

# VETRI IAS STUDY CIRCLE

## Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

**JANUARY 2025**



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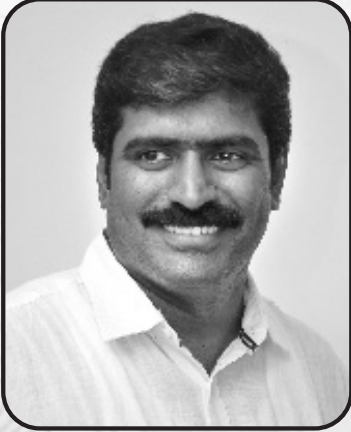
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# Preface



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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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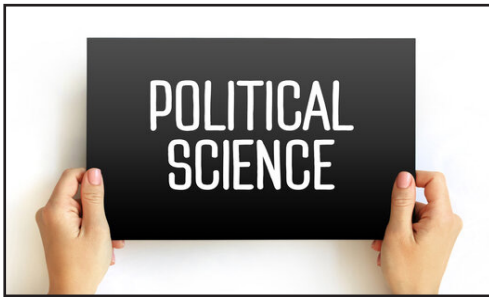
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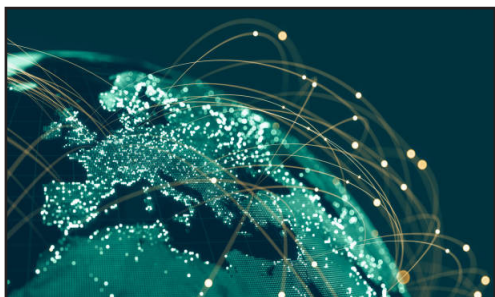


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# 1. HISTORY



## 1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

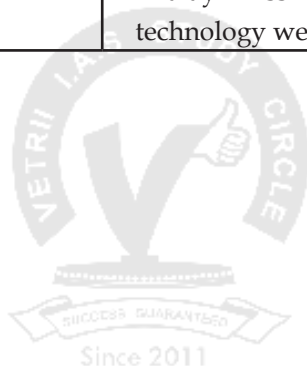
Date	Day	Theme / Remark
<b>January 8</b>	<b>Earth's Rotation Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ January 8 is recognized as Earth Rotation Day every year.</li><li>▪ Today marks the anniversary of French physicist Leon Foucault's 1851 proof that the Earth revolves on its axis.</li><li>▪ It occurs as our planet revolves around the sun on a vertical axis.</li><li>▪ <b>Theme:</b> Honoring the Discovery of Our Planet's Movement</li></ul>
<b>January 9</b>	<b>Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention is being held in Bhubaneswar celebrating the significant contributions of Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and the global Indian diaspora to India's development.</li><li>▪ This year's theme, '<b>Diaspora's Contribution to a Viksit Bharat,</b>'</li><li>▪ PBD is celebrated every two years to strengthen the connection between the overseas Indian community and the Government of India while providing a platform for cultural reconnection and collaboration.</li><li>▪ The event commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India on January 9, 1915.</li><li>▪ The first PBD Convention was held in 2003, and since 2015, the Ministry of External Affairs</li></ul>

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
<b>January 15</b>	<b>150 years of the India Meteorological Department (IMD)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The government has invited officials from all countries, including Pakistan, that were once part of undivided India to mark <b>150 years of the India Meteorological Department (IMD)</b>.</li> <li>▪ Officials from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Nepal have been invited to join the celebrations. Representatives from the Middle East and Southwest Asia are also on the guest list.</li> <li>▪ To make the celebrations memorable, the Ministry of Finance has approved a special Rs.150 commemorative coin</li> <li>▪ Founded in January 15, 1875 during the British era, Its creation came after a cyclone devastated Calcutta in 1864 and back-to-back monsoon failures in 1866 and 1871.</li> </ul>
<b>January 15</b>	<b>India Meteorological Department's 150th Foundation Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The India Meteorological Department celebrated its 150th anniversary on January 14. Prime Minister launched "Mission Mausam," aimed at preparing the country for weather changes and climate adaptation.</li> <li>▪ The IMD's Vision 2047 document was also released. Established in 1875 after storm disasters and monsoon failures, IMD has now become one of the world's leading weather forecasting centers.</li> <li>▪ As of 2023, it operates with 39 Doppler weather radars, INSAT satellites, 806 automatic weather stations, 200 agro-meteorological stations, and 5,896 rain monitoring stations.</li> </ul>
<b>January 15</b>	<b>National youth Day 2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ January 12 is the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, a famous Hindu spiritual leader and intellectual, celebrated as Vivekananda Jayanti or National Youth Day.</li> <li>▪ In 1984, the Indian government declared his birthday as National Youth Day in his honor.</li> </ul> <p><b>Theme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It promotes fearlessness, strength, unity, religious harmony, spiritual growth, and service to humanity among the youth.</li> </ul>



Date	Day	Theme / Remark
		<p><b>About of Swami Vivekananda;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Born as Narendra Nath Datta in Kolkata on January 12, 1863, he developed an interest in Western philosophy, history, and theology.</li> <li>▪ He later met the spiritual leader Ramakrishna Paramhansa, who became his Guru.</li> <li>▪ Vivekananda remained devoted to him until Ramakrishna's death in 1886.</li> </ul>
<b>January 24</b>	<b>International Day of Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The <b>International Day of Education</b> on <b>January 24</b> recognizes the vital role of education in fostering peace and sustainable development.</li> <li>▪ This year marks the seventh celebration of the International Day of Education with the theme: 'AI and Education: Preserving Human Agency in a World of Automation.'</li> <li>▪ Initiated by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), the day showcases the global commitment to achieving inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all.</li> </ul>
<b>January 24</b>	<b>National Girl Child Days</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>National Girl Child Day</b>, celebrated every year on January 24 in India, highlights the rights, education, and welfare of girls.</li> <li>▪ Initiated in 2008 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the day aims to raise awareness about the importance of empowering girls and creating an environment free of gender discrimination.</li> </ul>
<b>January 25</b>	<b>15th National Voters' Day (NVD)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ India marks its 15th National Voters' Day (NVD) celebrating the power and importance of every vote.</li> <li>▪ This annual observance commemorates the establishment of the Election Commission of India (ECI) and highlights the critical role of voters in sustaining democracy.</li> </ul> <p><b>National Voters' Day Theme 2025</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This year's theme, "Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure," continues the emphasis on participatory democracy.</li> </ul>

