

VETRI IAS STUDY CIRCLE

Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

OCTOBER 2024



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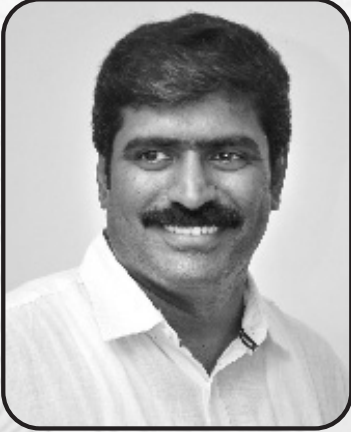
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Preface



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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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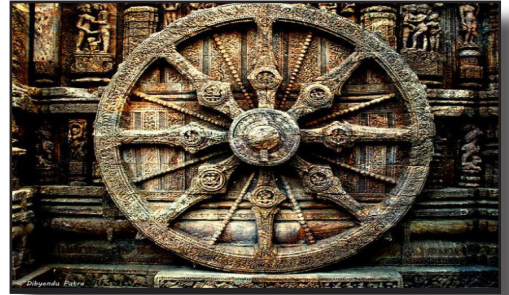
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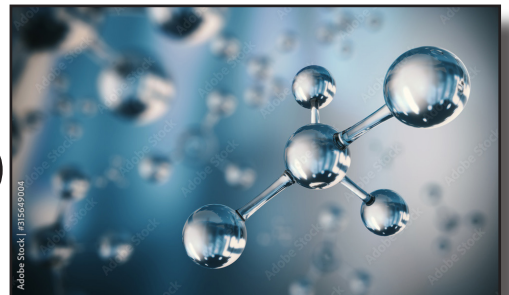
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1. HISTORY



1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
October 1	Today is International Day of Older Persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The International Day of Older Persons is observed annually on October 1st. In connection with this, the central government has planned activities for the entire month of October to promote the welfare of the elderly.▪ To create awareness among the youth, the central government has launched a quiz on the 'MyGov' platform.▪ A senior citizens' welfare website has been launched, providing detailed information about various schemes and policies for the welfare of the elderly.
October 2	International Day of Non-Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The United Nations observes the International Day of Non-Violence annually on October 2nd, coinciding with the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, the revered leader of India's independence movement and a pioneering figure in the philosophy of non-violent resistance.
October 4	World Animal Day 2024: Celebrating Our Planet's Creatures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ World Animal Day stands as a global celebration dedicated to illuminating the critical issues of animal rights, welfare, and conservation.▪ This annual observance serves as a powerful reminder of our shared responsibility towards the countless species that inhabit our planet alongside us. As we approach the 2024 celebration, it's essential to understand the depth and significance of this important day.
October 16	World Food Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ This year's theme is 'Food Safety: Be Prepared for the Unexpected'. October 16

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
October 20	World Osteoporosis Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Osteoporosis Day is observed every year on 20 October. This day aims to raise awareness about osteoporosis and metabolic bone diseases. The campaign lasts a full year and is organised by the International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF). <p>What is Osteoporosis?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Osteoporosis is a condition that weakens bones. It makes bones fragile and more likely to fracture. This is an important health issue, especially for postmenopausal women and the elderly.
October 21	World Iodine Deficiency Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Iodine Deficiency Day, also known as Global Iodine Deficiency Disorders Prevention Day, is observed annually on 21st October. The primary goal of this observance is to raise awareness about the importance of iodine in maintaining good health and to emphasize the adverse consequences of iodine deficiency, which remains a global public health issue.
October 24	World Polio Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Polio Day is observed on October 24 every year. It aims to raise awareness about the fight against poliomyelitis. This day was established by Rotary International in honor of Dr Jonas Salk. ▪ He developed the first successful polio vaccine. The day serves to highlight ongoing efforts by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), founded in 1988. ▪ This initiative has reduced polio cases worldwide by 99 percent
October 24	United Nations Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ United Nations Day is celebrated on October 24 each year. This day marks the founding of the United Nations (UN) in 1945. The UN Charter was ratified by a majority of its signatories, including the five permanent members of the Security Council. The UN plays a crucial role in promoting peace and fairness globally.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
October 24	Vigilance Awareness Week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It runs from October 28 to November 3, 2024. This year's theme is Culture of Integrity for Nation's Prosperity
October 31	National Unity Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 31st, India celebrates National Unity Day to honor the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, a key figure in the nation's independence movement and its first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister. Known as the "Iron Man of India," Patel was instrumental in uniting the country's diverse princely states into a single, independent nation.

1.2 DEFENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND TERRORISM

- **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**, a Navratna defense PSU, and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), Israel's leading aerospace and defense company, have established a joint venture (JV) named BEL IAI AeroSystems Private Ltd.
- It aims to serve as the single point of contact for long-term product support of the Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) systems utilized by India's defense forces. This partnership underscores the long-standing collaboration between BEL and IAI on various strategic programs, enhancing India's defense capabilities while aligning with the government's vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.
- KAZIND-2024 is the 8th edition of the joint military exercise between India and Kazakhstan, which started on 30th September 2024 in Auli, Uttarakhand, India. The exercise will continue until 13th October 2024.
- The KAZIND exercise started in 2016 as a way for the armies of India and Kazakhstan to train together and share knowledge. The most recent edition took place in Otar, Kazakhstan, from 30th October to 11th November 2023
- 'Malabar' exercise to begin on Oct. 8
- This year's Malabar naval exercise begins on October 8 in Visakhapatnam. India, America, Australia, and Japan are participating in this exercise.
- This exercise is scheduled to continue until October 18. It starts in the port area of Visakhapatnam and then continues in the sea area.
- The Malabar exercise, which started in 1992 as a bilateral naval exercise between India and America, later included Australia and Japan.

Raksha Mantri launches ADITI

2.0 challenges & DISC 12 to foster innovation, entrepreneurship & 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence

- India's Defence Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh, launched two key initiatives—ADITI 2.0 and DISC 12—at DefConnect 4.0 in Delhi.

- ADITI 2.0 focuses on 19 technology challenges that cover advanced areas like Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Technology, military communication systems, and anti-drone technology.
- The Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) initiative, which works with the Atal Innovation Mission, supports start-ups and small businesses (MSMEs) in developing new defence technologies.
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested the Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) three times in Pokhran, Rajasthan. These tests show a big step forward in India's ability to develop its advanced defense systems.
- It's noteworthy that this ship has been built domestically in line with the Indian government's "Self-reliant India" and "Make in India" objectives.
- The Quad group of countries – India, Australia, Japan, and the U.S. – have held back-to-back naval war games, deepening interoperability and honing, in particular, their anti-submarine warfare skills.
- “Exercise Malabar” by the four countries concluded on Friday off the coast of Visakhapatnam. Earlier, they were part of the multilateral “Exercise Kakadu” hosted by the Royal Australian Navy from September 9 to 20.
- The harbour phase was held in Visakhapatnam, followed by the sea phase in the Bay of Bengal.

