

14 August, 2023

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Context: A UNFPA project for gender sensitivity in Rajasthan receives support from experts combating patriarchal customs.

UNFPA

- Established in 1967 as a trust fund, UNFPA serves as the United Nations agency for sexual and reproductive health.
- Operational since 1969, UNFPA operates under the United Nations General Assembly, one of its Principal Organs.
- Originally known as United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), it was later renamed in 1987 to the United Nations Population Fund, still using the UNFPA abbreviation.
- UNFPA's funding is sourced entirely from voluntary contributions, including donor governments, foundations, individuals, and intergovernmental organizations.
- The funds received are distinct from the regular budget of the United Nations.

Mission

- Achieve a world where all pregnancies are desired, every childbirth is safe, and the potential of every young person is realized.

Mandate

- UNFPA is tasked with raising awareness about population matters and aiding for targeted interventions.
- It focuses on cultivating region-specific expertise and capabilities related to population and reproductive health concerns.
- The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) establishes the mandate of UNFPA.

Goals and Focus Areas

- UNFPA directly contributes to addressing Sustainable Development Goal 3 (health), Goal 4 (education), and Goal 5 (gender equality).

Programmes by UNFPA in India

Priority Areas	Subtopics
Integrated sexual and reproductive health	- Integrated sexual and reproductive health services
	- Health workforce capacity
	- Sexual and reproductive health policies
	- Supply chain management
Adolescents and youth	- Marginalized girls
	- Adolescents and youth
	- Sexuality education
Gender equality	- Ending harmful practices
	- Protection rights
	- Civil society and rights for all
Organizational effectiveness	- Organizational adaptability
	- Programme effectiveness
Analysis on population dynamics	- Population dynamics
	- National population data system

National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS)

Context: Amit Shah, the Union Home Minister, commended the NCRB's National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) team for winning the Gold Award in the DARPG's Excellence in Government Process Reengineering for Digital Transformation Category-1.

What is NAFIS?

- NAFIS is developed by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) at the Central Fingerprint Bureau (CFPB) in New Delhi.
- It functions as a country-wide searchable database of fingerprints linked to criminal activities and individuals.
- The web-based application serves as a central repository, aggregating fingerprint data from various states and Union Territories.
- Recently, in April of this year, Madhya Pradesh gained distinction as the first Indian state to successfully identify a deceased person using the NAFIS system.

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Utility of NAFIS

- Law enforcement agencies can access, trace, and retrieve data from the database 24/7 in real-time.
- Facilitates quicker and easier case resolution through a centralized fingerprint database.

Functionality of NAFIS

- Each individual arrested for a crime is assigned a unique 10-digit National Fingerprint Number (NFN).
- The NFN serves as a lifelong identifier, linking different crimes under separate FIRs to the same NFN.
- The first two digits of the NFN represent the state code where the person was arrested, followed by a sequence number.
- Through automation of fingerprint collection, storage, and matching, NAFIS digitizes fingerprint records, offering a distinct identifier for every arrested individual.
- Integrated with the CCTNS (Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems) database, ensuring backend connectivity.

History of Automation Initiatives

- Following the 1986 National Police Commission recommendations, the Central Fingerprint Bureau began automating the database.
- The first step was digitizing records using the 1992 Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFI) called FACTS 1.0.
- In 2007, FACTS 5.0 replaced the older system but was considered outdated, leading to the development of NAFIS after a 2018 NCRB report.

Evolution of Fingerprinting in India

- Fingerprinting started in colonial India, later spreading worldwide.
- Initially used for administrative, not criminal, purposes by British officials.
- William Herschel introduced fingerprints in the late 1800s to prevent fraud and ensure accurate administrative processes.
- Fingerprinting secured activities like verifying pensions, land transfers, and mortgage bonds.
- Fingerprinting replaced anthropometry, a method of measuring physical features, in official procedures.

Y-3024 (Vindhyagiri)

Context: The Hon'ble President of India will launch the sixth Project 17A Frigate.

