

**January - 08**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ Union Home Minister inaugurated an Integrated Command and Control Centre in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to integrate surveillance, communication, and coordination among multiple security and administrative agencies.
- ❖ The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) began a two-day national seminar titled 'Aeronautics 2047' in Bengaluru.
  - This event is marking 25 years of successful flight of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas.
- ❖ The IITM Global Research Foundation was launched at IIT Madras to expand its global presence in research, education, innovation, and startups.
  - The initiative aims to position IIT Madras as a multinational university.
- ❖ Prasar Bharati has started steps to resume live radio programmes in the Thadou language from All India Radio (Akashvani) Imphal.
  - Thadou is a distinct Scheduled Tribe of Manipur, recognised under the Presidential Order of 1956.

## **TAMIL NADU NEWS**

### **TAPS Scheme**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme (TAPS) is announced for state government employees and teachers.
- ❖ It will guarantee a pension equal to 50% of their last-drawn monthly salary.
- ❖ It comes after the 23-year struggle of government staff for the restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) since 2003.
- ❖ The employees will contribute 10% of their basic salary to the pension corpus, and the state will bear the rest.
- ❖ Under OPS, the government was bearing the entire pension fund contribution.
- ❖ The state government will fully bear the cost of implementing TAPS.
- ❖ It was expected to come into force on January 1, 2027
- ❖ The financial burden on the state is expected to go up steeply under TAPS, with a one-time contribution of Rs 13,000 crore to the pension fund and additional contributions of Rs 11,000 crore every year.

- ❖ The yearly contribution will also be revised periodically in line with the increase in salary.
- ❖ The pensioners will be eligible for Dearness Allowance (DA) hikes every six months on par with serving government employees.
- ❖ In the event of a pensioner's death, 60% of the last-drawn pension will be paid as a family pension to the nominated family members.
- ❖ Besides, gratuity up to Rs 25 lakh will be paid on retirement or in the event of death during service, based on the length of service.
- ❖ TAPS also ensures a minimum pension for all employees who retire without completing the qualifying service period for pension.
- ❖ Employees who joined service under the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) and retired without a pension before the implementation of TAPS will be provided a special compassionate pension.

## Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme



- Pension after 10 years of service**  
Employees will receive a pension after completing 10 years of service
- Pension amount**  
The pension will be 50% of the last drawn salary.
- Pension Fund**  
A new pension fund will be created, with beneficiaries contributing 10% of their salary to support the 50% pension.
- Government support**  
The Tamil Nadu government will cover the additional Rs.13,000 crore required to fund the pension scheme.
- Dearness Allowance**  
Pensioners will receive a dearness allowance every six months, just like government employees.
- Compassionate Allowance**  
Those who retired before the new pension scheme will still receive a compassionate allowance.
- Family Pension**  
If a pensioner passes away, their family members (nominated by the pensioner) will receive 60% of the pension as a family pension.

- ❖ According to the 2025-26 state budget, the TN government is estimated to spend Rs 2,07,054 crore on committed expenditure, which is 62% of its estimated revenue receipts.

- ❖ This comprises spending on salaries (28% of the revenue receipts), pensions (14%) and interest payments (21%).
- ❖ Chhattisgarh has become the first state to restore the old pension scheme in order to provide an assured income to retired employees.
- ❖ West Bengal and Tripura were the only two states that did not immediately repeal the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) once the National Pension System (NPS) was implemented from 1 January 2004.
- ❖ Tripura scrapped OPS and implemented NPS in 2015.
- ❖ By 2005–06, almost every state in India had adopted NPS for their government employees except for West Bengal.
- ❖ The NPS was introduced by the NDA government at the Centre in 2004.
- ❖ The OPS has been re-implemented for their state government employees in the states of Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Punjab and Jharkhand.
- ❖ Karnataka and Telangana are also planning to switch to OPS.

