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National and International News

<p><b>Tartrazine</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Recent research has shown that <b>tartrazine, a common yellow food dye, can temporarily make the skin of live mice transparent.</b></li></ul> <p><b>About:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Tartrazine, also known as FD&amp;C Yellow 5 or E102, is a synthetic lemon yellow azo dye commonly used as a food coloring.</li><li>It is widely used in various food products, pharmaceuticals, and cosmetics due to its vibrant color and stability.</li><li><b>Appearance: Deep yellow powder</b></li><li><b>Solubility: Soluble in water</b></li></ul> <p><b>Key findings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>This breakthrough allows scientists to observe internal organs without invasive techniques.</li><li>If the method proves safe for humans, it could significantly enhance medical imaging and diagnostics.</li></ul> <p><b>How It Works:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Refractive Index Matching:</b> Tartrazine adjusts the refractive indices of tissues, reducing light scattering.</li><li><b>Light Absorption:</b> Absorbs specific wavelengths (e.g., red light), making the skin transparent.</li><li><b>Reversibility:</b> The effect is temporary and can be reversed by washing off the dye.</li></ul>
<p><b>Pahadi Korwa Tribe</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The government has initiated a road construction project aimed at connecting <b>54 settlements of the Pahadi Korwa tribal community in north Chhattisgarh.</b></li><li>The construction falls under the <b>Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN)</b> scheme.</li></ul>



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### About:

- The Pahadi Korwa tribe is an indigenous group primarily found in the **hilly and forested regions of northeastern Chhattisgarh, India.**
- They are part of the larger **Korwa ethnic group**, which includes various subgroups such as Agaria, Dandh, Dil, and Pahadi Korwas.
- The Pahadi Korwa people primarily speak the **Korwa language**, which belongs to the Munda branch of the Austroasiatic language family.

### Do you know?

- PM JANMAN is an ambitious government initiative launched on **November 15, 2023, on Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas**, aimed at uplifting Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) and bringing them into the mainstream.

### National Test House (NTH)

### Context:

- The **Quality Council of India (QCI)** has provisionally approved the **National Test House (NTH), Ghaziabad**, as a Certification Body for the type certification of drones.
- This approval is part of the **Certification Scheme for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)** and is aligned with the Indian Government's initiative to build a strong and competitive drone ecosystem under the **Drone Rules 2021**.

### Role of National Test House in Drone Certification:

- **NTH, Ghaziabad**, has been given the responsibility to certify drones to ensure they comply with national and international standards.
- The approval aligns with the government's goal of positioning India as a **global hub for drone technology**.
- Sectors such as **agriculture, healthcare, logistics, and infrastructure** are expected to benefit from safe and certified drone solutions.

### National Test House's Legacy and Role in Industrial Growth:



- Established in **1912**, NTH operates under the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution**.
- It has been instrumental in providing testing, calibration, and quality assurance services across multiple sectors.
- With its new role in drone certification, NTH is further contributing to the **“Make in India”** and **“Aatmanirbhar Bharat”** initiatives by ensuring homegrown drones meet international standards.

### Myristica swamps

#### Context:

- Researchers from **Dodamarg, near the Goa-Maharashtra border**, have discovered a sacred grove containing a **Myristica swamp forest in Kumbral**.
- This sacred grove is protected by the local community, emphasizing its cultural and ecological significance.

#### Myristica magnifica Species:

- Myristica magnifica, an endangered species, is native to Karnataka and Kerala.
- The Kumbral discovery marks the second instance of this species being found in Maharashtra, after an earlier discovery in Hewale-Bambarde, Sindhudurg district.
- Biodiversity and Cultural Importance
- The grove, preserved in the name of Lord Shiva, locally known as Bhalandeshwar, harbors myriad biodiversity.
- The villagers have been protecting this ecosystem for generations, contributing to its conservation.

#### Ecological Significance:

- The Myristica swamp forest provides essential ecosystem services:
  - Groundwater recharge and carbon sequestration
  - Natural flood barriers
  - Habitat for species like the threatened hornbills and vulnerable Asian short-clawed otter
  - Sacred Grove and Swamp Forest Details
- The sacred grove of Bhalandeshwar spans 8,200 sqm, with the swamp forest occupying 770 sqm.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The forest contains 39 documented plant species, with 70 individuals of <i>Myristica magnifica</i> being dominant.</li></ul>
<p><b>INS Malpe and INS Mulki</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>On <b>September 9, 2024</b>, the Indian Navy launched two <b>Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) shallow water crafts, Malpe and Mulki</b>.</li><li>The vessels were launched at <b>Cochin Shipyard Ltd. (CSL) in Kochi</b>.</li><li>These vessels are part of India's effort to strengthen its coastal defense capabilities.</li></ul> <p><b>About:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Primary Role:</b> These vessels are designed for anti-submarine warfare operations in coastal waters.</li><li>These vessels mark the fourth and fifth in the series of such watercrafts being built for the Indian Navy.</li></ul> <p><b>Aatmanirbhar Bharat Initiative:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The project aligns with India's 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India) initiative, aimed at reducing dependency on foreign defense imports.</li><li>Over 80% of the materials and components used in constructing these ships are indigenous.</li><li>This move highlights India's increasing self-reliance in defense manufacturing and technology development.</li></ul> <p><b>Note:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Aatmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India) initiative is a comprehensive economic stimulus package launched by the Government of India in May 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.</li><li><b>Focuses on five pillars:</b> economy, infrastructure, system, vibrant demography, and demand.</li></ul>



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