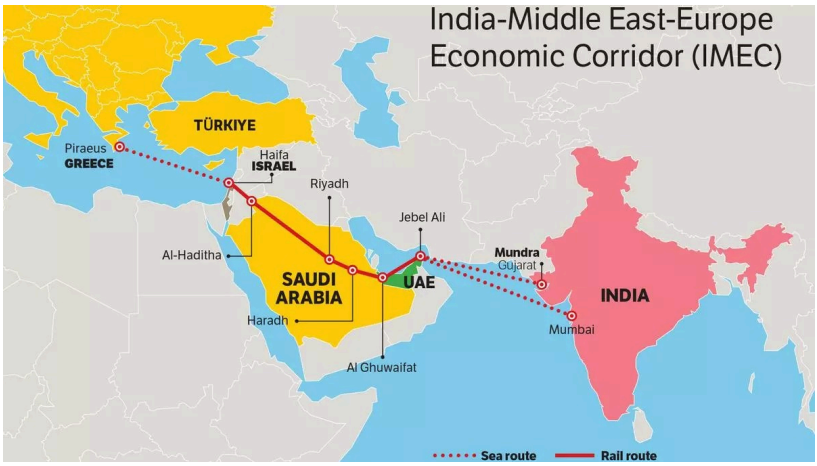





20 May 2024

National and International News

<p>India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Indian delegation recently visited the UAE to hold discussions with key entities regarding the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC). <p>About IMEEC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance connectivity and economic integration between India, the Middle East, and Europe. Key Components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Railways Highways Maritime routes Energy infrastructure Digital connectivity Participating Regions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Asia (India) Middle East Europe Strategic Importance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitates trade and investment flows. Reduces transit times and costs for goods and services. Promotes economic cooperation and development. 
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<p>Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India is “seriously considering” starting talks for a free trade agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). <p>About EAEU:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formation: Established on January 1, 2015. Members: Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia. Objective: To create a single market for goods, services, capital, and labor. Headquarters: Located in Moscow, Russia. Languages: Russian is the official working language. Customs Union: EAEU operates as a customs union, eliminating customs duties and controls at internal borders. Single Market: Aims to allow free movement of goods, services, capital, and labor among member states.
<p>National Endangered Species Day</p> 	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Endangered Species Day celebrated on May 17. <p>About National Endangered Species Day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purpose: To create awareness about the consequences of human activities and actions to save endangered species. Date: Observed annually on the third Friday of May. History: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established in 2006 by David Robinson and the Endangered Species Coalition. Aim: To urge people to contribute to the safety and protection of endangered species. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), 40% of animals, insects, and plants are at risk of extinction. Theme for 2024: "Celebrate Saving Species"



Iberian lynx



Why in news?

- Endangered Iberian lynx population doubles in 3 years.

About Iberian lynx:

- **Endemic Carnivore Species:**
 - One of two carnivore species **endemic to Europe** (the other being **European mink, Mustela lutreola**).
 - The **world's most endangered carnivore**.
- **Sexually dimorphic:** males are heavier and longer than females.
- **Behavior:**
 - Generally **nocturnal**.
 - Activity patterns **closely synchronized with those of their major prey, the rabbit**.
- **Distribution:**
 - Once distributed throughout the **Iberian Peninsula**.
 - Now sparsely distributed in **Spain and Portugal**.
- **Conservation Status:**
 - **IUCN Red List: Endangered**.
 - **CITES: Appendix II**.

Vishing

Why in news?

- The government has recently released a **circular** about a **sophisticated cybercrime**.
- The specific cybercrime mentioned is **vishing**.

About Vishing:

- Vishing, or "**voice phishing**," is a **type of scam where attackers use phone calls to trick individuals into providing personal, financial, or confidential information**.
- **Techniques Used:**
 - **Caller ID Spoofing:** Attackers disguise their phone number to appear as if they are calling from a legitimate source, such as a bank or government agency.
 - **Pretexting:** Scammers create a plausible scenario to convince the victim to share sensitive information.
 - **Urgency and Fear Tactics:** Vishing calls often involve a sense of urgency, such as threats of legal



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action or account suspension, to pressure victims into compliance.

PLAIN VISHING



The fraudster calls the victim pretending to be the bank



The victim shares the credentials or any other form of authentication



The fraudster uses shared credentials to steal the victim's money

Kerala Regional News

Snake carving in Kasaragod



Why in news?

- A **snake carving** has been **discovered on a stone**.
- The carving dates back to the **megalithic period**.
- The discovery was made in a village in **Kasaragod**.

