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National and International News

<p>Civil Registration System (CRS)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the Civil Registration System (CRS) mobile application to "integrate technology with governance." • Under the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023, all reported births and deaths in the country from October 1, 2023, must be digitally registered through the Centre's portal at dc.crsorgi.gov.in. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History: The history of the Civil Registration System (CRS) in India dates back to the middle of the 19th century. • Post-independence: the Registration of Births and Death Act (RBD Act) was enacted in 1969 to promote uniformity and comparability in the registration of Births and Deaths across the country and compilation of vital statistics based thereon. • Registration: The Registrar General, India (RGI) at the Central Government level coordinates and unifies the activities of registration throughout the country. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ However, implementation of the statute is vested with the State Governments. ◦ The registration of births and deaths in the country is done by the functionaries appointed by the State Governments. • Uniform birth and death reporting: The Act mandates the use of uniform birth and death reporting forms and certificates throughout the country. • India is in the process of setting up a National Population Register (NPR-2010). The Civil Registration System has been linked to the NPR.
<p>Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four elephants were discovered dead, and five others were in poor health, in the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is located between the Vindhyan and Satpura ranges in the Umaria district of Madhya Pradesh. • It was declared a national park in 1968 and then became Tiger Reserve in 1993. • The habitat is characterized by valleys, hills, and plains, with the Bandhavgarh fort prominently seen as a major landmark.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vegetation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It consists of tropical moist, deciduous forests with sal, mixed forest, and grasslands. ○ Bamboo stretches on the lower slopes of the region. ● Flora: Some of the most famous floral species include Saj (Terminaliatomentosa), Dhaora (Anogeissuslatifolia), Tendu, Arjun (Terminaliaarjuna), Amla (Emblicaofficinalis), Palas (Buteamonosperma), etc. ● Fauna: It is known for the Royal Bengal Tigers. The density of the tiger population at Bandhavgarh is the highest known in India as well as in the world.
<p>Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Delhi High Court stated that the strict provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) should not be used as a "tool for incarceration." <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PMLA defines money laundering as an act of directly or indirectly attempting to indulge or knowingly assisting or knowingly being a party or actually involved in concealing, possessing, acquiring, using, projecting as untainted property, or claiming as untainted property, in any manner whatsoever, the proceeds of crime. ● It is defined as the process through which an illegal fund, such as black money, is obtained from illegal activities and disguised as legal money, eventually portrayed as white money. ● About Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is an act to prevent money laundering and to provide for the confiscation of property derived from or involved in money laundering. ○ The Act was formulated for the following objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Prevent money-laundering. ■ Combat/prevent the channelising of money into illegal activities and economic crimes. ■ Provide for the confiscation of property derived from, or involved/used in, money laundering. ■ Penalize the offenders of money laundering offenses. ■ Appointing an adjudicating authority and appellate tribunal for taking charge of money laundering matters. ■ Provide for matters connected and incidental to the acts of money laundering. ● The Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, is responsible for investigating the offenses of money laundering under the PMLA.
<p>National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has ordered manufacturers to lower the maximum retail prices of three anti-cancer drugs—Trastuzumab, Osimertinib, and Durvalumab—to ensure affordable access.



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	<p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a government regulatory agency established with the aim of controlling and regulating the prices of pharmaceutical drugs and medical devices in the country to ensure their availability at affordable rates. • It was constituted by Government of India Resolution dated 29th August 1997 as an attached office of the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers. • Functions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To implement and enforce the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order in accordance with the powers delegated to it. ○ To deal with all legal matters arising out of the decisions of the Authority. ○ To monitor the availability of drugs, identify shortages, if any, and to take remedial steps. ○ To collect/ maintain data on production, exports and imports, market share of individual companies, profitability of companies etc, for bulk drugs and formulations. ○ To undertake and/ or sponsor relevant studies in respect of pricing of drugs/ pharmaceuticals. ○ To recruit/ appoint the officers and other staff members of the Authority, as per rules and procedures laid down by the Government.
<p>United Nations' Refugee Agency for Palestinians (UNRWA)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Israeli lawmakers approved two laws on Monday that may jeopardize the main UN agency's operations in Gaza by prohibiting it from working on Israeli territory and cutting ties with it. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a subsidiary agency created by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in 1949. • Objective: To provide relief, health, and education services for Palestinians who lost both their homes and their means of livelihood during the Arab-Israeli wars following the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. • Beginning operations in 1950, UNRWA was originally headquartered in Beirut but was moved to Vienna in 1978. • Services: The agency's services encompass education, health care, relief and social services, camp infrastructure and improvement, microfinance, and emergency assistance, including in times of armed conflict. • Fields of operations: It provides services in its five fields of operations: Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank, including the East of Jerusalem. • Funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions from UN Member States.



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- UNRWA also receives **some funding from the Regular Budget of the UN**, which is used mostly for international staffing costs.
- Its **chief officer, the commissioner-general—the only leader of a UN agency to report directly to the General Assembly—is appointed by the UN secretary-general with the approval of an Advisory Commission.**

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