

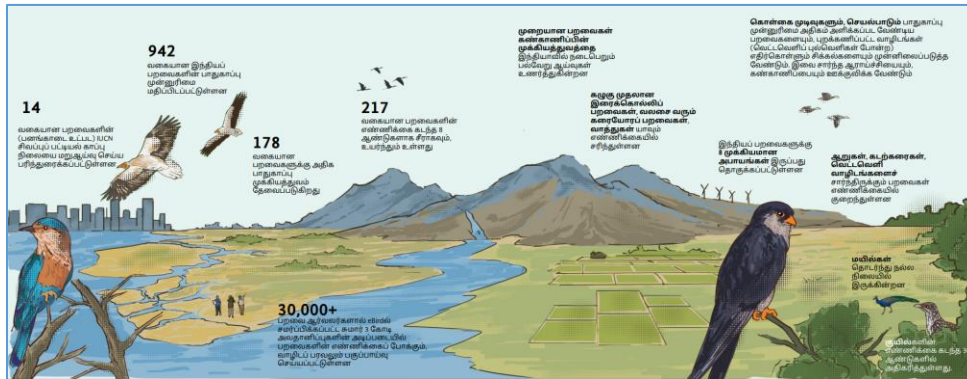
April - 24

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The 16th World Future Energy Summit 2024 was held in Abu Dhabi.
- ❖ The GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd has been honoured with the 'Best Airport Staff in India & South Asia 2024' award by Skytrax.

TAMIL NADU

State of India's Birds report for TN

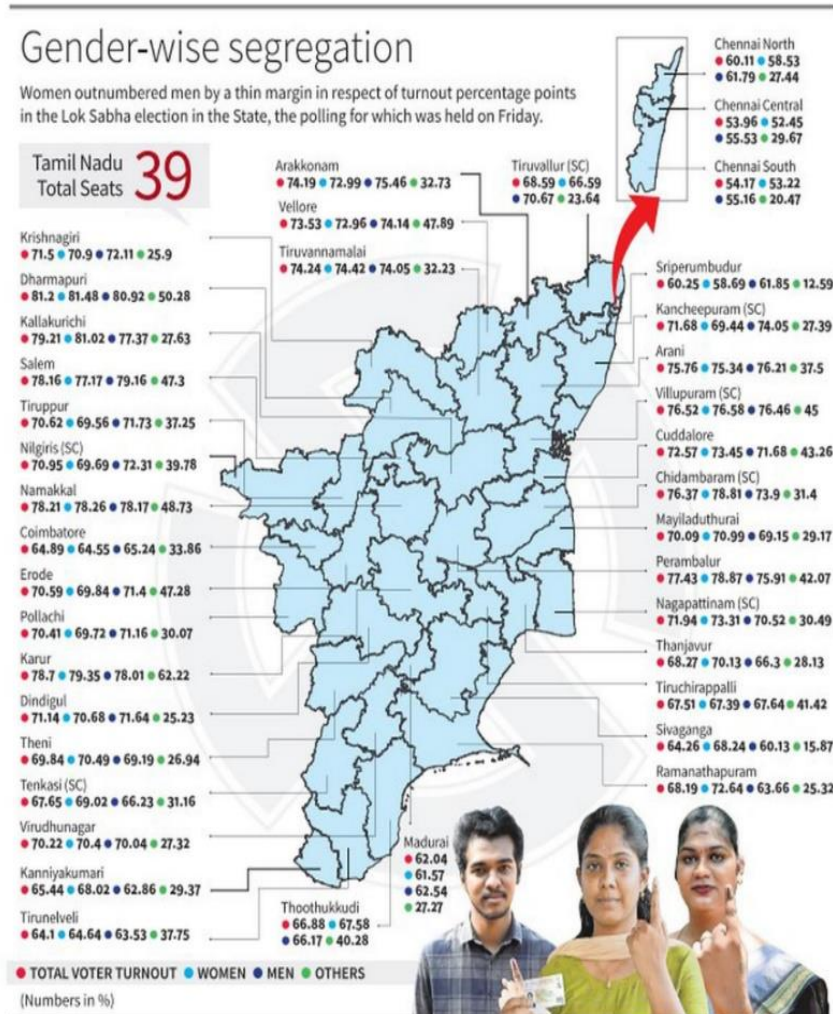


- ❖ In Tamil Nadu, migratory ducks, shorebirds, raptors, forest birds, and other species dependent on open habitats are heavily declining.
- ❖ 85 species found in Tamil Nadu are classified as 'High Conservation Priority'.
- ❖ The long-term trend (last 30 years) for Tamil Nadu shows that even commonly spotted birds such as garganey, common tern, grey plover, lesser sand plover, common teal, and common pochard are rapidly declining.
- ❖ The MYNA tool will help birders identify birds and their conservation status in a particular geographic location.

Voter turnout in 2024 election - Tamilnadu

- ❖ Tamil Nadu recorded a voter turnout of 69.72 per cent during the April 19 elections to 39 Lok Sabha constituencies.
- ❖ It is relatively lesser than the figures recorded in the previous general elections in the State.
- ❖ Of a total of 6,23,33,925 electors in Tamil Nadu, 4,34,58,875 exercised their franchise.

