

# VETRI IAS STUDY CIRCLE

## Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

**MARCH 2024 - PART 2**



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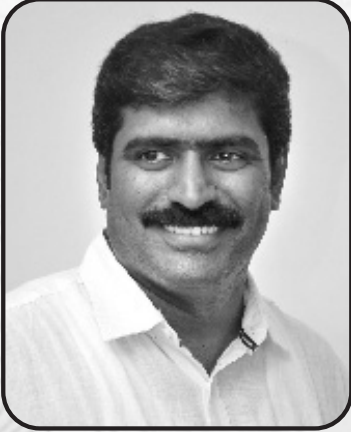
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# Preface



**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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# 1. HISTORY



## 1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
<b>March 16</b>	<b>National Immunization Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>National Immunization Day</b> also known as <b>National Vaccination Day</b> is observed on <b>March 16</b> to raise awareness about the importance of vaccines for human health.</li><li>▪ <b>Theme 2024:</b> Vaccines Work For All</li><li>▪ <b>National Vaccination Day</b> was first observed in <b>1995</b> when the first dose of oral polio vaccine was given in India.</li></ul>
<b>March 21</b>	<b>International Day of Forests</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The <b>International Day of Forests</b> is celebrated every year on <b>March 21</b> to raise awareness of the importance of forests and trees for the survival of humanity and its planet.</li><li>▪ <b>Theme for 2024</b> : Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World.</li><li>▪ The day was first celebrated by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012.</li></ul>
<b>March 21</b>	<b>World Down Syndrome Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>World Down Syndrome Day</b> is observed every year on March 21 to raise awareness about Down syndrome.</li><li>▪ <b>Theme 2024</b> : 'End The Stereotypes'.</li><li>▪ The day has been officially observed by the United Nations <b>since 2012</b>.</li></ul>
<b>March 22</b>	<b>World Water Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>World Water Day</b> is celebrated on <b>March 22</b> every year to highlight the importance of water.</li><li>▪ <b>Theme 2024:</b> Leveraging Water for Peace.</li><li>▪ The day was first celebrated in <b>1993</b></li></ul>

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
<b>March 23</b>	<b>World Meteorological Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>World Meteorological Day</b> is observed annually on <b>March 23</b> every year.</li> <li>▪ The day commemorates the formal establishment of the <b>World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)</b>.</li> <li>▪ <b>Theme 2024</b> : At the Frontline of Climate Action</li> </ul>
<b>March 24</b>	<b>World Tuberculosis Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>World TB Day</b> is celebrated every year on <b>March 24</b> to raise public awareness about the devastating health, social and economic consequences of tuberculosis (TB).</li> <li>▪ <b>Theme 2024:</b> “Yes! We can end TB”.</li> <li>▪ The date marks the day in <b>1882</b> when <b>Dr.Robert Koch</b> discovered the <b>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</b> that causes TB.</li> </ul>
<b>March 25</b>	<b>Earth Hour 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In 2024 Earth Hour is observed on <b>March 25</b>.</li> <li>▪ Earth Hour is the <b>World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF)</b>'s annual initiative that began in 2007.</li> <li>▪ It encourages people from more than <b>180 countries</b> to <b>switch off the lights for 1 hour</b></li> </ul>
<b>March 27</b>	<b>World Theatre Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>World Theatre Day</b> is annually observed across the globe on <b>March 27</b> to promote theatre in all its forms across the world.</li> <li>▪ The Day has been annually celebrated by the <b>International Theatre Institute (ITI)</b> and the <b>World Organization for the Performing Arts</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>March 30</b>	<b>International Day of Zero Waste</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The <b>International Day of Zero Waste</b> is annually observed across the globe on <b>March 30</b> to highlight the importance of <b>improving waste management</b>.</li> <li>▪ The day is observed by the <b>UN Environment Programme (UNEP)</b> and the <b>UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)</b>.</li> <li>▪ The day was first observed in 2023.</li> </ul>

## 1.2 DEFENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND TERRORISM

### Nausena Bhawan

- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** inaugurated a dedicated headquarters 'Nausena Bhawan' at **New Delhi**.
- It is the first independent headquarters of Indian Navy.
- It is equipped with modern facilities and cutting-edge technologies.

