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TN CA 05 March 2024

**Core loading of India's 1st indigenous nuclear reactor in Kalpakkam achieved**



**Context:**

- India achieved a significant milestone in its nuclear program with the commencement of core loading at the nation's first indigenous Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) in Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu.
- PM Modi himself witnessed this historic event.

**About:**

- This core loading marks the beginning of the second stage of India's three-stage nuclear power program.
- It focuses on a closed fuel cycle for efficient uranium utilization.
- The 500 MWe PFBR, developed by Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI), signifies India's progress in domestic nuclear reactor technology.

**Take the pledge: Online awareness campaign launched to protect Nilgiri Tahrs**



**Context:**

- As part of its efforts to raise awareness about Nilgiri tahrs, the state animal, the TN government on World Wildlife Day started issuing digital certificates to those who take a pledge to protect it. M G Ganesan, project director, project Nilgiri Tahr, launched the campaign in Coimbatore.
- This initiative allows individuals to take a digital pledge promising to protect these majestic mountain goats.
- By registering on a dedicated website, participants receive a digital certificate acknowledging their commitment.
- This campaign not only educates the public but also fosters a sense of responsibility towards preserving this Endangered species.

**Did you Know?**

- Nilgiri Tahr is present only in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

**24,000 birds sighted during Thamirabarani Waterbird Count**

**Context:**

- The recent Thamirabarani Waterbird Count held between February 16th and 18th, 2024, documented an impressive 24,207 birds across 66 species. This event highlights the rich biodiversity of the Thamirabarani river basin in Tamil Nadu



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- The count was organized by ATREE's Agasthyamalai Community Conservation Centre (ACCC) along with other local groups
- A diverse range of birds were recorded including resident species like egrets and migratory ducks like the Northern Pintail and Bar-headed Goose.
- Notably, the resident Egret family dominated the count with nearly 4,861 individuals spotted.

TN achieves 98 percent pulse polio coverage

Context:

- TN has achieved nearly 98% of its targeted pulse polio immunization coverage on March 4, 2024.
- This translates to 56.34 lakh children vaccinated against a target of 57.84 lakh children under five years old.
- The remaining 2% of targeted children will be reached through door-to-door campaigns in the coming week.
- The success is attributed to setting up over 43,000 booths across various locations and continuous efforts by the health department.

About:

- India's Pulse Polio programme, a key part of the country's successful fight against polio, was launched in 1995,
- Targets: Children under 5 years old receive polio drops during National Immunization Days (NIDs) twice a year and Sub-National Immunization Days (SNIDs) in high-risk areas.

Tangedco to import 6.5L MT coal from Malaysia to tackle summer

Context:

- Tangedco, Tamil Nadu's power distribution company, plans to import 6.5 lakh metric tonnes (MT) of coal from Malaysia in March and April 2024 to meet the expected rise in demand during the summer months.
- This comes after the central government allowed a 6% coal import quota for all distribution companies.

World Obesity Day

Context:

- World Obesity Day, held annually on March 4th, is a unified day of action to raise awareness and encourage solutions to address the global obesity crisis.

About:

- The inaugural World Obesity Day was held on March 4th, 2015.
- It was established by the World Obesity Federation



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- lit aimed to **bring global attention to the rising issue of obesity** and encourage collaborative efforts to address it

### Theme:

- The World Obesity Day 2024 theme is **“Let's Talk About Obesity and...”**
- This theme emphasizes to encourage people to **start conversations that address obesity from a cross-cutting perspective.**
- The idea is to look at **health, youth, and the world as a whole** in order to find ways to combat obesity together.