tourism for the economy of the country. ▪ Theme 2024 - "Sustainable Journeys, Timeless Memories." ▪ National Tourism Day in India was first celebrated in 1948.
January 25	54th Himachal Pradesh statehood day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ January 25th is celebrated as the Himachal Pradesh statehood day every year. ▪ Himachal Pradesh came into existence on 25th January 1971 as the 18th state of India. ▪ Indira Gandhi was the then Prime Minister of India.
January 26	International Customs Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The day is observed every year on January 26 to honour and spread awareness about the role played by Customs authorities in the smooth movement of goods across borders. ▪ Theme 2024 : Customs Engaging Traditional and New Partners with Purpose.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
	World Leprosy Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Leprosy Day is observed every year on the last Sunday of January. The day aims to create awareness against the stigma attached to the disease. Leprosy is also known as Hansen Disease. Theme 2024 : “Beat Leprosy” Leprosy is caused by the bacteria Mycobacterium leprae.
January 30	World Neglected Tropical Disease Day (WNTDD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day (WNTDD) is celebrated on January 30 every year to create better awareness of the devastating impact of NTDs on the poorest populations around the world. Theme 2024 : Unite.Act.Eliminate.
January 30	Martyrs' Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India observes Martyrs’ Day or Shaheed Diwas on January 30 every year commemorating the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated by Nathuram Vinayak Godse in 1948.

1.2 DEFENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND TERRORISM

Ex-Ayutthaya

- India and Thailand conducted their first naval bilateral exercise, named ‘Ex-Ayutthaya’ recently.
- The name Ayutthaya symbolises **two ancient cities - Ayodhya (Uttar Pradesh) in India and Ayutthaya in Thailand**.

Vijayaraghavan Committee

- K. Vijay Raghavan Committee submitted its report to the government recently.
- It is a nine-member committee which was formed to restructure and redefine the role of DRDO.

Key Recommendations

- Formation of the **Defence Technology Council (DTC)** headed by the **Prime Minister**, with the **Defense Minister** and **National Security Advisor** as **Vice Presidents**.
- DRDO should concentrate exclusively on research and development.
- Laboratory Consolidation** by reducing the number of DRDO labs from **40 to approximately 10 national-level facilities**.

1.3 PLACES IN NEWS

UNESCO World Heritage List

- India has nominated the “Maratha Military Landscapes” for inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage List for 2024-25.
- It is a network of forts that showcase the strategic military powers of Maratha rule that include **12 forts**.

- The **12 forts** includes the forts of **Salher, Shivneri, Lohagad, Khanderi, Raigad, Rajgad, Ratapgad, Suvarnadurg, Panhala, Vijaydurg and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra and Gingee in Tamil Nadu.**

1.4 SPORTS AND GAMES

Khelo India Youth Games 2023

- Khelo India Youth Games 2023** was inaugurated at **Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium** in Chennai by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- This is the **first time** the Khelo India Youth Games will be held in **southern India**.
- The games will be hosted in the **four cities of Chennai, Madurai, Tiruchirapalli and Coimbatore**.
- Silambam** which is a traditional sport of Tamil Nadu is being introduced as a **demo sport** for the **first time in the history of Khelo India Youth Games**.

Australia Open 2024

- The Australian Open is a tennis tournament held annually at Melbourne Park in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.
- Winners of Australian Open, 2024.**
 - Men’s Singles** - Jannik Sinner
 - Women’s Singles** – Aryna Sabalenka
 - Men’s Doubles** – Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden.
 - Women’s Doubles** – Hsieh Su-wei and Elise Mertens.
 - Mixed Doubles** – Hsieh Su-wei and Jan Zieliński.

1.5 AWARDS & HONOURS

Bharat Ratna Award

- President Droupadi Murmu announced that the **Bharat Ratna Award** will be presented to the late socialist leader **Karpoori Thakur (posthumously)**.
- He had served twice as the **Chief Minister of Bihar**.

