

VETRI IAS STUDY CIRCLE

Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

MARCH 2024 - PART 1



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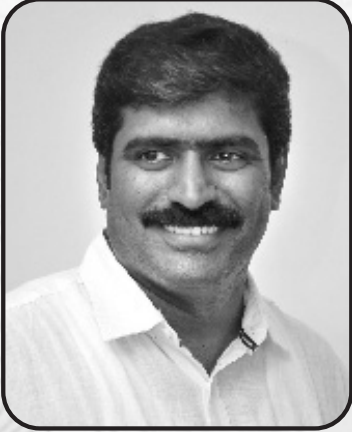
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Preface



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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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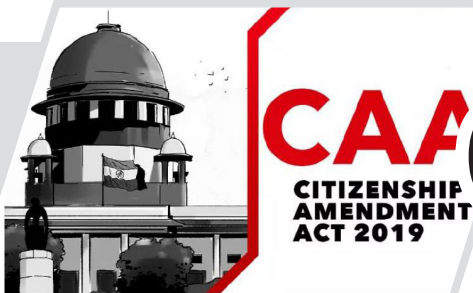
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1. HISTORY



1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
March 1	World Seagrass Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">World Seagrass Day is celebrated annually on March 1 to raise awareness about seagrass and its important functions in the marine ecosystem.Theme 2024: Healthy seagrass, healthy planet.
March 1	Zero Discrimination Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Zero Discrimination Day is celebrated every year on March 1 to promote equality, inclusion, and tolerance across the world.Theme for 2024: To protect everyone's health, protect everyone's rights.The day was first celebrated on March 1, 2014.
March 3	World Wildlife Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">World Wildlife Day is observed annually to raise awareness about the importance of wildlife conservation.Theme 2024: "Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation."The day was first observed in March 3, 2014.
March 4	National Safety Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">India observes National Safety Day every year on March 4 to promote safety awareness and practices across various sectors.Theme 2024: Safety Leadership for Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Excellence.
March 4	World Obesity Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">World Obesity Day is observed on March 4 every year to raise awareness about obesity.Theme 2024: 'Let's Talk About Obesity And...!'

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
March 7	Jan Aushadhi Diwas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jan Aushadhi Diwas is observed on March 7 every year. ▪ The day aims to raise awareness about the Jan Aushadhi program and encourage the usage of generic medications. <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) is launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers in November, 2008 to provide generic medicines at affordable prices
March 8	International Women's Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Women's Day is observed on March 8 every year to raise awareness about several issues related to women like gender equality, women's reproductive rights, gender violence, abuses against women, women's education, etc. ▪ Theme 2024: "Invest in Women: Accelerating Progress". ▪ The day has been observed by United Nations since 1975.
March 10	55th CISF Raising Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CISF Raising Day is observed every year on March 10 to commemorate the establishment of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) in 1969. ▪ CISF is a paramilitary security force. ▪ It functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
March 15	World Consumer Rights Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The World Consumer Rights Day is observed on March 15 every year to create awareness about the rights of all consumers against fraud, discrimination, and other such practices. ▪ 2024 Theme: 'Fair and Responsible AI for Consumers'. ▪ The first World Consumer Rights Day was celebrated in 1983.

1.2 DEFENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND TERRORISM

INS Jatayu

- The **Indian Navy** commissioned the **second Naval base INS Jatayu, at Minicoy Island in the Lakshadweep Islands.**
- **INS Dweeprakshak in Kavaratti** is the **first Naval base** which was commissioned in **2012.**
- The base strategically located islands near the **Nine Degree Channel.**
- **Nine Degree Channel** separates the island of **Minicoy from the Lakshadweep archipelago.**

ADITI Scheme

- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** unveiled the **Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI) scheme.**

- The scheme aims to promote innovations in critical and strategic defence technologies, providing start-ups with significant grants for research and development.

Naval Commanders' Conference

- The first edition of the **Biannual Naval Commanders' Conference 2024** was concluded recently in **New Delhi.**
- The important maritime security issues at the Military-Strategic level was discussed at the conference.
- The inaugural session of the Conference was held onboard the aircraft carrier **INS Vikramaditya**

1.3 WORLD ORGANISATIONS – PACTS AND SUMMITS

International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

- The **Union Environment Ministry** plans to set up and coordinate an **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA).**
- IBCA will be headquartered in **India.**

- India has already committed **₹150 crore for five years.**
- So far **16 countries** have given their written consent to be part of the IBCA

1.4 EMINENT PERSONS

Bronze statue of Lachit Borphukan

- A **125-foot bronze statue of Lachit Borphukan** was unveiled at his burial site in **Jorhat district of Assam.**
- The statue is **84 feet tall** which is set on a

pedestal of **41 feet** making the total height of the figurine **125 feet.**

- Lachit Borphukan was an army commander of the **Ahom kingdom.**

1.5 AWARDS & HONOURS

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards

- President **Droupadi Murmu** presented the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for 2022 and 2023** to eminent artists in the field of performing arts.

- She also presented the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship, or Akademi Ratna,** to seven eminent artists.

- It is the highest honour given to artists for his or her exceptional contribution to a performing art form.

- The **Akademi Awards** were first given in **1952**.
- Keerthika Govindhasamy from Tamil Nadu won the award for **Best Storyteller**.

Avvaiyar Award 2024

- The **Avvaiyar Award** for the year 2024 has been announced for the writer **Bastina Susairaj alias Bhama** who made a significant contribution field of literature.
- Her novel "**Karukku**" was translated into English and won the **Crossword Book Awards** for 2000.
- The award was instituted to mark the International Women's Day by former **Chief Minister J.Jayalalitha** in **2012**.
- The Award aims to encourage women excelling in social reforms, women's development, communal harmony, arts, science, culture, journalism and administration etc.

National Creators Award

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** presented the newly formed **National Creators Award to online content creators**.
- The Award was presented to **23 creators** which also include **three International creators**.

Oscar Awards 2024

- 96th Academy Awards ceremony was presented in Los Angeles
- Some of the important awardees are,
 - **Best Actor:** Cillian Murphy, "Oppenheimer"
 - **Best Actress:** Emma Stone, "Poor Things"
 - **Best Picture:** "Oppenheimer"
 - **Best Director:** Christopher Nolan, "Oppenheimer"
 - **Best Score:** "Oppenheimer"
- The first Academy Awards presentation was held on May 16, 1929.

Sahitya Akademi Translation Prize 2023

- Writer **Kannaiyan Dakshnamurthy's** book '**Karunkundram**' has been selected for Sahitya Akademi Translation Prize 2023.
- Kannaiyan Dakshnamurthy has translated **Mamang Dai's** English novel '**The Black Hill**' into Tamil.

1.6 APPOINTMENTS – WHO IS WHO?

Arun Goel resigns

- **Election Commissioner Arun Goel** resigned from his post recently.
- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** consists of **three members**.
- ECI already had a vacant position, and now only the Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar remain on the poll panel.
- Elections Commissioner is selected by the **Selection Committee** comprising,
 - **Prime Minister (Head)**
 - A Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the PM

- Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

- He is later **appointed by the President of India**.

- **Article 324** - Superintendence, direction and control of elections to be vested in an Election Commission.

TN State Election Commissioner

- **B.Jothi Nirmalasamy** was appointed as the new **Tamil Nadu State Election Commissioner** recently.
- **Article 243 K and Article 243 ZA** were inserted to establish a **State Election Commission** in every state as a **constitutional body**.

New Haryana CM

- **Nayab Singh Saini** was sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Haryana recently.
- Haryana Governor **Bandaru Dattatreya** administered the oath of office to **Nayab Singh Saini**.

