



09 July 2024

National and International News

<p>Biligiri Ranganathaswamy Temple Tiger Reserve (BRT)</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 35-year-old female elephant was found dead at Mavathuru, Bailuru wildlife range of Biligiri Ranganathaswamy Temple Tiger Reserve (BRT) recently. <p>About BRT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: Chamarajanagar district, Karnataka Bio-geographical Habitat: Situated between the Western and Eastern Ghats Name Origin: Derived from 'BILIGIRI', the white rocky cliff with a temple of Lord 'VISHNU', locally known as 'Rangaswamy' Tiger Reserve Status: Declared in 2011 Vegetation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primarily dry deciduous forest Interspersed with moist deciduous, semi-evergreen, evergreen, and shola patches at varying altitudes.
<p>Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister of India, has recently approved the signing of the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement by India. <p>About BBNJ Agreement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treaty Under UNCLOS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An international treaty under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Aims to protect marine biodiversity in the high seas. Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses long-term protection of marine biodiversity. Ensures sustainable use of marine biological diversity. Promotes international cooperation and coordination. Regulations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibits sovereign claims over marine resources from the high seas. Ensures fair and equitable sharing of benefits. Minimizes impacts on the marine environment using area-based management tools. Establishes rules for conducting environmental impact assessments. Contribution to SDGs: Contributes to several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG14 (Life Below Water).



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<p>Integrated Tribal Development Programme</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) recently launched an integrated tribal development programme in the Kulathupuzha grama panchayat, Kerala. <p>About Integrated Tribal Development Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the 'Wadi' Model: Evolved with the support of national and international development agencies. Funding: Projects funded through the Tribal Development Fund. Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated Development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create replicable models of integrated development of tribal families on a participatory basis. Focus on sustainable income-generating activities based on the area's potential and tribal needs. Strengthen Tribal Institutions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build and strengthen tribal institutions. Enable communities to participate in policy formulation and program execution. Improve social and economic status. Build and strengthen producers' organizations.
<p>Project PARI (Public Art of India)</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Culture, Government of India, has initiated Project PARI (Public Art of India) on the occasion of the 46th Session of the World Heritage Committee Meeting. <p>About Project PARI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project PARI (Public Art of India) aims to stimulate dialogue, reflection, and inspiration, contributing to the dynamic cultural fabric of the nation. It provides a platform to uplift the aesthetic and cultural outlook of Delhi while adding grandeur to the rich historical legacy of our national capital. The representation of Art in public spaces is particularly significant as it showcases the nation's rich and diverse cultural heritage. The proposed sculptures being created for Project PARI include wide-ranging ideas such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paying tributes to nature, Ideas inspired by the Natyashastra, Gandhi ji, Toys of India, Hospitality, Ancient knowledge, Naad or Primeval Soun, Harmony of life,



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kalpataru – the divine tree, etc. ● Women artists have been an integral part of Project PARI and their participation in large numbers is a testimony of Bharat's NARI SHAKTI. ● This initiative is being executed by the Lalit Kala Akademi, an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Culture.
Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN)	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has recently released draft rules for the Digital Bharat Nidhi, aiming to enhance telecom connectivity in rural areas, in a fresh attempt by the central government. <p>About Digital Bharat Nidhi:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Replacement of USOF: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) replaces the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). ○ USOF was funded by a 5% Universal Service Levy on the Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) of all telecom operators. ● Purpose of Funds: The funds are used for the expansion of telecom networks in remote and rural areas. ● Contribution Process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Telecom companies contribute to the DBN as per the Telecom Act. ○ Contributions are first credited to the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI). ○ The Central government periodically deposits collected funds into the DBN. ● Usage of DBN Funds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Support universal service by promoting telecommunication access and delivery in underserved areas. ○ Fund research and development of telecommunication services, technologies, and products. ○ Introduce new telecommunication services, technologies, and products. ○ Provide targeted access to telecommunication services for underserved groups such as women, persons with disabilities, and economically and socially weaker sections.



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