



Current Affairs

for

TNPSC

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Table of Contents

Tamil Nadu	3
India	8
Festival	13
Economy	13
World	15
Environment	16
Science & Technology	16
Persons & Appointments	17
Scheme	18
Conferences	21
SIIMA Texfair)2022 - Coimbatore	21
Defence	22
Exercise	24
Awards	24
Sports	25
Index	26
Books	27
Important Days	27

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Tamil Nadu

❖ Luxury cruise tour from Chennai port

- Chennai: Chief Minister M.K. Stalin today launched the 'Empress', a luxury ship from Chennai port and launched it at the port.

❖ Kalaingar Ninaivu Art Department Scholar Award - Aroordas

- Writer Aroor Das has been selected for the Kalaingar Ninaivu Art Department Scholar Award-2022.

❖ Introduction to the 'Out of the Box Thinking' Syllabus

- IIT Madras has introduced an "Out of the Box Thinking" course for the benefit of school and college students to encourage student's thinking ability and new way of thinking through mathematics.
- The course will be taught online free of cost through IIT Madras Pravartak Technologies Foundation and students appearing for the exam will be given a grade certificate.
- For the first time, classes are scheduled to start on July 1, 2022.

❖ 'Everything is Possible' Museum for the Differently Abled

- Chennai: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin today inaugurated the Museum for the Differently Abled at the Office of the Commissioner for the Differently Abled at Kamarajar Salai in Chennai.

❖ 235th Samathuvapuram in Tamil Nadu - Singampunari

- Chief Minister M K Stalin inaugurated the 235th Periyar Memorial Samathuvapuram near Singampunari in Sivagangai for public use.

❖ BharatNet project in Tamil Nadu at an estimated cost of Rs 1,627.83 crore

- On June 10, 2022, in Tamil Nadu, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin inaugurated the installation of optical fiber cable at Muthalukurichi grama panchayat in Kanyakumari district to implement the BharatNet project at an estimated cost of Rs 1,627.83 crore.
- The BharatNet project is a scheme to connect all the 12,525 village panchayats in Tamil Nadu through a 'glass fiber cable' to provide high-speed bandwidth.
- This scheme is being implemented through the Government of Tamil Nadu through a special purpose vehicle called "**Tamil Nadu Fiber Network Limited (TANFINET)**".
- Under this scheme, a minimum of 1 Gbps of spectrum will be provided to all 12,525 gram panchayats.
- Through this scheme, the public will be able to provide low cost electronic (digital) services, e-education, telemedicine, and triple play services (telephone, television & internet) provided through internet connectivity. Further, various schemes of the Government at the village level will reach the people at the earliest by providing high-speed internet services to government offices, schools,

T20 CURRENT AFFAIRS SPECIALLY FOR TNPSC

colleges and industrial establishments. In addition, the scheme will create new rural employment opportunities and improve the economic condition.

❖ **11th World Tamil Research Conference in Sharjah**

- The 11th World Tamil Research Conference of the World Tamil Research Institute will be held in Sharjah in July 2023.
- In 2019, the 10th World Tamil Research Conference was held in Chicago. World Tamil Conferences have been held since 1966.

❖ **Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission (S2G Buy Day)**

- The Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission, also known as TANSIM among entrepreneurs, has launched an initiative called **S2G Buy Day** to connect start-ups and the government.
- During the Tamil Nadu Budget 2022-23, it was announced that government departments and public sector undertakings would be allowed to directly procure innovative goods and services worth Rs 50 lakh from start-ups in the state.

❖ **Special committee to implement Artificial Insemination Technology Act**

- The Government has constituted a Special Committee to implement the Artificial Insemination Technology Act and Surrogacy Regulation Act in Tamil Nadu.
- At the state level, committees have been constituted under the chairmanship of additional secretary, health department and at the district level under the chairmanship of joint directors.

❖ **India's first transgender center- Madurai**

- For the first time in India, a research and documentation center opened for transgenders has been opened at Chinna Chokkikulam in Madurai.
- The first library for transgenders was started a few years ago in Viswanathapuram area of Madurai.
- The Research and Documentation Centre has been opened to encourage transgenders and their writings in order to change the society's perception of the third gender, to identify talented Thirunambi, Thirunangai (transgenders) and set the stage for them.

❖ **Women Entrepreneurs Entrepreneurship Programme**

- The Tamil Nadu Industries and Innovation Mission organized an event in Madurai with the aim of encouraging women entrepreneurs.
- Minister for Finance and Human Resource Management Palanivel Thiagarajan participated in the function and inaugurated the programme.

❖ **'Counting and Writing' project**

T20 CURRENT AFFAIRS SPECIALLY FOR TNPSC

- On June 13, 2022, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin launched the 'Ennum Ezhuthum' scheme at Alinjivakkam Panchayat Union Middle School near Puzhal in Thiruvallur district.
- The aim of the scheme is to enable students to acquire literacy and numeracy by 2025.
- Classes 1 to 3 in Tamil Nadu will be taught in conjunction with Tamil, English, Mathematics and Ecology subjects.
- Under this scheme, all students in Tamil Nadu should have the ability to understand and study by the age of 8 years and have the skills to perform basic mathematical activities.
- ❖ **India's first private train service: Coimbatore-Shirdi**
 - On June 14, 2022, for the first time in India, the special train, which was handed over to the private sector for the first time in India, started its first journey from Coimbatore to Shirdi.
 - The train, which runs once a week, will be run by a private company from the ticket to the maintenance work.
- ❖ **Tiruvallur Food Festival, which holds the triumph world record**
 - A food festival was held in Tiruvallur district. One lakh liters of used cooking oil were converted into bio-diesel from various restaurants in a single day. Another one lakh persons were provided with surplus food in a single day. For this, the '**Triumph World Record**' certificate was awarded.
- ❖ **Chairman, Tamil Nadu Palm Tree Workers Welfare Board - Ernakulam Narayanan**
 - Ernakulam Narayanan has been appointed as the Chairman of The Tamil Nadu Palm Tree Workers Welfare Board.
 - The Tamil Nadu Palm Tree Workers Welfare Board was established by Kalaignar on September 10, 2006 for the welfare of palm tree workers in Tamil Nadu. The registered members are provided with various welfare schemes including education, maternity, marriage, accident assistance, etc.
- ❖ **State Education Policy Committee headed by Justice Murugesan**
 - A 13-member commission headed by retired Delhi High Court judge T Murugesan has been constituted to look into the Tamil Nadu State Education Policy (admission of government school students in engineering, medical and other professional courses).
- ❖ **First time 'Brake-woman' appointed in Ooty hill train**
 - For the first time ever, the Railways has appointed a woman named Sivajothi to replace the brake men in the Nilgiris Mountain Railway, which runs on the steepest mountain railway line in Asia.
 - The hill train service from Mettupalayam to Ooty started in 1899.
 - *In 2005, UNESCO declared the oldest mountain train as a World Heritage Site.*

