

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

13 OCTOBER 2022



## TOPIC: ENVIRONMENT

# NGT asks Delhi govt. to pay ₹900 cr. fine for 3 crore MT undisposed waste in city landfills

- ✓ established on 18th October, 2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010.
- ✓ Established for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.
- ✓ New Delhi is the Principal Place of Sitting of the Tribunal and Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai shall be the other four places of sitting of the Tribunal.
- ✓ The Tribunal is not bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but shall be guided by principles of natural justice.

- ✓ NGT is mandated to make disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of filing of the same.
- ✓ With the establishment of the NGT, India became the third country in the world to set up a specialised environmental tribunal, only after Australia and New Zealand, and the first developing country to do so.

#### Composition.

- ✓ Sanctioned strength: The act allows for up to 40 members (20 expert members and 20 judicial members).
- ✓ Chairman: Is the administrative head of the tribunal, also serves as a judicial member and is required to be a serving or retired Chief Justice of a High Court or a judge of the Supreme Court of India.

The NGT deals with civil cases under the seven laws related to the environment, these include:

1. The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974,
2. The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977,
3. The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980,
4. The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981,
5. The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986,
6. The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 and
7. The Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

Any violation pertaining to these laws or any decision taken by the Government under these laws can be challenged before the NGT.



# Tamil Nadu notifies India's first slender loris sanctuary



## The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI/DINDIGUL/ KARUR

In a first in the country, the Tamil Nadu government on Wednesday notified the Kaduvur slender loris sanctuary covering 11,806 hectares in Karur and Dindigul districts.

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, slender loris has a wide range of ecological roles in the terrestrial ecosystem.

In significant steps towards conservation of wildlife, the State government notified India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve in the Palk Bay, Kazhuveli bird sanctuary in Villupuram, Nanjarayan Tank birds sanctuary in Tiruppur and the State's fifth elephant reserve at Agasthyamalai in Tirunelveli. Further, 13 wetlands were declared as Ramsar sites. These path-breaking initiatives in 15 months have put Tamil Nadu at a pivotal position in the field of conservation, Ms. Sahu said.



# The grandeur of the Chola Empire, one of the longest ruling dynasties in South India

When monumental eras like the Cholas are missing from the pages of history, books and novels about the period amassed through archaeological discoveries and interpretations from classic literature, art, architecture and sculptures, change the way one sees the past

**Soma Basu**

Our history books offer little to read about ancient Tamil kingdoms such as the Cholas which are much in discussion now. With Mani Ratnam's *Ponniyin Selvan I*, based on Kalki's wonderful creation of a world of the Cholas, mesmerising audiences, there is a renewed interest in knowing more about one of the oldest and longest ruling dynasties in the history of Southern India spreading over four centuries. When monumental eras like the Cholas are missing from the pages of history, the best option to know more about the ancient civilisation is to read from the available literature that talk of the valour and conquests of these kings of yore, their trade links and wealth, styles of administration, art and architecture, and cuisine and skills of the period. The monumental relics left behind; the majestic bronzes and 1,00,000 inscriptions and temples which are characteristic of the times, are for the eyes to feast on. All recent archaeological discoveries and interpretations are also a great way to explore.

## Exhaustive collection

There is an interesting mix of Tamil and English books and novels by scholars and modern writers on the Dravidian kingdom. A unanimous choice of historians is *The Cholas* (spelt *The Colas*) by Prof K. A. Nilakanta Sastri. This account of the social, political and cultural history of the Chola dynasty from 850 to 1279 AD from Vijalaya Aditya I to Rajendra III, up to the end of the dynasty, is considered a pioneering work in South Indian History.

The first edition of the book was published in two volumes, in 1935 and 1937 and even after decades the book remains in demand given the fabulous

narrative of the Chozhan Empire. The author relies on references made to the Chola kings in Tamil Sangam literature such as *Pattinappalai* and *Puranaanooru*, brought to print by U.V. Swaminatha Ayyar. He bases his research on inscriptions from the Archaeological Survey of India, the *Mahavamsa* (which tells the history of Sri Lanka), *Periplus of the Erythraean Sea* and other notes by Chinese and Arabian travellers to India.

Volume I contains the history of the Cholas from Karikalan to Kulothunga III in detail and Volume II describes the attributes of the Chola dynasty – how it became a military, economic and cultural power in South and South-East Asia under Rajaraja Chola I and his son Rajendra Chola I, the tax and land revenue collection techniques and ways of measuring grains and metals, the importance of education imparted to the citizens, the development of Tamil literature (such as *Kalingathu Parani* by Jayam kondar, *Kamba Ramayanam* by Kambar, *Periya Puranam* by Sekkizhar that were written during the reign of Kulothunga I and II) and the varied architectural achievements (construction of the Brihadeeshwara Temple in Thanjavur by Raja Raja I, Gangai konda Chozhapuram by Rajendra I, and the Airavateswara Temple at Dharasuram by Rajaraja III).

