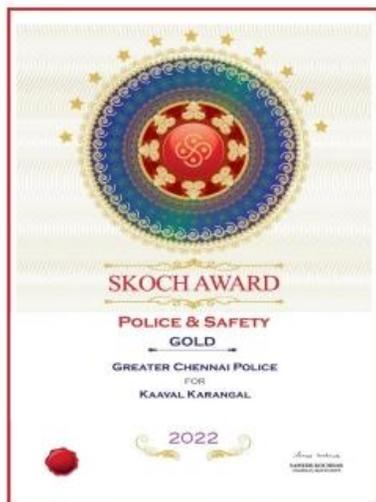


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS—JANUARY 22, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- Chennai city police - have been awarded with the Skoch gold for successfully implementing 'Kaaval Karangal' initiative



- ✓ The initiative was launched to rescue abandoned people and perform last rites for the unclaimed dead with assistance from NGO volunteers.
- ✓ Skoch award is given every year for good governance in several aspects including hygiene, police and safety, administration, handicraft, sports and health.
- ✓ This year, under the police and safety category, the Chennai city police bagged gold for 'Kaaval Karangal'.
- ✓ Started by the Chennai police on April 21, 2021 as an initiative to help destitute people in the city, the scheme was praised by Chief Minister M K Stalin during Independence Day celebrations two weeks ago.
- ✓ According to City police, over 3000 persons were rescued off the streets in the past one year and sent to government shelters or reunited with their families.
- ✓ Through the initiative, police along with NGOs also gave a decent burial to more than 1200 persons, whose bodies were unclaimed.

- ✓ In 2019, the Greater Chennai Police received the Centre's Skoch Award under swachh police station category as a result of their efforts in clearing abandoned and unclaimed vehicles from station premises
- **The state government – has announced setting up of a Turtle Conservation and Rehabilitation Centre at an estimated Rs.6. 3 crore.**



- ✓ In this regard, an order was issued by Supriya Sahu, secretary of environment, climate change and forest department on January 20
- ✓ The proposed centre would rescue and offer treatment to injured turtles and release them back into the sea
- ✓ It will build an information network to curb poaching and identify turtle nesting areas on Tamil Nadu coast.
- ✓ It will also study turtle migratory routes using conventional flipper tagging, molecular genetics and satellite telemetry.
- ✓ The Turtle Conservation and Rehabilitation Centre will have turtle pools and sheds, in addition to the medical facilities for rehabilitation.
- ✓ The centre will act as a temporary home to sick and injured turtles.
- ✓ The resource and knowledge centre with modern visitor amenities will make it a state-of-the-art centre for learning and awareness on turtle conservation.
- ✓ The centre will also coordinate with district administration, municipal authorities, panchayat institutions, police, customs, navy, coast guard, fisheries department, fisherfolk, NGOs and civil society organization for turtle conservation programmes.
- ✓ The GO was issued in response to a request from the principal chief conservator of forests and chief wildlife warden to sanction funds for setting up a Turtle conservation facility at Guindy National Park.

NATIONAL

- **Indian Ports Association – has signed MoU with Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) for setting up a Centre for Maritime Economy and Connectivity in New Delhi.**



- ✓ The Memorandum was signed in the presence of the Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal.
- ✓ The institute will pave way for seamless, cost-effective trade and commerce with Indian neighbours including the BIMSTEC nations
- ✓ To promote the trade with BIMSTEC nations, India has proposed a project of Transshipment Port at Galathea bay at Greater Nicobar in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi - is scheduled to arrive in India on January 24.**



- ✓ He will be the first Egyptian President and the fifth leader from the Middle East to grace the Republic Day celebrations as chief guest.
- ✓ A 180-member strong military contingent from Egyptian army will also participate in the Republic Day parade.
- ✓ The Egyptian president previously visited India in October 2015 to participate in the third India-Africa Forum Summit, which was followed by a state visit in September 2016.

- ✓ Egypt has also been invited as a 'Guest Country' during India's Presidency of G-20 in 2022-23.
- ✓ The bilateral trade between India and Egypt achieved a record high of 7.26 billion dollars in 2021-22.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The Think 20 (T20) convention, which was being held under the aegis of G20 - concluded in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh recently on January 17**



- ✓ More than 300 intellectuals from India and abroad released the Bhopal Declaration after discussing the G-20 agenda in the two-day meeting of Think-20
- ✓ The Bhopal Declaration has also emphasized promoting traditional medicine systems like AYUSH and encouraging value-oriented development in infrastructure development.
- ✓ The key recommendations of the Bhopal Declaration include the need for development transformation to support transitions towards 'Global South and Global Governance for LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)' and responsible consumption

- **The five-day Jaipur Literature Festival, 2023 – began in Jaipur on January 19**



- ✓ The 16th edition of the festival will host over 350 speakers from across several nations
 - ✓ It will feature prestigious recipients of major awards such as the Nobel, the Booker, International Booker, the Pulitzer, the Sahitya Akademi, Baillie Gifford, PEN America Literary Awards, the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature, among others
 - ✓ The festival will display 21 Indian and 14 international languages with sessions spread across five venues.
 - ✓ The keynote address on the inaugural session was delivered by the recipient of the Nobel Prize in Literature, Abdulrazak Gurnah.
 - ✓ The festival will offer five days of evocative literary discourses, musical performances, art installations, merchandise, local cuisine and more.
 - ✓ The largest literary festival in the country, Jaipur Literary Festival, was launched in 2006
- **The 8th edition of Indian International Science Festival (IISF) – is being held in Madhya Pradesh’s Bhopal from January 21 to 24**



- ✓ The festival features 15 different outreach programmes where students across the country will be able to showcase their scientific models and get exposure to Guinness Book of World Record, Mega Science and Technology Exhibition and New Age Technologies show.
- ✓ The students will be given an opportunity to interact with the scientists and other programmes related to scientific interventions and research.
- ✓ IISF is the biggest platform in the country to bring together students, researchers, innovators, artists, and the general public to celebrate achievements in the field of science and technology
- ✓ Indian International Science Festival is an initiative of the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Earth Science

DEFENCE

- **The first ever joint exercise between Indian and Egyptian armies “Cyclone-I” - is being conducted in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan from January 14**



- ✓ The 14-day joint exercise aims to bolster defence co-operation between the two nations
 - ✓ The focus of the exercise is on sharing professional skills and interoperability of Special Forces in desert terrain while undertaking reconnaissance, counter-terrorism, raids, and other special operations
 - ✓ The soldiers would also undertake joint planning and drills for Special Forces operations in a mechanised warfare setting.
 - ✓ They will also do surgical strikes on terrorist camps/hideouts including sniping of High-Value Targets
- **The Indian Air Force - to carry out Exercise Pralay in all of its key air facilities in the northeast, including the recently relocated drone units**
- ✓ Exercise Pralay will include major combat assets including the recently acquired Rafale fighter, in addition to Su-30 fighter jets, and other transport aircraft.
 - ✓ Notably, the exercise's conduct comes amid preparations for another IAF exercise called 'Poorvi Akash' set to be conducted in the first week of February
 - ✓ Exercise Poorvi Akash is an annual command-level exercise and is being conducted after a gap of two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic
 - ✓ Both the exercises set to be conducted in the coming days will test the IAF's operational preparedness along the Indo-China border amid ongoing border tensions.
 - ✓ Headquartered in Shillong, the IAF's Eastern Air Command has the entire northeast air space under its area of operation (AOR).

