



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 27th And 28th 2018

General Studies- 1

Cheetah Reintroduction Programme:

Context:

The [Madhya Pradesh](#) forest department has written to the National Tiger Conservation Authority to revive the plan to reintroduce cheetahs in the State's Nauradehi sanctuary. The ambitious project, conceived in 2009, had hit a roadblock for want of funds.

Requirements for Programme:

- The M.P. forest department would need finances from the Centre for the project.
- NTCA, a statutory body under the Union Environment Ministry, had committed ₹50 crore to the State for it in 2011.
- The Wildlife Institute of India at Dehradun had prepared a ₹260-crore cheetah re-introduction project six years ago.
- It was estimated that an amount of ₹25 crore to ₹30 crore would be needed to build an enclosure in an area of 150 sq km for the cheetahs in Nauradehi, he said.
- The proposal was to put the felines in the enclosure with huge boundary walls before being released in the wild, he said.

Where will Reintroduction be done?

- Nauradehi was found to be the most suitable area for the cheetahs as its forests are not very dense to restrict the fast movement of the spotted cat.
- Besides, the prey base for cheetahs is also in abundance at the sanctuary.
- According to the earlier action plan, around 20 cheetahs were to be translocated to Nauradehi from Namibia in Africa.

Positive Response:

The Namibia Cheetah Conservation Fund had then showed its willingness to donate the felines to India.

However, the State was not ready to finance the plan contending that it was the Centre's project.

General Studies- 2

Indian Ocean Conference

Context:

The *third edition of Indian Ocean Conference is being held at Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam.*

Theme: "Building Regional Architectures".

This year, the Indian Ocean Conference will emphasise on better cooperation, strategic collaboration and governance architectures.

This conference will serve a platform to the countries to come closer and exchange better views on the economic and strategic importance of the region and neighbourhood.

About Indian Ocean Conference:



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The Indian Ocean Conference *initiated by India Foundation along with its partners* from Singapore, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh is an annual effort to bring together Heads of States/Governments, Ministers, Thought Leaders, scholars, diplomats, bureaucrats and practitioners from across the region.

Electoral reforms

Why in News?

The Election Commission of India today held in depth consultation session with all the recognised national and state political parties on broad range of issues concerning the Elections.

Major Recommendations

- Political parties urged the Commission to link Aadhar numbers with electors' detail for better electoral roll management.
- Political parties expressed concern on paid news and suggested to make it an electoral offence to curb this menace.
- Political parties also asked the Commission that on the lines of Doordarshan and AIR, the free airtime to political parties should be provided on private media for electoral campaigns.
- They suggested for a ceiling on expenditure limit for council elections, as suggested by the Commission.
- All political parties welcomed the discussion on taking the steps for enhancing the role of women in the Electoral process.
- For no campaign period, they suggested for more measures in view of current electronic and digital environment.

Commission assured all the political parties that each of the suggestions will be looked into and will be responded by Commission in time bound manner.

Ayushman Bharat - PradhanMantri Jan ArogyaAbhiyan (AB-PMJAY):

Why in News?

29 states and UTs have signed the MoU and have started working on implementation of the PradhanMantri Jan ArogyaYojna.

The pilots have started in 16 States / UTs. Other states/UTs will also start pilots before fully launching the scheme on 25thSeptember

About Ayushman Bharat Yojana:

Ayushman Bharat Yojana or **National Health Protection Scheme** is a program which aims to provide a service to create a healthy, capable and content new India.

It has two goals, one, creating a network of health and wellness infrastructure across the nation to deliver comprehensive primary healthcare services, and another is to



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provide insurance cover to at least 40 per cent of India's population which is majorly deprived of secondary and tertiary care services.

Objectives Of Scheme:

Ayushman Bharat consists of two major elements

1. National Health Protection Scheme.
2. Wellness centres.

National Health Protection Scheme will provide cashless treatment to patients.

And wellness centres will provide primary care to the patients. In fact, the government will upgrade existing Public Health Centres to Wellness Centres.

AYUSHMAN BHARAT
Health Cover for All

The union cabinet has approved the Ayushman Bharat-National Health Protection Mission, also known as Modicare, that will provide ₹5 lakh health cover to the poorest 100 million families. Billed as the biggest healthcare scheme of its kind in the world, the government hopes to get it rolling soon.

