

# NEWS TODAY

## Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified Living Animal Species (Reporting and Registration) Rules, 2024

- Rules were notified under **Section 63 of Wild Life (Protection) Act (WPA), 1972** for the purpose of **Section 49M of the WPA, 1972.**
  - ⊕ **Section 49 M** provides for **registration of possession, transfer, and birth and reporting of death of living scheduled animal species** which are listed in **Appendices of CITES or Schedule IV of WPA, 1972.**
  - ⊕ Section 49M was added through **Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2022.**
- **Key highlights of Rules**
  - ⊕ **Application for registration of possession:** Mandatory electronic registration for any possession of any animal species within 6 months.
  - ⊕ **Reporting and registration of birth:** Report birth of an offspring of animal species and apply for registration within a period of 7 days.
  - ⊕ **Reporting and registration of transfer** within 15 days.
  - ⊕ **Maintenance of stock for people involved in captive breeding** through regular health check-up of animals, inform any escape of the animal species, etc.
- **Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2022 and CITES**
  - ⊕ 2022 Amendment sought to implement **CITES.**
    - ◆ **Schedule IV** of the WPA includes **specimen of Flora and Fauna listed under CITES.**
  - ⊕ It also provides for **management authority** to grants export or import permits for trade of species.

### Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

- **Secretariat:** Geneva (Switzerland), administered by UNEP.
- **Genesis:** Drafted as a result of a resolution adopted in 1973 by IUCN and entered into force in 1975.
- **Members:** Currently there are **184 Parties, including India.**
- **Objective:** Ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.
- It is **legally binding** on the Parties.
- **Appendices I, II and III** to CITES are lists of species afforded different levels or types of protection from over-exploitation

## Report titled 'Formulating a Strategy for India's Care Economy: Unlocking Opportunities' Published

- Report was prepared by the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** along with others.
  - ⊕ CII was supported by the **Ministry of Women and Children development.**
- **Care economy** consists of the **paid and unpaid labour and services** that support caregiving in all its forms.
  - ⊕ It includes domestic chores, taking care of family members such as children and elderly or looking after individuals who are ill or have disabilities.
- **Need for Care Economy in India**
  - ⊕ **Changing demographic landscape** (from 2020 to 2050) of India, may lead to
    - ◆ Demand for more elderly care
    - ◆ Substantial dependency burden on children
  - ⊕ **Wide gender gaps** in unpaid domestic and care work **represents** an economic value of almost 15%-17% of the GDP.
  - ⊕ **Investments in care infrastructure** will create new business opportunities and generate jobs.
- **Key Recommendations (Five Pillars)**
  - ⊕ **Maternity and Paternity leave Policies** should involve incentives for MSME/startups and have market based financing.
  - ⊕ **Subsidies for Care Services** for elderly and childcare to NGO/SHGs.
  - ⊕ **Public Investment in care infrastructure** and mobilisation of Public Private Partnership.
  - ⊕ **Skill training** for care workers with certification.
  - ⊕ **Institutional mechanisms for quality assurance** such as establishment of Sector skill council, collection of data.

### Creation of Care Economy Ecosystem

#### PUBLIC SECTOR

- Schemes introduced by the government including **Saksham Anganwadi Poshan 2.0, Palna ghar, Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojna** and others

#### PRIVATE SECTOR

- Privately owned facilities for care, such as care centers for children and dependent adults.
- Personal care providers for in-home assistance.

#### COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATION

- Community run care services
- **Creche Operators**

## Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) issued Advisory on advertisement of Illegal Activities

