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Tamil Nadu: 06-06-2024

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| <p>'Kar' paddy cultivation</p> | <p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ahead of the southwest monsoon, Collector K.P. Karthikeyan released water from the Papanasam dam for 'kar' paddy cultivation. <p>About 'Kar' paddy cultivation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'Kar' paddy refers to a specific type of rice cultivation primarily practiced in Tamil Nadu.• Season: Cultivated during the Kar season, which typically spans from April to August.• Climate: Grown during the pre-monsoon period, requiring moderate to high temperatures and adequate water supply.• Soil Type: Prefers clayey, loamy soils that can retain moisture well.• Water Requirements: Requires consistent water supply; fields are usually flooded during the initial stages of growth.• Sowing Methods: Direct seeding and transplanting are common methods used for sowing Kar paddy.• Harvesting: Harvested around August-September, when the grains reach maturity and moisture content is optimal for threshing. |
| <p>Tropical Butterfly Conservatory</p> | <p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Despite the searing summer heat, over 40,000 people visited the Tropical Butterfly Conservatory in Srirangam during April and May. <p>About Tropical Butterfly Conservatory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Location: Tiruchirappalli (Trichy), Tamil Nadu.• Inauguration: November 2015• Objective: Conservation of butterflies and environmental education• Unique Feature: One of the largest butterfly conservatories in Asia• Managed By: Tamil Nadu Forest Department |



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Re-wilding and ecological restoration programme

Why in the news?

- Recently, a **re-wilding and ecological restoration program** was undertaken in **Udhagamandalam (Ooty), Tamil Nadu**.
- It is to **mark World Environment Day 2024**.

Key points:

- **Theme: "Land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience,"** emphasizing the global need to protect and revive ecosystems.
- The **Cantonment Board, Madras Regimental Centre, and other units of the Wellington Cantonment** collaborated to restore a piece of wetland within the **cantonment limits**.

About Re-wilding and ecological restoration programme:

- **Re-wilding is a conservation and ecological restoration approach** that aims to **improve biodiversity and ecosystem health by restoring natural processes**.
- It also **focuses on providing connectivity between natural processes and ecosystem health**, as well as **reintroducing apex predators and keystone species**.



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| <p>Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR)</p> | <p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Tamil Nadu forest department recently commenced a three-day-long elephant census at the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR). <p>About Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: Situated in the Erode District of Tamil Nadu, at the intersection of the Western and Eastern Ghats. Establishment: Declared a Tiger Reserve in 2013 under the Project Tiger initiative. Area: Covers an area of approximately 1,411 square kilometers, making it the largest wildlife sanctuary in Tamil Nadu. Tiger Population: STR has shown a significant increase in tiger population, with the latest estimates indicating around 83 tigers. Conservation Status: Recognized as a critical habitat for tiger conservation and is part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. Biodiversity Hotspot: Located within one of the biodiversity hotspots of the world, the Western Ghats, which is known for its high level of endemism. |
| <p>QS World University Rankings 2025</p> | <p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anna University entered the global top 400 for the first time. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anna University has been ranked among the top 10 universities in the country and the 400 best universities globally, Quacquarelli Symonds (QS). Climbed from 427th to 383rd position globally. Significance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only Tamil Nadu university featured in the list. Followed by IISc (99.9) and IIT Guwahati (97.6) in citations. Other Institutes from Tamil Nadu: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IIT Madras: Improved from 285th to 227th rank. NIT Trichy: Improved from the 781-790 band to the 701-710 band. Vellore Institute of Technology: Improved from the 851-900 bracket to the 791-800 bracket. |



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- **University of Madras:** Ranked 526th in 2024, but not listed in 2025.
- **Global Ranking Highlights:**
 - **MIT** retained the **top position for the 13th consecutive year.**
 - 61% of Indian universities improved their rankings.
 - **IIT Bombay** ranked as the **top Indian institute.**