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12 June 2024

## National &amp; International News

<p><b>AIM – ICDK Water Challenge 4.0</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)</b>, NITI Aayog has announced the <b>launch of two new initiatives</b>.</li> <li>• The <b>first initiative</b> is the '<b>AIM – ICDK Water Challenge 4.0</b>'.</li> <li>• The <b>second initiative</b> is the <b>fifth edition of the 'Innovations for You' handbook</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>About AIM – ICDK Water Challenge 4.0:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This initiative addresses <b>critical water-related challenges in India</b> through inventive solutions.</li> <li>• The challenge is a <b>collaborative effort with the Innovation Centre Denmark (ICDK)</b> at the <b>Royal Danish Embassy in India</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Jailed Members of Parliament</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the recently concluded <b>Lok Sabha elections</b>, the <b>victory of two candidates serving prison sentences on terror charges</b> has raised questions about their ability to take oaths and function as legislators.</li> </ul> <p><b>About the Rights of Members of Parliament:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Legal Framework:</b> Under <b>Section 8(3) of the Representation of People Act, 1951 (RPA)</b>, MPs are <b>disqualified</b> if convicted of <b>any offence and sentenced to imprisonment for not less than two years</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Constitutional Right:</b> Jailed leaders, despite their imprisonment, have the constitutional <b>right to take oath</b> as Members of Parliament.</li> <li>• <b>Temporary Bail:</b> Jailed leaders can seek temporary bail or custody to attend the oath-taking ceremony and perform other ancillary functions as MPs.</li> <li>• <b>Oath-Taking:</b> Jailed leaders can take oath as MPs, but they must seek permission from authorities to be escorted to Parliament for the ceremony.</li> <li>• <b>Inability to Attend Proceedings:</b> After taking the oath, they must inform the Speaker in writing about their inability to attend House proceedings.</li> <li>• <b>Speaker's Referral:</b> The Speaker will refer their requests to the House Committee on Absence of Members, which will make a recommendation on their absence.</li> <li>• <b>Conviction and Disqualification:</b> If convicted and sentenced to a minimum of two years in prison, they will immediately lose their seats in the Lok Sabha.</li> </ul>



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<p><b>Birsa Munda</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Recently, the <b>Governor and Chief Minister of Jharkhand paid tribute</b> to the tribal icon <b>Birsa Munda</b> on his death anniversary.</li></ul> <p><b>About Birsa Munda:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Birth and Death:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Born: November 15, 1875</li><li>Died: June 9, 1900, at the age of 25</li></ul></li><li><b>Tribal Affiliation:</b> Belonged to the <b>Munda tribe</b> in the <b>Chota Nagpur Plateau area</b>.</li><li><b>Role and Influence:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Folk hero and <b>tribal freedom fighter</b></li><li><b>Played a pivotal role in the Indian independence movement</b>, especially in tribal regions of British India</li><li>Encouraged the tribe to stick to their traditions and return to their tribal roots</li></ul></li><li><b>Munda Rebellion (Ulgulan/Tamar Revolt):</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Spearheaded an <b>Indian tribal mass movement in the Bihar and Jharkhand belts</b> in the <b>early 19th century</b></li><li>Led a series of guerrilla warfare campaigns against the British forces</li><li><b>United various tribal communities</b> under the banner of the <b>Munda Raj</b></li></ul></li><li><b>Religious Contributions:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Founded the <b>faith of Birsait</b>, blending <b>animism</b> and Indigenous beliefs with a single god worship</li><li>Nicknamed '<b>Dharti Aba</b>' or the <b>father of the earth</b></li></ul></li><li><b>Recognition:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The <b>state of Jharkhand was created on his birth anniversary</b> in <b>2000</b> in recognition of his impact on the national movement.</li><li><b>November 15</b> was declared '<b>Janjatiya Gaurav Divas</b>' by the Central Government in 2021.</li></ul></li></ul>
<p><b>Four-Horned Chousingha</b>      <b>Antelope</b>      or</p> 	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A rare <b>four-horned antelope</b> has been sighted for the <b>first time</b> in the <b>Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve</b>.</li><li>The reserve is located in the <b>Sagar district, Madhya Pradesh</b>.</li><li>The reserve was <b>previously known as the Nauradehi Sanctuary</b>.</li></ul> <p><b>About Chousingha:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Scientific Name:</b> Tetracerus quadricornis</li></ul>



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- **Distribution:**
  - **Endemic to India and Nepal.**
  - In India, it ranges from the **foothills of the Himalayas to the Deccan Plateau.**
- **Habitat:**
  - Prefers **open, dry, deciduous forests** in hilly terrain.
  - **Inhabits areas with significant grass cover** or heavy undergrowth, often near water bodies.
- **Physical Features:**
  - **The smallest antelope is found in Asia.**
  - Unique feature: males have **four horns** (two between the ears and two on the forehead).
- **Behavior:** Typically **diurnal and solitary**, but can be found in loose groups of three to four.
- **Conservation Status:** Listed as **Vulnerable** on the **IUCN Red List.**

### Places in news: New Caledonia



### Why in the news?

- Widespread protests and riots erupted in **New Caledonia** in response to the French parliament's decision to amend the voters' list.

### About New Caledonia:

- **Location:** New Caledonia is a **French overseas territory** located in the **southwestern Pacific Ocean**, approximately **1,500 km east of Australia.**
- **History:** **Originally inhabited by the Kanaks**, New Caledonia came under **French control in 1853.** Post-WWII, Kanaks gained French citizenship, but 1960s French migration made them a minority, sparking an independence movement.
- **Independence Movement:** Tensions led to the **Matignon Agreements (1988)** and **Nouméa Accord (1998)**, promising three independence referendums. The **2018, 2020, and 2021 referendums favored France**, despite COVID-19 concerns, which angered the Kanaks.
- **Economic Resources:** The island is rich in natural resources, notably nickel, which is vital for various industries, including manufacturing and technology.

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