



20 January 2025

National and International News

<p><b>Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Chairman Anil Kumar Lahoti announced that TRAI would use <b>Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT)</b> to record customers' spam preferences.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blockchain, also known as Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) facilitates the <b>conversion of currency and various assets into digital formats for storage and management.</b></li> <li>• It enables the <b>recording and distribution of digital information</b>, serving as an immutable ledger of transactions that <b>cannot be altered, deleted, or erased.</b></li> <li>• <b>Blockchain Technology Features:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Distributed Ledger:</b> Blockchain is a distributed ledger spread across multiple computers in a peer-to-peer network, preventing a centralized point of failure.</li> <li>○ <b>Immutability:</b> Once data is recorded, it is hard to alter retroactively, ensuring security and trust through cryptographic hashes.</li> <li>○ <b>Secured:</b> Blockchain uses cryptography, digital signatures, and private/public keys for securing the network and protecting participant identities.</li> <li>○ <b>Consensus-Based:</b> Transactions are validated and added to the blockchain only after all nodes agree on their legitimacy based on network rules.</li> <li>○ <b>Decentralised:</b> No central authority controls the network, as full copies of the blockchain exist on multiple decentralized computers.</li> <li>○ <b>Faster:</b> By eliminating intermediaries, blockchain enables quicker direct peer-to-peer transactions.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Species in news: Water hyacinth</b></p> 	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water hyacinth threatened the livelihoods of fishermen on a Kenyan lake.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a <b>perennial, free-floating aquatic plant native to tropical regions of South America, and now present on all continents except Antarctica.</b></li> <li>• This plant rapidly <b>increases biomass and forms dense mats in lakes, dams and irrigation channels and</b></li> </ul>



	<p>chokes them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is not an indigenous species but was introduced to India during the British colonial rule as an ornamental aquatic plant from South America. The plant produces beautiful purple flowers that have high aesthetic value. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ It is rich in fibrous stems that can be processed into a wide array of handbags, interior decorative material, table mats, baskets and other products.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Impact on environment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ This simple, floating aquatic plant is also an obnoxious weed that has been suffocating surface freshwater sources like rivers, rivulets, streams, ponds, dams, lakes and bogs, making the water bodies unsuitable for commercial fishery, transportation and recreation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Significance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ The plant has been used as a biofertilizer in some organic agriculture practices.</li> <li>◦ It has been reported that this plant is a good phytoremediation species, suggesting it has the ability to trap and remove toxic metabolites and harmful heavy metals from water.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Species in news: Indian Grey Wolf</b></p> 	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Indian Grey wolf recently gave birth to eight pups at the Bankapur Wolf Sanctuary in Koppal district.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Indian grey wolf (Canis lupus pallipes)</b> is a subspecies of the <b>grey wolf (Canis lupus)</b> native to the Indian subcontinent.</li> <li>• The Indian grey wolf is primarily found in the <b>arid and semi-arid regions of India.</b></li> <li>• Its range includes states like <b>Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, and parts of Maharashtra.</b></li> <li>• The wolf inhabits a variety of ecosystems, including <b>grasslands, scrublands, and deserts.</b></li> <li>• <b>Physical Characteristics:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ The Indian grey wolf is typically smaller in size compared to some other wolf subspecies.</li> <li>◦ It has a greyish-brown fur coat with a mix of lighter and darker shades.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Conservation Status:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ The Indian grey wolf is listed as "<b>Endangered</b>" on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.</li> <li>◦ Threats to their population include habitat loss,</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



	human-wildlife conflict, and poaching.
<b>SVAMITVA Scheme</b>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Prime Minister had addressed an event to distribute over 65 lakh property cards to property owners in more than 50,000 villages through video conferencing.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>SVAMITVA (Survey of villages and mapping with improvised technology in village areas)</b> scheme is a new initiative of the <b>Ministry of Panchayati Raj</b>.</li> <li>It aims to <b>provide rural people with the right to document their residential properties so that they can use their property for economic purposes</b>.</li> <li>The scheme is for surveying the land parcels in rural inhabited areas using Drone technology.</li> <li>The survey shall be done across the country in a phase wise manner over the period 2020 -2025 .</li> <li>The scheme is proposed as a <b>Central Sector scheme</b> with a projected outlay of Rs 79.65 crores for the pilot phase (FY 2020 -21) .</li> <li><b>Coverage</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are about <b>6.62 lakh villages in the country which will be eventually covered in this scheme</b>.</li> <li>The entire work is likely to be spread over a period of five</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Objectives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To bring financial stability to the citizens in rural India by enabling them to use their property as a financial asset for taking loans and other financial benefits.</li> <li>Creation of accurate land records for rural planning.</li> <li>Determination of property tax, which would accrue to the GPs directly in States where it is devolved or else, add to the State exchequer.</li> <li>Creation of survey infrastructure and GIS maps that can be leveraged by any department for their use.</li> <li>To support the preparation of a better-quality Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) by making use of GIS maps.</li> <li>To reduce property related disputes and legal cases</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>World Bank Group</b>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The World Bank has projected a 6.7% growth for India, outpacing the global growth rate of 2.7%.</li> </ul>



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### Key Points:

- The WB is an international financial institution that provides loans and grants to the governments of low and middle-income/developing countries for the purpose of pursuing capital projects.
- It was established along with the IMF at the 1944 Bretton Woods Conference.
- The WB is the collective name for the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and International Development Association (IDA), two of five international organisations owned by the WB Group.
- **Major Reports:**
  - Ease of Doing Business (Stopped publishing).
  - Human Capital Index.
  - World Development Report.
- **Its Five Development Institutions:**
  - International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
  - International Development Association (IDA)
  - International Finance Corporation (IFC).
  - Multilateral Guarantee Agency (MIGA)
  - International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)
    - India is not a member of ICSID.





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