

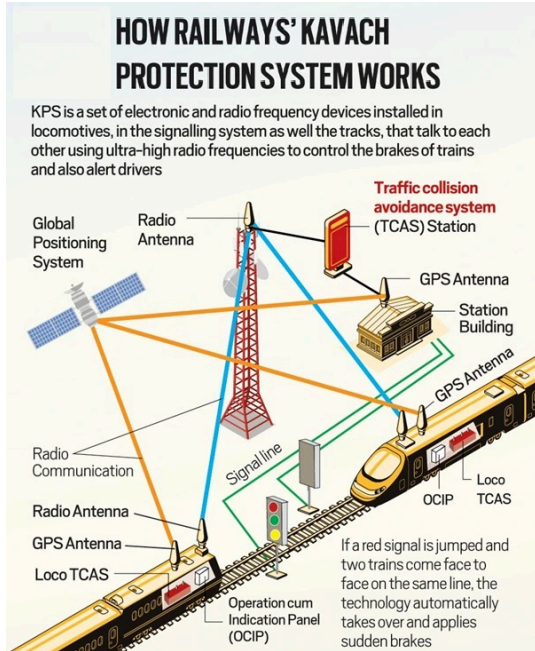


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Tamil Nadu: 22-04-2024

Kavach, the anti-collision system



Why in news?

- Southern Railway has decided to install Kavach, an anti-collision system for trains.
- The system will be installed for 2,216 km of tracks across Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Key Kavach:

- **Kavach System Overview:** Developed by the Indian Railways Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO), Kavach is a cab signalling and train control system with **anti-collision features**.
- **Functionality:** It alerts the loco pilot if a 'red signal' is unnoticed and the train is at risk of overshooting the signal.
- **Warnings and Automatic Actions:** The system provides warnings on the loco pilot's display and will automatically apply brakes if the train does not slow to below **15 kilometers per hour**, thereby **stopping the train to prevent accidents**.

Quacquarelli Symonds's World University rankings (2024)

Why in news?

- A former member of the Lok Sabha and **Dean of Pondicherry University**, expressed concern that **no educational institution from the Union Territory has secured a place in either the global or national rankings**.
- The comments were made following the release of the **Quacquarelli Symonds's World University rankings (2024)** list.

About World University Rankings (2024):

- The **20th edition** of the **QS World University Rankings** features **1,500 institutions** across 104 locations.
- This ranking is unique as it **emphasizes employability and sustainability**.
- **The 2024 edition introduced three new metrics:**
 - Sustainability,
 - Employment Outcomes, and
 - International Research Network.
- **The top five universities in the 2024 rankings are:**



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)○ University of Cambridge○ University of Oxford○ Harvard University○ Stanford University
Water the wildlife initiative	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The Hosur forest division has launched an initiative called 'Water the wildlife'.● The initiative aims to prevent human-animal conflict by ensuring that wildlife in forest areas has sufficient water during the dry seasons. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● This initiative encourages the public to donate funds to help maintain and fill water troughs scattered throughout the forest, especially during the summer when natural water sources may dry up.
Dolphins in India	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● An injured striped dolphin was rescued near the shallow water off the coast in Ramanathapuram.● The dolphin, stranded in shallow water, had lost its ability to detect signals. <p>About Dolphins:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● India's waters are home to several species of marine dolphins, including the Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin, the spinner dolphin, and the Irrawaddy dolphin.● The Ganges River dolphin, also known as the South Asian river dolphin, is an important freshwater species found in India's river systems.● The Ganges River dolphin is classified as endangered by the IUCN.● The Ganges River dolphin being officially recognized as the National Aquatic Animal of India. <p>Did you know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The Tamil Nadu state government has proposed to conduct a dolphin safari for the first time.● The safari will be conducted in the biodiversity-rich Gulf of Mannar (GoM) Biosphere Reserve.



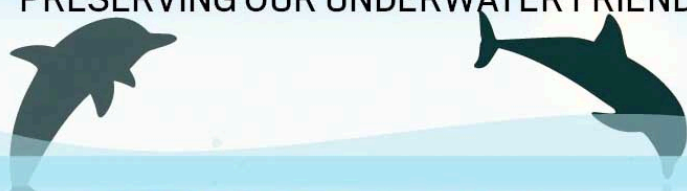
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- This initiative is part of conservation efforts to save cetaceans under 'Project Dolphin'.

PROJECT DOLPHIN

PRESERVING OUR UNDERWATER FRIENDS



-  10-YEAR PROJECT TO FOCUS ON BOTH RIVER AND SEA DOLPHINS
-  AIM TO STRENGTHEN BIODIVERSITY, CREATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND ATTRACT TOURISM
-  KILLING, HABITAT FRAGMENTATION BY DAMS AND BARRAGES AND INDISCRIMINATE FISHING HAS REDUCED THE GANGES RIVER DOLPHIN POPULATION FROM TENS OF THOUSANDS TO AROUND 3,700 OVER THE LAST CENTURY
-  GANGES RIVER DOLPHIN, A SPECIES OF FRESHWATER DOLPHINS, IS PRIMARILY FOUND IN GANGA AND BRAHMAPUTRA RIVERS, AND THEIR TRIBUTARIES IN INDIA, BANGLADESH AND NEPAL
-  IN INDIA, THESE DOLPHINS ARE SIGHTED IN DEEP RIVERS IN ASSAM, BIHAR, JHARKHAND, MADHYA PRADESH, RAJASTHAN, UTTAR PRADESH AND WEST BENGAL
-  GANGES RIVER DOLPHIN, OFFICIALLY DISCOVERED IN 1801, CAN LIVE ONLY IN FRESHWATER

Iranian film fest in Chennai

Why in news?

- The **Indo Cine Appreciation Foundation** and **Iranian Culture House** have organized a three-day **Iranian film festival** at **Tagore Film Centre NFDC** in **Chennai**.
- The festival will begin with the film '**No Prior Appointment**' (2022) at 6.30 pm after the inaugural.
- On the following days, films such as '**Squad of Girls**' (2022), '**Wolf Cubs of Apple Valley**' (2020), '**Seaboys**' (2022), and '**Legend of Bonasan, The Genie in the Lamp**' (2021) will be screened.



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- The festival aims to promote Iranian culture and cinema.