### Exercise Lamitiye 2024

- The Tenth edition of Joint Military Exercise "LAMITIYE-2024" will be held in **Seychelles**.
- It is a Joint Military Exercise between **Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces**.

### Ex Tiger Triumph – 24

- **Tiger Triumph - 24** is a bilateral tri-Service **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise** between **India and USA**.
- It is held onboard **INS Jalashwa**.

### IMT TRILAT- 2024

- **Indian Navy** is set to participate in the **second edition of IMT TRILAT Exercise**.

- It is the joint maritime exercise between the navies of **India, Mozambique and Tanzania**.
- The first edition of the **IMT TRILAT exercise** was conducted in **October 2022**.

### Op Sankalp

- **March 23** marked the **completion of 100 days** of the ongoing maritime security operations under the aegis of 'Op Sankalp'.
- 'Operation Sankalp' was launched by the **Indian Navy in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman** as a measure to assure the safety and security of the Indian vessels.

### LCA - Mk1A flight test

- The **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** successfully completed the first flight of indigenous **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mark 1A fighter jet in Bengaluru**.
- **LCA - Mk1A** is the most advanced version of **Tejas**.
- **Tejas** is an indigenously built multi-role fighter aircraft.

## 1.3 WORLD ORGANISATIONS – PACTS AND SUMMITS

### 4th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Startup Forum

- The fourth edition of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Startup Forum** was held in **New Delhi**.
- The initiative aimed to increase startup relationships among **SCO Member States**.

### About SCO

- Launch - **June 15, 2001**.
- It is a **permanent inter governmental international organization** established in **Shanghai, China**.
- It has **9 member countries including India**.

## 1.4 EMINENT PERSONS

### PwD National Icon

- **Ms. Sheetal Devi** was announced as the **National Icon in the PwD category Persons with Disabilities** by the Election Commission of India recently.

- She is a distinguished **Para-archer**, and **Arjuna Awardee**.

## 1.5 SPORTS

### Paris Olympics 2024

- The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) named table tennis player **Achanta Sharath Kamal** as flagbearer for the Indian Olympic contingent.
- The IOA appointed boxer **Mary Kom** as the **chef de mission** of the Indian Olympic contingent.
- Paris Olympics 2024 is set to be held from 26th July to 11th August 2024 in Paris, France.

## 1.6 AWARDS & HONOURS

### Order of the Druk Gyalpo Award

- **Narendra Modi** was awarded **Bhutan's highest honour**, the 'Order of the Druk Gyalpo'.
- Modi is the **first foreign leader** to receive the prestigious award.
- The award recognizes **Narendra Modi's** contribution to strengthening India-Bhutan friendship and his people centric leadership.
- The Award is given to scholar who has made a significant contribution to mathematics.
- It has been presented since 2003.

### Bharat Ratna 2024

- President **Droupadi Murmu** conferred the Bharat Ratna 2024 on five personalities, namely,
  - **P.V. Narasimha Rao**
  - **Chaudhary Charan Singh**
  - **Karpoori Thakur**
  - **Dr. M.S. Swaminatan.**
  - **LK Advani**
- **Four awards** except for **LK Advani** were presented posthumously at a brief ceremony at the **Rashtrapati Bhavan**.

### Madras Music Academy Awards 2024

- The Madras Music Academy conferred **TM Krishna** with the **Sangita Kalanidhi Award** for 2024.
- It is considered to be the highest award in the Carnatic music scene.
- **Nritya Kalanidhi award** was presented to **Dr.Neena Prasad** for 2024.

### Abel Prize

- The **Abel Prize for 2024** has been awarded to **French mathematician Michael Talagrand** recently.
- **Note**
- Bharat Ratna is **India's highest civilian honour**.
- Established - **1954**
- It is awarded to people for their exceptional public service in fields like literature, science and art.

## 1.7 APPOINTMENTS – WHO IS WHO?

### Committee for Preservation of Great Indian Bustard.

- The **Supreme Court** has recently appointed a **seven-member expert committee** for the preservation of the **Great Indian Bustard (GIB)**.
- IUCN Status - **Critically Endangered**.

