

May - 24

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Indian Coast Guard (ICG), under its mission Operation Olivia in Odisha, has successfully protected over 6.98 lakh Olive Ridley turtles.
- ❖ International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia, (IDAHOBIT) was observed on 17th May to raise an awareness of LGBTQ rights violations and stimulate interest in LGBTQ rights work worldwide.
- ❖ The inaugural World Fair Play Day was observed on May 19, 2025 to promoting sports practiced in the spirit of friendship, solidarity, tolerance, inclusion, and non-discrimination.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Mangrove forest - Buckingham canal



- ❖ For years, the Buckingham Canal along East Coast Road suffered from neglect and the spread of invasive species, most notably by *Prosopis Juliflora*.
- ❖ Now, the Tamil Nadu Forest Department has launched an initiative to restore a stretch of the canal.
- ❖ It will establish green belt of native mangrove species along its edge.
- ❖ The new mangrove forest has come up near Buckingham Canal in Kazhipattur in Chennai.
- ❖ Under the Green TN Mission, Tamilnadu Forest Department had planted 12,500 mangrove seedlings from different species last year.

- ❖ The six salt-tolerant species are *Rhizophora mucronata*, *Bruguiera cylindrica*, *Avicennia marina*, *Aegiceras corniculatum*, *Excoecaria agallocha*, *Acanthus illicifolius*.

Update on Tamil Nadu's endangered species fund 2025

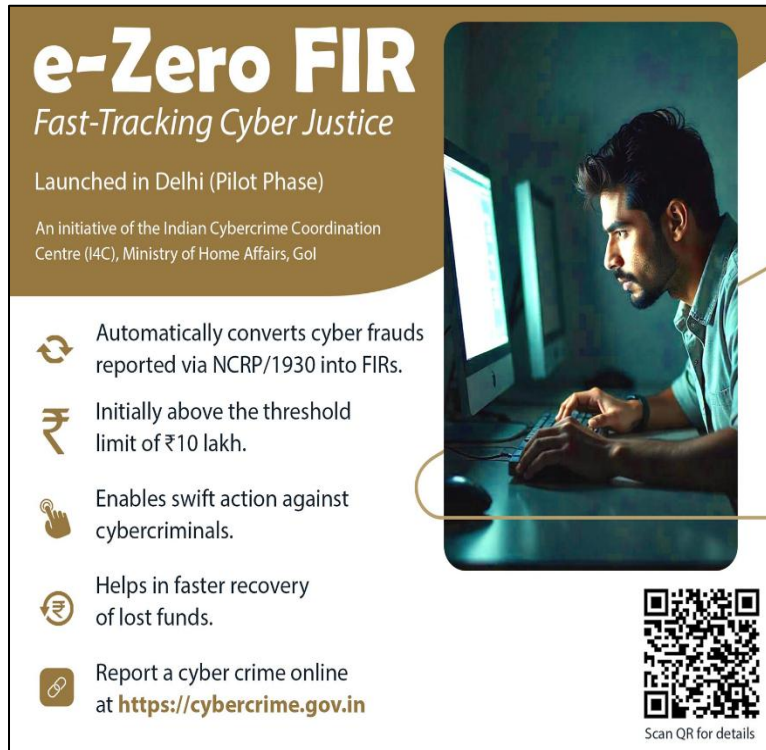


- ❖ Tamil Nadu Endangered Species Conservation Fund was announced in 2024 with an initial corpus of ₹50 crore.
- ❖ It was initially set to be managed by the State Forest Development Agency (SFDA)
- ❖ After the Tamil Nadu Forest Department's plan hit a obstruction, it has been decided to reroute the funds through a different institution.
- ❖ In November 2024, the SFDA was designated as the managing agency for the fund.
- ❖ It was to be initially overseen by the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve Foundation.
- ❖ The corpus of ₹50 crore was to be held by the Tamil Nadu Power Finance Corporation or the Tamil Nadu Transport Development Finance Corporation until further arrangements were made.

- ❖ The State Forest Department has now decided to transfer the responsibility of managing the fund to the Advanced Institute of Wildlife Conservation (AIWC) in Vandalur.
- ❖ It is an institution known for its research and initiatives in wildlife conservation, which has been recently registered as a society.
- ❖ AIWC is expected to invite grant proposals for research on endangered species in the State.
- ❖ It will be including Salim Ali's fruit bat, Malabar Civet, White-rumped vulture, Nilgiris wart frog, White-spotted bush frog, and Anamalai flying frog.

