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Current Affairs - 08 November 2025

SC ORDERS RELOCATION OF STRAY DOGS FROM PUBLIC PREMISES

- The Central Government notified the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023 under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, replacing the earlier ABC (Dog) Rules, 2001.
- These Rules incorporate the directions of the Supreme Court in Animal Welfare Board of India vs. People for Elimination of Stray Troubles, which clearly stated that relocation of dogs is not permitted.
- **Role of Local Bodies**
 - Implementation of the ABC programme for sterilisation and immunisation of stray dogs is the responsibility of municipal bodies, corporations, and panchayats.
 - They must ensure humane treatment and avoid cruelty during the process.
 - Effective implementation will help reduce stray dog population and address animal welfare concerns.
- **Role of Recognised Organisations**
 - The ABC programme must be carried out only by organisations recognised by the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) for this specific purpose.
 - A list of approved organisations is to be published and regularly updated on the AWBI website.
 - Unrecognised entities are not permitted to conduct ABC operations.
- **Central and State Coordination**
 - The Central Government has issued directives to all State Chief Secretaries and Principal Secretaries of Animal Husbandry and Urban Development Departments to ensure uniform implementation.
 - Local bodies are instructed to strictly follow the Rules and implement them in letter and spirit.

Supreme Court's Comprehensive Order on Stray Animal Menace

- **Removal of Stray Dogs from Public Institutions**



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- The Court directed that all stray dogs be removed from educational institutions, hospitals, railway stations, and similar public premises.
 - They must be relocated to designated shelters after sterilisation and vaccination, and not released back to the same areas.
 - **Mandatory Anti-Rabies Measures**
 - All government and private hospitals are required to maintain **adequate stocks of anti-rabies vaccines and immunoglobulin** at all times to ensure immediate treatment for bite victims.
 - **Awareness in Educational Institutions**
 - The Ministry of Education must instruct schools and colleges to conduct awareness sessions for students and staff on safe behaviour around animals, first-aid for bites, and immediate reporting procedures.
 - **Appointment of Nodal Officers**
 - Each institution covered under the order must designate a nodal officer to ensure cleanliness, prevent stray dog entry, and maintain hygiene within the premises.
 - **Securing Institutional Premises**
 - Administrative heads of institutions must ensure adequate fencing, boundary walls, and gates to prevent the entry of stray dogs and other animals into their premises.
 - **Removal of Cattle from Highways**
 - Authorities have been ordered to clear all stray cattle and animals from state and national highways, as well as expressways, and relocate them to designated shelters.
 - **Dedicated Highway Patrol and Helplines**
 - Governments must form dedicated patrol teams or use existing road-safety units for continuous monitoring.
 - Helpline numbers should be prominently displayed along highways and expressways to allow commuters to report stray animals or related accidents.
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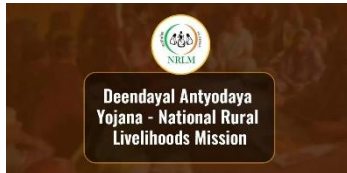
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DEENDAYAL ANTYODAYA YOJANA - NATIONAL RURAL LIVELIHOODS MISSION



- It is a **flagship poverty alleviation** program implemented by the **Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India**
- It aims at **mobilizing rural poor households into Self Help Groups (SHGs)** and continuously nurturing and supporting them to **take economic activities** till they attain an appreciable increase in income over a period of time to come out of abject poverty.
- **Objectives of DAY-NRLM:**
 - Access to formal credit;
 - Support for diversification and strengthening of livelihoods; and
 - Access to entitlements and public services.
- **Background of DAY-NRLM:**
 - **National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)** was **launched in 2010** by restructuring the erstwhile Swarnajayanti Grameen Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY).
 - **In 2016**, it was renamed Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAYNRLM).
- **Funding:** The central and state governments jointly fund this **centrally sponsored scheme**.
- The Mission seeks to achieve its objective through investing in **four core components:**
 - **Social mobilization** and promotion and strengthening of self-managed and financially sustainable community institutions of the rural poor women;
 - Financial inclusion;
 - Sustainable livelihoods; and
 - **Social inclusion**, social development and access to entitlements through convergence.



