



19 Oct 2024

National and International News

<p>Hand-in-Hand Initiative</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Director-General of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) recently inaugurated the third Hand-in-Hand Investment Forum. <p>About Hand-in-Hand Initiative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiative Overview: Launched in 2019 by the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO). • Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eradicate poverty (SDG 1). ○ End hunger and malnutrition (SDG 2). ○ Reduce inequalities (SDG 10). • Target Areas: Prioritizes countries and territories with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ High poverty and hunger rates. ○ Limited national capacities. ○ Significant operational challenges due to natural or man-made crises. • Interventions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop value chains for priority commodities. ○ Build agro-industries and efficient water management systems. ○ Introduce digital services and precision agriculture.
<p>Solar Assisted Reefer Transportation with Hybrid Controls and Intelligence (SARTHI) system</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management, Kundli (NIFTEM-K), has launched the Solar Assisted Reefer Transportation with Hybrid Controls and Intelligence (SARTHI) system. • This innovative system aims to enhance the efficiency of refrigerated transportation by integrating solar energy and advanced control technologies. <p>About SARTHI system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dual Compartment Design: Stores fruits and vegetables at different temperatures, catering to their unique storage needs. ○ IoT Integration and Real-Time Monitoring:



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sensors collect data on temperature, humidity, ethylene, and CO2 levels. ■ Data is sent to the cloud, accessible via a mobile app for real-time quality assessment. ○ Solar-Powered Air Handling Unit: Maintains temperature control during transport halts. ● Significance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Extended Shelf Life: Reduces losses from chilling injury and moisture loss. ○ Informed Decision-Making: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Allows transporters to reroute produce to closer markets if spoilage is detected. ■ Cuts energy waste and lowers carbon footprints.
<p>Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuary</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) has approved five major road stretches, four of which traverse the Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuary located along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). <p>About Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Location: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Situated in the Union Territory of Ladakh. ○ Borders Jammu and Kashmir. ○ North of Hemis National Park and east of Deosai National Park. ● Climate: Average temperature in the warmest month is below 0°C at higher elevations and remains below 10°C in other areas. ● Major Peaks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Saltoro Kangri ○ Saser Kangri I ○ K12 ● Rivers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shyok River ○ Nubra River
<p>Employees Deposit Linked Insurance (EDLI) Scheme</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Centre has decided to extend the Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance (EDLI) Scheme benefits to all subscribers of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation and their families until further notice.



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	<p>About EDLI Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Launch Year: 1976 ● Objective: To provide social security benefits to private sector employees who typically do not receive such benefits from employers. ● Administered by: Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) ● Applicable to: All organizations registered under the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. ● Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Insurance Coverage: Provides term life insurance cover to member employees. ○ Lump-Sum Payment: Paid to the nominee upon the death of the EPF member while in service. ● Benefit Amount: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maximum: Up to ₹7 lakh to the nominee or legal heir. ○ Minimum: ₹2.5 lakh if the member had continuous employment for 12 months prior to death.
<p>Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cheetahs will be reintroduced to Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary to promote tourism in the region. <p>About Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Location: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Situated in northwestern Madhya Pradesh, bordering Rajasthan. ○ Lies in the Khathiar-Gir dry deciduous forests ecoregion. ○ The River Chambal flows through the sanctuary, dividing it into two parts. ● Topography: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Diverse landscape including hills, plateaus, and the catchment area of the Gandhi Sagar Dam. ○ Designated as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA). ● Flora: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Principal tree species: Khair, Salai, Kardhai, Dhawda, Tendu, and Palash. ● Fauna: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Herbivores: Chinkara, Nilgai, and Spotted Deer.



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- **Carnivores:** Indian Leopard, Striped Hyena, and Jackal.
- **Other wildlife:** Good population of crocodiles, fish, otters, and turtles.



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