



THE HINDU ANALYSIS

2nd March 2024

by saurabh
pandey



THE HINDU



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International
Relations




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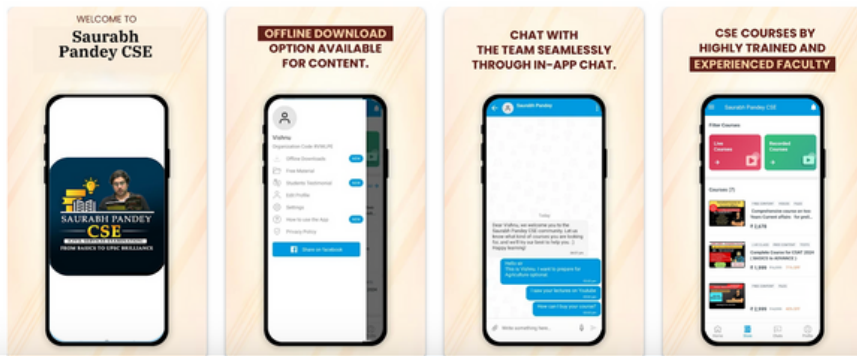
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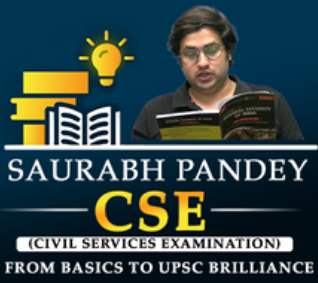
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Big Cat Alliance

- **The Union Environment Ministry plans to set up and coordinate an International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), along the lines of the International Solar Alliance, an India-headquartered initiative to promote solar installations globally**

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Cabinet
approves

ESTABLISHMENT OF IBCA

WHAT IS IBCA?

The International Big Cat Alliance is a multi-country, multi-agency coalition of 96 big cat range countries, non-range countries interested in big cat conservation, conservation partners and scientific organizations working in the field of big cat conservation.





Cabinet Decision: 29th February, 2024

INTERNATIONAL BIG CAT ALLIANCE



- Cabinet approves establishment of International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) with headquarters in India
- One-time budgetary support of Rs.150 crore for a period of five years till 2027-28
- IBCA to be a multi-country, multi-agency coalition of 96 big cat range countries, non-range countries interested in big cat conservation, conservation partners and scientific organizations
- IBCA aims for mutual cooperation among countries benefit in furthering the conservation agenda
- Have a multipronged approach in broad basing and establishing linkages manifold in several areas and help in knowledge sharing, capacity building, networking, advocacy, finance etc

- **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) from Switzerland; Science and Conservation International Snow Leopard Trust from Kyrgyzstan; The Amur Tiger Centre from Russia include nine partner organisations have also agreed to join the IBCA as partner organisations.**

- **The 16 countries that have expressed interest in joining the alliance include, Armenia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brazil, Cambodia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ecuador, Kenya, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria and Peru.**

GENUS PUMA

Closely related to the domestic cat, this genus has **only one extant species**, the cougar.

COUGAR

PUMA CONCOLOR
SIZE: 40-100KG
STATUS: LEAST CONCERN

The Cougar is the **second-largest cat in the Americas**; jaguar is largest. Cougars are also called mountain lion/panther across their range from the Canadian Yukon to the Southern Andes. Concolor is latin: "of uniform colour".



GENUS ACINONYX

This is a unique genus within the cat family, with **only one living member**, the cheetah.

CHEETAH

ACINONYX JUBATUS
SIZE: 20-70KG
STATUS: VULNERABLE

Fastest land mammal; only cat **without retractable claws**— the grip helps it accelerate faster than a sports car (0-100 km/hr in 3secs). They are not aggressive towards humans; they have been tamed since the Sumerian era. They don't breed well in captivity— females play hard to get. Cheetahs are not big; they hunt during the day to avoid competing with other big cats.



GENUS PANTHERA

Large wild cats that roar but can't purr. Among them, the **lion, leopard, and jaguar** are more closely related; the other strand has the **tiger and snow leopard**. The snow leopard is an exception in that it can't roar.

