

VETRI IAS STUDY CIRCLE

Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

JULY 2024



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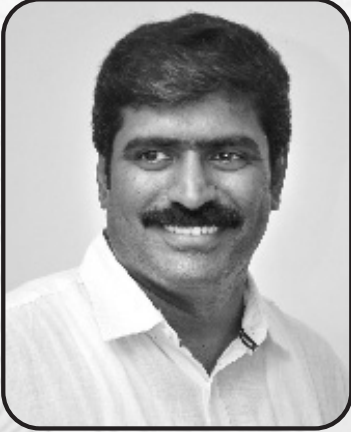
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Preface



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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 !

Published by:

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1. HISTORY



1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
July 1	National Doctor's Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 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. <p>About GST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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
July 17	Martyrs Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ July 17 is observed as Martyrs Day in Tamil Nadu. ▪ The day aims to honour the contributions of Thiyagi Arya (alias) Bhashiyam, Thiyagi Sankaralinganar, Thiyagi Shenbagaraman.
July 17	World Day for International Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The day is observed on July 17 every year to promote International Justice. ▪ The day marks the anniversary of the Rome Statute on July 17, 1998. ▪ The International Criminal Court was established on July 1, 2002 on the basis of Rome Statute.
July 18	Tamil Nadu State Formation Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ July 18 is observed as Tamil Nadu State Formation Day from 2023. ▪ July 18 was the day on which a resolution moved by then Chief Minister C.N. Annadurai was adopted in the State Legislative Assembly to rename the then Madras State as Tamil Nadu in 1967. <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Madras State became Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala on November 1, 1956

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
July 20	World Chess Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The day is observed on July 20 every year to commemorate the formation of International Chess Federation, FIDE in Paris in 1924. <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chess is believed to have originated from Chaturanga of ancient India. ▪ The All India Chess Federation is the governing body for chess in India
July 20	International Moon Day (IMD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The day is observed on July 20 every year to honour the anniversary of the first landing of humans on the Moon. ▪ The day was declared on 9 December 2021 by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). ▪ The first landing of humans on Moon was accomplished by the Apollo 11 mission during which Neil Armstrong and Edwin 'Buzz' Aldrin set foot on the Moon's surface in 1969.
July 22	National Flag Adoption Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The day is observed on July 22 to commemorate the adoption of the National Flag by the Constituent Assembly in 1947. ▪ The National Flag was first designed in 1923 by Pingali Venkayya.
July 26	25th Anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The day is observed every year on July 26. ▪ It is observed to pay tribute to the bravery of Indian soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the country during the Kargil War of 1999. ▪ The peaceful settlement of the Kashmir issue was concluded by the signing of Lahore Declaration in February 1999.
July 28	World Nature Conservation Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Nature Conservation Day is observed globally on July 28 every year to emphasize the importance of preserving natural resources and protecting the environment. ▪ Theme 2024: Connecting People and Plants, Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
July 28	World Hepatitis Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The day is observed each year on July 28 every year to raise awareness on viral hepatitis. Theme 2024: 'One Life, One Liver'. <p>About Hepatitis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hepatitis is inflammation of the liver. Viral hepatitis is the most common type and is caused by one of several hepatitis viruses A, B, C, D, and E.
July 29	International Tiger Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The day is observed every year on July 29, to raise awareness about the tigers. The day was first established in 2010 at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit. Theme 2024 : Call for Action

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.

World Audiovisual and Entertainment Summit

- India will host the **First World Audiovisual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES)** in November **2024 in Goa**.
- The event will be hosted alongside the **International Film Festival of India in Goa**.
- The event will help India to make a mark in the media and entertainment sector.

About International Film Festival of India

- **Formation: 24 January 1952.**
- Hosted jointly by the **Government of Goa** and the **Directorate of Film Festivals**

1.3 SPORTS

Paris 2024 Olympics

- The opening ceremony of the **Paris 2024 Olympics** has begun on the **Seine River in France**.
- Paris has already hosted the **Olympic Games in 1900** and in **1924**.
- 117 athletes from India will participate in the **Paris Olympics**.
- In Paris 2024, there will be **32 sports** across **39 medal events**.

- Each Olympic medal will have an original iron piece of the **Eiffel Tower** in it.

About Indian Contingent

- Out of the **seven medallists** from **Tokyo 2020 Olympics**, **Neeraj Chopra**, **Mirabai Chanu**, **PV Sindhu**, and **Lovlina Borgohain** will participate in Paris 2024.
- **PV Sindhu** and **Sharath Kamal** are India's flag-bearers.
- **Gagan Narang** is the **Chef-de-Mission** of India's Paris 2024 Olympics contingent.

