



# UNIQUE IAS ACADEMY

No.5/45 NVN Layout, New Siddhapudur, Gandhipuram, Coimbatore - 44

## **TNPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS AUGUST- 2024 (English)**



## AT A GLANCE

1. The country's first sunken museum was inaugurated at the Humayun Tomb complex, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, in Delhi.
2. The UNESCO World Heritage committee decided to register Japan's controversial Sado gold mine as a cultural heritage site.
3. Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro wins third term as President with 51% vote share.
4. China's Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf (Phase II) were added to the UNESCO World Heritage List.
5. Top Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh killed in attack on Iran residence. Haniyeh led Hamas's political operations from exile in Qatar.
6. The Indian shooter Swapnil Kusale secured a bronze medal in the 50m Rifle 3 positions event at the Paris Games.
7. The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) recently accorded permission for the 'first approach to criticality' of India's indigenous 500 MWe sodium-cooled Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam.
8. The Prime Minister received "Call of the Gir" a coffee table book on Gir and Asiatic lions by Rajya Sabha Member, Parimal Nathwani.
9. Kashmir City received the Certificate of World Craft City from the World Crafts Council.
10. KIIT (Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology of Bhubaneswar, Odisha), deemed to be university, has been granted the distinguished Special Consultative Status by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC).
11. India is ranked as the 2nd largest Aluminium producer, 3rd largest lime producer and 4th largest iron ore producer in the world.
12. The Supreme Court has commenced its week-long special Lok Adalat drive to amicably settle the long-pending disputes as a part of its 75th anniversary celebrations.
13. Union Ministry for Environment launched 'Ideas4LiFE' for inviting ideas related to products and services, which induce the behavioural changes related to the environment-friendly lifestyles.
14. India is ranked 39th among 119 countries, according to the Travel and Tourism Development Index 2024 report published by the World Economic Forum.
15. In 2023, India recorded 18,378 organ transplants, with 42 recipients receiving more than one organ, resulting in a total of 18,336 recipients.
16. "The Human Rights, Liberation and Reconciliation: Nelson Mandela Legacy Sites" in South Africa are recognized as World Heritage property by the UNESCO.
  - It encompasses 14 locations intricately linked to Nelson Mandela's life and South Africa's liberation struggle.
17. Jerdon's Courser, a critically endangered species, is exclusively endemic to Andhra Pradesh, specifically within the Sri Lankamalleswara wildlife sanctuary in Kadapa.
18. Manu Bhaker has been chosen as India's flag bearer at the Paris 2024 Olympics Closing Ceremony.
19. Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who had been in power for the past 15 years, resigned recently after worse unrest.
20. A hollow terracotta pipeline resembling a drainage system has been unearthed in Keeladi. The unearthed materials have proved the knowledge that prevailed in the water management system.

21. New mayors of Tirunelveli and Coimbatore have been elected they are Councilor G. Ramakrishnan and Councilor R. Ranganayaki respectively.
22. President Droupadi Murmu was conferred the Companion of the Order of Fiji, the highest honour of Fiji by the President of Fiji.
23. Recently, a maritime partnership exercise (MPX) was conducted between India and Russia in St. Petersburg of Russia.
24. Novak Djokovic of Serbia secured his first Olympic gold medal at the Paris 2024 Olympics.
25. Bangladesh is set to get an interim government headed by Nobel Peace Prizewinning economist Muhammad Yunus after Sheikh Hasina's resign.
26. Tamil govt has handed over sorders for financial assistance to 100 senior Tamil scholars for 2022-23.
  - The Tamil scholars are getting Rs 3,500 per month and another Rs 500 as medical allowance.
27. Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat announced her retirement from wrestling a day after she was disqualified from the 50kg category Paris Olympics finals.
28. Japanese scientists have devised a way to attach living skin tissue to robotic faces and make them "smile".
29. Nagaland has become the first state in India to start a disaster management insurance scheme by signing an agreement with SBI General Insurance.
30. Zimbabwe became a 11th African country and 54th Party to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (UN Water Convention).
31. Noah Lyles clinched the title of the fastest man on Earth in a thrilling 100m race at Paris Olympic by beating Jamaica's Kishane Thompson by just 0.005 seconds.
32. The Indian men's hockey team beats Spain and win the bronze medal at the Paris 2024 Olympics.
33. Indian wrestler Aman Sehrawat secured the men's 57kg freestyle bronze medal at the Paris Olympics.
34. PR Sreejesh and Manu Bhaker were selected as flag-bearers for the Indian delegation at the 2024 Olympic Games closing ceremony.
35. The first BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Business Summit meeting was held in New Delhi.
36. Three underwater geographical structures located in the Indian Ocean have been awarded names proposed by India.
  - The names are: Ashoka seamount, Chandragupt ridge and Kalpataru ridge.
37. The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAYNRLM) has announced the launch of the initiative "Million Designers, Billion Dreams."
  - It aims to empower individuals across India with systems design know-how to tackle complex societal challenges.
38. The Odisha government has introduced India's first round-the-clock grain ATM, also known as the 'rice ATM,' to revolutionise the Public Distribution System (PDS) for ration cardholders.
39. The Tamil Nadu government has named senior IAS officer S.K. Prabakar as the chairman of the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (TNPSC).
40. The 10th edition of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Military Exercise 'Mitra Shakti' is being held in Sri Lanka.

41. Shah Rukh Khan became the first Indian to be honoured with a lifetime achievement award, also called Pardo alla Carriera/ Career Leopard, at the 77th edition of the Locarno Film Festival, Switzerland.
42. The Chhattisgarh announced that it would establish a new tiger reserve, making it the fourth such reserve in the forest-rich State.
- Currently, Chhattisgarh has three tiger reserves — Indravati in Bijapur district, Udanti-Sitanadi in Gariaband and Achanakmar in Mungeli.
43. The largest floating solar project in central and north India generating 90 MW energy has been commissioned at Omkareshwar in Madhya Pradesh.
44. Tamil Nadu government has launched the new helpline number - 102 to monitor pregnant women.
45. The Indian Air Force and the Royal Malaysian Air Force participated in Exercise 'Udara Shakti 2024' in Malaysia.
46. For the 1st time in the History of Supreme court, the gender equality based Hindi movie 'Laapataa Ladies' was recently screened at the Supreme Court for all the Supreme Court judges, their spouses, and members of the registry.
47. India and Israel have joined hands for the establishment of a new water technology centre at IIT Madras.
48. The 3rd Tamil Nadu International Kite Festival took place at Thiruvananthapuram Beach, Mahabalipuram with over 40 kite flyers from various countries.
49. Ram Narain Agarwal, regarded as the 'father of Agni missiles' in India, died recently at Hyderabad.
50. IRCTC and the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) have collaborated to launch the 'One India-One Ticket' initiative to enhance the travel experience for passengers on Indian Railways and Namoo Bharat Trains.
- It will allow passengers to book Namoo Bharat tickets through both platform with flexible cancellation and payment.
51. Senior IRS officer Rahul Navin has been appointed as Director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED).
52. The Assembly elections for Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir will be held from September 18 to October 1.
53. PR Sreejesh, who recently led India to a bronze medal at the 2024 Olympics, has been appointed as the new head coach of the Indian junior men's hockey team.
54. Paetongtarn Shinawatra was elected as Thailand's youngest prime minister at the age of 37.
55. TN Chief minister inaugurated a 706-crore industrial housing facility for women employees of Foxconn company's Sriperumbudur plant.
- The residential complex is now the largest of its kind for workers in India.
56. Tamil Nadu government has appointed senior IAS officer N. Muruganandam as the Chief Secretary, replacing Shiv Das Meena. He became the 50th chief secretary of Tamil Nadu.
57. Tamil Nadu government appointed incumbent Chief Secretary Shiv Das Meena as the Chairperson of the Tamil Nadu Real Estate Regulatory Authority (TNRERA).
58. The Union Defence Minister released a Rs.100 coin to commemorate the birth centenary of late DMK president M Karunanidhi.
59. Union Defence Minister inaugurated a new Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) of the Coast Guard in Chennai.
60. Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida announced his resignation from the post next month.

61. Thiruvananthapuram International Airport Limited (TIAL) has been awarded the prestigious Pollution Control Waste Recycling Excellence Award by the Greentech Foundation.

- The award is for the excellence in 'zero waste to landfill' implementation undertaken by the TIAL.

62. Centre launched the Jiyo Parsi Scheme portal, a Central Sector Scheme to arrest the population decline of the Parsi community in India.

- It aims to reverse the declining trend of Parsi population by adopting a scientific protocol and structured interventions, and to stabilise their population.

63. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has launched a project to assess microplastic contamination in food products and develop methods for its detection.

64. Gaza has recorded its first polio case in 25 years.

65. The Juangs of Jajpur in Odisha have become the fifth Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) in the country.

- They are the second in the state to get habitat rights under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006.

66. The 4 Indian student team has bagged three gold and bronze each and two silver medals across three competition categories at the 17th edition of the International Earth Sciences Olympiad held in Beijing, China.

67. Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) has been ranked as the second-best institute in India. It had topped among the private institutions in India in the Shanghai Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) 2024.

### TAMILNADU NEWS

#### 1. Tamilnadu Institutional deliveries data

- TN Health Ministry conducted a workshop in Chennai on 'Connecting the Missing Dots' to discuss measures needed to reduce maternal deaths in the State.
- In Tamil Nadu, 99.9% of deliveries take place in a health facility, of which 59% happen in government institutions. Out of this, 80% of deliveries have taken place in the Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care centres.

#### 2. Tiger conservation in Tamilnadu 2024

- The Nilgiris landscape has the largest tiger population in the world.
- The contiguous forests spreads between Kerala and Tamil Nadu in Periyar – Meghamalai cluster and Anamalai – Parambikulam complex.
- 306 tigers were recorded in Tamil Nadu in the nation-wide census by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for 2022.
- This number was an increase from the 264 big cats found in the 2018 survey.
- There has been a four-fold increase in the tiger numbers here over the past two decades.
- The conservation of tigers in India can be divided into two phases.
- The first phase was starting in the 1970s.
- It involved the enactment of the Wildlife Protection Act and the establishment of protected areas.
- The second phase began in 2005-2006.

- During this period, the government adopting a landscape-level approach and implementing strict monitoring for tiger conservation.
- In 2018, the tiger population was estimated at 981 and in 2022, 824 unique tigers were recorded.

### 3. Cauvery water quota 2024

- Tamil Nadu, during the month of July, realised a heavy quantity of Cauvery water that it got not only its quota for the month and August but also much more.
- During July 1-31, the State received 96.5 thousand million cubic feet (tmc ft) of water.
- In June, Tamil Nadu got 2.25 tmc ft against the stipulated 9.19 tmc ft.
- Totally, in the last two months, Tamil Nadu recorded nearly 98.8 tmc ft against the quota of 40.43 tmc ft.
- For the month of July, Tamil Nadu is to get 31.24 tmc ft and for August, 45.95 tmc ft.
- As per the final award of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, as modified by the Supreme Court in February 2018, Tamil Nadu is to get 177.25 tmc ft in a water year, beginning from June.

### 4. Tamil Nadu's Arunthathiyar quota

- The Supreme Court has backed the constitutional validity of a Tamil Nadu law that offered preferential treatment among the Scheduled Castes (SCs) to socially and educationally backward Arunthathiyars.
- The Court held that sub-categorisation within a class was a Constitutional requirement to secure substantive equality.
- The Tamil Nadu State Legislature had enacted the Tamil Nadu Arunthathiyars Reservation Act, 2009.
- It aims to provide the Arunthathiyars reservation in appointments or posts in State services on a preferential basis among the SCs.
- The Act has defined Arunthathiyars to include the castes — Arunthathiyar, Chakkiliyan, Madari, Madiga, Pagadi, Thoti, and Adi Andhra — from the list of 76 SCs notified by the President under Article 341 of the Constitution.

### 5. Higher educational expenses in Tamilnadu

- The Tamil Nadu government will bear the higher educational expenses of students from State government schools who have been admitted to prestigious institutions in various parts of the country.
- The government would also bear the initial cost of travel for students of State government schools who enrolled in prestigious institutions abroad.
- The number of students qualifying for higher education in top institutions are increased to 274 in 2023 from 75 students in 2022.
- This year so far, the count is 447 (institutions in India).

### 6. MBC-DNCs in higher education and employment

- Vanniyars lead the Most Backward Classes (MBC) - Denotified Communities (DNC), in terms of representation in higher education and public employment.
- In MBBS course, 5,938 candidates belonging to the MBC-DNCs were selected during 2018-2022.



- Of them, Vanniyars account for 3,354, representing about 56% of the chosen MBC-DNC candidates.
- In respect of candidates qualified in tests for police sub-inspectors during 2013- 22, the MBC-DNCs constituted 605, of which 307 were Vanniyars.
- In admission to the government law colleges (2018-22), 2,096 persons belonging to the Vanniyars were chosen out of a total of 4,962 MBC-DNC candidates.
- The MBC-DNCs' quota of 20% forms part of the 69% quota for Backward Classes, BC (Muslims), MBC-DNCs and Scheduled Castes (SCs)/Scheduled Tribes (STs).
- There are 41 communities in the list of MBCs and 68 under DNCs.

### 7. Tirupur inscriptions

- One 'Vattezhuthu' and eight Tamil inscriptions were found on the walls of Thaleekkeiswarar Temple at Kovilpalayam near Koduvai in Tirupur.
- It is estimated to be more than 1,100 years old.
- The 'Vattezhuthu' inscription, was a form of Tamil writing script that was prevalent from 5th Century Common Era (CE) to 12th Century CE.
- Among the eight Tamil inscriptions was one by Kongu Chola Ruler Vira Rajendran (1207-1256).
- The rest were by his grandson Vikrama Chola (1273-1305 CE).
- The inscriptions indicate that the village falls in the 'Pongalurkanadu' of the ancient Kongu Nadu.

