



Juvenile Trial as an Adult

❖ Context

- Recently, the **National Commission for Protection of Children (NCPCR)** issued guidelines for conducting a preliminary assessment by the **Juvenile Justice Board (JJB)** under Section 15 of the **Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 (JJ Act, 2015)**.

❖ Key Highlights

- This preliminary assessment is **to ascertain whether a juvenile can be tried as an adult**.
- Replacing the Juvenile Justice Act, 2000, **the 2015 Act**, for the first time, provided for trying juveniles in the age group of 16-18 as adults in cases of heinous offences.

❖ Law on trying a Juvenile as an Adult

- **The Juvenile Justice Act of 2000** was amended in 2015 with a provision allowing for **Children in Conflict with Law (CCL)** to be tried as adults under certain circumstances.
- The Act defines a child as someone who is under age 18.
- For a CCL, age on the date of the offence is the basis for determining whether he or she was a child or an adult.
- The amended Act distinguishes children in **the age group 16-18 as a category which can be tried as adults** if they are alleged to have committed a heinous offence.
- **Heinous Offence**- A crime for which the minimum punishment is seven years imprisonment.
- **Prior to the 2015 amendment** in the original JJ Act, all children below the age of 18 were treated as juveniles.

❖ Procedure for Trying a Juvenile as an Adult

- The JJB is required to **“conduct a preliminary assessment** with regard to : His **mental and physical capacity** to commit such offence.
 - **Ability to understand the consequences** of the offence.
 - The **circumstances** in which he allegedly committed the offence.

- The **assessment is required to be done within three months** from the date of first production of the child before the JJB.
- When the JJB does not comprise a practising professional with a degree in child psychology or child psychiatry, **it would have to mandatorily seek the assistance of experts**.
- The child should also be provided with a legal aid counsel through the District Legal Services Authority who shall be present during the preliminary assessment.
- **When a juvenile is ordered to be treated as an adult-**
 - The **case is transferred before the children’s court**. As per **Section 19** of the amended Act, the court can pass a decision on whether there is a need for trial of the child as an adult, or otherwise.
 - A children’s court has to ensure that the child in conflict with the law is sent to a **“place of safety”** until he reaches the age of 21 years, and is only then transferred to jail.
- **Punishment** : If the child is tried as an adult, the sentence **can go up to life imprisonment**.
 - If the child is tried by the board **as a juvenile**, the maximum sentence can only be **three years** in a special home.
- **Role of NCPCR** : The NCPCR is under a **statutory obligation** under Section 109 of the JJ Act, 2015 to monitor the proper implementation of the provisions of the Act.
 - The guidelines have been made to remove any ambiguity and to clarify the steps that need to be followed while conducting the preliminary assessment.

Cheetah

❖ Context

- Recently, a six-year-old male cheetah, Uday that was brought to Madhya Pradesh’s **Kuno National Park** from South Africa earlier this year died of cardiac failure.



❖ Key Highlights

- Uday is one of the 12 cheetahs relocated from South Africa on February 18, 2023.
- It brings the **death toll of cheetahs in India in recent months to two**, after a Namibian cheetah, Sasha, died of kidney disease in March.
- The **total number of cheetahs in the country now stands at 22**, after one of the cheetahs gave birth to four cubs last month.

❖ Cheetah

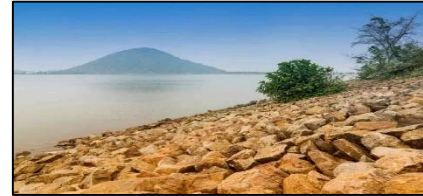
- The Asiatic cheetah is the only **large carnivore to have gone extinct** in India in the 1950s due to hunting and loss of habitat.
- With help from the Wildlife Institute of India and the Wildlife Trust of India, the ministry will be translocating cheetahs from South Africa, Namibia and Botswana. In September 2022, Eight cheetahs - five females and three males were transferred to Kuno National Park (KNP) from Namibia, Africa.
- Twelve cheetahs from South Africa were translocated to KNP on 18 February this year.
- **Asiatic Cheetahs** around 40-50 found only in Iran.
- **Protection Status of Asiatic Cheetah** : **IUCN- Critically Endangered (African Cheetah is Vulnerable Category)**
 - **CITES- Appendix 1 (Same as African Cheetah)**

Face to Face Centres

Water Body Census

❖ Context

- The Ministry of Jal Shakti released a report of the first-ever water body census recently.
- It provides detailed information on water bodies in the country.