T20 CURRENT AFFAIRS SPECIALLY FOR TNPSC

❖ Sahitya Akademi Award for Translation for Malan

- The Sahitya Akademi for translation for the year 2021 has been announced to writer Malan.
- The award has been announced for Malan V. Narayanan's translation into Tamil for his book 'Historical Notes of Oru Pinathookiyin Varalaatru Kurippugal.
- The book was developed by translating the English novel 'Chronicle of The Corpse Barrer', written by Cyrus Mistry.

❖ College Dream Show

- On June 25, 2022, chief minister M.K. Stalin launched the "College Dream" programme to guide students of Class 12 to pursue higher education under the "I am the first man" scheme. (The programme will fall under Naan Mudhalvan initiative of the Tamil Nadu government and will help students decide their fields after completing class 12.)
- During the inaugural function, a Memorandum of Understanding will be signed between HCL and Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation in the presence of the Chief Minister.
- Accordingly, the Government of Tamil Nadu has announced that 2,500 students who have studied in government schools will be selected by HCL on the basis of merit and will be given training and work orders, the government will bear the cost of the training and will be given the opportunity to pursue post-graduate courses.

❖ Tamil Nadu ranks 2nd in the country's GDP

- Tamil Nadu is the second largest state in India in terms of Gross Domestic Product. The Tamil Nadu government ranks fourth in India in terms of state tax revenue. The per capita income of Tamil Nadu is higher when compared to the majority of Indian states.
- Tamil Nadu ranks ninth in the world in contributing the largest share of wind power to the total electricity generation.
- With one-third of the total textile manufacturing units in the country, Tamil Nadu is the textile valley of India and the yarn bowl of India with 40 per cent of the total yarn production.

❖ Exports worth Rs 2.62 lakh crore; Tamil Nadu ranked third

- In 2021-22, Tamil Nadu was ranked third with exports worth Rs 2.62 lakh crore. Tamil Nadu's share of the country's total load has gone up to 8.34 per cent.
- Gujarat tops the list with a net worth of Rs 9.45 lakh crore, followed by Maharashtra with a net worth of Rs 5.45 lakh crore.

T20 CURRENT AFFAIRS SPECIALLY FOR TNPSC

❖ New law against online rummy - Justice Chandru Committee

- A committee headed by retired Justice Chandru has submitted its report to Chief Minister M K Stalin, recommending that a new law to be brought in against online rummy.

❖ Artist Pen Award

- Senior journalist Shanmuganathan has been selected for the Kalaignar Pen Award for the year 2021.

❖ Tamil Nadu tops state food safety index list

- Tamil Nadu has topped the list of largest states in the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India's State Food Safety Index.
- Gujarat is at the second position, followed by Maharashtra at the third spot. Goa tops the list of smaller states, followed by Manipur (2nd) and Sikkim (3rd).
- In Tamil Nadu, 11 districts namely Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Salem, Coimbatore, Chennai, Tirunelveli, Erode, Madurai, Thoothukudi, Tirupur and Dindigul received the best performance award.
- The theme of 2022 is "**Safe Food, Better Health**".
- June 7 - Food Safety Day.

❖ Actor Suriya invited as a member of Oscar selection committee

- Actor Suriya has been invited by the Oscar Academy to be a member of the selection committee of films for the Oscars. Actor Suriya and Bollywood actress Kajol's names figure in the list of 397. Actor Suriya is the first person in Tamil cinema to be invited as a member of the Oscar Academy.



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India

❖ 'Mithali Express' train service between India and Bangladesh

- On June 1, 2022, the "Mithali Express" started its first journey from New Jalpaiguri station in West Bengal, India to Dhaka in Bangladesh.
- This is the third passenger train after The Maitree Express (Dhaka-Kolkata) and Bandhan Express (Khulna-Kolkata).

❖ India's first animal COVID-19 vaccine

- Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched the country's first-ever covid-19 vaccine for animals. The vaccine, which was developed in India, has been named Anocovax. It has been developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) based in Haryana.

❖ Child mortality rate in the country falls to 28 in 2020

- In 2020, according to data from the Registrar-General of India, the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in India has come down to 28 (28 infant deaths per 1,000 live births) to 28.
- The infant mortality rate is calculated as how many of the 1,000 babies born in a particular area die before reaching one year.
- Overall, the infant mortality rate at the all-India level has come down from 44 to 28 in the last decade. The number has come down from 48 to 31 in rural areas and from 29 to 19 in urban areas.
- However, one in 36 children in India is likely to die within a year, according to the data.
- The infant mortality rate in rural and urban areas has come down by about 35 per cent in the last 10 years.
- Madhya Pradesh recorded the highest number of deaths in 2020 at 43 per 1,000 children, a year after birth. Mizoram has the lowest number of deaths per 1,000 children in less than three children within a year.
- The birth rate in the country is also constantly declining. In 1971, the child birth rate was 36.9. It has come down to 19.5 in 2020. This has come down from 23.3 in rural areas to 21.1. In urban areas, it has declined from 17.6 to 16.1.

