

MARCH 2023

CURRENT ISSUES

- Modern History
- Social Issues
- Indian Polity
- Science & Technology
- Tamil Society
- Geography
- EVS
- Indian Economy

TNPSC GROUP-I MAINS



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March Month Current Affairs 2023

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01

Modern History

The Power of Non-Violence

Eleven fasts

- While the British were giving military training to win the war, Gandhiji was training the soldiers in his ashram to take 11 fasts.
- Truth
- Non-violence
- Non-stealing
- being non-materialistic
- Searching for food through labor
- Indigenous culture that respects the labor of others
- fearlessness
- Removing the feeling of untouchability
- Religious harmony
- Religious harmony
- Celibacy
- On March 11, 1930, the people in the ashram and the public also participated in the prayer
- Gandhiji then announced that he would not return to the Sabarmati Ashram until the country gained independence

Dandi March

- The March started on the morning of March 12
- Gandhi published the details of his protestors in his magazine 'Young India' so that the police would know who was participating in the protest with him.
- He created a stir by walking a distance of 241 miles at a rate of ten to fifteen miles a day for 24 days and reaching Dandi, meeting lakhs of people in person.
- Gopal Krishna Gokhale's statement that Gandhi was capable of making soldiers out of clay is absolutely true.
- On the morning of the 6th, Gandhi took a bath in the sea and picked it up with a hand that was stained on the beach
- The salt was auctioned for Rs 1600
- Gandhi's message to the people was, "Everyone start making salt. Teach the villagers the method. Make it clear to the villagers that they can be arrested for this activity and that this is not done secretly."

Two Indians bagged Oscar Award

- Awards for **artistic and technical** merit for the global film industry.
- Given annually by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences.

- Ceremony held at the Dolby theatre in Los Angeles.
- 1st award were held in 1929.

2023 Oscar

- The 95th Oscar award ceremony held at the Dolby theatre in Los Angeles
- Everything Everywhere all at once was the first movie to sweep seven of the top awards.
- Under the category of Best picture, Best Actress, Best supporting actor, Best director.
- 'All Quiet on the Western front' bagged 4 awards and 'The Whale' movie bagged 2 awards.
- Michelle Yeoh becomes 1st Asian woman to win Oscar award for best actress.

Indians who have won Oscars in 2023

Best Song

- RRR's Naatu Naatu wins oscar for Best Original song.
- This song already hold 'Golden Globe' award.
- Musician Keeravani and Lyricist Chandrabose won the award for this song.
- By this Keeravani became 2nd Indian Music director to win Oscar.

Best Documentary Movie

- Won by "Elephant Whisperers" movie which was about the Mahout couple in Mudumalai Tiger reserve.
- The couple name - 'Bomman-Belli'.
- Directed by Kartiki Gonsalves.
- Produced by Guneet Manga.
- The couple is working in Asia's largest elephant sanctuary Thepakadu in Mudumalai tiger reserve.
- The movie deals with, how the couple took care of baby elephant which lost its parents. The couple belong to Kaatu Nayakar tribe of Tamilnadu.

India's who won the Oscar so far

- 1st - Banu Athaiya (1982) for best constume designer in the movie "Gandhi".
- 1992 - Satyajit Ray, first Indian director to win Oscar for lifetime achievement award.
- 2009 - A.R.Rahman won for "Jai Ho" song in slumdog Millionaire movie for its original song and original Music
- 2009 - Rasool Pookutty won oscar for sound mixing in the same movie slumdog millionaire
- 14 years later, Now, Keeravani, Gartiki Gonsalves won the award and added more pride to India.

Perumal Murugan's Pookuzhi shortlisted for International Booker Award

International Booker Prize

- The Booker Awards are presented annually by the Booker Foundation for the best works in English
- Booker Prize for its English translation novel written in foreign languages and published in Great Britain and Ireland
- Last year's Booker Prize
- Geetanjali - Hindi author Geetanjali - Book "Tomb of Sand"

- Daisy Rockwell - for translation

Pookuzhi Novel

- "Pyre" is the English translation of the 2016 novel Pookukhi by writer Perumal Murugan.
- The novel was translated from Tamil to English by Aniruddhan Vasudevan
- Perumal Murugan has become the first Tamil writer to be shortlisted for the International Booker Award
- The novel Pookkuzhi describes a caste-based marriage and the massacre that ensues

Perumal Murugan

- Perumal Murugan, a writer from Salem, Tamil Nadu, has written the novels Mathorubagan, Kazhimugan, Koolamadari, Poonachi: Or the Story of a Black Goat, Kanganam.
- The English translation of the novel Mathorubagan won the Sahitya Akademi Award.

50,000 British Pounds

- A total of 13 books from 12 countries have been shortlisted for the International Booker Award
- A prize of 50,000 British pounds will be given to the book selected for the award
- The prize money will be shared equally between the author of the novel and the English translator

Saraswati Samman Award

- Saraswati Samman Award 2022 for writer Sivasankari
- It is awarded for her Memoir Surya Vamsam written in 2019
- Saraswathi Samman Award is being distributed on behalf of KK Birla Foundation
- The recipient of this award will be given a prize money of 15 lakh rupeesThe award is presented annually for the best literary work in prose or poetry for a book selected from 22 languages of India
- In Tamil, Indira Parthasarathy & Manavalan has already received this award.
- Eligible candidates for this award are selected based on the works written by the author during the 10-year period preceding the year in which the award is given
- A panel led by former Supreme Court judge Kumar Sikri selects 22 books from 22 languages and then selects 5 books from them for the award.
- Saraswati Samman Award is announced for one of those five books

Padma awards

- In India, Padma Awards are given to those who have excelled in various categories and fields such as arts, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, commerce and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civic work, etc.
- Padma Shri awards for this year have been announced for Irular Vadivel Gopal and Masi Sadayan from Tamil Nadu.
- They belong to the Ilular tribe and have traveled to different parts of the world to catch poisonous snakes
- Renowned playback singer from TN, Vani Jayaram was awarded Padma Bhushan
- Padma Shri award
- A bharatanatyam guru for over seven decades, legendary nattuvanar K. Kalyanasundaram Pillai

- Social service - 'Palam' Kalyana Sundaram
- Contribution in the field of medicine - Gopalsamy & Veluchamy.

Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, Rajguru

- The three freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru were hanged by the British on March 23, 1931 in the Lahore Conspiracy case.

Lokpal

- The Lokpal, set up in 2019 to investigate corruption complaints against people's representatives and high-ranking officials, has yet to take legal action against anyone.
- Lokpal was established to ensure corruption-free and accountable administration
- The post of Lokpal chairman has been lying vacant since May last year
- Out of the 82 sanctioned posts in the Lokpal system, only 32 posts have been filled
- Section 5 of the Lokpal Lok Ayukta Act 2013 requires steps to be taken to make new appointments three months before the retirement of its chairman and members.

Channar revolt

- Dressing is also a basic human right
- It is the greatest tragedy in history that women are denied that right in a part of India
- The Channar Revolt, a revolt against the oppression of caste and patriarchy, is a great symbol of the human rights struggle.
- This struggle started in 1822 on a small scale and lasted for almost 40 years

The height of casteism

- The Kingdom of Travancore included a large part of Kerala and parts of Kanyakumari and Tirunelveli districts of present-day Tamil Nadu.
- Namboodiri Brahmins held all the power in this area
- Apart from the king, the Samboothiri Brahmins, the Nairs and the Velalars, all others were subject to the caste system of oppression.

Iniquity against women

- Dominant caste women should not leave the house much
- Do not talk to anyone except husband and close relatives
- Worse than this, when coming in front of the Namboothiri Brahmins, they had to come topless
- Even worse is the condition of women who are considered as an oppressed caste
- It was announced in front of everyone that oppressed caste women should not wear any kind of clothing to cover their breasts, and if they wear an upper garment in violation of this, they should be taxed.
- It is another cruel thing to come in front of the Namboothiri Brahmins with an open chest, even though they pay tax
- In those days, dress on upper body was a garment worn only by women belonging to the ruling class
- In 1819, King Moolam Thirunal Rama Varma declared that women of the oppressed caste and Nadar communities should not wear tops.
- There was a protest against this

A three-phase struggle

- from 1822 to 1823
- from 1827 to 1829
- from 1858 to 1859
- During the time of English officer John Munro, an amendment was passed that allowed women to wear coat if they converted to Christianity.
- Subsequently women belonging to the oppressed castes joined Christianity in large numbers.
- 1829 Travancore Government issued a notification
- Women in the Chanar and Ezhavar community are not allowed to wear dupatta to cover the chest as worn by Nair community women.
- At the same time, it was mentioned in the notification that Hindu Chanar women are allowed to wear a coat similar to the coat worn by Christianized Chanar women.
- The meaning of this decree is that no shawl or any other cloth should be worn like a shawl over the shoulder.
- During this period, a social reformer named Vaikunder, who appeared in the Nadar community of Kumari district, insisted that women of the Chanar community should not be open-breasted for any reason.
- Considering the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857 as an outbreak of religious sentiments, the British government declared that it would not interfere in the religious sentiments, worship and culture of Indian citizens.
- Thus, the Nair-Velalar community got more encouragement
- On December 30, 1859, they unleashed violence near Nagercoil. Riots spread from town to town.
- This time the oppressed people, regardless of religion and rich-poor, rallied together and gave a befitting response. The caste fanatics retreated
- On 26 July 1859 King Uthram Thirunal Marthanda Varma of Travancore issued a proclamation accepting the wearing of sarees by Chanar community women.
- In 1865 Travancore king Ayilyam Thirunal finally declared that women belonging to other castes such as Ezhavar could adopt this style of dress.
- The Channar Revolt was not just a struggle against the dominant castes. Also the struggle to protect the dignity of women belonging to oppressed castes.

A Social War in God's own Country

Vaikom 100

- Even in the beginning of the twentieth century, not everyone could walk on the roads known as temple roads and village roads in the Travancore princely state.
- Cruelties like untouchability, Inaccessibility, and unseeing prevailed in God's country Kerala
- The Vaikom protest was to demand permission to walk on certain streets that were denied permission
- It was a protest in 1924-1925 demanding the "right of movement" for Ezhavas and Pulayas to walk in the streets near the Vaikom temple.

Satyagraha for social justice

- The Vaikom protest led by Ezhava leader T K Madhavan on 30 March 1924 was coordinated by the Untouchability Committee set up by the Kerala Congress Committee.
- It was at Vaikom that Gandhi first experimented with Satyagraha in India, which was practiced only in South Africa.

Vaikom Hero

- Periyar went to jail twice and served severe prison terms
- According to the evidence so far, Periyar had camped for 141 days, more than anyone else at Vaikom.
- Of those, he spent 74 days in jail
- Periyar's wife Nagammaiyar, younger sister S R Kannammal, the family fought in Vaikom.
- Nagammaiyar did not return home during Periyar's imprisonment
- Once Nagammaiyar was 'remanded' and suffered greatly
- The Tamil Nadu Congress Committee passed a resolution and welcomed the sacrifice made by Periyar at Vaikom
- Thiru Vi. Ka called him as the Vaikom Hero.

One Vote

- 22 votes were cast against Ezhavas not being given right of way and 21 votes were allowed to walk.
- Only one vote difference. The irony is that the vote was given by an Ezhavar, a nominated member of the government
- It should also be noted that the protesters who resorted to the law did not resort to the courts
- Most of the protestors are lawyers. It may also be noted that the counsel was given by Barrister Gandhi.

Vaikom Results

- The government, which was on the side of the traditionalists at the beginning of the struggle, turned towards the satyagrahis at the end
- Realizing that they had been abandoned, the traditionalists came down with no other option
- In order not to lose their honor entirely they agreed to allow Ezhavas in the other three, keeping the eastern one out of the four streets
- As a result of the Vaikom agitation, 12 years later in 1936, the Temple Entry Proclamation of the historic

Vaikom Satyagraha

- A major milestone in India's path of social justice in the 1920s was the prohibition of the oppressed community in the four streets surrounding the temple in Vaikom, Kerala.
- The centenary of the start of the struggle is being celebrated.

Gandhi's role

- It must be said that the Vaikom struggle with the participation of great leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Periyar, Narayana Guru was the most important social war.
- The protest groups acted on Gandhi's advice
- Gandhi's role was great in putting the oppression within Hinduism on the basis of caste before the conscience of the Hindus and ensuring that the struggle was not diverted by the intervention of other religions.

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Tirunelveli Uprising

- In 1905, Lord Curzon set off the Swadeshi Movement bomb by dividing Bengal on religious lines.
- Bengal woke up in turmoil. Thoothukudi also echoed the slogan of that Swadeshi movement of Bengal.
- In Madras Province, which was known during the days of struggle as Sleeping province, the freedom storm was centered in Tuticorin.
- People's leader V O Chidambaran was its driving force
- The struggle started in Tuticorin attracted the coral factory workers of the British there
- On February 27, 1908, a strike began at the Corral factory demanding higher wages, weekly holidays and other holiday facilities.

Vande Mataram slogan

- As soon as the strike started, the Tirunelveli Collector sent the police force to Thoothukudi
- 144 Prohibitory Order was issued banning meetings
- The strike continued as the factory management did not budge
- The workers marched daily through the streets of Tuticorin chanting Vande Mataram
- The slogan of the workers was not based on their demands but the grand slogan of Vande Mataram
- The struggle was won and the demands were fulfilled

First political strike

- Tuticorin coral mill workers were back to work only on the 7th
- However, when they came to know about the arrest of V O Chidambaran, they went on strike again
- This is the first political strike in India without any economic demand
- The six-day strike by Bombay workers against Tilak's arrest on 23 July 1908 is considered India's first political strike by many historical texts. But it is not right.
- Four months before that, the Thoothukudi workers had gone into the strike.
- The police opened fire. Robert Ashe, who was in charge of the District Collector, came directly on horseback and shot his rival
- Four people were killed: a bakery worker, a Muslim, an oppressed person and a temple priest
- This upheaval was caused by the love of the people for the great man V O Chidambaranar
- Following in the footsteps of that man who dedicated his life to freedom and self-reliance economy, public sector institutions, which Nehru referred to as the temples of modern India, were later created to sustain the economy.

First swadeshi ship

- In the early twentieth century, the British dominated in the Indian Ocean shipping trade
- In this case, in 1906, VOC started India's first indigenous shipping company in Thoothukudi by getting shares from many people.

S.S. Galileo and S.S. Lavo

- The ships SS Galileo and SS Lavo procured by VOC had 42 first class, 24 second class and 1300 third class seats with a total of 1300 seats and a capacity to carry 4000 cargo bags.

Charge

- These indigenous ships charged only 4 Anna (25paise) from Tuticorin to Colombo.
- But the English company charged four rupees per person as fare
- Charging separate charges for baggage and hand baggage
- The loss-making English shipping company reduced its rates to one rupee and later to 4 Annas
- People were not ready to board the English ships even after they promised to give free umbrellas to the passengers.

In Bengal

- In 1907, Arvind Ghose, a freedom fighter in Bengal, was arrested by the British government for raising the slogan 'Vande Mataram'.
- Freedom fighter Bipin Chandra Pal was called by the British government to testify against him
- Bipin Chandrapal was sentenced to six months in jail for refusing to testify in the treason case.
- It was decided to celebrate his release across the country
- But the British government imposed a ban on these celebrations in the whole of India.

In Tirunelveli

- On 09.03.1908 Bipin Chandra Pal broke the ban and spoke to a public meeting of about 20,000 people in Tuticorin with Subramania Siva on his release.
- V O Chidambaran and Subramania Siva gave rousing speeches to a crowd of thousands of people gathered at the Thaipusa Mandapam on the Nellai Thamirabarani River.
- Nellie District Collector orders VOC, Subramania Siva, Padmanabha Iyer to be jailed
- On March 13, 1908, the day after VOC's arrest, a massive riot broke out in Nellai
- Nellai MDT Hindu College students boycotted class
- Nellai Municipal Office, Post Office and Police Station were set on fire.

Tirunelveli Rebellion

- A huge strike took place in Tuticorin
- Many horsemen participated in it
- This was the first strike in India over the arrest of political leaders
- The matter echoed all the way to the British Parliament
- This incident was recorded as 'Tirunelveli Mutiny' by the British
- Judge Pinhey sentenced VOC to double life imprisonment and Siva to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment
- The British Government took up the case of an swadeshi ship colliding with another ship in the middle sea on 24.07.1908 to disable the swadeshi ship company
- They sold the ships to the British as they could continue to operate the indigenous shipping company only if they pay two lakh rupees.

