

Abhyaas Newsboard...

For the quintessential test prep student

1. Onam



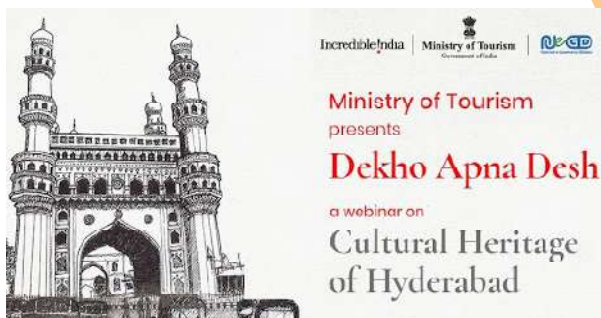
Onam is celebrated at the beginning of the month of Chingam, the first month of the solar Malayalam calendar (Kollavarsham). It falls in August or September each year.

More On This:

The festival is spread over 10 days and culminates with Thiruvonam, the most important day.

According to a popular legend, the festival is celebrated to welcome King Mahabali, whose spirit is said to visit Kerala at the time of Onam. It is also celebrated as the festival of paddy harvest.

2. Cultural heritage of Hyderabad



Ministry of Tourism recently organised the 50th webinar titled “Cultural heritage of Hyderabad” under DekhoApnaDesh series.

More On This:

The Ministry of Tourism is organizing the DekhoApnaDesh webinars with an objective to create awareness about and promote various tourism destinations of India – including the lesser known destinations and lesser known facets of popular destinations.

- It also promotes spirit of Ek Bharat Sreshtha Bharat

- Hyderabad is popularly known as the “City of Pearls” and the “City of Nizams”, and has been the centre of a vibrant historical legacy, ever since its inception by the QutubShahi dynasty.
- Muhammad QuliQutb Shah established Hyderabad in 1591 to extend the capital beyond the fortified Golkonda.

3. Pakistan new Map



Pakistan released a new political map on August 4, 2020 laying claim to Indian territories J&K, Ladakh and parts of Gujarat including Junagadh, Sir Creek and Manavadar. India rejected the claim, terming it as ‘political absurdity.’

More On This:

The Indian Government in an official statement said that the so-called new political map of Pakistan is an exercise in political absurdity, laying untenable claims to territories in Gujarat and Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and of Ladakh.

- India rejected the claim saying that the ridiculous assertions have neither legal validity nor international credibility.
- India slammed the move, saying that the new effort only confirms reality of Pakistan’s obsession with territorial aggrandisement supported by cross-border terrorism.

4. Supreme Court verdict on Hindu women’s inheritance rights



Supreme Court has expanded on a Hindu woman’s right to be a joint legal heir and inherit ancestral property on terms equal to male heirs.

More On This:

A Hindu woman’s right to be a joint heir to the ancestral property is by birth and does not depend on whether her father was alive or not when the law was enacted in 2005.

The ruling now overrules the verdicts from 2015 and April 2018.

About the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005:

- It gave Hindu women the right to be coparceners or joint legal heirs in the same way a male heir does.
- The amended act made a daughter of a coparcener also a coparcener by birth “in her own right in the same manner as the son”.
- The law also gave the daughter the same rights and liabilities “in the coparcenary property as she would have had if she had been a son”.
- Applicability of the law: It applies to ancestral property and to intestate succession in personal property — where succession happens as per law and not through a will.

5. Former President Pranab Mukherjee Passes Away



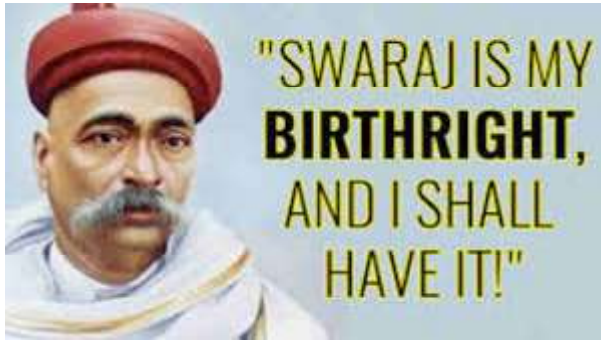
Former President Pranab Mukherjee passed away after he developed a lung infection at the Army’s Research and Referral hospital where he had been admitted for a brain surgery.

