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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

Tamil Nadu: 17-05-2024

<p>Kadar tribe</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Kadar tribesman recently died in an elephant attack in Tamil Nadu's Anamalai Tiger Reserve.• The Kadars are known to have co-existed with wild elephants for ages. <p>About Kadar tribe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Kadar are a small indigenous tribal community in South India.• They reside along the hilly border between Cochin in Kerala and Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu.• They have a sympiotic relationship with nature, and they believe in the coexistence of Kadar and Kaadu (forest).• Their population was estimated at approximately 2,000 individuals in the early 21st century.• They speak the Dravidian languages of Tamil and Kannada.• They are listed as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) in Kerala, but not in Tamil Nadu.
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Koodal Azhagar Temple

Why in news?

- The **annual Vaikasi celebrations** have commenced at the **Koodal Azhagar Temple** in **Madurai**.
- The festival is fortnight-long and is **overseen by Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department officials**.

About Koodal Azhagar Temple:

- The Koodal Azhagar Temple is located in **Madurai, Tamil Nadu**.
- The temple is **dedicated to the Hindu god Vishnu**, who is **worshipped as Viyoooga Sundarrajan**, and his consort **Lakshmi as Mathuravalli**.
- It is **one of the 108 Divya Desams dedicated to Vishnu**. These are the **holy abodes of Vishnu that were glorified by the Alvar saints** in their hymns during the **6th–9th centuries CE**.
- The temple is believed to have been originally **built by the Pandyas**, with later additions by the **Vijayanagara empire** and **Madurai Nayaks kings** who commissioned pillared halls and major shrines of the temple during the 16th century.

World Species Congress

Why in news?

- A **World Species Congress** was organised at the Cairn Hill Eco-Awareness Centre, **Ooty**.
- The event was **organised by Muddy Boots Nilgiris in collaboration with the BERU Foundation**.

About World Species Congress:

- The World Species Congress is a **global movement that aims to ignite strategic cooperation and action to ensure the survival of wild species and ecosystems**.
- The **first-ever World Species Congress is scheduled to take place on May 15, 2024**.
- The **idea for a World Species Congress was proposed in 2008** during the **World Conservation Congress in Barcelona**.



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Palmyra



Why in news?

- The **Agro Food Chamber, Madurai**, has launched efforts to **revive Palmyra**, the **traditional crop of Tamil Nadu**.

Key points:

- **Palmyra is the State Tree of Tamil Nadu** and has **ecological and economic value**.
- It's hailed as a **Karpaga Viruksha (divine tree)**, which offers everything one asks for) in Tamil culture as no part of it goes to waste.
- **Palmyra is valued for its multi-purpose usage**, such as sweet toddy (pathaneer), fruits, ice apple (nungu), palm jaggery (panam karuppatti), palm candy (panam kalkandu), palmyra tuber (panam kilangu), palmyra oil, palm leaves, several handicraft products, palm trunk wood (panam kattai) and in traditional medicine.

Sloth bear

Why in news?

- A **sloth bear** has been **causing panic** among the residents of Coonoor in The **Nilgiris district**.

About Sloth bear:

- **Scientific Name: Melursus ursinus**
- **Geographic Range:** Found in the **Indian subcontinent**, including India, Sri Lanka, and Nepal.
- **Primary Diet:** Insectivorous, primarily feeding on termites and ants.
 - Other Foods: Fruits, honey, flowers, and occasionally small mammals or carrion.
- **Feeding Behavior:** Uses long claws to break into termite mounds and uses its lips to suck up the insects.
- **Activity:** Mostly **nocturnal** and **solitary**, except for mothers with cubs.
- **IUCN Status: Vulnerable** due to habitat loss, poaching, and human-wildlife conflict.
- **Threats:** Deforestation, habitat fragmentation, and exploitation for body parts.



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