

July - 16

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ A Ra Harikrishnan of Chennai became India's 87th Grandmaster recently at the La Plagne International Chess Festival in France.
- ❖ The Ministry of Culture has announced India's first global conference on Manuscript heritage, titled '*Reclaiming India's Knowledge Legacy Through Manuscript Heritage*'.
- ❖ DRDO and Indian Air Force conducted a successful flight test of the Astra Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM) from the Su-30 Mk-I fighter jet.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Valluvar Marai Vairamuthu Urai – Vairamuthu

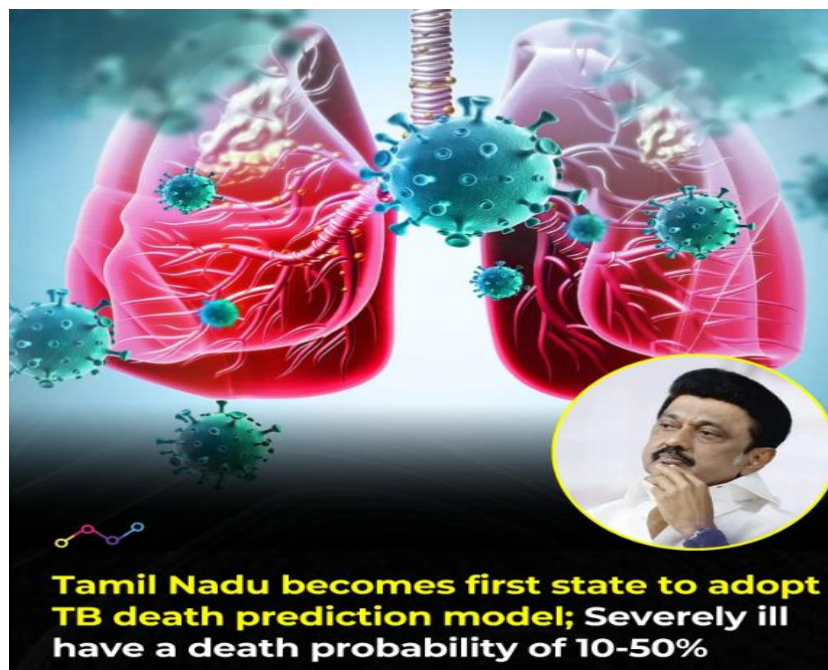


- ❖ CM of Tamil Nadu released a commentary on The Thirukkural, Valluvar Marai Vairamuthu Urai, authored by lyricist Vairamuthu.
- ❖ Though Plato and Aristotle authored secular works, Tiruvalluvar lived and wrote in a period much earlier than that of these Greek philosophers.
- ❖ The Several couplets argue that Thiruvalluvar was a poet of rationalism, social justice, and self-respect.
- ❖ A new commentary was necessary because language evolves significantly over a century.
- ❖ 'Kamam' once had a profound meaning, but its connotation has changed.

Tamil Nadu's TN-KET Program

- ❖ TN-KET (Kasanoi Erappila Thittam) was launched in 2022.

- ❖ It is Tamil Nadu's state initiative aimed at reducing tuberculosis (TB) mortality by enabling early detection and providing tailored care for severe cases.
- ❖ It uses a simple paper-based triage tool assessing five parameters: BMI, oxygen level, respiratory rate, leg swelling, and ability to stand.
- ❖ The program fast-tracks 98% of severe TB patients for hospital admission within seven days.
- ❖ TN-KET achieved a 20% reduction in early TB deaths within six months.
- ❖ It also offers a highly scalable model aligned with India's National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP).
- ❖ The program uses the real-time data to enable targeted interventions, promoting data-driven governance.



NATIONAL NEWS

Cybersecurity with quantum-safe roadmap

- ❖ The MeitY (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology) has launched a whitepaper titled "Transitioning to Quantum Cyber Readiness".
- ❖ CERT-In (Computer Emergency Response Team – India) and SISA have partnered in this effort.
- ❖ It aims to guide India's shift to quantum-safe digital infrastructure.

