

VETRI IAS STUDY CIRCLE

Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

MAY 2024 - PART 2



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Head Office

Old No. 52, New No. 1, 9th Street,
F Block, 1st Avenue Main Road, (Near Isha Siddhi Vinayakar Temple), Anna Nagar East – 600 102.
Ph: 044-2626 5326 | 98844 21666 | 98844 32666

Branches

SALEM

No. 189/1, Meyanoor Road,
Near ARRS Multiplex, (Near
Salem New Bus Stand),
Opp. Venkateshwara Complex,
Salem - 636 004.
Ph: 0427-2330307 | 95001 22022

KOVAI

No. 347, D.S. Complex
(3rd floor), Nehru Street,
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Bus Stand, Ramnagar,
Kovai - 641 009.
Ph: 75021 65390

MADURAI

No. 199, Dharshini Tower,
1st Floor, Vaigai Colony,
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91500 21998

TIRUNELVELI

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Palayamkottai,
Near Palai Bus Stand,
(Next to Muthamil Hospital),
Tirunelveli - 627 002.
Ph: 91500 10079

THANJAVUR

Muthu Complex,
(Pantaloons Showroom Basement)
No. 243, Cauvery Nagar,
Opp. New Housing Unit,
Thanjavur - 613 005.
Ph: 78711 69099 | 78715 71819

KOVILPATTI

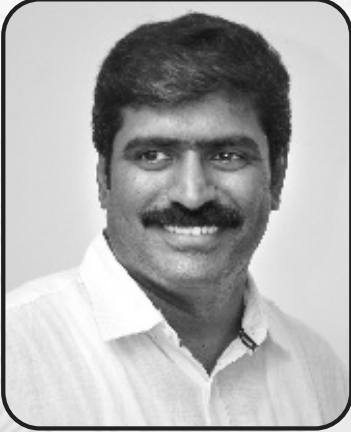
No. 15, Kathiresan Kovil Road,
Behind Kaliamma Temple,
Kovilpatti - 628 501.
Ph: 90037 90335
81222 80685

THIRUCHENGODE

Vivekananda Educational Institutions
Elayampalayam (Po),
Thiruchengode (TK),
Namakkal (Dt) - 637205.
Ph: 7845779908

www.vetriias.com

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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VETRII IAS STUDY CIRCLE

F Block New No. 1, 9th Street,
1st Avenue Main Road, Chinthamani,
Anna Nagar (E), Chennai - 102.

Phone : 044-2626 5326

98844 72636 | 98844 21666 | 98844 32666

E-mail : enquiry@vetriias.com

Web : www.vetriias.com

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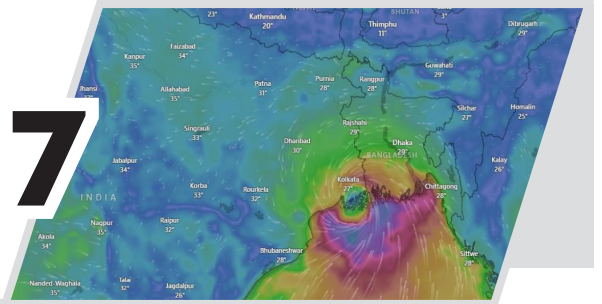