- ❖ In terms of percentage, women voters (69.85%) surpassed men voters (69.58%) by a narrow margin.
- ❖ Dharmapuri recorded the highest turnout of 81.20 per cent.
- ❖ Central Chennai witnessed the lowest of 53.96 per cent.
- ❖ More than 75% of women electors turned up to vote at nine seats.
- ❖ In the 'others' category, the highest percentage of voters was registered in Karur (62.22), followed by Dharmapuri (50.28).



Filariasis status 2024


- ❖ Tamil Nadu is now closer to achieving elimination of filariasis.
- ❖ Now it “stands as the only State in the country to successfully accomplish all requisite Mass Drug Administration (MDA) rounds and attain a microfilaria (Mf) rate of below one per cent.

- ❖ Lymphatic filariasis is a neglected tropical disease, and if not attended to properly, it can lead to lifelong disability.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu, along with Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal had contributed to 95% of the total burden of filariasis in the country.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu was the pioneer State in the country to launch the MDA programme in Cuddalore district, during 1996, as a pilot project.
- ❖ Based on its success, the programme was extended to 25 other endemic districts in the State, from 1998.
- ❖ Transmission Assessment Surveys (TAS) has carried out in 2014, 2016 and 2018 showed a Mf rate of 0.18%, 0.21% and 0.10% respectively.

Significant stride

Tamil Nadu was among the nine States that contributed to 95% of the total burden of lymphatic filariasis in India. However, now, the State is closer to eliminating the disease.

Transmission Assessment Surveys (TAS)			
Survey	Month/Year	Coverage	Microfilaria rate
TAS-I	July 2014	36,833 children	0.18%
TAS-II	November 2016	38,954 children	0.21%
TAS-III	September 2018	39,754 children	0.10%



Thinking ahead: T.N. was the pioneer State in the country to launch the MDA programme in Cuddalore district in 1996.

Under the one time confirmatory mapping conducted in 45 Health Unit Districts in the State in 2022

- Number of sentinel sites covered: **465**
- Number of random sites covered: **465**
- Total number of night blood samples collected: **2,80,305**

*Number of samples that tested positive for microfilaria: **3** (Chengalpattu, Cheyyar, Erode)

Some challenges:

- Migration from endemic regions increases the likelihood of new cases emerging
- Enhancing morbidity management is essential
- Development of guidelines, tools/diagnostics and strategies for post-mass drug administration and post-validation surveillance is crucial
- Collaborative networks between vector-borne disease control programmes and surgical societies are lacking or at most, minimal

Source : Tamil Nadu at the brink of eliminating lymphatic filariasis / Tamil Nadu Journal of Public Health and Medical Research'

NATIONAL

Longevity India Initiative

- ❖ IISc announces the launch of the Longevity India Initiative.
- ❖ It is aimed at increasing human health span and overcoming the challenges associated with growing older.

- ❖ It primarily focuses on identifying early disease indicators, investigating ageing biomarkers, and developing new therapeutics and technologies to aid healthy ageing.



INTERNATIONAL

38th Artemis accords – Sweden



- ❖ Sweden became the 38th country to sign the Artemis Accords.

- ❖ Currently, the United States, India and Japan are the only leading spacefaring nations to sign the accords.
- ❖ The accords are a series of non-binding arrangements aimed at setting down norms to be followed in outer space.
- ❖ They were initially announced by NASA and the US Department of State in 2020.
- ❖ Now, it now has 38 signatories, including India and Japan.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Epulopiscium Viviparus - Giant Bacteria



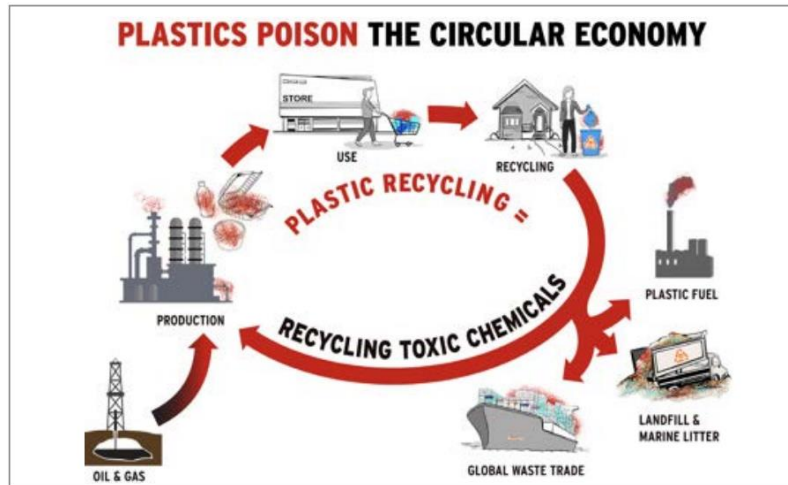
- ❖ For the first time, scientists have sequenced the genome of a mysterious species of giant bacterium that can be seen without a microscope.
- ❖ Epulopiscium bacteria live symbiotically in the guts of a fish, *Naso tonganus*, in tropical ocean environments.
- ❖ Most bacteria are too small to be seen without a microscope.
- ❖ These single-celled mammoths have a million times the volume of their well-known relatives, *E. coli*, meaning they can just be made out with the naked eye.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Arctic's Plastic Crisis Report

- ❖ It is a new report titled 'The Arctic's Plastic Crisis: Toxic Threats to Health, Human Rights, and Indigenous Lands from the Petrochemical Industry'.
- ❖ It was launched by the Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT) and the International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN).

