



मराठी

18 April 2024

National and International News

Green Credit Programme (GCP)

Why in news?

- 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.

Key points:

- **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**
 - 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**.

Think:

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



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

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**.

Malcolm Sathiyathan Adiseshiah

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**.
- 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

Why in news?

- 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**.

About The Great Indian Bustard:

- 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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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.



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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 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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MCQs

1. Who can apply to the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) to pay to “restore” ‘degraded’ forest lands?
 - a. Only individuals
 - b. Only companies
 - c. Both individuals and companies
 - d. None of the above

Answer: Both individuals and companies

Explanation:

- 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.
 - Individuals and companies can apply to the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) to pay to “restore” ‘degraded’ forest lands. Hence option c is correct.
 - **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**
 - Comply with existing forest laws or for reporting under environmental, social and governance leadership norms or to meet **corporate social responsibility requirements**.
-
2. Which organization created the Malcolm Adiseshiah International Literacy Prize in 1998 in recognition of Malcolm Sathiyathan Adiseshiah’s contribution to education and literacy?
 - a. Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS)
 - b. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
 - c. Ministry of Education, India
 - d. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Answer: The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Explanation:

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



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- In 1998, UNESCO created the Malcolm Adiseshan International Literacy Prize in recognition of his ~~contribution to education and literacy~~.

- 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.

3. Under which schedule of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 is the Great Indian Bustard protected?

- Schedule I
- Schedule II
- Schedule III
- Schedule IV

Answer: Schedule I

Explanation:

- 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**. Hence option a is correct.
- 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.

4. Which two organizations are collaborating with 23 states to develop Heat Action Plans (HAPs)?

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and India Meteorological Department
- National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and India Meteorological Department
- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM)
- National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)



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~~Answer: National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and India Meteorological Department~~

Explanation:

- The **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** and **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** are collaborating with **23 states** to develop **Heat Action Plans (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
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- 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.

5. Nagorno-Karabakh is a disputed region between which of the following countries?
- a. Israel and Syria
 - b. Denmark and Sweden
 - c. Russia and Ukraine
 - d. Azerbaijan and Armenia

Answer: Azerbaijan and Armenia

Explanation:

- 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)**.
- **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.
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- **Peace Efforts:** The **Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe**



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(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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