1.4 AWARDS AND HONOURS

Best Transgender Award

- Tamil Nadu chief minister M K Stalin recently presented the **Social Welfare Department's Best Transgender Award for 2024 to Sandya Devi** of Kanyakumari.

- She has performed more than 1,000 bow song performances creating awareness on Covid-19, dowry harassments and violent against women.
- A check of Rs 1 lakh and a certificate of appreciation are also presented to the awardee.

1.5 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.

35th Foreign Secretary

- Vikram Misri was recently appointed as the 35th Foreign Secretary of India.
- He is appointed by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).
- The foreign secretary ranks 23rd on the Indian Order of Precedence.

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.

New Judges of Supreme Court

- President Droupadi Murmu recently appointed Justices N.Kotiswar Singh and

Justice R.Mahadevan as Supreme Court judges.

- Their names were recommended by a **five-member Supreme Court Collegium** which is headed by the **Chief Justice of India D.Y.Chandrachud.**

- **Justice N. Kotiswar Singh** is the **first judge from Manipur** to be appointed to the Supreme Court.

Note

- Judges of Supreme Court are appointed under the **Article 124(3)** of the Constitution.

- Total strength of Judges of Supreme Court : **34 (33 Judges + 1 Chief Justice)**

CSIR chief

- **Nallathamby Kalaiselvi** who is currently the Director-General of the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** was granted a two-year extension.

- She is the **First woman Director-General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).**

About CSIR

- **Formation** - **September 26, 1942**
- **President** - **Prime Minister of India**
- **Director General** - **N. Kalaiselvi.**
- **Headquarters** - **New Delhi.**

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.

India and Russia

- According to the **Russia based Sberbank**, **India and Russia** have doubled their payments in their national currencies (rupee-rouble).

- Rupee deposits by Indian corporates have also increased multifold in 2024 despite western sanctions.
- India and Russia have set a **100\$ billion trade target by 2030**.
- The bilateral trade between **India and Russia** in 2023-24 is around \$65 billion.

About Russia

- Capital - **Moscow**
- Currency - **Russian Ruble**
- Prime Minister - **Mikhail Mishustin**
- President - **Vladimir Putin**

India – Bhutan

- India has agreed to provide **Rs 1,500 crore** to **Bhutan** as part of the **Economic Stimulus Programme** in the next 18 months.
- The decision was taken in the **3rd India-Bhutan Development Cooperation Talks** which was co-chaired by the foreign secretaries of India and Bhutan.
- It is commonly called '**Plan Talks**' of the **13th Five Year Plan** which focuses on developmental cooperation and mutual interests.

About Bhutan

- **Capital** – Thimphu
- **King** - Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck
- **Currencies** - Bhutanese Ngultrum, Indian Rupee.

2.2 RECENT COURT VERDICTS

SC Verdict on Tanti-Tantwa

- The Supreme Court recently quashed the 2015 Bihar government notification categorising Tanti-Tantwa community as Scheduled Caste.
- It ruled that states cannot make changes to the Scheduled Caste list published under Article 341 of the Constitution.
- The Scheduled Castes list can be amended or altered only by a law made by the Parliament.

- Neither the central government, nor the President can make changes without a law made by the Parliament.

Note

- Article 341 of the Indian Constitution authorises the President to declare certain castes and classes as Scheduled Castes in a state or a union territory.

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).

Money Bills

- Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud stated that a Constitutional Bench will be formed to address the petitions challenging the passage of Laws as Money Bills by the Central Government.
- Some of the legislations passed as Money Bills in the Parliament include:

- Amendments to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act
- The Finance Act of 2017
- Aadhaar Act, 2016

- The Money Bill question was referred to a seven judge Bench in November 2019 by the five-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi in the case of Rojer Mathew vs. South Indian Bank Ltd.

Note

- A Money Bill is deemed to contain only provisions dealing with all or any of the matters under clauses (a) to (g) of Article 110(1).
- Article 110 deals with Money Bill and it can be introduced only in Lok Sabha.

2.4 GOVT – WELFARE ORIENTED GOVT SCHEMES, THEIR UTILITY

Smart City Mission

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

(ITDP) in the Kulathupuzha Gram Panchayat in Kerala.

About ITDP

About Smart Cities Mission

- **Launched** - 25 June, 2015
- **Objective** - To promote cities that provide core infrastructure, clean and sustainable environment.

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

- **Aim** - To adopt sustainable income - generating activities.

About NABARD

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.

- **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.

About Aspirational Districts Programme

- **Launch** - 2018 (NITI Aayog)
- **Aim** - To transform 112 districts across India.

- **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.