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1. HISTORY



1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
May 15	International Day of Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The International Day of Families is observed on May 15 every year to celebrate the importance of families and their role in society.▪ Theme 2024 : 'Families and Climate Change.'▪ The day was observed for the first time in 1994
May 16	International Day of Light	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The International Day of Light is observed annually on May 16.▪ The day commemorates the first successful operation of the laser by Theodore Maiman in 1960.▪ The day was established by UNESCO.▪ Theme 2024 : Light in Our Lives
May 16	National Dengue Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ National Dengue Day is observed on May 16 every year to spread awareness about Dengue.▪ The day is observed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH & FW).▪ Theme 2024 : "Connect with Community, Control Dengue." <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Dengue is a viral disease.▪ It is caused by the bite of infected female Aedes aegypti mosquito.
May 17	National Endangered Species Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ National Endangered Species Day is observed on the third Friday in month of May every year to create awareness about the conservation of the endangered species.▪ In 2024, the day is observed on May 17.▪ Theme 2024 : Celebrate Saving Species.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
		<p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Top three endangered species in India are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asian Elephant Ganges River Dolphin One horned Rhinoceros
May 20	World Bee Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Bee Day is observed on May 20 every year. The day marks the birth anniversary of Anton Janša. He is considered to be one of the fathers of modern beekeeping. Theme 2024 : “Bee Engaged with Youth”
May 22	International Day for Biological Diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day for Biological Diversity is observed on May 22 every year. The day commemorates the adoption of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992. Theme 2024 : Be Part of the Plan
May 23	World Turtle Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is celebrated every year on May 23 to highlight the importance of protecting turtles and their habitats. It was first observed in 2000. <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Marine Turtle Action Plan - January 2021. There are five species of turtles in India - Olive Ridley, Green turtle, Loggerhead, Hawksbill, Leatherback. They are protected in India under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
May 24	World Schizophrenia Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Schizophrenia Day is observed on 24 May every year to raise awareness about the disease. The day is observed to honour Dr. Phillipe Pinel from France.
May 25	World Thyroid Awareness Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The day is observed on 25 May every year to raise awareness about thyroid diseases. Theme 2024: Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). The day commemorates the founding of the European Thyroid Association.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
May 28	World Menstrual Hygiene Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is observed on May 28 every year to raise awareness and promote good menstrual hygiene management (MHM) practices worldwide. ▪ Theme 2024: Together for a Period Friendly World. <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ According to National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) 27% of young rural women and 10% of young urban women resort to unhygienic methods during menstruation.
May 29	International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The day is celebrated annually on May 29 every year. ▪ The day honours the establishment of the UN's first peacekeeping mission called United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) which was deployed in 1948. ▪ Theme 2024 : Fit for the future, building better together <p>About UN Peacekeeping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Formation - 1945 ▪ Commander-in-chief - António Guterres
May 29	International Everest Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is observed on May 29 every year. ▪ The day commemorates the scaling of Mount Everest by Tenzing Norgay from Nepal and Edmund Hillary from New Zealand. ▪ The day was first observed in 2008 when Edmund Hillary passed away.
May 31	World No Tobacco Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World No-Tobacco Day is observed on May 31 every year to raise awareness about the dangers of tobacco consumption and promote tobacco control measures. ▪ Theme 2024: "Protecting Children from Tobacco Industry Interference" ▪ The day was first observed in 1987 by the World Health Organisation (WHO) ▪ As per WHO, tobacco use is a major cause of death and disease in India, responsible for an estimated 1.35 million deaths annually.

1.2 WORLD SUMMITS AND ORGANISATION

World Hydrogen Summit 2024

- **World Hydrogen Summit 2024** was recently held in **Rotterdam, Netherlands**.
- The summit was organised by **Sustainable Energy Council** in partnership with **Netherlands government**.
- India has set up its pavilion at the summit for the **first time**.
- The pavilion was set up by the **Ministry of New & Renewable Energy**.

Note

- **National Green Hydrogen Mission** - January 2023.
- India aims to achieve a **green hydrogen production capacity** of **5 MMT (Million Metric Tonnes)** by 2030.

- **Guidelines for use of Green Hydrogen** in steel, transport / mobility and shipping sectors.
- **Hydrogen Valley Innovation Clusters** to foster promote **Green Hydrogen ecosystem**

New member of ISA

- **Spain** has officially become the 99th member of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**.

About ISA

- **Formation** - 2015
- Launched by **India and France** in COP - 21 summit.
- **Headquarter** - Gurugram, India.
- **Director General** - Ajay Mathur
- **Objective** - To mobilise USD 1,000 billion of investments in solar energy solutions by 2030.

1.3 AWARDS & HONOURS

2024 Whitley Gold Award

- **Purnima Devi Barman** recently received the **2024 Whitley Gold Award** for conserving **Greater Adjutant Stork (Leptoptilos dubius)**.
- The award is also known as 'Green Oscar'.

Note

- She already received the **United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) 'Champions of the Earth'** in 2022.
- She formed the "**hargila army**", which is a group of rural women in Assam to protect the **Greater Adjutant**.

