

# VETRI IAS STUDY CIRCLE

## Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

**JUNE 2025**



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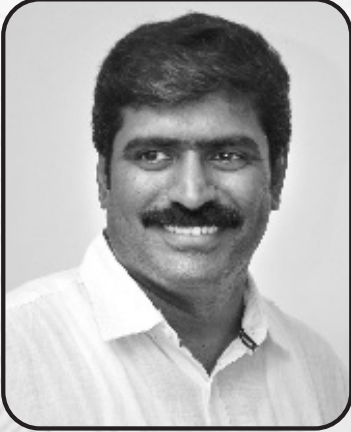
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# ***Preface***

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Director

Vetrii IAS Study Circle.

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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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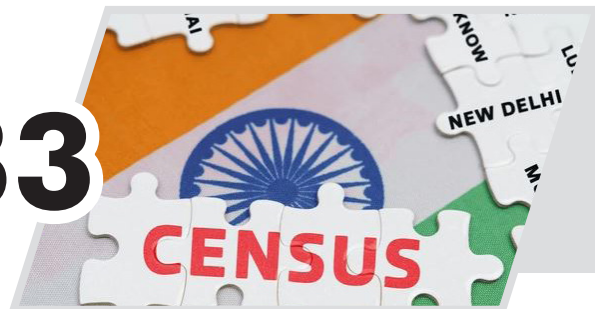


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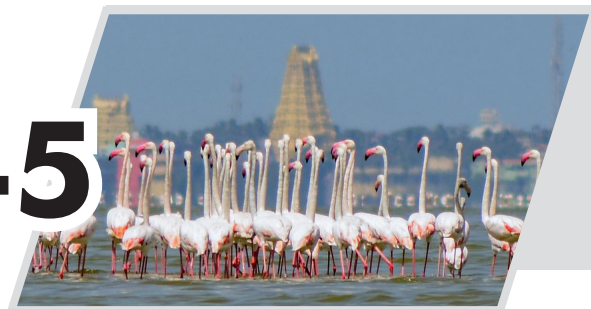
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# 1. HISTORY



## 1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
June 01	Global Day of Parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The Global Day of Parents 2025 was observed on June 1, with global campaigns by UNICEF, UNESCO, and other agencies.</li><li>▪ It is focusing on positive parenting practices, mental health awareness for caregivers, and the impact of parental involvement on achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</li><li>▪ 2025 theme - "Raising Parents".</li></ul>
June 05	World Environment Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ World Environment Day is celebrated from 1974</li><li>▪ Date: June 5, 2025</li><li>▪ Theme: "Ending Plastic Pollution"</li><li>▪ Host Country: Republic of Korea</li><li>▪ Organized by: UNEP - UN Environment Programme</li></ul>
June 07	World Food Safety Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ World Food Safety Day is celebrated annually on June 7th.</li><li>▪ It aims to raise awareness about the importance of food safety and promote actions to prevent, detect, and manage foodborne risks.</li><li>▪ Theme 2025 - "Food Safety: Science in Action".</li></ul>

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
<b>June 12</b>	<b>World Day Against Child Labour</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>June 12, 2025, marks the 21st anniversary of <b>World Day Against Child Labour</b>, first initiated by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2002.</li> <li>Theme for 2025 - <b>"Progress is clear, but there's more to do: let's speed up our efforts!"</b></li> <li>In India, the government has implemented a National Policy on Child Labour since 1987.</li> <li>This policy emphasises both the rehabilitation of affected children and the need to tackle the root cause - poverty - by improving the economic well-being of their families.</li> <li>Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDG Target 8.7 aims to end child labour in all its forms by 2025, but this target is unlikely to be met due to persistent challenges.</li> </ul>
<b>June 17</b>	<b>World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is observed annually by the UN on 17th June to raise awareness on desertification and drought, promoting sustainable land management.</li> <li>It marks the adoption of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in 1994, the only global legally binding agreement linking environment, development and sustainable land management.</li> <li>The theme for 2025 is 'Restore the Land. Unlock the Opportunities'.</li> </ul>
<b>June 21</b>	<b>International Day of Yoga</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The International Day of Yoga, celebrated every year on 21st June, is more than just a symbolic observance;</li> <li>In 2025, this internationally celebrated day enters its 11th edition, bringing with it a renewed sense of commitment to both personal well-being and planetary health.</li> <li>Theme for International Yoga Day 2025 : <b>"Yoga for One Earth, One Health"</b></li> </ul>



Date	Day	Theme / Remark
<b>June 23</b>	<b>International Olympic Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Every year on June 23, the world comes together to observe International Olympic Day—a tribute to the birth of the modern Olympic Games and a powerful reminder of the role of sports in uniting people across borders.</li> <li>▪ This year's theme is a global call-to-action encouraging everyone—regardless of background or fitness level—to combat inactivity.</li> </ul>
<b>June 23</b>	<b>United Nations Public Service Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Each year on June 23, the world observes United Nations Public Service Day to honor the vital contributions of public servants and the public sector in driving development and improving the quality of life for citizens across the globe.</li> <li>▪ Theme for 2025: "Five Years to 2030: Accelerating Public Service Delivery for a Sustainable Future"</li> </ul>
<b>June 27</b>	<b>International Day Against Drug Abuse</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2025: Being globally observed, June 26.</li> <li>▪ It aims to increase action and collaboration in the effort to end illicit drug use throughout the globe.</li> <li>▪ The theme for 2025, "Break the Cycle. #StopOrganizedCrime",</li> </ul>
<b>June 27</b>	<b>World MSME Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The United Nations designated June 27 as International MSME Day.</li> <li>▪ Theme for 2025 - "Enhancing the Role of MSMEs as Drivers of Sustainable Growth and Innovation."</li> <li>▪ In India, they are a key pillar of growth; contributing around 30% to the GDP and over 45% to the country's exports.</li> <li>▪ In India, they are emerging as the second-largest employer after agriculture.</li> </ul>

## 1.2 DEFENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND TERRORISM

### First Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft

- The Indian Navy is set to commission its first Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC), named Arnala
- Arnala is the first of sixteen ASW-SWC class ships designed and constructed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) in collaboration with L&T Shipbuilders.
- This project is a part of the Public-Private Partnership model.

### Kandeeva – Missile

- The Indian Air Force and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) have jointly prepared to soon test the Kandeeva variant missile.
- Following the Astra Mk-1 and Mk-2 variants, "Kandeeva" is the third product in that series. This variant missile will be powered by a Solid Fuel Ramjet (SFDR) engine. It has the capability to strike targets at a maximum distance of 300-350 km in the air.
- The Indian-made Astra Mk-1 has a range of 80-110 km, while the Mk-2 has the capability to fly up to a range of 140-160 km.

### PASSEX 2025

- The Indian Navy conducted a high-profile Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with the United Kingdom's Carrier Strike Group in the North Arabian Sea on June 9 and 10.
- The drill featured INS Tabar, a stealth frigate, an Indian Navy submarine and a P-8I maritime patrol aircraft, operating alongside the UK's HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Richmond.

- The naval exercise demonstrates the deepening cooperation between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy.
- The collaboration included unified control of integral helicopters, tactical manoeuvres and coordinated anti-submarine operations," the Ministry said in a statement.

### Khaan Quest 2025

- The Indian Army has arrived in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia to participate in Khaan Quest 2025. This multinational military exercise runs from June 14 to June 28.
- Khaan Quest began in 2003 as a bilateral exercise between the United States and Mongolia. In 2006, it transformed into a multinational peacekeeping exercise.

### Exercise Shakti

- Exercise Shakti 2025 will be held at La Cavalerie in France, from June 18 in La Cavalerie.
- It is a joint military exercise between India and France
- It is a biennial event conducted alternatively in India and France.
- It is the 8th edition of Exercise Shakti and last time it was held in India.
- The aim of the exercise is to enhance joint military capability of both sides to undertake Multi Domain Operations in a Sub Conventional scenario.
- Other Joint Exercises between France and India are Exercise Desert Knight, Exercise Varuna and Exercise Garuda.



### Exercise Shakti 2025

- A joint exercise between the militaries of India and France is scheduled to be held from June 18 to July 1.
- The aim of the exercise is to enhance joint military capability of both sides to undertake Multi Domain Operations in a Sub Conventional scenario.
- It aims to boost cyber resilience at the national security level and train personnel to effectively respond to advanced cyberattacks.
- This initiative will foster a security-first culture in defence institutions.

### Cyber Suraksha

- The Defence Cyber Agency has launched 'Cyber Suraksha', a national-level cyber security exercise, aimed at enhancing India's cyber defence readiness.
- 'Cyber Suraksha' is a multi-phased cybersecurity drill simulating real-world cyber threats in a high-paced, gamified environment for national-level stakeholders.
- It was launched by the Organised by the Defence Cyber Agency (DCyA).
- The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Romania are conducting the largest international nuclear emergency exercise to date.
- The event, named ConvEx-3 (2025), will take place from 24 June and simulate a severe accident at the Cernavodă Nuclear Power Plant.
- This exercise involves over 75 countries and 10 international organisations, denoting the global focus on nuclear safety.

### Global Nuclear Emergency

#### Preparedness Exercise ConvEx-3 (2025)

## 1.3 WORLD ORGANISATIONS

### International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS)

- India has won the Presidency of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS) for the 2025-2028 term
- The IIAS is a global federation comprising 31 member countries, 20 national sections, and 15 academic research centres, collaborating on scientific research in public administration.
- India has been a member since 1998, represented by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances.

## 1.4 SPORTS AND GAMES

### French open 2025 winners

- Men's Singles: Carlos Alcaraz defeated Jannik Sinner in the final,
- Women's Singles: Coco Gauff defeated Aryna Sabalenka to win her first French Open and second major title.
- Men's Doubles: Marcel Granollers and Horacio Zeballos.
- Women's Doubles: Sara Errani and Jasmine Paolini.

## 1.5 BOOKS & AUTHORS

### **Tamil translation of Madhav Gadgil's autobiography 'A Walk Up the Hill' launched**

- The Tamil translation of eminent ecologist Prof. Madhav Gadgil's autobiography A Walk Up the Hill: Living with People and Nature was launched in Chennai.

- Published in 2023, the book was written in the form of a memoir that included stories and episodes that Prof. Gadgil encountered during his long years of field surveys in different biodiversity hotspots across India, including the Western Ghats.

- His long association with Tamil Nadu began in 1973 when he started work in the Nilgiris and subsequently in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve. He was also tasked with preparing a report on the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve following this.

▪ The Tamil translation, brought out by the Tamil Nadu Textbook Corporation, was done by N. Manoharan.

▪ This book is also available in Marathi, Konkani, Malayalam, Kannada, Telugu and Bengali languages.

### **Varalaru Koorum Tamil Nattu Kaasugal Book**

▪ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister released two volumes of a book titled Varalaru Koorum Tamil Nattu Kaasugal (Coins that speak Tamil Nadu History)

▪ It was written by Minister for Finance Thangam Thennarasu and numismatic researcher Arumuga Sitharaman.

▪ The book sheds light on the different types of coins that have been in use in the Tamil landscape over the past 2,000 years and how they have evolved throughout history.

## 1.6 PLACES IN NEWS

### **Neolithic habitation site unearthed in Assam**

- An archaeological site in Assam's Dima Hasao district, uncovered, has yielded artefacts that establish it as a Neolithic habitation zone dating back to more than 2,700 years.
- The discovery of a furnace and iron slag, indicating metallurgical activities, has

provided "substantial support" for earlier hypotheses that Daojali Hading was a major prehistoric settlement in the northeastern part of India.

▪ The unearthed artefacts linked the site with the broader Eastern and Southeastern Asian Neolithic cultural complex.

## 1.7 EMINENT PERSONS

### 60th anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya

- 2025 marks the 60th anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya's philosophy of 'Integral Humanism'.
- In the post-colonial search for an indigenous philosophy of governance, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya (1916–1968) introduced the doctrine of Integral Humanism (Ekatma Manav Darshan) in 1965.
- This ideology aimed to balance material progress with spiritual upliftment and redefine development from an Indian civilisational perspective.

