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# Daily News Discussion (DND)

8th 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. Black leopard/Melanistic leopard/Black panther

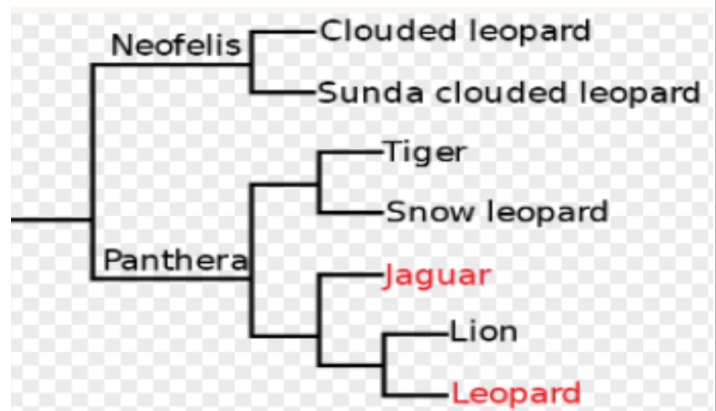
- A RARE melanistic leopard, popularly called **black leopard**, was spotted in the **Navegaon block of the Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve (NNTR)** in the Gondia district of Maharashtra.
- A **black panther** is the melanistic colour variant of the leopard (*Panthera pardus*) and the jaguar (*Panthera onca*).

### Basic information

- **Tiger** = *Panthera tigris*
- **Jaguar** = *Panthera onca*
- **Lion** = *Panthera leo*
- **Leopard** = *Panthera pardus* Snow leopard = *Panthera uncia*

### Reason behind black coloration

- Black coat coloration is attributed to the expression of **recessive alleles in leopards and dominant alleles in jaguars.**
- In each species, a certain combination of alleles stimulates the **production of large amounts of the dark pigment melanin**
- Other factors- Life stage , incident of light etc



### Distribution

- Mainly in **Southwestern China, Burma, Nepal, Southern India, Indonesia, and the southern part of Malaysia.**
- In India they can be spotted in the states of **Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra etc.**

Leopard ( <i>Panthera pardus</i> )	
<b>Status</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● IUCN- Vulnerable</li> <li>● CITES-I</li> <li>● WLP A-I</li> </ul>
<b>Status of leopards in India, 2018 Report (MoEFCC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2014 (8K) to 2018 (12852)- 60% inc</li> <li><b>Region wise</b></li> <li>● Central India and Eastern Ghats (8k) &gt; WG &gt; Shiwalik &amp; Gangetic plains &gt; NE hills</li> <li><b>State wise-</b></li> <li>● MP (3421) &gt; Krt &gt; Maha</li> <li><b>Concern-</b> Habitat decrease</li> </ul>
<b>Coverage of study</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Conducted only in tiger- populated forests areas under <b>Project Tiger</b></li> <li>● <b>Not conducted in</b> agricultural, non-forested areas like tea and coffee plantations, and in most parts of the North East</li> </ul>
<b>Techniques</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Satellite, Camera traps , Field (WII &amp; NTCA)</li> </ul>
<b>Threats</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Habitat loss , Human leopard conflict , poaching etc</li> </ul>

<b>clouded leopard (<i>Neofelis nebulosa</i>)</b>	
<b>Status</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IUCN- Vulnerable</li> <li>• CITES-I</li> <li>• WLP A-I</li> </ul>
<b>Study in 9 countries</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bhutan, Nepal, India, Peninsular Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar</li> <li>• <b>Only 9.44%</b> of the studied region was <b>'highly'</b> suitable</li> </ul>
<b>Habitat</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prefers <b>grassland, shrubs, subtropical and dense tropical forest up to a height of 7,000 feet</b> occurring from the <b>Himalayan foothills through mainland Southeast Asia into China.</b></li> </ul>
<b>India</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sikkim, northern West Bengal, Meghalaya subtropical forests, Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur, Assam, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.</li> <li>• <b>State animal of Meghalaya.</b></li> <li>• <b>Dampa TR (Mizoram)</b> had one of the highest population densities of clouded leopards</li> </ul>

<b>Snow Leopard (<i>Panthera uncia</i>)</b>		
<b>Status</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IUCN- Vulnerable</li> <li>• CITES-I</li> <li>• WLP A- I</li> </ul>	
<b>Habitat</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mountainous regions</b> of central and southern Asia</li> <li>• <b>India-</b> Himalayan region (Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.)</li> <li>• <b>Hemis-</b> Ladakh (Snow Leopard capital of the world)</li> <li>• <b>Hemis NP-</b> High presence of Snow Leopard.</li> </ul>	
<b>First Snow Leopard Survey (2019)-GOI</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey is yet to be launched. Several state governments have launched local surveys</li> <li>• <b>HP-73 snow leopards</b></li> <li>• WWF recently claimed that more than 70% of snow Leopard habitats are unexplored</li> </ul>	
<b>Conservation effort</b>	<b>GSLEP</b>	GSLEP is Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme. It was launched by <b>twelve snow leopard range countries</b> such as India, Nepal, China, Bhutan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan and Russia
	<b>SECURE Himalaya</b>	GEF & UNDP-conservation of high altitude biodiversity
	<b>Project Snow leopard-2009</b>	<b>To conserve high mountain snow leopard</b>

