




02 August 2024

National and International News

<p>Hoollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary</p> 	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has approved exploratory oil and gas drilling in parts of Hoollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary. • This decision may further endanger the Hoolock Gibbon, an already endangered species. <p>About Hoollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location and Status: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Isolated protected area of evergreen forest in Jorhat district, Assam. ○ Designated as a wildlife sanctuary in 1997 by the Assam Government. ○ The only sanctuary in India named after a gibbon, known for having the densest gibbon populations in Assam. • River: The Bhogdoi River creates a waterlogged region dominated by semi-hydrophytic plants along the sanctuary's border. • Flora: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Upper Canopy: Dominated by the Hollong tree. ○ Middle Canopy: Dominated by the Nahar tree. ○ Lower Canopy: Consists of evergreen shrubs and herbs. • Fauna: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hoolock gibbons (India's only gibbons). ○ Bengal slow loris (Northeastern India's only nocturnal primate). ○ Indian elephants, tigers, leopards, jungle cats, wild boar. ○ Three types of civet, four types of squirrels. ○ Stump-tailed macaque, northern pig-tailed macaque. • IUCN status: Endangered
<p>Exercise Tarang Shakti</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India will host the international air exercise 'Tarang Shakti' in two phases, with events taking place in Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan.



Exercise Tarang Shakti

Since 2001, IAF has participated in 51 international exercises across the world

Learning from the experience, IAF to host Tarang Shakti, its largest international exercise yet

To take place in 2 phases - August 6-14 in Sullur and August 29 to September 14 in Jodhpur

51 nations have been invited
10 NATIONS SENDING AERIAL ASSETS
18 NATIONS TO SEND SENIOR OBSERVERS FOR THE EXERCISE



Foreign fighters participating:

F/A 18 from Australia
Eurofighter Typhoons from UK, Spain and Germany



Indian aircraft to include LCA, Su 30MKI, Rafale, MiG29, Jaguar, Mirage 2000, C130, AWACS, Light Combat Helicopter, Advanced Light Helicopter

C130s from Bangladesh and Singapore
Dassault Rafales from France
F16s from Greece and US
A10 Warthogs from the US



About Exercise Tarang Shakti:

- **Largest international air exercise ever conducted in India.**
- Aimed at **strengthening strategic relations with international friends.**
- Invitations extended to **51 countries**, with nearly 30 participating.
- **Objective:**
 - To **invite friendly foreign countries** with regular interactions and a degree of interoperability with the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- **Participating Countries:**
 - **Phase One (Sullur, Tamil Nadu)**
 - Dates: August 6 to August 14
 - **Countries:** France, Germany, Spain, United Kingdom
 - **Phase Two (Jodhpur, Rajasthan)**
 - Dates: September 1 to September 14
 - **Countries:** Australia, Bangladesh, Greece, Singapore, UAE, USA

National Apprenticeship Training Scheme



Why in the news?

- The **Union Education Minister** recently launched the **National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS) 2.0 Portal.**

About National Apprenticeship Training Scheme:

- **Flagship Programme:** Government of India initiative for **skilling Indian youth** in trade disciplines.
- **Legislation:** Under the **Apprentices Act, 1961**, amended in 1973.
- **Eligibility:** Graduate, diploma students, and vocational certificate holders.
- **Training Type:** Practical, hands-on On-the-Job Training (OJT).
- **Duration:** 6 months to 1 year.
- **Stipend:** Apprentices are paid a stipend, with **50% reimbursed to the employer by the Government of India.**
- **Employment:** No guarantee of employment after completing the apprenticeship.

NATS 2.0 Portal:

- **Facilitates registration and application process for apprenticeships.**
- Allows industries to **manage vacancies and contracts.**
- **Manages the entire apprenticeship lifecycle.**
- Developed by the **Ministry of Education** with **AICTE** and the **Board of Apprenticeship Training/Practical Training (BoATs/BoPT).**



Sturgeon



POPULATION
Population Unknown



LOCATION
Ocean



CONSERVATION STATUS
Critically Endangered



WEIGHT
200 to 1,800 pounds



HABITAT Sturgeons are commonly found in freshwater habitats such as rivers and lakes with cool to cold water and sandy or rocky bottoms.

A sturgeon is a large, prehistoric-looking fish characterized by its long, bony snout, rows of armored plates on its body, and typically found in freshwater rivers and lakes.

Why in the news?

- The **World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)** report recently stated that **poaching and trafficking are threatening the survival of four sturgeon species.**

About Sturgeon:

- **Endangered Status:** Among the most endangered fish species globally.
- **Distribution:** Found in **large river systems, lakes, coastal waters, and inner seas** throughout **Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, other European countries, and North America.**
- **CITES Regulation:** Since 1998, **international trade in all sturgeon species has been regulated under CITES** due to concerns over unsustainable harvesting and illegal trade.
- **Threats:** Heavily **exploited for their roe (caviar) and meat**, leading to a steep decline in populations worldwide.

National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)

Why in the news?

- The **Union Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers** informed that the **National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)** issued notice to many pharmaceutical companies regarding **violations of the Drug Price Control Order.**

About NPPA:

- **Establishment:** Set up in 1997 under the **Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995.**
- **Purpose:**
 - To **fix and revise prices of controlled bulk drugs and formulations,**
 - **Ensuring availability and affordability of medicines** in the country.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Attached office of the **Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.**

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