

VETRI IAS STUDY CIRCLE

Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

MARCH 2025 - PART 2



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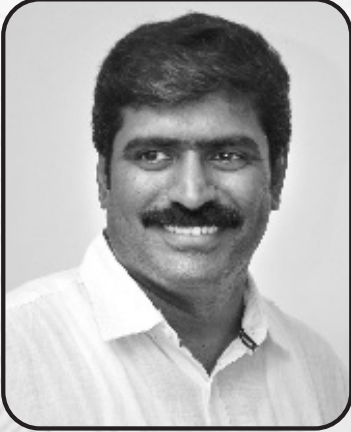
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Preface



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My Dear Aspirants,

Greetings to all of you! "What we think we become" Gautama Buddha. We all have dreams. To make dreams come into reality it takes a lot of determination, dedication, self discipline and continuous effort.

We at VETRII IAS Study Circle are committed to provide the right guidance, quality coaching and help every aspirants to achieve his or her life's cherished goal of becoming a civil servant.

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We also thank other family members of Vetrii for making this effort a reality.

We wish the aspirants ALL THE VERY BEST
for their journey in Civil Services !

Published by:

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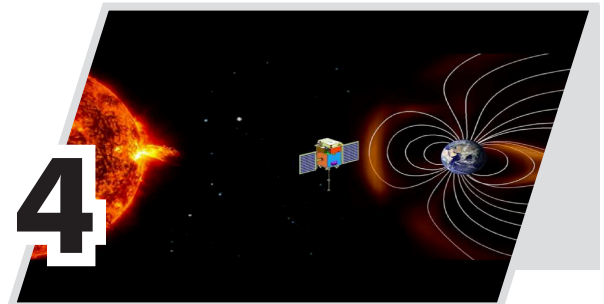


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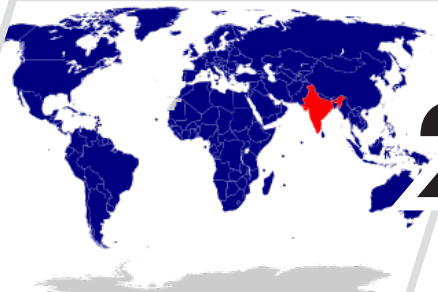
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1. HISTORY



1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
March 21	World Forests Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The International Day of Forests, also known as World Forests Day (WFD), is celebrated each year on 21st March to raise awareness about the importance of forests and trees for the survival of humanity and the planet.▪ The theme for 2025 WFD is "Forests and Food".▪ The International Day of Forests evolved from the "World Forestry Day" established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 1971.▪ It was formally recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012.
March 20	World Sparrow Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ World Sparrow Day, celebrated on 20th March, raises awareness about the declining sparrow population and emphasizes the need to preserve these vital birds for ecological balance.▪ It was initiated by "Nature Forever" in 2010 (a bird conservation organization) and is celebrated in over 50 countries.▪ 2025 Theme : 'A Tribute to Nature's Tiny Messengers'▪ The House Sparrow is the state bird of Delhi and Bihar.▪ The House Sparrow - IUCN Red List - Least Concern.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
March 23	Martyrs day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Martyr's Day also known as Shaheed Diwas, is a sacred occasion in India dedicated to honouring the brave souls who sacrificed their lives for the country's independence and sovereignty. ▪ This is the day when Bhagwat Singh, along with Raj guru and Sukhdev, was hanged by the British in 1931.
March 24	World TB Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 24 March is observed as World TB Day to amplify the urgency of ending tuberculosis (TB), the world's deadliest infectious disease ▪ The date marks the day in 1882 when Dr. Robert Koch announced that he had discovered the bacterium that causes TB, which opened the way towards diagnosing and curing this disease. ▪ Theme "Yes! We Can End TB: Commit, Invest, Deliver"

1.2 DEFENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND TERRORISM

Exercise Bongosagar 2025

- It is a naval exercise between India and Bangladesh
- INS Ranvir from the Indian Navy and BNS Abu Ubaidah from the Bangladesh Navy are participating in the exercise.
- It aims to Strengthening maritime security, tactical planning, and operational coordination.
- The Indian Navy's aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant, and the French aircraft carrier, Charles de Gaulle.
- Initiated in 1993, the exercise was christened 'Varuna' in 2001 and has become a hallmark of the India-France strategic bilateral relationship.

Exercise- VARUNA 2025

- The Indian and French Navies are gearing up for the 23rd edition of their bilateral naval exercise, VARUNA 2025.
- It is the bilateral Naval Exercise between India and France.
- India successfully concluded participation in Sea Dragon 2025, a two-week multinational anti-submarine warfare (ASW) exercise.
- The Sea Dragon exercise is a multinational anti-submarine warfare drill conducted annually to strengthen maritime security and cooperation among allied nations in the Indo-Pacific region.

- **Host Nation:** United States Navy's 7th Fleet hosted the exercise.
- **Nations Involved:** India (since 2021), Australia, Japan, South Korea, United States.

Exercise 'Bongosagar 2025'

- It is a bilateral naval exercise between India and Bangladesh.
- It is commenced in the year 2019, Bongosagar 2025 is the fifth edition of the exercise.
- The objective is to develop high-level interoperability and operational expertise through a broad spectrum of maritime operations.
- The exercise saw participation of INS Ranvir from the Indian Navy and BNS Abu Ubaidah from Bangladesh Navy.

Tavasya

- 'Tavasya', the last of the four Krivak-class stealth frigates, was launched at Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) on March 22, 2025.
- The launch marks a milestone in India's naval self-reliance and defence production capabilities.
- India and Russia signed an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) in October 2016 for four additional Krivak-class stealth frigates.
- **Under the agreement:**
 - Two ships were imported directly from Russia.
 - Two ships were manufactured at Goa Shipyard under technology transfer.
- Tavasya is expected to be the last warship built under foreign license, as India transitions to indigenous warship construction.

AIKEYME & IOS Sagar

▪ AIKEYME exercises

- Africa India Key Maritime Engagement
- A large-scale multinational naval exercise with 10 African countries.

▪ IOS Sagar (Indian Ocean Ship Sagar)

- Another cooperation initiative with Africa.
- Deployment of **INS Sunayna** with a combined crew of **Indian and 44 African personnel**.
- It is being deployed to the Southwest IOR with a combined crew of India and nine Friendly Foreign Countries (FFC) (Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, South Africa).

- The initiatives of IOS Sagar and AIKEYME are aimed at consolidating Indian Navy's stature as the '**Preferred Security Partner**' and '**First Responder**' in Indian Ocean Region.

VL-SRSAM

- India successfully flight tested the Vertically Launched Short Range Surface To Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) from a defence test facility off the Odisha coast recently.
- It is an indigenously developed Short-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (SRSAM).
- It is developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- The missile is now being developed for use by the Indian Air Force to protect its air bases.
- It comes as an integrated missile and **Weapon Control System (WCS)** with a capability to hold multiple missiles in a twin quad-pack canister configuration.

1.3 WORLD ORGANISATIONS – PACTS AND SUMMITS

Global Energy Review (GRE) 2024

- The International Energy Agency (IEA) released the Global Energy Review (GRE) 2024, analyzing trends in energy demand, supply, technology, and CO₂ emissions.
- Global Energy Demand Growth: Increased by 2.2%, with emerging economies contributing 80% of the rise.
- Rise of Renewables & Natural Gas: Renewables accounted for 38% of growth, adding a record 700 GW. China (340 GW solar, 80 GW wind) and India (30 GW solar) were key contributors.

About International Energy Agency (IEA):

- Established: 1974 by OECD nations (due to 1973-74 oil crisis).
- **Headquarters:** Paris, France.
- **Mandate:** Ensures energy security, economic development and global engagement through analysis, data, and policy recommendations.
- **Members:** 31 member countries, 13 association countries (including India), and 4 accession countries. Only OECD members can become IEA members.
- **Major Reports:** World Energy Outlook reports, India Energy Outlook Report, World Energy Investment Report.

