

VETRI IAS STUDY CIRCLE

Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

MARCH 2023



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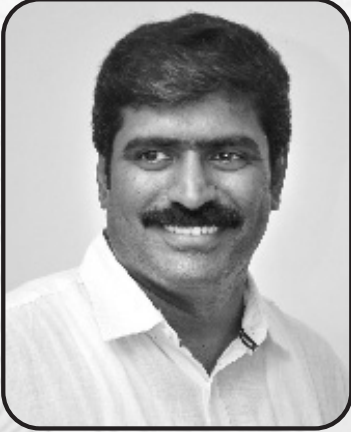
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Preface



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Director

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My Dear Aspirants,

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

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

The class room coaching at VETRI IAS Study Circle is meticulously planned to equip the aspirants with all the relevant facts and fundamentals of the subjects. Further the VETRI IAS Study Circle Study materials aim to support the candidate by providing the most relevant study material in a comprehensive manner.

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

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

Published by:

VETRI SHUNMUGAM PUBLICATION

F Block New No. 1, 3rd Floor, 9th Street,
1st Avenue Main Road, Chinthamani,
Anna Nagar (E), Chennai - 102.

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TNPSC GATEWAY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

March 1 to 31, 2023

1. HISTORY

1.1. IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme/Remark
March 1	Zero Discrimination Day World Civil Defence Day	1. Save lives: Decriminalise 2. Uniting the world's leading specialists for the safety and security of future generations
March 3	World Wildlife Day World Hearing Day	Partnership for wildlife conservation Ear and hearing care for all
March 4 to March 10	National Safety Week	Our Aim - Zero Harm
March 8	International Women's Day	DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality
March 14	Pi Day International Day of Action for Rivers	Mathematics for Everyone Rights of Rivers
March 15	World Consumer Rights Day	Empowering consumers through clean energy transitions
March 16	National Vaccination Day	"Vaccines Work for all"
March 17	World Sleep Day	"Sleep is Essential for Health"

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Date	Day	Theme/Remark
March 20	International Day of Happiness	'Be Mindful, Be Grateful, Be Kind'
	World Sparrow Day	'I LOVE Sparrows'
	World Oral Health Day	'Be Proud of Your Mouth'
March 21	World Forestry Day	'Forests and Health'
	World Down syndrome Day	'With Us, Not For Us'
	World Poetry Day	'Always be a poet, even in prose'
March 22	World Water Day	"Accelerating Change"
March 23	World Meteorological Day	'The Future of Weather, Climate and Water across Generations.'
March 24	World Tuberculosis (TB) Day	"Yes! We can end TB!"
March 25	International Day of the Unborn Child	'Dignity and value of every child yet to be born'
March 26	Purple Day of Epilepsy	'Dare to be different'
March 27	World Theatre Day	'Theatre and a Culture of Peace'

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1.2. DEFENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND TERRORISM

Shinyuu Maitri bilateral

- Two-day **Shinyuu Maitri bilateral exercise** with the Japan Air Self-Defence Force (JASDF). The exercise is being organized on the sidelines of the **Indo-Japan Joint Army exercise, Dharma guardian**.

BrahMos Missile

Indian Navy successfully test-fires BrahMos missile

BrahMos missile flies at a speed of 2.8 Mach or almost three times the speed of sound.

- The Indian Navy successfully test-fired in the **Arabian Sea** the ship-launched version of the **BrahMos supersonic missile**.
- The missile that was tested had the indigenous “seeker and booster”.
- “The Indian Navy carried out a successful precision strike in the Arabian Sea by ship launched BrahMos missile with **DRDO-designed indigenous seeker and booster**, reinforcing our commitment towards Aatmanirbharta (self-reliance) in defence,”

About Brahmos Missile

1. An Indo-Russian Joint Venture
2. It is the fastest cruise Missile in the world with a top speed of Mach 2.8 ((nearly three times the speed of sound))
3. Range : 290 km
4. BrahMos is named for the rivers Brahmaputra and Moskva.

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CENTRE ANNOUNCES 10% RESERVATION IN BSF JOBS FOR EX-AGNIVEERS

- In a fillip to the ambitious Agnipath scheme, the Union home ministry has announced **10 per cent reservation** for former Agniveers in vacancies in the **Border Security Force (BSF)** with relaxations in the upper age limit.
- Agnipath: It is a scheme for recruiting soldiers across the three services (Army, Navy, Airforce)
- Objective: Providing an opportunity to the patriotic and motivated youth.

INS sahyadri 2023

- Indian Navy's indigenously built guided missile frigate, INS Sahyadri participated in a **Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX)** with **French Navy (FN)**, conducted in the **Arabian Sea** on 10 - 11 March 2023.
- INS Sahyadri is fitted with state-of-the art weapons and sensors, which makes her capable of detecting and neutralising air, surface and sub-surface threats.

About France:

1. Capital- Paris
2. President - Emmanuel macron
3. Prime Minister - Elisabeth Borne
4. Currency - French franc

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Central Industrial Security Forces

- **54th Inaugural Day of CISF held in Hyderabad** for strengthening the country's economy and it would soon be equipped with latest technology to secure vital installations as the country seeks to achieve its target of being a \$5 trillion economy.

About CISF:

- The **Central Industrial Security Forces** or CISF are one of the six paramilitary groups that come under the supervision of India's Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The CISF is the country's premier armed police force.
- Its headquarters is in **New Delhi**.
- The CISF was established in **1969**.

Exercise La Perouse 2023:

- The third edition of the multilateral exercise La Perouse is scheduled to be conducted in the **Indian Ocean** Region from 13 to 14 March 2023.
- **About the Exercise:**
- This edition will witness participation of **personnel, ships and integral helicopters** of **Royal Australian Navy, French Navy, Indian Navy, Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force, Royal Navy and the United States Navy**.
- The **biennial** exercise La Perouse is **conducted by the French Navy**.

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- **Aimed at enhancing maritime domain awareness** and optimising maritime coordination amongst the participating navies in the Indo-Pacific Region.
- The two day exercise provides an **opportunity for likeminded navies** to develop closer links in planning, coordination and information sharing for seamless maritime operations.
- The exercise will witness complex and advanced naval operations including surface warfare, anti-air warfare, air defence exercises, cross deck landings and tactical manoeuvres.
- Indigenously built guided missile frigate **INS Sahyadri** and fleet tanker **INS Jyoti** will be participating in this edition of the exercise.

Indigenous very short-range missile systems tested twice

- The DRDO conducted two consecutive successful flight tests of **Very Short-Range Air Defence missiles** at the Integrated Test Range, **Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha**.
- In another development, the maiden flight test of the Power Take off (PTO) Shaft was successfully conducted on Light Combat Aircraft (LCA-Tejas) Limited Series Production (LSP)-3 aircraft in Bengaluru.
- "The flight tests were carried out from a ground-based man portable launcher against high-speed unmanned aerial targets, mimicking approaching and receding aircraft.
- The targets were successfully intercepted, meeting all mission objectives."

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Exercise Bold Kurukshetra

- Recently, the **Singapore Army and Indian Army** participated in Exercise Bold Kurukshetra which was held at **Jodhpur Military Station**, India.
- It was the 13th edition of Exercise Bold Kurukshetra, a **bilateral military exercise** between India and the Singapore army.
- For the first time in the exercise series, both armies participated in a command post Exercise, which involved Battalion and Brigade level planning elements and computer wargaming.
- It involved an understanding of mechanised warfare in emerging threats and evolving technologies, developing inter-operability through a computer simulation-based Wargame using joint operational and tactical procedures controlled through a joint command post.
- First conducted in 2005, this exercise underscores the strong and long-standing bilateral defence relationship between both countries and enhances cooperation between the two armies.

Exercise Sea Dragon

- Indian Navy's **P-8I aircraft** to participate in 'Exercise Sea Dragon 23'.
- A P-8I aircraft of the Indian Navy arrived at Guam, USA to participate in 'Exercise Sea Dragon 23'.
- conducted by the **United States Navy** from March 15 to March 30.

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- It is the **third edition** of the coordinated **multi-lateral anti-submarine warfare (ASW)** exercise for **long-range maritime reconnaissance (MR)** ASW aircraft.

' Exercise AFINDEX'

- Indian Army is set to host the **second edition** of the Africa-India field training exercise 'AFINDEX-23' from march 21 to 30, and African chiefs conclave in **Pune**.
- "The objective is to build upon initiatives taken to strengthen India-Africa relations, with a focus on **enhancing peace and creating opportunities to exchange ideas**".

INS Androth

- INS Androth, second in a series of eight Anti Submarine **Warfare Shallow Water Craft**, was launched in **Kolkata**.
- Their primary role is to conduct antisubmarine operations in coastal waters, low intensity maritime operations and mine laying operations.
- **first of the eight** indigenously built Anti Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)- **Arnala**.

Exercise ' Vayu Prahar'

- The Indian Army and the Indian Air force conducted a **multi-domain air-land exercise 'Vayu Prahar'** in the eastern theatre to validate plans to execute synergised operations.

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- With an eye on China, the drill which lasted for four days (96 hours) involved not only the Indian Army, Air Force but also the Special Forces.
- The objective was to validate joint plans to prosecute synergized multiple domain operations.

Project Akashteer

- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed three contracts worth ₹5,400 crore two with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for procurement of Automated Air Defence Control and Reporting System '**Project Akashteer**' for the **Army** and Sarang Electronic Support Measure (ESM) systems for the **Navy**.
- Another contract is with New Space India Limited (NSIL), a Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Department of Space, for an **advanced communication satellite, GSAT 7B**, for the **Army**.
- The satellite will considerably enhance the communication capability of the Indian Army by providing mission critical beyond line of sight communication to troops and formations as well as weapon and airborne platforms.

'Amogha-III'

- The government-owned defence manufacturing company Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) has carried out a successful test of its latest 3rd generation man-portable **Anti Tank Guided Missile (ATGM)** called '**Amogha-III**' on March 26, 2023.
- Amogha-III ATGM features a fire-and-forget capability, meaning the missile does not require external intervention following launch.

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Missile Range:

- Minimum range - 200 meters
- Maximum Range - 2.5 km

INDIAN NAVY

- The **Indian Navy successfully conducted** MRSAM (Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile) firing from INS Visakhapatnam validating the capability to engage "Anti-Ship Missiles". MRSAM was developed jointly by Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Israeli Aerospace Industries (IAI) at Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) as part of a commitment to "Aatmanirbhar Bharat", according to the Indian Navy.

INDIA TOP TIER SECURITY PARTNER, SAYS AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER ALBANESE

1. Australia will host **Exercise Malabar for the first time**, and India will, also for the first time, participate in Australia's **Talisman Sabre exercise**.
2. India is a top tier security partner for Australia, he said during a visit onboard India's indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant in Mumbai.

1.3. World Organisations - Pacts and Summits

Foreign Ministers of Quad countries take aim at Russia, China

1. The Quad Foreign Ministers meeting hosted by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in New Delhi, was met with sharp responses from both Russia and China, who called the Quad grouping disruptive and "exclusionary".

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2. India joined other Quad members in calling for a "just and lasting peace in Ukraine", and respect for a rules-based order in the South and East China Seas, in the first such statement by the grouping that is seen to criticise both Russia and China.
3. The meeting was attended by Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

About QUAD

- Grouping of 4 democracies
 - ✓ India
 - ✓ Australia
 - ✓ US
 - ✓ Japan
- Established in - 2017
- Aim
- To ensure and support a "free open and prosperous" Indo Pacific region.

G-20 summits

Multilateral reforms as a priority in the G-20

- "The T 20 Task Force on Towards Reformed Multilateralism" (TF7) aims to construct a road map for 'Multilateralism 2.0' at the G-20.
- Most of the challenges nations face today are global in nature and require global solutions. Pressing global issues such as conflicts, climate change,

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- migration, macroeconomic instability, and cybersecurity can indeed only be solved collectively.
- To fix the malaise within multilateralism, G-20 needs to devise multiple solutions.
- Currently, the multilateralism reform nar native lives only in elite circles and some national capitals, particularly the emerging powers. Therefore, the G-20 should first focus on setting proper narratives of multilateral reform.

G-20 Summit

1. Formed in 1999
2. 18th Summit – New Delhi
3. **Theme**

‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’

“One earth, one family, one future’.

SCO Tourism Minister Conference

- India mooted an action plan to mark 2023 as the year of tourism development in the SCO (**Shanghai Cooperation Organization**) region at the **tourism ministers’ conference** in **Varanasi**.
- A joint action plan for implementing the agreement between the Member States on cooperation in the tourism sector was finalised and approved.
- Kashi has been declared as the **first tourism and cultural capital of SCO**.
- The recognition will bring the city to a greater prominence in the global tourist map.

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India to host meeting of security advisers from SCO countries.

- India will host a meeting of the National Security Advisers (NSAs) of member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

About SCO:

- SCO is a permanent intergovernmental international organization.
- It was created in **2001**.
- It's a Eurasian political, economic and military organization aiming to maintain peace, security and stability in the region.
- **India host the SCO summit in 2023.**
- **Member nations:** Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan.
- Head Quarters: **Beijing, China.**

1.4. Eminent Persons

Ki Raja Narayanan

- Tamil literary giant Ki Raja Narayanan, popularly known as Ki Ra, on his birth centenary year, at a function organised at the Dr. MGR Janaki College of Arts and Science in Chennai.
- Former Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu was the chief guest at the event. He published a collection of essays titled 'One Hundred'.
- In **1991**, he was awarded the **Sahitya Akademi Award** for his novel **Gopalla Gramam**. Which was set in the **Karisal** landscape and based on the migration of telugu speaking people.

