



18 April 2024

National and International News

<p>Green Credit Programme (GCP)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The <b>Green Credit Programme (GCP)</b> encourages <b>organisations and individuals</b> to invest in <b>afforestation projects</b> in <b>‘degraded’ forest lands</b> for <b>‘green credits’</b>.</li><li>• The <b>Union Environment Ministry</b>, the coordinator of the programme, emphasizes <b>restoring ecosystems</b> over merely tree planting.</li></ul> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Individuals and companies</b> can apply to the <b>Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)</b> to pay to <b>“restore” ‘degraded’ forest lands</b>.</li><li>• <b>Two years</b> after planting and following an evaluation by the ICFRE, <b>each planted tree</b> could be worth one <b>‘green credit.’</b></li><li>• <b>These credits can be used to</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Comply with existing forest laws or for reporting under environmental, social and governance leadership norms or to meet <b>corporate social responsibility requirements</b>.</li></ul></li><li>• As of now, <b>these credits are not tradeable</b>. However, the <b>GCP aims to incentivise environmental positive actions through a market-based mechanism</b> and generate green credit, which <b>shall be tradable and made available for trading on a domestic market platform</b>.</li><li>• The Environment Ministry has issued guidelines that <b>States must rely on to calculate what it would cost to restore a degraded forest landscape</b>.</li><li>• The <b>Ministry has changed the earlier requirement of a minimum of 1,100 trees per hectare to qualify as reforested landscape</b> and left it to States to specify them.</li><li>• <b>Preference</b> would be given to <b>indigenous species</b> and naturally growing seedlings would be retained.</li><li>• <b>Public sector companies</b> such as Indian Oil, Power Grid Corporation, National Thermal Power Corporation, Oil India, Coal India, and National Hydropower Corporation <b>had registered to invest in the programme</b>.</li></ul> <p>Think:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Know about Indian Council of Forestry Research and</li></ul>
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	<p>Education (ICFRE).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Know about <b>Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS)</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Malcom Adiseshiah Award 2024 and Elizabeth Adiseshiah Citation-2024</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Surinder S. Jodhka</b>, professor, School of Social Sciences, <b>Jawaharlal Nehru University</b>, has been chosen for the <b>Malcom Adiseshiah Award 2024</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Vikas Kumar</b>, associate professor, School of Development, <b>Azim Premji University</b>, will receive the <b>Elizabeth Adiseshiah Citation-2024</b>.</li> <li>• Every year, the awards are given to outstanding <b>social scientists</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is awarded by the <b>Malcolm and Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Malcom Adiseshiah award</b> carries a <b>citation</b> and a <b>cash prize of Rs.2 lakhs</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Elizabeth Adiseshiah Award</b> will carry a <b>cash prize of Rs.1 lakh</b>.</li> <li>• The <b>award is open to Indian and foreign scholars</b> ordinarily resident in India.</li> </ul> <p><b>Did you know:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Malcolm Sathiyathan Adiseshiah</b> (18 April 1910 – 21 November 1994) was an <b>Indian development economist</b> and <b>educator</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Malcolm Sathiyathan Adiseshiah</b></p>	<p><b>About Malcolm Sathiyathan Adiseshiah:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He was born in <b>Vellore, Tamil Nadu</b>.</li> <li>• He obtained a <b>doctorate in economics</b> at the <b>London School of Economics</b>.</li> <li>• In <b>1976</b>, he was awarded the <b>Padma Bhushan</b>, India's third-highest civilian award.</li> <li>• In <b>1998</b>, <b>UNESCO</b> created the <b>Malcolm Adiseshiah International Literacy Prize</b> in recognition of his <b>contribution to education and literacy</b>.</li> <li>• He was <b>nominated to the Rajya Sabha</b>, the upper house of the Parliament of India, in <b>1978</b>.</li> <li>• He served as the <b>Vice Chancellor of the University of Madras</b> from 1975 to 1978.</li> <li>• He was the founder of the <b>Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS)</b>.</li> </ul>




