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29 June 2024

National & International News

<p>Rhisotope Project</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South African scientists have injected radioactive material into live rhinoceros horns as part of the Rhisotope Project to help curb poaching. <p>About Rhisotope Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiation: The project started in 2021 in South Africa. • Objective: To make rhinoceros horns easier to detect at border posts and render them useless for human consumption. • Implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Two tiny radioactive chips are inserted into the horns of 20 rhinos. ○ The low-dose radioactive material is detectable by radiation sensors at international borders without harming the animals or the environment. • Duration: The radioactive material lasts for five years, offering a cost-effective solution compared to dehorning every 18 months. • Context: South Africa, home to the majority of the world's rhinos, is battling a poaching crisis driven by demand from Asia for traditional medicine.
<p>Bhuvan Panchayat (Ver. 4.0) and National Database for Emergency Management (NDEM Ver. 5.0)</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology will launch two geoportals: Bhuvan Panchayat (Ver. 4.0) and the National Database for Emergency Management (NDEM Ver. 5.0). <p>About Bhuvan Panchayat (Ver. 4.0):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Platform Purpose: An online geospatial data and services dissemination platform supporting integrating and utilizing space-based information in governance and research initiatives, including spatial planning up to the Gram Panchayat level. • Developed By: This WebGIS platform is developed by the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), ISRO. <p>About NDEM Ver. 5.0:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a comprehensive, uniform, multi-scale geospatial database for the entire country for situational assessment and effective decision-making during disasters/emergency situations.



বাংলা

- Acts as a **national-level geo-portal offering space-based information**, combined with DSS tools and services from disaster forecasting organizations, to **address all natural disasters in all phases for effective Disaster Risk Reduction**.
- **Functions as a Disaster Recovery and Data Provider node** for the **Integrated Control Room for Emergency Response (ICR-ER)** being established by the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.

NASA's Juno probe

Why in the news?

- **NASA's Juno probe** has made **new findings about Jupiter's moon Io**.
- These **findings provide a more comprehensive view of the distribution of lava lakes on Io**.
- The research **highlights the extensive presence of lava lakes across the moon's surface**.

About NASA's Juno probe:

- **Acronym:** JUNO stands for **Jupiter Near-Polar Orbiter**.
- **Type:** NASA spacecraft **designed to orbit Jupiter**.
- **Launch Details:** Launched by **Atlas V rocket**.
- **Date:** August 5, **2011**.
- **Main Goal:** Understand Jupiter's origins and its changes over time.
- **Mission Details:**
 - Probing beneath Jupiter's dense clouds.
 - **First orbiter to closely observe Jupiter's poles**.
 - **Solar-powered spacecraft**.
- **Exploring Jupiter's moons:** Ganymede, Europa, and Io.

ABHYAS

Why in the news?

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** recently **completed six consecutive developmental trials of the High-Speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) 'ABHYAS'** in Chandipur, Odisha.

About ABHYAS:

- **Design and Development:**
 - **Designed by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment, Bengaluru**.
 - **Developed through Production Agencies: Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Larsen & Toubro**.
- **Features:**
 - **Provides a realistic threat scenario** for weapon systems practice.
 - **Autonomous flying capability** with autopilot.
 - **Records data during flight for post-flight analysis**.
- **Components:**
 - **Booster designed by Advanced Systems Laboratory**.



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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

- Navigation system by Research Centre Imarat.

Mainland serow



Why in the news?

- A team of scientists recorded a **lone mainland serow (Capricornis sumatraensis thar)** at an elevation of 96 metres above mean sea level in **Raimona National Park**, western Assam.

About Mainland serow:

- **Mammal Characteristics:** Appears between a goat and an antelope.
- **Habitat:**
 - **Altitudes:** 200-3,000 metres.
 - **Distribution:** Across the **India-Bhutan border** in **Phibsoo Wildlife Sanctuary** and the **Royal Manas National Park** in the Himalayan region.
- **Species:**
 - Mainland serow.
 - Japanese serow.
 - Red serow (found in eastern India, Bangladesh, and Myanmar).
 - Taiwan or Formosan serow.
- **Conservation Status:**
 - **IUCN:** Vulnerable.
 - **CITES:** Appendix I.

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