

# VETRII IAS STUDY CIRCLE

## Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

**DECEMBER 2023**



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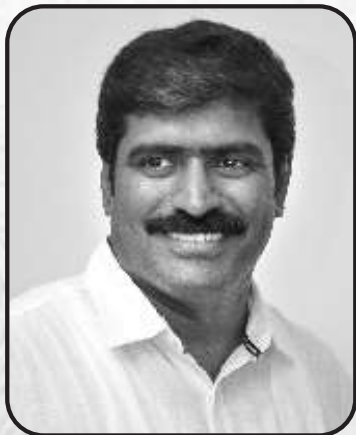
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# Preface



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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.

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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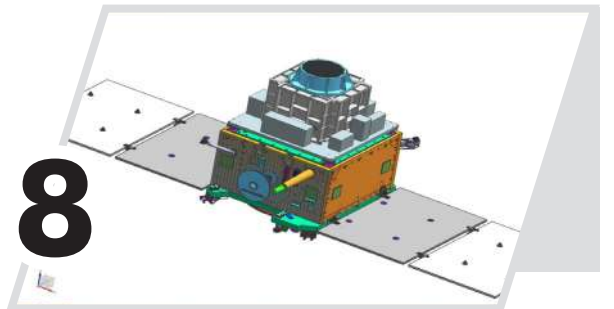
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# 1. HISTORY



## 1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
<b>December 1</b>	<b>World AIDS Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>World AIDS Day</b> is observed every year to show support for people living with and affected by HIV and to remember those who lost their lives to AIDS.</li><li>▪ <b>Theme 2023</b> : Let communities lead</li></ul>
<b>December 2</b>	<b>National Pollution Control Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The day is observed in memory of those who lost their lives in the <b>Bhopal Gas tragedy on 2nd December 1984</b>.</li><li>▪ It aims to bring awareness about the fatalities caused due to polluted water, land, and air.</li><li>▪ The theme for 2023 is “<b>Sustainable Development for a Clean and Healthy Planet</b>”</li></ul>
<b>December 3</b>	<b>International Day of Persons with Disabilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The day is observed every year to spread awareness and mobilise support for the <b>rights and well-being of people</b> with disabilities globally.</li><li>▪ The day was <b>first observed in 1992</b>.</li><li>▪ <b>Theme 2023</b> : United in action to rescue and achieve the SDGs for, with and by persons with disabilities</li></ul>
<b>December 4</b>	<b>International Cheetah Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The day is celebrated on December 4 every year to raise awareness among the public about their threat of extinction.</li><li>▪ The day was first celebrated in <b>2010</b>.</li><li>▪ <b>Theme 2023</b>: Celebrating the Fastest Land Animals</li></ul>
<b>December 4</b>	<b>Indian Navy Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Indian Navy Day is celebrated every year to recognise the role and achievements of the Indian Navy.</li><li>▪ The day also commemorates the launch of 'Operation Trident' during the 1971 Indo-Pakistan War.</li><li>▪ Theme 2023: Operational Efficiency, Readiness, and Mission Accomplishment in the Maritime Domain.</li></ul>

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
<b>December 5</b>	<b>World Soil Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>World Soil Day (WSD)</b> is observed every year to focus attention on the importance of healthy soil and advocating for the sustainable management of soil resources.</li> <li>▪ The day was first observed in 2014.</li> <li>▪ <b>Theme 2023:</b> Soil and water, a source of life</li> </ul>
<b>December 7</b>	<b>International Civil Aviation Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The day is observed every year is to help generate and reinforce worldwide awareness of the importance of international civil aviation.</li> <li>▪ <b>Theme 2023:</b> Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development.</li> </ul>
<b>December 7</b>	<b>Armed Forces Flag Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The day is observed to honour the courage, commitment and sacrifices of our brave soldiers.</li> <li>▪ The day was first observed in <b>1949</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>December 8</b>	<b>SAARC Charter Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The <b>South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Charter Day</b> is annually observed on <b>December 8</b> to mark the adoption of the SAARC Charter on <b>8th December 1985 in Dhaka, Bangladesh</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>December 9</b>	<b>International Anti-Corruption Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The day is observed every year to foster awareness about <b>corruption and worldwide initiatives to address</b> and deter it.</li> <li>▪ The day was first observed in <b>2003</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Theme 2023:</b> UNCAC at 20: Uniting the World Against Corruption.</li> </ul>
<b>December 10</b>	<b>Human Rights Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The day is celebrated every year to commemorate the adoption of the <b>Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948</b>.</li> <li>▪ <b>Theme 2023:</b> "Freedom, Equality, and Justice for All".</li> </ul>
<b>December 11</b>	<b>International Mountain Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The day is observed every year to raise awareness about the threats and needs to protect the avalanche.</li> <li>▪ <b>Theme 2023:</b> Restoring Mountain Ecosystems</li> </ul>
<b>December 11</b>	<b>UNICEF Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ UNICEF (United Nations International Children Emergency Fund) day is observed every year to raise awareness at a global level to help children who need help and assistance.</li> <li>▪ UNICEF was established by the United Nations on <b>11 December 1946</b>.</li> </ul>