More On This:

Mr. Mukherjee’s son, former Lok Sabha MP Abhijit Mukherjee, announced his father’s death on Twitter on Monday evening stating that despite the best efforts of doctors and prayers of ordinary Indians throughout the country, this had come to pass.

- Mr. Mukherjee, born in 1935 in Mirati in West Bengal, first became an MP, in the Rajya Sabha in 1969 on a Congress nomination.
- Close to late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, Mr. Mukherjee held many ministerial positions in the government of India, including Defence, Finance, and External Affairs before he was elected President of India in 2012.

6. Bal Gangadhar Tilak's 100th death anniversary



One of the firebrand freedom fighters and the strongest proponent of 'purna swaraj' or 'total self-rule', Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak's 100th death anniversary was observed on August 1st.

More On This:

- Part of the Lal-Bal-Pal (Lala Lajpat Rai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Bipin Chandra Pal) troika, Bal Gangadhar Tilak was called 'father of the Indian unrest' by British colonial rulers.
- Jawaharlal Nehru called him the 'father of Indian revolution'.
- Mahatma Gandhi described Tilak as 'the maker of modern India'.

His slogan 'Swaraj is my birth right and I shall have it' caught the imagination of a country fighting to free itself from the colonial rule.

7. The first 'Kisan Rail'



The first 'Kisan Rail' introduced by the Ministry of Railways will start from Devlali in Maharashtra's Nashik at 11 am for Danapur in Bihar's capital, Patna, on August 7, 2020.

More On This:

Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Agriculture Minister will launch the country's first Kisan Special Parcel Train via video conference on August 7, whose announcement was made in the Budget of 2020.

- The train will also be making stoppages at different stations carrying fruits, vegetables, etc. and it will not be carrying regular passengers. The parcel train will have a composition of 10+1 coaches.
- The train will be running on a weekly basis and will reach Danapur at 6.45 pm the next day, after covering the distance of 1,519 km in over 31 hours.
- The train will take stops at Manmad, Naski Road, Bhusaval, Jalgaon, Burhanpur, Itarsi, Khandwa, Katni, Jabalpur, Satna, Manikpur, Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Nagar, Prayagraj Chheoki and Buxar.

8. Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir



Manoj Sinha was sworn in as the new Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir on August 7, 2020. He was appointed to the post on August 6, 2020 by President Ram Nath Kovind. He succeeds Girish Chandra Murmu who resigned on August 5, 2020.

More On This:

An official communique from the President of India read that the resignation of Murmu has been accepted. It further stated that the The President is pleased to appoint Manoj Sinha as the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir with effect from the date he assumes charge of his office in place of Girish Chandra Murmu.

- Manoj Sinha has been appointed as the next Lieutenant Governor with the aim of reaching out to the people of Jammu and Kashmir with a soft political touch. He is the first political leader to take charge as the LG of the Union Territory. Sinha is a senior BJP leader from Uttar Pradesh.
- Manoj Sinha is an Indian politician, who served as a member of the Lok Sabha three times from Ghazipur parliamentary constituency in eastern Uttar Pradesh.

9. New Comptroller and Auditor General of India



Former Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor GC Murmu was recently appointed as the new Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG).

More On This:

The Constitution of India provides for an independent office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) in chapter V under Part V.

- The CAG is mentioned in the Constitution of India under Article 148 – 151. He is the head of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department.
- He is the guardian of the public purse and controls the entire financial system of the country at both the levels- the centre and state.
- His duty is to uphold the Constitution of India and the laws of Parliament in the field of financial administration.

10. A Defamation case



The Delhi High Court has asked Delhi Police and Zee News to respond to a plea by Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra challenging the summons and framing of charges against her in a defamation case filed by the news channel and its editor.

More On This:

The case relates to Ms. Moitra's June 25, 2019 speech in Parliament on the 'Seven Signs of Fascism' and a TV show run by the news channel and other subsequent developments.

