



IAS PARLIAMENT

Information is Empowering

A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative

Prelim Bits 27-11-2017

Mahendragiri Gecko

\n\n

- \n
- A new species of gecko (lizards) belonging to the genus Hemidactylus was recently discovered from Mahendragiri hills in Andhra-Odisha border.
- \n
- It is the second gecko to be found endemic to the Eastern Ghats area.
- \n
- The first one “House Lizard” was discovered from Kanger Ghati National Park in Chattisgarh.
- \n
- Scientists discovered that Mahendragiri geckos were not a population of geckos found in Western Ghats in Maharashtra and it is the latest addition to the species list of the Eastern Ghats.
- \n
- The lizard is the 32nd species of Hemidactylus gecko found in India.
- \n
- The discovery highlights the biodiversity importance of the region.
- \n
- For the last 70 years, it did not get its rightful place in the classification scheme.
- \n

\n\n

Mamallapuram Stone Sculptures

\n\n

- \n
- The hand-crafted stone sculptures of Mamallapuram have been recently granted the Geographical Indications (GI) tag.
- \n
- The exquisite rock-sculpting techniques exhibited in Mamallapuram date back to early 7th century CE.

\n

- The Pallava dynasty, which ruled the area between 6 and 9th centuries A.D., is responsible for the development of port town as a centre of art and architecture.

\n

- Mahendravarman (AD 580-630), his son Narasimhavarman I Mamalla (AD 630-668), Paramesvaravarman (A.D. 672-700) and Narasimhavarman II Rajasimha (A.D. 700-728) had contributed the most of sculptures.

\n

- Mamallapuram was named after the king Narasimhavarma Pallava, who was also known as Mamallan (great wrestler).

\n

- Sculptors use blue metal for stone sculptors instead of granite which has high density and very costly.

\n

\n\n

GI tags

\n\n

\n

- Tamil Nadu is first among the states in India with regard to the number of GI tags for its products, while Uttar Pradesh comes second.

\n

- Darjeeling Tea was the first Indian product to get a Geographic Indication in the early 2000s.

\n

- Tamil Nadu has submitted 50 products of which 24 have been approved by the registry.

\n

- The most famous among these is the Kanchipuram silk.

\n

- Coimbatore wet grinder, artisans of Vadasery in Nagercoil who make dazzling jewellery of a unique kind for temples, Tanjavur Dancing Doll are some of the products that have obtained the GI certificate.

\n

\n\n

Neelakurinji Reserve

\n\n

\n

- The reserve is located in Munnar in Idukki district of Kerala.

\n

- The government has decided to redraw the boundaries of the Neelakurinji reserve.
\n
- The government had issued a preliminary notification in 2006 reserving a 3,200-hectare area for Neelakurinji bloom.
\n
- It blooms once in 12 years and it is expected to bloom in July, 2018.
\n
- The notification had triggered an outcry from the local community citing the presence of habitations, institutions, and places of worship within the notified area.
\n
- Click [here](#) to know more about Neelakurinji.
\n

\n\n

UMANG App

\n\n

- UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance) mobile app allow citizens to access government services on a single platform.
\n
- The services live on the app include Aadhaar, DigiLocker, Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) among others.
\n
- It is expected to provide access to over 1,200 services of various government organisations in states and at the Centre as well as utility payments.
\n
- Using the app, citizens will be able to access Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) services, apply for a new PAN, and can register under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana.
\n

\n\n

International Gita Mahotsava - 2017

\n\n

- The International Gita Mahotsava-2017 was recently organized in Kurukshetra, Haryana.
\n
- It was inaugurated by the President of India.
\n

- The mahotsav which will conclude on December 3 will have Mauritius as partner country and Uttar Pradesh as partner state.
- \n

\n\n

\n\n

Source: The Hindu, PIB

\n



IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering
A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative