

# Daily Current Affairs

## 03 January 2024

### Sri Mannathu Padmanabhan

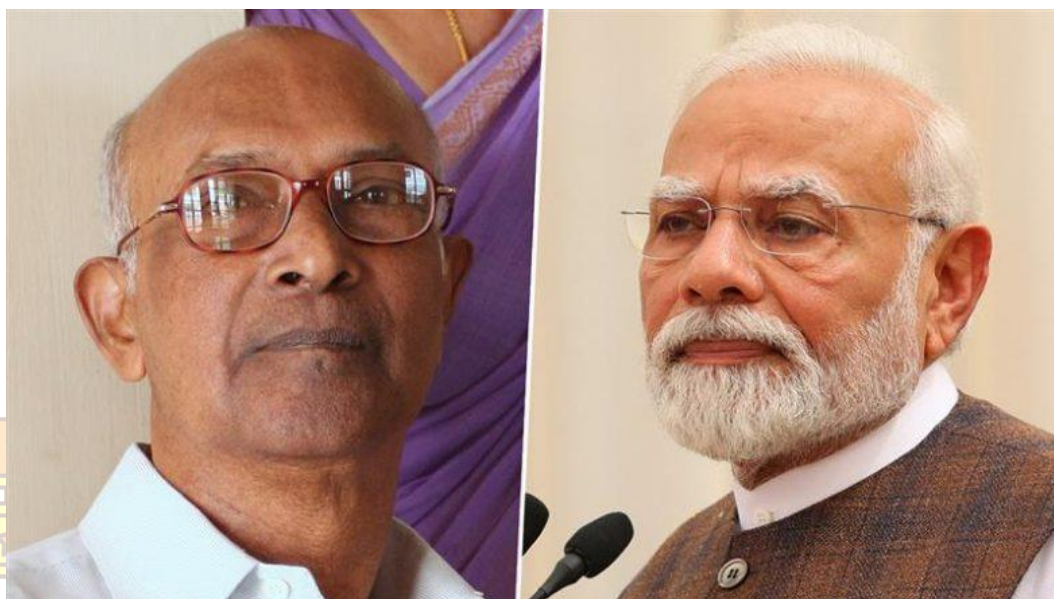
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi remembered **Sri Mannathu Padmanabhan** on his birth anniversary. **Mannathu Padmanabhan** (2 January 1878 – 25 February 1970) was an **Indian social reformer and freedom fighter** from the south-western state of Kerala.



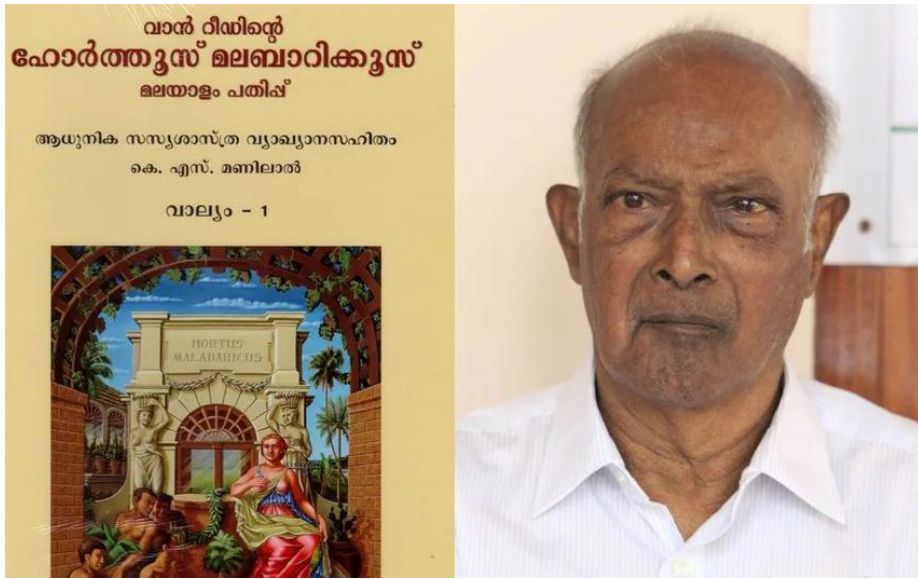
- He is recognised as the **founder of the Nair Service Society (NSS)**, which represents the Nair community that constitutes 15.5% of the population of the state.
- His birthday (2 January) is observed as **Mannam Jayanti every year**. **Padmanabhan** is considered a visionary reformer who organised the Nair community under the NSS.