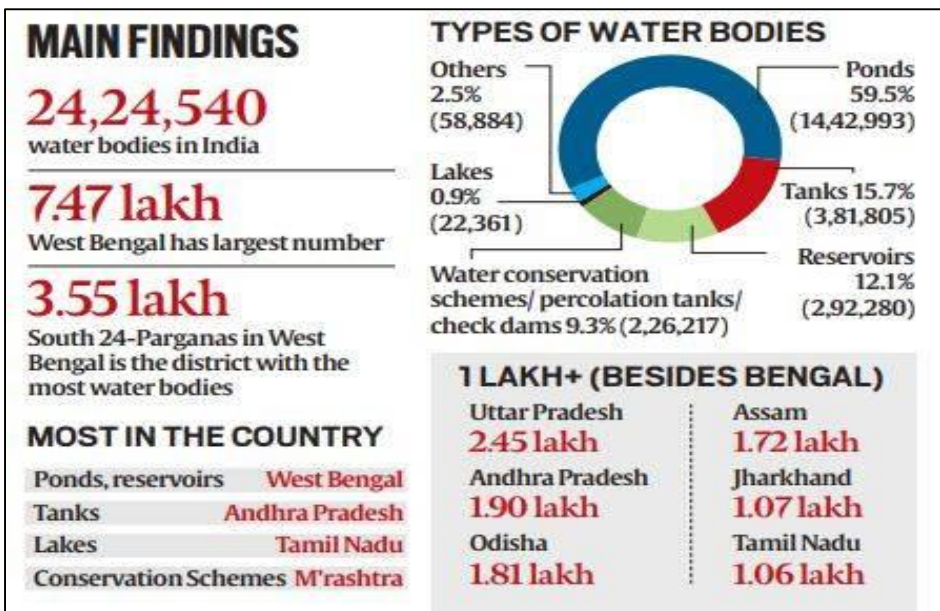
❖ Definition of a Water Body:

- A structure where water from ice-melt, streams, springs, rain or drainage of water from residential or other areas is accumulated or water is stored by diversion from a stream, nala or river will also be treated as water body.

❖ Key Highlights of the Water Bodies Census:

- The water body census report states that India has **24.24 lakh water bodies** like ponds, tanks, and lakes, with **West Bengal** accounting the most (7.47 lakh) and **Sikkim** the least (134).
- The report says, “**24,24,540 water bodies** have been enumerated in the country, out of which **97.1% (23,55,055)** are in rural areas and only **2.9% (69,485)** are in urban areas.
- **59.5% (14,42,993)** of water bodies are ponds, followed by tanks (15.7%, i.e 3,81,805), reservoirs (12.1%, i.e 2,92,280), Water conservation schemes/percolation tanks/check dams (9.3%, i.e 2,26,217), lakes (0.9%, i.e 22,361) and others (**2.5%, i.e 58,884**).
- **West Bengal** has highest number of ponds & reservoirs, whereas **Andhra Pradesh** has highest number of tanks, **Tamil Nadu** has highest number of lakes and **Maharashtra** is the leading state for water conservation scheme.
- There are four states and UTs — Arunachal Pradesh (993), Delhi (893), Chandigarh (188) and Sikkim (134) — each of which account for below 1,000 water bodies.
- **1.6%** water bodies out of all the enumerated water bodies are reported to be encroached out of which **95.4%** are in rural areas and remaining **4.6%** in urban areas.

- Out of the total **24.24 lakh water bodies**, 38,496 water bodies were encroached, of which Uttar Pradesh accounted the most— 15,301.
- The state was followed by **Tamil Nadu** (8,366) and **Andhra Pradesh** (3,920).
- No encroachment on water bodies was reported from four states — **West Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Chandigarh**.
- West Bengal’s **South 24 Pargana** has been ranked as the top district having the highest (3.55 lakh) number of water bodies across the country.
- The district is followed by Andhra Pradesh’s **Ananthapur** (50,537) and West Bengal’s Howrah (37,301).



India Handmade Portal

❖ Context

- Indiahandmade Portal is an e-commerce platform launched by the Indian government to empower local artisans and weavers by providing them with a direct channel to sell their products to customers.