1.4 PLACES IN NEWS

Menhir and Megalithic Burial Sites

- The Mudumal Megalithic Menhirs - it is a ancient standing stones in Telangana dating back around 3,500 to 4,000 years, have been included in India's tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- The site is one of the largest megalithic burial grounds in South India.

About Menhirs

- Menhirs are large, upright standing stones, often uncarved, placed individually or in groups.
- **Purpose:** Used for burial, religious, astronomical, or territorial purposes.
- **Historical Significance:** Dating back to the Neolithic and Bronze Age, menhirs are among the earliest forms of human monumental architecture.

About Megalithic Burial Sites

- A megalith is a large stone used in the

construction of a monument or structure, either independently or in combination with other stones.

- The tradition of constructing such monuments began primarily during the Neolithic Age and continued through the Chalcolithic, Bronze, and Iron Ages.

Vikramshila University

- **Context :** After Nalanda University, another ancient centre of learning in Bihar Vikramshila University is set for revival.
- **Location:** Vikramshila University was situated in Bhagalpur, Bihar, along the banks of the river Ganges, making it a prominent historical site in eastern India.
- **Founder:** The university was established by King Dharmapala of the Pala Dynasty during the late 8th to early 9th century AD, as a response to the perceived decline in educational standards at Nalanda University.

- Vikramshila University emerged as a leading hub for Tantric Buddhism and Vajrayana Buddhism, playing a pivotal role in the spread of these traditions.

Bodh Gaya

- Bodh Gaya is witnessing widespread protests by Buddhist groups demanding full control of the Mahabodhi Temple, objecting to Hindu participation in the temple's administration under the Bodh Gaya Temple Act, 1949.

Location:

- Situated in Gaya district, Bihar, India, near the Falgu River.
- One of the four major Buddhist pilgrimage sites (alongside Lumbini, Sarnath, and Kushinagar).
- **6th century BCE:** Prince Siddhartha attained

enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree, becoming Buddha.

- **3rd century BCE:** Ashoka constructed a diamond throne (Vajrasana) and a shrine.
- **12th century CE:** Declined due to Islamic invasions but revived in the 19th century under British archaeologists.
- Declared a World Heritage Site in 2002 for its outstanding universal value.

Associated Kings:

- Emperor Ashoka (3rd century BCE): Built the first temple at the site.
- King Harshavardhana (7th century CE): Expanded Buddhist structures.
- **British Colonial Era (19th century):** Restored the temple under Alexander Cunningham.

1.5 AWARDS AND HONORS

"Velaan Vendhar" Award for Natural Farmer

- Puliyangudi Anthonisamy, a pioneering natural farmer, has been honored with the "Velaan Vendhar" award by Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University.
- He has achieved success in farming by using natural materials such as livestock waste.
- He introduced methods incorporating the five elements in natural farming, helping to achieve 20% higher yields.
- He played a significant role in establishing Puliyangudi in Tenkasi district as the "Lemon City of Asia".

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has won the Digital Transformation Award 2025

- It was presented by Central Banking, London.
- The Digital Transformation Award recognizes central banks and financial institutions for excellence in digital innovation and technology-driven governance.

- RBI won for its digital initiatives – 'Saarathi' and 'Pravaah'.

- Saarathi Initiative: (launched in 2023)

- An internal workflow digitization system for RBI employees.

- **Pravaah Initiative:** (launched in 2024)

- A digital regulatory application platform for external users submitting documents to RBI.

- Hindi writer Vinod Kumar Shukla (88) was selected for the 59th Jnanpith Award on Saturday.

- With this, he has earned the distinction of being the first person from Chhattisgarh to receive the Jnanpith Award, which is the highest literary award in India.

- Vinod Kumar Shukla is the **12th Hindi writer** to receive this award.

- In 1999, Vinod Kumar Shukla received the **Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award**.

2. POLITICAL SCIENCE

2.1 LATEST COURT VERDICTS

SC Examines Timeline for Speaker's Decision on Defections

- Supreme Court questions whether it can set a deadline for Speakers to decide disqualification petitions under the Tenth Schedule (anti-defection law).
- Currently, the SC only urges Speakers to decide within a "**reasonable time**", without defining it.

10th Schedule of the Indian Constitution

- The **Tenth Schedule of the Indian Constitution**, also known as the Anti-Defection Law, was added by the **52nd Amendment in 1985**.
- It lays down the provisions related to disqualification of members of Parliament (MPs) and State Legislatures on grounds of defection.

Speaker's Role in Defection

- The decision on questions as to disqualification on ground of defection are referred to the Chairman or the Speaker of such House, which is subject to '**Judicial review**'.
- However, the law does not provide a timeframe within which the presiding officer has to decide a defection case.

Judicial Transfers

- The Supreme Court (SC) Collegium has recommended the transfer of Delhi High

Court Judge (Justice Yashwant Varma) to the Allahabad High Court.

Process of Judicial Transfers in India

- **Constitutional Provision:** Article 222 of Indian Constitution empowers the President, based on the recommendation of the CJI, to transfer a judge (including Chief Justice) from one High Court to another.
- Consent of the judge is not required, whether it is the first or a subsequent transfer.
- **Role of the CJI and the Collegium:** The CJI initiates the transfer proposal and his opinion is determinative.
- For transferring a Judge (not Chief Justice), the CJI consults the Chief Justice of the transferring High Court and the receiving High Court and considers input from one or more SC judges who know the concerned judge's performance.
- For transferring a Chief Justice, the proposal is reviewed by the CJI along with the four senior-most judges of the Supreme Court, collectively forming the Collegium.
- In making the final decision, the Collegium also considers personal aspects of the judge, like health conditions, and location preferences.

Indian Citizenship for Sri Lankan Refugee Couple's Daughter

- The Chennai High Court has ordered the central government to consider granting Indian citizenship to a girl born to a Sri Lankan Tamil refugee couple who came to Tamil Nadu.
- The central government stated that only children born in India after July 1, 1987, with at least one Indian parent are eligible to apply for Indian citizenship.
- The petitioner was not only born in India and married to an Indian but is also the mother of a 9-year-old Indian child. Having lived in Tamil Nadu with her family for 37 years, it is meaningless for officials to ask her and her parents to go to Sri Lanka to obtain documents.
- Therefore, the Ministry of Home Affairs should allow the petitioner to apply for Indian citizenship online. The central government should legally consider that application and make an appropriate decision.

Until then, the central government has been ordered not to deport the petitioner and her parents from India, and the case has been closed.

Non Resident Indian

- An Indian citizen who is residing outside India and holds an Indian passport.

Person of Indian Origin

- A person whose any ancestors was an Indian nationals and who is presently holding another country's citizenship. (other than Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Afghanistan, China and Nepal). The PIO scheme was rescinded w.e.f. 09-01-2015

Overseas Citizen of India Card Holder

- It is an immigration status permitting a foreign citizen of Indian origin to live and work in the Republic of India indefinitely. (Except the citizen of Pakistan and Bangladesh). There are no voting rights for an OCI card holder.

2.2 PUBLIC AWARENESS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Fast Track Special Courts Scheme

- The extension of the **Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs)** Scheme till March 2026 aims to ensure speedy and time-bound justice in cases of rape and offences under the **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012**.
- The **Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs)** Scheme was initially launched for one year and later extended until March 2023. In 2023 further extended the Scheme for three more years, from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2026.

- In 2019, the Supreme Court ordered fast disposal of POCSO cases, prompting the launch of the FTSC Scheme on 2nd October, 2019.
- It is a centrally sponsored scheme under the **Ministry of Law & Justice** that aims to establish FTSCs under the Nirbhaya Fund.
- The Centre contributes 60%, and States 40%, except for Northeastern, Sikkim, and hilly states, where it's 90:10.