## 1.8 AWARDS AND HONORS

### National Florence Nightingale Awards

- Recently, the President of India presented the National Florence Nightingale Awards for the year 2025 to the nurses at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- The National Florence Nightingale Award was instituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India in the year 1973, as a mark of recognition for the meritorious services of nurses.
- It is a prestigious award given to outstanding nursing personnel employed in Central, State/UTs and Voluntary Organizations.
- This year, 15 nurses from various states were felicitated. Among the 15 Smt. Alamelu Mangayarkarasi K received the award from Tamil Nadu.
- The award is named after Archbishop Makarios III, the first President of Cyprus, and is reserved for global leaders and dignitaries who have made outstanding contributions to international relations and peace.
- Cyprus is the third largest Mediterranean island after Sicily and Sardinia.

### Bal Sahitya Puraskar Award

- Writer Vishnupuram Saravanan has been awarded the Bal Sahitya Puraskar of the Sahitya Akademi for 2025 in the Tamil language category for his children's novel Otrai Siragu Oviya.
- Published in 2019 by Books for Children, an imprint of Bharathi Puthakalayam, the novel blends elements of fantasy, ecology, and socio-political themes.
- He is currently associated with children's magazine initiatives of the Tamil Nadu School Education Department.

### Cyprus' highest civilian

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III, Cyprus' highest civilian honour, on June 16, 2025, by President Nikos Christodoulides.
- The Sahitya Akademi (India's National

### Sahitya Akademi - Yuva Puraskar Award

Academy of Letters) announced the Yuva Puraskar award for 23 writers for 2025.

- The awardees include Advait Kottary in English, Parvati Tirkey in Hindi, Latshmihar for Tamil and Prasad Suri for Telugu. There is no Yuva Puraskar in Dogri this year.
- Other winners include Suprakash Bhuyan for Assamese, Sudeshna Moitra for Bengali, R. Dileepkumar for Kannada, and Akhil P. Dharmajan for Malayalam.

### About Sahitya Akademi

- It is an autonomous organisation established in 1952 and formally inaugurated in 1954, dedicated to the promotion of literature in the languages of India. It was registered as a society in 1956 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

▪ It has its head office in Delhi and regional offices in Kolkata, Bangalore, Mumbai, Chennai, and Agartala.

### Digital Payments Award 2024–25

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), a 100% government-owned payments bank under the Department of Posts, has been conferred the prestigious Digital Payments Award 2024–25 by the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance.
- IPPB stood 1st among all Payments Banks in India in the DFS Performance Index and received a Special Mention for its FY 2023–24 efforts.

## 1.9 LATEST HISTORICAL EVENTS

### 50th Anniversary of Sikkim's Integration with India

- The Prime Minister congratulated Sikkim on the 50th anniversary of its integration into the Indian Union, marking its official recognition as the 22nd state of India on 16th May 1975.

### Key Facts about Sikkim's Integration with India

- Sikkim was a hereditary monarchy ruled by the Chogyal dynasty from 1642 to 1975.
- It maintained its autonomy during British colonial rule and post Indian independence through: Treaty of Tumlong (1861), Treaty of Titaliya (1817), Calcutta Convention (1890).

- **Indo-Sikkim Treaty (1950):** It made Sikkim an Indian protectorate, with India controlling defence external affairs, and communication, while Sikkim retained internal autonomy.
- In 1975, a referendum saw participation from two-thirds of eligible voters, with 97% voting to abolish the monarchy and join India.
- **35th Amendment Act, 1974:** The status of Sikkim as a protectorate state was terminated and Sikkim was given the status of 'Associate State' of India.
- **36th Amendment Act, 1975:** It made Sikkim a full-fledged state in India.

## 1.10 LATEST TERMINOLOGY

### **Air India AI171 crash: What's a black box and why is it important?**

- A black box is a small machine that records information about an aircraft during its flight.
- This bright orange or yellow rectangular box is crafted to withstand explosions, fire, water pressure, and high-speed crashes.
- Discovered by Australian scientist David Warren, it is used to discover the cause of a plane crash.
- The recording devices are stored inside a unit that is generally made out of strong substances such as steel or titanium and are also insulated from factors such as extreme heat, cold or wetness.

## 1.11 APPOINTMENTS

### **First Female and African President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC)**

- On June 23, 2025, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) celebrated its 131st anniversary.
- Kirsty Coventry, a former Olympic swimmer from Zimbabwe, was officially inaugurated as the first female and first African IOC President.
- She is a two-time Olympic gold medallist in swimming and one of Zimbabwe's most celebrated athletes.



# 2. POLITICAL SCIENCE

## 2.1 LATEST COURT VERDICTS

### Safeguarding Personality and Publicity Rights

- Recently, the Delhi High Court has issued a ruling safeguarding the personality and publicity rights of the founder of Isha Foundation.

- It highlights the growing concerns over AI-generated deepfakes and unauthorized use of public figures' identities.

- Personality rights refer to an individual's ability to control the commercial use of their identity. These rights are often divided into two categories:

- **Right to Privacy:** Recognised under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution. Reinforced in the landmark Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017) judgment, which elevated privacy to the status of a fundamental right.

- **Right to Publicity:** Prevents unauthorized commercial use of a person's identity.

- Elements of Personality Rights are name, image, likeness, voice, and signature etc.

### RTE Obligations need not be linked to NEP 2020- Supreme Court

- The Madras High Court directed the Union Ministry of Education to 'consider' splitting the disbursement of funds to the Tamil Nadu government under its flagship Samagra

Shiksha scheme, so that money needed to reimburse private schools under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act can be disbursed.



**Section 7 of the RTE Act states that the Central government and the State governments have concurrent responsibility for providing funds for carrying out the provisions of the Act... Therefore, funds payable to the State Government representing the Central Government's share towards discharging the RTE obligations need not be linked to NEP 2020**

**MADRAS HIGH COURT**



### Court's Clarification on RTE Funding:

- The Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 creates a statutory obligation on both Central and State governments to fund RTE.
- This responsibility is independent of whether the State adopts NEP or not.
- Section 7 of the RTE Act states that the Central government and the State governments have concurrent responsibility for providing funds for carrying out the provisions of the Act
- **Judicial Position on State's Role:** The court emphasized that non-receipt of central funds cannot be a valid excuse for Tamil Nadu to avoid reimbursing private unaided schools that admit students under the RTE quota.



## 2.2 PROBLEMS IN CONDUCT OF PUBLIC ELECTIONS

### 16th Census of India

- The Government of India has announced that the 16th Census will conclude by March 2027, marking the first digital and caste-based census in Independent India.
- A Census is the official enumeration of population, providing vital statistics on demography, economy, and socio-cultural aspects at every administrative level.
- Conducted every 10 years under the supervision of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, Ministry of Home Affairs.

- Phase 2: Population enumeration (includes caste data)

### Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam

- The Government of India is preparing to implement change in the political landscape by rolling out a reservation of seats for women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies.
- This initiative, known as the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, is closely tied to the delimitation exercise that will follow the upcoming Census.
- The aim is to ensure that one-third of the seats are reserved for women in the 2029 Lok Sabha elections.
- The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam was passed in September 2023.
- It mandates that one-third of seats in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies will be reserved for women.
- This reservation will only come into effect after a delimitation exercise based on the Census data.
- The Census is set to provide critical demographic information required for this process.

### Features of the Upcoming Census (2026–27):

- First Digital Census: Data collection will be done through a mobile application replacing paper schedules.
- Caste Enumeration Included: For the first time since Independence, caste data will be collected alongside SC/ST data.
- Self-Enumeration Option: Households with updated National Population Registry details may use an online portal for self-enumeration.
- Two-Phase Enumeration:
  - Phase 1: House-listing and housing schedule

## 2.3 PUBLIC AWARENESS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

### Ladakh gets new policies on quota, domicile status

- The Government of India introduced new regulations for Ladakh to address longstanding concerns from the local population regarding land, jobs, and cultural preservation.
- The regulations are a response to demands for increased autonomy and protection for the unique identity of Ladakh following its separation from Jammu and Kashmir in 2019.

### New Regulations

- The government notified five key regulations on June 2 and 3, 2025.

## ▪ The Ladakh Civil Services Decentralization and Recruitment (Amendment) Regulation, 2025

- This introduces domicile requirements for government job recruitment.
- The domicile is defined as residents who have lived in Ladakh for 15 years or those who completed their education in Ladakh.

## ▪ Domicile Certificate Rules

- The Ladakh Civil Services Domicile Certificate Rules, 2025, outline the process for obtaining a domicile certificate.

## ▪ Reservation Regulations

- The Union Territory of Ladakh Reservation (Amendment) Regulation, 2025, caps job reservations for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, and other backward groups at 85%.
- This also extends to admissions in professional institutions, increasing the previous cap from 50% to 85%.

## ▪ Official Languages Recognition

- The Ladakh Official Languages Regulation, 2025, officially recognises English, Hindi, Urdu, Bhoti, and Purgi.
- It mandates support for the preservation of local languages such as Shina, Brokskat, Balti, and Ladakhi, denoting the importance of cultural identity.

## ▪ Women's Representation in Councils

- The Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (Amendment) Regulation, 2025, reserves one-third of council seats for women in the Leh and Kargil councils.

- This aims to enhance women's participation in local governance.

## Limitations of the Regulations

- They lack constitutional protection, which means they can be amended at any time by the Centre.
- There are no restrictions on land ownership by non-domiciles, raising concerns about external pressure on local resources.

## DPDP Act, 2023 and DPDP Rules, 2025

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) invited public feedback on the Draft Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Rules, 2025 for implementing the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023.

## About Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023?

- It is India's first comprehensive data protection law, offering a legal framework for handling digital personal data, with the goal of safeguarding individual privacy while permitting lawful data processing.
- The Act applies to digital personal data processed within India, whether collected digitally or digitized later and to data processing outside India if done for offering goods or services in India.

## ▪ CROPIC Initiative

## CROPIC stands for Collection of Real-Time Observations & Photo of Crops.

- Launched by The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- It is an initiative under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) with a dual

purpose of monitoring crop health and stress and automation of crop loss assessment and payment of claims to affected farmers using computer vision technology and photo-analytic models.

- This initiative is as it leverages artificial intelligence and crowd-sourced data to improve agricultural practices and financial support for farmers.
- The initiative will initially focus on two seasons – kharif 2025 and rabi 2025-26.
- It aims to create a detailed directory of crop signatures that can be used for various agricultural assessments.
- CROPIC will be funded through the Fund for Innovation and Technology (FIAT)

## 50 Years of National Emergency

- 50 years ago, on 12th June 1975, the Allahabad High Court invalidated Indira Gandhi's 1971 election in *Indira Nehru Gandhi v. Shri Raj Narain Case*, 1975 leading to the declaration of a national emergency (NE) on 25th June 1975 that continued till March 1977.

### About National Emergency

- National Emergency is proclaimed by the President under Article 352 when the security of India or a part of it is threatened by War, External Aggression (external emergency), or Armed Rebellion (internal emergency).
- The 38th Amendment Act, 1975 allowed the President to issue Emergency proclamations on grounds of war, external aggression, armed rebellion, or imminent danger thereof, while

the 44th Amendment Act, 1978 replaced "internal disturbance" with "armed rebellion".

- National Emergency can extend to the whole of the country or only a part of it. 42nd Amendment Act, 1976 enabled the President to limit the operation of NE to a specific part of India.
- As per the 44th Amendment Act, 1978, a National Emergency must be approved by both Houses within one month by a special majority (originally two months).
- As per the 44th Amendment Act, 1978, a National Emergency must be approved by both Houses within one month by a special majority (originally two months).
  - If the Lok Sabha is dissolved at the time of declaration, the Rajya Sabha's approval remains valid, but the reconstituted Lok Sabha must approve it within 30 days of its first sitting.
- It continues for 6 months, and can be extended to indefinite period with approval of Parliament for every 6 months (44th Amendment Act 1978).
- It can be revoked anytime by the president without requirement of approval by Parliament.
  - The Lok Sabha can pass a resolution to disapprove the continuation of a National Emergency. If one-tenth of its total members submit a written notice to the Speaker (if in session) or to the President (if not in session), a special sitting must be held within 14 days. The resolution must be passed by a simple majority.

