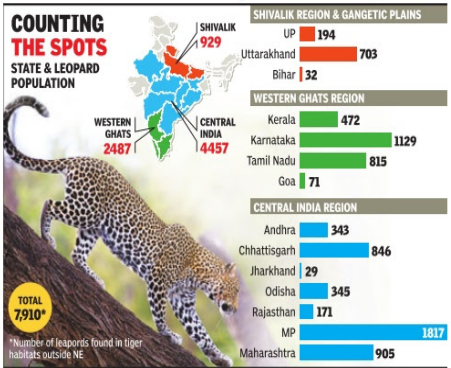




04 May 2024

National and International News

<p>World Press Freedom Index 2024</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India press freedom score falls, says Reporters sans Frontières. <p>About World Press Freedom Index:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Press Freedom Index: This is an annual index compiled by Reporters Without Borders (RSF for Reporters sans Frontières), which measures the freedom enjoyed by journalists in 180 jurisdictions. India's Score: India's score in the World Press Freedom Index fell from 36.62 to 31.28 over the last year. India's Rank: Despite the drop in score, India's rank improved from 161 in 2023 to 159 in 2024. However, this improvement was due to other countries slipping in their rankings, not because of an improvement in India's press freedom. Top Countries: Norway and Denmark topped the RSF table, indicating high levels of press freedom in these countries. Bottom Countries: Eritrea was at the bottom of the RSF table, with Syria just ahead of it, indicating low levels of press freedom in these countries. 																												
<p>International Leopard Day</p>  <table border="1"> <caption>SHIVALIK REGION & GANGETIC PLAINS</caption> <tr><td>UP</td><td>194</td></tr> <tr><td>Uttarakhand</td><td>703</td></tr> <tr><td>Bihar</td><td>32</td></tr> </table> <table border="1"> <caption>WESTERN GHATS REGION</caption> <tr><td>Kerala</td><td>472</td></tr> <tr><td>Karnataka</td><td>1129</td></tr> <tr><td>Tamil Nadu</td><td>815</td></tr> <tr><td>Goa</td><td>71</td></tr> </table> <table border="1"> <caption>CENTRAL INDIA REGION</caption> <tr><td>Andhra</td><td>343</td></tr> <tr><td>Chhattisgarh</td><td>846</td></tr> <tr><td>Jharkhand</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>Odisha</td><td>345</td></tr> <tr><td>Rajasthan</td><td>171</td></tr> <tr><td>MP</td><td>1817</td></tr> <tr><td>Maharashtra</td><td>905</td></tr> </table> <p>TOTAL 7910*</p> <p>*Number of leopards found in tiger habitats outside NE</p>	UP	194	Uttarakhand	703	Bihar	32	Kerala	472	Karnataka	1129	Tamil Nadu	815	Goa	71	Andhra	343	Chhattisgarh	846	Jharkhand	29	Odisha	345	Rajasthan	171	MP	1817	Maharashtra	905	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Leopard Day is celebrated annually on May 3. <p>About International Leopard Day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Origin: The day was officialised and endorsed as a lasting legacy of the Global Leopard Conference held in March 2023. Significance: Leopards are indicators of a healthy ecosystem, and their presence often correlates with high biodiversity levels. Protecting leopards means safeguarding the habitats and prey species that support them, thereby conserving a wide array of plant and animal species.
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<p>Five Eyes intelligence alliance</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four countries from the Five Eyes intelligence-sharing network have accused India of conducting espionage operations. 																												



About Five Eyes intelligence alliance:

- **Members:** The Five Eyes alliance consists of the **United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.**
- **Origins:** The alliance originated from secret **World War II intelligence collaborations.** It was formally established in the aftermath of the war through the **UKUSA Agreement in 1946**, which was initially a treaty between the **UK and the USA** for joint signal intelligence (SIGINT) operations.
- **Purpose:** The primary purpose of the Five Eyes is to **share intelligence among the member countries**, focusing mainly on signals intelligence (SIGINT). This collaboration helps the countries to **monitor international communications and gather information on various global issues and threats.**

Standard Essential Patents (SEP)

Why in news?

- There is a **potential crisis in India** due to the way **certain technology companies are using 'standard essential patents' (SEPs) against the telecom manufacturing sector.**
- The **regulation of SEPs has been left to the judiciary**, which has largely failed to address the issue.

About SEP:

- A Standard Essential Patent (SEP) is a **patent granted for a technological invention that is crucial for the implementation and operation of a standard.**
- A **standard is a set of technical requirements or agreed technical descriptions that ensure technologies interact and work together.** These can be adopted worldwide, regionally, or nationally.

Localizing the SDGs: Women in Local Governance in India Lead the Way

Why in news?

- The **Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj are collaborating to organize an event with the United Nations Population Fund.**
- The title of the event is "**Localizing the SDGs: Women in Local Governance in India Lead the Way**".
- This event is scheduled to take place during the **57th Session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD57).**

About Commission on Population and Development (CPD57):

- The Commission on Population and Development was **established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 1946.**
- The Commission is composed of **47 member countries.**



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member countries are elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of four years based on geographic distribution. • The Commission was constituted as a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism. • The meetings of the Commission were held typically every two or three years until 1994. After 1994, it has been held once a year.
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Kerala Regional News

<p>Kerala State Council for Child Welfare</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seven children made the journey from the Kerala State Council for Child Welfare to the homes of their adoptive parents. • This is the first time in the council's history that seven children were given for adoption on a single day. <p>About Kerala State Council for Child Welfare:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment: The KSCCW was established to focus on the welfare of children in Kerala, ensuring their well-being, development, and protection. • Location: It is located in Thiruvananthapuram, the capital city of Kerala. • Objectives: The primary objectives of KSCCW are to promote measures for child welfare, enhance children's health and education, and protect children's rights across Kerala. • Child Adoption: KSCCW is recognized as a Specialized Adoption Agency (SAA) and facilitates the adoption process within Kerala. It also addresses the needs and procedures related to inter-country adoptions.
<p>Ammakkoru Koottu (Companion for mother) project</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ammakkoru Koottu (Companion for mother) project at SAT Hospital has been declared a success by the Minister for Health. • This is the first time that a woman relative of a patient is being allowed even in the labour room at SAT Hospital. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project was introduced on an experimental basis



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	<p>and has proven to be a relief not only to the woman giving birth but also to their kin.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It helps to know the exact treatment provided and seek clarifications from doctors or nurses. • The project was designed to give the woman in labour more confidence while also ensuring privacy. • A pregnant woman could decide at the time of admission to hospital itself who — mother, sister, or any other relative — should be beside her in labour. • Classes were given both to the pregnant woman and her kin on what to do at various stages without getting nervous.
<p>Enforcement Directorate (ED)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has expedited the process to confiscate more assets in the Karuvannur Co-operative Bank scam. • The ED is working to confiscate more assets, including those in the benami name of the accused, to return the money to the defrauded investors. <p>About ED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Enforcement Directorate is a law enforcement agency and economic intelligence agency responsible for enforcing economic laws and fighting economic crime in India. • It was established in 1956. • The ED operates under the Department of Revenue of the Ministry of Finance. • Primary Functions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Enforcement of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA), which replaced the earlier Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 (FERA). ◦ Enforcement of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA).
<p>Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has issued a red alert along the Kerala and south Tamil Nadu coast due to swell waves. • The Kerala State Disaster Management Authority has directed people to move away from beaches. <p>About INCOIS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INCOIS was established in 1999. • It is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Earth Sciences. • The primary purpose of INCOIS is to provide the best



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	<p>possible ocean information and advisory services to society, industry, government agencies, and the scientific community through sustained ocean observations and constant improvements through systematic and focused research.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The headquarters of INCOIS is located in Hyderabad, Telangana.
<p>Project Bhoomika</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Architect N S Abhayakumar won the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) design award in the category of cost-effective rural/urban housing deploying innovative/emerging & disaster-resistant technology. The award was for Project Bhoomika, a flood-relief housing initiative where 10 houses were built for people in Cheruthana village of Alappuzha who lost their houses in the 2018 floods. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The design scheme of the project was based on a cost-effective and disaster-resistant technology. A unique aspect of Project Bhoomika was the partial inclusion of its beneficiaries in the design process, allowing them to choose the design without affecting the cost. The project involved young students of architecture and civil engineering in the implementation of a socially relevant human settlement project. Considering the topography of the region, the houses were conceived in such a way that different parts could be pre-fabricated and transported by boat and then erected at the site.

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