

COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT ON OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

The 11th volume of the Report of the Official Language Committee headed by Union Home Minister was submitted to the President of India.



About:

- The Committee of Parliament on Official Language was set up in **1976** under **Section 4 of The Official Languages Act, 1963**.
- Section 4 of the Act says “there shall be constituted a Committee on Official language, on a resolution to that effect being moved in either House of Parliament with the previous sanction of the President and passed by both Houses”.
- Under the provisions of the 1963 Act, the panel submits its report to the President, who “shall [then] cause the report to be laid before each House of Parliament, and sent to all the State Governments”.
- The Committee is chaired by the Union Home Minister, and has, in accordance with the provisions of the 1963 Act, **30 members** — **20 MPs from Lok Sabha and 10 MPs from Rajya Sabha**.
- The mandate of the Committee is to review the progress made in the use of Hindi for official purposes, and to make recommendations to increase the use of Hindi in official communications.
- The first Report of the Committee was submitted in 1987.

120th. BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN

Union Home Minister Amit Shah unveiled a 15-foot statue of Jayaprakash Narayan or JP on his 120th birth anniversary on October 11, at his birthplace, Sitab Diara village in Bihar’s Saran district.



About:

- He was born on October 11, 1902, in Bihar’s Sitab Diara.

- He quit college to join the non-cooperation movement, before going to study at the University of California, Berkeley, where he was influenced by the ideas of Karl Marx.
- He returned to India in 1929 and joined the freedom struggle and the Indian National Congress, upon the invitation of Jawaharlal Nehru and drawn by a speech by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.
- He is one of the founding members of the Congress Socialist Party (CSP).
- He is credited for galvanising popular opinion against Indira Gandhi government, through his call for Sampurna Kranti (Total Revolution). It led to the formation of the first non-Congress government (Janata Party government, 1977) in the country.
- In 1999, he was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award, in recognition of his social service.
- Other awards include the Magsaysay award for Public Service in 1965.

TAMIL NADU NOTIFIES INDIA'S FIRST SLENDER LORIS SANCTUARY

In News:

- The Tamil Nadu government recently notified the Kadavur Slender Loris sanctuary in the districts of Karur and Dindigul, **a first in the country.**
- Previously, the Madras High Court directed the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests to take immediate action to conduct a study on the habitats, distribution and management of the slender loris (thevangu in Tamil).

About the Slender Loris species:



- The Slender Lorises (Loris) are a genus of loris **native to India and Sri Lanka.**
- The genus comprises two species - the red Slender Loris found in Sri Lanka and the gray Slender Loris from Sri Lanka and India.
- They are found in tropical rainforests, scrub forests, semi-deciduous forests and swamps.

- In India, the animal is largely found in the Eastern Ghats of the Karur and Dindigul Forest Divisions.
- According to a census taken in 2016-17 by the Forest Department, the Kadavur Reserve Forest has a population of 3,500 Slender Loris, which is estimated to be around 5,000 currently.
- These small nocturnal mammals (active during the night and sleeping during the day) are arboreal in nature as they spend most of their life on trees.
- It is listed as an **endangered species** by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and protected under Schedule 1 of the Indian legislation of the Wildlife (Protection) Act (WPA), 1972.
- Slender Loris has a wide range of ecological roles to play in the terrestrial ecosystem. The species acts as a biological predator of pests in agricultural crops and benefits farmers.
- Since it faced major threats such as habitat loss, hunting for the pet trade and road kills, the official felt the need for enhanced protection through a sanctuary.

News Summary:

- **Background - Conservation efforts by TN:**
 - The survival of a species depends on its habitat improvement, conservation efforts and mitigation of threats.
 - In significant steps towards conservation of wildlife, TN government notified -
 - **India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve** in Palk Bay.
 - Kochuveli bird sanctuary in Villupuram and Nanjarayan Tank bird sanctuary in Tirupur.
 - The State's **fifth elephant reserve** at Agasthyamalai in Tirunelveli.
 - Further, 13 wetlands across the State were declared as **Ramsar sites**.
 - Earlier, an announcement on the establishment of India's first wildlife sanctuary for Slender Loris in the State was made in the Legislative Assembly.
 - Subsequently, the government has notified '**Kadavur Slender Loris sanctuary**' under the WPA, 1972.
- **About the Kadavur Slender Loris sanctuary:**

- Recognizing the need for immediate conservation of Slender Loris species, the State government designated 11,800 hectares of forest as important habitats for the Kadavur Slender Loris sanctuary.
 - This will cover Vedsandur, Dindigul East and Natham taluks in **Dindigul** district and Kadavur taluk in **Karur** district of TN.
 - The entire forest in the taluks has been classified as a reserve forest and considered a hotspot in the State for Slender Loris.
 - The medium to high temperature in the hill, which has an elevation of about 1,200 m above sea level is attributed to the growth of Slender Loris.
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VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently flagged off Vande Bharat Express from Una in Himachal Pradesh to New Delhi.



About:

- This is the fourth Vande Bharat train to be introduced in the country.
 - The introduction of the train will help boost tourism in the region and provide a comfortable and faster mode of travel.
 - The coaches of this train are indigenously manufactured at the Chennai Rail coach factory.
 - Vande Bharat Express has been tested at 180 kmph and can run upto maximum speed of 160 kmph on passenger service.
 - All Coaches are equipped with automatic doors; GPS based audio-visual passenger information system, onboard hotspot, wi-fi for entertainment purposes, and very comfortable seating.
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ARMED FORCES BATTLE CASUALTIES WELFARE FUND (AFBCWF)

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to launch website enabling citizens to contribute for Armed Forces Battle Casualties Welfare Fund.



About:

- It is a Tri service fund, utilised for grant of immediate financial assistance of ex-gratia, to the Next of Kin and dependents of Battle Casualties.
 - It has been set up under Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (ESW), Ministry of Defence.
 - The fund has been created under the Charitable Endowments Act, 1890.
 - Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan to be the ‘Goodwill Ambassador’.
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WORLD SLOTH BEAR DAY

The first World Sloth Bear Day was observed on October 12.



About:

- It aims to spread awareness about protection and conservation of sloth bears.
- A proposal for observing the World Sloth Bear Day was mooted by Wildlife SOS India, an organisation involved in sloth bear conservation and protection for over two decades and the IUCN-Species Survival Commission sloth bear expert team accepted the proposal and declared the day to be celebrated worldwide.

Sloth bears (*Melursus ursinus*):

- Sloth bears are endemic to the Indian sub-continent with small populations in Nepal and Srilanka and 90% of the species population is found in India.
- They are classified as ‘Vulnerable’ on the IUCN Red List.
- They are identified by their very distinct long, shaggy dark brown or black fur, distinct white V-shaped chest patch and four-inch long ivory-coloured curved claws used for digging out termites

and ants from rock-hard mounds. Listed under Schedule I of the (Wildlife Protection) Act of India, 1972 the species has the same level of protection as tigers, rhinos and elephants.

- They are found in all parts of the country except Jammu and Kashmir and north-eastern States.
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WORLD ARTHRITIS DAY

World Arthritis Day is observed every year on October 12.



About:

- The theme for World Arthritis Day 2022 is “It’s in your hands, take action”.
 - It aims to raise awareness about arthritis, a condition that can affect one or more joints, causing pain, swelling, and inflammation.
 - It was established in 1996 by Arthritis and Rheumatism International (ARI).
 - There are different types of arthritis out of which the most common ones are osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis.
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