- Zee News has filed the defamation complaint against Ms. Moitra for allegedly making statements against the channel to the media.
- Defamation is the communication of a false statement that harms the reputation of an individual person, business, product, group, government, religion, or nation. In India, defamation can both be a civil wrong and a criminal offence. The difference between the two lies in the objects they seek to achieve.

11. What is a whip?



Congress chief whip in the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly has moved the Supreme Court against a State High Court direction to the Speaker to maintain status quo in the disqualification proceedings initiated against ousted MLAs under the anti-defection law.

More On This:

According to chief Whip, the High Court order on July 24 violated a Constitution Bench judgment of the Supreme Court in the Kihoto Hollohan of 1992.

- The verdict had categorically held that courts should not intervene in disqualification proceedings prior to a final decision from the Speaker. Judicial review of disqualification proceedings was very limited.
- In this case, the High Court, however, had intervened at the stage of notice in the disqualification action.
- A whip is an official of a political party who acts as the party's 'enforcer' inside the legislative assembly or house of parliament.

12. Appointment of Election Commissioners



In pursuance of clause (2) of article 324 of the Constitution, the President has appointed Rajiv Kumar, IAS(Retd.) as the Election Commissioner.

More On This:

The constitution under article 324 provides for an Election Commission for the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of the electoral rolls for the conduct of elections to parliament, state legislatures and to the offices of president and vice president.

The constitution provides for the following provisions in relation to the composition of the election commission:

- The election commission shall consist of the Chief Election Commissioner and a such number of other election commissioners, if any, as the president may from time to time fix.
- The appointment of the chief election commissioner and other election commissioners shall be made by the president.
- When any other election commissioner is so appointed the chief election commissioner shall act as the chairman of the election commission.

13. Indira Rasoi Yojana to start in Rajasthan



Indira Rasoi Yojana

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot directed officials to start the Indira Rasoi Yojana in urban areas of Rajasthan from August 20.

More On This:

Reviewing the preparations for the scheme, named after former prime minister Indira Gandhi, Gehlot said the state government would spend Rs 100 crore per year on it. He said the poor would get quality nutritious food for just Rs 8.

- The chief minister said the scheme should be implemented with the spirit of public service, transparency and public participation so that it becomes an example in the direction of providing food security to the poor in the country.
- Gehlot directed that participation of service-oriented institutions and voluntary organisations should be ensured in the operation of the scheme. He has instructed the district collectors to select such institutions as soon as possible.

14. India's first International Women Trade Centre to be set up in Kerala

Kerala will set up India's first international women's trade centre (iWTC), in consonance with the United Nations sustainable development goals (SDGs), in Kozhikode.

More On This:

A key project of the state's gender park under the department of social justice, it is envisaged as a safe space away from home for women to harness their entrepreneurial capabilities, set up or expand their businesses and get their products marketed globally.

- The first phase of iWTC, being executed under the gender park's "Vision 2020", is scheduled to be completed by 2021.
- "It is significant that the gender park has unveiled iWTC project at a time when more and more women are foraying into entrepreneurship and exploring other self-employment options in Kerala," said health and social justice minister. K K Shailaja.

15. Fastest human calculator in the world



Twenty-Year old Neelakantha Bhanu Prakash Jonnalagadda of Hyderabad has bagged the first ever Gold Medal for India in Mental Calculations (MC) World Cup (MCWC) held on August 15, 2020 by Mind Sports Olympiad (MSO).

More On This:

The MSO was held virtually with 30 participants, who were upto 57 years of age. The participants were from 13 countries including the UK, Germany, UAE, France, Greece and Lebanon.

- Bhanu Prakash had secured the gold medal with a score of 167, Lebanese contender Mohammed El Mir secured the Silver Medal with a score 102 and Asmita Pal from the UAE bagged the Bronze medal with a score of 100 points.
- He has created a new All Time Record and has beaten the records of Math Maestros like Shakuntala Devi and Scott Flansburg. India's Aryan Shukla finished fourth with a score of 96.
- Neelakantha Bhanu Prakash is a student of Mathematics (Honors) at Delhi University's St Stephen College and holds 4 World Records and 50 Limca records for being the fastest human calculator in the world.

