

January - 15

## TAMIL NADU

### Social Justice Awards

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government announced that K. Thirunavukkarasu, a historian documenting the Dravidian movement, and the retired Madras High Court judge, K. Chandru, would be honored with the Thanthai Periyar Award for Social Justice and the Dr. Ambedkar Award for 2021 respectively.
- ❖ Mr. Thirunavukkarasu's work, *Needhi Katchi Varalaru*, documents in two volumes the history of the Justice Party since its founding in 1916 until it was named Dravidar Kazhagam in 1944.
- ❖ He has also been commended for his works, *Dravida Iyakka Vergal* and *Dravida Iyakka Thoongal*.
- ❖ He is fondly called the mobile encyclopedia of the Dravidian movement.
- ❖ Mr. Chandru has delivered judgments in over 96,000 cases during his service.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has every year been honoring those who have made an outstanding contribution to the promotion of social justice with the Thanthai Periyar Award.
- ❖ The Ambedkar Award is given to an eminent personality who has contributed to the socio-economic and educational development of the Adi Dravidar community.
- ❖ The cash component of the awards was hiked from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh this year by Chief Minister MK Stalin.



### Kalaigarnar Memorial Library

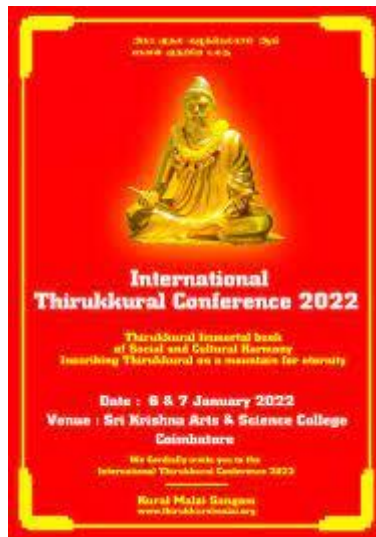
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin unveiled the foundation stone for the Kalaigarnar Memorial Library in Madurai.

- ❖ It will be akin to the Anna Centenary Library in Kotturpuram, Chennai.



### **International Thirukural Conference 2022**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi inaugurated the International Thirukural Conference 2022.
- ❖ It was at Sri Krishna Arts and Science College, Coimbatore.
- ❖ The Sri Krishna Institutions and Kural Malai Sangam have organised the event.



### **Vinisha Umashankar**

- ❖ Vinisha is India's baton bearer at 16th official Queen's Baton Relay.
- ❖ It started at the Buckingham Palace in London on October 7, 2021.

- ❖ It is scheduled to conclude on July 28, 2022 at the Opening Ceremony of the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games after travelling across 72 Commonwealth nations and territories for 294 days.
- ❖ The 2022 Commonwealth Games are scheduled to be held in Birmingham, UK.
- ❖ India is the 27th nation en route to Birmingham in the United Kingdom.
- ❖ Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Ravi Dahiya kicked off the Queen's Baton Relay in India with a symbolic run in Delhi.
- ❖ The Queen's Baton Relay is to be held in Bengaluru on January 14 and Bhubaneswar on January 15.
- ❖ She had inspired the world with her solar ironing cart, which uses solar panels to power a steam iron box.
- ❖ She is from Tiruvannamalai district in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ She won Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam IGNITE Award instituted by National Innovation Foundation (NIF) – India for her invention.
- ❖ NIF is an autonomous body of the Department of Science and Technology under the central government.



### **MSME Technology Centre**

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated an 'MSME Technology Centre' in Puducherry.



- ❖ It will function under the Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).
- ❖ It was inaugurated during the inauguration event of the 25th National youth Festival (12th & 13th January 2022) in Puducherry.



### **National Youth Festival**



- ❖ Puducherry has been handpicked by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to host the 25th National Youth Festival on the occasion of birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.

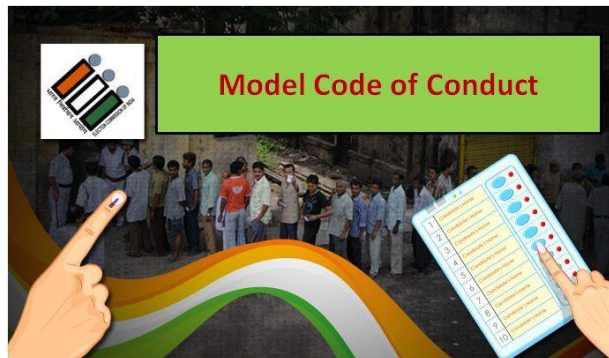


- ❖ He also inaugurated the 'Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Manimandapam', a modern auditorium with an open-air theatre in Puducherry.
- ❖ National Youth Festival started in 1995 as a major activity under the programme held by National Integration Camp (NIC).
- ❖ It is organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and in association with one of the State Governments.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Model Code of Conduct**

- ❖ The Model Code of Conduct for governments, candidates, and political parties has come into force on 8th January with the announcement of the election schedule for five states.
- ❖ All provisions of the poll code will apply to the whole of Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The model code is a set of guidelines, issued by the Election Commission.
- ❖ It stays in effect till the elections are completed and the results are announced.