About Aspirational Blocks Programme

- **Launch** - 2023
- **Aim** - To provide essential government services in 500 Blocks (329 Districts) across India.

Production Linked Incentive PLI Scheme

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

Integrated Tribal Development Programme

- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is planning to launch an Integrated Tribal Development Programme

- 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

“One Scientist, One Product” programme

- The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** launched the ‘**One Scientist One Product**’ recently on its **96th Foundation Day (July 16)**
- **One Scientist One Product** - Aims to improve research in the field of agriculture and animal husbandry.

- ICAR also announced the release of **323 varieties of 56 crops**, including cereals, oilseeds, forage crops, and sugar cane.
- ICAR is also working on the initiatives - **100 Days 100 Varieties and 100 Days 100 Technologies** – which aims to introduce 100 new seed varieties and an equal number of farm technologies within a 100-day period.

About ICAR

- **Formation** – July 16, 1929
- **Headquarters** – New Delhi
- **Director** - Himanshu Pathak





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.

Tiger Deaths

- According to the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**, a total of 628 tigers died in India during the past five years due to natural causes and other reasons, including poaching, according to government data.
- **96 tigers** died in **2019**, 106 in 2020, 127 in 2021, 121 in 2022, and 178 in 2023.
- During 2012-2022, **Madhya Pradesh (Bandhavgarh TR)** reported highest number of Tiger death.

Tiger Conservation in India

- **Project Tiger** - 1973
- **M-STrIPES** - Digital monitoring system for more effective patrolling and data collection.
- **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** - To streamline the management of Project Tiger and numerous Tiger Reserves of India.



4. ECONOMICS

4.1 NEW ECONOMIC POLICY & GOVT. SECTOR

Model Skill Loan Scheme

- Skill Development Minister Jayant Chaudhary recently launched the revamped **Model Skill Loan Scheme**.
- The scheme was initially launched in **2015**.
- Earlier, only private, public and foreign banks, members of the **Indian Banks' Association** were eligible for facilitating loans.
- Under the revamped scheme, **non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)**, **NBFC-MFIs (micro-finance institutions)**, and **small finance banks** can also be lending institutions.

4.2 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).
- 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.

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.

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.
- 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 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 2024
- 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.

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 LATEST INVENTIONS ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Chandipura Virus

- Recently there has been an increase in the cases of **Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES)**.
- It is caused by the **Chandipura Virus**.
- According to data provided by the Union Health Ministry, so far, there have been 75 cases of AES reported from **Gujarat**, two from **Rajasthan** and one from **Madhya Pradesh**.
- The virus is also known as **Chandipura vesiculovirus (CHPV)** which belongs to Rhabdoviridae family.
- It was first identified in 1965 in Chandipura, a village in Maharashtra.
- Transmission: Sandflies and mosquito species such as *Aedes aegypti* are the vectors.
- Symptoms: Fever, vomiting, loose motion and headache

About Chandipura virus

- It causes the **inflammation of the brain**.

5.2 SPACE

Mars Odyssey Orbiter

- Recently, NASA's Mars Odyssey Orbiter **201** captured the view of Olympus Mons.
- It is the largest volcano in our solar system.
- It is located on Mars.
- training for **Gaganyaan mission** will travel to International Space Station as part of a collaborative effort with NASA.

About Mars Odyssey

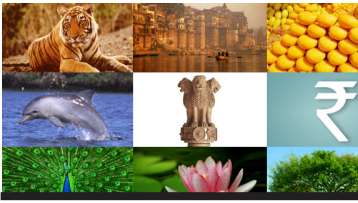
- Launch – 2001.
- It is the longest continually active orbital mission.

Gaganyaan Mission

- Union Government informed the Parliament that one of the four astronauts undergoing

About Gaganyaan Mission

- **Launch (expected) – 2025**
- **Aim** - To to undertake human space flight mission to **Low Earth Orbit (LEO)**.
- It will make India only the **4th country (after the US, Russia, and China)** that have launched crewed spacecraft.



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 Adhinyam (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 Niranjana who is the Chief Environment Officer of Karnataka State Pollution Control Board.

Navi Mumbai airport

- Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol said that the new international airport in Navi Mumbai will be operational from **March 2025**.
- The airport which is currently under construction has been named after **Dinkar Balu Patil**.

▪ He was the leader of the **Peasants and Workers Party of India**.

Note

▪ The 4 International Airports in Tamil Nadu are **Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai and Tiruchirapalli**.

Reconstitution of NITI Aayog

- The newly formed Union Government reconstituted the NITI Aayog.
- The term of the Aayog is **co-terminus with the term of the Union Government**.