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
<b>December 12</b>	<b>International Universal Health Coverage Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The day is observed every year to raise awareness of the need for strong and resilient health systems and universal health coverage.</li> <li><b>Theme 2023:</b> Health For All: Time for action.</li> </ul>
<b>December 14</b>	<b>National Energy Conservation Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Energy Conservation Day is celebrated annually on <b>December 14th</b> to raise awareness about the importance of conserving energy and promoting sustainable energy practices.</li> </ul>
<b>December 18</b>	<b>International Migrants Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The day is observed every year to reflect on and celebrate the <b>contributions of millions of migrants worldwide.</b></li> <li><b>Theme 2023 :</b> Act Today</li> </ul>
<b>December 18</b>	<b>Minorities Rights Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The day is celebrated every year to protect the rights of the minority communities.</li> <li>Theme 2023: Celebrating Diversity and Inclusion</li> </ul>
<b>December 20</b>	<b>International Solidarity Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The day is observed every year to celebrate the <b>principle of unity in diversity</b> and create an awareness among the public about the importance of unity.</li> <li>The day was first observed by the <b>United Nations General Assembly in 2005.</b></li> </ul>
<b>December 22</b>	<b>National Mathematics Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>National Mathematics Day</b> is celebrated each year in India to mark the birth anniversary of legendary Indian mathematician – <b>Srinivasa Ramanujan.</b></li> <li>The day was celebrated for the first time in <b>2012.</b></li> <li>2012 was also termed and celebrated as the <b>National Mathematics Year.</b></li> </ul>
<b>December 19 to December 25</b>	<b>Good Governance Week</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is a week-long celebrations organized by <b>Department of Administrative Reforms &amp; Public Grievances (DARPG).</b></li> <li>The week aims to yield positive outcomes and generate a great sense of commitment and togetherness in fostering administrative reforms.</li> <li>It was first celebrated in <b>2021.</b></li> </ul>



Date	Day	Theme / Remark
<b>December 23</b>	<b>National Farmers Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Farmers' Day, also known as 'Kisan Diwas', is observed every year on <b>December 23</b> to celebrate the hard work and determination of the farmers.</li> <li>The day marks the birth anniversary of former <b>Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh</b>.</li> <li><b>Theme 2023</b> : 'Delivering Smart Solutions for Sustainable Food Security and Resilience'.</li> </ul>
<b>December 24</b>	<b>National Consumer Rights Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The day is annually observed across India to <b>raise awareness of consumer rights and responsibilities</b>.</li> <li>The day commemorates the enactment of the <b>Consumer Protection Act (CPA) of 1986</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>December 28</b>	<b>Congress Foundation Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Indian National Congress was founded on <b>28 December 1885</b> at <b>Gokuldas Tejpal Sanskrit College</b> in <b>Bombay</b> with <b>72 delegates</b> in attendance.</li> <li><b>Hume</b> assumed office as the <b>General Secretary</b> and <b>W.C Banerjee of Calcutta</b> was elected as the president.</li> </ul>

## 1.2 DEFENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND TERRORISM

### Three anti-submarine warfare ships **Agni-1** launched

- The first three of a series of **eight anti-submarine warfare shallow water crafts** being built by **Cochin Shipyard Ltd.** for the Navy were launched.
- The ships were named **INS Mahe, INS Malvan and INS Mangrol**.

### MAHASAGAR

- It is the **Indian Navy's** outreach initiative for a high level virtual interaction between Maritime Heads for **Active Security and Growth for All in the Region**.
- It is in consonance with the India's vision of **SAGAR 'Security and Growth for All in the Region'**.

- India successfully completed the training launch of '**Agni-1**' from **APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha**.

- Agni-1 is **Short-Range Ballistic Missile**
- Range capacity: over **700 Kms**.
- It is **nuclear-capable**.
- First deployed in **2007**.

- Agni-1 to 5 missiles** are designed and developed by **Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)**.

### Exercise Astrashakti

- The **Akash missile system** engaged four unmanned aerial targets simultaneously during the **Astrashakti 2023 exercise** held by the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** in **Andhra Pradesh**.

- India has become the **first country** to demonstrate the capability of engaging four targets simultaneously at around **30 km ranges**
- The indigenously built '**INS Imphal**' **Bramos** guided missile warship is **164 meters long**.
- The vessel has a carrying capacity of **7,400 tonnes** and can travel at a top speed of over **56 kmph**

### INS Imphal

- Indigenously built '**INS Imphal**' **Bramos missile carrier** was inducted into Indian Navy recently.

## 1.3 WORLD ORGANISATIONS – PACTS AND SUMMITS

### Day One of COP-28 summit

- **COP 28 Summit** is being held in **Dubai** from 30 November until 12 December 2023.
- The **Loss and Damage** Fund was cleared on day one of COP28 summit.
- The Fund is meant to compensate countries dealing with effects of climate change and gets commitments of **nearly \$250 million**.
- **All developing countries are eligible to apply** for the Fund and every country has been 'invited' to contribute to it.
- The **BASIC grouping of Brazil, India, South Africa and China** has that the **Global Stocktake** should account for the failures of the developed nation.

- The **Global Stocktake (GST)** is a fundamental component of the Paris Agreement, which is used to monitor its implementation and evaluate the collective progress made in achieving the agreed goals.

- **BASIC grouping** was formed in 2009.

### Global AI summit

- The annual **Global Partnership for Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)** Summit was inaugurated in New Delhi's **Bharat Mandapam**, with discussions on AI issues like safety and development challenges.
- In 2024, India will be lead chair of the **GPAI grouping**.

## 1.4 SPORTS AND GAMES

### International Tennis Hall of Fame

- **Leander Paes, Vijay Amritraj and Richard Evans** were inducted into the **International Tennis Hall of Fame** as a part of the class of 2024.
- **Paes and Amritraj** have become the **1st two Indians to receive the honours**.
- With this, India has become the **28th nation represented in the Hall of Fame**.

### BCCI Retires Jersey Number 7

- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** has announced the retirement of the former Indian cricketer **Mahendra Singh Dhoni's iconic jersey number "7"** to honour his achievements in Indian cricket.
- **MS Dhoni** becomes the second Indian to be given this honour **after Sachin Tendulkar**, whose **jersey number "10"** was retired in 2017.

## 1.5 PLACES IN NEWS

### GI Tag

- Recently, 4 products from Meghalaya received GI Tag.
  - Lakadong turmeric
  - Garo dakmanda
  - Larnai pottery
  - Garo chubitchi

- GI Tag is awarded by **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** under the **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act of 1999**.
- GI Tag is valid for **10 years**.