Padma awardees from T.N

- Eight persons from Tamil Nadu have been selected for the Padma awards 2024.
 - Padma Vibhushan (Second highest civilian award)**

- Vyjayanthimala Bali
- Padma Subrahmanyam
- Padma Bhushan**
 - Vijayakant
- Padma Shri**
 - Badrappan M
 - Joshna Chinappa (Sports)
 - Joe D’Cruz (literature and education)
 - G. Natchiar (Medicine)
 - Nagaswaram artist Seshampatti T. Sivalingam (Arts)

TN State Awards

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin presented the **Kottai Ameer Communal Harmony Award, 2024**, to Alt News cofounder **Mohammed Zubair**.
- The **Chief Minister's Special Award** was presented to **U. Aayi Ammal, alias Pooranam**, from **Madurai district**, who donated her 1.52 acres of land for the upgrade of Madurai East Panchayat Union Middle School as High School.
- **Anna Medal for Gallantry 2024** - **Yasaar Arafat, D. Daniel Selvasingh** and **S. Sivakumar**.
- **C. Narayanasamy Naidu Award** for the highest productivity in rice - **S. Balamurugan**
- **Best Police Station - C3 S.S. Colony police station, Madurai.**

1.6 APPOINTMENTS

Army's first woman Subedar

- She won the silver medal in shooting during the 19th Asian Games 2022.
- Havildar Preeti Rajak has become the Army's first woman Subedar.



2. POLITICAL SCIENCE

2.1 INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

India-France

- French President Emmanuel Macron is set to arrive in Jaipur, Rajasthan on January 25.
- Macron has been invited as the chief guest for the 75th Republic Day celebrations.
- During the visit, he will consolidate the renewal of the France-India strategic partnership that was decided through the "Horizon 2047 Roadmap".
- India and France have agreed to conduct Joint Surveillance Missions.
- Defence Industrial Roadmap for cooperation on defence production was announced between the two countries.
- Integration of the respective defence industrial sectors of the two countries.

2.2 PUBLIC AWARENESS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Sub-categorisation of SCs

- The Union government has formed a **five member committee** of Secretaries to evaluate and work out a method for the equitable distribution of benefits, schemes and initiatives to the **most backward communities amongst the over 1,200 Scheduled Castes (SCs)**.
- The committee will be chaired by the **Cabinet Secretary**.
- Previously, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced the constitution of a committee on empowering the **Dalit (Scheduled Castes)** communities, including the **Madiga community**.
- The **road maps** were prepared by the **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC)**.
- It aims to solve a series of cyber issues and prevent cyber crimes .

Rajya Sabha Elections

- **Election Commission** released the date for the **Rajya Sabha elections to 56 seats from 15 states** of India.
- In the current **Rajya Sabha**, there are a total of **238 elected members**.
- **Rajya Sabha** is the permanent House of the Parliament in which members are appointed for a 6 year tenure.
- **One-third of the members** retire every two years, which ensures the continuity of its proceedings.

Road maps for critical tech sectors

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** has released the draft road maps for conducting indigenous research and development for **critical technological sectors**.

Diamond Jubilee of Supreme Court

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the citizen-centric information and technology initiatives during Diamond Jubilee celebration of Supreme Court.
- These include
 - **Digital Supreme Court Reports (Digi SCR):** It will make Supreme Court judgments available to citizens of country free of cost and in electronic format.

- **Digital Courts 2.0** : Launched under e-Courts project which aims to make court records available to Judges of district courts in electronic format.
- **A new website of Supreme Court** to be available in both English and Hindi language.