About NITI Aayog

▪ **Formation** – 2015

▪ **Composition:**

- Chairperson - Prime Minister of India
- Vice-Chairperson - Suman Bery
- Governing Council.
- Regional Councils
- CEO - BVR Subrahmanyam.

▪ **Aim**

- To monitor the adoption of the SDGs in the country
- To promote competitive and cooperative federalism among States and Union Territories

Operation Nanhe Farishtey

▪ During last **seven years (2018- May 2024)**, **Railway Protection Force (RPF)** has rescued 84,119 Children under the operation named '**Nanhe Farishtey**'.

About Operation Nanhe Farishtey

▪ **Launch** – 2018

▪ **Aim** - To rescue children in need of care and protection across various Indian Railway Zones.

Naming of halls in Rashtrapati Bhavan

- **President Droupadi Murmu** has renamed two important halls at the **Rashtrapati Bhavan**.
- **Durbar Hall** now set to be called **Ganatantra Mandap**.
- **Ashok Hall** to be called **Ashok Mandap**.
- The **Durbar Hall** is the venue of key ceremonies and celebrations such as the presentation of national awards.
- The **Ashok Hall** is used for presentation of credentials by **Heads of Missions** of foreign countries.

About Rashtrapathi Bhavan

- **Inauguration** – 1931.
- **Architects** - Edwin Lutyens, Herbert Baker

UNESCO World Heritage List

- The **Charaideo Moidams** was recently included in the list of **UNESCO World Heritage Site** as the **43rd site from India**.
- **Charaideo Moidam** is a 700-year-old mound-burial system of the **Ahom dynasty** from **Assam**.
- It is the **first cultural site** to be added to the list from the **Northeast region**.
- They are famously called the **“Pyramids of Assam.”**
- After **Kaziranga and Manas National Parks**, it is **Assam’s third World Heritage Site**.
- The **World Heritage Committee** has inscribed **1,199 sites in 168 countries** on the list.

About UNESCO World Heritage Site

- It is declared under **World Heritage Convention 1972**.
- It established the framework to preserve the world's outstanding heritage

GROWTH-India Telescope

- Recently **GROWTH-India Telescope** captured a 116-meter, building-sized asteroid during its closest approach to Earth.
- The telescope was launched under **GROWTH-India Project**.
- **GROWTH** stands for **Global Relay of Observatories Watching Transients Happen**.

About GROWTH-India Telescope:

- It is **India's first fully robotic optical research telescope**
- **Objective** – To observe explosive transients and variable sources, including near-Earth asteroids.
- It is located at the **Indian Astronomical Observatory site at Hanle, Ladakh**.

Secretary charge of External Cooperations

- Ministry of External Affairs criticized **Kerala government’s** order appointing a Secretary in charge of External Cooperation, stating that State Governments should not intrude into matters that are beyond their constitutional jurisdiction.
- Constitutional provisions regarding External Affairs
- **Seventh Schedule:** Foreign affairs is placed under Union List.
- **Article 253:** Parliament has power to make any law for implementing any treaty with any other country or any decision made at any international conference, etc.
- **Article 293:** Places restriction on the states to get foreign loans.

- Recently, Union Government informed the Parliament that under **Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)**, over 6 crore trained and over 4.7 crore candidates have been certified.

About PMGDISHA

- **Launch** – 2017
- **Implementing agency:** CSC e-Governance Services India Limited.
- **Beneficiaries:** One person (age group of 14-60 years) from every eligible rural household.
- **Objective** – To make 6 crore persons in rural areas digitally literate.

MANAS Helpline

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah chaired the **7th Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD)** top-level meeting and launches the National Narcotics Helpline 'MANAS' in New Delhi.

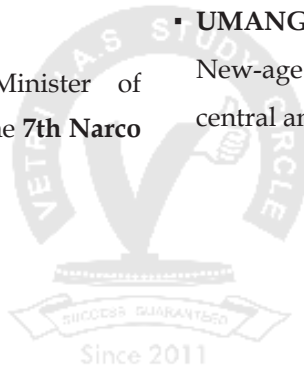
MANAS will include,

- A toll-free number 1933
- A web portal
- A mobile app
- UMANG app.

- It will help the citizens to connect with (NCB) Narcotics Control Bureau 24x7 for seeking advice on de-addiction and rehabilitation, sharing information on drug trafficking.

