DAILY PT POINTERS

1st February, 2024

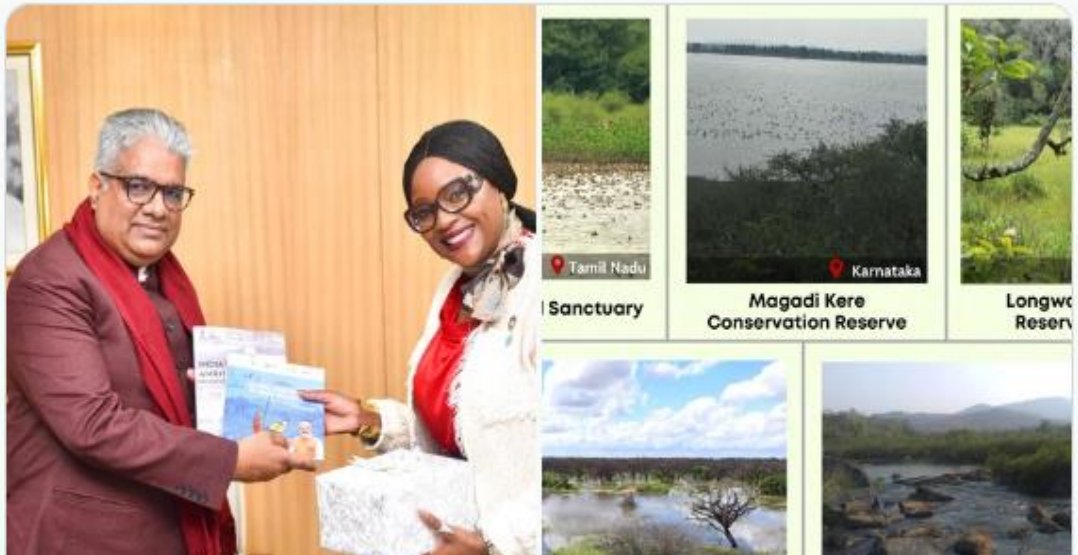
HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB: GS3-Environment

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Shri Bhupender Yadav says India increases its tally of Ramsar sites (Wetlands of International Importance) to 80 by adding Five more wetlands to the list on the eve of World Wetlands Day 2024 (2nd February)



News

- India has increased its tally of Ramsar sites (Wetlands of International Importance) to 80 from existing 75 by designating five more wetlands as Ramsar sites.

About

- Three of these sites, Ankasamudra Bird Conservation Reserve, Aghanashini Estuary and Magadi Kere Conservation Reserve are located in Karnataka whereas two, Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary and Longwood Shola Reserve Forest are in Tamilnadu.
- Tamil Nadu continues to have maximum number of Ramsar Sites (16 sites) followed by Uttar Pradesh (10 sites).

Ramsar Convention

- It was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and came into force in 1975.
- Since then, almost 90% of UN member states, from all the world's geographic regions, have acceded to become "Contracting Parties".
- India ratified this Convention on 1st February 1982.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: GS2-Polity and Governance

ED arrests Hemant Soren after he resigns as Jharkhand Chief Minister

Governor accepts resignation; JMM Legislature Party elects Transport Minister Champai Soren as new leader; Jharkhand High Court to hear plea against arrest in land scam case on February 1; tribal bodies call for a bandh in the State

January 31, 2024 09:00 pm | Updated February 01, 2024 06:30 am IST - Patna

AMIT BHELARI

COMMENTS SHARE READ LATER

News

- The Enforcement Directorate arrested Hemant Soren in a land scam case soon after he resigned as Jharkhand's Chief Minister.

Directorate of Enforcement (ED)

- The Directorate of Enforcement is a multi-disciplinary organization mandated with investigation of offence of money laundering and violations of foreign exchange laws.
- It functions under the **Department of Revenue of the Ministry of Finance.**

Functions of ED: The statutory functions of the ED include enforcement of the following Acts:

- **Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA)**
- **Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA)**
- **Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 (FEOA)**
- **Sponsoring agency under COFEPOSA**

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: GS2-International Relations

Rising tensions in the Korean peninsula | Explained

What has led to the current aggravation of ties between North and South Korea? How is it affecting regional security and major power rivalries?

January 31, 2024 10:52 pm | Updated February 01, 2024 10:28 am IST

News

- The ongoing tensions in the Korean peninsula have raised serious concerns about the deterioration of the international security environment and a deepening of major power rivalry.

Historical Context

- The Korean peninsula was divided into two by the end of World War II, after imperial Japan who occupied the territory was defeated.
- The North went under the ambit of the Soviet Union and the South under the U.S., resulting in the creation of two ideologically different regimes.