### **Ulagam Ungal Kaiyil Scheme**

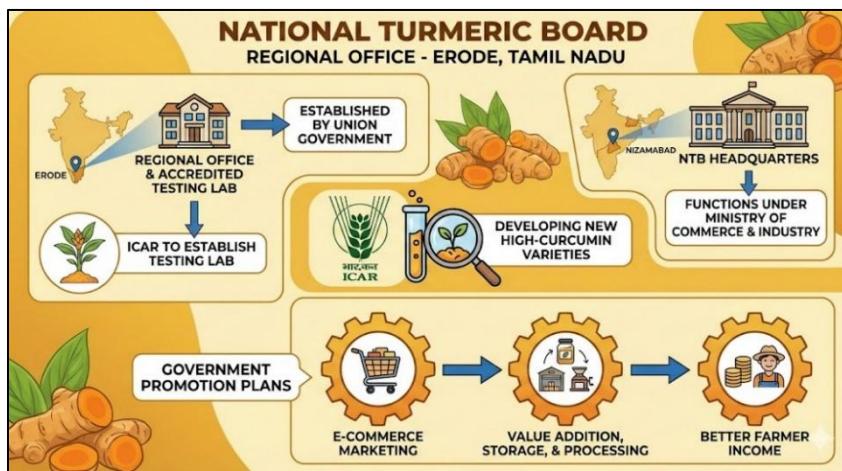
**CM Stalin To Flag Off Free Laptop Distribution**

**Chief Minister M K Stalin will launch the 'Ulagam Ungal Kayyil' free laptop scheme for college students on Monday. Under the two-phase initiative, 20 lakh laptops will be distributed statewide. In the first phase, 10 lakh students from engineering, arts and science, medicine, agriculture, law, polytechnic and ITI courses will benefit. The laptops feature updated specifications and include free access to Perplexity AI for academic use.**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government launched free laptop distribution under the 'Ulagam Ungal Kaiyil' initiative in Sivaganga district on 5 January 2026.
- ❖ The scheme targets 20 lakh students across Tamil Nadu, to be covered in phases.
- ❖ In the first phase, 10 lakh students are being provided with laptops.
- ❖ It covers students from Government and Government-aided colleges, and eligible private college students under the 7.5% reservation and welfare schemes.
- ❖ Students from medical, engineering, arts and science, agriculture, law, polytechnic, nursing, and Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) are included.

## NTB Regional Office - Erode

- ❖ The Union government announced the setting up of a regional office of the National Turmeric Board (NTB) and an accredited turmeric testing laboratory in Erode, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The NTB is headquartered in Nizamabad, Telangana, and functions under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ❖ The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) will establish the turmeric testing laboratory in Erode.
- ❖ ICAR will also work on developing new turmeric varieties with high curcumin content.
- ❖ The government plans to promote turmeric marketing through e-commerce platforms and support value addition, storage, and processing for better farmer income.



## Olive Ridley Turtle Hatcheries

- ❖ Hatcheries for Olive Ridley sea turtle nesting have been set up in Chennai for the 2025–26 nesting season.
- ❖ A fully operational Olive Ridley hatchery has been established at Besant Nagar beach.
- ❖ New hatcheries are planned at Neelankarai, Kovalam, and Pulicat.
- ❖ The Olive Ridley nesting season along the Tamil Nadu coast starts in December and continues till April.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Forest Department has begun night patrolling and nest monitoring to protect turtles and eggs.
- ❖ Around 50 hatcheries are planned initially this season, compared to 60 hatcheries set up in the previous nesting season.



- 📌 The first nests of the endangered Olive Ridley turtles were spotted on Marina, Besant Nagar & Tiruvanmiyur beaches in the early hours of Sunday, marking the start of the 2025–26 nesting season along Chennai's coast, which typically runs from December to April.
- 📌 TN Forest Department collected 94 eggs from the Uroor Kuppam in Besant Nagar & 111 from the Thiruvanmiyur nest, shifting them to hatcheries to protect them from predators & human disturbance. The eggs are expected to hatch in 45–60 days.
- 📌 The Chennai coast, from Marina to Neelankarai & Kovalam, is one of the few Olive Ridley nesting grounds on India's east coast outside Odisha's Rushikulya & Gahirmatha beaches, with the TN Forest Dept closely monitoring it amid threats from fishing nets & coastal activity.

### Tamil Nadu-UN Women Collaboration



- ❖ Tamil Nadu Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UN Women in Chennai.
- ❖ The MoU aims to strengthen women's welfare, gender equality, and inclusive development in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ It focuses on gender-responsive governance, planning, and budgeting aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ❖ UN Women will provide technical support to the Government of Tamil Nadu for implementation.
- ❖ The Social Welfare and Women's Rights Department, Home, Prohibition and Excise Department, and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department will be involved.
- ❖ A tripartite cooperation agreement was also signed with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Observatory of Public Sector Innovation (OPSI), and UNICEF Office of Innovation (UNICEF-OoI).

