



# TNPSC GROUP - II ASPIRANTS

## December -2022 CURRENT ISSUES



**SOCIO  
ECONOMIC  
ISSUES**



**TAMILNADU  
ADMINISTRATION**



**SCIENCE &  
TECHNOLOGY**



**STATE  
CURRENT  
ISSUES**



**NATIONAL  
CURRENT  
ISSUES**



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01

# National Affairs

## One Earth, One Family, One Future

### Introduction

- Ensuring economic stability is a result of efforts made by the previous 17 leaders of the G20 organization.
- Systematization of International Taxation.
- This includes easing the debt burden on countries.

### Solution

- Today we are facing huge challenges like climate change, terrorism and pandemic.
- These problems cannot be solved by fighting each other.
- But we can only find solutions if we work together.
- Digital technologies play an important role in the highly virtual world we live in today.
- As the home of democracy, India's decisions are made by the harmonious confluence of millions of voices, not by compulsion.

### Digital service

- We have put technology in place to make digital services for the public better and more inclusive for all.
- It has provided revolutionary advancement in many fields including social security, financial inclusion, electronic transfer.
- Our focus will be on healing one earth, fostering harmony as one family and providing hope for one future.
- Let us encourage sustainable and eco-friendly lifestyles based on the Indian heritage of nature conservation to keep our planet healthy.
- We will strive to depoliticize the global distribution of food, fertilizers, and medical supplies to promote harmony among humanity.
- This will not lead to geopolitical tensions and humanitarian crisis.
- We will encourage honest conversation with the most powerful nations to reduce the risks posed by weapons of mass destruction and expand global security to instill hope for our future generations.
- India's G20 ethos will be inclusive, ambitious, action-oriented and assertive.

## G-20

- India yesterday assumed the presidency of G-20, a group of 20 countries comprising the world's largest economies.

### Importance

- Sustainable Development Goals
- Seasonal activity
- Food security

- Public health systems
- It acts as a leading platform to discuss important issues including digital transformations and has strong political influence.

### Creation

- Established in 2009, the population of the countries included in this organization is two-thirds of the world's population.
- The organization accounts for 75% of world trade.
- More than 80 percent of the world's gross domestic product index, GDP, belongs to countries in this organization.

### India

- As the chairperson of the G20, India has the opportunity to act as a representative to protect the interests of emerging countries.
- India has a rich history of forming a coalition of nations and has the largest population of young people in the world.
- Committed to prioritizing issues requiring immediate resolution following global best practices.
- An unprecedented 43 leaders will participate in the commitment summit to be held in September next year in Delhi.

### A great threat

- At a time when India is taking over the G20 presidency, the impact of the pandemic and the effects of climate change are a major threat.
- India's leadership will focus not only on climate finance and technology, but also on ensuring energy transitions for developing countries around the world.

### Environment is a priority

- India is introducing to the world a movement to protect the environment from our country's wealth, age-old sustainable heritage, as climate change can impact industrial society and various sectors.
- India is giving priority to producing green hydrogen.
- India aims to achieve a production target of 25 million tonnes by 2047.
- This aims to grow clean energy technology to the extent that it can be exported in the coming years.
- The G20 must further accelerate its commitment to achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, which will lead to a better, cleaner, healthier and more prosperous Earth.
- India will continue to push for the creation of accountable and inclusive international organizations.

### Socio-economic boundaries

- The G20 chairmanship will be an opportunity for India to share its experiences and knowledge with the world.
- India, which chairs the G20, has exemplified a human-centric approach to technology.
- From education to agriculture, India is prioritizing technology-driven growth, a public digital alliance, and financing for all.
- The government is implementing various schemes to fully empower people especially women.
- 56% of Jandan Bank accounts are owned by women.

### A world without war

- The Prime Minister's speech that the present era should not be full of war was directly reflected in the Joint Declaration.

## G20 Summit

### G20 member countries

- Established in 1999 to promote economic cooperation between developed and developing countries, the organization includes the United States, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, England and European Union

### G20 leadership

- The 20 countries that are members of the G20 organization hold an annual conference on a rotating basis
- Accordingly, India has assumed the responsibility of hosting the G20 summit next year (2023)
- G20 summit to be held on September 9 and 10, 2023 in Delhi
- The central government has also decided to hold preparatory meetings in more than 200 places across the country for this conference

## Leadership

### Introduction

- The G20 is a grouping of the world's major developed and emerging economies
- India is going to host the conference of this organization in September next year (2023).
- Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union are members of the G20.

### Tenure

- India has been chosen for the leadership of this alliance
- India will hold the chairmanship from September 1, 2022 to November 30, 2024

### 200 Conferences

- India plans to host 200 conferences in the next one year under its leadership

### Importance

- It can be said that G20 leadership is a great opportunity for India to contribute globally on issues of international importance.
- India will hold around 200 meetings across 32 different sectors at various locations across the country, assuming the G20 chairmanship.
- This is seen as a pivotal moment for India's achievement
- Robbery, epidemics, the war between Ukraine and Russia, and the economic crisis are causing fear in the countries of the world
- At the G20 summit held in Bali, Indonesia, under the theme "Together we will recover, we will recover stronger", the G20 leaders discussed in detail global issues, especially food, energy security, health and digital exchange.

### Leadership responsibility

- India has got the leadership position to lead superpower countries including USA and Russia
- By this, the confederation countries will have an opportunity to discuss with other countries about their trade, internal security and other issues and strengthen the confederation.



- Founded to address issues in the global economy, the organization has evolved into an excellent forum for discussions on climate change, the energy sector, and an unusual situation that arises unexpectedly.

## India's G20 leadership - 4 goals

### No war

- The G20 has provided an opportunity to manage global conflicts
- The G20 leadership has given India an opportunity to act as a bridge between developing countries that trust India and powerful countries.

### Digital world

- Poverty alleviation has been intensified through the use of digitalization
- The livelihood of the poor has been protected by going digital in India during the Corona period
- The Covid website has facilitated the seamless administration of more than 2 billion vaccine doses

### Degassing of coal

- At the 2015 Paris Summit, India committed to generate 40% electricity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030.
- Our country achieved this goal 10 years early in November 2021
- India has played a key role in promoting multilateral initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance
- Developed countries should play an equal role in climate change finance and technology transfer

### Collaborative development

- One Earth One Family One Future
- It not only reflects our ancient philosophy but also puts forward a collective call to responsible action and resourcefulness

## Genetically modified mustard

### Emphasis

- The Supreme Court was urged to order the uprooting of genetically modified crops planted after environmental clearance to avoid environmental damage.

### Permission

- An evaluation committee under the Union Ministry of Environment has given permission to test a genetically modified mustard crop, DMH-11, for higher production in India.

### Interim ban

- A case was filed in the Supreme Court in this regard.
- The Supreme Court, which heard the case, issued an interim injunction that no sowing of genetically modified mustard should be done till further orders.

### The seeds were planted

- The plea against the approval of genetically modified mustard testing was taken up for hearing in the Supreme Court on November 3.
- But the seeds reached the Mustard Research Center (DRMR) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research on October 22.

- Immediately those seeds were planted.
- In that way the seeds were sown before the petition came up for hearing.
- So far these genetically modified mustard seeds have been cultivated on an experimental basis in a protected environment.
- Now that environmental clearance has been obtained, testing will be carried out in open fields.
- Mustard Research Center officials explained that if the yield does not reach the required IHT (Instant Hybrid Trial) level, the cultivation of this genetically modified mustard will not be taken to the next stage.

### **Re-inquiry**

- In this case only the technology used to create new hybrids is considered without taking into account the impact.
- The genetic engineering assessment committee of the central ministry says that many new hybrid seeds can be developed from the DMH-11 seed.
- This will lead to commercial production.
- Hybridization is not a new technology.
- At present more than 4000 varieties of mustard are produced in India.
- Thus, if GM mustard is allowed to grow in open fields, all varieties will be affected.
- Also, the crops produced by these genetically modified seeds are susceptible to herbicides.
- So these should not be sprayed with herbicides.
- But there is no formal procedure to monitor that farmers do not spray pesticides.
- Allowing these crops is likely to cause serious harm to humans and animals.
- So cultivation of these genetically modified seeds in open fields should not be allowed.
- Also, orders should be given to uproot the crops already sown on an experimental basis so as not to harm the environment.

## **GM Mustard DMH-11**

- Dhara Mustard Hybrid-11 (DMH-11), revealed them to be higher yielding and they did not deter the pollination habits of honeybees

### **GEAC**

- The DMH-11 had recently been approved by the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) for cultivation in farmer fields, as a precursor to Commercial cultivation
- The GEAC is an autonomous body of experts authorised by the Environment Ministry to appraise the safety of genetically modified seeds
- DMH-11 showed approximately 28% more yield than the national check and 37% more than the zonal checks.

## **Digital Rupee for retail use**

### **Digital Rupee**

- Digital Rupee transactions for limited use were launched yesterday in cities including Delhi and Mumbai on a trial basis.
- RBI has been making serious efforts to introduce digital money transactions as an alternative to paper and cryptocurrencies.

- As a result, the Central Bank has now launched the Digital Rupee and it has become operational for the first time.
- State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, Yes Bank and IDFC First bank have been entrusted with handling the digital rupee.
- Bank officials have said that they have started digital rupee transactions with selected customers.

### e-Rupee

- The digital rupee called e-rupee has the same values as the paper rupee.
- Customers can store digital rupees provided by banks in their mobile phone wallets.
- Digital Rupees can be transacted from wallet to another person or shops through QR code when needed.

### Uses

- By using digital rupees you don't have to carry a wallet in your hand.
- Digital currency will bring new efficiencies to the payment system and drastically reduce the operational cost of managing cash from banks.
- It ensures seamless remittance service from one region to another.
- Apart from that, the digital rupee will end money laundering and terrorist financing tax.
- The use of digital rupees will be an alternative to the use of government-authorized, insecure cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin, Ether.

## Digital Rupee

### Introduction

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced in the Budget for the current financial year that the digital rupee will soon be introduced in India
- On November 1, the RBI introduced the digital rupee for wholesale transactions on a trial basis
- It was informed that it could be used only for inter-bank transactions in government bonds

### Retail transaction

- RBI introduced digital rupee for retail transactions on December 1
- In the first phase, RBI has allowed digital rupees to be distributed in four banks namely State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, Yes Bank and IDFC First bank in Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru and Bhubaneswar.

### What is Digital Rupee?

- The digital rupee will have no shape like the currency notes in circulation today
- Digital rupees will have serial numbers just like the current banknotes
- Digital Rupees can be used through mobile apps

### Where to buy this digital rupee?

- The shares can be purchased through the official app or website

### Can you send digital rupees to anyone else?

- You can send this to anyone you know
- But this can only be done through the respective app
- As we now store and transact money in a digital wallet like Paytm, we can do all kinds of transactions with digital rupees in a digital wallet.

## How to use Digital Rupees?

- RBI Confirms Person-to-Person, Person-to-Business Digital Rupee Transactions
- Digital rupees can be paid using QR codes
- Although digital rupees provide the trust and security of the money in the form, no interest is paid on it
- But RBI said that this can be converted into deposits in banks
- This means that digital rupees will not earn interest if they are held in your personal mobile wallet
- Instead digital rupees are paid interest when they are kept as deposits in the bank

## Is digital rupee and cryptocurrency the same thing?

- Cryptocurrency does not operate under the government control or government organization of any country
- Digital Rupee is not like that. This digital rupee is the digital form of money we use now
- It is safe as it is issued by RBI
- Investing cannot be done in digital rupees as like investing in crypto currency
- There will be no volatility in the value of the digital rupee

## What are the advantages of digital rupee?

- The cost of managing and printing paper money now in circulation will be reduced
- The Reserve Bank has mentioned that in the financial year 2021-22 alone, the Reserve Bank has spent around Rs. 4984 crores to print its currency notes.
- Widespread use of digital currency will reduce the need to print currency notes
- It is hoped that the digital currency will help reduce black money and counterfeit currency, if not eliminate it
- Digital currency will make money transactions more secure and risk-free, creating new opportunities in the fintech sector and leading to the growth of the digital economy.

# Digi Yatra

## Introduction

- The Digi yatra project has been launched at three airports namely Delhi, Bengaluru and Varanasi.
- According to this, you can enter without any paper documents by just showing your face.
- The Digi Yatra program has been launched in the first phase at three airports namely Delhi, Bengaluru and Varanasi.
- Passengers arriving at airports under the Digi Yatra scheme are not required to carry paper documents such as identity card and airport boarding pass.
- Instead, passengers only need to show their face at the airport identification machine upon entering the airport, going through security checks and before boarding the flight.
- They should have pre-registered their details including their picture in Digi Yatra app.

