

August - 08

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India and China held the 30<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) in New Delhi.
- ❖ Bike-taxi startup Rapido is the latest Indian startup to become a unicorn, meaning it reached \$1 billion in valuation.
- ❖ The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has unveiled the Women Entrepreneurship Program.
  - It aims to tackle the challenges faced by women in entrepreneurship by offering crucial skills, knowledge, and networking opportunities.
- ❖ The Union Education Ministry launched the National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS) 2.0 Portal.
  - It allows people looking for apprenticeships to register and apply for opportunities, and it helps industries manage job openings and contracts more effectively.
- ❖ The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) released the National Time Release Study (NTRS) 2024 report.
  - Out of the 15 ports, 9 ports have witnessed a reduction in the average release time in 2024 vis-a-vis previous year.
- ❖ “The Human Rights, Liberation and Reconciliation: Nelson Mandela Legacy Sites” in South Africa are recognized as World Heritage property by the UNESCO.
  - It encompasses 14 locations intricately linked to Nelson Mandela’s life and South Africa’s liberation struggle.

## TAMIL NADU

### **Ranipet monument**

- ❖ The memorial that gave Ranipet its name is to be declared a monument by the Tamil Nadu State Archaeology Department.
- ❖ The town derives its name from the young wife of Rajput ruler of Gingee of the 18th Century.
- ❖ At present, the State Archaeology Department has 108 monuments.
- ❖ Madurai has the largest number of monuments (18), followed by Villupuram (10) and Kancheepuram (8).

- ❖ The Valeeswarar Temple in Arakkonam, Seven Mother's Sculptures and Kanja Sahib Tomb in Sholinghur are the three monuments in Ranipet district.



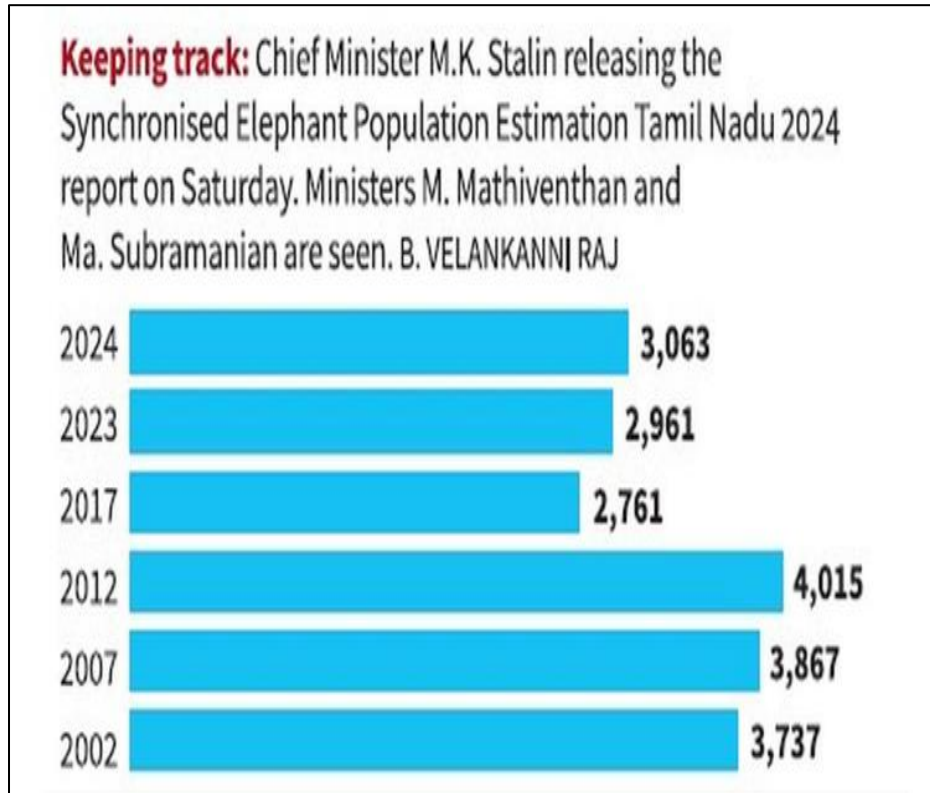
### **Tirupur inscriptions**



- ❖ One 'Vattezhuthu' and eight Tamil inscriptions were found on the walls of Thaleekkeiswarar Temple at Kovilpalayam near Koduvai in Tirupur.
- ❖ It is estimated to be more than 1,100 years old.
- ❖ The 'Vattezhuthu' inscription, was a form of Tamil writing script that was prevalent from 5th Century Common Era (CE) to 12th Century CE.
- ❖ Among the eight Tamil inscriptions was one by Kongu Chola Ruler Vira Rajendran (1207-1256).
- ❖ The rest were by his grandson Vikrama Chola (1273-1305 CE).