## 1.6 SPORTS AND GAMES

### India's third female Grand Master

- Vaishali** became the **third Indian woman** to get the **Grand Master** title after **Koneru Humpy** and **Dronavalli Harika**.
- She became the **first woman Grand Master** from **Tamil Nadu**

- With this, India has become the **28th nation** represented in the **Hall of Fame**.

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## 1.7 AWARDS & HONOURS

### UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award 2023

- Abdullahi Mire**, a Somali refugee, has been named the **2023 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award Global Laureate** for his work championing the right to education for displaced children.
- It was established in **1954**.
- The award is presented annually to an individual or organization for outstanding service to refugees

### Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2023

- Classical pianist **Daniel Barenboim** and peace activist **Ali Abu Awwad** have been named the winners of the **Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2023**.
- They were awarded for their efforts in bringing together the youth and people of Israel and the Arab world for a nonviolent resolution of the Israel Palestine conflict

### Sahitya Akademi Award 2024

- The **Sahitya Akademi Award 2024** has been given to writer **Devibharathi** for his Tamil novel **Neervazhi Padoom**.
- His birth name is **Rajasekaran**.

### UNESCO's 2023 Prix Versailles

- Terminal 2 (T2)** of **Kempegowda International Air port (KIA)** in **Bengaluru** has been recognised as one of the world's most beautiful airports and awarded the special

prize for interiors at the UNESCO's 2023 Prix Versailles.

- It was inaugurated on **November 11, 2022**.

### **National Sports Awards 2023**

- Sports Ministry announced the winners of **National Sports Awards 2023**. The winners include:

- **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award for 2023:**

- Chirag Shetty and Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy (badminton).

- **Arjuna Award** – 26 sportspersons

- **Dronacharya Award (regular category) for outstanding coaches:**

- Lalit Kumar (wrestling)
- RB Ramesh (chess)
- Mahaveer Prasad Saini (para athletics)
- Shivendra Singh (hockey)
- Ganesh Prabhakar Devrukhkar (mallakhamb)

- **Dronacharya Award (life-time category) for outstanding coaches:**

- Jaskirat Singh Grewal (golf)
- Bhaskaran E (kabaddi)
- Jayanta Kumar Pushilal (table tennis)

- **Dhyan Chand Award for lifetime achievement:**

- Manjusha Kanwar (badminton)
- Vineet Kumar Sharma (hockey)
- Kavitha Selvaraj (kabaddi).

- **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy 2023:**

- Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar

### **Sahitya Akademi Awards 2023**

- **Neelum Saran Gour** has won the award in the English language category for her novel **Requiem in Raga Janki**.

- **Sanjeev** won in **Hindi category** for his novel **Mujhe Pahachaano**.

- **Mr. Rajasekaran** won in **Tamil category** for his novel **Neervazhi Padoom**.

### **About Sahitya Akademi Awards**

- **Founded** - March 12, 1954.

- **Sahitya Akademi** - Autonomous body under the Union Culture Ministry

- **Objective** - **Promote of literature in Indian languages.**

## **1.8 CULTURAL PANORAMA**

### **Hornbill Festival 2023**

- The Government of Nagaland organizes the **Hornbill Festival** every year in the **first week of December**.
- It is also called the **"Festival of Festivals"**.
- The festival aims to **encourage inter-tribal interaction** and to promote cultural heritage of Nagaland.

### **54th International Film Festival of India**

- The **54th International Film Festival of India** organised by the **National Film Development**

**Corporation, and Entertainment Society of Goa.**

- Close to **270 films** from 105 countries were screened in a week in **12 halls** at four venues in **Goa**.

### **Kashi Tamil Sangamam 2.0**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the **second edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam** in Varanasi.

- **Objective** - to revive the living bonds between **Kashi and Tamil Nadu** – two important

centres of learning and culture in ancient India.

#### Note

- It was launched as a part of **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat** programme.
- The first edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam was held in **2022**.

- PM Modi also flagged off the Kashi Tamil Sangamam Express between **Varanasi and Kanyakumari**.

## 1.9 APPOINTMENTS

### Mizoram's CM

- Lalduhoma was sworn in as the **Chief Minister of Mizoram**.
- He is the leader of **Mizoram People's Movement (ZPM)**.

### Chhattisgarh CM

- **Vishnu Deo Sai** was chosen as the new **Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh**.
- **Arun Sao** and **Vijay Sharma** were appointed as **Deputy Chief Ministers**

### New Madhya Pradesh CM

- **Mohan Yadav** was elected as the new **Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh**.
- **Jagdish Devda** and **Rajendra Shukla** were elected as two **Deputy Chief Ministers**.

### New Rajasthan CM

- **Bhajanlal Sharma** was elected as the new **Chief Minister of Rajasthan**.
- **Diya Kumari** and **Premchand Bhairava** were elected as two **Deputy Chief Ministers**.

### New CM of Telangana

- **Revanth Reddy** from **Congress party** was announced as the **Chief Minister of Telangana**.
- He will become the **first Congress Chief Minister of Telangana**.

### Committee to address infrastructure needs

- The **School Education Department** has decided to set up a **State Level Monitoring Committee (SLMC)** to address the infrastructure needs of schools.
- **TN Government** focuses on the **Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009** and mandates the **formation of SMCs in all government and aided schools** to oversee the development of child education.

### IOA forms ad hoc committee

- The **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** formed an ad-hoc committee to manage and control affairs of the **Wrestling Federation of India (WFI)** as the newly elected WFI body was suspended by the Sports Ministry recently.
- The committee will be **led by Bhupinder Singh Bajwa** who is the chairman and will also consist of **MM Somaya** and **Manjusha Kanwar**.

