

# VETRI IAS STUDY CIRCLE

## Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

**SEPTEMBER 2024**



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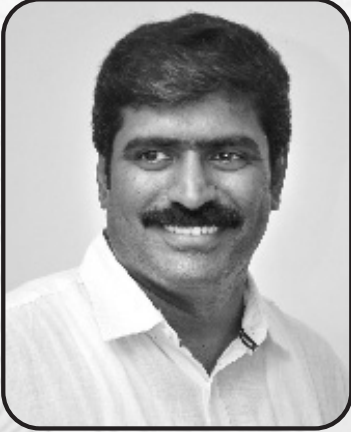
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# Preface



**M. SHUNMUGAM**

Director

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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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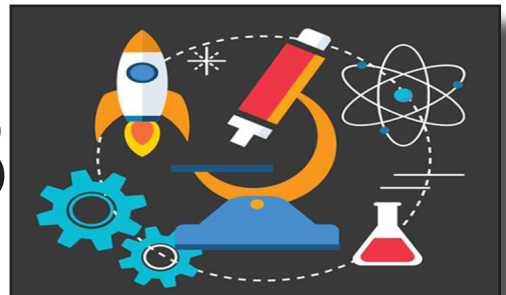


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# 1. HISTORY



## 1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
<b>September 16</b>	<b>World Ozone Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The day is observed on <b>September 16</b> every year to commemorate the date of the signing of the <b>Montreal Protocol</b>.</li><li><b>Theme 2024:</b> "Montreal Protocol: Advancing Climate Actions".</li></ul> <p><b>Note</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The <b>Montreal Protocol</b> is an international environmental agreement that seeks to regulate the production and consumption of <b>ozone-depleting substances or ODFs</b>.</li><li>It was finalized in <b>1987</b>.</li></ul>
<b>September 16</b>	<b>International Red Panda Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>It is annually observed across the globe to create awareness about the importance of the conservation of Red Pandas.</li><li>The <b>Red Panda Network (RPN)</b> introduced the <b>International Red Panda Day in 2010</b></li></ul> <p><b>About Red Panda</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>IUCN Status - <b>Endangered</b></li><li>It is the State animal of <b>Sikkim</b></li><li>They are found in Eastern Himalayas, especially<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Singalila National Parks</b> - Darjeeling, West Bengal</li><li><b>Neora Valley National Parks</b> - Darjeeling West Bengal</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>September 17</b>	<b>World Patient Safety Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The day is observed on <b>September 17</b> to raise public awareness and foster collaboration between patients, health workers, policymakers and health care leaders to improve patient safety.</li><li><b>Theme 2024:</b> "Improving Diagnosis for Patient Safety"</li></ul>

## 1.2 DEFENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND TERRORISM

### India exports weapons to over 90 countries

- India exports weapons and military equipment to more than 90 friendly countries.
- He also mentioned that in 2023-24, the country's defense production value reached an unprecedented Rs. 1.27 lakh crore.

### Lightweight bulletproof armor: Developed by DRDO, IIT Delhi

- The Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and IIT Delhi have jointly developed lightweight bulletproof armor.
- According to a press release issued by the Defense Ministry on Wednesday, lightweight bulletproof armor has been developed with minimum weights of 8.2 kg and 9.5 kg, according to different levels of the Indian Standards Organization.
- The armor developed by DRDO in collaboration with IIT Delhi provides 360-degree protection.

### Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act

- The **Union Home Ministry** on Thursday extended the **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA)** in parts of **Nagaland** and **Arunachal Pradesh** for another six months.
- The areas under the purview of the Act remain unchanged since the last notification issued in March.
- The AFSPA gives unbridled power to the armed forces and the **Central Armed Police Forces** deployed in “**disturbed areas**” to kill anyone acting in contravention of law and arrest and search any premises without a warrant and ensures protection from prosecution. Both the State and Union governments can issue notification regarding AFSPA. For Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland, the Ministry issues periodic “**disturbed area**” notifications.

## 1.3 EMINENT PERSONALITIES

### Erode Venkatappa Ramasamy

- Eminent Social reformer and rationalist **Periyar Erode Venkatappa Ramasamy** was remembered on his **146th Birth anniversary (September 17)**.

