

SUMMARY OF THE HINDU

FOR BPSC EXAMINATION

ENGLISH

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THE HINDU National

➡ Trees in Corbett fell prey to nexus of greed , says SC

- The Supreme Court on Wednesday condemned the illegal felling of more than 6,000 trees to construct a building for "eco-tourism" in Jim Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand.
- The court cited it as a classic case of "nexus" between politicians and officials working to ransack the environment for short term commercial ends.
- What is the case all about?
- A petition was filed by an environment activist challenging the Uttarakhand's govt proposal to have a tiger Safari and a specialized zoo to have caged animals at the national park .

• What the judgment says:

- The court said that it was "amazed at the audacity "of former Uttarakhand ministers and officials. The court has ordered a CBI enquiry in the case and has directed the agency to submit its report within three months.
- > The court said that the cost of restoration of the forest will be incurred from errant politicians and officials.
- The court has. Proposed to form a panel and the panel of the representatives of NTCA, Wildlife Institute of India (WII), central empowered committee and a joint secretary.
- The committeewill recommend whether Wild Safaris should be allowed in specialized wildlife conservation zones.
- In case the committee allows Safaris in these zones. The committee will have to recommend guidelines for their operation. The guidelines would be applied on a Pan India basis.

➡ Ensure Pakistan does not use loans to foot defense bills , India to IMF

- India in a review meeting of IMF on Pakistan loan batted for "stringent monitoring" of the funds given . India stressed that such funds must not be used for defense bills or repayment of loans from other countries .
- India in earlier review meetings had abstained to participate and vote. This is the first time India took part in a review meeting on Pakistani Loans.

• IMF loans to Pakistan:

• Following Floods and external shocks Pakistan economy was on verge of collapsing, when it requested loans from IMF. The IMF in July last year okayed a 3 billion dollar stand by Arrangement (SBA) that is going to expire next month. Pakistan has requested a 1.2 billion dollar additional loan from the IMF

▶ PM launches India's first underwater line Metro line in Kolkata

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday inaugurated Kolkata Metro's Esplanade Howrah maidan section .
- The Metro line passes through the country's first underwater tunnel below Hooghly Rover The 4.8 km long section was made at a cost of Rs. 4,965 crore

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Navy commissions INS Jatayu MH 60 R helicopter squadron

- The Indian Navy on Wednesday commissioned INS Jatayu on Minicoy island in Lakshadweep . This is the second base in Lakshadweep after INS Dweeprakshak in Kavaratti .
- Minicoy island is at the nine degree equator line and at a very important strategic position . It separates Maldives and India .
- Looking at increased closeness of Maldives and China this has become even more important.

→ Don't promote betting, govt tells media celebrities

- The Central Consumer Protection Authority in an advisory has warned manufacturers, advertisers, social media platforms, and broadcasters against promoting illegal acts such as Gambling or betting.
- The advisory noticed that betting platforms were introducing celebrities to advertise their products. This gives a "false impression that indulging in these activities is acceptable ".
- It warned that stringent action of guidelines is violated.
- Currently there is no law in India that bans betting and Gambling .
- However states like Sikkim, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh have banned these betting and gambling by making their own laws.



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States

→ Take Rs.13,608 crore on offer, SC advises Kerala

- The Supreme Court (SC) advised Kerala govt to accept Rs.13,608 crore being offered by center and accept the conditions put by center, except withdrawing the suit.
- SC also asked the center if it wasfair to put a precondition that the Petition filed by Kerala be withdrawn for release of funds .
- Justice Suryakant Mishra said "we want to find a structured solution to it. If you both can resolve the immediate emergency. There will be time to hear the suit.".

• About the case:

- > Kerala govt is facing financial emergency.
- > It is unable to pay pension and salaries to its staff.
- ➤ Kerala had filed suit in the Supreme Court alleging the center was violating federal structure and causing economic harm by limiting borrowing powers of states .
- > Center accused Kerala of financial mismanagement .Center agreed to offer Rs.13,608 immediate release to
- ➤ Kerala on preconditioning that Kerala withdraw its case .
- ➤ Kerala Earlier in a meeting with the Central govt rejected the offer .Kerala had sought Rs.26,226 crore toclear its "unmet arrears and immediate obligations".

→ Human wildlife conflict a state specific disaster : Kerala

- The Kerala cabinet on Wednesday declared human wildlife conflict a state specific disaster .
- ➤ The government also decided to form a committee to look into the matter .
- The decision comes after increasing death of civilians, damage to crops.
- > Wayanad district of Kerala is among the most affected by it .

Fresh complaint filed against Delhi CM for skipping ED summons

- The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has field a fresh Petition in Rouse Avenue court in Delhi against Arvind Kejriwal for non compliance with its summons.
- > Arvind Kejriwal skipped the eighth summon by ED on March 4

IA WORLD

▶ Healey Concedes as Trump, Biden win big in primaries

- On "Super Tuesday", the day on which elections of primaries and Caucuses were held for 15 US states, Nikkie Healy went out of the contest.
- Nikkie Healy was able to win only one state. The remaining 14 were won by Donald Trump .
- There were no participants against Joe Biden , so he got all the votes .
- With this it has become very good that the US Presidential Contest in November will be between Trump and Biden

'US is using Philippines as pawn in South China sea, says Beijing

- China on Wednesday accused the US of using the Philippines as a "pawn" in the South China sea .
- Replying to the incident of collision between Chinese and Philippines vessel in South China sea . Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said ,China `` took control measures' ' against Philippine ships ' " illegal intrusion " into water it claims .
- "China urges the United States not to use the Philippines as a pawn to stir up trouble in the South China Sea . ". she said .
- The US earlier had condemned China's action as "provocative".
- The US and Philippines have historically strong relations . The US has many Naval and Airforce bases in the Philippines

→ With 8,565 dead, UN says 2023 was the deadliest year in a decade for migrants

- UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM) on Wednesday released data on Migrants death in 2023.
- At least 8565 people died on Migration routs in 2023. This is 20% more than total death in 2022.
- The Mediterranean route remained the deadliest with 3129 deaths.
- People from South West Asian countries and North African countries try to migrate to Europe.
- Those from South America try to move to North American countries. Many also died illegally migrating from Myanmar

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