

1. Digital Arrest

Why in News?

- The Union Home Ministry has issued an alert to police departments in states and Union Territories amid the surge in 'Digital Arrest' trend.

What is 'Digital Arrest'?

- **Digital arrest** is a new and innovative tactic employed by cybercriminals to **defraud gullible victims and extort money**.
- The modus operandi in this cybercrime method is that fraudsters pose as law enforcement officials such as police, Enforcement Directorate, CBI, among others, and manipulate them into believing that they have committed some serious crime.
- The cyber fraudsters **deceive the victim into believing that he or she has been put under 'digital arrest'** and will be prosecuted if they do not pay the scamsters a huge amount of money.
- The criminals, who often use pictures or identities of police personnel to convey authenticity, usually demand money from the target for a **'compromise' and closure of the case**.



Measures taken by government

- **The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, has blocked more than 1,000 Skype IDs linked to such activities, after collaborating with Microsoft.
 - I4C has been providing inputs and technical support to police forces of states/UTs to identify and investigate cases.
- **National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC)** has been set up to generate necessary **situational awareness of existing and potential cyber security threats** and enable timely information sharing for proactive, preventive and protective actions by individual entities.
- **Chakshu Facility:** It is a newly introduced feature on the **Sanchar Saathi portal** that encourages citizens to proactively report suspected fraudulent communications received via call, SMS, or WhatsApp.

International Measures

- **Budapest Convention:** It is the 1st international treaty to address cybercrime.
 - India is not a signatory to the treaty.
- **Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN):** It is a US-based not-for-profit organization for coordinating & maintenance of several databases.
- **Internet Governance Forum:** It is the United Nations forum for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue on Internet governance issues.

Way Ahead

- Awareness campaigns to educate the public about cybersecurity best practices, potential risks of digital arrests, and how to stay safe online etc can help prevent people from becoming victims of cybercrimes.
- There is a need to implement measures to enhance digital surveillance capabilities, such as monitoring internet traffic, analyzing metadata, and deploying advanced surveillance technologies to detect and prevent illegal online activities leading to digital arrests.

2. East Sundarbans

Why in News?

- Recently, a fire broke out in the East Sundarbans region of Bangladesh, which is occurring almost every year during the dry season.



About the East Sundarban

- It is a part of the **Sundarbans, world's largest mangrove forest**, that stretches across the coastal region of the **Bay of Bengal in the Indian Ocean**.
- It is home to a wide variety of flora and fauna, including several endangered species.
- **Reasons highlighted for repeatedly catching fire** in East Sundarbans are *reduced water inflow in canals, region's elevation, dry seasons, climate change, and lack of management.*



Sundarban Wetland and Mangrove Forest

- It is one of the largest mangrove forests in the world (140,000 ha), lies on the **delta of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna** rivers on the Bay of Bengal in India and Bangladesh.
- The **Indian Sundarban**, covering the **south-westernmost part of the delta**, constitutes **over 60% of the country's total mangrove forest area** and includes **90% of Indian mangrove species**.

Fauna

- The Sundarbans are the **only mangrove habitat** which supports a significant population of tigers, and they have unique aquatic hunting skills.
 - a. The Sundarban Tiger Reserve has been declared a **'critical tiger habitat'** under national law and also a **'Tiger Conservation Landscape'** of global importance.
- It is home to a large number of **rare and globally threatened species** such as:
 - a. **Northern River Terrapin** (Batagur Baska): Critically Endangered;
 - b. **Irrawaddy Dolphin** (Orcaella Brevirostris): Endangered;
 - c. **Fishing Cat** (Prionailurus Viverrinus): Vulnerable.
- Two of the world's four **Horseshoe Crab Species**, and eight of India's 12 species of **Kingfisher** are also found in Sundarbans.

Flora

- The Sundarbans host more than 78 species of mangroves, making it the **richest mangrove forest in the world**.
 - a. The Sundarbans is named after the **mangrove plant Sundari (Heritiera Minor)**.

Significance

- The mangrove forests protect the hinterland from storms, cyclones, tidal surges, and the seepage and intrusion of saltwater inland and into waterways.
 - a. They serve as nurseries to shellfish and finfish and sustain the fisheries of the entire eastern coast.
- These mangroves dominate the fringing areas along the creeks and backwaters, and grow along the sides of rivers in muddy as well as in flat, sandy areas.

Conservation

- **UNESCO**: Four protected areas in the Sundarbans are enlisted as UNESCO World Heritage Sites, viz. Sundarbans National Park (India), Sundarbans West (Bangladesh), Sundarbans South (Bangladesh) and Sundarbans East (Bangladesh).
- **Ramsar Site**: It is a 'Wetland of International Importance' under the Ramsar Convention.

3. TAK-003 (Vaccine For Dengue)

Why in News?

- Recently, the World Health Organisation (WHO) announced the prequalification of a TAK-003, second vaccine for dengue.

