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1. Kerala to set up India's first fisheries Atal Incubation Centre (July 29, 2023)

Kerala-to-set-up-India's-first-fisheries-Atal-Incubation-Centre

After receiving a grant of ₹10 crore from NITI Aayog, the Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS) will set up India's first Atal Incubation Center (AIC) in fisheries.

An Overview of the News

- NITI Aayog, as the premier policy think tank of the Government of India, provided a grant to KUFOS to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the fisheries sector.
- The AIC initiative is part of the Atal Innovation Mission, which aims **to foster a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship across various industries in the country.**

Fisheries Atal Incubation Centre:

- Fisheries Atal Incubation Centre will act as a focal point to foster innovation and inspire young individuals to create advanced technologies and solutions that will address challenges faced by our marine ecosystem and fishing communities .
- Its primary objective is **to promote progress in the fisheries industry by providing a supportive and encouraging environment for startups and innovative initiatives within the sector.**
- The centre will play a key role in creating employment opportunities, creating a conducive environment for startups and entrepreneurs to flourish and succeed.

Vice Chancellor of KUFOS - T. Pradeepkumar

About Kerala

Capital - **Thiruvananthapuram**

Official Bird - **Great Hornbill**

Governor - **Arif Mohammad Khan**

Chief Minister - **Pinarayi Vijayan**

Origin of rivers in Kerala

- Periyar River
- Bharathapuzha River
- Pamba River
- Chaliyar River
- Chalakudy River

India's longest lake - Vembanad, Kerala

2. Italy inaugurates "VC Yashwant Ghadge Sundial Memorial (July 27, 2023)

Italy-inaugurates-VC-Yashwant-Ghadge-Sundial-Memorial

Italy inaugurated the "VC Yashwant Ghadge Sundial Memorial" in honor of the Indian Army's significant contribution during World War II.

An Overview of the News

- The memorial, located in Monton, Perugia, Italy, commemorates the bravery and sacrifice of Naik Yashwant Ghadge, who lost his life in the Upper Tiber Valley.
- The monument's motto, "Omines sub - eodem sole," translates to "We all live under the same sun" in Hindi.
- The ceremony was attended by India's Ambassador to Italy and Indian Defense Attache, Dr. Nina Malhotra, along with numerous Italian citizens, distinguished guests, and members of the Italian Armed Forces.
- Indian troops played a crucial role in the Italian campaign, with over 50,000 soldiers from the 4th, 8th, and 10th divisions participating.
- Notably, Indian soldiers were awarded six out of the twenty Victoria Crosses given in Italy for their extraordinary valour.
- The Indian soldiers suffered a total of 23,722 casualties during the campaign, and 5,782 of them made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.
- These brave soldiers are remembered and honoured in 40 Commonwealth War tombs scattered across Italy.

3. Lavasa, India's first private hill station, sold to Darwin Platform Infrastructure for Rs 1.8 thousand crore (July 24, 2023)

Darwin-Platform-Infrastructure-for-Rs-1.8-thousand-crore

India's first private hill station Lavasa was sold to Darwin Platform Infrastructure for Rs 1.8 thousand crore after the approval of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).

An Overview of the News

- The resolution plan of Darwin Platform Infrastructure has been accepted by the NCLT and includes payment of Rs 1,814 crore.
- This payment includes Rs 929 crore to be paid to lenders and Rs 438 crore allocated to provide fully constructed houses to 837 approved home owners.
- The primary objective of Darwin Platform Infrastructure's resolution plan is **to address claims of home buyers and ensure delivery of completed homes within five years, subject to obtaining environment clearance, with a total claim amount of Rs 6,642 crore.**

- The resolution plan for Lavasa aims **to reduce the concerns and uncertainties that have arisen among various stakeholders associated with the Lavasa project.**
- As per the approved resolution plan, home buyers will be required to bear the actual future construction cost payable to Darwin Platform Infrastructure, while ensuring transparency and accountability in the process of receiving fully constructed properties.

Lavasa Hill Station:

- It is situated in the **picturesque Mulshi Valley within the Western Ghats near Pune.**
- It was established in **2000 by the Hindustan Construction Company, becoming India's first private hill town.**
- Some of the prominent financial lenders in **Lavasa include Union Bank of India, L&T Finance, Arcil, Bank of India and Axis Bank.**
- Covering an extensive area of 25,000 acres, Lavasa displays impressive infrastructure and mesmerising natural beauty.
- Lavasa Corporation obtained permission to build **a dam on the Varasgaon River and develop the necessary infrastructure to facilitate the city's growth.**

Darwin Platform Infrastructure:

- It is a Mumbai based company belonging to Darwin Group, which has interests in various sectors like retail, realty, infrastructure and other businesses.
- **Ajay Harinath Singh is the Chairman of Darwin Group.**
- Lavasa faced financial troubles, as a result of which it failed to meet payment obligations to its creditors, including Raj Infrastructure Development India.
- As a result of Lavasa's inability to meet its payment obligations, Raj Infrastructure Development India filed a litigation against the company, which was later approved in 2018.

