

January - 27

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu chief minister inaugurated a Jallikattu arena stadium in Alanganallur, Madurai district.
 - This is the first of its kind in Tamil Nadu and even in the world.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister handed over the Kottai Ameer Communal Harmony Award, 2024 to Alt News' co-founder Mohammed Zubair.
- ❖ Abi Sithar of Tiruppuvanam was adjudged the best bull tamer of the maiden Jallikattu event that took place at Kalaingar Centenary Aeruthazhavuthual Arena at Keelakarai, Alanganallur village, Madurai district.

TAMIL NADU

Grantham Inscriptions – Kangeyam



- ❖ Two stone inscriptions of 'Grantham' and Tamil dating 11th and 16th centuries respectively were discovered at Pazhnchervazhi village near Kangeyam.
- ❖ The stone bearing 11th century 'Grantham' inscriptions were created by Tamils for writing the North Indian language.
- ❖ The inscribed words denote that the 'manthra' stone was worshipped by people in the past for curing diseases.
- ❖ The 16th century Tamil inscription describes a donation of four rupees for lighting the perpetual lamp in the Vishnu temple.
- ❖ The notable aspect here is that the four rupees is the amount levied as tax for each wheel the potter makes.

- ❖ And lighting of lamp was meant to be continued until the moon exists.

NATIONAL

75th Republic Day Highlights

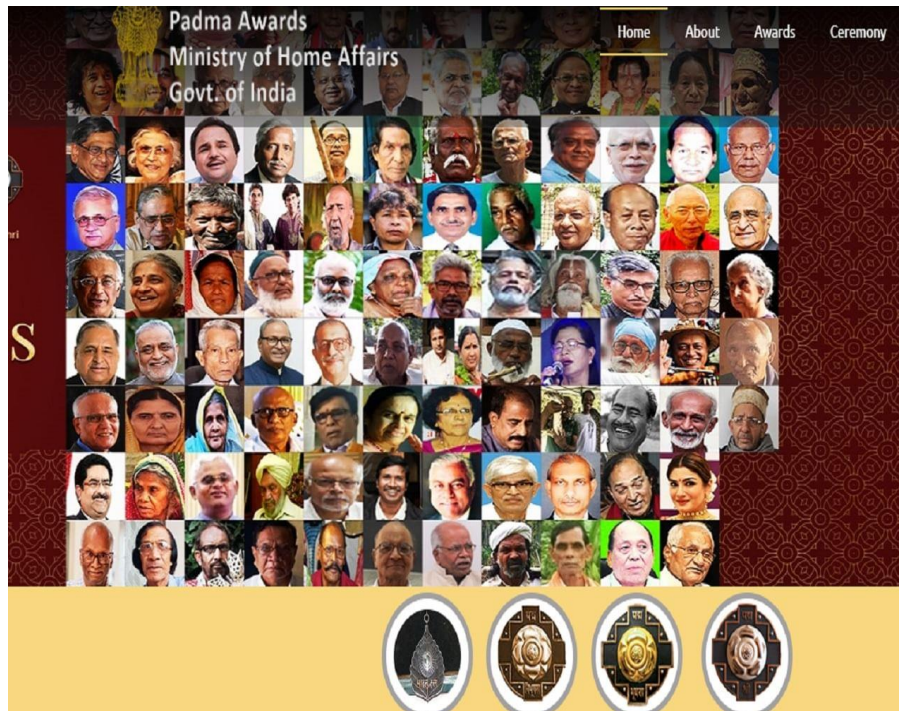
- ❖ This year's Republic Day parade was 'women-centric', indicating the roles played by women in various sectors.
- ❖ French President Emmanuel Macron participated as its chief guest.
- ❖ For the first time, the parade was heralded by 100 women artists playing Indian musical instruments.
- ❖ The theme of this year's Republic Day is 'Viksit Bharat' and 'Bharat: Loktantra ki Matraka'.
- ❖ The Culture Ministry's Republic Day tableau carried replicas of B R Ambedkar handing over the Constitution to the country's first president Rajendra Prasad, as well as ancient symbols that championed the democratic ethos.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu tableau carried Kudavolai System in Ancient Tamil Nadu - Mother of Democracy.



Padma Awards 2024

- ❖ The President Droupadi Murmu had approved the conferment of 132 Padma Awards including 30 women and eight persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI and nine posthumous awardees.

- ❖ The Bharat Ratna was conferred on two-time Bihar chief minister Karpoori Thakur posthumously.
- ❖ 'Padma Vibhushan' is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service.
- ❖ 'Padma Bhushan' for distinguished service of high order and 'Padma Shri' for distinguished service in any field.
- ❖ The awards are announced on the occasion of the Republic Day every year.
- ❖ Padma Vibhushan was awarded to 5 people; Padma Bhushan was given to 17 and Padma Shri was conferred to 110.



INTERNATIONAL

Chancay port of Peru

- ❖ The \$3.5 billion deep water port in the Peruvian fishing town of Chancay will be the first controlled by China in South America.
- ❖ It is a part of China's Belt and Road Initiative
- ❖ It will provide the Asian nation a direct gateway to the resource-rich region.
- ❖ The Chancay mega port aims to turn Peru into a strategic commercial and port hub between South America and Asia.
- ❖ Some 150 countries have signed on to the Belt and Road with China, including 22 in Latin America.

