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(Compilation of Current Events)

| | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
|  TAMIL NADU |  STATES |  NATIONAL |  INDIA & THE WORLD |  INTERNATIONAL |
|  SCHEMES |  DEFENCE |  SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY |  EVS |  ECONOMY |
|  COURT VERDICTS |  CONFERENCES & SUMMITS |  AWARDS |  PERSONALITIES |  BOOKS & AUTHORS |
|  SPORTS |  RANKS & REPORTS |  DAYS |  OBITUARY |  NEWS OF THE MONTH |
|  KNOWLEDGE |  APPOINTMENTS |  COMMITTEES |  APPS / PORTALS |  MISCELLANEOUS |

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TAMIL NADU

➤ **Comprehensive Mental Health Programme**

- ✓ The state government - is planning to introduce a comprehensive mental health programme for school students from this month.
- ✓ The programme aims to address mental health issues among adolescent children in government and government-aided schools.
- ✓ Under the initiative, students in Classes IX to XII will be screened and taught relaxation techniques, life skill training, games and if needed, given professional counselling.

➤ **Final Electoral Roll**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu - has 6,20,41,179 voters as per the final electoral roll released by chief electoral officer (CEO) Satyabrata Sahoo on January 5.
- ✓ Women voters outnumber men voters on the final list with 3,15,43,286 female voters present against 3,04,89,866 male voters.
- ✓ There are 8,027 transgender voters in the state.
- ✓ Sholinganallur continues to be the constituency with the highest number of voters with 6,66,295 electors.
- ✓ Harbour continues to be the constituency with the lowest number of voters (1,70,125).

➤ **State Library Committee and the Chennai Municipal Library Commission**

- ✓ The school education department - has reconstituted the state library committee and the Chennai municipal library commission after 19 years.
- ✓ The 15-member State Library Committee includes the School Education Minister, Minister for Rural Development and three legislators.
- ✓ The library authority for Chennai city has been reconstituted with 11 members, including writers Manushya Puthiran alias A. Abdul Hameed and Tamildasan.

➤ **Global Tamil Angels Platform**

- ✓ On January 9, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin - launched the Global Tamil Angels platform (www.tamilangels.fund) for investors from the global Tamil diaspora to make investments in the State's start-ups.
- ✓ The platform was launched at the "Global Tamil Startup Investors Summit" held in Chennai.
- ✓ Supported by Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission (StartupTN), the state's nodal agency for Startups and Innovation, the new platform will make fundraising easy for startups.

- **Tamil Nadu Government Servants (conditions of services) Act**
- ✓ On January 13, Tamil Nadu assembly - passed a bill making Tamil language paper compulsory in direct recruitment for government posts.
- ✓ The Bill inserted a new Section (21-A) after Section 21 which read: “any person who applies for recruitment to any post in any service by direct recruitment shall pass the Tamil language paper in the examination conducted for the recruitment with not less than forty percent marks”.
- ✓ This was done to ensure 100% recruitment of Tamil youth in all State government departments and State Public Sector enterprises in the State.

- **3rd Global Investors Meet**
- ✓ On January 13, Chief minister M K Stalin - announced that the Tamil Nadu government would hold the 3rd global investors meet on January 10 and 11 in the year 2024 in Chennai.
- ✓ During the meet, the government is planning to ensure participation of more than 100 countries to attract more investments, generate jobs and strengthen the economy.
- ✓ According to the CM, Tamil Nadu is the second largest economy in the country and the state is aiming to achieve the target of \$1 trillion economy by 2030. As part of the state’s objective, the CM said investors’ meeting were held in several places, including Dubai.

- **Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), School Health and Wellness Ambassador Programme**
- ✓ Tamil Nadu - received the best performing state award from the Union health ministry in implementing school health programme and for menstrual hygiene practices.
- ✓ The award was handed over during the ‘workshop on school health and wellness ambassador programme” held in New Delhi on January 16 and 17.
- ✓ Health Minister Ma Subramanian said Tamil Nadu is implementing Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), school health and wellness ambassador programme, along with school education department through the directorate of public health.

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- **Kaaval Karangal**
- ✓ Chennai city police - have been awarded with the Skoch gold for successfully implementing ‘Kaaval Karangal’ initiative.
 - ✓ Skoch award is given every year for good governance in several aspects including hygiene, police and safety, administration, handicraft, sports and health.
 - ✓ This year, under the police and safety category, the Chennai city police bagged gold for ‘Kaaval Karangal’.
- **Turtle Conservation and Rehabilitation Centre**
- ✓ The state government – has announced setting up of a Turtle Conservation and Rehabilitation Centre at an estimated Rs.6.3 crore.
 - ✓ In this regard, an order was issued by Supriya Sahu, secretary of environment, climate change and forest department on January 20.
 - ✓ The proposed centre would rescue and offer treatment to injured turtles and release them back into the sea.
- **India's First STEM Innovation Centre**
- ✓ AIF inaugurates India's first STEM innovation centre in Chennai.
 - ✓ The American India Foundation (AIF) inaugurated India’s first STEM Innovation and Learning Center (SILC) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu in January 2023.
 - ✓ It was inaugurated under the scheme of Vanavil Mandram.
 - ✓ The Centre will introduce students to a transdisciplinary learning approach through robotics, AI, Space Technology, and the STEM Incubation workstation.
- **Tamil Nadu Emerging Sector Seed Fund (TNESSF)**
- ✓ On January 27, Chief Minister M K Stalin - launched the Tamil Nadu Emerging Sector Seed Fund (TNESSF).
 - ✓ The seed fund is a joint initiative by the state government’s finance and industries departments.
 - ✓ It provides investment for startups in emerging sectors including aerospace and defence applications, AI, Web 3.0, climate tech and deep tech.

➤ **Chief Minister on Field Study**

- ✓ Chief minister M K Stalin - will launch a new project titled, 'chief minister on field study' from February 1.
- ✓ The field study will review the implementation of various development and welfare schemes of the government and functioning of the administrative machineries in all districts of the state.
- ✓ Under the new initiative, the CM, along with his cabinet colleagues, government secretaries and heads of the departments will visit all districts.