New Election Commissioners

- Retired bureaucrats **Gyanesh Kumar** and

Sukhbir Singh Sandhu were appointed as new Election Commissioners.

- This is the **first time** that the Election Commissioners have been appointed in accordance with the **Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023**.

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2. POLITICAL SCIENCE

2.1 INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

New Airstrip

- **PM Modi and Mauritian PM Pravind Jugnauth** jointly inaugurated new airstrip and 6 community development projects at the **Agalega island of Mauritius**.
- **Agaléga** comprises **two islands** – the main North Island, and the smaller South Island.

India – EFTA Bloc

- India is likely to sign a long-negotiated free trade agreement with **European Free Trade Association (EFTA)**.
- EFTA includes four European countries - **Switzerland, Finland, Norway and Liechtenstein**.
- The proposed **India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)**

is expected to bring investments worth **\$100 billion** into India and generate one million jobs

Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)

- India signed the **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** with **European Free Trade Association (EFTA)** recently.
- **EFTA** includes four European nations - **Switzerland, Finland, Norway and Liechtenstein**.
- **TEPA** aims to reach **\$100 billion in investments** in India and **one million jobs** within **15 years**.
- It is the **second such FTA agreement** signed after India's agreement with the **United Arab Emirates**.

2.2 LATEST COURT VERDICTS

SC overrules JMM bribery case judgment

- **Seven-judge Bench of the Supreme Court** declared that parliamentary privilege or immunity will not protect legislators who take bribes to vote or speak in **Parliament or State Legislative Assemblies** from criminal prosecution.

- The Supreme Court overrules the judgment of **JMM Bribery Case of 1998** which granted immunity for legislators for bribery.
- **Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud** observed that the bribery is complete the moment bribery amount is accepted.

2.2 PUBLIC AWARENESS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Cabinet approves Fertilizer Subsidy

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the proposal of the Department of Fertilizers for fixing the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for Kharif Season, 2024 on Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers.
- Three new fertilizer grades was added under the NBS scheme.
- The tentative budgetary requirement for Kharif season 2024 would be approximately Rs.24,420 crore.

Tripartite Agreement

- The Government of India, the government of Tripura, and the Tipraha Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance (TIPRA) signed a tripartite agreement recently.
- The agreement was signed to address the issues faced by the indigenous people of Tripura, who make up 33% of the population.

Sudha Murty nominated to Rajya Sabha

- Philanthropist and author in Kannada and English Sudha Murty was nominated to the Rajya Sabha by President Droupadi Murmu.
- Under Article 80(3) of the Indian Constitution a person can be nominated to the Rajya Sabha if he has special knowledge in Arts, Science, Literature or social service.

Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024

- The Union Home Ministry officially released the rules for the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).
- Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024 amends the Citizenship Rules, 2009 and is

notified to enforce Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019.

- It will enable the persons eligible under CAA, 2019 to apply for the grant of Indian citizenship.
- Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019 aims to offer Indian citizenship to persecuted non-Muslim migrants.
- This includes Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis, and Christians who migrated from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan who arrived in India before December 31, 2014.

UCC Bill, 2024

- President Droupadi Murmu gave assent to the UCC Bill, 2024 recently.
- Uttarakhand became the First State in Independent India to have a Uniform Civil Code.
- President gave assent to the bill under Article 201 of the Constitution of India.
- The Bill has 392 Sections under seven Schedules.

Report on One Nation One Election

- The committee led by former President Ram Nath Kovind submitted an extensive report on the 'One Nation One Election' initiative to President Droupadi Murmu.
- The report states that the central government must develop a legally tenable mechanism to restore the cycle of simultaneous elections.
- The committee was formed on September 2, 2023.

2.3 GOVT – WELFARE ORIENTED GOVT SCHEMES, THEIR UTILITY

PM Free Electricity scheme

- The **Union Cabinet** has recently approved **PM Free Electricity scheme (PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana)**
- The scheme aims to provide free electricity up to **300 units every month** for **One Crore** households with a total outlay of **Rs.75,021 crore** for installing rooftop solar panels.

Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojna (PM-AJAY)

- **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** laid the foundation stone for **34 residential hostels** across various states **under PM-AJAY**.
- The scheme aims to foster a conducive **learning environment for socially and educationally backward communities**.
- **PM - AJAY** is a merged scheme of three Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely
 - **Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY)**
 - **Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCA to SCSP)**
 - **Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana (BJRCY)**

Mera pehla vote desh ke liye

- The **Ministry of Education, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** have jointly launched a nationwide awareness campaign **“Mera pehla vote desh ke liye (My First Vote for the Country)”** recently.
- The scheme aims to encourage the first-time voters to participate in the 2024 Lok Sabha election

Umbrella body for urban cooperative banks

- **Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah** inaugurated an umbrella organisation for **urban cooperative banks (UCB) – the National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation Limited (NUCFDC)**.

- The organisation had a collective strength of **11,000 branches** with **1,500 banks, deposits of ₹5 lakh crore** and loans totaling **₹3.50 lakh crore**

V-SAT Stations

- The **Tribal Affairs Ministry** is planning to collaborate with the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** to deploy **V-SAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal) stations**.
- The **V-SAT stations** will be set up on a pilot basis for **around 80 tribal villages in Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Maharashtra**.
- It will bring Internet services to these villages that are geographically remote and have difficult terrain.

Namo Drone Didi scheme

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi handed over drones to **1,000 women** chosen to operate drones for agriculture and related purposes under **Namo Drone Didi scheme**.
- Under the scheme, **rural women** are trained to become **drone pilots for agricultural purposes**.
- **Objective** - To enhance economic empowerment and financial autonomy among women, especially in rural areas.

PM-SURAJ portal

- Prime Minister recently launched the **Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthanevam Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan (PM-SURAJ)** portal recently.
- The portal is launched to provide credit support to entrepreneurs from disadvantaged sections of society.
- The portal will be a one-stop point where people from disadvantaged sections of society can apply for and monitor the progress of all loan and credit schemes already available to them.



3. GEOGRAPHY

3.1 POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

First Herpeto-faunal survey

- The **first-ever herpeto-faunal survey** was conducted in the **Core Area** of the **Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR)**.
- Herpeto-faunal includes both **amphibians and reptiles**.
- The survey led to the recording of **82 different species**.
- It includes **51 species of reptiles** and **31 species of amphibians**.

Report on Status of Leopards

- **Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav** released the report on **Status of Leopards in India** at **New Delhi**.
- The **fifth cycle of leopard population estimation** was carried out by the **National Tiger Conservation Authority** and **Wildlife Institute of India**, in collaboration with **State Forest Departments**.

- India's leopard population is estimated at **13,874**.
- The Largest population of leopards in India is recorded in **Madhya Pradesh with 3907**, followed by **1,690 in Maharashtra**, **1,783 in Karnataka** and **868 in Tamil Nadu**.

India's first-ever dolphin research centre

- Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inaugurated **India's first-ever dolphin research centre - National Dolphin Research Center (NDRC) in Patna**.
- It is situated on the banks of the Ganges inside the **Patna University campus**.
- It will help students and researchers understand the behaviour of freshwater dolphins, particularly of those found in the Ganges.



4. ECONOMICS

4.1 REPORTS AND INDICES

SIPRI REPORT

- According to Swedish think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), India was the top arms importer in the world in the period 2019-23.
- The imports have gone up to 4.7% compared with the period 2014-18.
- Russia remained as India's main arms supplier.





