

APPOLO STUDY CENTRE

CURRENT AFFAIRS - APRIL 1-15, 2023

Since -1998

APPOLO STUDY CENTRE

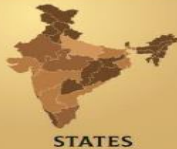
TNPSC EXAMS
24 YEARS OF
EXCELLENCE



Foot Prints (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

Sl.No	TOPICS	Pg.No
1	Tamil Nadu	3
2	State	6
3	National	7
4	International	9
5	Schemes	10
6	India and other countries	10
7	Conferences & Summits	11
8	Defence	13
9	Awards	15
10	Economy	16
11	Personalities	18
12	Science, Technology & Environment	19
14	Sports	22
15	Report	23
16	Ranking	24
17	Important Days	25

TAMIL NADU

➤ Sports Schools of Excellence

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government - plans to set up Sports Schools of Excellence across the State to ensure that amenities for sports training are easily accessible to government school students.
- ✓ In every district, two Sports Schools of Excellence would be set up at an estimated cost of Rs 9 crore.
- ✓ The proposed Schools would facilitate the participation of government school students in district, state, national and international sporting events.

➤ Tamil Mozhi Karpom

- ✓ The department is also set to launch a Tamil language learning scheme, "Tamil Mozhi Karpom", to help children of migrant workers learn to fluently speak, read and write the language without any hassles.
- ✓ The department will also build smart classrooms at Rs 150 crore in 7,500 government primary schools across the state
- ✓ This apart, Rs 10 crore has been allocated to conduct a mega reading movement to inculcate reading habits among the students.

➤ GI Tag for 11 products

Product	Location
Murukku	Manapparai
Thaikkal Rattan craft	Mayiladuthurai
Auhtoor Vetrilai (betel leaf)	Thoothukudi
Vetrilai	Sholavandan
Cumbum Panner Grapes	Theni
Negamam cotton sarees	Coimbatore
Varkey	Ooty
Myladi stone carvings	Kanniyakumari
Sago (Javvarisi)	Salem
honey	Marthandam
Pottery - Ghatam	Manamadurai

- ✓ In a first time, 11 products from Tamil Nadu were conferred with a geographical indicator (GI) tag together.
- ✓ With this, Tamil Nadu would surpass Karnataka to become the state with the highest number of GI tags by 56 products.

➤ **Excavations**

- ✓ On April 6, Chief minister M K Stalin - launched excavations at eight archaeological sites in Tamil Nadu, including Keeladi, and unveiled an Augmented Reality app for the Keeladi Museum.



- ✓ The excavations will take place at Keeladi and surrounding areas, such as Agaram and Konthagai in Sivaganga district (ninth phase), Gangaikonda Cholapuram in Ariyalur district (third phase), Vembakottai in Virudhunagar district (second phase), Thulukarpatti in Tirunelveli district (second phase), and Pattarai Perumbudur in Thiruvallur district (third phase).
- ✓ Further, the first phase of excavation commenced at Keezh Namandi in Tiruvannamalai district, Porpanaikottam in Pudukkottai district, and Boothinatham in Dharmapuri district.
- ✓ This is the first time that excavation works were launched at eight places all at once, according to the state government.

➤ **TN REACH**

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (Tidco) has developed a mechanism called Tamil Nadu Regional Aerial Connectivity through Helicopters (TN REACH), which aims to utilize over 80 unused helipads across the state to provide intercity and town connectivity.
- ✓ This would be possible by leveraging the National Civil Aviation Policy and the Helicopter Policy of the Government of India.

➤ **Thiranari Thervu Thittam**

- ✓ Under the *Thiranari Thervu Thittam*, 1,000 students will be chosen from government schools to receive guidance in premier institutions and monthly stipend of 1,000 will be provided.
- ✓ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has launched a new scheme to encourage government school students for studying in premier institutions. “The aim of the scheme is to encourage students to pursue higher education,” he said,

launching the *Anaiavarukkum IIT M*, a joint initiative with the School Education Department.

➤ **TN - Second Vande Bharat Express**

- ✓ Prime Minister on Saturday flagged off the Chennai-Coimbatore Vande Bharat Express from the Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G. Ramachandran Central Station here, in the presence of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, Governor and Minister for Railways.
- ✓ This is the second Vande Bharat train for the State, but the first to ply within Tamil Nadu. The first train operates between Chennai and Mysuru through Bengaluru.

