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Polity & Governance

89% of TN's population already eligible for reservation

- The TN government argued in the Madras High Court that due to the existing 69% reservation for education and public jobs, 89% of the state's population is already eligible for affirmative action benefits.
- This was a response to a petition seeking to implement a 10% reservation for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) category.
- The government highlighted that a significant portion of the population belongs to Scheduled Castes (20%) and Scheduled Tribes (1.1%), qualifying them for existing reservations.
- This leaves only 11% of the population not covered by current reservations.

Micro observers to monitor 67 critical and vulnerable booths in Villupuram

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) will deploy micro observers to monitor 67 critical and vulnerable polling booths in Villupuram district, Tamil Nadu.
- These booths were identified based on past experiences and voting patterns to ensure fair and smooth elections.

Key Roles of Micro Observers:

- Monitor availability of essential facilities at polling stations.
- Observe mock polling exercises and result declaration.
- Oversee the functioning of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPATs).
- Report any irregularities or suspicious activities

Only 77 female contestants in TN

- A report released by the Tamil Nadu Election Watch and Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) has revealed that only 8% of the candidates in fray for the Lok Sabha elections in Tamil Nadu, are women.
- The report urged major political parties to field more women candidates to decriminalize and ensure gender equality in the electoral system.
- The report also gives an analytical report of criminal background, financial, education and gender details of candidates contesting in 39 Lok Sabha constituencies in the state.

Article 226 of the Constitution

Why in news?

• The Madras High Court questioned the Election Commission of India (ECI) about its ability to override the court's powers under Article 226 of the Constitution regarding writ jurisdiction in appeals against the orders of the chief electoral officer on pre-certification of poll advertisements.

Key points:

• The query was raised during the hearing of petitions filed by the DMK, challenging the orders of the Tamil Nadu CEO denying permission to the party's poll advertisements and questioning the legality of clause 3.8 of the rules governing certification of the advertisements.



- Senior advocate R Shanmugasundaram, representing the petitioner, questioned the ECI's submission that the **rule wasbased on the Supreme Court order** passed on April 13, 2004, stating it was an interim order and confined only to a particular case.
- The bench stated that the **ECI cannot override Article 226 of the Constitution**, which provides the powers of writ jurisdiction to the high court.

About Article 226:

- Article 226 in the Constitution of India empowers the High Courts to issue certain writs.
- These writs can be in the nature of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, quo warranto, and certiorari, or any of them, for the enforcement of any of the rights conferred by Part III of the Constitution and for any other purpose.
- The power conferred by clause (1) to issue directions, orders or writs to any Government, authority or person may also be exercised by any High Court exercising jurisdiction in relation to the territories within which the cause of action, wholly or in part, arises for the exercise of such power.
- This is irrespective of whether the seat of such Government or authority or the residence of such person is within those territories.

Think:

Know about Article 32.

Election related issues heard by Madras HC

Why in news?

- The Madras High Court observed that the cash seized from persons or premises related to BJP candidate Nainar Nagendran does not warrant disqualification of his candidature
- The court dismissed another petition seeking cross-verification of votes polled in EVM with the Voter Verification Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT). The court said that the Supreme Court was already apprised of the issue.

About EVMs:

- Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) are used to record and tally votes in an electronic format, replacing traditional paper ballots and manual counting methods.
- **Purpose**: To streamline the voting process, enhance accuracy, and speed up the tallying of election results.
- EVM Components: Typically consists of two units, the control unit and the balloting unit, linked by a cable. The control unit is operated by election officials, while voters interact with the balloting unit.
- The Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) were **first used in India in 1982** during a **by-election in the Parur Assembly** constituency of **Kerala**.

About Voter-Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT):

 VVPAT is a system that provides a physical printout of the voter's ballot as it was cast electronically.



- It serves as a means for voters to verify that their vote has been recorded accurately and to audit the electronic results.
- It was first introduced in India in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections.

Vote-from-home exercise in Idukki Lok Sabha constituency

Why in news?

- A special polling team trekked 18 kilometres inside the deep forest under the Idukki Lok Sabha constituency to record a single home vote.
- The trek was part of the 'vote-from-home' exercise meant for senior citizens aged above 85 and differently abled voters.
- The team trekked to the **Nooradi tribal settlement** under the **Munnar forest** division.

About Vote-from-home exercise:

- The "Vote-from-home" option is designed to make voting more accessible to certain segments of the electorate who may find it difficult to visit polling stations due to health or mobility issues.
- Targeted Voters: Primarily aimed at elderly voters above the age of 80 and persons with disabilities (PwD).
- **Voluntary Participation**: Eligible voters can choose to opt for this method voluntarily; it is not mandatory.
- **Application Process**: Voters must apply in advance to avail themselves of this facility. They need to fill out a form (**Form 12D**) and submit it to the returning officer.

Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009

Why in news?

- The State Platform for Common School System Tamil Nadu (SPCSS-TN) has urged the State government to provide education under the Right to Education Act, through government or government-aided schools in Tamil Nadu.
- The forum urged the government to take appropriate **measures to ensure equitable access to quality education for all children**, by admitting them in government or government-aided institutions.

About RTE:

- Education is recognized as a fundamental right under Article 21A of the Indian Constitution, which mandates free and compulsory education for all children aged 6 to 14 years.
- Right to Education Act 2009: This act legally entitles every child between the ages of 6 to 14 years to free and compulsory education in a neighborhood school till completion of elementary education.
- Private schools are required to admit at least 25% of their class strength from 'weaker sections and disadvantaged groups', free of charge.





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Why in news?

- The Madras High Court has declared a 2010 amendment unconstitutional.
- This amendment had brought waqf properties under the Tamil Nadu Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act of 1976.

Key points:

- This amendment had empowered the Tamil Nadu Waqf Board Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to order the eviction of encroachers.
- The **2010 amendment** made by the State legislature to be **repugnant to the Waqf** Act of 1995, a Central legislation.
- The 2010 amendment had been brought in by exercising the power under List III
 (Concurrent list) and not List II (State list) of seventh schedule to the
 Constitution.
- Therefore, a **Presidential assent ought to have been obtained for it**, in view of its repugnancy with the Central law.

Tamil Nadu State Information Commission

Why in news?

 The Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco) has issued directives to complete the inspection with regard to PM's Surya Ghar (rooftop solar) scheme.

About PM's Surya Ghar scheme:

- The **PM's Surya Ghar scheme**, also known as **Muft Bijli Yojana**, is a government initiative in India.
- It was launched by Prime Minister on February 15, 2024.
- The scheme aims to provide free electricity to households in India.
- Households are provided with a subsidy to install solar panels on their roofs.
- The **objective** of this scheme is to **reduce the electricity costs** of the house by installing rooftop solar panels and using solar energy.

Environment

International Day of Zero Waste

- International Day of Zero Waste is celebrated annually on 30th March.
- It highlights the importance of bolstering waste management globally and the need to

promote sustainable consumption and production patterns.

- It was adopted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on 2nd March 2022.
- The theme for the International Day of Zero Waste 2024 is "Towards a Circular Future."







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- Zero-waste initiatives can foster sound waste management and minimize and prevent waste generation.
- To eliminate the WastePollution, one must bolster waste management while improving resource recovery and substantially reducing waste generation.
- Prevention, reduction, reuse, repurposing and recycling are critical to this endeavor.

'Forever chemicals' in Chennai water bodies

Why in news?

- The Southern Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has expressed concerns about the presence of 'forever chemicals' in Chennai waterbodies.
- The bench took suo motu cognisance of chemical contamination in Buckingham Canal, Adyar River, and Chembarambakkam Lake based on news reports on a study done by Indian Institute of Technology Madras.

