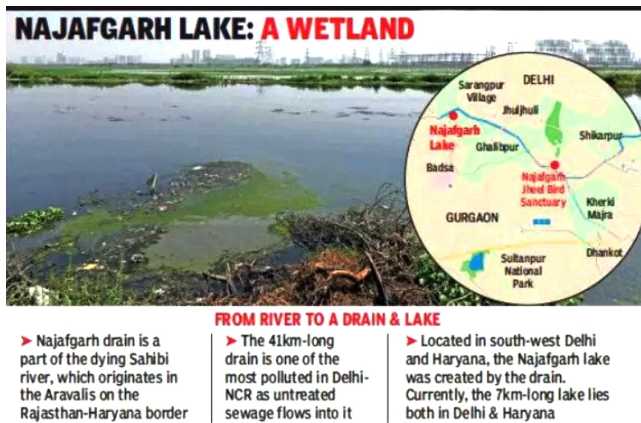




Rapid Fire Current Affairs

Greater Flamingo



Recently, a **greater flamingo** was rescued from Najafgarh wetland, bordering Haryana.

Greater flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) is the **state bird of Gujarat**. They are found in the middle east, including Iran, Turkey, Dubai, Oman, and Afghanistan. They are **also common in south and southwest Asia**. They are **mainly found in shallow waters** of lagoons, lakes, estuaries, and muddy beaches. **Of the six species of flamingos in the world, two are found in India:** the tallest of them, the greater flamingo and the smallest one, the lesser flamingo (*Phoeniconaias minor*). **They are taller, with black-tipped light pinkish beaks, yellowish eyes and pinkish-white body colour.**

In the [IUCN Red List of Threatened Species](#), they are categorized as "least concern (LC)".



Read More: [Najafgarh wetland](#), [Greater Flamingo](#)

Production-Linked Incentive Scheme

The Indian government is offering a modified [production-linked incentive \(PLI\) scheme for electric vehicles \(EVs\)](#) and **advanced chemistry cell batteries** to attract investments from companies, including **Tesla**. This modification is not exclusive to Tesla but follows a similar approach taken with **telecom products and IT Hardware PLI schemes**. The finalization of the modified PLI scheme will determine the specifics of the incentives and structure for participating companies.

The PLI scheme is a crucial component of the ['AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' \(Self-Reliant India\) initiative](#). It aims to **boost domestic manufacturing and create global champions in strategic sectors**. Under the scheme, companies receive **incentives** based on incremental sales from products manufactured in India compared to a **base year**. The PLI scheme also **encourages foreign companies to establish manufacturing units in India**. The Union Budget 2021-22 allocated INR 1.97 lakh crores for the PLI schemes, **covering 14 sectors** such as mobile manufacturing, medical devices, automobiles, pharmaceuticals, specialty steel, telecom products, **electronic products, white goods, food products, textile products, solar PV modules, advanced chemistry cell batteries, and drones**. These sectors were selected based on their potential for generating revenue and employment. The PLI scheme plays a vital role in transforming India into a global manufacturing hub and promoting self-reliance.

Read more: [Enhanced Production Linked Incentive for IT Hardware](#)

Link Between Climate & Covid-19

The **World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)** expert group **concluded that cooler and drier climates may have facilitated Covid-19 transmission**, but evidence **does not support a significant role for weather conditions in the virus's spread**.

The final report states that "high-quality" research studies **show a negative association between temperature and Covid-19 transmission**, suggesting that **lower temperatures may promote the virus's spread**. Similarly, humidity is also correlated with Covid-19 transmission, indicating that **drier conditions likely facilitate transmission**.

The WMO is **an intergovernmental organization with a membership of 192 Member States** and Territories. It **originated from the International Meteorological Organization (IMO)**, which was established after the 1873 Vienna International Meteorological Congress. WMO is **headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland**. **India is a member of WMO since 1949**.

Read More: [World Meteorological Organisation \(WMO\)](#), [Covid-19 and India](#)

Baobab Tree



The High Court of Madhya Pradesh has **directed the state government to stop cutting down Baobab trees in the Dhar district of MP**. This decision **came after tribal communities protested against the removal of these trees**.

The court has **ordered the state to ensure that "not a single Baobab tree is cut for any purpose whatsoever by any authority until further orders of this court"**. The district has around 1,000 Baobabs, some of which are **centuries old, and are of heritage and historical value**. The trees **have been placed under the [Biological Diversity Act, 2002](#)**, meaning **permission for commercial use must be taken from the state biodiversity board**.

Baobabs are **deciduous trees ranging in height from 5 to 20 meters**. They are **native to Africa but were likely brought to this corner by African soldiers** between the 10th and 17th century. It is **known as the 'World Tree in Africa'**. Baobab trees **can live for more than a thousand years and provide food, livestock fodder, medicinal compounds, and raw materials**.

Read More: [Baobab Tree](#)

Heatwaves

Heat wave Scenario	40°C	30°C
Maximum Temperature	Plains	Hills
Heat wave conditions prevail when...	Severe heat wave conditions prevail when....	
Normal maximum temperature	Normal maximum temperature	Normal maximum temperature
Above	Above	Above
40°C	40°C	40°C
Deviation from normal	Deviation from normal	Deviation from normal
4-5°C or more	6°C or more	6°C or more
At or below	At or below	At or below
40°C	40°C	40°C
5-6°C or more	7°C or more	7°C or more

A study by the World Weather Attribution (WWA) found that the intense and humid heatwave that happened in April, **impacting areas like east and north India, Bangladesh, Laos, and Thailand, was made much more likely by climate change**. The chances of such a heatwave occurring **increased by at least 30 times**.

Humid heatwaves **are analysed using the heat index which is a combination of heightened temperatures and relative humidity levels**. It provides a better understanding of the impact of a heatwave on the human body.

As per the [Indian Meteorological Department \(IMD\)](#) criteria, heatwave need not be considered till the **maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40°C for Plains and at-least 30°C for Hilly regions**. If the normal maximum temperature of a station is less than or equal to 40°C, then **an increase of 5°C to 6°C from the normal temperature is considered to be heat wave condition**. Further, an increase of **7°C or more from the normal temperature is considered a severe heat wave condition**.

WWA is a **global association of climate scientists who study the role played by human-induced climate change** in the occurrence, frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as heatwaves, droughts, cold spells, extreme rainfall, floods and storms.

Read More: [Climate Change](#), [Heatwaves](#)

