

# **IYACHAMY ACADEMY**

## **GROUP I & IV CURRENT**

## **AFFAIRS-ENGLISH**

**Aspirant VS. TNPSC**

**JANUARY 2023- MAY 15TH 2024**

**CHENNAI | NELLAI | TENKASI**

**IYACHAMY ACADEMY**

Institution For Competitive Exam

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**ADMISSION OPEN****GROUP II | IIA**  
**ONLINE | OFFLINE -CLASS | TEST**

### National Events

- World's longest river cruise, M V Ganga Vilas, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi
  - Covers over 3200 km from Varanasi to Dibrugarh across 27 river systems
  - Visits 50 tourist sites over 51 days
  - Passes through 5 states: Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Assam
- World's largest Hockey stadium, Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium, inaugurated in Rourkela, Odisha
- World's Highest Weather station, installed by National Geographic Society, rebuilt on Mount Everest after destruction by Hurricane winds
- World's 3rd largest Cricket stadium under construction in Jaipur, Rajasthan, with a capacity of 75000
- World's first artificial shooting star display, "Project Sky Canvas," to be launched by Japanese Space startup ALE in the United Kingdom
- Geological Survey of India (GSI) discovers the biggest Natural Arch of the country located in Sundargarh Forest, Odisha
- India's first Regional AI news Anchor "Lisa" telecasted on Odisha TV
- World's tallest temple to be built at Ahmedabad, Gujarat, by Vishwa Umiya Dham using Indo-German Technology to withstand future Floods and Earthquakes
- India's longest cantilever glass bridge opens at Vagamon Adventure Park, Kerala
- World's first portable hospital, Arogya Maitri Aid Cube, unveiled in Gurugram, Haryana, designed indigenously under Project BHISHM (Bharat health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri), can be airlifted and assembled into 72 cubes containing essential medical equipment
- World record set by holding an international fashion show at a height of 19,024 feet in Umling la, Ladakh, as part of Vibrant Ladakh Festival
- Telangana unveils World's first 3D Printed temple in Siddipet, constructed by Apsuja Infratech and Simpliforage
- Reliance Retail opens its First Swadeshi store in Hyderabad
- Pune Municipal Corporation partners with The Green Billions Limited to set up India's first Solid waste to hydrogen plant in Pune, Maharashtra
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India specifies identity standards for basmati rice for the first time in the country
- India's first school of Logistics, Waterways, and Communication launched in Agartala, Tripura
- India's first center of excellence in Online Gaming to be set up in Shillong, Meghalaya
- Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, along with Amar Dairy, installs the first In vitro Fertilization (IVF) Mobile Unit in Gujarat

- Indian Army's first 3D printed house built by Military Engineering Services (MES) in collaboration with Chennai-based start-up Tvasta inaugurated at the South-Western Air Command, Gandhinagar
- India's first underwater metro service to be set up under Hooghly river by Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation as part of the East-West Metro Corridor Project connecting Howrah and Kolkata
- Aska Police station of Odisha awarded as Best Police station in India for the year 2023
- India's Deepest metro station to come up at Pune's Civil court Interchange
- India's largest student-run Festival – SARANG 2023 hosted by IIT Madras with the theme of Mystic Hues
- 8th Edition of India International Science Festival inaugurated in Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology (MANIT), Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
  - An initiative of Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Earth Science of Government of India in association with Vignana Bharati
  - Theme for 2023 - "Marching towards Amritkaal with Science, Technology, and Innovation"
- NCERT launches India's first National Assessment regulator 'PARAKH' which will work on setting norms, standards, and guidelines for student assessment and evaluation for all recognized school boards in the country.
  - PARAKH means The Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development
- Varanasi Cantt and Kanpur Railway Station Bags 'Eat Right Station' Certification from FSSAI.
- Ministry of Home Affairs appoints high powered committee under chairmanship of Nityananda Rai to address issues related to protection of Ladakh's culture, language, land, and employment opportunities.
- Government of India introduces U-WIN to digitize India's Universal Immunization Programme.
- Project Vaani launched by ARTPARK (AI and Robotics Technology Park) of IISC, Bangalore, and Google to map linguistic diversity in India by collecting speech sets of about a million people across 773 districts.
- Ministry of Rural Development's Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) launches 'Prajwala Challenge' to invite ideas, solutions, and actions that can transform the rural economy.
- PADMA (Print and Digital Media Association) notified as a self-regulatory body under Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
  - It will address grievances related to digital media news content on their platforms.
  - Headed by Mool Chand Garg.
- 11th Bio-energy summit organized by Confederation of Indian Industry in Delhi.



- Theme for 2023: “Energy Transition – Solution for a sustainable tomorrow.”
- Union Home Minister, Amit Shah, inaugurates and lays foundation stone of Development projects at Moirang, Manipur.
  - Indian National Army’s person hoists Indian National Flag in Moirang, Manipur, inaugurating the Tallest Tricolor flag in Northeastern region.
- Union Minister of Science and Technology, Jitendra Singh, launches Geospatial Hackathon to promote innovation and Startups in India’s Geospatial ecosystem.
- Vidisha district in Madhya Pradesh becomes first-ever district in India for on-ground deployment of innovative 5G use cases offered by startups.
- Government of India launches Kahnan Prahari and Coal Mine Surveillance and Management System mobile app to curb illegal mining.
- Ministry of External Affairs launches “mPassport police App” to fast track passport verification process.
- Asia’s biggest Aero show, Aero India 2023 (14th Edition), organized by Ministry of Defense in Bengaluru to encourage export of indigenous aircraft.
  - Garuda Aerospace signs MoU with Narayana Health at Aero India 2023 to transport biomedical samples using Sanjeevani drones.
- Garuda Aerospace becomes first Drone company to get double certification by DGCA for “Kisan Drones”.
  - Dhoni is the brand ambassador of Garuda Aerospace.
- Expert committee constituted by Dept of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare under Anupam Varma to review 66 pesticides which are banned by other countries.
- Ministry of Law and Justice forms Committee headed by P K Malhotra to draft rules, standards for mediation in India.
- Central Government appoints a 16-member committee headed by Manoj Govil to draft Digital Competition Act within 3 months.
- Ministry of Civil Aviation launches Digi Yatra Policy for biometric boarding system using Facial Recognition Technology.
- Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri re-dedicates ONGC’s iconic Sagar Samrat as a mobile offshore production unit to the nation.
- India produces 24% of Global Milk production and becomes World Milk Capital.
- Ministry of Tourism organizes a 6-day mega event “Bharat Parv” at Red Fort lawns from Jan 26 to Jan 31, 2023 (Bharat Parv is celebrated a day after Republic Day).
- Yuva Sangam initiative launched to build close ties between youth of North East and rest of India under spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, and a portal was launched for the same.
- Garima Greh – Shelter homes for destitute and abandoned Transgender persons.
- India’s first Glass Igloo Restaurant opens in Gulmarg, Kashmir.

- Rajya Sabha reveals that the highest number of custodial deaths were reported in Gujarat in the last 5 years.
- BHASHINI4 – Local language translation mission aims to break barriers between various Indian Tongues by using available technologies.
- IIT Roorkee signs MoA with Central Water Commission for development of International Centre of Excellence for Dams.
- Ministry of Health organizes Health Melas under “Swastha Mann, Swastha Ghar” campaign.
- UIDAI (Unique Identification Authority of India) launches new AI Chatbot, Aadhar Mitra.
- EPFO (Employees Provident Fund Organization) launches “Nidhi Aapke Nikat” programme – Massive outreach programme to strengthen the relationship between the organization and its stakeholders.
- Bamboo Crash Barrier (Bahubali Crash Barrier) – World’s first 200 m long Bamboo crash Barrier “Bahu Bali” installed on Vani-Warora Highway, Maharashtra.
- NTPC Ltd. launches India’s Green Hydrogen blending Operation in Piped natural gas network of Kawas Township in Surat, Gujarat.
- Boeing, Aerospace company of USA launches its first Global Support centre in India at Gurugram, Haryana.
- India’s first Electric AC Double-decker Bus unveiled in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Telangana Government launches Telangana Mobility Valley, India’s first Mobility-focused cluster to attract investments.
- Olectra Greentech is India’s first Electric Tipper to receive Roadworthiness approval.
- NTPC commissions India’s first Air Cooled Condensed at its North Karanpura thermal plant in Jharkhand.
- Jindal Steel and Power Ltd receives India’s first Bureau of Indian Standards license to manufacture fire-resistant steel.
- Centre signs MoU with Tamil Nadu Government for setting up India’s first PM Mitra Park in Virudhnagar, Tamil Nadu.
  - Government of India announced setting up of 7 PM Mega Integrated Textile Parks in Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra with an outlay of 4445 crores by 2027-28.
- PVR Cinemas launches India’s first Multiplex within Airport complex in Chennai.
- India bags Gold and Silver star at The International Golden City Gate Tourism Awards 2023 at ITB, Berlin 2023.
- India wins GSMA Government Leadership Award 2023 for Telecom Policy Implementation.
- WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine set up in Jamnagar, Gujarat.
- Union Home Minister, Amit Shah addresses Kashmir Mahotsav organised by Indian Institute of Sustainability, Gujarat University.

- Jitendra Singh inaugurates International Biotech Conclave, First ever in Northeast at 22nd Congress of International Society for Ethno-Pharmacology and 10th Congress of society for Ethno-pharmacology held at Imphal, Manipur.
  - Theme: “Reimagine Ethnopharmacology: Globalization of Traditional Medicine”.
- Parshottam Rupala inaugurates Camel Product Processing Utilizing wing at ICAR-NRCC in Bikaner, Rajasthan.
- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology launches Grievance Appellate Committee portal for social media complaints.
- Union Minister of Youth Affairs launches Yuva Utsav – India @ 2047 from IIT Ropar, Punjab.
- India’s first smart and green IIT Campus will be dedicated to IIT Dharwad.
- Guwahati Railway station is first in the country to launch a tea stall on empowering transgenders, Trans Tea stall.
- Modi launches world’s longest railway platform at Siddhaarooda railway station, Hubli, Karnataka.
- Government of India launches Vaibhav fellowships for Indian Diaspora in STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, Medicine).
- President confers Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023 organized by Ministry of Jal shakti to honor the women champions of the rural water and sanitation sector.
  - Theme for 2023: “Source sustainability for drinking water”.
- ONGC (Oil and Natural Gas Corporation) Limited signs MoU with France’s Total energies company for deep-water exploration.
- Cabinet approves India’s largest hydro project in Dibang, Arunachal Pradesh.
- India is the first country to have a strong haul coastal container feeder service to be launched between Chennai and Pondicherry.
- Government announces 10% reservation for former agniveers in CISF (Central Industrial Security Force).
- PM Modi inaugurates Global Millets Conference @ IARI, PUSA Campus, Delhi.
- SWAMIH Fund (Special Window for Affordable and Mid-income Housing) – A social impact fund sponsored by Ministry of Finance and managed by SBICAP Ventures Ltd to provide assistance to stressed or stalled mid-income and affordable housing projects.
- Power ministry launches SADUN to modernize power distribution utilities in South Asia.
- Telangana IT Minister, KTR, invited to “Ideas for India” conference in the United Kingdom.
- Food Conclave 2023 held in Hyderabad, Telangana, bringing together top 100 agrifood industry leaders to engage in deliberations on growth opportunities in the food sector.
- Prime Minister, Modi, takes part in combined Commanders’ Conference at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- Ayush Ministry to hold “Yoga Mahotsav” in Dibrugarh University, Assam.

- Prime Minister, Modi, inaugurates Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in Delhi.
- Ministry of Animal Husbandry and Fishing launches Sagar Setu Mobile app for National Logistics Portal (Marine).
- PARIVESH Portal (Pro Active Responsive Facilitation by Interactive and Virtuous Environmental Single window Hub) in news – It is a Single window project for Green and Clean Environment. It is a web portal used for seeking Clearances from all departments.
- Apple's first retail store to open in Mumbai.
- India's first 3D Printed Post office to come up in Bengaluru which is being built by Larsen and Tourbo (L&T).
- Chennai-based Drone Startup, Garuda Aerospace becomes first in India to receive Agri Drone subsidy.
- India's first Cable-stayed Train bridge – Anji khad Railway is about to come up in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Indhra Dhanush Gas Grid Limited (IGGL) completes Asia's largest under-water hydrocarbon pipeline connecting Jorhat and Majuli in Assam.
- Mana Village in Uttarakhand is recognized as First Indian Village by Border Roads Organisation (BRO).
- Union Home Minister, Amit Shah, launches World's first "NANO DAP" developed by IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative Limited) in Delhi.
- Aaj Tak News Channel introduces AI Anchor named Sana for the first time in India.
- IIT Kanpur launches Cyber Security skilling Programme.
- Prime Minister Modi will inaugurate Global Buddhist Summit in Delhi.
  - Theme: "Responses to Contemporary challenges – Philosophy to Praxis".
- Prime Minister inaugurates 6th edition of One Earth One Health – Advantage Healthcare India -2023 conference in Delhi.
- Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas organizes 2-day Global Conference on Compressed biogas with a theme of "Towards Progressive Policy Framework for a robust CBG foundation and Growth".
- Ministry of Women and Child Development organizes 5th Poshan Pakhwada to raise awareness about the importance of nutrition and promote healthy eating habits.
  - Theme: "Nutrition for All: Together towards a Healthy India".
  - Amit Shah unveils 54-Foot-Tall Statue of Lord Hanuman At Gujarat Temple.
  - Union Minister Giriraj Singh, Minister for Rural Development (MORD), launches the campaign "Sangatan Se Samriddhi" to enable all rural women to join Self Help Groups.
  - Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launches 'YUVA PORTAL' to Identify Potential Young Startups.



- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) launches the first phase of SATHI (Seed Traceability, Authentication and Holistic Inventory) portal and mobile application - a centralized online system to address seed production challenges, seed quality identification, and certification developed on the theme of Uttam Beej - Samriddhi Kisan.
- Government approves Kirit Parikh panel recommendations on natural gas pricing.
- Reliance Industries to develop India's first multimodal logistics park in Chennai.
- India's first International Multimodal Logistics park to come up at Jogighopa, Assam.
- Ramky Enviro inaugurates India's largest compressed bio-gas plant at Hyderabad.
- Union Minister Nityananda Rai inaugurates Dawki Land port in Meghalaya.
- Rajnath Singh Inaugurates IAF (Indian Air Force) Heritage Centre in Chandigarh.
- World's first Marathi Language University to come up in Amravati.
- Tata Group signs EV Battery plant deal with Gujarat.
- NTPC Kanti Launched Girl Empowerment Mission for 40 underprivileged girls.
- IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority) appointed Medical Health and Insurance committee under Pratima Murthy to provide guidance on insurance and mental health issues.
- Government of India launches Nandi portal for granting NOC approval for Veterinary drugs and Vaccines.
- University Grants Commission (UGC) introduces a new program, NEP SAARTHI – Student Ambassador for Academic Reforms in Transforming Higher Education in India with the aim of Involving students in the implementation of National Education Policy, 2020.
- Government of India launches the Sanchar Saathi portal, to help users track their lost or stolen mobile phones.
- Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurates National Training centre for Food Safety and Standard Authorities of India (FSSAI) at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh and Food Safety and Certification (FoSTaC) E-learning app for Street Vendors.
- Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment inaugurates PM Daksh portal for skill training and employment opportunities.
- Amit Shah lays foundation stone of Balidaan Stambh in Srinagar's Lal Chowk.
- Ministry of Power and Renewable Energy organizes International conference on Green Hydrogen 2023 at Delhi.
- Indira Gandhi National Centre to organize an exhibition "Banking on World heritage" with the theme "Vasudaika Kutumbakam".
- Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Parshottam Rupala, launches Report Fish Disease (RFD), an android-based mobile application for aquatic animal diseases reporting.
  - Funded by Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana.
  - Designed by ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research)-NBFG(National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources).

- Union Minister for the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Shri Narayan Rane, launches the 'CHAMPIONS 2.0 Portal' – mobile app for Geo-tagging cluster projects on MSME day (June 27).
- National Maritime Heritage Complex in Lothal, Gujarat under the Sagarmala program, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways has undertaken development and estimated a cost of 74500 crore.
- Amit Shah launches First Catamaran Built under Make-in-India “Akshar River Cruise” on Sabarmati river in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- DeenDayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) launches eSARAS mobile App to market products made by Women Self-Help-Groups.
- Banking on World Heritage depicting UNESCO World Heritage sites (First-of-its-kind) is inaugurated at IGNCA, Delhi – Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts which showed Banknotes of G20 countries.
  - Held under Ministry of Culture and Ministry of External Affairs.
- India Facilitates joint ocean expedition onboard by Research vessel – Sagar Nidhi operated by National Institute of Ocean Technology and led by INCOIS (The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services) in Bangladesh, Mauritius, India.
- India launches Bharat 6G Alliance – An alliance, consisting of industry, academia, and the central government, aims to spearhead all 6G related initiatives under Ministry of IT and Communications.
- Prime Minister, Modi, inaugurates Sai Hira Global Convention centre in Puttarparthi, Andhra Pradesh to promote cultural Exchange, Spirituality and Global Harmony.
- Amit Shah lays foundation stone of India's first Cooperative-run Sainik school (Motibhai R Choudary Sagar School) in Gujarat.
- Piramal Company's First All Women Branch was opened in Kochi named Maitreyi.

#### **New Parliament Building in New Delhi**

- **Construction Timeline:**
  - Foundation Stone Laid: December 10th, 2020
  - Inauguration by PM Modi: May 28th, 2023
- **Project Details:**
  - Client: Central Public Works Department
  - Height: 39.6 meters
  - Architect: Bimal Patel (HCP Design)
  - Main Contractor: Tata Projects Ltd.
  - Cost: ₹861.90 crore
  - Shape: Triangular
- **Design Inspiration:**
  - Lok Sabha Chamber: Peacock theme
  - Rajya Sabha Chamber: Lotus theme



- **Sengol**
  - Gifted by Adheenass
  - Meaning: "Semmai" - Righteousness (currently in Allahabad Museum)
  - Historical Significance:
    - Handed over by Lord Mountbatten to Jawaharlal Nehru in 1947
    - Symbolized transfer of power from British Raj to Independent India
  - Architectural Influence: Chola Model
- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) launches the "Bharat Internet Utsav" to celebrate the power of the Internet.
- Urban 20 Mayoral event organized in Ahmedabad, Gujarat under G20 Presidency of India.
- ONGC is the first PSU in India to get certified for Anti-Bribery Management System.
- 17th Indian Cooperative Congress held in Delhi, India, organized by Ministry of Cooperation.
  - Theme: "Prosperity through Cooperation for a Vibrant India".
- 7th India Mobile Congress 2023 to be held from 27th to 29th Oct 2023 in Delhi.
  - Theme: Global Digital Innovation.
  - Hosted by The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) under Ministry of Communications and the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) jointly.
- Southern Railway is set to introduce Heritage special train with vintage looking loco.
- NADA (National Anti-Doping Agency) India signs MoU with SARADO (South Asia Regional Anti-Doping Organisation) to extend Regional Cooperation in Anti-doping in sports.
- Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (BWUE) and the Indian Plumbing Association (IPA) sign a MoU with the aim of achieving a Water Positive India.
- Gujarat Govt inks 6 MoUs with Mangrove Plantation under MISHTI scheme (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes).
- Voyager Space signs MoU with Newspace India Limited to explore Collaborative opportunities in space technology.
- L&T and Spain's Navantia sign a Teaming Agreement to build submarines for Indian Navy.
- Ministry of Defence and FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India) sign MoU to promote Millets and Healthy Eating Practices.
- IIT Madras, IIM Ahmedabad, GUVI (Grab Ur Vernacular Imprint) launch AI for India 2.0 – A free AI Training programme launched by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- PM Modi inaugurates new integrated terminal building of Port Blair Airport.
- Regional office of Universal postal union inaugurated in Delhi.
- Ministry of Education launches ULLAS mobile app to promote basic literacy.
- Union government initiates the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign aimed at creating a garden along the Kartavya Path in Delhi.

- Union Minister Gadkari launches Plantation drive from Kothapalem, Renigunta.
- Meri Gaon Meri Darohar under Ministry of Culture – A virtual platform that connects people with diverse cultural heritage of Indian Villages.
- India launches Neerakshi Autonomous underwater Vehicle for mine detection.
- Prime Minister Modi inaugurates SemiconIndia 2023 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
  - Micron to invest 2.7 billion – a New assembly and test facility in Gujarat.
  - Advanced Micro Devices to invest 400 million biggest R&D facility in Bengaluru.
  - Vedanta to establish a fabrication unit in the country and first “made-in-India” in 2.5 years.
  - Foxconn to establish a Fabrication unit in India.
- 5th World Coffee conference held in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
  - Theme for 2023 – “Sustainability through circular Economy and Regenerative agriculture”.
- The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) develops an application namely Monitoring App for Seamless Inspection (MASI) for real-time monitoring of Child Care Institutions (CCIs).
- Modi to introduce Urea Gold in Rajasthan (Sulphur coated Urea).
- Indian Railways and IIT Madras join hands to establish 5G Test Bed in Hyderabad.
- Tabreed, an Abu Dhabi based cooling-as-a-service provider, is ready to invest 200 million dollars to set up Asia’s largest district cooling project in Hyderabad.
- Tata Steel and ACME Group partner to establish India’s largest Green hydrogen project in Odisha’s Gopalpur Industrial Park.
- Ad Astra Fund, the world’s first fully automated investment fund, was launched by Savart, one of India’s largest investment advisors. This fund uses an AI research system called APART (Advanced Process Automation & Research Technology) to perform end-to-end research automation and make swift investment decisions.
- India unveils “G20 mobile app”, the 1st ever app made for G20 at the 2023 18th G20 summit, Delhi. The app was created by the Ministry of External Affairs. It has content in 5 UN Official Languages – English, Hindi, German, Japanese, Portuguese.
- Union Minister of Roads, Transport, and Highways, Nitin Gadkari announces that India’s first electric highway Pilot project will commence from Nagpur.
- India’s first Light-house festival is held in Goa, organized by the Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways.
- IIT Kanpur partners with ICICI Bank to support startup Incubation and Innovation center.
- NCERT is conferred with deemed university status under the De Novo category of University Grants Commission (UGC).
- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, the Ministry of Education, and Meta collaborate on a three-year alliance for the 'Education to Entrepreneurship:





Empowering a Generation of Students, Educators, and Entrepreneurs' program aimed at skilling 500,000 entrepreneurs.

- Ministry of Textiles inaugurates the Statue of R K Shanmugam Chetty, the first Finance Minister of Independent India, in an event organized by the South Indian Panchayat Association in Coimbatore.
- The Center launches the 'PM-Daksh Portal' (Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi) to enable the disabled to receive training, improve their professional skills, and enhance their employment opportunities.
- North-East Frontier Railway (FSR) develops an AI device named “Railway Driver Assistance system (RDOS)” to enhance train travel safety and comfort.
- India is set to host the 17th International Congress on Chemistry of Cement in 2027 in Delhi.
- Prime Minister Modi inaugurates the “International Lawyers Conference” in New Delhi.
  - Theme for 2023 – “Emerging Challenges in Justice Delivery system”.
- UNCITRAL South Asia Conference (United Nations Commission on International Trade Law) hosted by India jointly organized by Ministry of External Affairs, UNCITRAL, and Organization’s national coordination committee for India.
- The 4th Edition of Global Fintech Fest 2023 is held in Mumbai, jointly organized by the National Payments Corporation of India, Payments Council of India, Fintech Convergence Council.
  - Theme for 2023 – “Global Collaboration for a responsible financial ecosystem Inclusive Resilient | Sustainable”.
- The 71st Miss World 2023 is hosted in Kashmir.
- President Draupadi Murmu inaugurates the digital House of Gujarat Assembly.
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs launches the “Amazon Future Engineer Programme” for Eklavya Model Residential schools across Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Telangana.
- Kailash Choudhary, Minister of State (MoS) for the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW), launches "Kisan e-Mitra," an AI (Artificial Intelligence) Chatbot for the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme in New Delhi, Delhi.
- Ministry of Education (Mo), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), and Microsoft sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to equip students with skills and exposure to new technologies.
- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) recently recognizes the mithun as a 'food animal.'
- Ministry of Home Affairs approves renaming of Udhampur Railway station, Jammu and Kashmir as "Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan Railway Station."

- TRIFED, under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, displays traditional tribal art, artifacts, and paintings at the 'Tribes India' pavilion as part of the G-20 Leaders' Summit in New Delhi's Crafts Bazaar.
- The Ministry of Education asks states to establish Vidya Samiksha Kendras (VSKs), which are data repositories under the National Digital Education Architecture.
- Union Minister of Civil Aviation inaugurates Udaan Bhawan at Delhi's Safdarjung Airport.
- 112 - All-in-one Emergency Helpline.
- KVIC (Khadi and Village Industries Commission) inaugurates a New Khadi Outlet at IIT Delhi on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanthi, Oct 2.
- Narendra Modi dedicates the permanent campus of IIT Jodhpur, Rajasthan to the Nation.
- Modi launches "Sankalp Saptah" for the country's Aspirational Blocks to improve governance.
- Modi inaugurates India's first high-tech sports Training centre for Divyangan at Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.
- 9th G20 Parliamentary Speakers Summit (P20) is going to be held in Delhi from Oct 12 to 14.
  - Theme – "Parliaments for One Earth, One Family, One Future" or "India, The Mother of Democracy".
- India's largest Lemon Tree hotel is set up in Mumbai.
- The Union Cabinet grants approval for the establishment of "Mera Yuva Bharat" (MY Bharat), an autonomous body benefiting youth aged 15-29 years, aligning with the definition of 'Youth' in the National Youth Policy.
- Udaipur set to become India's first wetland city (Udaipur – City of Lakes) to gain international prominence.
- A mobile tower is installed for the first time at Siachen glacier, the world's highest battlefield, by the Indian Army and BSNL.
- Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), inaugurates new facilities at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) in Bengaluru, Karnataka, and launches the new logo of Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele MANAS).
- Indian Space Conclave 2023 held in Delhi, organized by Indian Space Association and Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe).
  - Theme for 2023: 'Bhumandal se Brahmand Tak' (From Earth to the Entire Universe).
  - ISpA & France's GIFAS inked MoU to boost the space industry.
- The Ministry of Education and Government of India initiate the APAAR ID, known as the "One Nation One Student ID Card," to digitally centralize academic data for students.
- Modi participates in the Global Maritime India Summit 2023 held in Mumbai.
  - Theme: Connect, Collaborate, Create.

- India's first Regional Rapid Transit system (Rapidx) unveiled in Shahihabad, Uttar Pradesh by Modi.
- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) launches Operation Chakra-2 to target cybercriminals involved in financial crimes.
- India's highest pole hoisting National Tricolour installed at Attari Joint Check post on India-Pakistan Border in Amritsar district, Punjab.
- Google partners with the Fintech Association for Consumer Empowerment (FACE) to launch DigiKavach – to take down illegal digital lending apps on Play Store in India.
- Automotive Research Association of India signs MoU with IIT Guwahati to establish “Digital Twin Centre for Emerging Automotive Systems”.
- PATA (Pacific Asia Travel Association) and India collaborate to expand the “Travel for LiFE” initiative across the Asia Pacific.
- IRCTC partners with Zomato for the delivery of pre-booked meals.
- Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY – NRLM) and SIDBI sign MoU to promote Women Enterprises.
- The 7th Edition of the Indian Mobile Congress was held in Delhi.
  - Theme: Global Digital Innovation.
  - Modi starts the “Aspire” initiative – a startup program fostering connections between startups, investors, and established businesses.
- Modi inaugurates 100 “5G Use Case Labs” at Indian Mobile Congress 2023, with 5 in Andhra Pradesh.
- President of India, Draupadi Murmu inaugurates Parvati Bhawan, Navdurga Path Skywalk project in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Union Finance Minister inaugurates the 1st Global Conference on Cooperation in Enforcement Matters (GCCCEM) in Delhi, organized by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, World Customs Organization (Brussels, Belgium).
  - Theme: It takes a network to fight a network.
- Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways flags off the maiden voyage of the vessel “Costa Serena” – India's first International Cruise Liner at an event held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare launches Krishi 24\*7, India's first AI-Powered solution for Automated Agricultural news monitoring and analysis, developed by Wadhwani Institute for Artificial Intelligence and Google.org.
- Colors collaborates with the Ministry of Women and Child Development to support Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) to raise awareness about the girl child and also started a drama show Doree.
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launches the “AAINA Dashboard for Cities” portal to create a database of the key performance metrics of Urban Local Bodies (Political and



Administrative, Finance, Planning, Citizen-centric Governance, Delivery of Basic Services).

- Government of India approves 2 Satlej Jal Vidyuth Nigam (SVJN) Projects in Arunachal Pradesh – Etalin Hydro Electric Power and Attunli Hydro Electric Power.
- Modi inaugurated the 2nd edition of the Mega Food Event “World Food India 2023” at Bharat Mandapam, Indian.
  - More than 80 countries participated.
  - Partner country: Netherlands and Event’s focus country: Japan.
- MAHARSHI (Millets and Other Ancient Grains International Research Initiative) – An initiative proposed by India towards advancing research in the field of Millets and other ancient grains.
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched the “Jal Diwali – Water for women, women for water” awareness campaign under AMRUT Scheme in partnership with National Urban Livelihood Mission.
  - Odisha Urban Academy is the Knowledge partner of the campaign.
- The Survey of India and Genesys International tie up for 3D digital twin-mapping programme in India. It is the first company to have a PPP agreement with Survey of India for digital twinning.
- India’s first Telecom Centre of Excellence will be established at IIT Roorkee, Uttar Pradesh.
- Ministry of Cooperation, Amit Shah launched “Bharat Organics” brand of National Cooperatives Organics Limited (NCOL).
- Ministry of Coal amended SHAKTI policy (scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala Transparently in India) to expand Coal linkage and Promote Market Transparency.
- Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) launched NECP (National Efficient Cooking Programme) and Energy Efficient Fans Programme (EEEP) to revolutionize India’s energy landscape.
  - NECP (National Efficient Cooking Programme) – Distribute 20 Lakh energy efficient induction cook stoves.
  - EEEP (Energy Efficient Fans Programme) – Distribute 1 crore 5-star energy efficient Brushless DC Current fans.
- IndiGO became the first airline to operate flights from Noida International Airport. Noida International Airport is India’s first Net zero emissions Airport.
- Inland Waterways Authority of India and Amazon signed an MoU to utilize the Ganga river (National Waterway 1) for cargo movement, transporting customer shipments, and products.
- India Post partners with BlueDart to provide Digital Parcel Locker Service at Post Offices.
- Election Commission of India signed an MoU with the Ministry of Education to bring Electoral literacy to classrooms across India. NCERT will include electoral literacy from class 6 to 12.



- Vision India @ 2047 document is prepared by NITI Aayog, providing a roadmap to become a developed economy with a 30 trillion GDP by 2047.
- IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company becomes the first Life Insurance company in India to receive Gujarat International Finance Tech-city IFSC registration.
- PM Modi launched Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) platform for Youth of India maintained by the Ministry of Youth Affairs.
- PM Modi dedicated Namo Shetkari Mahasanman Nidhi Yojana in Maharashtra, Left bank canal network of nilwande Dam on pravara river in Maharashtra.
- The Ministry of Tourism Government of India is set to host the 11th edition of the International Tourism Mart in Shillong, Meghalaya.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited and IIT Kanpur launched India's first school of Sustainability.
- India's fastest Solar Electric Boat Barracuda launched in Kerala, jointly developed by Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders Limited and Navalt Solar and Electric Boats Private Limited.
- Tax Inspectors without borders, a joint initiative between United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), launched a program in Saint Lucia to strengthen its tax administration.
- PM Modi inaugurates 1st Indian Art, Architecture and Design Biennale 2023 organized by the Ministry of Culture at Delhi.
- Ministry of Panchayat Raj launched GIS application "Gram Manchitra".
- Hyderabad HC robotics partners with France's Merio to make advanced Gimbals for Indian Armed Forces.
- Union Health Minister launched MedTech Mitra Platform to support Innovators, an initiative of NITI Aayog, ICMR, and CSDCO.
- Amit Shah releases a postal stamp, marking 50 years of Pandit Jasraj's Music Festival.
- Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy informed that India's Roof-top Solar Installed capacity increased to 10,406 GW, and Gujarat emerges as a leader.
- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched National Transit Pass System, envisioned as one Nation One Pass system to enable seamless transportation of timber, bamboo, and forest produce across India.
- Modi inaugurated the world's largest Meditation center in Uttar Pradesh.
- Modi inaugurated the 2nd Phase of Kashi Tamil Sangamam 2023 at Namo Ghat, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- Modi inaugurated the Surat Diamond Bourse, the world's largest and most modern center for International diamond and jewelry business as a part of Diamond Research and Mercantile (DREAM) city.
- Ministry of Information Technology jointly organized the 1st edition of the National Quantum Science and Technology Symposium in Delhi.
- Ericsson sets up a 6G R&D Centre in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

- Government of India launched the National Geoscience Data Repository Portal as a part of the National Mineral Exploration policy, 2016.
- Ministry of Textiles launched the Paat Mitro mobile app to provide important information about MSP and agronomy to Jute farmers.
- Centre releases Norms for lease of sites for Offshore wind Projects:
  - Lease valid for 3 years for conducting resource survey, extendable for an additional 2 years, expiring after 5 years.
  - Lease area ranges from 25 Square Km to 500 Sq.km.
  - Refundable Security deposit of 1 Lakh per Megawatt for wind energy projects and 50000 per MW for Wind transmission projects.
- IndusInd Bank launched an industry-first Program, Indus-Solitaire for the Diamond Industry.
- Cabinet approves Surat Airport as an International Airport.
- Cabinet approves MoU between India and Italy on cooperation in the field of Industrial Property Rights.
- CASHe, an AI-driven financial wellness platform, strategically repositioned the brand along with the launch of a new website and mobile app with the tagline “Bharat ka Money app”.
- Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) announced two separate partnerships with Google and Meta to reach small businesses.
- Reliance Industries Limited becomes the first Indian company to use chemical recycling for ISCC-Plus (International Sustainability and Carbon Certification) certified Circular Polymers.
- India's first Healthy and Hygienic Food street called PRASADAM inaugurated by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh.
- Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) launches National Single Window System (NSWS) Portal for streamlining import, clinical investigations, and testing of Medical devices.
- French President Emmanuel Macron is the Chief Guest of 75th Republic Day ceremony.
- Centre sets up Committee headed by Rajiva Gauba to examine SC sub-categorisation.
- Ministry of Electronics and IT (MEITY) unveils ERNET, India's new integrated web portal for educational Institutes offering Domain registration (DNS) and Value-added services.
- IIT Bhilai and IIT Roorkee sign a Memorandum of Understanding to promote Indian Knowledge systems and contribute to socio-economic development in tribal areas.
- Gujarat sets a Guinness World Record with over 50,000 people performing Surya Namaskar simultaneously at 108 locations in Modhera Sun Temple, Mehsana.
- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) inaugurates India's first Graphene Centre (India Innovation Centre of Graphene) at Makers Village Kochi, Kerala.

- Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways holds first inland waterways development council meeting in Kolkata, unveils “Harit Nauka – Guidelines for Green Transition of Inland Vessels” and “River Cruise Tourism Roadmap 2047”.
- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation launches MPLADS (Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme) e-SAKSHI Mobile Application for MPs to monitor the scheme.
- PM Modi inaugurates India's Longest Sea Bridge – Atal Setu at Mumbai Trans Harbor Link (Atal Setu) connecting Mumbai and Navi Mumbai.
- Rajendra nagar Police station in Telangana (Cyberabad commissionerate) is awarded as Best Police station in India.
- India's first sainik school for Girls is opened in Vrindavan, Mathura.
- Ministry of Education launches PRERANA program, a week-long residential program for class IX to XII students aimed at leadership development, with a curriculum designed by IIT Gandhinagar.
- 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat with Czech Republic Prime Minister Peter Fiala as the chief guest.
- Amit Shah introduces E-Samridhi Portal to facilitate direct farmer sales through NAFED or NCCF at guaranteed prices.
- Indian Railways collaborates with Confederation of Indian Industry to reduce energy and water consumption and lower greenhouse gas emissions.
- International Kite Festival 2024 hosted in Ahmedabad, Gujarat by the Ministry of Tourism.
- Inland Waterways Development Council meeting held in Kolkata, hosted by the Inland Waterways Authority of India.
- Uttar Pradesh plans to transform Ayodhya into a solar city by installing 470 solar street lights along a 10.2 km stretch from Guptar Ghat to Nirmal Kund.
- Global Pulse Convention 2024 announced to be held in New Delhi, organized by NAFED and Global Pulse Confederation.
- India announces world's largest food storage scheme in the cooperative sector with an investment of 1 lakh crore, aiming to increase storage capacity to 2150 Lakh tonnes.
- India to host 71st Miss World pageant in Mumbai and Delhi, returning after 28 years.
- Ministry of Civil Aviation launches Wings India 2024, Asia’s largest aviation expo at Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad, themed “Connecting India to the World in Amrit Kaal: Setting the stage for India Civil Aviation @ 2047.”
- Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launches two portals: PaiSA for affordable credit access, developed by Allahabad Bank and linked to DAY-NULM; and the PM SVANidhi portal for supporting street vendors.



- Republic Day 2024 in India commemorates the implementation of the Constitution in 1950, replacing the Government of India Act (1935). It marks India's 75th Republic Day, celebrating its democratic evolution.
- Themes for the Republic Day 2024 are "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India) and "Bharat – Loktantra ki Matraka" (India - Mother of Democracy), reflecting national aspirations and democratic values.
- Republic Day 2024 celebrations feature Emmanuel Macron, the President of France, as the guest of honour.
- The parade is notably woman-centric with an inclusion of 100 women artists and a women's Tri-Service Contingent marching for the first time. Foreign contingent includes a 33-member band and a 95-member marching contingent from France.
- Special guests include 1,500 farmers and their spouses, members of Farmer Producers Organisations (FPOs), beneficiaries of PM-KISAN and micro-irrigation schemes.
- Tableaus showcased at Kartavya Path include Andhra Pradesh focusing on revolutionizing school education and preparing students to be globally competitive, highlighting the theme "Transforming School Education in Andhra Pradesh, Making Students Globally Competitive."
- Telangana's tableau celebrates local heroic figures like Komaram Bheem, Ramji Gond and Chityala Ailamma, emphasizing educational reforms and democratic values.
- Prime Minister of India, Modi inaugurated Ram Temple in Ayodhya on January 22, 2024
- Central Government Launches 'Anuvadini' App for Multilingual Education
- Prime Minister Modi inaugurated India's longest tunnel between Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway known as T-50.
- The world's highest railway bridge will be inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi in Jammu, surpassing the Eiffel Tower in height, located over the River Chenab to link Katra to Banihal. This bridge is part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL) project enhancing connectivity in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Cochin International Airport Limited announced an agreement with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited to establish the first green hydrogen plant at Cochin Airport.
- The Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and FIFA, launched the "Football4Schools (F4S) programme" to increase accessibility of football in schools.
- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment established "Divya kala Mela 2024" in Agartala, Tripura.
- Microsoft launched the "Code without barriers" program in India, aiming to train 75,000 women developers.
- The Government of India has declared 'Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI)' as an 'Unlawful Association' for a further period of five years under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967.



- The Central Government has decided to start selling rice under the brand name Bharat rice.
- The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights launched a portal “Ghar - Go Home and Re-unite” for the restoration and repatriation of children in accordance with the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.
- Prime Minister Modi initiated the Commonwealth Legal Education Association - Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitors General conference 2024 held in Delhi.
- IIT Madras introduced a sports quota at the undergraduate level for the academic year 2024-25.
- Marut Drones delivered India's first mineral exploration drones to the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC).
- The Ministry of Education and Skill Development, led by Dharmendra Pradhan, inaugurated India's first Skill India Centre in Sambalpur, Odisha.
- Prime Minister Modi inaugurated India's longest cable-stayed bridge "Sudarshan Setu" in Dwarka Island in Gujarat.
- The Vimarsh 2023 5G Hackathon was conducted by Telecom Centres of Excellence India in collaboration with the Bureau of Police Research and Development, Ministry of Home Affairs to revolutionize law enforcement operations.
- President of India, Draupadi Murmu, launched "Purple Fest" for Disabled at Amrit Udayaan, Rashtrapati Bhawan, organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- The Global Pulse Conference 2024 was organized by National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) and Global Pulse Confederation, themed "Nourishing soils to nourish people."
- Union Culture Minister G. Kishan Reddy inaugurated India's first digital National Archive Museum at Saladar Jung Museum.
- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh released the theme for the "National Science Day 2024," titled "Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat."
- The Island On The Air (IOTA) Programme involves amateur radio operators embarking on significant journeys to the cyclone shelters of Nachugunta Island, Andhra Pradesh, to participate in the Island on the Air (IOTA) expedition Programme. The IOTA is a pioneer program that connects radio amateurs worldwide with stations on islands. It was established in 1964 in collaboration with the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB), categorizing islands into groups for communication.
- The world's first Vedic Clock will be unveiled in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, located in an 85-foot tower at the city's Jantar Mantar. It is scheduled to be officially inaugurated on March 1st, 2024, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a virtual ceremony.

- Reliance Industries and Reliance Foundation have launched "Vantra," a national initiative for animal welfare. "Vantra" (Star of the Forest) focuses on the rescue, treatment, care, and rehabilitation of animals in need.
- The Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) has commissioned India's largest Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh, with an installed capacity of 40 MW/120 MWh.
- India opens a new naval base "INS Jatayu" at Minicoy, Lakshadweep near Maldives
- Modi inaugurated India's first Underwater metro services in Hooghly, Kolkata, West Bengal which connects Kolkata and Howrah.
- Prime Minister dedicated the Sela Tunnel, located in Arunachal Pradesh to nation. It is the longest bi-lane road tunnel in the world, at an altitude above 13,000 feet. It is located in the West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The Prime Minister recently inaugurated the Vikramaditya Vedic Clock, which is mounted on an 85-foot tower within Jantar Mantar in Ujjain.
- India's first indigenous Prototype fast breeder reactor was inaugurated at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu which is designed by Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam limited.
- The National Council for Educational and Research Training (NCERT) is introducing a new 'holistic progress card' (HPC).
- Bharat Tex 2024, the largest global textile event in India, concluded at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, inspired by the 5F Vision of the Prime Minister of India.
- India's First City-Specific Zero Carbon Buildings Action Plan (ZCBAP) launched in Nagpur .Nagpur's ZCBAP aims at developing all buildings to be net zero carbon by 2050.
- The Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore for the establishment of an International Centre of Excellence for Dams (ICED).
- Sahitya Akademi, the esteemed National Academy of Letters in India, is marking its 70th anniversary this year, and in honor of this milestone, the annual 'Sahityotsav' has transformed into the world's largest literary festival.
- India celebrates the inauguration of its first National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC) in Patna, Bihar, on March 4, 2024.
- On the occasion of the 134th Foundation Day of the National Archives of India, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Culture, Arjun Ram Meghwal, inaugurated a digital exhibition titled "Subhash Abhinandan" in New Delhi.
- The University Grants Commission's (UGC) Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Centre unveiled an initiative, known as the 'She Research Network in India' (SheRNI).
- Union Minister of Science & Technology, inaugurated the first-of-its-kind "National Speed Breeding Crop Facility" at the premier National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI) in Mohali.

- Operation 'Rising Sun' o It is a pan-India operation of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) against the smuggling of foreign-origin gold.
- he Election Commission (EC) of India has launched a special campaign in Himachal Pradesh to maximise voter turnout in **414** polling stations.
- India's first integrated Oil Palm Processing Unit by 3F Oil Palm has commenced operations in Arunachal Pradesh, marking a significant milestone in the country's journey towards self-reliance in edible oils.
- Operation Indravati - To Evacuate its Indian nationals from Haiti to Dominican Republic.
- The Election Commission of India (ECI) is keeping a close watch on the election process through the cVIGIL app.
- Prime Minister Modi dedicates Hindustan Urvak and Rasayan Ltd (HURL) Sindri Fertiliser Plant in Dhanbad, Jharkhand to nation.
- Ministry of Minority Affairs and Women and child development launched the mobile application HAJ Suvidha to make Haj a Comfortable experience.
- Karuppu Kavuni rice variety is produced by a farmer in Tamilnadu which prevents cancer.
- Grid Controller of India Limited (GRID-INDIA) achieved a significant milestone by being conferred with the status of Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE).
- SJVN Limited has commissioned India's first multipurpose (heat and power) green hydrogen pilot project at the 1,500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station (NJHPS) at Jhakri, Himachal Pradesh.
- According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, India is ranked fourth in terms of highest spending (\$83.6 billion) on defense in 2023.
- Yuzvendra Chahal, the Rajasthan Royals leg-spinner, has become the first bowler to take 200 wickets in the history of the IPL.
- Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh has won the title of Candidates Chess Tournament.
- D Gukesh broke Garry Kasparov's 40-year-old record to become the youngest, at the age of 17, to win the Candidates Chess Tournament.
- Amitabh Chaudhry was recently reappointed as the MD and CEO of Axis Bank.
- The Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF), known for its Nandini brand, has become the sponsor of the Scotland and Ireland teams in the upcoming T20 Cricket World Cup.
- Nalin Negi was appointed as the CEO of BharatPe, an Indian fintech company that offers digital payment and financial services to small merchants and grocery stores.
- India is ranked 10th in the recently released World Cyber Crime Index.
- Renowned Yakshagana singer Subrahmanya Dhareshwara passed away at the age of 66 in Bengaluru.
- Nalin Prabhat has been appointed as the Director-General of National Security Guard (NSG), the country's counter-terrorism and counter-hijack force.
- Delhi airport is ranked 10th in the list of the world's busiest airports.