TIGER

PANTHERA TIGRIS
SIZE: 75-300KG
STATUS: ENDANGERED

Jim Corbett's "large-hearted gentleman with boundless courage", the **solitary and strongly territorial tiger** is the largest of all wild cats and the most ancient of the Panthera. Primarily a forest animal, its range is the Siberian taiga to the Sunderban delta. It's the **national animal of India**, Bangladesh, Malaysia, and South Korea.



LEOPARD

PANTHERA PARDUS
SIZE: 30-90KG
STATUS: VULNERABLE

Similar in appearance to the jaguar with a rosette patterned coat, the leopard was described by Jim Corbett as "the most beautiful of all animals" for its "grace of movement and beauty of colouring". The **most adaptable of all big cats**, they occupy diverse habitats at all altitudes across Africa and Asia. Like black jaguars, melanistic leopards are called black panthers.



SNOW LEOPARD

PANTHERA UNCIA
SIZE: 25-55KG
STATUS: VULNERABLE

Ghost of the mountains, this smokey grey cat lives above the snow line in **Central and South Asia**. The most elusive of big cats, it **cannot roar**, and has the **longest tail of all**— which comes in handy for balance while hunting along cliffs, and also gives warmth when wrapped around the body. The snow leopard is the state animal of Ladakh and Himachal.



LION

PANTHERA LEO
SIZE: 100-250KG
STATUS: VULNERABLE

Native to **Africa and Asia**, the lion is the most social cat, and **lives in groups** called 'prides'. They prefer open forests such as scrubland, and adult males have a prominent mane. The lion is among the most widely recognised of animal symbols— from the pillar of Ashoka to the main entrance of Buckingham Palace to the logo of MGM.



JAGUAR

PANTHERA ONCA
SIZE: 50-110KG
STATUS: NEAR THREATENED

The **largest cat in the Americas**, the jaguar has the **strongest bite force** of all wild cats, enabling it to bite directly through the skull of its prey. Melanistic (black) jaguars are common, and are often called black panthers. Jaguar was a powerful motif in the Mayan and Aztec civilisations.





- There are two recognized subspecies of tiger:
- the continental (*Panthera tigris tigris*)
- the Sunda (*Panthera tigris sondaica*)
- Habitat: Tropical rainforests, evergreen forests, temperate forests, mangrove swamps, grasslands, and savannas.
- The tiger historically ranged from eastern Turkey and Transcaucasia to the coast of the Sea of Japan, and from South Asia across Southeast Asia to the Indonesian islands of Sumatra, Java, and Bali.

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Elephant Behaviour

- Elephants in the eastern Himalayan Floodplains bury their calves in a ‘legs upright’ position, a new study has found.
- Through long-term observation, the researchers also found that elephant herds tend to avoid the paths where the carcasses were buried and take parallel routes.
- The major findings reflect that the carcasses were carried by trunks and legs for a distance before being buried in a ‘legs upright’ position,”

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- Rampant environmental changes and forest destruction push Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*) and their African counterparts (*Loxodonta africana*) to explore human spaces to fulfil their dietary and ecological requirements, leading to ‘novel’ elephant behaviours in shared spaces

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Faulty rain in Phillipine

- Faulty warning systems, poverty and deforestation of mountains in the southern Philippines turned recent unseasonably heavy rain into deadly disasters, scientists said in a report.
- A study by the World Weather Attribution group found the unusually heavy rain in eastern Mindanao was not “particularly extreme”.
- But with people living in landslip-prone areas and shortcomings in weather alerts, the rain became “devastating”.

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- **The scientists found that a higher-than-average rate of poverty in the mountainous region had left people vulnerable to the impacts of heavier rainfall, while “intensified deforestation” had increased the risk of landslips.**

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Finland NATO 31st Member

- Alexander Stubb was sworn in on Friday as Finland's new President and said the Nordic country has taken "the final step into the Western community of values" by becoming a NATO member.
- Finland joined NATO in April 2023 following Russia's 2022 attack on Ukraine.
- It has the military alliance's longest land border with Russia – 1,340 km – and is one of the most active European providers of military and civilian aid to Ukraine.

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TOP 3 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT NATO

#NATO

1.

NATO - 29 MEMBERS SPEAK WITH 1 UNITED VOICE

NATO MAKES DECISIONS WITH THE **CONSENSUS OF ALL 29 MEMBERS**. WHEN NATO SPEAKS, THEY SPEAK AS ONE.



2.

NATO HAS AN "OPEN DOOR" POLICY

ANY EURO-ATLANTIC COUNTRY CAN JOIN NATO IF IT IS **PREPARED TO MEET MEMBERSHIP OBLIGATIONS**, CONTRIBUTE TO THE SECURITY OF THE ALLIANCE AND SHARE NATO'S VALUES OF DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF LAW.



3.

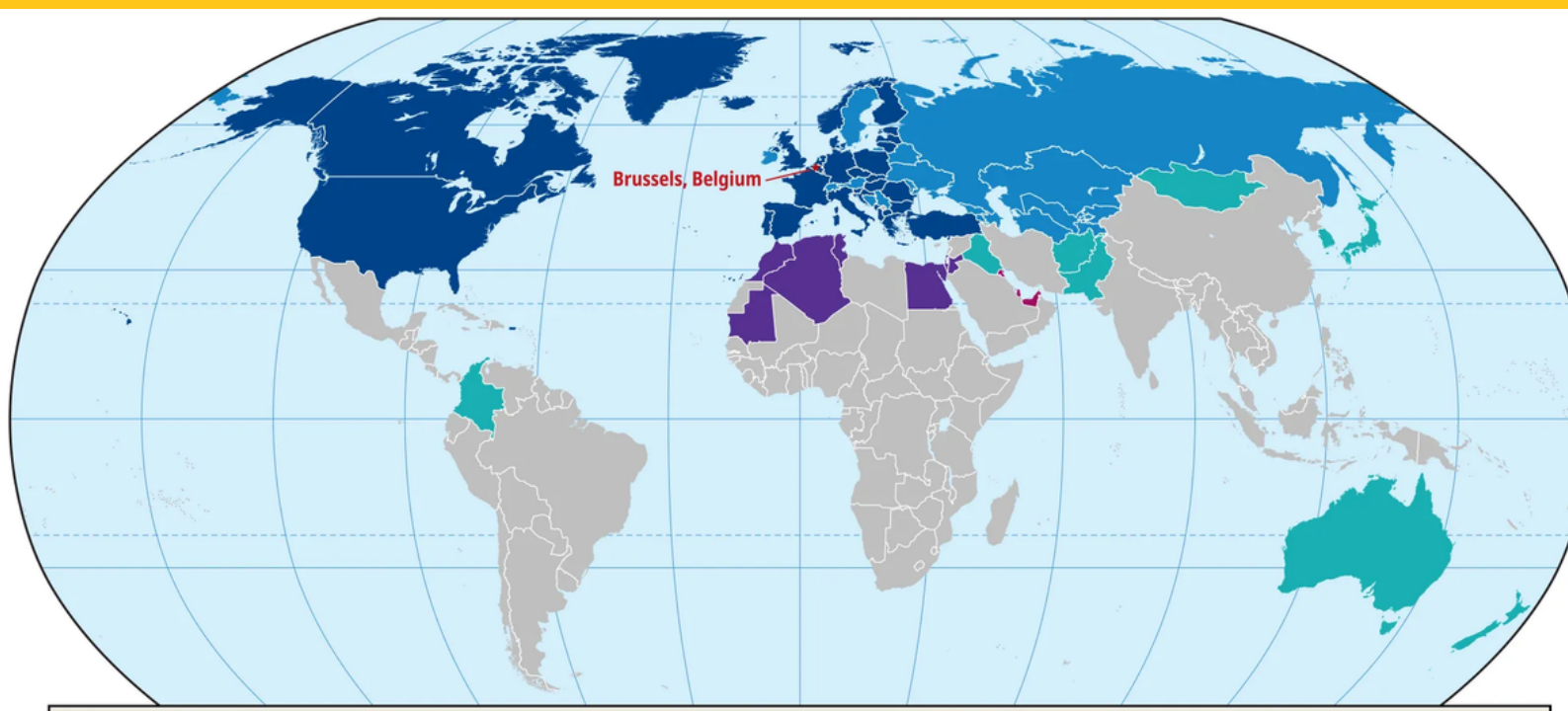
NATO FIGHTS TERRORISM

NATO WORKS WITH PARTNER COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS TO DEVELOP **NEW CAPABILITIES AND TECHNOLOGIES TO COMBAT TERRORIST GROUPS** AND ADDRESS THE CONDITIONS THAT ENABLE TERRORISM.



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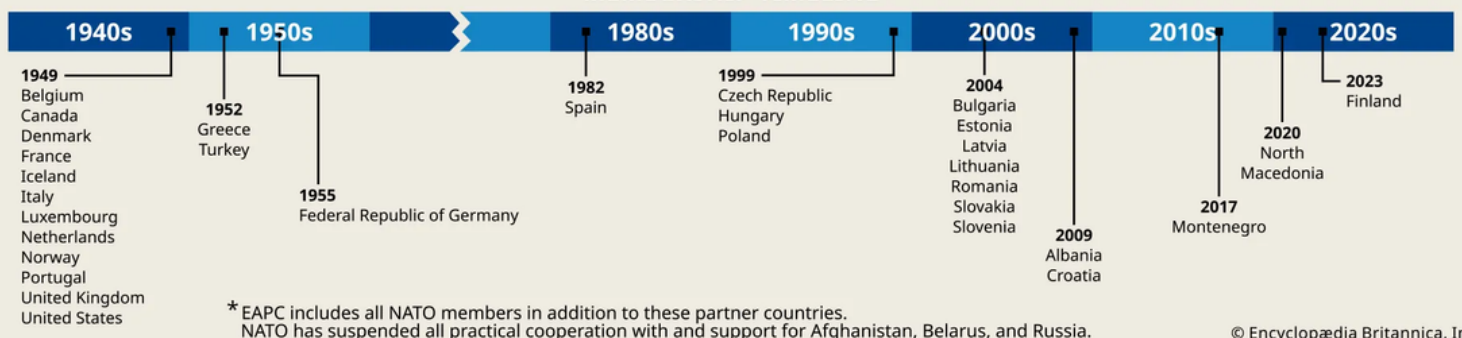




NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

- Member countries
- NATO's Mediterranean Dialogue
- Partners across the globe
- Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council*
- Istanbul Cooperation Initiative
- NATO headquarters

MEMBERSHIP TIMELINE



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5 FACTS ON

NATO Expansion



- 1** NATO WAS FOUNDED BY 12 NATIONS IN 1949 AND TODAY HAS 30 MEMBER STATES, INCLUDING THREE FORMER SOVIET REPUBLICS AND 11 FORMER EASTERN BLOC NATIONS.
- 2** ARTICLE 5 OF THE NATO TREATY, WHICH STATES THAT AN ATTACK ON ONE MEMBER OF NATO IS AN ATTACK ON ALL OF ITS MEMBERS, HAS BEEN INVOKED JUST ONCE.
- 3** NATO CURRENTLY RECOGNIZES THREE NATIONS — BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, GEORGIA, AND UKRAINE — AS UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.
- 4** NATO HAS UNDERTAKEN EIGHT MILITARY ACTIONS, ALL SINCE 1990.
- 5** THE COMBINED MILITARY SPENDING OF NATO STATES MAKES UP 57% OF GLOBAL MILITARY SPENDING.

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Death penalty in india

Under scrutiny



A look at the issues before the Supreme Court

- SC acknowledges the need to give accused in death penalty cases “meaningful, real and effective” hearing on mitigating circumstances

- It finds that past judgments do not address the “sufficient time”



accused may need to present his or her mitigating circumstances before the trial court

- SC discusses need to form a uniform framework for trial judges to determine mitigating factors in death penalty cases

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- In **Jagmohan Singh vs. State of Uttar Pradesh**, the five judge bench of the Supreme Court, by a unanimous verdict, upheld the constitutional validity of death penalty held that capital punishment was not violative of Articles 14, 19 and 21 and .
- In this case the validity of death sentence was challenged on the ground that it was violative of Articles 19 and 21 because it did not provide any procedure.
- It was contended that the procedure prescribed under Cr. P.C. was confined only to findings of guilt and not awarding death sentence.
- The Supreme Court held that the choice of death sentence is done in accordance with the procedure established by law.
- It was observed that the judge makes the choice between capital sentence or imprisonment of life on the basis of circumstances and facts and nature of crime brought on record during trial.



