

# VETRI IAS STUDY CIRCLE

## Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

**NOVEMBER 2023**



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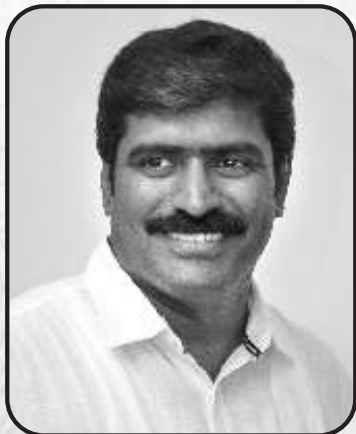
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# ***Preface***



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My Dear Aspirants,

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

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

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

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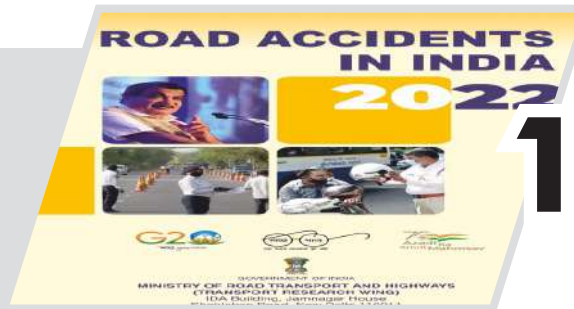
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**Namma Saalai**

**நம்ம  
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# 1. HISTORY



## 1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
<b>November 2 &amp; 8</b>	<b>National Awareness Week</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) observes <b>Vigilance Awareness Week</b> every year to bring together all stakeholders in spreading the message of integrity in all spheres of life.</li><li>▪ In <b>2023</b>, it is being observed from <b>30th October to 5th November</b> with the theme of "<b>Say no to Corruptions; commit to the Nation</b>"</li></ul>
<b>November 3</b>	<b>International Day for Biosphere Reserve</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>International Day for Biosphere Reserve</b> is annually observed by the <b>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)</b>.</li></ul>
<b>November 5</b>	<b>World Tsunami Awareness Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>World Tsunami Awareness Day</b> is observed on <b>November 5</b> to mark to emphasise the importance of Tsunami knowledge and awareness.</li><li>▪ <b>Theme 2023: Fighting Inequality for a Resilient Future</b></li><li>▪ Tsunami affected India on <b>26 December 2004</b></li></ul>
<b>November 9</b>	<b>National Legal Services Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>National Legal Services Day</b> is annually observed across India on November 9 to commemorate the enactment of the <b>National Legal Services Authorities Act 1987</b> which came into force on <b>9th November 1995</b>.</li><li>▪ The day was first observed by the <b>Supreme Court of India in 1995</b>.</li></ul>
<b>November 10</b>	<b>World Immunisation Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>World Immunisation Day</b> is observed every year on the <b>November 10</b> to mainly educate people about the benefits of vaccination against several diseases.</li><li>▪ The theme for World Immunisation Day 2023 is <b>The Big Catch-Up</b></li></ul>

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
<b>November 16</b>	<b>National Press Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>National Press Day</b> is celebrated every year as a symbolic of a free and responsible press in India.</li> <li>▪ The day commemorates the establishment of Press Council of India, which acts as a regulatory body for news media.</li> <li>▪ <b>Theme 2023 : Media in the Era of Artificial Intelligence</b></li> <li>▪ Press Council of India it started operating on <b>16 November 1966</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>November 17</b>	<b>National Epilepsy Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The day is observed every year in India to raise awareness around the brain disorder.</li> <li>▪ The day was first observed by the Epilepsy Foundation of India and was established by Dr Nirmal Surya.</li> </ul>
<b>November 14 to 20</b>	<b>All India Cooperative Week</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All India Cooperative Week is organized every year in India with the objective of highlighting the achievements of the cooperative sector.</li> <li>▪ <b>Theme 2023 : Role of Cooperatives in Making India \$ 5 Trillion Economy and Sustainable Development Goals.</b></li> </ul>
<b>November 18</b>	<b>National Naturopathy Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ National Naturopathy Day is observed every year to raise awareness of the benefits of Naturopathy</li> <li>▪ The day was first observed by Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy) in 2018.</li> <li>▪ <b>Theme 2023 : Naturopathy for Holistic Health</b></li> </ul>
<b>November 19</b>	<b>National Integration Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The day marks the birth anniversary of the first woman Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi.</li> <li>▪ The day was first observed in 2013.</li> </ul>
<b>November 25</b>	<b>International Day For The Elimination of Violence Against Women</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It is celebrated every year to create awareness about this global problem.</li> <li>▪ <b>Theme 2023 : UNITE! Invest to prevent violence against women and girls'</b></li> </ul>
<b>November 26</b>	<b>Constitution Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Constitution Day</b> also known as 'Samvidhan Divas' is celebrated in India on <b>26th November</b> every year to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India.</li> <li>▪ On <b>26th November 1949</b>, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India, which came into effect from <b>26th January 1950</b>.</li> </ul>



Date	Day	Theme / Remark
<b>November 26</b>	<b>National Milk Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The day is annually observed across India to commemorate the birth anniversary of <b>Dr. Verghese Kurien</b> who is famously called as the <b>Father of the White Revolution in India</b>.</li> <li><b>November 26, 2023</b> marks the observance of <b>10th National Milk Day</b> and <b>102nd birth anniversary</b> of <b>Verghese Kurein</b>.</li> <li>The <b>Operation Flood</b>, also known as <b>White Revolution in India</b> was launched in <b>1970</b> to make India self-dependent in milk production.</li> </ul>

## 1.2 DEFENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND TERRORISM

### 'Pralay' missile successfully tested

- India successfully test-fired its **surface-to-surface short-range ballistic missile (SRBM)** 'Pralay' from the **Abdul Kalam Island** off the **Odisha coast**.
- It has been developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- It is a **350-500 km short-range**, surface-to-surface missile with a payload capacity of **500-1,000 kg**
- It has been developed for deployment along the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** and **Line of Control (LoC)**

### Mitra Shakti-2023

- The **9th edition** of the **Mitra Shakti** commenced at **Pune in Maharashtra**.
- Mitra Shakti-2023** is a joint military exercise between the armed forces of **India and Sri Lanka**.
- The exercise was started in **2012**.

### Vajra Prahar 2023

- The **14th edition** of the **Vajra Prahar 2023** commenced at **Umroi in Meghalaya**.
- It is the **Indo-US Joint Special Forces exercise**.
- It was initiated in **2010**

## 1.3 WORLD ORGANISATIONS – PACTS AND SUMMITS

### Quad launches IPMDA initiative

- QUAD grouping** launched the **Indo - Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) initiative**.
- The initiative seeks to establish a comprehensive system for monitoring and securing
- maritime activities in the **Indo - Pacific**, ensuring the safety of critical sea lines of communication, and promoting cooperation among likeminded nations in the region.

### About QUAD

- Formation** - 2017
- Objective** - To counter China's aggressive behaviour in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Members** - Australia, India, Japan, United States
- Quad Plus additional members** - New Zealand, South Korea and Vietnam.

### Second edition of Voice of Global South Summit

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi lead the inaugural session of second 'Voice of Global South Summit' in New Delhi.
- India is hosting the Summit in **virtual format**.
- The initiative brings together **125 countries** of the Global South to share their perspectives and priorities on a common platform.

### WHO Launches Commission on Social Connection

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has announced a new **Commission on Social Connection**, to identify loneliness as a pressing health threat, promote social connection as a priority and accelerate the scaling up of solutions in countries of all incomes.

### PEC Summit 2023

- **30th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting** concluded in San Francisco.
- The forum aims to promote trade, investment and economic development among nations around the Pacific Ocean.
- **India is not a member of APEC** but India has been an observer since 2011.

### Virtual G20 Leaders' Summit

- India hosted the **Virtual G20 Leaders' Summit**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted that there is zero tolerance for terrorism and that the killings of innocents, especially children and women, are not acceptable.

## 1.4 EMINENT PERSONS

### N. Sankaraiah passed away

- **N. Sankaraiah**, freedom fighter, senior most Communist leader in the country, and one of the founding members of the **Communist Party of India (Marxist)**, dies at Chennai.
- In 2021, Sankaraiah was honoured with the **Thagaisal Thamizhar Award**.
- He served as the editor of the magazine **"Theekathir"** which is the mouthpiece of the CPI(M) in TN

- He became the **first Prime Minister** to visit **Ulihatu Village**, the birthplace of **Birsa Munda**.
- In **2022**, the government has decided to celebrate the birth anniversary as **Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas**.

### Birsa Munda's Birth Anniversary

- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Ulihatu Village in Jharkhand, the birth place of **Birsa Munda** and paid floral tribute to his statue.

### Fathima Beevi dies at 96

- Justice **Fathima Beevi** died at a private hospital in Kerala's Kollam.
- She was India's **first woman judge** of the Supreme Court.
- She was the first **woman from the Muslim community** to be a part of the higher judiciary.
- She served as the **Governor of Tamil Nadu** from 1997-2001.



## 1.5 SPORTS AND GAMES

### ICC Cricket World Cup 2023

- The Australian cricket team led by **Pat Cummins** won the **13th edition of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's One Day International (ODI) Cricket World Cup 2023** by defeating India in the finals held in **Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, Gujarat**.
- Australia won the Cricket world cup for the **sixth time**.

### Awards

- **Player of the Tournament** – Virat Kohli
- **Player of the Match (Finals)** – Travis Head
- **Highest run-scorer** – Virat Kohli (765 runs)
- **Highest Wicket-taker** – Mohammed Shami (24 wickets)

### Pankaj Advani wins World Billiards Championship

- Pankaj Advani won the **IBSF World Billiards Championship** title in Doha for the 26th time.
- He won his first world title in 2003.

## 1.6 AWARDS & HONOURS

### Ballon d'Or 2023

- The **2023 Ballon d'Or** is the **67th annual ceremony** of the **Ballon d'Or**, presented by the **French magazine 'France Football'**.
- The award recognising the best footballers in the world in the **2022-23 season**.
- **Lionel Messi** won the **eighth Ballon d'Or** award in 2023.
- **Spain's Aitana Bonmati** won the **Women's Ballon d'Or**.

### Note

- **First award** - Stanley Matthews (1956)
- The most number of Ballon d'Or was received by **Lionel Messi (8 awards)** followed by **Cristiano Ronaldo** with 5 awards.

### British Academy Book Prize 2023

- India-born author **Nandini Das** has been named the winner of the **2023 British Academy Book Prize** for her book '**Courting India: England, Mughal India and the Origins of Empire**'
- The book brings a new perspective on the origins of empire through the story of the arrival of the first English ambassador in India, **Sir Thomas Roe, in the early 17th century**.

### Note

- The **British Academy Book Prize**, formerly known as the **Nayef Al-Rodhan Prize**, was established in **2013** to reward and celebrate the best works of non-fiction

### Global Responsible Tourism Award 2023

- The **Kerala Responsible Tourism Mission** wins the **Global Responsible Tourism Award 2023** for promoting sustainable and women-inclusive initiatives in the '**Best for Local Sourcing - Craft and Food**' category.
- It won the award for linking women-led **small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)** to tourism activities and ensuring effective marketing of indigenous products.
- The award was instituted by the **Responsible Tourism Partnership and International Centre for Responsible Tourism (ICRT)**.

### Rohini Nayyar Prize 2023

- **Deenanath Rajput** was awarded the **Rohini Nayyar Prize for Outstanding Contribution to Rural Development**.
- He was awarded for his efforts in changing the lives of over 6,000 tribal women in

Chhattishgarh by establishing a farmers producers organisation (FPO)

- **First recipient** - Sethrichem Sangtam (2022)

### **Lata Mangeshkar Award 2023**

- Veteran playback singer and Padma Shri awardee Suresh Ishwar Wadkar won the Lata Mangeshkar Award for the year 2023.
- The Lata Mangeshkar Award is an annual award given by the **Maharashtra Government** in memory of the legendary playback singer **Lata Mangeshkar**

### **JCB Prize for Literature 2023**

- Tamil writer **Perumal Murugan** has won the **JCB Prize for Literature** for his novel, Fire Bird, an English translation of his Tamil novel Aalanda Patchi.
- The book was translated by **Janani Kannan**
- The award carries a ₹25 lakh cash prize.
- The award was established in 2018.

### **Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2022**

- The **Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development 2022** was jointly awarded to the **Indian Medical Association and the Trained Nurses Association of India** as representatives of the COVID-19 warriors in the country.
- It is an annual award accorded by **Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust**

- The award was first presented in 1986.

### **Namita Chattopadhyay Sahitya Samman 2023**

- **Nadajibir Notebook** ('notebook on rivers') a book in **Bengali** by writer and river scientist Supratim Karmakar was honoured with the **Namita Chattopadhyay Sahitya Samman 2023** at the **Bangla Akademi in Kolkata**.
- **Namita Chattopadhyay Sahitya Samman 2023** is a literary award instituted in honour of **Namita Chattopadhyay** who was a well-known literary Bengali critic.

