

NEWS TODAY

50 CHEETAHS TO BE INTRODUCED IN INDIA IN NEXT 5 YEARS

- At the **19th Meeting of National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**, an 'Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India' was launched to introduce 50 Cheetahs over 5 years.
 - Cheetah conservation should become a **part of the mandate of the NTCA** and under the **Project Tiger Scheme of funding** by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).
 - The **Asiatic cheetah is the only large carnivore to have gone extinct in India** in 1952 due to over-hunting and loss of habitat.
- Around 8-12 **African cheetahs from South Africa, Namibia and Botswana will be translocated to Kuno Palpur National Park (KNP)** in Madhya Pradesh.
 - African Cheetahs (IUCN status: Vulnerable)**, are being considered for **reintroduction** as **Asiatic Cheetah (IUCN: critically endangered)** are low in numbers which is known to occur only in Iran now.
- Benefits**
 - Enhance local community livelihoods through **eco-tourism prospects**.
 - The re-introduction plan of an apex predator at the top of a food chain **may help improve its habitats or even an ecosystem**.
 - Offers the **prospect of housing** four large felids of India - **tiger, lion, leopard and cheetah to coexist as they did in the past**.

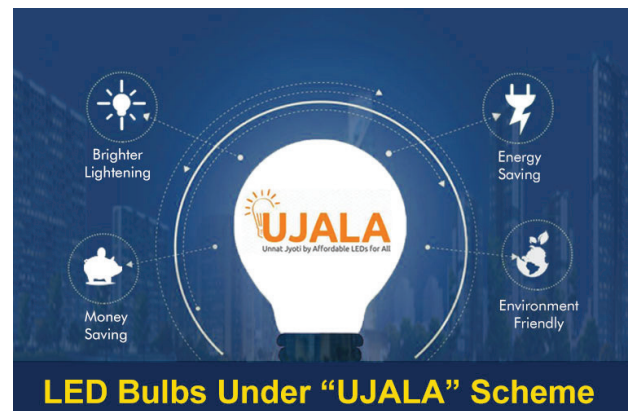


Other Developments of the 19th Meeting of NCTA

- A **Water Atlas was released**, which maps all the water bodies in the tiger bearing areas of India.
 - More than 35 rivers originate from these areas which are crucial for water security.
- 14 Tiger Reserves have been accredited under Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS)** and NTCA is working on getting other Tiger Reserves evaluated for it.
 - It is a set of criteria which allows tiger sites to check if their management will lead to successful tiger conservation.
- India's tiger population stands at 2967**, which is home to over 70% of the entire tiger population in the world, spread out across 51 tiger reserves in 18 states.

UNNAT JYOTI BY AFFORDABLE LEDS FOR ALL (UJALA) SCHEME COMPLETES 7 YEARS

- It was **launched by Ministry of Power** in 2015.
 - Energy Efficiency Service Limited (EESL)**, under Ministry of Power, is the implementing agency for UJALA.
- Under UJALA scheme, **LED bulbs, LED Tube lights and Energy efficient fans** are being provided to domestic consumers **for replacement of conventional and inefficient variant**.
- Objective:** To promote efficient lighting, reduce electricity bills and help preserve the environment.
- Major Quantitative Achievements**
 - More than 36.78 crore LEDs have been distributed.
 - 47,778 million kWh per annum energy has been saved.
 - 9,565 MW of peak demand has been avoided, along with 3,86 crore tonnes of reduction in CO2 emissions.
 - Cost of LED bulb has come by down by 85%.
- Major Qualitative Achievements**
 - Under the programme, the government has **ensured transparency and encouraged competition by e-procurement of goods and services**.
 - This has resulted in significant reduction in transaction cost and time, **enhancing process efficiency**.
 - As part of its inclusive growth strategy, **EESL has also enrolled Self-Help Groups (SHGs) for distribution of LED bulbs** under UJALA programme.