## How to register?

- First they need to download Digi Yatra app on their cell phone.
- Name, email, mobile phone number and Aadhaar or other identity document details should be uploaded.
- Then when a request to take a selfie comes, you have to take a selfie and upload it.
- Then DG Yatra ID will be allotted.
- This identification number must be mentioned while booking the flight ticket.
- Airlines will then share the passenger's details and Digi Yatra ID number with the airport.

## Digi Yatra App

- Those registered with the Digi Yatra app will have to go through a separate gate at the airport.
- Then the information already uploaded in the Digi Yatra app will be there.
- It checks your face and lets you in if it matches.

## Karnataka - Maharashtra Border Issue

- Karnataka and Maharashtra are neighboring states.
- Belagavi in Karnataka is claimed by Maharashtra and Solapur in Maharashtra by Karnataka.
- Due to this, the border issue between the two states is continuing.

### Boundaries to be defined...

- A committee headed by Justice Fazal Ali was constituted in 1953 to delimit the boundaries of states under the States Reorganization Act.
- KM Panikkar, Hridya Nath Kunzru was appointed as the members of that committee.
- Maharashtra and Gujarat became independent states in 1960 as per the recommendations of the report.
- A total of 14 states and 7 union territories were created.
- Belagavi, Vijayapura, Bagalakote, which were under the Bombay Province, were included in the Mysore Province.

### Opposition of Karnataka

- The state of Maharashtra strongly protested and the state government started insisting that Belagavi and adjoining Marathi-speaking areas should be included in their state.
- In 1966, the central government set up a committee headed by Mehr Chand Mahajan to resolve the issue.
- The report recommended that areas including Belagavi should remain in Karnataka.
- The Government of Karnataka passed a resolution in the Assembly in support of this.

### Belagavi

- India has had language-based border issues since before independence
- Poti Sriramulu's martyrdom led to the division of states along linguistic lines after independence
- According to the 1881 census, Belagavi district had 64.39% Kannada and 26.04% Marathi population.
- The antagonism between the two sides who lived in the same area gradually grew
- Belagavi was incorporated into Bombay province after independence
- Thus displeased the Kannadigas
- Later in 1956, Belagavi was included in the unified Mysore state as per the division of linguistic states.
- The Mahajan Committee, set up in 1966, recommended the merger of around 200 villages in Belagavi with Maharashtra.
- Meanwhile, the committee said that Belagavi and 200 other villages should continue in Karnataka
- Karnataka offered to accept this but Maharashtra refused
- Organizations formed like Maharashtra Eikikaran Samiti on behalf of the Marathas and Karnataka Rakshana Vedike on behalf of the Kannadiyars have been involved in protests from time to time.

### The word fuss

- As the hearing of the case in the Supreme Court draws near, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said that efforts to merge the Jath taluk in the Sangli district of Maharashtra with Karnataka would be launched, infuriating the Marathas.

## UPI

### Introduction

- UPI transaction was introduced in India in 2016
- After its implementation, money transfer operation in India became very easy
- Today, UPI is used by companies ranging from large commercial enterprises to small petty shops
- Companies including Google Pay, Phone Pay, Paytm are providing UPI transaction facilities
- However, 80% of UPI transactions in India are done through Google Pay and PhonePay.

### Dominance of corporations

- The National Payments Corporation of India, which manages the UPI framework, issued a notification in November 2020 to prevent dominance by a few companies.
- According to the notification, the service companies will have to offer UPI transactions at a rate of 30% from January 2021.

### 30% only

- A company should not provide more than 30% of the transaction service
- It is said that this restriction will reduce the dominance of certain companies in UPI transaction and give opportunity to other companies
- The period has been extended for two years
- According to this, until December 2024, UPI exchange companies can offer as many transactions as they want

## Water management

- Dams to store water
- Transferring it properly to agricultural lands
- It is the duty of the government to prevent it from turning into a calamity
- Water management encompasses these three responsibilities

## Amount remitted by NRIs

- India, the world's top recipient of foreign remittances, received \$89.4 billion last year, according to a recent World Bank report
- This amount is said to increase by 12 percent by 2022
- Overseas Indian remittances to India are expected to cross the \$100 billion mark this year (Rs. 817600 crores)
- Mexico will be in 2<sup>nd</sup> place with up to \$60 billion
- Most of the Indians have taken advantage of the employment opportunities in the informal sector in the Gulf countries
- The current depreciation of the rupee against the dollar is very favorable for NRIs

## Disbandment of Iran's Morality Police

- Since the Islamic Revolution of 1979, Iran's authorities have insisted that women and men in the country adhere to religiously-based mandates and strictly adhere to the rules.

- A law was passed in 1973 that made it compulsory for women to wear the head-covering hijab in public
- Women continued to be harassed under that Act
- A Morality police force was formed to enforce the mandatory hijab law
- The police started arresting women who violated the dress code in the beginning, and started arresting them 15 years ago
- Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Kurdish woman, was arrested by cultural police in Tehran on September 13 for not wearing a hijab.
- Women and youth protested against dress code law that led to Mahsa Amini's death
- Women protested by cutting their hair and burning their hijabs
- The Iranian government has now ordered the disbandment of the morality police in response to protesters' demands

## Review petition on behalf of DMK in the Supreme Court

### Introduction

- The DMK has filed a review petition in the Supreme Court challenging the Supreme Court's decision that 10 percent reservation for economically weaker sections of the general category will go.

### 103<sup>rd</sup> Amendment Bill

- The 103rd Constitution Amendment Bill brought by the Central Government to provide 10 percent reservation in education and government jobs exclusively to SC, ST and non-OBC economically weaker sections was passed in the Lok Sabha on January 8, 2019 and the next day in the Rajya Sabha.

### Supreme Court verdict

- A 5-judge constitution bench headed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court ruled that 10% reservation would go ahead
- If this 10% seat reservation is implemented, the seat reservation in Tamil Nadu will be 79%

### Tamil Nadu's argument

- Meritorious students from other communities will suffer severely if this reservation is implemented
- The Act defines economically backward people are who earn less than 8 lakhs per annum
- 90% of people in India have an annual income below 8 lakhs
- This amendment calls into question Article 14 of the Constitution
- Contrary to Supreme Court judgment in Indira Sawhney case
- Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes are in an even worse disadvantaged position than the economically weaker general sections of the society.

## Rescue of child laborers

### Redemption Laws

- Government and non-government organizations are constantly working to rescue child labourers
- The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act was enacted in 1986 on the recommendations of the M. S. Gurupadaswamy Committee set up in 1979.
- Acts like Right to Free & Compulsory Education Act and Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 were brought
- Even after all the efforts, from firecracker factories to petty shops, minors are seen working
- Social activists lament that child labor is also being used in government-run institutions

## World's Longest Intercontinental Bridge : Nagpuri

- The 3.14 km double-decker bridge of Nagpuri Metro in Maharashtra is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the world's longest double-decker bridge.

## Repeal of the National Judicial Appointments Commission Bill

- The three pillars of democracy namely Parliament, Judiciary and Administration must function within their limits for democracy to flourish
- If any of the three pillars encroaches on the boundaries of the other, it may lead to disruption of the regime.
- A bill to set up the National Judicial Appointments Commission was unanimously passed by both houses of Parliament in 2014.
- The Supreme Court struck down the bill in 2015
- In the history of democracy, there is no other incident similar to that incident where the Judiciary overturned a duly legalized constitutional proposal
- It represents a serious compromise on parliamentary sovereignty.

## Co-operative Societies Amendment Bill

### Aim

- Reforms in election procedures to strengthen governance of multi-state co-operative societies
- Improve monitoring procedures
- The main objective of the bill is to bring administrative simplicity in co-operative societies

## Anti-Maritime Piracy Bill

- The Central Government enacted the Anti-Maritime Piracy Bill based on The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
- The bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha in December 2019
- The Bill was then referred to a Parliamentary Standing Committee for scrutiny
- Provisions regarding mandatory death penalty for pirates have been repealed
- Provisions for awarding life imprisonment are now attached
- India does not have a unique law on Sea barricading
- The Bill will lead to the blocking of maritime policies not only in Indian territorial waters but also in the Exclusive Economic Zone

## Digital Personal Data Protection Bill

### Introduction

- From space to technology, from artificial intelligence to web-3, from internet to electronics/semiconductor, our youth are confidently giving the world new innovations.

### Indian usage

- With more than 820 million internet users, India is expected to touch 1.2 billion soon



- India has become the democracy with the highest internet usage in the world.
- The Internet in India is easily accessible to all, with no censorship or restrictions on Internet usage like in China.

### Misuse

- Misuse of consumer data online, crimes that harm users are on the rise and governments around the world have lagged behind in creating laws and regulations that can quickly address the rapidly growing challenges.

### Right to personal security

- Since the judgment in 2017 on the right to privacy, efforts to see the digital economy through trust, development & management have continued.

## Nirbhaya Fund

- Pointing out that the Rs 2,000 crore Nirbhaya fund was not spent, the Supreme Court condemned that “if the funds for a project are not implemented properly, it will remain a mere word plan”.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs had reported that the Nirbhaya fund was very little or not being spent, but there was no change
- Compensation to women victims of sexual harassment and acid attacks will also come under the Nirbhaya fund
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## Collegium

- The collegium procedure for appointing judges is the law of the land
- The Supreme Court clearly stated that it should be followed
- It is worrisome that seven years after the Supreme Court struck down the bill that led to the creation of the National Judicial Appointments Commission in 2015, Parliament has not paid attention to it.
- The Supreme Court judges expressed this opinion while the Speaker of the Rajya Sabha Jagdeep Dhankhar said that the Parliament has an obligation to resolve this issue

### Constitutional Law

- The court is the final arbiter of determining the status of a law according to constitutional law procedures
- Although Parliament has the power to enact legislation, it is subject to judicial review
- In that respect it is mandatory to follow the applicable law
- All parties are bound by this one law as determined by the court

### Conflict

- There is a conflict between the Central Government and the Supreme Court over the collegium procedure for the appointment of Supreme Court judges.
- While the central government is trying to cancel the practice, the Supreme Court is refusing to do so

- The Central Government enacted the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act in 2014 to change this practice
- But the Supreme Court struck down that law in 2015
- Due to this the collegium system came into effect again

## Collegium Committee - Cannot be expressed explicitly

- Only the resolutions presented in the collegium and signed by all the members shall be considered as the final decision of the committee
- Decisions discussed during the deliberations of the collegium cannot be considered final if all the judges do not sign them
- Such resolution details cannot be released to the public
- The proposed decision of a multi-member Collegium Committee cannot be brought to public notice.

## A six-judge Supreme Court collegium convened for the first time

- The Supreme Court, which recommends the appointment of Supreme Court and High Court judges to the Central Government, is usually headed by the Chief Justice and consists of 4 senior judges of the Supreme Court.
- At least one of the four judges should be eligible for promotion as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court before retirement
- The present four judges Sanjay Kishan Kaul, S. Abdul Nazeer, K. M. Joseph, Mukesh Shah are not in position to become the Chief Justice.
- Due to this, Supreme Court Justice Sanjay Khanna, who is likely to become the Chief Justice in the coming days, has now been admitted as a member of the Collegium
- Due to this the collegium has become a six member body

## Aam Aadmi became a national party

### Introduction

- The Aam Aadmi Party, which was started by Arvind Kejriwal in 2012, has gained recognition as a national party within 10 years.

### Three conditions

- 2 percent of the total 543 Lok Sabha seats i.e. 11 MPs should be won from 3 states.
- 6 per cent votes in at least four state elections and 4 MPs in the Lok Sabha
- Must be a recognized party in at least four states
- 6 percent of the votes or at least two MLAs in states

### Aam Aadmi

- The Aam Aadmi Party, which was a recognized party in the states of Delhi, Punjab and Goa, has emerged as a national party as it has won 5 MLAs in the fourth state Gujarat as well.

### 8 National Parties

1. Bharatiya Janata Party
2. Indian National Congress

3. Nationalist Congress party
  4. All India Trinamool Congress
  5. National People's Party
  6. Bahujan Samaj Party
  7. Communist Party of India
  8. Communist Party of India (Marxist)
- Nationalist Congress party, Trinamool Congress, Bahujan Samaj, Communist parties of India are currently in a situation where they cannot meet the criteria for national party recognition.

