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Tamil Nadu: 15-05-2024

Soil Nailing

Why in news?

- The **Tamil Nadu State highways department** is undertaking a **project for the stabilisation of slopes around the Nilgiris'** major roads.
- The project involves **growing grasses at five locations to prevent soil erosion.**

Key points:

- The project is known as '**slope stabilisation using soil nailing and Hydroseeding method**'.
- The locations where the project is being undertaken are **Ketti, Kattabettu, Perar, Kudah, and Udthagamandalam.**

About Soil Nailing:

- A **geotechnical engineering technique** is being **used to strengthen the soil** in a specified area.
- This technique **involves the insertion of reinforcing elements into the soil.**
- The soil reinforcement process **uses steel tendons** which are **drilled and grouted into the soil.**
- This **creates a composite mass similar to a gravity wall.**



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<p>Yellow fever</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Tamil Nadu Health Department has designated three centres in the state to administer the vaccine for yellow fever.• No other private or government agency is authorised to offer the vaccine. <p>About Yellow fever:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yellow fever is a viral hemorrhagic disease transmitted primarily by mosquitoes.• Causative Agent: The yellow fever virus, a Flavivirus.• Transmission:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Primarily through the bite of infected Aedes aegypti mosquitoes.○ Can also be transmitted by other Aedes and Haemagogus species mosquitoes.• Found in tropical and subtropical areas of Africa and South America.
<p>M. Selvaraj</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• M. Selvaraj, a Lok Sabha MP from Nagapattinam passed away. <p>About M. Selvaraj:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• M. Selvaraj was a member of the Communist Party of India (CPI).• He was elected as the Lok Sabha MP four times – in 1989, 1996, 1998, and 2019.• He started his political career as a local committee member from Needamangalam and rose up the ranks to become the district secretary of Nagapattinam and a national council member of the CPI.



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<p>Artificially-ripened mangoes</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Food Safety Department of Tamil Nadu is continuing its drive against the sale of artificially-ripened mangoes. <p>About Artificially-ripened mangoes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Artificially ripened mangoes are often treated with chemicals like calcium carbide to speed up the ripening process.• Ripening Agents: Common chemicals used include calcium carbide, ethylene gas, and ethephon.• Calcium carbide is strictly prohibited under the FSSAI's Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales Regulation, 2011.• The chemical has traces of arsenic and phosphorous hydride, which may result in vomiting, diarrhea, weakness, ulcers on the skin, permanent eye damage, and shortness of breath.• Artificially ripened mangoes often have a uniform color and may appear more yellow or orange than naturally ripened ones.
<p>PM – Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Prime Minister's Rooftop Solar Scheme in Tamil Nadu has faced some challenges.• While officials attributed the delay in the commissioning of the rooftop solar plants to the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, sources said the actual reason was glitches in the national portal. <p>About PM – Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The scheme, also known as PM – Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, aims to provide free electricity to households in India.• It was launched by Prime Minister on February 15, 2024.• Under the scheme, households are provided with a subsidy to install solar panels on their roofs.



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- The **subsidy covers up to 40%** of the cost of the solar panels.
- The scheme is **expected to benefit 1 crore households** across India.
- It is estimated that the **scheme will save the government Rs. 75,000 crore per year in electricity costs.**