### **The Booker Prize 2023**

- Irish author **Paul Lynch** won the **2023 Booker Prize** for fiction for his novel Prophet Song.
- He is the fifth Irish writer to win the **Booker prize**.
- The **Booker Prize** was first awarded in 1969

### **Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award 2023**

- American actor and producer **Michael Douglas** was presented the **Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award 2023** at the closing ceremony of the **54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** held in Goa.
- The award was first given in 1999.

## **1.7 APPOINTMENTS – WHO IS WHO?**

### **New regional Director of WHO**

- **Saima Wazed** was nominated as the next **Regional Director** for the World Health Organization's **South-East Asia region**.
- She is Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's daughter.
- She was selected by 10 countries of **Bangladesh, Bhutan, North Korea, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Timor-Leste**.
- **Myanmar** did not send a delegation to the meeting.

### **About WHO**

- **Formation** - 7 April 1948
- **Headquarters** - Geneva, Switzerland
- **Director General** - Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

### **New Chief Information Commissioner appointed**

- Information Commissioner Heeralal Samariya was sworn in as the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) by President Droupadi Murmu.

- He is the first person from the Dalit community to hold the post.

#### **About Central Information Commission (CIC)**

- A statutory body set up under the Right to Information Act in 2005.

#### **Coast Guard gets new Eastern Regional Commander**

- **Inspector General Donny Michael** assumed office as the **Coast Guard's Eastern Regional Commander**, replacing **Inspector General Anand Prakash Badola**.
- Mr. Badola will be taking charge as **Deputy Director General (Policy and Plans)** at the **Coast Guard Headquarters** in New Delhi.

#### **First Indian woman to be re-elected to IRU board**

- **Indian Cooperative Network for Women (ICNW) president Nandini Azad** was re-elected to the board of **International Raiffeisen Union (IRU)**, one of the oldest cooperative unions in the world.

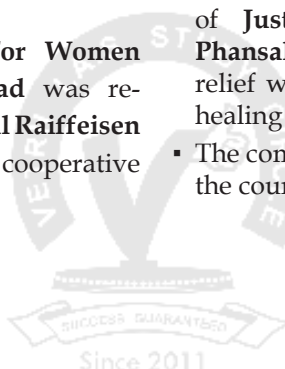
- She is the **first Indian woman** to be reelected to the board of IRU for the second time.

#### **Expert committee to update syllabi of NET**

- The **University Grants Commission (UGC)** has decided to update the syllabi of the **National Eligibility Test for Junior Research Fellowship** and appointment as assistant professors in various subjects.
- The **UGC-NET** is held in **83 subjects twice a year**, usually in **June and December**.
- The **National Testing Agency (NTA)** conducts the **UGC-NET**.

#### **SC panel submits report on Manipur victims**

- Supreme Court appoint an all-women committee of three former High Court judges of **Justices Gita Mittal (Head), Shalini Phansalkar Joshi and Asha Menon** to monitor relief work, rehabilitation, compensation and healing of violence-hit Manipur.
- The committee recently submitted its report to the court.



# 2. POLITICAL SCIENCE

## 2.1 INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

### Bilateral Rail Connectivity between India and Bangladesh

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh Premier Sheikh Hasina jointly inaugurated Bilateral rail connectivity between Agartala and Akhaura from New Delhi and Dhaka respectively.
- Agartala-Akhaura railway line is 12.24 km long.
- Of this, Tripura has got 5.46 km on the Indian side and 6.78 km lies in Akhaura of Bangladesh's Bahmanbaria district.
- The project was crucial for connectivity in the North East region and it would make Tripura the gateway for tourism.
- The project was initially signed in 2013.

#### Note

- Tripura shares 856 km-long international border with Bangladesh.
- It is the second longest border between these two countries of any Indian state after West Bengal.

### India – US to hold '2+2' dialogue

- India and US will be holding an '2+2' dialogue in New Delhi.
- '2+2' dialogue will be held between US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

### India also held 2+2 dialogue with

- Japan
- Australia
- Russia
- UK

### India – Sri Lanka IMBL Meeting

- The 33rd edition of annual International

Maritime Boundary Line meeting was held between the representatives of the Navies and Coast Guards of India and Sri Lanka.

- The meeting was held onboard INS Sumitra at the Indo-Sri Lanka Maritime Boundary Line, off Point Calimere in the Palk Bay.
- The meeting involved discussions on maritime security in the Palk Bay and the Gulf of Mannar region, safety of fishermen and measures to curtail trafficking of contraband, among other issues.

### India – Bhutan

- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with Bhutan's fifth King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck's and made important decisions.

### Important Decisions

- 58 km cross border rail link between Gelephu and Kokrajhar in Assam to be built by India.
- A second rail link for about 18 km between Samtse in Bhutan and Banarhat in West Bengal.
- Establishment of Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Dadgiri (Assam)
- Establishment of a smart city at Gelephu on the border between Bhutan and Assam.

### India - U.S. Defense Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X)

- Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) under Ministry of Defence and US Department of Defence, organised the first INDUS-X Investors meet at New Delhi.

### About INDUS-X

- Launched in June 2023.
- Aims to expand strategic technology partnership and defense industrial cooperation between India and US.

### Afghanistan Embassy in Delhi shuts down

- The Afghanistan Embassy in Delhi has permanently closed down, effective from **November 23**.
- The embassy blamed both the Taliban rulers in Kabul as well as the Government of India for pressuring it to stop operations in the country permanently

### Joint venture in T.N. defence corridor

- **Indian firm Merlinhawk Aerospace Pvt. Ltd.** Signed a joint venture agreement with Italy's Vega Composites S.r.l. to establish a manufacturing and design facility in the Tamil Nadu defence corridor for advanced composite material - based products.
- The new entity will be called **Merlinhawk Composites and Engineering Private Limited**.
- The joint venture is the first such agreement signed between an Italian and Indian company.

## 2.2 LATEST COURT VERDICTS

### Governors cannot sit on Bills passed by House: SC

- The Supreme Court laid down that a Governor cannot sit on key Bills passed by a State Legislature by casting doubts on the validity of the Assembly session in which the proposed laws were passed.

#### The court also observed that

- Real power vests with the elected representatives of the people in a parliamentary form of democracy.

- The Governor is an appointee of the President and is a titular head of the State.

### Madras HC achieves Case Clearance Rate of 114% in 2022

- The Madras High Court has created a record in disposal of cases by registering its **highest - ever Case Clearance Rate (CCR) of 114% in 2022 as against 109% in 2021**.
- The existing backlog of **2.34 lakh cases** will get wiped out if a CCR beyond 110% is achieved for a few more years.

## 2.3 PUBLIC AWARENESS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

### Panel to look into sub-quota for Madigas

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced the constitution of a committee on **empowering the Dalit (Scheduled Castes) communities, including the Madiga community**
- The Madiga community is fighting for its proportional quota within the SC reservation for about three decades.

