

VETRI IAS STUDY CIRCLE

Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

JUNE 2024 - PART 2



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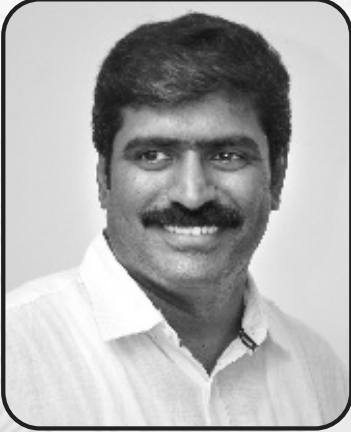
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Preface



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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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1. HISTORY



1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
June 17	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The day is observed on June 17 annually to highlight the importance of collaborative action to preserve land resources for future generations.▪ Theme 2024 - United for Land. Our Legacy. Our Future.▪ In 2007, the UN declared the decade of 2010 to 2020 the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight Against Desertification.
June 17	World Crocodile Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ World Crocodile Day is celebrated on June 17 every year to highlight the importance of conservation of endangered crocodiles and alligators around the world.▪ India has three crocodile species<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Saltwater Crocodile• Mugger or Marsh Crocodile• Gharial▪ Crocodile Conservation Project was first launched in India in Odisha's Bhitarkanika National Park in 1975.▪ It was launched with the assistance of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
June 17	International Day of Yoga	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The day is observed on June 21 to celebrate the practise of Yoga.▪ Theme 2024: "Yoga for Self and Society."▪ The day was first officially recognised by United Nations in 2014. <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Patanjali is renowned as the Father of Yoga.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
June 19	World Sickle Cell Awareness Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Sickle Cell Awareness Day is celebrated on June 19 every year to increase awareness about the sickle cell disease. ▪ Theme 2024 : Hope Through Progress: Advancing Sickle Cell Care Globally ▪ National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission aims to eliminate sickle cell genetic transmission by the year 2047.
June 27	MSME Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Micro-Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSME) Day is observed on June 27 every to enhance the contribution of small and medium-sized businesses across the world. ▪ Theme 2024 : MSMEs and the SDGs ▪ The day was announced by the United Nations General Assembly in 2017 <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SDGs are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) identified by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 to be achieved by 2030.
June 29	National Statistics Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Statistics Day is an annual event celebrated in India in June 29 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis. ▪ Theme 2024 : "Use of data for decision making." ▪ Mahalanobis is called as the Father of Indian statistics. ▪ Mahalanobis is one of the members of India's first planning commission. ▪ He played a pivotal role in the establishment of the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) in 1931. <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Statistics Day is observed on October 20.

1.2 DEFENCE NATIONAL SECURITY AND TERRORISM

Tarang Shakti

- The Indian Air Force announced that 'Tarang Shakti-2024' will be held in August 2024
- It is IAF's **First multinational air exercise**
- The exercise is scheduled to be held in **two phases**.

- IAF stated that it will be held in **Southern India**.

Note

- IAF recently participated in the **Red Flag exercise** which was hosted by the U.S. Air Force (USAF) in Alaska

1.3 WORLD SUMMITS AND ORGANISATION

Group of Seven (G7) Summit

- The **G7 Summit** was held in **Apulia in Italy** on June 13-15, 2024.
- **India** participated in the G7 summit as an Outreach country.
- The important topics discussed during the summit include - **Artificial Intelligence, Energy, Africa and Mediterranean**.

help fund infrastructure projects in developing countries.

- **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)** : Among Saudi Arabia, India, the United States and Europe.

About G7

- **First Summit** - 1975
- **Members** - Italy, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. The European Union also participates in the Summit
- **Objective** - Platform for economic and financial cooperation in response to the 1973 energy crisis.

Key outcomes of G7 Summit

- **G7 Apulia Food Systems Initiative (AFSI)**: It aims to intensify efforts to overcome structural barriers to food security and nutrition.
- **Partnership for Global Infrastructure Investment (PGII)**: It is a joint initiative to

1.4 AWARDS AND HONOURS

Sahitya Akademi Awards

- The Sahitya Akademi recently announced the winners of **Yuva Puraskar** and **Bal Sahitya Puraskar for 2024**
- **Lokesh Raghuraman** won the Yuva Puraskar for his book **Vishnu Vandhar** which is a collection of Short stories.
- **Yuma Vasuki** won the **Bal Sahitya Puraskar** for his book **Thanviyin Piranthal** (Stories).

About Sahitya Akademi Awards

- Second-highest literary honour after the Jnanpith award.
- **Established** - March 12, 1954 .
- Also known as **India's National Academy of Letters**
- **President** - Chandrashekhara Kambara

1.5 APPOINTMENTS

Pro Term Speaker

- **Bhartruhari Mahtab** was appointed as the **pro term Speaker** of the **18th Lok Sabha** by the President Droupadi Murmu.
- The pro-tem Speaker's primary duty is administering oaths to new MPs.

Note

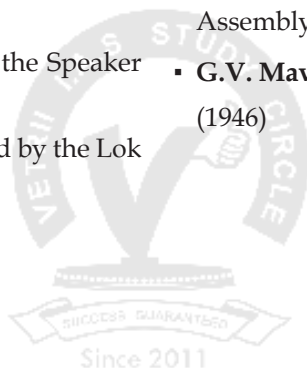
- The appointment was made under **Article 95(1) of the Constitution** to perform the duties of Speaker till election of the Speaker.
- Pro Term Speaker is **not mentioned in the Constitution of India**

Lok Sabha Speaker

- **Om Birla** was recently elected as the Speaker of the **18th Lok Sabha** recently.
- The Speaker of Lok Sabha is elected by the Lok Sabha from amongst its members.

Note

- The offices of Speaker and Deputy Speaker originated in India in 1921 under the provisions of the **Government of India Act of 1919**.
- **Article 93** of the Constitution states that the Lok Sabha shall choose two members to be its Speaker and Deputy Speaker.
- **Frederick Whyte** - First Speaker of Central Legislative Assembly (1921)
- **Vithalbhai J. Patel** - First Indian and the first elected Speaker of the Central Legislative Assembly (1925)
- **G.V. Mavalankar** - First Speaker of Lok Sabha (1946)



2. POLITICAL SCIENCE

2.1 INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS

iCET Meeting

- India-U.S. Initiative for Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) dialogue was held recently in New Delhi.
- It was chaired by the National Security Advisers of India and US.
- The meeting was concluded with a bilateral agreement on furthering the cooperation on critical minerals between the two countries.

Note

- A critical mineral is one which is essential for modern technologies, economies or national security
- India released a list of 30 critical minerals of India in July 2023.

About US

- Capital – Washington.
- President - Joe Biden
- Currency – US Dollar

2.2 GOVT – WELFARE ORIENTED GOVT SCHEMES, THEIR UTILITY

National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme (NFIES)

- The Union Cabinet approved the National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme (NFIES) with a total financial outlay of Rs. 2254.43 crore for the period from 2024-25 to 2028-29.

- The scheme will be implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- It is a Central Sector Scheme.
- Components under this Scheme include



3. GEOGRAPHY

3.1 POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

E-flow Monitoring System

- **Union Jal Shakti Ministry** recently launched an **e-flow (Environmental Flow)** ecological monitoring system.
- It allows the real-time monitoring of **water quality of Ganga, Yamuna and their tributaries** and check performance of **Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs)**
- The system was developed by the **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)**.
- The system also monitors the activities of 'Namami Gange Programme'

Note

- NMCG (2011) - Implementation arm of National Ganga Council (2016).
- 'Namami Gange Programme' (June 2014) - An Integrated Conservation Mission with twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of **River Ganga**.

Asiatic Lions

- The Forest Department in Gujarat has started translocating **spotted deer (cheetal) and sambar deer** from Gir Forest to the **Barda Wildlife Sanctuary (BWS)**.
- This move aims to augment the population of prey for Asiatic lions in the wildlife sanctuary.

