

Eduthrust Current Affairs & GK Updates

Oct 28 to Oct 31

STAPCOR 2018

International Conference on Status and Protection of Coral Reefs (STAPCOR – 2018)



STAPCOR-2018 held at **Bangaram coral Island** of Territory of Lakshadweep.

Theme: “Reef for Life”

What are corals?

- Corals are marine invertebrates.
- They typically live in compact colonies of many identical individual polyps.
- Corals species include the important reef builders that inhabit tropical oceans and secrete calcium carbonate to form a hard skeleton.
- Although some corals are able to catch small fish and plankton using stinging cells on their tentacles, most corals obtain the majority of their energy and nutrients from photosynthesis

What are coral reefs?

- Coral reefs have evolved on earth over the past 200 to 300 million years, and have developed a unique and highly evolved form of symbiosis.
- This symbiosis between plant and animal also contributes to the brilliant colors of coral that can be seen while diving on a reef.
- The effect of climate change and global warming along with El-Nino on the corals has led to heavy bleaching



Coral reef locations

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Why Gir Lions were in news recently?

Gujarat Forest Department has started vaccination of lions in Gir sanctuary to protect them from a deadly canine distemper virus (CDV) and protozoa in infections. The virus is blamed for the death of as many as 23 lions in Gujarat's Gir sanctuary in less than a month.



Asiatic lions

Asiatic lions are cousins of the African lion. They are believed to have split away 100,000 years ago. They are slightly smaller and have distinctive fold of skin along their bellies. Gir sanctuary is the only wild population of Asiatic lions in the world. According to the last census conducted in 2015, the number of lions in Gir sanctuary stood at 523. It is listed in Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, has been categories as Endangered on IUCN Red List and is listed Appendix I of CITES.

Canine distemper virus (CDV)

CDV is highly contagious disease that attacks gastrointestinal, respiratory, central nervous systems, immune system and other vital organs in animals. In most of the cases, the infection is fatal. It is mainly found in wild dogs, jackals and wolves. The disease can be contracted by lions if they eat any animal infected by it. CDV is considered dangerous virus and is blamed for wiping out 30% population of African lions in East African forests.



What is Ask Disha?

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered chatbot
- Launched by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)
- The chatbot is special computer programme designed to simulate conversation with users

Jair Bolsonaro wins Brazil Presidential elections



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India, Pakistan declared joint winners of Asian Champions Trophy hockey

Foundation laid for India's largest Dry Dock

- Cochin Shipyard in Kerala

Statue of Unity: the tallest statue in the world

- The Statue of Unity, which honours India's first deputy prime minister, **Sardar Vallabhai Patel** will be unveiled
- The statue dedicated to the **'Iron Man of India'** has been constructed on a river island called the Sadhu Bet on the **Narmada river** in Gujarat's Kevadiya town.
- At 182 metres, it will be **the tallest statue in the world**, dwarfing the Spring Temple Buddha in China, currently the world's tallest statue at 128 metres.

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas 2018 observed to commemorate 143rd birth anniversary of Sardar Patel



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India's live volcano erupting once again!

- India's live volcano in the Andaman and Nicobar islands is reported to be erupting once again in 2018.
- The eruptions could be linked to the recent earthquake that rocked Indonesia in Southeast Asia.
- The active volcano in India is Barren Island and is uninhabited, located about 140 km from Port Blair.



Parker Solar Probe sets new record!

- The Parker Solar Probe now holds the record for **closest approach to the sun** by a human-made object.
- Parker Solar Probe will travel through the sun's atmosphere, closer to the surface than any spacecraft before it, facing brutal heat and radiation conditions — and ultimately providing humanity with the closest-ever observations of a star.
- The primary science goals for the mission are to trace how energy and heat move through the **solar corona** and to explore what accelerates the solar wind as well as solar energetic particles.