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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He was associated with a number of professional bodies both in India and abroad.</li> </ul>
<p><b>The Great Indian Bustard</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Supreme Court of India</b> has recently <b>recognised a fundamental right to be free from the adverse impacts of climate change</b>.</li> <li>• This judgment has attracted significant attention, particularly from environmentalists, with a focus on its implications for the protection of the <b>Great Indian Bustard</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>About The Great Indian Bustard:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Great Indian Bustard is considered a <b>flagship species of grassland ecology</b>, indicating the health of the ecosystem.</li> <li>• The majority of its population is <b>found in Rajasthan and Gujarat</b>, with smaller populations in <b>Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh</b>.</li> <li>• The species is listed as <b>Critically Endangered</b> according to the <b>International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)</b>.</li> <li>• It is protected under <b>Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972</b>.</li> <li>• The species is listed in <b>Appendix I</b> of both the <b>Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)</b> and the <b>Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)</b>, indicating it is among the most endangered species in the world.</li> </ul>



The GIB is among the heaviest birds that can fly



### THE GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD

GIB has been put in the Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
The Great Indian Bustard was proposed as a candidate for the National Bird of India and was under consideration.

The bird is hunted for its meat in Pakistan

It migrates from Rajasthan to Pakistan

**THREATS TO THE BIRD**

- Annual and perennial non-timber crops
- Renewable energy
- Transportation and power lines
- Human intrusions and disturbance
- Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases


**2011**  
The year the species was enlisted in the critically endangered category

**150**  
The approx population of the species in 2018

Height 3.3ft tall  
Weight 18 kg

**THE GIB IS RESTRICTED TO POCKETS IN**

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Gujarat
3. Karnataka
4. Maharashtra
5. Madhya Pradesh
6. Rajasthan



Heat Action Plans (HAPs)

Why in news?

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted an **increase in the maximum temperature** and the **frequency of heatwave conditions** in the upcoming days, particularly over **eastern and southern India**.
- In response, governments at various levels — including State, district, and city — have prepared **Heat Action Plans (HAPs)**.

About Heat Action Plans (HAPs):

- The **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** and **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** are collaborating with **23 states** to develop **HAPs**.
- HAPs serve as a comprehensive **early warning system** and **preparedness plan for extreme heat events**.
- The plan includes both immediate and long-term actions to:
  - Increase preparedness
  - Enhance information-sharing
  - Improve response coordination



- The **primary goal of HAPs** is to **reduce the health impacts of extreme heat** on vulnerable populations.
- On a regional level, the **Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) prepared the first Heat Action Plan in 2013**, in response to the devastating heatwave-related deaths in 2010.

**What is Heatwave?**

- A heat wave, sometimes described as **extreme heat**, is a period of **abnormally hot weather**.
- It is usually measured **relative to the usual climate in the area** and to normal temperatures for the season.
- **High humidity** often accompanies heat waves, especially in oceanic climate countries.
- **In India**, the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** has specific **criteria for declaring a heat wave**.
- It is considered if the **maximum temperature** of a station reaches at least **40°C or more for Plains**, and at least **30°C or more for Hilly regions**. If the above criteria are met at least in **2 stations in a Meteorological sub-division** for at least **two consecutive days**, it is declared a heatwave on the second day.

**Nagorno-Karabakh region****Why in news?**

- Russian peacekeepers have started withdrawing from **Nagorno-Karabakh, a territory disputed between Azerbaijan and Armenia**.
- The conflict has affected ties between Russia and Armenia, with Armenia suspending its participation in the Moscow-led **Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO)**.

**About Nagorno-Karabakh region:**

- **Geography:** Nagorno-Karabakh is a **landlocked, mountainous, and forested region** located in the **South Caucasus region**. It is **internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan**.
- **Control:** Most of the region is controlled by Armenian separatists, despite being part of Azerbaijan territory since the Soviet era.
- **Current Status:** The area, while remaining in Azerbaijan, is **governed by separatist Armenians** who have declared it a republic called the "**Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast**". The Armenian government supports the region politically and militarily but does not recognize it as



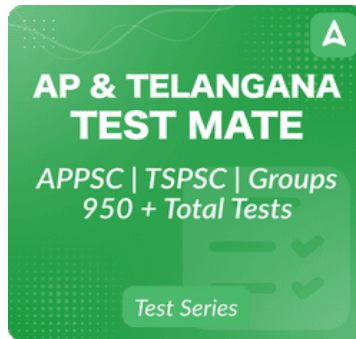
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independent.

- **Peace Efforts: The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group**, chaired by **France, Russia, and the US**, has tried to get the two countries to reach a peace agreement for several years.



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