### 8. TN Wild elephant population 2024

- Tamil Nadu has around 3,063 elephants, according to the synchronised elephant population estimation this year.
- This is an increase from 2,961 elephants, recorded in the previous survey in 2023.
- The estimated population was the highest in STR-Sathyamangalam forest division (372).
- It is followed by Coimbatore (336), STR-Hassanur (279), MTR-Udhagai (271), MTR-Masinagudi (263), and Hosur (240).
- Among the five elephant reserves, the Nilgiris Eastern Ghats Reserve has the highest density of elephants.
- It is followed by Nilambur-Silent Valley-Coimbatore, Agasthyamalai, AnamalaiParambikulam, and Periyar.
- The Nilgiri and Coimbatore Elephant Reserves together represent about 70% to 80% of the total elephant population in the State.
- These reserves are connected to Wayanad and Nilambur Reserves in Kerala, and Mysore Reserve in Karnataka, forming the Nilgiri-Eastern Ghats landscape.
- Tamil Nadu could not hold more than 3,200 elephants as that was the saturation point.

### 9. Centre for Innovation in Governance

- A Centre for Innovation in Governance has been set up at the Tamilnadu State Planning Commission.
- A first-of-its-kind initiative in the country, the centre, is established by the Tamil Nadu government under State Planning Commission.
- It aims at fostering an innovative ecosystem in governance in the State.



- The Centre will provide support to government departments and district administrations in piloting innovative projects and building capacity in various technologies that would augment effective governance in the State.

## 10. Tamil Pudhalvan scheme 2024

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister on August 9, launched the Tamil Pudhalvan scheme in Coimbatore.
- Under this, boys of the state government schools who join colleges will get Rs.1,000 per month.
- It is on the lines of Pudmaipen Scheme for girl students.
- A total of three lakh girl students have been benefitted by the scheme launched by the Chief Minister in September 2022.
- In Tamil Nadu, a total of 7,72,000 students complete school education in government schools and government-aided schools
- A total of 2,09,365 girls had been benefitted by the Pudmaipen scheme in 2022- 23 and their number had increased to 2,73,596 in 2023-24.
- The scheme was extended to students of Tamil medium in government aided schools in 2024-25.
- The state's Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education is higher than the national average.

## 11. Public EV charging stations – 2023

- Public electric vehicle charging stations in Tamil Nadu consumed 1.727 million units (MU) of electricity in the first two months of financial year 2024-25.
- The overall electricity consumption by public charging stations across India was 113.58 MU in the first two months of FY2024-25.
- In Tamil Nadu, 163 public charging stations consumed 1.032MU of electricity in April 2024, while 154 consumed 0.695 MU in May 2024.
- The major regions in Tamil Nadu with public charging stations included Coimbatore, Villupuram, Tirunelveli, Chennai North and Vellore.
- In 2023-24, the public charging stations in Tamil Nadu consumed 13.383 MU of electricity.
- In April 2023 and May 2023, the consumption was 1.438 MU and 1.422 MU respectively.
- Around 40% of the EV four-wheelers and close to 70% of the EV two-wheelers sold in the country are made in Tamil Nadu.
- Delhi (54.43 MU), Maharashtra (28.64 MU), Gujarat (8.78MU) were the top states in terms of electricity consumption by public charging stations.

## 12. Renewable energy generation in Tamilnadu 2024

- Tamil Nadu has continued to rank second in renewable energy generation among southern states during the first quarter of the current financial year for the second year in a row.
- The state produced 8,379.19 million Units (MUs) of renewable energy.
- This is bit less than 8,400.15 MUs it generated during the same period last year.
- Karnataka took the top spot by generating 9,171.16 MUs despite recording a marginal dip from 10,001.55 MUs it generated last year.

- Tamil Nadu led in wind energy generation, producing 4,114.02 MUs, while Karnataka generated 3,095.93 MUs.

### 13. School education helpline – 14417

- Tamil Nadu government has directed the school education helpline 14417 to extend its services.
- The helpline has now begun running 24x7 to address the increasing number of calls about the scheme, which offers Rs.1,000 every month to college-going boys.
- According to the School Education Department, 14417 was converted to a 24X7 helpline from 5 August, 2024.

### 14. Higher education in Tamil Nadu – 9th NIRF

- Tamil Nadu continues to be the destination for higher education, as per the results of the 9th edition of the National Institutional Ranking Framework.
- The Indian Institute of Technology Madras stood first in overall ranking and the engineering category.
- It also scored second in research and innovation category.
- The State is home to 18 of the 100 top institutions in the country.
- They include six State universities, 10 private institutions and two Central institutes.
- The State universities are: Anna University (rank 20); Bharathiar University (44); Bharathidasan University (55); University of Madras (64); Alagappa University (76) and Periyar University (100) are State-run institutions.
- Anna University tops the public funded State universities in the country and is ranked 13 among universities.
- The Tamil Nadu Agriculture University is ranked 6 in its category and the TN Veterinary and Animal Sciences University is ranked 17.
- JSS College of Pharmacy, Ooty, is ranked 6th, the College of Pharmacy of Madras Medical College is ranked 78.
- Of the six architecture and planning colleges four are in Chennai.
- Madras Medical College is ranked 10 while Christian Medical College is ranked 3rd among medical colleges.
- Presidency College is ranked 13 from 3rd last year in arts and science colleges and Loyola has been ranked 8th.

### 15. Independence Day announcements 2024 by Tamil Nadu Government

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has announced the 'Mudhalvar Marundhagam' (Chief Minister's Pharmacy) scheme.
- It is aimed at providing generic medicines to citizens at subsidised rates in the State.
- A total of 1,000 such pharmacies will be operational in Tamil Nadu from the day of Pongal 2025.
- He also announced the 'Mudhalvarin Kaakkum Karangal' programme.
- It extends loans to military personnel up to Rs.1 crore to start a business.
- The aid would include 30 percent capital subsidy and 30 percent interest subsidy.
- CM had presented the 'Thagaisal Thamizhar' award to veteran Congress leader Kumari Ananthan.
- Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam award was presented to ISRO scientist P. Veeramuthuvel.

- Kalpana Chawla Award for Courage and Daring Enterprise was given to nurse A. Sabeena, who rescued people affected in the Wayanad landslides.
- The monthly pension for Freedom fighters will be increased from Rs 20,000 to Rs 21,000.
- Martyrs' family pension will also be increased from Rs. 11,000 to Rs. 11,500.
- The pension for the descendants of Kattabomman, VOC, and Maruthu brothers will be increased to Rs 10,500.