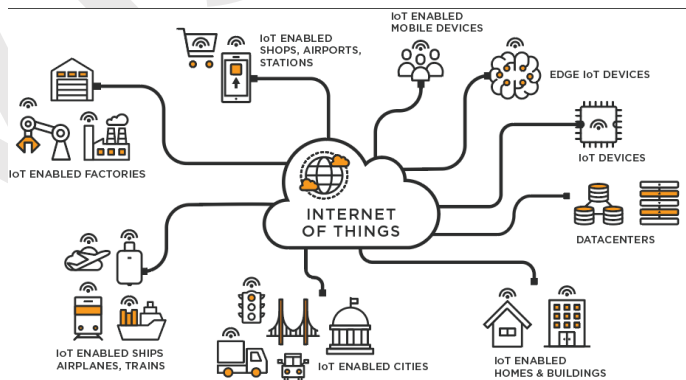
LED Bulbs Under "UJALA" Scheme

SIX ONE DISTRICT ONE PRODUCT (ODOP) BRANDS LAUNCHED UNDER THE PMFME SCHEME

- **Ministry of Food Processing Industries** had signed an agreement with **NAFED** for developing **10 brands** of selected ODOPs under the branding and marketing component of the **Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME)** scheme.
 - Out of these, six brands namely **Amrit Phal (Gurugram, Haryana)**, **Cori Gold (Kota, Rajasthan)**, **Kashmiri Mantra (Kulgam, J&K)**, **Madhu Mantra (Saharanpur, UP)**, **Somdana (Thane, Maharashtra)**, and **Whole Wheat Cookies of Dilli Bakes (Delhi)** were launched.
 - According to NAFED, for the benefit of consumers, it **ensures a longer shelf life of the product and keeping it fresh.**
- ODOP initiative aimed to select, brand, and promote One Product from each District of the country
 - For enabling **holistic socioeconomic growth across all regions.**
 - To attract investment in the District **to boost manufacturing and exports.**
 - To **generate employment in the District.**
 - To provide ecosystem for Innovation/ use of Technology at District level **to make them competitive with domestic as well as International market.**
- **PMFME** is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme under Atamirbhar Bharat.**
 - It aims to enhance the **competitiveness of existing individual micro-enterprises in the unorganized segment of the food processing industry** and to promote formalization of the sector.

TELECOMMUNICATION ENGINEERING CENTRE (TEC) RELEASES 'CODE OF PRACTICE FOR SECURING CONSUMER INTERNET OF THINGS (IOT)' REPORT

- TEC, under the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), has released the report **as a baseline requirement aligned with global standards and best practises.**
 - These guidelines will **help in securing consumer IoT devices and ecosystem** as well as managing vulnerabilities.
 - It is **intended for use by IoT device manufacturers**, service providers and application developers etc.
- IoT describes the **network of physical objects—"things"—that are embedded with sensors, software, and other technologies for the purpose of connecting and exchanging data with other devices** and systems over the internet (See infographics).
- As per the projections, there may be 26.4 billion IoT devices in service globally by 2026.



- **Concern:** Hacking of the devices/networks would harm companies, organisations, nations and more importantly people.

● **Initiatives taken by DoT to secure IoT devices:**

- **Mandatory testing and certification of devices** prior to sale, import or use in India under the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Rules, 2017.
- **"Security by design"** principle should be implemented by manufacturers in IoT devices manufacturing to ensure end to end encryption.
- A **National Trust Center (NTC)**, under the aegis of TEC, will be created.

TRADITIONAL VACCINES AS EFFECTIVE, SAYS SCIENTIST

- Recent research has indicated that vaccines made from traditional approaches like by inserting an inactivated form of disease-causing pathogen (Covaxin) are just as effective as the modern approaches of mRNA or DNA based vaccines (ZyCov-D vaccine).
- **Traditional vs Modern Vaccine Approaches**
 - Traditional vaccines contain inactivated parts of the pathogen (virus/bacteria) that **enter the body as antigens and trigger an immune response.**
 - Newer technologies such as the **mRNA or DNA vaccines contain modified genes that use the body's cells** to make the immune-triggering antigen.
 - This approach is also believed to be **quicker and more customisable to making vaccines** for several pathogens in the future.
 - mRNA vaccines work by **introducing a piece of mRNA that corresponds to a viral protein** found on the virus's outer membrane.
 - As part of a normal immune response, the **immune system recognizes that the protein is foreign and produces specialized proteins called antibodies** that help fight the pathogens.
 - However, when it comes to the efficacy of the vaccines, they have shown similar results.






○ mRNA or messenger RNA are molecules that carry the genetic information needed to make proteins. They carry the information from the DNA in the nucleus of the cell to the cytoplasm where the proteins are made.



HOW IS PRIME MINISTER'S SECURITY PLANNED

- Planning of the PM's security during any visit is an **elaborate exercise that involves both central agencies and state police forces**. Broad guidelines are laid down in the **Special Protection Group's (SPG) 'Blue Book'**.
- The SPG only provides proximate security** to the PM.
 - When the PM is travelling to any state, it is the **responsibility of the state police to ensure overall security**.
 - They have the responsibility of **intelligence gathering, route clearance, venue sanitisation, and crowd management**.
 - Central intelligence agencies are responsible for providing inputs** about any threat to security. However, it is the SPG that takes the final call on how the PM's security is to be arranged.
- About SPG**
 - The SPG was raised in 1985 by the **Act of Parliament called SPG Act 1988**.
 - Intention is to provide **proximate security cover to the Prime Minister, former Prime Ministers and their immediate family members**.
 - SPG has strived to achieve this **by adopting innovative methods not only in its own working, but also in the overall security arrangements in collaboration with the IB and State/ UT police forces**.