2.3 GOVT – WELFARE ORIENTED GOVT SCHEMES, THEIR UTILITY

PM – JANMAN

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to release the first instalment of funding amounting to ₹540 crore for pucca homes under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin (PMAYG) to one lakh Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) beneficiary families.
- The instalment is delivered as part of the recently launched PM - JANMAN scheme (Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan Scheme)

Mukhya Mantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan scheme

- The Chief Minister of Assam Himanta Biswa Sarma launched the 'Mukhya Mantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan' scheme recently.
- The scheme aims to develop 4 million Self-Help-Group (SHG) women as rural micro-entrepreneurs.
- Under the scheme, eligible women gets Rs 35,000 over three years.

MPLADS e-SAKSHI App launched

- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has launched the MPLADS e-SAKSHI App recently.

- The app aims to enhance transparency, accessibility, and efficiency in the execution of Member of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) Scheme.

Amrit Dharohar Initiative

- The Central Government has launched the pilot project under Amrit Dharohar initiative recently.
- It was launched in June 2023 to promote unique conservation values of Ramsar sites across India.
- 16 Ramsar sites have been identified under the initiative and five of them have been taken up as a pilot project.
- These five wetlands are
 - Sultanpur National Park (Haryana)
 - Bhitarkanika Mangroves (Odisha)
 - Chilika lake (Odisha)
 - Sirpur (Madhya Pradesh)
 - Yashwant Sagar (Madhya Pradesh).
- The initiative was launched by the Union Tourism Ministry and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change under the Amrit Dharohar Capacity Building Scheme, 2023.

Report cards in government schools

- The **Central government** has allocated ₹102 lakh for printing of students' report cards in **government schools in Tamil Nadu** which covers around **2.5 lakh students of classes 1 to 5**.
- The initiative is undertaken as a part of **Sarva Shiksha Abhyan (SSA)**.
- SSA aims to provide parents with detailed **insights into both academic and extracurricular** performance of their wards.

Solar Rooftop Scheme

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of '**Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana**'.
- It is a government scheme under which **one crore households** will get **rooftop solar power systems**.

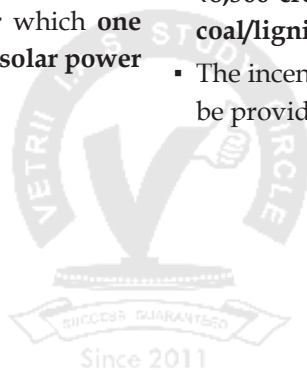
- The new scheme aims to help India to reach the **target of 40 GW rooftop solar capacity**.

Boeing Sukanya Program

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the **Boeing Sukanya Program**.
- The program aims to support the entry of more **girl children into the aviation sector**.
- The program will provide opportunities for girls and women to learn critical skills in **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)** fields and train for jobs in aviation sector.

Coal Gasification

- The Union Cabinet has approved an outlay of **₹8,500 crore** as financial aid for promotion of **coal/lignite gasification projects**.
- The incentive for coal gasification projects will be provided under **three categories**.





3. GEOGRAPHY

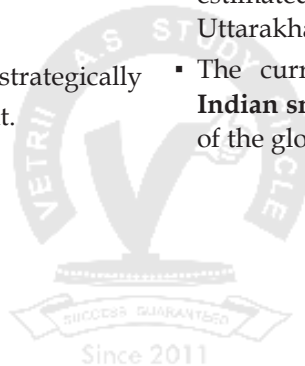
3.1 POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

Kumki Elephants

- The **Odisha government** has sought the **assistance of Tamil Nadu** for providing kumki elephants and mahouts to help manage the human elephant conflict.
- Tamil Nadu has a successful model whereby kumki elephants are trained and utilised for wildlife conservation purposes.
- **Kumki elephants** can be deployed strategically to manage and drive wild elephant.

Snow Leopard Population Assessment

- The **Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPAI)** which began in 2019 was released recently.
- According to SPAI, India has an estimated **718 snow leopards**.
- The highest number of snow leopards was estimated to be in Ladakh (477), followed by Uttarakhand (124) and Himachal Pradesh (51).
- The current estimate puts the number of **Indian snow leopards between 10% and 15%** of the global population.