### **New ISRO Chief**

- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced the appointment of Dr. S Somanath as its new chairman and Space Secretary.
- ❖ He is currently the Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram.
- ❖ He is to act as the director of ISRO for three years.
- ❖ He will succeed Kailasavadivoo Sivan who completes his extended tenure.
- ❖ The post of the ISRO chairman, the Space Secretary, and the Space Commission chief is usually held by one person only.

- ❖ The chairman of ISRO is the secretary to the Government of India.
- ❖ He is an executive of the Department of Space.
- ❖ The Department reports to the prime minister directly.



### **Ganga Sagar Mela 2022**



- ❖ The Ganga Sagar Mela is the biggest fair in Eastern India.
- ❖ It is the second biggest fair in India after the Kumbha Mela of India.
- ❖ It was inaugurated by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on January 12, 2022, at the Sagar Island of West Bengal.

### **Kachai Lemon Festival**

- ❖ The 18th edition of the two-day-long Kachai Lemon Festival began in Manipur at the Local Ground of Kachai Village in the Ukhrul district.

- ❖ This year the festival is being organized under the theme ‘Organic Kachai Lemon for Safe Environment and Rural Transformation’.
- ❖ Kachai Lemon of Manipur has been accorded Geographical Indication (GI) registration tag.



### **Vaccination in Lakshadweep**

- ❖ Lakshadweep has vaccinated all eligible children in the age group of 15 to 18 years.
- ❖ With this, it has become the first among UTs and states to have achieved this feat
- ❖ Earlier, Lakshadweep became the first among Union Territories and states to have achieved 100 per cent vaccination in other categories such as healthcare workers, frontline workers and age group above 18 years.


### **5th Sikh Takht**

- ❖ Delhi Assembly passed an amendment bill to “Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Act, 1971”.
- ❖ It recognizes the “Takht Damdama Sahib” in Bathinda of Punjab as the fifth Takht of Sikhs.
- ❖ Takht (Throne) is a seat of temporal authority for Sikhs.
- ❖ Presently, there are five Sikh Takhts.
- ❖ Out of them, three are in Punjab, one in Maharashtra, and one in Bihar.

- ❖ Akal Takht, located in Amritsar, is the oldest of the Takhts.
- ❖ It was set up in 1606 by Guru Hargobind, the sixth Guru.



## Zojila pass



**KEY FEATURES**

- The longest bi-directional single tube road tunnel in Asia
- **Length:** 14.15 km
- Open all days
- All-weather accessibility
- To be built at Zojila pass on Srinagar-Kargil-Leh NH-1 situated at an altitude of 11,578 feet
- **Cost:** ₹6,809 crore
- Will reduce time taken to cross Zojila pass from three hours and 30 minutes to 15 minutes
- **Expected time of completion:** 5 years

- ❖ The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) keeps Zojila pass open for traffic for first time in January month.



- ❖ It is a high mountain pass in the Himalayas in the Indian union territory of Ladakh.
- ❖ Zojila Pass, located at an altitude of 11643 ft on Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri road is the lifeline between Kashmir Valley and Ladakh.
- ❖ The National Highway 1 between Srinagar and Leh in the western section of the Himalayan Mountain range traverses the pass.

## ENVIRONMENT

### India's oldest sloth bear

# SLOTH BEAR

(*Melursus ursinus*)

These reclusive creatures wander forests alone at dawn, dusk, and night

LIFESPAN	WEIGHT	HEIGHT	LENGTH
up to 20 years (in the wild), 40 years (in captivity)	55-140 kg	60-90 cm at shoulder	15-2 m

- Thought to have poor vision
- Large tongues and mobile cream-coloured snouts that can voluntarily close nostrils – attributes that help their insect-eating diet
- Well-developed sense of smell
- Large canines that they use to defend themselves against potential predators from tigers to wild dogs, wolves, and leopards
- Don't have front teeth gap is an adaptation that allows them to suck up termites
- Black, shaggy coat
- Large paws with long claws (used to climb trees, dig mounds, and for defence)
- When threatened, stand on two legs, and brandish forepaws

**FAMILY**

- Young are born in caves or rock shelters and stay with their mother until aged two or three
- Cubs ride piggyback on their mother for the first 7-9 months

**Geographic range:** Indian subcontinent (except Northeast, Himalayas, and the desert)

**Habitat:** Diverse environments from tropical evergreen forests to semi-arid scrub forests

**THREATS**

- Retaliatory killing due to conflict with farmers
- Hunted for gall bladders which are used for medicinal purposes