- The 38th Amendment Act, 1975 made the Emergency declaration immune to judicial review. This was later reversed by the 44th Amendment Act, 1978.
- In the Minerva Mills case, 1980, the Supreme Court held that a Proclamation of National Emergency can be challenged if it is mala fide, based on irrelevant or extraneous facts, or is absurd or perverse.
- A Parliamentary Committee is a body constituted by the Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha, or nominated by the Speaker/Chairman, to carry out functions delegated by Parliament.
- Parliamentary committees, originating from the British Parliament, in India derive their authority from the Indian Constitution under Article 105 (powers and privileges) and Article 118 (regulation of business).

### Parliamentary committees

- Lok Sabha Speaker emphasized the need for governments and officials to take Parliamentary committees recommendations seriously and ensure their implementation in both letter and spirit.
- Types of Parliamentary Committees – Financial Committes, Standing Committes(DRSC), Ad-hoc/Select Committes, Administration committees.

## 2.4 GOVT – WELFARE ORIENTED GOVT SCHEMES

### Goa Achieves Full Functional Literacy **Functional literacy :**

- Goa has been declared fully functionally literate under the Ministry of Education's ULLAS (Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society)-Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram programme, also known as the New India Literacy Programme (NILP).
- While Goa's literacy rate was 93.60% as per PLFS 2023-24, a state-level ULLAS survey confirmed it has crossed the 95% functional literacy benchmark.
- Earlier, Mizoram became the first state and Ladakh the first UT to achieve full functional literacy.
- It refers to an individual's ability to apply reading, writing, and numeracy skills in daily life to enhance personal development and community participation.
- The ULLAS not only covers basic literacy but also equips learners with critical life skills, encouraging lifelong learning and active citizenship.

### About ULLAS- Nav Bharat Saksharta

#### Karyakram

- ULLAS is a centrally sponsored scheme being implemented from 2022 to 2027, designed to empower adults aged 15 years and above who missed out on formal schooling.

- It aimed at promoting Education for All, earlier known as Adult Education and it is in line with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- Its target is to achieve Foundational Literacy and Numeracy for 5 crore learners during FY 2022-27 (1 crore learners per year).
- 5 Key Components of Scheme: Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, Critical Life Skills, Basic Education, Vocational Skills & Continuing Education.
- Under this initiative the government had reached over 53 lakh Scheduled Tribe individuals, helping them get government scheme benefits.

#### About DAJGUA

- The DAJGUA package was launched in 2023.
- Originally coined as the PM Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PM-JUGA), the scheme is a package for basic scheme saturation in tribal-majority villages
- It aims to address critical gaps in social infrastructure, health, education, and livelihood development across approximately 63,000 tribal villages.
- Tenure: 5 Years (2024-25 to 2028-29)
- Funding to be shared between Centre and State.
- Monitoring under PM GatiShakti Portal

### Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

- Consumption of petroleum products, especially diesel and cooking gas in Andaman & Nicobar (A&N) Islands, has jumped in recent years, aided by Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana.
- It is a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MOPNG) launched in May 2016.
- **Objective:** To make clean cooking fuel such as LPG available to the rural and deprived households which were otherwise using traditional cooking fuels such as firewood, coal, cow-dung cakes, etc.

### Dharti Aba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyaan (DAJGUA) Package

- The government has held over 22,000 “jan seva” camps as part of its push to take the Tribal Affairs Ministry’s flagship scheme saturation package, the Dharti Aba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyaan (DAJGUA).
- About Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

### Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

- ₹1,156.15-crore worth projects sanctioned to T.N under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).
- Additional fund of ₹262.42 crore was released for implementation of the Blue Revolution Scheme (during 2017-18) to Tamil Nadu for implementation of the projects approved under the PMMSY.

- It is the flagship scheme of the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, and was launched in 2020.
- It aims to give momentum to the 'sunrise' fisheries sector through consolidated efforts from various schemes and initiatives.
- The PMMSY is an umbrella scheme with two separate Components namely Central Sector Scheme (CS) and Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS).
- India is the 3rd largest fish producing and 2nd largest aquaculture producing nation in the world.
- India is the 4th largest exporter of fish and fisheries products with a growth in exports of 26.73% in terms of quantity between FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23.
- Andhra Pradesh is the largest fish producer in the country followed by West Bengal and Gujarat.







## 3. GEOGRAPHY

### 3.1 ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

#### **Tiger Safari Initiative in Jharkhand's Barwadih Forest**

- The Jharkhand government is set to establish its first tiger safari in the Barwadih Western Forest Range.
- This area is part of the Palamau Tiger Reserve.
- A tiger safari is a controlled environment for viewing tigers. It is not defined under The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- The concept originated from the National Tiger Conservation Authority's 2012 guidelines.
- In 2016, the NTCA issued guidelines for establishing tiger safaris.
- Initially, no zoo-bred animals were allowed. However, in 2019, amendments permitted the inclusion of zoo tigers.
- The Central Zoo Authority now oversees animal welfare and compliance in these projects.

#### **State of India's Environment in Figures**

- Organisation : The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)
- The report uses 48 indicators to assess the performance of all 36 states and Union Territories

- Andhra Pradesh leads in environmental management, driven by efforts in forest and biodiversity conservation.
- Goa ranks highest in public health and infrastructure
- India's greenhouse gas emissions reached a historic high of 7.8% of global emissions.

#### **Aravalli Green Wall Project**

- In connection with World Environment Day observed yesterday, Prime Minister Modi launched the Aravalli Green Wall Project
- The Prime Minister also launched the "Plant a Tree in Mother's Name" campaign to protect greenery.
- Under the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Environment Day has been observed annually on June 5th since 1973.
- The Aravalli Green Wall Project is an initiative to expand green cover in areas across 29 districts of three states and one union territory.
- Of the total deforestation in the Aravalli mountain range, 81 percent belongs to Rajasthan, 15.8 percent to Gujarat, 1.7 percent to Haryana, and 1.5 percent to Delhi.

## Two new Ramsar sites in Rajasthan- Kichan and Menar

- The Union Environment Ministry of India announced the designation of two new Ramsar sites in Rajasthan.
- Kichan and Menar wetlands have been recognised for their ecological significance. This brings India's total Ramsar sites to 91, the highest in Asia.
- The Ramsar Convention aims to conserve wetlands globally.
- Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance. They are designated under the Ramsar Convention, established in 1971.

## World's rivers are leaking old CO2 into the air

- The world's older carbon has less carbon-14.
- By measuring its levels in rivers, researchers have reported how long the carbon has been out of the atmosphere.
- They found that about 60% of the CO2 escaping from rivers came from millennia-old material locked in deep soil.
- This 'leak' means rivers are returning ancient carbon to the air at a rate similar to the amount land ecosystems absorb, so carbon-cycle models may have been undercounting losses from land.

## Mouse Deer

- Recently, the Indira Gandhi Zoological Park (IGZP) announced that its conservation and breeding efforts have resulted in the birth of a

red-necked wallaby and a mouse deer within the zoo premises.

- Mouse Deer is endemic to the Indian Subcontinent.
- It is mainly found in peninsular India, with some old records from Nepal.
- Within India, it is commonly encountered in a number of forest areas along the Western Ghats, in the Eastern Ghats up to Orissa, and in the forests of central India.
- IUCN: Least Concern
- Wildlife Protection Act 1972 : Schedule I.

## State and Trends of Carbon Pricing 2025

- The World Bank released its State and Trends of Carbon Pricing 2025 at a time when carbon pricing mechanisms are covering nearly 28% of global GHG emissions and generating over \$100 billion in revenue.
- Carbon pricing is an economic tool that attaches a cost to the emission of greenhouse gases, incentivizing emission reductions while internalizing climate-related externalities (e.g., floods, health costs).
- Carbon Tax is a fixed price per tonne of CO2 emissions (e.g., per tonne of fossil fuel carbon content).

## India Marks 50 Years of Crocodile Conservation Project

- On World Crocodile Day (June 17, 2025), India celebrates the 50th anniversary of its

pioneering Crocodile Conservation Project (CCP), which began in 1975 at Bhitarkanika National Park, Odisha.

- This milestone highlights India's successful journey in conserving all three native crocodilian species, including the critically endangered Gharial.
- Odisha stands out as the only Indian state with all three native crocodilian species thriving in the wild.
- India hosts 80% of the world's wild gharial population, underlining its global significance in crocodilian conservation.
- This project Supported By: UNDP and FAO.
- Species Conserved: Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*) – Critically endangered, Mugger (*Crocodylus palustris*) – Vulnerable, Saltwater Crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) – Least Concern but locally threatened.

### Revised Green India Mission

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) released the revised Green India Mission (GIM) plan for 2021-2030 on World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, observed on 17th June 2025.
- The Green India Mission (GIM) is one of the 8 missions under India's National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), launched in February 2014.
- It aims to respond to climate change through a combination of mitigation and adaptation

strategies, primarily focusing on forest-based ecosystem restoration.

- GIM's effective implementation is crucial for achieving 33% forest cover, as per national policy, and meeting India's 2030 climate commitments.

### New Species of Dravido Geckolepis

- Researchers from the Wildlife Biology Department of Ooty Government Arts College have discovered a new lizard species in the Western Ghats.
- Abhinesh, Naveen, Srikantan, Naveen, Srikantan, Babu, and Ganesh conducted research on lizard species found in the Western Ghats in the Coonoor forest area over the past few months.
- It is noteworthy that this research paper has been recently published in an international research journal called Western Ghats Bionomina of India.

### India's First Butterfly Sanctuary

- Kerala has become home to India's first butterfly sanctuary.
- The Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary in Kannur district has officially been renamed the Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary, marking a first-of-its-kind move in the country.

### Review of Project Elephant

- The Union Environment Ministry reviewed key initiatives under Project Elephant (1992), highlighting the completion of Phase-I of the

- synchronized elephant population estimation in North-eastern states.
- In another development, the National Board for Wildlife committee recommended the inclusion of the Sloth bear and Gharial in the Species Recovery Programme.
- Karnataka recorded the highest elephant population, followed by Assam and Kerala.
- In terms of protected areas, Sathyamangalam forest division has the highest number of elephants.
- IUCN Red List- Endangered.
- Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 – Schedule I
- They are responsible for nearly one-third of India's fine particulate matter (PM2.5) pollution.
- Primary pollutants are those that result from the burning of fossil fuels from automobiles, coal plants and organic matter.
- These pollutants, once they climb into the atmosphere, react with each other or other gases or water vapour in the atmosphere to form more complex particles – some of which are harmful. These are called secondary pollutants.
- CREA's study says the nationwide average concentration of ammonium sulphate is 11.9 microgram per cubic metre, accounting for approximately 34% of the PM2.5 mass.

### **Secondary pollutants, especially ammonium sulphate, constitute a third of PM2.5 pollution**

- According to the study by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), Secondary pollutants, particularly ammonium sulphate, that results from the reaction between sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) in the atmosphere.
- The main driver of ammonium sulphate formation and more than 60% of SO<sub>2</sub> emissions in India originate from coal-fired thermal power plants.
- “This makes them a critical target for reducing secondary PM2.5 pollution through the implementation of flue gas desulphurisation (FGD) systems.



# 4. ECONOMICS

## 4.1 REPORTS AND INDICES

### **‘Designing a Policy for Medium Enterprises’ Report - NITI Aayog**

- NITI Aayog has released a report titled ‘Designing a Policy for Medium Enterprises’
- It proposing a dedicated concessional credit scheme and reforms to boost India’s medium-sized enterprises (that includes enterprises with investment in plant and machinery up to ₹125 crore and an annual turnover up to ₹500 crore).
- The report can also serve as a potential blueprint for addressing the challenges faced by small and micro enterprises, paving the way for a more inclusive and scalable MSME ecosystem.