4. ECONOMICS

4.1 CURRENT ECONOMIC TRENDS

Discussion paper by NITI Aayog

- According to a discussion paper released by NITI Aayog, the share of India's population living in multidimensional poverty is estimated to have fallen to **11.28 per cent in 2022-23** from 29.17 per cent in 2013-14.
- The paper states that a total of **24.82 crore people** escaped multidimensional poverty in the last nine years.

Oxfam's report

- The report titled '**Survival of the Richest: The India story**' was released by the Oxfam International recently.

Key Highlights

- Just **5 per cent of Indians** own more than **60 per cent of the country's wealth**.
- **Bottom 50 per cent** of the population possess only **3 per cent of the wealth**.
- India has the **world's highest number of poor at 228.9 million**.
- The total number of billionaires in India increased from **102 in 2020 to 166 billionaires in 2022**.

4.2 REPORTS AND INDICES

AISHE 2021-22

- According to the latest report of the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) released by the Ministry of Education.

Key Highlights

- The total enrolment in higher education increased to nearly **4.33 crore in 2021-22**.
- The overall female enrolment increased to **2.07 crore in 2021-22**.
- Female Ph.D. enrolment doubled to **0.99 lakh in 2021-22** from 0.48 lakh in 2014-15.
- **More women opted for science stream than men**.

Startup Ranking 2022

- **Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala and Himachal Pradesh** are the five States placed under the 'Best Performer' category in the States' Startup Ranking 2022.
- Tamil Nadu received a maximum score of 100th percentile in three out of seven reform areas
- Institutional support
- Funding support
- Capacity building of enablers
- The Startup Ranking was launched in February 2018 to achieve the vision of building a robust start-up ecosystem in the country.

- Greenviro Global Private Limited, based in Coimbatore, received the National Startup Awards 2023 under the 'Sustainability Champion' category.
- Atsuya Technologies Private Limited, based in Tamil Nadu received the Genesis Innovators of the year award.
- The last study was carried out in **2017**.
- The survey was conducted in **28 districts across 26 States**.
- In Tamil Nadu the **Perambalur district** was chosen for the survey.
- The survey found that in **Perambalur 97.2% of teenagers** were enrolled in some form of formal educational institution.

ASER 2023

- The **Annual Status of Education Report (ASER)**, titled "**Beyond Basics**", was released by the civil society organisation Pratham.
- The study focussed on youth aged between **14 and 18 in rural India**.
- **21.4%** of those surveyed in **Perambalur could not read a Class II** level text which is below the national average as 25%.





5. SCIENCE

5.1 LATEST INVENTIONS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Distress Alert Transmitter (DAT)

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has developed an upgraded **distress alert transmitter (DAT)** called second generation DAT (**DAT-SG**).
- DAT - SG will enable advanced capabilities for fishermen at sea to send emergency messages from boats.
- The **first version of DAT** is operational since **2010**.
- Recently, the **Indian Immunologicals Ltd (IIL)** launched **India's first indigenously developed Hepatitis A vaccine 'Havisure'** in **Hyderabad**.
- **IIL** is a wholly owned subsidiary of **National**

Dairy Development Board (NDDB).

- It is a **two-dose vaccine**.
- **Hepatitis A** is an inflammation of the liver caused by the **hepatitis A virus (HAV)**.

Three drug regimens for treating leprosy

- The Union government has approved a **new three-drug regimen for leprosy**.
- The steps are taken by the National Leprosy Eradication Programme to stop the transmission of Leprosy at the subnational level by **2027**.
- **Leprosy** is a chronic infectious disease caused by **Mycobacterium leprae**.

5.2 SPACE

Chandrayaan – 3

- **NASA spacecraft** has successfully pinged India's **Chandrayaan - 3 lander - Vikram** on the moon.
- A laser beam was transmitted and reflected between **NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO)** and **ISRO's Vikram lander** for the **first time on the lunar surface**.