### New NIA director general

- The Centre has recently appointed **Sadanand Vasant Date** as the **Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA)**.
- He was appointed by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**.
- ACC is composed of the **Prime Minister of India** and the **Minister of Home Affairs**.



# 2. POLITICAL SCIENCE

## 2.1 INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

### India-Bhutan

- India has decided to double Bhutan's assistance over the next five years, from ₹5,000 crore in 2019-2024 to ₹10,000 crore for the period till 2029.

- India lends support to the 'Gelephu Mindfulness City' Project of Bhutan.

## 2.2 PUBLIC AWARENESS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

### Captive Elephant (Transfer or Transport) Rules, 2024

- The Centre has notified a set of rules called the **Captive Elephant (Transfer or Transport) Rules, 2024**.
- The Rules liberalise the conditions under which elephants may be transferred within or between states.

### Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2024

- Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** has recently notified the rules under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986** to amend **Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules, 2016**.

- The Rules revises provisions relating to plastic packaging and commodities made from compostable plastics or biodegradable plastics.

### E- Vehicle policy 2024

- The Cabinet recently approved the **E-Vehicle policy** to promote India as a **manufacturing destination** for EVs.
- The policy aims to promote India as a manufacturing destination so that e-vehicles (EV) with the latest technology can be manufactured.

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

### SAKHI App

- The **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)** has developed a multi-purpose app called **SAKHI-Space-borne Assistant and Knowledge Hub for Crew Interaction**.
- The App will help the astronauts stay connected with Earth and also alert them about their dietary schedules.
- ISRO is planning to launch the **Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission in 2025**.

### Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme (EMPS), 2024

- Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI)** has proposed to implement the **Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme (EMPS), 2024** recently.
- The scheme aims to promote the adoption of **electric two-wheelers (e2W) and three-wheelers (e3W)**.
- The scheme does not cover electric **four-wheelers (e4Ws) and e-buses**.

### BhashaNet portal

- The portal was launched jointly by the **National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)** and the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.
- BhashaNet portal is a **Multilingual Internet and Universal Acceptance Initiative**.
- The portal provides an eco-system to enable citizen to easily create, communicate, transact, process and retrieve information with ease in digital medium without language barrier

### Revised wages under the MGNREGS

- The Union government recently notified the revised wages under the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee**

**Scheme (MGNREGS)** with States reporting a hike in wages by eight to 10%.

- Haryana offers the highest wages at ₹374 per day and Uttar Pradesh offers the lowest wages at ₹237.
- Tamil Nadu revised the wages Rs.294 to 319.

### C-Vigil app

- The Election Commission recently stated that over 79,000 complaints against violation of model code of conduct were received on C-Vigil app and over 99 per cent of complaints have been resolved.

- **"cVIGIL" App enable citizens to report on violation of election code of conduct.**





# 3. GEOGRAPHY

## 3.1 POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

### **Pandavula Gutta**

- **Pandavula Gutta** has been officially recognised as the **Geo-heritage site in Telangana**.
- It is a geological marvel older than the Himalayan hills.
- Geo-heritage sites are announced by the **Geological Survey of India (GSI)**.

### **'Hottest Year' on record**

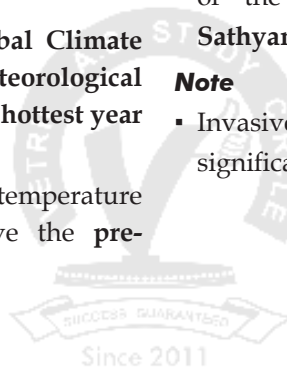
- According to 'The State of Global Climate Report' released by **World Meteorological Organisation 2023** is officially the **hottest year on record**.
- The global average near-surface temperature was **1.45 degrees Celsius** above the **pre-industrial baseline**.

### **Senna spectabilis**

- The **Forest Department** stated that **Senna spectabilis** which is a highly invasive tree species has been removed from around **400 hectares of the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR)**.
- **Madras High Court** had ordered the removal of the tree from both **Mudumalai and Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserves**.

