

KAISER-I-HIND



- An elusive swallowtail butterfly carrying 'India' in its name and found in next-door China will become the State butterfly of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The State Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Pema Khandu approved the large, brightly coloured Kaiser-i-Hind as the State butterfly.
- The Cabinet meeting was for the first time held outside State capital Itanagar at an unusual location — Pakke Tiger Reserve.
- The Cabinet also adopted the Pakke Tiger Reserve 2047 declaration on climate change-resilient and responsive Arunachal Pradesh aimed at lowering emissions and sustainable development.

- Kaiser-i-Hind (Teinopalpus imperialis) literally means Emperor of India. This butterfly with a 90-120 mm wingspan is found in six States along the eastern Himalayas at elevations from 6,000-10,000 feet in well-wooded terrain.
- The butterfly also flutters in Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam and southern China.
- Although the Kaiser-i-Hind is protected under Schedule II of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, it is hunted for supply to butterfly collectors.



GLASGOW AGREEMENT



- UN climate talks in Scotland has concluded with a global agreement aimed at keeping alive hopes of capping global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius, and so maintain a realistic shot at saving the world from catastrophic climate change.
- The "Glasgow climate pact" was adopted despite a lastminute intervention by India to water down language on "phasing out" coal to merely "phasing down".
- The pledges on emissions cuts made at the two-week Cop26 summit in Glasgow fell well short of those required to limit temperatures to 1.5C, according to scientific advice.

- Instead, all countries have agreed to return to the negotiating table next year, at a conference in Egypt, and reexamine their national plans, with a view to increasing their ambition on cuts.
- One of the fiercest disagreements in the final hours was over the wording of an intention to abandon coal, which was watered down from a "phase-out" to a "phase-down".
 Yet it marked the first time that such a resolution had been made under the UN climate process.
- Poor countries were also left frustrated at the pact, which they said did not address their concerns about "loss and damage".
- This refers to the destruction caused by extreme weather, which is now hitting vulnerable countries far harder and more frequently than had been predicted.

44th Wangala festival begins in Meghalaya



- Meghalaya state observed the 44th edition of 'Wangala', the festival of 100 Drums Festival begins.
- It is a post-harvest festival of the Garos tribe which is being held every year to honour 'Saljong', the Sun God of Garos, which also marks the end of the harvest season.
- Celebrated since 1976, it's the most important festival of the Garo tribe and attracts a lot of tourists.
- During the Wangala, tribals offer sacrifices to please their deity Saljong, the Sun God.
- The first day of the festival is celebrated with a ceremony called Ragula which is performed in the house of the village's chief.

 People dress up in colourful costumes with feathered headgears and dance to the rhythms of long oval-shaped drums on the second day of celebration, Kakkat.

5 Popular Festivals of Meghalaya:

- Nongkrem Dance Festival
- Wangala Festival
- Ahaia
- Behdeinkhlam Festival
- Shad Sukra

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BharatPe launched World's 1st Merchant Shareholding Programme



- BharatPe launched the World's 1st Merchant Shareholding Program (MSP) for its merchant partners.
- It is a \$100 million worth program, under which the company offers its merchant customers an opportunity to buy BharatPe's equity shares and become a partner.
- The company plans a public listing by 2024 and targets a public listing value of \$1 billion.
- The merchant payments and financial services company will roll out the incentive to its more than 7.5 million existing merchant partners.
- The programme will also be offered to new merchants joining the platform.

 The stock programme is designed to address the gap in wealth creation for merchants and recognize them as active growth partners, BharatPe said, adding that the programme aims to build and sustain loyalty among its merchant partners in a fast-growing fintech segment in India.



Kashi Vishwanath corridor project



- The Rs. 400 crore project was launched in 2018 at Varanasi.
- The idea is to have a 20-25 feet wide corridor from the Lalita Ghat in Varanasi to the Mandir Chowk in the temple premises to enable at least two lakh people to be present at a given point of time.
- It seeks to preserve existing heritage structures, provide new facilities in the temple complex in the public-private partnership mode, ease the traffic and movement of people around the temple.
- The core aim is to ensure easy pedestrian movement for pilgrims with the least wait, travel and walking time, and comfortable holding zones, as well as crowd management and emergency operational procedures and better experiences around the religious rituals.

 The project involves building multiple amenities for pilgrims such as Yatri Suvidha Kendras, guesthouses, hospice, library, and museum.

Kashi Vishwanath temple-

- It is one of the most famous Hindu temples dedicated to Lord Shiva, located in Vishwanath Gali of Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- The Temple stands on the western bank of the holy river Ganga.
- It is one of the twelve Jyotirlingas, the holiest of Shiva Temples.
- As the city was called Kashi in ancient times, the temple is popularly called Kashi Vishwanath Temple.
- It had been demolished by many Muslim rulers including Qutb-ud-din Aibak (as a commander of Mohammad Ghori), Hussain Shah Aharqi or Sikandar Lodhi.
- Last time it was demolished by Aurangzeb in 1669, the sixth Mughal emperor who constructed the Gyanvapi Mosque on its site.
- The current structure was built on an adjacent site by the Maratha ruler, Ahilya Bai Holkar (Malhar Rao's daughter-in-law) of Indore in the year 1780.

• In 1828, Baiza Bai, widow of the Maratha ruler Daulat Rao Scindhia of Gwalior State, built a low-roofed colonnade with over 40 pillars in the GyanVapi precinct.