- Hindustan Zinc, a Vedanta Group company, has become the third largest producer of silver globally.
- Sunrisers Hyderabad broke its own record of the highest team score in IPL history by scoring 287/3 against Royal Challengers Bangalore at Chinnaswamy Stadium.
- Recently, the death anniversary of Nandlal Bose was celebrated. He was related to the field of painting and was awarded India's second highest civilian honour, Padma Vibhushan, in 1954.
- Dinesh Kr Tripathi has been appointed as the next Chief of the Indian Navy.
- Former Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj has been appointed as Head of US-India Tax Forum.
- India recently delivered the first batch of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to the Philippines.
- Tiranga Barfi was given a Geographical Indication (GI) tag in April 2024. It is related to Varanasi.
- Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) launched India's first private sub-meter resolution surveillance satellite in collaboration with Satellogic.
- Surya Kumar Yadav has become the eighth Indian to score 7,000 or more runs in T20 cricket.
- Manoj Panda has been appointed as the full-time member of the Sixteenth Finance Commission.
- The city of Miraj, which was granted the GI tag for its art of making musical instruments, is located in Maharashtra.
- India has acquired the right to operate the overseas Sittwe port located in Myanmar.
- The Sagar Kavach exercise was organised recently in Lakshadweep where all maritime security agencies including Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, Marine Police, Fisheries, Customs, and other security agencies participated.
- Srinivas Pallia has been recently appointed as the CEO and MD of Wipro, replacing Thierry Delaporte.
- The first steel cutting ceremony of Fleet Support Ships for the Indian Navy was held in Visakhapatnam.
- Rakesh Mohan has recently been appointed as a member of the Economic Advisory Panel by the World Bank Group.
- Arjun Erigaisi is related to the sport of chess.
- The Sangeet Natak Akademi organised the 'Shakti – Festival of Music and Dance' from 9 to 17 April at seven different Shaktipeeths across the country.
- The RBI has maintained the repo rate at 6.5 percent for the seventh time in a row.
- MS Dhoni has become the first Indian wicketkeeper to score 7,000 runs in T20 cricket.
- National Maritime Day is celebrated in India every year on 5 April.
- Paradip Port in Odisha has become India's largest port in terms of cargo volume.





- Rajiv Singhal has recently been appointed as the new Managing Director of Tata International.
- Sheyphali B Sharan has taken charge as the Principal Director General of the Press Information Bureau (PIB).
- Recently, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) handed over two Dornier 228 aircraft to Guyana.
- IREDA has been conferred the Navratna status by the Department of Public Enterprises.
- The Agni-Prime ballistic missile was successfully tested by DRDO recently.
- Ms. Naima Khatoon, a professor of psychology, has become the first woman Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University.
- Sanjay Nayar, Chairman of Sorin Investment Fund, has been appointed as the President of ASSOCHAM for 2024-25.



## INTERNATIONAL

- World's largest ship, "The Icon of The Seas," 5 times bigger than Titanic, built by Meyer Turk Shipyard of Finland
- Named "The Icon of The Seas" by Royal Caribbean International
- World's largest LED screen unveiled in Las Vegas, America, designed in a spherical shape
- United Nations declares:
  - 2024 as International Year of Camelids
  - 2025 as International Year of Glaciers Preservation
  - 2026 as International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists
- India hosts 6th Assembly of International Solar Alliance at Bharat Mandapam, Delhi, releasing reports:



- World Solar Energy Report 2023
- World Solar Market Report 2023
- World Solar Investment Report 2023
- Indonesia launches “WHOOSH” – Southeast Asia’s first High-speed railway as part of China’s Belt and Road Initiative
- UAE inaugurates AI Dhafra Solar PV Project, World’s largest Single-site solar Power Plant with a capacity of 2 GW
- Hanson Robotics and Dictador appoint the world's first AI humanoid robot CEO named Mika
- Bangladesh signs agreement with International Solar Alliance to enhance solar energy use in their country
- International Solar Alliance:
  - Proposed in 2015 by India and France
  - HQ – Gurugram, India
  - Members – 97
  - Last country to join – Panama.
- SCO B2B Conference and Expo on Traditional Medicine held in Guwahati, Assam
- Kashi declared as the First Tourism and Cultural Capital of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

#### **Iran's Membership in Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO):**

- Iran has become a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).
- India launched its first AI-based language platform, BASHINI, at the SCO summit (BHASa Interface for INDIA).

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

- Formed on June 15, 2001.
- Members include China, India, Pakistan, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Iran.
- Headquarters located in Beijing, China.

#### **19th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting:**

- Held virtually in Bangkok.

#### **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multisectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC):**

- Founded in 1997.
- Headquarters in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Members include Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Thailand, and Myanmar.

#### **PM Modi's Participation in ASEAN-India and East Asia Summits:**

- PM Modi participated in the 20th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-India Summit and the 18th East Asia Summit in Jakarta, Indonesia.

- Modi presented a 12-point proposal to strengthen India and ASEAN cooperation, including:
- Establishing multi-modal connectivity and economic corridors linking South-East Asia, India, West Asia, and Europe.
- Offering to share India's digital public infrastructure stack with ASEAN partners.
- Announcing an ASEAN-India Fund for digital future focusing on cooperation in digital transformation and financial connectivity.
- Renewing support to the Economic and Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia.
- Inviting ASEAN countries to join the Global Centre for Traditional Medicine established by WHO in India.
- Calling for collective action against terrorism, terror financing, and cyber disinformation.
- Inviting ASEAN countries to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.
- Calling for enhanced cooperation on maritime safety, security, and domain awareness.

#### **5th ASEAN-India Business Summit:**

- Held in Kuala Lumpur.
- Theme for 2023: "Strengthening and Moving Forward ASEAN-India Economic Relations for a Strategic Business Partnership."

#### **ASEAN Countries Conference on Traditional Medicines:**

- To be hosted by the Ministry of AYUSH in India.

#### **India's Embassy in Timor-Leste:**

- PM Modi announced in the meeting that India has decided to open an embassy in Timor-Leste.

#### **43rd ASEAN Summit:**

- Hosted in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- Theme for 2023: "ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth."

#### **ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations):**

- Formed in 1967.
- Headquarters in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits were held in Cambodia in 2022.
- 42nd ASEAN Summit and 43rd were held in Indonesia in 2023.
- 44th ASEAN Summit will be held in 2024 in Laos.

#### **Appointment of Ajay Banga as President of World Bank:**

- Ajay Banga is selected as the 14th President of the World Bank for a term of 5 years.

#### **United Kingdom Joins CPTPP:**

- The United Kingdom becomes the first new member and the first in Europe to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

#### **CPTPP (Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership):**

- Free trade agreement between 11 nations: Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, Vietnam.



- Formed in March 2018.
- Successor of the Trans-Pacific Partnership after the withdrawal of the United States of America.
- All 11 countries of the CPTPP are members of APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation).

### **APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation):**

- Formed in 1989.
- Comprises 21 Asia-Pacific economies:
  - Australia, Brunei
  - Canada, Chile, China
  - Hong Kong
  - Indonesia, Japan, Korea
  - Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Singapore
  - Chinese Taipei, Thailand, USA, Vietnam.
- Summit locations:
  - 2022 (29th) - Bangkok
  - 2023 (30th) - San Francisco
  - 2024 (31st) - Peru

### **India Assumes Chair of International Sugar Organisation:**

- India becomes the Chair of the International Sugar Organisation for the year 2024.

### **International Sugar Organisation:**

- Established in 1977.
- Headquarters located in London, United Kingdom.
- Membership includes 88 countries.

### **India's Sugar Production:**

- India surpasses Brazil to become the world's largest sugar producer.
- Maharashtra is the largest producer of sugar in India.

### **G20 Agriculture Summit**

Conference	Location
1st	Indore, Madhya Pradesh
2nd	Chandigarh
3rd	Varanasi
4th	Hyderabad

### **India's Representation in Codex Alimentarius Commission:**

- India appointed to represent Asia in the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.



- Codex Alimentarius Commission develops food standards, guidelines, and codes of practice.

#### **International Maritime Organisation Council:**

- India re-elected to the International Maritime Organisation Council for 2024-25 under Category B states.
- The council consists of 40 members classified into Category A, B, and C based on their interests in international shipping and maritime transport.

#### **India's Leadership Roles:**

- India assumed the presidency of the 13th International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) held in Abu Dhabi, UAE, with the theme "World Energy Transitions: The Global Stocktake."
- India takes over the leadership of the Asia Pacific Postal Union (APPU) for four years, with Vinay Prakash Singh elected as the Secretary-General. The headquarters of APPU is located in Bangkok, Thailand.

#### **Other Significant Events:**

- Commemoration of the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Cyprus in 2022.
- Installation of the world's tallest Nataraja Statue, standing 27 feet tall and made from an eight-metal alloy known as Ashtadhatu, at the G20 summit venue.
- New non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) include Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana, UAE, Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, and Switzerland.
- UNSC adopts its first-ever resolution on Myanmar, demanding an end to violence and the release of political prisoners.
- Croatia joins the Schengen zone and switches to the Euro, becoming the 20th member to join the Eurozone and the 27th to join the passport-free Schengen zone.
- The world's first International Summit on Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence (REALM) was held in The Hague, Netherlands, focusing on responsible AI in the military domain.
- India hosts the Voice of Global South Summit with the theme "Energy Security and Development: Roadmap to Prosperity," proposing the 3F initiative: Food, Fuel, and Fertilizer. Modi also proposed the Arogya Maitri project, pledging essential medical supplies to any developing country affected by natural disasters or humanitarian crises.
- India and the United Kingdom sign the Young Professionals scheme.
- Indian High Commission signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a Hindi chair at Sabaragamuwa University in Sri Lanka.
- India and Panama sign an agreement on cooperation in the training of diplomats during the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas convention 2023.

- Initiative for Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET) facilitates technology transfer between the USA and India.
- Switzerland becomes the first World Trade Organization member to accept the new agreement on fisher subsidies.
- IIT Delhi to launch its campus in Abu Dhabi.
- Indian Railways to operate the international train "Shri Ram Janaki Yatra" connecting India and Nepal.
- India and UAE signed agreements on Green Hydrogen Development and Undersea Cable Connectivity under the One Sun, One World, One Grid Initiative.
- Annual meeting of the World Economic Summit concluded in Davos, Switzerland, with the theme "Cooperation in a Fragmented World."
- 14th World Spice Congress held in Mumbai, Maharashtra, organized by Spices Board India with the theme "Vision 30: SPICES (Sustainability - Productivity - Innovation - Collaboration - Excellence - Safety)."
- International Tourism Fair "FITUR 2023" (Feria Internacional del Turismo) commenced in Madrid, Spain.
- China promotes rice bran as a major staple food amid food crisis.
- Adani Group acquires the strategic Haifa Port in Israel.
- Mukaab project introduces an indoor super-city in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, shaped like a cube.
- United Nations member states agree on a legally binding ocean treaty, known as the High Seas Treaty, to protect marine biodiversity.
- The World Sustainable Development Summit 2023 is held in Delhi by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), addressing crises in food, fertilizer, and fuel. The theme is "Mainstreaming sustainable development and climate resilience for collective action," and the summit introduces the Act4Earth program.
- The 23rd Commonwealth Law Conference 2023 takes place in Goa, marking the largest-ever gathering relating to law.
- Tuvalu becomes the first country in the world to become fully digital in the metaverse.
- Deakin University is set to become the first university to open an international campus in India.
- Denmark becomes the first country in the world to import CO<sub>2</sub> and store it under the sea.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs approves a Memorandum of Understanding between India and Nigeria for drug control.
- Indian-American Richard Verma is confirmed for a top position in the US State Department.
- The International Financial Corporation, a member of the World Bank Group, announces that it will no longer finance intermediary clients to support new coal projects through its "Green Equity Approach."

- India and Romania sign their first defense agreement, titled "Practical Cooperation between Armed Forces."
- Italy plans to ban the English language after ChatGPT.
- The World Health Organization certifies Azerbaijan and Tajikistan as the 41st and 42nd malaria-free countries.
- India is elected to the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) for a period of four years. Established in 1947, the UNSC has 24 members.
- Prime Minister Modi has been invited to attend the Bastille Day Military Parade, a French military parade held annually on July 14th.
- TCG Anadolu is Turkey's largest warship and the world's first unmanned combat aerial vehicle carrier.
- RAMBAAN (Rapid Action Mobile BSL-3 Advanced Augmented Network) was inaugurated at the G20 Summit in Goa. It is Asia's and India's first mobile biosafety level-3 (BSL-3) laboratory.
- IIT Madras is set to establish its first international campus in Zanzibar, Tanzania.
- Syria becomes the world's largest narco-state.
- Georgia is the first state in America to condemn Hindu phobia.
- Ghana becomes the first country in the world to approve the Oxford Malaria Vaccine "R21/Matrix-M," developed by Oxford University.
- India, Iran, and Armenia form a new trilateral partnership to deepen regional relations.
- The India Pavilion at the Global Education and Training Exhibition (GETEX) is inaugurated in Abu Dhabi.
- The 5th International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI) 2023 took place in Delhi, focusing on the theme "Delivering Resilient and Inclusive Infrastructure: Pathways for Risk-Informed Systems, Practices, and Investments."
- The United Nations Water Conference 2023 was held in New York after nearly 46 years, with a review of the UN Decade for Action on Water and Sanitation (2018-2028). The theme for 2023 was "Our Watershed Movement: Uniting the World for Water."
- India, Bangladesh, and Japan plan to hold a connectivity event in Tripura to leverage the commercial potential of the region.
- The 76th World Health Assembly, organized by the World Health Organization, took place in Geneva under the theme "Saving Lives, Driving Health for All."
- The 56th Asian Development Bank Annual Meeting was held in Incheon under the theme "Rebounding Asia: Recover, Reconnect, and Reform."
- The Computer Vision and Machine Learning Summit took place in Dubai, UAE.
- Uzbekistan decided to rewrite its constitution.
- Fadnavis unveiled a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Mauritius.
- Russia introduced Giga Chat to compete with OpenAI's ChatGPT.
- India surpassed Saudi Arabia to become Europe's top oil supplier.

- The UN removed India from its annual report on the impact of armed conflict on children, citing the government's efforts to protect them.
- New Zealand became the first country to ban single-use produce bags at grocery stores.
- India's first campus outside India, located in Tanzania, was established by IIT Madras, with Preethi Aghalayam appointed as its director.
- US Ambassador to India, Eric Garcetti, expressed concern over the ongoing violence in Manipur and stated that America is ready to help if India asks for it.
- India joined the Global Crisis Response Group, a wing of the United Nations, to address urgent global issues in food security, energy, and finance and to coordinate a global response.
- India allowed potato imports from Bhutan without a license until June 2024.
- Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte resigned due to a deadlock on the migration issue.
- An AI Summit was held in Geneva, Switzerland by the International Telecommunication Union, where 51 robots were introduced. The theme for 2023 was "AI for Good."
- After nearly five years away, the United States formally became a member of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) again.
- Modi was invited as the chief guest to France's National Day by President Emmanuel Macron.
- India supported Pakistan's proposal in the UNHRC resolution on religious hatred.
- India won the 34th International Biology Olympiad held in the UAE.
- An International Conference on Green Hydrogen @ 2023 was held in Delhi, India, under the Ministry of Power and New and Renewable Energy.
- US women can now buy birth control pills named Opill without a prescription.
- Talal Al-Fahad from Kuwait was elected as the President of the Asian Olympic Council.
- The World Hindu Congress took place in Bangkok, Thailand.
- Iraq has successfully eliminated Trachoma as a public health problem.
- India, as the current chair of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) and G20, is preparing to host the first-ever "Global India AI 2023 Summit."
- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is planning to construct the world's first floating mosque in Dubai.
- The United Nations World Food Programme has partnered with IIT Bombay to enhance food security, nutrition, climate resilience, and livelihoods in India.
- Russia launched its first Islamic banking pilot program based on Sharia principles.
- Miss Universe removed the age limit for contestants for the first time, making it open to all adult women above 18 years old.
- India and the UK jointly launched the Infrastructure Financing Bridge to facilitate major infrastructure projects.





- India has been recognized as an authority to issue internationally accepted OIML (International Organization of Legal Metrology) pattern approval certificates for selling weights and measures globally, becoming the 13th country with this capability.
- The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed a Statement of Intent (Sol) to utilize International Standards to advance the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The I2U2 group, consisting of India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and the United States, unveiled an ambitious joint space venture.
- The Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), revealed the G20 (Group of Twenty) Tourism and SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) Dashboard.
- Georgia declared October as Hindu Heritage Month.
- The Africa Climate Summit 2023 took place in Nairobi, Kenya.
- India has been re-elected as President of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) General Conference (GC) for the 3rd successive term. India previously served as President of AIBD GC from 2018-2021 and 2021-2023.
  - Headquarters: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
  - Number of members: 26
- IIT Madras is set to establish its first international campus in Zanzibar, Tanzania.
- Sri Lanka is poised to take over the chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) for 2 years.
  - IORA was established in 1997 as an intergovernmental organization and has 23 member states.
- Highlights from the 11th UAE-India Joint Task Force Meeting:
  - Supply chain resilience
  - Renewable energy and energy efficiency
  - Health and life sciences
  - Space systems
  - AI
  - Industry
  - Advanced technology and methodology
- India and Switzerland celebrated 75 years of friendship and collaboration in a Kumaon village, Uttarakhand, under the event named "Swiss Himalayan Bounty."
- India and Tanzania are set to sign 15 agreements with a USD 10 billion trade deal to boost bilateral trade cooperation.
- Modi virtually inaugurated a passenger ferry between Nagapattinam Harbor in Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka after 40 years.
- The tallest BR Ambedkar statue outside India was unveiled in Washington.

- The 21st India-France military sub-committee meeting is scheduled to be held in Delhi.
- Russia has approved the termination of the nuclear test ban treaty.
- The United Nations Postal Administration and the International Atomic Energy Agency collaborated to create a new stamp collection to honor Marie Curie on her 120th birth anniversary.
- Norway will fund \$44.7 million USD to support India's Hunger Project in Uttarakhand for 3 years.
- Nirmala Sitharaman embarked on a 4-day official visit to Sri Lanka to attend the "NAAM-200" summit, celebrating the 200th anniversary of the international migration of Tamilians to Sri Lanka.
  - She inaugurated two SBI branches in Sri Lanka, located in Trincomalee and Jaffna.
- India and the Netherlands signed a Memorandum of Intent on the regulation of medical products at the 2nd World Local Production Forum 2023 held in The Hague, Netherlands.
- Union Minister of Education, Dharmendra Pradhan, and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship undertook a 3-day visit to the UAE and visited IIT Delhi in Abu Dhabi.
- The World Health Organization launched a commission to foster social connection, comprising 11 members and chaired by Vivek Murthy and Chido Mpemba.
- The World Health Organization and the Ministry of Ayush signed a Traditional and Complementary Medicine "Project Collaboration Agreement" during an event organized in Geneva, Switzerland.
  - WHO will prepare the "Traditional Medicine Global Strategy 2025-34" with the support of the Ministry of Ayush (Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Homeopathy).
- Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan co-chaired the 1st Australia India Education and Skill Council meeting (AIESC) at IIT Gandhinagar, Gujarat. Outcomes include:
  - Signing of MoU between Monash University and IIT Hyderabad, Telangana for research in Critical Minerals.
  - Signing of MoU between Monash University and International Centre of Excellence Mining to support the mining and mineral development sector in India.
  - Signing of MoU between Deakin University and National Skills Development Cooperation for skill development.
  - Signing of MoU between Deakin University and IIT Gandhinagar to provide quality education and research in the local region. Deakin University was the first foreign university to be established in GIFT City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

- NATO freezes the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, and Russia formally withdraws from the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, signed in 1990 in Paris, France.
- India and Italy sign two agreements: The Mobility and Migration Partnership and The Executive Programme on Cultural Cooperation to boost Youth Mobility and Cultural Exchange.
- CAG India Girish Chandra Murmu was elected as Vice-chairman of the UN Panel of External Auditors, chaired by Isma Yatun. The panel consists of 12 External Auditors.
- The Indian Mission to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, organized the ASEAN-India Millet Festival 2023 in South Jakarta, Indonesia.
- "Rizz" is named Word of the Year 2023 by Oxford University Press.
- "Hallucinate" is named Word of the Year 2023 by Cambridge Dictionary.
- The United Kingdom hosted the world's first Artificial Intelligence Safety Summit in 2023 at Bletchley Park, Buckinghamshire, where the Bletchley Declaration on AI Safety was signed.
- 28 countries participated in the summit and signed the declaration, with subsequent summits planned in South Korea and France in 2024.
- Concerns discussed at the summit focused on three broad categories: Privacy, System bias, and Violation of Intellectual Property Rights.
- India and France signed a Letter of Intent in Public Administration and Administrative reforms for a period of 3 years.
- Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu announced plans to remove Indian troops from Maldives to ensure the country's independence and sovereignty in its foreign policy.
- Bhutan became the first country in the world to fully sterilize its entire dog population with the assistance of the Global animal charity, Humane Society International.
- FATF (Financial Action Task Force) removed Cayman Islands from the Grey list, while Panama, Jordan, and Albania were also removed and Bulgaria was added.
- Dominica is set to create the world's first Sperm Whale Reserve.
- Nepal became the first South Asian country to formally recognize same-sex marriage.
- Pakistan was elected as Vice Chairman of UNESCO Executive Board for 2023-25 from the Asia Pacific Group, defeating India.
- India's first women candidate, Uma Shekar, was elected to the Governing Council of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (HQ – Rome, Italy).
- The International Organization for Migration launched Project PRAYAS (Promoting Regular and Assisted Migration for Youth and Skilled Professionals) in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs to facilitate safe, orderly, and regular migration for Indian workers and students.
- India and Oman adopted a Vision Document to expand Bilateral Cooperation in 10 areas.

- Angola quit OPEC after disagreements over production targets.
- "Artificial Intelligence" was named Word of the Year 2023 by Collins Dictionary.
- "Authentic" was named Word of the Year 2023 by Merriam-Webster Dictionary.
- India has been elected to the UN Statistical Commission for a four-year term starting January 1, 2024. The commission was founded in 1947 and has 24 member countries elected by the UN Economic and Social Council.
- India is appointed as the chairman of the International Sugar Organisation for 2024, announced at the 63rd council meeting in London.
- Argentina has withdrawn from BRICS, which now includes new member countries Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, joining existing members Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- Felix Tshisekedi, President of Congo, known for his affiliation with the Union for Democracy and Social Progress, continues in office.
- Kyrgyzstan has declared the snow leopard as its national symbol.
- Sheikh Hasina has been elected as Bangladesh's Prime Minister for a fifth term with her party, the Awami League.
- India recently signed a Bilateral Haj Agreement with Saudi Arabia.
- Gabriel Attal has been noted as France's youngest and first openly gay Prime Minister.
- South Korea has enacted a ban on the dog meat trade and the consumption of dog meat.
- The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has declared 2024 as the year of "Human Resource Development and Discipline."
- IIT Madras plans to open another international campus in Kandy, Sri Lanka, following expansions in Zanzibar and Tanzania.
- The world's tallest Ram temple is being constructed in Perth, Australia, reaching approximately 721 feet in height, overseen by ShriRam Vedic and Cultural Trust and spanning 150 acres.
- Indra Mani Pandey is appointed as the 4th Secretary General of BIMSTEC for three years.
- BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) was established in 1997, includes 7 members (India, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Sri Lanka), and focuses on 6 areas: Trade, Technology, Energy, Transport, Tourism, and Fisheries.
- Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is appointed as the new Prime Minister of Kuwait, succeeding Sheikh Mohammad Sabah al-Salem al-sabah.
- India and Russia have agreed on a protocol for consultations for the next four years (2024-2028).
- The world's largest cruise ship, "The Icon of The Seas," owned by Royal Caribbean International and built by Meyer Turk Shipyard of Finland, is set to begin operations.
- The Indian Government has sent Malathion, an insecticide, to Afghanistan to help combat the locust threat.





- At the 54th annual World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, India launched the "Global Alliance for Global Good - Gender Equity and Equality."
- India signed an agreement with Argentina for a Lithium Exploration & Mining project.
- Malta has become the 119th country to join the International Solar Alliance.
- Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis recently visited India and met with Prime Minister Modi.
- The Chinese research ship "Xiang Yang Hong 03" reached the Maldives on the same day that Indian and Sri Lankan Guard Ships arrived for the trilateral Naval Exercise "Dosthi 16."
- The UAE, Gibraltar, Barbados, and Uganda were removed from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)'s Grey List, while Kenya and Namibia were added to the list.
- The 8th Nordic-Baltic countries are participating in the 9th Raisina dialogue held in New Delhi, which represents the Nordic-Baltic Cooperation:
  - This regional cooperation format brings together five Nordic countries and three Baltic countries.
  - Nordic countries involved are Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, and Denmark.
  - Baltic countries involved are Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.
  - The theme for the Raisina Dialogue is "Chaturanga: Conflict, Contest, Cooperate, Create."
- The World Health Organization recently launched a Global Initiative on Digital Health virtually.
- India and the UAE signed a Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) during the visit of India's Prime Minister, which aims to promote and protect foreign private investments between two countries.
  - This makes the UAE the country with which India has signed both a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and BIT. India has also signed CEPA with Japan and South Korea and BIT with Belarus.
- The first council meeting of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) took place recently in Washington, DC, USA.
  - This meeting was part of the 66th Council Meeting of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), underscoring the necessity of securing funds to fulfill the objectives outlined in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted at COP15.
- France has officially become the first country in the world to guarantee the right to abortion in its constitution.
- Sweden deposited its Instrument of Accession to the North Atlantic Treaty on 7 March 2024, becoming NATO's 32nd member country.
- India launched a new database hosted on the Unite Aware platform to record crimes against peacekeepers and monitor accountability efforts.



- Ministers of Health from African countries with the highest burden of malaria recently signed the Yaounde Declaration with the objective of ending malaria deaths.
- India and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) signed a Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA).
- The UN Security Council on Monday (Mar. 25) passed a resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire in Gaza for the month of Ramadan.
- Modi inaugurated Gyalsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck Mother and Child Hospital, a state of art health facility in Bhutan.
- Panama has officially ratified the International Solar Alliance (ISA), marking its entry as the 97th member.
- India and Central American nation Nicaragua signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Pharmacopoeia on Cooperation in the field of the regulation of medicines. Nicaragua has become the First Country in Spanish speaking world to recognise Indian Pharmacopoeia.

Persons in News	Appointments
Chris Hipkins	New Zealand Prime Minister
Lula Da Silva	Brazil President
Peter Pavel	President of Czech Republic
Manuela Roka Botey	First Female PM of Equatorial Guinea
Nikos Christodoulides	Cyprus President
Bola Tinubu	Nigeria President
Ram Chandra Paudel	Nepal President
Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Sabah	Kuwait Prime Minister
Sheikh Mohammad bin Abdul Rahman Al Thani	Qatar Prime Minister
Humza Yousaf	Scotland Prime Minister
Shahabuddin Chuppu	Bangladesh President
Santiago Pena	Paraguay President
Recep Tayyip Erdogan	Turkey President
Edgars Rinkevics	President of Latvia
Petteri Orpo	Finland PM
Srettha	Thailand PM
Sato Kilman	Vanuatu PM
Mohammad Muiz	Maldives PM
Christopher Lukeson	Newzealand PM
Daniel Nobova	Ecuador President
Pedro Sanchez	Spanish PM
Luc Frieden	Luxembourg PM



Tharman Shanmugaratnam	Singapore President
Javier Milei	Argentina President
Andry Rajoelina	Madagascar President
Geraldo Martins	Prime Minister of Guinea
Donald Tusk	Poland PM
El-Sissi	Egypt President
Meshal Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabha	Kuwait Emir

- Zimbabwe has launched a new currency called the ZiG (Zimbabwe Gold) in an attempt to address the country's long-running currency crisis.
- India launched a new database, the Unite Aware platform, to record crimes against UN peacekeepers and monitor progress in holding perpetrators accountable.
- Iraq's parliament recently passed a stringent law criminalizing same-sex relationships, imposing a maximum 15-year prison sentence.
- India showcased its innovative technologies and power generation practices at the 26th World Energy Congress held in Rotterdam, Netherlands.
- The UN has picked Saudi Arabia to lead the Women Rights forum.
- The USA is the only nation in the 15-member UNSC to vote against Palestina's full UN Membership.
- India abstained on a resolution at the Human Rights Council that called on Israel for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and called on states to implement an arms embargo.
- The UK Parliament has passed the "Rwanda Deportation Bill" to resend refugees to Rwanda.
- The 26th edition of the World Energy Congress was held in Rotterdam, Netherlands.
- According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, the USA is the highest spender (\$916 billion) on defense in 2023.
- The Archery World Cup 2024 was held in Shanghai, China.
- Usain Bolt has been appointed as the brand ambassador of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.
- World Book and Copyright Day was observed on 23 April.
- Prabowo Subianto was appointed as the new President of Indonesia.
- According to a recent report in IFL Science, Mount Erebus, one of the world's most active volcanoes, spews around 80 grams of gold (worth \$6000) daily into the atmosphere. This volcano is located in Antarctica.
- Max Verstappen recently won the Shanghai Grand Prix 2024 title.
- Atlanta International Airport ranks top in the list of the world's busiest airports.
- Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), has been elected for the second five-year term.



- Russia topped the World Cyber Crime Index.
- World Heritage Day was observed on 18 April.
- Ahmed Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah has become the new Prime Minister of Kuwait.
- Legendary left-arm spinner Derek Underwood passed away recently. He belonged to England.
- World Art Day was observed on 15 April.
- The Asian Wrestling Championship 2024 was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- The International Day of Human Space Flight was observed on 12 April.
- Simon Harris was sworn in as the new and youngest Prime Minister of Ireland.
- Judith Suminwa Tuluka has been appointed as the first woman Prime Minister of Congo.
- World Homeopathy Day was observed on 10 April to honor the contributions of Samuel Hahnemann.
- Abdel Fattah el-Sisi was sworn in for his third term as the President of Egypt.
- Bjarni Benediktsson has been elected as the next Prime Minister of Iceland.
- World Health Day was observed on 7 April.
- World Athletics, the governing body that oversees track and field competitions worldwide, will award \$50,000 in prize money to gold medal winners at the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris.
- Nigeria has become the first country in the world to introduce a new 5-in-1 vaccine against meningitis named Men5CV.
- Mykolas Alekna, a Lithuanian athlete, has set a new world record in discus throw by achieving a throw of 74.35 meters at an event in the USA.
- India has set up its pavilion at the 2024 World Hydrogen Summit, currently underway in Rotterdam, Netherlands from May 13-15

**ADMISSION OPEN**

**GROUP II | IIA**  
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### INDICES AND REPORTS

- **All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) reveals:**





- Total enrolment in higher education increased to nearly 4.14 crore in 2020-21 from 3.85 crore in 2019-20.
- Percentage of female enrolment to total enrolment increased from 45% in 2014-15 to 49% in 2020-21.
- Gross Enrolment Ratio for higher education in India stands at 27.1%.
- World Population Review declares India as the most populous country, surpassing China. The United Nations predicts India will surpass China's population by the end of 2023.
- India Mobile Gaming Report 2022, released by Mobile Premier League, highlights:
  - Uttar Pradesh emerges as the top gaming destination.
  - India's gaming market was worth 2.6 billion dollars in 2022 and is projected to reach 8.6 billion dollars by 2027 with a compounded growth rate of 27%.
- World Social Report 2023 by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) projects:
  - The number of people aged above 65 years will more than double from 761 million in 2021 to 1.6 billion in 2050.
- Henley and Partners company's 2023 report ranks Japan as having the world's most powerful passport, with India ranked 85th.
- Reporters Without Borders (Paris) records 1668 journalists killed in the past 20 years (2003 – 2022).
- National Clean Air Programme Report identifies Delhi as the most polluted city in India in 2022.
- Ernst and Young report predicts:
  - India's economy will reach 26 trillion USD by 2047.
  - Per capita income would increase to 15000 USD.
- World Health Organization's report titled "Countdown to 2023, Report on Global Trans-fat elimination 2022" states:
  - Five billion people globally are exposed to harmful trans-fat, increasing their risk of heart disease and death.
  - In December 2020, FSSAI reduced the 5% TFA limit in oils and fats to 2% and extended its coverage to all foods.
- Tuberculosis Research Funding Trends 2005-21 report by Treatment Action Group and Stop TB Partnership reveals:
  - Funding of TB Research and Development hits billion dollars worldwide in 2021 for the first time in history.
- Nikkei Asia report indicates:
  - India surpasses Japan in automobile sales and becomes the 3rd largest market in 2022 (China > USA > India).
- Startup Tracker CY22 Report by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC India) highlights:
  - Startup funding in India drops 33% to USD 24 billion in 2022.

- 18th Edition of The Global Risks Report 2023 by the World Economic Forum notes:
  - Failure to mitigate climate change and failure of climate change adaptation are the two most severe risks facing the world in the next decade.
  - Short term (2 years) risk: Cost of living crisis.
  - Long term (10 years) risk: Failure to mitigate climate change.
- Study by United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment, Health (UNINWEH) reveals:
  - Around 3700 large dams in India could lose on average 26% of their initial total storage by 2050 due to sediment deposition, with the world projected to lose 26% storage by 2050 to trapped sediment.
- United States tops the list of the world's most powerful militaries, followed by Russia.
- International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)'s Aviation Safety Oversight Ranking shows:
  - India improves its position from 112th to 55th.
- Mercom India's Report "State of Solar PV Manufacturing in India" predicts:
  - India's solar module manufacturing capacity to reach 95 GW by 2025.
  - India aims to install 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030.
- TCS is named the World's most admired company by Fortune Magazine.
- Asian Economic Integration Report 2023 by the Asian Development Bank projects:
  - Greener trade and investment are crucial to tackling climate change in the Asia Pacific region.
- World Happiness Report by the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network:
  - Finland tops the list, with India ranked 121/146 and Afghanistan ranked least.
- OECD's Service Trade Restrictiveness Index ranks India 47th.
- National Entrepreneurship Context Index (NECI) Report ranks India 4th in the Quality of Entrepreneurship Ecosystem.
- Financial Times MBA Rankings 2023:
  - Topped by Columbia Business School, USA.
  - Indian Business School ranked 39th overall and topped in India.
- National Crime Records Bureau data reveals:
  - More than 1,00,000 people commit suicide in India annually.
  - Maharashtra tops in the number of suicides during 2019-21.
- World Meteorological Organization's report "Global Sea-level Rise and Implications":
  - Highest threat of sea-level rise: India, China, Bangladesh, Netherlands.
  - Mumbai is among the cities threatened.



- Trends and projections indicate a global mean sea-level rise of 4.5 mm/year from 2013-2022.
- Human influence is likely the main driver since 1971.
- Global mean sea-level increased by 0.2m between 1901 and 2018.
- Major contributors: Thermal expansion > Ice loss from glaciers > Ice-sheet loss and glacier mass.
- Till 2018, ice sheet and glacier mass were dominant contributors.
- In India, sea levels are rising at a rate of 1.7 mm per year in the last century.
- Contribution from glacier melt is not as high.
- Rivers like Indus, Ganga, and Brahmaputra may shrink.
- Global Terrorism Index 2023 by the Institute for Economics and Peace:
  - Afghanistan tops, and India ranks 13th with a score of 7.175.
  - Major epicenter: Sahel region, Sub Saharan Africa.
- V-Dem's Electoral Democracy Report 2023:
  - Topped by Denmark > Norway > Sweden.
  - India ranked 108th.
- India Justice Report 2022 released by Tata Trusts in collaboration with Centre for Social Justice, Common Cause, and Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative:
  - Pillars include police, prisons, judiciary, legal aid (102 indicators).
  - Topped by Karnataka > Tamil Nadu > Telangana (score of 6.11) in the large states category.
  - Topped by Sikkim > Arunachal Pradesh > Tripura and bottomed by Goa in the small states category.
- Food and Agricultural Organisation (Rome) and Arbor Day Foundation's inclusion of Mumbai among World Tree-rich cities in 2022.
- World Energy Transition Outlook 2022 by IRENA (International Renewable Energy Agency) highlights:
  - To keep 1.5 degrees Celsius target alive, deployment levels must increase from 3000 GW today to 10000 GW in 2030, averaging 1000 GW annually.
  - In 2022, 85% of global renewable energy investment benefited less than 50% of the world's population.
  - Africa accounted for only 1% of additional capacity in 2022.
  - By 2030, cumulative investments must amount to \$44 trillion, with transition technologies representing 80% of the total or \$35 trillion, prioritizing efficiency, electrification, grid expansion, and flexibility.
  - Nationally Determined Contributions, long-term Greenhouse gas emission development strategies (LT-IEDS), and net-zero targets, if fully implemented,

could reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 6% by 2030 and 56% by 2050 compared to 2022 levels.

- United Nations Population Fund's "State of World Population Report" titled "8 Billion Lives, Infinite Possibilities: The Case for Rights and Choices" mentions:
  - India overtakes China to become the world's most populous country with a population of 142.86 crore in 2023.
- GI Registry data reveals:
  - Kerala tops in the highest number of GI Tags in FY 2022-23.
- State Energy Efficiency Index 2021-22 developed by Bureau of Energy Efficiency in association with Alliance for Energy-efficient Economy:
  - Front runners: Karnataka > Kerala > Andhra Pradesh > Rajasthan > Telangana.
- Survey published by Time Out, a London-based global magazine, ranks Mumbai 19th in "Best Public Transport in the World in 2023", with Berlin, Germany topping the list. Mumbai is the only Indian city on the list.
- Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) data shows:
  - Andhra Pradesh CM Jagan Mohan Reddy is the wealthiest CM in India.
  - West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee has the lowest assets.
- World of Statistics releases a report on the "World's Most Criminal Countries' Ranking":
  - Topped by Venezuela.
  - India ranked 77th, with the USA and UK ranking ahead of India.
- AI Index Report by Stanford University reveals:
  - Ranking of countries with the most AI investment: USA > China > UK > Israel > India.
- Hurun Global Unicorn Index states:
  - India ranks 3rd in accordance with the number of unicorns, after the United States and China.
  - Topmost unicorn in India: Byju's.
- Ministry of Jal Shakti released the "Water Bodies – 1st Census Report":
  - India has 24.24 lakh water bodies such as ponds, tanks, lakes, etc., with West Bengal having the highest number and Sikkim the least.
  - Top 5 states (in the number of water bodies): West Bengal > Uttar Pradesh > Andhra Pradesh > Odisha > Assam.
  - Order of water bodies: Ponds > Tanks > Reservoirs > Water conserving schemes/Percolation Tanks/Check Dams.
  - States with the highest number of ponds and reservoirs: West Bengal.
  - State with the highest number of lakes: Tamil Nadu.
  - State with the highest number of tanks: Andhra Pradesh.





- State with the highest number of water conservation schemes: Maharashtra.
- Top district with the highest number of water bodies: South 24 Parganas of West Bengal.
- In-use water bodies are highest for Pisciculture followed by Irrigation.
- World Wealthiest Report 2023 by Henley and Partners:
  - Topped by New York.
  - Mumbai ranks 21st.
- Brand Finance report:
  - MRF emerged as the 2nd strongest tyre brand in the world.
- Logistics Performance Index "Connecting to Compete 2023: Trade Logistics in an Uncertain Global Economy" by the World Bank:
  - Topped by Singapore > Finland.
  - India ranked 38th (44th rank in 2018).
- SIPRI Report titled "Trends in World Military Expenditure 2022":
  - World Military Expenditure grew by 3.7% in 2022 to 2240 billion USD.
  - India is the 4th largest spender in the world in 2022.
  - Ranks in spending: USA > China > Russia > India > Saudi Arabia.
- Report by the India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF):
  - India is poised to become the second-largest solar manufacturing country in the world by 2026, overtaking Japan and trailing only China.
- Time Magazine's annual 100 Most Influential People of 2023 includes Shah Rukh Khan and 'RRR' director SS Rajamouli as the only two Indians on the list.
- UNICEF's report "Binding the Gender Digital Divide: Challenges and an Urgent Call for Action for Equitable Digital Skills Development" highlights:
  - 9 out of 10 adolescent girls and young women in low-income countries have no access to the internet.
  - The largest gap is in South Asia.
- World Press Freedom Index by Reporters Without Borders:
  - Topped by Norway > Finland.
  - Bottom: China.
  - India's rank is 141, which is better than Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- Logistics Performance Index by the World Bank:
  - Topped by Singapore.
  - India's rank is 38.
- National Manufacturing Innovation Survey:
  - Innovation in manufacturing is lowest in Assam.
  - The most innovative state is Karnataka, followed by Telangana in 2021-22.
- World Competitiveness Index by the International Institute for Management Development:



- Topped by Denmark.
- India was ranked 40.
- 5th Food Safety Index by FSSAI:
  - Large states: Kerala topped.
  - Small states: Goa.
  - Union Territories: Jammu and Kashmir.
- Energy Transition Index 2023 by the World Economic Forum and Accenture India:
  - India ranked 67th out of 120.
  - Headquarters of WEF: Cologny, Switzerland.
  - Topped by Sweden > Denmark > Norway.
- World Drugs Report 2023 by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC):
  - Over 296 million people are addicted to drugs.
  - Methamphetamine and opioids are most used in India.
- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation data:
  - Andhra Pradesh tops the number of internet users.
- 17th Edition of Global Peace Index 2023 by the Institute of Economics and Peace:
  - India ranked 126th out of 163 (135th Rank in 2022).
  - Topped by Iceland.
- Bloomberg's Billionaires Index 2023:
  - Topped by Elon Musk.
  - Mukesh Ambani ranked 13th in the world and 1st in India.
- WHO reports over 395,000 deaths of children under 5 in 2019 due to unsafe WASH (Water, Sanitation, Hygiene), with most deaths occurring in WHO African and South East Asia regions.
- India doubles its share of Global Commercial Services Exports from 2% in 2005 to 4.4% in 2022, according to the World Bank & WTO Report:
  - Even China's share doubled.
  - India and Philippines become global leaders in computer services and business process outsourcing.
  - IT industry generated the most well-paid jobs over the past decade.
  - India emerged as a popular destination for medical travel.
  - Service sector contribution in 2021 Global GDP is 67%.
- World Investment Report 2023 titled "Investing in Sustainable Energy for all" by UNCTAD reveals:
  - FDI in Developing Asia remains flat at \$662 billion in 2022.
  - FDI inflows to developing Asia highly concentrated, with India, China, Singapore, Hong Kong, and the United Arab Emirates accounting for nearly 80% of total investment.



- India emerges as FDI powerhouse, securing 3rd highest Foreign Investment in 2022.
- Bihar surpasses Tamil Nadu as the state with the highest microlending borrowings according to Crif High Mark.
- Progress on Household Drinking Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene 2000-2022, Special Focus on Gender” Report by WHO and UNICEF highlights:
  - Women and girls bear the burden of water fetching in households.
- International Organization for Migration releases a report titled "From Evidence to Action: Twenty years of 10M child trafficking data to inform policy and programming," stating that more than half of child trafficking victims are trafficked within their own countries.
- Multidimensional Poverty Index by UNDP reveals:
  - 25 countries, including India, China, Congo, etc., have achieved better results in ending poverty in the last 15 years.
  - 41.5 crore people have come out of poverty in India from 2005-2006 to 2019-2021.
  - 55.1 percent of people were poor in 2005/2006, decreasing to 16.4 percent by 2019/2021 in India.
- The Global Report on the Food Crises (GRFC) 2023 estimates that between 691 million and 783 million people in the world suffered from hunger in 2022.
- UNCTAD's report "A World Debt – A Growing Burden to Global Prosperity" reveals that global debt reached \$92 trillion and is still increasing.
- 2023 Plastic Overshoot Day Report highlights:
  - India is among 12 countries responsible for 52% of the world's mismanaged plastic waste.
- 8th Edition of US News and World Report states:
  - India ranked 30th in 2023 (improved from 31st in 2022).
  - Topped by Switzerland.
  - India is the best performer in the Movers category.
- Economic Freedom Index released by the Canada-based Fraser Institute and Delhi-based Centre for Civil Society:
  - India ranked 87th out of 165 countries.
  - Topped by Singapore > Hong Kong.
- 5th edition of Digital Quality of Life Index by Surfshark Limited:
  - India is ranked 52nd with an index of 0.5154 out of 121 countries.
  - Topped by France.
  - India is ranked 13th in Asia with Singapore at the top.
  - Bottom countries: Tajikistan < Ethiopia < Mozambique.
- "Global Leader Approval Rating Tracker" survey by Morning Consult:

- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, named the "Most Popular Global World Leader" with an approval rating of 76%, the highest in the world.
- Time magazine's list of the 100 best companies in the world:
  - Topped by Microsoft.
  - Infosys ranked 64th.
  - 8 Indian companies are in the top 750: Infosys, Wipro, Mahindra Group, Reliance Industries, HCL, HDFC Bank, WNS Global Services, ITC.
- "Global Trends in Child Monetary Poverty According to International Poverty Lines" prepared by World Bank and UNICEF:
  - In 2022, children accounted for only 52% of the total extreme poor in the world, i.e., every 2nd extreme poor in the world is a child.
  - About 11.5% (52 million) of Indian children live in extremely poor households.
- Global Innovation Index released by the World Intellectual Property Organization:
  - India ranked 40th out of 132 countries.
  - Topped by Switzerland.
- International Institute of Management Development's World Talent Ranking 2023:
  - India slipped four ranks to 56th out of 64 economies (last year = 52nd).
  - Parameters include quality of life, statutory minimum wage, primary and secondary education.
  - India ranked 29th in future readiness.
  - India's educational system ranks 63rd in quality.
  - Topped by Switzerland.
- Chainalysis's 4th Global Crypto Adoption Index 2022:
  - India topped the index with a score of 1 among 154 countries.
- India Ageing Report 2023 titled "Caring for our Elders Institutional Responses":
  - India's elderly population would constitute over 20.8% of the country's population by 2050 and 15% by 2036, reaching 36% by 2099.
  - The increase in the number of elderly people and decrease in the number of children started from 2010.
  - Elderly people will outnumber children with the age group of 0-14 years by 2046.
  - Decadal growth rate of the elderly population of India is estimated at 41%.
- World University Rankings by Time Higher Education Magazine:
  - 91 Indian Universities got selected, with IISC, Bangalore in the Top 250.
  - Topped by Oxford University, UK.
- Most valuable Indian Brands according to Kantar:
  - TCS followed by HDFC Bank.
- Speed Test Global Index by Okla:



- India ranked 47th Position out of 145 countries with a median download speed of 50.2 Mbps.
- Topped by UAE (United Arab Emirates).
- Indian Air Force to stop flying MiG-21 fighter jets by 2025, replaced by indigenous TEJAS - Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mark 1A.
- Mukesh Ambani surpasses Gautam Adani as India's richest on Hurun List.
- Global Hunger Index 2023 by Concern Worldwide and German NGO Welt Hunger Hilfe:
  - India ranked 111th out of 125 countries (declined from 107th in 2022).
  - Topped by Belarus > Bosnia.
  - Bottom by Chad < Niger.
  - India is worse off than Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka.
- Knight Frank (London-based Company) released Global Prime Residential Index:
  - Mumbai ranked 19th, Bengaluru 22nd, and Delhi 25th in the world.
- Food and Agriculture Organisation's report titled "The impact of disasters on agriculture and food security" reveals:
  - \$3.8 trillion worth of crops and livestock production lost over the last 30 years, averaging \$123 billion per year or 5% of annual global agricultural GDP.
  - Climate change, droughts, floods drive large-scale disaster risk in agriculture.
  - Asia experiences the largest share of total economic losses, followed by Africa and Europe.
  - Cereals are the most affected crops.
- Global Pension Index 2023 by Mercer CA Institute:
  - India is ranked 45th out of 47 countries.
  - Topped by Netherlands and lowest is Argentina.
- Global Tuberculosis Report 2023 by World Health Organization:
  - Assessed data from 192 countries and areas, covering more than 99% of the world's population and TB burden.
  - TB cases: 2020 – 10 million, 2021 – 10.3 million, 2022 – 10.6 million.
  - More affected regions: South East Asia > Africa > Western Pacific.
  - India accounted for the highest number of TB cases in the world in 2022, with 2.8 million TB cases representing 27% of the global burden.
  - TB remains the world's second leading cause of death from a single infectious agent.
  - From 2015 to 2022, there was only an 8.7% reduction in TB cases, far from the WHO End TB Strategy goal of a 50% reduction by 2025.
  - The reported global number of people newly diagnosed with TB in 2022 reached 7.5 million, marking the highest number since WHO began global TB monitoring in 1995.