### **Note**

- **Invasive species** are non-native species that significantly disrupts the ecosystems.





# 4. ECONOMICS

## 4.1 REPORTS AND INDICES

### Human Development Index (HDI) 2023-24

- **Human Development Report 2023-2024** is released by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** recently.
- **Theme of the report:** "Breaking the Gridlock: Reimagining Cooperation in a Polarized World."
- India ranked **134 in 2022**.
- India is in the **medium human development category**
- HDI value increase by **48.4 percent from 0.434 in 1990 to 0.644 in 2022** between 1990 and 2022.
- India's life expectancy at birth is **67.7 years in 2022**.
- The **expected years of schooling (EYS) is 12.6 years**.
- **Gross National Income (GNI) per capita** is \$6,951.

### Gender Inequality Index 2022

- The **Gender Inequality Index 2022** was released by **UNDP** recently.
- India stands at rank **108 out of 193 countries** with a score of 0.437.
- India improved 14 places from the **2021 ranking of 122 out of 191 countries**, with a score of 0.490.

### ILO Report

- The report titled "Profits and poverty: The economics of forced labour" was released recently by the **International Labour Organization (ILO)**.

### Key Highlights of the Report

- The forced labour generates illegal profits worth \$36 billion per year with \$10,000 per victim.
- Total annual illegal profits from forced labour are highest in Europe and Central Asia followed by Asia.
- **Top three sectors** with the highest annual illegal profits from forced labour,
  - **Forced commercial sexual exploitation.**
  - **Industries**
  - **Services**

### Air Quality Report 2023

- **Air Quality Report 2023** is released by **Swiss organisation IQAir** recently.

### Key Findings:

- India was **third most polluted country** after **Bangladesh and Pakistan**.
- **New Delhi** has been ranked as the **World's most Polluted Capital City**.
- **Bihar's Begusarai** has emerged as the **world's most polluted metropolitan area**.
- **42** of the world's most polluted **50 cities** are in India.

### World Happiness Report (WHR) 2024

- The **World Happiness Report** is published annually by the **United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network**.
- It is calculated using **six variables** – GDP per capita, healthy life expectancy, having someone to count on, freedom to make life choices, generosity, and freedom from corruption

- India ranked **126** in the Index.
- The report observed that in India, older age is associated with higher life satisfaction.
- **Finland** topped the list for the **seventh year in a row**, followed by **Denmark, Iceland and Sweden**.

### **UN World Water Development Report 2024**

- **UN World Water Development Report 2024** focusing on **'Water for Prosperity and Peace'** was released recently.
- It was released by **UN-Water**.
- The report states that agriculture accounts for **70% of freshwater withdrawals**.

### **India Employment Report 2024**

- The **India Employment Report 2024** was recently released by the **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** and the **Institute of Human Development (IHD)**.

#### **Key Highlights**

- The youngsters account for **almost 83% of the India's unemployed workforce**.
- The share of those with secondary or higher education among the unemployed youth in India has almost doubled from **35.2% in 2000 to 65.7% in 2022**.
- **Labour from agriculture** was mainly absorbed by the **construction and services sectors**.

### **Global Trade Update Report**

- **Global Trade Update Report** was recently released by **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**.

#### **Key Highlights**

- **Export of services** from India rose by **14% in 2023**.

- **Exports of goods** from India declined by **6%**.
- International trade is expected to rebound in **2024**.

### **Food Waste Index Report 2024**

- **Food Waste Index Report 2024** was released by the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** and **WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme)**.

#### **Key Highlights**

- The households across the globe waste over **one billion meals a day in 2022**.
- **1.05 billion tonnes** of food waste were generated in **2022**.
- **India's per capita food waste is 55kg per year**.
- **India ranked 111** out of 125 countries in the index.

### **India TB report 2024**

- **India TB report 2024** was recently released by the **Union Health Ministry**.

#### **Key Highlights**

- Since 2015, India has recorded a decline of **16% in incidence of TB (Tuberculosis)** and a **18% reduction in mortality**.
- The incidence rate in India is **199 per lakh population in 2022**.
- The mortality rate is **23 per lakh population in 2022**.
- India has set 2025 as the **target for eliminating TB**.