### Number of death penalty crimes increased

- A parliamentary panel report states that the proposed **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) Bill, 2023**, has increased the number of crimes

which can attract the death penalty from 11 to 15.

- **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) Bill, 2023** was introduced in the **Lok Sabha** and if passed it would replace the British era **Indian Penal Code (IPC)**.

### More immunity to defence personnel

- A report published by the **Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs** states that the **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) Bill, 2023** will provide further immunity to armed forces personnel as no case can be registered against them without the sanction of the Union or the State government for acts performed in the line of duty.



- The **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) Bill, 2023** if passed is expected to replace the **Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC)**.
- The **CrPC** was introduced in 1898 and amended in 1973.
- The Bill aims to improve access to affordable and high quality pharmacy education and ensure the availability of pharmacy professionals nationwide.

### **Draft National Pharmacy Commission Bill released**

- The Union Health Ministry invited comments from the public and stakeholders on the proposed **National Pharmacy Commission Bill, 2023**.
- The Ministry proposes to finalise the Bill for setting up the **National Pharmacy Commission** and repealing the **Pharmacy Act, 1948**.
- India will start blending compressed biogas with natural gas to boost domestic demand and cut reliance on natural gas imports.
- The mandatory phased introduction will start at **1% for use in automobiles** and households from **April 2025**.
- The government also aims to have **1% sustainable aviation fuel (SAF)** in air craft turbine fuel by 2027, doubling to **2% in 2028**.
- The steps are aimed at helping India achieve **net zero emissions targets by 2070**.

## **2.4 GOVT – WELFARE ORIENTED GOVT SCHEMES, THEIR UTILITY**

### **Free ration scheme to be extended for five more years**

- The Union government's scheme the **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)** was initially slated to end in **December, 2023** will be extended for another five years.

#### **About PMGKAY**

- **Launch** – 2020 (during pandemic)
- The scheme aims to provide **5 kg of free food grains** per beneficiary a month in addition to the 5 kg of subsidised food grains they were entitled to under the National Food Security Act.

### **Government hospitals have earned 50% of the claims under CM's insurance scheme in 2023-24**

- According to a document issued by the **Tamil Nadu Health Systems Project (TNHSP)**, under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS) ₹723 crore claims have been made so far in 2023.
- Of this around ₹361 crore has been paid to the government hospitals which is 50% of the total claims so far during 2023-24.

#### **About CMCHIS**

- Launched - July 2009
- The Scheme provides health insurance on a large scale to low-income, underprivileged families

#### **Note**

- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)** (launched on 23rd September, 2018) is a health insurance scheme at **National Level**.
- Tamil Nadu was awarded the **Best Practices Award** for 'effective utilisation of government funds' under the integrated **Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) - CMCHIS**.

### **Over 3,300 government school students apply for CLAT through Naan Mudhalvan scheme**

- The Tamil Nadu government had released about ₹1.3 crore under the Naan Mudhalvan scheme to take care of the application fee of ₹4,000 for the national level entrance exam.
- Around 3,377 government school students have applied for Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) under the initiative.



### **About Naam Mudhalvan Scheme**

- Launch - March 1, 2022.
- **Aim** - To empower the youth of the State to gain industry-relevant employable skills.

### **EESL Launches initiatives to transform cooking practices**

- Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) launches two initiatives National Efficient Cooking Programme and Energy Efficient Fans Programme
- These initiatives are aimed at revolutionizing cooking practices in India and emphasizing on the importance and urgency of energy efficient fans.

### **About National Efficient Cooking Programme (NECP)**

- **Aim** - To deploy 20 Lakh induction cook-stoves across India.
- NECP focuses on Non-Solar/Electricity-based Induction Cook stoves, aligning with the Go-electric initiative by the Ministry of Power.

### **About Energy Efficient Fans Programme (EEFP)**

- **Aim** - To encouraging the adoption of energy-efficient appliances, such as LED bulbs, tube lights, and **high-performance fans**.

### **About Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)**

- Launch - 2009
- It is promoted by **Ministry of Power**
- **Joint Venture of 4 public-sector undertakings**
  - National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC)
  - Power Finance Corporation Limited
  - REC Limited
  - POWERGRID Corporation of India Limited.

### **Odd-even vehicle rotation scheme to return in Delhi**

- New Delhi government announced that it would implement an odd even vehicle rotation scheme in the city **from November 13 to 20** to reduce **air pollution**.

- The air pollution in Delhi touched about 18 times the limit set by the **World Health Organization**.
- Air pollution in Delhi continued to be in the "**severe**" category according to **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** data.
- The scheme was first implemented in **2016**.

### **Jal Diwali Campaign launched**

- **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** launched the '**Jal Diwali - Water for Women, Women for Water**' awareness campaign.
- The campaign is launched under **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)**
- AMRUT is a flagship scheme of **MoHUA**, in partnership with National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM).
- **Odisha Urban Academy** is the knowledge partner of this campaign
- **Objective of the campaign** - To empower women in water governance.

### **Vasippu Iyakkam (Reading Movement)**

- A set of **53 books** were introduced under the **Vasippu Iyakkam (Reading Movement)** by the Tamil Nadu State Education Department.

### **About Vasippu Iyakkam (Reading Movement)**

- **Launch** - July 2023 in 11 districts
- **Objective** - To make reading more friendly and accessible for students of government schools
- The books are divided into **four stages** and the reading levels are increased as students' progress into the last stage.
- The books are given to children during the library period by volunteers of the **Illam Thedi Kalvi** project.

### **Centre to unveil PM-Kisan Bhai**

- The Centre plans to unveil a scheme named **PM-Kisan Bhai** (Bhandaran Incentive) to help small and marginal farmers who do

not have the capacity to hold their produce in warehouses and wait for better prices by providing incentives for them.

- The scheme aims to **empower farmers, allowing them to retain their crops for a minimum of three months post harvest.**

### **PMPVYG launched**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the first of its kind initiative - **'Pradhan Mantri Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PM PVTG) Development Mission'**
- The mission has the budget outlay of about **₹24,000 crore**
- **Aim** - To saturate PVTG families and habitations with basic facilities and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

### **Note**

- There are **75 PVTGs in 18 States & UTs living in 22,544 villages (220 districts)** having a population of around **28 lakhs.**

### **PLI 2.0 Scheme for IT hardware**

- The Union Government had approved **PLI Scheme - 2.0 for IT hardware.**
- The scheme covers **laptops, tablets, all-in-one PCs, Servers and Ultra Small Form Factor devices.**
- **Objective of the scheme:** To provide financial incentive to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments in the value chain.