- Advisory, issued as per **Consumer Protection Act, 2019**, emphasizes on **prohibition of advertising, promotion, and endorsement of unlawful activities** prohibited under various laws.
- **Reasons for advisory:** Increasing instances of direct as well as surrogate advertisement and endorsements of activities considered illegal such as **betting or gambling**.
- **Key highlights of the advisory**
  - ⊕ Any advertisement or endorsement of activities which are otherwise prohibited by law, including but not limited to **betting or gambling**, shall be subject to **rigorous scrutiny**.
  - ⊕ In cases of violations, stringent measures will be initiated against involved, including **manufacturers, advertisers, publishers, intermediaries, social media platforms, endorsers**, etc.
  - ⊕ Highlights **Guidelines for Prevention of Misleading Advertisements and Endorsements for Misleading Advertisements, 2022**, which prohibit advertisements of products or services prohibited under any prevailing law.
- **Status of Betting and Gambling in India**
  - ⊕ It is a **State subject** under **Seventh Schedule** of the Constitution.
    - ◆ Listed as **Entry 34 and Entry 62 (for the purpose of taxation) of the State List**.
  - ⊕ Based on **erstwhile Public Gambling Act, 1867**, most State Governments have enacted their own laws to deal with betting and gambling within their jurisdictions.
  - ⊕ In 2023, **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting issued advisory on advertisements including surrogate advertisements of Online Betting Platforms**.

### Central Consumer Protection Authority

- **Statutory body** under **Section 10 of the Consumer Protection Act 2019**
- **Objective:** To promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers as a class.
- **Composition:** Chief Commissioner and such number of other Commissioners as may be prescribed.
- **Powers and functions:** Conduct investigations into violation of consumer rights and institute complaints / prosecution, order recall of unsafe goods and services, etc.

## National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) releases Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), 2023

- **Launched in 2017**, the key objective of PLFS is to estimate the key employment and unemployment indicators (viz. LFPR, WPR, UR):
  - ⊕ In the **short time interval of three months** for the **urban areas only** in '**Current Weekly Status**' (CWS) and
  - ⊕ In both '**Usual Status**' and **CWS** in both **rural and urban areas annually**.
- **Key Indicators used in PLFS:**
  - ⊕ **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):** Percentage of **persons in the labour force** (i.e. **working or seeking or available for work**) in the population.
  - ⊕ **Worker Population Ratio (WPR):** Percentage of **employed persons** in the **population**.
  - ⊕ **Unemployment Rate (UR):** Percentage of persons unemployed among the persons in the labour force.
  - ⊕ **Activity Status:** It is determined on the basis of the **activities pursued** by the person **during the specified reference period** (preceding date of survey).
    - ◆ **Usual Status:** Reference period is 365 days
    - ◆ **Current Weekly Status (CWS):** Reference period is 7 days
- **Key findings**

Indicator		2021 (Jan -Dec)	2023 (Jan -Dec)	Trend
LFPR	Total	55.2%	59.8%	Increase
	Rural	57.6 %	63.4 %	Increase
	Urban	49.4 %	51.4 %	Increase
	Male	77.4 %	78.3 %	Increase
	Female	32.8 %	41.3 %	Increase
WPR	Total	52.9%	58.0%	Increase
UR	Total	4.2%	3.1%	Decrease

## Law Commission published its 289th Report on Trade Secrets and Economic Espionage

- Previously, in 2017, Department of Legal Affairs and Legislative Department forwarded a **reference to Law Commission to examine possibility of enacting Trade Secrets Act and Economic Espionage Act.**
- **Trade Secrets (TS):** Encompass **confidential business information** which may be sold or licensed. It is a relatively new entrant within the domain of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).
- **Economic espionage (EE):** Act of deliberate acquisition of confidential information from domestic companies and government entities to benefit a foreign State. It can be **economic, industrial, or commercial.**
- **Need to enact Law on TS and EE**
  - ⊕ To enable **transfer of technology** and cooperation among industries across borders.
  - ⊕ To protect **creative resources and intellectual capital** of MSMEs and Startups.
  - ⊕ To protect **critical technologies and sectors** such as defence, nuclear, telecom, etc., from EE.
  - ⊕ To **consolidate existing fragmented legal framework** to ensure certainty and better compliance.
- **Key Recommendations**
  - ⊕ Enact separate laws for trade secrets and economic espionage.
    - ◆ **Commercial espionage**, however, will fall **within the purview of proposed Trade Secrets Act.**
  - ⊕ Provide **broad definition of TS** to allow room for judicial interpretation so that emerging aspects and industries may also fit within legal framework.
  - ⊕ Provide exceptions for **Whistle Blowers, Compulsory Licensing and Government use**, etc.