ALSO IN NEWS

 <p>Official Language of High Court (HC) and Supreme Court (SC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gujarat HC has asked a journalist facing contempt of court proceedings to speak only in English as that was the language in the higher judiciary. Article 348 (1) of the Constitution provides that all proceedings in the SC and in every HC shall be in English Language until Parliament by law otherwise provides. Section 7 of the Official Languages Act, 1963, provides that the use of Hindi or official language of a State in addition to the English language may be authorised, with the consent of the President, by the Governor of the State for the purpose of judgments etc. made by the HC for that State.
 <p>Sugar Development Fund (SDF)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In order to facilitate rehabilitation of financially weak but economically viable sugar mills which have availed loans under the SDF, Department of Food and Public Distribution issued guidelines for restructuring of SDF Loans. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Guidelines have provision for two years moratorium and then five years of repayment. The SDF was established by the SDF Act 1982 for making loans for facilitating the rehabilitation and modernisation of any sugar factory.
 <p>Smart cities and Academia Towards Action & Research (SAAR) Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAAR program has been launched under the Smart Cities mission. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the program, 15 premier architecture & planning institutes of the country will be working with Smart Cities to document landmark projects undertaken by the Smart Cities Mission. The Institutes will document the outcomes of these projects, on how they are impacting the lives of urban citizens. It is a joint initiative of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) and leading Indian academic institutions of the country.
 <p>Atal Pension Yojana</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APY increase new enrolments crossing 65 lakh in the current financial year. It was launched in 2015 as a government-backed, voluntary scheme meant to provide old-age income security in the form of minimum assured pension (ranging from Rs 1,000-5,000/ month) in proportion to individual contributions, even as it is market-linked. Aim to create a universal social security system, especially for poor, the under-privileged and the workers in the unorganised sector. It is administered by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
 <p>Aquamation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aquamation, or alkaline hydrolysis, is a process in which the body of the deceased is immersed for a few hours in a mixture of water and a strong alkali in a pressurized metal cylinder and heated to around 150 degree centigrade. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The combination of gentle water flow, temperature and alkalinity accentuate the breakdown of the organic materials. Considered to be an environmentally friendly flameless way to dispose of a body, the process is also known as water cremation, green cremation or chemical cremation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The process leaves behind bone fragments and a neutral liquid called effluent.



- In a historic decision, Odisha approved **amendments to the Sri Jagannath Temple Act of 1954**, simplifying issues pertaining to land owned by the Jagannath Temple.
 - Temple administration now has the power to sell or lease out temple land, without any approval from the state government.
- **Jagannath Temple**
 - Constructed in **12th century by King Anatavarman Chodaganga Deva of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty**.
 - Jagannath Puri temple is **called 'Yamanika Tirtha and "White Pagoda"**
 - It is a part of the "Char Dham" pilgrimages (Badrinath, Dwaraka, Puri, Rameswaram)



Chilika Lake (Odisha)

- As per the **water bird status survey-2022**, a total of 10.4 lakh birds were counted at the lagoon.

- **Chilika Lake is the largest brackish water lake** and wintering ground of the migratory birds in the Indian subcontinent.

- **Designated as a "Ramsar Site"** since 1981.

- The **Nalaban Island** within the lake is **notified as a Bird Sanctuary** under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

- **Irrawaddy dolphin** is the flagship species inhabiting the lake.



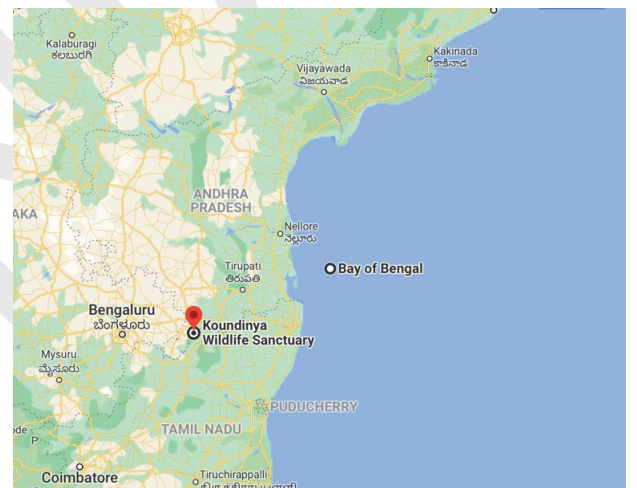
Koundinya Wildlife Sanctuary

- Location: Situated in **Palamner - Kuppam forest ranges of Chittoor district** of Andhra Pradesh.

- **Fauna:** The **only home for Asiatic elephants** in Andhra Pradesh.

- The Sanctuary **comes under Project elephant - a country wide Elephant Conservation Project** taken up by the government.

- **Flora:** Southern tropical dry deciduous forest, with patches of thorn, scrub and grassy plains.



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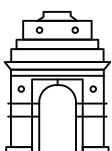


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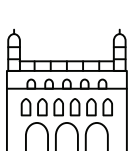
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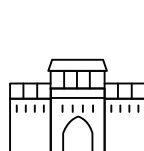
LUCKNOW



JAIPUR



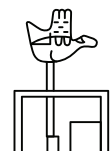
HYDERABAD



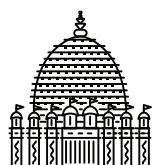
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CHANDIGARH



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