About Greater Adjutant

- **IUCN Status** - Vulnerable
- Protected under **Schedule IV of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**.

International Booker Prize 2024

- The book 'Kairos' has been named as the winner of the **International Booker Prize 2024**.
- The book was written by **Jenny Erpenbeck** and translated by **Michael Hofmann**.

Indian authors who have won the International Booker Prize

- **1971** - In a Free State by V.S. Naipaul
- **1981** - Midnight's Children by Salman Rushdie
- **1997** - The God of Small Things by Arundhati Roy
- **2006** - The Inheritance of Loss by Kiran Desai
- **2008** - The White Tiger by Aravind Adiga
- **2022** - Tomb of Sand by Geetanjali Shree

1.4 APPOINTMENTS

Acting Chief Justice of Madras HC

- President Droupadi Murmu has appointed Justice R. Mahadevan as the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court.
- The present Chief Justice Sanjay V.Gangapurwala is set to retire.

Note

- The Chief Justice and Judges of the High Courts are appointed by the President under Article 217 of the Constitution of India.
- They are appointed by the President after consultation with the Chief Justice of India and the Governor of the state concerned

Vetrii IAS Study Circle



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2. POLITICAL SCIENCE

2.1 INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

UK-India Strategic Dialogue

- The annual **U.K.-India Strategic Dialogue** was held in London recently.
- India and Britain have promised to conclude a mutually beneficial **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**.
- India and Britain have reviewed the progress made on the **2030 Roadmap**.

Note

- **2030 Roadmap** was established in **2021** to enhance cooperation in various sectors.

About UK

- **Capital** - London
- **Monarch** - Charles III
- **Prime Minister** - Rishi Sunak
- **Currency** - Pound Sterling

Aid to Papua New Guinea

- India has granted \$1 million financial assistance for **Papua New Guinea**.
- The country has been hit by flood and landslip that has so far killed 2,000 people.
- **Papua New Guinea** is the partner of India under the **Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC)**

About FIPIC

- **Formation** - November 2014.
- It is a **multinational grouping of India and 14 Pacific Islands nations**.
- **Objective** - To enhance India's Act East Policy.

2.2 GOVT – WELFARE ORIENTED GOVT SCHEMES, THEIR UTILITY

IndiaAI Mission

- The Union Cabinet has recently approved the comprehensive national-level **IndiaAI mission** with a budget outlay of **Rs.10,371.92 crore**.
- The IndiaAI mission aims to **Strengthen the AI Innovation Ecosystem**.
- It will be implemented by **'IndiaAI' Independent Business Division (IBD)** under **Digital India Corporation (DIC)**

About DIC

- Set up by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.
- **Objective** - To innovate, develop and deploy ICT and other emerging technologies for the benefit of the people.



3. GEOGRAPHY

3.1 POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

Elimination of mercury-containing medical devices

- The Governments of Albania, Burkina Faso, Montenegro, Uganda including India have united to launch a \$134-million project to eliminate the use of mercury in medical devices.
- This project will be,
- Led by **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**
- Funded by **Global Environment Facility (GEF)**
- Executed by the **World Health Organization (WHO)**

About UNEP

- **Formation** - 5 June 1972
- **Headquarters** - Nairobi, Kenya

About GEF

- **Formation** - 15 October 1991
- It is a multilateral environmental fund that help the developing countries to address the environmental issues

About WHO

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

'Above normal' monsoon

- The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** has stated that India would receive 'above normal' monsoon in 2024.
- In April, IMD forecasted the June-September rainfall to be 6% above the normal of 87 cm.
- India's north-eastern States are expected to receive deficient rain.
- The monsoon 'core zone' which encompasses most of central India and southern India will receive 'above normal' rainfall.

About IMD

- **Formation** - 1875
- Functions under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- **Headquarters** - Mausam Bhavan
- **IMD Director - General** - Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra

3.2 NATURAL DISASTERS – SAFEGUARD MEASURES

Cyclone Remal

- The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** stated that **Remal cyclone** is likely to develop in the Bay of Bengal and head towards West Bengal and Bangladesh.
- The Cyclone Remal was named by Oman.



