

VETRI IAS STUDY CIRCLE

Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

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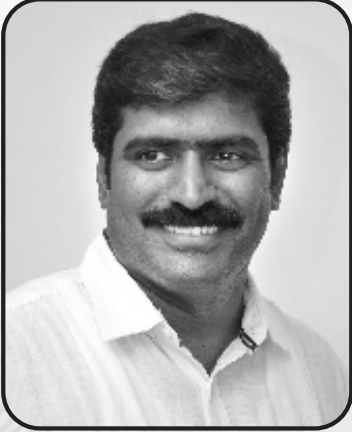
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Preface



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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 1	World Milk Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">It is observed on June 1 every year to recognize the importance of milk as a global food.The day was first established in 2001 by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).Theme 2024: "Celebrating the vital role dairy plays in delivering quality nutrition to nourish the world". <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">India is the leading producer of Milk in the world.
June 2	Telangana Foundation Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The day is observed on June 2 to commemorate the formation of the Telangana state on June 2, 2014.Telangana was carved out of Andhra Pradesh with Hyderabad as its capital as India's 29th state. <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">'Jaya Jaya he Telangana' was announced as the State Song of Telangana on June 2, 2024.The song was written by poet Ande Sri and the music was composed by M M Keeravani.
June 3	World Bicycle Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The day is observed on June 3 every year to spread awareness about the benefits of using bicycles.Theme 2024 : "Promoting Health, Equity, and Sustainability through Cycling."The day was declared by the United National General Assembly in April 2018.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
June 5	World Environment Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The day is observed on June 5 every year to encourage environmental protection. ▪ Theme 2024: Land restoration, desertification and drought resilience. ▪ The day was first celebrated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 1973. <p>About UNEP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation - June 5, 1972 • Headquarters - Nairobi, Kenya • Executive Director - Inger Andersen
June 6	World Pest Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is observed globally on June 6 every year to raise awareness of pest management. ▪ The day was first observed by Global Summit of Pest Management Services for Public Health and Food Safety in 2017. ▪ Theme 2024 : Global Solutions, Local Impact: Mapping Success in Pest Management. <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an eco-friendly approach that integrates both chemical and non-chemical practices for control of pests. ▪ National Policy on IPM was released in India in 1985.
June 7	World Food Safety Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The day is observed on June 7 to raise awareness about foodborne illness risks. ▪ Theme 2024 : “Food safety: prepare for the unexpected.” ▪ It was first observed in December 2018.
June 8	World Oceans Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The day is observed on June 8 every year to safeguard the health of the ocean. ▪ Theme 2024 : “Awaken New Depth” ▪ The day was first observed in 2008 by the United Nations
June 12	World Day Against Child Labour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The day is observed on June 12 to promote efforts to eliminate child labour. ▪ Theme 2024 : Let’s act on our commitments: End Child Labour! ▪ The day was adopted by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in 1999.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
		<p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Policy on Child Labour was formulated in 1987. ▪ Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Amendment Act 2016 prohibits the employment of Children below 14 years in all employment and prohibits the employment of adolescents (14-18 Years) in the hazardous occupations.
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 21	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

World Health Assembly

- The **77th World Health Assembly** was recently held in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- **Theme** : All for Health, Health for All.
- World Health Assembly is the **decision-making body** of the **World Health Organization**.

About WHO

- **Formation** - 7 April 1948
- **Headquarters** - Geneva
- **Director** - General - Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
- **Objective** - To expand universal health coverage

BRICS Foreign Minister's Meet 2024

- BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting 2024 began in **Nizhny Novgorod in Russia**.
- The Ministers agreed to jointly develop the **New Development Bank** into a new type of **Multilateral Development Bank of the 21st century**.

About BRICS

- **Formation** - June 16, 2009
- **Chairmanship** - Russia (From January 1, 2024)
- **Members** - 10
- **Objective** - To enhance economic cooperation and trade among the member countries

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**.

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 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.

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 Piranthanal (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

New Director for IGCAR

- Chandrashekhar Gaurinath Karhadkar has been appointed as the new Director of the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR).

About IGCAR

- **Formation** - 1971
- Functions under **Department of Atomic Energy**.
- **Second largest Nuclear Research Centre** after Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC).

Gender Sensitisation and Internal Complaints Committee

- Justice Hima Kohli has been recently appointed as the **Chairperson** of the **Supreme Court's Gender Sensitisation and Internal Complaints Committee**.
- The committee is formed under the **Gender Sensitisation & Sexual Harassment of Women at the Supreme Court of India (Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal) Regulations, 2013**.
- The committee should have not less than seven members and not more than 13 members.

