



16 July 2024

National and International News

<p>SIM Swapping Scam</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Google Fi Wireless has introduced a new security feature called 'Number Lock.' ● This feature allows users to prevent SIM swapping, a growing cybersecurity threat, by taking control of their security. <p>About SIM Swapping Scam:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A SIM swap scam occurs when a malicious actor convinces a mobile carrier to transfer a victim's phone number to a new SIM card in the actor's possession. ● This grants the actor access to the victim's calls, texts, two-factor authentication codes, and potentially financial accounts linked to the number. ● Modus Operandi: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Information Gathering: Fraudsters obtain personal details such as phone numbers, bank account details, and addresses through phishing or vishing. ○ Visiting Retail Outlet: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Using the gathered information, fraudsters visit the mobile operator's retail outlet, posing as the victim with forged ID proof. ■ They report a fake theft of the victim's SIM card and/or mobile phone. ○ Obtaining Duplicate SIM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ By reporting the theft, fraudsters acquire a duplicate SIM. ■ Notably, they can obtain a duplicate SIM even if the original is still functional. ● No Direct Communication with Victims: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Unlike other scams, the SIM swap scam doesn't require direct communication with victims. ○ Fraudsters may give missed calls to their victims, causing them to leave their phones and ignore the lost network connectivity. ● Control Over SIM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Once the SIM is swapped, the fraudster gains control over the victim's SIM. ○ All calls and messages are directed to the fraudster's SIM. ● Access to Sensitive Information: With control of the SIM, fraudsters can obtain passwords and OTPs, allowing them to access the victim's bank accounts and other sensitive
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	information.
Manjeera Wildlife Sanctuary	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Manjeera Wildlife Sanctuary in Telangana is being studied to potentially become the state's first Ramsar site. <p>About Manjeera Wildlife Sanctuary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: Medak district, Telangana. Original Purpose: Established as a crocodile sanctuary. Biodiversity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bird Species: Over 70 species, including waterbirds. Vulnerable Species: Home to the mugger crocodile. Geographical Features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> River: Follows the course of river Manjeera, a tributary of Godavari. Reservoir: Manjeera reservoir, man-made, supports irrigation and provides drinking water to Hyderabad and Secunderabad. Islands: Contains nine small islands with extensive marshy fringes for nesting waterbirds and thick tree cover. Vegetation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Type: Dry Savannah. Flora: Includes Typha, Babool, Prosopis, Ipomoea, Acacia, Vallisneria, Eichhornia, and Reeds. Aquatic Vegetation: Supports both submergent and emergent types. Fauna: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reptiles: Mugger crocodile and freshwater turtles. Aquatic Life: Prawns, molluscs, and fishes like catla, rohu, murrel, eel, karugu, and chidwa. Mammals: Indian hare, wild boar, mongoose, and jackal.
e-FAST India initiative	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NITI Aayog has recently launched the 'NITI GearShift Challenge' as part of the e-FAST India initiative. <p>About e-FAST India initiative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective: To decarbonize road-based freight transportation in India to meet the 2070 net zero commitments. Launch Date: September 2022. Goal: Transition towards cleaner and greener freight transportation. Platform Functions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitates national and international collaborations. Supports ideation and development of scalable pilot programs. Explores technology integration and associated research.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stakeholders: Includes government, Original Equipment Manufacturers, Logistics Service Providers, Shippers, and industry experts.
<p>National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI)</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Scientists from the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) have discovered new evidence highlighting the ancient connection between the Indian subcontinent and Antarctica. <p>About NGRI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Organization: National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), a constituent research laboratory of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). ● Established: 1961. ● Location: Hyderabad, Telangana. ● Mission: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conduct research in multidisciplinary areas of Earth's complex structure and processes. ○ Focus on Earth's interlinked subsystems. ● Mandate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conduct public-good science. ○ Enable informed decision-making for government agencies, public, and private sector stakeholders. ○ Promote sustainable use of geo-resources. ○ Improve preparedness and resilience to natural hazards. ● Research Themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Geodynamics ○ Earthquake Hazards ○ Natural Resources.
<p>NITI GearShift Challenge</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NITI Aayog has recently launched the 'NITI GearShift Challenge' as part of the e-FAST India initiative. <p>About NITI GearShift Challenge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Launched by NITI in collaboration with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IIM Bangalore ○ Smart Freight Centre India ○ CALSTART/Drive to Zero ○ WRI India ● Pioneering hackathon aimed at fostering innovative business models for zero-emission trucks (ZETs) in India. ● Addresses pressing economic and environmental challenges. ● NITI GearShift Challenge invites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students ○ Transport service practitioners ○ Academics



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