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1. Odisha radio-tags rescued Indian pangolin (Dec. 31, 2021)

- The Odisha Forest and Environment Department has completed its first ever radiotagging of the Indian pangolin using a VHF [very high frequency] radio transmitter.
- It is the State's first attempt to standardize rehabilitation protocol for the animal
- It was rescued by the Paralakhemundi Forest Division last month, and was radiotagged and released in the Nandankanan Wildlife Sanctuary, in Bhubaneshwar Odisha.
- Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP), is the only conservation breeding center for Indian pangolins in the world.
- The center was **established in 2009** to standardize the protocol for housing and husbandry of endangered species.
- After Madhya Pradesh, Odisha is the second State in the country to release a radiotagged Indian pangolin into the wild
- The exercise is expected to reveal valuable information on the ecology, dispersal pattern, home range, and survival of the reclusive animal.
- Pangolin is a nocturnal (awake and active at night and asleep during the day) animal that lives in burrows and feeds on ants and termites.
- Indian pangolin is the largest among eight pangolin species.
- Pangolins are the most illegally traded mammals in the world.

2. AFSPA extended by six months in Nagaland (Dec. 31, 2021)

- The Union Home Ministry extended the AFSPA Act in Nagaland for a **period of six** months with effect from 30th December 2021.
- It is done in the exercise of the powers conferred under **Section 3 of the AFSPA Act. Both the Central and State governments have concurrent powers in this regard.**
- As per notification "the Central government is of the opinion that the area comprising the whole of the State of Nagaland is in such a disturbed and dangerous condition that the use of armed forces in aid of the civil power is necessary"
- The last extension was made on June 30
- Union Home Ministry has set up a panel to decide on withdrawing the Act in the State.

For more details on AFSPA kindly refer to the 06th December 2021 post.

3. Construction of Pandu Ship Repair Facility to start from May 2022 (Dec. 30, 2021)

- The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and AYUSH, shri Sarbananda Sonowal has announced that the construction of the Pandu ship repair facility at **Guwahati** will start from May 2022
- It is expected to be completed by 2024.

- The design and implementation of this project is being done jointly by the **Inland**Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and Cochin Shipyard Limited. The
 technical support is being provided by IIT, Madras.
- North East which is one of the least developed areas of India has tremendous potential for development of inland waterways using its river resource .
- The work has already started on the **National Waterway 2 the Brahmaputra as** well as **National Waterway 6 the Barak** which will help in facilitating cargo traffic, passenger traffic as well as tourist jetties for the economic growth of the region.
- Pandu Ship repair facility is basically designed to cater to the maintenance and repair needs of the ships which will ply on these waterways.

For detail about Waterways in india click here

4. Apple Puts Foxconn Unit on Probation (Dec. 30, 2021)

- The Apple company of the United States has placed an Indian Plant of Taiwanese electronic contract manufacturer Foxconn on probation, following concerns over food safety and accommodation at the unit.
- It means that the IPhone maker will not provide new orders to the Foxconn facility in Sriperumbudur, Chennai in Tamilnadu.
- Protests erupted in the unit after cases of food poisoning among 250 women who work and live there were reported and the unit had to be closed temporarily.
- Foxconn Technology group of Taiwan is the world's largest contract manufacturer in the world.
- Apple is the designer and marketer of the IPhone series of smartphones .It does not manufacture its phone but outsource it from other companies like Foxconn.

5. Sankalp Smarak' dedicated to the nation by CINCAN (Dec. 30, 2021)

Sankalp Smarak' dedicated to the nation by CINCAN

- A Sankalp Smarak was dedicated to the nation by Lt Gen Ajai Singh, Commander-in-Chief Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN), exactly 78 years after Netaji's arrival on 29 Dec 2021.
- It was on this day that the national tricolour flag was hoisted for the first time on Indian soil, at the Gymkhana Ground (present Netaji Stadium) in Port Blair by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose..
- He also announced Andaman and Nicobar as the first Indian Territory free from British rule.
- Subhash Chandra Bose, and renamed Andaman and Nicobar island as "Shaheed-dweep" (Martyr Island) and "Swaraj-dweep" (Self-rule Island).

