

Department of Telecommunications introduced Financial Fraud Risk Indicator

The Indicator allows for swift, targeted, and collaborative action against suspected frauds in both telecom and financial domains.

What is Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI)?

- It is a **risk-based metric** that classifies a **mobile number** to have been associated with **Medium, High, or Very High risk of financial fraud**.
 - This classification is an **outcome of inputs obtained from**: National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP), DoT's Chakshu facility and Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP) and Intelligence shared by banks and financial institutions.
- It empowers stakeholders such as **banks, NBFCs, and UPI service providers** to prioritize enforcement and take additional customer protection measures **in case a mobile number have high risk**.

Status of Cyber Financial Frauds in India

- Between **Financial Year 2020 and 2024**, Approx. ₹3,207 crore was lost due to 5,82,000 cases of cyber fraud.
- Some common methods** of financial frauds are: KYC Fraud, Customer Care Fraud, UPI Fraud, Card Fraud, **Digital Arrest Fraud**, Investment Frauds and Get Rich Quick Schemes, etc.

Measures to Prevent to Cyber Financial Frauds in India

- Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP)**: Secure and integrated platform for real time intelligence sharing, information exchange and coordination among the stakeholders, i.e., Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), banks and financial institutions, etc.
- Chakshu facility on Sanchar Saathi portal**: Facilitates citizens to report suspected fraud communication received over call, SMS or WhatsApp with the intention of defrauding like KYC expiry or update of bank account, etc.
- Mulehunter**: AI-based tool launched by the RBI for identification of money mule and advised the banks and financial institutions for its uses.
- Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System**: Launched in 2021 under I4C, for immediate reporting of financial frauds and to stop siphoning off funds by the fraudsters.
- E-Zero FIR**: I4C has introduced a new system that automatically converts financial cybercrime complaints with a fraud value above ₹10 lakh, and registered on the 1930 helpline or cybercrime.gov.in portal, into FIRs.

Asiatic Lion population increases from 674 to 891 in 5 years: 16th Lion Census (2025)

There has been an **increase in the number and distribution area of Asiatic Lions** (also outside Gir National Park), exemplifying the success of 'Project Lion.'

- The census conducted (every 5 years) by the **Gujarat Forest Department**.
- Project Lion (2020), has the goal of long term conservation for them to perform their **ecological role** and retain their **evolutionary potential**.
 - Monitoring through **advanced technologies** like radio-collaring; **Disease management**.

About Asiatic Lion (Panthera leo persica)

- Habitat**: Grasslands, savannas, dense scrub, and open woodlands.
 - Concentrated in the **Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary (Gujarat)**.
 - Barda Wildlife Sanctuary** has emerged as a "**second home**" for lions.
- IUCN Status**: Vulnerable.
- Listed in **Schedule I and IV** of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, in **Appendix I** of CITES.
- Characteristics of Asiatic Lion**:
 - Asiatic lions are slightly **smaller** than African lions.
 - A **distinctive characteristic** seen in Asiatic Lions (rarely in African Lions) is a **longitudinal fold of skin running along its belly**.
 - Males have only moderate mane growth** at the top of the head, so that their **ears are always visible**.
 - Lions do **not** have a **particular breeding season**.

Asiatic Lion



Initiatives for Conservation

- International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA)**: Launched in 2023, it reinforces the global commitment to **conserving big cats, including lions**.
- Greater Gir Concept**: Developing additional suitable habitats for lions beyond Gir National Park & Sanctuary.
 - Sanctuaries like **Girnar, Pania, and Mitiyala** have been notified to expand the protected area network.
- Asiatic Lion Reintroduction Project**: Proposed reintroduction in **Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh**.
- Technologies for Lion monitoring**: AI-driven systems like **SIMBA, E-GujForest and Alert Generation System**.

Report titled "Strategies to Boost India's Makhana Exports" Released

The report was released at the **First-ever International Buyer-Seller Meet (IBSM)** concluded in Patna, Bihar.

- Report has been jointly prepared by the **Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)** and **Agricultural Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)**.

About IBSM

- IBSM was organized by the **Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI)** in close partnership with the Government of Bihar, **APEDA**, and Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI).

⊕ **TPCI** is an **apex trade and investment promotion** organization notified in the Foreign Trade Policy.

- Its **objective** was to boost food exports, unlock Bihar's rich agricultural potential, etc.

About Makhana (*Euryale ferox*)

- It is a popped expanded kernel of **Gorgon nut**, an **aquatic crop** that grows in stagnant water bodies such as ponds, lakes, and swamps.

- It grows well in **tropical** and **sub-tropical climates** and is mainly distributed in South-East and East Asian countries.

- **Status:** India **dominates global production**, accounting for **90% of the supply**, with Bihar (Mithila region) alone contributing 85–90 %.

⊕ Despite high volume of production, only a small fraction approximately **1-2% of total output** is exported.