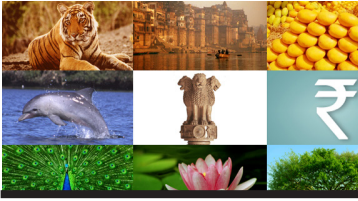
5. SCIENCE

5.1 SPACE

Agni-5

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** conducted the first successful flight test of indigenously developed **Agni-5 missile with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-Entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology**.
- It was tested at **A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha** under the name Mission Divyastra.
- The MIRV technology means a single missile can carry **multiple warheads**.





6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENT

GI tags

- Recently some products has been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag recently, which include.
 - Cuttack Rupa Tarakasi (silver filigree)
 - Banglar Muslin - West Bengal.
 - Narasapur crochet lace products – Andhra Pradesh
 - Kutch rogan craft – Gujarat
 - Ratlam Riyawan Lahsun (Garlic) – Madhya Pradesh
 - Ambaji White Marble – Gujarat
 - Tripura Risa Textile – Tripura
 - Hyderabad Lac Bangles – Telangana
 - Majuli Mask – Assam
 - Majuli Manuscript Painting - Assam

BSF's first woman sniper

- Sub Inspector Suman Kumari became the Border Security Force's (BSF) first woman sniper.
- She is from Himachal Pradesh.

India's first Civil Aviation Research Organisation (CARO) Centre

- PM Modi inaugurated India's first Civil Aviation Research Organisation (CARO) Centre at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad.
- It was set up by the Airports Authority of India in Telangana.
- Objective - To upgrade and enhance research and development (R&D) activities in the civil aviation sector.

India's 1st Green Hydrogen Plant

- Union Minister for Steel and Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya M. Scindia recently inaugurated India's First Green Hydrogen Plant in Stainless Steel Sector.
- It is located at Jindal Stainless Limited, Hisar in Haryana.
- The plant will pave the way for sustainable steel production in India.

India's First City-Specific Zero Carbon Buildings Action Plan (ZCBAP)

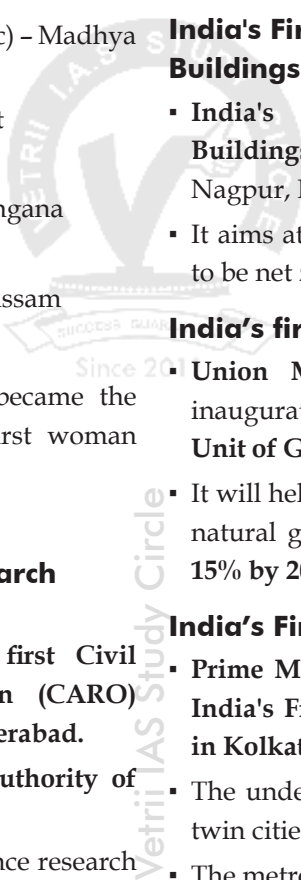
- India's First City-Specific Zero Carbon Buildings Action Plan (ZCBAP) launched in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- It aims at developing all buildings in Nagpur to be net zero carbon by 2050.

India's first Small Scale LNG Unit

- Union Minister Hardeep S.Puri recently inaugurated India's first Small Scale LNG Unit of GAIL at Vijaipur in Madhya Pradesh.
- It will help India's aim to increase the share of natural gas in the primary energy basket to 15% by 2030.

India's First-ever Underwater Metro

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's First-ever Underwater Metro Section in Kolkata.
- The underwater metro will connect Kolkata's twin cities, Howrah and Salt Lake.
- The metro covers a distance of 16.6 kilometers beneath the Hooghly River.



India's first Cooperative Museum

- India's first Cooperative Museum - International Cooperative Museum building is set to be inaugurated in Kozhikode, Kerala.
- Maharashtra has the maximum number of cooperative societies in India with 2.3 lakh cooperative societies and 5 crore members.
- Article 43B deals with the promotion of co-operative societies.