### Existing Legal Framework on TS and EE

- In India, **there is no singular law** addressing issue of misappropriation of TS.
- **Indian Contract Act, 1872 and Specific Relief Act, 1963** apply to contractual matters.
- **IPC, 1860:** Sections related to theft, criminal breach of trust, cheating, etc.
  - ⊕ **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023** also contain similar provisions.

## 17<sup>th</sup> Annual International Biocuration Conference hosted by India

- It is first ever **Biocuration** conference in India.
  - ⊕ **Biocuration** refers to collection, curation and integration of information related to the biological sciences into databases or resources.
- It was organised by the **Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC).**
  - ⊕ IBDC is the **first national repository** for life science data in India, supported by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
- In the conference, it was highlighted that growth of bio-economy in India will be derived by **Bio-manufacturing and Bio-foundry.**
- **Bio-economy** is the **production, utilization and conservation** of biological resources, including related knowledge, science, technology, and innovation.
  - ⊕ **Bio-manufacturing:** A process of production which uses both **natural and engineered biological systems**, to produce biomaterials which can be used on a commercial scale.
    - ◆ E.g. microorganisms and cell culture
  - ⊕ **Bio-foundry:** A **state of the art facility** providing a platform to **accelerate discovery and bioengineering** for the emerging bio-economy.
    - ◆ It is based on the mechanism of **Design-Build-Test-Learn (DBTL)** cycle.
  - ⊕ **Importance:** Will provide **environment-friendly alternatives** such as biodegradable polymers, bio-plastics, bio-pharmaceuticals and bio-Agri-inputs.
    - ◆ Will change current **consumptive manufacturing** paradigm to the one based on **regenerative principles.**

### Initiative taken

- In Interim Budget 2024-2025, a **new scheme of bio-manufacturing and bio-foundry** has been proposed
- Promotion of Biotechnology research, **Bio StartUps, Bio-incubators and Bio-clusters**
- **National Biotechnology Development Strategy, 2015**
- **National mission on Bio-economy, 2016**, by Institute of Bio-resources and Sustainable Development (IBSD)
- **National Biopharma mission, 2017**

## Also in News



### Competition Commission of India (CCI) Regulations, 2024

- CCI notified three regulations dealing with **Global turnover, Commitment and Settlement** under the **Competition (Amendment) Act 2023.**
- **Key highlights of new regulations**
  - ⊕ Penalties would now be levied based on **'global turnover'**.
    - ◆ Need for this arose from abuse of dominant position by enterprises.
  - ⊕ **Commitment and Settlement** aim to **resolve competition law** concerns efficiently and without the need for a lengthy legal process.
    - ◆ **Commitment** refers to process where a **company under investigation offers to change its business practices** to address concerns raised.
    - ◆ **Settlement** typically involves a **negotiated agreement** for reduced fines.



### Benzene (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>)

- It has been found that certain cosmetic product contain harmful chemicals like **Benzene.**
- **About Benzene**
  - ⊕ It is a **colourless or light yellow liquid** at room temperature.
  - ⊕ It has a **sweet odor and is highly flammable.**
  - ⊕ It is a highly **volatile** compound and is a natural **component of gasoline and tobacco smoke.**
  - ⊕ It is **soluble in water**, and thus can contaminate surface waters and soil.
  - ⊕ **Applications:** Shoemaking, painting, printing and rubber manufacturing.
  - ⊕ **Health impacts** include headache, tremors, including cancer and haematological effects.



### Blue Line

- US envoy to Lebanon emphasised situation along the **blue line** has to change to guarantee peace and security.
- **About Blue line:**
  - ⊕ **Israel and Lebanon have no official border** separating them, except the Blue Line.
  - ⊕ It was **set by the United Nations in 2000**. It is made of blue barrels and runs from the Mediterranean to the Golan Heights to the east.
  - ⊕ Its purpose was to **confirm the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the south of Lebanon**.

