

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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DESCRIPTIVE

❖ World's first Asian King Vulture Conservation and Breeding Center to be inaugurated in Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh has set up a state-of-the-art Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Center (JCBC) for the critically endangered Asian king vulture, the first of its kind in the world.
- It is located in the Maharajganj district of Uttar Pradesh and is spread over 1.5 hectares.
- The JCBC is designed to maintain a sustainable population of Asian king vultures by breeding them in captivity and releasing them into the wild.
- The Asian king vulture is protected under the Wildlife Protection Act and is listed as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.
- The Forest Department has partnered with the Bombay Natural History Society for technical guidance.

❖ PM Modi launches Big Cat Alliance for conservation of seven cats

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA) in Karnataka.
- IBCA focuses on the conservation of seven species of big cats, including tigers, lions, leopards, cheetahs, jaguars, snow leopards, and clouded leopards.
- The alliance seeks to bring together countries, conservationists and experts from around the world to collaborate on conservation efforts for these seven big cat species. The purpose of the alliance is to facilitate collaboration between

governments, NGOs and the private sector to create sustainable solutions for conservation.

➤ The introduction of the IBCA is an important step towards the conservation of these magnificent animals, as their populations face unprecedented threats from habitat loss, poaching and human-animal conflicts.

➤ Chief Minister: **Basavaraj Bommai**

➤ Governor: **Thawar Chand Gehlot**

❖ **4-day visit of Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Emin Zhaparova to India**

➤ Ukraine's Deputy Foreign Minister Emin Zhaparova arrived in India on a four-day visit, the first official visit to the Eastern European country since the Russian aggression began in February 2022.

➤ According to the information given by the Ministry, the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Emin Zhaparova will be on an official visit to India from 9 to 12 April.

➤ Zhaparova held talks with Sanjay Verma, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). In which the two sides are expected to discuss bilateral relations, exchange views on the current situation in Ukraine and global issues of mutual interest.

➤ In India, Zhaparova will also meet Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture Meenakshi Lekhi and Deputy National Security Advisor Vikram Misri. In the context of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, India has urged both sides to find a peaceful solution to the disputes.

➤ Capital: **Kyiv**

➤ President: **Volodymyr Zelensky**

➤ Currency: **Ukrainian hryvnia**

❖ Indian GM Gukesh wins title at World Chess Armageddon Asia & Oceania event

- Teenaged Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh stunned former world rapid champion Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan in the final to win the World Chess Armageddon Asia & Oceania event.
- Gukesh emerged winner in a topsy-turvy summit clash.
- The first game of the 'new' match was a draw after a perpetual check from Gukesh.
- An Armageddon game is a variant of blitz chess to determine a winner after a series of a drawn game. A drawn game in Armageddon is counted as a win for Black.

❖ India, Bangladesh, Japan to hold connectivity meet in Tripura

- Bangladesh, India, and Japan are set to hold a two-day connectivity event in Tripura, India. The event is aimed at exploring connectivity initiatives and leveraging the commercial potential of the region.
- The Asian Confluence, a think tank from Northeast India, is organising the event in collaboration with India's Ministry of External Affairs.
- Bangladesh State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam is scheduled to represent Bangladesh, while India's deputy foreign minister and the Japanese ambassador to India will also attend.
- A recent study conducted by the Asian Confluence recommended scaling up multi-modal connectivity between Northeast India and Bangladesh to enhance competitiveness and narrow the development gaps in the region.
- It suggested establishing a Japan-Northeast India Chamber of Commerce to promote Japanese investment in Northeast India and a Northeast India-Bangladesh-Japan CEO Forum to provide the necessary business leadership.