- ❖ The whitepaper offers clear guidance for sectors like BFSI (Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance), healthcare, and government.
- ❖ CERT-In continues to lead India's cyber response efforts under the IT Act 2000.



Islands Protection Zone Rules 2025

Clearing the coast

A change in rules by the Centre has paved the way for a tourism project in the Andamans

The project
The Aves Island project proposes to set up luxury tents, consisting of 50 rooms

Built-up area: 5,000 sq m

Photo for representative purpose only

The catch

- The Integrated Island Management Plan for small islands only permits development activity beyond 60 m from the High Tide Line
- The new notification allows development at 20 m and beyond in small islands

New classification

The notification divides the big, or major, Andaman Islands into two groups:

Group-I: Islands with geographical areas of > 1,000 sq km such as South Andaman, Middle Andaman, North Andaman and Great Nicobar

Group-II: Islands with geographical areas > 100 sq km but < 1,000 sq km such as Baratang, Little Andaman, Havelock and Car Nicobar

- ❖ The centre has revised the Islands Protection Zone (IPZ) rules for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.
- ❖ Clearance validity under the IPZ notification (2011) is extended to 10 years.
- ❖ It is aligning with the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification 2006.
- ❖ The New rules allow the transfer and splitting of clearances among multiple legal entities without needing fresh approvals.

- ❖ The Islands Protection Zone classifies the coastal areas into four Island Coastal Regional Zones (ICRZ-I to ICRZ-III plus water areas) based on the very ecological sensitivity, with strict restrictions on industrial development.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

AI in Traditional Medicine - WHO



- ❖ The WHO recognizes India's pioneering efforts in integrating AI with traditional medicine, especially Ayush systems.
- ❖ AI-powered diagnostic tools enhance the pulse reading, Prakriti analysis, and personalized preventive care.
- ❖ The Ayurgenomics initiative integrates Ayurveda with genomics, using the AI to identify disease markers and personalize health recommendations.
- ❖ AI is decoding the genomic and molecular basis of herbal formulations, bridging traditional knowledge with modern science.
- ❖ The Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) is highlighted as a global model for preserving indigenous knowledge.
- ❖ Artificial chemical sensors evaluate traditional parameters like Rasa, Guna, and Virya.



- ❖ The Ayush sector has a market size of \$43.4 billion, contributing significantly to the Indian economy.

17th BRICS summit 2025

- ❖ The 17th annual BRICS summit 2025 was the, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- ❖ The Chinese president did not attend the summit for the first time since succeeding Hu Jintao as CCP General Secretary in 2012.
- ❖ Theme of the event was "the Strengthening Global South Cooperation for More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance."
- ❖ They signed the Rio de Janeiro Declaration.
- ❖ Indonesia officially joined BRICS in 2025.
- ❖ In 2024, Iran, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Egypt, and Ethiopia joined the group.
- ❖ This summit introduced a new "partner countries" category, extending associate status to the nations including Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Thailand, Uganda, and Uzbekistan.
- ❖ Saudi Arabia has not yet formalised its BRICS membership, while Argentina, initially expected to join in 2024, later opted out.
- ❖ India will assume the BRICS Chairship and host the 18th BRICS Summit in 2026.
- ❖ The theme of the event will be 'Building Resilience and Innovation for Cooperation and Sustainability'.
- ❖ BRICS accounts for 45% of the world's population and 37.3% of global GDP, surpassing the EU's 14.5% and the G7's 29.3%.
- ❖ BRICS does not have a permanent seat or a dedicated secretariat.
- ❖ Despite accounting for more than 18% of global trade, intra-BRICS trade remains low at just 2.2% (2022).

