

March - 16

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tata Motors Group, has signed a MoU with the Tamil Nadu government for establishing a vehicle manufacturing facility at an investment of over ₹9,000 crore over five years.
- ❖ The Prime Minister inaugurated Kochrab Ashram and launched the Master plan of Gandhi Ashram Memorial in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- ❖ Srinivasan K. Swamy has been presented with IAA Goden Compass Award at the 45th IAA World Congress held in Penang, Malaysia.
- ❖ India's first automobile in-plant railway siding project of Maruti Suzuki India was inaugurated in Hansalpur, Gujarat.
- ❖ The comprehensive maritime security exercise 'Sea Defenders-2024' between the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and United States Coast Guard (USCG) successfully was concluded at Port Blair, Andaman.
- ❖ In a first in Maharashtra, Mumbai is set to witness the installation of 210 artificial reefs in the Arabian Sea, near Worli Koliwada.
  - This is the second artificial reef deployment in the country after Pondicherry.

## NATIONAL

### UNNATI – 2024

**Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization Scheme, 2024 (UNNATI-2024)**

- Cabinet approves UNNATI – 2024 for a period of 10 years for development of Industries and generation of employment in North East Region
- Scheme will be effective from the date of Notification and up to 31.03.2034 along with 8 years of committed liabilities
- Financial outlay of Rs.10,037 crore for the scheme period from the date of notification for 10 years. (Additional 8 years for committed liabilities)
- Eligible Industrial Units to commence their production or operation within 4 years from the grant of registration
- Districts categorized into Zone A (Industrially Advanced Districts) & Zone B (Industrially Backward Districts)
- Scheme envisages approximately 2180 applications

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization Scheme, 2024 (UNNATI – 2024) for a period of 10 years.
- ❖ It is set to be effective from the date of notification and will run until March 31, 2034, inclusive of eight years of committed liabilities.

- ❖ The scheme is aimed at developing industries and generating employment in the North East Region.
- ❖ It seeks to create productive economic activity in manufacturing and services.
- ❖ Districts are categorized into two zones: Zone A (Industrially Advanced Districts) and Zone B (Industrially Backward Districts).
- ❖ 60% of the outlay of Part A has been earmarked for the eight NE states, and the remaining 40% will be allocated on a First-In-First-Out (FIFO) basis.

### IndiaAI Mission

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the IndiaAI Mission with an outlay of Rs 10,372 crore for the next five years.
- ❖ The government will allocate funds towards subsidising private companies looking to set up AI computing capacity in the country, among other things.
- ❖ It will be used to create computing infrastructure for the country, AI centres for multi-modal LLMs, 10,000 graphics processing units and more.



The infographic is split into two columns. The left column, titled 'IndiaAI Mission', states that the Cabinet has approved a comprehensive national-level mission with a budget outlay of Rs.10,371.92 crore. It aims to establish an AI ecosystem through strategic programs and partnerships across public and private sectors, implemented by the 'IndiaAI' Independent Business Division (IBD) under Digital India Corporation. It lists two mission components: 01. IndiaAI Compute Capacity (to build a high-end scalable AI computing ecosystem) and 02. IndiaAI Innovation Centre (to undertake development and deployment of indigenous Large Multimodal Models). The right column, also titled 'IndiaAI Mission', lists three more components: 03. IndiaAI Datasets Platform (to streamline access to quality non-personal datasets for AI Innovation), 04. IndiaAI Application Development Initiative (to promote AI applications in critical sectors for problem statements sourced from Central Ministries, State Departments, and other institutions), and 05. IndiaAI FutureSkills (to mitigate barriers to entry into AI programs and will increase AI courses in undergraduate, masters-level, and Ph.D. programs). It also lists 06. IndiaAI Startup Financing (to support and accelerate deep-tech AI startups) and 07. Safe & Trusted AI (to enable implementation of Responsible AI projects including development of indigenous tools and frameworks, self-assessment checklists for innovators, and other guidelines and governance frameworks). The infographic features a stylized figure holding a glowing sphere with 'AI' on it, and a blue cube icon.

### Catch the Rain 2024 Campaign

- ❖ The Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched the 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain-2024' Campaign.
- ❖ It aims to optimise the rainwater harvesting and other sustainable water management practices.

- ❖ The campaign aims to cover water conservation, rainwater harvesting, geo-tagging of water bodies, establishment of Jal Shakti Kendras, intensive afforestation, and awareness generation.



## Living Animal Species (Reporting and Registration) Rules, 2024

**BACKGROUND**

- 1887** The Wild Birds Protection Act was passed by the British India Government
- 1912** A second law was enacted in 1912 called the Wild Birds and Animals Protection Act. This act was amended in 1935.
- 1960** There is a rising issue for protection of wildlife and the prevention of certain species from becoming extinct came into the limelight.
- 1972** 'forests' part from state subject was shifted to **Concurrent List** by passing the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**

- ❖ The Living Animal Species (Reporting and Registration) Rules, 2024 are issued by the Union environment ministry.
- ❖ People with exotic pets such as macaws, cockatoos or a variety of soft-shell turtles will have to register them with the state wildlife department.

- ❖ The species covered by these are those listed under Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- ❖ “Animal species’ means any living specimens of any animal species listed in Schedule IV appended to the Act” which covers species under the Convention.”
- ❖ These rules do not apply to other wildlife that is already protected under the Wildlife Protection Act and cannot be kept in captivity.
- ❖ Section 49 M of the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act 2022 provides for the registration of possession, transfer, reporting of birth and death of living the scheduled animal species which are listed in the Appendices of CITES and listed in the Schedule IV of the Act.

