





15 December 2023

National and International News

<p>India's fastest solar-electric boat launched</p> 	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Barracuda- India's fastest solar-electric boat was launched at the yard of Navalt Solar and Electric Boats, located off Aroor in Alappuzha. ● It is an example of eco-friendly maritime transportation <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is named after the swift, long fish, Barracuda ● It was designed by Navalt and can be deployed even in the rough seas as a workboat to ferry up to 12 passengers and cargo. ● The 14-metre-long, 4.4-metre-wide vessel can attain a top speed of 12.5 knots (23 kmph) and has a range of seven hours on a single charge. ● It has twin 50 kW electric motors, a marine-grade LFP battery, and 6 kW solar power.
<p>Dal Lake</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is a lake in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir. ● It is surrounded by the Pir Panjal mountains. ● It is integral to tourism and recreation in Kashmir and is named the "Jewel in the crown of Kashmir" or "Srinagar's Jewel". ● Spread across an area of around 26 square kilometers, it is the second-largest lake in Jammu & Kashmir. ● The wetland is divided by causeways into four basins; Gagribal, Lokut Dal, Bod Dal and Nagin . ● Dal Lake is also popular for the floating market (known as Raad) where vendors have their own Shikaras and approach tourists.
<p>Iran set to remove visa requirement for Indians</p>	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Iran is expected to remove visa requirement for Indian travellers. ● This is aimed at boosting the flow of tourists into Iran. ● This is the first time that Tehran has included ordinary Indian passport holders on the list. ● India has recently been placed on similar visa-exemption lists of countries such as Malaysia and Sri Lanka.
<p>Aerodrome licence for Ayodhya Airport</p>	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has granted aerodrome licence for the Ayodhya Airport ● The Airports Authority of India has developed the airport at a cost of ₹350 crore. ● The DGCA permit comes ahead of the Ram Mandir inauguration.



WHO on use of e-cigarettes



Context

- According to the **World Health Organization**, E-cigarettes as consumer products are not shown to be effective for quitting tobacco use at the population level.
- There is an alarming evidence on its adverse population health effects

Key points

- Children in the age group of **13-15 years** are using e-cigarettes at rates higher than that among adults in all WHO regions
- E-cigarettes with nicotine are **highly addictive** and are harmful to health.
- They generate toxic substances, some of which are **known to cause cancer** and some that increase the risk of **heart and lung disorders**.
- It can also affect brain development and lead to learning disorders for young people.
- Foetal exposure to e-cigarettes can adversely **affect the development of the foetus in pregnant women**.
- Exposure to emissions from e-cigarettes also **poses risks to bystanders**.

Did you know?

- In India, the possession of e-cigarettes and similar devices is a violation of the **Prohibition of Electronic Cigarette Act, 2019**.
- Studies consistently show that young people who use e-cigarettes are **almost three times** more likely to use cigarettes later in life

India and U.S. combat financial crimes

Context

- India and the U.S had a bilateral dialogue on **anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism**.

Key points

- The countries agreed about the pressing **need to accelerate global implementation of standards for virtual assets** like crypto currencies.
- The countries also discussed steps to **enhance transparency in beneficial ownership**.

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