### National Party Headquarters

- Can compete under the same symbol in all states
- Government land will be available for construction of party headquarters
- Campaigning can be done on Doordarshan during elections

## Kerala Digital Land Survey

### The Beginning

- The Kerala government has started digital resurvey work on November 1 to complete the state map
- It is worth noting that the state chose November 1, when the linguistic states were formed (1951), for this purpose.

### Undefined boundary

- The state of Kerala shares the border with the states of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka
- A maximum of 830 km with Tamil Nadu is demarcated by the Tamil Nadu-Kerala governments
- As the remaining 627 km is in the Western Ghats and forest areas, the land survey work has not yet been defined by the two state governments.
- Kerala Government has started a website called "Enda Bhoomi" for this huge land survey and is coordinating the related works

### Voluntary action

- In the context of Kerala sharing a long border with Tamil Nadu, it is a wrong trend to have started the land survey work arbitrarily
- The districts of Nilgiris, Coimbatore, Tirupur, Dindigul, Theni, Virudhunagar, Tirunelveli, Tenkasi, Kanyakumari are adjacent to the Kerala state border.
- In this context, how can the land survey work be done arbitrarily in the districts of Kerala adjoining Tamil Nadu ?
- The notice board of the Kerala government that the place in Devaram village in Uttampalayam circle of Theni district is owned by their state has created a great stir in the district.

### The position of Tamil Nadu

- Survey work in a state is incomplete without measuring the boundaries
- Why is the Kerala government going to spend so much money and manpower if the surveying work is not done on the common boundary?
- Therefore, there is a need for the revenue department and the forest department of Tamil Nadu government to be extra vigilant in this matter

- The two state governments should jointly carry out land survey work on the Tamil Nadu-Kerala border
- The Tamil Nadu government should convey to Kerala its strong objection to the arbitrary conduct of digital land surveying in the border area

## Climate change from an economic perspective

### Climate change

- Climate change has become a major threat to mankind
- It is emerging as a force that not only affects lives but also the economy of a country.
- Decrease in crop yield and spread of disease
- Sea level rise
- Destruction of coastal cities
- Rising temperature

### Economic impact

- Climate change could cut the global economy by \$23 trillion by 2050
- Deloitte has warned that nearly 9 lakh jobs could be lost every year over the next 50 years as a result of climate change.
- The effects of climate change are expected to reduce global economic output by 11% to 14% by 2050.

### Greater responsibility for developed countries

- A climate conference is held annually in a country
- The first climate conference was held in Berlin, Germany in 1995
- Following this, the COP27 Conference was recently held in Egypt
- The conference helps the nations of the world formulate a joint action plan to control global temperature rise and define policies to adapt to the impacts associated with climate change.
- Controlling climate change is not something that can be done by a single country
- The world should come together and find a suitable solution for this like a village pulls a chariot
- Historically, it is the developed countries that are responsible for the industrial revolution that emit the most carbon dioxide
- Due to this, the melting of the glaciers in the Arctic region and the rise of the sea level are affecting the island countries and the developing poor countries are facing various risks including flash floods and droughts.
- Financing provided by developed countries to combat climate change should not be debt-based
- Instead the approach should be subsidy based

### The main reason

- Controlling carbon dioxide emissions, which are the main cause of climate change, requires reducing the use of fossil fuels
- Countries like the US and China have agreed to reduce the use of petrol, diesel and coal in previous climate conferences but have not taken steps to seriously implement it
- Global warming has become the common enemy of developing and poor countries
- Thus, if the countries concerned do not have the ability to adapt to the impacts on infrastructure and economy, it will have dire consequences

## New opportunities

- International investments in the related sector are expected to increase as emphasis is placed on renewable energy resources, reducing petrol diesel coal use.
- There is now a need to switch to eco-friendly electric vehicles

## Money can't fix it

- The right solution is for every country to realize the seriousness of climate change and investigate the root causes of the problem and put an end to it.
- This is the last moment when we all feel it our duty to hand over the green world that our forefathers left in our hands to the future generations without any damage.

# The direction science has traveled

## Global Science Events

### James Webb Space Telescope

- James Web Telescope is considered to be the major scientific event of the year
- The telescope, which produces infrared rays, has captured images of the deep universe with greater precision and detail than the Hubble telescope.
- It continues to discover the first galaxies formed during the Big Bang, whether habitable Earth-like planets exist elsewhere in the universe, and how galaxies connect.

### Artificial intelligence

- There are thousands of different types of proteins in all living things, starting with plants
- Determining the shape of proteins and how their molecules are arranged is important to biology and chemistry
- Determining the structure of a protein used to take years
- But artificial intelligence can predict the structure of more than 20 million proteins within a few months

### Double Asteroid redirection Test (DART)

- One-third of Earth's species, including the dinosaurs, were wiped out hundreds of thousands of years ago when an asteroid with a diameter of just 10 to 15 kilometers hit the 12,742-kilometer-diameter Earth several hundred thousand years ago.
- Of the 20,000 asteroids currently orbiting Earth, there are thousands of potentially dangerous ones.
- In our first attempt to protect Earth from these, our spacecraft collided with one of the pair of asteroids, Didymos I Dimorphos, altering the trajectory of both asteroids.
- The discovery will help protect the Earth from the impact of threatening asteroids in the future
- Apart from these, a 35,000-year-old fossil of a woolly elephant was found in the subsurface in Canada.
- After being shut down for maintenance for more than three years, the CERN particle accelerator resumed its work
- The drug cured colon cancer in more than 10 people without chemotherapy
- Several events can be cited such as the success of the experimental Artemis-1 spacecraft in sending man back to the moon

## India Science Events

### Vaccination

- Covaxin vaccine for corona virus was discovered in India and many people took the vaccine
- This year, India introduced the first nasal vaccine for the corona virus (INCOVACC)
- Administering the vaccine by injection requires qualified medical personnel. But the nasal passage is easier
- Although this drug is for the corona virus, it will also be a major step in the discovery of preventive drugs for various diseases in the future

### Liquid Mirror telescope

- India's first liquid crystal telescope, the 4m International Liquid Mirror Telescope, has been installed at the Aryabhata Observatory in Uttarakhand.
- If you take a glass of water and swirl it rapidly, it will take a parabolic shape, won't it?
- Similarly, liquid mercury is placed in a sphere 4 meters in diameter and kept rotating continuously
- Such telescopes are easy to make
- These can be used to study a wide variety of objects, from galaxy clusters in space, interstellar explosions to asteroids and comets in the solar system.

### Gaganyaan

- When humans return to Earth from space, the parachute carrying them must travel at moderate speeds and land
- Parachute systems and samples corresponding to the weight of the astronauts were carried in the plane to an altitude of 2500 km above the Earth's surface and released from there.
- The mission was a success, marking a major step towards India's Gaganyaan program to send humans into space.

### Cryostat

- A temperature below -270 degrees Celsius is hypothermic
- India's Larsen and Toubro has built a giant 16,000 cubic meter cryogenic chamber to be used at the International Nuclear Fusion Research Institute.
- This technology is needed in many places, from storing pharmaceuticals to operating magnets in MRI machines.

## Space Park mission

### Work organization

- A space park is to be set up at Kanyakumari by the Indian Space Research Organization.
- Indian Space Research Organization to set up Space Science and Technology Park at Sunset Center Kanyakumari.
- Kaganyaan project work is nearing completion and soon the project will become operational.
- Astronauts are selected and trained for space travel.
- Man-like toys will be prepared and sent into space on an experimental basis.
- They will then be dropped into the sea and tested.
- Only then will the process of sending humans into space begin.

## Gaganyaan project

### Introduction

- Russia, USA and China are the only three countries that have sent humans into space
- India is making serious efforts to achieve this feat.
- In 2007, the project to send humans into space was launched with a budget of Rs 10,000 crore.

### Gaganyaan

- In 2014, the project was named Gaganyaan and researches were intensified.
- 4 Indian Air Force pilots have been selected to go into space.
- They have received special training in Russia.
- Now a special center has been set up for them in Bengaluru and training is provided there.

### LVM-3

- Gaganyaan is planned to use ISRO's sophisticated LVM-1 rocket.
- Spacecraft to accommodate astronauts, space suits and parachutes for safe landing of astronauts after space travel are elaborately designed.
- An unmanned test spacecraft is slated to be launched into space in mid-2024
- ISRO has prepared a female robot named "Vyommitra" to be sent on an unmanned spacecraft.
- The robot will probe in space and send information to ISRO.
- The target is to send 3 Indian soldiers into space by the end of 2024.
- Indian astronauts will spend two weeks exploring space & return safely to Earth.
- Gaganyaan project is India's dream project.
- It is proposed as a national scheme.
- Not only ISRO but entire India is eagerly waiting for the success of this project.

## Mormugao warship

### A powerful navy

- India is in the list of 10 countries with the strongest navy in the world
- According to 2014 statistics, the Indian Navy had 130 warships, including 14 submarines.
- According to the latest statistics, the Indian Navy has more than 150 warships

### India

- Aircraft carrier INS Vikrant inducted into Navy.
- A sophisticated aircraft carrier, INS Vishal, is under construction at Kochi Shipyard.
- 4 warships under Project 15B are being manufactured at Mazagon Dock in Mumbai.
- INS Visakhapatnam was inducted into the Navy in November 2021
- INS Mormugao, the second warship of the class, was built in 2011 and underwent various phase trials.
- INS Mormugao frigate is indigenously built and inducted into the Navy
- In future, we will sell warships to friendly countries and countries around the world.

## INS Vagir

- INS Vagir submarine manufactured in Mumbai handed over to Navy for naval use
- It is planned to produce 5 Scorpène-class submarine in collaboration with French company for naval use
- The ships were built at Mazagon Shipyard in Mumbai
- Already 4 Scorpene type submarines namely INS Kalvari, Kanderi, Karanj and Vela have been delivered to the Navy.
- This submersible can accurately attack enemy ships and submarines moving at sea
- The ship can carry out a number of tasks, including laying mines afloat and surveillance

## Lagrangian points

- The region where the spacecraft Aditya L1 will be positioned to reach the Sun is called the Lagrangian point.
- The combined gravitational force of two large celestial bodies, Earth and Sun or Earth and Moon, is felt by a third smaller celestial body.
- A point in space that balances this centrifugal force is called a Lagrangian point.
- There are a total of 5 Lagrangian points around the Sun
- The first Lagrangian point at which our Aditya L1 spacecraft will dock is between the Earth and the Sun.
- Stationing the spacecraft at this point would allow it to observe the Sun at any time, uninterrupted by events such as eclipses, the researchers said.

### Lagrangian 2

- The second Lagrangian point is the closest to the Earth and Moon behind the Sun
- It is reported that when the spacecraft is stationary at this point, the spacecraft will be able to get a clear view of deep space
- The spacecraft sent by NASA in 2018 was stationed at this point.

### Lagrangian 3

- The Lagrangian 3<sup>rd</sup> point is located behind the Sun against the Earth's orbital path
- The use of this space has not yet been discovered by space explorers.

### Lagrangian 4 & 5

- Lagrangian 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> points are at 600 degree angle back and forth from Earth on Earth's orbital path centered on the Sun.
- Minerals and meteorites are concentrated at these points
- Meteors around this point are called Trojans
- 2010 DK7, the only meteorite known to Earth, was discovered at this point.

## Journey to the Sun

### ISRO

- We started space research before ISRO was started in Bangalore in 1969
- ISRO was started by the efforts of the Indian Space Research Council, which was formed under the leadership of Vikram Sarabhai, who is known as the father of Indian space research



## Aryabhata

- It is noteworthy that India's first rocket, Aryabhata, was launched from the then Soviet Russia in 1975
- Rohini, an Indian-built subsonic spacecraft, was launched in 1979 from the Sriharikota rocket launch site.
- Subsequently, various spacecraft designed entirely in India have been sent to the Moon, Mars and other regions of space for various explorations.

## A new milestone in space exploration

- ISRO surprised the world by successfully launching its 100<sup>th</sup> satellite in 2018.
- Currently, ISRO is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest space agency in the world

## Chandrayaan 1

- India, which has been creating various achievements in space exploration, made a record by sending the unmanned spacecraft Chandrayaan-1 to the moon in 2008, the first to go beyond the Earth's orbit.

## Mangalyaan

- Following this, India reached a new milestone in space exploration by launching Mangalyaan spacecraft to explore Mars in 2013 and Chandrayaan-2 to the Moon in 2019.
- In the next step, the plan to send a spacecraft to study the sun following the moon and the plan to send astronauts to the moon is designed as a dream project of ISRO and various experiments are being conducted.

