Najafgarh Jheel Wetland

❖ **Context**
  ➢ The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed Delhi and Haryana to **enforce the Environment Management Plans** that the two governments have **prepared for the rejuvenation and protection of the Najafgarh jheel**, a **transboundary wetland.**

❖ **Key Highlights**
  • The implementation of these action plans is to be **monitored by the National Wetland Authority** through the respective State Wetland Authorities.
  • The NGT order also stated the outlet of the Najafgarh jheel, which leads to the Najafgarh drain, **should remain free from sewage before it joins the Yamuna river.**
  • The Union Environment Ministry set up a t**hree-member committee to prepare an integrated EMP.**

❖ About Najafgarh Jheel Wetland	❖ About NGT

• It is **located along the borders of Delhi and Haryana.**
 • It is **fed by Sahibi River** and used to be a vast lake
 • The Najafgarh lake is **under the control of Delhi.**
 • It is **largely filled with sewage** from Gurugram and surrounding villages of Delhi. A portion of the lake falls in Haryana.
 • The presence of **281 bird species,** including several threatened ones such as **Egyptian vulture, Sarus Crane, Steppe Eagle, Greater Spotted Eagle, Imperial Eagle** and those migrating along the Central Asian Flyway has been reported at the lake.
	• It was **established in 2010** under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010
	 • **Status- Statutory Body**
	 • **Objectives:-**
	   • Established for **effective and expeditious disposal of cases** relating to
	     ▪ Environmental protection
	     ▪ Conservation of forests and
	     ▪ Other natural resources including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and
	   • It **gives relief and compensation for damages** to persons and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
	 • NGT is **mandated to make disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months** of the filing of the same.
	 • **New Delhi is the Principal Place of Sitting** of the Tribunal and **Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai shall be the other four places** of sitting of the Tribunal.
	 • It is **not bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908,** but shall be guided by principles of natural justice.
	 • **Composition:-** 40 members (20 expert members and 20 judicial members).

Tipu Sultan

❖ **Context**
  ➢ Tipu Sultan is at the **centre of controversy in Mumbai** with the BJP claiming a Congress leader is planning to **rename a playground in a Muslim dominated locality after the Mysore king.**
  ➢ This controversy is over a playground located in the Muslim-dominated area of Malwani in the Western Suburb of Malad.

❖ **About Tipu Sultan**
  • Tipu Sultan was the **ruler of the Kingdom of Mysore** based in South India.
  • He fought in the **first Anglo-Mysore War (1767-69)** (**ended with the Treaty of Madras**) and subsequently, against the Marathas and in the **Second Anglo-Mysore War (1780-84) (ended with Treaty of Mangalore)**
  • Haider died while this war was on, and **Tipu succeeded him in 1782.**
  • The **Third Anglo Mysore War** was fought from **1790 to 1792.**
    ▪ Ended with the Treaty of **Seringapatam (now Shrirangapattana) in 1792.** Tipu was defeated.
  • In the **Fourth Anglo-Mysore War (1799),** a combined force of British East India Company troops supported by the Marathas & the Nizam of Hyderabad defeated Tipu.
    ▪ Tipu Sultan was **killed defending his capital Seringapatam.**
    ▪ Mysore was placed under the former ruling dynasty of the Wodeyars and a **subsidiary alliance was imposed** on the state.

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❖ **Tipu's Pioneering Work**
- Tipu **reorganized his army along European lines,** using new technology.
- Tipu is credited as the **pioneer of Rocket Technology in India.**
- He introduced a number of administrative innovations during his rule, including a **new coinage system and calendar and a new land revenue system** which initiated the **growth of the Mysore silk industry.**
- He **Modernized agriculture,** gave tax breaks for developing wasteland, **built irrigation infrastructure and repaired old dams, and promoted agricultural manufacturing and sericulture.** Built a navy to support trade.
- He **built a navy to support trade,** and commissioned a "state commercial corporation" to set up factories.
- He had **several commercial depots in foreign countries** such as Pegu, Muscat, Turkey and Istanbul for selling sandalwood.
- He donated to temples at Nanjangud, Kanchi and Kalale, and **patronized the Sringeri mutt.**