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
<b>January 26</b>	<b>76th Republic Day of India</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto attended as the Chief Guest.</li><li>▪ Military parade and state tableaux: 16 states and Union Territories participated in the parade with their tableaux.</li><li>▪ These tableaux were designed based on the theme 'Golden India: Heritage and Development' (Swarnim Bharat: Virasat Aur Vikas).</li><li>▪ The integrated tableau of the three forces, 'Pralay' missile, and Air Force installations were displayed.</li><li>▪ Indigenously manufactured military equipment including 'Arjun' battle tank, 'Tejas' fighter aircraft, 'Pralay' missile, and 'Sanjay' combat surveillance technology were displayed for the first time.</li></ul>





## 1.2 DEFENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND TERRORISM

### U.S. Sonobuoys

- India and the U.S. announced cooperation on co-production of U.S. sonobuoys for Undersea Domain Awareness (UDA) for the Indian Navy, a high-end technology that allows tracking submarines in the deep seas and oceans.
- They will jointly supply (Ultra Marine and Bharat Dynamics Limited) and manufacture sonobuoys for the Indian Navy as per U.S. Navy standards, with production split across the U.S. and India, in accordance with 'Make in India' principles
- **UDA encompasses the ability to monitor and understand activities in the underwater environment.** It is vital for national security, especially in regions threatened by hostile naval forces

### Prime Minister Dedicates 3 Warships

- Prime Minister Modi dedicated three new frontline warships to the nation at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai:
  - INS Surat - Large-class attack warship
  - INS Nilgiri - Small-class warship
  - INS Vashir - Advanced submarine
- This marks the first time three vessels have been dedicated simultaneously.
- Under India's initiative, deep-sea mountains in the Indian Ocean have been named after emperors like Raja Raja Cholan, Ashoka, Harshavardhan, and Chandragupta.
- The 'Samudrayaan' project will enable research up to 6,000 meters deep in the ocean.
- Project 'P15B', INS Surat is one of the world's largest and most advanced attack warships, with 75% indigenous design.

- INS Nilgiri, the first ship built under Project 'P17A', features advanced equipment and can operate various types of helicopters.
- INS Vashir, the sixth submarine under Project 'P75' Scorpene, was designed in collaboration with the French Navy and can perform multiple tasks including surface and underwater attacks and intelligence gathering.

### New Commander Takes Charge of Tambaram Air Force Station

- Air Commodore Tapan Sharma has taken charge as the new commander of the Indian Air Force's Tambaram Air Station.
- He joined the Indian Air Force in 1997 as a fighter pilot and has logged over 2,500 hours flying various types of aircraft with specialized training.
- He is an 'A' grade qualified flying instructor and has served in various important positions for 25 years.

### Republic Day Parade Float Prizes

- At the Republic Day celebrations held in Chennai, the Department of Youth Welfare and Sports Development won first place among the parade floats.
- The Police and Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments departments secured second and third places respectively

### Avadi OCF Military Uniforms Export to South America

- The Ordnance Clothing Factory in Avadi, India has exported military uniforms to "Suriname" in South America
- This factory was established in 1961
- Initially, it only manufactured military

- uniforms. Currently, it produces various types of protective clothing, including bullet-proof jackets and different types of uniforms
- Uniforms are designed according to the climatic conditions of each country
  - In 2024, defense equipment exports generated revenue of Rs. 20,083 crores, marking a 31% increase
  - Defense exports have seen steady growth over the past 10 years. The central government has set a target to achieve revenue of Rs. 50,000 crores by 2029

### 'Silver Notice'

- The Interpol 'Silver Notice' has been introduced as a "more effective" tool than Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLATs) for gathering information on illicit assets parked offshore.
- It aims to locate illicit assets laundered across borders
- Launched with the support of 52 countries.
- It allows Interpol to issue various color-coded alerts, with the 'Silver' Notice being the latest addition.

## 1.3 AWARDS & HONOURS

### Governor's Awards Announcement for Social Service and Environmental Protection

- The Governor's Award-2024 recipients and details have been announced at the Governor's House:

#### Social Service (Institution) Category:

- 'Idhayangal' from Coimbatore district and 'Hope Public Charitable Trust' from Chennai district will receive Rs. 5 lakhs and certificates of appreciation.

#### Social Service (Individual) Category:

- S. Ramalingam from Chennai district
- J. Sornalatha from Coimbatore district
- A. Rajkumar from Madurai district
- Each will receive Rs. 2 lakhs and certificates of appreciation.
- Environmental Protection (Institution) Category:
- 'Chitlapakkam Rising Charitable Foundation' from Chennai will receive Rs. 5 lakhs and a certificate of appreciation.

### ICC Awards 2024

- Based on ICC votes, players who performed exceptionally well in all three formats (Test, ODI, T20) last year have been selected.
- Indian fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah has been named ICC Test Cricketer of the Year 2024.
- Indian batter Smriti Mandhana has been selected as the best player in One Day Cricket. In T20 cricket
- Indian bowler Arshdeep Singh has secured the top position.
- ICC has also selected an international team based on outstanding contributions in T20 cricket. India's Rohit Sharma has been chosen as the captain of this team.

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**Environmental Protection (Institution)****Category:**

- 'Chitlapakkam Rising Charitable Foundation' from Chennai will receive Rs. 5 lakhs and a certificate of appreciation.

## 1.4 WORLD SUMMITS AND ORGANISATION

**BRICS**

- Indonesia has been admitted as a full member of the BRICS bloc of developing economies, announced by the group's presiding country Brazil.
- Indonesia has the largest population and economy in Southeast Asia.

**About BRICS**

- **Genesis:** British economist Jim O' Neill in 2001 coined acronym 'BRICs' representing the

emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India, and China.

- BRICS was formed in 2009 by Brazil, Russia, India, and China, with South Africa joining in 2010.

- Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, United Arab Emirate and Saudi Arabia have also joined BRICS.

- Aim: Reforming global governance institutions and contributes positively to deepening South-South cooperation.