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- Most of the short stories are written about the lifestyle of the people of Kari Sal land. In it, it highlights the challenges they face on a daily basis.
- As a result, he becomes the father of Tamil Nadu's Karisal literature.

Surekha is first woman to operate Vande Bharat train

- **Surekha Yadhav, Asia's first woman loco pilot**, has become the first woman to operate the newly introduced **semi-high-speed Vande Bharat Express trains**. A native of Satara district of Maharashtra, Ms. Yadav piloted the train between Solapur and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) in Mumbai.
- She was felicitated at the CSMT. "Vande Bharat - powered by Nari Shakti."

1.5. Place in News:

World's longest railway platform

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated **World's longest railway platform of 1507 metres at Sri Siddhaarooda** railway station in **Hubballi in the state of Karnataka**.
- Hubballi is now registered in the Guinness Book of World Records for having the longest platform.
- **Gorakhpur platform** in Uttar Pradesh is now the **second longest at 1,366.33 meters**, and **Kollam Junction in Kerala** has the **third longest platform**.

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World's highest railway bridge.

- The **Chenab bridge**, which India claims is the world's highest railway bridge, will have trains plying on it by January February 2024.
 - The first run of a track-mounted trolley on the arch bridge was conducted on March 21.
 - The bridge is at a **height of 359 m**, it is **taller than the Eiffel Tower** in Paris, which stands at 330 m.
 - The Chenab bridge had been constructed in a highly seismic prone area.
 - The foundation of the bridge has been built to sustain an earthquake [measuring] up to eight on the Richter scale.
- 28,000 tonnes of steel has been used to construct the arch bridge.

In TIME magazine's '50 extraordinary destinations to explore' list, two Indian places namely Ladakh and Odisha's Mayurbhanj were included.

- Ladakh- "with its astonishing **alpine landscapes** and **Tibetan Buddhist culture**.
- In 2023, India designated its first Dark Sky Reserve, in **Hanle village**, about **168 miles southeast of Leh**, Ladakh's capital. The village has roughly **270 clear nights a year**, making it ideal for astronomical splendor.
- While listing Mayurbhanj, the only place on earth to spot the exceedingly rare **black tiger** is open to visitors again. **Similipal National Park** in Mayurbhanj, an under the radar region in India's eastern state of Odisha.

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- It is a home to over 40 mammals including **Asian elephants and Bengal tigers.**"

1.6. Sports and Games

- **Ashwin dethrones** Anderson, becomes No.1 Test bowler.
- **Jeswin Aldrin** came up with a massive world leading **8.42 m long jump** that broke M.Sreeshankar's one-year-old National record in the second Indian open Jumps Championships at the JSW's Inspire Institute of Sports, Ballari.

Asian Chess Federation

- **Indian GM D. Gukesh** has been honoured with **player-of-the-year award** by the **Asian Chess Federation (ACF)** for clinching the gold with nine points out of 11 in the 44th Chess Olympiad last year.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has been conferred with **man-of-the-year award** for his efforts in the successful hosting of the FIDE Chess Olympiad in August 2022.

Women's World Boxing Championships

- India's Youth Affairs and Sports Minister, Anurag Singh Thakur, inaugurated the **13th IBA Women's World Boxing Championships in New Delhi.**
- India has fielded a strong contingent for the tournament, with Nikhat Zareen, Lovlina Borgohain, Saweety Boora, and Preeti all set to participate in the event.

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- Tournament's brand ambassador - **MC Mary Kom**, and Bollywood star **Farhan Akhtar**.
- **Nitu Ghanghas** secured **India's first gold** after defeating Mongolia's Lutsaikhan Altantsetseg in the 45-48 kg category finals.
- Nitu Ghanghas (48kg) and Saweety Boora (81kg) won the gold medals in their respective weight categories.
- **Nikhat Zareen** won the **50kg category Gold in Women's World Boxing Championship in New Delhi**.
- Nikhat is the **2nd Indian woman after Mary Kom to win multiple Gold medals at the World Championships**.
- Nikhat Zareen is from Nizamabad, which is located in the state of **Telangana**.
- This is India's **third Gold medal** at the ongoing World Championship.,
- Nitu Ghanghas is from Haryana's Bhiwani district.
- India's **Saweety Boora** defeated Lina Wang of China in the Elite Women 75-81 kg light heavyweight category
- Saweety defeated Lina to win the **second gold medal** for India at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium.
- Saweety Boora is from Hisar, Haryana.
- **Lovlina Borgohain** added **fourth gold** to India's tally at the IBA Women's World Boxing Championship in New Delhi.
- The **Tokyo Olympic bronze medalist** produced a strong show in the 70-75kg finals, where she defeated Australia's Caitlin Anne Parker.

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- This is Lovlina's **first gold** at the competition after settling for bronze in 2018 and 2019 edition.
- Lovlina Borgohain is from Golaghat, **Assam**.

International shooting Sports Federation

- International Shooting Sports Federation- ISSF World Cup Shooting Championship is organized in **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**.
- Around 325 shooters from 33 countries and more than 75 technical officials will participate in the World Cup Shooting Championship.
- The Championship is being organized in collaboration with the **Government of Madhya Pradesh and the Rifle Federation of India**.
- It is the **8th World Cup** organized in India and the **first international shooting tournament to be held outside New Delhi**.

SWISS OPEN 2023

- The **Indian badminton pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty** won the Swiss Open 2023 **men's doubles title** after beating China's Tan Qiang and Ren Xiang Yu in the final at the St Jakobshalle arena in **Basel**

Other winners:

- Men's singles: **Koki Watanabe (Japan)**
- Women's singles: **Pornpawee Chochuwong (Thailand)**

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International Weightlifting youth championship:

- Indian weightlifter **Bharali Bedabrate** clinched the men's 67kg **bronze medal** at the **International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) World Youth Championships** in **Durres, Albania**.

Two Golds for Archana Suseendran in AFI Indian Grand Prix-2.

- Archana Suseendran from Tamil Nadu has clinched two gold medals in 100m and 200m at the AFI Indian Grand Prix 2, held in Kerala.
- She defeated Assam sprinter Hima Das in 100 m race.

1.7. Awards & Honours

Avvaiyar Award

- Mr. Stalin handed over the Avvaiyar Award for 2023 to Tamil scholar Kamalam Chinnasamy. The award includes a cheque for Rs.1 lakh, an eight-gram gold medal and a citation.

Girl Child Award

- He also presented the Girl Child Award to M. Ilampirai of Salem district to her innovative project aiming at avoiding loss of lives due to accidents in lifts.

Best District Collector Award

- Mr. Stalin also presented the Best District Collector Award to Tiruvallur Collector Alby John Varghese for improving the sex ratio.

OSCAR Awards 2023

- **RRR** song, the **Elephant Whisperers** win Oscars

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- The 95th Academy Awards ceremony was held at the **Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, USA,**
- where a country song from director SS Rajamouli's Telugu film **RRR** became the first Indian feature production to win an Oscar when its 'RRR' created history by winning the **Oscar for Best Song.**
- Music Composer **MM Keeravani** and lyricist **Chandrabose** received the Oscar for the song '**Naatu Naatu**'
- '**The Elephant Whisperers**', which was shot in Tamil in the Mudumalai Tiger reserve of Tamil Nadu, has won the Oscar for **Best Documentary short Film.** About Bomman and Bellie, a couple from the Kattunayakar tribe who work as elephant caretakers at the Mudumalai Reserve in the Nilgiris district.
- The film's director **Kartiki Gonsalves** and producer **Guneet Monga** won the Oscars.
- **Michelle Yeoh**, the first Asian woman to win an Oscar for **Best Actress** (Everything Everywhere All at Once), is a Chinese woman born in Malaysia.
- Best Actor: **Brendan Fraser** (The Whale).
- DIRECTOR- Daniel Scheinert and Daniel Kwan, "**Everything Everywhere All at Once**"
- Best Cinematography – James Brent for "**All Quiet on the Western Front**"
- Best Background Score – Volker Bertelmann for '**All Quiet on the Western Front**'
- Best Adapted Screenplay – **Women Talking**

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- Best Production Design - **All Quiet on the Western front**
- Costume Designer - **"Black Panther: Wakanda Forever**
- International Film - **All Quite on the Western Front (Germany)**
- Animated movie - **Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio**
- Documentary Feature- **Navalny**
- Animated short film - **The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and the Horse**
- Makeup and hairstyle: **Adrian Morrod, Judy Gin, Anlemar Bradley (The Whale)**
- Best Visual Effects: **Joe Vetterly, Richard Baneham, Eric, Sainton, Daniel Barrett (Avatar: The Way of Water).**
- ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY- **"Everything Everywhere All at Once".**
- LIVE ACTION SHORT FILM- **"An Irish Goodbye**
- FILM EDITING- **"Everything Everywhere All at Once"**
- ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE- **Ke Huy Quan, "Everything Everywhere All at Once"**
- ACTRESS IN A SUPPORTING ROLE- **Jamie Lee Curtis, "Everything Everywhere All at Once"**
- BEST PICTURE- **"Everything Everywhere All at Once"**

Saraswati samman award

- Writer **Sivasankari** wins the 'Saraswati Samman' award for the year **2022**.
- The award is given to her for **2019** memoir **Surya Vamsam**.

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About saraswati samman:

- Since 1991, the **K.K. Birla Foundation** has been awarding the Saraswati Samman.
- The awardee receives a cash prize of Rs. 15 lakhs.
- The award is given annually to a book selected from 22 languages of India – the best prose or poetic literary work.

Indira Parthasarathy and **A.A. Manavalan** have already received this award in Tamil.

Hockey India Milestone Awards 2022

- Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award 2022: **Gurbux Singh**
- Balbir Singh Sr. Award for Player of the Year 2022 (Men): **Hardik Singh**
- Balbir Singh Sr. Award for Player of the Year 2022 (Women): **Savita**
- Jugraj Singh Award for Upcoming Player of the Year 2022 (Men U-21): **Uttam Singh**
- Asunta Lakra Award for Upcoming Player of the Year 2022 (Women U-21): **Mumtaz Khan**
- Dhanraj Pillay Award for Forward of the Year 2022: **Vandana Katariya**
- Ajit Pal Singh Award for Midfielder of the Year 2022: **Sushila Chanu**
- Pargat Singh Award for Defender of the Year 2022: **Harmanpreet Singh**
- Baljit Singh Award for Goalkeeper of the Year 2022: **Krishan Pathak**
- Jaman Lal Sharma Award for Invaluable Contribution 2022: **Pritam Siwach**

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Wildlife Conservation Award:

- **Alia Mir**, a woman from Jammu and Kashmir has been honoured with the **Wildlife Conservation Award** by the administration for her conservation efforts in the region.
- Alia is also the first woman from Kashmir to get this award. She works for the charity Wildlife SOS organisation which is part of the Wildlife Rescue Team.
- She has rescued various wild animals, including birds, Asiatic black bears, and Himalayan brown bears, but is best known for catching snakes.
- J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha facilitated her with the wildlife honour award.

Sangita Kalanidhi award:

- Carnatic vocalist **Bombay Jayashri** has been selected for the **Sangita Kalanidhi award** of the Music Academy for 2023.
- The **Nritya Kalanidhi award** for dance will go to **Vasanthalakshmi Narasimhachari**.

About Sangita Kalanidhi award:

- It came into **existence in 1942**.
- The award is conferred by the Madras Music Academy.
- It is considered the highest award in the field of Carnatic music.
- The award comprises of a gold medal and a citation.

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1.8. India and its Neighbours:

India's Foreign Policy

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina virtually inaugurated the **India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline**.

About the Project:

- It will bring diesel from Assam's Numaligarh refinery's marketing depot in Siliguri to Parbatipur in northern Bangladesh.
- Out of the total length of the pipeline, Bangladesh has 126.57 km and India has five kilometres.
- Many countries in the world are suffering from energy insecurity because of the Russia-Ukraine war, but this pipeline will help our people, said PM Sheikh Hasina.

1.9. Appointments

IAF command

- **Shaliza Dhama** is first woman to be appointed to an IAF command post

President of National Sahitya Akademi

- **Madhav Kaushik**, a city-based writer and literary organiser, has been appointed as the **president of the National Sahitya Akademi**.
- vice president: **Kumud Sharma**

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About Sahitya Akademi

- Sahitya Akademi award **established in 1954**, is a literary honour that is conferred annually by Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of letters.
- Akademi gives **24 awards annually to literary works** in the languages it has recognized and an equal number of awards to literary translations from and into the languages of India.
- The Sahitya Akademi award is the **second-highest literary honour by the Government of India, after the Jnanpith award.**

1. **Deepak Mohanty** appointed as new chairperson of the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).**

About PFRDA:

- The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) is a pension regulatory authority which was established in 2003.
- It is a statutory body established under PFRDA Act, 2003 enacted by Parliament.
- It is authorized by Ministry of Finance, Department of Financial Services.
- HQ : **New Delhi.**

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2. **Gianni Infantino** has been re elected as president of **FIFA** for **four more years**.

About FIFA:

- FIFA or the International Federation of Association Football is the highest governing body of football in the world.
 - It is the international governing body of association football, futsal, and beach soccer.
 - FIFA is a non-profit organization.
 - Founded in **1904**, FIFA was launched to oversee international competition among the national associations of Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland. FIFA now comprises 211 member nations.
 - It is **headquartered in Zurich**.
3. The U.S President Joe Biden nominated **Eric Garcetti** to be the U.S. Ambassador to India.