- **NISAR** is a **Low Earth Orbit (LEO)** observatory being jointly developed by **NASA and ISRO**.
- **NISAR** will provide spatially and temporally consistent data for understanding changes in Earth's ecosystem

INSAT-3DS satellite

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has stated that the **INSAT-3DS satellite** was taken to the launch port at the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota**.
- The satellite is planned to be launched on board the **GSLV F14 next month**.
- It aims to provide continuity of services to the existing in orbit **INSAT-3D and 3DR satellites**.

NISAR Mission

- It was officially stated that the **NASA ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) Mission** which was designed to observe the natural processes and changes in earth's complex ecosystems, is on track for an **"early 2024"** launch.

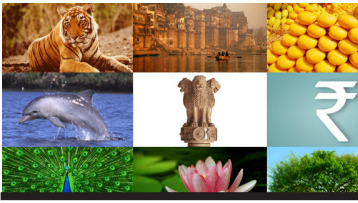
Japan's SLIM Mission

- ISRO's Chandrayaan-2 mission helped the Japan's Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) Mission to successfully land on the Moon.
- SLIM Mission is also called 'Moon Sniper'.
- This helped Japan to become the **fifth country** after **United States, Soviet Union, China** and **India** to make a soft lunar landing.

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6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENT

Modi unveils three projects

- Prime Minister Modi inaugurated **three infrastructure projects** totalling ₹4,000 crore in Kochi including
 - **India's largest new dry dock facility.**
 - **South Asia's largest ship – repair centre - International ship repair facility (ISRF)** of Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL)
 - **LPG import terminal of Indian Oil Corporation Limited at Puthuvypeen** which would help meet the LPG needs of Kochi, Kozhikode, Coimbatore, Erode, Salem, Madurai, and Trichy.
- These projects are in line with the vision to transform India's sports, shipping, and inland Waterways.

World's tallest statue of Ambedkar

- The Andhra Pradesh government is set to unveil the **world's tallest statue** of the architect of the Indian Constitution, Dr BR Ambedkar at **Swaraj Maidan grounds in Vijayawada**
- The statue is called the **"Statue of Social Justice"**
- It is **206 feet tall (Statue – 125ft and pedestal – 81 ft)**

India's first Dark Sky Park

- The **Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Maharashtra** has been designated as **India's First and Asia's fifth Dark Sky Park.**
- A dark-sky preserve is an area, typically surrounding a park or observatory, that limits artificial light pollution and encourages astronomy.

- **India's first dark-sky preserve** is the **Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO)** which is situated in Hanle, Ladakh.

North Eastern Council Meeting

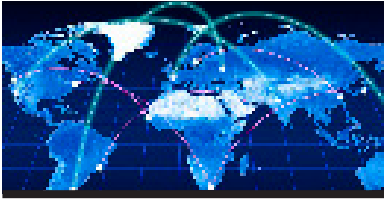
- The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah addressed the **71st Plenary Session of the North Eastern Council in Shillong** recently.
- It is the nodal agency for the economic and social development of North Eastern Region (NER).
- It is a statutory body created by Parliament through **NEC Act, 1971.**

First naturopathy hospital NER

- Union AYUSH Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma laid the foundation of the **Central Research Institute of Yoga and Naturopathy (CRIYN)** in Dibrugarh Assam.
- CRIYN would be the first yoga and naturopathy hospital in the Northeast.
- CRIYN would be developed as a centre of excellence in yoga and naturopathy for cardiovascular diseases in India

7th edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha

- Recently, the 7th edition of **Pariksha Pe Charcha** was held in **New Delhi.**
- The programme aims to bring together students, parents, teachers, and the society to foster an environment where each child's unique individuality is encouraged.



7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

19th NAM Summit

- 19th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement was held in Kampala in Uganda.
- Theme of the summit is "Deepening Cooperation for Shared Global Affluence".
- Kampala Declaration was concluded in the summit.