STATE

➤ **India's First Underwater Metro**

- ✓ India's first underwater metro service, The Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation (KMRC) said that the East-West Metro Corridor project, is expected to be completed by December 2023.
- ✓ With this, another feather is being added to the crown of Kolkata Metro, the first metro railway in the country.
- ✓ The underwater metro, which will be running through the Hoogly river will connect the twin cities of Howrah and Kolkata.

➤ **Residential Land Rights Scheme**

- ✓ Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan - launched the Chief Minister's Residential Land Rights scheme (Mukhyamantri Awasiya Bhu Adhikar Yojana) in Tikamgarh district recently on January 4.
- ✓ The objective of this scheme is to provide free plots to the poor living in rural areas for building their houses.
- ✓ The land will be given completely free of cost and along with the plot, the benefits of all other schemes will also be provided to the beneficiaries.

➤ **Country's First Fully Digital Banking State**

- ✓ Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan on Jan 7, 2023, declared Kerala as the first state in the country to go fully digital in its banking service.
- ✓ This achievement was possible due to social interventions through local self-government institutions along with infrastructure development and technological advances.

➤ **Palm leaf Manuscript Museum**

- ✓ Kerala Chief Minister(CM) Pinarayi Vijayan has inaugurated the Palm leaf Manuscript Museum with modern audio-visual technology at the renovated Central Archives, Fort area in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- ✓ The Museum, promoted as "World's First Palm-Leaf Manuscript Museum" was set up by the Archives Department in association with the Kerala Museum of History and Heritage at a cost of Rs 3 crore.

➤ **First Constitution Literate District of India**

- ✓ Kerala's Kollam district has been declared the first constitution-literate district of India.

- ✓ The chief minister declared Kollam to be India's first constitution-literate district, saying that constitutional ideals must be integrated into our daily lives and government in order to attain comprehensive constitutional literacy.
- ✓ As part of the initiative, about 16.3 lakh persons over the age of ten in the area have been taught various elements of the Constitution.

- **Blindness Control Policy**
- ✓ Rajasthan has become the first state to implement a policy to control blindness, with the objective of ensuring the “Right to Sight”, on 14 January 2023.
- ✓ Under the policy, a massive drive will be undertaken in the state to reduce the rate of blindness.
- ✓ The prevalence rate of blindness, which was 1.1% in 2020, will be brought down to 0.3%, through the policy.

- **60 days Maternity Leave for Female Students**
- ✓ Higher Education Minister in Kerala R Bindu announced that girls students above the age of 18 years will get maternity leave of 60 days. The required attendance percentage for female students will be 73 percent including menstrual leave.
- ✓ The government is considering granting menstrual leaves in all state universities as recently announced by the Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT).
- ✓ The Kerala government is planning to extend the leave policy to all the universities under the State Higher Education Department.

- **Akshaya Big Campaign for Document Digitization (ABCD)**
- ✓ Wayanad district in Kerala – has become the first district in the country to provide essential documents to all tribal people under the Akshaya Big Campaign for Document Digitization (ABCD).
- ✓ The district administration launched the project after it was noticed that the marginalized tribal communities failed to get government benefits owing to lack of essential documents.
- ✓ Under ABCD, 64,670 tribal beneficiaries were issued ration cards, Aadhaar cards, birth certificates, voter ID cards, bank accounts, health insurance cards, among other services through special camps.

NATIONAL

➤ **Science 20" (S20)**

- ✓ The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) - has been announced as the Secretariat for "Science 20" (S20), the G20 summit's science working group.
- ✓ The S20 inception meeting will take place on 30-31 January in Puducherry with the theme "Disruptive Science for Innovative and Sustainable Development."
- ✓ S20 will play a key role in helping resolve global issues like poverty and integrate the developments made by the G20 member states for development.
- ✓ The S20 will focus on three key issues - Universal Holistic Health, Clean Energy for Green Future and Connecting Science to Society and Culture.

➤ **International Year of Millets (IYM)**

- ✓ The United Nations - has declared the year 2023 as the International Year of Millets (IYM).
- ✓ PM Narendra Modi has also shared his vision to make IYM 2023 a 'People's Movement' alongside positioning India as the 'Global Hub for Millets'.
- ✓ The government of India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi spearheaded the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution for declaring the year 2023 as the International Year of Millets and the proposal of India was supported by 72 countries.

➤ **National Medical Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2022**

- ✓ The Health ministry - has released a draft of the proposed National Medical Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2022.
- ✓ The amendment includes a provision for patients or their relatives or any complainant to appeal in the Ethics and Medical Registration Board (EMRB) or the NMC against the decision/action of state medical councils in complaints related to medical negligence or professional misconduct.
- ✓ The ministry has sought suggestions/comments or objections on the proposed amendments from the public or stakeholders within 30 days.

➤ **National Green Hydrogen Mission**

- ✓ On January 4, the Centre - approved the National Green Hydrogen Mission with an initial financial outlay of Rs.19,744 crore.
- ✓ The mission was approved by the Cabinet in its meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ✓ It aims at producing 5 million tonne of green hydrogen annually by 2030.

- ✓ The mission will help India not only reduce its carbon footprint but also save a substantial amount of foreign exchange on import of fossil fuels.
- **Aspirational Block Programme (ABP)**
 - ✓ On January 7, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - launched the government's Aspirational Block Programme (ABP) during the valedictory session of the second National Conference of Chief Secretaries.
 - ✓ The initiative is aimed at improving performance of blocks lagging on various development parameters.
 - ✓ The programme will cover 500 districts across 31 states and Union Territories initially.
- **Foreign Higher Educational Institutions**
 - ✓ The University Grants Commission (UGC) - announced the draft regulations for 'Setting up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India' on January 5.
 - ✓ The draft is intended to regulate the entry and operations of Foreign Universities to conduct various degrees, diplomas and certificate programmes in the country.
 - ✓ According to the draft norms, foreign universities will be able to set up their campuses in India for the first time.
 - ✓ Foreign universities with campuses in the country can only offer full-time programmes in offline mode and not online or distance learning.
- **Ganga Vilas**
 - ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the World's Longest River Cruise-MV Ganga Vilas through video conferencing and opened the Tent City in Varanasi.
 - ✓ He said that the longest river cruise from Kashi to Dibrugarh begins today, bringing to the forefront tourism destinations in North India on the global tourism map.
 - ✓ During the ceremony, the PM also inaugurated and lay the foundation stones for various additional inland waterways projects valued at more than Rs. 1000 crores.
- **The International Kite Festival**

The International Kite Festival - was celebrated with colourful kites in Ahmedabad and other cities of Gujarat from January 8 to 14.

