

December - 07

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has named the Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin as the ex-officio vice-chairperson of the State Planning Commission.
- ❖ The UNICEF has mentioned two of SCARF's programmes - Prevention and Early Intervention for Psychosis (PEPP) and Resource Centre for Youth Mental Health Services (rYMs) in its documents.
- ❖ The India International Science Festival (IISF) 2024 took place in IIT Guwahati under the theme of "Transforming India into an S&T-driven Global Manufacturing Hub."
- ❖ The Indian Army launched an online learning platform for the Indian Army nicknamed as "Eklavya" to improve the professional education and training of Indian Army officers.
- ❖ The Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh was declared as a tiger reserve.
  - It is Madhya Pradesh 8<sup>th</sup> tiger reserve as well as India's 57<sup>th</sup> Tiger reserve.
- ❖ The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has approved the designation of Madhav National Park in Shivpuri district in Madhya Pradesh as a Tiger Reserve.
- ❖ The UNESCO has recognized West Bengal as a leading destination for heritage tourism, highlighting the state's progress in developing religious, heritage, and tea tourism.
- ❖ The International Volunteer Day, commonly known as IVD, is celebrated on 5 December every year.

## TAMIL NADU

### HC on Manjolai

- ❖ The Madras High Court dismissed petitions filed against the voluntary retirement scheme (VRS) offered by Bombay Burmah Trading Corporation Limited (BBTCL) to the Manjolai tea estate workers in Tirunelveli district.
- ❖ It has also directed the Tamil Nadu government to extend all the relief measures which it had agreed to offer to the workers who had suffered job loss.
- ❖ The BBTCL had decided to wind up its operations at Manjolai, Kakkaachi, Nalumukku, Oothu, and Kuthiraivetti (collectively known as Manjolai estates)

much before the end of the 99-year lease granted to it by the erstwhile Singampatti Zamindar in 1928.

- ❖ The Zamindar had leased out 3,388.78 hectares to the private company.
- ❖ But the government had notified the entire Singampatti estate as a forest on March 22, 1937 under Sections 26 and 32 of the then Madras Forest Act of 1882.
- ❖ Subsequently, on August 2, 1962, areas forming part of the estate were notified as a part of the Mundanthurai tiger sanctuary under the then Wild Birds and Animals (Protection) Act, 1912.
- ❖ It turned out to be the first notified tiger sanctuary in the country.
- ❖ On December 28, 2007, the government declared the areas which formed part of the estate as a core critical tiger habitat by invoking the Wild Life (Protection) Act of 1972.



## NATIONAL

### Sabal-20 Logistics Drone



- ❖ The Indian Army has received Sabal 20 logistics drones procured from EndureAir Systems for deployment in the Eastern sector.



- ❖ Sabal 20 is an electric unmanned helicopter based on variable pitch technology, and capable of carrying payloads of up to 20 kg.
- ❖ It will support missions such as long-range deliveries, high-altitude operations, and precision logistics.

### **RESET Program 2024**



- ❖ The Centre has launched the Retired Sportsperson Empowerment Training (RESET) Program in August 2024.
- ❖ It aims at facilitating retired athletes' career development by providing them tailor-made education for their academic enhancement.
- ❖ It also provides internship and empowering them with the necessary knowledge and skills for their transition into a suitable career option.
- ❖ The RESET Programme also aims at addressing the existing human resource gap in the sports sector.

### **Global Engagement Scheme 2024**

- ❖ The Ministry of Culture implements "Global Engagement Scheme".
- ❖ It aims to promote India's rich cultural heritage and enhance India's image in the global arena in a concerted manner.
- ❖ Under the Scheme, the Festival of India (FoI) is organized abroad to promote people to people connect and bilateral cultural contacts.

- ❖ During 2013-14 to 2023-24, total 62 FoIs have been held in different countries.



## INTERNATIONAL

### South Korea emergency



- ❖ South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol declared martial law.
- ❖ He was citing "threats" from North Korea and slamming the main opposition party in South Korea.
- ❖ It was the first time since 1980 that it had been declared in the East Asian country.

- ❖ However, he withdrew martial law within six hours of announcing it.
- ❖ According to South Korean law, the government must lift martial law if the majority of the National Assembly demands votes for its repeal.

## **Busan Summit 2024**



- ❖ Delegates from 175 countries gathered to finalise a new treaty aimed at tackling plastic pollution in Intergovernmental Negotiations Committee (INC)-5 talks in Busan, South Korea.
- ❖ But a group of fossil-fuel producing nations, primarily led by Saudi Arabia, Russia and Iran, have been resisting any push to include production cuts.
- ❖ They also agreed to adjourn INC-5 in Busan, Republic of Korea, and convene a resumed meeting at a later date.
- ❖ INC-5 did not achieve its objective of delivering a new treaty to the world

