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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

Tamil Nadu: 17-06-2024

Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya	 Why in the news? The district administration has invited Expression of Interest (EOI) from non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to run six Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya. About Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya: KGBV is a scheme launched by the Government of India. Aimed at providing educational facilities for girls from disadvantaged groups. Target Group:
	 Girls from Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Other Backward Classes (OBC), minority communities, and families below the poverty line. Objective: To ensure access and quality education for girls. To reduce gender disparities in education. Establishment: Introduced in 2004 under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
	(SSA). ○ Focus on rural areas where female literacy is low.
Pallikaranai Marshland	Why in the news? • The Alliance of Residents' Welfare Associations, a state-wide organisation, on Sunday passed a resolution demanding restoration and conservation of the Pallikaranai Marshland.
	 About Pallikaranai Marshland: Location: Situated in the southern part of Chennai, Tamil Nadu. Significance: One of the few natural coastal aquatic habitats that qualify as a wetland in India. It is locally known by the generic Tamil name 'kazhuveli' which means a flood plain or water logged area. Recognized for its rich biodiversity of flora and fauna.
Gulf of Mannar	 Why in the news? The study conducted by the Suganthi Devadason Marine Research Institute (SDMRI) and partners, revealed that nearly 50% of marine litter in the Gulf of Mannar consists of fishing gear that has been abandoned or lost. On the Indian side, microplastics were recorded in significant quantities in surface sediment at various beach



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locations.

About Gulf of Mannar:

- The Gulf of Mannar is situated between the southeastern tip of India and the west coast of Sri Lanka.
- Geography: The Gulf is part of the Laccadive Sea in the Indian Ocean.
- **Biodiversity**:
 - Recognized as one of the richest coastal regions in terms of biodiversity.
 - Contains 21 islands and adjacent coral reefs.
- **Protected Area:**
 - Declared as the Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park, comprising 21 small islands and the surrounding shallow waters.
 - The park aims to protect the marine and terrestrial ecosystems of the region.
- Significance:
 - Known for its extensive coral reefs, sea grasses, and mangroves.
 - Important habitat for endangered species like the dugong (sea cow) and various species of sea turtles.

Microplastics

Why in the news?

The study conducted by the Suganthi Devadason Marine Research Institute (SDMRI) and partners, microplastics were recorded in significant quantities in surface sediment at various beach locations.

About Microplastics:

- Microplastics are tiny plastic particles less than 5 millimeters in diameter, often invisible to the naked eye.
- Sources:
 - **Primary Microplastics**: Directly released into the environment as small particles (e.g., microbeads in cosmetics, plastic pellets).
 - Secondary Microplastics: Result from the breakdown of larger plastic debris through weathering processes.
- Types:
 - Fibers: From synthetic textiles and fishing nets.
 - o **Fragments**: From the breakdown of larger plastic
 - Nurdles: Pre-production plastic pellets.
 - **Microbeads**: Used in personal care products.
- **Environmental Impact**:
 - Marine Life: Ingestion by marine animals can lead to physical harm, blockage of digestive tracts, and exposure to toxic substances.





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		 Food Chain: Microplastics can enter the food chain, affecting human health. Habitats: Can affect the physical and chemical properties of habitats, such as soil and marine sediments.
Dr. Kalaignar Spor scheme	rts Kit	 Why in the news? The 'Dr. Kalaignar Sports Kit' scheme is an initiative by the Tamil Nadu government to promote sports among youth. The initiative includes distributing sports kits to 12,000 village panchayats in the state, with each kit containing equipment for various games.
		About Dr. Kalaignar Sports Kit scheme:

