

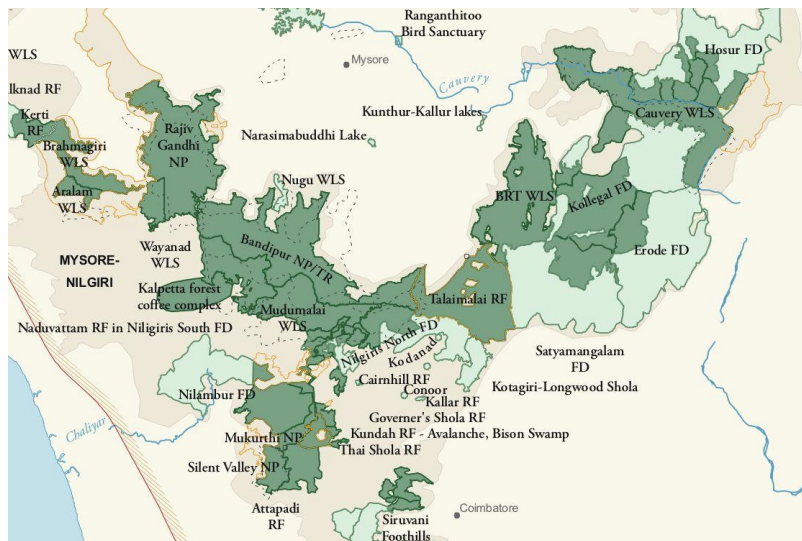
February - 05

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu continues to have maximum number of Ramsar Sites (16 sites) followed by Uttar Pradesh (10 sites).
- ❖ The 'Mother of Democracy, a tableau of the Ministry of Culture, has secured the first prize at the Republic Day Parade 2024.
- ❖ The Odisha Government announced to establish a melanistic tiger safari at Simlipal Tiger Reserve — a first of its kind in the world.
 - The Simlipal Tiger Reserve is the only home for melanistic tigers in wild in the world.
- ❖ Havildar Preeti Rajak, a champion trap shooter, has become the first woman to hold the rank of Subedar in the Indian Army.
- ❖ The 84th All India Presiding Officers' Conference was held in Mumbai.
- ❖ Former Railway Board chairman and CEO Anil Kumar Lahoti has been appointed as the chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).
- ❖ India, France and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) carried out a mega air exercise over the Arabian Sea named 'Desert Knight'.

TAMIL NADU

18th wildlife sanctuary – Tamilnadu



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has declared 80,114.80 hectares of reserve forests in Bargur Hills in Erode district, as the Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary.

- ❖ This stretch of protected forests links the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve with Cauvery South Wildlife Sanctuary.
- ❖ This has been notified as the 18th wildlife sanctuary in the State.
- ❖ It is one of the tiger corridors identified by the National Tiger Conservation Authority, and is home to a number of tigers.

‘No Caste, No Religion’ certificate

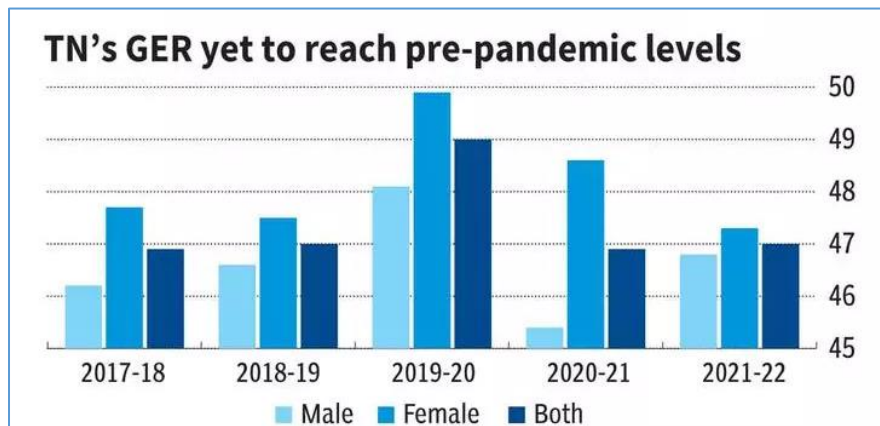


- ❖ The Madras High Court has stated that, the revenue officials could not issue a ‘No Caste, No Religion’ certificate.
- ❖ They have any power conferred on them to issue such a certificate.
- ❖ Also, such a certificate would have serious implications especially in relation to the application of personal laws on issues related to inheritance of property, and of reservation in education and public employment.
- ❖ The 1973 Government Order only permits a person to not mention his/her caste or religion in school certificates.
- ❖ The 1973 G.O. had been reiterated by way of another G.O. issued on July 13, 2000.
- ❖ And they both permit a person to leave the columns related to caste and religion blank while securing admission in a school.
- ❖ It also allows to obtain a transfer certificate without mentioning caste and religion.

Enrollment Ratio in Tamil Nadu 2021-22

- ❖ Among India’s large states, Tamil Nadu consistently maintains the highest Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in higher education (colleges and universities) for five academic years between 2017-18 and 2021-22.

- ❖ According to the recently released All India Survey on Higher Education by the Ministry of Education, Tamil Nadu's GER was 47 per cent.
- ❖ GER refers to the number of students enrolled in higher education as a percentage of the eligible population aged 18 to 23 years.
- ❖ The all-India average GER was 28.4 per cent in the 2021-22 period.
- ❖ Among all the states and Union Territories, Chandigarh has the highest GER of 64.8 per cent.
- ❖ It is followed by Puducherry with 61.5 per cent and Delhi with 49 per cent.
- ❖ The other states that did well are Himachal Pradesh (43.1 per cent), Uttarakhand (41.8 per cent), Kerala (41.3 per cent) and Telangana (40 per cent).



NATIONAL

Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi Commission



- ❖ The Commission, headed by Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, is in the process of finalizing the report and is to submit soon.

- ❖ This Commission is tasked to examine the issues plaguing NRI marriages and strengthen the legal framework concerning international public law and private laws.
- ❖ The Commission has suggested stringent measures to address grave issues such as abandonment of children and wives, impounding of passports, extradition, custody of children, and ill-treatment of wives in NRI marriages.
- ❖ The Commission also examined the 2019 bill on the registration of marriages of NRIs and the Foreign Marriage Act.

INTERNATIONAL

Lake Retba crisis



- ❖ This lake's waters are virtually devoid of life, with the exception of a few microscopic algae and bacteria.
- ❖ Lake Retba, better known as Lac Rose (the Pink Lake), is located around 35km from the city of Dakar, Senegal, Africa.
- ❖ It sits in a depression with a shoreline 6.5 metres below sea level.
- ❖ The lake is isolated from the sea by about 1km of sand dunes.



- ❖ Its fresh water comes from the seasonal water table in the dunes, which are higher than the lake.
- ❖ Thus, the sea provides most of the lake's water and all of its salt.
- ❖ The Pink Lake is one of the main tourist destinations in the Dakar region, primarily because of the pink colour of its waters.

ECONOMY

Direct Tax-to-GDP Ratio in 2023

- ❖ India's direct tax-to-GDP ratio hit a 15-year high of 6.11 percent in 2022-23.
- ❖ It is hovering near its peak of 6.3 percent reached in 2007-08.
- ❖ It majorly comprises corporate tax and personal income tax.
- ❖ In 2022-23, direct taxes made up 54.62 percent of the government's total tax revenue.
- ❖ This is up from 52.27 percent in 2021-22 and 46.84 percent in 2020-21 – the lowest in 15 years.

DIRECT TAX COLLECTIONS						TAX BUOYANCY		
(in ₹ Rs Cr)								
Financial Year	Corporate Tax	Personal Income Tax*	Other Direct Tax	Total	YoY growth	Financial Year	Direct tax-GDP ratio	Buoyancy factor
2018-19	6,63,572	4,73,179	967	11,37,718	13.5%	2018-19	6.02%	1.29
2019-20	5,56,876	4,92,717	1,088	10,50,681	-7.7%	2019-20	5.23%	-1.21
2020-21	4,57,719	4,87,560	1,897	9,47,176	-9.9%	2020-21	4.78%	-*
2021-22	7,12,037	6,96,604	3,781	14,12,422	49.1%	2021-22	5.97%	2.52
2022-23	8,25,834	8,33,307	4,545	16,63,686**	17.8%	2022-23	6.11%	1.18

*Includes Securities Transaction Tax **Provisional
Source: CBDT

*As both GDP growth rate were negative, tax buoyancy has not been computed for FY 2020-21

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Lab-Grown Fish

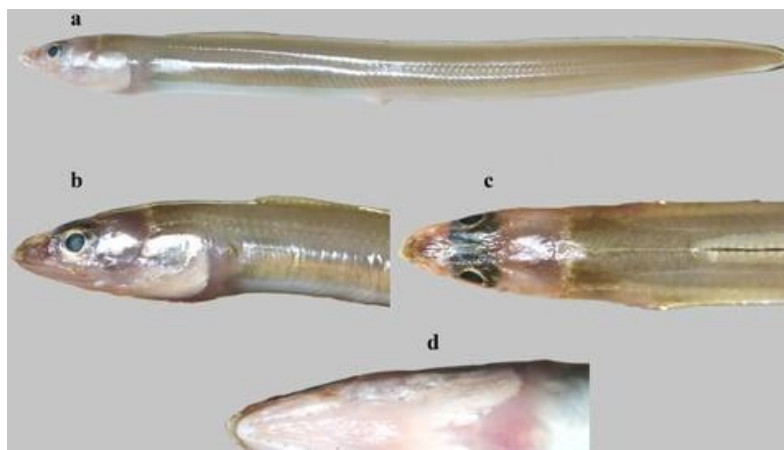
- ❖ The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has entered into a collaborative research agreement to grow fish meat in the laboratory.
- ❖ It is merely a type of lab-grown - or cultivated/ cultured meat.
- ❖ Seafood without the sea is 'grown' in the same way as other cultivated meats are grown.

- ❖ So, it was without the need to raise and kill an animal.
- ❖ Cultivated fish meat is produced by isolating specific cells from fish and growing them in a laboratory setting using media that is free of animal components.
- ❖ The final product is expected to replicate the flavour, texture, and nutritional qualities of 'real' fish meat.
- ❖ The Dutch pharmacologist Mark Post was the first to present a proof of concept for cultured meat in 2013.
- ❖ In June 2023, the US Department of Agriculture cleared the sale of lab grown chicken meat in the country.



ENVIRONMENT

Two New Eel Species



- ❖ Researchers have discovered two eel species, one each from the coasts of Gulf of Mannar in Ramanathapuram and Kochi in Kerala.

- ❖ The newly discovered Congrid eels belong to genus *Ariosoma*.
- ❖ The species collected from the Gulf of Mannar, has been named '*Ariosoma kannani*'.
- ❖ The species from Kerala coast has been named '*Ariosoma gracile*' in accordance with its morphological characters.
- ❖ With the new discovery, National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources is credited for exploring 12 eel species, six each from Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

UK's Blavatnik Awards

- ❖ The UK has named nine scientists, including three researchers of Indian descent, as recipients of a prestigious award for young scientists who are advancing science and improving the world.
- ❖ UK's Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientists honour research in three categories- Chief Sciences, Physical Sciences & Engineering, and Life Sciences.
- ❖ The recipients, including Professors Rahul R Nair, Mehul Malik, and Tanmay Bharat, will be honoured in London.

