

## Prelim Bits 07-01-2023| UPSC Daily Current Affairs

### Ottanthullal

*The Ottanthullal, traditional art form of Kerala that has a history of over 300 years was performed in Kerala School Kalolsavam 2023.*

- Ottanthullal (or Thullal, in short) is recite-and-dance art-form of Kerala.
- Thullal was introduced in the 18th century by the famous Malayalam poet Kunchan Nambiar (1705 - 1770).
- Thullal follows the classical principles of Natyasasthra (a treatise on art compiled in the 2nd century B.C.E).
- It is famous for its humour and social satire, and marked by its simplicity.
- It has spawned into three separate versions
  1. Ottanthullal
  2. Seethankan thullal
  3. Parayan thullal
- Ottanthullal is the most popular among the three varieties of Thullal.
- It is epitomized by humour, satire and social criticism.
- The performance use elaborate expressions and stories recited in verses to bring important mythological tales and stories to life.
- The costume and makeup of the performer are similar to that of a Kathakali artist.
- Thullal is performed at temple festivals and cultural programmes.
- The Thullal performer is supported by a singer who repeats the verses and is accompanied by an orchestra of mridangam or thoppimaddalam (percussions) and cymbals.

### References

1. [The Hindu - The need to take Ottanthullal forward](#)
2. [Kerala Tourism - Ottanthullal](#)

### Women U.N. Peacekeepers

*India is set to deploy India's largest single unit of women peacekeepers as part of a battalion to the United Nations Interim Security Force in Abyei.*

- The Indian contingent, comprising of two officers and 25 other ranks, will form part of an engagement platoon and specialise in community outreach.
- The team will be deployed as part of a battalion to the United Nations Interim Security Force in Abyei.



- Abyei is on the border between South Sudan and Sudan.
- The contingent will remain deployed in Abyei for a period of 6 months.
- The team will provide relief and assistance to women and children in one of the most challenging terrain conditions under the U.N. flag.
- This is India's largest single unit of women peacekeepers in a UN Mission.

*India deployed the first-ever all women's contingent from the Central Reserve Police Force in Liberia in 2007 as part of United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).*

- Women peacekeepers are highly regarded for their ability to reach out and connect with women and children in local population, especially victims of sexual violence in conflict zones.

## **UN Peacekeeping Mission**

- [UN Peacekeeping Mission](#) is a joint effort between the UN Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Operational Support.
- It aims to assist host countries to transition from situations of conflict to peace.
- The UN began its Peacekeeping efforts in 1948 when it deployed military observers to West Asia.
- The UN Peacekeepers provide security as well as political and peace-building support to conflict-ridden countries.

*India is one of the largest troop-contributing nations to the U.N. peacekeeping missions.*

## **References**

1. [The Hindu - All-woman peacekeeping team from India](#)
2. [Indian Express - Largest unit of Indian women peacekeepers](#)

## Kuki-Chin Refugees

*Several Kuki-Chin community refugees from Bangladesh were pushed back from Mizoram.*

- Kuki-Chin is a Christian community from Bangladesh's Chittagong hill tracts.
- They share close ethnic ties with people in Mizoram.
- The Chins of Myanmar, the Mizos of Mizoram and the Kukis of Bangladesh are of the same ancestry and belongs to the Kuki ethnic group native to the Mizo hills.
- They are collectively called the Zo people.
- The Kuki Chin people are settled in the Chittagong Hill tracts, the only extensive hill area in Bangladesh that lies in the South-eastern part of the country.
- The Chittagong hills borders Myanmar on the southeast, Tripura on the north, Mizoram on the east and the Chittagong district in west.
- Mizoram shares a 318 km stretch of international border with Bangladesh.
- Due to the clashes between Bangladesh Rifles troops and Kuki-Chin insurgent groups in Bangladesh, the [chin-kuki-mizo-refugees](#) have fled.

## References

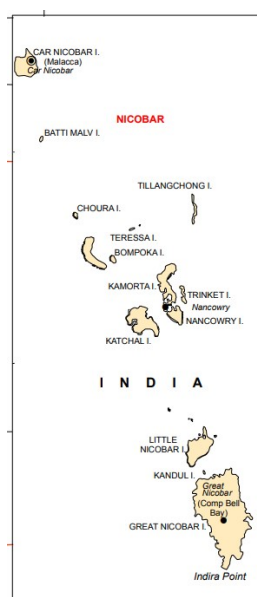
1. [The Hindu - Kuki-Chin refugees 'pushed back' from Mizoram](#)
2. [North East Live - Who are the Kuki Chins?](#)

## Indira Point

*On his visit to Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Defence Minister visited Indira Point.*

*The northern most point of India is called **Indira Col**, located in the Union territory of Ladakh.*

- Indira Point is the **southernmost tip** of India, located in the Great Nicobar Island.
- Indira Point was earlier known as the **Pygmalion Point**.



- It was renamed as the Indira Point by the Ex-Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- Indira Point is along the **Great Channel**, popularly referred to as the 'Six Degree Channel'.
- The Great channel is a major shipping lane for international traffic.
- The Indira Point has light house which is one of the most important points that guides trade ships, naval ships and even local fishing ships.
- The Indira Point had subsided by about 4.25 meters under water lowering the light house along with, during the 2004 tsunami.

## References

1. [PIB - Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh visits Indira Point](#)
2. [Hindustan Times - Defence Minister visits Indira Point](#)

## Y20 Summit

*Youth Affairs and Sports Minister launched the themes of the Y20 summit, logo, and website in the curtain raiser event of Y20 Summit India.*

- Youth 20 (Y20) is the official youth Engagement Group of G20.
- It provides a platform that allows youth to express their vision and ideas on the G20 priorities.
- India is hosting the Y20 summit for the first time.
- The activities to be undertaken by Y20 during India's presidency will focus on global youth leadership and partnership.
- 5 Themes of Y20
  1. Future of Work: Industry 4.0, Innovation & 21st Century skills,
  2. Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Making Sustainability a way of life,
  3. Peacebuilding and Reconciliation: Ushering in an era of No War,
  4. Shared Future: Youth in Democracy and Governance and Health,
  5. Wellbeing and Sports: Agenda for Youth.
- In a run-up to the final Youth-20 Summit, for the next 8 months, there will be Pre summits on the 5 Y20 themes.

## References

1. [PIB - Union Minister launched the themes of Y20 summit](#)
2. [News On Air - Union Minister launched the themes of Y20 summit](#)