



# DAILY PT POINTERS

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# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## PIB: Environment



Cabinet

### Cabinet approves establishment of International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

Posted On: 29 FEB 2024 3:33PM by PIB Delhi

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the establishment of International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) with headquarters in India with a one-time budgetary support of Rs.150 crore for a period of five years from 2023-24 to 2027-28.

Acknowledging India's leading role in conserving tigers, other big cats and many of its endangered species, the Prime Minister of India during his speech on the occasion of Global Tiger Day, 2019 called for an Alliance of Global Leaders to curb poaching in Asia. He reiterated this on the occasion of Commemorating 50 years of India's Project Tiger on April 9, 2023 and formally announced launch of an International Big Cat Alliance aiming at securing the future of big cats and landscapes they thrive. The pioneering and long standing tiger and other big cat conservation good practices evolved in India may-be replicated in many other range countries.

Seven big cats include Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar and the Cheetah out of these five big cats viz. Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard and Cheetah are found in India.

The International Big Cat Alliance has been conceived as a multi-country, multi-agency coalition of 96 big cat range countries, non-range countries interested in big cat conservation, conservation partners and scientific organizations working in the field of big cat conservation besides business groups and corporates willing to contribute to the cause of big cats, to establish networks and develop synergies in a focused manner so as to bring to a common platform a centralized repository of successful practices



## News

- The Union Cabinet approved the establishment of International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) with headquarters in India.

## About

- The International Big Cat Alliance has been conceived as a multi-country, multi-agency coalition of **96** big cat range countries, non-range countries interested in big cat conservation.
- IBCA governance consists of **Assembly of Members, Standing Committee** and a **Secretariat** with its Head Quarter in India.

## Do you Know?

- Seven big cats include Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar and the Cheetah.
- Out of these five big cats viz. Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard and Cheetah are found in India.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Mint : Environment

## India's leopard population estimated at 13,874, stable since 2018, says report



### News

- The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, released the report on **Status of Leopards in India**.

### About

- The fifth cycle of leopard population estimation was carried out by the National Tiger Conservation Authority and Wildlife Institute of India.

### Key Findings

- India's leopard numbers rose by **8%** from 12,852 in 2018 to 13,874 in 2022.
- **Madhya Pradesh** houses the largest population of leopards in the country – 3907 (2018: 3421), followed by **Maharashtra** (2022: 1985; 2018: 1,690), **Karnataka** (2022: 1,879; 2018: 1,783) and **Tamil Nadu** (2022: 1,070; 2018: 868).
- Tiger Reserves or sites with highest leopard population are, **Nagarajunasagar Srisailam** (Andhra Pradesh), followed by **Panna** (MP), and **Satpura** (MP).

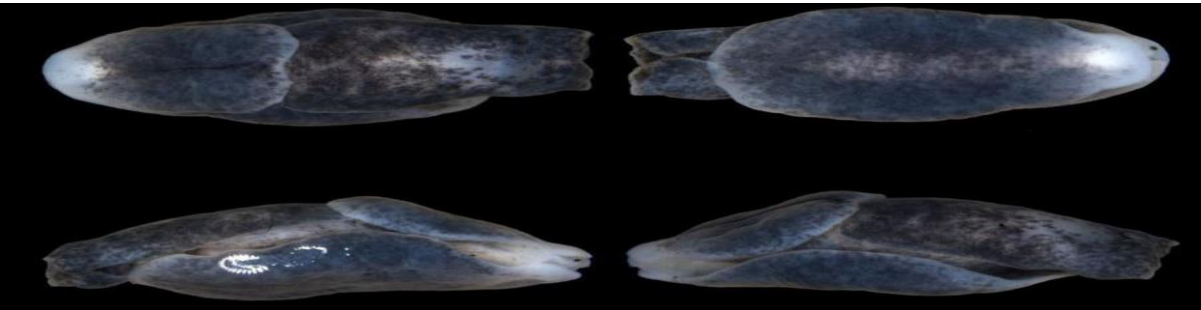


# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: Environment

## ZSI names a newly discovered head-shield sea slug after President Droupadi Murmu

*Melanochlamys droupadi* was named in a scientific paper published by ZSI researchers Prasad Chandra Tudu, Sheikh Sajjan, Smrutirekha Acharya, and Anil Mohapatra



### News

- The Zoological Survey of India named a new marine species of head-shield sea slug with ruby red spot after President of India **Droupadi Murmu**.