Outcomes of the 17th BRICS Summit

- ❖ Global Governance Reform: BRICS backed expansion of the UN Security Council to include more permanent members from Asia, Africa, and Latin America.
- ❖ Sustainable Development: BRICS adopted the Leaders' Framework Declaration on Climate Finance to mobilize resources for developing countries.
- ❖ Peace and Security: BRICS reaffirmed "African Solutions to African Problems", called for a Gaza ceasefire and two-state solution, and condemned the Pahalgam attack.

- ❖ Financial Cooperation: BRICS had advanced talks on a Cross-Border Payments Initiative to reduce US dollar reliance.
- ❖ BRICS adopted the Leaders' Statement on Global AI Governance, concluded the Data Economy Governance Understanding, and agreed to form a BRICS Space Council for collaborative space exploration.
- ❖ BRICS launched the Partnership for the Elimination of Socially Determined Diseases (Tuberculosis) to tackle health disparities.

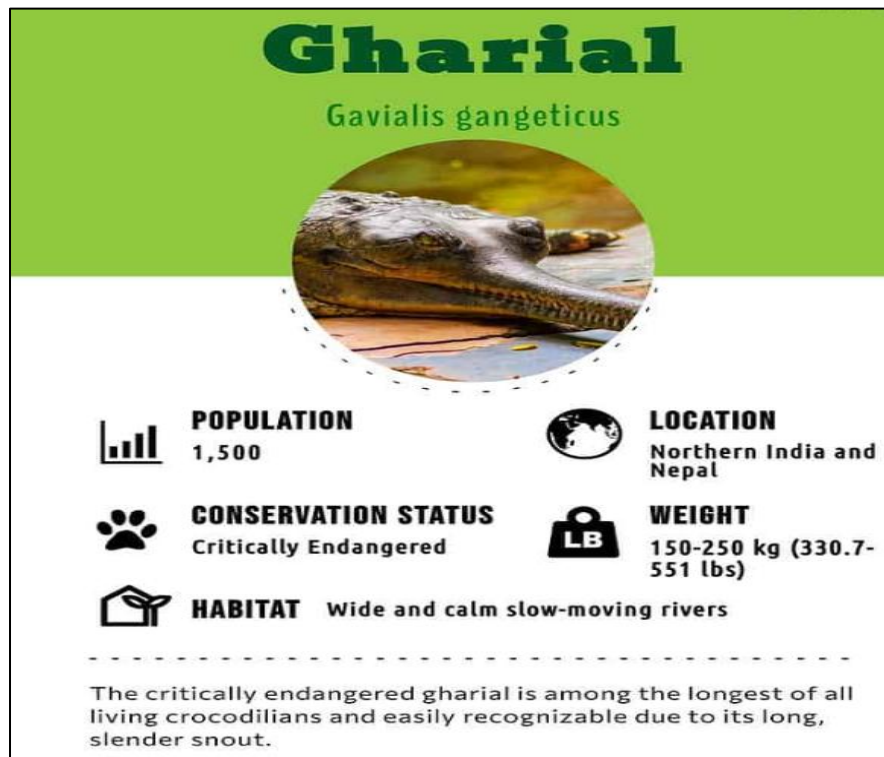


ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Gharial and Sloth Bear in SRP

- ❖ The Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SC-NBWL) had recommended including the Gharial and Sloth Bear in the Species Recovery Programme.
- ❖ It is executed under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (CSS-IDWH).
- ❖ SC-NBWL is constituted under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ❖ Gharial lives in freshwater rivers, mainly tributaries of the Ganga River in India and the Rapti-Naryani River in Nepal.
- ❖ It is classified as Critically Endangered by IUCN.
- ❖ It has also included in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- ❖ The Gharial has the thinnest and most elongated snout among all crocodilians.
- ❖ The Sloth Bear is a small, and is a solitary, generally nocturnal animal.
- ❖ It is native to India, Sri Lanka, and Nepal.

