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National and International News

<p>B-READY index</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Central government is aligning its state business readiness rankings with the World Bank's B-READY index. <p>About B-READY index:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successor to Ease of Doing Business: The B-READY index replaces the discontinued Ease of Doing Business rankings. Quantified Assessment: It aims to quantitatively assess the business environment across global economies. Diverse Factors: The index considers a wider range of factors compared to its predecessor. Global Impact: It will be used by financial institutions and multinational companies as a benchmark. Annual Publication: The index will be published annually. Three Main Pillars: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulatory framework, Public services, and Efficiency. Holistic Approach: Digitalization, environmental sustainability, and gender equality are incorporated into each indicator. Lifecycle Tracking: The index covers ten parameters related to a firm's lifecycle. Expansion Plan: The index will expand in three stages, reaching up to 180 countries by 2026.
<p>Global Strategic Preparedness, Readiness and Response Plan (GSPRP)</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The World Health Organization (WHO) has recently launched a global plan to combat dengue and other Aedes-borne arboviruses. The Global Strategic Preparedness, Readiness and Response Plan (SPRP), aims to improve preparedness, readiness, and response to these diseases. <p>About GSPRP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce disease burden, suffering, and deaths from dengue, Zika, and chikungunya.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Foster a global coordinated response to these diseases. ● Key Components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Emergency Coordination ○ Collaborative Surveillance ○ Community Protection ○ Safe and Scalable Care ○ Access to Countermeasures ● Implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Strategic Plan will be implemented over one year until September 2025. ● It is aligned with the Global Vector Control Response and the Global Arbovirus Initiative.
Indian grey wolf	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Indian gray wolf helps to maintain a healthy population of prey species in central Karnataka. <p>About Indian grey wolf:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Distribution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Southwest Asia to the Indian Subcontinent ○ India: Approximately 3,000 individuals ● Habitat: Scrub, grasslands, and semi-arid pastoral areas ● Behavior: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nocturnal hunters, active from dusk to dawn ○ Travel in smaller packs compared to other wolf subspecies ○ Less vocal than other variants ● Conservation Status: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IUCN: Least Concern ○ CITES: Appendix I ○ Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972: Schedule I ● Threats: Habitat loss, depletion of prey species
Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS)	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) announced the completion of the Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORAD). <p>About VSHORADS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Development: Indigenously developed by DRDO in Hyderabad. ● Purpose: Neutralizing low-altitude aerial threats. ● Features:



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Highly portable design. ○ Requires minimal personnel to operate. ○ Incorporates advanced technologies like RCS and integrated avionics. ○ Dual-thrust solid motor propulsion. ● Range: Up to 6 km. ● Deployment: Ideal for mountainous regions near the Line of Actual Control.
<p>EnviStats India 2024</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The 7th edition of "EnviStats India 2024: Environment Accounts" has been published by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). <p>About EnviStats India 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SEEA Compilation: The report is compiled following the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA). ● Focus Areas: The seventh publication in the series covers Energy Accounts, Ocean Accounts, Soil Nutrient Index, and Biodiversity. ● Protected Area Expansion: A significant increase of 72% in the number and 16% in the area of Total Protected Areas has been observed from 2000 to 2023. ● Mangrove Growth: Mangrove coverage, a crucial part of the ocean ecosystem, has grown by around 8% between 2013 and 2021. ● Biodiversity Assessment: The report includes taxonomic faunal and floral diversity, status of Leopard and Snow Leopard, and genetic conservation efforts. ● IUCN Red List Analysis: Species richness based on the IUCN Red List of Threatened species has been compiled using spatial datasets.



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