Note

- **UMANG** - Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance is a mobile app to access central and state government services





7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

ASEAN Foreign Ministers' meeting

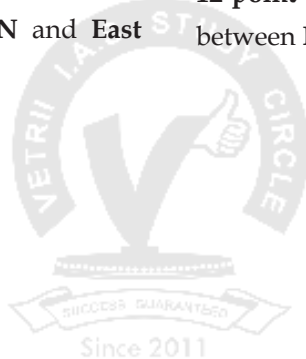
- External Affairs Minister S.Jaishankar recently attended the opening session of the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers' meeting in Laos, Cambodia.**
- He referred to the bloc as the "cornerstone" of **India's Act East policy and Indo-Pacific vision.**
- He also highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's **12-point plan for ASEAN and East Asia Cooperation platform.**

About ASEAN

- **Formation** - August 8, 1967
- **Headquarters** - Jakarta
- **Members** - 10

Note

- The **Act East Policy** focuses on the extended neighbourhood in the Indo-Pacific region, with **ASEAN** as its core.
- **12-point plan** aims to expand cooperation between **India and the ASEAN**





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.

Kalaignar Mahalir Urimai Thogai Thittam

- The Tamil Nadu government recently stated that it is taking steps to cover more women heads of families under the **Kalaignar Mahalir Urimai Thogai Thittam**.
- So far about **1.15 crore women** are covered under the scheme.

About Kalaignar Mahalir Urimai Thogai Thittam

- **Launch** - September 15, 2023 in Kancheepuram.
- **Objective** - To ensure a basic minimum income of Rs 1,000 per month for eligible women heads of families.
- **Beneficiary** - Woman who has completed 21 years of age (born before September 15, 2002)

Language Atlas of Tamil Nadu, 2011

- **Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India (RG & CCI)** recently released the Language Atlas of Tamil Nadu, 2011.
- RG & CCI functions under the **Union Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- The Atlas has used the **2011 Census** data for Tamil Nadu for its analysis.
- The population of Tamil Nadu is **7,21,47,030** as per **2011 Census**.

▪ The Language Atlas of Tamil Nadu, 2011, is the **second State-wise language Atlas**.

Key Findings

- About **18.49%** of the total population in Tamil Nadu could speak **English**.
- About **2.11%** of the total population in the State could speak **Hindi**.
- The Five major languages, classified on the basis of the total number of speakers in the State, are - Tamil (6,37,53,997), Telugu (42,34,302), Kannada (12,86,175), Urdu (12,64,537), and Malayalam (7,26,096).

Note

- The **First edition of India's Language Atlas** was published in **2004** using the **1991 Census data**.
- The **First State-wise Language Atlas** was that of **West Bengal** which was published in **October 2023**.

Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme

- Chief Minister M.K.Stalin launched the extension of Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme to government-aided schools in **Tiruvallur district**.
- The event marked the birth anniversary of former **Chief Minister K. Kamaraj**.
- The scheme would benefit **2,23,536 students** at **3,995** government-aided primary schools.

About Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme

- **Launch** - September 15, 2022
- **Objective** - To provide breakfast to primary school children from 1st to 5th standard studying in Government and Government-aided schools.

Living Craft Treasure Award

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin presented the **Living Craft Treasure Award 2022 - 23** to eight crafts persons and the **Poompuhar State Award 2022 - 23** to 10 artisans.
- These awards are presented to crafts persons and artisans who have excelled in their respective fields.
- Living Craft Treasure Award carries a cheque for **₹1 lakh, a tamirapathiram, an eight gram gold medal and a certificate.**
- Poompuhar State Award carries a cash prize of **₹50,000, a four gram gold medal, a tamirapathiram and a certificate.**

Acting Chief Justice of Madras High Court

- Justice D. Krishnakumar has recently been appointed as the **Acting Chief Justice of Madras High Court.**
- Appointment of Acting Chief Justices is to be made by the President under Article 223 of the Constitution.

About Madras High Court

- **Formation** : June 26, 1862
- **Jurisdiction** : Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

Tamil Nadu in SDG India Index 2023-24

- According to the latest SDG India Index 2023-24 Tamil Nadu took the third spot with a composite score of 78, surpassing the national average of 71.
- It was released by the **NITI Aayog.**
- It measures and tracks national progress of all States and Union Territories (UTs) on 70 targets and 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).

Tamil Nadu's Performance

- It also retained its position as a **front runner.**
- Tamil Nadu is a **'front runner'** in 13 SDGs in the latest report.
- **Achiever category in Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG - 7)**
- **Performer category in Gender Equality (SDG - 5) and Life Below Water (SDG - 14).**

TN State Policy for Homeless Persons with Mental Illness

- Tamil Nadu is formulating a policy to streamline the processes involved in the rescue and rehabilitation of **homeless persons with mental illness.**
- The policy facilitates their reunion with family and reintegration into society.
- he policy will put in place structured services for the wandering mentally-ill.
- It defines the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders.