❖ India's first desalination plant

- India's first 100 MLD (million liters per day) desalination plant has been set up at Dahej Industrial Estate in Gujarat's Bharuch district.

❖ National Level Education Ministers' Conference

T20 CURRENT AFFAIRS SPECIALLY FOR TNPSC

- In Gujarat, a two-day conference of education ministers was held at the national level under the chairmanship of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. It is noteworthy that the Tamil Nadu government boycotted the conference.

❖ India's first 'Balika Panchayat' - Gujarat

- The country's first 'Balika Panchayat' has been launched in five villages in Gujarat's Kutch district. The initiative is aimed at promoting the social and political development of girls and ensuring their active participation in politics.
- The panchayat has been started in Kunaria, Maska, Modagua and Vatsar villages of Kutch district. The initiative has been taken up by the Women and Child Development Department of the Gujarat government under the 'Beti Bachao Beti Patao' campaign.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development is also planning to start a women's panchayat across the country.

❖ Coalition for disaster recovery framework

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the classification of the Alliance for Disaster Response Framework (CDRI - The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure) as an 'International Body' and signing of the Headquarters Agreement with the CDRI to provide exceptions, self-defense and priorities under the UN (Priority & Self-Defense) Act, 1947.
- Since its inception, 31 countries, 6 international organizations and two private companies have joined the CDRI as members. The CDRI has been increasing its membership by constantly trying to enroll the economically advanced countries as members.

❖ A roadside facility called 'BRO cafe' in border areas

- The Ministry of Defense has approved the establishment of roadside amenities in 75 border areas of 12 States/UTs through the Border Roads Organization ('BRO Cafes').
- Apart from generating employment opportunities for the local people, the aim is to promote economic activities in the border areas and provide basic amenities to the tourists. These have been named Bro cafes for roadside amenities.
- Roadside amenities include parking of two-wheelers and four-wheelers, restaurants, accommodation, separate toilets for men, women and differently-abled people, first aid, etc.

T20 CURRENT AFFAIRS SPECIALLY FOR TNPSC

❖ 200th anniversary of Mumbai Samachar

- On July 1, 1822, the Bombay Samachar started its printing as a weekly newspaper by Fartunji Marspanji. Then, in 1832, it became a daily. This magazine has been published continuously for 200 years.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who attended the 200th anniversary celebrations of Mumbai Samachar daily, also released a postage stamp during the event to honor its unique achievement.

❖ First-of-its-kind 6-lane highway in Surat

- Union Minister for Steel, Shri. Ramchandra Prasad Singh inaugurated the first-ever six-lane highway constructed with iron slag to connect the port with the city in Surat, Gujarat.
- He said that the construction of this road with 100% steel waste will help in improving the sustainability of the steel factories. He said that by constructing a road with this material, its stability will continue and will greatly reduce the cost of constructing the road.

❖ 8th International Yoga Day - 2022

- The 8th International Day of Yoga was celebrated on June 21, 2022. Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended an international yoga event at the Mysore Palace Ground in Karnataka.
- The theme of this year's International Day of Yoga was titled '*Yoga for Mankind*'.
- In 2014, the United Nations adopted a resolution declaring June 21 as the International Day of Yoga.
- The first International Day of Yoga was observed on June 21, 2015.

❖ India and USA: MoU in the field of Health

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative of the United States.
- The MoU has been signed to identify new biomedical equipment's and technologies required for prevention and treatment of diseases including vector-borne diseases, tuberculosis and COVID-19.

❖ Australia-India Water Conservation Project Agreement

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Commerce, Australia for technical cooperation in urban water management was highlighted at a meeting of union ministers chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The agreement was signed in December 2021.

T20 CURRENT AFFAIRS SPECIALLY FOR TNPSC

❖ Germany Institute signs agreement with S N Bose National Centre

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the SN Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences in Kolkata and the German Institute on Modern Magnetism and Topology.
- The goal of this Joint Venture is to enhance cooperation between Indo-German in providing opportunities to acquire modern knowledge in magnetism and topology.

❖ Vietnam to have 12 high-speed safety boats

- On June 9, 2022, Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, who visited the Hong Ha Shipyard in Hai Fang, Vietnam, presented 12 high-speed safety boats to Vietnam.
- The boats have been constructed under a scheme by the Government of India to provide a USD 100 million loan assistance to Vietnam.
- The first five boats were developed at the Larsen & Toubro shipyard in India, while the other seven boats were developed at the Hong Ha shipyard.
- Speaking on the occasion, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh termed the project as a great example of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Make in India, Make for the World'.

❖ Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Japan and India

- The Union Cabinet chaired by The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Japan's National Institute of Environmental Studies and Aryabhata Research Institute, India.
- The Agreement provides for the conduct and implementation of joint research on air quality and climate change.
- The activities possible through this agreement are the joint use and operation of scientific instruments, monitoring methods, exchange of scientific and technical information, joint educational and research activities, exchange of researchers including students for doctoral degrees with the objective of doing research, joint science workshops/seminars, etc.

❖ SCO - Organization: Cooperation Agreement for Youth Work

- On June 14, 2022, the Union Minister of State for Youth Welfare and Sports signed the Cooperation Agreement for the employment of youth in recognized organizations of the Member States of the SCO, which was adopted on September 17, 2021.
- Strengthening Mutual Trust, the objective of the agreement is to strengthen friendly relations and cooperation among the youth of the member States of the SCO.