INS Vindhyagiri

- On August 17, 2023, the Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, will launch the Project 17A Frigate named Vindhyagiri at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited in Kolkata.
- Vindhyagiri is the sixth vessel of the Project 17A Frigates, following the Project 17 Class Frigates (Shivalik Class). These ships have improved stealth features, advanced weapons, sensors, and platform management systems.
- The new Vindhyagiri pays tribute to its predecessor, the former INS Vindhyagiri, a Leander Class ASW Frigate, which served from 1981 to 2012, participating in various challenging operations and multinational exercises.
- Around 75% of equipment and system orders for Project 17A ships come from indigenous firms, including Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
- The launch of Vindhyagiri reflects India's progress in building a self-reliant naval force while honouring its naval heritage.

Project 17A

- The Indian Navy initiated Project 17 Alpha frigates (P-17A) in 2019, aiming to build a series of advanced guided-missile frigates.
- These frigates are currently being built by two companies: Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders (MDL) and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE).
- The guided-missile frigates feature a specialized stealth design, incorporating radar-absorbent coatings for reduced radar detection and increased stealth capabilities.
- This design allows the frigates to approach enemies without being easily detected.
- Additionally, the new technology minimizes the emission of infrared signals from the ship.
- The first stealth ship introduced through Project 17A was named Nilgiri, launched in 2019.

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NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre



It is situated on the banks of Dal Lake in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir.

Name Change: Renamed from 'Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre' (SKICC) to 'Kashmir International Convention Centre' (KICC) by the Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor's administration.

Architectural Significance: Constructed in 1977 by renowned architect Joseph Stein.

Legacy: Originally named after Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah (founder of the National Conference).

About Jammu and Kashmir:

- Jammu and Kashmir divided into UTs on Oct 31, announced on Aug 5.
- Historic as India's first state-to-UT change, now 9 UTs and 28 states.
- J&K changes: Assembly seats 114, term 5 years, no Legislative Council.
- Parliament representation: J&K UT has 5 Lok Sabha, 4 Rajya Sabha MPs; Ladakh UT has 1 Lok Sabha MP

Nawegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve



Location: Situated in Gondia and Shahdol Districts, Maharashtra.

Components: Includes Nawegaon National Park, Nawegaon Wildlife Sanctuary, Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary, New Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary and Koka Wildlife Sanctuary.

Connectivity: Links to nearby tiger reserves like Pench, Kanha, Tadoba Andhari and Indravati Tiger Reserves, aiding larger biodiversity conservation corridors.

Vegetation: Encompasses Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest, varying from dry mixed to moist forest types.

Flora: Home to 364 plant species, featuring prominent trees such as Terminalia tomentosa, Lagerstroemia parviflora, Anogeisus lotifolia and Pterocarpus marsupium.

Wildlife: Rich variety of species, including Tiger, Panther, Small Indian Civet, Palm Civet, Wolf, Jackal, Wild Dog, Sloth Bear, Ratel, Common Giant Flying Squirrel, Gaur, Sambar, Chital, Four Horned Antelope, Mouse Deer, and Pangolin.

Conservation: Essential habitat for endangered species, contributing to ecological balance and regional biodiversity preservation.

Maya



India's Defence Ministry replacing Microsoft OS with 'Maya', a locally built Ubuntu-based OS, for internet-connected computers.

Rollout and Approval:

- 'Maya' being implemented in Defence Ministry; Navy approved its use.
- Army and Air Force evaluating the software.

Features and Advantages:

- Based on Ubuntu Linux distribution.
- Interface and functionality similar to Windows.
- Includes 'Chakravyuh' feature for anti-malware and antivirus protection.
- Creates a virtual layer against internet threats.

Comparison with Windows:

- 'Maya' is open-source and cost-effective.
- Contrasts with commercial software like Windows requiring licenses.