### 1st woman to head CISF

- **Nina Singh** was appointed as the **Director General of CISF**.
- She was the **first woman** to head **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)**
- **Anish Dayal Singh** was appointed as the **Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**.

# 2. POLITICAL SCIENCE

## 2.1 INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

### India-Kenya

- Kenyan President **William Samoei Ruto** is on a three-day state visit to India.
- India has provided a line of credit of **USD 250 million to Kenya for modernizing its agricultural sector.**
- India and Kenya also looked to boost **defence, maritime and connectivity ties.**

### India - Russia sign pact

- **India and Russia** signed important agreements related to the construction of the future power-

generating units of the **Kudankulam nuclear power plant.**

- The construction of the **Kudankulam nuclear power plant** began in March 2002 with the technical assistance of **Russia in Tamil Nadu.**
- Since **February 2016**, the **first power unit of the Kudankulam NPP** has been steadily operating at its design capacity of **1,000 MW.**
- The plant is expected to start operating at full capacity in **2027.**

## 2.2 LATEST COURT VERDICTS

### Low rate of disposal of POCSO cases

- According to a new research paper by the India Child Protection Fund (ICPF) it has been estimated that each of the **over 1,000 such courts in India** are currently clearing just 28 cases on average every year.
- Over 2.43 lakh POCSO cases are pending trial in Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) as of January 31, 2023.
- The **FTSCs** were set up in **2019**, specifically for trying cases related to sexual offences, those under the **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.**

### SC upholds repeal of Article 370

- **Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court** unanimously upheld the power of the President to abrogate special status of Jammu and Kashmir under **Article 370 of the Constitution**
- The abrogation led to the reorganization of the full-fledged State to two Union Territories and the removal of its privileges.
- The **five judge Bench** headed by **Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud.**

## 2.3 POLITICAL PARTIES AND POLITICAL SYSTEM IN INDIA

### MP expulsion from the Parliament

- **Mahua Moitra** of the Trinamool Congress was expelled from the **Lok Sabha**.
- The **Lok Sabha Ethics Committee** found the MP guilty of “unethical conduct” and “contempt of the House” and recommended MP’s expulsion from the House.

### Ethics committee

- **Lok Sabha**
  - **Origin** – 2000
  - Members 15 (from Lok Sabha)
  - Nominated by – Speaker
- **Rajya Sabha**
  - **Origin** – 1997
  - Members 10 (from Rajya Sabha)
  - Nominated by - Chairman

## 2.4 PUBLIC AWARENESS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

### Two bills on Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)

- The two bills on Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) were passed in Lok Sabha.
- **J&K Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023**
  - It amends the **J&K Reservation Act, of 2004**.
  - It provides reservation in jobs and admission in professional institutions to **members of SCs, STs, and other Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC)**.
- **J&K Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023**
  - It amends the J&K Reorganisation Act, of 2019.
  - Increases the total number of seats to 107 from 114
  - Reserves seven seats for SCs and nine seats for STs

### 100+ websites blocked for job frauds

- Recently, **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity)** blocked over 100 websites based on inputs from **Indian Cyber Coordination Centre (I4C)**.
- I4C was established by **Ministry of Home Affairs** to deal with all types of cybercrime.

### Use of jute in packaging

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** has approved reservation norms for

mandatory use of jute in packaging for the Jute Year 2023 -24.

- The Mandatory packaging norms approved for Jute Year 2023-24 provide for 100% reservation of the food grains and **20% of sugar** to be compulsorily packed in jute bags.
- The step would further protect the interest of domestic production of raw jute and jute packaging material in India

### Redrafted criminal Bills

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah introduced **three redrafted Bills in the Lok Sabha** to replace the existing Britishera criminal laws after withdrawing the three Bills that were introduced in August.
- **Bharatiya Nyaya (Second) Sanhita Bill (BNSS), 2023** seeks to replace the **Indian Penal Code of 1860**
- **Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, 2023** will replace **Indian Evidence Act, 1872**
- **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita Bill, 2023** will replace the **Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898**.

### The Telecommunications Bill, 2023

- The bill was introduced in the **Lok Sabha** recently.
- It seeks to regulate activities related to **telecommunication**.

- It repeals the **Indian Telegraph Act, 1885**, the **Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933**, and the **Telegraph Wires (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1950**.
- It also amends the **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act, 1997**.

### The Post Office Bill, 2023

- The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha.
- It replaces the **Indian Post Office Act, 1898** which regulates India Post.
- **Key Features**
  - It specifies the exclusive **privileges** of the central government.
  - It specifies the services **provided by India Post**
  - It provides for the appointment of the **Director General of Postal Services**

### GST 2nd Amendment Bill

- The Lok Sabha has passed an amendment bill to raise the age limit of chairman and members of Goods and Services Tax (GST) Appellate Tribunals.
- 31 sessions of GST Appellate Tribunal have been constituted in 28 states and 8 Union Territories of the country for speedy resolution of GST related issues.
- **The GST 2nd Amendment Bill**, which increases the age limit of the chairman and judicial and technical members to 70 and 67 respectively, was passed by a voice vote in the Lok Sabha.

### Parliament passes Bill on CEC, EC appointment

- The Lok Sabha passed the **Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023**.
- The Bill replaces the **Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991**.
- It provides for the appointment, salary, and removal of the **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs)**.

- The CEC and ECs will be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of a **Selection Committee**.
- The **Selection Committee** will consist of the **Prime Minister, a Union Cabinet Minister, and Leader of Opposition/leader of the largest opposition party in Lok Sabha**.

### CISF in Parliament complex

- The Union Home Ministry has approved the deployment of the **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) in the Parliament complex**.
- Frisking and scanning the baggage is the responsibility of the Delhi Police.
- The Parliament Duty Group (PDG), an armed component of the **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**, is deployed in case an armed intervention is required.
- The **Parliament Security Service** headed by the **Lok Sabha Speaker**, is the overall in-charge of security.