- 5th Edition of Food Safety Index by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India:
  - Parameters: Human Resources and Institutional Data, Compliance, Food Testing Infrastructure, Training and Capacity Building, Consumer Empowerment, and Improvement in SFSI Rank (Added).
  - Topped by Kerala > Punjab > Tamil Nadu (Large states Category).
  - Topped by Goa > Manipur > Sikkim (Small States Category).
  - 15 out of 20 states recorded lower scores in 2022-23 compared to 2019.
  - Average score of India dropped to 40/100 from 52 in 2019.
- 'The Lancet' estimates that the number of deaths due to paralysis will reach up to 1 crore per year by 2050.
- Reserve Bank of India released the 1st flagship publication of Centre for Advanced Financial Research and Learning (CAFRAL) titled "India Finance Report 2023":
  - India's fintech sector could replace Traditional Banking in the near future.
  - Theme: "Connecting the last mile – Non-Banking Financial Companies in India".
- Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Ranking: Asia 2024:
  - 148 Indian Universities represented.
  - IIT Bombay ranked first in India and 40th globally.
  - IIT Delhi ranked 46th globally and 2nd in India.
  - Topped by Peking University, China.
- Inclusiveness Index by Othring and Belonging Institute at California University:
  - India ranked 117th out of 129 countries with a score of 49.24.
  - Topped by New Zealand with a score of 82.08.
  - India ranked lower than smaller countries such as Bangladesh and Israel.
- Progress Towards Measles Elimination – Worldwide, 2000-22 Report by World Health Organisation:
  - 11 Lakh children in India missed the 1st Measles Shot in 2022.
  - India is featured among the top 10 countries with the highest number of children who missed their 1st dose.
  - India reported around 40,967 Measles cases.
  - Nigeria topped with the highest number of infants who didn't receive the Measles Vaccine.
  - 10 countries accounted for 55% of all children worldwide who didn't receive the vaccine.
  - Increased cases in India were reported in Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, and Maharashtra.
  - Maharashtra reported the highest deaths in 2022 due to measles.
- BBC released the 11th edition of the list of 100 women 2023, including 4 Indian Women:

- Actress Dīa Mirza, Cricketer Harmanpreet Kaur, Photographer Arati Kumar, and Tibetan Buddhist nun Jetsunm Tenzin Palmo.
- 2nd Edition of QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2024:
  - Delhi University ranked 220th globally and 30th among Asian Universities, topping the list among Indian universities.
  - University of Toronto, Canada, secured the top position.
- Mercer's Quality of Living City Ranking 2023:
  - Hyderabad, Pune, and Bengaluru ranked 153rd, 154th, and 156th, respectively, among the best cities globally.
  - Vienna topped the list.
- S&P Global Market Intelligence's New Ranking "The World's Largest Life Insurers, 2023":
  - Life Insurance Corporation of India ranked as the 4th Largest Insurer globally based on life and accident & health reserves.
  - Allianz SE (Germany) secured the top position.
- Mercom Capital Groups Annual global report titled "Leading Global Large scale Solar PV Developers":
  - France-based Total Energies topped the list, followed by Adani Green Energy Limited.
- SBI's report "Women Empowerment and Ladli Behna Dec2023":
  - Predicts that women voters in India will surpass male voters from the 2029 General Election onwards, with an expected total turnout of 73 crores, comprising 37 crores women and 36 crores men.
- Tracxn Technologies Ltd's Tracxn Geo Annual Report: India Tech 2023:
  - Revealed a 73% decline in funding for the Indian Tech Startup ecosystem in 2023, slipping to the global 5th position with a total funding of 7 billion USD.
- 2023 World Malaria Report by the World Health Organisation:
  - India accounted for 66% of Malaria cases in the South East Asia region in 2022.
  - Globally, around 249 million Malaria cases were reported, with 29 countries accounting for 95% of Malaria deaths.
- World Food and Agriculture Organisation's digital report on 5th Edition of Asia and Pacific Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2023:
  - Revealed that 74.1% of Indians were unable to afford a healthy diet in 2021.
- 11th Edition of India Skills Report titled India Skills Report 2024:
  - Kerala emerged as the most preferred state to work for both male and female employable talent.
  - Haryana and Maharashtra have the highest concentration of employable youth.



- PwC Global Risk Survey 2023 highlights Cyber risks as the biggest threat for Indian organizations.
- Delhi emerges as the top city for crypto adoption in India according to CoinSwitch's India's Crypto Portfolio 2023 report.
- Bengaluru follows Delhi closely in terms of crypto adoption rates.
- Wheebox, in association with AICTE, CII, and AIU, has published the "India Skills Report 2024" titled "Impact of AI on the Future of Work, Skilling & Mobility."
- Kerala is highlighted as the most preferred state to work in India for both male and female employable talent, with Cochin being the preferred city for female test takers.
- In the age-specific employability:
  - Pune is first for ages 18-21 years.
  - Lucknow leads for ages 22-25 years.
  - Telangana has the highest concentration of employable talent for ages 18-21 years.
  - Uttar Pradesh tops for ages 22-25 years.
  - Gujarat is the leader for ages 26-29 years.
- Aviation performance review by Cirium:
  - Hyderabad and Bengaluru airports rank 2nd and 3rd globally for on-time performance.
  - Indigo is the 4th best in Asia-Pacific for on-time arrivals, behind St Paul airport, Minneapolis, US.
- India reported about 12 lakh new cancer cases and 9.3 lakh deaths in 2019, making it the second-highest contributor to the cancer burden in Asia after China.
- The United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects 2024 Report forecasts a 6.2% GDP growth rate for India for FY23-24.
- Microsoft surpasses Apple as the most valuable company in the world.
- The World Economic Forum released a white paper titled "Transforming Energy Demand," discussing global energy consumption changes.
- The Global Risk Report 2024 by the World Economic Forum highlights:
  - Risks of AI-driven misinformation and disinformation as major short-term concerns.
  - Extreme weather events and biodiversity loss as significant long-term risks.
- The "Green Hydrogen: Enabling Measures Roadmap for Adoption in India" report was published, promoting green hydrogen and outlining benefits from public-private partnerships in accelerating its adoption.
  - India is noted as the third-largest consumer of energy globally, with demand projected to grow by 35% by 2030.





- The Henley Passport Index 2024 places India at 80th rank, allowing visa-free travel to 62 countries. France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Japan, and Singapore top the list, with Uzbekistan also ranking 80th.
- Basmati rice from India has been named "Best Rice in the World" by TasteAtlas.
- The World Bank's Global Economic Prospects Report 2024 indicates potential poor global economic performance by the end of 2024, marking it as the slowest half-decade of GDP growth in 30 years.
- The 4th edition of States' Startup Ranking 2022 in India results:
  - Gujarat and Karnataka top in Category A (states with a population above 1 crore).
  - Himachal Pradesh and Kerala rank as the best performing states in Category B (states with a population below 1 crore).
  - Telangana is the Top performer and Andhra Pradesh as the Leader in overall performance.
- According to Forbes, the Kuwaiti Dinar (KWD) is rated as the world's strongest currency, with the US dollar ranking 10th.
- The World Economic Forum's report "Qualifying the Impact of Climate Change on Human Health" estimates that climate change results in 1.45 crore deaths annually, \$12.5 trillion in economic losses, and an additional \$1.1 trillion in healthcare costs globally.
- Oxfam's "Inequality Inc" Report highlights that it would take nearly 230 years to eradicate global poverty at the current rate, noting that the wealth of the world's five richest individuals has doubled since 2020, while nearly 5 billion people have fallen deeper into poverty.
- According to the World Gold Council, the USA held the largest gold reserves in Q3 2023, followed by India.
- CBRE India Research states that Maharashtra leads in the number of MSMEs in India, followed by Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh, revealed during CREDAI National New India Summit 2024 in Varanasi, UP. MSMEs contribute 30% to India's GDP and 44% to its exports.
- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) signed an MoU with the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) for a three-year project to develop a Green Cover Index for national highways.
- The World Health Organization released the "Global Report on Trends in Prevalence of Tobacco Use 2000-2030".
- The World Economic Forum issued the 18th Edition of the Global Risks Report 2023.
- NGO Pratham launched its Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2023 titled "Beyond Basics".

- India ranks 85th out of 194 countries in the Henley Passport Index, allowing visa-free access to 62 countries. The index is topped by France, Italy, Germany, Japan, and Singapore.
- Karnataka leads in the number of electric vehicle charging stations, followed by Maharashtra, according to Statistics Bureau of Energy Efficiency.
- Odisha's Chief Minister, Naveen Patnaik, was rated as the Most Popular Chief Minister in a nationwide survey by Mood of Nation Survey, while Prime Minister Modi was found to be the Most Popular Prime Minister of the country according to the survey.
- The Indian School of Business in Hyderabad is ranked as the best B-school in India according to the FT Global MBA Ranking 2024.
- India is ranked 38th among 139 countries in the Logistics Performance Index 2023, which is released by the World Bank. Singapore and Finland top this index.
- Mukesh Ambani, chairman of Reliance Industries Limited, is ranked No.1 among Indians and second globally in the Brand Finance Brand Guardianship Index, 2023.
- The Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) is ranked as the No.1 cooperative among top 300 cooperatives in the world according to the 2023 Edition of the Annual World Cooperative Monitor Report published by the International Cooperative Alliance.
- India ranks 80th most targeted country worldwide according to the Cybercrime Report released by Kaspersky. Nearly 34% of the threats are local threats.
- The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP) released the "Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2024." It highlights that the Asia Pacific region is 32 years behind the 2030 target of achieving SDG goals.
- The Corruption Perception Index 2023 was released by Transparency International, with India ranking 93rd out of 180 countries. Denmark topped the index.
- Bangalore was named the Most Livable City in India for 2024 based on the Ease of Living Index, which scores cities on the quality of life and efficacy of urban development initiatives. Bangalore scored 66.70.
- India's position in the Global Intellectual Property Index 2024 is 42nd out of 55 countries evaluated, with an overall score of 38.64 percent. This index is released in its 12th edition by the US Chamber of Commerce. The United States retained its top position, followed closely by the United Kingdom and France.

#### **The Human Development Index 2024**

- The Human Development Index 2024 was released by the United Nations Development Programme under the report titled "Breaking the gridlock: Reimagining cooperation in a polarised world".
- India's rank improved from 135th in 2021 to 134th in 2022 among 193 countries.
- Despite this improvement, India remains behind its South Asian neighbors like Bangladesh (129th), Bhutan (125th), Sri Lanka (78th), and China (75th).



- Switzerland is ranked number one in the HDI for 2024.
- India saw improvements across all HDI indicators in 2022: life expectancy, education, and Gross National Income (GNI) per capita.
  - Life expectancy increased from 67.2 to 67.7 years.
  - Expected years of schooling reached 12.6 years.
  - Mean years of schooling rose to 6.57 years.
  - GNI per capita increased from \$6,542 to \$6,951.

## **World Happiness Report 2024**

- The World Happiness Report 2024 was released by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Gallup, and Oxford Wellbeing Research Centre.
- India is ranked 126th out of 140 countries, maintaining the same position as the previous year.
- The top three happiest countries are Finland, Denmark, and Iceland.
- Finland has been named the happiest country in the world for the seventh consecutive year.
- Afghanistan ranks last in the report.
- According to the Economic Intelligence Unit's Business Environment Rankings 2024, Singapore, Denmark, and the US are the top 3 places to do business, with India ranking 51st.
- The World Cyber Crime Index was released for the first time by the University of Oxford, University of New South Wales, Monash University, and Sciences Po, with India ranking 10th.
- According to a WHO report, India accounted for the second-highest number of hepatitis B and C cases in 2022, after China, with 3.5 crore infections.
- India emerged as the fourth largest military spender globally in 2023, allocating \$83.6 billion for defense, following the United States, China, and Russia, according to SIPRI's Stockholm International Peace Research Institute report.
- Karnataka and Gujarat lead in India's clean energy transition, according to a joint report from the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) and Ember, despite mixed progress nationwide.
- India is ranked 159 out of the 180 nations considered in the 2024 edition of the press freedom index.

## **States Current Affairs**

- Cochin University of Science and Technology in Kerala announces menstrual leaves for female students above the age of 18 years, a first in India.
- Rajasthan becomes the first state in India to implement a Blindness Control Policy.
- Jammu and Kashmir declares the entire union territory as a "Free Area" for the Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act, 2009.
- Kerala becomes the first state in India to achieve full digital banking status.

- The world's first Palm-leaf Manuscript museum is established in Kerala.
- Kerala's Wayanad district becomes the first district in the country to provide basic documents to all tribal people.
- Jammu and Kashmir is set to host its first SARAS Fair 2023 to showcase crafts and handicrafts of Artisans and Women's Self-Help Groups.
- The Reward scheme "Rejuvenating Watershed for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development" is implemented in Karnataka.
- Punjab Governor inaugurates North India's largest floating solar project of 2000 KWp in Chandigarh.
- Neeru Yadav, known as the "Hockey wali Sarpanch" from LambiAhir Village, Rajasthan, signs an agreement with NABARD to start Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).
- India's first coal gasification-based Talcher fertilizer plant is set to come up in Odisha.
- Goa organizes the Purple Fest, celebrating diversity, the first-of-its-kind inclusive festival for persons with disabilities.
- Assam cabinet grants Industry status to the Tourism sector in Assam.
- Bihar becomes the first state in India to initiate a caste-based census.
- Tripura launches the Saharsh concept (Learn with Happiness) in all government and government-aided schools.
- Uttar Pradesh launches the 100-day City Campaign to elevate urban bodies to global standards.
- President gives assent to the CrPC (Gujarat Amendment) Bill, 2021, making the violation of Section 144 orders a cognizable offence.
  - Note: Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) comes under the concurrent list.
- Delhi Metro introduces the first-ever indigenously developed ATS System (Automatic Train Supervision system).
- Delhi Child rights body introduces the Whatsapp chatbot "Bal Mitra" for complaints related to child rights.
- Uttar Pradesh launches the Arohini Training programme aimed at making girls self-reliant.
- Sikkim CM launches "Mero Rukh Mero Santati," a program involving planting 100 saplings per child born in the state.
- The Government of India approves a 30.40 crore "sensor-based smart Agriculture" project for Jammu and Kashmir farmers.
- Kochi Metro becomes India's first metro to accept digital currency for parking.
- Himachal Pradesh CM lays the foundation stone of North East India's first compressed biogas plant at Domora, Assam.
- Ola Electric announces plans to establish the world's largest EV Hub in Tamil Nadu.
- Vedanta-Foxconn selects Dholera region near Ahmedabad, Gujarat, for the first semiconductor facility in India.



- Rajasthan becomes the first state in India to guarantee the Right to Health.
- Odisha launches India's first Agri chatbot – Ama Krush AI.
- Karnataka is set to get India's first Marina to promote Coastal Tourism.
- Uttarakhand launches India's first Silkworm Insurance scheme – Resham Keet Bima.
- Uttarakhand is ready to set up India's first Government mother milk bank.
- A Kerala temple replaces live elephants with robotic elephants for rituals for the first time in Irinjadappilly Sree Krishna temple, Thrissur, Kerala.
- Assam CM lays the foundation stone of North East India's first Compressed biogas plant in Kamrup.
- Kutir – Huts of knowledge in Odisha serve as spaces where women pass down knowledge about forests to younger generations.
- Kerala implements the Pattaya Mission to address land record issues in the state.
- Keeladi Museum is inaugurated in Tamil Nadu.
- Jharkhand CM launches the Jharniyojan portal for employment registration.
- Jammu & Kashmir welcomes its first FDI project – Mall of Srinagar by Emaar.
- West Bengal plans to appoint 600 young Gajamitras to protect elephants.
- Himachal Pradesh becomes the first state in India to organize the cultivation of Mulethi.
- Madhya Pradesh initiates the Ladli Behana Yojana to empower women through financial assistance.
- Maharashtra launches its beggar-free initiative in Nagpur.
- Gujarat initiates the One-Nation One-Challan initiative to ensure traffic-free High courts.
- Jammu and Kashmir's Sadiwara village introduces the "Give Plastic, Take Gold" scheme – A unique idea aimed at making the village plastic-free.
- Kalia scheme offers agriculture assistance to farmers in Odisha.
- Haryana becomes the first state in India to achieve a 100% electrified Railway Network.
- Kerala launches its first solar-powered tourist vessel, "Sooryamshu," in Kochi.
- Odisha introduces India's first of its kind Heavy lift Logistics VTOL (Vertical Take-off Landing) Bon Drone.
- Kerala becomes the first state in India to adopt a water budget.
- Himachal Pradesh becomes the first state in India to develop a DNA Database for Unidentified bodies.
- Kerala starts the Water-metro service in Kochi, marking the first time such a service is introduced in India.
- Himachal Pradesh initiates a project named Sanjeevani to uplift the livelihood of small dairy farmers and livestock owners.
- Kerala Government launches 'One Panchayat, One Playground' to revive sports culture.
- Uttar Pradesh becomes the first state in India to introduce digital health cards for children.

- Uttar Pradesh government plans to establish “Ramaland” in Ayodhya, modeled on Disneyland.
- Jharkhand becomes the first state in India to launch an Air Ambulance service.
- Uttar Pradesh Police initiates “Operation Conviction” to crack down on mafias and criminals.
- India’s first Underwater Road-cum-Rail Tunnels are set to be built in Assam.
- Maharashtra’s Ahmednagar is renamed as Ahilyanagar.
- A Kerala-based startup, Farmers, is selected for the UN’s Accelerator Programme.
- Karnataka introduces the Shakti Scheme, offering free bus travel for women.
- Namo Shetkari Maha Samman Nidhi provides financial assistance to farmers in Maharashtra.
- Maharashtra CM announces that Veer Savarkar Birth Anniversary will be celebrated as Swatantra Veer Gaurav Din.
- Uttar Pradesh Government launches the Nand baba Milk Mission scheme.
- Punjab becomes the first state in India to enforce the “right to Walk”.
- The world’s first conservation center for Asian king Vultures is opened in Maharaj Ganj, Uttar Pradesh.
- Kerala becomes the first state in India to adopt a water budget.
- Greater Chennai Police introduces the country's first 'Police Drone Unit' for aerial surveillance.
- Rajasthan plans to introduce a stringent law to prevent Question Paper leaks.
- India’s first Tele-Manas Chatbot, designed to engage people in mental distress, is launched in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Tamil Nadu Police launches “Pengal Pathukaaptu Thittam” (women safety scheme) for women traveling alone at night, along with a dedicated helpline.
- The Odisha Government formally launches “Mo Jungle Jami Yojana” to recognize all rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights Act) (FRA), 2006.
- Odisha Government launches “Ama Pokhari” scheme aimed at rejuvenating urban water bodies and addressing water scarcity.
- Odisha Government introduces the “Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha” scheme to enhance rural infrastructure and preserve the cultural heritage of the state.
- Tamil Nadu inaugurates its first flying training school, the country's 36th, operated by EKVI Air Training Organization Pt Ltd at Salem Airport.
- REC organizes Bijli Utsav in Jharkhand as part of the Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.
- Study suggests Assam’s Joha rice can help control diabetes.
- Yogi Adityanath initiates the one-tap-one-tree campaign in Uttar Pradesh.
- Rajasthan Assembly passes the Minimum Guaranteed Income bill.



- Andhra Pradesh releases 10 million Gambusia fish to control Malaria and dengue.
- India's first Autonomous car by Minus Zero is inaugurated in Bengaluru by Zpod.
- Odisha Government launches the Ama Pokhari scheme for the rejuvenation of water bodies.
- Amazon India announces the first-ever floating store on Srinagar dal lake.
- West Bengal government announces the establishment of a Mangrove cell on International Day of Mangroves.
- Tamil Nadu Government plans to expand the Vaasippu Iyyakam project in Government schools.
- Haryana launches the Pran Vayu Devta Pension scheme.
- Madhya Pradesh CM inaugurates Sanchi as India's first solar city.
- Nagaland becomes the first state in the Northeastern Region to initiate Aadhaar-linked Birth Registration.
- Karnataka Government establishes India's first 500 KVA Underground Power transformer station at Malleshwaram, Bengaluru.
- Tamil Nadu becomes the largest manufacturer and has the highest sales of Electric vehicles.
- West Bengal passes a resolution on "Poila Baisakh" as the state foundation day.
- Prayagraj Police in Uttar Pradesh launches the 'Savera' Scheme to assist senior citizens in emergencies.
- Union Civil Aviation Minister, Jyotiraditya Scindia, inaugurates the UNWTO Airport in Odisha.
- Rajasthan CM launches the Mukhyamantri Nishulk Annapurna Food Packet Scheme to distribute free food packets.
- Himachal Pradesh CM launches the SABAL Yojana (Sporting Abilities, Rebuilding Aspirations and Livelihood Scheme) to empower specially-abled children.
- The Karnataka government unveils a comprehensive insurance package worth Rs 4 lakh, named the "Karnataka State Gig Workers Insurance Scheme," providing Rs 2 lakh in life insurance and an additional Rs 2 lakh in accidental insurance to Gig Workers.
- The Tamil Nadu government prepares to launch the Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thogai Thittam, the largest social welfare initiative aimed at providing monthly financial assistance to over 1 crore women.
- Karnataka government mandates the reading of the Constitution's preamble in schools and colleges.
- Jharkhand Cabinet approves pension for the transgender community and includes them in the Backward Classes category.
- Odisha launches the Mukhyamantri Sampurna Pushti Yojana to improve the nutritional well-being of mothers, adolescent girls, and children.



- Maharashtra's Aurangabad is renamed as Sambhaji Nagar and Osmanabad is renamed as Dharashiv.
- Biswanath Ghat in Assam is recognized as the Best Tourism Village in India for 2023, also known as Gupta Kashi.
- The government launches the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar to honor Excellence in Science, Technology, and Innovation.
- Chandigarh smart city launches an AI-driven Chatbot – "BIRBAL" to provide a one-stop platform for citizens to access information and services.
- Jammu and Kashmir police become the first in India to use GPS Tracker Anklets for Terror Accused on Bail.
- Former Indian Cricketer Sourav Ganguly is named as Brand Ambassador of Bengal. Bihar Govt approved a bill which crossed reservations to 75% in their state.
- Jharkhand approves the "Abua Awas Yojana" Housing scheme.
- Bharat Botanics will Open India's Largest wood-pressed Cold Oil Production Facility in Gondal, Gujarat.
- Arunachal Pradesh CM along with US Ambassador inaugurates the Hump World War II Museum in Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh.
- India's first Pig schools are to be established in Assam in partnership with the Danish Government.
- Odisha CM launches the "AMA Bank" scheme to provide banking services in Unbanked Gram Panchayats.
- Uttarakhand Tourism conducts a trial run of Gyrocopter for Himalayan Air safari, becoming the first state in India to launch the Himalayan Air safari scheme using Gyrocopter.
- Kerala launches K-Smart App to integrate local self-government institutions into a unified digital platform.
- Uttar Pradesh plans to develop India's first Artificial Intelligence city in Lucknow.
- Punjab introduces the Mappls App, which sends voice alerts to riders about accident-prone areas to enhance road safety.
- Union Health Minister and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister launch Manhit app for facilitating mental health screening.
- Chhattisgarh introduces Ramalala Darshan scheme offering free pilgrimages to Ayodhya Dham.
- Kerala Drug Control Department initiates Operation AMRITH (Antimicrobial Resistance Intervention For Total Health) to prevent the overuse of antibiotics and regulate their sale without prescriptions.
- Assam debuts "Baayu" app, India's first 100% electric and decentralized open mobility electric bike taxi service.



- Jammu and Kashmir's DGP launches the Grievance Redressal portal "Awaam Se, Awaam Ke Liye" to address public grievances.
- Gujarat is recognized as the petro capital of India due to Reliance Industry Limited's Jamnagar Refinery and ONGC Petro Additions Limited's petrochemical complex in Bharuch district.
- West Bengal's Chief Minister introduces YOGYASREE, a free training module for SC and ST students for entrance and competitive exams.
- Himachal Pradesh launches "My School - My Pride" campaign aimed at transforming education in government schools.
- The Odisha Government launched the "Swayam Scheme" to provide interest-free loans to unemployed youth.
- The Kerala Government introduced the "Water bell" system in schools to ensure students drink adequate water during school hours.
- India's first Helicopter Emergency Medical Services were started in Uttarakhand.
- The Haryana Government launched the "Van Mitra" scheme to boost green cover and community engagement in afforestation efforts.
- Citrus Lime (Kaji Nemu) has been declared as the State Fruit of Assam.
- The Delhi Government launched free bus travel for Transgenders in the Delhi Transport Corporation.
- The Uttar Pradesh Government launched the E V Upyog portal to promote the manufacture and use of Electric Vehicles.
- The Chief Minister of Uttarakhand launched the Dhami against Drugs Campaign, and the Uttarakhand Government approved a Uniform Civil Code that bans polygamy, child marriage etc.
- The Odisha Government launched the LABHA scheme (Laghu Bana jatiya Drabya Kraya) - 100% state-funded minimum support price for Minor Forest Produce.
- The Punjab Government launched the Sadak Surakhya Force to reduce road fatalities.
- The Haryana Government launched the Savera Programme for Early Breast Cancer Detection in collaboration with Medanta Foundation.
- The Madhya Pradesh Government introduced a Bagless school Policy once a week for students.
- Maharashtra Government has launched the "Chief Minister Vayoshree Yojana" aimed at supporting the elderly.
- Operation AMRITH (Antimicrobial Resistance Intervention for Total Health) has been initiated by Kerala. This program enforces the H1 rule, requiring a doctor's prescription for any class of antibiotics.
- The H1 rule is derived from an amendment in 2013 to the Drugs and Cosmetic Rule, 1945. This amendment introduced a new Schedule H1.
- Drugs listed under Schedule H1 must follow specific conditions:



- The supply of the drug must be recorded in a separate register.
- They must be labeled with the symbol Rx, which should be in red and conspicuously displayed on the left top corner of the label.
- Kerala introduced the first AI Teacher, "Iris," developed by Makerabs Edutech, capable of teaching subjects from nursery to Class 12 in English, Hindi, and Malayalam.
- Jharkhand Government launched the Vidva Punarnivah Protsahan Scheme offering a 2 lakh credit benefit to widows.
- Delhi Government introduced the Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Yojana, providing ₹1000/- to women aged above 18 years.
- Jammu and Kashmir Police initiated "Operation Kamdhenu" to combat cattle smuggling.
- Kerala Government launched its own OTT platform, CSPACE, to promote Malayalam cinema and culture, streaming only films previously released in theaters and managed for transparency by the Kerala State Film Development Corporation.
- Kerala launched the Kutumba Shri Lunch Bell project to provide state-level food at ₹60/- and a Pocket Mart mobile app to expand the business.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually launched the Mahtari Vandan Yojana in Chhattisgarh from Kashi, Uttar Pradesh, aimed at providing financial assistance to women in the state.
- Booth Raabta Website launched by Punjab for creating awareness on election-related information to people.
- Waste management in Kerala is a model for other states, and the functioning of Haritha Karma Sena is exceptional.
- The Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) stadium in Dharamshala has become the first BCCI-accredited venue to install a state-of-the-art 'hybrid pitch'.
- Adani's Vizhinjam Port in Kerala is approved as India's first Trans-Shipments Hub in Kerala.



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### **AWARDS**

#### **Ramon Magsaysay Awards**

- 65th Ramon Magsaysay Awards, also known as the Nobel Prize of Asia, is awarded.
- Recipients of the award include:
  - Korvi Rakshand from Bangladesh.
  - Eugenio Lemos from Timor-Leste.
  - Miriam Coronel-Ferrer from the Philippines.
  - Ravi Kannan from India.
- The award consists of a certificate and a cash prize of 50,000 USD for each recipient.

#### **Earth Shot Prize**

- The Earth Shot Prize, often dubbed as the "Eco Oscar," was instituted in 2021 by UK Prince William for a duration of 10 years, till 2030.
- The prize is awarded annually to 5 winners, with each recipient receiving a prize money of 1 million pounds.
- The awards are given in 5 categories, recognizing innovative solutions addressing environmental challenges.
- The 3rd edition of the Earth Shot Prize Award Ceremony was held in Singapore.

Category	Winner
Protect and Restore Nature	Accion Andina for protecting Andes Mountains, South America
Clean our Air	GRST, China
Revive our Oceans	Wild Aid Marine Programme
Build a waste free world	S4S Technologies (Mumbai, India)
Fix our climate	Boomitra

### 2023 Champions of the Earth

Category	2023 Laureates
Policy Leadership	Josefina Belmonte Mayor (Philippines)
Inspiration and Action	Ellen MacArthur Foundation (United Kingdom)
Entrepreneurial vision	Blue Circle (China) and Jose Manuel Moller (Chile)
Science and Innovation	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (South Africa)

- Odisha's "Jaga Mission" wins the "Bronze award" in the United Nation's Human settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in the "World Habitats Awards 2023".
- The song "NaatuNaatu" from S S Rajamouli's RRR movie receives the "Best original song – Motion picture" award at the 80th Golden Globe Awards 2023, presented by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (California). Composer: M M Keeravani, Lyricist: Chandra Bose. Notably, it is the first Asian song to win a Golden Globe award.
- Chief Justice of India, Chandrachud, is set to be conferred with the "Award for Global Leadership" by Harvard Law School, America.
- Vishakhapatnam Railway Station is awarded the Green Railway Station certificate with the highest platinum rating by the Indian Green Building Council.
- Tapan Saikhia, an Oncologist, is honored with the Assam Bhaibhav award.
- Veteran Director Aparna Sen receives the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Jaipur Film Festival.
- Adar Poonawala, CEO of Serum Institute of India, receives the Patangrao Kadam Memorial Award.
- Karthik Subramaniam, of Indian origin, wins National Geographic's Pictures of the Year award.
- The 2023 Wolf Prize Laureates are awarded by Israel, considered one of the world's most prestigious awards for scientific and artistic achievements.
- British Architect David Chipperfield wins the Pritzker Prize.
- The Health Ministry receives the Porter Prize 2023 for successfully managing Covid-19.
- Sashidhar Jagadishan, HDFC MD and CEO, is chosen as the Business Standard Banker of the year 2022.
- Delhi airport is recognized as the cleanest airport in the Asia Pacific region.
- Cipra Das receives the Lifetime Achievement Award at the National Photographic Awards.
- Shaktikanta Das is named Governor of the year at the Central Banking Awards 2023.
- Hindi writer Vinod Shukla wins the 2023 PEN or Nabokov Lifetime Achievement Award.
- Philanthropist and art collector Kiran Nadar is conferred with the "Chevalier de La Legion d'Honneur" (Highest French Civilian Award).



- Wing Commander Deepika Mishra becomes the first Air Force Woman Officer to receive a Gallantry award.
- Miss India 2023 is Nandini Gupta.
- Veteran actor Rekha was conferred 53<sup>rd</sup>
- C R Rao wins the International Prize in Statistics 2023.
- Bharat Biotech wins an award at the World Vaccine Congress 2023.
- Karnataka bags the National award for the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.
- Dalai Lama receives the 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award in Person after 64 years.
- Alessandra Korap, an indigenous Mundurucu woman from the Brazilian Amazon, is recognized with a 2023 Goldman Environmental Prize.
- Three imprisoned Iranian women journalists (Niloufar Hamed, Elahé Mohammadi, Narges Mohammadi) are awarded the UNESCO or Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize.
- British Indian Actor Meera Sayal is honored with the BAFTA Fellowship.
- Former Lok Sabha MP and Samajwadi Pandit Ramkishan is honored as Man of the Century.
- Goan writer Damodar Mouzo receives the 57th Gnanapith Award.
- Jagdish Bakan wins UNESCO's Michel Batisse Award for creating green jobs and microcredit in the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve.
- Georgi Gospodinov and Angela Rodel win the International Booker Prize 2023 for the novel "Time Shelter".
- Gauri bags the Best Long Documentary Award at the South Asian Film Festival held in Montreal, Canada.
- Author Salman Rushdie is selected for the German Booker Prize 2023.
- N Chandrashekar, Chairman of Tata Groups, receives the Highest Civilian Award for France.
- Former President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, confers the Bharat Ratna Dr. Ambedkar Award on CM Yogi for creating a fear-free UP.
- Russian Poetess Maria Stepanova wins the Leipzig Book Prize 2023.
- Amit Shah presents the Maharashtra Bhushan Award to Social Worker Appasaheb Dharmadhikari.
- Michael Rosen is awarded the PEN PRINTER Prize in 2023.
- Mary Kom wins the Global Indian Icon of the Year award at the UK-India Awards 2023.
- King Charles and Queen Camilla give the Environmental Award to Film maker Kartiki Gonsalves for Elephant Whisperers.
- Waheeda Rehman to be honoured with 53<sup>rd</sup> Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award

- Rajinder Singh Datt, a 101-year-old Sikh World War II veteran, is honored with the Point of Light Award by Rishi Sunak.
- Sanya Saket, founder of Scarlet Uddan, is awarded the Diana Awards by the UK for empowering women on Female Genital Cutting.
- 7-year-old Indian-Origin girl Moksha Roy wins the UK's Points of Light Award.
- President Draupadi Murmu presents the Bhoomi Samman 2023.
- NTPC wins the ET HR World Future Skills Awards 2023.
- Narendra Modi is awarded the Lokamanya Tilak National Award 2023.
- The Government of India launches the "Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar" to honor excellence in Science, Technology, and Innovation in four distinct categories:
  - Vigyan Ratna Award – Lifetime achievement award
  - Vigyan Shri Award
  - Vigyan Yuva – Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award
  - Vigyan Team award
- The 2023 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize is awarded to Mathematician Ruixiang Zhang by the Shanmugha Arts, Science, Technology & Research Academy.
- Sudha Murthy becomes the first woman to receive the Global Indian Award given by the Canada India Foundation.
- Jayeeta Gupta is honored with the Dutch Spinoxa Prize (Dutch Nobel) for climate change research.
- Amini, a young woman from Iran, is posthumously honored with the Sakharov Prize, an esteemed human rights award, by the European Union.
- Serena Williams becomes the first athlete to receive the CFDA (Council of Fashion Designers of America)'s Fashion Icon Award in 2023.
- The Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2023 is presented to COVID-19 Warriors (Indian Medical Association and Trained Nurses Association of India) by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust.
- Singer Suresh Wadkar is honored with Maharashtra's Lata Mangeshkar Award 2023.
- The International Olympic Committee awards the Olympic Cup 2023 to the Taekwondo Humanitarian Foundation (New York).
- Vaclav Havel Center (Manhattan, New York) awards the first-ever "Lifetime Disturbing the Peace Award" to Salman Rushdie.
- Deepti Babuta becomes the first woman to bag the Dhahan Prize for Punjabi Literature, given by the Canada India Education Society.
  - The Dhahan Prize is the largest International Literary award for fiction books in the Punjabi Language.
- Sheynnis Palacios from Nicaragua is crowned as the 72nd edition of Miss Universe 2023, held in El Salvador. She is the first woman from Nicaragua to win this title.
- Irish Author Paul Lynch wins the 2023 Booker Prize for his novel "Prophet song".

- Perumal Murugan wins the JCB Prize for Literature for his writing “Aalanda Patchi”, which was converted into "Fire Bird" by Janani Kannan.
- Abdullahi Mire, a refugee from Somalia, has been named the 2023 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Nansen Refugee Award’s Global Laureate for championing the right to education in Kenya.
- The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum honored Nita Ambani with the 2023 Global Leadership Award for Philanthropy and Corporate Social Responsibility.
- India-born UK-based writer Nandini Das won the British Academy Book Prize 2023 for her book “Courting India”.
- Deenanath Rajput is awarded the Rohini Nayyar Prize for empowering women:
  - The Rohini Nayyar Prize is given to individuals below 40 years of age who work for rural development.
  - A cash prize of 10 lakhs is given.
- UST, a digital transformation solutions company, has been recognized by the 2023 Mahatma Awards for Excellence in Corporate Social Responsibility.
- The Reserve Bank of India wins the 5th Edition of The Hindu Business Line Changemaker Awards, and Amul receives the Iconic Changemaker Award.
- The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) under the Ministry of Labour and Employment was awarded the Vision Zero 2023 Award by the International Social Security Association at the 23rd World Congress on Safety and Health at Work held in Sydney, Australia.
- ISRO Scientist Lalithambika was honored with the highest civilian award of France (Chevalier De La Legion d'Honneur) for her contributions in promoting space cooperation between India and France. She becomes the second ISRO scientist to receive the award after A S Kiran Kumar.
- Safeena Hussain, Founder and Board member of Educate Girls, was awarded the WISE Prize for Education 2023 by the Qatar Foundation at the 11th Edition of the World Innovation Summit for Education summit.
- Music conductor Daniel Baren Boim and peace activist Ali Babu Awwad were awarded the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace.
- Veteran actor Kabir Bedi was awarded Italy’s Highest Civilian Honour (Officer Order of Merit of the Italian Republic).
- NTPC receives the Most Preferred Workplace of 2023-24 Award from Team Marksmen.
- Indian Armed Forces officers Rohit and Sunnay Sharma were awarded the Golden Owl for Outstanding performance in Sri Lanka.
- Winners of Sahitya Academy 2023 Awards:
  - Telugu: "Rameshwaram kaakulu Marikonni Kathalu" by Patanjali Sastry
  - English: "Requiem in Raga Janki" by Neelum Saran Gour
  - Hindi: "Mujhe Pahachaano" by Sanjeev

- SASTRA RAMANUJAN Award for 2023 was awarded to Ruixiang Zhang by Shanmugha Arts, Science, Technology, and Research.
- ISRO was awarded the Lief Erikson Lunar prize for south pole landing and lunar discoveries by the Exploration Museum for its Chandrayaan-3 mission.
- Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director of WHO South-East Asia, was awarded Bhutan's National Order of Merit Gold Medal.
- Tansen Samaroh, a celebration of Indian Classical Music in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, awarded:
  - Tansen Samman 2022: Pandit Ganpati Bhatta from Karnataka
  - Kavi Pradeep Samman 2022: Narsinghpur from Madhya Pradesh
  - Raja Mansingh Tomar Samman 2022: Malwa Lok Kala Kendra from Madhya Pradesh
- Sukrita Paul Kumar was honored with the 6th Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize (2023) for her book titled "Salt and Pepper: Selected poems".
- Abhijit Banerjee received the Tagore Prize for Social Achievement 2023.
- Kanneganti Chadramohan received the 2023 Commander of the Order of the British Empire award.
- Five MPs from Lok Sabha were selected for the Sansad Ratna Awards, including Sunkat Majumdar, Eknath Shinde, Sudhir Gupta, Ramsingh Koli, and Kuldeep Rai Sharma.
- The 81st Golden Globe Awards took place in Beverly Hills, California, with "Oppenheimer" winning Best Film, Lily Gladstone winning Best Actress for "Killers of the Flower Moon," and Cillian Murphy winning Best Actor for "Oppenheimer."
- President of India, Draupadi Murmu, presented the Swachh Survekshan Awards 2023 at Bharat Mandapam, Delhi, recognizing the top clean cities and towns based on citizen feedback and sanitation indicators. Indore and Surat won the cleanest city awards, while Hyderabad was ranked ninth.
- Cleanest Cantonment Board award in Madhya Pradesh was given to Mhow Cantonment Board. Varanasi and Prayagraj were recognized as the cleanest Ganga towns.
- Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh received awards for best performance in state categories, and Chandigarh was recognized with the Best Safaimitra Surakshit Sheher award.
- President Murmu awarded the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award to Praveen Singh Lohia, Savita Kanswal.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh presented the Indian of The Year Award 2023 in the "Outstanding X" category to Team ISRO, which was accepted by Chairman S Somnath.
- President Draupadi Murmu awarded the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2024 to 19 children for their exceptional achievements across six categories including Bravery, Art and Culture, Environment, Innovation, Science and Technology, Social Service, and Sports.



- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports announced the "Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar 2023" to identify and nurture young sporting talent, and to encourage sports through corporate social responsibility, with involvement from entities like Odisha Mining Corporate Limited.
- Padma Awards 2024:
  - India's highest civilian honors divided into three categories: Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri.
  - Established in 1954 and administered by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
  - Padma Vibhushan is for exceptional and distinguished service, Padma Bhushan for distinguished service of higher order, and Padma Shri for distinguished service.
  - The maximum number of awards given in any year is 120.
- In 2024, 132 Padma Awards were approved, including:
  - 5 Padma Vibhushan
  - 17 Padma Bhushan
  - 110 Padma Shri
  - 30 awardees are women, 8 from the Foreigner/NRI/PIO/OCI category, and 9 posthumous awardees.
- The Central Government has announced the Bharat Ratna award for late Bihari leader, Karpoori Thakur, who is popularly known as "Jan Nayak" or "People's Leader."
- The Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2024 was awarded for exceptional service in the field of Disaster Management. The Institutional Category winner is the 60 Parachute Field Hospital in Uttar Pradesh.
- Shashi Tharoor was honored with France's Highest Civilian Honour, "Chevalier de La Legion d'Honneur".
- Renowned Urdu Poet, Gulzar, and Sanskrit scholar, Jagadguru Rambhadracharya have been conferred with the 58th Jnanpith Award.
- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has made significant changes to the National film Awards:
  - The Indira Gandhi Award will now be known as the Best Debut Film of a Director award.
  - The Nargis Dutt Award will now be known as Best Feature Film promoting National, Social, and Environmental Values.
- P.T. Usha was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award, which was presented by the Sports Journalists Federation of India and Delhi Sports Journalists Association.

#### **Bharat Ratna awards in 2024**

Recipient	Field
Karpoori Thakur	Politician (Former Chief Minister of Bihar)
Lal Krishna Advani	Politician (Former Deputy Prime Minister)



P. V. Narasimha Rao	Politician (Former Prime Minister)
Chaudhary Charan Singh	Politician (Former Prime Minister)
M. S. Swaminathan	Agricultural Scientist

- King Charles III of United Kingdom awarded Sunil Bharti Mittal, Founder and Chairman of Bharti Enterprises with Honorary Knighthood Award.
- India has been honored with the esteemed Measles and Rubella Champion Award for its exceptional efforts in combating these infectious diseases. It was presented by The Measles and Rubella partnership at the American Red Cross (Washington DC).
- Winner of Erasmus Prize 2024 - Amitav Ghosh
- The K K Birla Foundation has selected noted poet and litterateur Prabha Varma for the 33rd Saraswati Samman for 2023 for his Malayalam novel Roudra Sathwikam.
- PM Modi Honoured with Bhutan's 'Order of the Druk Gyalpo' Award o PM Modi is the first non-Bhutanese to receive the 'Order of the Druk Gyalpo'
- Japanese architect Riken Yamamoto was recently declared as the winner of the 2024 Pritzker Architecture Prize
- A French mathematician, Michel Talagrand was awarded the Abel Prize.
- The 96th Academy Awards ceremony, which was presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), took place at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles. Christopher Nolan's "Oppenheimer" bagged seven awards.
- REC Limited won the SKOCH ESG Award 2024 for 'Renewable Energy Financing'. REC (formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited) is a 'Maharatna' Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power, and is registered with the RBI.
- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)'s Chandrayaan-3 mission team has been awarded the 2024 John L. "Jack" Swigert, Jr. Award for Space Exploration by the US-based Space Foundation.
- Kannada Poet Mamta G Sagar won the World Literary Prize from the World Organization of Writers at a ceremony in Abuja, Nigeria.
- Amitabh Bachchan will receive the Deenanath Mangeshkar Award.
- Mr. Ratan Tata was awarded the Humanitarian Award 2021 by the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences.
- "Night Watch" by Jayne Anne Phillips (Knopf) has been awarded the 2024 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction
- The Palestinian journalists Niloofar Hamedi, Elaheh Mohammadi, and Narges Mohammadi covering Gaza have been chosen to be awarded the 2023 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize.
- Kannada Poet Mamta Mamta G Sagar was awarded the World Literary Prize.