- ❖ The inscriptions indicate that the village falls in the 'Pongalurkanadu' of the ancient Kongu Nadu.

### **TN Wild elephant population 2024**

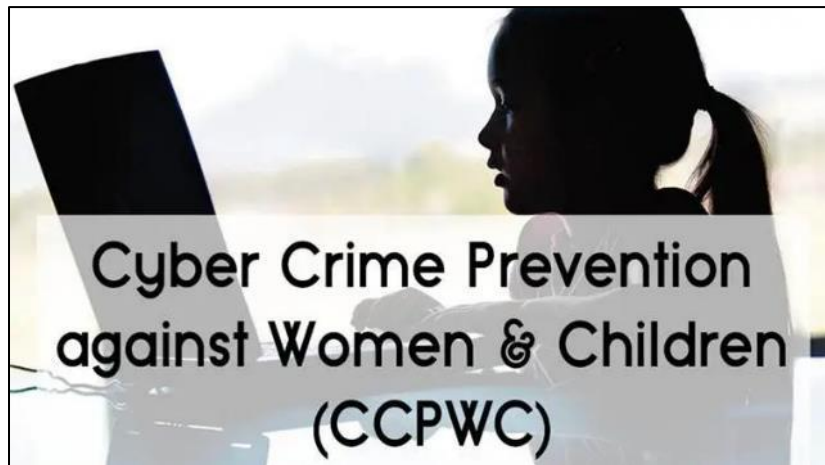


- ❖ Tamil Nadu has around 3,063 elephants, according to the synchronised elephant population estimation this year.
- ❖ This is an increase from 2,961 elephants, recorded in the previous survey in 2023.
- ❖ The estimated population was the highest in STR-Sathyamangalam forest division (372).
- ❖ It is followed by Coimbatore (336), STR-Hassanur (279), MTR-Udhagai (271), MTR-Masinagudi (263), and Hosur (240).
- ❖ Among the five elephant reserves, the Nilgiris Eastern Ghats Reserve has the highest density of elephants.
- ❖ It is followed by Nilambur-Silent Valley-Coimbatore, Agasthyamalai, Anamalai-Parambikulam, and Periyar.
- ❖ The Nilgiri and Coimbatore Elephant Reserves together represent about 70% to 80% of the total elephant population in the State.

- ❖ These reserves are connected to Wayanad and Nilambur Reserves in Kerala, and Mysore Reserve in Karnataka, forming the Nilgiri-Eastern Ghats landscape.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu could not hold more than 3,200 elephants as that was the saturation point.

## **NATIONAL**

### **CCPWC Initiative**



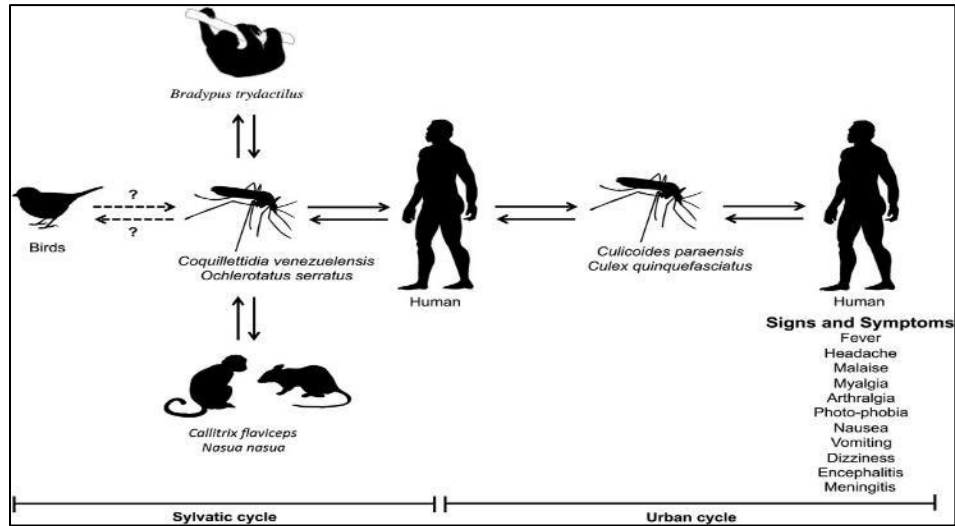
- ❖ CCPWC stands for Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children.
- ❖ The CCPWC initiative launched under the Nirbhaya Fund, focuses on tackling cybercrimes.
- ❖ A key part of this initiative is the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP).
- ❖ The main features of the scheme are:
  - Online cybercrime reporting platform
  - One national level cyber forensic laboratory
  - Training of Police officers, judges & prosecutors
  - Cybercrime awareness activities
  - Research & Development