### PwD Reservation

- Recently, the **Social Justice Ministry** stated that people with blood disorders (**Thalassemia, Haemophilia, Sickle Cell Disease**) are not eligible for reservation in government jobs under the Persons with Disabilities category.
- These three blood disorders are listed as **disabilities under the Right to Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016**.
- **4% reservation** is provided to Person with Disabilities in Union government jobs.

### 17th Lok Sabha

- According to an analysis by **PRS Legislative Research** about half of the Bills passed so far by the 17th Lok Sabha were cleared after less than **two hours of discussion each**.
- **Only 16%** were referred to standing committees.
- **172 bills** were discussed and passed during the term of **17th Lok Sabha**.
- Of these, **86 (48%)** were passed by Lok Sabha and **103 (60%)** by Rajya Sabha.

## 2.5 GOVT – WELFARE ORIENTED GOVT SCHEMES, THEIR UTILITY

### Ayushman Arogya Mandirs

- The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has rebranded the Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) as 'Ayushman Arogya Mandirs'.
- Ayushman Bharat was launched in 2018 to provide free healthcare services and health insurance coverage to low-income earners in the country.

### GIAN scheme

- The Education Ministry is planning to restart the Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) scheme by launching the fourth phase of the scheme.
- The scheme aims to rope in eminent scholars from across the world to teach at Indian universities.
- Since the beginning of the scheme in 2015-16, 1,612 foreign faculty members have visited
- India to deliver courses from 59 countries.

### Ilaya Chatbot launched

- Tamil Nadu launched an AI-powered chat bot named 'Ilaya' on the Naan Mudhalvan website.
- The chat bot aims to aid college students in their queries on skill development training and job opportunities.

### Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar Project

- The Union Government has decided to map and document all villages under Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar (MGMD) Programme.
- National Mission on Cultural Mapping is conducted in coordination with Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) under the Ministry of Culture.

### Telangana unveils 2 welfare schemes

- Chief Minister of Telangana, A. Revanth Reddy launched the Maha Lakshmi Scheme and Rajiv Aarogyasri Scheme.
- Maha Lakshmi Scheme - Free of cost travel on Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) buses for women and transgender persons.
- Rajiv Aarogyasri Scheme - Health Insurance up to ₹10 lakh in a year would be provided to families living below poverty line.

### Makkaludan Mudalvar scheme

- TN Chief Minister M.K.Stalin will launch the 'Makkaludan Mudalvar' (Chief Minister with the People) Statewide scheme from Coimbatore.
- The scheme aims to ensure swift and transparent redressal of people's petitions and provision of services related to 13 departments that are frequently used by the public

### Indian Forest & Wood Certification Scheme

- The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has launched the Indian Forest & Wood Certification Scheme.
- Objective - to promote sustainable forest management and agroforestry in India.
- The scheme has three main components:
  - Forest Management Certification
  - Tree Outside Forest (TOF) Management Certification
  - Chain of Custody (COC) Certification
- Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal will act as the scheme operating agency and will be responsible for overall management of the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme.

### **Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the **Viksit Bharat Sankalp yatra in five States - Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, and Mizoram** via video conferencing.
- It is a nationwide campaign to raise awareness through outreach activities to achieve saturation of schemes of Government of India across the country covering all Gram Panchayats, Nagar Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies.

### **Bhoomi Rashi Portal**

- The **Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways** recently stated that **1467 projects of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** have been brought under the **Bhoomi Rashi Portal**.
- Bhoomi Rashi Portal is an e-Governance initiative of the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**.
- The portal intends to expedite the process of land acquisition for National Highways.

### **National Geoscience Data Repository Portal**

- **Ministry of Mines** launched the **National Geoscience Data Repository (NGDR) Portal**.
- It is a comprehensive online platform for accessing, sharing, and analyzing geospatial information across India.
- The initiative was spearheaded by the **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** and **Bhaskaracharya Institute of Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG-N)**.

### **Three sub-schemes under the RAMP programme launched**

- **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises** launched three sub-schemes under the aegis of the **RAMP programme** which include:

- **MSME Green Investment and Financing for Transformation Scheme (MSME GIFT Scheme)** – Aims to help MSMEs adopt green technology with interest subvention and credit guarantee support.
- **MSE Scheme for Promotion and Investment in Circular Economy (MSE SPICE Scheme)** – Aims to support circular economy projects through credit subsidy.
- **MSE Scheme on Online Dispute Resolution for Delayed Payments** - Aims to synergise legal support with modern IT tools and Artificial Intelligence
- **RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance) Programme is Central Sector Scheme** launched by the Ministry of MSME supported by the World Bank.

### **Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) platform**

- Recently, more than 30 Lakh youth have registered on the **MY Bharat portal**.
- '**Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat)**' platform was launched on **October 31st (National Unity Day)**
- **Objective** - Providing equitable opportunities to empower the youth in realizing their aspirations.

### **Palna scheme**

- The **Women and Child Development Ministry** plans to establish **17,000 creches in Anganwadis** across India under the '**Palna**' scheme.
- It aims to address the need for quality day care facilities or **creches for children of working women**.
- Under **Palna Scheme**, provision of **Anganwadi cum Creches** has been introduced by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.

### DevINE scheme

- **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER)** convened a meeting with the Chief Ministers of the States in the region as only a little over 10% of funds were sanctioned so far under the **Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East Region (PMDevINE)**.
- PMDevINE was launched on **October 12, 2022**.
- The scheme is aimed at **rapid and holistic development of the northeast region**.

### Yuva Nidhi Scheme

- Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on launched the **"Yuva Nidhi"** scheme in **Bengaluru**.
- The scheme aims to provide unemployment assistance to graduates and diploma holders.
- The scheme offers monetary assistance of **₹3,000 to graduates and ₹1,500 to diploma holders** who passed out in **2022-23**.

