



Sanskriti IAS



**DAILY
CURRENT AFFAIRS**

Important Current News for UPSC & UPPSC

18th Mar 2026

TOPICS:-

- 1. Hutchinson-Gilford Progeria Syndrome (HGPS)**
- 2. Petroglyphs**
- 3. Force Majeure**
- 4. Sahitya Akademi Award**
- 5. Kanha Tiger Reserve**
- 6. Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)**
- 7. Nagoya Protocol**
- 8. Other Important News of the day**
- 9. Uttar Pradesh In News**

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HUTCHINSON-GILFORD PROGERIA SYNDROME (HGPS)

CP Contract Pharma

Sentynl to License Investigational Molecule from PRG S&T for Progeria Treatment



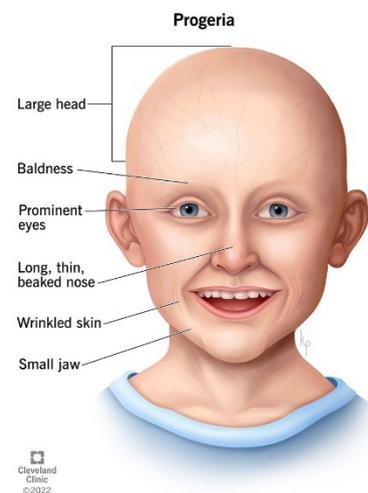
Sentynl Therapeutics will license PRG S&T's investigational molecule, Progerinin, for the treatment of Hutchinson-Gilford Progeria Syndrome.

Why in News

- A new drug **Progerinin** is being developed for treatment through international collaboration.

Genetic and Biological Basis

- It is a rare genetic disorder caused by mutation in the **LMNA gene**.
- The gene produces **lamin A**, a structural protein of the cell nucleus.
- Mutation leads to abnormal protein **progerin**, destabilizing cell nuclei.
- Cellular instability results in **accelerated aging and early cell death**.



Clinical Features and Symptoms

- Symptoms appear within **1–2 years of birth** despite normal birth condition.
- Children show **growth retardation and failure to gain weight**.
- Distinct features include **baldness, wrinkled skin, prominent eyes, and beaked nose**.
- Intellectual and motor development generally remain **normal**.

Epidemiology and Mortality

- Occurs in approximately **1 in 4 million births worldwide**.
- Most cases arise from **spontaneous mutation**, not inherited.
- Average life expectancy is about **14.5 years**.
- Death mainly results from **atherosclerosis-induced heart attack or stroke**.

PETROGLYPHS

Deccan Chronicle

Ancient Rock Carvings Discovered In Manchirevula

This finding follows a rock tool found at the same premises. The two petroglyph images are carved on a flat rock slab at a height of about...



Why in News

- Ancient petroglyphs discovered in **Telangana near Beerappa Temple**.

Nature and Techniques

- Petroglyphs are **rock engravings created by removing rock surfaces**.
- Techniques include **pecking, incising, abrading, drilling, and polishing**.
- They differ from **petrographs**, which are painted images.

Historical and Cultural Dimensions

- Represent some of the **earliest forms of human artistic expression**.
- Used as **communication tools, territorial markers, and symbolic representations**.
- Some functioned as **astronomical markers and primitive maps**.

Global and Indian Distribution

- Found on all continents except **Antarctica**.
- Concentrated in **Africa, Americas, Siberia, Australia, and Europe**.
- Indian example includes **Edakkal Caves (Kerala)**.

FORCE MAJEURE

Hindustan Times

LPG crisis in India: Can restaurant tenants seek rent relief by invoking 'Force Majeure' like during COVID? | Real Estate News

Unlike COVID-19, the current LPG crisis may not trigger 'Force Majeure' in rental leases, as supply disruptions are seen as commercial...



Why in News

- Energy firms invoked force majeure due to disruptions in **Strait of Hormuz shipping**.

Legal and Conceptual Framework

- Refers to **extraordinary events making contractual obligations impossible**.
- Derived from French meaning **“superior force”**.
- Related to **“Act of God”** but includes broader human-induced events.

Scope and Application in Contracts

- Covers events like **war, natural disasters, epidemics, riots, and terrorism.**
- Excludes **predictable, preventable, or negligent events.**
- Requires notification and proof of mitigation efforts by affected party.



