

### CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS (CMS)

According to a recent UN Report, Noise pollution is known to cause significant disturbance to marine wildlife, including migratory species protected under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).



About Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS):

- CMS also referred to as the Bonn Convention, is an environmental treaty under the aegis of the United Nations Environment Programme.
- It was signed in Bonn, Germany, on 23 June 1979.
- It provides a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats.
- CMS is the only global and UN-based intergovernmental organisation established exclusively for the conservation and management of terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species throughout their range.
- The parties to the convention acknowledge the importance of conserving migratory species, and the need to pay special attention to species whose conservation status is unfavourable.
- Activities by CMS Parties may range from legally binding treaties (called Agreements) to less formal instruments, such as Memoranda of Understanding.
- The Conference of Parties (COP) is the decision-making organ of this convention.
- CMS has two Appendices. These appendices list migratory species to which the Convention applies.
  - Appendix I lists endangered migratory species and includes prohibitions regarding the take of these species.
  - Appendix II lists species that have an 'unfavourable conservation status' (as per the conditions set out in the Convention) and encourages range states to draft range-wide agreements for conservation and management of these species.

- **India and CMS:**

- India has been a party to the CMS since 1983.
  - India has also signed non-legally binding MOU with CMS on the conservation and management of Siberian Cranes (1998), Marine Turtles (2007), Dugongs (2008) and Raptors (2016).
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## TURKMENISTAN–AFGHANISTAN–PAKISTAN–INDIA (TAPI) PIPELINE

To speed up work on Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India (TAPI) gas pipeline project and finish the feasibility study as soon as possible, Pakistan and Turkmenistan recently signed a Joint Implementation Plan (JIP).



### About TAPI Pipeline:

- It is an 1,814-kilometre pipeline that aims to transport 33 billion cubic metres of gas from Turkmenistan to Afghanistan, Pakistan and finally, India.
  - It is also called the ‘Peace Pipeline’.
  - **Route:**
    - It will start from the Galkynysh gas field in Turkmenistan.
    - It will then pass through Afghanistan and Pakistan to finally reach the Indian town of Fazilka (near the Indo-Pak border).
  - **Capacity:** At full capacity, the pipeline will transport 33 billion cubic meters (bcm) of natural gas annually from TKM to respective buyers in AFG (5%), PAK (47.5%) and IND (47.5%) during the 30-year commercial operations period.
  - The Project comprises the procurement, installation and operation of the pipeline and related facilities within Afghanistan and Pakistan.
  - **Timeline:**
    - The project was originally conceived in the 1990s, and an inter-governmental agreement was signed in 2010 by the heads of four member nations.
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- A Gas Pipeline Framework Agreement was signed in December 2010, and a bilateral gas sale agreement was signed in May 2013.
  - In February 2018, a ground-breaking ceremony for Afghanistan's section of the TAPI gas pipeline was held in the western Afghan city of Herat.
  - **Financing:**
    - The TAPI project is being funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), which is also acting as transaction adviser for the development.
    - Turkmenistan took a loan of \$700m from the Islamic Development Bank for financing the project in December 2016.
    - The remaining three countries made an initial investment of \$200m in the TAPI project.
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## RUPAY CARD

Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in a bid to broaden the scope of RuPay cards has decided to permit banks to issue RuPay Prepaid forex cards to customers and to issue such cards abroad.



### About RuPay card:

- It is an Indian domestic card scheme conceived and launched by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- Its mission is to fulfil the Reserve Bank of India's vision of having a domestic, open-loop and multilateral system of payments in India.
- It works to enable electronic payment at all Indian banks and financial institutions.
- **Benefits of RuPay Card**
  - **Lower cost and affordability:** Since the transaction processing will happen domestically, it would lead to a lower cost of clearing and settlement for each transaction. This will make the transaction cost affordable and will drive the usage of cards in the industry.
  - **Customized product offering:** RuPay, being a domestic scheme is committed towards the development of customized product and service offerings for Indian consumers.

- **Protection of information related to Indian consumers:** Transaction and customer data related to RuPay card transactions will reside in India.

## Key facts about NPCI

- It is an umbrella organisation launched in 2008 by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) under the provisions of **the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**.
- It is owned by a consortium of banks, is aimed at creating robust payments and settlement systems.

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## PRADHAN MANTRI KRISHI SINCHAYEE YOJANA (PMKSY)

**Under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, Aadhaar cards being misused to create beneficiaries under Per Drop More Crop Scheme in Jharkhand state has been revealed.**



Pradhan Mantri  
Krishi Sinchai Yojana

### About Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana:

- It was launched in 2015 to improve farm productivity and ensure better utilization of the resources in the country.
- **Objectives**
  - Convergence of investment in irrigation at the field level
  - Expand cultivable area under irrigation
  - Improve On-farm water use efficiency to reduce the wastage of water
  - Enhance the adoption of being precise in irrigation and other water-saving technologies (more crop per drop)
- It consists of two major components namely,
  - Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP)
  - **Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP):** It consists of four sub-components, being Command Area Development & Water Management (CAD&WM), Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI), Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies, and Ground Water (GW) Development component.

- In addition, PMKSY also consists of two components
- **Per Drop More Crop (PDMC)** component is being implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- **The Watershed Development component (WDC)** is being implemented by the Department of Land Resources

## AGNI PRIME MISSILE

Recently, New Generation Ballistic Missile ‘Agni Prime’ was successfully flight-tested by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island.