**Nobel Prize -2023**

<b>Nobel Prize Category</b>	<b>Winners</b>	<b>Achievements</b>
Physiology or Medicine	Katalin Karikó and Drew Weissman	For their pioneering work on mRNA vaccines
Physics	Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz and Anne L'Huillier	For experimental methods that generate attosecond pulses of light for the study of electron dynamics in matter
Chemistry	Moungi G. Bawendi, Louis E. Brus and Alexei I. Ekimov	For the discovery and synthesis of quantum dots
Literature	Jon Fosse	For his innovative plays and prose which give voice to the unsayable
Peace	Narges Mohammadi	For her fight against the oppression of women in Iran and her fight to promote human rights and freedom for all
The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences	Claudia Goldin	for having advanced our understanding of women's labour market outcomes

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**EXERCISES AND DEFENSE**

- 21st Edition of Varuna 2023: Bilateral naval Exercise between India and France on Western seaboard
- 75th Army Day Parade 2023: Held outside New Delhi for the first time in Bengaluru

- Exercise Cyclone I: Bilateral Military Exercise between India and Egypt in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
- "Soul of Steel" Alpine Challenge: Launched by Ministry of Defense, Rajnath Singh to promote tourism in border areas
- Joint venture of production of Kalashnikov AK-203 rifles: Started between India and Russia
- CARAT (Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training) or MAREX 2023: Joint military exercise between Sri Lanka and United States in Indo-Pacific
- Commissioning of 5th Scorpene class submarine Vagir: Indian Navy set to commission it, built in collaboration with French Naval Group
- Indian Coast Guard ship "Kamala Devi's Fast Patrol Vessel": Commissioned at Kolkata, West Bengal, designed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers
- 1st edition of Veer Guardian 2023: Joint Air force exercise between India and Japan held at Hyakuri Air base, Japan
- "Ops Alert" exercise by Border Security Force (BSF): Started to enhance security along Indo-Pakistan border, Kutch, Gujarat
- Exercise Pralay: Conducted by Indian Air Force as a massive military exercise near Line of Actual Control
- AMPHEX 2023: Mega Military Exercise conducted by Indian Navy in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh, involving Indian Army, Indian Air Force
- TROPHEX 2023: Biennial Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise in Indian Ocean Region, also known as the biggest war game of Indian Navy
- Tarkash 2023: Counter-terrorism exercise between India's National Security Guard and US Special Operations Force scheduled at Chennai
- "Operation Janjagaran" launched by Railway Protection Force: Awareness campaign against stone pelting on trains, drugging, human trafficking, and crimes against women passengers
- MAARG Portal launched by Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal: For startup mentorship (Mentorship, Advisory, Assistance, Resilience, and Growth)
- Ministry of Defense procurement of 100 more K9-Vajra Howitzers: Built by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) using technology transferred from South Korean defense major Hanwha Defense
- DRDO tested Prithvi II: At Integrated Test Range, Balasore, Odisha to test missile's night time capabilities
  - Prithvi II: Single-stage liquid-fueled missile with warhead mounting capability of 500 kg-1000kg, indigenously developed Surface-to-Surface Missile Short-Range Ballistic Missile (SRBM) with a range of around 350km and capable of carrying a one-ton payload



- Indian Coast Guard (ICG) ship "Kamla Devi": 5th and last Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) designed, built, and delivered by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd, commissioned in Kolkata, West Bengal
- Agreement between DRDO and France Naval Group: To safely integrate Indigenous system in Kalvari class-submarine equipped with fuel cell-based Air Independent Propulsion system
- 6 Scorpene submarines manufactured by Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders Limited under project 75 with technology transfer from Naval Group France:
  - INS Kalvari
  - INS Khanderi
  - INS Karanj
  - INS Vela
  - INS Vagir
  - INS Vagsheer
- 4th edition of Exercise Dharma Guardian – Joint military Training between India and Japan held at Imazu, Shiga Province, Japan
- Indian Army organized Sainya Rana Kshetram 2.0 – A Cyber threat seminar cum workshop
- Exercise Topchi 2023 – An annual firepower demonstration and training Exercise of Indian Army at Devlali Field firing ranges, Maharashtra
- Trishakti Prahar – A Joint Training Exercise of Indian Army, Indian Air Force, and Central Armed Police Force held in North Bengal
- Indian Army and Advanced Data Processing Research Institute (ADRIN) sign to co-develop Niche technology
- 4th Edition of Dharma Guardian – Bilateral Army Exercise between India and Japan commenced in Japan
- Indian Navy launched India's first MCA Barge (Missile cum Ammunition) from Vishakapatnam, Andhra Pradesh:
  - They have a lifespan of 30 years
- Operation Sadbhavana – Launched by Indian Army for development of Ladakh
- India and Russia joint venture begins manufacturing AK-203 Assault rifles in Uttar Pradesh
- PM shares Aerial coverage and Air display of Indigenously developed Medium Altitude Long Endurance TAPAS-BH used for surveillance
- Indian Army gets "World's first" fully operational SWARM Drone system – capable of hitting targets 50 km away
- 1st Edition of FRINJEX 2023 – Joint military exercise between Indian and French Army conducted at Pangode Military Station, Kerala:

- Theme for the exercise is “Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Operations in a Congested Environment”
- Konkan – Annual bilateral maritime exercise between Indian Navy and UK Navy in the Arabian Sea
- COBRA Warrior – Airforce exercise conducted at Waddington Air Force, UK (India, Finland, Saudi Arabia participated)
- 13th Edition of BOLD KURUSHETRA – Bilateral army training Exercise between India and Singapore at Jodhpur Military station, Rajasthan
- Exercise Dustlik IV – Bilateral Joint military exercise between India and Uzbekistan at Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand
- 3rd Edition of Exercise La Perouse 2023 – multilateral naval exercise of Japan, Australia, USA, UK, France in the Indian Ocean Region. It is conducted every 2 years
- 2nd Edition of AFINDEX 2023 – Field training exercise between India and 23 African Nations at Aundh, Pune, Maharashtra
- TROPEX 2032 (Theatre level Operational Readiness Exercise) – Conducted in the Indian Ocean region, Arabian Sea by Indian Navy every 2 years
- International Maritime Exercise or Cutlass Exercise 2023 – Held in the Gulf region
- Exercise Chetak Chaukas – Conducted by Chetak Corps of Indian Army to strengthen security
- Sea Dragon Exercise – Indian Navy and US Navy participated in Guam, USA
- Nari Shakti – All Women Car expedition of Indian Navy for 12 days from Delhi to Longewala War Memorial, Rajasthan
- Al-Mohed Al Hindi 2021 – First-ever Naval Exercise between India and Saudi Arabia in Jubail, Saudi Arabia
- Defence Industrial Corridor set up recently in Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh:
  - Announced in 2018-19 Budget
  - Uttar Pradesh – Connects Aligarh, Agra, Jhansi, Chitrakoot, and Lucknow
  - Tamil Nadu – Connects Chennai, Hosur, Coimbatore, Salem, and Tiruchirappalli
- Prasthan Exercise – Conducted by Indian Navy in Mumbai
- Exercise Kavach – Mega joint Military Exercise concluded in Andaman and Nicobar Command, participated by Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard soldiers
- 10th annual Edition of SLINEX 2023 Exercise – Bilateral Maritime exercise commenced between India and Sri Lanka in Colombo, Sri Lanka:
  - Indian Navy is represented by INS Khilton and INS Savitri
- AMOGHA – 3 is indigenously developed by Bharat Dynamics Limited under Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IDMP). It has fire and Forget capability and has a range of 200-2500m.
- Exercise Cope India 2023 – Joint Exercise between Indian Air Force and United States Air Force at Kalaikunda Air Base, West Bengal



- Indian Rafale set to participate in French Military Exercise with NATO Alliance
- President Draupadi Murmu took a 30 min flight from Tezpur Air Force station in Assam in Sukhoi 30 MKI Fighter jet
- Indian Army and Tezpur University sign MoU on Chinese Language training for army personnel
- Operation Kaveri initiated by Central Government to evacuate Indians from Sudan
- Operation Karuna – To Assist Myanmar, which was devastated by cyclone mocha
- Indian Air Force receives the first batch of indigenous VTOL Loitering Munition
- BRO organizes a Multi-modal expedition “Ekta Evam Shradhanjali Abhiyaan” as part of 64th BRO celebrations
- INIOCHOS 2023 – Multinational Air exercise held in Greece
- Exercise Agni Daman 2023 – Held at Pune and participated by Civil and Military Agencies
- Exercise Buland 2023 – Integrated training exercise by Indian Army in Arunachal Pradesh
- MQ-9B drones imported to India from the United States of America
- Tarang Shakti – Largest Multilateral air Exercise conducted by Indian Air Force between 12 Nations
- India gifts active warship, INS Kirpan, which reached Vietnam from Vishakapatnam
- 1st Edition of Maritime Partnership Exercise between India, UAE, and France concluded in the Gulf of Oman
- Ministry of Defence states that India’s backbone and indigenously developed Fighter Jet – Tejas will be the backbone of IAF. Tejas Mark-1A will be supplied to Airforce
- Ministry of Defence signed a contract with Mazagaon Dock Shipyards Limited for INS Shankush
- 7th edition of JIMEX Exercise – Japan and India bilateral Maritime Exercise conducted at Vishakapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- 7th Edition of SALVEX Exercise conducted by Indian Navy and US Navy at Kochi (It is a Salvage and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Exercise)
- Operation Broader Sword – India and US agencies to prevent the illegal shipment of drugs
- 2-day Sagar Kavach Exercise held in Maritime waters along Andhra Pradesh for comprehensive coastal security
- 7th Edition of Ajeya Warrior 2023 – Bilateral training exercise between India and UK.
- North Korea carried out a test of Intercontinental Ballistic Missile, Hasang-18, to warn USA and South Korea
- The Defense Acquisition Council (DAC) approved the purchase of 26 Rafale-M jets and three Scorpion-class submarines from France for the Navy
- INS Sunayana participated in Operation Southern Readiness – 2023 @ Seychelles (Combined maritime force)

- Nomadic Elephant 2023 – India and Mongolia joint military exercise held at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
- Exercise Talisman Sabre 2023 – Australia's biggest bilateral wargames with the US
- Indian Air Force receives Israeli Spike Missiles (NLOS) – Non line of Sight
- Ocean Shield 2023 – Russia's Baltic sea military exercise
- Falcon Shield Exercise – Joint Air Force Exercise between China and UAE hosted in China
- Exercise Yudh Abhyas – Alaska, USA
- US Govt has granted approval for Israel to sell its "David's Sling" Anti-Missile System to Finland
- AG-365S Drone of Marut Drones company became the first DGCA-certified drone for dual usage – For agriculture and drone pilot training
- Green Robotics of Hyderabad unveils India's first and the world's only AI-Powered Anti-drone system – Indrajaal
- Border Roads Organisation is ready to construct the world's highest fighter airfield at Nyoma, Ladakh
- India's first C-295 aircraft has been landed at Vadodara Air Force station, Gujarat. A total of 56 aircraft are to be inducted. Airbus will deliver the first 16 aircraft from Seville, Spain, and subsequent 40 aircraft will be manufactured by Tata Advanced Systems Limited
- IIT-Roorkee has developed "Kamikaze or Parush" 'Nano Drones' which can not only secretly sense the movement of terrorists but also kill them by dropping bombs.
- Bharat Drone Shakti 2023 – Jointly organized by the Indian Air Force and Drone Federation of India at Hindan Air Base, Uttar Pradesh
- Exercise Trishul – Annual mega training exercise of Western Air Command of Indian Air Force from Leh, Kashmir to Nal, Rajasthan
- GE Aerospace enters into a pact with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited to jointly produce fighter jet engines for Indian Air Force's LCA-MKII Tejas
- Exercise Bright Star 2023 – Multilateral tri-services military exercise with participation from 34 countries. Indian Navy's INS Sumedha arrived at Port Alexandria, Egypt
- Bharat Electronics Limited signs MoU with Israel Aerospace Industries to enhance cooperation in addressing India's requirements in the domain of short-Range Air Defense systems
- Goa Shipyard Limited and Kenya Shipyard Limited signed MoU for collaboration in ship design and building
- 21st Edition of Varuna 2023 – Bilateral Naval exercise held between India and France in the Arabian Sea
- Indian Navy and Sri Lanka Navy participate in maritime partnership exercise, PASSEX in Colombo, Sri Lanka
- Steadfast Defender – Largest Military exercise of NATO



- India is all set for the acquisition of MQ-9B Predator Drones from the United States of America
- Hero Kim Kun OK – North Korea's first tactical nuclear-armed submarine
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) tested the efficacy and foolproof functioning of the Military Combat Parachute System, which is indigenously designed and developed by Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE)
- Indian Coast Guard participates in the 19th Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting held in Istanbul, Turkey
- Indian Navy signs a MoU with Uber, the American ride-hailing service, to provide reliable, convenient, safe, and economic mobility solutions for personal travel for Naval personnel and their families
- Indian army recently inducted 600 self-neutralizing anti-tank mines known as Vaibhav to provide mobility kill against all enemy armored vehicles. These are indigenously developed by Kalyani Group of Indian army in collaboration with DRDO
- Indian Navy is ready to host the 2nd Edition of the Naval Innovation and Indigenization Seminar, Swavlamban 2023 in Delhi
- 19th Edition of Yudh Abhyas – Annual Exercise between Indian Army and US Army set to commence at Alaska, USA
- 30th edition of SIMBEX 2023 – A joint naval combat exercise between India and Singapore in the southern parts of the South China Sea off the coast of Singapore.
- Indian Army participates in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) Plus Expert Working Group (EWG) on Counter Terrorism Field Training Exercise (FTX)2023 in Primorsky Region of Russia.
- INS Sahyadri Participates in 1st India-Indonesia-Australia Trilateral Maritime Exercise in Indo-Pacific
- Third Missile cum Ammunition (MCA) – Barge designated yard 77 was launched at Guttenadeevi, East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh
- Taiwan launches its 1st Domestically Made Submarine – Hai Kun or Narwhal
- 13th Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference to be held in New Delhi. It is co-hosted by Indian army and US Army
- BAE Systems and L&T aim to introduce the world-leading Articulated All-Terrain Vehicle (AATV), known as the 'BvS10.' to the Indian armed forces
- 6th National security strategies conference 2023 was held in Delhi
- Indian Air Force set to induct ASTRA MK II (Beyond Visual Range Air to Air Missile) developed by Bharat Dynamics Limited, DRDO
- SAMPRITI Exercise XI – Bilateral military exercise between India and Bangladesh held at Umroi, Meghalaya
- Chakravat 2023 – Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance Disaster relief Exercise conducted by the Indian Navy at Goa

- Operation Ajay – Safe Evacuation operation by the Govt of India to bring Indians from Israel
- Sagar Kavach – conducted by Forest Department, Indian Navy, Coast Guard, Fisheries, Customs, Intelligence, Lighthouses, Ports, and so on for coastal security in Coastal regions
- LCA Tejas (LCA Tejas) Mark 1 light combat aircraft, developed domestically in India, will be equipped with the latest indigenous equipment – Uttam and Angad.
- India to import 31 MQ-9B predator drones worth 3072 million from the USA (15 for Navy and 8 each for Air force and Army)
- Chanakya Defence Dialogue - Indian Army is launching the Inaugural Edition of this flagship National Defence Dialogue in the first week of November 2023 at Delhi. A unique forum where experts, academia, intelligentsia, and representatives from around the globe will ideate on global and regional security issues
- The third stealth destroyer of Project 15B Class Guided Missile Destroyer 'IMPHAL' was handed over to the Indian Navy by The Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited in Mumbai. It is the largest destroyer constructed in India
- Milan 2024 (Mid-Planning Conference for Multilateral Naval Exercise) – Multilateral naval exercise to be hosted at Vishakapatnam
- 5th Corpat and 4th Bongo Sagar 23 – Bilateral naval exercises between India and Bangladesh were held in the Northern Bay of Bengal
- Hindustan Aeronautics incorporated a joint venture with France's Safran for Multi-role Helicopter Engines
- Indian Army is set to induct Hermes 900 star liner drone, a multi-role, medium altitude long endurance unmanned aircraft system from Israel based Defence company, Elbit system to boost surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities:
  - It is capable of carrying a max payload of 450 kg attaining an altitude of 30000 ft and can fly continuously up to 36 hours
- Flying Wedge is the first company to secure DCGA Certification for an Unmanned Aircraft system called "FWDA10"
- NATPOLREX-IX (National Level Pollution Response Exercise) – It is conducted by the Indian Coast Guard off Vadinar Coast, Gujarat for assessing Marine Oil Spill Readiness
- 17th Surya Kiran Exercise XVII – Bilateral Military Exercise between India and Nepal at Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand
- 2nd Austrahind 2023 – Joint military Exercise between India and Australia at Perth, Australia
- 14th edition of Vajraprahar 2023 – Joint Special Forces Exercises of India and USA was held at Umroi, Meghalaya
- 1st INDUS-X Investors (1st India-US Defence Acceleration Ecosystem) was held in Delhi which was organized by Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) and US dept of defense:

- During the meet, Indus-X Educational series, Gurukul Initiative was launched
- 9th edition of Mitra Shakti 2023 – Joint Military Exercise between India and Sri Lanka commenced in Pune, Maharashtra
- Indian Navy launched Amini, the 4th in a series of 8 Anti-submarine warfare shallow water crafts in Chennai, Tamil Nadu
  - Others – INS Arnala, INS Androth, INS Anjadip
  - Built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited
- DRDO and Indian Navy conducted the 2nd Flight test of indigenously designed and developed Guided “NASM-SR” (Naval Anti-Ship Missile-Short Range) from Sea King Helicopter
  - Naval Anti-ship Missile – Short Range:
    - A helicopter-fired missile capable of destroying small boats or offshore patrol vessels with a max range of 55 km and 0.8 Mach speed
    - First indigenous air-launched anti-ship Missile system developed for the Indian Navy and India’s version of Harpoon Anti-Ship Missile
- Indian Navy launched 4th MCA (Missile cum Ammunition) Barge, LSAM 10 (Yard 78), the 4th vessel at M/S SEPPL in East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh
- Swedish Firm Saab AB becomes India’s first foreign company to get Government of India’s approval for 100% FDI in the defense sector
- Gujarat CM unveils Crest of Indian Navy Warship “Surat” – Indigenous under-construction guided missile destroyer of Project 15Bravo in Surat, Gujarat
- Spear Corps test fires New Generation rocket and Turret Ammunition from Rudra:
  - Rudra is the first indigenous Attack Helicopter
  - Rudra is a weaponized version of the Dhruv Helicopter developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- Prachand (Light Combat Helicopter) – Is fitted with Shakti Engine which is co-developed by HAL and France’s Safran
- Poorvi Akash – conducted its annual command-level exercise by Eastern Air Command
- KAZIND 2023 – Joint exercise between Indian Army, Indian Air Force, Kazakhstan at Otar, Kazakhstan:
  - Dokhra regiment of the Indian Army participated in the exercise
- India’s DRDO is all set to develop its own Iron-dome called “LR-SAM” (Long Range Surface to Air Missile) under Project Kusha by 2028-29
  - It has a range up to 350 km
- Russia has signed a contract to supply and produce hand-held anti-aircraft missile Igla-S Man-Portable Air Defence System (MANPADS) to India
- Union Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh inaugurated 40th Indian Coast Guard (ICG) commander’s Conference in Delhi

- Cochin Shipyard Limited launched the first 3 ships of the 8 Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts project, namely INS Mahe, INS Malvan, INS Mangrol
- Indian Navy received the first of four survey vessel ships, Sandhyak (Hydrographic Survey Vessel) built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders (Kolkata)
- Operation Trinetra II – launched by Security forces to neutralise hiding terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir
- Solar Industries India Limited bagged an order to supply 400 Nagastra-1 drones to the Indian Army
  - Nagastra-1 was designed and developed by Economic Explosives Limited
- Exercise Astrashakti 2023 – Indian Air Force showed abilities of Akash Weapon system and successfully test-fired Surface to Air Missile for Assured Retaliation (SAMAR) air Defence missile system at Air force station Suryalanka, Andhra Pradesh
  - Akash Weapon system – Short Range surface to Air Missile Air Defence system
- The 1st Edition of Exercise Desert Cyclone 2024, a joint military exercise between India and the UAE, was held in Mahajan, Rajasthan.
- The Indian Air Force executed its first successful nighttime landing of a heavy US-Origin C-130J aircraft at Kargil airport in the strategically located Ladakh region.
- C-130J Super Hercules Jets are used by the Indian Air Force for special operations, enabling quick mobility of troops or humanitarian supplies in harsh terrains.
- DRDO launched the indigenous assault rifle "Ugram," developed with Armament Research and Development Establishment and Hyderabad-based Divpa Armour India Private Limited.
- The United States launched Operation Prosperity Guardian to maintain security in the Red Sea.
- The Indian Navy unveiled the Drishti 10 Starliner, India's first indigenously manufactured Medium Altitude Long Endurance UAV with a 450 kg payload capacity, compatible with NATO's STANAG 4671 specifications.
- Exercise Sea Dragon is a multinational maritime exercise hosted in Guam, involving navies from the USA, Australia, South Korea, Japan, and Canada, with the Indian Navy's P-8i aircraft participating.
- The Indian Army developed SAMBHAV (Secure Army Mobile Bharat Version), an end-to-end secure mobile ecosystem providing instant communication.
- Operation Sarva Shakti was launched by the Indian Army to thwart Pakistan's plan to promote terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir (especially in Pir Panjal Range).
- The 11th Edition of Exercise KHANJAR, a joint special forces exercise between India and Kyrgyzstan, took place at a special forces training school in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.
- The 2nd Edition of Exercise Cyclone, a joint Special Force Exercise between India and Egypt, was held.





- The Ministry of State for Defence recently flagged off the ASTRA Missiles at Bharat Dynamics in Hyderabad.
- ASTRA Missile:
  - It is a beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile designed for mounting on fighter aircraft.
  - Indigenously developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Limited for the Indian Air Force.
- Desert Knight is a joint Air Exercise involving India, France, and the UAE over the Arabian Sea.
- The Indian Navy and Royal Thai Navy (RTN) conducted the maiden bilateral exercise named "Ex-Ayutthaya" and the 36th edition of the India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT).
  - The exercise "Ex-Ayutthaya" is named after the historical Thai city, translating to "The Invincible One" or "Undefeatable," symbolizing the significance of the ancient cities Ayodhya in India and Ayutthaya in Thailand.
- 12th Edition of MILAN 2024 – A flagship naval exercise hosted by the Indian Navy in Visakhapatnam with the theme "Camaraderie Cohesion Collaboration."
- Indian Air Force is set to conduct Vayu Shakti 2024 at Pokhran Air Ground Range near Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- SADA TANSEEQ – A bilateral military exercise between India and Saudi Arabia at Mahajan Ranges, Rajasthan.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight-tested Abhyas, a high-speed expendable aerial target (HEAT), from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, Odisha.
- Khanjar Exercise – A joint special forces exercise between India and Kyrgyzstan, beginning in Bakloh.
- The Indian Navy commissioned its latest survey vessel, INS Sandhayak, at Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam.
  - INS Sandhayak is the first in a series of four Survey Vessel (Large) ships being built at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) in Kolkata.
- Exercise Dharma Guardian – A bilateral naval exercise between India and Japan at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan.
- Indian and Sri Lankan coast guard ships reached the Maldives recently to take part in the trilateral coast guard exercise Dosti's 16th edition.
- Recently, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) handed over SAMAR assessment certificates to nine Industry Partners. System for Advance Manufacturing Assessment and Rating (SAMAR) certificate is a benchmark to measure the competency of defence manufacturing enterprises

- Adani Group has inaugurated South Asia's largest ammunition and missile complex in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh spanning 500 acres.
- Samudra Lakshamana 2024 - Bilateral maritime exercise between India and Malaysia was recently conducted off the coast of Visakhapatnam
- Indian Navy participated in 2nd edition of India-Mozambique-Tanzania (IMT Trilat-2024), a joint maritime exercise which was held in Tanzania.
- Operation Sankalp - An Operation by Indian Navy in Arabian sea and Indian Ocean Region to protect merchant vessels, ensure maritime security against piracy, drone attacks, threats from non-state actors including Houthi rebels.
- Union Minister for Defence inaugurated 'Nausena Bhawan', the first Headquarter building of the Indian Navy, in New Delhi.
- Recently, the Prime Minister of India announced successful maiden flight test of Agni-5 missile with MIRV technology, code-named Mission Divyastra, boosting India's defence capability.
- The three forces of India - Army, Navy, and Air Force – participated in 'Bharat-Shakti' at Asia's largest field firing range located in Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan
- Tiger Triumph 2024 exercise held between Indian and US Navy at India's eastern seaboard (Visakhapatnam)
- Indian Navy launched Agray and Akshay as 5th and 6th ship of Anti-Submarine warfare (ASW) Shallow water craft Project
- The New Generation Ballistic Missile Agni-Prime was successfully flight-tested by Strategic Forces Command along with Defence Research and Development Organization from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.
- The Indian Army has commenced induction of indigenous Automated air defense control and reporting systems under 'Project Akashteer', making a significant advancement in its air defense capabilities.
- Parivartan Chintan, a Tri-Service Conference, was held in New Delhi. It is the first-ever conference of the Heads of all Tri-Services Institutions.
- Israel's successful interception of drones and missiles launched by Iran has been officially named operation "Iron Shield".
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is reported to be testing a prototype of its DURGA-2 (Directionally Unrestricted Ray Gun Array) system.
- Sweden became the 38th country to join the Artemis Accords.
- Gagan Shakti Exercise is a 10-day exercise conducted by the Indian Air Force at Pokhran Field firing range, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- AgniKul Cosmos, an IIT Madras incubated space start-up based in Chennai, became the first company in the country to sign an agreement with ISRO under the IN-SPACe.



- “Sagar Kavach 1/24” - A 2-day coastal security exercise was conducted off the Lakshadweep Islands to validate the effectiveness of the coastal security mechanism in dealing with asymmetric threats emanating from the sea.



### SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

#### Chandrayaan-3

- Chandrayaan-3 was launched on the moon's south pole for the first time, making India the fourth country to land on the moon.
- Chandrayaan-3 Highlights:
  - Launch Vehicle – GSLV – MK III or LVM3-M4
  - Components: Propulsion Module, Rover, Lander
  - Mission Life – 14 Earth days or 1 Lunar daylight
  - Mass – 3900 Kg
  - C25 Cryogenic engine is used
  - Instruments sent in Chandrayaan-3:
    - Lander Payloads – RAMBHA – LP (Langmuir Probe), ChaSTE (Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment), ILSA (Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity)
    - Rover Payloads – APXS (Alpha particle X-Ray Spectrometer), LIBS (Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscope)
    - Propulsion Module payload - SHAPE (Spectro-polarimetry of Habitable Planet Earth)

#### Important Dates of Chandrayaan-3:

Date	Event
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July 14	LVM3 M4 Vehicle successfully launched Chandrayaan-3
Aug 5	Successfully inserted into lunar orbit
Aug 23	Successfully soft-landed on the moon
Aug 24	Rover ramped down from the lander
Aug 28	LIBS confirms presence of Sulphur on the Lunar surface
Aug 30	APXS on-board rover detects presence of minor elements
Aug 31	RAMBHA-LP on-board Chandrayaan-3 measures near-surface plasma content
Sep 4	Lander and rover are in sleep mode

- Aug 23 is celebrated as National Space Day.
- Spot where lander landed on the moon – Shivashakti point
- Chandrayaan-2 touched down will be called – Tiranga point
- India's space industry is expected to grow to 16 billion dollars from 8 billion dollars.
- **Important persons involved in Chandrayaan-3:**
  - Chairman – S Somanath
  - Project Director – Veeramuthuvel P
  - Mission Director – Mohana Kumar
  - VSSC chairman – Unnikrishnan Nair S
  - Launch Authorisation Board chief – Rajarajan A
  - U R Rao satellite centre director – Sankaran M
  - Space Applications centre, Ahmedabad – Nilesh M Desai
  - Deputy Project Director of Chandrayaan-3 – K Kalpana
  - Scientist and Operations Specialist of ISRO – Nandini Harinath
  - Scientist and project director of ISRO – Anuradha T
  - Senior scientist of Chandrayaan-3 – Ritu Karidhal Srivastava

**Gaganyaan Mission:**

- First Launch – Unmanned
- Second Launch – Vyommitra robot will be there as a humanoid robot
- Third Launch – 3 Gaganauts or Vyomanauts will be sent to 400 Km Low Earth orbit for a 3 day mission and bring them back safely to Earth
- LVM-III is the launch vehicle of ISRO to be used for Gaganyaan Mission

**Aditya-L1**





- Aditya-L1 is India's first mission to study the sun.
- The 7 payloads of Aditya-L1 are:
  - Visible Emission Line Coronagraph
  - Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope
  - Solar Low Energy X-Ray Spectrometer
  - High Energy L1 Orbiting X-Ray Spectrometer
  - Aditya Solar Wind Particle Experiment
  - Plasma Analyzer Package for Aditya
  - Advanced Tri-axial High-resolution Digital Magnetometers

### Some notable Affairs

- World's biggest experimental Nuclear Fusion Reactor JT-60SA (Japan Torus-60 Super Advanced) inaugurated in Japan
- World's first Agri-focused satellite, AgriSAT-1/ZA 008, is launched by South Africa
- Startup firm IG Drones develops India's first 5G-enabled drone, Skyhawk startup
- European Union established its first mainland satellite launch port, "Espaceport"
- Bharat Biotech developed the world's first Intranasal Covid-19 Vaccine, Incovacc
- Cervavac, an Indigenous Human Papillomavirus vaccine, has been prepared to protect women from cervical cancer. It has been developed by the Serum Institute of India
- IIT Madras develops BharOS – India's indigenous Mobile Operating system
- IIT Kanpur invented a rapid soil-testing device – Bhu Parikshak that detects soil in 90 seconds
- IIT Guwahati develops warehouse drones, Reaper drones, Ornithopter drones
- IIT Guwahati develops an enzyme that makes bioethanol from wood waste
- World Health Organization warns against the use of 2 Indian Cough Syrups – Ambronol syrup and DOK-1 Max Syrup of Indian company – Marian Biotech Company over the death of children in Uzbekistan
- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare stated that India is committed to eliminating Lymphatic Filariasis by 2047
- Scientists from South Korea have developed a new water purification system that can effectively remove microplastics from water in just 10 seconds
- 108th Indian Science Congress was held in Nagpur, Maharashtra, with the theme for 2023 being "Science and Technology for Sustainable Development with Women Empowerment"
- European Union is ready to launch the JUICE Spacecraft to study three major moons of Jupiter – Ganymede, Europa, Callisto
- India is all set to eradicate Measles and Rubella by 2023
- ISRO and Microsoft join hands to empower space-tech startups in India

- BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) launches a portal for mapping of industrial units and laboratories, also establishing 4000 standard clubs across India with a target to create 10000 clubs by the end of 2022-23. BIS also launched SNAP (Standards National Action Plan) 2022-27
- DRDO develops Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) for Operations in Himalayan Frontier, capable of flying with 5 to 25 kg payload and used to drop bombs on enemy territories
- Lumpy Skin disease, caused to cattle, is a viral disease caused by capripox Virus. Lumpi Pro Vacc, an indigenous Homologous live-attenuated vaccine, developed by National Research Centre on Equines (ICAR-NRCE), Hisar (Haryana), in collaboration with ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Izatnagar (Uttar Pradesh). First case reported in Odisha
- IN-SPACe (Ahmedabad, Gujarat) signs MoU with Nascent Info Technologies for GIS Applications
- OneWeb launches 40 satellites into Low Earth Orbit from SpaceX's Florida Space center using GSLV-MKIII launch vehicle by NSIL (New space India Limited)
- CMPDIL (Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited) invests in new Dust Control Technology
- Garuda Aerospace unveiled India's first-ever carbon-neutral drone at the World Economic Forum 2023
- American India Foundation inaugurated India's first STEM Innovation and Learning center in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, which includes Drona and Satellite Launch Vehicle Mission
- Geotail Spacecraft, the first joint mission of NASA and JAXA, retires after a data recorder failure
- Virgin Orbit's modified Boeing 747, dubbed Cosmic Girl, experienced the UK's first-ever rocket mission failure.
- Eminent Air Private Limited, a drone startup, showcased India's first-ever one-of-its-kind Drone with Parachute Integrated system.
  - The drone has a maximum takeoff weight of 35 kg and can travel more than 60 km in 60 minutes.
- Defense Research Development Organization (DRDO) developed the Unfurlable Reflector Antenna for Space Radar.
- Azad Engineering, based in Hyderabad, became India's first supplier of parts for nuclear turbines.
- NASA and IBM collaborate to develop AI-based models to spur new Earth discoveries.
- Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd introduces Vihangam drone portal to access real-time drone video from mines.



- JUPITER (Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer Mission) to be launched by the European Space Agency on Ariane 5 Launch Vehicle to explore Jupiter and its three largest natural satellites – Ganymede, Callisto, and Europa.
  - Number of moons in Jupiter: 79 (highest).
- Sky Air, a drone solutions provider, launched India's first traffic management system for drones, called Skye UTM.
- Garuda Aerospace unveils its solar-powered drone, Suraj.
- North India's first nuclear plant to be set up in Gorakhpur, Haryana.
- Bard AI, similar to OpenAI's ChatGPT, developed by Google.
- World's first vaccine for honeybees from a devastating bacterial disease, American Foulbrood, was approved for use by the United States.
- Indiaai – National Artificial Intelligence portal of India launched in 2020, a joint initiative of MeITY, National e-Governance Division, and NASSCOM.
- Hubble captures the start of a new spoke season of Saturn – NASA.
- India gets its first CHATGPT-powered AI chatbot, Lex.
- Snap-dragon satellite – World's first satellite-based, two-way capable messaging solution for smartphones developed by Qualcomm in partnership with Iridium Inc.
- Hyderabad's Svaya Robotics has developed India's first quadrupedal robot for the defense sector.
- The drug Ozempic is in the news recently, primarily used for Type-2 Diabetes treatment.
- An advanced dark sky observatory was inaugurated at IIT Hyderabad.
- Erythritol, a zero-calorie sweetener, has been flagged by WHO for potentially causing cancer.
- Amit Kshatriya, an Indian-origin individual, is appointed to lead NASA's Moon to Mars Program.
- IIT Hyderabad and Simpliforage have built India's first 3D Printed Bridge Prototype.
- Norway-led Norled put the world's first liquid-hydrogen-powered ferry (MF Hydra) into operation.
- The government approved the Construction of LIGO-India Project (Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory) at Hingoli, Maharashtra, built by the Department of Atomic Energy and the Department of Science and Technology in collaboration with the US National Science Foundation.
- Skyroot Aerospace successfully test-fired the 3D printed Cryogenic Engine (Dhawan II).
- ISRO accomplished the Reusable Launch Vehicle Autonomous Landing Mission (RLV LEX) at the Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) in Chitradurga, Karnataka.
- IISC has designed a novel, ultra-micro supercapacitor capable of storing an enormous amount of electric charge.
- India's first cloned Desi Gir Female, named Calf Ganga, is developed by the National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal, Haryana.



- India became the first country in the world to develop its own model to estimate Tuberculosis cases, with a rate of 196/100000 instead of the 210/100000 estimated by the World Health Organization.
- The University of Central Florida created the world's lightest paint, called Plasmonic Paint, which uses a nano-scale structural arrangement of colorless materials such as Aluminum and Aluminum Oxides.
- China recorded the world's first human death from H3N8 Bird Flu.
- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) signed an MoU with IIT Bombay to develop a robust Touchless Biometric Capture System for easier usage anytime and anywhere as part of the "National Centre of Excellence in Technology for Internal Security" Initiative.
- India's first indigenously developed 700 MWe (megawatt electric) Pressurized Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR), a nuclear power reactor, commenced its commercial operations at Kakrapar Site, Gujarat, under the Kakrapara Atomic Power Project (KAPP).
- WHO, based in Geneva, Switzerland, mentioned Aspartame, an artificial sweetener, as a carcinogenic agent in a recent survey.
- IIT Madras initiated a trendsetter project to study carbon capture technology and green ammonia production as part of decarbonization efforts.
- Researchers at IIT Bhilai and Shiva Nadar University developed "Smart Insulin" for enhanced diabetes treatment.
- Researchers at IIT Hyderabad found proof of the "humming of the Universe."
- The European Space Agency launched the Euclid Telescope to explore the Dark Universe.
- Researchers at IIT Kharagpur developed a tamper-proof signaling system based on blockchain technology to ensure the safety and efficiency of trains, also offering tools to check the alertness of locomotive pilots.
- Meta introduced Threads to compete with Twitter.
- IIT Kanpur developed suicide drones to search the enemy's location.
- IIT Guwahati developed Osteo HRNet, capable of detecting Knee Osteoarthritis from X-Ray images.
- The drug regulatory authority of India issued a warning regarding the cautious use of cough and cold remedies containing Pholcodine.
- Punjab Agricultural University developed a new wheat variety to help manage diabetes and obesity.
- Elon Musk revealed XAI to challenge Open AI.
- China launched the world's first methane-fueled space rocket, Zhuque-2.
- Jupiter-3, the world's largest private satellite, was developed by Maxar Technologies, USA.
- India's Deep Ocean Mission, an initiative of the Ministry of Earth Sciences, aims to develop technologies for deep-sea exploration. The mission includes projects like SAMUDRAYAAN and MATSYA 6000, which are designed to reach a depth of 6000m to the





ocean bed in the central Indian Ocean. MATSYA 6000 is a deep-ocean submersible designed to accommodate three members.

- IIT Kharagpur announced the launch of a dual-degree MBBS course in Btech-Mtech.
- IIT Kanpur unveiled Knuckleball 2.0.
- China is set to launch the Wide Field Survey Telescope, which is the largest time-domain survey facility in the Northern Hemisphere.
- Kakrapar Atomic Power Plant - 3 (KAPP-3) in Gujarat achieved its "first criticality," marking the country's first 700 MWe nuclear reactor. It is the biggest indigenously developed variant of the Pressurized Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR).
- Researchers at IIT Kharagpur developed a smartphone app that can administer injections for diabetes.
- Scientists at IIT Jodhpur developed CODE DEVICE for good indoor air quality.
- IIT Bombay created an AI model to diagnose malaria.
- The Botanical Survey of India obtained a patent for a bamboo-based reusable straw developed from the bamboo species Schizostachyum and amanicum found in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ISRO Chairman revealed that space tourism will commence in India by 2030.
- Kerala has reported strains of the Nipah virus.
- NASA's MOXIE (Mars Oxygen In-Situ Resource Utilization Experiment) successfully generated oxygen on Mars.
- Amazon Web Services (AWS) India Private Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) to support space-tech innovations through cloud computing.
- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is set to host its annual "One Week One Lab" programme.
- India successfully launches its first mission to the sun, Aditya L1, by PSLV into Low Earth Orbit. It contained 7 payloads, with the main tool being the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC). The other 6 payloads include:
  - Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope: Captures the photosphere and chromosphere regions of the Sun at ultraviolet wavelengths.
  - Solar Energy X-ray Spectrometer (Solexes) and High Energy L1 Orbiting X-ray Spectrometer (HEL1OS): Both instruments study x-ray emissions from the Sun.
  - Aditya Solar Wind Particle Experiment (Aspects) and Plasma Analyzer Package for Aditya (Papa): These devices explore solar winds, charged ions, and energy diffusion patterns.
  - Magnetometer: Observes extraterrestrial magnetic fields at the L1 point.
- Jitendra Singh launches an Artificial Intelligence-driven Grievance Monitoring system developed by IIT Kanpur.

- WHO approves the Malaria Vaccine "Mosquirix" developed by Oxford University and Serum Institute of India.
- R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccine, developed by the University of Oxford and the Serum Institute of India, leveraging Novavax's adjuvant technology, has been recommended for use by WHO.
- IIT Guwahati developed an instrument named Mobilab™, an indigenous point-of-care-testing (POCT) device expected to test 25 parameters in blood to diagnose early chronic diseases related to kidney, liver, heart, and pancreas malfunctions.
- IIT Bombay researchers developed Nanostructured hard-carbon florets that could efficiently convert sunlight into thermal energy.
- CDSCO approves India's first CAR-T cell therapy NEXCAR19 against certain blood cancers developed by IIT Bombay.
- IIT Madras patented a combined Power Generation Technology that can generate electricity from both Tidal and wind sources.
- IIT-Madras researchers discovered the sterilization of medical devices with steam.
- Scientists were tasked by Prime Minister Modi to devise a plan to launch an Indian astronaut to the moon by 2040 and construct an Indian space station by 2035.
- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) developed a birth control injection for men.
- IIT Guwahati researchers developed an inexpensive tool to determine the glycemic index (GI) of foods to control diabetes.
- IIT Madras established a center of excellence to research and develop biomarkers for early detection of Pancreatic cancer.
- Bharat Biotech and Sydney University signed an MoU to collaborate on vaccine research and development.
- OneWeb India becomes the first firm to get IN-SPACe approval for satellite broadband service (Eutelsat Satellite) in India for 5 years.
- National Centre of Excellence in Carbon Capture and Utilization of IIT Bombay developed a new energy-efficient technology for converting carbon dioxide to carbon monoxide.
- NASA launched a sounding rocket as part of its INFUSE Mission (Integral Field Ultraviolet Spectroscopic Experiment) from White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, USA, to collect data about Cygnus Loop.
  - Cygnus Loop, also called Veil Nebula, is a supernova remnant about 20 times the size of the sun.
- China plans to build the world's largest ghost particle-detecting telescope named "Trident" in the South China Sea.
  - Neutrinos, nicknamed "Gold particles," are subatomic particles with little mass and no electric charge, making them difficult to detect.
- China approves the world's first passenger-carrying flying taxi, "Ehang S EH1216-S," which operates on E-VTOL (electric Vehicle Take Off Landing).

- IIT-Madras researchers developed the OptRoute mobile app for inter-city goods logistics.
- Google introduces AI chatbot, Bard, for teenagers.
- China launches MisrSAT-2 or Aiji Yaogan Weiing Erhao (Aiji 2), an optical remote sensing satellite jointly developed by Egypt.
- Rocket Lab of Japan launched IQPS's Tsukoyomi-1 from Mahia Peninsula, New Zealand.
- WHO officially recognized Noma as a neglected tropical disease, adding it to the list of 21 diseases on WHO's NTD list.

### **NISAR**

- The 8th Meeting of the US-India Civil Space Joint Working Group recently focused on collaboration in Earth and space science, as well as human space exploration.
- NASA-IRSO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) is scheduled for launch in 2024.
  - NISAR will be launched on GSLV MK-II from SHAR, Andhra Pradesh.
  - It is a joint NASA-ISRO Earth Observation Mission designed to map the entire globe in 12 days and provide data on ice mass, biomass, sea level rise, groundwater, natural hazards, etc. (Ecosystem, Deformation, Cryosphere sciences).
  - NISAR utilizes L-band and S-band frequency technologies.

### **SSLV-D2 Mission**

- ISRO launched the SSLV-D2 Mission (Small Satellite Launch Vehicle) into Low Earth Orbit (LEO) on Feb 10, 2023.
  - Three payloads were present in the mission:
    - EOS-7 (Earth Observation Satellite) – Developed at U R Rao Satellite Centre, Bengaluru.
    - AzaadiSAT-2 – Developed by 750 girls across India guided by Chennai-based space startup Spacekidz.
    - Janus-1 of the USA – World's first cloud-built demonstration satellite designed by Antaris company.

### **Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Satellite Launch Vehicle Mission**

- Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Satellite Launch Vehicle Mission 2023 – India's first Hybrid Sounding rocket was launched from Pattipulam, Chengalpattu.
  - Approximately 150 PICO Satellites were launched through the sounding rocket.
  - A reusable rocket is used in this mission, which is made by 100 students.
  - Martin Foundation is involved in launching this mission.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) recently launched the PSLV-C58's X-Ray Polarimeter Satellite (XpoSat) into low Earth orbit.
- XpoSat Mission:
  - It is ISRO's first dedicated satellite for space-polarisation measurements of X-Ray emissions from celestial sources.



- The mission has a lifespan of 5 years.
- It carries two main payloads:
  - POLIX: An X-Ray Polarimeter for astronomical observations developed by the Raman Research Institute, Bengaluru, in collaboration with U R Rao Satellite Centre.
  - XSPECT (X-Ray Spectroscopy and Timing): Provides fast timing and high spectroscopic resolution in soft x-rays.
- This launch positions India as the second nation, after the USA, to send an observatory to study black holes, neutron stars, and other astronomical sources.
- India and Russia signed agreements for the construction of future power generating units at the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant in Tamil Nadu.
- The Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU)-Hyderabad and ISRO plan to establish an Interplanetary Research Centre on the JNTU campus.
- The Union Cabinet has approved naming the airport in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh, as "Maharshi Valmiki International Airport."
- China launched the Einstein probe designed to explore cosmic X-ray emissions that could illuminate mysterious phenomena related to black holes and merging stars.
- Researchers at IISc Bengaluru have developed a heat tolerant COVID-19 vaccine, RS-2, effective against all current strains of the virus and adaptable to future variants.
- Iran announced the launch of the 'Sorayya' satellite.
- ISRO achieved a significant milestone with the Aditya-L1 spacecraft, placing it in a halo orbit around the Lagrangian point (L1).
- The Aditya-L1 was launched on September 2, 2023.
- The spacecraft reached the L1 point on January 6, after a 127-day journey covering 1.5 million km.
- IIT Guwahati researchers have developed a new waste management technology called Rotary Drum Composting with Vermi Composting.
- The Indian Science, Technology and Engineering Facilities Map (I-STEM) is launching SAMAVESHA Project at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, to enhance research collaboration in India by improving access to facilities and labs.
- The World Health Organization has granted emergency use listing for Corbevax, India's first indigenously developed Covid-19 vaccine based on protein sub-unit platform, developed by Biological E, a Hyderabad-based company.
- China-based startup Betavolt has developed a battery capable of producing power or electricity for 50 years without any charging or maintenance.
- NASA launched the Peregrine Lunar Lander Mission to explore the Moon's Bay of Stickiness, focusing on studying the lunar exosphere, magnetic fields, thermal properties, and hydrogen content.