About U.S:

- President-Joe Biden.
- Capital-Washington, D.C
- Currency-US dollar.
- Former Brazilian President **Dilma Vana Rousseff** has been elected as the new President of the **New Development Bank (NDB) of BRICS**.

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- NDB, also known as BRICS bank is a multilateral financial institution set up by the five BRICS countries including Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

About BRICS:

- BRICS is an acronym for the grouping of the world's leading emerging economies, namely **Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa**.
- The **first four** were initially grouped as "**BRIC**" in **2001**.
- **South Africa** was added in **2010**.
- New Development Bank (NDB) Founded: **15 July 2014**
- New Development Bank (NDB) HQ: **Shanghai, China**

2. POLITICAL SCIENCE

2.1. India's Foreign Policy

Australia and India sign agreement on education

- India and Australia signed an agreement for mutual recognition of qualifications that will ease mobility of students and professionals between the two countries. The agreement, called the '**Framework Mechanism for Mutual Recognition of Qualifications**', bilateral meeting in New Delhi
- India and Italy announced the elevation of the bilateral relationship to the level of strategic partnership while also concluding a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on defence cooperation.
- Establishment of a '**Start Bridge**' between India and Italy.
- Mutual cooperation is defence.

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INDIA, U.S TO LAUNCH A SEMICONDUCTOR SUB-COMMITTEE

- India and the United States signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) that will pave the way for creating a semiconductor sub-committee under the Commercial Dialogue between the U.S. Department of Commerce and India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the Ministry of Commerce.
- The Key features of the Commercial Dialogue included creating "reliable supply chains, diversifying and friend shorting (Sourcing of material from countries with similar social and political values), facilitating climate and clean technology cooperation, inclusive digital growth, talent development, post-pandemic economic recovery, and a focus on cooperation".

AUSTRALIA, INDIA SIGN AUDIOVISUAL COPRODUCTION AGREEMENT

- India and Australia have signed an audiovisual Coproduction agreement under which private, quasi government or governmental agencies of the two countries enter into contracts to produce films together.

About Australia:

1. Capital-canberra
2. Prime minister-Anthony Albanese
3. Currency-Australian Dollor

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2.2. Latest Court Verdicts

Appointment of Chief Election Commissioner

- A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court directed in a landmark judgment that the **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election commissioners will be appointed by the President on the advice of a the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha or the leader of the single largest party in Opposition and the Chief Justice of India (CJI.)**
- The high-powered committee would continue to advise the President on the appointment until Parliament enacts a law on the appointment process of Election Commissioners. CECs and Election Commissioners have so far been appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister.
- The procedural safeguards in place for effecting the removal of a CEC should be extended to the Election Commissioners under the first proviso to **Article 324(5)** of the Constitution. A CEC, like Supreme Court judges, can be removed from office only by way of impeachment.

2.3. Public Awareness & General Administration

Prevention of money Laundering

- The Union Finance Ministry has amended the **Prevention of Money Laundering (Maintenance of Records) Rules** for widening the scope of know your Customer (KYC) norms to include Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs), non-profit organisations (NPOs) and those dealing in virtual digital

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- assets (VDA) as reporting entities. The decision has been taken ahead of the expected Financial Action Task Force assessment of India
- PEPs as individuals who have been entrusted with prominent public functions by a foreign country, including the heads of States of governments, senior politicians, senior government or judicial or military officers, and important political party officials.
- “In such cases, transactions of **10 lakh and above** will have to be reported to the Financial Intelligence Unit, “Non-profit organisations formed for religious or charitable purposes, and registered as trust or society, too have been added to the list. Another key decision is the lowering of ownership threshold from 25% to 10%, thereby treating any individual or group holding 10% ownership in a reporting entity as a “beneficial owner” for the purpose of PMLA rules.

Sickle cell anaemia:

- Sickle cell screening meets only 1% of target.

'Eliminate disease by 2047'

- India aims to eliminate sickle cell anaemia by 2047. This means that the incidence of the disease will be reduced to a specified level, with continuous efforts to prevent recurrence.
- Achieving this goal would involve screening at least seven crore people under the age of 40 years in multiple phases by 2025-26.
- A budget of ₹542 crore has been proposed by **National Health Mission** for the massive exercise

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Central registry

- The Health Ministry is now working to create and maintain a central registry for all screened persons.
- This will be the first such registry to be maintained at the central level.

About sickle cell anaemia:

- Sickle cell disease is a genetic disorder in which the red blood cells of the patient turn into a sickle-shaped crescent shape, become rigid and sticky, and get clogged in the blood vessels.
- World sickle cell disease day - June 19

2.4 Govt - Welfare oriented Govt schemes, their utility

India reducing dependence in healthcare,

- “The cashless health insurance scheme (Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana] has led to the healthcare savings of nearly Rs.80,000 crore for patients. Additionally, savings of Rs.20,000 crore have been achieved through buying of generic medicines by patients from the Jan Aushadhi Kendras,

PM-VIKAS scheme to provide holistic institutional support to artisans.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing the post-Budget webinar on Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman (VIKAS) scheme.
- Small artisans play an important role in the production of local crafts and the development of the country.
- He stressed the need for working in mission mode to help artisans living in remote areas and make them part of the value chain.

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Vote-from-home facility for citizens above 80, persons with disabilities.

- In the coming Assembly elections in Karnataka, for the first time, people aged above 80 and persons with disabilities (PWDs) can vote from the comfort of their homes if they are unable to go out to exercise their franchise.
- "For the first time, the EC will provide this facility.

Saksham

- For people with disabilities, a mobile application 'Saksham' has been introduced, which they can login to and choose the facility to vote.
- Another mobile application,

Suvidha

- 'Suvidha' has been developed, which is an online portal for candidates to file nominations and affidavits.
- "Candidates can also use the SUVIDHA portal for seeking permission for meetings and rallies ".

About Election Commission of India:

- It is an autonomous constitutional authority located in New Delhi.
- constitutional provisions:
Part XV, Article 324-329
- 25th Chief Election Commissioner - Rajiv Kumar

PM MITRA mega textile park

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the ₹4,445 crore project to develop seven 'PM MITRA' mega textile parks.

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- one each in **Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh**,
- It will attract ₹70,000 crore investments, create 2 million jobs and immensely boost exports.
- It will be a great example of 'Make in India' and 'Make For the World'.
- PM MITRA Park scheme is "a practical replica" of the Prime Minister's "5F vision" and "a significant step towards building an Aatmanirbhar Bharat and to position India strongly on the global textiles map".
- 5F vision (Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign)
- **Tamil Nadu- Virudhunagar selected for Mitra Park.**

MGNREGS wage rates revised by up to 10% for 2023-24 fiscal year.

- The government has notified an increase in wage rates under the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme** for the financial year 2023-24, with **Haryana** having the highest daily wage at ₹357 and Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh the lowest at ₹221.
- In **Tamil Nadu**, for the financial year **2022-23**, a daily wage of **Rs.281** is being paid under this scheme. For the financial year **2023-24**, the salary has been increased to **Rs.294**. This is an increase of 4.63 percent.

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3. GEOGRAPHY

3.1 Environment and Ecology

Kuno Park unsuitable to host all 20 cheetahs, not enough prey, says scientist

- The Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh, which currently hosts 20 cheetahs brought in from Africa, does not have enough prey to sustain all the animals.
- Eight cheetahs from Namibia and 12 from South Africa were transported to India between September 2022 and February 2023 as part of an initiative to reintroduce the species to India, where the cheetah population had gone extinct in the early 1950s.

Cheetah Reintroduction Plan

- 1952 – Cheetah declared extinct in India.
- Intercontinent translocation project between India and Africa (Mainly from South Africa and Namibia)
- Introduced – Sep. 17, 2022
- Kuno Palpar National Park, Madhya Pradesh
- 8 - Cheetahs from Namibia
- 12 - Cheetahs from South Africa

AFTER CHEETAHS AT KUNO MADHAV NATIONAL PARK TO REINTRODUCE TIGERS

- The park in Shivpuri district, located close to Kuno sanctuary, will initially get three tigers from diverse wildlife habitats within Madhya Pradesh

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ABOUT NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (NTCA)

1. It is a Statutory body under the ministry of Environment Forests and climate change
2. It was constituted under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for strengthening the tiger conservation.
3. Amended in 2006.

Vulture survey

- As many as 246 vultures were spotted in the first-ever synchronised survey conducted along the borders of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka.
- The estimation was carried out in the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) and the adjoining landscape consisting of the Sathya Mangalam Tiger Reserve (STR) in Tamil Nadu, the
- Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (WWS) in Kerala, the Bandipur Tiger Reserve (BTR) and the Nagerhole Tiger Reserve (NTR) in Karnataka. A total of 98 vultures were seen in MTR, two in STR, 52 in WWS, 73 in BTR, and 23 in NTR.

Climate Change

UN takes new measures to fight climate change

- The UN's World Meteorological Organization has come up with a new Global Greenhouse Gas Monitoring Infrastructure that aims to provide better ways of measuring planet-warming pollution and help inform policy choices.

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- The WMO's new platform will integrate space-based and surface-based observing systems, and seek to clarify uncertainties about where greenhouse gas emissions end up. It should result in much faster and sharper data on how the planet's atmosphere is changing.

3.2. Natural Disasters - Safeguard Measures.

1) Forest Fires Burning In 142 Spots in Odisha, Highest In Country

- With rain eluding Odisha since October, forest fires are raging in 142 places in various districts of the state, which is the highest in the country on Tuesday, a senior official said. According to the Forest Survey of India (FSI) data, 391 active fire incidents were reported from across the country by 12 noon during the day.
- Forest fires may start from natural causes such as lightning strikes or when dry tree branches rub against each other during high wind. They can also be man-made when burnt stubs of cigarettes and bidis are thrown away on dry leaves. The FSI data said 12 of the 30 districts of Odisha reported forest fire incidents.

2) The Prime Minister inaugurated the third session of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) in New Delhi.

- Gujarat was the first state that came out with the State Disaster Management Act in 2001.
- The then central government enacted the Disaster Management Act on the basis of this act. After that, the National Disaster Management Authority came into existence.

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ABOUT NPDRR:

- NPDRR is a Multi-Stakeholder platform constituted by the Government of India to facilitate dialogue, sharing experiences, views, ideas, action-oriented research & explore opportunities in the area of Disaster Risk Reduction.

3.3. Miscellaneous

- Sagasahi, a remote village in Odisha's tribal dominated Sundergarh district has become a model in the state as the entire village is electrified by solar energy.

'Earth Hour':

- **Earth Hour** is a worldwide movement organized by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).
- The event is held annually, encouraging individuals, communities, and businesses to turn off non-essential electric lights, for one hour, from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m on the last Saturday of March, as a **symbol of commitment to the planet.**

Aravalli Green Wall Project

- Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Bhupendra Yadav inaugurated the '**Aravalli Green Wall Project**' in Tikli village of **Gurugram district, Haryana.**
- The Aravalli Green Wall Project aims to green a buffer area of about 5 km of the Aravalli Mountain range spread over five states.

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- The Aravalli Green Wall Project will not only increase the green cover and biodiversity of Aravalli through afforestation, reforestation and restoration of water sources, but will also improve soil fertility, water availability and climate of the region.

4. ECONOMICS

4.1 Current Trends in Indian Economy

World's largest arms importer

- India remained the **world's largest arms importer for the five-year period** between 2018 and 2022
- According to the Swedish think tank **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**, Russia was the largest supplier of arms to India from 2013 to 2022, but its share of total imports fell from 64% to 45% while France is the second largest supplier.

4.2. Money & Banking

- Money laundering laws will now cover **cryptocurrency trade**
- India's money laundering laws will apply to trade in cryptocurrencies,
- The exchange between virtual digital assets and fiat currencies, the exchange between one or more forms of virtual digital assets and the transfer of digital assets will be covered under money laundering laws,

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4.3. Public Finance

TAMIL NADU BUDGET 2023-2024

Tamil Development and Culture

- To honour the legacy of Tamil martyrs Thiruvalluvar and Natarajan, who sacrificed their lives to protect Tamil in the struggle against Hindi imposition, a **memorial will be established at Chennai.**
- In order to propagate the ideals of **Annal Ambedkar**, the father of the Indian Constitution and the architect of a progressive and egalitarian India, the **Government will provide a grant of Rs.5 crore to translate his works into Tamil language.**
- To give an impetus to the growth of Tamil as a global language by promoting its usage in the technology sector, an **'International Conference on Tamil Computing'** will be held with the participation of renowned experts from across the world.
- **Efforts will be taken to promote and support sea cruises that will connect places of significance in Tamil culture.** These cruises will showcase the rich history, literature, art, culture, handicrafts and cuisine of Tamil people and will spread the State's glory across the seven seas.
- The Government has been providing **free bus pass to elderly Tamil scholars** in recognition of their invaluable contribution to our language. In the coming year, the **Government will extend this benefit to 591 more Tamil scholars.**

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- **Government will expand the widely popular Chennai Sangamam cultural programme to 8 major cities in the coming year.** It will provide a platform to nurture folk art and artists and celebrate the shared cultural ethos of the Tamil people. An amount of Rs.11 crore is provided in this Budget for the purpose.
- To preserve folk arts and to ensure that these traditions continue to flourish in the future, 25 part time folk art training centres will be set up across the State.
- **To highlight the contribution of the Cholas who ruled the world, and to preserve artefacts and relics of that age, a 'Grand Chola Museum' will be set up in Thanjavur.**

Health and Family Welfare

- The Welfare of workers, who are the bedrock of our economy, will launch a new initiative to address the issue of non-communicable diseases among workers in factories and in unorganised sectors like construction. **The Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam scheme will be expanded to 711 factories covering 8.35 lakh workers in the first phase.** Health checkup camps will be held in these factories with specific
- emphasis on non-communicable diseases like high blood pressure and diabetes. Migrant labourers will also benefit under this scheme.
- Under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme, Insurance coverage of Rs.5 lakh is being given per year per family.