What is VSHORADS?

- VSHORADS is a 4th generation, portable missile system designed to protect against threats in the air at short distances. The Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) is meant to defend against low-flying threats like drones and aircraft within a range of 5 to 20 kilometers. It uses surface-to-air missiles guided by infrared, radar, or optical systems to track and hit targets.

India's First Multi-Purpose Ship 'Samarthak' for Indian Navy Launched at Kattupalli Port

- The first multi-purpose ship built for the Indian Navy, 'Samarthak', was launched into the sea from Kattupalli Port near Chennai.
- This is the first multi-purpose ship built by L&T Shipbuilding Company for the Indian Navy.
- These multi-purpose ships will serve as tug boats, platforms for operating unmanned autonomous vehicles, and as test platforms for various domestically developed weapons and sensors.

- “Exercise Malabar”, which began in 1992 as a bilateral naval drill between India and the U.S.,

Exercise Kakadu

- Exercise Kakadu brought together nearly 3,000 personnel from 30 nations, ships from 10 countries, and aircraft from five nations, all converging in the north Australian exercise area, underscoring Canberra's commitment to “regional maritime security and international partnerships”.

Exercise Swavlamban Shakti

- The Indian Army's Sudarshan Chakra Corps is conducting a major exercise called “Exercise SWAVLAMBAN SHAKTI” at the Babina Field Firing Ranges near Jhansi. This exercise, which runs until October 22, aims to improve the Army's combat abilities by using new and advanced technologies.

Exercise Naseem-Al-Bahr

- The Indian Navy conducted an important bilateral naval exercise named Naseem-Al-Bahr with the Royal Navy of Oman. The exercise took place off the coast of Goa from 13 to 18 October. INS Trikand and a Dornier

Maritime Patrol Aircraft represented India in this collaboration.

- The exercise comprised two main phases: the harbour phase and the sea phase.

Exercise Naseem-Al-Bahr

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India's fourth nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine

- India's fourth nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), referred to as S4*, was launched into water at the Ship Building Centre in Visakhapatnam. This submarine is bigger and more capable than the first, INS Arihant (S2).
- The S4* was launched into water on October 16 at SBC,
- India currently has two SSBNs operational. INS Arihant was quietly commissioned into service in August 2016.
- The second SSBN, INS Arighaat (S3), was commissioned end-August. The third SSBN Aridhman (S4) is currently undergoing sea trials and is expected to be commissioned into service next year, sources said.

Global Nature Conservation Index (NCI)

- India ranks 176th in the **Global Nature Conservation Index (NCI) 2024**, with a score

of 45.5 out of 100. This places India among the five worst performers globally, alongside Kiribati, Turkey, Iraq, and Micronesia.

SIMBEX

- The 31st edition of the **Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX)** is taking place from 23 to 29 October 2024 in Visakhapatnam. The Republic of Singapore Navy Ship RSS Tenacious arrived on 23 October to participate in this event.

History of SIMBEX

- SIMBEX started in 1994 as 'Exercise Lion King'. It has evolved into a key maritime collaboration between the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN).

VAJRA PRAHAR.

- The Indian Army contingent set off for the 15th edition of the India-US joint Special Forces Exercise, VAJRA PRAHAR. This exercise will take place from November 2 to November 22, 2024, at the Orchard Combat Training Centre in Idaho, USA
- The last VAJRA PRAHAR exercise occurred in December 2023 at Umroi, Meghalaya.
- This is the second joint exercise of 2024 between the two nations.
- The first was Exercise YUDH ABHYAS, held in Rajasthan in September 2024.

Garud Shakti 24'.

- An Indian Army contingent of 25 personnel departed for Indonesia. They are participating in the 9th edition of the joint exercise named 'Garud Shakti 24'. This event is taking place in Cijantung, Jakarta, from November 1 to November 12.

1.3 WORLD ORGANISATIONS – PACTS AND SUMMITS

Rome Declaration on Water Scarcity in Agriculture

- Member countries of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) adopted the Rome Declaration on Water Scarcity in Agriculture.
- This initiative aims to tackle water scarcity, worsened by climate change, particularly in agriculture.
- The declaration was a key outcome of the High-Level Rome Water Dialogue, held during the FAO's World Food Forum from October 14-18.

1.4 EMINENT PERSONS

- Tata Group's chairman emeritus and veteran industrialist Ratan Naval Tata passed away at the Breach Candy Hospital in Mumbai.
- RNT, as he was called in the Tata Group, was its chairman from 1990 to 2012, when he handed over the baton to Cyrus Mistry.
- Following Mr. Mistry's ouster in 2016, he again assumed the position of interim chairman. He handed over the reins to Mr. Chandrasekaran, who was appointed chairman of Tata Sons in February 2017.

1.5 AWARDS AND HONOUR

Medicine Nobel 2024: Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun get the call for discovery of microRNA

- Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun have been jointly awarded the Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine for 2024, the Nobel Academy at the Karolinska Institute announced on Monday.
- They were awarded the prestigious prize for the discovery of microRNA and its role in post-transcriptional gene regulation.
- "Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun were interested in how different cell types develop. They discovered microRNA, a new class of tiny RNA molecules that play a crucial role in gene regulation," the roundworm *Coenorhobditis elegans*.
- Ambros and Ruvkun found the first miRNA gene in *C. elegans* in 1993. It was called in-4. They confirmed its role by modifying the miRNA to result in different parts of the worm's developmental process to be thrown out of sync.
- The 2024 Nobel Prize for Chemistry was shared by David Baker "for computational protein design" along with Demis Hassabis and John Jumper "for protein structure prediction," the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences announced on Wednesday.
- Heiner Linke, chair of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry, said the award honoured research that connected the sequence of amino acids that make up a protein and the protein's structure.
- Mr. Baker led a team that in 2003 designed a new protein using bespoke software methods. They and others have since refined these methods to

be able to point the way to 'designer' proteins intended for specific applications.

- Mr. Hassabis and Mr. Jumper received the other half of the prize for their hand in developing an artificial intelligence model called AlphaFold 2 that could predict the structures of millions of proteins.