#### About E.V. Ramasamy

- Born at **Erode**.
- He is also known as the '**Father of the Dravidian movement**'.

#### Key Contributions

- He rebelled against **Brahminical dominance** and gender and caste inequality in Tamil Nadu.

- Participated in **Vaikom Satyagraha (1924)** which demanded the right of lower castes to use a public path in front of Vaikom temple.
- Opposed the conservatism of the **Indian National Congress** and resigned from it in **1925**.
- Associated with the **Justice party**. It was formed in **1916** to oppose the political and economic power of Brahmins.
- Founded **Self Respect Movement in 1925** to free people from **slavery and irrationality**.

## 1.4 AWARDS AND HONOUR

### SASTRA Ramanujan Prize

- The **2024 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize** will be awarded to **Alexander Dunn** of the **Georgia Institute of Technology, U.S.** A press release said the prize is being given to **Mr. Dunn**, who has achieved several breakthroughs in the study of modular forms, half-integral weight forms, metaplectic forms and their connections to prime numbers and integer partitions.

## 1.5 SPORTS AND GAMES

- **Indian Men's and Women's** chess teams won gold medals in their respective events at the **45th edition of the FIDE Chess Olympiad**, held in the Hungarian capital of Budapest from 10-23 September 2024. The next 46th FIDE Chess Olympiad will be held in **Tashkent, Uzbekistan 2026**.
- The last time a country won gold both in the Open (men's) and women's section of the chess Olympiad was China in 2018. Batumi, Georgia,
- The Indian team retained the **Gaprindashvili Cup**, which is awarded to the best combined result in the Open and Women's sections. In the last 43rd edition of the Chess Olympiad, which was held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, in 2022, the Indian team won the Gaprindashvili Cup.
- India became the **second country** after Russia which successfully retained the Gaprindashvili Cup.

## 1.6 APPOINTMENTS

- The government of India has appointed the current Vice Chief of the Air Staff, **Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh**, as the next Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force.
- Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh will be the **28th Chief of the Indian Air Force**. He will take over as the Chief of the Indian Air Force on 30 September 2024, when the current Chief of the Indian Air Force, **Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari**, retires on the same day.
- The **Madras High Court** has got a Tamil-speaking Chief Justice after 43 years, **Governor R.N. Ravi** administered the oath of office to Justice Shriram during his swearing-in as the **53rd Chief Justice of the Madras High Court**.

### Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI)

- Girish Chandra Murmu, the **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** of India, has been appointed as the chair of the **Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI)** for the 2024-2027 term.

**Justice K.R. Shriram sworn in as Madras High Court CJ**

# 2. POLITICAL SCIENCE

## 2.1 GOVT – WELFARE ORIENTED GOVT SCHEMES, THEIR UTILITY

### Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PM-JUGA)

- Union Cabinet recently approved the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PM-JUGA).
- PM-JUGA is based on learnings and success of PM-JANMAN (Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan).
- **Aim:** To improve the socio-economic condition of tribal communities.
- **Mission's Four Goals:**
  - **Goal-1:** Developing Village Infrastructure.
  - **Goal-2:** Promotion of Economic Empowerment
  - **Goal-3:** Universalization of Access to Good Education
  - **Goal-4:** Healthy lives and Dignified Ageing

### 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.

### Bio-RIDE Scheme

- Union Cabinet recently approved the Biotechnology Research Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (Bio-RIDE) Scheme.

- **Aim** - To foster innovation, promote bio-entrepreneurship, and strengthen India's position as a global leader in biomanufacturing and biotechnology.
- **Nodal Department:** Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology.
- **Objectives**
  - Strengthen India's position as a global leader in biomanufacturing and biotechnology.
  - Make India a US\$300 billion Bioeconomy by 2030.
- The scheme has three broad components:
  - Biotechnology Research and Development (R&D)
  - Industrial & Entrepreneurship Development (I&ED)
  - Biomanufacturing and Biofoundry

### PM E-DRIVE

- The Union Cabinet recently launched the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) Scheme' for promotion of electric mobility in India.
- The scheme is aimed at increasing EV adoption by ensuring charging stations are safe, reliable, and accessible.
- The scheme has an outlay of Rs 10,900 crore over a period of two years.



