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National and International News

<p><b>PM E-DRIVE Scheme</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the <b>PM Electric Drive Revolution</b> in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) Scheme to accelerate the growth of electric mobility in India.</li> <li>This scheme, initiated by the <b>Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI)</b>, is set to operate with a financial commitment of Rs 10,900 crore over a two-year period.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Components</b></p> <p><b>Subsidies for EVs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rs 3,679 crore allocated for incentives to e-2Ws, e-3Ws, e-ambulances, and e-trucks.</li> <li><b>Target:</b> 24.79 lakh e-2Ws, 3.16 lakh e-3Ws, and 14,028 e-buses.</li> </ul> <p><b>E-Voucher System:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Simplified EV purchase process using Aadhaar-authenticated e-vouchers.</li> <li>Vouchers sent to buyers' mobile numbers; signed by buyers and dealers for incentive claims.</li> </ul> <p><b>Electric Ambulances:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rs 500 crore allocated for deploying e-ambulances.</li> <li>Standards developed in consultation with MoHFW and other stakeholders.</li> </ul> <p><b>Incentives for E-Trucks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rs 500 crore allocated for incentivizing e-trucks, with additional incentives for scrapping old trucks at authorized centers.</li> </ul> <p><b>Procurement of E-Buses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rs 4,391 crore for purchasing 14,028 e-buses for public transport.</li> <li>Focus on cities with a population over 40 lakh; scrapping of old buses prioritized.</li> </ul> <p><b>Impact and Benefits</b></p> <p><b>Greener Healthcare and Transport:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotes cleaner healthcare with e-ambulances and reduces pollution with EVs in public transport.</li> </ul> <p><b>Economic Boost:</b></p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports Aatmanirbhar Bharat by encouraging domestic EV manufacturing and creating jobs through the Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP).</li> <li>• Significant employment generation in EV manufacturing and charging infrastructure development.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Gram Nyayalayas</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Supreme Court of India has emphasized that the establishment of <b>Gram Nyayalayas</b> across the nation would significantly enhance access to justice, especially for rural citizens.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This initiative would bring legal services closer to the people, helping ensure that justice is not denied due to economic, social, or geographical limitations.</li> </ul> <p><b>Background:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008:</b> Passed by Parliament, this act provides for the creation of local courts at the grassroots level.</li> <li>• <b>Purpose:</b> The act aims to deliver justice to citizens at their doorsteps, ensuring that no one is deprived of justice due to social, economic, or other disabilities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ahaetulla Longirostris</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ahaetulla Longirostris, a long-snouted vine snake, discovered in India.</b></li> <li>• <b>Locations:</b> Specimens found in Bihar (eastern India) and Meghalaya (northeastern India).</li> <li>• <b>Distinct Appearance:</b> Striking green or orange-brown colouration, slender body, and a prominent long snout.</li> <li>• <b>Significance:</b> Highlights the role of molecular analysis in species identification.</li> </ul> <p><b>Physical Characteristics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Size and Shape:</b> These snakes can grow up to 4 feet in length, characterized by their slender, elongated bodies.</li> <li>• <b>Colouration:</b> The species typically exhibits vibrant green or orange-brown hues, with an orange belly.</li> <li>• <b>Unique Snout:</b> The long snout is a key feature that sets Ahaetulla Longirostris apart from other vine snakes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Habitat and Adaptability:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Varied Habitats:</b> This species has been observed in both forested regions and human-influenced environments, such as urban areas, demonstrating its adaptability to different surroundings.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Rangeen Machhli</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh</b> , launched the "<b>Rangeen Machhli</b>"</li> </ul>



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	<p>mobile app.</p> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The app was developed by <b>ICAR-CIFA</b> with the support of the <b>Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)</b>.</li> <li>• It aims to support the ornamental fisheries sector, offering knowledge resources for aquarium enthusiasts, shop owners, and fish farmers.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Features of the 'Rangeen Machhli' App</b></p> <p><b>Multilingual Accessibility:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The app provides information on <b>ornamental fish species</b> in eight Indian languages, making it user-friendly for a broad audience.</li> <li>• It caters to hobbyists, aquarium shop owners, and fish farmers, offering detailed guidance on fish care, breeding, and maintenance.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Exercise AL NAJAH</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Indian Army contingent departed for Oman to participate in the <b>5th edition of the India-Oman Joint Military Exercise, AL NAJAH V</b>.</li> <li>• The exercise will take place from <b>13th to 26th September 2024 at the Rabkoot Training Area, Salalah, Oman</b>.</li> <li>• This biennial exercise has been conducted since 2015, alternating between India and Oman.</li> <li>• The previous edition took place in <b>Mahajan, Rajasthan</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategic Importance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exercise AL NAJAH V promotes the exchange of best practices in tactics, techniques, and procedures for joint military operations.</li> <li>• It fosters interoperability, camaraderie, and goodwill between the Indian and Omani armies.</li> <li>• The joint exercise strengthens defence cooperation and enhances the bilateral relations between India and Oman.</li> </ul>

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