## Aditya L-1

- The Aditya L1 spacecraft is being developed by ISRO in collaboration with NASA.
- ISRO is keen to complete this project by January 2023 and launch it into space
- Aditya L1 is slated to launch to the Sun on a GSLV C56 rocket from the Sriharikota launch pad in January.

## Solar storm

- The spacecraft weighs 1475 kg
- This is planned to be positioned at Lagrangian point 1 of the Sun which is 1.5 million kms from the Earth
- The spacecraft will be able to study solar storms, Earth changes, photosphere and chromosphere and send information back to Earth.
- Also the main objective is to study the Sun's outer layer and near ultraviolet rays
- By positioning the spacecraft at the first Lagrangian point, Space explorers hope that we will be able to continue observing the Sun from Earth.

## Challenges

- Sending spacecraft to the Sun has always been a challenge for space explorers
- Especially the distance of Sun from Earth is 149 million kilometers
- But the moon is only 3.84 lakh kilometers away
- The second reason is the high temperature of the solar atmosphere and radiation
- The nation of India is waiting for ISRO to overcome these challenges and create a new record in January
- It will continue to study the Sun to detect and mitigate the effects of solar storms approaching Earth.

## Capability-enhanced Bramos missile

- The Indian Air Force on Thursday successfully test-fired Bramos missile, which is capable of accurately hitting ships moving from the air to the sea.
- Indian Air Force successfully test-fired Bramos long-range strike-to-destroy missile
- The missile was test-fired from a SU-30 MKI fighter jet on a ship anchored in the Bay of Bengal
- The success of this test has enhanced the Indian Air Force's ability to accurately display long-range targets on land and sea surfaces from fighter aircraft.
- It is reported that the test success confirmed the Indian Air Force's dominance in future challenges

## Cancer will increase by 12.8%

### Government schemes for cancer patients

- Treatment under Ayushman Bharat Insurance Scheme.
- Affordable medicines through People's Pharmacy.
- Low-cost replacement organs through the Amrut scheme.
- Free or subsidized treatment in government hospitals (Financial assistance to poor patients through National Health Fund)

### Structural Development Schemes of Govt

- Cancer Centers in 22 AIIMS Hospitals.
- Development of structures in 13 State Government Medical College Clinics.
- 19 State Cancer Centres.
- 20 high quality cancer treatment centers.
- National Cancer Center, Jhajjar Haryana.
- Chittaranjan National Cancer Centre, Kolkata.

## Athlete PT Usha - The first woman president of the Indian Olympic Association

- 58 year old PD Usha narrowly missed out on winning a bronze medal in the 400m hurdles at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.
- However, he won 11 medals including 4 gold in the Asian Games
- After 20 years of dominating athletics at the Indian and Asian level, PT Usha finally retired in 2000
- This is the first time in the 95-year history of the Olympic Association that an Olympian who has won a medal in international competitions has been elected as its president
- PT Usha, fondly known as Payyoli Express, was elected to BJP's ruling state assembly.

## Hockey World Cup

### A grand stadium built at a cost of Rs 500 crores in Rourkela

- The Men's Hockey World Cup series is scheduled to be held from January 13 to 29 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- The new stadium is named after freedom fighter and tribal icon Birsa Munda
- The hockey ground is spread over an area of about 16 acres and can seat 21000 people to watch the match

## Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme

### Amarjeet Sinha

- The Center has set up a committee headed by former Rural Development Secretary Amarjeet Sinha to examine whether the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme exists.

### MGNREP

- This scheme has been implemented since 2005 to ensure 100 days of employment per year to every family in rural areas.
- Since the implementation of this scheme, farmers have been saying that they are not getting any manpower for agricultural work
- A lot of people who register for employment come to the field and register their attendance and go to other jobs

### Complaint

- Fake names are entered in the attendance register and money is extorted
- Another shortcoming of the scheme is that wages are not given rise commensurate with inflation
- The pay ranges from Rs 193 to Rs 318 in different states
- This caused a loss of Rs 600 crores to the government
- In 2012, 10 lakh fake job cards were detected in Karnataka
- Such wages are also not paid in due time
- The Parliamentary Standing Committee pointed out that in 2020-2011, Rs 4060 crore is outstanding for wages and Rs 9000 crore for construction materials.
- Peoples' Action for Employment Guarantee has demanded that at least Rs 2.64 lakh crore should be allocated if the 100-day program is to be provided.
- But the revised financial statement allocation for 2022-23 is only Rs 98000 crore

## Terrorists should not be divided into good and bad

- The UN Security Council has 15 member states
- It has 5 permanent member states and 10 temporary member states
- Temporary member states are elected every two years
- Terrorism cannot be associated with any particular race, religion and country
- Terrorism in any form must be condemned
- The categorization of terrorists as good and bad for political reasons must be stopped immediately
- Because such actions will dilute the war against terrorism.

## Russia offers to help India get hold of big oil tankers

### Notice

- Russia has said it is ready to help India build a super-large tanker to deal with G7 restrictions on crude oil prices.

### Discount price

- Western countries have imposed economic sanctions on Russia for its war on Ukraine
- Russia then offered to supply crude oil at a discounted price

- Taking advantage of this opportunity, India increased its crude oil imports from the country

### **Ceiling**

- They have announced a ceiling on oil prices
- This means that crude oil cannot be bought from Russia at more than USD 60 per barrel
- There is also a ban on ships and insurance companies carrying crude oil that is sold at a premium beyond the ceiling

## **Learning gap**

### **Educational benefit**

- It was not possible to conduct live classes for 19 months during the corona period
- So children come to the 2<sup>nd</sup> std without fully knowing about the 1<sup>st</sup> class subjects and 3<sup>rd</sup> class without studying about the 2<sup>nd</sup> class.
- Because of this learning gap, children are not fully reaping the benefits of education

### **Ennum Ezhuththum**

- Bridging the learning gap of educationally disadvantaged children is the most important duty of the education sector
- That's what the "Ennum Ezhuththum" program was created for.
- The government is going to implement this scheme for 3 years starting from the academic year 2022-23

### **Initiation, Practice**

- The "Ennum Ezhuththum" program was launched by Chief Minister M K Stalin on 13.6. 2022 at Azhinjivakkam Panchayat Union Middle School, Tiruvallur District.
- Special training was given to teachers separately
- Also teacher manuals and textbooks were provided by the State Educational Research and Training Institute

### **"Arumbu, Mottu, Malar"**

- In order to identify the learning gaps of children and educate them according to their abilities, they divide them into three categories namely, "Arumbu, Mottu, Malar"
- "Arumbu" represents illiterate children, "Mottu" means little literate children and "Malar" means well-educated children
- The aim of this scheme is to make the children who are in the category of "Arumbu & Mottu" to flourish well

### **Dancing, Singing, Story-telling**

- While teaching Tamil, English & Maths lessons, children's interest and engagement are encouraged through activities such as dancing, singing, storytelling, reading activities, creative puppetry in the classroom to make children happy in their learning.

## **Chinese invasion was repulsed**

### **India-China border**

- The India-China border stretches for 3488 km from Karakoram in Ladakh to Jelep La in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Indian-Tibetan Border Guards are engaged in security work at this border

- According to agreements reached in 1996 and 2005, Indian and Chinese soldiers guarding the border cannot use weapons.

### Galwan Valley

- However, skirmishes are a regular occurrence when Chinese soldiers encroach on the border areas of Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.
- On June 15, 2020, there was a huge clash between Indian and Chinese soldiers in the Galwan Valley of Ladakh.
- 20 people lost their lives on the Indian side.
- Thirty-eight people died on the Chinese side.

### Yangtze Border

- Soldiers hold off over 200 Chinese soldiers trying to trespass in the Yangtze border area of Tawang District, Arunachal Pradesh.

## Why is China targeting Arunachal's Tawang?

- The entire Arunachal Pradesh can be monitored from here
- Besides, Tawang is located on the China Bhutan border
- The whole of Tibet can be monitored
- The Dalai Lama, the Tibetan Buddhist leader, has stayed in the Tawang area
- There is a huge Buddhist monastery
- This is a matter of honor for China

## Millets cultivation

### Goal

- The United Nations has declared next year (2023) as the Year of Millets
- There will be a revival in the use of nutritious small grains among the general population and the development of market economies around the world.
- This project will help to deal with the impact of climate change on food production in the future.

### Millets

- In India, the agricultural society is functioning with the focus on the production of wheat and rice only
- Due to this, the cultivation of our traditional small grains like corn, rye, sorghum, chamai, sorghum and horseradish has come to a standstill.
- At present small grain cultivation is alive only in hilly areas
- In the states of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, it is customary for the tribals to preserve small grain seeds and pass them on to the next generation.
- The people of Salem and Dharmapuri districts, where small grains are grown in large quantities in Tamil Nadu, preserve small grain seeds in pots.
- India is the world's second largest producer of food and is also the world's largest exporter of rice
- India has exported 21.21 million tonnes of rice in 2021-22.
- Drought without rain, excessive rainfall, depletion of ground water table, damage to soil by chemical fertilizers etc. are problems for sustainable agricultural development in India.
- Therefore, the central government has intensified efforts to promote the cultivation of small grain crops that can withstand all climates.

## Statistics

- In 2020, 89.17 million tonnes of small grains were produced globally on 74 million hectares.
- In this, India is second only to African countries with 15.53 million tonnes of small grains grown on 12.45 million hectares.
- In this, Tamil Nadu's contribution is 3.74%.

## Export

- India is the 5<sup>th</sup> largest exporter of small grains in the world.
- In the financial year 2020-21, India exported 26.97 million dollars.

## Benefits

- Paddy needs a lot of water
- However, small amounts of water are sufficient for small grains
- Besides, it can be harvested in less time (within 65 to 90 days)
- These are suitable for rainfed cultivation
- Apart from that, small grain cultivation is less pest and disease prone

## Source price

- Chhattisgarh State Government has announced minimum reference price for Kodo millet(varagu), little millet (saamai) and Ragi crops to encourage their production.
- Similarly, if support price is fixed and insurance is provided for the production of small grains in all the states, most of the farmers will come forward to grow small grains.

## Conclusion

- There is no doubt that Tamil Nadu will take the lead in small grain production if the consumption of small grains is encouraged through Public Distribution Scheme, Nutrition Scheme in Schools, Balanced Meal Scheme for Patients in Hospitals etc.

# Ganges River Restoration Project

- The UN has also recognized the Ganges River Restoration Project as one of the 10 most innovative international efforts to restore nature.
- The UN Biodiversity Conference is being held in Montreal, Canada
- The leaders and representatives of 196 countries participated in this conference
- A report released at the conference included a three-nation agreement to restore forest protection in Brazil, Paraguay, and Argentina.
- The UN has recognized 10 projects, including the Abu Dhabi Coastal Restoration Project, as nature restoration projects.
- These ten projects aim to restore more than 6.80 crore hectares of land in the world
- These projects will create about 1.5 crore jobs, according to a UN press release

# Namami Gange

## River Ganges

- The Bhagirathi River originates in the Gangotri of Uttarakhand state in the Himalayas and joins the Alaknanda River at Devaprayag to form the Ganges.

- The Ganga River flows through the states of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and divides into two rivers, Hooglt & Padma, which passes through the state of West Bengal and Bangladesh.
- 50 crore people from 11 states of India benefit from the Ganga River

### Namai Gange Program

- A BJP government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi took office in mid-2014
- In the same year, Swachh Ganga Project was launched with a budget of Rs 20000 crores
- The scheme is being implemented in three sections namely initial works, intermediate works and vision works

### First stage

- In the first phase, the waste floating on the surface of the river Ganga was removed by machines
- The mixing of sewage from various cities and villages into the Ganga was prevented
- As many as 341 treatment plants are being constructed to prevent factory effluents from entering the river
- Toilets have been built for the people living along the Ganges under the Clean India Project
- Modern crematoria have been set up to prevent bodies from being thrown into the Ganges
- The United Nations Environment Programme, a part of the United Nations, has published a list of the top ten environmental projects in the world
- India's Clean Ganga Project is included in this

### UN Report

- A project launched in India in 2014 has restored areas of the Ganges River and the Gangetic Plain
- Marine life including dolphins, turtles and fish are protected
- The protection of the animals living in the forests adjacent to the Ganges has also been ensured
- The river Ganga flows for a distance of about 2,525 km
- In this, including India, the Ganges River has been restored for a distance of 1500 km
- So far 30,000 hectares of forest has been created
- Clean Ganga Project of Government of India is one of the best environmental projects in the world.