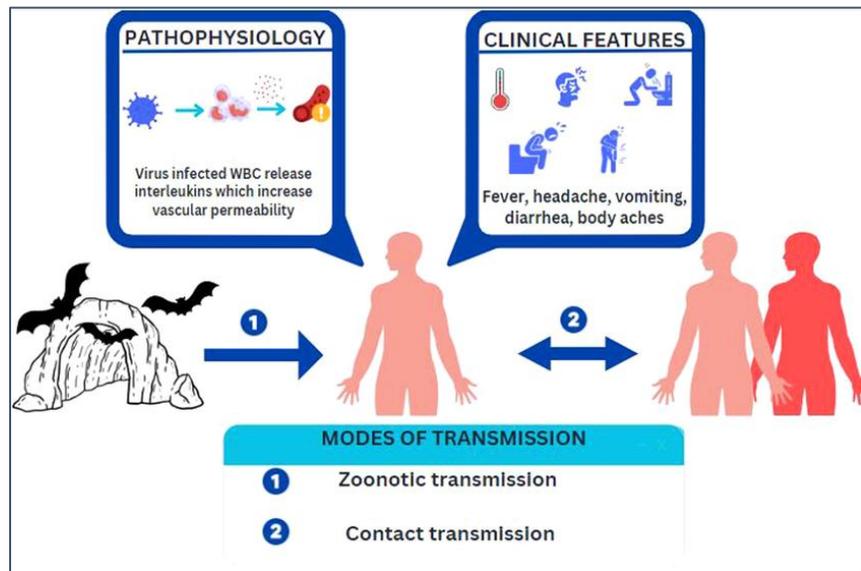
## **Aleppo City crisis 2024**

- ❖ Rebel forces in Syria have taken control of the "majority" of the country's second-largest city, Aleppo.
- ❖ An Islamist-dominated rebel alliance launched its assault on forces of the Iranian- and Russian-backed government

- ❖ Russia launched air strikes in response across parts of Aleppo for the first time since 2016.



### Bleeding eye disease



- ❖ The Marburg virus, also known as the 'bleeding eye' virus, has killed 15 people in Rwanda.
- ❖ The nickname "bleeding eye virus" comes from its symptoms, which in critical cases can cause bleeding from the eyes, nose, or mouth.
- ❖ It is a highly infectious pathogen from the filovirus family, closely related to the Ebola virus.



- ❖ It causes Marburg virus disease (MVD), a severe haemorrhagic fever with a high fatality rate, ranging from 24% to 88%.
- ❖ This virus spreads through direct contact with the bodily fluids of infected individuals, contaminated surfaces, or materials like bedding and clothing.

## **UNCCD COP 16**



- ❖ The CoP16 of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ The theme of the event is “Our Land. Our Future”.
- ❖ During the event, India showcased the ambitious Aravalli Green Wall Project at the IUCN Pavilion.
- ❖ This transformative initiative aims to restore 1.15 million hectares of degraded landscape across four states in northwestern India.
- ❖ UNCCD was established in 1994 and it is the sole legally binding international agreement.
- ❖ The UNCCD works with the other two Rio Conventions - The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and UFCCC.

## **STATES**

### **Me·Gong Festival 2024**

- ❖ The Me·Gong Festival 2024, themed “Echoes of Tradition”, was celebrated the rich heritage and customs of the Garo people.
- ❖ The two-day event was held at Baljek Airport, Jengjal, West Garo Hills.

- ❖ Garo Hills is a mountainous region in Meghalaya.
- ❖ It is known for its rich cultural heritage.
- ❖ The area is home to the Garo tribe.



## REPORTS AND INDICES

### Femicides in 2023



- ❖ The UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) released the “Femicides in 2023: Global Estimates of Intimate Partner/Family Member Femicides report”.
- ❖ An estimated 85,000 women and girls were intentionally killed worldwide in 2023 alone.
- ❖ Every day, an average of 140 women and girls were killed by someone they trusted, amounting to one death every 10 minutes.
- ❖ The 2023 estimate is higher than the 48,800 victims reported in 2022.
- ❖ Africa recorded the highest number of victims, with an estimated 21,700 women and girls killed by intimate partners or family members in 2023.

- ❖ The continent also accounted for the highest rate of femicide relative to its population, at 2.9 victims per 100,000 people.
- ❖ The Americas and Oceania have followed, with rates of 1.6 and 1.5 per 100,000, respectively.
- ❖ Asia and Europe reported significantly lower rates, at 0.8 and 0.6 per 100,000.

## SPORTS

### Syed Modi India International Super 300 tournament 2024



- ❖ PV Sindhu beat China's Luo Yu Wu and won her 3rd title at Syed Modi 2024 title, held at Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Lakshya Sen won his maiden title, defeating Singapore's Jia Heng Jason.
- ❖ Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand made history by winning India's first women's doubles title at the event.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Soil Day 2024 - December 05

- ❖ This day was recommended by the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) in 2002.
- ❖ It commemorates the birthday of the late King of Thailand Bhumibol Adulyadej.
- ❖ He had worked for raising the awareness of the importance of sustainable soil management and rehabilitation for food security, poverty alleviation and more.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is "Caring for soils: measure, monitor, manage".

- ❖ India's soil has been facing widespread deficiency of nitrogen and phosphorus for a long time.
- ❖ The Potassium deficiency became more prevalent in the 1990s, and sulphur deficiency emerged as a major problem in the 2000s.