## NATIONAL NEWS

### **Kalai-II hydropower project**



**1,200 MW KALAI-II HYDROPOWER PROJECT  
SECURES KEY ENVIRONMENT CLEARANCE**

- ❖ The Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) has recommended the environmental clearance for the 1,200-megawatt (MW) Kalai-II hydropower project in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The project is planned on the Lohit River in the Anjaw district.
- ❖ The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report was prepared by WAPCOS Limited.
- ❖ But the EIA did not mention the white-bellied heron found in the project area.

- ❖ The white-bellied heron is listed as Critically Endangered by the IUCN.
- ❖ The species is legally protected under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Non-permanent members of UNSC 2026

Incoming and Outgoing Security Council Members 2026					
Incoming Members	Bahrain	Colombia	DRC	Latvia	Liberia
	Algeria	Guyana	ROK	Sierra Leone	Slovenia
Outgoing Members					
					

- ❖ Bahrain, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Latvia and Liberia have begun two-year terms as non-permanent members.
- ❖ They replacing Algeria, Guyana, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone and Slovenia, whose terms ended last month.
- ❖ The election process for non-permanent seats on the UNSC involves regional groups nominating candidates.
- ❖ There are four regional groups.
- ❖ UNSC comprises 5 permanent (P5) and 10 non-permanent members.
- ❖ Out of the 10 non-permanent members, five are elected each year by the General Assembly for a two-year term.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### Supermoon in 2026

- ❖ The Wolf Supermoon appeared in the sky on January 3, 2026, marking the first full Moon of the year.
- ❖ It is called a supermoon because the Moon was at its closest point to Earth, known as perigee.
- ❖ The Moon appeared larger and brighter than usual due to its shorter distance from Earth.

- ❖ January's full Moon is traditionally known as the Wolf Moon.
- ❖ The Wolf Supermoon is the first of 13 full Moons expected in the year 2026.
- ❖ Such a sequence makes 2026 a rare year with more than the usual 12 full Moons.



## STATES' NEWS

### Two Child Rule – Telangana

**'GOVT REVIEWED POLICY AFTER 30 YRS'**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Panchayat raj minister D Anasuya moves Telangana Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2026</li> <li>● Says govt reviewed population policy 30 years after norm was brought in</li> <li>● Says fertility rate in rural areas in state was 1.7, less than replacement rate</li> <li>● If fertility rate continues at 1.7, it would adversely affect interests of Telangana's population</li> <li>● CPI legislator Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao supports removal of two-child norm in rural local bodies</li> </ul>		<p><b>Bill to rename village:</b> Assembly passes another bill to rename village in Wanaparthy from Jain Tirumalapur to Jayanna Tirumalapur; Congress MLA T Ram Mohan Reddy seeks renaming of Dongayenkepalli as Sanjeev Nagar</p>
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- ❖ The Telangana Legislative Assembly has passed a Bill abolishing the two-child norm for contesting local body elections.
- ❖ The earlier law, enacted in 1994, disqualified candidates who had more than two children.

- ❖ The new law is titled the Telangana Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2026.
- ❖ This Bill replaces the earlier Ordinance issued on the same subject.
- ❖ The Bill was introduced by the Minister for Panchayat Raj, Danasari Anasuya Seethakka.
- ❖ The amendment allows all eligible citizens, irrespective of the number of children, to contest Panchayat Raj elections.

### First Commercial Tropical Trout Farm

**India's first commercial tropical trout farm to be inaugurated in Hyderabad**



- ❖ India has launched its first commercial tropical Recirculatory Aquaculture System (RAS) based rainbow trout farm in Telangana.
- ❖ The Smart Green Aquaculture Farm and Research Institute was inaugurated in Hyderabad.
- ❖ The project is located at Kandukur Mandal in Ranga Reddy district, Telangana.
- ❖ It enables year-round farming of rainbow trout, a fish traditionally grown only in cold Himalayan regions.
- ❖ RAS uses controlled water circulation to maintain suitable conditions for fish growth.
- ❖ The initiative supports technology-driven aquaculture and skill development in the fisheries sector.

### IMPORTANT DAYS

#### National Bird Day 2026 - January 05

- ❖ The day aims to create awareness about bird conservation and the protection of bird habitats.