## **1.58 crore minors are addicted to drugs**

- The Central Government informed the Supreme Court that 1.58 crore children in the age group of 10 to 17 years are addicted to various types of drugs in the country.

### 1.6% women drink alcohol

- Alcohol is the most common drug used by Indians
- 14.6% of the population aged between 10 and 75 consume alcohol
- That means 16 crore people are addicted to alcohol
- 17 males to one female are addicted to alcohol (17:1)
- Chhattisgarh has the highest number of alcohol drinkers in the state

### Cannabis(Marijuana), Narcotic pill

- Next to alcohol, Cannabis(Marijuana) and narcotic pills are the most widely used drugs by Indians
- Of this, 2.2 crore people use "Bhang" and 1.3 crore use illegal cannabis products.
- Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of cannabis users

## Effects

- Out of the 16 crore people who drink alcohol in the country, 5.7 crore suffer from alcohol-related harm and require treatment.

## Preventive measures

- A National Action Plan has been formulated by the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to prevent drug abuse and serious preventive measures are being taken.

## Path-changing addiction

- 1.58 crore children between the age of 10 to 17 are addicted to various types of drugs, the central government told the Supreme Court.
- 14.6% of people in the age group of 10 to 75 years consume alcohol (16 crore)
- Among such drinkers, 17 males to one female are addicted to the alcohol (1.6%)
- Next, cannabis and narcotic pills are used to a large extent
- 2.2 crore people use "Bhang", a type of cannabis, and 1.3 crore people use illegal substances.

## Problems

- Out of 16 crore people who are addicted to alcohol, 5.7 crore people and out of 2.26 crore people who use narcotic pills, 77 lakh people have suffered severe physical damage.
- Apart from physical problems, it also leads to divorce among husband and wife, psychological damage to children of drug addicts etc.
- This cannot be known in any survey

## Small corruptions affect people : Major corruptions hinder the development of the country

## Judgment

- Direct evidence is not necessary in bribery cases
- The Supreme Court has ruled that government servants can be convicted on the basis of circumstantial evidence

## Bribery

- Corruption in government should be eradicated
- The public and the police should act diligently to bring complaints against bribery officials and punish the public servants who take bribes.
- Only then can bribery be controlled
- Government employees who take bribes and are corrupt all over the country should be brought to justice and punished
- Bribery and corruption are like cancer
- Corruption destroys the development of the country like cancer destroys the body

## Proceedings

- If the Government Servant does not ask for the bribe but the applicant gives the bribe and the Government servant receives it, action can be taken under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act.
- Action can be taken under section 13 of the Prevention of Corruption Act if a government servant asks for a bribe and the applicant gives it



## Pension Plan

### Judgment

- Pension is not a pittance. It is the legal right of workers
- The day on which the judgment was given is observed as Pensioners' Day across the country
- As the 40<sup>th</sup> Pensioners Day is being celebrated, the pension itself is being denied in the name of the New Pension Scheme
- Job security, social security and pensions had created great confidence in government employment
- The pension was in effect during the British rule
- The Pension Act (1834), Royal Commission (1856), Pension Amendment Bill (1867) and other legislations created a stable environment for pensions
- 1931 Karachi Congress Conference passed resolution to continue pension

### Social security

- New Economic Policy was introduced in 1991
- By the year 2000, the International Monetary Fund and a panel chaired by Dr. Bhattacharya suggested that pensions would create a huge financial burden on the government and therefore replace pensions with contributory pensions.
- The new pension scheme was brought in on 22 December 2003 by a Finance Ministry Commission during the BJP regime
- For those who joined the service from January 1, 2004, the new pension scheme became contributory pension
- It was introduced on April 1, 2003 as revenge for those who participated in the 2002 strike during Jayalalithaa's rule in Tamil Nadu.

### Disadvantages of Contributory Pension

- 10% of employee salary will be withheld (Pay+DA)
- The government will contribute 10% to employees (Currently 14% in Central Govt.)
- Both will be invested in various stocks including Mutual Funds, LIC, UTIs, Fund Managers appointed by the Pension Regulatory Commission.
- The interest rate fluctuates depending on the volatility of the stock market
- There is no guarantee of investment
- 50% of the defined drawdown salary is paid as a statutory pension on retirement from service
- Only 60% of the total amount will be paid to those who joined the new pension scheme
- 40% will be put into retirement annuity plan
- The pension will be available as per the stock market price of the day

### Is finance the problem?

- Individuals and private company workers can join this
- The total amount contributed by central state government employees in the new pension scheme is Rs 630376 crore
- The existing Defined Pension was started in 1954 by taking the money from the Contributory Provident Fund from the accounts of the Central Government employees as a contingency fund.

## Yangtze

- Indian Army repulses Chinese encroachment in Yangtze area of Arunachal Pradesh
- The problem in Tawang sector on the eastern border of the Indo-China border is almost identical to that in Ladakh on the northwestern border.
- China's transgressions are nothing new
- After the 1962 Indo-chinese War, they became a sequel
- China signed some border agreements with India in 1993 and 1996 when PV Narasimha Rao was Prime Minister.
- Thereafter three agreements were signed in 2005, 2012 & 2013.
- Both sides agreed that all border issues between the two countries should be resolved only through negotiations
- Both countries also decided not to engage in threats of war for any reason
- Despite border issues, trade relations between the two countries continue
- India hopes that it can restore trust and establish rapprochement
- The boundary between India and China has not yet been formally and mutually acceptable
- So the two sides have different views on the border
- China considers the areas that India considers our borders to be its own, and India considers the areas that China considers its own to be its own
- It is in such places that tension and conflict arise
- The Indian parts of the Line of Control are the higher reaches of the Himalayas
- It is difficult to get people and materials needed to build roads and improve infrastructure there
- At the same time, for China, since its areas are in the Tibetan Plateau, it can easily improve its structure there
- There is reason for China's reluctance to demarcate the border
- China's fear is that maybe that will be fixed as the border
- China is not willing to accept it even after alleviating that fear in several talks
- This is the root cause of the Indo-China border issue

## Central Administrative Tribunal

- The Central Administrative Tribunal was constituted to inquire into the grievances of the employees working in 219 departments in all India posts like IAS IPS IFS and all public service central government posts including recruitment activities, work rules, service conditions promotion transfers etc.
- They are operating in 19 locations across the country including Delhi, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Ernakulam.
- Since the establishment of these tribunals in 1985, 13,350 cases have been transferred here from the High Courts.

### Purpose of the Tribunal

- Administrative Tribunals were established with the aim of expeditiously investigating and adjudicating cases related to government employees.
- However, due to the long unfilled vacancies in the Chennai session, hundreds of cases have been pending since last April despite hearings.

## Biodiversity Fund

- Conservation of biodiversity must also be based on common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR) as climate change also impacts nature. As the 196 parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) finalise negotiations for a post-2020 Global biodiversity framework (GBF)
- UN Convention to Combat Desertification, remains the only source of funding for biodiversity conservation
- At CBD COP15, developing countries have been demanding a new and dedicated biodiversity fund.
- Require funds and technology transfer for this purpose
- Principle of the Rio Declaration adopted at the Earth Summit in 1992, CBDR is defined as states have common but differentiated responsibilities in view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation.

## 20 billion USD for biodiversity conservation

### Resolution

- The UN General Assembly has passed a resolution to increase the target for biodiversity conservation to 30 percent and mobilize USD 20 trillion by 2030.
- The 15<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the United Nations Biodiversity Conservation Organization was held in Montreal, Canada
- Representatives of more than 190 member countries attended the conference

### Protected areas

- 17% of land and 10% of marine areas of biodiversity importance have already been declared as protected areas.
- Currently, a target has been set to protect 30% of land and sea areas by 2030
- The resolution also pledged to mobilize USD 20,000 crore by 2030 to promote biodiversity conservation.
- It has been decided to raise the funds from several sources
- The resolution also provides for making adjustments in the grant program given to the countries through the Biodiversity Conservation System
- The resolution has set a target of increasing the funds provided to poor countries to at least US\$ 2000 crore by 2025 and to US\$ 3000 crore by 2030.

## Maternity protection

### Postnatal hygiene

- Reproductive health is seen as a development symbol of health, standard of living, nutrition, women's welfare, etc

### Maternal mortality

- In 2014-16, there were 130 perinatal deaths per one lakh deliveries
- In 2018-20, it has come down to 97, the Union Health Ministry said
- According to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, maternal mortality should be reduced to 70 per lakh by 2030.

- Perinatal mortality rate is the ratio of maternal deaths during pregnancy per 100,000 healthy births.
- This success has been achieved through various initiatives including the Janani Suraksha Yojana of the central government

### Ratio

- Kerala ranks first as the perinatal mortality rate is only 19
- Assam, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have the highest perinatal mortality rates with a perinatal mortality rate of over 130.
- Another paradox is that there is more in Punjab and less in Haryana

### Surakshit matritva abhiyan

- Prime Minister's Surakshit matritva abhiyan is a scheme for the protection of women during childbirth
- Its goals are to provide free quality services to pregnant women and ensure antenatal care
- Through this program iron folic acid etc. is given to anemic pregnant women as per requirement and their condition is monitored during pregnancy which prevents maternal death.

## **Future technologies**

### Drone Taxi

- Electric powered drone taxi is designed for short distance travel

### Edge computing

- Edge computing is bringing computation, data storage closer to data sources and optimizing time

### Virtual reality

- It is having a huge impact on virtual gaming
- The demand for this may increase in the future as it gives the experience of going directly to the ground

### Blockchain technology

- It is a method of recording information
- With this technology, computer modification, hacking, manipulation etc. are impossible
- This can be called a digital ledger

### Robot dogs

- A robotic guide dog will be a tool to help visually impaired people deal with animals easily
- This tool is designed by a student from England

### Artificial intelligence

- Artificial intelligence technology has also earned the status of the world's fourth technological revolution

## **COP 15**

- Kunming - Montreal Agreement is aimed at saving the lands, oceans and species from pollution, degradation and climate change
- Compared to the landmark Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5 degree celsius

### Peace Pact with Nature

- The Kunmin - Montreal pact is hailed as a landmark to protect biodiversity

## "30 by 30"

- A pledge to protect 30% of the world's land and seas by 2030

## Indigenous rights

- Safeguarding Indigenous peoples' right to remain stewards of land they use and ensuring they are not subject to mass evictions

## Finance

- For rich countries to provide "at least \$20 billion per year by 2025 and at least \$30 billion per year by 2030"
- Trust Fund within an existing financial mechanism called the Global Environment facility, as a stepping stone to a new fund in the future

## "Kunming-Monreal GBF" includes 4 goals

- Global projects for 2030 is the effect conservation and management of at least 30% of the world's lands, inland waters, coastal areas and oceans, with emphasis on areas of particular importance for biodiversity and Ecosystem functioning and services
- The deal also aims to reduced to near Zero the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance
- Cut global food waste in half and significantly reduce over consumption and waste generation
- It also intends to cut by half both excess nutrients and the overall risk posed by pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals

## A Planet in Crisis

- 27<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) in Egypt
- To save the planet - in Montreal, Canada, this time, and as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- While both these conferences can trace their origins to the Rio summit of 1992
- The CBD does not get anywhere near the media attention, COP commands

## Organic farming policy

- It is well known that organic farming is an agricultural practice that is free from chemical and other fertilizers
- Farming/food free from chemicals & other fertilizers is known as organic in English

## Pathways to growth

- Organic agricultural products are produced without chemical inputs
- These include, from seed, access to alternative inputs, fair prices to farmers, environmental concerns, promoting biodiversity without monocultures, and bio/seed diversity.
- Excessive use of harmful chemicals in production, processing, packaging; Undesirable effects of big traders, corporations, over-investment, predatory profits
- Exclusion of small traders, customers, producers ; Exploitative unfairness ; Lack of concern for the environment
- Plans should be in place to address issues such as unhealthy diets

## The necessity of organic farming

- There is widespread criticism that organic produce is sold at high prices
- As supply and demand increase, prices adjust
- Until then it is the duty of the government to carry this to the end of the society

- In today's age, even children are affected by allergies, skin diseases, nervous disorders, heart diseases, cancer
- This is because of the chemicals in our food

### **What the government should do?**

- Central and state governments should carry out big programs and awareness programmes
- At least try to bring organic produce in programs for pregnant women, mid-day meals, fair price shops etc
- Community resource persons in Andhra state have contributed significantly in everything from seed, pest management, input production and marketing

### **Let the change happen**

- Genetically modified crops have no place in organic farming
- Banned worldwide
- Japan has recently sent back wheat from the US with GMO residue

## **The world faced 2022**

### **The war in Ukraine that shook the world**

- Russia launched a war on Ukraine, which was then a part of the Soviet Union, and rejected its attempts to join NATO today.
- Russian President Putin has slammed nuclear-armed Ukraine as a threat to its security if it joins NATO.
- India, which did not openly condemn Russia for the Russian offensive that began on February 24, urged a negotiated end to the war

### **Britain**

- Britain stumbled through 3 Prime Ministers in one year
- Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who came under fire for hosting friends at the prime minister's official residence while the lockdown was in place, stepped down at one point amid other crises, including the economy.
- Liz Truss, who succeeded him, promised to revive the economy and failed to do so.
- The appointment of Indian-origin Rishi Sunak as Britain's new Prime Minister attracted attention

### **The scattered Afghans**

- The rampant poverty in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan has shocked the world

### **America**

- Rising temperatures as a result of climate change have fueled violent acts such as shootings in recent years, University of Washington researchers say.
- As usual, the US, which was clashing with countries like China and Iran, imposed various economic sanctions on Russia for its war on Ukraine.

