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Tamil Nadu: 20-05-2024

India Skills Competition 2024	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The India Skills Competition 2024 has drawn maximum participation from the southern states.• Tamil Nadu has the highest number of participants (86), followed by Karnataka (61). <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Other southern states participating are Andhra Pradesh (42), Kerala (34), and Telangana (33), making a combined force of 265 skilled competitors.• Odisha has 64 candidates, while Maharashtra and Punjab have 57 and 53 participants respectively.• The competition is implemented by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.• Winners of IndiaSkills 2024 will prepare for the WorldSkills Competition in Lyon, France in September 2024.• About 2.5 lakh candidates registered for the competition on the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) Portal, out of which 26,000 were shortlisted for state and district level competition, and 900+ students were further shortlisted for the national competition.• New-age skills like autonomous mobile robotics, automobile repairing, cloud computing, and mechatronics are popular in this edition of IndiaSkills 2024.
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Lion-tailed macaques

Why in news?

- **Lion-tailed macaques**, a species of shy primates, are leaving their forest habitats and moving into Valparai in search of food.
- These primates have lost their fear of humans.

Key points:

- **This change in behavior is attributed to several factors:**
 - **Habitat degradation:** The natural habitats of these macaques are being destroyed.
 - **Roads through habitats:** The construction of roads through their habitats has disrupted their living conditions.
 - **Increased vehicular movement:** The increase in traffic and human activity in their habitats has affected their behavior.
 - **Food offered by tourists:** Tourists feeding these macaques have made them dependent on human food.
 - **Improper waste management:** The improper disposal of waste has attracted these macaques to human settlements.

About Lion-tailed macaques:

- **Scientific Name:** Macaca silenus
- **Common Name:** Lion-tailed macaque
- **Habitat:** Primarily found in the **tropical rainforests of the Western Ghats in India.**
- **Behavior:**
 - **Arboreal and diurnal.**
 - Live in social groups of 10-20 individuals.
 - Known for their loud calls and complex vocalizations.
- **Reproduction:**
 - **Gestation period:** Approximately **6 months.**
 - Usually give birth to a single offspring.
- **Conservation Status:** **Endangered** (IUCN Red List).
- **Threats:**
 - Habitat destruction due to deforestation and land conversion for agriculture.
 - Hunting and poaching.
- **Lifespan:** Can live up to **20-30 years in the wild.**



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Decentralised Seed Multiplier
(DSM)

Why in news?

- The ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (ICAR-CTCRI) is planning to expand a **Decentralised Seed Multiplier (DSM) programme** to more States.
- The programme aims to ensure the **availability of good quality planting material of tropical tuber crops**.
- **Currently**, the Decentralised Seed Multiplier (DSM) programme is being implemented in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha.

About Decentralised Seed Multiplier (DSM):

- DSM is a system designed to **enhance the availability of quality seeds by involving local farmers** in the production and distribution process.
- **Objectives:**
 - Increase seed accessibility and affordability.
 - Improve seed quality and yield.
 - Empower local farmers through training and participation.
- **Key Components:**
 - **Farmer Selection:** Identifying and training local farmers to become seed multipliers.
 - **Training and Support:** Providing technical training, resources, and ongoing support to seed multipliers.
 - **Quality Control:** Implementing standards and protocols to ensure the production of high-quality seeds.
 - **Distribution Networks:** Establishing efficient distribution channels to ensure seeds reach a wide range of farmers.



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Pygmy killer whale



Why in news?

- A **Pygmy killer whale** was found stranded near the Thoothukudi shore in the **Narippaiyur area of Mannar Marine National Park**.

About Pygmy killer whale:

- **Scientific Name:** Feresa attenuata
- **Family:** Delphinidae
- **Conservation Status:** **Data Deficient** (IUCN Red List)
- **Appearance:** Dark gray to black with a lighter underside. They have rounded heads and a small, slender body. There is a white patch on the belly and lips.
- **Dorsal Fin:** Tall and falcate (curved backward).
- **Diet:** **Carnivorous**, primarily feeding on fish and squid.
- **Behavior:** Known to be **elusive and rarely seen**. They can be **aggressive towards other dolphins and whales**.
- **Habitat:** Prefer deep, warm tropical and subtropical waters.
- **Geographic Range:** Found in oceans worldwide, including the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans.

Floating restaurant project

Why in news?

- The **Tamil Nadu Tourism Department** has completed a **'floating restaurant' project** in **Muttukadu Boat House on East Coast Road**.

Key points:

- This Rs 5 crore project is the **first of its kind in the state**.
- The project is implemented through a **public-private partnership with the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation and Cochin-based Grandeur Marine International**.
- The cruise, named **'Seanz Cruise'**, will be inaugurated in the first week of June.
- The **floating restaurant is a double-decker**.