### **World Bank Report on Extreme Poverty**

- India has achieved progress in reducing extreme poverty over the past decade.
- According to the World Bank, the extreme poverty rate fell from 27.1 percent in 2011-12 to just 5.3 percent in 2022-23.
- Between 2011-12 and 2022-23, approximately 269 million people moved out of extreme poverty.
- This success is particularly pronounced in states like Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal, and Madhya Pradesh, which accounted for 65 percent of the extreme poor in 2011-12.

- The World Bank defines extreme poverty as living on less than 3.00 US Dollars per day, adjusted for 2021 prices.
- The Multidimensional Poverty Index fell from 53.8 percent in 2005-06 to 15.5 percent in 2022-23

### **EnviStats India 2025 – Environment Statistics**

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) of India has launched the eighth edition of “EnviStats India 2025 – Environment Statistics”.
- EnviStats India 2025 aligns with the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES) 2013.
- The data is compiled from various government ministries and organisations
- The annual mean temperature in India rose from 25.05°C in 2001 to 25.74°C in 2024.
- This year’s publication introduces new data regarding population access to electricity, transport, and sanitation.
- It also includes a list of Ramsar Sites, compiled based on expert recommendations.

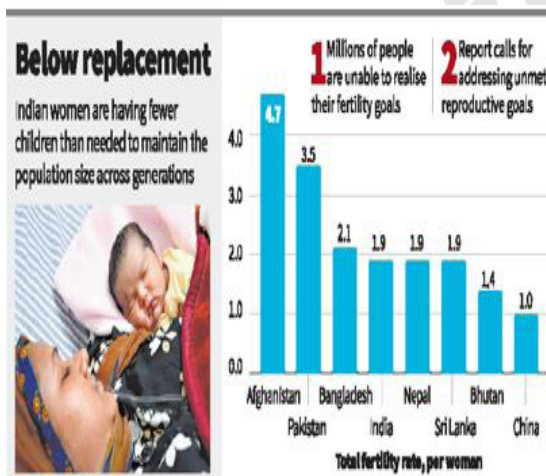
### **UN demographic report**

- The report title - “State of the World Population 2025: The Real Fertility Crisis”.

- India's Current Population (April 2025): Estimated at 146.39 crore (UNFPA report).
- Fertility Rate (TFR): Declined to 1.9, below the replacement level of 2.1.
- Replacement level TFR means each generation can replace itself without population decline.
- Population Projection Peak: Expected to peak at 170 crore in the next 40 years, followed by a gradual decline.
- India vs China: India referred to as the "world's most populous nation", with China's current population at 141.61 crore.
- Life Expectancy (2025 projection): Men: 71 years & Women: 74 years
- Youth Demographics: 0-14 years: 24% ; 10-19 years: 17% ; 10-24 years: 26%
- Working-Age Population (15-64 years): Makes up 68% of total population.
- lack of reproductive agency — the ability to make informed choices about reproduction.
- Census Update: The decennial Census, delayed from 2021, is now scheduled to be completed by March 2027.
- According to the latest Sample Registration System statistical report published by the Office of the Registrar General of India for 2021, the TFR in India was 2.0, the same as the year before, with the report saying that the replacement level TFR "has been attained" nationally.
- The TFR measures the number of children a woman is expected to have throughout her reproductive age.

### Global Gender Gap Report 2025

- The World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2025 has ranked India at 131 out of 148 countries, with a parity score of just 64.1%.
- Four key dimensions: economic participation and opportunity; educational attainment; health and survival; and political empowerment.
- India among the lowest-ranked countries in South Asia. India had ranked 129 out of 146 countries last year.
- The Indian economy's overall performance improved in absolute terms by 0.3 points.
- The global gender gap has closed to 68.8%, marking the strongest annual advancement since the COVID-19 pandemic, full parity remains 123 years away at current rates.
- Iceland leads the rankings for the 16th year running, followed by Finland, Norway, the U.K. and New Zealand.



- Elderly Population (65+): Currently 7%, expected to increase due to rising life expectancy.
- Reproductive Agency Focus: The report highlights that the real crisis is not overpopulation or under population, but the



## Global Education Monitoring Report

- According to the Global Education Monitoring Team (GEM) report the global out-of-school population is now estimated to be 272 million, over 21 million more than the last estimate.
- It is an annual publication produced by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)
- The GEM Report was launched in 2002 as the Education for All Global Monitoring Report and transitioned to its current name in 2016.
- Its primary purpose is to monitor and analyze global education trends and provide policy recommendations to governments and stakeholders to improve education systems and outcomes.
- year 2023-24, while Meghalaya appears in the lowest rung of the Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2.0 report.
- It was released by the Union Education Ministry.
- The States are graded on a wide range of indicators, including learning outcomes and quality, access, infrastructure, equity, governance processes, and teacher education and training, for a total of 1,000 points.
- The report shows that 24 States and Union Territories improved their scores in 2023-24 from the previous year's, while the remaining 12 States and Union Territories saw declining scores.

## Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) – Report

- According to the report, nearly all of the nine nuclear-armed countries, including India and Pakistan, continued intensive nuclear modernisation programmes in 2024, upgrading existing weapons and adding newer versions.
- According to the SIPRI estimates, India's stored warheads increased to 180 in January 2025, from 172 in January 2024.
- 9 nuclear-armed countries: USA, Russia, UK, France, China, India, Pakistan, North Korea, Israel.
- The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) is a global think tank.
- Chandigarh achieved a score of 719, and is the sole State to reach Grade Prachesta-1, for scores between 701 to 760.
- Ten States and Union Territories – Punjab, Delhi, Gujarat, Odisha, Kerala, Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu, Haryana, Goa, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan – have scored between 581 and 640, called Grade Prachesta-3.
- At the other end of the scale is Meghalaya, which scored 417, thus falling into the category of scorers between 401 and 460, labelled as Akanshi-3.
- In the middle ranks are 14 States and Union Territories – Puducherry, Himachal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Lakshadweep, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, and Ladakh – which scored between 521 and 580, labelled Akanshi-1.

## Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2.0 report

- Chandigarh has been adjudged the best performer in school education for the academic

### **GDP Base Year Revised to 2022-23**

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) announced that the government is revising the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) base year from 2011-12 to 2022-23. The revised data will be released on 27th February 2026.
- The base year for Index of Industrial Production (IIP) will also be revised to 2022-23 while the base year for Consumer Price Index will be revised to 2023-24.
- GDP is the key metric for measuring a country's annual economic growth or its overall economic size, and the "base year" serves as the reference point for these calculations.
- The base year revision ensures the inclusion of new industries, removal of outdated ones, adoption of better data sources and methods, and more accurate measurement of real economic growth after adjusting for inflation.
- The base year should be a normal year i.e., it must not experience any abnormal incidents such as droughts, floods, earthquakes, pandemic, etc. Also, it should not be too distant in the past.
- The base year should ideally be updated every 5 to 10 years to ensure national accounts reflect the most recent data.
- The upcoming 2026 revision will be the eighth base year update, following seven earlier revisions, starting from 1948-49 to 1960-61 in August 1967 and most recently from 2004-05 to 2011-12 on 30th January 2015.

- The first national income estimates for India were compiled by the National Income Committee (chaired by P.C. Mahalanobis) in 1949.
- In June 2024, MoSPI set up a 26-member Advisory Committee on National Accounts Statistics (ACNAS) to decide the base year for GDP data, under the chairmanship of Biswanath Goldar.
- It also focused on aligning GDP with other key macro indicators such as the WPI, CPI, and IIP.

### **RBI's Supervisory Data Quality Index (sDQI) Report**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has developed the Supervisory Data Quality Index (sDQI) to assess the quality of data submitted by Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs).
- This index evaluates banks based on four crucial parameters: Accuracy, Timeliness, Completeness, Consistency.
- The objective is to enhance transparency, promote data discipline, and assess adherence to the principles laid out in the Master Direction on Filing of Supervisory Returns 2024.
- According to the latest RBI release, the overall sDQI score for SCBs has improved from 88.6 in March 2024 to 89.3 in March 2025.

### **Global Energy Transition Index**

- India's position in the global Energy Transition Index has shifted to 71st in 2025.
- This ranking was released by the World Economic Forum, which assesses the energy transition performance of 118 countries.

- Despite a drop from 63rd last year, alongside China, has shown improvements in energy access and transition readiness.

### **Global Rankings Overview :**

- Sweden leads the Energy Transition Index, followed by Finland, Denmark, Norway, and Switzerland.
- Other notable rankings include China at 12th and the United States at 17th.
- Pakistan ranks 101st, while Congo holds the last position.

### **Global Drought Outlook Report**

- Recently, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development released the Global Drought Outlook Report.
- It assesses how countries can strengthen drought management to adapt to a changing climate.
- It provides new insights into the rising human, environmental, and economic impacts of droughts and offers practical policy solutions to minimise losses, build long-term resilience, and support adaptation to a drier future.
- Droughts across the world: 40% of the world's land area faces increasingly frequent and severe droughts.
- Economic impact: 3% - 7.5% annual increase in the economic cost of an average drought episode.
- 35% minimum projected increase in drought-related economic losses by 2035.

### **World Investment Report 2025**

- India raised a position to rank 15 among top global destinations for foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2024, despite a marginal

dip in inflows at \$27.6 billion, according to the UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)'s World Investment Report 2025.

- It is an annual report published by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- It focuses on trends in foreign direct investment (FDI) worldwide, at the regional and country levels, and emerging measures to improve its contribution to development.
- India climbed in the global ranking of FDI outflows, moving to the 18th slot with \$24 billion in outward investments — up from 23rd in 2023, when outflows totalled \$14 billion.

### **Fossil Fuel Finance Report 2025**

- The Fossil Fuel Finance Report 2025 report marks that achieving net zero emissions by 2050 requires reduction in investment in fossil fuels.
- The International Energy Agency (IEA) states that annual investments must decline by over half by 2030.
- In 2024, the world's largest 65 banks committed \$869 billion to fossil fuel companies.
- Notably, the State Bank of India (SBI) was among nearly 50 banks that increased their fossil fuel financing.
- This positioned SBI as the 47th largest lender in fossil fuel financing, up from 49th in 2023.
- Despite this, SBI aims to achieve net zero emissions by 2055.

- The bank plans for at least 7.5% of its domestic gross advances to be green by 2030.
- The survey will also explore how technology adoption impacts wages.

### QS World University Rankings 2026

- The QS World University Rankings is an annual global ranking of universities published by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), a leading higher education analytics organization.
- The aim of these rankings is to help students, academics, and employers compare the performance of universities worldwide.
- India has 54 universities in the QS World University Rankings 2026, making it the fourth most represented country.
- The number of Indian universities in the rankings has grown from 11 in 2015 to 54 in 2026.
- IIT Delhi leads the Indian contingent. It is ranked 123rd globally, rising from 150th in 2025.
- IIT Madras recorded one of the biggest jumps, rising 47 places from 227 in 2025 to 180 in 2026.

### India's First Household Income Survey

- In 2026, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) will conduct India's first comprehensive Household Income Survey.
- This initiative aims to provide a clearer picture of household incomes across the nation.
- A Technical Expert Group (TEG) has been established to guide the survey's methodologies and ensure reliability in the findings.

### For first time, India breaks into top 100 in global SDG rankings

- 2025 edition of the Sustainable Development Report (SDR), released by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network.
- India ranks 99th out of 167 countries in the 2025 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index, a jump from 109th in 2024.
- Score: 67 out of 100.
- India has steadily improved its standing: it ranked 112th in 2023, 121st in 2022, and 120th in 2021.
- Finland, Sweden and Denmark hold the top three positions, with 19 of the top 20 countries located in Europe.
- Among India's neighbours, Bhutan ranks 74th (70.5), Nepal 85th (68.6), Bangladesh 114th (63.9), and Pakistan 140th (57).
- Maritime neighbours Maldives and Sri Lanka stand at 53rd and 93rd places respectively.

