



18 April 2024

National and International News

<p>Green Credit Programme (GCP)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Green Credit Programme (GCP) encourages organisations and individuals to invest in afforestation projects in ‘degraded’ forest lands for ‘green credits’. The Union Environment Ministry, the coordinator of the programme, emphasizes restoring ecosystems over merely tree planting. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals and companies can apply to the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) to pay to “restore” ‘degraded’ forest lands. Two years after planting and following an evaluation by the ICFRE, each planted tree could be worth one ‘green credit.’ These credits can be used to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comply with existing forest laws or for reporting under environmental, social and governance leadership norms or to meet corporate social responsibility requirements. As of now, these credits are not tradeable. However, the GCP aims to incentivise environmental positive actions through a market-based mechanism and generate green credit, which shall be tradable and made available for trading on a domestic market platform. The Environment Ministry has issued guidelines that States must rely on to calculate what it would cost to restore a degraded forest landscape. The Ministry has changed the earlier requirement of a minimum of 1,100 trees per hectare to qualify as reforested landscape and left it to States to specify them. Preference would be given to indigenous species and naturally growing seedlings would be retained. Public sector companies such as Indian Oil, Power Grid Corporation, National Thermal Power Corporation, Oil India, Coal India, and National Hydropower Corporation had registered to invest in the programme.
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Think:

- Know about Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE).
- Know about **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS)**.

**Malcom Adiseshiah
Award 2024 and Elizabeth
Adiseshiah Citation-2024**

**Malcolm Sathiyathan
Adiseshiah**

Why in news?

- **Surinder S. Jodhka**, professor, School of Social Sciences, **Jawaharlal Nehru University**, has been chosen for the **Malcom Adiseshiah Award 2024**.
- **Vikas Kumar**, associate professor, School of Development, **Azim Premji University**, will receive the **Elizabeth Adiseshiah Citation-2024**.
- Every year, the awards are given to outstanding **social scientists**.

Key Points:

- It is awarded by the **Malcolm and Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust**.
- **Malcom Adiseshiah award** carries a **citation** and a **cash prize of Rs.2 lakhs**.
- **Elizabeth Adiseshiah Award** will carry a **cash prize of Rs.1 lakh**.
- The **award is open to Indian and foreign scholars** ordinarily resident in India.

Did you know:

- **Malcolm Sathiyathan Adiseshiah** (18 April 1910 – 21 November 1994) was an **Indian development economist** and **educator**.

About Malcolm Sathiyathan Adiseshiah:

- He was born in **Vellore, Tamil Nadu**.
- He obtained a **doctorate in economics** at the **London School of Economics**.
- In **1976**, he was awarded the **Padma Bhushan**, India's third-highest civilian award.
- In **1998**, **UNESCO** created the **Malcolm Adiseshiah International Literacy Prize** in recognition of his **contribution to education and literacy**.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was nominated to the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Parliament of India, in 1978. • He served as the Vice Chancellor of the University of Madras from 1975 to 1978. • He was the founder of the Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS). • He was associated with a number of professional bodies both in India and abroad.
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The Great Indian Bustard	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Supreme Court of India has recently recognised a fundamental right to be free from the adverse impacts of climate change. • This judgment has attracted significant attention, particularly from environmentalists, with a focus on its implications for the protection of the Great Indian Bustard. <p>About The Great Indian Bustard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Great Indian Bustard is considered a flagship species of grassland ecology, indicating the health of the ecosystem. • The majority of its population is found in Rajasthan and Gujarat, with smaller populations in Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh. • The species is listed as Critically Endangered according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). • It is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. • The species is listed in Appendix I of both the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), indicating it is among the most endangered species in the world.
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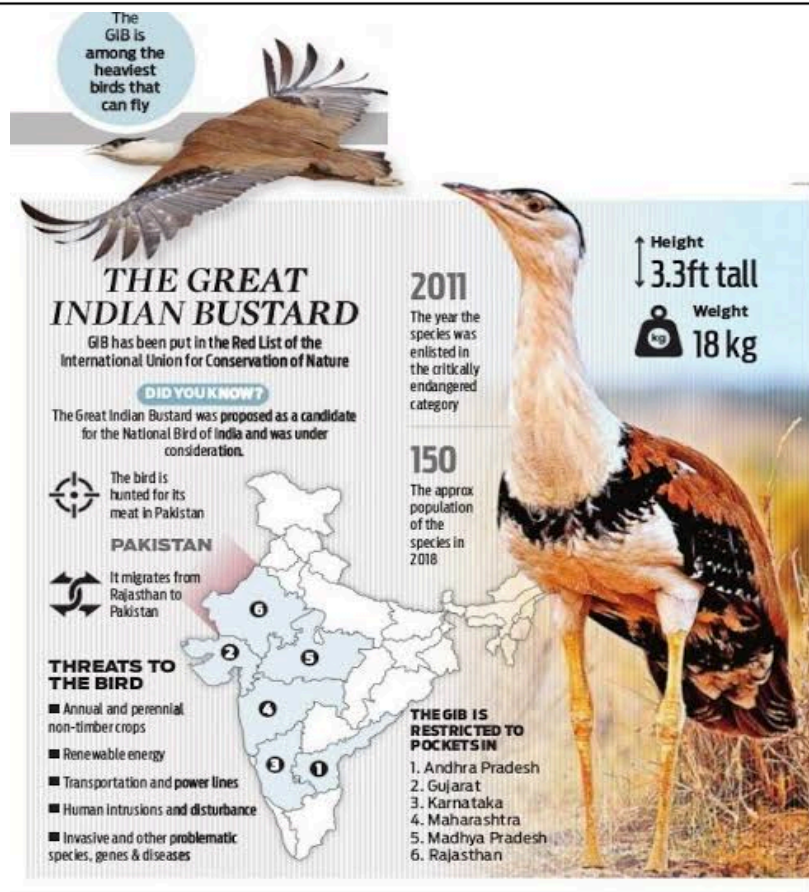
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Heat Action Plans (HAPs)