BENEFITS	WHO IS ELIGIBLE
₹5 LAKH health insurance per family per year	107.4 MILLION families likely to be eligible
Defined transport allowance per hospitalisation	Those identified as poor and vulnerable
Covers almost all secondary and many tertiary care procedures	Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) data to be used
Will cover existing diseases	No cap on family size or age
Pre- and post-hospitalisation expenses covered	
Small negative list of hospitalisation that's not covered	

CLAIM METHOD

- 1 Cashless benefits from any public/pvt empanelled hospitals
- 2 Private hospitals will be empanelled online based on defined criteria
- 3 Beneficiary can approach any hospital across the country
- 4 NITI Aayog will develop an IT framework for cashless/paperless treatment

General Studies- 3

India's first biofuel powered flight undertakes maiden voyage

A historic flight powered by indigenously produced aviation biofuel based on patented technology of CSIR-IIP Dehradun was flagged off today from Dehradun airport by Uttarakhand CM Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat.

Background:



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The genesis of this development goes back several years to an Indo-Canadian consortium project from 2010 to 2013 involving CSIR-IIP, Indian Oil, Hindustan Petroleum, IIT Kanpur and IISc Bangalore.

The research was directed towards the production of Bio-aviation fuel by CSIR-IIP from jatropha oil and its evaluation under various conditions, culminating in a detailed engine test by Pratt and Whitney in Canada that showed fitness for purpose.

With this maiden flight India joins the exclusive club of nations using biofuel in aviation.

Advantages of Bio Jet fuel:

The use of bio jet fuel, apart from reducing greenhouse gas emissions by about 15 percent and sulfur oxides (SOx) emissions by over 99 percent, is expected

- **Biofuel technology is going to be a game changer as the** Biojet fuel is greenhouse gas neutral, carbon neutral, reduces air pollution and to cap it ,it would bring down import bill on crude oil.
- To provide indigenous jet fuel supply security,
- Possible cost savings as feedstock availability at farm level scales up,
- Superior engine performance and reduced maintenance cost for the airline operators.
- Commercialization of biofuel promises large-scale employment avenues both in formal and informal sector.

General Studies- 1

Heritage Circuit

The Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned two new projects under Heritage and North East Circuits of Swadesh Dashan Scheme for Rs. **164.95 Crores** in **Punjab** and **Tripura**.

Places to be Covered:

- Under Heritage Circuit in the state of **Punjab**, the project covers sites of **Anandpur Sahib – Fatehgarh Sahib – Chamkaur Sahib – Ferozpur – Amritsar – Khatkar Kalan – Kalan00our – Patiala..**
- Under North East Circuit in **Tripura**, the sites of **Surma Cherra- Unakoti- Jampui Hills- Gunabati-Bhunaneshwari- Matabari- Neermahal- Boxanagar- Chotta khola- Pilak- Avangchaarra** are covered

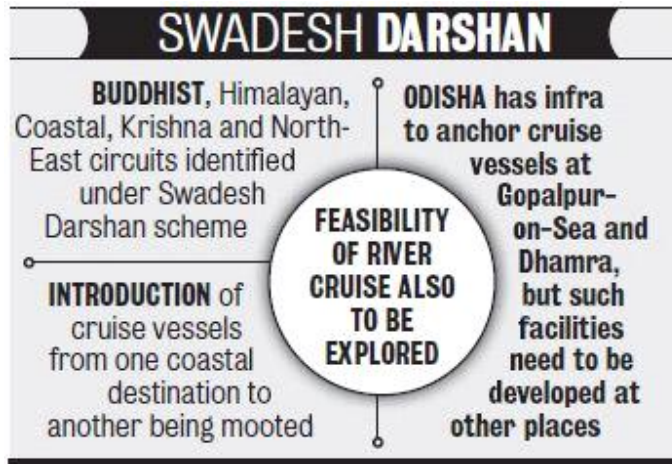
About the Project:

The project envisaged infrastructural development of the sites with special emphasis on developing an Interpretation Centre, Tourist Visitor Centres, Cafeteria, Last Mile Connectivity, Illumination of sites and monuments, Wayside Amenities, Floating Jetties, Camping Grounds, Parking Facilities, Adventure Activities, Ghat Development at above sites.

What is swadesh Darshan?



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Lakhwar Multi-Purpose project

Why in News?

Shri Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Shipping and Road Transport & Highways will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Delhi and Himachal Pradesh in New Delhi tomorrow for the construction of the Rs. 3966.51 crore Lakhwar Multi-Purpose project in the Upper Yamuna Basin.

About the Project:

- The Lakhwar project envisages construction of a 204 m high concrete dam across river Yamuna in Dehradun district of Uttarakhand with a live storage capacity of 330.66 MCM.
- This storage will provide irrigation for 33,780 hectares land and availability of 78.83 MCM water for domestic, drinking and industrial use in the six basin states.
- The project will also generate 300 MW of power.