## 1.5 BOOKS AND AUTHORS

**Ambedkar's 10 Books Released**

- The Tamil Development Department and New Century Book House have collaborated to translate and publish Dr. Ambedkar's works in Tamil for the public. Ten important books have been created:

- Castes in India
- Who were the Shudras? (Part 1)
- Who were the Shudras? (Part 2)
- Who were the Untouchables? Why did they become Untouchables?
- The Untouchables or Children of India's Ghettos

- Untouchability - Essays on Society and Religion

- **Untouchability:** Political Essays

- Philosophy of Hinduism

- **Ancient India:** Revolution Counter-Revolution Part 1

- **Ancient India:** Revolution Counter-Revolution Part 2

- These 300-page books were compiled and translated by Scholar Senthalai N. Gauthaman, Professor V. Arasu, Dr. M. Valarmathi, and A. Mathivanan. They were released under Chief Minister M.K. Stalin's leadership.

## 1.6 APPOINTMENTS

### New AFI president

- Asian gold medallist shotputter and Padma Shri Bahadur Singh Sagoo was elected as the new president of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI)
- He won gold at the 2002 Asian Games

### AFI

- The Athletic Federation of India was established in 1946 and serves as the governing body for athletics in India.
- The AFI is recognized by both the International Association of Athletics Federations (now World Athletics) and the Indian Olympic Association.

### New Chairman of ISRO

- He is currently the Director of Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC)
- Dr. Narayana, who is a rocket and spacecraft propulsion expert, joined the ISRO in 1984 and functioned in various capacities

### V. Narayanan Takes Charge as New ISRO Chairman

- V. Narayanan from Kanyakumari district, Tamil Nadu, has taken charge as ISRO's new chairman.
- After receiving his Ph.D. in 2001, he gained fame for designing rockets using cryogenic technology.
- He also contributed to the design of propulsion systems for Chandrayaan-2's soft landing on the moon.

### Additional DGP Appointment in Border Security Force

- The Central Home Ministry has approved Tamil Nadu senior IPS officer Mahesh Kumar Agarwal as Additional Director General of Border Security Force.
- A 1994-batch IPS officer, he is currently the Special Director General of Tamil Nadu Armed Forces.
- He was appointed to this position in December last year.

### Gyanendra Pratap Singh Appointed as CRPF Director General

- The Ministry of Personnel has appointed Assam Police Chief Gyanendra Pratap Singh as the Director General of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).
- Currently, Gyanendra Pratap Singh is serving as a 1991-batch IPS officer of Assam-Meghalaya cadre.
- Former CRPF DG Anish Dayal Singh retired 2023, Subsequently, Vitul Kumar was appointed as the acting officer of CRPF.

### New Indian Ambassador Appointment to Israel

- Jitender Pal Singh has been appointed as the new Indian Ambassador to Israel.
- Having started his career in the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) in 2002, he is currently a key official in the Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran division.
- Israel is India's second-largest trading partner. Military equipment, petroleum products, and chemicals are exported to India from Israel.

# 2. POLITICAL SCIENCE

## 2.1 LATEST COURT VERDICTS

### SC orders complete stop on practice of manual scavenging in six metros

- Court directs State officials in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad to stop manual scavenging
- out of 775 districts in the country, 465 have not reported any manual scavenging.
- SC re emphasised the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013.

### Provisions

- No person or agency can engage or employ any person for manual scavenging.
- Any person or agency who engages any person in manual scavenging in violation of the provisions of the MS Act, 2013 is punishable with imprisonment up to 2 years, a fine up to Rs. One Lakh, or both.
- It outlines the provisions for the rehabilitation of sanitation workers and their families.

## 2.2 PUBLIC AWARENESS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

### Waqf Amendment Bill - Central Government

- A meeting of the committee examining the Waqf Amendment Bill was held in Delhi.
- In this, 32 amendment recommendations proposed by ruling party MPs were accepted.
- However, more than 500 amendments proposed by opposition parties were rejected.
- This bill contains certain amendments for managing Waqf properties.
- It includes a recommendation that Muslim women and non-Muslim individuals should be able to become members of the Waqf Board.
- It indicates that four authorized non-Muslim individuals can be included on the board, Waqf properties should be registered before the new law takes effect, and only those who

have followed Islam for 5 years will be given the authority to create Waqf.

### 22,931 Smart Classrooms in Government Schools

- The Tamil Nadu government had set a target of establishing 22,931 smart classrooms, and this target has now been achieved.
- Through this initiative, 22,931 smart classrooms have been set up in government schools, enabling students to easily understand lessons through various formats including pictures, audio, and video.
- In the first phase, 634 smart classrooms were established in 493 schools across six districts: Ariyalur, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Salem, Thiruvavur, and Villupuram.

### Teesta-3 Dam Reconstruction Plan

- After Glacier lake outburst flood in Sikkim, Teesta-3, Sikkim's biggest hydropower project is to set up
- The new design modelled by the India Meteorological Department, in the South Lhonak region
- Entirely concrete dam, replacing the older rock-concrete structure
- Implementation in the upper catchment to manage floods effectively.
- Increased to handle 19,946 cubic metres per second (cumecs), thrice the former capacity of 7,000 cumecs

### Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI) and Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs)

- The Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI) and Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) for the 1st time categorized 268 tribes as denotified, semi-nomadic, and nomadic tribes
- 179 communities recommended for inclusion in SC, ST, and OBC lists
- 85 communities being recommended for the first time ever.
- 63 communities found to be "not traceable" anymore, assimilated into larger group
- Last Commission headed by Bhiku Ramji Idate listed over 1,200 denotified, semi-nomadic, and nomadic tribes, and 267 never classified communities.
- Successive commissions attempted for classification

- First Backward Classes Commission - 1953
- Lokur Committee - 1956
- Mandal Commission - 1979
- Renke Commission - 1979
- Idate Commission - 1985

### Plan to Develop Self-Reliant Models in Technology; Central Government

- Union Minister for Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw announced that India plans to develop self-reliant models in artificial intelligence (AI) technology, similar to America's ChatGPT and China's Deep Seek.
- Rs. 10,732 crores has been allocated for computing infrastructure to operate 10,000 GPUs to strengthen Indian AI.
- While Deep Seek's AI model was trained using 2,000 GPUs, in India it will be trained using 18,693 GPUs, enabling ultra-fast services.
- AI models developed in India will be used in sectors including agriculture, healthcare, education, climate, and weather.
- Initial applications have been received by the government. 18 applications have been primarily selected in themes including agriculture, environmental issues, and climate change. Funding for these will be allocated soon.
- Work-related projects will be conducted in areas such as machine learning (IIT Jodhpur), synthetic data (IIT Roorkee), unbiased AI practices, expanded AI architecture (Pune), and privacy protection enhancement (IIT Delhi).