02

Social Issues

Compulsory Entrance Exam

- Students must have passed the Common University Entrance Test to be admitted to the Under graduate & Post graduate courses
- While initially it was said that the universities who want to can implement this common entrance test system, now the test is mandatory for admission to 1113 universities and 47,000 colleges in India.

Purpose will be distorted

- This is the main objective emphasized in the recommendations of the Radhakrishnan Commission, Kothari Commission, etc. set up for the development of education, the National Education Policy 1986 and 1992 and the currently implemented National Education Policy 2020.
- The new education policy calls for raising the population enrollment rate of students in higher education from the current 24 percent to 50 percent by 2030.

TN in the lead

- Tamil Nadu is the leading state with a total enrollment ratio of 52 percent in higher education admissions
- Rs 1000 per month to female students in higher education to encourage them to pursue higher education.
- First generation students are given government aid

Consequences

- If CUET is made mandatory, the number of coaching centers for Common Entrance Test will proliferate across the country
- Only those students who have financial means will pay several lakhs of rupees for training and pass
- Students do not focus on 10th and 12th public exams as only the marks of Common Entrance Test are required for higher education admissions.
- This will prevent the acquisition of knowledge in basic subjects

Solutions

- Admissions in government and private universities are still based on the Common Entrance Test
- University Grants Committee can report how to conduct entrance exams for the admission
- Can examine the methods of conducting choices
- Such surveillance can lead to proper exams and lead to eligible student enrollment.

Strawberry : Becoming the livelihood of the Odisha tribes

- Odisha Tribal Farmers has succeeded in cultivation of Strawberry
- They earn revenue up to Rs 37,500 per 150 kg of Staraberry Cultivation

Western appearance

- Strawberry is a fruit for all ages, with sweet smell, bright red color, and juicy with sweet & sour taste
- In the 19th century, the type of strawberry fruit which was now in custom was created by the hybridisation carried out with the American varieties of strawberry.

Introduction and Growth in India

- Strawberry was introduced by the English at the end of the 19th century in India
- Located in the Western Ghats of Maharashtra, Mahabaleshwar was the summer headquarters in the province of Bombay during the British rule.
- It was cultivated in the 1920s, as the climatic environment was found to be conducive to strawberry cultivation.
- 85% of the total strawberry cultivation of India results in this area
- In that respect, Mahabaleshwar is the strawberry capital of India
- Strawberry, a subtropical crop, grows well from November to March.

Introduction in Odissa

- In 2021, the Strawberries were cultivated on a small area based on testing, as the climatic environment of Odisha's Tsunabada Plateau was in the same context in Mahabaleshwar of Maharashtra.
- Strawberry cultivation was introduced in other districts after the test was somewhat successful
- The State Horticulture Department promoted Strawberry cultivation by providing financial assistance to tribal farmers and training them in modern technologies
- Farmers who cultivate paddy from April to October cultivate strawberries in November after paddy harvest
- Odisha tribal farmers are delighted as yields are currently on the rise
- The state government is continuing to take steps to enhance the livelihood of the tribes to expand strawberry cultivation to many other districts in the Tsunabada Plateau.

Nutrients in Strawberry

- Manganese
- Potassium
- Vitamin C
- Vitamin B9
- Iron
- Copper
- Phosphorus
- Vitamins - B6, K, E

Medicinal properties

- Increases immunity
- Maintains blood pressure
- Good for heart
- Controls the stroke impact
- Regulates blood sugar levels
- Reduces cancer impact

Producing states

Maharastra	Himachal Pradesh	West Bengal	Delhi	Haryana
Punjab	Rajasthan	Uttar Pradesh	Jammu & Kashmir	Odissa

The main varieties that are cultivated

Chandler	Tioga	Torrey
Selva	Fern	Pajaro

Major countries getting imports from India

Austria	Bangladesh	Germany	Jordan	America
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Grievance tribunal

- The new facility came into effect to resolve complaints on social networking sites
- Grievance Tribunal Committees came into effect from yesterday. A separate website has been set up for this.

Issues

- There is a problem between users and social networks regarding the removal of registration and account disabling for certain reasons
- Cases are being filed in courts in this regard
- Three Tribunal Groups, with three -members each, was introduced yesterday
- Accordingly, unsatisfactory users can appeal to this Tribunal in response to the respondent by the grievances on social websites.
- The website 'https://gac.gov.in' has been launched for this
- Users can report their complaint in this
- Since the order of the grievance officer on the social website, the complaint can be registered within 30 days.

New system

- The users may seek courts if they are not satisfied with the order of this Tribunal
- Through this Tribunal, more cases being filed in the courts can be avoided
- On the website created for this, the Tribunal will issue orders on the Internet
- This Tribunal's procedure would be very obvious, confident, and responsible
- Solution would be more quickly provided
- This will help users in large numbers

100 days work program

- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme was introduced in 2006 to provide employment to rural people.
- It is called the 100-day employment scheme
- Those registered under this scheme are given manual labor jobs for 100 days with minimum wages
- 5.97 crore families across the country have got employment through this scheme
- Wages vary from state to state
- Wages have been hiked by 2% to 10%
- The daily wages in the state of Haryana have been increased from Rs 331 to Rs 357
- In Rajasthan, it has been raised from Rs 231 to Rs.255.
- In Bihar and Jharkhand, it has been raised from Rs 210 to Rs 228
- In Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, Daily wages hiked from Rs 204 to Rs 221
- In Tamil Nadu, the daily wage under this scheme is Rs 281 for the financial year 2022-23
- For the coming financial year 2023-24, the salary has been increased to Rs 294
- This is an increase of 4.63%
- It is wrong to dilute this law which has provided almost 15 crore employment to 5 crore families across the country.
- The scheme was implemented through the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005
- Although some people mistakenly believe that agriculture has been destroyed by this scheme due to

ignorance, it is this scheme which is still relieving the hunger of marginalized people.

The plan getting diversified

- The central government set up a committee headed by Amarjit Sinha, former secretary of the Panchayat Raj department, to look into the effectiveness of the Act.
- In the first meeting of the committee, while developed states like Kerala were creating social assets through the scheme funds, states like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh could not even create jobs.
- However, funds cannot be denied to states under this scheme.
- At the same meeting, the affluent states are making good use of this scheme brought in to eradicate poverty
- The Panchayat Raj Ministry made the attendance registration system mandatory through an act from January 1 this year
- Due to this, a situation has arisen that even in hilly villages without internet facilities and forest areas where tribals live, if they register their attendance through the app, they will be paid for their work.

Diminishing importance

- Earlier salary was paid through bank account
- The ministry has made payment of wages through Aadhaar-linked bank account mandatory across the country from February 1
- According to government statistics, only 43 percent of workers across India have Aadhaar linkage system
- In this year's budget, the fund for this project has been reduced to Rs 60,000 crore
- While last year's wage arrears are estimated at Rs 16,070 crore till January 2023, sector experts say that with the current allocated funds, we are providing jobs for only 20 to 25 days across the country.
- Union Minister Giriraj Singh has said that the law is going to be amended so that the central government do not have to pay the entire amount of scheme wages and the central and state governments share it in the ratio of 60:40 respectively.

Immediate action is required

- This Act was not brought to eradicate poverty
- It was brought to improve the livelihood security of rural families
- The Act empowers the people and the village panchayats by giving all the decision-making powers related to the scheme to the grassroots village council.
- It is wrong to dilute this law which is providing almost 15 crore employment to 5 crore families across the country.

Increase the contribution of women

- The Federation of International Parliaments has announced that our country ranks 148th in the number of women in parliaments among 193 countries in the world.
- Only six countries in the world, namely New Zealand, Rwanda, United Arab Emirates, Cuba, Mexico, and Nicaragua, have more than five percent representation of women in their parliaments.

Globally...

- It is noteworthy that while women make up nearly 50 percent of the world's population, women make up only about 26 percent of members of the legislature.

78 MP

- Out of the total 542 members in the Lok Sabha of our country, currently 78 members are women

14.4%

- It is only 14.4 percent of the Lok Sabha members of our country
- The percentage of women members in our country's Lok Sabha is below the average number of women members in international parliaments, which is 22%.

TN

- In Tamil Nadu, one of the most advanced states in terms of education, employment and social status for women, only three of the 39 members of the Lok Sabha are women.
- Only 12 of the 234 members of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly are women
- The number of women members in our country's legislature is also less than the national average of 9 percent

The delay in census work is unwarranted

- According to the 73rd Amendment to the Constitution of 1992, one-third of the posts in the panchayat raj bodies were reserved for women belonging to SC/ST
- The house enumeration and updating of National Population Register was scheduled to be carried out from 1st April to 30th September 2020.
- The work was postponed due to the spread of the Corona virus
- In 2021 and 2022 too, the work of census was postponed due to various reasons.
- According to the census regulations, the census should be conducted after three months of suspension of delimitation of administrative units including districts, divisions, circles, police stations.
- The Chief Registrar, Census Commissioner of India has informed all the states that the deadline for stopping the re-delineation work has been extended till June 30.

Why Census ?

- Census is not just about predicting the level of economic growth
- It is also seen as a measure of how far the standard of living of the people has improved
- Various statistics including how many people have their own house, how many people are in a house, how many people live from town to town, how many houses have a stove, what kind of stove is it, how many people are religious, how many people belong to each religion, how many people can read and write, etc. are collected through census.
- The statistics are collected on the basis of the 1948 Census Act
- Not only the quantity of data available from it but also the reliability makes the world wonder
- Even during the world war in 1941 and the war with Pakistan in 1971 we conducted census without any hindrance.
- That being the case, it is very distressing that preparations for the 2021 Census are yet to be made.

Not possible

- Aadhaar card is not a substitute for census
- It is on the basis of the data available through the census that various political programs are made
- Most of the welfare schemes are provided by the central government
- How successful they are and what deficiencies need to be remedied can only be ascertained from the aspects of the census.

- When the survey is delayed, policy decisions and programs are not carried out properly
- State assembly elections should be held after September 2023 followed by Lok Sabha elections in 2024.
- As of now, the possibility of census is not known as only school teachers and government employees who are involved in election work will be required to take census.

Let's celebrate femininity; The way rights came

- 1916 - The first university for women was started by social reformer and educationist Keshav Karve
- 1929 - Child marriage was abolished. Marriage age limit raised to 14
- 1947 - Abolition of Devadasi system in Tamil Nadu
- 1956 - Prohibition of Trafficking in Women and Girls Act
- 1961 - Dowry Prohibition Act
- 1961 - Maternity assistance scheme to ensure job security for women
- 1971 - Medical abortion is permitted
- 1972 - Fight against alcohol
- 1973 - Formation of SIPCO movement to protect trees
- 1976 - Act to provide equal pay for men and women
- 1978 - Marriage age for girls increased from 14 to 18
- 1978 - First National Conference on Women's Rights
- 1985 - Shabanu case, Narmada Defense Movement
- 1987 - Struggle against Caste Cruelty.
- 1987 - Abolition of Sati
- 1992 - Recruitment of women to military posts other than medical, Banwari Devi case, Formation of National Commission for Women
- 1997 - Visakha norms were expanded and sexual offenses were defined
- 1998 - The maternity assistance scheme was extended to women engaged in all types of work
- 1999 - The first pride rally of Queer people was held in Kolkata
- 2001 - Save girl child project
- 2004 - Protest of Manipur mothers against gang rape
- 2005 - Domestic Violence Prohibition Act
- 2007 - A national policy to recognize the contribution of women in agriculture
- 2012 - Delhi Nirbhaya incident
- 2013 - The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, Ban on two-finger test on women who are victims of sex crimes
- 2014 - Recognition of transgender as a third gender with fundamental rights
- 2018 - MeToo issue, Homosexuality is not a crime
- 2020 - Surrogacy Regulation Act, Supreme Court orders that women can be appointed to higher posts in the Indian Army at par with men.

Only 20% of countries have laws on sexuality education

Sex education

- To inculcate intellectual principles among the students regarding sexual hygiene, dignity, health care, etc.,

Key concepts for sexuality education

- Sexual relations
- Principles, Rights
- Understanding gender
- Protection against violence
- Health capacity
- Human body development
- Sexual behaviors
- Sexual hygiene

Laws on Sexuality Education

- Countries with comprehensive laws - 20%
- Countries with national policies - 39%
- Countries with educational programs - 64%

Policewoman celebrating Golden Jubilee in Tamil Nadu

- It has been 50 years since the appointment of female police officers in the Tamil Nadu Police
- In Tamil Nadu in 1976 when Karunanidhi was the Chief Minister of the DMK regime, women constables were recruited for the first time.
- A total of 22 women including one SI, one head constable, 20 constables were recruited for the first time
- Thilakavathy of Dharmapuri and Lathika Charan of Kerala took charge as the first IPS officers in the Tamil Nadu division in 1976.

Women Police Station

- In 1992, during the AIADMK regime, when Jayalalithaa was Chief Minister, a new chapter in policing was started in Chennai with an all-women police station at Thousand Lights.
- At present there are 202 women police stations across Tamil Nadu
- In January 2004, the then Chief Minister Jayalalithaa launched the country's first all-women police force, including the Task Force, Commando Force & Rapid Action Force.
- Lathika Saran was appointed as Tamil Nadu's first woman DGP in 2009

PM VIKAS

- The Prime Minister's Vishwakarma Kaushal scheme announced in the current year's budget has caught everyone's attention.
- The program focuses on integrating artisans and those involved in small scale industries
- Government will ensure organizational support to every Vishwakarma such as easy access to credit,

capacity building, technology support, empowerment, business name promotion, marketing, etc.

- The project will preserve the rich heritage of artisans while promoting them.

A strong program

- The partnership with the private sector will be further strengthened through the PM Vikas programme
- Also, the innovation potential of the private sector can increase business efficiency
- All parties should contribute to develop a strong action plan to help artisans and small entrepreneurs
- Most of the artisans are dalit, tribal, backward community or women
- A practical strategy is essential for their success
- The country's skill infrastructure process needs to be restructured to meet the needs of artisans.

India's symbol of self-reliance

- Small artisans play an important role in the production of local handicrafts
- PM Bikas scheme will empower them
- Empowerment of all stakeholders in rural areas is critical in the country's development journey
- Skilled artisans are the true symbols of India's sense of self-reliance

It may take 50 years for women to get equal rights

- The international population has crossed 800 crores
- About 391 crore of them are women
- There are about 65 crore women in India alone
- Women constitute about 48 percent of India's total population
- Women make up nearly half of the world's population and India's population
- But gender-based violence is more prevalent against women
- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Violence
- Illegal Trafficking
- Bondage System
- Child Marriage
- Female Infanticide
- Acid Attack
- Unmatched Wages
- Dowry
- Apart from this, the prevailing discriminatory environment in the society is also a big challenge for women.

Contribution of women

- The contribution of women in the economic development of the country is very important
- Integrated development is not possible without the due contribution of women, who make up half of the population
- Women's participation is essential in all fields such as poverty alleviation, control of population growth and economic development
- It is a fact that not only in India but also in many countries women are not given equal legal rights to men.

Countries that give equal legal rights to women

(100 points in World Bank thesis)

- Belgium
- France
- Iceland
- Luxembourg
- Spain
- Canada
- Germany
- Ireland
- Netherlands
- Sweden
- Denmark
- Greece
- Latvia
- Portugal

Career Development : Labour welfare

- According to the 2020-21, Tamil Nadu is the second largest state in terms of GDP value.
- Maharashtra occupies first place
- Gujarat ranks third
- But in terms of number of registered industrial establishments, TN stands first (38,837). Maharashtra is relegated to the second position (25610)

Labor force - Position of TN & India

- 29.64% of workers depend on agriculture in Tamil Nadu.
- At the nation level, 46.46% of workers depend on agriculture.
- This is one of the healthy trends in Tamil Nadu. Moving out of the agriculture sector, looking for alternative jobs, and moving towards additional income is the next phase of development for our state.
- Labor force contribution in Tamil Nadu in industrial sector is 16.78%. Indian average is 10.91%
- The same labor force ratio in the construction sector is 16.63%. All India situation is 1.08%. Tamil Nadu's share in the wholesale and retail sector is 11.56% as against the all-India average of 10.55%.

