

January - 26

TAMIL NADU

Semmozhi Tamil Awards



- ❖ The awards were presented by the Kalignar M. Karunanidhi Tamil Aaivu Arakkatalai.
- ❖ The awards were presented to those who excelled in archaeology, the study of stone inscriptions, coins, literature, fictional literature, research in literature, translation, and fine arts.
- ❖ The awards were not presented for 10 years between 2010 and 2019.
- ❖ The awards were given to
 - Professor Pon. Kothandaraman (2011)
 - Professor E. Sundamoorthy (2012)
 - Professor Pa. Marudhanayagam in (2013)
 - Professor Ku. Mohanarasu (2014)
 - Professor Maraimalai Ilakkuvanar in (2015)
 - Ka. Rajan in (2016)
 - Kavignar Erode Tamilanban (2018)
 - Ku. Sivamani (2019)
- ❖ Two winners - Dr. V. S. Rajam in 2010 and Professor Ulrich Nicholas will receive the awards at a later time.

NATIONAL

Banking on Electric Vehicles in India

- ❖ NITI Aayog has released this report.

- ❖ This outlines the need and importance of the inclusion of Electric Vehicles in RBI priority-sector lending guidelines.
- ❖ The report has been developed by NITI Aayog in collaboration with US-based non-profit organizations Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), and RMI India.



4th Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation



- ❖ It was recently organized by the Government of Malaysia and the Global Tiger Forum.
- ❖ This conference is an important event for reviewing progress towards the Global Tiger Recovery Programme and commitments to tiger conservation.

- ❖ India will facilitate Tiger Range Countries towards the finalization of the New Delhi declaration for the Global Tiger Summit to be held at Vladivostok, Russia later this year.
- ❖ A “Pre-Tiger Summit” meeting was held at New Delhi in 2010.
- ❖ Wherein the draft declaration on tiger conservation for Global Tiger Summit was finalized.

Gherkins

- ❖ India has emerged as the largest exporter of gherkins in the world.
- ❖ It is also known as pickling cucumber.
- ❖ Gherkin cultivation, processing, and exports started in India during the early 1990s with a modest beginning in Karnataka.
- ❖ Later extended to the neighboring states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana.
- ❖ Nearly 15% production of the world’s gherkin requirement is grown in India.



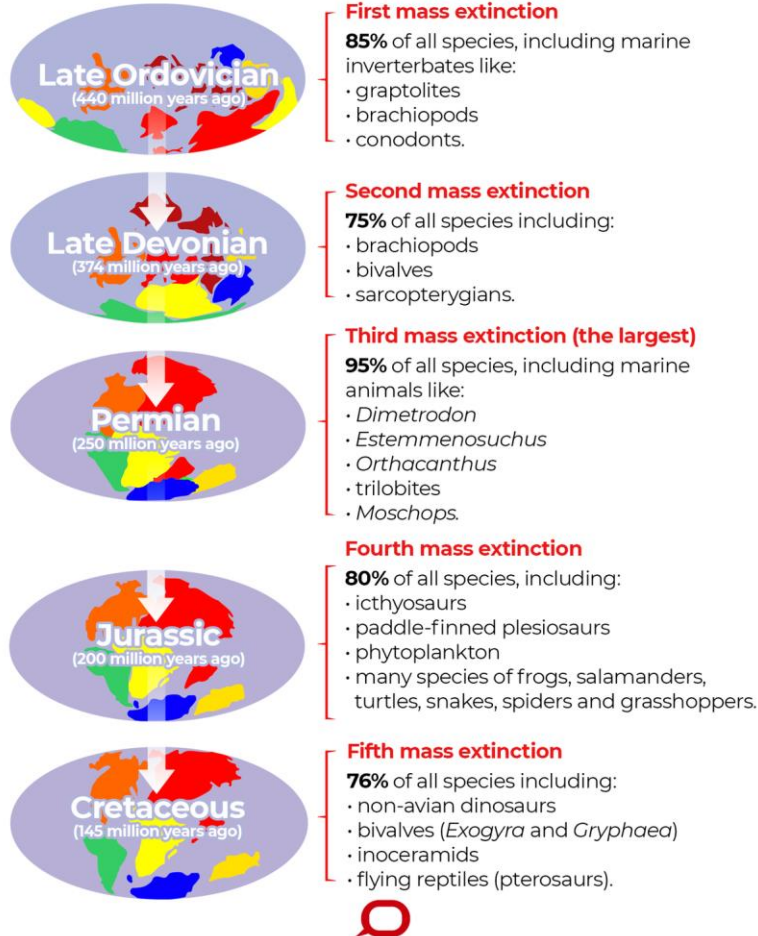
ENVIRONMENT

Sixth mass extinction

- ❖ As per a report published in Biological Reviews, the Sixth Mass Extinction crisis is underway on Planet Earth.
- ❖ It could have already lost around 13 percent of its total species.
- ❖ The last mass extinction was about 65 million years, which wiped out the dinosaurs.

- ❖ The Holocene extinction is referred to as “sixth mass extinction” or Anthropocene extinction.