- **Barda Wildlife Sanctuary** is also located in Gujarat which around 100 kilometers far from Gir Forest.

Note

- Six Asiatic lions have migrated from Gir Forest to the **Barda Wildlife Sanctuary (BWS)** in 2023.
- In India, Asiatic Lions are found only in Gir Wildlife Sanctuary so far.
- IUCN Status - Endangered

Culling of wild boars

- The Tamil Nadu government has decided to allow **culling of wild boars** that cause distress to farmers in farmland close to forest areas.
- The areas adjacent to reserve forests would be divided into three zones –
 - **Zone A (within one km from forest limits)**
 - **Zone B (one to five km)**
 - **Zone C (beyond five km).**
- **Shooting of wild pigs** will not be allowed within five kilometres from the reserve forest.

Note

- Vermins are placed in **schedule V** of the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**.
- The central government has the power to declare any wild animal as vermin under the 62nd section of the **Wildlife Protection Act**



4. ECONOMICS

4.1 REPORTS AND INDICES

Global Gender Gap Index 2024

- Global Gender Gap Index 2024 was recently released by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
- India ranked 129 in this Index.
- Iceland ranked 1.
- Sudan ranked 146 which is the last rank in the index.
- India showed the best gender parity in terms of enrolment in secondary education.

- India ranked 65 globally on political empowerment of women.
- India has closed 64.1% of its gender gap in 2024.

About WEF

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





5. SCIENCE

5.1 LATEST INVENTIONS ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Deep Sea Mission

- India set to be the **6th country** to have its own **Deep Sea Mission after US, Russia, Japan, France, and China.**
- **Samudryaan Mission** was developed as a part of India's Deep Sea Mission.

About Deep Sea Mission

- **Objective** - To explore and harness the depths of the ocean.
- **Nodal Agency** - The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)
- Samudryaan Mission is **India's First Manned Ocean Mission.**

- This mission will be carried out in a Deep sea submersible called '**Matsya 6000**'
- **Matsya 6000** is a three-person submersible that will be able to go **6,000 metres under the sea.**
- This vessel is being developed by **Chennai's National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT).**
- Establishment of **Campuses of the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU)** in the country.
- Establishment of **Central Forensic Science Laboratories** in the country.
- Enhancement of existing infrastructure of the Delhi Campus of the NFSU





6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENT

New criminal laws

- Union Law Minister **Arjun Ram Meghwal** stated that the New Criminal Laws will come into force on July 1.
- The New Criminal Laws are as follows
 - Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita** - Indian Penal Code, 1860
 - Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita** - Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898
 - Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam** - Indian Evidence Act, 1872
- These laws aim to overhaul the **criminal justice system**.

Train Accident in West Bengal

- A Goods Train rammed in to the rear of the **Kanchanjunga Express** passenger train at **Rangapani in West Bengal**.
- The Kavach train protection system was not installed for the region's rail network.

About Kavach System

- It is an indigenously developed **Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system**.
- It was developed by the **Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO)** under Indian Railway (IR).
- It controls the speed of the train by an automatic application of brakes in case the loco pilot fails to do so.

National Commission for Women (NCW)

- National Commission for Women (NCW)** receives over **12,600 complaints in 2024**.
- The highest number of complaints received by the National Commission for Women (NCW) so far this year has been from **Uttar Pradesh (6,492)** followed by **Delhi (1,119)** and then **Maharashtra (764)**

- Tamil Nadu** received 304 complaints in 2024.
- The highest number of complaints were received in the **"right to dignity" category** that involves **harassment** other than domestic violence.
- This was followed by complaints of domestic violence.

About NCW

- Statutory body** under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990.
- Formation** - January 1992
- Objective** - To strive towards enabling women to achieve equality and equal participation in all spheres of life.
- Chairperson** - Rekha Sharma.

MSP hike for 14 kharif crops

- The **Union Cabinet** raised the **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** for all the mandated **14 Kharif Crops for 2024-25**.
- The **highest MSP** has been recommended for **oilseeds and pulses**.
- The MSP is fixed at least **1.5 times of the average cost of production**.
- In the recent years, Government has been promoting the cultivation of crops, other than cereals such as **pulses and oilseeds, and Nutri-cereals/ Shree Anna**, by offering a higher MSP for these crops.