## Dr. K.S. Manilal

- **Dr. K.S. Manilal, a revered botanist**, passed away on January 1, 2025, in Thrissur, Kerala. He was 86 years old and had been unwell for some time. His remarkable **contributions to botany, particularly his work** on the ancient **manuscript Hortus Malabaricus**, have left a lasting impact on the field of plant research. **Dr. Manilal's dedication to reviving this 17th-century work** made strides in understanding Kerala's rich biodiversity.



- **Early Life and Education** : Dr. Manilal was born in Kerala and obtained his doctorate from Sagar University. He began his academic career at Kerala University in 1964. His early education laid a strong foundation for his future contributions to botany.
- **Hortus Malabaricus – A Botanical Treasure** : Hortus Malabaricus is a **12-volume Latin manuscript compiled** by Dutch Governor Hendrik Adrian van Rheede. The work documents the medicinal plants of Kerala. Dr. Manilal dedicated over 35 years **to researching, translating, and annotating this invaluable text**. His **English translation was published** in 2003, followed by a **Malayalam version** in 2008.



- **Contributions to Plant Research :** Dr. Manilal authored more than 200 research papers and 11 influential books. His notable works include Flora of Calicut and Flora of Silent Valley. His research led to the **discovery of 19 new plant species**, with four named in his honour. His studies were vital in understanding plant biodiversity in Kerala, particularly in the Silent Valley and Kozhikode regions.



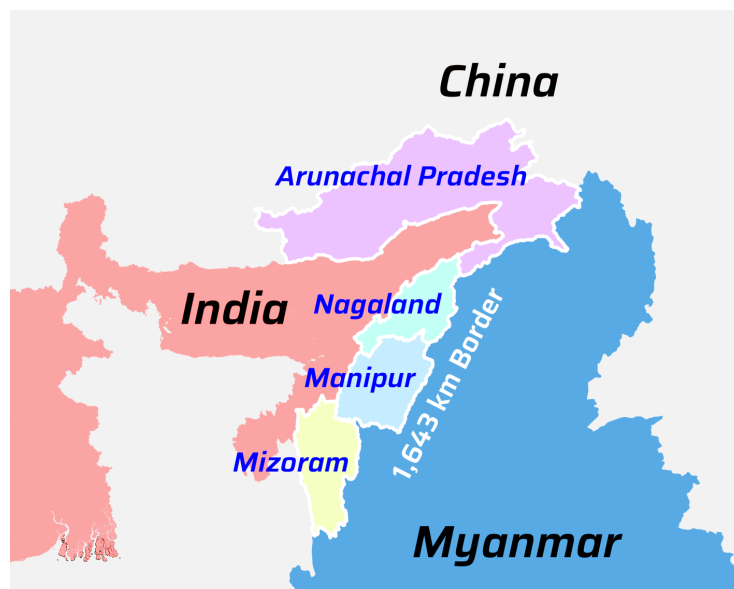
- **Leadership Roles and Achievements :** Dr. Manilal held several leadership positions in botany. He was the **founding president of the Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy (IAAT)** and served as chief editor of its journal, Reedia. He also presided over the **Botanical Society of India**. His leadership encouraged collaboration and advancement in plant taxonomy.
- **Awards and Recognition :** Throughout his career, Dr. Manilal received numerous prestigious awards. He was honoured with the **Padma Shri in 2020**

for his contributions to botany. Other accolades include the Vishwambhar Puri Medal and the **E.K. Janaki Ammal Taxonomy Award**. Internationally, he was awarded the Officer of the **Order of Orange-Nassau by Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands** in 2012, becoming the first Asian recipient of this honour.



## India Completes Over 9 Km Fencing Along Myanmar

- India has completed the fencing of over **nine kilometres of its border** with Myanmar and work on the road along the fence is in progress. The fencing has been **done at Moreh in Manipur**.
- The Union Home Ministry stated this in a report published recently. The construction of **around 21 km of fence and road was awarded to Border Road Organisation** in February last year for which the work is in progress.



