

Daily News Decode

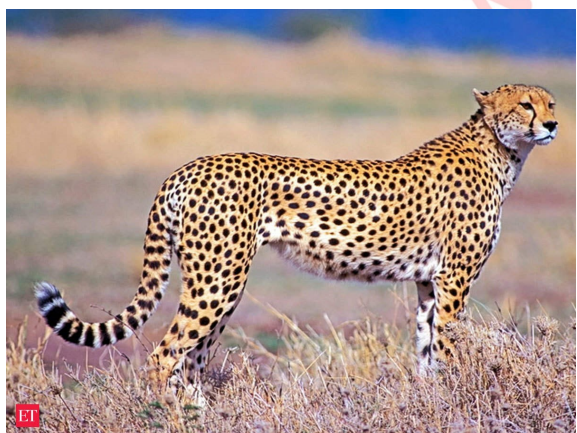
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India to launch mobile tech platform 'UNITE AWARE' for UN peacekeepers



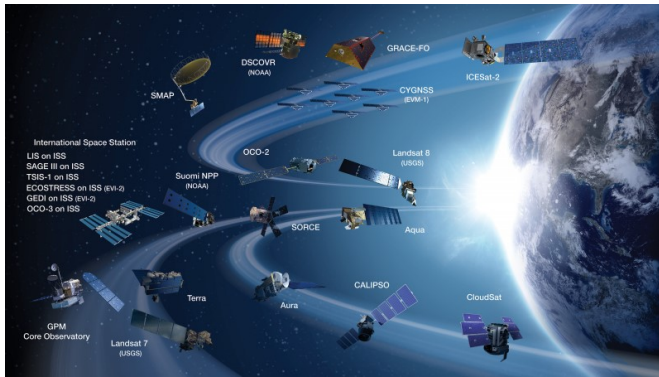
- India will launch 'UNITE AWARE', a mobile tech platform for the United Nations Peacekeepers to improve their safety and security in the line of duty.
- It will be launched during India's United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Presidency term in August 2021 (Presidency of the UNSC Council is held by each of the members in turn for one month).
- UNITED AWARE will increase the situational awareness of the peacekeepers by providing terrain-related information.
- India has spent USD 1.64 million on the project and is developing it in partnership with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Operational Support.
- The information about the platform was shared by India's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador K Nagaraj Naidu during his virtual address to UNSC Open Debate 'Peacekeeping Operations: Improving safety and security of peacekeepers.'

Cheetah to be re-introduced in India from Africa in November



- Cheetah, the world's fastest land animal which was declared extinct in India in 1952, is expected to be re-introduced into the country in November this year at the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh.
- Kuno, positioned within the Chambal area, unfolds over a space of over 750 sq km and has a conducive atmosphere for the cheetah.
- The country's last spotted cheetah died in Chhattisgarh in 1947 and it was declared extinct in the country in 1952.
- The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) some years again ready a cheetah re-introduction undertaking.
- The Supreme Court docket had earlier given its approval to introduce African cheetahs to an acceptable habitat in India on an experimental foundation.
- Officers from India might be despatched to South Africa for sensitisation and coaching in June and July these 12 months and in accordance with the plan, the transportation of the cheetahs will happen in October and November.

NASA Partners ISRO to develop Earth System Observatory



- The US space agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is developing a new system called the Earth System Observatory, to mitigate efforts related to climate change and disaster mitigation.
- NASA has also partnered with the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) which will provide NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR).
- NISAR will carry two radar systems to measure changes in the Earth's surface, during one of the observatory's first missions intended as a pathfinder.
- The Earth System Observatory will be a set of missions designed to study "designated observables" such as aerosols, clouds and weather, water supply, and the Earth's surface and ecosystems, for an unprecedented understanding of the critical interactions between Earth's atmosphere, land, ocean, and ice processes, which determines how the changing climate will play out at regional and local levels, on near and long-term time scales.
- Each new satellite under Earth System Observatory will be uniquely designed to create a 3D, holistic view of Earth, from bedrock to atmosphere, providing a new architecture to advanced space-borne Earth observation systems.

Cabinet Approves MoUs Signed Between ICoAI, ICSI With Foreign Countries



- The Union Cabinet has granted approval to the Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) entered into by the Institute of Cost Accountants of India and the Institute of Company Secretaries of India with various countries and organisations.
- The MoUs seek to facilitate mutual recognition of qualifications and a range of collaborative activities for the exchange of knowledge.
- The signed MoUs would help in the advancement of the goals on equity, public accountability and innovation among the beneficiary countries.
- The Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICoAI) and the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) have signed MoUs with foreign organisations namely Institute of Public Accountants (IPA), Australia, Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment, UK (CISI), Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), UK, Institute of Certified Management Accountants, Sri Lanka and Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (ICSA), UK.

MEKEDATU MULTI-PURPOSE PROJECT



- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has appointed a joint committee to look into allegations of unauthorised construction activity taking place in Mekedatu, where the Karnataka government had proposed to construct a dam across the Cauvery Rive
- Acting suo motu based on a media report, the NGT has directed the panel to submit a report on or before July 5.
- The Mekedatu multi-purpose project involves building a balancing reservoir across the Cauvery River near Kanakapura in Ramanagaram district.
- It envisages supplying drinking water to Bengaluru and Ramanagaram districts, besides generation of power.
- The project was conceived in 2013 and in 2017, the Karnataka state cabinet decided to implement it.
- The project, however, ran into a controversy after Tamil Nadu opposed it on the grounds that the project violates the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal award.

