

VETRI IAS STUDY CIRCLE

Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

AUGUST 2024



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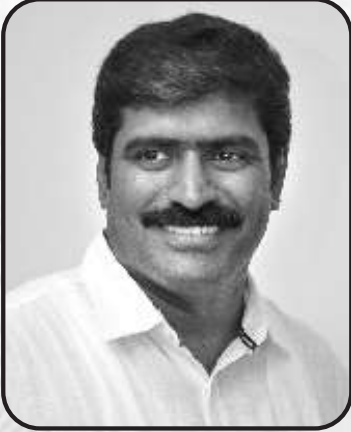
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Preface



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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 !

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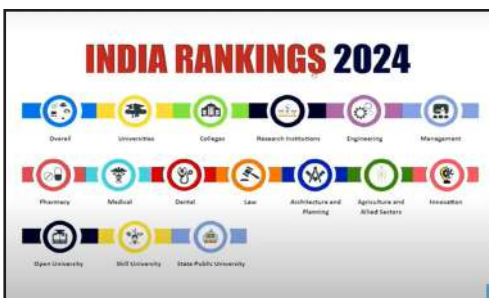
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1. HISTORY



1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
August 1	World Wide Web Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The day is observed to commemorate the World Wide Web and its impact on the world.▪ The World Wide Web was invented by Tim Berners-Lee in 1989.
August 1 to 7	World Breastfeeding Week	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ World Breastfeeding Week is observed annually from August 1 to 7 to promote the importance of breastfeeding for both newborns and mothers.▪ Theme 2024: Closing the gap: Breastfeeding support for all.
August 3	Indian Organ Donation Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Indian Organ Donation Day is observed annually, to raise awareness on organ donation.▪ The Day aims to commemorate the first successful deceased heart transplant in India on 3rd August 1994. <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ World Organ Donation Day is observed every year on August 13.
August 7	National Handloom Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The day is observed on August 7 every year to honor handloom weavers across the country.▪ The day to commemorates the launch of the Swadeshi Movement.▪ The day has been observed since 2015.
August 7	National Javelin Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ National Javelin Day is observed on August 7 every year in India.▪ The day was announced by the Athletics Federation of India to honour the winning of gold medal by Neeraj Chopra at the Tokyo Olympics.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
August 9	World Tribal Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The day is also known as International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. ▪ The day is observed on August 9 every year to raise awareness about challenges like land rights and socio-economic disparities of indigenous people. ▪ Theme 2024: "Protecting the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact". ▪ The day was declared by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1994
August 10	World Lion Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Lion Day is celebrated on August 10 to raise awareness about lion conservation and protection. ▪ It was initiated by Big Cat Rescue in 2013. <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ India is home to the Asiatic lion, found only in the Gir Forest. ▪ As of the latest census, the population of lions in India is approximately 674
August 10	World Biofuel Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The day is observed on August 10 every year to underline the significance of biofuels as a sustainable source of energy. ▪ The day also commemorates the successful operation of an engine on peanut oil by German engineer Sir Rudolf Diesel on August 9, 1893. ▪ Theme 2024 : "Sustainable Biofuels: Fueling a Greener Future" <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ India has set an ethanol blending target of 20% of petrol containing ethanol by 2025-26.
August 12	International Youth Day 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The day is observed every year on August 12 to raises awareness about the challenges and issues facing youth globally. ▪ Theme 2024: "From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development." ▪ The day was first announced in 1999 and observed on August 12, 2000.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
August 12	World Elephant Day 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The day is observed on August 12 every year to raise awareness about the plight of elephants. ▪ Theme 2024 : “Personifying Prehistoric Beauty, Theological Relevance, and Environmental Importance.” <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2,961 elephants were recorded in Tamil Nadu in 2022. ▪ The Elephant Corridor Committee identified the 42 elephant corridors in Tamil Nadu.
August 13	World Organ Donation Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The day was observed on 13th August 2024 to raise awareness about the critical need for organ donors and promote donor registration. ▪ Theme for 2024: “Be the Reason for Someone’s Smile Today!” <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Organ Donation Day is observed in India on August 3. ▪ Organ donation in India is regulated by the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994
August 20	World Mosquito Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Mosquito Day on August 20 to raise awareness about mosquito-borne diseases. ▪ Theme 2024: Accelerating the fight against malaria for a more equitable world. <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On August 20, 1897, Sir Ronald Ross found the malaria parasite in the stomach of a female Anopheles mosquito. ▪ This discovery revolutionised medical science by providing the first evidence that mosquitoes transmit malaria to humans

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
August 22	Madras Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is observed annually on August 22 to commemorate the birth of Chennai. Madras was founded on August 22, 1639 Madras was established on August 22, 1639 when the British East India Company purchased a piece of land known as Chennapatnam from the local Nayak rulers.
August 29	National Sports Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The day is observed on August 29 every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Major Dhyhan Chand The day was first celebrated in 2012.

1.2 DEFENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND TERRORISM

Exercise Tarang Shakti

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** is set to host its largest-ever multilateral exercise -- '**Tarang Shakti**'.
- It is scheduled to take place in **two phases**, starting on August 6th in **Sular, Tamil Nadu**.
- The exercise aims to foster interoperability and mutual understanding among the participating nations through a series of complex aerial drills and missions.
- 18 countries** will join the exercise.

Exercise Udara Shakti

- Exercise Udara Shakti 2024 was concluded in Malaysia recently.
- It is a bilateral air exercise between India and Malaysia.