New India Literary Programme (Puthiya Bharatha Ezhutharivu Thittam 2022-27)

- The **School Education Department** has identified over six lakh illiterate people, aged over 15, across Tamil Nadu and has begun classes to provide them with basic literacy this year under **New India Literary Programme.**
- The top five districts with the highest enrolment ratio in the literacy programme
 - **Krishnagiri** - 61,622
 - **Salem** - 50,671
 - **Tiruvannamalai** - 37,971
 - **Madurai** - 28,472
 - **Erode** - 26,020

- It is expected to benefit over 30 lakh people across the State.

About New India Literary Programme

- **Launch** - 2022-23 to 2026-27
- **Aim** - To cover a target of 5.00 crore non-literates in the age group of 15 years and above.
- **Five objectives:**
 - Foundational Literacy and Numeracy
 - Critical Life Skills
 - Vocational Skills Development
 - Basic Education
 - Continuing Education.

950 classrooms inaugurated

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin virtually inaugurated **956 school classrooms, 12 science laboratories** and new buildings for the School Education Department in various locations across the State at a total cost of **₹264.15 crore**.
- **515 classrooms** have been constructed in **106 State-run high and higher secondary schools** across 26 districts.
- **441 classrooms** have been constructed in **176 State-run primary schools in 25 districts**.

IS 6541: 2024 code revised

- **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** recently revised the code IS 6541: 2024.
- The code was published in **1972** to prescribe a basic standard hygienic condition required for the preparation of food/meals in schools.
- The code has also recommended testing of meals once in six months for different parameters, including e-coli and salmonella.

About BIS

- **Formation** - 1986
- Statutory body under Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986.
- **Director** - Pramod Kumar Tiwari.

Makkaludan Mudhalvar

- **IAS officer P.Amudha** was recently appointed as the Special Officer for Mudhalvarin Mugavari Department.
- The Department looks after Makkaludan Mudhalvar and other public grievance redress schemes.

Note

- Integrated and Inclusive Public Grievance CM Helpline Management System (CM Helpline) is a two-way communication platform for citizens to file their grievances.
- It was developed by Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA)
- CM Helpline number - 1100.

Parandur Airport

- The Union government has granted its approval for the **Parandur site** to develop **Chennai's second airport**.
- The approval was granted by the **Steering Committee on Greenfield Airports** following an application from the **Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited (TIDCO)** for the greenfield airport.
- According to a plan prepared by **TIDCO**, the greenfield airport will be developed at a cost of **₹32,704 crore** and built in four phases.

About TIDCO

- **Formation** - 1965
- A premier industrial development agency
- **Aim** - To facilitate investment in large industrial and infrastructure projects in Tamil Nadu

Single-window system set up for building approval

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin launched a **single-window system** for building approval which could be obtained based on **self-certification**.
- The approval could be obtained for,
 - Plots of up to **2,500 sq.ft.** in size and a built-up area of up to **3,500 sq.ft.**
 - The construction of residential structures having a ground or ground plus one floor will be eligible for instant registration without the requirements of building permission.

Housing units of TNUHDB, TNHB

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin virtually inaugurated over 4,100 housing units constructed by the **Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board (TNUHDB)** and over 1,400 housing units constructed by the **Tamil Nadu Housing Board (TNHB)** in various locations across the State.

About TNUHDB

- Formation** - 1970
- Formed by **Tamil Nadu Slum Areas Act 1971**.
- Formerly known as Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board.
- Aim** - To eradicate slums and provide hygienic tenements in Tamil Nadu.

About TNHB

- Formed under Tamil Nadu Housing Board Act, 1961

Demands of State

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin listed various railway- and-road projects for Tamil Nadu as Demands of State.

- The key demands of the state include
- Release of funds for Chennai Metro Rail project which has been pending for three years,
- Approval for a flyover expressway between Tambaram and Chengalpattu
- Reduction in income tax burden of middle-class households.
- Approval of the Coimbatore and Madurai Metro Rail projects
- Expediting announced railway projects in Tamil Nadu
- Increase in expenditure limits for houses constructed under rural and urban housing schemes

Tamil Pudhalvan scheme

- The Tamil Nadu government has recently expanded the scope of the **Tamil Pudhalvan scheme** to cover students who studied in **Tamil medium in government-aided schools**.
- Over 3.28 lakh boys are expected to benefit from the scheme during **2024-25**.

About Tamil Pudhalvan scheme

- 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**.

UAE Economy Minister in Tamil Nadu

- United Arab Emirates** Minister for Economy Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri met with Tamil Nadu

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin at the Secretariat in Chennai.
- They held discussions on proposals for investments to be made in Tamil Nadu.
- Tamil Nadu had achieved the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)** for maternal mortality which is to reduce global MMR to less than 70 per one lakh live births.

