

Daily Current Affairs

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Commission On Population And Development

- **Two women Sarpanch and one Sabhadhipati** are set to represent India at an event under the aegis of the ongoing **57th Meeting of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD)** in New York.



- The event will be organised on the final day of the CPD meeting in collaboration between the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) India.



- The Panchayati Raj ministry has said that the event aims to highlight the role and potential of **Women Elected Representatives** of Panchayati Raj Institutions in accelerating the achievements of gender equality and women's empowerment. It further said that the intended outcome of this event is to have a policy brief outlining recommendations for expanding **women's participation in local governance** as a key to accelerating progress towards localisation of Sustainable Development Goals.

Goldman Prize

- **Alok Shukla**, Convenor Of The Chhattisgarh **Bachao Andolan** And Founding Member Of The **Hasdeo Aranya Bachao Sangharsh Samiti**, Has Been Awarded The 2024 **Goldman Prize From Asia**.
- Shukla Has Been Declared Winner For His Efforts To Save The Forests Of **Hasdeo Aranya In Chhattisgarh**.
- “Alok Shukla Led A Successful Community Campaign That Saved 445,000 Acres Of Biodiversity-rich Forests From **21 Planned Coal Mines** In The Central Indian State Of Chhattisgarh.

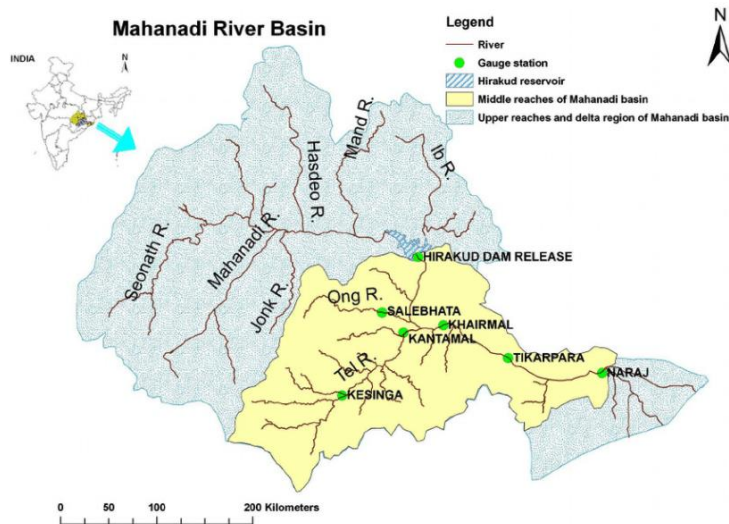


- In July 2022, **The Government Cancelled The 21 Proposed Coal Mines** In Hasdeo Aranya, Whose Pristine Forests—popularly Known As The Lungs Of Chhattisgarh—are One Of The Largest Intact Forest Areas In India,” The Statement Noted.
- The **Goldman Environmental Foundation**, Which Gives Away The Prize, Recognised That The Hasdeo Movement’s “Ability To Successfully Influence Policy Has Made It A Model For Environmental Justice In India And Generated An Unprecedented Amount Of National And Regional Solidarity”.



THE
GOLDMAN
ENVIRONMENTAL
PRIZE

- **Hasdeo, Spread Across 657 Square Miles, Is One Of India's Most Extensive Contiguous Forest Tracts.** "The Ancient Forests Provide A Critical Tiger Corridor Linking Neighboring Sanctuaries And Habitat For Approximately 50 Endangered Asian Elephants.



- They Are Also Home To 25 **Endangered Species**, Including Leopards, Sloth Bears, Grey Wolves, Striped Hyenas; 92 Bird Species, Such As White-eyed Buzzard; And 167 Rare And Medicinal Plant Species," According To The Statement. Hasdeo's Forests Are Also A Catchment Area For The Hasdeo River, A Tributary Of The Mahanadi. The River Serves As The Watershed For The Hasdeo Bango Reservoir, Irrigating 741,000 Acres Of Farmland.

Nilgiri Tahr

- The **government of Tamil Nadu** has launched a **three-day survey** of the **Nilgiri Tahr**, the state's iconic animal. This initiative aims to better understand and **conserve this endangered species** that faces numerous challenges, including habitat loss and poaching.
- The survey is being carried out in **collaboration with renowned organizations** such as the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). This collaborative effort brings together expertise from various stakeholders, underscoring the multi-faceted approach required for effective conservation.
- The Nilgiri Tahr is an **endemic species found only in the Western Ghats of India**, specifically in the southern regions of Tamil Nadu and Kerala, as well as the Nilgiri Hills and the Eastern Ghats.