About Malaysia

- Capital** - Kuala Lumpur
- Prime minister** - Anwar Ibrahim
- Official language** - Malay

Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated a new **Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC)** of the Coast Guard in Chennai.
- It would facilitate enhanced coordination for rescue of mariners and fishermen in distress at sea.
- Two new Coast Guard units** were also inaugurated.
- They are,
 - Regional Marine Pollution Response Centre (RMPRC) in Chennai:** First-of-its-kind facility for coordinating response against marine pollution in the waters adjoining the coastal States in the Indian Ocean Region.
 - Coast Guard Air Enclave in Puducherry.**

Exercise Mitra Shakti

- The **10th edition** of the Mitra Shakti exercise has recently begun in **Sri Lanka**.
- It is a joint military exercise between **India and the Sri Lankan army**.

About Sri Lanka

- **Capitals** – Colombo
- **Currency** - Sri Lankan Rupee
- **President** - Ranil Wickremesinghe

New PM of Thailand

- **Paetongtarn Shinawatra** was recently elected as the Thailand's new **Prime Minister**
- She is Thailand's youngest **Prime Minister**.

About Thailand

- **Capital** – Bangkok
- **Official language** – Thai
- **King** - Maha Vajiralongkorn

RHUMI-1 launched

- India's first Reusable Hybrid Rocket named RHUMI-1 was successfully launched recently.
- It was developed by Tamil Nadu-based startup Space Zone India in collaboration with Martin Group.
- It was launched from Thiruvudandhai in Chennai.
- RHUMI-1 is a hybrid rocket engine that uses a combination of solid and liquid propellants to improve efficiency and reduce operational costs.

INS Arighaat

- The second Arihant-Class submarine 'INS Arighaat' was recently commissioned into Indian Navy.
- With this Addition, Indian navy now have two SSBN (Ship, Submersible, Ballistic, Nuclear) submarines.
- INS Arihant is India's first indigenous nuclear submarine.
- It was launched under the Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) Project
- ATV Project was commissioned in 2016

Project NAMAN

- The Indian Army launched the first phase of Project NAMAN.
- It is designed to provide dedicated support and services to Defence pensioners, veterans, and their families.
- The project is set to expand significantly and aims to establish approximately 200 centres nationwide over the next 2 to 3 years

1.3 AWARDS AND HONOUR

Companion of the Order award

- President Droupadi Murmu was conferred the **Companion of the Order of Fiji** which is the country's **highest civilian award**.
- "President Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere of Fiji conferred the **Companion of the Order of Fiji** upon **President Droupadi Murmu**.

Note

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** was also conferred this **highest civilian award in 2023** in recognition of his global leadership

Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar

- The Union government has recently announced the **Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar** which is the national awards for scientists.
- The Awards will be given on August 23 which is the **National Space Day**.
- The day marks Chandrayaan-3's moon landing.
- Award Winners include,
 - **Vigyan Ratna** – **Govindarajan Padmanabhan**.

- Vigyan Shri – 13 scientists.
- Vigyan Yuva – 18 scientists.
- Vigyan team award - ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 team.
- Best Music Director (background music) - A.R.Rahman
- Best Music Director (songs) award - Pritam.
- Best Tamil Film - Ponnyin Selvan – Part 1
- Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment – Kantara

National Film Awards for 2022

- The winners of the 70th National Film Awards were recently announced at the National Media Center in New Delhi.
- Best Feature Film – Aattam
- Best Actor - Rishab Shetty (Kantara (Kannada))
- Best Actress award
 - Nithya Menen for Thiruchitrabalam (Tamil)
 - Manasi Parekh for Kutch Express (Gujarati)
- Best Music Director (background music) - A.R.Rahman
- Best Music Director (songs) award - Pritam.
- Best Tamil Film - Ponnyin Selvan – Part 1
- Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment – Kantara
- Best Choreography award - Jani Master and Sathish Krishnan (Thiruchitrabalam)
- Best Direction - Sooraj R. Barjatya (Uunchai: Zenith (Hindi))

About National Film Awards

- First awarded – 10 October 1954
- Awarded for – Excellence in cinematic achievements for Indian cinema
- Presented by – Directorate of Film Festivals
- Director – Senthil Rajan

1.4 SPORTS AND GAMES

Paris Olympics 2024

- The Paris Olympics 2024 have concluded recently.
- India finished at 71st in the medal tally.
- It is a decline from its 48th place in Tokyo 2020.
- Indian athletes competed in 69 medal events across 16 sports.
- Manu Bhaker became the first Indian woman to win an Olympic shooting medal.
- She also became the first athlete from India to win two medals in the same Olympics.

Note

- Neeraj Chopra became India's fifth two-time Olympic medallist.

Indian Medal Winners at Paris Olympics 2024		
Indian athletes	Medal	Event
Manu Bhaker	Bronze	Women's 10m air pistol event
Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh	Bronze	10m air pistol mixed team event
Swapnil Kusale	Bronze	Men's 50m rifle 3 positions
Indian hockey team	Bronze	Men's hockey
Neeraj Chopra	Silver	Men's Javelin Throw
Aman Sehrawat	Bronze	Wrestling Men's 57kg freestyle event

1.5 APPOINTMENTS

UPSC Chairperson

- **Preeti Sudan** was recently appointed Chairperson of the **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)** after **Manoj Soni** resigned from the post.
- She is the second woman to head the UPSC since R.M. Bathew served as the chairperson from 1992 to 1996.

Note

- The Chairman and other members of a Public Service Commission shall be appointed by the President under **Article 316 of the Constitution of India**.

New Director of BSF

- **Taljit Singh Chaudhary** was recently appointed as the New Director of Border Security Force.
- He was the Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and was given additional charge as the Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF).

About BSF

- Founded - 1965
- Branch of the **Central Armed Police Force**.
- Command under **Ministry of Home**.