#### **Note**

- **National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP)** is guided by the **National Strategic Plan 2017-25** to accelerate the **TB elimination**.



# 5. SCIENCE

## 5.1 SPACE

### India's First liquid oxygen-kerosene rocket

- The Chennai based Space start-up Agnikul Cosmos Private Limited will be launching its First Rocket Agnibaan Sub Orbital Technology Demonstrator (SOrTeD) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, in Sriharikota.
- Agnibaan SOrTeD will be,
  - India's First launch from a private launchpad
  - India's First semi-cryogenic engine powered rocket launch
  - World's First single piece 3D printed engine designed and built indigenously.
- Agnikul Cosmos is the First company in the country to sign an agreement with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) under the IN-SPACE initiative

### 'Pushpak' Reusable Landing Vehicle

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully conducted the Pushpak Reusable Landing Vehicle (RLV) LEX 02 landing experiment
- The test was conducted at the Aeronautical Test Range (ATR), Chitradurga, Karnataka.
- The RLV LEX 02 landing experiment is the second of the series of experiments conducted by ISRO.
- RLV-LEX-01 mission was launched in 2023.

### Statio Shiv Shakti

- The International Astronomical Union (IAU) officially approved the name "Statio Shiv

Shakti" for the landing site of Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander.

- IAU is the internationally recognised authority for assigning names to planetary surface features.

### POEM-3 mission

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced that Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle Orbital Experimental Module-3 (POEM-3) has re-entered the Earth's atmosphere with zero debris in orbit.
- PSLV-C58/XPoSat mission has left zero debris in the orbit.
- POEM-3 was configured with a total of 9 different experimental payloads to carry out technology demonstrations and scientific experiments on the newly developed indigenous systems.

### Kalam-250

- The leading space-tech company Skyroot Aerospace has successfully test-fired Kalam - 250 recently.
- Kalam - 250 is the Stage-2 of Vikram-1 space launch vehicle.
- It was successfully test fired at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

### Note

- The Vikram is a series of launch vehicles developed by Skyroot Aerospace which is an Indian startup aerospace company.

## LATEST DISCOVERIES IN HEALTH SCIENCE

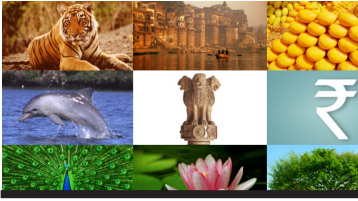
### CoViNet

- Recently, the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** has launched a new network for coronaviruses, **CoViNet**.
- CoViNet is a **network of global laboratories** with expertise in human, animal and environmental coronavirus surveillance.
- At present, it comprises **36 laboratories from 21 countries in all six WHO regions**.

Vetrii IAS Study Circle



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# 6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENT

## Model Code of Conduct (MCC)

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) announced that the Lok Sabha elections would be conducted in seven phases from April 19 to June 1 and the results will be announced on June 4.
- The MCC is a set of guidelines issued to regulate political parties and candidates prior to elections.
- It is not legally binding.
- It contains eight provisions dealing with general conduct, meetings, processions, polling day, polling booths, observers, the party in power, and election manifestos.

## Solar Waste

- According to a new study published by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and a climate think tank - Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) 600 kilotonnes of solar waste will be generated in India by 2030.
- The current solar capacity of India stands at 66.7 GW as of March 2023.

## Operation 'Indravati' launched

- India recently launched Operation 'Indravati' to rescue Indians from Haiti to the Dominican Republic.
- The security situation has deteriorated due to internal unrest in Haiti.

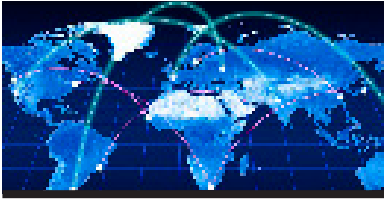
## Rajasthan Water Resources Dashboard

- Rajasthan became the first state in India to launch a dedicated portal for water.
- The portal provides real time information on the water level in dams, reservoirs and canals in different parts of Rajasthan

## Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs)

- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) releases the list of Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) for 2023-24.
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) and New India Assurance Company were identified as D-SIIs.