4. ECONOMICS

4.1 REPORTS AND INDICES

Report by Top 10VPN

- According to a report by virtual private network tracker **Top 10VPN**, **India had the longest internet shutdown in 2023** in terms of user hours.
- The internet was completely affected for 7,956 hours in India, impacting around 59.1 million users in India.

Note

- Internet shutdown is imposed under **Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017** and **Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973**.
- It can be issued **only by Union Home Secretary or State Home Secretary**.

Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024

- **Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024** which is a biennial index was recently released by the **World Economic Forum**.
- India has ranked **39** in the Index.

- **India** is the top performer in South Asia.
- **United States (US), Spain and Japan** are the top three countries in the index.

About WEF

- Formation - **24 January 1971**
- Chairperson - **Børge Brende**
- Headquarters - **Switzerland**

State and Trends of Carbon Pricing 2024

- The '**State and Trends of Carbon Pricing 2024**' report was recently released by the **World Bank**.

Key Findings

- The carbon pricing revenues have crossed the threshold of **USD 100 billion** for the first time.
- The total revenue from carbon taxes in **2022** was about **USD 95 billion**.

About World Bank:

- Established - **1944**
- Headquarters - **Washington**
- President - **Ajay Banga**

4.2 CURRENT STATE OF INDIAN ECONOMY

Trade Deficit

- According to data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry India is Trade deficit with **9 out of its top 10 trading partners in the Financial Year 2023-24**.
- **China** has emerged as **India's largest trading partner** with \$118.4 billion in 2023-24.

- **China** surpassed **U.S** which was the **top trading partner of New Delhi** during **2021-22 and 2022-23**.
- India has a **free trade agreement** with four of its top trading partners – **Singapore, the UAE, Korea and Indonesia**
- **China, USA, UAE, Russia, and Saudi Arabia** are India's top trading partners



5. SCIENCE

5.1 SPACE

SPECULOOS-3b

- The international team of astronomers have discovered a **new Earth-sized** exoplanet called **SPECULOOS-3b**.
- It is **55 light-years** away from Earth.
- It is orbiting an ultracool **red dwarf star**.

Note

- The **SPECULOOS project** was established to search for exoplanets orbiting ultra-cool dwarf stars.

Mangalyaan-2

- ISRO recently unveiled its **Mangalyaan-2 mission**.
- The mission aims to land a **rover and helicopter on Mars**.
- The mission will make India the **third nation** to land on Mars after **China and US**.

About Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan-1)

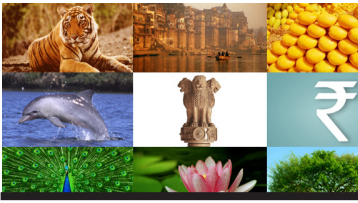
- **India's first interplanetary mission**.
- **Launch** - November 05, 2013.
- **Fourth** country to launch to successfully send spacecraft to **mars orbit**.

Agnibaan SOrTeD

- The **Chennai based Space start-up Agnikul Cosmos Private Limited** launched its **First Rocket Agnibaan Sub Orbital Technology Demonstrator (SOrTeD)** from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, in Sriharikota**.
- Agnibaan SOrTeD is,
 - 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.

Note

- **Agnikul Cosmos** is the First company in the country to sign an agreement with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) under the **IN-SPACE initiative**.
- **IN-SPACE initiative** aims to boost the **private space sector economy in India**.



6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENT

Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019

- The Union government granted citizenship certificates to more than 300 people who applied under the **Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019**.

About CAA

- **Aim** - to grant citizenship to illegal migrants from **Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan** who belong to the **Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi, and Christian** faiths.

Cauvery Water Regulation Committee

- The **Cauvery Water Regulation Committee** instructed Karnataka to release approximately **1.25 thousand million cubic feet (tmc ft)** towards environmental purpose.
- The **Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC)** was established to implement and monitor the **Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal's award** and regulate the distribution of water according to its provisions.

Note

- The **Cauvery dispute** involves **3 states and one Union Territory: Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Puducherry**.