Status of Workers

Sector	India	TN
Rural Unemployment	3.3%	4.8%
Urban unemployment	6.7%	5.8%
Self-employment seekers	55.6%	33.9%
Monthly wage earners in non-agricultural occupations	21.1%	31.2%
Those doing short term temporary work	23.3%	34.9%
Informal works	71.4%	60.1%
Public Sector Undertakings	12.3%	14.8%
Private sector	9.9%	16.7%
Unemployed (of age 15-29)	12.9%	20.40%
Graduates who are unemployed	9.1%	11.6%
Working without any contract	64.3%	60%
Workers without any social security	53.8%	48.6%
Monthly salary of workers	Rs. 17,654	Rs. 15,154
Monthly Income of Self-Employed	Rs. 10,750	Rs. 12,357

To do

- Economic growth that does not create employment is not fully beneficial
- Policies should be formulated for quality employment
- Also, steps should be taken to increase the participation of the industry and make concrete laws for the same

Literacy rate : Bihar ranks last

- The central government is implementing a program called Samagra Shiksha abhiyan to bridge gender and social gaps in education
- According to the data of literate states, Kerala ranks first and Bihar ranks last
- TN ranks 14th with the 80.09%

Women Development and Government Schemes

Gender Financial Reporting

- Initiatives will be taken to prepare a Gender Financial Status Report or a separate financial report for women.
- Indeed such a move is very necessary
- Status wise financial statement of women who make up 50% of the population segmented by sector wise, habitat wise, caste wise.

Benefits of the Schemes

- Financial assistance will give them a lot of self-reliance
- This project will give a mental liberation to the women who are looking for the hand of their husband even for small needs
- It can be said that the Puthumai Pen program is a wonderful program with a progressive vision
- This scheme provides Rs 1,000 per month to girl students who have studied in government schools from Class VI to XII to pursue higher education.
- This paves the way for raising the marriageable age of women to 21 in practice
- Parents will be interested in educating girls
- Women will recover from the risk of being barred from education
- The number of students enrolled in government schools will increase
- This will strengthen government schools

Requirement of Cash

- This scheme, which has been changed from "Gold for Thali" to "Aid for higher education", is certainly welcomed
- Meanwhile, these amounts should be given to the people in cash
- Many people don't have a bank account to take such help
- Banks charge a penalty if they fail to maintain a minimum balance if they open a bank account in order to receive this amount

Nutritional Inequality

- More ambitious plans and adequate financial resources are needed to achieve the goal of a malnutrition-free Tamil Nadu

The Real status

- Proportion of stunted children under five years of age is 20%
- More than 10 percent are underweight for height
- More than 40% suffer anemia
- The number of children underweight for height is highest in 24 districts
- The International Institute for Food Policy Research has published this comprehensive data on Tamil Nadu's nutrition
- More than 50% of school going children in Tamil Nadu are in private schools
- It is questionable whether all children under the age of five are covered under the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme
- Nutritional imbalances exist in all categories of children
- An inclusive nutritional balance can only be achieved if government programs and initiatives are designed to reach out to underprivileged children, mothers and children in private schools who are not benefitted through ICDS

Obesity

- Tamil Nadu has the 5th highest rate of obese adult women in India (40.4%)
- Tamil Nadu is next to Punjab in this regard (40.8%)
- Adult male obesity is 37 percent in Tamil Nadu
- 25% of women aged 15 to 49 years have high blood pressure & 21% have diabetes
- 30% of men have high blood pressure & 22% have diabetes
- The above stated facts are according to NFHS 2019-21

Meat food

- The share of nutritious foods in people's diet is low
- 82% of women (aged 15-49) who do not consume at least three of the six food categories besides grains, pulses, dairy products, green vegetables, fruits, eggs, and non-vegetarian foods (fish, chicken)

Outside foods without nutrition

- The quality of the food served in the restaurants is assured but the nutrients are nowhere to be found

9 Notices for the Welfare of Women Police

1. Roll-call, a long-standing demand of women constables, will be shifted to 8 am.
2. Women guards and hostels will be set up soon in Chennai and Madurai
3. A separate rest room with toilet facilities will be constructed for women constables in all police stations
4. For the children of women constables, police nurseries have been started in some districts. To improve this, archive will soon be set up at all required locations
5. Kalaignar Karunanidhi Police Service Award and trophy will be presented annually

6. The authorities will be directed to provide leave and transfer of duty to women constables according to their family circumstances
7. Shooting competition will be held annually for women constables and prizes will be awarded. A National Level Women Guard Shooting Competition will be organized in Tamil Nadu
8. A national conference on "Women in Police Department" will be held annually in Tamil Nadu to discuss the needs, problems and performance of women police officers.
9. An advisory committee will be set up in the DGP office to further improve the performance of women constables

Dilution of Employment guarantee scheme

MGNREGS

- The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme was introduced by the Central Government in 2005 to ensure at least 100 days of employment per year for one member of the family.

Complaints

Many complaints have been made against this scheme

- Due to this scheme, people are not available for agricultural work in rural areas
- Making people who do not come to work appear as if they have come
- Not giving proper wages to the workers
- As there is no specific amount of work assigned to each person who comes to work, they generally work in groups for an hour or two.
- It was not possible to ensure that they worked according to the wages given to each

Fewer days of work

Average days of work

- 2018-19 - 51
- 2019-20 - 48
- 2020-21 - 52
- 2021-22 - 50

Finance for 20 days

- In the financial statement for the year 2023-24, Rs 60,000 crore has been allocated for this scheme
- It is noteworthy that this is 32 percent less than the funds allocated last year
- The funds currently allocated to the scheme will only provide an average of 20 days of work to those registered to work under the 100-day work scheme in the financial year 2023-24.

Will weaken further...

- There is a situation where the rural people are not interested in the 100-day job guarantee scheme due to few days of work and late payment of wages for working days.
- In this case, the central government allocating less funds for the project and insisting that the state government should get its share will lead to the weakening of the project.
- The scheme is undoubtedly the largest women protection and rural development scheme in the country
- Therefore, the deficiencies in the scheme should be eliminated and adequate funds should be allocated

State Education Policy Committee

Good Features of National Education Policy

- It is possible for the student to get a degree from an Indian or foreign university if he studies or conducts research in foreign universities for just one year
- A student studying in a college or university may pursue courses or subjects in the same institution or in an institute in India or abroad
- A student enrolled at an institution may simultaneously pursue another degree at the same institution or at other institutions, either in person or online, and earn two degrees concurrently.
- Emphasis is given to imparting higher education in mother tongue and permission and funds are given to impart medical and engineering subjects in mother tongue

Some ideas for the State Committee

- The Tamil Nadu government has appointed a 14-member committee headed by Justice Murugesan to prepare the Tamil Nadu Education Policy on June 1, 2022.
- Recommends that central government should provide more funding for education and state governments should also contribute at least 20% of their financial allocation.
- To prepare the students of Tamil Nadu, they may be recommended to make a third language as an optional subject of their choice, which can lead to employment both locally and abroad.
- The committee may recommend to the Government of Tamil Nadu to enter into a memorandum of understanding for the centralization of infrastructural facilities, research labs, software and libraries in the universities in Tamil Nadu and for the students of all institutes to use the facilities in all other institutes.
- Provision should be made for teachers working in private universities and self-financed colleges to receive training from teaching staff colleges as in government universities.

Womens' day & The Struggles

- Working women in Russia rallied in 1917 to demand suffrage, eight-hour work, the right to organize, and pay for their work.

Status of Women in India

- As a result of the struggle of reformers like Rajaram Mohan Roy, the Abolition of Sati was introduced in 1887 during the British rule.
- Indian society denied education to women especially women of oppressed society
- In 1848 Jyothi Rao Phule- Savitribai started the first girls' school at Bhide Wada, Pune.
- Tamil Nadu Muvalur Ramamirtham and Ireland-based feminist activist Amy Beatrice Carmichael fought against Devadasi system.
- Dr. Muthulakshmi, who was the Deputy Speaker of the Madras Legislative Assembly, brought in a bill to ban the Devadasi system and the Devadasi System Abolition Act was passed in 1947.
- Thanthai Periyar's Self-Respect Movement has continued to work for women's rights

Struggles for rights

- The Channar Revolt, led by leaders like Sir Vaigundar & George Joseph, was finally successful in 1859 when oppressed women were restricted from covering their breasts

- In 1943, the first women call was formed in the unified Thanjavur district
- The first demand of this organization is to protect the people and solve the famine
- Women were first given the right to vote in India in 1921 in the Travancore princely state followed by the Bombay & Madras provinces.

Menstrual leave

- Delhi-based Shailendra Mani Tripathi filed a public interest litigation in the Supreme Court to direct state governments to provide menstrual leave to schoolgirls and working women.
- Most companies will be reluctant to hire women on the grounds that if they offer menstrual leave to women
- It is a multi-dimensional problem
- Stating that it was related to the government's policy decision, the Chief Justice directed the matter to be brought to the notice of the Union Ministry of Child and Women Development and dismissed the petition.

In Bihar...

- The PIL pointed out that provision of menstrual leave to women in Bihar & stated that it is against Section 14 of the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961.
- It is wrong to single out women in the name of federal, state government policies etc
- While all women face similar physical and psychological problems during menstruation, women are treated differently in every state
- It was also requested that all Indian citizen women should be treated equally in the matter of menstruation.

In India...

- Menstruation, a natural phenomenon, is still believed to be impure in India
- Superstitions of menstrual days are often observed
- Due to lack of awareness, most people do not care about menstrual hygiene
- Among women aged 15-24 years in India, 49.6% reported using cloth during menstruation according to National Household Survey-5.

Economy

- Menstrual hygiene is directly related to the socio-economic status of women
- Women of advanced social status are more likely to take good care of menstrual hygiene (95.1%) while economically disadvantaged women are less likely to pay enough attention (53.6%).
- Women's menstrual hygiene also depends on the availability of sanitary napkins within easy reach

Government policy

- Menstrual hygiene among women is lowest (59%) in Bihar, which is said to provide menstrual leave.
- Tamil Nadu leads in menstrual hygiene(98.4%).

Stunted improvement

- Structural inadequacies in educational institutions and workplaces greatly affect women during their periods
- Lack of sufficient number of latrines, scarcity of water, lack of provision for disposal of napkins
- There are many reasons that hinder the development of girls, including not being given time to use the toilet

Support and resistance

- Proponents argue that revising menstrual leave is an injustice to women, except that institutions must make arrangements to change this gender-biased approach.
- Menstruation should not be narrowed down to a physiological phenomenon that happens to women, but should be approached from a broader perspective as women who are involved in the reproduction of mankind.
- The indifference we show in it will directly affect the welfare of future generations.

Jal Sakthi

- Across the country, 11.49 crore households are supplied with drinking water through pipelines
- In 1.53 lakh villages, everyone has access to safe drinking water
- 70,000 crores have been allocated in the current financial year for Anganwadi centers in schools and distribution of drinking water through pipelines in districts interested in development.
- This is more than 12 times as compared to 2018-19
- 9.34 lakh Anganwadi Centers will be supplied with drinking water through pipelines in 3 years. This is a 37 times increase.
- Across the country, 9.02 lakh schools have been supplied with piped water. This is an 18-fold increase. Drinking water facility has increased 6 times in districts interested in development
- In Haryana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, 8220 gram panchayats belonging to 80 districts where there is a shortage of groundwater have been implemented. 6000 crore rupees have been spent for this
- Under the Ganga Cleanliness Initiative, 409 projects were planned at a cost of Rs 32,912 crore. 232 schemes have been completed.
- The Swachh Bharat movement, called 'Swachh Bharat', was launched on 2 October 2014
- As part of this, 11 crore households have been provided with toilets. 2.23 lakh Community Health Complexes have been constructed
- All villages, gram panchayats, districts across the country have been declared free of public pollution.

Enforceable Right to Health in Rajasthan

- Congress-ruled Rajasthan has implemented the Right to Health Act like no other state in the country
- According to this law, free treatment should be given to all who come to the emergency department for injuries or other injuries in accidents
- No advance payment, treatment fee, medicine fee, etc. should be received
- This applies to both government and private hospitals
- Private doctors, nurses and medical workers are strongly opposing this law.
- The President of the Panchayat or its member is empowered to revoke the rights of private hospitals that violate the provisions of the Right to Health Act
- This has been repealed and the right has been given to the state health authorities as before
- The state government has also offered to provide free emergency treatment.

03

Indian Polity

The Governor must accept the decision made by the cabinet : SC

- If the state cabinet decides to convene the assembly session, the governor must accept it and order the assembly to convene
- The governor is bound to the decisions of the state cabinet on this issue
- At the same time, the Supreme Court has ordered the Chief Minister to respond to the questions asked by the governor

Directive

- We may belong to different political parties. There may be alternative comments in relation to a matter
- But we must act according to the Constitution
- If the State Cabinet takes a decision on the assembly session and recommends it to the governor, the governor must accept it.
- The governor should accept the cabinet decision and order the assembly. The governor is obligated.
- The governor of our constitution does not join any political party
- The CM has an equal role in carrying out the constitutional duty
- The CM's office or the concerned secretary should respond to the questions raised by the Governor

The Election Commissioner should be appointed by the President

Supreme Court verdict

- Yesterday, the Supreme Court gave a historic verdict that the President should appoint the Election Commissioners and the Chief Election Commissioner as per the instructions of the committee consisting of the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

Arun Goel

- Arun Goel was the Secretary of the Ministry of Heavy Industries of the Central Government
- As an IAS officer in Punjab, he voluntarily retired on November 18 last year
- But the next day he was appointed as the Election Commissioner
- The current Chief Election Commissioner Rajesh Kumar's term ends in February 2025.
- Thereafter, Arun Goel will be the Chief Election Commissioner
- He will be in the Election Commission for more than five years
- Many filed a petition in the Supreme Court against the sudden appointment Arun Goel as Election Commissioner

Constitutional Court hearing

- The Constitutional Court held an inquiry. Why was former government officer Arun Goel appointed in lightning speed within 24 hours?

- What kind of assessment is this? Arun Goyal's original appointment file should be filed in the court
- The credibility of Arun Goel's qualifications are not questioned, instead the nomination process is questioned.
- The Union Law Minister has recommended four names to the Prime Minister for the post of Election Commissioner
- The Supreme Court told the Central Government that none of them will complete their 6-year tenure

Until the law...

- Election Commissioners should be appointed by the President as per the instructions of the Committee consisting of Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
- If there is no Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, then the Leader of the Opposition having a single majority should be included in this committee
- This procedure will continue until Parliament passes a law regarding the appointment of Election Commissioners.
- Elections in a democracy must be fair without any doubt
- The Election Commission should ensure that sanctity is maintained
- Otherwise there will be bad consequences
- The Election Commission should function according to the law within the framework of the Constitution
- Article 324 of the Constitution states that a law should be passed for the appointment of Election Commission members
- But Parliament did not pass any law.

Appointment of Election Commissioner

Special judgment

- The Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court has ruled that the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners should be appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha or the leader of the party with the largest number of members, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
- The Supreme Court had also ordered that this procedure should be followed until a law is passed in the Parliament. This is a historic judgment.
- The judgment was delivered as part of a case filed against the hasty appointment of Arun Goel as the Election Commissioner
- The Election Commission is a constitutional body
- It is one of the most important organs of the country which has enormous powers to protect the values of democracy like conducting, monitoring and controlling elections.

Article 324

- Article 324 of the Constitution of India states that the President may appoint Election Commissioners in accordance with any law made by Parliament.
- However, it has been customary for the President to appoint the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners generally on the advice of the Central Government.
- Appointments to top posts like CBI Director are made on the recommendation of a committee comprising the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
- In that sense, the Supreme Court's order to form a committee for the appointment of election commissioners is a step to strengthen democracy.

Supreme Court direction on Selection of Election Commissioner

Why in News?

- Recently, former bureaucrat Arun Goel I.A.S. was appointed as one of the election commissioners of India.
- The controversial part here is, he was appointed as EC, the very next day when he retired as Secretary from Department of heavy industries. Within a day, he got appointed as election commissioner by the order of President.

Case

- Therefore a bunch of petitions came before five-judge constitution bench. The judges questioned the centre about its "tearing hurry" to process Mr. Goel's file in less than 24 hours for appointment.

Democracy

- As the definition of Democracy (People's power) stands as "Government of the people, by the people and for the people", then the true test of democracy is conducting free and fair elections.
- This ensures the right candidate mandated by people for office of high post.

Election Commission of India (ECI)

- ECI is a constitutional and independent body as mandated by Article - 324. The main function of election commission is to conduct parliament and state legislative elections apart from preparing error - free electoral roll.
- The major reform of ECI happened during former CEC T.N.Seshan, when it became as a Multi-member body and introduction of elector's photo identity card. During his tenure (1991-96) he ensured model code of conduct is taken seriously.

Equal power of EC

- Post 1991, when supreme court validated the appointment of 2 election commissioners they had equal powers with election commissioner.

Supreme Court's direction

On appointment

- The five judge bench (2023) unanimously ruled that the appointment of chief election commissioner and election commissioners shall be made by president on the advise of a committee consisting of the prime minister, leader of opposition of lok sabha and chief Justice of India.

On Removal

- Supreme court stated, the removal of other EC's cannot be same as CEC' removal procedure.
- Currently, CEC can be removed by the process similar to removal of supreme court judge.
- Removal of other EC is done through recommendations of CEC.
- Present tenure : 6 years or upto 65 years of age.

Funding and secretariat

- Supreme court left the provisions
 - i) Funding of EC
 - ii) Permanent secretariat and

iii) Expenditure charged on consolidated fund of India (Non-votable) for the government to decide.

Challenges

- The directions of Supreme court is seen as breach of separation of power, as law on appointment of EC is in the parliament.

Alternate view

- The view is that when there is no law on the issue, court can step in to fill the "Constitutional vacuum".

Way forward

- Thus, the central government and supreme court must take decisive steps to ensure the sanctity of ECI is safeguarded to uphold the true value of democracy.

Judgment in state language

- For the first time in India two judgments have been uploaded in Malayalam on the website of the Kerala High Court which is a commendable step
- The Kerala High Court has given pride to Malayalam speakers by publishing these judgments on February 21, World Mother Language Day.
- The Tamil Nadu Bar Council has urged the Madras High Court to publish its judgments in Tamil
- Although Article 348(1)(a) of the Constitution of India states that all proceedings of the High Courts shall be in English, Article 348(2) states that the Governor may authorize the official use of Hindi or other languages in the proceedings of the High Court with the approval of the President.

In India...

- In India, the use of Hindi was allowed in the Rajasthan High Court as early as 1950
- In 1965, the Union Cabinet passed a resolution making it a condition that any proposal to use a language other than English in the High Courts would require the approval of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
- Subsequently, after the approval of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Hindi was allowed to be used in the High Courts of Uttar Pradesh(1969), Madhya Pradesh(1971) and Bihar(1972)

SUVAS

- On Republic Day this year, the Supreme Court began a new chapter by issuing judgments in four languages: Hindi, Tamil, Gujarati, Odiya.
- For this purpose, the Supreme Court is also setting up an artificial intelligence system comprising judges to develop a special software tool called "SUVAS" to translate judgments from English.
- The Kerala High Court has now published news in Malayalam using this tool

Issue regarding Governors

- Lottery tickets were banned in Tamil Nadu in 2003 after being sold for 35 years
- The Tamil Nadu government took this important decision as countless families were devastated by lottery tickets
- Lottery gambling, which had been missing for 19 years, has evolved into online gambling due to the development of information technology.

Governor who did not approve

- Legislature passed legislation banning online gambling

- The Act was sent to the Governor seeking his assent
- It is painful that the Governor has not given his assent to this bill even after four months
- If the Governor decides that the Online Gambling Prohibition Act is not within the jurisdiction of the State Government as per the provisions of the Constitution, he shall either reject it or refer it to the President.
- By not doing any of this, delaying the passage of the bill without assent in the legislature, should be regarded as a failure to perform its constitutional duty.
- According to Article 361 of the Constitution of India, no one is empowered to question the President and the Governor of a State.
- A special status has been given to the Governor in such a way that no court can question him in the execution of the functions assigned to him by the Constitution
- But the Supreme Court questioned the Governor as to why there was a delay in taking a decision on the release of prisoners including Perarivaalan, who was sentenced to life in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case.
- Apart from that, he used his special powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to acquit them.
- In this context, there is a need to bring the Governors, who are sitting under the mantle of being beyond the jurisdiction of the courts, under the jurisdiction of the courts..

Voting facility from home for people above 80 years of age

- For the first time in India, the Election Commission has decided to introduce voting from home for people above 80 years of age and persons with disabilities.
- People of above 80 years of age are requested to come to the polling station and vote, and we are introducing voting from home to respect their right to vote in situations where they may not be able to walk.
- Pre-registration is required to avail this facility
- The election staff will then go to the house and record the vote in Form 12D in a highly confidential manner.
- All these procedures will be videotaped
- And this information will be communicated to all the political parties in advance
- Saksham mobile application has been developed for the differently abled
- You can choose to vote on it
- Whether you want to vote in person or from home, voting arrangements will be made accordingly.

App

- For the benefit of the candidates, a mobile app called Suvidha has been developed
- Candidates can file nomination papers and affidavits using this app
- Candidates can also get advance permission for meetings and rallies using this app

Legal recognition of same-sex marriage

- The central government has opposed the Supreme Court's legalization of same-sex marriages, saying it would cause serious damage to social values in the country.
- The recognition and rights of human relations have consequences for the provision of law and privileges
- Granting that recognition and rights is a fundamental feature of the legislative process
- It cannot be a matter of judicial discretion

- Therefore, the claim of the petitioners is totally unacceptable and misconceived.

Same-sex couple marriage

- In Navtej Singh Johar's case in 2018, the Supreme Court ruled that consensual sexual relations between same-sex attractions above the age of 18 are not a crime.
- This freed heterosexuals from having to hide their sexual orientation
- Living together, married or not, is a natural extension of a romantic relationship. Starting with opening a joint bank account for married couples in countries including India and adopting children.
- A number of rights are conferred up to claiming a share in the property
- They are denied these rights because same-sex marriages are not legally valid
- Most of the laws do not recognize marriages across religions and castes
- Such marriages are registered under the Special Marriage Act, 1954
- The central government should open-mindedly consider bringing the marriages of same-sex couples under its purview.

A marriage relationship

- As far as Hindus are concerned, marriage is a sacred religious ceremony in which a man and a woman come together to fulfill their obligations
- For Muslims, marriage is a contract. Marriage is considered to be the joining of a man and a woman between them
- Therefore, it is not acceptable to ask the Supreme Court to change the legal policy of the country which is deeply embedded in religious and social norms.
- Since the court has already ruled that same-sex consensual intercourse is not a crime, it cannot be claimed that same-sex marriage should be recognized under the laws as a fundamental right.
- The central government does not recognize same-sex marriages
- Meanwhile no action will be taken against such marriages

Please on Same sex Marriage to constitution Bench of Supreme Court Judgement :

- The top court's five - judge constitution bench in a path - breaking unanimous verdict delivered on September 6, 2018 held that consensual sex among adult homosexuals or heterosexuals in a private space is not a crime.
- The apex court, in its 2018 judgement, held that section 377 of the IPC that criminalised consensual gay sex was irrational, indefensible & manifestly arbitrary.

The Central government filed an affidavit against same sex marriage :

- The union government has opposed before the Supreme Court a plea for recognising the marriage of same sex couples, saying it would not only violate the codified law but it would also cause complete havoc with the delicate balance of personal laws in the country and the accepted societal values.
- It said living together as partners and having sexual relationships by same - sex individuals which is decriminalised now, is not comparable with the Indian family unit where a husband, a wife & children born out of the union are reared by the biological man as a father and the biological woman as mother.
- The centre also maintained that same - sex marriage is not in conformity with societal morality and Indian ethos.

- The Centre pointed out that marriage between a biological man and a biological woman takes place either under personal laws or codified laws namely,
 - The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955
 - The Christian Marriage Act, 1872
 - The Parsi Marriage & Divorce Act, 1936
 - Special Marriages Act, 1954
 - Foreign Marriage Act, 1969

Shifted to constitution bench :

- Saying this issue is of seminal importance. So the Chief justice of India said,
- “We are of the considered view that it would be appropriate if the issues raised are resolved by a bench of 5 judges with due regard to article 145 (3) of the Constitution.
- Thus we direct the matter be placed before a five - judge constitution bench, comprising justices P.S. Narasimha & J.B. Pardiwala”.

India tops in arms imports

- The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, based in the Swedish capital, Stockholm, has published a historic report on arms exports and imports.

Exports

- The United States has topped the list of the world’s largest arms exporters in 2022
- In second place is Russia

Imports

- India tops the list of countries that have imported the most arms
- Russia is the top arms supplier to India with 45 percent
- India is importing more weapons due to threats from Pakistan and China

India - Australia

Economic - Co-operation Agreement

- The strong relationship established between India-Australia is an essential one for security and development of Indo-pacific region.
- This relationship between these two countries of QUAD is an important aspect to counter the expansionist foreign policy of China.
- This got strengthened also in Renewable energy (Solar, Hydrogen) and security aspects between two countries.
- Moreover, India-Australia signed free trade agreement last year.
- The next step of FTA is, this economic Co-operation agreement.
- The consultation and exchange of information in defence sector between these two countries has also been increased.
- It also increases the surveillance of Indo-pacific region over air.

QUAD

- Due to more international problems India, Australia, Japan, America came together to form QUAD.
- Australia's trade and diplomacy with China is not in smooth roads for the recent days.
- So, it gains importance as Australia increases its relation with India.
- As the need to change supply chain had arisen, India - Australia is keen to establish a new supply chain pathway against china.

Co-operation in education

- It mainly focuses on recognition of degrees got by Indian students in Australia, as they returned back to India.
- It also focuses on Indian degrees getting recognition in Australia.
- The premier Australian educational institute Deakin University is going to become the first foreign university to open its branch in Gujarat's Gandhi Nagar.
- It will benefit the students those who cannot afford an Australian education.

Benefits

- New Co-operative agreement
- Education
- Energy, fuel
- Defence products manufacturing has been signed between these countries.
- It provides opportunity to Indian students, professionals to get more exposure and learning.
- It paves way not only for exchange of information but also for strong friendship.

Foreign lawyers are allowed to practice law in our country

- The Bar Council of India has approved foreign lawyers and law firms to practice law in our country

Restrictions

- Foreign Lawyers & Law Firms can practice law in India by duly registering with the Bar Council of India
- They cannot appear in courts directly
- This prohibition does not apply to foreign law firms who come to India solely to provide legal advice on international law or litigation to clients in India
- They cannot open an office here
- They can perform this task only for 60 days in a year

Security

- Lawyers will be charged Rs 2 lakh for registration with the Bar Council and law firms will be charged Rs 4 lakh
- To be renewed every five years
- Advocates seeking registration must obtain and submit a clearance certificate to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ministry of Law, Central Government
- Legal bodies including Bar Associations of the respective country should ensure that the lawyer concerned is qualified to practice law in India
- It should be ensured that they are not involved in legal matters and have not been punished
- The Bar Council of India shall not reject applications submitted for registration without due cause

- The decision of the Council is final
- The Central Government reserves the right to cancel or suspend the renewal of registration of foreign lawyers in the interest of national security or other legitimate reasons.

Consumer rights

- World Consumer Rights Day is celebrated every year on 15th March
- The total number of consumer cases is 5.4 lakh
- Cases registered 1,73,457 (2022)
- Number of cases resolved - 1,82,248 (2022)

Consumer Grievance Redressal Commissions

- National Consumer Commission - 1
- State Consumer Commission - 36
- District Consumer Commission - 696

Consumer Protection Act

- The Consumer Protection Act was enacted in India on 24th December 1986

Fundamental rights of consumers

- Right to Security
- Right to basic necessities
- Right to choose
- Right to Information
- Right of representation
- Right to seek redress
- Right to a healthy environment
- Right to consumer education

Policies for Ethanol, gas, textile

Ethanol Policy

- The objective of this policy is to develop Tamil Nadu as an investment hub for alternative green fuels
- Ethanol blended petrol can significantly reduce vehicle emissions
- The level of environmental pollution will decrease and people's health and standard of living will improve
- During the surplus season there will be a revival in the efficiency of the sugar mills and increase in cash flow
- Arrears due to farmers for inputs and purchases can be cleared without delay
- The income of farmers who grow raw materials like sugarcane and maize will increase significantly
- Dependence on foreign countries in fuel imports will decrease
- It will greatly help in the growth of Indian economy
- This policy will be valid for 5 years

City gas supply

- The objective of this policy is to create the necessary rules and procedures in Tamil Nadu to encourage the use of natural gas as an environment-friendly, greener fuel and to rapidly set up the necessary infrastructure in Tamil Nadu.
- This policy will enable natural gas to be supplied through pipelines to industries, automotive use and 2.3 crore households in Tamil Nadu.
- Through this, investment of 35 thousand crore rupees will be attracted in 8 years

Freight transportation

- The policy has been formulated with a vision to promote rapid economic growth of the state
- Building an integrated and robust transport infrastructure. Promoting availability of high quality services at low cost
- Creating a Single Window Authorization System. Promoting capacity building in the freight sector, are the main themes of this policy
- This policy will provide industry status to the freight sector; Implementation of new technology strategies; Capacity building; Ensuring sustainability will be encouraged
- 50 Action Plans have been recommended on three highways alone through the Freight Action Plan
- In this way, in the next ten years, 63 thousand crores of action projects and employment for 1.6 lakh people will be created

Textile Technology

- Special scheme for Tamilnadu technical textiles, synthetic fiber yarn, synthetic leaf fabric and apparel products from recycled materials
- The flagship program aims to provide more employment opportunities for women, lower investments for larger projects, higher incentives, and encourage research and development to harness the sector.
- All over the state, they are classified mainly by occupation
- The policy explains balanced industrial development in B and C districts

India - Japan Rapport

- The diplomatic relations between India and Japan are important for the Indo-Pacific region
- India chairs the G20 alliance
- At the same time, Japan is chairing the G7 group

Strengthening Rapport

- India and Japan are working together with America and Australia in the Quad alliance
- Since 2006, an annual conference has been held between India and Japan
- 2+2 talks are held every year in which the foreign and defense ministers of the two countries participate

Alternatives to execution of death sentence

- The death penalty carried out in the country is hanging
- The central government should consider holding a debate on this is too cruel
- The Central Government should also seriously consider whether there are alternative ways of carrying out the death penalty with less pain
- Discussion should be held and information should be collected

- These details must be collected and filed in court
- Alternatives to capital punishment such as firing squad, lethal injection or the electric chair may be considered.

2 years imprisonment

- A defamation case against Rahul Gandhi was filed in Surat Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate
- The Magistrate H H Varma who tried the case passed the verdict
- Rahul Gandhi was convicted under Sections 499 and 500 of the Indian Penal Code
- He was sentenced to 2 years imprisonment and fined Rs 15,000

In a criminal case...

- Supreme Court orders immediate dismissal of MP MLAs sentenced to 2 years or more in criminal cases
- In a notification released by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, Rahul Gandhi has been removed from the seat of Kerala's Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency in accordance with the Representation of the People Act, following the verdict of the Surat Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court.
- A copy of this notification has also been sent to the Chief Election Commission.

Disqualification resulting from punishment

- A Surat court has convicted former Indian National Congress leader and Wayanad Lok Sabha member Rahul Gandhi in a defamation case and sentenced him to two years in jail.
- Lok Sabha Secretary announced that Rahul was disqualified from the post of Lok Sabha member from the date of the verdict.

Grounds for disqualification

- Both Articles 102(1) and 191(1) of the Constitution of India describe the circumstances under which members of Parliament and Legislative Assembly respectively should be declared disqualified.
- Members of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and Legislative Assembly are disqualified in three types of situations.
- Profitable practice, holding any Government post other than Member/Ministerial post
- Declared mentally unsound or insolvent
- Being without proper Indian citizenship or having lost citizenship.
- Parliament is also empowered to enact necessary legislation to declare members disqualified
- The Tenth Schedule of the Constitution provides for the disqualification of members who switch parties

Representation of the People Act, 1951

- The Representation of the People Act, 1951, was enacted by the Parliament for the purpose of holding elections to both Houses of the Parliament of India and to the Legislative Assemblies, determining the qualifications for contesting and being elected as members, and defining the circumstances of disqualification.
- Section 8 of the Act deals with disqualification of members convicted by a court
- This section was added to prevent criminalization of politics and to prevent persons with criminal convictions from sitting in the legislatures.
- It disqualifies members for specific reasons such as inciting violence between two sections or between two groups, accepting bribes, adulterating food or drugs, punishable with imprisonment of six months or more under the Dowry Prevention Act.

National Party Recognition

- Political parties must secure a minimum of 6 percent of the vote in four or more state parliamentary or legislative assembly elections to retain national party recognition.
- Should have at least 4 MPs in the Parliament
- In this case, in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, it was expected that the national recognition of Tirunamool Congress, Nationalist Congress and Communist parties of India, which did not fulfill these conditions, would be a problem.
- As far as the national party taken is concerned, it can contest all Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly elections on its own symbol.
- A large number of star speakers can be fielded in an election campaign
- There are eight recognized national parties namely BJP, Congress, Communist of India, Communist Party of India(Marxist), Bahujan Samaj, Trinamool Congress, Nationalist Congress and National People's Party and 50 recognized state parties.

Death Sentence Necessary or Not ?

Death Penalty

- The Supreme Court has raised the idea of using some other method as an alternative to hanging the rope around the neck until death.

Case

- In the 1980 case of Bachan Singh v. State of Punjab, the death penalty was upheld
- But only in very rare cases should the death penalty be imposed
- The judgment in the 1983 Deena Dayal v. Union of India case held that execution by hanging inflicts less pain on the offender than other methods.
- Both the judiciary and the administration have been in favor of capital punishment
- The states of Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana have brought the death penalty for child rapists.
- In Madhya Pradesh and Punjab, even the brewing and possession of spurious liquor are punishable by death

Amnesty International

- Even life imprisonment is the maximum punishment for serious crimes
- But in today's changed world, more serious criminals are emerging
- It is unacceptable that people like Ajmal Kasab who started a war against the nation by raining bombs on innocent people with AK 47 should not be given death penalty.
- It cannot be dismissed out of hand that the death penalty for crimes including terrorism can only create a sense of fear and prevent it

Amnesty International

- According to statistics provided by Amnesty International, 108 countries have completely abolished the death penalty
- 36 countries only rarely use the death penalty
- 55 countries have the death penalty under their laws

CrPC

- The Penal Code was created in 1888 by the British colonial government
- Revised in 1898 & 1973.
- Even if the Supreme Court wants to abolish the death penalty by hanging, it will require the approval of Parliament
- The Parliament can take the final decision on this issue and the Judiciary can only make recommendations.

04

Science & Technology

India's third moon mission

- Recently ISRO has successfully conducted flight acceptance hot test CE-20 cryogenic engine that will cover the cryogenic upper stage of LVM-3 launch vehicle of Chandrayaan 3 mission

Features

- Test conducted at ISRO propulsion Complex Mahendragiri, Tamilnadu
- Conductor for 25 seconds at high altitude test facility.

Test for Chandrayaan 3 Lander

- Successfully conducted at U R Rao Satellite centre in Bangalore
- Tested for EMI-EMC (Electromagnetic induction /Electromagnetic compatibility)

Features of Chandrayaan 3

- It is an interplanetary mission
- Has three major modules
- Propulsion module
- Lander module
- Rover
- Works on radio frequency communication between these three modules
- To be launched by 2023, by LVM-3

Proton Beam Therapy (PBT)

In news, because

- Not accessible and affordable for many cancer patients

About PBT

- Viable alternative to radiation therapy
- can treat solid tumors especially for head and neck cancer
- can also treat cancer of prostate, ovaries, breast, lungs, bones and soft tissues
- treated cancer patients - 47% are brain tumours

Available condition of PBT in India

- Only one device for 1412 million people (at Apollo Hospital)
- Proposed to set up another PBT unit at the National Hadron Beam facility of Tata Memorial Hospital in Navi Mumbai

Concerns over out of reach

- It is a huge contraption upto 3 storeys tall and cost nearly 500 crores
- volatile nature of hydrogen

- regular check for its leakages
- PBT uses hydrogen.

Estimates

- Nearly 40,000 children in India diagnosed with cancer and 1400 of them can benefit from PBT

India & Missiles

- The Defense Research and Development Organisation, a division of the Ministry of Defence, has designed, developed and manufactured a range of missiles
- Indigenously manufactured Indian missiles : Trishul, Akash, Nag, Prithvi, Agni, Brahmos
- Prithvi is a ground-launched short-range missile that attacks ground-based targets
- It has a range of 150 kilometers and is powered by liquid fuel.
- Many forms were made in it to suit the triads
- The Prithvi-3 missile can be launched from land, vehicle and ship
- Agni is an Intermediate Range ballistic missile
- Biphasic liquid fuel is used in Agni-2. Range 2500 km
- Agni-3 : 3500 km
- Akash is a surface-to-air missile. Trisul also belongs to same category
- It can even be launched from a running vehicle
- Nag is an anti-artillery missile
- Brahmos is a supersonic missile with a speed 3 times the speed of the sound
- It can be launched from submarine, ships and aircrafts even when they are moving
- Range : 350 km
- It can throw a weapon that weighs 350 kg
- This bistage missile has solid fuel booster and liquid fuel ramjet with anti-jaming equipments
- It was designed with the help of Russia.

Nano liquid DAP fertilizer

- The central government has approved the introduction of nanotechnology-based liquid DAP (Diammonium phosphate) fertilizer
- The government approved the introduction of nano liquid DAP fertilizer followed by nano liquid urea fertilizer
- In 2021, Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative of India introduced Nano Liquid Urea
- Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative of India to manufacture Nano DAP
- It will revolutionize Indian agriculture and economy.
- Following Nano DAP fertilizer, IFFCO plans to introduce Nano Potash, Nano Zinc and Nano Copper fertilizers
- Various plants have been set up in Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat for liquid urea production
- It is sold at Rs 240 per bottle.

Influenza A Virus

- It has been revealed that Influenza A virus subtype H3N2 virus circulating in India
- People infected with the Influenza A H3N2 virus develop a lung infection

- About 10 percent of patients require oxygen therapy
- 7 percent are admitted to the emergency care
- Wash your hands frequently with soap to avoid this virus
- Must wear face mask
- Do not touch eyes or nose with unwashed hands.
- Drink more water
- If fever and body ache are high, paracetamol tablet should be taken as per doctor's advice
- Do not spit in public places
- Do not greet by shaking hands or hugging
- Do not go to crowded places
- Social distancing should be observed
- Medicines should not be taken without doctor's advice

Advice of IMA

- In India, people affected by the Influenza A H3N2 virus experience problems such as cough, sore throat, body aches, and diarrhea
- Fever lasts up to seven days
- People over the age of 50 and some under the age of 15 are more affected by this type of virus
- According to the report published by the World Health Organization, the annual spread of the Influenza virus varies according to the climate of the world
- It is reported that this type of virus kills about 6.5 lakh people worldwide every year.

A village in Odisha that runs entirely on solar power

- Sagasahi, a remote village in Odisha's tribal-dominated Sundargarh district, has become entirely solar-powered for its electricity needs.
- Solar based lighting systems have been provided to 90 houses in the village
- Water supply systems with a capacity of 10,000 liters using solar power have been established at 12 locations in the village
- 70 solar street lights have also been set up
- Also, a solar-powered smart classroom is being built in this initiative
- A resolution was passed on behalf of the Gram Panchayat calling Sagasahi village as solar powered village.

NISAR satellite: US handover to ISRO

- The United States Air Force has handed over Nisar, a geo-observation satellite jointly developed in the United States by the American space agency NASA and the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).

NASA-ISRO

- The satellite is expected to be launched in 2024 from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- The 2800 kg NASA-ISRO Synthetic-aperture radar (NISAR) satellite developed at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California was flown to Bangalore by a US Air Force aircraft and handed over to ISRO.

Research

- The powerful radar installed on this satellite can accurately study the blue and snow surface of the earth
- ISRO plans to use this satellite for various studies including agricultural area measurement and prediction of earthquake and landslide prone areas.

Will the mosquito infestation come to an end?

- Only female mosquitoes bite humans
- Mosquitoes have no teeth
- It has only a long pointed tube called proboscis
- Mosquitoes ingest carbon dioxide from the air emitted by the living beings and reach them
- Mosquitoes have the ability to ingest carbon dioxide released within 50 meters
- Mosquitoes usually fly only 23 feet above the ground
- Mosquitoes recognize us because of our sweat odor and carbon-dioxide.
- Mosquitoes are more likely to bite people who do not have pure blood and who have a lot of waste in their bodies.

Aedes & Culex

- Some mosquito species like Aedes bite only during the day
- These mosquitoes lay their eggs in the water and it takes 7 to 10 days for them to develop into larval stages
- The eggs of these mosquitoes remain viable for up to a year
- Culex mosquitoes bite from evening to night

Diseases

- Chickenpox is transmitted by Aedes aegypti mosquitoes
- Malaria is transmitted by Anopheles mosquitoes
- Culicinae mosquitoes transmit Japanese-B virus to humans and cause encephalitis
- Dengue is usually prevalent during the monsoon season.

Ecological balance

- If there are insects, there is a frog, if there is a frog, there is a snake, if there is a snake, then there are owls
- If there are owls and snakes, the population of insects and mice will naturally be controlled
- Now this balance of life is disturbed and the food chain is cut and some species are increasing and some are dying out
- Along with this, chemical farming, climate change, ecological damage and changes in the living environment are increasing the number of mosquitoes.
- Mosquito eggs and larvae are commonly eaten by birds, fish, frogs, insects, bats, lizards, etc.
- Destruction of insectivores and birds leads to proliferation of mosquitoes
- Mosquitoes have the ability to survive chemical exposure
- Female mosquitoes live for 42 to 56 days and male mosquitoes live for 10 days
- At the same time, the organisms that feed on mosquitoes, such as frogs, flycatchers, tadpoles, fish, etc., are being perishing by the chemicals.

Dragonfly

- The eggs of the dragonfly only develop in water
- It flies up only after pupation
- Dragonfly feeds on mosquito eggs and grows
- Currently, the Dragonfly species is being perishing due to the chemicals that are spread through the water, land, and air
- Frogs will increase in water bodies only if chemical use is reduced
- If frogs increase, mosquitoes will decrease.

Brahmos Missile

Introduction

- Brah Mos Missile is the joint venture of India and Russia, which was signed in 1998. The missile is produced by Brah Mos Aerospace, with its head office at New Delhi.
 - Its, production factory (unit) - Hyderabad
 - Spare parts unit - Thiruvananthapuram

Background

- Inter - Governmental agreement signed by A.P.J.Abdul Kalam and Russia's then Deputy Defence Minister Mikhailv (1998).

Name and reason

- Brahmaputra + Moskva - Brah Mos

About the Joint venture

- India share - 50.5%
- Russia share - 49.5%
- Jointly developed by India's DRDO - Russia's NPOM

Aim

- To design, develop, manufacture and market world's only supersonic cruise missile system.

Special features

- Brahmos can be launched from land / water and air. Now it is inducted to all three forces. (Army, Navy, Airforce).
- Initially in 2001, it was created as a surface to surface missile.
- It is a supersonic cruise missile.
- Operates on "fire and forget principle" adopting varieties of flights on its way to the target.
- Compared to other conventional missiles, Brahmos velocity is 3 times greater than those.
- It is also capable of being launched from submarine and can emerge out of water and operate with "out of water command" sensor.

Foreign Nation's interest

- India - philipines signed an agreement of Rs.3,103 crore, as philipines decided to buy from India.

- Many other countries like Saudi had also expressed their interest in buying Brah Mos.

Green hydrogen energy plant on Chinese border

- As the Government of India is implementing the National Green Hydrogen Project, work has been initiated to set up a green hydrogen based energy production plant in the northern border region.
- An agreement has been signed with the Renewable Energy Center under the National Thermal Power Corporation
- NTPC will be given all the rights to build, operate and manage the plant to be set up on the Eastern Ladakh border.
- It will operate as a green hydrogen based energy plant coupled with a solar energy plant
- Green hydrogen will be produced by electrolysis of water using solar energy
- When solar energy is not available, energy will be produced using green hydrogen
- Indian Army becomes first government organization to sign contract with NTPC to set up green hydrogen-based power plant

Tuberculosis free India

Chief of Diseases

- Tuberculosis was called by different names like Thysis, Tabs, White Plague
- Tuberculosis was said to be the leader of diseases because of the death rate it caused
- A German medical scientist named Dr. Robert Koch proved that it was caused by airborne bacteria

March 24

- Robert Koch confirmed that the bacterium Mycobacterium tuberculosis was the cause of tuberculosis and announced it to the world on March 24, 1882.
- The World Health Organization declared that day as World Tuberculosis Awareness Day
- All countries are following it

Symptoms

- Symptoms of tuberculosis include a cough that persists for more than 14 days, fever, weight loss, loss of appetite, shortness of breath, chest pain, night sweats, bloody phlegm, fatigue, and fainting.
- A test injection should be done to diagnose this disease
- Tuberculosis is confirmed if the injection site is red and thickened and 10 mm or more in size when examined after 72 hours.
- If the thickness is between six and nine millimeters, there is a possibility of tuberculosis
- If it is less than 5 mm, it means no TB

Easily affected

- Doctors and nurses who spend a lot of time with patients are also more likely to get TB
- Tuberculosis easily infects people who have weak immune system

- Tuberculosis is especially likely to affect people who have had an HIV organ transplant and who are taking the pill as a result
- HIV and TB are closely related
- Tuberculosis can affect any part of the body except hair and nails
- The disease affects the lungs in 60% to 70% cases
- 30% to 40% affect other organs
- It is very important to detect tuberculosis at an early stage
- If found, the patient can be cured in six months
- Death due to TB is due to multi-drug resistance infection
- There are people who go to the stage of illness due to the effects of tuberculosis, not taking medicine pills properly and not taking regular treatment.
- Tamil Nadu accounts for 5% of all cases of tuberculosis in India
- Uttar Pradesh has the highest incidence in India at 20%
- The medical sector has set a target to eradicate tuberculosis from India by the year 230
- Let's hope that target gets achieved

ISRO's LVM3

- ISRO's NSIL has bagged a deal worth around Rs 1000 crore to launch UK's OneWeb satellites on GSLV Mark III rocket.
- In the first phase, 36 satellites were launched by the LVM3 rocket.
- All 36 satellites were successfully placed in orbits at a distance of 450 km from Earth
- Their total weight is 5805 kg
- These are launched for web service use
- Described as ISRO's Baahubali, the LVM3 rocket is 43.5 m tall and weighs 640 tonnes.
- Capable of operating in highly complex cryogenic technology.

Fortified rice

- A sample study was conducted to reduce malnutrition in India by providing clarified rice to people in 112 districts from 2020 to 2022.
- The central government has ordered the distribution of fortified rice in all states through public distribution system and mid-day meal scheme
- Fortified rice is already being distributed to 5.51 lakh Antyodaya Anna Yojana, preferential family card holders in two districts of Virudhunagar and Ramanathapuram in Tamil Nadu.

TN

- The Tamil Nadu government has decided to extend the supply of fortified rice across the state from April 1.
- It has been decided to provide enriched rice to about 18.64 lakh Antyodaya Anna Yojana beneficiaries, 96.12 lakh priority family card holders and 1.1 crore non-priority family card holders in Tamil Nadu.

Fortification

- The Food Safety and Standards Commission of India defines fortification as the systematic addition of essential micronutrients to food to improve its nutritional quality.
- Iron, folic acid and vitamin B12 nutrients are artificially loaded in this rice
- A synthetic nutrient mixture containing several micronutrients including vitamins and minerals is used for this.
- A chemical mixture and powdered rice are added to it
- Then this flour is processed again in machines in the form of rice
- These enriched rice beads are mixed with normal rice in a ratio of 100 : 1

Scientific facts

- Enriching grains with iron can significantly increase the body's iron-based stores of ferritin
- Not only that, studies also show that it does not raise hemoglobin levels
- Iron also destroys the good bacteria in the gut and can lead to bacterial infections
- Increased iron content in the body can cause diabetes
- High blood pressure is possible not only in adults but also in children
- One of the serious problems of anemia, sickle cell anemia has a high population in India
- They are more prone to pre-existing damage from iron-enriched foods
- Acknowledging such problems, government officials say that labeling iron-rich food bags with warnings for patients with certain diseases could prevent ill effects.
- The reality is that in a country full of illiterate and uneducated people, these warning scents cannot have a positive impact

Who benefits?

- The enriched rice program was not developed with a medical science perspective
- Anemia, hunger and nutritional deficiencies cannot be remedied by fortifying grains alone
- This can be accomplished by introducing a variety of nutritious foods such as multi-grains, pulses, fruits, fish, non-vegetarian food.
- Medical and nutrition experts insist that a variety of nutritious foods should be made available to children, women, pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- The government needs to make socio-economic changes by making vegetables, fruits and grains that can be easily available at low cost and easily available
- What is the guaranteed benefit of getting artificially enriched rice instead?

Awareness campaign

- This scheme of indiscriminate distribution of fortified rice in the public distribution system must be stopped immediately
- Data obtained from three-year sample surveys should be made public.
- Only then will there be a chance for the experts and the public to fully understand the pros and cons of this project
- Likewise, meetings should be held to ask the opinion of the people in this regard
- After that, a systematic study by medical and nutritional experts should be carried out based on the data to modify and implement this plan..

Silver Jubilee in Space

International Space Station

- All the leading countries of the world including India are continuously launching satellites from Earth for space research
- In particular, space centers like NASA, Russia, Europe's ESA, India's ISRO are carrying out space research by sending spaceships through hundreds of rockets.
- Five countries of the world, the United States, Russia and Britain, Canada, Japan, which are described as powerful countries, decided to build the International Space Station for themselves.

10 years of effort

- The parts were carried into space by spaceships for 10 years, and in 1998 they were floated in a certain place in the orbit of the Earth.
- Astronauts then went into space 30 times to successfully reassemble these parts
- Its total weight is 460 tons
- That is almost the size of a football field
- It crawls in the Earth's orbit, hovering 360 kilometers above the Earth

Supervision

- Countries that have spent time in the space station travel by spacecraft and continuously monitor the movement of the Earth, its environmental changes, monitor the movement of storms in the ocean, and look at the Milky Way through continuous video recording.
- The International Space Station is the largest man-made structure outside Earth
- Astronauts from 19 countries have visited the space station and successfully returned
- Every 24 hours the International Space Station encounters 16 sunrises and 16 sunsets.
- The spacecraft will reach the International Space Station in about six hours from Earth
- The space probe makes a full orbit around the Earth in about 90 minutes
- It is the most expensive man-made laboratory
- Its total value is 12 crore US dollars.

Research labs

- Rather than carrying out space-based research on Earth, the International Space Station was created to conduct unique research in the zero gravity of space.
- Before an astronaut is sent there, the tasks to be carried out are experiments and instruments are trained in a model space assembly set up on Earth.
- The International Space Station has a total of five research labs
- There are two small research institutes belonging to Russia and one each to USA, Europe and Japan
- Various researches are being carried out on the International Space Station, such as taking pictures of the Earth from space and gathering data, and keeping single-celled organisms, mice, ants, and groups of fish under zero gravity.

Completion of Silver Jubilee

- The International Space Station was scheduled to remain operational until next year
- The construction work of the station was designed accordingly
- However, as the station remains operational for the next six years, contracting nations, including the United States, have decided to continue operating the International Space Station until 2030.

05

Tamil Society

Let's talk without blending other language

Classical

- For the rise of the Tamil language, its myth is also a reason
- Thirukkural of Thiruvalluvar, Silappathigaaram of Ilangovaligal & Thiruvasaagam of Maanikavasagar are world famous
- There is a lot of literature that leads to the rise of the people.

The epic of India

- Two of the texts called epic in India. They are the Ramayana composed by Valmiki and the Mahabharata composed by Vyasa.
- Although these books are written in Sanskrit, there are various references to Tamil Nadu & Tamil language

Mother of Dravidian language

- The Tamil language is unique language, which is also specialty
- Tamil language does not need the support of another language for its survival and growth
- Tamil language has been a support for other languages for their survival and growth
- Tamil is a mother to dravidian languages such as Malayalam, Telugu, Kannada & Tulu

Semmozhi

- Independent literacy & clear script form are the basic necessities to be a classical language
- Phonetic according to script & the meaning of the vocabulary according to the script and phonetic
- A language that has these is called a correct language
- The Tamil language has a distinct orthography, phonetics, and meanings which are natural. That is why Tamil language has got the status of classical language
- It is our Tamil language that stands as a growing classical language, a living classical language, old to old, new to new.

Ainthalakkanam

- Many world languages have Ezhuthu, Sol, Porul & Yaappu. But Tamil is the only language that has Porul along with Ezhuthu, Sol, Porul & Yaappu
- That is why Tamil is said to have "Ainthalakkanam"
- The origin of Ainthalakkanam can be learnt from Iraiyanar Agapuralai
- Besides, Tamil divides agapural and purapural with each 7
- And Ettuthogai & Patthupaattu which praises Valour
- Thevaaram & Thiruvasaagam that refreshes mind.

- Beginning with Tolkappiyam, more than 100 grammar and literary texts have enriched Tamil
- Most of the North Indian languages have four syllables for each sound of the five categories of க, ச, ட, த, ப
- But in Tamil each letter is different. Although the sound is different, the spelling is the same
- Learning Tamil is very easy as you don't need to memorize many letters.

An archaeological wonder

- We have studied Tamil literature of the Sangam period. We will read so many information such as Life customs of Tamils, residence, business, bravery, love, marriage, death, etc. as mere spectators
- But the evidence is buried underground
- The current pattern of civilized life dates back to about 2500 years ago
- Ancients Tamil's life is a miracle in itself. He built buildings with beauty and lived
- The evidence found that he lived in a private room even with lavatory facilities shook the world.
- Keezadi is located in the Rameswaram four-lane road, which is at the 12th km from Madurai Mattuthavani bus station.

First phase Excavation

- The first phase of excavation work started in 2014 with the approval of the Union Government to find evidence of the life of ancient Tamils.

Spectacular construction

- Till 2016, the Union Government allowed excavation work to continue
- During this study, the building constructions of Tamils dating back to about 2500 years ago, including dyeing, bricks etc. were found.
- Through this it was known to the whole world that Tamils are the pioneers of civilized human life
- It has been proved that the Tamils were wearing ornaments and leading a wonderful life in those times through the continuous excavation of flint materials, iron, gold etc.
- Following this, the Union BJP government transferred Archeology Superintendent Amarnath Ramakrishnan.

Tamil Nadu Govt Fund

- From 2017, after the 3rd survey of the Union Government, the Government of Tamil Nadu allocated funds separately and carried out the excavation work.
- Excavation continued in places like Keezhadi, Akaram, Konthagai
- A grand size map welcomes us of 21 excavated sites in Tamil Nadu including Keezadi, Sivakalai, Korkai, Aritapatti.

Survey in three locations following keezhadi

- After Geezadi, the excavation works were also carried out in Akaram, Konthagai and Manalur.
- It was found that Konthagai site was used as a cremation site in ancient times
- 3 types of burial of the dead were found in ancient times in Konthagai
- 3 conditions were identified: burying elderly people who cannot be cared for alive and keeping them

alive in a large talisman, burying the dead with their belongings, and taking the dead from another place and burying them in a talisman.

Keezhadi Museum

- The Vaigai Civilization adjacent to the city of Kudal(Madurai) dates back to about 2600 years ago.
- The place where it was confirmed is Keezhadi

Museum

- While the excavations were carried out at Keezhadi, the archaeological department also conducted excavations at nearby Konthagai, Agaram and Manalur and found various objects there.
- The objects found in the above four towns are displayed in the Keezhadi Museum
- The museum has been set up at a cost of Rs 18 crores and 43 lakhs on an area of 31 thousand square feet in two acres.

The path traversed by Keezhadi

- Tamil scholars and activists who came to know that the early civilization of Tamils along with antiquities were found in Keezhadi, have been calling on the government to conduct excavations there.
- In 2014, permission was granted to conduct excavations in the Vaigai Bank area
- The first phase of excavation was started in June 2015 by the Central Department of Archaeology
- In January 2016, the second phase of excavation work was started.
- The third phase of excavation began in January 2017
- After that, the fourth phase of excavation was conducted in the year 2018 by the Department of Archeology of Tamil Nadu Government
- Phase 5 excavation work started in June 2019
- This excavation also yielded a surprising variety of artifacts
- Phase 6 excavation work started in February 2020 and took place for a few months
- Phase 7 excavation work started in 2021
- Phase 8 excavation work - from february to september of 2022
- All the artefacts collected in these 8 phase excavations will be show cased in the museum
- Of these, the results of 4th excavation work are announced by TN Govt, which revealed that the artefacts obtained from Keezhadi are 2600 years old
- After that, the eyes of archeological researches all over the country focused on the Keezhadi.

Artefacts obtained

- Weigh stones, with many different accurate weights
- Brick constructions, Pottery tiles, terracota beads, Soil layers, pearls, stone beads, Pot symbols, glass beads, weapons made of iron and its alloys, chess pieces, artful pots, Waterway tracks, Multi-layer casing wells are obtained.
- Tiles inscribed with Tamil Brahmi characters were also found. Mirrors, greenstone, coral, earrings, part of an ivory comb, copper objects, bone tips, flint figurines, bull, horse, human head etc. were found.

- Also, a head was found which seems to be wearing a crown
- Gold ornaments in the form of dice, cones and stars made of ivory were also found
- Small tools called takali and round chips used for playing were also found
- A smoker, a fire pit, old men's talismans, human bone nests, and a flint furnace were also found.

Keezhadi

- Twelve kilometers southeast of Madurai, Keezhadi is situated on the banks of the Vaigai River in Sivagangai District.
- The excavations carried out here provide evidence of the flourishing of urban civilization on the banks of the Vaigai River during the Sangam period in Tamil Nadu.

Excavation report

- Archaeological Survey of India excavated 293 sites in the Vaigai Plains area in Theni, Dindigul, Madurai, Sivaganga, Ramanathapuram districts during 2013-14.
- Keezhadi is one among them
- Under the leadership of Archaeological Superintendent K. Amarnath Ramakrishnan, the excavation was conducted in two phases in 2014 and 2016.
- Amarnath submitted the report of the excavation to Vidyavathy, Director, Archaeological Survey of India
- The report, which spans 982 pages with 12 chapters, records the historical background of the excavations and the significance of the excavation.

Sangam age

- The period from 3rd century BC to 3rd century AD was named Sangam age by the Tamil poets who lived in Madurai at that time.
- An excavation carried out in 2019 by the Tamil Nadu Department of Archeology at Keezhadi has estimated the period of one of the artifacts to be between the 6th century CE and the 1st century CE.
- Sent to America for Radio C- dating
- The period is found to be CE 580
- This moves the Sangam period back by an additional 300 years

Urban civilization

- Detailed records of urban civilization in Tamil Nadu during the Sangam period are available in the Sangam literature
- Archaeological Department of Tamil Nadu confirms that the urban civilization underlies all elements like brick constructions, luxury goods, domestic and foreign trade.

Connection with Indus Valley

- After the publication of a report on the possible links of Keezhadi with the Extra-Indus Civilization, the Archaeological Survey of India delayed the commencement of the third phase of excavations at Keezhadi.
- Amarnath Ramakrishnan, Superintendent of Archeology of Keezhadi Excavations, has been transferred to Assam.

- The Archaeological Survey of India allowed the Tamil Nadu Archeology Department to excavate the Keezhadi after the Madurai Division of the Madras High Court intervened.
- Although there is a cultural gap of about 1000 years between the Keezhadi civilization and the Indus Valley Civilization, the markings on some of the objects found at Keezhadi reveal a close connection with the markings of the Indus Valley.
- However, more detailed excavations are needed to confirm the connection between the Indus Valley and the Keezhadi.

Ancient Tamil society that lived with urban civilization

- Vaigai is the oldest of the Tamil rivers. A team led by Amarnath Ramakrishnan, deputy superintendent of the Central Archeology Department, conducted the survey on these river banks
- Archaeological remains were found in 293 places on both sides of the river Vaigai
- Among these, 100 places where there were signs of human habitation were selected for excavation
- In the first phase, the excavation of the Central Department of Archeology started in Keezadi village of Sivagangai district
- The Department of Archeology of Tamil Nadu was involved in the fourth and fifth phases of the excavation
- More than 6800 artefacts and construction sites of Ancient tamils were revealed.

2600 years old

- This revealed that a 2600-year-old urban civilization prevailed in Keezhadi
- It is also confirmed that it is contemporary with urbanization in the Gangetic plains
- Subsequently, the sixth phase survey was carried out at Keezhadi and its surrounding areas in Manalur, Agaram & Konthagai.
- More than 60 potsherds inscribed with Tamil characters were found
- These are important proofs of literate people lived in Tamil Nadu as early as the 6th century
- Apart from this, there is also evidence of trade relations with various regions including the Roman Empire, Gujarat and the Gangetic plains

Indian Institute of Heritage

- A unique culture is found in every part of every state of our country
- It has a threat to be disappeared due to modern changes
- Keeping this in mind, an idea to prove that India is a multifaceted country

Research

- A National Cultural University should be established in the country
- The University can study the Vedas, Upanishads and the history of Indian languages
- A National Cultural University should be established in Delhi and its member colleges should be established in all states Travancore State opened temples to all.

06

Indian Geography

El Nino / La Nina

- The climate of the subcontinent, especially South Asia, is based on the El Niño and La Niña patterns that occur in the Pacific Ocean.
- They also cause the continuation of winter characteristics in the months of February and March
- Like last year, this year too many parts of India are experiencing summer temperatures directly after the end of winter and spring
- There is a difference between 2022 and 2023. Due to increased heat last year, winter crops began to wilt in March before harvest
- This year the summer heat has started in February itself which has left the farmers shocked
- Moisture in the air is essential for wheat harvest
- Summer heat may increase due to insufficient rainfall during winter
- So the regular monsoon will also be affected.

Lithium in India

- The Geological Survey of India states that tons of lithium resources are found in the mountainous Salal-Haimana area of the Reasi district in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir
- Lithium ore, also known as white gold, is one of the raw materials needed for many modern scientific inventions, including cell phones, laptops, and electric vehicles.

Lithium triangle

- Evergreen is found in Bolivia, Argentina, and Chile in the world, but because of its refining and processing in China, the international market is now dominated by China.

Needs

- Starting from batteries of electric vehicles, pharmaceutical spacecraft, aluminum production, fertilizer production, the demand for lithium is also increasing in the medical field.
- Even the pacemaker used in heart surgery requires lithium
- Climate change and environmental protection have forced a shift from fossil energy to electric vehicles
- Therefore, it is reasonable to expect that the demand for lithium ion batteries will increase drastically in the coming years
- So countries and companies around the world are competing to control lithium reserves

Challenges

- Lithium is extracted from hard rock, underground crusts. It needs a lot of water
- Apart from that, environmental problems due to lithium production cannot be avoided

- Hence there is resistance to lithium production internationally.

Import

- At present, India imports lithium for its requirement from Australia, Argentina
- Lithium, Cobalt, Nickel etc. are essential for solar panel, laptop, cell phone, electric vehicle battery etc. so we have no choice but to import.
- So it is not surprising that the discovery of lithium in Jammu has created huge expectations.
- Global lithium reserves are estimated at 80 million tonnes
- But only 22 million tonnes of lithium can be extracted and marketed from them
- Identifying and extracting lithium ore is not easy

Four stage production

- Lithium ore production is divided into four phases
- An indication of the presence of ore
- Exploration of lithium ore deposits
- An attempt to extract the ore
- Amount of ore and production from it
- The presence of lithium in Jammu is not yet fully confirmed
- The final phase will determine whether the currently estimated 5.9 million can be extracted and produced in any quantity from itself.

Bolivia

- Multinational companies even countries are vying to capture the internationally scarce lithium ore
- China recently struck a billion dollar deal with Bolivia, home to the world's largest lithium reserves (2.1 crore ton)

Sea level rise

- If the amount of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane emitted by human society continues to increase, some major Asian cities including Chennai & Kolkata of India will be affected by sea level rise within this century.

Reasons

- An increase in the surface temperature of the ocean water causes the water to expand and the sea level to rise
- Also, the melting glaciers in the polar regions are releasing large amounts of water into the oceans
- Regional differences in sea level rise are observed
- Some attribute changes in ocean currents to displacing large amounts of water only to certain areas
- Natural fluctuations in sea level also occur due to natural climate variability processes such as El Niño or changes in ocean circulation.

Consequences

- 20 to 30% sea level rise
- The incidence of extreme flooding will increase
- Many major cities in Asia will face major impacts by 2100
- Sea levels will rise along the western coast of the United States and Australia
- 50 percent more than the impact from climate change
- This will cause severe flooding in coastal cities and threaten the lives of millions of people.

Bhopal Gas Leak Case

- In 1984, over 3,000 people died in a gas leak in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- The chemical factory of Union Carbide India Company had this terrible toxic gas leak
- In 1989, compensation was paid to the families of the deceased and the victims
- In 2010, the central government filed a petition in the Supreme Court seeking an order for Dow Chemicals to pay additional compensation of Rs 7,400 crore to the victims of the Bhopal gas leak.
- The Central Government's review petition was dismissed

Food security : Millets

Associated with poor & villages

- millets are associated with the poor and villages. Celebrated by tribals
- They form a major foundation for chemical-free agricultural practices
- High yield with less water use
- They can be cultivated in a short period of time and are resistant to climate change
- India continues to work towards making the millet promotion campaign a global movement
- In India today, the sale of millet food products has increased by 30 percent

2.5 crore farmers

- Steps have been taken to protect their interests through the Indian Millets mission
- Millets now arrive as processed foods in many grocery stores and provision stores
- As the market for millets gets more impetus, the income of small farmers will increase

Solutions to challenges

- The world is facing two types of challenges
- Millets can solve food security challenges in the South and health problems faced by the North due to food habits.
- The contribution of millets to India's food grain production is currently five to six percent
- Therefore Indian agricultural researchers should work hard to increase millets production

Water Scarcity: A Permanent Solution

Water consumption

- Irrigation facility has become very important due to major changes in agricultural system in India after

Green Revolution

- The importance of ponds and rivers, which have been used for a long time, has decreased and the use of underground irrigation has increased manifold.