- UTs with legislatures follow a 60:40 ratio, while those without legislature get full central funding.
 - FTSCs boast a 96.28% disposal rate in 2024, and over 3 lakh cases have been disposed of collectively by FTSCs since its launch.
 - Maharashtra and Punjab have high case disposal rates, while West Bengal has the lowest leading to disparities in justice delivery.
- About AFSPA**
- It is a law that empowers the armed forces to maintain public order in “disturbed areas”
 - Enacted in 1958, it allows armed forces to act with special authority in regions with severe unrest.
 - The Governor of a State, or the Central Government, can declare any area as ‘disturbed’.
 - The notification is reviewed every six months, with the possibility of extension or withdrawal
 - States Under AFSPA (As of February 2025): Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and Jammu and Kashmir

Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA)

- The Union Home Ministry is reviewing AFSPA coverage in Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, and Assam after recent ethnic and law-and-order disturbances.

2.3 GOVT – WELFARE ORIENTED GOVT SCHEMES

Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme

- The Centre has sanctioned a total of 116 new tourist destinations across the country under various schemes in partnership with State governments which would be developed at a cost of ₹4,088 crores.
- Out of these 34 have been sanctioned under the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme, 42 have been identified under the “**Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD)**”, a sub-scheme of Swadesh Darshan and 40 would be developed under **Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI)**.
- It is a 100% centrally funded (Central Sector Scheme) launched by the Ministry of Tourism in 2015 to develop sustainable and responsible tourism in India.

- It aims at the integrated development of theme-based tourist circuits across India such as Buddhist, Coastal, Desert, Eco, Heritage, Northeast etc.

Challenge-Based Destination Development (CBDD):

- CBDD is a sub-scheme under SD2.0 that adopts a competitive approach to develop tourism destinations with a focus on sustainability, digitalization, skill development, MSME support, and effective management.

Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme

- The \$23 billion **Production-Linked Incentive (PLI)** scheme, launched in 2020 to boost domestic manufacturing and reduce dependence on China, is set to lapse as many firms failed to meet production targets.

- The scheme was aimed at increasing manufacturing's share in India's GDP to 25% by 2025, but it has declined from 15.4% to 14.3% instead.
- Only 37% of the expected production target was achieved, with \$151.93 billion worth of goods manufactured by October 2024.
- 94% of the \$620 million incentives disbursed (April-Oct 2024) went to pharmaceuticals and mobile phones, highlighting uneven sectoral success.
- MGNREGS is a demand-driven scheme, meaning funds are allocated based on the demand for work, not a State's population.

About MGNREGA

- MGNREGA is the abbreviation for the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005**.
- It is a law passed by the Indian government in 2005 that guarantees the "**right to work**" to rural citizens of India.
- Under this, the government assures a minimum of **100 days** of unskilled manual work to an adult member of an eligible rural household.
- The main objective of the MGNREGA is to provide **employment to rural citizens** and improve their economic conditions.

About the PLI Scheme

- It aims to boost domestic manufacturing, increase import substitution, and generate employment.
- **The scheme initially targeted three industries:** Mobile and Allied Component Manufacturing, Electrical Component Manufacturing and Medical devices.
- Later, it was expanded to 14 key sectors.
- Under this scheme, Domestic and Foreign companies receive financial incentives based on a percentage of their incremental revenue for up to five years

Dx-EDGE Initiative

- Recently, India launched the 'Digital Excellence for Growth and Enterprise' (Dx-EDGE) initiative.
 - It aims to empower **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** with essential digital tools and knowledge.
 - The initiative is a collaboration between the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)**, **NITI Aayog**, and the **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)**.
 - It seeks to enhance MSME performance through digitalisation, making them competitive and resilient.
- T.N. gets more MGNREGS funds than more populous U.P.**
- The Rural Development Ministry claimed that Tamil Nadu (TN) gets more MGNREGS funds than Uttar Pradesh (UP), despite UP having three times the population.



3. GEOGRAPHY

3.1 POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

New Plant Species Identified: *Uniyala keralensis*

- It is a distinct species of the genus *Uniyala*.
- Location: Found in **Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve**, **Thiruvananthapuram district**, **Kerala**.
- **Distinct Features:** it is a small to large shrub growing up to one to three metres in height, with attractive light purple flowers; belongs to the Asteraceae family.
- **Endemic Region:** Exclusive to southern end of the Western Ghats, a global biodiversity hotspot.
- **Published In:** Findings published in the journal *Phytotaxa*.
- Following the **IUCN Red List Criteria** (IUCN 2024), *Uniyala keralensis* is assessed as **Data Deficient (DD)**.

Pilibhit Tiger Reserve (PTR)

- It is set to become a new sanctuary for rhinos from Nepal.
- This initiative could mark a major milestone in wildlife conservation, bolstering rhino population and biodiversity in northern India.
- It is situated in the Pilibhit district of **Uttar Pradesh**, forming part of the Terai Arc Landscape, in the upper Gangetic Plain Biogeographic Province.

- It lies along the **India-Nepal** border in the foothills of the Himalayas.
- The river Gomti originates from the PTR, which is also the catchment of several others like **Sharda, Chuka, and Mala Khannot**.

Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary

- Pobitora is mainly famous for its great Indian One-horned rhinoceros.
- Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary is known for holding the highest density of Greater One Horned Rhinoceros in the country.
- it is located in the eastern region of Guwahati, Assam, was established in 1998.
- The Sanctuary consists of the Rajamayong Reserve Forest and Pobitora Reserve Forest.

Kanger Valley National Park (KVNP)

- It has been recently included in the tentative list of Unesco world heritage sites under the 'Natural' category.
- **Location:** It is located in **Chhattisgarh** state.
- The National Park derives its name from the **Kanger River**, which flows centrally from the Northwest to the Southeast direction. Kanger River is a tributary of the Kolab River, which ultimately joins the **Godavari River**.
- It has a Blend of mixed moist deciduous type of forests with the predominance of **Sal, teak, and bamboo**.

Ramadevara Betta Vulture Sanctuary

- The recent sighting of the Indian Long-Billed Vulture (Indian Vulture) at the Ramadevara Betta Vulture Sanctuary highlights the success of protected area-based conservation efforts.
- It is situated in the Ramadevara Betta Hill Range in Ramanagara, Karnataka.
- It is India's first and only vulture sanctuary established in 2012 and notified Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ) in 2017 to safeguard endangered vulture species.
- The Sanctuary is home to three of the nine vulture species found in India –
- The Indian Long-Billed Vulture (IUCN Status – Critically Endangered)
- Egyptian Vulture (IUCN Status –Endangered)
- White-Backed Vulture (IUCN Status – Critically Endangered)

Sagreshwar wildlife sanctuary

- It has 536 sambars and 295 cheetals (spotted deer), making the sanctuary one of the

highest in deer population, especially among manmade wildlife sanctuaries.

- It is located in the Sangli district of **Maharashtra**.
- It is India's first manmade wildlife sanctuary.
- It is an artificially cultivated forest without a perennial supply of water, and most of the **wildlife species were artificially introduced**.

Sheathia rosemalayensis

- In a recent discovery, researchers recently identified a new species of freshwater algae named 'Sheathia rosemalayensis', in Rosemala, located in Kollam district, Kerala.
- It was discovered in Rosemala, located in THE western ghats of Kerala, and has been named after the place where it was found.
- This discovery is crucial because Sheathia species are extremely rare in India. Before this, only one other species was reported from the Himalayas.



4. ECONOMICS

4.1 REPORTS AND INDICES

World Happiness Report 2025

- It is an annual global report that ranks countries based on life satisfaction and happiness levels of their citizens.
- Published by the Wellbeing Research Centre, University of Oxford.
- Released in collaboration with Gallup, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, and an independent editorial board.
- **Global Ranking – Top 3 Nations:** Finland (Topper – 1st, for the eighth consecutive year), Denmark (2nd) and Iceland (3rd).
- **Bottom 3 Nations:** Afghanistan (147th), Sierra Leone, and Lebanon.
- **India's Ranking Position:**
 - India ranked 118th out of 147 countries.
 - Score improved from 4.054 (2021-23) to 4.389 (2022-24).
 - Ranked below Pakistan (109) and Nepal (92).