Key points:

- The study noted the presence of **polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)**, **synthetic chemicals** that **do not degrade in the environment**, in surface level waters, groundwater, and even treated water treatment plant near the lake.
- PFAS are known to have **adverse health effects** such as liver damage, hormonal imbalance, immune system effects, and even cancer.

About forever chemical:

"Forever chemicals" is a colloquial term commonly used to refer to per- and polyfluoroalkyl

FIREFIGHTING MICROWAVE POPCORN BAGS

PAINT STAIN RESISTANT CLOTHING

PAINT STAIN RESISTANT PRODUCT

PRODUCT

PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS

NON-STICK COOKWARE

FAST FOOD PACKAGING

STAIN RESISTANT POINT STAIN RESISTANT PRODUCT

STAIN RESISTANT POINT STAIN PRODUCT

PHOTOGRAPHY

PESTICIDES

polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

 These are a group of man-made chemicals that are notable for their persistence in the environment and in human and animal bodies, where they can accumulate over time.

Persistence:

PFAS are extremely durable and resistant to typical

environmental degradation processes, which is why they are called "forever chemicals."

• **Widespread Use**: These chemicals have been used in various industries since the 1940s for their water- and grease-resistant properties.





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Water the wildlife initiative

Why in news?

- The Hosur forest division has launched an initiative called 'Water the wildlife'.
- The initiative aims to prevent human-animal conflict by ensuring that wildlife in forest areas has sufficient water during the dry seasons.

Key points:

 This initiative encourages the public to donate funds to help maintain and fill water troughs scattered throughout the forest, especially during the summer when natural water sources may dry up

Dolphins in India

Why in news?

- An injured striped dolphin was rescued near the shallow water off the coast in Ramanathapuram.
- The dolphin, stranded in shallow water, had lost its ability to detect signals.

About Dolphins:

- India's waters are home to several species of marine dolphins, including the Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin, the spinner dolphin, and the Irrawaddy dolphin.
- The Ganges River dolphin, also known as the South Asian river dolphin, is an important freshwater species found in India's river systems.
- The Ganges River dolphin is classified as endangered by the IUCN.
- The Ganges River dolphin being officially recognized as the National Aquatic Animal of India.

Did you know:

- The **Tamil Nadu state government** has proposed to conduct a **dolphin safari for** the first time.
- The safari will be conducted in the biodiversity-rich Gulf of Mannar (GoM) Biosphere Reserve.
- This initiative is part of conservation efforts to save **cetaceans** under '**Project Dolphin**'.

PROJECT DOLPHIN PRESERVING OUR UNDERWATER FRIENDS Tairs Encyclopedia



Golden trevally

Why in news?

- The Golden Trevally, a popular **marine fish** along Tamil Nadu's coastline, has been **successfully bred in captivity**.
- This achievement is the result of five years of research by scientists at ICAR-CMFRI's Visakhapatnam station.

Key points:

- The team has developed **seed production technology for the Golden Trevally**, locally known as 'pulli paarai meen'.
- Its scientific name is Gnathanodon speciosus.
- The Golden Trevally, also known as the Golden Kingfish, is a promising species for marine aquaculture due to its rapid growth rates, high meat quality, and high market demand.

Geography & Places in News

Water shortage looms over Delta, west districts in TamilNadu

Tamil Nadu is facing a water shortage crisis in the Delta and western districts.

The main reasons are:

- Reduced water storage:
 - Water storage in reservoirs is alarmingly low, at just 27% of capacity.
- Mettur reservoir, a crucial source of irrigation and drinking water, has seen a drastic decline of nearly 66% compared to last year.





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- Increased water demand:
 - Intensified summer heat and an ongoing dispute with Karnataka over water sharing are adding pressure on the limited water resources.
- Potential water cuts:
 - The Water Resources Department might be forced to reduce water release from Mettur by the end of April, impacting drinking water supply in Namakkal, Salem, Trichy, and delta regions.

207 wetlands: Outside protected areas in Tamil Nadu have potential to be declared as bird sanctuaries

- The Advanced Institute of Wildlife Conservation (AIWC) in Tamil Nadu has identified 207 wetlands outside protected areas that could be declared bird sanctuaries.
- This initiative highlights the state's commitment to protecting wetlands, crucial habitats for diverse bird species and ecosystems.
- These wetlands were chosen based on factors like:
 - Abundance of birds
 - Size of the wetland
 - Presence of threatened bird species
- By designating these areas as bird sanctuaries, Tamil Nadu aims to:
 - Increase protection for birds and their habitats
 - Promote conservation efforts
 - Ensure these wetlands continue to provide ecological benefits.

Migratory birds make a pit stop at Pulicat backwaters



- Several waders and flamingos have arrived at Pulicat.
- With the migratory season for waders coming to an end, a large number of them have now come to the Pulicat (Pazhaverkadu in Tamil) backwaters on the Tamil Nadu side to halt for a few days before heading back home.
- These waders will come back by Oct to various areas in Tamil Nadu to spend their winter period.

About:

- These birds utilize the backwaters for rest, refueling, and as a temporary home before continuing their migrations.
- The rich ecosystem of the Pulicat backwaters provides an **ideal habitat for these migratory birds**.
- The shallow waters and abundant plant life offer a plentiful food source, while the sheltered environment provides a safe haven from predators.
- Some of the migratory birds that frequent the Pulicat backwaters include:
 - Flamingos
 - Pelicans
 - o Spoonbills
 - o Plovers
 - Sandpipers



GI tag sought for Uthukuli butter

• Uthukuli butter (Uthukuli Vennai), known for its distinct flavor and long shelf life, is aiming for a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

Key Points:

- The application process was facilitated by the NABARD Madurai Agribusiness Incubation Forum (MABIF)
- It was filed by P. Sanjai Gandhi, an IP attorney specializing in Geographical Indication registration of products.
- These butter processing units are spread across locations including Pappampalayam, Vengalapalayam, Chengapalli, Thippampalayam, Kodumanal, Chennimalai, Kangeyam and Villa Kovil.

About:

 Uthukuli butter is a famed dairy product originating from the town of Uthukuli in Tamil Nadu

Key characteristics:

- **Rich source:** Made from **buffalo mil**k, known for higher fat content than cow's milk, resulting in a richer flavor.
- **Traditional process**: Uthukuli butter is produced using techniques passed down for generations, often involving churning cream in a barrel with water.
- Unique taste: Unlike regular butter, Uthukuli butter has a slightly sour taste and a non-glossy appearance.
- Long shelf life: Due to the traditional methods, Uthukuli butter boasts a longer shelf life compared to many commercial butters.

Tamil Nadu: Vellore Movement calls for planting 15 lakh trees

- The Vellore Movement, a local initiative in Tamil Nadu, has launched an awareness drive on climate change.
- To combat its effects, they're proposing a five-year plan to plant 15 lakh (1.5 million) trees in the Vellore district.
- This translates to an annual target of 3 lakh (300,000) saplings.

About:

- The movement, **led by professor Ramu Manivannan**, distributed leaflets and advocated for a social urban afforestation program.
- They believe planting trees and conserving natural resources are crucial steps towards safeguarding the environment from climate change.
- The Vellore Movement plans to go beyond awareness campaigns and engage with local authorities to ensure the initiative's implementation.

Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR)

Why in news?

Saratha, a 70-year-old female elephant, fell ill at the Kozhikamuthi camp in Anamalai
 Tiger Reserve (ATR).

About Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR):

- The Anamalai Tiger Reserve, also known as the Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park, is located in the Anamalai Hills of the Western Ghats in the Coimbatore and Tiruppur District, Tamil Nadu.
- It was officially declared a tiger reserve in 2007.
- The Kariyan shola, Grass hills, and Manjampatti of Anamalai Tiger Reserve



ADDAPEDIA

have been identified as all world theritage site by UNESCO. The reserve has also received the Global Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CAITS) recognition. The highest pears in the region is Anamuci with an elevation of 2,695 meters.



 The reserve is home to several endangered species such as the Bengal tiger, Indian elephant, Indian leopard, and lion-tailed macaque. Other threatened species include the Indian Giant Squirrel, Indian Leopard, and Indian Pangolin.

Veeranam Lake

Why in news?

- Veeranam Lake, a **primary water source for Chennai**, **has run dry** due to intensifying summer heat.
- The supply from **Veeranam Lake** was halted due to lack of inflow from the **Mettur** dam.

About Veeranam Lake:

- Location: Veeranam Lake is situated in the Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu, India
- **Purpose**: It primarily serves as a water reservoir for irrigation and drinking purposes.
- **Historical Significance**: The lake was **constructed during the 10th century** by the **Chola king Parantaka I**.
- Source of Water: The lake is fed by the Kollidam River, which is a distributary of the Cauvery River.

Mudumalai Tiger Reserve and Dholes

Why in news?

- A pack of wild dogs, or Dholes, in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) are suffering from a severe exfoliating mixed skin infection.
- This is an alarming fungal and bacterial infection.
- The infection could potentially spread to other species, including tigers and leopards.
- There is a possibility of the infection spreading to humans.

About Mudumalai Tiger Reserve:

- Location: Located in the Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu, at the tri-junction of Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu. It's part of the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve, the first biosphere reserve in India.
- Boundaries: Shares boundaries with Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (Kerala), Bandipur Tiger Reserve (Karnataka), the Nilgiris North Division, and Gudalur Forest Division.
- **River**: The **Moyar River** runs through the reserve.
- Flora: Home to tall grasses (known as "Elephant Grass"), giant bamboo, and valuable timber species like Teak, Rosewood. It also has wild relatives of cultivated plants like wild rice, ginger, turmeric, cinnamon, and features swampy areas (Vayals) and grasslands.
- **Fauna**: Inhabited by a variety of animals including elephants, gaur, sambar, Four Horned antelope, spotted deer, barking deer, blackbuck, wild pig, mouse deer, and predators like tigers, leopards, and wild dogs.
- Notable Mention: The Oscar-winning 'Elephant Whisperers' was filmed at the Theppakadu Elephant Camp, located inside the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve.



Dhole (Cuon alpinus) is a wild carnivorous animal, a member of the family Canida and the class way malia.

- in India, they are found in the Western and Eastern Ghats, central Indian landscape, and North East India.
- Dholes play an important role as apex predators in forest ecosystems.
- Conservation Status:
 - o IUCN List of Threatened Species: Endangered
 - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES): Appendix II
 - o Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule II
- They may also be found in small numbers in the area of Ladakh.
- Threats to the Population of Dholes:
 - Habitat Loss
 - Decreasing population of ungulates, their main prey, due to excessive hunting and habitat loss
 - Persecution due to livestock predation and disease transfer from domestic and feral dogs
- World Dhole Day is celebrated annually on May 28.
- The first World Dhole Conference happened in February 2019.
- The **Dhole conservation breeding centre** was sanctioned by the Government of India in 2014, in the **Indira Gandhi Zoological Park in Vishakhapatnam**.

Pulicat Birds Sanctuary

Why in news?

- The initiation of settlement of claims for local communities residing in 13 revenue villages within Pulicat Birds Sanctuary boundary limits has raised concerns.
- The concerns are about the shrinking of the sanctuary's Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ).

Key points:

- In the 77th meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife, a
 proposal was discussed for the use of 215.83 hectares of non-forest land for the
 development of an industrial park inside the ESZ, and 5 km from the bird
 sanctuary.
- The petition highlights the unique characteristics of the Pulicat lagoon:
 - Its vulnerability to shoreline dynamics.
 - The presence of more **mangrove** plantation in the **Eco-Sensitive Zone** (**ESZ**) than in the Sanctuary area.
 - o role in the Central Asian Flyway for birds.







Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve

Why in news?

• There's growing concern in the Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve,



because the **coral reefs are showing early signs of extensive damage**, known as **mass bleaching**.

• The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issuing a red alert for Gulf of Mannar as "above normal" sea surface temperature (SST) is likely to trigger mass bleaching and coral mortality.

About Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve:

- The Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve is situated along the southeastern coast of India, between Tamil Nadu and the west coast of Sri Lanka.
- It was established in 1989 and declared a biosphere reserve by UNESCO under the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme in 2001.

History & Culture

The rock paintings at Kumittipathi testify to prehistoric Kongu region

• The ancient rock paintings at Kumittipathi, a village around 30 km from

Coimbatore city are estimated to be 3,000 years old

An elephant with prominent tusks, painted in white, draws the attention at the rock art site at Pathimalai in Kumittipathi



Thanjavur

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- These cave paintings are among the important rock arts in the Kongu region.
- Drawn with white pigments, the paintings depict elephants, chariots (or possibly peacocks), and scenes from the lives of the region's early inhabitants...

Chola-era stone inscriptions found in Thanjavur district

Stone inscriptions dating back to the Chola era were found in an agriculture field near **Papanasam in**



district. **Epigraphists** said that fragments of inscriptions mention land donations to a temple.

They decipher inscriptions to piece together the administrative structure, agricultural practices, and religious life.

About:

They are 3-4 feet long and one foot wide.

- After studying the style and pattern of Tamil script on the inscriptions, it is estimated that they could belong to the 9th-10th century.
- Each inscription was engraved with 3-8 lines of messages.
- Based on the usage of words such as 'ma' and 'kuzhi' that relate to historical units for measuring land, we can assume that the stones contain information on boundaries of land donations made by Chola kings.

Chithirai festival

Why in news?

- The Public Works Department released 1,000 cusecs of water from the Vaigai
- This release is in view of the **Chithirai festival** currently underway in **Madurai**.

Key points:

- Lord Kallazhagar is scheduled to enter the Vaigai river on April 23, a significant event of the annual Chithirai festival.
- For the first two days, the same amount of water would be released and the flow would be reduced gradually in the coming days.
- The release of water is expected to replenish wells and rejuvenate riverbeds along the stretch.

About Chithirai festival:

- It's one of the longest festivals in the world, lasting for about a month, and is celebrated during the Tamil month of Chithirai (April-May).
- The focal points of the Chithirai Festival are two major events:
 - The celestial wedding of Lord Sundareswarar (Shiva) and Goddess Meenakshi (a form of Parvati), and



The journey of Lord Alagar (a) from Hot Wishrul Who is the brother of Goddes
 Meenakshi) from Kallazhagar Temple in Alagar Koyil to Madurai.
 Megalithic site in Karai Y Current Affairs Encyclopedia



Why in news?

- The megalithic site in Karai, discovered 78 years ago by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), is in a state of neglect.
- The site, which spans 25 acres, contains funeral artefacts from the Megalithic period, including burial urns, dolmens, cists, and menhirs.

Key points:

- Despite being declared a protected monument and fenced off, no excavations have been carried out at the site.
- Artefacts, including **burial urns**, have been lying in neglect for decades, and encroachments have threatened the integrity of the site.
- Burial urns scattered across various villages remain undocumented and vulnerable to destruction, underscoring the need for comprehensive preservation efforts.

