

January - 07

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has officially declared the Cyclone Fengal a severe natural disaster.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government is working in the key landscapes of Coimbatore, Sathyamangalam in Erode and the Nilgiris to raise awareness about the impacts of Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) on the native vulture populations.
- ❖ Odisha government declared the unseasonal rains in December as a natural calamity to facilitate payment of compensation to the affected farmers from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).
- ❖ The Strategically located four-lane stretch of 2.35-km in Ramban–Banihal section of NH-44 in Jammu and Kashmir was successfully completed.
- ❖ Australia won the Border Gavaskar Trophy back after 10 years clinching India vs Australia five-match cricket Test series.

## TAMIL NADU

### Public EV charging stations in Tamilnadu 2024



- ❖ Tamil Nadu's public electric vehicle charging stations used 8.77 million units of electricity from April to October 2024.

- ❖ But this consumption is relatively low compared to other States.
- ❖ Delhi had the maximum electricity consumption by the vehicle charging stations at 206.23 MU, followed by Maharashtra (108.13 MU) and Gujarat (36.34 MU).
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is an electric vehicle hub, with around 40% of the EV four-wheelers and close to 70% of the EV two-wheelers sold in the country are made in the State.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's EV sales stood at 92,978 units in the calendar year 2024, with penetration at 5.05%.
- ❖ In calendar year 2024, electric two-wheeler was the highest selling segment in Tamil Nadu with sales of 79,849 units accounting for 5.58% penetration rate.

### Tamil Nadu government awards 2025

தமிழ்நாடு அரசின் விருதுகள் அறிவிப்பு!

திருவள்ளூவர் திருநாளன்று வழங்கப்படவுள்ள  
தமிழ்நாடு அரசின் விருதுகள் :-

- ▶ 2025-ஆம் ஆண்டிற்கான அய்யன் திருவள்ளூவர் விருது - செந்தமிழ்ச் செம்மல் பெரும் புலவர் மு. படிக்கராமு.
- ▶ 2024-ஆம் ஆண்டிற்கான பேரறிஞர் அண்ணா விருது - எல். கணேசன்
- ▶ மகாகவி பாரதியார் விருது - கவிஞர் கபிலன்.
- ▶ பாவேந்தர் பாரதிதாசன் விருது - கவிதைப் பேராளி பொன். செல்வகணபதி.
- ▶ தமிழ்த் தென்றல் திரு.வி.க. விருது - மருத்துவர் ஜி.ஆர்.இரவீந்திரநாத்.
- ▶ முத்தமிழ்க் காவலர் கி.ஆ.பெ. விசுவநாதம் விருது - வே.மு.பொதியவெற்பன்.
- ▶ தந்தை பெரியார் விருது - விடுதலை இராஜேந்திரன்.
- ▶ அண்ணல் அம்பேத்கர் விருது - து.இரவிக்குமார் MP.
- ▶ முத்தமிழறிஞர் கலைஞர் விருது - முத்து வாவாசி.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government announced the State Awards for 2025.
- ❖ M. Padikkaramu has been selected for Ayyan Thiruvalluvar award.
- ❖ DMK leader L. Ganesan, who was at the forefront of the anti-Hindi agitation, selected for Anna Award.
- ❖ Poet Kabilan selected for Mahakavi Bharathiyar award
- ❖ Pon. Selvaganapathy chosen for Bharathidasan award.
- ❖ A Medical professional G.R. Ravindranath will get Tamil Thendral Thiru. Vi. Ka. Award.
- ❖ Ve. Mu. Pothiyaverpan has been chosen for KAP Viswanatham award.

- ❖ Journalist Viduthalai Rajendran, who propagates the ideas of Periyar, will receive the Thanthai Periyar award.
- ❖ MP Ravikumar will receive the Annal Ambedkar award.
- ❖ Muthu Vavasi will receive the Kalaignar Award that carries ₹10 lakh, a gold medal and a citation.

### **Deciphering Indus Valley script**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has announced a \$1 million prize for experts or organisations that succeed in deciphering the scripts of the Indus Valley Civilisation.
- ❖ He also announced a ₹2-crore grant for setting up a chair in the name of noted archaeologist and epigraphist Iravatham Mahadevan to continue the research on the IVC.
- ❖ The government would institute two awards to honour and encourage the numismatists and epigraphists who had been working to highlight the ancientness of Tamil culture.
- ❖ 60% of the graffiti marks found in Tamil Nadu had their parallels to the scripts found the Indus seals.
- ❖ More than 90% of the graffiti marks of south India and the graffiti marks of the Indus Valley Civilisation had parallels.