- **Six key indicators:** GDP per capita, Healthy life expectancy, Social support, Freedom, Generosity, Perception of corruption.

State of Global Climate Report 2024

- It is released by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
- According to the State of Global Climate report 2024, global warming is nearing the 1.5°C Paris Agreement threshold.
- **Current Warming Levels:** Global warming stands at 1.34–1.41°C above pre-industrial

levels, with 19 of the last 20 months surpassing the 1.5°C threshold.

- The world could surpass the 1.5°C threshold by September 2029.
- **Carbon Dioxide Levels:** In 2023, atmospheric CO₂ reached 151% of pre-industrial levels, the highest in 800,000 years.

About World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

- It is an intergovernmental organisation with a membership of 192 Member States and Territories.
- **India is a member of WMO.**
- It originated from the International Meteorological Organization (IMO), which was established after the 1873 Vienna International Meteorological Congress.
- WMO is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

United Nations World Water Development Report

- WWDR is UN-Water's flagship report on water and sanitation issues.
- Launched on World Water Day (March 22), the report focuses on a different theme each year and gives policy recommendations to decision-makers by offering best practices and in-depth analyses.

- **Report Name:** “Water Towers: Mountains and Glaciers” (2025 Edition).
- **Published by:** UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) on behalf of UN-Water.
- **Theme:** Mountains and glaciers - Water towers
- The report says that “all mountain ranges” have shown evidence of warming since the early 20th century.
- Retreating glaciers threaten the food and water supply of 2 billion people around the world.
- About World Water Day 2025:
- **Date Celebrated:** Annually on March 22.
- **Theme for 2025:** “Glacier Preservation” – focusing on safeguarding glaciers as vital freshwater reserves
- A comprehensive Data Pooling Exercise: Conducted by the Union Labour Ministry in collaboration with the ILO, analyzing 200 crore records across 34 major Central schemes (e.g., MGNREGA, EPF, ESI).
- It does not account for: In-kind benefits provided to the citizens of the country (e.g., food security, housing benefits), State-administered social protection schemes.

Global Happiness Rankings

- Finland has once again secured its position as the world’s happiest country for the eighth consecutive year, India ranked 126th out of 143 countries
 - Denmark
 - Iceland
 - Sweden
 - Netherlands

World Social Protection Report (WSPR) 2024-26

- It was released by the **International Labour Organization**.
- As per the WSPR, India’s social protection coverage doubled from 24.4% in 2021 to 48.8% in 2024.
- 65% of India's population (92 crore people) is covered under at least one social protection benefit (cash or in-kind), with 48.8% receiving cash benefits.
- The study, conducted by the Wellbeing Research Centre at the University of Oxford in collaboration with Gallup and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network

Factors Influencing Happiness Rankings

- Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita, Healthy life expectancy, Social support, Freedom to make life choices, Generosity, Perceptions of corruption

4.2 TAX STRUCTURE IN INDIA

Anti-Dumping Duties

- India has recently introduced anti-dumping duties on **five products imported from China**.
- This decision aims to protect local industries from unfair competition posed by low-priced imports.
- foreign imports believed to be priced below fair market value.
- These measures are in line with **World Trade Organization (WTO)** regulations.
- India has a growing trade deficit with China, which reached USD 85 billion in 2023-24.

About Anti-Dumping Duties

- Anti-dumping duties are tariffs imposed on
- The Government of India is taking steps to safeguard its domestic industries.



5. SCIENCE

5.1 LATEST INVENTIONS ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Vikram 3201 and Kalpana 3201

- Two advanced 32-bit microprocessors are designed for space applications and represent leap in India's indigenous technology capabilities.
- Developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- This initiative aligns with India's "Make in India" campaign, promoting self-reliance in critical technology sectors
- Vikram 3201 is India's first fully indigenous 32-bit microprocessor. It is designed to withstand the harsh conditions of space.

5.2 SPACE

Chandrayaan-5 Mission

- The government has officially approved the Chandrayaan-5 mission
- This mission will be executed in collaboration with Japan
- Chandrayaan-5 mission would carry a 250 kg rover to study the Moon's surface.
- Chandrayaan-3 (2023) - First successful soft landing on Moon's south pole
- Chandrayaan-4 (expecting 2027) - Lunar soil sample collection and return to Earth
- Chandrayaan-5 (expecting 2028) - Advanced surface study with a 250 kg rover

Chandrayaan Mission

- Chandrayaan-1 (2008) - Discovered water molecules on the Moon
- Chandrayaan-2 (2019) - Orbiter successful, lander crashed
- ISRO's other future plans**
- Gaganyaan Mission: India's first manned mission to space.
- Bharatiya Antariksh Station: India's own space station by 2035.



6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENT

'India's solar power

- A study by researchers at IIT Delhi concluded that by mid-century, the efficiency of solar panels will drop by 2.3% owing to pollution.
- India = 5th largest solar power producer globally.
- **Target:** 50% power from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030.
- **Plan:** 500 GW renewable energy, one-fifth from solar.
- **300 sunny days/year in India**, but air pollution reduces radiation.
- **Northeast India & Kerala** will have higher solar potential due to fewer clouds.
- These activities are being implemented throughout Tamil Nadu through the Department of Agriculture.
- Farmers' details can be uploaded using Aadhaar cards, mobile numbers, land pattas, and chittas.
- In Tamil Nadu, 22.48 lakh farmers in 37 districts are provided with the Prime Minister's Honorarium.
- So far, out of the 27.65 lakh farmers allocated to the Department of Agriculture, 13.34 lakh (48.26%) details have been uploaded on the Agri Stack website.

Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) ID

- It is introduced under the National Education Policy 2020 by the ministry of education and aligned with the National Credit Framework.
- it aims to establish a "One Nation, One Student ID" system to streamline academic records and facilitate transitions between educational levels.
- APAAR assigns a 12-digit ID, linking academic records to DigiLocker and Academic Bank of Credits for storage and verification.

'Agri Stack' for Integrating Land Documents

- Under the Prime Minister's Honorarium Scheme, it has been made mandatory for farmers to register on the 'Agri Stack' website. This website consolidates and uploads farmers'

land documents.

- In the Agricultural Business Department, out of 2.46 lakh people, 1.21 lakh (49.46%) have been uploaded; in the Agricultural Engineering Department, out of 95,000 people, 41,000 (42.86%); and in the Agricultural Seed Certification Department, out of 60,000 people, 28,000 (46.77%) details have been uploaded.

Separate Drug Control System for AYUSH Medicines : Parliamentary Standing Committee Recommendation

- Under the Drugs Act of 1940, a separate regulatory ministry should be created for AYUSH medicines.
- By coordinating the Indian Medicine and Homeopathy Drugs Commission and the Central Council for Ayurvedic Sciences, AYUSH medicines can be examined and evaluated.

- Health and Ayurveda exhibitions should be conducted in India's 28 states and 8 union territories.
 - Efforts to use the AYUSH medicine system for disease prevention and treatment should be encouraged.
 - AYUSH medical systems should be popularized among Indians living in developed countries like Britain and the United States.
 - Emphasis should be placed on skill development and medical education in the AYUSH sector.
- Vocational Training Program," a new initiative aimed at enhancing the vocational skills of youth.
- Under this program, the government has set a target of providing 1.27 lakh vocational training opportunities during the 2024-25 period. In the first phase, they planned to provide 1.27 lakh opportunities.
 - In the second phase of the training program, 1.18 lakh training opportunities have been announced by 327 organizations.
 - Youth enrolling in this program will receive a monthly stipend of Rs. 5,000 for 12 months, plus a one-time grant of Rs. 6,000.

