



21 October 2024

National and International News

<p>Marine Heat Wave (MHW)</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Researchers discovered that marine heat waves (MHWs) occurring deep in the oceans might be "significantly under-reported" and are influenced by ocean currents. <p>About Marine Heat Wave (MHW):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● MHWs occur when sea surface temperatures rise by 3 to 4 degrees Celsius above average for at least five days.● Impacts of MHWs:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Damage to Marine Habitats: Severe impacts on coral reefs and species displacement.○ Frequency: Increasing occurrences due to global warming, notably off Australia's East Coast, Tasmania, the northeast Pacific coast, and North Atlantic.○ Storm Intensification: Higher ocean temperatures associated with MHWs can strengthen storms, including hurricanes and tropical cyclones.○ Invasive Species: MHWs promote the growth of invasive alien species, disrupting marine food webs.○ Storm Characteristics: Hot oceans enable storms to gather more water vapor and heat, leading to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ More powerful winds■ Heavier rainfall■ Increased flooding upon reaching land, resulting in greater devastation for human populations.
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Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Why in the news?

- The 16th Conference of the Parties (COP16) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) will take place in Cali, Colombia.

About CBD:

- The CBD is a comprehensive binding international agreement focused on nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.
- Opened for signing at the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.
- Objectives:
 - Conservation of biological diversity (genetic, species, and habitat diversity).
 - Sustainable use of biological diversity.
 - Fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the utilization of genetic resources.
- Secretariat: Montreal, Canada.
- Supporting Agreements:
 - Cartagena Protocol (adopted in 2000, in force since 2003): Regulates the transboundary movement of living modified organisms (LMOs).
 - Nagoya Protocol (adopted in 2010): Establishes a legally binding framework for access to genetic resources and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use.

Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) System

Why in the news?

- A Russian envoy in India recently advocated for an alternative to the SWIFT system for global payments, following Russia's expulsion from SWIFT after the onset of the war in Ukraine.

About SWIFT System:

- Nature: SWIFT is a member-owned cooperative facilitating safe and secure financial transactions for its members.
- Establishment: Founded in 1973 by 239 banks from 15 countries.
- Function:
 - SWIFT is a network used by banks to communicate securely for transferring funds.
 - It is the largest and most streamlined method for international payments and settlements.
- Standardization:
 - SWIFT standardizes communication protocols, enabling reliable cross-border transactions.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It reduces risks and inefficiencies in international banking. ● Headquarters: La Hulpe, Belgium. ● Oversight: Governed by the central banks of the G10 countries, the European Central Bank, and the National Bank of Belgium.
Long-billed Vulture	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A recent study has reported a steady increase in the population of the long-billed vulture from 2015 to 2021, highlighting a 74% breeding success rate in the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR). <p>About Long-billed Vulture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Scientific Classification: Old World vulture native to the Asian region. ● Physical Description: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Males are larger than females, with females being comparatively smaller. ○ Known for their longer beaks. ● Habitat: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Found in savannas and open habitats. ○ Commonly located around villages, cities, and near cultivated areas. ● Distribution: Native to India, Pakistan, and Nepal. ● Conservation Status: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IUCN Red List: Critically Endangered. ● Threats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Significant population decline of 97-99%. ○ Primary threat due to poisoning from the veterinary drug diclofenac, which is toxic to vultures. ○ Diclofenac was administered to working animals to reduce joint pain, inadvertently harming vultures that fed on their carcasses.



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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

Kala-azar

Why in the news?

- India is on the verge of eliminating Kala-azar as a public health issue, having maintained a case rate of less than one per 10,000 people for two consecutive years, meeting the WHO's criteria for elimination certification.

About Kala-azar:

- A severe form of leishmaniasis caused by the protozoan parasite **Leishmania donovani**.
- **Transmission:** Spread through the bite of infected female sandflies, primarily Phlebotomus argentipes in India.
- **Associated with:**
 - Malnutrition
 - Population displacement
 - Poor housing
 - Weak immune systems (e.g., individuals with HIV)
 - Lack of financial resources



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