T20 CURRENT AFFAIRS SPECIALLY FOR TNPSC

❖ India signs MoU with Singapore Department of Commerce and Industry

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Department of Commerce and Industry, Singapore in the fields of Science, Technology and Innovation. The MoU was signed in February 2022.
- I.P. through development of new technologies, human resource training, collaborations. In addition to providing the practice that will lead to manufacturing, it will also help in building innovation and entrepreneurial potential in both countries.
 1. Agriculture and Food Science & Technology;
 2. Sophisticated manufacturing and engineering;
 3. Green economy, energy, water, climate and natural resources;
 4. Data science, engineering technologies;
 5. Sophisticated devices; and
 6. Health and Biotechnology
- Under the Agreement, priority will be given to cooperation in areas of mutual interest that can accelerate progress, including research, innovation and technological development.

❖ Honey Testing Laboratory: Nagaland

- Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated a honey testing laboratory at Dimapur in Nagaland.



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Festival

❖ India's first lavender festival

- Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated India's '**First Lavender Festival**' at Bhaderwah, Jammu and Kashmir, on May 26, 2022.
- The 2-day Lavender Festival 2022 is being held under the Central Government's Aroma Mission 2.
- The country's first national high-altitude medical institution is also being built in Bhaderwah.

❖ Picho Festival" (Baikho festival)

- The Pico festival is celebrated in the state of Assam, which is known as the gateway to northeast India. It is celebrated annually by the *Rabha tribe* of India.

Economy

❖ Increase in premium amount for Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana scheme

- The premium rates of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Bima Yojana are being revised to make them economically affordable. According to this, the premium of The Prime Minister's Accident Insurance Scheme is Rs. From Rs 330 to Rs 436, the premium of The Prime Minister's Life Insurance Scheme is Rs 10,000. 12 to Rs. They are also converted to 30.
- These schemes have been implemented since 2015. While the implementing insurance companies as on 31.03.2022 continued to incur losses of Rs 9,737 premium to the insurers, there has been no change in the premium rates for the last seven years. For the first time, they are being revised from June 1, 2022.

❖ PM Modi releases set of new currency coins

- The Prime Minister also released the new Rs 1, Rs 2, Rs 5, Rs 10 and Rs 20 coins along with the stamp on the 75th anniversary of India's independence.
- He released a set of new coins, especially for the visually impaired, so that they could be easily identified.

❖ India ranks 4th in gold recycling globally

- India was ranked fourth in 2001 with 75 tones, or 6.5% of the total gold recycled across the world, according to a recent report by the World Gold Council.

T20 CURRENT AFFAIRS SPECIALLY FOR TNPSC

❖ Allocation of funds to Tamil Nadu under National Health Mission

- Under the National Health Mission, Tamil Nadu will get Rs. 2,600 crores, under the **Prime Minister's Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission**. The Central Government has allocated Rs 404 crore.

❖ Assam becomes 36th state under 'One Nation, One Ration Card' scheme

- Assam has become the 36th state to implement the '**One Nation, One Ration Card**' scheme. This will ensure that all the states in the country are able to successfully implement the scheme and change food security across the country. The One Nation One Ration Card scheme was launched in August 2019.
- **Assam** became the 36th state to successfully implement the One Nation One Ration Card scheme. The government has also developed the '**MERA RATION**' mobile app to avail maximum benefits of the ONORC scheme. Assam has finally implemented the ration card portability service.

❖ Unemployment rate declines to 4.2 per cent in 2020-21

- The unemployment rate declined to 4.2% in 2020-21, according to a study by the PLFS (Periodic Labor Force Survey). It was 4.8% in 2019-20. The economy suffered due to factors including the lockdown caused by the coronavirus outbreak and many people lost their jobs.
- The PLFS, started by the National Statistical Office (NSO), conducts annual surveys and reports on manual workers and employees.

❖ Jan Samarth website

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched **the Jan Samarth portal** at the Finance Ministry premises in New Delhi to enable the beneficiaries of the central government's loan schemes to apply for education, agriculture, business and livelihood through a single portal.
- This is the website for credit linked government schemes of the government of India.

❖ Iraq tops crude oil exports to India

- Iraq tops the list of countries exporting crude oil to India. Russia is ranked second and Saudi Arabia is third.
- Iraq was the top exporter of crude oil to India, followed by Saudi Arabia at the second position and the United Arab Emirates at the third position. In May, Russia exported 8,19,000 barrels of crude oil per day to India, moving up to the second position.

T20 CURRENT AFFAIRS SPECIALLY FOR TNPSC

World

❖ Turkey's name changed: "Turkiye"

- In a request letter to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who changed the country's name internationally to "Turkiye", had said that "the use of the word 'Turkiye' instead of words like 'Turkey' and 'Turki' should be used."
- A spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the name "Turkey" would now be changed to "Turkiye".

❖ BIMSTEC - 25th Anniversary

- **The Secretariat for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)** of the Bay of Bengal in Dhaka celebrated the 25th anniversary of the BIMSTEC Regional Organization.
- It is an international organization of South Asia and Southeast Asian countries.
- Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand are members of bimstec.
- It was formed on June 6, 1997. Its headquarters is located in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

❖ Frontier Computer

- America's 'Frontier' computer has become the most powerful supercomputer in the world, while Japan's 'Fugaku' is the second fastest computer.

❖ NASA's "Da Vinci Mission" ("DAVINCI Mission")

- NASA is about to launch a mission called the **Da Vinci Mission**. Da Vinci means "The study, chemistry and imaging work on the noble gases of the deep atmosphere Venus planet" ("Deep Atmosphere Venus Investigation of Noble Gases, Chemistry and Imaging Mission"). The mission will fly through Venus and explore its harsh atmosphere in 2029.

❖ 'Amber Alerts' (Amber Alerts)

- Meta-owned Instagram has launched a new service called 'Amber Alerts' in 25 countries to track missing children.
- Amber alerts for Instagram have been developed in collaboration with various organizations such as **the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)** and **the International Center for Missing and Exploited Children in the United States**.
- The feature is already on Facebook and has helped find hundreds of children since it was launched in 2015, Meta reported.