- **Nutritional profile:** Rich in essential **amino acids**, **vitamins**, and **minerals**. It is a **low fat food**.

- **Benefits:** low glycemic load food, **anti-aging properties**, etc.

Key Strategies to Boost Export



Promote use of dedicated **HSN (Harmonized System of Nomenclature) code**



Operationalize the **Makhana board under a PPP framework**



Set up **centralized hubs for grading, packaging, and auctions**

China and Pakistan agree to expand the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to Afghanistan

The **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)** was launched in **2015** as a flagship project of China's '**Belt and Road Initiative**' (BRI).

- **BRI** is a multi-billion-dollar initiative launched in **2013** by China to link **Southeast Asia**, **Central Asia**, **Gulf region**, **Africa**, and **Europe** with a network of **land and sea routes**.

About CPEC

- It is a **~3000 km** corridor linking **China's far-western Xinjiang province** to **Gwadar port, Pakistan**.
- The **CPEC** is located where the **Silk Road Economic Belt** and the **21st Century Maritime Silk Road** meet.

India's Concerns on CPEC

- **Territorial Sovereignty and integrity:** CPEC passes through **Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK)**, infringing upon India's territory in **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- **Geostrategic:** China's development of **Gwadar port**, in line with its '**String of Pearls**' strategy, threatens India's **maritime security and trade in Arabian Sea**.
- **Geopolitical:** Strengthening of **China-Pakistan-Afghanistan trilateral relations** poses geopolitical threat and security challenges in the South Asia.

Steps taken by India to counter CPEC

- **Chabahar Port (Iran):** India and Iran have signed a contract for Chabahar port operations.
- **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC):** Connecting India to Central Asia and Eurasia, **bypassing Pakistan**.

- **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC):** To enhance connectivity and secure regional supply chains resulting in a transformative integration of **Asia, Europe and Middle East**.



Union Minister unveils Detailed Action Plan for Aravalli Landscape Restoration

While launching the Action Plan, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change exhorted all stakeholders across the four States to adopt a **'Whole of Government'** and **'Whole of Society'** approach in the restoration of the Aravallis.

- Aravallis have been facing concerns related to **forest degradation, animal displacement, illegal mining, etc.**

About the Action Plan

- It outlines a **science-based, community-led, and policy-supported roadmap** to restore the ecological integrity of the Aravallis.

About Aravallis

- It is **one of the oldest mountain ranges** of the world and **predates the formation of the Himalayan ranges.**
- Located in the north-western part of India and stretches from **Gujarat to Delhi through Rajasthan and Haryana**, with a length close to 692 Km.
- It is crucial in the **monsoon cycle of India and serves to regulate** the country's temperature.
- It also acts as a barrier, preventing the **Thar Desert from creeping into the agricultural regions of Rajasthan and Gujarat.**

Initiatives taken to protect Aravallis

- **Aravalli Green Wall Project:** An initiative to green 5 km buffer area around the Aravalli Hill Range in four states.
- **State Government Measures:** 2016 Haryana government notification declared Mangar Bani area (part of Aravalli) a "no-construction zone".
- **MC Mehta v. Union of India Case:** In a series of judgments, Supreme Court **prohibited and banned mining activities in the entire Aravalli hills.**

| 5 Pillars of Action Plan | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | | | |
| Ecological Restoration | Community Participation | Policy and Governance | Sustainable Livelihoods | Research and Innovation |
| Natural regeneration | Local involvement | Regulatory frameworks | Promoting eco-tourism | GIS-based mapping |
| Native plantation | Involving women | Convergence of schemes | Agroforestry promotion | Remote sensing usage |
| Soil conservation | Youth engagement | Effective monitoring | NTPF-based enterprises | Restoration ecology practices |

Also In News



Polybutylene Adipate Terephthalate (PBAT)

A documentary on saving the Asian giant softshell turtle in Kasargod, Kerala has won the **Dadasaheb Phalke award.**

- **Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival (DPIFF)** awards celebrate the legacy of the **'Father of Indian Cinema'** Dadasaheb Phalke.
- ⊕ He created **India's first feature film, Raja Harishchandra, in 1913.**

About Asian giant softshell turtle (*Pelochelys cantorii*)

- Called **Cantor's giant softshell turtle**, it is a long freshwater turtle found in South and South-east Asia.
- In **Kerala**, it is called **Bhimanama** (bhiman means **giant** and aama is **turtle**).
- **Habitat:** Large lowland rivers, lakes, reservoirs and estuarine areas including mangrove channels and coastal mudflats near river mouths.
- **IUCN Status:** Critically Endangered.
- Protected under **Schedule I** of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.**
- **Characteristics:**
 - ⊕ **Flattened head and widely spaced eyes,**
 - ⊕ **Ambush predators** with aggressive behaviour, a lightning speed strike and a powerful jaw.



