



4 Febraury 2025

## National and International News

<p><b>Guru-Shishya Parampara Scheme</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of Culture runs the '<b>Financial Assistance for Promotion of Guru-Shishya Parampara scheme, offering financial support to cultural organizations</b> involved in performing arts to provide regular training to artists under the <b>Guru-Shishya tradition</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government of India and Department of Culture launched a Scheme called 'Guru Shishya Parampara Scheme Through Zonal Cultural Centre to <b>preserve and promote rare and vanishing art forms whether classical or folk/tribal</b>.</li> <li><b>Objective</b> of the scheme was to nurture the young talents to acquire skills in their chosen field of art through some financial assistance by the ZCCs in the form of scholarship under the guidance of Experts and Masters in these fields.</li> <li>This scheme has provided security to a large number of old and retired artistes. Most of the artists covered under this scheme are from rural areas and teaching shishyas from within reasonable catchment area of their residence.</li> <li>A Monitoring Workshop-cum-Presentations of Gurus and Shishyas is organised for reviewing and evaluating the progress made in this direction. An Expert Committee comprising eminent Art Experts is constituted for this purpose.</li> <li>To implement this scheme, Great Masters (Gurus) of different art forms of constituent states of NZCC, who are capable to train the interested shishyas are identified.</li> <li>The committee is constituted to process, evaluate and recommend the candidature of expert (Guru) and each Guru is expected to train five to eight shishyas.</li> </ul>
<p><b>International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)</b> has officially been established as a <b>fully operational, treaty-based intergovernmental international organization</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was launched by the Prime Minister in Mysuru on <b>April 9, 2023</b>, at an event commemorating 50 years of <b>Project Tiger</b> in India.</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> Strengthen global cooperation and efforts for conservation of seven big cat species (tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar and puma) and their habitats. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Out of the seven big cats, five — <b>tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, and cheetah</b> — are found in India.</li> </ul> </li> <li>The alliance aims to reach out to 97 range countries covering the natural</li> </ul>



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	<p>habitats of the seven big cats.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IBCA has been conceived as a multi-country, multi-agency coalition to strengthen global cooperation and mobilise financial and technical resources to support the entire ecosystem associated with the conservation of these species and their habitats.</li> <li>• It will serve as an evolving platform for convergence of knowledge and best practices, supporting existing specific inter-governmental platforms, while also providing direct support to recovery efforts in potential range habitats.</li> <li>• IBCA would have a multi-pronged approach in broad-basing and establishing linkages in several areas and help in knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, networking, advocacy, finance, and resource support.</li> <li>• IBCA governance consists of an assembly of members, a standing committee, and a secretariat with its headquarters in India.</li> </ul>
<p><b>GARBH-INI-DRISH TI</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India advanced its biomedical research with the inauguration of the <b>first Ferret Research Facility, the launch of the GARBH-INI-DRISHTI data repository</b>, and the signing of a crucial technology transfer agreement.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is the <b>first India-specific artificial intelligence (AI) model to precisely determine the age of a foetus in a pregnant woman in the second and third trimesters.</b></li> <li>• It has been designed by researchers at the <b>Indian Institute of Technology Madras and the Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI), Faridabad.</b></li> <li>• It is part of an interdisciplinary group for advanced research on birth outcomes – the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) India initiative (GARBH-Ini) programme.</li> <li>• It is the <b>first late-trimester GA estimation model to be developed and validated using Indian population data.</b></li> <li>• <b>About Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It is an autonomous institute of Biotechnology under the Ministry of Science and Technology, with the prime ideology of contributing most of its work beyond discovery and research.</li> <li>○ It was established in 2009 in Faridabad, Haryana.</li> <li>○ It integrates multidisciplinary teams from the fields of medicine, science, and technology to harness translational knowledge for clinical research.</li> <li>○ It also facilitates social Innovation and entrepreneurship in the field of maternal and child healthcare.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Important Days: World Wetlands Day 2025</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) organised the World Wetlands Day 2025 celebrations at the Parvati Arga Ramsar Site, Gonda, Uttar Pradesh (UP) on <b>2nd February 2025.</b></li> </ul>



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	<p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is observed annually to <b>raise awareness about the importance of wetlands and marks the adoption of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran.</b></li> <li>• <b>Theme for 2025:</b> Protecting Wetlands for our Common Future.</li> <li>• <b>New Ramsar Sites:</b> Udhwa Lake in Jharkhand, Theerthangal and Sakkarakottai in Tamil Nadu and Khecheopalri in Sikkim are included in the list of Ramsar sites.</li> <li>• <b>New Corridor:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ The government announced a new <b>nature-culture tourism corridor will be developed between Ayodhya and Devi Patan in UP.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Amrit Dharohar Initiative:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Amrit Dharohar was launched in June 2023 to conserve Ramsar Sites that focuses on four key components i.e., Species and Habitat Conservation, Nature Tourism, Wetlands Livelihood and Wetlands Carbon.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Key Facts About Parvati Arga Ramsar Site</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a <b>permanent freshwater environment, consisting of two oxbow lakes</b> i.e., Parvati and Arga, which are rain-fed and located in the terai region (Gangetic plains).</li> <li>• The nearby Tikri Forest is also being developed as an eco-tourism site. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Oxbow lakes are U-shaped lakes formed when a meander of a river is cut off, creating a standalone water body.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Ecological Significance:</b> It is a refuge for <b>critically endangered white-rumped vulture, Indian vulture, and endangered Egyptian vulture.</b></li> <li>• The region is home to cultural landmarks such as the <b>birthplaces of Maharishi Patanjali and Goswami Tulsidas</b>, boosting religious and cultural tourism.</li> </ul>
Classical Languages	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ministry of Education, through the <b>Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) in Mysuru</b>, worked towards the promotion and development of all Indian languages, including Classical Languages.</li> <li>• The support available to the languages notified as classical languages include awards in Classical Languages, centers of excellence for studies in classical languages, and creation of professional chairs in central universities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India had six classical languages — <b>Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and Odia.</b></li> <li>• <b>Tamil was declared a classical language in 2004, Sanskrit in 2005, Kannada in 2008, Telugu in 2008, Malayalam in 2013, and Odia in 2014.</b></li> <li>• All the Classical Languages are listed in the <b>Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.</b></li> <li>• <b>Criteria:</b></li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It should have high antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1,500-2,000 years,</li> <li>○ a body of ancient literature or texts that is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers,</li> <li>○ the presence of “knowledge texts”, especially prose texts in addition to poetry, epigraphical and inscriptional evidence,</li> <li>○ the said language and literature should be distinct from its modern format.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Benefits:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Education Ministry provides certain benefits to promote it such as:</li> <li>● two major annual international awards for scholars of eminence in the said languages,</li> <li>● a Centre of Excellence for Studies in the classical language is set up,</li> <li>● and the University Grants Commission is requested to start with a certain number of Chairs for the classical language at least in the Central Universities.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Etemad and Ghadr-380</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Iran recently unveiled two missiles, named <b>Etemad and Ghadr-380</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <p><b>About Etemad Missile</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● It is a new ballistic missile built by the Iranian defence ministry.</li> <li>● Dubbed Etemad, or "<b>trust</b>" in Persian, it has a maximum range of 1,700 kilometres (1,056 miles).</li> <li>● With a length of 16 meters and a diameter of 1.25 meters, the missile is equipped with a precision-guided warhead.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Ghadr-380</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● It is an anti-warship cruise missile developed by Iran.</li> <li>● It has a range of over 1,000 kilometers.</li> <li>● It has anti-jamming capability.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ballistic Missile vs. Cruise Missile:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>About Ballistic Missile:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ballistic missiles are powered initially by a rocket or series of rockets in stages, but then follow an unpowered trajectory that arches upwards before descending to reach its intended target.</li> <li>○ As gravity pulls the ballistic warhead back to Earth, speeds of several times the speed of sound are reached.</li> <li>○ Ballistic missiles can carry either nuclear or conventional warheads.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>About Cruise Missile:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cruise missiles are unmanned vehicles that are propelled by jet engines, much like an airplane.</li> <li>○ They are self-propelled for the majority of their time in the air, flying in a relatively straight line and at lower altitudes thanks to a rocket propellant.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



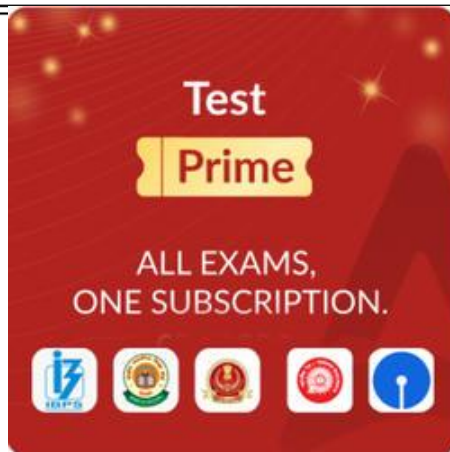
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