**Note:** Blue Line is also a **learning ecosystem** created by the **UN System Staff College**.



### Pine (Pinus)

- CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum has signed a MoU with Uttarakhhand State Council for Science and Technology to deploy the technology of making fuel from Pine Needles (pointed leaves of a **pine tree**).
  - ⊕ Technology involves, **Briquetting**, process of converting biomass residues into a fuel.
    - ◆ **Briquetting uses** compaction methods for densification of waste materials and converts them into fuel.
- **About Pine Tree**
  - ⊕ It is an **evergreen conifer** (they produce cones that encase reproduction seeds).
  - ⊕ Native to **northern temperate regions** (Can be found throughout the world).
  - ⊕ Shed their older needles in the fall season.



### INS Jatayu

- **Naval Detachment Minicoy** has been **commissioned in Indian Navy as INS Jatayu**.
  - ⊕ Minicoy is **southernmost island of Lakshadweep**.
- **About INS Jatayu**
  - ⊕ **India's second naval base in Lakshadweep** after **INS Dweeprakshak in Kavaratti**.
  - ⊕ **Significance:** Facilitate Indian Navy's operational effort towards Anti-Piracy and Anti-Narcotics Operations in Western Arabian Sea
    - ◆ It will also **augment Indian Navy's capability as the first responder in the India Ocean region** and **augment connectivity with the mainland**.



### Global Counter-terrorism Forum (GCTF)

- At 20<sup>th</sup> meet of **US-India Counterterrorism Joint Working Group**, US and India reaffirmed commitment to cooperation in GCTF for shared security interests within Indo-Pacific.
- **About GCTF**
  - ⊕ **Launched in 2011**, it is an **informal, apolitical, multilateral counterterrorism platform**.
  - ⊕ **Mission:** To diminish terrorist recruitment and increase countries' civilian capabilities for dealing with terrorist threats within their borders and regions.
  - ⊕ **Members:** Currently it has **32 members, including India which is its founding members**.
  - ⊕ Currently co-chaired by Egypt and the European Union.



### Biosimilars

- Recently, Sandoz Received **FDA approval for first and only denosumab biosimilars**.
  - ⊕ Denosumab can address primary and secondary bone loss, such as osteoporosis.
- **About Biosimilar:**
  - ⊕ It is a **medicine** that is very close in **structure and function** to a biologic medicine (also called the reference product).
  - ⊕ It has the **same treatment risks and benefits** as that of biologic medicine.
  - ⊕ **Advantage:** Increased access to lifesaving medications at potentially lower costs.
  - ⊕ **Biosimilars** are more complex to manufacture than small-molecule generic medicine.



### Sangeet Natak Academy (SNA) Awards

- **President of India** conferred SNA Fellowships and Awards for the years 2022 and 2023.
- **About SNA Awards**
  - ⊕ Akademi awards are being **conferred since 1952**.
  - ⊕ Symbolizes highest achievement in music, dance and drama.
  - ⊕ **Awards in Hindustani and Carnatic music** were instituted in 1951, even before SNA was set up and these were known as **Presidential Awards**.
  - ⊕ Honour of **Akademi Fellow** carries purse money of **₹3 Lakh** while **Akademi Award** carries purse money of **₹1 lakh**, besides a **Tamrapatra and Angavastram**.
- **SNA, setup in 1953**, is the apex body in the field of performing arts for the preservation and promotion of India's intangible cultural heritage.

## Personality in news



### Govind Ballabh Pant (1887 – 1961)

- Govind Ballabh Pant's death anniversary has been commemorated on 7th March.
- **About Govind Ballabh Pant**
  - ⊕ He was a **freedom fighter** and served as **1<sup>st</sup> Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Contributions**
  - ⊕ Participated in **movements like Civil- disobedience, Quit India**, etc.
  - ⊕ Represented **Ramprasad Bismill, Ashfaqulla Khan** and other revolutionaries involved in the **Kakori case (1925)**.
  - ⊕ **As a Union Home Minister, played key role in**
    - ◆ **Reorganisation** of States along linguistic lines.
    - ◆ **Establishment** of Hindi as an official language of the Union government and a few states.
- **Awards:** Bharat Ratna (1957)
- **Values:** Compassion, leadership etc.