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:





	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase preparedness ○ Enhance information-sharing ○ Improve response coordination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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. <p>What is Heatwave?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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.
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Nagorno-Karabakh region	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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). <p>About Nagorno-Karabakh region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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
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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 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.



Kerala Regional News

Kabani River

Why in news?

- A unique experiment is underway in **Wayanad** to recharge the **Kabani River** and **rescue drought-hit villages**.
- The aim is to **divert water from the Karapuzha Dam to recharge the river**, which has been reduced to a mere bed of rocks due to severe drought

About Kabani River:

- The Kabini River, also known as **Kabani** or **Kapila**, is a **significant tributary of the Cauvery River**.
- **Origin:** The river originates near **Kavilumpara** in the **Kozhikode district** of **Kerala** state by the **confluence of the Panamaram River and the Mananthavady River**.





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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course: It flows eastward through the Wayanad district, entering the Mysore district of Karnataka, to join the Kaveri River. • Wildlife: The Kabini Forest Reserve, situated on the banks of the Kabini River, is one of the most popular wildlife destinations of Karnataka.
Police reforms in Kerala	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kerala police have recommended that the Home Department redesignate constables in the Armed Battalion as officers. • This recommendation aligns with the redesignation of constables as civil police officers. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constables in the battalion may be redesignated as armed police officers, and head constables as senior armed police officers. • The police headquarters suggested adding a clause requiring personnel joining the force to specify their preferred district. • A quota system for promoting officers under the sports category was also recommended. • New guidelines have been established for initiating disciplinary action against personnel. • The district police chief can now decide on actions against officials from senior clerks to junior superintendents, while the DGP will decide on actions against higher ranks from senior superintendents. • These changes are seen as a significant step towards police reforms in Kerala.
Bird flu confirmed in parts of Alappuzha	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bird flu (Avian Influenza H5N1) outbreak confirmed in parts of Alappuzha, Kerala. • Disease detected among ducks. <p>About Bird flu:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bird Flu, also known as Avian Influenza, is a viral infection that primarily affects birds but can occasionally spread to humans. • The H5N1 strain, also known as HPAI A (H5N1), is a highly pathogenic avian influenza virus of type A of



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	<p>subtype H5N1. This strain is particularly severe and has a high mortality rate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The H5N1 virus is enzootic, meaning it is maintained in many bird populations, especially in Southeast Asia. While it can cause severe flu in humans, it is difficult to transmit the infection from person to person.
Biomethanation	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ernakulam local bodies have undertaken 22 waste treatment projects at a total cost of around ₹6 crore in the 2023-24 fiscal. These include 8 biomethanation projects (₹2.4 crore) and 14 composting projects (₹3.8 crore). <p>About Biomethanation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biomethanation is a process where organic material is microbiologically converted under anaerobic conditions to biogas. This process involves three main physiological groups of microorganisms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fermenting bacteria, Organic acid oxidizing bacteria, and Methanogenic archaea. This process can be applied in a power-to-gas system to produce biomethane and is appreciated as an important storage technology for variable renewable energy in the context of energy transition. Biomethanation can take place as an in-situ process within a fermenter or as an ex-situ process in a separate reactor. This technology can be used for sewage and organic solid waste treatment with decentralized applications in various parts of India. Biomethanation also called as anaerobic digestion is a process of environmentally benign disposal of various organic wastes such as food waste, municipal solid waste and crop residue.
Study of Impact of air pollution on human health	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cochin University of Science and Technology (Cusat) is collaborating with Pohang University of Science and Technology (POSTECH), South Korea on a project to study the impact of air pollution on human health.



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- The project is part of the Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC), an initiative of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Key points:

- The project will use diverse biophysical techniques, including in vitro experiments, to uncover the mechanisms underlying the biological impacts of air pollutants on human health.
- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has approved a research proposal submitted by Cusat on the issue of human rights in the realm of sports.
- The project is titled 'A study on the mechanisms adopted by sports bodies to combat human rights abuse and an examination of the legal policy framework along with the status of implementation in Kerala'.

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