In another case Rajendra Prasad vs. State of Up5, Justice Krishna lyer empathetically stressed that death penalty is violative of articles 14, 19 and 21. He further said that to impose death penalty the two things must be required:

- The special reason should be recorded for imposing death penalty in a case.**
- The death penalty must be imposed only in extraordinary circumstances.**



- The question was again considered in **Bachan Singh vs. State of Punjab** in which by a majority of 4 to 1 (Bhagwati J. dissenting) the five judge bench of the Supreme Court overruled its earlier decision in **Rajendra Prasad**.
- It expressed the view that death penalty, as an alternative punishment for murder is not unreasonable and hence not violative of articles 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution of India, because the "public order" contemplated by clauses (2) to (4) of Article 19 is different from "law and order" and also enunciated the principle of awarding death penalty only in the 'rarest of rare cases'.
- Bhagwati J. in his dissenting judgement observed that " death penalty is not only unconstitutional being violative of Articles 14 and 21 but also undesirable from several points of view."



- **The Supreme Court in Machhi Singh vs. State of Punjab?**
- **laid down the broad outlines of the circumstances when death sentence should be imposed.**
- **Justice Thakkar speaking for the Court held that five categories of cases may be regarded as rarest of rare cases deserving extreme penalty.**

What the court said...



SC said the burden is on Centre to examine the methods of execution, and that it would get into it if govt fails to do so

“If there is an alternative method which is far more consistent with human dignity... because that will render death by hanging unconstitutional.”

“We cannot tell the legislature you don’t choose method A but choose method B. But if there is scientific data to show that method B is less painful and is consistent with the constitutional right to dignity in death, we can certainly say method A is invalid.”



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Q "Death penalty in india has its own complexity both due to legal and social circumstances" Discuss
प्रश्न "भारत में मृत्युदंड की कानूनी और सामाजिक परिस्थितियों के कारण अपनी जटिलता है" चर्चा करें

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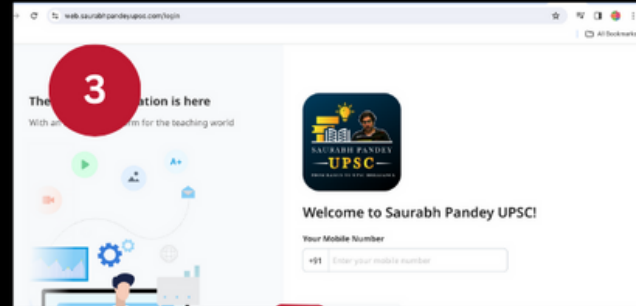
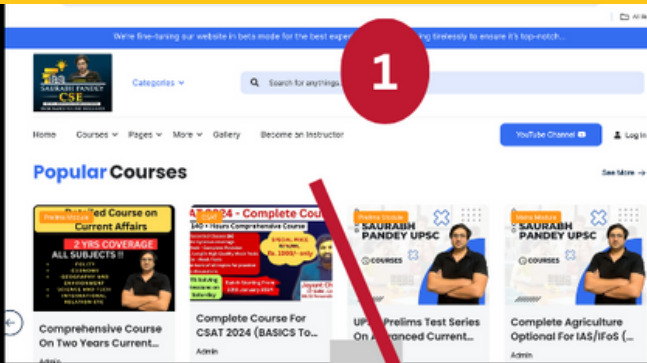
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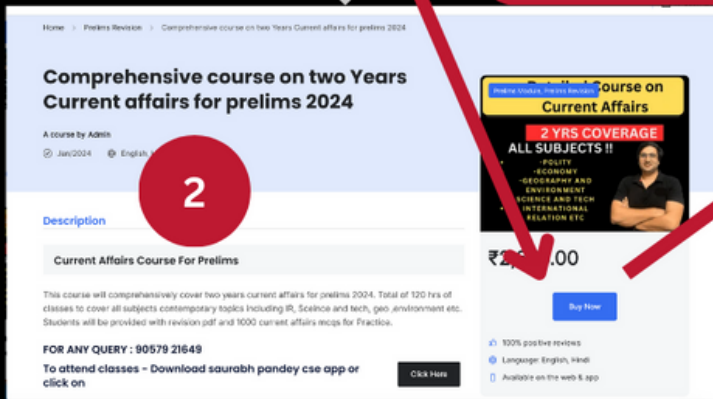
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