About TAK-003

- It is a **live-attenuated vaccine** containing weakened versions of the **four serotypes of the virus** that cause dengue, helping the body to build immunity without causing the disease.
- It is developed by the Japanese drug maker Takeda Pharmaceuticals.



Administration and Use

- TAK-003 can be administered to **children aged 6 to 16 years**, with a high dengue burden and transmission intensity.
- The vaccine should be administered in a 2-dose schedule with a 3-month interval between doses, as per the WHO.
- The UK, Brazil, Argentina, Indonesia and Thailand have approved TAK-003.

Additional Information

Global Impact of Dengue

- Dengue is a **mosquito-borne disease** that is life-threatening in many cases.
- It is estimated that there are over 100 to 400 million cases of dengue worldwide each year and 3.8 billion people living in dengue-endemic countries, most of which are in Asia, Africa, and the Americas.
- Dengue cases are likely to increase and expand geographically due to climate change and urbanisation.

Dengvaxia (CYD-TDV):

- It was the first dengue vaccine to be licensed. It is a **live recombinant tetravalent dengue vaccine**, given as a 3-dose series with 6-month intervals between doses, for individuals aged 9–45 years or 9–60 years living in dengue-endemic countries or areas.
- It requires individuals to have pre-vaccination screening for previous dengue virus infection.

WHO Prequalification of a Vaccine:

- It means that the health agency has assessed and approved the vaccine for quality, safety, and efficacy.
- It ensures that the vaccine meets international standards and can be used globally, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.
- It allows the vaccine to be included in procurement by UN agencies and other global health organisations, helping in wider distribution and use in public health programs.

4. Key Facts about Venezuela

Why in News?

Venezuela is thought to be the first nation in modern times to have completely lost all of its glaciers.

About Venezuela:

- It is located on the **northern coast of South America**.
- It covers a total area of 916,445 sq.km (353,841 sq mi).
- **Boundaries:** It is bounded by the **Caribbean Sea** and the **Atlantic Ocean** to the north, **Guyana** to the east, **Brazil** to the south, and **Colombia** to the southwest and west.
- **Capital: Caracas**
- A physiographically diverse country, Venezuela **incorporates** the **northern Andean Mountain chains** and **interior highlands**, the main portions of the **Orinoco River basin** with its **expansive Llanos (plains)**, **Lake Maracaibo**, which is the **largest lake in South America**, and the spectacular **Angel Falls**, the **world's highest waterfall**.
- **Major Rivers:**
 - **Rio Negro** (shared with Colombia and Brazil): 2,250 km. It is a major **tributary of the Amazon River**.
 - **Orinoco** (shared with Colombia): 2,101 km. It is the **third-longest river in South America**, after the Parana and the Amazon.
- Venezuela **administers a number of Caribbean islands and archipelagos**, among which are Margarita Island, La Blanquilla, La Tortuga, Los Roques, and Los Monjes.
- Since the early 19th century, Venezuela has **claimed jurisdiction over Guyanese territory west of the Essequibo River**, totaling some 53,000 square miles (137,000 square km)—nearly **two-thirds of the land area of Guyana**.
- **Resources:** Venezuela is home to the **world's largest oil reserves** as well as huge quantities of **coal, iron ore, bauxite, and gold**.
- **Languages: Spanish (official) 98.2%**, indigenous 1.3%, Portuguese 0.1%, other 0.4% (2023 est.)
- **Currency: Venezuelan bolívar**



5. What is Deda Method?

Why in News?

Muria tribal farmer, who migrated from Chhattisgarh and settled in the dense forests of the Godavari Valley, is practising 'deda' method.

About Deda Method:

- It is a method of **preserving seeds** that his ancestors handed over to his family.

- **How do they preserve?**

- The **seeds are preserved in leaves** and packed almost **airtight** to look like boulders from a distance.

- The packaged seeds are, in turn, **woven with Siali leaf** (Bauhinia vahlii), which is locally known as 'addakulu' to make the deda.

- A deda has three layers. In the first layer, **wood ash is spread** inside the Siali leaves.

- Later, the ash is covered with **lemon leaves** to form a casing, and, lastly, the seeds are preserved inside the casing and sealed. Each deda is crafted to support at least 5kg of seeds.

- **Advantages**

- The deda method guarantees **protection** of seed from **pests and worms**.
- In this method, the stored seeds can be used **for cultivation for up to five years**.
- It helps in preserving the seeds of pulses like the green gram, red gram, black gram and beans.



Key facts about Muria Tribe

- **Location:** They are located in the states of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Odisha. They **speak Koya**, which is a Dravidian language.
- The Muria settlements are known as habitations of **Internally Displaced People** (IDPs), whose population is around 6,600 in A.P., and they here are referred to as '**Gutti Koyas**' by the native tribes.
- They have progressive perspective towards marriage and life as a whole. The biggest example being **the Ghotul** (a commune or dormitory), which is meant to create an environment for Muria youth to understand their sexuality.
- Gutti Koyas' The held ST status in Chattisgarh but they were not granted ST status in their migrated states such as Telangana.