



10 October 2024

National and International News

<p>Machine Learning (ML)</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2024 Nobel Prize in Physics has been awarded to John Hopfield and Geoffrey Hinton for their pioneering discoveries and inventions that have advanced machine learning through artificial neural networks. <p>About Machine Learning (ML):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Machine Learning (ML) is a subset of Artificial Intelligence (AI) that focuses on enabling computer systems to learn and make decisions based on data, without being explicitly programmed for each task. In ML, algorithms analyze large amounts of data, identify patterns, and use these patterns to make predictions, decisions, or generate outputs. The more data these algorithms process, the better they get at making accurate decisions or predictions. Applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthcare: Assisting in diagnosis and personalized treatment plans. E-commerce: Powering recommendation engines that suggest products or services. Self-driving cars: Enabling safe navigation using computer vision and ML. Finance: Fraud detection, risk assessment. Business: Predictive maintenance, process automation.
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Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary

Why in the news?

- The **Bihar government** recently **announced that the Centre has approved** the establishment of a tiger reserve at the **Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary**.

About Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary:

- **Location:** Largest sanctuary in Kaimur District, **Bihar**, nestled in the **Vindhyachal hill ranges**.
- **Rivers:**
 - Acts as a vital catchment for **Kav, Sone, and Durgawati river systems**.
 - **Connected to Chandraprabha Wildlife Sanctuary (UP)**, with **links to Sanjay Dubri Tiger Reserve and Panna landscape (Madhya Pradesh)** through stepping stone forests in the Marihan, Sukrit, Chunar ranges and the wildlife sanctuaries of Ranipur (UP).
- **Vegetation:** Mosaic **prairie, tropical dry deciduous forests**, and swampy bogs dominate the region.
- **Fauna:** Notable species include Bengal tigers, Indian leopards, Indian boars, sloth bears, sambar deers, chitals, four-horned antelope, and nilgais.
- **Flora:** Key plant species include Salai (*Boswellia Serrata*), Siddha, Indian Rosewood (*Sheesham*), Jamun, Teak, Koraiya, Saal, and Jheengar.



Exercise Malabar 2024

Why in the news?

- **Exercise Malabar 2024** was officially launched in Visakhapatnam, the headquarters of the Eastern Naval Command (ENC).

About Exercise Malabar 2024:

- **Participants:** Navies from India, Australia, Japan, and the United States are participating in this annual maritime exercise.
- **Objective:** The primary goal is to strengthen cooperation and enhance security in the Indo-Pacific region.
- **Focus:** Through various drills and exercises, the participating navies aim to improve collective capabilities and interoperability in the region.
- Malabar Exercise started in 1992 as a bilateral naval exercise between India and the US Navy.
- The first Malabar Exercise in the Bay of Bengal took place in 2007.
- It expanded into a trilateral format with the inclusion of Japan in 2015.
- In 2020, the Australian Navy joined, making it a quadrilateral naval exercise.

Halari donkey

Why in the news?

- The endangered Halari donkeys, native to Gujarat's Halar region, are known for their intelligence and close cooperation with humans.

About Halari donkey:

- **Native Region:** Halari donkey is native to the Halar region of Gujarat, especially in the semi-arid areas of Jamnagar and Dwarka.
- **Appearance:** It is white in color, larger, and more resilient than other donkey breeds.
- **Social Behavior:** They are social animals, forming close bonds with people and used for transport needs.
- **Uses:**
 - **Pastoralist Communities:** The Bharwad and Rabari communities use the Halari donkey as a pack animal to carry luggage during migration with small ruminants.
 - **Potter Community:** The Kumbhar (potter) community in Dwarka uses the Halari donkey for pottery work.
 - **Milk:** Halari donkey milk is known for its sweetness. Milk powder made from it is sold internationally for ₹7,000 per kg and is used in cosmetic products.

DISTINCT FROM OTHERS

► Halari donkeys are shorter than horse but taller than other normally seen donkey breeds. They look almost like a small horse and have snow white fur. The breed has existed in the Halar region for more than 200 years.



► A litre of donkey milk can cost up to Rs 7,000, the costliest in the world.

► In ancient Egypt, Cleopatra bathed in donkey milk to preserve her legendary beauty and youth

► Donkey milk is rich in vitamins, polyunsaturated fatty acids and contains anti-aging, antioxidant and regenerating compounds which keep the skin hydrated and prevent wrinkles

► In Ayurveda, it used to treat skin diseases like eczema and psoriasis

► Globally, many firms sell cosmetic products like soaps, skin gels, face wash made from donkey milk as niche products

► Bharwad and Rabari communities used these donkeys to carry luggage during migration

BREED NAMED AFTER A REGION: The donkey breed has derived its name from Jam Sri Halaji Jadeja, said to be the ninth generation grandfather of Jam Sri Rawalji Lakhaji Jadeja, the founder of the Halar region in Saurashtra. Halar was first established with this name by Jam Shri Rawalji Lakhaji, a Jadeja Rajput, in 1540.



Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conservation Status: The Halari donkey is endangered, with fewer than 500 individuals remaining.
<p>Major Cherenkov Experiment (MACE) Observatory</p> <p>Atmospheric Experiment</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The MACE Observatory was recently inaugurated by the Secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. <p>About MACE Observatory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Location: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Situated at an altitude of ~4,300 meters in Hanle, Ladakh. ○ It is Asia's largest and the world's highest imaging Cherenkov telescope. ● Project Overview: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Developed indigenously by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) with support from the Electronics Corporation of India (ECIL), Hyderabad, and other Indian industry partners. ○ Aims to foster international collaborations and enhance India's contributions to space research. ● Scientific Goals: Observes high-energy gamma rays, contributing to global efforts to understand the universe's most energetic phenomena, such as supernovae, black holes, and gamma-ray bursts.

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