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Tamil Nadu: 06-05-2024

<p>Mullaperiyar dam</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Tamil Nadu has accused Kerala in the Supreme Court of raising concerns about the safety of the over 125-year-old Mullaperiyar dam while simultaneously obstructing essential maintenance work. <p>About Mullaperiyar dam:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Location: The Mullaperiyar Dam is located on the Periyar River in the Idukki District of Kerala. It is situated in the Western Ghats near Thekkady.● Construction: The dam was constructed between 1887 and 1895 by the British Colonial government of India, and it was engineered by Colonel John Pennycuik.● Purpose: The primary purpose of the dam is to divert water eastwards to the Madurai district in Tamil Nadu for irrigation via a tunnel through the Western Ghats.● Structure: The dam is a masonry gravity dam.● The reservoir, known as the Periyar Lake.● Inter-State Agreement: The dam is located in Kerala but is operated by the Tamil Nadu state under a 999-year lease agreement made during British rule, which has been a point of contention between Kerala and Tamil Nadu.● Environmental Impact: The area around the Mullaperiyar Dam is ecologically sensitive, part of the Periyar Tiger Reserve.
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Koothandavar festival

Why in news?

- The **Koothandavar festival** is a significant event for the **transgender community** at **Koovagam in Tamil Nadu**.

Key points:

- The **Koothandavar festival** takes place in the **Tamil month of Chithirai (mid-April to mid-May)** and lasts for 18 days.
- **Transgender women dress as brides** on the 17th day, and the **priests of Koothandavar temple tie thaali for them**.
- **Transgender women gather and perform the kummi dance** as the chariot moves.
- The **festival traces the legend of a character from the Tamil version of the Mahabharata, Aravan, who offered himself as a sacrifice for the Pandavas' triumph in war**.
- It is said he had a boon of marriage before his sacrifice but no woman wanted to marry him as it would mean widowhood. Eventually, **it is said Lord Krishna married Aravan after taking the form of Mohini. Lord Krishna grieved for Aravan as a widow**.

Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan of Tamil Nadu - Forest Habitat Suitability

Why in news?

- The **Centre for Climate Change and Disaster Management (CCCDM), Anna University**, prepared a draft report titled 'Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan of Tamil Nadu - Forest Habitat Suitability'.

Key points:

- The **report predicts that by 2050, evergreen and deciduous forest areas in Tamil Nadu, mainly in the Western and Eastern Ghats, may reduce by 32% and 18% respectively**.
- At the same time, the **suitability for thorn forests is expected to increase by 71%**.
- The **degradation is primarily due to high temperature, altered rainfall pattern, and prolonged dry spells in the post-monsoon season**.



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Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Policy 2023

Why in news?

- Start-ups have increased four-fold in 3 years in Tamil Nadu.

Key points:

- A total of **6,384 start-ups** have been established in the state.
- The **Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Policy** was introduced in **2023**.
- The number of start-ups registered in the state has increased four-fold from **2,032 in 2021 to 8,416 at present**.
- The number of start-ups led by women has also increased from **966 to 3,163** in the same period.
- **Tamil Nadu was ranked first by the centre for creating a favourable environment for start-ups.**

Paliyar Tribe

Why in news?

- A recent **research was conducted** on the '**Paliyar Tribals**' living in **Kodaikanal and Theni areas**.
- The **research found that none of the individuals** from the **1,173 families** residing in **36 villages had a government job**.

About Paliyar Tribe:

- The Paliyar tribe primarily **resides in the hilly and forested regions of the Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu and Kerala**.
- They are especially **concentrated around the areas of Madurai, Theni, Dindigul, and Tirunelveli** in Tamil Nadu.
- The Paliyar tribe has a **rich oral tradition with stories, folklore, and songs** that are passed down through generations.
- The **Paliyars practice animism, worshipping nature and ancestral spirits**. They believe in a close **spiritual connection with nature**.



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