- Global Progress : Only 17 per cent of the SDG targets are on track to be achieved by 2030

### 'Statistical Report on Value of Output from Agriculture and Allied Sectors (2011-12 to 2023-24)'

- The 'Statistical Report on Value of Output from Agriculture and Allied Sectors (2011-12 to 2023-24)', released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

- According to the report, The Gross Value Added (GVA) of agriculture and allied sectors at current prices registered a growth of about 225% over 12 years, increasing from ₹1,502 thousand crore in 2011-12 to ₹4,878 thousand crore in 2023-24.
- The report, consisting of detailed tables on values of output of crop, livestock, forestry & logging and fishing & aquaculture sectors of agriculture and allied activities from 2011-12 to 2023-24 at both current and constant (2011-12) prices
- The Gross Value of Output (GVO) from the agriculture and allied sector at constant prices has shown steady growth from ₹1,908 thousand crore in 2011-12 to ₹2,949 thousand crore in 2023-24, an overall increase of about 54.6%.
- The share of crop sector with GVO at ₹ 1,595 thousand crore remained the largest contributor to total GVO (at constant prices) of agriculture and allied sectors with share of 54.1% in 2023-24.
- Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Telangana and Haryana contributed nearly 53%.

## 4.2 MONEY & BANKING

### Repo Rate Cut and its Implications

- The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) reduced the repo rate by 50 basis points (bps), bringing it down to 5.5%.
- This marks the third consecutive rate cut in 2025, totaling a 100 bps reduction since February.
- businesses → Slower borrowing & spending.
- Lower repo rate → Cheaper loans for banks → Lower interest rates for borrowers → Increased borrowing & spending.

### What is Repo Rate

- Repo rate (Repurchase Agreement Rate) is the interest rate at which commercial banks borrow money from the central bank.
- Higher repo rate → Costlier loans for banks → Higher interest rates for consumers & businesses
- Lower repo rate → Cheaper loans for banks → Lower interest rates for borrowers → Increased borrowing & spending.

### Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)

- The MPC is a statutory body established under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, as amended by the Finance Act, 2016.
- It is responsible for setting the benchmark policy rate (repo rate) to control inflation within a specified target range.
- Comprising six members (three RBI officials and three external experts)

## 4.3 CURRENT TRENDS IN INDIAN ECONOMY

### India's Retail Inflation Trends in 2025

- India's retail inflation rate fell below 3 per cent for the first time in over six years.
- This decline is primarily attributed to falling food prices, despite an increase in some vegetable costs.
- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) data indicated a multi-year low of 3.16 per cent in April 2025, with forecasts suggesting a further drop to 2.7 per cent in May.
- Core inflation, which excludes food and fuel, is expected to rise to around 4.2 per cent.

## 4.4 NEW ECONOMIC POLICY & GOVT. SECTOR

### Special Economic Zones

- The government recently relaxed key rules related to Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to further encourage the domestic manufacture of semiconductors and electronics.
- SEZs are special areas within a country that offer incentives to business and trade regulations operating in those areas.
- SEZs typically offer competitive infrastructure, duty-free exports, tax incentives, and other measures designed to make it easier to conduct business.
- The main objectives of the SEZ are generating additional economic activity, promoting exports of goods and services from the country, promoting foreign and domestic investment, and creating more employment opportunities besides the development of infrastructure facilities.
- The category 'SEZ' covers a broad range of zone types, few of which are free zones (FZs), industrial estates (IEs), free ports, free trade zones (FTZs), and export processing zones (EPZs).
- Asia's first EPZ was set up in Kandla, Gujarat, in 1965, followed by seven more EPZs in the country.

### GDP Base Year Revised to 2022-23

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) announced that the government is revising the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) base year from 2011-12 to 2022-23. The revised data will be released on 27th February 2026.
- The base year for Index of Industrial Production (IIP) will also be revised to 2022-23 while the base year for Consumer Price Index will be revised to 2023-24.
- GDP is the key metric for measuring a country's annual economic growth or its overall economic size, and the "base year" serves as the reference point for these calculations.
- The base year revision ensures the inclusion of new industries, removal of outdated ones, adoption of better data sources and methods, and more accurate measurement of real economic growth after adjusting for inflation.



- The base year should be a normal year i.e., it must not experience any abnormal incidents such as droughts, floods, earthquakes, pandemic, etc. Also, it should not be too distant in the past.
- The base year should ideally be updated every 5 to 10 years to ensure national accounts reflect the most recent data.
- The upcoming 2026 revision will be the eighth base year update, following seven earlier revisions, starting from 1948-49 to 1960-61 in August 1967 and most recently from 2004-05 to 2011-12 on 30th January 2015.
- The first national income estimates for India were compiled by the National Income Committee (chaired by P.C. Mahalanobis) in 1949.
- In June 2024, MoSPI set up a 26-member Advisory Committee on National Accounts Statistics (ACNAS) to decide the base year for GDP data, under the chairmanship of Biswanath Goldar.
- It also focused on aligning GDP with other key macro indicators such as the WPI, CPI, and IIP.





# 5. SCIENCE

## 5.1 LATEST INVENTIONS ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### India to build first-ever indigenous

#### Polar Research Vessel (PRV)

- India to build first-ever indigenous Polar Research Vessel with Norwegian firm.
- A PRV is a ship which serves a platform for research in the polar regions (areas surrounding the North and South Poles).
- It can also help scientists undertake research in the ocean realm.
- The vessel will support advanced oceanic and polar research for the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCOPR), boosting India's scientific capabilities and 'Make In India' shipbuilding efforts.
- **Polar basis of India:** India currently operates three research base stations in the polar regions — Bharati and Maitri in Antarctica, and Himadri in the Arctic region

#### Agentic AI

- Recently, India's first agentic AI, Kruti, was launched by Krutrim start up.
- It is a more advanced GenAI tool.
- These intelligent systems go beyond analysis,

acting autonomously on behalf of individuals and organisations to manage complex tasks, make decisions, and solve problems.

- It uses sophisticated reasoning and iterative planning to autonomously solve complex, multi-step problems.

#### Ultra-Secure Communication Using Quantum Technology

- Scientists from IIT Delhi and DRDO have successfully demonstrated an ultra-secure communication system using entanglement-based free-space quantum secure communication.
- It marks a significant step forward in India's efforts to build quantum-secure networks under the National Quantum Mission (2023–2031).
- Earlier, in 2022, India's first intercity quantum link (Vindhyachal–Prayagraj) was set up using commercial-grade fibre.
- In 2023, QKD was extended to 380 km over standard telecom fibre (QBER 1.48%), followed by a 100 km demo in 2024.

## 5.2 LATEST DISCOVERIES IN HEALTH SCIENCE

### Newborn Screening for Sickle Cell Disease in India

- In recent years, India has made strides in addressing sickle cell disease (SCD) through newborn screening initiatives.
- A study conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) brought into light the effectiveness of early diagnosis and treatment.
- The findings suggest that early intervention can drastically reduce mortality rates associated with SCD.
- SCD is a serious inherited blood disorder that, if undetected, can lead to severe health complications. These include infections, anaemia, and strokes in infants.

### EMM-Negative Blood Group System

- The International Society of Blood Transfusion officially recognised a new blood group system named EMM-negative, also known as Gwada negative.
- This designation emerged from the unique case of a woman from Guadeloupe who is the only known individual to possess this rare blood type.
- The discovery puts stress on advancements in transfusion medicine and genetic research.
- Gwada negative refers to the EMM-negative blood group system, identified by the absence of the EMM antigen on red blood cells.
- This antigen is a high-incidence antigen, present in almost all humans.
- The lack of such a common antigen is medically and has led to the classification of this blood type as the 48th globally recognised system in transfusion science.

### RTS.S - The first malaria vaccine

- Bharat Biotech International will start supplying world's first malaria vaccine RTS.S, developed by global biopharma major GSK, to vaccine alliance Gavi from 2026.
- RTS.S was the first malaria vaccine recommended by the World Health Organization in 2021.
- It is the First-ever malaria vaccine targeting Plasmodium falciparum, the deadliest malaria parasite.
- The recommendation was for the vaccine's use in children living in sub-Saharan Africa and other regions with moderate to high malaria transmission according to the World Health Organization (WHO).
- While RTS.S has not yet been rolled out in India as part of a national immunization programme, its potential inclusion is under review.
- India's national malaria elimination goal: Eliminate malaria by 2030.

### Haemophilia A

- A simple and affordable point-of-care test kit has been indigenously developed by the National Institute of Immunohaematology for early diagnosis of genetic bleeding disorders haemophilia A and Von Willebrand Disease.
- Haemophilia A is a genetic bleeding disorder caused by a deficiency or absence of clotting factor VIII.
- This leads to prolonged bleeding as the blood cannot clot properly.
- It is more common in males and is inherited in an X-linked recessive pattern.

## 5.2 SPACE

### Axiom Mission 4

- The Axiom Space mission has been postponed due to the need to repair an oxygen leak in the rocket.

#### About Axiom Mission 4

- Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4) is the fourth private astronaut mission to the International Space Station (ISS), organized by Axiom Space in collaboration with NASA, SpaceX, and ISRO.

#### Objectives:

- Enable commercial activities in low Earth orbit, including space tourism and private research.
- Demonstrate the feasibility of commercial space stations as platforms for business and science.
- Strengthen international collaboration in space exploration.
- Conduct scientific experiments in microgravity, focusing on materials science, biology, Earth observation, and life sciences.

#### Crew (4 total):

- Peggy Whitson (USA)
- Shubhanshu Shukla (India)
- Sławosz Uznański-Wisniewski (Poland)
- Mission Specialist: Tibor Kapu (Hungary).

### Axiom-4 mission

- India's human space programme began with the launch of astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla on the Axiom-4 mission to the International Space Station from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.
- This is the first time an Indian has gone to orbital space since Rakesh Sharma in 1984.
- Rakesh Sharma was the first Indian to go to space when he did so in 1984 aboard the Soyuz spacecraft of the erstwhile Soviet Union.
- If the Dragon crew capsule docks successfully with the ISS on June 26, Mr. Shukla will also become the first Indian onboard the ISS.
- The 31 countries with representation in the Ax-4 mission include the U.S., India, Poland, Hungary, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Nigeria, the UAE, and nations across Europe.
- ISRO has included seven microgravity research experiments proposed by Indian investigators from various national R&D laboratories and academic institutions.
- Group Captain Shukla will be performing them during his stay on the ISS.
- ISRO and NASA will be participating in five joint science investigations and two in-orbit STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) demonstrations.



## 6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENT

### Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2025

- It is India's largest sanitation survey.
- It is a nationwide rural sanitation survey by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- It will measure the impact of India's flagship cleanliness program, Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM).
- SSG 2025 aims to rigorously assess the on-ground status of rural sanitation, with a sharp focus on sustaining the Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus Model outcomes achieved under SBM-G.
- The overarching objective of SSG-2025 is to provide a national ranking of all States/UTs and Districts of India based on quantitative and qualitative sanitation parameters as identified under SBM-II.

### ADB's Five-Year Plan for Urban Infrastructure in India

- **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** President Masato Kanda announced a transformative five-year plan aimed at enhancing urban infrastructure across India.
- This initiative will mobilise up to \$10 billion, including third-party capital.
- The plan focuses on metro expansions, new **Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS)** corridors, and sustainable urban development.

- The initiative is anchored by the **Urban Challenge Fund (UCF)**. This fund aims to attract private investment in urban infrastructure.
- India's urban population is projected to exceed 40% by 2030.

### DHRUVA initiative

- The DHRUVA initiative is a groundbreaking digital policy introduced by the Department of Posts in India.
- Launched in 2025, it aims to reshape how address information is structured and utilised across the nation.
- **DHRUVA stands for Digital Hub for Reference and Unique Virtual Address.**
- This initiative builds on the earlier **Digital Postal Index Number (DIGIPIN)** system, enhancing the effectiveness of address data as a critical component of **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)**.

### NAKSHA Programme

- The second phase of capacity-building training will begin on 2nd June 2025.
- **NAKSHA** stands for National Geospatial Knowledge-based Land Survey of Urban Habitations.
- This initiative addresses the pressing need for modern, accurate, and accessible land records in urban settings.
- It aims to reform urban land surveys using advanced geospatial technologies.

- As urban populations surge, the need for accurate land records becomes critical.
- The programme is implemented by the Department of Land Resources in collaboration with the Survey of India and the National Informatics Centre Services Inc. (NICSI).
- It is funded entirely by the Government of India.
- The programme targets youth from various platforms. Participants include members from MY Bharat, National Service Scheme (NSS), MYB Kendra, pharmacy colleges, and other youth organisations.
- This diverse representation ensures a broad outreach across the country.

### **Population Census with Caste-wise Survey**

#### **Bharat Gen**

- India launched Bharat Gen, a groundbreaking Artificial Intelligence (AI) initiative.
- This multimodal Large Language Model (LLM) is designed to cater to the diverse linguistic and cultural landscape of India.
- The initiative was revealed at the BharatGen Summit, the largest event focused on Generative AI in the country.
- Bharat Gen is a product of the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) and is supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- It aims to revolutionise AI applications across various sectors.
- The Central Government has decided to conduct the population census with caste-wise survey in two phases.
- The population census with caste-wise survey will commence on October 1, 2026, in the snow-covered regions of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand states, Ladakh Union Territory, and Jammu-Kashmir Union Territory.
- In other parts of the country, this census will begin on March 1, 2027.
- The notification regarding the census commencement dates will be published in the Official Gazette around the 16th under Section 3 of the Census Act 1948.

#### **Jan Aushadhi Kendra Experiential Learning Program 2025**

- The Jan Aushadhi Kendra (JAK) Experiential Learning Program is a new initiative launched by the Government of India on 1st June 2025.
- This programme is part of the broader campaign 'Seva Se Seekhen Learn by Doing'.
- It aims to enhance community engagement and youth skill development.
- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports collaborates with the Department of Pharmaceuticals to implement this initiative.

#### **UMEED portal**

- Union Minister for Minority Affairs launched the Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development (UMEED) portal.
- It is a centralised digital platform for real-time uploading, verification, and monitoring of Waqf properties.
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Minority Affairs, in coordination with State Waqf Boards and judicial authorities.

#### **BBA initiative**

- Union Home Minister launched the Bharatiya



Bhasha Anubhag (BBA), or Indian Languages Section, to provide an organised platform for all Indian languages to move towards “**freeing the administration from the influence of foreign languages**”.

- The Union Budget for 2024-25 set aside ₹56 crore to establish the BBA for the “**development of a platform to facilitate the translation of various languages into Hindi and vice-versa**.”
- The rules state that communications to Region C States, such as Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka, shall be in English.
- States have their own official languages, and BBA will help in the translation work.

### **Chenab bridge in Jammu and Kashmir**

- Prime Minister of India, inaugurated the Chenab Railway Bridge marking the completion of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) Project.
- It is now officially the tallest railway bridge in the world, symbolizing engineering excellence and strategic connectivity.
- This is also the only arch-shaped railway bridge in India and there are only a few comparable constructions in the world.
- Situated between Bakkal and Kauri villages in Reasi district, Jammu & Kashmir.
- Connects Katra to Sangaldan, enabling rail access to Srinagar.

### **Ayush Nivesh Saarthi portal**

- This initiative aims to position India as a global leader in traditional medicine and wellness.
- The launch took place during the Ayush Stakeholder/Industry Interaction Meet in New Delhi.

▪ Ayush Nivesh Saarthi serves as an investor-centric digital platform. It was developed by the Ministry of Ayush in collaboration with Invest India.

▪ The portal consolidates policy frameworks, incentive structures, and investment-ready projects.

▪ The Ayush industry has seen rapid growth. From 2014 to 2020, it recorded an annual growth rate of 17%.

### **16th Finance Commission**

▪ Shri T. Rabi Sankar, Deputy Governor of RBI, has been appointed as a part-time Member of the 16th Finance Commission (XVIFC) following the resignation of Shri Ajay Narayan Jha.

▪ The 16th Finance Commission (XVIFC) was set up on 31 December 2023.

▪ It is tasked with giving recommendations for the award period from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2031.

### **About Finance Commission**

▪ A constitutional body constituted under Article 280 of the Indian Constitution.

▪ It recommends the distribution of tax revenues between the Union and States and evaluates fiscal needs of local bodies.

### **India's first E-Waste Recycling Park in Delhi**

▪ The Delhi government has announced plans to develop India's first integrated E-Waste Eco Park at Holambi Kalan in north-west Delhi.

▪ This state-of-the-art facility will be India's first integrated E-Waste Eco Park and will be built under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, at Holambi Kalan in north-west Delhi.

- The project will be developed by the Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC) on a Design, Build, Finance, Operate, and Transfer (DBFOT) basis, with a 15-year concession period.
- It aims to manage nearly 25% of Delhi's e-waste, set a national benchmark for smart waste processing, and promote sustainable urban infrastructure.
- Environmental benefits: Reduces dependency on landfills, minimises hazardous waste, and promotes resource recovery and reuse.
- Spartaeus karigiri was first spotted at Karigiri (Elephant Hill), Devarayanadurga, Karnataka.
- Additional specimens were found in Villupuram, Tamil Nadu.

### Silver Notice

- Recently, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) successfully got India's first 'silver notice' issued by Interpol, which will enable the CBI to trace proceeds of crime related to the French embassy visa 'fraud' case.
- It is the latest addition to Interpol's suite of colour-coded alerts, designed to help countries track and retrieve criminally obtained assets.
- It allows participating nations to request information on assets linked to criminal activities such as fraud, corruption, drug trafficking, and environmental crimes.
- It aimed at tracing assets laundered across international borders.
- It is part of a pilot project involving 52 countries, including India, was launched following a request from Italy to locate the assets of a senior mafia member.

### India's First Underwater Museum to be built around INS Guldar in Maharashtra

- India is set to develop its first underwater museum and artificial coral reef around the decommissioned warship INS Guldar near Nivati Rocks, located off the coast of Vengurla in Sindhudurg district, Maharashtra.
- The project, supported by the Union Tourism Ministry with an outlay of ₹46.91 crore
- It aims to promote marine biodiversity conservation, eco-tourism, and underwater adventure tourism like scuba diving and submarine tours.

### New jumping spider species found in southern India

- A new jumping spider species named *Spartaeus karigiri* has been discovered in southern India.
- This is possibly the first time spiders of the *Spartaeus* and *Sonoita* genera (*Spartaeinae* sub-family) have been found in India.
- Previously, these genera were known only from Southeast Asia and Africa.

### Shongtong Karcham Hydroelectric Project

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister recently set a firm Nov 2026 deadline for the completion of the long-delayed Shongtong-Karcham hydroelectric project.
- It is a hydropower project, on the river Satluj in the Kinnaur District of Himachal Pradesh.
- It is a run-of-river project.

### UNESCO Creative Cities Network

- Recently, Lucknow has officially submitted its nominations for inclusion in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) to be titled “City of Gastronomy”
- It was created in 2004 to promote cooperation among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development.
- It was launched to promote UNESCO’s goals of cultural diversity and strengthen resilience to threats such as climate change, rising inequality, and rapid urbanisation.
- The network is aimed at leveraging the creative, social, and economic potential of cultural industries.
- Ten Indian cities are a part of the network. Kozhikode (Literature) and Gwalior (Music) feature in this list. Earlier, Jaipur (Crafts and Folk Arts), Varanasi (Music), Chennai (Music), Mumbai (Film), Hyderabad (Gastronomy), and Srinagar (Crafts and Folk Arts) have also held the spot.
- The primary aim of SIS was to prepare selfless workers committed to the service of India. Its goals included:
  - Promoting political education and constitutional agitation.
  - Working for the national interests of the Indian people.
  - Encouraging service to the nation in a missionary spirit.
  - The members of the Society were considered as young missionaries of Indian nationalism.
  - Several young Indian nationalists including S. Srinivas Shastri, Hriday Nath Kunzru, and A.V. Thakkar enrolled as members.
  - Later M. K. Gandhi also became a member of Society under guidance of Gokhale.
  - The organization has its headquarters in Pune (Poona) and branches in Chennai (Madras), Mumbai (Bombay), Allahabad, Nagpur among other places.
- The Society began publishing the Hitavada, its english-language journal from Nagpur, in 1911.

### Servants of India Society (SIS)

- Context: Tensions have flared between the Pune-based Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE) and parent Servants of India Society (SIS) over control of a key bank account.

### About Servants of India Society(SIS)

- The Servants of India Society (SIS) was founded by Gopal Krishna Gokhale, along with K.Devadhar, A.V. Patwardhan, and N.A.Dravid, in Pune, India, on June 12, 1905.

### Operation Sindhu

- As the conflict between Israel and Iran rages on, the Indian government launched Operation Sindhu on Wednesday to evacuate Indian nationals from Iran.
- As a first step, the Indian Embassy has evacuated 110 Indian students from northern Iran, and they will reach New Delhi.

## Gender Budgeting Knowledge Hub

- The Central government recently launched the Gender Budgeting Knowledge Hub, a dedicated digital platform aimed at strengthening gender-responsive planning across India.
- It is a dedicated digital platform designed to promote gender-responsive planning nationwide.
- It was launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- The portal's primary aim is to empower policymakers, researchers, and other stakeholders with a centralised repository of tools - "including policy briefs, best practices, and gender-disaggregated data - "to support the integration of a gender lens into all stages of planning and budgeting, both at the Central and state levels.
- The portal will equip stakeholders with evidence-based tools to better integrate gender perspectives into planning and budgeting.

## Visakhapatnam — the City of Destiny

- Visakhapatnam earned the moniker "City of Destiny" due to its significant historical, industrial, and political contributions.
- Once known as Waltair under British rule, it evolved into a vital port city.
- Its coastal location facilitated trade and commerce, attracting settlers and traders alike.
- The inauguration of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1970

cemented its industrial importance, leading to its renowned status as the "City of Destiny."

## Vineet Joshi Panel

- The Center recently constituted a panel, headed by Higher Education Secretary Vineet Joshi, to suggest measures to reduce dependency of students on coaching centres and assess the effectiveness and fairness of competitive entrance examinations.
- It is a nine-member panel constituted by the Union Education Ministry
- The objective of the panel is to suggest measures to reduce the dependency of students on coaching centres and assess the effectiveness and fairness of competitive entrance examinations.
- The panel will also brainstorm on the gaps in the current schooling system that contribute to students' reliance on coaching centres, particularly the limited focus on critical thinking, logical reasoning, analytical skills, and innovation, and "the prevalence of rote learning practices".

- Apart from Mr. Joshi, Chairman of the CBSE, Joint Secretary (Institutions), Department of School Education and Literacy, representatives of IIT Madras, NIT Trichy, IIT Kanpur, and the NCERT, and three school principals (one each from Kendriya Vidyalaya, Navodaya Vidyalaya, and a Private School—to be nominated by the Centre) will be members in the panel.

## NAKSHATRA

- Recently, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has introduced its first high-performance computing facility NAKSHATRA at its National Institute of Virology (NIV) facility in Pune.
- It is the state-of-the-art high performance computing (HPC) cluster for virological research.
- The NAKSHATRA cluster includes 12 compute nodes, 700 cores, and a total storage capacity of 1 petabyte.
- It will support advanced bioinformatics workflows such as next-generation sequencing (NGS), transcriptomics, metagenomics, phylogenetics, and structural bioinformatics.
- It enables enhanced storage and optimises the pipeline for genomic research, which ensures better viral genomic surveillance capacity and national preparedness for any future pandemic.
- It is developed under the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PMABHIM), the facility forms the cornerstone of a new project, called the High Performance Computing Next Generation Sequencing Hub.
- It aims to build a National Public Digital Platform for languages to develop services and products for citizens by leveraging the power of AI and other emerging technologies.
- It aims to help people translate content into various Indian languages.
- BHASHINI also aims to increase the content in Indian languages on the Internet substantially in the domains of public interest, particularly governance and policy, science & technology, etc., thus encouraging citizens to use the Internet in their own language.