Panel to monitor the safety of Indians in Bangladesh

- Union Government has appointed a **five-member committee** to ensure the safety and security of Indian nationals, Hindus, and other minority communities in **Bangladesh**.
- It is led by a senior **Border Security Force (BSF)** official.

About Bangladesh

- **Capital** - Dhaka
- **Currency** - Bangladeshi Taka
- **President** - Mohammed Shahabuddin

PMAY-U 2.0

- The Union Cabinet approved the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0** scheme recently
- **Objective** - To provide financial assistance to one crore urban poor and middle-class families to construct, purchase or rent a house at affordable cost.
- **Aim** - To provide all-weather pucca houses to all eligible beneficiaries in the urban areas
- A total government **subsidy of ₹2.30 lakh crore** will be provided under the scheme.
- It will have a **total investment of ₹10 lakh crore**.

India's New Cabinet Secretary

- The Union government has recently appointed **TV Somanathan** as the **new Cabinet Secretary**.
- He succeeds **Rajiv Gauba**.

About Cabinet Secretary

- The Cabinet Secretary is the **highest-ranking civil servant** in the Government of India.
- He is the **ex-officio chairman** of the **Civil Services Board**, the Cabinet Secretariat.
- He is appointed for a **fixed two-year term**.
- He ranks **eleventh** in the Indian **order of precedence**.

Panel on SC status for Dalit converts

- The Commission of Inquiry which was formed to look into the possibility of granting

Scheduled Caste (SC) status to Dalit Christians and Muslims nearing the deadline

as it is required to submit its report by October 2024.

Hema Committee Report

▪ The Justice Hema Committee was constituted by the Government of Kerala following Women in Cinema Collective's (WCC) petition in response to the 2017 actress assault case to document the challenges faced by women working in Malayalam cinema.

▪ It is chaired by retired Kerala High Court Judge Justice K. Hema.

▪ The report highlighted issues like existence of 'power group', couch casting, lack of essential facilities such as toilets, changing rooms, safe transportation

About Commission of Inquiry

- **Formation** - October 2022.
- **Headed by** - K.G. Balakrishnan.
- **Aim** - To examine the possibility of granting SC status to Dalits who have converted to any religion other than the ones mentioned in the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950.

Note

- Currently, only Dalits of Hindu, Sikh, and Buddhist faiths are entitled to be categorised as SCs.



2. POLITICAL SCIENCE

2.1 INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

30th round of border talks

- India and China held the 30th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India China Border Affairs (WMCC) in New Delhi.
- Both sides agreed on the need to jointly uphold peace and tranquility on the ground in the border areas.

Note

- India became the **first non-socialist bloc** country to establish diplomatic relations with China on **April 1, 1950**.
- India - China War - 1962
- **Aksai Chin** - Disputed territory between India and China.

India - Maldives

- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar concluded a visit to Maldives.
- MoU was signed on the introduction of **Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in Maldives**.
- Both countries jointly inaugurated the **Addu Reclamation and Shore Protection Project and Addu Detour Link Bridge Project**.

Note

- Importance of the **Maldives**
- India's maritime neighbour.

- Key partner in the 'Neighbourhood First' policy
- Key partner in India's Vision 'SAGAR' i.e. Security and Growth for All in the Region.

About Maldives

- **Capital:** Male
- **Currency:** Maldivian Rufiyaa
- **President:** Mohamed Muizzu

India and Nepal

- India and Nepal signed an MoU to provide grant assistance for the launch of **Nepal's Munal Satellite**.
- The collaboration highlights the growing role of space technology in diplomacy.

About Munal Satellite

- **Munal Satellite** is an indigenous satellite developed in **Nepal** that aims to build a vegetation density database of the Earth's surface.
- The satellite will use **New Space India Limited's (NSIL) Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle**.

About Nepal

- **Capital** - Kathmandu
- **Currency** - Nepalese Rupee
- **President** - Ram Chandra Poudel

India - Poland

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a three-day visit to **Poland and Ukraine**.

- It is the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to **Poland in 45 years**.
- **Morarji Desai** visited Poland in 1979.
- The diplomatic relations between India and Poland was formally established in 1954.
- Both countries expressed full support for '**ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)**'
- AOIP upholds the principles such as openness, transparency, inclusivity, a rules-based framework and respect for international law.

About Poland

- **Capital** - Warsaw
- **Currency** - Polish Zloty
- **Prime Minister** - Donald Tusk

'2+2' dialogue

- **Third Japan-India 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting** was held in New Delhi recently.

Note

- The first edition of the bilateral Air exercise between India and Japan called '**Veer Guardian 2023**' was conducted last year.

2.2 GOVT – WELFARE ORIENTED GOVT SCHEMES, THEIR UTILITY

National Apprenticeship and Training Scheme (NATS)

- **Ministry for Education** launched the **National Apprenticeship and Training Scheme (NATS) 2.0 Portal**.
- As part of this initiative, Rs100 crore in stipends has been disbursed to young graduates and diploma holders through **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**.

About NATS

- Launched under the provisions of **Apprentices Act, 1961**
- **Objective** - For Skilling Indian Youth.
- Under the scheme the **Apprentices** are imparted training by the organizations **at their place of work**.

Women Entrepreneurship Program

- **Women Entrepreneurship Program** was recently launched by **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)**.

- It aims to empower **25 lakh women entrepreneurs** with skill, knowledge, resources, and financial grants, etc.
- Other Initiatives for fostering Women Entrepreneurship
- **Mudra Loans**: with no collateral required by women for upto 10 lakh loans.
- **Stand-Up India**: financing Women Entrepreneurs.
- **TN-RISE initiative**: To enable rural women entrepreneurs to have access to the government and its schemes.

