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Daily News Discussion (DND)

6th July 2021

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Note -

- The Newspaper clippings pasted in PDF are important from Mains point of view as it contains the fodder material for Mains Answer Writing.
- Also watch DND video lectures everyday @ 4 PM on Sleepy's YouTube channel in order to understand how to get the most out of everyday's Newspaper .

Click [here](#) to watch the following topics on YouTube

1. Environment

1.1. Albino palm civet

- Colour variation in pelage (coat) of common palm civet, caught in the cameras at Satkosia Tiger Reserve

About

- The common palm civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphrodites*) has made a comeback in Odisha after 129 years
- Partial albino common palm civet, Saliapatani, was last sighted in 1891

Common palm civet

- Can be found in **southern and southeastern Asia**.
- Their long, stocky body is **covered with coarse, shaggy hair that is usually grey in colour**.
- It is thought to lead a **solitary lifestyle**, except for brief periods during mating.
- It is both **terrestrial and arboreal**, and shows a nocturnal activity pattern

Albinism

- is a **hypo-pigmentary disorder** with a total lack of both melanins in hair, eyes and skin due to the heritable **absence of functional tyrosinase** enzyme in pigment cells affecting skin and hair.
- This resulting in a total white plumage / fur with red eyes.
- Albinism is **controlled via inheritance by an autosomal recessive gene** in all animal species
- While it is known that the aberration is due to genetic mutations affecting the melanin metabolic pathway, the exact mutation responsible cannot be confirmed by limited visual observations of phenotype in wild individuals



Asian palm civet range: native in green, introduced in red

Asian palm civet

- The **Asian palm civet** (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*, common palm civet, toddy cat, musang) - native to **South and Southeast Asia**.

- **IUCN Status** - Least Concern

- The area was declared as Satkosia Tiger Reserve in 2007, comprising two adjoining wildlife sanctuaries; the Satkosia Gorge sanctuary and Baisipalli sanctuary.
- The area is also a part of the Mahanadi elephant reserve. Satkosia is the meeting point of two bio-geographic regions of India; the Deccan Peninsula and the Eastern Ghats.
- Satkosia spreads along the magnificent gorge over the mighty river Mahanadi in Odisha.
 - ✓ The area supports **moist deciduous forest, dry deciduous forest and moist peninsular Sal forest.**
 - ✓ This area is the home for Tiger, Leopard, Elephant, Gaur, Chousingha, Sloth bear, Wild dog, varieties of resident and migratory birds, reptilian species, etc.
 - ✓ Crocodile Conservation:
 - ❖ In March 1974, the **Forest Department of the Government of Orissa** with technical support from the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** started a breeding programme of crocodiles.
 - ✓ In **March 1975**, the **Gharial Research and Conservation Unit (GRACU)** was started, which has done pioneering work in **crocodile conservation** in India.

Satkosia Tiger Reserve (Source-odisha govt)

- The area was declared as Satkosia Tiger Reserve in 2007, comprising two adjoining wildlife sanctuaries; the **Satkosia Gorge sanctuary and Baisipalli sanctuary**
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- Satkosia is the meeting point of two **bio-geographic regions of India**; the **Deccan Peninsula and the Eastern Ghats**
- Satkosia spreads along the magnificent gorge over the mighty **river Mahanadi in Odisha.**
- The area supports **moist deciduous forest, dry deciduous forest and moist peninsular Sal forest.**
- This area is the home for **Tiger, Leopard, Elephant, Gaur, Chousingha, Sloth bear, Wild dog**, varieties of resident and migratory birds etc.