About megalithic period:

- The megalithic period in India refers to a **phase of prehistoric culture** characterized by the **use of large stone structures for burial or ceremonial purposes**.
- This period is generally dated from around **1500 BCE** to **500 BCE** and is notable for the variety of megalithic monuments found across the Indian subcontinent.
- The megaliths in India include various forms such as menhirs (large upright stones), dolmens (stone tables), and cairns (heaps of stones).
- Megalithic sites are found throughout India, with a higher concentration in the southern part of the country, such as in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Andhra Pradesh. Other significant sites are located in central and northeastern regions.

Brahmotsavam of the Sri Parthasarathi Perumal temple

Why in news?

- The **10-day annual Brahmotsavam of the Sri Parthasarathi Perumal temple** in Triplicane began with the traditional flag hoisting ceremony.
- During the festival, the **Utsava idols are brought out in procession in various** alankarams and on different vahanams.

About Brahmotsavam:

- The Brahmotsavam of the **Sri Parthasarathi Perumal temple** is a significant event that takes place in the temple located in Triplicane, **Chennai**.
- The festival begins with a traditional flag hoisting ceremony.
- The temple follows the traditions of the **Thenkalai sect of Vaishnavite tradition** and follows the **Vaikhanasa Agama**.







Economy & Infrastructure

Tamil Nadu breaks power consumption record

C

- Tamil Nadu recently set a new record for overall power consumption, reaching a staggering 426.439 million units (MU) in a single day.
- This surpasses the previous high of 423.785 MU set in April 2023.
- The surge is attributed to **rising temperatures**, increased activity due to elections and exams, and a trend of high consumption observed since early March.
- This record comes on the heels of another milestone Tamil Nadu reaching a peak power demand of **19,409 megawatts (MW)** in late March.

T.N. emerges top borrower in 2024 for the fourth successive year, says ICRA report

- Tamil Nadu has emerged as the biggest borrower among Indian states for the fourth year in a row, according to a report by ratings agency ICRA.
- The state borrowed ₹1,13,000 crore in the financial year 2023-24.
- Maharashtra followed closely behind with ₹1,10,000 crore.
- Tamil Nadu also plans to borrow a significantly higher amount of ₹1,55,584.48 crore in the coming year.
- The state's finance minister has assured that the debt levels are within permissible limits set by the Finance Commission.

IIT Madras Study finds an increase in number of C-section deliveries across India

- A recent study by the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) revealed a significant rise in C-section deliveries across India between 2016 and 2021.
- The prevalence of C-sections increased from 17.2% to 21.5% during this period.

The study highlights some key points:

Higher rates in private hospitals:

• Women delivering in private hospitals were four times more likely to have C-sections compared to public hospitals.

Non-medical factors influencing rise:

• The proportion of deliveries with pregnancy complications actually decreased, suggesting factors like patient preference and doctor practice patterns may be playing a role.

Geographic and socioeconomic variations:

- The study identified variations across regions and economic groups.
- For instance, in Tamil Nadu, low-income women in private hospitals had a surprisingly high C-section rate.



Schwing Stetter India installs 1MW solar system in Cheyyar

- Schwing Stetter India, a leading manufacturer of construction equipment, has installed a 1MW solar power system at their global manufacturing hub in Cheyyar, Tamil Nadu.
- This initiative marks a significant step towards their goal of achieving carbon neutrality.
- The 1MW solar plant is expected to generate 14 lakh kWh of electricity annually, fulfilling 20% of the facility's total power needs.
- This shift to renewable energy aligns with the Indian government's plan to double the nation's solar capacity by 2026.

Trichy division sets record in freight loading, earnings

- The Trichy division of (presumably Southern Railway) has set new records in both freight loading and earnings for the 2023-24 financial year.
- Freight Loading: The division surpassed its previous record of 13.521 million tonnes (MT) by 11%, achieving its highest-ever loading volume.
- Earnings: Earnings reached a record-breaking ₹857.04 crore.
- This is the first time the division has crossed 10 MT in loading of coal.

SPIC records 100% transition to natural gas

- Southern Petrochemical Industries Corporation (SPIC), a leading Indian fertilizer company, has successfully transitioned (100%) to using natural gas for all its urea production.
- This **shift away from other fuel sources like fuel oil and naphth**a marks a significant step **towards environmental sustainability for SPIC.**

About:

- Natural gas is considered a cleaner burning fuel compared to traditional options, and this move aligns with SPIC's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint and supporting India's policies promoting cleaner energy sources.
- The company remains dedicated to exploring further carbon-neutral initiatives in its operations

IIT-M to build global mobility digital infrastructure

- The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) has launched a new initiative called Mobility and Intelligent Transportation (MInT).
- This ambitious project aims to develop a global digital infrastructure for transportation systems.
- MInT follows a unique "collaborate and compete" approach, bringing together industry leaders, government bodies, and academic researchers
- This collaboration will focus on creating the Bharat Multimodal Mobility Stack (BM3S), a digital foundation for intelligent transportation solutions. By fostering collaboration and competition, MInT hopes to find innovative solutions to the world's mobility challenges



Single-window guidance system to fast-track clearances for companies manufacturing EVs in TN

- The Tamil Nadu government has implemented a single-window guidance system
 - to expedite the clearance process for companies setting up electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing units in the state.
- This system aims to streamline approvals by providing a central point of contact for various permissions required from different departments.



 This reduces bureaucratic hurdles and facilitates a faster setup time for EV companies, boosting the state's EV industry growth.

Chennai corporation collects Rs 2,218cr, beats tax collection target

- The Chennai Corporation surpassed its property and professional tax collection target for the financial year 2023-24 by collecting Rs 2,218 crore.
- This amount is higher than the revised estimate of Rs 2,180 crore, which was set for the previous financial year.
- The property tax collection reached Rs 1,642 crore, exceeding the Rs 1,680 crore target.
- Professional tax collection also went above the target, reaching Rs 567 crore compared to the Rs 500 crore expectation.
- It is important to note that property and professional taxes generate around 51% of the corporation's revenue.

TN's masterstroke: Gets Rs 400 cr for 8 cities

- Tamil Nadu has become the first state in India to receive a Rs 400 crore grant from the central government for preparing master plans for eight of its major cities
- The Directorate of Town and Country Planning (DTCP) completed and submitted the plans ahead of the January 15, 2024 deadline, making the state eligible for the funding.

About:

- This grant will provide Rs 50 crore each for the development of master plans for Coimbatore, Madurai, Erode, Tiruppur, Trichy, Salem, Tirunelveli, and Vellore.
- These plans are expected to guide future growth and infrastructure development in these cities.

CII-Govt forums to be formed in southern states

- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) plans to establish consultative forums with all southern state governments.
- This initiative aims to improve the ease of doing business in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana.
- Southern states contribute 31.5% to the national GDP and these states would collectively emerge as a \$3 trillion economy by 2030.
- CII will work with the state govts in bringing state level policies on manufacturing and industry 4.0 with focus on MSMEs

About:



These forums will provide a platform for collaboration between industry and government.

By working Dajlye Currenta Affairs Encyclopedia usinesses and develop strategies to promote industrial growth in the southern region.

 CII will also organise the Mystic South Summit in Chennai during January next year to showcase south India's industry to global investors

T.N. ranks first in export of textiles, readymade garments and leather goods: DMK

- According to the National Import-Export Record for Yearly Analysis of Trade (NIRYAT), Tamil Nadu accounted for 22.58% of the textiles exported from the country.
- The report has made it clear that **Tamil Nadu tops the list in export of textiles** among other states.
- Tamil Nadu's share was \$7.990 billion while Gujarat's share was \$4.738 billion
- According to NIRYAT, Tamil Nadu also secured the first place in the export of leather goods, accounting for 43.20% of the national tally.