Nirbhaya Fund

- Union Government has recently allocated ₹7,212 crore to Nirbhaya Fund for financial year 2023-24.

About Nirbhaya Fund

- **Launch** - 2013.
- It was created for the implementation of initiatives aimed at enhancing the safety and security for women in the country.

- It is a **non-lapsable** corpus fund administered by the Ministry of Finance.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD).

Clean Plant Programme (CPP)

- CPP Initiative was recently approved by the Union Cabinet.
- The initiative is proposed by the **Ministry of Agriculture**.
- **Aim** - To provide virus-free, high-quality planting material to farmers.
- **Benefits** - Increased crop yield and improved income opportunities for farmers.
- The scheme entails an **investment of ₹1,765.67 crore**.

PM JI-VAN Yojana

- The Union Cabinet has approved an extension of the **Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN (Jaiv Indhan-Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran) Yojana (PM JI-VAN)** to a period of **five years** till 2028-29.
- It is a key initiative aimed at enhancing the country's advanced biofuel sector.
- It aligns with India's goals for **net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2070** and supports the Make in India initiative.
- It focuses on the development of **2nd Generation (2G) ethanol** from surplus biomass and agricultural waste.
- It was initially launched in **March 2019**.

Guidelines issued for 'Model Solar Village'

- Recently the **Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE)** has released the guidelines for implementing the **Component 'Model Solar Village'** under **PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana**.

About Model Solar Village Component

- **Aim** - To create one Model Solar Village in each District of the country.

About PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana

- **Aim** - To provide free electricity up to 300 units every month for One Crore households.

Portal for Jiyo Parsi Scheme

- Union Minority Affairs Minister **Kiren Rijiju** launched the portal for the **Jiyo Parsi Scheme**.
- It is a **Central sector scheme**
- **Aim** - To arrest the population decline of the Parsi community in India.

Note

- According to the **2011 Census of India**, there are **57,264 Parsis** in India.

PM-KUSUM programme

- The States have begun experimenting with alternative approaches to improve adoption of the Pradhan Mantri-Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) programme.
- It envisages setting up 100 GW of solar power plants in farmer-owned land by installing 14 lakh solar pumps.
- It also aims to solarise 35 lakh grid connected agricultural pumps.
- The digital platform will be launched to revive the PM-KUSUM programme.

About PM-KUSUM programme

- **Launch** - 2019
- **Aim** - To increase country's solar water pump manufacturing capacity.

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)

- The head of the NMCG expressed concern over the tardiness of river-cleaning projects being executed in various States under the **mission**.

About NMCG

- **Launch** – August 12, 2011.
- **Aim** – To ensure effective abatement of pollution and rejuvenation of the river Ganga.
- Implementation arm of National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA)
- **Two Tier System** - Governing Council and Executive Committee.

Online Portals for Power Sector

- **Union Minister of Power Manohar Lal Khattar** has launched three online platforms to enhance the efficiency, transparency, and effectiveness of power sector in New Delhi.
 - **Portal for Online Monitoring of Projects - Thermal (PROMPT)**: To facilitate real-time tracking and analysis of thermal power projects.
 - **Disaster Resilient Infrastructure for Power Sector (DRIPS)**: To serve as a single point of contact for all stakeholders
 - **JAL VIDYUT DPR**: Real-time tracking and analysis.
- These portals help India in achieving the goal of **Viksit Bharat by 2047**

General Crop Estimation Survey (DGCES)

- The union Government has recently announced the national wide implantation of the **General Crop Estimation Survey (DGCES)**.
- **Aim** – To enhance accuracy, reliability, and transparency of agricultural statistics, which will help in policy formulation, trade decisions, and agricultural planning.
- The Centre had announced in the Budget the move to hold a digital crop survey and said that it will help in accurate crop-area estimation.

- The survey will be carried out through the revamped FASAL (Forecasting Agricultural output using Space, Agro-meteorology, and Land-based observations).

Lakhpati Didi Sammelan

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addresses Lakhpati Didi Sammelan in Jalgaon, Maharashtra.
- He handed out certificates and felicitated 11 lakh new Lakhpati Didis.

Note

- Lakhpati Didi is a Self-Help Group (SHG) member who earns an annual household income of Rupees One Lakh or more.
- Lakhpati Didi is an outcome of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), not a separate scheme.
- DAY-NRLM is the flagship program of the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)
- **Aim** - Promoting poverty reduction through building strong institutions for the poor.

Vigyan Dhara

- Recently, Union Cabinet merged three umbrella schemes into a unified central sector scheme named 'Vigyan Dhara'.
- It is implemented by the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

About Vigyan Dhara Scheme

- **Objective**: To promote S&T capacity building as well as research, innovation and technology development towards strengthening the Science, Technology and Innovation ecosystem in the country.
- 3-broad components:
 - Science and Technology (S&T) Institutional and Human Capacity Building

- Research and Development
- Innovation, Technology Development, and Deployment

PM JANMAN Mission

- The Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched a nationwide Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaign for PM-JANMAN Mission.
- The mission aims to enhance the reach and effectiveness of the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha AbhiyaN (PM-JANMAN) mission.

About PM JANMAN

- Launch - November 15, 2023.
- Aim - To provide PVTG households and habitations with basic facilities such as safe housing, clean drinking water etc. in 3 years.
- It aims to cover 75 PVTG communities residing in 18 States and 1 UT.

Prime Minister's Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WAN)

- As per TRAI, there are 2,07,642 deployed PM-WANI Wi-Fi hotspots in country as on July 2024.
- It is far short of the target of 10 million public Wi-Fi hotspots by 2022 and 50 million by 2030.