### **Heroism of Iranian women**

- A 23-year-old Iranian woman named Mahsa Amini was arrested and beaten for not wearing a proper hijab
- Following her death in a coma, the women of the country took off their hijab and jumped into protest
- Many artists and social activists came forward to support them

## The Tribulations of Sri Lanka

- 2019 Easter Bombings Decline in Tourism
- The impact of the pandemic shutdown
- The food crisis caused by the president who tried to implement organic farming aggressively
- The economy began to falter due to bad economic policies and excess debt
- There are many problems facing Sri Lanka such as shortage of fuel and electricity
- The President Gotabaya Rajapaksa fled the country as a result of a series of popular uprisings

## Climate change in focus

- The debate on climate change gained extra attention in 2022
- Terrible rains and floods in Pakistan
- Hurricane faced by America
- Many destructions were feared, including the scorching heat of Europe
- In November, world leaders and scientists gathered at the COP27 summit in Egypt's Sharm el-Sheikh.
- In order to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and avoid its severe impacts, the UN Scientific Committee insists that global emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, ozone etc. should be reduced by 43% by 2030.

# Sahitya Akademi Award to Mu Rajendran

## Sahitya Akademi Award

- Author Mu Rajendran has been selected for the 2022 Sahitya Akademi Award for his historical novel "Kala Pani"
- Sahitya Akademi awards are given annually to outstanding literary works published in various languages of India and English

## Mu. Rajendran

- Writer Mu Rajendran, a retired IAS officer, has been selected for the Tamil Language Award
- The award has been announced for Kala Pani, a historical novel based on the events related to the Kalayar Kovil War.

## Best translation

- Bengaluru-based writer and translator K Nallathambi has been selected for the Tamil Language Award.
- Nalla Thambi has translated Nemichandra's Kannada novel Yadavashem into Tamil.

# Oscar

- The 95<sup>th</sup> Oscars will be held on March 12, 2023 in Los Angeles, USA.
- The award will be presented in 10 categories
- Gujarati language film "Chhello Show" was officially nominated by India for the event

## Accusation

- The DMK government, which made an election promise to set up a forest commission to protect rare species of animals, protect wild animals, take measures to avoid animal-human confrontation, and protect forest resources, has thrown it into the air after sitting in the administration.

## Permission for the use of nasal spray as a booster

- The central government has approved the 3<sup>rd</sup> installment of the nasal anti-coronavirus drug manufactured by Bharat Biotech.
- Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech has already developed Covaxin vaccine to prevent the spread of Corona virus.
- That vaccine is being administered to people.
- In this case, the Bharath Biotech company has produced a corona vaccine that is administered through the nose instead of by injection.
- The Drug Quality Control Directorate of India has approved the drug for use in persons above 18 years of age.
- In this case, permission has been given to administer the preventive medicine in the 3<sup>rd</sup> installment.
- Officials have informed that no matter what kind of corona vaccines like Covaxin and Covishield are administered in the first two installments, nasal immunization can be administered as a booster.

### Great benefit

- Stating that the conventional corona vaccine does not prevent the surface infection of the respiratory tract, Bharat Biotech has developed a nasal vaccine called PPV154 to address this.
- The Corona vaccine program includes a nasal vaccine manufactured by Bharat Biotech.

## Jim Corbett

- He is remembered as a savior and a hero who came to protect the tribal people in North Indian districts
- Although the government hired him to shoot man-killing tiger-leopards, he had no grudge against wild animals.

### Where did Jim Corbett live in India?

- Although Jim Corbett is English by birth, he has only been to England once
- In 1915, he bought Chhoti Haldwani, an abandoned village, for Rs 1500.
- He built a beautiful winter home for himself in that village
- Fruit trees and groves were created around this house
- The house is now the Jim Corbett Museum

## 9% growth is necessary for 20 years to make the country a Developed Nation

### Introduction

- If India wants to be included in the list of developed countries, an average economic growth of 8 to 9 percent for 20 years is necessary
- The central government has set a target of increasing the country's economic value to around Rs 400 lakh crore by 2024-25 (US\$ 5 trillion).

### 5<sup>th</sup> economy

- India has emerged as the world's 5<sup>th</sup> largest economy in terms of overall productivity
- This is a great achievement
- But India ranks 142 out of 197 countries in terms of per capita income



## 5 trillion target

- A better short-term goal is to grow the economy to \$5 trillion
- If the country's economic growth is 9% annually, that target can be achieved in the next 5 years
- Meanwhile, India's per capita income will remain at USD 3472 even after achieving that target
- In that context India would be classified as a lower middle income country
- If India wants to become a developed country, per capita income should rise to 13025 USD
- To achieve that, an annual economic growth of 8 to 9 percent is required for the next two decades
- First, the country's economic growth should be 7%
- Keeping it as it is, then the growth should be gradually increased

## Amrut Bharat Scheme

- Under the Amrut Bharat Station Project, 1000 small railway stations are to be renovated

### Aim

- The objective of the project is to connect different parts of the city and identify developing cities to connect different cities in future.
- The project will include bridges and various modes of transport connectivity
- The concept of this scheme is to modernize railway stations at low cost
- As per requirement, Zonal Managing Directors of Railways will carry out modernization works at various levels
- A special fund will also be allocated for this project

### Modernization

- Development and renovation works including widening of roads for easy access to railway stations, removal of disused structures, pedestrian crossings, parking facilities and improved lighting systems will be carried out during the modernization of railway stations.

## A turning point in Nepal : Prachanda became PM

- Prachanda, who quit the ruling coalition, formed an alliance with Leader of the Opposition and former Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli.
- With the coalition now in majority, Prachanda has been appointed as the Prime Minister of the country.

### Claiming the Rights

- Prachanda met President Vidyadevi Bhandari and handed over a letter of support from members of Parliament.
- He also claimed the right to rule
- Accepting it, the President made an announcement appointing Prachanda as the Prime Minister

### Inauguration

- This is his 3<sup>rd</sup> time as the Prime Minister of the country

### Majority support

- Prachanda is said to have the support of 168 members of the 275-member Nepali parliament

## Is this Bad for India?

- India shares a 1850 km long border with Nepal
- Prachanda, who will take over as the new Prime Minister, and former Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, have been on a confrontational course with India.
- They have expressed their views against India several times
- Political observers say that the two sides, who have a pro-China stance, are now joining hands, which is likely to be disadvantageous for India

## **Abuse Prime Minister's Housing Scheme**

### Prime Minister's Housing Scheme

- Under the Prime Minister's Housing Scheme, houses are built for the poor and slum dwellers
- The central government is providing a subsidy for that
- The concerned local government is responsible for selecting the beneficiaries under the scheme

### Accusation

- Allegations of allotment of houses under housing scheme to ineligible persons in Malihati village in Bharatpur block of Murshidabad district in West Bengal
- Meanwhile, it is shocking that many people living in slums in the village have not been allotted houses
- The central government had provided Rs 13,000 crore last month to the state to build 11.34 lakh houses under this scheme.

## **Consumers are the kings**

### Who is consumer?

- A consumer is a person who receives a product, work or service for his own use
- He may have paid the price for the thing in whole or in part or he may have promised to pay the price in whole or in part later
- From the citizen to the President, everyone is a consumer

### The path traversed

- A deep foundation for this was given by then President John F. Kennedy's address to the United States Congress on consumer rights on March 15, 1962.
- Subsequently, the United Nations passed the Guiding Principles on Consumer Protection in 1985
- The Consumer Protection Act in India came into force on 24 December 1986.
- It is observed annually as National Consumer Rights Day

### What are rights?

- Right to Protection
- Right to Information
- Right to choose
- Right to be asked for redressal
- Right to consumer education
- Right to redressal
- Right to a healthy environment

- If there is a defect in a product or service, you can approach the concerned government or government agency and make a written request to rectify the defect, replace the product or refund the amount paid.
- At the time of application, the concerned company should get approval from the government
- When the particular company does not resolve the grievance, legal action can be taken to redress them

### Things to be included in the complaint

- The complainant should clearly mention his name, complete address and details of the counter-petitioner
- Date of purchase of goods, date of receipt of service/amount paid for, goods purchased, description of service, are also relevant
- It is necessary to attach the copies of list/receipt and its copies of correspondence balance
- Aggrieved consumers should file a complaint within two years in this regard
- Complaints received thereafter will not be entertained for investigation

### Appeals

- An appeal against the decision of the District Consumer Grievance Tribunals can be appealed to the State Consumer Grievance Commission within 30 days and against the decision of the State Consumer Grievance Commission to the National Consumer Grievance Commission within 30 days.
- The decision of the National Consumer Grievance Redressal Commission can be appealed to the Supreme Court within 30 days
- There is no fee for appeals to State and National Consumer Grievance Redressal Commissions
- The reason for the appeal should be clearly stated

### Consumer Court Rules

- Before filing a complaint in court, the aggrieved party should send a notice properly describing their grievances and the remedies they seek
- By doing this, there is no need to go to consumer court. It is worth noting that this is an attempt at a negotiated settlement
- If there is no response to the notice sent by you, you can file a complaint with the Consumer Grievance Authority under the Consumer Act with sufficient evidence
- Complaints seeking compensation up to Rs 1 crore should be registered with the District Grievance Redressal Authority with sufficient documents
- Complaints involving compensation between Rs 1 crore and Rs 10 crore should be registered with the state consumer commission
- Complaints seeking compensation above Rs 10 crore should be registered with the National Consumer Grievances Authority.

## Environmental development

### Environmental degradation

- Deforestation
- Air pollution levels
- Many species are extinct

- Many species are pushed to the brink of extinction
- 60% of coral reefs bleached in Australia's largest Mass Bleaching event

### **Heat and floods**

- The average global temperature by 2022 has increased by 1.1 to 1.3 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.
- 2022 could be the 4<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> warmest year in human history
- The recorded high temperatures during the La Nino year highlight the severity of climate change
- This year, Antarctica's sea ice has plunged to a lowest recorded ever since
- Average sea level has risen as usual
- Switzerland's glaciers are melting at an alarming rate
- Food production was severely affected by a heat wave in Pakistan in March
- In the same Pakistan, a severe flood in June claimed the lives of 14,000 people
- Worst floods in Bangladesh
- Floods in north-eastern states of India
- Heat waves in China and Europe
- Damage caused by wildfire events
- Food production has been affected by the drought in Somalia, Kenya and other countries
- The damage caused in South Africa by subsequent storms such as Ana, Kambe, Isa
- Storm Ian killed 931 people in the United States
- The year's list of extreme weather events is huge, with European wildfires burning more than a million acres of forest

### **Climate of India**

- 2023 is predicted to continue as a La Nina cold year
- Thus, three consecutive La Niña years are extremely rare
- It is called as Triple Dip
- Triple Dip is about to happen
- Average temperatures, extreme weather events, and precipitation in 2023 will depend on the impact of this La Niña and greenhouse gas levels.
- While some key decisions on finance were made at this year's climate summit, it was a big disappointment that fossil fuels were not discussed much.
- Activists look to progress towards climate solutions at upcoming summit in UAE in 2023
- Apart from climate, various environmental issues including biodiversity, pollution, usage of plastics are now receiving attention from many international meetings.