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- During the current year, so far, 11.82 lakh patients have availed treatment worth Rs.993 crore, which is the highest since the inception of the scheme.
- The 1,000 bedded Kalaingar Memorial Multi Super Speciality Hospital in the premises of King Institute of Preventive Medicine and Research Centre, Guindy will be inaugurated this year.

School Education

- 'Perasiriyar Anbazhagan School Development Scheme' to modernize and upgrade physical Infrastructure at an outlay of Rs.7,000 crore over a period of five years.
- In the Upcoming financial year, the Government will construct classrooms, laboratories and toilets at a cost of Rs.1,500 crore.
- The 'Ennum Ezhthum' Programme aims at achieving Universal Foundational Literacy and Numeracy for students in classes 1 - 3 by 2025. Owing to the positive response received, this programme will be expanded to classes 4 and 5 with an outlay of Rs.110 crore in the upcoming financial year.
- This International book fair will also be conducted next year.
- All schools functioning under various departments like Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Welfare, Backward Class, Most Backward Class & Denotified Communities, Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments and Forest will be brought under the School Education department.
- An iconic eight-storeyed library in two lakh square feet, with all modern amenities is being constructed in Madurai, the seat of Tamil Sangam.

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- This will be named **Kalaignar Centenary Library** to mark the commencement of centenary celebrations of Muthamizharignar Kalaignar. Rs.40,299 crore has been allocated towards School Education Department in the Budget.

Higher Education and Skill Development

- **54 Government polytechnics will be upgraded as 'Centres of Excellence' at a total cost of Rs.2,783 crore under this scheme.**
- **"Tamil Nadu World Innovation and Skill Training Hub" (TN-WISH) at Ambattur at a cost of Rs.120 crore** with the objective of providing skill training to trainers in ITIs and polytechnics and to create a highly skilled workforce.
- To scale up skill training infrastructure in a massive way, factories will be used as Skill Development Centres. Industries will be incentivized to provide on-the-job-training to youth in factories. In this Budget, **an amount of Rs.25 crore has been allocated for this 'Factory Skill Schools' programme.**
- The **Perunthalaivar Kamarajar College Development Scheme** was launched last year.
- In the current year, works such as construction of new classrooms and additional laboratories have been taken up in 26 Government polytechnic colleges and 55 Government arts and science colleges. **These works will be carried out in the coming financial year also at an estimated cost of Rs.200 crore.**

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- Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC) will implement a scheme in co-ordination with Anna Staff Administrative College to help **civil services aspirants** to access better coaching facilities and materials. Every year 1,000 civil services aspirants will be short listed through a screening test. **Each aspirant will be provided Rs.7,500 per month for 10 months to prepare for the preliminary examination. Those students who clear the preliminary examination will be provided a lumpsum amount of Rs.25,000.** For this programme, an amount of Rs.10 crore has been allocated to TNSDC in the Budget Higher

Youth Welfare and Sports

- The Government through the Chennai Metropolitan Development Agency will set up a state-of-the-art Global Sports City in Chennai
- Comprehensive renovation of the iconic Jawaharlal Nehru Outdoor Stadium, Chennai and equip it with modern sports facilities at an estimated cost of Rs.25 crore.

Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Welfare

- Higher four new hostels will be constructed with modern facilities in Madurai, Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli and Nilgiris at an estimated total cost of Rs.100 crore.
- Government will bring a new legislation to ensure adequate allocation of funds and effective implementation of the Scheduled Castes and Tribal Sub Plans.

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- In order to **promote economic development of SC/ST entrepreneurs, a new scheme called „Annal Ambedkar Business Champions Scheme“ will be launched**
- The new scheme will provide 35 per cent capital subsidy and offer 6 per cent interest subvention for loans to procure machineries and equipment. A sum of Rs.100 crore is allocated for this scheme.
- **“Iyothee Thass Pandithar Habitation Development Scheme”** will be launched to ensure basic amenities in Adi Dravidar habitations in both urban and rural areas and to bring about comprehensive socio-economic development. The scheme will be implemented at a cost of Rs.1,000 crore over a period of 5 years.

Welfare of Differently Abled

- RIGHTS project is being implemented at a cost of Rs.1,763 crore with financial assistance from World Bank. The main objective of this project is to create an inclusive society by promoting accessibility through creation of barrier-free structures and employment opportunities through vocational training. The project will be implemented in 15 districts

Women Empowerment

1. Magalir Urimai Thogai scheme.

- Nearly 1 crore women in Tamil Nadu may get covered under the State government's scheme of universal basic income Magalir Urimai Thogai.

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- TN to launch Rs 1,000 monthly financial aid for women home makers from September 15. It has allocated Rs 7,000 crore for the scheme.
2. **The Tamil Nadu government will establish an exclusive 'Startup Mission' for women.**
- To support business incubators who propose to specialize in areas like climate tech, rural tech, agri tech and marine tech, Startup TN will assist them in raising funds from various sources to set up Centre of excellence, and will also bear up to 40% of the cost of such upgradation.
3. **TN targets bank loans to the tune of Rs30,000 crore for women self-help groups.**

Infrastructure Development

- The textile industry in the state got a boost as the government announced the establishment of a new textile park in Salem at a cost of Rs.880 crore with funding from Union and state governments and private sector participation.
- Metro rail services to be launched in Coimbatore and Madurai. It has earmarked Rs.9000 crore and Rs8,500 crore to implement the project
- Rs.500 crore allocated for procurement of 1,000 new buses and refurbishing another 500 buses
- New multi super specialty facility will be built in Stanley Medical College Hospital along with a nursing college and hostel

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- A training institute for advanced technology would be set up at Ambattur at a cost of Rs.120 crore.
- “Vada Chennai Valarchi Thittam” at a cost of ₹1,000 crore over the next three years. This scheme will be implemented to ensure balanced and equitable development of the city.
- The restoration of Adyar river will be taken up for on the 44km stretch with various recreational facilities to realise the objective of Singara Chennai project. The ₹1,500 crore project is expected to be implemented through public private partnership (PPP).

Miscellaneous

1. A new wildlife sanctuary ‘**Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary**’ – spread across 80,567 hectares in the forest ranges of **Anthiyur and Gobichettipalayam in Erode** district.
2. An **international bird centre at Marakkanam** to promote the conservation of birds, encourage research in the field of ornithology and create awareness on the role of birds in nature.
3. Long term flood mitigation work is being taken up at a cost of ₹320 crore in Chennai, Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram and Cuddalore districts.
4. Rs.2,000 crore allocated for Tamil Nadu **Neithal Metci Iyakkam**.
5. 10,000 small water bodies and ponds to be renovated at a cost of Rs.800 crore
6. Innovation facility including open air theatre at Chennai Island Grounds

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7. Rs.77,000 crore allocated for developing a **mega power project** to generate 14,500 MW power by 2030.

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURE BUDGET 2023-2024

- ❖ The Government has allocated a **sum of Rs.38,904.4606 Crore** to the agriculture department for the year 2023-2024.

Kalaigharin All Village Integrated Agricultural Development Programme:

- This scheme is designed for the holistic development of agriculture in the hamlets based on the availability of water and soil fertility, through creation of necessary infrastructure
- In the coming year, this scheme will be implemented in 2,504 village panchayats at an outlay of Rs.230 crore.

Tamil Nadu Millet Mission

- As the United Nations General Assembly has declared the year 2023 as the "International Year of Millets", it is proposed to implement **Tamil Nadu Millet Mission for a period of five years.**
- Under the Tamil Nadu Millet Mission, "**Millet Festivals**" are to be celebrated in order to create awareness among consumers and increase millet consumption.
- In the coming year, the scheme will be implemented with the financial assistance of the Union and State Governments at an estimated cost of **Rs.82 crore.**

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Promotion of Organic Farming

- An allocation of Rs.26 crore will be made.
- Government will take special steps to identify feasible tanks and ponds through the officials of water resources and rural development departments and create awareness among farmers to apply tank silt in their fields. **Awards will be given to District Collectors who contribute towards completing this task in a timely manner to benefit more farmers.**

Nammazhvar Award for Best Organic Farmer

- In the field of Organic Farming, **this Government will institute an award in the name of Nammazhvar** to be given to the farmers who practice and promote organic farming and hand hold fellow organic farmers. The award will consist of five lakh Rupees in cash and a citation and will be given during the Republic Day.

GRAINS-One Platform-Multiple Benefits

- A new portal called **"GRAINS"** (Grower Online Registration of Agriculture Input System) will be introduced in Tamil Nadu in which the basic details like bank account, Aadhar number of landowners and cultivators, land details and crop cultivation details will be collected and digitised. This platform will enable the farmers to avail various benefits from a single source **(One Stop Solution)**.

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Pulses Development Scheme

- To expand the area and production of pulses in Tamil Nadu, Pulses Development Scheme will be implemented **at an outlay of Rs.30 crore** with Union and State Government funds in the ensuing year.

Oilseeds Area and Production Development Scheme:

- To increase oilseeds production in Tamil Nadu, **Rs.33 crore will be allocated** in the ensuing year to increase productivity of sunflower crop and expand the area under profitable crops such as groundnut, sesame and soybean.

Crop Insurance

- The main objective of protecting farmers from natural calamities, the Government of Tamil Nadu has been implementing the crop insurance scheme despite the tight financial situation it presently is in. In the coming year, this scheme will be continued **with an allocation of Rs.2,337 crore** towards the state share of premium subsidy.

Cultivation of Horticultural Crops on cluster basis

- Mission for Madurai Jasmine
- Jack Mission
- Chilli Zone
- Curry Leaf Cluster

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Moringa Mission

- Moringa cultivation will be promoted in 1,000 hectare besides creating processing and value addition facilities.

Promotion of Micro irrigation

- A total sum of Rs.744 crore will be allocated for implementation of Micro Irrigation Scheme of which sixty percent i.e., **Rs.450 crore will be spent to cover 53,400 hectare** under micro irrigation

Overseas training for the farmers

- It is programmed to take 150 farmers for this overseas tour to countries like Isreal, Netherland, Thailand, Egypt, Malaysia, Philippines etc., **for which a sum of three crore Rupees** will be allocated from the Union and State Government funds.

Banana cluster development scheme in Theni district:

- To create a unique identity for banana in Theni district which stands first in banana productivity in Tamil Nadu and make them to reach the global market, a **specific cluster development scheme in cost of Rs.130 crore** is to be implemented in public-private partnership.

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Farm tourism for School Students:

- To inculcate the importance of agriculture among school students by directly witnessing the fields, orchards, plantations, irrigation wells, fruit trees, etc., Farm tourism is proposed to be promoted in association with Education Department for school students who see the fields, orchards, plantations, irrigation wells, fruit trees, etc., only in their books and in the media.
- This scheme will be implemented at an allocation of **one crore Rupees**.

Palmyra Development Mission:

- To encourage Palmyra cultivation**, Palmyra seed nuts will be provided to farmers and NGOs to plant in public places like riverbanks next year.
- Establishment of Palmyra Research Station:**
 - ❖ A separate research station for Palmyra will be established at Killikulam Agricultural College in Thoothukudi district **at the cost of Rs.15 crore**

Agricultural Mechanization:

- ❖ A sum of **Rs. 125 crore** will be allocated from the Union and State Government funds for the components like agricultural machinery value addition machinery, machinery for sugarcane cultivation and village based Custom Hiring Centres besides digitalizing the selection of beneficiaries.

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Skill Development training for Rural youth:

- ❖ Skill development training will be imparted to 500 rural youth for Operation, maintenance and handling of tractors and harvesters **at a cost of one crore Rupees**

Uploading the details of private machinery and mechanics in e-Vaadagai App:

- ❖ In order to facilitate the farmers to carry out ploughing operation without any hindrance, block wise, district wise details of private owners of Tractors and mechanics of agricultural machinery as well as pump sets will be uploaded in the e-Vaadagai App with their name, address and mobile number and linked with Uzhavan App.

“One Village Two Power Tillers”

- ❖ To promote the use of small type of agricultural machinery, **5,000 Power Tillers will be distributed 2,504 villages** at the rate of two Power Tillers per village under the Tamil Nadu Government's Vision scheme of “Kalaigharin All Village Integrated Agriculture Development Programme” **with a subsidy of Rs.43 crore**

Securing Geographical Indication tag:

- ❖ Last year, steps have been taken to get Geographical Indication (GI) tag for ten products including Sholavanthan Betel vine and Panruti Jack fruit.
- ❖ Likewise, it is proposed to get Geographical Indication (GI) for another ten products viz., Krishnagiri Arasampatti Coconut, Krishnagiri Panneer Rose,

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Thanjavur Peravoorani Coconut, Mulanoor Kuttai Moringa, Sattur Cucumber, Thanjavur Veeramangudi Jaggery (Achu vellam), Thoothukudi Vilathikulam Chilli, Cuddalore Kotimulai Brinjal, Madurai Sengarumbu and Sivagangai Karuppukavuni rice **at an outlay of Rs.30 lakh** in the ensuing year.

Renovation of Uzhavar Sandhais:

- On an average, 8,000 farmers and three lakh consumers visit Uzhavar Sandhais daily. It is proposed to renovate 25 Uzhavar Sandhais
- At a cost of **nine crore Rupees**. Further, steps will be taken to secure Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) Certificate for 50 Uzhavar Sandhais in the ensuing year **at an outlay of Rs.25 lakh**.