### 16. Investment proposals in Tamilnadu 2024

- Tamil Nadu Cabinet approved investment proposals to the tune of ₹44,125 crore into the State.
- The investment proposals by 15 companies are expected to generate employment for over 24,000 people.
- The Sembcorp would invest Rs.21,340 crore in Thoothukudi district generating employment for over 1,100 people.
- The Motherson would invest Rs.2,600 crore in Kancheepuram district to generate employment for over 2,500 people.
- Milky Mist would invest Rs.1,777 crore in Erode district and Lohum Tech would invest Rs.1,597 crore in Krishnagiri district on lithium battery recycling.

### 17. Tamil Nadu Government awards 2024

- Tamil Nadu government announced the recipients of Good Governance Awards, Chief Minister's Police Medal for Excellence in Investigation and Chief Minister's Police Medal for Excellence in Public Service for 2024.
- It also announced recipients for certificates for innovative initiatives.
- Six officers will receive Good Governance Awards.
- They are: J. Innocent Divya, S. Divyadharshini, V.P. Jeyaseelan, K. Elam bahavath, N. Gopalakrishnan and D. Vanitha. 10 police officers would receive the Chief Minister's Police Medal for Excellence in Investigation.
- They are: Deputy Superintendents of Police N. Suresh, S. Sowmiya and S.Pugazhenthai Ganesh; Inspectors K. Punitha, T. Vinothkumar, I.Sornavalli, N. Parvathi, P. Radha, R. Dheivarani and A. Anbarasi.
- IGP T.S. Anbu, SP E. Karthik, DSP C.R. Boopathirajan, Inspector K. Srinivasan and SI P.V. Mubaidullah would receive the Chief Minister's Police Medal for Excellence in Public Service.
- Three officers - IAS officers D. Jagannathan and P. Madhusudhan and retired IAS officer R. Sudhan Reddy would receive certificates for innovative initiatives for this year.

### 18. Athikadavu-Avinashi project 2024

- The Athikadavu-Avinashi project in Tamil Nadu, which was conceived 67 years ago, is finally commissioned recently.
- The project proposes to divert 1.5 thousand million cubic feet (TMC) of surplus water from the downstream of Kalingarayan anicut of the Bhavani River at Kalingarayanpalayam in Erode district.
- It diverted to fill 1,045 water bodies and irrigate 24,468 acres of farm land in Erode, Tiruppur, and Coimbatore districts.
- The then Chief Minister K. Kamaraj in 1957 to divert the water through open canals and fill the dry pockets in the erstwhile Coimbatore district.

- The scheme was initially named the Upper Bhavani Project.
- In 2009, a technical expert committee was constituted under the chairmanship of A. Mohanakrishnan, that investigated the viability of the scheme.
- In 1972, the project was re-christened the Athikadavu-Avinashi Ground Water Recharge and Drinking Water Supply Scheme.
- The foundation stone for the Rs.1,652-crore project was laid on February 28, 2019 and the project commenced on December 25, 2019.

### 19. Total installed power capacity July 2024

- Tamil Nadu's total installed power capacity was 40,527.24 MW as on July 31, 2024, according to data from the Central Electricity Authority (CEA).
- The coal-fired power capacity stood at 12,771.99 MW.
- Of this, 4,320 MW was from the State sector; 5,426.67 MW, the private sector; and 3,025.32 MW, the Central sector.
- Tamil Nadu's lignite-based thermal capacity stood at 1,959.16 MW, with a contribution of 1,709.16 MW from the Central sector and 250 MW from the private sector.
- Gas-based power plants' capacity was 1,027.18 MW, with 524.08 MW coming from the State Sector and 503.10 MW from the private sector.
- The private sector accounted for diesel-based power capacity of 211.70 MW, while 1,448 MW of nuclear power capacity came from the Central sector.
- The overall conventional power installed capacity in the State was 17,418.03 MW.
- The State's renewable energy installed capacity stood at 23,109.21 MW.
- Of this, 2,178.20 MW was of hydro power; 10,881.34 MW, wind; and 8,831.86 MW, solar.
- Biomass, and co-generation bagasse power plants, among others, accounted for the rest of the renewable energy capacity.

### 20. Status of Forests in Tamil Nadu 2024

- The State Planning Commission has identified policy focus areas to improve the forest cover in Tamil Nadu after analysing 20 years of data.
- It has been brought out by the Tamil Nadu State Land Use Research Board of the Commission.
- The Nilgiris now tops the table with a loss of 226 sq. km between 2003 and 2011 of dense forests and 348 sq. km of moderately dense forests between 2011-2021.
- The five - Chennai, Tiruvarur, Karur, Nagapattinam, and Perambalur districts accounts for only 1.89% of the State's Forest cover.
- Sivagangai district's forest cover came down by 20.47% in the last two decades, followed by Villupuram (13.85%), and Kancheepuram (13.03%).
- Dharmapuri has lost 409 sq. km of open forests.
- The tree cover in the State from 2001 to 2021 to an extent of 1,630 sq. km.
- The share of Tamil Nadu in the national mangrove cover is only 0.9%.

- Tamil Nadu has recorded an increase in the mangrove cover from 23 sq. km in 2001 to 49 sq. km in 2017.
- But the State had lost 4 sq. km of the mangroves between 2017 and 2021.

## 21. 385th Madras Day 2024 - August 22

- Madras Day is a festival organized to commemorate the founding of the city of Madras (now Chennai) in Tamil Nadu on 22nd August every year.
- On 22 August 1639, it is being the widely agreed date for the purchase of the village of Madraspatnam or Chennapatnam by the East India Company from Damarla Venkatadri Nayaka.
- The first recorded celebration of the founding of Madras was its commemoration in 1939.
- Recent idea to mark Madras Day celebrations was started by Chennai Heritage Foundation in 2004.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### 1. Heat wave as 'notified disaster'

- Union ministry of science and technology announced that, there is currently no plan to classify it as a notified disaster.
- If it is announced as notified disaster, it will make it eligible for financial assistance under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- Presently the notified list of disasters eligible for National Disaster Response Fund/State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) assistance includes 12 disasters.
- They are Cyclone, drought, earthquake, fire, flood, tsunami, hailstorm, landslide, avalanche, cloud burst, pest attack and frost and cold wave.
- The country saw 536 heat wave days this summer — the most in 14 years.

### 2. PM-PRANAM 2024

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), approved the PM-PRANAM scheme, aimed at restoring and nurturing the Mother Earth through the use of bio-fertilizers.
- PM-PRANAM stands for Prime Minister Programme for Restoration, Awareness Generation, Nourishment, and Amelioration of Mother-Earth.
- It aims to complement the efforts initiated by States/UTs to save the health of Earth by promoting sustainable and balanced use of fertilizers, adopting alternate fertilizers, promoting organic & natural farming etc.
- All States/UTs are covered under the PM- PRANAM.
- Under the scheme, 50% of the fertilizer subsidy saved by a State/UT in a particular financial year by way of reduction in consumption of chemical fertilizers (Urea, DAP, NPK, MOP) compared to previous 3 years' average consumption, will be passed on to that State/UT as Grant.
- States/UTs can utilize this grant for the benefit of people in the state, including farmers.

### 3. Sub-classification of SCs for reservation 2024

- The Supreme Court held that the sub-classification of Scheduled Castes would be permissible for granting reservation.
- This verdict overruled a 2004 judgment in E.V Chinnaiah vs State of Andhra Pradesh judgement.
- The ruling means that within the 15% reservation for SCs, castes that are deemed more disadvantaged would be given more weightage than others.
- In 2006 Punjab provided 50% quota and first preference to Valmikis and Mazhabi Sikhs in public jobs within the quota meant for the SCs.

### 4. Landslides in Wayanad

- The massive landslides occurred at Meppadi in Wayanad district, Kerala due to extremely heavy rain.
- India accounts for about 8% of global fatalities due to landslides.
- During the period 2001-21, the landslides caused 847 deaths and displaced thousands.
- Sikkim has the largest land area (57.6%) that is landslide-prone.
- Kerala is the most vulnerable state with over 14% of its land mass in the “very high susceptibility” category.

### 5. Crew members for Axiom-4

- India has shortlisted two astronaut-designates for the upcoming Axiom-4 mission to the International Space Station.
- The Indian astronauts Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla and Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair have been shortlisted.
- The Axiom-4 mission is the fourth private astronaut mission to the International Space Station.
- Among them, Mission Pilot Shubhanshu Shukla was finalized by Ax-4.
- The other 3 members are:
  - NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson
  - Polish Sławosz Uznański (ESA), and
  - Tibor Kapu of Hungary.

### 6. Bailey bridge at Wayanad

- The Indian Army's Madras Engineer Group built a “Bailey bridge”, assembled at Chooralmala, to reach Mundakkai village.
- They have completed the construction of 190m long Bridge in record time- around 31 Hours.
- Major Sita Ashok Shelke was the only female army officer in that Indian Army unit.
- A Bailey bridge is a type of modular bridge that consists of pre-fabricated components.
- It was allowing for quick and efficient assembly on-site.
- During World War II, the Bailey bridge was developed by English civil engineer Donald Coleman Bailey.



## 7. Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill 2024

- The Disaster Management Act, 2005 was enacted to provide for the effective management of disasters.
- The Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024 introduced in the Lok Sabha.
- The Bill seeks to create a “disaster database at national and State level.”
- It also makes provision for the constitution of “the Urban Disaster Management Authority” for the State capitals and large cities having municipal corporations, except the union territories of Delhi and Chandigarh.
- The Bill empowers the NDMA to take stock of the entire range of disaster risks in the country periodically, including emerging disaster risks.
- It includes “risks of those disasters that may not have taken place, but may occur in future due to extreme climate events and other factors.”

## 8. PMSMA

- Continuing with the efforts to ensure safe motherhood through PMSMA and with the vision for further improvement, an Extended PMSMA strategy was launched recently.
- The Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) has been launched by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in July 2016.
- It aims to provide assured, comprehensive and quality antenatal care, free of cost, universally to all pregnant women on the 9th of every month.
- PMSMA guarantees a minimum package of antenatal care services to women in their 2nd / 3rd trimesters of pregnancy at the designated government health facilities.

## 9. All Crops under MSP

- Haryana government announced that 24 crops in the state would be procured on Minimum Support (MSP).
- Out of the 24, around 10 are crops which are not extensively grown in the state.
- This was making Haryana the first state in India to do this on such a wide scale.
- The procurement will cost the government around Rs 123.65 crore.
- Wheat, paddy and maize are the main crops that are largely procured by the government on MSP.

## 10. SAFAL Test Cycle 2024

- The CBSE has started a new test cycle that promises to take the exam pressure off.
- It will assess students of Classes 5 and 8 on "core concepts" rather than rote learning.
- It is also through a "no-preparation required" exam.
- It is named as SAFAL - Structured Assessment For Analyzing Learning.
- After a pilot run, this year, it extended with 11,000 plus schools and over 10 lakh students joining the July-August cycle.
- 2025 is likely to see the SAFAL test go to all 29,000 odd CBSE schools.



## 11. Organ donation in India - 2023

- The number of women living donors was 9,784 last year compared to 5,651 men.
- A lone transgender contributed an organ to save the life of another human being.
- The total number of living donors in the country in 2023 rose to 15,436.
- The total number of organ transplants, taking into account both living and deceased donors, was 18,378, the highest ever.
- The Number of deceased donors was much higher among men, with 844 persons donating their organs, while women accounted for 255 such donations.
- The total (living and deceased) number of kidney transplants from January to December was 13,426.
- It was followed by liver and heart transplants at 4,491 and 221, respectively.
- Telangana topped the country in organ donation with 252 cadaver donors, followed by Tamil Nadu and Karnataka with 178 cases each.
- In the number of kidney transplants, Delhi stood ahead of others with 2,576 cases while Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra reported 1,633 and 1,305 cases.
- Tamil Nadu reported the highest number of heart transplants, with 70 cases last year.

## 12. Waqf board bill 2024

- The Union government has tabled the Waqf (Amendment) Bill in the Lok Sabha.
- This legislation aims to reform the registration process for the waqf properties through a centralised portal.
- It seeks to rename the existing Waqf Act of 1995 to the Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development Act.
- The Waqf pertains to properties that are designated exclusively for religious or charitable purposes in accordance with Islamic law.
- Once a property is established as waqf, it cannot be revoked.
- With approximately 30 waqf boards managing over 9 lakh acres of land valued at an estimated Rs 1.2 lakh crore.
- Waqf boards rank as the third-largest landowners in India, following the Railways and the Defence Ministry.
- The bill proposes the establishing of a Central Waqf Council alongside state Waqf Boards.
- Notably, these bodies will have representation from Muslim women and non-Muslims.
- It also has a provision to appoint two women to all state boards as well as to the central council.
- It designates the District Collector as the primary authority in determining whether a property is classified as waqf or government land.
- This shifts the responsibility away from the Waqf Tribunal.
- The legislation outlines the creation of a separate Board of Auqaf specifically for the Boharas and Aghakhani, ensuring representation for Shias, Sunnis, Bohras, and Aghakhani within waqf boards.

## 9. Broadcast Services Bill 2024

- The government is set to replace the 30-year-old Cable TV Networks Act 1995 with Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill 2024.
- It has proposed introducing onerous regulations on independent creators of news events on platforms like YouTube, Instagram and X.
- The new version also defines a “digital news broadcaster” in sweeping terms, and requires prior registration with the government to prescribing standards for content evaluation.

