

17 MAY 2019**ANNAMACHARYA JAYANTI****Why in news?**

- Annamacharya Jayanti is to be celebrated on May 18 throughout Andhra Pradesh. This is the 610th birth anniversary celebrations of Annamacharya, who is also known as Annamaiah.

About Annamacharya:

- He was a 15th century- saint (1408-1503) Hindu saint and a famous Carnatic music composer during Vijayangar kingdom times.
- He was born in Tallapaka, a village in present day Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh.
- Other composers like Purandaradasa (the Grandfather of Carnatic Music) came after him.
- He is said to have composed as many as 32,000 sankeertanas (songs) on the god Venkateswara of which only about 12,000 are available today.
- In his later keertanas, he espouses subjects such as morality, dharma and righteousness.
- He also stood against the Untouchability through his sankeertanas.

PANDIT ISHWAR CHANDRA VIDYASAGAR**Why in news?**

- Recently a statue of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar was vandalised during the clash between two political party members at Calcutta.

About Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar:

- Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar (1820-1891 AD) was a Bengali polymath and a key figure of the Bengali Renaissance.
- He was a philosopher, philanthropist, writer, educator and reformer.
- He put efforts to simplify and modernize Bengali prose is significant.
- He also rationalised and simplified the Bengali alphabet.
- He was the prominent campaigner for Hindu Widow remarriage and his campaign enthused Lord Dalhousie to come up with the famous Hindu Widow remarriage Act, 1856.
- He received the title Vidyasagar (Ocean of Knowledge) from the Sanskrit College from where he graduated.
- He was associated with establishing more than 35 girls' schools in Bengal.
- The important books authored by him include Jeebancharit, Bodhadoy and Upakramanika.
- He started the weekly newspaper Shom Prakash in 1859.

NOTE

HEAT FORCES ANIMALS OUT OF SESHACHALAM BIOSPHERE

In news:

- The wild animals in the Seshachalam biosphere, which is spread over Chittoor and Kadapadistrictsare venturing out of their habitat.
- In a rare sight, slender loris and pangolin are spotted neat human habitat.

About Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve:

- Located in Sechachalam hills of Eastern ghats in Southern Andhra.
- The ranges are bounded by the Rayalaseema uplands to the west and northwest, and the Nandyal Valley to the north (formed by Kunderuriver).
- Tirupati, a major Hindu pilgrimage town is located in the hills
- It has large reserves of red sandalwood which is used in medicines, soaps, spiritual rituals.
- Its vegetation is dry deciduous.



Slender Loris:

- Commonly found in the tropical scrub and deciduous forests of Southern India and Sri Lanka.
- It is a small, nocturnal primate
- It is listed under the Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act of India, 1972 and Appendix II of CITES.
- IUCN status: Least Concern

Indian Pangolin:

- It is distributed throughout India, Pakistan, and South Asia.
- It has been sighted in Sri Lanka at 1100 meters and in the Nilgiri mountains in India at 2300 meters.
- Unlike its African counterpart, the Indian pangolin does not climb trees
- IUCN status: Endangered
- It is an insectivore, feeding on ants and termites,



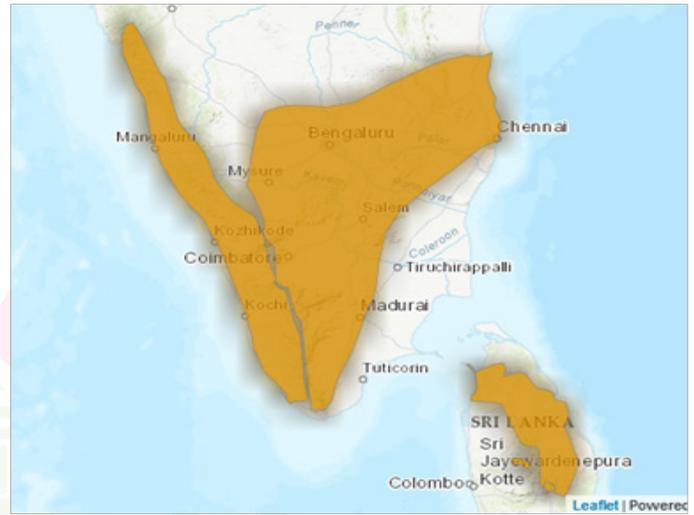
NOTE



- The Indian pangolin is threatened by hunting for its meat and for various body parts used in traditional medicine in Vietnam and China.

Indian Pangolin habitat:

Slender Loris habitat:



X PRIZE AWARD

In news:

- Kitkit School from the U.S. and onebillion from the U.K. were declared co-winners of the XPRIZE for global learning.
- A team from Bengaluru was among the five finalists.
- The goal was to develop open-sourced software, put it on tablets donated by Google and have thousands of children in 170 remote villages in Tanzania test it.

About X Prize:



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- It is a coveted international award funded by future-looking entrepreneurs, billionaires and philanthropists who have banded together with the goal of making the world a better place through technology.
- It was founded in 1995.
- Their Board of Trustees include James Cameron, Larry Page, Arianna Huffington, Ratan Tata among others.

COMMUNICATIONS COMPATIBILITY AND SECURITY AGREEMENT (COMCASA)

In news:

- India and the U.S. are cooperating to prevent all forms of terrorism both from land and sea, U.S. Chief of Naval Operations Admiral John M. Richardson said on Thursday.

In Brief:

- Adm. Richardson said the foundational agreement, Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA), which India signed last year would enable exchange of information on such threats.
- With COMCASA, India has signed three of the four foundational agreements with the U.S., and discussions are under way on the final one, Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation (BECA).
- COMCASA allows India to procure specialised equipment for encrypted communications from the U.S. origin military platforms.

What is COMCASA?

- COMCASA stands for Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement and is one of the four foundational agreements that the U.S. signs with allies and close partners to facilitate interoperability between militaries and sale of high end technology.
- COMCASA is an India-specific version of the Communication and Information on Security Memorandum of Agreement (CISMOA). It comes into force immediately, and is valid for a period 10 years.

Four foundational agreements that the U.S. signs with allies

- General Security Of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA)
- Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)
- Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)
- Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation (BECA)

COMCASA

<p>What Legal framework to allow US to transfer high-end communication security equipment to India.</p>	<p>Why</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enable Indian and US forces to operate more closely, share information on secure networks Improve performance of US-sourced platforms with compatible, secure communication systems Establishes platform to share real-time operational information with US & its allies
<p>• The Controversy •</p>	
<p> UPA refused because it feared getting dragged into a US military alliance</p>	<p> The agreement may specify US personnel to be given access to US-sourced communication equipment for periodic inspection</p>
<p> The coding and keying systems will be same, allowing US access to Indian tactical information</p>	<p> Integration with existing Russian weapon system may be a challenge</p>

NOTE



PRELIMS BITS

CITIZEN SCIENCE

About Citizen Science:

- Citizen Science is scientific research conducted, in whole or in part, by non-professional scientists.
- It is sometimes described as “public participation in scientific research”, participatory monitoring etc.
- Earth watch Institute India is a leader in implementing the citizen science concept in India.
- At the global level, the U.S. based Citizen Science Alliance is nurturing new citizen science projects in disciplines ranging from data engineering to oceanography.
- The University of Oxford, Johns Hopkins University and the University of Minnesota, amongst others, are part of this alliance.



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