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National & International News


<p>Red Flag 24 Exercise</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent has arrived at Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska to participate in exercise, Red Flag 24. <p>About exercise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name: Red Flag 24 • Organized by: United States Air Force • Location: Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, USA • Participants: Multiple nations, including the Indian Air Force (IAF) • Purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enhance combat readiness and interoperability among participating air forces. ○ Provide realistic air-combat training in a controlled environment.
<p>KAZA Summit 2024</p> 	<p>Why in news:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the KAZA 2024 Heads of State Summit in Livingstone, Zambia, delegates have urged member states to withdraw from CITES. • This follows repeated refusals by CITES to let these states sell their abundant ivory and wildlife products. <p>About KAZA Summit 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the progress in establishing and developing the Kavango–Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area since its inception. • Review and track the progress of the 2016 Memorandum of Understanding and the implementation of the 2011 KAZA Treaty. • Seek renewed commitment from current leaders of member countries. • Theme: "Leveraging KAZA's natural capital and cultural heritage resources as catalysts for inclusive socio-economic development of the eco-region." <p>Did you know?</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● KAZA region: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Location: KAZA spans across five countries in Southern Africa – Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. ○ Objective: The primary aim is to enhance the conservation of biodiversity, promote sustainable use of natural resources, and improve the livelihoods of local communities through eco-tourism. <p>Think:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Know about CITES.
<p>Framework for Recognising Self-Regulatory Organisations for the FinTech Sector (SRO-FT)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently introduced the Framework for Recognising Self-Regulatory Organisations for the FinTech Sector (SRO-FT) to enhance self-governance and compliance among firms in the FinTech sector. <p>About Framework for Recognising SRO-FT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The framework defines fintech as entities offering technological solutions for financial products and services delivery to businesses and consumers. ● The Self-Regulatory Organisation for the FinTech Sector (SRO-FT) will be industry-led, responsible for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establishing and enforcing regulatory standards, ○ Promoting ethical conduct, ○ Ensuring market integrity, ○ Resolving disputes, and ○ Fostering transparency and accountability among its members. ● Applicants for SRO-FT must be not-for-profit companies with diversified shareholding.
<p>Global Food Policy Report 2024</p> 	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A new global report highlights growing concerns about dietary habits in India. ● The report reveals a significant rise in the consumption of unhealthy foods. <p>About report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Global Food Policy Report 2024: Food Systems for healthy diets and Nutrition was released by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).



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- In India, the **consumption of unhealthy, calorie-dense, and nutrient-poor foods** is not only high but **increasing**.
- At least **38% of the Indian population consumes such unhealthy foods**.
- **Processed foods are becoming more popular** in India.
- From **2006 to 2016**, the **prevalence of overweight adults rose from 12.9% to 16.4%**.
- The report also highlights that in **South Asia, micronutrient-rich foods are expensive**, while cereals, fats and oils, sugar, and sugary and salty snacks are relatively cheap.

Bela block printing



Why in news?

- **Ajrakh**, the renowned **resist-dyeing craft** from **Kutch**, received a **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**, marking its authenticity and providing legal protection.

Key points:

- **Bela**, a village in Kutch, was once a **thriving center for block printing**.
- However, over time, **bela block printing declined**.
- Today, it **faces the risk of extinction**.

About Bela block printing:

- **History:** This **traditional craft** has been practiced for centuries.
- **Techniques:**
 - **Hand Block Printing:** Uses intricately carved **wooden blocks to print designs on fabric**.
 - **Dyes:** **Natural dyes** are commonly used, and **derived from plants, minerals, and other natural sources**.
- **Patterns:**
 - Features motifs inspired by nature, including **floral and animal designs**, as well as **geometric patterns**.
 - **Fabrics:** Typically done on **cotton and silk fabrics**, which are pre-washed and treated to absorb the dyes better.

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