News in Between the Lines

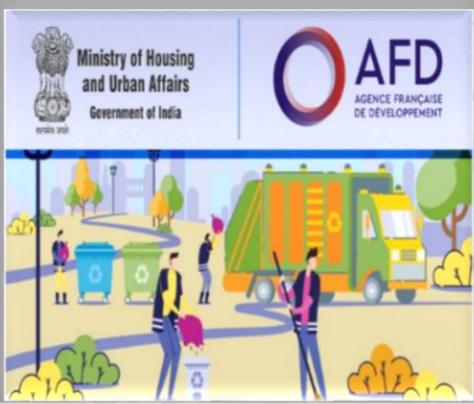|	
Tiwa Community 	❖ **Context** ➢ Recently, over 200 militants of the **United Gorkha People's Organization (UGPO) and Tiwa Liberation Army (TLA)** formally laid down arms in a ceremony in Guwahati. ❖ **Key Highlights** • **TLA was Formed in 2014** to cater to the aspirations of the Tiwa community. • The TLA was active in **Morigaon, Nagaon and West Karbi Anglong districts** of central Assam, • The **UGPO, formed in 2007,** was mostly **active in the Bodoland Territorial Region and Biswanath district.** ❖ **About Tiwa Community** • Tiwa (Lalung) is an **ethnic group mainly inhabiting the states of Assam** and **Meghalaya** in north-eastern India. • They are **also found in some areas of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland.** • They are recognized as a **Scheduled tribe within the State of Assam.** • They were **known as Lalungs** in the Assamese Buranjis and in Colonial literature and in the Constitution of India, though members of the group prefer to call themselves Tiwa (meaning "the people who were lifted from below").
Swachhata Start-Up Challenge 	❖ **Context** ➢ Recently, **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA),** Government of India,in partnership with **Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** and **Agence Française de Développement (AFD**) launched the Swachhata Start-Up Challenge ❖ **Key Highlights** • It was **launched to provide an impetus to innovative start-ups** to come forward and drive **catalytic transformation in the sanitation and waste management sector.** • It was launched under **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0.** • Challenge is **open to start-ups registered in India and French actors** collaborating with an Indian start-up. • Solutions are invited across four thematic areas - **social inclusion, zero dump (solid waste management), plastic waste management and transparency through digital enablement.** • This initiative comes at a time when **France and the EU (European Union) are looking to work closely with India** on the international stage to negotiate a global treaty on plastic pollution.
America COMPETES Act	❖ **Context** ➢ The United States House of Representatives has unveiled the ambitious America COMPETES Act of 2022.

America COMPETES Act

❖ **Key Highlights**
- COMPETES Act = America Creating Opportunities for Manufacturing, Pre-Eminence in Technology, and Economic Strength (COMPETES) Act 2022.
- It **proposes procedures for foreign nationals with an ownership interest in a start-up entity** to self-petition for classification as a **W-1 non-immigrant.**
- It is **expected to open more opportunities in the US for Indian talent,** and for skilled workers.
    - Every year, Indians and Indian companies corner the **lion's share of H-1B work permits** issued that year. With this new category, Indian professionals will probably have a better chance of opportunities than the law is likely to offer.

❖ **Key Features of the Act**
- The US government has made the **following fund allocations** under the act:
- **52 million USD:** To **encourage semiconductor production** in the US.
- **45 million USD:** To provide grants and loans and **improve manufacturing and supply chain resilience .**
- Also, fund has been allocated to **address climate change, social and economic inequality and immigration**
- The act **creates new green card for entrepreneurs** and also offers exemption for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) experts
- The act creates **a new "W" classification.** They are the non – immigrant entrepreneurs.

Vellalore Lake

❖ **Context**
- ➢ **The green zone along the 90- acre Vellalore Lake (Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu) with native trees and flowers, draws more than 80 species.**
- ➢ A **miyawaki forest** canopy with towering native trees and a dense belt of flowering plants has **turned the city's Vellalore Lake into a butterfly hotspot.**

❖ **Key Highlights**
- **Blue Mormons,** the **fourth largest butterfly of India** and **State butterfly of Maharashtra,** have been sighted in great numbers. A **beautiful bluish-green butterfly** called the **common banded peacock**, as like **medus brown, chocolate albatross, and bamboo tree brown buzzed** around the nectaring plants at the lake much to the excitement of **butterfly enthusiasts.**
- All these species can be sighted in forest covers and wooded-areas, but we were surprised to see them in good numbers in the plains,
- **83 species** have been recorded. "This indicates that **25% of species** from Tamil Nadu's checklist (**of 327 species)** are available in this single location. This criteria qualifies the wetland as a **butterfly hotspot.**
- **Vellalore tank** spread across an expanse of **90-acres,** was home to rosy starlings, a **winter migratory bird** that flocked here in thousands to roost.
- This includes over **300 varieties of native species** like **neem, banyan, pungai, and poovarasu. hundreds of herbal plants,** and **flowering plants like** *thael kodukku, nari kilikiluppai,* castor, hibiscus, *arali* and *naatu* rose.
- It created a conducive ecosystem for butterflies to thrive, The spotlight has to be back on the conservation of wetlands.