## **NATIONAL**

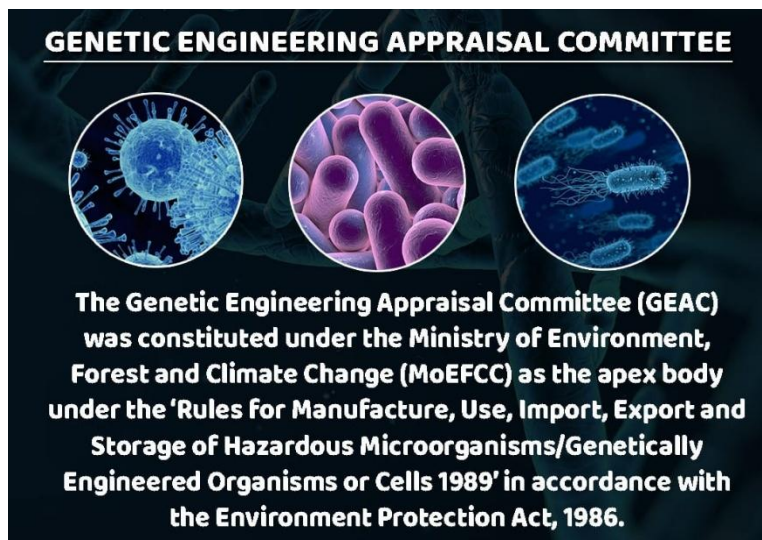
### **Project VISTAAR**

- ❖ IIT Madras collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare on Project VISTAAR (Virtually Integrated System to Access Agricultural Resources).

- ❖ VISTAAR is an open, interoperable, and federated network of dedicated to agricultural information and advisory services.
- ❖ It aims to empower the farmers and enhance their farming practices for better, sustainable livelihood.
- ❖ It provides farmers access to start-up-driven innovations and technologies in agriculture and allied sectors.



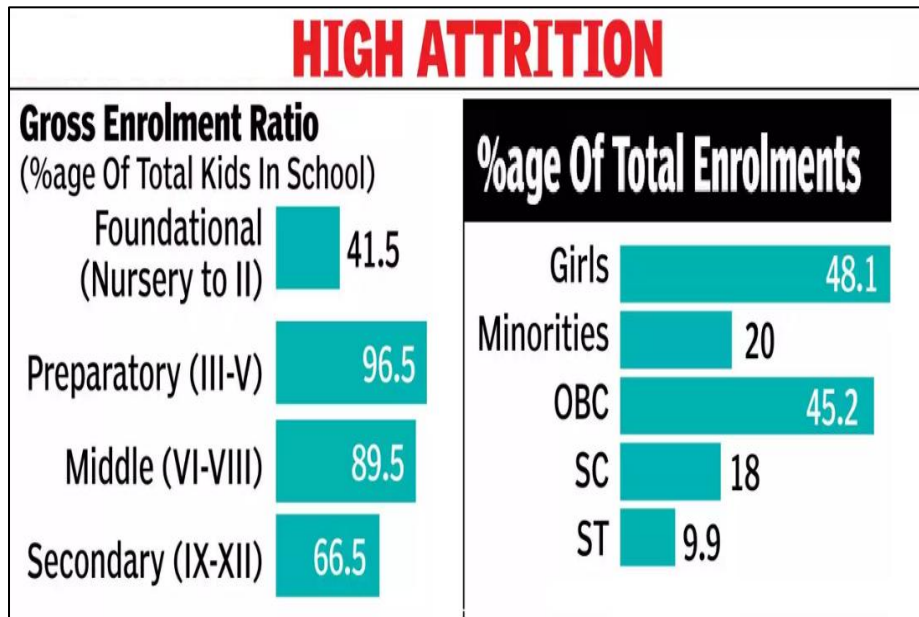
### **New Rules for GEAC members**



- ❖ The Centre has amended the rules governing the selection of experts to the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC).