## 2.3 PUBLIC AWARENESS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

### One Nation One Election

- The Union Cabinet accepted the recommendations of a **high-level** committee on One Nation One Election headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind.
- The committee has proposed simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and Assemblies as the first step, and municipal and panchayat polls within **100 days of the general election in the next phase.**

### Key Recommendations

- The '**Appointed Date**' would mark the beginning of the new electoral cycle. It would be set by the President's notification.
- The State Assemblies, which are formed after the date and before the completion of the Lok Sabha's term, would conclude before the subsequent general election.
- After this, election to the Lok Sabha and all State Assemblies would be held simultaneously.
- The committee had factored scenarios such as a hung House, or a no-confidence motion, and recommended amendments to **Article 83 (duration of Houses of Parliament)** and of the Constitution.
- It recommended a common electoral roll.
- The ECI is responsible for the Lok Sabha and Assembly polls, while the local body elections for municipalities and panchayats are managed by the SECs.
- The proposed changes regarding the single electoral roll and single voter ID card would need ratification by at least half of the States.





# 4. ECONOMICS

## 4.1 REPORTS AND INDICES

### Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2024

- **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** recently released the **Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2024**.
- It assesses country-level cybersecurity commitments across five pillars: legal, technical, organizational, capacity development, and cooperation.
- It uses a **new five-tier analysis (Tier 1 to Tier 5)** to assess each country's advances with cybersecurity commitments and resulting impacts.

### Key Outcomes

- India is placed in **Tier 1 with 98.49 score i.e., "role modelling"** countries demonstrating a strong commitment to all five cybersecurity pillars.
- **Global Improvement in Cybersecurity:** Since 2021 (last GCI was published), all regions have shown improvement and Africa has advanced the most on cybersecurity.
- India topped the chart for adopting measures like legal, technical, capacity development and cooperation.

### 'State of the Rhino' report

- The **International Rhino Foundation (IRF)** recently published the 'State of the Rhino' report.

### Key Findings

- Greater One-Horned Rhinos are benefiting from improved habitats and wildlife corridors.

- Its population has grown 20% in the last decade, and now exceeds **4,000** animals.

### About Greater one-horned Rhino

- **Habitat:** Indo-Nepal Terai, northern parts of West Bengal, and Assam.
- **IUCN status:** Vulnerable
- **Population in India:** 3,262 (2021).
- Assam has the largest population of greater one-horned rhinos.
- More than 90% of them are in **Kaziranga National Park**.

- The **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** for the period between July 2023 and June 2024, released by the Labour Bureau, reported no major change in the **unemployment rate (UR)**.

- There is a minor increase in the distribution of workers in agriculture, and the manufacturing sector shows no growth in giving jobs compared with the past years.

- A release by the **Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** said that in rural areas, the **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** increased from 50.7% in 2017-18 to 63.7% in 2023-24, while for urban areas, it increased from 47.6% to 52%

- The LFPR for Muslim women increased from 15% in 2021-22 to 21.4% in 2023-24.

## 4.2 CURRENT TRENDS IN INDIAN ECONOMY

### Windfall Tax

- The Union government recently slashed **windfall tax** on domestically produced crude oil to 'nil' per tonne.
- The tax is levied in the form of **special additional excise duty (SAED)** and is notified fortnightly based on average oil prices in two weeks.
- India first imposed windfall profit taxes on **July 1, 2022.**

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# 5. SCIENCE

## 5.1 SPACE

### **Polaris Dawn mission**

- **Polaris Dawn Mission** Successfully completes **World's First Private Spacewalk**.
- Recently, **Polaris Dawn** has travelled through Earth's regions of high radiation to study space radiation's impact on human health.
- **Polaris Dawn Mission** is a privately funded and operated mission planned by **Jared Isaacman with SpaceX**.

### **Chandrayaan-4**

- Union Cabinet gave approval for Chandrayaan-4 Mission.
- It is a successor to Chandrayaan-3 which demonstrated soft landing on Moon.