The Korean war (1950-53)

- It broke out as a result of the North's attempt to take over the South.
- Even after Decades, the two countries are still divided over ideology and geopolitical leanings — the North being an authoritarian dynastic regime allied with China and Russia, and the South being a liberal democracy allied with the U.S.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: GS2-Polity and Governance

ADVERTISEMENT

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President clears members' names; 16th Finance Commission all set to kick off

The panel is chaired by the first NITI Aayog vice-chairman and Columbia University professor Arvind Panagariya

January 31, 2024 10:54 am | Updated 10:53 pm IST - NEW DELHI

THE HINDU BUREAU

News

- Recently, the President of India **appointed** four members to the **16th Finance Commission**.

About

- The 16th Finance Commission is headed by **Arvind Panagariya**, the former vice-chairman of NITI Aayog

Finance Commission

- The Finance Commission is a Constitutionally mandated body that is at the center of fiscal federalism.
- It is set up under **Article 280** of the Constitution to recommend **how tax revenue should be shared** between the Union and states (and among states themselves).

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Mint: GS3-Economy

RBI bars Paytm Payments Bank from accepting deposits in any customer account from next month

News

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed restrictions on **Paytm** Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL), following a system audit report and subsequent compliance validation report of external auditors.

Payments Bank

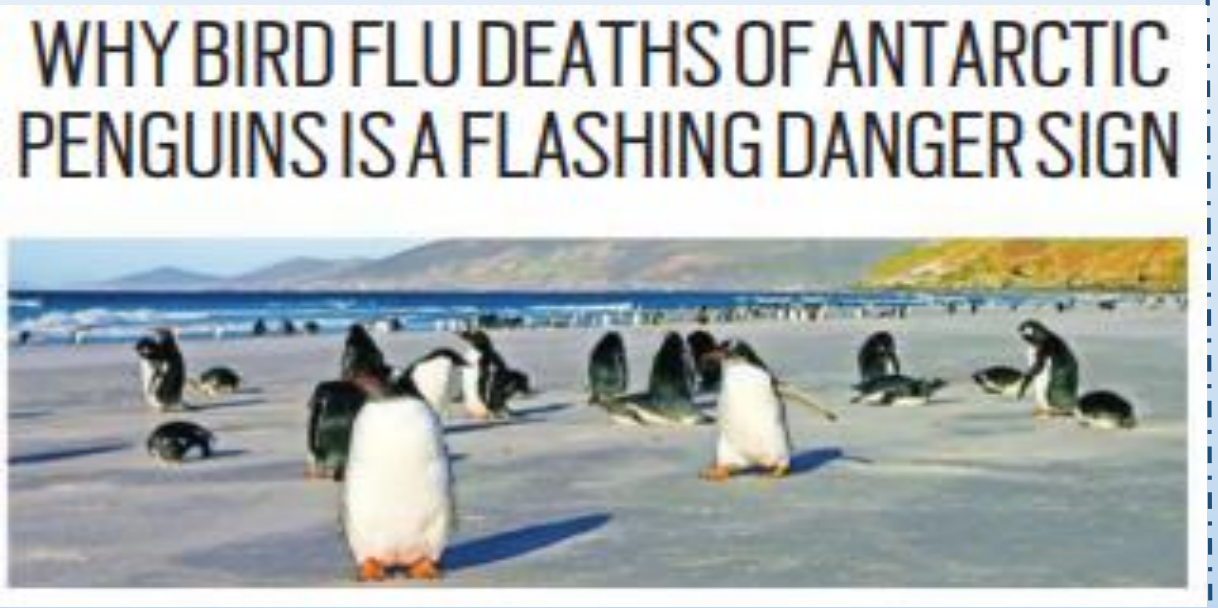
- A Payments Bank is similar to banks, but they are operating on a smaller scale **without involving any credit risk.**
- They can **operate both current as well as saving accounts** and can provide all other services like ATM cards, fund transfers, bill payments, recharges, net banking among others to the account holders.

Difference from Traditional Banks

- They **can't advance loans or issue credit cards**, and **cannot accept deposits** from the Non-Resident Indians (NRIs).

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

IE: GS3-Environment



News

- A highly lethal form of bird flu has been detected in Antarctic penguins for the first time.

About

- The virus, H5N1, was con- firmed in two gentoo penguins that were found dead on Sea Lion Island in the Falkland Islands.

Threat to Penguins

- Three Antarctic penguin **species-emperor penguins, southern rockhopper penguins and macaroni penguins** are facing threat.
- The threats include- climate change, pollution, commercial fishing, etc.