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MELANIN

Melanin



- Melanin is a **natural pigment** found in **most living organisms**. It is present in human and animal skin to varying degrees, and is responsible for **your unique eye, hair and skin color**.

- Melanin is produced within **special structures called melanosomes**. Melanosomes are found inside **melanin-producing pigment cells** called
- **Types of Melanin**
 - **Eumelanin:** It is responsible for **brown and black shades** of hair, skin, and eyes.
 - **Pheomelanin:** It produces **red or yellow hues** — more common in people with red hair or lighter skin.
 - **Neuromelanin:** It is found in the brain, and develops from **the oxidation of dopamine** (a feel good chemical) and **noradrenaline** (a fight-or-flight hormone).
- **Melanin-Related Skin Conditions**
 - **Vitiligo:** It is a condition where the **skin loses its pigment-producing cells**, leading to white patches.
 - **Albinism:** It is a **genetic mutation** that prevents melanin production, resulting in pale skin, hair, and eyes.
 - **Hyperpigmentation:** Excess melanin causes darker spots or patches, often due to sun exposure or hormones.
- **Role of Melanin:**
 - **Biological Shield:** It acts as a **biological shield**, absorbing harmful ultraviolet rays and thereby protecting the skin from potential skin cancers like **melanoma**, and various carcinomas
 - **Camouflage and Survival:** It helps animals to blend in with their **environment via camouflage**. This ability is very crucial for both **predator and prey**.
 - **Thermoregulation:** It also **helps in thermoregulation**, controlling heat loss and generation through mechanisms like sweating.



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WHAT IS BATTEN DISEASE?



- It is a very rare genetic disorder that affects the brain and nervous system.
- Batten disease is a **congenital, progressive, and terminal neurological disease**.
- Symptoms sometimes begin in infancy and sometimes later in childhood, after apparently normal early development.
- Occasionally it may start in adulthood.
- In individuals suffering from Batten disease, **nervous system function steadily declines**, causing a wide variety of **neurologic problems**, including **loss of vision and seizures**.
- The **life expectancy of a child** born with Batten disease can vary, depending on the form of the disease and the age of onset.
- Some children die in early childhood, while others may be able to live into their teens or twenties.

What Causes Batten Disease?

- Batten disease is actually a **family of related disorders also known as neuronal ceroid lipofuscinoses**.
- It can be caused by **genetic mutations in any of more than a dozen known genes**, collectively referred to as **CLN genes (CLN1, CLN2, etc)**.
- There are 13 known forms of Batten disease (CLN1 through CLN14).
- Each form is classified by the specific version of the CLN (ceroid lipofuscinosis, neuronal) gene that causes it, with each numbered subtype referring to a different gene that causes its own respective form of the disease.
- The **most common type of Batten disease is CLN3**.



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Symptoms:

- Most forms of Batten disease cause **vision loss, seizures, delayed developmental milestones, behavioral and learning problems, and loss of language and motor skills.**
 - Some children with infantile Batten disease also develop **microcephaly.**
 - **Vision loss is often the first symptom** and can rapidly progress.
 - Parents also often notice **clumsiness and stumbling in older children due to a loss of motor coordination.**
 - **Eventually, children with Batten disease become blind, unable to walk, talk, or swallow, and confined to a wheelchair or bed.**
 - **Treatment:**
 - Currently, there is **no treatment** to reverse the effects of Batten disease.
 - But some **medications can help improve symptoms like seizure**
 - Some people with Batten disease get physical or occupational therapy to help them function.
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REALCRAFT PORTAL



- The **Registration And Licensing of Fishing Craft (ReALCRAFT)** portal is developed as a **national online platform** under open source technology.
- It is developed by the Department of Fisheries, **Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying**
- It provides **web-based, citizen-centric services** to marine fishers and coastal States/UTs for the **registration and licensing of fishing vessels**, transfer of ownership, and related processes, thereby promoting ease of doing business.



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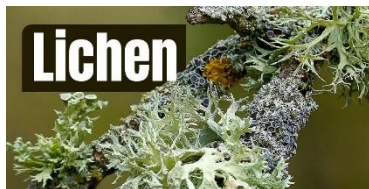
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Objectives: To develop a **modern, comprehensive and transparent vessel data management system** in the country with the aim to enhance security features and to bring efficiency, transparency, accountability and reliability in services.

Features of ReALCRaft Portal:

- Integration with state-specific payment gateway (Bank /treasury),
 - Integration with security agencies to record the movements and track the vessels.
 - Upstream integration with insurance agencies, subsidy schemes for eDBT.
 - **Integration with ISRO facilitates** real-time communication with fishermen at sea.
 - Integration & data sharing with Govt. Agencies/ Security Agencies
 - It is also being **integrated with Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)** and the **Export Inspection Council (EIC)** for issuance of Fish Catch and Health Certificates.
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WHAT IS A LICHEN?



- The newly identified species – **Parmotrema sahyadricum** (discovered from **Wayanad**), **Solenopsora rhizomorpha** (from **Eravikulam** and **Mathikettanshola National Parks**), **Buelloa ghattensis** (**Mathikettanshola National Park**) and **Pyxine janakiae** (**Mathikettanshola National Park**) – have been published in international scientific journals.

- The work that started in 2022 resulted in these discoveries.
- The team also recorded more than 50 species of lichens, which are new reports to the Kerala part of the Western Ghats.



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About Lichen:

- A lichen is a **symbiosis** between different organisms — a **fungus** and an **algae** or **cyanobacterium**.
- The basis of their relationship is the **mutual benefit** that they provide each other.
- The **photosynthetic algae** or **cyanobacteria** form **simple carbohydrates** that, when excreted, are **absorbed by fungi cells** and **transformed into a different carbohydrate**.
- They **also produce vitamins** that the fungi need.
- **Fungi** contribute to the symbiosis by **absorbing water vapour from the air** and by **providing much-needed shade for the light-sensitive algae** beneath.
- The **composite body** of a lichen is called a **thallus** (plural thalli); the body is **anchored to its substrate by hairlike growths** called **rhizines**.
- Lichens are **found worldwide** and occur in a variety of environmental conditions.
- A diverse group of organisms, they **can colonize a wide range of surfaces** and are frequently **found on tree bark, exposed rock, and as a part of biological soil crust**.

Benefits that Lichen Give to Nature:

- They are a **keystone species** in many ecosystems.
- They serve as a **food source and habitat** for many animals, such as deer, birds, and rodents.
- They provide **nesting materials** for birds.
- They **protect trees and rocks from extreme elements** such as rain, wind, and snow.

Pioneers of colonization:

- Lichens are considered as **primary colonisers**.
 - These **invade bare areas and contribute to soil formation** by breaking down rock minerals both physically and chemically and thus creating conditions for other species such as mosses and liverworts to follow.
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NUGU WILDLIFE SANCTUARY



- It is situated in the Mysuru district, **Karnataka**.
- It lies **north of Bandipur National Park**.
- It covers about 30 sq.km., and the **northern part** of the sanctuary is **occupied by the Nugu Reservoir**.
 - **Nugu Dam** is built across the **Nugu River, a tributary of the Cauvery**.
- In the year 1974, Nugu was declared as a Wildlife Sanctuary, and later, during the year 2003-2004, the area of Nugu Wildlife Sanctuary was added to the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.
- **Rainfall:** The area receives rainfall from both southwest and northeast monsoons. The average amount of rainfall received in this area is 1000 mm.
- **Vegetation:** Most of the vegetation in the forests is **dry deciduous interspersed with patches of plantations**.
- **Flora:** Some of the tree species found in this region include **Dipterocarpus indicus, Calophyllum tomentosum, and Hopea parviflora**.

Fauna:

- The sanctuary supports a diverse range of fauna, including **elephants, tigers, leopards, wild dogs, striped hyenas, sloth bears, gaurs, sambhars, chitals, and four-horned antelopes**.
 - It is also home to two important **riverine wildlife species: the smooth-coated otter and the marsh crocodile**, emphasizing its rich biodiversity.
 - The area is also rich in **avifauna** with birds like **peafowl, India rind dove, Grey Jungle Fowl, Brahminy kite, Grey headed fish eagle, etc.**
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