Nobel Prize in Economics Awarded to 3 Individuals from USA and UK

- The Nobel Prize in Economics has been announced for 3 individuals from the USA and UK.
- Daron Acemoglu and Simon Johnson from the USA, and James Robinson from the UK were announced as the recipients yesterday.
- The prize is shared among the three for their research on the impacts of political and social structures on society and why underdeveloped countries fail to achieve progress.

ISRO Chairman Somnath Receives World Space Award

- ISRO Chairman S. Somnath has been awarded the IAF World Space Award given by the International Astronautical Federation for this year.

▪ The IAF World Space Award ceremony and International Space Symposium were recently held in Milan, the capital of Italy.

- This award is given for the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the south pole of the Moon.
- The central government has announced that August 23, commemorating the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the Moon last year, will be celebrated as National Space Day.

The Harry Messel Award'

- Bibhab Kumar Talukdar received 'The Harry Messel Award' for his conservation leadership. This honor was bestowed by the Species Survival Commission (SSC) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- This event gathered over 300 conservation experts to address the pressing issues of biodiversity loss and climate change.

About The Award

- The Harry Messel Award recognizes individuals who demonstrate exceptional leadership in conservation.
- The award focuses on contributions that impact species conservation efforts. Talukdar's work has been pivotal in promoting effective conservation strategies.

1.6 SPORTS AND GAMES

India to Host Historic First-Ever Kho Kho World Cup in 2025

- India to Host Historic First-Ever Kho Kho World Cup in 2025
- Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI) in collaboration with the International Kho Kho Federation revealed plans to organize the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup in India come

2025. This historic event marks a significant milestone in the journey of this traditional Indian sport toward global recognition.

New Zealand Wins T20 Championship for the First Time

- In the ICC 9th Women's T20 World Cup Cricket tournament held in the UAE, New Zealand

- defeated South Africa by 32 runs on Sunday to win the cup for the first time.
- New Zealand, playing in the World Cup for the 9th time, became champions for the first time.
 - Sophie Devine's New Zealand clinched its maiden Women's T20 World Cup crown with a 32-run win over South Africa in the final at the Dubai Stadium on Sunday.
 - First international Esports Championship in India.
 - India is emerging as an important player in the Esports arena. On October 26, 2024, the Skillhub Online Games Federation (SOGF) and the International Esports Federation (IESF) announced a partnership to host the first international Esports championship in India.
 - This event, named the International Esports Masters, is scheduled for March 2025 and aims to attract participants from 150 countries.

Global Interest in Esports

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) plans to introduce an annual series of Esports events. Additionally, the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) included Esports in the 2023 Hangzhou Asian Games.

1.7 APPOINTMENTS

Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh takes over as air force chief

- Air Chief Marshal (ACM) A.P. Singh took over as the Chief of Air Staff on Monday as the incumbent Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari retired from service.
- ACM Singh was commissioned into the Fighter Stream of the IAF on December 21, 1984.
- HE served as the Air Officer Commanding in-Chief at Central Air Command before taking over as the Vice-Chief of the Air Staff in 2023. The ACM is a recipient of the Param Vishisht Seva Medal and Ari Vishisht Seva Medal.
- Justice Shameem Ahmad of Allahabad High Court takes charge as Chennai High Court Judge
- President Droupadi Murmu had ordered the transfer of Justice Shameem Ahmad, who was

serving as a judge in the Allahabad High Court, to the Chennai High Court. The Chief Justice of the High Court, K.R. Sriram, administered the oath of office.

- The number of judges currently serving in the Chennai High Court has now increased to 67. However, 8 judge positions still remain vacant.

I.G. Donny Michael appointed as Additional Director General of Indian Coast Guard

- I.G. Donny Michael, who was serving as the Eastern Regional Commander of the Indian Coast Guard headquartered in Chennai, has been promoted to the position of Additional Director General.
- He will serve as the Commander of the East-Northeast Zone Coast Guard, headquartered in Visakhapatnam. Through this, he will be the administrative officer overseeing the states

of Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal.

Appointment of SC, ST State Commission Chairman

- Retired Justice **S.Tamilvaanan** has been appointed as the Chairman of the Tamil Nadu State Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes
- He will serve as Chairman for a term of 3 years.

D.G. Paramesh Sivamani Takes Charge as Director General of Coast Guard

- D.G. Paramesh Sivamani took charge as the **26th Director General of the Indian Coast Guard on Tuesda.**
- Under his control are all major ships including coastal patrol vessels '**Samar**' and '**Vishwast**'.
- He was awarded the **Tatrakshak Medal in 2014** and the **President's Tatrakshak Medal in 2019** for distinguished service.

Vijaya Kishore Appointed as Chairperson of Women's Commission

- This appointment has been made under Section 3 of the National Commission for Women Act. Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar will hold the position for 3 years or until the age of 65, whichever comes first.
- Previously, Vijaya Rahatkar served as the chairperson of the Maharashtra State Women's

Commission and as the Mayor of Aurangabad.

- Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar has been appointed the ninth Chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW).
- The appointment made under Section 3 of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990, will be for a period of three years or until she reaches the age of 65, whichever comes first
- The NCW, a statutory body, is empowered to work towards the advancement of women's rights. Its mandate includes reviewing the constitutional and legal safeguards provided for women.

Defence Secretary

- Rajesh Kumar Singh has recently taken on the role of Defence Secretary in the South Block, New Delhi.
- Before officially stepping into this role, he served as the Defence Secretary-designate since August 20, 2024.
- Rajesh Kumar Singh is an experienced civil servant. He joined the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) in 1989 from the Kerala cadre.
- Just before this appointment, he was Secretary of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, a position he held from April 2023 to August 2024.

2. POLITICAL SCIENCE

2.1 INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

16th BRICS Summit

- PM welcomed the recent agreement with China for "complete disengagement and resolution" of 2020 border issues, marking their first bilateral meeting since 2020.
- In January, 2024, the alliance added four new members – Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the UAE.
- Saudi Arabia is yet to formalise its BRICS membership, however its foreign minister attended the summit.

Key Highlights of the Summit

- New Members Participation:
- The summit showcased the participation of new member countries, underscoring the increasing influence and diversity within the BRICS+ alliance.

Focus on Multilateralism

- Leaders engaged in discussions about strengthening multilateralism, countering terrorism, fostering economic growth, pursuing sustainable development, and addressing the concerns of the Global South.

2.2 GOVT – WELFARE ORIENTED GOVT SCHEMES, THEIR UTILITY

Vatsalya Scheme

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the NPS Vatsalya Scheme as part of the National Pension System (NPS).
- It aims to help parents and guardians make long-term financial plans for their children, even while they are still minors.
- This allows them to start saving early for their child's future, particularly for retirement.

