VETRII IAS STUDY CIRCLE
Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

JULY 2024 - PART 1

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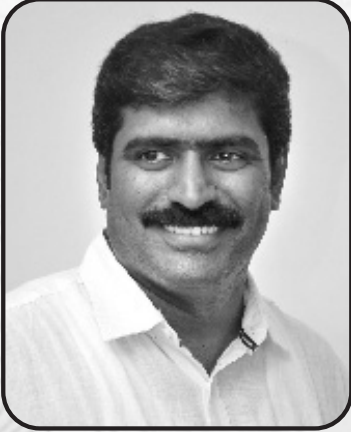Thanjavur - 613 005.
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Preface

M. SHUNMUGAM
Director
Vetrii IAS Study Circle.

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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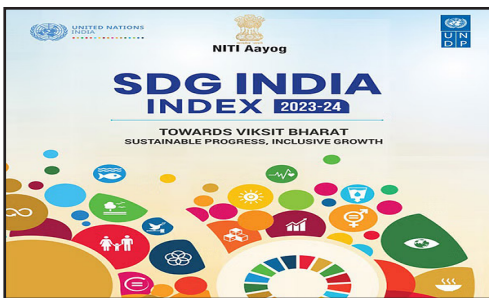
1. HISTORY

1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
June 1	*National Doctor's Day*	▪ The day is observed in India annually on **July 1** to honour the birth and death anniversary of DrBidhan Chandra Roy. ▪ He is a renowned physician, freedom fighter and former West Bengal Chief Minister. ▪ **Theme 2024**: Healing Hands, Caring Hearts.
July 1	*GST Day*	▪ The day is observed on **July 1** every year to commemorate the launch of Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India on July 1, 2018. ***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.
July 6	*World Zoonoses day*	▪ The day is observed on **July 6** every year to commemorate the discovery of Rabies vaccine by Louis Pasteur. ▪ The day was first observed on July 6, 2007, honouring the 100th death anniversary of Louis Pasteur.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
July 11	*World Population Day*	▪ The day is observed on **11th July** every year to raise awareness about global population issues and the importance of reproductive health and rights. ▪ The day was established by the United Nations in 1989. ▪ **Theme 2024** : Leave no one behind, count everyone. ▪ India's population 2024 stands at slightly over 1.428 billion.
July 11	*NABARD Day*	▪ NABARD Day which is Foundation Day of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) day is observed on July 12 every year. ▪ July 12, 2024 is the 24th Foundation Day of NABARD. ▪ NABARD is a statutory body established in 1982 under Parliamentary Act - National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981

1.2 DEFENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND TERRORISM

SEBEX 2

- ▪ Indian Navy certified a new explosive named 'SEBEX 2'
- ▪ It was developed by Economic Explosives Limited (EEL) which is a subsidiary of Solar Industries .
- ▪ It was developed under Make in India initiative.
- ▪ It is said to be among the most powerful non-nuclear explosives in the world.

About Make in India

- ▪ **Launch** - September 2014
- ▪ **Objective** – To transform India into a global design and manufacturing hub
- ▪ **Launched by** - Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Rudram-1 Missile

- ▪ India has successfully test-fired the Rudram-1 Missile recently.
- ▪ It is India's first indigenous anti-radiation missile.
- ▪ It was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- ▪ It is an Air-to-Surface missile.

Exercise MAITREE

- ▪ The 13th edition of exercise Maitree 2024 was concluded recently in Tak Province in Thailand.
- ▪ It is a Joint military Exercise between India and Thailand.

About Thailand
- **Capital** – Bangkok
- **King** - Maha Vajiralongkorn
- **Currency** - Thai Baht

Nomadic Elephant
- The 16th edition of the Nomadic Elephant was concluded recently in Meghalaya
- Nomadic Elephant is a Joint Military Exercise between armies of India and Mongolia

About Mongolia
- **Capital** – Ulaanbaatar
- **Currency** - Mongolian Tugrik
- **President** - Ukhnaagiin Khürelsükh

Exercise Pitch Black 2024
- Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent reached Australia to participate in Exercise Pitch Black 2024.
- It is a biennial, multi-national exercise hosted by the Air Force of Australia.
- It includes participation by 20 countries.

