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National & International News

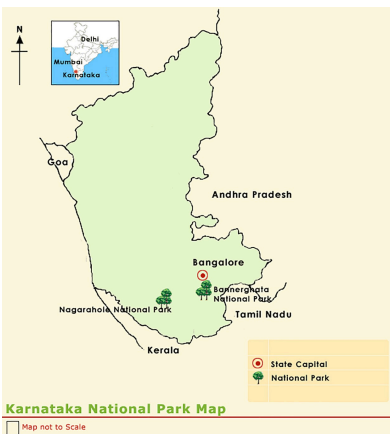
<p>Leader of Opposition (LoP)</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was appointed as the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, a significant position in Parliament. <p>About Leader of Opposition (LoP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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.
<p>Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Central Government is planning a new project to ensure that rural households, that 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.



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<p>Srikakulam</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historians, academics, writers, and heritage enthusiasts are diligently working to restore the prominence of Srikakulam's forgotten ancient history. <p>About Srikakulam:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: Andhra Pradesh Historical Significance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once part of the Kalinga Dynasty. Later ruled by the Gajapati Kingdom, Eastern Chalukyas of Vengi, Kakatiya, and Vijayanagara empires. Buddhist Sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dantapuri and Salihundam: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tangamayyakonda and Rottavalasa villages. Temples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arasavalli: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Srimukhalingam: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Built in the Kalinga architectural style. Located by the Vamsadhara River and dedicated to lord Srimukha Lingeswara. Ancient Heritage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numerous prominent Buddhist sites and Neolithic-era caves. Some of the oldest temples in the state.
<p>Exercise HOPEX</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Indian Air Force's (IAF) Rafale fighter jets are currently in Egypt for Ex-HOPEX along with the Egyptian Air Force (EAF). <p>About Exercise HOPEX:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Date and Duration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ex-HOPEX took place from 21st to 26th June. It was a weeklong exercise.



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- **Participants:**
 - 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 Movement**.

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