

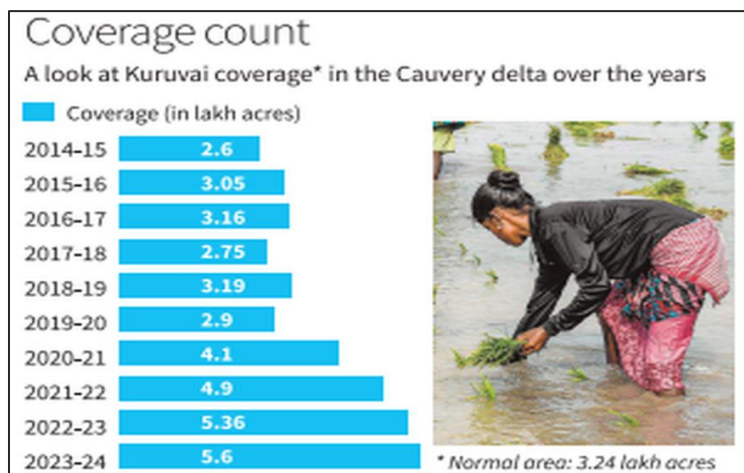
May - 24

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Indian Institute of Technology Madras has set up an IIT-M Maestro Ilaiyaraja Centre for Music Learning and Research on its premises.
- ❖ Indian spiritual guru Ravi Shankar has received the first stamp released commemorating the completion of 200 years of Indian Origin Tamils in Sri Lanka.
- ❖ UK charity, the Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN), has recognised Dr Purnima Devi Barman from India with the prestigious 2024 Whitley Gold Award.
  - This is recognising her extraordinary work to rescue the Greater Adjutant Stork, affectionately known as Hargila.
- ❖ The world celebrates International Tea Day on May 21st, a day designated by the United Nations to highlight the cultural and economic significance of tea.

## TAMIL NADU

### Kuruvai coverage 2024

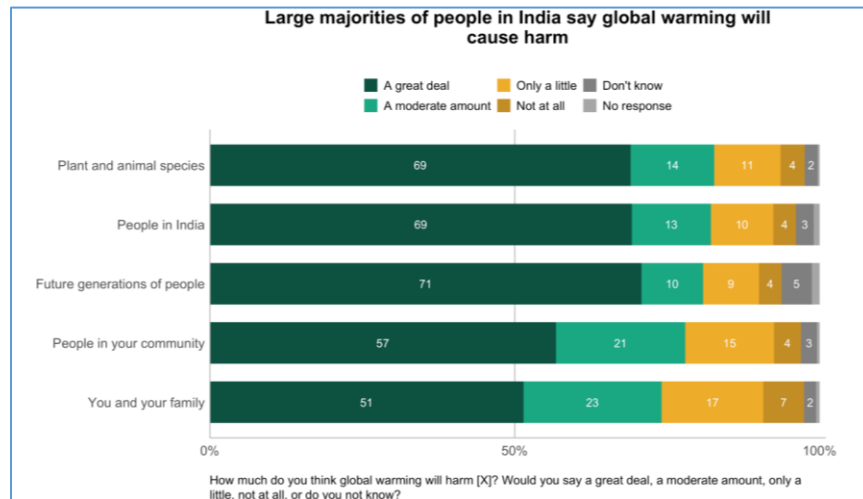


- ❖ The Cauvery delta region, in the last five years have seen a perceptible rise in the average extent of coverage for the season.
- ❖ Kuruvai coverage rose by 40% above normal in last five years.
- ❖ The normal coverage, as worked out by the State Agriculture Department, is about 3.24 lakh acres for the delta.
- ❖ It covers the districts of Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Mayiladuthurai, Ariyalur, Tiruchi and Cuddalore.

- ❖ However, going by the average for the last five years, the figure comes to 4.57 lakh acres — a nearly 40% rise.

## NATIONAL

### Climate Change in the Indian Mind, 2023



- ❖ More than 90 per cent of people interviewed for a nationally representative survey said they were "worried" about global warming.
- ❖ This was 61 per cent in 2011 and 81 per cent worried in 2022.
- ❖ 54 per cent of Indians "know just a little about global warming with only 10 per cent of people stating that they know "a lot".
- ❖ 32 per cent said they had never heard of it.
- ❖ 78 per cent of the respondents said global warming was happening and 52 per cent said it was caused by humans.
- ❖ Over 70 per cent said the phenomenon is affecting weather in their local area and monsoons of the country.

### Misuse of Non-Stick Teflon Cookware

- ❖ In the revised Dietary Guidelines for Indians (DGIs), ICMR and the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) have advised against non-stick cookware due to health risks from PFOA, PFOS in Teflon coatings.
- ❖ ICMR has also advised to opt for eco-friendly options like ceramic, cast iron, and stainless steel.
- ❖ Non-stick cookware has long been hailed as a convenient option for cooking due to its non-stick surface.

- ❖ This makes it easy to clean and requires less oil for cooking.
- ❖ One of the primary concerns with non-stick cookware is perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS).
- ❖ They are the chemicals used in producing non-stick coatings such as Teflon.
- ❖ When non-stick cookware is heated to high temperatures, these chemicals can release toxic fumes into the air, posing health risks to those exposed.
- ❖ Inhalation of these fumes has been linked to various health issues, including respiratory problems, thyroid disorders, and even certain types of cancer.
- ❖ PFOA belongs to a larger class of chemicals known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).
- ❖ While PFOA is largely phased out, other PFAS compounds may still be present in some non-stick cookware.
- ❖ Non-stick cookware, particularly those coated with polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE or Teflon), can release toxic fumes when overheated.
- ❖ They potentially causing flu-like symptoms in humans and being fatal to birds.



