



SIVARAJAVEL IAS ACADEMY

AN IDEAL INSTITUTE FOR **CIVIL SERVICE EXAMS**

SANGAMAM

Monthly Current Affairs for Competitive Exams

MARCH - 2024 (English / Tamil)





SIVARAJAVEL IAS ACADEMY

AN IDEAL INSTITUTE FOR CIVIL SERVICE EXAMS

18+
YEARS

1450+
TNPSC...
SELECTIONS

Congratulations to our

2022 TNPSC

GROUP - I TOPPERS



RANK
01



RANK
20

MARUTHIP PRIYA.R DEEPIKA. A



RANK
30



RANK
34

BHAVADHARANI.R PECHIYAAMMAL. M



RANK
43

NALINI. S

PRE CAST 2024

**TNPSC
GROUP-I**

PRELIMS TEST SERIES

Starts on **10th** APRIL 2024

ADMISSIONS OPEN

MARCH 2024

SANGAMAM

Monthly Current Affairs for TNPSC

MARCH

DIRECTOR: SIVARAJAVEL S

EDITOR:

Elakkiya M

SUB EDITORS:

Archana S

Manivannan S

Venkatesan T

DESIGNERS:

Thomas Kalaivanan S

Kalaiselvi R



IMPORTANCE OF ELECTION

Election is a process by which the population of a country elects a government to effectively rule the country. Electoral procedure is important in a democratic democracy. One of the main reasons is because it is a government of the people, and by the people. In India, all individuals 18 years of age or older are eligible to vote in elections to elect their governments. If elections are not held, the country may descend into monarchy, dictatorship or authoritarian rule.

Why should we vote?

It will help implement the necessary changes that will improve the efficiency of our government.

It is a vital component of the long-term survival of a democracy. Without rights, a country's democracy becomes ineffective and meaningless.

Protects the minority from the oppression of the majority.

Rights are essential to democracy. Every citizen of the country has the right to participate in the democratic process.

It helps maintain law and order when some citizens try to take away the rights of others. It gives us the ability to speak up for ourselves and demand what we want from our government. It also helps in selecting a good leader to lead the government. If people have rights in a democracy, they can live with dignity.

Consequently, certain rights must be placed above the rights of the government so that they cannot be infringed upon.

Let's all vote!!!!!!



Visit us at

🌐 : www.sivarajavelias.com

📱 : <https://t.me/dhentele>

HEAD OFFICE

No.97, AF Block, Shanthi Colony, 12th Main Road,
Anna nagar West, Chennai – 600 040

Ph: 9626364444

BRANCH OFFICES

TIRUNELVELI

No.106B, 3rd floor, Gilgal Complex,
VOC ground opposite, Palayamkottai - 627 002.

Ph: 9626252500

TRICHY

No.143, 4th Floor, Lakshmi Complex, Salai Road,
Thillai Nagar, Trichy - 620 018.

Ph: 9751500300 / 9786500300

INDEX

1.	TAMILNADU NEWS.....	5
2.	NATIONAL NEWS.....	7
3.	INTERNATIONAL NEWS	11
4.	SCHEMES	14
5.	ENVIRONMENT NEWS.....	17
6.	SCIENCE AND TECH.....	20
7.	SPORTS NEWS.....	22
8.	AWARDS	23
9.	IMPORTANT DAYS.....	25
10.	DEFENCE NEWS	30
11.	ECONOMY NEWS.....	33
12.	TNPSC BITS	34
13.	JANUARY MONTH QUESTIONS	35



TAMILNADU NEWS

VinFast manufacturing - TN

- Tesla rival Vietnam's VinFast Auto is setting up an electric vehicle (EV) and battery manufacturing facility at Thoothukudi, near Chennai, which will have the capacity to produce 150,000 EVs in the first phase, aware of the developments told ET.
- The total investment in the 400-acre facility could eventually touch as much as \$1 billion or even more.
- "The plant's capacity in phase one is likely to be around 150,000 cars and VinFast is targeting manufacturing 50,000 units at the plant in the first year.
- VinFast, the EV arm of Vietnam's biggest conglomerate Vingroup, had said in October that it would build assembly factories in India and Indonesia with annual capacities of 50,000 cars each, entailing an initial capital expenditure of up to \$200 million. However, people ET spoke to said the projected investment is likely to be much larger.

new spaceport - TN

- The new spaceport sprawls over 2,233 acres
- It will complement the existing spaceport in Sriharikota
- The Tamil Nadu government has completed the land acquisition
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday laid the foundation stone for the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) second spaceport in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu.
- This ambitious project, costing Rs 950 crore, marks a pivotal moment in India's space exploration journey, promising to enhance the nation's satellite launch capabilities,

particularly for small satellites.

- The new spaceport, sprawling over 2,233 acres in the villages of Padukkapathu, Pallakurichi, and Mathavankurichi in Kulasekarapattinam and Sathankulam taluks, is expected to be operational in two years.

GI tag for 10 Agricultural products

- Tamil Nadu govt announced its plan to obtain GI tag for 10 Agricultural products
- In the past three years, applications were filed for 25 products. Agriculture minister MRK Panneerselvam said the GI tag will be obtained for Sathyamangalam red banana (Erode), Kolli Hills pepper (Namakkal), Meenambur seeraga samba (Ranipet), Ayyampalayam nettai thennai (Dindigul), Urigam puli (Krishnagiri), Bhuvanagiri mithi pagarkai (Cuddalore), Sencholam (Salem, Karur), Tirunelveli senna leaf (Tirunelveli), Odaipatti seedless grapes (Theni) and Gloriosa superba (Senkanthal seed-Karur, Dindigul, Tirupur).

4 New corporations in Tamil nadu

- The state govt has proposed to upgrade four municipalities – Pudukkottai, Namakkal, Tiruvannamalai and Karaikudi – into corporations. A govt release said chief minister M K Stalin has directed initiation of the process for the upgrade.
- As per the proposal, Pudukkottai corporation will include the town and 11 neighbouring village panchayats; Namakkal corporation will include the town and 12 neighbouring village panchayats; Tiruvannamalai corporation will include the town and 18 neighbouring village panchayats; and Karaikudi corporation will include two town panchayats and five village panchayats.

Neengal Nalamaa schemes

- With the notification for the Lok Sabha election expected in a week, Chief Minister MK Stalin on Wednesday launched a new scheme Neengal Nalamaa (Are you doing good?/ How are you?) to reach out to the public through phone or online media and ensure the government schemes reach them.
- Launching the scheme from his residence, Stalin said the title of the scheme itself shows the state government's concern for the welfare of the people.



Neengalum Nalama Scheme

- As part of the scheme, the Chief Minister said ministers, senior officials and district collectors will interact with the public on the benefits of government schemes and will ensure they are benefited. Based on the feedback from the people, steps would be taken to improve government services, he said.
- The Tamil phrase 'Neengal Nalamaa' is used to inquire about the well-being of others when they meet each other and hence the scheme's name is expected to connect with the people easily. The schemes already being implemented by the Stalin government have been titled in Tamil using frequently-used, easy-to-reach-people phrases: Naan Mudhalvan, Ungal Thoguthiyil Mudhalamaichar, Mudhalvarin Mugavari, Kala Aaivil Mudhalvar, Illam Thedi Kalvi, Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam, Magalir Vidiyal Payanam, Magalir Urimai Thogai Thittam etc.



Sudarshan Setu - longest cable-stayed bridge

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's longest cable-stayed bridge, Sudarshan Setu, which connects the Okha mainland and Beyt Dwarka island in Gujarat. The foundation of the bridge, which connects old and new Dwarka, was laid in 2017 by the Prime Minister.

Features of the Sudarshan Setu: India's Longest Cable-Stayed Bridge

- The Sudarshan Setu spans an impressive 2.32 km, which makes it India's longest cable-stayed bridge.
- The bridge has been constructed at a cost of around ₹ 980 crore and is a significant investment in the nation's infrastructure.
- The four-lane cable-stayed bridge connects the Okha mainland with Beyt Dwarka island.
- It has a total width of 27.2 meters (89 ft) with two lanes in each direction.
- The footpaths on both sides of the bridge, 2.5 meters (8 ft) wide, are adorned with verses from the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita and images of Lord Krishna, providing a unique cultural touch.
- Solar panels are installed on the sides of the footpath with a capacity of generating one megawatt of electricity.
- Sudarshan Setu aims to reduce travel time for devotees and tourists and is expected to be a major tourist attraction in Dwarka.
- The construction of the Setu addresses the transportation challenges faced by pilgrims, allowing easier and more convenient access to Beyt Dwarka. Earlier, devotees relied on boats, which limited their travel to only daytime.
- Sudarshan Setu aims to benefit around 8,500 residents on Beyt Dwarka island and accommodate approximately two million pilgrims visiting temples in the area.

BHARAT TEX 2024

- Imagine a tapestry woven from the threads of tradition and commerce, where every fabric tells a story. Celebrating the seamless fusion of culture and business and honoring the complex heritage that defines India – BHARAT TEX 2024 – a global textile mega event is being organised. It was held in New Delhi from 26-29 February with the support of the Federation of 11 Textile Export Promotion Councils and Ministry of Textiles.
- This unique platform is poised to showcase India's entire textile value chain and highlight its strengths in fashion, traditional crafts and sustainability initiatives. Bharat Tex 2024 will be a fusion of tradition and technology attracting the best and brightest from the world of textiles.

hydrogen fuel cell ferry

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually launched India's first indigenously developed hydrogen fuel cell ferry. The vessel, manufactured by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), will be deployed for service at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.
- Built at a cost of Rs 18 crore, the ferry will be handed over to the Inland Waterways Authority of India by the CSL after rigorous trials. The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways met 75 per cent of the project cost

special features of the vessel

- The Hydrogen fuel cell vessel is a 24-meter-long catamaran, which can carry 50 people in its air-conditioned passenger area. The accommodation area has been constructed with high-quality fiberglass reinforced plastic, similar to metro train coaches.
- Hydrogen fuel cell vessels do not use conventional batteries as the primary storage house of electrical energy. The vessels run on hydrogen fuel, which is stored in cylinders. This boat has five hydrogen cylinders that

can carry 40kg of hydrogen and support eight hours of operations. The vessel is also fitted with a 3-kW solar pane

India's first indigenous Fast Breeder Reactor (500 MWe)

- In a historic milestone marking entry into the vital second stage of India's three stage nuclear program, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, commencement of "Core Loading" at India's first indigenous Fast Breeder Reactor (500 MWe) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi witnessed the initiation of core loading at the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR), which generates more power than it consumes and uses the nuclear waste -- Uranium-238 -- as fuel.
- The prime minister toured the reactor vault and the control room of the PFBR along with National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Atomic Energy Commission Chairman A K Mohanty, Bhabha Atomic Research Center Director Vivek Bhasin and Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research Director B Venkataraman.

lac Bangles - (GI) tag

- The lac bangles of Hyderabad have finally made it to the geographical indication (GI) tag. This is the second Hyderabad product to get the prestigious GI tag after the mouthwatering haleem.
- The registrar of geographical indications, Chennai, the lac - bangles, thereby ending nearly two years of suspense. The application for GI tag was moved in June 2022 by Crescent Handicrafts Artisans Welfare Association, Hyderabad.

largest coal mine in Asia.