Raisina Dialogue

- It is India's premier conference on geopolitics and geo-economics, dedicated to addressing some of the most pressing global challenges
- Hosted annually in New Delhi
- The 10th edition of the Raisina Dialogue is set to take place from March 17 to March 19, 2025.
- The central theme for Raisina Dialogue 2025 is "Kālachakra – People, Peace and Planet."
- Over 3,500 participants from around 125 countries will join the Raisina Dialogue in person, making it one of the largest diplomatic gatherings in India

The Fit India Carnival

- It is a first-of-its-kind three-day fitness and wellness event
- It was inaugurated by Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports in New Delhi.
- The event aims to promote physical fitness, mental well-being, and healthy lifestyle choices among citizens.

Prime Minister's Vocational Training Program App

- The Central Government has introduced a mobile application for the "Prime Minister's

New Supreme Court Judge Takes Oath

- Jayamalya Bagchi, who was a judge at the Kolkata High Court, has been sworn in as a Supreme Court Judge. The oath was administered by Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Sanjiv Khanna.
- With this appointment, the number of Supreme Court judges has increased to 33.
- The sanctioned strength of judges in the Supreme Court is 34.
- He will serve until the year 2031, which is over 6 years.
- The Central Government appointed him as a Supreme Court judge based on the Collegium's recommendation.

List of Most Air-Polluted Countries for the Year 2024

- Switzerland-based IQAir company has released the Air Quality Index list. This list collected air quality data from 8,954 cities across 138 countries.
- Data was collected from over 40,000 air quality monitoring stations to compile this list.

- According to World Health Organization recommendations, the PM 2.5 level in the air should be between 0-5 micrograms/cubic meter.
- Important Rankings:
- Chad - This country recorded a PM 2.5 level of 91.8, which is 18 times higher than the recommended level, placing it at the top of the list.
 - Bangladesh (78)
 - Pakistan (73.7)
 - Congo (58.2)
 - India (50.6) - ranked 5th.

'Scam Se Bacho' Campaign

- Launched by The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) partnered with WhatsApp
- The collaboration is part of India's broader digital safety strategy as the nation continues its digital transformation.

Primary Goal:

- Enhance digital safety & awareness among citizens.
- Educate users on identifying & reporting fraudulent communications.
- The campaign will feature train-the-trainer workshops. These workshops will target DoT officials, Sanchar Mitras, and Telecom Service Providers (TSPs).

Voter Card - Aadhaar Linkage

- The Election Commission has stated that the process of linking Aadhaar numbers with voter ID cards will be carried out as per existing laws and Supreme Court directives.
- The linking of Aadhaar numbers with voter ID cards will be implemented based on Article 326 of the Constitution, Sections 23(4), 23(5), 23(6)

of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and the Supreme Court judgment delivered in 2023 regarding this matter.

Six properties added to India's Tentative List by UNESCO World Heritage Centre

- Before a site can be inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List, it must first be included in a country's Tentative List.

Six Sites in India's Tentative List

1. Kanger Valley National Park

- **Location:** Bastar District, Chhattisgarh.
- Draws its name from Kanger River.
- Karst topography with Limestone Caves and Tirathgarh Waterfalls.

2. Mudumal Megalithic Menhirs

- Megalithic astronomical observatory site located near the banks of Krishna River, Telangana.
- A menhir is a man-made standing or an upright stone, which is usually tapered at the top.
- Estimated to be 3,500 to 4,000 years old.

3. Ashokan Edict Sites along the Mauryan

Routes

- These include Major Rock Edicts, Minor Rock Edicts, Pillar Edicts, and Other Edicts and Cave Inscriptions.
- These were inscribed by Maurya Emperor Ashoka during the 3rd century BCE.

4. Chausath Yogini Temples

- **Locations:** Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Odisha.
- Have 64 images of Yoginis and are associated with tantric worship.
- Most Chausath Yogini temples are circular in plan except for the Khajuraho, Badoh and Rikhiyan, which are rectangular.

5. Gupta Temples in North India

- Combines elements of Nagara and Dravida architectural styles and of Buddhist and Hindu styles.
- Temples had a basic square plan and flat roof with a circumambulatory path and a low height Shikhara.
- Made of sun-dried bricks and terracotta, with some made in sandstone.

6. The of the Bundelas Palace-Fortresses

- Six forts including Garhkundar Fort, Raja Mahal, Jahangir Mahal, Datia Palace, Jhansi Fort and Dhubela Palace,
- Blend of Rajput and Mughal architectural styles.

Kamba Ramayana

- The culture ministry is set to embark on a comprehensive initiative to preserve and promote the 'Kamba Ramayana', one of the most significant works in Tamil literature.
- It has planned a week-long immersive festival to be held at KambarMedu, the birthplace of Kambar in Theraazhundur.
- This festival will feature continuous recitals of the 'Kamba Ramayana', dance dramas, and scholarly discussions on the cultural and literary significance of the epic.
- The South Zone Cultural Centre (SZCC), under the Ministry of Culture, is launching a comprehensive initiative aimed at reviving the oral tradition of 'Kamba Ramayana' recitals and its broader cultural impact.
- The programme is being held in coordination with the Tamil Nadu Government.

About Kamba Ramayana:

- Kamba Ramayana, also known as Ramavataram, is a Tamil epic based on the Sanskrit Valmiki Ramayana.

- Composed by Tamil poet Kambar in the 12th century CE.

About Kambar:

- Kambar, also known as Kavichakravarthy Kamban, was a renowned Tamil poet.
- Born in Therazhundur, located in the present-day Mayiladuthurai district, Tamil Nadu.
- Kambar lived and flourished in the Chola Empire during the reign of Kulothunga III.

India's First PPP-Based Green Waste Processing Plant

- Indore is set to launch India's first PPP-based green waste processing plant under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban.
- The initiative aims to convert green waste into eco-friendly products and promote sustainable waste management.
- It is a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model waste processing facility for converting green waste into eco-resources.
- To process green waste (wood, leaves, branches, flowers) into pellets and sawdust, replacing coal and supporting clean energy goals.

About Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-Urban):

- Launched on 2nd October 2014.
- Implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- To achieve universal sanitation coverage and maintain cleanliness across urban areas.
- Components:
 - SBM-Urban 1.0 (2014–2019): Focused on making all urban areas ODF.
 - SBM-Urban 2.0 (launched 2021): Targeting bioremediation of 2,400 legacy landfill sites by 2025–26.

Sansad Bhashini Initiative

- The Lok Sabha Secretariat and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) signed an MoU to launch the Sansad Bhashini initiative.
- It is an AI-based digital initiative designed to enable real-time translation, transcription, and data access of parliamentary records in multiple Indian languages.

Aim :

- To enhance multilingual support in parliamentary proceedings.
- To make parliamentary debates, documents, and archives more accessible for MPs, researchers, and the public.
- To promote linguistic diversity in governance and digital accessibility.

Dairy Development Plan, New Urea Plant, UPI Transactions - Financial Allocations; Cabinet Approval

Dairy Development Plan:

- The Union Cabinet has approved a financial allocation of Rs. 6,190 crore for national-level milk production and dairy development programs (Rashtriya Gokul Mission and National Dairy Development Plan).
- These programs will operate from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- Under the financial allocation, an additional Rs. 1,000 crore has been allocated to increase milk production and ensure growth in the dairy sector.

New Urea Plant:

- The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of a new urea plant in Assam at an estimated cost of Rs. 10,601.4 crore.
- This plant has the capacity to produce 12.7 lakh tons of urea annually.

- The plant will begin operations within 4 years.

Small UPI Transactions:

- To encourage UPI transactions below Rs. 2,000, the Union Cabinet has created an incentive scheme worth approximately Rs. 1,500 crore.
- Through this, the government will bear the MDR (Merchant Discount Rate) costs that merchants would otherwise have to pay to banks.

About UPI:

- **Introduction:** April 11, 2016
- Implemented through the National Payments Corporation of India

2023-24 Coal Production in India

- India's coal production has currently exceeded 1 billion (100 crore) tons, which is considered a significant achievement.
- With this, India is the 5th largest economy in the world.
- Coal is used as a major fuel source in India, especially for power generation. 74% of the country's electricity is produced through coal-based power plants.
- In 2023-24, 997.83 million tons of coal was produced.