Prime Minister's solar scheme Implementation delayed in Tamil Nadu

- The Prime Minsiter's rooftop solar scheme is faced with delays in Tamil Nadu.
- Of the 40,000 registered for the scheme in the state, only 5% have received their panels.

About:

• The Prime Minister's Solar Rooftop Scheme (PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana) is a recently launched scheme aims to install rooftop solar panels in one crore (ten million) households across India.

Benefits:

- Up to 300 units of free electricity monthly
- Reduced dependence on conventional power sources
- Potential income by selling excess electricity back to the grid

Subsidies:

Covers a significant portion of the installation cost

Tata Motors' signs MoU with TN govt with ₹9,000 Crore Investment In TN Manufacturing Plant

- Tata Motors signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Tamil Nadu government to build a new vehicle manufacturing facility.
- The investment of ₹9,000 crore will be spread over five years.
- The plant is expected to generate around 5,000 jobs, both directly and indirectly.
- This is Tata Motors' second plant in South India, following their unit in Karnataka

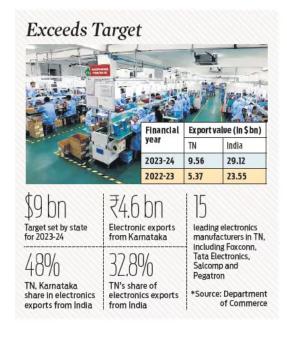
TNERC approves Rs 15,332 crore as subsidy for TANGEDCO in 2024-25

- Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission (TNERC) has approved Rs 15,332 crore as a
- **subsidy to be paid by the state government to TANGEDCO** provisionally, for the financial year 2024-25.
- The TNERC has also issued directives to TANGEDCO to get details about hut connections and agriculture load.
- Of the total amount, Rs 7,224.95 crore will go towards subsidies paid to domestic consumers, and Rs 6,780.24 crore towards providing free power to all types of farmers.
- Under the provision of free power, the hutment consumers would get Rs 346.25 crore, power loom weavers would get Rs 552.17 crore and actual places of worship would get Rs 18.21 crore.





Nadu tops electronics exports Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia



- Tamil Nadu has become a major hub for electronics exports in India.
- In the financial year 2023-24, Tamil Nadu achieved a record-breaking \$9.56 billion in electronics exports.
- This accounts for around 33% of the total exports of the country.

Key points:

- The significant growth is largely due to the aggressive India push from global major Apple and its contractors such as Foxconn and Pegatron, along with suppliers like Tata Electronics and Salcomp.
- The two southern states, **Tamil** Nadu and Karnataka, together contribute to nearly 50% of electronics exports from the country.
- This growth has occurred even as India's total exports contracted by 3%

Tata's \$1 bn plant in TN to make Jaguar Land Rover

Why in news?

Why in news?

- Tata Motors is planning to build a new plant in Tamil Nadu, India, with an investment of \$1 billion.
- The new plant will manufacture Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) luxury cars.

Key points:

- This marks the first time that JLR-branded cars will be manufactured from scratch in India.
- The plan includes both domestic sales and exports.
- This is a significant development for the automotive industry in India and for Tata Motors in particular. It also reinforces Tamil Nadu's position as a major hub for automobile manufacturing

Science & Technology

Blindness Prevention Week



Blindness Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

annually from April 1st to 7th

- It is an initiative by the Indian government to raise awareness about preventable causes of blindness and promote eye care.
- Aim: Educate the public about eye health, early detection of eye diseases, and the importance of regular eye checkups.
- Significance: India has a high prevalence of blindness, and many cases are preventable.
 This week aims to address this issue.
- Activities: Eye screening camps, awareness programs, and distribution of informative materials are organized during this week.



Theme:

• Theme for 2024 Blindness Prevention Week is "Taking timely treatments for age-related eye conditions"

Tamil Nadu study explores impact of Covid-19 in TB patients

- A study by Tamil Nadu's Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine investigated the overlap between COVID-19 and tuberculosis (TB).
- They found no major difference in symptoms or treatment outcomes for patients with both TB and COVID-1
- Interestingly, the study also observed a lower COVID-19 rate in areas with high TB prevalence and Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccination coverage
- This suggests a potential area for further research into how these factors might influence susceptibility to COVID-19.

IIT Madras sets up research foundation to spur patents, technology commercialisation

- The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) has established a dedicated research foundation to accelerate innovation and entrepreneurship.
- This foundation will act as a catalyst for the institute's startups, patents, and technology transfer initiatives
- The IITM Research Foundation, led by CEO Thirumalai Madhav Narayan, aims to bridge the gap between cutting-edge research and real-world applications.
- This initiative aligns with India's aspirations to become a global leader in technological innovation and startup creation.

Scrub typhus endemic in the state since '23

- Scrub typhus has been endemic in this state since 2023.
- This means the disease is constantly present and poses a continuous threat to public health.

Key points:

- Increased vigilance is needed to identify and treat cases promptly.
- Public awareness campaigns can help prevent infection by educating people about:





Scrub typhus symptoms and transmission [1] Importance of mite avoidance (scrub vegetation control) Proper use Dailye Gurrent Affairs Encyclopedia

- Scrub typhus, also called bush typhus or mite typhus, is an infectious disease caused by bacteria called Orientia tsutsugamushi.
- It spreads through the bites of infected chigger mites, found in areas with scrub vegetation

Assessing blood alcohol level in accident cases

Why in news?

 The Madras High Court has issued a directive that all hospitals, including private ones, should assess the level of alcohol in the blood when an injured person or deceased is brought in and smells of alcohol.

Key points:

- This directive is specifically for motor accident cases to determine contributory negligence.
- The court observed that **merely smelling alcohol** in the breath of a person is **not** sufficient to attribute contributory negligence in motor accident cases.
- The court suggested that the same threshold of 30mg per 100 ml of blood, as mentioned in Section 185 of the Motor Vehicles Act, could be applied to make a legal presumption that a person was not within their control while driving the vehicle under the influence of alcohol.

Filariasis

Why in news?

- Tamil Nadu, once a state with high filariasis prevalence, is now preparing dossiers to claim elimination status for the disease.
- Three rounds of transmission assessment surveys conducted in 2014, 2016, and 2018 showed the microfilaria rate was 0.18%, 0.21%, and 0.10%.

Key points:

- The state is preparing the dossiers, which will be submitted for verification before Tamil Nadu is certified a lymphatic filariasis-free state.
- Lymphatic filariasis, also known as **elephantiasis**, is a debilitating disease **caused** by parasitic worms transmitted through adult female culex mosquito bites.
- The state issued protocols for the management of patients with swelling on the legs (lymphoedema) in addition to giving them financial assistance of ₹1,000.

About Filariasis:

- Filariasis is a parasitic disease caused by an infection with roundworms of the Filarioidea type.
- Filariasis is primarily caused by three different species of parasitic worms: Wuchereria bancrofti, Brugia malayi, and Brugia timori.
- These worms are transmitted to humans through the bites of infected mosquitoes.







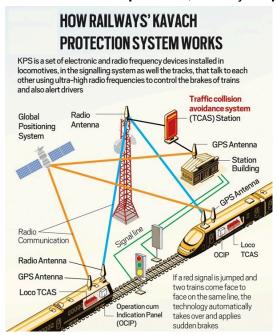
Southern Railway has decided to install kavacu, an anti-collision system for

trains.

• The system will be installed for 2,216 km of tracks across **Tamil Nadu** and **Kerala**.

Key Kavach:

- Kavach System Overview: Developed by the Indian Railways Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO), Kavach is a cab signalling and train control system with anti-collision features.
- **Functionality**: It alerts the loco pilot if a 'red signal' is unnoticed and the train is at risk of overshooting the signal.
- Warnings and Automatic Actions: The system provides warnings on the loco pilot's
 display and will automatically apply brakes if the train does not slow to below 15
 kilometers per hour, thereby stopping the train to prevent accidents.



AyurVAID

Why in news?

- Apollo Hospitals launched Apollo AyurVAID, an integrative Ayurveda centre of excellence.
- The facility would focus on an integrative approach of western stream medicine and Ayurveda, ensuring precision and adherence to clinical protocols.

Key points:

It will cover various specialties including:





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Neurology

Orthopaedics Neurodeye Current Affairs Encyclopedia

- Metabolic disorders
- Respiratory disorders
- Gynaecology
- **Paediatrics**
- Dermatology

Agriculture & Animal Husbandry

Cauvery Surplus Water Scheme

Why in news?

- Farmers in Dharmapuri have been advocating for the implementation of the Cauvery Surplus Water Scheme.
- This demand has been ongoing for close to a decade.
- The scheme is sought not only to expand the cultivation area but also to replenish groundwater.

About Cauvery Surplus Water Scheme:

- The scheme aims to divert surplus water in the Cauvery river at Hogenakkal during the monsoon season to all 64 PWD lakes and 636 DRDA lakes in the Dharmapuri district.
- The project is expected to not only improve the cultivation area but also to replenish groundwater.

Social & Welfare Issues

Govt polytechnics to get CoE tags

Government polytechnics in Tamil Nadu are set to receive the Center of Excellence (CoE) designation, aimed at enhancing students' job prospects.

Key points:

This initiative, which will cost approximately Rs 1,700 crore, involves upgrading all government polytechnic colleges to meet industry 4.0 standards.



The Directorate of The Chinical Control Contro

The projec Dail y i Gairy to bis Affairs Tracy along the infrastructure developing industry-relevant course content, and enhancing the capacity of faculty members.

• As part of the initiative, technology centres and advanced laboratories will be established in the CoEs to provide **industry 4.0 skill training**.

Health data to help achieve 100% TN school enrolment

- Tamil Nadu's elementary education department is making a novel attempt to achieve universal school enrolment.
- They are using health department data on children born in 2018 to identify potential students.
- This data, including details like birthdate, location, and parents' contact information, is being integrated with the Education Management Information System (EMIS).

About:

- School headmasters can access this information through the EMIS app and contact parents to confirm their child's enrollment.
- This approach aims to reach out to a large number of parents (over eight lakh) and persuade them to enroll their children, especially considering government initiatives in schools like technology integration.

CCTV, female helpers made mandatory on school buses

- Tamil Nadu has implemented new rules to enhance student safety on school buses.
- These measures include:
- Mandatory CCTV cameras:
 - At least two cameras will be installed on each bus, one facing front and another facing the rear, for constant monitoring.
- Trained female attendants:
 - Every school bus must have a female helper on board.
- These attendants will receive training on their responsibilities and child protection laws (POCSO Act).

About:

- The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO Act) was enacted in 2012 by the Indian Parliament.
- It aims to effectively address child sexual abuse and exploitation

IIT-Madras to host global water challenge contest for school students

- The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-Madras) is hosting the inaugural India edition of the Stockholm Junior Water Prize.
- This global water challenge is open to school students in grades 9 to 12.
- The competition aims to recognize young innovators who are developing solutions to address global water issues like water pollution, unequal access to clean water, and water scarcity.
- The event also aims to address critical water-related challenges
- The winner will participate in the Sweden event to be held from Aug 25 to 29 as part of World water week.

Tamil Nadu govt's Kalvi TV to air animated videos for classes 1-12



ADDAPEDIA

Students in Tamil Nadu can look forward to engaging animated education content



Key points:

- This initiative aims to improve learning outcomes and cater to students from all grades.
- This project is expected to benefit teachers as well by promoting effective classroom practices and continuous professional development.
- Overall, the goal is to enhance the learning experience for students, teachers, and parents alike.

PM's Surva Ghar scheme

Why in news?

 The Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco) has issued directives to complete the inspection with regard to PM's Surya Ghar (rooftop solar) scheme.

About PM's Surya Ghar scheme:

- The **PM's Surya Ghar scheme**, also known as **Muft Bijli Yojana**, is a government initiative in India.
- It was launched by Prime Minister on February 15, 2024.
- The scheme aims to provide free electricity to households in India.
- Households are provided with a subsidy to install solar panels on their roofs.
- The **objective** of this scheme is to **reduce the electricity costs** of the house by installing rooftop solar panels and using solar energy

International Relations

Katchatheevu issue



• Sri Lanka's Cabinet said that it has not discussed the Katchatheevu issue so far as it was never raised after India's ruling BJP blamed the Congress Party for ceding the tiny island to

Colombo in 1974.



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Katchathe Daily Gurrent Affairsk Encyclopedia ater separating

India and Sri Lanka.

- The island itself is not the main concern, but rather the fishing rights in the surrounding waters.
- Ownership: Sri Lanka owns the island, as agreed upon by both countries in 1974.
- **Dispute**: Indian fishermen, particularly from Tamil Nadu, traditionally fished in these waters and used the island to dry their nets.
- Fishermen argue that the agreement restricts their livelihood.
- **Impact**: Frequent tensions arise as Indian fishermen cross the maritime boundary, leading to detentions and confiscation of boats by Sri Lankan authorities.

Reticon, International retinal congress, held in Chennai

- 14th edition of the International Retinal Congress, Reticon was held in Chennai About:
 - Medical professionals at the 14th edition of the International Retinal Congress, Reticon, emphasized the potential of technology in ophthalmology to improve accessibility to eye care for a wider population.
 - This suggests that technological advancements can play a significant role in bridging the gap in ophthalmic care services.
 - The day-long event, organised by Dr. Agarwal's Eye Hospital, included case presentations, video sessions, and debates on the use of artificial intelligence, gene therapy, and stem cell therapy.

Iranian film fest in Chennai

Why in news?

- The Indo Cine Appreciation Foundation and Iranian Culture House have organized a three-day Iranian film festival at Tagore Film Centre NFDC in Chennai.
- The festival will begin with the film 'No Prior Appointment' (2022) at 6.30 pm after the inaugural.
- On the following days, films such as 'Squad of Girls' (2022), 'Wolf Cubs of Apple Valley' (2020), 'Seaboys' (2022), and 'Legend of Bonasan, The Genie in the Lamp' (2021) will be screened.
- The festival aims to promote Iranian culture and cinema.

Parivahan, a global hyperloop conference (GHC

Why in news?

- The Indian Institute of Technology-Madras organised Parivahan, a global hyperloop conference (GHC).
- This was the first international conference on innovative transportation.

Key points:

- The conference aimed to introduce the futuristic concept of hyperloop to India.
- Hyperloop is a high-speed transportation system for long-distance travel, referred to as the fifth mode of transport.
- It involves an electromagnetically levitating pod within a vacuum tube that eliminates friction and air drag, allowing the pod to reach speeds up to Mach 1.0.



Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia mai DEO's voter awareness campaign bags 'elite' award

The voters awareness campaign undertaken by the District Election Office (DEO)
in Chennai received a major boost as the signature campaign undertaken in North
Chennai parliamentary

constituency has been awarded

- for maximum pledges recorded in a 12-hour time frame.
- The awards were given by the Elite World Records and Indian Records Academy.
- A total of 4,10,988 pledges were taken in 12 hours across the constituency.
- The signature and pledge campaign is part of the larger

voter outreach initiatives undertaken by the election commission.

• The DEO is undertaking targeted campaigns in areas with low voter turnout to increase polling percentage in this Lok Sabha election.



Salem youth performs 49 backward skips for Guinness glory



- A 28-year-old native of Salem district and resident of Chennai has entered the Guinness World Record books by performing the most number of backward body skips in a minute.
- B Sakthi set a new world record by performing 49 backward skips in a minute at Milan, Italy, on February 22
- He broke his earlier record of 48 skips recorded in Rome in 2018.
- In October 2015, he entered Guinness for the first time, performing 46 backward skips in Coimbatore

Malcom Adiseshiah

Award 2024 and Elizabeth Adiseshiah Citation-2024

Why in news?

- Surinder S. Jodhka, professor, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, has been chosen for the Malcom Adiseshiah Award 2024.
- Vikas Kumar, associate professor, School of Development, Azim Premji University, will receive the Elizabeth Adiseshiah Citation-2024.
- Every year, the awards are given to outstanding social scientists.

Key Points:

• It is awarded by the Malcolm and Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust.

Malcom Adiseshiah Award camies a citation and a cash prize of Rs.2 lakhs. Elizabeth Adiseshiah Award will carry a carry of the control of Rs.1 lakh. The award is open to indian and foreign scholars wolnary resident in India.



Did you know:

• Malcolm Sathiyanathan Adiseshiah (18 April 1910 – 21 November 1994) was an Indian development economist and educator.

bout Malcolm Sathiyanathan Adiseshiah:

- He was born in Vellore, Tamil Nadu.
- He obtained a doctorate in economics at the London School of Economics.
- In 1976, he was awarded the Padma Bhushan, India's third-highest civilian award.
- In 1998, UNESCO created the Malcolm Adiseshiah International Literacy Prize in recognition of his contribution to education and literacy.
- He was **nominated to the Rajya Sabha**, the upper house of the Parliament of India, in **1978**.
- He served as the Vice Chancellor of the University of Madras from 1975 to 1978.
- He was the founder of the Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS).

Importants Days

World Autism Awareness Day



- World Autism Awareness Day is observed annually on April 2nd
- It is a UN-sanctioned day to highlight the needs and rights of people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

It's a day to:

- Raise awareness: Increase public understanding of autism and the challenges faced by autistic individuals.
- **Promote acceptance:** Foster a more inclusive society where autistic people can thrive.
- Celebrate strengths: Recognize the unique talents and perspectives of the autistic community.

About:

- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), or simply autism, is a developmental condition that impacts how people interact with the world around them.
- It's characterized by: Social communication challenges: Difficulty with social interaction, understanding nonverbal cues, or expressing oneself clearly.
- Restricted interests and repetitive behaviors: A focus on specific topics, repetitive movements (stimming), or an insistence on routines.

Theme:

• The theme of World Autism Awareness Day 2024 is 'Empowering Autistic Voices'



It aims at providing more support and power to the individuals with the condition, in order to ensure they lead a meaningful life and even pursue successful careers. Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia



International Day of Mine Awareness

- The International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action is observed annually on April 4th.
- It's a day to raise awareness about the dangers of landmines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW) on civilians, particularly in conflict zones.



About:

• On 8 December 2005, the General Assembly declared that 4 April of each year shall be observed as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

Theme:

- The theme for International Day for Mine Awareness & Assistance in Mine Action 2024 is 'Protecting Lives, Building Peace.'
- It focuses on the needs and rights of people with disabilities in areas affected by conflict.
- The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) is highlighting the importance of including people with disabilities in mine action efforts and ensuring their safety and access to assistance.

National Maritime Day

- National Maritime Day is celebrated in India every year on April 5th.
- It marks the maiden voyage of the SS Loyalty in 1919, a pivotal moment symbolizing India's journey as an independent maritime nation.

Key Points:

- Recognizes the vital role of the maritime sector in India's history, economy, and development.
- Honors the contributions of seafarers and those working in the maritime industry.
- Raises awareness about the importance of maritime trade and the challenges faced by the industry.

About:

- SS Loyalty is the first Indian merchant ship to set sail under the Indian flag in 1919.
- This historic voyage, **departing from Mumbai for London**, marked a significant step towards India's independence as a maritime nation.
- The Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd., owned by the visionary industrialist Seth Walchand Hirachand Doshi, played a key role in this achievement.

Theme:

• The Theme for 2024 National Maritime Day is "Navigating the future: safety first!"

International Day of Sport for Development and Peace



International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP) is celebrated every year Daily Gurrent Affairs Encyclopedia





IDSDP recognizes the power of

sport to drive positive change.

- It's a day to acknowledge how sports and physical activity can:
- Promote peace and understanding
- Foster social development and inclusion
- Encourage health and well-being

About:

 Creating a historical link to the first modern Olympic Games in 1896, 6 April was declared the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in 2013, and has been celebrated each year since 2014.

Theme:

- The 2024 theme of IDSDP is "Sport for the Promotion of Peaceful and Inclusive Societies"
- It highlights how sports can bridge divides and create a more peaceful world.
- This day is a chance to celebrate organizations and individuals using sports to make a difference.

World Health Day

- World Health Day is celebrated annually on April 7th.
- It was established by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1948.

About:

- In 1948, the WHO held the First World Health Assembly.
- The Assembly decided to celebrate 7 April of each year, with effect from 1950, as the World Health Day.

Theme:

- The theme for World Health Day 2024 is "My health, my right".
- This theme emphasizes the importance of ensuring everyone, everywhere has access to healthcare services, information, and education to live a healthy life.

International Pageant Day

- International Pageant Day is celebrated annually on April 8th
- It honors the dedication and achievements of women who compete in pageants around the world.
- It's a day to recognize that pageants showcase not just beauty, but also personality, intelligence, and social awareness.
- India has a strong history in international beauty pageants, particularly the "Big Four": Miss Universe, Miss World, Miss Earth, and Miss International.

Key Points:

- Victories: A total of ten crowns across the Big Four, with the most success in Miss World (six wins).
- Recent win: Harnaaz Sandhu won Miss Universe 2021.



Double win years: 1994 (Sushmita Sen - Miss Universe, Aishwarya Rai - Miss World) and 2000 (Lara **Dail ym Guranons**e, **Aiffairs: Lingy dispersion**.

Theme:

• The theme for International Pageant day 2024 is "Promoting unity and global friendship"

Did you know?

• The history of the beauty pageant goes back as far as 1839.

CRPF Valour Day



- **CRPF Valour Day** is observed every year on **April 9th**.
- It honors the exceptional courage displayed by CRPF personnel at Sardar Post in the Rann of Kutch, Gujarat, in 1965.

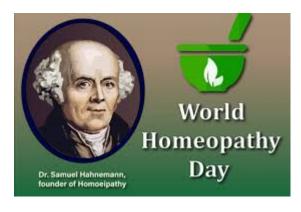
About:

• It was on this day in 1965, a small contingent of CRPF created history by defeating an invading **Pakistani**

army, several times larger, at the Sardar Post located in the Rann of Kutch, Guiarat.

The CRPF men eliminated 34 Pakistani soldiers and captured four alive.

World Homeopathy Day



- World Homeopathy Day is celebrated every year on April 10th every year
- It honors the birthday of Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of homeopathy.
- It's a day to raise awareness about this alternative medical system that uses natural substances in minimal doses to stimulate the body's healing response.

It aims to:

- Increase public understanding of homeopathy
- Improve accessibility of homeopathic treatments
- Address challenges faced by homeopathy and explore its future potential

Theme:

- The theme for World Homeopathy Day 2024 is 'Empowering Research, Enhancing Proficiency: A Homeopathy Symposium".
- This theme underscores the significance of continuous research in homeopathy and the need to upgrade capability in its training to give better medical care results.

Did you know?

• Mahendra Lal Sircar was the first Indian who became a homeopathic physician

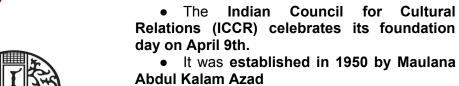


the first homeopathic medica The Calcutta Homeopathic

college was established in 1881.

Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

R Foundation Day



- He was India's first Education Minister. About:
- The day marks the beginning of India's cultural diplomacy efforts, promoting mutual understanding and cultural exchange between India and other countries.
- It marks the establishment of India's soft power diplomacy, which has been a key component of the country's foreign policy
- The ICCR Headquarter is situated at Azad Bhavan, I.P. Estate, New Delhi
- Its regional offices are in Bangalore, Chandigarh, Chennai, Cuttack, Goa, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Patna, Pune, Shillong, Thiruvananthapuram & Varanasi.

National Zoo Lovers Day





- National Zoo Lovers Day is celebrated every year on April 8th
- It's a day to celebrate our love for animals and the important role zoos play.

Key Points::

- Encourages exploration: It's a nudge to visit your local zoo and discover the amazing animals that call it home.
 - Highlights zoo contributions:
 - Zoos are involved in:
- Species conservation Breeding programs help endangered animals.
- **Education -** Zoos teach us about wildlife and habitats.
- **Research** Scientists study animals at zoos to improve their well-being.

Did you Know?

- Arignar Anna Zoological Park was the first Zoo established in the country in 1855
- Arignar Anna Zoological Park (Vandalur Zoo) in Chennai holds the title of the largest zoo in India
- Maharajbagh Zoo is the smallest zoo in India.

International Children's University Day



- Children's The International Day is a University brand new celebration launched in 2024
- It will be celebrated on April 11 every year.



Cultural



ADDAPEDIA

It's a day to recognize the limportant role of children's universities and similar programs around the world.

Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

At the last eucu.net meeting in Vienna in November 2023, 11. April was declared the International Day of Children's Universities.

Goal:

- 1. Raise awareness about children's universities and their mission of providing high-quality science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics (STEAMH) activities.
- 2. Highlight the importance of making research and science accessible to all children.
- 3. Showcase the work of children's universities and encourage more participation in these programs

International Day of Human Space Flight



- The International Day of Human Space Flight is celebrated annually on 12 April.
- It marks the anniversary of the first human space flight by Yuri Gagarin in 1961.

About:

 It was proclaimed at the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly on 7 April 2011.

Key Points:

- This day celebrates the dawn of the space age and the incredible achievements in space exploration.
- It also **highlights the importance of space science and technology** for our well-being and sustainable development.

Theme:

- The theme for International Day of Human Space Flight is "Encourage scientific curiosity".
- It urges individuals and communities to embrace curiosity as a driving force for discovery and innovation.

Did you Know?

Yuri Gagarin was the first human to travel to space.

Ambedkar Jayanti

- Ambedkar Jayanti is observed every year on April 14th.
- It commemorates the birthday of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, a revered Indian politician and social reformer.
- Also known as Bhim Jayanti or Equality Day, it honors his significant contributions to Indian society.

About:

- Dr. Ambedkar is best known as the "Father of the Indian Constitution" for his chairmanship of the drafting committee.
- A champion for equality, he fought against the caste system and advocated for the upliftment of disadvantaged communities.
- Ambedkar Jayanti is a **national holiday in India**.



ADDAPEDIA

People pay homage at his statues and memorials organize educational even and seminars, and reaffirm their commitment to social justice and equality. This day habailyd cyngrome Afairs Encyclopedia



National Fire Service Day

- India observes National Fire Service Day on April 14th each year.
- It commemorates the bravery of firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty, particularly those who died in a massive ship explosion at the **Mumbai docks in 1944**

Key Points:

- Raising Awareness: Fire safety campaigns and drills are organized to educate the public on fire prevention and preparedness.
- 2024 Theme: The theme for 2024 was "Ensure Fire Safety, Contribute Towards Nation Building."
- This emphasized the importance of fire safety for national progress

World Art Day



- World Art Day is celebrated annually on April 15th.
- It is an international celebration of the fine arts which was declared by the International Association of Art in order to promote awareness of creative activity worldwide.

About:

The idea of celebrating World
 Art Day was proposed by the
 International Association of Art (IAA)

in 2011 at the 17th General Assembly held in Guadalajara, Mexico.

• The first World Art Day was celebrated on April 15, 2012

Theme:

- The theme for World Art Day 2024 is "A Garden of Expression: Cultivating Community through Art."
- The theme encapsulates the essence of art as a vibrant and nurturing force that fosters connection, creativity, and collaboration within communities worldwide.

World Voice Day



- World Voice Day is commemorated every year on April 16th.
- It is dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of our voices.
- World Voice Day promotes voice care for everyone, from singers and teachers to business professionals and everyday individuals.
 - By taking steps to protect

our voices, we can ensure clear and effective communication throughout our lives.





The theme Dailyd Curvent Affairs. Encyclopediarate."

- This theme was chosen by the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
- It emphasizes the importance of vocal health in our lives.

Did you Know?

• World Voice Day originated in Brazil in 1999 and has now become a global event.

World Haemophilia Day



- World Hemophilia Day is observed annually on April 17th
- It raises awareness about hemophilia and other bleeding disorders.

Key Points:

- Increase understanding: Educate the public about hemophilia, a genetic condition affecting blood clotting.
- Improve diagnosis and care: Advocate for better access to diagnosis and treatment for all,

regardless of location or resources.

• **Support the community**: Celebrate the strength and resilience of those living with bleeding disorders.

About:

- World Haemophilia Day was started by the World Federation of Haemophilia in 1989
- April 17 was decided as the date to observe the health day every year to honour the founder of the organization Frank Schnabel, who played a significant role in advocating for hemophilia awareness and treatment and dedicated his life towards improving lives of those suffering from the disorder

Theme:

- The theme for this year's World Haemophilia Day is, 'Equitable access for all: recognising all bleeding disorders.'
- The main idea of this theme is to make sure everyone gets treated, no matter what type of bleeding problem they have, how old they are, where they live or their gender.

Miscellaneous/GK

Development economist Suresh Babu is the new director of MIDS

 Development economist M. Suresh Babu took charge as the new director of the Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS) on April 1, 2024.



Previously, he was a faculty imember in the Department of Humanities at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras.





Quacquarelli Symonds's World University rankings (2024)

Why in news?

- A former member of the Lok Sabha and **Dean of Pondicherry University**, expressed concern that **no educational institution from the Union Territory has secured a place in either the global or national rankings**.
- The comments were made following the release of the Quacquarelli Symonds's World University rankings (2024) list.

About World University Rankings (2024):

- The **20th edition** of the **QS World University Rankings features 1,500 institutions** across 104 locations.
- This ranking is unique as it emphasizes employability and sustainability...
- The 2024 edition introduced three new metrics:
 - Sustainability,
 - o Employment Outcomes, and
 - International Research Network.
- The top five universities in the 2024 rankings are:
 - Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
 - University of Cambridge
 - o University of Oxford
 - Harvard University
 - Stanford University