- South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL), a subsidiary of Coal India, has secured environmental clearance for its Gevra mine.
- The permit allows the company to expand the mine's production capacity to 70 million tonnes (mt) per annum, up from the current 52.5mt.
- Additionally, the expansion positions the Gevra mine to become the largest coal mine in Asia.
- The Gevra mine, a significant project for SECL, became the country's largest coal mine last year with an annual output of 52.5mt for the fiscal year 2022-23.

- For over four decades, the Gevra mine has played a crucial role in contributing to the nation's energy security.

India's first underwater metro

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first underwater metro services, an engineering marvel in itself.
- The Howrah Maidan-Esplanade section, a groundbreaking addition to the metropolitan transportation network, is acclaimed as India's first metro tunnel beneath a significant river.
- This underwater marvel, situated beneath the Hooghly River that divides Kolkata and Howrah, boasts the country's deepest metro station, the Howrah Metro station.

First-ever all-women maritime surveillance mission:

- Coinciding with International Women's Day and the 40th anniversary of INAS 318, the Andaman & Nicobar Command achieved a significant milestone by conducting its first-ever all-women maritime surveillance mission. This landmark event underscores the commitment to gender equality and recognizes the indispensable role of women in national defense.

Mission Crew

- The mission, based at INS Utkrosh, was executed by a proficient crew comprising three women officers:
- Lieutenant Commander Shubhangi Swaroop
- Lieutenant Commander Divya Sharma
- Lieutenant Vaishali Mishra
- The law was passed in 2019 to fast-track the citizenship process for non-Muslims, who have entered India from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh before December 31, 2014

CAA

- The Union home ministry notified the rules for the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) over four years after Parliament passed the law to fast-track the citizenship process for non-Muslims, who have entered India from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh before December 31, 2014, and triggered protests.
- The notification paved the way for granting citizenship to undocumented immigrants

from the three neighboring countries. The law could not come into effect as rules were not notified until now.

- Officials said the entire process for eligible people to submit applications for Indian citizenship under the law will be online.
- The rules were framed months after Union home minister Amit Shah promised that this would be done before the 2024 national polls due this summer.
- Parliament passed the CAA on December 11, 2019, and the law was notified within 24 hours. According to the parliamentary procedures, the rules for any legislation should have been framed within six months of presidential assent, or else an extension is needed from the Committees on Subordinate Legislation in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Mini Space Lab

- A small Indian space laboratory would soon be launched to demonstrate its capability to conduct biological experiments in microgravity. Indian Institute of Technology Madras is collaborating and funding a space startup Vellon Space to demonstrate a miniature space laboratory called 'AsteriX Lab' in orbit by 2025.
- The lab, during the in-orbit demonstration, will undergo space qualification to conduct biological experiments like long-duration cell culture in low earth microgravity.

New Election Commissioners

- The government notified the appointment of ex-bureaucrats Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu as election commissioners, hours after prime minister Narendra Modi-led high-powered committee sat down to fill the two vacancies in the Election Commission of India (ECI), which, prior to the new appointments, only had Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar.
- "The President is pleased to appoint Shri Gyanesh Kumar, IAS (Retd.) and Dr Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, IAS (Retd.) as Election Commissioners in the Election Commission of India with effect from the date they assume charge of their office," the Ministry of Law and Justice said in a notification.

Model Code of Conduct (MCC)

- The announcement of elections by the Election Commission of India is followed by the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), a set of guidelines for candidates and political parties during the elections. The MCC, aimed at ensuring fair elections, remains in place until the results are declared.
- Candidates and political parties must strictly adhere to the MCC guidelines, and in case of violations, the ECI can take action. The MCC also restricts governments from announcing any populist schemes in the run-up to the election.

Model Code of Conduct:

- The Model Code of Conduct is a set of guidelines issued by the Election Commission to regulate the campaigning of political parties and candidates during elections. Its main aim is to conduct free and fair elections by preventing any activities that could influence voters or disrupt the poll process.
- **happens after Model Code of Conduct is enforced:**
- Candidates are prohibited from announcing financial grants once the elections are announced.
- The government can't launch new projects or lay the foundation stones for new projects.
- Authorities can't make promises related to infrastructure development, like the construction of roads or provisions of drinking water facilities.
- Ad-hoc appointments in government or public undertakings that could influence voters are prohibited.
- Ministers or candidates cannot sanction grants or payments from discretionary funds.
- The use of government resources, including transport, machinery, and security personnel, for election campaigning is strictly prohibited.
- Municipalities must give free access to public areas for gatherings of electoral participants and politicians on equal terms.
- Rest houses, dak bungalows, or other

government facilities should not be used by any political party or candidate for poll purposes.

- The use of official mass media to offer biased news coverage of political stories and propaganda in favour of the ruling party is strictly prohibited.
- Activities such as exploiting caste and communal sentiments to influence voters, spreading rumours, and attempting to bribe or intimidate voters are not allowed.

Majuli masks – GI Tag

- The traditional Majuli masks in Assam were given a Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Centre on Monday (March 4). Majuli manuscript painting also got the GI label.
- A GI tag is conferred upon products originating from a specific geographical region, signifying unique characteristics and qualities. Essentially,

it serves as a trademark in the international market.

- Majuli, the largest river island in the world and the seat of Assam's neo-Vaishnavite tradition, has been home to the art of mask-making since the 16th century. Today, many of its traditional practitioners are working to take the art out of their traditional place in satras, or monasteries, and give them a new, contemporary life.
- The handmade masks are traditionally used to depict characters in bhaonas, or theatrical performances with devotional messages under the neo-Vaishnavite tradition, introduced by the 15th-16th century reformer saint Srimanta Sankardeva. The masks can depict gods, goddesses, demons, animals and birds — Ravana, Garuda, Narasimha, Hanuman, Varaha Surpanakha all feature among the masks.

India's first government-owned

OTT platform 'CSpace'

- Kerala launched India's first government-owned OTT platform 'CSpace' with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan terming it as a decisive step in the onward journey of Malayalam Cinema. Inaugurating CSpace,



managed by the Kerala State Film Development Corporation (KSFDC), at a function at Kairali Theatre here, the chief minister said this is a pioneering initiative that gives prominence to films with artistic and cultural value without hurting the mainstream film industry station.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India-Mauritius tax treaty

- In what could further tighten the anti-abuse provisions under the India-Mauritius tax treaty, the Mauritius Cabinet decided to amend the agreement to comply with the minimum standards of multilateral instrument (MLI) under Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) rules.
- The amendment, which is in sync with the ongoing global tax agreement, will discourage existing source-based tax exemptions claimed by the companies and will make it difficult for them to abuse the tax treaty purely for treaty shopping.
- The Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) rules under 'pillar two' model are crafted to ensure large MNCs pay a minimum level of tax on income arising in each jurisdiction they operate in.
- The BEPS MLI includes a provision to decline the shelter of a Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (if the DTAA is covered by the MLI) if the principal purpose of a business arrangement is to save tax. It is gauged by using a Principal Purpose Test, which is a minimum standard under MLI. Both India and Mauritius are signatories of MLI, however so far Mauritius had not included its DTAA with India within the scope of its MLI compliance.

Iranian research satellite

- Russia launched into space an Iranian research satellite which will scan Iran's topography from an orbit of 500 km (310 miles), Iran's state media reported.
- The remote Pars 1 research-sensing satellite, launched by a Russian Soyuz rocket from the Vostochny Cosmodrome, weighs 134 kg (295 pounds) and is equipped with three cameras.
- The cosmodrome, which came into service

in 2016, is in the Amur region of Russia's Far East, not far from the Russian border with China and about 1,500 km (930 miles) from the port of Vladivostok.

India-Sri Lanka Bilateral Relations - hybrid renewable energy systems

- In a landmark move towards sustainable energy, the Indian government and Sri Lanka have inked a deal to usher in a new era of hybrid renewable energy systems in Jaffna's islands. This initiative, funded by an \$11 million grant from India, aims to transform the energy landscape of Delft, Analativu, and Nainativu by March 2025, leveraging wind, solar, battery, and diesel power to meet the islands' needs. The project, a strategic pivot towards green energy, marks a significant shift from previous engagements, notably supplanting a Chinese energy project in the region.

Strategic Energy Shift

- This collaboration between India and Sri Lanka, facilitated by the Bangalore-based U-Solar Clean Energy Solutions, reflects a broader strategy to enhance energy security and sustainability in the region. By integrating 530 kW of wind power, 1700 kW of solar power, 2400 kWh of battery storage, and 2500 kW of standby diesel power across three islands, the project not only promises to meet the local energy demands but also sets a precedent for renewable energy initiatives in South Asia. The move aligns with growing global emphasis on reducing carbon footprints and strengthening energy independence through localized, renewable sources.
- The initiative is a testament to the strengthening ties between India and Sri Lanka, particularly in the realm of sustainable development and energy security. Through this collaboration, India's development partnership portfolio in

Sri Lanka, which totals \$5 billion, continues to support key projects across the island nation. This project, in particular, underscores the India-Sri Lanka Economic Partnership Vision, aiming to foster a more sustainable, secure, and prosperous future for the region.

world's first country to enshrine abortion rights

- France became the world's first country to enshrine abortion rights in its constitution, the culmination of an effort that began in direct response to the US Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade.
- Lawmakers from both houses of the French Parliament voted 780 to 72 in favor of the measure, easily clearing the three-fifths majority needed to amend the French constitution.
- Vote, held during a special gathering of lawmakers at the Palace of Versailles, southwest of Paris, was the final step in the legislative process. The French Senate and National Assembly each overwhelmingly approved the amendment earlier this year.
- The amendment states that there is a "guaranteed freedom" to abortion in France. Some groups and lawmakers had called for stronger language to explicitly call abortion a "right."
- Lawmakers hailed the move as a history-making way for France to send a clear signal of support on reproductive rights, with abortion under threat in the United States, as well as in parts of Europe, like Hungary, where far-right parties have come to power.
- Following the vote, the Eiffel Tower was lit up with the words "my body my choice."