❖ **Aam Aadmi Party got the status of national party**

- The Election Commission of India has granted National party status to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).
- Currently Aam Aadmi Party has government in two states: Union Territory and National Capital Delhi in February 2020 as well. The party formed the government with absolute majority in the 2022 assembly elections in Punjab. In the same year, the Aam Aadmi Party made its mayor for the first time in the Delhi MCD.
- Along with this, the Election Commission of India has withdrawn the status of being a national party from many political parties. While many political parties were given the status of state level party.
- The Election Commission has withdrawn the national party status of Sharad Pawar's party NCP, CPI and Trinamool Congress (TMC). In Uttar Pradesh, the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) has also been withdrawn as a state party.
- Right now there are only six national parties in the country: Indian National Congress (INC), Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI-M), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), National People's Party (NPP), Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

❖ **David Warner becomes fastest to score 6000 runs in IPL**

- During a match against Rajasthan Royals at the Barsapara Stadium in Guwahati, Delhi Capitals' captain David Warner became the fastest batsman to reach 6000 runs in the Indian Premier League (IPL).
- He is now the third player to achieve this feat after Virat Kohli from Royal Challengers Bangalore and Shikhar Dhawan, captain of Punjab Kings. It took Warner 165 innings to reach this milestone, while Kohli and Dhawan achieved it in 188 and 199 innings respectively.
- David Warner, who has been the recipient of the Orange Cap three times in IPL 2015, 2017 and 2019, reached the milestone of 6000 runs with a boundary during a match against Rajasthan Royals at the Barsapara Stadium in Guwahati.

Additionally, he also became the highest run-scorer of the season during this innings.

❖ **Government organises National Apprenticeship Mela in Udhampur under Skill India Mission**

- Prime Minister's National Apprenticeship Mela (PMNAM) was organised under the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at ITI College, Udhampur.
- It was organised by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) under the Skill India Mission to promote career opportunities for the youth of India.
- The main objective of PMNAM was to provide relevant apprenticeship training to the local youth of Udhampur and surrounding areas, thus providing them better career opportunities.
- Several local business organisations participated in the Apprenticeship Mela to provide employment to youth in the region, thus boosting local employment and economic growth. The apprenticeship training provided by these organisations is aimed at equipping youth with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in their chosen fields.
- PMNAM also served as a platform for the youth to interact with industry experts and gain a better understanding of the current trends and demands of the job market. Through this initiative, the government aims to bridge the gap between the demand and supply of skilled workforce in the country and provide better career prospects for the youth of India.

❖ **National Safe Motherhood Day: 11 April**

- National Safe Motherhood Day is observed every year on 11 April. Its main objective is to raise awareness about maternal health, the need for proper medical care during pregnancy and postpartum.

- This initiative was started by the Government of India to reduce the number of maternal and neonatal deaths. The day serves as a reminder for both government and society to prioritise the health and safety of mothers and their newborns.
- In 2003, the Government of India declared 11 April as the National Safe Motherhood Day through the efforts of the White Ribbon Alliance India (WRAI) and the day was chosen to coincide with the birth anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi, a renowned social reformer.
- The primary objective of WRAI was to create awareness about healthy health care practices as well as the availability and accessibility of health care initiatives for women during pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum care and to encourage the government to prioritise maternal health.

❖ **State Energy Efficiency Index 2021-22 released**

- Union Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shri R. K. Singh today released the report of State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2021-22. The SEEI was released during the RPM (Review, Planning and Monitoring) meeting of States and State Utilities in New Delhi.
- The index developed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), a statutory body under the Ministry of Power, in association with Alliance for an Energy-Efficient Economy (AEEE), assesses, the annual progress of states and UTs in energy efficiency implementation, for FY 2020-21 and 2021-22.
- SEEI 2021-22 has an updated framework of 50 indicators aligned with national priorities. Programme-specific indicators have been included this year to track outcomes and impacts of state-level energy efficiency initiatives.
- In SEEI 2021-22, 5 states - Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan and Telangana - are in the Front Runner category (>60 points) while 4 states - Assam, Haryana, Maharashtra, and Punjab - are in the Achiever category (50-60 points). Further, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Assam and Chandigarh are the top-performing

states in their respective state groups. Telangana and Andhra Pradesh showed the most improvement since the last index.

➤ The SEEI improves data collection, enables cross-state collaboration, and develops energy efficiency program ideas. It helps states identify areas for improvement, learn from best practices, and adopt an economy-wide approach to energy efficiency implementation. By prioritizing energy efficiency, it aims at driving decarbonisation efforts and achieve a more sustainable future.