➤ **Pichanur Village Panchayat**

- ✓ Pichanur village panchayat in Madukkarai block - has bagged the first rank under the good governance category at the National Panchayat Awards-2023.



- ✓ With the award, Pichanur becomes the only local body in Tamil Nadu to receive the honour this year.
 - ✓ The ministry of panchayati raj has been selecting best three panchayats under nine categories.
 - ✓ These awards would be presented in New Delhi on April 24 - the National Panchayat Raj Divas.
- **TN - Prohibition of Online Gambling and Regulation of Online Games Bill**
- ✓ On April 10, Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi - granted his assent to the re-adopted 'Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Online Gambling and Regulation of Online Games Bill, 2022'.
 - ✓ According to Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, the assent was a "good consequence" of the resolution on the Governor adopted by the Assembly earlier in the day.
 - ✓ Earlier, the assembly passed a resolution calling for a time limit to be imposed on state governors for the passage of key legislations.

STATE

➤ **First Fernarium**

- ✓ Eravikulam National Park has set up its first Fernarium.
- ✓ To increase awareness among visitors about the biodiversity of Eravikulam National Park, India's first Fernarium has been set up inside the park.
- ✓ This is the first time such a Fernarium collection has been established in a hill region. Eravikulam National Park has 104 species of Fernarium.

➤ **125-ft tall Bronze Statue of BR Ambedkar**

- ✓ On April 14, Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao - unveiled the 125-ft tall bronze statue of BR Ambedkar in Hyderabad, to mark the 132nd birth anniversary of the architect of the Indian Constitution.



- ✓ The statue in Hyderabad is India's tallest statue of Ambedkar.
- ✓ It is located on the banks of Hyderabad's famed Hussain Sagar lake, near to the State Secretariat and the Telangana Martyrs memorial.

NATIONAL

➤ **New Foreign Trade Policy (FTP)**

- ✓ On March 31, Union Commerce, Industry and Textiles Minister Piyush Goyal - unveiled a new foreign trade policy (FTP), which is expected to boost exports amid slowing global trade.
- ✓ Unlike the previous practice of announcing 5-year FTP, the new policy does not have an end date and will be updated periodically as per the requirement.
- ✓ The new foreign trade policy has highlighted the vision to take India's goods and services exports to \$2 trillion by 2030.

➤ **World's Second-Largest Solar Manufacturer**

- ✓ India has been making significant strides toward renewable energy in recent years, with a focus on solar energy.
- ✓ The country has set ambitious targets to increase its solar energy capacity and has been taking various steps to achieve them.
- ✓ In line with this, India is expected to become the world's second-largest solar manufacturer by 2026.

➤ **Indian Space Policy 2023**

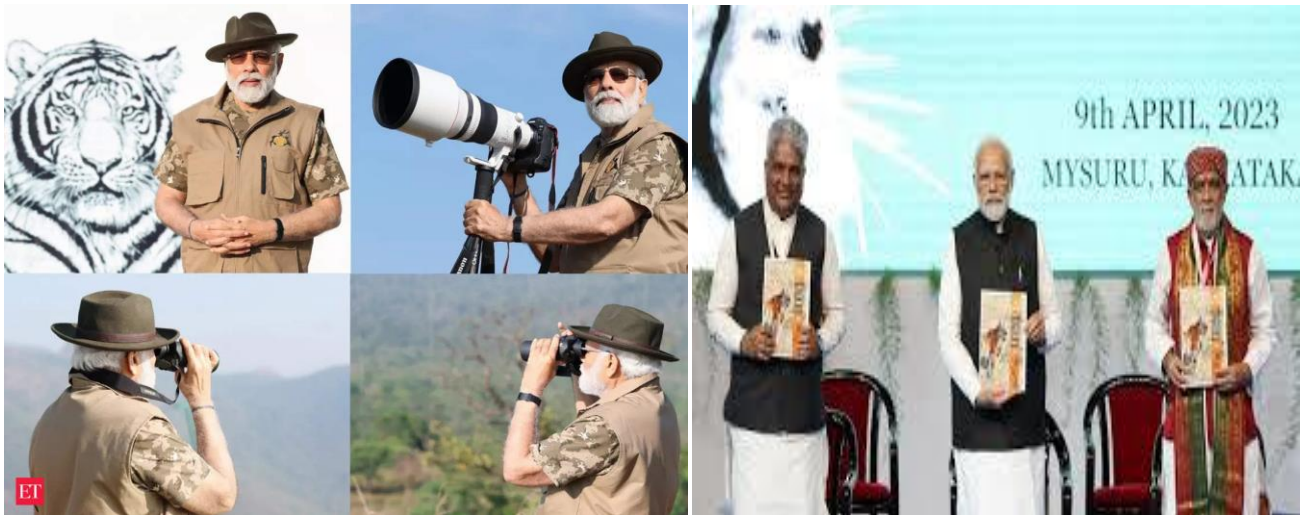
- ✓ The Union Government of India has recently approved the Indian Space Policy 2023, which aims to enhance the role of the Department of Space and boost the activities of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- ✓ This policy is a significant step towards strengthening India's space sector and achieving self-reliance in space technology.