India free trade agreement

- India and four-nation European bloc EFTA signed a free trade agreement to help promote investments and exports of key domestic services sectors such as IT, audio-visual, and movement of skilled professionals.
- The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) members are Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland.

- The trade agreement symbolizes our shared agreement to open fair, equitable trade, as well as generate growth and employment for the youth."

Iceland's Violent Volcanic Eruption

- A state of emergency has been declared in southern Iceland after another volcanic eruption on the Reykjanes Peninsula – the fourth since December.
- The powerful and fast lava flows began late– but flows have been "slow and steady" since, the Icelandic Met Office (IMO) said.
- Lava reached the eastern defenses around the small, mostly evacuated town of Grindavik.
- The IMO said lava was 200 meters from the region's water pipe.
- The distribution pipe is close to the Svartsengi power plant, a geothermal plant that provides hot water for most of the Reykjanes Peninsula.
- The head of department at the Norwegian Meteorological agency said there could be "dangerous" consequences if lava reaches the sea as it flows southwards.

Tourism capital of Nepal - Pokhara

- Prime Minister Prachanda announcement at Pokhara declaring it the "tourism capital of Nepal".
- The Pokhara international airport built by China was declared ready for commercial operation in January 2022, but remained unused ever since, as the governments of Nepal and China have conflicted over whether it was a project under the Belt and Road Initiative or not, with Nepal sticking to the latter status.
- The announcement coincided with Nepal's final preparation to secure Chinese aid to build the Nepal-China Industrial Friendship Park in nearly 4,000 acres, with the possibility of it extending to 6,600 acres in east Nepal's Jhapa along north Bengal border.
- The park and a 327-MegaWatt upper Marsyangdi hydroenergy project are likely to be formalised at Kathmandu's Investment summit on April 29-30, Pradhyunna Upadhyaya, spokesperson of the Nepal Investment Board told

Vladimir Putin – fifth president of Russia

- Vladimir Putin secured an unprecedented fifth term as president of Russia, as the election

commission announced the results of a vote in which he faced no serious challenges and which happened amid the strictest crackdown on opposition and free speech since Soviet times.

Frist Women CM - Pakistan

- Senior PML-N leader Maryam Nawaz, the daughter of three-time former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, became the first-ever woman chief minister of a province in Pakistan when she was elected to head the Punjab province, describing it as an ‘honour’ for every woman in the country.



- Maryam, the 50-year-old senior vice president of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party, won the chief ministerial elections amidst a walkout by lawmakers of former prime minister Imran Khan’s party-backed Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC).



Amrit Bharat Station Scheme

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated around 2,000 railway infrastructure projects worth over Rs 41,000 crore. The PM said these works will further improve 'ease of living' for the people.
- "In order to enhance the travel experience, 553 stations will be redeveloped under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. The foundation stones for these stations would be laid. Overbridges and underpasses across India will also be inaugurated.
- These 553 stations, spread across 27 states and union territories are being redeveloped at over Rs 19,000 crore.
- These stations will act as 'City Centres' integrating both sides of the city. They will have modern passenger amenities like roof plaza, beautiful landscaping, inter modal connectivity, improved modern façade, kids play area, kiosks, food courts, etc. They will be redeveloped as environment friendly and also Divyang friendly. The design of these station buildings will be inspired by local culture, heritage and architecture.

National Coal Logistics Plan and Policy

- Union Minister for Coal, Mines, and Parliamentary Affairs, Pralhad Joshi, announced the launch of the National Coal Logistics Plan and Policy, 2023 on February 29. The policy aims to enhance railway utilization in coal transportation to over 87 percent by FY 2029-30, anticipating a surge in coal consumption from 980 million tons to 1.5 billion tons by 2030. Key objectives include cost savings, reduced environmental impact, and enhanced efficiency in coal logistics.
- Transformative Railway-Based Approach
- Shift from road-based to railway-based first mile connectivity (FMC) projects.

SCHEMES

- Target: 14 percent reduction in rail logistic costs, resulting in annual savings of Rs 21,000 crore.
- Expected reduction in carbon emissions by approximately 100,000 tonnes per annum.
- Anticipated 10 percent decrease in average wagon turnaround time nationwide.

Multi-Modal Connectivity Initiatives

- Integration of Rail-Sea-Rail (RSR) transportation witnessing 50 percent growth over five years.
- Expansion plans aiming for 120 MT by FY 2030.
- Execution of eight railway projects funded by coal companies in Odisha-Chhattisgarh-Jharkhand.
- Completion of 31 FMC projects out of 103, with a capacity of 291 MT, costing Rs 24,000 crore.

Infrastructure Development and Future Plans

- Emphasis on energy corridor projects including new railway line construction and capacity augmentation.
- Importance of maintaining momentum for coal's role in India's energy security and economic growth.
- Identification of 37 critical railway projects aligned with PM Gati Shakti for future coal evacuation demand.

Innovative Policy Framework

- Development of a sector-specific logistics policy through collaborative efforts with stakeholders.
- Incorporation of suggestions from stakeholders to refine the policy for maximum effectiveness.
- The Coal Ministry becoming the first Government of India ministry to introduce such a comprehensive logistics policy.

Prime Minister's rooftop solar scheme

- To promote Prime Minister's rooftop solar scheme for domestic consumers, India Post has said willing consumers can approach the nearby post office to know how to register for the scheme and get subsidy. The Union govt announced in the budget that under the new solar rooftop scheme, consumers can get subsidy of 30,000 per kW up to three kW, and 18,000 per kW for connections above 3kW.
- Consumers can apply on the designated web portal and vendors would install the rooftop solar panels. Tangedco would provide meter and effect a connection to absorb the solar energy generated into the grid. Apart from the existing options, India Post has now pitched in to help consumers and guide them to apply for the scheme and avail the subsidy. While the Union govt has set up a target of 1 crore domestic rooftop solar connections this year, Tangedco wants to effect 25 lakh connection in the said period and has instructed field officers to educate consumers.
- According to officials, the beneficiary should be of marriageable age and not a government employee, pensioner or income tax payer. To avail the benefits, the beneficiary will have to apply within one year from the date of remarriage and submit the death certificate of her late husband.
- Government employees, pensioners and income tax payers have been kept out of this scheme, they said. Child Development and Social Welfare Secretary Manoj Kumar said women who are alone in society after the death of their life partners become helpless and may make a fresh start again. The state will provide financial assistance to all such widows if they choose to get married again, he said.

Central Govt Annapurna Yojana Scheme

- Annapurna Yojana is being implemented by the central government so that women can progress in all fields at par with men and so that women can earn by doing self-employment.
- Self-Employment: Correspondingly, the number of self-employed women is increasing now.. As this number of women needs to increase further and capital is a major problem for self-employment, many women are unable to start their own business. Annapurna Yojana was brought for them.
- Under the Annapurna scheme, a food self-sufficiency scheme of the central government, Rs. 50,000 is given as bank loan. This amount can be used to buy utensils, cooking utensils, food items, dining table etc

Vidhwa Punarvivaah Protsahan Yojana

- In a first of its kind initiative in the country, Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren launched 'Vidhwa Punarvivaah Protsahan Yojana' (widow remarriage incentive scheme) under which, women who chose to get married again after the death of their husbands, will be given an incentive of Rs 2 lakh by the government.

Jal Shakti Abhiyan - 2024

- The Ministry of Jal Shakti launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain-2024' to optimise rainwater harvesting and other sustainable water management practices.
- Speaking at the launch of the campaign here in the national capital, Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat emphasised the pivotal role of women in water management, conservation, and sustainability.
- The event themed Nari Shakti se Jal Shakti', which marked the fifth edition of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan, was held at the New Delhi Municipal Council Convention Centre.
- Under Nari Shakti se Jal Shakti', the campaign seeks to establish a strong connection between women empowerment and the sustainable management of water resources.

Mission Divyastra

- PM Modi announces successful maiden flight test of Agni-5 missile with MIRV technology, code-named Mission Divyastra, boosting India's defence capability.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that India successfully carried out the maiden flight test of the locally developed Agni-5 missile with multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicle (MIRV) technology, with the new capability allowing the weapon system to deliver multiple nuclear warheads against different targets spread across hundreds of kilometres, and further strengthening the country's strategic deterrence capability.

- Women's empowerment is the key to building a strong and developed nation. This is especially the case when women flourish economically and contribute to rural prosperity.

Pilot Project:

- The central government is set to launch a pilot programme in Chandigarh that will offer cashless treatment to the victims of road accidents. Based on its outcome, the cashless treatment facility may be extended nationwide.
- The initiative aims to stem road accident fatalities by ensuring timely care for the victims, particularly within the critical first hour after the trauma, also referred to as the golden hour.

- The Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY and the National Health Authority (NHA) will be the implementing agency for the pilot programme.
- The facility extends to road accidents caused by the use of motor vehicles across all road categories.
- Under the initiative, victims can avail cashless treatment up to a maximum of Rs. 1.5 lakh per accident for a maximum period of seven days from the date of accident. Furthermore, victims can opt for treatment under Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY packages for trauma and polytrauma. The claims raised by the hospitals for providing treatment will be reimbursed from the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund.

NAMO Drone Didi Scheme

- NAMO Drone Didi — an initiative announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 30 during interaction with beneficiaries in Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra. It is an excellent



example of harnessing technological innovation to empower rural women.

- NAMO Drone Didi — an initiative aims to supply drones to 15,000 women Self Help Groups (SHGs) to rent to farmers for agriculture purposes.

About :

- This multifaceted scheme effectively

addresses the need to modernise our agricultural practices and increase agricultural productivity by placing cutting-edge technology in the hands of rural women.

- This makes them the epicentre of the rural economy, spearheading the new agricultural revolution.
- The scheme also opens up new opportunities for the country's young and dynamic start-ups to enter the emerging field of drone aeronautics, which has huge untapped potential.
- The scheme approves holistic interventions by converging the resources and efforts of Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW), Department of Rural development (DoRD) and Department of Fertilizers (DoF), Women SHGs and Lead Fertilizer Companies (LFCs).
- It is envisaged that the approved initiatives under the scheme will provide sustainable business and livelihood support to 15,000 SHGs and they would be able to earn additional income of at least Rs. One lakh per annum.

green anaconda

- Researchers in the Amazon have discovered the world's largest snake species - an enormous green anaconda - in Ecuador's rainforest that split off from its closest relatives 10 million years ago though they still nearly look identical to this day.
- scale of these 20-foot-long (6.1-meter-long) reptiles as one of the researchers, Dutch biologist Freek Vonk, swims alongside a giant 200-kilo (441-pound) specimen.

leopard population

- Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav released a report on the status of leopards in the country. The report suggests a stable leopard population in India at 13,874 as compared to 12,852 in 2018.
- The report is based on the fifth cycle of the leopard population estimation conducted by the National Tiger Conservation Authority and Wildlife Institute of India. This exercise covered 70% of leopard habitats across 18 tiger states in four major tiger conservation landscapes.
- The report revealed that the leopard population is estimated to be stable or slightly growing in Central India at 8,820 individuals compared to 8,071 in 2018, indicating a 1.5% annual growth rate.

management of six rivers

- Jal Shakti Ministry has signed agreement with 12 technical education institutions for academic and research collaboration towards basin management of six rivers. These are Narmada, Godavari, Mahanadi, Krishna,

Cauvery and Periyar. This agreement was signed under the National River Conservation Plan.

- Speaking on the occasion, Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said, several efforts were made by the government to clean the river Ganga. He said, due to better planning and proper implementation, today UNESCO has included Namami Gange Mission among the ten best conservation and revitalization campaigns in the world. Mr Shekhawat said, to make river conservation a mass movement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi linked it to livelihood and gave the principle of Arth Ganga. The Minister also stressed the need to enhance inter-state cooperation and coordination in river related matters.

world's smallest vertebrate

- A tiny frog from the state of Bahia on Brazil's Atlantic coast now holds the title of world's smallest vertebrate.

S
M
A
L
L
E
S
T



At 7mm (0.27 inches) long, Paedophryne amauensis may be the world's smallest vertebrate - the group that includes mammals, fish, birds and amphibians.

- The Brazilian flea toad, or *Brachycephalus pulex*, was first discovered in 2011—despite its name, it's technically a frog, not a toad. Researchers immediately suspected that the creature might break the record for the smallest frog and vertebrate on Earth, but it wasn't until a new study that scientists systematically measured the lengths of males and females of the species.
- Male frogs are smaller, averaging 7.10 millimeters in length, the team reported this month in the journal *Zoologica Scripta*. A previous study of the previous record-holder frog, *Paedophryne amauensis*, found that the average length of its males was 7.70 millimeters.
- Vitamin D Enrichment Technology Fabricated low-cost device for ELM oyster mushroom. 2.12 grams of mushroom exposed to 100 watts UV-B light for 10 minutes fulfil the recommended dietary allowance. Enriched vitamin D levels sustained for 6 months.
- Arka Fresh Cut Fruit Technology Ready to Eat (Jackfruit, Pineapple & Papaya). Free from added preservatives/ additives. Shelf life by 8-10 days stored at 8°C. Entrepreneurial opportunities with IIHR and BESST HORT

The National Horticulture Fair 2024

- ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru, Karnataka is organizing a mega event “National Horticulture Fair - 2024” from March 5 - 7, 2024 in collaboration with the Society for Promotion of Horticulture (SPH); BESST- HORT, a Technology Business Incubator ICAR-IIHR; ICAR-ATARI Bengaluru and leading development departments serving for the cause and promotion of horticulture and allied sectors.

Key Highlights of NHF2024

- Arka Nihira (F1) Hybrid with yield potential of 30 tonnes of green chilli and 7.5 tonnes of dry chilli per hectare, resistant to Phytophthora root rot & Chilli leaf curl virus.
- Arka Bhiringraj highly vigorous, Erect plant type producing high dry biomass yield 6 to 6.5 tonnes per hectare and Wedelolactone content of 0.5 - 0.6 percent.
- Arka Vertical Farming Module 11 tiered vertical structure with both side utility and each tier measures 6 x 1 x 1 feet, loading capacity 2 tonnes, 80 percent water saving and 2.18 Benefit to Cost ratio.
- Arka Onion Bulblet Planter Field planting capacity of 0.12 hectare per hour, simultaneous bund forming cum planting. Labour efficient (35%) & Reduced drudgery.
- The 2023-24 El Nino phenomenon, experienced globally, is one of the five strongest on record, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) stated on March 5, 2024.
- The El Nino peaked in December and is weakening gradually. However, it is likely to continue its impact on global climate in the coming months, thereby fuelling the heat trapped by greenhouse gases from human activities, the WMO said in a statement.
- “The current El Nino event, which developed in June 2023, was at its strongest between November and January. It displayed a peak value of about 2.0°C above the 1991 to 2020 average sea surface temperature for the eastern and central tropical Pacific Ocean. This made it one of the five strongest El Nino events ever, though it was weaker than the 1997-98 and 2015-16 events,” the statement added.
- The WMO predicted above normal temperatures across almost all land areas for three months, between March and May. It is likely to affect regional rainfall patterns.
- “Every month since June 2023 has set a new monthly temperature record — and 2023 was by far the warmest year on record. El Nino has contributed to these record temperatures, but heat-trapping greenhouse gases are unequivocally the main culprit,” WMO Secretary-General Celeste Saulo was quoted as saying in the statement.

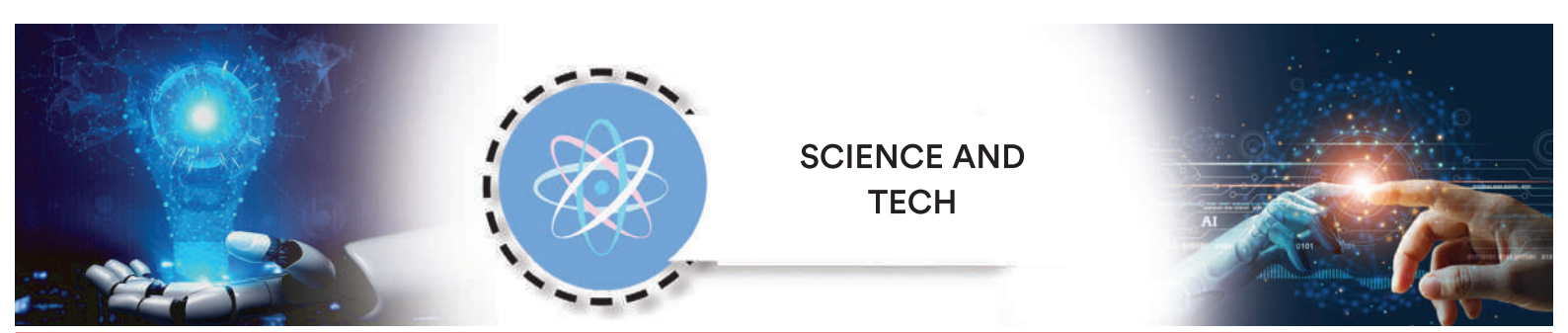
Supreme Court bans tiger safaris



- In a significant development, the Supreme Court, announced a ban on tiger safaris within Uttarakhand's Jim Corbett National Park. The apex court's order specified that tiger safaris would now only be permitted in the peripheral and buffer zones surrounding the national park.
- This decision is part of the court's broader effort to safeguard the natural habitat of these majestic creatures and mitigate the potential impact of tourism on the core areas of the forest reserve.
- While permitting the creation of tiger safaris in the peripheral and buffer zones, the Supreme Court has imposed rigorous conditions to safeguard wildlife and the environment. This decision aims to strike a careful balance between promoting tourism and preserving the integrity of the delicate ecosystems within the Jim Corbett National Park.

Global Climate 2023 report

- The State of the Global Climate 2023 report shows that records were once again broken, and in some cases smashed, for greenhouse gas levels, surface temperatures, ocean heat and acidification, sea level rise, Antarctic sea ice cover and glacier retreat.
- Heatwaves, floods, droughts, wildfires, and rapidly intensifying tropical cyclones caused misery and mayhem, upending everyday life for millions and inflicting many billions of dollars in economic losses.
- The WMO report confirmed that 2023 was the warmest year on record, with the global average near-surface temperature at 1.45 °Celsius (with a margin of uncertainty of ± 0.12 °C) above the pre-industrial baseline. It was the warmest ten-year period on record.



SCIENCE AND TECH

Krutrim

- Krutrim, an Artificial Intelligence start-up launched by Ola founder Bhavish Aggarwal, has rolled out an AI chatbot in public beta, similar to OpenAI's ChatGPT and Google's Gemini. The launch comes a month after Krutrim disclosed a \$50-million financing at \$1-billion valuation, to become the country's first start-up unicorn in 2024. The company mentioned that it is the first AI unicorn in the country. Matrix Partners India led the funding round.
- Krutrim unveiled its AI models in December last year. At the time, the start-up also showcased the AI chatbot. Krutrim's AI models can understand over 20 Indian languages and generate text in 10 Indian languages, including Bengali, Tamil, Malayalam, Gujarati, and Marathi. A higher and more sophisticated version, Krutrim Pro is anticipated to be available in Q4 FY24.
- "Krutrim marks the dawn of a new era in the AI computing stack for our nation. We will aim to innovate alongside the world and define future paradigms," said Aggarwal.

Krutrim's ambitions

- Krutrim, 'artificial' in Sanskrit, will come in two sizes: a base model named Krutrim trained on 2 trillion tokens and unique datasets, and a larger, more complex model called Krutrim Pro, launching next quarter for advanced problem-solving and task execution capabilities.
- Krutrim Pro, launching in Q4 FY24, will be multimodal in nature, which means it can understand and work with different formats, including text, audio, image, and video, at the same time. It will also have larger knowledge, advanced problem-solving and task execution capabilities.

most luminous object

- Astronomers studying very faint objects originally detected by the Infrared Astronomical Satellite (IRAS) have discovered a new, very distant object which they say is the most luminous object ever seen in the universe.
- The observations, published in the British science journal Nature, show that the luminous object is a massive dust cloud which radiates 99 percent of its light in the infrared part of the spectrum.
- The team of astronomers believe that this mysterious cloud may be a massive galaxy in the process of formation -- or, alternatively, a quasar embedded in the dust of a massive galaxy.

About

- Astronomers define the luminosity of an object as the total amount of energy emitted at all wavelengths. The luminosity of this newly found object is an incredible 300 trillion times that of the sun, or 30,000 times that of our entire Milky Way Galaxy, which itself consists of hundreds of billions of stars like the sun. This tremendous energy output is greater even than the most luminous known quasars, which were discovered in visible or ultraviolet light. Quasars are thought to derive their immense power from the presence of massive black holes in their centers.

Gaganyaan mission - names of the four astronauts

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the names of the four astronauts that will fly to low-Earth orbit as part of the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Gaganyaan, which will be the first crewed Indian space mission. The PM made the announcement while visiting the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

- Group Captain Prashanth Balakrishnan Nair, Angad Prathap, Ajit Krishnan and Shubanshu Shukla have been selected to be the astronauts on India's first crewed mission to space. They are all either wing commanders or group captains in the Indian Air Force (IAF) and have extensive experience working as test pilots, which means they are already trained to be prepared to respond quickly in situations where something goes wrong.
- The four astronauts have been undergoing training at the space agency's astronaut training facility in Bengaluru. The selection of the astronauts happened at IAF's Institute of Aerospace Medicine. Only three of them will eventually go to space as part of the Gaganyaan mission.
- ISRO and Glavkosmos (a subsidiary of Russian space agency Roscosmos) signed a memorandum of understanding for the training of four astronauts in June 2019. The four astronauts trained at Russia's Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Centre in February 2020 till March 2021.
- The Gaganyaan mission will demonstrate India's human spaceflight capability by launching astronauts to an orbit 400 kilometres above the Earth for a 3-day mission. After that, they will be brought back to Earth safely with a landing in Indian sea waters.

new lunar members

- The Solar System has some new lunar members—the first new moon of Uranus discovered in more than 20 years, and likely the smallest, as well as two new moons of Neptune, one of which is the faintest moon ever discovered by ground-based telescopes. The discoveries were announced today by the International Astronomical Union's Minor Planet Center.
- "The three newly discovered moons are the faintest ever found around these two ice giant planets using ground-based telescopes," explained Carnegie Science's Scott S. Sheppard. "It took special image processing to reveal such faint objects."

- The new Uranian member brings the ice giant planet's total moon count to 28. At only 8 kilometers, it is probably the smallest of Uranus' moons. It takes 680 days to orbit the planet. Provisionally named S/2023 U1, the new moon will eventually be named after a character from a Shakespeare play, in keeping with the naming conventions for outer Uranian satellites.

Sangam: Digital Twin' initiative

- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT), through the Telecom Center of Excellence (TCOE), has launched the groundbreaking 'Sangam: Digital Twin' initiative to revolutionize infrastructure planning and management. The first outreach programme was held at IIT Delhi on March 7, 2024, under the theme "Bridging the gap between Innovation and Planning."
- Theme 1: Journey from Physical world to Real time Intelligent Virtual World
- Theme 2: Breathing Life into Digital Twins: Dynamic Data Integration
- Theme 3: Innovative Frontiers: Shaping the Future with Digital Twins and Advanced Technologies
- Theme 4: Building the Future Together -Going global

AGNIBAAAN SORTED ROCKET

- Agnikul Cosmos, a private aerospace company, is all set to conduct the maiden test of its under-development launch vehicle to demonstrate the reliability of a homegrown system.
- The Sub-Orbital Technology Demonstrator (SOrTeD) mission will last just over two minutes, from launch to splashdown, and yet it could pave the way for the next generation of satellite launchers from the country.
- The SOrTeD mission is a single-stage launch vehicle demonstration that will be powered by a semi-cryogenic engine, the Agnilet, a sub-cooled liquid oxygen-based propulsion system developed indigenously.



SPORTS NEWS



Indian shooters - Gold Medal

- Paris Olympics quota winners Akhil Sheoran and Anish Bhanwala won a gold medal each as Indian shooters ended their Polish Grand Prix campaign with six medals.
- Sheoran won gold in the men's 50m rifle 3-positions Match 2 with a record score of 468.4.
- Patrik Jany of the Czech Republic was 2.2 points behind at second spot at the Grand Prix Wroclawia & Dolnego Slaska.

WPL 2024 – RCB won the Title



- Royal Challengers Bangalore Women finally ended their franchise's trophy drought as they won the Women's Premier League 2024 (WPL 2024) beating Delhi Capitals Women (DC-W) in the final by eight wickets on Sunday, March 18 at Arun Jaitley Stadium, Delhi. After opting to bat first, Delhi were

bundled out for 113 in 18.3 overs with Shreyanka Patil (4/12) and Sophie Molineux starring with the ball.

- In reply, RCB chased down the target in 19.3 overs as Smriti Mandhana (31 off 39), Sophie Devine (32 off 27), Ellyse Perry (35* off 37) and Richa Ghosh (17* off 14) made valuable contributions. As a result, they etched their names in the history books as the winners of the second edition of the WPL.



Honorary Knighthood

- Bharti Enterprises founder and chairman, Sunil Bharti Mittal, has become the first Indian citizen to receive an Honorary Knighthood.
- The award was conferred by King Charles III, granting Mittal the title of Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (KBE), recognising his contributions to fostering stronger business ties between India and the UK.

Nammazhvar awards

- The state government has announced Nammazhvar awards for 2023-24 for three farmers, including one from Thanjavur, for practising and promoting organic farming and hand-holding fellow organic farmers. A statement said K Siddhar of Maharnombu Chavadi in Thanjavur has bagged the top award which carries a cash prize of ` 2.50 lakh and citation.
- K V Pazhanisamy from Pongalur in Tirupur district who came second will get ` 1.5lakh and K Ezhilan of Achukattu in Kancheepuram district ` 1 lakh.

Bob Jones Award

- Legendary golfer Tiger Woods has been named the winner of the prestigious Bob Jones Award, the highest honor bestowed by the United States Golf Association (USGA). He was recognized for tremendous on-course achievements alongside an exemplary commitment to the game's traditions and integrity.

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar)

- President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, will confer the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar) for the years 2022

and 2023 to 94 eminent artists. The awards are given in various fields of performing arts, including music, dance, drama, folk & tribal arts, puppetry, and allied theatre art forms.

- In addition to the Akademi Awards, President Murmu will also bestow the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship (Akademi Ratna) to 7 eminent artists (one joint fellowship). The Akademi Fellowship is the highest honour given to artists in the field of performing arts for their exceptional contributions to their respective art forms. The fellowship is a prestigious and rare honour, with a maximum of 40 recipients.

President's Colours Award

- President Droupadi Murmu awarded the prestigious President's Standard to No. 45 Squadron and No. 221 Squadron, and the President's Colours to 11 Base Repair Depot (BRD) and 509 Signal Unit (SU) of the IAF in a ceremony at IAF station, Hindan.
- President's Standard and Colours are the highest honour awarded to any military unit. This is the first time in the history of the IAF that four units have been awarded the President's Standard and Colours together in a single ceremony. In her address, Murmu commended the units for their services to the nation.

Measles and Rubella Champion Award

- In recognition of country's tireless efforts to combat Measles and Rubella, India has been bestowed with the prestigious Measles and Rubella Champion Award by The Measles and Rubella Partnership at the American Red Cross Headquarters in Washington D.C., USA on March 6th, 2024. Ambassador Sripriya Ranganathan, Deputy Chief of Mission,

Embassy of India, Washington D.C. received the award on behalf of the Ministry of Health

and Family Welfare, Government of India.

96th Oscar Awards



- The 96th Academy Awards ceremony, which was presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), and took place on March 10, 2024, at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles. During the show, the AMPAS presented Academy Awards (commonly referred to as Oscars) in 23 categories honoring films released in 2023. Comedian Jimmy Kimmel hosted the show for the fourth time, following the 89th ceremony in 2017, the 90th ceremony in 2018, and the 95th ceremony in 2023.

- The nominations were announced on January 23, 2024. Oppenheimer led with 13 nominations, followed by Poor Things and Killers of the Flower Moon with 11 and 10, respectively. Oppenheimer won a leading seven awards, including Best Picture and Best Director. Other major winners were Poor Things with four awards and The Zone of Interest with two. The films which went home with one award each include American Fiction, Anatomy of a Fall, Barbie, The Boy and the Heron, Godzilla Minus One, The Holdovers, and 20 Days in Mariupol. The

telecast drew 19.5 million viewers in the United States, becoming the most watched awards show since 2020.

Erasmus Prize

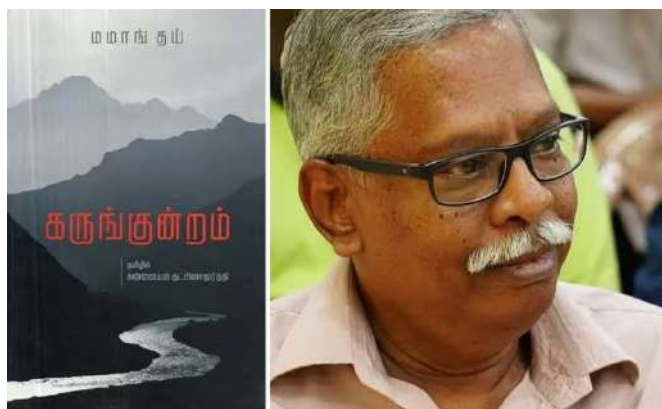
- Indian writer Amitav Ghosh is the winner of this year's Erasmus Prize, for his writings on the planetary crisis and climate change.
- The Praemium Erasmianum Foundation in the Netherlands awards the prize annually for an organisation or individual's "exceptional contributions" in the fields of the humanities, social sciences or arts in Europe and the rest of the world.

- Many of Ghosh's works including The Great Derangement and The Nutmeg's Curse dwell on the ongoing planetary crisis and are interlinked with the impacts of climate change.

Sangita Kalanidhi award

- Renowned Carnatic musician and Magsaysay Award winner T M Krishna, who is also an author and a champion of social causes, will be conferred the prestigious Sangita Kalanidhi award by The Music Academy, Madras.

Sahitya Akademi Translation Prize 2023



- Writer Kannaiyan Dakshnamurthy's book 'Karunkundram' has been selected for Sahitya Akademi Translation Prize 2023. Kannaiyan Dakshnamurthy has translated Mamang Dai's English novel 'The Black Hill' into Tamil.
- The executive board of the Sahitya Akademi which met at New Delhi on Monday approved selection of 24 books for the said prize which relates to translations first published between January 2017 and December 2021.



IMPORTANT DAYS



DATE	DAY	THEME AND OBJECTIVES
March - 1	Zero Discrimination Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero Discrimination Day is an annual day celebrated on 1 March each year by the United Nations and other international organizations. The day aims to promote equality before the law and in practice throughout all of the member countries of the UN. The commemoration of Zero Discrimination Day 2024, with the theme, "To protect Everyone's Health, Protect Everyone's Rights."
March - 1	World Civil Defence Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every year on March 1, the world comes together to celebrate World Civil Defence Day. This international event serves as a crucial reminder of the importance of being prepared for emergencies and disasters. The theme of World Civil Defense Day 2024 is "Honor Heroes and Promote Safety Skills." The theme emphasizes on the crucial aspects of building a resilient and secure community.
March - 3	World Wildlife Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 20 December 2013, the Sixty-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly decided to proclaim 3 March as World Wildlife Day to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild fauna and flora. He stressed the importance of wildlife, noting that without wildlife, humanity could not exist. The News Agency of Nigeria NAN reports that the theme of the 2024 World Wildlife Day is: "Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation".

March - 4	World Day of Fight Against Sexual Exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The World Day of Fight Against Sexual Exploitation is annually observed across the globe on 4 March to raise awareness and promote action against sexual exploitation. The day aims to protect vulnerable individuals from sexual exploitation and provide support to victims of sexual abuse.
March - 4	National safety day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This day emphasises the significance of lowering the number of workplace accidents as well as the topics that are still unaddressed by safety laws. The National Safety Council of India (NSC) was established on March 4, 1966, by the Indian government's Ministry of Labour. To focus on Safety Leadership, this year we have derived the theme for NSD 2024 as "Focus on Safety Leadership for ESG Excellence". We appeal our member organisations and others to adopt the theme, encourage all employees to enthusiastically observe the NSD and take all necessary measures towards achieving the aim.
March - 8	International Women's Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Women's Day is a holiday celebrated annually on March 8 as a focal point in the women's rights movement. IWD gives focus to issues such as gender equality, reproductive rights, and violence and abuse against women. The theme for International Women's Day 2024 has been decided as 'Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress' according to the official website of the United Nations.
March - 11	World Kidney Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Kidney Day is a global health awareness campaign focusing on the importance of the kidneys and reducing the frequency and impact of kidney disease and its associated health problems worldwide. World Kidney Day is observed annually on the 2nd Thursday in March. The World Kidney Day Joint Steering Committee has declared 2024 to be the year of "Kidney Health for All – Advancing equitable access to care and optimal medication practice".

March – 14	International Day of Action for Rivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The International Day of Action for Rivers is in its 25th year this year. It is a day aimed at preserving, celebrating, and raising awareness about our life giving supply of water. If rivers are to be conserved and used for economic purposes, people must be dedicated to river management across national borders. • The International Day Of Action For Rivers 2024 theme is 'Water for All', which demands that the rivers be declared a national asset. It also includes the legal right to stop the rivers from getting into dumping sites of waste or sewage.
March – 15	World Consumer Rights Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrating the day is a chance to demand that the rights of all consumers are respected and protected, and to protest against market abuses and social injustices which undermine those rights. World Consumer Rights Day is globally recognised with support from the United Nations and other international actors. • 'Fair and Responsible AI For Consumers' is the timely theme for World Consumer Rights Day observed annually on March 15th. The theme advocates for ethical AI that upholds consumer rights as AI influences goods and services more and more. • `
March – 16	National Vaccination Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of India observes 16 March as National Vaccination Day to acknowledge and appreciate the hard work of frontline health care workers to ensure the vaccination of every child. India has made remarkable progress in scaling up routine immunization through intensified vaccination drives. • 2024: A CALL TO ARMS AGAINST POLIO • With the theme "Vaccines Work For All" resonating throughout the country, India's National Immunization Day serves as a rallying call for communities to come together in the fight against polio
March - 18	Ordnance Factory Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ordnance Factory Day is celebrated every year on March 18 in India to commemorate the establishment of the first Ordnance Factory in India at Cossipore near Kolkata in 1801. This day is celebrated to honour the contribution of the Indian Ordnance Factories (IOFs) in strengthening the country's defence capabilities. • Ordnance Factories Day 2024 theme is "Operational Efficiency, Readiness, and Mission Accomplishment in the Maritime Domain".

<p>March - 20</p>	<p>World Sparrow Day</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every year on March 20, people celebrate World Sparrow Day. It is designated to raise awareness about sparrow conservation and protection, as their numbers are declining globally. The first commemoration of the day occurred in 2010. • The theme for World Sparrow Day in 2024 is “Sparrows: Give them a tweet-chance!” , “I Love Sparrows ” and “We Love Sparrows” . The main goal is to spread awareness about the increasing pollution worldwide. Pollution is the main cause of the extinction of many species of birds and animals.
<p>March - 20</p>	<p>International Day of Happiness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Day of Happiness is celebrated on 20 March every year. The purpose of this day is to know the value of happiness in one's life and create awareness around it. The General Assembly of the United Nations passed a resolution on 12 July 2012 and proclaimed 20 March the International Day of Happiness. • Let's carry the torch of happiness forward, spreading joy wherever we go. At this time of uncertainty and conflict, this year's 'Happier Together' theme reminds us that lasting happiness comes from feeling connected to others and being part of something bigger. • .
<p>March - 21</p>	<p>International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on the day the police in Sharpeville, South Africa, opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration against apartheid "pass laws" in 1960. • In 1979, the General Assembly adopted a programme of activities to be undertaken during the second half of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. On that occasion, the General Assembly decided that a week of solidarity with the peoples struggling against racism and racial discrimination, beginning on 21 March, would be organized annually in all States. • The theme “People of African descent: recognition, justice and development.”

March - 21	World Forestry Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The history of the International Day of Forests can be traced back to 1971 when the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) established World Forestry Day. The day was established to create and raise awareness of the importance of forests for people and the planet. In 2024, the theme is 'Forests and innovation: New solutions for a better world'.
March - 21	World Water Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Water Day, held on 22 March every year since 1993, is an annual United Nations Observance focusing on the importance of freshwater. World Water Day celebrates water and raises awareness of the 2.2 billion people living without access to safe water. It is about taking action to tackle the global water crisis. The campaign for World Water Day, 22 March 2024, is now live. This year's theme is 'Water for Peace', which focuses on the critical role water plays in the stability and prosperity of the world.
March - 23	World Meteorological Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Meteorological Day is celebrated on March 23 to mark the establishment of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) in 1950. The WMO is a department of the United Nations (UN) responsible for promoting global cooperation in meteorology, hydrology, climatology, and related geophysical sciences. 2024 theme: "At the Frontline of Climate Action".
March - 24	World TB Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each year, we recognize World TB Day on March 24. This annual event commemorates the date in 1882 when Dr. Robert Koch announced his discovery of Mycobacterium tuberculosis, the bacillus that causes tuberculosis (TB). Millions around the globe will come together to commemorate World TB Day on 24 March. The theme of World TB Day 2024 - 'Yes! We can end TB!'
March - 27	World Theatre Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This day is a celebration for those who can see the value and importance of the art form "theatre", and acts as a wake-up-call for governments, politicians and institutions which have not yet recognised its value to the people and to the individual and have not yet realised its potential for economic growth. To do this, every year on March 27, a theme is followed for the past 59 years. The theme for World Theatre Day 2024 is "Theatre and a Culture of Peace."ITI doesn't designate any specific theme for World Theatre Day every year. Every year, the theme for World Theatre Day is "Theatre and a Culture of Peace".



Dharma Guardian:

- The 5th edition of Joint Military Exercise 'Dharma Guardian' between the Indian Army and the Japan Ground Self Defence Force started on 25th February and will conclude on 9th March 2024 at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan.
- Exercise 'Dharma Guardian' is an annual exercise conducted alternatively in India and Japan.
- The exercise will enhance defence cooperation and bilateral relations by fostering camaraderie and sharing best practices in tactical operations.
- A Weapon and Equipment Display will also be organised showcasing the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative and the growing defence industrial capability of the country.
- India and Japan's defence forces also organise a series of bilateral exercises such as.

first private sector - Manufacture of ammunition and missiles

- In a first in the private sector, two facilities for the manufacture of ammunition and missiles were opened by Adani Defence and Aerospace in Kanpur on February 26.
- The twin-facility complex, spread over 500 acres, was inaugurated by Army Chief Gen. Manoj Pande and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.
- Speaking at the event, Gen. Pande said 32 variants of ammunition in 12 categories were identified for manufacture by the Indian industry in phase one. "All cases are likely to fructify in the next one year, as per the envisaged timelines. Approval has been already obtained for five additional ammunition categories to be developed in phase two," Gen. Pande said on the ammunition indigenisation plan. "Simultaneously, MAKE programmes

for developing new-generation ammunition, including electronic fuses currently not held in the inventory, are also being processed."