## 10. Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2024

- The first-ever Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP) awardees 2024 were announced recently.
- These awards honour individuals who have made distinguished contributions through impactful research, innovation, or discovery that benefits Indian communities or society.
- It was replacing the existing science awards, including the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize.
- Vigyan Ratna honours lifetime achievements and substantial contributions in any field of science and technology. Vigyan Shri recognizes distinguished contributions in any field of science and technology.
- Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar recognizes and encourages the young scientists under 45 years of age.
- This year’s Vigyan Ratna was awarded to G. Padmanabhan for his work on the malaria parasites.
- Chandrayaan-3 Team was awarded with the Vigyan Team for their successful mission in 2023.
- Vigyan Shri was given to Annapurni Subramaniam, Jayant Bhalchandra Udgaonkar, Naba Kumar Mondal.
- Vigyan Yuva was awarded to Vivek Polshettiwar, Urbasi Sinha, Roxy Mathew Koll.

## 11. Renewable Energy Capacity 2024

- India's installed renewable energy capacity has increased by 165 per cent over the past decade.
- It is rising from 76.38 Gigawatts (GW) in 2014 to 203.1 GW in 2024.
- India has achieved 4th position globally in RE Installed Capacity.
- India stood 4th in Wind Power capacity and 5th in Solar PV capacity.

## 12. 9th NIRF Ranking 2024

- Indian Institute of Technology, Madras is the best education institution in the country for the sixth time since 2019. The Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru is the top institution under both the universities and research categories, retaining both positions since 2016 and 2021 respectively.
- The ranks were given in 16 categories this year, three more than last year.
- Open universities, skill universities and State public universities are the three new categories.
- IIM Ahmedabad has continued to be the top management institute for the fifth consecutive year since 2020.
- AIIMS, New Delhi is the best place to study medical sciences, in the top spot for the seventh consecutive year.
- Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi is the best college for pharmacy.
- Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences, Chennai is the best college to pursue dental science.
- IIT, Bombay is the best ‘innovational institution’ followed by IIT Madras and IIT Delhi.
- In engineering, IIT Delhi and IIT Bombay follow IIT Madras.

- In management, IIM Bangalore and IIM Kozhikode come after IIM Ahmedabad.
- IIT Roorkee retained its first position in architecture and planning for the fourth consecutive year.
- The National Law School of India University, Bengaluru was named the best law school, the seventh year in a row. Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi is the best institution to study agriculture and allied sectors.
- Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi is the best open university.
- Symbiosis Skill and Professional University, Pune emerged the best in the skill universities category.

### 13. 78th Independence Day

- This year the nation marked its 78th Independence Day or Swatantrata Diwas.
- The government of India has announced the theme for this year is Viksit Bharat@2047 or Developed India.
- Prime Minister addressed the nation from the Red Fort for the 11th consecutive time.
- This was making him the third PM after Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi to do so.
- The 2024 PM's 98-min Independence Day address becomes his longest-ever Independence Day speech.
- Before him, Jawaharlal Nehru in 1947 and IK Gujral in 1997 had the longest speeches at 72 and 71 minutes, respectively.
- Nehru and Indira also gave the shortest speeches on record at 14 minutes in 1954 and 1966, respectively.
- Around 400 women representatives from Panchayati Raj Institutions invited as special guests at the Red Fort.

### 14. Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana 2024

- The Union Cabinet approved amendments to the Pradhan Mantri JI-Van Yojana.
- This programme has focused on converting biomass to ethanol, by extending the project's implementation timeline by five years.
- The modified scheme extends timeline for implementation of scheme by Five (5) year i.e. till 2028-29.
- It includes advanced biofuels produced from lignocellulosic feedstocks i.e. agricultural and forestry residues, industrial waste, synthesis (syn) gas, algae etc. in its scope.

### 15. Nandini Sahakar Yojana

- It aims to assist women cooperatives to take up business model-based activities under the purview of the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).
- This is a women focused framework of financial assistance, project formulation, hand-holding and capacity development.
- There is no minimum or maximum limit on financial assistance to projects by women cooperatives.
- NCDC provides 2% interest subvention on its rate of interest on term loan portion for new and innovative activities.

## 16. 109 high-yielding climate-resilient crop varieties

- The Prime Minister released 109 high-yielding, climate-resilient and biofortified varieties of crops in New Delhi.
- The 109 varieties of 61 crops released by the Prime Minister includes 34 field crops and 27 horticultural crops.
- Among the field crops, seeds of various cereals including millets, forage crops, oilseeds, pulses, sugarcane, cotton, fibre and other potential crops were released.

## 17. PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana guidelines

- The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) has issued the operational guidelines for implementing the model solar village under the 'PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana'.
- Under the scheme component 'Model Solar Village,' emphasis has been made on creating one model solar village per district across India.
- The Government of India has approved the PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana on February 29, 2024.
- It aims to increase the share of solar rooftop capacity and empower residential households to generate their own electricity.
- The scheme has an outlay of Rs.75,021 crore and is to be implemented till FY27.

## 18. Women and Men in India 2023

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the 25th issue of its publication titled 'Women and Men in India 2023'.
- By 2036, population of India is expected to reach 152.2 Crore, with a slightly improved female percentage of 48.8% as compared to 48.5 percent in 2011.
- The proportion of individuals under 15 years is projected to decrease from 2011 to 2036.
- The sex ratio which is projected to increase from 943 in 2011 to 952 by 2036, highlighting a positive trend in gender equality.
- Age Specific Fertility Rate (ASFR) in the age group of 20-24 and 25-29 has been reduced from 135.4 and 166.0 to 113.6 and 139.6 respectively.
- The ASFR for the age 35-39 for the above period has been increased from 32.7 to 35.6.
- Adolescent Fertility Rate was 33.9 for illiterate population whereas 11.0 for the literate in 2020.
- The Under 5 Mortality Rate data shows that it has decreased from 43 in 2015 to 32 in 2020.
- Female IMR had always been higher than that of male but in 2020, both were equal at the level of 28 infants per 1000 live births.

## 19. National Pest Surveillance System

- The Union Government launched the AI-based National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS).
- This will help farmers to connect with agriculture scientists and experts on controlling pests using their phone.
- NPSS will analyse the latest data on pests using AI tools to help farmers and experts in pest control and management.

- Farmers can take photos of the infested crops or the insect using the NPSS platform and these will reach scientists and experts.

## 20. Krishi-DSS

- The centre launched Krishi-Decision Support System (Krishi-DSS).
- It is a unique geospatial platform for Indian agriculture.
- It provides detailed data on fields, soil, weather, water levels, and crop conditions, accessible anytime, anywhere.
- Krishi-DSS offers real-time information on soil moisture, crop conditions, and drought monitoring.
- It includes a "One nation-one soil information system" with comprehensive soil data.
- The platform helps the government analyze cropping patterns and implement targeted interventions.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### 1. Mpox Outbreak 2024 – Africa

- Monkeypox outbreak began in Democratic Republic of Congo but has now spread over nine other African countries including Burundi, Central African Republic, Rwanda and South Africa.
- The mpox outbreak was last reported during 2022-23 and has intensified since then.
- The infection is similar to smallpox which was effectively eradicated in 1980.
- But mpox has continued to make headlines in central and west Africa.
- Historically, the first human case of mpox was recorded in DRC in 1970.
- Mpox is a zoonosis, a disease that is transmitted from animals to humans.