 - ✓ International Kite Festival 2023 in Ahmedabad, which will feature the participation of around 125 kite flyers from 68 countries.
 - ✓ The theme of the festival is "One Earth, One Family, One Future," based on the G-20 theme.

➤ **Global South Centre of Excellence**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi - recently announced the setting up "Global South Centre of Excellence" on January 13, 2023.
- ✓ The announcement was made during his opening address at the concluding session of the Voice of Global South virtual summit.
- ✓ The Centre will undertake research on developing solutions or best practices that would help the members of the developing countries.
- ✓ During the event, PM Modi also announced the launch of 'Global South Science and Technology initiative' to share the country's expertise with other developing nations in areas like space technology and nuclear energy.

➤ **Aarogya Maitri**

- ✓ PM Narendra Modi announces 'Aarogya Maitri' for medical supplies.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a new 'Aarogya Maitri' project for developing nations, on 13th January 2023.
- ✓ Under this project, India will provide essential medical supplies to any of the developing countries affected by natural disasters or humanitarian crises.
- ✓ During the Covid pandemic, India's 'Vaccine Maitri' initiative supplied vaccines made in India to over 100 countries.

➤ **India's first Centre of Excellence (CoE) - Online Gaming**

- ✓ Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Rajeev Chandrasekhar - announced that India's first Centre of Excellence (CoE) of online gaming will be set up in Shillong, Meghalaya by March 2023.
- ✓ MeitY will also set up a state-of-the-art facility under the National Institute of Electronics and IT (NIELIT) in Shillong to provide training on digital skills.
- ✓ Understanding the significance of digital skills in today's era, the MeitY is re-launching Skill India through Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) 4.0.

➤ **PARAKH**

- ✓ The National Council of Education Research and Training (NCERT) - has notified India's first National Assessment Regulator 'PARAKH' recently.
- ✓ It will serve as a standard-setting body to advise various school boards in the country regarding the new student assessment patterns and promote collaboration between them.
- ✓ PARAKH refers to 'Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development'

- ✓ PARAKH has been launched as a part of the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- **21 Param Vir Chakra Recipients**
- ✓ To commemorate Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary, Prime Minister Narendra Modi named 21 of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands' biggest nameless islands after 21 Param Vir Chakra recipients on January 23, 2023.
- ✓ During a ceremony in Port Blair, the Prime Minister revealed a model of the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Memorial, which will be constructed on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep.
- **U-WIN**
- ✓ The Centre - has launched an electronic immunisation registry based on Co-WIN platform for India's Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP).
- ✓ Named U-WIN, the platform will be used to register and vaccinate every pregnant woman, record her delivery outcome, register every newborn delivery, administer birth doses and all vaccination events thereafter.
- ✓ Presently, it is being implemented in two districts of each state and Union Territories on a pilot basis.
- **She Feeds the World**
- ✓ The philanthropic foundation of PEPSICO and CARE - jointly launched the "She Feeds the World" program in India.
- ✓ The global agriculture-focused women empowerment programme will commence from two districts in North Bengal of West Bengal.
- ✓ In India, it aims to reach more than more than 48,000 women, men and children and indirectly benefit 1,500,000 individuals in West Bengal.

INDIA & OTHER COUNTRIES

- **Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement' (MMPA)**
- ✓ On January 2, India - signed a 'Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement' (MMPA) with Austria for migration and mobility of Indian students and professionals.
- ✓ The agreement was signed by the Austrian foreign minister Alexander Schallenberg and Indian external affairs minister S. Jaishankar in Vienna.
- ✓ As per the agreement, India will take back the illegal migrants who have entered Austria, while Austria will make mobility and migration "more easy".

- **UK-India Young Professionals Scheme**
- ✓ On January 9, the UK-India Young Professionals Scheme - was launched at the Indian high commission in London.
- ✓ The scheme will allow 3,000 young Indians and Britons to live, study and work in each other's countries.
- ✓ The aim of the scheme was to facilitate young people in India and UK to find jobs, create opportunities, do business with each other, set up start-ups, create innovation and new research and develop a longer lasting UK-India partnership.

SCHEMES

➤ **Amrit Bharat Station Scheme**

- ✓ The Ministry of Railways - has launched a new scheme 'Amrit Bharat Station scheme' for the modernisation of the railway stations across the country.
- ✓ The scheme envisages infrastructural development of more than 1,000 stations on a continuous basis with a long-term vision.
- ✓ Under the Scheme, stations will be equipped with facilities such as provisions for roof top plazas with shopping centres, food courts etc., longer platforms, ballastless tracks, and 5G connectivity.

➤ **New Integrated Food Security Scheme**

- ✓ The Centre - has rolled out a new integrated food security scheme starting from January 1, 2023.
- ✓ The new Scheme would provide free food grains to 81.35 crore beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) for the entire year 2023.
- ✓ Last week, the cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, had decided to provide food grains under NFSA free of cost to the 81.35 crore beneficiaries during 2023.
- ✓ Free foodgrains will concurrently ensure uniform implementation of portability under the "One Nation- One Ration Card" across the country.

➤ **Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development Scheme**

- ✓ On January 4, the cabinet committee on economic affairs (CCEA) - approved the 'Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development' scheme for the expansion and upgradation of broadcasting infrastructure at Prasar Bharati.
- ✓ It will especially help to expand the reach of the public service broadcaster in border, left wing extremism affected, and strategic areas.
- ✓ One of the major thrust areas of the scheme will be to develop high-quality content for both domestic and international audience.

