

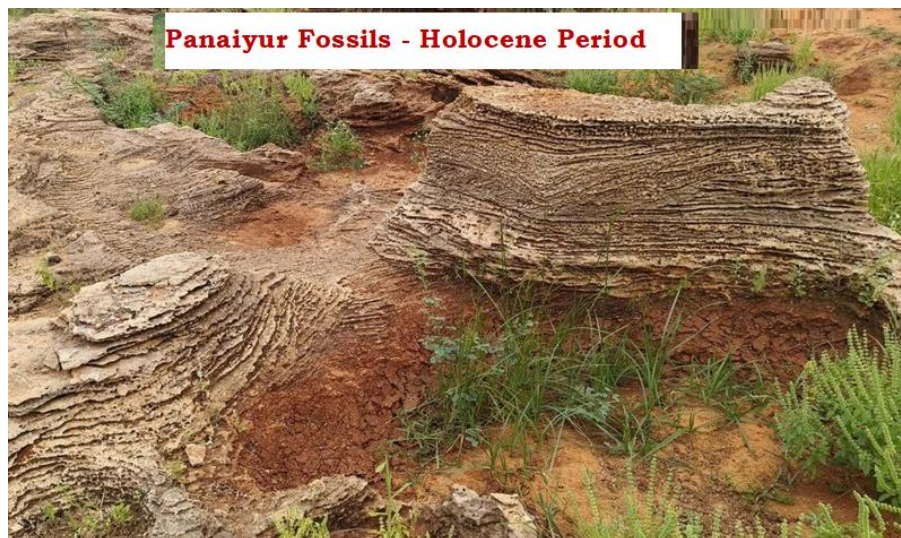
April - 28

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Former Army Chief M. M. Naravane has released *The Curious and the Classified*, a non-fiction book on lesser-known stories and traditions of the Indian Armed Forces.
- ❖ Ashok Lahiri, former Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) (Chief Economic Adviser), is set to be appointed Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog, replacing Suman Bery.
 - Gobardhan Das, Director of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Bhopal, is expected to be appointed as a member.
- ❖ Around 33,000 Indian soldiers of World War I have been added to the Basra Memorial (Basra, Iraq) through digital panels.
 - The initiative was undertaken by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to correct a long-standing historical omission.
- ❖ Scientists have discovered a new underground-dwelling blind fish species named *Gitchak nakana* in Assam.
 - It is the first groundwater fish found in Northeast India, discovered in a well in Goalpara district, Assam.
- ❖ World Design Day was observed on 27 April to highlight the importance and impact of design in daily life.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