NATIONAL NEWS

e-Zero FIR Initiative



e-Zero FIR
Fast-Tracking Cyber Justice

Launched in Delhi (Pilot Phase)

An initiative of the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C), Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt of India

- Automatically converts cyber frauds reported via NCRP/1930 into FIRs.
- Initially above the threshold limit of ₹10 lakh.
- Enables swift action against cybercriminals.
- Helps in faster recovery of lost funds.
- Report a cyber crime online at <https://cybercrime.gov.in>

Scan QR for details

- ❖ The Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) has introduced the new e-Zero FIR initiative as a pilot project for Delhi.
- ❖ The initiative will automatically convert the financial cybercrime complaints registered on the 1930 helpline or cybercrime.gov.in portal, into First Information Reports (FIRs).
- ❖ Currently it is applicable to financial frauds involving amounts exceeding Rs 10 lakh.

- ❖ This will be immediately routed to the territorial Cybercrime Police Stations.
- ❖ The complainants can visit the cybercrime Police Station within 3 days and get the Zero FIR converted into a regular FIR.
- ❖ The e-Crime Police Station of Delhi has been notified for the registration of e-FIRs.

New Sea Route for North-East



- ❖ The proposed Shillong (Meghalaya) - Silchar (Assam) highway will reportedly act as a continuation of a key multi-modal transport project in Myanmar.
- ❖ It was offering a new sea-based route between the North-East and Kolkata, bypassing Bangladesh.
- ❖ This corridor will link to the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project in Myanmar.
- ❖ It connects the Kolkata seaport to the Sittwe port on the Kaladan river in Myanmar's Rakhine state.
- ❖ The Sittwe port connects to Paletwa in Myanmar through an inland waterway and to Zorinpui in Mizoram through a road section.
- ❖ Shillong-Silchar is significant as Silchar is the entry point for connecting Mizoram, Tripura and Manipur as well as the Barak Valley region of Assam.

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the construction of a 166.8-km-long, 4-lane, high-speed corridor along National Highway-6 from Mawlyngkhung near Shillong in Meghalaya to Panchgram near Silchar in Assam.

3 New crop varieties

- ❖ Three crop varieties developed by Banaras Hindu University (BHU) were released / notified by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
- ❖ These include two varieties of rice and one variety of mustard.
- ❖ Malaviya Manila Sinchit Dhan-1 was developed jointly by BHU and IRRI.
- ❖ This variety matures in a short period (115 to 120 days) and provides a very high yield of 55 to 60 quintals per hectare.
- ❖ The Malviya Dhan 105 Sub-1 rice variety is an improved version of the earlier Malviya Dhan 105.
- ❖ The mustard variety Malviya Nidhi matures in 125 to 130 days and has an average yield of 20 quintals per hectare.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Lion Census 2025

- ❖ The 16th Asiatic lion census was conducted across 11 districts of Gujarat.
- ❖ The population of Asiatic lions in Gujarat rose from 674 to 891 as per the 2025 census.
- ❖ The new figures mark a rise of 217 lions, or an increase by over 32% in their numbers, over five years.
- ❖ The last census was conducted in 2020.

- ❖ Asiatic lions, a distinct sub-species, are found only in Gujarat's Gir National Park and the surrounding districts.
- ❖ Gir Wildlife Sanctuary and Pania Wildlife Sanctuary forms the core population.
- ❖ Amreli district has the highest count with 257 lions.
- ❖ Barda Wildlife Sanctuary near Porbandar has become a newly established lion population area.
- ❖ So, it has emerged as a "second home" for lions.
- ❖ It was the first time since 1879.
- ❖ The 2025 census also identified new satellite populations around Jetpur and Babra-Jasdan.
- ❖ It was completed in just three days, unlike the tiger census which takes two years.



- The total lion population increased from 674 in 2020 to 891 in 2025 with an overall growth of 217 individuals (32.20 %).
- Adult females increased from 260 individuals to 330 (26.92%), reinforcing the population's reproductive capacity.
- The current population estimate includes new satellite populations in Barda Wildlife Sanctuary, Jetpur and adjoining areas of Babra-Jasdan.
- For the first time population in corridor area has been recorded with a population of 22 individuals.
- The lion population has increased by 70.36 % in the past decade (523 in 2015 vis à vis 891 in 2025), whereas the area of distribution has increased by 59.09%.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Euthalia Malaccana Butterfly

- ❖ A new butterfly species, 'Euthalia malaccana', has been recorded for the first time in Arunachal Pradesh's Leparada district.
- ❖ This butterfly is found primarily in Southeast Asia, with records from northern Thailand, the Malay Peninsula, and the Sunda Islands.