## **Air Pollution**

### **Polluted Air**

- More than one crore people die every year due to air pollution

- Deaths due to polluted air have been on the rise since the turn of the century
- Especially the increase in carbon dioxide emitted from vehicles and factories is said to be an important cause of air pollution
- The study found that urbanization and deforestation are contributing to increased carbon emissions and impacts.

### Report

- Air pollution has increased by 55% in the last 22 years, the report said
- The United States ranks among the world's top ten industrialized nations with the highest air pollution deaths
- Air pollution caused 142883 deaths in the US in 2019
- According to the medical journal Lancet Planetary Health, the United States ranks between Bangladesh and Ethiopia.
- Among the fully industrialized nations, the United States is the worst hit

### The impact is high

- The countries with the highest air pollution-related deaths are India and China
- Annually, 24 lakh in China and 22 lakh in India die due to air pollution related effects
- Both of these countries are very populous countries so it cannot be considered a serious impact in terms of percentage

### The reason

- Urbanization is the most important reason for increasing air pollution related diseases in India every year
- Even now, there are not as many lung-related industries in the villages as they are in the cities
- At the same time, studies confirm that severe air pollution found in areas where factories are located and where thermal power plants are located promotes lung infections.

### Lowest

- Brunei, Qatar and Iceland have been listed as countries with the least air pollution in the world
- The highest pollution-related deaths in those countries ranged from 15 to 23 per lakh
- The international average is 117 deaths per 100,000 people

### Most in the world

- 13 cities in India have been identified as the most polluted cities in the world with the capital city Delhi being one of the most polluted cities in the world.
- Although air pollution has been identified as the leading cause of death in South Asia, it is distressing that no effort has been made to control it.

## Nilgiri Tahr Project

### Introduction

- A first-of-its-kind Nilgiri Tahr Program in the country to conserve and improve the habitat of Tamil Nadu's state animal, the Nilgiri Tahr

## **Nilgiri Tahr**

- The Nilgiri Tahr is one of the unique features of the Western Ghats
- A government order has been issued to implement the first ever Nilgiri Tahr Project at a cost of Rs 25.14 crore to protect the Tahr species and improve their habitats.

## **Functions**

- Integrated survey twice a year
- Continuous protection by fitting a telemetric radio collar
- Diagnosing diseases and treating the affected
- Observing 7<sup>th</sup> October every year as the Tahr day
- Creating awareness among people

## **Tahr vulnerability**

- 3122 Tahrs are estimated to be in the Western Ghats
- This species, which used to live in a wide range, is threatened with extinction due to the encroachment of alien artichokes
- forest fire
- Other anthropogenic pressures include a lack of environmental data and understanding for conservation planning
- At present they live only in a few scattered habitats within Tamil Nadu and Kerala

# **Central government decided to abolish prison sentence**

## **Indian Forest Act**

- Under the Indian Forest Act, 1972, trespassing in forest areas and taking cattle for grazing are punishable by imprisonment and a fine of Rs 500.
- In this case, the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry has recommended in the new bill to remove the jail sentence for these petty crimes

## **Environmental Protection Act**

- According to the Environment Protection Act 1986, the discharge of environmentally harmful waste is punishable by imprisonment.
- In this case, it is recommended in the new bill to remove the prison sentence for this crime and increase the fine amount

## **Why this change?**

- The Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry says that people are reluctant to start businesses due to the small penalties for minor offenses related to environmental protection
- This affects business activities

## Universities : International quality

### Internationally

- In the ranking of international universities, Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of California, Cambridge University have been occupying the top 10 positions for the last several decades.

### In India

- India's IITs, KNU, amia Millia Islamia, Banaras Hindu University, Aligarh Muslim University are ranked globally.
- Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore is ranked among the top 300 universities
- However, out of 1100 universities in India, not a single one has made it to the top 100

### Social justice

- Admission to all courses in Indian colleges and universities is made on a reservation basis, beyond the marks obtained in the examinations.
- Reservation of seats is followed in appointment of teachers as well
- It is a recognition of social justice
- Foreign universities conduct admissions on the basis of marks and English proficiency test certificate (TOEFL, IELTS, GRE)

### Difference and contrast

- For development of world class higher education it is necessary to ensure excellent infrastructure, research facilities, software, necessary faculty, appointment of research students, especially appointment of faculty from other countries, reputation of institutions employing foreign students.
- It is the government's duty to provide financial support for all these
- The Kothari Commission recommended that at least 6% of the GDP should be allocated to educational development
- Even after 75 years of independence, even at least 4% of the funds have not been allocated till date

### To be done

- We should be happy to see that ordinary students and common people get higher education and get economic socio-political development
- Even after reservation of seats, admissions and faculty appointments are required to be committed to progress in ranking with other world universities.

## New RVM

- The Election Commission is set to introduce a new electronic voting machine for the convenience of domestic migrant workers

### RVM

- Electronic voting machines are currently used in Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly elections

- In this case, the Chief Election Commission is soon going to introduce a new electronic voting machine called RVM so that you can cast your vote anywhere

### **Election Commission Notification**

- RVM has been prepared to facilitate the voting of internal migrant worker
- This prototype machine is designed to cast votes for voters belonging to multiple constituencies
- This means that voters in 72 constituencies can vote in one machine
- This machine is not attached to any other equipment
- Denying basic rights to migrants in an age of technological advancement is not right
- This machine will be introduced to enable people to vote in elections wherever they are in the country
- In the 2019 general elections, only 67.34% votes were registered
- More than thirty crore people did not vote
- It has been learned that migrants do not vote because they fear that if they register their voter names in their locality, they will be removed from their own constituency.
- So this machine will be useful for migrant workers of many states to vote at the same polling station
- How to define who are migrant workers before introducing RVM machine
- Issues such as how to prevent impersonation during elections, appointment of election officers, monitoring work, rules of conduct, protection of voting secrecy, identification of diaspora voters, remote voting and counting should be addressed.

### **Plan**

- According to Election Commission sources, it is planning to introduce the RVM machine on a trial basis during the assembly elections in 9 states in 2023 and, if successful, to use it fully in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

## **18 children die in Uzbekistan**

- 18 children in Uzbekistan have died after taking a cough medicine made by an Indian company, the country's health ministry said.
- Already in the African country of Gambia, where 70 children died from an Indian-made cough medicine, the controversy last October had a negative impact on the health of Indian medicines globally.
- A new controversy has now arisen in this context
- The Ministry of Health has alleged that 18 children in Uzbekistan died after taking Dok 1 Max, a cough medicine made by Noida-based Marion Biotech in Uttar Pradesh.
- The ministry also informed that the drug was tested to contain the chemical ethylene glycol
- Marion Biotech is a licensed company from Uttar Pradesh Drug Control Department
- Dok 1 Max cough syrup and tablet has an exclusive license to manufacture and export to Uzbekistan.
- The state health department said that this cough medicine is not sold in India



02

## State Affairs

### Rs. 1500 Increase in Pension

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Stalin has announced that the pension of 4,39,315 people, including the blind and differently abled, will be increased from Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500.

### Naan Mudhalvan Scheme

- Through this scheme, 100 differently abled persons are provided with free laptops and skill development training to generate employment opportunities in the first phase.
- The pension of 4,39,315 pensioners including blind and visually impaired persons will be increased from Rs. 1,000 to 1,500 from 1<sup>st</sup> January.
- This will cost the Tamil Nadu government 263 crores 58 lakhs annually.

### Number of tigers

- The Kalakadu-Mundanturai Tiger Reserve was established in 1988 as the first tiger sanctuary in Tamil Nadu.
- The reserve is spread over 895 square kilometers from Tirukurungudi to the Kadayam of the Western Ghats in Nellai district.
- Known for its biodiversity, the Tiger Reserve is home to wild boars, lion-tailed monkeys, elephants, tigers, bears, leopards, mila(deer), and various herbal plants such as Trichopus zeylanicus (Arogya Paccha), Amla (Aatru nelli), Wild Rudraksha, Malai Nannari.
- The Kalakadu-Mundanturai Tiger Reserve also has the honor of being the second largest tiger reserve in Tamil Nadu.
- Most of the moist evergreen forests in the state can be found in this tiger reserve
- Although annual tiger and wildlife surveys are conducted in the Kalakadu Mundanturai Tiger Reserve, they have not always been transparent.

### POCSO Act

- POCSO Act 2012 to protect all children below the age of 18 from sexual harassment regardless of gender
- This law is essential in today's environment, which provides for the maximum death penalty for criminals
- It is because of the trust in this law that the victims approach the police more in Tamil Nadu

### Life of the differently abled

#### Day of Persons with Disabilities

- In 1992, the United Nations declared 3rd December as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities

to ensure the rights and welfare of persons with disabilities at all levels of society and to create awareness about their environment at every level, political, social, economic and cultural.

- The Persons with Disabilities Act in India was enacted in 1995 and enforced since 1996
- 80 percent of people with disabilities worldwide live in developing countries
- People with disabilities belonging to minorities who are unable to pass through many steps such as health, education, employment and the high incidence of poverty in families are major obstacles to progress.

### **In Tamil Nadu**

- In 1993, the Tamil Nadu government created its own movement for the differently abled from the social welfare movement
- It also published the State Policy in 1994
- In Tamil Nadu recently a separate Department of Disabled Persons Welfare was started
- On June 7, the Tamil Nadu government issued an ordinance to reserve 4% seats for differently-abled persons in government jobs
- It also constituted a 9-member high-level committee to ensure this
- In Tamil Nadu, there are said to be more than 30 lakh people with disabilities, but a proper survey has not been conducted so far
- As many of them have not been given identity cards, the welfare schemes of the government continue to be incomplete
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin speaking at the Day of Persons with Disabilities function in Chennai on December 3 announced that 4,39,315 persons with disabilities, including the visually impaired, will be paid Rs 1,500 from the current pension of Rs 1,000 from the revenue department from January 1.

## **Vaanavil Mandrangal**

### **Introduction**

- It was only in 1976 that developing a scientific attitude became one of the fundamental duties of the people
- 51 A(h) Constitutional Amendment should have developed scientific attitude and developed humanism.
- For the first time in the country, the Tamil Nadu government has taken up such a task

### **Aim**

- Promotion of scientific attitude
- Make students think deeply about concepts in science and mathematics subjects and train them to develop skills on those concepts
- Encouraging a questioning attitude
- Encouraging, thinking skills
- Development of Scientific Attitude
- Engage students in mini-explorations as questioning minds take root and sprout
- Stimulates exploration and inspires enthusiasm to explore exploration even after getting home from school
- Incentives to examine the same theory with different data and different materials

## Function

- For this, one member per Union will be sent as Scientific Ambassadors
- They will be well trained in scientific and mathematical activities
- They will go to the schools with the necessary test equipment and demonstrate them in action
- The government has provided them with stipend, travel allowance and test kits
- The government has also allocated funds to implement this program in schools

## Climate Change Movement

### Introduction

- Government of Tamil Nadu will announce special schemes to launch new companies in the fields of climate change, renewable energy, circular economy, sustainable development etc.

### Impact

- Due to the increase in atmospheric carbon, the Earth is warming and climate change is occurring.
- Due to this, not only humans but also many living things are affected.
- Last year at the Glasgow conference, Prime Minister Modi announced that India would achieve carbon neutrality by 2020.

### Schemes of Tamil Nadu Govt

- A budget of Rs 500 crore has been allocated under the climate plan for Tamil Nadu.
- Plan to increase forest cover from 21% to 33% within next 10 years through Green Tamil Nadu mission.
- Rs 10 crore has been earmarked for “Climate Studio” at Anna University to build models and set up radars for Tamil Nadu alone.
- A project has been launched to convert 10 villages in Tamil Nadu into resilient villages for carbon balance.
- A project to plant palm trees will be implemented to maintain coastal biodiversity to prevent sea erosion.
- Tamil Nadu Green Climate Institute has been created for the first time in the country to coordinate all such projects.
- A separate Green Corridor will be developed to increase and transport renewable electricity generation.
- The Tamil Nadu government has taken steps to create a green fund of Rs 1000 crore
- Rs 100 crore has been provided in the first phase.
- Tamil Nadu will achieve carbon balance before the year 2070, when the country has been declared to achieve carbon balance.

## Measurement work to be stopped

### Introduction

- Under the name of Ende Bhumi, the Kerala government is conducting electronic re-survey work in 200 villages in 14 districts.
- 4700 employees have been deployed for this purpose
- Due to this there has been tension in Tamilnadu districts bordering Kerala

### Border

- The Tamil Nadu-Kerala border is 822 km long

- In this, the people living in 15 talukas in 7 districts of Kerala, which are adjacent to Tamil Nadu, are stunned by the Kerala government's electronic measurement work.