Overview of NPS Vatsalya

- Any Indian citizen, including Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), can open an NPS Vatsalya

account. The account is opened by a legal guardian on behalf of a minor (child under 18 years).

- When the child turns 18, the account can be converted into a regular NPS account.

Key Features of NPS Vatsalya

- Start Saving Early: Parents can start saving for their child's future from the time they are infants.
- Minimum Contribution: The minimum amount to invest is ₹1,000 per year, with no upper limit on how much can be contributed.

2.3 PUBLIC AWARENESS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

National Awareness Campaigns:

- Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) – Extension of Solid Waste Management (SWM): The Government of India launched an extended phase of Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin (SBM-G), with a focus on solid waste management in rural areas.
- This campaign aims to raise awareness on waste segregation, composting, and recycling in villages.
- Several states have organized workshops and training programs for rural communities to promote sustainable practices.
- National Consumer Awareness Campaign: The Ministry of Consumer Affairs conducted a nationwide campaign aimed at educating consumers about their rights under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.
- The campaign includes awareness drives about consumer disputes, grievance redressal mechanisms, and the use of the National Consumer Helpline.

- Several new initiatives under the Digital India program were rolled out in October, with a focus on providing seamless online services to citizens, reducing paperwork, and making the process of accessing government benefits more transparent.
- **Public Grievance Redressal Mechanisms:** The Central Government launched a new grievance redressal portal in October to streamline citizen complaints related to administrative inefficiencies or corruption.
- This platform aims to speed up resolution of public grievances and provide real-time tracking of issues raised by the public.

India's G20 Presidency

- India's G20 Presidency – Climate Action and Public Awareness: In the lead-up to India's G20 presidency in 2024, public awareness programs were launched focusing on climate action, the importance of sustainable development, and India's commitment to reducing carbon emissions.
- These included campaigns on climate change awareness, renewable energy, and the importance of sustainable consumption practices

E-Governance & Administrative Reforms:

- Digitization of Government Services: The Indian government continues to push for digitization of administrative processes.



3. GEOGRAPHY

3.1 POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

Withdraw notification declaring parts of Western Ghats as eco-sensitive: Karnataka

- The Karnataka government has asked the **Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)** to withdraw the sixth draft notification issued by it for declaration of Eco-Sensitive Area (ESAS) of the Western Ghats. The ministry portfolio is currently held by **Bhupender Yadav**, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- Classifying parts of the Western Ghats in six States as ESAS. Following this, MoEF&CC has called for objections or suggestions within a period of 60 days.
- Entomologists from the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) have found a new species of potter wasp in Arunachal Pradesh, in the Eastern Himalayas. The wasp is named *Pseumenes siangensis*, after the Siang Valley where it was discovered.
- There has been a 73% decline in the average size of monitored wildlife populations from 1970-2020, according to the **World Wide Fund (WWF)** for Nature's Living Planet Report 2024, a biennial compilation of the threats faced to wildlife. In the 2022 edition of the report, the

measured decline was 69%.

- The report, released on Wednesday, said that significant "collective effort" will be required over the next five years to tackle the dual climate and nature crises. The Living Planet Index (LPI), provided by Zoological Society of London, included almost 35,000 population trends of 5,495 species from 1970-2020. The sharpest decline is reported in freshwater ecosystems at 85%, followed by terrestrial ecosystems at 69% and marine ecosystems at 56%.

Dolphin Population Survey

- For the first time in the world, India has conducted a population survey of dolphins in the **Indus, Ganges, and Brahmaputra** rivers.
- The Dolphin Project was introduced by the central government in 2020 to protect dolphins in freshwater rivers and coastal waters.
- India has conducted the world's first river dolphin population count. The details of this survey, conducted over **two years across 8,000 km** of the Indus, Ganges, and Brahmaputra rivers, will be released soon.
- These famous Ganges river dolphins, found from India to Bangladesh and Bhutan, are seen in the **Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna** rivers and their tributaries.

Arachnologists has discovered a new genus of jumping spiders

- A team of arachnologists has discovered a new genus of jumping spiders, 'Tenkana', found across southern India, encompassing two previously known species. It also introduced a new species, Tenkana jayamangali, from Karnataka.
- The name Tenkana comes from the Kannada word for south, reflecting that all the known species are from southern India and northern Sri Lanka.
- This new group belongs to the Plexippina subtribe of jumping spiders and is different from related groups such as Hyllus and Telamonia.
- The research team included scientists from various institutions in India and Canada, and their findings were published in the journal Zookeys.
- They used both genetic studies and physical examinations to support their work.





4. ECONOMICS

4.1 REPORTS AND INDICES

U.S. has retained its position as India's top trading partner

- The U.S. has retained its position as India's top trading partner in the **January-July 2024** period with bilateral goods trade surpassing **\$190 billion and Indian exports growing 9.3% to \$48.2 billion.**
- Top export items from India to the U.S. in this period included garments and textiles, pharmaceuticals, precious and semi-precious stones, smart phones and mineral fuels.
- On the other hand, India's imports from the U.S. fell from **\$25.9 billion to \$24.6 billion, a 5% decline** in the first seven months of 2024

India to grow at 7% in the current fiscal - IMF

- The multilateral lender expected India to grow at 7% in the current fiscal year ending March 31, 2025 and 6.5% in the next fiscal year (FY2025-26). World output was expected to grow at 3.2% in 2024 as well as 2025.
- The drop in India's growth from 8.2% in 2023
- The U.S. is projected to grow at 2.8% this year and 2.2% next year, Inflation, which had touched 9.4% in the third quarter of 2022, is expected to be 3.5% by the end of 2025.

4.2 LATEST COURT VERDICTS

Section 6A of Indian Citizenship Act Upheld

- The Supreme Court's Constitutional Bench has ruled that Section 6A of the Indian Citizenship Act, which grants citizenship to Bangladeshi refugees who settled in Assam, is valid.
- The "Assam Accord" was signed between the leaders of Assam student organizations. According to this, citizenship was granted to

Bangladeshis who settled in Assam between January 1, 1966, and March 25, 1971. Section 6A was added to the Indian Citizenship Act for this purpose.

- In 2014, a two-judge bench began hearing the case. In 2017, the case was transferred to the Constitutional Bench.
- The Assam refugee issue has been resolved politically, and Section 6A has been added.



5. SCIENCE

5.1 LATEST DISCOVERIES IN HEALTH SCIENCE

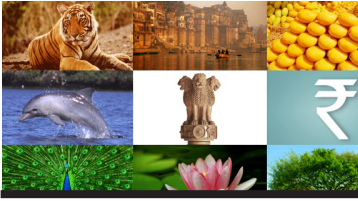
Survey Discovers New Reptile and Amphibian Species

- A survey of reptiles and amphibians, known as herpetofauna, was conducted in the **Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR)**, specifically in the Masinagudi Division, from **September 7th to 9th, 2024**. This survey discovered a large variety of species, with a total of **33 reptiles and 36 amphibians** identified.