About Snake carving in Kasaragod:

- A significant feature of the site is a four-inch-thick **stone carving of a snake circumventing an egg**.
- The **carvings were noticed by** social activist and history enthusiast **Satishan Kaliyanam**.
- The **carvings were identified as similar to the tiger carvings near Bangalam ground at Neeleswaram and at Cheemeni**.
- The stone carving at **Alinkeezhil** could be approximately **2,000 years old**.
- The snake shape was **carved using an iron tool**.



E.K. Nayanar

Why in news?

- The **E.K. Nayanar Museum at Burnassery in Kannur**, part of the E.K. Nayanar Academy, was **inaugurated** on Sunday.
- The museum was opened on the **20th death anniversary of the late Chief Minister, E.K. Nayanar**.

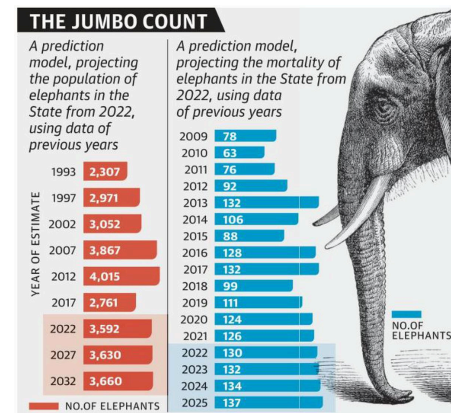
About E.K. Nayanar:

- **Erambala Krishnan Nayanar**, commonly known as E.K. Nayanar, was a **prominent Indian politician** and a **leader of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) or CPI(M)**.
- He was born on **9th December 1919** in Kalliasseri, **Kannur**, in the then **Madras Presidency**.
- He served as the **9th Chief Minister of Kerala for three terms**: from 1980 to 1981, from 1987 to 1991, and again from 1996 to 2001.
- His total tenure as Chief Minister spans 10 years, 11 months, and 22 days, making him the **longest-serving Chief Minister of Kerala**.
- He was also a member of the **Politburo of the CPI(M)**.
- **Nayanar passed away on 19th May 2004**.

Elephant population estimation

Why in news?

- A **synchronised elephant population estimation will be held across south India** for three days starting from May 23.
- The **field assessment is a key part of the resolutions by the inter-State Coordination Committee**, which includes **Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka**.



Key points:

- The aim of these resolutions is to **address human-wildlife conflict through joint action and intelligence sharing**.
- **Andhra Pradesh will also participate** in this collaborative exercise.

About Asian Elephant:

- **Scientific Name:** *Elephas maximus*
- **Habitat:** **Forests and grasslands** of Southeast Asia, including countries like **India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Sumatra**.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Physical Characteristics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Smaller ears compared to African elephants. ○ A single finger-like projection at the tip of the trunk (African elephants have two). ○ Males are generally larger than females. ● Social Structure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Live in matriarchal herds led by the oldest female. ○ Males often live solitary lives or form small bachelor groups. ● Reproduction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gestation period is about 18-22 months. ○ Lifespan: 60-70 years in the wild. ● Conservation Status: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.
<p>Decentralised Seed Multiplier (DSM)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (ICAR-CTCRI) is planning to expand a Decentralised Seed Multiplier (DSM) programme to more States. ● The programme aims to ensure the availability of good quality planting material of tropical tuber crops. ● Currently, the Decentralised Seed Multiplier (DSM) programme is being implemented in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha. <p>About Decentralised Seed Multiplier (DSM):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DSM is a system designed to enhance the availability of quality seeds by involving local farmers in the production and distribution process. ● Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase seed accessibility and affordability. ○ Improve seed quality and yield. ○ Empower local farmers through training and participation. ● Key Components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Farmer Selection: Identifying and training local farmers to become seed multipliers. ○ Training and Support: Providing technical training, resources, and ongoing support to seed multipliers.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quality Control: Implementing standards and protocols to ensure the production of high-quality seeds. ○ Distribution Networks: Establishing efficient distribution channels to ensure seeds reach a wide range of farmers.
<p>Kerala Forest Development Corporation (KFDC)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The State government has issued an order allowing the Kerala Forest Development Corporation (KFDC) to plant eucalyptus trees. <p>About KFDC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establishment: Founded in 1975. ● Purpose: To promote the development of forests in Kerala. ● Headquarters: Located in Kottayam, Kerala. ● Primary Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Afforestation and reforestation of degraded forest lands. ○ Cultivation of commercial tree species like teak, eucalyptus, and acacia. ○ Promotion of eco-tourism and development of eco-friendly projects. ○ Production and marketing of forest products, including timber, bamboo, and medicinal plants. ● Eco-Tourism: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Operates eco-tourism projects such as Gavi, an eco-tourism village known for its wildlife and natural beauty. ● Bamboo Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Engaged in bamboo cultivation and product development. ○ Focuses on sustainable bamboo resource management and the development of bamboo-based industries.

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