About Australia
- **Capital** – Canberra
- **Currency** - Royal Australian Mint
- **President** - Anthony Albanese MP

1.3 WORLD SUMMITS AND ORGANISATION

GPAI Ministerial Council
- The 6th meeting of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) Ministerial Council was recently held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- India is the lead chair of GPAI in 2024.

About GPAI
- An integrated partnership that brings together OECD members and GPAI countries.

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)
- The 24th Summit of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was recently hosted by Kazakhstan (Astana).

Key Highlights of the Summit
- Belarus has become the 10th member state of the SCO
- Adoption of Astana Declaration.
- Cooperation Program to Counter Terrorism, Separatism, and Extremism for 2025-2027
- Anti-Drug Strategy for 2024−2029
- SCO Development Strategy until 2035.

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

Global IndiaAI Summit 2024
- Global IndiaAI Summit 2024 was recently held in New Delhi.
- The summit aims to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange, underscoring India's dedication to the ethical and inclusive growth of AI technologies.

About IndiaAI Mission
- **Launch** – March 2024
- **Aim** - To Strengthen the AI Innovation Ecosystem.
- It will be implemented by 'IndiaAI' Independent Business Division (IBD) under Digital India Corporation (DIC).

MeDevIS Platform

▪ World Health Organization (WHO) has introduced an online platform called MeDevIS (Medical Devices Information System).

▪ It aims to boost access to medical technologies and devices.

▪ It is a global repository on medical devices.

About WHO

▪ **Formation** - 7 April 1948

▪ **Headquarters** – Geneva

▪ **Director** - General-Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

▪ **Objective** - To expand universal health coverage

BIMSTEC

▪ The second edition of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Foreign Ministers' Retreat was recently held in New Delhi.

▪ First edition of BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat was held in Thailand in 2023.

About BIMSTEC

▪ **Formation** – 1997 (Bangkok Declaration).

▪ **Members** – 7 (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Myanmar, Nepal, and Bhutan)

▪ **Headquarters** – Dhaka.

1.4 APPOINTMENTS

NMC chairperson

▪ Dr BN Gangadhar was recently appointed as the head of the National Medical Commission (NMC).

▪ He was appointed by the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet.

About Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)

• **Formation** – January 26, 1950

• **Headed by** – Prime Minister

• **Objective** – To appoint senior officials to key positions in the central government and public sector undertakings.

2. POLITICAL SCIENCE

2.1 INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

India – Taiwan

▪ Recently, Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) was signed for organic products between India and Taiwan.

▪ It is the first ever bilateral agreement for organic products.

▪ Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is the implementing agency.

▪ Products which are certified from National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) are allowed for sale in Taiwan.

About Taiwan

- **Capital** - Taipei City
- **Currency** - New Taiwan dollar
- **Premier** - Cho Jung-tai
- **President** - Lai Ching Te

Colombo Security Conclave (CSC)

▪ Bangladesh recently joined the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) as its fifth member.

About CSC

▪ **Formation** – 2011

▪ Established as a trilateral maritime security grouping of India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

▪ Mauritius joined it as the fourth member.

2.2 GOVT – WELFARE ORIENTED GOVT SCHEMES, THEIR UTILITY

Smart City Mission

▪ The Smart Cities Mission was extended recently till March 2025.

About Smart Cities Mission

▪ **Launched** - 25 June, 2015

▪ **Objective** - To promote cities that provide core infrastructure, clean and sustainable environment.

Sampoornata Abhiyan

▪ NITI Aayog recently launched the Sampoornata Abhiyan.

▪ It is a 3-month campaign which aims to achieve 100% saturation of 6 key indicators in

Aspirational Districts and 6 key indicators in Aspirational Blocks.

▪ Districts and blocks are covered under the Aspirational Districts Programme and Aspirational Blocks Programme respectively.

About Aspirational Districts Programme

▪ **Launch** – 2018 (NITI Aayog)

▪ **Aim** – To transform 112 districts across India.

About Aspirational Blocks Porgramme

▪ **Launch** – 2023

▪ **Aim** – To provide essential government services in 500 Blocks (329 Districts) across India.

Integrated Tribal Development Programme

▪ National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is planning to launch an Integrated Tribal Development Programme (ITDP) in the Kulathupuzha Gram Panchayat in Kerala.

About ITDP

▪ It is a flagship project of NABARD that has been implemented since 2005-06.

▪ Aim – To adopt sustainable income – generating activities.

About NABARD

▪ **Formation** – 1982

▪ Established under the NABARD Act 1981.

▪ **Headquarters** – Mumbai

▪ **Chairman** - Shaji K V

Project PARI

▪ Ministry of Culture recently initiated the Project PARI (Public Art of India) for the 46th World Heritage Committee Meeting.

About Project PARI

▪ **Launched by** - Ministry of Culture.

▪ **Executed by** - Lalit Kala Akademi and National Gallery of Modern Art s

▪ **Objective** - To bring forth public art that draws inspiration from millennia of artistic heritage (lok kala/lok sanskriti) while incorporating modern themes and techniques.

Production Linked Incentive PLI Scheme

▪ Government has invited applications for PLI Scheme for White Goods (ACs and LED Lights).

▪ White Goods are large electrical goods and home appliances like refrigerators, washing machines, and ACs.

About PLI Scheme

▪ **Launch** – 2020

▪ **Nodal Ministry** - Ministry of Commerce & Industry

▪ It is a Central Sector Scheme

2.3 PUBLIC AWARENESS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Speedy Trial

▪ The Supreme Court affirmed that the constitutional right of a speedy trial, as enshrined in Article 21, applies to all cases regardless of the crime's gravity.

Note

▪ The Supreme Court declared the right of speedy trial as a fundamental right in Kartar Singh Vs State of Punjab (1994).

3. GEOGRAPHY

3.1 POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

Eleven new biosphere reserves

▪ Recently UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) added 11 new biosphere reserves from countries like Colombia, etc. to its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)

▪ WNRB thus now comprises 759 sites across 136 countries

▪ WNRB is formed under the Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme.

About MAB Programme

▪ **Launched** - 1971 as an intergovernmental scientific programme.

▪ **Aim**- To establish a scientific basis for enhancing the relationship between people and their environments

Note

▪ Out of 18 biosphere reserve in India, 12 are recognised under World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)

▪ Niligiri Biosphere Reserves was first to be recognized.

4. ECONOMICS

4.1 REPORTS AND INDICES

SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) India Index 2023-24

- The SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) India Index 2023-24 was recently released by the NITI Aayog.

- It measures and tracks national progress of all States and Union Territories (UTs) on 113 indicators.

- Scores range between 0–100.

- States are divided into four categories under the Index: Achiever (100), Front runners (65-99), Performers (50-64), and Aspirants (0-49).

Key Findings

- The composite score for India improved from 57 in 2018 to 66 in 2020-21 to further to 71 in 2023-24.

- All States have shown an improvement in overall score.

- Significant progress was made in Goals 1 (No Poverty), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 13 (Climate Action) and 15 (Life on Land).

- Goal 13 (Climate Action) records highest increase in score from 54 in 2020-21 to 67 in 2023-24 followed by Goal 1 (No Poverty) from 60 to 72.

- **Top States:** Uttarakhand and Kerala with scores of 79 each.

- **Top Union Territory**: Chandigarh.

Note

- The first edition of the SDG India Index was released in 2018.

New World Soil Health Index

- New World Soil Health Index was recently announced by UNESCO at International conference on Soils held in Morocco.

- The Index will standardise measure for analysing and comparing soil quality in different regions and ecosystems, and identify trends of degradation or improvement.

- UNESCO also announced that it will launch a pilot program for sustainable management of soils and landscapes in ten natural sites under its Biosphere Reserves program.

About UNESCO

- **Headquarters** - Paris, France
- **Formation** - 16 November 1945
- **Director-General** - Audrey Azoulay (France)

Financial Inclusion Index 2024

- The Reserve Bank of India recently released Financial Inclusion Index for March 202

- The value of the Index for March 2024 stands at 64.2.

- It indicates a significant progress in financial inclusion across India.

About Financial Inclusion Index:

- The FI-Index is a comprehensive measure of financial inclusion, ranging from 0 to 100

- It consists of three main parameters
  - **Access (35%)**
  - **Usage (45%)**
  - **Quality (20**%).
- It is published annually in July.

Digital Economy Report 2024

- Digital Economy Report 2024 was recently released by the UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- The report highlights the urgent need for sustainable strategies for environmentally sustainable and inclusive digital future.