➤ **International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA)**

- ✓ On April 9, Prime Minister - will launch the International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA) and release the latest tiger population at the Karnataka State Open University, Mysuru.
- ✓ The IBCA focuses on protection and conservation of seven major big cats of the world – tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, puma, jaguar and cheetah – by curbing poaching and illegal wildlife trade.
- ✓ The launch of the alliance and release of tiger numbers will take place on the first day of the three-day Indian Conservation Conference (ICC).

➤ **50 Years Of 'Project Tiger'**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi - released the latest tiger census data at a mega event to mark the completion of 50 years of 'Project Tiger' in Karnataka's Mysuru on April 9.



- ✓ At the inaugural session of commemoration of 50 years of 'Project Tiger', the Prime Minister launched the first of its kind 'International Big Cat Alliance' (IBCA) and also released a summary report of the 5th cycle of Management Effective Evaluation of Tiger Reserves.
 - ✓ The tiger popular in India was 3,167 in 2022, revealed the fifth cycle of India's tiger census data released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
 - ✓ According to the data, the tiger population stood at 1,411 in 2006, 1,706 in 2010, 2,226 in 2014, 2,967 in 2018 and 3,167 in 2022.
- VIBRANT VILLAGES PROGRAMME
- **Vibrant Villages Programme**
 - ✓ On April 10, Union Home Minister Amit Shah - launched the 'vibrant villages programme' at Kibithoo, a remote border village in the northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh.
 - ✓ Kibithoo is about 15km south of LAC and 40km west of the India-China-Myanmar tri-junction and was often described as India's last village.
 - ✓ The 'vibrant villages programme' (VVP) has a central component of Rs.4,800 crore, including Rs.2,500 crore exclusively for road connectivity.
- **Animal Pandemic Preparedness Initiative**
 - ✓ On April 14th, 2023, Shri Parshottam Rupala, the Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, launched two significant initiatives: the Animal Pandemic Preparedness Initiative (APPI) and the Animal Health System Support for One Health (AHSSOH) project, which is funded by the World Bank.
 - ✓ The launch event will take place at the India Habitat Center in New Delhi and will be held under the National One Health Mission.

INTERNATIONAL

➤ North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

- ✓ Finland - will become the 31st member of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on April 4, immediately preceding a two-day meeting of NATO foreign ministers in Brussels.



- ✓ Finland's blue-and-white flag will be hoisted outside NATO headquarters when it becomes the newest member of the Western alliance.
- ✓ Finland's foreign minister will hand over the formal accession papers to US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, the keeper of NATO's founding treaty.

SCHEMES

➤ **New India Literacy Programme**

- ✓ The Government - has launched a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely, New India Literacy Programme for implementation during the financial year 2022-23 to 2026-27.
- ✓ The Scheme has five components - Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, Critical Life Skills, Vocational Skills Development, Basic Education and Continuing Education.
- ✓ The scheme is mainly based on volunteerism for teaching and learning, implemented predominantly through online mode.

➤ **'Digital House' Scheme**

- ✓ On April 12, speaker M Appavu - launched the 'digital house' scheme as part of the state government's efforts to make Tamil Nadu assembly 'paperless'.
- ✓ Under the scheme, an e-book app has been developed and uploaded in the tab kept in front of each MLA.
- ✓ Also, under National e-Vidhan application (NEVA) the details of the ministers and MLAs who speak during the question hour were displayed in the four giant screens kept inside the assembly.

INDIA & OTHER COUNTRIES

➤ **India and Malaysia**



- ✓ The Ministry of External Affairs declared that trade between India and Malaysia can now be conducted using the Indian Rupee (INR) as a mode of settlement, in addition to other currencies.
- ✓ This announcement follows the launch of the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023.
- ✓ This move is expected to boost bilateral trade between the two countries and reduce transaction costs for businesses.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG)**
- ✓ The first G20 Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG) meeting - concluded on March 30 in Mumbai.
- ✓ During this three-day working group meeting, over 100 delegates from G20 member countries, invitee countries, regional groupings and international organizations were present in Mumbai.
- ✓ The deliberations focused on accelerating global trade and investment, while simultaneously progressing towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

- **First National Conference of the All India Federation for Social Justice**
- ✓ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin - virtually addressed the first national conference of the All India Federation for Social Justice on April 3.



- ✓ During his address, CM Stalin has urged the central government to carry out a caste-based census in the country to ensure social justice and to streamline reservation for minority populations.
- ✓ The conference was convened by DMK under the theme “Taking Forward the Struggle for Social Justice and Joint National Programme for Social Justice Movement”.

- **The three-day meeting of Youth20 (Y20) - began at Auroville on April 4**
- ✓ Tamil Nadu governor R N Ravi, who is also the chairman of Auroville governing board, inaugurated the meet in the presence of Puducherry lieutenant governor Tamilsai Soundararajan, a member of the board
- ✓ The Y20 meeting aims to encourage youth in evolving as future leaders to raise awareness on global issues and facilitate exchange of ideas.
- ✓ Youth20 (Y20) is an official consultation forum for youth from all G20 member countries.

➤ **Combined Commanders Conference**

- ✓ The Combined Commanders' Conference (CCC) is an annual event where India's top military commanders come together to discuss and brainstorm on military matters and national security.
- ✓ This year, the theme of the CCC was 'Ready, Resurgent, Relevant.' The objective was to assess the progress made by the Armed Forces in meeting the challenges of modern warfare.

➤ **International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI)**

- ✓ The 5th edition of International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI) 2023 - was held in New Delhi recently on April 4 and 5.



- ✓ During his address, the PM mentioned the Infrastructure for Resilient Island States initiative or IRIS benefitting many island nations.
- ✓ It was held under the theme "Delivering Resilient and Inclusive Infrastructure: Pathways for Risk Informed Systems, Practices and Investments".

DEFENCE

➤ GSAT 7B

- ✓ The Ministry of Defence - signed a Rs 3,000-crore contract with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), for an advanced communication satellite, GSAT 7B.
- ✓ Indian Army is the only one among the other armed forces - IAF and Indian Navy - who doesn't have its own communication satellite.
- ✓ The Army is set to get the first-of-its-kind five-tonne geostationary satellite by 2026 and it will be developed indigenously by ISRO.

➤ INS Androth

- ✓ India - recently launched the INS Androth, second in an eight-ship series of Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC).



- ✓ INS Androth is designed to conduct anti-submarine operations in coastal waters, low intensity maritime operations and mine laying operations.
- ✓ The ship, which is 77.6 meters long and 10.5 meters wide, is propelled by three diesel-driven water jets, enabling it to attain a maximum speed of 25 knots.

➤ SLINEX-2023



- ✓ The 10th annual SLINEX-2023 bilateral maritime exercise between India and Sri Lanka has commenced in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- ✓ The exercise is divided into two phases, the Harbour Phase and the Sea Phase, each lasting three days.
- ✓ The exercise will also feature the Special Forces of both navies working together.

➤ **Cope India**



- ✓ Next week April 10-15, India's Sukhoi-30s, which are made in Russia, will participate in an exercise named 'Cope India' that involves dogfighting with American F-15 Strike Eagle fighter jets.
- ✓ The exercise, which was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, will take place after a gap of four years.

➤ **KAVACH**

- ✓ On April 5, 2023, the Andaman & Nicobar command, which is India's sole tri-services unit, held a collaborative military drill named Exercise 'KAVACH.'
- ✓ The weaponry and equipment of the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard were utilized by the soldiers participating in 'EX-KAVACH.'
- ✓ The primary objective of this joint service exercise was to enhance the coordination and joint war-fighting capabilities of the various services.

➤ **Greek Exercise Iniochos 23**

- ✓ The Greek and Indian Air Forces will collaborate on a joint training exercise with Su-30, F-16, and Rafale fighter jets for ten days over Greece and the Mediterranean Sea.
- ✓ The exercise will be conducted as part of the annual Greek exercise Iniochos 23, led by the Greek Air Force and the Greek Air Tactics Center of the Ministry of Defense. The training is scheduled to begin on April 18th and will conclude on April 28th.

