



27 June 2024

National and International News

Leader o	f Opposition
(LoP)	

Why in the news?

• Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was appointed as the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, a significant position in Parliament.

About Leader of Opposition (LoP):

- The Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha is the **head of the** largest party not in government and is recognized as the formal leader of the opposition in the lower house of India's Parliament.
- Eligibility:
 - The leader of the largest opposition party with at least 10% of the total seats in the Lok Sabha.
 - If no party meets this criterion, the position remains vacant.
- Role and Responsibilities:
 - Acts as a key spokesperson for the opposition, providing a counterpoint to government policies and actions.
 - Ensures that the views of the opposition are presented during debates and discussions in the Lok Sabha.
 - Plays a significant role in maintaining checks and balances by scrutinizing government activities.
 - **Involved in important parliamentary committees**, such as the **Public Accounts Committee**.
- Powers and Privileges:
 - **Equivalent** in status and remuneration to a **cabinet minister**.
 - Participates in high-level selection committees for constitutional posts, including the Chief Vigilance Commissioner, Chief Election Commissioner, and members of the Central Information Commission.
- Historical Context:
 - The position was officially recognized through the Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977.
 - It is designed to provide structured opposition and enhance democratic processes within Parliament.





Jal Jeevan	Mission
(JJM)	

Why in the news?

 The Central Government is planning a new project to ensure that rural households, which received taps under the Jal Jeevan Mission but have not yet accessed water, will soon be provided with potable water.

About JJM:

- Launch Date: August 15, 2019
- Ministry: Ministry of Jal Shakti
- Objective: To provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all rural households.
- Target: To reach 55 liters of water per person per day to every rural household.
- Coverage: Focus on functional household tap connections (FHTCs) in rural areas.
- Components:
 - Development of reliable drinking water sources and infrastructure.
 - Water conservation and rainwater harvesting.
 - Implementing measures for sustainable groundwater management.
 - Greywater management.
 - Capacity building of stakeholders and awareness creation.
- Implementation: Community approach with local participation, including Gram Panchayats and Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSC).
- Funding Pattern:
 - For plain areas: 50% by the Central Government and 50% by the State Government.
 - For Himalayan and North-Eastern states: 90% by the
 Central Government and 10% by the State Government.





Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP)



Why in the news?

- South India's first leopard safari opens at Bannerghatta Biological Park.
- As per **Central Zoo Authority guidelines for safaris**, an area of 20 hectares has been demarcated and fenced for the safari.

About BBP:

- Location: Bannerghatta, Bengaluru, Karnataka
- **Establishment**: **1971** as part of Bannerghatta National Park; became a **biological park in 2002**
- Butterfly Park:
 - The first of its kind in India.
 - Encompasses a **butterfly conservatory**, museum, and audiovisual room.

Srikakulam

Why in the news?

 Historians, academics, writers, and heritage enthusiasts are diligently working to restore the prominence of Srikakulam's forgotten ancient history.

About Srikakulam:

- Location: Andhra Pradesh
- Historical Significance:
 - Once part of the Kalinga Dynasty.
 - Later ruled by the Gajapati Kingdom, Eastern Chalukyas of Vengi, Kakatiya, and Vijayanagara empires.
- Buddhist Sites:
 - Dantapuri and Salihundam:
 - Salihundam has four stupas, relic caskets, and sculptures of **Buddhist deities Mareechi and Tara**.
 - Remnants date from 2nd century BC to 12th century AD.
 - Believed to be the origin point of Buddhism's spread to Sumatra and other far-eastern countries.
- Jainism Sites:
 - Tangamayyakonda and Rottavalasa villages.





	Temples:
	o Arasavalli:
	■ Sri Suryanarayana Swamy Temple dedicated to the
	sun god.
	 One of the two temples of its kind, the other being
	Konark Sun Temple in Odisha.
	o Srimukhalingam:
	Built in the Kalinga architectural style.
	Located by the Vamsadhara River and dedicated to
	lord Srimukha Lingeswara.
	Ancient Heritage:
	 Numerous prominent Buddhist sites and Neolithic-era caves.
	 Some of the oldest temples in the state.
Exercise HOPEX	Why in the news?
	The Indian Air Force's (IAF) Rafale fighter jets are currently in
	Egypt for Ex- HOPEX along with the Egyptian Air Force (EAF).
	Alec 4 F. and a HODEV
	About Exercise HOPEX:
	Date and Duration: The HODEV to all place from 21st to 26th June
	• Ex-HOPEX took place from 21st to 26th June.
	It was a weeklong exercise. Participants:
	Participants: Indian Air Force (IAF) deployed its Defale fighter ists along.
	 Indian Air Force (IAF) deployed its Rafale fighter jets, along with C-17 Globemaster and IL-78 tankers.
	Objective:
	 The exercise aimed to promote bilateral and regional
	cooperation.
	 It symbolized the strong relations between India and Egypt.
	Diplomatic Relations:
	 India and Egypt have a long-standing relationship that
	began in 1947.
	 They are both founding members of the Non-Aligned
	- They are both rounding members of the Hon Angheu

Movement.





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