



Chhattisgarh Activist to Receive Green Nobel | Chhattisgarh | 30 Apr 2024

Why in News?

Chhattisgarh's environmental activist and convener of [Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan \(CBA\)](#), **Alok Shukla** has been selected for prestigious international level award [Goldman Environmental Prize 2024](#), also known as the **Green Nobel**.

Key Points

- He is selected for his struggles and initiatives to protect the environment including **Hasdeo Arand**, one of the largest dense forests in central India spanning up to 170,000 hectares, having **23 coal blocks into it**. He will be felicitated in the United States.
- He successfully **campaigns and mobilized the indigenous communities** and those affected by coal mining to campaign **against Adani mining to save 445,000 acres of biodiversity-rich forests** from 21 planned coal mines in the tribal dominated state Chhattisgarh.
 - In 2009, the environment ministry notified Hasdeo Arand to be a **"No-Go" zone for mining** due to its rich forest cover but opened it again for mining. The CBA continuously fought to make Hasdeo Arand mining free.

Hasdeo Arand Forest

- Hasdeo Arand, a sprawling forest in the **northern part of Chhattisgarh is known for its biodiversity and its coal deposits**.
- The forest falls under **Korba, Sujapur and Surguja districts** with significant tribal population.
- The **Hasdeo river, a tributary of Mahanadi**, flows through it.
- Hasdeo Arand is the **largest un-fragmented forest in Central India consisting of pristine Sal (Shorea robusta) and teak forests**.
- It is a **noted migratory corridor** and has a significant **presence of elephants**.

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Green Nobel Prize

- The **Goldman Environmental Prize** (also known as **Green Nobel Prize**) recognizes **individuals** for sustained and significant efforts to protect and enhance the natural environment, often at great personal risk.
- It has been awarded **annually by the Goldman Environmental Foundation since 1990**.
- It honours people from the world's six continental regions: **Africa, Asia, Europe, Islands & Island Nations, North America, and South & Central America**.
- The Goldman Prize views "**grassroots**" **leaders** as those involved in local efforts, where positive change is created through community or citizen participation in the issues that affect them.
- Goldman Prize recipients are usually people from isolated villages or inner cities who choose to take great personal risks to safeguard the environment.
- The **winners are announced on Earth Day** which is observed on **22nd April every year**.

Muria Tribe | Chhattisgarh | 30 Apr 2024

Why in News?

Muria Tribe, living in the border areas between **Andhra Pradesh (AP) and Chhattisgarh** are possessing voter cards of both the States, one is to exercise their franchise and the other is for references and proof of their nativity.

Key Points

- The settlement is in **India's Red Corridor** on the **Andhra Pradesh-Chhattisgarh border**, affected by [Naxalism](#). It is an oasis within a reserved forest, protected by strict laws against settlement and deforestation.
- The Muria settlements are home to around 6,600 **Internally Displaced People (IDPs)** in AP. The native tribes refer to the Murias here as 'Gutti Koyas'.
 - This Tribe was displaced during the conflict between [Maoists](#) and [Salwa Judum](#).
- The Muria are an indigenous Adivasi, scheduled tribe Dravidian community of the Bastar district of Chhattisgarh. They are part of the Gondi people.

Salwa Judum

- It is a **group of tribal persons** mobilized for resistance against outlawed armed naxalites. The group was reportedly backed by government machinery in Chhattisgarh.
- In **2011, Supreme Court of India** ruled against arming civilians in this manner banned Salwa-Judum and **directed Chhattisgarh government to disband any militia force** founded to combat Maoist guerrillas.

Internally Displaced People (IDPs)

- IDPs are persons or **groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee** or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order **to avoid the effects of armed conflict**, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognised border.

Uttarakhand Suspends License of Patanjali Products | Uttarakhand | 30 Apr 2024

Why in News?

Uttarakhand Government has **suspended manufacturing licenses of 14 products** made by pharmaceutical companies of yoga **guru Ramdev** for repeatedly publishing [misleading advertisements about their efficacy](#).

Key Points

- **The Supreme Court of India** has in recent weeks repeatedly criticized Ramdev for not complying with its directives in an ongoing lawsuit to stop misleading advertisements of some of his traditional ayurvedic medicines.
- The list of 14 products whose licenses were suspended included traditional medicines for **asthma, bronchitis and diabetes**.
- The case in the Supreme Court relates to the Indian Medical Association's allegations that the firm, Patanjali, disparages conventional medicines and continued publishing misleading ads despite a court directive to stop them.
- Patanjali's advertisements violated the [Drugs & Other Magical Remedies Act, 1954 \(DOMA\)](#), and the [Consumer Protection Act, 2019 \(CPA\)](#).
- The **Drugs and Magic Remedies Act, 1954**, regulates drug advertisements and bans promotions of certain magic remedies.
 - It prohibits ads that **falsely represent a drug's nature or effectiveness** and those promoting drugs for specific diseases listed in the Act.
 - Additionally, it prohibits advertising magic remedies claiming to treat the same diseases.

- **Section 89 of the CPA imposes stringent penalties** for false or misleading advertisements.
 - It states that any **manufacturer or service provider** who causes a false or misleading advertisement to be made which is prejudicial to the interest of consumers shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years and with fine which **may extend to ten lakh rupees**; and for **every subsequent offence**, be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years and with fine which may extend to fifty lakh rupees.

