



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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Mytella Srigata or Charru mussels, An invasive species

Published On: 31-07-2024

Why in news?

Mytella Srigata or Charru mussels have spread along the stretch of Kosasthalaiyar backwater, Buckingham Canal, and the Pulicat lake mouth says a status report filed by the WRD.

About Charru mussels:

Charru mussel (*Mytella strigata*), native to the South and Central American coasts, is spreading quickly in the coastal areas of northern Tamilnadu.

The Kamarajar Port Limited, Ennore, is the main reason for the spread of the charru mussels along the (North) Buckingham Canal, the Kosasthalaiyar backwaters, and the Pazhaverkadu mouth due to **the lack of a ballast water regulation** for **ship movement** from the south and central coasts of the U.S. to the Indian shores," the status report filed by the department said.

The proliferation of the invasive species not only possesses a harmful effect on the waterbodies and the marine ecosystem as they **threaten the diversity of wetlands**, but also **takes a toll on the movement of boats**.

Invasive Species

- An invasive species is an organism **that is not indigenous, or native** causes harm.
- They are capable of causing **extinctions of native plants and animals** competing with native organisms for limited resources, and altering the ecosystem.
- They can be introduced to an area by ship ballast water, accidentally by people.

In India, two species of marine mussels, **green mussel** (*Perna viridis*), and the **brown mussel**, (*P. indica*) are found in the coastal areas.

oFarming of green mussels is now established as a commercial practice in India.

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