➤ **Exercise 'Cope India 23'**

- ✓ Exercise 'Cope India 23', a bilateral air exercise between the Indian Air Force and the United States Air Force - is currently underway at Panagarh, Kalaikunda (West Bengal) and Agra air force stations.



- ✓ This 11 days exercise aims at enhancing mutual understanding between the two Air Forces and sharing their best practices
- ✓ The two-week 'Cope India' exercise, which began on April 10, will “further enhance operational capability and interoperability between the two air forces”

➤ **Exercise Orion**

- ✓ Indian Air Force contingent reached France to participate in “Exercise Orion” on 14 April. The exercise is being conducted at the Air Force Base of the French Air and Space Force Mont-de-Marsan.
- ✓ This exercise will be conducted from 17th April to 5th May.
- ✓ The air forces of Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, UK, Spain and the US will participate in Exercise Orion.

AWARDS

➤ **2023 International Prize in Statistics**

- ✓ The Indian-American statistician Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao has been awarded the 2023 International Prize in Statistics – the equivalent of the Nobel Prize for statistics.
- ✓ It is awarded once every two years to an individual or team “for major achievements using statistics to advance science, technology and human welfare”.

ECONOMY

➤ **Goods and Services Tax (GST) - March 2023**

- ✓ The Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection - rose 13% to over Rs.1.60 lakh crore in March, according to the finance ministry.
- ✓ This is the fourth time in the current financial year that the gross GST collection has crossed Rs.1.5 lakh crore.
- ✓ The collection of Rs.1,60,122 crore during the month of March 2023 is the second-highest collection ever recorded.

➤ **DigiClaim**

- ✓ Union Minister of Agriculture Narendra Singh Tomar - recently launched the National Crop Insurance Portal's digitized claim settlement module 'DigiClaim'.
- ✓ The module has been launched under the centre's flagship scheme, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).
- ✓ It has been created to disburse claims electronically in a time-bound and automated manner.

➤ **GDP - 2023-24, 2024-25**

- ✓ On April 11, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) - slashed India's GDP growth forecast to 5.9% for 2023-24 and 6.3% for 2024-25 consequent to global economic uncertainty.
- ✓ In January, the IMF in its World Economic Outlook (WEO) update had said that India remained a bright spot and with China would account for half of global growth this year, as against just a tenth for the US and euro area combined.

➤ **India's Overall Exports - Rose 14%**

- ✓ India's overall exports - rose 14% to a record \$770 billion during the last financial year 2022-23.
- ✓ It is an all-time high record growing from \$500 billion in 2020-21 to \$676 billion in 2021-22.
- ✓ This was announced by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on April 13 in Rome.

➤ **Direct Taxes - 2021-22**

- ✓ Maharashtra - topped the list of states and Union Territories with the highest collection of direct taxes in 2021-22.
- ✓ Delhi, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat are the other states that complete the Top 5, as per the data released by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on April 13.

- ✓ According to CBDT, India's gross direct tax collection rose 173% to Rs 19.7 lakh crore in 2022-23 from Rs 7.2 lakh crore in 2013-14.
- ✓ The data also showed net direct tax collections increased by 121% from Rs 6.4 lakh crore in 2013-14 to Rs 14.1 lakh crore in 2021-22.
- ✓ Direct taxes largely include personal income tax and corporate tax.



PERSONALITIES

➤ Amit Kshatriya

- ✓ Amit Kshatriya, Indian-American software and robotics engineer - was appointed as the first head of Nasa's newly established Moon to Mars Programme.
- ✓ Kshatriya will serve as Nasa's first head of the office, with immediate effect.
- ✓ In his new role, Kshatriya will be responsible for programme planning and implementation for human missions to the Moon and Mars.

➤ Anjali Sharma

- ✓ Mountaineer Anjali Sharma of Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh - conquered Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa, wearing the traditional Lunachari dress.



- ✓ Lunachari is traditional dress of Himachal Pradesh.
- ✓ With this, Anjali became the first Indian woman to achieve the feat while wearing the traditional Gaddi costume.
- ✓ Mount Kilimanjaro is the highest summit in Africa and the highest single free-standing mountain in the world, with its summit reaching an elevation of 5,895 meters above sea level.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

➤ Coronal Hole

- ✓ NASA scientists - have spotted a massive black region on the Sun, which is 20 times larger than Earth.



