

13– 10 – 2022

News: Tamil Nadu notifies India's first slender loris sanctuary

- In a first in the country, the Tamil Nadu government recently notified the Kaduvur slender loris sanctuary covering 11,806 hectares in Karur and Dindigul districts.
- The sanctuary will cover Vendasandur, Dindigul East and Natham taluks in Dindigul district and Kadavur taluk in Karur district.
- The state also boasts with the first of its kind notification of Dugong conservation reserve in India at Palk Bay.

Slender Loris

- Slender lorises, which are small nocturnal mammals, are arboreal as they spend most of their life on trees.
- The species acts as a biological predator of pests in agricultural crops and benefits farmers.
- Listed as an endangered species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), slender loris has a wide range of ecological roles in the terrestrial ecosystem.

- The survival of the species depends on habitat improvement, conservation and mitigation of threats.

Dugong

- Dugong is also called Sea Cow.
- It can weigh upto 300 kilograms, and live for about 65 to 70 years.
- It is the only existing herbivorous mammal that lives exclusively in the sea.
- There are about only 250 dugongs left in Gulf of Mannar in Tamil Nadu, Andaman & Nicobar & Gulf of Kutch in Gujarat.
- IUCN Status: Vulnerable.
- Wildlife Protection Act: Schedule I.
- Once the female is pregnant, she will carry the unborn baby, called a foetus, for 12-14 months before giving birth.
- Female dugongs give birth underwater to a single calf at three to seven-year intervals.
- The Dugongs graze on seagrass, especially young shoots and roots in shallow coastal waters. They can consume up to 40 kilograms of seagrass in a day.
- Threats faced include loss of food (seagrass beds), Trapping in trawlers and Destruction of habitat.
- Dugong meat is consumed under the wrong impression that it cools down human body temperature.

- In the recent 13th CoP to CMS, MoEFCC constituted a Task Force for Conservation of Dugongs.
- World Dugong day is celebrated 28th May, every year.

News: A day to explore bear necessities

- Recently, the first World Sloth Bear Day was celebrated on 12th of October 2022.

Sloth bear

- Sloth bear is a myrmecophagous (literal meaning “ant eating”) bear species native to the Indian subcontinent.
- Sloth bears are endemic to the Indian subcontinent and 90% of the species population is found in India.
- It feeds on fruits, ants and termites.
- It is listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List, mainly because of habitat loss and degradation.
- It is also listed under Schedule I of the (Wildlife Protection) Act of India, 1972.
- It has also been called “labiated bear” because of its long lower lip and palate used for sucking up insects.

- It has a long, shaggy fur, a mane around the face, and long, sickle-shaped claws.
- Over the past few years there has been a rise of incidents of human sloth bear conflict in States like Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra among other states.