- The country shares a **1,643 km long border with Myanmar** which passes through **Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram**.
- The ministry added that out of **the 1,643 km border, the demarcation of the 1,472 kilometres border has been completed**. Construction work on two pilot projects of a **Hybrid surveillance system in Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur** is in progress.

## ISRO To Launch US Communications Satellite Bluebird

- ISRO is set to make history by launching an **American communications satellite**. This is the **first time an American company** is using an Indian rocket for such a large and advanced satellite.
- The mission is expected to occur in **February or March 2025**. **AST SpaceMobile, a Texas-based company**, is expected to be the manufacturer of the satellite. The company has developed technology that allows **users to make voice calls using standard smartphones**.



- Unlike other satellite communication providers, **AST SpaceMobile does not require users to purchase special handsets or terminals**, making it more accessible to the general public.
- The satellite in question is the **Bluebird satellite, which will be launched into low Earth orbit using ISRO's Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV)**. It will feature a large **64 square-meter antenna, approximately half the size of a football field**.



- The satellite is projected to **weigh around 6,000 kg**, showcasing its capability to handle substantial data transmission. **Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle** is designed to place communication satellites into Geostationary Transfer Orbit (GTO) using a cryogenic third stage for higher thrust.

## 'Pujari Granthi Samman' Scheme

- Delhi Government has initiated the **'Pujari Granthi Samman'** scheme. This programme aims to provide **financial assistance to Gurudwara priests** in the region.
- The announcement was made by former **Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal** on **December 30**, with the registration process commencing on December 31. The **'Pujari Granthi Samman'** scheme offers a **monthly grant of Rs 18,000**.

## Understanding the Pujari Granthi Samman Yojana

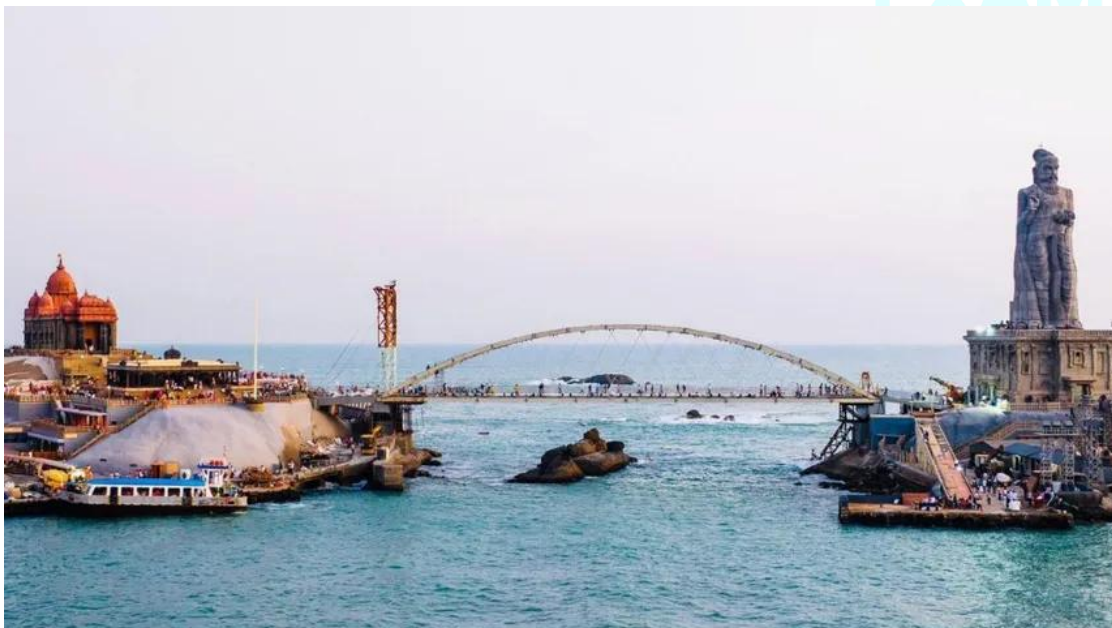
- The scheme promises to alleviate economic burdens by providing a stable income to religious leaders, depicted here as they receive financial support.
- By ensuring financial stability for religious figures, the initiative aims to build trust within the community.



