

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-APRIL 24,2022

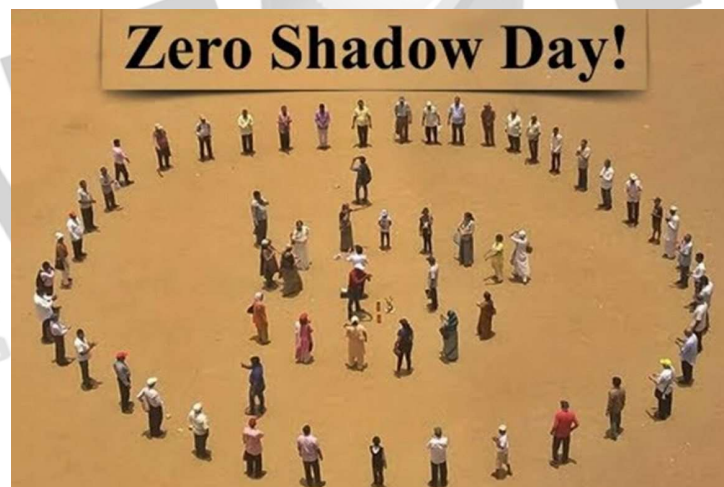
TAMIL NADU

- The International Commission on Irrigation & Drainage (ICID) - has recognised three ancient waterbodies in Tamil Nadu — Grand Anicut, Veeranam lake and Kalingarayan Anicut — as World Heritage Irrigation Structures for the year 2021.



- ✓ The awards would be presented during the 7th India Water Week to be held in November 2022.
- ✓ The ICID had recognised these irrigation structures on the lines of world heritage sites labelled by the UNESCO
- ✓ The Kallanai Dam (Grand Anicut) was built during the 2nd century AD by Karikala Cholan using unhewn stones through inter-locking technology
- ✓ The 2,000-year-old dam is the oldest in India and fourth oldest in the world.
- ✓ The 329m long, 20m wide and 5.4m in height dam built on Cauvery river irrigates 13,20,116 acres in delta districts
- ✓ The aim of the dam was to divert the waters of Cauvery throughout the fertile Thanjavur delta area for irrigation by way of canals.
- ✓ The Veeranam tank, named after Veera Narayana Perumal temple, was built during the rule of Paranthanga Chola-1 in 9th century AD.
- ✓ The tank irrigates 44,856 acres of ayacut in 102 villages of Kattumannarkoil and Chidambaram taluks of Cuddalore and supplies drinking water to Chennai, 235km away.

- ✓ The Kalingarayan Anicut, constructed by Kalingarayan Gounder 740 years ago, is 902m wide.
 - ✓ The Kalingarayan channel that branches off from the right bank of the anicut irrigates 15,743 acres in Erode, Modakurichi and Kodumudi taluks.
 - ✓ The World Heritage Irrigation Structures will be included in the ICID Register of World Heritage Structures.
 - ✓ Each year, the ICID gives four awards to India and for the year 2021, Tamil Nadu has been chosen for three awards alongwith one award for Dhukwan Weir in Uttar Pradesh
 - ✓ Every year, the Indian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage would recommend eligible proposals from various States for World Heritage Irrigation Structures Award and Watsave Award.
 - ✓ In June 2021, the State Water Resources Department sent proposals of six waterbodies — Grand Anicut, Kalingarayan Anicut, Veeranam Lake, Pechiparai Dam, Madurantakam Lake and Chembarambakkam Lake – to the Committee
 - ✓ The ICID team visited these waterbodies in December 2021 and selected three of them.
- **On April 24, Chennai – to witness zero shadow day at 12.07 PM**



- ✓ The sun will cast shadow towards the west and when it transits the local meridian (local noon), it will be right above our head and there won't be any shadow
- ✓ After that, the shadow can be observed moving eastwards.
- ✓ After Chennai observes zero shadow, it will happen in Bengaluru, which has the same 13° north latitude as Chennai but different longitude.
- ✓ The time difference between the events in the two cities will help calculate the speed of the earth's rotation.
- ✓ Later, zero shadow day will be observed in Mangaluru.
- ✓ Zero shadow day, which occurs twice a year in the tropics, is when the Sun is exactly overhead and hence the shadow is cast under the object, giving an illusion of no shadow.

