




15 February 2024

National and International New

<p>CMS COP14</p>  <p>CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES</p> <p>COP 14</p> <p>SAMARKAND</p> <p>UZBEKISTAN 12-17 FEBRUARY 2024</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP14) is set to take place as mentioned below: Dates: February 12 to 17, 2024 Location: Samarkand, Uzbekistan <p>Theme and Significance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme: "Nature knows no borders" Significance: Highlights the need for international collaboration in conserving migratory species, emphasizing that their survival depends on efforts beyond political boundaries. <p>Global Significance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of the most significant global biodiversity gatherings since the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Biodiversity Plan) in 2022. <p>Focus Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat conservation and restoration Addressing threats such as overexploitation, habitat loss and fragmentation, pollution, and climate change <p>Initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support implementation of the GBF Launch of major new report State of the World's Migratory Species and guidelines. <p>Do you know?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species is also known as the Bonn Convention. It was signed on 23 June 1979, in Bonn, Germany. It is an Environmental treaty under the United Nations Environment Programme for conserving and sustainably using migratory animals and their habitats.
<p>High Altitude Pseudo Satellite (HAPS)</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently, a prototype of an advanced unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) was successfully flown by the National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) in Bengaluru, marking a significant technological



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advancement.

About:

- **Definition:** Solar-powered unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) operating in the **stratosphere (20 km above ground) without needing a rocket launch.**
- **Design:** Full-scale version has a 30-meter wingspan, weighs 150 kg, operates at 80-100 km per hour, and can stay airborne for 90 days at 17-20 km altitude, carrying up to 15 kg payloads.

Benefits of HAPS

- **Cost-effective:** Lower costs in building, launching, and operating compared to satellites.
- **Maneuverability:** Can be easily moved to different locations unlike satellites with predetermined paths.
- **Coverage:** Can cover large areas (around 500 km diameter) and link to multiple ground stations.
- **Speed and Latency:** Closer proximity to the ground allows for greater transmission speeds and lower latency.
- **Refurbishment and Reutilization:** Payloads can be reconfigured periodically.

e-Jagriti Portal

Context:

- Consumer Affairs Secretary highlights the potential of AI in the '**e-Jagriti**' portal for **reducing pending cases in consumer courts.**

About:

- Initiative of the **Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution.**
- Serves as a portal for consumer commissions.
- **Aims to enhance customer experience.**
- Offers a simple, fast, and cost-effective consumer dispute redressal software solution.
- **Envisions integration of various consumer grievance platforms onto a single platform,** including OCMS, E-Daakhil, NCDRC Case Monitoring System, CONFONET website, and mediation application.
- **Features include case filing, online fee payment, and case monitoring modules for seamless disposal of cases by all Commissions.**
- Utilizes **AI technology for Smart search facility on archived consumer**




	<p>complaints/cases/judgements, metadata and keyword creation, and Voice-to-text conversion of judgements, case history, and other details.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It will integrate Virtual court facility for convenient and accessible resolution of consumer complaints.
<p>Role of X Chromosome in Autoimmune Diseases</p>	<p>Context: A 2023 study by the University of Oxford stated that about 10% of the population they had studied had autoimmune diseases of which 13% were women and 7% were men.</p> <p>Key points: What is Autoimmune Disease?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Autoimmune disease occurs when the body's immune system mistakenly attacks healthy cells, tissues, and organs. It can affect any part of the body, weakening bodily function and can be life-threatening. There is no cure, but treatments can help manage symptoms, and most cases are not fatal. <p>Susceptibility of Women</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women are more susceptible to autoimmune diseases than men. Factors such as environmental factors, genetics, hormonal imbalance, and lifestyle habits play a role. Scientists previously thought it could be related to sex hormones or faulty regulation of the X chromosome. A molecular coating found in half of women's X chromosomes might be the reason for this susceptibility.
<p>Black Day: Feb 14</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India marks the 5th anniversary of the Pulwama terror attack. February 14 is considered 'Black Day' due to the attack by Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) in 2019. The attack resulted in the death of at least 40 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel. <p>Balakot airstrike</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian security forces conducted a counter-attack named 'Operation Bandar' on February 26, 2019, in the Balakot region of Pakistan's



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	<p>Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This operation involved airstrikes on Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) camps, located approximately 50 km from the Line of Control (LoC). • The Indian Air Force (IAF) used Israel-made "smart bombs" and 12 Mirage 2000 fighter jets in the attack, reportedly resulting in the deaths of numerous terrorists. • This operation marked the first time since the 1971 war that India conducted an aerial assault in Pakistan.
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Kerala Regional News

<p>CAG report cites unfit vehicles as cause of accidents in Kerala</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A recent report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India attributed a significant number of road accidents in Kerala to unfit vehicles. • Over the past six years, 3,097 accidents involved vehicles deemed unfit for operation. • 1,089 accidents involved transport vehicles lacking valid fitness certificates. • 2,008 accidents involved private vehicles with expired registrations. • The report also highlights potential flaws in enforcement mechanisms for vehicle fitness and registration renewal. • The findings also raise questions about public awareness and compliance regarding vehicle safety regulations.
<p>FM K.N. Balagopal announces additional Budget outlay of ₹129 crore,</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal announced an additional outlay of ₹129 crore, including ₹70 crore more for civil supplies, in the State Budget for the 2024-25 fiscal. • The allocation for civil supplies has been hiked from ₹1,930.88 crore to ₹2,001 crore.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He also announced that the allocation for the Kerala Farmers' Welfare Fund Board will be raised to ₹120 crore • ₹2 crore were announced for a revolving fund for the restoration of converted paddy fields
<p>Minister Saji Cherian to inaugurate fishing twine factory in Alappuzha</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State's first fishing twine factory (yarn twisting unit) set up under the aegis of the Kerala State Co-operative Federation for Fisheries Development (Matsyafed) at Paravur in Alappuzha will be opened today • The unit will supply twine to Matsyafed's three fishing net factories at Kochi, Kannur, and Thiruvananthapuram. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twine is produced by twisting nylon yarn made from caprolactam chips. • In the initial phase, Matsyafed plans to produce around 500 tonnes of twine annually using yarn procured from outside. • Making twine in their facility would help them produce better quality fishing gear and provide them to fishers at reasonable rates.
<p>Kufos to hold training in geospatial tech</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (Kufos) will hold a comprehensive training course on 'geospatial technology for natural resources management' • The state-level training is being held with the funding from the directorate of environment and climate change.

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