

Ancient History

- **Sarcophagus:**
 - Box-like container to hold a coffin; widely used in Ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome.
 - Made from limestone, granite, sandstone, or marble, and often elaborately decorated.
 - Example: Golden sarcophagus of King Tutankhamun.

Environment & Ecology

- **Paraparatrechina neela:**
 - Newly discovered ant species from Siang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh.
 - First species in the Paraparatrechina genus discovered in 121 years.
 - Distinct metallic blue color; body length < 2 mm.
- **60th Meeting of Subsidiary Bodies (SB60):**
 - Mid-year climate conference under UNFCCC.
 - Focus areas: Climate finance, NDCs, transparency reports, and global stocktake dialogue.
 - Venue: Bonn, Germany (June 3–13, 2024).

Indian Geography

- **Pampa Sarovar:**
 - One of five sacred lakes (Panch-Sarovar) in Hindu mythology.
 - Located near Hampi, Karnataka; south of Tungabhadra River.
 - Mentioned in Ramayana as the place where Shabari awaited Lord Rama.
- **Tungabhadra River:**
 - Tributary of Krishna River; originates from the union of Tunga and Bhadra rivers in Karnataka.
 - Major tributaries: Varada and Hagari rivers.
 - Key dams: Tungabhadra Dam, Bhadra Dam.

Defence & Security

- **INS Shivalik:**
 - India's first stealth multi-role frigate; built at Mazagon Dock Limited, Mumbai.
 - Equipped with a mix of Russian, Indian, and Western weapons like BrahMos missiles.
 - Participates in exercises like JIMEX and RIMPAC.
- **Iris-T Missile:**
 - German-led short-range air-to-air missile; six-nation collaboration.
 - Features: Infrared seeker, thrust-vector control, and extreme maneuverability.
 - Designed to counter aerial threats like drones, cruise missiles, and helicopters.

Science & Technology

- **Chang'e-6 Mission:**

- China's uncrewed mission landed on the far side of the Moon in the South Pole-Aitken Basin.
- First mission to collect and return samples from the far side.
- Components: Orbiter, lander, ascender, and returner.
- **Coal Gradation:**
 - Four major types: Anthracite (highest grade), Bituminous, Subbituminous, and Lignite.
 - Higher carbon content equals higher grade; calorific value determines classification.
 - Major producers: China, India, US, Australia, Indonesia.

International Relations

- **Two-State Solution:**
 - Proposed resolution to the Israel-Palestine conflict; calls for independent states for both peoples.
 - Origin: UN's 1947 partition plan; escalated conflict post-1948 and 1967 wars.