## 2.3 GOVT – WELFARE ORIENTED GOVT SCHEMES

### The Indian Biological Data Centre

- A genome is the complete set of DNA in an organism, containing all the necessary information to build and maintain that organism
- The Indian Biological Data Centre now stores 8 petabytes of data, a milestone in biotechnology research celebrated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- This centre was inaugurated in 2022, which is India's only databank.

- Genome India Project was Launched in January 2020, the project aims to create a diverse genetic resource by sequencing 10,000 genomes from healthy Indian individuals.
- Prior to the establishment of the Indian Biological Data Centre, Indian researchers had to host their biological datasets on American or European servers.







# 3. GEOGRAPHY

## 3.1 GEOGRAPHICAL LANDMARK

### New guidelines on obesity

- India has introduced new guidelines after 15 years to better address the nation's unique health challenges.
- The National Diabetes Obesity and Cholesterol Foundation, Fortis C-DOC Hospital, and the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), have issued the guidelines
- Previously, the country relied primarily on body mass index (BMI) for obesity assessment.
- The new framework adopts a more comprehensive approach for diagnosing and treating obesity, stressing the need for customized strategies to combat obesity and associated health risks among Indians

### It introduces a two-stage classification system

- **Stage 1 Obesity:** Characterized by increased body fat without significantly impacting organ function or daily activities (BMI > 23 kg/m<sup>2</sup>).
- **Stage 2 Obesity:** Characterized by advanced obesity with abdominal adiposity, high waist circumference, and organ impairment.

### Death penalty (Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita)

- Life imprisonment without parole is sentenced for the offender of Rape and murder of a doctor at R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital
- The court held that The case did not meet the "rarest of the rare" criteria required for the death penalty
- Legal charges were charged on the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita

- Legal Framework For Death Sentence
- The death penalty in India is governed by various provisions in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS, 2023), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS, 2023) and other special laws.
- The BNS (replaced the Indian Penal Code (IPC) mandates the death penalty for crimes including rape causing death (Section 66), gang rape of minors (Section 70(2)), serial rape (Section 71), etc.

### 2024 1st calendar year to breach 1.5 degree Celsius

- The year 2024 has been confirmed as the first calendar year to breach the 1.5 degree Celsius global warming threshold
- It has an annual average temperature of 1.6 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial times (1850-1900 period)
- According to (WMO), 2024 was 1.55 degrees Celsius warmer than pre-industrial levels, marking the warmest year ever recorded.
- A mild El Niño, underwater volcanic eruptions, and lower sulphur dioxide emissions from the shipping industry are cited as contributing factors
- It is almost certain that the 2030 emission cut targets will be missed
- The current rate of warming is more than 0.2°C per decade.



# 4. ECONOMICS

## 4.1 REPORTS AND INDICES

### Fiscal Health Index 2025

- Odisha tops NITI fiscal health index, Chhattisgarh has second place
- Mineral-rich Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Goa, and Jharkhand have emerged as top-performing 'achievers' among the States listed in NITI Aayog's first Fiscal Health Index (FHI) report
- The report covering 18 major States that drive the Indian economy in terms of their contribution to India's GDP, demography, total public expenditure, revenues, and overall fiscal stability.
- Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, and Kerala were the worst-performing States in the Fiscal Health Index (FHI),
- Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka under the "front-runners" category. Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Rajasthan, and Haryana were classified as performers.

## 4.2 PUBLIC FINANCE

### Union Budget in social sector

- The share of the Union Budget allocated for the social sector has declined rapidly in recent years
- Allocations for MGNREGS, national social assistance schemes, and PM-Poshan have seen steep cuts.
- Except Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY & PMAY-Rural and PM SHRI which shows either increasing trend or stagnation.
- Sectors that shows decline trends - Health Expenditure, Rural Development, Higher Education, School Education, Social Welfare Schemes..
- The Budget is crucial for addressing climate change and meeting India's Net-Zero target by 2030



# 5. SCIENCE

## 5.1 LATEST DISCOVERIES IN HEALTH SCIENCE

### Successful Germination of Cowpea Seeds in Space

▪ The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has achieved a significant breakthrough in space research with the successful germination of cowpea seeds in space.

▪ The seeds, part of the Compact Research Module for Orbital Plant Studies (CROPS) experiment, sprouted within just four days of being sent into space aboard the PSLV-C60 mission.

▪ On **December 30**, the PSLV-C60 rocket launched, placing two SpaDeX satellites into orbit, and carrying the POEM-4 platform with 24 onboard experiments.

▪ Among them was the CROPS experiment, designed by ISRO's **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)**, to investigate plant growth in the unique environment of microgravity.

### India releases compilation of 10,000 human genomes from 83 population groups

▪ India has completed and made available a year-long compilation of 10,000 human genomes representing 83 population groups, making up about 2% of the country's 4,600 population groups, as a database.

▪ This collection will serve as a template of future investigations into disease and drug therapy.

▪ The 'Genome India' database will now be available to researchers across the world for investigation and is housed at the Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC), in Faridabad, Haryana.

▪ Certain population groups show higher frequencies of alleles, or different versions of the same gene.

▪ Over the last two decades, many countries have created databases of the genomes of their population – for a variety of purposes including estimating disease risks, adverse drug reactions, establishing genealogy and DNA-profiling databases.

## 5.2 SPACE

### ISRO

- ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) was established on August 15, 1969.
- Its headquarters is located in Bengaluru
- It was formed by superseding the **Indian National Committee for Space Research (INCOSPAR)**, which had been established in 1962. Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, who is considered the father of India's space program, was ISRO's first chairman.