### 2. Top 10 richest global central banks – 2024

- The top 10 wealthiest central banks in the world by total assets, as compiled by Sovereign Wealth Fund Institute (SWFI).
- Federal Reserve System of North America topped in the list
- It is followed by People's Bank of China and Bank of Japan.
- India's Reserve Bank of India ranks 12th around the world.

### 3. Mpox - Health Emergency

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared mpox as a "public health emergency of international concern" (PHEIC).
- Mpox is caused by an orthopox virus.
- It was first detected in humans in 1970 and is endemic to countries in central and west Africa.
- More than 2,100 laboratory-confirmed cases of the disease, as well as 13 deaths, have been reported this year in the DRC and 11 other countries.

- WHO also reported that Sweden was the first country outside of Africa to report a case of the mpox Clade 1 variant.

## 4. World Airline Awards 2024

- Qatar Airways has reclaimed the top spot, earning the coveted title of the world's best airline in 2024.
- It was replacing Singapore Airlines, and pushing it to the second position, while Emirates secured third rank.
- India's Vistara – globally ranked 16th – has emerged as the best airline in India and South Asia for 2024.
- India has become the third-largest domestic airline market globally, with its capacity doubling from 7.9 million in 2014 to 15.5 million in April 2024.

## ECONOMY

### 1. Digital Payments 2024

- Digital payments across the country registered a 12.6 per cent on-year rise as on March 31, 2024.
- Devi Rajamanickam, [12-Sep-24 03:18 PM]
- RBI's Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) stood at 445.5 at the end of March 2024.
- It was 418.77 in September 2023 and 395.57 in March 2023.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### 1. GROWTH-India telescope

- The GROWTH-India telescope caught the building-sized asteroid on its closest approach to Earth.
- The telescope is stationed at the Indian Astronomical Observatory site at Hanle, Ladakh.
- This is 116m, building-sized asteroid on its closest approach to earth at just 10x lunar distance.
- GROWTH-India is India's first fully robotic optical research telescope.
- It is one of the world's highest Astronomical observatories at 4,500 meters.

### 2. Saturn and Comet A117uUD

- Scientists have found that Saturn has thrown Comet A117uUD out of the solar system in 2022.
- After coming into contact with Saturn, the comet A117uUD was flung into a highly elliptical orbit, sending it into interstellar space at 10,800 km/h.
- Interstellar space is the area between the stars, but it is far from empty.
- This is the 2nd comet observed being ejected from our solar system.

### 3. Artificial sweetener sucralose

- Recent study shows that small amounts of sucralose do not impact blood glucose levels.



- It also indicates a slight improvement in body weight (BW), waist circumference (WC), and body mass index (BMI).
- Sucralose is one of the most popular non-nutritive or artificial sweeteners and sugar substitute.
- There are two types of sweeteners, nutritive and non-nutritive.
- Nutritive ones like fructose can add calories and are not suitable at all for people with diabetes.
- Sucralose is not metabolised by the body, so it adds no calories.

#### 4. New treatment for drug-resistant TB 2024

- India is getting ready to roll out BPaL (bedaquiline, pretomanid, and linezolid) regimen for all multi/extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis patients.
- This is a significant move in the country's battle against M/XDR-TB with the new regime.
- It is indicating good results in such countries including Pakistan, South Africa, Ukraine, etc.
- Currently, India has a 56% treatment success rate for MDR/RR-TB cases, and 48% for XDR-TB cases.
- In 2022, WHO has recommended the six-month regimens BPaL (bedaquiline + pretomanid + linezolid) and BPaLM (BPaL + moxifloxacin) as treatment options for most forms of drug-resistant TB.
- The estimated number of drug-resistant TB in India has been reduced by 21% from 1.4 lakh in 2015 to 1.1 lakh in 2022.

#### 5. Plastic-Eating Fungi

- Scientists in Germany have identified plastic-eating fungi.
- Of the 18 selected fungal strains, four efficiently utilise the plastics, especially the polyurethane which is used to make construction foam.
- Polyethylene, used in plastic bags and packaging, was much slower to degrade.
- Plastic is made from fossil carbon and if the mushrooms break it down, it's no different to us burning oil or gas and releasing CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere.
- Some 390 million tonnes of plastic were produced worldwide in 2021, up from 1.7 million tonnes in 1950.
- But, less than 10% of plastic wastes only recycled worldwide.

#### 6. SSLV-D3 - EOS-08

- ISRO launched the EOS-08 Earth Observation Satellite onboard the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)-D3 from Sriharikota.
- The SSLV-D3 is its third and final development flight.
- The SSLV is capable of launching Mini, Micro or Nanosatellites (10 to 500kg mass) into a 500 km planar orbit.
- The EOS-08 satellite is designed for Earth observation and carries advanced technology for various tasks such as disaster monitoring, environmental observation, and surveillance.
- It includes multiple payloads that can capture images in infrared, monitor UV radiation, and measure soil moisture and ocean winds.



## ENVIRONMENT

### 1. Neelakurinji Added to IUCN Red List as Vulnerable Species

- The Neelakurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthiana*) has been classified as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
- This classification marks the first global assessment of the species, highlighting its ecological importance and the urgent need for conservation efforts.
- The Neelakurinji is a flowering shrub endemic to the montane grasslands of southwest India.
- It is renowned for its unique flowering cycle and contributes significantly to the region's biodiversity.

### 2. New Peacock sanctuaries 2024

- The Central Government has declared Adichunchanagiri in Karnataka and Choolannur in Kerala as Peacock Sanctuary.
- The Sanctuaries offer a safe space where these birds can live and thrive without human disturbance.
- Peacock conservation involves protecting both the Indian blue peacock and the green peafowl.
- As per IUCN red list, the green peafowl classified as Near Threatened.

### 3. Neelakurinji - Threatened Species

- Neelakurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthiana*), has been included on the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) official Red List of threatened species.
- The purplish flowering shrub blooms once in 12 years.
- This is the first ever Global Red List assessment for this flagship species of the montane grasslands of southwest India.
- Almost 40% of the habitat has been lost, the remaining is under pressure from invasion of exotic species such as eucalyptus and black wattle.

### 4. New Ramsar sites 2024 – India

- Nanjarayan bird sanctuary in Tirupur and Kazhaveli bird sanctuary in Villupuram had recently received international recognition.
- With this new addition, the number of Ramsar sites in Tamil Nadu has increased to 18, highest among the states.
- Tawa Reservoir in Madhya Pradesh is also included in the Ramsar list.
- This takes our tally to 85 Ramsar sites, covering an area of 13,58,068 hectare in India.
- Currently, Tamil Nadu harbours the maximum number of Ramsar sites (18 sites), followed by Uttar Pradesh (10 sites).
- The United Kingdom (175) and Mexico (142) have the maximum Ramsar sites.

