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1 April 2024

National & International News

Meghayan 2024



Context:

- The METOC seminar '**Meghayan 2024**' was conducted on **28th March 2024** by the **School of Naval Oceanology & Meteorology (SNOM)** and the **Indian Naval Meteorological Analysis Centre (INMAC)** at Southern Naval Command.

Key points:

- The seminar commemorated **World Meteorological Day**, which marks the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on 23rd March 1950.
- The theme for the seminar was '**At the Frontline of Climate Action**', aligning with WMO's focus for 2024.
- An indigenous mobile application, **INDRA (Indian Naval Dynamic Resource for Weather Analysis)**, was launched to facilitate weather-related decision-making.
- The application was developed by **BISAG (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics)** in coordination with the Directorate of Naval Oceanology and Meteorology, Indian Navy.

Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary

Context:

- Telangana is currently grappling with forest fires in the **Tadvai region** of the **Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary** in **Mulugu** and the **Amrabad Tiger Reserve**.

Key points:

- The state's dry season, typically from **March to June**, has exacerbated the situation due to increased temperatures and reduced rainfall, creating ideal conditions for wildfires.

Causes of the fires

- Mainly include **human activity**, such as **campfires left unattended** by people fishing in the nearby river, which can easily ignite the dry vegetation.
- **Chenchu tribes** in the region sometimes burn trees to collect mahua flowers more easily.



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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

About:

- Established in **1952**, the **Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary** stands as one of **Telangana's oldest sanctuaries**, revered for its **ecological significance**.
- Originating in the sanctuary, the **Dayyam Vagu River** intricately divides the sanctuary into two distinct sections.
- The sanctuary is graced by the **presence of the Godavari River**, further enhancing its **natural allure**.
- The sanctuary boasts a **rich flora**, predominantly adorned by **deciduous teak trees**, interspersed with **axlewood, palas, tendu, and dhobi trees**, forming a diverse canopy conducive to supporting various animal species.
- Among its **diverse wildlife inhabitants** are **tigers, panthers, gaurs, sambar deer, spotted deer, nilgai, blackbucks, jackals, foxes, mongoose, and rodents**.
- The indigenous **Gond and Pardhan tribes** harmoniously coexist with the sanctuary, actively participating in conservation efforts and responsibly utilizing forest resources for sustenance.
- The majestic **Bogatha Waterfall** graces the sanctuary's core area with its mesmerizing presence.
- Additionally, the **sanctuary hosts the biennial festival of Sammakka Saralamma Jatara**, a tribal commemoration honoring the valor of tribal warriors **Sammakka and Sarakka**.

Onyx Missile



Context:

- **Russia's P-800 Onyx supersonic cruise missile, utilized in attacks on Ukrainian targets, is set to become deadlier with a new target seeker.**

New Seeker for Enhanced Accuracy

- Upgraded with new active homing heads for increased precision in **hitting ground targets of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU)**.
- Development aimed at **ensuring Onyx's invulnerability to electronic warfare systems of the Ukrainian Armed Forces.**

Overview of P-800 Onyx

- Developed by Reutov NPO Mashinostroeniya, it targets surface ship groups and ground targets **amidst severe fire and electronic countermeasures.**
- Carried by **Russian Navy surface ships and submarines**, utilized in Syria against terrorist ground targets.



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Central Pollution Control Board

Context:

- The **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** has **only utilized 20%** of the funds collected for mitigating air pollution in Delhi-NCR and environmental protection.
- Only Rs 156.33 crore out of Rs 777.69 crore collected has been disbursed.

Key points:

- Funds are collected **under two categories: Environment Protection Charge (EPC) and Environmental Compensation (EC).**

Environment Protection Charge (EPC):

- Mandated by the **Supreme Court**, dealers/manufacturers pay a one percent EPC on the ex-showroom price of new diesel vehicles with engine capacity of 2000cc and above, registered only in Delhi and NCR.

Environmental Compensation (EC):

- Ordered by the **National Green Tribunal (NGT)**, used to rejuvenate and protect the environment through various means such as strengthening laboratories, monitoring networks, and compliance with NGT orders.

CPCB:

- The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), a **statutory organization, was constituted in September 1974 under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.**
- Further, CPCB was entrusted with the **powers and functions under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.**

North Atlantic Right Whale

Context:

- A recent study has highlighted that **even minor tangles in fishing gear can significantly decrease the chances of female North Atlantic right whales reproducing.**
- These whales inhabit the **cold waters of the North Atlantic Ocean** and are considered **critical for conservation due to their struggle for survival.**

Habitat and Migration Patterns

- They are **migratory, moving between feeding and calving grounds.**

North Atlantic Right Whale IDENTIFICATION FEATURES

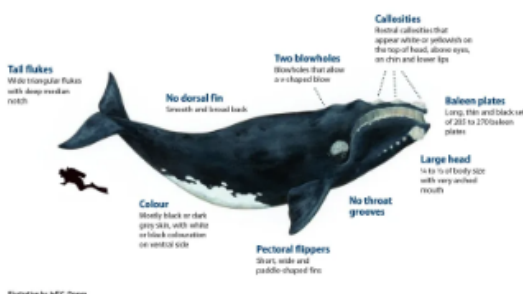


Illustration by APFC Ocean



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- In **summer**, they feed in **cooler waters near Canada and the northeastern US**, and in **winter**, they migrate south to **warmer waters off the coasts of Florida and Georgia** for breeding.

Unique Characteristics

- They have **rough, raised patches of skin on their heads called callosities**, which are used for identification.
- Right whales are **slower swimmers**, making them more prone to ship strikes.
- Unlike most whales, they lack a dorsal fin, making them easily distinguishable.

Role in Marine Ecosystem

- Right whales feed by filtering plankton from the water, which **helps cycle nutrients and promotes healthy phytoplankton growth**.

Threats to Survival

- Entanglement in fishing gear, **particularly lobster trap lines, is a major threat**.
- Collisions with ships are also significant due to their slow speed and shallow-water preference.
- Climate change impacts on ocean temperatures and currents could affect their food sources and migration patterns.

Protection Status

- The IUCN Red List categorizes them as "**critically endangered**," with **fewer than 360 individuals remaining**.
- Various **international agreements and laws aim to protect them, including regulations on fishing gear and designated shipping lanes**.

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