### SpaceX Spacecraft Integration Plan

- ISRO has announced that operations to integrate twin SpaceX spacecraft will begin.
- As a preliminary effort to establish an Indian research station in space by 2035, ISRO has implemented a research project called SpaceX.
- Two spacecraft designed for this purpose - Spaders A and SpaceX B - were launched into orbit from the launch pad in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, via PSLV C-60 rocket and positioned in Earth's orbit. Currently, these two spacecraft are orbiting in the same trajectory at a specified distance from each other.
- An attempt was made to reduce the distance between them to 225 meters.
- At that time, due to environmental factors, the operational speed of the spacecraft became lower than expected. As a result, the planned spacecraft integration event was postponed.

### ISRO's Successful SPADEX Spacecraft Docking: A Milestone Achievement

- ISRO has successfully docked twin SPADEX spacecraft as a pilot effort toward establishing

a space station. With this, India has emerged as the fourth country after America, China, and Russia to achieve progress in spacecraft docking.

- ISRO plans to establish the '**Bharatiya Antariksha Station**' by 2035. Dedicated spacecraft for this purpose are set to be launched in 2028, with preparations currently underway.

### SpaceX Launches Two Private Lunar Exploration Vehicles

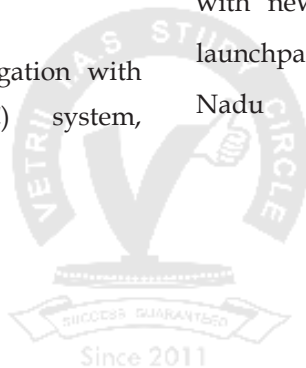
- Elon Musk's space company, SpaceX, has launched two private spacecraft for lunar exploration.
- Reports indicate successful launch of research vehicles from NASA's launch pad at Cape Canaveral, Florida, for America's Firefly Aerospace and Japan's ispace companies.
- This is ispace's second attempt at lunar exploration. Previously, the company attempted to study the moon, but their research vehicle crashed without landing.

### Prime Minister Praises IIT Chennai's 'XTEM' Center

- IIT Chennai's 'XTEM' center is working on discovering new strategies for space-related products.
- It is developing new technologies like waterless concrete construction. XTEM's research will help the country's Gaganyaan project and future space stations.
- This will lead to new technologies in the manufacturing sector.

## ISRO successfully launched its 100th rocket

- ISRO successfully launched its 100th rocket, the GSLV-F15, carrying the NVS-02 satellite from Sriharikota
- It is part of ISRO's plan to develop the IRNSS (Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System) to support India's transportation and defense needs
- This satellite weighs 2,250 kilograms and has a lifespan of 10 years
- The satellite is placed into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) with an indigenous cryogenic stage
- NVS-02 is part of India's Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) system, enhancing positioning services
- The first launch from Sriharikota by ISRO was on August 10, 1979.
- This mission was the experimental flight of the Satellite Launch Vehicle-3 (SLV-3 E10)
- The goal was to place the Rohini Technology Payload into orbit
- Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, was the Director of this mission
- In 2017 PSLV-C37/Cartosat-2 series has launched 104 satellites in a single flight
- ISRO aims to accelerate future launches with new infrastructure, including a third launchpad and a second spaceport in Tamil Nadu





# 6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENT

## Bharatpol

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday inaugurated the Bharatpol portal, which aims to provide police and security agencies in India with a seamless connect to Interpol, the international police organisation.
- The five key modules of Bharatpol – Connect, Interpol notices, References, Broadcast and Resources provide a technological platform to support all Indian law enforcement agencies.

## Anji Khad Bridge

- The Indian Railways has unveiled a monumental engineering achievement with the completion of the Anji Khad Bridge,
- IT IS India's first cable-stayed rail bridge.
- IT IS Situated in the challenging terrain of the Reasi district in Jammu and Kashmir, this bridge is a key component of the ambitious Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) Project.

## The University Grants Commission (UGC) has introduced new regulations for the appointment and promotion of teachers in higher education.

- The UGC draft has given the powers to Chancellors or Visitors to constitute the three-member search-cum-selection committee to appoint Vice-Chancellors.
- The guidelines also warn that non-implementation of it may result into debarring an institution from participating in UGC schemes or from offering degree programmes.

- So far, the governments used to constitute the search committees for appointing Vice-Chancellors, and if approved, the draft allows Governors (if they are Chancellors) to appoint the search committees for the process.

## Free Medical Treatment

- It has been announced that the scheme providing free treatment to those injured in road accidents will be expanded across the country by March 2025.
- To reduce the number of fatalities in highway accidents, the **Ministry of Road Transport implemented the free treatment scheme on March 14 last year.**
- A scheme was announced to provide free treatment up to Rs. 1.5 lakhs for those injured in road accidents.
- In 2024 alone, 1.80 lakh people lost their lives in road accidents.
- If police are informed within 24 hours of a road accident, the injured person will receive 7 days of free treatment.
- Families of those killed by unidentified vehicles will be given compensation of Rs. 2 lakhs.

## Z-Morh tunnel

- PM will arrive on January 13 to physically inaugurate the Z-Morh tunnel that will bypass the road from Gagangir to Sonamarg allowing visitors and locals to visit the hill station throughout the year.
- At present, the Gagangir-Sonamarg stretch of the road gets blocked by heavy snowfall and avalanches that hit the area every year.



- The Z-Morh Tunnel is a 6.5 km long 2-lane road tunnel between Gagangir and Sonamarg in the Ganderbal district of Jammu and Kashmir.
- It is named after the Z-shaped stretch of road that the tunnel has replaced (Z-Morh translates to "Z-turn" in English).
- Together with the adjacent Zoji-La Tunnel, this geostrategically important tunnel on the Srinagar-Leh Highway
- It will provide year-round weather-proof connectivity to Baltal (Amarnath cave), Kargil and other places in the Ladakh region.
- India is the world's largest turmeric producer, consumer, and exporter. In 2022-23, 11.61 lakh tons of turmeric were produced across 3.24 lakh hectares.
- More than 30 varieties of turmeric are grown across 20 states including Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu. India holds a 62% share in global turmeric trade.

### Sonamarg Tunnel Opening Ceremony

- Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the Sonamarg tunnel, built at a cost of Rs. 2,700 crore, on the Srinagar-Leh National Highway in Jammu-Kashmir Union Territory. Located at 8,650 feet above sea level, this tunnel will enable year-round traffic between Srinagar and Leh, benefiting tourism in Sonamarg and developing it as a skiing center.