About UAE

- **Capital** - Abu Dhabi
- **Currency** - United Arab Emirates Dirham
- **Prime minister** - Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
- **President** - Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan
- Virudhunagar recorded nil maternal deaths from **April 2023 to March 2024**.
- Nearly **60% to 75%** of causes for maternal deaths are connected to four risk factors
 - **Pregnancy-induced hypertension**
 - **Postpartum haemorrhage**
 - **Sepsis**
 - **Unmet need for family planning service.**

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**.
- **TN-RISE initiative**
 - **Around 130 enterprises** and start-ups from across Tamil Nadu which are led by women entrepreneurs will get mentored under the **Tamil Nadu Rural Incubator and Start-up Enabler (TN-RISE) initiative**.

About TN-RISE

- It operates as a **Special Purpose Vehicle** under the **Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project (TNRTP)**.
- Aim - To enable rural women entrepreneurs to have access to the government and its schemes
- **Women Start Up Council** is formed under TN-Rise.
 - **Aim** - To address to the challenges faced by women entrepreneurs in accessing credit and marketing opportunities.

Tamil Nadu's MMR drops

- According to the data of Health Management Information System (HMIS), Tamil Nadu's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) recorded a significant drop during **2023-24 with 45.5 per one lakh live births**.

UNION BUDGET 2024

- **Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** presented the Union Budget 2024.
- This is her 7th Union Budget.
- The four main focus points of the first budget under the Modi 3.0 government includes,
 - **Garib (Poor)**
 - **Yuva (Youth),**
 - **Annadata (Farmer)**
 - **Nari (Women)**
- **9 priorities of Budget 2024:**
 - Productivity and Resilience in agriculture
 - Employment and Skilling.
 - Social justice
 - Manufacturing and Services
 - Urban Development
 - Energy Security
 - Infrastructure
 - Innovation R&D
 - Next gen reforms.

Agriculture

- **Allocation:** Agriculture and allied sectors were allocated **1.52 Lakh Crore** in the **Union Budget 2023-24.**
- **Release of new varieties:** The new **109 high-yielding** and climate-resilient **varieties** of 32 field and horticulture crops will be provided to the farmers.
- **Natural Framing:** In the next **two years, 1 crore farmers** across the country will be initiated into natural farming.
- **10,000** need-based **Bioinput research center** will be established.

- **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for Agriculture:** The government in partnership with states will facilitate implementation of DPI in three years.
- The government will enable **Jan Samarth-based Kisan Credit cards in five states.**

Employment and Skilling

- **Allocation:** The government announced **Rs 1.48 lakh crore for education, employment and skill.**
- **Five schemes:** It will be launched to provide employment and benefit **4.1 crore** youth with an outlay of **Rs 2 lakh crores.**
 - Three new employee-linked incentive schemes will be launched:
 - **Scheme A** will support direct benefit transfer of one month salary for **first-timers** to benefit 210 lakh youths.
 - **Scheme B** pertains to job creation in manufacturing to benefit **30 lakh youths** entering employment, and their employers.
 - **Scheme C** is employer-focused scheme covering additional employees in **all sectors.**

- A new centrally sponsored scheme will be launched to skill **20 lakh youth over five years.**

Education

- Education loans of **Rs. 10 lakh** will be provided for students for higher education in domestic institutions.
- **E-vouchers** for this purpose will be given directly to one lakh students every year.
- **One thousand industrial training institutes**

- will be upgraded, and the model skill loan scheme will be revised to facilitate loans of up to Rs. 7.5 lakh.

Women

- More than Rs 3 lakh crore allocated for schemes benefitting women and girls.
- Steps taken to facilitate Higher participation of women in the workforce are
 - **Establishment of working women's hostels and creche facilities**
 - **Women-specific skilling programmes**
 - **Promotion of market access to women-led SHG (Self-Help Groups) enterprises.**
 - **Promotion of women-led development.**
- **Lower stamp duty** rates for properties purchased by women.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Purvodaya

- A plan for the all-round development of the eastern region of the country covering **Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.**
- This will cover human resource development, infrastructure, and generation of economic opportunities in these regions to attain **Viksit Bharat.**

Amritsar Kolkata Industrial Corridor:

- To support development of an industrial node at Gaya Development of road connectivity projects, namely
 - **Patna-Purnea Expressway**
 - **Buxar- Bhagalpur Expressway**
 - **Bodhgaya, Rajgir, Vaishali and Darbhanga spurs**
 - **Additional 2-lane bridge over river Ganga at Buxar** at a total cost of 26,000 crore.
- **Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan:** To be launched to provide saturation coverage for **tribal families in tribal-majority villages and aspirational districts, covering 63,000 villages** and benefiting **5 crore tribal people.**

- **North East Region:** More than 100 branches of **India Post Payment Bank in NER**

Manufacturing and Services for MSMEs

- **Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs** in the Manufacturing Sector will be launched for purchase of machinery and equipment.
- A separately constituted self- financing guarantee fund to provide to each applicant, guarantee cover up to 100 crore.
- **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** will open new branches to expand its reach to serve all major MSME clusters within 3 years and provide direct credit to them.

