

October - 08

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the ₹63,246 crore Chennai Metro Rail's phase II project
  - This will span across 118.9 km with 128 stations and will have multi-modal integration at 21 locations.
- ❖ The 2024 CM Trophy was inaugurated recently at Chennai and it is witnessing over 33,000 participants from 38 districts competing in five categories.
- ❖ The road in front of the Jamaica High Commission in New Delhi has been officially renamed as 'Jamaica Marg'.
- ❖ The National Wildlife Week 2024 was observed during October 02/08 to educate the community on the importance of preserving biodiversity and promoting coexistence of humans and wildlife.
- ❖ Prime Minister inaugurated the 'Lal Tipara Gaushala' with a Bio-CNG plant in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.

## TAMIL NADU

### Kalaichemmal awards 2024



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu govt announced the Kalaichemmal awards for three painters and three sculptors for their contributions to traditional and contemporary painting and sculpture.

- ❖ These awards are presented by the department of art and sculpture.
- ❖ A Manivelu has been selected for the award in the traditional art category.
- ❖ L Balachandran and K Kanniappan have been selected for the award in the traditional sculpture category.
- ❖ K Muralidharan and A Selvaraj selected for the award in the category of modern art. R Raghavan will get the award in the modern sculpture category.

### **Butterfly migration in 2024**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has witnessed large-scale migration of butterflies belonging to the Danainae sub-family from the Eastern Ghats and plains towards the Western Ghats during September.
- ❖ They migrate from the Eastern Ghats and plains towards various nearest hill ranges of the Western Ghats before the start of northeast monsoon.
- ❖ During April and May, these butterflies, generally called ‘tigers and crows’ migrate from the Western Ghat hill ranges towards the Eastern Ghats and plains of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ This is happened before the onset of the southwest monsoon.



### **Advisory on the term ‘Kuravan’**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu State Commission for the SC&ST has issued an advisory against using the term ‘Kuravan/Kurathi Attam’ in cultural festivals.
- ❖ It has advised against using ‘Kura’ as a prefix or suffix, and ‘Kuravan/Kurathi Attam’, as they were being used to disrespect those tribal communities. ‘
- ❖ Kuravan’ is a part of the Scheduled Castes in Tamil Nadu, and ‘Kuravar’ and ‘Malaikkuravar’, the Scheduled Tribes.

- ❖ The Commission also recommended the Tamil Nadu government to ban songs that use the term 'Kuravan'.



## NATIONAL

### New Classical Languages 2024

#### Criteria for Classical Language Status

- The language must have texts or recorded history over 1500-2000 years.
- It should have ancient literature valued across generations.
- The literary tradition must be original.
- The classical form should be distinct from modern variants.

#### Benefits

- National awards, University Chairs, and Promotion Centers for Classical Languages.
- Employment in academics, research, archiving, and digitization of ancient texts.
- Opportunities in translation, publishing, and digital media for preserving classical heritage.

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved giving the status of 'classical language' to five more languages - Marathi, Bengali, Pali, Prakrit and Assamese.
- ❖ With this cabinet decision, the number of languages that have the status will nearly double from six to 11.
- ❖ The languages that had the tag earlier were Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Odia.

- ❖ Tamil was granted the status in 2004 and the last language to get it was Odia, in 2014.
- ❖ The new classical languages will also have the national awards, Chairs in universities, and centres for promotion set up for them in due course.

### **Religious Freedom in India 2024**

- ❖ The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) recently released a report.
- ❖ The USCIRF recommended that the U.S. Department of State designate India as a "Country of Particular Concern" for engaging in systematic, ongoing and egregious violations of religious freedom.
- ❖ Throughout 2024, individuals have been killed, beaten, and lynched by vigilante groups, religious leaders have been arbitrarily arrested, and homes and places of worship have been demolished.



## **ECONOMY**


### **Withdrawal of 2,000 Rs Notes**

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India said that, about 98 per cent of the ₹ 2,000 denomination notes have been returned.
- ❖ The total value of notes of the denomination has reduced to ₹ 7,117 crore from ₹ 3.56 lakh crore on May 19, 2023.
- ❖ 98 per cent of the ₹ 2000 banknotes in circulation as of May 19, 2023.

- ❖ On May 19, 2023, the RBI announced a surprise decision to withdraw the ₹ 2,000 currency notes.
- ❖ The denomination was introduced after the demonetisation of November 2016.

## RBI'S DECISION ON RS 2,000 BANK NOTES

- 2,000-rupee bank notes to be withdrawn from circulation
- Even after withdrawal from circulation, the 2,000-rupee denomination will continue to be legal tender
- Banks advised to stop issuing 2,000-rupee notes “with immediate effect”
- Those holding 2,000-rupee notes should deposit/exchange them from banks by September 30, 2023
- Exchange facility for 2,000-rupee bank notes capped at Rs 20,000 at a time



## ENVIRONMENT

### Erythrism among golden jackals



- ❖ Researchers have recorded the first expression of erythrism in golden jackals, *Canis aureus*, in the Nilgiris.

- ❖ This is an unusual congenital manifestation of reddish skin pigmentation.
- ❖ The record is the first that has been made in the golden jackal's entire distribution range.
- ❖ Erythrism is characterised by a deficit of melanin but an abundance of reddish pigmentation.
- ❖ It results in a lighter and redder appearance compared to the normal phenotype.

## Prespa Lake

- ❖ One of Europe's oldest lake - Lake Prespa is slowly dying.
- ❖ The majority of Little Prespa Lake, also known as Small Lake Prespa, sits in Greek territory, with just its southern tip crossing into Albania.
- ❖ It is a smaller cousin of the larger Great Prespa Lake to the north.
- ❖ Of the 450 hectares of Little Prespa Lake in Albania, at least 430 hectares have been transformed into swamps or dried up.



## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### American missionary Alice Brauer

- ❖ American missionary Alice Brauer passes away recently.
- ❖ She dedicated her life to the eradication of leprosy, tuberculosis, and polio in Ambur for over 60 years.



- ❖ During her career spanning over six decades, her work reached over 60 villages and improved the lives of the local communities.
- ❖ She is known in the name of “Missiyamma”.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Space Week 2024 - October 04/10



- ❖ It was highlighting the benefits of space exploration and promoting international cooperation in space activities.
- ❖ It is established by the United Nations to commemorate two significant milestones:
  - The launch of Sputnik 1 on October 4, 1957, and
  - The signing of the Outer Space Treaty on October 10, 1967.

- ❖ The launch of Sputnik 1 by the Soviet Union on October 4 marked humanity's first artificial satellite in orbit.
- ❖ The Outer Space Treaty establishing a framework for international space law and promoting peaceful exploration of space.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Space and Climate Change."

## MISCELLANEOUS

### IVC and Dravidian links

- ❖ This Indus valley civilisation spanned 2,000 sites across 1.5 million square kilometres in the territories of India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan during the Bronze Age (3000-1500 BCE).
- ❖ Scholars Iravatham Mahadevan and Asko Parpola studied the antiquity of Tamil language and the link between the language and the Indus Valley Civilisation.
- ❖ Tamil goes back to Proto-Dravidian, can be identified as the language of the thousands of short texts in the Indus script, written in 2600-1700 BCE.
- ❖ Sanskrit goes back to Proto-Indo-Aryan attested in a few names and words related to the Mitanni kingdom of Syria between 1500 and 1300 BCE.
- ❖ The earlier forms of Indo-Iranian known only from a few loanwords in Finno-Ugric languages as spoken in central Russia around 2000 BCE.
- ❖ But none of these very earliest few traces are older than the roots of Tamil.