- ❖ It is the apex technical body regulating genetically modified (GM) seeds in India under the Environment Protection Act of 1986.
- ❖ Under the new rules, an “expert member” ought to be disclosing their “interest” that could conflict with their duties.
- ❖ The expert is also need to take all steps necessary to ensure that any conflict of interest not affect any decision of the GEAC.
- ❖ An expert member with any direct or indirect association with a matter being discussed in a meeting of the committee is obliged to disclose this prior to the meeting.

### India's digital infrastructure in schools



- ❖ As per the latest UDISE Plus data, only 57.2% of schools in India have functional computers, and just 53.9% are equipped with Internet access.
- ❖ Over 90% of schools have the basic facilities like electricity and gender-specific toilets.
- ❖ However, more advanced amenities such as ramps with handrails (available in only 52.3% of schools), computers, and Internet access remain sparse.
- ❖ The enrolment landscape has seen changes, with total number of students down by 37 lakhs to 24.8 crore in 2023-24.
- ❖ Boys account for 51.9% of enrolments and girls 48.1%.
- ❖ Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) reveals disparities across educational levels.

- ❖ While the preparatory level boasts a GER of 96.5%, the foundational level is at a mere 41.5%.
- ❖ Middle and secondary levels are at 89.5% and 66.5%, respectively.
- ❖ Dropout rates also rise sharply at higher education levels, from 5.2% in middle school to 10.9% at the secondary stage.
- ❖ Retention rates reflect a similar trend, plummeting from 85.4% at the preparatory level to just 45.6% at the secondary stage.

## INTERNATIONAL

### UN environmental summits 2024



- ❖ The United Nations' efforts to address critical environmental challenges have hit multiple roadblocks last year, with four key summits failing to deliver meaningful outcomes.
- ❖ They are - in Colombia on biodiversity, Azerbaijan on climate, Saudi Arabia on land degradation, and South Korea on plastics.
- ❖ The Colombia talks on biodiversity conservation faltered as countries failed to agree on financing mechanisms to support sustainable land-use practices.
- ❖ In Azerbaijan, countries were divided over the pledge to transition away from fossil fuels, a decision made during the last UN climate summit.
- ❖ In Saudi Arabia, the industrialised nations clashed with African countries over the establishment of a legally binding drought protocol.

- ❖ The plastic pollution talks in South Korea also brought to the fore a significant divide among participating nations.

## ECONOMY

### Amendment to the Foreign Trade Policy 2023

- ❖ The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has notified amendment in the Foreign Trade Policy, 2023.
- ❖ The changes also provide the mechanism to inform the reasons for not accepting views, suggestions, comments or feedback concerning the formulation or amendment of the Foreign Trade Policy
- ❖ The government is committed to ensure that the due consideration is being given to every valuable opinion/feedback received from stakeholders.
- ❖ It encourages the participation of all stakeholders in the decision-making process before introducing or changing policy and procedures.

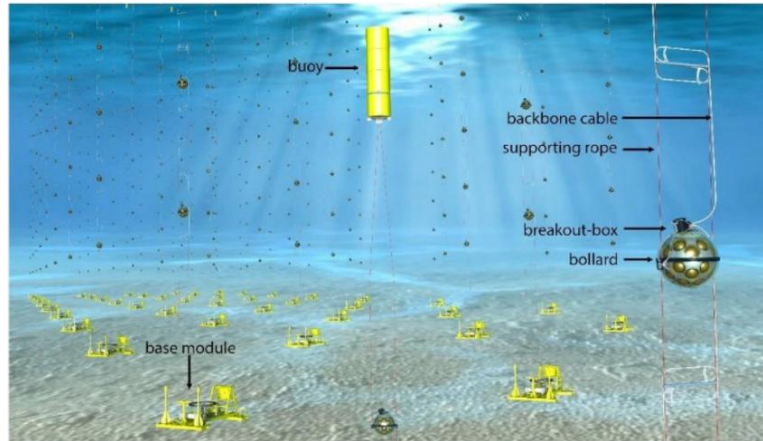


## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Cubic Kilometre Neutrino Telescope (KM3NeT)