Water storage

- Drip irrigation can be used to grow a variety of crops profitably using less water and electricity.
- Drip irrigation system provides water directly to the root zone of the crop through small pipes, preventing water wastage and saving large amounts of water.

Benefits

- According to a field study conducted on farmers using drip irrigation in the state of Maharashtra where drip irrigation is widely adopted, 1065 units of electricity can be saved per hectare through drip irrigation in sugarcane cultivation.
- It can increase crop yields by 42-53%, reduce irrigation costs by 20-50% and reduce fertilizer use by around 28%.

Projects

- The 'Prime Minister's Agricultural Irrigation Scheme' was launched in 2015 to achieve higher yields under drip irrigation.

Ways to increase

- The Drip Irrigation Development Strategy Committee set up by the Central Government in 2004 has estimated that 270 lakh hectares of cultivated land is suitable for drip irrigation.
- But in 2020-21, India's drip irrigated area is just 6% of the total irrigated area.
- There are reports that seasonal changes may cause changes in the amount of rainfall that could lead to water shortages
- In this environment, development of drip irrigation system which can give high yield with less water is the imperative of the hour.

Tamil Nadu Disaster Management Policy

- Reducing the negative effects of all types of disasters through strong disaster management initiatives and avoiding loss of life, damage to public property and critical infrastructure
- Prevention of loss of state-generated economic and development gains is the objective of the updated Tamil Nadu State Disaster Management Policy.
- The Tamil Nadu State Disaster Management Policy focuses on increasing the multi-disaster warning system, hazard, assessment of disaster protections and analysis of risk, mitigation measures to reduce disaster risk and prioritizing and co-implementing disaster risk reduction activities in development programs implemented by all sectors.
- The policy focuses on reducing disaster-related deaths, number of victims, impact on vulnerable groups and damage to basic services and economic loss.
- The policy provides clear guidance for disaster risk reduction, based on global and national frameworks for disaster risk reduction, and tailored to the vision and priorities of the state.

07

Environmental Science

Tigers on the rise in India

National animal of India : Tiger

- A tiger lives in a forest. Realize that there is food, water, protection and ample space for them to roam around
- A forest where tigers live is a sign of rich forests
- Therefore, it is imperative that we protect tigers for our ecological balance.

Tiger Conservation Programme

- The Tiger Conservation Program was started in 1973 to protect and increase the number of tigers in India
- There were only 1220 tigers then
- Tigers are found in 18 states of India
- About 50 tiger reserves have been created across the country in the last 46 years for their protection
- Every year July 29th is celebrated as International Tiger Day
- International Tiger Day has been observed since 2010 to emphasize the need to protect tigers and their habitat.

Tiger Census

- A tiger census is conducted in India every four years
- Details of such surveys will be published before World Tiger Day
- Tiger census has been going on every four years since 2006
- Number of Tigers
- 2006 -1411 tigers
- 2010 - 1706 tigers
- 2014 - 2226 tigers
- 2018 - 2967 tigers

Western Ghats

- Madhya Pradesh ranks first. 526 tigers are present in forests of Madhya Pradesh
- 2nd position was occupied by Karnataka with 524 tigers
- 3rd - Uttarkhand (442 tigers)
- Maharastra - 312 tigers
- TN - 264 tigers

Tiger's State

- Madhya Pradesh ranks first in India with more number of tigers.

Biodiversity Museum

- The State Forest Department has revised its site plan for establishing a Biodiversity museum and Conservation Centre with Eco Park
- Initially the plan was to set up the centre and park at Kakkachi, deep inside kalakad Mundanthurai
- Tiger reserve's core zone. Now, it has been decided to create the facility at Manimuthar Dam park.
- The site identified in Kakkachi was an unusual Golf Course located beyond Manjolai, which records over 4000 mm rainfall annually with rain lashing the area for more than 200 days a year
- The forests in Kakkachi are the major habitat for arboreal mammal species such as Lion-tailed Macaque, Nilgiri Langur, Brown Palm Civet & Flying Squirrel
- Many endemic and endangered flora and fauna are also found here.

Rushikulya Sands team with Olive Ridleys

- About 6.37 lakh Olive Ridley sea turtles have arrived for mass nesting at Rushikulya coast this year, setting a new record for the beach in Ganjam District, Odissa
- From February 23 to March 02, which is treated as the mass nesting period
- This year, the beaches remained unaffected as there were no cyclone and heavy rain and turtles ascended perfectly sloped beaches at Rushikulya river mouth
- Last year, 5.5 lakh Olive Ridley turtles had come to Rushikulya for mass nesting
- The actual number of Olive Ridleys coming to Rushikulya river mouth would go up as turtles keep coming to the coast after march 02
- Puri & Devi river mouth beaches too host Olive Ridley turtles this time around
- Zoological survey of India (ZSI) continued tagging of Olive Ridley turtles at three mass nesting sites - Gahirmatha, Devi River and Rushikulya.

Climate change

IPCC-58

- The 58th session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has concluded in Interlagen, Switzerland
- It contains the fourth and final part of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Sixth Climate Report

3 topics

- 782 scientists have jointly produced previous reports on three topics:
 - The science of climate change
 - Impacts of climate change and ways to deal with it
 - Climate Change Control and Mechanisms
- The final report is prepared based on the combined views and conclusions of these three reports

- As the report's data will form the basis for the upcoming climate summit in Dubai in November 2023, it is important to understand its key features.

Heat will increase

- If emissions continue at current levels, there is a 50 percent chance that global average temperatures will reach 1.5°C by 2040.
- This shows that many global agreements and talks, including the Paris Agreement, have not been implemented as expected
- Awareness of climate change has increased somewhat
- This report approves, In their documents on climate change, the countries of the world are beginning to mention the methods of how to deal with it.

In cities...

- There have been many advances in renewable energy generation methods such as solar power and wind power
- But more efforts are needed to bring renewable energy to everyone
- The report says countries around the world should focus on urban green infrastructure, energy efficiency, reducing food waste and crop management.

Scientists warn

- We can understand this by saying that as the temperature increases, the rate of damage increases like a geometric progression
- A one-degree increase means a 10-fold increase, and a two-degree increase can't approach a 20-fold effect in a straight line, scientists suggest.

Financial problem

- The report lists finance, technology, and international cooperation as three key requirements to increase the pace of climate action
- It has been a long-standing allegation that developed countries do not take responsibility for financing, for which no answer was received yet
- Arguments over who to finance have derailed most climate conference agreements.

Preparedness is essential

- Various activities can be mentioned such as prevention of deforestation to reduce landslides, flood control by restoring mangroves, restoration of riparian forests to prevent sea water intrusion and cyclone damage to coastal areas.
- It is worth noting that there is much talk about organic technologies
- It is true that organic technology is the only way to deal with the greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere, no matter how much we reduce emissions
- But due to the continued 'lobby' of oil companies, the question arises whether this technology is being proposed to keep the light on fossil fuels.

Map of Tragedy

- Describing it as a map of human suffering, UN Secretary-General António Guterres said, "People everywhere must take action on climate change, all together.
- This is the call for implementation of this report," he said
- The severity of climate change is greater than ever.
- The world is affected by a series of disasters.
- This statement clearly emphasizes that the nations of the world must come together to protect the future of mankind, not divided by petty differences.

Tamilnadu Climate change Administrative Committee

Government initiatives

- Based on 2021-2022 budget announcement, a special climate plan for Tamilnadu has been framed at an outlay of Rs.500 crore.
- "Climate studio" has been established at Anna University for Multi disciplinary research facility centre.
- Government also initiated measures to protect coastal erosion, to safeguard marine biodiversity planting of palm trees have been started.

First in the country

- In this way. Tamilnadu became the first state in India by forming "Tamilnadu Green climate company" to integrate all such schemes.

Administrative committee

- Climate change administrative committee had been formed under the head of Chief Minister in 2022 October.

Special invitees of the committee

- Montek Singh Aluwalliya, an eminent economist.
- S. Solheim, former UNO deputy-general Secretary.

Other Members

- Chief Secretary
- Vice - Chairman of planning commission
- Secretaries to Industry, Municipal administration, finance, energy, rural development, housing veterinary and farmers welfare departments.

Co-ordinator

- Secretary to department of environment.

Climate knowledge movement

- To create awareness and mitigation measures and reaching out to people.

Measures

- In few months, Government is going to release carbon foot prints of each department in a scientific manner.
- Also, Tamilnadu is going to fix the carbon neutrality target prior to 2070, which was set by Union government.

Other activities

- With the assistance of various researchers, Tamilnadu climate change movement document has been released.

The document includes,

- Current scenario of climate change
- Impact of climate change in Tamilnadu
- Measures to be taken in this regard
- Scheme to get blue flag certificate for beaches.
- Smart villages scheme
- Greenish replenishment scheme are explained with statistical details.
- The document also highlighted "Green school" scheme. The selected 25 schools will get Rs.20 lakh each and government has allocated 5 crore for this purpose.

Climate fund

- For the first time in India, Rs.1,000 crore has been planned to crowd source through "Tamilnadu green climate finance".
- This amount will be used to all measures related to climate change mitigation, auditing and other such activities.
- It will be collected through Government Development finance corporation, International climate change fund.

Organic farming

- A farming practice based on livestock and natural ingredients, without the use of chemicals
- All the inputs needed to produce products are natural
- Organic farming plays an important role in achieving ecological balance

Fertilizer based agriculture

- After independence, India became dependent on foreign countries for food
- Food grains, including wheat, were imported in large quantities from the United States
- The Green Revolution of the 1960s was introduced to make the country self-sufficient in food production
- It introduced high yielding seeds
- Nutrients such as Nitrogen Phosphorus Potassium which are the basic requirements of the crops were provided through chemical fertilizers
- Increased use of synthetic pesticides
- Due to this, the crops were protected from the attack of disease-causing insects

- Due to these measures, the production of rice and wheat in some areas including Punjab and Haryana has increased tremendously
- Gradually such seeds were introduced throughout the country and the country became self-sufficient in food grain production

The necessity of organic farming

- Newton's third law that every reaction has an opposite reaction was also countered by the Green Revolution
- Chemical fertilizers greatly affected the abundance of pesticides
- The soil, which used to obtain nutrients including nitrogen directly from nature, caught in an environment where such nutrients could not be obtained without chemical fertilizers.
- The fertility of the soil has decreased drastically and it has become necessary to use more chemical fertilizers
- Fertilizers sprayed on fields mixed with rainwater and washed away nearby water bodies
- Chemicals in pesticides enter the body through food grains and cause various diseases including cancer and heart diseases.

Benefits of Organic Farming

- Low cost of production
- Health
- Creation of new jobs
- Environment protection
- Livestock care
- Soil conservation
- Natural inputs
- Disaster Resilience
- Increased Farmers' Income
- Reduced Water Use
- Increased rural Economy
- Climate Change Resilience

Natural farming vs Organic farming

- In natural farming, natural ingredients are derived entirely from farm produce
- Organic farming uses bio-fertilizers procured from off-farm and bio-fertilizers produced through modern technologies

Challenges of Natural farming

- Production of agricultural products is low
- Food shortage problem

- Increase in Marginal agricultural lands
- Less production of natural resources
- Lack of awareness in villages
- Lack of technical facilities
- Increasing demand for bio-fertilizers : Production is low

Elements of Organic Farming

Seed preparation

- Seed protection by using a compound made of cow dung, micturate, lime etc., through which the young plants are protected from fungal attack.

Soil improvement

- The practice of improving soil fertility with cow dung, cow micturate, pulses husk etc
- Increases the activity of microbes including earthworms
- This will increase the nutrients required by the soil

Retaining the moisture

- Retain soil moisture by adding crop waste, neem, plant pulp etc. to the soil
- The practice also helps to reduce soil temperature to promote root growth, prevent soil erosion and reduce mold growth

Crop protection

- Application of pesticides formulated with natural ingredients
- This practice is followed to prevent the spread of disease and insect attack in crops
- Natural insecticides are prepared by mixing neem leaves, cow dung, cow micturate, curd and leaves of various plants.

Water usage

- Ensuring that there is sufficient air and water between the soil particles
- This can be ensured by increasing the number of earthworms
- This practice helps to use water efficiently and combat drought effectively.

Weaving Recovery Movement

- Due to the impact of climate change and population growth, the coastal environment and the livelihoods of coastal people are likely to be severely affected in the future.
- The government is planning to implement the Tamil Nadu Weaving Restoration Initiative with the help of 2000 crore World Bank funds to prevent sea erosion, reduce marine pollution and protect marine biological diversity in the next five years.

Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary

- The government will set up a new sanctuary called Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary on an area of 80,567 hectares in Anthiyur, Gopichettipalayam Circles of Erode District to connect the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve with the Thenkaveri Wildlife Sanctuary.
- It will be the 18th wildlife sanctuary of the state

International Bird Centre

- The government is planning to set up an international bird center at Marakanam to maintain the conservation of birds, promote ornithological research and create awareness about the role of birds in nature.

Climate Change Warriors

- Climate awareness program 'Climate Change Warriors' will be launched through Women Self Help Groups
- 500 Women's Self Help Groups take up environmental advocacy in first phase to spread awareness about environment and climate change

PV Satheesh : A pioneer who turned attention to millets

- P V Satheesh called as the Millets Man of India

Revival of organic farming

- At a time when India was running on cash crops, pump sets and synthetic inputs as a result of the Green Revolution, Satheesh revived rain-fed organic farming and millets
- For this purpose, in 1983, along with his friends, he started a social organization in Medak district of the united state of Andhra Pradesh called 'Deccan Development Society'.

Development of women farmers

- Satheesh has demonstrated that a simple collective farming initiative can empower Scheduled Caste and Tribal women farmers, ensure their livelihoods and nutrition and eradicate poverty.
- Cultivation of several small grains and crops on the same plot of land can feed humans, cattle, birds; Satheesh learned the traditional knowledge of sowing seeds for biodiversity from women farmers.

Traditional seeds in people's hands

- Through Satheesh's efforts, with the help of the government's Jawahar Work Scheme, small grains were provided to the local public instead of rice
- It was Satheesh who spoke loudly that food security can only be ensured by having traditional seeds in people's hands.
- Traditional seed festivals have become the norm today

Innovation efforts

- In 2007 Millet Network of India was formed
- Natural agronomist Nammalvar inaugurated this Society at a function in Telangana
- The work of Telangana Scheduled Caste and Tribal women farmers was showcased at the Food Summit held in Rome, Italy in 1996 by the Deccan Development Society.
- In 2019, the UN Development Program's 'Equator Prize' was awarded to the Deccan Development Society.

08

Indian Economics

Air India's Big Agreement

- Tata Group is implementing a project called "Vihaan AI" to develop Air India into a world-class airline.

Current status

- India currently operates more than 140 aircraft manufactured by Airbus and Boeing
- These include Boeing B777-200, B777-300, B787-800 Dreamliner and Airbus A319, A320, A320 Neo and A321.

New planes

- Of the 470 aircraft to be purchased by Air India, 400 will be narrow-body or longitudinally single-aisle.
- Suitable for travel to nearby countries
- 70 aircraft have wide-body or interior longitudinal twin aisles
- Suitable for long distance travel mainly international travel

Some of the new aircraft features include the Airbus 350

- It can seat a maximum of 480 passengers
- This aircraft can fly up to 18000 km non-stop

Boeing 787 Dreamliner

- It can seat 248-336 passengers
- Small planes of this type can fly 13,530 km non-stop and 11,730 km by large planes

Boeing 777-9

- This will be Air India's largest aircraft
- It can seat 426 people
- It has a non-stop flight capacity of 13,500 km
- 10% less fuel consumption and 10% less carbon footprint

Boeing 737 Max

- It is considered to be Boeing's best aircraft
- A competitor to the A320 Neo
- It can seat 230 passengers. It can fly up to 6500 km

In India

- Air India said the first batch of the new aircraft will enter service by the end of this year
- The first segment will consist of 25B737-800 aircraft and 6A350-900 aircraft.
- However, from mid-2025 onwards, the speed at which aircraft will come into use will pick up

Significance of contract

- Air India was once known for quality service and hospitality

- Its reputation suffered from financial trouble in the mid-2000s
- The company was sold to Tata in 2022 by the government after nearly 70 years
- In this case the recent mega deals will help Air India to regain its lost reputation and dominate the skies again

Crypto transactions come under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act

- With a view to curbing the use of cryptocurrencies for money laundering, the central government has introduced the Cryptocurrency Transactions under Anti-Money Laundering Act.
- Also, the central government has announced companies that deal with cryptocurrency transactions as companies that need to provide information to the government
- Accordingly, those companies must properly record all transactions that occur on their sites
- The details of such transaction should be provided to the Government whenever required.
- The central government has imposed a 30% tax on revenue from transactions in virtual digital assets
- In this case, cryptocurrency transactions have now been brought under the Anti-Money Laundering Act
- Firms dealing in virtual digital assets must obtain full details of their customers and properly report any suspicious transactions.