New King of Denmark

- King Frederik X ascended the throne succeeding his mother Queen Margrethe II as the new King of Denmark.
- She was the queen for the past 52 years.





8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

New Jallikattu arena

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin will inaugurate the newly constructed **Kalaingar Centenary Jallikattu Arena** in **Keelakarai** near **Alanganallur** in **Madurai** district on January 24.
- The arena is situated on the **foothills of Vaithumalai**.
- It will have a viewers' gallery with **3,700 seats on two floors**.

Naan Mudhalvan Niral Thiruvizha

- **Naan Mudhalvan Niral Thiruvizha Hackathon** is being organised by the **Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC)** for engineering students across the State to encourage innovation among youth.
- The hackathon will be executed with the support of **Anna University**.

Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam

- **Tamil Nadu Health secretary** stated that Tamil Nadu's spending on **drugs for Non communicable diseases (NCDs)** has nearly tripled after the **Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam (MTM)** scheme was introduced.
- **Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam (TN Doorstep Healthcare Scheme)** was launched in **Krishnagiri** in 2021.
- The scheme is aimed at eliminating the need for patients to visit hospitals for treating non-communicable diseases.

EPR portal

- The **Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB)** has directed all manufacturers, producers, refurbishes, and recyclers of electronic waste to register on the **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) portal**.
- The portal was developed by the **Central Pollution Control Board** under the **E-waste (Management) Rules, 2022**.

T.N. electorate data released

- The integrated final electoral rolls was published by the **Election Commission of India** recently.

Key Highlights

- The electorate of Tamil Nadu has risen by about seven lakh voters and stands at **6.18 crore now**.
- It includes **3.14 crore women, 3.03 crore men** and over **8,200 from the third gender**.
- The **Sholinganallur Assembly constituency in Chengalpattu** district has the highest number of electors at **6,60,419**.
- **Kilvelur Assembly constituency in Nagapattinam** district has the lowest number of electors with **1,72,140**.

New Policy for Women

- Tamil Nadu Cabinet approved the **New Policy for Women**.
- The policy is aimed at the holistic development of women, and focused on empowering them through education, economic independence and power sharing

- A **State level committee** headed by **Chief Secretaries** and **district level committees** headed by **Collectors** will be constituted to monitor the implementation of the policy.

TN BEAT EXPO 2024

- “**TN BEAT EXPO 2024 - Build Entrepreneurs in Adi Dravidars and Tribals**” conclave was conducted in **India**.
- It is one of south India’s biggest business conclaves for entrepreneurs from the **SC/ST community**.
- The event is organised by the Tamil Nadu government and **Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing and Development Corporation Limited (TAHDCO)**.

Thoothukudi Idukkam Kalaivom

- The **Thoothukudi district** administration launched ‘**Thoothukudi Idukkam Kalaivom**’ (thoothukuditik.org) portal for mobilising funds to help the flood affected people.
- The website **Thoothukudi Rains Relief and Recovery Fund** was created to provide livelihood, financial emergency, support, and medical assistance to the affected families.

Idhayam Kappom initiative

- Tamil Nadu’s **Idhayam Kappom initiative** has completed **six months** recently and covered over **5,000 beneficiaries**.
- It is a preventive heart health scheme that was launched in **June 2023**.
- The objective is to save lives in remote/difficult to reach areas, especially during transit.

Ungalai Thedi, Ungal Ooril (In your town, looking for you) scheme launched

- Tamil Nadu launches the **Ungalai Thedi, Ungal Ooril (In your town, looking for you) scheme**.
- The scheme aims to **redress the grievances of the general public expeditiously**.
- Under the initiative, **every District Collector and senior district-level officials** will visit and stay in a taluk for one day in a **month (4th Wednesday)** to inspect government offices in that area and listen to the grievances of the general public.