❖ Key Highlights:

- The portal offers over 35 lakh handloom weavers’ products and over 27 lakh handicraft artisans’ products, including clothing, home decor, jewellery, and accessories.
- By connecting artisans and weavers directly to customers, the portal eliminates the **need for middlemen** and ensures that artisans and weavers receive fair value for their products.
- Indiahandmade Portal also provides an **opportunity for weavers** and artisans to become **e-entrepreneurs by expanding** their reach and accessing a larger customer base.
- The portal offers free handholding to sellers from registration until order fulfillment, helping them with **logistics, payments, and other aspects** of online selling.
- The portal provides customer-friendly features such as free shipping and return options, ensuring a seamless buying experience.

- Indiahandmade Portal is part of the government's broader efforts to **promote artisans and weavers in India**.
- It complements the **PM-VIKAS initiative**, which aims to provide training and access to advanced skill training, modern digital techniques, brand promotion, linkage with local and global markets, digital payments, and social security to small artisans and craftsmen.



- The Indiahandmade Portal plays a significant role in promoting the **"Vocal for Local" movement**, supporting local artisans and craftsmanship, and encouraging sustainable livelihoods.

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News in Between the Lines

Nagorno-Karabakh



❖ **Context**

➤ Recently, Azerbaijan said it had **established a checkpoint at the start of the Lachin corridor**, the only land route linking Armenia to Nagorno-Karabakh, a step that was followed by claims of border shootings by both Azeri and Armenian forces.

❖ **About Nagorno-Karabakh**

- Nagorno-Karabakh, known as **Artsakh** by Armenians, is a landlocked **mountainous area** in the South Caucasus. It was claimed by both Azerbaijan and Armenia after the fall of the Russian Empire in 1917 and has **remained a point of tension** ever since.
- The territory is internationally **recognised as part of oil-rich Azerbaijan**.
- However its inhabitants are predominantly **ethnic Armenians**.
- They have their own government which has enjoyed close links to the government in neighbouring Armenia but has not been officially recognised by it or other U.N. member states.
- Armenians, who are Christians, claim a long historical dominance in the area, dating back to several centuries before Christ.
- Azerbaijan, whose inhabitants are mostly Muslim, links its historical identity to the territory too. It accuses the Armenians of driving out Azeris who lived nearby in the 1990s. It wants to **gain full control over the enclave**, suggesting ethnic Armenians take Azeri passports or leave.

Morel Mushroom



❖ **Context**

➤ Guchhi, also known as Morel mushroom, is a rare and prized delicacy found in the **Himalayan region of India**.

❖ **Key Highlights:**

- This wild mushroom belonging to the **Morchellaceae family** is known for its unique spongy head, which has a meaty and nutty flavor.
- It also includes other mushroom varieties like the **Black morel and the Yellow morel**.
- It is a rich source of vitamins **B, C, D, and K**, making it an excellent addition to a healthy diet.
- Guchhi is mainly found in the Himalayan region, particularly in the states of **Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Arunachal Pradesh**.
- It grows in forests, near the roots of trees, and in areas with high humidity levels.
- Apart from the Himalayas, Guchhi is found near the banks of the **Chenab in Akhnoor**.

SAWGAT Initiative



❖ **Context**

➤ PM Modi attended 20th anniversary of SWAGAT initiative in Gujarat via video conferencing recently.

❖ **Key Highlights:**

- The main purpose of the scheme was to act as a bridge between the citizens and the government using technology by solving their day-to-day grievances in a quick, efficient and time-bound manner.

Operation Kaveri



❖ **Context**

➤ Recently, Ministry of External Affairs announced that India had launched **Operation Kaveri to bring back around 3,000 Indians stranded in Sudan**.

➤ Sudan has been facing a conflict between the country's army and a paramilitary group for the last 10 days.

❖ **Key Highlights**

- The rescue operation is currently underway and around **500 Indians have reached Port Sudan as of Monday, 24th April 2023**.
- **Two C-130s aircraft** and the navy ship **INS Sumedha** are on standby to evacuate Indians from the violence-hit African nation.
- The name for rescue operations in Sudan has been kept Operation Kaveri for the same purpose that Prime Minister chose to name rescue ops in Ukraine as Operation Ganga.
- Rivers reach their destination irrespective of barriers. It's like a mother who will ensure she will bring her children back to safety.