### **About Chandrayaan 4**

- It aims to develop and demonstrate key technologies for landing on the Moon,

collecting lunar samples, and returning to Earth safely.

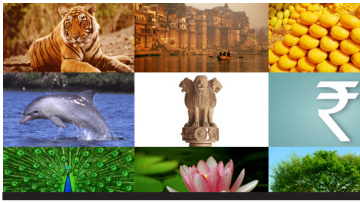
- It is planned for the launch in 2040 and return safely back to earth.

### **India's First CO<sub>2</sub>-to-Methanol Pilot Plant in Pune**

- India has taken a major step towards combating climate change with the development of its first CO<sub>2</sub>-to-methanol pilot plant, focusing on **Carbon Capture and Utilisation (CCU)** technologies

- The pilot plant is located at Thermax Limited in Pune, Maharashtra, and can process 1.4 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per day

- This project is a joint effort between the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi** and Thermax Limited, funded as a **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)**.



# 6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENT

## Port Blair renamed as Sri Vijaya Puram

- Andaman and Nicobar Island's capital **Port Blair** was recently renamed as **Sri Vijaya Puram**.
- **Sri Vijaya Puram** represents the victory of Indian freedom movement and highlights the unique contribution of the **A&N Islands**.
- It is the site where **Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose** first unfurled the **Tiranga**.
- The Cellular Jail is also located at **Sri Vijaya Puram**.

## Global Renewable Energy Investors Meet and Expo (RE-INVEST)

- The 4th **Global RE-INVEST Renewable Energy Investors Meet & Expo** will be held from 16 – 18 September 2024 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- The event is being organised by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- RE-Invest is a global platform bringing together key players in the renewable energy sector.

### Note

- The first RE-INVEST India was held in 2015.

## 20th MSDC

- The **20th Maritime State Development Council (MSDC)** was concluded recently in Goa.

- Over 100 key issues resolved across various states at the **20th MSDC**.

### Key Outcomes

- **Indian Maritime Centre (IMC)** - a Policy Think Tank was launched.
- Introduction of State and Port Ranking Systems to drive Performance and Competition.
- The **Radioactive Detection Equipment** will be installed at Ports for Enhanced Security.

### Note

- India ranks 18th in the **World's Shipping Tonnage**.
- India is the **16th largest maritime country** in the world
- India has **12 Major ports** and about **200 non-major ports**.

## Integrated Ocean Energy Atlas

- Recently, the **Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)** has announced the development of an '**Integrated Ocean Energy Atlas**' of the **Indian EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone)**.

### About Integrated Ocean Energy Atlas:

- It showcases the vast potential of ocean energy resources encompassing marine meteorological and hydrological energy forms.
- It identifies areas with high potential for energy generation and will serve as a reference for policymakers, industry and researchers for

harnessing the rich energy resources available in the **Indian EEZ**.

#### **About INCOIS**

- Established – **1999**.
- Autonomous body under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**.

#### **India's first CO<sub>2</sub>-to-Methanol Pilot Plant**

- The foundation stone for India's first CO<sub>2</sub>-to-Methanol pilot plant was unveiled recently at Thermax Limited premises in Pune, Maharashtra.
- The plant has an overall capacity of 1.4 Tons Per Day (TPD).
- CO<sub>2</sub> -to-methanol conversion has potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide a sustainable fuel source.
- CO<sub>2</sub> -to-Methanol plant in Pune will advance indigenous Carbon Capture and Utilisation (CCU) technologies, marking significant step towards India's Panchamrit declaration.

#### **Note**

- Panchamrit consists of five nectar elements of India's climate action:
- Reach **500GW Non-fossil energy capacity by 2030**.
- 50 per cent of its energy requirements from renewable energy by 2030.
- Reduction of total projected carbon emissions by **one billion tonnes** from now to **2030**.
- Reduction of the carbon intensity of the economy by **45 per cent by 2030, over 2005 levels**.
- Achieving the target of **net zero emissions by 2070**.

