



09 July 2024

National and International News

<p>Biligiri Ranganathaswamy Temple Tiger Reserve (BRT)</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 35-year-old female elephant was found dead at Mavathuru, Bailuru wildlife range of Biligiri Ranganathaswamy Temple Tiger Reserve (BRT) recently. <p>About BRT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: Chamarajanagar district, Karnataka Bio-geographical Habitat: Situated between the Western and Eastern Ghats Name Origin: Derived from 'BILIGIRI', the white rocky cliff with a temple of Lord 'VISHNU', locally known as 'Rangaswamy' Tiger Reserve Status: Declared in 2011 Vegetation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primarily dry deciduous forest Interspersed with moist deciduous, semi-evergreen, evergreen, and shola patches at varying altitudes.
<p>Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Agreement (BBNJ)</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister of India, has recently approved the signing of the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement by India. <p>About BBNJ Agreement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treaty Under UNCLOS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An international treaty under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Aims to protect marine biodiversity in the high seas. Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses long-term protection of marine biodiversity. Ensures sustainable use of marine biological diversity. Promotes international cooperation and coordination. Regulations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibits sovereign claims over marine resources from the high seas. Ensures fair and equitable sharing of benefits. Minimizes impacts on the marine environment using area-based management tools. Establishes rules for conducting environmental impact assessments.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Contribution to SDGs: Contributes to several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG14 (Life Below Water).
<p>Integrated Tribal Development Programme</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) recently launched an integrated tribal development programme in the Kulathupuzha grama panchayat, Kerala. <p>About Integrated Tribal Development Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Based on the ‘Wadi’ Model: Evolved with the support of national and international development agencies. ● Funding: Projects funded through the Tribal Development Fund. ● Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Integrated Development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Create replicable models of integrated development of tribal families on a participatory basis. ■ Focus on sustainable income-generating activities based on the area's potential and tribal needs. ● Strengthen Tribal Institutions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Build and strengthen tribal institutions. ○ Enable communities to participate in policy formulation and program execution. ○ Improve social and economic status. ● Build and strengthen producers’ organizations.
<p>Project PARI (Public Art of India)</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Ministry of Culture, Government of India, has initiated Project PARI (Public Art of India) on the occasion of the 46th Session of the World Heritage Committee Meeting. <p>About Project PARI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Project PARI (Public Art of India) aims to stimulate dialogue, reflection, and inspiration, contributing to the dynamic cultural fabric of the nation. ● It provides a platform to uplift the aesthetic and cultural outlook of Delhi while adding grandeur to the rich historical legacy of our national capital. ● The representation of Art in public spaces is particularly significant as it showcases the nation's rich and diverse cultural heritage. ● The proposed sculptures being created for Project PARI include wide-ranging ideas such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Paying tributes to nature, ○ Ideas inspired by the Natyashastra, Gandhi ji, ○ Toys of India,



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hospitality, ○ Ancient knowledge, ○ Naad or Primeval Soun, ○ Harmony of life, ○ Kalpataru – the divine tree, etc. ● Women artists have been an integral part of Project PARI and their participation in large numbers is a testimony of Bharat’s NARI SHAKTI. ● This initiative is being executed by the Lalit Kala Akademi, an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Culture.
<p>Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN)</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has recently released draft rules for the Digital Bharat Nidhi, aiming to enhance telecom connectivity in rural areas, in a fresh attempt by the central government. <p>About Digital Bharat Nidhi:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Replacement of USOF: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) replaces the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). ○ USOF was funded by a 5% Universal Service Levy on the Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) of all telecom operators. ● Purpose of Funds: The funds are used for the expansion of telecom networks in remote and rural areas. ● Contribution Process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Telecom companies contribute to the DBN as per the Telecom Act. ○ Contributions are first credited to the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI). ○ The Central government periodically deposits collected funds into the DBN. ● Usage of DBN Funds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Support universal service by promoting telecommunication access and delivery in underserved areas. ○ Fund research and development of telecommunication services, technologies, and products. ○ Introduce new telecommunication services, technologies, and products. ○ Provide targeted access to telecommunication services for underserved groups such as women, persons with disabilities, and economically and socially weaker sections.



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