16. Israel-United Arab Emirates peace agreement



On August 17 Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel, and Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the United Arab Emirates, have agreed for the Israel-United Arab Emirates peace agreement, or the Abraham Accord to establish full diplomatic ties.

More On This:

In this regard, Israeli will halt further annexation of Palestinian lands. This announcement was made by the United States (US) President Donald John Trump, who acted as mediator of this agreement

- With this, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) became the first Gulf Arab state and only the third Arab nation after Egypt and Jordan to have active diplomatic ties to Israel.
- It is expected that the peace accord will be signed in the White House, US in early September, 2020.
- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu wanted annexation of the Jordan Valley and northern Dead Sea, the part of West Bank which is home to the three million Palestinians living in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. The transfer of civilian populations to occupied land is considered illegal under international law.

17. Japan marks 75th anniversary of Hiroshima atomic bombing



Japan, on 6th August, marked 75 years since the world's first atomic bomb attack, with the coronavirus pandemic forcing a scaling back of ceremonies to remember the victims.

More On This:

On August 6, 1945, the US dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima, and three days later, on August 9, it dropped another bomb on Nagasaki, killing hundreds of thousands of people and affecting many more who would suffer the effects of the radiation from the blast and the "black rain" that fell in the aftermath of the explosions.

- After the conclusion of World War II in 1945, the relations between Japan and the US worsened, especially after Japan forces decided to take an aim at Indochina with the intention of capturing the oil-rich areas of the East Indies.
- Therefore, US president Harry Truman authorised the use of atomic bombs in order to make Japan surrender in WWII, which it did.

Atomic bomb dropped on the city of Hiroshima was called "Little Boy".

Atomic bomb dropped over Nagasaki was called "Fat Man".

18. MS Dhoni and Raina had announced their retirement



Suresh Raina, a renowned Indian Cricket player has announced his retirement from international cricket on August 15, 2020.

More On This:

His announcement came right after MS Dhoni's announcement of retirement from international cricket. Suresh Raina informed about his decision through his Instagram account, which shocked millions of his fans all around the country.

He also especially acknowledged playing with MS Dhoni and mentioned that with pride he has decided to join in the journey of retirement with the former captain of the Indian Cricket team. Suresh Raina's Record

- The left-handed batsman of the Indian Cricket team has scored 5,615 in ODI cricket at an average of 35.31. Suresh Raina has also registered 768 runs in the longest format of the game (Test Matches) with his longest score which is 120. In the shortest format of the game (T20I), Suresh Raina has scored 1,605 runs at an average of 29.18.
- Suresh Raina became the first batsman in the world and the first Indian to hit the T20I century.
- He is also the only Indian to score centuries in both T20I and ODI World Cup.

19. National Sports Day 2020



National Sports Day is celebrated on August 29 every year to honour the hockey legend, Major Dhyan Chand.

More On This:

The Government of India has decided to celebrate his birthday as the National Sports Day since 2012. Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju will pay tribute to Major Dhyan Chand at Dhyan Chand Stadium in New Delhi on his birth anniversary.

List of National Sports Awards 2020 Winners

1. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award

Shri Rohit Sharma – Cricket

Shri Mariyappan T - Para Athletics

Ms. Manika Batra - Table Tennis, among others.

2. Dronacharya Award

Shri Dharmendra Tiwary – Archery

Shri Purushotham Rai – Athletics

Shri Romesh Pathania - Hockey among others.

3. Arjuna Award

Shri Atanu Das – Archery

Ms. Dutee Chand – Athletics

Subedar Manish Kaushik – Boxing, among others.

20. ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2020 postponed



The International Cricket Council on August 7, 2020 announced that the postponed ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2020 will now be held in Australia in 2022. The T20 World Cup 2021, which was scheduled in India, will take place as planned.

More On This:

The format of the T20 World Cup 2021 will remain same as the 2020 World Cup edition, which was supposed to be held in Australia in October-November 2020. All the teams who qualified for the 2020 event will now participate in the 2021 edition in India. A new qualification process will be initiated for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022 in Australia.