About Upper Yamuna:

- Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi are the six Upper Yamuna Basin states.
- Upper Yamuna refers to the stretch of River Yamuna from its origin to the Okhla Barrage in Delhi.

General Studies -2

NAFTA Deal:

Why in News?

The United States and Mexico reached a deal on Monday to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and talks with Canada were expected to begin immediately in the hopes of reaching a final pact by Friday, a senior U.S. trade official said.

Highlights of the new deal:



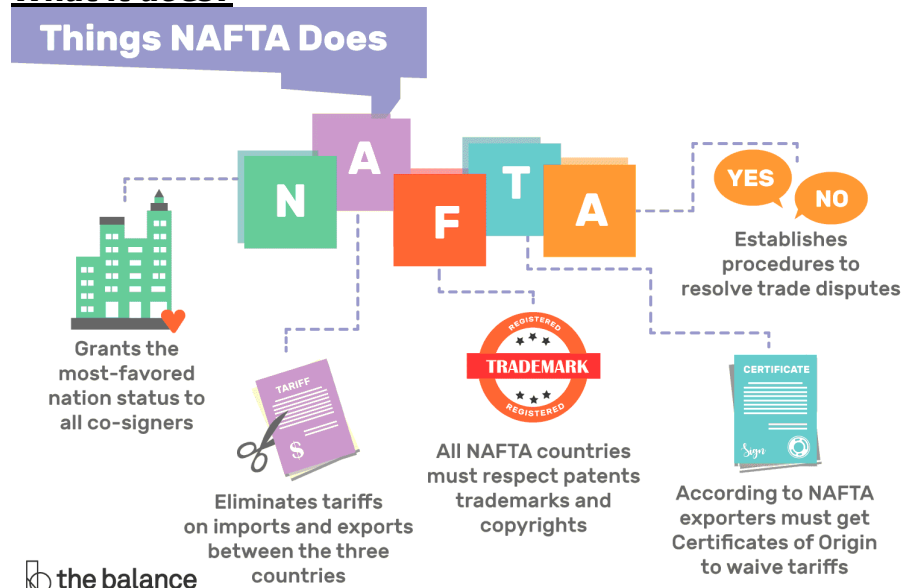
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- The deal would require *75% of auto content to be made in the NAFTA region*, up from the current level of 62.5%. A fact sheet describing the bilateral agreement specified the content would be made in the United States and Mexico.
- *The deal improves labour provisions*, in part by requiring 40% to 45% of auto content to be made by workers earning at least \$16 per hour. That measure could move some production back to the United States from Mexico and should lift Mexican wages.
- The United States relented on its demand for an automatic expiration for the deal, known as a "sunset clause." Instead, the United States and Mexico agreed to *a 16-year lifespan for the deal*, with a review every six years that can extend the pact for 16 years.
- *Mexico agreed to eliminate dispute settlement panels* for certain anti-dumping cases, a move that could complicate talks with Canada, which had insisted on the panels.

About NAFTA

NAFTA is the initialism for the North American Free Trade Agreement, an agreement signed by Canada, Mexico, and the United States that reduced or eliminated trade barriers in North America. (Since the U.S. and Canada already had a free trade agreement (signed in 1988), NAFTA merely brought Mexico into the trade bloc.) Negotiations for the trade agreement began in 1990 under the administration of George H.W. Bush and were finalized under Bill Clinton's presidency in 1993. The agreement went into effect on January 1, 1994.

What it does?





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MoU signed for skill development of Arogyamitras under the PMJAY

A Memorandum of Understanding(MoU) was signed between the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and National Health Agency (NHA) here today, to provide capacity building for Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana(PMJAY) to ensure effective rollout and continued quality implementation.

What is in the MoU?

As per the MoU, NSDC will ensure quality training of Arogyamitra through its network of Skill Development Centres functioning under PMKVY and Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras(PMKK).

All the currently recruited/ deputed Pradhan Arogyamitras will be certified by health care sector skill council, the body notified as non-statutory body for health sector under the aegis of NSDC.

About PMJAY

national health agency

ABOUT PMJAY

AYUSHMAN BHARAT – PRADHAN MANTRI JAN AROGYA YOJANA

PMJAY

- A cover of Rs. 5 lakh per family per year
- 10.74 crore poor & vulnerable families entitled as per SECC. No cap on family size or age
- States given flexibility to decide on mode of implementation
- Benefits will be portable across the country
- Around 85% of rural families and 60% of urban families have been identified
- To be launched on 25th September – the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay

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