About MSP

- Mandated for **22 crops - 14 kharif crops, 6 rabi crops and two commercial crops**
- Kharif crops - Paddy, Jowar, Bajra, Ragi, Arhar (Tur), Moong, Urad, Cotton, Groundnut, Sunflower seed, Soyabean, Sesamum and Nigerseed

- MSP is fixed based on the recommendations of the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**.

Railways, Roads, Ports, Waterways, Airports, Mass Transport, Logistics Infrastructure.

Nalanda Campus

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** recently inaugurated the new campus of **Nalanda University at Rajgir in Bihar**.
- It is an **International University** which located near the site of the ancient ruins of Nalanda.
- Nalanda is a symbol of India's academic heritage and cultural exchange.
- It is established through the **Nalanda University Act, 2010**.
- The idea to establish Nalanda was mooted in East Asia Summit which was held in Philippines in 2007.
- Chancellor of Nalanda University - **Arvind Panagariya**.

Note

- Nalanda University was built by **Kumaragupta of the Gupta dynasty in the 5th century BC**.
- It was **destroyed by Bakhityar Khilji** at the end of **12th Century**.

Vadhavan Port

- The **Union Cabinet** approved setting up a Major Port at **Vadhavan near Dahanu in Maharashtra**.
- It will be developed as an **all-weather Greenfield major port**.
- On completion this Port will be one of the top 10 ports of the world.
- This port is constructed as a part of **PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (PMGS-NMP)**.

About PMGS-NMP

- **Launch** - October 13, 2021
- **Objective** - To provide multimodal connectivity infrastructure to various economic zones with seven focus areas which include

Sangam-Digital Twin Initiative

- **Department of Telecom** held the First networking event of **Sangam-Digital Twin Initiative at IIT Delhi**.

About Sangam-Digital Twin Initiative

- **Launch** - February 15, 2024
- It aims to transform infrastructure planning and design by converging the **"Digital Twin"** of digital technologies and data.
- **Objective** - To enhance utility value, optimise resource utilisation, and reduce costs through effective data integration.

Fast Track Immigration Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP)

- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** inaugurated the **Fast Track Immigration Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP)** at the **Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi**.
- The programme aims to ease congestion at immigration counters.
- Other than New Delhi, the initiative was launched in Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kochi and Ahmedabad airports in the first phase
- It will be implemented through an online portal.

Nodal Agency - Bureau of Immigration

Renaming Kerala

- The **Kerala Assembly**, passed a resolution proposing a Constitutional amendment to change the name of the State to **'Keralam'**
- The resolution called for invoking **Article 3 of the Constitution** to effectuate this change in the First Schedule.

Note

- **Article 3** of the Indian Constitution deals with the formation of new States and alteration of areas, boundaries or names of existing States.



7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

New NATO Chief

- **Mark Rutte** is set to become the NATO's Secretary General.
- He was formerly the Prime Minister of Netherlands.

About North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

- Formation - **April 4, 1949**
- Members - **32 countries**
- Headquarters - **Brussels, Belgium**



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8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

Maragatha Pooncholai Initiative

- The Tamil Nadu government has initiated the establishment of 'Maragatha Pooncholai' in 100 villages across the State
- Recently the Tamil Nadu Forest Department has created 'Maragatha Pooncholai' in five villages in Villupuram and Kallakurichi districts.
- **Objective** - To increase green cover and support the rural livelihood of local residents by community driven management of natural resources.

SDAT's new logo

- The Minister of Youth Welfare and Sports Development, Udhayanidhi Stalin, unveiled the new logo of the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT) during the 'Kalaingar Sports Kit' initiative event held at Tiruppur.

Note

- SDAT is the official sports organ of Tamil Nadu which aims to promote sports and physical fitness throughout the State.
- Under 'Kalaingar Sports Kit' initiative, the sports equipment will be distributed in 12,000 village panchayats to mark former Chief Minister M.Karunanidhi's birth centenary.