ICC Women's World Cup 2021 postponed

- The ICC Women's World Cup, which was scheduled for February 2021 in New Zealand has been postponed to February-March 2022. The qualification event that will decide the three remaining teams to join the hosts and the top four sides who have already ensured participation will take place in 2021.

21. US Open 2020



The Indian-Canadian pair of Rohan Bopanna and Denis Shapovalov will now play against the Dutch-Romanian duo Jean-Julien Rojer and Horia Tecau on September 7, 2020.

More On This:

The Indo-Canadian pair of Rohan Bopanna and Denis Shapovalov have reached the quarterfinals of the ongoing US Open tennis.

- The pair of Bopanna-Shapovalov defeated the German pair Kevin Krawietz and Andrea Mies in the second-round clash that had lasted for an hour and 47 minutes.
- The Indian-Canadian pair will now play against the Dutch-Romanian duo Jean-Julien Rojer and Horia Tecau on September 7, 2020.

22. First-ever fast bowler to take 600 wickets



England's James Anderson has created history by becoming the first-ever fast bowler to take 600 wickets in Test cricket. The 38-year-old achieved the feat during England's third test against Pakistan at the Ageas Bowl cricket ground in Southampton on August 25.

More On This:

During the beginning of the third test, Anderson was seven wickets away from the historic feat. He, however, reached the milestone on the 5th day of the Test when he dismissed Pakistan batsman Azhar Ali to claim his 600th wicket.

- The third test ended in a draw but England won the series 1-0 against Pakistan due to its three-wicket victory in the first test at Old Trafford in Manchester. The second test at Southampton had also ended in a draw.
- Anderson's record-breaking feat was hailed by the entire cricket fraternity with many coming out and congratulating the bowler on achieving the huge milestone through posts on twitter.

23. India's AstroSat telescope discovers one of the earliest galaxies to have formed



India's multi-wavelength orbiting telescope, AstroSat, has detected light from a galaxy, called AUDFs01, in the extreme-ultraviolet (UV) light. The galaxy is 9.3 billion light years away from Earth.

More On This:

- The discovery was an international collaboration by astronomers from India, Switzerland, France, USA, Japan and the Netherlands.
 - This is the first time that star-forming galaxies have been observed in this extreme UV environment.
- About AstroSat
- It is India's first multi-wavelength space telescope, which has five telescopes seeing through different wavelengths simultaneously — visible, near UV, far UV, soft X-ray and hard X-ray.

24 Defence manufacturing on the lines of "Atmanirbhar Bharat"



On August 9, 2020, the Department of Military Affairs (DMA), Ministry of Defence (MoD) decided to restrict import of 101 weapons and military platforms.

More On This:

The embargo on which is planned to be progressively implemented between 2020 and 2024, in order to boost indigenous defence manufacturing on the lines of "Atmanirbhar Bharat".

The announcement for the same was made by Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

- In this regard, the Defence Industry will receive contracts worth almost Rs 4 lakh crore within the next five to seven years. Of these, items worth almost Rs 1,30,000 crore each are anticipated for the Army and the Air Force, while items worth almost Rs 1,40,000 crore are anticipated by the Navy over the same period.
- The focus behind this decision is to adopt the technologies designed and developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to meet the requirements of the Armed Forces in the coming years.

25. Air India's privatization process to be completed within 2020



The Union Civil Aviation Minister, HS Puri on August 30, 2020, informed that he is hopeful of completing Air India's Privatization process within 2020 while adding that the government should not be running airlines and airports.

More On This:

During a meeting held via video conference, Mr. Puri stated that Air India has been an asset and has very good trained professional people and a very good record, but the government should not be running airlines and airports.

- Our government rules must be applied to commercial entities.
- As per the Civil Aviation Minister, HS Puri, it is important that as a growing concern one that is attractive to potential bidders we should privatize it. He added that he is hopeful of completing the privatization process by 2020.

