



03 January 2025

National and International News

<p><b>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India has submitted its <b>fourth Biennial Update Report to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change(UNFCCC) is an <b>international environmental treaty which seeks to reduce atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases, with the aim of preventing dangerous anthropogenic interference with the earth's climate system.</b></li> <li>The UNFCCC, <b>signed in 1992</b> at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development also known as the <b>Earth Summit, the Rio Summit or the Rio Conference</b></li> <li>It is a <b>framework which requires individual participating countries to commit to stabilizing greenhouse gas emissions.</b></li> <li>There are 197 parties to the convention, who meet annually in Conferences of the Parties (COP) to assess progress in dealing with climate change.</li> <li>The objective of the UNFCCC, as <b>outlined in Article 2, is to "stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent harmful human interference with the climate system."</b></li> <li>This goal is further clarified by the need to achieve it within a timeframe that allows ecosystems to naturally adapt to climate change, ensures food production is not compromised, and supports sustainable economic development.</li> <li><b>Key Highlights of the report:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India reduced its emission intensity of GDP by <b>36%</b> between 2005 and 2020, decoupling economic growth from GHG emissions.</li> <li>By October 2024, <b>46.52%</b> of India's installed electricity generation capacity was from non-fossil sources.</li> <li>The total installed renewable power capacity, including large hydropower, reached <b>203.22 GW.</b></li> <li>Cumulative renewable power capacity (excluding large hydro) increased <b>4.5 times from 35 GW in March 2014 to 156.25 GW.</b></li> <li>India's forest and tree cover currently stands at <b>25.17% of the total geographical area.</b></li> <li>Between 2005 and 2021, an additional carbon sink of <b>2.29 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent</b> was created.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Parkinson's Disease</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recently, researchers have demonstrated that a <b>nano-formulation of</b></li> </ul>



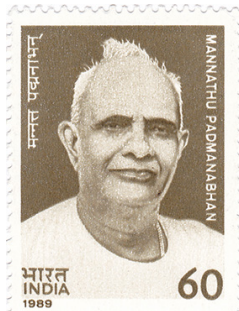
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melatonin, the hormone released by the brain in response to darkness, exhibits enhanced antioxidative and neuroprotective effects, making it a promising potential treatment for Parkinson's disease (PD).

Key Points:

- It is a **progressive neurological disorder that affects the nervous system and the parts of the body controlled by the nerves.**
- It is a condition in which a **patient holds limited or no control over his movements and body balance.**
- It occurs and progresses with ageing, but in rare cases, it is also witnessed among children and teenagers as well.
- It has **no cure.**
- **Cause:**
  - It is caused by the degeneration of nerve cells in the part of the brain called the substantia nigra, which controls movement.
- **Symptoms:**
  - Tremors (trembling in the hands, arms, legs, and jaw); rigidity (stiffness of the limbs); slowness of movement; and impaired balance and coordination.
- Parkinson's patients may also experience other symptoms such as difficulty in swallowing, chewing, and speaking, urinary problems, constipation, skin problems, depression, emotional changes, and sleep disruption.
- Currently, no blood laboratory or radiological tests are available to diagnose Parkinson's disease.

Person in news: Sri Mannathu Padmanabhan



Why in news?

- The Prime Minister pays tribute to **Sri Mannathu Padmanabhan on his birth anniversary.**

Key Points:

- He was **born on 2nd January 1878 in Perunna, Kottayam district of Kerala.**
- He was an **Indian social reformer and freedom fighter from the south-western state of Kerala.**
- Sardar K M Panicker called him '**Madan Mohan Malaviya of Kerala.**
- He began his career as a teacher in 1893 in a Government primary school.
- **Political and Social Contribution:**
  - He took part in the **Vaikom (1924) and Guruvayoor (1931) temple-entry Satyagrahas and the anti-untouchability agitations.**
    - **Vaikom Satyagraha** was a movement in Travancore (modern-day Kerala) for temple entry of the depressed classes.
    - **Guruvayur Satyagraha** was a Satyagraha (non-violent protest) to allow entry for untouchables into the Guruvayur Temple in present Thrissur district.
  - He is regarded as the reformer and moral guide of the members of Nair community.
  - In 1914 he established the Nair Service Society.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ He became a member of the Indian National Congress in 1946 and took part in the agitation against Sir C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer's administration in Travancore.</li> <li>● <b>Awards &amp; Recognition:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ He received Padma Bhushan in 1966.</li> <li>○ He was honoured with the title Bharata Kesari by the President of India.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Places in news:</b> <b>Chabahar Port</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Iranian minister was in Delhi for discussions aimed at strengthening ties and boosting trade through Chabahar.</li> <li>● Tehran sought to enhance cooperation with Delhi across various sectors, including tourism and agriculture, with bilateral talks</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● It is a <b>deep-water port located in Iran's Sistan-Baluchistan province.</b></li> <li>● It is on the <b>Gulf of Oman at the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz.</b></li> <li>● It is the only Iranian port having direct access to the Indian Ocean.</li> <li>● It consists of two separate ports called Shahid Beheshti and Shahid Kalantari.</li> <li>● Its geographic proximity to countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India, as well as its status as a key transit center on the burgeoning International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), gives it the potential to develop into one of the most important commercial hubs in the region. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>INSTC is a multi-modal transportation route linking the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea via Iran, and onward to northern Europe via Saint Petersburg in Russia.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Chabahar Project:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In May 2016, India signed a tripartite agreement with Iran and Afghanistan to develop the Shahid Beheshti Terminal at Chabahar.</li> <li>○ <b>It is India's first foreign port project.</b></li> <li>○ The deal agreement aims to establish an international transport and transit corridor in Chabahar.</li> <li>○ The construction of the Chabahar Port and the construction of a rail line from Chabahar Port to Zahedan are the major highlights of this project.</li> <li>○ The idea was that the port would <b>enable India to bypass Pakistan and access Afghanistan, and ultimately Central Asia.</b></li> <li>○ Moreover, the port could serve as a hub for transit trade between India, Iran, and Afghanistan and provide an alternative route to the traditional Silk Road that passes through China.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>National e-Governance Awards Scheme</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Recently, the <b>Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances &amp; Pensions issued the scheme guidelines for the 28th National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) 2025.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>About:</b></li> <li>● It is recognized amongst the most competitive and prestigious digital</li> </ul>