### Indonesian President to be Chief Guest at 76th Republic Day

- The Ministry of External Affairs has announced that Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto will attend India's 76th Republic Day celebrations as the chief guest.
- Indonesia plays a crucial role in India's Look East policy and Indo-Pacific vision. Every year, India invites world leaders to its Republic Day celebrations.
- Last year, French President Emmanuel Macron attended as the chief guest. Other past chief guests include South African President Nelson Mandela in 1995, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi in 2023, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro in 2020, and American President Barack Obama in 2015.
- Due to Corona, no chief guests were invited in 2021 and 2022.

### Sugar export

- The Union government has partially lifted the ban on sugar exports
- Allows for one million tonnes of exports in the 2024-25, season ending in September.
- The ban was initially imposed in October 2023 to regulate domestic prices
- The Indian Sugar and Bio-Energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) has welcomed the decision, noting it will address surplus sugar stocks and enhance financial liquidity for mills.

### Golden Spice': Indian Turmeric Trade

- Turmeric, known as the "Golden Spice," is crucial for Indian agriculture.
- India's share in global production is 70%. In the next 5 years, India can double its turmeric production to 20 lakh tons. There are opportunities to create international markets and increase exports.

### About ISMA

- SMA is the apex association of private sugar mills and the largest consortium of sugar and bio-energy manufacturers in India.
- ISMA has been serving as the voice of the Indian sugarcane industry and the 55 million farmers associated with it for the last 93 years across regional, national, and international policy deliberations, as well as facilitating



innovation and capacity building in the areas of sustainability, agriculture, green transition, and labour welfare.

### 3rd National Mining Ministers' Conference in Konark, Odisha

- A Mining Terrain System (MTS) platform has been launched to create transparency in the management of mining lands.
- Additionally, under the PRISM scheme, which encourages innovations for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises, approval letters were distributed along with a financial allocation of Rs. 15.97 crores to 11 companies.
- Awards were presented to states that conducted the highest number of mining auctions in the 2023-24 financial year.
- Rajasthan secured the first position, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.
- Critical minerals include lithium, cobalt, copper, nickel, and rare earth elements. These play a crucial role in defense equipment and modern technologies.

### Implementation of First Uniform Civil Code in Uttarakhand

- Uttarakhand has become the first state to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) after independence.
- Currently, different religious communities follow separate laws regarding marriage, divorce, adoption, and property rights.
- For this, an expert committee was formed under the chairmanship of former Supreme Court Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai.

#### Key Features

- UCC applies to all residents of Uttarakhand except tribal communities.

- Under this law, not only marriage registration but also live-in relationships must be registered with the government. This can be done online.
- The law ensures common rules for divorce, remarriage, and alimony.
- It prohibits polygamy and the practice of Halala.
- Emphasizing gender equality, it sets the same minimum marriage age for both men and women.
- It ensures equal property rights for both male and female children.
- Children born in void marriages will be considered legal heirs, and the will-writing process has been simplified.

### Geopolitics and Geo-security Conference

- Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar participated in the 'Raisina Middle East' conference held in Abu Dhabi
- Middle Eastern countries play a crucial role in India's economy and security
- India conducts trade worth Rs. 13 to 15 lakh crores with Gulf countries, and 90 lakh Indians reside there
- India maintains strong trade relations with the Middle East, North Africa, and Mediterranean countries, implementing various projects. However, maritime security and threats continue to be global challenges

### 38th National Games

- The National Games began in Dehradun, Uttarakhand
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the games at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium, with around 25,000 spectators in attendance

- About 10,000 athletes and officials from 38 states and union territories are participating in 32 different sporting events, which will continue until February 14
- 450 gold, silver, and bronze medals will be awarded to the winning athletes
- Scheduled Tribe households consume four litres less milk per capita compared to general category households.
- States like Rajasthan, Punjab, and Haryana consume much more milk per capita daily at home compared to states like Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and West Bengal.

### National Critical minerals sector

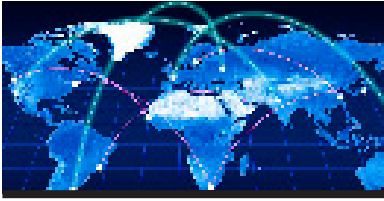
- India has approved a significant plan worth Rs.6,300 crore (\$1.88 billion) to develop its critical minerals sector.
- Focusing on securing raw materials like lithium, which are essential for energy transition technologies.
- The government expects an additional Rs.18,000 crore investment from the public sector.
- The mission aims to intensify the exploration of critical minerals within the country and offshore areas.
- India is collaborating with countries like Australia, Russia, and the U.S. for technical assistance in developing lithium processing technology.
- India is also looking to expand investments in Argentina's mining, gas, and oil sectors, with a focus on lithium.
- The National Institute of Nutrition recommends consuming 300 g per capita of milk daily for an average sedentary adult.

### 76th Republic Day Tableau Awards

- In the 2025 Republic Day parade, Uttar Pradesh's tableau featuring "Maha Kumbh Mela" won the first prize.
- Among the three armed forces, the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles unit was selected as the best marching contingent.
- In the states and union territories category, Tripura won the second prize, and Andhra Pradesh won the third prize.
- In the central ministries category, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs' tableau won the first prize.
- Among the armed forces, the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles unit and Delhi Police were selected as the best marching contingents.
- In the people's choice category, Gujarat's tableau with the theme "Golden India: Heritage and Development" secured first place. Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand secured second and third places respectively.
- In the central ministries category, the best tableau award was given to the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- The "Signals" unit from the armed forces and CRPF from the paramilitary forces were selected as the best marching contingents.

### Bridge the Milk Divide for a Nutritionally Secure India

- The latest Household Consumer Expenditure Surveys (HCES) by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) concludes
- Top-income households consume 3-4 times more milk per capita than the lowest-income households.
- Urban households consume ~30% more milk per capita than rural ones.



# 7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

## Modhweth festival

- The Toda tribe, an ancient Dravidian ethnic group, resides in the Nilgiris Hills of Tamil Nadu. In **December 2025**, they celebrated their festival, Modhweth, marking the New Year.
- This vibrant occasion took place at **Muthanad Mund**, the tribe's community headquarters, and involved members of various ages.
- The festival embodies their cultural identity and spiritual beliefs, emphasising health, agriculture, and unity.
- Modhweth is the most important festival for the Toda tribe. It occurs annually, either on the last **Sunday of December** or the **first Sunday of January**.