**CONSERVATION**

Used to be captured and trained by the Kalandar community to dance/perform. Largely due to the efforts of WILDLIFE SOS all the "dancing" bears in India have now been rescued and the Kalandar community rehabilitated

**PROTECTION STATUS**  
VULNERABLE ON THE IUCN RED LIST

**EAT**

- Insects – especially ants and termites
- Fruits – Indian plum (*Ziziphus mauritiana*) is their favourite
- Fond of honey – can climb large trees in search of hives

- ❖ India's oldest female sloth bear was passed away at the Van Vihar National Park and Zoo.
- ❖ The park is located in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Its name was Gulabo and aged at 40.
- ❖ They are a myrmecophagous bear species, which are native to the Indian subcontinent.
- ❖ They have been listed in Vulnerable category on the IUCN Red List, because of degradation and habitat loss.
- ❖ The bear is also called as "labiated bear" because of their long lower lip and palate.



- ❖ The global range of sloth bear includes India, temperate climatic zones of Bhutan & Sri Lanka and Terai region of Nepal.

### **India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021**

- ❖ The Union Environment Minister, Bhupender Yadav has launched the 17th edition of the biennial 'India State of Forest Report (ISFR)' 2021.
- ❖ ISFR is released by the Forest Survey of India (FSI), every two years since 1987 to assess the country's forest resources.
- ❖ India's forest and tree cover rose by 2,261 square kilometres in ISFR 2021 as compared to the assessment of 2019.
- ❖ This includes an increase of 1,540 square kilometres in forest cover and a 721 sq km increase in tree cover.
- ❖ The total forest and tree cover in the country is now spread across 80.9 million hectares or 24.62% of the geographical area of the country.
- ❖ 17 states/UTs have above 33 percent of the geographical area under forest cover.
- ❖ Out of these states and UTs, Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, and Meghalaya have more than 75 percent forest cover.
- ❖ The top five states in terms of increase in forest cover are Andhra Pradesh (647 sq km), Telangana (632 sq km), Odisha (537 sq km), Karnataka (155 sq km), and Jharkhand (110 sq km).
- ❖ Area-wise, Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover in the country.
- ❖ It is followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Maharashtra.
- ❖ The top five states in terms of forest cover as a percentage of total geographical area are Mizoram (84.53%), Arunachal Pradesh (79.33%), Meghalaya (76.00%), Manipur (74.34%), and Nagaland (73.90%).
- ❖ There is an increase of 17 sq km in mangrove cover in the country
- ❖ The top three States in terms of increase in mangrove cover are Odisha (8 sq km), Maharashtra (4 sq km), and Karnataka (3 sq km) respectively.
- ❖ Among the megacities in the country, Ahmedabad has been the biggest loser when it comes to forest cover.
- ❖ The Northeastern states saw a decrease of 1,020 sq. km.
- ❖ It together account for 23.75 per cent of India's total forest cover and are among its biggest biodiversity hotspots.

- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh lost the maximum forest cover of 257 sq km, followed by Manipur which lost 249 sq km, Nagaland 235 sq km, Mizoram 186 sq km and Meghalaya 73 sq km.
- ❖ In total 140 hill districts of the country, the forest cover reduced by 902 sq km in the last two years.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### Armed Forces Veterans Day - 14 January



- ❖ It is observed each year on 14 January since 2017.
- ❖ The day aims to acknowledge and honor the selfless devotion and sacrifice of our veterans in the service of the nation.

- ❖ It is observed as a mark of respect and recognition of the services rendered by Field Marshal KM Cariappa.
- ❖ He was the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Armed Forces who retired on 14 January 1953.

### **World Logic Day – 14 January**



- ❖ It is an international day proclaimed by UNESCO in association with the International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences (CIPSH) in November 2019.
- ❖ It corresponds to the date of death of Kurt Gödel and the date of birth of Alfred Tarski, two of the most prominent logicians of the twentieth century.

### **74th Indian Army Day – 15 January**

- ❖ It is observed to salute the sacrifice of the jawans who got martyred protecting the country and its citizens.
- ❖ It is also observed in recognition of Field Marshal KM Cariappa's taking over as the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army from the British General Francis Bucher.
- ❖ Bucher was the last British Commander-in-Chief of India, in 1949.
- ❖ The new Army Combat Pattern Uniform has been developed with the help of National Institute of Fashion Technology.
- ❖ The Monumental National Flag was put on a grand public display along the India-Pakistan Border at Longewala in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- ❖ It is the world's largest national flag made of Khadi fabric.
- ❖ The Monumental National Flag measures 225 feet long, 150 feet wide and weighs around 1,400 kg.





- ❖ Longewala was the center stage of the historic battle between India and Pakistan in 1971.
- ❖ This will be the fifth public display of the National Flag since its unveiling in Leh on October 2, 2021.