- This financial support is designated for **every temple and Gurudwara priest** in Delhi. The initiative seeks to ensure economic stability for religious leaders who serve their communities.
- The initiative **aims to provide recognition and financial security** to religious figures. It reflects a growing awareness of the needs of temple and Gurudwara priests. The **scheme may also influence voter sentiments** in the approaching elections.

## India's First Glass Sea Bridge

- **Tamil Nadu inaugurated a groundbreaking glass bridge over the sea**, enhancing connectivity between two landmarks. This development coincides with the silver jubilee celebrations of the **Tiruvalluvar Statue, which has become a symbol** of cultural pride.
- **Chief Minister M.K. Stalin officially opened** the bridge, linking the Tiruvalluvar Statue and the **Vivekananda Rock Memorial in Kanyakumari**.
- The event celebrated the **statue's 25th anniversary, marking its significance in Tamil culture**.
- The **glass bridge spans 77 metres and is 10 metres wide**, constructed at a cost of ₹37 crore.



- **Tiruvalluvar Statue** : Unveiled on **January 1, 2000**, the statue stands at a **height** of 133 feet, representing the 133 chapters of the Tirukkural. The statue, installed on a rock in the sea, is an important identity for Tamil people and embodies the philosophy of social **justice expressed in the Thirukural**: **“Pirapokkum ella uyirkkum” (Everyone is equal at birth)**.
- Designed by renowned **sculptor V. Ganapathi Sthapathi**, it weighs approximately 7,000 tonnes and has withstood natural disasters, including the 2004 tsunami. Recently, it was officially **renamed as the Statue of Wisdom**.



- **Vivekananda Rock Memorial** : The Vivekananda Rock Memorial is located on one of the two rocks, **about 500 meters off the mainland of Vavathurai**, at the **southernmost tip of India in Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu**. The rocks are surrounded by the **Laccadive Sea, where the Bay of Bengal, Indian Ocean, and Arabian Sea meet**. The memorial was **constructed in 1970 to honor Swami Vivekananda**, who is believed to have attained enlightenment on the rock.
- Its main structures are **Vivekananda Mandapam (A hall dedicated to Swami Vivekananda)** and **Shripada Mandapam** (built to enshrine the footprint of Devi Kanyakumari) and Dhyana Mandapam (Meditation Hall).





## Sevdalinka: Added To UNESCO Cultural Heritage List

- **Sevdalinka is a traditional Bosnian love song that has recently gained recognition, and added to UNESCO's National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage.**
- The song, often referred to as the **Balkan Blues**, reflects a rich cultural history and emotional depth. **Sevdalinka dates back to the 16th century.** It originated in the **South Slavic regions** and combines elements of **South Slavic poetry** with music **influenced by the Ottoman Empire.**



- The genre has evolved over centuries, retaining its melancholic essence. Sevdalinka is typically performed as a **cappella** or **accompanied by traditional instruments**, such as the lute and the saz.

- The songs are characterized by their emotional lyrics and intricate melodies, often **conveying themes of love and longing**. The performance of Sevdalinka is cultural practice in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**. It is commonly sung at family gatherings and community events, allowing for the transmission of cultural values and stories across generations.

## Sanskriti Utsava

- **Uttar Pradesh government has announced the ‘Sanskriti Utsava’** from January 2 to January 26, 2025. This event celebrates the state’s foundation day and aims to promote talent in various art forms.
- The festival will include competitions at different levels across the state, providing a platform for emerging artists. The Sanskriti Utsava will **commemorate ‘Uttar Pradesh Diwas.’**
- The event’s theme is **‘Uttar Pradesh Parv – Hamari Sanskriti-Hamari Pehchaan.’** The festival aims to explore and showcase the rich cultural heritage of Uttar Pradesh.