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **First Ever Death by Oropouche Fever**

- ❖ The world's first deaths from Oropouche fever have been recorded in Brazil.
- ❖ The virus spreads through bites from infected midges (tiny flies) and mosquitoes.

- ❖ The virus causing Oropouche fever, Orthobunyavirus oropoucheense, was first identified in Brazil in 1960.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Saturn and Comet A117uUD



- ❖ Scientists have found that Saturn has thrown Comet A117uUD out of the solar system in 2022.
- ❖ After coming into contact with Saturn, the comet A117uUD was flung into a highly elliptical orbit, sending it into interstellar space at 10,800 km/h.
- ❖ Interstellar space is the area between the stars, but it is far from empty.
- ❖ This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> comet observed being ejected from our solar system.

- ❖ The first comet to have been thrown out of the solar system was the Comet C/1980 E1 (Bowell) after an encounter with Jupiter.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Jerdon's Courser status – Andhra Pradesh



- ❖ Jerdon's Courser, a critically endangered species, is exclusively endemic to Andhra Pradesh, specifically within the Sri Lankamalleswara wildlife sanctuary in Kadapa.
- ❖ It is locally called Kalivi Kodi.
- ❖ However, this elusive bird has not been visually spotted in over a decade.
- ❖ Kalivi Kodi was listed among the 50 rarest birds of the world.
- ❖ Once thought extinct, with no records after 1900, the species was miraculously rediscovered in 1986 near Reddipalli village in Kadapa.

### Impact of Tree Cover Increase

- ❖ The recent studies reported that more trees in open ecosystems like savannahs and grasslands have substantially reduced the number of native grassland birds.
- ❖ In the African Savannah in particular, the population of grassland birds has declined by more than 20%.
- ❖ Grasslands and savannahs cover nearly 40% of the earth's total landmass, and are home to many endemic and at-risk species of plants and animals.
- ❖ The cover of grassland habitats had shrunk by 34% while tree cover in these places had increased by 8.7%.
- ❖ A higher concentration of carbon dioxide in the air due to ongoing climate change also encourages deep-rooted woody plants in grasslands to proliferate.

- ❖ Increased atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> is likely to promote trees over grasses because the C<sub>3</sub> photosynthetic pathway used by trees is favoured under high CO<sub>2</sub> conditions.
- ❖ Once trees become dominant in a system, they may further suppress grasses through shading and fire suppression.



## REPORTS AND INDICES

### WHO Study on Adolescent Girls 2024

	Lifetime intimate partner violence prevalence (95% UI)	Past-year intimate partner violence prevalence (95% UI)
South Asia	29% (21–38)	21% (14–29)
Southeast Asia, east Asia, and Oceania		
East Asia	17% (9–29)	11% (5–23)
Southeast Asia	21% (14–31)	13% (8–21)
Oceania	47% (35–59)	33% (23–46)

- ❖ One fourth of adolescent girls who have been in relationships have endured physical or sexual violence.
- ❖ WHO's report showed that 24% of them had been subjected to intimate partner violence at least once, with 16% reporting it in the past year.
- ❖ Rates were highest in Oceania followed by Africa, with 49% of girls reporting intimate partner violence in Papua New Guinea and 42% in Democratic Republic of Congo.

- ❖ The lowest rate was Europe where 10% reported incidents.
- ❖ According to the UN, 1 in 5 young women worldwide (19%) were married in childhood in 2022.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Crew members for Axiom-4

- ❖ India has shortlisted two astronaut-designates for the upcoming Axiom-4 mission to the International Space Station.
- ❖ The Indian astronauts Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla and Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair have been shortlisted.
- ❖ The Axiom-4 mission is the fourth private astronaut mission to the International Space Station.
- ❖ Among them, Mission Pilot Shubhanshu Shukla was finalized by Ax-4.
- ❖ The other 3 members are:
  - NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson
  - Polish Sławosz Uznański (ESA), and
  - Tibor Kapu of Hungary.