▪ According to the latest report under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act by the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry, the majority of atrocities against Scheduled Tribes (STs) were also concentrated in 13 states, which reported 98.91% of all cases in 2022.

▪ Of the 51,656 cases registered under the law for Scheduled Castes (SCs) in 2022, Uttar Pradesh accounted for 23.78% of the total cases with 12,287, followed by Rajasthan with 8,651 (16.75%) and Madhya Pradesh with 7,732 (14.97%). Other States with a significant number of cases of atrocities against SCs were Bihar with 6,799 (13.16%), Odisha with 3,576 (6.93%), and Maharashtra with 2,706 (5.24%). These six States accounted for nearly 81% of the cases.

#### **14 Indian institutions among world's top 100 MBA programs**

- 14 Indian educational institutions, including 7 Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), have been listed in the world's top 100 institutions for Master of Business Administration (MBA) programs.
- The QS Global Rankings for 2025, prepared after studying 340 top MBA programs in 58 countries and territories, was released on Wednesday.
- Stanford School of Business in the USA tops the list for the 5th consecutive year.
- Among the top 100 institutions, 7 IIMs from Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Indore, Lucknow, Udaipur, and Kozhikode

have secured places. Among these, IIMs of Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, and Kolkata are in the top 50 for employability skills.

- From India, IIM Bangalore is ranked 53rd, IIM Ahmedabad 60th, and IIM Kolkata 65th. The Indian School of Business in Hyderabad is ranked 86th.

### **Indian food grain production reaches new peak**

- India's food grain production reached a record 332.2 million tonnes in the 2023-24 crop year that ended last June.

▪ According to a report released by the Ministry of Agriculture:

▪ The country's food grain production in the 2023-24 crop year is 332.2 million tonnes. This is the highest annual food grain production to date.

▪ In the previous 2022-23 crop year, the country's food grain production was 329.6 million tonnes. In the 2023-24 crop year, an additional 2.61 million tonnes of food grains have been produced, the report states.





# 7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

## Jordan

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** declared Jordan as the first country in the world to eliminate leprosy.
- It marks a significant milestone in global public health efforts.

## About Leprosy

- Leprosy is also known as Hansen Disease.
- Leprosy is caused by the bacteria *Mycobacterium leprae*.
- Globally, more than two lakh new cases of Leprosy are reported every year.

## EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)

- The EU will go ahead with the implementation of its controversial **EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)** from **December 30, 2024**.

planned, despite strong protests from countries including **India, Brazil, Indonesia** and the **U.S.** at the **WTO**, a Geneva-based trade official has said.

- “Members are concerned as the regulation is set to hit export of farm products such as **palm oil, cattle, soy, cocoa, coffee, rubber, and timber** and a range of derived items to the bloc,” the official told businessline.
- The EUDR requires exporters of the identified items to prove that the products do not originate from recently deforested land (post December 31, 2020), involve forest degradation, or breach local environmental and social laws. It is aimed at reducing the EU’s impact on global deforestation and forest degradation.





## 8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

### DMK's 75th anniversary

- Chief Minister and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) president **M.K.Stalin** unveiled the logo for the **75th anniversary** celebrations of the party.
- The party was launched on **September 17, 1949**.
- The logo was released during the celebration of **Mupperum Vizha - the birth anniversary of Periyar and Anna, and the foundation day of the party**.

### Cotton Category Designers

- Six people selected for the Best Handloom Weaver Award and three people selected for the Best Designer Award in the cotton category were given prize money and certificates.

- Best Designer : First three places received Rs. 25,000, Rs. 10,000, and Rs. 5,000 respectively.
- Best Young Designer : First three places received Rs. 1 lakh, Rs. 75,000, and Rs. 50,000 respectively.

### Road named after singer SPB: Chief Minister M.K. Stalin

- Chief Minister M.K.Stalin announced that the **main road in Kamdar Nagar, Nungambakkam**, where the late playback singer **S.P.Balasubrahmanyam** lived, will be named after him.

### His announcement on Wednesday stated:

- S.P. Balasubrahmanyam, who sang over **40,000** songs in various languages, is enthroned in the **hearts of millions of music lovers** with his mellifluous voice.