India - Australia : 4 Agreements

- Four agreements were signed during the conference which will lead to strengthening of cooperation between the two countries in the fields of sports, innovation, audio visual production, solar energy production.
- Enhancing existing cooperation in sectors including green energy, trade, investment, security, essential minerals, food supply, education, culture

India and crude oil imports

- India's crude oil imports have seen a major change in the last one year
- India imports 85 percent of its crude oil requirements from abroad
- Saudi Arabia, Iraq, America, and the United Arab Emirates were leading exporters of crude oil to India
- Currently, Russia has overtaken other countries to take the top spot.
- India's crude oil imports from Russia were just 2 percent as of February last year
- But now it has risen to 35 percent
- The US imposed a ban on fuel imports from Russia after Russia launched a war on Ukraine in February last year
- Russia, under pressure from the embargo, has announced that its country will supply crude oil at concessional prices
- Till then, India was importing crude oil from Russia at a level of 2 percent, after the announcement of concessional price, India started importing more crude oil from the country.

Impact

- In February, India imported 16 lakh barrels of crude oil per day from Russia
- India imported 9.39 lakh barrels of crude oil from Iraq, 6.47 lakh barrels from Saudi Arabia, 4.04 lakh barrels from UAE and 2.48 lakh barrels from USA.
- Compared to last January, imports from Saudi Arabia fell by sixteen percent and imports from the US by 38 percent.

Agricultural Financial Statement

- The Karnataka state government has submitted a financial statement for the financial year 2011-12, the first in India for agriculture.
- Following this, the Andhra Pradesh State Government has also been submitting the Agricultural Financial Report since 2013-14
- Tamil Nadu State Government has also joined from 2021-22

Key features

1. Under the Prime Minister's Honorary Scholarship Scheme, the Central Government annually provides Rs. 6 thousand. Along with this, consideration should be given to the Tamil Nadu State Government to give Rs.6 thousand
2. 30 per cent tenant farmers in Tamil Nadu should be provided with government subsidized crop loan or subsidy.
3. Secondary agricultural activities such as beekeeping, agro-tourism and food processing should be encouraged
4. Climate change is emerging as a major threat to agriculture. In order to overcome it to some extent, research should be improved on heat tolerant and high yielding crop varieties.
5. Livestock fodder is likely to be in short supply in the near future. Therefore, an action plan should be announced to address it
6. A temporary state government crop insurance scheme like Gujarat should be introduced to help identify and provide relief for crop damage caused by natural calamities.
7. The government should come up with new schemes to connect agribusiness entrepreneurs with farmers. Through them, adequate storage facility, value addition, market facility, fertilizer distribution, irrigation facility, use of agricultural machinery etc. will be improved.
8. Digital agriculture should be given priority and improved communication with farmers.

What should be included in the budget

- The most sold rice in the food market of Tamil Nadu is the Andhra and Karnataka Ponni variety
- Gone are the days when foreigners longed for the rice grown in our state
- In this environment, agriculture should come in search of field just as education comes in search of home
- Agricultural education is essential for producing high quality rice
- Agro-medical Centers are needed to conduct research on soil fertility and crop cultivation.
- It is a time of calamities. As a result agriculture suffers a major decline. In Tamil Nadu there was no crop

insurance in the last two cycles. Instead of relying on the central government, state governments like Maharashtra have created separate crop insurance schemes. Tamilnadu government should also guarantee crop insurance

- Agricultural development is not just productivity growth. The reason for this is to increase the income of the farmers. The MS Swaminathan Committee recommended the purchase price as early as 2006
- In its election manifesto, the DMK said it would pay Rs 2,500 per tonne for paddy and Rs 4,000 per tonne for sugarcane, increasing production costs.
- So the government should keep its promise.
- A strong field campaign in favor of organic farming is needed
- The Tamil Nadu government should directly manage the production and distribution of chemical fertilizers
- Kharif, Rabi etc. are not tribal terms of farming people
- Just as the Madras province was renamed as Tamil Nadu, appropriate Tamil names like Kuruvai Samba should be given
- Official notifications should contain the same.
- Due to unseasonal rains, moisture has become permanent in paddy procurement
- The central government should immediately announce the relaxation of moisture procurement by predicting as accurately as possible with the help of satellites
- The government should increase dry fields, paddy warehouses and implement mobile procurement stations
- Farmers are severely affected by cash disbursement scams and serious measures are needed to prevent this
- The banks of the river have weakened due to sand robbery
- As sand is a mineral, the board should be formed to prevent sand robbery.
- Small grains and alternative crops including pulses groundnut oilseeds should be directly marketed by the government
- The work of drilling water structures should start in the first week of February
- It was during the ore famine of 1877 that many railway projects were developed
- It was an attempt to overcome hunger
- Similarly, the 100-day work program can be planned to provide employment to agricultural workers under these topics.
- When Anna was the chief minister, he was concerned about the damage caused by a Siravi bird to the paddy crops
- Now legislation is needed to avoid the damage caused by wild animals such as feral pigs.
- Trichy-Nagapattinam Agricultural Technology Park, Tamil Nadu Small Industries Development Corporation announced in the last financial report and the industrial park for farmers should be implemented expeditiously.

Tamilnadu Organic farming policy : 2023

- It got announced in first agriculture budget.
- Now TN government released the policy.

- Aims to create separate wing for certification of organic farming.

Statistical details

- Tamilnadu stands 14th at National level in organic farming.
- 4,223 metric tonne organic products have been exported in 2020-2021 and yielded a revenue of Rs.108 crore.

Aim

- Soil health, agriculture ecosystem, biodiversity conservation should be protected.
- They should be maintained in sustainable manner.
- Providing healthy and eco-friendly foods.

Objectives

- Provide consultation on marketing and certifying process.
- Promoting export of organic products
- Increasing the revenue of farmers
- Government encourages crop loan facility
- Loss occurred due to Natural disasters would be covered under insurance policy.

Salient features

- Crop-based clusters in potential districts
- Creation of organic zones
- Organic outlets in cities & towns
- Training on export policies and procedures.

1. Online single window clearance

- To simplify the certification process, an important aspect in organic farming, it uses online-single window clearance system.
- Registration of farmers, certification and an extensive database will be maintained online.

2. Cattle and diary farming

- Certificates will be issued for cattle, diary keeping, Mushroom, Bee, fish rearing and Greenhouse farming through organic certification wing.

3. Organic farming zone

- Dry land agriculture clusters will be developed as organic clusters and create organic farming zones.
- Training will be provided to rural youth, farm women, students.

4. Garden at schools

- To create an awareness and interest among school students on organic farming and biodiversity conservation.
- Organic farm garden, terrace garden practices will be promoted where space is suitable for the work.

5. Food festival

- It will be conducted in each districts at regular interval of time.
- Measures will be taken to open outlets for organic foods in town and cities.

6. State level Gene Bank

- To protect all types of traditional plant varieties seeds a gene bank will be established at state level.

7. Help centres

- To assist and help farmers in availing online services and other related services a help centre will be opened at each zone.

8. Financial Assistance

- It ensures that enough and adequate credit facilities are available for farmers, food preservation through NABARD and other banks.

9. e-commerce

- Organic products will be promoted through internet, e-NAM (e-National agricultural Marketing), Mobile Applications, Market platforms.

10. High level Review committee

- A committee headed by chief secretary to review the situation of organic farming and its policy.
- The plan and scheme of action will be planned and guided by committee headed by secretary to Department of Agriculture.
- At district level district collector heads the committee to integrate all farm related activities with organic farming.

Significance

- The policy will be reviewed for every 5 years once. Currently, Tamilnadu has 31,629 hectares of organic farming, and in future it tries to increase the land under organic farm practice.

Tamil Nadu Budget 2023-24

Key features

- Entitlement amount of Rupees 1000 per month for eligible heads of households
- Wi-Fi internet facility in seven major cities including Chennai, Tambaram, Avadi
- Metro Rail Project in Coimbatore and Madurai
- 30 thousand crore rupees bank loan for women self help groups
- 880 Crore New Textile Park in Salem
- Memorial in Chennai for language war martyrs Thalamuthu and Natarajan
- Tamil Computer International Conference
- The Sangam Art Festival will be expanded to 8 major cities
- A huge Chola museum will be set up in Thanjavur
- Kalaignar Memorial Multispeciality Hospital will be opened in Guindy, Chennai this year.
- 1500 crores for new infrastructure facilities for schools
- An international book fair will be held next year as well
- Schools of other sectors including Adi Dravidian will be brought under School Education Department
- Kalaignar library in Madurai will be opened in June
- 54 Government Polytechnic Colleges will be upgraded as centers of excellence
- A state-of-the-art sports city will be developed in Chennai
- Industrialism in the name of Ambedkar to raise the economy of the downtrodden

- Residential development project in the name of Ayodhidasar at 1000 crore rupees
- Special Vocational Movement exclusively for women
- 2000 Crore for Tamil Nadu Weaving Recovery Movement
- Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary in Erode District
- International Bird Center at Marakanam
- 10000 small water bodies - Renovation of ponds at 800 crore rupees
- Rs 7,145 crore for second joint drinking water project in Hogenakkal
- Small handloom parks at 10 locations
- New IT Parks in Erode, Chengalpattu & Nellai

Tamil Nadu Financial Statement 2023-24

Women's rights

- Women's entitlement amount is Rs.1000 per month
- Bank loan to Women Self Help Groups Rs 30,000 crore
- Rs 350 crores for "Puthumai Pen" Project
- Special Innovation Drive for women entrepreneurs to start up ventures

Education and youth capacity building

- Chief Minister's Breakfast Program Rs 500 crores
- 18 lakh primary school students will benefit
- Prof. K. Anbazagan School Development Project at Rs 1,500 crore
- Rs 50 Crore "Naan Muthalvan" Project to uplift the youth
- Rs 25 crores for industrial skill schools
- Tamil Nadu Global Innovation Initiatives & Competence Center at Rs 120 crore
- Upgradation of 54 Government Polytechnic Colleges as Centers of Excellence at a cost of Rs 2,783 crore

Social Justice

- Translation of Annal Ambedkar Thoughts at Rs 5 Crores
- 40 lakh rupees as ex-gratia to the families of Tamil Nadu soldiers who sacrificed their lives
- Old age pension for one lakh more.

Welfare of farmers

- 14,000 crore in crop loans to benefit farmers
- Nammalwar Award for best performing organic farmers
- Kalaigarnar's All Village Integrated Agricultural Development Programme - Rs 230 crore; 2504 Village panchayats
- Crop insurance for farmers at Rs 2337 crore
- Free electricity to 23 lakh farmers at Rs 6536 crore

Career development and employment

- New SIPCOT Industrial Parks in Virudhunagar, Vellore, Kallakurichi, Coimbatore to create 22,000 jobs at Rs 410 crores
- 14,500 MW 15 new hydropower projects at Rs 77,000 crore.

Eminent cities & Prosperous regions

- Renovation of ponds and lakes at Rs 800 crore
- Rs 2000 Crore for Chief Minister's Rural Roads Development Scheme - 5145 km road works
- 1000 New Buses & Upgradation of 500 Old Buses at Rs 500 Crores

Environmental protection

- 2000 Crore Tamil Nadu Weaving Recovery Initiative to prevent sea erosion, reduce pollution, protect biodiversity

Admirable Tamil culture

- Great Chola Museum in Thanjavur
- 485 crore rupees for major construction works in Palani, Thiruthani & Samayapuram temples.

Special schemes for southern districts including Madurai, Tirunelveli

- Rs 8,500 crores for Madurai Metro Rail project
- A special drive to Madurai Jasmine at Rs 7 crore
- Textile Park at Virudhunagar at Rs.1800 crore
- SIPCOT Industrial Park in Virudhunagar District
- Labor quarters for 1500 workers at Gangai Kondan SIPCOT Industrial Estate at Rs 50 crore
- IT Park at Tirunelveli
- Palm Research Center at Killikulam College of Agriculture, Thoothukudi District at Rs 15 crore
- Rs 130 crores for Banana Cluster Development Project in Theni District
- Chilli zone in Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, Sivagangai & Thoothukudi districts.

Tamil Nadu Agriculture Budget 2023-24

- Minister MRK Panneer Selvam presented the Agriculture Budget for the financial year 2023-24 in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly.
- Rs 530 crores will be provided to the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
- Steps would be taken to obtain Geographical Indication (GI) for 10 products viz., Krishnagiri Arasampatti Coconut, Krishnagiri Panneer Rose, Thanjavur Peravoorani Coconut, Mulanoor Kuttai Moringa, Sattur Cucumber, Thanjavur Veeramangudi Jaggery (Achu vellam), Thoothukudi Vilathikulam Chilli, Cuddalore Kotimulai Brinjal, Madurai Sengarumbu and Sivagangai Karuppukavuni rice in the ensuing year, at the cost of Rs 30 lakhs
- 25 Farmers' Markets with traditional restaurants will be developed with private contributions.
- 385 Regional Agricultural Extension Centers will be set up at a cost of two crore rupees to enable farmers to apply electronically for all agricultural services at one place.
- Under the price support scheme, 60,000 metric tons of urad dal and 12,000 metric ton of green gram will be procured from farmers at minimum support price.
- Nammazhvar Award with a purse of Rs 5 lakh and a citation will be given during Republic Day to farmers who practice and promote organic farming of crops pearl millet, finger millet, foxtail millet, little millet, barnyard millet, pigeon pea, urad, green gram, groundnut, sesame & sugarcane
- In order to facilitate the farmers to carry out ploughing operation without any hindrance, block wise, district wise details of private owners of tractors and mechanics of agricultural machinery as well as pump sets will be uploaded in the e-Vaadagai App with their name, address and mobile number and linked with Uzhavan App.

- 5000 powerdrillers will be provided to 2504 villages with a subsidy of Rs 43 crore
- Banana Synthesis Development Project will be implemented in Theni district at a cost of 130 crore rupees with government and private contribution
- Districts including Tiruvannamalai, Villupuram, Kallakurichi will be integrated into a special zone for oilseeds.
- A subsidy of 70% will be provided for mass cultivation of small grains for value addition and sale at remunerative prices.
- Kalaingar's All-Village Integrated Agricultural Development Program will be implemented in 2504 village panchayats of Tamil Nadu at a cost of Rs 230 crore.
- In each panchayat, 300 families without coconut tree will be given 15 lakh saplings of two coconut saplings each.
- Family card holders of Nilgiri & Dharmapuri districts will be given two kilos of finger millet
- Nutritious small grain food will be provided in government institutes and educational institutions hostels
- 50 lakh rupees will be allocated for the supply of traditional rice seeds at subsidized rates under the Nel Jayaraman Traditional Paddy Variety Protection Centre.

18 countries allowed to trade in INR

- Reserve Bank of India allows banks from 18 countries to carry out international trade in Indian rupees
- These banks have been permitted to open special Vostro accounts to facilitate trading in Indian rupees

Benefits

- Through this, efforts to make the Indian rupee an international currency to replace the dollar in international trade will intensify
- Export and import charges can be paid based on Indian rupee value
- To implement this, foreign banks have been allowed to open Vostro accounts

Which countries are allowed?

- Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Botswana, Fiji, Germany, Guyana, Israel, Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, New Zealand, Oman, Seychelles, Tanzania, Uganda, United Kingdom

Vostro Account

- Vostro means "Yours" in Latin
- A Vostro account means that a domestic bank holds money from a foreign bank in its account
- It means we hold your money
- This arrangement was created so that if international trade is done in rupees instead of dollars, it will be profitable for our country
- Exporters & importers who are customers of banks can settle their transactions entirely in Indian rupees

Mega Textile Park at Virudhunagar

- The country's first PM Mitra Textile Park will be set up at Kumaralingapuram village in Virudhunagar district.
- 2000 crore mega textile park on 1052 acre SIPCOT land will provide employment to 2 lakh people
- Tamil Nadu accounts for one third of the handloom fabric trade of our country
- Tamil Nadu is known as the yarn bowl of India as it is a major producer and exporter of cotton yarn and is the leading state in spinning, handloom weaving, power loom weaving, ready-made garments and garment manufacturing.
- Next to agriculture, the textile industry provides employment to 4 crore people directly and 6 crore indirectly.