➤ **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana, PMGKAY**

- ✓ The Centre - has named the new Integrated Food Security Scheme as Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana, PMGKAY.
- ✓ Earlier, the Union Cabinet had approved new integrated food security scheme for providing free foodgrains to Antodaya Ann Yojna (AAY) and Primary Household (PHH) beneficiaries, as per entitlement under National Food Security Act.
- ✓ The implementation of the new scheme has started from 1st of January this year, benefiting more than 80 crore poor population.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **108th Indian Science Congress (ISC)**
 - ✓ On January 3, PM Narendra Modi - will inaugurate the 108th Indian Science Congress (ISC) in Nagpur through video-conferencing.
 - ✓ The key event of India's science calendar will be held after a two-year gap due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - ✓ The theme of the five-day event is 'Science and Technology for Sustainable Development with Women Empowerment'.

- **Water Vision@2047**
 - ✓ 1st All India Annual State Ministers Conference on Water.
 - ✓ Ministry of Jal Shakti organized the "1st All India Annual State Minister Conference on Water" with the theme of "Water Vision@2047" in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh on 5th and 6th January 2023.
 - ✓ The primary objective of the 2-day conference was to gather inputs for India@2027 and the 5P vision from the different water stakeholders of the state, water being a state subject, and improve engagement and partnership with states.

- **Voice of Global South Summit**
 - ✓ India - will host a special virtual Summit next week called 'Voice of Global South Summit'.
 - ✓ Theme of the Summit is 'Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose.
 - ✓ The summit is India's attempt to provide a common platform to discuss concerns affecting developing countries.
 - ✓ The initiative is inspired by PM Modi's vision of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.

- **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)**
 - ✓ Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention is the flagship event of the Government of India that provides an important platform to engage and connect with overseas Indians and enable the diaspora to interact with each other.
 - ✓ On January 9, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - inaugurated the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention at Brilliant Convention Centre in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
 - ✓ The theme of the three-day conference is "Pravasis: Reliable Partners in India's Progress in the Age of Amrit".

➤ **Purple Fest**

- ✓ India's first-of-its-kind inclusive festival called the 'Purple Fest' – was held in Goa from January 6 to 8, 2023.
- ✓ Goa State Commission for Persons with Disabilities, in association with Directorate of Social Welfare and Entertainment Society of Goa hosted the 'Purple Fest: Celebrating Diversity'.
- ✓ The festival celebrates persons with disabilities and provides an opportunity to illustrate how disabilities are not barriers to them.

➤ **World Economic Forum 2023 Summit**

- ✓ World Economic Forum 2023 Summit to begin on January 16.
- ✓ The 53rd edition of the annual World Economic Forum Summit would be held in Davos, Switzerland from January 16 to 20, 2023.
- ✓ The theme of the World Economic Forum (WEF) 2023 meeting is 'Cooperation in a fragmented world.'

➤ **Think 20 (T20) Convention**

- ✓ The Think 20 (T20) convention, which was being held under the aegis of G20 - concluded in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh recently on January 17.
- ✓ More than 300 intellectuals from India and abroad released the Bhopal Declaration after discussing the G-20 agenda in the two-day meeting of Think-20
- ✓ The Bhopal Declaration has also emphasized promoting traditional medicine systems like AYUSH and encouraging value-oriented development in infrastructure development.

➤ **Indian International Science Festival (IISF)**

- ✓ The 8th edition of Indian International Science Festival (IISF) – is being held in Madhya Pradesh's Bhopal from January 21 to 24.
- ✓ IISF is the biggest platform in the country to bring together students, researchers, innovators, artists, and the general public to celebrate achievements in the field of science and technology.
- ✓ Indian International Science Festival is an initiative of the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Earth Science.

➤ **India Stack Developer Conference**

- ✓ The first-ever India Stack Developer Conference will be held in New Delhi on 25 January 2023.
- ✓ Delegates from G20 countries and G20 Secretariat have also been invited to the conference.

- ✓ India Stack is a multi-layer cluster of digital solutions such as Aadhaar, UPI, Digi Locker, Co-Win, GeM, and GSTN, and has played a key role in India's digital transformation.
- **National Child Science Congress**
- ✓ The 30th National Child Science Congress - began at Science City in Ahmedabad on January 27.
- ✓ Gujarat will be hosting the National Children's Science Congress for the fourth time
- ✓ The theme of the 30th session of the National Children's Science Congress is 'Understanding Eco System for Health & Well-being'.
- **Stack Developers Conference**
- ✓ India's first stack developers conference - was held recently on January 25 at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi.
- ✓ Union Minister of State for Entrepreneurship, Skill Development, Electronics & Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar inaugurated the conference.
- ✓ It was organised by the National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- **The India-UAE Partnership Summit**
- ✓ The India-UAE Partnership Summit - was launched in Dubai on January 25 to drive the two countries strategic' development plans and to build new economic partnerships.
- ✓ During the summit, various sectors such as textiles, green energy, connectivity infrastructure, as well as waste management, were outlined as key areas of opportunity.
- ✓ India and UAE have signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in 2022.

DEFENCE

- **India's Largest Single Unit of Women Peacekeepers**
 - ✓ India will deploy a platoon of women peacekeepers to UN Mission in Sudan. This will be India's largest single unit of women Peacekeepers in a UN Mission since it deployed the first-ever all-women contingent in Liberia in 2007.
 - ✓ The Indian contingent deployment in Abyei, comprising two officers and 25 Other Ranks, will form part of an Engagement platoon and specialize in Community outreach.

- **Short-range Ballistic Missile Prithvi II**
 - ✓ According to the Ministry of Defence, the Defence Research and Development Organization, DRDO, successfully conducted a training launch of a Short-Range Ballistic Missile, Prithvi-II, from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.
 - ✓ The Prithvi-II missile is a well-established system that has been a vital element of India's nuclear deterrence.

- **Veer Guardian-2023**
 - ✓ The Japan Air Self Defense Force (JASDF) and the Indian Air Force will participate in the joint air exercise "Veer Guardian-2023" starting on January 12 at Hyakuri Air Base in Japan.
 - ✓ The joint exercise, which will go through January 26th, intends to encourage international collaboration in air defence.

