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Eurasian Whimbrel

Why in News?

Recently, a long-distance migratory bird, the **Eurasian** or common whimbrel, tagged with a <u>Global Positioning</u> <u>System (GPS)</u> transmitter was captured on camera in the state of Chhattisgarh.

Key Points

- According to the <u>Ornithologists</u> and state forest officials, the <u>migratory bird</u> was flying mammoth distances and stopped over in Chhattisgarh, owing to the presence of <u>wetlands</u> in the Berla area of Bemetara district, about 70 km from Raipur.
- It is the first time in India such a GPS-tagged bird is being spotted and photographed.
- There is a greater need to restore such aquatic biodiversity habitat and wetlands facing loss of vegetation and encroachment.

Eurasian Whimbrel



- It is a wading bird in the large family Scolopacidae.
- > Scientific Name: Numenius phaeopus
- Distribution:
 - They have an extensive range that spans across five continents: North America, South America, Asia, Africa, and Europe.
 - They breed in the subarctic regions of Siberia and Alaska during the summer months before migrating south to wintering grounds in southern USA, Central America, South America, Africa, and South Asia, including Nepal.
- Habitat: Winters mainly along the coastline, coastal wetlands, mangroves, marshes, and larger rivers.

- Features:
 - A fairly large greyish-brown bird with a long, decurved bill with a kink.
 - It has a distinct head pattern with dark eyestripes and crown-sides.
 - It is mottled dark brown above, pale below, with much brown streaking on the throat and breast.
 - Whimbrels are known for their **high-pitched call consisting of a repetitive series of seven notes.**
- Conservation Status:
 - o IUCN Red List: Least Concern

Chhattisgarh Mandated GST E-Way Bill Provisions

Why in News?

Kev Points

Recently, Chhattisgarh government has issued a notification mandating generation of e-way bills for all intra-state goods movement worth over Rs. 50,000, eliminating previous exemptions for some goods.

- E-Way Bill is a compliance mechanism wherein by way of a digital interface the person causing the movement of goods uploads the relevant information prior to the commencement of movement of goods and generates an e-way bill on the <u>Goods and Services</u> <u>Tax (GST)</u> portal.
- Initially, exceptions were given to simplify the movement of specific items within districts, but these have been taken back to improve adherence and decrease fraudulent behaviors.
- This change in policy comes after six years of adjusting to the <u>e-way bill system</u>, which was initially implemented in 2018. The period of getting used to the system has allowed businesses and transporters to become familiar with it, leading to the elimination of exemptions.
 - Eliminating these exemptions is intended to address problems like circular trading and fake billing, which have taken advantage of the previous leniencies.
- The goal is to promote fair competition, enhance ITC collection, and create a level playing field for legitimate businesses.



Electronic Way (e-way) Bill

- An electronic way bill or 'e-way bill' system offers the technological framework to track intra-state as well as inter-state movements of goods of value exceeding Rs 50,000, for sales beyond 10 km in the GST regime.
- When an eway bill is generated, a unique E-way Bill Number (EBN) is allocated and is available to the supplier, recipient, and the transporter.
- It was launched to:
- > Facilitate faster movement of goods.
- > Improve the turnaround time of vehicles.
- Help the logistics industry by increasing the average distances travelled and reducing the travel time as well as costs.

Seven Maoists Killed in Bijapur

Why in News?

Recently, seven <u>Maoists</u> were killed in an encounter with security forces on the **inter-district border of Narayanpur and Bijapur districts** in Chhattisgarh.

Key Points

- The encounter took place in the jurisdiction of Barsur police station in Dantewada just 10 kilometers inside Abujhmad forest area.
- The force of around 1,000 personnel consisted of Bastar Fighters and District Reserve Guards (DRG) with teams of Special Task Force (STF).

Naxalism in India

- The term Naxalism derives its name from the village Naxalbari of West Bengal.
- It originated as rebellion against local landlords who bashed a peasant over a land dispute. The rebellion was initiated in 1967, with an objective of rightful redistribution of the land to working peasants under the leadership of Kanu Sanyal and Jagan Santhal.
- Started in West Bengal, the movement has spread across Eastern India; in less developed areas of states such as Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.
- It is considered that Naxals support Maoist political sentiments and ideology.

 Maoism is a form of communism developed by Mao Tse Tung. It is a doctrine to capture State power through a combination of armed insurgency, mass mobilization and strategic alliances.

Rehabilitation Policy for Naxalites

Why in News?

Recently, Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister appealed to the <u>Naxalites</u> to join the mainstream and sought suggestions from them for a **new rehabilitation policy** upon surrender.

Key Points

- According to the Deputy CM, all doors are open for talks with the <u>Maoists</u>. The state government has created an environment of equality and development by providing roads, health services, water and other facilities in villages under the <u>Niyad Nellanar scheme</u>.
 - Anti-Naxal operations and encounters were only a small part of the state government's efforts to ensure overall development of the Naxaliteaffected tribal areas.

Niyad Nellanar Scheme

- Niyad Nellanar, meaning "aapka achcha gaon" or "your good village" is the local Dandami dialect (spoken in south Bastar).
- Under this scheme, amenities and benefits will be provided in villages located within 5 kilometers of security camps in Bastar region.
 - 14 new security camps have been set up in Bastar. These camps will also help to facilitate the implementation of the new scheme. Around 25 basic amenities will be provided in such villages under Niyad Nellanar.

Chhattisgarh Cricket Premier League

Why in News?

The Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh (CSCS) is gearing up to host the first-ever Chhattisgarh Cricket Premier League (CCPL) T20 tournament.



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Key Points

- The event will take place at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium in Naya Raipur from 7th to 16th June.
- It is Sanctioned by the <u>Board of Control for Cricket</u> in India (BCCI).
 - The CCPL will feature six teams Raigarh Lions, Raipur Rhinos, Rajnandgaon Panthers, Bilaspur Bulls, Surguja Tigers, and Bastar Bisons.
- Former Indian cricketer Suresh Raina has been appointed as the brand ambassador of the CCPL.
- Many rising stars from Chhattisgarh will get the chance to showcase their skills and impress the selectors.



Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)

- > It is the national governing body of cricket in India.
- Its headquarters is situated at the cricket centre in Churchgate, Mumbai.
- It was reregistered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975.

Mine Auction in Chhattisgarh

Why in News?

The <u>lithium</u> mine in Chhattisgarh's Korba district, which was delayed because of the Lok Sabha elections, is expected to be put up for auction in the coming month of 2024.

Key Points

- In March 2024, the Ministry of Mines had floated a tender for the auction, in which several companies, such as <u>Coal India (CIL)</u> had expressed their interests.
 - $\sigma\,$ According to the officials, the election Code of

Conduct, the bids could not be opened and the ministry would soon initiate the process.

- In February 2023, the <u>Geological Survey of India (GSI)</u> discovered lithium in the Katghora tehsil. According to a preliminary report, lithium deposits were spread over 256.12 hectares, including 84.86 hectares of forest area.
 - The geochemical mapping brought out inconsistent values of lithium in seven composite samples in the Katghora area. These ranged between 82.606 and 155 parts per million.

Lithium

> About:

• Lithium (Li), sometimes also referred as **'White gold'** due to its high demand for rechargeable batteries, is a soft and silvery-white metal.

> Extraction:

 Lithium can be extracted in different ways, depending on the type of the deposit — generally either through solar evaporation of large brine pools, or from hard-rock extraction of the ore.

> Uses:

- Lithium is an important component of electrochemical cells used in batteries of EVs, Laptops, Mobiles etc.
- o It is also used in thermonuclear reactions.
- It is used to make alloys with aluminium and magnesium, improving their strength and making them lighter.
 - Magnesium-lithium alloy for armour plating.
 - Aluminum-lithium alloys in aircraft, bicycle frames and high-speed trains.

> Major Global Lithium Reserves:

- Chile > Australia > Argentina are top countries with Li reserves.
- Lithium Triangle: Chile, Argentina, Bolivia.

> Lithium Reserves in India:

- Preliminary survey showed estimated lithium reserves of 14,100 tonnes in a small patch of land surveyed in **Southern Karnataka's Mandya district.**
- Other Potential Sites:
 - o Mica belts in Rajasthan, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh.
 - o Pegmatite belts in Odisha and Chhattisgarh.
 - Rann of Kutch in Gujarat.



Geological Survey of India

- Presently, GSI is an attached office to the Ministry of Mines. It was set up in 1851 primarily to find coal deposits for the Railways.
- Over the years, it has grown into a repository of geo-science information and also has attained the status of a geo-scientific organisation of international repute.
- It is headquartered in Kolkata and has six regional offices located at Lucknow, Jaipur, Nagpur, Hyderabad, Shillong and Kolkata. Every state has a state unit.
- Central Geological Programming Board (CGPB) is an important platform of the GSI to facilitate discussion for synergy and to avoid duplication of work.

Swami Vivekananda National Football Championship

Why in News?

Recently, the <u>Swami Vivekananda</u> U-20 Men's National Football Championships quarter finals were held at the Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama Ground, Narainpur, Chhattisgarh.

Key Points

- Assam loses the quarter finals of the Football Championships to Mizoram. A total of 32 states participated in the championship.
- All India Football Federation (AIFF) announced the Swami Vivekananda U20 National Football Championship in April 2024.
 - Apart from the newly introduced U20 championship, the AIFF also holds two other men's age group competitions, the Junior NFC and the Sub-Junior NFC.

All India Football Federation (AIFF)

- > The AIFF is the organization that manages the game of association football in India.
- It administers the running of the India national football team and also controls the I-League, India's premier domestic club competition, in addition to various other competitions and teams.
- The AIFF was founded in 1937, and gained FIFA affiliation in the year 1948, after India's independence in 1947.

Currently, it has an office in Dwarka, New Delhi. India was one of the founding members of the Asian Football Confederation in 1954.

Naxalite killed in Encounter

Why in News?

Recently, a <u>Naxalite</u> was killed in an exchange of fire with security personnel in **Chhattisgarh's Sukma district**.

Key Points

- The gunfight took place in the morning on a forested hill between Tolnai and Tetrai villages when a team of security personnel was out on an anti-Naxal operation.
- With this incident, 105 Naxalites have been killed so far in 2024 in separate encounters with security forces in Chhattisgarh.

Naxalism in India

- The term Naxalism derives its name from the village Naxalbari of West Bengal.
- It originated as rebellion against local landlords who bashed a peasant over a land dispute. The rebellion was initiated in 1967, with an objective of rightful redistribution of the land to working peasants under the leadership of Kanu Sanyal and Jagan Santhal.
- Started in West Bengal, the movement has spread across Eastern India; in less developed areas of states such as Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.
- It is considered that Naxals support Maoist political sentiments and ideology.
 - Maoism is a form of communism developed by Mao Tse Tung. It is a doctrine to capture State power through a combination of armed insurgency, mass mobilization and strategic alliances.

Leopard Poaching in Chhattisgarh

Why in News?

Recently, the carcass of the <u>leopard</u>, aged around seven years, was found in **Chaitma forest range** under **Katghora forest division**.



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Key Points

- According to the officials, some of the body parts of the leopard were missing which triggered the speculation of poaching.
- The illegal hunting, capturing, or killing of wildlife, often for their valuable body parts, such as tusks, horns, skins, or bones.
 - According to data available from India's Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) and attached police authorities, over 9,253 poachers were arrested between 2012 and 2018 in the country, but the rate of conviction was just 2%.
- Illegal wildlife trade is driven by high profit margins and, in many cases, the high prices paid for rare species.
- Vulnerable wild animals are pushed further to the edge of extinction when nature can't replenish their stocks to keep up with the rate of human consumption.
- Poaching is particularly prevalent in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Assam.

Leopards



Scientific Name: Panthera pardus

- > About:
 - The leopard is the smallest of the Big Cats (of genus Panthera namely the Tiger, Lion, Jaguar, Leopard, and Snow Leopard), and known for its ability to adapt in a variety of habitats.
 - A nocturnal animal, the leopard hunts by night.
 - It feeds on smaller species of herbivores found in its range, such as the chital, hog deer and wild boar.
 - Melanism is a common occurrence in leopards, wherein the entire skin of the animal is black in colour, including its spots.

• A melanistic leopard is often called **black panther** and mistakenly thought to be a different species.

> Habitat:

- It occurs in a wide range in sub-Saharan Africa, in small parts of Western and Central Asia, on the Indian subcontinent to Southeast and East Asia.
- The Indian leopard (*Panthera pardus fusca*) is a leopard widely distributed on the Indian subcontinent.

SAIL-Bhilai to Set Up Chhattisgarh's First Floating Solar Plant

Why in News?

Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP), the Chhattisgarh-based arm of the state-run Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), will install the state's first 15-megawatt (MW) floating <u>solar project</u> in its Maroda-1 reservoir to improve its <u>carbon footprint</u>.

The steel major is undertaking various projects to reduce carbon emissions, conserve energy, and promote renewable energy.

Key Points

- The project is being implemented through NTPC-SAIL Power Supply Company Limited (NSPCL), a 50:50 joint venture company of <u>National Thermal Power</u> <u>Corporation (NTPC)</u> and SAIL. The solar plant will be set up in Durg district.
- The Maroda reservoir is spread across 2.1 square kilometers with a water storage capacity of 19 cubic milimetres (MM3).
 - The water stored in the Maroda-I reservoir not only feeds the plant but also the township.
- Total green power generation estimated from this plant is likely to be about 34.26 million units annually.
 - The project is expected to reduce the <u>CO2 emission</u> of BSP by 28,330 tonnes annually.



Carbon Footprint

- According to the World Health Organization (WHO), a carbon footprint is a measure of the impact people's activities have on the amount of carbon dioxide (CO2) produced through the burning of fossil fuels and is expressed as a weight of CO2 emissions produced in tonnes.
- It is usually measured as tons of CO2 emitted per year, a number that can be supplemented by tons of CO2-equivalent gases, including methane, nitrous oxide, and other greenhouse gases.
- It can be a broad measure or be applied to the actions of an individual, a family, an event, an organization, or even an entire nation.

Study in Chhattisgarh Analysed PM-JAY Implementation

Why in News?

Recently, a study by researchers from the state health resource centre in Chhattisgarh anaylsed the <u>Pradhan</u> <u>Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)</u>.

PMJAY aimed to reduce out-of-pocket health expenses, particularly during hospital stays.

Key Points

- The study revealed that patients utilizing the scheme faced high out-of-pocket costs, notably in private hospitals, largely due to the common occurrence of dual billing.
- The study was conducted in 2022 by researchers of the State Health Resource Centre in Chhattisgarh, by interviewing 768 individuals who had used PMJAY for hospitalisation in the month preceding the interview. PMJAY has empanelled 1,006 public and 546 private hospitals in the state.
 - Private hospitals were found to be charging patients even though they are not supposed to under PMJAY or Ayushman Bharat.
 - They would then claim **reimbursement from the government** for the same treatment, **engaging in dual billing**, which is considered fraudulent.
- The utilization of private hospitals was identified as the primary factor leading to severe financial burden under PMJAY.

- About 30% of stays in private hospitals resulted in catastrophic health expenses, exceeding 10% of a household's total yearly non-medical spending.
- The research revealed that marginalized groups like scheduled tribes and women heavily relied on public hospitals, despite the accessibility of private healthcare through PMJAY.
 - It pointed out that seeking treatment in public hospitals helped individuals avoid high out-of-pocket expenses, as public services were considerably more cost-effective for patients compared to private healthcare, regardless of being covered under **publicly funded insurance schemes.**
 - In India, **private healthcare providers lack effective price and quality regulation**, leading to the adoption of dual billing by private hospitals, which prioritize profits over patient care.
 - The study highlighted the government's failure to enforce a crucial condition in its agreements with hospitals, which prohibits additional charges to patients.

Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY

> About:

- PM-JAY is the **world's largest health insurance** scheme fully financed by the government.
- Launched in February 2018, it offers a sum insured of Rs.5 lakh per family for secondary care and tertiary care.
 - Health Benefit Packages covers surgery, medical and day care treatments, cost of medicines and diagnostics.

Beneficiaries:

- It is an entitlement-based scheme that targets the beneficiaries as identified by latest <u>Socio-</u> <u>Economic Caste Census (SECC)</u> data.
 - The National Health Authority (NHA) has provided flexibility to States/UTs to use non- Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) beneficiary family databases with similar socio-economic profiles for tagging against the leftover (unauthenticated) SECC families.
- Funding:
 - The funding for the scheme is shared 60:40 for all states and UTs with their own legislature, 90:10 in Northeast states and Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal and Uttarakhand and 100% Central funding for UTs without legislature.



> Nodal Agency:

- The NHAhas been constituted as an autonomous entity under the Society Registration Act, 1860 for effective implementation of PM-JAY in alliance with state governments.
- The State Health Agency (SHA) is the apex body of the State Government responsible for the implementation of AB PM-JAY in the State.

Naxalites Surrender in Dantewada

Why in News?

Recently, 35 <u>Naxalites</u> surrendered in Chhattisgarh 's Dantewada district. These cadres were tasked with digging roads, felling trees to block roads and putting up posters and banners during shutdowns called by Naxalites.

Key Points

- According to the officials, these naxalites were part of Bhairamgarh, Malanger and Katekalyan area committees of the <u>Maoists</u> in south Bastar.
 - They were impressed by the police's rehabilitation drive 'Lon Varratu' (return to your home) and disappointed with the hollow Maoist ideology.
 - Maoism is a form of communism developed by Mao Tse Tung. It is a doctrine to capture State power through a combination of armed insurgency, mass mobilization and strategic alliances.
- These Naxalites will be provided facilities as per the government's surrender and rehabilitation policy.
- With this, 796 Naxalites, including 180 carrying rewards, have so far joined the mainstream in the district under the police's Lon Varratu campaign launched in June 2020.

Lone Varratu

- > This campaign means 'Come back home'.
- This campaign was launched for those Naxalites who intended to leave the path of red terror and join the mainstream of society.
- Under this campaign many Naxalites left the path of terrorism.

Naxalism

- The term Naxalism derives its name from the village Naxalbari of West Bengal.
- It originated as rebellion against local landlords who bashed a peasant over a land dispute.
- The movement soon spread across Eastern India in less developed areas of states such as Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.
- Left-wing extremists (LWE) are popularly known as Maoists worldwide and as Naxalites in India.
- > Objective:
 - They advocate for the overthrow of the Indian government through armed revolution and the establishment of a communist state based on Maoist principles.
 - They view the state as oppressive, exploitative, and serving the interests of the ruling elite, and seek to address socio-economic grievances through armed struggle and people's war.

Chhattisgarh Self-Help Groups Boost Voter Turnout

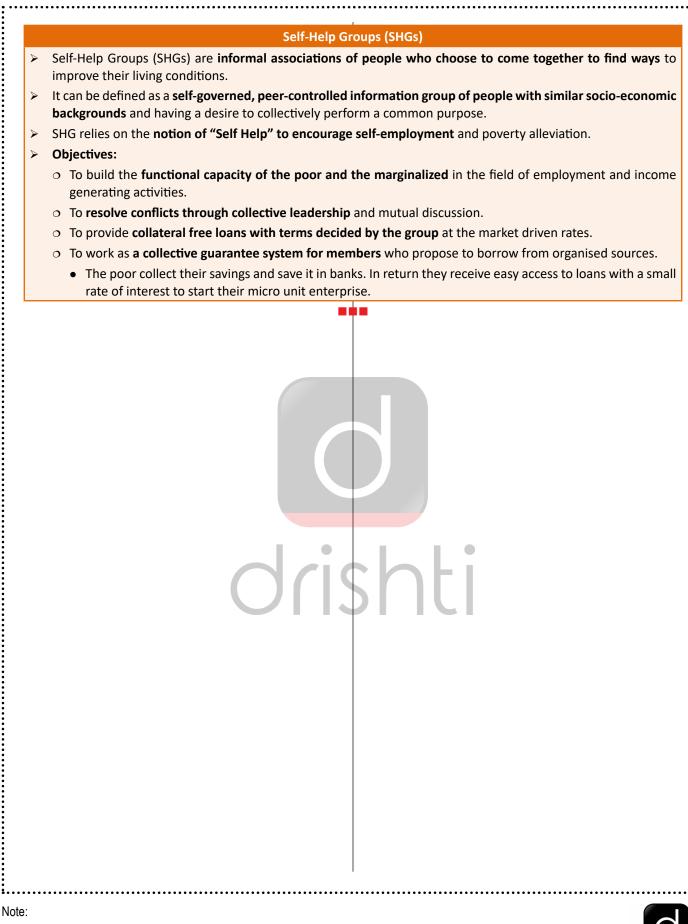
Why in News?

An initiative in **Balrampur district of Chhattisgarh** to **increase voter turnout** in the third phase of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections is attracting attention.

Key Points

- Women's <u>Self-help groups</u> are utilizing traditional methods by going door-to-door to meet with voters, distributing tamarind leaves and yellow rice, in order to encourage greater public engagement.
- The effort has not only sparked enthusiasm among villagers but has also demonstrated the power of community involvement in promoting democratic values.
 - This initiative is also fully **supported by the district** administration.







Key Points	Details

Summary

Key Points	Details

Summary