- These majestic ungulates inhabit rugged mountainous terrain, ranging from 1,200 to 2,600 meters, characterized by montane grasslands and shola forests.
- The Nilgiri Tahr is currently listed as an **endangered species by the IUCN** and is protected under **Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.



- This designation highlights the **severe threats faced by the species**, including habitat loss, fragmentation due to human activities such as deforestation, agriculture, and infrastructure development, as well as poaching and competition with domestic livestock.

- Existing conservation initiatives, such as those in the **Eravikulam and Mukurthi National Parks**, along with captive breeding programmes, showcase the multi-pronged approach required for the effective conservation of this endangered animal and its habitat.

World's Largest Airport Terminal

- **Dubai has revealed plans** for the construction of the world's largest airport terminal at **Al Maktoum International Airport**.
- The ambitious project, approved by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister, and Ruler of Dubai, is set to revolutionize the aviation industry and solidify Dubai's position as a global transportation hub.
- Upon completion, Al Maktoum International Airport will have a staggering capacity for **260 million passengers** annually, dwarfing any other airport in the world.



- This colossal terminal is poised to **be five times the size of the current Dubai International Airport**, signaling a significant leap forward in infrastructure and operational capabilities.
- Sheikh Mohammed emphasized that all operations at Dubai International Airport will gradually transition to Al Maktoum International in the coming years, consolidating Dubai's air traffic and streamlining passenger services.
- The new terminal, with an **estimated cost of \$35 Billion**, will boast 400 aircraft gates and five parallel runways, setting new standards for efficiency and scale in the aviation sector.

- Moreover, the project will not only redefine the skyline of Dubai but also catalyze urban development in the surrounding area.
- Plans include the construction of an entire city around the airport in Dubai South, accommodating the needs of a burgeoning population expected to reach a million people.
- This **visionary initiative underscores Dubai's unwavering** commitment to innovation and progress, setting a new benchmark for global aviation infrastructure. With cutting-edge technologies and unparalleled capacity, Al Maktoum International Airport is poised to shape the future of air travel on a monumental scale.

REC Ltd Secures Japanese Green Loan

- **REC Ltd, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)** and leading Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) under the Ministry of Power, Government of India, has successfully availed a **green loan of Japanese Yen (JPY) 60.536 billion** (approximately Rs 3,200 crore) to finance eligible green projects in India.

**REC Limited
Secured a Green
Loan for ~60.5 Billion
Japanese Yen**



- The green loan facility benefits from an **80% guarantee by SACE** under their innovative Push Strategy programme. It makes **SACE's first JPY-denominated** loan transaction and first green loan in India.
- The loan aligns with REC's **Green Finance Framework** and commitment to foster sustainable growth. It will support projects meeting rigorous environmental standards, promoting renewable energy and reducing carbon emissions in India.
- **REC Ltd, formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited**, was established in 1969. It finances and promotes rural electrification projects across India. REC provides financial assistance to state electricity boards, state governments,

central/state power utilities, independent power producers, rural electric cooperatives and private sector utilities.



- The company went public in 2008 and is listed on BSE and NSE. As of December 2023, REC had a loan book of Rs 4.97 lakh crore and net worth of Rs 64,787 crore.

Velavan Senthil Kumar

- India's **Velavan Senthilkumar** Won His **Eighth Professional Squash Association (PSA) Tour Title** By Winning Batch Open, A PSA Challenger Event, At The Societe Sportive Du Jeu De Paume In Paris. World No.



National Hockey League

- In Jharkhand, **National Hockey League between** Hockey teams of eight states began today at Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Munda Astro Turf stadium in Ranchi.
- On day first, four league matches will be played. The first match was played between Odisha and Haryana. Odisha defeated Haryana by four goals against one.



