

DAILY PT POINTERS

26th October, 2023



HEADLINES OF THE DAY



The Hindu: GS 2-Health/GS 3-S&T (Page 6)

Nipah virus antibodies found in Wayanad bats, says Kerala Minister

THE HINDU BUREAU
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

- Nipah virus (NiV) is a zoonotic virus (it is transmitted from animals to humans) and can also be transmitted through contaminated food or directly between people.
- Fruit bats of the family *Pteropodidae* – particularly species belonging to the *Pteropus* genus – are the natural hosts for Nipah virus.
- In infected people, it causes a range of illnesses from asymptomatic (subclinical) infection to acute respiratory illness and fatal encephalitis.
- The virus can also cause severe disease in animals such as pigs, resulting in significant economic losses for farmers.
- Nipah virus was first recognized in 1999 during an outbreak among pig farmers in, Malaysia
- There are currently no drugs or vaccines specific for Nipah virus infection although WHO has identified Nipah as a priority disease for the WHO Research and Development Blueprint.
 - Intensive supportive care is recommended to treat severe respiratory and neurologic complications.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



The Hindu :GS 3- Infrastructure (Page 7)

Cabinet panel clears funds for dam project in Uttarakhand project:

THE HINDU BUREAU
NEW DELHI

Jamrani dam project

- The multipurpose project, estimated to cost around ₹2,584.10 crore, is scheduled to be completed by 2028.
- The CCEA has approved the inclusion of the project under the Pradhan **Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana-Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme**.
- The project envisages the construction of a dam near Jamrani village across river Gola, a tributary of the Ram Ganga, in Nainital.
- The dam will feed the existing Gola barrage through its canals.

Do you know?: Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) was launched during the year 2015-16, with an aim to enhance physical access of water on farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve on-farm water use efficiency, introduce sustainable water conservation practices, etc.

Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) component of PMKSY is for creation of irrigation potential through major and medium irrigation projects. So far 53 projects have been completed.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: GS 1-Social Issues /GS3-Economy (Page 10)

How big is the gender gap in earnings?

What are the main findings regarding the earnings gap between men and women across different forms of employment in 2023? How might policies and interventions address the disparities in work hours and employment patterns between men and women in India?



- The Periodic Labour Force Surveys (PLFS) have been monitoring the gender earnings gap across various forms of employment from April-June 2019 to 2023.
- This latest round has introduced a crucial focus on weekly hours worked, revealing that the inequality in total earnings might not capture the full picture.
 - Women, on average, work fewer hours than men, attributed to a combination of social pressures and personal choices, highlighting the complex interplay between societal norms and individual decisions in shaping gender disparities in the workforce.
 - Men consistently earn more than women in all forms of work, with the greatest gender gap observed among self-employed individuals.
 - The rise in the gender gap in hours worked is attributed to increasing Labour force participation rates (LFPRs) among rural women in self-employment, but with many of these jobs being part-time in nature.
 - Inequality in hourly earnings remains higher in other forms of work, such as casual labor and self-employment

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu : GS 3/Environment(Page 14)

ISA to release report on global adoption of solar technology in November

The stocktake will also look at ways to broaden manufacturing of solar energy equipment, which is currently concentrated in China; the International Solar Alliance will meet in Delhi this month



- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) will for the first time compile and release a 'global solar stocktake report'.
 - The Global Stocktake follows from the Paris Agreement signed in 2015 and is expected to be held once in five years.
- Here countries are expected to give an account of the actions taken until now to transition their economies away from fossil fuel and lay out plans to course correct, if their commitments are insufficient to prevent runaway global warming.
- ISA is an action-oriented, member-driven, collaborative platform for increased deployment of solar energy technologies as a means for bringing energy access, ensuring energy security, and driving energy transition in its member countries. The ISA was conceived as a joint effort by India and France to mobilize efforts against climate change through deployment of solar energy solutions. It was conceptualized on the sidelines of the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Paris in 2015.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express : IR

Russia passes law to withdraw from ratification of nuclear test ban treaty

FILIPP LEBEDEV
& MARK TREVELYAN
MOSCOW, OCTOBER 25



Not ready to resume nuclear talks with US, says Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister .AP

change to "mirror" the position of the United States, which signed the CTBT in 1996 but never ratified it.

