

10th May 2017	
GS : 3 - ENVIRONMENT (BIODIVERSITY)	
Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary hitches wagon to star tortoises	(The Hindu)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An ambitious project of the Kerala Forest Department at the Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary (CWS) to rehabilitate Indian star tortoises (<i>Geochelone elegans</i>) seized from smugglers has turned into a major success. • This makes the CWS the only rehabilitation centre for star tortoises in the country. • The CWS is the only place in Kerala where star tortoises are known to occur in the wild. 	
GS : 3 - ENVIRONMENT (BIODIVERSITY)	
Kolar welcomes an Amur falcon	(The Hindu)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project has provided new evidence on altered flight patterns of the species. • After a four-day crossing of the sea - a non-stop flight - it halted near Pune before "surprisingly" heading towards Kolar Gold Fields. • "This is the first time one of our tagged birds with satellite tracking has gone south during this season, rather than fly across the Gangetic plains towards Nagaland, which is tracking three other falcons to better understand their migration routes. • On their return, they fly over 5,500 km from Somalia into Northern India and then Southeast Asia. • These birds follow rain, and air currents letting them to fly longer with little effort. 	
GS : 3 - SCIENCE AND TECH	
India to replace Maitri station in Antarctica	(The Hindu)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India has decided to replace the Maitri research station in Antarctica with a new one in the next three or four years Ministry of Earth Sciences Secretary said. • The country is poised to expand its research activity there and is procuring a ship with ice-cutting capacity, he added. 	
Indian Antarctic Program:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Indian Antarctic Program is a multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional program under the control of National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR), Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India. • It was initiated in 1981 with the first Indian expedition to Antarctica. • The program gained global acceptance with India's signing of the Antarctic Treaty and subsequent construction of the Dakshin Gangotri Antarctic research base in 1983, superseded by the Maitri base from 1990. • The newest base commissioned in 2015 is Bharati, constructed out of 134 shipping containers. • Under the program, atmospheric, biological, earth, chemical, and medical sciences are studied by India, which has carried out more than 30 scientific expeditions to the Antarctic. 	
MISCELLANEOUS	
International Court of Justice	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The International Court of Justice commonly referred to as the World Court, ICJ or The Hague is the primary judicial branch of the United Nations (UN). • Seated in the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands, the court settles legal disputes submitted to it by states and provides advisory opinions on legal questions submitted to it by duly authorized international branches, agencies, and the UN General Assembly. 	
Amur falcon	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Amur falcon (<i>Falco amurensis</i>) is a small raptor of the falcon family. • It breeds in south-eastern Siberia and Northern China before migrating in large flocks across India and over the Arabian Sea to winter in Southern Africa. • Their diet consists mainly of insects, such as termites; during migration over the sea, they are thought to feed on migrating dragonflies. 	

Indian Navy ships; INS Karwar and Kakinada decommissioned

- Indian Naval Ships Karwar and Kakinada were recently decommissioned.
- INS Karwar (M67), was the first of the 'Natya' class minesweepers acquired from the erstwhile USSR. She was commissioned on 14 July 1986 at Riga (Russia) under the command of commander R K Sinha. The ship operated from Vishakhapatnam till 2013 after which, the ship was based at Mumbai. Manned by a crew of six officers and 90 sailors, INS Karwar had her motto 'Hamesha Tayyar'.
- INS Kakinada (M70), was the second of the same class and also commissioned at Riga on 23 December 1986. Like her sister ship, Kakinada also operated from Vishakhapatnam till 2013 before shifting base port to Mumbai.
- With the decommissioning of the two minesweepers, the Navy is now left with a fleet of four Soviet-origin minesweeping ships will also be decommissioned by the end of 2018.