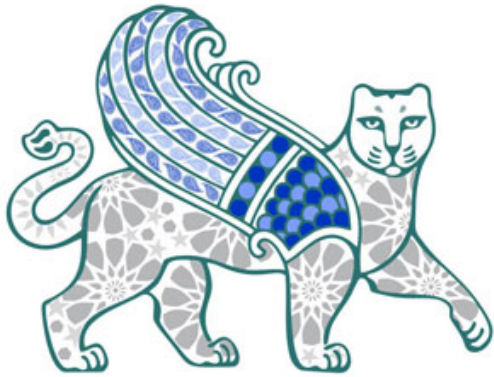




15 February 2024

National and International News

CMS COP14



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

COP 14

SAMARKAND

UZBEKISTAN 12-17 FEBRUARY 2024

Context:

- 14th Meeting of the **Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP14)** is set to take place as mentioned below:
- **Dates: February 12 to 17, 2024**
- **Location: Samarkand, Uzbekistan**

Theme and Significance

- **Theme: "Nature knows no borders"**
- **Significance:** Highlights the need for international collaboration in conserving migratory species, emphasizing that their survival depends on efforts beyond political boundaries.

Global Significance:

- One of the most significant global biodiversity gatherings since the **adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Biodiversity Plan) in 2022.**

Focus Areas:

- Habitat conservation and restoration
- Addressing threats such as overexploitation, habitat loss and fragmentation, pollution, and climate change

Initiatives:

- Support implementation of the GBF
- Launch of major new report **State of the World's Migratory Species** and guidelines.

Do you know?

- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species is also known as the **Bonn Convention.**
- It was signed on **23 June 1979, in Bonn, Germany.**
- It is an **Environmental treaty** under the **United Nations Environment Programme** for conserving and sustainably using migratory animals and their habitats.

High Altitude Pseudo Satellite (HAPS)

Context:

- Recently, a prototype of an **advanced**



unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) was successfully flown by the **National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL)** in **Bengaluru**, marking a significant technological advancement.

About:

- **Definition:** Solar-powered unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) operating in the **stratosphere (20 km above ground) without needing a rocket launch.**
- **Design:** Full-scale version has a 30-meter wingspan, weighs 150 kg, operates at 80-100 km per hour, and can stay airborne for 90 days at 17-20 km altitude, carrying up to 15 kg payloads.

Benefits of HAPS

- **Cost-effective:** Lower costs in building, launching, and operating compared to satellites.
- **Maneuverability:** Can be easily moved to different locations unlike satellites with predetermined paths.
- **Coverage:** Can cover large areas (around 500 km diameter) and link to multiple ground stations.
- **Speed and Latency:** Closer proximity to the ground allows for greater transmission speeds and lower latency.
- **Refurbishment and Reutilization:** Payloads can be reconfigured periodically.

e-Jagriti Portal**Context:**

- Consumer Affairs Secretary highlights the potential of AI in the '**e-Jagriti**' portal for **reducing pending cases in consumer courts.**

About:

- Initiative of the **Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution.**
- Serves as a portal for consumer commissions.
- **Aims to enhance customer experience.**
- Offers a simple, fast, and cost-effective consumer dispute redressal software solution.
- **Envisions integration of various**



consumer grievance platforms onto a single platform, including OCMS, E-Daakhil, NCDRC Case Monitoring System, CONFONET website, and mediation application.

- Features include case filing, online fee payment, and case monitoring modules for seamless disposal of cases by all Commissions.
- Utilizes AI technology for Smart search facility on archived consumer complaints/cases/judgements, metadata and keyword creation, and Voice-to-text conversion of judgements, case history, and other details.
- It will integrate Virtual court facility for convenient and accessible resolution of consumer complaints.

Role of X Chromosome in Autoimmune Diseases

Context:

A 2023 study by the University of Oxford stated that about 10% of the population they had studied had autoimmune diseases of which 13% were women and 7% were men.

Key points:

What is Autoimmune Disease?

- Autoimmune disease occurs when the **body's immune system mistakenly attacks healthy cells, tissues, and organs.**
- It can affect any part of the body, weakening bodily function and can be life-threatening.
- **There is no cure, but treatments can help manage symptoms, and most cases are not fatal.**

Susceptibility of Women

- Women are more susceptible to autoimmune diseases than men.
- Factors such as **environmental factors, genetics, hormonal imbalance, and lifestyle habits play a role.**
- Scientists previously thought it could be related to sex hormones or faulty regulation of the X chromosome.
- **A molecular coating found in half of women's X chromosomes might be the reason for this susceptibility.**



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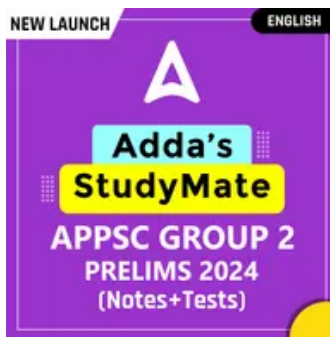
Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

Black Day: Feb 14

- India marks the **5th anniversary of the Pulwama terror attack.**
- February 14 is considered '**Black Day**' due to the attack by Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) in 2019.
- The attack resulted in the death of at least 40 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel.

Balakot airstrike

- Indian security forces conducted a counter-attack named '**Operation Bandar**' on **February 26, 2019**, in the **Balakot region of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.**
- This operation involved airstrikes on Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) camps, located approximately 50 km from the Line of Control (LoC).
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) used **Israel-made "smart bombs"** and 12 Mirage 2000 fighter jets in the attack, reportedly resulting in the deaths of numerous terrorists.
- **This operation marked the first time since the 1971 war that India conducted an aerial assault in Pakistan.**



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