National Wildlife Health Policy (NWHP)

- NWHP aims to strengthen wildlife disease surveillance, research, and diagnostics.
- The **Central Zoo Authority (CZA)** launched the National Wildlife Health Policy (NWHP) to improve wildlife health management and address zoonotic diseases.
- This initiative is an integral part of the National Wildlife Action Plan (2017-31) and follows the One Health approach, which emphasizes the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health.

National Referral Centre for Wildlife (NRC-W)

- Recently inaugurated in Junagadh, Gujarat, NRC-W serves as a central hub for wildlife health management.
- It is India's first dedicated wildlife disease diagnostic and research centre.
- The centre investigates wildlife mortalities, disease outbreaks, and provides treatment solutions.

Central Zoo Authority (CZA)

- It is a statutory body established under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- It was formed in 1992 under the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC).
- It works to enhance wildlife conservation efforts and maintain the health of animals in zoological parks.

India's nuclear energy initiatives

- India launches Jaitapur Nuclear Power Plant and Gorakhpur Nuclear Power Plant projects to fuel its energy future and strengthen nuclear power capacity.

Gorakhpur Nuclear Power Project (Haryana)

- First nuclear project in North India, coming up in Gorakhpur (Fatehabad District), Haryana.
- Strengthens India's nuclear infrastructure and geographical expansion.

Jaitapur Nuclear Power Plant (Maharashtra)

- Largest nuclear power plant in India once completed.
- Will house six reactors of 1,730 MW each, totaling 10,380 MW capacity.
- Will contribute 10% of India's 100 GW nuclear energy goal by 2047.

Government's Policy Shift

- Private sector participation introduced to speed up nuclear energy development.
- Aims to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070 with nuclear power playing a major role.

SwaYaan Initiative

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Drone Federation of India launched the National Innovation Challenge for Drone Research (NIDAR).
- It was Launched under the SwaYaan – Capacity Building for Human Resource Development in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) initiative.
- Encourage research, innovation, and real-world drone applications in disaster management and precision agriculture.

About SwaYaan Initiative:

- A comprehensive capacity-building program for drone and allied technologies in India.
- **Launched in:** Approved by MeitY in July 2022.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- It aims to Train 42,560 participants to create a skilled drone technology workforce.

'DareeraD TB' initiative

- The **Department of Biotechnology**, under the **Ministry of Science and Technology**, has completed the genomic sequencing of a third, or 10,000 samples, of the target of 32,500 samples of Mycobacterium tuberculosis – the bacterium behind tuberculosis (TB)
- The genome sequencing initiative, part of Data-Driven Research to Eradicate TB (Dare2eraD TB), an umbrella programme of the DBT.
- It was launched in **2022** with a goal to sequence about 32,500 samples from across the country.

- It is tied to the Centre's broader mission to eliminate TB.
- Nine labs of the DBT, the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** and the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** are involved in the programme as part of a consortium called Indian Tuberculosis Genomic Surveillance.
- Full sequencing of all 32,500 samples is expected by October 2025.
- Centre's TB elimination strategy is based on a **"whole of the society"** and **"whole of the government"** approach.
- under the campaign, over 13.46 lakh Nikshay Shivirs (community screening and awareness camps) were organised, bringing essential TB services directly to the doorsteps of crores of people.

India's TB Elimination Goal

- PM announced in 2018 that India aims to eliminate TB by 2025, five years ahead of the WHO's 2030 target.
- India accounts for 28% of new global TB cases.
- Gujarat has achieved a remarkable 95 per cent of the target set by NITI Aayog for TB registration and treatment success.

Findings from Genome Sequencing

- 7% of sequenced samples show resistance to a single drug.
- Most TB cases were in the 18-45 age group.
- Many affected individuals were diabetic and underweight.

Anti-TB campaign will be expanded to all districts

- **100-Day TB-Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (Launched: December 7, 2024)**
- 12.97 crore people screened for tuberculosis (TB).
- 7.19 lakh TB cases detected, including **2.85 lakh asymptomatic cases**.
- TB treatment coverage in India has now increased from 59% to 85%.
- Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda announced that the campaign will now cover all districts in India.

Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden

- Asia's largest tulip garden, in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, India.
- Ensnconced between the Dal Lake and the Zabarwan Hills.
- The garden was established in 2007 with the intention of enhancing Kashmir Valley tourism and floriculture.
- It was formally known as Siraj Bagh.
- The Government of Jammu and Kashmir hosts the Tulip Festival every spring to promote tourism.

Anthurium Flowers

- The first-ever export consignment of Anthurium flowers from Mizoram to Singapore.
- In India: Widely cultivated in Mizoram and other North Eastern states.
- Significant contribution to India's floriculture exports (USD 86.62 million in FY 2023-24).
- 'Anthurium Festival' is an annual cultural and tourism event celebrated in Mizoram. It showcases the beauty and commercial potential of Anthurium flowers grown in the region.
- Floriculture is commercially cultivated in several states with Tamil Nadu (21%), Karnataka (16%), Madhya Pradesh (14%) and West Bengal (12%).

- The major importing countries from India were U.S.A, Netherland, United Arab Emirates, U.K and Canada.

SAHYOG portal

- SAHYOG is a centralized platform developed by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) under the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C).
- It is designed to streamline data access for law enforcement agencies (LEAs) and facilitate the removal of unlawful online content under the IT Act, 2000.
- The portal aims to enhance cooperation between the government and IT intermediaries by providing a structured system for handling data requests, removing unlawful content, and improving response times for cybercrime investigations.

Kerala Became First State To Establish Senior Citizens Commission

- Kerala has become the first state in India to establish a Senior Citizens Commission by passing the Kerala State Senior Citizens Commission Bill, 2025.

About Senior Citizens Commission

- A statutory body established under the Kerala State Senior Citizens Commission Act, 2025.
- First-of-its-kind in India, focusing exclusively on senior citizens' welfare.
- Functions as an advisory body for state policies concerning the elderly.

Aim of the Commission

- To safeguard the rights and welfare of senior citizens.
- Ensure rehabilitation, protection, and active participation of the elderly in society.

- Promote inclusivity and dignity for senior citizens in Kerala.

Yuge Yugeen Bharat National Museum

- **Location:** North and South Blocks, New Delhi
- **Project Initiative:** Part of the Central Vista Redevelopment Project
- **Objective:** Showcase India's thousands-year-old civilizational and cultural heritage, Celebrating India's timeless identity – past, present, and future
- An agreement was signed between the National Museum of India and France Museums Development for technical cooperation in the museum's development.

NeVA (National e-Vidhan Application)

- Delhi has become the 28th legislature to join the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) platform

About NeVA (National e-Vidhan Application):

- A digital platform designed to modernize legislative operations by enabling paperless proceedings and real-time access to legislative documents.
- Created and implemented by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MoPA), Government of India.
- Initiated under the guidance of the Government of India as part of the "One Nation, One Application" vision.
- To digitize legislative processes across all state legislatures.

India's first zoo to preserve DNA samples

- **Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park** in Darjeeling has become India's first zoo to preserve DNA samples of Himalayan wildlife.

- **Project Name:** Popularly known as India's first frozen zoo or DNA cryogenic conservation project.
- The initiative aims to create a genetic bank or "frozen zoo" to aid future conservation efforts.

About Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park

- **Located in:** Situated in Darjeeling, West Bengal.
- Initially named **Himalayan Zoological Park.**
- **Largest high-altitude zoo in India** spread over 67.8 acres.

BHIM 3.0

- The **NPCI BHIM Services Limited (NBSL)**, a subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) 3.0 app.
- **BHIM 3.0:** It is an upgraded version of BHIM.
- BHIM 3.0 has enhanced accessibility and security with support for 15+ languages, low-internet optimization, and improved security features for safer transactions.
- BHIM Unified Payment Interface (UPI) was launched in 2016 to provide a simple, fast, and secure method for cashless payments using UPI technology.
- It enabled users to send and receive money instantly through mobile phones, without requiring bank account details.
- **NPCI:** NPCI was founded in 2008 by the **RBI and Indian Banks' Association** under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, to oversee and manage retail payments and settlement systems in India.