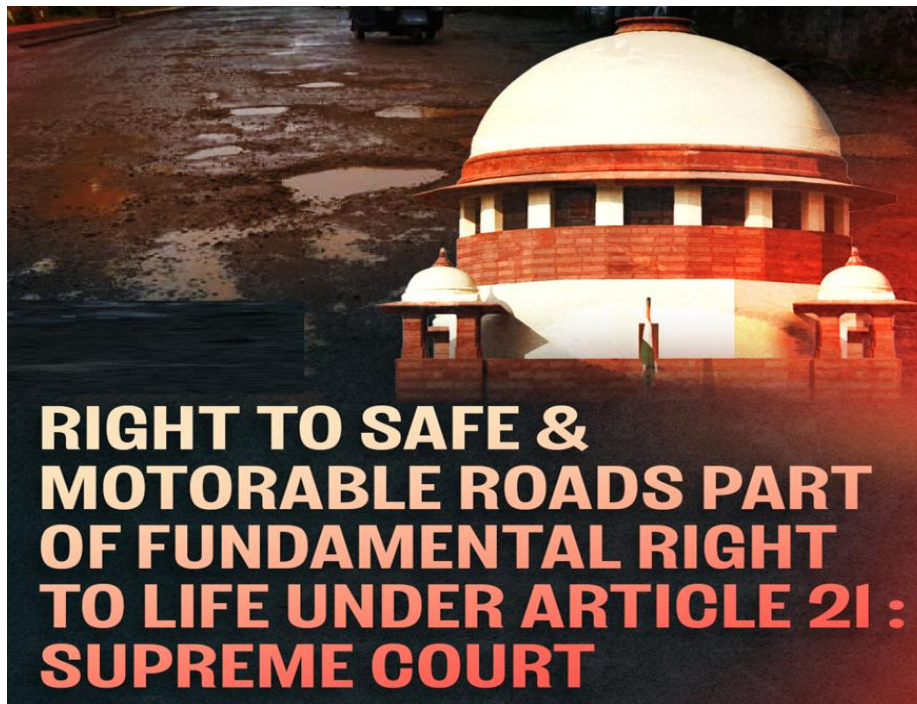
Panaiyur Fossils - Holocene Period



- ❖ A study has confirmed that the fossil assemblage found at Panaiyur in Thoothukudi district dates back to the Holocene period (about 8,000–12,000 years ago).
- ❖ The study was conducted by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) based on field research and scientific analysis.
- ❖ The fossils include 104 specimens from four groups, mainly bivalves and gastropods, found near the Gulf of Mannar.
- ❖ The species are similar to present-day marine organisms, showing environmental continuity over thousands of years.
- ❖ The fossils indicate a shallow marine to estuarine environment with warm tropical conditions and moderate water flow.

NATIONAL NEWS

Right to Safe Travel on Highways under Article 21



- ❖ The Supreme Court of India has ruled that safe travel on National Highways is part of the Right to Life under Article 21.
- ❖ The Court stated that road safety is a constitutional duty of the State, not just an administrative issue.
- ❖ National Highways form about 2% of total roads but account for nearly 30% of road accident deaths.

- ❖ The Court banned unauthorised dhabas and encroachments on highway land to reduce accidents.
- ❖ Parking of heavy vehicles on highways is restricted except in designated areas with proper facilities.
- ❖ It also directed better surveillance, patrols, and emergency services like ambulances for faster response.

SC permission on Late Pregnancy Termination



‘No court ought to compel any woman’: Supreme Court allows 15-year-old to terminate 7-month pregnancy

- ❖ The Supreme Court of India allowed a 15-year-old minor to terminate her 31-week pregnancy.
- ❖ The Court held that reproductive autonomy is part of the Right to Life under Article 21.
- ❖ It stated that forcing a minor to continue an unwanted pregnancy violates dignity, privacy, and personal liberty.
- ❖ The decision considered the girl’s severe mental distress and risk to her well-being.
- ❖ Though the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act generally sets a 24-week limit, the Court allowed an exception in this case.
- ❖ The judgment emphasised that a woman’s right over her body must be protected, especially in exceptional situations.

ICU Standards in India



Supreme Court directs states to roll out 'realistic, practical' ICU standards, sets 3-week deadline for action plan

- ❖ The Supreme Court of India has set minimum standards for Intensive Care Units in hospitals across India.
- ❖ The guidelines aim to ensure uniform ICU infrastructure, staffing, and patient care nationwide.
- ❖ Each ICU must have essential facilities like oxygen supply, ventilators, monitors, defibrillators, and uninterrupted power backup.
- ❖ The norms mandate 24×7 trained doctors, strict infection control, and nurse-to-patient ratios up to 1:1 for critical patients.
- ❖ ICUs are classified into different levels to standardise care in both urban and rural hospitals.
- ❖ States and Union Territories have been directed to submit action plans and identify gaps for implementation.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Nilgiri Tahr Survey 2026

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has conducted the third synchronized survey of Nilgiri Tahr, a state animal, under Project Nilgiri Tahr.

- ❖ The survey was conducted across the Western Ghats in coordination with the Kerala Forest Department to avoid double-counting of animals moving between states.
- ❖ It covered 14 forest divisions, 43 ranges, 124 beats, and 177 survey blocks over more than 3,100 km from Kanniyakumari to Gudalur.
- ❖ A mobile application named “Varudai” is used for real-time data collection, GPS tracking, and reporting.
- ❖ Previous surveys recorded 1,031 Nilgiri Tahr in 2024 and 1,303 in 2025, showing population growth and habitat recolonisation.