- ✓ The appearance of the “coronal hole” has prompted US federal agency National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to sound out an alert for geomagnetic storms
 - ✓ The massive hole is unleashing 1.8 million mile-per-hour solar winds towards Earth.
 - ✓ The latest hole was discovered on March 23 near the Sun’s South Pole.
- ## ➤ First Cloned Female Calf
- ✓ The National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal - has produced the country's first cloned female calf of the desi breed Gir named ‘Ganga’, which can produce more than 15 litres of milk per day.
 - ✓ The NDRI, Karnal is working on a project on cloning of indigenous cow breeds such as Gir and Sahiwal.
 - ✓ The programme was started by National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal.
- ## ➤ Yuva Vignani Karyakram (YUVIKA)
- ✓ The Isro - has recently launched a new program titled ‘Yuva Vignani Karyakram (YUVIKA)’ to encourage students develop a passion for space science.
 - ✓ The YUVIKA program is open to students in the 9th standard (or equivalent) from all over India.



- ✓ The program provides an opportunity for the students to explore the wonders of space science, space applications, and space technology.
- **Reusable Launch Vehicle Autonomous Landing Mission (RLV LEX)**
The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) - successfully conducted the Reusable Launch Vehicle Autonomous Landing Mission (RLV LEX) from the Aeronautical Test Range in Karnataka's Chitradurga on April 2.



- ✓ According to ISRO, it was for the first time in the world that a winged body was carried to an altitude of 4.5km by a helicopter and released for carrying out an autonomous landing on a runway.

- **Artemis II**



On April 3, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) - announced the four astronauts, who will be a part of the lunar mission, Artemis II, next year.

- ✓ The four astronauts will now begin training for the historic Artemis II lunar flyby, which is scheduled to launch in November 2024.
- ✓ This will be the first crewed moon trip in fifty years.
- ✓ The astronauts are Jeremy Hansen of the Canadian Space Agency, Victor Glover, Christina Koch, and Reid Wiseman of NASA.



SPORTS

➤ **Street Child Cricket World Cup**

- ✓ Chennai has always welcomed cricket with open arms, and has played the perfect host to several national and international tournaments.
- ✓ Come September, Chennai will witness another cricket tournament, but one with a difference – the Street Child Cricket World Cup 2023.

➤ **Chief Minister Mini-Stadia**

- ✓ On April 11, Youth Welfare and Sports Development Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin - said that in the first phase 10 constituencies will get mini stadia and they will be called 'Chief Minister Mini-Stadia'.
- ✓ While making announcements for the sports department, the Minister said that along with the existing 29 mini stadia, 10 more will be constructed and along with the existing ones, the new ones would be named as "Chief Minister Mini-Stadium".

➤ **Girls Sports Company (GSC)**

- ✓ The Indian Army - has approved the constitution of the Girls Sports Company (GSC) to recruit young women athletes.
- ✓ It will be on the lines of the Boys Sports Company (BSC) which was started by the Army Sports Institute (ASI) in 2005.
- ✓ The ASI has already started training women athletes and will soon begin recruiting young girls in four disciplines.

REPORT

➤ **India Justice Report (IJR)**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu's prisons department - emerged as the number one in the country, according to the India Justice Report (IJR) 2022.
- ✓ For Tamil Nadu prisons department, this is a substantial jump as it was ranked 10th in IJR 2019 and sixth in IJR 2020.
- ✓ Fewer overcrowded prisons, an increased representation of women among prison staff and fewer vacancies have helped the state to top the IJR 2022 rankings.

➤ **National Tiger Conservation Authority's (NTCA) Fifth Cycle Summary Report**

- ✓ The five tiger reserves in Tamil Nadu - have performed well in terms of management effectiveness, according to the National Tiger Conservation Authority's (NTCA) Fifth Cycle Summary Report-2022.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the report at an event held in Mysuru on April 9 to commemorate 50 years of Project Tiger.
- ✓ Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR) and the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) have been categorized as 'excellent reserves' in Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE)-2022 rating.
- ✓ The Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR) and the Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR) are categorised as 'very good reserves' with a score between 75-89% in the MEE.
- ✓ The newly declared Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve (SMTR) scored 60.94% and is classified as a 'good reserve'.