Key Findings

- Internet users have increased from 1 billion in 2005 to 5.4 billion in 2023.
- Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector is estimated to have accounted for 1.5– 3.2 % of global GHG emissions in 2020.
- Increase in online shoppers has led to a 30 % rise in digital-related waste from 2010 to 2022, reaching 10.5 million tonnes globally.
- Demand for minerals required for digitalization like graphite, lithium, and cobalt could surge by 500 % to 2050.

About UNCTAD

- **Formation** - December 30, 1964
- **Headquarters** – Geneva
- **Secretary**-General - Rebeca Grynspan

World Population Prospects 2024

- Recently, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) released the World Population Prospects Report
- It provides population trends for countries across the world.

Key Findings

- **Global Population peak:** World's population is projected to peak around 10.3 billion people in mid-2080s, up from 8.2 billion in 2024.
- **Fertility rate**: Currently, fertility rate stands at 2.25 live births per woman, down from 3.31 births in 1990.
- **Life expectancy:** Life expectancy at birth reached 73.3 years in 2024, an increase of 8.4 years since 1995.
- **Early pregnancies:** In 2024, 4.7 million babies, or about 3.5 per cent of the total worldwide, were born to mothers under age 18.
- India's population is expected to reach its peak in early 2060s and is expected to remain the world's largest throughout century.

About UN- DESA

- **Formation** – 1948
- **Headquarters** - New York
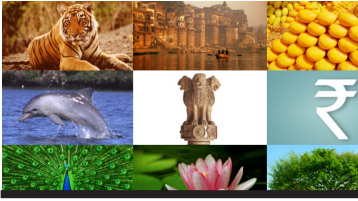- **Head** - Liu Zhenmin

5. SCIENCE

5.1 SPACE

Mars Odyssey Orbiter

▪ Recently, NASA's Mars Odyssey Orbiter captured the view of Olympus Mons.

▪ It is the largest volcano in our solar system.

▪ It is located on Mars.

About Mars Odyssey

▪ Launch – 2001.

▪ It is the longest continually active orbital mission.

6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENT

New Criminal Laws

▪ The three new criminal laws are set to take effect from 1st July 2024.

▪ Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) will replace the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860, Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) 1973, and Indian Evidence Act, 1872 respectively.

Key Points in New Laws:

▪ Introduces community service as punishment for petty offences.

▪ **Terrorist Act**: A terrorist act is defined as one intending or likely to threaten India's unity, integrity, sovereignty, security, or economic security, or acts intended or likely to strike terror among the people.

▪ **Mob Lynching** : Mob lynching now punishable by death or life imprisonment if committed by five or more on grounds such as race, caste, community, sex, place of birth, language, personal belief.

▪ It will allow for the trial of an accused in his or her absence.

▪ Summary trials now cover cases where the punishment is up to 3 years, aiming to resolve more than 40% of cases in sessions courts.

▪ Videography was made compulsory during search and seizure. No charge sheet will be valid without such recording.

▪ A first-time offender who has served a third of the jail term will be released on bail by the court.

▪ Forensic experts should be used in every case where the punishment includes seven or more years in jail.

Bustard Recovery Program

▪ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has approved Rs 56 crore for the next phase of the conservation of Great Indian Bustard (GIB) and Lesser Florican.

▪ The conservation programme has been running since 2016 for long-term recovery of critically endangered GIB and Lesser Florican.

▪ As of now, around 140 GIBs and fewer than 1,000 Lesser Floricans are surviving in the wild.

About Great Indian Bustard

▪ Schedule I and IV of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972

▪ IUCN - Critically Endangered

About Lesser Florican

▪ Schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972

▪ IUCN - Critically Endangered

Digital Bharat Nidhi

▪ The Department of Telecommunication (DoT) has recently notified the draft Telecommunications (Digital Bharat Nidhi)

Rules, 2024 under Sections 26 and 56 of the Telecommunication Act, 2023.

About Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN)

▪ It has been created under the Telecommunication Act, 2023.

▪ It will replace the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) created under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.

▪ USOF is a pool of funds generated by a Universal Access Levy.

UNESCO World Heritage List

▪ International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) has recommended inclusion of Assam's Ahom Era Moidams in UNESCO World Heritage List.

About ICOMOS

▪ **Formation** – 1965

▪ It is an advisory body of UNESCO World Heritage Committee for implementation of World Heritage Convention of UNESCO.

Pollution level in Cauvery

▪ The Karnataka government has formed an expert committee to study the pollution level in the Cauvery.