The “Big Five” mass extinctions



STATES

AVGC Center of Excellence

- ❖ The government of Karnataka has launched India’s first AVGC Centre of Excellence (CoE) (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics) in Mahadevapura, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ❖ AVGC CoE was launched with pioneering high technology digital media hub under its Innovate Karnataka initiative.
- ❖ It is funded by the Department of Electronics Information Technology Biotechnology and Science & Technology.
- ❖ Karnataka became India’s first state to set up such an AVGC CoE.

- ❖ It is also the biggest centre in Asia.



Kerala gets its first-ever scientific bird atlas

- ❖ The first-of-its-kind State-level bird atlas in India has been created with The Kerala Bird Atlas (KBA).
- ❖ KBA is said to be Asia's largest bird atlas in terms of geographical extent.

ONE FOR THE BIRDS

<p>Kerala Bird Atlas once completed will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Current distribution of 150 widespread and abundant birds of Kerala ➤ Consolidated distribution of bird communities in Kerala ➤ Predicted distribution of bird 		<p>communities in the next 25 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Predicted distribution of key species in the 	<p>next 25 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hotspots for endemic and threatened bird diversity
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Adi Badri Dam

- ❖ The governments of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh signed an agreement to build a dam at Adi Badri in Yamuna Nagar district.
- ❖ The Dam will rejuvenate the mythical Saraswathi River.

- ❖ It is situated in Haryana near the Himachal Pradesh border.
- ❖ The place is considered as the river's origin point.
- ❖ The dam at Adi Badri will also get water from the Somb river, which falls in Yamuna River near Adi Badri in Yamuna Nagar.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

First Indian to complete Nasa Programme



- ❖ Jahnvi Dangeti has just completed NASA's International Air and Space Program at the Kennedy Space Centre in Alabama, US.
- ❖ This makes her the first Indian to accomplish this feat.



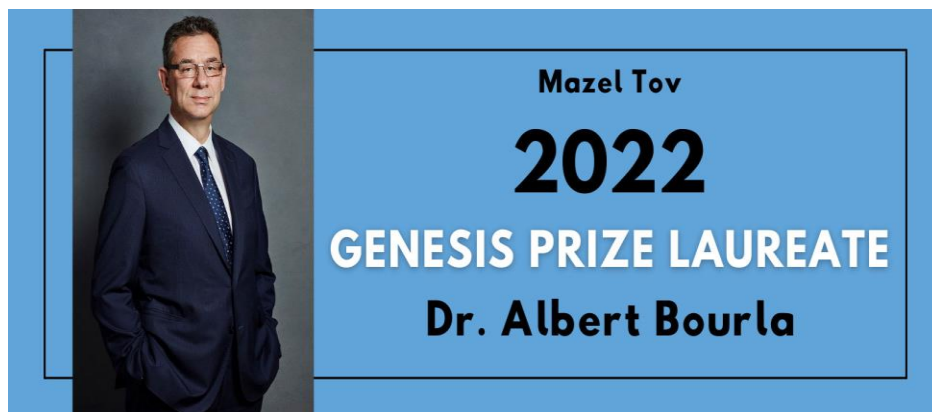
- ❖ She is a young girl from Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ She is a member of the International Organization of Aspiring Astronauts.

Netaji Award 2022



- ❖ Former Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was conferred with the Netaji Award 2022 by Netaji Research Bureau.
- ❖ Moreover, in January 2021, India bestowed the Padma Vibhushan on former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.
- ❖ Padma Vibhushan is the country's second-highest civilian honour.

Genesis Prize 2022



- ❖ Albert Bourla has been awarded the prestigious Genesis Prize 2022
- ❖ He is the Chairman and Chief Executive of Pfizer.

- ❖ He has been awarded for his efforts in leading the development of a COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer–BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine)
- ❖ Genesis Prize is widely referred to as the “Jewish Nobel Prize”.

Pradhan Mantri Rastriya Bal Puraskar



- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually interacted with the awardees of Pradhan Mantri Rastriya Bal Puraskar.
- ❖ He awarded them certificates digitally using blockchain technology.
- ❖ The technology was used for the first time to give certificates to awardees.
- ❖ 29 children, including 14 girls, were awarded.
- ❖ They were awarded in six fields namely, innovation, sports, scholastic achievements, social service, arts & culture, and bravery.
- ❖ From Tamilnadu Vishalini N C and Aswatha Biju received the award in the innovation field.

SPORTS

First para-badminton academy

- ❖ India's first para-badminton academy has been set up in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The set-up will improve India's medal prospects at the 2024 Paralympics.
- ❖ 2024 Paralympics is to be held in Paris, France at Stade de France stadium.

- ❖ The badminton centre has been launched by the head national coach of the Indian para-badminton team, Gaurav Khanna, in association with Ageas Federal Life Insurance.

IMPORTANT DAYS

The International Day of Education - January 24

- ❖ The day is global to celebrate the role of education in bringing global peace and sustainable development.
- ❖ The first-ever International Day of Education was celebrated on 24 January 2019.
- ❖ The theme of the 4th International Day of Education in 2022 is 'Changing Course, Transforming Education'.
- ❖ The celebration is led by the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).



National Girl Child Day - January 24

- ❖ The day aims to focus on the inequalities faced by girls, to promote the education, health & nutrition of the girl child, and to spread awareness about the rights of a girl child.
- ❖ The day was observed for the first time in 2008 as an initiative by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Government of India.

