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05 October 2024

National and International News

Pygmy hog



Why in the news?

- Nine captive-bred pygmy hogs released in Assam national park.
- It was the fifth such exercise by the **Pygmy Hog Conservation Programme (PHCP)** since **2020**.

About Pygmy hog:

- **Species:** Smallest and rarest wild pig in the world.
- **Unique Behavior:** One of the few mammals that build its own nest with a 'roof'.
- **Indicator Species:** Reflects the health of its primary habitat, tall and wet grasslands.
- **Habitat:**
 - Prefers undisturbed patches of **grassland**.
 - Dominated by early succession riverine communities.
 - Comprises dense tall grass, herbs, shrubs, and young trees.
 - **Current Population:** Viable population in the wild is in **Manas Tiger Reserve, Assam**.
- **Conservation Status:**
 - **IUCN:** Critically Endangered.
 - The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I.

PM Internship Scheme

Why in the news?

- The **Prime Minister's Internship Scheme**, announced by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during her Budget speech on July 23, **was launched on October 3**.

About PM Internship Scheme:

- It will **enhance youth employability in India by offering them hands-on exposure to real-world business environments**.
- The scheme represents a **transformative opportunity to bridge the skills gap and drive sustainable growth in India**.
- **Aim:** The scheme aims to provide **internship opportunities to one crore youth over five years**, in the top 500 companies.
- The **pilot project** will be implemented through an online portal **managed by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)**.
- A **monthly stipend of ₹4,500 will be provided to the interns** from the central government via DBT (Direct Benefit transfer), with an **additional ₹500 offset provided by the company's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)**.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They will also be provided a one-time grant of Rs 6,000 upon joining and insurance coverage under PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and PM Suraksha Bima Yojana.
<p>European Deforestation (EUDR)</p> <p>Union Regulation</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Union proposes extension of deadline to implement deforestation regulation. <p>About European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit the EU market's impact on global deforestation, forest degradation, and biodiversity loss. Promote deforestation-free supply chains. Reduce the EU's contribution to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Protect human rights and the rights of indigenous people. Targeted Commodities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cattle (including beef) Cocoa Wood Coffee Oil Palm Rubber Soya Relevant products derived from these commodities (e.g., leather, chocolate, paper).
<p>International Medical Device Regulators Forum</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India becomes affiliate member of International Medical Device Regulators Forum. <p>About International Medical Device Regulators Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment: Founded in 2011. Purpose: Speed up the adoption of international medical device regulatory harmonization and convergence. Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National regulatory authorities of the U.S., Australia, Canada, the European Union, Japan, the United Kingdom, Brazil, Russia, China, South Korea, Singapore. World Health Organization (WHO).



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<p>International Energy Efficiency Hub</p>	<p>Energy</p> <p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cabinet approves India to Join International Energy Efficiency Hub by signing the Letter of Intent. <p>About International Energy Efficiency Hub:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Global Platform: Dedicated to fostering collaboration and promoting energy efficiency worldwide. ● Establishment: Founded in 2020 as the successor to the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC), with India as a member. ● Purpose: Brings together governments, international organizations, and private sector entities to share knowledge, best practices, and innovative solutions. ● Implementing Agency: The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) is the designated implementing agency for India. ● Role of BEE: Facilitates India's participation in the Hub's activities and ensures alignment with national energy efficiency goals.
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Odisha Specific News

<p>Bridgestone Social Impact Award 2024</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Anchalik Jana Seva Anusthan (AJSA) India, a non-governmental organization based in Odisha, has been awarded the Bridgestone Mobility Social Impact Award 2024 in the "Increase Access to Resources" category. ● The award comes with a cash prize of Rs 1.5 million. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Bridgestone Social Impact Award is a prestigious recognition given to individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions to improving the lives of people through innovative mobility solutions. ● This award aligns with Bridgestone's commitment to advancing safe and sustainable mobility for all
<p>Rare Melanistic in Similipal Tiger Reserve</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A breathtaking video of a rare melanistic tiger, captured in Similipal Tiger Reserve, Odisha. ● Melanistic tigers are a testament to the diversity of life and the importance of preserving their habitats. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Melanistic tigers, often referred to as "black tigers,"



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	<p>are a unique and extremely rare variant of the Bengal tiger.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their distinctive appearance is due to an excess of melanin, a pigment that determines skin, hair, and eye color. • This excess melanin causes the tiger's stripes to become darker and more prominent, often appearing almost black. <p>Refer to Addapedia notes for detailed info on Similipal Tiger Reserve.</p>
<p>10% Quota To Retired Agniveers In Uniform Services</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Odisha government has introduced rules to provide a 10% quota to retired Agniveers in uniform services. • In these regulations, "Retired Agniveers" means a person who has completed four years of service in the armed forces under the Agniveers Recruitment Scheme of the Government of India. • A "Retired Soldier" means a person as defined in the Retired Soldiers (Employment in State Civil Service and Posts) Regulations, 1985. • "Uniform Service" means the police, Forest, Forestry, Fire Services or any other service as may be declared by the government from time to time. • A 10% Horizontal reservation shall be reserved for retired Agniveers in uniform service of all 'C' and 'D' category posts of the state filled by direct recruitment. • This reservation shall be subject to an additional 10% reservation in addition to the reservation applicable to retired servicemen. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agniveer scheme is a new recruitment plan for the Indian Armed Forces. • The primary goal of this scheme is to introduce a new model of recruitment, offering short-term service contracts to a large number of young people. <p>Key features of the Agniveer scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short-term service: Agniveers serve for a period of four years. • Retention: 25% of Agniveers will be retained for an additional 15 years, forming the permanent cadre of the Armed Forces. • Skill development: During their service, Agniveers will acquire various skills and training that can be beneficial for their future careers. • Severance package: After completing their four-year



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	tenure, Agniveers will receive a severance package, including a lump sum amount and a skill development certificate
<p>OOPE in Odisha drops to 37.1 pc from 71.5 pc in less than a decade</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Odisha has cut down out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) on health by almost half in less than a decade. ● It has achieved a notable decrease from 71.5% in 2015-16 to 37.1% in 2021-22. ● The OOPE in the state is now among the lowest in the country, as per the National Health Accounts (NHA) estimate released by the central government. ● The drop is attributed to the universal health assurance scheme for more than one crore families and a four-fold increase in the government expenditure on healthcare <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● OOPE refers to the direct costs incurred by an individual for healthcare services that are not covered by insurance. <p>These expenses can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Co-payments: Fixed amounts paid at the time of service. ● Deductibles: A minimum amount paid before insurance coverage kicks in. ● Co-insurance: A percentage of the cost that the individual pays. ● Prescription drugs: Costs not covered by insurance or covered only partially. ● Over-the-counter medications: Medications purchased without a prescription. ● Medical supplies and equipment: Items like bandages, crutches, or hearing aids.

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