- **Varuna**
 - ✓ On January 15, India and France - kicked off the bilateral 'Varuna' naval combat exercise in the Arabian Sea.
 - ✓ India is participating with indigenous guided-missile stealth destroyer INS Chennai, guided-missile frigate INS Teg, long-range maritime patrol aircraft P-8Is, Dorniers, helicopters and MiG-29K fighter jets.
 - ✓ This is the 21st edition of the Varuna series of exercises, which have become a vital part of strategic ties between the two countries.

- **Kalashnikov India**
 - ✓ Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited, a joint venture of Russia and India - has produced the first batch of 7.62 x 39 mm AK-203 Kalashnikov assault rifles under the brand name "Kalashnikov India" at Korwa ordnance factory in Uttar Pradesh's Amethi.

- ✓ This makes India the first country outside Russia which has started the production of AK-200 series assault rifles of the world-famous brand.
- ✓ One of the largest users of these Russian made Kalashnikov assault rifles are the Indian Army's Infantry regiments and Rashtriya Rifle (RR) units.

- **Indo-Egypt Joint Training Exercise Cyclone-I**
- ✓ The Indian and the Egyptian Armies are to conduct the first-ever joint exercise Cyclone-I. It is to be held in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan for 14 days.
- ✓ The exercise is the first of its kind as it brings the special forces of the countries to a common platform. Cyclone-I would help the armies exchange their culture and ethos.
- ✓ Also, they will foster interoperability and aid in boosting the diplomatic relation between the nations.

- **AMPHEX 2023**
- ✓ Indian Navy conducts "AMPHEX 2023" mega exercise in Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ The Indian Navy carried out a six-day-long mega military exercise along with the Army and the IAF near Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ The largest biennial tri-services amphibious exercise AMPHEX 2023 was conducted from 17 to 22 January 23.
- ✓ The exercise was conducted to review the preparedness of the Indian Navy and the Army during the war, national calamities and coastal security enforcement.

- **Exercise Pralay**
- ✓ The Indian Air Force - to carry out Exercise Pralay in all of its key air facilities in the northeast, including the recently relocated drone units.
- ✓ Exercise Pralay will include major combat assets including the recently acquired Rafale fighter, in addition to Su-30 fighter jets, and other transport aircraft.]
- ✓ Notably, the exercise's conduct comes amid preparations for another IAF exercise called 'Poorvi Akash' set to be conducted in the first week of February.

- **INS Vagir**
- ✓ The Indian Navy commissioned the fifth Kalvari class submarine Vagir, on January 23, 2023.
- ✓ Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) of Mumbai produced the submarine in conjunction with M/s Naval Group of France. Four Kalvari class submarines have already been delivered to the Indian Navy.

➤ **TROPEX 2023**

- ✓ Indian Navy's flagship maritime exercise TROPEX 2023 is being held in the Indian Ocean.
- ✓ TROPEX-2023 is being organized over a period of three months from January to March 2023.
- ✓ The TROPEX exercise is held once every two years.
- ✓ The first exercise of maritime surveillance was held in January 2019.
- ✓ It is also called the biggest war game of the Indian Navy.



AWARDS

➤ Golden Globe Award

- ✓ Naatu Naatu, the super successful song from the Indian film RRR, has received the coveted Golden Globe award for Best Original Song.
- ✓ MM Keeravani is the composer of the history-making music for filmmaker SS Rajamouli's blockbuster film. Kaala Bhairava and Rahul Sipligunj are the vocalists.

➤ World Habitat Awards 2023

- ✓ Odisha - has won the UN-Habitat's World Habitat Awards 2023 for Jaga Mission, a 5T initiative of the state
- ✓ 'Jaga Mission', an initiative by the Naveen Patnaik government to upgrade almost 3,000 slums in Odisha, has won Bronze award for the second time at an awards show organised by World Habitat, in partnership with UN-Habitat.
- ✓ Jaga mission is the world's largest land titling and slum upgrading program which aims at empowering the lives of slum dwellers.

➤ Best Foreign Language Film

- ✓ Filmmaker SS Rajamouli's magnum opus RRR - has won the 28th Critics Choice Award for Best Foreign Language Film in Los Angeles.
- ✓ The film was also awarded the trophy for best song once again, for its 'Naatu Naatu' track, which has become an international phenomenon.
- ✓ The track has been composed by veteran music director MM Keeravaani and voiced by singers Kala Bhairava and Rahul Sipligunj.

➤ Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar

- ✓ President Droupadi Murmu - conferred the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar, 2023 on 11 children at an award ceremony held in New Delhi on January 23.
- ✓ The Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar are being conferred upon children in the age group 5 - 18 years, for their excellence in six categories - Art and Culture, Bravery, Innovation, Scholastic, Social Service and Sports.

➤ Padma Awards - TN

- ✓ Six personalities from Tamil Nadu - conferred with the Padma awards this year for distinguished service in their respective fields.
- ✓ Vani Jairam - Veteran playback singer.
- ✓ Vadivel Gopal, and Masi Sadiyan - Expert snake-catchers from the Irula tribe - Padma Shri awards in the category of Social work.

- ✓ Siddha specialist Dr Gopalsamy Veluchamy (Medical).
- ✓ Bharatanayam guru K Kalyanasundaram Pillai (Art).
- ✓ 'Paalam' Kalyanasundaram (Social work).



PERSONALITIES

➤ Jiya Rai

- ✓ Jiya Rai from Colaba - created a Guinness record by swimming 1,100km from Mumbai to Goa in a record 11 days' time.
- ✓ The 14-year-old daughter of an Indian Navy sailor, Rai suffers from Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- ✓ She, along with five others (part of a relay team), took part in the World's Longest Open Water Sea Swimming Relay from Mumbai to Goa and back to Vasai Fort.
- ✓ Rai is an international swimmer and recipient of the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya BAL Puraskar award 2022.