India's First National Cooperative University

- The Lok Sabha recently passed the Tribhuvan Sahkari University Bill, 2025, marking step in cooperative education in India.
- This initiative aims to establish the country's first national cooperative university at the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA) in Gujarat.
- The university is designed to enhance education, research, and training in the cooperative sector nationwide.
- The Tribhuvan Sahkari University will serve as a hub for cooperative training. It will register cooperative training institutes across all states as affiliated colleges.
- The Tribhuvan Sahkari University is aligned with the government's vision of '**Sahkar Se Samridhhi**', aiming to boost rural economies and create valuable career opportunities in sectors like dairy, fisheries, and banking.

Digital Crop Survey (DCS) System

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has introduced the Digital Crop Survey (DCS) System to collect real-time crop-sown details directly from the field via a mobile interface.

Features of Digital Crop Survey (DCS) System

- **Real-time Data Collection:** Captures crop details from fields through a mobile interface.
- **Enhanced Accuracy:** Ensures precise and up-to-date information for agricultural analysis.
- **Integration with Agri Stack:** Developed in compliance with the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 and other IT regulations in India.

Second-Largest Tea Exporter In The World

- Recent data released by the Tea Board of India indicates that India has emerged as the second-largest tea exporter in the world in 2024, surpassing Sri Lanka and trailing behind Kenya, which retained the top position.

State Economic Information Website

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will introduce the NITI-NCAER State Economic Information Center website, designed as an information repository providing extensive data on social, economic, and financial metrics of states over the past 30 years.
- This website, created by NITI Aayog in collaboration with the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), will categorize data from 28 Indian states up to the 2022-23 financial year into five sections: population, economic structure, finance, health, and education.
- The website will facilitate understanding of macroeconomics, finance, population, and socio-economic trends, serving as a comprehensive research center providing statistical data for policymakers and researchers
- It will meet the current need for integrated sectoral data in one place. According to a statement released by NITI Aayog, the website will also allow for comparing each state's data with other states and national statistics.

"Zoowin" Website to Monitor Rabies and Snake Bite Vaccine Stock

- The central government has introduced a website called 'Zoowin' to monitor nationwide

availability of rabies and snake bite vaccines. Similar to the 'Co-WIN' website introduced for the Corona vaccination program and the 'U-WIN' website for the vaccination program for pregnant women and children, the Zoowin website will function by expanding collaboration with medical service institutions, municipal authorities, and veterinary service institutions to provide integrated information on the nationwide stock of anti-rabies vaccines and anti-snake bite vaccines.

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) statistics have revealed that globally 60,000 people die each year from rabies caused by dog bites, with India accounting for 36 percent of these deaths.
- In this context, the **National Center for Disease Control (NCDC)** has developed the Zoowin website with technical support from UNDP to ensure the availability of rabies (ARIL, ASV) and snake bite (ASV) vaccines across the country.
- This website has been introduced as a pilot project in 5 states including Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Puducherry, and Andhra Pradesh. After analyzing its functionality and benefits, the website will be gradually introduced to all states.
- Previously, to help those affected by rabies and snake bites receive immediate treatment and to access related information, NCDC, in collaboration with UNDP, introduced the helpline number 15400 in these 5 states last year.



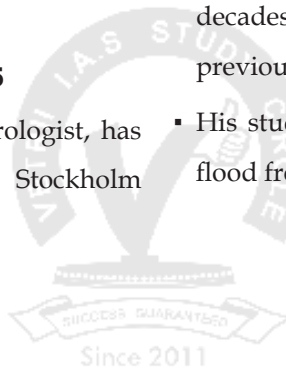
7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

UN80 Initiative

- It was Launched on the 80th anniversary of the UN
- It aims to enhance efficiency and cost-effectiveness within the United Nations as it faces financial and operational challenges.
- It Enhance structural reforms for better mandate implementation.
- This recognition marks his contributions to flood risk management and water resource engineering.
- He has developed a comprehensive 500-year flood database that analyses historical flood patterns.
- This work has revealed that the last two decades have been more flood-prone than previous centuries.

Stockholm Water Prize in 2025

- Günter Blöschl, a renowned hydrologist, has been awarded the prestigious Stockholm Water Prize in 2025.
- His studies link climate change to increasing flood frequency and severity.





8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

Report: 'Blue Carbon Monitoring for Mangroves of Tamil Nadu'

- Released by Centre for Climate Change and Disaster Management, Anna University by Centre for Climate Change and Disaster Management, Anna University
- Doubling of mangrove area due to new plantations + preservation efforts (2021: 4,500 hectares to 2024: 9,039 hectares)

District-wise Contribution

- **Tiruvarur:** Largest mangrove area – 2,142 h.a. (1,470 h.a. existing + 672 h.a. new plantations)
- **2nd : Thanjavur:** 2,063 h.a. (1,209 h.a. existing + 854 h.a. plantations) , 3rd : Cuddalore: 1,117 h.a., 4th : Nagapattinam: 1,021 h.a.
- **Lower-density mangroves :** Villupuram: 2.59 tonnes/h.a. , Tiruvallur: 13.1 tonnes/h.a.
- **Importance:** Mangroves help in carbon sequestration, coastal protection, and ecological stability.
- **Threat Identified :** Spread of invasive Prosopis juliflora in mangrove areas (Thoothukudi, Ramanathapuram, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Tiruvallur).
- **Composition :** Existing mangroves: 59.9% (5,414 h.a.) and New plantations: 40.1% (3,625 h.a.)

Identity Cards for 54 Lakh Women in Self-Help Groups

- Through the Tamil Nadu Women's Development Corporation, 3,29,039 self-help groups have been formed in rural areas,

with 37,76,575 women members. In urban areas, there are 1,47,430 self-help groups with 15,98,144 women.

- In total, there are approximately 4.76 lakh self-help groups with about 54 lakh women.
- Identity cards for self-help groups are being distributed in two phases.
- Priorities for Identity Cards
- Permission to carry loads up to 25 kg without charge on urban and suburban buses.
- Additional 5% discount when purchasing Co-optex textiles.
- Priority in Cooperative, Food, and Consumer Protection Department loan schemes.
- Privilege to purchase Aavin products at discounted prices.
- 10% discount will be provided at internet service centers.

T.N.'s sex ratio at birth improved from 931 to 941 during 2021-2024

- According to the State's Health Management Information System data, the sex ratio at birth was 931 during 2021-2022, and increased by seven points to 938 during 2022-2023.
- It was 941 during 2023-2024 and 940 during 2024-2025 [up to February 2025]
- Sex ratio at birth is the number of females per 1,000 males.
- The National Family Health Survey-5 (2020-2021) had put Tamil Nadu's sex ratio at birth for children born in the previous five years at 878, prompting health officials to dispute the figure in 2021.

Over 1,000 Years Old Temple Renovations

- Rs. 300 crore has been allocated over three fiscal years for renovations of temples that are more than a thousand years old.
- Through this, along with user funds and temple funds, a total of Rs. 430 crore is being spent on consecration ceremonies (Kumbabishekam) for 49 temples.
- Currently, 507 thousand-year-old temples have been documented.
- This year, UNESCO award has been given to the Apatsahayesvarar Temple in Thukkachi, Kumbakonam.A

Former Archaeological Survey of India Director General's Statue Unveiled

- The Chief Minister unveiled a statue of Sir John Hubert Marshall, former Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India, at the Egmore Museum complex at a cost of Rs. 50 lakhs.

About Sir John Hubert Marshall:

- **Birth:** March 19, 1876 - August 17, 1958. (England)
- In 1902, at the age of 26, he took charge as the Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India.
- On September 20, 1924, he announced the discovery of the historically significant Indus Valley Civilization to the world.
- This announcement revolutionized the understanding of the history of the Indian subcontinent that had prevailed until then.