For promotion of Manufacturing & Services

- **Scheme for Internship:**
 - Government will launch a scheme for providing internship opportunities in 500 top firms to 1 crore youth in **5 years.**
 - Internship allowance of ₹5,000 per month along with **one-time assistance of ₹6,000/-** will be provided.
- Industrial parks will be established in 100 cities.

- **Critical Mineral Mission:** To be launched for domestic production, recycling of critical minerals, and overseas acquisition of critical mineral assets to be set up.

Urban Development

- **PM-AWAS Yojana Urban 2.0:** To fulfil the housing requirements of **1 crore urban poor and middle-class families.**
- **Water Supply and Sanitation:** Water supply, sewage treatment, and solid waste management projects and services will be improved in **100 major cities** in collaboration with state governments and multilateral development banks.
- **Street Markets:** The government plans to assist in the establishment of **100 weekly haats or street food hubs** for the **next five years** in lines with PM SVANidhi Scheme.

Energy Securities

- **Nuclear Energy :**
 - Research and development of small and modular nuclear reactors
 - The government will partner with the private sector for
 - Setting up **Bharat Small Reactors**
 - Research and Development of Bharat Small Modular Reactor
 - Research and Development of newer technologies for nuclear energy.
- Note : As per the **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**, the **SMRs** are advanced nuclear reactors with a power generation capacity ranging from **less than 30 MWe to 300+ MWe.**
- **PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana :** Launched to install rooftop solar plants to enable **1 crore**

households to obtain to get free electricity up to **300 units per month.**

Advanced Ultra Super Critical Thermal Power Plants:

- An indigenous technology developed as a joint venture between NTPC and BHEL capable of producing **800 MW commercial plant.**

Infrastructure

- **Allocation:** The government has allocated 11,111 crore for capital expenditure which would be 3.4 per cent of our GDP.
- **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY):** Phase IV of PMGSY will be launched to provide all-weather connectivity to **25,000 rural habitations.**
- **Irrigation and flood control:** The government through the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme and other sources, will provide financial support for **Kosi-Mechi intra-state link** and **20** other ongoing and **new schemes.**

Tourism

- **Vishnupad Temple at Gaya and Mahabodhi Temple at Bodh Gaya in Bihar** will be developed on the lines of **Kashi Vishwanath Temple Corridor**
- Comprehensive development strategies for **Rajgir (Bihar) and Nalanda (Bihar).**
- Assistance to the development of important destinations in Odisha will be provided.

Innovation and Research & Development

- **Basic research and prototype: Anusandhan National Research Fund** will be operationalized for basic research and prototype development.

- **Space Economy:** To be expanded by **5 times in the next 10 years.**

Next Generation Reforms

▪ Rural & Urban Land related Reforms :

- Assignment of Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) or Bhuaadhaar for all lands.

▪ Labour-related Reforms :

- A comprehensive integration of e-shram portal with other portals will facilitate such one-stop solution.
- Shram Suvidha and Samadhan portals will be revamped to enhance ease of compliance for industry and trade.

▪ Taxonomy for climate finance:

- It will be developed for climate finance to enhance the availability of capital for climate adaptation and mitigation.

▪ NPS Vatsalya :

- A plan for contributions by parents and guardians for minors will be started.
- On attaining the age of majority, the plan can be converted seamlessly into a normal NPS account.

▪ Ease of Doing Business

- The government is working on the Jan Vishwas Bill 2.0. to enhance the ease of doing business.

Tax – Related Proposals

▪ Simplifying New Tax Regime

Total Income (Rs)	Rate (%)
Up to 3,00,000	Nil
From 3,00,001 to 6,00,000	5%
From 6,00,001 to 9,00,000	10%
From 9,00,001 to 12,00,000	15%
From 12,00,001 to 15,00,000	20%
Above 15,00,000	30%

▪ Comprehensive review of Income Tax Act, 1961:

- To make the Act concise, lucid, easy to read and understand.
- This will reduce disputes and litigation, thereby providing tax certainty to the tax payers.

▪ Abolition of Angel Tax: Angel tax on investors was abolished to boost startups.

▪ Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme 2024: For resolution of certain income tax disputes pending in appeal.