Bihar: Highest Lightning Related Deaths | Bihar | 30 Apr 2024

Why in News?

A new study of **lightning-related deaths in Bihar** has revealed that **Sheohar, Banka, Kaimur and Kishanganj districts** were the **most vulnerable** in the state to this natural hazard, recording the **highest casualty rate** per million population.

- The study examined data from the 2017-2022 period and found that 1,624 people died and 286 were injured due to lightning.

Key Points

- As per the study by [India Meteorological Department \(IMD\)](#) scientists, nearly all the **1,624 deaths were in rural areas** and most of these casualties and injuries, about **76.8%, were caused by lightning strikes** that occurred between 12:30 pm and 6:30 pm.
 - The study identified gender-segregated data for 1,577 deaths. Out of these 1,577 deaths, **1,131 (71%) were men**. Rural men between the **age groups of 11-15 years and 41-45 years** were particularly vulnerable.
 - On average, there were **271 human deaths and 57.2 injuries** due to lightning strikes each year in Bihar during **the six-year study period**.
 - The state's annual casualty rate per million of **2.65 was higher than the national average of 2.55**.
 - The period between May to September was the peak for lightning strikes with June and July accounting for 58.8% of lightning-linked deaths.
- Researchers explained that lightning strikes reach a record high in **June and July** with the monsoonal current setting in, mainly due to the interplay of **easterly and westerly winds**.
- According to the **Earth Sciences Ministry**, Cloud-to-ground lightning strikes claim thousands of lives each year and Bihar ranks among the top three most-affected states in terms of lightning-linked casualties along with **Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh**.
- The **plains area is prone to thunderstorms and lightning activity** as warm, dry air from north-west India converges with moist air emanating from the Bay of Bengal, creating conditions that are favorable for the formation of deep convective clouds.
- In **North West Bihar, the lightning strikes are lower but casualties are higher**. These parts of Bihar are not urbanised and may be having poor shelter density around farm areas. Socio-economic factors play an important role in mitigating the impact of such natural hazards.
- The threat potential of lightning strikes is not uniform. **Topography, elevation, and local meteorological factors** determine the spatial distribution of lightning strikes.
- A higher lightning frequency is seen in the eastern region owing to higher moisture incursion.
- Assessing vulnerability and hotspots is important for policymakers and to design mitigation measures.

Westerly Winds

- They **originate from sub tropical high pressure belts** and move towards **subpolar low pressure belts** and, prevail between 35° to 60 ° latitudes.
 - They are also permanent but **more intense during winters**. They transport warm and moist air toward the pole.
 - Westerly causes formation of fronts along sub polar low pressure zones and transport cyclones toward the western margin.
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Chambal River | Rajasthan | 30 Apr 2024

Why in News?

In a suspected case of suicide, the bodies of a man and a woman were reportedly recovered from **Chambal river** near a jetty in **Kota of Rajasthan**.

Key Points

- Chambal is a 960 km long river that originates at the **Singar Chouri peak** in the northern slopes of the **Vindhya** mountains (Indore, Madhya Pradesh). From there, it flows in the **North direction** in Madhya Pradesh for a length of about 346 km and then follows a **north-easterly direction** for a length of 225 km through Rajasthan.
- It enters UP and flows for about 32 km before joining the **Yamuna River** in Etawah District.
- It is a **rainfed river** and its basin is bounded by the **Vindhyan mountain** ranges and the **Aravallis**. The Chambal and its tributaries drain the **Malwa** region of northwestern Madhya Pradesh.
- **Tributaries:** Banas, Kali Sindh, Parbati.
- **Main Power Projects/ Dam:** Gandhi Sagar Dam, Rana Pratap Sagar Dam, Jawahar Sagar Dam, and Kota Barrage.
- The **National Chambal Sanctuary** is located along river Chambal on the tri-junction of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. It is known for **critically endangered gharial, the red-crowned roof turtle, and the endangered Ganges river dolphin**.



MoU Between Kashi Vishwanath Dham (KVD) and UPSNA | Uttar Pradesh | 30 Apr 2024

Why in News?

The **Shri Kashi Vishwanath Special Areas Development Board** is set to enter into an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **UP Sangeet Natak Akademi (UPSNA)** to **enhance the cultural events** at [Kashi Vishwanath Dham](#) during various occasions like Mahashivratri.

Key Points

- During a global workshop held in Lucknow, a presentation on the **positive impact of cultural activities** on the **social, economic and cultural scenario** of the holy city was emphasised.
 - Following this, it was determined to introduce a wider range of colors to the events and activities held during **festivals such as Mahashivratri** and on significant dates in the **Sanatan calendar such as Pradosh**.
- According to the **director of UPSNA**, a comprehensive plan for organising cultural events at KV Dham by **Akademi** will be presented to the state government shortly.
 - After receiving approval by the state government, consent of the religious affairs department's director and divisional commissioner will be sought to sign the proposed MoU.
 - As per the MoU, new arrangements would be made by involving local, national as well as international artistes.

The Uttar Pradesh Sangeet Natak Akademi (UPSNA)

- It is a prominent institution dedicated to the **promotion and preservation of music, dance, and theater** in the state of Uttar Pradesh, India.
- It was **established on 13 November, 1963**.

