

28th October 2024

Indian Army to establish a solar hydrogen-based microgrid

NTPC has collaborated with the Indian Army to establish a solar hydrogen-based microgrid at Chushul, Ladakh.



Key Point

- ❖ This initiative is significant in replacing existing diesel generators with a sustainable energy solution capable of providing 200 kW of power year-round, despite the region's harsh winter conditions where temperatures can drop to -30°C at an altitude of 4,400 meters.
- ❖ The solar hydrogen microgrid will operate independently, utilizing hydrogen as an energy storage medium.
- ❖ NTPC is also trialing a hydrogen bus in Leh and plans to establish a hydrogen fuelling station and solar plant, along with five fuel cell buses for intracity routes.
- ❖ The company aims to achieve 60 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2032, reinforcing its commitment to green hydrogen technology and energy storage initiatives.

Sakharov Prize 2024

The European Parliament has announced that **María Corina Machado** and **Edmundo González Urrutia** will be the

recipients of the **2024 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought**.



Key Point

- ❖ This prestigious award recognizes their relentless efforts to restore democracy and freedom in **Venezuela** amidst severe political and economic challenges.
- ❖ The Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought is the highest human rights honor awarded by the **European Union**.
- ❖ Named after the Soviet physicist and dissident **Andrei Sakharov**, the prize was established in **1988** and is awarded annually by the **European Parliament** to individuals or organizations that embody human rights advocacy, democracy, and the rule of law.

Environmental Ship Index (ESI)

Mormugao Port Authority has gained global recognition for its Green Ship Incentives under the ESI.



Key Point

- ❖ is the first port in India to implement Green Ship Incentives through the Environmental Ship Index.

- ❖ The 'Harit Shrey' scheme was launched in **October 2023** and offers port fee discounts based on ESI ratings.
- ❖ Mormugao Port is recognized alongside ports in Japan and Oman for similar incentives.

Environmental Ship Index (ESI)

- ❖ The ESI is a platform that rates ships based on their environmental performance, particularly air emissions.
- ❖ Ports use the ESI to encourage ships to adopt greener technologies and practices.

International Tennis Hall of Fame's Class of 2025

Maria Sharapova and the Bryan brothers were elected into the International Tennis Hall of Fame's Class of 2025.



Key Point

- ❖ Sharapova won five singles Grand Slam titles and a silver medal at the 2012 Olympics.
- ❖ She was the first Russian woman to achieve the world number one ranking in 2005.
- ❖ The Bryan brothers are known for being the most successful doubles team in history. They won 16 Grand Slam men's doubles titles together.

The Center for Generative AI, "Srijan,"

The Center for Generative AI, "Srijan," is being established at IIT Jodhpur in partnership with IndiaAI and Meta to advance AI research and skills in India.



Key Point

- ❖ The center aims to foster innovation and train 1 lakh youth developers and entrepreneurs in AI skills over the next three years.
- ❖ It will focus on the development and deployment of open-source large language models (LLMs) across sectors such as healthcare, education, agriculture, and smart cities.
- ❖ The initiative also includes the YuvAI initiative, focusing on skilling and capacity building for young developers in AI.
- ❖ Meta, in collaboration with MeitY and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), also launched the "YuvAI initiative for Skilling and Capacity Building".
- ❖ This program aims to bridge the AI talent gap in the country by empowering 100,000 students and

young developers aged 18-30 to leverage open-source large language models (LLMs) to address real-world challenges.

Srijan - Center for Generative AI

- ❖ Named "Srijan," meaning "Creation," the center will be a focal point for foundational AI and generative AI research in India.

Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC)

The seventh Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) named 'Abhay', was launched for the Indian Navy on 25th October 2024.



Key Point

- ❖ The ship is part of the Arnala class, designed to replace the in-service Abhay class ASW Corvettes.
- ❖ It is intended for anti-submarine operations in coastal waters, Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO), and Mine Laying Operations.
- ❖ The ASW SWC ships are built with over 80% indigenous content, supporting the Atma Nirbhar Bharat initiative.

Asiatic golden cat

The Asiatic golden cat, after a long absence, was recently spotted in Assam's Manas National Park, marking a conservation success.



Key Point

- ❖ They are known as the "rock cat" in China and "fire cat" in Thailand and Burma. It has fur colors ranging from cinnamon to shades of brown, gray, and black.
- ❖ These solitary, territorial cats are diurnal and crepuscular, often living in varied habitats like rainforests, deciduous, and sub-alpine forests, at elevations up to 3,738 m.
- ❖ The cat, classified as Near Threatened by the IUCN, thrives in diverse habitats across Southeast Asia and Northeast India, showcasing the resilience of wildlife amid challenges.

About Manas Tiger Reserve:

- ❖ **Geographical Location:** Situated in Assam, Manas National Park is intersected by the Manas and Beki rivers.
- ❖ **Climate:** It experiences a tropical monsoon climate, characterized by distinct wet and dry seasons.

❖ **Endemic Flora:**

- Catechu tree
- Sissoo
- White siris

❖ **Distinctive Fauna:**

- Pygmy hog
- Golden langur
- Assam roofed turtle

❖ **Protected Area Status:**

- World Natural Heritage Site
- Encompasses a wildlife sanctuary, national park, and tiger reserve

Short News

- ❖ The International Incoming Spoofed Calls Prevention System has been launched collaboratively by the Department of Communications (DoT) and Telecom Service Providers (TSPs).
- ❖ The National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), in collaboration with Amazon, launched the third phase of the 'Amazon Future Engineer Program' in 50 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS).
- ❖ The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) held a conference of Buddhist monks and scholars in Colombo to support Pali's classical language status in India.
- ❖ India's first study on 'teal carbon', was undertaken at Keoladeo National Park (KNP) in Rajasthan's Bharatpur district.
- ❖ Thachath Viswanath (TV) Narendran, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) of Tata Steel, was elected as the chairman of the World Steel Association (Worldsteel) for the term 2024-25.
- ❖ Nvidia has officially dethroned Apple as the world's most valuable company with its stock market value briefly reaching \$3.53 trillion, compared to Apple's \$3.52 trillion.
- ❖ Airbus has inaugurated its new India and South Asia Headquarters and Training Centre Located in the National Capital Region (NCR).
- ❖ The 17th Urban Mobility India Conference and Expo 2024 was inaugurated by Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar.
- ❖ Larsen & Toubro (L&T) secured a new order from the intergovernmental organization ITER, which oversees the world's largest nuclear fusion project in Cadarache, Southern France.



Important Daily Current Affairs Question

1. Recently, the Asiatic golden cat has been spotted in which national park of Assam?

- a) Raimona National Park
- b) Dibru-Saikhowa National Park
- c) Manas National Park
- d) Orang National Park

Answer -C

2. Which IIT is related to the establishment of the Center for Generative AI, "Srijan," in collaboration with IndiaAI and Meta?

- a) IIT Bombay
- b) IIT Delhi
- c) IIT Jodhpur
- d) IIT Madras

Answer -C