800-year-old Maravarman Sundara Pandiyan inscription discovered at Renabali Murugan Temple near Devipattinam

- The **Ramanathapuram Archaeological Research Institute** has discovered an 800-year-old Pandya period inscription at the Renabali Murugan Temple near Devipattinam

- The Renabali Murugan Temple in Peruvayil, near Devipattinam in Ramanathapuram district, was built by Vairavan Servaikkumar, the minister of King Kattayadhevar Kumaramuthu Vijayaraghunatha Sethupathi (1728-1735 AD). After him, there is an inscription in this temple stating that Kumaramuthu Sethupathi donated the village of Peruvayil Kalaiyalur to the temple in 1736 AD.
- The Perumanalur minister Raman Pallava Rayan mentioned in the inscription was a government official during the time of Maravarman Sundara Pandiyan I. His name is mentioned in the inscriptions of Narikudi, Tiruthangal, and Eenjar temples in Virudhunagar district.



6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENT

Centre to digitise more municipal services

- The **National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM)**, which aims to digitise municipal services across the country, would have new modules such as online booking of community centres and registration of properties.
- The NUDM, launched in 2021 aimed to institutionalise a citizen-centric and ecosystem-driven approach to urban governance and service delivery across all cities and towns in India by 2024. The Union Budget for 2024-25 allocated 1,450 crore for the programme.

India's industrial sector is growing at a fast pace

- The report was released by the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for the financial year 2022-23**. Gross Value Added (GVA) grew by 7.3% in current prices in 2022-23 over 2021- 22.
- "Increase in input was 24.4%, while output grew by 21.5% in the sector in 2022-23 over 2021-22, the main drivers of this growth in 2022-23 were in industries like manufacture of basic metal, coke and refined petroleum products, food products, chemical and chemical products, and motor vehicles.
- "These industries, taken together, contributed about 58% of the total out- put of the sector and showed output growth of 24.5% and GVA growth of 2.6% in comparison to this sector in

2022-23 has exceeded the pre-pandem- ic level by more than 22.14 lakh.

- Among the major States, in terms of GVA, Maharashtra ranked first in 2022-23, followed by Guja- rat, Tamil Nadu, Karnata ka, and Uttar Pradesh. "The top five States taken together contributed more than 54% of the total ma- nufacturing GVA of the country.
- The top five States em ploying highest number of persons in this sector were Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka in ASI 2022-23. These States contributed about 55% of total manu- facturing employment," the report added.

92% of workers cleaning urban sewers, septic tanks from SC, ST, OBC groups

- In a first-of-its-kind attempt to enumerate people engaged in the hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks in India's cities and towns, government data gathered from over 3,000 urban local bodies in 29 States and Union Territories shows that 91.9% of the 38,000 workers profiled so far belong to Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), or other backward class (OBC) communities.
- Of the profiled workers, 68.9% were SC, 14.7% were OBC, 8.3% were ST, and 8% were from the general category.
- Between 2019 and 2023, at least 377 people across the country have died from hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks, according to government data tabled in Parliament.

- The profiling of sewer and septic tank workers (SSWs) is being carried out by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment as part of its NAMASTE programme, a scheme to mechanise all sewer work and prevent deaths due to hazardous cleaning work. **Aims to eliminate manual cleaning of sewers and septic tanks, focusing on the safety and dignity of sanitation workers.** In 2023-24, this scheme was brought in to replace the **Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS)**.
- According to Working Paper titled 'Price Dynamics and Value Chain of Fruits in India,' farmers' share in the consumer rupee is estimated at about 31% for bananas, 35% for grapes and 43% for mangoes in local value chain.

Pulses inflation

- The paper 'Pulses Inflation in India' finds about 75% of the consumer rupee spent on gram (chana) came back to farmers while the share was about 70% for moong and 65% for tur.

- The paper on 'Vegetables Inflation in India' puts farmers' share in consumer rupee at about 33% for tomatoes, 36% for onions and 37% for potatoes.

The central government has consolidated all central-funded schemes under the Ministry of Agriculture into two new projects:

- Prime Minister's National Agricultural Development Scheme (PMKSY)
- Krishonnati Yojana for food security self-sufficiency
- The Union Cabinet has approved these projects with a total budget of Rs. 1,01,121.61 crore.
- States will have the authority to use the funds according to their needs.

Govt. opens portal for internships to bridge skill set gap

- The Union government opened up a portal for India's top 500 companies to participate in the one-year internship scheme announced in this year's Union Budget to bridge the gap between the skill sets of unemployable youth and those needed by employers.
- As many as 111 corporates – including the Mahindra and Mahindra group, Max Life Insurance, and Alembic Pharma – had already signed up within hours of the portal's launch, offering 1,077 internships
- The portal, pminternship.mca.gov.in, is likely to be opened up for youngsters in the age group of 21 to 24 years to enroll for consideration by companies on Vijaya Dasami, October 12. This window will be open till October 25 for the first batch of internships

Livestock and Poultry Inflation in India

- As per the working paper 'Livestock and Poultry Inflation in India,' the farmers' share in the consumer rupee is estimated at 70% for milk and 75% for eggs; for poultry meat,

5 languages including Marathi and

Bengali given 'Classical Language' status

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Modi, approved granting 'Classical Language'

status to Bengali, Marathi, Prakrit, Assamese, and Pali.

▪ **Previously recognized Classical Languages:**

- Tamil (2004)
- Sanskrit (2005)
- Telugu (2008)
- Kannada (2008)
- Malayalam (2013)
- Odia (2014)

Rs.16,800 crore investment food corridor between India and UAE

- A food corridor is to be set up between India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with an investment of 2 billion dollars (about Rs.16,800 crore)
- The 12th meeting of the India-UAE High-Level Task Force was held
- The UAE wants to use Indian farmers' produce to make high-quality products and sell them in the United Arab Emirates.
- This will provide higher income for farmers and employment opportunities for lakhs of youth. It will also ensure food security for the United Arab Emirates.
- The United Arab Emirates has stated that it will invest 2 billion dollars in the first phase in the food park infrastructure and food processing sector necessary to transport food products to the United Arab Emirates, he said.

Increase in Minimum Support Price for Wheat

- The central government has increased the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for wheat by ₹150 per quintal, setting the new procurement price at ₹2,425 per quintal.

