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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

29 August 2024

National and International News

<p>Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finance minister said that nearly 3 crore new accounts will be opened under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) during the current financial year. <p>About PMJDY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PMJDY is a financial inclusion program initiated by the Government of India.• Objective:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ PMJDY aims to expand affordable access to financial services for Indian citizens.○ These services include bank accounts, remittances, credit, insurance, and pensions.• Eligibility: Indian citizens, including minors aged 10 and older (who can open an account with a guardian), are eligible to participate.• The plan also envisages channeling all Government benefits (from Centre / State / Local Body) to the beneficiaries accounts and pushing the Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT) scheme of the Union Government.• Benefits under PMJDY:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Savings bank accounts for unbanked people.○ No requirement to maintain any minimum balance.○ Rupay Debit card is provided.○ Accident Insurance Cover of Rs.1 lakh.
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- An **overdraft (OD) facility** up to **Rs. 10,000 to eligible account holders** is available.
- PMJDY accounts are eligible for **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**, **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)**, **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)**, **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)**, **Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency Bank (MUDRA) scheme**.

Talley Valley Wildlife Sanctuary

Why in the news?

- **85 butterfly species spotted** at Arunachal Pradesh's Talley Valley Wildlife Sanctuary.

About Talley Valley Wildlife Sanctuary:

- **Location:** Lower **Subansiri district, Arunachal Pradesh**
- **Rivers:** Pange, Sipu, Karing, and Subansiri flow through the sanctuary
- **Flora:**
 - **Subtropical and alpine forests** with **silver fir trees, ferns, orchids, bamboo, and rhododendrons**
 - **Unique bamboo species**, *Pleioblastus simone*, found only in Talley Valley
- **Fauna:** Elephants, barking deer, giant squirrels, porcupines, leopards, clouded leopards, and wild boars inhabit the sanctuary.



Nuclear Powered Trains	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Railways plans to go nuclear as part of its green drive. <p>About Nuclear Powered Trains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Indian Railways is exploring nuclear power through captive units.● The goal is to increase reliance on non-fossil fuel sources.● Initial focus: circuits served by the Nabinagar Thermal Power Plant.● How Nuclear-Powered Trains Work:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Heat from a nuclear reaction produces steam.○ Steam drives turbines.○ One turbine powers the train, while another generates electricity for auxiliary systems (lighting, air conditioning).● Historical Context: Interest in nuclear-powered trains dates back to the 1950s, particularly in the USSR.
National Sports Day	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The Prime Minister paid homage to hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand on the National Sports Day. <p>About National Sports Day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● National Sports Day: Celebrated annually on August 29, established in 2012 by the Indian government to recognize sports excellence.● Tribute to Major Dhyan Chand: The date was selected to honor Major Dhyan Chand, known as the 'Wizard of Hockey', who was born on August 29, 1905, in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh.● Major Dhyan Chand's Career: Led India to win three Olympic gold medals in 1928, 1932, and 1936.● Theme for 2024: The theme has not been announced yet; the 2023 theme was "Sports are an enabler to an inclusive and fit society."



Northern bald ibis



Why in the news?

- **Biologist** Johannes Fritz and the Waldrappteam have successfully increased the Central European northern bald ibis population from zero to nearly 300 since 2002.

About Northern bald ibis:

- **Scientific Name:** Geronticus eremita
- **Conservation Status:** Endangered (formerly Critically Endangered)
- **Historical Range:**
 - Once **native to Central Europe** until the 17th century.
 - Also **found in North Africa and the Arabian Peninsula.**
 - **Extinction in Europe:** Extinct in Central Europe by the 17th century due to **excessive hunting.**
- **Habitat:** Prefer open areas with short grass like meadows, pastures, and sports fields; not scavengers despite their vulture-like bald head.
- **Breeding Habits:**
 - Nest on steep rock faces with protective nooks.
 - Lay up to four greenish eggs; incubation begins with the first egg, leading to staggered hatching.



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**MPSC GAZETTED
CIVIL SERVICES 2024**

संयुक्त पूर्व परीक्षा
(पेपर 1 आणि पेपर 2)
20 Total Tests

Test Series

**MPSC GROUP
B & C 2024**

संयुक्त पूर्व परीक्षा
(अराजपत्रित)
27 Total Tests

Test Series

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KA MAHAPACK**

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