



03 January 2025

National and International News

<p>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India has submitted its fourth Biennial Update Report to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is an international environmental treaty which seeks to reduce atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases, with the aim of preventing dangerous anthropogenic interference with the earth's climate system. The UNFCCC, signed in 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development also known as the Earth Summit, the Rio Summit or the Rio Conference It is a framework which requires individual participating countries to commit to stabilizing greenhouse gas emissions. There are 197 parties to the convention, who meet annually in Conferences of the Parties (COP) to assess progress in dealing with climate change. The objective of the UNFCCC, as outlined in Article 2, is to "stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent harmful human interference with the climate system." This goal is further clarified by the need to achieve it within a timeframe that allows ecosystems to naturally adapt to climate change, ensures food production is not compromised, and supports sustainable economic development. Key Highlights of the report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India reduced its emission intensity of GDP by 36% between 2005 and 2020, decoupling economic growth from GHG emissions. By October 2024, 46.52% of India's installed electricity generation capacity was from non-fossil sources. The total installed renewable power capacity, including large hydropower, reached 203.22 GW. Cumulative renewable power capacity (excluding large hydro) increased 4.5 times from 35 GW in March 2014 to 156.25 GW. India's forest and tree cover currently stands at 25.17% of the total geographical area. Between 2005 and 2021, an additional carbon sink of 2.29 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent was created.
<p>Parkinson's Disease</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently, researchers have demonstrated that a nano-formulation of melatonin, the hormone released by the brain in response to darkness, exhibits enhanced antioxidative and neuroprotective effects, making it a promising potential treatment for Parkinson's disease (PD).



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Key Points:

- It is a **progressive neurological disorder that affects the nervous system and the parts of the body controlled by the nerves.**
- It is a condition in which a **patient holds limited or no control over his movements and body balance.**
- It occurs and progresses with ageing, but in rare cases, it is also witnessed among children and teenagers as well.
- It has **no cure.**
- **Cause:**
 - It is caused by the degeneration of nerve cells in the part of the brain called the substantia nigra, which controls movement.
- **Symptoms:**
 - Tremors (trembling in the hands, arms, legs, and jaw); rigidity (stiffness of the limbs); slowness of movement; and impaired balance and coordination.
- Parkinson's patients may also experience other symptoms such as difficulty in swallowing, chewing, and speaking, urinary problems, constipation, skin problems, depression, emotional changes, and sleep disruption.
- Currently, no blood laboratory or radiological tests are available to diagnose Parkinson's disease.

Person in news:
Sri Mannathu Padmanabhan



Why in news?

- The Prime Minister pays tribute to **Sri Mannathu Padmanabhan on his birth anniversary.**

Key Points:

- He was **born on 2nd January 1878 in Perunna, Kottayam district of Kerala.**
- He was an **Indian social reformer and freedom fighter from the south-western state of Kerala.**
- Sardar K M Panicker called him '**Madan Mohan Malaviya of Kerala.**
- He began his career as a teacher in 1893 in a Government primary school.
- **Political and Social Contribution:**
 - He took part in the **Vaikom (1924) and Guruvayoor (1931) temple-entry Satyagrahas and the anti-untouchability agitations.**
 - **Vaikom Satyagraha** was a movement in Travancore (modern-day Kerala) for temple entry of the depressed classes.
 - **Guruvayur Satyagraha** was a Satyagraha (non-violent protest) to allow entry for untouchables into the Guruvayur Temple in present Thrissur district.
 - He is regarded as the reformer and moral guide of the members of Nair community.
 - In 1914 he established the Nair Service Society.
 - He became a member of the Indian National Congress in 1946 and took part in the agitation against Sir C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer's administration in Travancore.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Awards & Recognition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ He received Padma Bhushan in 1966. ○ He was honoured with the title Bharata Kesari by the President of India.
<p>Places in news: Chabahar Port</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Iranian minister was in Delhi for discussions aimed at strengthening ties and boosting trade through Chabahar. ● Tehran sought to enhance cooperation with Delhi across various sectors, including tourism and agriculture, with bilateral talks <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is a deep-water port located in Iran's Sistan-Baluchistan province. ● It is on the Gulf of Oman at the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz. ● It is the only Iranian port having direct access to the Indian Ocean. ● It consists of two separate ports called Shahid Beheshti and Shahid Kalantari. ● Its geographic proximity to countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India, as well as its status as a key transit center on the burgeoning International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), gives it the potential to develop into one of the most important commercial hubs in the region. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ INSTC is a multi-modal transportation route linking the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea via Iran, and onward to northern Europe via Saint Petersburg in Russia. ● Chabahar Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In May 2016, India signed a tripartite agreement with Iran and Afghanistan to develop the Shahid Beheshti Terminal at Chabahar. ○ It is India's first foreign port project. ○ The deal agreement aims to establish an international transport and transit corridor in Chabahar. ○ The construction of the Chabahar Port and the construction of a rail line from Chabahar Port to Zahedan are the major highlights of this project. ○ The idea was that the port would enable India to bypass Pakistan and access Afghanistan, and ultimately Central Asia. ○ Moreover, the port could serve as a hub for transit trade between India, Iran, and Afghanistan and provide an alternative route to the traditional Silk Road that passes through China.
<p>National e-Governance Awards Scheme</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recently, the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions issued the scheme guidelines for the 28th National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) 2025. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● About: ● It is recognized amongst the most competitive and prestigious digital governance awards schemes in the country. ● Objective: The objective of the Scheme is to recognize and promote excellence in implementation of e-Governance initiatives.



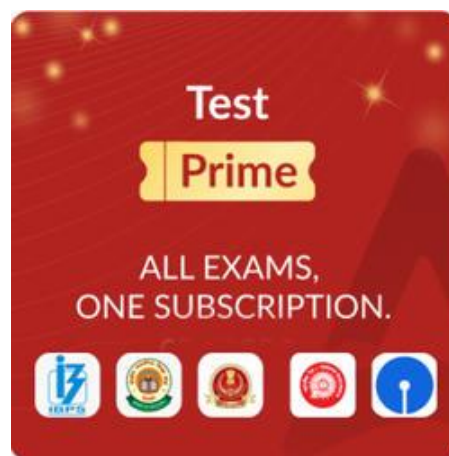
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The NAeG Awards, 2025 will consist of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Trophy, Certificate and an incentive of Rs 10 lakh for Gold Awardees and Rs 5 Lakhs for Silver Awardees to be awarded to the District/organization for being utilized for implementation of project/programme or bridging resources gaps in any area of public welfare. ● This year 16 Awards are being conferred under the NAeG 2025. Of these 10 will be Gold Awards and 6 will be silver Awards. ● Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions ● Categories for the year 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Government Process Re-engineering through Technology for Digital Transformation ○ Innovation with AI and new-age technologies for Citizen-Centric Services ○ Best e-Gov Practices/Innovation in Cyber Security ○ Grassroots Initiatives for Expanding Service Delivery, focusing on Districts/ULBs/Gram Panchayats ○ Replication and Scaling of Awarded Projects (NAeG, PM Awards, other Ministry Awards) by States/UTs/Districts ○ Digital Transformation via Data Analytics on Platforms by Central Ministries/States/UTs
<p>Revision of Wholesale Price Index</p>		<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recently, the government has formed a panel to restructure the Wholesale Price Index from base 2011-2012 to 2022-23. ● Panel created under chairmanship of NITI Aayog member Prof.Ramesh Chand and 17 others. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It measures the changes in the prices of goods sold and traded in bulk by wholesale businesses to other businesses. ● The WPI basket covers commodities falling under the three major groups, namely Primary Articles; Fuel and Power; and Manufactured products. ● Published by the Office of Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry. ● It is the most widely used inflation indicator in India. ● WPI was the main index for measurement of inflation in India till April 2014 when the RBI adopted Consumer Price Index (CPI) as the key measure of Inflation. ● The base year of All-India WPI has been revised from 2004-05 to 2011-12 in 2017. ● WPI Food Index <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is a sub index of WPI, which measures the changes in prices of food items at the level of producers. ○ It is compiled by taking the aggregate of WPI for “Food Products” under “Manufactured Products” and “Food Articles” under “Primary Article” using weighted arithmetic mean.
<p>Genetically</p>		<p>Why in news?</p>



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<p>Modified (GM) Crops</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently, experts on GM crop panels were required to declare any potential conflicts of interest. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Genetic Modification involves altering an organism's DNA. This can be done by altering an existing section of DNA, or by adding a new gene altogether. Working: When a scientist performs genetic modification to a plant, they insert a foreign gene (called transgene) in the plant's own genes. This could be introduced from one plant to another plant, from a plant to an animal, or from a microorganism to a plant. Genetically Modified (GM) Crops in India: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bt-Cotton: It is the first non-food and only approved GM crop in 2002 for commercial cultivation. It was introduced to protect against the widespread infestation of bollworm. Bt-Brinjal: In 2009, Bt-brinjal was cleared by GEAC for commercial cultivation, but it was put on a 10-year moratorium by the Technical Expert Committee (TEC). DMH-11 is developed by the Centre for Genetic Manipulation of Crop Plants (Delhi University). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It paves the way for the commercialisation of the country's first GM food crop. Regulatory Framework of GM Crops in India: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006: Prohibits import, manufacture, use, or sale of GM food without FSSAI approval. Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM): Monitors GM organism R&D under the Department of Biotechnology (DBT). State Biotechnology Coordination Committee (SBCC): Reviews safety and control measures at institutions handling GMOs. District Level Committee (DLC): Inspects and reports to SBCC/GEAC on regulatory compliance of GMOs. GM Crop Approval Process: Granted after thorough scientific evaluation of health and environmental safety per the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
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