Status of Leopards report released

NATIONAL NEWS

Status of Leopards report released



- The Status of Leopards in India 2018 was released by the Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- Leopards are the vulnerable species in the IUCN Red list.
- The observations based on this report are:
    - Total strength of leopards in India has increased 60% in population to 12852 compared to 7910 in 2014.
    - Madhya Pradesh ranks first in the population of leopard with a strength of 3,421 followed by Karnataka (1,783) and (Maharashtra at 1,690)

Facts:

- Union Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change: Prakash Javadekar

Memorandum of Agreement signed between CGWB and CSIR-NGRI

- Memorandum of Agreement signed between Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and CSIR-

NGRI for High-Resolution Aquifer Mapping & Management in Arid Region of North-Western India.
- The MoA aids for use of advanced heliborne geophysical survey and other scientific studies in parts of the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Haryana under the Aquifer Mapping Programme.
- This is the first time Ministry of Jal Shakti has decided to use the state of the art technology for identification of aquifers in such a large arid/semi-arid area of the country.

Facts:

- Union Minister for Jal Shakthi: Gajendra Singh Sekhawat

Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020

- The Union Ministry of Power has issued the rules to protect the rights of power consumers in the country through Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020.
- Following key areas are covered in the Electricity (Rights of consumers) Rules:
    - Rights of consumers and Obligations of Distribution licensees
    - Release of new connection and modification in existing connection
    - Metering arrangement
    - Billing and Payment
    - Disconnection and Reconnection
    - Reliability of supply
    - Consumer as Prosumer
    - Standards of Performance of licensee
    - Compensation Mechanism
    - Call Centre for Consumer Services
    - Grievance redressal mechanism

Fact:

- Union Minister of Power: R.K.Singh

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India - Vietnam Virtual Summit

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi held a Virtual Summit with H.E. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.
- A 'Joint Vision for Peace, Prosperity and People' document was adopted during the Summit, to guide the future development of the India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
- Several MoUs were signed for utilising the technology and finance by India for betterment of Vietnam and also to strengthen the bilateral partnership.

Facts:

- Capital of Vietnam: Hanoi
- Currency: Vietnamese Dong

UN Human Development Index 2020

COUNTRY	HDI RANK
Sri Lanka	72
The Maldives	95
Bhutan	129
India	131
Bangladesh	133
Nepal	142
Pakistan	154
Afghanistan	169

- The 2020 Human Development Report published by the United Nations Development Programme released.
- According to the report India has dropped two ranks on the Human Development Index (HDI) to 131 among the 189 countries ranked.
- HDI is calculated as the Geometric Mean of life expectancy, education, and GNI per capita of a nation.
- Norway ranks first in HDI while Niger is place in the 189th rank.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Mathematics Day



- December 22nd is observed as National Mathematics Day to celebrate the achievements of Srinivasa Ramanujan.
- The legendary mathematician was born on this day in 1887 in Tamil Nadu.
- The former Prime Minister of India, Manmohan Singh declared December 22 as National Mathematics Day on February 26, 2012