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National and International News

<p>Human Metapneumovirus</p> <div data-bbox="207 583 565 877"> <p>WHAT DO WE KNOW</p> <p>What is human metapneumovirus? Human metapneumovirus (hMPV) is a viral infection that typically leads to symptoms resembling those of the common cold</p> <p>Symptoms: Cough, fever, runny or blocked nose, sore throat, wheezing, shortness of breath, and rashes</p> <p>How is hMPV contracted? It is caused by a virus which belongs to same viral family as those responsible for RSV, measles, and mumps</p> <p>Transmission mode:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coughing and sneezing ● Physical contact such as shaking hands, or hugging ● Touching contaminated objects or surfaces, such as phones, doorknobs, etc <p>Treatment: Currently, there are no antiviral treatments for hMPV</p> </div>



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- The golden jackal, also known as the **common jackal**, is a **medium-sized wolf-like canid**.
- It is strictly **nocturnal in areas inhabited by humans, but may be partly diurnal elsewhere**.
- **Habitat:** These animals are abundant in valleys and along rivers and their tributaries, canals, lakes, and seashores, but are rare in foothills and low mountains.
- **Distribution:** North and East Africa, Southeastern Europe and South Asia to Burma.
- They are quite widespread across India. Right from the Himalayan foothills, down to the Western Ghats, the Golden Jackal has a wide distribution.
- **Conservation Status**
 - IUCN: Least Concern
 - CITES: Appendix III
 - Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I
- **Threats:** Habitat loss from encroachments and poor management threaten their survival.

SpaDeX Mission



Why in news?

- The Indian Space Research Organisation announced that the **docking of two SpaDeX satellites, originally scheduled for January 7, has been rescheduled to January 9.**

Key Points:

- The Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) is a groundbreaking mission by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) **aimed at developing autonomous space docking technology.**
- The mission involves **PSLV-C60 as the launch vehicle** to demonstrate in-space docking technology using **two small spacecraft: Chaser (SDX01) and Target (SDX02).**
- This technology is a critical milestone for future lunar missions, the development of the **Bharatiya Antriksh Station (BAS)**, and other advanced space endeavours.
- The **concept of space docking was first achieved by the Soviet Union in 1967 with the docking of Kosmos 186 and Kosmos 188.**
- SpaDeX positions **India as a potential fourth country globally to master space docking technology.**

Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA)

Why in news?

- Recently, the Ministry of Power successfully completed **ten years of distributing and selling LED lights under its flagship UJALA programme.**

Key Points:

- It is a **zero-subsidy scheme launched in 2015.**
- It is also known as the **LED-based Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme (DELP)** and is the **world's largest**



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	<p>domestic lighting project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Aim: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To promote the efficient usage of energy for all i.e., its consumption, savings and lighting. ● Eligibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Every domestic household having a metered connection can get LED bulbs. ● Achievements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ More than 36.78 crore LEDs have been distributed across the country. ○ UJALA succeeded in bringing down the retail price of LED bulbs from INR 300-350 per bulb to INR 70-80 per bulb. ○ It has made affordable energy accessible to all and the programme also resulted in massive energy savings. ○ It has helped in reducing annual household electricity bills. ○ It encourages Make in India as domestic manufacturing of LED bulbs has increased from 1 lakh per month to 40 million per month.
<p>PM-YASASVI Scheme</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In Punjab, under the Prime Minister YASASVI Scheme, students from Other Backward Classes (OBC), Economically Backward Classes (EBC) and Denotified and Nomadic Tribes (DNT) can now apply for the Post-Matric Scholarship. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is a comprehensive umbrella scheme aimed at uplifting students from Other Backward Classes (OBC), Economically Backward Classes (EBC), and Denotified Tribes (DNT) by providing them with access to quality education during their formative years. ● It has consolidated and enhanced several earlier initiatives, including the Dr. Ambedkar Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme for EBCs and the Dr. Ambedkar Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme for DNTs, which were subsumed under this program starting from 2021-22. ● Objective: The overarching goal of the scheme is to promote educational empowerment among these vulnerable groups, helping them overcome financial barriers and complete their education. ● Under this Scheme students can avail Pre-Matric Scholarship from Class 9 to 10 and Post Matric Scholarship for their higher studies at post-matriculation or post-secondary stage. ● Eligibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Pre-Matric Scholarship is designed for students in classes IX and X attending government schools, ○ Family income below Rs. 2.5 lakh. ● Implementing Agency: Department of Social Justice and



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<p>Places in news: Banihal Bypass</p>	<p>Empowerment, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.</p> <p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways recently announced the completion of a 4-lane, 2.35 km Banihal Bypass on NH-44. • Project Details: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2.35 km, four-lane bypass near Banihal town on NH-44, costing ₹224.44 crore. ○ Strategically bypasses roadside markets to ease congestion. • Purpose & Impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strengthens national security logistics and boosts tourism in Kashmir. ○ Ensures smoother traffic flow and reduced travel time for defence and civilian vehicles. • Historical Context: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Initiated in 2010 under the UPA government and continued by the present regime. • Challenges Addressed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The project resolves congestion issues in hilly terrains, especially in winter-prone accident zones like Marog-Digdol and Khuni-Nallah. • Key Facts about NH-44: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NH44, also known as the Old NH 7, is the longest national highway in India. ○ It ranks 22nd among the longest national highways globally. ○ It stretches for a whopping 3,745 kilometers (2,327 miles), connecting Srinagar in the northern tip of Jammu and Kashmir to Kanyakumari at the southernmost point of India. ○ NH44 traverses a total of 11 Indian states. The highway passes through Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.
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