Conservation of Crocodile

- **Breeding programme of crocodiles-** By Forest Department of the Government of Orissa + UNDP+FAO in 1974
- Gharial Research and Conservation Unit started in 1975

1.2.Cities along rivers urged to include conservation plans

- Cities situated on river banks will have to incorporate river conservation plans when they prepare their Master Plans, says a **policy document from the National Mission for Clean Ganga**

Key points of document

- **River-sensitive plans** must be practical and consider questions of encroachment and land ownership.
- Planners should make every attempt to engage with such entities during the preparation of the Master Plan in order to **develop empathetic and humane solutions**

- The recommendations are **currently for towns that are on the main stem of the the Ganga**. There are, as per the estimate of the policy document, 97 of them encompassing five States – Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal.
- The plan must also **clarify on land ownership**.
- Create **green buffers**, removing concrete structures and employing green infrastructure
- However, implementing such solutions will require **restrictions on the Floor Area Ratio, ground coverage** and setting limits on the maximum permissible heights of buildings.
- Ascertaining the **land ownership in these areas is, therefore, important to avoid legal complications** while the Plan is being implemented
- The Master Plan **should not mandate specific technologies**, but it can “**create an environment**” for **facilitating** the use of state-of-the-art technologies for river management.
- These include **satellite-based monitoring of water quality; artificial intelligence for riverine biodiversity mapping; big data and citizen science for river-health monitoring;** and unmanned aerial vehicles for floodplain mapping. These were being used across the world successfully.
- Cities with an **ongoing Master Plan tenure ought to be conducting an “immediate analysis”** of the extent to which these the river guidelines could have been **adopted and this will help in incorporating the appropriate revisions** when the current plan is reviewed.

National mission for clean Ganga

- It is the implementation wing of **National Ganga Council** (set in 2016; which replaced the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NRGBA)).

2. Science & Technology

2.1. Facial recognition technology

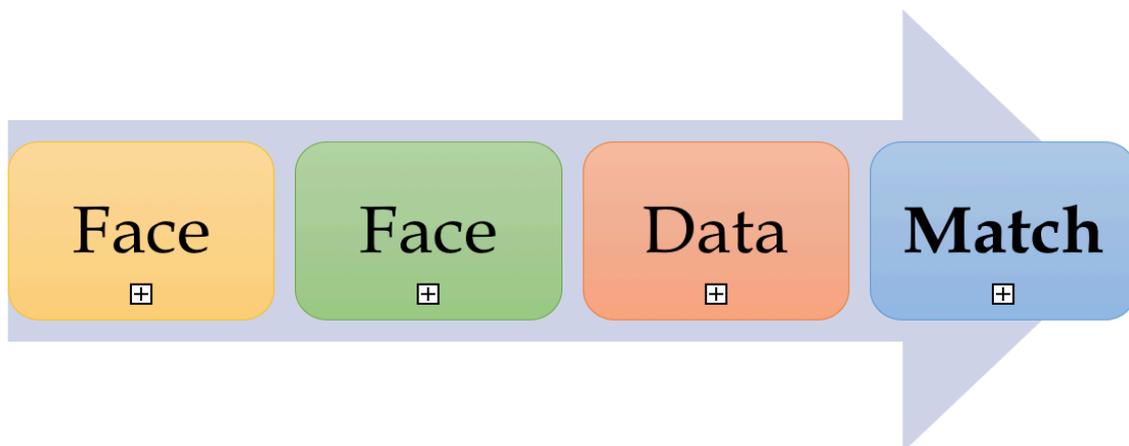
- Facial recognition used to verify job beneficiaries: govt.
- ✓ **Facial recognition authentication** is used as one of the methods for Aadhaar authentication for online verification of beneficiary prior to **COVID-19 vaccination** wherein facial template is captured and sent to UIDAI for verification of image of beneficiary

Issues

- Even though the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) admitted in a recent RTI query response to the use of facial recognition technology (FRT) for online verification of beneficiaries at vaccination centres, it **failed to provide any legislative or legal order that authorised the use of such technology.**
- **No privacy impact assessment** of the use of FRT was conducted prior to its deployment
- Use of FRT for verification of the beneficiaries' data would be according to the terms furnished in the '**Verifier & Vaccinator Module User Manual**' included in the **CoWin portal.**
- However, the **manual was not available on the CoWin portal** or any open source webpage
- Government was also **unable to provide any information** related to the accuracy of the FRT used

Facial recognition technology

- Facial recognition is a way of identifying or confirming an individual's identity using their face.
- Facial recognition systems can be used to identify people in photos, videos, or in real-time
- Facial recognition is a category of biometric security



Past News

Automated Facial Recognition System (AFRS)

- **Mobile and web application hosted in NCRB's** (which manages data for police) data centre in Delhi but used by all police stations in the country.
- It works by **comparing the new image of an unidentified person often taken from CCTV footage with the existing database** (AFRS maintains a database with photos and videos of peoples faces) to find a match and identify the person.

