



30 May 2024

National & International News

Magellan Mission	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scientists' new study reveals volcanic activity on Venus.• The activity occurred from 1990 to 1992.• Venus exhibited signs of volcanism during the early '90s. <p>About Magellan Mission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Launch Date and Mission:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ NASA's deep space mission launched on May 4, 1989, to explore Venus.○ The first interplanetary mission launched from the Space Shuttle.• Naming: Named after Ferdinand Magellan, the Portuguese explorer who first circumnavigated the Earth.• Primary Goal: To map the surface of Venus using radar imaging due to the planet's thick atmosphere obstructing visual observation.
RBI's 3 new initiatives	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The RBI Governor recently unveiled three major initiatives of the Reserve Bank:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Pravaah Portal○ Retail Direct Mobile App○ FinTech Repository <p>About RBI's 3 new initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pravaah Portal:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Purpose: A secure, centralized web-based platform for individuals or entities to seek authorizations, licenses, or regulatory approvals from the RBI.• Retail Direct Mobile App:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Purpose: Facilitate retail investors to open Retail Direct Gilt accounts with the RBI○ Features:<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Allows retail investors to buy Government Securities (G-Secs) in primary auctions.• FinTech:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Objective:<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Capture essential information about FinTech entities, their activities, and technology uses.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Provide a comprehensive understanding of the Indian FinTech sector for policymakers and industry participants.○ Coverage: Includes both regulated and unregulated FinTech entities.○ Management: Managed by the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), a wholly-owned subsidiary of RBI.
<p>Himalayan serow</p> 	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● A Himalayan serow was recently spotted in the central part of Nameri National Park and Tiger Reserve. <p>About Himalayan serow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Appearance: Resembles a cross between a goat, a donkey, a cow, and a pig.● Types: Several species of serows exist, all found in Asia. The Himalayan serow is a subspecies of the mainland serow (Capricornis sumatraensis).● Diet: Herbivorous.● Distribution:● Regions: Found in eastern, central, and western Himalayas; not in the Trans Himalayan region.● Conservation Status:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ IUCN Red List: Vulnerable○ CITES: Appendix I○ The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I
<p>Anopheles stephensi</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The spread of the mosquito species Anopheles stephensi across Africa exacerbates the continent's malaria burden, where 90% of the world's malaria deaths occur. <p>About Anopheles stephensi:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Native Region: South Asia.● Disease Transmission: Transmits both Plasmodium falciparum and P. vivax.● Comparison with African Vectors: Unlike African malaria vectors, which are typically found in rural areas, An. stephensi thrives in urban environments.● Public Health Concerns:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Poses a significant threat in urban areas.○ The invasion of An. stephensi into Africa threatens malaria elimination efforts, especially with 42.5% of Africa's population living in urban areas.



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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

Virupaksha temple



Why in news?

- A portion of the Virupaksha temple in Karnataka collapsed following torrential rains.

About Virupaksha temple:

- **Location:** Hampi, Karnataka.
- **Historical Significance:**
 - Part of the Group of Monuments at Hampi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
 - Built during the Vijayanagara Empire in the 7th century.
- **Deity:** Dedicated to Lord Virupaksha, a form of Shiva.
- **Architecture:**
 - Dravidian style.
 - Notable features include a towering gopuram (entrance tower) approximately 50 meters high.
 - Intricately carved pillars and ornate ceilings.

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