Traditional Canteens:

- 25 traditional canteens will be established as first phase with private participation for providing the traditional cuisine of Tamil Nadu viz., nutritious Millet porridge, snacks, herbal soups to the consumers to sensitize them on traditional foods.

Expansion of electronic National Agriculture Markets - (e NAM):

- 30 Regulated markets will be integrated under eNAM portal **at an outlay of nine crore Rupees**.

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Strengthening Insect Museum:

- A museum has been created in Coimbatore campus at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, where various types of insects have been collected.

Nano Technology in Agriculture:

- Application of nanotechnology is increased in the field of estimation of the quality of fertilizer, micronutrients, pesticides, crop produce and extending shelf life. Nano-urea has been approved by the Union Government, being disseminated with drone technology.
- Nanotechnology Centre is established at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and research is being carried out to solve the mysterious challenges in agriculture through nanotechnology-based activities and components. Many nanotechnology-based products have been introduced for root growth, drought tolerance, micro-nutrition and increasing shelf life of crop produce.
- Demonstrations will be taken up on nano-technology to farmers through Krishi Vigyan Kendra, ATMA Project, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Corporation.

Cooperative Crop loan:

- During 2023-24, Cooperative crop loan **to the tune of Rs.14,000 crore** will be given to the farmers.

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Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women (TNCDW):

- Millet cafes will be set up one each in every District Collector's office and in all Mathi - Poomalai complex to promote consumption of millet products produced by SHGs.

Forest Department:

Special committee to review and provide solution for crop damage caused by wild animals:

- Protecting Agricultural crops from Wild animals, a committee will be constituted under the Chairmanship of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)
- **Government of Tamil Nadu, under "Green Tamil Nadu Mission"** is promoting agro forestry by providing high value tree saplings

Agro based industries in the Cauvery delta zone:

- To set up the Agro Industrial corridor in the Cauvery delta Zone to enhance the income of the farm families and create employment opportunities for the youth.
- A new Regional Startup Hub will be created in Thanjavur by the Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission to promote agrotechnological innovations in Cauvery Delta Region. Through this agro industrial corridor, the projects of various sectors related to agriculture will be coordinated and effectively **implemented at an outlay of Rs.1000 crore in the next five years.**

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5. SCIENCE

5.1 Latest inventions on Science & Technology

Matsya 6000

- A three-member crew will be sent around 6,000 metres below sea level as part of a **Samudrayaan Mission** expected to be completed by 2026.

About Matsya

- Matsya, an **Indian-made deep-submergence vehicle** developed under the **Deep Ocean Mission plan** for the exploration of **rare minerals**.
- It has an **endurance of 12 hours under normal operation and 96 hours in case of emergency** for human safety.

Samudrayaan Mission:

- Announced by the government in October 2021, **Samudrayaan is a manned submersible mission** that will allow scientists to observe and understand unexplored deep-sea areas by direct intervention.
- It is a **self-propelled** manned submersible to carry three human beings to a **water depth of 6,000 meters** in the ocean with a suite of scientific sensors and tools for deep ocean exploration.

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5.2. Space

SpaceX launches U.S., Russia, UAE astronauts to space station

- SpaceX launched four astronauts to the International Space Station for NASA, including the first person from the Arab world going up for an extended months-long stay. The Falcon rocket bolted from Kennedy Space Center shortly after midnight, illuminating the night sky as it headed up the East Coast.

NISAR

- NASA hands over NISAR satellite to ISRO
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has received the NASA ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar satellite from the U.S. space agency. NISAR is a Low Earth Orbit observatory jointly developed by NASA and ISRO.
- NISAR will map the entire globe in 12 days and provide spatially and temporally consistent data for understanding changes in Earth's ecosystems, ice mass, vegetation biomass, sea level rise, groundwater and natural hazards including earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes and landslides.
- NISAR carries L and S dual-band Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR), which operates with the Sweep SAR technique to achieve large swaths with high-resolution data. The SAR payloads mounted on Integrated Radar Instrument Structure (IRIS) and the spacecraft bus are together called an observatory.

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- The final integration of the satellite will be carried out at the U.R. Rao Satellite Centre in Bengaluru, and ISRO is looking to launch the satellite in 2-24 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

Indian Institute of Astrophysics researchers develop low cost star sensor.

- Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) have developed a **low cost star sensor** for astronomy and small CubeSat class satellite missions
- The **Starberry** Sense is ready for launch on the PS4 Orbital Platform by **ISRO** and can be used for CubeSats and other small satellite missions in the future.

About IIA:

- It is an educational institution was established in the year of **1786**.
- The primary focus of the institute is research and specialization in various forms of physics or astrophysics.
- headquarters in **Bengaluru**.
- The institute has a network of laboratories and observatories in India, including **Kodaikanal** (the Kodaikanal Solar Observatory), **Kavalur** (the Vainu Bappu Observatory), **Gauribidanur** (the Gauribidanur Radio Observatory), **Hanle** (the Indian Astronomical Observatory) and **Hosakote**.

YUVIKA Programme

- The Indian Space Research Organization, ISRO will begin the ISRO Young Scientist Programme 2023.

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- This Programme is run by ISRO to teach younger children the fundamentals of space technology, science, and applications.

About the Programme:

- ISRO's ex-chief K. Sivan announced the Programme on January 18, 2019, and it was launched four months later on May 17.
- Indian Space Research Organization is organizing a special Programme for School Children called "**Young Scientist Programme**" "**YUva Vigyani Karyakram**", YUVIKA,
- **Aim: to impart basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science and Space Applications to the younger students in emerging trends in space science and technology amongst the youngsters, who are the future building blocks of our nation.**
- **Three students** each will be selected to participate in it every year from each state and union territory, covering CBSE, ICSE and state syllabus.
- The eligibility for being chosen for the Programme includes those students who have finished 8th standard and are **currently studying in the 9th standard.**

OneWeb Mission

- **ISRO puts 36 OneWeb satellites into orbit.**
- ISRO launched **LVM3-M2** carrying 36 OneWeb satellites from Sriharikota Space Centre in Andhra Pradesh. ISRO's commercial arm, **New Space**

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India Ltd (NSIL) has signed a contract with **OneWeb** to launch **72 satellites** in **two phases** for a launch fee of over Rs 1,000 crore.

- The first set of 36 satellites was launched in the LVM3M2/One Web India1 mission on October 23, 2022.
- This is the sixth flight of LVM3. The rocket had five consecutive successful missions, including Chandrayaan 2.
- This launch is a significant milestone for India to move towards benefiting from remarkable capabilities of **Low Earth Orbit (LEO)** connectivity and the spread of space based Internet.
- This will aid in **addressing the issue of low fixed broadband penetration and bridge the digital divide in the country's most remote areas.**

Megha Tropiques-1

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will be undertaking a challenging experiment of a controlled re-entry of the decommissioned **Megha-Tropiques-1 (MT1) satellite.**
- The Megha-Tropiques-1 (MT1) is a joint **Indo-French satellite launched in 2011 for tropical weather and climate studies**, which was providing data services, supporting regional and global climate models till 2021.

About ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization)

1. ISRO is the space agency under the department of space of Government of India
2. Headquarter - Bengaluru
3. Chairman - Shri. S. Somnath
4. Formed on - August 15, 1969.

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6. NATIONAL - DIARY OF EVENTS

- India called upon G-20 countries to adopt multilateral action for faster extradition of fugitive economic offenders and recovery of assets, both domestically and abroad.
- Chairing the first anti-corruption working group in Gurugram with co-chair Italy.
- As the primary forum for global economic cooperation, G-20 had to take responsibility to lead global efforts. Against corruption.

SUVAS:

- In a first, the Delhi High Court has made available Hindi translations of recent judgments on its website.
- CJI Chandrachud: We are using AI enabled SUVAS - Supreme Court Vidhik Anuvad Software, to Translate SC Judgments in Four Languages
- 'Supreme Court Vidhik Anuvaad Software'.

Integrated Renewable energy storage project (IRESP)

- Green energy pumped storage project that is being executed by the Greenko Group in **Kurnool**
- Greenko is setting up a first-of-its-kind **integrated renewable energy storage project (IRESP) in Kurnool**. The 5,230 MW Project, with an estimated investment of \$3 billion, comprises a pumped storage (10,800 MWh of daily storage), solar (3,000 MW) and wind (550 MW). The project is to be completed by 2024.

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- Greenko is planning to come up with several of pumped hydro storage projects across the country to meet the energy demand

Deakin university. The first foreign university in India

- The first foreign university in India is located in Gujarat.
- Deakin University in Australia is setting up its branch campus for the first time in Gift, Gujarat.
- Deakin University has been given permission to set up an educational campus in Gujarat Gift City.

Scrub typhus

- Scrub typhus - a life-threatening infection caused by **Orientia tsutsugamushi bacteria** - is a major public health threat in South and Southeast Asia.
- Nearly one million cases are reported from South and Southeast Asia with 10% mortality, India is one of the hotspots with at least 25% of the disease burden;
- **Monotherapies** using either **doxycycline** or **azithromycin** was the commonly used treatment. A trial carried out now in seven centres in India where patients were randomly assigned to receive a combination therapy of both doxycycline and azithromycin showed faster resolution of complications compared with two other arms where patients were given monotherapy azithromycin.
- Among the patients who died in the study, 50% died within 48 hours of arrival.

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- This indicates that patients who arrive late with multiple organ dysfunction may have a higher risk of mortality as their condition may have progressed too far for effective treatment.
- “This trial has shown that the combination therapy using both doxycycline and azithromycin is far more effective in treating severe scrub typhus than monotherapies of either drug by itself”.
- No typical symptoms
- Scrub typhus is transmitted to humans by bite from tiny inflected larvae mites.
- The infection does not cause typical symptoms, thus, making correct and early diagnosis is difficult.

India holds conference of global intelligence chiefs

- Amid the G-20 foreign Ministers' Meeting and ahead of the Raisina Dialogue, India quietly held the second conference of intelligence and security chiefs and top officials from around the world, called the Raisina Security Dialogue.
- The focus of the discussions was largely on global security which encompassed counterterrorism, radicalisation, drugs trafficking, and illegal arms smuggling, among others”.

Train Tracking

- Railways ties up with ISRO for train tracking
- The CRIS as collaborated with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for live tracking to help Railways in trains efficiently.

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- 'Reimagining Indian Railways: Harnessing the Power of Data Analyst for Integrated Transportation'.
- ISRO has developed its own regional navigation satellite system called Navigation with Indian Constellation (NaVIC) and Bhuvan, a web-based utility which allows users to explore a set of map-based content being deployed for tracking.
- Real-time tracking of trains is also useful during accidents, floods and land-slips, when there is a need a pin down the train's exact location for rendering help. "Until now, 4,000 locomotives have been installed with the technology,
- The CRIS has now developed a hand-held device that can help reduce queues by providing tickets on platforms to unreserved passengers.

About CRIS

1. Centre for Railway Information systems
2. Headquartered in New Delhi
3. Set up by the Ministry of Railways in July 1986.

H3N2 FLU CLAIMS TWO LIVES

- H3N2 Patients display symptoms similar to COVID - 19 fever, cough, breathlessness, wheezing and Pneumonia. The Health Ministry has advised social distancing and mask wearing to prevent the spread of the virus.

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FREE FLU DRUG

- Oseltamivir, a drug used to treat H1N1, has been recommended by the World Health Organization for the treatment of H3N2 cases as well, the Health Ministry said.
- “The drug is made available through the public health system free of cost, NITI Aayog will hold an inter-ministerial meeting to review the seasonal influenza situation in the States.

ABOUT INFLUENZA A (H3N2):

- Seasonal influenza is an acute respiratory infection caused by influenza viruses. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has said that the Influenza A subtype H3N2 is the major cause of current respiratory illness in the country.

Union Government Opposes Same-Sex Marriages in Supreme Court.

- The government said though the union of same-sex people has been decriminalised in India now as Section 377 of Indian Penal Code has been struck down, this does not meet the Indian concept of marriage.
- The government argued that the Court had only decriminalised sexual intercourse between same-sex persons in its 2018 judgment in Navtej Singh Johar, and not legitimised this "conduct". The court, while decriminalising homosexuality, had never accepted same-sex marriage as part of the fundamental right to life and dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution.

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G20 meet on education begins in Amristar

- The event will focus on the identification of relevant policies and best practices for research and innovations from the deliberations of G20 member-nations.
- The meetings will also give participating countries and organizations the opportunity to strengthen educational cooperation and discuss new collaboration opportunities.

NIOT to set up green, self powered desalination plant in Lakshadweep.

About NIOT:

- The **National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT)** was established in **November 1993**.
- under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**, Government of India.
- Aim of NIOT is to develop reliable indigenous technologies to solve various engineering problems associated with harvesting of non-living and living resources in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) which is about two-thirds of the land area of India.
- Headquarters: **Chennai**, Tamil Nadu.

Collegium system:

- The Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud said that not every system is perfect but this is the best system developed by the judiciary, while defending the Collegium system of appointing judges.

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About Collegium System:

- It is the **system of appointment and transfer of judges** that has evolved through **judgments of the Supreme Court (SC)**, and not by an Act of **Parliament** or by a provision of the Constitution.

