

VETRI IAS STUDY CIRCLE

Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

AUGUST 2024 - PART 2



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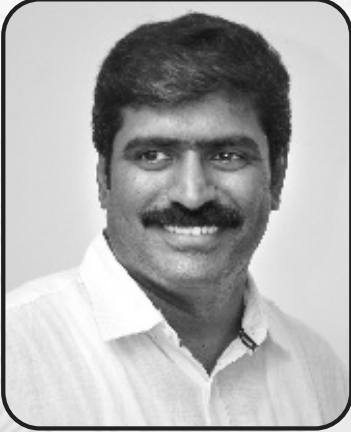
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Preface



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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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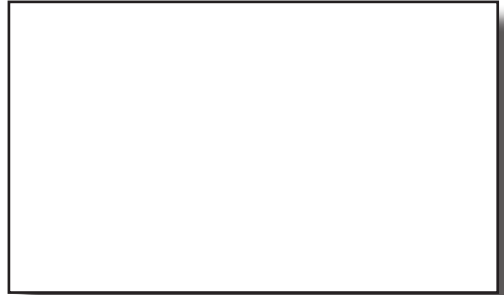
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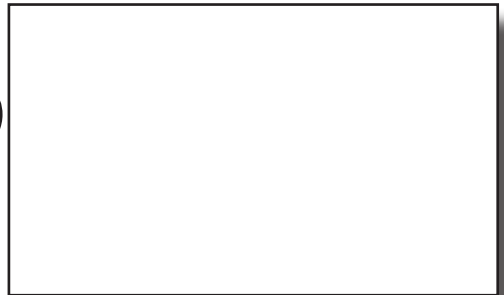
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1. HISTORY



1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
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.
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

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
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
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

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**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 APPOINTMENTS

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.

About Commission of Inquiry

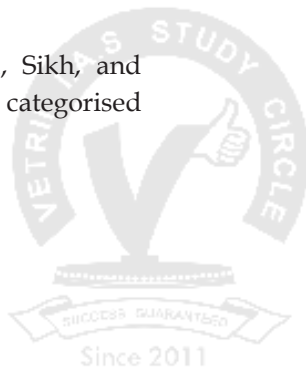
- **Formation** – October 2022.
- **Headed by** - K.G. Balakrishnan.
- **Aim** - To examine the possibility of granting SC status to Dalits who have converted to any religion other than the ones mentioned in the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950.

Note

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

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



2. POLITICAL SCIENCE

2.1 INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

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.

About Poland

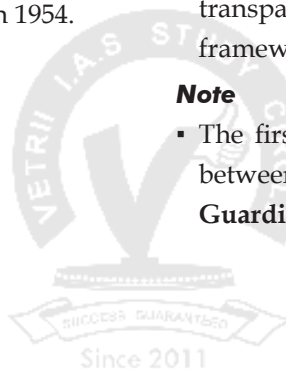
- **Capital** – Warsaw
- **Currency** - Polish Zloty
- **Prime Minister** - Donald Tusk

'2+2' dialogue

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

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 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-WANI)

- 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



3. GEOGRAPHY

3.1 POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

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



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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

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

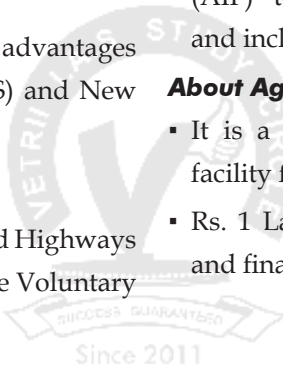
- The policy targets voluntary scrapping of unfit commercial and passenger vehicles strictly based on their fitness, irrespective of vehicle age.
- It phases out unfit polluting vehicles through Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities (RVSFs) and Automated Testing Stations (ATs).

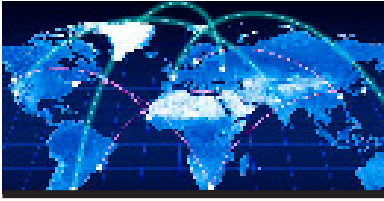
Agriculture Infrastructure Fund

- 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



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8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

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.