THE HINDU ANALYSIS

11th March 2024

by saurabh pandey



PRELIMS TEST 24 Advanced current affairs

SCHEDULED Today - 9PM







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International Relations

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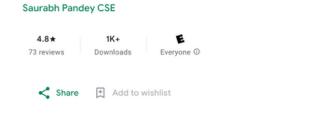


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Appointment & Tenure Of Commissioners

- The President appoints Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners.
- They have tenure of six years, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
- They enjoy the same status and receive salary and perks as available to Judges of the Supreme Court of India.
- The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed from office in like manner and on like grounds as a judge of the Supreme Court.





- The Commission transacts its business by holding regular meetings and also by circulation of papers.
- All Election Commissioners have equal say in the decision making of the Commission.
- The Commission, from time to time, delegates some of its executive functions to its officers in its Secretariat.
- The Commission has a separate Secretariat at New Delhi, consisting of about550 officials, in a hierarchical set up



NEW BILL FOR EC APPOINTMENT

- The Bill replaces the Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991. It provides for the appointment, salary, and removal of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs).
- The CEC and ECs will be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of a Selection Committee.
- The Selection Committee will consist of the Prime Minister, a Union Cabinet Minister, and Leader of Opposition/leader of the largest opposition party in Lok Sabha.
- The hindu analysis by saurabh pandey sir



- Recommendations of the Selection Committee will be valid even when there is a vacancy in this Committee.
- A Search Committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary will propose a panel of names to the Selection Committee. Eligibility for the posts includes holding (or having held) a post equivalent to the Secretary to the central government.
- The salary and conditions of service of the CEC and ECs will be equivalent to that of Cabinet Secretary. Under the 1991 Act, it was equivalent to the salary of a Supreme Court Judge





Key Issues and Analysis

- The selection process of the Election Commission may be dominated by the government, which has implications for its independence.
- Accepting the Selection Committee's recommendations in spite of a vacancy in its constitution may effectively lead to a monopoly of government members in selecting candidates.





- Making the CEC and EC's salary equivalent to the Cabinet Secretary may lead to government influence as it is fixed by the government. This is unlike the salary of a Supreme Court judge which is fixed through an Act of Parliament.
 CECs and ECs also perform
- CECs and ECs also perform quasi-judicial functions.
 Limiting these posts to senior bureaucrats may exclude other suitable candidates.





Zero food children

- Per the study, India has by far the highest number of 'zero-food' children at 6.7 million (67,00,000), accounting for almost half of all 'zero-food children' across 92 countries in the survey, the publication reported, analysing the findings of the study.
 The study defined the 'zero-food children' as those between 6-23
 - months who had not consumed any
 - animal milk, formula, solid, or
 - semisolid food in the last 24 hours.





 With 19.3 per cent of children classified as 'zero-food,' India ranked third globally, following west African countries Guinea (21.8 per cent) and Mali (20.5 per cent). Nigeria ranked second in terms of highest number of 'zerofood' children (9,62,000), followed by Pakistan (8,49,000).



Survey on langur

- A survey conducted by reputed organizations found that the total population of Golden Langurs stands at 7,396 who cohabit in 707 groups,.
- The survey of the golden langur (Trachypithecus geei) has unveiled vital insights into the population dynamics of this endangered primate.
- The survey, conducted in two phases, covered the entire distribution range of the golden langur, primarily spanning the Manas Biosphere Reserve and fragmented forests in the western part of Assam











- The population of golden langurs is divided into two major subpopulations: the northern extended population and the southern fragmented population.
- The northern population, encompassing the western part of the Manas Biosphere Reserve, was estimated at 5,566 individuals, while the southern fragmented population, occurring along the southern side of NH27 up to the Brahmaputra River, was estimated at 1,830 langurs.





 Highlighting the unstable situation in the fragmented habitats of golden langurs, the survey underscored the need for corridor linkage among these habitats through plantations and canopy bridges to mitigate potential threats posed by anthropogenic interactions







The survey, conducted in two phases, covered the entire distribution range of the golden langur, primarily spanning the Manas Biosphere Reserve and fragmented forests in the western part of Assam.

- During the first phase, which took place in March-April 2020, the survey focused on the western part of the Manas Biosphere Reserve, including significant areas such as Ripu Reserved Forest, now part of the Raimona National Park, Chirang Reserve Forest, Manas Reserve Forest, and Manas National Park.
- The second phase carried out during the same months in 2021, targeted fragmented forest habitats in the Bongaigaon, Kokrajhar, and Dhubri districts of western Assam.



Parthenogenetic

- Fatherless reproduction is known as parthenogenesis.
- One species of fruit fly, Drosophila mangebeirai, was found to consist only of females.
- The eggs produced by isolated females developed directly into female progeny without having to be fertilised by sperm from a male
- \Box Researchers found that if the genome of a D. melanogaster specimen was modified to have two extra copies of the polo gene, an extra copy of the Myc gene, and a lower expression of the Desat2 gene, 1.4% of the specimen's eggs were parthenogenetic and whose of \Box spring survived to adulthood \Box



 Parthenogenesis (PG) is an asexual reproduction in which a female can produce an embryo without fertilizing an egg with sperm.

Parthenogenesis

In what organisms does parthenogenesis occur?

- Occurs in many types of plants
- Invertebrates honeybees, aphids, ants, some scorpions and many others
- Few vertebrates komodo dragons, mole salamenders, hammerhead sharks, some reptiles, some amphibians, some fish, rarely in birds
- Can be artificially induced (even in mammals)





What is connectome??

- The connectome is a comprehensive map of connections – or synapses – between neurons in the brain, sort of like a cartogram for the electrical and chemical signals the neurons send and receive.
- A neuron's dendrites receive chemical signals and convert them into electrical information, which is then sent through the axon, the neuron's tail.
- At the end, based on the electrical inputs, the cell releases new chemicals into synapses, relaying the message to the next neuron.



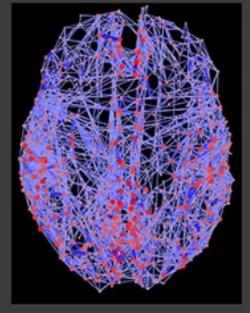


The Human Connectome



Anatomy

Klingler's method for fiber tract dissection uses freezing of brain matter to spread nerve fibers apart. Afterwards, tissue is carefully scratched away to reveal a relief-like surface in which the desired nerve tracts are naturally surrounded by their anatomical brain areas.



Connectome

Shown are the connections of brain regions together with "hubs" that connect signals among different brain areas and a central "core" or backbone of connections, which relays commands for our thoughts and behaviors.



Neuronal Pathways

A new MRI technique called diffusion spectrum imaging (DSI) analyzes how water molecules move along nerve fibers. DSI can show a brain's major neuron pathways and will help neurologists relate structure to function.



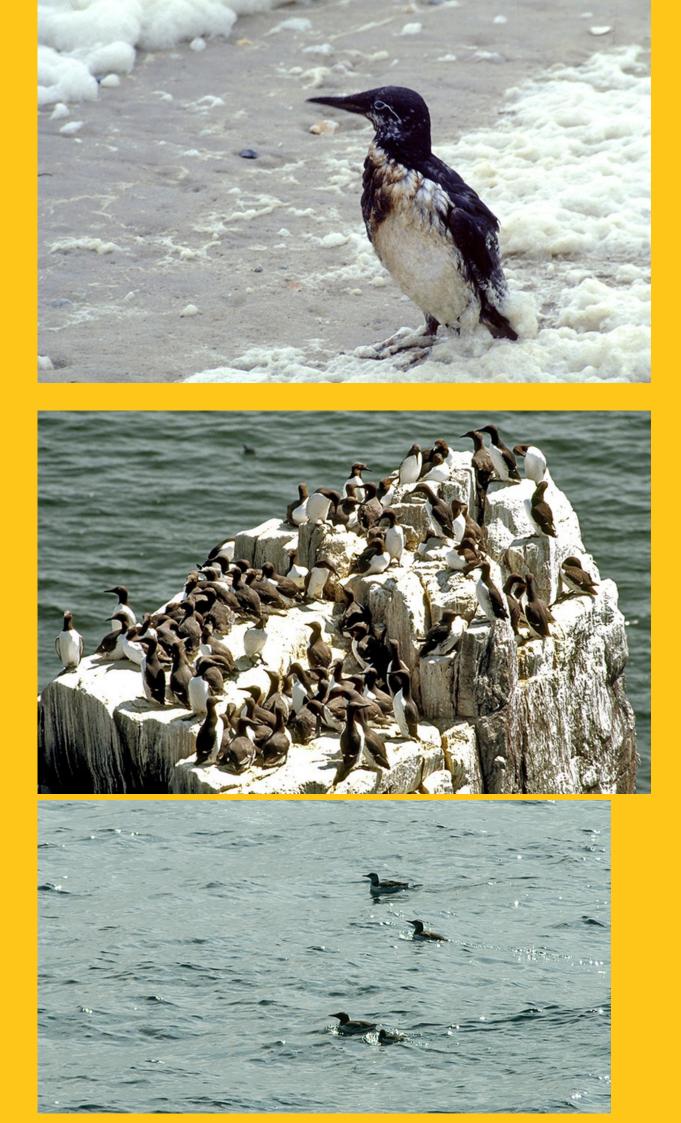
- Mapping the connectome allows scientists to understand brain function and how attention deficit hyperactivity disorder or Alzheimer's disease affect it.
- By charting the cellular links, they gain insights into cognitive processes – and the disorders that arise when the processes go awry – with which they can identify potential new drugs to treat such conditions.



Guillemots Beaching

- The French League for Birds has estimated that more than 500 common guillemots – seabirds related to penguins and puffins – have been if ound dead along the French Atlantic coast since the year began.
- Guillemot beachings happen regularly in winter but not to the scale of the past weeks.
- Scientists say the birds likely died from exhaustion due to di
 dicult conditions at sea.







What is Guillemots Beaching??

- Because guillemots spend most of their lives at sea and dive for their food, they are very sensitive to oil pollution.
- Every winter, large numbers of dead guillemot wash ashore on the Dutch coast.
- Only a <u>small number reach the beach</u> alive. Around half of them can be cleansed and rehabilitated in special <u>bird sanctuaries</u>.
- The other half is too sick and dies.





Toll collection and Technology

- Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said in Parliament last week that the government plans to implement a new highway toll collection system based on the global navigation satellite system.
- Its implementation will involve an On-Board Unit (OBU), or a tracking device, fitted inside a vehicle whose location can be mapped using GAGAN, the Indian satellite navigation system with an approximate accuracy of 10 metres.



 The new tolling system will coexist with the FASTag-based toll collection as the government has not yet taken a decision on whether OBUs will be made mandatory for all vehicles or only for new vehicles

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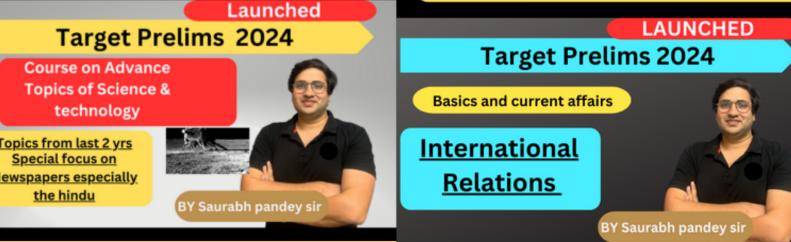
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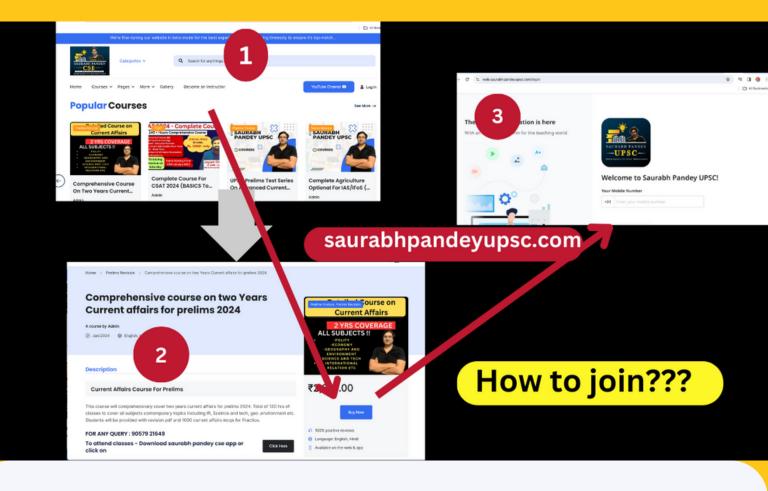
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