Heads the Collegium System:

- The SC collegium is **headed by the CJI** (Chief Justice of India) and comprises **four other senior most judges** of the court.
- A HC collegium is led by its **Chief Justice and four other senior most judges** of that court.
- Names recommended for appointment by a HC collegium reaches the government only **after approval by the CJI and the SC collegium**.
- Judges of the higher judiciary are appointed only through the collegium system and the **government has a role only after names have been decided by the collegium**.

Related Constitutional Provisions:

- **Article 124(2)** of the Indian Constitution provides that **the Judges of the SC are appointed by the President** after consultation with such a number of the Judges of the SC and of the High Courts in the States as the President may deem necessary for the purpose.
- **Article 217** of the Indian Constitution states that the **Judge of a High Court shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the CJI, the**

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Governor of the State, and, in the case of appointment of a Judge other than the Chief Justice, the Chief Justice of the High Court.

India will be contributing 33% of the world's total Milk production by 2033 to 2034.

- The 49th Dairy Industry Conference organized by the Indian Dairy Association (IDA) on the theme '**India dairy to the world: Opportunities and challenges**'.
- India's dairy sector has grown by 6.6 % annually in the past decade.
- India's milk processing capacity is about 126 million litres per day, which is the highest in the world.

Vande Bharat Express

- **Indian Railways** is set to launch its 11th **Vande Bharat Express** train this month.
- The new semi-high speed train will run between New Delhi and Jaipur.
- The train is likely to be introduced in the **third week of March, 2023 (after March 20, 2023)**.

About Vande Bharat:

- It is India's first indigenously built engineless semi-high speed train. Earlier, it was known by the name Train 18.
- It has been built by the **Integral Coach Factory**, Chennai.
- The train is a 100% 'Make in India' project.

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Modern Locomotive Factories in India:

1. Chittaranjan Locomotive Works- Chittaranjan.
2. Diesel Locomotive Works-Varanasi.
3. Integral Coach Factory- Chennai.
4. Rail Coach Factory-Kapurthala.
5. Rail Wheel Factory-Bangalore.

Green Hydrogen Projects

- National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Renewable Energy Ltd (REL) has signed an MoU with INDIAN ARMY for setting up **Green Hydrogen Projects** in its establishments on Build, Own, and Operate (BOO) model.
- The intent is to reduce complex logistics, and dependence on fossil fuels and to accelerate decarbonization.

International Telecommunication Union

- Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi, inaugurating the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** Area Office and Innovation Centre in **New delhi, India** is moving fast to become a **big exporter of telecom technology** from being only a user few years ago.
- India is one of the countries to roll out 5G mobile technology at the fastest rate. **5G services** have been expanded over **125 cities within 120 days of its launch.**

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- The number of internet users have increased from 25 crores in 2014 to 85 crores with a majority in the rural areas.
- Furthermore, Mr. Narendra Modi announced that India will soon set up **100 new 5G labs**, which will be helpful in developing 5G applications with respect to the unique needs of India.
- He also unveiled the **Bharat 6G Vision** Document and launched the 6G R&D Test Bed. The Bharat 6G Vision Document is prepared by the Technology Innovation Group on
- 6G (TIG-6G) that was constituted in November, 2021 with members from various ministries/departments.
- The Prime Minister also called this decade a '**Techade**' because of the smooth, secure, transparent, and trusted telecom and digital model of India.

Call Before You Dig (CBuD) App:

- The prime minister also launched '**Call before u dig**' mobile app.
- The Call Before You Dig (CBuD) App is a tool which has been designed **to prevent damage to underlying assets like optical fibre cables** that occurs because of uncoordinated digging and excavation.

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Chandrayaan 3 likely to be launched in mid-2023: ISRO

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman S. Somnath , said the launch of Chandrayaan-3, India's third lunar mission, and the first solar mission Aditya LI will possibly happen by the middle of 2023.
- He was delivering the inaugural talk on "Indian Capabilities for Space and Planetary Exploration" at the 4th Indian Planetary Science Conference organised at Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) in Ahmedabad.
- He said Aditya-LI, India's first solar mission, is going to be "a very unique solar observation capability for which instruments have already been delivered, and ISRO is in the process of integrating them in the satellite.
- According to ISRO, Chandrayaan-3 is a follow-on mission to Chandrayaan-2 to demonstrate end-to-end capability in safe landing and roving on the lunar surface.

'DigiClaim'

- Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has launched 'DigiClaim' facility to get crop insurance compensation through the National Crop Insurance Board website so that farmers can get crop insurance compensation quickly.
- Prime Minister's Fasal Bima Yojana is a crop protection scheme in operation. Farmers can apply for compensation in case of damage to trees.

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- After assessing the respective damages, the Central Government collects the amount from the insurance companies and provides the compensation to the affected farmers through the State Governments.

Initiation of TB prevention programs

- **International Tuberculosis Day** is observed annually on **March 24**. On that occasion, the International Tuberculosis Conference was held in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. Prime Minister Modi participated in it and launched TB prevention programs.
- He initiated programs such as TB-free village visits, short-term TB prevention program and family-centred TB treatment. Prime Minister Modi also released the India Tuberculosis Report for the current year.

Target

- A target has been set to eliminate TB within the year Globally by 2030 . However, India has set a target to **eradicate tuberculosis by 2025**

Special Program:

- India implemented a unique program to eradicate tuberculosis. Tuberculosis patients were adopted through a program called '**Friends to End Tuberculosis**' (Nikshai Mitra).

Award for Nilgiri District

- During the conference, Prime Minister Modi presented awards to the states and Union Territories that are performing well in TB control. State level awards to Karnataka and UT'S level award went to Jammu and Kashmir and district level awards to Nilgiris, Pulwama and Anantnag.

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India moves towards tuberculosis eradication

- India has become the first country in the world to estimate the tuberculosis (TB) burden in country and launch its own mathematical system to estimate the disease burden.
- Global estimates drawn up each year by the World Health Organization.
- India's TN TB incidence rate stands at **172 per 1,00,000** population, instead of the **210** estimated by the **WHO**.
- TB incidence rate of Tamil Nadu stands at 121 per 1,00,000 population.
- India has the highest number of tuberculosis cases in the world. India alone accounts for 28 per cent of the global TB cases.
- Globally, about 1.6 million people die every year due to tuberculosis. India is also the leading cause of tuberculosis deaths.
- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has set a target of eradicating tuberculosis internationally by **2030**. At the same time, India has set a target to eradicate TB completely (**TB Free India**) by **2025**.

WORLD'S 3rd VEHICLE PRODUCTION

- Using lithium in Kashmir Minister Nitin Gadkari believes that India can become the number one in automobile production
- Annually we import 1,200 tonnes of lithium. Currently, lithium resources have been discovered in Kashmir.
- It is estimated to be 5.9 million tonnes. Lithium is essential for the production of electric vehicles and solar panels Important.

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- If we use this, India can take the number one position in the automotive industry. India has overtaken Japan to rank 3rd in terms of vehicle production. At present the value of the Indian auto industry is Rs 7.5 lakh crore and the contribution of the auto manufacturing sector is very high in the total GST revenue.
- With our innovative approach, we can increase growth and create jobs in underserved areas.

99TH MAANN KI BAAT ADDRESS BY PM

1. Women empowerment

- Prime Minister Modi praised the Oscar-winning documentary film 'The Elephant Whisperers', director Karthiki Gonsalves and producer Kuneet Monga, who have brought pride to the country.
- Also, Surekha Yadav, the first woman loco pilot the Vande Bharat train (Asia's first woman loco pilot), Jyotirmayi Mohanty, an international award-winning scientist at the Baba Atomic Research Center, the Indian team that won the Under-19 Women's T20 cricket tournament,
- The Prime Minister mentioned the 2 women MLAs elected for the first time in Nagaland, Shalija Thami, the first woman officer who has been appointed as a commander in the Air Force Combat Wing, and Shiva Chauhan, the first woman officer to serve in Siachen, and said, 'The contribution of women power in the development of the country is very big'.

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2. Encourage organ donation

- Organ donation has become a life-saving procedure. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the government is planning to formulate a uniform policy to promote organ donation and simplify the procedures
- The increasing awareness about organ donation in the country now is astounding. In 2013, organ donation was less than 5,000, but by 2022, this number is expected to exceed 15,000.
- 'Uniform Policy': The government is planning to formulate a uniform policy to promote organ donation and simplify the procedure.
- It has been decided to remove the age limit of 65 years for organ donation.

3. India advancing in energy'

- The Prime Minister mentioned that India is progressing rapidly in the field of solar energy as a great achievement.

Online RTI Portal

- SUPREME COURT GIVES STATES, UNION TERRITORIES (UTS) AND HIGH COURTS THREE MONTHS TO SET UP ONLINE RTI PORTALS.
- The direction was given while hearing a plea highlighting that online web portal for Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 are still to be operationalised by some of the High Courts.
- Section 6(1) of RTI, 2005 stipulated that an information seeker had a statutory right to move an application through electronic means. However, several High Courts and most district courts entertain only physical RTI applications.

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- Recently, Supreme Court and some HCs in **Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Delhi** have set up an **online portal** facilitating requests for supply of information.
- RTI Act, 2005 empowers citizens to seek information from public authorities and the authority is under liability to respond to such a request within a period of 30 day. It replaced the Freedom of Information Act, 2002.

Govt. circumspect over plan to introduce Gir lions in Kuno National park.

About Gir National Park:

- The Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the **Junagadh district of Gujarat**.
- The Gir Forests is the only natural habitat of **Asiatic lions** (IUCN Red List: Endangered)
- The Gir Forests is the largest compact tract of dry deciduous forests in the semi-arid western part of India.

European Geographical indication:

- **Kangra Tea** from **Himachal Pradesh** has been granted the **European Geographical Indication (GI)** tag by **European Union Agriculture**.
- This is an important certification that recognizes the tea as originating from a specific region.
- Typically, such a name conveys an assurance of quality and distinctiveness, which is essentially attributable to the place of its origin.

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- In **India**, Kangra tea received the Geographical Indication designation in 2005.

Tax exemption:

- All drugs and food for special medical purposes imported for personal use for treatment of all **rare diseases** listed under the **National Policy for Rare Diseases, 2021** are now **fully exempted from basic customs duty**.
- The waiver will come into effect from 2nd April 2023.
- **Drugs/medicines** generally attract basic **customs duty of 10%**, while some categories of **life-saving drugs/vaccines** attract concessional rate of **5% or nil**.

National Policy for Rare Diseases, 2021:

- The Policy aims at **lowering the incidence and prevalence of rare diseases based on an integrated and comprehensive preventive strategy**.
- National Policy for Rare Diseases, 2021 provides for National Consortium for Research and Development on therapeutics for Rare Diseases with an expanded mandate to include research & development, technology transfer and indigenization of therapeutics for rare diseases.

Government approves launch of IFFCO's nano DAP fertilizer

- Union Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, who had announced the government's nod to the launch of nano liquid DAP (di-ammonium phosphate) fertilizer.
- Fertilizer cooperative Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), which introduced nano liquid urea in 2021, announced on Friday

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that the government has approved the launch of its nano DAP fertilizer in the market.

- It is a big step towards self-reliance in fertilizers,

About IFFCO

1. Indian Farmers Fertiliser cooperative limited.
2. Introduced the world's first Nano urea liquid for farmers across the world.
3. Founded in - 1967.
4. **Objective:** To enable Indian farmers to prosper through timely supply of reliable, high quality agricultural inputs and services.

7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Nations secure pact to protect marine life in the high seas

- United Nations (UN) members have agreed on a unified treaty to protect biodiversity in the high seas.

New body

- The treaty will create a new body to manage conservation of ocean life and establish marine protected areas in the high seas.
- "The treaty also establishes ground rules for conducting environmental impact assessments for commercial activities in the oceans.

About United Nations

1. Founded in - 1945, October 24
2. Headquarters - New York, USA
3. Secretary General - Antonio Guterres

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Components

1. General Assembly
2. Council of the United Nations
3. The Economic and social Council (Ecosoc)
4. Trusteeship council
5. The International court of Justice
6. Secretariat

Sabotage of Nord Stream pipeline

- The Ukrainian government was not involved in the sabotage last year of the Nord Stream gas pipelines in the Baltic Sea.
- The U.S. officials had seen new intelligence indicating a “pro-Ukrainian group” was responsible for the sabotage.
- Economic Framework Will Be More Impactful than Trade Pact
- The **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)** was launched jointly by the US and other partner countries of the Indo-Pacific region on May 23 in Tokyo.

XI BEGINS THIRD TERM AS PRESIDENT IN FIRMER CONTROL

- Chinese leader Xi Jinping was formally reappointed as President for a third five year term.

Han Zheng, the former Vice-Premier was appointed Vice-President

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Australia to buy U.S. nuclear submarines under AUKUS

- Australia has unveiled plans to buy up to five U.S. nuclear-powered submarines, then build a new model with U.S. and British technology under the ambitious plan to bulk up Western muscle across the Asia-Pacific in the face of a rising China.

About AUKUS:

- AUKUS, is a trilateral security pact between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- Announced on **15 September 2021** for the Indo-Pacific region. Under the pact, the US and the UK will assist Australia in acquiring nuclear-powered submarines.

8. TAMIL NADU AFFAIRS

Tamil Nadu to release data on carbon emissions soon, aspires to surpass national 'net zero' goal of 2070:

- CM M.K. Stalin chaired the first meeting of the Tamil Nadu Governing Council on Climate Change in Chennai he also announced **climate literacy programmes** and the use of palmyra trees to prevent coastal erosion

CM Stalin opens Keeladi museum as a fitting tribute to ancient Tamils

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin inaugurated the much awaited Keeladi museum, a testimony to the regal life lived by ancient Tamils during the Sangam Age, in **Sivaganga district**.
- The museum has been built on 2 acres at Keeladi at a **cost of Rs.18.43 crore**. Located **12 km southeast of Madurai city**, the hamlet.