- ❖ Five individuals of this species were documented in the area at an altitude of 685 metres above mean sea level between 2023 and 2024.



IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day for Women in Maritime 2025 - May 18



- ❖ It aims to promote the recruitment, retention and sustained employment of women in the maritime sector.

- ❖ Women in maritime assess all aspects of shipping, port operations, and related industries.
- ❖ Currently, women comprise only 2% of the global seafarer workforce and just 20% of the shore-based maritime workforce.
- ❖ The registered women seafarers in the country increased from 1,699 in 2015 to 14,255 in 2024.
- ❖ India has observed this day under the theme of “Women in Maritime: Leading Transformation and Sustainability”.

World Bee Day 2025 - May 20

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about the essential role that bees and other pollinators play in keeping our ecosystems healthy and ensuring food security.
- ❖ This date was chosen to honor the birth of Anton Janša, a Slovenian beekeeper from the 18th century.
- ❖ He is considered a pioneer in the field of modern beekeeping.
- ❖ Slovenia led the initiative and in 2017, the United Nations officially declared this day.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Bee inspired by nature to nourish us all".



National Anti-Terrorism Day 2025 - May 21


- ❖ This day is the remembrance of the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, India's youngest PM, in 1991, in Sriperumbudur, near Chennai.

- ❖ It aims to promote awareness about the impacts of terrorism and reaffirms commitment to peace and harmony through various public events.
- ❖ The then government decided to observe this day in 1992.

Rajiv Gandhi, India's seventh PM, died on May 21, 1991

INDIA'S YOUNGEST PM


While campaigning for elections in 1991, he was assassinated by an LTTE suicide bomber in Sriperumbudur



14 others were also killed

The assassin, Thenmozhi Rajaratnam, alias Dhanu, blew herself up after touching his feet

LTTE claimed that it was revenge for Gandhi having sent the Indian Peace Keeping Force to Sri Lanka in 1987



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

K. Veeraswami judgment – 1991

- ❖ Vice President has opined to revisiting a 1991 judgment delivered by the Supreme Court in K. Veeraswami Vs Union of India.
- ❖ Kuppuswami Naidu Veeraswami had commenced his legal practice by joining the Madras Bar in 1941.
- ❖ He was appointed as Assistant Government Pleader in 1953 and Government Pleader in 1959.
- ❖ On May 1, 1969 he had become the Chief Justice of the High Court.
- ❖ In 1976, the CBI had registered a First Information Report (FIR) against him for the offences under the Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act of 1947.
- ❖ He has filed a petition in the Madras High Court in 1978 to quash the criminal proceedings initiated against him.
- ❖ In 1979, a full Bench (comprising three judges) of the Madras HC refused to quash the investigation in a 2-1 ruling.



- ❖ Justice Veeraswami moved the SC in appeal, which finally decided the matter in 1991.
- ❖ The SC had to decide whether a judge of a High Court or of the SC is a “public servant” for the purpose of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947.
- ❖ The government had argued that, unlike the President and Governors, there is no immunity for judges of the higher judiciary under the Constitution.
- ❖ In a 3-2 verdict, the SC held that while a judge can be considered a public servant for a corruption case to be registered against him, the sanction must come from the CJI.
- ❖ In 2019, for the first time, then CJI Ranjan Gogoi gave permission to the CBI to register an FIR against Justice S N Shukla of the Allahabad High Court.
- ❖ Justice Gogoi’s predecessor, the CJI Dipak Misra, had recommended the impeachment of Justice Shukla, but the government did not act on it.

JUDICIARY MUST EVOLVE TRANSPARENT IN-HOUSE MECHANISM: VP

**JUDGES MUST BE PROTECTED FROM
"PERNICIOUS FORCES",
BUT NOT SHIELDED FROM SCRUTINY,
"SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION MUST TRACE
SOURCE, PURPOSE, AND POSSIBLE
JUDICIAL POLLUTION," HE URGES.**