Note

- **Justice B.V. Nagarathna** who set to become the **First woman Chief Justice of India** is also a member of the Committee.

About Supreme Court of India

- **Formation** - January 28, 1950.
- Constituted under Article 124 of the Constitution of India.
- **Members** - 34 (33+CJI)
- **Chief Justice of India** - Dhananjaya Y.Chandrachud

Navy's First woman chopper pilot

- Sub-Lieutenant Anamika B. Rajeev became the **Indian Navy's First woman helicopter pilot**.

About Indian Navy

- **Formation** - January 26, 1950.
- **Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS)** - Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi
- **Navy Day** - December 4.

New Chief Minister of Sikkim

- **Prem Singh Tamang** took oath as the **Chief Minister** of Sikkim for the second consecutive term.
- He is the leader of **Sikkim Krantikari Morcha**.

About Sikkim

- **Capital** – Gangtok
- **Governor** - Lakshman Acharya.

New Army Chief

- Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi was recently appointed as the next Chief of Army Staff.
- He is selected by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** and is appointed by the President of India.

Note

- Army Chief is the member of
 - **Member of Defence Acquisition Council.**
 - **Defence Planning Committee**
 - **National Security Council**

Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh

- The **Telugu Desam Party (TDP)** national president **N. Chandrababu Naidu** was elected as the new Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

Note

- He became the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh for third term after 1996 and 2014.
- He is the **longest-serving chief minister** of the state

About Andhra Pradesh

- **Capital** - Amaravati
- **Chief Minister** - N. Chandrababu Naidu
- **Governor** - S. Abdul Nazeer

Odisha's new CM

- **Mohan Charan Majhi** was sworn in as the **16th Chief Minister of Odisha.**
- He is the third tribal **Chief Minister of Odisha** after late **Hemanand Biswal** and **Giridhar Gamang.**
- He is Odisha's first **BJP CM.**

About Odisha

- **Capital** – Bhubaneswar
- **Governor** - Raghubar Das
- **Chief minister** - Mohan Charan Majhi

Arunachal's New CM

- **Pema Khandu** took oath as the **Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh** for the third consecutive term.
- He was sworn in by the **Governor K.T. Parnaik.**

About Arunachal Pradesh

- **Capital** – Itanagar
- **Chief minister** - Pema Khandu
- **Governor** - K.T. Parnaik

Key Officials appointed

- **P.K. Mishra** was appointed as the **Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister** for a second term.
- **Ajit Doval** was appointed as the **National Security Adviser (NSA)** for a third term.
- **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** headed by the Prime Minister approved their appointments.

Note

- **Principal Secretary** - Administrative head of the Prime Minister's Office.
- **NSA** - Chief advisor to the Prime Minister of India on national security policy and international affairs.

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

Tele MANAS

- A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** and **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** to facilitate collaboration between them in operating a special cell of **Tele MANAS**.
- Tele MANAS stands for **Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States**.

About Tele MANAS

- **Launch** – October 2022.
- **Implemented by** - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)
- **Objective** – To provide free 24X7 tele-mental health services.
- Implemented under **National Mental Health Programme (NMHP)**.
- Toll-free number – **14416**.

Tuberculosis (TB) elimination

- India's goal to achieve the **elimination of TB** in the country by 2025 has slowed down.
- According to the **Health Ministry**, India has been engaged in TB control activities for more than **50 years**, yet the disease continues to be the **country's severest health crisis**.

Note

- TB kills an estimated **4,80,000** Indians every year or **over 1,400 patients** every day.
- TB is bacterial disease caused by **Mycobacterium tuberculosis**.
- **National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP)** is guided by the **National Strategic Plan 2017-25** to accelerate the TB elimination.

National Health Claim Exchange (NHCE)

- It is a digital health claims platform developed by **National Health Authority**
- It will be jointly operated by the **National Health Authority (NHA) and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**.
- Objective** - To serve as a gateway for exchanging claims-related information among various stakeholders in the healthcare and health insurance ecosystem.

Note

- Ayushman Bharat** is an insurance scheme launched by the **National Health Policy 2017**.
- It was launched to achieve **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)**.

PM Kisan Nidhi

- The Union government released the **17th instalment** of the **PM Kisan Nidhi** scheme.
- The scheme is expected to benefit **9.3 crore farmers** and distribute around **Rs.20,000 crore**.