## India's first Quantum Computing Valley

- India's first Quantum Computing Valley will be launched in Amaravati by January 2026, marking a major milestone in the country's quantum technology journey.
- The centre will operate in alignment with the goals of the National Quantum Mission, aiming to increase productivity and create wealth through advanced technologies.
- Educational institutions, healthcare providers, pharma companies, agri-tech, and med-tech industries across the country will be able to utilise the services of the Quantum Valley.
- The Amaravati Quantum Valley Tech Park would provide scope for lakhs of professionals to work, contributing to research, innovation, and industrial growth.

## Bhashini Platform

- BHASHINI, or the BHASHa INterface for India, is an artificial intelligence (AI)-powered language translation platform developed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) under its National Language Translation Mission.

## Salkhan Fossil Park

- Salkhan Fossil Park, located in Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh, has recently been included in UNESCO's Tentative List for World Heritage Sites.

- This recognition marks milestone for the region.
- The park is known for its ancient fossils, some dating back 1.4 billion years.
- Its inclusion in the tentative list enhances Uttar Pradesh's profile in geological and paleontological tourism.

### NAVYA Initiative

- NAVYA is a pilot initiative designed to equip adolescent girls aged 16–18 years, who have at least a Class 10 qualification, with vocational training.
- The focus of the training is primarily on non-traditional job roles to enhance their employment opportunities.
- This initiative will be implemented across 27 districts in the country, including Aspirational Districts and those in the North-Eastern States.
- It reflects the Government's inclusive and targeted approach to reach underserved regions and vulnerable populations.
- It is a joint pilot initiative by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
- NAVYA supports the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047 by promoting the women-led development.

### Lakhpadi Didi Initiative

- The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) and the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) signed an MoU to strengthen the Lakhpadi Didi initiative by

empowering rural women from Self Help Groups (SHGs).

▪ A Lakhpadi Didi is an SHG member earning Rs 1 lakh or more annually through sustainable livelihood activities. It is an outcome of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) under the Ministry of Rural Development, not a separate scheme.

▪ It aims to empower rural women through sustainable income generation, promote diversified livelihoods (agriculture, handicrafts, services, etc.), and transform SHG women into role models of economic self-reliance.

▪ As of June 2024, 1 crore Lakhpadi Didis have been created. The Interim Budget 2024–25 raised the target from 2 crore to 3 crore women.

▪ Collaboration with government schemes such as Skill India, PM SVANidhi, and MGNREGA, and the private sector, ensures technical, financial, and institutional support to effectively scale up development efforts.

### Amended BharatNet Program (ABP)

▪ Gujarat became the first state to implement the Amended BharatNet Program (ABP) under a state led model.

▪ The Union Cabinet approved the Amended BharatNet Program (ABP) on 4th August 2023, to be funded by the Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN).

▪ DBN is a fund created to enhance the quality and reach of telecommunications services across India.



- It was introduced by the Government of India as a successor to the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).
- & Farmers Welfare, Commerce & Industry of the Union Government

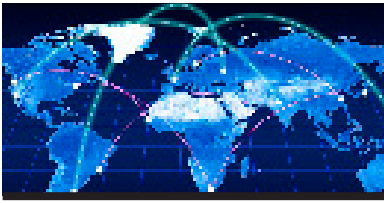
### **About BharatNet Program (ABP)**

- The Government of India initiated the BharatNet project in October 2011 under the Ministry of Communications.
- This ambitious initiative seeks to deliver affordable high-speed internet connectivity to all Gram Panchayats across the country.
- Government has set a target of achieving one billion dollars in turmeric exports by 2030.
- Turmeric from India, known for its high curcumin content, is in great demand globally.

### **Bihar becomes first State to vote using mobile app**

### **National Turmeric Board**

- The headquarters of the National Turmeric Board has formally inaugurated in Nizamabad by Union Home Minister.
- It aims to provide leadership on turmeric related matters, augment the efforts, and facilitate greater coordination with Spices Board and other Government agencies in development and growth of the turmeric sector.
- Ministry: Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- Members from the Ministry of AYUSH, Departments of Pharmaceuticals, Agriculture
- In a first, voters exercised their franchise through mobile phones in Bihar.
- Country's first e-vote creating new history with e-voting in local body elections .
- The facility was made available for senior citizens, disabled persons, and pregnant women who may find it difficult to visit the booths.
- People were also able to use the State Election Commission website to vote.
- The app was developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).
- It has security measures like blockchain technology, face-matching and scanning.



# 7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

## Member states of WHO adopt global pandemic treaty

- Member states of the World Health Organization (WHO) at its 78th World Health Assembly has adopted a legally binding treaty under Article 19 of the WHO Constitution.
- It is aiming to strengthen health security and ensure equitable pandemic responses.
- The pandemic treaty, which has been adopted without the United States, is the only the second legally binding accord in the WHO's 75-year history, the first being Framework Convention on Tobacco Control 2003.
- The treaty lays down principles for international cooperation to strengthen global health architecture and ensure timely and equitable access to diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics during pandemics.
- The treaty says participating manufacturers will have to allocate 10% of their production of vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics to the WHO. Another 10% will then be supplied at "affordable prices".

## The World Bank Revised the Global Poverty Line

- The World Bank revised the global poverty line to \$3/day (PPP 2021) from \$2.15/day (PPP 2017) based on updated price data and survey methods.
- Global Poverty Line

- A poverty line defines the minimum daily spending needed for basic needs like food, clothing, and shelter.
- The global poverty line is adjusted using Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) to allow comparison across countries regardless of currency value.

## International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI) 2025

- Prime Minister of India addressed the International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI) 2025, held for the first time in Europe.

### About Coalition for Disaster Resilient

#### Infrastructure:

- CDRI is a global multilateral platform launched by India in 2019 to promote infrastructure resilience against climate and disaster risks.
- Headquarters: Located in New Delhi.
- It aims to mobilize investments to make infrastructure climate- and disaster-resilient by 2050.

## Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

- It is the regional group established by signing the Lagos Treaty on the 28th of May 1975 in Lagos, Nigeria.

- The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) commemorated its 50th anniversary in 2025.
- **Headquarter:** Abuja, Nigeria.
- It aims to promote cooperation and integration, leading to the establishment of an economic union in West Africa in order to raise the living standards of its peoples, and to maintain and enhance economic stability, foster relations among Member States and contribute to the progress and development of the African continent.
- malware.
- Interpol coordinated these efforts, collaborating with private sector partners such as Group-IB, Kaspersky, and Trend Micro.
- Law enforcement from countries including India, Vietnam, and Sri Lanka participated in the operation.

### **UN Declares 2026 as International Year of the Woman Farmer**

### **Blue Nationally Determined Contributions Challenge**

- Recently, on the first day of the third UN Ocean Conference (UNOC3) Blue NDC Challenge initiative was launched to dramatically scale up ocean-focused climate action.
- It is a landmark international initiative launched by France and Brazil.
- It urges countries to incorporate ocean-focused climate measures into their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) ahead of the 30th Conference of Parties (COP30) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Belem, Brazil.
- The move aims to draw global attention to women's contributions and challenges in agriculture, and promote gender-equitable policies.
- It holds particular significance for countries like India, where ~80% of economically active women work in agriculture but own just 8.3% of farmland.
- However, only 8.3% own farmland (NFHS), and 76.95% rural women are engaged in agri-work (PLFS 2023–24).

### **51st G7 Summit**

### **Operation Secure**

- Global operation was launched to combat cybercrime.
- Codenamed 'Operation Secure', this initiative involved law enforcement agencies from 26 countries.
- The operation aimed to dismantle malicious infrastructure linked to information-stealing
- India's Prime Minister attended the 51st G7 Summit at Kananaskis, Canada.
- The G7 (Group of Seven) is an informal forum of the world's most advanced economies – France, Germany, Italy, the UK, Japan, the US, and Canada.

### **About G7**

- The G7 was formed in 1975 as the G6 (US, UK, France, West Germany, Japan, Italy) in response to the 1973 oil crisis and financial turmoil, with Canada joining in 1976 to make it G7. The year 2025 marked the 50th anniversary of the G7.
- It became G8 in 1997 with the inclusion of Russia, but reverted to G7 in 2014 after Russia's expulsion over the annexation of Crimea.
- India's Stand- Peace and prosperity cannot co-exist with terrorism and proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction in the hands of non-state actors and terror groups.
- SCO is an intergovernmental political, economic, and security alliance founded in 2001 by Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan.
- The first summit was held in Shanghai, China, in 2001.

### **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)**

- India declined to endorse the joint statement at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) security.





## 8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

### Tamil Nadu - Very High Heat Risk

- According to a recent study by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), Tamil Nadu ranks fifth among States with high to very high heat risk.
- In fact, none of Tamil Nadu's districts falls under the very low or low heat risk categories.
- About 11% of the districts face moderate heat risk, while 43% are classified as high risk, and 46% fall under the very high heat risk category, indicating that much of the State is confronting severe and widespread heat vulnerability.
- According to the CEEW study, national data from 1981 to 2022 shows that the frequency of very warm nights is increasing faster than very hot days, particularly in the last decade.
- This trend is influenced by natural climate cycles such as El Niño and La Niña.
- In Tamil Nadu, vulnerability to heat is exacerbated by the high prevalence of non-communicable diseases such as hypertension and diabetes.

### Neolithic age grooves discovered near Boothapandi in Kanniyakumari district

- The Archaeological Survey of India recently discovered one of first rock grooves in Kanniyakumari district which were created during the neolithic age, where people used to sharpen their weapons.
- During the study, several grooves made by

the neolithic age which were around 4,000 years old, were discovered.

- These grooves were created by neolithic people to sharpen their tools which were used for multiple purposes such as hunting, ploughing and digging.
- Similar grooves were found in other parts of Tamil Nadu such as Krishnagiri, Tiruvannamalai and Villupuram.
- The Neolithic Period, also called the New Stone Age, is the final stage of cultural evolution or technological development among prehistoric humans.

### Kalaigarnar Classical Tamil Award

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister presented the Kalaigarnar M. Karunanidhi Classical Tamil Award for 2025 to the eminent Tamil scholar Thayammal Aravanan.
- The award carries a cheque for ₹10 lakh and a citation.
- It was presented at a function at Kalaivanar Arangam in Chennai that marked the 'Semmozhi Day' celebrations on the occasion of the birth anniversary of late DMK leader and former Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi.
- The Chief Minister also released two works published by the Central Institute of Classical Tamil
- Tamil Vinayadigal-Varalatu Mozhiyiyal Ayvu, authored by Rajendran Sankaravelayuthan,

- Sanga Ilakkiya Solvalam, authored by P.R. Subramanian.

### **'Alaigal' scheme**

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister launched the 'Alaigal' (waves) microcredit scheme for women's self-help groups through the Tamil Nadu State Apex Fisheries Co-operative Federation Limited and commenced the distribution of welfare assistance worth Rs 10.67 crore to 2,290 beneficiaries.
- It aims to provide the micro-Loans to the fisherwomen groups for their economic upliftment.
- The new Tuna Fishing Harbour was also inaugurated at Thiruvottiyur, Chennai.
- It is India's first exclusive Tuna fishing harbour.

### **'Elimai Aalumai' (Simple Governance) scheme**

- Chief Minister launched the 'Elimai Aalumai' (Simple Governance) scheme to streamline and expedite the delivery of key public services across Tamil Nadu.
- The scheme is to simplify the delivery of 10 services to the people, including the issuance of sanitation certification, public building licence, registration of old age homes, working womens hostel licence, solvency certificates and no-objection certificate for using dry land for non-agricultural purposes.
- This scheme was designed to ensure delivery of all the services online to everyone.