Indian Legal Context and Global Principles

- Governed by **Section 56 of Indian Contract Act, 1872** (Doctrine of Frustration).
- Contracts become **void if performance becomes impossible or unlawful.**
- Contrasts with **“Pacta Sunt Servanda”**, which mandates honoring agreements.
- Application varies across jurisdictions with **different legal thresholds.**

SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARD

◆ The Indian Express

Jalandhar writer Jinder wins Sahitya Akademi Award for women-centric literary work ‘Safety Kit’



Jalandhar-based writer Harjinder Pal, who goes by the pen name Jinder, 72, has won the country's highest literary honour, Sahitya Akademi...

Why in News

- Annual awards announced for **24 recognised Indian languages.**

Institutional Framework

- Established in **1954** and registered under **Societies Registration Act, 1860.**
- Functions under **Ministry of Culture.**
- Headquarters located in **New Delhi.**



Award Features and Scope

- Recognises **outstanding literary works** in **24 languages** including English and Rajasthani.
- Award includes **₹1 lakh, plaque, and shawl.**
- Covers genres like **poetry, novels, essays, and literary criticism.**

Cultural and Governance Significance

- Promotes **linguistic diversity and cultural integration.**
- Acts as a **national platform for literary dialogue and publication.**
- Supports preservation of **regional and indigenous literary traditions.**

KANHA TIGER RESERVE

IN NENow.in

Assam: Kaziranga's wild buffaloes to be translocated to Kanha Tiger Reserve

Kaziranga National Park to translocate around 50 Asiatic water buffaloes to Kanha Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh.



Why in News

- Plan to translocate **Asiatic water buffaloes** from **Kaziranga** to Kanha.

Geographical and Ecological Profile

- Located in **Maikal ranges of Satpura hills, Madhya Pradesh.**
- Features **plateaus, valleys, and forested undulations.**
- Dominated by **moist Sal and mixed deciduous forests.**



Biodiversity and Conservation Value

- Home to **Royal Bengal Tigers, leopards, sloth bears, wild dogs.**
- Known for successful conservation of **Barasingha (Swamp Deer).**
- Introduced mascot "**Bhoorsingha the Barasingha**".

Connectivity and Tribal Presence

- Connected via corridors to **Pench and Achanakmar Tiger Reserves.**
- Inhabited by **Gond and Baiga tribes**, reflecting human-ecology interface.
- Important for **landscape-level conservation under Project Tiger.**

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE (FMD)

TH The Hindu

Statewide free FMD vaccination drive for cattle and buffaloes begins

The Andhra Pradesh Animal Husbandry Department will conduct a Statewide free vaccination campaign against Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) for...



Why in News

- Gujarat launched a statewide **vaccination campaign** to control FMD.

Disease Characteristics and Virology

- A highly contagious disease caused by **Aphthovirus (family Picornaviridae).**

- Affects **cloven-hoofed animals** like cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats, and pigs.
- Categorised as a **Transboundary Animal Disease (TAD)**.

Symptoms and Economic Impact

- Characterised by **fever and blister-like sores** in mouth and hooves.
- Leads to **severe productivity losses in milk and meat sectors**.
- Causes **high mortality in young animals due to myocarditis**.

Transmission Dynamics

- Spread through **infected saliva, milk, semen, and animal products**.
- Can transmit via **contaminated equipment, feed, vehicles, and clothing**.
- Improper handling of **infected meat products** increases risk.

Control and Policy Relevance

- **Vaccination is the primary preventive measure**.
- Impacts **livestock economy and international trade regulations**.
- Requires coordinated action under **animal health surveillance systems**.

NAGOYA PROTOCOL

 Down To Earth

India's first report on Nagoya Protocol highlights progress in ensuring access & benefit sharing

India's first Nagoya Protocol report raises community benefit concerns.



Why in News

- India submitted its first national report on **Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)**.

Legal and Institutional Framework

- Supplementary agreement to **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**.
- Adopted in **2010 (Nagoya, Japan)** and enforced in **2014**.
- India ratified it in **2012**.

Core Objectives and Provisions

- Ensures **fair and equitable sharing of benefits** from genetic resources.
- Covers **traditional knowledge (TK)** associated with biodiversity.
- Establishes **legal certainty and transparency** in resource access.

Linkages with CBD and Governance

- CBD signed at **Rio Earth Summit, 1992**.
- Three objectives include **conservation, sustainable use, and benefit sharing**.

- Supports **bioprospecting regulations and indigenous rights protection.**

Relevance for India

- Strengthens **Biodiversity Act, 2002 and National Biodiversity Authority (NBA).**
- Promotes **community participation and conservation incentives.**
- Addresses issues **of biopiracy and intellectual property rights (IPR).**

OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS OF THE DAY

Environ- ment in News

BUTIS BARGABHIMAE

 Inshorts

Biology meets culture: The story behind Butis bargabhimae | Tap to know more | Inshorts

scientists from vidyasagar university west bengal with the help of local fishermen have collected a specimen of a new fish from the...

Why in News

- A new estuarine fish species discovered in **West Bengal's Rupnarayan River.**

Taxonomy and Habitat

- It belongs to the **Butidae family (gudgeon gobies).**
- Typically inhabits **brackish water ecosystems** where rivers meet the sea.
- Found near **Tamluk**, a historically and culturally significant region.

Distinct Morphological Features

- Presence of **interorbital scales** between the eyes, unlike related species.
- Additional **auxiliary scales** across its body enhance identification.
- Shows **distinct light-dark bands on pectoral fins**, absent in similar fishes.

Cultural and Scientific Significance

- Named after **Goddess Bargabhima**, linking biodiversity with cultural heritage.
- Adds to India's **aquatic biodiversity database**, important for conservation biology.
- Highlights ecological importance **of estuarine ecosystems under threat.**

VELA CARLI

Why in News

- Discovery of a rare crab exhibiting **gynandromorphy** in Western Ghats.



Biological and Taxonomic Features

- A freshwater crab belonging to **family Gecarcinucidae**.
- Endemic to **Central Western Ghats biodiversity hotspot**.
- Found in streams of **Silent Valley National Park (Kerala)**.

Unique Scientific Phenomenon

- Exhibits **gynandromorphy**, where both male and female traits coexist.
- Shows **male reproductive structures along with female gonopores**.
- First such case reported in **freshwater crab family Gecarcinucidae**.

Ecological and Conservation Context

- Silent Valley is part of **Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO World Heritage Site)**.
- Region hosts **rich endemic biodiversity including lion-tailed macaque**.
- Discovery highlights need for **micro-level species documentation and conservation**.

Defence

SEJJIL MISSILE



Iran uses 'dancing missile' Sejjil against US-Israel: What makes it different?

Iran used the Sejjil missiles against the US and Israel on Sunday. The missile is a medium-range ballistic weapon with an estimated range of...



Why in News

- Iran reportedly deployed its advanced **Sejjil ballistic missile** amid escalating West Asia conflict.

Strategic and Technical Features

- It is a **two-stage, solid-fuel Medium-Range Ballistic Missile (MRBM)** developed by Iran.
- The missile was first successfully tested in **2008** after development began in the **1990s**.
- Its **solid-fuel propulsion** enables rapid launch capability and reduced preparation time.
- It is approximately **18 metres long**, with a diameter of **1.25 metres** and weighs about **23,600 kg**.
- It has a range of nearly **2,000 km**, placing much of West Asia within reach.



Operational Capabilities

- It can carry **~700 kg payload**, including both **conventional and nuclear warheads**.
- Its high-altitude manoeuvrability enables evasion of missile defence systems.
- It is nicknamed **“Dancing Missile”** due to its evasive trajectory patterns.

UTTAR PRADESH IN NEWS

WORLD BANK–UP CLEAN AIR PROGRAMME

TOI The Times of India

World Bank signs deal with govts, to help UP's clean air programme

Noida: UP and central govt on Monday signed an agreement with the World Bank to implement the state's Clean Air Management Programme aimed...



Why in News

- The **World Bank, Government of India, and Government of Uttar Pradesh** signed an agreement to implement the **UP Clean Air Management Programme**.

Programme Design and Financial Architecture

- The project aims to **reduce air pollution and improve public health outcomes** in Uttar Pradesh.

- The total project outlay is **\$500 million**, financed through **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)**.
- The **World Bank loan component is \$299.66 million** with **10-year maturity and 2-year grace period**.
- The programme aims to mobilise **\$150 million private investment**, especially in **transport and MSMEs**.

Geographical Focus and Targeted Intervention

- The programme focuses on the **Indo-Gangetic Plain (IGP)**, a global air pollution hotspot.
- It targets high-pollution urban clusters such as **Noida, Kanpur, Lucknow, and Varanasi**.
- It is part of the broader **Regional Air Quality Management Programme (IGP-HF)**.

Sectoral Strategy and Policy Alignment

- The initiative adopts an **integrated multi-sectoral approach** covering **transport, agriculture, and industry**.
- It aligns with the **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)** target of reducing **PM2.5 levels by 30% by 2030**.
- The programme promotes **clean technologies and sustainable practices** across sectors.

Institutional Mechanism and Monitoring

- Around **200 new air quality monitoring stations** will be installed.
- Data will be managed by the **Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB)**.