



10 December 2024

National and International News

<p>Places in news: Pilibhit Tiger Reserve</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An investigation has been initiated following the circulation of a viral video, which shows a convoy of vehicles, reportedly belonging to a minister in Uttar Pradesh, passing through the core area of the Pilibhit Tiger Reserve. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is located in Pilibhit District, Lakhimpur Kheri District, and Bahraich District of Uttar Pradesh. It lies along the India-Nepal border in the foothills of the Himalayas and the plains of the ‘terai’ in Uttar Pradesh. The river Gomti originates from the PTR, which is also the catchment of several others like Sharda, Chuka, and Mala Khannot. The Sharda Sagar Dam, extending up to a length of 22 km (14 mi), is on the boundary of the reserve. Vegetation: North Indian moist deciduous type. It has a dry and hot climate, which brings a combination of dry teak forest and Vindhya Mountain soils.
<p>Species in news: Indian star tortoise</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Researchers have identified two separate groups of Indian star tortoises, suggesting that simply releasing seized individuals into nearby forests may be an unscientific approach to their conservation. This study highlights the need for more targeted conservation efforts. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Its name comes from the star-like patterns that feature on its high-domed shell. It has very distinctive patterns and its highly rounded shell makes it popular in the world's trade in exotic pets. Habitat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They occupy a wide variety of habitats, including semi-arid lowland forests, thorn scrub forests, semi-desert and arid grasslands. This species has a high tolerance for habitats that are seasonally wet or dry, with many populations inhabiting areas with a monsoon or rainy season followed by a long hot and dry period.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution: It is endemic to the subcontinent and resides in arid pockets of northwest India (bordering Pakistan), South India, and Sri Lanka. • Conservation status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IUCN: Vulnerable ○ CITES:Appendix I ○ Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972: Schedule I • Threats: The highly fragmented habitat of the species is greatly influenced by an increased level of urbanisation and agricultural practices throughout its range.
<p>India Internet Governance Forum</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF) 2024 will be held on December 9-10, 2024, at the Bharat Mandapam Convention Center, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the Indian chapter of the United Nations Internet Governance Forum (UN IGF). • It is a global multi-stakeholder platform that fosters dialogue on public policy issues related to the Internet. • Established in 2021, aims to maximize the opportunities of the Internet while addressing associated challenges and risks. • IIGF promotes collaborative discussions among representatives from government, civil society, industries, technical communities, think tanks, and industry associations. • Key Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The initiative is backed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI). ○ This initiative, driven by India's multi-stakeholder community, aims to delve into important aspects of Internet governance, encourage meaningful discussions, and showcase India's leadership in the global digital arena. ○ The forum will address critical topics to promote a secure, inclusive, and sustainable digital ecosystem. ○ A major focus will be on Legal and Regulatory Frameworks, aimed at creating balanced, growth-driven policies to strengthen Internet governance. ○ Another key area of focus is Responsible AI, emphasizing the ethical and effective application of artificial intelligence for the benefit of society.
<p>PMeVIDYA</p>	<p>Why in news?</p>



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- Recently, the union Minister for Education launched the PMeVIDYA DTH 24x7 Channel No. 31 for Indian Sign Language (ISL) in New Delhi.

Key Points:

- It was launched as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan by the Ministry of Education on 17th May 2020.
- It is aimed at bridging the digital divide and ensuring inclusive, quality education for all learners across the nation.
- It provides multi-mode access to education through digital, online, and on-air platforms to minimise learning losses.
- It supports the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, ensuring equitable and quality education across the country.
- Components:
 - DIKSHA: A national platform offering high-quality e-content, including QR-coded textbooks for all grades.
 - PM e-Vidya DTH TV Channels: Expanded from 12 to 200 channels, providing supplementary education in multiple languages for classes 1-12 across India.
 - SWAYAM: A national MOOC platform offering higher education courses and school courses (9th-12th) with credit transfer options, with over 10,000 courses and 4.1 lakh NCERT students enrolled.
 - Radio, Community Radio & CBSE Podcast - Shiksha Vani: Platforms used to broadcast educational content, especially in areas with limited internet access.
 - e-Content for Teachers: Offers digital resources and interactive e-courses for teacher and school education.

INS Tushil



Why in news?

- The Indian Navy is set to commission its latest multi-role stealth guided missile frigate, INS Tushil, at Kaliningrad, Russia, next week.

Key Points:

- It is a multi-role stealth guided missile frigate.
- It is the latest in a series of upgraded Krivak III-class frigates, part of the Russian-designed Project 1135.6.
- The Indian Navy already operates six ships from this class, including three Talwar-class frigates and three Teg-class follow-ons, all built at Russian shipyards in St. Petersburg and Kaliningrad.



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- INS Tushil, the seventh vessel in this series, is the first of two upgraded frigates under a contract signed in 2016 between the Indian Government, JSC Rosoboronexport, and the Russian defence industry.
- The ship's name, **Tushil**, translates to "protector shield," and its crest embodies the concept of an "Impenetrable Shield" (Abhedya Kavacham), reflecting the Navy's commitment to safeguarding India's maritime borders.
- The ship incorporates 26 percent indigenous technology, with over 33 systems developed by Indian manufacturers.
- The ship will be assigned to the Western Fleet under the Western Naval Command, joining the "Sword Arm" of the Indian Navy.

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