GWF Leadership Award

- India's space regulator **IN-SPACe** was conferred with the **Geospatial World Forum (GWF)** leadership award for "Public Policy: Enabling Industry Development" in Rotterdam.
- The award was presented at the **2024 Geospatial World Forum**.

About IN-SPACe

- **Formation** - June 2020
- It is a **single-window, independent, nodal agency**
- It functions as an autonomous agency under **Department of Space (DOS)**.
- **Aim** - To boost the private space sector economy in India.

ONDC Startup Mahotsav

- **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** organised the '**ONDC Startup Mahotsav**' in **New Delhi** recently.
- The event symbolized the celebration and collaboration of two of **DPIIT's flagship initiatives - the Startup India initiative and Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)**.

About Startups India Initiative

- **Launch** - January 16, 2016.
- **Objective** - To support entrepreneurs, build a startup ecosystem and transform India into a country of job seekers.

About ONDC

- **Launch** - September 2022
- **Objective** - To create an inclusive ecosystem for e-commerce.

Agnipath scheme

- As the Agnipath scheme completes two years since its implementation the **Department of Military Affairs (DMA)** has sought feedback from the Tri-services on the scheme.

- **Department of Military Affairs (DMA)** is headed by the **Chief of Defence Staff**.

About Agnipath Scheme

- **Launch** - 14 June 2022
- **Objective** - To recruit soldiers in Armed forces across the Three services (Army, Navy and Airforce) for a period of four years.
- **Age criteria** - Between 17.5 years and 23 years.

Youngest Indian to scale Everest

- **Kaamya Karthikeyan** became the **India's youngest and world's second youngest girl** to scale Mount Everest from the Nepal side.
- She aims to climb Mt. Vinson Massif in Antarctica in December 2024 to accomplish the '7summits challenge'

Ban on seven Meitei extremist organisations

- A tribunal under the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA)** has upheld the Centre's decision to declare seven Meitei extremist organisations as "**unlawful associations**" for the next five years.

About UAPA

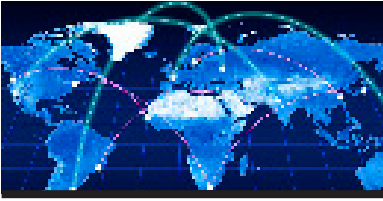
- It was passed in **1967**.
- Aim - To prevent unlawful activities of associations in India.
- **UAPA Tribunal** is headed by a retired or sitting judge of a **High Court**

State song of Telangana

- '**Jaya Jaya He Telangana**' has been declared as the **State song of Telangana recently**.
- The **short version** of the song spanning over **two-and-a-half minutes** and the **full version** of the song spanning over **13.3 minutes** has been approved as the State song.
- The song was penned by **Andesri**.
- The music for the song has been composed by Oscar award winner **M.M. Keeravani**.

Note

- **Tamil Thai Vaazhthu** is the State song of Tamil Nadu.
- It was penned by **Manonmaniam Sundaranar**.
- The song should be sung in **55 seconds in Mullaipaani Ragam (Mohana Raagam)**.
- The music is composed **M.S. Viswanathan**



7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

U.N. forecasts 2.7% growth for world economy

- According to **United Nations' mid-2024 report**, the world economy is projected to grow by **2.7% in 2024**.
- A **2.7% growth rate** would equal growth in 2023, but still be lower than the 3% growth rate before the pandemic.

About United Nations

- Headquarters - New York
- Formation - 1945.

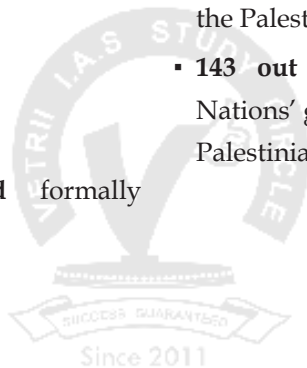
Palestinian state

- **Spain, Norway and Ireland** formally recognised the Palestinian state.

- The move aims to help Israelis and Palestinians to achieve peace.
- The three countries said they recognised a **Palestinian state** based on borders established before the war in **1967**, with Jerusalem as the capital of both Israel and Palestine.

Note

- **About 139 countries** have formally recognized the Palestinian state.
- **143 out of 193 members** of the United Nations' general assembly voted in favour of a Palestinian bid for full **UN membership**.