- ❖ The day was established in 2002 by the Avian Welfare Coalition to oppose the exploitation of birds, especially in the pet trade.
- ❖ The National Bird of India is the Indian Peacock, scientifically called *Pavo cristatus*, was officially adopted on February 1, 1963.
- ❖ The peacock is protected under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- ❖ The Indian Peacock is listed as Least Concern in the IUCN Red List.



### World Day of War Orphans 2026 – January 06

**WORLD DAY OF WAR ORPHANS 2026 – JANUARY 06**

Raising Awareness for Children Affected by Conflict

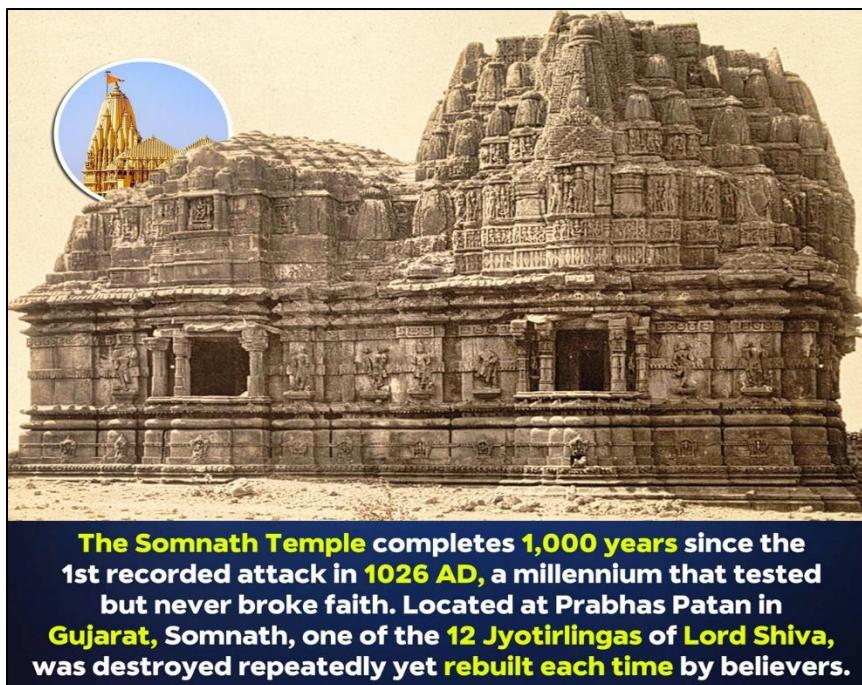
AIM: RAISING AWARENESS	ORIGIN: ESTABLISHED IN 2002	CHALLENGES: PHYSICAL, SOCIAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL	CALL TO ACTION: PROTECTION & SUPPORT
 <p>Highlights children who have lost parents due to war and armed conflicts.</p>	 <p>Initiated by SOS Enfants en Détresse to shed light on the plight of war orphans.</p>	 <p>Highlights the physical harm, social isolation, and psychological trauma faced by children.</p>	 <p>Advocates for protection, comprehensive care, rehabilitation, and sustainable long-term support.</p>
<p>Together, We Can Offer Hope, Care, and a Future for War-Affected Children. #WorldDayOfWarOrphans</p>			

- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about children who have lost their parents due to war and armed conflicts.

- ❖ It was first observed in 2002 and initiated by SOS Enfants en Détresse (France).
- ❖ It highlights the physical, social, and psychological challenges faced by war orphans.
- ❖ It calls for protection, care, rehabilitation, and long-term support for war-affected children.

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

### Somnath Temple - 1000 Years



- ❖ Prime Minister published an article titled “Somnath: 1,000 years of unbroken faith”.
- ❖ The year 2026 marks 1,000 years since the first recorded attack on the Somnath Temple in 1026 AD by Mahmud of Ghazni.
- ❖ The Somnath Temple is located at Prabhas Patan near Veraval in Gujarat.
- ❖ It is traditionally regarded as the first of the 12 Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva.
- ❖ After the 1026 AD attack, the temple was destroyed and rebuilt multiple times over nearly a millennium, symbolising resilience and continuity of faith.
- ❖ The temple was reconstructed in the Chaulukya (Solanki) period and later restored again under Maratha patronage in the 18th century.
- ❖ Following India’s independence, the present structure was rebuilt in the Chalukyan architectural style, with reconstruction initiated in 1951.

- ❖ Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel played a key role in the modern reconstruction, viewing Somnath as a symbol of national resurgence.