About PM Kisan Nidhi

- Launch** - February 24, 2019.
- Objective** - To supplement the financial needs of the farmers in procuring various inputs.
- Benefit** - Financial benefit of Rs 6000/- per year is transferred in three equal four-monthly installments

Mukhya Mantri Nijut Moina scheme

- The **Assam government** has announced the **Mukhya Mantri Nijut Moina scheme** recently.
- Under this scheme girl students enrolled in Class 11, the first year of a degree programme, and the **first year of a post-graduate programme in government-run schools, colleges, and universities** will be provided with a monthly stipend.

- It is a fiscal scheme for girl students which aims to prevent their early marriages.

About Assam

- Capital** - Dispur
- Chief Minister** - Himanta Biswa Sarma
- Governor** - Gulab Chand Kataria

Jan Aushadhi Kendras in Nepal

- Nepal** has approached India to set up **Jan Aushadhi Kendras** in their country, which would allow their citizens to benefit from low cost **Indian generic medicines**.
- Mauritius is the first foreign country to adopt '**Jan Aushadhi Scheme**'.

About Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya

Janaushadhi Pariyojana

- Launch** - November 2008
- Launched by - **Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers**
- Objective** - To provide quality generic medicines at affordable cost.
- These medicines are distributed through **Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJK)**.

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

2.3 PUBLIC AWARENESS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

NOTA

- The **Indore Lok Sabha** constituency recorded **more than 2 lakh** votes polled for “None Of The Above” (NOTA).
- It is the highest number of votes that the “None Of The Above” (NOTA) option has ever received in any constituency till now.
- The **Indore Lok Sabha** constituency saw 218674 votes polled for "None Of The Above" (NOTA).
- The total number of women elected to Lok Sabha in this election **74 women** make just **13.63% of Lok Sabha**.

Note

- **Launch** - September 2013.
- The Supreme Court directed the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** to introduce NOTA.
- If the **highest number of votes** in a constituency is polled for NOTA, the second most successful candidate wins.
- According to Chief Election Commission, India created a world record with 64.2 crore voters, which includes **31.2 crore women voters**.
- It is **1.5 times** the voters of all **G7 countries**.

18th Lok Sabha

New Government

- President Droupadi Murmu formally invited Narendra Modi to form the new government for the third consecutive term.
- National Democratic Alliance (NDA) elected him as its leader.
- **Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju** announced the **First session** of the **18th Lok Sabha** will be held from **June 24 to July 3**.
- **President Droupadi Murmu** will address a joint sitting of the two Houses on June 27 under Article 86 and 87.
- The 18th Lok Sabha has 280 first time MPs and 74 women MPs.

Key Highlights

- NDA won 293 seats out of the 543 seats.
 - BJP - 240 seats
 - Indian National Congress (INC) - 99 seats
 - Samajwadi Party (SP) - 37 seats
 - All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) - 29 seats.
- Majority of 272 seats is required to form the government and none of the parties got the majority of seats
- NDA consist of **Telugu Desam Party's (TDP)** **N.Chandrababu Naidu** and **Bihar Chief**

Note

- **Article 86** confers a right on the President to address either House of Parliament or the joint sitting of the House.
- **Article 87** provides two instances when the President of India specially addresses both Houses of Parliament.
 - Beginning of the first session of each year.
 - Beginning of the first Session after each general election.



3. GEOGRAPHY

3.1 POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

The Red List of Ecosystems

- IUCN recently released the, “Red List of Mangrove Ecosystems”.
- It is the first-ever global assessment of the mangrove ecosystems across the world.

Key findings

- 50% of mangrove ecosystems are at risk of collapse.
- By 2050 about 7,065 km² (5 %) more mangroves will be lost and 23,672 km² (16%) will be submerged due to sea level rise.
- Mangroves in coastal regions around Tamil Nadu, Sri Lanka and the Maldives were designated as ‘critically endangered’.

Note

- The Tamil Nadu Forest Department has constituted 20 village mangrove committees to protect the mangrove cover.
- In Tamil Nadu, according to the Indian State of Forest Report, the extent of mangroves had doubled from 23 sq.km. in 2001 to 45 sq.km. in 2021.
- Mangrove restoration has been completed in 25 sq.km so far under the Tamil Nadu Coastal Restoration Mission.

Nitrous Oxide Emissions

- According to the study published in the journal Earth System Science Data, India is

the world’s second largest source of Nitrous Oxide (N₂O).