PBSHABD

- Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur launched the 'PBSHABD' recently.
- PBSHABD is Prasar Bharati's news sharing service and the revamped websites of DD News and Akashvani News.
- The PB-SHABD has been designed to provide daily news feeds in video, audio, text, and other formats to subscribers

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7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Pakistan's New President

- **Asif Ali Zardari** was elected as the **14th President of Pakistan** recently.
- He became the **only civilian President of Pakistan** to be elected for the second time.
- He is the co-chairperson of the **Pakistan Peoples Party**.

32nd member of NATO

- Recently, **Sweden** has officially become the **32nd member of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**.
- NATO is a transatlantic political and military alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty (Washington Treaty), **1949**.
- **Headquarters:** Brussels, Belgium





8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

Nammazhvar Award 2024

- TN CM MK Stalin presented the **Nammazhvar awards for 2023-24** for **three farmers** for practising and promoting organic farming.
- **K. Siddhar from Thanjavur** has bagged the top award which carries a cash prize of 2.50 lakh and citation.
- He was followed by **K.V.Pazhanisamy from Tirupur district** and **K.Ezhilan of Kancheepuram district**.

Thozhi hostels

- The **Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department** has proposed to renovate **10 hostels** functioning under it with amenities on a par with Thozhi hostels for working women.
- The government runs **21 working women hostels** in total.
- They were set up in **1980**.
- 10 of them were already converted into **Thozhi hostels at nine locations**.

Core loading of reactor

- PM Narendra Modi launched the core loading of **India's indigenous 500 Mwe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR)** in the nuclear complex at Kalpakkam.
- The initiation of the core loading of **PFBR** was developed by **BHAVINI (Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited)**

New Schemes launched

- **Two schemes** were launched by the Tamil Nadu government recently.

▪ Neengal Nalama scheme:

- To ensure the proper implementation of **various schemes implemented by the state government**.
- Under the scheme, the **Chief Minister, Ministers, Secretaries, and Collectors** will interact with beneficiaries through phone calls to get their feedback on various schemes and services offered by the government for further improvement.

- **Natham Online Patta Transfer Scheme:** To ease the challenges faced by people living in rural areas in getting pattas for their **Grama Natham lands**.

Thermal power plant in Athipet

- **Chief Minister M.K. Stalin** inaugurated the **₹10,158- crore supercritical technology-based North Chennai Thermal Power Station-III at Athipet in Tiruvallur district**.
- The power station was capable of producing **800 megawatts**.
- Its foundation was laid in **2010** by the then **Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi**.

TIDCO – IN - SPACe Agreement

- **Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited (TIDCO)** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **IN-SPACe**.
- **IN-SPACe** is a single-window **nodal agency** for all space sector activities of **non-government entities (NGE)** in India.

- The MoU intends to establish a **space industrial and propellants park** and a **Centre of Excellence (CoE)**.

HPV vaccination programme

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin recently inaugurated the **HPV vaccination programme** at the **Adyar Cancer Institute's screening centre** in the **Villupuram government hospital complex**.
- The free vaccination against cervical cancer will cover **girls aged 9-14 in Villupuram district**.
- This is the **first time such a scheme** is implemented in Tamil Nadu.
- **Two doses** of the vaccine will be administered to the beneficiaries.
- **Cervical cancer** is mainly caused by **human papillomavirus (HPV)**

Vada Chennai Valarchi Thittam

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin launched **87 civic infrastructure projects** in various parts of **north Chennai** under the **Vada Chennai Valarchi Thittam**.
- The State government had allocated **₹4,181 crore** for the implementation of infrastructure projects in north Chennai.
- **Vada Chennai Valarchi Thittam** was announced in the **TN Budget 2022-23**.

Marine Elite Force

- The **Tamil Nadu Forest Department** has launched a specialised unit called the **Marine Elite Force**.
- The unit aims to preserve and protect marine resources such as coral reefs, sea grass, and other marine flora and fauna in the eco-sensitive island against exploitation in the **Gulf of Mannar of the Palk Bay**.

