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National and International News

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



Birsa Munda

Why in the news?

- Recently, the **Governor and Chief Minister of Jharkhand paid tribute** to the tribal icon **Birsa Munda** on his death anniversary.

About Birsa Munda:

- Birth and Death:**
 - Born: November 15, 1875
 - Died: June 9, 1900, at the age of 25
- Tribal Affiliation:** Belonged to the **Munda tribe** in the **Chota Nagpur Plateau** area.
- Role and Influence:**
 - Folk hero and **tribal freedom fighter**
 - Played a pivotal role in the Indian independence** movement, especially in tribal regions of British India
 - Encouraged the tribe to stick to their traditions and return to their tribal roots
- Munda Rebellion (Ulgulan/Tamar Revolt):**
 - Spearheaded an **Indian tribal mass movement in the Bihar and Jharkhand belts** in the **early 19th century**
 - Led a series of guerrilla warfare campaigns against the British forces
 - United various tribal communities** under the banner of the **Munda Raj**
- Religious Contributions:**
 - Founded the **faith of Birsait**, blending **animism** and indigenous beliefs with a single god worship
 - Nicknamed '**Dharti Aba**' or the **father of the earth**
- Recognition:**
 - The **state of Jharkhand was created on his birth anniversary** in **2000** in recognition of his impact on the national movement.
 - November 15** was declared '**Janjatiya Gaurav Divas**' by the Central Government in 2021.

Four-Horned Antelope or Chousingha



Why in the news?

- A **rare four-horned antelope** has been **sighted for the first time** in the **Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve**.
- The reserve is located in the **Sagar district, Madhya Pradesh**.
- The reserve was **previously known as the Nauradehi Sanctuary**.

About Chousingha:

- Scientific Name:** Tetracerus quadricornis
- Distribution:**
 - Endemic to India and Nepal**.
 - In India, it ranges from the **foothills of the Himalayas to the Deccan Plateau**.



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- **Habitat:**
 - Prefers **open, dry, deciduous forests** in hilly terrain.
 - **Inhabits areas with significant grass cover** or heavy undergrowth, often near water bodies.
- **Physical Features:**
 - **Smallest antelope 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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