92nd NBWL Standing Committee: awards for TN's Kumaresan and Sirumalai

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News

The 92nd meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SC-NBWL) was held in New Delhi on Monday, 23 November 2026, chaired by Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav. The Minister presented awards for exemplary conservation work, and, IANS reported, credited frontline staff and local communities as central to India's conservation efforts. In the protection and anti-poaching category, V. Kumaresan of Tamil Nadu, the late Banoth Naveen of Telangana and Hukai H. Zhimo of Nagaland were honoured. Community conservation awards went to the Ponnuruvi Eco-Tourism Management Committee, Sirumalai Hills, Tamil Nadu, and to the Mahavir Machhimar Sahakari Mandali, Mangrol, Gujarat, for whale shark conservation. Nameri Tiger Reserve in Assam was recognised under CA|TS (Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards), and a field manual on India's nine small wild cat species was released. At the meeting, which focused on marine conservation, Wildlife Institute of India scientists presented studies including a management assessment of 108 coastal and marine protected areas, a marine turtle assessment and a drone survey that estimated about 270 dugongs in Tamil Nadu. The committee also considered 133 proposals – roads, defence infrastructure, drinking water and others – needing wildlife clearance.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Meeting	92nd SC-NBWL meeting, New Delhi, 23.11.2026
Chair	Union Minister Bhupender Yadav
TN – individual	V. Kumaresan – protection & anti-poaching
TN – community	Ponnuruvi Eco-Tourism Management Committee, Sirumalai
Other community award	Mangrol (Gujarat) fishers' society – whale shark
CA|TS accreditation	Nameri Tiger Reserve, Assam
Dugong	About 270 in TN drone survey
Proposals	133 (wildlife clearance)
Wildlife Week 2026	Tiger reintroduction in Buxa, GIB release in Rajasthan, cheetah 3rd site
Other awardees	Umesh Bharat Kalasarpe (Maharashtra), Ashwinsinh Kiritsinh Jadeja (Gujarat), Bahraich Human-Wildlife Conflict Management Group (UP) – wildlife monitoring and special skills
Marine turtle study	About 1,300 km of coast, 360 beach stretches, three breeding seasons (2022–2025)
Humpback whale study	Arabian Sea humpbacks: seven potential sighting hotspots; entanglement in fishing gear is a threat

Background

- The National Board for Wildlife is the apex advisory body set up in 2003 under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. Its Standing Committee clears projects in or near protected areas.
- Marine conservation: the dugong is the only strictly marine herbivorous mammal, feeding on seagrass, found in India in Palk Bay, the Gulf of Mannar, the Gulf of Kutch and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Four marine turtle species have been documented nesting on Indian coasts.
- CA|TS is an international accreditation scheme for the management of tiger conservation areas.

Tamil Nadu link: Besides the two Tamil Nadu awards, Tamil Nadu's dugong survey was presented at the national meeting. On 21.9.2022 the Tamil Nadu Government notified India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve (448 sq km) in Palk Bay. Sirumalai is a hill range about 1,600 m high; its hill banana is used in Palani panchamirtham (TN Tourism).

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

The 92nd meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SC-NBWL) was held in New Delhi on Monday, 23 November 2026, chaired by Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Meeting: 92nd SC-NBWL meeting, New Delhi, 23.11.2026; Chair: Union Minister Bhupender Yadav; TN – individual: V. Kumaresan – protection & anti-poaching; TN – community: Ponnuruvi Eco-Tourism Management Committee, Sirumalai.

What is the background to this news?

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Practice questions (with answers)

1. Sirumalai hills, home of the award-winning Ponnuruvi eco-tourism committee, lie in which district?

A) Dindigul

B) Theni

C) Madurai

D) Virudhunagar

Answer: A – Explanation: Dindigul – a hill range about 1,600 m high; its hill banana goes into the Palani panchamirtham.

2. India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve (2022) in Palk Bay lies off which districts?

A) Ramnad–Thoothukudi

B) Nagapattinam–Tiruvarur

C) Cuddalore–Villupuram

D) Thanjavur–Pudukkottai

Answer: D – Explanation: Thanjavur and Pudukkottai – 448 sq km, notified 21.9.2022. The dugong is a seagrass-eating mammal in Schedule I of the Wildlife Act.

3. What is the IUCN Red List status of the Great Indian Bustard, released in Rajasthan during Wildlife Week 2026?

A) Endangered

B) Critically Endangered

C) Vulnerable

D) Near Threatened

Answer: B – Explanation: Critically Endangered; it is Rajasthan's State bird. Collision with overhead power lines is a major threat.

4. The whale shark, whose protection won a Gujarat fishers' society an award, is a –

A) Filter-feeding fish

B) Toothed whale

C) Baleen whale

D) Marine reptile

Answer: A – Explanation: The world's largest fish; it filters plankton from water and breathes with gills. Whales are mammals.

5. The National Board for Wildlife is chaired by the Prime Minister. Who chairs its Standing Committee, which held its 92nd meeting on 23 November 2026?

A) Prime Minister

B) Cabinet Secretary

C) Union Environment Minister

D) Director General of Forests

Answer: C – Explanation: The Union Environment Minister – as Vice-Chairperson of the Board he chairs the Standing Committee (Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, Sections 5A and 5B); Bhupender Yadav chaired the 92nd meeting.