### **New portal NHAI projects**

- Projects worth **₹40,000 crore** being implemented by the **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** are being brought under the new **Bhoomi Rashi portal.**
- All processes, from the first notification under **Section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956** to the acquisition, survey, hearing of objections, declaration of acquisition, taking possession of the land, fixing the compensation for the landowner, and payment, are carried out on the portal.

- **Bhoomi Rashi portal** aims to digitize the land acquisition process for National Highway (NH) Projects.

### **SATHEE portal**

- Education Ministry officials directed all States to encourage aspirants to utilise the newly launched portal – **SATHEE (Self Assessment Test and Help for Entrance Exams)** for exam preparation.
- It has been launched by the **Education Ministry and the IIT Kanpur.**
- **SATHEE** is an open learning platform available to students free.

### **Ungalai Thedi, Ungal Ooril (In your town, looking for you) scheme to be launched**

- **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin** is set to launch a novel scheme **Ungalai Thedi, Ungal Ooril (In your town, looking for you)** next month, which aims to redress the grievances of the general public expeditiously.
- Under the initiative, **every District Collector** will visit and **stay in a taluk for one day** in a month to inspect government offices in that area and listen to the grievances of the general public.
- The initiative is expected to bridge the **gap between the people and the District Collectors.**

### **CITIIS Project**

- The **City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain (CITIIS)** project, which was launched in 28 schools in Chennai, will likely be extended to **15 more schools.**
- The CITIIS envisages a complete transformation of selected schools, such as infrastructure, teaching pedagogy, teacher training, sports, etc. It is a multi-dimensional project with niche features.
- The project is funded by **French Development Agency (AFD)** along with the TN State Government.

### Data portal on cities

- The **Amplifi 2.0 (Assessment and Monitoring Platform for Liveable, Inclusive and Future - ready urban India)** portal was recently launched by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**.
- The portal contains the data about Indian cities on a single platform which would help the academics, researchers, and stakeholders in better policy making.
- By **2030**, India is projected to have 60 crore (40%) of the population living in urban areas.
- The **2011 Census** shows that urban India contributed **63% to the country's GDP** which is projected to increase to **75% by 2030**.

### 'Innuyir Kappom' scheme

- The number of persons who have benefitted under the State government's '**Innuyir Kappom-Nammai Kaakkum 48**' has crossed two lakh.
- **Launch** - December 2021
- **A total of 692 hospitals** - 237 private and 455 government facilities - were empanelled in the scheme.

### New code for Anganwadis to track children with disabilities

- The Union Women and Child Development Ministry launched a special protocol,

"Anganwadi Protocol" for Anganwadi workers which will help them track and help children with disabilities in the 0-6 years age group.

- It aims to satisfy the objectives of Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0

### Fast track courts

- The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of fast-track courts, dedicated to dispensation of justice in cases of sexual offences, for a period of three years up to March 31, 2026.
- The Fast Track Special Court (FTSC) is a centrally sponsored scheme which was launched in 2019.
- FTSC was implemented by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice.
- It aims to ensure the swift disposal of cases related to rape and those coming under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

### Drones to 15,000 women's groups

- The Centre has launched a scheme under which drones will be provided to 15,000 progressive women self-help groups (SHG) for agricultural purposes.
- The drone services are rented out to farmers for agricultural purposes such as nano fertilizer and pesticide applications.



## 3. GEOGRAPHY

### 3.1 POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

#### October rainfall: 'sixth lowest' since 1901

- IMD announced that the rainfall during the northeast monsoon has been the "sixth lowest" since 1901 so far.
- In September, the agency had forecast 'normal' rainfall for Tamil Nadu, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Kerala, but October rainfall saw a 60% rainfall deficiency in these regions.

#### About IMD

- Formation** – 1875
- Director General** - M. Mohapatra
- Ministry** – Ministry of Earth Sciences

#### New species of gecko discovered in Western Ghats

- A new species of gecko named **cnemaspis rashidi** (Rashid's dwarf gecko) has been discovered at an altitude of 1,245 m at Kottamalai estate in Western Ghats near Rajapalayam.
- So far, 93 species of gecko had been documented and this is the 94th species.

#### TN launches dolphin conservation project

- Tamil Nadu government has issued orders to implement Project Dolphin under the Union government's Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats scheme.
- TN is known to have more than nine species of dolphins.
- Project Dolphin activities will include strengthening of patrolling and surveillance, improving habitat through restoration of

coastal ecosystems, removing ghost nets, and encouraging involvement of locals with incentives.

- The project will be implemented at a cost of ₹8.13 crore during 2023-2024.

#### ▪ **Migratory shore birds flock to of Point Calimere**

- The **Forest Department** has recorded the arrival of several terrestrial bird species from the **Himalayas, Western Ghats, and Sri Lanka**, besides over 60 species of shore birds from various parts of **Eurasia to Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary in Nagapattinam district**.

- Point Calimere** also known as **Kodiyakkarai**, is a protected wetland and designated as one of the **Wetlands of International Importance** under the **Ramsar Convention** along with the **Great Vedaranyam Swamp**.

- It is a tropical dry evergreen forest known for the conservation of the **Indian antelope**, also known as blackbuck.

#### Major cause of elephant deaths in Tamil Nadu

- According to the data made public by the **Forest Department** from its **Elephant Death Audit Framework in Tamil Nadu**, electrocution has been the main reason for the death of elephants than old age or starvation put together.
- The data show that **1,505 elephant deaths** have been recorded **since 2010**, and **159 of them**, or **10.5%** of all mortalities, were caused by humans or humanrelated activities.

## 3.2 NATURAL DISASTERS – SAFEGUARD MEASURES

### Cyclone 'Midhili'

- The cyclonic storm 'Midhili,' originated from a deep depression over the **Bay of Bengal**.
- The cyclone made the landfall near the **Bangladesh** coast.
- The cyclone was named by **Maldives**.
- in **Bay of Bengal** and can impact the coasts of **Andhra Pradesh and Odisha**.
- It was named by **Myanmar**.
- Cyclones formed over the Bay of Bengal in 2023 so far:
  - **Midhili**
  - **Hamoon**
  - **Mocha**
  - **Michaung**

### Cyclone Michaung

- The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** states that the **Cyclone Michaung** may form





# 4. ECONOMICS

## 4.1 REPORTS AND INDICES

### 'Road accidents in India — 2022' report released

- The Annual Report 'Road Accidents in India-2022' has been published by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- The annual report is based on the data/information received from **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)**.
- According to the **report a total of 4,61,312 road accidents** occurred in **2022**, which claimed **1,68,491** lives, while **4,43,366** people were injured.
- **Tamil Nadu** with **64,105 accidents (13.9%)** recorded the **highest number of road accidents in 2022** followed by **Madhya Pradesh (54,432 i.e.,11.8%)**.
- **Uttar Pradesh** recorded the **highest number of persons killed in road accidents** followed by **Tamil Nadu**.

