



Forest Eagle Owl | Madhya Pradesh | 05 Jun 2024

Why in News?

The [Pench Tiger Reserve](#) has become a favorable place for a lesser-known group of **forest eagle owls**, also identified as the **spot-bellied eagle owl**.



Key Points

- In Central India, these nocturnal birds have also been reported from Madhya Pradesh Pench and [Kanha Tiger Reserve](#).
- The forest eagle owl, a large bird, is discovered in **dense evergreen and moist deciduous forests** close to water, in **wet temperate, and riparian (adjacent to a water body) forests**.
 - Similar to many other owl species, the spot-bellied eagle owl also makes calls for multiple purposes such as communication, territorial protection, and attracting mates.
- The researchers recorded their calls and analysed the frequency with **Raven Pro software**.
 - Raven Pro is a software program for the **acquisition, visualization, measurement, and analysis of sounds**.

Pench Tiger Reserve

- It is located in **Nagpur District of Maharashtra** and named after the pristine Pench River.
 - The Pench river flows right through the middle of the park.
 - It descends from north to south, thereby **dividing the reserve into equal eastern and western parts**.
- PTR is the **joint pride** of both **Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra**.
 - The Reserve is located in the southern reaches of the Satpura hills in the Seoni and

Chhindwara districts in Madhya Pradesh, and continues in Nagpur district in Maharashtra as a separate Sanctuary.

- It was **declared a National Park by the Government of Maharashtra in 1975** and the identity of a **tiger reserve was granted to it in the year 1992**.
 - However, PTR Madhya Pradesh was granted the same status in 1992-1993. It is one of the major Protected Areas of **Satpura-Maikal ranges** of the Central Highlands.
- It is among the sites notified as [Important Bird Areas \(IBA\)](#) of India.
 - The IBA is a programme of Birdlife International which **aims to identify, monitor and protect a global network of IBAs for conservation of the world's birds** and associated diversity.

Koya Tribe Conflict Over Sacred Mahua Flowers | Chhattisgarh | 05 Jun 2024

Why in News?

In **Godavari valley**, the **Koya tribe** faces a cultural crisis as raids by the **Special Enforcement Bureau** threaten their cherished tradition of **Mahua liquor consumption**.

Key Points

- Mahua, a tropical tree scientifically known as ***Madhuca longifolia***, plays a crucial role in the traditions of different tribal groups in India.
 - Among the Koya community, the tree is revered and plays a significant role in various ceremonies. The blossoms emerge in the beginning of summer and are mainly utilised for making alcohol.
 - Dried flowers are a key source of revenue for those who gather them. In the Godavari Valley, the Koyas produce **cooking oil from Mahua nuts**.
- It is a **prominent forest tree in tribal areas of Bastar (Chhattisgarh)** and plays an important role in the rural economy.
- The mahua flowers are a **rich source of sugars** and are said to contain **vitamins, minerals and calcium**.
- The flowers are fermented and distilled yielding spirituous liquor also known as '**country beer**'.
 - An **estimated 90% of the annual production** of Mahua flower is used in the process of brewing beverages.