▪ Similarly, the MSP for 6 types of crops cultivated during the "Rabi" season has been increased by ₹to ₹300 per quintal.

▪ The MSP for mustard has been increased by ₹300, setting it at ₹5,950 per quintal.

▪ The Union Cabinet has approved an allocation of ₹35,000 crore for the PM-AASHA scheme, a price support program for farmers.

National Water Awards for 2023

▪ Union Minister for Water Resources C.R. Patil announced the National Water Awards for 2023 on Monday. Tamil Nadu has received awards in three categories.

▪ The National Water Awards have been presented by the Union Ministry of Water Resources since 2018.

▪ In the Best State category, Odisha secured first place, Uttar Pradesh second, while Gujarat and Puducherry jointly secured third place.

Tamil Nadu's 3 awards in different categories

▪ In the Best Industrial Establishments category, Apollo Tyres Limited in Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu, won the 2nd place award.

▪ In the Best Water Users Association category, Perambur Big Tank Water Users Association from Pudukkottai, Tamil Nadu, won the 3rd place award.

▪ In the Best Educational Institutions (Non-College/School) category, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in Coimbatore won the 1st place award, and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Chennai won the 3rd place award.

3 AI Centers to be Established at a Cost of Rs. 990 Crore to Improve Healthcare, Urban Infrastructure, and Agriculture

- Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan has announced that the central government has approved the establishment of 3 specialized AI centers in Delhi, focusing on healthcare, agriculture, and sustainable urban development without environmental impact, at a cost of Rs. 990 crore.
- This initiative is aimed at making India a strong nation in AI research and discoveries at the international level. It has been stated that these special centers will become operational in the coming years.

Indian Biodynamic Agriculture Conference to Begin Tomorrow in Bangalore

- The Biodynamic Association of India (BDAI) has organized an Indian-level Biodynamic Agriculture Conference on October 22nd and 23rd.
- In this conference, under the theme "Designing the Future of Biodynamic Agriculture in India," many international and Indian researchers, biodynamic farmers, thinkers, and entrepreneurs will participate and share their experiences.

India to seek certification from WHO for eliminating Kala-azar

- The infection, reported mostly from Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and parts of U.P., is caused by a protozoan parasite transmitted by the bite of an infected female sandfly; symptoms include irregular fever, weight loss, and anaemia fever, weight loss, and anaemia
- India could be at the threshold of eliminating Kala-azar as a public health problem with the country having managed to keep the number of cases under one in 10,000 people for two consecutive years now as required by World

Health Organization (WHO) parameters for elimination certification.

- Kala-azar, also known as visceral leishmaniasis, is the second deadliest parasitic disease after malaria in India. Figures released by the Health Ministry show that India registered 595 cases and four deaths in 2023 and this year, it has recorded 339 cases and one death so far.
- Bangladesh which in October became the only country to have eliminated Kala-azar as a public health problem.
- Kala-azar is a disease caused by a protozoa parasite that is transmitted by the bite of an infected female sandfly
- India's National Health Policy (2002) initially set a target of eliminating Kala-azar by 2010, but this was later revised to 2015, 2017, and then 2020. The WHO's Neglected Tropical Disease road map set a goal of eliminating Kala-azar by 2020, but the target was not achieved.
- The WHO is now accelerating work to achieve the target by 2030.

'Scam se Bacho'

- Meta, in partnership with the Indian government, launched a safety campaign called 'Scam se Bacho'. This campaign will run for two months and is designed to help people in India learn how to avoid online scams. The initiative comes in response to the growing number of cyber fraud cases in the country.
- The 'Scam se Bacho' campaign is a collaborative effort involving several key government ministries:
 - Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
 - Ministry of Home Affairs
 - Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

It also works with the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre.

like Balmikis and Dhanaks, and OSC, which includes castes such as Chamars and Jatavs

Butterfly diversity

- Kaziranga National Park, famous for its one-horned rhinoceros, has recently been recognized as India's second-largest hub for butterfly diversity, with an impressive 446 butterfly species. This ranking comes just behind Namdapha National Park in Arunachal Pradesh.

'eShram-One Stop Solution'

- The Government of India launched the 'eShram-One Stop Solution'. This initiative aims to improve access to government schemes for unorganized workers.
- The eShram-One Stop Solution is designed as a comprehensive platform. It serves unorganised workers by providing them with information about various government schemes. This initiative simplifies the process of accessing social security and welfare programmes.

Sub-quotas for the Dalit community

- In a landmark move, Haryana has become the first state to implement sub-quotas for the Dalit community by subclassifying the Scheduled Castes (SCs). The decision follows the Supreme Court's August 2023 ruling, granting states the power to divide SCs and STs for preferential reservations. Haryana's move, backed by a state commission's recommendations, is aimed at addressing the underrepresentation of the "Deprived Scheduled Castes" (DSC), who are more marginalized in employment sectors compared to "Other Scheduled Castes" (OSC). The state has divided the SC community into two groups: DSC, which includes 36 castes

UPI Transactions Launched in Maldives

- Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu has launched the UPI (Unified Payments Interface) infrastructure, developed by India, with assistance from the Indian government.
- UPI, which was introduced in 2016, has brought about significant changes in the country's payment transaction system.
- So far, the government has enabled UPI transactions in countries including the United Arab Emirates, Singapore, Malaysia, Nepal, and Bhutan.
- 40 percent of all monetary transactions in India are conducted digitally.

Namo Bharat Diwass

- The first anniversary of Nammo Bharat train operations was celebrated as Nammo Bharat Diwas in New Delhi, marking a significant milestone in India's transportation history. The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) organized the event,
- India ranks third in the world's longest metro networks and aims to surpass the U.S. in the coming years.
- The Nammo Bharat trains, representing India's first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS), began operations with the initial 17-kilometer section inaugurated on October 20, 2023

SC seeks reply on non-believer's plea

- The Supreme Court asked the Centre to respond to a plea by a Kerala-based woman, born a Muslim but now a non-believer, to be governed by the secular statute of Indian

Succession Act of 1925 rather than the sharia law.

- the fundamental right to religion under Article 25 of the Constitution includes both the right to believe and not to believe.
- The Chief Justice remarked that the 1925 specifically did not include Muslims within its ambit.
- Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Union government, said the prayer in the petition came within the legislative domain as it could be realised only with an amendment in the 1925 Act.
- “Persons who do not want to be governed by the Muslim Personal Law must be allowed to be governed by the secular law of the country,

PM-YASASVI

- The PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India (PM-YASASVI) was launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- This scheme aims to uplift students from Other Backward Classes (OBC), Economically Backward Classes (EBC), and Denotified Tribes (DNT). It provides access to quality education, addresses financial barriers, and supports academic growth.

