

# VETRI IAS STUDY CIRCLE

## Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

**AUGUST 2024 - PART 1**



An ISO 9001: 2015 Institution | Providing Excellence Since 2011

### Head Office

Old No. 52, New No. 1, 9<sup>th</sup> Street,  
F Block, 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue Main Road, (Near Isthia Siddhi Vinayakar Temple), Anna Nagar East – 600 102.  
**Ph: 044-2626 5326 | 98844 21666 | 98844 32666**

### Branches

#### SALEM

No. 189/1, Meyanoor Road,  
Near ARRS Multiplex, (Near  
Salem New Bus Stand),  
Opp. Venkateshwara Complex,  
Salem - 636 004.  
**Ph: 0427-2330307 | 95001 22022**

#### KOVAI

No. 347, D.S. Complex  
(3<sup>rd</sup> floor), Nehru Street,  
Near Gandhipuram Central  
Bus Stand, Ramnagar,  
Kovai - 641 009.  
**Ph: 75021 65390**

#### MADURAI

No. 199, Dharshini Tower,  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Vaigai Colony,  
Anna Nagar,  
Madurai - 625 020.  
**Ph: 91500 21999**  
**91500 21998**

#### TIRUNELVELI

No. 58, IVY Towers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor,  
Palayamkottai,  
Near Palai Bus Stand,  
(Next to Muthamil Hospital),  
Tirunelveli - 627 002.  
**Ph: 91500 10079**

#### THANJAVUR

Muthu Complex,  
(Pantaloons Showroom Basement)  
No. 243, Cauvery Nagar,  
Opp. New Housing Unit,  
Thanjavur - 613 005.  
**Ph: 78711 69099 | 78715 71819**

#### KOVILPATTI

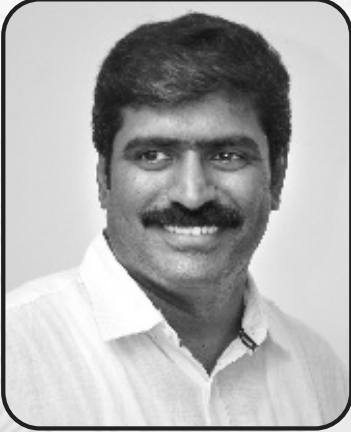
No. 15, Kathiresan Kovil Road,  
Behind Kaliamma Temple,  
Kovilpatti - 628 501.  
**Ph: 90037 90335**  
**81222 80685**

#### THIRUCHENGODE

Vivekananda Educational Institutions  
Elayampalayam (Po),  
Thiruchengode (TK),  
Namakkal (Dt) - 637205.  
**Ph: 7845779908**

[www.vetriias.com](http://www.vetriias.com)

# Preface



**M. SHUNMUGAM**

Director

Vetrii IAS Study Circle.

© All rights reserved with the publisher. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the written permission of the publisher, will be responsible for the loss and may be punished for compensation under copyright act.

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:

**VETRII IAS STUDY CIRCLE**

F Block New No. 1, 9<sup>th</sup> Street,  
1<sup>st</sup> Avenue Main Road, Chinthamani,  
Anna Nagar (E), Chennai - 102.

Phone : 044-2626 5326

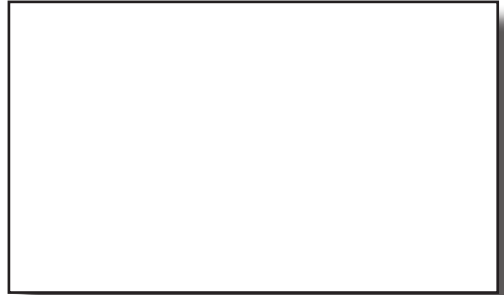
98844 72636 | 98844 21666 | 98844 32666

E-mail : [enquiry@vetriias.com](mailto:enquiry@vetriias.com)

Web : [www.vetriias.com](http://www.vetriias.com)