About PM- WANI

- Launched by Department of Telecommunication in 2020.
- Aim - To enhance the proliferation of public WiFi hotspots to create robust digital

communications infrastructure in country, especially in rural areas.

She-Box Portal

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development launched a new She Box Portal to make Workplaces safer for Women

About She-Box Portal

- It is a centralized platform for registering and monitoring complaints of sexual harassment of women at workplace.
- Objective: To provide a single window access to every woman for registering complaint related to sexual harassment

Vadhvan Port

- Prime Minister lays foundation stone for Vadhvan Port under Sagarmala Program.
- The MOU was signed in 2015 to set up a Vadhvan port as a major port.
- It will be Maharashtra's third major port.
- Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) and Maharashtra Maritime Board will jointly implement this port
- It will be the country's largest container port and one of India's largest deep-water ports.

Note

- India has 12 major and 200 non-major (minor).
- About 95% of India's trade by volume and 70% by value is done through maritime transport

2.3 PUBLIC AWARENESS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Rajya Sabha elections

- The **Election Commission** notified that the Elections to 12 Rajya Sabha seats will be held on September 3.

Note

- Representatives of each State to the Rajya Sabha are elected indirectly by the elected members of their Legislative Assembly under **Article 80 of the Constitution**.
- **Strength** - 245 (233 elected + 12 nominated)

Budget Session ends

- Both Houses of Parliament were **adjourned sine die** after the **Budget Session**.

- **Twelve Bills** were introduced during the session.

- **Four Bills** that were passed in Lok Sabha during the session are

- **The Finance Bill, 2024.**
- **The Appropriation Bill, 2024.**
- **The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation Bill, 2024**
- **The Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak, 2024.**

Note

- **Adjournment sine die** means terminating a sitting of Parliament for an indefinite period.
- The power of adjournment sine die lies with the presiding officer of the House.





3. GEOGRAPHY

3.1 POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

Natural Disasters and Safeguard Measures

Landslides in Wayanad

- Heavy rain triggered a series of landslides in Wayanad district which lies in the Western Ghats.
- Several people died in these massive landslides.
- Key Initiatives to mitigate landslide
- National Landslide Risk Management Strategy (2019) by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)
- National Landslide Susceptibility Mapping (NLSM) Programme.
- Landslide Risk Mitigation Scheme (LRMS)
- National Guidelines on Landslides and Snow Avalanches
- Landslide Atlas of India

Four-ringed butterfly

- A new study found that a four-ringed butterfly has resurfaced in India after 61 years.
- The butterfly was recorded in 2018 from the Namdapha National Park.
- Ypthima is considered a rich genus of the family Nymphalidae which has some 6,000 species of butterflies.
- Of the 35 Ypthima species recorded in India, 23 have been reported from the northeast.

Cloudbursts

- Cloudbursts followed by flash floods wreaked widespread destruction in Himachal Pradesh.
- Recently, a cloudburst event was reported in Kullu, Mandi, and Shimla regions of Himachal Pradesh, as per the District Disaster Management Authority.

About Cloudbursts

- It refers to particularly heavy precipitation in a short period of time over limited geographical area.
- Any unexpected precipitation exceeding 100 millimetres per hour over a geographical region of approximately 20 to 30 square km can be categorized as cloudburst.

Three new Ramsar Sites

- India added three more wetlands to the list of Ramsar sites.
- Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary – Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu
- Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary – Villupuram, Tamil Nadu
- Tawa Reservoir – Madhya Pradesh

About Ramsar Sites

- Ramsar Convention Adoption - February 2, 1971.
- Total number of Ramsar Sites – 85
- It covers an area of 1358068 hectares.

Natural Disasters – Safeguard Measures **Note**

- The **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** has finalised a list of **189 “high-risk” glacial lakes** for mitigation measures to reduce the risk emanating from them.
- The decision was taken following the disasters inflicted by over- flowing glacial lakes in the **Himalayas**.
- **Last October, the South Lhonak Lake in Sikkim**, a glacier-formed lake, over- flowed and inundated several parts of Sikkim.
- The **National Glacial Lake Outburst Floods Risk Mitigation Programme** was approved by the Centre on **July 25, 2024**.





4. ECONOMICS

4.1 REPORTS AND INDICES

Rise in Power cuts

- According to a research report from the **India Energy and Climate Centre, University of California** (Berkeley)
- India's rising electricity needs will likely be accompanied by increasing evening power cuts by **2027** because of insufficient **renewable energy-powered back-up**.
- India has an installed electric capacity of **446 GW**, with **211 GW** coming in from coal, **195 GW** from renewable energy sources, and the rest from gas and nuclear energy.
- However not all of this capacity is available all the time resulting in power cuts.
- Current Economic Trends

Repo Rate

- The **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** has kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.50 per cent for the ninth 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.

NIRF Ranking 2024

- The Ministry of Education recently announced the **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2024**.
- In this **ninth edition**, **three** new categories have been introduced – open universities, skill universities and state funded government universities

Top Institutions

- **Overall** - IIT Madras retained the top spot for the sixth consecutive year.
- **University** - IISc Bengaluru
- **Engineering** - IIT Madras.
- **Management** - IIM Ahmedabad
- **Medical** - AIIMS Delhi
- **Dental** - Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences, Chennai and Manipal College of Dental Sciences
- **Law** - National Law School of India University, Bengaluru.