- The Kanpur complex is set to become one of the largest integrated ammunition manufacturing complexes in South Asia, Adani Defence and Aerospace said in a statement. The facilities will produce high-quality small, medium and large calibre ammunition for the armed forces, paramilitary forces and the police. "The facility has started rolling out small calibre ammunition, starting with 150 million rounds estimated at 25% of India's annual requirement."

Indian Navy commission

- The Indian Navy will commission the newly inducted MH 60R Seahawk (a maritime variant of the Blackhawk helicopter) multi-role helicopter on 06 Mar 2024 at INS Garuda, Kochi marking a pivotal moment in India's Defence modernisation journey. The Seahawks squadron will be commissioned in the Indian Navy as INAS 334. The helicopters are a part of the 24-aircraft FMS contract signed with the US government in Feb 2020.
- The Indian Navy is set to witness a significant surge in its maritime prowess with the induction of the Seahawks. The helicopter is designed for anti-submarine warfare (ASW), anti-surface warfare (ASuW), search and rescue (SAR), medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) and vertical replenishment (VERTREP). The helicopter has been rigorously tested in Indian Reference Atmosphere (IRA) conditions and is fully integrated into the Fleet. The advanced weapons, sensors and avionics suite make the Seahawks ideal for the Indian Navy's maritime security needs, offering enhanced capabilities for both conventional as well as asymmetric threats.

National Disaster Response Force

- The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is collaborating with the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) to deploy its rescuers alongside the border guarding force in high-altitude regions along the frontier with China.
- This initiative aims to adequately prepare them before their deployment in the Himalayan ranges to undertake operations during disaster such as avalanches, landslides, and glacial lake outbursts.
- NDRF Director General Atul Karwal stated during an event that discussions are underway with the ITBP to enable the personnel of the contingency force to be stationed in forward areas alongside the border guarding force. The plan involves establishing small teams of rescuers that can be co-located at ITBP outposts in the states of Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Sikkim. Additionally, the NDRF is also consulting with the Border Security Force and the Sashastra Seema Bal, which guard borders with Pakistan, and Nepal and Bhutan, respectively.

LAMITIYE-2024

- In tune with the country's initiatives focused on improving bilateral military ties with the Indian Ocean island nations, an Indian Army contingent left for Seychelles to carry out a joint military exercise 'LAMITIYE-2024' with the Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF).
- The Indian Army in a statement said the 10-day exercise will begin from March 18. A contingent of 45 personnel from Gorkha Rifles will join the SDF for the exercise.
- The Seychelles is a strategically located archipelago of around 115 islands in the Indian Ocean region and India has been focusing on significantly ramping up defence cooperation with the country.
- The exercise aims to enhance interoperability in sub-conventional operations in semi-urban environments under Chapter VII of the United Nations charter on peacekeeping operations. "The exercise will also build and promote bilateral military relations in addition

to exchanging skills, experiences and good practices between both armies," an Indian Army said.

- 'LAMITIYE' meaning 'friendship' in the Creole language is a biennial training event and has been conducted in Seychelles since 2001. This will be the tenth in a series.

Signals Technology Evaluation and Adaptation Group (STEAG)

- In line with the principles of Self-reliant India and Start Up India in the field of defence, the Indian Army has formed a specialized technology unit to conduct research and development of future communication technologies like Artificial Intelligence, 5G, 6G, Machine Learning, Quantum technologies for defence.
- It has unveiled the Signals Technology Evaluation and Adaptation Group (STEAG), a pioneering unit dedicated to exploring futuristic communication technologies for defence applications. Comprising approximately 280 personnel, STEAG is poised to revolutionize communication infrastructure within the army.

Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise

- The Indian and US navies held a bilateral tri-service Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise, Tiger Triumph - 24 on the Eastern Seaboard. The HADR exercise represents the robust strategic partnership between India and US, with the drill aimed at sharing best practices and standard operating procedures (SoPs).
- "The Harbour Phase of the exercise is scheduled at Visakhapatnam from March 18 to 25, which includes pre-sail discussions, subject matter expert exchange on professional subjects and deliberations on planning and execution procedures of various tasks," said a press release from the Visakhapatnam-based Eastern Naval Command (ENC) of the Indian Navy.
- Other Harbour Phase activities include friendly sports events to further enhance camaraderie

between the participating armed forces personnel of both nations. Scheduled from March 26 to 31, the Sea Phase will involve the naval units from both the countries setting up joint command and control centre and a joint

relief and medical camp. Further, a planning and coordination exercise would be conducted to discuss and refine SoPs to enable rapid and smooth coordination between the forces of both India and US.

Nausena Bhawan

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the ‘Nausena Bhawan’, the new state-of-the-art headquarters of the Indian Navy at the Delhi Cantonment which is equipped with modern facilities and cutting-edge



technologies. It marks a significant milestone for the Navy as it has established its “first independent headquarters in Delhi”, the defence ministry said in a statement.

- Previously, the Navy operated from 13 different locations, necessitating a consolidated and purpose-built facility such as the ‘Nausena Bhawan’, it said.

- The inauguration represents a significant step forward for the Indian Navy, providing a centralised and technologically advanced headquarters that reflects the nation’s commitment to maritime excellence and national security.

World Trade Organization (MC13)

- The European Commission was instrumental in brokering important outcomes at the 13th ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization (MC13) that ended in Abu Dhabi. After a week of intense engagement, EU negotiators secured important agreements on e-commerce, new rules to improve global services trade, environmental cooperation, and strengthening the position of developing countries in the global trading system.
- However, over the past months, the EU had worked for ambitious results to revitalise the WTO at a time of rising geopolitical tensions, including a comprehensive agreement on global fisheries subsidies, agriculture reform, and meaningful progress on dispute settlement.

India GDP shine - FY24

- Surpassing the expectations of analysts, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) registered a robust growth of 8.4 per cent on an annual basis in the third quarter (October-December), as against a 8.1 per cent in the previous quarter, data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) showed.
- The number for Q1, Q2 FY24 has also been revised upwards to 8.2 per cent (against 7.8 per cent) and 8.1 per cent (against 7.6 per cent) respectively.
- According to a median poll of 15 economists conducted by ET, the economy was expected to grow by 6.6 per cent in the third quarter. Forecasts varied from 6 per cent to 7.2 per cent for the quarter ended December. Meanwhile, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had estimated a growth rate of 6.5 per cent for the same period.
- The FY24 estimate was also revised upwards to 7.6 per cent from 7.3 per cent in January. "Real GDP or GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in the year 2023-24 is estimated at Rs 172.90 lakh crore, against the First Revised Estimates (FRE) of GDP for the year 2022-23

of Rs 160.71 lakh crore. The growth in real GDP during 2023-24 is estimated at 7.6 per cent as compared to 7.0 per cent in 2022-23," the official release stated.

Goods and Services Tax – FY24

- Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections stood at Rs 1.68 lakh crore in (for sales in January), up 12.5 per cent from the year-ago period, data released by the Finance Ministry Friday showed. It was, however, lower than the revised level of Rs 1.74 lakh crore in January (earlier estimate was Rs 1.72 lakh crore).
- GST revenue, net of refunds, was Rs 1.51 lakh crore, up 13.6 per cent from the corresponding period in the previous year. "This growth was driven by a 13.9 per cent rise in GST from domestic transactions and 8.5 per cent increase in GST from import of goods," the ministry said.
- Gross GST collections for FY24 stood at Rs 18.40 lakh crore, 11.7 per cent higher annually. The average monthly gross collection for FY24 is Rs 1.67 lakh crore, up from the Rs 1.5 lakh crore in FY23. Net of refunds, GST revenue stood at `Rs 16.36 lakh crore during April-February, a growth of 13 per cent over the same period last year.

RBI State of the Economy Report

- The net foreign direct investment (FDI) in India, inflows minus outflows, declined 38.4 per cent year-on-year to \$15.41 billion in the first 10 months of this financial year due to an increase in the repatriation of capital.
- According to the Reserve Bank of India's data in the March 2024 bulletin, FDI in India was \$25.53 billion and outflows were \$10.11 billion in April 2023-January 2024.
- In the same period last year, FDI inflows stood at \$36.75 billion, while outflows reached \$11.75 billion.



equality and equity

- The logo of the alliance holds profound significance, symbolizing the essence of equality and equity. It depicts the alphabet “e” representing Equality and Equity, with parallel strokes representing collective action by governments, industry, and institutions to empower women economically on a global scale. The tricolours signify the alliance’s values - saffron for strength and courage, white for truth, and green for growth, while the red dot symbolizes prosperity. Inspired by Lord Ganesh, the logo embodies intellect, wisdom, and understanding.
- Speaking on the occasion, Bill Gates lauded the alliance’s commitment to prioritize women-led development, reaffirming the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation’s support for equitable development focused on women’s economic empowerment, health, and education.

Genetically modified pig kidney Transplant to Man

- US surgeons successfully transplanted a genetically modified pig kidney into a 62-year-old patient, marking a historic breakthrough at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. Unlike previous attempts, where pig kidneys were temporarily transplanted into brain-dead donors, this marks the first time a pig kidney has been implanted into a living person, with the patient showing promising signs of recovery.

- The procedure, which took place on March 16, was performed by a team of skilled surgeons led by Dr. Tatsuo Kawai, director of



Massachusetts General Hospital’s Legoretta Center for Transplant Tolerance.

- Despite challenges with Slayman’s medical history, including diabetes and high blood pressure, the surgery was successful.
- Once the pig’s kidney had regained blood flow, it immediately began producing urine—which earned applause from everyone in the operating room.
- In a historic medical breakthrough, a 62-year-old man named Richard Slayman has become the world’s first recipient of a genetically modified pig kidney.
- The groundbreaking surgery, conducted at Massachusetts General Hospital, marks a significant milestone in the field of organ transplants and provides health to those struggling with kidney failure.