### ICMR initiates steps to tackle Anaemia

- Under the comprehensive **Anaemia Mukta Bharat (AMB)** programme, the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, Delhi, has invited the eligible organisations, companies and startups to manufacture haemoglobinometer which are useful in effective screening of anaemia.

- As per the **National Family Health Survey 5 (2019-21)** the prevalence of **anaemia in India** is 25% in men (15-49 age group), 57% in women (15-49), 31.1% in adolescent boys (15-19), 59.1 % in adolescent girls, 52.2 % in pregnant women (15-49) and 67.1% in children (6-59 months).

### Ayushman cards

- According to the data released by the **Health Ministry**, women account for approximately **49%** of the **28.45 crore Ayushman cards** created and approximately 48% of total authorised hospital admissions.
- **Ayushman cards** are made under the **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB- PMJAY)**.
- It is the largest publicly funded health assurance scheme in the world.
- It provides an annual health cover of **₹5 lakh** for a family for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.

### Bharatmala Phase 1 deadline extended

- **Bharatmala Phase 1** deadline was extended by **six years to 2027-28** recently.
- **Bharatmala Pariyojana** was launched under **Ministry of Road Transport & Highways**.
- It is an umbrella program for **highways sector**.
- **Phase 1** was launched in **October 2017**.



## 3. GEOGRAPHY

### 3.1 POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

#### **New Plant Species - Impatiens Karuppusamy**

- It is a new plant species which was recently discovered by the **Botanical Survey of India** in **Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu**.
- Species is named after **Dr.S Karuppusamy** (Madura College, Tamil Nadu) for his significant contributions to the taxonomy of south Indian angiosperms.

#### **Waste Management and Sanitation**

- **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** approved US \$200 million loan to India to Improve Waste Management and Sanitation.
- ADB's initiative aims to enhance municipal solid waste (MSW) management under SBM-U

2.0 which commits all cities to be **garbage-free** by 2026.

- ADB's Initiative will be implemented in **100 cities across 8 states** with a focus on climate resilience and social inclusivity.

#### **Post monsoon survey at STR**

- The **biannual six day wildlife monitoring exercise** called the post monsoon survey began at the **Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR)** in **Erode district**.
- The premonsoon survey is carried out between **June and July** and the postmonsoon survey between **December and January**.
- The exercise aims to get an estimation of **carnivores and herbivores in the reserve**.

Since 2011



## 4. ECONOMICS

### 4.1 CURRENT SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

#### Ban on onion export

- The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has imposed a ban on the export of onions till **March 31, 2024** to curb the surging local prices of the product.
- On **August 19**, the Union government had imposed a **40% duty on the export of onions until December 31**.

### 4.2 NEW ECONOMIC POLICY AND GOVT. SECTOR

#### Copra MSP hiked

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has decided to increase the **minimum support price (MSP)** for copra for 2024.
- **Kerala and Tamil Nadu** are major producers of **milling copra**, whereas **ball copra** is produced predominantly in **Karnataka**.
- **Milling copra** is used to **extract oil** while **ball copra** is edible.
- This will enable **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** to receive **RoDTEP benefits**, particularly for exports through courier and e-commerce.

#### Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)

- Recently, **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released the **2023 list of Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)**.
- **D-SIBs** are systemically important due to their size, cross-jurisdictional activities, complexity and lack of substitute and interconnection.
- As per latest list, India's **D-SIB's are State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank**.

#### e-commerce exports

- The government will extend the **Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP)** scheme for goods sent abroad via courier and e-commerce channels from sectors such as **gems and jewellery, pharma, leather, textiles and handicrafts**.
- **D-SIBs** are systemically important due to their size, cross-jurisdictional activities, complexity and lack of substitute and interconnection.
- As per latest list, India's **D-SIB's are State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank**.

### 4.3 CURRENT ECONOMIC TRENDS

#### Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)

- The **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** made the following important decisions
  - To keep key interest rates unchanged.
  - Raised its GDP growth projection for 2023-24 to **7% from 6.5%**.
  - Retained its average inflation forecast at **5.4%**
  - Warned that **inflation could spike through November and December 2023**.
- The government extended the **duty free import treatment for Urad and Tur Dal** by a year till **March 31, 2025**.
- A week earlier a similar import duty exemption was granted for inbound **Masur dal shipments**.
- India imports **pulses** from countries such as **Canada, Australia and Mozambique**.

## 4.4 REPORTS AND INDICES

### World Malaria Report 2023

- According to the **World Malaria Report 2023** published by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** India accounted for **66% of malaria cases in the WHO Southeast Asia Region in 2022**.
- Almost **46%** of all cases in India were caused by **Plasmodium vivax**, a protozoan parasite.
- The report stated that the cases declined by **76% to 5 million in 2023 from 249 million cases in 2022**.

### Global Climate Performance Index (GCPI) 2023

- India has secured **7th position in GCPI 2023** which was released during the global climate conference (**COP-28**) in Dubai.
- India maintained its **top 10 position for the fifth year** in a row in the index.
- The Index evaluates the climate mitigation efforts of **63 countries and the European Union**.

### State of Finance for Nature Report 2023

- The **State of Finance for Nature 2023 Report** was recently released by **UN Environment Programme**.
- The report tracks **public and private finance flows to Nature based Solutions (NbS)** to tackle global challenges related to climate change.

### Global Status Report on Road Safety 2023

- **Global Status Report on Road Safety 2023** was released by the **World Health Organisation** recently.

- According to the report, **road traffic deaths fell by 5% to 1.19 million fatalities** annually worldwide between **2010 and 2021**
- The report covers progress **between 2010 and 2021** and sets a baseline for efforts to meet the **United Nations Decade of Action 2021-2030 target** to halve road traffic deaths by **2030**.