# 7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

## Russian president

- **Vladimir Putin** was elected as the **President of Russia** again with winning 87.8% of the vote.
- He first became the **President of Russia** on **December 31, 1999**.

## World's first ever Nuclear Energy Summit

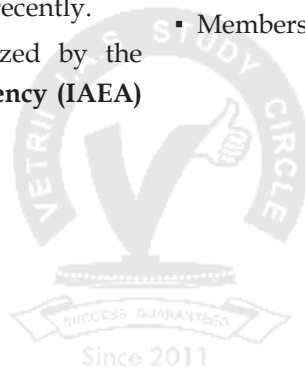
- The **World's first ever Nuclear Energy Summit** was held in **Brussels in Belgium** recently.
- The summit was jointly organized by the **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

and the **government of Belgium** to promote nuclear energy.

- The Summit was attended by more than **30 countries including India**.

## About IAEA

- Formation - 1957
- It is an **autonomous body under United Nations**.
- Members - **178 (Including India)**





# 8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

## **Pudhumai Penn Scheme**

- The government order issued by the Social Welfare Department has expanded the scope of the Pudhumai Penn Scheme to **students studying through Tamil medium at aided schools**.
- This would benefit **over 49,600 more girl students** studying through Tamil medium in aided schools across Tamil Nadu.
- Pudhumai Pen Scheme is launched on **September 5, 2022**.

## **Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam (MTM)**

- A State-wide, cross-sectional survey has found that **Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam (MTM)** has reached the most vulnerable groups, such as women in rural areas and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.
- The survey found that diabetes and hypertension were the **most widely covered non-communicable diseases (NCDs)** under MTM and **cancer screening coverage** was extremely low.
- MTM was launched in **2021**.
- **Aim** - To deliver medical care at people's doorstep.

## **Panel for global conference on Lord Muruga**

- The **Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department** has constituted a 20-member coordination committee for the **International Conference Lord Muruga**.

- The committee will be headed by **HR&CE Minister P.K. Sekarbabu**.
- The conference will be held in **Palani**.

## **Second World Classical Tamil Conference**

- **Chief Minister M.K. Stalin** announced that the **second World Classical Tamil Conference** would be held in Chennai in June 2025 for five days.
- The **First World Classical Tamil Conference** was held in **June 2010 in Coimbatore** under the leadership of then Chief Minister **M.Karunanidhi**.

## **Four New Municipalities**

- The State government has ordered that **Pudukottai, Namakkal, Tiruvannamalai, and Karaikudi** be upgraded to **Municipal Corporations**.
- The new Municipal Corporations will be established in compliance with the procedures laid down under the **Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies Act, 1998**.

## **PM SHRI Schools scheme**

- The **Tamil Nadu School Education Department** stated that the **Tamil Nadu government** has decided to sign a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the Union Education Ministry to implement the **PM SHRI scheme** in the state.
- **PM SHRI** is a **centrally sponsored scheme** that aims to showcase the implementation of the **National Education Policy 2020**.

- It will be implemented over a period of 5 years from 2022-23 to 2026-27.

### **'Mudhalvarin Grama Salaigal Membattu Thittam' (MGSMT)**

- The Tamil Nadu government has recently sanctioned ₹1,000 crore to improve roads in village panchayats and panchayat unions under the 'Mudhalvarin Grama Salaigal Membattu Thittam' (MGSMT).
- The scheme aims to expand the network of quality roads to remote villages, road development works covering 2,000 km.

### **Pulikuthi pattangal**

- Pulikuthi pattangal which dates back to

Vijayanagara Empire was excavated near Kandhili in Tirupattur district.

- It is erected in memory of those who lay their lives while chasing tigers out of residential pockets

### **Tamil Nadu emerges as top borrower**

- According to ratings firm ICRA Limited, Tamil Nadu emerged as the top borrowing State for the fourth successive fiscal year.
- Tamil Nadu borrowed ₹1,13,000 crore at the end of the fiscal year 2023-24.
- Tamil Nadu is followed by Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh in market borrowings.