## AWARDS

### 1. 70th National Film Awards

- Feature and non-feature films certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) between January 1, 2022, and December 31, 2022, were eligible for contention.
- The Malayalam-language drama Aattam won the Best Feature Film award.
- Rishab Shetty won the Best Actor award for Kantara.
- The Best Actress honour was shared by Nithya Menen (Thiruchitrabalam) and Manasi Parekh.
- Ponniiyin Selvan - Part1 won the most (4) awards - Best Tamil Film, Best Sound Design, Best Cinematography and Best Music Director (Background Music).
- Best Music Director award was given to Pritam (Songs), AR Rahman (Background Score).
- This is the 7th National Film Awards for AR Rahman.

## SPORTS

### 1. Vinesh Phogat disqualification

- The Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat was disqualified before the women's 50kg freestyle final at the Paris Olympics after failing to make weight.
- The disqualification means Phogat will not receive a medal.
- In the event of a disqualification of a finalist, no silver medal is awarded and the gold goes to the other finalist.
- Vinesh had scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman wrestler to reach the gold medal bout.
- Vinesh was found to be 100 grams over the weight limit during the morning weigh-in.
- As per the United World Wrestling's rule book's Article 11, "If an athlete does not attend or fail the weigh-in, he/she will be eliminated of the competition and ranked last, without rank."

### 2. Neeraj Chopra – Olympics 2024

- Neeraj Chopra of Haryana won the silver medal in the men's javelin throw competition at the Paris 2024 Olympics.
- He became the first track-and-field athlete from India to win medals in the consecutive Olympics.
- Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem won the gold medal with an Olympic record-shattering 92.97m throw.

### 3. Paris Olympics 2024 medaltally

- The U.S. and China will share the title for most golds in 2024 with 40 gold medals each.
- The U.S. won the total medal count with 126 (40 gold, 44 silver, and 42 bronze).
- China came in second in the total medal race with 91 (40 gold, 27 silver, and 24 bronze).
- India, with a total of 6 medals, including one silver and five bronze medals, got the 71st spot in the overall medal tally.
- It is lower than their 48th overall finish at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics with 7 medals, including one gold, two silver, and four bronze medals.

- This year's winners
  - Manu Bhaker - Bronze
  - Sarabjot Singh – Bronze
  - Swapnil Kusale – Bronze
  - Indian hockey team – Bronze
  - Neeraj Chopra – Silver
  - Aman Sehrawat – Bronze

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### 1. World Breastfeeding Week - August 01 to 07

- It is celebrated to highlight the importance of nursing for a baby to ensure the best nutrition and overall health.
- This day promotes supportive policies that empower mothers, educate families, and increase awareness.
- This is a commemoration of the 1990 Innocenti Declaration.
- This year's theme is "Closing the gap: Breastfeeding support for all."

### 2. 10th National Handloom Day 2024 - August 03

- It aims to recognise the efforts and skills of the community of weavers engaged in this sector.
- On this day in 1905, the Swadeshi movement launched to encourage Indigenous industries and in particular handloom weavers.
- In 2015, the Centre decided to observe this day every year.
- The 15-day long exhibition – ‘VIRAASAT’ -- has been organised to mark the 10th National Handloom Day this year.

### 3. Hiroshima Day 2024 - August 06

- This year, the world is commemorating the 79th anniversary of the day.
- It observes the tragic anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, by the United States during World War II in 1945.
- The bombing, conducted by the B-29 bomber, nicknamed “Little Boy,” exploded approximately 600 meters above Hiroshima.
- The explosion resulted in the deaths of an estimated 140,000 people.

### 4. Nagasaki Day 2024 - August 09

- On August 9, 1945, the U.S. dropped a second atomic bomb, “Fat Man,” on Nagasaki.
- This event led to Japan’s surrender on August 15, 1945, effectively ending the World War II.
- This day aims to remember the victims and promote the peace and nuclear disarmament.
- It was serving as a crucial educational opportunity to raise awareness about the devastating consequences of nuclear warfare.

## 5. August Kranti Day 2024 - August 08

- August Kranti Day, or Quit India Movement Day, commemorates the historic launch of the Quit India Movement on August 8, 1942.
- On August 8, 1942, during the All-India Congress Committee session in Bombay, the Quit India Resolution was adopted.
- It resulted in the deaths of at least 1,000 Indians, as well as the arrests of about 60,000 by the end of 1943.
- By March 1943 the Quit India Movement was definitively over.
- In 2024, as India celebrates the 82nd anniversary of the Quit India Movement.

## 6. World Lion Day 2024 - August 10

- It aims to increase public knowledge of wild lion conservation and protection.
- World Lion Day was first established in 2013 by Big Cat Rescue.
- The total population of wild lions in Africa could be around 20,000 and 25,000 individuals in 2023.
- In 2015, there were an estimated 523 lions in the Gir Forest, but this number increased to 674 in 2020.
- As per IUCN Red list, Asiatic Lion is Endangered and African Lion is Vulnerable

## 7. World Elephant Day 2024 - August 12

- This annual event was dedicated to raise the awareness about the plight of the elephants and advocating for their conservation.
- Patricia Sims of Canada and the Elephant Reintroduction Foundation of Thailand joined and established this day on August 12, 2012.
- The theme of 2024 is “Personifying Prehistoric Beauty, Theological Relevance, and Environmental Importance.”

## 8. International Youth Day 2024 - August 12

- The United Nations has declared in 1999 that August 12 would be the annual International Youth Day.
- It was based on a suggestion to the UN General Assembly made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in Lisbon on December 17, 1999.
- It was first celebrated on August 12, 2000.
- The theme of this year is 'From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development.'

## 9. World Biofuel Day 2024 - August 10

- The day commemorates the successful operation of an engine on peanut oil by German engineer Sir Rudolf Diesel on August 9, 1893.
- It aims to highlight the importance of biofuels in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting energy security, and supporting rural development.
- The theme for 2024 is “Sustainable Biofuels: Fuelling a Greener Future.”

### 10. World Organ Donation Day 2024 - August 13

- It aims to raise awareness about the importance of organ donation and encourage individuals to consider becoming donors.
- As per UNOS, about 1,03,993 people need a lifesaving organ transplant.
- Ronald Lee Herrick was the first person to donate his organ.
- This year's slogan is "Be the Reason for Someone's Smile Today!".

### 11. World Humanitarian Day 2024 - August 19

- It aims to honour humanitarian workers who risk their lives to provide aid and assistance to people in need.
- The day is observed to commemorate the 2003 bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq, which killed 22 people.
- The day is also an occasion to raise awareness of global humanitarian efforts.
- The theme for 2024 is Act for Humanity.