Russia says it will not resume testing unless Washington does, but arms control experts say a test by either Russia or the United States could trigger a new arms race - and more testing by

RUSSIA'S PARLIAMENT completed the passage of a law on Wednesday withdrawing ratification of the global treaty banning nuclear weapons tests, evidence of the deep chill in relations with the United States as Moscow pursues its war in Ukraine.

Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said Russia was not prepared to resume discussing nuclear issues with the U.S. unless Washington dropped its "hostile" policy.

The bill to deratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) was approved by 156 votes to zero in upper house after the lower house passed it unanimously. It goes to President Vladimir Putin for signing.

Putin had requested the

EXPLAINED E What is the CTBT?

THE CTBT, adopted in 1996, bans all nuclear explosions anywhere in the world but the treaty was never fully implemented. In addition to the US, it is yet to be ratified by China, India, Pakistan, North Korea, Israel, Iran & Egypt.

other countries - at a moment of acute tension, with wars raging in Ukraine and the Middle East.

The US Energy Department said last week it had conducted a chemical explosion at its test site in Nevada "to improve the United States' ability to detect low-yield nuclear explosions around the world".

REUTERS

- The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) bans all nuclear explosions, whether for military or peaceful purposes.
 - **Russia** originally ratified the CTBT in 2000.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



Indian Express:GS II/Polity and Governance

LS Ethics Committee: its constitution, members

Since being established as an ad hoc entity more than two decades ago, the panel has heard several complaints, most of which have been for relatively light offences.

Written by [Vikas Pathak](#)

NewsGuard

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- The genesis of formation of Ethics Committee in Parliament can be traced to a resolution adopted at the Presiding Officers Conference held in New Delhi in October, 1996 which desired the legislatures to explore the possibility of constituting Ethics Committee.
- The Ethics Committee, Rajya Sabha, the first such Committee by any legislature in India was constituted by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha in 1997
- **Lok Sabha Ethics Committee** was constituted in 2000, but it became a permanent feature of the House only in 2015
 - This Committee consists of 15 Members nominated by the Speaker.
 - The term of the Committee is one year.
 - Its function is to examine every complaint relating to unethical conduct of a Member of Lok Sabha referred to it by the Speaker and make such recommendations as it may deem fit and formulate a code of conduct for Members and suggest amendments or additions to the code of conduct from time to time.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express:Defence –GS III(Page 1)

Contours of joint theatre commands ready, await Govt nod before tweaks

One each for Pak, China frontiers, third for threat via sea; early talks on a fourth



- The theaterisation plans seek to integrate the Army, Navy and Indian Air Force and their resources into specific theatre commands.
- theatre command deploys elements of the three services under a single, unified command structure. Each command is assigned a specific geographical region, combining resources of the three services for operational roles.
- members of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) are also likely to be part of the defence committee that will oversee the work of theatre commanders.
 - The COSC comprises the three service chiefs and the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and takes important decisions related to matters of higher defence.

Indian Express: Polity and Governance-GS 2 (Page 6)

In Priyanka presence, Gehlot's new 'guarantees' to women: Rs 10k, subsidised LPG to 1 cr homes

The presence of the Cong gen secy helps party fill the gap of women leaders in state, maintains Gehlot-Pilot balance

- Rajasthan Chief Minister has recently announced several women-centric schemes, including the
 - Indira Gandhi Smartphone Yojana under which phones have been given to 40 lakh women,
 - the Free Annapurna Food Packet Scheme to distribute some essential food items, and
 - the Ekal Naari Samman Pension for divorced women or widow with annual income less than Rs 48,000.
 - Similarly, women aged over 55 are also eligible for a pension under the CM Vridhjan Pension Yojana.
 - There are more schemes ranging from scooters and scholarships for meritorious children and free sanitary napkins to programmes targeting specific sections within women, including tribals, backward classes and those with disabilities.

Indian Express : IR(GS 2)Page 15)

Cabinet approves India-Japan chip supply chain partnership

The MoC intends to strengthen cooperation between India and Japan towards enhancement of the semiconductor supply chain, recognising the importance of semiconductors for the advancement of industries and digital technologies, a statement released by the Union Cabinet said.