- Participants will compete in classical, semi-classical, and folk arts. The event will highlight the importance of preserving these cultural genres. The festival will feature competitions in classical singing, **including Khayal and Dhrupad**. Semi-classical singing will include Thumri, Dadra, and various other forms.
- Folk singing competitions will showcase Kajri, Qawwali, and more. Light music **categories will include Geet, Ghazal, and patriotic songs.**



- **Khayal is a form of classical Hindustani music.** It features improvisation and expressive singing, allowing artists to showcase their creativity and emotional depth in performances. **Dhrupad is one of the oldest forms of Hindustani classical music.** It is known for its solemnity and spiritual depth, often performed in a slow, meditative style.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. 'Pujari Granthi Samman' Scheme Launched In

- A. Kerala
- B. Odisha
- C. Delhi
- D. Gujarat

**ANSWER: C**

2. Sevdalinka Seen In News Falls In Category Of

- A. Theatre
- B. Song
- C. Dance
- D. Literature

**ANSWER: B**

**3. Which Country Launched CR450 Prototype, World's Fastest High-speed Train**

- A. France
- B. China
- C. Russia
- D. India

**ANSWER: B**

**4. Which Institute Developed Needle Free Shock Syringes For Painless Injections**

- A. IIT Hyderabad
- B. IIT Delhi
- C. IIT Bombay
- D. IIT Madras

**ANSWER: C**

**5. Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme Is Associated With Which Sector**

- A. Agriculture
- B. Taxation
- C. Science and Technology
- D. Education

**ANSWER: B**

**6. Who Has Been Appointed As New Director General Of The Central Reserve Police Force**

- A. A.P. Maheshwari
- B. Prakash Mishra
- C. O P Singh
- D. Vitul Kumar

**ANSWER: D**

**7. Which State Won Senior National Men's Handball Championship 2024 Title**

- A. Haryana
- B. Kerala
- C. Punjab
- D. Rajasthan

**ANSWER: B**

**8. MeerKAT Radio Telescope, Is Located In Which Country**

- A. Australia
- B. Russia
- C. South Africa
- D. China

**ANSWER: C**

**9. Which State Won Santosh Trophy National Football Championship Title**

- A. West Bengal
- B. Kerala
- C. Odisha
- D. Punjab

**ANSWER: A**

**10. Business Ready (B-READY) Is The Flagship Report Of Which Organization**

- A. International Monetary Fund
- B. World Bank
- C. United Nations Development Programme
- D. World Trade Organization

**ANSWER: B**

**11. Which Organization Has Launched Quantum Processor 'Willow'**

- A. Amazon
- B. Meta
- C. Google
- D. Microsoft

**ANSWER: C**

**12. K. S. Manilal, Who Recently Passed Away, Was Associated With Which Field**

- A. Journalism
- B. Taxonomy
- C. Sports
- D. Politics

**ANSWER: B**

**13. Which Launch Vehicle Was Used For The Successful Deployment Of ISRO's Spadex Mission**

- A. GSLV Mk III
- B. PSLV-C60
- C. GSLV Mk II
- D. Chandrayaan-2 rocket

**ANSWER: C**

**14. Where Will The World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit 2024 Be Held**

- A. Mumbai
- B. Bengaluru
- C. New Delhi
- D. Kolkata

**ANSWER: C**

**15. Kerala Won Their First-ever Senior National Men's Handball Championship Title By Defeating Which Team In The Final**

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Haryana
- C. Delhi
- D. Chandigarh

**ANSWER: D**

**16. Who Has Been Appointed As Officiating Director General Of Central Reserve Police Force**

- A. Anish Dayal Singh
- B. R.K. Verma
- C. Rajesh Ranjan
- D. Vitul Kumar

**ANSWER: D**

**17. Which Organization Awarded SAIL 'Great Place To Work' Certification**

- A. World Economic Forum
- B. Great Place to Work Institute, India
- C. Indian Council of Industrial Relations
- D. National Human Resource Development Network

**ANSWER: B**

**18. In 2024 Lok Sabha Elections, Which Constituency Had Highest Voter Turnout**

- A. Srinagar (J&K)
- B. Dhubri (Assam)
- C. Tamluk (West Bengal)
- D. Malkajgiri (Telangana)

**ANSWER: B**

**19. What Is Projected GDP Growth For India In FY25 According To The Rbi's December 2024 Financial Stability Report**

- A. 5.5%
- B. 6.0%
- C. 6.6%
- D. 7.0%

**ANSWER: C**

**20. The Ambassador Of Emperor James I, Who Reached In The Court Of Jahangir In 1615 Was**

- A. Sir James Hay
- B. Sir Thomas Roe
- C. Sir Thomas Howard
- D. Sir John Digby

**ANSWER: B**