8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

AABCS Scheme

- A total of 1,303 new and existing entrepreneurs belonging to the **Scheduled Caste (SC) and the Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities** in the State have availed themselves of Rs.134.86 crore **Annal Ambedkar Business Champions Scheme (AABCS)**.

About AABCS

- **Aim** - To promote economic development and entrepreneurs of the SC/ST community.
- **No minimum educational qualification**
- **Maximum Age** - 55
- **35%** capital subsidy and **6%** interest subsidy.

TN Govt. highlights schemes launched

- The Tamil Nadu government released a **press release** highlighting the major schemes implemented by **Chief Minister M.K. Stalin** which include,
 - Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam
 - Illam Thedi Kalvi
 - Innuyir Kappom Nammai Kakkum 48
 - Kanavu Illam Thittam
 - Naan Mudhalvan
 - Ennum Ezhuthum mission
 - Pudhumai Penn Scheme
 - Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme
 - Namma School Foundation Initiative
 - Perasiriyar Anbazhagan School Development Scheme
 - Maaperum Tamil Kanavu
 - Chief Minister's Village Roads Improvement Scheme

- Annal Ambedkar Business Champions Scheme
- Neengal Nalamaa scheme
- Iyothee Thass Pandithar Habitation Development Scheme

Space Park

- **Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited (TIDCO)** is developing a **Space Park near Kulasekarapattinam in Thoothukudi**.
- **TIDCO** has recently signed a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** with **IN-SPACE** to establish a space industrial and propellants park and a **Centre of Excellence (CoE)**.

About IN-SPACE

- Formation - June 2020
- A single-window nodal agency.
- **Aim** - To boost the private space sector economy in India.

Note

- **ISRO** is establishing a **second spaceport at Kulasekarapattinam**.

MGNREGS

- The Tamil Nadu government recently sanctioned **Rs.1,229 crore** for the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) for 2024-25**.
- **Rs.921.78 crore (75%) - Central government**
- **Rs.307.26 crore (25%) - State government**.

Note

- The Central Government had recently **increased the wages** under the MGNREGS by **Rs.25 per day**.

- In Tamil Nadu the wages under **MGNREGS** is **Rs.319 per day**.

About MGNREGS

- Under **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005**.
- **Objective** - to provide at least 100 days of guaranteed employment to rural households.

'Makkaludan Mudhalvar' Scheme

- The **Tamil Nadu** government is planning to organize about **2,500 camps** under the **Makkaludan Mudhalvar scheme** between **July 15 and September 15** to benefit the people in **12,525 village panchayats** across the State.
- Petitions regarding **15 government departments** could be submitted by the public during these camps.

About the scheme

- **Launch** - December 2023
- **Aim**
 - To simplify and speed up the delivery of government services
 - To resolve complaints on service delivery within 30 days.

Second Synchronized Elephant Survey

- Tamil Nadu is set to begin the **second synchronized elephant survey**.
- The survey will be done in **Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh**.
- In Tamil Nadu the survey will be conducted in **26 forest divisions and 697 blocks** teams of forest guards, forest watchers, and volunteers.

Note

- **2,961** elephants were recorded in Tamil Nadu in **2022**.
- The Elephant Corridor Committee identified the **42 elephant corridors in Tamil Nadu**

NGT Penalty

- The Southern Bench of the **National Green Tribunal** has directed Chennai Petroleum

Corporation Limited (CPCL) to pay Rs.5 crore as compensation for the oil spill in Pattinamacherry, off Nagapattinam coast, in **March 2023**.

- The leak occurred in CPCL's **Cauvery Basin Refinery at Nagapattinam**.
- As per **Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB)** **10,000 litres of oil** had leaked, whereas only **9,000 litres were removed or recovered**.

About NGT

- **Statutory body** under the **National Green Tribunal Act 2010**.
- **Objective** - For effective and expeditious disposal of cases related to environmental protection.
- **Principal Place of Sitting of the Tribunal** - **New Delhi**.

