



मराठी

14 May 2024

Maharashtra State Specific News

Leopard cat



Why in news?

- A **leopard cat** has been **spotted for the first time in the Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra.**

About leopard cat:

- **Species:** It is a **species of forest-dwelling cat**, belonging to the **family Felidae**, noted for its **leopard-like colouring.**
- **Distribution:** The leopard cat is the **most widely distributed Asian small cat.** Its range extends from the **Amur region in the Russian Far East, over the Korean Peninsula, China, Indochina, the Indian Subcontinent,** to the West in **northern Pakistan**, and to the south in the **Philippines** and the **Sunda Islands of Indonesia.**
- **Habitat:** Leopard cats are **found in agriculturally used areas but prefer forested habitats.** They inhabit **tropical evergreen rainforests and plantations at sea level, and subtropical deciduous and coniferous forests** in the foothills of the Himalayas at **altitudes above 1000 m.**
- They are solitary, **nocturnal carnivores.**
- **Conservation Status:** The leopard cat is listed as **"Least Concern"** on the **IUCN Red List.**

C-60 commandos

Why in news?

- **Three Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security forces in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli district.**
- **Two units of C-60 commandos,** were immediately sent for a search in the area.

About C-60 commandos:

- The C-60 Commandos are a **specialized combat wing of the Gadchiroli police in Maharashtra.**
- The C-60 Commandos were **set up by K P Raghuvanshi in 1990 to counter Naxal violence in Maharashtra.**
- They are **similar to the Greyhound forces in Telangana** and the **SOG special units in Andhra Pradesh.**
- The C-60 Commandos have been singularly **responsible for the reduction in the instances of attacks by Maoists in Gadchiroli.**

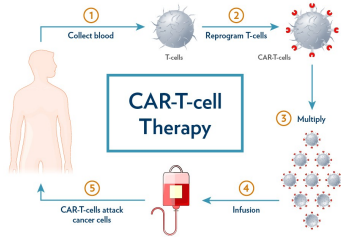


<p>FLiRT variant</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maharashtra has detected 91 instances of the novel Covid-19 Omicron subvariant KP.2, which is part of the FLiRT variant group. ● This subvariant has surpassed the previously dominant JN.1 variant and is currently the primary driver of cases in several nations. <p>About FLiRT variant group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The FLiRT variant group of Covid-19 refers to a cluster of new variants within the Omicron JN.1 lineage, including variants such as KP.2 and KP 1.11. ● The FLiRT variants are descendants of JN.1 and are known for their increased transmissibility compared to previous Omicron subvariants. ● The nickname 'FLiRT' is based on the technical names for their mutations. ● The FLiRT variants are part of the Omicron family.
<p>Water crisis in Chikhaldara</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A popular tourist destination Chikhaldara faces a severe water crisis. <p>About Chikhaldara:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chikhaldara is a hill station located in the Amravati district of Maharashtra. ● It's the only coffee-growing area in Maharashtra and is often referred to as the 'Kashmir of Vidarbha'. ● The town is situated on a plateau in the Satpura Range of mountains, which lies at the border of the states of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. ● Chikhaldara boasts of beautiful lakes, Some of the popular tourist attractions include Bhimkund, Melghat Tiger Reserve, Narnala Fort, and Gwaligarh Fort. ● Wildlife: Chikhaldara abounds in wildlife, such as tigers, panthers, sloth bears, sambars, wild boar, and rarely seen wild dogs. The nearby Melghat Tiger Project houses 82 tigers.



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CAR-T cell therapy



Why in news?

- The **President of India** launched India's first home-grown anti-Cancer CAR-T cell therapy.
- The launch took place at the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay** in Mumbai.

About CAR-T cell therapy:

- CAR-T cell therapy involves **genetically engineering a patient's T-cells to produce chimeric antigen receptors (CARs)** on their surface.
- These receptors are **designed to recognize and bind to specific proteins on tumor cells, enabling the T-cells to attack cancer cells.**
- It is primarily used to **treat certain types of blood cancers, including refractory acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) and advanced lymphomas.**

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