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- The museum that is adorned with over **15,000 unique artefacts** unearthed between the 4th and 8th phases of excavations by the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology since 2018.
 - The unearthed antiques are categorised into six topics
 - 1) Vaigai and Keeladi;
 - 2) Agrarian Water management
 - 3) Sea trade
 - 4) Weaving and beads
 - 5) Lifestyle and
 - 6) Ceramic industry

CM Stalin opens Keeladi museum

- From potsherds, carnelian beads, punch-marked silver coins to iron weapons and urns, the museum has everything.
- The excavations at Keeladi pushed the Sangam Age to 6th Century BCE from the earlier assessment of between 3rd Century BCE and 3rd Century CE.
- The excavation carried out by the Excavation Branch VI of the ASI at **Pallichanthai Thidal** of Keeladi has unveiled an archaeological wealth that is enough to write a whole new chapter in history.
- The **first three seasons** of excavations were carried out between **2014 and 2017 by the ASI**.

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Dravidian Model will continue to ensure equality,

- The Keeladi civilization showcases the regal living of the Tamils, the 'Sanatana dharma' divided people based on caste and treated the 'oppressed caste' like slaves and animals.
- We are in-debted to the social reformists, including Col. Munro, Ayya Vaikundar, Periyar and the Christian missionaries, who ensured equality in the society.
- The 200-year-old struggle for the upper garment, which is one of the most valiant protests that Tamil nadu has ever witnessed for social justice must be remembered.
- Free training Programme launched for college students in Tamil Nadu
- Minister for youth welfare and sports Udhayanidhi Stalin launched a free training programme under the **Naan Mudhalvan scheme** to help Tamil Nadu college students prepare for competitive exams.

About Naan Mudhalvan Scheme

1. **Inaugurated** by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin
2. **Unveiled on** March 01, 2022
3. **Aim**

To equip about 10 lakh youth across the state annually with skills that will help them realize their talents for the benefit of the country

Women to get 50 more days of work under MGNREGS

- The Tamil Nadu government intends to provide additional 50 days of work under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee

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Scheme (MGNREGS) to women who head their households, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said

Students from government schools to make short films

- As a part of the School Education Department's initiatives, movies were screened every month across government schools through the current academic year based on which, competitions that included writing essays, elocution and painting, were held.
- School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozi said that by encouraging students to participate in competitions, they were aiming at giving them a platform for their creativity and building their self-confidence.
- "We hope that this reflects in their academics as well. The department had earlier announced that the winners of these competitions will be taken on a trip abroad and 25 students will be chosen based on the short films made and will be taken to Los Angeles," he said.
- 'Smile programme' launched for dental check-up of govt school students.
- Health minister Ma Subramanian and Minister of School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozi inaugurated Smile- School Children's Dental Care Programme at Nandanam Government Model School.
- A mobile dental clinic was also set up at the school to conduct a dental check-up of the students and provide required treatment.
- The mobile clinic will also promote the "No Tobacco" campaign and educational materials were also given to the students.

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TAMILNADU GOVERNMENT TO TABLE FRESH BILL AGAINST ONLINE GAMBLING

- The Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Online Gambling and Regulation of Online Games Bill, adopted by the Assembly last year, a Cabinet meeting decided to table a second Bill, reiterating the government's decision to impose the ban.

TAMILNADU M-SAND POLICY

- The Tamil Nadu M-sand Policy, 2023, which was released by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin aimed at standardising the Procedure for grant of approval for manufacturing units and preventing damage to the river ecosystem by, rationalising the use of river sand in a conserved manner`.
- The Policy, drafted by the Department of Geology and Mining.
- The Policy will promote zero waste mining/quarrying and recycling of the coarse and fine aggregates in the construction and demolition waste of buildings/concrete structures and quarry waste. The Policy specifies the characteristics of sources that can be used for M-sand/crushed sand and the Procedure for the establishment of units.
- A single window portal will be developed and maintained by the Department of Geology and Mining for the registration of M-sand/crushed sand units.

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TN govt passes ordinance to ban 6 pesticides

- List of Banned Pesticides:
- Monocrotophos
- Profenophos
- Acephate
- Profenofos + Cypermethrin
- Chlorpyrifos + Cypermethrin and Chlorpyrifos.

The specified insecticides are highly toxic or moderately toxic but have a highly toxic effect due to use for blending in an unauthorised manner.

New India Literacy Programme (NILP)

- Educate 5.28 lakh people under New Bharat Literacy Programme.
- In Tamil Nadu, 5,28,000 students are studying under the New India Literacy Programme on behalf of the School Education Department. They are being taught by 28,848 volunteers.
- The Directorate of Non Formal and Adult Education of the Department of School Education is providing basic literacy, numeracy and life skills to those above the age of 15 years who are not able to read and write through the New India Literacy Programme.

About NILP 2022:

- To cover all the aspects of Adult Education to align with **National Education Policy 2020**
- Term “**Adult Education**” will be replaced by “**Education For All**”.

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Objectives:

- To impart not only foundational literacy and numeracy but also to cover other components which are necessary for a citizen of the 21st century.
- The scheme will be implemented through volunteerism through online mode.

TN Organic Farming Policy 2023

- 1) It is aimed at conserving and protecting soil health, agro-ecology and biodiversity, and providing safe, healthy and environment-friendly food
- 2) It seeks to provide safe, healthy and environment-friendly food, besides creating awareness of the importance of organic farming and extending organic farming practices.
- 3) It is aimed at strengthening certification systems and residue-testing protocols to promote 'on farm' or locally produced inputs such as farmyard manure and vermi-compost. Creating market advisories and certification advisories, promoting exports and increasing the revenue of farmers and making organic farming part of education and re-search are among the other objectives. Tamil Nadu stands 14th nationwide under organic farming.
- 4) A single-window system will be implemented to simplify the certification procedure.
- 5) A State gene/germplasm bank will be opened to preserve the traditional cultivar seeds of all crops. The policy says the residues of agro-chemicals were found to be the source of many health issues worldwide and

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pesticide residues enter the food chain, causing many health hazards to humans and animals.”

- 6) The policy was driven by the necessity for an environmentally safe food supply system. “The organic farming policy will help to ensure, up-scale and support chemical-free organic agriculture and provide safe food to the people.

ICT Academy signs two MoUs at 50th edition of Bridge '23

- **The first was signed with TAHDCO to train 6,000 SC/ST unemployed youth in job-oriented skills;**
- **The second would help to prepare the talents of Tamil Nadu for industry 4.0 technologies**
- **The first MoU was signed with Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing and Development Corporation Ltd. (TAHDCO) to train 6,000 SC/ST unemployed youths in job-oriented skills with relevance to the Information technology and IT enabled services, banking, financial services and insurance, retail and telecom.**
- **The Advanced Manufacturing Technology Development Center signed an MoU to prepare the talents of Tamil Nadu for industry 4.0 technologies, including automation and mechatronics, motion control, robotics and machine tools. This partnership will benefit around 500 engineering institutions in the State, generating employment for 2.5 lakh youths.**

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About ICT Academy

- ICT Academy is an initiative of the Government of India in collaboration with the state Governments and Industries.
- It is a not-for-profit society, the first of its kind pioneer venture under the Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) model that endeavours **to train the higher education teachers and students** thereby exercises on developing the next generation teachers and industry ready students.

Namakku naame scheme

Corporation asks residents to use remaining Namakku Naame Thittam funds

- In 2021, the government announced that the scheme, originally launched by **former Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi**, will be implemented in the Greater Chennai Corporation and other urban local bodies in the State, with a provision of Rs.200 crore.
- **Civic infrastructure projects** such as hospitals, roads, footpaths, parks, classrooms, libraries, toilets, sports, facilities, restoration of waterbodies, street lighting and burial grounds can be implemented under the scheme. School infrastructure development has been the most popular among the projects taken up under the scheme.
- Residents have also installed CCTV cameras in their locality utilising funds under the Namakku Naame Thittam.

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About Namakku naame scheme:

- Introduced in 1997-1998 by Former Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi
- Relaunched in 2021 By Chief Minister M.K. Stalin

Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme

- **Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme - Pushes up attendance levels** of the 1,543 government schools in Tamil Nadu where the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme has been rolled out, **1,319 schools showed an increase in attendance** of students of **Classes I to V** in January and February this year, compared with June - July 2022 according to an analysis done by the **State Planning Commission**.

About the scheme

- The Tamil Nadu government introduced this program on **September 15, 2022**.
- Under the program, breakfast will be provided to pupils in **classes one to five**.
- Introduced in **Madurai**.

Ennum Ezhuthum

- **Awareness drive on Ennum Ezhuthum scheme across Tamil Nadu from March 16**.
- As part of its efforts **to gain public support** for the development of government schools, the **school education department** would through a

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series of programmes raise awareness on its basic literacy and numeracy scheme (**Ennum Ezhuthum Mission**) targeted at children **under the age of eight** during **March 16-21** across all districts in the state.

About the scheme:

- Launched on June **17,2022**
- Aim: to ensure foundational literacy and numeracy by 2025.
- launched at an event in **Azhinjivakkam** panchayat union middle school, **Tiruvallur**.

'Innuyir Kappom- Nammai Kakkum 48'

- The death toll in road accidents in Tamil Nadu has come down by 1.3 per cent under the 'INNUIYIR KAPPOM-NAMMAI KAKKUM 48' scheme.
- The lives of more than 1.50 lakh people who have been involved in road accidents across Tamil Nadu in the last 15 months have been saved through the 'Innuyir kappom Nammai kakkum 48 'scheme.

About the scheme:

- Inaugurated by Chief Minister **M.K Stalin** on **December 18,2021**
- The Scheme ensures the government **pays for the medical bills for all accident victims** in enlisted hospitals for treatment **within 48 hours** of the accidents.
- All **medical care services** will be covered under the scheme.
- People can avail of benefits in **638** hospitals across the states.
- They include **235 Government hospitals** and **448 private hospitals**.

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- those who are not eligible for the **Chief Ministers Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme** (CMCHIS) will also be covered under the scheme.
- The free treatment will be provided in collaboration with the department of highways and department of transport.

Poompuhar Award presented to Tamil Nadu artisans.

- The **Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Industries Development Corporation** (TKVICDC) organized the Poompuhar Artisans Award for the year 2021-22 at Mamallapuram. Awards were presented to 16 types of handicrafts at the function.
- **Tamilnadu Artisans' Day** to be marked on **March 5**.

Pudhumai Pen scheme

- Bank of Baroda has launched the debit card that would be offered to beneficiaries of the state government's 'Pudhumai Penn' scheme.
- The card offers personal accident insurance coverage upto Rs 2 lakh per annum and the joining and annual fees for the first year has been waived.

About the scheme:

- Launched By Chief Minister **M.K Stalin** on **September 05,2022**.
- **Aim:** to enhance the enrolment ratio of girls from government schools to higher educational institutions.
- Through this scheme, financial assistance of Rs. 1,000 per month would be provided to ever girl till the completion of their degree course.

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"AVAL Scheme":

- Chief Minister M K Stalin announced **nine schemes** for the **welfare of the women police personnel** in the state.
- These schemes include several facilities such as shifting the morning roll call from 7 am to 8 am, creating separate restrooms and toilets for women personnel at police stations, setting up crèche facilities to take care of their babies, exclusive women's hostels in Chennai and Madurai, and the Kalaingar police performance annual award.

About the Scheme:

- Tamilnadu Chief Minister Stalin inaugurated the **8.5 crore** Aval scheme to **train policewomen in various fields**.
- At least **50,000 women** have learned **self defence techniques** in a 8.5 crore scheme.

TN Ethanol Blending Policy

The Tamil Nadu Ethanol Blending Policy (EBP) 2023, released by the Industries Department.

About the Policy:

- The State would encourage sugar industries to set up **molasses-based ethanol plants** and improve capacity utilization.
- Oil marketing companies (OMCs), at present, source ethanol from other States, including Maharashtra and Karnataka.

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At present, OMCs were blending up to 12% of ethanol with petrol in the State.

- The target is to increase this to 20% by 2025 and to increase storage capacity in terminals for the same.

Tamil Nadu City Gas Distribution (CGD) Policy 2023

- The State government also released the Tamil Nadu City Gas Distribution (CGD) Policy 2023 for the liquefied/compressed natural gas (CNG) to vehicles and piped natural gas (PNG) to homes.
- In Tamil Nadu, all 38 districts are to be covered with the CGD network through which around 2.28 crore PNG connections and around 2,785 CNG stations are to be developed.

Logistics Policy and Integrated Logistics Plan 2023:

- The Tamil Nadu government has come out with a Logistics Policy and Integrated Logistics Plan 2023.
- The vision of Tamil Nadu Logistics Policy 2023 is “to promote an **integrated, reliable, cost efficient and sustainable logistics system** in the State for enhanced competitiveness and fast-tracked economic development”.
- The Tamil Nadu Integrated Logistics Plan (TNILP), 2023, includes a strategic plan for the next 10 years.
- The policy aims at reducing cost of logistics (for export import and domestic freight) in the State.

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National Health Data.

- The incidence of tuberculosis in Tamil Nadu has come **down by 5 percent** this year, according to the National Health Data.
- During the same period last year, 20,026 cases were detected and the number has come down to 19,181 in the current year.

Tamil Nadu Kasanoi Erappila Thittam

- Tamil Nadu has pioneered an initiative across the State to reduce the mortality rate among people with tuberculosis.