6. Jharkhand Government to give Rs. 25 /Litre subsidy on Petrol to poor (Dec. 30, 2021)

- Jharkhand Chief Minister has announced that the government will provide a subsidy of Rs 25 per litre on petrol to the ration card holder families for petrol used in two wheelers.
- The money will be transferred directly in their bank account.
- The government will provide subsidies on 10 liters of petrol per month to the eligible families.

7. Ministry of Skill Development's project to upskill weavers and artisans of Nagaland (Dec. 29, 2021)

- This is a pilot project under Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), a component of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).
- It will be held in **Dimapur Nagaland.**
- The objective of this initiative is to upskill about 4000 local weavers and artisans to enhance their productivity through assessment and certification in traditional handicrafts, thus improving the competencies of the unorganized workforce of the region.
- The artisans and weavers will be aligned with the standardized National Skills Oualifications Framework (NSOF).
- The pilot project will also augment the marketing skills and techniques to promote local handmade products, thus aiming at industry and market linkages, **encouraging microentrepreneurship.**
- The training delivery partners for the upskilling initiative are Cane Concept and Handloom Naga.
- The selection of artisans and weavers will be made based on their existing experience.
- National Skill Development Corporation, the nodal implementation agency for the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, supported by Handicrafts and Carpet Sector Skill Council (HCSSC) will monitor the dayto-day progress of the project.
- The project aims at achieving learning outcomes including entrepreneurship development, digital literacy, communication skills at the workplace, and development of sales, and marketing skills.

8. First International Water Festival (Dec. 29, 2021)

- The first International water festival is being organised by the Kerala Government at Beypore port , in Kozhikode district of Kerala.
- The Festival will be from December 26to 31 December 2021.
- The festival will be held at the Beypore Marina, where the river Chaliyar meets the Arabian Sea.

9. Others can now buy non-agricultural land in Jammu and Kashmir (Dec. 28, 2021)

- The Centre and J&K government held the first ever 'Real Estate Summit 2021' in Jammu on 27th December 2021, to encourage people from across India to invest in real estate and property in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Under the newly introduced **Jammu and Kashmir Development Act,** the term 'being permanent resident of the State' as a criterion has been 'omitted', paving the way for investors outside Jammu and Kashmir to invest in the Union Territory.
- As a result, any citizen of India can buy non-agriculture land in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The summit was organised by the **Union ministry for housing and urban affairs** in collaboration with the J&K government.
- During the summit, **39 memorandum of understandings (MOUs)** were signed, half of them on construction of residential homes.

• The summit witnessed the signing of 20 MOUs for development of housing projects, seven others for commercial, four for hospitality, three for infra-tech, three for film and entertainment and two for finance related projects.

Article 35A of the Indian Constitution only permanent residents of Jammu and Kashmir had the right to buy land in the State.

On 31 October 2019, Government of India withdrew the special status of Jammu and Kashmir by abrogating article 370 and 35A and made it a Union Territory. Ladakh was separated from it and made a separate Union Territory.

10. Union Home Minister inaugurates Bharat Darshan Park In Delhi (Dec. 25, 2021)

- Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation Mr. Amit Shah inaugurated Bharat Darshan Park in Punjabi bagh ,Delhi.
- The mega park has been built from scraps by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation. and it has replicas of 17 monuments of India
- The park in Punjabi Bagh is spread over 8.5 acres and built at a cost of Rs 14 crore, has replicas of monuments from across the country, including Mysore
 Palace(Karnataka), Charminar(Telangana) and Khajuraho Temple(Madhya Pradesh), Gateway of India(Mumbai), Konark Temple(Odisha), Nalanda ruins(Bihar), Meenakshi Temple(Tamilnadu), Hawa Mahal(Rajasthan), Hampi ruins(Karnataka), Victoria Memorial(Kolkata), Sanchi Stupa(Madhya Pradesh), Gol Gumbaz(Karnataka), Ajanta and Ellora Caves(Maharashtra) and Junagarh Fort(Rajasthan).
- The theme of the park is 'Unity in Diversity',
- This is the second such park in Delhi after the 'Waste to Wonder Park', in Sarai Kale Khan, Delhi where seven wonders of the world have been installed through waste and scrap materials