- ✓ It can be observed only in the region between 23.5° north latitude and 23.5° south latitude.
- **Chennai - has won the best city award for Covid-19 response under the award category innovation award given by the ministry of housing and urban affairs.**
- ✓ Chennai corporation deputy commissioner (revenue and finance) Vishu Mahajan received the award at an event in Surat this week.
- ✓ The city also received the awards under the smart city category and for waterbody restoration

STATES

- **Rajasthan - has become the first state in the country to install L-Route server for uninterrupted internet services at the state level**
- ✓ The move forms a part of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's initiative to promote e-governance in the State
- ✓ This server has been installed by the government in association with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)
- ✓ With this ICANN root server, Rajasthan is no longer dependent on any root server for the Domain Name System.
- ✓ The new server will ensure seamless high-speed internet connectivity without any interruption for the state government's flagship digital services, even if there is a technical glitch or natural calamity in the whole of Asia or in India
- ✓ Currently, there are three J-Route servers in the country at Delhi, Mumbai and Gorakhpur and two L-Route servers in Mumbai and Kolkata
- **In a first-of-its-kind initiative, the Telangana government – launched its SpaceTech Framework through metaverse platform**



- ✓ The new framework seeks to help the state emerge as a commercial hub for all space-related products and services
- ✓ It is aimed at promoting domestic production of launch vehicles, satellite systems and subsystems, ground equipment manufacturing and other facilities
- ✓ It was the first ever official government event to be hosted on Metaverse
- ✓ For the launch event, a space-themed environment on the metaverse was custom-developed
- ✓ Gamitronics, a Hyderabad-based tech company created the blockchain technology for this event and the tech firm PartyNite launched the metaverse platform.
- ✓ Industries and IT Minister KT Rama Rao, Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, ISRO Chairman Somanath S and Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Center (IN-SPACe) Chairman Pawan Goenka participated in the event held on April 18
- ✓ There are two different ways of attending the event in the metaverse platform – one is as an outsider wherein one can watch the event being live-streamed on YouTube and another is becoming a participant
- ✓ If one wants to participate, then the event link can be downloaded and the code was entered, and then a virtual version of the participant can be viewed on your screen.
- ✓ During the occasion, the State Minister KT Rama Rao also launched State's SpaceTech NFT (Non Fungible Token) collection.
- ✓ NFT is a digital asset that represents real-world objects like art, music, in-game items and videos, which are bought and sold online.
- ✓ Telangana will be the second State after Kerala to have a SpaceTech policy.
- ✓ The Metaverse is a virtual shared world wherein one can attend school, play a game, or explore any other interest through their virtual avatar.
- ✓ It is a seamless combination of the physical and the virtual world and uses technologies like artificial intelligence, virtual reality, augmented reality, 3D imaging, and blockchain among others

NATIONAL

- **On April 24, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - is scheduled to address the nation on Panchayati Raj Day at Palli panchayat in Jammu's Samba district**
- ✓ During the event, the PM will launch development projects amounting to more than ₹20,000 crore for the Union territory
- ✓ This will be the PM's first general public function in J&K after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019.
- ✓ Further, PM Modi will launch Amrit Sarovar — a new initiative to develop and rejuvenate 75 water bodies in every district of India.

- ✓ Among projects in J&K, the PM will inaugurate the ₹3,100 crore Banihal-Qazigund twintube road tunnel — all of 8.45km — that will cut the distance between Srinagar and Jammu by 16km and travel time by 90 minutes.
 - ✓ He will also lay the foundation of three road projects of the ₹7,500 crore Delhi-Amritsar Katra Expressway.
 - ✓ The PM will interact with a delegation of one dozen investors from UAE, who have arrived in Srinagar and are likely to attend the event.
 - ✓ A day earlier, lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha approved raise in minimum wages of daily wagers, including casual labourers, in all government departments, from existing ₹ 225 per day to ₹ 300 per day
- **The environment ministry – has notified new rules on April 20 making changes to streamline green clearance processes**
- ✓ The new rules make it mandatory for even smaller projects relating to national defence and strategic importance to secure approval from the central-level appraisal committee instead of getting them appraised by state-level bodies
 - ✓ The changes are meant to allow faster clearances to projects of national defence or strategic or security importance or those as notified by the Centre on account of exigencies such as a pandemic or natural disasters
 - ✓ The state bodies, however, have got additional roles in clearing miner mineral, coal mining and expansion projects, including airstrips, under the ministry's attempt to further decentralise the clearance process.
 - ✓ Under the existing rules, all the projects are divided into three categories — Category 'A', Category 'B1', and Category 'B2' — based on the potential social and environmental impacts.
- **The Ministry of Roads, Transport and Highways - has developed a new portal named 'e-DAR' (e-Detailed Accident Report) in consultation with insurance companies**
- ✓ The portal is designed to provide instant information on road accidents with a few clicks and to provide faster accident compensation claims, bringing relief to victims' families.
 - ✓ The Digitalised Detailed Accident Reports (DAR) will be uploaded on the portal for easy access and the portal would be linked to the Integrated Road Accident Database (iRAD)
 - ✓ The e-DAR portal would conduct multiple checks against fake claims by carrying out a quick search of vehicles involved in the accident, the date of accident, and the First Information Report number.
 - ✓ The portal would be linked to other government portals like Vaahan and would get access to information on driving licence details and registration of vehicles
 - ✓ For the benefit of investigating officers, the portal would provide geo tagging of the exact accident spot along with the site map

- ✓ Details like photos, video of the accident spot, damaged vehicles, injured victims, eye-witnesses, etc., would be uploaded immediately on the portal.
 - ✓ Further, stakeholders like the police, road authorities, hospitals, etc., are required to enter very minimal information for the e-DAR forms, making it user-friendly
- **The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) - will construct the world's highest tunnel at Shinku La Pass at 16,580 feet to connect Himachal Pradesh to Ladakh**
- ✓ The BRO will start the construction of the tunnel connecting Himachal Pradesh to Zaskar Valley in Ladakh by July this year
 - ✓ In this regard, the Centre has already launched 'Project Yojak' of BRO to execute this ambitious project
 - ✓ The proposed tunnel is expected to be completed by the year 2025
 - ✓ The BRO is responsible for building and maintaining roads across the northern regions of India
 - ✓ As of now, the highest tunnels are located in China and Peru, both not exceeding 16,000 feet above sea level.
 - ✓ BRO has previously built the highest motorable road, Umling La, in eastern Ladakh at 19,300 ft.
 - ✓ In February 2022, BRO received the award for building the 'World's Longest Highway Tunnel above 10,000 Feet' namely the Atal Tunnel by World Book of Records.

INTERNATIONAL

- **China and the Solomon Islands - have signed a framework agreement on security cooperation between the two countries, despite warning by the United States**



- ✓ The pact gives a military base for China in the South Pacific, which includes Australia and New Zealand and it offers Chinese naval vessels a safe harbor.
- ✓ The deal also provides Chinese personnel with 'legal and judicial immunity'
- ✓ There are also fears it could fall into Beijing's debt trap amid promises to funnel billions in mega infrastructure projects by Chinese firms

- ✓ Further, the Solomon Islands also sits on critical shipping routes, meaning China could potentially control maritime traffic in and around the region
 - ✓ Meanwhile, the US has announced plans that it will be reopening its embassy in Honiara, capital of the Solomon Islands, which was closed in 1993.
 - ✓ The strongest critic of the agreement has been Australia as it already has a security agreement with the Solomon Islands since 2017
 - ✓ The Solomons are an archipelago of hundreds of small islands in the southern part of Pacific Ocean, located approximately 2,000 km NE of Australia.
- **Russia – has announced that it had successfully launched a new missile that could deploy nuclear warheads at hypersonic speeds anywhere in the world**
- ✓ On April 20, Russia has test-fired an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) named Sarmat (RS-28 Sarmat Test) at the Plesetsk Cosmodrome in northern Russia that hit targets in the Kamchatka peninsula, nearly 6,000 km (3,700 miles) away.



- ✓ Russian President Vladimir Putin was shown overseeing the launch of the missile, dubbed as Satan-II by NATO allies, through videoconference at the Kremlin.
- ✓ On this ballistic missile, ten or more warheads can be installed, which means that 10 nuclear bombs can be dropped at a time.
- ✓ According to Vladimir Putin, the missile can destroy any target on the earth.
- ✓ The operational range of this missile is 18,000 km and the minimum range is 5,500 km.
- ✓ The missile has the ability to dodge all anti-missile defence systems and has the highest tactical and technical characteristics
- ✓ It can carry weapons weighing more than 200 tons and multiple nuclear warheads.
- ✓ Sarmat is one of Russia's next generation missiles, which also include Kinjal and Avangard hypersonic missiles.
- ✓ Last month, Russia said it used Kinzhal for the first time in warfare to strike a target in Ukraine.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **India and Finland – have announced the launch of Indo-Finnish Virtual Network Centre on Quantum Computing and signed a formal MoU to that effect**
- ✓ The MoU was signed in the presence of visiting Finnish Economic Affairs Minister, Mika Lintila and India's Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh recently



- ✓ The Indian side has identified three premier institutes - IIT Madras, IISER Pune and C-DAC Pune for the Virtual Network Centre on Quantum Computing.
- ✓ The move comes following the decision taken in the last joint committee meeting held in November 2020 to initiate cooperation in new emerging areas such as 5G, Quantum Computing and sustainability by involving academia, industries and startups of the two countries.
- ✓ India and Finland are consultative members of the Antarctic Treaty and have active stations in Antarctica.
- ✓ Finland would be hosting the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) in 2023 and India in 2024.
- ✓ India Meteorological Department (IMD) and Finnish Meteorological Institute have been cooperating in the field of atmospheric environment since 2014.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Union Agriculture Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar - inaugurated National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif Campaign 2022-23 at New Delhi recently on April 19, 2022**
- ✓ During the conference, the National foodgrain target for 2022-23 was announced
- ✓ The government has set the foodgrain production target for the crop year 2022-23 at a record level of 328 million tonnes based on the forecast of good monsoon rains.
- ✓ This target is 3.8% higher as compared to the previous year's output.

- ✓ Out of the total target fixed, the Kharif foodgrain production target has been kept at 163.15 million tonnes, while the Rabi foodgrain production target has been fixed at 164.85 million tonnes.



- ✓ As per the official datasheet, India has achieved food grain production of 296 million tonnes (MT) in 2019-20 and is set to achieve 316 MT of production during 2020-21
- ✓ The total food grain production has increased by 25% in the last six years from 251.54 to 316.01 million tonne.

ECONOMY

- On April 23, Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) - said the retail deal with Future group "cannot be implemented" as the secured lenders of Future Retail Ltd (FRL) voted against it.

Past to Future

Aug 2020
Reliance agrees to buy Future Group assets for ₹25K cr

Oct 2020
Amazon secures a stay on the deal from a Singapore arbitrator

Feb 2022
NCLT allows FRL to seek votes on deal from shareholders, creditors

April 20-21, 2022
Shareholders, secured creditors and unsecured creditors of six Future Group cos vote



April 22
Future Retail says 69% of its lenders have rejected the proposal

April 23
Reliance says deal cannot be 'implemented' as a result of lenders' rejection

- ✓ To prevent bankruptcy, the Future Group of companies had called meetings of their shareholders and secured and unsecured creditors to get the approval for the Reliance deal.
 - ✓ The deal between Mukesh Ambani-owned Reliance Industries and Kishore Biyani-owned Future Retail could not materialise with nearly 70% of the secured creditors rejecting the proposal.
 - ✓ Future Retail's lenders are led by Bank of India, Union Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, State Bank of India, Indian Bank, Central Bank, Axis Bank, and IDBI Bank.
 - ✓ As part of the Rs 24,713 crore Future-Reliance Retail deal, the offer to Banks was about Rs 16,000 crore.
 - ✓ Meanwhile, the Bank of India had moved the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), filing a petition to initiate insolvency proceedings against debt-ridden Future Retail recently after the company defaulted on its payments to lenders
 - ✓ In August 2020, Future Group announced the Rs 24,713-crore deal to sell 19 companies operating in retail, wholesale, logistics and warehousing segments to Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL).
 - ✓ RRVL is the holding company of all the retail companies under the RIL Group
 - ✓ However, Amazon, which had invested ₹1,400 crore in one of the Future Group companies in 2019 had opposed this deal
 - ✓ In February, Reliance Retail had taken over the operations of at least 350 stores of the Kishore Biyani-led group after Future Retail Ltd defaulted on its lease payments.
- **Crypto lender Nexo and global payments company Mastercard – have jointly launched the world's first "crypto-backed" payment card**



- ✓ The card is available in selected European countries initially
- ✓ It will allow users to spend without having to sell their digital assets such as bitcoin, which are used as collateral to back the credit granted.
- ✓ The card requires no minimum repayments, monthly, or inactivity fees, while most traditional credit cards are unsecured and have a set credit limit.

- ✓ The card is linked to a Nexo-provided, crypto-backed credit line and can be used at 92 million merchants worldwide where Mastercard is accepted
- ✓ There are no restrictions on the amount a customer can spend or withdraw from the open credit line and interest is only paid on the amount of credit actually used.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Eminent physicist, Ajay Kumar Sood - has been appointed as the new principal scientific advisor (PSA) to the prime minister**



- ✓ Sood is a currently a member of the science, technology and innovation advisory council to the prime minister.
- ✓ His appointment as the PSA has been approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet
- ✓ The appointment has been made for a period of three years starting with immediate effect
- ✓ Sood would be succeeding K Vijay Raghavan, the former director of National Centre for Biological Sciences, who was serving as the PSA from March 2018 till the conclusion of his tenure on April 2
- ✓ Before Raghavan, the PSA charge was held by renowned physicist R Chidambaram, who served in the role from November 2001 to March 2018.
- ✓ Sood, the new PSA, is an alumni of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.
- ✓ He is a distinguished professor of Physics at the Indian Institute of Science and is known for his work on graphene.
- ✓ Sood is also a member of the Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC).
- ✓ He has served as the president of the Indian National Science Academy and also as the secretary-general of The World Academy of Sciences.
- ✓ A Max Planck Fellow, Sood worked as a scientist with the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research for nearly 15 years before joining IISC as an associate professor in 1988, where he stayed in the role till 1994
- ✓ Apart from IISC, he is also an honorary professor at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research

- ✓ Professor Sood is also the chairman of the governing council of the Raman Research Institute, and Chairman, Board of Governors, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research-Mohali.
- ✓ In recognition of his scientific contributions, he has been honoured with the Padma Shri award by the government in 2013.
- ✓ Sood has also won the Sir C.V. Raman Award, the Bhatnagar Prize in Physics, and the Vigyan Ratan Award of Punjab University, among other accolades
- ✓ The PSA's office coordinates with ministries and advises the government on science and technology policies and interventions of socio-economic importance

SPORTS

- **Olympic silver medallist Ravi Kumar Dahiya - became the first Indian wrestler to claim three successive gold medals in the Asian wrestling championships in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on April 23.**



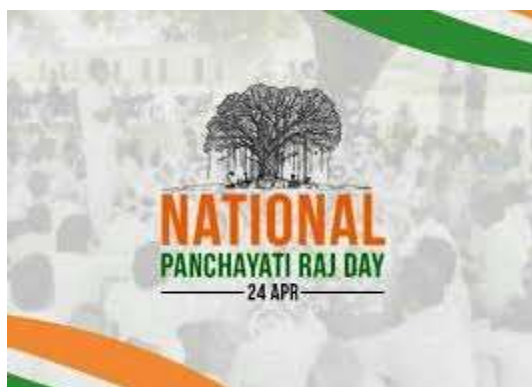
- ✓ Olympic bronze medallist Bajrang Punia (65kg) and Gourav Baliyan (79kg) took silver medals, while Naveen (70kg) and Satyawart Kadian (97kg) picked up bronze on the first day of men's freestyle bouts.
 - ✓ All five Indian freestyle wrestlers in action on the fifth day of the meet returned with medals
 - ✓ In the 57kg final, Tokyo 2020 olympics silver medallist Ravi defeated Kazakh wrestler Rakhat Kalzhan to win his third gold medal in the men's freestyle category to add to the gold medals won in New Delhi (2000) and Almaty (2001)
 - ✓ Two time Asian champion, Bajrang lost to World junior champion Iranian Rahman Amouzadkhalili in the gold medal match and settled for silver
 - ✓ This was Bajrang's third consecutive silver and eighth continental medal
 - ✓ Gourav lost to two-time Asian medallist Iranian Ali Bakhtiar Savadkouhi to bag the silver medal
 - ✓ It is Gourav Baliyan's second silver medal at the Asian Championships after finishing runner-up in 2020 as well.
- **The 2022 edition of the Invictus Games – concluded on April 22 in The Hague, Netherlands**



- ✓ The Games, which started on April 16, are an international sporting event similar to the Paralympics, but meant for wounded, injured, and sick military service personnel and war veterans.
- ✓ Over 500 competitors from 20 countries have participated in a series of adaptive sports, including athletics, archery, cycling, indoor rowing, powerlifting, sitting volleyball, swimming, wheelchair basketball and wheelchair rugby.
- ✓ Among the participating countries are Ukraine, Canada, Georgia, Romania, the United Kingdom, the US, Poland, and Denmark.
- ✓ The Games draw inspiration from the British poet William Ernest Henley's 1875 poem 'Invictus' (means 'unconquered')
- ✓ The Invictus Games are the brainchild of Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex, who attended the Warrior Games in the United States in 2013, and wanted to start something similar in London.
- ✓ The Warrior Games are a multi-sport event organised by the US Department of Defense to "celebrate the resiliency and dedication of wounded, ill, and injured active duty and veteran US military service members".
- ✓ The Warrior Games were held every year from 2010 to 2019, when they were disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ✓ The 2022 edition, hosted by the US Army, are scheduled for August 19-28
- ✓ The Invictus Games Foundation is the owner of the brand and the selector of future host cities.
- ✓ It is also responsible for managing the competition, setting the rules and categorisations, and branding it.
- ✓ The first edition of the Games was held in London in 2014, and subsequent competitions were organised in Orlando, US (2016), Toronto, Canada (2017), and Sydney, Australia (2018).
- ✓ The 2023 edition will be held in Dusseldorf, Germany and the 2025 edition will take place in Vancouver and Whistler, Canada.

NATIONAL DAY

➤ National Panchayati Raj day – April 24



- ✓ National Panchayati Raj Day is celebrated every year to mark the beginning of decentralised power through gram panchayats.
- ✓ It is celebrated by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to commemorate the passing of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act in 1992]
- ✓ The 73rd Amendment Act, also known as the Panchayati Raj amendment act, allows the state governments to take necessary steps and measures that can help in the formation of gram panchayats and allow them to operate as "units of self-governance".
- ✓ The 73rd Constitutional Amendment came into effect on April 24, 1993
- ✓ The former prime minister of India Manmohan Singh declared the first National Panchayati Raj Day on April 24, 2010.
- ✓ In 1957, a committee headed by Balwantrai Mehta was established to focus on the evolution of the Panchayati Raj in the nation.
 - ✓ It proposed a three-layered decentralised gram panchayat system with Gram panchayat being operated at the village level, Panchayat Samiti at the block level, and Zila Parishad at the district level.
- ✓ In 1959, Rajasthan became the first state in India to launch the Panchayati Raj while Andhra Pradesh became the second state to launch the system
- ✓ The inauguration of the Panchayati Raj was done in October 1959 in Nagpur by India's first PM Jawaharlal Nehru.
- ✓ The Ministry of Panchayati Raj also honours the Panchayats by awarding them on this day for their relentless work.
- ✓ There are different categories under which the awards are conferred, such as Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar, Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar to name a few.
- ✓ Every year the Central government felicitates around 170 Panchayati Raj institutions on the National Panchayati Raj Day.
- ✓ Panchayat is said to be an assembly of five members who work for the upliftment of the local communities and resolve disputes at a lower level.
- ✓ India has more than six lakh villages, with more than six thousand blocks and more than 750 districts which are all governed by the Panchayati Raj system