## **KIRTI Program**



The poster features logos for the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, Khelo India, and the Sports Authority of India (SAI). The text reads: 'KHELO INDIA RISING TALENT IDENTIFICATION (KIRTI) PROGRAM'. Below this, it states: 'Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports Brings you a platform to showcase your Sports skills under the Khelo India Rising Talent Initiative (KIRTI) Program. The Talent Hunt will be done for Following Sports in Mumbai.' A list of sports is provided: 1. Kho-Kho, 2. Kabaddi, 3. Athletics, 4. Football. The poster also mentions: 'All Athletes (Male & Female) between the Age of 9 years to 18 years are hereby encourage to be part of this Talent Hunt Program held at Sports Authority Of India, Regional Centre, Kandivali East from 11th March 2024. Only the Registered athletes will be allowed to Participate in the Talent Hunt'. At the bottom, it says 'So Hurry up and Register Now!!' and includes illustrations of athletes performing various sports.

- ❖ The Khelo India Rising Talent Identification (KIRTI) programme was launched recently.
- ❖ The scheme is aimed at school children in the age group of nine to 18 years.
- ❖ It will also focus on using sports as a tool for healthy life and primarily keep youngsters away from drugs and gadgetry distractions.



- ❖ Fifty thousand applicants were being assessed in the first phase across 10 sports disciplines, including athletics, boxing, wrestling, hockey, football, and wrestling.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Yaounde Declaration

- ❖ The Ministers of Health from African countries with the highest burden of malaria recently signed the Yaounde Declaration with the objective of ending malaria deaths.
- ❖ Globally, the number of malaria cases in 2022 surged significantly compared to the pre-COVID-19 era.
- ❖ The total cases rose from 233 million in 2019 to a staggering 249 million.
- ❖ Africa remains the epicentre of the malaria crisis, bearing an immense burden.
- ❖ It accounts for 94 per cent of all global malaria cases and a staggering 95 per cent of global malaria-related deaths, totalling an estimated 580,000 deaths in 2022.



## ENVIRONMENT

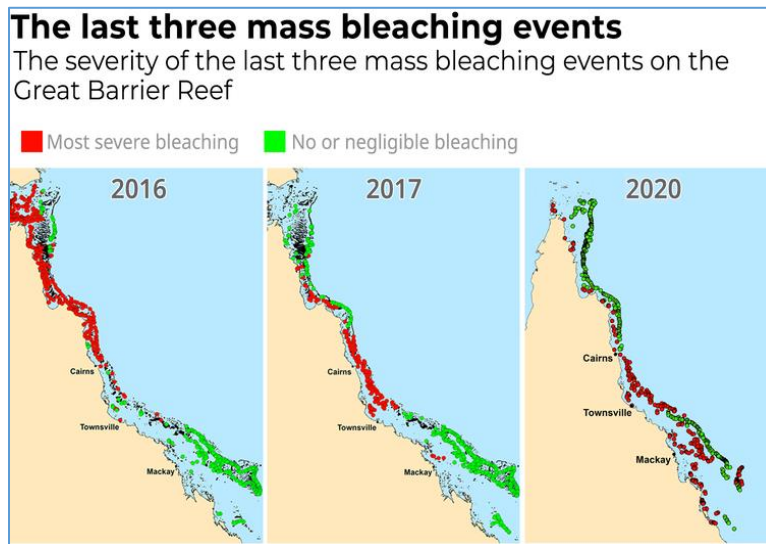
### Pregnant Megamouth Shark

- ❖ A pregnant megamouth shark, a rare and elusive deepwater species, was discovered washed up on a beach in the Philippines.
- ❖ This is only the 60<sup>th</sup> ever seen and the first ever observed to be pregnant.
- ❖ This is confirming for the first time that these mysterious creatures give birth to live young.
- ❖ The groundbreaking finds have revealed that megamouth sharks, specifically the *Megachasma pelagios* species, are ovoviviparous.

- ❖ This means that their offspring develop in eggs inside the mother, leading to live births.
- ❖ Megamouth sharks, like many deep-sea inhabitants, are believed to spend the majority of their time at depths of up to 4,600 metres (15,100 feet).



#### 4th Global mass coral bleaching in Great Barrier Reef



- ❖ A widespread coral bleaching event has engulfed the Great Barrier Reef (GBR), Australia.
- ❖ The reef is spread over an area larger than Italy.
- ❖ Climate change is the greater threat to the GBR and other coral reef ecosystems across the world's oceans.

- ❖ The GBR stretches across 2,300 km and is made up of around 3,000 individual reefs.
- ❖ Mass coral bleaching events have been witnessed in the past, starting from 1998 and then reported in 2002, 2016, 2017, 2020, 2022 and the latest in 2024.
- ❖ The current coral bleaching event marks the fifth event in the past eight years.

### **Mechanized tropical seaweed farm**

- ❖ Sea6 Energy launched the world's first large-scale mechanized tropical seaweed farm in Lombok, Indonesia.
- ❖ The farm is located off Ekas, on the island of Lombok.
- ❖ Sea6 Energy is a Bangalore-based company that specializes in cultivating and processing tropical seaweed species.
- ❖ The company has developed a cultivation mechanism called the Sea Combine.
- ❖ By using this, we can harvest and replant seaweed in deep ocean waters.



## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS**

### **Pritzker Architecture Prize 2024**

- ❖ The Japanese architect Riken Yamamoto is the winner of the 2024 Pritzker Architecture Prize.
- ❖ This is the highest international award in the field, which is sometimes referred to as the “Architecture Nobel”.
- ❖ The prize has been awarded every year since its founding in 1979.
- ❖ Yamamoto is the ninth laureate from Japan.

- ❖ This award aims to honour a living architect whose built work demonstrates talent, vision and commitment, who has produced consistent and significant contributions to humanity and the built environment through the art of architecture”.