TULSA RACE MASSACRE



- US President Joe Biden will next week visit the city of Tulsa in Oklahoma state, in honour of the 100th anniversary of the Tulsa race massacre, known among the worst incidents of racial strife in American history.
- In 1921, from the evening of May 31 until the afternoon of June 1, a violent mob of Tulsa's White residents attacked a prosperous Black neighbourhood, killing hundreds and leaving the locality in ashes.
- The massacre took place in Greenwood, a thriving Black-dominated neighbourhood that had sprung up at the start of the 20th century on the northern side of Tulsa, separated by a railroad track from the city's White-dominated part on the south.
- Known as the "Black Wall Street", Greenwood was a favoured destination for African Americans from the Southern US states— where laws actively upheld racism and disempowered Black people— to come and seek upward mobility.
- The visit by a US president on the occasion is being read as a signal to acknowledge the race massacre, whose history has long been suppressed and left out of national memory.

Compared to a decade ago, Indian youth are now marrying later in life.



- Lokniti-CSDS Youth Studies in 2016 and 2007 show the proportion of married youth decreased by eight percentage points from 55% in 2007 to 47% in 2016 .
- a much higher share of young men were unmarried (61%) compared to women (41%).
- Educational attainment too is an important factor associated with marriage. One observes a decline in the proportion of married youth with successive levels of education.
- In an age of online dating, growth of social networking and matrimonial sites, arranged marriages are still a preferred choice: 84% of the married youth in 2016 said their marriage was decided by families and only 6% reported self-choice.
- Around 31% of the youth said their parents will have or had a lot of influence on their marriage decision.
- This influence was greater for women (35%) than men (28%).
- The Youth Study 2016 shows that marriage across caste and religion is still not accepted in an arranged marriage set-up.
- Among the married youth, very few had opted for inter-caste (4%) or marriage outside their religion (3%).
- These were more prominent among love marriages (inter-caste 34%; inter-religious 12 %).
- To sum up, the youth are marrying late; the institution of arranged marriage is still intact; marrying across caste or religion is still not much accepted; and overall, attitudes to marriage remain within the boundaries of traditional thinking.

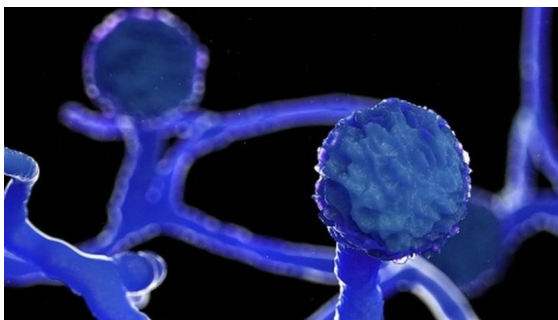
Tadoba-Andhari tiger reserve



- Maharashtra Chief minister directed officials to try and rehabilitate some of the villages on the periphery of the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in order to increase the reserve's area to accommodate more tigers.
- The TATR is a wildlife sanctuary in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra state.
- It is Maharashtra's oldest and largest national park.
- 'Tadoba' is taken from the name of the god "Tadoba" or "Taru", worshipped by the tribes who live in the dense forests of the Tadoba and Andhari region, while "Andhari" refers to the Andhari river that meanders through the forest.

- Tadoba Reserve covers the Chimur Hills, and the Andhari sanctuary covers the Moharli and Kolsa ranges.
- The Gond kings once ruled these forests in the vicinity of the Chimur hills.
- Andhari Wildlife Sanctuary was created in the adjacent forests in 1986.
- In 1995, the park and the sanctuary were merged to establish the present tiger reserve.
- Tadoba Lake which acts as a buffer between the park's forest and the extensive farmland which extends up to Irai water reservoir.
- This lake is a perennial water source which offers a good habitat for Mugger crocodiles to thrive.
- Tadoba Reserve is a predominantly southern tropical dry deciduous forest with dense woodlands comprising about eighty seven per cent of the protected area.
- Bamboo thickets grow throughout the reserve in abundance.
- Aside from the keystone species, the Bengal tiger, TATR is home to Indian leopards, sloth bears, gaur, nilgai, dhole, striped hyena, small Indian civet, jungle cats, sambar, barking deer, chital, chausingha and honey badger.
- Currently, TATR spans across 625 sq km and accommodates about 50 tigers.
- The buffer area around it is 1,127 sq km and has more than 50 tigers.
- Chandrapur district has at least 100 more tigers, making it one of the top tiger-populated districts in the country.
- Hence, the district has been witnessing intense human-wildlife conflict, mainly involving tigers over the past several years.
- Rehabilitating villages in the buffer area on TATR periphery like Karva, Piparheti, Padharwani, Pangdi, Doni, Pahami and Pimparda would make about 40-50 sq km area inviolate and help accommodate more tigers in TATR.

Delhi declares black fungus as a 'notifiable disease' under Epidemic Diseases Act



- Amid rising cases of Mucormycosis or 'black fungus', Delhi Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal issued a notification declaring it a notifiable disease in the union territory under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 on Thursday.
- According to the government notification, all the healthcare facilities will report suspected and confirmed cases of black fungus to the health department

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