### Logistics Ease Across Different State (LEADS) 2023 Report

- **Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, and Textiles, Piyush Goyal** released the **5th edition of "Logistics Ease Across Different State (LEADS) 2023"** report recently.
- LEADS was conceived on the lines of **Logistics Performance Index of World Bank in 2018**.
- The report is based on a pan-India primary survey, conducted between **May and July 2023**, covering over **7,300 responses across 36 States/UTs**.
- **Tamil Nadu** along with **Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka** were named as **Achievers** under Coastal Group.

### International Energy Agency's (IEA) annual coal market report 2023

- According to the report global coal demand is expected to decline by **2026**.
- The decline is expected to be due to a shift towards renewable energy and decreasing demand in China.
- India will remain the **"driving force"** for the fuel until that year.
- The global demand for coal rising by **1.4% in 2023**, surpassing **8.5 billion tonnes for the first time**.



# 5. SCIENCE

## 5.1 SPACE

### **XPoSat mission**

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation** has announced a plan to launch its **first Xray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat)** to investigate the polarisation of intense X-ray sources.
- The XPoSat is designed for observation from a **low earth orbit**.
- It will carry two scientific payloads.
- The mission life is expected to be approximately **five years**.
- The **primary payload** was developed by the **Raman Research Institute, Bengaluru** with support from ISRO centres.
- The **secondary payload** was developed by the **U.R. Rao Satellite Centre, ISRO**.

## 5.2 LATEST DISCOVERIES IN HEALTH SCIENCES

### **New COVID variant**

- The daily COVID19 positivity rate in some States such as **Kerala, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Karnataka** has risen recently.
- WHO classifies **JN.1** as a sub variant of **BA.2.86**.





## 6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENT

### President's Colour to AFMC

- President Droupadi Murmu presented the **President's Colour to the Pune - based Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC).**
- The **President's Colour** which is also known as "**Rashtrapati ka Nishaan**", is the highest honour bestowed upon any military unit.
- **AFMC** was established on **May 1, 1948.**
- **AFMC** is the **first medical college** set up by the armed forces of any country in **Asia.**

### First woman medical officer to be deployed at Siachen

- **Captain Geetika Koul** has become the **first woman medical officer** in the Indian Army to be deployed at **Siachen, the world's highest battlefield.**
- She will be deployed after successfully completing the induction training at **Siachen Battle School.**

### Sammakka-Sarakka Central Tribal University

- A bill to establish a **central tribal university in Telangana** was introduced in the **Lok Sabha** by **Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.**
- The university will be established as per the provisions provided in the **Thirteenth Schedule to the Andhra Pradesh Re-organisation Act, 2014.**

### Centre regulates ethanol production

- The **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** directed sugar mills and distilleries not to use sugarcane juice or syrup to produce ethanol in the **ethanol year 2023-2024.**

- The **Department of Food and Public Distribution** monitors production, sale and stock of sugar in India to ensure sufficient availability for local consumption at stable prices by implementing the **Sugar (Control) Order.**
- India is aiming at **20% ethanol blending** by **2025-2026 ethanol year.**

### Garba declared as Intangible Cultural Heritage

- **Garba of Gujarat** was declared as **Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)** by **UNESCO.**
- It is a dance form that is performed during festival of **Navratri** in **Gujarat.**
- **Garba** is the **15th ICH** site from India to join the list.

### Doctor-population ratio

- According to the **National Medical Commission**, there are **5.65 lakh AYUSH** doctors as on **June 2022.**
- The doctor-population ratio in the country is **1:834.**
- There are a total of **36.14 lakh nurses** in the country. The nurse-to-population ratio is **1:476.**

### India's fastest' solar-electric boat launched

- India's fastest solar-electric boat **Barracuda** was launched at the yard of **Navalt Solar and Electric Boats** in **Alappuzha.**
- The boat can navigate through waves as tall as four metres and operates without noise and vibration.

### Surat Diamond Bourse

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **Surat Diamond Bourse (SDB)** in **Surat, Gujarat**.
- It is the world's largest and modern centre for international diamond and jewellery business

### Namo app launched

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the **Namo app** which helps to connect with the local Member of Parliament.
- It will enable an easy way to deepen connect with your local MP, facilitate engagement with the MP and also help to participate in various activities being organised.

### Chief Guest for India's Republic Day 2024

- The **Ministry of External Affairs** stated that the **French President Emmanuel Macron** will be the Chief Guest for **India's 75th Republic Day celebrations**.
- He will be the sixth time a French leader to be the Chief Guest at India's Republic Day celebrations.
- **Indian PM Narendra Modi** was the **Guest of Honour at the Bastille Day Parade** held on 14 July 2023 in Paris.
- **India and France** established their diplomatic ties in **June 1948** and in **1998, Strategic Partnership** was established.

### Universities setup in India

- As per the data provided by the **Union Education Ministry 140 private universities** were established in India during the past five years.
- The highest number of universities were being set up in **Gujarat**, followed by **Maharashtra** and **Madhya Pradesh**.
- **Five universities** were established in **Tamil Nadu**.

### 'Veer Bal Diwas' program

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the '**Veer Bal Diwas**' program to honor the legacy of courage and sacrifice in **New Delhi** on **December 26, 2023**.
- **Veer Bal Diwas** marks the martyrdom of the sons of the last Sikh Guru, **Guru Gobind Singh**.

### Smart India Hackathon 2023

- the **6th edition** of the **Smart India Hackathon** was recently held
- **Smart India Hackathon (SIH)** is a nationwide initiative to provide students a platform to solve the pressing problems of Ministries and Departments of the Government, industries and other organizations.
- It is jointly organized by the **Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Persistent Systems, and i4c**.