Nilgiri Tahr count rises

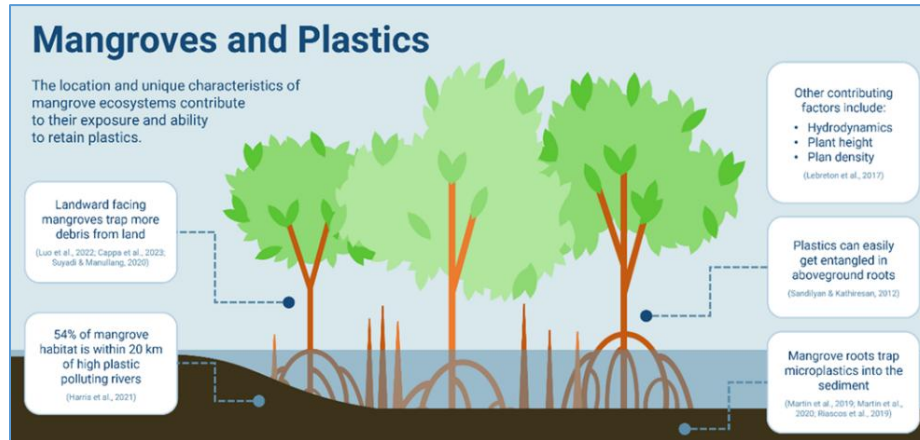
- 1,031 in 2024 to 1,303 in 2025, in TN
- New survey reveals strongholds & new conservation steps
- Second Synchronised Survey (April 2025)
- Total Nilgiri Tahr in TN: 1,303 individuals
- Survey dates: April 24–27, 2025
- Across 14 forest divisions & 177 blocks



Pichavaram Mangrove Ecosystem - Microplastic Contamination

- ❖ A recent study has reported high microplastic contamination in fish and shellfish in the Pichavaram mangrove ecosystem.
- ❖ Microplastic levels were highest during the monsoon season at about 45% due to heavy runoff carrying plastic waste into the area.
- ❖ Fish such as Rock Mullet and Pearl Spot, and shellfish like blue swimming crab and mud crab showed high levels of microplastic ingestion.
- ❖ About 32% of particles were very small, less than 1 mm, mainly coloured fibres such as blue and red, made of common plastics like polyethylene, polypropylene and PET.

- ❖ Mangrove roots and sediments trap these plastics, causing accumulation and entry into the food chain, which creates ecological risks.



STATE NEWS

Vibrant Village Programme II - Kathua Villages

VIBRANT VILLAGE PROGRAMME II
Strengthening Border Villages, Empowering Communities, Building a Stronger India

Six border villages in Kathua brought under Vibrant Village Programme II
KATHUA DISTRICT, JAMMU & KASHMIR
Bobiya | Kadyala | Gajnal | Karol Krishna | Rathua | Gujjar Chak
To boost infrastructure and ensure last mile delivery of welfare schemes along the International Border.

FOCUS AREAS

- Infrastructure Development: Roads, bridges, water supply, electricity, connectivity
- Welfare Delivery: Ensuring last mile delivery of schemes and services
- Border Area Development: Strengthening facilities in strategic border villages
- Community Participation: Involving local communities for sustainable and inclusive growth

THE SIX BORDER VILLAGES

INTERNATIONAL BORDER
KATHUA
Bobiya, Kadyala, Gajnal, Karol Krishna, Rathua, Gujjar Chak

KEY PRIORITIES

- Timely Execution: Time-bound planning and implementation
- Gap Identification: Identifying gaps and addressing critical needs
- Community Participation: Engaging local communities in development initiatives
- Sustainable Development: Building resilient and self-reliant villages

BETTER CONNECTIVITY

CLEAN WATER FOR ALL

TOGETHER FOR A VIBRANT TOMORROW

STRONGER INFRASTRUCTURE | EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES | SECURE BORDERS | PROGRESSIVE INDIA

- ❖ Six border villages in Kathua, Jammu and Kashmir have been included under the Vibrant Village Programme Phase II.
- ❖ The selected villages are Bobiya, Kadyala, Gajnal, Karol Krishna, Rathua, and Gujjar Chak along the International Border.
- ❖ The scheme aims to improve infrastructure like roads, healthcare, education, electricity, and drinking water in these areas.
- ❖ It focuses on the last-mile delivery of welfare schemes and full coverage of eligible households.

- ❖ The programme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the development of remote and strategic border villages.
- ❖ It helps reduce migration, improve livelihoods, and strengthen border security in Jammu and Kashmir.