### 7.5 million new cases of TB in 2022: WHO Global Report

- **World Health Organisation** recently released the **WHO Global Tuberculosis Report**.
- **Key Highlights of the report**
  - 7.5 million people were newly diagnosed with TB in 2022
  - **India, Indonesia and the Philippines** collectively accounts for nearly **60%** of the reduction in the number of people newly diagnosed with TB in 2020 and 2021.

- TB caused an estimated **1.30 million deaths in 2022**

### Production Gap Report 2023

- The **Production Gap Report 2023** was jointly released by **Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)**, **Climate Analytics**, **E3G**, **International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)** and the **UN Environment Programme (UNEP)** recently
- The report states that many countries are planning to produce twice as much fossil fuels in 2030 which is more consistent with limiting warming to 2 degrees Celsius than limiting it to 1.5 degrees Celsius

### About Production Gap Report 2023

- **Launch – 2019**
- It tracks the discrepancy between countries' planned fossil fuel production and global production levels consistent with limiting warming to 1.5°C or 2°C

### First flagship India Finance Report 2023

- **Centre for Advanced Financial Research and Learning (CAFRAL)** released its first flagship **India Finance Report 2023**.
- The theme of the report is **"Connecting the Last Mile: Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) in India"**.
- The report states that NBFCs are at the forefront of digital lending.
- **CAFRAL** was set up in **2006** as an **independent body by RBI** to promote finance, macroeconomics, and public policy research



## World Energy Employment (WEE) Report 2023

- Recently, International Energy Agency (IEA) released the second edition of the WEE report.
- The report tracks the evolution of the energy workforce from before the pandemic to the present day.
- The report states that in India, fossil fuel employment rose above 2019 levels

### Report by ILO

- According to the report by **International Labour Organization (ILO)** titled 'A Call for Safer and Healthier Working Environments', nearly 30 lakh workers die every year globally due to work-related accidents and diseases.
- More than 63% of these deaths are reported from the Asia-Pacific region.
- Exposure to long working hours (55 hours or more per week) was the biggest "killer", with almost 7.45 lakh people dying of it in 2016, followed by exposure to occupational particulate matter, gases, and fumes (4.5 lakh

deaths) and occupational injuries (3.63 lakh deaths).

- India has not ratified the **two ILO conventions, namely:**

- **ILO Occupational Safety and Health Convention**
- **Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006.**

### Unemployment rate in urban areas has come down: survey

- According to the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** conducted by the **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)**, the unemployment rate in urban areas of the country decreased from **7.2% in July - September 2022 to 6.6% in July - September 2023.**
- The **labour force participation rate (LFPR) in urban areas** increased to **49.3% in July - September 2023** for persons **aged 15 years and above.**
- **LFPR** increased to **73.8% for males** and **LFPR** increased to **24.0% for females.**

Since 2011



# 5. SCIENCE

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## 5.1 LATEST INVENTIONS ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Generic drugs to treat four rare diseases launched

- The Union Health Ministry has made available generic drugs to support the care and treatment of four ailments:
  - Tyrosinemia Type 1
  - Gauchers Disease
  - Wilson's Disease
  - DravetLennox Gastaut Syndrome

- The Ministry is also in the process of making available drugs for more rare diseases, including
- **Phenylketonuria and Hyperammonemia** in the coming months.

## 5.2 SPACE

### Aditya L1 captures first glimpse of solar flares

- The Indian Space Research Organisation said the High Energy L1 Orbiting X-ray Spectrometer (HEL1OS) on board the Aditya L1 space craft payload has captured the first high energy Xray glimpse of solar flares.

- Aditya L1 is the first space based Indian mission to study the sun
- It is currently on its journey to the destination of **sun-earth L1 point (L1)**.



## 6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENT

### India's first net zero business park launched in Chennai

- India's first net zero business park was launched by the Capital and Investment Limited (CLI)
- It has commenced operations for phase 1 of International Tech Park Chennai, Radial Road
- It intends to invest over \$500 million in Chennai over the next five years.

### NMC to launch 'one nation, one registration platform' for unified info on doctors

- The National Medical Commission (NMC) is all set to launch "one nation, one registration platform"
- The platform aims to eliminate duplication and red tape and allow the public to access information on any physician working in India.
- The National Medical Register (NMR) will also be launched under which doctors will be allotted a **unique identification number**.

#### About NMC

- NMC is the **regulatory body** for medical education and medical professionals.
- It replaced the Medical Council of India on 25 September 2020.

### New additions to UNESCO creative cities list

- Kozhikode in Kerala and Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh have been recently added to creative cities list of UNESCO
  - **Kozhikode** : City of Literature
  - **Gwalior** : City of Music

- In total, 55 cities were added to the UNESCO creative cities by UNESCO on October 31 (World Cities Day)

#### About UNESCO

- **Headquarters** - Paris, France
- **Formation** - 16 November 1945
- **Director-General** - Audrey Azoulay (France)

### NCERT to introduce electoral literacy content in textbooks

- The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) have announced to introduce and update textbooks to include content on electoral literacy.
- NCERT will also advise the **State Education Boards** and other Boards to follow the same.
- The measures are part of a **memorandum of understanding** signed between the **Election Commission of India (EC) and the Education Ministry**.
- It is aimed at extending the EC's flagship **Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP)** in schools and colleges.

### World Food India 2023

- The **second edition** of the 'World Food India 2023' was inaugurated at **Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, in New Delhi** by Narendra Modi.
- The primary objective of the event is to present India as the "**food basket of the world**" and commemorate **2023 as the International Year of Millets**.
- In the past nine years, the Food Processing Sector which is often referred to as the 'sunrise sector' has attracted foreign direct investments exceeding **Rs 50,000 crores**.

### Sale of 29th tranche of electoral bonds begins

- The sale of the 29th tranche of electoral bonds started amidst Assembly elections in five States Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram.

#### About Electoral Bond Scheme

- **Launch** - 2018 as an alternative to cash donations to political parties.
- Only bank authorised to issue and encash the bonds - **State Bank of India**
- Purchased anonymously by donors.
- **Validity** - 15 days from the date of issue.
- **Denominations of Bond** - Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 crore.
- Available for purchase for a period of ten days each in the months of January, April, July and October
- Recently this provision has been amended to conduct extra fortnight sale when states or Union territories have elections.

### Bihar raises ceiling on caste quota to 65%

- The Bihar Assembly unanimously passed a Bill to increase reservation for **Backward Classes, Extremely Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes, and Scheduled Tribes** from the existing 50% to 65%.
- Together with the 10% **Economically Backward Class (EWS)** quota, the Bill will push reservation in Bihar to 75% which is well past the 50% ceiling set by the Supreme Court.

