



05 July 2024

National and International News

<p>Megafauna</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeologists in Prakasam, Andhra Pradesh have discovered a 41,000-year-old ostrich nest. • This finding could offer crucial insights into the extinction of megafauna in the Indian subcontinent. <p>About Megafauna:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The term "megafauna" is used to describe animals weighing more than 50 kg. • Origin: First used by English naturalist and explorer Alfred Russel Wallace in his 1876 book, The Geographical Distribution of Animals. • Classification by Diet: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Megaherbivores: Plant-eaters ○ Megacarnivores: Meat-eaters ○ Megaomnivores: Eat both plants and meat • Example: Ostriches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Diet: Megaomnivores ○ Weight: 90-140 kg ○ Height: 7-9 feet
<p>Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT is set to take place from 3rd to 16th July 2024 in Umroi, Meghalaya. <p>About Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participating Battalion: SIKKIM SCOUTS, representing the Indian contingent. • Indian Personnel: 45 personnel from SIKKIM SCOUTS, along with other arms and services. • Frequency: Annual training event. • Location: Conducted alternately in India and Mongolia. • Last edition: Mongolia, July 2023. • Aim: Enhance joint military capability for counter-insurgency operations in sub-conventional scenarios under Chapter VII of the United Nations Mandate. • Focus: Operations in semi-urban and mountainous terrain.
<p>Sampoornata Abhiyan</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NITI Aayog launched the 'Sampoornata Abhiyan'. <p>About Sampoornata Abhiyan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date & Duration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Launched on 4th July 2024



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Campaign duration: 4th July to 30th September 2024 ● Coverage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 112 Aspirational Districts ○ 500 Aspirational Blocks ● Goals: Achieve 100% saturation of 12 key social sector indicators across all Aspirational Districts and Blocks. ● Focus Areas of 'Sampoornata Abhiyan' in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aspirational Blocks key performance indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Percentage of pregnant women registered for Antenatal Care (ANC) within the first trimester ■ Percentage of persons screened for Diabetes against the targeted population ■ Percentage of persons screened for Hypertension against the targeted population ■ Percentage of pregnant women taking Supplementary Nutrition under the ICDS Programme regularly ■ Percentage of Soil Health Cards generated against the soil sample collection target ■ Percentage of SHGs that have received a Revolving Fund against the total SHGs in the block ○ Aspirational Districts key performance indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Percentage of pregnant women registered for Antenatal Care (ANC) within the first trimester ■ Percentage of pregnant women taking Supplementary Nutrition under the ICDS Programme regularly ■ Percentage of children fully immunized (9-11 months) (BCG+DPT3+OPV3+Measles 1) ■ Number of Soil Health Cards distributed ■ Percentage of schools with functional electricity at the secondary level ■ Percentage of schools providing textbooks to children within 1 month of the start of the academic session.
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Aditya-L1	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ISRO's Aditya-L1 completes its first halo orbit around Sun-Earth L1 point. <p>About Aditya-L1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ India's first dedicated mission to study the Sun. ○ Aimed at observing and understanding the solar atmosphere, solar magnetic storms, and their impact on the Earth's climate. ● Launch Details: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scheduled for launch by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To be placed in a halo orbit around the Lagrange point 1 (L1) of the Sun-Earth system, approximately 1.5 million kilometers from Earth. ● Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Study solar upper atmospheric dynamics and the origin of solar wind. ○ Observe solar flares and coronal mass ejections (CMEs). ○ Investigate the impact of solar activities on space weather. ○ Provide data for space weather prediction.
Rudram-1	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● India successfully test-fired its first indigenous anti-radiation missile, the Rudram-1, developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the Indian Air Force (IAF). <p>About Rudram-1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Development and Integration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). ○ Integrated with the Indian Air Force's Sukhoi-30MKI fighter jets as the launch platform. ● Features: First Indigenous Anti-Radiation Missile: India's first homegrown missile of this type. ● Navigation Systems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Inertial Navigation Systems (INS)-GPS navigation. ○ Passive Homing Head for the final attack phase, ensuring accuracy in hitting radiation-emitting targets. ● Technological Edge: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ INS-GPS navigation provides precise targeting across a wide range of frequencies. ● Operational Range and Flexibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Launch Altitudes: 500 meters to 15 kilometers. ○ Range: Up to 250 kilometers, depending on launch conditions. ○ Speed: Up to Mach 2

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