

Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

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National and International News

Black Sea Grain Initiative	 Key points: It is associated with the Russia-Ukraine war. It was set up to resume vital food and fertilizer exports from Ukraine to the rest of the world. It was brokered between Russia and Ukraine by the United Nations and Turkey. Do you know? The Initiative allowed exports of grain, other foodstuffs, and fertilizer, including ammonia, to resume through a safe maritime humanitarian corridor from three key Ukrainian ports: Chornomorsk, Odesa, and Yuzhny/Pivdennyi, to the rest of the world.
African Union to join G-20 as Sherpas reach a deal	 African Union The African Union (AU) is a continental body consisting of the 55 member states that make up the countries of the African Continent. It was officially launched in 2002 and replaced its predecessor, the Organization of African Unity (OAU), which was founded in 1963. Primary Objective: To promote unity, cooperation, and development among African nations while advancing the continent's interests on the global stage. It aims to strengthen political, economic, and social integration among African countries, with a vision of achieving an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa. Headquarters: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
G-20 Structure Do you know? The G20 works in three major tracks — two of them are official and one is unofficial 1. Sherpa Track 2. Finance Track 3. Engagement groups or civil society groups (Unofficial)	Finance Track It is headed by the finance ministers and central bank governors, who usually meet four times a year, with two meetings being held on the sidelines of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) meetings. It mainly focuses on fiscal and monetary policy issues such as the global economy, infrastructure, financial regulation, financial inclusion, international financial architecture, and international taxation. Sherpa Track It was established after the forum became a leaders' summit in 2008. It consists of representatives of heads of state, and it focuses on socio-economic issues such as agriculture, anti-corruption, climate, digital economy, education, employment, energy, environment, health, tourism, trade, and investment. The unofficial track comprises engagement or civil groups.





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Clear illegal constructions in ESZ, buffer zone of Bandipur



What are eco-sensitive zones (ESZ)?

- An area around a protected area like a national park or wildlife sanctuary
- To conserve the biodiversity and ecosystems of protected areas by regulating human activities
- The government can regulate and restrict certain activities in ESZs through guidelines and laws

Bandipur Tiger Reserve

- It was established in the 1930s as a wildlife sanctuary, which became a tiger reserve in 1973 under Project tiger.
- It is **situated in Karnataka** and located at the tri-junction area of the States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- This area has the River Kabini in its north and River Moyar in its south.
- It comprises diverse vegetation of dry deciduous to tropical mixed deciduous. It includes rosewood, Indian kino tree, sandalwood, Indian laurel, clumping bamboo and giant clumping bamboo etc.
- It is a shelter for the largest population of wild Asian elephants in South Asia. It comprises other mammals such as Bengal tiger, gaur, sloth bear, golden jackal, dhole and four-horned antelope etc.

Water Hyacinth



Key points:

- Water hyacinth (Pontederia crassipes) is an invasive species native to South Africa.
- The plant has naturalised itself in many other parts of the world.
- Water hyacinth acts as a water purifier by removing heavy metals from water when present in small quantities.
- However, the **plant is a prolific spreader** and when it covers the entire surface of a water body, it does not allow sunlight to penetrate the water and also starts depleting oxygen.
- This leads to death of aquatic animals and plants, which in turn decompose and further reduce oxygen levels
- The presence of water hyacinth indicates that there are high nitrogen levels in the water.
- It is a symptom of an underlying problem and how the water nutrients behave.

Major security threat reported from Idukki Dam

Idukki Dam

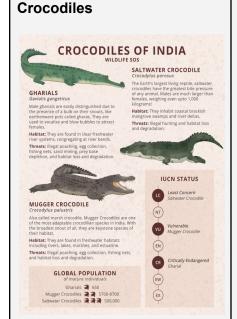
- The Idukki Dam is a double curvature Arch dam constructed across the **Periyar River** in a narrow gorge between two granite hills located in Idukki District in Kerala.
- At 168.91 metres it is one of the highest arch dams in Asia.
- This dam was constructed along with two other dams at Cheruthoni and Kulamavu.
- Together, the three dams and Two saddle dams, Kulamavu Saddle Dam (Near Junction) and Kulamavu Saddle Dam (Right Bank) have created an artificial lake in the area.







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Mugger or Marsh Crocodile:

- An egg-laying and hole-nesting species, also known to be dangerous.
- Mainly restricted to the Indian subcontinent where it may be found in a number of freshwater habitat types and also in coastal saltwater lagoons and estuaries.
- It is already extinct in Bhutan and Myanmar.
- IUCN List of Threatened Species: Vulnerable
- CITES: Appendix
- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I

Estuarine or Saltwater Crocodile:

- Considered as the Earth's largest living crocodile species, infamous globally as a known maneater.
- Found in Odisha's Bhitarkanika National Park, the Sundarbans in West Bengal and the Andamans and Nicobar Islands.
- Also found across Southeast Asia and northern Australia.
- IUCN List of Threatened Species: Least Concern
- CITES: Appendix I (except the populations of Australia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, which are included in Appendix II).
- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 : Schedule I

Gharial:

- Sometimes called gavials, are a type of Asian crocodilian distinguished by their long, thin snouts which resembles a pot (ghara in Hindi).
- The population of Gharials is a good indicator of clean river water.
- Known to be a relatively harmless, fish-eating species.
- Mostly found in fresh waters of the himalayan rivers.
- The Chambal river in the northern slopes of the Vindhya mountains (Madhya Pradesh) is known as the primary habitat of gharials.
- Other himalayan rivers like Ghagra, Gandak river, Girwa river, Ramganga river and the Sone river are secondary habitats.
- IUCN List of Threatened Species: Critically Endangered
- CITES: Appendix I
- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule

Important fact:-	As per a report by UNESCO in 2018, 42 languages are heading towards extinction in India.
Heat Index	Heat Index will calculate the temperature along with the humidity levels to provide a more accurate measure of what the temperature actually feels like.
Food Processing sector to create 9 million jobs by 2024.	India's household consumption will quadruple, making it the world's 5th largest consumer of food and food technology.







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Philippines opposes 'militia vessels' in South China Sea

South China Sea (SCS)

- An arm of the western Pacific Ocean that borders the Southeast Asian mainland.
- Bordered by Brunei, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.
- It is connected by the Taiwan Strait with the East China Sea and by the Luzon Strait with the Philippine Sea (both marginal seas of the Pacific Ocean).
- Comprise three archipelagoes, namely, the Spratly Islands, Paracel Islands, Pratas Islands and Macclesfield's Bank and Scarborough Shoal.



Concert of rare instruments planned at Presidents dinner for G-20

Bharat Vadya Darshanam - by Sangeet Natak Akademi Instruments include-

- Kamaicha used by Manganiar community of Rajasthan
- Naltarang
- Rudra Veena
- Surbahar

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