❖ **Former IAS officer, Naresh Gupta passes away**

➤ A former IAS officer and Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Naresh Gupta passed away at 72 after a prolonged illness. He was a native of Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

➤ He was the CEO during the DMK regime between 1998 and 2000. Subsequently, late chief minister J Jayalalithaa appointed him as home secretary.

➤ He was again posted as the CEO between 2005 and 2010 and held the post during the 2006 assembly election and 2009 general elections.

❖ **UIDAI, IIT Bombay join hands to develop touchless biometric capture system**

➤ The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has joined hands with the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-Bombay) to develop a robust touchless biometric capture system for easier usage anytime and anywhere.

➤ As part of the understanding, UIDAI and IIT Bombay will conduct joint research to build a mobile capture system for fingerprints and a liveness model integrated with the capture system.

➤ The touchless biometric capture system, once developed and operational, will allow fingerprint authentication from home like face authentication. The new system is expected to capture multiple fingerprints at one go and aid the authentication success rate further. The new system once in place will be an addition to the existing facilities available in the Aadhaar ecosystem.

➤ The collaboration between UIDAI and IIT Bombay through its National Centre of Excellence in Technology for Internal Security (NCETIS) will lead to joint engagement in research and development (R&D) for the development of a system for UIDAI. The NCETIS is a joint initiative by IIT Bombay and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), under its flagship Digital India Programme.

❖ **Google fined \$32 million in South Korea for anti-competitive behaviour**

➤ South Korea's antitrust regulator has fined Alphabet Inc's Google 42.1 billion won (\$31.88 million) for blocking the release of mobile video games on a competitor's platform.

➤ The Korea Fair Trade Commission (KFTC) said on Tuesday that Google bolstered its market dominance, and hurt local app market One Store's revenue and value as a platform, by requiring video game makers to exclusively release their titles on Google Play in exchange for providing in-app exposure between June 2016 and April 2018.

➤ In 2021, Google was fined more than 200 billion won by the KFTC for blocking customised versions of its Android operating system.

➤ **Google CEO: Sundar Pichai**

➤ **Google HQ: California, USA**

❖ **Sixteenth Finance Commission will be constituted in November 2023**

➤ The government is likely to set up the 16th finance commission this year to suggest, among other things, the ratio in which tax is to be divided between the Centre and states for five years, beginning April 1, 2026.

➤ Finance Commission is a constitutional body that gives suggestions on Centre-state financial relations.

➤ The previous Finance Commission submitted its report on November 9, 2020, for the 5 fiscals-2021-22 to 2025-26 to the President. The 15th Commission under NK

Singh had kept the tax devolution ratio at 42 per cent at the same level suggested by the 14th Commission.

➤ For the current fiscal, the deficit is projected at 5.9 per cent of GDP, lower than 6.4 per cent in the last fiscal ended March 31, 2023.

❖ 196th birth anniversary of Jyotirao Govindrao Phule

➤ Jyotirao Phule Jayanti is an annual observance in India, celebrated on April 11th every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Jyotirao Phule.

➤ Jyotirao Phule was a prominent social reformer, philosopher, and writer who played a crucial role in women's education and the upliftment of the oppressed castes in India during the British rule.

➤ He was born on April 11, 1827, in Maharashtra, and his contributions to the Indian society and culture are celebrated on this day. Jyotirao Phule founded the Satyashodhak Samaj, which advocated for the education of women and the lower castes and fought against the oppressive caste system prevalent in India.

➤ Jyotirao Govindrao Phule was born on April 11, 1827, in Satara, Maharashtra, and this year marks his 196th birth anniversary. He was a social reformer, anti-caste activist, thinker, and writer who dedicated his life to the education and upliftment of the oppressed, as well as the eradication of untouchability and the caste system.

➤ He coined the Marathi word 'Dalit' in the 1880s to refer to the untouchables and outcasts who were oppressed by society.