



14 December 2024

**National and International News**


<p><b>IndiaAI Mission</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw has announced that 8.6 lakh candidates have enrolled in the <b>IndiaAI Future Skills platform, a program aimed at democratizing Artificial Intelligence (AI) education and skilling.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It aims to build a comprehensive ecosystem that <b>fosters AI innovation</b> by democratizing computing access, enhancing data quality, developing indigenous AI capabilities, attracting top AI talent, enabling industry collaboration, providing startup risk capital, ensuring socially impactful AI projects, and promoting ethical AI.</li> <li>• This mission drives responsible and inclusive growth of India's AI ecosystem through following seven pillars.</li> <li>• <b>IndiaAI Future Skills Platform:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It is one of the <b>seven foundational pillars of the IndiaAI Mission.</b></li> <li>○ It aims to enhance India's AI workforce readiness by mitigating barriers to entry in AI programs and advancing the AI talent pipeline.</li> <li>○ The pillar will increase <b>AI courses in undergraduate, postgraduate, and Ph.D. programs.</b></li> <li>○ It further aims to foster inclusive access to AI education by establishing Data and AI Labs in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities across India to impart foundational level courses.</li> <li>○ It is developed in collaboration with industry partners, to provide cutting-edge training programs tailored to meet evolving industry demands.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Gene Therapy Treatment for Haemophilia</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indian scientists have developed a <b>novel gene therapy for haemophilia A, offering a one-time treatment to replace frequent clotting factor injections.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a technique that involves altering the genetic material of cells to treat or prevent disease.</li> <li>• It aims to introduce a normal, functional gene to compensate for the defective, disease-causing gene.</li> <li>• It employs various approaches: replacing a mutated gene with a healthy copy, inactivating a mutated gene, and introducing a new gene.</li> <li>• Gene therapy has primarily focused on treating monogenic disorders caused by a mutation in a single gene, such as SCID, haemophilia, and muscular dystrophy.</li> <li>• <b>About Haemophilia:</b></li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Haemophilia is a medical condition, mostly inherited, in which the ability of blood to clot is severely reduced, so that even a minor injury can cause severe bleeding.</li> <li>○ Haemophilia is caused by a mutation or change, in one of the genes, that provides instructions for making the clotting factor proteins needed to form a blood clot.</li> <li>○ This change or mutation can prevent the clotting protein from working properly or to be missing altogether. These genes are located on the X chromosome.</li> </ul>
Willow	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Google has developed a <b>state-of-the-art quantum computing chip called Willow.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A quantum chip is a special type of computer chip designed to use the principles of quantum mechanics, the science of very tiny particles like atoms.</li> <li>● While regular chips use 'bits' (0 or 1) to process information, quantum chips use 'qubits', which can be 0 or 1 or both at the same time.</li> <li>● This unique ability allows quantum chips to handle complex calculations much faster than traditional computers.</li> <li>● <b>About Willow:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Willow operates using superconducting transmon <b>qubits</b>—tiny electrical circuits exhibiting quantum behaviour at extremely low temperatures.</li> <li>○ <b>Achievements:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ It has solved a complex computation under <b>5 minutes that would have taken a supercomputer around 10 septillion (10<sup>25</sup>) years to complete.</b></li> <li>■ Willow can reduce errors exponentially as we scale up using more qubits. This cracks a key challenge in quantum error correction that the field has pursued for almost 30 years.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
IFAD & PM-JANMAN Mission	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Odisha government is planning to secure a <b>₹734.86-crore external loan from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)</b> to implement <b>Phase II of the Odisha Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) Empowerment and Livelihood Improvement Programme (OPELIP-II).</b></li> <li>● Tribal experts have raised concerns about the international loan, questioning its necessity given the Central government's PM-JANMAN Mission with substantial financial backing.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>About IFAD:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is an international financial institution and a specialized agency of the <b>United Nations focused on poverty eradication in rural</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>



	<p><b>areas of developing countries.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It provides grants and low-interest loans for projects aimed at improving livelihoods.</li> <li>○ IFAD works with marginalized and vulnerable groups, including smallholder farmers, foresters, pastoralists, fishermen, and small-scale entrepreneurs.</li> <li>○ The institution supports these groups by offering disaster preparedness, access to weather information, technology transfer, and social learning opportunities.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>About PM-JANMAN Scheme:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ PM JANMAN is a government scheme that aims to bring tribal communities into the mainstream.</li> <li>○ The scheme (comprising Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes) will be implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, in collaboration with the State governments and the PVTG communities.</li> <li>○ The scheme will concentrate on 11 critical interventions overseen by 9 line Ministries, ensuring the implementation of existing schemes in villages inhabited by PVTGs.</li> <li>○ The scheme is expected to enhance the quality of life and well-being of the PVTGs, by addressing their multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and exclusion, and by recognizing and valuing their unique and valuable contribution to national and global development.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Who are PVTGs, or Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ PVTGs, or Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups, are a category of tribal communities in India that are considered more vulnerable than other tribal groups.</li> <li>○ The Indian government created the PVTG list to improve the living standards of these endangered groups.</li> <li>○ The 13 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in Odisha are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Birhor, Bondo, Chuktia Bhunjia, Didayi, Dongria Kondh, Hill Kharia, Juang, Kutia Kandha, Lanjia Soura, Lodha, Mankirdia, Paudi Bhuyan, and Soura.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Person in news:</b> <b>Madhav Gadgil</b></p> 	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Recently, <b>India's veteran ecologist, Madhav Gadgil has been named as one of the six 'Champions of the Earth' by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for 2024.</b></li> <li>● Gadgil's research has helped to protect marginalised people, promote the community-driven conservation of ecosystems, from forests to wetlands, and influence policymaking at the highest level.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● UNEP is an agency of the United Nations.</li> <li>● It coordinates the UN's environmental activities.</li> <li>● It assists developing countries in implementing environmentally sound policies and practices.</li> </ul>

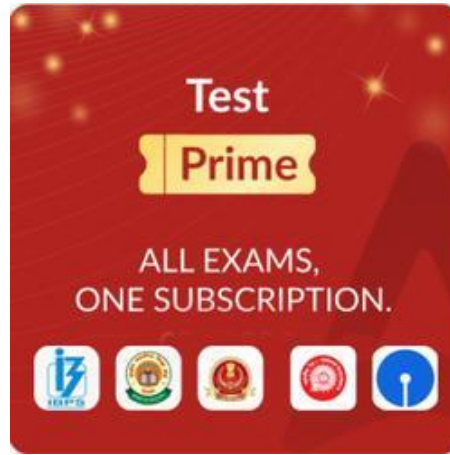


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- It was founded as a result of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment 1972.
- It has overall responsibility for environmental problems among United Nations agencies.
- Addressing climate change or combating desertification, are overseen by other UN organizations, like the UNFCCC and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.
- UNEP has registered several successes, such as the 1987 Montreal Protocol, and the 2012 Minamata Convention, a treaty to limit toxic mercury.
- UN Environment is also one of several Implementing Agencies for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol.



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