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National and International News

<p>Bhoj Wetland</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Union Government recently denied any threat of delisting the Bhoj Wetland from the Ramsar Convention list of wetlands of international importance. <p>About Bhoj Wetland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. • Structure: Consists of two contiguous human-made reservoirs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Upper Lake: Also known as Bhojtal (Bada Talaab). ○ Lower Lake: Known as Chhota Talaab. • Upper Lake: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ South: Van Vihar National Park. ○ East and North: Human settlements. ○ West: Agricultural fields. • Importance: Upper Lake is a major source of potable water for Bhopal.
<p>Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chhattisgarh government announced the establishment of a new tiger reserve, named Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve. <p>About Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: Northern part of Chhattisgarh, bordering Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand. • Tiger Reserve Status: This is the fourth Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh, following Udanti-Sitanadi, Achanakmar, and Indravati Reserves. • Area Coverage: Spread across Guru Ghasidas National Park and Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary in Chhattisgarh. • Rivers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Origin of significant rivers like Hasdeo Gopad and Baranga.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Catchment area for rivers such as Neur, Bijadhur, Banas, Rehand. ● Connectivity: Acts as a corridor for tigers to move between Bandhavgarh and Palamau Tiger Reserves. ● Historical Background: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Originally part of the Sanjay Dubri National Park. ○ Guru Ghasidas Park was established as a separate entity in Chhattisgarh's Sarguja region after the formation of the state in 2001.
<p>National Coastal Mission Scheme</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Minister of State for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change recently informed the Lok Sabha about the National Coastal Scheme. <p>About National Coastal Mission Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Launch Year: 2014 ● Envisioned Under: National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) ● Objective: To address the impact of climate change on coastal and marine ecosystems, infrastructure, and communities in coastal areas through adaptation and mitigation measures. ● Associated Program: National Coastal Management Program ● Key Components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Management Action Plan: Conservation of Mangroves and Coral Reefs. ○ Research & Development: Focused on Marine and Coastal ecosystems. ○ Sustainable Development of Beaches: Under the Beach Environment & Aesthetic Management Service (BEAMS). ○ Capacity Building & Outreach: Program for Coastal States/UTs on conservation, including beach cleaning drives. ● Implementation: State Governments of Coastal States and Union Territory (UT) Administrations are the implementing agencies.

**Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024****Why in the news?**

- **Waqf Bill** referred to the **joint parliamentary panel** after the Opposition calls it 'draconian' and an attack on the Constitution.

What is Waqf?

- Waqf refers to **properties designated exclusively for religious or charitable purposes** under Islamic law.
- Once established, a **waqf cannot be revoked**.
- **Significance:** Waqf boards are the **third-largest landowners in India, managing over 9 lakh acres of land valued at approximately Rs 1.2 lakh crore**.

About Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024:

- **Central Waqf Council:** The bill proposes the **establishment of a Central Waqf Council** alongside **state Waqf Boards**, with **representation from Muslim women and non-Muslims**.
- **District Collector's Role:** The bill proposes **designating the District Collector as the primary authority to determine whether a property is classified as waqf or government land, shifting responsibility from the Waqf Tribunal**. This is a contentious change, as critics fear it may lead to misuse of authority.
- **Board of Auqaf:** A **separate Board of Auqaf is proposed for the Boharas and Aghakhans**, ensuring representation for Shias, Sunnis, Bohras, and Aghakhans within waqf boards.
- **Central Government Authority:** The bill grants the **central government the authority to initiate audits of waqf properties, with auditors appointed by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India**.
- **Waqfnama Requirement:** The bill mandates a **valid waqfnama (official deed) to express one's intention to dedicate property as waqf, replacing the current allowance for oral agreements**.



Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP)

Why in the news?

- The central government recently announced the full list of **awardees for the first-ever Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP) 2024**.

About RVP:

- **Award Recipients:**
 - **Vigyan Team Award: ISRO-Chandrayaan 3 Team** for their contribution in Space Science and Technology.
 - **Vigyan Ratna Puraskar:** Celebrated biochemist **Govindarajan Padmanabhan** as the first recipient.
- **About Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP):**
 - A **new set of awards introduced by the Government of India** in the field of **Science, Technology, and Innovation**.
 - **Objective:** To recognize notable and inspiring contributions by scientists, technologists, and innovators, individually or in teams, across various fields.
 - **Significance:** It is one of the **highest recognitions in the field of science, technology, and innovation in India**.
- **Award Categories:**
 - **Vigyan Ratna (VR):** Recognizes **lifetime achievements** in any field of science and technology.
 - **Vigyan Shri (VS):** Recognizes **distinguished contributions in any field of science and technology**.
 - **Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (VY-SSB):** Encourages **young scientists up to 45 years** for exceptional contributions in science and technology.
 - **Vigyan Team (VT):** Awarded to a **team of three or more scientists/researchers/innovators** for exceptional team contributions in science and technology.
- **Award Ceremony:** To be held on **23rd August (National Space Day)**.



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