




01 April 2024

National and International News

<p>Meghayan 2024</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The METOC seminar 'Meghayan 2024' was conducted on 28th March 2024 by the School of Naval Oceanology & Meteorology (SNOM) and Indian Naval Meteorological Analysis Centre (INMAC) at Southern Naval Command. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The seminar commemorated World Meteorological Day, which marks the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on 23rd March 1950. The theme for the seminar was 'At the Frontline of Climate Action', aligning with WMO's focus for 2024. An indigenous mobile application, INDRA (Indian Naval Dynamic Resource for Weather Analysis), was launched to facilitate weather-related decision-making. The application was developed by BISAG (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics) in coordination with the Directorate of Naval Oceanology and Meteorology, Indian Navy.
<p>Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telangana is currently grappling with forest fires in the Tadvai region of the Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary in Mulugu and the Amrabad Tiger Reserve. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The state's dry season, typically from March to June, has exacerbated the situation due to increased temperatures and reduced rainfall, creating ideal conditions for wildfires. <p>Causes of the fires</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mainly include human activity, such as campfires left unattended by people fishing in the nearby river, which can easily ignite the dry vegetation. Chenchu tribes in the region sometimes burn trees to collect mahua flowers more easily. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established in 1952, the Eturnagaram Wildlife



Sanctuary stands as one of Telangana's oldest sanctuaries, revered for its ecological significance.

- Originating in the sanctuary, the **Dayyam Vagu River** intricately divides the sanctuary into two distinct sections.
- The sanctuary is graced by the **presence of the Godavari River**, further enhancing its natural allure.
- The sanctuary boasts a **rich flora, predominantly adorned by deciduous teak trees, interspersed with axlewood, palas, tendu, and dhobi trees**, forming a diverse canopy conducive to supporting various animal species.
- Among its **diverse wildlife inhabitants are tigers, panthers, gaurs, sambar deer, spotted deer, nilgai, blackbucks, jackals, foxes, mongoose, and rodents.**
- The indigenous **Gond and Pardhan tribes** harmoniously coexist with the sanctuary, actively participating in conservation efforts and responsibly utilizing forest resources for sustenance.
- The majestic **Bogatha Waterfall** graces the sanctuary's core area with its mesmerizing presence.
- Additionally, the **sanctuary hosts the biennial festival of Sammakka Saralamma Jatara**, a tribal commemoration honoring the valor of tribal warriors **Sammakka and Sarakka.**

Onyx Missile



Context:

- **Russia's P-800 Onyx supersonic cruise missile, utilized in attacks on Ukrainian targets, is set to become deadlier with a new target seeker.**

New Seeker for Enhanced Accuracy

- Upgraded with new active homing heads for increased precision in **hitting ground targets of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU).**
- Development aimed at **ensuring Onyx's invulnerability to electronic warfare systems of the Ukrainian Armed Forces.**

Overview of P-800 Onyx

- Developed by Reutov NPO Mashinostroeniya, it targets surface ship groups and ground targets **amidst severe fire and electronic countermeasures.**
- Carried by **Russian Navy surface ships and submarines**, utilized in Syria against terrorist ground targets.



Central Pollution Control Board

Context:

- The **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** has **only utilized 20%** of the funds collected for mitigating air pollution in Delhi-NCR and environmental protection.
- Only Rs 156.33 crore out of Rs 777.69 crore collected has been disbursed.

Key points:

- Funds are collected **under two categories: Environment Protection Charge (EPC) and Environmental Compensation (EC).**

Environment Protection Charge (EPC):

- Mandated by the **Supreme Court**, dealers/manufacturers pay a one percent EPC on the ex-showroom price of new diesel vehicles with engine capacity of 2000cc and above, registered only in Delhi and NCR.

Environmental Compensation (EC):

- Ordered by the **National Green Tribunal (NGT)**, used to rejuvenate and protect the environment through various means such as strengthening laboratories, monitoring networks, and compliance with NGT orders.

CPCB:

- The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), **statutory organisation, was constituted in September, 1974 under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.**
- Further, CPCB was entrusted with the **powers and functions under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.**

North Atlantic Right Whale

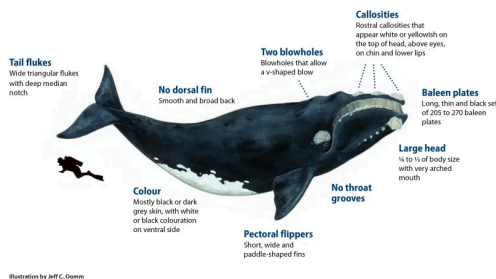
Context:

- A recent study has highlighted that **even minor tangles in fishing gear can significantly decrease the chances of female North Atlantic right whales reproducing.**
- These whales inhabit the **cold waters of the North Atlantic Ocean** and are considered **critical for conservation due to their struggle for survival.**

Habitat and Migration Patterns

- They are **migratory, moving between feeding and calving grounds.**
- In **summer, they feed in cooler waters near Canada**

North Atlantic Right Whale IDENTIFICATION FEATURES





Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

and the northeastern US, and in winter, they migrate south to warmer waters off the coasts of Florida and Georgia for breeding.

Unique Characteristics

- They have **rough, raised patches of skin on their heads called callosities**, which are used for identification.
- Right whales are **slower swimmers**, making them more prone to ship strikes.
- Unlike most whales, they lack a dorsal fin, making them easily distinguishable.

Role in Marine Ecosystem

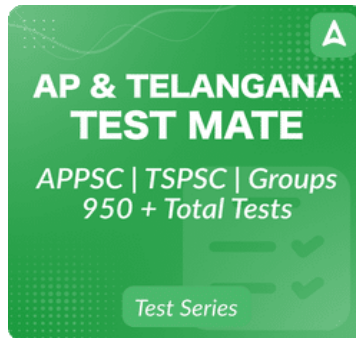
- Right whales feed by filtering plankton from the water, which **helps cycle nutrients and promotes healthy phytoplankton growth**.

Threats to Survival

- Entanglement in fishing gear, **particularly lobster trap lines, is a major threat**.
- Collisions with ships are also significant due to their slow speed and shallow-water preference.
- Climate change impacts on ocean temperatures and currents could affect their food sources and migration patterns.

Protection Status

- The IUCN Red List categorizes them as **"critically endangered," with fewer than 360 individuals remaining**.
- Various **international agreements and laws aim to protect them, including regulations on fishing gear and designated shipping lanes**.



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