Integration of AFRS

- **Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS):** managed by NCRB
- Integrated Criminal Justice System (ICJS)
- **Khoya Paya Portal**-citizen based website to exchange information on missing and found children developed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY).

FRS in airports

- Facial recognition systems have been made active at several major Indian airports, including Delhi airport, installed under **DigiYatra Initiative**.

FRP in election

- **Telangana's Election Commission** recently piloted a facial recognition app in its civic elections to address the issue of voter impersonation.

Full year Current Affairs Revision through MCQs

Economy – Day 2

1. Consider the following statements in context to National food security act 2013 (NFSA)

1. Under the act National food commission was formed monitoring and implementation of scheme at state level.
2. Rural and urban coverage under the NFSA is 75%
3. 6-14 aged children entitled to one free hot meal or 'take home rations' in Govt schools

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 3 only
- D. All of the above

2. Purchasing manager's index (PMI) is an indicator of business activity- in the manufacturing and services sectors. If the value of PMI is above 50 , it represents :

- A. An expansion in economy when compared to the previous month
- B. An expansion in economy when compared to the previous year
- C. Contraction in economy when compared to the previous month
- D. Contraction in economy when compared to the previous year



3. Which among the following is/are initiative of Ministry of power

1. Saubhagya
2. Deen Dayal Gram Jyoti Yojana
3. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana
4. UJALA

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. All of the above

4. Consider the following pairs

1. Marginal Farmers < 2 hectare
2. Small Farmers 2 - 4 hectare
3. Medium Farmers 4 - 10 hectare
4. Large hectare > 10 hectare

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 4 only
- B. 2, 3 and 4 only
- C. 3 and 4 only
- D. All of the above

5. Recently ASEEM portal seen in news, related to:

- A. Employment generation
- B. Environment protection
- C. Online education material
- D. Energy efficiency

3. Economy

3.1. Project BOLD

- Recently, the **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** launched a project named **Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Drought (BOLD)** from the village **Nichla Mandwa in Udaipur, Rajasthan**

Project BOLD

- Seeks to create bamboo-based green patches in arid and semi-arid land zones
- It is aligned with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's call for reducing **land degradation and preventing desertification** in the country.
- The initiative has been launched as **part of KVIC's "Khadi Bamboo Festival"** to celebrate 75 years of independence "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav".
- KVIC is set to **replicate the Project at Village Dholera in Ahmedabad district in Gujarat and Leh-Ladakh region** by August this year.
- Total 15,000 bamboo saplings will be planted before August 21.

Bamboo

- It is a type of grass and grows from its roots, when it is cut it quickly grows back with most species maturing in 3-5 years.

Properties

- It is grown without pesticides or chemical fertilisers
- It requires no irrigation
- It rarely needs replanting
- It grows rapidly and can be harvested in 3-5 years
- It produces 35% more oxygen than an equivalent stand of trees
- It sequesters carbon dioxide and is carbon neutral
- It is a critical element in the balance of oxygen and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere
- It is an excellent soil erosion inhibitor
- It grows in a wide range of environments
- Its production into fibres has lower environmental impact than other forms of fibre, especially synthetic ones

Uses

- Houses, schools and other buildings
- Roads and bridges
- Medicines

✓ In China, ingredients from the black bamboo shoot help treat kidney diseases.



✓ Roots and leaves have also been used to treat venereal diseases and cancer.

- According to reports in a small village in Indonesia, water from the culm (the side branches) is used to treat diseases of the bone effectively

- Clothes

✓ It's the new hemp, it can be made into a strong and durable fabric a bit like canvas and can be made into all sorts of clothes

- Food

✓ Shoots are used mainly in Asian food preparations.

✓ In Japan, the antioxidant properties of the bamboo skin prevent bacterial growth, and are used as natural food preservatives

- Fuel

✓ Charcoal made from this amazing plant has been used for centuries as cooking fuel in China and Japan.

✓ The Bamboo vinegar or pyroligneous acid is extracted when making charcoal and is used for hundreds of treatments in almost all fields

- Paper

✓ Pulps are mainly produced in China, Myanmar, Thailand and India, and are used in printing and writing papers.

Past News

Amendment to Section 2(7) of Indian Forest Act, 1927

- It omits bamboo (taxonomically a grass) grown in **non-forest areas** from definition of trees
- The omission, thereby **exempts it from requiring permits** for felling or transportation of bamboo grown in non-forest areas.
- However, **bamboo grown in forest areas** continues to be governed by provisions of Indian Forest Act.
- By omitting bamboo grown in non-forest areas from definition of trees, government hoped to **promote cultivation of bamboo in non-forest areas to achieve the “twin objectives”** of increasing the income of farmers and also increasing the green cover of the country.

About Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC)

- **Statutory body** established by an Act of Parliament (Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act of 1956).
- In April 1957, it took over the work of former All India Khadi and Village Industries Board.

Functions

- An apex organization under the Ministry of **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises**, with regard to khadi and village industries within India, which seeks to –

- Plan, promote, facilitate, organise and assist in the establishment and development of khadi and village industries in the rural areas in coordination with other agencies engaged in rural development wherever necessary.

3.2. New norms for independent directors

- Recently **Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi)** has approved stricter norms related to appointment of **independent directors** and decided to introduce a **framework for accredited investors**.
- The new norms will be effective from **1st January, 2022**.

Independent Directors	Accredited Investors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Can be appointed only through a special resolution passed by shareholders. (75% votes in favour) ● Nomination and remuneration committee of the board of directors (decides on appointments and compensation) and the audit committee should have two-thirds independent directors ● Cooling period-One-year for an independent director transitioning to a whole-time director in the same company/holding/subsidiary/associate company or any company belonging to the promoter group. ● Listed company will be required to disclose the resignation letter of an independent director ● All related party transactions (between a company and its related entities) shall be approved by only independent directors on the audit committee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SEBI approved new category of wealthy, well-informed investors who will be allowed to invest in riskier products, not usually allowed to individuals. ● These entities (accredited investors) could be individuals, family trusts, proprietorships, etc.

Other norms

- Increased the **maximum reward** amount for an informant who blows the whistle on insider trading to Rs 10 crore from Rs 1 crore now.
- The regulator has also approved amendments to its mutual fund regulations which requires asset management companies (AMCs) to use more funds in riskier schemes (New funds).
- Currently, AMCs have to invest only 1% of the amount raised in a new fund offer, or Rs 50 lakh, whichever is lower

Significance

- It will help maintain the **interest of minority shareholders** in the corporate boardroom where their representation is minimal.
- This should hopefully result in **truly 'independent' independent directors** and not those with merely a semblance of independence.

Directors in a Company

- Directors refer to the part of the collective body known as the Board of Directors, that is responsible for controlling, managing and directing the affairs of a company

Minimum and Maximum number of directors in a company

- The law requires that every company must have
- At least **3 directors** in case of **public limited companies**
- Minimum **2 directors** in case of **private limited companies**
- Minimum **1 director** in case of **one-person companies**.
- A company can have a **maximum of 15 directors**.
- The company could **appoint more directors** by passing the special resolution in its general meeting
- Types
 - ✓ Residential Director
 - ✓ Independent Director
 - ✓ Small Shareholders Directors
 - ✓ Women Director
 - ✓ Additional Director
 - ✓ Alternate Director
 - ✓ Nominee Directors

4. Polity

4.1. Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University

- Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University has launched admissions for first batch

Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University

- Established in August 2020 by the Delhi government
- It plans to equip students with the skills to be job-ready by offering courses that are in sync with the needs of the industry.
- It has also been set up with a mandate to **support and nurture entrepreneurs and provide quality mentorship** to steer the entrepreneurial journeys of those interested by providing incubation and constant support so that they can **become job providers instead of job-seekers**
- It is accepting applications for **15 diploma, 18 undergraduate and 2 postgraduate courses, to be offered across 13 campuses in Delhi.**
- Flagship courses of the university **include e-commerce operations, data analytics, digital design and media, facilities and hygiene management, and medical laboratory technology.**

Qualifications

- Students enrolling for the UG programmes (except B.Tech.) are required to take an **interest profiling test developed by the university called the Personality, Entrepreneurial Mindset and General Ability Test**, to help them choose the course they are most suited for.
- The university shall also provide **multiple entry /exit options** as per NEP, 2019 in all the courses

Scholarships

- The university **will support all deserving students** through scholarships, freeships and financial assistance for getting loans and support from the Delhi government schemes for higher education.
- A total of **85% of the seats will be reserved for residents of Delhi.**

Mergers with other existing institutes

- The DSEU was **merged with already existing government institutes** and colleges such as GB Pant College of Engineering, 10 polytechnics of the Delhi government, six World Class Skill Centres and the Delhi Institute of Tool Engineering.

Significance

- To **fill the gap between people, who graduate with degrees but do not find jobs** and will have courses that provide the opportunity to students to earn a degree while learning a skill that will provide them employment.
- Courses have been developed understanding the **needs of the industry** in the current scenario by keeping in mind the skills, attributes and need of those looking to hire students looking to enter the job market.
- Courses will be **added and discontinued depending on demand** from the industry and students will be given internships and on-the-job training during the course.

- It will **empower the marginalised** and minority groups

4.2.NIPUN Bharat Programme

- Union Education Minister launches NIPUN Bharat Programme

NIPUN Bharat Programme

- NIPUN stands for “**National Initiative for Proficiency in reading with Understanding and Numeracy**”
- Set a goal that **by 2026-27, every Class 3 child** should be able to read with understanding at the rate of at least **60 words per minute**, be able to **read and write numbers up to 9,999** and solve simple multiplication problems.
- A **National Achievement Survey of Class 3 students** to be conducted this November will set a baseline to track future progress.
- Until grade 3, children are expected to ‘learn to read’ and acquire basic skills.
- Apart from reading with comprehension, a **child of 8 or 9 years should be able to write grammatically correct sentences**, and converse with clarity using suitable vocabulary in the home or school languages.
- Together with simple number problems and the ability to identify shapes, time and date, fractions, and measurements in real-life situations, these goals are collectively being called the **foundational literacy and numeracy skills every child should possess**

Stage-wise targets

- Similar stage-wise targets are being set in a continuum **from the pre- primary or balvatika classes**.
- The NIPUN Bharat strategy includes changes in curriculum and teaching methods to **more activity, art and story-telling, creation of print-rich materials and resources, teacher training** include, and stress-free assessment methods in order to reach these goals.
- NIPUN Bharat also emphasises **the importance of using a child’s mother tongue** in teaching, a principle of the National Education Policy 2020
- This initiative will be a part of school education programme, **Samagra Shiksha**.

4.3.Section 66A of IT Act

- The Supreme Court on Monday found it “distressing”, “shocking” and “terrible” that people were **still booked and tried under Section 66A** of the Information Technology (IT) Act even **six years after it struck down** the provision as unconstitutional and a violation of free speech.

Sec 66A of IT

- The IT Act, 2000 was amended in 2008. This amendment introduced the controversial Section 66A into the Act.
- Section 66A gave **authorities the power to arrest anyone accused of posting content on social media that could be deemed ‘offensive’**.
- This amendment was passed in the Parliament without any debate

- Section 66A had **prescribed three years' imprisonment** if a social media message caused "annoyance" or was found "grossly offensive".

Shreya Singhal vs Union of India Case

- The Supreme Court, however, in 2015, struck down this section of the IT Act saying it was **unconstitutional as it violated Article 19(1) (a)** of the Constitution.
- SC held that Sec 66A is unconstitutional and void on the ground that it was excessively **vague, open-ended and undefined**.
- It did not give clear direction, either to the users of internet or to the law **enforcement agencies** on what acts performed on internet would amount to defamation.
- Court held that vagueness of Sec 66A, took away the freedom of speech and the right to descent. It had a **intimidating effect** on free speech.