Tamil Nadu's financial situation shows gradual improvement

- The proportion of capital expenditure to total expenditure is moving up to 13% after it went down to 10.4% in 2017-18.
- Capital expenditure share in net public debt/borrowings is also rising.
- Fifteen years ago, 86% of public debt funded CapEx; it declined to 44% in 2021-22 but is expected to reach 55% next year.

Tracking finances

A look at the trends in capital expenditure, revenue expenditure and net public debt over the years

Year	Capital expenditure	Revenue expenditure	Total	Net public	Proportion of Capital expenditure to net public debt (in %)	Proportion of capital expenditure to total expenditure (in %)
2010-11	12,436	72,916	87,604	14,492	14.2	85.8
2014-15	17,803	128,828	150,950	24,592.66	11.8	72.4
2017-18	20,203	167,874	194,594	36,730.71	10.4	55
2021-22	37,011	254,030.42	294,682	84,747.75	12.56	43.7
2023-24	40,500	309,718	359,063	88,032.35	11.3	46
2024-25*	46,756	340,374	399,539	97,663.08	11.7	48
2025-26**	57,231	373,204	439,293	105,000.12	13	54.5

*Revised Estimates **Budget Estimate

Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam – II

- The Tamil Nadu government has granted administrative sanction for allocation of ₹1,087 crore for implementing 'Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam'.
 - The programme is being implemented by the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department.
 - The programme inducted in 2006 aims to improve the overall basic infrastructure facilities in all village panchayats in a phased manner.
 - The initiative includes rejuvenating ponds, upgrading streets and lanes, installing streetlights, and providing livelihood and marketing facilities.
 - During 2025-26, the programme will be implemented in 2,329 village panchayats.
 - Block-level committees will decide the works to be taken up in a village panchayat.
 - "The shortlisted works must be approved by a Special Grama Sabha."
 - A minimum of 30% funds were to be allocated for SC/ST habitation areas.
- recovery therapies can be provided to them in rehabilitation centers.
- These can be categorized as Integrated Drug Recovery Centers and Rehabilitation Centers. Rehabilitation centers should provide psychological recovery treatments. Integrated centers must have a doctor and nurse on duty 24 hours a day.
 - A psychological counselor should also be employed there. In rehabilitation centers, a psychiatrist should examine and treat patients at least once a week. Similarly, an MBBS doctor and nurse must be on duty daily.
 - CCTV cameras are mandatory in rehabilitation centers. No patients who have not received primary intensive treatment should be admitted to rehabilitation centers.
 - Patients who are unwilling to come to the centers voluntarily may be admitted for treatment with the consent of their relatives when they face severe physical harm. Information about this must be communicated to the Mental Health Treatment Board.

Regulations for Drug Rehabilitation Centers

- The Tamil Nadu government has instructed that people addicted to drugs should only be admitted to rehabilitation centers after receiving intensive in-depth treatment under the supervision of a psychiatrist.
 - After one week of intensive treatment, the patient will qualify for rehabilitation treatment. Accordingly, psychological treatments and
- Vazhndhu Kattuvom 3.0
- The Tamil Nadu government will implement Vazhndhu Kattuvom 3.0 at a cost of ₹1,000 crore, with assistance from the World Bank, in 120 blocks across the State,
 - Youth Welfare and Sports Development Department will conduct the 2025 Men's Hockey Junior World Cup in Chennai and Madurai establishing a Policy and Governance Experiential Centre, an Economics and Statistics Wing in government departments for evidence-based policy making, a specialised IT unit at the headquarters of the Economics and

Statistics Department, modernisation of the department

- Build sustainability and prosperity in rural communities.

Vazhndhu Kattuvom

- The Vazhndhu Kattuvom Project (VKP), formerly known as the Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project (TNRTP), launched on 2017

Implementation:

- Implemented by the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj.
- Operates in 120 blocks across 31 districts of Tamil Nadu.

Project Goals:

- Promote rural enterprises.
- Enable access to finance.
- Create employment opportunities.

Funding:

- Funded by the World Bank and the Government of Tamil Nadu in a 70:30 ratio.



TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURE BUDGET 2025-26

- The Tamil Nadu government unveiled its fifth exclusive agriculture budget increasing the total allocation for agriculture and allied sectors by 8 per cent for 2025-26
- The state allocated ₹45,661 crore up from ₹42,282 crore in the previous year.
- The Agriculture Budget 2025-26 focuses on boosting farmers' income while expanding into crop diversification, organic farming, mechanization, and nutrition initiatives.
- Special priority is given to schemes benefiting SC/ST communities.
- State's gross cropped area had increased from 146.77 lakh acres in 2019-20 to 151 lakh acres in 2023-24, while the double-cropped area grew from 29.74 lakh acres to 33.60 lakh acres.
- The state has also made significant advancements in productivity, ranking first in ragi production, second in maize, oilseeds, and sugarcane, and third in groundnut and minor millets at the national level.
- To support food security, the government has increased the food subsidy allocation from ₹10,500 crore in the previous year to ₹12,500 crore in 2025-26.
- Additionally, ₹525 crore has been earmarked to incentivize paddy procurement.
- For farmers' electricity needs, the state will provide ₹8,186 crore to the Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation to ensure free electricity connections, an increase from ₹6,962.93 crore in 2024-25.
- For sugarcane farmers, the government has introduced a ₹349 per metric ton (MT) incentive over the central government's Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP), bringing the total price to ₹3,500 per MT.
- This initiative is expected to benefit 1.3 lakh farmers, with an allocation of ₹297 crore.
- The state is also promoting agricultural mechanization, with plans to establish 130 custom hiring centers with a subsidy of ₹10.5 crore.
- Additionally, 5,000 agricultural machines and implements will be provided to villages under the **Kalaigarin All Village Integrated Agricultural Development Programme**.
- The Agricultural Mechanization scheme will be implemented at an outlay of ₹215.80 crore, benefiting 17,000 farmers.
- Subsidies for small paddy transplanters will be increased from ₹1.5 lakh to ₹1.7 lakh, while subsidies for power weeders will rise from ₹63,000 to ₹85,000.
- Recognising the growing number of agriculture graduates in the state, the government will establish **1,000 Chief Minister's Farmers Service Centres**.
- Each centre, costing ₹10-20 lakh, will receive a 30 per cent subsidy of ₹3-6 lakh. A total of ₹42 crore has been allocated for this initiative, which aims to provide farmers with seeds, fertilisers, expert guidance, and modern agricultural techniques.

IMPORTANT SCHEMES

- **Nutrition Farming Mission:** ₹125 crore allocated to enhance nutritional security and farmers' income.

- **Chief Minister's Mannuyir Kaathu Mannuyir Kaapom Scheme:** ₹142 crore allocated for 15 key components.
- **Natural Farming Promotion:** ₹12 crore to support 7,500 farmers across 37 districts.
- **Seed Farms & Processing Units:** ₹250 crore for seed farms and ₹15.05 crore for seven State Seed Processing Units.
- **Crop Insurance Scheme:** ₹841 crore allocated as state share of premium subsidy for 35 lakh acres
- **Cooperative Crop Loans:** ₹17,000 crore to support agricultural credit needs.
- **Tamil Nadu Agroforestry Policy:** to be unveiled to encourage the cultivation of high-value trees and streamline timber regulations
- **International Exposure for Farmers:** ₹2 crore to facilitate visits to Japan, China, and Vietnam for 100 progressive farmers.
- **Tamil Nadu Cashew Board:** to be set up at an outlay of ₹10 crore to support cashew farmers and rural workers.
- **Solar Pumpsets for Farmers:** ₹24 crore to install solar pumps for 1,000 farmers, with up to 70 per cent subsidy.
- **Mini Dairy Scheme:** Supporting 5,000 milk producers with 4 per cent interest subvention for steady income.

