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NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR INDIAN SYSTEM OF MEDICINE



Recently, the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) conducted a workshop for drafting the Ayurveda Process Handbook at the NCISM office.

- It is the **statutory body** constituted under **NCISM Act, 2020**. It replaced the erstwhile regulator Central Council for Indian Medicine (CCIM) to ensure transparency.
- The Act aims to provide for a medical education system that improves access to quality and affordable medical education, ensures availability of adequate and high quality medical professionals of Indian System of Medicine in all parts of the country.
- **Composition:** It consists of **29 members**, appointed by the **Central Government**. A Search Committee will recommend names to the Central Government for the post of Chairperson, part time members, and presidents of the four autonomous boards set up under the NCISM.

Functions

- **Framing policies for regulating medical institutions** and medical professionals of Indian System of Medicine
- **Assessing the requirements of healthcare** related human resources and infrastructure.
- **Ensuring compliance by the State Medical Councils** of Indian System of Medicine of the regulations made under the Bill
- **Ensuring coordination** among the autonomous boards.

GREENHOUSE GAS BULLETIN

According to a new report by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), greenhouse gas levels surged to a new record in 2023, rising by more than 10% in just two decades.



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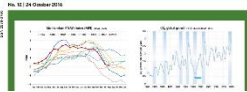
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WMO GREENHOUSE GAS BULLETIN



• It has been published annually since 2004 by the World Meteorological Organization.

- It shows globally averaged surface mole fractions for **Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)**, **Methane (CH₄)** and **Nitrous Oxide (N₂O)** and compares them with the mole fractions during the previous year and with preindustrial levels.
- It also provides **insights into the change in radiative forcing** by long-lived GHGs (LLGHGs) and the contribution of individual gases to this increase.
- It is one of WMO's flagship publications released to inform the UN Climate Change conference (COP).

Highlights of the Bulletin

- The globally averaged surface concentration of **Carbon Dioxide** reached 420 parts per million (ppm), **Methane** 1934 parts per billion and **Nitrous Oxide** 9 parts per billion (ppb) in 2023.
- **Carbon Dioxide** is the single most important greenhouse gas in the atmosphere related to human activities, accounting for approximately 64 percent of the warming effect on the climate, mainly because of fossil fuel combustion and cement production,
- The long-term carbon dioxide increase is due to fossil fuel combustion, but there are year-to-year variations due to the El Niño–Southern Oscillation, which impacts photosynthetic carbon dioxide uptake, respiratory release, and fires.
- **Methane** is a powerful greenhouse gas which remains in the atmosphere for about a decade. Methane accounts for **about 16 percent of the warming effect** of long-lived greenhouse gases.
- **Nitrous oxide**, an ozone depleting chemical, accounts for **about 6 per cent of the radiative forcing** – the warming effect on the climate -- by long-lived greenhouse gases.
- From 1990 to 2023, **radiative forcing** — the warming effect on our climate — by long-lived greenhouse gases increased by 51.5%, with CO₂ accounting for about 81 per cent of this increase.

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MISSION FOR INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OF HORTICULTURE

The Union Government has reportedly decided to include four new components – Hydroponics, Aquaponics, Vertical Farming and Precision Agriculture – under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).

Mission for Integrated
Development of
Horticulture (MIDH)

- It is a **Central Sponsored Scheme (CSS)** being implemented w.e.f. **2014-15** for holistic growth of the **horticulture sector**.
- It promotes the cultivation of fruits, vegetables, root and tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew, cocoa and bamboo.
- MIDH also provides technical advice and administrative support to State Governments/ State Horticulture Missions (SHMs) for the Saffron Mission and other horticulture related activities Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)/NMSA.

Funding:

- Under MIDH, **Government of India (GOI) contributes 60%** of total outlay for developmental programmes in all the states except states in North East and Himalayas, **40% share** is contributed by **State Governments**.
- In the case of North Eastern States and Himalayan States, **GOI contributes 90%**.
- In the case of National Horticulture Board (NHB), Coconut Development Board (CDB), Central Institute for Horticulture (CIH), Nagaland and the National Level Agencies (NLA), GOI contributes 100%.
- **Key Components**
 - **National Horticulture Mission (NHM)** - Focuses on the development of horticulture in states and union territories.
 - **Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH)** - Addresses the specific needs of the northeastern and Himalayan regions.



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- **National Bamboo Mission (NBM)** - Dedicated to promoting bamboo cultivation and its value chain.
 - **Coconut Development Board (CDB)** - Works on the development of the coconut sector.
 - **Central Institute of Horticulture (CIH)**: It was established at Medzipheima, Nagaland in 2006-07 for providing technical backstopping through capacity building and training of farmers and Field functionaries in the North Eastern Region.
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MISSION AMRIT SAROVAR



- It was **launched on 24th April, 2022** with the resolve to build 75 Amrit Sarovars during the 75th year of independence as a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
 - It helps to overcome the **water crisis in rural areas** of the country.
 - Every Amrit Sarovar will have a **pondage area of at least 1 acre** with a water holding capacity of about 10,000 cubic metre.
 - It focuses on **water conservation**, people's participation and proper utilization of soil excavated from the water bodies to boost infrastructure projects.
 - This Mission has been launched with a whole of Government Approach which involves 6 Ministries/Department namely:
 - Dept of Rural Development, Department of land resources, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Department of Water resources, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate changes.
 - There is **no separate financial allocation** for Mission Amrit Sarovar.
 - **Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Application and Geoinformatics (BISAG-N)** has been engaged as Technical partner for the Mission.
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CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEM (CRS) MOBILE APP

Union Home Minister recently launched the Civil Registration System (CRS) mobile application to “integrate technology with governance”.



- It is designed to **facilitate the registration of births and deaths across India.**
- It was **developed by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India.**
- It aims to simplify and expedite the registration process for citizens, making it more accessible and efficient.
- The new app will allow citizens to register births or deaths **at any time from any place in their state's official language.**

Key Facts about Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India (RGCCI):

- It is an **office under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, responsible for conducting the decennial Census of India**, compiling demographic and population statistics, and overseeing the Civil Registration System (CRS) in the country.
- Established in 1961, the RGCCI is a crucial body for policy-making, **providing data that informs social, economic, and political decisions** at all levels of government.
- The **Registrar General of India is the head** of the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner.

COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY ORGANIZATION (CTBTO)



- It is an international organization **based in Vienna, Austria**, established to **implement the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)**, which aims to ban all nuclear explosions worldwide.

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- CTBT is a **multilateral treaty** opened for signature in 1996 by which **states agree to ban all nuclear explosions in all environments, for military or civilian purposes.**
- The **treaty envisages the mechanisms that control such prohibition,** including distant monitoring and data collection.
- It was signed by 183 states and ratified by 164 but has **not entered into force as eight specific states among 44** (so-called **Annex-2 states whose signatures are required** for the Treaty to enter into force, namely the **US, China, Iran, Egypt, Israel, India, Pakistan, and North Korea**) have **not ratified the treaty yet.**
- In order to verify compliance with its provisions, the treaty **establishes a global network of monitoring facilities** and allows for on-site inspections of suspicious events.

SIMHACHALAM TEMPLE

During recent conservation efforts, epigraphists from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) uncovered a Telugu inscription on the wall above the statue of Lord Hanuman at the 13th-century Simhachalam temple.



- Simhachalam Temple, originally known as **Varaha Lakshmi Narasimha Temple**, is a Hindu temple located in **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.**
- It is dedicated to the **incarnation (avatar) of Vishnu** known as **Narasimha (the man-lion).**
- **History:**
 - It was **constructed in the 11th century** by the **Gajapati rulers of Odisha.**
 - **Kulottunga Chola I of Tamilnadu, made endowments** to this temple, as evidenced from inscriptions dating back to the year 1087.
 - The **Vengi Chalukyas of Andhra Pradesh** renovated the original shrine in the 11th century.

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- **Much of the structure** as it stands today is the **result of renovation by Narasimha I, of the Eastern Ganga dynasty** in the second quarter of the 13th century CE.
 - **Krishna Deva Raya**, the Vijayanagar monarch, **visited this temple** in the year 1516, as seen from inscriptions here.
 - **Architecture:**
 - The temple's architecture is a **blend of Kalinga and Dravidian styles**, with its main sanctum adorned with intricate carvings and sculptures.
 - The presiding deity, Lord Narasimha, is depicted with a human torso and a lion's face, exuding a sense of divine power and grace.
 - It boasts of a beautiful **stone chariot drawn by horses**.
 - The **Kalyana Mandapa** within the temple has **16 pillars with bas reliefs** depicting the incarnations of Vishnu.
 - The outer walls of the sanctum depict images of a royal personality (said to be King Narasimha) in various postures.
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PRANAHITA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

The National Board for Wildlife's decision to defer road expansion projects affecting the Pranahita wildlife sanctuary reflects growing environmental concerns.



- **Location:** It is located in the Adilabad district of **Telangana**.
- It covers an area of around 136 sq.km.
- It is located in the scenic landscape of the **Deccan plateau**. It covers the **thick deciduous teak forests**.
- **Pranahita River** flows adjoining the eastern boundary of the sanctuary while **Godavari River** runs towards the southern boundary of this sanctuary, which is also renowned for the presence of prehistoric rock formations.
- The topography is hilly with dense forests and plateaus.

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- **Flora:** Common plants and trees found in the sanctuary include **Dalbergia sissoo**, **Ficus spp.**, **Dalbergia latifolia**, **Dalbergia paniculata**, **Pterocarpus marsupium**, and many more.
- **Fauna:**
 - The sanctuary is **famously known for Blackbuck** and is home to over 20 species of reptiles, 50 species of birds, and 40 species of mammals.
 - It is home to various types of species, especially mammals that include tigers, leopards, rhesus, langurs, hyenas, wild dogs, sloth bear, forest cat and many more.

WHAT IS AN INDIAN SKIMMER?

At Lower Manair Dam, around 150 to 200 rare Indian Skimmer birds were spotted recently, marking a first for Telangana.



- It is one of the three species that belong to the skimmer genus **Rynchops** in the family **Laridae**.
- It is **native to South Asia**.
- It gets its name from the way it feeds, **flying low over the water surface and 'skimming' for fish**.
- Scientific Name: **Rynchops albicollis**
- **Distribution:**
 - It is mainly found in **India, Bangladesh, and Pakistan**, with some populations extending to **Nepal and Myanmar**.
 - One of the key areas for spotting Indian Skimmers is the **Chambal River**, which runs through northern India.
- The population is estimated at **2,450-2,900 mature individuals**.

Habitat: It occurs primarily on **larger, sandy, lowland rivers, around lakes and adjacent marshes**, and, in the non-breeding season, in **estuaries and coasts**.



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Features:

- It grows to a length of 40-43 cm.
- The Indian Skimmer has a **striking appearance**. Its **upper body is black**, while its **underbelly is white**.
- The most eye-catching feature is its **beak**, which is **orange with a lower mandible** that is **much longer than the upper one**.
- This special beak **helps the bird skim across the surface of the water to catch** small fish and aquatic creatures.
- The bird's wings are long and angular, designed for fast, precise flight.

Conservation status:

- IUCN: Endangered
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