### 'Bharat Organics' Launched

- Logo, website and brochure of NCOL has been launched recently by the Union Minister Amit Shah.
- Ministry of Cooperation launched the 'Bharat Organics' brand of **National Cooperative Organics Limited (NCOL)**.
- NCOL is a newly established cooperative body to promote organic produce.

#### About NCOL

- Formation - January 2023
- Under the **Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002**.

### ONGC to begin exploration for rare earth elements

- Researchers of the **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)** are planning to search for **rare earth elements (REE) in the Kerala Konkan basin**.
- The ONGC is looking for the presence of rare metals such as lithium, which are of great industrial demand, from the 19 wells it had abandoned earlier in the Kerala Konkan basin

### IGBC launches certification initiative 'Nest'

- The **Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)** of the **Confederation of Indian Industry** launched a rating and certification initiative 'Nest'.
- The initiative aims to promote sustainable and eco friendly constructions in the domestic housing sector.

#### Note

- IGBC is India's Premier certification body, headquartered at Hyderabad.

### Smart Cities ranking

- As per the **Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry data**, about **22% of total projects (1,745 of 7,947)** that account for 33% (Rs 57,028 crore of Rs 1.70 lakh crore) of the total cost are still ongoing.
- The majority of projects (**6,202**) have been completed as per the data.
- Top three smart cities in terms of completion of projects, fund usage and other criteria are
  - **Surat (Gujarat)** – First
  - **Agra (UP)** – Second
  - **Ahmedabad (Gujarat)** – Third
  - **Madurai (TN)** – Eighth

**About Smart Cities Mission**

- Launched - 25 June, 2015
- The selected cities were expected to finish all their proposed projects in five years from their selection.
- In May 2023, the deadline for all cities was extended to June 2024.

**Sea buckthorn gets GI Tag**

- Sea buckthorn fruit from Ladakh has been awarded a **Geographical Indication(GI) tag**.
- It is the fourth product to receive GI tag in Ladakh, after **Apricot (Raktsey Karpo)**, **Pashmina**, and **Ladakhi Wood Carving**.
- The GI tag is regulated by the **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act of 1999**.

**3D maps of cities and towns**

- In a first of its kind initiative, the Survey of India (SoI) has signed an agreement with a **Mumbai based private company, Genesys International**, to prepare three dimensional maps of several cities and towns.
- These will be called '**Digital Twins**'.
- **SOI** is the **custodian of India's maps**.

**Kishtwar Saffron from J&K receives GI tag**

- **Kishtwar Saffron brand**, which is cultivated and harvested in the **Kishtwar Region of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)**, has received the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**.
- The GI tag is regulated by the **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act of 1999**.

**MGNREGS audit crosses 50% local bodies in just six States**

- According to the data sourced from the **Management Information System (MIS) on Social Audit maintained by the Union Ministry of Rural Development**, only six States and Union Territories of the total 34 have completed social audit of works done under the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)**.
- **Kerala** is the **only State** to cover 100% gram panchayats.
- **Section 17** of the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)** says that the gram sabha "shall monitor the execution of works".

**Centre exempts CERT- In from purview of RTI Act**

- The Union government has exempted the **Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT.In)** from the ambit of the **Right to Information Act (RTI)**.
- The **CERTIn** is the national nodal agency for responding to computer security incidents as and when they occur.
- One of its primary objectives is enhancing "security awareness among common citizens".
- It functions under **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**.
- The **Second Schedule of the RTI Act 2005** states that RTI is not applicable to intelligence and security organisations.



# 7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

## India's First International IIT campus

- IIT Madras formally launched the **Zanzibar campus of the Indian Institute of Technology Madras in Zanzibar, Tanzania**
- Zanzibar President and chairman of the Revolutionary Council Hussein Ali Mwinyi inaugurated the campus

## New Prime Minister of Spain

- **Pedro Sánchez** was re-elected as the Prime Minister of Spain.
- He was elected for the **2nd term**.
- He has been the **Prime Minister of Spain since 2018**.

## New President of Argentina

- Javier Milei of Libertarian Party was elected as the new president of Argentina.

## About Argentina

- Capital- Buenos Aires
- Currency- Argentine Peso

## Milletts Festival in Indonesia

- India has launched a **five-day Millets Festival in Jakarta, Indonesia** to raise awareness for millets as a farmer-friendly and sustainable food choice and create a market for millets-based products among the **10-member ASEAN bloc**.
- The festival was jointly organized by the **Indian Mission to ASEAN** (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare**.







## 8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

### T.N. approves policy on port development with private participation

- The Tamil Nadu Cabinet approved the **Tamil Nadu State Port Development Policy, 2023** for the development of ports with private participation.
- The policy aims at encouraging private participation in recycling, shipbuilding and improving ports.
- The policy will replace the **Minor Port Development Policy of Tamil Nadu, 2007**.

#### Note

- **Three major ports in Tamil Nadu** - Chennai, Ennore and Tuticorin.
- **Intermediate Port** - Nagapattinam
- **Minor ports** - 17
- **Coastline of Tamil Nadu** - 1,076 km

### 5.60 crore spent on Justice Aruna Jagadeesan Commission of Inquiry

- A sum of ₹5.60 crore was spent on the **Justice Aruna Jagadeesan Commission of Inquiry** according to a response to queries filed under the **Right to Information Act 2005**.
- The commission was formed by the Tamil Nadu government **to probe the police firing at the anti-Sterlite protesters in 2018 in Thoothukudi**, which killed 13 persons.

### Namma Salai app launched

- The Tamil Nadu government launched a mobile application '**Namma Salai**' that helps identify potholes in the city with public inputs.
- The app aims to achieve the **goal of an 'accident-free' Tamil Nadu** and ensure **pothole-free roads**.
- Through this app, people can upload photos of potholes in highways along with their geographical coordinates.

- The application can also be used to upload the details of fallen trees and floods during the times of natural disasters.

### 'Health Walk' in 38 districts

- '**Health Walk**' tracks was launched in the **38 districts of Tamil Nadu on November 4**.
- The identified stretches along with **Google Map links** will soon be available on the website of the **Directorate of Public Health (DPH) and Preventive Medicine**.
- The Health Department designed '**Health Walk**' tracks along the lines of an **8km walking track in Tokyo**.

### Study reveals negative impacts of rapid urbanization

- A study was conducted by **Anna University** in collaboration with **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM)**.
- The study states that in the next four decades, tremendous changes in land use and increase in built up area in the **Chennai Metropolitan Area (CMA)** will shrink agricultural lands and water bodies which will have an adverse impact on groundwater recharge potential in urban areas.

