

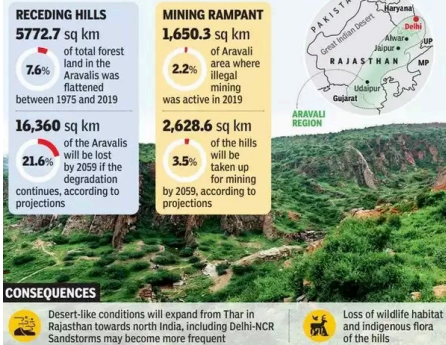


10 May 2024

National and International News

Aravalli hills

'3.5% OF HILLS TO BE TAKEN UP FOR MINING BY 2059'



Why in news?

- The **Supreme Court** has halted the issuance of new mining leases and renewals in the Aravalli ranges and hills.
- This decision is based on a report from the **Forest Survey of India (FSI)**.

Key points:

- The FSI report was presented in court by the **Central Empowered Committee (CEC)**.
- According to the FSI report, the **Aravallis are defined to include the hills and a uniform 100-metre-wide buffer zone around the downsides of the hills.**

About Aravalli hills:

- The Aravalli range runs approximately in a **south-west direction**, starting near **Delhi**, passing through southern Haryana, Rajasthan, and ending in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- The **highest peak is Guru Shikhar in Mount Abu at 1,722 m.**
- The Aravalli Range is **arguably the oldest geological feature on Earth**, having its origin in the **Proterozoic era.**
- The range gives rise to several rivers, including the **Banas, Luni, Sakhi, and Sabarmati.**



Widal Test

Why in news?

- The **Widal Test** often gives inaccurate results masking the true extent of India's typhoid problem.
- This situation is leading to increased expenses.
- It also poses a risk of increasing antimicrobial resistance.

About Widal Test:

- **Typhoid fever**, is a bacterial infection caused by the bacterium **Salmonella Typhi**.
- It is commonly spread through contaminated food or water.
- **Symptoms of typhoid fever include** fatigue, high fever, headache, diarrhoea or constipation, abdominal pain, weight loss, and red spots.
- These symptoms are similar to those of malaria, dengue, influenza, and typhus, making it difficult to diagnose without proper testing.
- The **Widal test is a serological test** that detects antibodies against the bacteria in a patient's blood sample.
- The test was developed in the late 1800s by a French physician but is no longer used in many countries because of its flaws.
- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** advises not to rely too much on this test due to the various factors that can influence the results.

African Union (AU)

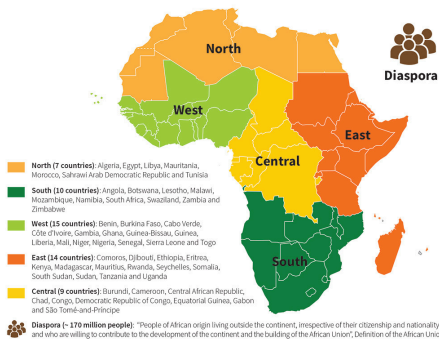
Why in news?

- The **African Union (AU)** condemned the Israeli military's actions in southern Gaza's Rafah.

About AU:

- The African Union (AU) is a **continental body** made up of **55 member states** that constitute the countries of the **African Continent**.
- The AU was **officially launched in 2002**, replacing its predecessor, the **Organization of African Unity (OAU)**, which was founded in **1963**.
- The **primary objective** of the AU is to promote unity, cooperation, and development among African nations and to advance the continent's interests on the global stage.

THE SIX REGIONS OF THE AFRICAN UNION





- To realize its objectives and the Pan African Vision of an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa, the AU developed **Agenda 2063**. This is a **strategic framework for Africa’s long-term socio-economic and integrative transformation**.
- The **headquarters of the AU** is located in **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**.

Blue corner notice

TYPES OF INTERPOL NOTICES

RED NOTICE: To seek the location and arrest of wanted persons with a view to extradition or similar lawful action.	YELLOW NOTICE: To help locate missing persons, often minors, or to help identify persons who are unable to identify themselves.
BLUE NOTICE: To collect additional information about a person’s identity, location or activities in relation to a crime.	BLACK NOTICE: To seek information on unidentified bodies.
GREEN NOTICE: To provide warnings and intelligence about persons who have committed criminal offences and are likely to repeat these crimes in other countries.	ORANGE NOTICE: To warn of an event, a person, an object or a process representing a serious and imminent threat to public safety.
INTERPOL-UN SECURITY COUNCIL SPECIAL NOTICE: Issued for groups and individuals who are the targets of UN Security Council sanctions committees.	PURPLE NOTICE: To seek or provide information on modus operandi, objects, devices and concealment methods used by criminals.

Why in news?

- There is a **political storm in Karnataka over serious allegations of sexual abuse against, a sitting MP from Hassan**.
- The **International Criminal Police Organisation, also known as Interpol, has issued a blue corner notice against the absconding politician**.

About Blue corner notice:

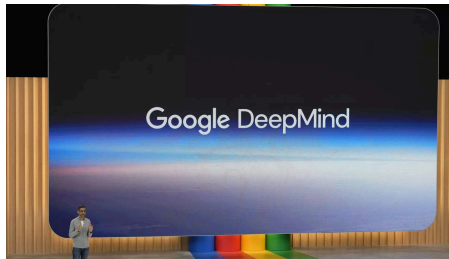
- **Interpol’s colour-coded notices are part of an elaborate system that enables countries to share alerts and requests for information on wanted persons or crimes worldwide.**
- There are **seven types of notices**, each with a different implication:
 - **Red Notice:** Seeks the location and arrest of persons wanted for prosecution or to serve a sentence.
 - **Yellow Notice:** Helps locate missing persons, often minors, or helps identify persons who are unable to identify themselves.
 - **Blue Notice:** Collects additional information about a person’s identity, location, or activities in relation to a criminal investigation.
 - **Black Notice:** Seeks information on unidentified bodies.
 - **Green Notice:** Provides a warning about a person’s criminal activities, where the person is considered to be a possible threat to public safety.
 - **Orange Notice:** Warns of an event, a person, an object, or a process representing a serious and imminent threat to public safety.
 - **Purple Notice:** Seeks or provides information on modus operandi, objects, devices, and concealment methods used by criminals.