T20 CURRENT AFFAIRS SPECIALLY FOR TNPSC

❖ Internet Explorer service stopped

- Internet Explorer has been used as Microsoft's search engine for 27 years by people around the world. Microsoft has announced that it will discontinue this key software that was introduced by Microsoft in 1995.

Environment

❖ Powered by water and solar energy - Airport

- The Indira Gandhi (Delhi) International Airport has become the first airport in the country to run purely on hydro and solar energy since the month of June (2022), a major step towards achieving the ambitious goal of becoming a **Net Zero Carbon Emission Airport by 2030**.

❖ India's largest floating solar power project- Kerala

- Tata Power Solar has launched India's largest floating solar power project at Kayankulam in Kerala with an installed capacity of 101.6 MW peak in a 350-acre water body, backwater area.

Science & Technology

❖ Indian Space Promotion and Accreditation Centre

- PM Modi inaugurated the headquarters of the **Indian National Space Promotion and Accreditation Centre (IN-SPACE)** in Ahmedabad.

❖ HomoSEP-a robot that cleans sewage tanks

- A robot named '**HomoSEP**' has been developed by researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT Madras) in Chennai to eliminate manual scavenging in India.

❖ The country's largest private spacecraft manufacturing facility

- Hyderabad-based space technology company Anand Technologies has opened the country's largest private spacecraft manufacturing facility in Bengaluru.

❖ GSAT-24 communication satellite

- On June 22, 2022, the GSAT-40 satellite for communication service was launched by a heavy rocket, Ariane-5, from the Kourou launch pad in French Guiana, South America.
- Weighing 4,180 kg, GSAT-24 is ISRO's 42nd communication satellite. Malaysia's MESAT-3 satellite for information technology has also been successfully launched.
- The successful launch of GSAT-24, a fully indigenously developed DTH communication satellite, is a major milestone in the history of NSIL (New Space India Limited).

T20 CURRENT AFFAIRS SPECIALLY FOR TNPSC

- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)'s GSAT-40 satellite was developed for New Space India Limited (NSIL) for information technology service. It is a 24-KU band Information Technology satellite that meets DTH requirements.

❖ PSLV-C-53

- On June 30, 2022, ISRO successfully launched PSLV-C-53 with three Singapore satellites from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre.
- The DS-EO satellite (Singaporean Earth Observation satellite) weighing 365 kg and the Nusar satellite weighing 155 kg were developed by the Republic of Korea for Singapore. Scoop-1, the 3rd satellite weighing 2.8 kg, was developed by Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.

Persons & Appointments

❖ Sachin Tendulkar appointed as UN Children's Fund's Goodwill Ambassador

- Sachin Tendulkar has been appointed as the 'Goodwill Ambassador' of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for the 20th consecutive year.

❖ India's freedom fighter Anjalai Ponnusamy passes away

- Born in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Anjalai Ponnusamy Ammal joined Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's Indian National Army (INA) in 1943 during World War II and fought for India's independence.
- Anjalai Ponnusamy Ammal passed away at the age of 102 in Sendhul, Malaysia.

❖ India's (first woman) representative to the UN Ruchira Kamboj

- For the first time, a woman officer named Ruchira Kamboj has taken over as India's (first woman) permanent representative to the UN.

❖ The first woman president of the Press Council of India

- Retired Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai has been appointed as the new president of the Press Council of India.
- She was **the first woman president of the Press Council.**

❖ Parameswaran appointed as CEO of NITI Aayog

- Parameswaran Iyer has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (3rd) of NITI Aayog.
- The first CEO - Sindhu Shree Khullar, the second CEO - Amitabh Kant

❖ AR Rahman appointed ambassador of India-UK Cultural Forum

- Music composer AR Rahman has been appointed as the ambassador of The Season of Culture to mark India's 75th Independence Day. It was officially launched by John Thompson, Britain's Deputy High Commissioner to India, and Barbara Wickham, Director (India) of the British Council.

T20 CURRENT AFFAIRS SPECIALLY FOR TNPSC

- It aims to strengthen India-UK cooperation in the fields of Cultural season, Art, English and Education.
- ❖ **Director, Central Bureau of Investigation - Tapan Deka**
 - Senior IPS officer Tapan Kumar Deka has been appointed as the director of the Intelligence Bureau by the central government.
- ❖ **Dinkar Gupta appointed as director of NIA**
 - Dinkar Gupta IPS has been appointed as the Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) by the Central government.

Scheme

- ❖ **'Shrestha' (SHRESHTA) Scheme**
 - **The Scheme for Residential Education for Students in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA)**, a residential education programme for students in targeted areas (SHRESHTA), was created under the Constitution with the objective of providing quality education and opportunities to poor students as well.
 - Shrestha was created to provide quality education to meritorious poor students belonging to the Scheduled Caste community, whose parents' annual income is less than Rs 2.5 lakh.
 - Under this, every year a limited number of Scheduled Caste students in states and Union Territories are selected through the transparent process of the National Entrance Test conducted by the National Testing Agency. They are enrolled in top private schools with CBSE syllabus for studying in classes 9 to 12.
 - Thereafter, the students will be linked to the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme or the Higher-Class Education Scheme in order to continue their higher education with financial assistance from the Government of India.
 - Accordingly, students of class 9 will get Rs 1 lakh per annum, class 10 students will get Rs 1 lakh 10,000, class 11 students will get Rs 1,25,000 and class 12 students will get Rs 1 lakh 35,000.
 - The scholarship will be disbursed in a single installment directly to the schools in the first quarter of every financial year. The growth and progress of the students will be monitored by the Ministry.
- ❖ **e-Sanjeevani Scheme - Ayushman Bharat Digital (Digital) Scheme Link**
 - The National Health Commission has announced that it has integrated the e-Sanjeevani scheme with the Ayushman Bharat Digital (Digital) scheme. The integration enables those who are currently using e-Sanjeevani, a tele-medical service of the Union Health Ministry, to easily create and use the Ayushman Bharat Health Account and continue to maintain the treatment recommendations and test details already received.