➤ Miss Universe 2022

- ✓ The United States candidate R'Bonney Gabriel has crowned Miss Universe 2022 at a ceremony held in New Orleans, Mexico. The crown was presented to her by India's Harnaaz Kaur Sandhu who had won the 2021 title.
- ✓ She was handed a bouquet of flowers, draped in the winner's sash and crowned with a tiara onstage at the 71st Miss Universe Competition.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

➤ Exam Warriors

- ✓ On January 17, Tamil Nadu governor R N Ravi - released the Tamil version of the book "Exam Warriors," authored by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ✓ The book is based on the Prime Minister's concern for the youth and is full of his experiences of struggling to live and achieve.
- ✓ It is a collective wisdom of faculty experts and educationists, parents, students and meant for the psychological preparedness of students and youth.

ECONOMY

➤ Goods and Services Tax (GST) - December 2022

- ✓ The Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue in December 2022 - recorded a 15.2% year-on-year jump at over Rs.1.49 lakh crore, according to a data released by the Finance Ministry.
- ✓ This is the third highest collection ever reported by the Finance Ministry.
- ✓ Since the inception of the new indirect tax regime in July 2017, monthly GST revenue has surpassed the Rs.1.50-lakh crore mark twice – the highest ever collection of Rs.1,67,540 crore in April 2022, and the second highest of Rs.1,51,718 crore in October.

➤ Utkarsh 2.0

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - launched its Medium-term Strategy Framework for 2023-2025 titled 'Utkarsh 2.0'.
- ✓ It is a document guiding the central bank's progress toward the realisation of chosen milestones.
- ✓ Under this framework, the first strategy framework titled 'Utkarsh 2022' was launched, covering the period from 2019-2022.
- ✓ It was a three-year medium-term roadmap to improve regulation and supervision by the central bank.

➤ Indian Economy To Grow at 6.1%

- ✓ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) expected India to be the fastest-growing major economy in FY24, maintaining its 6.1% projection in its latest World Economic Outlook, citing "resilient" domestic demand amid a tough external environment.
- ✓ According to the research, growth is likely to decline from 6.8% for FY23 and then rebound to 6.8% in FY25.
- ✓ India's GDP growth rate is expected to be significantly higher than all its comparable economies, which is set to grow at 5.4% in 2023 and 4.5% in 2024.

SCIENCE, ENVIRONMENT & TECHNOLOGY

➤ **Aditya L1 Sun, Chandrayaan-3 and Gaganyaaan mission**

- ✓ In 2023, Isro - will launch big-ticket inter-planetary missions like Aditya L1 Sun and Chandrayaan-3 and also launch the first uncrewed mission of the long awaited Gaganyaaan mission.
- ✓ During the year, Isro also helped the launch of India's first privately-produced rocket built by a Hyderabad-based startup, Skyroot Aerospace.
- ✓ Isro is planning to launch the Aditya Sun mission in early months of 2023.

➤ **Kala-azar**

- ✓ The second largest parasite killer in the world.
- ✓ It is also known as Visceral leishmaniasis (VL), black fever & Dumdum fever.
- ✓ It is caused by protozoan parasites of the Leishmania genus.
- ✓ It is the second largest parasite killer in the world after Malaria.
- ✓ The National Health Policy 2002 set a target of eliminating Kala-azar by 2010, which was revised in 2015 and further 2023.
- ✓ India signed a tripartite MoU with Bangladesh and Nepal to eliminate Kala-azar.

➤ **Comet C/2022 E3 (ZTF)**

- ✓ A newly discovered comet could be visible to the naked eye as it shoots past Earth and the Sun. This is the first time in 50,000 years.
- ✓ The comet will be closest to the Sun on January 12 and closest to the Earth on February 1.
- ✓ Nasa said, the C/2022 E3 (ZTF) could become "only just visible to the eye in dark night skies" by February 1.

➤ **Skyhawk**

- ✓ Startup firm IG Drones Develops India's First 5G-enabled Drone, Skyhawk.
- ✓ Startup firm IG Drones, which was born out of the Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT) campus in Odisha's Sambalpur has developed a 5G-enabled drone that is capable of vertical take-off and landing.
- ✓ The drone named Skyhawk can be used in defence and medical applications, among other sectors.

➤ **Viologen-Unit Grafted Organic Framework' (iVOFm)**

- ✓ Pune-based Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) - has developed a novel material called 'viologen-unit grafted organic framework' (iVOFm) to remove pollutants from water.

- ✓ The new technique uses a custom-designed unique molecular sponge-like material – macro/microporous ionic organic framework – which can swiftly clean polluted water by absorbing contaminants.
- **World's First Honey Bee Vaccine**
 - ✓ The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) - has approved the use of the world's first honey bee vaccine.
 - ✓ It is the first ever vaccine approved for any insect in the US.
 - ✓ US-based Diamond Animal Health company, the collaborating manufacturer for the vaccine developer, Dalan Animal Health.
 - ✓ The new vaccine was developed to protect bee colonies from American foulbrood disease, a bacterial infection.
- **Neelakurinji**
 - ✓ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF) has listed Neelakurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthiana*) under Schedule III of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 including it on the list of protected plants.
 - ✓ The cultivation of Neelakurinji and its possession is not allowed, according to the order.
 - ✓ Forest officials said Neelakurinji was included when the Centre expanded the earlier protected list of six plant species to 19.
- **CERVAVAC**
 - ✓ On January 24, Serum Institute of India (SII) - announced that it has launched "CERVAVAC" which is India's first indigenously developed quadrivalent human papillomavirus (qHPV) vaccine for the prevention of cervical cancer.
 - ✓ 'CERVAVAC' is an outcome of a partnership of DBT and BIRAC with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, supported by SII through its partnership programme 'Grand Challenges India'.
 - ✓ In India, cervical cancer is the second-most frequent cancer among women aged 15 to 44 years.
- **iNCOVACC**
 - ✓ India launched first made in India nasal vaccine against Covid-19- iNCOVACC.
 - ✓ The vaccine has been made by Bharat Biotech.
 - ✓ iNCOVACC is a recombinant replication-deficient adenovirus vectored vaccine with a pre-fusion-stabilized SARS-CoV-2 spike protein.
 - ✓ It has been specifically formulated to allow intranasal delivery through nasal drops.