26.INS Viraat to head to Alang yard for dismantling



Decommissioned aircraft carrier Viraat, which has been lying at the Naval dockyard in Mumbai, is set to be scrapped at a ship breaking yard at Alang in Gujarat soon.

More On This:

It has been sold to the Shree Ram Green Ship Recycling Industries of Gujarat in an e-auction by the Metal Scrap Trade Corporation Limited (MSTC), a Navy official said on Tuesday.

- "Shree Ram Group got the carrier for ₹38 crores. A delivery order has to be placed. Once its signed, there is a time period within which it has to be taken away," an official said. It is likely to be towed away in early September.

- Viraat, a Centaur class aircraft carrier weighing 27,800 tonnes, served in the British Navy as HMS Hermes for 25 years from November 1959 to April 1984. It was commissioned into the Indian Navy in May 1987 after refurbishment and had operated Harrier fighter jets.

27. UK to mint coin in remembrance of Gandhi Ji



Britain is considering minting a coin to commemorate Mahatma Gandhi, amid growing interest in recognising the contributions of people from the Black, Asian and other minority ethnic communities.

More On This:

British Finance Minister Rishi Sunak asked the Royal Mint Advisory Committee (RMAC) in a letter to pursue recognition of individuals from those communities, the U.K. Treasury said in an emailed statement.

- “RMAC is currently considering a coin to commemorate Gandhi”, the Treasury said. Gandhiji’s birthday, October 2, is observed as the International Day of Non-Violence.
- As part of a global reassessment of history, colonialism and racism triggered by the death in May of a Black man, George Floyd, in the United States after a Minneapolis police officer knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes, some British institutions have begun re-examining their past.

28. Project Lion and Project Dolphin



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 15, 2020, announced that the centre will launch Project Lion and Project Dolphin using modern technology to replicate the success of Project Tiger.

More On This:

The projects will be launched by the central government for the biodiversity conservation of two endangered species in India. PM Modi informed about these projects in his Independence Day Speech 2020.

- Project Lion and Project dolphin:
- Prime Minister Modi in his Independence Day speech highlighted the commitment to the conservation and promotion of biodiversity and mentioned that India is one of the few countries where forest cover has been expanding.
- He further added that the Project Lion and Project Dolphin has been successfully carried forward. While highlighting the increase in the Tiger population in India, he informed that under Project Lion, the work on the infrastructure for the security and protection of Indian Lions will be undertaken.

29. African Continent was declared free of Wild Polio



On August 25, 2020 the African Continent was declared free of wild polio by the independent body, the Africa Regional Certification Commission (ARCC), which is responsible for certifying the eradication of wild poliovirus in the World Health Organization (WHO) African Region.

More On This:

The commission led by Professor Rose Gana Fomban Leke, chairperson of ARCC, certified that no cases had occurred on the continent for the past four years, which was one of the criteria for eradication of Wild Poliovirus. The Poliovirus is now found only in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

- The last case of wild poliovirus in Africa was detected in 2016 in Nigeria's Northeastern Borno state. Two out of three strains of wild poliovirus have been eradicated worldwide and on 25th August, 2020 Africa has been declared free of the last remaining strain of wild poliovirus.
- Poliovirus has joined smallpox (1980) in the list of viruses that have been eradicated in Africa. The initiative is a public-private global partnership and includes national governments, WHO, Rotary International, United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and GAVI, The Vaccine Alliance.

30. The conservation centre at Uttarkashi



Uttarakhand will soon have a snow leopard conservation centre . The conservation centre will be set up in Uttarkashi forest division area. The snow leopard conservation centre will be set up to promote winter tourism in the state.

More On This:

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat held a meeting regarding the same with Forest Minister Dr Harak Singh Rawat and officials of the Forest Department

- The Chief Minister stated that the areas where snow leopards have been seen in the last few years should be identified by the forest department with the cooperation of local people and military forces. The areas will be calculated by making grids.
- The conservation of snow leopards and other wildlife will help promote winter tourism in the state.
- The Uttarakhand CM highlighted that there are many wildlife species in the mountainous regions of Uttarakhand, which are a centre of attraction for tourists.
- Rawat also stressed on the need to conserve the extinct species of wildlife.

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