About NIRF

- **Launch** - 2015
- It is a system used by the Indian government to rank colleges and universities.
- Based on **five** parameters
 - Teaching, learning, and resources
 - Research and Professional practice
 - Graduation outcome
 - Outreach and inclusivity
 - Perception.
- **Categories** - 16



5. SCIENCE

5.1 SPACE

EOS-08 successfully launched

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation** launched the **EOS-08 Earth Observation Satellite** recently.
- It was launched on board the **Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV-D3)** from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC)** in **Sriharikota**.
- The data will be used for several applications covering agriculture, water resources,

urban planning, rural development, mineral prospecting, environment, forestry, ocean resources and disaster management.

About ISRO

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





6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENT

National High-Speed Road Corridor Projects

- The Union cabinet recently approved the 8 National High-Speed Road Corridor Projects.
- These projects span a total length of 936 km and incurs a total capital cost of Rs.50,655.

Key Projects

- Agra-Gwalior
- Kharagpur-Moregram
- Tharad-Ahmedabad
- Ayodhya Ring Road
- Raipur-Ranchi
- Kanpur Ring Road
- Guwahati Ring Road
- Nashik-Khed

International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE)

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists.
- About 1,000 delegates from 70 countries are participating in this conference.
- The first ICAE in India was held in Mysore in 1958 under Jawaharlal Nehru.
- Now, it is being held in India after 65 years.

Note

- India has now become a surplus country in food production.
- India has emerged as the world's leading producer of milk, pulses, and spices and the

second-largest producer of food grains, fruits, vegetables, cotton, sugar, and tea

Guidelines for the transportation of live human organs

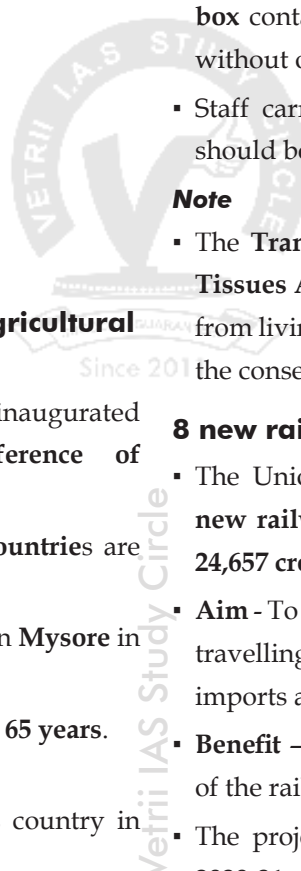
- The Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has issued a set of guidelines for the transportation of live human organs.
- While transporting the organs by air the box containing the organ should be screened without opening it
- Staff carrying/accompanying the organ box should be given priority in deboarding

Note

- The Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994, allows harvesting of organs from living donors or brain-dead patients with the consent of family members

8 new railway lines

- The Union Cabinet recently approved eight new railway projects at an estimated cost of 24,657 crore.
- Aim - To provide connectivity, facilitate ease of travelling, minimise logistics costs, reduce oil imports and lower carbon dioxide emissions.
- Benefit – It will increase the existing network of the railways by 900 kms.
- The project is expected to be completed by 2030-31.
- The projects cover 14 districts in the seven States.



109 high yielding Seed Varieties

- PM Narendra Modi released **109 high-yielding, climate-resilient and bio-fortified varieties** of 61 crops at the India Agricultural Research Institute.
- These included **34 field crops and 27 horticultural crops**.
- These crops have been developed by the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)**
- ICAR has been running crop-improvement programme to develop new crop varieties and hybrids with wider adaptability and higher yield.

Voice of Global South Summit (VOGSS)

- India recently hosted the **3rd Voice of Global South Summit (VOGSS)**.
- VOGSS aims to bring together countries of **Global South**.
- **Theme:** "An Empowered Global South for a Sustainable Future".

Note

- Global South refers to various countries that are sometimes described as "developing," "less developed" or "underdeveloped."
- It is separated from **Global North (rich countries)** by **Brandt line**.
- India hosted **1st and 2nd VOGSS** in **January and November of 2023**

Smart Laboratory for Clean Rivers (SLCR) Project

- A partnership was signed between India, Denmark, and IIT-BHU to establish the Smart Laboratory on Clean Rivers (SLCR) in Varanasi to rejuvenate the Varuna River.

- The project integrates advanced research, sustainable practices, and collaborative efforts among government bodies and academic institutions.

Note

- Varuna is a Minor tributary of Ganga originating near Phulpur, Prayagraj and merges with Ganga in Varanasi, UP

National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC)

- The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is planning to develop a world-class facility named National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at Lothal, Gujarat.
- It is set to become an international tourist destination.
- Lothal is situated beside a tributary of Sabarmati River in Gujarat, close to Gulf of Khambhat.
- Lothal is World's oldest known artificial dock.

BioE3

- The Union Cabinet recently cleared a proposal to bolster biotechnology based manufacturing, called BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment) Policy for Fostering High Performance Biomanufacturing.
- The six thematic verticals of the policy are:
 - Bio-based chemicals and enzymes
 - Functional foods and smart proteins
 - Precision biotherapeutics
 - Climate resilient agriculture
 - Carbon capture and its utilisation
 - Futuristic marine and space research.

Indian Biotechnology sector

- Valued at \$151.1 billion in 2023 and is projected to reach \$300 billion by 2030.
- India, with a 3% share of the global biotechnology industry, is ranked third in Asia and is among the top 12 biotech destinations in the world.
- Key initiatives include National Biopharma Mission, financial support by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council, etc.

Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)

- The Union Cabinet recently approved the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS).
- UPS which will provide government employees with assured pension after retirement.
- The scheme will be effective from 1st April, 2025.
- The central government employees will shift to UPS from the current National Pension System (NPS).
- State governments will also have the option to adopt the Unified Pension Scheme.
- UPS is based on the recommendations of T. V. Somanathan Committee (2023)

- The UPS proposes to amalgamate advantages of both Old Pension Scheme (OPS) and New Pension Scheme (NPS).

Vehicle Scrapping Policy

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has recently launched the Voluntary Vehicle Modernization Program or Vehicle Scrapping Policy
- The policy targets voluntary scrapping of unfit commercial and passenger vehicles strictly based on their fitness, irrespective of vehicle age.
- It phases out unfit polluting vehicles through Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities (RVSFs) and Automated Testing Stations (ATSS).

Agriculture Infrastructure Fund

- Recently, Union Cabinet approved progressive expansion in Central Sector Scheme of financing facility under 'Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)' to make it more attractive, impactful, and inclusive.

About Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)

- It is a medium - long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects.
- Rs. 1 Lakh Crore will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans.



7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

New Government in Bangladesh

- **Muhammad Yunus** took oath as the head of the interim government
- **President Mohamme Shahabuddin** administered the oath to the **17-member** interim government and the Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus.

About Bangladesh

- **Capital** - Dhaka
- **Currency** - Bangladeshi Taka
- **President** - Mohammed Shahabuddin





8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

Excavation at Keeladi

- A hollow terracotta pipeline resembling a drainage system has been unearthed recently at **Keeladi in Sivaganga district**.
- It was discovered in the **10th phase of excavations**.
- Six pipelines aligned together was unearthed.
- It proves that the knowledge of water management system was prevalent.

About Keeladi

- A **Sangam age (500 BCE to 300CE)** site located on the river Vaigai.
- Excavations began in Keeladi in 2014.
- **Keeladi Museum - March 5, 2023**
- **10th phase of excavations - June 18 2024**

Flood mitigation projects

- The **National Disaster Management Authority** has sanctioned a grant of ₹150 crore towards urban flood mitigation projects proposed in Chennai.
- The grant would be released as a first instalment to the State government under the National Disaster Mitigation Fund.
- The grant has been sanctioned for **Five major projects** which include
 - To improve some of the surplus channels linked to small water bodies
 - To construct new storm-water drains to bridge gaps in the existing network
 - To create sponge parks
 - To rejuvenate eight water bodies

- To install Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) for the automation of reservoirs' operations.

About NDMA

- **Apex Body for Disaster Management.**
- Head - Prime Minister of India.
- Mandated by the **Disaster Management Act, 2005**

Tamil Pudhalvan scheme

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced that the **Tamil Pudhalvan scheme** will be launched in **Coimbatore** on August 9.
- Over 3.28 lakh boys are expected to benefit from the scheme during **2024-25**.
- The scheme is similar to the Pudhumai Penn initiative which is launched for girls.

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 Government and Government aided schools**

Prime Minister Surya Ghar subsidy scheme

- The **Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO)** has set an ambitious target to install **25 lakh domestic**

rooftop solar plants in Tamil Nadu through the **Prime Minister Surya Ghar subsidy scheme**.

- Tangedco said a subsidy for installing a maximum of **3 kilowatt (KW)** with a maximum subsidy of **₹78,000** would be given under the current scheme.

About Prime Minister Surya Ghar subsidy scheme

- **Launch** - February 13, 2024.
- **Objective** - To instal rooftop solar and to provide free electricity up to 300 units every month for One Crore households.

Thagaisal Thamizhar Award

- Veteran Congress leader **Kumari Ananthan** has been selected for the '**Thagaisal Thamizhar**' Award 2024.
- The award would be presented by the Chief Minister to the recipient at the Independence Day celebrations this year.
- It would include a cash prize of **₹10 lakh and a citation**.

About Thagaisal Thamizhar Award

- Instituted in 2021
- **Objective** - To honour an eminent personality who has contributed significantly to the welfare of Tamil Nadu and the development of the Tamil community.

Centre for Innovation in Governance

- A Centre for Innovation in Governance has been set up by Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission.
- It is a **first-of-its-kind initiative in India**.
- **Aim** - To foster an innovative ecosystem in governance in Tamil Nadu.

▪ It will provide support to government departments and district administrations in piloting innovative projects, and building capacity in various technologies that will augment effective governance.

- It will support eligible agencies in identifying innovations for funding under the **Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives Scheme (TANII)**.

Senior Tamil scholars get Financial aid

▪ **Tamil Development Minister M.P.Saminathan** handed over orders for financial assistance to **100 senior Tamil scholars for 2022-23**.

- It was given at an event marking the death anniversary of former Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi.
- The scholars would get **₹3,500 per month** and another **₹500 in medical allowance**.

Tamil Pudhalvan scheme

▪ Tamil Pudhalvan scheme was launched recently in **Coimbatore**.

- Over **3.28 lakh boys** are expected to benefit from the scheme during 2024-25.

▪ The scheme is **similar to the Pudhumai Penn** initiative which is launched for girls.

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 Government and Government aided schools

Coin to mark Karunanidhi's birth centenary

- The Union government will release a commemorative coin to mark the birth centenary of former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi during an event in **Chennai on August 18.**
- The **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** will release the coin in the presence of Chief Minister **M.K. Stalin at Kalaivanar Arangam.**
- The Union Finance Ministry had, issued the **Coinage (Issue of Commemorative Coin on the occasion of Birth Centenary of Kalaaignar Dr. M. Karunanidhi) Rules, 2024.**
- The coin would be in the denomination of ₹100.

Mudhalvar Marundhagams

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced the establishment of **Mudhalvar Marundhagams** across the State in his Independence Day address.
- **Aim** - To provide generic medicines at subsidised rates.
- A total of 1,000 pharmacies would be made operational from the day of Pongal in 2025.

Mudhalvarin Kaakkum Karangal

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced the launch of **Mudhalvarin Kaakkum Karangal** on his Independence Day.
- Aim - For retired military personnel to start businesses by borrowing up to ₹1 crore from banks.

TN Government Awards

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin presented various awards at the Independence Day celebrations in Chennai.

Kalpna Chawla Award for Courage and Daring Enterprise

- Winner - A. Sabeena.
- Reason - A nurse from the Nilgiris who saved over 35 human lives after the Wayanad landslides.

Thagaisal Thamizhar Award

- Winner - Kumari Ananthan
- Reason - His persistent efforts led to permission granted for him to speak in Tamil in Parliament in 1978.

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Award

- Winner - ISRO scientist P. Veeramuthuvel
- Reason - Project Director of Chandrayaan-3.

Chief Minister's Best Practices Award.

- J. Innocent Divya (for the Naan Mudhalvan scheme)
- S. Divyad Dharshini (the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme)
- K. Elambahavath (Chennai International Book Fair)
- N.Gopalakrishnan (Deceased Donor Organ Transplantation Programme)
- T.Vanitha (Kalaaignar Mahalir Urimai Thittam)

Awards for exemplary services to the persons with disabilities.

- J. Vijayalakshmi (the best doctor)
- Vidya Sagar (the best institution)
- M. Soosai Antony (the best social worker)
- M/s. Santhanam Packaging Pvt. Ltd. (the best private employer)
- Kancheepuram Central Co-operative Bank (the best district central cooperative bank) received.

▪ Services towards the welfare of women.

- Best Institution Award - Aishwaryam Trust, Madurai.
- Best Social Worker Award - Meena Subrahmanyam.

▪ Best Performing Local Bodies

- Best Municipal Corporation - Coimbatore
- Best Municipality - Tiruvarur
- Town Panchayat - Sulur (Coimbatore)

Mpox

- Tamil Nadu's **Directorate of Public Health (DPH)** and Preventive Medicine has asked airport and port health officers to be on high alert.
- The announcement was made after the **World Health Organization (WHO)** declared mpox which is an illness caused by the monkeypox virus as a **Public Health emergency of international concern (PHEIC)**.
- So far, no cases have been reported in **Tamil Nadu**.

About Monkey Pox

- It is a **viral zoonotic disease**.
- First discovered in **1958**

Athikadavu-Avinashi Ground Water Recharge and Drinking Water Supply Scheme

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin recently inaugurated the **Athikadavu - Avinashi Ground Water Recharge and Drinking Water Supply Scheme**
- It aims to fill **1,045 waterbodies and irrigate 24,468 acres** of farmland in Erode, Tiruppur, and Coimbatore districts.

Note

- In 1972 M. Karunanidhi decided to implement the project.
- The foundation was laid in **2019**.

Industrial Housing Facility

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin recently inaugurated a **₹706.50-crore industrial housing facility** at Sipcot Industrial Park in **Vallam Vadagal in Sriperumbudur**.
- **42%** of the women working in India's factories are residing in Tamil Nadu.
- The facility is the first of its kind in India and can accommodate 18,720 workers.
- It was set up by **Sipcot in partnership with Foxconn**.

Note

- Tamil Nadu had set a goal of achieving a **\$1-trillion economy by 2030**.
- The Government launched schemes like **Pudhumai Penn** scheme and the **Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thittam** for the welfare of women.

Committee formed to monitor homes

- The **Department of Children Welfare and Special Services** has constituted the **Tamil Nadu Empowered Committee on Special Services for Children**.
- It is a **special monitoring committee**.
- It will oversee the maintenance of Government Homes, Special Homes, Place of Safety, and After-Care Homes across the State, meant for children in conflict with law.
- It is a **15-member committee**.
- It will be headed by the **Chief Secretary as the Chairperson**.

Note

- This comes after the **one-man committee** which was headed by **Justice K. Chandru** made the recommendations to the State government for effective functioning and administration of Government Observation Homes.

Study by Planning Commission

- Tamil Nadu **State Planning Commission (SPC)** recently conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the implementation of government schemes in the densely populated tribal districts of **Salem, Kallakurichi and Tiruvannamalai in the Eastern Ghats.**
- It found persistent challenges in relation to basic infrastructure, transportation, and education.

Key Findings

- There was a need to increase both the frequency and the number of government bus services connecting the small town.
- There were no proper roads in these areas.
- There was a need to establish more schools and upgrade existing high schools into higher secondary schools.

Tamil Nadu Investment Conclave 2024

- TN CM MK Stalin recently inaugurated the **Tamil Nadu Investment Conclave 2024** in Chennai.
- He inaugurated **19 industrial projects** entailing investments to the tune of Rs.17,616 crore.
- He also laid the foundation stone for **28 projects worth Rs.51,157 crore.**

Key Highlights

- The foundation stone was laid for **SembCorp's green hydrogen project at Thoothukudi.**
- This will make **Tamil Nadu the first State in India** to roll out commercial production of hydrogen molecules.
- **Tidco and Tata Technologies** have come together to set up a public engineering facility known as **Tamil Nadu Engineering and Innovation Centre (TN Engine).**

CM visit to US

- Applied Materials of United States (U.S.) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Tamil Nadu government for establishing an advanced artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled technology development Centre of Excellence focused on semiconductor and equipment manufacturing in Chennai.
- Investment in key sectors such as advanced electronics and semiconductors will help Tamil Nadu achieve the \$1 trillion economy goal by 2030.
- The Tamil Nadu the most advanced knowledge and innovation hub in South Asia.

TN – San Francisco

- The Tamil Nadu government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoUs) with six companies for investments worth Rs.900 crore.
- They were signed on Chief Minister M.K. Stalin's First day in San Francisco as part of his visit to the United States.