## Removal of 'Secularism' from Bangladesh Constitution

- The reform committee has recommended removing the words 'secularism' and 'socialism' from Bangladesh's constitution.
- The committee has suggested removing 'secularism' and 'socialism' from the three basic principles of the constitution, retaining only 'democracy'.
- The report states that the new constitution should include four fundamental principles: equality, human dignity, social justice, and pluralism.

## Trump's Inauguration as US President

- Donald Trump was sworn in as the 47th President of the United States, along with J.D. Vance as Vice President.
- In American history, this is the first time in 130 years that a former president who lost an

election has returned to win and take office again. Previously, Trump served as the 45th President from 2017 to 2021.

## Direct Flight Services to Resume: India-China Approval

- **India and China** have decided to resume direct flight services between the two countries after 2020.
- The relationship between the two countries had been strained due to the Corona pandemic and border tensions. Now, after this gap, direct flight services are being resumed

## World Health Organization (WHO)

- The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends using lower-sodium salt substitutes (LSSS) that include potassium chloride and reducing the percentage of sodium chloride in table salt.
- WHO strongly recommends reducing sodium intake to less than 2 grams per day
- Salt fortified with iodine was introduced in India in the 1950s, significantly reducing iodine deficiency and related health issues.
- The Chennai-based Sapiens Health Foundation launched the 'Losalter Group' to raise awareness about reducing salt intake.
- The recommendation is for adults (excluding pregnant women, children, and individuals with kidney impairments).
- Low-sodium salt substitutes are more expensive than regular salt.



# 8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

## **Kaval Karangal (Police Hands)**

- According to **Chennai Metropolitan Police**, **7,712** destitute people have been rescued through this scheme in 3 years.
- Chennai Metropolitan Police, along with government and non-governmental volunteer organizations, launched 'Kaval Karangal' on **April 21, 2021**.
- '**Kaval Karangal**' has performed the service of providing proper burial for 4,601 unclaimed destitute bodies.
- In recognition and appreciation of the services of 'Kaval Karangal', it was awarded the '**SKOCH Award**' in **2023**.
- Tamil Nadu Police Department has decided to expand this scheme throughout the state.

## **'Drug-Free TN'**

- Chief Secretary N. Muruganandam on Saturday launched the 'Drug Free Tamil Nadu'
- It enable college students and public to file complaints and provide information regarding drug trafficking.
- This application is designed to protect the identity of individuals reporting drug-related activities.
- A logo for the Drug-Free Tamil Nadu movement has also been released.

## **'Fast Track Immigration' Program**

- The 'Fast Track Immigration' program has been launched at Chennai International Airport to facilitate passengers' citizenship verification without delay.
- This program will help expedite citizenship

verification for both departing and arriving passengers.

- Passengers must register their details on a dedicated website and pay the following fees:
  - **Adults:** Rs. 2,000
  - **Children:** Rs. 1,000
  - **Non-Resident Indians:** 100 US dollars
- Along with this fee, passengers must register their passport validity, facial identification, fingerprints, and iris scans.

## **108 Ambulance Service: 18 Lakh People Benefited in One Year**

- In Tamil Nadu, the 108 ambulance service operates under EMRI Green Health Services. A total of 1,353 ambulances are operating throughout the state.
- Last year, 18.35 lakh people used this service. Of these, maternity medical assistance was provided to 3.42 lakh people.

## **Tamil Nadu Government Awards 10 Tamil Scholars**

- An awards ceremony was held at Chennai Secretariat by the Tamil Development Department to honor Tamil scholars who have contributed to Tamil language, literature, and social advancement.
- The 2025 Thiruvalluvar Award to Pulavar M. Padikkaramu, 2024 Anna Award to L. Ganesan, Kamarajar Award to K.V. Thangabalu, Bharathiar Award to Poet Kapilan, Bharathidasan Award to Poet Pon. Selvaganapathi, Thiru.Vi.Ka Award to Dr. G.R. Ravindranath, and Ki.A.Pe. Viswanatham Award to writer and critic Ve.Mu. Pothiverpan were presented.

- Award recipients received Rs. 2 lakh checks and a sovereign gold medal each.
- Additionally, the 2024 Periyar Award was given to Viduthalai Rajendran, and the Ambedkar Award to T. Ravikumar. They received Rs. 5 lakh checks and a sovereign gold medal each.
- The Kalaingar Award, established in 2024, was presented to Pulavar Muthuvavasi with a Rs. 10 lakh check and a sovereign gold medal.
- an Iron Age habitation-cum-burial site in the Thamirabarani river valley in Thoothukudi district, between 2019 and 2022.
- The Iron Age urn burial site called 'Sivagalai-parambu', spanning 500 acres,
- The paddy sample collected from the urn dated back to 1,155 BCE the archaeologists sent charcoal samples from three other trenches for an Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) analysis

### **Chengalpattu as a Start-up Hub**

- The 9th anniversary of the 'Start-up India' program was recently observed; more than half of the innovative companies formed in our country over the past 9 years are from second and third-tier cities.
- Cities like Chengalpattu, Ambala, Hisar, Bilaspur, Gwalior are emerging as start-up hubs.

### **Chief Minister with People' Program; 12.80 Lakh Petitions Resolved in One Year**

- The Tamil Nadu government has announced that 12.80 lakh petitions have been resolved in just one year under the "Chief Minister with People" program.
- This program, which was launched in 2023, has completed one year. It was designed with the aim of delivering government services to people's homes within 30 days of receiving petitions from the public.
- Professor Rajan said the Iron Age in ancient Tamil Nadu was contemporary to the Chalcolithic Age (Copper Age) in the Indus Civilisation

### **Antiquity of Iron: Recent radiometric dates from Tamil Nadu**

- archaeological excavations carried out by the Tamil Nadu State Archaeology Department at Sivagalai,
- The antiquity of iron discovered here dating back to the first quarter of the 4th millennium BCE,

### **Tamirabharani – Karumeniyar – Nambiyar River Linking Scheme:**

- The Tamirabharani – Karumeniyar – Nambiyar River linking scheme will be inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.
- This ambitious project aims to benefit over 15,000 acres in the rain-shadow regions of Tamil Nadu, specifically in Nanguneri, Thisaiyanvilai, and Sattankulam.
- The initiative is part of a broader strategy to address water scarcity in the state's drier areas.
- It involves constructing a 73-km-long flood carrier channel.
- The goal is to divert surplus water from the Tamirabharani to arid regions in Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi districts.