T20 CURRENT AFFAIRS SPECIALLY FOR TNPSC

- The e-Sanjeevani programme also ensures the availability of medical advice and follow-up treatment as beneficiaries are able to share their health documents with the doctors.

❖ Lifestyle for the Environment (LiFE) Movement

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today inaugurated a global seminar called 'Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) Movement' through video conferencing on June 5, 2022.
- Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that it is the need of the hour to overcome the problems the world is currently facing, with the collective efforts and strong actions of man, to overcome the problems the world is currently facing and achieve sustainable development.
- The Prime Minister recalled that this global partnership was proposed by him at the United Nations Conference on Climate Change in 2021. The Prime Minister said that the aim of the Life Movement is to live a lifestyle that is in tune with the times and does not cause harm to the world and those who follow such a way of life are called "**Pro-Planet People**".
- Life mobility, considering the future, works for the present based on past experiences. The Prime Minister said that using less, reusing, and recycling is something that has been mixed with our lives.

❖ 'NIPUN' Project - Skill Training of Construction Workers

- The NIPUN Scheme is an initiative to train more than 1 lakh construction workers through new skill and development programmes under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, The aim of the scheme is to provide them with employment opportunities abroad as well.

❖ Agneepath ('AGNIPATH') Scheme

- The Agneepath scheme aims at temporarily recruiting youth between the ages of 17.5 and 21 in the Army, Navy and Air Force (for four years only). At the end of the tenure, they will be given a service fund package.
- Moreover, due to the coronavirus pandemic, there has been no army recruitment for the last two years. So, a large number of youngsters did not get a chance to join the army. Keeping this in mind, on the orders of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Central government has increased the age limit for joining the Agneepath scheme from 21 to 23.
- In the budget for the current financial year (2022-23), Rs 5,25,166 lakh crore has been allocated for the army. Of this, Rs 1,19,696 lakh crore is spent by the Army on pensions alone. That is, one-fourth is spent on pensions. An amount of Rs 2,33,000 crore has also been allocated for the salaries and maintenance expenses of soldiers.

T20 CURRENT AFFAIRS SPECIALLY FOR TNPSC

- Other expenses for the army, including the purchase of equipment, are met with the rest of the money. Therefore, the Union Defense Ministry has been making various rounds of consultations to reduce unnecessary expenditure in the Army. Based on that, it has introduced the Agneepath scheme.
- Moreover, only 25 per cent of them will be taken up for permanent employment as per the requirement.
- The Union Cabinet has approved a proposal to recruit Indian youth in the Armed Forces. The youth selected for the job under this scheme, known as Agneepath, will be called **Agni Warriors**. With patriotism, the Agneepath will allow energetic youth to serve in the Army for a period of four years.
- The scheme is designed to recruit youth in the armed forces. It will provide opportunities to attract talented youth from the society to the uniform work in line with contemporary technological trends. This will help in reducing the average age of soldiers by four to five years by inducting youth into the forces.
- This is the biggest defense policy reform introduced by the government, which will create a new chapter in the implementation of human resource policy in the three services. The policy, which will come into force with immediate effect, will govern recruitment in the three services.
- Agni soldiers selected under the scheme will be given monthly remuneration in all the three services to attract them, along with risk and hardship allowances. At the end of the 4-year term, Agni warriors will be given a one-time package called **Seva Nidhi**. That includes their contribution and interest.
- In the first year, a monthly salary of Rs.30,000 will be fixed. A sum of Rs 9,000 will be given to the Agni Veer Corpus Fund. The remaining Rs 21,000 will be available on hand. The salary has been fixed at Rs 33,000 in the second year, Rs 36,500 in the third year and Rs 40,000 in the fourth year. Of this, 30% will be deducted as contribution. The remaining 70% will be paid.
- After 4 years, Rs 11.71 lakh will be disbursed to the players as **Seva Nidhi** along with interest along with Rs 5.02 lakh paid in the consolidated fund and the same amount given by the government. *This Seva Fund will be exempted from income tax.* Apart from this, gratuity and pensionary benefits will not be given. Non-contributory life insurance of Rs 48 lakh will be provided to Agni warriors.
- Under the Agneepath scheme, soldiers will be recruited for a period of 4 years and 46,000 people will be recruited this year. The age limit is 17.5 years to 21 years. The selected candidates must have medical qualification.

Conferences

❖ All State Education Ministers' Conference - Gujarat

- An all-state education ministers' conference was held in Gujarat to discuss the new education policy. The Tamil Nadu government boycotted the conference.

❖ SIIMA Texfair)2022 - Coimbatore

- The Southern Indias Mills Association (SIMA) conducts an exhibition of textile machinery and spare parts every year. Accordingly, the 13th Edition of the Texpere Exhibition for this year was held at the CODISSIA Permanent Exhibition Complex in Coimbatore.

❖ First National Chief Secretaries' Conference

- The Prime Minister chaired the first National Chief Secretaries' Conference held in Dharamsala, Himachal Pradesh on June 16 and 17.
- The conference was held with the aim of further strengthening the partnership between the Centre and the states.
- Also, a special session was held on the (Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav) 'Amrit Festival of Liberation' guidance plan for 2047.
- **Theme:**
 1. Implementation of National Education Policy (NEP)
 2. Urban Administration
 3. Crop change and achieving self-sufficiency in oilseeds, pulses and other agricultural products.

❖ 12th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization

- The 12th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization was held in Geneva. It was attended by Union Minister Piyush Goyal.
- He said that it is a matter of pride for 135 crore Indians that India has been the focal point of the conference.