About the Scheme:

- The initiative TNKET (Tamil Nadu Kasanoi Erappila Thittam, meaning TB death-free project) which began in April 2022 in 2,500 odd public healthcare facilities that diagnosed TB in 30 districts.
- Nearly 70% of all TB deaths among notified TB patients take place in the first two months after diagnosis.
- The heart of the initiative is the '**Differentiated TB Care**'

Aim

- Assessing whether people with TB need ambulatory care or admission in a health facility to manage severe illness at the time of diagnosis.

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Immediate Payment Service

- 1) District Central Co-operative Banks (DICS) have launched an instant cash transfer facility called 'Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) for digital transactions.
- 2) Tamil Nadu is the first state in the country where this facility has been set up in a co-operative bank.
- 3) 54 District Central Cooperative Banks have 23 branches all over Tamil Nadu.
- 4) These banks provide internet banking and mobile banking services to customers.
- 5) There are also facilities such as core banking solution, **Real time Gross Settlement (RTGS)** and **National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT)**.

Maravarman Sundarapandiyan's inscription

- An old inscription of Maravarman Sundarapandian I, who had reclaimed Madurai, a broken piece of inscription has been found at Sanavayal in Sivaganga district bordering Pudukottai district
- On the border of Pudukottai district, at Sanavayal Perumal Medu in Koduvur Panchayat, Devakottai Taluk of Sivagangai District, the broken slab inscription is 4 1/2 feet height and has 114 lines on three sides. Of these, 103 lines are clear.
- The last part of the inscription is completely destroyed and ends with Sri Maheswara Raksha.

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Umagine Chennai 2023

- **Umagine Chennai 2023, Asia's largest summit on technology and innovation, that will happen in Chennai.**
- Over 12,000 people have registered for Umagine Chennai 2023.

Second G20 Framework Working Group (FWG) Meeting in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

- The G20 FWG focuses on global macroeconomic issues. Under India's 2023 G20 Presidency, the Group will be focusing on macroeconomic impacts of food and energy insecurity, climate change and transition pathways.
- In the Chennai meeting of the FWG, the members will focus on sharing policy experiences on these issues and discuss the way ahead on how FWG discussions can inform the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors who will be meeting in Washington D.C.

TN to become largest IT hub in Asia soon

- Tamil Nadu would become the largest IT hub in Asia soon, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin.

Important points in this regard:

- The State is contributing over 10% to the Indian IT sector.
- The State government is going to establish the Tamil Nadu Tech City (TN Tech City) in Chennai, Coimbatore and Hosur. There is one tech city

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coming up on 150 acres in the IT corridor of Chennai, the second on 500 acres in Hosur and the third in Coimbatore.

- Chennai has positioned itself to be the ideal destination for global companies looking to set up their capability centres.
- Umagine Chennai 2023, which is happening at the Chennai Trade Centre.

Tamil Nadu Disaster Management Policy 2023

- Tamil Nadu Disaster Management Policy was released by Chief Minister M.K.Stalin.
- The State Disaster Management Policy has been formulated keeping in mind some important aspects.
- The policy aims to reduce the negative effects of all types of disasters through a robust disaster management drive, avoiding loss of life, damage to public property and infrastructure.
- Also, the disaster management policy focuses on early warning system for various types of disasters, assessment of risk, disaster impacts, analysis of risk, mitigation measures to reduce disaster risk, prioritizing and coordinating disaster risk reduction activities.
- Along with this, the Tamil Nadu State Disaster Management Plan has been created.
- Disasters include floods, floods, hurricanes, droughts, heat waves, landslides, earthquakes, accidents in chemical plants, nuclear power plants, and radiations described in the disaster Management Plan.

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- The rights and responsibilities and contributions of various sectors to be provided to the elderly, differently abled, children and third gender during disasters have been explained.

Remote speciality medical service in hilly areas!

- Department of People's Welfare Department of People's Welfare has taken an initiative to provide high speciality medical services remotely (telemedicine) in hilly areas and backward rural areas.
- Currently there are 2,227 primary health centers in Tamil Nadu. Of these, 1,800 health centers are located in rural areas. Apart from this, more than 100 primary health centers are located in areas with less basic facilities.
- People there depend on those primary health centers for their medical needs
- With a view to provide such mobile facility to all the unreached villages in Tamil Nadu
- Tamil Nadu Fiber Internet Service Corporation (TanFinet) was launched. Under it, internet service is being provided in hilly areas and very backward villages.
- Taking advantage of this, the Department of Public Welfare planned to improve the quality of medical services through it.

TAMILNADU'S FIRST FLOATING SHIP

- Tourism Minister K. Ramachandran inaugurated the construction of a huge 2-decker floating restaurant ship at a cost of Rs.5 crore at muttukadu near kovalam.

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Gymnothorax, Tamilnaduensis

- The Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) scientists have discovered a Moray Eel fish of Genus Gymnothorax from the Cuddalore coast and have named it, "**Gymnothorax Tamilnaduensis,**" after the state.
- The common name of the species will be, **Tamil Nadu brown moray eel.**
- This species is first to be found in the south-eastern coast of India, the Bay of Bengal.
- The discovery was during an exploration survey along coastal waters in Parangipettai and Mudasalodai fish landing centres, Cuddalore.
- With this, the number of fish species with the genus Gymnothorax in the Indian water has increased to 29.
- The name of the fish species is registered in the Zoobank, the online registration system for the international commission on Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN).

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin requested Chief Justice of India D.Y.Chandrachud to look into three demands:

1. Supreme Court Bench in Chennai, Mumbai and Kolkata
2. Social justice and inclusivity in the appointment of judges
3. Making Tamil the language of the Madras High Court, besides English.

Article 348

- Article 348 of the Constitution of India provides that **all proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every High court shall be in English Language** until Parliament by law otherwise provides.

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- Also, the **Governor of the State** may, with the previous consent of the **President**, authorize the **use of the Hindi language or any other language** used for any official purpose of the State, in the **proceedings of the High Court** having its **principal seat** in that State provided that **decrees, judgments or orders passed by such High Courts shall be in English.**

The 9th World Tamils Economic Conference and Global Economic Summit 2023 held in Dubai.

The conference was inaugurated by Minister Durai Murugan.

1. Tamil Nadu Minister Duraimurugan,
2. Malaysia Penang Chief Minister Ramasamy,
3. Malaysia MP Datuk Siri Saravanan,
4. Laika Group Chairman Subhashkaran Allirajah,
5. Abu Dhabi Indian Cultural Society Center Chairman Natarajan,
6. Florida University of Science Professor Kalamati,
7. Durban RR Group Chairman Isaivani Reddy,
8. KPMG Chief Auditor Gopal Balasubramaniam,
9. Block Group founder Mohammad Gani Mohammad Iyya was awarded the **World Tamil Mamani Award.**

3D paper based portable device

- **IIT-Madras develops portable paper device to detect adulteration in milk.**

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- Researchers at **IIT Madras** have developed a **three-dimensional (3D) paper-based portable device** that can detect adulteration in milk within **30 seconds**. The test could be even performed at home.
- The device can detect multiple substances commonly used as adulterating agents including Urea, detergents, soap, starch, hydrogen peroxide, sodium-hydrogen-carbonate and salt, among others
- Unlike conventional laboratory-based methods to test the purity of milk, which are both expensive and time-consuming, this new technology is affordable and could also be used to test other liquids such as water, fresh juice, and milkshake for traces of adulteration.

e-Seva center 2.0

- 600 types of services will soon be provided at e-seva centres. **235 services** of the Government of Tamil Nadu are being provided through **9720 e-Seva centres**.
- Through this, the schemes and services of the government will be made available quickly with transparency.

588 people under Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health insurance Scheme to undergo organ transplantation

- On September 5, **2008**, during the tenure of former Chief Minister M Karunanidhi, the Government of Tamil Nadu launched the **Tamil Nadu made brain death certification mandatory in 2008** and also launched the brain death organ donation scheme.
- Since then, the organization has been registered as an **Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu (TATN)**.

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- Tamil Nadu is the capital of India in organ transplantation. **Tamil Nadu** has received the Central Government's award for the best state in organ donation **six times** in a row.
- August 13- World organ donation day.

'Vidiyal App'

- For the first time in India, organ donation registration system is currently being implemented through a fully automated app called **Vidiyal**.
- Similarly, under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme, organ transplantations are performed in government and private hospitals.
- As many as 588 people have received health insurance under this scheme. Each of them will get a maximum of Rs. 10,000 for treatment.

Children of construction workers to get free education if admitted to premier institutions and medical colleges.

- 1) The children of those registered themselves with the **Tamil Nadu Construction Workers' Welfare Board (TNCWWB)** will get free education and **₹50,000 per year** to meet their living expenses during the course if they get admitted to any Indian Institute of Technology, Indian Institute of Management or a government medical college in Tamil Nadu for MBBS course.
- A total of 35 students were likely to benefit from the scheme initially, although there is no ceiling on the number of beneficiaries.

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- The tuition fee and hostel fee for these students would be taken care of by the government, besides the sum of ₹50,000 per annum.
- Members of the TNCWWB who are undergoing treatment for illnesses such as cancer, asthma, renal failure and silicosis, due to which they are unable to work, will be provided a yearly assistance of ₹12,000, which will be released in **two instalments**. This scheme will be implemented for **three years** initially.

Vengaivayal Issue

- 2) The Madras High Court appointed retired judge **M. Sathyanarayanan** as a one-man commission of inquiry into the incident of human faces found in an overhead tank that supplied water to Scheduled Caste residents of Vengaivayal in Pudukkottai district.

Safe City Project

- 3) As part of the Safe City project under the Nirbhaya Fund, closed circuit television cameras had been fitted in 2,500 buses of the Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) at a cost of ₹72.71 crore.

About Nirbhaya fund:

- **Rs 1,000 crore** Nirbhaya Fund was announced in **Union Budget 2013**.
- The corpus was to be utilised for upholding **safety and dignity of women**.
- **Ministry of Women and Child Development** apart from several other concerned ministries were authorised to work out details of structure, scope and application of this fund.
- The Fund is administered by **Department of Economic Affairs of the finance ministry**.

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Motor vehicles tax exemption for e-vehicles

- A total of 62,482 battery operated vehicles, including 59,951 non transport vehicles (personal use), were registered in Tamil Nadu during 2022-23 (till February), compared with 39,617 battery operated vehicles registered during 2021-22.
- The State government has extended the **100% exemption** for **e-vehicles** from **motor vehicles tax** until **December 2025**.

Tamil Nadu to celebrate centenary year of Vaikom Satyagraha.

- To mark the beginning of the centenary year of the famous Vaikom Satyagraha, a watershed moment in India's history which prompted several such movements for **people from all castes entering temples**, the government has planned year-long celebrations, including taking Periyar's works and ideals to the younger generation.
- **Vaikom Award** would be given to eminent personalities or organisations that **worked for the welfare of oppressed sections** beyond the State borders.
- It would be awarded on Periyar E.V. Ramasamy's birth anniversary **on September 17**, which is also being observed as **Day of Social Justice** by Tamil Nadu.
- Periyar was among the leaders who took part in the movement and went on to earn the title '**Vaikom Veerar**'.

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- The government would take steps towards issuing a commemorative stamp to mark the centenary of the satyagraha.
- The memorial for Periyar at Vaikom in Kerala would be renovated at a cost of ₹8.14 crore and efforts would be taken to set up a memorial at Aruvikutti, where Periyar was held in jail for the first time.
- Researcher **Pazha Adhiyaman's** book **Vaikom Protest** in Tamil would be translated into **Malayalam**. It would also be published in **Telugu, Kannada and English**.

The Tamil Nadu Tourism Department has been awarded for its outstanding performance in the development of the coastal facade at Kanyakumari.

- The Government of India has given an award to the Tamil Nadu Tourism Department. With a view to promote the tourism sector, the Union Ministry of Tourism is improving the infrastructure facilities of the tourist destinations for this purpose a scheme called '**Swadesh Darshan**' has also launched.

About Swadesh Darshan:

- Swadesh Darshan is a Central Sector Scheme.
- It was launched in 2014-15 by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Government of India.
- It envisages **theme-based tourist circuits** in the country. These tourist circuits will be developed on the principles of high tourist value, competitiveness and sustainability in an integrated manner.

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Swadesh Darshan 2.0:

- Instead of focusing on theme-based circuits, under this, to attract domestic tourists, the focus is on one destination at a time.
- It is in line with India's new domestic tourism policy, which emphasizes **moving away from theme-based tourist circuits** to reviving destination tourism.
- It is a revamped version of the Swadesh Darshan scheme with the mantra of '**Vocal for local**'.
- The Scheme is 100% centrally funded.

Sukanya Samriddhi Yojna'

- Tamil Nadu has topped the list in India by opening 3 crore accounts under the Post Office Savings Scheme.
- Tamil Nadu ranks 2nd in the list of states with the highest number of accounts opened under the '**Sukanya Samriddhi Yojna**' scheme.

About the scheme:

- '**Sukanya Samriddhi Yojna**' is a **small deposit scheme for girl child**, launched as a part of the '**Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**' campaign, which would fetch an attractive interest rate and provide income tax rebate.
- '**Sukanya Samriddhi Account**' can be opened at any time from the birth of a girl child till she attains the age of 10 years, with a **minimum deposit of Rs 250**. A **maximum of Rs 1.5 lakh** can be deposited during a financial year.
- Current annual interest rate -7.6% per annum.

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9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

- All member states of the United Nations observe **March 3** as **World Wildlife Day**.