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Dekho Apna Desh Webinar Series

Context:

- **The Ministry of Tourism's Dekho Apna Desh** Webinar series titled **"Secrets and Delights of Indian Cuisine"** held on 26th December 2020 focused on Indian Cuisine and its importance.

About Dekho Apna Desh:

- The Dekho Apna Desh series highlights the beautifully diverse culture of the country and espouses the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.
- The Dekho Apna Desh Webinar Series is presented in technical partnership with National e Governance Department, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

About Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat:

- Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme aims to enhance interaction & promote mutual understanding between people of different states/UTs through the concept of state/UT pairing.
- The states carry out activities to promote a sustained and structured cultural connect in the areas of language learning, culture, traditions & music, tourism & cuisine, sports and sharing of best practices, etc.

Chandrayaan 2

Context:

Recently, the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has released the first set of data from the country's second moon mission, **the Chandrayaan-2**, for the general public.

More on Chandrayaan Mission:

- India launched Chandrayaan-2, its second lunar exploration mission after Chandrayaan-1, from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota on 22nd July 2019.
- ISRO is planning mission Chandrayaan-3 in late 2021 or early 2022.

About Chandrayaan-2:

- It is an integrated 3-in-1 spacecraft of around 3,877 kg consisting of an **Orbiter of the Moon, Vikram (after Vikram Sarabhai) - the lander and Pragyan (wisdom)** - the rover, all equipped with scientific instruments to study the moon.
 - **The Chandrayaan-2 was India's first attempt to land on the lunar surface.**
 - ISRO had planned the **landing on the South Pole of the lunar surface**. However, the lander Vikram hard-landed in September last year. Its orbiter, which is still in the lunar orbit, has a mission life of seven years.

Objective of Chandrayaan-2:

- Try and build on the evidence of water molecules shown by Chandrayaan-1 and study the extent and distribution of water on the

Moon.

- Study topography, seismography, composition of lunar surface and the lunar atmosphere.
 - The study of **ancient rocks and craters** can offer indications of origin and evolution of the Moon.
 - **The South Pole region of the Moon** also contains clues to the fossil records of early solar systems. Thus, it can improve our understanding of the early solar system as well.
- Map the lunar surface and prepare 3D maps of it.

National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)

About NTCA:

- It is a **statutory body** under the **Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change** constituted under enabling provisions of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, as amended in 2006, for strengthening tiger conservation, as per powers and functions assigned to it under the said Act.
- The National Tiger Conservation Authority is set up under the **Chairmanship of the Minister for Environment and Forests.**



Members of NTCA:

- The Authority will have eight experts or professionals having qualifications and experience in wildlife conservation and welfare of people including tribals, apart from three Members of Parliament of

whom two will be elected by the House of the People and one by the Council of States.

- The Inspector General of Forests, in charge of project Tiger, will be ex-officio Member Secretary.

Objective of the NTCA:

- Providing statutory authority to Project Tiger so that compliance of its directives become legal.
- Fostering accountability of Center-State in management of Tiger Reserves, by providing a basis for MoU with States within our federal structure.
- Providing for an oversight by Parliament.
- Addressing livelihood interests of local people in areas surrounding Tiger Reserves.

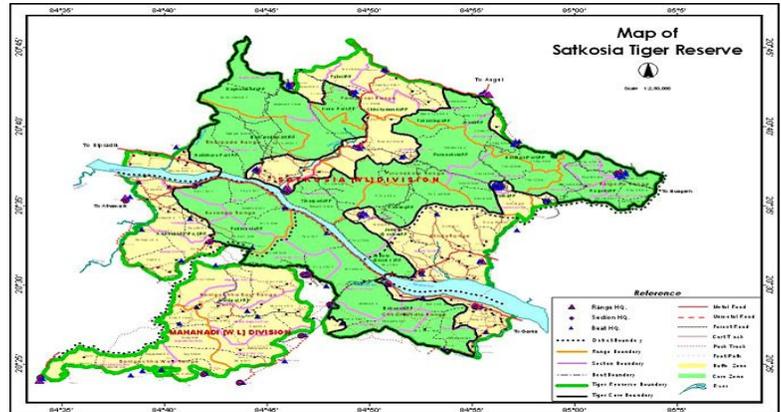
Power and Functions of the NTCA:

- To evaluate and assess various aspects of sustainable ecology and disallow any ecologically unsustainable land use such as, mining, industry and other projects within the tiger reserves;
- To provide information on protection measures including future conservation plan, estimation of population of tiger and its natural prey species, status of habitats, disease surveillance, mortality survey, patrolling, reports on untoward happenings and such other management aspects as it may deem fit including future plan conservation;
- To ensure critical support including scientific, information technology and legal support for better implementation of the tiger conservation plan.

Satkosia Tiger Reserve

Context:

The **National Tiger Conservation Authority** has asked Odisha to submit a status report on the adverse impact of tourism on **Satkosia Tiger Reserve**.



Highlights:

- **Satkosia Tiger Reserve, Bhubaneswar** comprises two adjoining sanctuaries of central Odisha named as **Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary** and **Baisipalli Sanctuary**.
 - These two sanctuaries together covering an area of 963.87 sq km were notified as **Tiger Reserve** in December 2007.
- Lying in a transitional zone extending between the Chhota Nagpur Plateau and the Deccan Plateau, the tiger reserve exhibits endemic life forms of both biotic provinces.
- **Flora and Fauna:**
 - The area supports **moist deciduous forest, dry deciduous forest and moist peninsular Sal forest**.
 - This area is the **home for Tiger, Leopard, Elephant, Gaur, Chousingha, Sloth bear, Wild dog**, varieties of resident and migratory birds, reptilian species, etc.
- **Crocodile Conservation:**

- In March 1974, the **Forest Department of the Government of Orissa** with technical support from the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** started a breeding programme of crocodiles.
- In March 1975, the **Gharial Research and Conservation Unit (GRACU)** was started, which has done pioneering work in crocodile conservation in India.
 - The activities include conservation breeding, releasing of reared crocodiles into the wild and its rehabilitation.

International Sports University



Context-

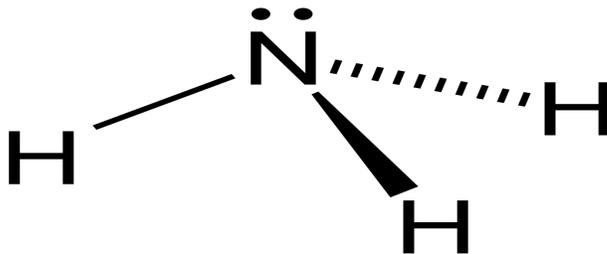
With an aim of encouraging research and training in the field of sports, Maharashtra government will set up International Sports University in the state. The Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray led cabinet has

approved a draft bill for the constitution of an international sports university in the state. It will be setup in Pune.

Sports university in India-

National Sports University is a sports university in Manipur in India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone for National Sports University on 16 March 2018. It is the first, and as of 2019 the only, central university in India focusing on sports education.

IFFCO gas leak



Context-

Two persons died and several took ill in a major ammonia gas leakage at the Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO). The victims had come in contact with the concentrated form of ammonia gas that leaked heavily from the plant.

Ammonia-

A tri-hydride of nitrogen (NH_3), ammonia is a building block for ammonium nitrate (NH_4NO_3) that is used in agriculture as a high-nitrogen fertilizer. According to experts in Chemistry, ammonia is stored for industrial use in liquid form under high pressure or in gaseous form at low temperature, as was the case in the IFFCO unit where the accident took place.

Ammonia effect on Human body-

Ammonia interacts immediately upon contact with moisture present in the skin, eyes, oral cavity, respiratory tract to form ammonium hydroxide, which is very caustic and disrupts the cell membrane lipids, ultimately leading to cellular destruction.