5. History

5.1. Sir Chettur Sankaran Nair

- Filmmaker Karan Johar recently announced his decision to produce the biopic of Sir Chettur Sankaran Nair

About Sir Chettur Sankaran Nair

- Nair was born in the year 1857 in Mankara village of Malabar's Palakkad district
- After completing his degree in Law, he was hired by Sir Horatio Shepherd who later became the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court.
- He **went against a resolution passed by Indian vakils (advocates)** of Madras stating that no Indian vakil would work as a junior to an English barrister.
- Nair firmly opposed this resolution on the principle that **no lawyer should be denied the right to choose a senior** that his client liked.
- His stance on the issue made him so unpopular that he was **boycotted by the other vakils, but he refused to let that bother him.**
- When the 1908 **Montague-Chelmsford reforms** were being discussed, he wrote an article in the Contemporary Review criticising the English jury for being partial towards Englishmen.
- when he was nominated to the **Madras Executive Council**, the Brahmin community in Madras wrote to the Viceroy asking him to not appoint him since he was anti-Brahmin.
- He was once **described by Edwin Montague**, the secretary of state for India as an '**impossible person**'
- In 1897 he became the **youngest president of the INC in the history of the party till then**, and the only Malayali to hold the post ever.
- By 1908 he was appointed as a **permanent judge in the Madras High Court.**
- In 1902 **Lord Curzon** appointed him a **member of the Raleigh University Commission.**
- In 1904 he was appointed as **Companion of the Indian Empire by the King-Emperor** and in 1912 he was knighted.
- In 1915 he became **part of the Viceroy's Council**, put in charge of the education portfolio.

Commitment to social reforms

- As a Madras High Court judge, his best-known judgments clearly indicate his commitment to social reforms.
- In **Budasna v Fatima (1914)**, he passed a radical judgement when he ruled that those who converted to Hinduism cannot be treated as outcastes.
- In a few other cases, he **upheld inter-caste and inter-religious marriages.**
- As a fervent freedom fighter, he firmly believed in India's **right for self- government.**

- In 1919, he **played an important role** in the expansion of provisions in the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms which introduced a **system of dyarchy in the provinces** and increased participation of Indians in the administration
- When the massacre of **Jallianwala Bagh** happened, he thought nothing about **resigning from the Viceroy's Council** in protest.
- Nair's resignation shook the British government.
- In the immediate aftermath, **press censorship in Punjab was lifted and martial law terminated**. Further, a committee was set up under Lord William Hunter to examine the disturbances in Punjab
- It was during this same period that Nair wrote '**Gandhi and Anarchy**', which was published in 1922.
- In the book, Nair spelt out his critique of Gandhi's methods, especially those of non-violence, civil disobedience and non-cooperation.
- He believed that any of **these movements was destined to lead to riots and bloodshed**.
- In the same book, he also **accused O'Dwyer for his coercive methods** that led to the death of hundreds of innocent men and women at Jallianwala Bagh.
- Thereafter, **O'Dwyer sued Nair for defamation in England**, with the expectation that an English court would side with him.
- As was well known, a large section of the English people did strongly believe that General Dyer's act at Jallianwala was justified and was in fact responsible for saving Britain's empire in India.
- **Nair had lost the case** and was held guilty for defaming O'Dwyer.
- He had to **pay £500 and expense of the trial** to the plaintiff.
- Though Nair had lost, the trial had a resounding impact on the British empire in India.
- At a time when the **nationalist movement was gaining momentum**, Indians saw in the judgement a **clear bias of the British government** and an effort to shield those who committed atrocities against their own people.
- The verdict was momentous in that it **strengthened the determination of the nationalists to fight for self-government**

Current affairs Worksheet (6th July 2021)

Factual sheet for Quick revision

Topic	Description	Update
Env	<p>Albino palm civet</p> <p>Satkosia Tiger Reserve</p> <p>National mission for clean ganga</p>	
S & T	<p>Facial recognition technology (Concept & app in india)</p>	
Economy	<p>Project BOLD</p> <p>Properties and importance of Bamboo</p> <p>Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC):</p> <p>Independent Directors and Accredited Investors</p>	
Polity	<p>Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University</p> <p>NIPUN Bharat Programme</p> <p>Section 66A of IT Act</p>	
History	<p>Sir Chettur Sankaran Nair</p>	