- Japan's JAXA launched the SLIM (Smart Lander for Investigating Moon) through H-II A Rocket, achieving a soft landing on the moon and becoming the fifth country to do so. The lander carried two mini robotic rovers, Sony and Tomy, for reconnaissance.
- Astronomers recently discovered an Earth-like planet named HD 63433d.
- Astronomers using the NASA/ESA/CSA James Webb Space Telescope have detected a small and vigorous black hole in GN-z11, a galaxy that existed just 420 million years after the Big Bang.
- Global Space Technologies (Mumbai) has unveiled "GoRoga", India's first anti-stress wearable device that uses non-invasive Brain Stimulation (NIBS) technology. It is manufactured as RogaLife in the USA and software is developed in India under the Make in India initiative.
- Lovely Professional University has withdrawn from hosting the 109th Indian Science Congress due to concerns about the event's viability. The theme was "The Global Perspective on Science and Tech for a sustainable future," and the first Indian National Congress was held in 1914 at the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, founded by Simonsen and MacMohan.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has developed a Second-Generation Distress Alert Transmitter for fishermen at sea to enable them to send emergency messages from fishing boats.
- Cabo Verde has been certified as malaria-free by the World Health Organisation, becoming the third African nation to achieve this status.
- ISRO aims to launch the first module of the Indian Space Station by 2028 and complete the full module by 2035.
- A concerning brain illness named "Lombie deer Disease" is spreading widely in the United States which has the potential to transmit to humans. It is also known as Chronic Wasting Disease and affects cervids like deer, elk, moose, etc.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is planning to send a rotorcopter to Mars along with a lander. The rotorcopter will carry Marble – Martian Boundary Layer Explorer for aerial exploration of Mars.
- NASA and JAXA are preparing to launch the world's inaugural wooden satellite, LignoSat Probe, developed by Kyoto University in partnership with Sumitomo Forestry.
- ISRO is set to launch the Advanced INSAT-3DS meteorological observation satellite from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota using a Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV). INSAT-3DS is designed for weather monitoring, forecasting, and disaster warnings from geostationary orbit.
- India's high-resolution imaging satellite, Cartosat-2, crashed into the Indian Ocean.
- Indian Institute of Technology Jammu and Kashmir developed a "Sound-based Anti Drone System" which is capable of detecting drones, aircrafts, and birds within a 300 m range based on sound.



- Researchers at the University of Pennsylvania have developed a Silicon-photonic chip that uses light to perform complex math for AI tasks.
- Researchers at a Korean university have developed Non-Veg Rice, which is an eco-friendly source of protein.
- IIT Kanpur has developed India's first Hypervelocity Expansion Tunnel Test Facility.
- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) – National Aerospace Laboratory recently conducted successful tests on High Altitude Pseudo Satellite, which is a solar-powered UAV and can generate solar energy.
- Japanese startup, Interstellar Technologies, is testing a rocket powered entirely by rocket fuel created from Cow dung.
- Mimas, one of Saturn's moons, has recently been recognized as harboring a subterranean ocean.
- IT Biomanufacture-based company, Immuno Adoptive Cell Therapy, has received Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation marketing authorization approval of the first Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-cell (CAR-T cell) therapy product called NEXCAR19.
- American scientists developed the world's first 3D printed Brain tissue that mimics natural brain behavior.
- IIT Kanpur has successfully established and tested India's first Hypervelocity Expansion Tunnel Test facility, S2 or Jigarthaḍā.
- IIT Madras partners with Munitions India Limited for indigenous 155 mm smart ammunition.
- A deadly fungal infection, Candida Auris, has been spreading recently in the United States.
- Russian Cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko has broken the world record for the most time spent in space.
- United States of America's Intuitive Machines' odysseus lander is the first privately led mission to soft-land on the moon.
- Development of indigenous Artificial Intelligence in India - BharatGPT Group backed by Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries aims to launch chatGPT-style service named Hanooman.
- Meta is creating a smart band that will be able to understand brain signals linked to hand movements and will be able to convert them into specific gestures.
- IIT Jodhpur developed a new cost-effective human breath sensor.
- Researchers at IISC Bangalore have developed a Synthetic human antibody that can neutralize a potent neurotoxin produced by toxic snakes.
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is developing an indigenous laser weapon called Durga 2 (Directionally Unrestricted Ray-Gun Array).



- Skyroot Aerospace introduces the Kalpana Fellowship, India's inaugural program empowering women in the space technology sector. It is named in honor of late astronaut Kalpana Chawla.
- IIT Madras researchers have filed a patent to use Indian spices to treat cancer.
- India is preparing to launch its first spy satellite developed by Tata Advanced Systems Ltd aboard a SpaceX rocket.
- Open AI's Sora is an innovative AI tool that transforms text into realistic 60 sec video.
- The PACE (Plankton, Aerosol, Climate, ocean Ecosystem) mission by NASA has recently launched a Sun-synchronous satellite to monitor ocean, atmosphere, and climate. PACE was placed in a position relative to the Sun, which means that it will always be synced to the same position relative to the Sun.
- Volt Typhoon is identified as a state-sponsored group of hackers based in China.
- Recently, the Tamil Nadu government banned the sale and production of cotton candy in the state after it was found that the chemical Rhodamine-B was being used for making it.
- IIT Mandi is developing an indigenous quantum computer that uses photons for faster calculations.
- T-Flight is a maglev hyperloop train developed by China, achieving a record-breaking speed of 387 mph.
- The Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology developed an eco-friendly wound dressing material made of banana.
- IIIT Hyderabad received a grant of 1.86 lakh crore from Qualcomm to support Edge AI research for three years.
- IIT Mandi and IIT Palakkad researchers developed a state-of-the-art marine robot for underwater monitoring to reduce risks and costs.
- China developed robotic dogs capable of shooting like a skilled shooter with a machine gun.
- IIT Mandi secured a patent for a power management system in cloud-enabled indoor wireless sensor network nodes powered by solar energy.
- Parrot fever or Psittacosis, an outbreak in Europe caused by Bacterium Chlamydophila psittacine, primarily affects birds.
- IIT Mandi developed a non-invasive glucometer for diabetes detection, which analyzes through breath samples.
- The Asia Institute of Gastroenterology Hospitals introduced Vivascope, a groundbreaking digital pathology technology that delivers biopsy results in 5 minutes, first introduced in the Asia Pacific.
- Two explosive detectors developed in India were handed over to the Intelligence Bureau for field deployment by 12 identified security agencies, developed by the Electronics Corporation of India Limited, Department of Atomic Energy, and DRDO.

- India's first flying taxi, E200, is developed by E-plane.
- Tamil Nadu is set to launch India's 2nd privately developed rocket, Agniban, by Agnikula Cosmos Private Limited, featuring a semi-cryogenic engine powered rocket launch.
- IIT Mandi developed a system called "AdapID" to prevent OTP-based frauds.
- A French Company, Coperni, develops the world's lightest Airswipe Handbag.
- Cognition, a US-based company, announced the launch of a new AI Tool named Devin, which is the world's first fully autonomous AI software engineered with wire code command prompts.
- Indian Space Research Organization's POEM-3 (PSLV Orbital Experimental Module) mission accomplished a Zero Orbital Debris Mission.
- According to a recent ICMR Study, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka, and Delhi reported higher burdens of breast cancer than Eastern and Northern states.
- United Kingdom Researchers are developing "Lung Vax™," the world's first Lung Cancer Vaccine.
- Public Health Foundation of India ranked as the 2nd best public health institution globally, according to the International Journal of Public Health.
- IIT Madras unveiled "NeoStand," an indigenous electric standing wheelchair.
- South Korea's International Vaccine Institute has begun transferring technology for a Simplified Oral Vaccine (OCV-S) to Biological E, with completion expected by 2025.
- Indian Immunologicals Limited, a subsidiary of the National Dairy Development Board, has finished trials of a Dengue Vaccine and aims to market it by mid-2026.
- Himachal Pradesh banned Cotton Caddy for the discovery of Rhodamine-B (a cancer-causing agent)
- The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) has completed a key test for India's first manned submersible mission called Samudrayaan. Samudrayaan Mission is India's first manned mission to explore the deep ocean.
- Matsya 6000 is an Indian crewed deep-submergence vehicle intended to be utilised for deep-sea exploration of rare minerals under the Deep Ocean mission.
- Recently, Skyroot Aerospace, the leading space-tech company, has successfully test-fired the Kalam-250 at the propulsion testbed of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Kalam-250 is a stage-2 of Vikram-1 space launch vehicle.
- Indelible Ink (Voter's Ink) contains silver nitrate, which on reaction with nail and on exposure to light gets darker.
- ISRO will conduct Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START) 2024 to attract youngsters to fields of space science and technology. Theme: Exploration of the solar system
- Kodaikanal Solar Observatory is entering its 125th year of establishment. It was established in 1899 and subsumed the then Madras Observatory.



- South Korean Fusion Reactor “Artificial Sun or K-Star” sets a new record by generating plasma temperatures of 100 million degrees Celsius for a duration of 48 seconds.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully developed a lightweight Carbon-Carbon (C-C) nozzle for rocket engines.
- JAXA-ISRO unveils LUPEX rover for moon’s polar exploration.
- Astronomers are looking forward to posting high-resolution telescopes on the moon and in orbit around it, including one from India called PRATUSH.
- China National Space Administration (CNSA) recently said its launch of the Queqiao-2 satellite was a "complete success".
- Chinese scientists have developed the world’s first satellite series (Tiantong-1) capable of enabling smartphone calls without the need for ground-based infrastructure such as Base Transceiver Station (BTSs) or cellular towers.
- Israel recently utilized the Rampage missile in an attack on an Iranian military base.
- World Health Organization unveils SARAH (Smart AI Resource Assistant for Health) - First Digital Health promoter focused on public health.
- India has achieved its target to eliminate visceral leishmaniasis, commonly known as kala-azar, according to data from the National Centre for Vector Borne Diseases Control (NCVBDC).
- Nigeria has taken a historic step in the fight against meningitis, becoming the first country in the world to introduce a new, highly effective vaccine called Men5CV.
- Sierra Leone (West African country) has declared a national emergency following the craze behind the psychoactive drug ‘KUSH’.
- The Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas recently inaugurated India’s first small-scale liquefied natural gas (SSLNG) unit at GAIL (India) Ltd’s Vijaipur complex in Madhya Pradesh.
- The Government of India sets up a 7-member panel headed by Vijay Kumar Saraswat to drive legislation on the recovery of critical minerals.
- The Surya Tilak Project represents a unique fusion of technology and tradition, meticulously engineered to illuminate the forehead of Lord Ram's idol with a precise beam of sunlight during the revered festival of Ram Navami.
  - The Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) under the Department of Science and Technology was crucial in the Surya Tilak Project at Ayodhya.
- India’s first AI-based film - Irah - A Hindi film.

### **ENVIRONMENT AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

- Lyre Bird of Australia was found for the first time in Melghat forest of Maharashtra (Scientific name – Menura).
- Wetland International’s largest annual water bird Census named “Asian Water Bird Census 2023” began. The Asian Water Bird Census is coordinated by the Bombay Natural History Society and Wetland International.



- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has listed Neelakurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthiana*) in the list of Protected plants under schedule III of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
  - Neelakurinji is a tropical plant species native to shola forests in the Western Ghats.
- Assam achieved Zero rhino poaching of Endangered rhinos in 2022 after 45 years.
  - They were poached 191 times in Assam between 2000 and 2021.
  - The highest number of incidents occurred in 2013 and 2014, with 27 rhino deaths each reported.
  - In 2020 and 2021, two rhinos were killed each year.
  - The last time no poaching was reported in Assam was in 1977.
- Sankhya Sagar – Ramsar Wetland of Madhya Pradesh was covered with invasive alien plant species, Hyacinath.
- Haiderpur Wetland of Uttar Pradesh was in the news.
- Bhoj wetland is in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- In Singapore, a group of volunteers is encouraging people to turn plastic bottles into mini floating gardens, known as chinampas.
- Bihar Govt signed an MoU with Forest Survey of India for Tree Outside Forest Field Survey to promote Agroforestry.
- UAE names Oil Chief Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber as COP28 Climate President.
- Oil India Limited has commissioned India's first 99.99% pure Green Hydrogen Plant at Jorhat, Assam.
- India is set to introduce its first Hydrogen power train – Vande metro trains on its narrow gauge heritage lines – Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, Nilgiri Mountain Railway, Kalka Shimla Railway, Matheran Hill Railway, Kangra Valley, Bilimora Waghai Marwar-Devgarh Madriya.
  - A Prototype hydrogen-fueled train is now being developed by Northern Railway workshop, which will be tested on the Haryana section between Jorhat and Jind.
- Germany became the first nation in the world to operate Hydrogen Powered trains of Lower Saxony.
- China's first semi high-speed hydrogen train gets 600 Km range and a speed of 160 kmph.
- Renew Power installs India's first 3X Platform Wind Turbine Generators in Gadag, Karnataka.
- Adani Enterprises Partners with Ashok Leyland and Ballard to develop Asia's first Hydrogen-powered Mining truck.
- Himachal Pradesh targets to be the first Green energy state by 2025.
- Suzuki Motor Corporation announced that it will use cow dung for its compressed Natural gas (CNG) cars.



- Asian Waterbird census 2023 was organized by Himalayan Project – a joint project by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and MoEFCC.
  - 52 Avian species were observed in Ladakh.
- India's 5th Nano Urea Plant is set up in Deogarh, Jharkhand by Prime Minister Modi. It was developed by IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative).
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs signed an MoU with Engineers India Limited to develop Waste to Energy and Biomethanation projects (Waste to Wealth Plants) in cities with a population of million plus.
- Prime Minister, Modi inaugurated Asia's biggest municipal solid waste-based Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBAR-DHAN) Plant in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
- India's Deepak Fertilizer and Russia's Novatek signed an MoU for LNG Supply and Low carbon ammonia.
- Government of India approves commercial release of Nano – DAP (Diammonium Phosphate) manufactured by India Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative (IFFCO).
  - Nano Urea has an efficiency of more than 80% and increases yield by 3-16%.
- United Nations Development Programme and The Ocean Cleanup sign an MoU to eliminate Plastic Pollution in the Oceans and rivers.
- Pune Municipal Corporation has partnered with The Green Billions Limited to set up India's first solid waste to hydrogen plant in Pune, Maharashtra using Plasma Gasification Technology.
- According to the World Meteorological Organization, Global Sea level rose by 4.5 mm during the 2013-22 period.
- Zoological survey of India found a new beetle species "Omorgus Khandesh" in Pune, Maharashtra.
- 12 Cheetahs from South Africa were released into Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh (8 from Namibia and 4 from South Africa).
- Scientific name – *Acinonyx Jubatus*.
- Modi launches Mission Life from Kevadia, Gujarat and hence, IAE Report stated that India's LIFE Initiative can save 440 billion dollars globally in 2030.
- Red Headed vulture (Asian king Vulture) spotted in Ashola Batti Wildlife Sanctuary (Haryana).
- Centre launched National Air Quality Index to leapfrog from BS-IV to BS-VI fuels standards.
- Modi inaugurated India Energy Week from Feb 6 to 8 in Bengaluru.
- HAL's Helicopter Factory was unveiled in Tumakuru – Asia's largest helicopter manufacturing factory.
- Unveils Light Utility Helicopter – It is indigenously built, single engine, multipurpose utility helicopter.
- Twin-Cooktop model of IOCL's Indoor Solar cooking system.

- IOCL has developed uniforms made of recycled Polyester (rPET) and cotton for retail customer attendants and LPG Delivery personnel.
- First Hydrogen Internal combustion Engine (H2ICE) Technology solution for heavy-duty trucks were introduced by Reliance Industries Limited.
- E20 Fuel – 20% ethanol with Petrol by 2025.
- Green Mobility Rally – Features 57 vehicles fueled by sustainable green energy sources.
- Gujarat's Barda Wildlife Sanctuary is proposed as the 2nd Home for Asiatic Lions and Lions will be relocated from Gir National Park.
- Thanthai Periya WLS was In the news which is located in Erode, Tamil Nadu.
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) completes its 50 years.
- Mission Sahbhagita – Workshop for Conservation and wise use of wetlands was held in Chennai.
- Chondrostereum Purpureum – Kolkata man has been recently diagnosed with an infection from this fungus. It is the first such case in the world. It is a plant fungus that causes silver leaf disease in plants, especially in the rose family.
- Salt Marsh – Coastal wetland flooded and drained by salt water. The highest density of salt marsh is found in Lakshadweep, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal.
- President of India, Draupadi Murmu inaugurated Gaj Utsav-2023 at Kaziranga National Park, Assam.
- 145 bird species are spotted in Sunderban Biosphere Reserve out of 428 bird species documented according to Publication "Birds of Sunderban Biosphere Reserve" published by Zoological Survey of India.
- Uttar Pradesh gets its first Conservation and Breeding Centre for Asian King vultures – Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre.
- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) launched Mission 50K-EV4ECO – an initiative that will fund the purchase of 50,000 electric vehicles in India.
- NTCA constitutes the Cheetah Project steering committee under Rajesh Gopal.
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched a nationwide campaign – "Meri life, Meri Swach Shehar" to establish Reduce, Reuse, Recycle centers in cities.
- Ministry of Consumer Affairs establishes C-PACE to expedite the process of Voluntary closure of Business (Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit).
- Union Minister Tomar inaugurates Integrated Biological controls Lab at NIPHM.
- 'White House Office of Science and Technology Policy' has released a report stating America launches New research to block sunlight and protect earth from climate change.
- Gucehi Mushroom production decreased this year. It is a type of fungus rich in Potassium, Vitamin B and D, and Copper. Mostly found in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh. It has a lot of antioxidants.
- National Green Tribunal's Temporary Chairman – S K Singh.





- A 15-year-old boy in Kerala was attacked by a Brain-Eating Amoeba (Named – Naegleria Fowleri) – First Case was reported in South Korea.
- Chile has recently declared a state of national emergency in response to a significant increase in Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) cases. GBS is a rare neurological disorder in which the immune system mistakenly attacks the peripheral nervous system, leading to potential paralysis.
- United Nations International Maritime Organisation (London) adopts strategy to reduce GHG Emissions from Ships.
- 4 Tigers died in 2 months in Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, Uttar Pradesh.
- Bhojpatra Tree or Himalayan Birch – Deciduous tree native to Western Himalayas.
- Indian Oil Corporation has unveiled India's first green hydrogen-based bus which emits water.
- IIT Guwahati researchers turn tea factory waste to pharma products.
- IIT Guwahati develops a fabric that can separate oil from water, which can help prevent marine pollution caused by oil spills in the sea.
- PM Modi launches Global Biofuels Alliance at G20 summit, including more than 30 countries and international organizations aimed at promoting the adoption of biofuels.
- Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve becomes Madhya Pradesh's 7th Tiger Reserve.
- West Bengal has the highest number of elephant corridors, with India having 150 elephant corridors.
- Ahmedabad becomes the second city in India to implement an Emission Trading scheme for particulate matter after Surat. Vijayawada receives the Green Railway Station certificate by the Indian Green Building Council.
- Kaimur, Bihar, is set to be recognized as the second Tiger Reserve after Valmiki Tiger Reserve.
- Delhi announces a 15-point Winter Action plan to combat air pollution.
- Kole wetlands of Kerala face the threat of alien plants, including Cabomba Furcuta along with Water Hyacinth and Salvinia Molesta.
- A new fish species, "Badis Limaakumi," is discovered in Malak river, Nagaland.
- Pune researchers find a new damselfly species in the Southwestern Ghats of Kerala (scientific name – Armageddon reedtail).
- A study reveals high levels of cancer-causing heavy metals, lead, and chromium found in Hirakud wetland, Odisha.
- Directorate of Revenue Intelligence conducts a successful operation called Operation Kachchhap to rescue gangetic turtles.
- A newly discovered dragonfly species named Red-Humped Hawklet (Epithermis Wayanadensis) is found in Wayanad, Kerala.
- Newly discovered frog species, Bufonids Bhupathy, are found in Mizoram.

- Tamil Nadu Forest Dept collaborates with Muthuvan Tribe from Anamalai Hills to protect the Endangered Nilgiri Thar.
- Ashok Leyland becomes the first Indian Original Equipment Manufacturer to unveil an In-house Liquefied Natural Gas Engine named “AVTR 1922” to Maha nagar Gas Limited in Hosur, Tamil Nadu.
- The Eco Warrior Awards 2023 is India’s first Award show dedicated to Indian Forest Service Officers, covering categories like Wildlife Conservation, Wildlife Protection, Forest Protection, Best use of Technology for Conservation, and Award for Community connect.
- A new edible fish species named Awaous Motla is found in Odisha’s Mahanadi River.
- India opposes European Union’s Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), citing differences in carbon pricing between India and Europe.
- Virgin Atlantic Airlines achieves a milestone by flying the first commercial airliner on 100% sustainable aviation fuel.
- PM Modi releases the Status of Tiger Census 2022 Report, estimating the tiger population at 3167 Tigers across 20 states of India, conducted every 4 years since 2006.

#### **“Commemoration of 50 years of Project Tiger**

- Prime Minister Modi inaugurated “Commemoration of 50 years of Project Tiger” at Mysuru University, Karnataka” on April 9, 2023.
- India occupies 2.4% of the world’s land area and 8% of global biodiversity.
- India is the largest tiger range country in the world.
- Modi inaugurated the International Big Cats Alliance to focus on the protection and conservation of 7 major big cats of the world – Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar, Cheetah.
- Nepal is the founding member of the International Big Cats Alliance.

#### **Status of Tiger Census 2022 Report Highlights:**

- India's tiger population has increased by 6.7% compared to the 2018 census, reaching an estimated 3,167 tigers.
- The 5th Cycle of All India Tiger Estimation surveyed forested habitats across 20 Indian states. This nationwide tiger census has been conducted every four years since 2006.
- Tiger bearing areas are divided into five major landscapes based on biogeography and connectivity:
  - Shivalik Gangetic Plains
  - Central India and Eastern Ghats
  - Western Ghats
  - North Eastern Hills and Brahmaputra Flood Plains
  - Sundarbans
- Central India and Eastern Ghats currently hold the highest tiger population, followed by the Western Ghats, Shivalik Hills and Gangetic Plains, North Eastern Hills and Brahmaputra Flood Plains, and lastly the Sundarbans.



- Unfortunately, tiger populations have declined in the Western Ghats and North Eastern Hills and Brahmaputra Flood Plains landscapes.
- Three cubs were born to Namibian cheetah Asha at Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh.
- A new plant species within the Polygonum genus, named Polygonum chaturbhujanum, was discovered at Pench Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra.
- A new coral species, Sinomicrurus Gorei snake, was discovered in Mizoram.
- Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra has been designated as India's first Dark Sky Park and the fifth such park in Asia, aimed at protecting the night sky from light pollution and supporting astronomy.
- Royal Bengal Tiger pictures were captured by trap cameras in Neora Valley National Park, West Bengal.
- India reported its first-ever confirmed sighting of a rare Tibetan Brown Bear (scientific name - Ursus Arctos Pruniosus) in Sikkim.
- Odisha plans to establish a rare black tiger safari in the Mayurbhanj district of the state.

**ADMISSION OPEN**

**GROUP II | IIA**

**ONLINE | OFFLINE -CLASS | TEST**

#### **Status of Leopards in India:**

- The latest report on the Status of Leopards in India was released by the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- The report preparation and estimation was carried out by the National Tiger Conservation Authority and Wildlife Institute of India in collaboration with the State Forest Departments.
- The current estimated population in India is estimated to be 13,874 individuals (range 12,616-15,132). This estimate represents 70% of leopard habitat in India, excluding the Himalayas and semi-arid areas which were not sampled. Compared to the 2018



estimate of 12,852 individuals in similar sampled areas, the population is considered stable with a slight annual growth rate of 1.08% per year.

- **Key Findings of Status of Leopards in India (Fifth Cycle 2024):**

- Regional Leopard Population Trends:
  - Central India + South Peninsular India: 0.9%
  - Shivalik Hills and Gangetic Plains: 3.4% per annum decline
- States with Highest Leopard Populations:
  - Maharashtra > Madhya Pradesh > Karnataka > Tamil Nadu
- Tiger Reserves with Highest Leopard Populations:
  - Nagarjunasagar Srisailem (Andhra Pradesh) > Panna (Madhya Pradesh) > Satpura (Madhya Pradesh)
- Status of Tiger Reserves of Leopard in India:
  - Satpura Tiger Reserve (Madhya Pradesh): IUCN Red List: Vulnerable
  - CITES: Appendix I
  - Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I

**International Big Cat Alliance**

- The Union Cabinet approved the creation of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) to set up a global network to conserve tigers and other big cats.
- The IBCA is designed to be a coalition of 96 big cat alliance countries covering a multi-country, multi-agency coalition of headquartered reserve units, licensed operators to establish a common platform for conservation.
- Out of the seven big cats (tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, puma, jaguar and the cheetah), five – tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard and cheetah – are found in India.

**Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPAII) Report:**

- Released by the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change during the meeting of the National Snow Leopard Ecosystem Protection Program.
- First-ever scientific exercise in India reporting a snow leopard population of 718 individuals.
- Detailed data for conservation efforts across states including Ladakh (274), Uttarakhand (124), Himachal Pradesh (51), Arunachal Pradesh (36), Sikkim (21), and Jammu and Kashmir (9).
- Snow leopards can be found in 12 countries covering 1.8 million sq km, with the largest share in the Tibetan plateau of China, followed by Mongolia and India.
- Other countries with snow leopard populations include Russia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- In India, they are primarily found in high altitude, cold, and arid terrains of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Status of Protection of Leopard in India:**
- Listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.





- Protected under CITES Appendix I.
- Included in the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I.
- New species of damselfly (*Phylloneura ruprestris*) discovered in Kerala's Ponmudi Hills.
- New fungus species (*Trichoglossum Syamviswanathii*) discovered in Thrissur, Kerala.
- Gupeteshwar Forest of Odisha declared as a Biodiversity Heritage site.
- Dustard Apollo (*Parnassius Stenosemus*), a rare high-altitude butterfly, sighted for the first time in Himachal Pradesh's Chamba.
- New frog species, *Sphaerotheca Varshaaubu*, discovered in Bengaluru's urban landscape.
- Tamilnadu has established its 18th Wildlife Sanctuary – Thanathai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary in the reserve forests of Erode.
- Odisha hosted the 4th National Chilika Bird Festival.
- 5 New Ramsar Wetlands listed from India:
  - Magadi Kere Conservation Reserve – Karnataka
  - Anka samudra Bird Conservation Reserve – Karnataka
  - Aghanashini Estuary – Karnataka
  - Karivetti Bird Sanctuary – Tamilnadu
  - Longwood Shola Reserve Forest – Tamilnadu
- A rare Golden tiger species was spotted in Kaziranga National Park, Assam.
- Uttar Pradesh, in collaboration with Turtle Survival Alliance Foundation India, aims to establish a First Turtle conservation Reserve along Sarju river (Ghagra river).
- Arunachal Pradesh Government signs a Memorandum of Understanding with National Tiger Conservation Authority to establish the State's first Special Tiger Protection Force.
- The Government of Tamilnadu established the Tamilnadu Endangered Species Conservation Fund (TNESCF) to protect the Purple frog and other lesser-known endangered species.
- The 14th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Conservation of migratory species of Wild Animals (COP14) was hosted by Samarkhand, Uzbekistan.
- The Zoological Survey of India named a newly discovered head-shield sea slug after President Draupadi Murmu as *Melanochlamys Draupadi*, found along the coasts of West Bengal and Odisha.
- A new species, Northern Green Anaconda, has been discovered in the Amazon, scientifically named *Eunectes Akiyama*.
- Reykjanes Peninsula Volcano erupted in Iceland.
- An earthquake of magnitude 6.9 struck Papua New Guinea.
- A New Diard's Blind Snake, indicating an eco-friendly environment, was found in Papua New Guinea.
- Google launched Flood Hub, an AI-enabled platform to display flood forecasts.



- Gujarat is setting up India's first cheetah conservation breeding center in Banni Grasslands Reserve, one of the largest grasslands in India and Asia, located in the Kutch district of Gujarat.
- Researchers discovered a new flowering plant species in Arunachal Pradesh named Begonia Narahari, honoring former CSIR-Northeast Institute of Science and Technology director Prof. Garikapati Narahari Sastry.
- The Atmospheric Research Testbed was inaugurated in the first phase of the Atmospheric Research Testbed in Central India (ART-CI) in Sehore district, Madhya Pradesh, established by Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Ministry of Earth Sciences for better understanding monsoon convection processes.
- ETHANOL 100 fuel o Recently, the Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Housing and Urban Affairs, launched 'ETHANOL 100'. It has high-octane rating, typically between 100-105. It proves ideal for high-performance engines, ensuring improved efficiency and power output all while minimizing environmental impact.
- The 1st Global Summit on Extreme Heat, organized by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), aims to find solutions to lessen the impacts of extreme heat, save lives, and mitigate costs, in response to 2023 marking the hottest year on record.
- Brussels hosted a first-of-its-kind Nuclear Energy Summit, billed as the most high-profile international meeting on nuclear energy ever.
- Kerala declares man-animal conflict a state-specific disaster, becoming the first state in the country to do so.
- Kilauea Volcano is located in the Hawaii Group of Islands.
- The Indian Meteorological Department announced plans to cover the entire country with the Doppler Weather Radar Network by 2025.
- The Indian Meteorological Department reported that 2022 was the fifth warmest year for India since 1901.
- An earthquake occurred in Turkey-Syria with magnitudes of 7.8 and 7.5, originating from the Anatolian Plate, with the epicenter at Gaziantep, Nuradagi. India provided assistance through Operation Dost.
- Vanatau Volcano is situated between Australia and Fiji.
- New Zealand declared a state of emergency due to Cyclone Gabrielle.
- South Africa declared a "state of disaster" over an energy crisis.
- India and the UK collaborated on a Smart Early Warning Flood system.
- Nevado del Ruiz Volcano is located in Colombia.
- The UN declared 2021-2030 as the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.
- Guatemala Volcano is located in the USA.



- Peru declared an emergency as the Ubinas Volcano erupted.
- 2200 earthquakes were recorded in Reykjavik, Iceland.
- Fagradalsfjall Volcano erupted in Iceland.
- The Indian Meteorological Department launched the Heat Index.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved USD 200 Million for the Flood & Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Project in Assam.
- Ibu Volcano is located in Indonesia.
- Hunga Tunga Ho Ha Apei is located in the Democratic Republic of Tonga.
- The National Institute of Disaster Management and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) signed an MoU to collaborate on Disaster Risk Reduction.
- PM Modi approved the first Urban flood mitigation project worth 561.29 crore for Chennai to assist the state government in managing relief efforts necessitated by Cyclone Michaung.
- The Indian Meteorological Department reports that 2023 was the second warmest year for India since 1901, with 2016, 2023, 2009, 2017, and 2010 being the five warmest years.
- The Villarica Volcano has recently erupted and is located in Chile, South America.
- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in the USA noted that China had the highest number of earthquakes from 1990-2024, followed by Indonesia, with India recording 58 earthquakes in the same period.
- IIT Delhi has developed the first high-resolution Indian Landslide Susceptibility App (ILSM).
- The Reykjanes Volcano in Iceland has also recently erupted.
- The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has launched Panchayat-level weather forecast services named "Har Har Mausam, Har Ghar Mausam" to provide weather information directly to farmers in every gram panchayat to mark its 150th Anniversary. The service is available in 12 languages including Odia.
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- Recently, hundreds of houses have been flooded in several coastal areas of Kerala due to high sea waves named Kallakkadal. Lakshadweep and Tamil Nadu coast are other areas often affected by Kallakkadal.
- The Delhi forest department has initiated the establishment of a tissue culture laboratory at the Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary to conserve rare native trees.
- The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) installed and activated India's biggest Climate Clock at the CSIR Headquarters in New Delhi as part of the Earth Day celebrations.
- Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) recently established the world's largest renewable energy park in Gujarat's Khavda region.
- Grindavik Volcano was in the news - Located in Iceland.
- Zimbabwe declares a state of disaster over a devastating drought exacerbated by climate change.

## **POLITY**

- Kollam is recognized as India's first Constitutionally Literate district.



- The Chief Justice of India launched the e-SCR (electronics Supreme Court Reports) project to provide free access to 32,000 judgments with the help of the National Informatics Centre in Pune, Maharashtra.
- National-level Multi-state Cooperative Seed Society, National-level Multi-state Cooperative Organic Society, and National-level Multi-state Cooperative Export Society were formed under the Multi-state Cooperative Societies Act, 2002.
- India has witnessed a 6x increase in voters since 1951, with a total electorate exceeding 94.50 crores.
- The Central Government recently informed the Delhi High Court that the PM CARES FUND is established as a Public Charitable Trust and not a public authority under the RTI.

### **Zonal Council Meetings**

- Meeting of Central Zonal Council includes representatives from several states grouped into different zones:
  - Northern Zonal Council: Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, Delhi, Chandigarh
  - Central Zonal Council: Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh
  - Eastern Zonal Council: Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, West Bengal
  - Western Zonal Council: Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Daman and Diu, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli
  - Southern Zonal Council: Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Puducherry
- The Chairman of each Zonal Council is the Union Home Minister.
- The Vice-Chairman position rotates among the Chief Ministers of the states included in the zone, with each serving for one year at a time.
- Members of the Zonal Councils include the Chief Minister and two other ministers nominated by Governors from each state.
- Advisers to the Zonal Councils include individuals nominated by the Planning Commission, Chief Secretaries, and Development Commissioners nominated by each state.
- Interlinking of rivers:
  - National Water Development Agency tasked with Interlinking 30 river projects under the National Perspective Plan.
  - The first project is the Ken Betwa Link Project.
  - Proposed by K. L. Rao, former Irrigation Minister.
- Election Commission released a song titled “Main Bharat Hoon” to encourage voters for upcoming elections.

- Kerala High Court became the first high court in India to publish judgments in the regional language on February 21 (International Mother Language Day).
- Nagaland Election Results:
  - Chief Minister: Neiphiu Rio (NDPP Party won).
  - First woman minister: Hekani Jakhalu and Salhoutunuo Kruse.
- 2023 Meghalaya Elections won by NPP (Conrad Sangma).
- 2023 Tripura Elections won by BJP (Biplav Kumar Deb).
- Demand for inclusion of Bhojpuri in the 8th schedule of the constitution.
- Supreme Court ruling:
  - Bar Council of India allowed foreign lawyers and law firms to practice in India, albeit without appearing in court, to advise clients on foreign law and corporate transactions.
- Performer Rights in India:
  - Legal rights granted to performers recognized under the Copyright Act of 1957.
  - Protection duration: 50 years from the end of the year in which the performance took place.
- First edition of the Dogri version of the Constitution of India released.
- Maharashtra Government appointed the Bala Chandra Mangekar Committee to study Article 44, which deals with the Uniform Civil Code mentioned in Part IV of the Constitution.
- Madhya Pradesh High Court observed a suggestion to lower the age of consent for sex from 18 to 16 years for girls due to changed social conditions.
- Supreme Court declined to entertain a PIL for the creation of a National Commission for Men to address suicides among married men.
- Election Commission of India opened the Integrated Election Expenditure Monitoring System online portal for filing financial reports by political parties as per the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
- New Chief Justices appointed: Alok Arde for Telangana and Dheeraj Singh Takur for Andhra Pradesh.
- Draft Digital Protection Bill, 2023, approved by the Cabinet.

#### **One Nation-One election.**

- A high-level committee was formed on September 9, 2023, chaired by former President Ram Nath Kovind.
- Other members of the committee include Union Home Minister Amit Shah, former opposition leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, former Finance Commission Chairman N.K. Singh, former Lok Sabha General Secretary Subhas Kashyap, and senior lawyer Harish Salve.
- **The committee is tasked with proposing Constitutional Amendments for One Nation-One election.**
  - Art. 83 (2): Proposal to cancel the term of Lok Sabha (5 years).



- Art. 85: Proposal to empower the President to dissolve the Lok Sabha, with the new House commencing after general elections upon dissolution.
- Art. 172 (1): Proposal to establish a period of five years until the dissolution of the state assembly.
- Art. 174 (2): Proposal to grant the Governor the power to dissolve the Assembly based on Cabinet instructions, especially when the majority is in a dilemma.
- Art. 356: Proposal regarding the imposition of President's rule in any state. Amendments are suggested to accommodate scenarios where the opposition wins a no-confidence motion, leading to the dissolution of the government and necessitating assembly elections.
- The first historic bill on Women Reservation, titled "Nari Shakti Vandhan Adhiniam Bill," was passed by the new Parliament.
  - This bill aims to provide 33% reservation for women in legislatures.
  - It is the 128th Constitutional Amendment Act (CAA) Bill and the 106th CAA of 2023.
- The Supreme Court rejects a woman's plea to abort a 26-week pregnancy.
  - According to the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971, abortion is legal only up to 20 weeks, with exceptions allowing extension until 24 weeks in certain circumstances and with the approval of two medical officers.
- The Justice Puttaswamy vs Union of India Case (2017) established that the Right to Privacy is a Fundamental Right under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution.
  - Recently, the Chhattisgarh High Court ruled that call recording violates the Right to Privacy.

## ADMISSION OPEN

# GROUP II | IIA

## ONLINE | OFFLINE -CLASS | TEST

**National Party status**

- Recently, the Aam Admi Party (AAP) was granted National Party status by the Election Commission of India.
- Political parties are regulated under section 29 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
- There are two types of National Parties: Recognized (National and state) and Registered-unrecognized.
- Conditions to be recognized as a National Party:
  - If its candidates have secured at least 6% of total valid votes in at least 4 states (in the latest Lok Sabha or Assembly elections), and the party has at least 4 MPs in the last Lok Sabha polls.
  - If it has won at least 2% of the total seats in the Lok Sabha from at least 3 states.
  - If it is 'recognized' in four or more states.
- Currently, there are 6 National Parties in India:
  - Indian National Congress
  - Bahujan Samaj Party
  - Bharatiya Janata Party
  - National People's Party (Established by P. A. Sangma)
  - Communist Party of India – Marxist
  - Aam Admi Party (Recognized as a state party in Punjab, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat)
- The election schedule for General elections was released for 5 states: Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan, and Telangana.
  - The number of voters in Telangana is 3.17 crores, with 1.58 crores females.
  - Telangana has 119 Assembly seats.
- The Supreme Court holds that Senior Advocate Status is Constitutional, as evident from the Advocates Act of 1961.
- Chief Justice of India, Chandrachud, introduced two initiatives for improving the efficiency of the judicial system:
  - FASTER 2.0: A system to communicate judicial orders for swift prisoner release to relevant authorities.
  - Hindi Version of e-SCR portal: Allows access to Supreme Court's judgments in Hindi, making legal information more accessible and inclusive.
- The Central Government approved the formation of the 16th Finance Commission, whose recommendations will come into effect from April 1, 2026.
- Government of India and Government of Manipur signed a Peace Agreement with the United National Liberation Front (UNLF), an insurgent group of Manipur, to boost peace, particularly in Manipur and the North Eastern region.
- Mohan Yadav becomes CM of Madhya Pradesh. He is elected from Ujjain South Constituency.



- Bhajan Lal Sharma sworn in as CM of Rajasthan. He is elected from Sanganer Constituency.
- Vishnu Deo Sai sworn in as CM of Chhattisgarh. He is elected from Kunkuri Constituency.
- Revanth Reddy sworn in as CM of Telangana. He is elected from Kodangal Constituency.
- The Central Government has appointed the 16th Finance Commission, chaired by Aravind Panagaria, to serve for five years from April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2031, with a report due by October 31, 2025. Shri Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey has been appointed as the Secretary to the Commission.
- The Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita, recently enacted by the Centre, introduces stringent penalties for hit-and-run incidents in India, specifying up to 10 years of imprisonment and a fine for the accused who causes a fatal crash and flees without reporting to the authorities.
- The Supreme Court has appointed a Legal Services Committee headed by Justice B R Gavai.
- In the Bilkis Bano case, the Supreme Court struck down the remission granted by the Gujarat Government to 11 convicts previously released from jail.
- The West Bengal Government has requested the Central Government to change the state's name to "Bangla" and to recognize Bengali as a classical language. Currently, six languages (Tamil, Telugu, Sanskrit, Kannada, Malayalam, and Odia) have been given the status of classical languages, with Tamil being the first to receive this designation.
- The ULFA (United Liberation Front of Assam) led by Arabinda Rajkhowa has signed a Memorandum of Settlement with the Government of India and the Government of Assam.
- The Chief Minister of Manipur confirmed the imposition of Article 355 in the state, which mandates the Union Government to protect states against external aggression and internal disturbance as specified in Part XVIII of the Constitution of India.
- Supreme Court invalidates Electoral Bonds Scheme on basis of violation of Fundamental right to information guaranteed under Article 19(1)(a) of constitution.
- Belgium has become the first country in Europe to recognize 'ecocide' as a national as well as an international crime.
- **Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024:**
  - Introduced to prevent the use of unfair means in public examinations.
  - Section 9: All offenses under the Bill are cognizable, non-bailable, and non-compoundable. Punishment can be 3-5 years in jail plus up to Rs 10 lakh fine.
  - Section 11: Provides for 5-10 years jail and fine of at least Rs 1 crore where leaks involve "organised crime" by a group conspiring for wrongful gain.
- On February 7, 2024, the Legislative Assembly of the state of Uttarakhand in India passed the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill. On March 13, the bill was granted assent by President Droupadi Murmu. It makes Uttarakhand the first state in India to adopt the UCC after Independence.

- Following the footsteps of Rajasthan, Karnataka has introduced the Draft Karnataka Gig Workers (Conditions of Service and Welfare) Bill, 2024 aiming to become the second state to enact legislation specifically catering to the welfare of gig economy workers.
- Infosys Foundation's Chairperson Sudha Murty has been nominated to the Rajya Sabha by President Droupadi Murmu.
- The Enforcement Directorate was established in the year 1956 as an 'Enforcement Unit' under the Department of Economic Affairs. Later, in 1957, this Unit was renamed as 'Enforcement Directorate'.
- In the tribal-dominated Diphu Lok Sabha constituency in Assam, candidates from all political parties have pledged to put into action Article 244(A) of the Constitution.
- The Supreme Court of India acknowledged the right to protection from climate change impacts as part of the fundamental rights to life (Article 21) and equality (Article 19) enshrined in the Indian Constitution.
- The Suvidha portal is a technological solution developed by the Election Commission of India (ECI) to ensure a level playing field upholding the democratic principles of free, fair, and transparent elections.
- The Ministry of Law and Justice formed a 6-member panel headed by Rajiv Gauba to examine issues of the Queer Community.

## **ECONOMY**

- According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, Gujarat and Rajasthan emerged as the top investment destinations in India.
- The Reserve Bank of India released Utkarsh 2.0, a medium-term economic strategy for the period of 2023-2025 to confront socio-economic challenges.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) amended the Securities (Contract) Regulation Act, 1956, exempting state-run firms from Minimum Public Shareholding norms.
- India's fastest payment app, "Payrup," was launched.
- Cards, mobile, and net banking were identified as the top complaint areas at the Banking Ombudsman, according to the RBI.
- The Reserve Bank of India announced maiden sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs) for an aggregate sum of 16,000 crores.
- The Global Economic Prospects report was released by the World Bank, projecting India's growth at 6.9% in 2022-2023.
- PhonePe became India's first fintech platform to support cross-border UPI transactions with countries including UAE, Singapore, Mauritius, Nepal, and Bhutan.

- SEBI introduced a stronger framework for Green bonds and introduced Blue and Yellow bonds.
- India received the highest ever Foreign Inward Remittances in a single year in FY2021-22, with the highest contributions from UAE.
- The World Economic Outlook by the IMF projected India's economic growth at 6.1% in 2023, considering India as an Emerging Market and Developing Economy.
- Morgan Stanley estimated India's GDP to grow at 6.2% in FY24.
- EbixCash became the first to launch UPI for foreign nationals.
- The Reserve Bank of India announced its 2nd Global Hackathon named HARBINGER.
- India received the highest ever foreign inward remittances in a single year, amounting to \$89,127 million in 2021-22, with the highest contributions from the USA.
- The National Payments Corporation of India launched UPI123, an instant payment system allowing users to make UPI transactions without an internet connection.
- The National Stock Exchange listed the first Green bonds issued by the Indore Municipal Corporation.
- Paytm Payments Bank became the first bank in India to launch the UPI Lite feature.
- EbixCash became the first entity in India to enable UPI transactions for foreign nationals.
- RBI introduced its new mission, "Har Payment Digital," to encourage digital transactions.
- Per capita income in rural and urban areas increased based on 2011-12 constant prices, with the average PCI in rural areas at ₹40,925 and urban areas at ₹98,435. The All India Annual Per Capita Net National Income increased from ₹86,647 in 2014-15 to ₹1,72,000 in 2022-23.
- The World Bank predicted India's growth forecast at 6.3% in FY24, while the Asian Development Bank (ADB) projected growth rates of 6.7% and 6.4% for 2023.
- The World Trade Organization expected global trade to grow by 1.7% in 2023.
- City Union Bank launched India's first Voice Biometric Authentication for logging into its banking app in an event in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- The National Capital Region's Transport Corporation (NCRTC) named India's first semi-high-speed Regional Rail Rapid Transit system as "RAPIDX."
- According to the Ministry of Commerce, the USA and UAE are the first and second export destinations for India, with the UAE also being the third-largest source of imports to India.
- The USA emerged as India's biggest trading partner in FY23, followed by China.
- Union Bank of India became the first Indian bank to open SRVA (Special Rupee Vostro Account) in Malaysia for trade settlement in rupees.
- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry released the Foreign Trade Policy 2023, aiming to increase India's exports to USD 2 trillion by 2030.
- India's forex reserves rose to \$578.78 billion for FY23.