Nanguneri Incident

- The one-man committee headed by retired Madras High Court judge K. Chandru has submitted its recommendations to the Tamil Nadu Government.
- The committee recommended that the Tamil Nadu government should prohibit the students

in schools from wearing coloured wrist-bands, rings, or forehead marks that may indicate their caste.

- It also recommended the removal of caste appellations in the names of schools.

Note

- The committee was constituted in the wake of an incident in Nanguneri in Tirunelveli district in August 2023.

Archaeological Excavations

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin virtually launched archaeological excavations in eight locations across Tamil Nadu.
- The Chief Minister also released the findings of the Perumbalai excavations and a report on Tamil Nadu Inscriptions Volume XXVIII.

- The sites are at

- Keeladi and its cluster (Kondagai), Sivaganga
- Vembakottai, Virudhunagar
- Kilnamandi, Tiruvannamalai
- Porpanaikottai, Pudukottai
- Tirumalapuram, Tenkasi
- Sennanur, Krishnagiri
- Kongalnagaram, Tiruppur
- Marungur, Cuddalore

CM's Thayumanavar Scheme

- The pilot programme of the Chief Minister's Thayumanavar Scheme was launched in Chennai and Nagapattinam.
- The scheme was initially announced in the Tamil Nadu State Budget for 2024-25.

- **Aim** - To bring around **five lakh** of the poorest families out of poverty **within two years**.
- The total food grains production target was 129.63 lakh metric tonnes for 2024-25.

Note

- Tamil Nadu has the **fourth lowest poverty ratio** among states with **4.89%**.
- Poverty line in Tamil Nadu – **880 (Rural)** and **937 (Urban)**.

'Nadanthai Vaazhi Cauvery' project

- The National River Conservation Directorate (NRCD) has recently approved ₹934.3 crore for the first phase of the '**Nadanthai Vaazhi Cauvery**'.
- It is a project proposed by the **Tamil Nadu government** for the conservation and rejuvenation of Cauvery river.
- In the first phase, the project would cover the river **from downstream of the Mettur dam up to Tiruchi**.
- In the second phases the remaining part of the river from **Tiruchi** to **Poompuhar** will be covered.

Note

- **Poompuhar** is **Cauvery's confluence point** with the sea.
- NRCD is a wing of the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**.

Maize Cultivation

- Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare M.R.K. Panneerselvam announced that the Tamil Nadu government would implement a special scheme to increase the area under maize cultivation in 18 districts at a cost of ₹30 crore.
- A kit with high quality maize seeds, natural and liquid fertilizers, and urea would be distributed to 50,000 farmers to increase the area by 50,000 hectares.

Note

- According to the action plan of the Agriculture Department for 2024-25, the government has set a target to increase the area under millets to 9.95 lakh hectares.

Perumbalai Excavation

- Tamil Nadu Department of Archaeology recently released the report, titled '**Excavations at Perumbalai 2022**'
- The report was prepared by **S. Paranthaman** and **R. Venkata Guru Prasanna**.
- The report stated that Graffiti marks "resembling geometric symbols" were among the potsherds discovered.
- An unidentified copper coin and a copper bell were also discovered.

Note

- **Kongumandala Satakam** is a 13th Century literary work by **Karmegakavirayar** of Vijayamangalam. It refers to Perumbalai as the northern boundary of the Kongu region.
- **Perumbalai** is located on the bank of the **Nagavathi (ancient Palar)**. It is one of the tributaries of Cauvery river.

School Education Department Initiatives

- School Education Minister **Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozi** made many announcements regarding school education in the State Assembly. These include,
 - ₹**58 crore** had been allotted to upgrade the hi-tech labs in government schools.
 - ₹**42 crore** had been allotted for establishing hi-tech labs in government aided schools.
 - Committees consisting of teachers would be formed under the new **Akal Villaku initiative** to teach girls of Classes IX-XII to safely use the internet in an effort to protect them from physical, emotional and social disturbance.
 - A **multi-sensory park** will be developed in every district at ₹3.80 crore to improve sensitivity, intellectual motor skills, and muscular skills of children with disabilities.

