

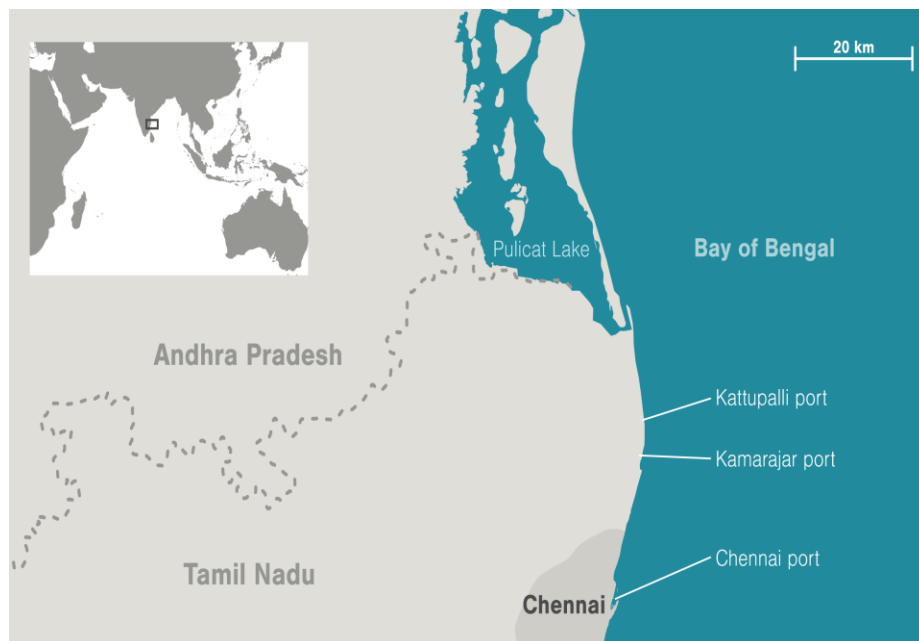
May - 11

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully completed the first ignition test on the Semi Cryogenic Pre-Burner Ignition Test article at ISRO propulsion complex, Mahendragiri, Tamilnadu.
- ❖ Indian Army's Kharga Corps, under the aegis of Western Command, successfully conducted a three-day joint exercise - Gagan Strike-II with the IAF at multiple locations in Punjab.
- ❖ Bajaj Auto is gearing up for the much-anticipated launch of its CNG-powered motorcycle.
- ❖ The Supreme Court reserved one-third of the seats in the executive committee of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) for women.

## TAMIL NADU

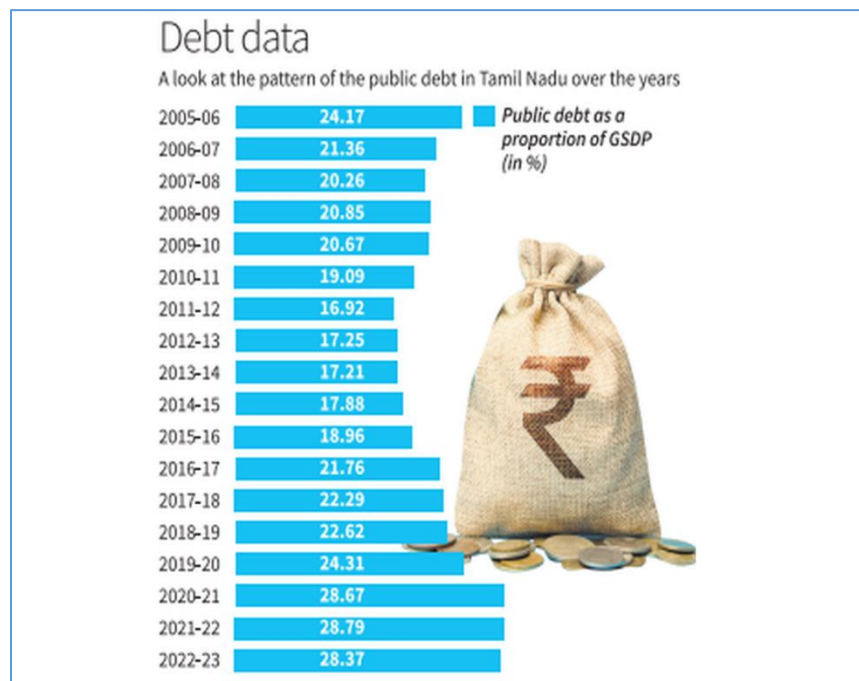
### Boundaries of Pulicat bird sanctuary



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has taken steps to denotify the boundaries of the Pulicat bird sanctuary, which includes 13 revenue villages.
- ❖ This will exclude the villages and thereby reduce the sanctuary's eco-sensitive zone.

- ❖ A port expansion plan and an industrial park within the present default eco-sensitive zone threaten its future.
- ❖ Encompassing 720 square kilometres, most of the lake falls in Andhra Pradesh and less than 20% in Tiruvallur district of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ In 1980, the bird sanctuary was notified under Section 18 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ❖ However, a final notification specifying the limits of the area within the sanctuary must be declared under Section 26A.

### **Economic growth and public debt - Tamilnadu**

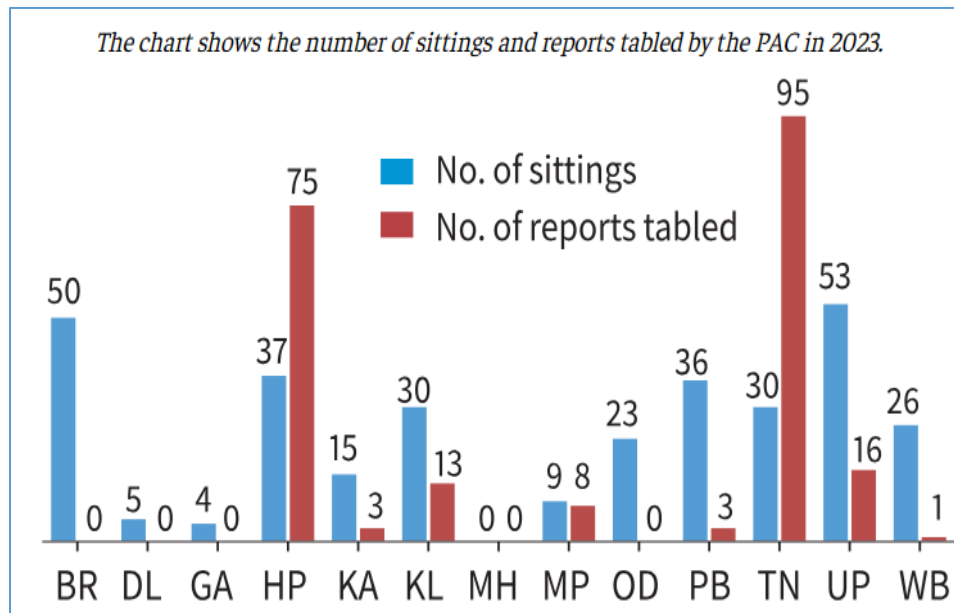


- ❖ The Economists C. Rangarajan and K.R. Shanmugam of the Madras School of Economics carried out the study by covering different facets of the State economy.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's public debt has neither "adversely affected" the growth nor "supported" it.
- ❖ This finding was with reference to the period from 2005-06 to 2022-23 when the public debt-Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) ratio had a negative effect on real economic growth, but it was "not significant".
- ❖ However, they cautioned that in future, a "higher debt ratio may adversely affect growth".
- ❖ They also observed that "reduction in the debt-GSDP ratio may induce growth".

- ❖ Analysing the pattern of the ratio over the years, in 2016-17 that the ratio had exceeded 20%.
- ❖ This is the sustainable level recommended by the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Review Committee in 2017.

## NATIONAL

### Annual Review of State Laws 2023



- ❖ In 2023, of the Rs. 18.5 lakh crore budget presented by 10 States, close to 40% was passed without discussion.
- ❖ As many as 20 States also saw 84 Ordinances being promulgated in 2023.
- ❖ The highest number of Ordinances was promulgated by Uttar Pradesh (20), followed by Andhra Pradesh (11), and Maharashtra (9).
- ❖ In 2023, only four Ordinances were promulgated in Kerala, compared to 15 in 2022, and 144 in 2021.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh passed 85% of its Rs. 3.14 lakh crore Budget without discussion, the highest among the ten States.
- ❖ Kerala came second with 78%, followed by Jharkhand (75%) and West Bengal (74%).
- ❖ In 2023, the Public Accounts Committee held 24 sittings and tabled 16 reports on average in the States considered.
- ❖ In five of the 13 States for which data was available — Bihar, Delhi, Goa, Maharashtra and Odisha — the PAC did not table any reports.

- ❖ In contrast, the PAC in Tamil Nadu tabled 95 reports followed by Himachal Pradesh (75 reports).
- ❖ An analysis of the time taken by State legislatures to pass Bills shows that many were passed quickly with minimal debate.
- ❖ In fact, 44% of the Bills were passed either on the same day they were introduced in the Assembly or the next day.
- ❖ The figure is consistent with the trend observed in 2022 (56%) and 2021 (44%).
- ❖ In Gujarat, Jharkhand, Mizoram, Puducherry, and Punjab, all Bills were passed on the day of introduction or the next day.
- ❖ In 13 of 28 State legislatures, Bills were passed within five days of introduction.
- ❖ Kerala and Meghalaya took more than five days to pass more than 90% of their Bills.
- ❖ About 55% of Bills in Rajasthan were also passed after more than five days of deliberation.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Law Against Violence Towards Women



- ❖ The European Union adopted the first law to tackle violence against women.
- ❖ It includes action against forced marriages, female genital mutilation and online harassment but failed to settle on a common definition of rape.

- ❖ The sweeping legislation aims to protect women in the 27-nation bloc from gender-based violence.
- ❖ It also criminalises cyber violence against women including online stalking, harassment, incitement to hatred or violence, and the non-consensual sharing of intimate images.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Secure IoT microprocessor

- ❖ IIT-Madras's Mindgrove created India's first commercial high-performance RISC-V based System on Chip (SoC) named 'Secure IoT'.
- ❖ It will allow Indian Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) to use an Indian SoC in their products.
- ❖ It will help reduce the cost of their feature-rich devices, without compromising on high-end features.

#### IIT-Madras Incubated Start-up Unveils India's First Secure IoT Microprocessor

IIT-Madras celebrates the successful development of India's first commercial high-performance RISC-V based System on Chip (SoC) named 'Secure IoT' by the start-up Mindgrove. The chip offers enhanced security features and cost-efficiency, encouraging Indian OEMs to integrate it into their products.

Source: The Hindu



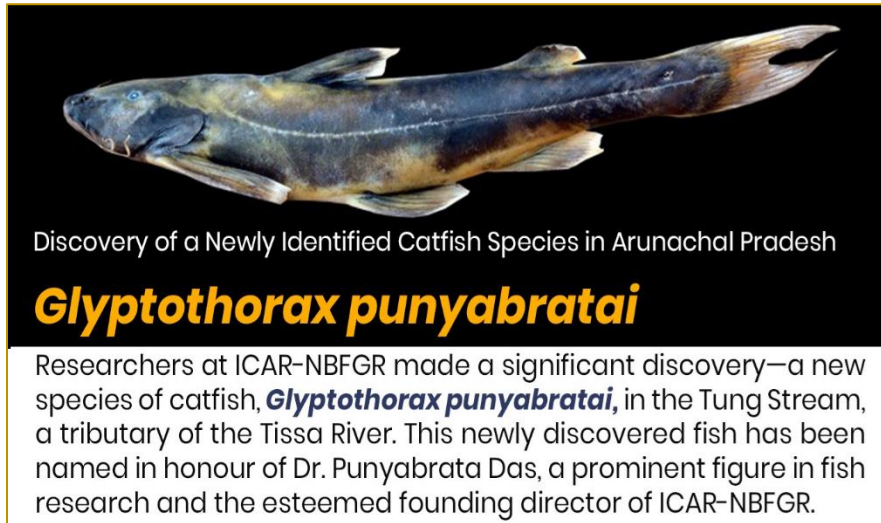
## ENVIRONMENT

### Glyptothorax punyabratai

- ❖ Glyptothorax punyabratai, a new catfish species, has been described from the Brahmaputra River drainage in Arunachal Pradesh.



- ❖ The species was collected from Tung Stream, a small tributary of the Tissa River, in the Brahmaputra River basin.
- ❖ The new species has been named after Dr. Punyabarata Das, the founder director of ICAR-NBFGR, in honour of his immense and valuable contributions to fisheries research.



### World's biggest permafrost crater

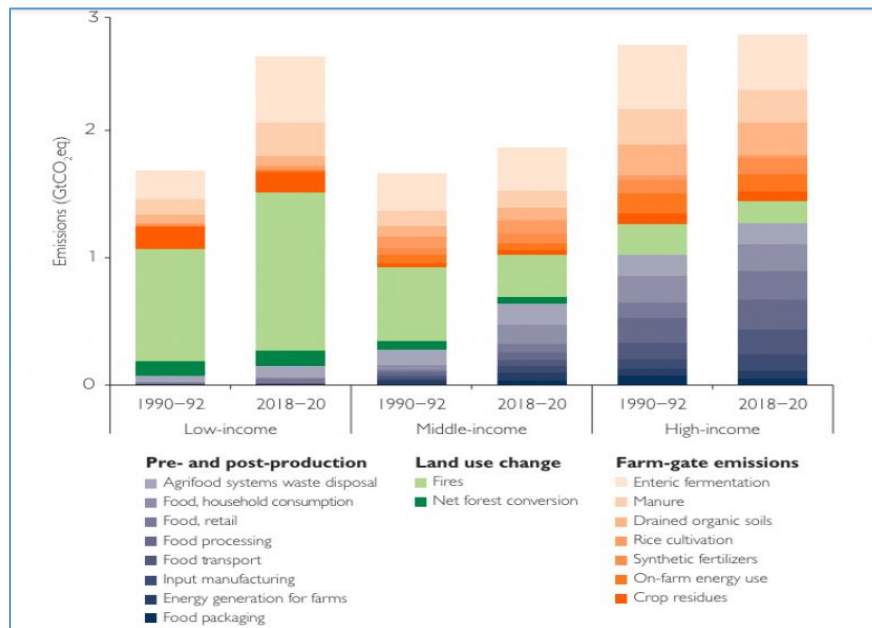


- ❖ Scientists say Russia is warming at least 2.5 times faster than the rest of the world.
- ❖ One of the massive craters in the world, famously known as the “gateway to the underworld” is growing by 35 million cubic feet every year.
- ❖ The huge crater situated in Serbia’s permafrost is expanding due to melting of the ground.

- ❖ Officially known as Batagay (Batagaika), the crater or mega slump is a rounded cliff face that was first discovered in 1991 through satellite images.
- ❖ It was created after a section of hillside collapsed in the Yana Uplands of northern Yakutia in Russia.
- ❖ This collapse exposed layers of permafrost within the remaining portion of the hillside that have been frozen for up to 650,000 years now.
- ❖ It is known as the oldest permafrost in Siberia and second oldest in the world.

## REPORTS AND INDICES

### World Bank Report on Agri-food System



- ❖ World Bank released the report, “Recipe for a Livable Planet: Achieving Net Zero Emissions in the Agrifood System”.
- ❖ The world’s agrifood system emits about 16 gigatonnes of greenhouse gases (GHG) per year — about a third of all global emissions.
- ❖ Livestock is a major driver, with high-income countries among the largest consumers.
- ❖ Wealthy nations should reduce financial support for livestock farming to help tackle pollution caused by consuming red meat and dairy.
- ❖ One-third of all agricultural subsidies went toward meat and milk products in 2016

- ❖ Annual investments will need to climb 18-fold to \$260 billion to halve agri-food emissions by 2030 and help the world hit a 2050 net-zero target.
- ❖ Replacing a quarter of India's 8.8 million diesel irrigation pumps with solar pumps would cut agrifood emissions by 11.5 million tonnes per year.
- ❖ The top ten agrifood system emitters are China, Brazil, India, United States, Indonesia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Russian Federation, Canada, Pakistan and Argentina.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### 2024 Pulitzer Prize Winners



- ❖ The Columbia University hosted the 108th Pulitzer Prizes ceremony.
- ❖ It is widely regarded as the pinnacle of achievement in their respective fields within the United States.
- ❖ The New York Times clinched one of its three Pulitzer Prizes for its comprehensive coverage of the Gaza conflict.
- ❖ Some other winners
  - Fiction - Night Watch by Jayne Anne Phillips (Knopf)
  - Drama - Primary Trust by Eboni Booth





- Poetry - Tripas: Poems by Brandon Som (Georgia Review Books)
- Special Citations: - Greg Tate and Journalists and media workers covering the war in Gaza.