## 2. Geography

### 2.1. Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD)

- Ethiopia has started the second phase of filling a mega-dam's reservoir on the upper Blue Nile, said Egypt and Sudan, raising tensions ahead of an upcoming UN Security Council meeting on the issue.

Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD)- Africa's biggest dam project	
<b>About</b>	Construction started in 2011 by Ethiopia on the Blue Nile
<b>Ethiopia benefits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electricity generation-Industrial growth</li> <li>• Can export to electricity deficit neighbouring countries like Eritrea ,South Sudan, Kenya etc</li> </ul>
<b>Egypt concern</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Egypt lies downstream &amp; Ethiopia's control on water will increase</li> <li>• Nile provided 97% of its drinking water and irrigation supplies.</li> <li>• Issue of food security</li> </ul>
<b>Sudan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affect water level</li> <li>• Benefit from power generation</li> </ul>
<b>Nile</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historically been considered the longest river in the world though this has been contested by research suggesting that the <b>Amazon River is slightly longer</b></li> <li>• Its drainage basin covers eleven countries: <b>Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, South Sudan, Republic of the Sudan, and Egypt</b></li> </ul>
<b>Tributaries</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>White Nile</b> is considered to be the headwaters and primary stream of the Nile itself.</li> <li>• <b>Blue Nile</b>, however, is the source of most of the water, containing 80% of the water and silt.</li> <li>• <b>Red Nile</b>-Below the confluence with the Blue Nile the only major tributary is the Atbara River, also known as the Red Nile, roughly halfway to the sea, which originates in Ethiopia north of Lake Tana</li> <li>• <b>Yellow Nile</b> is a former tributary that connected the Ouaddai Highlands of eastern Chad to the Nile River</li> </ul>





## 3. Economy

### 3.1. Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) project

- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** recently issued orders appointing an **advisory committee for its Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)** project that is aimed at curbing “digital monopolies”

#### Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) project

- The ONDC aims at promoting open networks developed on open- sourced methodology, using open specifications and open network protocols, independent on any specific platform.
- The project has been tasked to the **Quality Council of India**.
- Several operational aspects including onboarding of sellers, vendor discovery, price discovery and product cataloguing could be made open source on the lines of Unified Payments Interface (UPI)

#### Meaning and significance

- Making a software or a process open-source means that the **code or the steps of that process is made available freely** for others to use, redistribute and modify it.
- For example, while the operating system of Apple’s iPhones – iOS – is closed source, meaning it cannot be legally modified.
- **Google’s Android operating system is open-source**, and therefore it is possible by smartphone OEMs such as Samsung, Xiaomi, OnePlus, etc to modify it for their hardware.
- **If the ONDC gets implemented and mandated**, it would mean that all **e-commerce companies will have to operate using the same processes**.
- This could give a **huge booster shot to smaller online retailers** and new entrants.