### TN releases strategy to improve digitisation in State

- **Chief Minister M.K. Stalin** released the **Tamil Nadu Digital Transformation Strategy**.
- It is expected to improve the efficiency of governance and administration.

#### Objectives of the strategy

- To improve accessibility, transparency, efficiency and accountability to citizens.
- To make Tamil Nadu a hub of innovation and entrepreneurship.

- To enhance digital connections in Tier II and Tier III towns.
- To ensure that government services are made available to citizens through apps and web portals

### **T.N. is among the top six solar panel waste generators**

- A study by the Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP) showed that Tamil Nadu is one of the six States that cumulatively contribute to over 70% of the solar panel waste generated in the country.
- The study also reveals that by 2050, India could produce up to 4.5 million tonnes of solar photovoltaic panels waste.

### **Vandalur zoo gets two Himalayan black bears from Jammu**

- The Arignar Anna Zoological Park (AAZP), Vandalur received a pair of Himalayan black bears from the Jammu Zoo, Jammu and Kashmir, through an animal exchange programme.

### **TN Health Department launches leprosy drive across State**

- The Tamil Nadu Health Department has launched a month long initiative to raise public awareness of the cardinal signs of the leprosy disease.
- It plans to reach out to schools, colleges, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) workers, self help group (SHG) members, voluntary organisations, and government offices.
- All these steps are taken with the aim to eliminate leprosy by 2025

### **Women in Chennai face sexual harassment in public spaces: study**

- A study conducted by the Gender and Policy Lab of the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) has revealed that about 16% of women were sexually harassed (verbal, physical, visual) in public places over the last three months in Chennai city.

- Chennai Mayor R. Priya released the annual report (2022-2023) of the Gender and Policy Lab of the Greater Chennai Corporation.

### **Tamil Nadu's overall immunisation coverage has crossed 95%**

- According to the Directorate of Public Health (DPH) and Preventive Medicine every year, 9.15 lakh children and 10 lakh pregnant women are covered under the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP), and 3.2 crore vaccines worth nearly ₹10 crore are provided in the State.

#### **Note**

- Under the UIP, launched in 1985, 11 vaccines were administered to children and pregnant women against 12 vaccine preventable diseases.

### **TN's CAPEX rose by 31.7%**

- According to the unaudited provisional figures from the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), Tamil Nadu's capital expenditure (capex) increased by nearly 31.7% to ₹17,773.80 crore in the first half of fiscal 2023-24 from ₹13,499.24 crore in the same period last year.
- Capex is incurred by a State government to create fixed assets such as roads and bridges, irrigation structures, schools, hospitals and investments in Public Sector Undertakings. It helps in improving economic activity and creating jobs.

### **Third government dental college and hospital**

- Tamil Nadu's third government dental college and hospital is all set to be inaugurated in Pudukottai on November 15.
- TN's first government dental college hospital was established in Chennai and the second – Rajah Muthiah Dental College and Hospital in Chidambaram.

### **Justice Chandru's One Man Panel submits the report**

- The Justice K. Chandru Committee was formed after the mysterious death of a 17-year-old inmate of the Government Observation Home in Chengalpattu in December 2022.

- The Committee has given various recommendations to the government with respect to administration of homes for children in conflict with law (CCL).

▪ **Recommendations Include :**

- The affairs of the homes should be monitored daily through a special monitoring room
- Each home should have a medical doctor, a psychologist and a qualified counsellor
- A training academy should be set up for staff.
- Admission certificate should be given to parents of CCL.
- Each home must have a de-addiction centre
- CCL should be provided with recreation facilities and allowed to play on open ground

**Online service F-line measurement system launched**

- Tamil Nadu launched the **online service F-line measurement system** for applying for land survey at <https://tamilnilam.tn.gov.in/citizen>.
- This facility would help people apply online instead of visiting the tahsildar's office

**Community based cancer screening in four districts**

- Community based cancer screening has been launched in four districts.
- The Health Minister Ma. Subramanian inaugurated the screening at the health and wellness centre at Kalingarayanpalayam in Bhavani town in Erode district, and through video conference at Ranipet, Kanniyakumari and Tirupattur districts.
- It will be extended to a few more districts in the coming years.
- Under this scheme, random screening will be done for everyone above 18 years of age, breast cancer screening and cervical cancer screening for women above 30 years of age.

**Three noon-meal centres awarded ISO certification**

- Noon meal centres at three government schools in Pudukottai district have bagged ISO 9001:2015 certification for complying with **Quality Management System** in providing nutritious meals to students from the **Chennai based Quest Certification (Private) Limited**.
- This is the first time that noon meal centres in Pudukottai district have bagged the ISO certification.

**Merger of 2 profit making finance corporations**

- The State government has ordered the merger of two profitmaking Non-Banking Financial Companies.
- Tamil Nadu Power Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (TNPFC) under Energy Department.
- Tamil Nadu Transport Development Finance Corporation Limited (TDFC) under Transport Department.
- TNPFC and TDFC are brought under the control of the Finance Department.

**Governor's rejection does not mean death of Bill: Supreme Court**

- The Supreme Court, in a 27 page judgment, has clarified that the rejection of a Bill by a Governor does not mean its death.
- The judgment explains that the substantive portion of Article 200 of the Constitution provides the Governor with three options when presented with a Bill
  - Consent to the proposed law
  - Withhold consent
  - Reserve the Bill for the consideration of the President.
- Supreme Court also observed that the Governor is under Article 168 a part of the legislature and is bound by the constitutional regime.

- The judgment is based on a petition filed by the Punjab government against its Governor.

### Startup Thamizha launched

- T.M. Anbarasan, Minister for MSME, launched 'Startup Thamizha'.
- It is Tamil Nadu's first Business Pitch Reality TV show.
- It aims to identify 50 promising startups from across the state and to facilitate funding for their ventures from reputed entrepreneurs, and angel investors.
- It is a novel initiative of StartupTN which is Tamil Nadu's nodal agency for Startup and innovation.

### V.P. Singh's statue unveiled

- The statue of former **Prime Minister V.P. Singh** was unveiled on the Presidency College

campus in **Chennai** by the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin.

- The statue was erected under the **State Assembly Rule 110** to honour the former Prime Minister.
- He is the **8th Prime Minister** who implemented **Mandal panel report in 1990**.
- He also created the **Sixty-second Amendment** and enacted the **Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Act in 1989**.

### Footwear Factory inaugurated

- TN CM MK Stalin inaugurated the **JR One Kothari Factory (PhaseI)** within the **Phoenix Kothari Footwear Park** inside the **SIPCOT Industrial Park** at **Eraiur, Perambalur** district.
- The Factory aims at producing 10 million pairs of Crocs footwear annually in the first phase.