4. DPIIT and Government of Gujarat jointly launch 'One District One Product' wall (July 21, 2023)

One District One Product (ODOP) programme, an initiative of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry collaborated with the Government of Gujarat to promote indigenous crafts and artisans of the state.

An Overview of the News

- The ODOP Wall was jointly inaugurated on 20 July 2023 by Manmeet Nanda, Joint Secretary, DPIIT and Aarti Kanwar, Resident Commissioner and Secretary (Economic Affairs), Government of Gujarat, at Garvi Gujarat Bhawan, New Delhi.

- Gujarat, with its 33 districts, offers a wide range of unique products, including traditional crafts such as Gamathi block prints and Mata-ni-Pachedi, as well as agricultural goods such as groundnut and cumin.
- The collaboration between ODOP and the Government of Gujarat includes product tagging and story cards to enhance the promotion and recognition of Gujarat's unique products.
- The partnership aims **to increase the visibility of Gujarat products at the national level and drive consumers towards the emporia, thereby boosting sales.**
- Specific interventions have been made to enhance the market presence of certain products in Gujarat. For example, **Sujani Handloom, Jamnagari Bandhini, and Patan Patola have been onboarded on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM), and support from the National Institute of Design (NID) workshop has been provided for Agate Stone in Khambat district and Sujani from Bharuch district.**

About Gujarat

- Formation - **1 May 1960**
- Capital - **Gandhinagar**
- Chief Minister - **Bhupendra Bhai Patel**
- Governor - **Acharya Devvrat**
- District - **33**
- Rajya Sabha - **11 seats**
- Lok Sabha - **26 seats**

5. Birth of three tiger cubs for the first time in Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve (RVTR) (July 19, 2023)

For the first time, three tiger cubs were born at Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve (RVTR) in Bundi, Rajasthan.

An Overview of the News

- This significant event happened a year after a tigress named T-102 was transferred to the park.
- The number of tigers in the reserve has now increased to five, including a male tiger named T-115 and a tigress named T-102, who is the daughter of Ranthambore tigress T-73.
- During the previous birth, the tigress gave birth to four cubs in November 2020, but they were killed by male tiger T-115 or other wild animals.

- To ensure the safety and survival of the newborn cubs, plans are underway to relocate the tigress from the area, as the male tiger poses a threat to them.

Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve:

- Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary was designated a tiger reserve on **5 July 2021 as it was given in-principle approval by the NTCA.**
- It was given the status of a **wildlife sanctuary in 1982 under a state act called the Rajasthan Wild Animals and Birds Protection Act, 1951.**
- It is located in the **Bundi district of Rajasthan.**
- Its **core area is 481.9 sq km and buffer area is 1019.98 sq km.**
- **Mez river passes through this tiger reserve which is a tributary of Chambal river.**
- The total population of tigers in this reserve is five which includes one male tiger, one tigress and three newborn cubs.

6. Rare bird 'Jerdon's Babbler' spotted in Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, Uttar Pradesh (July 16, 2023)

A rare and globally endangered bird species called 'Jerdon's Babbler' was recently spotted in the grasslands of Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (DTR) in Uttar Pradesh.

An Overview of the News

- According to surveyors, more than 95% of 'Jerdon's Babbler' in India are from Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.
- The Jordanian babbler lives in pairs in small flocks in tall grasslands.
- This globally threatened bird has been listed as 'vulnerable' by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) since 1994.

Distribution and Conservation Efforts

- Earlier, the Jordan Babbler was found along the Sutlej River in Haryana and Punjab. However, due to habitat loss, this species is now mainly found in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.
- Noida-based Habitats Trust works towards protecting the grasslands in the area to support the bio-diverse bird population.
- Their efforts are aimed at restoring ecological functionality and promoting the well-being of both species and humans.
- About 30% of the global population of the Jordanian babbler is found in India.

About 'Jerdon's Babbler':

- It is a passerine bird native to the wetlands and grasslands of the Indian subcontinent.
- Its scientific name is **Chrysomma altirostre**.
- It is a member of the **genus Chrysomma of the family Paradoxornithidae**.
- It is found in Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan.
- It lives throughout the year near river channels, where it inhabits dense reeds and tall grasslands.

7. India to open consulate in southern French city of Marseille (July 15, 2023)

India-to-open-consulate-in-southern-French-city-of-Marseille

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** announced on 14 July 2023 that India will open a consulate in the southern city of **Marseille, France**.

An Overview of the news:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Indian community at **La Seine Musicale in Paris during his visit to France**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was awarded the highest French award '**Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour**' by the President of the Republic of France, **Emmanuel Macron** on 13 July 2023.
- Prime Minister Modi is on an official visit to **France and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)** from 13 to 15 July 2023. This is the sixth visit of Prime Minister Modi to France.
- The Prime Minister was the chief guest at the Bastille Day Parade on 14 July 2023, in which a contingent of the Indian Armed Forces from the three services also participated.
- This year also marks the **25th anniversary of the India-France Strategic Partnership** and the Prime Minister's visit will provide an opportunity to chart out a roadmap for the future of the partnership in various areas such as strategic, cultural, scientific, educational and economic cooperation.

France:

- Capital: **Paris**
- Currency: **Euro**
- President: **Emmanuel Macron**
- Prime Minister: **Elizabeth Bourne**

8. 3,000-Year-Old "Condor's Passageway" Discovered at Peru Temple Site (July 14, 2023)

3,000-Year-Old-Condor's-Passageway-Discovered-at-Peru-Temple-Site

Archaeologists in Peru have discovered a **3,000-year-old sealed passageway, dubbed the "Condor's Passageway"**, at a temple site associated with the ancient Chavín culture.

An Overview of the News

- This corridor is believed to lead to additional chambers within the vast temple complex.

- The Chavín culture is renowned for its impressive artistic achievements, often
- representing birds and cats in its artwork.

Chavin de Huantar:

- Chavin de Huantar is an **archaeological site located approximately 190 miles (306 km) northeast of Lima, Peru.**
- The site was an important centre of the Chavín culture, which **flourished around 1,500-550 BCE.**
- Chavín de Huantar is one of the oldest and best-known **pre-Columbian sites, predating the rise of the Inca Empire by more than 2,000 years.**
- It served as the centre of **social, political and religious activities in the Andean highlands.**
- The Chavín people developed a sophisticated society with a complex religious hierarchy and an extensive trading network.
- Chavín de Huantar's impressive **stone buildings, terraces and plazas showcase intricate anthropomorphic and zoomorphic bas-relief carvings.**
- **In recognition of its cultural importance, Chavín de Huantar was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985.**

9. Sariska Tiger Reserve (July 13, 2023)**Sariska-Tiger-Reserve
Why in the News**

The Supreme Court's concern regarding the high number of visitors to Pandupol temple within the core area of Sariska Tiger Reserve, a panel constituted to find a solution.

About Sariska Tiger Reserve

- It is situated in the Aravalli hills in the Alwar district of Rajasthan.
- It was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1955 and a tiger reserve in 1978 under Project Tiger.
- Recognized as the first tiger reserve in the world to have successfully translocated tigers.

Attractions and Features:

- Ancient Temple: Pandupol Temple
- Architecture: Bhangarh Fort, Ajabgarh, Pratapgarh.
- Visible Lakes: Siliserh Lake, Jai-Samand Lake.

Topography and Vegetation:

- Varied topography: grasslands, dry deciduous forests, rocks and rocky landscapes.
- Dominant tree species: Dhok trees cover about 90% of the area.
- Other plant species: Salar, Kadaya, Gol, Ber, Banyan, Gugal, Bamboo, Kair, Adusta, etc.

Fauna:

- Iconic species: Tiger (successfully relocated), showcasing the reserve's conservation efforts.
- Other Wildlife: Leopard, Sambar deer, Chital deer, Nilgai, Four horned antelope, Wild boar, Rhesus macaque, Langur, Hyena, Jungle cats.

10. Culture Working Group under India's G20 Presidency sets Guinness World Record for Largest Display of Lambani Items (July 11, 2023)

Culture-Working-Group-under-India's-G20-Presidency

The Guinness World Record for the Largest Display of Lambani Items was created on the sidelines of the G-20 Culture Working Group meeting in Hampi, Karnataka on 9 July.

An Overview of the News

- The event took place on the sidelines of the third G-20 Culture Working Group meeting in Karnataka.
- This achievement was announced by PIB Bengaluru.
- A total of 450 Lambani women artisans and cultural practitioners associated with Sandur Kushala Kala Kendra collaborated to create G1 tagged Sandur Lambani embroidery consisting of 1755 patchwork.
- Sruthi Muniyappa, secretary of Sandur Kalakendra discussed the world record in an exclusive interview with All India Radio.

About Karnataka

- It is a state in southwest India and is bordered by Maharashtra to the north, Goa to the northwest, Andhra Pradesh to the east, Tamil Nadu to the southeast, and Kerala to the southwest.
- Bengaluru, the capital of Karnataka, is known as the "Silicon Valley of India" and is a major center of technology and innovation.
- Kannada is the official language of Karnataka, although English and Hindi are also widely spoken.
- Chief Minister - **Siddaramaiah**
- Governor - **Thawar Chand Gehlot**
- Official Animal - **Indian Elephant**

- Official Bird - **Indian Roller**
- Official Dance - **Yakshagana**
- Official Song - **Jaya Bharat Jananiya Tanujate**