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15 February 2024

National & International News

CMS COP14



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

**COP 14**

**SAMARKAND**

UZBEKISTAN 12-17 FEBRUARY 2024

**Context:**

- 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**

**Theme and Significance**

- **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.

**Global Significance:**

- One of the most significant global biodiversity gatherings since adopting the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Biodiversity Plan)** in 2022.

**Focus Areas:**

- Habitat conservation and restoration
- Addressing threats such as overexploitation, habitat loss and fragmentation, pollution, and climate change

**Initiatives:**

- Support implementation of the GBF
- Launch of major new report **State of the World's Migratory Species** and guidelines.

**Do you know?**

- The 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.



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## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

### High Altitude Pseudo-Satellite (HAPS)



#### Context:

- 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 advancement.

#### About:

- **Definition:** Solar-powered unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) operating in the **stratosphere (20 km above ground) without needing a rocket launch.**
- **Design:** The 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.
- **Aim 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.**



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



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- 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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