### **T.N.'s Idhayam Kappom scheme - improving survival rates of patients**

- T.N.'s Idhayam Kappom scheme found effective in improving survival rates of patients
- The govt. launched the initiative in 2023 to provide cardiac loading doses at Primary health care , Health sub centre PHCs/HSCs to prevent deaths due to cardiac illness.
- The State government launched the initiative to provide cardiac loading doses (aspirin,



clopidogrel and atorvastatin) at PHCs/HSCs to prevent deaths due to cardiac illness,

- Demographic data of the study population showed that most of the patients were men and almost half of them were aged 45 to 60 years

### Republic Day Awards and Medals: Tamil Nadu Government

- Anna Bravery Medal:** This medal is awarded to individuals who make outstanding contributions to society. This year, K. Velthivel, who works in the Fire and Rescue Services Department of Chennai district, was selected for this award.
- Kottai Ameer Medal:** This medal is awarded to those who promote religious harmony. This year, S.A. Ameer Amsha from Velipatti, Ramanathapuram district, was selected for this award.
- Agriculture Department Award:** This award, named after C. Narayanasamy Naidu, is given annually to farmers who achieve high productivity. This year, R. Murugavel from Vadugapatti village in Theni district was selected for this award.
- Gandhian Police Medal:** This medal is awarded annually to police officers who effectively control illicit liquor.
- This year, the awards were presented to P. Chinnakamanan (Police Inspector, Villupuram Division), K.M. Kamarx (Head Constable, Villupuram Law & Order Police Station), Kugarthik (Head Constable, Thuraiyur Police Station, Trichy District), and Salem District Police Officers K. Siva and P. Poomalai.
- Best Police Stations:** Awards were presented to police stations in Madurai, Tiruppur, and Thiruvallur districts.
- Madurai City Police Station won the first prize, Tiruppur City Police Station won the second

prize, and Thiruvallur District Police Station won the third prize.

### Opening of 21 Social Justice Warriors Memorial Hall and welfare scheme assistance worth Rs. 324 crore in Villupuram District

- In Villupuram's Valudareddy, former Minister A. Govindasamy Memorial Hall was inaugurated, 21 Social Justice Warriors Memorial Hall was opened.
- Additionally, families of 21 martyred warriors were given Rs. 3 lakh as compensation and a monthly pension of Rs. 3,000.
- Foundation stones were laid for 116 projects worth Rs. 133 crore, 231 completed projects worth Rs. 425 crore were inaugurated, and welfare scheme assistance worth Rs. 324 crore was distributed to 35,003 beneficiaries. Chief Minister Stalin inaugurated these.
- Govindasamy was known for advocating DMK's principles and demanding the state be renamed as Tamil Nadu in the Legislative Assembly.
- In 1989, when DMK came to power, former Chief Minister Karunanidhi implemented 20% reservation for Most Backward Classes.

### Kalaingar Kanavu Illam Scheme: Additional Rs. 500 Crore Fund Allocation

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K.Stalin has ordered an additional allocation of **Rs.500** crore for the "**Kalaingar Kanavu Illam**" (Kalaingar Dream Home) scheme.
- A survey has identified 8 lakh huts in Tamil Nadu. The government has announced plans to build 8 lakh new houses in rural areas by 2030.
- So far, **Rs. 1,625.30** crore has been allocated, of which **Rs. 1,350.99** crore has been disbursed for

house construction stages, and Rs. 249.86 crore has been provided for cement and steel rods. To expedite house construction, an additional Rs. 500 crore has been allocated.

- The Tamil Nadu government has allocated **Rs. 108.71** crore for the housing scheme for particularly vulnerable tribal groups. Under the Prime Minister's mega scheme, Tamil Nadu has set a target of constructing 11,947 houses, and orders have been issued for the construction of 6,559 houses so far.
- Since the central government's allocation (Rs. 2 lakh) is insufficient for house construction, the Tamil Nadu government has announced an increase in funding to Rs. 5.07 lakh for plains areas and Rs. 5.73 lakh for hilly regions.

#### **14th State Level Philatelic Exhibition by Tamil Nadu Postal Department**

- Photos and information about the Vellode Bird Sanctuary in Erode district have been released on postal covers.
- Tamil Nadu serves as a habitat for various species of wildlife. Additionally, parts of the Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats mountain ranges are located within Tamil Nadu.
- The Forest Department is undertaking various measures to protect Tamil Nadu's unique environment.

#### **New Council Hall Worth Rs. 75 Crore at Ripon Building**

- A resolution was passed to construct a new council hall at a cost of Rs. 75 crore in the Chennai Corporation headquarters, Ripon Building campus.
- The new council hall will be a three-story building covering 94,760 square feet, costing Rs. 74.70 crore. It will include a consultation

room, council hall, Mayor and Deputy Mayor offices, and a public waiting area.

- Additionally, 112 resolutions passed in the 2012-13 financial year will be canceled, and it was announced that there would be changes in the tax rates for buildings such as hotels, marriage halls, and hospitals.
- Chennai Corporation provides breakfast to 49,147 children in 356 schools. The breakfast is provided through 35 cooking centers in these schools. Recently, a tender was called for outsourcing the food preparation to an external agency, but that contract was canceled.
- It was announced that henceforth, breakfast will be prepared and provided by the Chennai Corporation directly.

#### **Tamil Native Appointed as Chief Minister's Personal Secretary**

- Sibi Chakravarthy from Erode, Tamil Nadu.
- He secured IAS in 2008 and serves in the Madhya Pradesh cadre. He is currently serving as the Commissioner of Urban Administration and Development for the state government.
- In addition to his current role, he has now been given the additional responsibility of serving as the Personal Secretary to Chief Minister Mohan Yadav. This marks the first time a Tamil native has been appointed as the Personal Secretary to the Chief Minister.
- He has held several important positions including Managing Director of State Warehousing and Logistics Corporation, Commissioner of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, and Managing Director of MP Metro Rail Corporation.
- He has also served as the District Collector of Pindh and Narsinghpur.