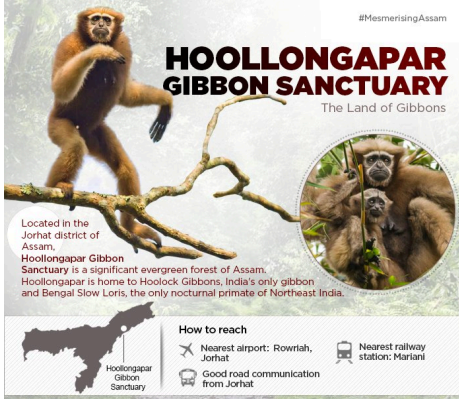




02 Aug 2024

### National and International News

#### Hoollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary



#### Why in the news?

- 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.

#### About Hoollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary:

- **Location and Status:**
  - 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:**
  - Upper Canopy: Dominated by the **Hollong tree.**
  - Middle Canopy: Dominated by the **Nahar tree.**
  - Lower Canopy: Consists of evergreen **shrubs and herbs.**
- **Fauna:**
  - **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**

#### Exercise Tarang Shakti



#### Why in the news?

- India will host the international air exercise 'Tarang Shakti' in two phases, with events taking place in Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan.

#### About Exercise Tarang Shakti:

- **Largest international air exercise ever conducted in India.**
- Aimed at **strengthening strategic relations with international friends.**



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## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

- 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 (Sulur, 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

#### Why in the news?

- The **World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)** report



<div> <h3>Sturgeon</h3> <p>Acipenseridae</p>  <p><b>POPULATION</b> Population Unknown</p> <p><b>LOCATION</b> Ocean</p> <p><b>CONSERVATION STATUS</b> Critically Endangered</p> <p><b>WEIGHT</b> 200 to 1,800 pounds</p> <p><b>HABITAT</b> Sturgeons are commonly found in freshwater habitats such as rivers and lakes with cool to cold water and sandy or rocky bottoms.</p> <p>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.</p> </div>	<p>recently stated that <b>poaching and trafficking</b> are threatening the survival of four sturgeon species.</p> <p><b>About Sturgeon:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Endangered Status:</b> Among the most endangered fish species globally.</li> <li>• <b>Distribution:</b> Found in <b>large river systems, lakes, coastal waters, and inner seas</b> throughout <b>Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, other European countries, and North America.</b></li> <li>• <b>CITES Regulation:</b> Since 1998, <b>international trade in all sturgeon species has been regulated under CITES</b> due to concerns over unsustainable harvesting and illegal trade.</li> <li>• <b>Threats:</b> Heavily <b>exploited for their roe (caviar) and meat</b>, leading to a steep decline in populations worldwide.</li> </ul>
<p><b>National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Union Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers</b> informed that the <b>National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)</b> issued notice to many pharmaceutical companies regarding <b>violations of the Drug Price Control Order.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>About NPPA:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Establishment:</b> Set up in 1997 under the <b>Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995.</b></li> <li>• <b>Purpose:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To <b>fix and revise prices of controlled bulk drugs and formulations,</b></li> <li>○ <b>Ensuring availability and affordability of medicines</b> in the country.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Nodal Ministry:</b> Attached office of the <b>Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.</b></li> </ul>



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