### About

- This species belonging to **Melanochlamys** genus was discovered from Digha of West Bengal coast and Udaipur of Odisha coast.
- The new species of head-shield sea slug, which is found nowhere in the world, is named as ***Melanochlamys droupadi***.
- Species of the genus *Melanochlamys* are characterised morphologically by a short, blunt and cylindrical body and a smooth dorsal surface with two dorsal equal or unequal shields, named the anterior cephalic and posterior shield.

The Hindu: Health

## Obesity rates going up across the world: *Lancet* study

Among women in India, the obesity rate increased from 1.2% in 1990 to 9.8% in 2022; among men, from 0.5% in 1990 to 5.4% in 2022

### News

- Obesity rates among children and adolescents worldwide increased four times from 1990 to 2022, while obesity rates among adults have more than doubled, a new study published in *The Lancet* has revealed.

### Key Findings

- The total number of children, adolescents and adults worldwide living with obesity has surpassed one billion.
- In total, **159 million** children and adolescents, and 879 million adults were obese in 2022.

### Indian Scenario

- As per *The Lancet* paper, in India, the obesity rate increased from 0.1% in 1990 to 3.1% in 2022 for girls, and 0.1% to 3.9%, for boys.
- In the prevalence of obesity category for girls and boys, India ranked 174th highest in the world in 2022.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## IE: Environment

### Cabinet OKs ₹75k cr rooftop solar scheme, 1 cr households to get subsidy of up to ₹78k

DIVYA A  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 29

THE UNION Cabinet has cleared a ₹75,021-crore rooftop solar scheme under which one crore households in the country will get a subsidy for installation of such units.

Approved Thursday, the PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana will offer a subsidy of up to ₹78,000 per household for the installation of solar plants, under which they will get 300 units of free power, the government said.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana with a total outlay of ₹75,021 crore for installing rooftop solar and providing free electricity up to 300 units every month for one crore households. Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur told reporters after the Union Cabinet meeting. The PM had launched the scheme on February 13.

Through this scheme, households will be able to save electricity bills as well as earn additional income through sale of surplus power to DISCOMs. A 3-kW system will be able to generate more than 300 units a month on an average for a household.



The 1 crore households will also get 300 units of free power

The scheme will run for four years — from 2023-24 to 2026-27, Thakur said, adding that it is expected that one crore household target will be saturated much earlier.

Thakur said subsidies for resident welfare associations (RWAs) and group housing societies will also be offered for solar-powered lighting. "Out of 45 GW solar capacity being targeted, 30 GW will be for domestic housing requirements," he said, adding that under the scheme, rooftop solar panels will be installed in all government buildings by 2025.

The scheme provides a central financial assistance (CFA) of 60 per cent of system cost for 2 kW systems and 40 per cent of

additional system cost for systems between 2 kW and 3 kW capacity; the assistance is capped at 3 kW. At current benchmark prices, this will mean ₹30,000 subsidy for 1 kW plant, ₹60,000 for 2 kW and ₹78,000 for 3 kW systems or higher, Thakur said.

According to a statement issued by the government, households can apply for subsidy through a national portal launched for the scheme, where they can also select a suitable vendor for installing rooftop solar units. The portal will offer information about appropriate system sizes, benefits calculator and vendor rating. Households can register on [pmsuryaghar.gov](http://pmsuryaghar.gov) to avail of the benefits.

## News

- The Union Cabinet approved a rooftop solar scheme as 'PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana' to install rooftop solar panels across 10 million households with a total outlay of Rs 75,021 crore.

## About

- Beneficiaries of the government's rooftop solar scheme will get free electricity of up to **300 units per month**.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express: Science and Technology

## Govt launches 2nd round of critical, strategic mineral blocks auction



### News

- India launched the second part of its critical minerals auction, worth an estimated 30 trillion rupees (about \$362 billion).
- A total of 18 blocks of critical and strategic minerals, including **graphite, tungsten, vanadium, cobalt and nickel**, among others, will be auctioned across eight states across the country.

### What are Critical Minerals?

- A mineral is labelled as critical when the **risk of supply shortage and associated impact on the economy is relatively higher** than the other raw materials.
- The **Centre for Socio and Economic Progress (CSEP)** in its paper **“Assessing the Criticality of Minerals in India” (2023)** evaluated the criticality of minerals in India based on two dimensions:
  1. **economic importance for the Indian economy and**
  2. **supply risks.**