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Zero Shadow Day



❖ Context

- At 12:17 pm on Tuesday (April 25), Bengaluru experienced a 'Zero Shadow Day', when vertical objects appear to cast no shadow.
- This was because the sun was at its zenith, and so the shadow was directly under the object.

❖ Key Highlights

- For every point on Earth **between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn**, there are **two Zero Shadow Days a year**.
 - For Bengaluru, the next one is on August 18.
 - The Zero Shadow Day is restricted to locations between the tropics, and so **places north of Ranchi in India are out of it**.
- One falls during the Uttarayan when the Sun moves northwards, and the other is during Dakshinayan when the Sun moves southwards.
- Uttarayan (movement of the Sun from south to north from **winter solstice to summer solstice**) and Dakshinayan (back **from north to south**) happen because Earth's rotation axis is tilted at an angle of roughly 23.5° to the axis of revolution around the Sun.
- All places whose latitude equals the angle between the Sun's location and the equator on that day experience zero shadow day, with the shadow beneath an object at local noon.

Talle Wildlife Sanctuary



❖ Context

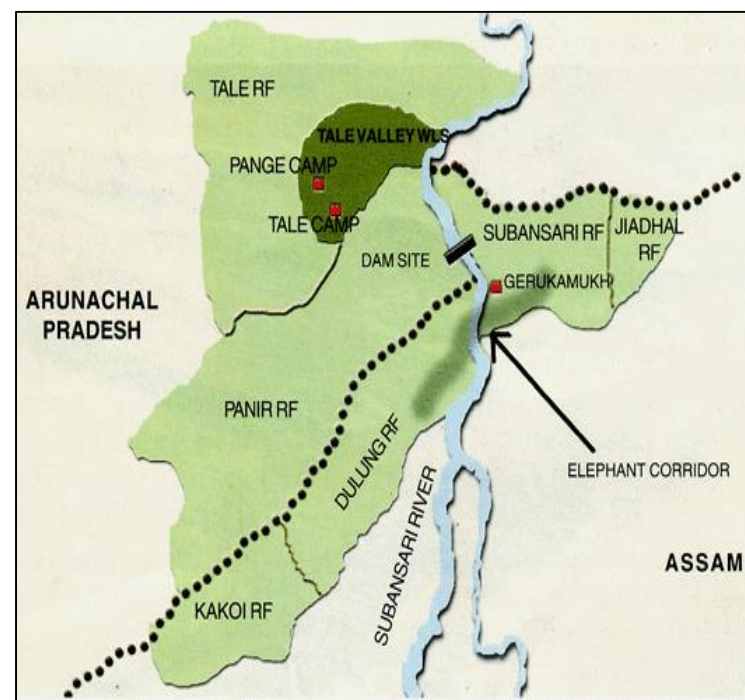
- Recently researchers have discovered a new moth from Talle Wildlife Sanctuary.

❖ Key Highlights:

- The moth is a Burnet moth and is largely day-flying.
- It belongs to the family Zygaenidae, which includes Forester and Burnet moths.
- Burnet and Forester moths are brightly coloured day-flying moths, often with clubbed antennae.

❖ About Talle Wildlife Sanctuary:

- The Talle Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, in the district of Upper Siang.
- It covers an area of approximately 337 square kilometers.
- It is home to several rare and endangered species of animals such as the clouded leopard, Asiatic black bear, red panda, and elephant, among others.
- The sanctuary is also known for its avian diversity, with over 200 species of birds recorded here.
- Talle WLS lies between Subansiri, Sipu and Pange rivers.



LockBit Ransomware



❖ Context

- Cybercriminals have developed new ransomware encryptors designed to target macOS devices, making this the first major ransomware operation to specifically target Apple computers.

❖ Key Highlights:

- LockBit is a subclass of ransomware known as a 'crypto virus' due to forming its ransom requests around financial payment in exchange for decryption.
- The LockBit ransomware is designed to infiltrate victims' systems and encrypt important files.
- It was dubbed as ABCD virus due to file extension used when encrypting victim's files.
- It focuses mostly on enterprises and government organizations rather than individuals.
- Most significant is its ability to self-propagate, meaning it spreads on its own.
- In its programming, LockBit is directed by pre-designed automated processes.

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