- The Union Cabinet has approved a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between India and Japan on developing a semiconductor supply chain partnership, which will focus on research and development (R&D), manufacturing, design, and talent development for the industry.
- India is looking to establish itself as a reliable presence in the semiconductor supply chain, especially at a time when companies are looking to diversify from China, which has been the hub of electronics manufacturing for several decades now.
 - India is also working with the United States on chip supply chains

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB:Governance

Prime Minister's Office

PM chairs 43rd PRAGATI Interaction



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the meeting of the 43rd edition of PRAGATI involving Centre and State governments.
- PRAGATI is the ICT-based multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB:Defence (GS 3)

SPECIAL FORCES TRAINING SCHOOL GETS A CUTTING-EDGE VERTICAL WIND TUNNEL

Posted On: 25 OCT 2023 5:12PM by PIB Delhi

- In a landmark move to augment the training infrastructure of special forces and combat free-fallers, the **Special Forces Training School (SFTS)** at Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh, gets Indian Army's first Vertical Wind Tunnel (VWT).
- The state-of-the-art wind tunnel is set to refine the Combat Freefall (CFF) skills of armed forces personnel.
- Functioning as a freefall simulator, the VWT creates a column of air at specific velocities, orchestrating different CFF conditions.
- The system offers a controlled environment, enabling trainees to enhance their skills by simulating real-life freefall conditions.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB:Defence (GS 3)

CURTAIN RAISER GOA MARITIME CONCLAVE (GMC) – 2023

Indian Navy's Out reach Initiative for 'Harnessing Maritime thought'



- The 4th edition of Goa Maritime Conclave (GMC) - 2023 is being held from **29 to 31 October 2023 by the Indian Navy under the aegis of Naval War College, Goa.**
 - GMC is the Indian Navy's outreach Initiative providing a multinational platform to harness the collective wisdom of practitioners of maritime security and the academia towards garnering outcome oriented maritime thought.
 - Previous editions of the biennial event were held in 2017, 2019, and 2021 and it provides a forum for exchange of views by the Chiefs of Navy/ Heads of Maritime Agencies on dealing with contemporary and future maritime challenges, as well as presenting cooperative strategies for enhancing interoperability amongst partner maritime agencies.
 - The theme for this year's edition of GMC is "***Maritime Security in the Indian Ocean Region: Converting Common Maritime Priorities into Collaborative Mitigating Frameworks***"

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB: Environment (GS 3)

Awareness Activities under Mission LiFE from 22nd-24th October

Posted On: 25 OCT 2023 4:55PM by PIB Delhi



- Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) was launched by the Prime Minister on 20th October, 2022 at Kevadia, Gujarat and
- focuses on bringing about behaviour changes individuals through simple easy to do actions.
- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, GoI (MoEF&CC) is the nodal Ministry for national level coordination and implementation of Mission Life.
- As part of their implementation efforts, the ministry has mobilized their activities with LiFE and spread awareness about sustainable actions that individuals can undertake. Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) was also among one of the four important focus sectors of the G-20 Summit.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB: Environment (GS 3)

India hosting meeting of the United Nations Forum on Forests to deliberate on forest fires and forest certification

Posted On: 25 OCT 2023 1:03PM by PIB Delhi



- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is organising a Country-Led Initiative (CLI) event as part of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) from 26-28 October, 2023 at the Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
 - The CLI's primary goal is to contribute to the discussions of UNFF regarding the implementation of Sustainable Forest Management and the UN Strategic Plan for Forests.
- The United Nations Forum on Forests promotes the management, conservation, and sustainable development of all types of forests.
 - The UN General Assembly adopted the first-ever UN Strategic Plan for Forests for the period of 2017-2030
- India holds the distinction of being a founding member of UNFF.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB: Governance(GS II)/S&T(GS 3)

Curtain Raiser of Vimarsh 2023 – A National Hackathon on 5G technology use for police conducted in New Delhi today



Vimarsh 2023

- the Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D), Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Telecom (DoT) and TCoE-India introduces a National Level Hackathon on 5G, 'Vimarsh 2023'.
- Vimarsh 2023, Hackathon on 5G is a critical endeavor aimed at developing potential solutions, ideas and prototypes in the form of Minimum Viable Products, designed to empower Law Enforcement Agencies in their ongoing efforts against cybercrime and cybersecurity threats within the dynamic landscape of 5G communication technology.