➤ **HSTDV**

- ✓ On January 27, India - tested its own hypersonic technology demonstrator vehicle (HSTDV) powered by a scramjet engine from the APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast.
- ✓ The manoeuvrable hypersonic weapons fly over five times the speed of sound and can negate missile defence systems.
- ✓ The indigenous HSTDV, in the future, could serve as a critical building block for hypersonic weapons with speeds over Mach 5.

➤ **European Space Mission JUICE**

- ✓ The European Space Agency's Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer or JUICE is the next venture of humanity into the outer Solar System. It will be conducted thorough examinations of Jupiter, the largest planet in our solar system, and its three moons with oceans including Ganymede, Callisto, and Europa.
- ✓ The spacecraft has just completed its final tests before departing Toulouse, France, for Europe's Spaceport to count down to on April 2023 launch.

➤ ***Soliga ecarinata***

- ✓ The scientific community has named a new genus of wasp after Soligas – who are the indigenous community of the Biligiri Rangan Hills (B.R. Hills) in Chamarajanagar district of Karnataka – in recognition of their conservation of forests and biodiversity.
- ✓ The entomologists at Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Dr. A.P. Ranjith and Dr. Priyadarsanan Dharma Rajan, decided to name the new genus as *Soliga ecarinata* in an acknowledgement of the Soliga lifestyle.

SPORTS

➤ **M. Pranesh**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu's M. Pranesh - became India's 79th Chess Grandmaster by winning the Rilton Cup held in Stockholm, Sweden.
- ✓ The 22nd-seeded Indian won eight games in nine rounds in the event and finished a full point ahead of IM Kan Kukuksaari (Sweden) and GM Nikita Meshkovs (Latvia).
- ✓ 16-year-old Pranesh crossed the 2500 rating threshold and became a GM after fulfilling his three criteria before the Rilton Cup.

➤ **2023 Men's FIH Hockey World Cup**

- ✓ The 2023 Men's FIH Hockey World Cup will be the 15th edition of the Men's FIH Hockey World Cup.
- ✓ This quadrennial world championship for men's national field hockey teams is organized by the International Hockey Federation.
- ✓ It will be held at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar and at Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium in Rourkela, India from 13 to 29 January 2023.

➤ **British Junior Open**

- ✓ On January 8, India's fast-rising squash player Anahat Singh - won the girls under-15 title at the prestigious British Junior open in Birmingham.
- ✓ The 14-year-old was India's youngest athlete at the Commonwealth Games last year.
- ✓ Anahat defeated Sohaila Hazem of Egypt in the final.

➤ **U19 Women's U19 T20 World Cup**

- ✓ India - have created history by winning the inaugural U19 Women's U19 T20 World Cup by defeating England by seven wickets in Potchefstroom, South Africa.
- ✓ It was the first time that an Indian women's team has won an ICC trophy
- ✓ Shafali Verma is the captain of the Indian women's team

➤ **FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2023**

- ✓ Germany - beat Belgium in the penalty shootout to win the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2023 at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha on January 29.
- ✓ This is Germany's third Hockey World Cup title after they won it in 2002 and 2006, drawing level with Netherlands and Australia.
- ✓ In the third place playoffs, Netherlands beat Australia.

OBITUARY

➤ **World's Oldest Person - Lucile Randon**

- ✓ The world's oldest person, French nun Lucile Randon, has died aged 118. Randon, also known as Sister Andre, was born in southern France on February 11, 1904, a decade before World War I.
- ✓ The record for oldest confirmed age reached by a human belongs to Jeanne Calment, also of southern France, who died in 1997 at the age of 122. Guinness World Records had officially recognised her status in April 2022.

REPORT

➤ **Working Time and Work Life Balance Around the World**

- ✓ The International Labour Organisation (ILO) – has released a report titled 'Working Time and Work Life Balance Around the World'.
- ✓ As per the report, average hours of work per week was found to be the highest in Asia and the Pacific in 2019, particularly in South and East Asia.
- ✓ Similarly, it was shortest in North America and Europe and Central Asia, particularly in northern, southern and western Europe.
- ✓ Among developing countries, India, China and Brazil have much longer working hours, with Brazil showing a downward trend which began in the 1970s.

➤ **Sinking Joshimath - A Report**

- ✓ Joshimath - has been declared a landslide-subsidence zone and atleast 25% area of the city, which has a population of about 25,000, has been affected by the problem.
- ✓ This was concluded by an eight-member expert panel, who has conducted a field survey of Joshimath in Uttarakhand on January 5-6.
- ✓ The panel has recommended that "houses in Joshimath with maximum damage should be demolished, areas which have become inhabitable must be identified and relocation of the people at risk should be done as an immediate measure".
- ✓ The main problem has been the fact that the town has come up on relatively loose soil, deposited by landslides triggered by earthquake.

➤ **Annual Status of Education Report, 2022, or the ASER 2022 Report**

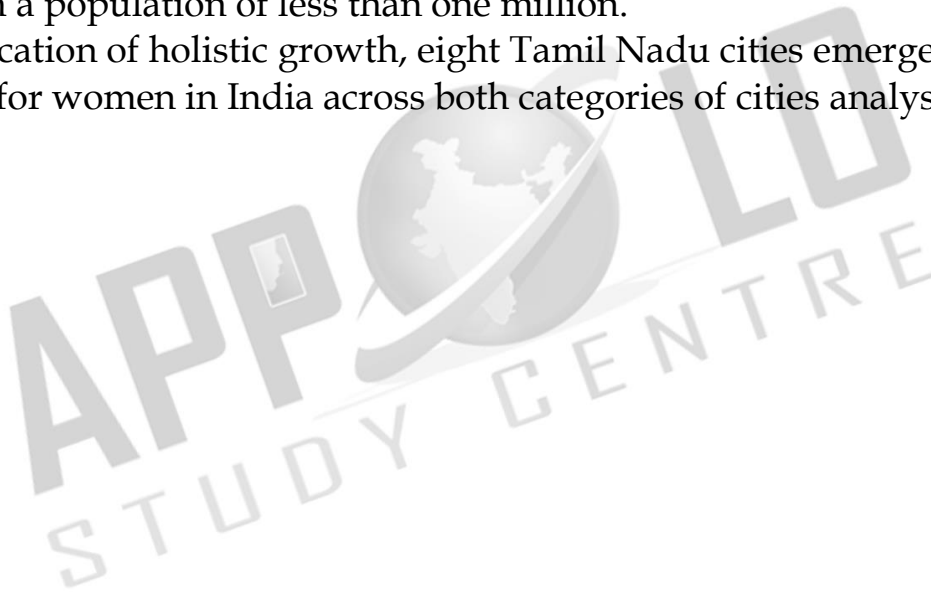
- ✓ ASER is a nationwide, citizen-led household survey, conducted by Pratham Foundation, which provides an overview of children's schooling and learning in rural India.