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- These notices are issued by the Interpol’s General Secretariat at the request of a member country’s Interpol National Central Bureau and are made available for all member countries.

AlphaFold



Why in news?

- **Google Deepmind** has unveiled the third major version of its “AlphaFold” artificial intelligence model.
- The model is designed to help scientists design drugs and target disease more effectively.
- The company used AI to successfully predict the behaviour of microscopic proteins.

About AlphaFold:

- AlphaFold is a new AI model developed by Google DeepMind and Isomorphic Labs.
- It’s a revolutionary model that can predict the structure and interactions of all life’s molecules with unprecedented accuracy.
- The model can generate a joint 3D structure of molecules, revealing how they all fit together.
- It models large biomolecules such as proteins, DNA, and RNA, as well as small molecules, also known as ligands — a category that includes many drugs.
- Furthermore, AlphaFold 3 can model chemical modifications to these molecules which control the healthy functioning of cells. When disrupted, these can lead to disease.
- It assembles its predictions using a diffusion network, similar to those found in AI image generators.



Kerala Regional News

<p>Gotra Neeti and Valsalya Dhara</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) has launched two unique programmes, Gotra Neeti and Valsalya Dhara. • These programmes are aimed at mitigating the issues faced by tribespeople and the elderly people. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The programmes will last for a year. • DLSA officials stated that this twin programme is being implemented for the first time in the Kerala. • The implementation is supported by KMCT Law College, Kuttippuram. <p>About Gotra Neeti:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This project aims at enhancing not only the legal awareness of tribespeople, but also improving their health and education. • It encourages tribespeople to take up new means of livelihoods. • Legal camps, para-legal training, and support in education and health will be provided to them. • They will also be given legal support in their cases. <p>Valsalya Dhara:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This programme is aimed at ensuring the welfare of the elderly people. • The project will focus on strengthening legal awareness among the elderly, ensuring social inclusion of the elderly as well as their access and safety in public places. • Special focus will be on property rights and issues, legal heirship laws, misuse of the elderly, and medical negligence. • Programmes will be held to create connectivity among the elderly and thus to avoid loneliness.
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<p>Campus Industrial Park programme</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 educational institutions in Kochi have shown interest in joining the Campus Industrial Park programme initiated by the Kerala state government. <p>About Campus Industrial Park programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The programme is designed to encourage entrepreneurship among students and to strengthen the industry-academia collaboration. It aims to make use of the unutilised land within educational institutions for industrial purposes. Educational institutions owning a minimum of five acres of land can develop industrial parks, and those having a minimum of two acres can develop standard design factories. The government will extend financial support towards building infrastructure facilities such as electricity, water, road, drainage, ETP/CETP, and common facilities like laboratory, testing, and certification facilities. A separate Single Window Clearance Board will be formed for each Campus Industrial Park. Genrobotics, a pioneer in robotics, had recently launched the State's first industrial park on campus at Ilahia College of Engineering and Technology, Muvattupuzha.
<p>Rink Demo Day</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) is conducting a virtual event called 'Rink Demo Day' on May 10. The event will showcase nine innovative food technologies that are ready for commercialisation. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 'Branding Challenge' was held on the sidelines of the KSUM's 'Huddle Global 2023'. Prominent research and development (R&D) institutions from across the State will display technologies at the expo. The expo is being conducted as part of National Technology Day.



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State Election Commission

Why in news?

- A **municipal councillor and two grama panchayat members** have been **disqualified by the State Election Commission**.
- The **municipal councillor had taken up a contract work of the municipality**, which is a **violation of the rules**.
- The **two grama panchayat members were disqualified for skipping official meetings**.

About State Election Commission:

- The **SEC works independently of the Election Commission of India**, each having its own sphere of operation.
- **Powers and Functions:**
 - **Preparing and revising electoral rolls** for local government bodies.
 - **Conducting elections to the local bodies** and dealing with all matters pertaining to these elections, including scheduling and logistic arrangements.
 - **Issuing the Model Code of Conduct** and ensuring its enforcement during the election period to maintain election integrity.
 - **Addressing electoral disputes** and deciding on matters related to the **disqualification of elected members**.



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<p>Kathakali</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns have been raised about Kathakali losing its popularity and old-world charm due to modernity. <p>About Kathakali:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Origin and History: Kathakali originated in the 17th century in Kerala. It evolved from older temple and folk arts, incorporating elements from various dance forms like Krishnattam and Ramanattam. Meaning of Name: The word "Kathakali" translates to "Story Play" in Malayalam, reflecting its emphasis on storytelling through dance. Character Types: Characters in Kathakali are categorized into several types, such as "Pacha" (green) for heroic or virtuous characters, "Kathi" (knife) for villains, and "Minukku" for females and saints. Performance: A typical performance involves actors portraying scenes from Hindu epics like the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. Music and Instruments: The music of Kathakali is distinct and is provided by singers who narrate the story along with traditional instruments like the chenda (drum), maddalam (double-headed drum), and the edakka.
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