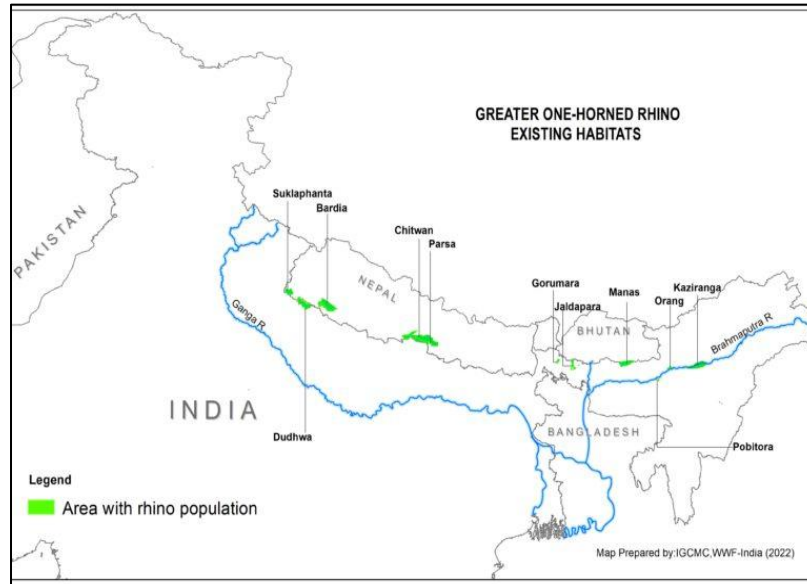
- ❖ It inhabits five biogeographic zones in India, such as Peninsular India, Western Ghats, Deccan Plateau, Gangetic Plain, and Northeast.
- ❖ The Sloth Bear is classified as Vulnerable by IUCN.
- ❖ It is listed under the Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and Appendix I of the CITES.
- ❖ CSS-IDWH also provides financial and technical assistance to State and Union Territory (UT) Governments for wildlife conservation.
- ❖ So far, 22 species, including the Snow Leopard, Asiatic Lion, and the Great Indian Bustard, have been identified under the Species Recovery Programme.



RhoDIS India programme

- ❖ Under the Rhino DNA Index System (RhoDIS) India program, a specialised team has begun genetic analysis of samples from 2,573 rhino horns.
- ❖ Most of these horns were destroyed by the Assam Forest Division four years ago.
- ❖ The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) genetics laboratory carries out DNA profiling to create a database for RhoDIS India.
- ❖ The analysis will help identify changes in short tandem repeat (STR) allele frequency, a specific DNA sequence, over time in Assam's rhino population.
- ❖ The RhoDIS India programme started in 2016.

- ❖ It is a collaboration between the MoEFCC, rhino-bearing States, Wildlife Institute of India (WII), and the World-Wide Fund for Nature India (WWF-India).
- ❖ The programme aims to enhance scientific investigation of rhino-related crimes and support effective management of India's rhino population.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Khmer Rouge Sites in Cambodia - UNESCO Heritage site



- ❖ The UNESCO has added three Khmer Rouge-era torture and execution sites in Cambodia to the World Heritage List.



- ❖ The inscription was made during the 47th Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee held in Paris.
- ❖ The listing was coincided with the 50th anniversary of the Khmer Rouge's rise to power in 1975.
- ❖ The three sites also include the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, the M-13 prison in Kampong Chhnang province, and Choeung Ek killing field near Phnom Penh.
- ❖ Tuol Sleng, formerly a high school, was used as the infamous S-21 prison where over 15,000 people were tortured and killed.
- ❖ M-13 prison had served as one of the earliest Khmer Rouge detention centers in central Cambodia.
- ❖ Choeung Ek was a mass execution site.
- ❖ The Khmer Rouge regime had caused the deaths of an estimated 1.7 million people through starvation, torture, and execution between 1975 and 1979.
- ❖ Cambodia previously had four archaeological sites on the UNESCO list: Angkor, Preah Vihear, Sambo Prei Kuk, and Koh Ker.