- ✓ In ASER 2022, around 7 lakh candidates from 19,060 schools in 616 districts were surveyed to calculate the learning outcomes post pandemic on school children.
 - ✓ The ASER reading test assesses whether a child can read letters, words, a simple paragraph class first level of difficulty, or a “story” class second level of difficulty.
 - ✓ During the Covid-19 pandemic, the report highlighted an increase in enrollment in government schools
 - ✓ As part of the survey, 30,737 students in the age group of 3–16 from 920 villages in Tamil Nadu were surveyed in September to November 2022.
 - ✓ In Tamil Nadu, the survey found out that the enrolment remained above 99% in the state and particularly students enrolled in government schools has increased from 67.4% in 2018 to 75.7% in 2022.
- **World Population Review Report**
- ✓ India – has overtaken China as the most populous country in the world, as per the World Population Review report.
 - ✓ As per the report, India's population stood at 1.417 billion as of December 2022, a little over 5 million more than the 1.412 billion reported by China.
 - ✓ In its recent estimate by the United Nations, more than half of the estimated increase in global population between 2022 and 2050 will be in just eight countries - Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines and Tanzania.
 - ✓ Vatican City is the least populated country in the world with a population count of 500 people.
- **Historical Study About Poompohar - Report**
- ✓ Researchers at the department of remote sensing of Bharathidasan University– have identified that the ancient port city Poompohar might have existed 15,000 years ago.
 - ✓ Poompohar, also called Kaveripoompattinam, is the submerged ancient port city situated in modern-day Mayiladuthurai district in Tamil Nadu.
 - ✓ As per earlier studies, it was believed that Poompohar might have existed 2,500 years ago before it disappeared from the maritime map around 1,000 years ago.
 - ✓ Poompohar had maritime trade links with South East Asia and Egypt and gained prominence during the Chola dynasty around 2,500 years ago.
 - ✓ If scientific dating confirms the estimate, Poompohar could be the oldest known ‘town’ in India and, arguably, across the world.
 - ✓ The study found structures that could’ve been a harbour, dockyards, human settlements and a lighthouse, around 40km from the present coast, at a depth of 50m-100m.

RANKING

➤ **Top City for Women in India**

- ✓ Chennai - is the 'top city for women in India' as per a study released by diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) firm Avtar Group on January 5.
- ✓ The study ranked 111 cities based on their social and industrial inclusion parameters towards nurturing a conducive ecosystem for women.
- ✓ Chennai, Pune, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Visakhapatnam, Kolkata, Coimbatore, and Madurai are the top 10 cities for women in India among 'category 1' cities with a population of more than one million.
- ✓ Similarly, Trichy, Vellore, Erode, Salem, Tirupur, Puducherry, Shimla, Mangalore, Thiruvananthapuram, and Belagavi emerged as the top 10 cities in category 2 cities with a population of less than one million.
- ✓ In an indication of holistic growth, eight Tamil Nadu cities emerged in the list of top cities for women in India across both categories of cities analysed.



IMPORTANT DAYS

| Date | Day | Theme |
|------------|---|--|
| January 01 | Global Family Day | It is celebrated as a day of peace and sharing |
| January 04 | World Braille Day | Braille, which serves as a communication medium for blind and partially sighted people |
| January 06 | World Day of War Orphans | World Day of War Orphans is celebrated every year to create awareness about the plight of war orphans |
| January 10 | World Hindi Day | The theme for this year's conference is 'Hindi: Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence' |
| January 11 | National Human Trafficking Awareness Day | The day is dedicated to raising awareness about human trafficking |
| January 12 | National Youth Day | The theme of the National Youth festival this year is 'Viksit Yuva Viksit Bharat' |
| January 14 | Armed Forces Veterans Day | Armed Forces Veterans Day is observed every year to honour the sacrifice of our veterans in serving the nation |
| January 16 | Thiruvalluvar Day | The occasion honours the poet, Thiruvalluvar, and is a part of the Pongal celebrations |
| January 16 | National Startup Day | National Startup Day, to recognize, promote and celebrate the spirit of the Indian startup ecosystem |
| January 23 | Parakram Diwas | Parakram Diwas is observed on January 23 to commemorate the birth anniversary of freedom fighter Subhas Chandra Bose |

| | | |
|------------|--|--|
| January 24 | National Girl Child Day | National Girl Child Day is celebrated to raise awareness about the rights and gender inequality faced by a girl child in the country |
| January 24 | International Education Day | Theme for 2023: 'To Invest in People, Prioritise Education' |
| January 25 | National Voters Day | This year, the theme of National Voters Day is “Nothing like voting, I vote for sure” |
| January 26 | International Customs Day | This year, the theme of International Customs Day is ‘Nurturing the next generation: Promoting a culture of knowledge-sharing and professional pride in Customs’ |
| January 26 | Indian Republic Day | 74th Republic Day - Republic Day marks the adoption of India's constitution and the country's transition to a republic on January 26, 1950 |
| January 27 | International Holocaust Remembrance Day | The theme for year 2023 is “Home and Belonging” |
| January 28 | Data Privacy Day | Theme 2023: ‘Think Privacy First’ |
| January 30 | World Leprosy Day | The theme for this year is “Act Now. End Leprosy” |
| January 30 | Martyrs' Day | 75th Death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi |

