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TN CA 04 April 2024

International Day of Mine Awareness



Context:

- The **International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action** is **observed annually on April 4th**.
- It's a day to raise awareness about the dangers of **landmines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW)** on civilians, particularly in conflict zones.

About:

- On **8 December 2005**, the **General Assembly** declared that **4 April** of each year shall be observed as the **International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action**.

Theme:

- The theme for **International Day for Mine Awareness & Assistance in Mine Action 2024** is **'Protecting Lives, Building Peace.'**
- It focuses on the needs and rights of people with **disabilities in areas affected by conflict**.
- The **United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)** is highlighting the importance of including people with disabilities in mine action efforts and ensuring their safety and access to assistance.

Health data to help achieve 100% TN school enrolment

Context:

- **Tamil Nadu's elementary education department** is making a novel attempt to achieve **universal school enrolment**.
- They are using **health department data on children born in 2018** to identify potential students.
- This data, including details like **birthdate, location, and parents' contact information**, is being integrated with the **Education Management Information System (EMIS)**.

About:

- **School headmasters** can access this information through the **EMIS app** and contact parents to **confirm their child's enrollment**.
- This approach **aims to reach out to a large number of parents (over eight lakh)** and persuade them to **enroll their children**, especially considering government initiatives in schools like **technology integration**.



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89% of TN's population already eligible for reservation

Context:

- The TN government argued in the Madras High Court that due to the existing 69% reservation for education and public jobs, 89% of the state's population is already eligible for affirmative action benefits.
- This was a response to a petition seeking to implement a 10% reservation for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) category.
- The government highlighted that a significant portion of the population belongs to Scheduled Castes (20%) and Scheduled Tribes (1.1%), qualifying them for existing reservations.
- This leaves only 11% of the population not covered by current reservations.

Katchatheevu issue



Context:

- Sri Lanka's Cabinet said that it has not discussed the Katchatheevu issue so far as it was never raised after India's ruling BJP blamed the Congress Party for ceding the tiny island to Colombo in 1974.

About:

- Katchatheevu is a small island in the Palk Strait, a body of water separating India and Sri Lanka.
- The island itself is not the main concern, but rather the fishing rights in the surrounding waters.
- **Ownership:** Sri Lanka owns the island, as agreed upon by both countries in 1974.
- **Dispute:** Indian fishermen, particularly from Tamil Nadu, traditionally fished in these waters and used the island to dry their nets.
- Fishermen argue that the agreement restricts their livelihood.
- **Impact:** Frequent tensions arise as Indian fishermen cross the maritime boundary, leading to detentions and confiscation of boats by Sri Lankan authorities.