### About Agni Prime Missile:

- It is a short-range ballistic missile that will have a **range of 1000 km to 1500 km**.
- It is a surface to a surface missile that can carry a **payload of around 1,000 Kg** or a nuclear warhead.
- It incorporates new propulsion systems and composite rocket motor casings as well as advanced navigation and guidance systems.

### What is a ballistic missile?

- Ballistic Missiles are launched **directly into the upper layers of the earth’s atmosphere**.
- They travel outside the atmosphere, where the warhead detaches from the missile and falls towards a predetermined target.
- They are **rocket-propelled self-guided weapons systems** which can carry conventional or nuclear munitions. They can be launched from aircraft, ships and submarines, and land.

## KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK

Recently, three persons engaged as mahouts in the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve have been arrested for capturing and consuming a rare species of freshwater turtle inside the National Park.



## About Kaziranga National Park:

- It is located in the **state of Assam**.
- It is also a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and houses two-thirds of the total world population of greater one-horned rhinoceros.
- **Flora:**
  - It is a **mix of eastern wet alluvial grasslands**, semi-evergreen forests and tropical moist deciduous forests.
  - It is primarily famous for its **dense and tall elephant grasses** intermixed with small swamplands.
  - It also includes an abundant cover of water lilies, water hyacinths and lotus.
- **Fauna:**
  - It is home to the **One-horned rhinoceros**, Leopard, Fishing Cat, other Lesser cats, royal Bengal tiger, Large Indian Civet, Small Indian Civet, Sambar, Barking deer, Hog deer, Gaur, Hog Badger, Capped Langur, etc.
  - It is also one of the last remaining **homes of the endangered and endemic western hoolock gibbon**, the only species of apes found in India.
  - It is one of the last homes of the **critically endangered Bengal florican**.

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## ONSET OF THE MONSOON: IMD DECLARES MONSOON ARRIVAL, BUT TO REMAIN WEAK INITIALLY

### Why in News?

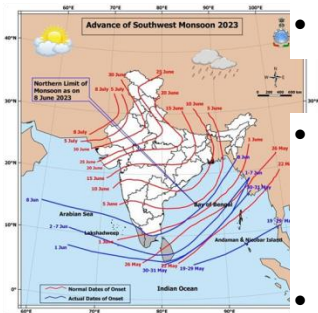
- The southwest monsoon hit the Kerala coast on June 8 (May 29 in 2022). The normal date of the onset of the monsoon over the Kerala coast is June 1.
- However, monsoon is expected to remain weak for at least one more week, thanks to the development of **cyclone Biparjoy in the Arabian Sea**.

### What do you mean by Monsoon?

- A monsoon is a **seasonal reversing wind** accompanied by **corresponding changes in precipitation** and associated with annual latitudinal oscillation of the **Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ)**.
  - ITCZ is the region that circles the Earth and where the trade winds of the Northern and Southern Hemispheres converge - **creating a broad trough of low pressure**.
  - **Seasonal shifts** (between equator and tropic of cancer) in the location of the ITCZ with the apparent movement of the sun results in the wet and dry seasons of the tropics.
- Usually, the term monsoon is used to refer to the **rainy phase of a seasonally changing pattern**.
- On the Indian subcontinent, as the rain bearing winds come from the southwest direction, it is known as the **southwest monsoon**.

## What is Meant by the “Onset of the Monsoon”?

- The onset of the monsoon over Kerala **signals the beginning of the four-month (June-September) southwest monsoon season**, during which India gets more than 70% of its annual rainfall.
  - The monsoon covers the entire country by **July 15**.
- Contrary to what is sometimes assumed, **the onset does not mean the first rain of the season**.
- **For example**, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands usually start receiving monsoon rainfall between May 15 and May 20, and it starts raining along the Kerala coast in the last week of May.
- However, ‘onset’ is a **technical expression** with a specific definition and the IMD does not officially declare onset until **certain prescribed conditions are met**.



## Conditions Determining the Onset of Monsoon:

- According to the IMD, the onset of the monsoon happens **when there is a significant transition** in the large-scale atmospheric and ocean circulations in the **Indo-Pacific region**.
- The IMD essentially looks at the **consistency of rainfall** over a defined geography, the intensity of the rainfall, and the wind speed.

- **Rainfall:** The onset is declared if at least 60% of 14 designated meteorological stations in Kerala and Lakshadweep record at least 2.5 mm of rain for two consecutive days at any time after May 10.
- **Wind field:** The depth of westerlies should be up to 600 hectopascal (1 hPa is equal to 1 millibar of pressure) in the area that is bound by the equator to 10°N latitude (passes through Kochi), and from longitude 55°E to 80°E.
- **Heat:** The measure of the energy emitted to space by the Earth's surface, oceans, and atmosphere should be below 200 watts per sq m (wm<sup>2</sup>) in the area between the 5°N and 10°N latitudes, and 70°E and 75°E longitudes.

### **Implications of Delay in/Early Onset of the Monsoon:**

- Neither an early nor a late onset of the monsoon is unusual.
- **A delay in the onset over Kerala does not automatically mean delays in the arrival of the monsoon** over other parts of the country.
  - The northward progression of the monsoon is **not uniform** - it depends on local factors, including the creation of low-pressure areas.
  - Therefore, despite a late onset over Kerala, other parts of the country **may start getting monsoon rain on time**.
- **A delay or an early arrival has no bearing** on the quality or amount of rainfall, or its regional distribution across the country.