



09 August 2024

National and International News

<p><b>Bhoj Wetland</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Union Government</b> recently <b>denied any threat of delisting the Bhoj Wetland</b> from the <b>Ramsar Convention list of wetlands of international importance.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>About Bhoj Wetland:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Location:</b> Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.</li> <li>• <b>Structure:</b> Consists of two contiguous human-made reservoirs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Upper Lake:</b> Also known as Bhojtal (Bada Talaab).</li> <li>○ <b>Lower Lake:</b> Known as Chhota Talaab.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Upper Lake:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ South: <b>Van Vihar National Park.</b></li> <li>○ East and North: Human settlements.</li> <li>○ West: Agricultural fields.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Importance:</b> Upper Lake is a <b>major source of potable water for Bhopal.</b></li> </ul>
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## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve

### Why in the news?

- The Chhattisgarh government announced the establishment of a new tiger reserve, named Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve.

### About Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve:

- **Location:** Northern part of Chhattisgarh, bordering Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand.
- **Tiger Reserve Status:** This is the fourth Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh, following Udanti-Sitanadi, Achanakmar, and Indravati Reserves.
- **Area Coverage:** Spread across Guru Ghasidas National Park and Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary in Chhattisgarh.
- **Rivers:**
  - Origin of significant rivers like Hasdeo Gopad and Baranga.
  - Catchment area for rivers such as Neur, Bijadhur, Banas, Rehand.
- **Connectivity:** Acts as a corridor for tigers to move between Bandhavgarh and Palamau Tiger Reserves.
- **Historical Background:**
  - Originally part of the Sanjay Dubri National Park.
  - Guru Ghasidas Park was established as a separate entity in Chhattisgarh's Sarguja region after the formation of the state in 2001.



<p><b>National Coastal Mission Scheme</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Minister of State for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change</b> recently informed the Lok Sabha about the <b>National Coastal Scheme</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>About National Coastal Mission Scheme:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Launch Year:</b> 2014</li> <li>• <b>Envisioned Under:</b> National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)</li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> To <b>address the impact of climate change on coastal and marine ecosystems, infrastructure, and communities in coastal areas</b> through adaptation and mitigation measures.</li> <li>• <b>Associated Program:</b> National Coastal Management Program</li> <li>• <b>Key Components:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Management Action Plan:</b> Conservation of Mangroves and Coral Reefs.</li> <li>○ <b>Research &amp; Development:</b> Focused on Marine and Coastal ecosystems.</li> <li>○ <b>Sustainable Development of Beaches:</b> Under the Beach Environment &amp; Aesthetic Management Service (BEAMS).</li> <li>○ <b>Capacity Building &amp; Outreach:</b> Program for Coastal States/UTs on conservation, including beach cleaning drives.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Implementation:</b> <b>State Governments of Coastal States and Union Territory (UT) Administrations</b> are the implementing agencies.</li> </ul>
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Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024

Why in the news?

- **Waqf Bill** referred to the **joint parliamentary panel** after the Opposition calls it 'draconian' and an attack on the Constitution.

What is Waqf?

- Waqf refers to **properties designated exclusively for religious or charitable purposes** under **Islamic law**.
- Once established, a **waqf cannot be revoked**.
- **Significance:** Waqf boards are the **third-largest landowners in India, managing over 9 lakh acres of land** valued at approximately **Rs 1.2 lakh crore**.

About Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024:

- **Central Waqf Council:** The bill proposes the establishment of a **Central Waqf Council** alongside **state Waqf Boards**, with representation from **Muslim women and non-Muslims**.
- **District Collector's Role:** The bill proposes **designating the District Collector as the primary authority to determine whether a property is classified as waqf or government land, shifting responsibility from the Waqf Tribunal**. This is a contentious change, as critics fear it may lead to misuse of authority.
- **Board of Auqaf:** A **separate Board of Auqaf is proposed for the Boharas and Aghakhans**, ensuring representation for **Shias, Sunnis, Bohras, and Aghakhans** within waqf boards.
- **Central Government Authority:** The bill grants the central government the authority to **initiate audits of waqf properties, with auditors appointed by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India**.
- **Waqfnama Requirement:** The bill mandates a **valid waqfnama (official deed) to express one's intention to dedicate property as waqf**, replacing the current allowance for oral agreements.



Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP)

Why in the news?

- The central government recently announced the full list of awardees for the first-ever Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP) 2024.

About RVP:

- **Award Recipients:**
  - **Vigyan Team Award: ISRO-Chandrayaan 3 Team** for their contribution in Space Science and Technology.
  - **Vigyan Ratna Puraskar:** Celebrated **biochemist Govindarajan Padmanabhan** as the first recipient.
- **About Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP):**
  - A **new set of awards introduced by the Government of India** in the field of **Science, Technology, and Innovation**.
  - **Objective:** To recognize notable and inspiring contributions by scientists, technologists, and innovators, individually or in teams, across various fields.
  - **Significance:** It is one of the **highest recognitions in the field of science, technology, and innovation in India**.
- **Award Categories:**
  - **Vigyan Ratna (VR):** Recognizes **lifetime achievements** in any field of science and technology.
  - **Vigyan Shri (VS):** Recognizes **distinguished contributions in any field of science and technology**.
  - **Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (VY-SSB):** Encourages **young scientists up to 45 years** for exceptional contributions in science and technology.
  - **Vigyan Team (VT):** Awarded to a **team of three or more scientists/researchers/innovators** for exceptional team contributions in science and technology.
- **Award Ceremony:** To be held on **23rd August (National Space Day)**.



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