### **Scientific Scholar Awards for 24 People**

- The Tamil Nadu Scientific Scholar Award has been presented through the Science and Technology Council since 1993.

▪ These awards are given in 10 categories: Agricultural Science, Biochemistry, Ecology, Engineering Technology, Mathematics, Medicine, Physics, Sociology, and Veterinary Science.

▪ In 2022, Dr.A.Theraniraj was selected as a Scientific Scholar in the Medical field.

▪ Professor Ma. Arumugam Pillai from the Agricultural College and Research Station (Agriculture), Professor T.Sangeeta from Anna University (Chemistry), Professor M.Tamilarasan from University of Chennai (Sociology), among others, have been selected for the awards.

### **AI-Powered Waste Management Initiative in Tamil Nadu**

- For the first time in Tamil Nadu, measures have been taken to implement waste management using Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology.
- The Ooty Municipality is currently attempting to handle waste with AI technology assistance, in collaboration with Kinder and Hand in Hand voluntary organizations.
- As a first phase, measures have been taken to implement this in the Coonoor area of Ooty Municipality.

### **Greater Flamingo Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu**

- The Tamil Nadu government has officially declared a greater flamingo sanctuary spanning 524.7 hectares, part of the ecologically sensitive Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve, at Dhanushkodi.
- The move aims to preserve a critical stopover point along the Central Asian Flyway for migratory wetland birds.



- According to the recent 2023-24 Wetland Bird Survey, the Dhanushkodi region recorded over 10,700 wetland birds, representing 128 species including herons, egrets, sandpipers, and both greater and lesser flamingos.
- It was organised by the Departments of Environment, Climate Change and Forests to celebrate World Environment Day.
- Mangrove species such as Avicennia and Rhizophora dominate the Dhanushkodi lagoon, providing essential breeding grounds and natural defenses against coastal erosion.
- A study by the State Planning Commission has revealed a structural shift in rural livelihoods, marked by a 20% decline in dependence on agriculture for employment since 2012.
- Young workers (aged 15-34) lead this transition, preferring non-farm jobs for better wages and more stability.
- The study on rural non-farm employment indicated that over 75% of men and 50% of women were employed in non-agricultural activities.
- The study was carried out in 12 villages of six districts with higher as well as lower rural non-farm economy.
- It pointed to a significant shift from agriculture, with an increasing number of workers involved in non-farm sectors, such as construction and manufacturing.
- The other reports prepared by the State Planning Commission are 'Tamil Nadu's vision for sustainable development goals', 'Tamil Nadu's automotive future', and 'Reimagining Tamil Nadu - Path to knowledge economy'.
- 'Reimagining Tamil Nadu - Path to a knowledge economy' focuses on two key pillars: Global Capability Centres and the future of manufacturing.

### **Thozhilaalar Thedi Maruthuvam scheme**

- Tamil Nadu health minister launched a workplace screening program for non-communicable diseases in small businesses and offices at the Thiru.V.K. Nagar Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai.
- The scheme, which is based on the lines of Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam would conduct medical screening for industrial workers.
- Since a lot of working people are not able to benefit from the Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam scheme because of regular work hours, Thozhilaalar Thedi Maruthuvam scheme has been launched by the state health department.
- The scheme will be implemented for the workers employed in factories and non-organized industries including construction.
- This scheme was initially launched in Thiruvallur in 2024

### **Number of rural workers who opt for farm jobs has dropped by 20%: planning panel report**

### **Tamil Nadu government reconstitutes State Consumer Protection Council**

- The Tamil Nadu government has reconstituted the State Consumer Protection Council with the Minister for Food and Civil Supplies as its chairperson.

- There are 22 members in the panel, including elected representatives Vellore MP D.M. Kathir Anand, Thanjavur MP S. Murasoli, Tambaram MLA S.R. Raja and Vikravandi MLA Anniyur Siva.
- The Secretary of Co-operation, Food and Consumer Protection Department, the Commissioner of Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Department, the Registrar of State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, the Chairman and Managing Director of Tamil Nadu Generation Distribution Corporation Limited are also members in the panel.
- World Bank Country Director for India Auguste Tano Kouamé said Chennai had grown to become the second largest footprint of the World Bank around the world, serving 130 countries.

### **T.N. emerging as key manufacturing hub for electronics and Tamil AI**

- Tamil Nadu is fast emerging as a key electronics manufacturing hub with major projects in mobile phones, laptops and server manufacturing and a newly approved electronics cluster.
- Tamil Nadu is a major manufacturing centre for the Vande Bharat trains.

### **World Bank's funding for Tamil Nadu**

- Development loan interest rates are high (6%-7%). Stalin urged the World Bank to offer more supportive financing for socio-economic development.
- World Bank had provided financial support to the tune of \$4.7 billion for projects that had been completed in the State, while \$1 billion-worth projects were under implementation.
- World Bank Group Managing Director and Chief Administrative Officer said the World Bank and Tamil Nadu shared a rich history of collaboration. And Chennai was the World Bank Group's largest centre outside the United States.
- Together, the two had advanced development in areas such as rural livelihood and skills building, infrastructure, education, healthcare, and Smart Cities.
- Tamil AI is a path-breaking initiative and will make a big impact on the way Indian languages get incorporated into AI.
- Tamil AI aims to integrating Tamil literature and research into artificial intelligence.
- A. Ashwathaman, founder of the Tamil AI project, said the initiative aims to incorporate all published Tamil books.
- In future it could be used for several purposes, including generating commentaries on ancient Tamil poems.

### **Keeladi Excavations**

- Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has stated that the report on the Keeladi excavations, submitted by archaeologist Amarnath Ramakrishna, is not yet "technically well-supported" and requires further scientific studies.

- Keeladi is a village in Sivaganga district, Tamil Nadu, situated along the Vaigai River, about 12 km southeast of Madurai.
- Excavations began in 2015, initially led by the ASI and later by the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology after a period of administrative dispute.
- Over 18,000 artefacts have been discovered, including pottery, inscribed potsherds, gold ornaments, copper articles, semi-precious stones, shell and ivory bangles, glass beads, spindle whorls, terracotta seals, and weaving tools.
- Some symbols on Keeladi artefacts resemble those of the Indus Valley Civilization, though a cultural gap of about 1,000 years remains.

### **T.N. government notifies law to prevent coercive recovery of micro-loans**

- The State government has notified the Tamil Nadu Money Lending Entities (Prevention of Coercive Actions) Act, 2025, which is meant to prevent coercive recovery of micro-loans by money-lending entities.
- The Act is aimed at protecting the weaker and vulnerable groups and individuals – especially farmers, women, and self-help groups – from the coercive recovery of loans by money-lending entities such as micro-finance institutions and money-lending agencies operating in Tamil Nadu.
- It shall apply to all money-lending entities, including digital lending platforms, but not to banks, non-banking financial companies registered with the Reserve Bank of India, and co-operative banks and societies.
- However, the provisions of the Act relating to coercive action against the borrower shall apply to non-banking financial companies registered with the RBI and co-operative banks and societies.

### **Loan for households**

- Micro-loan means a loan given to a household having an annual income of upto ₹3 lakh.
- A household means an individual family unit: husband, wife, and their unmarried son and daughter. A borrower is an individual or group of individuals or a self-help group or joint liability group, according to the Act.

### **Coercive action**

- Section 20 of the Act also lists what constitutes coercive action.
- This includes obstructing or using violence against or insulting or intimidating the borrower or any of his family members.

### **New Tamil Nadu government assistance program**

- "A scheme to provide ₹1,000 monthly assistance to 7,618 children affected by HIV infection by the Tamil Nadu government was launched on Tuesday.
- Minister for Public Health and Family Welfare Ma. Subramanian launched the scheme during the World Blood Donor Day event held at the hospital."
- This appears to be a news report about a new government assistance program in Tamil

Nadu providing financial support to HIV-affected children, announced during a World Blood Donor Day commemoration.

### Tamil Nadu – Growth

- With more than 35 lakh registered MSMEs, Tamil Nadu ranks third in India.
- These companies have created employment opportunities for 2.47 crore people.
- Tamil Nadu is ranked third in India, with exports of \$30.50 billion.
- In the manufacturing sector, Tamil Nadu accounts for 11.90% of India's total production.
- Tamil Nadu has created 14 industrial parks.
- Tamil Nadu ranks first in the production of motor vehicles, ready-made textiles, and leather goods.
- It ranks second in the production of textile machinery and electronic goods.
- Tamil Nadu accounted for 6.3 lakh (42%) of the 14.9 lakh women workers in the country, and 30% of the entrepreneurs in the State were women.
- According to the instructions, the reservation in promotion for persons with benchmark disabilities is "applicable only to the identified posts notified by the government where the cadre strength of a post is more than five.
- Such identification shall be made only for posts carrying a pay level up to pay level 25 in each government establishment".
- The reservation is applicable in promotion as well as in recruitment by transfer (lower pay scale to higher pay scale).
- While 1% is reserved for blindness and low vision, 1% is reserved for deaf and hard of hearing.
- One percent is reserved for locomotor disability, including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims, and muscular dystrophy.
- Another 1% is reserved for autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability and mental illness, multiple disabilities from among persons under clauses (a) to (b) including deaf-blindness.

### T.N. govt. to give 4% quota in promotion to its staff with disabilities

- The Tamil Nadu government will provide 4% reservation in promotion to its employees with benchmark disabilities. It has issued instructions in this regard.
- One of the instructions allows the government to exempt any of its establishments from the provisions of Section 34 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.
- However, under one of the provisions, the government shall decide on exempting certain establishments from the reservation.
- The government, in consultation with the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, "may exempt any government establishment from the provisions of the reservation".
- Section 34 of the Act provides 4% reservation to persons with benchmark disabilities in appointment.

- But, as for promotion, one of the provisions says, "reservation in promotion shall be in accordance with such instructions as are issued by the appropriate government from time to time".
- The Tamil Nadu government is currently pursuing the objective of bringing 33% of its total land area under green cover, in line with the National Forest Policy.

### **"Sagar Kavach" Security Exercise**

- The 36-hour security exercise named "Sagar Kavach," launched in Tamil Nadu's coastal districts to thwart terrorist infiltration, concludes this evening.
- The Sagar Kavach security exercise was launched yesterday morning at 6 AM by the police in 14 coastal districts of Tamil Nadu.
- This exercise involved participation from all security divisions including the Tamil Nadu Coastal Security Group, Armed Forces, Tamil Nadu Special Police Force, Coast Guard, and Crime Branch Police.
- A total of 8,000 police personnel have been deployed in this security exercise.
- Tamil Nadu Preservation of Private Forests Act, 1949 and the Tamil Nadu Hill Areas (Preservation of Trees) Act, 1955 are not designed to address the conservation of individual species, like rosewood, in a targeted manner.
- IUCN Status – Vulnerable
- CITES – Appendix – II

### **Muthupet mangrove cover increased by 2,057 hectares in the last three years**

- Muthupet is home to the largest mangrove forest in the State, spanning 120 sq.km along the Palk Strait.
- According to an official document, the mangrove area in Muthupet has grown by 2,057 hectares from 2022 to 2025.
- The Muthupet wetland complex, encompassing six reserved forests, is an ecosystem that supports diverse wildlife, including over 100 species of migratory water birds like Lesser Flamingos and Spot-Billed Pelicans.

### **Tamil Nadu government - Rosewood Conservation Act**

- Tamil Nadu Rosewood Trees (Conservation) Act, 1994 has expired. Tamil Nadu will no longer have specific legislation to regulate rosewood exploitation.
- The legislation was enacted in 1995 to protect *Dalbergia latifolia*, commonly known as rosewood – a rare and valuable tree species whose numbers were declining due to illegal felling and trade.
- Initially passed for 15 years, the legislation was renewed in 2010 for another 15 years.
- **Natural shield**
- These mangrove forests, dominated by *Avicennia marina*, act as a natural shield against storm surges, tsunamis, sea-level rise, and coastal erosion.
- They also play a key role in the ecology of the Cauvery delta, and the hydrology of several important distributaries.