



29 August 2024

National and International News

<p>Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance minister said that nearly 3 crore new accounts will be opened under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) during the current financial year. <p>About PMJDY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PMJDY is a financial inclusion program initiated by the Government of India. Objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PMJDY aims to expand affordable access to financial services for Indian citizens. These services include bank accounts, remittances, credit, insurance, and pensions. Eligibility: Indian citizens, including minors aged 10 and older (who can open an account with a guardian), are eligible to participate. The plan also envisages channeling all Government benefits (from Centre / State / Local Body) to the beneficiaries accounts and pushing the Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT) scheme of the Union Government. Benefits under PMJDY: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Savings bank accounts for unbanked people. No requirement to maintain any minimum balance. Rupay Debit card is provided. Accident Insurance Cover of Rs.1 lakh. An overdraft (OD) facility up to Rs. 10,000 to eligible account holders is available. PMJDY accounts are eligible for Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Atal Pension
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	<p>Yojana (APY), Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency Bank (MUDRA) scheme.</p>
<p>Talley Valley Wildlife Sanctuary</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 85 butterfly species spotted at Arunachal Pradesh's Talley Valley Wildlife Sanctuary. <p>About Talley Valley Wildlife Sanctuary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Location: Lower Subansiri district, Arunachal Pradesh ● Rivers: Pange, Sipu, Karing, and Subansiri flow through the sanctuary ● Flora: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Subtropical and alpine forests with silver fir trees, ferns, orchids, bamboo, and rhododendrons ○ Unique bamboo species, Pleioblastus simone, found only in Talley Valley ● Fauna: Elephants, barking deer, giant squirrels, porcupines, leopards, clouded leopards, and wild boars inhabit the sanctuary.
<p>Nuclear Powered Trains</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Railways plans to go nuclear as part of its green drive. <p>About Nuclear Powered Trains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Indian Railways is exploring nuclear power through captive units. ● The goal is to increase reliance on non-fossil fuel sources. ● Initial focus: circuits served by the Nabinagar Thermal Power Plant. ● How Nuclear-Powered Trains Work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Heat from a nuclear reaction produces steam. ○ Steam drives turbines. ○ One turbine powers the train, while another generates electricity for auxiliary systems (lighting, air conditioning). ● Historical Context: Interest in nuclear-powered trains dates back to the 1950s, particularly in the USSR.



National Sports Day

Why in the news?

- The **Prime Minister** paid **homage to hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand** on the **National Sports Day**.

About National Sports Day:

- **National Sports Day:** Celebrated annually on **August 29**, established in **2012** by the Indian government to recognize sports excellence.
- **Tribute to Major Dhyan Chand:** The date was selected to honor **Major Dhyan Chand**, known as the '**Wizard of Hockey**', who was born on August 29, 1905, in **Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Major Dhyan Chand's Career:** Led India to win **three Olympic gold medals in 1928, 1932, and 1936**.
- **Theme for 2024:** The theme has **not been announced yet**; the **2023** theme was "**Sports are an enabler to an inclusive and fit society**."

Northern bald ibis



Why in the news?

- **Biologist Johannes Fritz** and the **Waldrappteam** have **successfully increased the Central European northern bald ibis population from zero to nearly 300 since 2002**.

About Northern bald ibis:

- **Scientific Name:** *Geronticus eremita*
- **Conservation Status:** Endangered (formerly Critically Endangered)
- **Historical Range:**
 - Once **native to Central Europe** until the 17th century.
 - Also **found in North Africa and the Arabian Peninsula**.
 - **Extinction in Europe:** Extinct in Central Europe by the 17th century due to **excessive hunting**.
- **Habitat:** Prefer open areas with short grass like meadows, pastures, and sports fields; not scavengers despite their vulture-like bald head.
- **Breeding Habits:**
 - Nest on steep rock faces with protective nooks.
 - Lay up to four greenish eggs; incubation begins with the first egg, leading to staggered hatching.



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