# 7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

## UAE announces \$30 - bn fund

- The UAE announced a **\$30 billion** commitment to an investment fund called **ALTÉRRRA**.
- ALTÉRRRA is the privately managed fund which aims to mobilise **\$250 billion globally** by 2030.
- It will be used towards climate investments and transforming emerging markets and developing economies.
- ALTÉRRRA will have four key priorities namely:
  - Energy Transition
  - Industrial Decarbonisation
  - Sustainable Living
  - Climate Technologies

## Green Voyage 2050 Project

- The **International Maritime Organization (IMO)** has selected India as a pioneer lead country for the Green Voyage 2050 initiative.
- This is a joint project between the **Government of Norway and IMO**, launched in 2019.
- It aims to assist developing countries in their efforts to **reduce greenhouse gas (GHG)** emissions from ships

## A framework for regulating AI technology

- The Economic Advisory Committee to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) has released a paper on "**A Multi-Acceptance Framework for Regulation of Artificial Intelligence**".
- The European Union (EU) has formulated the world's first comprehensive laws to regulate artificial intelligence (AI)

## India's 1st Winter Scientific Expedition to Arctic

- **Ministry of Earth Sciences** Launched India's 1st Winter Scientific Expedition to Arctic
- Indian scientific expeditions to Earth's poles (Arctic and the Antarctic) are facilitated under **Polar Science and Cryosphere Research (PACER) scheme** through National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research.
- Since 2008, India operates a research base in the Arctic named Himadri in Svalbard, Norway.



## 8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

### Iyothee Thass Pandithar statue unveiled

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K.Stalin unveiled a statue of late anticaste activist Iyothee Thass Pandithar installed at Gandhi Mandapam at Guindy in Chennai.
- TN Government also announced that it would implement a housing scheme named after Pandithar for the benefit of Scheduled Caste communities.

### Emission control systems at Thoothukudi power station

- The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) has approved ₹689.61 crore towards installation of emission control systems at NLC Tamil Nadu Power Limited 2x500 MW thermal Power Station, Thoothukudi.
- The emission control systems aims to meet the Sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) emission control norms set by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

### National Award for Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society

- Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society has been awarded the National Award for Excellence by the Central Government.
- Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society was established in 1994.

### 33 percent reservation for women

- Two bills were passed in the Lok Sabha to provide 33 per cent reservation for women in the Union Territories Assemblies of Puducherry and Jammu and Kashmir.
- Following the enactment of the 106th Amendment to the Constitution, provisions

for reservation of seats for women in the Union Territory Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir should also be made by the Parliament by amending the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act-2019.

- Parliament should amend the Union Territory Governments Act-1963 to provide reservation for women in the Puducherry Union Territory Assembly.

### Chennai International Film

- The 21st edition of the Chennai International Film Festival, where 126 films from 57 countries are scheduled to be screened, was inaugurated in Chennai.
- The festival is being organised by Indo Cine Appreciation Foundation in association with PVR Inox with the support of the TN government.

### Thamirabarani-Karumeniyar-Nambiyar river-linking project

- Chief Minister MK Stalin ordered a trial run of the surplus water in the canal dug under the Thamirabarani - Karumeniyar - Nambiyar river linking project.
- The river-linking project was initially announced by the late Chief Minister M Karunanidhi in 2008.
- The river-linking project was planned to be implemented in four phases.

### Annual bird census

- The Tamil Nadu Forest Department will conduct the next annual bird census in two phases from January 27, 2024.

- The **synchronised bird census for 2023-2024** has been proposed to be conducted for wetland (both inland and coastal) birds and for terrestrial birds.

### **Thiruppugazh panel's report**

- The State government is planning to release a on the **Thiruppugazh Committee's interim report**.
- The interim report is expected to give an insight into the action taken by the **Water Resources Department**., Public Works Department, and Greater Chennai Corporation on suggestions for flood mitigation

### **Welfare Board for gig workers**

- The labour welfare and skill development department of Tamil Nadu has constituted the **Tamil Nadu Platform Based Gig Workers Welfare Board**.
- The Board will help them get **basic social security** benefits.
- Gig workers in the age group of **18-60 years** can be part of this union.
- At present, the Gig workers register themselves with the **Tamil Nadu Manual Workers Social Security and Welfare Board**.

### **100 years of Vaikom Satyagraha**

- Tamil Nadu **Chief Minister M.K. Stalin** and Kerala **Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan** released a book **"Periyar and Vaikom Struggle"** to mark the **centenary celebrations** of Vaikom Satyagraha.
- Vaikom Satyagraha happened from **30 March 1924 to 23 November 1925**.
- It was a non-violent agitation for access to the prohibited public environs of the **Vaikom Temple** in the **Kingdom of Travancore**.

- The campaign was led by Congress leaders **T.K.Madhavan, K.Kelappan K.P.Kesava Menon, George Joseph, E.V. Ramasamy "Periyar"**.

### **Makkaludan Mudalvar Scheme**

- **TN Chief Minister M.K.Stalin** launched the **'Makkaludan Mudalvar'** (**Chief Minister with the People**) State wide scheme from **Coimbatore on December 18, 2023**.
- The scheme aims to **ensure swift and transparent redressal of people's petitions** and revision of services related to 13 departments that are frequently used by the public.

### **TN launches welfare scheme for SCs, STs**

- **TN CM M.K. Stalin** virtually inaugurated **school buildings, hostels and community halls** constructed by the **Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department**.
- **Annal Ambedkar Business Champions Scheme** was launched under which a total of 244 beneficiaries would get subsidies amounting to ₹25 crore.
- A scheme was launched to distribute 500 house allotment orders to conservancy workers registered under the **Tamil Nadu Sanitation Workers' Welfare Board**.
- **CM-ARISE** – Chief Minister's Adi Dravidar and Tribal Socio Economic-Development Scheme has been introduced.
  - It aims to integrate economic development programs implemented by **TADCO** such as **Entrepreneurship Program, Youth Self-Employment Program, Youth Self-Employment-Clinic Program**.