

SHORTNEWS:

1.K. VEERASWAMI VS UNION OF INDIA AND OTHERS JUDGMENT

NEWS: Recently, the Vice-President highlighted the need to revisit the 1991 Supreme Court ruling in *K. Veeraswami vs Union of India*, which restricts criminal investigation against judges without prior approval.

- Key Highlights of the *K. Veeraswami vs Union of India and Others* judgment (1991)
- This landmark judgment dealt with issues related to judicial accountability and the prosecution of judges under the Prevention of Corruption Act.
- Judges of the High Courts and Supreme Court are considered public servants under the Prevention of Corruption Act.
 - A public servant is an individual employed by the government or government agency to serve the public.
- No criminal case can be registered against a High Court or Supreme Court judge without the prior approval of the Chief Justice of India (CJI).
- This ruling established a special procedure for investigating corruption allegations against higher judiciary members.

2.NEW OCI PORTAL

NEWS: Recently, the Union Home Minister launched a revamped Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) portal.

About OCI Portal

- The Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) portal is an online platform designed for Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) to register as OCI cardholders.
- Features of the New OCI Portal
 - Enhanced Functionality, Advanced Security and User-Friendly Interface:

OCI Scheme

- The OCI scheme was introduced in 2005 through an amendment to the Citizenship Act, 1955.
 - It allows eligible individuals to obtain an OCI card, granting them visa-free entry and certain privileges in India, such as property ownership and economic participation
- Eligibility Criteria: Eligible individuals must have been:
 - Citizens of India on or after January 26, 1950, or
 - Eligible for Indian citizenship on that date.
- Exclusions: Individuals who are or had been citizens of Pakistan or Bangladesh cannot apply.
 - Also ineligible if their parents, grandparents, or great-grandparents were citizens of these two countries.
 - However, a foreign origin spouse of an Indian citizen or an OCI Card holder can apply for an OCI card if their marriage has been legally registered and has lasted for at least two years.
- Benefits for OCI Card holder
- OCI Card holders gets multiple entry and multi-purpose life-long visa for visiting India.
- They are free to not register with local police authorities for staying in the country.
- Limitations
 - OCI Card holders can not vote and become member of a Legislative Assembly or of a Legislative Council or of Parliament.
 - They are also not eligible to hold Indian constitutional posts like the President, Vice President, Judge of the Supreme Court or High Court.

3. NEW GENERATION BARCODES

NEWS: GS1 will introduce the new generation barcodes in the form of QR Codes (2D barcodes) from the year 2027.

The Barcodes will be powered by GS1 and GS1 DataMatrix

- The New codes will contain new information like sell-by dates, product instructions, allergens and ingredients, as well as prices.
- About Barcodes
- Barcodes are machine-readable symbols that use parallel lines and spaces of varying widths to represent data, typically numerical or alphanumeric information.
- Origin: The first barcode was devised by Joe Woodland and was read in an Ohio supermarket in June 1974 to speed up checkout queues and stocktaking.
- Types of barcodes:
 - 1D barcodes: These are Linear barcodes, such as UPC and EAN, using a series of parallel bars and spaces.
 - 2D barcodes: These are in the form of QR codes, encoding data in a two-dimensional grid of squares, dots, or other shapes
- Application:
 - Inventory Management: To facilitate quick and accurate tracking of stock levels and inventory movements.
 - Point of Sale (POS): It enables fast and efficient scanning of products during checkout.
 - Healthcare: Barcode systems help track medication inventory and usage.
 - Product Tracking: These enable manufacturers to track products throughout the production process.
 - Supply Chain Operations: They enable the tracking of shipments from origin to destination, improve the accuracy of order fulfillment.
 - Government Programmes: GS1 standards are used in Indian national programmes such as FASTag, Ayushman Bharat and ROHINI (a hospital registry).
- About Barcode Standards

- These are sets of rules that define how barcodes are created, printed, and read primarily managed by organizations like,
 - ISO (International Organization for Standardization):
 - Example: ISO/IEC 15416: This standard defines the characteristics of linear barcodes, including dimensions, spacing, and character sets.
 - GS1 (Global Standards 1): It is a not-for-profit organization behind global barcode standards.
 - Example: GTIN (Global Trade Item Number): GS1 assigns unique GTINs to products, preventing barcode duplication and ensuring product authentication.

4.EUTHALIA MALACCANA

NEWS: The butterfly species *Euthalia malaccana* has been newly recorded in India, specifically in the Leparada district of Arunachal Pradesh.

- About Euthalia Malaccana
- Euthalia malaccana, also known as Fruhstorfer's Baron, is a species of nymphalid butterfly.
- Found primarily in Southeast Asia, including Thailand, the Malay Peninsula, and the Sunda Islands
- Conservation Status: Least Concern (LC) under the IUCN Red List.
- Main features
 - Males have a distinct blue apical spot on their forewings.
 - Females have larger blue apical spots.
 - The hindwings have small red spots that help distinguish Euthalia malaccana from similar species like Euthalia lubentina.

5.World Metrology Day 2025

NEWS: On the occasion of World Metrology Day 2025, the Department of Consumer Affairs celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Metre Convention.

In addition to the above, the government also introduced the “One Nation, One Time” initiative

- About World Metrology Day 2025
- World Metrology Day is celebrated every year on May 20.
- The theme for 2025 is “Measurements for all times, for all people.”
 - It shows how measurements are important in the past, present, and future for everyone.
- India became the 13th country authorized to issue OIML (International Organization of Legal Metrology) certificates.
 - This enhances India’s credibility in international trade and supports wider acceptance of Indian products in global markets.
- World Metrology Day was started in 1999 by the International Committee for Weights and Measures (CIPM).
- It was created to remember the signing of the Metre Convention.
 - The Metre Convention (French: Convention du Mètre) is an international treaty signed on 20 May 1875 in Paris.
 - It is also known as the Treaty of the Metre.
 - Establishing a uniform and globally recognized system of measurements to ensure accuracy, consistency, and international cooperation in metrology.
- One Nation, One Time” Initiative
- The “One Nation, One Time” Initiative is a timekeeping initiative.
- Launched: Under the Draft IST Rules, 2025, the “One Nation, One Time” initiative was introduced.
- Objective: Aims to provide millisecond-level accurate Indian Standard Time (IST) via five Regional Reference Standard Laboratories (RRSLs).
- Beneficial for sectors like telecom, banking, and transport, ensuring consistent national timekeeping.

6.SHIRUI LILY FESTIVAL

NEWS: The Shirui Lily Festival is being held in Manipur for the first time since 2023, after a two-year break due to conflict in the state.

- About Shirui Lily festival
- It is one of Manipur's two major tourism festivals, the other being the Sangai Festival, named after the state animal, the brow-antlered deer.
- Named After: Shirui Lily (*Lilium mackliniae*), the state flower of Manipur.
- Celebration: It was first held in 2017.
 - The Shirui Lily festival coincides with the blooming season of this rare flower.
- Location: Ukhrul district.
 - Tangkhul Naga community is predominant in the district.
- Aim Of the Event: Designed as an eco-tourism festival to raise awareness about the Shirui Lily and
 - To promote tourism to the hills of Ukhrul.
- About Shirui Lily
- Endemic Species: The Shirui Lily (*Lilium mackliniae*) is found only in the upper reaches of the Shirui Hill range in Ukhrul district, Manipur, at an elevation of 2,673 meters.
- Local Legend: Locals call it 'Kashsong Timrawon'.
- Threats to Survival: Climate change, Human encroachment, Resource exploitation and Invasion of habitat by a wild dwarf bamboo species.