



1 Mar 2025

National and International News

<p>Cali Fund</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Cali Fund was launched on February 25, 2025, at the 16th Conference of the Parties (COP16) to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Rome. This international biodiversity financing mechanism aims to collect contributions from private companies that benefit from the use of Digital Sequence Information (DSI) on genetic resources. The fund supports biodiversity conservation, scientific research, and indigenous communities, aligning with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) to reverse biodiversity loss by 2030. <p>Key Features of the Cali Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding Source: The Cali Fund will receive contributions from private sector entities that commercially utilize DSI in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, agriculture, and biotechnology. Fund Allocation: Fifty percent of the resources will be allocated to the self-identified needs of indigenous peoples and local communities, including women and youth. Objectives: The fund supports the three objectives of the CBD: conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources. Management: The fund is hosted by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO) in partnership with the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), with the CBD Secretariat hosting the Cali Fund Secretariat
<p>Kundis- Water Harvesting System</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kundis, also known as kunds, are traditional rainwater harvesting systems found primarily in the desert regions of western Rajasthan and parts of Gujarat. These structures are designed to collect and store rainwater for drinking and domestic use, providing a vital source of water in arid environments. <p>Structure and Function</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design: A kundi resembles an upturned cup nestled in a saucer. It consists of a circular underground well with a saucer-shaped catchment area that slopes towards the center, where the well is located. <p>Features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The well-pit is covered with lime and ash to prevent contamination, and a wire mesh protects the water inlet from debris. Most kundis have a dome-shaped cover or lid to safeguard the stored water <p>Usage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The depth and diameter of kundis vary based on their intended use, whether



Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

	<p>for drinking water or domestic purposes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While private kundis are accessible to those who can afford them, large public kundis serve the needs of poorer communities. <p>Historical and Cultural Significance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ancient Origins: Although kundis are not specifically dated to ancient civilizations like the Mauryan period, they represent a long-standing tradition of water management in desert regions⁵⁶. • Cultural Importance: These structures have been integral to the survival of communities in arid areas, providing essential water resources during periods of drought.
<p>SPHEREx telescope</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NASA is set to launch a new telescope, SPHEREx (Spectro-Photometer for the History of the Universe, Epoch of Reionization and Ices Explorer) telescope, which will create the “most colourful” map of the cosmos ever made. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SPHEREx telescope is relatively small but will provide a humongous amount of knowledge in its short two-year mission. • SPHEREx Mission: Scheduled for launch in 2026, the SPHEREx mission will survey the entire sky in 102 different "colors" of light, providing an unprecedented view of the universe. • This mission will help scientists understand the formation of galaxies, stars, and planets by mapping the sky in infrared light across a wide range of wavelengths. <p>Purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPHEREx is designed to conduct an all-sky survey in optical and near-infrared light. • Its primary goals include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a 3D map of the entire sky. • Investigating cosmic inflation. • Exploring the origins and evolution of galaxies. • Searching for water and biogenic molecules in the Milky Way. <p>Refer to Addapedia notes for detailed info NASA.</p>
<p>Mount Fentale</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mount Fentale, a volcano in northern Ethiopia, has recently experienced a rare and significant event, releasing massive plumes of methane into the atmosphere. • This phenomenon began on January 31, 2025, with methane emissions reaching 58 metric tonnes per hour, or approximately 1,400 metric tonnes per day. • The methane release is unusual for volcanic activity, which typically involves emissions of carbon dioxide and sulfur dioxide rather than methane. <p>Key Aspects of the Event</p>



Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location and Volcano Type: Mount Fentale is a stratovolcano located within the Main Ethiopian Rift, an area known for its geothermal activity and seismic unrest. • Methane Emissions: The high volume of methane released is not typical of volcanic eruptions. Scientists believe that deep underground magma movements may have opened a gas deposit, allowing methane to escape through newly created fissures. • Monitoring and Detection: The European Space Agency's Copernicus program and the Canadian company GHGSat played crucial roles in detecting and quantifying the methane emissions using satellite data. <p>Refer to Addapedia notes for detailed info on Volcanoes.</p>
<p>European Union and Carbon Tax</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The European Union (EU) has expressed willingness to address specific concerns raised by India regarding the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), a carbon tax that will be imposed on imports of carbon-intensive goods starting January 1, 2026. • India has been vocal about its opposition to CBAM, labeling it as unfair and potentially detrimental to its exports, particularly in sectors like steel and aluminum. <p>Key Concerns and EU Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns Raised by India: India argues that CBAM violates the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR) under international climate agreements, as it disproportionately affects developing countries. • Additionally, Indian exporters have raised data privacy concerns related to the extensive data requirements for CBAM compliance. • EU's Position: The EU maintains that CBAM is designed to be WTO-compliant and aims to prevent carbon leakage by ensuring that imported goods are subject to the same carbon pricing as those produced within the EU. • The EU is open to discussing these concerns and has suggested simplifying CBAM regulations for small importers to alleviate some of India's concerns. <p>Refer to Addapedia notes for detailed info on common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR) and Carbon Tax.</p>
<p>Samagra Shiksha Kerala program.</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Kerala, a bedridden tribal girl named Meenakshi from the Cholanaikkan tribe is receiving education through innovative methods under the Samagra Shiksha Kerala program. • The Kerala Education Department has prepared audio-visual texts to ensure that Meenakshi can continue her education despite her physical limitations. • This initiative is part of broader efforts to promote inclusive learning and provide equal opportunities for tribal communities in Kerala. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Cholanaikkan tribe is a very unique and vulnerable indigenous group in India.



Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

- They primarily inhabit the **Nilambur forests** of the Malappuram district in Kerala.
- They are considered one of the last remaining hunter-gatherer tribes in **South India**.
- Traditionally, they live in **rock shelters and caves**, earning them the nickname **"Cavemen of Kerala."**
- They are classified as a **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)** by the **Government of India**.

Samagra Shiksha Kerala program

- The **Samagra Shiksha Kerala program** is a comprehensive initiative focused on improving the quality of school education in the state of Kerala, India.

Overarching Program:

- Samagra Shiksha is an overarching program for the school education sector, extending from pre-school to class 12.
- It aims to treat school education holistically, without segmentation.
- Goals:
- The program's broader goal is to improve school effectiveness, measured by:
 - Equal opportunities for schooling.
 - Equitable learning outcomes.



Copyright © by Adda247

All rights are reserved. No part of this document may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior permission of Adda247.