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10 April 2024

West Bengal News

**Darjeeling Zoo releases four zoo-bred Himalayan Gorals in Singalila National Park**



**Context:**

- The **Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park** (Pnhzp), also known as the Darjeeling Zoo, has taken another step in its conservation efforts by releasing **two pairs of zoo-bred Himalayan Gorals into the Singalila National Park.**

**Key points:**

- Previously, in 2022, the Pnhzp had introduced **six zoo-bred Gorals into the Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary.**
- The **Singalila National Park**, situated on the **Singalila Ridge** at an elevation of over 2,300 meters above sea level in the **Darjeeling district**, is renowned for its trekking route to Sandakphu.
- It is recognized as a **biodiversity hotspot, boasting a rich variety of flora and fauna.**

**Himalayan Gorals:**

- The **Himalayan goral (Naemorhedus goral)**, also known as the **gray goral**, is native to the **Himalayas and is classified as near threatened on the IUCN Red List.**
- It typically measures between 95 and 130 cm in length and weighs between 35 and 42 kg.
- The animal's appearance includes a gray or gray-brown coat with tan legs, lighter patches on the throat, and a single dark stripe along the spine.
- Currently, there are 33 Himalayan Gorals at the Pnhzp.

**Bengal Ranks Second in Political Party Applications**

**Context:**

- **West Bengal** has secured the second position in the country regarding requests made by political parties through the **Suvidha portal for various purposes such as booking rally grounds**, opening temporary party offices, and operating video publicity vans.
- The state has received approximately 13,890 requests as of the latest report till Monday.
- **Tamil Nadu leads with the highest number of requests at 23,239, followed by West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh with 10,636 requests.**



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<p><b>Suvidha Portal:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Suvidha Portal, developed by the Election Commission of India (ECI), is a <b>technological solution aimed at ensuring fair and transparent elections, in line with democratic principles.</b></li><li>• It simplifies the <b>process of requesting and processing permissions</b> and facilities for political parties and candidates during elections.</li><li>• The portal operates on a first-in-in-first-out basis, catering to a wide range of permission requests transparently.</li><li>• <b>Political parties and candidates can easily submit permission requests online</b> from anywhere and at any time.</li><li>• Offline submission options are also available to ensure inclusivity. The Suvidha Portal handles permissions for various activities such as rallies, temporary party offices, door-to-door canvassing, video vans, helicopters, vehicle permits, and pamphlet distribution.</li><li>• Managed by <b>nodal officers from different state departments, the portal uses a robust IT platform to efficiently process permission requests.</b> It also offers a companion app that allows applicants to track the status of their requests in real time, enhancing convenience and transparency.</li><li>• Additionally, the permission data available on the portal is a valuable resource for monitoring election expenditures, promoting greater accountability and integrity in the electoral process.</li></ul>
<p><b>Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of West Bengal</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Arnab Chatterjee has been appointed as the new <b>Joint Chief Electoral Officer in the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of West Bengal.</b></li><li>• Chatterjee, a WBCS officer, previously served as the Joint Secretary in the School Education department.</li><li>• His appointment comes after the <b>recent removal of Rahul Nath</b>, the previous Joint Chief Electoral Officer, by the poll panel.</li><li>• Additionally, <b>Amit Roy Chowdhury, the Additional Chief Electoral Officer</b>, was also removed from his position.</li><li>• In Roy Chowdhury's place, <b>Dibyendu Das</b>, the former director of the West Bengal Transport Department, has been appointed.</li></ul>



বাংলা

- Roy Chowdhury had served as the Additional Chief Electoral Officer for **approximately 10 years**, while Nath held the post for nearly six years, according to sources from the election commission.

### International Pageant Day

#### Context:

- **International Pageant Day** is celebrated annually on **April 8th**.
- It honors the **dedication and achievements of women who compete in pageants around the world**.
- It's a day to **recognize that pageants showcase not just beauty, but also personality, intelligence, and social awareness**.

#### About:

- India has a strong history in international beauty pageants, particularly the "**Big Four**": **Miss Universe, Miss World, Miss Earth, and Miss International**.

#### Key Points:

- **Victories:** A total of **ten crowns** across the **Big Four**, with the most success in **Miss World (six wins)**.
- **Recent win:** **Harnaaz Sandhu won Miss Universe 2021**.
- **Double win years:**
  - **1994 (Sushmita Sen - Miss Universe, Aishwarya Rai - Miss World)** and
  - **2000 (Lara Dutta - Miss Universe, Priyanka Chopra - Miss World)**.

#### Theme:

- The theme for International Pageant day 2024 is "**Promoting unity and global friendship**"

#### Did you know?

- The history of the **beauty pageant goes back as far as 1839**.

### World Homeopathy Day

#### Context:

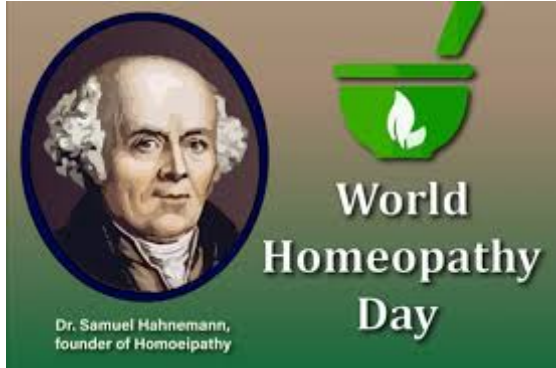
- **World Homeopathy Day** is celebrated every year on **April 10th** every year
- It honors the **birthday of Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of homeopathy**.
- It's a day to **raise awareness about this alternative medical system that uses natural substances** in minimal doses to stimulate the body's healing response.



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- It aims to:
  - Increase public understanding of homeopathy
  - Improve accessibility of homeopathic treatments
  - Address challenges faced by homeopathy and explore its future potential

### Theme:

- The theme for World Homeopathy Day 2024 is **'Empowering Research, Enhancing Proficiency: A Homeopathy Symposium'**.
- This theme **underscores the significance of continuous research in homeopathy** and the need to upgrade capability in its training to give better medical care results.

### Did you know?

- **Mahendra Lal Sircar was the first Indian who became a homeopathic physician**
- **The Calcutta Homeopathic Medical College, the first homeopathic medical college was established in 1881.**

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