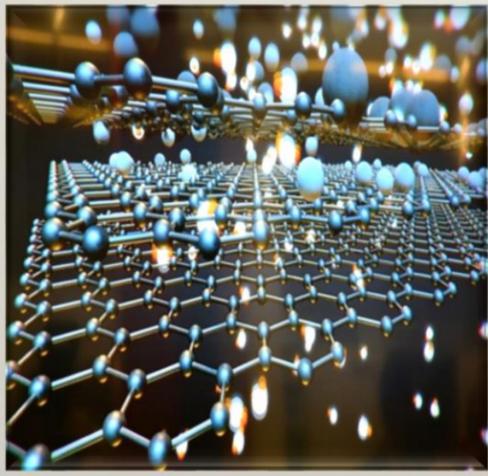## Country's First Graphene Innovation Centre

❖ **Context**
- ➢ The country's **first graphene innovation centre** will soon be established by the **Digital University Kerala (DUK).**
- ➢ The university has joined hands with the **Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET),** Thrissur, to set up the India Innovation Centre for Graphene in the State.

❖ **Key Highlights**
- The **Ministry of Electronics and IT** has accorded sanction for a **₹86.41-crore** project in this regard.
- The centre is expected to **offer students, researchers, established industries,**

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and **budding start-ups,** an opportunity to test and experiment with **new innovative products**. It is bound to create a thriving environment for **innovative graphene-based product development**.

- University authorities point out that the project that will be implemented with support from the State government holds the potential to accelerate the State's growth in the knowledge industry sector. Tata Steel Ltd. will be the industrial partner of the centre.
- The main collaborators of the centre will include scientists from the **National Graphene Institute, University of Manchester,** and industry partners from across the world,
- Often referred to as a wonder material for its **extraordinary electrical and electronics properties, graphene could replace Indium and thereby bring down the cost of OLED (organic light-emitting diode) screens in smartphones.**

❖ **Commercial use**
- DUK also expect graphene and the related **two-dimensional (2D) materials** to have a wide range of **commercial and industrial applications in biomedical, defence, electronics, energy, and sensors** in the next decade.

Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve

❖ **Context**
- **Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR)** in **Erode district** has been given the **prestigious TX2 award** after its tiger numbers doubled to 80 since 2010.
- The **Bardia National Park in Nepal** has **won** this year's **TX2 award** for doubling the population of wild tigers.

❖ **Key Highlights**
- The awards are presented by the **Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS), Fauna and Flora International (FFI), Global Tiger Forum (GTF), IUCN's Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme (ITHCP), Panthera, UNDP, The Lion's Share, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and WWF.**
- They celebrate the **10th anniversary** of all **13 tiger range countries** committed to doubling the global population of wild tigers by 2022.
- The award acknowledges the efforts by the State governments and the local communities which have played one of the most important roles to turn a relatively new tiger reserve into one of the source populations of tigers in India.
- Sathyamangalam wildlife sanctuary was **declared a tiger reserve in 2013** and the reserve that spread across 1,411.60 sq km is an **important link between the Nilgiris and Eastern Ghats landscape.**
- The **Nilgiri biosphere landscape** that this reserve is part of is currently the **home to the largest tiger population in the world.** It is connected to other well-established tiger habitats like **Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Bandipur Tiger Reserve and BR Hills Tiger Reserve.**
- This year, tiger range countries will convene at the **second Global Tiger Summit** in **Vladivostok, Russia,** to assess progress towards the **ambitious TX2 goal,** i.e. double the number of tigers in the wild, and identify tiger **conservation priorities for the next 12 years.**

India's First ODF Village

❖ **Context:**
- ➢ **South Maubuang,** a village in Mizoram, has been declared as the **first ODF (Open Defecation Free) plus village** in the state having fulfilled all the criteria as per **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBM-G) Phase II** guidelines.

❖ **Key Highlights**
- **ODF Plus Village:** Village with sustained ODF behaviours along with access to solid and liquid waste management is recognised as an ODF plus village.

❖ **About:**
- ODF sustainability
- Biodegradable Waste Management
- Liquid Waste Management
- Plastic Waste Management
- Faecal Sludge Management

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