▪ The Committee will be headed by Niranjan who is the Chief Environment Officer of Karnataka State Pollution Control Board.

7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

Naan Mudhalvan scheme

▪ A total of 25,888 students from polytechnic colleges across Tamil Nadu have landed jobs in various sectors through the State government's Naan Mudhalvan scheme, as on June 18, 2024.

▪ Under the scheme, the government is helping students from polytechnic colleges secure lucrative jobs in domestic and multinational firms.

▪ About 252 colleges have participated in the job drives so far.

About Naan Mudhalvan Scheme

▪ **Launch** - March 2022.

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

Murugesan Committee

▪ The Justice D. Murugesan Committee recently submitted its report to the Tamil Nadu government.

▪ The Committee was constituted by the Tamil Nadu government to draft a distinct State Education Policy.

Key Recommendations

▪ It recommended against conducting entrance examination of any kind for admission to all higher education courses.

▪ The consolidated marks obtained both in Class XI and Class XII board examinations should be the basis for admission to all courses in higher education.

▪ The Tamil Nadu government may take appropriate measures to ensure that the subject 'Education' was brought back in List II (State List) of Schedule 7 of the Constitution of India

▪ There is a need to regulate deemed-to-be universities, autonomous colleges, proposed foreign universities, and self-funding institutions.

▪ It recommends banning of coaching classes and more State investment into education.

Stop Diarrhoea Campaign 2024

▪ TN recently launched the State-wide 'Stop Diarrhoea Campaign 2024' and administration of Vitamin A doses for children.

▪ The campaign was being held with the goal of zero under-five deaths due to Acute Diarrhoeal Diseases in Tamil Nadu.

▪ The campaign will be held from July 1 to August 31 in health sub centres, primary health centres, government hospitals, anganwadi centres and schools in the State.

Note

▪ Tamil Nadu accounts for 7% blindness due to Vitamin A deficiency.

Tamil Nadu Space Industrial Policy 2024

▪ The Tamil Nadu government recently released the draft Tamil Nadu Space Industrial Policy 2024.

▪ The policy aims to create direct and indirect employment prospects for nearly 10,000

persons in 10 years and also promises a slew of incentives to the players in the sector.

▪ The policy would be applicable for all enterprises engaged in manufacturing and services pertaining to the space sector.

▪ The policy stated that Tamil Nadu is endowed with the required ecosystem needed to support the space economy – general engineering, electronics, chemicals, human capital backed with a vision towards the space sector.

▪ Tamil Nadu has already partnered with private industries to establish a common facility at Tiruchi termed as TREAT which has capabilities to support the heavy engineering needs of the space industry.

▪ A similar facility will be established in the vicinity of the upcoming space port at Kulasekarapattinam.

Testing facilities

▪ The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish three state-of-the-art testing facilities in Chennai under the Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor — one each in Unmanned Aerial System (UAS), Electronic Warfare (EW) and Electro Optics (EO) domains.

▪ These facilities aim to provide impetus to the defence and aerospace sectors.

Note

▪ 5 nodes namely Chennai, Coimbatore, Hosur, Salem and Tiruchirappalli have been identified under Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor (TNDIC).

Health infrastructure

▪ Tamil Nadu Government met with World

Bank to discuss funding sources and action plan for improving health infrastructure in the State.

▪ The government has already implemented Tamil Nadu Health System Reform Project at $287 million with the support of the World Bank.

About World Bank

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

Committee to study Three new Criminal Laws

▪ Tamil Nadu chief minister MK Stalin formed a one-man committee to study and recommend the amendments to be made at the State Level in the three new Criminal Laws enacted by the Central Government.

▪ The Committee will be headed by Justice M Satyanarayan to study and recommend the amendments, which will also include a change of the name of the laws in Hindi.

Note

▪ The new criminal laws, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Sanhita came into effect on July 1.

▪ These new laws aim to replace the Indian Penal Code of 1860, the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act of 1872.

Panel to study climate change

▪ Tamil Nadu government has decided to constitute the 'One Health and Climate Change Strategic Committee'.

▪ 23-member committee was constituted

promote a comprehensive response to the public health challenges posed by climate change.

▪ The committee will be headed by the Chief Secretary.

▪ Principal Secretary to the Departments of Environment, Climate Change, and Forests will be the convenor.