



26 April 2024

National and International News

<p>National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Supreme Court Registry has refused to accept a petition to end the Collegium system of judicial appointments and revive the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC). The NJAC, which gave an equal role to the government in judicial appointments, had been struck down by a Constitution Bench in October 2015. <p>About NJAC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NJAC was introduced through the 99th Constitutional Amendment Act in 2014, along with the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014. The purpose of the NJAC was to replace the existing Collegium system of appointing judges, which was criticized for lacking transparency and accountability. In October 2015, the Supreme Court declared the 99th Constitutional Amendment and the NJAC Act unconstitutional. The judgment reinstated the Collegium system, stating that the NJAC infringed upon the independence of the judiciary and violated the basic structure of the Constitution.
<p>INCOIS study on Ocean floor</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the Maldives Islands significantly influence the currents in the Indian Ocean, altering their direction and speed. Scientists at the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) found that deep-swirling patterns in the ocean depths are opposite to the surface currents. <p>About Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> INCOIS was established in 1999 as an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES). Mandate: It serves as a repository of ocean data and information, providing operational oceanographic services, modeling, and advisory services.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: INCOIS is located in Hyderabad, Telangana. • Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To provide ocean information and advisory services to various stakeholders. ○ To develop and implement operational oceanography systems for the Indian Ocean region. ○ To conduct research in various aspects of oceanography and related fields.
Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Supreme Court recently issued a stay on the construction of four proposed dams were to be constructed inside the Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary. <p>About Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: The sanctuary is situated in the Shivalik foothills of the Himalayas in Haryana, with the Yamuna River running to its east. • Topography: The landscape varies from plains to hills, interspersed with narrow valleys locally called 'kholes'. These valleys house seasonal rivulets, known as 'soats', which remain dry for most of the year.
Tiger Conservation Coalition	<p>Why in news:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sustainable Finance for Tiger Landscapes Conference was recently held. • Bhutan and the Tiger Conservation Coalition made a significant commitment of US\$1 billion for the conservation of tigers. <p>About Tiger Conservation Coalition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Tiger Conservation Coalition is a group of NGOs that has worked for many years to conserve tigers. • The eight NGOs in the coalition include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), ○ Fauna & Flora, ○ The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), ○ Panthera, ○ TRAFFIC, ○ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), ○ Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), and ○ World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). • The members co-developed Tiger Conservation Landscapes 3.0, an integrated habitat modelling system to measure and monitor changes in tiger habitat at range-wide, national, biome, and landscape scales in near real-time.



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Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)

Why in news:

- The Prime Minister of India recently addressed the **6th edition of the International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI)**.
- The conference was organized by **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**.

About Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI):

- CDRI is a **multi-stakeholder global partnership** that includes **national governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, and academic and knowledge institutions**.
- It was launched during the **United Nations Climate Action Summit** in **2019** in New York.
- The objective of CDRI is to **promote the resilience of infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks**, thereby ensuring sustainable development.
- **The international organisations include**
 - The Asian Development Bank (ADB),
 - World Bank Group,
 - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),
 - United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR),
 - European Union,
 - European Investment Bank, and
 - The Private Sector alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies (ARISE).

Kerala Regional News

Asian Telecom Awards 2024

Why in news:

- The **Kerala Fiber Optic Network Limited (KFON)** has won the prestigious '**Infrastructure Initiative of the Year - India**' award at the **Asian Telecom Awards 2024**.
- This award is a **recognition of KFON's pioneering efforts in driving nationwide digital connectivity**.

About Asian Telecom Awards 2024:

- The Asian Telecom Awards 2024 is a prestigious event that **recognizes outstanding accomplishments within the telecom industry**.
- The awards **trace their origin from the Asian**





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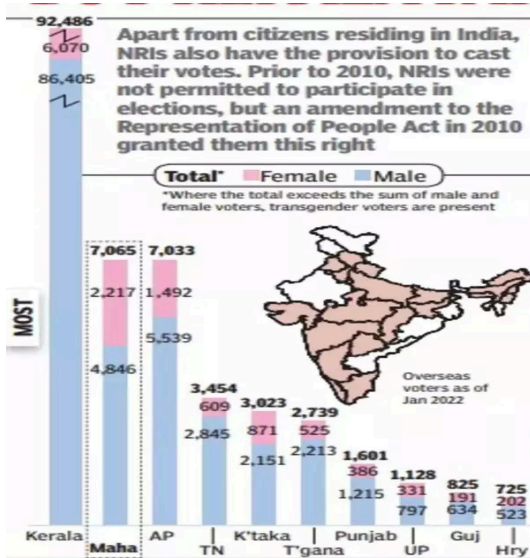
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Overseas voters in India



Mobile News, which debuted in 2003.

- The awards aim to honor the pioneering spirit and visionary thinking that enable telecom companies to reshape the digital landscape.
- The award ceremony was held at the Marina Bay Sands Expo & Convention Centre in Singapore.
- The 'Mobile Operator of the Year' award was won by Telkomsel.

Why in news:

- Maharashtra ranks second in terms of overseas voters.
- However, Kerala is far ahead of all other states, including Maharashtra, in this regard.

Key points:

- The right to vote for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Indian citizens was granted through a pre-2010 amendment.
- Overseas electors can enroll in constituencies that match their Indian residential address specified in their passports.
- Any changes in their overseas residential address, including those due to employment or education alterations, must be updated with the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO).

Haritha Kerala Mission

Why in news:

- Green initiative in Kerala to restore nature's balance for a sustainable future.

About Haritha Kerala Mission:

- Haritha Kerala Mission is a comprehensive environmental conservation and management initiative by the state government of Kerala.
- Haritha Kerala Mission aims to make the state clean, green, and water-rich.
- It focuses on
 - waste management,
 - organic farming,
 - water resources management, and
 - the preservation of biodiversity.

Poli Performance portal

Why in news:

- A group of youngsters have set up an online platform, Poli Performance, to help voters in Kerala make an informed choice.
- The platform provides a detailed overview of



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	<p>the performance of Lok Sabha MPs from Kerala during their 17th Lok Sabha tenure, as well as information about the candidates in fray.</p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The platform offers transparent and comprehensive data for evaluating the MPs' performance. • The aim of the platform is to enhance voter awareness and act as a bridge between citizens and elected representatives. • The portal was developed by Adwaith S, another techie, and law researchers Reshma Sekhar and Gautam Aredath. • The data on the portal is sourced from the official websites of the Union government.
Uttam Prakash	<p>Why in news:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uttam Prakash, a 1999 batch officer of EPFO, has taken charge as the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner in Kochi. • The EPFO Regional Office in Kochi is the largest office in Kerala that administers social security schemes under the EPF & MP Act 1952. • The Kochi Office has jurisdiction over the districts of Ernakulam, Thrissur, and Alappuzha.

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