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is set to introduce a new secured web-based portal called "PRAVAAH" (Platform for Regulatory Application, Validation, and Authorization) aimed at simplifying and streamlining application processes.
- The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) plans to open its first overseas office in Abu Dhabi.
- Ravi Vikas Nigam Limited received Navaratna Status.
- Razorpay launched "Turbo UPI" for seamless one-step payments to online merchants.
- RBI initiated the "100 days 100 pays" campaign to encourage digital transactions.
- The RBI Governor launched the Financial Inclusion dashboard called "Antardrishti."
- Tamil Nadu emerged as India's top electronics exporter, with India's exports of electronics in 2022-23 amounting to \$23.57 billion.
- India's external debt reached \$624.7 billion at the end of FY23, according to RBI.
- Malaysia and India can now trade in rupee, in line with India's Foreign Policy 2023's aim to establish the rupee as a global currency.
- Bangladesh and India also have the capability to trade in rupee.
- Profit of PSU Banks crosses 1 lakh crore in FY23.
- India and France have agreed to use the United Payments Interface payment mechanism.
- According to RBI, India needs an average annual GDP growth rate of 7.6% to become a developed nation by 2047.
- The GST council has decided to impose a 28% tax on online gaming, horse racing, and casinos.
- Hitachi Payment Services Limited, in association with the National Payments Corporation of India, launched India's first-ever white-labeled UPI – ATM offering secure cordless cash withdrawals.
- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched "FALCON," an open-source Hyperledger Fabric deployment helper backed by Blockchain.
- Maharashtra tops in attracting FDI for FY24, followed by Karnataka and Telangana.
- Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers has been granted Navaratna status.
- The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) organized a workshop on Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRR) in collaboration with UNICEF and the National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE) at the NSE premises in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), in collaboration with Indian fintech startup LivQuik, introduced a contactless payment wearable ring known as the 'OTG Ring.'
- The Chief Economic Advisor predicts an average annual growth of 6.5% between 2023-2030.
- India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) sign a \$400 million agreement to create Quality Urban Infrastructure.



- BSNL is set to award a ₹1000 crore contract to Nokia for Optical Transport Network Equipment and Deployment, through a local system integrator. Contenders for the contract include United Telecoms Limited and Tejas Networks.
- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) forms an 11-member task force headed by Randip Singh Jagpal to examine the impact of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act of 2023 on the insurance sector.
- Central Depository Services (India) Limited becomes the first Indian depository to hold more than 10 crore Demat accounts.
- The World Economic Outlook published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) projects global economic growth to be 3% in 2023 and 2.9% in 2024.
- The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC) becomes the first foreign bank to introduce Electronic-Bank Guarantees (e-BGs) in India.
- IRDAI forms a task force under the chairmanship of Meena Kumari to review Bancassurance norms.
- Zurich Insurance to acquire a 51% stake in Kotak General Insurance for ₹4051 crore.
- According to the Global Credit Outlook 2024: New Risks, New Playbook released by S&P Global Market Intelligence, India is set to become the third-largest economy in the world by 2030.
- Federal Bank is recognized globally for outstanding achievement in Lending and Reporting by the International Finance Corporation.
- Maharashtra tops among states with the highest number of registered investors, according to NSE data.
- IndusInd Bank launches eSVARNA – India's first Corporate Credit card on the Rupay Network.
- RBI extends the Payments Infrastructure Development Fund scheme until 2025, introduced in 2021 to encourage the deployment of payment acceptance infrastructure such as Physical Point of Sale terminals and Quick Response codes by adding 30 lakh touchpoints every year.
- Reliance Jio and IIT Bombay collaborate to build "BharatGPT" (Generative Pre-trained Transformer).
- RBI approves IDFC Limited and IDFC Financial holding company as the first bank merger.

### **GST completes 6 years**

#### **GST Basics**

- **GST (Goods and Services Tax):** An indirect tax system introduced in India by the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act (122nd Bill) in 2016.
- **Implementation Date:** Came into force on July 1, 2017.
- **GST Day:** Celebrated annually on July 1 to commemorate its implementation.

#### **Key Points and Facts**

- **France:** The first country to introduce GST.



- **Article 279A:** The constitutional article dealing with the formation of the GST Council, chaired by the Union Finance Minister.
- **Tax Slabs:** GST has 5 tax slabs: 0%, 5%, 12%, 18%, 28%.
- **Father of GST in India:** Atal Bihari Vajpayee is often considered the pioneer of the GST concept in India.
- **Highest Collection:** April 2023 saw the highest GST collection so far at 1.87 lakh crores.

### 50th GST Council Meeting Outcomes

- **Gaming, Horse Racing, Casinos:** Brought under the 28% GST slab.
- **Cancer-related drugs:** Exempted from GST.
- **Snacks:** 5% GST levied
- Maharashtra leads in the number of investors, followed by Uttar Pradesh, according to a study by the National Stock Exchange (NSE).
- Telangana has the highest Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) in India for the fiscal year 2022-23, totaling ₹3,08,732 lakh crores, followed by Karnataka.
- The Central Government's GDP growth rate estimate for India for FY 2023-24 is 7.3%.
- The World Bank forecasts India's GDP growth rates as 6.4% for FY 2024-25 and 6.5% for FY 2025-26.
- UBS (Union Bank of Switzerland) projects India's GDP growth rate for FY 2024-25 to be 6.2%.
- NITI Aayog's Multidimensional Poverty Discussion Paper reveals that 24.82 crore Indians have escaped multidimensional poverty, with Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh seeing the most significant reductions. Multidimensional poverty in India decreased from 29.17% in 2013-14 to 11.28% in 2022-23.
- India Ratings has increased India's GDP growth forecast for FY24 to 6.7%.
- The World Bank's International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has raised 1.5 billion British Pounds through a 5-year Sustainable Development Bond set to mature on October 2, 2028.
- The World Bank issued bonds in three currencies: Canadian dollar, Australian dollar, and US dollar to finance global social projects.
- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) introduced the "Insurance for all" Mission, aiming to provide health, life, and property insurance coverage to all citizens by 2047.
- The Prime Minister of India, along with the President of Sri Lanka, Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe, and the Prime Minister of Mauritius, Mr. Pravind Jugnauth, jointly inaugurated the launch of Unified Payment Interface (UPI) services in Sri Lanka and Mauritius, as well as RuPay card services in Mauritius.
- A study by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) reveals that household spending has doubled over the last decade.



- In its latest report, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has increased India's growth outlook for the fiscal year 2024-25 (FY25) to 6.2%, up from the previous estimate of 6.1%.
- Japan has recently become the world's fourth-largest economy. The USA, China, and Germany are the top three largest economies, while India is ranked as the fifth-largest.
- The Union Cabinet, approved amendments to the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy in the space sector, allowing 100% FDI to attract investors to Indian companies in space.

## **CULTURE - HERITAGE - HISTORY**

- The Bru Tribe has been registered to vote in Tripura.
- Gandhisagar Floating Festival, Asia's first floating festival, commenced in Madhya Pradesh.
- Mizoram exported bird's eye chili to the US for the first time.
- Tamil Nadu's Mana Madurai pottery received a GI tag.
- The Bihu Dance of Assam entered the Guinness Book of Records as approximately 11,000 dancers performed it on a single stage, creating history.
- Kangra Tea from Uttar Pradesh was awarded a European GI Tag.
- The Japanese ship S S Montevideo Maru, which sank while transporting more than a thousand prisoners during the Second World War, was discovered in the South China Sea.
- The Geological Survey of India found lithium deposits in Lithium.
- Kiren Rijiju launched the trailer of the first movie in the Taigan language of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The World Hindu Conference 2023 is scheduled to be held in Bangkok by Vishwa Hindu Samman, with the theme "Jayasya Aayatnam Dharma" or "Dharma, Adobe of Victory".
- The 125th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Alluri Sitaram Raju were commemorated in Hyderabad. He led the Rampa Rebellion in 1922.
- Tamil Nadu's Authoor Betel leaf received a GI Tag.
- Ukraine's Odesha and Lebanon's Rachid Karmi International Fair – Tripoli were listed as UNESCO World Heritage sites in danger.
- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman laid the foundation stone for the Iconic Site Museum at the Adichannalur Archaeological site in Tamil Nadu.
- Archaeologists discovered the world's oldest wooden structure in Zambia and Tanzania, dating back approximately 476,000 years.
- The world's second-largest Hindu temple outside India, the Swaminarayan Akshardham Temple, is set to be inaugurated in New Jersey, US.
- Archaeologists in Norway discovered the world's oldest runestone.
- Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated a 122-foot tall statue of a polo player, Sagol Kangjei, in Manipur.



- Important findings related to the Indus Valley civilization were uncovered at Juna Khatiya, Gujarat.
- The largest open theatre festival, Dhanuyatra, took place in Bargarh, Odisha.
- Andhra Pradesh Government introduced a lesson on India's first Muslim woman teacher, Fatima Sheikh.
- Assam's Ahom Burials are nominated for World Heritage sites.
- The largest literature festival in the world was held in Jaipur.
- The International Kite Festival was organized in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- Octave 2023, a festival of Northeast, was celebrated in Thanjavur.
- Adi Shaurya Parv Parakram ka (Military Tattoo and Tribal Dance) event was held.
- SVASTIK (Scientifically Validated Societal Traditional Knowledge) is an initiative of CSIR-NIScPR to communicate scientifically validated traditional knowledge of India.
- Bharat Gaurav Trains, theme-based train services, were introduced to showcase India's rich cultural heritage. The first train ran from Coimbatore to Shirdi.
- UNESCO is set to declare Viswa Bharati as the world's first Living Heritage University. Rathindranath Tagore, son of Rabindranath Tagore, was the first Vice Chancellor.
- Yaya Tso Lake is designated as Ladakh's first biodiversity heritage site.
- The Prime Minister inaugurated the 200th Jayanti celebrations of Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati in Delhi.
- Ministry of Culture, Kishan Reddy, inaugurated Visit India Year 2023 to encourage tourism.
- Salem Sago of Tamil Nadu received a GI Tag.
- Rayagada Shawls and Koraput Kala Jeera Rice of Odisha were granted GI Tags.
- Bhaderwah Rajmash (Red kidney beans) and Sulai Honey of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), and Chokuwa rice (Magic Rice) of Assam obtained GI Tags.
- The GI Tag certificate was awarded to Atreyapuram Pootharekulu at Damodaram Sanjeevaiah Law University, Vishakapatnam.
- Kathmandu-Kalinga Literature Festival was celebrated in Lalitpur, Nepal.
- Janmashtami celebrations in Sri Krishna temple of Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, will be dedicated to ISRO scientists for the successful Chandrayaan-3 Mission.
- Maharashtra celebrated the Dahi Hindi Festival, also known as Gopal Kala or Utlotsavam.
- Nuakhai Juhar 2023, an annual harvest festival, was celebrated in Odisha.
- UNESCO listed Kyiv and Lviv (Ukraine cities) as World Heritage sites "In Danger" due to the Russia-Ukrainian conflict.
- Santi Niketan, an educational hub founded by Rabindranath Tagore, was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List.
- The Archaeological Survey of India launched the "Adopt a Heritage 2.0 Programme," Indian Heritage app, and e-permission portal in New Delhi.





- The Madhya Pradesh Government inaugurated a 108 feet tall statue of Adi Shankaracharya in Omkareshwar, Madhya Pradesh, known as the Statue of Oneness or Ekatmata Ki Pratima.
- "2018" was announced as India's official entry to the 96th OSCARS.
- Yashobhoomi, a new convention centre in Delhi, covering an area of 8.9 lakh sq.km, featuring the world's largest MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibition) facilities, and the largest LED Media façade in the country.
- India's first Cartography Museum was inaugurated in Mussoorie, Uttarakhand.
- Jammu and Kashmir's Pashmina Craft received a GI Tag.
- The Indian Army initiated Project Udbhav in collaboration with the United Service Institution of India to explore the "Indic Heritage of Statecraft" from ancient texts and study the evolution of the Indian military system's strategy.
- India's oldest think tank, the United Service Institution of India, is set to organize the country's first Military Heritage Festival.
- India's nominations for Kozhikode (Literature) and Gwalior (Music) have been included in UNESCO's Creative Cities Network, along with 53 other cities.
- Arunachali Yak chupri, a naturally fermented milk product from Arunachal Pradesh, received a GI Tag.
- New GI Tagged Products and States:
  - Khaw Tai (Khamti Rice) - Arunachal Pradesh
  - Tangsa Textile Product - Arunachal Pradesh
  - Udangudi Panandkarupatti - Tamil Nadu
  - Basholi Pashmina Wool - Jammu and Kashmir
  - Udampur Kaladi - Jammu and Kashmir
  - Kendrapara Rasabali - Odisha
  - Goa Cashew - Goa.
- The Divya Kala Mela, organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, and National Disabled Finance and Development Corporation, is being held in Surat, Gujarat.
- A 10th-century Kadamba inscription, written in Kannada and Sanskrit, has been discovered at the Mahadeva Temple in Cacoda, Southern Goa.
- India is set to chair the UNESCO World Heritage Committee and host its 46th Session in New Delhi from July 21 to 31, 2024. Vishal V Sharma serves as the Chairman or Permanent Representative of India to UNESCO.
- Archaeologists have uncovered a cluster of lost cities in the Amazon rainforest, which was home to at least 10,000 farmers around 2,000 years ago.
- A cultural exchange and tourism collaboration has been launched between Vietnam's Lamdong and India's Leh Ladakh.

- Pandavula Gutta, an ancient geological marvel in Telangana (Jayashankar Bhupalpally District), has been designated as the exclusive Geo-heritage site in the state.
- India commemorated the centenary of Vaikom Satyagraha, a pivotal movement in India's history that challenged untouchability and caste oppression.
- The NCERT recently introduced certain revisions to the history syllabus of Class 12 students, highlighting that Harappans were based out in Rakhigarhi. NCERT has stated that the study of ancient DNA from archaeological sources in Rakhigarhi, Haryana suggests that the genetic roots of the Harappans go back to 10,000 BCE.
- Uttar Pradesh leads with the most GI Tags in the country, followed by Tamil Nadu.
- National broadcaster Doordarshan (DD) has changed the colour of its historic flagship logo from red to saffron.
- Seng Khihlang Festival is celebrated in Wahiajer, Meghalaya by Khasi Tribes.

### **GEOGRAPHY**

- A NASA report concluded that 2022 ranks as the 5th hottest year on record.
- Meghalaya's living root bridges, locally known as jingkiengiri, have been added to the tentative UNESCO World Heritage list.
- The Zuari Bridge, the second largest 8-lane cable-stayed bridge in India, was inaugurated in Goa, connecting North and South Goa.
- The 8th Vande Bharat Train, designed and manufactured indigenously as semi-high-speed, self-propelled trains, was flagged off from Secunderabad to Vishakhapatnam.
- Mt. Saramati, known as the Crown of Nagaland, and the Doyang River, both located in Nagaland, were in the news.
- The Sethu Samudra Project aims to link the Palk Bay and the Gulf of Mannar.
- The Cabinet approved the Sunni Dam Hydropower project in Himachal Pradesh.
- Lithium deposits of 5.9 million tons were discovered in Riasi, Jammu and Kashmir.
- Nathu-la-pass is situated on the border of Sikkim and Bhutan.
- The Buzi Bridge in Mozambique, inaugurated by India's External Affairs Minister Jayashankar, was built by India.
- Snake Island, located in the Black Sea, was visited by Zelensky. Countries surrounding the Black Sea include Ukraine (North), Romania and Bulgaria (West), Turkey (South), Georgia, and Russia (East).
- The Kuril Islands are a disputed area between Russia and Japan.
- Russia carried out massive attacks on the Odesa Port in Ukraine.
- The Helmand River dispute is in the news between Afghanistan and Iran.
- Bangladesh unveiled the Padma Bridge Rail Link project on the Ganga River.
- The Ken-Betwa river linking Project, connecting Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh to provide water to the Bundelkhand region, recently received clearance.

- Prime Minister Modi and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina jointly inaugurated three India-assisted projects: the Akhaura-Agartala cross-border rail link, the Khulna-Mongla Port rail line, and Unit-II of the Maitree Super Thermal Power Plant.
- The Kra Isthmus, which connects the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea, is being bridged by Thailand.
- India's coking coal imports reached a 5-year high of 38.14 million tons, with Australia remaining the dominant supplier followed by the USA and Russia.
- The Kuril Islands are currently a disputed territory between Russia and Japan.
- Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki is a mountain located in Indonesia.
- The Chief Minister of Odisha inaugurated Malkangiri Airport as part of a Regional Connectivity Scheme.
- According to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, India is set to become the world's largest producer of lentils (Masoor) during the 2023-24 period with a projected production of 1.56 million tonnes.
- The Salton Sea, a shallow, saline lake in the California desert, has lithium deposits. The top global producers of lithium are Australia, Chile, and China, and the main source of lithium is pegmatite crystals, an igneous rock. Lithium is also referred to as "White Gold."
- The world's first melanistic tiger safari is being established in Odisha.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth virtually inaugurated an air strip and a jetty to ensure maritime security and connectivity to Mauritius' Agalega islands.
- South Eastern Coalfield Limited's (SECL) Gevra mine, located in Chhattisgarh, is on the verge of becoming the largest coal mine in Asia overtaking Indonesia's Sangatta mine.
- Defense Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the 'Chola' building at Naval War College, Goa, honoring the ancient Chola dynasty's maritime empire.
- Sea6 Energy, a pioneer in the Blue Economy, has launched the world's first large-scale mechanized tropical seaweed farm off the coast of Lombok, Indonesia
- PM inaugurated Sabroom Landport in Tripura located along India-Bangladesh international border.
- Darien Gap has emerged as one of the world's most dangerous and fastest-growing border crossings for illegal immigration. This route is taken when people migrate from South America to North America.
- India recently applied to the International Seabed Authority (ISBA) for rights to explore two vast tracts in the Indian Ocean seabed, including a cobalt-rich crust long known as the Afanasy Nikitin Seamount (AN Seamount).
- Paradip Port Authority of Odisha becomes the Number 1 major port by clocking 145.38 MMT Cargo throughput in 2023-24.

- Al Maktoum International Airport is capable of handling 265,000,000 passengers annually. About 300 million passengers will be able to travel through Dubai World Central every year.
- A South African delegation recently visited the Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh to assess its readiness for the release of five to eight cheetahs later this year. This visit is part of the planning for Project Cheetah.
- India has secured the rights to operate the Sittwe port in Myanmar, marking its second overseas port endeavour after Chabahar (Iran).
- Katchatheevu Island was in the news; it is an uninhabited island between India and Sri Lanka.
- The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project was jointly identified by India and Myanmar to create a multi-modal mode of transport for the shipment of cargo from the eastern ports of India to Myanmar.
- Nagorno-Karabakh is a region of conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

### **NATIONAL SCHEMES**

#### **National Green Hydrogen Mission.**

- The Union Cabinet has approved the National Green Hydrogen Mission.
- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy will oversee the coordination and implementation of the mission, which has an outlay of 19,744 crore.
- Possible outcomes by 2030 include:
  - Creating a green hydrogen capacity in India of at least 5 million metric tonnes per annum.
  - Adding an additional 125 GW of renewable energy capacity.
  - Reducing fossil fuel imports by more than 1 lakh crore.
  - Decreasing annual greenhouse gas emissions by nearly 50 MMT, aligning with India's Nationally Determined Contributions.
- India has recently commenced production of Green Hydrogen with the goal of increasing non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW by 2030.
- The mission aims to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2070.

#### **PM Svanidhi Scheme**

- PM Svanidhi Scheme (PM Street Vendor Atmanirbhar Nidhi) distributed more than 40.07 lakh loans worth 4606.36 crore to 45.32 lakh beneficiaries.
- Key features of the scheme include:
  - No collateral needed for obtaining loans.
  - No penalty in case of early repayment of loans.
  - Higher loan eligibility for future loans if the first loan is repaid on time or early.
  - Interest subsidy of 7% per year for timely repayment, paid quarterly.
  - Monthly cash-back incentives to promote digital transactions.

#### **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana.**



- The Centre has named the new Integrated food security scheme as Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana.
- Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana is a part of Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative aimed at providing free food grains to migrants and the poor, starting from January 1, 2023.
- Food grains will be provided at zero cost for Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority Household (PHH) beneficiaries.
- The scheme aims to fulfill the vision of "One Nation One Price One Ration".
- The Central Government will bear the food subsidy of more than 2 lakh crore rupees to benefit 81.35 crore beneficiaries for the year 2023.

#### **Some other Schemes**

- The National Health Authority has established a new system to measure and grade hospital performance as part of the flagship scheme - Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.
  - Objective: To shift the focus of hospital performance measurement from the volume of services rendered to the value of healthcare services.
  - The initiative aims to ensure the concept of Value-based care, where payment will be based on outcomes, and providers will be rewarded based on the quality of treatment provided.
- Ayushman Bharat includes Health and Wellness Centres and Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY).
- The Namami Gange Mission II was approved with a budget of 22,500 crores till 2026.
- Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana provides training in 4 industry-relevant trades: fitter, machinist, electrician, and welding.
- The Cabinet has approved the Centrally sponsored scheme - Vibrant Villages Programme for FY2022-23 to 2025-26 with a financial allocation of 4,800 crores.
- Nearly 60% of households were provided with tap water connections under the Jal Jeevan Mission.
- Jal Jeevan Mission aims to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections to all households in rural India by 2024.
- The EPCG (Export Promotion Capital Goods) scheme has been modified by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to make doing business easier.
  - It allows duty-free import of capital goods for the purpose of export production in India.
  - It is administered by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) and is governed by the Foreign Trade policy of India.
  - Features include duty-free imports of capital goods subject to Export Obligation, covering manufacturer exports, merchant exports tied to supporting manufacture, and service providers. Second-hand goods of any nature are not permitted under the scheme.

- The Cabinet has approved the PM-DevINE scheme (Development Initiative for the North East Region).
- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched the Swarnima scheme, a loan scheme aimed at providing financial assistance to women entrepreneurs from backward classes.
  - Implemented by the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCDC) and carried out by State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs).
  - Facilitates access to loans of up to 2,00,000/- at an interest rate of 5% per annum.
- The Home Ministry launched a 5000 crore scheme to enhance fire services in states, known as the scheme for Expansion and Modernisation of Fire Services.
- The Amrit Bharat Station scheme aims to develop 1275 stations across the country.
- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched the Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana to empower senior citizens and ensure their well-being.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development initiated the Nirbhaya fund for critical care and support to POCSO victims.
- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, along with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, started a joint initiative called the NAMASTE Scheme (National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem) aimed at ensuring the safety and dignity of sanitation workers.
- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing an umbrella scheme, namely the “PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award scheme” (PM YASASVI), for OBC, EBC, and DNT students by clubbing existing scholarship schemes and hostel scheme.
- The Government of India implemented the Naya Savera scheme or Free Coaching and Allied scheme to assist students belonging to six minority communities: Sikh, Jain, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, Parsi.
- Public Sector Banks and eligible Private sector banks are authorized to implement the Mahila Samman savings certificate, 2023.
  - It is a small savings scheme for a 2-year period till March 2025 from the nearest post office.
  - Allows deposit facility up to 2 lakhs in the name of women or girl for a tenure of 2 years for a fixed interest of 7.5% with partial withdrawal options.
  - Allows partial withdrawal of 40% of the eligible balance once after the expiry of one year from the date of opening of the account.
  - Premature closure allowed anytime after completion of 6 months from the date of opening and on the death of the account holder and medical support in life-threatening diseases.
- Union Minister for Education, Dharmendra Pradhan, introduced the Malaviya Mission - Teacher Training Program at Kaushal Bhawan in New Delhi, in partnership with the



University Grants Commission (UGC) and the Ministry of Education, aimed at improving the standard of education in India.

- State Health Minister Balir Singh launched Mission Intensified Indra Dhanush 5.0 in Mohali, Punjab, covering pregnant women who are partially vaccinated or unvaccinated, as well as children left out and dropouts in the age group of 0-5 years. Twelve vaccine-preventable diseases are covered under Indra Dhanush.
  - Diseases covered include Diphtheria, Whooping cough, Tetanus, Polio, Tuberculosis, Hepatitis B, Meningitis, Pneumonia, Haemophilus Influenza type B Infections, Japanese Encephalitis, Rotavirus, Pneumococcal Conjugate vaccine, and Measles-Rubella.
- The PM Svanidhi scheme surpassed the 50 lakh beneficiaries mark since its inception on June 1, 2020. Administered under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, it provides collateral-free working capital loans of up to 50 thousand rupees to urban street vendors.
- Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA), launched on Aug 15, 2020, by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, is a campaign aimed at reducing substance abuse in India. The department signed an MoU with ISKCON for Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan to convert India into a drug-addiction free nation.
- Ayushman Bharat, a flagship scheme of the Government of India launched in 2018, provides healthcare services and health insurance coverage to low-income earners in the country. It has two components: Health and wellness centres (1.5 Lakhs established in the country) and Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare rebranded the Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres as Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, with a new tagline "Arogyam Parmam Dhanam," and allocated 3000 for each facility.
- Ministry of Women and Child Development launched the Anganwadi protocol for Divyang children in Delhi, providing guidelines for Anganwadi workers to track and assist children with disabilities up to the age of 6.
- The Free Nation Scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana will be extended until 2028. Administered by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Administration, it provides 5 kg of food grains per person per month free of cost to all beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act, 2013.
- AMRUT 2.0 scheme, launched in 2021 for a period of 5 years, aims to achieve universal coverage of water supply through functional taps to all households in all statutory towns. It also includes coverage of sewerage in 500 cities covered in the first phase of AMRUT.
- Modi celebrated Jan Jaatiya Gaurav Diwas in Khunti, Jharkhand in 2023 and launched two schemes:
  - Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra: Started from Nov 15, 2023, to Jan 25, 2024, with 118 IEC vans covering all districts across the country to make people aware of

government schemes. It will cover 2.55 Lakh Gram Panchayats and 3600 Urban Local Bodies.

- PM Janjati Adivasi Nyay Maha Abhiyan: Aimed at protecting and empowering tribes on the verge of extinction (PVTGs), with a budget of 24000 crore for various initiatives including road and telecom connectivity, electricity, safe housing, clean drinking water, sanitation, improved access to education, health, nutrition, and sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- PVTGs (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups):
  - Defined by characteristics such as pre-agricultural level of technology, low level of literacy, economic backwardness, and a declining or stagnant population.
  - There are 75 PVTGs in India covering 18 states and UTs with a population of 28 lakhs.
  - PVTGs in Telangana include Chenchu, Kolam, Kondareddy, and Thoti.
- PM Modi launched the Prithvi Vigyan scheme under the Ministry of Earth Sciences from 2021 to 2026 to revolutionize understanding and interaction with various Earth systems. The scheme aims to address five components of Earth: atmosphere, hydrosphere, geosphere, cryosphere, and biosphere and includes sub-services like "Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS)", "Ocean Services, Modelling Application, Resources and Technology (O-SMART)", and others.
- Andhra Pradesh leads in the one-district One product initiative and tops in Ayushman Bharat scheme expenditure.
- Jammu and Kashmir becomes the first Union Territory to implement the Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana.
- The Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana, launched by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in September 2023, focuses on improving the quality and reach of products and services of artisans and craftspeople. The scheme provides a collateral-free loan up to 3 lakh at a concessional interest rate of 5% and covers 18 traditional crafts.
- The Zero Defect, Zero Effect scheme was launched in October 2016 and revamped in 2022. It offers certification for environmentally conscious manufacturing in three certification levels according to 20 performance-based parameters and is applicable only for manufacturing MSMEs.
- Ola Electric Mobility Private Limited becomes the first Indian e2W (electric two-wheeler) company to get the Bureau of Indian Standards certification.
- Prime Minister Modi announced the "Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana" targeting the installation of rooftop solar panels on 1 crore households.





- Prime Minister of India, Modi, announced the "PM Surya Ghar: Free Electricity Scheme" aiming to provide 300 units of free electricity per month to one crore houses across the country, with an investment of 75000 crores.
- The Cabinet approved 6000 crores for the fisheries sector under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). This includes a sub scheme, Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisari Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY), which focuses on incentivizing fisheries and aquaculture microenterprises, facilitating access to institutional financing, and formalizing the unorganized fisheries sector.
- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship launched the Rashtriya Udyamita Vikas Pariyojana under Skill India Mission, tailored specifically for beneficiaries of the PM SVANidhi scheme.
- The "Science for Women-A Technology & Innovation (SWATI)" Portal was launched, aiming to create a single online portal representing Indian women and girls in STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine) fields.
- The Union Agriculture Minister unveiled the 'SARATHI' (Sandbox for Agricultural and Rural Security, Technology and Insurance) portal, designed to provide a full suite of insurance products, including PMFBY, specifically for farmers and rural populations in India.
- The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare launched the centralized Kisan Rakshak Helpline 14447 and Portal recently, enabling farmers to lodge their grievances, concerns, and queries digitally.
- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) announced the launch of "Pure for Sure". This initiative is set to provide Quality & Quantity assurance in LPG cylinders delivered directly to the customer's doorstep, a first-of-its-kind service in the nation.
- India's inaugural Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) is poised to begin operations from the All India Institute for Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand

## SPORTS

- Australia Open 2023:
  - Men's singles winner: Novak Djokovic (Serbia)
  - Women's singles winner: Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)
- World Boxing Council announces creation of Transgender category.
- India defeated England in ICC Women's U19 T20 World Cup held in South Africa.
- Germany emerged victorious against Belgium in the FIDE Hockey World Cup held in Odisha.
- Former Australian Captain, Belinda Clark, honored with a statue at Sydney Cricket Ground, Australia.
- Koneru Humpy won silver at FIDE World Rapid and World Chess Blitz Championship in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

- Surya Kumar Yadav named ICC T20 Cricketer of the Year 2022.
- Hyderabad, Telangana, set to host the 2023 Hyderabad e-prix, India's first ABB FIA Formula E World Championship race.
- 2022 Khelo India Youth Games held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, with mascot Asha (Tiger), Mowgli, Smart torch (Amarantak), featuring 27 sports including the introduction of water sports for the first time.
- BCCI introduces new selection criteria for Indian players:
  - Dexa Test (Dual Energy X-ray Absorptiometry): Measures mineral density using spectral imaging.
  - Yo-Yo Test: Fitness test to measure endurance.
- Hockey India launches Hockey Verse, becoming the first national sports federation to enter the metaverse.
- India records the largest margin of victory in ODI cricket against Sri Lanka by 317 runs.
- World's largest seated hockey stadium, Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium, inaugurated in Rourkela, Odisha.
- Shubman Gill becomes the youngest cricketer to score a century in T20 format.
- Akshdeep Singh and Priyanka Goswami emerge victorious at the National Race Walking Championships 2023.
- Khelo India Water Games held in Gulbarga, Karnataka:
  - Jammu and Kashmir tops the medal list.
  - Telangana secured 2 Gold, 1 Silver, and 3 Bronze medals.
- Rohit Sharma becomes the only Indian batter to score centuries across ODIs, T20Is, and Tests as a captain.
- Adventure Sports Foundation of Ladakh organizes India's first and the world's highest Frozen Half Marathon at Frozen Pangong Lake.
- Craig Fulton of South Africa appointed as Chief Coach of the Indian Men's Hockey Team.
- Mirabai Chanu named BBC Indian Sportswoman of the year 2022.
- Rest of India wins the 59th Edition of Irani Cup by defeating Madhya Pradesh.
- Santosh Trophy (76th National Football Championship) held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia – Karnataka emerges victorious over Meghalaya after 54 years.
- Kim Cotton becomes the first female umpire in a men's international T20 match between New Zealand and Sri Lanka.
- Salim Durani, the only cricketer born in Afghanistan but played for India, passed away.
- Peru withdraws as host of FIFA U-17 World Cup 2023.
- Brazilian dictionary adds "peel" (soccer player) as an adjective.
- Ding Liren wins the 2023 FIDE World Championship in Rapid Tiebreaks.
- Satwik-Chirag clinch gold medal at the World Badminton Championship held in Dubai.
- Cristiano Ronaldo appears to be the world's highest-paid athlete in 2023.

- 2023 Asian Weightlifting Championship held at Jinju, South Korea, with China emerging as the winner.
- Abhilash Tomy becomes the first Indian to complete the Golden Globe race.
- Lionel Messi of Argentina honored as Laureus World Sportsman of the Year 2023.
- FIFA World Cup: Hosted in Argentina (Uruguay won against Italy).
- FIFA Women's World Cup: Held in Australia and New Zealand, with Spain defeating England.
- 13th Edition of ICC World Cup: Australia emerged victorious against India at Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- Prime Minister inaugurates the 3rd Edition of Khelo India University Games in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. Punjab State University wins the University Games. The mascot, named Jitu, represents Swamp Deer.
- French Open 2023:
  - Men's Singles: Novak Djokovic.
  - Women's Singles: Iga Swiatek.
- Wimbledon Open 2023:
  - Men's Singles: Carlos Alcaraz.
  - Women's Singles: Marketa Vondrousova (Czech Republic).
- India triumphs in the Asian Kabaddi Championship 2023 against Iran, held in Korea.
- Dipika and Harinder win Squash Gold at the Asian Mixed Doubles Championship held in Hangzhou, China.
- Neeraj Chopra secures victory at the Lausanne Diamond League 2023 (Switzerland).
- 132nd Durand Cup (Football Tournament) organized by the Indian Armed Forces.
- South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship 2023 held in Bengaluru, Karnataka. India secures victory for the 9th time against Kuwait.
- Ajit Agarkar appointed as BCCI Selection Committee Chairman.
- Shreyanka Patil makes history by becoming the first Indian cricketer to be signed for the Women's Caribbean Premier League (WCPL).
- Basketball Federation of India's new President: Abhinav Arjuna.
- India's archery player, Parth Salunke, creates history at the World Youth Archery Championship held in Ireland:
  - He is the first Indian male to win a medal at the World Youth Archery Championship.
  - India wins a total of 11 medals, ranking 2nd after South Korea.
- Pragnanda emerges victorious in Super GM Chess Tournament held in Hungary.
- India secures 3rd place in the Asian Athletics Championships 2023, with Japan topping the rankings.

- Telangana government collaborates with Greenco to organize the 2nd phase of the Formula E race in Hyderabad in 2024.
- GM Gukesh surpasses Viswanathan Anand to become the highest-ranked Indian chess player in FIDE World Cup rankings.
- Sports Authority of India launches a short movie series called "Hala Bol" under the campaign "Cheer4India," depicting the journey of Asian Games athletes.
- World Archery Championships take place in Berlin, Germany, where India's women's compound archery team secures a historic gold medal, marking India's first-ever gold at the archery world championships in any category. India tops the medal tally with 3 Gold medals and 1 Bronze medal:
  - Gold (Women's team): Parneet Kaur, Aditi, Jyothi Surekha Vennam
  - Gold (Men's Individual): Ojas Pravin Deotale
  - Gold (Women's Individual): Aditi Gopichand Swami
  - Bronze (Women's Individual): Jyothi Surekha Vennam
- Chennai to host "Street 20," a cricket tournament dedicated to street children for the first time.
- Hangzhou, China, hosts the Asian Games 2023, with 14 representatives from Telangana and 16 from Andhra Pradesh representing India. Harman Preet Singh from Cricket and Boxer Lovelyna serve as Indian flag bearers at the Opening ceremony. Motto: Heart to Heart @ Future; Medal design: Shan Shui; Song: With You me.
- ODI World Cup set to be held in India. International Cricket Council (ICC) releases the official anthem titled "Dil Jashan Bole," composed by Bollywood Actor, Ranveer Singh.
- Venues for the 2024 T20 World Cup finalized in the United States of America, marking the first time the T20 World Cup will be held in America.
- India emerges victorious against Sri Lanka in the 16th Edition of the Asia Cup 2023 held in Columbia, Sri Lanka:
  - Man of the Match: Mohammad Siraj
  - Man of the Tournament or Man of the Series: Kuldeep Yadav
  - Rohit Sharma completes 10,000 ODI runs during the Asia Cup 2023, becoming the 3rd Indian opener to achieve this milestone after Sachin Tendulkar and Sourav Ganguly.
- US Open 2023:
  - Men's singles winner: Novak Djokovic
  - Coco Gauff secures her first Women's singles Grand Slam title at the US Open 2023.
  - Rajeev Ram and Joe Salisbury clinch the men's doubles title.
  - Gabriela Dabrowski and Erin Routliffe emerge victorious in the women's doubles category.



- The inaugural FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023 takes place in Philippines, Indonesia, and Japan, with Germany winning against Serbia.
- MotoGP Bharat is held at the Buddh International Circuit in Greater Noida, marking the first-ever Formula-race championship. The event is won by Ducati's Jorge Martin.
- The 53rd ISSF World Championships 2023 occurs in Baku, Azerbaijan, with China securing the top position followed by Ukraine and India.
- SAFF U-16 Championship takes place in Thimpu, Bhutan, with India emerging victorious against Bangladesh.
- Durand Cup 2023 is held in Kolkata, West Bengal, and is won by Mohun Bagan SG.
- Hockey 5s Asia Cup 2023 takes place in Oman, with India winning against Pakistan.
- Neeraj Chopra finishes 2nd in the Diamond League finals held in Eugene.
- The World Archery Championship 2023 occurs in Berlin, Germany, with Jyothi Surekha Vennam becoming the first Indian to win a gold medal, and Ojas Pravin Deotale becoming the first Indian male to win.
- The 2023 Total Energies BWF World Championships are held in Copenhagen, Denmark:
  - Men's singles: Kunlavut Vitidsarn (Gold), Kodai Naraoka (Silver), H S Pranoy, and Anders Antonsen (Bronze).
  - Women's singles: An Se-young (Gold), Carolina Marin (Silver), Chen Yufei, Akane Yamaguchi (Bronze).
- "India Smart Cities Awards 2022" results: Indore tops the National Smart City award, Madhya Pradesh leads in the State Award category, and Chandigarh is awarded the best Union Territory award.
- SAFF (South Asian Football Federation) U-19 Championship is held in Nepal, with India's men's team winning against Pakistan.
- The 30th International Cricket Council World Cup 2023 is scheduled to be held from October 5 to November 19. The first match will take place at Narendra Modi Stadium, Gujarat, between England and New Zealand.
  - India defeats Pakistan for the 8th time in ODI World Cups.
  - The winner of the World Cup receives 33.29 crore, while the runners-up receive 16.64 crore.
- The 19th Edition of the Asian Games 2022 concluded in Hangzhou, China:
  - China tops the medal tally.
  - 41 out of 45 participating countries achieved at least one medal in any game.
  - Bhutan, East Timor, Maldives, and Yemen did not receive any medals.
  - India becomes the 4th country in the world to win 100 medals in a single event.
  - The 2026 Asian Games are scheduled to be held in Nagoya, Japan.
- Modi inaugurates the 141st International Olympic Committee meeting in Mumbai, where cricket is declared an Olympic sport for the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles. India expresses



interest in hosting the 2036 Olympics. Additional sports added include Baseball-Softball, Flag football, Lacrosse, and Squash.

- Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren unveils 'Juhi' mascot for the Women's Asian Champions Trophy.
- Former England Captain Alastair Cook announces retirement from Cricket.
- Indian Cricketers Virender Sehwag, Diana Edulji, and Sri Lanka's Aravinda de Silva are inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame 2023, with Diana being the first woman cricketer to receive this honor.
- The 37th National Games were held in Goa across 5 cities (Mapusa, Margao, Panaji, Ponda, Vasco):
  - The 38th National Games will be held in Uttarakhand in 2024, and the 36th National Games took place in Gujarat in 2022.
  - Maharashtra tops the medal tally with 228 medals, followed by Services Sports Control Board.
  - The best male athlete is Srihari Nataraj (Swimming), and the best female athletes are Sanyukta Prasen Kale and Pranati Nayak.
  - Maharashtra wins the Raja Bhalindra Singh Trophy for the overall championship in the National Games 2023.
  - The mascot is 'MOGA,' meaning 'Love' in the Konkani language, with the theme or motto being 'Get Set Goa.' Paytm is the official sponsor, and Bisleri is the official hydration partner.
- Australian Captain Meg Lanning announces retirement from International cricket, holding the record for the most Women's One Day International Centuries, with 17 centuries across all formats. Italy defeats Australia to win the Davis Cup 2023 title in Tennis.
- The International Cricket Council introduces the Stop Clock in Men's ODI and T20I cricket to regulate the time taken between overs.
  - Bowling teams in Men's ODIs and T20Is will face a 5-run penalty if the bowler fails to bowl the next over within 60 seconds after the completion of the previous over for the third time in an innings.
- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports announces the first-ever Khelo India Para Games 2023 to be held from December 10 to 17, 2023, in Delhi. The games will take place in three locations: Indira Gandhi Sports Complex, Karni Singh Shooting Range, and Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.
- The Indian Women's Hockey team secures victory against Japan in the Asian Champions Trophy 2023 held in Ranchi, Jharkhand.
  - Salima Tete from India is awarded the Player of the Tournament.
  - Akio Tanaka from Japan receives the Best Goalkeeper of the Tournament award.

- Indian tennis legends Leander Paes (Player category) and Vijay Amritraj (Contributor category) become the first Asian men to be inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame.
  - Richard Evans is also inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in the Contributor category.
- Vita Dani becomes the first Indian to be inducted as an International Table Tennis Federation Foundation Governing Board Member.
- Beach Games 2024 took place from January 4th to January 11th, 2024, in Diu, India, with eight sports events.
- India is preparing to host the 2036 Summer Olympics.
- Raghuram Iyer was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of the Indian Premier League (IPL) teams by the Indian Olympic Association.
- India's Women's hockey team lost to Japan in the FIH Women's Hockey Olympic Qualifiers, failing to qualify for the Paris Olympics 2024.
- Virat Kohli won the Pubity Sports Men's Athlete of the Year 2023, and Aitana Bonmati from Catalonia won the Pubity Sports Women's Athlete of the Year 2023.
- Lionel Messi was named the Best FIFA Men's Player of the Year 2024, and Alexia Putellas received the Best Female FIFA Player of the Year 2024 award.
- Norwegian chess player Magnus Carlsen won the 2023 FIDE World Chess Championship in Samarkhand, Uzbekistan, marking his fifth title and his 16th World Championship title overall.
- The International Cricket Council hosted the Under-19 Men's Cricket World Cup in South Africa.
- Prime Minister Modi attended the opening ceremony of the Khelo India Youth Games in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced plans to honor outstanding performances in Indian cricket at the NAMAN Awards Ceremony in Hyderabad, including Shubman Gill as Cricketer of the Year 2023, and Ravi Shastri with the Lifetime Achievement Award.
- The ICC declared Virat Kohli as the ODI player of the year 2023.
- Man Singh won the gold medal at the Asian Marathon Championships 2024 held in Hong Kong.
- Rohan Bopanna won the Australian Open men's doubles title, becoming the oldest man in the Open Era to win a Grand Slam doubles title.
  - Bopanna, alongside his Australian partner Matthew Ebden, defeated the Italian pair of Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori in the finals of the Australian Open 2024.
  - This victory marks Bopanna's second Grand Slam title, his first being the 2017 French Open mixed doubles with Canadian partner Gabriela Dabrowski.



- Roshibina Devi has been honored as the Female Wushu Player of the Year by the International Wushu Federation (IWUF).
- Tai Tzu Ying won the women's singles title at the India Open Badminton 2024.
- Sreeja Akula secured her maiden international title in the World Table Tennis Feeder Corpus Christi tournament 2024.
- India's women Badminton team, led by P V Sindhu and Anmol Kharb, won their first-ever gold medal at the Asia Badminton Championship 2024 held in Malaysia.
- Union Sports Minister, Anurag Thakur, handed over the Chess Olympiad Torch to Budapest.
- India and Bangladesh jointly hosted the 5th Edition of the SAFF Women's U-19 Championship, held in Bangladesh.
- The Chief Minister of Assam launched the mascot Ashtalakshmi for the Khelo India University Games 2024.
- The Khelo India Youth Games recently commenced in Chennai, Tamilnadu, with Maharashtra leading the medal tally followed by Tamilnadu. Telangana is in 6th place with 24 medals. Squash was introduced in these games for the first time.
- The Khelo India Winter Games are set to be held in Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir. The mascot for the event is named Sheene-She.
- Indian cricketer Jasprit Bumrah became the first Indian pacer to top the ICC Men's Test Bowling Rankings after his outstanding performance in the Visakhapatnam Test against England.
- Sreeja Akula, the Commonwealth Games mixed doubles champion, replaced Manika Batra as India's top-ranked women's table tennis player in the latest ITTF World Rankings that were released.
- In a remarkable achievement, Indian chess prodigy Dommaraju Gukesh, aged just 17, has made history by winning the FIDE Candidates' tournament, becoming the youngest-ever challenger in the history of the World Chess Championship.
- India won 9 medals in the Asia Wrestling Championship held at Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- Yuvraj Singh becomes the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 Ambassador.
- MS Dhoni has become the first Indian wicketkeeper to score 7,000 runs in T20 cricket.