Asian Carrom Championship

- In the **6th Asian Carrom championship**, Indian players captured both the Men's and Women's doubles titles at **Male in Maldives**.
- In Men's doubles Indian duo **K Srinivas and Mohammed Ghufan** took down Ismail Azmeen and Hassan Nazim of the host country, 25-15, 25-16.
- While in women's doubles, **India's Aakanksha Kadam and Shainy Sebastian** upset compatriots, Rashmi Kumari and K Nagajothi in the final, 21-25, 25-17, 25-17.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. IUCN Status Of Nilgiri Tahr

- A. Vulnerable
- B. Endangered
- C. Critically Endangered
- D. Least Concern

ANSWER: B

2. World's Largest Airport Terminal Being Built In

- A. France
- B. USA
- C. UAE
- D. India

ANSWER: C

3. Rural Electrification Corporation Limited, Was Established In

- A. 1970
- B. 1969
- C. 1989
- D. 1959

ANSWER: B

4. What Is The Theme Of 'World Intellectual Property Day 2024'

- A. Women And IP: Accelerating Innovation And Creativity
- B. IP And The SDG's: Building Our Common Future With Innovation And Creativity
- C. IP And Youth Innovating For A Better Future
- D. Taking Your Ideas To The Market

ANSWER: B

5. Where Was 12th International Meeting Of High Ranking Officials Responsible For Security Matters Held

- A. France, Paris
- B. St. Petersburg, Russia
- C. London, United Kingdom
- D. New Delhi, India

ANSWER: B

6. Which Country Passed Foreign Aid Bill To Provide Military Aid To Ukraine

- A. India
- B. Iran
- C. UK
- D. USA

ANSWER: D

7. Project Nilgiri Tahr Is An Initiative Launched By Which State Government

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Telangana
- C. Odisha
- D. New Delhi

ANSWER: A

8. Alagar Temple Is Located In Which State

- A. Gujarat
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Telangana
- D. Tamil Nadu

ANSWER: D

9. Harshit Kumar, Who Won Gold Medal In 21st U-20 Asian Athletics Championship 2024, Belongs To Which Sports

- A. Javelin throw
- B. Hammer throw
- C. Tennis
- D. Chess

ANSWER: B

10. Which Port Has Been Approved As India's First Transshipment Port By The Shipping Ministry

- A. Jawaharlal Nehru Port
- B. Mumbai Port
- C. Vizhinjam Port
- D. Kandla Port

ANSWER: C

11. What Is Nephrotic Syndrome

- A. A Skin Disorder
- B. A Kidney Disorder Causing Excessive Protein In Urine
- C. A Respiratory Condition
- D. A Neurological Disorder

ANSWER: B

12. Which Country Declared The EL - Nino Induced Drought A National Disaster

- A. Botswana
- B. Namibia
- C. Mozambique
- D. Zimbabwe

ANSWER: D

13. Which Organization Introduced New AI Model Known As Voice Engine That Can Replicate Any Voice In Any Language

- A. Deep Mind
- B. OpenAI
- C. Machine Intelligence Research Institute
- D. IBM

ANSWER: B

14. Gangu Ramsay, Who Recently Passed Away Was Associated With Which Field

- A. Cinematography
- B. Sports
- C. Politics
- D. Music

ANSWER: A

15. Which State Government's Food Safety Department Has Imposed A Ban On Using Liquid Nitrogen In Food Items

- A. Karnataka
- B. Kerala
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Tamil Nadu

ANSWER: D

16. Bima Vistaar Is Launched By Which Organization

- A. Small Industries Development Bank Of India
- B. Ministry of Finance
- C. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India
- D. Council of Scientific & Industrial Research

ANSWER: C

17. What Is Pink Hydrogen

- A. Karnataka Hydrogen Extracted From Pink Coloured Sources
- B. Hydrogen Generated Through Electrolysis Powered By Nuclear Energy
- C. Hydrogen Infused With Pink Dye For Identification
- D. Hydrogen Produced From Pink- Coloured Electrolyte Solutions

ANSWER: B

18. Which State's Education Department Released 'Guidelines For Elimination Of Corporal Punishment

- A. Telangana
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Gujarat
- D. Tamil Nadu

ANSWER: D

19. Rampage Missile Developed By Which Country

- A. Iran
- B. Iraq
- C. Israel
- D. Russia

ANSWER: C

20. In Which Case, SC Spelled Out Restrictions On Government's Power To Dismiss State Governments Under Article 356

- A. Minerva Mills Case
- B. S R Bommai Case
- C. Sajjan Singh Case
- D. Golaknath case

ANSWER: B