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## Cauvery Delta Declared as a Protected Special Agriculture Zone

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### Why in News

The Tamil Nadu government has declared the **Cauvery delta region** as a **Protected Special Agriculture Zone**.

- The protected zone **includes eight districts** namely **Thanjavur (Rice Bowl of Tamil Nadu)**, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Pudukottai, Cuddalore, Ariyalur, Karur and Tiruchirapalli.
- Such a declaration **will prevent non-agrarian projects** in the region.  
The Government has emphasised that **central projects on hydrocarbon exploration** in the delta region **cannot be implemented without No Objection Certificate (NOC)** from the State government.
- The Cauvery delta region is an **important agricultural region in Tamil Nadu**. It has been seen that in the last four decades, Tamil Nadu's **food dependence on the delta has fallen from 65% to 40%**. **Hydrocarbon wells are one of the major reasons** behind the same.

**Source: IE**