

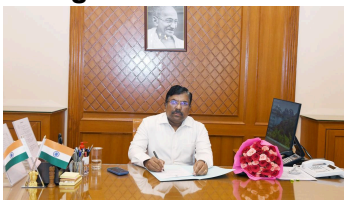


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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

TN CA 20 August 2024

<p>Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS) has sought the renewal of a power purchase agreement with TNEB Ltd. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was formed on July 1 1957 as the Madras State Electricity Board according to the Electricity supply Act of 1948. Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB) is a power generation and distribution company owned by the Government of TamilNadu. It was created as a regulated monopoly under section 131 of the Electricity Act (2003) as a successor of the former Tamil Nadu Electricity Board.
<p>State Planning Commission (SPC)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Planning Commission (SPC) conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the implementation of government schemes in the densely-populated tribal districts of Salem, Kallakurichi, and Tiruvannamalai in the Eastern Ghats. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The State Planning Commission serves as an apex advisory body to the Government of Tamil Nadu. Its primary role is to provide evidence-based policy guidance, aimed at fostering holistic growth and development within the state. The Commission reviews and monitors Government welfare programs to ensure effective delivery to the grassroots levels. <p>Discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn more about Eastern Ghats
<p>Person in news: N. Muruganandam</p> 	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> N. Muruganandam is Tamil Nadu's Chief Secretary, replacing Shiv Das Meena. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chief Secretary is the top-most executive official and senior-most civil servant of the state government. It is the senior-most cadre post in the state administration, ranking 23rd on the Indian order of precedence. He acts as the principal advisor to the Chief Minister on all matters of state administration.



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Places in news: Western Ghats



Why in news?

- Around 337 butterfly species have been identified in the Western Ghats and proposed to be included under Wildlife Protection Act(WLPA) 1972.
- Out of these, **40 species were found to be endemic and 22 on the IUCN Red- List**, of which two are near threatened and the rest are in the least concern category.

Key Points:

- The **Western Ghats**, also known as the **Sahyadri Hills**, are well known for their **rich and unique assemblage of flora and fauna**.
- The range is called **Sahyadri** in northern Maharashtra and **Sahya Parvatham** in Kerala.
- The **northern portion** of the narrow coastal plain **between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea** is known as the **Konkan Coast**.
- The **central portion** is called **Kanara** and the **southern portion** is called **Malabar region** or the **Malabar Coast**.
- In the **south** the range is known as the **Nilgiri malai in Tamil Nadu**.
- It is recognized as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

Discuss:

- Learn more about **Wildlife Protection Act(WLPA) 1972**.

Reports & Indices: Shanghai Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) 2024

Why in news?

- **Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT)** has been ranked as the **second-best institution in India and number one among the private institutions in the country** in the Shanghai Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) 2024.
- It has been **ranked between 501 and 600** among world universities.

Key Points:

- The **Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU)**, also known as the **Shanghai Ranking**, is one of the **annual publications** of world university rankings.
- The league table was originally compiled and issued by **Shanghai Jiao Tong University in 2003**, making it the first global university ranking with multifarious indicators.
- It is based on academic and research performance indicators, including,
 - Alumni and staff winning Nobel Prizes
 - Field medals
 - Highly cited researchers
 - Research papers published in nature and science journals, Papers indexed in major citation indices
 - Per capita academic performance of an institution



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