RANKING

➤ **World's Most Criminal Countries**

- ✓ World of Statistics has shared the ranking of the world's "most criminal countries".
- ✓ On the list, Venezuela has been ranked top, followed by Papua New Guinea (2), Afghanistan (3), South Africa (4), Honduras (5), Trinidad (6), Guyana (7), Syria (8), Somalia (9) and Jamaica (10), respectively.
- ✓ India stood at 77 spots while the US and UK were ahead of India in the criminal ranking country.
- ✓ The USA was at 55th number and the UK at 65th rank, according to the World of Statistics. Turkey, Germany, and Japan were among the least criminal countries, ranking at 92nd, 100th, and 135th ranks.



IMPORTANT DAY

➤ **World Autism Day - April 02**

- ✓ Autism is a neuro-developmental disorder that affects a person's communication and social interaction skills.
- ✓ The World Autism Day aims to raise awareness about the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and the difficulties faced every day by people affected with ASD.
- ✓ Theme 2023 - 'Transforming the narrative: Contributions at home, at work, in the arts and in policymaking'.

➤ **International Day of Mine Awareness - April 04**

- ✓ The International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action is observed on April 4 every year.
- ✓ The day aims to raise awareness about landmines, seek assistance for mine action work, and advance toward removing them.
- ✓ The theme of the year 2023 is "Mine Action Cannot Wait".

➤ **National Maritime Day - April 05**

- ✓ Every year on 5 April, National Maritime Day is celebrated. It is celebrated to create awareness regarding support for intercontinental commerce and worldwide economy.
- ✓ The Sagar Samman Varuna Award is also given on this day to recognize people who made outstanding contribution to Indian Maritime Sector.
- ✓ The theme for National Maritime Week 2023 is 'Amrit Kaal in Shipping'.

➤ **International Day of Conscience - April 05**

- ✓ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) observes the International Day of Conscience every year on 5 April to recognize the significance of the human conscience.
- ✓ The day promotes the need for the creation of peaceful and friendly relations and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, or religion.
- ✓ The theme for the year 2023 is "Building a Culture of Peace."

➤ **International Day of Sport for Development and Peace - April 06**

- ✓ On April 6, the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP) is celebrated to acknowledge the significance of sports and physical activity in our personal lives and communities worldwide.
- ✓ The theme for the 2023 is "Scoring for People and the Planet".

➤ **World Health Day - April 07**

- ✓ Every year on April 7th, the World Health Day is celebrated to bring global attention to a specific health issue that impacts people worldwide.
- ✓ This day is also significant as it coincides with the founding day of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in 1948.
- ✓ The World Health Day 2023 has adopted the theme "Health For All".

➤ **World Homoeopathy Day - April 10**

- ✓ The convention aimed to promote evidence-based homoeopathic treatment for health & wellness of the entire family, capacity building of homoeopathic practitioners to provide homoeopathy as first line of treatment and promote homoeopathy as a treatment of choice in households.
- ✓ The theme of the convention was "Homoeoparivar - Sarvajan Swasthya, One Health, One Family".

➤ **National Safe Motherhood Day - April 11**

- ✓ On April 11 every year, National Safe Motherhood Day is observed with the objective of promoting the well-being and safety of mothers and expectant mothers by increasing awareness of proper healthcare.
- ✓ This initiative, launched by the Indian government, aims to decrease the number of maternal and neonatal deaths.

➤ **World Parkinson's Day - April 11**

- ✓ World Parkinson's Day is observed annually on April 11 to mark the birth anniversary of Dr. James Parkinson.
- ✓ He is the first physician to recognize Parkinson's as a medical condition.
- ✓ The theme for World Parkinson's Day 2023 is "#Take6forPD".

➤ **International Day of Human Space Flight - April 12**

- ✓ The International Day of Human Space Flight is observed annually on April 12th to commemorate the beginning of human space exploration and acknowledge the significant contribution of space science and technology in achieving the peaceful use of outer space.

➤ **Ambedkar Jayanti: April 14**

- ✓ Ambedkar Jayanti is observed on 14 April every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar. He was born on 14 April 1891.
- ✓ He headed the committee drafting the Constitution of India.
- ✓ In 1990, the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award, was posthumously conferred on BR Ambedkar.

➤ **World Art Day - April 15**

- ✓ UNESCO's General Conference declared April 15 as World Art Day to commemorate Leonardo da Vinci's birthday, recognizing the importance of art in promoting creativity, cultural diversity, and information exchange.
- ✓ Art has always encouraged innovation and sparked discussion among individuals worldwide.