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	<p>governance awards schemes in the country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Objective:</b> The objective of the Scheme is to recognize and promote excellence in implementation of e-Governance initiatives.</li> <li>● <b>The NAeG Awards, 2025 will consist of:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Trophy, Certificate and an incentive of Rs 10 lakh for Gold Awardees and Rs 5 Lakhs for Silver Awardees to be awarded to the District/organization for being utilized for implementation of project/programme or bridging resources gaps in any area of public welfare.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● This year 16 Awards are being conferred under the NAeG 2025. Of these 10 will be Gold Awards and 6 will be silver Awards.</li> <li>● Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances &amp; Pensions</li> <li>● <b>Categories for the year 2025:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Government Process Re-engineering through Technology for Digital Transformation</li> <li>○ Innovation with AI and new-age technologies for Citizen-Centric Services</li> <li>○ Best e-Gov Practices/Innovation in Cyber Security</li> <li>○ Grassroots Initiatives for Expanding Service Delivery, focusing on Districts/ULBs/Gram Panchayats</li> <li>○ Replication and Scaling of Awarded Projects (NAeG, PM Awards, other Ministry Awards) by States/UTs/Districts</li> <li>○ Digital Transformation via Data Analytics on Platforms by Central Ministries/States/UTs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Revision of Wholesale Price Index</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Recently, the government has formed a <b>panel to restructure the Wholesale Price Index from base 2011-2012 to 2022-23.</b></li> <li>● <b>Panel created under chairmanship of NITI Aayog member Prof.Ramesh Chand and 17 others.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● It <b>measures the changes in the prices of goods sold and traded in bulk by wholesale businesses to other businesses.</b></li> <li>● The WPI basket covers commodities falling under the three major groups, namely Primary Articles; Fuel and Power; and Manufactured products.</li> <li>● <b>Published by the Office of Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.</b></li> <li>● It is the most widely used inflation indicator in India.</li> <li>● <b>WPI was the main index for measurement of inflation in India till April 2014 when the RBI adopted Consumer Price Index (CPI) as the key measure of Inflation.</b></li> <li>● The base year of All-India WPI has been revised from <b>2004-05 to 2011-12 in 2017.</b></li> <li>● <b>WPI Food Index</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It is a <b>sub index of WPI, which measures the changes in prices of food items at the level of producers.</b></li> <li>○ It is compiled by <b>taking the aggregate of WPI for “Food Products” under “Manufactured Products” and “Food Articles” under “Primary Article” using weighted arithmetic</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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<p><b>Genetically Modified (GM) Crops</b></p>	<p>mean.</p> <p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recently, experts on <b>GM crop panels were required to declare any potential conflicts of interest.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Genetic Modification involves altering an organism's DNA. This can be done by altering an existing section of DNA, or by adding a new gene altogether.</li> <li><b>Working:</b> When a scientist performs genetic modification to a plant, they insert a foreign gene (called transgene) in the plant's own genes.</li> <li>This could be introduced from one plant to another plant, from a plant to an animal, or from a microorganism to a plant.</li> <li><b>Genetically Modified (GM) Crops in India:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Bt-Cotton:</b> It is the first non-food and only approved GM crop in 2002 for commercial cultivation. It was introduced to protect against the widespread infestation of bollworm.</li> <li><b>Bt-Brinjal:</b> In 2009, Bt-brinjal was cleared by GEAC for commercial cultivation, but it was put on a 10-year moratorium by the Technical Expert Committee (TEC).</li> <li><b>DMH-11</b> is developed by the Centre for Genetic Manipulation of Crop Plants (Delhi University). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It paves the way for the commercialisation of the country's first GM food crop.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Regulatory Framework of GM Crops in India:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006:</b> Prohibits import, manufacture, use, or sale of GM food without FSSAI approval.</li> <li><b>Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM):</b> Monitors GM organism R&amp;D under the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).</li> <li><b>State Biotechnology Coordination Committee (SBCC):</b> Reviews safety and control measures at institutions handling GMOs.</li> <li><b>District Level Committee (DLC):</b> Inspects and reports to SBCC/GEAC on regulatory compliance of GMOs.</li> <li><b>GM Crop Approval Process:</b> Granted after thorough scientific evaluation of health and environmental safety per the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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