- Nearly 11% of such global man-made emissions in 2020 were from India
- The major source of these emissions comes from fertilizer usage.
- N₂O emissions from human activities have increased by 40% in the past four decades.

Note

- N₂O is a greenhouse gas that heats up the atmosphere more than carbon dioxide.

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**.

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.

Asiatic Lions

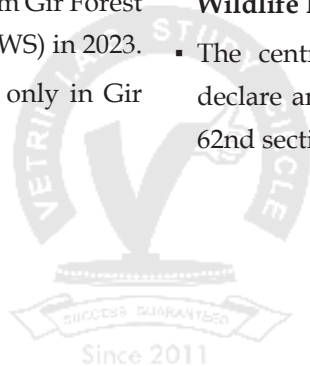
- The Forest Department in Gujarat has started translocating **spotted deer (cheetal) and sambar deer** from **Gir Forest** to the **Barda Wildlife Sanctuary (BWS)**.
- This move aims to augment the population of prey for Asiatic lions in the wildlife sanctuary.
- Barda Wildlife Sanctuary is also located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

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

RBI's Annual Report for 2023-24

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** recently present its **Annual Report for 2023-24** to the Central Government.
- It is presented under **Section 53(2) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.**

Key Highlights

- **Action Plan** for promoting **internationalisation of Indian Rupee (INR)**
- Real GDP growth accelerated to **7.6% in 2023-24 from 7.0% in 2022-23.**
- The **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** kept the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.50%.
- **INR depreciated by 1.4%** during 2023-24.
- The **Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index)** is **60.1 in March 2023.**

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

4.2 CURRENT TRENDS IN INDIAN ECONOMY

GST collections

- The **Ministry of Finance** stated that the Goods & Services Tax (GST) collections for May 2024 is Rs.1.73 lakh crore.
- It was lower than Rs.2.10 lakh crore in April but higher than the Rs.1.57 lakh crore collected in May 2023.
- The gross GST collections in the financial year 2025 till May stood at Rs.3.83-lakh crore which

is 11.3% higher than the previous year.

- It is driven by a strong increase in domestic transactions and marginal increase in imports.

About GST:

- **Launch** - July 1, 2017
- Under **Constitution (101st Amendment) Act 2016.**
- Three types of GST are **CGST (Central) SGST (State) and IGST (integrated)**

- **Tax Slabs** - 0%, 5%, 12%, 18%, 28%.
- GST Council constituted under **Article 279A**.

Expansion Unified Payment Interface (UPI)

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** in collaboration with **NPCI International Payments Ltd. (NIPL)** is planning to expand the **United Payment Interface (UPI)** to 20 countries by 2028-29

Countries that accept UPI

- Bhutan
- France (E-commerce)
- Mauritius
- Nepal
- Singapore
- Sri Lanka
- UAE

About United Payment Interface (UPI)

- **Launch** - April 11, 2016
- A system that powers multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application.
- **Launched by** – National Payments Corporation of India with 21 member banks.

100 metric tonnes of gold

- India has moved 100 metric tonnes of its gold stored in the **U.K.** to domestic vaults in Fiscal Year **2024**.
- India's overall gold holding increased **27.46 metric tonnes** in FY24 and it stands at **822 metric tonnes**.

Note

- All banknotes issued by RBI are backed by assets such as gold, Government Securities and Foreign Currency Assets, as defined in **Section 33 of the RBI Act, 1934**.

Repo Rate

- The **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** has kept the repo rate unchanged at **6.5 per cent** for the eight consecutive time.
- The committee has also decided to maintain the monetary policy stance of 'withdrawal of accommodation'.

About MPC

- Constituted under **Section 45ZB** of the amended **RBI Act, 1934**.
- **First MPC** - **September 29, 2016**.
- **Quorum** - 4 members
- **Members** - 6 (3 - RBI, 3 - Central Government)
- **Chairperson** - Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (Shaktikanta Das)

Note

- The interest rate that the RBI charges when commercial banks borrow money from it is called the repo rate

Global Economic Prospects report

- **World Bank** recently released the Global Economic Prospects report.
- The report states that India will remain the **fastest-growing major economy** recording a steady growth of **6.7 per cent** in the next three years including the current financial year.
- In India, growth is estimated to have increased to **8.2 per cent** in fiscal year **2023 to 2024**.

