

SHORTNEWS:

1.OPERATION KELLER

NEWS: Recently, the Indian Army launched “Operation Keller” in the forests of Shopian’s Keller area in Kashmir.

About “Operation Keller”

- It is a search and destroy Operation.
- Conducted by: Indian army in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Police (J&K Police) and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).
- Aimed at neutralizing terrorists hiding in the region.
- Significance of Operation Keller
 - Follows Operation Sindoor, which targeted terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).
 - Strengthens security efforts in South Kashmir, particularly in Shopian and Pulwama

2.AYURVEDA DAY

NEWS: The Government of India has declared 23rd September as the official date to celebrate Ayurveda Day every year.

Why the Change?

- Until now, Ayurveda Day coincided with Dhanteras, a festival observed in the Hindu month of Kartik (usually October or November).
- However, as the date of Dhanteras fluctuates each year, the observance of Ayurveda Day lacked a fixed annual date.

Significance of 23rd September

- This date coincides with the autumnal equinox, when day and night are nearly equal.
- The equinox marks a day when day and night are nearly equal.

- It represents balance in nature, similar to Ayurveda's idea of mind-body harmony.
- Ayurveda focuses on living in sync with natural rhythms for better health and well-being.

3.YAK GENOME

NEWS: Researchers from Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) mapped its chromosome-level genome of the Indian yak.

About the Indian Yak

- Scientific name: *Bos grunniens*
- known as: The 'ship of the Himalayas'
- Geographical distribution: In India, yaks are reared in Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and the union territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Wild yak (*Bos mutus*)

Conservation status

- The wild yak (*Bos mutus*) is classified as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.

What is Yak genomics?

- Yak genomics is the scientific study of the genetic makeup of yaks (*Bos grunniens*), focusing on their genome structure, gene functions, and evolutionary adaptations.
- The National Research Centre on Yak (ICAR-NRCY) in Arunachal Pradesh carried out India's first whole genome sequencing of the yak.

4.NABFID SETS STAGE FOR FIRST DOLLAR BOND OFFERING

NEWS: The National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) held non-deal investor meetings in Hong Kong recently as part of preparations for its first offshore bond issue.

About Offshore Bonds

- An offshore bond refers to a debt instrument issued in a country different from the issuer's home country, typically denominated in a foreign currency, and often sold to foreign investors.

About Dollar Bond Offering

- Precedent: In September 2024, REC Ltd (power sector financier) raised \$500 million at an interest rate of 4.75%.
- Dollar Bond Market: NaBFID bonds would be issued outside India and would be denominated in US dollars.

About NaBFID

- It is a specialized Statutory Development Finance Institution (DFI) in India aimed at supporting the country's infrastructure sector.
 - It is fully owned by the Indian government.
 - NaBFID was set up in 2021, by an Act of the Parliament (The National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development Act, 2021),
- Sovereign Support and Government Grant: It benefits from a sovereign guarantee on foreign currency borrowings and has received a ₹5,000 crore grant to lower funding costs.

5.SIKKIM CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF STATEHOOD

NEWS: In 2025, Sikkim celebrates its Golden Jubilee (50 years) of Statehood.

About Sikkim and its Statehood

- Foundation and Early Rule: The Kingdom of Sikkim was founded in the 17th century by the Namgyal dynasty.
 - It was ruled by Buddhist priest-kings known as the Chogyal.
- Colonial Era: In 1890, Sikkim became a princely state under the British Indian Empire.
- Post-Independence Status: Sikkim became a protectorate of India in 1950 following the Indo-Sikkimese Treaty.
 - India assumed responsibility for the external relations, defense and strategic communications of Sikkim.

- Integration with India: Sikkim became the 22nd State of India on May 16, 1975 after a Referendum.
 - The state of Sikkim was formed by the 36th Amendment of the Constitution of India in 1975.

Unique Celebration Events

- A 16-day Butterthon (May 1–16) was organized to mark 50 years of Sikkim's Statehood.
 - The Butterthon is a butterfly-watching event.
- It highlights the State's rich biodiversity and promotes eco-tourism.
 - Butterfly Diversity in Sikkim: Sikkim is home to about 700 butterfly species, nearly half of India's total.
 - Dzongu area: Around 420 species (61% of the butterflies in the State) are concentrated in the Dzongu region adjoining the Khangchendzonga National Park and Biosphere Reserve.