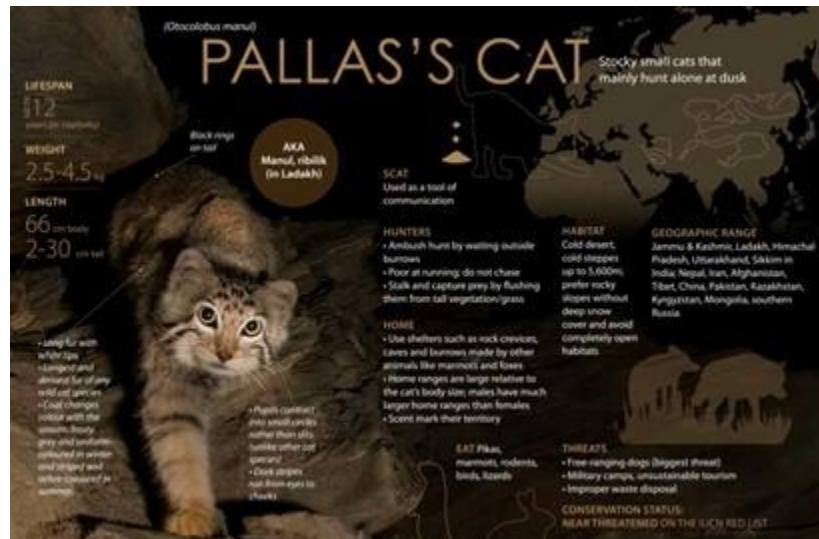
- ❖ Recently, the scientists have deployed 2 telescopes under the Mediterranean Sea to detect high-energy neutrinos.

- ❖ It aims study high-energy neutrinos also known as ghost particles that could reveal secrets of the cosmos.
- ❖ These underwater neutrino telescopes could be more efficient than IceCube.
- ❖ Neutrinos are weakly interacting subatomic particles that can travel astronomical distances undisturbed.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Pallas's cat in Himachal Pradesh



- ❖ The first photographic evidence of the elusive Pallas's cat has been found in Himachal Pradesh, India.
- ❖ Pallas's cats are small wild felids that are the main inhabitants of the steppes of the Central Asia.



- ❖ It is named after a German naturalist named Peter Simon Pallas, who first described it in 1776.
- ❖ It lives mainly as a solitary cat and nocturnal one.
- ❖ It is listed as “Near Threatened” by IUCN.

## STATES

### Gujarat - Atlas to Protect Indian Wolf Habitats

- ❖ Gujarat Forest and Environment Department has estimated the population of the Indian wolves to be 222 in the state.
- ❖ At 80, Bhavnagar district has recorded the highest number of wolves in Gujarat.
- ❖ It is followed by 39 in Narmada district, 36 in Banaskantha, 18 in Surendranagar, 12 each in Jamnagar and Morbi, and 9 in Kutch district.
- ❖ Their natural habitats also include the Bhal area in Bhavnagar, which includes the Blackbuck National Park in Velavadar and surrounding Dholera.
- ❖ This atlas will help to identify the important 'corridors' connecting their main habitats.



### Gujarat's First Coastal Bird Census

- ❖ The Gujarat government has conducted the country's first-ever census of coastal and wader birds at the Marine National Park and Sanctuary in Jamnagar.
- ❖ The Marine National Park and Marine Sanctuary in Gujarat is India's first designated marine national park.

- ❖ It is spanning the districts of Devbhoomi Dwarka, Jamnagar, and Morbi, it covers approximately 170 km of coastline and 42 islands between Okha and Navlakhi.
- ❖ This protected area in the Gulf of Kutch was established to conserve the marine biodiversity and mangrove ecosystems.
- ❖ Jamnagar district hosts over 300 species of local and migratory birds, including more than 50 species of wader birds.



## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Agnes Keleti



- ❖ The Five-time Olympic champion Hungarian gymnast Agnes Keleti (103) had died recently.

- ❖ She was the world’s oldest living Olympic gold medallist and a survivor of the persecution of Jews in World War II.
- ❖ In 1956, she won four gold medals in Melbourne Olympic and became the oldest female gymnast to win gold.
- ❖ She won 10 Olympic medals, including five golds, ranks Keleti as the second most successful Hungarian athlete of all time.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Indian Railways - highest sports award winners

- ❖ In 2024, out of 32 players shortlisted for Arjuna Awards, five came from Indian Railways.
- ❖ With these 5 Arjuna Awards, it has total 183 Arjuna, 28 Padma Shri, 12 Dhyan Chand, 13 Dronacharya and 9 Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Awardees.
- ❖ This is the largest number of such awardees for any single organization in India.