### **Opposition**

- The farmers association of Theni district is calling for the stop of the re-scaling work in the taluks of Kattakada, Neyyattinkara, Nedumangad, Punalur, Konni, Devikulam, Peermade, Udumbanchola, Palakkad, Mannarkkad, Sultan Bathery
- The resettlement register of 1905 and the notes taken in the re-survey conducted in 1966 were ignored by the Government of Kerala.
- The Kerala government has announced that the electronic re-measurement will begin on November 1
- But at that time Tamil Nadu government ignored this notification

### **Reticence**

- Kerala government has started survey work on 1<sup>st</sup> of last month as already announced while no information has been received from Theni district
- Even after more than a month, the Tamil Nadu government remains silent
- The Kerala government is arbitrarily going ahead with the electronic re-measurement process which is supposed to be done in the presence of a central observers by setting up a high-level committee
- Why did Tamil Nadu government not object and stop doing re-dimension work immediately without consulting us?
- Why is the central government silent?
- Tamil Nadu lost about 1,400 square kilometers of land to Kerala during the linguistic division of the state in 1956.
- Tamil Nadu is in danger of losing about a thousand square kilometers of land due to the current electronic resurvey work
- Kerala's attempt to expropriate the Kannagi temple through electronic re-measurement has achieved its first phase of success.
- Google map shows the 1800 year old Mangaladevi Kannagi Kottam in Kerala after surveying work
- In 2014, the Kannagi Temple Foundation filed a case in the Kerala State High Court seeking an order for the Kerala government to renovate the Kannagi Temple.
- In 2018, the Kerala High Court ordered that the Kerala state government should build the Mangaladevi Kannagi temple at a cost of one crore rupees after the trial.
- Considering Tamil Nadu as a dumping ground for medical waste and meat waste, Kerala has now decided to grab Tamil Nadu's territory.
- The Tamil Nadu government should protect the Tamil Nadu revenue lands and forest areas along the border of Tamil Nadu and Kerala

## **Blue Flag certification for 10 beaches**

### **Increase in forest protection**

- In Tamil Nadu, the government is taking various measures to increase forest cover and achieve carbon balance
- Through the Tamil Nadu Green Movement, the government has announced that the forest area will be increased from 21% to 33% within the next 10 years.

- It has established sanctuaries to protect endangered species such as the sea cow, Slender loris
- Tamil Nadu had only one Ramsar accredited mangrove
- Now it has increased to 14

### **Blue Flag Certificate**

- The Blue Flag certification scheme is implemented to promote sustainable tourism and healthy coastal management and reduce pollution on beaches

### **An efficient village**

- A project to make villages efficient by making full use of solar energy, providing information on climate change and green development in villages.

### **The Green Myth**

- Two temples in Tamil Nadu have been selected and developed as model temples to face climate change

### **Green Schools**

#### **25 schools will be selected in the state to:**

- Create environmental awareness among students
- Realize the pride of trees
- Realize unconventional energy usage
- It has been decided to turn the school into a green school by installing an electric motor, creating herb and vegetable gardens

## **Olympic Academy in Trichy**

- Chief Minister M K Stalin said that an Olympic Academy will be set up in Trichy to produce Olympic medalists.
- Including Trichy, 4 Olympic Academy will be set up in Tamilnadu.

## **Maternity Protection in Tamil Nadu**

- The perinatal mortality rate has come down to 54 per lakh births in 2018-20 from 58 in 2017-29.
- Tamil Nadu is one of the 8 Indian states below the UN Sustainable Development Goal of 70
- In Tamil Nadu every pregnant woman is identified and medical facilities are provided according to her needs and 100% deliveries are confirmed as hospital deliveries.

## **"Namma" School Foundation**

- Tamil Nadu ranks second in India in providing quality education
- The school education department is doing all the work to get the first rank
- "Namma" School Foundation Program lays the groundwork for local people, alumni, industry and Tamils from all over the world to work together to improve the schools.
- Even a single rupee donation you can pay will be transparently and conscientiously spent for the development of schools, teachers and children

## Social Progress Index

- Tamil Nadu ranks first in the measurement of opportunities including personal freedom
- Puducherry tops the overall social progress index
- The Social Progress Index assesses the performance of states and Union Territories on three dimensions: basic needs of the population, foundations of well-being, and opportunities.

### Measurement of basic needs of people

- Nutrition and basic medical care
- Drinking water and waste water disposal
- Personal protection and shelter

### Foundations of Well-Being Measurement

- Basic education
- Exchange of information and ideas
- Health and well-being
- Environmental quality

### Opportunities

- Individual rights
- Individual freedom and right of choice
- Inclusion of all parties as contributors to society
- Opportunity for advanced education

### About

- Tamil Nadu ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in the overall social progress index with 63.33 points
- In this, Tamil Nadu stands first with 72 points in the measurement of opportunities
- Puducherry topped the overall social progress index with a score of 65.99

## Reserve forests

- Out of 28 elephant routes in South India, 17 elephant routes are located in Tamil Nadu
- But unlike in Karnataka and Kerala, the elephant routes in Tamil Nadu are fragmented.
- This new announcement by the government will lead to the degradation of protected forest areas and a huge impact on the flora and fauna there.
- Wild animals enter nearby towns in search of food when plants are affected by dusty air
- Thus there is a risk of human-animal conflict increasing manifold
- The notification said that the ban on mining operations up to one kilometer in wildlife sanctuaries, national parks, tiger reserves and elephant tracks will continue to be relaxed only for reserve forests.
- But the western and eastern hill ranges of Tamil Nadu are mostly reserved forests
- There is movement of elephants in the areas adjacent to them
- These should not be banned

### Border

- It is surprising that the Tamil Nadu government has lifted the ban on mining and quarrying within one kilometer of the reserve forest boundary in a single year.

## Amendment

- On November 3, 2021, the Government of Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959 was amended to prohibit activities such as mining, quarrying and pressing within one kilometer radius of reserve forests.
- Seen as an important step forward in wildlife conservation, the rules are now being revised again
- This amendment is made in rule 36 (1-A)(e) by adopting the recommendations made by the Commissioner of Lands and Mines.

## Loss of confidence

- Deforestation
- Human-animal encounters
- The cancellation of the amendment, which had created a hope a year ago, has left wildlife enthusiasts and environmental activists worried as issues such as the exploitation of Tamil Nadu's mineral resources to neighboring states remain unresolved.

## Deviation from responsibility

- The government has clarified that the amendment will not apply to wildlife sanctuaries, national parks, tiger reserves, elephant corridors etc.
- It is saddening that the government, on the one hand aiming to increase forest responsibility, on the other hand, with profit in mind, slips away from its moral responsibility.

## Venmani Memorial Day

- On 25.12.1968, 44 Dalits, including boys and girls, especially agricultural laborers, were set on fire in the hut of Ramaiah in Keezhvenmani village of Keezhvellur taluk of today's Nagai district.

## 10 Digit People ID in Tamil Nadu

- The Tamil Nadu Government has signed an agreement to issue People ID with a unique identification number to the public with a view to providing the services of the Tamil Nadu Government quickly and easily to the beneficiaries.
- A 10 to 12 digit number will be given to the people living in Tamil Nadu on the basis of age, gender and social status like the national level Aadhaar card.

## Background

- In 2013, during the AIADMK regime, the announcement of People's ID was made in the governor's speech and subsequently in the budget.
- It was announced that steps would be taken to create a State Family Database, which would draw information from the National Population Register and use biometric data to provide services to all sectors.

## Integration of projects

- Under this scheme, public distribution scheme, old age pension, 100 days job under rural development department, chief minister's green house, medical insurance of health department, welfare board grants of labor welfare department, scholarship for Adi Dravidian, tribal, backward, most backward students and social welfare department. , it was informed that the projects of Revenue Department, School Education Department, Treasury and Accounts Department will be consolidated

## Citizen Vault

- A facility called Citizen Vault has been set up to provide a unique number to all 7 crore people in Tamil Nadu
- All the documents related to the concerned person will reach this vault electronically through the individual
- Everyone can get their certificates & documents from it
- The Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency has now started contract work for basic software development for people to get ID

## Modern wood pulp mill

### Introduction

- Chief Minister M K Stalin inaugurated a Rs 1385 crore worth hardwood pulp mill at Tamil Nadu Newsprint Company at Mondipatti near Manaparai in Trichy district and Trichy district's first SIPCOT Park.

### TNPL

- Paper board is produced in unit two of Tamilnadu Newsprint Company
- A two-phase Rs 2,520-crore expansion project is planned to manufacture the required paper baskets at the same premises instead of procuring them from the open market.
- In the first phase, a state-of-the-art pulp mill with a production capacity of 400 tonnes per day, a chemical recovery unit and a power generation unit with a capacity of 20 MW have been set up at a cost of Rs 1385 crore.
- Trichy district's first SIPCOT industrial park is set up at a cost of Rs 4744 crore near pulp mill and Manaparai.

## Botanical garden at Rs 300 crore

- The Tamil Nadu government has issued an order to set up a botanical garden at a cost of Rs 300 crore at Kadampur village in Chengalpattu district in association with the Royal Botanic Gardens in London.
- The Government of Tamil Nadu issued an order on 28th for setting up a botanical garden in Kadampur village of Chengalpattu district on an area of 137 hectares.
- The project will also include elements such as a native species garden, bambusetum, saplings, healing garden, a herb garden, a rose garden, a Japanese garden, and an ancient Tamil landscape.
- Also guided walks, educational program to inform students about children and plant biodiversity
- Organized children's training workshops, and seminars, will also feature activities including boating, nature trails, cycling, exercise, sports and other wellness activities.

## Medicine in 2022

### Tamil Nadu stands high in health

- In the past 75 years, Tamil Nadu has achieved significant growth in terms of medical education, medical facilities and health infrastructure as compared to other states of India
- While the infant mortality rate is 30 in India, it is 15 in Tamil Nadu (IMR)
- While the maternal mortality ratio is 113 in India, it is 60 in Tamil Nadu (MMR)
- The infant mortality rate is 23 in India and 10 in Tamil Nadu (NMR)
- Tamil Nadu's position in health indices has received global acclaim



## Tamil Nadu ranks first in contraceptions

- India was the first country to implement a national family planning program
- Initiated in 1952, the primary objective of this program was to control population growth
- As a result of family planning efforts in Tamil Nadu, the birth rate in Tamil Nadu is declining
- The birth rate dropped from 17.2 in 2017 to 14.2 in 2019.
- Currently, Tamil Nadu is leading in family planning programs in India
- The reason for this is the excellent medical infrastructure in Tamil Nadu

## Gender gap in India

- According to the World Economic Forum's gender equality rankings, India ranks 135 out of a total of 146 countries in the world.
- India's other neighbors Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Bhutan, China, and Sri Lanka have the best rankings
- Six years ago, in 2016, India was ranked 87<sup>th</sup> in the world
- According to the World Economic Forum, it will take about 200 years to close the gender gap in South Asia, which includes India

## Environment

### Declining wildlife populations

- A report called "Living Planet Report 2022" released by the Global Fund for Nature has revealed the face-slapping facts about Earth's biodiversity deaths
- The report was based on a survey of 32,000 species of 5,230 animal species worldwide
- The World Wide Fund for Nature and the Zoological Society of London found that between 1970 and 2018, wildlife populations declined by an average of 69 percent.

### 2.8 crore saplings

- According to the National Forest Policy, 33 percent of a state's land area should be green cover
- The Rs 17.8 crore "Pasumai Tamilagam" project was launched in September to increase the green cover of 42,919 square kilometers from the current 23% to 35% in Tamil Nadu.
- The Tamil Nadu government informed that 2.8 crore saplings are going to be planted under this scheme
- Maximum of 14.18 lakh saplings have been planted in Dindigul district

### Parantur Airport

- A 4563 acre land covering 13 villages in Parantur region has been selected for setting up the second airport in Chennai.
- Out of which 3246 acres is private land and 1542 acres is government land
- Of the government land, 955 acres are water bodies and 361 acres are grazing and fallow lands.
- According to the scheme, the water bodies in the land area will be maintained intact
- It is reported that the rest will be used as part of the airport construction
- Against this backdrop, the people of the area have been protesting continuously for more than 100 days against the construction of an airport in Parantur.
- Ministers are also engaged in ongoing negotiations
- Similarly, it is noteworthy that people protested against the upcoming SIPCOT in Tiruvannamalai district