## INTERNATIONAL

### **MATES Migration Scheme**

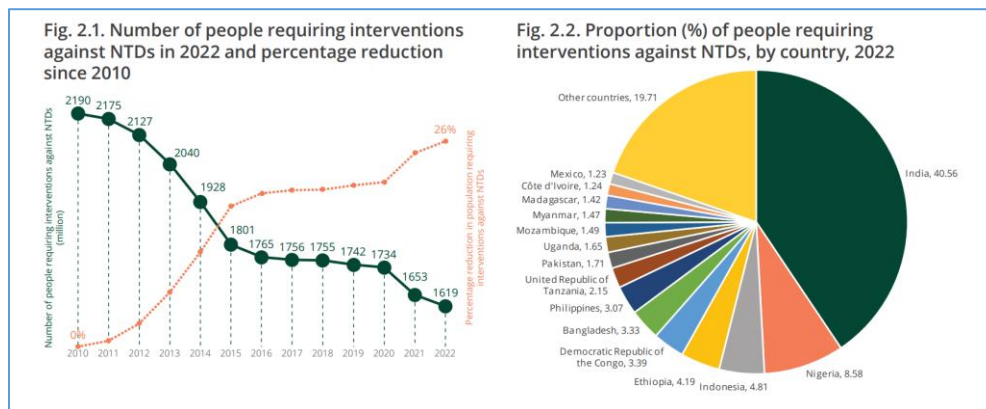
- ❖ Australia announced the start date for the Mobility Arrangement for Talented Early-professionals Scheme (MATES) for Indian Nationals.
- ❖ According to the document, the MATES Migration Scheme will go into effect on November 1.
- ❖ This will create a new mobility pathway for 3,000 Indian graduates and early-career professionals.

- ❖ Under the MATES scheme, Indian graduates and early career professionals (aged 18 to 30) with knowledge and skills in specific fields of study will be offered a new temporary mobility pathway to live and work in Australia for up to two years.



## REPORTS AND INDICES

### Global Report on Neglected Tropical Diseases 2024



- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) released its Global report on neglected tropical diseases (NTD) of 2024.
- ❖ The report provides an account of the progress made in 2023 towards the implementation of the Road map for neglected tropical diseases 2021-2030.
- ❖ As of December 2023, a total of 50 countries have successfully eliminated at least one NTD, marking the halfway point towards the 2030 target of 100 countries.



- ❖ 5 countries were acknowledged by WHO for eliminating one NTD, and one country for eliminating two NTDs.
- ❖ In July 2023, Iraq became the 50th country to eliminate at least one NTD. This event marks the halfway point towards achieving the 100-country target set for 2030.
- ❖ Noma was added to the list of NTDs in 2023.
- ❖ In October 2023, Bangladesh became the first country to be validated by WHO for eliminating visceral leishmaniasis as a public health problem.
- ❖ India was certified free of NTDs like dracunculiasis and yaws.

## STATES

### OBCs Reservation in West Bengal and Punjab

### In Need of Corrective Action

#### West Bengal

**Rohingyas and Bangladeshi** immigrants have got OBC certificates

**118 of the 179 castes in the state OBC list are from Muslim community**

**I would like to clearly state that the commission has no bias against any community but we asked the state (West Bengal) how there is a distinct bias in favour of the Muslim community**  
Hansraj Gangaram Ahir, NCBC chairman

#### Rajasthan

In seven districts, not a single person has got OBC reservation benefits

**State taking the income** of the entire family (including brothers and sisters and not just parents) to give OBC certificates, making several people ineligible for non-creamy layer OBC certificate

#### Bihar

From 1993 to 2023, the state included agricultural income of class III and IV employees to calculate income and give non-creamy layer OBC certificates.

**Bihar giving flawed certificates** to those belonging to Kurmi caste.

#### Punjab

**OBCs have 12% reservation** and SCs 25%, which takes the total quantum to 37% while the state can give 50% reservation

**State told to increase the percentage of OBC reservation from 12% to 25%**

- ❖ The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) has recommended an increase in the reservation quota for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in public employment in Punjab and West Bengal.
- ❖ Currently, Punjab allocates 25% of public employment positions to Scheduled Castes and 12% to OBCs, totalling 37% reservation.
- ❖ The NCBC has proposed enhancing the OBC quota by an additional 13%, bringing the total OBC reservation in public employment to 25%.



- ❖ As on date, 143 communities were included in the State List of OBCs out of which 83 castes/communities belonged to Muslim religion.
- ❖ A total of 179 OBC communities are enlisted in the State list of OBCs in West Bengal.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### International Astronomy Day 2024 - May 18

- ❖ It is observed to honour and celebrate the importance of the universe.
- ❖ The day is celebrated twice a year in order to observe the events that occur in space.
- ❖ In 2024, International Astronomy Day will be observed on May 18 in the spring and October 12 in the autumn.
- ❖ This day was initiated by Doug Berger in 1973, who was the president of the Astronomical Association of Northern California at the time.



### World Bee Day 2024 - May 20

- ❖ To raise awareness of the importance of pollinators, the threats they face and their contribution to sustainable development, the UN designated this day.
- ❖ This date is coinciding with the birthday of Anton Janša (1734-1773).

- ❖ He is in the 18th century pioneered modern beekeeping techniques in his native Slovenia and was the first beekeeping teacher at the imperial court in Vienna.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is "Bee Engaged with Youth."



## **National Anti-Terrorism Day 2024 - May 21**



- ❖ It aims to raise awareness around the ill effects of terrorism and violence on the society.



- ❖ It is observed every year to commemorate the death anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, the sixth PM of India.
- ❖ He was assassinated on May 21, 1991 at Sriperumbudur, by a suicide bomber.