T.N.'s rice yield

- Tamil Nadu's **yield of rice**, during **2023-24** for both the cultivation seasons of kharif and rabi, is lower than that of the national average.
- The yield for the year 2023-24 is **2.31 tonnes per hectare in Tamil Nadu** whereas the all-India average is **2.74 tonnes per hectare**.
- In terms of yield, Tamil Nadu trailed behind **two States** known for rice production – **Andhra Pradesh and Telangana**.

Pudhumai Penn Scheme

- The Tamil Nadu government stated that the **enrolment of girl students in higher education** has increased by **34% due to the Pudhumani Penn scheme**.
- The government also stated that **over 27 lakh students** have benefitted under the **Naan Mudhalvan scheme** and **over 1.19 lakh students** had secured employment.

About Pudhumai Penn Scheme

- **Launch** - September 5, 2022

- Also known as **Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Higher Education Assurance Scheme**.
- Benefit - Financial assistance of **Rs. 1000/month** to the girls who studied from Classes VI to XII in **State government-run and Government aided schools**

About Naan Mudhalvan Scheme

- **Launch** - March 1, 2022
- **Objective** - To enhance skill among 1 million Youth of Tamil Nadu.

Initiatives to promote Tamil Language and scholars

- The Tamil Nadu government has instituted 35 awards to recognise the work of Tamil scholars.
- A new award called 'Ilakkiya Maamani' has been instituted for three Tamil scholars.
- The scholars will receive Rs.5 lakh each.
- The State government is planning to organise the Second World Tamil Semmozhi conference in 2025 in Chennai.
- Under 'Kural Mutrodhal' scheme prize money of Rs.15,000 will be given to 451 students who manage to study all 1,330 couplets.
- Tamil Parapurai Kazhagam' aims to teach Tamil language to Tamils living outside Tamil Nadu.

Vembakottai Excavation

- The **third phase of archaeological excavation** was begun recently at **Vembakottai** excavation site in **Virudhunagar district**.
- The excavation will be done in **1.5 acres on the northern bank of Vaippar river**.
- A total of 7,914 artefacts were found during the first two phases of excavation.
- This indicated that people had lived along the banks of the Vaippar around **2,000 years ago**.

Note

- The **first phase** of the excavation was carried out from **March 2022**

Survey for adult literacy programme

- The **School Education Department** is undertaking a survey to identify people who are not literate under the **New India Literacy Programme (NILP) 2022- 2027**.
- The survey is conducted by the **Tamil Nadu Directorate of Non-Formal and Adult Education**.
- The highest number of persons were identified in **Salem district** at 16,463.

About NILP

- **Objective** - To impart foundational literacy and numeracy along with critical life skills
- Implemented under the **New Education Policy 2020**.
- Beneficiaries - Non-literates of the age of 15 years and above in all state/UTs

Note

- The Total literacy campaign and Post-literacy campaign that have been implemented in Tamil Nadu since 1992 is subsumed under the **New India Literacy Programme (NILP) 2022- 2027**

Climate Investment Workshop

- The **Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC)** has recently conducted as a two day Climate Investment workshop with the **International Finance Corporation (IFC)** of the **World Bank**.
- The workshop aims to form a comprehensive environmental strategy for the Chennai city.

Climate Change Programmes implemented by Tamil Nadu

- Meendum Manjappai
- Climate Studio (Anna University Campus)
- Tamil Nadu State Action Plan for Climate Change 2.0 (TNSAPCC)
- Climate Smart Villages

- Carbon Neutral Koyembedu Market Project
- Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission
- Green Tamil Nadu Mission
- Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission
- Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission
- Climate Resilient Green Temples
- Carbon Enrichment Programme

Internet connections in Government Schools

- Tamil Nadu Government stated that the Internet connections have been provided to

20,332 out of a total of 37,553 State-run schools, and the remaining 17,221 schools would be covered soon.

- The State government is also setting up 8,180 hi-tech labs at a cost of Rs.519.73 crore, and 22,931 smart classrooms at a cost of Rs.455.32 crore for the benefit of 46.12 lakh students.
- Internet connectivity at these schools is a joint effort by the Tamil Nadu government and BSNL.
- The step was taken to improve the technological infrastructure of government schools.