INSV Kaundinya

Indian Navy inducted **traditionally-built stitched Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Kaundinya** at Naval Base, Karwar (Karnataka).

- Traditional stitched shipbuilding method in India is known as **Tankai Method.**

About INSV Kaundinya

- It is based on a **5th century CE ship** depicted in the paintings of **Ajanta Caves.**
- It is named **after Kaundinya** (legendary Indian mariner who sailed across the Indian Ocean to Southeast Asia).
- Wooden planks on the ship's hull are **stitched using coir rope, coconut fibre and natural resin.**

Tankai Method

- It is **2000-year-old technique.**
- In this, ship is constructed by **stitching wooden planks together rather than using nails.**
- It offers **flexibility and durability**, making them **less susceptible to damage** from shoals and sandbars.



Asian Productivity Organization

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The **Supreme Court (SC)** passed an **order affirming the constitutional rights of pedestrians.**

About Asian Productivity Organization (APO)

- **Genesis:** It is an intergovernmental organization established in 1961 by 8 founding members.
 - ⊕ **India** is one of the **founding members.**
- **Objective:** To increase productivity in the Asia-Pacific region through mutual cooperation.
- **Members:** Comprises **21 economies** in the Asia-Pacific region.
- **Key roles:** Conducts research on emerging needs of members for their follow-up, promotes bilateral and multilateral alliances among members, surveys the economic and development policies and performance of each member, etc.



Polybutylene Adipate Terephthalate (PBAT)

Tripura's Kamalpur introduced **compostable bags** made from **Polybutylene Adipate Terephthalate (PBAT)** as an alternative to **Single-use Plastics.**

About PBAT

- It is a **biodegradable, chemical-free thermoplastic copolymer.**
 - ⊕ **Thermoplastics** are polymers that can be softened through heating before being processed and then left to cool and harden
- It is made from **renewable resources**, such as **corn starch and sugarcane.**



iGOT Karmayogi

Integrated Government Online Training (iGOT) Karmayogi platform crosses landmark of **1 Crore Registered Users.**

About iGOT Karmayogi (2022)

- It provides a **comprehensive learning ecosystem accessible to civil servants across India.**
 - ⊕ It hosts a range of **self-paced courses, webinars, and peer-learning opportunities** that cover a variety of governance, policy, management, and technical skills.
- It is a **core component of Mission Karmayogi** (National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building).
 - ⊕ Mission Karmayogi focuses on **empowering the civil service through capacity building.**
- It is implemented by the **Karmayogi Bharat**, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)
- It is **developed** as an **integral part** of the **Digital India stack.**



Jarosite

Indian researchers studied Jarosite samples from Kachchh, Gujarat, whose **arid, salty terrain resembles Martian conditions.**

- It is a **yellow-brown mineral** containing **potassium, iron, and sulphate.**
 - ⊕ It is **found both on Earth and Mars.**
- It is a **member of alunite supergroup.**
- **Significance of Studying Jarosite**
 - ⊕ Jarosite needs water and acidic conditions to form, so finding it on Mars is **strong evidence that water was present there in the past.**
 - ⊕ It can also trap organic molecules like **glycine within its structure, making it interesting for the search for past life on Mars.**



Doctrine of Essentiality

Recently, the Union Government told the Supreme Court that **Waqf is not an essential part of Islam.**

About Doctrine of Essentiality

- It is a jurisprudential principle formulated by the Supreme Court of India to determine **which religious practices qualify as essential and are thereby protected under Article 25 of the Indian Constitution.**
- It aims to **strike a balance between the freedom of religion and other fundamental rights.**
- It ensures that **religious practices do not infringe upon the rights to equality, dignity and liberty.**



International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Plant Treaty)

Civil Society Organizations have called for **reforms** to the **Plant Treaty** and its **Multilateral System (MLS)** to ensure **equitable benefit-sharing.**

- **MLS** is the largest **global exchange mechanism** for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture including **64 most important crops.**

About Plant Treaty

- Adopted by the **Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN** in 2001 (into force in 2004).
 - ⊕ **India is a member.**
- **Objective**
 - ⊕ To establish a global system to provide farmers, plant breeders and scientists with **access to plant genetic materials;**
 - ⊕ Ensuring recipients **share benefits** derived from use of genetic materials.

Personality in News



Malur Ramasamy Srinivasan (1930-2025)

- He was an **Indian nuclear scientist** and mechanical engineer.
 - He served as the **Chairman** of the **Atomic Energy Commission.**
 - Also, he was founding **chairman of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL).**
 - **Key Contributions:**
 - ⊕ He played a key role in the **development of India's nuclear power programme** and development of the **Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR)** along with Homi Jehangir Bhabha.
 - ⊕ He was involved in building the **country's first nuclear research reactor, Apsara.**
 - **Book: From Fission to Fusion: The Story of India's Atomic Energy Programme**
- Values:** Scientific-temper, leadership, etc.