**ADMISSION OPEN**

**GROUP II | IIA**

**ONLINE | OFFLINE -CLASS | TEST**



## BOOKS

- Dhoni releases the autobiography of Prof. K. K. Abdul Gaffer titled "Njaan Sakshi."
- The Health Minister launches a book titled "Braving a Viral Storm: India's COVID-19 Vaccine Story" written by Ashish Chadorkar and Suraj Sudhir.
- The Mathrubhumi Book of the Year Award 2023 is awarded to "Wanderers, Kings, Merchants" written by Peggy Mohan.
- The Golden Book Awards, presented by Wings Publications, include:
  - "Unfinished" by Priyanka Chopra
  - "400 Days" by Chetan Bhagat
  - "Karma" by Sadhguru
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launches the book 'Saurashtra-Tamil Sangamprashastih' prepared by Shree Somnath Sanskrit University, Gujarat.
- Niti Aayog, in collaboration with UNDP, releases "Best Practices in Social Sector: A Compendium 2023."
- Dharmendra Pradhan launches the comic book "Let's Move Forward," developed by NCERT & UNESCO.
- "Fire on the Ganges: Life among the Dead in Banaras" by Radhika Iyengar is published.
- "Farooq of Kashmir," a biopic of former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah, is released.
- Sonal Goel IAS unveils her book "Nation Calling" for IAS aspirants.
- "Nilavu Kudicha Simhangaal" (Lions that Drank the Moonlight) is the autobiography of ISRO Chairman S. Somnath in Malayalam.
- ISRO releases a book on "FEAST Software" available for Indian academia.
- "Four Stars of Destiny" is the autobiography of ex-Indian army chief, M M Naravane.
- Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupendar Yadav, unveiled a book titled "Modi: Energising a Green Future."
- "An Uncommon Love – The Early life of Sudha and Narayan Murthy" is written by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni.
- "The Idea of Democracy" - Book by Sam Pitroda
- "KNIFE: Meditations After an Attempted Murder" - Book by Salman Rushdie
- "Just a Mercenary" - Autobiography of Duvvuri Subbarao

Books	Authors
Revolutionaries: The Other side of How India won freedom	Sanjeev Sanyal
The world: A Family History of Humanity	Simon Sebag Montefiore
Breaking Barriers - The story of a Dalit Chief secretary	Kaki Madhava Rao
Jadunama	Javed Akthar



Roller Coaster	Tamal Bandyopadhyay
In the Line of Fire	Pervez Musharraf
The poverty of Political Economy	Meghnad Desai
Bobby, India and Irelands, A Love storey	MV Narasinga Rao
Victory city	Salman Rushdie
India's struggle for Independence - Gandhian Era	Jyothi Mani, Balan
The Book of Bihari	Abhay K
Mundaka Upanishad: The Gateway to Eternity	Karan Singh
As Good as my word	KM Chandra Sekhar
Bipin, The man Behind the Uniform	Rachna Bisht Rawat
Snakes in te Ganga, Breaking India 2.0	Rajiv Malhotra and Vijaya Viswanathan
Courting India	Nandini Das
The Golden years	Ruskin Bond
8 years of Modi Sarkar	Sandeep Marwah
Made In India	Amitab Kant
Milk and Honey	Rupi Kaur
My Life as a Comrade	K K Shailaja
Reflections	Narayana Vaghul
Draupadi Murmu	Kasturi Ray
Collective Spirit, concrete Action	Shashi Shekar
The Girl from Kathua	Madhu Purnima Kishwar
The Indian Metropolis	Varun Gandhi
A Life Well Spent	Satish chandra
Colours of devotion	Anita Bharat shah
Maya Modi Azad	Sudha Pai and Sajjan Kumar
Krishna - 7 Sutras and karma sutras	Debashish Chatterjee
Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam (memories never die)	Y S Rajan and APJM Nazema Maraikayar
Through the broken glass	TN Seshan
India Rising memoir of A scientist	Chidambarami
Western lane	Chetna Maroo
How Prime Minister decide	Neerja choudary
The day I became a runner	Sohini Chattopadhyay
The Book of Life	Autobiography of Vivek Agnihotri
Igniting Collective Goodness	Bluecraft Original foundation and foreword by Modi
Breaking the Mould	Raghuram rajan and Rohit Lamba

## PERSONALITIES

- Captain Surabhi Jakhmola becomes the first woman officer posted in project Dhantak of Bhutan on a foreign assignment at Border Roads Organization.
- Avani Chaturvedi is the first Indian Air Force (IAF) woman fighter pilot to fly a Sukhoi fighter jet and participate in a foreign mission called Veer Guardian 2023.
- Captain Shiva Chouhan becomes the first woman military officer to be assigned to the world's highest battleground, Siachen Glacier.
- Tehemton Udwadia, known as the Father of Laparoscopic Surgery, passed away.
- Arota Isozaki, a Japanese architect and Pritzker laureate, passed away.
- A C Charania is appointed as NASA's Chief Technologist.
- Manpreet Monica Singh becomes the first female Sikh judge in the United States.
- Rehman Rahi, a Kashmiri writer, becomes the first Kashmiri writer to be awarded the Jnanpith, India's highest literary award, for his poetic collection "Siyah Rood Jaeren Manz."
- Lahari Bai, a 27-year-old tribal woman, builds a bank of 150 rare millet seeds in Dindori, Madhya Pradesh.
- Neal Mohan is appointed as the CEO of YouTube.
- Rayyanah Barnwai becomes the first Arab woman astronaut to go to space.
- Surekha Yadav, Asia's first woman Loco Pilot, operates the Vande Bharat Express.
- Rashmi Shukla is appointed as the Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal.
- Craig Fulton of South Africa is appointed as the Chief Coach of the Indian Men's Hockey Team.
- Shri Rajesh Malhotra takes charge as the Director General of Press Information Bureau.
- Nicola Fox becomes NASA's first woman science chief.
- Mr. Shailesh Pathak is appointed as the Secretary General of FICCI.
- Noted dancer Kanak Rele, who gave academic status to Mohiniyattam, passes away.
- Captain Shaliza Dhami becomes the first Indian Air Force (IAF) woman officer to head a frontline unit.
- Geetan Rana becomes the first woman to lead an army unit near the China border in Ladakh.
- Suraj Berry is appointed as the Chief of Personnel of the Indian Navy.
- Atul Anand assumes the role of Director General of Naval Operations.
- Sanjay Jasjit Singh is appointed as the Vice Chief of the Navy.
- Five Indian-origin women, namely Rupal Bhansali, Savitra Subramanian, Anu Aiyengar, Sonal Desai, and Meena Lakdawala Flynn, feature in the "100 Most Influential Women in US Finance" list.
- Elon Musk becomes the most followed Twitter user, surpassing Barack Obama.
- Manoj Sinha is appointed as the Chairman of UPSC (Union Public Service Commission).

- A K Mohanty becomes the Chairman of Baba Atomic Research Centre (BARC).
- Amit Agarwal is appointed as the Chairman of UIDAI (Unique Identification Authority of India).
- Swaminathan Janakiraman assumes the role of Deputy Governor of RBI (Reserve Bank of India).
- Dennis Francis becomes the President of the 78th UNGA (United Nations General Assembly).
- Abdulla Al Mandous becomes the President of the World Meteorological Organization.
- Praveen Soud is appointed as the Director of CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation).
- Nusrat Jahan Choudary becomes the first Muslim woman to be appointed as a federal judge.
- Praveen Kumar Srivastava is appointed as the CVC (Central Vigilance Commissioner).
- Tushar Mehta is appointed as the Solicitor General of India.
- Rikki Valerie Kolle, a transgender woman, wins the Miss Netherlands crown.
- Sheikh Talal Fahad Al-Sabah is elected as the President of the Olympic Council of Asia.
- Manoj Yadava is appointed as the Director General of RPF (Railway Protection Force).
- Vijay Sampla assumes the role of Chairman of NCSC (National Commission for Scheduled Castes).
- M S Swaminathan, known as the Father of the Green Revolution, passes away.
- Prime Minister Modi invites US President Joe Biden to be the chief guest at India's Republic Day on January 26 next year.
- Rahul Navin becomes the acting Director of ED (Enforcement Directorate).
- Neeraj Mittal is appointed as the Telecom Secretary.
- Srinivasan K Swamy is appointed as the Chairman of the Audit Bureau of Circulations.
- Mylaswamy Annadurai is known as the Moon Man of India.
- Pramila Maik becomes the first woman Speaker of the Odisha Assembly.
- Danielle McGahey becomes the first transgender woman to play international cricket.
- Jaya Verma Sinha becomes the first woman to head the Railway Board.
- Arindam Babji is appointed as the Permanent Representative to the United Nations from India.
- Heeralal Samariya is sworn in as the Chief Information Commissioner by President Draupadi Murmu. Other Information Officers include Ramalingam and Vinod Kumar Tiwari.
- Bollywood actor Pankaj Tripathi is appointed as the "UPI Safety Ambassador" by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- Anish Shah of Mahindra Group is named as the President-elect of FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) for 2023-24.



- Justice M Fathima Beevi, India's first Muslim woman judge to be appointed to any higher judiciary and the first woman to become Supreme Court Justice in an Asian country, passes away.
- Saima Wazed, daughter of Bangladesh Prime Minister, is nominated as the South East Asia Regional Director of WHO (World Health Organization).
- Professor Sarang Deo of Indian School of Business is appointed to the 15-member WHO Advisory Group for TB (tuberculosis), headed by Ethel Leonor Maciel.
- Surendra Kumar Adhana from India is re-elected as a member of the UN Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for a three-year term from 2024 to 2026.
- M S Dhoni is appointed as the Brand Ambassador of SBI (State Bank of India).
- RBI (Reserve Bank of India) appoints Manoranjan as an Executive Director.
- Justice Rajendra Menon is re-appointed as the Chairman of the Armed Forces Tribunal.
- Cricketer Suresh Raina is appointed as the Youth Voter Awareness Ambassador for Jammu and Kashmir.
- Indian researcher Dr. Akshata Krishnamurthy becomes the first Indian woman to operate a rover on Mars with NASA.
- Nina Singh is appointed as the first Women Director General (DG) of CISF (Central Industrial Security Force), while Anish Dayal is appointed as the DG of CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force).
- Actress Aastha Rawal is crowned Miss Continental International 2023.
- SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) approves the appointment of Pramod Agarwal as the Chairman of BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange).
- Bisleri appoints actress Deepika Padukone as its first-ever Global Ambassador.
- Nadia Calvino from Spain has become the president of the European Investment Bank, marking the first time a woman has led the institution.
- The European Investment Bank was founded in 1958 and is headquartered at Boulevard Konrad Adenauer, Luxembourg.
- Success Masra is currently serving as the Transitional Prime Minister of Chad.
- Vikas Sheel has been appointed as the Executive Director of the Asian Development Bank in Manila, Philippines, for a term of three years, with Smitha Sarangi serving as Advisor to the Executive Director.
- Senthil Pandian has been appointed as the Permanent Representative of India to the World Trade Organisation for a period of three years.
- Parveen Kumar has been appointed as an Advisor to the Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund.
- Balaji has been appointed as the Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of India in Brussels, Belgium, for a period of three years.

- Tanu Singh has been appointed as the First Secretary of the PMI to the World Trade Organisation for a period of three years.
- Sanjiv Aggarwal has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF).
- Bernardo Arevalo has been elected as the President of Guatemala.
- The 35th National Road Safety Week is scheduled from January 11 to January 17, 2024, with the theme "Be a road safety hero."
- National Voters Day is observed on January 25, with the 2024 theme being "Nothing Like Voting, I Vote For Sure."
- International Day of Education 2024 falls on January 24, themed "Learning for lasting peace."
- Guinness World Records (GWR) has shared a video of the world's oldest living man, 111-year-old John Alfred Tinniswood, from England.
- The Government has appointed Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi as the next Chief of the Naval Staff.
- The Democratic Republic of Congo appointed Judith Suminwa Tuluka as the nation's first woman Prime Minister.
- Kristalina Georgieva has been re-appointed as International Monetary Fund MD for another 5-year term.
- Kuwait's Emir appointed Ahmad Abdullah al-Ahmad al-Sabah as Prime Minister.
- World record holder Kami Rita Sherpa reached the top of Mt Everest for the 29th
- National Maritime Week is observed from March 29 to April 5. Theme: Sustainable shipping opportunities and challenges
- World Health Day is celebrated every year on April 7, to commemorate the founding anniversary of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1948. Theme for 2024: 'My Health, My Right'
- Group Captains Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Ajit Krishnan and Angad Pratap, and Wing Commander Shubanshu Shukla, all with the Indian Air Force, have been chosen as the astronaut-candidates for the first human spaceflight mission of the Indian Space Research Organisation.
- Krishna has been selected for the Sangita Kalanidhi award of the Music Academy for 2024.

#### **Important Days and Themes (2023) 2024 ( Upto March 31 -2024)**

Date	Event	Details
Jan 9	17th Pravasiya Bharatiya Diwas	- Pravasiya Bharatiya Convention was inaugurated by Modi in Indore, Madhya Pradesh Theme for 2023 – "Diaspora: Reliable partners for India's progress in Amritkaal"



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chief Guest – Mohammad Irfan Ali, President of Guyana</li> <li>- It is celebrated for every 2 years</li> </ul>
Jan 10	World Hindi Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1st Hindi Conference held from Nagpur, Maharashtra in 1975</li> <li>- It is celebrated every year by Ministry of External Affairs</li> <li>Theme for 2024 - Hindi-Bridging Traditional Knowledge and Artificial Intelligence</li> </ul>
Jan 12	National Youth Day (To mark the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Modi inaugurated 26th National Youth Festival on the occasion at Hubli, Karnataka</li> <li>Theme for 2024 - Arise, Awake, and Realise the Power You Hold</li> </ul>
Jan 24	National Girl Child Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Theme for 2023 – “Self Defense Training for Girls”</li> <li>Theme for 2024- "Digital Generation, Our Generation, Our Time is Now—Our Rights, Our Future."</li> </ul>
Jan 24	International Day of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Theme for 2023 – “To Invest in People, prioritize education”</li> <li>Theme for 2024 - "learning for lasting peace"</li> </ul>
Jan 25	National Voters Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Theme for 2023 – “Nothing like voting, I Vote for Sure”</li> </ul>
Jan 26	Republic Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Theme for 2024- "India - Mother of Democracy" and "Viksit Bharat"</li> <li>Chief Guest - French President Emmanuel Macron</li> </ul>
Feb 2	World Wetlands Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Theme for 2023 – “Its Time for wetland restoration”</li> <li>Theme for 2024 - Wetlands and Human Wellbeing</li> </ul>
Feb 6	International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Theme for 2023 is Partnership with Men and Boys to transform social and gender Norms to end FGM</li> <li>Theme for 2024- Her Voice, Her Future</li> </ul>
Feb 7 (2nd Tuesday of February)	Safer Internet Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Theme for 2024 - Together for a better internet</li> </ul>
Feb 10	World Pulses day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Theme for 2023 is Pulses for a Sustainable Future, Top state to produce Pulses = Madhya Pradesh</li> <li>Theme for 2024- 'Pulses: Nourishing soil and people. '</li> </ul>



Feb 11	International Day of Women and Girls in science	Theme for 2023 is “Innovate, Demonstrate, Elevate, Advance, sustain (IDEAS): Bringing Communities Forward for Sustainable and Equitable Development” Theme for 2024 -Women and Girls in Science Leadership, a New Era for Sustainability”.
Feb 13	12th Edition of World Radio Day	Theme for 2023 – “Radio and Peace” Theme for 2024 - A century informing, entertaining and educating
Feb 20	World day of Social Justice	Theme for 2023 - Overcoming Barriers and unleashing Opportunities for Social Justice Theme for 2024 - “Overcoming Barriers and Unleashing Opportunities for Social Justice”
Feb 21	International Mother Language Day	Organized by UNESCO, Theme for 2023 – Multilingual education – a necessity to transform education Theme for 2024 - Multilingual education – a pillar of learning and intergenerational learning
Feb 28	National Science Day	Commemorate the discovery of Raman Effect, Theme for 2023 is Global science for Global well being. Theme for 2024- Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat"
Mar 1	Zero Discrimination Day	Observed by UNAIDS, Theme for 2023 – “Save Lives - Decriminalise” Theme for 2024- To protect everyone’s health, protect everyone’s rights
Mar 3	World Wildlife Conservation	Theme for 2023 – “Partnership for Wildlife Conservation”, Organised by CITES and UN organisations Theme for 2024 - Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation
Mar 4	World Obesity Day	Theme for 2023 - “Changing Perspectives: Let's Talk about Obesity”
Mar 4	World Day of Fight against Sexual Exploitation	Nearly 1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men are victims are rape
Mar 8	International Women’s day	Theme for 2023 - “DigitALL: Innovation and technology for Gender equality” Theme for 2024- -Inspire Inclusion
Mar 9	World Kidney Day	Theme for 2023 - “Kidney Health for All – preparing for the unexpected, supporting the vulnerable” Theme for 2024 - Kidney Health for All – Advancing equitable access to care and optimal medication practice





Mar 10	International Day of Women Judges	Theme for 2023 - "Women in Justice, Women for Justice"
Mar 14	International Day of Mathematics	Theme for 2023 - "Mathematics for Everyone" Theme for 2024 - Playing with Math
Mar 15	World Consumer Day	Theme for 2023 - "Empowering Consumers" Theme for 2024- Fair and responsible AI for consumers
Mar 16	National Vaccination Day or Polio Ravivar	To commemorate Dr. Jonas Salk's Polio Vaccine administered in India
Mar 20	World Sparrow Day	Theme for 2023 - I Love Sparrow, Started by NGO - Nature Forever society
Mar 21	International Day of Forests	Theme for 2023 - "Forests and Health" Theme for 2024 - Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World.
Mar 21	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	Theme for 2023 - "Urgency of combating racism and racial discrimination, 75 years after the adoption of Universal Declaration of Human rights"
Mar 22	World Water Day	Theme for 2023 - "Accelerating change to solve the water and sanitation crisis", World Water Conference 2023 was held in Newyork Theme for 2024- Water for Peace
Mar 23	World Meteorological Day	Theme for 2023 - "The Future of Weather, Climate, Water across generations"
Mar 24	World Tuberculosis Day	Theme for 2023 - "Yes, We can End TB !"
Mar 26	International Day of Action of Rivers	
Mar 30	UN's First International Day of Zero Waste	Facilitated by UNEP and UN-Habitat
Apr 1	Odisha Foundation Day or Utkal Diwas	
Apr 2	World Autism Awareness Day	Theme for 2023 - "Transformation: Towards a Neuro-Inclusive World for all"



Apr 5	National Maritime Day	Theme for 2023 - "Amrit Kaal Shipping"
Apr 7	World Health Day	Theme for 2023 - "Health for All"
Apr 10	World Homeopathy Day	Theme for 2023 - "One Health One Family", Homeopathy was devised by Samuel Hahnemann
May 18	International Museums day	Theme for 2023 - "Museums, Sustainability and well being", Organised by International Council of Museum
June 1	World Milk Day	Birth Anniversary of Khurein, Top State in Milk Production - Rajasthan
June 5	World Environment Day	Theme for 2023 - "Beat Plastic Pollution"
June 8	World Oceans day	Theme for 2023 - "Planet Ocean - Tides are changing"
June 12	World Day against Child Labour	
June 20	World Refugee Day	
June 21	International Day of Yoga	Theme for 2023 - "Yoga for Vasudaika Kutumbam"
June 27	World MSME Day	Theme for 2023 - "Future ready MSMEs for India @ 100", Champions 2.0 portal - Mobile app for Geo-tagging of cluster projects and Technology centres
June 29	National statistics Day	Commemorating birth Anniversary of Mahalanobis
July 1	GST Day	
July 10	National Fish Farmers Day (Held at Mahabalipuram, Tamilnadu)	
July 11	World Population Day	Theme for 2023 - Unleashing the power of gender equality - Uplifting the Voices of women and girls to unlock our world's infinite Possibilities
July 28	World Hepatitis Day	
Aug 7	National Handlooms Day	Theme for 2023 - "Handlooms for Sustainable Fashion"



Aug 29	Telugu Language Day	
Oct 1	International Day of older persons	
Oct 10	Good Manufacturing practice day	Organised by Indian Drugs Manufacturing Association
Oct 29	First Observance of International Day of Care and Support	
Oct 31	10th World Cities Day	Theme for 2023 - Financing sustainable Urban future for all
Nov 3	International Day for Biosphere Reserve	
Nov 5	World Tsunami Awareness Day	Theme for 2023 - "Fighting Inequality for a Resilient Future"
Nov 6	International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict	
Nov 7	National Cancer Awareness Day	According to WHO, Cancer is 2nd leading cause of death worldwide representing 1 in 6 deaths globally
Nov 8	World Urbanism day	Theme for 2023 - "Learn Globally, Apply Locally"
Nov 9	National Legal Services Day	Theme for 2023 - "Access to Justice for All - Empowering the Marginalised through Legal awareness"
Nov 10	National Ayurveda Day or Dhanteras	Theme for 2023 - "Ayurveda for one Health" with tagline "Ayurveda for everyone on everyday"
Nov 10	World science day for Peace and Development	Theme for 2023 - Building the Trust in science
Nov 14	World Diabetes Day	Theme for 2023 - "Access to Diabetes Care"



Nov 15	Jan Jatiya Gaurav Diwas	Modi celebrated Jan Jatiya Gaurav Diwas in Khunti, Jharkhand
Nov 19	Women's Entrepreneurship day	
Nov 19	World Toilet Day	Theme for 2023 - "Accelerating Change" and for 2024 - "Leveraging water for Peace"
Nov 21	World Fisheries Day	Theme - "Celebrating the wealth of Fisheries and Aquaculture"
Nov 26	First ever World Sustainable Transport Day	
Dec 1	World Aids Day	Theme for 2023 - "Let Communities Lead"
Dec 2	39th National Pollution Control Day	It is celebrated to commemorate Bhopal Gas Tragedy
Dec 3	International Day of Persons with Disabilities	Theme for 2023 - "Unified in Action to rescue and achieve the sustainable development goals for with, and by persons with disabilities"
Dec 5	World Soil Day	Theme for 2023 - "Soil and water, a source of life"
Dec 21	First ever United Nations World Basket Ball Day	First sport recognised by United Nations, 2023 FIBA Basket ball world cup was hosted by Philippines, Indonesia and Japan

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#### **Tamilnadu Current Affairs**

- Tamil Nadu has achieved the highest component score of 72.00 in the Opportunity dimension, ranking it number one among the larger states in India on the Social Progress Index 2022-2023.
- Tamil Nadu government to set up biodiversity museum, conservation centre with eco-park at ambasamudram.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin launched phase 2 of the 'Pudumai Penn' scheme on 08-02-2023
- Tamilnadu Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments Department received the National Award won by the State for effectively implementing Swadesh Darshan Scheme at Kanniyakumari



- Tamil Nadu Disaster Plan and Tamil Nadu Disaster Policy prepared by the Revenue and Disaster Management on 24-03-2023
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin and Union Textiles Minister Piyush Goyal jointly launched the nation's first PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Park is set to be established in Virudhunagar District.
- Tamilnadu Government Launched the policy of “ “ (AVAL – Avoid Violence through Awareness and Learning) aims at creating awareness among women’s in the state.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin y met Bomman and Bellie, the indigenous couple who starred in the Oscar-winning documentary short film The Elephant Whisperers.
- Retired IAS officer V. Thiruppugazh, who headed the Chennai Flood Disaster Mitigation and Management Committee, submitted the panel’s final report to Chief Minister M.K. Stalin
- The Tamil Nadu M-Sand Policy, 2023 released by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in Chennai on Thursday, March 9, 2023 aims to standardise the procedure for approval for manufacturing units, to prevent damage to river ecosystem by “rationalising the use of river sand in a conserved manner.
- On the occasion of International Museum Day, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin laid the foundation stone of the Porunai museum in Tirunelveli
- Government of Tamil Nadu signed Memorandum of Understanding with United Nations Environment Programme for implementing Urban Cooling Programme in the State.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on 20.04.2024 unveiled a statue of former Prime Minister V P Singh at the campus of the Presidency College in Chennai.
- Best Transgender Award for the year 2023 to transgender Aishwarya, who has been raising awareness and rendering service for the progress of transgenders
- Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi on Monday, April 10, 2023, granted his assent to the re-adopted Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Online Gambling and Regulation of Online Games Bill, 2022. The bill was was drafted based on the recommendations of a committee headed by the retired Madras High Court judge, Justice Chandru, and the School Education Department; and consultations with others.
- All India Federation for Social Justice’ Launched by TN CM M. K. Stalin. Federation will provide suggestions for all States to agree to laws related to social justice. The percentage of backward and oppressed communities may differ with each State; however, the ideology of social justice is the same. ‘Everything for everyone’ will be the base of this federation. This will be a federation that works to achieve principles of federalism and social justice,”
- Arikomban ("rice tusker" in the Malayalam language) - named for his raids on local shops for rice - has been relocated to Kalakad Mundandurai Tiger Reserve.
- Govt. of Tamil Nadu has constituted a One Man Committee Retired Justice Chandru as head to submit a Report recommending measures for effective functioning and administration of Homes functioning as per the JJ Act, 2015.



- HCL Foundation, the corporate social responsibility arm of HCL Tech, on Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the State government for implementing its flagship rural development programme HCL Samuday, in 95 village panchayats in Thoothukudi District.
- Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, MK Stalin, gave away certificates to over 5,000 students hailing from Chennai-based government schools who were a part of the Students In Responsible Police Initiative scheme, also known as (SIRPI).
- Government have Reconstituted the State Law Commission under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Thiru Justice C. Nagappan, retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India for a period of three years from the date of assuming charge of the Hon'ble Chairman and the Chairman assumed charge on 19.06. 2023.
- The government of Tamil Nadu has declared Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary as the 18th wildlife sanctuary in the state. will serve as a protected corridor for the movement of tiger and elephants from the Western Ghats to the Eastern Ghats
- Chief minister M K Stalin on 17.06.2023 laid the foundation stone for the development of Fintech City and Fintech Tower in Nandambakkam at a cost of at 116 crore and 254 crore respectively.
- Former Director-General of Police, M. Shakeel Akhter, has been appointed the Chief Information Commissioner of the Tamil Nadu Information Commission.
- Tamil Nadu Day to be celebrated on July 18 when Tamil Nadu got its present name following an Assembly legislation heralded by Dravidian veteran and late chief minister CN Annadurai
- Chief Minister inaugurated Kalaingar Centenary Multi Super Specialty Hospital in the premises of the King Institute of Preventive Medicine and Research, Guindy.
- Tamil Nadu announced that it has withdrawn the general consent given to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), under Section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, allowing the agency to investigate cases without its permission in the State.
- Honble Chief Minister laid foundation stone for the erection of Tertiary Treatment Reverse Osmosis (TTRO) at SIPCOT Industrial Park, Hosur
- Government of Tamil Nadu Launches Tide Turner, Green School and Urban Cooling Initiatives with United Nations Environment Programme on the sidelines of G-20 Environment and Sustainability Summit at Chennai.
- Government of Tamil Nadu Launches Tide Turner, Green School and Urban Cooling Initiatives with United Nations Environment Programme on the sidelines of G-20 Environment and Sustainability Summit at Chennai.
- July 18 marks the occasion of Tamil Nadu Day.
- Tamil Nadu has been ranked the No. 1 State in Export Preparedness Index (EPI) for 2022. It is followed by Maharashtra and Karnataka.



- Freedom fighter and Communist leader N. Sankaraiah will be conferred an honorary doctorate by the Madurai Kamaraj University.
- In an effort to bridge the digital divide, the School Education Department partnered with Microsoft to expand the Technology Education and Learning Support (TEALS) programme to more schools. This initiative has been introduced for the first time in India and is expected to benefit students from Classes VI to XII.
- Kadaisi Vivasayi has been selected as the Best Tamil Film in 69th National Film Awards
- CM Stalin unveils logo for TN's Global Investors Meet 2024, The Government of Tamil Nadu takes pride in unveiling the official logo for the upcoming Global Investors Meet 2024. The logo, an emblematic representation of the Tamil letter 'த' (tha), exudes the spirit of progress, prosperity, and boundless potential under the theme, Leadership, Sustainability and Inclusivity.
- Tamil Agarathi Naal on November 8, 2023
- Tamil Nadu government appoints Bellie, of The Elephant Whisperers fame, as first permanent woman elephant caretaker of Theppakadu camp.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K.Stalin today (5.9.2023) at the Chief Secretariat, the former Deputy Director of the Institute of Indian Languages Dr.K. Ramasamy honored Artist M. Karunanidhi Classical Tamil Award with a prize money of Rs 10 lakh, a certificate of appreciation and a bronze statue of Artist M. Karunanidhi.
- Chief Minister M K Stalin on Friday flagged off Greater Chennai Traffic Police's accident victims rescue vehicle - VEERA (Vehicle for Extrication in Emergency Rescue and Accidents) at the state headquarters.
- A Krishnaveni, S Ramya and B Ranjitha are the first three women in Tamil Nadu to be trained in the agamas at the Archakar Payirchi Palli (priest training schools)
- Three corporations – Coimbatore, Tuticorin, and Thanjavur – received Smart City awards in various categories. Coimbatore won the first prize for financial operations, model roads and lake restoration. Thanjavur won the third prize for projects on cultural development and upkeep of the town's history. Tuticorin won the third prize for digitisation of schools.
- Madras High Court upheld the validity of the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Online Gambling and Regulation of Online Games Act 2022. The court, however, added that the Act would not be applicable to games like rummy and poker, which were games of skill and will be applicable only against games of chance.
- The Tamil Nadu government has constituted the Tamil Nadu Online Gaming Authority. The gaming authority comprises five members, with retired IAS officer Md Nasimuddin as the chairperson.
- On 26 December, news broke of an ammonia gas leak in Ennore from a damaged offshore pipeline. People from Periakuppam and Chinnakuppam gasped for breath, even as people from other villages and settlements panicked and ran for their lives.
- Makkaludan Mudhalvar launched on December 18, 2023 in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

- A new species of Silver line butterfly namely “Cigaritis meghamalaiensis” has been discovered in the Megamalai division of Srivilliputtur Megamalai Tiger Reserve.
- Tamil Nadu was recognised as the ‘Best Performer,’ the top category in the States’ Startup Ranking 2022. It was the 4th edition of Startup India Ranking carried out by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M **K Stalin** embarked on an eight-day trip to Spain on Saturday to woo investors to the state.
- Tamil Nadu now has the highest number of 16 Ramsar sites in India . Two new Ramsar sites, Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary and Longwood Shola Reserve Forest, approved in Tamil Nadu.
- “KaniTamil '24” International Conference was organized by the Gov't of Tamil Nadu on 2024 Feb 08~10 on Tamil Computing.
- Tamil Nadu assembly on 14.02.2024 adopted a **resolution** urging the Union govt not to implement the '**one nation, one election**.'
- Tamil Nadu Champions Foundation to be launched on May 8. The foundation’s mission includes identifying, nurturing, and supporting sportspersons and putting in place state-of-the-art sports infrastructure and sporting amenities.
- The Greater Chennai Corporation y launched a woman-friendly mobile toilet **SHE- Toilet** initiative to provide clean and safe restroom facilities for women in public places.
- Crew Escape System performed as intended. Mission Gaganyaan gets off on a successful note. October 18, 2023
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Thursday, November 2, 2023 virtually unveiled a statue of late freedom fighter Anjalai Ammal in Cuddalore.
- The 5th Police Commission, chaired by retired High Court Judge C.T. Selvam, discussed various aspects of police reforms.
- Data published by the Election Commission of India (ECI) on January 22, 2024. Shozhinganallur Assembly constituency ( Chengalpattu District) has the highest number of electors. Kavundampalayam Assembly constituency (Coimbatore district) is the second highest. Kilvelur Assembly constituency (Nagapattinam district) has the lowest number of electors.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi remotely laid the foundation stone for India's second spaceport at Kulasekharapattanam, a coastal village in Tamil Nadu's Thoothukudi district on February 28, 2024,
- The state government has chosen feminist, teacher, and novelist Bama Faustina Soosairaj for the Avvaiyar award for the year 2024.

#### **Tamil Nadu City Gas Distribution Policy 2023**

- Tamil Nadu City Gas Distribution Policy 2023, aiming to provide liquefied/compressed natural gas to vehicles and piped natural gas to homes.





- The policy covers all 38 districts in Tamil Nadu, planning to develop approximately 2.28 crore piped natural gas (PNG) connections and about 2,785 compressed natural gas (CNG) stations.
- The target is to increase the use of compressed natural gas to 20% by 2025,

#### **Tamil Nadu's Ethanol Blending Policy 2023**

- Tamil Nadu's Ethanol Blending Policy 2023 aims to secure ₹5,000 crore in investments for molasses/grain-based ethanol production.
- The policy's objective is to fulfill the state's annual ethanol requirement of 130 crore litres, thus achieving self-sufficiency.
- Farmers and sugar factory owners stand to benefit from the policy, leading to higher incomes for farmers and the resurgence of the state's sugar industry due to increased feedstock demand and mill utilization.
- India, following years of discussions and a more recent push, has reached a 10% ethanol blend level in petrol and aims to increase it to 20% by 2025.
- The policy supports the use of multiple feedstocks, including grains, providing flexibility and better capacity utilization for mills and distilleries.
- Srinivasan Suresh, CII Tamil Nadu agriculture & food processing panel convener and MD of EID Parry (India) Ltd, believes the policy will create a robust market for farmers.
- Globally, ethanol is pivotal to the sugar industry's future, with Brazil, a major sugar producer, allocating 40-45% of its sugarcane for sugar production and the rest for ethanol.

#### **Tamil Nadu Logistics Policy and Integrated Logistics Plan 2023**

- A Logistics Policy that spans the next 5 years, setting a comprehensive policy framework for the integrated development of the logistics sector in Tamil Nadu, aimed at supporting the state's economic growth.
- An Integrated Logistics Plan that extends over the next 10 years, detailing various interventions based on an initial baseline study, the expected outcomes, timelines, and identifying the key stakeholders responsible for the implementation of these plans.
- This plan is designed to stay in sync with the emerging requirements and advancements within the industry and is intended to be regularly updated on a rolling basis to incorporate the outcomes of the interventions and the inputs provided by stakeholders.

#### **Tamil Nadu Organic Farming Policy 2023**

- Tamil Nadu Organic Farming Policy 2023 was released on 14.03.2023
- A single-window system will be introduced to streamline the organic certification process.
- A State gene/germplasm bank will be established to preserve traditional seeds of all crop cultivars.
- The organic farming policy is in response to the need for an environmentally-safe food supply due to health issues caused by agrochemical residues.



- The policy aims to support and upscale chemical-free organic agriculture in Tamil Nadu, providing safe food for citizens.
- Conservation of soil health, agroecology, and biodiversity is a goal of the policy, along with promoting safe and environment-friendly food.
- The policy includes measures to raise awareness about organic farming and expanding organic farming practices.
- Strengthening certification systems and residue testing protocols, promoting 'on farm' or local inputs like farmyard manure and vermicompost are also objectives.
- It will create market and certification advisories, promote exports, and aim to increase farmers' revenue, integrating organic farming into education and research.
- Tamil Nadu ranks 14th in India with 31,629 hectares of organic agriculture land, including 14,086 ha of certified organic area and 17,542 ha under conversion.
- Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri are the leading districts in terms of organic farming area in the state.
- Tamil Nadu exported 4,223 MT of organic products, earning ₹108 crore in the fiscal year 2020-21.
- Jothi Nirmalasamy named the Tamil Nadu State Election Commissioner
- The total turnout now stood at 69.72%, relatively lesser than the figures recorded in the previous general elections in the State. Of a total of 6,23,33,925 electors in Tamil Nadu, 4,34,58,875 exercised their franchise. In terms of percentage, women voters (69.85%) surpassed men voters (69.58%) by a narrow margin. Dharmapuri constituency polled highest: 81.20%. Chennai Central constituency polled lowest: 53.96%.

## ADMISSION OPEN

# GROUP II | IIA

## ONLINE | OFFLINE -CLASS | TEST

### **Tamil Nadu M-Sand Policy, 2023**

- The Tamil Nadu M-Sand Policy, 2023 was released by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in Chennai.

- The policy aims to standardize the approval process for M-sand manufacturing units and conserve river ecosystems by rationalizing river sand usage.
- It addresses the scarcity of river sand due to rampant mining and the resulting new environmental/land use legislation.
- The policy promotes M-sand as an alternative to river sand.
- Objectives include promoting zero-waste mining/quarrying and recycling construction and demolition waste, along with quarry waste, for aggregate production.
- It outlines specific source characteristics for M-sand production and procedures for setting up manufacturing units.
- M-sand manufacturers must follow a standard production process using advanced technologies like Vertical Shaft Impactor (VSI) for M-sand production.
- Mandatory quality testing laboratories are to be established at crusher premises for daily quality checks of M-sand with records maintained.
- Quarry leases will not be granted exclusively for the manufacture of M-sand.
- A single window portal will be developed by the Department of Geology and Mining for the registration of M-sand units.
- The policy will take effect from the date of its notification by the government.

#### **Keeladi excavation site**

- M K Stalin inaugurated a museum dedicated to archaeological findings from the Keeladi excavation site.
- The museum spans 31,000 square feet and was constructed with an investment of Rs 18.43 crore.
- Excavations by the state Archaeological department have been ongoing since 2018.
- Discoveries at Keeladi suggest a prosperous urban civilization on the Vaigai riverbanks around the 6th century BC.
- Evidence from the site supports the understanding that the ancient Tamil society was literate and educated.
- The museum aims to display the historical, cultural, and heritage aspects of the Tamil people.
- Exhibits at the museum include earthenware and remnants of brick structures.

#### **Tamil Nadu's Electric Vehicle Policy 2023 - RELEASED ON ( 14.02.2024)**

##### **Policy Goals**

- Increase the adoption of electric vehicles in Tamil Nadu.
- Promote the development of electric vehicle manufacturing and related industries.
- Create a supportive ecosystem for electric vehicles, including charging infrastructure.

##### **Key Provisions**

- **Subsidies for Charging Stations:** 25% capital subsidy for the cost of equipment and machinery for:
  - Public fast-charging stations (up to ₹10 lakh)



- Public slow-charging stations (up to ₹1 lakh)
- Private fast-charging stations (up to ₹10 lakh)
- Battery-swapping stations (up to ₹2 lakh)
- **Electrifying Public Fleets:** Develop a roadmap to electrify public and institutional fleets in phases, with a goal of 30% electric buses in state transport fleets by 2030.
- **Incentives for EV Purchases:** Waivers on road tax, registration charges, and permit fees extended by three years (to 2025). Incentives apply to vehicles manufactured, sold, and registered in Tamil Nadu.
- **Employment Incentives:** Reimbursement of employer's contribution to EPF for new jobs created in the EV sector during the policy period (not to exceed ₹48,000 per employee, for Tamil Nadu residents).

## Export Preparedness Index (EPI) for 2022.

### Highlights

- Tamil Nadu has been ranked the No. 1 State in Export Preparedness Index (EPI) for 2022. It is followed by Maharashtra and Karnataka.
- Tamil Nadu has been in the top 5 list among Large/Coastal States' categories in the past two years.
- **Kanchipuram:** Top exports include engineering goods, silk, and finished silk products.
- **Chennai:** Main exports are petroleum products, engineering goods, and drugs and pharmaceuticals.
- **Tiruppur:** Known for textile exports such as raw materials, cotton products, and handloom products; ranks 22nd in the country in terms of export value.

### Additional Insights:

- Tamil Nadu, along with Karnataka, leads in exporting the highest number of Geographical Indication (GI) products.

### Tamil Nadu's Performance Scorecard:

- **Policy Pillar:** Score of 97.21, reflecting the strength of the export-related policy ecosystem at state and district levels and institutional framework.
- **Business Ecosystem:** Received a score of 88.84, assessing the supportive business environment including infrastructure and transport connectivity.
- **Export Ecosystem:** Score of 73.68 for export-related infrastructure and trade support.

**Export Performance:** Scored 63.34, an output-based indicator measuring annual export growth and global market footprint

### Independence Day awards 2023

Awardee	Award name	Contribution
K Veeramani	Thagaisal Thamizhar Award (Public Service)	The leader of Dravidar Kazhagam has been following the footsteps of Periyar by uniting the Tamils and contributing





		greatly to the development of Tamil Nadu and the Tamil race.
Dr WB Vasantha, Kandasamy	Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Award ( Science & Technology)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Analysis of school drop-out rates.</li><li>• Study of conditions faced by migrant and bonded laborers.</li><li>• Research on social problems encountered by individuals living with HIV/AIDS</li><li>• worked on transdisciplinary mathematical modeling incorporating fuzzy and neutrosophic theories.</li></ul>
N Muthamilselvi (for Courage and Daring Enterprise)	(Kalpana Chawla Award for Courage and Daring Enterprise)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Works as a freelance Japanese Interpreter &amp; Teacher.</li><li>• Successfully scaled Mt. Everest, the world's highest peak, on May 23.</li><li>• Made a record by climbing Mountain Lobuche in Nepal on April 19.</li><li>• Successfully ascended the Kang Yatse Peak on April 15, 2022.</li></ul>

**Other Awards**

- **V Badrinarayanan, SP, Coimbatore (Rural):** Awarded for 'Project Pallikoodam', an initiative that educates government schoolchildren about child sexual abuse, providing them with prevention strategies, detection skills, and reporting mechanisms.
- **Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency:** Recognized for developing a mobile app and real-time dashboard to manage and monitor the Chief Minister's breakfast scheme for government school students.
- **Dr E Theranirajan, Dean, Rajiv Gandhi Govt Hospital, Chennai:** Honored for establishing a 40-bed rehabilitation ward for patients who are unknown or neglected by family, offering comprehensive and holistic care.
- **Recognition for Service to Society:**

- **Best Doctor:** Dr T Jayakumar, Chennai.
- **Best Institution:** Shanthi Nilayam, Kanyakumari and Gramathin Oli, Chinnasalem (specifically serving women).
- **Best Social Worker:** Ratan Vidyaakar, Coimbatore and D Stanley Peter, Coimbatore (for work done for women).
- **Best Private Employer:** M/S Teddy Exports, Madurai.
- **Best District Central Cooperative Bank:** Ramanathapuram district central cooperative bank.
- **Chief Minister's Award for Best Performing Local Bodies:**
- **Trichy Corporation:** First prize of Rs 50 lakh.
- **Tambaram Corporation:** Second prize of Rs 30 lakh.
- **Best Municipalities:** Rameswaram (Rs 30 lakh), Thiruthuraipoondi (Rs 20 lakh), Mannargudi (Rs 10 lakh).
- **Best Town Panchayats:** Vikravandi (Rs 20 lakh), Alangudi (Rs 10 lakh), Veerakkalpudur (Rs 6 lakh).
- **Chennai Corporation Zones:** Zone 9 (Rs 30 lakh) and Zone 5 (Rs 20 lakh).
- **CM's State Youth Award Recipients:**
- S Dhusthageer, Nilgiris district.
- R Dinesh Kumar, Trichy district.
- G Gopi, Ranipet district.
- P Rajasekar, Chengalpattu district.
- M Vijayalakshmi, Chennai district.
- S Chandiralekha, Madurai district.
- Kavitha Thandhoni, Kanchipuram district.

### **Tamil Nadu Tourism Policy 2023**

#### **Key Goals**

- Attract ₹20,000 crore investment into the tourism sector over the next five years.
- Contribute at least 12% to State Gross Domestic Product (GSDP) annually.
- Employ 25 lakh people in tourism and supporting industries.

#### **Initiatives**

- **Tourism Facilitation Cell:** Assist investors and monitor tourism investment.
- **Focus Tourism Destinations and Corridors:** Special areas will receive support for tourism projects.
- **Large-Format Amusement Park:** Development of a theme park similar to Disney or Universal Studios planned near Chennai.
- **Cruise Facilities:** Launch of facilities along Chennai-Rameswaram-Kanniyakumari and Chennai-Port Blair routes.

- **Gateway Hubs:** Development of Chennai, Tiruchi, Madurai, Coimbatore, and Kanniyakumari as entry points for tourists.
- **Golf Tourism & Sports Tourism:** Promotion of these sectors with infrastructure development.
- **Film Tourism:** Specific scheme and incentives for attracting film shoots to Tamil Nadu.
- **Marina Development & Kovalam Cruise Operations:** Feasibility studies planned.
- **Water-Based Activities:** Promotion of scuba diving, snorkeling, surfing, and other water sports in suitable locations.

#### **Incentives & Support**

- **Single-Window Portal:** For tourism project clearances.
- **Electricity Tariff Concessions:** Rebates for new hotels in focus areas.
- **Tourist Security Organization:** Deployment of trained personnel to ensure safety at major destinations.
- **Registration, Licensing, and Accreditation System:** For tourism enterprises.
- **Categorization of Tourism Projects:** With corresponding levels of support.
- **Subsidies & Incentives:** Capital subsidy, interest subvention, payroll incentive, certification incentives, and sustainability incentives.

**Tamil Nadu govt fetes 9 ISRO scientists, announces award of ₹25 lakh for each scientist.**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position/Role</b>
Mr. Sivan	Former Chairman of ISRO
Mylswamy Annadurai	Chandrayaan (1 and 2) project director
V. Narayanan	Director of ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre
A. Rajarajan	ISRO's Launch Authorisation Board chief
M. Sankaran	Director of U.R. Rao Satellite Centre
J. Asir Packiaraj	ISRO's Propulsion Complex Director
V. Vanitha	Project Director of the Chandrayaan-2 lunar mission



Nigar Shaji	Project Director of the Aditya-L1 mission
P. Veeramuthuvel	Chandrayaan-3 Project Director

**“The Nilgiri Tahr”**

- Locally known as "Varai Aadu."
- Endangered species found only in the Western Ghats.
- Skilled climbers, earning them the name "Mountain Monarch."
- The Eravikulam National Park has the highest density and largest surviving population of Nilgiri tahr.
- Endangered in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act of India, 1972.

**Historical and Cultural Significance:**

- Featured in ancient Sangam Tamil literature (over 2000 years old).
- Referenced in the epics Silappatikaram and Sivakasindamani.
- Appears in other Sangam-era works: Natrinai, Aingurunooru, Paripadal, Pathitruppathuu, and Patinapalai.
- Mentioned in the play Courtallar Kuravanji (1600-1700 A.D.).

