



18 November 2024

National and International News

<p><b>Mpox (monkeypox)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Researchers from the <b>University of California</b>, San Diego School of Medicine, and Boston University have developed an optical biosensor.</li> <li>• This biosensor can rapidly detect monkeypox, the virus responsible for mpox.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a <b>viral zoonotic disease</b> caused by the monkeypox virus.</li> <li>• The first human case of mpox was <b>recorded in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)</b>.</li> <li>• There are two known types (clades) of mpox virus — one that originated in Central Africa (Clade I) and one that originated in West Africa (Clade II).</li> <li>• <b>Symptoms:</b> Common symptoms of mpox are a skin rash or mucosal lesions, which can last 2–4 weeks accompanied by fever, headache, muscle aches, back pain, low energy, and swollen lymph nodes.</li> <li>• <b>Transmission:</b> Human-to-human transmission of mpox occurs through direct contact with body fluids, lesions, prolonged face-to-face contact, including sexual contact, and indirect contact with contaminated clothing or bedding.</li> <li>• <b>Treatment:</b> There are no specific treatments for monkeypox virus infection. Early and supportive care is important to help manage symptoms and avoid further problems.</li> </ul>
<p><b>National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• According to the <b>National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)</b>, as of <b>December 31, 2022</b>, there were 573,220 inmates in jails across India, exceeding the total capacity of 436,266, resulting in an <b>occupancy rate of 131%</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was established in <b>1986</b> to act as a repository of information on crime and criminals.</li> <li>• It comes under the <b>Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)</b>, Government of India.</li> <li>• It was set up based on the recommendations of the <b>Tandon Committee, the National Police Commission (1977-1981) and the Task Force of the Home Ministry</b>.</li> <li>• It is responsible for collecting and analyzing crime data as well</li> </ul>



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	<p>as serving as a repository of such information to aid investigators in tracing crimes and criminals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Headquarters:</b> New Delhi</li> <li>● The <b>Central Finger Print Bureau</b> under the NCRB is a national repository of all fingerprints in the country.</li> <li>● NCRB also compiles and publishes <b>National Crime Statistics</b> i.e. <b>Crime in India, Accidental Deaths &amp; Suicides, and also Prison Statistics.</b></li> <li>● NCRB also assists various States in capacity building in the areas of <b>Information Technology, CCTNS, Finger Prints, Network security, and Digital Forensics</b> through its training centers in Delhi and Kolkata.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Over 1 million senior citizens aged 70 and above have registered for the newly introduced Ayushman Vay Vandana scheme, granting them access to free healthcare benefits under the <b>Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>About:</b> It is the largest health assurance scheme in the world.</li> <li>● <b>Ministry:</b> Centrally Sponsored Scheme under Ministry of Health &amp; Family Welfare.</li> <li>● <b>Benefit:</b> Provides cashless hospital cover of Rs. 5 lakhs/ family/ year for secondary and tertiary care across public and private empanelled hospitals.</li> <li>● Covers up to 3 days of pre-hospitalization and 15 days post-hospitalization expenses such as diagnostics and medicine.</li> <li>● <b>Target:</b> 12 crore families (approximately 55 crore beneficiaries).</li> <li>● <b>Coverage:</b> Over 35.4 crore Ayushman cards have been issued, and the scheme is operational in 33 States and Union Territories.</li> <li>● <b>Gender Equity:</b> 49% of the Ayushman cards have been issued to women.</li> <li>● <b>Wide network:</b> It has been successfully empanelled 30,529 hospitals across the country, with 17,063 public and 13,466 private hospitals.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Centre's air pollution control panel for Delhi-NCR recently directed state governments in the region to implement the <b>first stage of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP).</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● GRAP is a <b>framework designed to combat air pollution</b> in the Delhi-NCR region.</li> <li>● It was introduced as an emergency response mechanism, and its implementation is triggered when the Air Quality Index (AQI) reaches "poor" levels.</li> <li>● GRAP is particularly important during the winter months when air</li> </ul>



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	<p>quality tends to plummet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in NCR and adjoining areas oversees the implementation of GRAP.</b></li> <li>• It collaborates with the <b>Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).</b></li> <li>• The CAQM has constituted a sub-committee for the operationalization of the GRAP.</li> <li>• <b>Different stages of GRAP: GRAP consists of four stages, each with targeted actions to be taken by the necessary authorities and agencies. These are the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Stage I: "Poor" air quality (Delhi AQI: 201-300)</li> <li>○ Stage II: "Very Poor" air quality (Delhi AQI: 301-400)</li> <li>○ Stage III: "Severe" air quality (Delhi AQI: 401-450)</li> <li>○ Stage IV: "Severe+" air quality (Delhi AQI &gt; 450)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>What is the Air Quality Index (AQI)?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AQI is issued by government agencies to <b>gauge air pollution levels and communicate risks to the public.</b></li> <li>• It indicates how air pollution can affect health, with higher AQI values indicating more severe health concerns.</li> <li>• According to the AQI scale, the air quality check between <b>0 and 50 is "Good", 51 and 100 "Satisfactory", 101 and 200 "Moderate", 201 and 300 "Poor", 301 and 400 "Very Poor", 401 and 450 "Severe" and over 450 as "Severe +".</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Hypersonic missile</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India successfully conducts a 'historic' test of a hypersonic missile with a range of 1,500 km.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A hypersonic missile is a weapon system which flies at least at the speed of Mach 5 i.e. <b>five times the speed of sound and is maneuverable.</b></li> <li>• The maneuverability of the hypersonic missile is what sets it apart from a ballistic missile as the latter follows a set course or a ballistic trajectory.</li> <li>• Thus, unlike ballistic missiles, hypersonic missiles <b>do not follow a ballistic trajectory and can be maneuvered to the intended target.</b></li> <li>• The two types of hypersonic weapons systems are <b>Hypersonic Glide Vehicles (HGV) and Hypersonic Cruise Missiles.</b></li> <li>• While the US, Russia and China are in advanced stages of hypersonic missile programmes, India, France, Germany, Japan and Australia too are developing hypersonic weapons.</li> </ul>



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