- ❖ Peru is the world's no. 2 copper producer, traded slightly more with the U.S. than China.



ENVIRONMENT

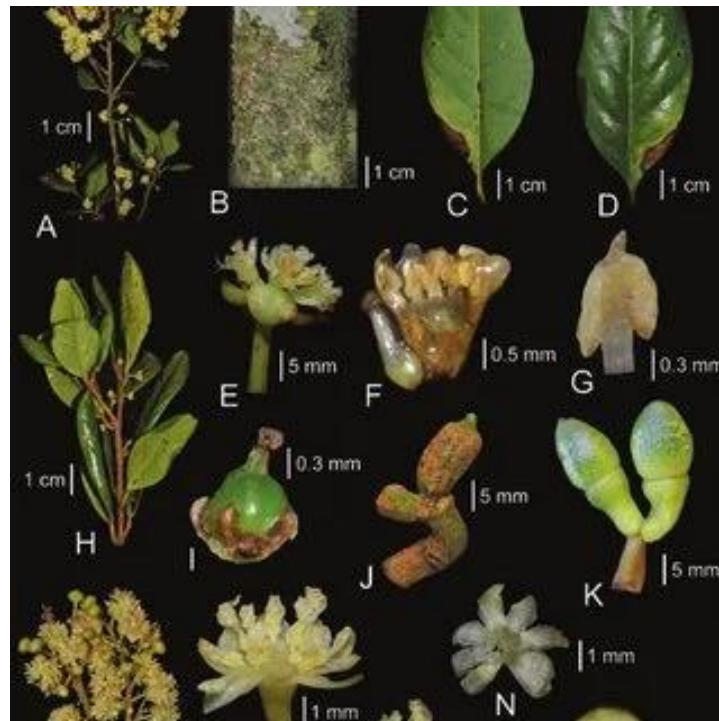
India's southernmost vulture population



- ❖ More than 300 vultures were recorded in the recently completed synchronous vulture survey in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (NBR).
- ❖ It is encompassing parts of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.
- ❖ Population surveyed;

- A total of 217 critically endangered white-rumped vultures (*Gyps bengalensis*),
- 47 long-billed vultures (*Gyps indicus*),
- 50 Asian king vultures (*Sarcogyps calvus*),
- Four endangered Egyptian vultures (*Neophron percnopterus*) and
- Two “near threatened” Himalayan griffon vultures (*Gyps himalayensis*)
- ❖ The Mudumalai-Sathyamangalam-Bandipur-Wayanad complex of the NBR accounted for over 82% of the vultures recorded during the survey.
- ❖ The highest number was recorded in the Mudumalai and Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserves in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The last synchronous vulture census, conducted in February 2023, when 246 vultures were recorded.
- ❖ In the most recent survey, conducted in December 2023, the number of vultures recorded had increased to 320 individuals.
- ❖ The four Egyptian vultures and two Himalayan griffon vultures were sighted in the Nelli Forest Division and the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary.

Andrographis theniensis



- ❖ A new plant species has been discovered in Theni district of Tamil Nadu in the Western Ghats.

- ❖ The plant was named 'Andrographis theniensis' after the location (Theni).
- ❖ Andrographis is a tropical Asian genus native to Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the West Himalaya.
- ❖ However, a majority of Andrographis taxa are distributed in southern India and Sri Lanka, particularly in Western and Eastern Ghats.
- ❖ There are nearly 25 Andrographis species in India.
- ❖ This genus is traditionally used to treat various ailments such as cold, cough, fever, jaundice, diarrhoea, cardiovascular and hepatic diseases in both codified and non-codified medicinal systems.

STATES

Kumki Elephants for Odisha



- ❖ The Odisha government has sought four Kumki elephants along with their mahouts from Tamil Nadu given the southern state's successful programme.
- ❖ In Odisha, there have been 230 encounters between humans and elephants in this financial year (2023-24).
- ❖ In these encounters, 139 humans have been killed and 108 injured.
- ❖ Last financial year, there were 257 encounters in which 146 persons were killed and 157 injured.

- ❖ As there are two more months left in the current financial year, the human casualties in elephant attacks could be an all-time high.
- ❖ Kumki elephants can be deployed strategically to help us to manage and drive wild elephants thereby reducing damage to crops, human habitations and the potential loss of both human and elephant lives.
- ❖ These elephants can also be deployed for forest patrolling and rescue operations.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Voters Day 2024 - January 25

- ❖ This day commemorates the formation of the Election Commission of India (ECI) on January 25, 1950.
- ❖ The day underscores the importance of voting and creates awareness among the citizens.
- ❖ In 2011, the Election Commission of India initiated observance of the National Voters' Day.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is 'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure'.



National Tourism Day 2024 - January 25

- ❖ The first celebrated National Tourism Day was in 1948.

- ❖ Its aims were to promote popular tourist destinations across the country and to preserve the nation's cultural heritage.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is "Sustainable Journeys, Timeless Memories".