Kernel and Architecture: 'Maya' uses monolithic kernel; Windows uses hybrid kernel.

Open Source Initiatives: Governments undertook 669 open-source policy initiatives from 1999 to 2022.

Development and Collaborators: Developed with contributions from Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and National Informatics Centre (NIC).

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Indian Flying Fox Bat



What is Indian Flying Fox Bat?

- The Indian Flying Fox bat (*Pteropus giganteus*) is a large bat species native to the Indian subcontinent.
- It is one of the largest bat species globally, with a reddish-brown coat, long snout and large eyes.
- Known for its distinctive appearance resembling a fox with wings.

Habitat and Distribution:

- Endemic to South Central Asia, found from Pakistan to China and the Maldives.
- Habitats include orchards, forests, and urban areas.

Behavior and Lifestyle:

- Social creatures forming large roosts with several hundred bats.
- Follow a hierarchical system within roosts, with higher-ranked bats occupying higher tree spots.
- Primarily a frugivorous diet, supplemented by insects and flowers with juice and nectar.

Ecological Role: Considered a keystone species for seed dispersal of many plants in tropical ecosystems.

Conservation Status:

IUCN status: Least Concern.

Protected under the Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972 in India (Schedule II).

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

Origin and Scope:

- Launched in 2015 by China's Xi Jinping and Pakistan's Nawaz Sharif.
- Expanded from \$46B to \$62B, a significant portion of Pakistan's GDP.
- A flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
- Aims to modernize Pakistan's transport systems, linking Gwadar and Xinjiang.

Path and Projects:

- Connects China's Xinjiang to Pakistan's Gwadar port.
- Passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Gwadar's Significance:

- Part of Balochistan province, key area under China's Belt and Road Initiative.
- Focal point of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).
- Important for deepwater port development, strategic due to Strait of Hormuz proximity.

Past Incidents:

- Previous attacks on Chinese nationals working on CPEC projects.
- Balochistan's long insurgency history, bordering Iran, Afghanistan.

Strategic Location:

- Gwadar near Strait of Hormuz, crucial oil shipping route.
- Developed under Chinese management.



Places in News

Yelagiri Hill

Location: Yelagiri Hill is located in northern Tamil Nadu, India.

Geographical Features: Yelagiri is a picturesque hill station known for its natural beauty, lush landscapes and pleasant climate.

Elevation: Yelagiri Hill's elevation ranges from around 920 meters (3,018 feet) to approximately 1,410 meters (4,626 feet) above sea level.

Tourist Destination: Yelagiri is a popular tourist destination, especially for people seeking a peaceful getaway from nearby urban areas.

Punganur Lake: Punganur Lake is a serene lake located in Yelagiri, offering boating and leisure activities for visitors.

About Malaiyali Tribespeople:

Over 200 Malaiyali tribespeople settled on Yelagiri hill, Tamil Nadu, more than two centuries ago. Established clay huts for shelter, storage, farming and cattle.



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Origin and Name:

- Malaiyali tribe ("malai" - hill, "yali" - people) across Tamil Nadu's hilly regions.
- Initially foragers, settled in upper Nillavur region of Yelagiri for cultivation.

Traditional Hut Construction:

- Clay huts using red loam clay abundant in the hills.
- One-room structures, 16 by 22 feet in size, evolved from makeshift huts.

Significance of Red Clay:

- Red clay crucial for construction, also used for burials.
- Symbolizes the tribe's lifecycle from birth to death.



POINTS TO PONDER

- ❖ Which ministry has initiated the India Web Browser Development Challenge (IWBCD)? – Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- ❖ What is the name of mobile application which allows Indian origin foreign citizens to invest in India startups? – Suswagatam Portal
- ❖ Maui Island belongs to which country? – United States of America
- ❖ Which minerals are called Green Minerals? – Bauxite, Cobalt, Copper, Lithium, Granite, Manganese and Nickel
- ❖ Which river according to mythology is the sister of River Ganga? – River Devika

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