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Tamil Nadu: 19-06-2024

### Justice K. Chandru committee

#### Why in the news?

- The **one-man committee**, led by **retired Madras High Court judge Justice K. Chandru**, has **recommended that the Tamil Nadu government ban students from wearing colored wristbands, rings, or forehead marks that indicate their caste.**
- Additionally, it suggested **removing caste appellations from the names of schools.**

### Advocating reforms

The Justice K Chandru Committee, formed after the mysterious death of a 17-year old inmate of the Government Observation Home in Chengalpattu in December 2022, has given various recommendations to the government with respect to administration of homes for children in conflict with law (CCL). Here are a few of them:



Justice K. Chandru submitting the one-man panel's report to Chief Minister M.K. Stalin at the Secretariat.

- The affairs of the homes should be monitored daily through a special monitoring room
- Each home should have a medical doctor, a psychologist and a qualified counsellor
- A training academy should be set up for staff
- Admission certificate should be given to parents of CCL
- Each home must have a de-addiction centre
- CCL should be provided with recreation facilities and allowed to play on open ground



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<p><b>Sloth bear</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Two <b>sloth bears</b> were spotted wandering around in the <b>Collector's camp office premises in the Nilgiris</b>, as captured by CCTV footage.</li></ul> <p><b>About Sloth bear:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Scientific Name:</b> Melursus ursinus</li><li><b>Habitat:</b> Primarily found in the <b>Indian subcontinent</b>, including <b>India</b>, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan.</li><li><b>Distinct Features:</b> White or yellowish chest patch shaped like a 'Y' or 'V'; large claws used for digging.</li><li><b>Diet:</b> <b>Omnivorous</b>, primarily feeds on termites, ants, honey, fruits, and occasionally small mammals and birds.</li><li><b>Behavior:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Nocturnal:</b> Mostly active during the night.</li><li><b>Arboreal Abilities:</b> Can climb trees to feed or escape predators.</li><li><b>Social Structure:</b> Typically solitary except for mothers with cubs or during the mating season.</li></ul></li><li><b>Breeding Season:</b> Generally from June to July.</li><li><b>Gestation Period:</b> About 6 to 7 months.</li><li><b>Conservation Status:</b> Vulnerable (IUCN Red List).</li></ul>
<p><b>Excavation works in Tamil Nadu</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Tamil Nadu CM flags off <b>excavation works at eight sites</b>.</li></ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Sites Involved:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Keeladi</li><li>Vembakottai</li><li>Thirumalapuram (Tenkasi)</li><li>Kilnamandi (Tiruvannamalai)</li><li>Porpanaikottai (Pudukkottai, second phase)</li><li>Chennanur (Krishnagiri)</li><li>Kongalnagaram (Tiruppur)</li><li>Marungoor (Cuddalore)</li></ul></li><li><b>Key Highlights:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Funding:</b> Government allocated `5 crore for excavations.</li><li><b>Significance of Keeladi:</b> Artefacts date back to 2600 BC; evidence of literacy and trade with</li></ul></li></ul>



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	<p>Rome.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Books Released:</b> "Perumbalai Excavation Report" and "Tamil Nadu Inscriptions (Volume - XXVIII)".</li></ul>
<b>Thoppur ghat</b>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● The <b>National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)</b> has undertaken various initiatives in the past two months to rectify the issues on the <b>Thoppur ghat road</b> and make commuting safe for motorists.</li></ul> <p><b>About Thoppur ghat:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Location:</b> Thoppur Ghat is located in the <b>Dharmapuri district of Tamil Nadu.</b></li><li>● <b>Connectivity:</b> It connects the cities of <b>Dharmapuri and Salem</b>, serving as a crucial route on the <b>NH 44 (formerly NH 7).</b></li><li>● <b>Geography:</b> The ghat section is known for its steep and winding roads, <b>passing through the Eastern Ghats.</b></li></ul>
<b>Korattur lake</b>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Squatters continue to occupy the bed of Korattur lake</b>, despite a <b>Madras high court</b> order issued five months ago for their eviction.</li></ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● The lake's <b>waterspread area was originally 214 acres</b> but has now <b>shrunk to about one-fourth of that size due to encroachments.</b></li><li>● The <b>National Green Tribunal Southern Zone (NGT SZ)</b> has directed state agencies to <b>remove all squatters and set up a bio-diversity park or bio-fences</b> to prevent further encroachments.</li></ul> <p><b>About Korattur lake:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Location:</b> Korattur Lake is located in the Korattur area of <b>Chennai, Tamil Nadu.</b></li><li>● <b>Significance:</b> It is <b>one of the largest lakes in Chennai</b> and plays a crucial role in recharging the groundwater in the region.</li><li>● <b>The lake once had thriving populations of fish, visiting birds, snakes and turtles</b>, along with microscopic and macroscopic plants.</li></ul>



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- The **eBird database**, a repository of birds from around the world, has recorded more than 130 species of birds in and around Korattur lake.