Background of the Scheme

- PM-YASASVI consolidates previous scholarship initiatives. It includes the Dr. Ambedkar Post-Matric Scholarship for EBCs and the Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship for DNTs. These initiatives were merged into PM-YASASVI in 2021-22 to streamline support for disadvantaged students.

India Launches First Biomanufacturing Institute for Agri-Food Innovation

- Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the BRIC-National Agri-Food Bio-Manufacturing Institute in India. This is the country's first biomanufacturing institute, aimed at revolutionizing the agri-food sector through advanced biotechnology.
- The initiative aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a Viksit Bharat, or developed India.

Rule of Law Index

- India ranks 79 out of 142 countries in the 2024 Rule of Law Index published by the World Justice Project.

Governance Indicators

- It ranks 60th in constraints on government powers and 44th in open government.
- These scores indicate some progress in governance frameworks. However, they also highlight lapses and a lack of coordination in efforts to improve governance.

Fundamental Rights

- It ranks 102nd out of 142 countries. This poor performance suggests ongoing issues with the enforcement and respect for citizens' rights.
- In terms of order and security ranks 98th.
- This low ranking points to challenges in maintaining public safety and effective law enforcement.

Civil Registration System (CRS) mobile application.

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the Civil Registration System (CRS) mobile application. This initiative aims to integrate technology with governance.

- The app facilitates the registration of births and deaths, making the process seamless and hassle-free.
- Citizens can register at any time and from any location, using their State's official language.
- The launch of the application aligns with The Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, of 2023. This law mandates that all births and deaths occurring from October 1, 2023, must be digitally registered. The registrations will be processed through the central portal, dc.crsorgi.gov.in.

National Large Solar Telescope (NLST)

- Solar storms can disrupt satellites and technology. India is addressing this gap by establishing the National Large Solar Telescope (NLST) in Ladakh.
- This project, led by Professor Annapurni Subramaniam, aims to enhance our understanding of solar activity.

Project Overview

- The NLST will be a two-metre class optical and near-infrared observational facility. It will investigate solar magnetic fields and their dynamics. The telescope will achieve a spatial resolution of 0.1-0.3 arc-seconds. This precision is vital for studying the Sun's behaviour.

'Nam0 Drone Didi' scheme

- The Indian Government has launched the 'Nam0 Drone Didi' scheme. This initiative aims to empower Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) by providing drones. The scheme is part of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM). It has an allocation of ₹1261 crores and will run from 2024 to 2026.

Objectives of the Scheme

- The primary objective is to enhance agricultural efficiency. Drones will be used for spraying liquid fertilizers and pesticides. This technology aims to improve crop yield and reduce operational costs for farmers.

Target Beneficiaries

- The scheme targets 14,500 selected Women SHGs across India. These groups will receive drones and training to operate them effectively. The focus is on empowering women and providing them with new income opportunities

Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park

- Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park, located in the Bankhandi area of Kangra's Dehra assembly constituency, will be the first zoo in India to receive certification from the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC).
- This certification will recognize the zoo's commitment to sustainable and eco-friendly infrastructure, setting a precedent for conservation efforts in the country.

Pradhan Mantri Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana (PMVKY)

- The Pradhan Mantri Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana (PMVKY), launched on October 28, 2014, is an initiative targeting the upliftment and inclusion of India's tribal communities, who represent 8.9% of the population.
- Addressing their unique socio-economic challenges, this scheme emphasizes sustainable development with a budget allocation of ₹26,135.46 crore from 2021-2026.

- The program is aligned with the government’s vision of “Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas” and focuses on empowering tribes across the nation with essential services, financial assistance, and preservation of cultural heritage.
- Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM) – Merges existing programs to foster tribal entrepreneurship, particularly through the support of Minor Forest Produce (MFP).
- Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes (DAPST) – A multi-departmental initiative, committing ₹1.23 lakh crore this fiscal year to address tribal needs in education, health, and employment.

Additional Initiatives

- Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) – Aims to establish 728 schools by 2026 for tribal students from grades VI to XII.





7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

India and the United States

- In October 2024, India and the United States deepened their strategic defense and economic ties. High-level visits between Indian and U.S. officials discussed defense cooperation, trade agreements, and joint efforts on counter-terrorism.
- Notably, the Defense Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) was given a new push, with both countries exploring collaboration on cutting-edge defense technologies, including AI and unmanned systems.

India and the European Union

- India and the European Union continued to negotiate a free trade agreement (FTA) in October 2024. This agreement is expected to open up new avenues for trade in goods and services, especially in the technology and agricultural sectors. India has expressed optimism that the FTA will lead to enhanced market access for its goods and increase investment flows from Europe.
- Additionally, climate change cooperation remains a priority in the relationship, with India and the EU committing to joint initiatives on green technology, renewable energy,

and carbon reduction strategies. The EU's Green Deal and India's ambition to transition to cleaner energy sources have created opportunities for bilateral collaboration.

India-ASEAN Relations: Regional Connectivity and Economic Ties

- ASEAN Economic and Security Cooperation India's engagement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) saw significant progress in October 2024, especially in areas of economic cooperation, connectivity, and security. India continues to focus on enhancing trade relations, particularly in the IT and manufacturing sectors, and has increased its role in promoting regional stability through the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).
- Discussions with ASEAN countries focused on enhancing digital connectivity, strengthening trade partnerships, and boosting people-to-people exchanges. India is also working to improve its defense cooperation with ASEAN countries, including joint training programs and defense equipment sales, in the face of growing security concerns in the South China Sea.



8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

'Kalai Chemmal' Award for 6 people in Painting and Sculpture announced by Tamil Nadu Government

- The Tamil Nadu government annually presents the 'Kalai Chemmal' Award through the Fine Arts Committee of the Department of Art and Culture to recognize the achievements and services of traditional and modern art experts in the fine arts field. Six people are awarded each year, with a prize of Rs. 1 lakh each.
- This year, the Kalai Chemmal Award is being given to:
 - **Traditional Painting category:** A. Manivelu
 - **Traditional Sculpture category:** Le. Balachander, Ko. Kanniyappan
 - **Modern Painting category:** K. Muralidharan, A. Selvaraj
 - **Modern Sculpture category:** Ra. Raghavan

TN Alert' app to provide weather warnings to the public

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced the 'TN Alert' app for weather warnings during a review meeting on the northeast monsoon on September 30th at the Secretariat.
- The app was officially launched for public use by Revenue Minister Sathur Ramachandran at an event held at Ezhilagam.
- Features of the app include:
 - Weather and warning messages in Tamil based on location
 - 4-day weather forecast

- Daily rainfall data by rain gauge
- Current water level in reservoirs
- Information on whether your location is in a flood-prone area

Tamil Nadu is the best state in industrial development

- According to a study by the Central Government's Department of Statistics, Tamil Nadu is the leading state in industrial development in India, with 46 new factories opened and 1.39 lakh jobs created since 2021.
- The state conducted investor conferences in Chennai, Coimbatore, and Thoothukudi under the name "Tamil Nadu: The First Address for Investors," attracting Rs. 1.90 lakh crore in investments and creating 2.10 lakh jobs.
- On August 21, Chief Minister Stalin inaugurated 19 factories with an investment of Rs. 17,616 crore.
- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation's 2023-24 survey reports a 7.5% increase in manufacturing employment in Tamil Nadu, placing the state first in the country for the number of factories and job opportunities.