Tamil Language Martyrs' Day

- Minister for Tamil Development, Information and Publicity, **M.P. Saminathan** announced in the Assembly that January 25 would be observed as '**Tamil Mozhi Thiyagigal Naal'** (Tamil language martyrs' day) from 2025.
- He also announced that **June 3**, which is the birth anniversary of former Chief Minister and
- DMK president M. Karunanidhi, would be celebrated as '**Semmozhi Naal Vizha'**

Other Announcements

- The works of renowned Tamil scholars such as **Aru. Azhagappan, Ramalingam, So. Sathyaseelan, Ma. Ra. Arasu, Pavalalar Sa. Balasundaram, Ka. Pa. Aravanan, Ka. Tha. Thirunavukkarasu, Ra. Kumaravelan and Kavignar Ka. Vezhavendhan** will be nationalised at a cost of ₹91,35,000.
- 'Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar' award would be instituted and will be given to those who contribute and work towards the **development of Tamil language**.
- A statue would be erected for **Kavignar Mudiyarasan in Sivaganga district**.

Statues to be built across T.N.

- Minister for Tamil Development, Information and Publicity, M.P. Saminathan announced
- that statues of famous personalities would be built across Tamil Nadu. These include
 - Rani Velu Nachiyar**
 - Marudhu Brothers**
 - Indira Gandhi** - Former Prime Minister
 - Sir. John Hubert Marshall** - Archaeologist instrumental in excavations of Harappa and Mohanjodaro sites of Indus Valley Civilisation
 - Bartholomew Siegenbault** - He brought the printing press to Tamil Nadu in 1713 and printed the Tamil translation of the Holy Bible.

- G.D. Naidu**

- Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan.**

- Vai. Nadimuthpillai**

- C. Muthusami** - He was part of Cauvery Meetpu Kuzhu.

TN State Functions

- TN State Government announced that the following birth dates will be celebrated as State functions.
 - M. K. Thyagaraja Bhagavathar (March 1)
 - K.M. Annal Thango (April 13)
 - Tamil scholar Dr. Mu. Varadarasanar (April 25)
 - Anjalai Ammal (June 1)
 - A.T. Pannerselvam (June 1)
 - Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy (July 7)
 - Diwan Bahadur Dravidamani Rettaimalai Srinivasan (July 7)
 - Madras Presidency's Chief Minister Pa. Subbarayan's (September 11)
 - Writer Ki. Rajanarayanan (September 19)
 - Immanuel Sekaran (October 9)
 - A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's (October 15)
 - Allala Ilaya Nayakkar (Thai 1)

Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare

- Minister for Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare **N. Kayalvizhi Selvaraj** made some announcements regarding Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare in the Assembly which include
 - ₹20 crore** would be set aside to enable landless SC/ST women who work as agricultural labourers to buy land.
 - A centralised kitchen would be set up at a cost of ₹9 crore under '**Amudha Surabi'** scheme in **Tiruchi, Madurai, and Coimbatore**.
 - Tribal boarding schools would be refurbished as per the demands and needs of the students.
 - The government would organise a

'Lifestyle Festival' to celebrate the culture, traditions, literary works, linguistic based patriotism of the SCs and the STs.

- 'Skill vouchers' would be given to SC/ST students who performed well in higher education at the cost of ₹41 lakh.

Tamil Nadu Lake Quality Monitoring Project

- The Department of Environment and Climate Change has announced the Tamil Nadu Lake Quality Monitoring Project recently.
- It will be implemented in water bodies through real-time monitoring and artificial intelligence (AI)-based data analysis.
- In the first phase, it will be implemented in the Poondi, Chembambakkam, Udthagamandalam and Kodaikanal lakes at a cost of ₹5 crore.

Kallakurichi hooch tragedy

- Around 50 people died and many are admitted at the hospital after consuming spurious liquor.
- Tamil Nadu Government has constituted a one-man commission headed by former High Court Judge B.Gokuldas to inquire into the tragedy.
- Methanol has been cited as the cause of death
- The Food Safety and Standards (Alcoholic Beverages) Regulations 2018 stipulate the maximum permissible quantity of methanol in different liquors.
- The distribution of methanol is restricted by the Tamil Nadu Prohibition Act 1937.

Caste Census

- The Tamil Nadu Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution proposed by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, urging the Union government to conduct a caste-based census along with the general population census.

Note

- The State could conduct a caste-based census under the Collection of Statistics Act, 2008, the Census Act could override it.
- Section 3 of the Census Act states that only the Union government could conduct a census.
- Census is covered under Entry 69 in the Union List.
- Kulasekaran Commission on December 7, 2020 to collect caste based data.

Website for environmental volunteering

- A new website set to be launched by the Tamil Nadu government.
- The initiative aims to engage people in activities such as habitat conservation, beach clean-up and waste management.
- Initially, the scheme will be launched on the pilot basis.

International Airport at Hosur

- Chief Minister M.K Stalin made an announcement that an international airport will be constructed in Hosur.
- It will be spread over an area of 2,000 acres.

Note

- The announcement was made under Rule 110 of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly.

WE-SAFE

- Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development Udhayanidhi Stalin unveiled Tamil Nadu Women Employment and Safety Programme (WE-SAFE)
- It would be implemented in the next five years (2024-29) at a cost of ₹1,185 crore.
- It would be implemented with the assistance from World Bank.
- Objective - To increase the participation of the women labour force in non-farm and emerging sectors, to achieve a trillion-dollar economy by 2030.

- It will be implemented in **eight districts** initially.

Tamil Nadu Skills–Finishing Schools initiative

- Tamil Nadu government announced the launch of **Tamil Nadu Skills–Finishing Schools initiative**.
- It will be launched at the cost of **₹100-crore**
- It will serve as a continuation of the **Naan Mudhalvan Scheme**.
- **Aim** - To improve the skills of graduates seeking employment.
- The government also announced extension of the Naan Mudhalvan Scheme to para medical courses.

About Naan Mudhalvan Scheme

- Launch - **March 2022**.
- **Aim** - To equip about 10 lakh youth across the State annually with skills.

Tamil Nadu Prohibition Act, 1937

- TN Chief Minister M.K. Stalin informed the Legislative Assembly that the Tamil Nadu Prohibition Act, 1937 will be amended to make punishments stringent.
- The Act aims to introduce and extend the prohibition of the manufacture, sale and consumption of intoxicating liquors and drugs in the State of Tamil Nadu.

Note

- Operation Ganja Vettai-4.0 – Launched in April 30, 2023 to curb the illegal menace of ganja peddling.
- Tamilnadu State Marketing Corporation Ltd. (TASMAC) was established in 1983 to regulate the sale of alcohol and curb illicit liquor.

Announcements regarding Start-Ups

- Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises T.M. Anbarasan announced a

special seed fund will be introduced to support start-ups run by persons with disabilities and transgender persons.

- The beneficiaries would be identified by the Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission (StartupTN).

Other Announcements

- Regional start-up hubs would be established in Coimbatore and Tiruchi at a cost of ₹1.5 crore.
- Global Startup Coordination Centres would be established in Singapore and the U.S. at a cost of ₹1 crore.
- Thozhil Nayam - A design studio to cater to the design needs of the start-ups will be established.
- The second edition of Tamil Nadu Startup Thiruvizha will be held in Madurai to generate market access and networking opportunities for the start-ups

Single-use plastic (SUP) items

- The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) said that a total of 116.178 tonnes of banned single-use plastic items were seized in the special enforcement drives undertaken by local bodies between October 2022 and March 2024.
- In an effort to encourage the public to switch to cloth bags, the TNPCB installed manjappai-vending machines at 174 locations including the Koyambedu Market.

Note

- India banned SUP items from July 1, 2022
- Tamil Nadu banned SUP items from January 1, 2019.
- Meendum Manjappai – Launched in 2021 to promote the use of cloth bags by the public and discourage the use of plastic bags