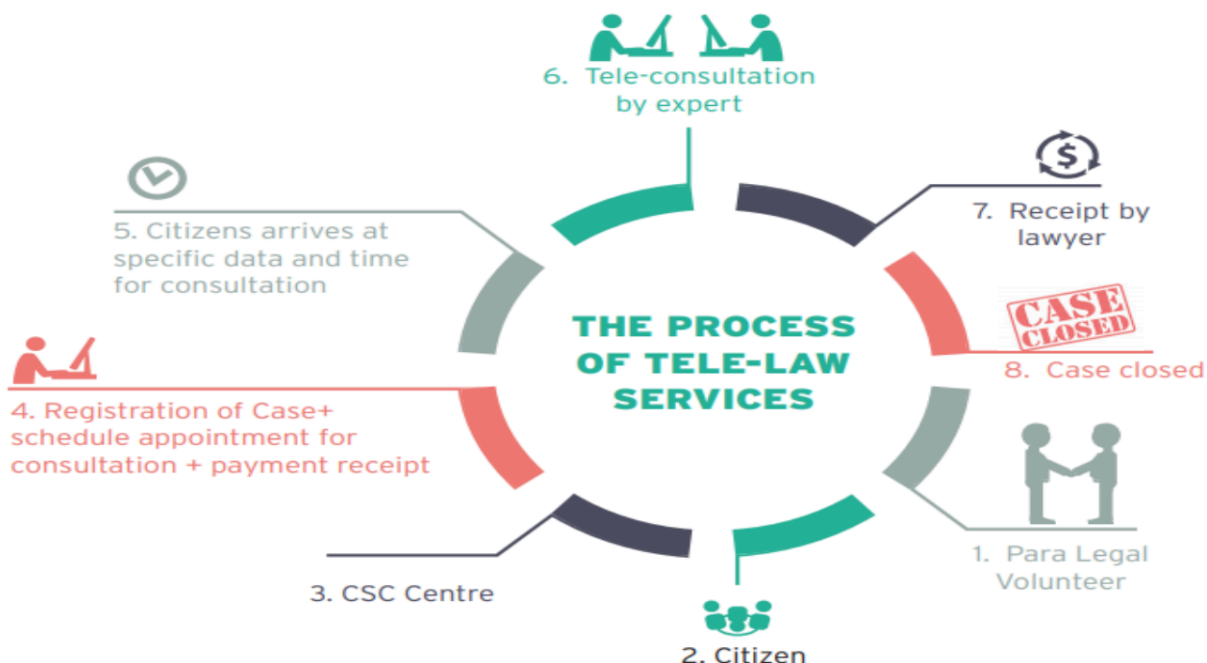
## 4. Polity

### 4.1. Tele-Law

- Justice Department commemorates the milestone of crossing **9 lakh beneficiaries** under its **Tele-Law programme**
- Tele-Law saw a **surge of 369% growth in number of beneficiaries** seeking legal advice during last one year

#### Tele-Law

- **Ministry of Electronics & IT** has partnered with the Department of Justice, under **Ministry of Law & Justice** to provide citizens living in rural areas, particularly the marginalized communities, access to tele- legal consultations through the network of CSCs
- Presently it is operating in **633 districts** (including 115 Aspirational Districts) across 34 States/UTs through a network of 50,000 CSCs.
- Under the Tele-law service, citizens can access legal advice through **Para- Legal Volunteers (PLV)** stationed at **CSCs**, who would connect them to a panel of lawyers through video conferencing facility.
- Tele Law service **enables anyone to seek legal advice** without wasting precious time and money.
- The service is **free** for those are eligible for free legal Aid as mentioned under **Section 12 of Legal Services Authority Act, 1987.**
- For all others a nominal fee of **INR 30 Rs** is charged.





## Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987

- The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) was constituted under the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987** which came into force on **9th November, 1995** to establish a nationwide uniform network for providing free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society

## Legal Services Institutions for providing Free Legal Services:

- **National Level** : National Legal Services Authority
- **State Level** : State Legal Services Authority. It is headed by the Chief Justice of the State High Court who is its Patron-in-Chief. A serving or retired Judge of the High Court is nominated as its Executive Chairman.
- **District Level** : District Legal Services Authority. The District Judge of the District is its ex-officio Chairman.
- **Taluka/ Sub-Division Level** : Taluka/ Sub-Divisional Legal Services Committee. It is headed by a senior Civil Judge.
- **High Court** : High Court Legal Services Committee
- **Supreme Court**: Supreme Court Legal Services Committee
- Every State Authority or District Authority or the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee or every High Court Legal Services Committee or, as the case may be, Taluk Legal Services Committee **may organise Lok Adalats** at such intervals and places and for exercising such jurisdiction and for such areas as it thinks fit

## WHO CAN AVAIL TELE-LAW SERVICE

- Marginalised communities like SC/ ST/ OBC, persons with disabilities
- Women
- Senior citizens
- Industrial workers
- Victims of trafficking and commercial and sexual exploitation
- Victims of acid attack
- Victims of drug abuse
- Victims of disaster, ethnic violence, caste atrocity, earthquake or industrial disaster
- Persons in custody
- Persons with low income

## Article 39 A

- It provides for free legal aid to the poor and weaker sections of the society, to promote justice on the basis of equal opportunity.
- **Article 14 and Article 22 (1)**- obligates State to ensure **equality** before law.

## Section 12. Criteria for giving legal services

- Every person who has to file or defend a case shall be entitled to legal services under this Act if that person is :-
- A member of a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe.
- A victim of trafficking in human beings or beggar as referred to in Article 23 of the Constitution.
- A woman or a child.
- A mentally ill or otherwise disabled person.
- A person under circumstances of undeserved want such as being a victim of a mass disaster, ethnic violence, caste atrocity, flood, drought, earthquake or industrial disaster or

- An industrial workman or
- In custody, including custody in a protective home
- Persons with an annual income of less than Rs. 1,00,000/- or as notified by the Central/State Governments.