National Thirukkural Workshop begins at Central Institute of Classical Tamil

- A 7-day national workshop on "Thirukkural Translations in Indian Languages" began at the Central Institute of Classical Tamil in Perumbakkam, Chennai.

- The institute has translated Thirukkural into 25 Indian languages under its translation project, with more translations in progress.
- 28 scholars from various languages, including Avadhi, Bhojpuri, Bengali, Braj, Chhattisgarhi, Gujarati, Hindi, Kashmiri, Magadhi, Maithili, Mewari, Nepali, Odia, Rajasthani, Sanskrit, Santhali, and Sindhi, are participating in the workshop.
- Chief Minister M.K.Stalin presented the '**Kalaingar Memorial Arts Expertise Award**' to veteran playback singer P.Susheela and poet Mu. Metha.
- Renowned playback singer P.Susheela, who has sung over **20,000 songs in multiple languages in the film industry** and is hailed as the Nightingale of South India, and poet Mu. Metha, who has received the Sahitya Akademi Award, were presented with the '**Kalaingar Memorial Arts Expertise Award**' for the year 2023.

Chief Minister's Cup State Sports Competitions: Starting today

- Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin will inaugurate the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Cup State Sports Competitions in Chennai on Friday.
- 33,000 participants who won at district and zonal levels will compete in the state-level competitions.
- The competitions will be held from October 4th to 24th in Chennai, Coimbatore, Trichy, and Madurai.
- 36 types of sports events will be conducted.
- Prize money:
 - **Individual category:**
 - First prize: Rs. 1 lakh
 - Second prize: Rs. 75,000
 - Third prize: Rs. 50,000
 - Fourth prize: Rs. 50,000 (newly introduced)
 - **Team category:**
 - First prize: Rs. 75,000 per person
 - Second prize: Rs. 50,000 per person
 - Third prize: Rs. 25,000 per person
- **4 new schemes to bring maternal and child mortality to zero in Tamil Nadu**
 - Tests will be conducted in 1,000 government hospitals to detect birth defects in all children born in Tamil Nadu.
 - Special centers have been opened in 400 locations to monitor the growth and well-being of infants.
 - A 'Parent App' for early childhood development has been launched.
 - According to the Health Management Information System, the infant mortality rate in Tamil Nadu, which was 10.2 per 1,000 births, has been reduced to 8 in the last 3 years by implementing various child welfare schemes.
 - Maternal mortality in Tamil Nadu is 40.2 per 100,000 births.
 - These four new schemes have been introduced to bring both these mortality rates to zero.

Singer P. Susheela, Poet Mu. Metha awarded the Kalaingar Memorial Arts Expertise Award

'Magizh Mutram' student groups in government schools

- Education Department decides to implement at a cost of Rs.2 crore
- To develop leadership qualities among students studying in all types of schools in

Tamil Nadu, student groups named Kurinji, Mullai, Marutham, Neithal, and Palai will be formed.

- Model legislative assembly and parliament will be conducted to enhance students' political knowledge, experiences, and personality development.

5 groups

- It has been decided to implement the student group formation in government schools under the name "Magizh Mutram".
- The aim of this organization is to work together as a group, social mindset, and mutual support without differences.
- Under the Magizh Mutram student group structure, all students in the school will be divided. This group structure will include all students from 1st to Plus 2 classes.

UN award for 'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam' scheme

- Chennai, Oct. 7. The UN organization has announced an award for the 'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam' scheme being implemented in Tamil Nadu
- The Tamil Nadu Health Department has been awarded the United Nations Interagency Task Force Award for formulating and implementing primary and excellent schemes to control non-communicable diseases.
- This award was announced for implementing the Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam scheme at the 79th United Nations General Assembly held in New York, America on the 25th of last month.

Two Copper Plates from the 16th Century Discovered at Mappedu Sri Singeeswarar Temple

- This temple, which is about 500 years old, is under the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department.
- Two copper plates connected by a ring bearing the seal of the Vijayanagara Empire were discovered.
- As the information on the copper plates was written in Sanskrit language using Nandinagari script. These copper plates belong to the period of King Krishna Deva Raya of the Vijayanagara Empire in 1513 AD.

16th Century Copper plates discovered

- A set of copper-plate inscriptions dating back to the 16th Century CE have been discovered at the Sri Singeeswarar temple at Mappedu village in Tiruvallur district recently. The two leaves of the copper plates were strung together using a ring that had the seal of the Vijayanagara Kingdom.
- the inscription was written in Sanskrit and Nandinagari script. It was engraved in 1513 during the reign of King Krishnadevaraya.

Supreme Court Constitutional Bench Verdict on Article 6A of Indian Citizenship Act

- Constitution bench of the Supreme Court ruled that Article 6A of Indian Citizenship Act, which grants citizenship to Bangladeshi refugees settled in Assam, will go.
- "Assam Pact" was signed between the leaders of Assam student organizations. According to this, the Bangladeshis who settled in Assam between January 1, 1966 and March 25, 1971

were granted citizenship. Section 6A was added to the Indian Citizenship Act for this purpose.

- A two-judge bench started hearing the case in 2014. In 2017, the case was transferred to the Constitutional Court.
- Political settlement of Assam refugee issue has been reached and Section A has been added.

Tamil Nadu ranks second IN Gross State Domestic Product

- In terms of **Gross State Domestic Product for 2022-23**, Tamil Nadu ranks second after Maharashtra.

- According to estimates from **Tamil Nadu government's Department of Economics and Statistics**, the state's per capita income has been higher than the national per capita income for the past two years.
- At constant prices, Tamil Nadu ranks third after **Maharashtra and Gujarat**.
- Notably, Tamil Nadu's per capita income at constant prices in both 2022-23 and 2023-24 is 1.68 times higher than the national per capita income