- ❖ The Arctic is a 'hemispheric sink' for chemicals & plastics accumulating in the region from local as well as global sources.
- ❖ These pose a grave risk for the 13 million inhabitants of the region.
- ❖ The production and use of fossil fuels is the starting point for the problems faced by the Arctic related to plastics, chemicals, and climate change.



STATES

New archaeological sites – Telangana

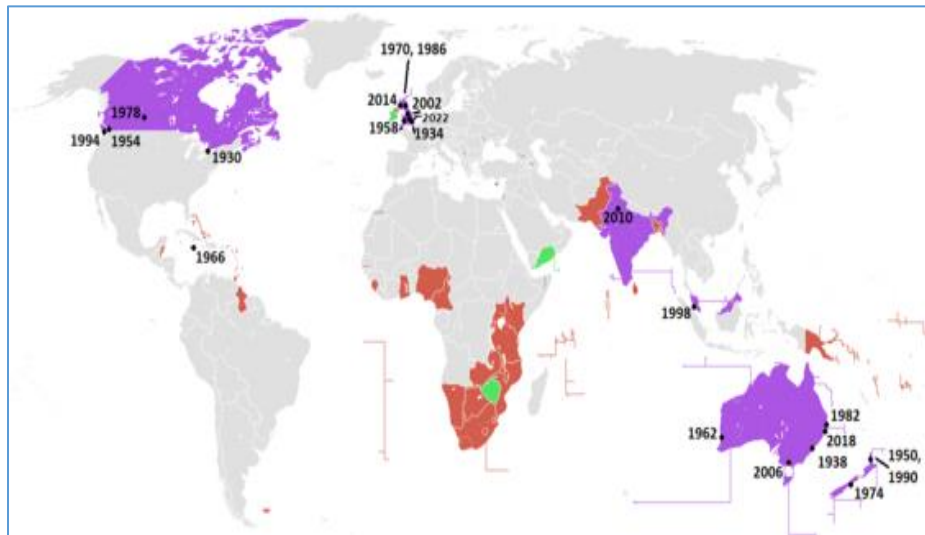


- ❖ Three new archaeological sites discovered in Telangana.

- ❖ A team of archaeologists claimed to have discovered a unique Iron Age megalithic site at Ooragutta near Bandala village.
- ❖ There appears to be more than 200 megalithic monuments.
- ❖ Unusually, Contrary to this, the site discovered at this place (Ooragutta) has unique features.
- ❖ The side slabs are arranged with slabs following the shape of the cap-stone.
- ❖ Hence, each 'dolmenoid cist' has a unique shape as dictated by the cap-stone.
- ❖ These monuments can be dated around 1,000 BCE.
- ❖ Two new rock art sites at Damaratogu in Gundala mandal of Bhadradi Kothagudem district also discovered.

SPORTS

2026 Commonwealth Games host



- ❖ The next Commonwealth Games 2026 is still searching for a host country.
- ❖ First, it was the Australian state of Victoria – the original host – that backed out.
- ❖ Now, Malaysia has rejected the offer because of the uncertainty over costs and insufficient funding being offered.
- ❖ The English city of Birmingham had been due to play hosts in 2026.
- ❖ But it was forced to step in to save the 2022 event after South Africa was stripped of hosting rights.
- ❖ In the recent years and five of the last six editions have been held in Australia or Britain.

- ❖ The government of Alberta, Canada has also pulled its support for a bid to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games because of rising costs.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Day for Laboratory Animals 2024 - April 24



- ❖ Founded in 1875, the National Anti-Vivisection Society (NAVS) was the world's first organisation campaigning against animal experiments.
- ❖ It established the Lord Dowding Fund for Humane Research (LDF) in 1973.
- ❖ This fund aims to support and fund advanced non-animal methods of scientific and medical research.
- ❖ In 1979, NAVS established World Day for Laboratory Animals (also referred to as Lab Animal Day).
- ❖ This day aims to draw attention to the suffering and killing of animals that take place in laboratories all around the world.
- ❖ Animal experimentation has been employed in a variety of ways throughout the years in the beauty, medical, aviation, and even military industries.

National Panchayati Day 2024 - April 24

- ❖ The day commemorates the constitutional change that established the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).
- ❖ PRIs are considered the third tier of the government.
- ❖ It manages the local-level administration in rural areas.
- ❖ The first Panchayati Raj system was initiated in the year 1993 on this day.

- ❖ The Panchayati Raj system was initially implemented in contemporary India in 1959 under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru.
- ❖ The 73rd Amendment Act of the Indian Constitution provided the constitutional status to the Panchayati Raj system.