❖ 12th Meeting of BRICS Agriculture Ministers

- The 12th meeting of the Agriculture Ministers of BRICS member countries was held via video conferencing. The meeting was attended by agriculture ministers of China, South Africa, Brazil, Russia and India.
- Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Smt. Shobha Karandlaje was present on the occasion. He pointed out the initiatives and initiatives taken by the Government of India for the

T20 CURRENT AFFAIRS SPECIALLY FOR TNPSC

development of the agriculture sector, PM-KISAN for the welfare of farmers, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, among others.

❖ UN Maritime Conference

- On June 29, 2002, at the UN Maritime Conference held in Lisbon, The Capital of Portugal, Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of Earth Sciences, discussed a variety of bilateral issues with The Minister of Climate and Environment, Norway, Mr. Espen Barth Eide
- The meeting took place in the backdrop of the 5th India-Norway Special Operations Group meeting between Mr. Hans Jacob Frieden Lund, Ambassador of Norway to India on blue economy in New Delhi last week and Dr. M. Ravichandran, Secretary, Department of Earth Sciences, Government of India.
- The Special Operations Group agreed to new projects and modalities for the merger of marine industries. The two countries also agreed to explore further cooperation in the areas of green maritime, sustainable maritime management and deep-sea technology.

❖ 14th BRICS Summit

- The Indian Prime Minister attended the 14th BRICS Summit in Beijing, chaired by China, via video conferencing.
- Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa are the five countries that have joined hands to form the BRICS.

Defence

❖ Procurement of Astra MK-1 missiles at a cost of Rs 2,971 crore

- The Defense Ministry has signed an agreement with Bharat Dynamics for procurement of Astra Mk-1 missiles at a cost of Rs 2,971 crore to boost domestic production in defense manufacturing.

❖ Local Defense procurement worth Rs 76,390 crore

- On June 6, 2022, a meeting of the Defense Acquisition Council was held under the chairmanship of Union Defense Minister Rajnath Singh.
- A proposal for procurement of Defense equipment worth Rs 76,390 crore under **the "Atmanirbhar Bharat Mission"** was approved. This will give a boost to India's Defense industry and will help in reducing foreign spending significantly.
- It also approved proposals worth Rs 36,000 crore for the purchase of next-generation weapons for the Indian Navy.

T20 CURRENT AFFAIRS SPECIALLY FOR TNPSC

❖ Himachal Pradesh Drone Policy - 2022

- Himachal Pradesh has become the first Indian state to approve the policy for unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)
- The bill seeks to implement the use of drones and similar technology for various public services of the state. Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur has approved the '**Himachal Pradesh Drone Policy 2022**'.

❖ INS Nishank and INS Akshay bid adieu

- On June 3, 2022, two ships in the Indian Navy, INS Akshay and INS Nishank, which were engaged in 32 years of service, including Operation Talwar and Operation Parakram, bid farewell.

❖ Nuclear-capable Agni-IV missile successfully test-fired

- Agni-IV, a nuclear-capable ballistic missile with nuclear weapons, has been successfully test-fired. The Agni-IV missile, launched from Odisha's APJ Abdul Kalam Island, hit the target with precision.

❖ Automatic flying unit technical demonstration aircraft

- The Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has successfully tested the automatic flying unit technical demonstration aircraft for the first time at an air test site in Chitradurga, Karnataka.

❖ "Padma" - Indian Coast Guard PayRoll

- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has developed a dedicated software called PADMA -Payroll Automation for Disbursement of Monthly Allowances for the payment of monthly allowances, which is an automated payroll and payment module for the Indian Coast Guard on June 28, 2022.

❖ Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Indian Naval Personnel to work on commercial shipments

- On June 20, 2022, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Director General of Shipping and the Indian Navy for Indian naval personnel to work on a commercial ship.
- The schemes enable retired Indian Navy personnel to obtain certificates of eligibility to serve on merchant ships and make it smooth to work in the maritime trade sector.

❖ ABHYAS

- On June 29, 2022, the indigenously developed 'ABHYAS' high-speed aerial target vehicle was successfully tested from the Chandipur Integrated Test Centre on the Odisha coast.
- ABHYAS has been designed and developed by the Aeronautical Development Organization of the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO).

T20 CURRENT AFFAIRS SPECIALLY FOR TNPSC

Exercise

Name	Countries	Type of Training	Location
"Sampriti X" ("EX SAMPRITI-X") - 2022	India and Bangladesh	Military Training	Jessore (Bangladesh)
"X Con Quest" ("EX KHAAN QUEST") - 2022	International Peacekeeping Exercises (16 countries)	Military Training	Mongolia (Ulaanbadar)

Awards

❖ Prime Minister's Award for Promoting and Popularizing Yoga- 2021

- The Prime Minister's Awards for outstanding contribution to the promotion and popularization of Yoga in 2021 have been announced. It is a highly respected award in the field of yoga.
- In the individual category, Mr Piku Changsen from Leh, Ladakh and Mr Marcus Vinicius Rojo Rodriguez from São Paulo, Brazil have been selected for the award.
- In the settings category, The Divine Life Society of Rishikesh in Uttarakhand and the British Wheel of Yoga in the UK receive the awards.
- The Prime Minister announced the awards for outstanding contribution to promoting and popularizing Yoga in 2021 at the second International Yoga Day event in Chandigarh on June 21, 2016. The norms for these awards were framed by the Union Ministry of AYUSH.

❖ Information and Communication Technology in School Education - UNESCO Award

- UNESCO's King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa Award has been awarded to the Central Institute of Educational Technology, which is part of the National Council of Educational Research and Training, for its use of ICT in school education under the Prime Minister's 'e-Vidhya' scheme.
- In 2020, the Prime Minister's e-Vidya Yojana was launched by the Union Ministry of Education as part of the **Atmanirbhar Bharat Mission**. It combines all efforts based on the digital eCommerce system to educate using technology. The aim is to reduce learning loss through this.