## The might and power

*Nagapattinam to Suvarnadwipa*, compiled by Hermann Kulke in 2009 has a lot of historical research on naval power and expeditions of the Chola kings. Art historian C. Sivaramamurti has chronicled the architecture of the period in *The Chola Temples: Thanjavur, Gangaikondacholapuram & Darasuram*. Japanese historian Noboru Karashima has written insightful volumes on the Cholas' economic, social and administrative

proress.

*Early Cholas: History, Art and Culture* by Dr. S. Swaminathan, gives a good account of the period from 850 AD to 970 AD that forms an important epoch in the history of Tamil Nadu. The book is about how the early Chola rulers started from scratch and went on to establish a vast empire by their conquests and are best remembered for their contribution to rules relating to the mode of local administration and imprints on art, architecture and sculpture.

S. R. Balasubrahmanyam, published a series of books – *Early Chola Art* (1966); *Early Chola Temples* (1971); *Middle Chola Temples* (1977); *Later Chola Temples* (1979), two of which were co-authored by his son B. Venkataraman, who like his father had a passion for Chola art, history and architecture and was the first historian to compile information on the Rajarajesvaram and the Brihadeeshwara temples at Thanjavur from the epigraphs available there.

*In South India Under The Cholas* (published in 2012), Y. Subbarayalu provides a round-up of the known history and features of the Chola dynasty. The comprehensive account of the Empire's administration, society and economy is done in two parts – Epigraphy and History, State and Society. The first part is an in-depth analysis of Tamil epigraphy and inscriptions, how to study them and analyse socio-economic milieu, merchant guilds, and other sociological aspects. The second section traces the evolution of the medieval state, economy, and society while discussing land surveys, Chola revenue system and sale deeds, and property rights.

The book is a value-addition as it also scrutinises the evolution of organisations like Urar, Nattar, and Periyannattar, social classes like the left- and right-hand divisions, and the merchant militia and

for the first time attempts to quantify the revenue of a pre-Mughal Indian state.

## The search is still on

Last year, Leadstart published Raghavan Srinivasan's *Raja Raja Chola - An Interplay between an Imperial Regime and Productive forces of Society* that appealed to the academia and public. The author rivetingly weaves together the lives and times of one of the most enigmatic medieval personalities, Rajaraja Chola. He elucidates the king and his stupendous legacy from the eyes of a commoner to help readers see history in ways they wouldn't imagine.

While he writes about Rajaraja Chola as an important figure who played a crucial role in establishing peace, carrying out development and infrastructure as well as ingraining values of social and cultural significance among the people, Srinivasan also talks of the tumultuous development of the times. He presents a critique of history to acknowledge that the rise and fall of kingdoms are not the result of the strengths and weaknesses of kings and queens alone but an inevitable outcome of the greater rhythm of world events.

Juggernaut published *Empire* by Devi Yesodharan, who got drawn to the enormous Chola Empire stretching from the south to the Ganges, and an emperor who commanded an impressive Army and Navy that was the envy of the world. She looks at his strategic conquest of territories to protect the economy and ensure his continuing control of the naval trade in the Indian Ocean. The author says, a king who restrains himself from pursuing unnecessary wars and preserves his strength to defend his Empire, is a unique administrator. In her book, Devi projects the Chola kingdom as one of the world's most cosmopolitan places to live in with a vibrant art scene and gorgeous writings.

# No more indictment under Section 66A of IT Act: Supreme Court

## Section 66A:

- ✓ It empowered police to make arrests over what policemen, in terms of their subjective discretion, could construe as “offensive” or “menacing” or for the purposes of causing annoyance, inconvenience, etc.
- ✓ It prescribed the punishment for sending messages through a computer or any other communication device like a mobile phone or a tablet, and a conviction could fetch a maximum of three years in jail.
- ✓ Section 66A was contrary to both Articles 19 (free speech) and 21 (right to life) of the Constitution.



# *A day to explore bear necessities*

On first World Sloth Bear Day, Central Zoo Authority urges every zoo in India and around the world to celebrate the occasion for conservation and protection of the Indian species of bear

## **Sloth bear**

- ✓ Sloth bears are found in Sri Lanka, India, Bhutan and Nepal, predominantly in lowland areas. Sloth bears primarily eat termites and ants, and unlike other bear species, they routinely carry their cubs on their backs.
- ✓ They are also very fond of honey, hence their alternative name of “honey bear”.
- ✓ Sloth bears do not hibernate.
- ✓ As per the IUCN Red List, the Sloth bear is listed as vulnerable. No fewer than 20,000 sloth bears survive in the forests of Indian and Sri Lanka. It is listed in Schedule 1 of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- ✓ October 12 World sloth bear day.





**THANK YOU**