2024 MARCH MONTH QUESTIONS

- 1. Which company is setting up an electric vehicle (EV) and battery manufacturing facility in Thoothukudi?**
 - a) Tesla
 - b) Winfast
 - c) Tata
 - d) Mahindra
- 2. The second space station of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) will be located in which state?**
 - a) Kerala
 - b) Tamil Nadu
 - c) Andhra
 - d) Karnataka
- 3. Which of the following is not applicable to the 10 agricultural products of the Tamil Nadu Government?**
 - a) Sathyamangalam red banana
 - b) Meenampur Seerakashamba
 - c) Odaibarti is a seedless grape
 - d) Kanchipuram silk
- 4. Which of the following are the 4 new Municipal Corporations in Tamil Nadu?**
 - 1) Pudukkottai
 - 2) Tirupattur
 - 3) Namakkal
 - 4) Thiruvannamalai
 - 5) Kallakurichi
 - 6) Karaikudi
 - 7) Kumbakonam
 - a) 1,2,3,4 only
 - b) 1,4,5,6 only
 - c) 1,3,4,6 only
 - d) 2,4,5,6 only
- 5. Which is the longest cable-stayed bridge in India?**
 - a) Vidyasagar Setu
 - b) Sudarshan Setu
 - c) Chambal Hanging Bridge
 - d) Bandra–Worli Sea Link
- 6. What is Bharat Tex 2024 related to?**
 - a) A global textile mega event
 - b) Global Electronics Event
 - c) Global Agricultural Commodity Event
 - d) Global Foods phenomenon
- 7. Which company has indigenously developed India's first hydrogen fuel cell boat?**
 - a) Goa Shipyard
 - b) Hindustan Shipyard
 - c) Kattupally Shipyard
 - d) Cochin Shipyard
- 8. Where is India's first domestic fast breeder reactor (500 MW) located?**
 - a) Kudankulam Nuclear Power Station
 - b) Rajasthan Nuclear Power Station
 - c) (Kalpakkam) Madras Nuclear Power Station
 - d) Tarapur Nuclear Power Station
- 9. Which is Hyderabad's first GI tagged product?**
 - a) Lock bracelets
 - b) Haleem
 - c) Nirmal paintings
 - d) Nirmal Furniture
- 10. Which is set to become Asia's largest coal mine?**
 - a) Neyveli coal mine
 - b) Jaipur coal mine
 - c) Satpura Coal mine
 - d) Gevra coal mine
- 11. India's first underwater metro has been launched where?**
 - a) Kolkata
 - b) Mumbai
 - c) Maharashtra
 - d) Bangalore

12. Which state has India's first state-owned OTT platform?
- Tamil Nadu
 - Karnataka
 - Kerala
 - Andhra
13. In which year was the first CAA Act enacted to fast-track the citizenship process in India?
- 2014
 - 2019
 - 2020
 - 2023
14. Which company launched the mini Indian Space Lab to demonstrate its ability to conduct biological experiments in microgravity?
- IIT Madras
 - IIT Kanpur
 - IIT Hyderabad
 - IIT Delhi
15. Which of the following is not applicable in Model Code of Conduct (MCC)?
- Candidates are prohibited from announcing financial grants once the election is announced
 - Government cannot start new projects or lay foundation stones for new projects.
 - Temporary appointments in government or public institutions which may influence the electorate are prohibited.
 - Officials can make promises related to infrastructure development, such as building roads or drinking water facilities.
16. Which is the largest river island in the world?
- Majuli Island
 - Umananda Island
 - Bhawani Island
 - Tiwar Island
17. Both India and _____ have signed a multilateral agreement to implement the Tax Treaty (MLI).
- Mauritius
 - Canada
 - Japan
 - America
18. Which country recently got its first woman Prime Minister?
- Bangladesh
 - Nepal
 - Pakistan
 - Bhutan
19. What is the aim of Remote Pars 1 research-sensing satellite?
- Scanning the landscape
 - Monitoring climate change
 - Exploring the Moon
 - For telecommunication reasons
20. Which was the first country in the world to legalize the right to abortion?
- German
 - Russia
 - France
 - Ukraine
21. Which country is not a member of European Free Trade Association (EFTA)?
- Iceland
 - Liechtenstein
 - Norway
 - Switzerland
 - Finland
22. A state of emergency has been declared in southern Iceland after a volcano erupted on the _____ peninsula.
- Reykjanes
 - Rifstangi
 - Vatnsnes
 - Snaefellsnes

23. What is Amrit Bharat Station project related to?
- Development of railway infrastructure projects
 - Development of tourist sites
 - Development of forests
 - Preservation of heritage items
24. The National Coal Logistics Plan and Policy aims to increase the use of railways in coal transport to 87 per cent by the financial year _____.
- 2024-2025
 - 2026-2027
 - 2028- 2029
 - 2029 -2030
25. Which is false in the news regarding Prime Minister's rooftop solar project?
- Contact the post office to learn how to register for the scheme and receive the subsidy.
 - Under the new solar rooftop scheme, consumers can avail subsidy of 50,000 per kilowatt up to three kilowatts.
 - 18,000 per kilowatt subsidy is also available for connections above 3 kilowatts.
 - The central government has set a target of 1 crore domestic rooftop solar connections this year.
26. The central government is implementing _____ scheme for women to earn self-employment.
- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao
 - Mahila Shakti Kendra
 - Annapurna Yojana Scheme
 - One Stop Centre Scheme
27. Which state has launched 'Vidva Punarviva Prothsahan Yojana' (Widow Remarriage Promotion Scheme) as the first initiative in India?
- Madhya Pradesh
 - Jharkhand
 - Uttar Pradesh
 - Delhi
28. Ministry of Jal Shakti launched a scheme called _____ to promote rainwater harvesting and other sustainable water management practices.
- Catch the Rain - 2024
 - Save the Rain - 2024
 - Save the Nature - 2024
 - Produce the Rain - 2024
29. Namo Drone Didi – aims to provide 15,000 _____ drones on rent to farmers for agricultural purposes.
- For Women Self Help Groups
 - For Gram Panchayats
 - For local farmers
 - For agricultural organizations in the district
30. The central government is going to launch a pilot scheme to provide cashless treatment to road accident victims in _____.
- Jharkhand
 - Chandigarh
 - Jaipur
 - Rajasthan
31. Where was the world's largest snake found?
- Atlantic Forest
 - Amazon forest
 - Australian temperate forest
 - Boreal forests
32. What is the annual average growth rate of leopard population in India?
- 1.5%
 - 2.8%
 - 1.9%
 - 2.5%
33. Which animal holds the title of world's smallest vertebrate?
- Toad
 - Monitor lizard
 - Lizard
 - Chameleon

34. The _____ edition of the joint military exercise 'Dharma Guardian' between the Indian Army and the Japan Ground Self Defense Force was held in 2024.
- 3
 - 4
 - 5
 - 7
35. The first private sector - manufacture of ammunition and missiles was started in which state in India?
- Chandigarh
 - Jamjetpur
 - Barrackpore
 - Kanpur
36. Exercise "LAMITIYE, recently seen in the news, is conducted between which two countries?
- India and USA
 - India and Seychelles
 - India and Australia
 - India and Bhutan
37. Who among the following has been selected as the new election commissioner?
- Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu
 - Arun Goel and Anup Chandra Pandey
 - Sukumar Sen and RK Trivedi
 - KVK Sundaram and SL Shakdhar
38. Which country recently performed the first transplant of a genetically modified kidney from a pig into a living human?
- USA
 - United Kingdom
 - India
 - Russia
39. Which country received the prestigious 'Measles and Rubella Champion' global award in recognition of the country's tireless efforts to combat measles and rubella?
- India
 - Myanmar
 - Bhutan
 - Bangladesh
40. The Indian Navy has set up its first independent headquarters named 'Nausena Bhawan' at which place?
- Delhi
 - Mumbai
 - Chennai
 - Jaipur
41. Who is the first female sniper of Border Security Force (BSF)?
- Tanushree Pareek
 - Avani Chaturvedi
 - Suman Kumari
 - Sonali Mishra
42. India's GDP - FY24 revised by what percentage?
- 7.3%
 - 7.6%
 - 6.6%
 - 7.2%
43. Goods and Services Tax – FY24 is _____ over the corresponding period of the previous year.
- decreased by 12.6%
 - decreased by 13.6%
 - increased by 13.6%
 - increased by 15.6%
44. Luminance of an object is
- The total amount of energy emitted at all wavelengths
 - The total amount of energy emitted at specific wavelengths
 - The total amount of light emitted at all wavelengths
 - Total amount of scattered light
45. Gaganyaan Mission - Which is not the name of the astronauts?
- S. Unnikrishnan Nair
 - Prashanth Balakrishnan Nair
 - Angad Prat
 - K. Radhakrishnan
 - Ajit Krishnan
 - Shubanshu Shukla
 - P Kunhikrishnan

- 8) Alur Seelin Kiran Kumar
- 1) 1,4,7 and 8
 - 2) 2,3,5 and 6
 - 3) 1,3,5 and 6
 - 4) 2,6,7 and 8
46. How many days will it take to orbit the newly discovered moon of Uranus?
- a) 365 days
 - b) 540 days
 - c) 680 days
 - d) 700 days
47. What is the theme of 'Sangam: Digital Twin' initiative?
- a) Integrating innovations and projects
 - b) Bridging the gap between innovation and planning
 - c) Bringing the Digital Twin in Innovation
 - d) None of the above
48. Who became the first Indian citizen to receive an honorary knighthood in England?
- a) Sunil Bharti Mittal
 - b) Narendra Modi
 - c) Subbiah Aruna
 - d) Moumita Dutta
49. Who was awarded the first prize in the Nammalwar Awards for practicing and promoting organic farming and mentoring fellow organic farmers?
- a) KV Palaniswami
 - b) K. Ezhilan
 - c) K.Siddar
 - d) None of the above
50. Who has been awarded the Sahitya Akademi Translation Prize 2023 in Tamil?
- a) Bhuvaneshwar
 - b) Sri Madhav Kaushik
 - c) Devi Bharathi
 - d) Kannaiyan Daksnamurthy

Answers:

1.	B	11.	A	21.	E	31.	B	41.	C
2.	B	12.	C	22.	A	32.	A	42.	B
3.	D	13.	B	23.	A	33.	A	43.	C
4.	C	14.	A	24.	D	34.	C	44.	A
5.	B	15.	D	25.	B	35.	D	45.	A
6.	A	16.	A	26.	C	36.	B	46.	C
7.	D	17.	A	27.	B	37.	A	47.	B
8.	C	18.	C	28.	A	38.	A	48.	A
9.	B	19.	A	29.	A	39.	A	49.	C
10.	D	20.	C	30.	B	40.	A	50.	D