❖ Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz "International Water Award"

- Prof. D. Venkataraman, Professor, Department of Chemistry, IIT Madras. Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz has been awarded the "International Water Award" for Pradeep and his research team. The award is presented twice a year in the name of Crown Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz of Saudi Arabia.

Sports

❖ Asia Cup Hockey 2022: India wins bronze medal

- India won a bronze medal at the 11th Asian Cup men's hockey tournament held in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- South Korea won the championship (gold).
- Malaysia won the silver medal.

❖ Mithali Raj retires

- Indian women's cricket team captain Mithali Raj has announced her retirement from all forms of cricket.

❖ The first Indian player to complete 15 years in T20Is

- Dinesh Karthik, who hails from Tamil Nadu, has become the first Indian player to complete 15 years in T20 International cricket.

❖ Ranji Trophy Cricket 2022: Madhya Pradesh emerge champions

- In its 87-year-old history, Madhya Pradesh became champions for the first time in the Ranji Trophy by defeating 41-time champions Mumbai.
- Mumbai's Sarfaraz Khan has been awarded the Man of the Series award.

❖ French Open: Iga Swiatek wins women's singles title

- 21-year-old Poland's Iga Swiatek won the women's singles title of the French Open tennis tournament in Paris.
- Iga Swiatek won the French Open for the second time.

❖ Rafael Nadal wins French Open for 14th time

- Rafael Nadal of Spain won the French Open tennis men's singles title in Paris. Rafael Nadal won the French Open for the 14th time. This is Nadal's 22nd Grand Slam title.

❖ 61st National Athletics Championships: Tamil Nadu wins gold medal

- Women's 100m at the 61st Inter-State National Athletics Championships. Tamil Nadu's Kanimozhi won the gold medal in hurdles.

❖ PM inaugurates Chess Olympiad tournament torch run

- On June 19, 2022, International Chess Federation president Arkady Dvorkovich formally handed over the torch for the 44th Chess Olympiad to Prime Minister Modi. Following this, the Prime Minister inaugurated the Jyothi Run by handing it over to Indian chess champion Viswanathan Anand.

T20 CURRENT AFFAIRS SPECIALLY FOR TNPSC

Index

❖ Renewable Energy Efficiency Generation - India ranked 3rd

- According to the 2022 Global Status Report, India ranks third in total renewable energy additions in 2021.
- China (136 GW), the US (43 GW) and India (15.4 GW) took the third place.

❖ Global Peace Index 2022

- India is ranked 135th in the Global Peace Index 2022. In 2021, India was ranked 138th in the list.
- According to the Global Peace Index-2022 report released by the Institute for Economics and Peace, an international think tank, Iceland, New Zealand and Ireland are in the top three.
- The report includes 163 independent countries of the world.

❖ UNCTAD - Global Investment Report-2021: India ranked 7th

- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has released the annual global investment report. Highlights of the report: India is at the seventh position even as foreign direct investment (FDI) coming into the country has fallen by 30%.
- The UNITED States (\$367 billion) topped the list in foreign direct investment, followed by China (\$181 billion) and Hong Kong (\$141 billion), which retained the second and third positions, respectively.

❖ Global Startup Ecosystem

- According to the Global Startup Environment Ranking Report for 2022, Kerala has topped the charts in Asia. It is ranked fourth in the global rankings.
- The rankings have been released jointly by the start-up Genome Company and the Global Entrepreneurship Network.

❖ Environment Performance Index 2022: India rejects it

- According to Yale and Columbia University, India is ranked last among 180 countries (180th) in the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2022.
- The Environmental Performance Index (EPI) is an index introduced in 2002 by the World Economic Forum as an Environmental Sustainability Index, in collaboration with the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy and the Columbia University Center for International Earth Science Information Network.
- **India's rejection:** The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has rejected the recently released Environment Performance Index 2022. The Environment Performance Index 2022 has been released in a baseless and unscientific manner and on the basis of empty assumptions.

T20 CURRENT AFFAIRS SPECIALLY FOR TNPSC

- **Note:** The new code hides historical data on very low co2 emissions. For developing countries with a high concentration of farmers, soil health, agricultural biodiversity, food loss and waste are not included in the newly released Environmental Performance Index 2022.

❖ World Competitiveness Index 2022: India ranked 37th

- It has moved up from 43rd (2021) to 37th position in the 2022 World Competitiveness Index.
- Published by the International Institute for Management Development (IMD).
- Denmark tops the list of 63 countries. It was ranked third in 2021.
- Switzerland and Singapore are next in the list, respectively.

Books

- ❖ **The book 'Valluvam to Prosper in Life'** - Author R.Puranalingam, IAS (Retd.).
- ❖ **Constitution of India; Untold Story** (Bhartiya Samvidhan: Ankahi Kahani') Book - Author Ram Bahadur Roy

Important Days

1. June 1 - World Milk Day
2. June 2 - International Day of Sex Workers
3. June 3 - World Bicycle Day
4. June 5 - World Environment Day
5. June 7 - Food Safety Day
6. June 8 - World Ocean Day
7. June 12 - World Day Against Child Labor
8. World Child Labor Eradication Week from June 12 to 20
9. June 14 - World Blood Donor Day
10. June 15 - World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
11. June 15 - World Wind Day
12. June 16 - World Sea Turtle Day
13. June 17 - World Day Against Desertification and Drought
14. June 19 - National Reading Day
15. June 20 - World Refugee Day
16. June 21 - International Day of Yoga
17. June 21 - World Music Day
18. June 21 - World Hydrology Day
19. June 23 - United Nations Public Services Day
20. June 23 - International Olympic Day
21. June 23 - International Widows' Day
22. June 25 - International Sailors' Day

T20 CURRENT AFFAIRS SPECIALLY FOR TNPSC

23. June 26 - International Day against Drug Use and Trafficking
24. June 27 - Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Day
25. June 28 - National Insurance Awareness Day
26. June 29 - National Statistical Day