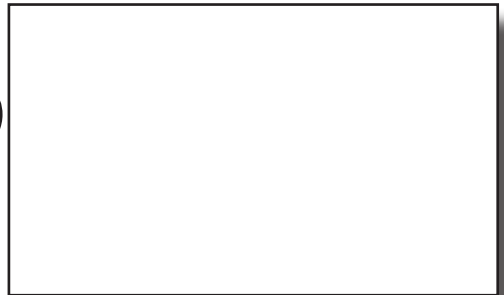
# CONTENTS

**HISTORY 01**



**06 POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**GEOGRAPHY 09**



**10 ECONOMICS**

**SCIENCE 12**



**NATIONAL-DIARY OF  
EVENT**

**13**



**14**

**INTERNATIONAL  
AFFAIRS**

**TAMILNADU AFFAIRS**

**15**



# 1. HISTORY



## 1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

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

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
<b>August 7</b>	<b>National Javelin Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>National Javelin Day</b> is observed on <b>August 7</b> every year in India.</li> <li>▪ The day was announced by the <b>Athletics Federation of India</b> to honour the winning of gold medal by <b>Neeraj Chopra</b> at the <b>Tokyo Olympics</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>August 9</b>	<b>World Tribal Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The day is also known as <b>International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples</b>.</li> <li>▪ The day is observed on August 9 every year to raise awareness about challenges like land rights and socio-economic disparities of indigenous people.</li> <li>▪ <b>Theme 2024:</b> "Protecting the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact".</li> <li>▪ The day was declared by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1994</li> </ul>
<b>August 10</b>	<b>World Lion Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>World Lion Day</b> is celebrated on <b>August 10</b> to raise awareness about lion conservation and protection.</li> <li>▪ It was initiated by <b>Big Cat Rescue</b> in <b>2013</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ India is home to the <b>Asiatic lion</b>, found only in the Gir Forest.</li> <li>▪ As of the latest census, the population of lions in India is approximately 674</li> </ul>
<b>August 10</b>	<b>World Biofuel Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The day is observed on <b>August 10</b> every year to underline the significance of biofuels as a <b>sustainable source of energy</b>.</li> <li>▪ The day also commemorates the successful operation of an engine on peanut oil by German engineer <b>Sir Rudolf Diesel</b> on <b>August 9, 1893</b>.</li> <li>▪ <b>Theme 2024</b> : "Sustainable Biofuels: Fueling a Greener Future"</li> </ul> <p><b>Note</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ India has set an ethanol blending target of <b>20%</b> of petrol containing <b>ethanol by 2025-26</b>.</li> </ul>

## 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

## 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.

## 1.3 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**.

#### Note

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

- 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.

<b>Indian Medal Winners at Paris Olympics 2024</b>		
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

## 1.4 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.

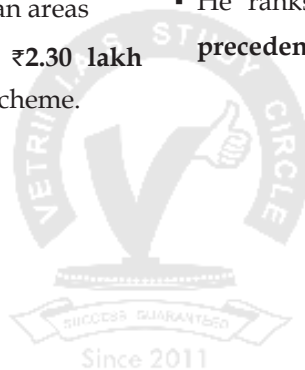
- It will have a **total investment of ₹10 lakh crore.**

**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.**



# 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

## 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.

## 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.



# 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

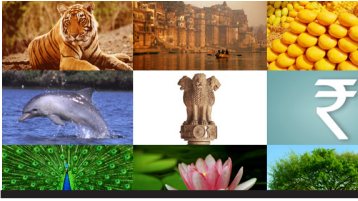
---

## 5.1 SPACE



Vetrii IAS Study Circle





# 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

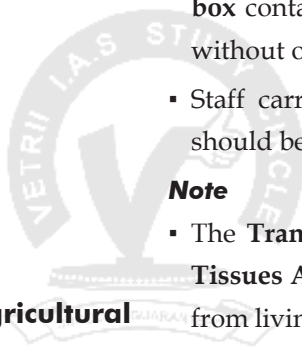
- The Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has issued a set of guidelines for the transportation of live human organs.
- While transporting the organs by air the box containing the organ should be screened without opening it
- Staff carrying/accompanying the organ box should be given priority in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

Vetrii IAS Study Circle



Vetrii IAS Study Circle



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

### **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.

### **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 Kalaignar Dr. M. Karunanidhi) Rules, 2024.**
- The coin would be in the denomination of ₹100.
- **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 (Kalaignar Mahalir Urimai Thittam)

### **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
- **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 - Suler (Coimbatore)

Vetrii IAS Study Circle



Vetrii IAS Study Circle