**Biodiversity Symbol:**

- Its presence highlights the rich biodiversity of its region.

**Significant of the Scheme****Project Goals:**

- Conduct studies to better understand the population size, distribution, and ecological needs of the Nilgiri Tahr.
- Reintroduce the Nilgiri Tahr into their original habitats to expand their range and protect the population.
- Identify and address the immediate threats the Nilgiri Tahr faces, ensuring their long-term survival.
- Spread awareness about the Nilgiri Tahr and its importance as an ecological symbol.
- Declare October 7th as Nilgiri Tahr Day in honor of Dr. E.R.C. Davidar, a leading researcher on the species.
- Develop ecotourism activities focused on the Nilgiri Tahr in specific locations, promoting conservation awareness.
- Create educational materials for school children to increase the next generation's understanding of the Nilgiri Tahr.
- This project is allocated a budget of Rs. 25 Crore.



**Various awards of the Tamil Development -2024**

Award Name	Recipient	Year	Field/Achievement
Ayyan Tiruvalluvar Award	Thavathiru Balamuruganadimai Swami	2024	Tamil Literature/Philosophy
Perarignar Anna Award	'Pathamadai' Paramasivam	2023	Contribution to Tamil Language/Culture
Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Award	U. Balaraman	2023	Social Service/Education in Tamil Nadu
Mahakavi Bharathiar Award	Palani Bharathi	2023	Poetry/Literature inspired by Bharathiar
Paavendar Bharathidasan Award	M. Mutharasu	2023	Literary work in the spirit of Bharathidasan
Tamil Thendral Thiru Vi Ka Award	S. Jayaseela Stephen	2023	Tamil Literature and Advocacy
Muthamizh Kavalar K.A.P. Viswanatham Award	R. Karunanidhi	2023	Preservation and promotion of Tamil Culture
Thanthai Periyar Award	Suba. Veerapandian	2023	chairperson of the Social Justice Monitoring Committee formed by the State government.
Ambedkar Award	P. Shanmugam	2023	Tamil Nadu Tribal Association.

**Tamil Nadu Coir Policy 2024 – Released on 4.01.2024**

- Aims at product diversification and value addition in coir MSMEs.
- Focuses on market expansion both nationally and globally through TANCOIR.
- Seeks to enhance collaborations and export opportunities, leveraging Tamil Nadu's unique strengths.
- Promotes international recognition of coir quality standards and certification schemes with TANCOIR branding.

- Plans to implement eco-labelling for coir products in collaboration with the Coir Board and the Ministry of Environment and Forest for export market promotion.
- Adopts the “One District, One Product” (ODOP) strategy to specialize and develop key coir-producing districts such as Dindigul, Sivagangai, Thanjavur, and Tenkasi.
- Encourages innovation by providing a 25% capital subsidy on investment in fixed assets and 5% interest subvention for technology upgrade credits.

#### **Tamil Nadu State Policy for Women 2024 – Released on 22.02.2024**

##### **Purpose:**

- Ensure social justice and equitable opportunities for women
- Provide access to rights and entitlements
- Enable a peaceful life with the chance to realize full potential

##### **Key Goals:**

- Raise the status of women through awareness, education, employment, capacity building
- Provide access to health, education, and employment
- Promote gender-sensitive environments and challenge societal norms
- Zero tolerance against discrimination, abuse, and violence towards women
- Encourage women to break gender stereotypes and excel in all sectors

##### **Specific Focus Areas:**

- Gender-sensitive education system to reduce female dropout rates
- Improved health and nutrition for adolescent girls and women
- Increased female workplace participation
- Digital literacy to bridge the digital gender divide
- Support for gainful employment
- Active participation of women in politics

##### **Inclusivity:**

- Special consideration for women-headed households, those from oppressed communities, in vulnerable occupations, differently-abled women, and women in informal and formal sectors.

##### **Stakeholders:**

- Government departments, educational bodies, academicians, banks, industries, research/training institutions, civil societies, local bodies, and community organizations.

##### **Implementation:**

- High-level committee led by Chief Secretary
- District-level committees headed by district collectors
- Regular reviews and potential for mid-term corrections

##### **Policy Framework**

- Ten-year validity
- Provisions for amendments (must not negatively impact existing beneficiaries)

### **Tamil Nadu Semiconductor and Advanced Electronics Policy 2024 – Released on 08.01.2024.**

- **Ambition:** Tamil Nadu aims for 40% of India's electronics exports.
- **Focus:** Attract major investments in semiconductor and advanced electronics manufacturing.
- **Skill Development:** Target of over two lakh skilled workforce by 2030; foster a semiconductor design ecosystem.
- **Policy Duration:** Three years from the notification date.
- **Incentives:** Capital subsidy, training, testing, prototyping, land cost reduction.
- **Eligible Companies:** Those involved in semiconductor design, equipment design, high-end electronics, manufacturing software.
- **Applicability:** New and expansion projects initiated after January 1, 2024.
- **Investment & Jobs:** Minimum ₹200 crore investment with 150 jobs; additional ₹50 crore investment with 35 jobs.
- **Value Addition:** 20% minimum in-house/unit-level value addition required.
- **Implementation:** Guidance Tamil Nadu as investment promotion agency, SIPCOT disburses incentives, single-window portal for approvals.
- **Tamil Nadu's Advantage:** Existing semiconductor design firms, R&D centers, 100+ relevant academic institutions, skilled graduates, and ITI network.

### **Khelo India Youth Games 2023 - Tamil Nadu Edition**

- **Locations:** Chennai, Madurai, Trichy, Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)
- **Dates:** January 19-31, 2024
- **Participants:** Over 5600 athletes
- **Duration:** 13 days
- **Venues:** 15 venues
- **Sporting Disciplines:** 26 conventional and traditional sports (including Kalaripayattu, Gatka, Thang ta, Kabaddi, and Yogasana)
- **Demo Sport:** Silambam (traditional Tamil Nadu sport)
- **Historical Significance:** First time Khelo India Youth Games hosted in South India
- **Mascot:** Veera Mangai (inspired by Rani Velu Nachiyar, a historical Indian queen)
- **Logo:** Incorporates the figure of the poet Thiruvalluvar
- **Medal Tally Leaders:**
  - Maharashtra: 158 medals (57 gold, 48 silver, 53 bronze)
  - Tamil Nadu: 98 medals (38 gold, 21 silver, 39 bronze)



- Haryana: 103 medals (35 gold, 22 silver, 46 bronze)

## **Tamil Nadu Global Investors Meet, 7th & 8th January, 2024**

- **Vision:** Achieve a \$1 Trillion USD economy for Tamil Nadu by 2030.
- **Event:** Tamil Nadu Global Investors Meet aimed to attract investments and showcase the state's industrial strengths.

### **MoUs Signed and Investment Pledges:**

- Total MoUs: 631
- Investment Commitment: Rs 6,64,180 crore
- Direct Job Creation: 14,54,712
- Total Employment Potential: 26,90,657

### **Investment Diversity:**

- Advanced electronic goods manufacturing
- Green energy
- Non-leather shoes
- Motor vehicles
- Electric vehicles
- Aerospace and defense
- Data centers
- Global capability centers
- Information technology

### **Prominent Investors and Commitments:**

- Tata Power: Rs 70,800 crore
- Sembcorp: Rs 37,538 crore
- Adani Group: Rs 42,768 crore
- Vinfast: Rs 16,000 crore
- Tata Electronics: Rs 12,082 crore
- JSW: Rs 12,000 crore
- Hyundai: Rs 6,180 crore
- TVS: Rs 5,000 crore
- Pegatron: Rs 1,000 crore
- Saint Gobain: Rs 3,400 crore

### **Project Inaugurations and Foundation Laying:**

- Inaugurated Projects (Investment & Job Creation):
  - First Solar: Rs 6,277.27 crore & 8,676 jobs
  - Qualcomm & Feng Tay: Investment amount not specified but created jobs
- Foundation Laid Projects (Investment & Job Creation):





- Godrej: Rs 2,871 crore & 20,596 jobs potential
- Zhong Bhu: Investment amount not specified but created jobs
- Pou Chen: Investment amount not specified but created jobs

#### **Tamil Nadu Coastal Restoration Mission:**

- **Launch:** Government of Tamil Nadu
- **Mission Status:** Fourth mission-mode project after environmental initiatives.
- **Focus:** 14 Coastal Districts covering 1,076 kilometers of coastline.
- **Implementation Timeline:** 5 years
- **Funding Partner:** World Bank

#### **Project Objectives (4 Thematic Areas):**

- **Enhance Coastal Biodiversity:**
  - Establishment of Tamil Nadu Blue Carbon Agency for mangrove, coral, and salt marsh restoration.
  - Coral reef restoration project at Kariyachalli Island (Gulf of Mannar).
  - Biodiversity Conservation Park at Kadambur (Chengalpattu District).
  - Sea Turtle Conservation Centers in Nagapattinam and Chennai.
  - International Dugong Conservation Centre at Manora (Thanjavur District).
  - Coastal Wetlands (including Pallikaranai) Conservation and Restoration.

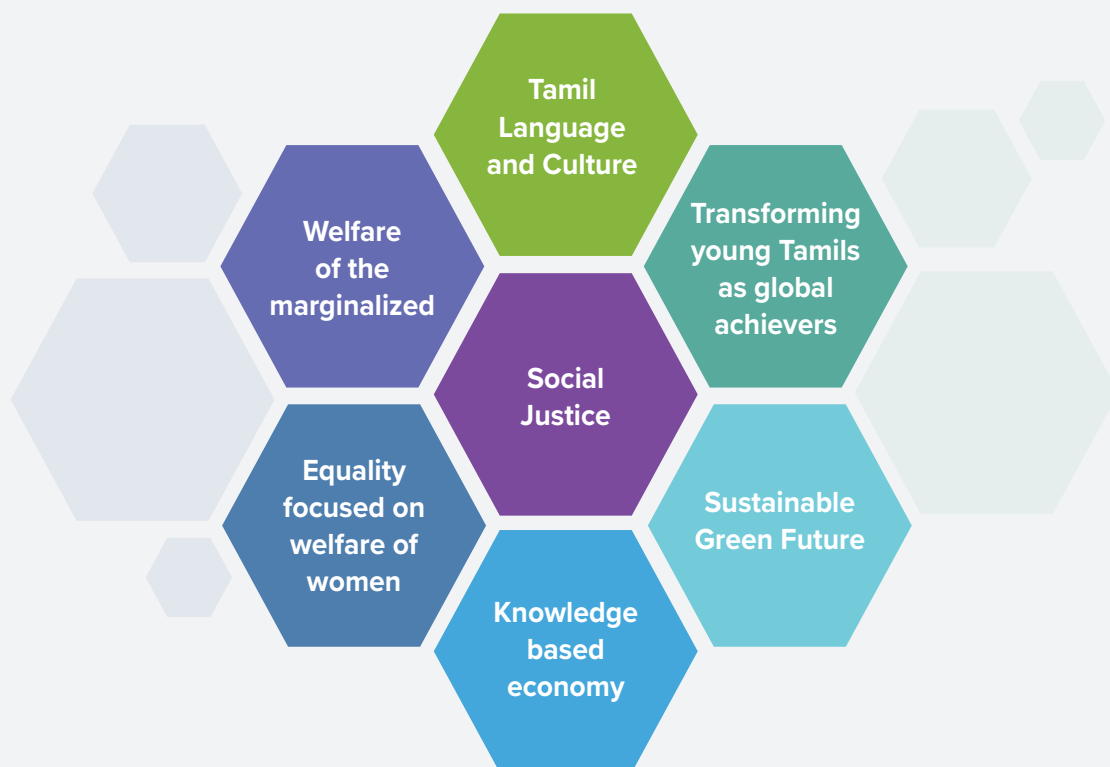
ADMISSION OPEN

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## BUDGET 2024 - 2025

### THEME OF THE BUDGET



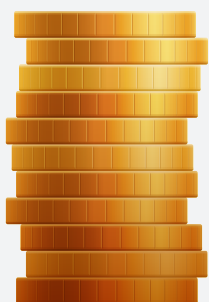
### TOTAL VALUE OF THE BUDGET\*\*

#### TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS

₹ 4,12,504 Crore

#### TOTAL RECEIPTS

₹ 3,03,814 Crore

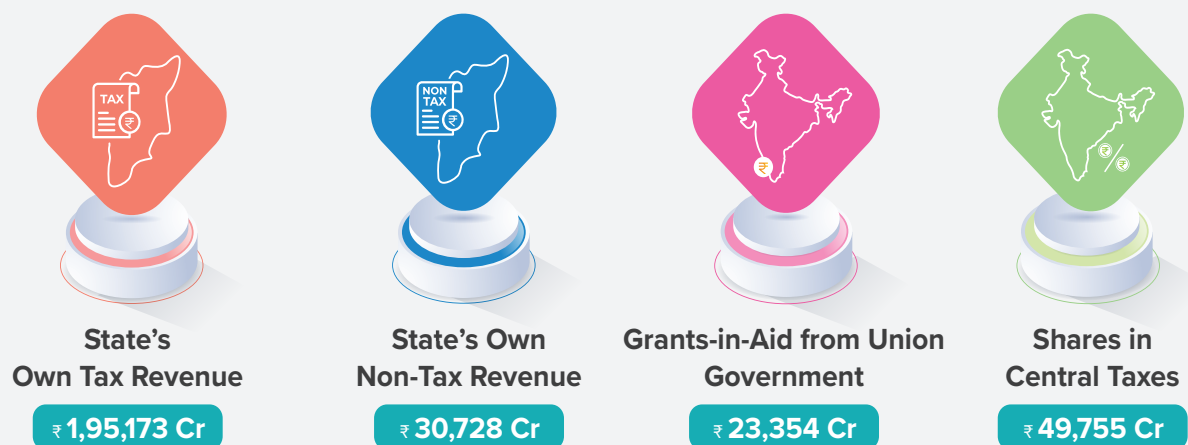


### TOTAL RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

\*\*Excludes Public Debt

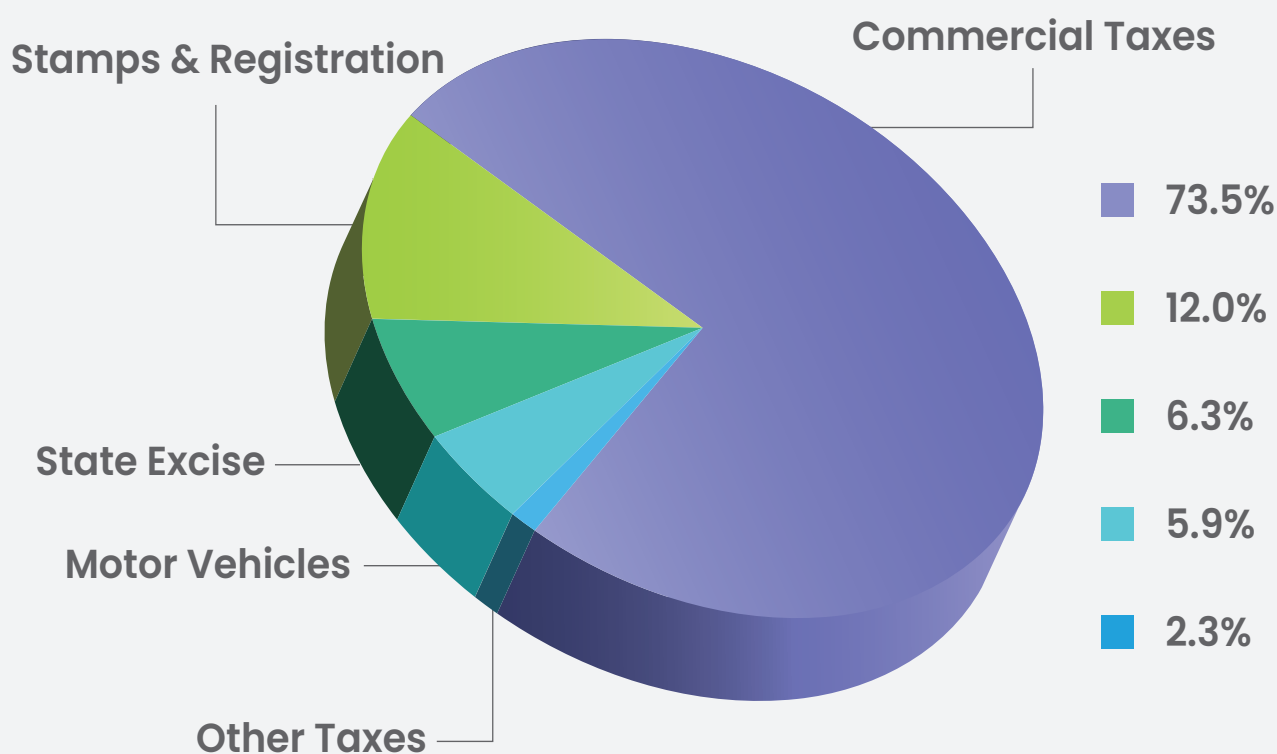
## THE STATE'S REVENUE

In 2024-25, the Government has projected its revenue receipts at ₹ 2,99,010 crore. The State's own revenues constitute 75.6% of the total revenue receipts. The balance 24.4% comes from the share in Central taxes and grants-in-aid from the Union Government.



## STATE'S OWN TAX REVENUE

The Government's revenue from its own taxes are estimated to increase by 14.7% in 2024-25. The major components of the State's own tax revenue are as follows:-

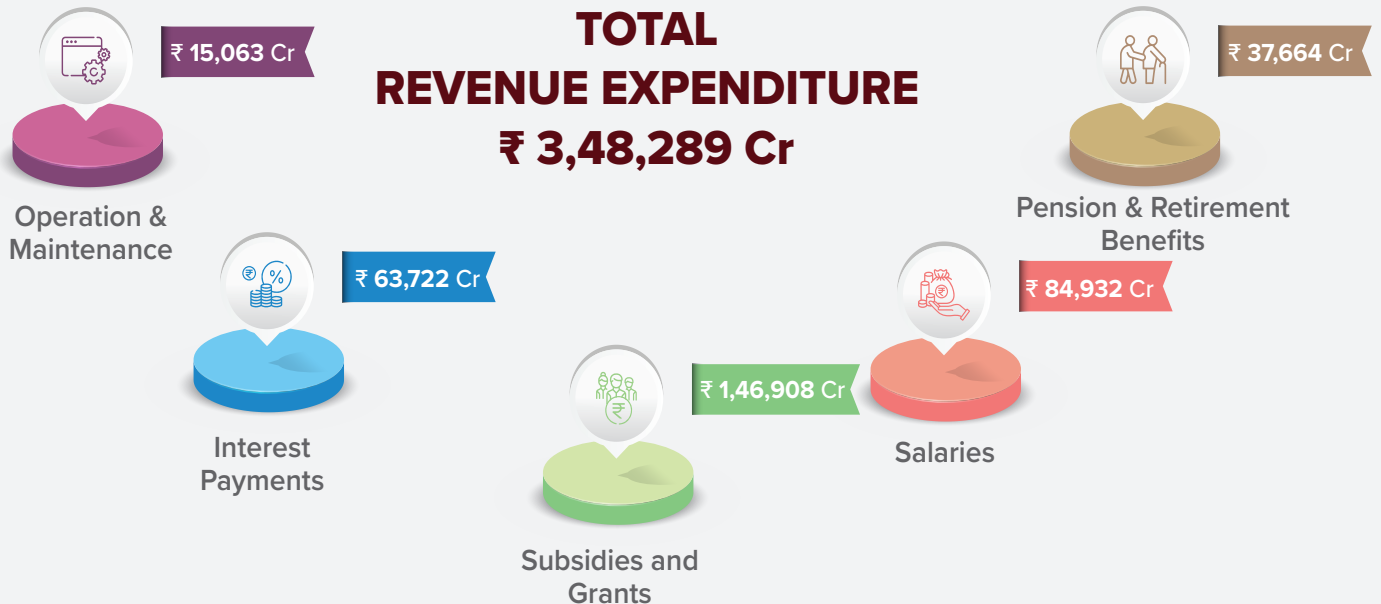


## THE STATE'S EXPENDITURE

The total expenditure of the Government is projected to be ₹ 4,12,504 crore in 2024-25, which is an increase of 11.7% over 2023-24 (RE).

## REVENUE EXPENDITURE

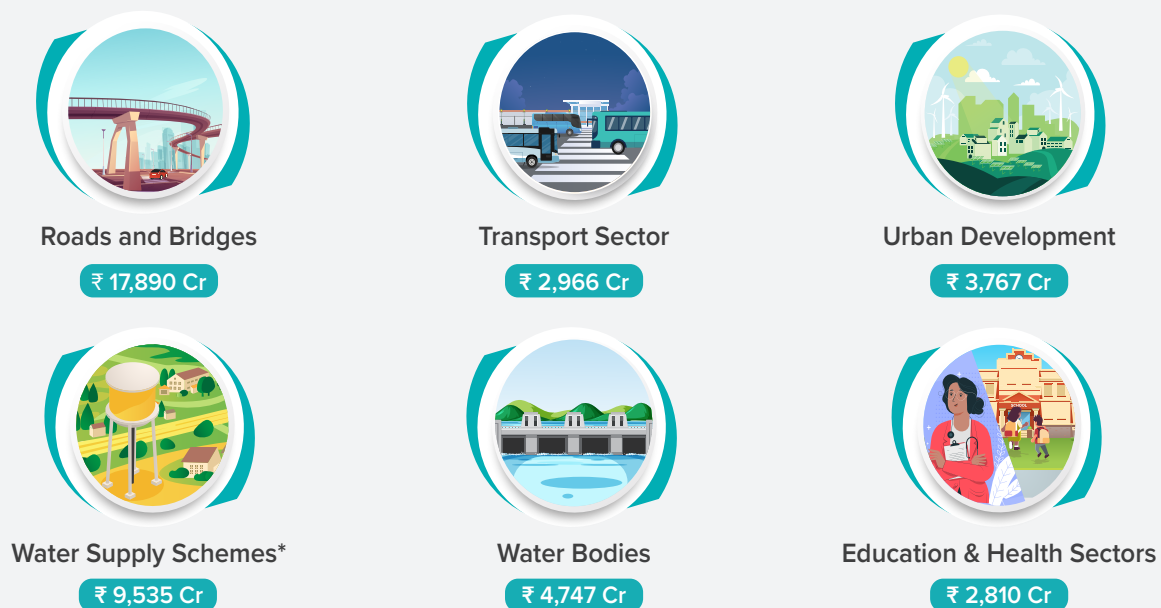
The major portion is spent on various welfare schemes for the people, especially the poor and vulnerable.



## CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

The Government will provide impetus to economic growth through spending for capital works. The Capital Expenditure in 2024-25 is projected at ₹ 47,681 crore, which is an increase of 12.1 % over 2023-24 (RE).

### CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FOR KEY SECTORS



**TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ₹ 47,681 Cr**

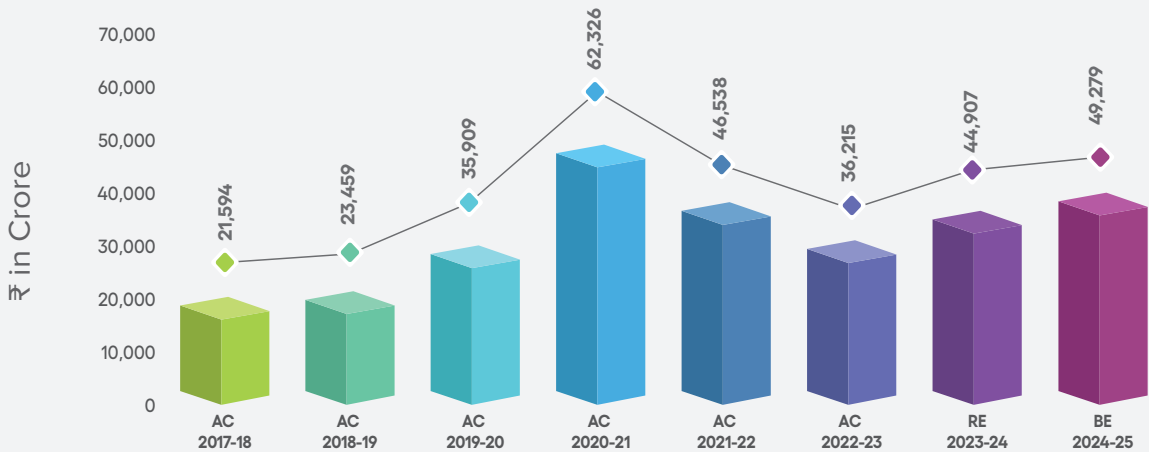
\*Includes direct releases to Implementing Agencies



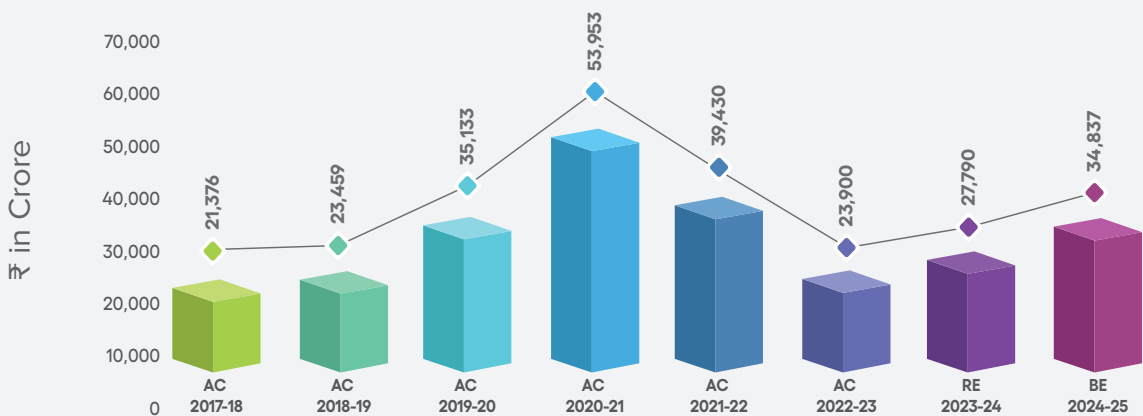
## REVENUE DEFICIT

The revenue deficit is estimated to be ₹ 44,907 crore this year. This includes a loss funding of ₹ 17,117 crore to TANGEDCO as mandated by the Union Government. Excluding this, the revenue deficit is estimated to be ₹ 27,790 crore. In the next year, the loss funding to TANGEDCO is ₹ 14,442 crore. Excluding this, the revenue deficit is estimated to be ₹ 34,837 crore.

### TRENDS IN OVERALL REVENUE DEFICIT



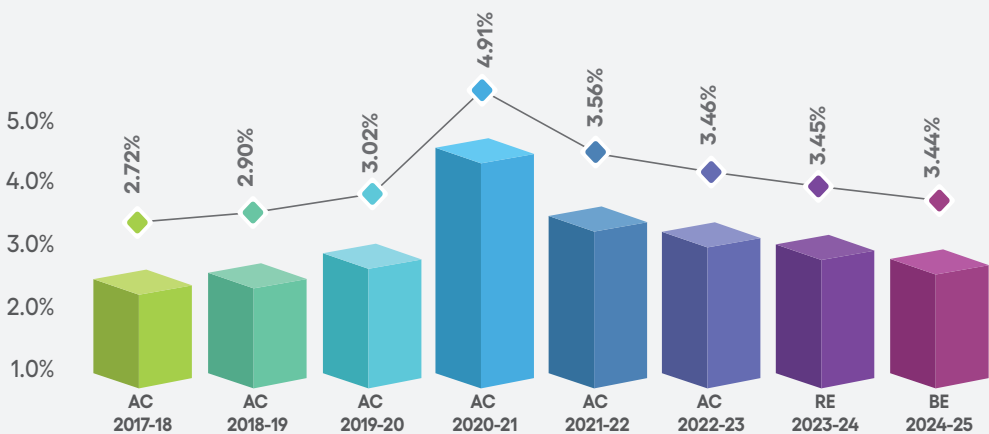
### TRENDS IN REVENUE DEFICIT EXCLUDING LOSS FUNDING TO TANGEDCO



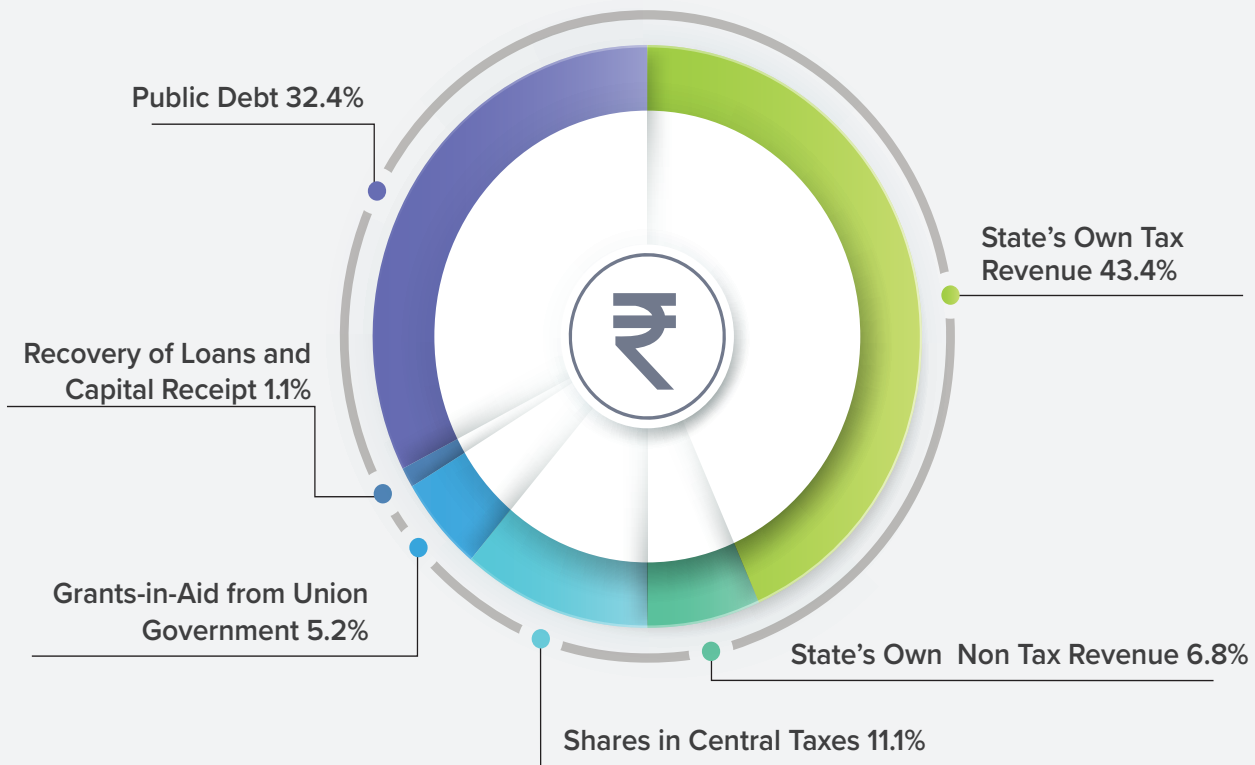
## FISCAL DEFICIT

The fiscal deficit as a percentage of GSDP is 3.45% this year. It will reduce to 3.44% next year.

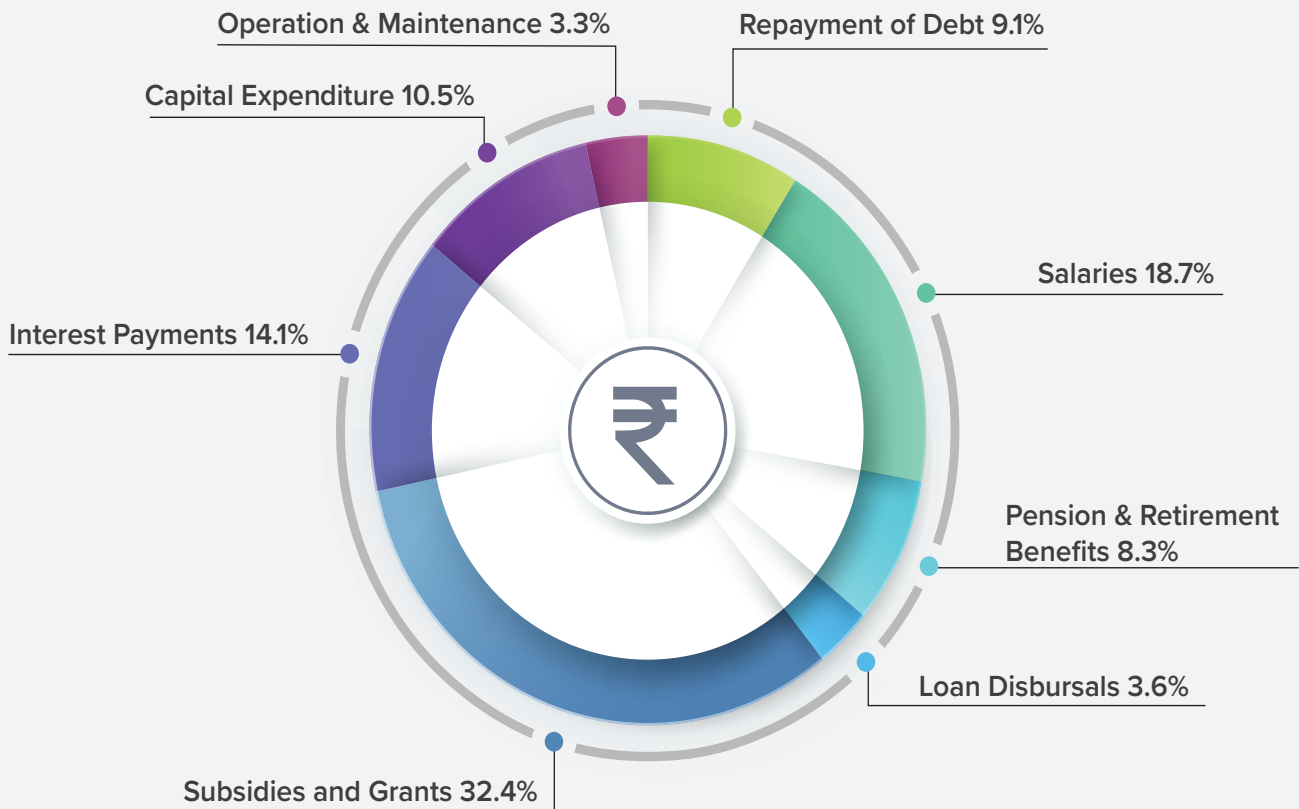
### TRENDS IN FISCAL DEFICIT AS % OF GSDP



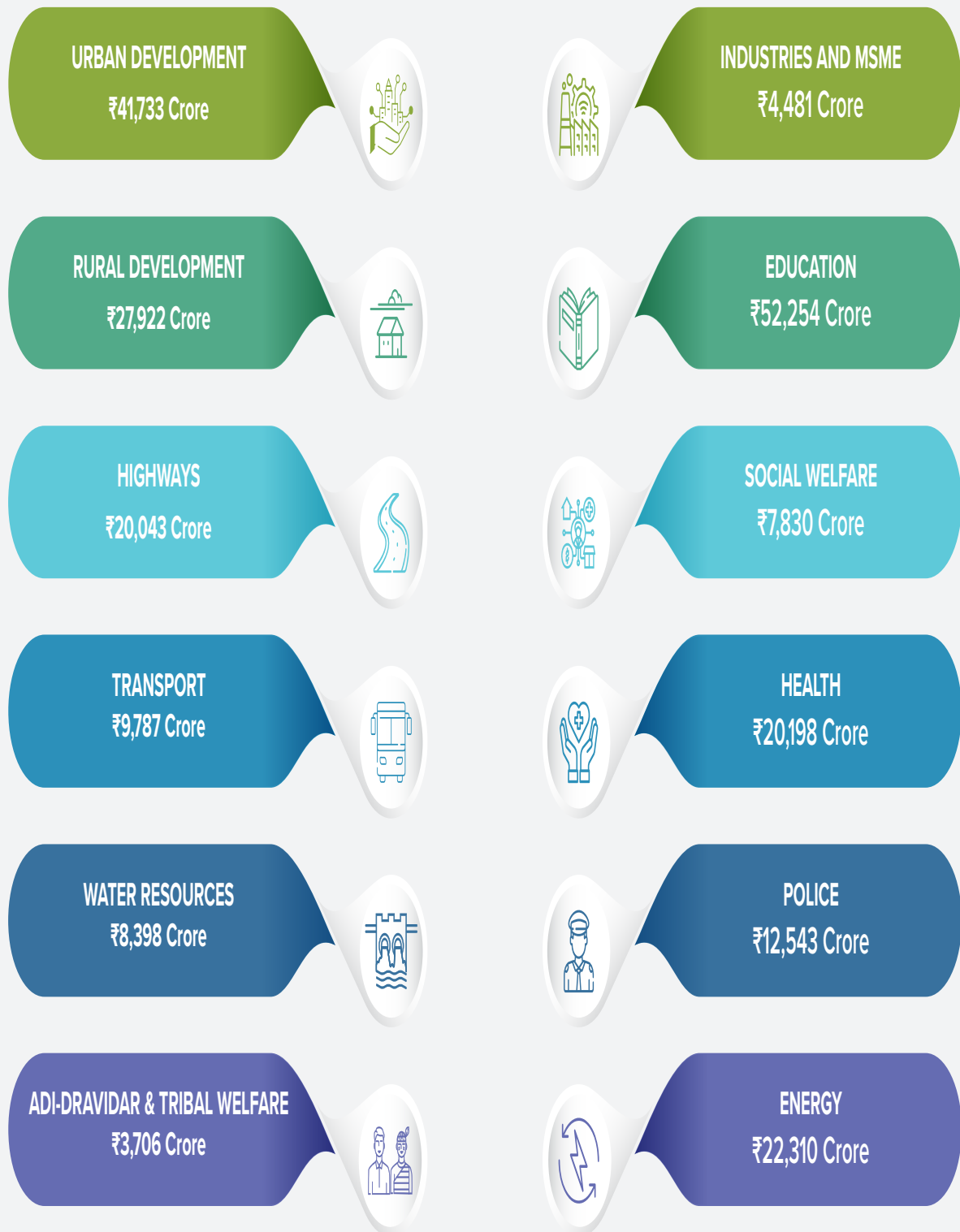
## HOW ONE RUPEE IS MOBILISED



## HOW ONE RUPEE IS SPENT



# MAJOR SECTORAL ALLOCATIONS IN BUDGET 2024-2025



Represents Revenue Expenditure, Capital Expenditure and disbursal of Loans

## NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS - HIGHLIGHTS



### Tamizh Pudhalvan

₹ 360 Crore

Rs.1,000 per month to Government School Students from 6th to 12th pursuing higher education



### IT Park in Coimbatore

₹ 1,100 Crore



### Kalaingar Kanavu Illam

₹ 3,500 Crore

8 lakh houses at unit cost of Rs.3.50 lakh by 2030



### Vada Chennai Valarchi Thittam

₹ 1,000 Crore



### Textile Parks in Virudhunagar and Salem districts

₹ 2,483 Crore



### Tholkudi

₹ 1,000 Crore

Basic amenities in tribal habitations and improving living standards



### Restoration of Adyar River

₹ 1,500 Crore



### Hi-Tech labs and Smart Classrooms

₹ 960 Crore



### Combined Water Supply Schemes in Dindigul, Namakkal and Perambalur districts

₹ 1,289 Crore



### Modernisation of Broadway Bus Stand

₹ 823 Crore



## NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS - HIGHLIGHTS



**27-storey Iconic Building opposite to Chennai Central Railway Station**

**₹ 688 Crore**



**Developing major beaches to obtain Blue Flag Certification**

**₹ 250 Crore**



**Restoration of Irrigation Tanks and Ponds in Panchayat Unions**

**₹ 500 Crore**



**Integrated Complex for Display of Handlooms and Handicrafts**

**₹ 227 Crore**



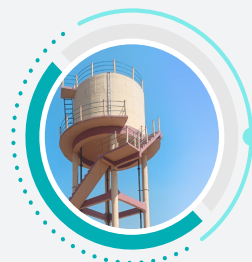
**Hi-tech Film City in Poonamallee**

**₹ 500 Crore**



**Modern Infrastructure Facilities for Public Libraries**

**₹ 213 Crore**



**2,000 Overhead Tanks in Rural Local Bodies**

**₹ 365 Crore**



**New Skill Labs in Colleges**

**₹ 200 Crore**

In 100 Government and aided Engineering, and Arts and Science colleges

## NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS - HIGHLIGHTS



**10 New Government  
Industrial Training  
Institutes**

**₹ 111 Crore**



**New Artisans  
Development Scheme**

**₹ 20 Crore**



**Modern Public  
Infrastructure  
Amenities in  
Island Ground**

**₹ 104 Crore**



**Open-air Museum  
at Keezhadi**

**₹ 17 Crore**



**Renovation of  
Thousand year old  
heritage temples**

**₹ 100 Crore**



**KaniTamil  
Advancement**

**₹ 5 Crore**

For startups to develop  
machine learning and  
artificial intelligence



**Centre of  
Excellence for  
Persons with Autism  
Spectrum Disorder**

**₹ 25 Crore**



**Chief Minister's  
Thayumanavar  
Thittam**

**5 lakh families**

will be rescued from  
poverty by providing  
needed assistance

## NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS - HIGHLIGHTS



Muthamizh Arignar  
Kalaigunar Grand  
Library and Science  
Centre in Coimbatore



Green Energy  
Company



Space Industrial  
and Propellant Park  
in Thoothukudi



Education Loans  
to one Lakh  
college students



Plug and Play facilities  
in Coimbatore,  
Krishnagiri and  
Tiruvallur districts



Credit Disbursement  
to Self-Help Groups

**₹ 35,000 Cr - Target**

Credit disbursement from  
banks to SHGs



Tamil Nadu Artificial  
Intelligence Mission



New Buses

**3,000 New buses**

# ALLOCATIONS FOR MAJOR ON-GOING SCHEMES



## Assistance to TANGEDCO

₹ 29,730 Crore

Subsidies towards Agriculture, domestic consumers & loss funding.



## Assistance to Transport Undertakings

₹ 6,396 Crore

Free bus passes to women; Free and concessional bus passes to students; diesel subsidy and Viability Gap Funding



## Magalir Urimai Thogai

₹ 13,720 Crore



## Social Security Pensions

₹ 5,426 Crore

Old age pensions, Widow pensions etc



## Chennai Metro Rail Project - Phase II

₹ 12,000 Crore



## Jal Jeevan Mission

₹ 8,224 Crore\*



## Subsidies and Grants for Public Distribution System

₹ 10,500 Crore



## Loan-Waiver Schemes

₹ 3,859 Crore

Crop loan wavier, Jewel loan wavier and SHG loan wavier



## Comprehensive Road Infrastructure Development Programme

₹ 8,365 Crore



## Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

₹ 3,300 Crore

100 days employment guarantee scheme

\*Includes direct releases to Implementing Agencies



## ALLOCATIONS FOR MAJOR ON-GOING SCHEMES



**Samagra Shiksha  
Abhiyan**

**₹ 3,299 Crore**



**Investment Promotion  
Subsidy for Industries**

**₹ 1,506 Crore**



**Puratchi Thalaivar  
MGR Nutritious Meal  
(Sathunavu) and  
Integrated Child  
Development Services  
Scheme**

**₹ 5,871 Crore**



**Chief Minister's  
Comprehensive Health  
Insurance Scheme**

**₹ 1,487 Crore**



**National Health  
Mission Schemes**

**₹ 2,582 Crore**



**Kalaigal Nagarapura  
Membattu Thittam**

**₹ 1,000 Crore**



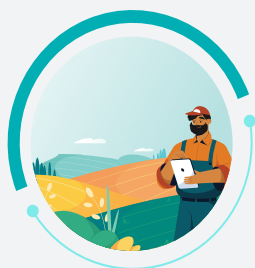
**Housing for all -  
Pradhan Mantri Awaas  
Yojana (PMAY-Urban)**

**₹ 2,100 Crore**



**Mudalvarin Grama Salaigal  
Membattu Thittam**

**₹ 1,000 Crore**



**Pradhan Mantri Fasal  
Bima Yojana (PMBY) -  
Crop Insurance**

**₹ 1,775 Crore**



**Welfare of  
Differently Aabled**

**₹ 604 Crore**

Maintenance  
allowances, differently  
abled pensions, etc

## ALLOCATIONS FOR MAJOR ON-GOING SCHEMES



### Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme

₹ 600 Crore



### Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam

₹ 250 Crore



### Fees for the students admitted under 7.5% preferential allotment

₹ 511 Crore



### Kalaigiar's All Villages Integrated Agricultural Development Programme

₹ 200 Crore



### Singara Chennai 2.0

₹ 500 Crore



### Naan Mudhalvan

₹ 150 Crore



### Pudumai Penn Thittam

₹ 370 Crore

Girl students from Government schools (6-12) who pursue higher education



### Innuyir Kappom - Nammai Kakkum 48 Thittam

₹ 125 Crore

## ALLOCATIONS FOR MAJOR ON-GOING SCHEMES



### Annal Ambedkar Business Champions Schemes (AABCS)

₹ 120 Crore

To promote economic development of SC/ST entrepreneurs



### Chief Minister's Adi Dravidar and Tribal Socio Economic Development Scheme (CM-ARISE)

₹ 50 Crore



### Illam Thedi Kalvi

₹ 100 Crore



### School Children

₹ 1,657 Crore

Study materials including text books and notebooks, uniforms, footwear, bicycles



### Makkalai thedi maruthuvam

₹ 50 Crore



### Fishermen Welfare

₹ 658 Crore



### SC / ST Entrepreneurs Startup Fund

₹ 50 Crore



### Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Assistance Scheme

₹ 872 Crore