## 4.2. Recusal of Judges

- **Calcutta High Court Justice Kaushik Chanda** recently imposed a **cost of ₹5 lakh on Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee** while recusing himself from hearing an election petition filed by her
- The Chief Minister had **filed an election petition in June 2021** before the High Court, alleging irregularities in the counting process in the Nandigram Assembly poll
- **Fine of Rs 5 lakh** was imposed on West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for "**putting the judiciary in a bad light.**"

### Recusal

- It is the **act of abstaining from participation in an official action** such as a legal proceeding due to a conflict of interest of the presiding court official or administrative officer.

### Why does a judge recuse?

- When there is a conflict of interest, a judge can withdraw from hearing a case to prevent creating a perception that she carried a bias while deciding the case

### Reason

- Holding **shares in a company** that is a litigant to having a prior
- Personal association with a party involved in the case
- An **appeal is filed in the Supreme Court** against a judgement of a High Court that may have been delivered by the SC judge when she was in the HC.
- **Ex parte communications** with lawyers or non-lawyers.

### What is the process for recusal?

- The decision to recuse generally **comes from the judge herself** as it rests on the conscience and discretion of the judge to disclose any potential conflict of interest.
- In **some circumstances**, lawyers or parties in the case bring it up before the judge.
- If a judge recuses, the case is listed before the **Chief Justice for allotment** to a fresh Bench.

### Rules governing recusals

- There are no formal rules governing recusals, although several Supreme Court judgments have dealt with the issue

### Ranjit Thakur v Union of India (1987)

- **Supreme Court** held that the tests of the likelihood of bias is the
- reasonableness of the apprehension in the mind of the party.

- The proper approach for the Judge is not to look at his own mind and ask himself, however honestly, “Am I biased?” but to look at the mind of the party before him.

### **Charter ‘Restatement of Values in Judicial Life 1999- code of ethics adopted by the Supreme Court.**

- A Judge shall not hear and decide a matter in a company in which he holds shares unless he has disclosed his interest and no objection to his hearing and deciding the matter is raised

### **Can a judge refuse to recuse?**

- Once a request is made for recusal, the decision to **recuse or not rests with the judge.**
- While there are **some instances where judges have recused even if they do not see a conflict** but only because such an apprehension was cast, there have also been several cases where judges have refused to withdraw from a case.
- For instance, in 2019, **Justice Arun Mishra** had controversially refused to recuse himself from a Constitution Bench set up to re-examine a judgement he had delivered previously, despite several requests from the parties

## 5. International Relation

### 5.1.#Benderaputi movement

#### Why use white flags?

- The world over, white flags are used as a **symbol of surrender or truce**.
- **Australia's Commanders' Guide (1994)** states "It is important to note that a white flag represents an expression of a **desire to negotiate**; it is not necessarily an indication of intent to surrender or enter into a cease-fire
- **Canada's LOAC Manual (2001)** says, "Personnel bearing a white flag are indicating a desire to **negotiate or surrender**. They should not be attacked but should be dealt with cautiously

#### Other instances

- In 2020 **Central American countries** such as El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras "white flags have appeared all over the social terrain as indictments of a **failed political and economic system**

## 6. Economy

### Full year Current Affairs Revision through MCQs

#### Economy – Day 4

1. Consider the following statements in context to Hallmarking of gold in India

1. The Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) operates gold and silver hallmarking scheme in India
2. Hallmarking in India is available for jewellery of only two metal.
3. Recently government include special types of jewellery such as Kundan, Polki and Jadau under hallmarking scheme.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

2. Which among the following controls the issuance of barcode in India.

- A. Bureau of Indian Standards
- B. GS1 India
- C. NATRiP
- D. NPCI

3. Consider the following statements :

1. National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) ensures the data security in the case of RFID-FASTag
2. Motor Vehicles Amendment Act 2019 puts the responsibility on the Central Government to make rules for the electronic monitoring and enforcement of road safety.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above



4. Consider the following statements in context to affordable and mid-income housing project:

1. It is defined as any housing projects wherein housing units do not exceed 200 sq. m. RERA carpet area
2. The price of affordable housing should not be more than 20 lakh
3. Government launched SWAMIH fund to complete unfinished projects

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

5. Consider the following pairs:

1. Red Notice    Imminent threat
2. Black Notice    Missing person
3. Yellow Notice    Additional information

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. None of the above

## Current affairs Worksheet (8th July 2021)

### Factual sheet for Quick revision

Topic	Description	Update
Env	<b>Black panther</b>  <b>Leopard</b>  <b>clouded leopard</b>  <b>Snow Leopard</b>  <b>SECURE Himalaya</b>	
Geog	<b>GERD Dam</b>  <b>Nile river</b>  <b>NEED Dam</b>	
Economy	<b>Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) project</b>	
Polity	<b>Tele-Law</b>  <b>Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987</b>  <b>Recusal of Judges &amp; rules regulate it</b>	
IR	<b>#Benderaputi movement/ White Flag Campaign</b>	