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15 December 2023

International & National News

<p>India's fastest solar-electric boat launched</p> 	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Barracuda- India's fastest solar-electric boat was launched at the Navalt Solar and Electric Boats yard, located off Aroor in Alappuzha.● It is an example of eco-friendly maritime transportation <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● It is named after the swift, long fish, Barracuda● It was designed by Navalt and can be deployed even in the rough seas as a workboat to ferry up to 12 passengers and cargo.● The 14-meter-long, 4.4-meter-wide vessel can attain a top speed of 12.5 knots (23 kmph) and has a range of seven hours on a single charge.● It has twin 50 kW electric motors, a marine-grade LFP battery, and 6 kW solar power.
<p>Dal Lake</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● It is a lake in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir.● It is surrounded by the Pir Panjal mountains.● It is integral to tourism and recreation in Kashmir and is named the "Jewel in the crown of Kashmir" or "Srinagar's Jewel".● Spread across around 26 square kilometers, it is the second-largest lake in Jammu & Kashmir.● The wetland is divided by causeways into four basins; Gagribal, Lokut Dal, Bod Dal and Nagin.● Dal Lake is also popular for the floating market (known as Raad) where vendors have their own Shikaras and approach tourists.
<p>Iran set to remove visa requirement for Indians</p>	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Iran is expected to remove visa requirement for Indian travelers.● This is aimed at boosting the flow of tourists into Iran.● This is the first time that Tehran has included ordinary Indian passport holders on the list.● India has recently been placed on similar visa-exemption lists of countries such as Malaysia and Sri Lanka.



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Aerodrome license for Ayodhya Airport



Context

- The **Directorate General of Civil Aviation** has granted an **aerodrome license for the Ayodhya Airport**
- The Airports Authority of India has developed the airport at the cost of **₹350 crores**.
- The DGCA permit comes **ahead of the Ram Mandir inauguration**.

WHO on use of e-cigarettes



Context

- According to the **World Health Organization**, E-cigarettes as consumer products are not shown to be effective for quitting tobacco use at the population level.
- There is alarming evidence on its adverse population health effects

Key points

- Children in the age group of **13-15 years** are using **e-cigarettes at rates higher than that among adults** in all WHO regions
- E-cigarettes with nicotine are **highly addictive** and are harmful to health.
- They generate toxic substances, some of which are **known to cause cancer** and some that increase the risk of **heart and lung disorders**.
- It can also affect brain development and lead to learning disorders for young people.
- Foetal exposure to e-cigarettes can adversely **affect the development of the foetus in pregnant women**.
- Exposure to emissions from e-cigarettes also **poses risks to bystanders**.

Did you know?

- In India, the possession of e-cigarettes and similar devices is a violation of the **Prohibition of Electronic Cigarette Act, 2019**.
- Studies consistently show that young people who use e-cigarettes are **almost three times** more likely to use cigarettes later in life



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India and the U.S. combat financial crimes

Context

- India and the U.S. had a bilateral dialogue on **anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism**.

Key points

- The countries agreed on the pressing **need to accelerate the global implementation of standards for virtual assets** like crypto currencies.
- The countries also discussed steps to **enhance transparency in beneficial ownership**.

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