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1. Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurates Indian Library Congress in Kannur, Kerala (Jan. 2, 2023)

The Kerala Chief Minister **Pinarayi Vijayan** inaugurated Indian Library Congress at the Collectorate Ground in **Kannur**, Kerala on 1 January 2023.

The Indian Library Congress has been organized by the People's Mission for Social Development and Library Council from 1 -3 January 2023 and hosted by Kannur University, Kerala.

Representatives from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Bihar and other states and foreign countries are participating in the Indian Library Congress.

Earlier on 26 December 2022, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan announced that his constituency **Dharmadam** has become the first complete **library constituency** in India.

2. Dharmadam, Kerala becomes first complete library constituency in India (Dec. 26, 2022)

Library and Kerala

The Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's constituency Dharmadam has become the first complete **library constituency** in India. In his Facebook post, the chief minister Vijayan said that out of the total 138 wards in the constituency, there were no libraries in 63 wards.

However, with the help of a people's organization, People's Mission for Social Development, this task was completed.

Library and Kerala

Kerala which was the first state to achieve 100% literacy status in India is also perhaps the only state in India that has a library in every village.

Puthuvayil Narayana Panicker of Kerala is also known as the **Father of the Library Movement in India**.

- He started **Granthashala Sangam** with about 50 small libraries in 1945 in Kerala which grew into a large network of thousands of libraries.
- To honour and acknowledge P.N.Panicker ,Kerala Government declared June 19, his death anniversary, as **Vayanadinam (Reading Day)** in 1996
- In 2017, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared June 19 his death anniversary as **National Reading Day** in India. The following month is also observed as National Reading Month in India.