About World Bank

- **Formation** - July 1944
- **Headquarters**- Washington
- **President** - Ajay Banga



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

5.2 SPACE

PraVaHa

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has developed the software named **Parallel RANS Solver for Aerospace Vehicle Aero-thermo-dynamic Analysis (PraVaHa).**
- PraVaHa aims to simulate external and internal flows on launch vehicles.
- It was developed in **ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC).**
- It has been used extensively in the **Gaganyaan program.**

About ISRO

- **Formation** - August 15, 1969
- **Headquarters** - Bengaluru
- **Chairman** - S. Somanat

French Open

- **Carlos Alcaraz** won the **French Title.**
- He became the youngest sportsman to win Grand Slam on all three surfaces - grass, hard, clay

About French Open

- It is also known as **Roland-Garros.**
- **Formation** - 1891.

Aditya-L1

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** recently released the images of the sun and its dynamic activities during the solar storm.
- These images were captured by **Aditya-L1**.

About Aditya – L1

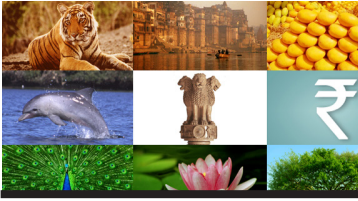
- Launch – **September 2, 2023**.
- Launch Vehicle – **PSLV C-57**
- **India's first solar Mission**
- **Project Director** - Nigar Shaji

5.3 LATEST DISCOVERIES IN HEALTH SCIENCE**Three new craters on Mars**

- The scientists of the **Ahmedabad-based Physical Research Laboratory (PRL)** have discovered **three new craters** in the **Tharsis volcanic region on Mars**.
- The **three craters** are named as follows,

- **Lal crater**- Named after Devendra Lal who is a renowned Indian geophysicist and Director of PRL.
- **Mursan crater** – Named after a town in Uttar Pradesh.
- **Hilsa crater** – Named after a town in Bihar.





6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENT

World's Largest Grain Storage Plan

- The **National Level Coordination Committee (NLCC)** held its first meeting for the implementation of the World's largest grain storage plan in **New Delhi**.
- This plan envisages to transform **Primary Agricultural Credit Society (PACS)** into **Multi-Service Societies** through convergence of various existing schemes of the Government of India (GoI), such as,
 - **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)**
 - **Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure Scheme (AMI)**
 - **Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)**
 - **Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME)**

About Grain Storage Plan

- Introduced as a pilot project in 11 states in 2023.
- **Implementation** - National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)
- **Objective** - To address the shortage of food grain storage capacity in India

Digital payments intelligence platform

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has proposed to establish a **Digital Payments Intelligence Platform**.
- This platform will provide network level intelligence and real-time data sharing across

the digital payments' ecosystem to handle the growing instances of digital payment frauds.

About RBI

- **Formation** - April 1, 1935.
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai.
- **Governor** - Shaktikanta Das.

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)**.

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

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)

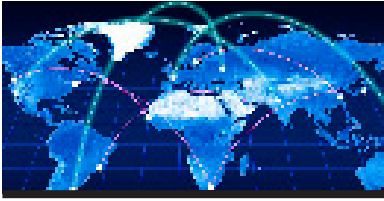
- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** inaugurated the **Fast Track Immigration Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP)** at the **Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi**.
- The programme aims to ease congestion at immigration counters.
- Other than New Delhi, the initiative was launched in Mumbai, 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

President of Mexico

- **Claudia Sheinbaum** was recently elected as the first woman president of Mexico.
- In 2018 she became the first female mayor of Mexico City.

About Mexico

- **Capital** - Mexico City
- **Currency** - Mexican peso

International Year of Quantum Science and Technology

- The **United Nations** has stated that **2025** will be designated as the '**International Year of Quantum Science and Technology**'.
- **Werner Heisenberg** laid the foundation stone for Quantum Science and Technology.

About United Nations

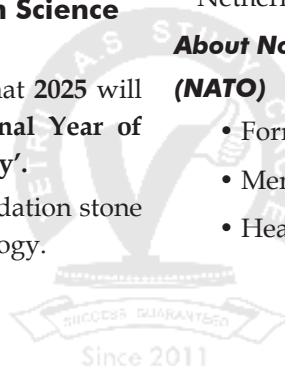
- **Headquarters** - New York
- **Formation** - 1945.

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





8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

Soil Nailing Scheme

- Tamil Nadu government recently launched the **Soil Nailing Scheme** to prevent landslide in Nilgiris district.
- Under this scheme, slope stabilisation being implemented in the Nilgiris through 'soil nailing' and 'hydroseeding' techniques.
- It will **reduce construction cost by 50%**, when compared with conventional methods.

