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IIT Madras's campus in Zanzibar opens with 45 students



Context:

- IIT Madras on Monday became the first IIT to open an international campus with the inauguration of a campus in Zanzibar in Tanzania, an east African country.
- The institute plans to expand its offerings in the future, including postgraduate and undergraduate degrees in areas like ocean engineering and quantum sciences.
- They also plan to establish a research park and move to a permanent campus within a year and a half.

28% TN coast erodes at 1 meter per year: Study



Context:

- A study conducted by researchers in Central University of Tamil Nadu has warned that 28% of the shoreline in Tamil Nadu falls under strong erosion category with an erosion rate of 1 meter per year.
- The study also highlighted that the southern part of the coastline was facing intensive erosion.
- The research titled 'Assessment of shoreline changes and associated erosion and accretion pattern in coastal watersheds of Tamil Nadu, India' pointed out that the mean End Point Rate (EPR) and Net Shoreline Movement (NSM) of the State's coastline is -0.26 meter/year and -8.03 meters/year respectively.
- This suggests the overall TN shoreline is shifting towards landward and nearly 41% of the shoreline has erosion.
- During the study, researchers analyzed the data pertaining to shoreline changes from 1988 to 2018, in addition to conducting field surveys at random locations between November 2020 and March 2021.

Tamil Nadu Forest Act



Tamil Nadu Forest Department

Key Points:

- The Tamil Nadu Forest Act, 1882 (hereinafter referred to as the "TNAFA") is a law enacted by the State Legislature of Tamil Nadu, India, to provide for the protection and conservation of forests in the state.
- The TNAFA is one of the oldest forest laws in India, and it has been amended several times since its enactment in 1882.
- The TNAFA empowers the State Government to declare any area as a reserved forest.
- Reserved forests: These are the highest protected



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	<p>category of forests in India, and they are subject to strict restrictions on activities such as felling trees, grazing livestock, and mining.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The TNAFA also provides for the protection of forests that are not declared as reserved forests. These forests are known as "protected forests" and "reserved lands."• Protected forests: These are subject to less stringent restrictions than reserved forests, but they are still protected from activities that could damage the forest ecosystem.• Reserved lands: These are areas that are set aside for the purpose of forest conservation, but they have not yet been declared as reserved or protected forests.
<p>Thiruvathirai Festival</p> 	<p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thiruvathirai is a popular festival celebrated in Tamil Nadu, India, on the full moon day in the month of Margazhi (December-January).• The festival is dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva and his consort Parvati.• On the day of Thiruvathirai, devotees fast from sunrise to sunset and worship Shiva and Parvati.• They also offer special prayers and perform rituals to seek the blessings of the gods.• One of the most important rituals performed on Thiruvathirai is the abhishekam, or holy bath.• A statue of Shiva is bathed in milk, water, and other sacred substances.• This ritual is believed to cleanse the soul and bring good fortune.
<p>Chennai Sea Bridge Project TN</p> 	<p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Chennai Sea Bridge Project is a proposed 8.2-kilometer-long (5.1 mi) sea bridge that will connect the mainland of Chennai, India to the Ennore Port and Manali Industrial Area.• The bridge is expected to cost ₹7,700 crore (US\$935 million) and is expected to be completed by 2026.• The bridge will be constructed in two phases.• The first phase will be a 4.8-kilometer-long (3.0 mi) bridge from the mainland to Ennore Port.• The second phase will be a 3.4-kilometer-long (2.1 mi) bridge from Ennore Port to Manali Industrial Area.• The bridge is expected to reduce travel time between the mainland and Ennore Port and Manali Industrial Area by



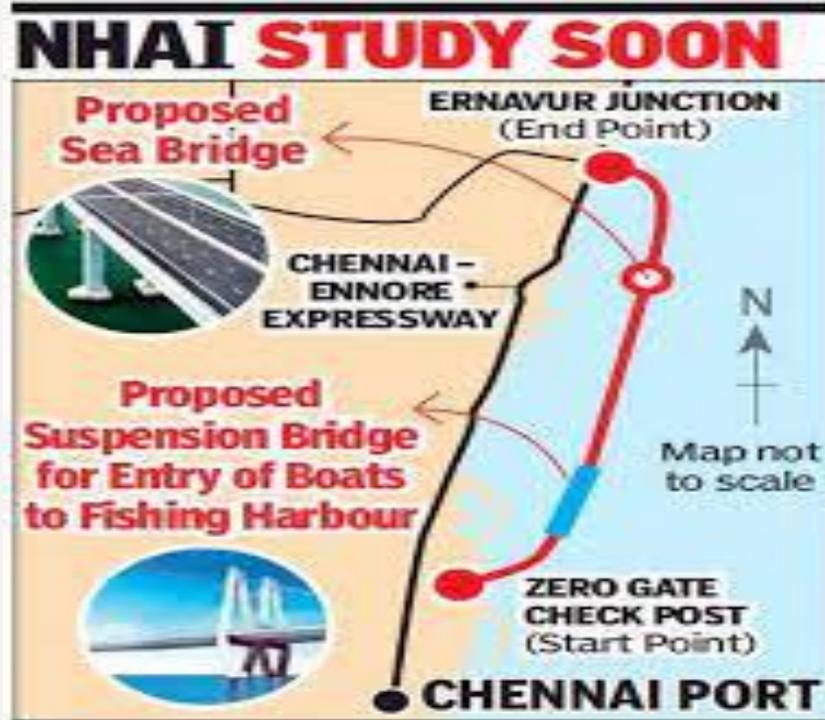
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up to 50%.

- The bridge will also help to reduce traffic congestion on the existing road network.





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