

### NATIONAL CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION (NCDRC)

In the past three and-half months, consumer commissions across the country have disposed of 68,587 cases, bringing down pendency by nearly 11%.



#### About:

- **Status:** It is a quasi-judicial commission.
- **Origin:** It was set up in 1988 under the Consumer Protection Act of 1986.
- **Head Office:** New Delhi.
- **Governance:** It is headed by a sitting or retired judge of the Supreme Court of India.
- **Powers:** Under Section 21 of Consumer Protection Act, 1986, NCDRC will have jurisdiction to entertain a complaint valued more than one crore.
- **Appeal:** Any person aggrieved by an order of NCDRC, may Appeal against such order to Supreme Court of India within a period of 30 days.

### 'SECURE HIMALAYA' PROJECT

The Union Environment ministry in association with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been implementing 'Secure Himalaya' project to conserve the habitats of snow leopards.



#### About:

- The 'Secure Himalaya' project is funded by the Global Environment Facility.
- It supports the government's efforts for conservation of snow leopard and its habitat by developing and implementing a landscape-based approach for Himalayan ecosystems, and addresses key issues of habitat degradation, threatened livelihoods and illegal trade in wildlife.
- It was launched in 2017.

## Components:

- **Conservation of key biodiversity areas and their effective management** to secure long-term ecosystem resilience, habitat connectivity and conservation of snow leopard and other endangered species.
- **Securing sustainable community livelihoods** and natural resource management in high range Himalayan ecosystems.
- **Enhancing enforcement, monitoring and cooperation** to reduce wildlife crime and related threats.
- **Gender Mainstreaming, Monitoring**, evaluation and knowledge management.

## Project Landscapes:

- Changthang, Ladakh Landscape, Jammu & Kashmir
- Lahaul-Pangi and Kinnaur Landscapes,
- Gangotri-Govind and Darma-Byans Landscapes,
- Khangchendzonga-upper Teesta Valley.

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## STARING AT POPULATION DECLINE, XI VOWS POLICY TO BOOST BIRTH RATE

### In News:

- The 20<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) began recently in Beijing.
- The weeklong national congress is an important event in Chinese politics as it defines the political-institutional character of the CCP due to its monopoly of Chinese politics.

### Chinese Communist Party (CCP)

- CCP is the founding and ruling political party of modern China, officially known as the People's Republic of China.
  - It has maintained a political monopoly since Mao Zedong founded the People's Republic in 1949.
- China is a **one-party state** which is governed by the CCP.
- The party's general secretary tends to be the paramount leader of the country.

## Why this year's congress is unusual?

- Former leader Deng Xiaoping had left the legacy that CCP general secretaries would step down after serving two five-year terms.
- However, this time, Xi Jinping is flouting this unwritten rule and is set to get a third term.
- Xi Jinping has also flouted a convention that has been followed since 2002. As per this convention, a person cannot be reappointed at age 68 years or older.
- Xi Jinping is 69 years old and is being treated as the general secretary.

## Governance structure in China

- While the Central Committee, Politburo, and Standing Committee generally give broad policy direction, actual governance of China can be quite decentralized.
- Chinese provinces enjoy significant autonomy, and sub-provincial officials and leaders, appointed by the central government, have much control over local governance.
- China's military, the People's Liberation Army (PLA), is technically the armed wing of the CCP.
  - Its main objectives include protecting the party's rule and defending the party's interests.
  - As per analysts, the CCP sees the PLA as a practical instrument of its statecraft with an active role in advancing the China's foreign policy.
- The CCP's Central Military Commission, currently headed by Xi, oversees both the PLA and the People's Armed Police, which primarily focuses on internal security.

## News Summary

- The 20<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) started with the address of Chinese President Xi Jinping.
- He called for faster military development and announced no change in policies that have strained relations with Washington and tightened the ruling Communist Party's control over society and the economy.
- He repeatedly invoked his slogan of the “**rejuvenation of the Chinese nation**,” which includes reviving the party's role as economic and social leader.

## INDIAN BISONS

Sri Lanka recently asks India to translocate 6 Indian bisons or gaurs to reintroduce them in the island after three centuries.



### About:

Indian Bisons are one of the largest extant bovines. It is one of the largest species among the wild cattle, reaching a shoulder height of up to 220 cm.

- **Habitat:**

- They are found on the forested hills and grassy areas of south to south east Asia.

- **Distribution:**

- There are about 13,000 to 30,000 gaurs in the world with approximately 85% of the population present in India. It is also found in Burma and Thailand.
- The Western Ghats in southern India constitute one of the most extensive extant strongholds of gaur, in particular in the **Wayanad – Nagarhole – Mudumalai – Bandipur complex**.
- The first-ever population estimation exercise of the Indian gaur carried out in the **Nilgiris Forest Division in February 2020** estimated around 2,000 Indian gaurs to be inhabiting the division.
- The gaur is the **State Animal of Goa and Bihar**.

- **Conservation:**

- It is a protected species and included in **Schedule I of the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972**
- Listed as “**vulnerable**” in the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List**.
- It is listed in **CITES Appendix I**.

### Wildlife or Zoological Diplomacy

- It means the translocation and reintroduction of a species, particularly between neighbouring countries with similar eco-systems. It is considered as a potent tool in engaging different nations.

### Examples:

- Recently India translocated cheetahs from Namibia.
  - American bison herds were supplemented with animals from Canada after the U.S. herds were almost all wiped out.
  - The U.K. has recently introduced the European bison (Wisent) after an estimated 10,000 years in June 2022.
  - Israel has for decades pursued reintroductions, including of Persian fallow deer. Arabian oryx and other species have been released into the Negev desert.
  - South Africa has recently used the export of cheetahs to other African countries as a diplomatic tool during the post-apartheid era.
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## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF RURAL WOMEN

**International Day of Rural Women is celebrated on 15 October every year.**



### **About:**

- It focuses on gender equality and women empowerment in rural areas.
- It is to celebrate and highlight their achievements and contributions towards rural development and agriculture.
- The theme for International Day of Rural Women 2022 is "Rural Women, key for a world free from hunger and poverty".

### **History:**

- In the year 1995, the **Fourth World Conference on Women was conducted in Beijing, China**, and the main topic of discussion was the empowerment of women.
  - It was when the UN suggested that 15 October could be observed as International Day of Rural Women to appreciate the contribution of rural women in agriculture, food production, and food safety.
  - It was on 18 December 2007 when the UN **declared that October 15** would be observed annually as International Day of Rural Women worldwide.
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## BHASHA KENDRAS

The government has decided to set up language centres to prepare study material and courses for each of the 22 languages in the eighth schedule of the Constitution.

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गुजराती తెలుగు లిపి മലയാളം  
ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଭାଷା বাংলা  
ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತ  
விக்சிப்பீடியா ു അസ്മീ

**About:**  
The centres, called bhasha kendras, will be established under the Union ministry of education's Indian Knowledge System (IKS) initiative.

- These language centres will be in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, that emphasises on promoting regional languages.
- The centres will be given three broad responsibilities.
  - **First**, they will prepare small booklets of 100-200 pages of the IKS-related literature and manuscripts available in their designated languages.
  - The centres will also be translating these works into Sanskrit and English.
  - **Second**, these centres will be to enrich their designated Indian languages with modern science and social models.
  - They will be asked to translate 1,000 pages of material in other languages into their designated language.
  - **Third**, they will develop courses at the undergraduate level.

## 'MOCK' MEAT

Recently meat and seafood retailer Licious forayed into the marketing of “mock” chicken and mutton under a new ‘UnCrave’ brand.



**About:**

**Plant-based meat & dairy**

- “Plant-based” refers to products that bio-mimic or replicate meat, seafood, eggs, and milk derived from animals — by looking,



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smelling, and tasting like them.

- Plant-based dairy products include ice-cream that isn't simply frozen dessert that replaces milk fat with vegetable oil.
- Even the proteins and other solids-not-fat ingredients are sourced from plants.
- As for plant-based dairy, the main products are milk from oats, almond, soyabean, coconut, and rice. Among these, oat milk is considered the closest to regular milk in taste and texture.

## How are these made?

- Animal meat contains protein, fat, vitamins, minerals, and water, just like plants.
- This biochemical similarity allows for finding analogues in the plant kingdom or making them through mechanical, chemical, or biological treatment of such ingredients.
- The challenge lies in replicating muscle tissue that plants don't have. The unique spatial arrangement of proteins in these tissues is what creates the distinct texture of animal meat.
- That's why plant-based mutton samosas, kebabs or keema, having a simpler texture, are easier to make than larger whole cuts of animal meat.