DigiYatra facility

- The **Airport Authority of India (AAI)** stated that the DigiYatra facility will be launched in Chennai Airport after getting clearance from the **Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)**.
- It has already been introduced in other Airports in India.

About DigiYatra facility

- **Launch** - December 1, 2022.
- **Objective** - To provide hassle-free travel experience to air travellers.
- **Launched by** - Ministry of Civil Aviation and DigiYatra Foundation.

Unified India Organic Logo

- **Unified India Organic logo** was introduced recently for **organic products in India**.
- It was jointly developed by the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** and **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)**.
- At present,
 - India Organic logo is used on organic products complying with **National Programme for Organic Products (NPOP)**

- **Jaivik Bharat logo** is used on organic products certified by **FSSAI**.

- **Unified India Organic logo** will replace the **India Organic and Jaivik Bharat logos**.

About FSSAI

- **Formation** - September 5, 2008.
- **Headquarters** - New Delhi
- A statutory body under **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006**.
- Functions under **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.

About APEDA

- **Formation** - February 13, 1986
- **Chairman** - Dr. Abhisek Dev
- A **premier body** of export promotion of **fresh vegetables and fruits**

T.N. Assembly Session

- The State Government stated that the next session of the **Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly** to discuss the Demands for Grants for various departments will commence on **June 24**.

- "**Demand for Grants**" is a formal request for funds made by various ministries or departments of the government.

Note

- **Article 203 of Constitution of India** states that no demand for a grant shall be made except on the recommendation of the Governor.

DigiYatra facility

- **DigiYatra facility** was launched in **Chennai Airport**.
- It has already been introduced in **other Airports in India**.

About DigiYatra facility

- **Launch** - December 1, 2022.
- **Objective** - To provide hassle-free travel experience to air travellers.
- **Launched by** - Ministry of Civil Aviation and DigiYatra Foundation

School Infrastructure

- The **Director of Elementary Education (DEE)** states that the smart classrooms would be set up in **20,000 panchayat union** primary schools and hi-tech laboratories in 6,992 panchayat union primary schools across Tamil Nadu.
- DDE further stated that for the academic year 2024-25, 1,920 additional classrooms, 251 laboratories, 692 toilets for boys, 646 toilets for girls and compound walls would be constructed in 794 panchayat union primary and middle schools across the State under the **Professor Anbazhagan School Development Scheme**.

About Professor Anbazhagan School Development Scheme.

- **Launch** - 2023
- **Objective** - To provide infrastructure development in schools to provide a conducive environment for teaching and learning activities

Scheme to improve soil health

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin inaugurated the Chief Minister's Mannuyir (மண்ணுயிர்) Kaathu Mannuyir (மண்ணுயிர்) Kaappom Scheme (CM MK MKS)
- **Aim** - To improve soil quality, and move towards sustainable and chemical-free agricultural practices for the well-being of society.
- It will be implemented with the outlay of ₹206 crore.

- A sum of ₹20 crore would be allotted for preservation of soil fertility through the use of green manure.
- In the First phase in 2024-25, **green manure seeds** will be distributed to **2 lakh farmers** covering around **2 lakh acres**

TN recovers IGST revenue

- The **Tax Research Unit** which was set up by the Commercial Taxes Department, has helped **Tamil Nadu** recover ₹1,523.95 crore under the **Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST)**.
- The IGST is **levied and collected by the Centre** on inter-State supply of goods and services and settled with the States.

About Tax Research Unit

- **Launch** - December 30, 2022.
- **Objective** - To study the revenue trend and suggest revenue augmentation measures.

About GST:

- **Launch** - July 1, 2017
- **Under Constitution (101st Amendment) Act 2016.**
- Three types of GST are **CGST (Central)** **SGST (State)** and **IGST (integrated)**
- **Tax Slabs** - 0%, 5%, 12%, 18%, 28%.
- **GST Council** constituted under Article 279A.

Tamil Pudhalvan scheme

- **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin** announced that the Tamil Pudhalvan scheme would be launched in August 2024.
- **Objective** - To promote higher education among boy students from economically disadvantaged sections.
- **Benefit** - ₹1,000 a month in financial assistance would be provided to students pursuing higher education after completing Classes VI to XII in State-run schools.

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**.

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.
- NRCDD 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.
- The total food grains production target was 129.63 lakh metric tonnes for 2024-25.

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 Poyyamozhi** 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, Pavalar 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. Nadimuthupillai**
 - **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, Chembarambakkam, 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