Koya Tribe

- Koya are one of the few **multi-racial and multi-lingual tribal** communities in India.
 - They live in the forests, plains, and valleys on **both sides of the Godavari River**, in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, **Chhattisgarh**, and Odisha.
 - The Koya are said to have migrated to central India from their original home in **Bastar, northern India**.
 - **Language:**
 - The Koya language, also called **Koyi**, is a **Dravidian language**. It is closely **related to Gondi** and has been strongly **influenced by Telugu**.
 - Most **Koyaspeak** either **Gondi or Telugu, in addition to Koyi**.
 - **Occupation:**
 - **Traditionally**, they were **pastoralists and shifting cultivators**, but now-a-days, they have **taken to settled cultivation** supplemented by **animal husbandry and seasonal forest collections**.
 - They grow Jowar, Ragi, Bajra, and other millets.
 - **Society and Culture:**
 - All Koya belong to one of **five sub-divisions called gotrams**. **Every Koya is born into a clan**, and he cannot leave it.
 - The Koyas have a **patrilineal and patrilocal family**. The family is called "Kutum". The nuclear family is the predominant type.
 - **Monogamy** is prevalent among the Koyas.
 - The Koya practice their **own ethnic religion**, but also worship a number of **Hindu gods and goddesses**.
 - **Many Koya deities are female**, the most important being the "mother earth."
 - **They maintain community funds and grain banks at the village level** to help the needy families and provide food security.
 - Koyas either bury or **cremate the dead**. They erect menhirs in memory of the dead.
 - Their main **festivals are Vijji Pandum** (seeds charming festival) and **KondalaKolupu** (festival to appease Hill deities).
 - Koyas perform a robust, **colourful dance called Permakok (Bison horn dance)** during festivals and marriage ceremonies.
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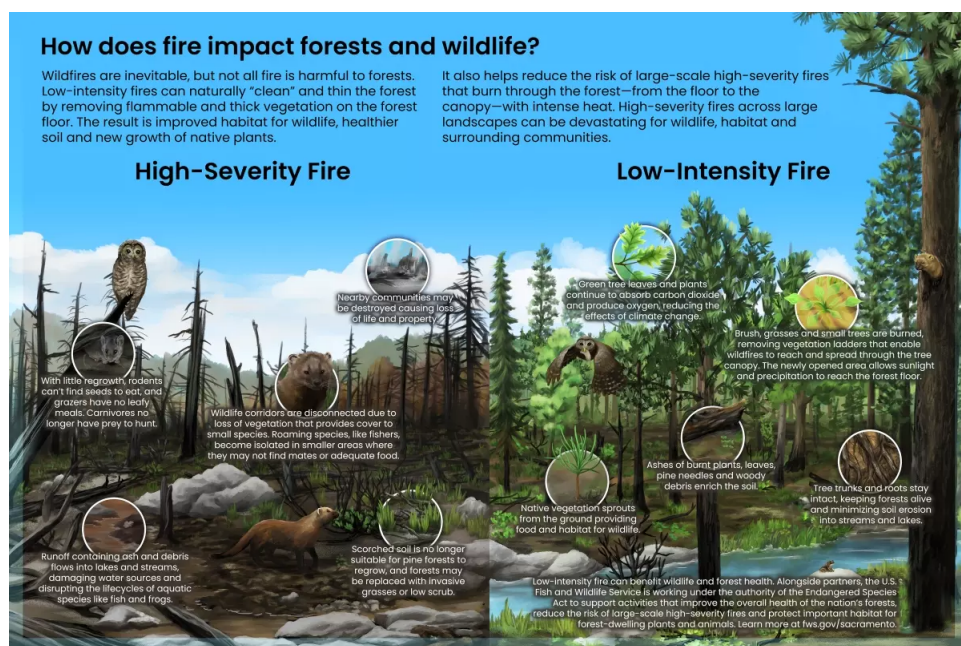
Relief to Uttarakhand from Wildfires | Uttarakhand | 05 Jun 2024

Why in News?

Recently, **Rainfall has provided relief** from the continuous [forest fires](#) in areas such as **Pauri and Nainital of Uttarakhand**.

Key Points

- Despite the current temperatures being lower by two to three degrees, the residents are advised to **remove dried shrubs** around their homes to **avoid fires from spreading**.
 - The unusually high temperatures this season have accelerated the spread of forest fires.
- Over the past six months, **Uttarakhand has witnessed more than 1,100 fire incidents, destroying over 1,500 hectares of forest land**.



Government Initiatives on Forest Fire

- **National Action Plan for Forest Fires (NAPFF)**, was started in 2018 with the goal of reducing forest fires by informing, enabling, and empowering forest fringe communities and incentivising them to collaborate with state forest departments.
- **The Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme (FPM)** is the only government-sponsored programme dedicated to assisting states in dealing with forest fires.

Agniveers to Join Indian Army's Gorkha Rifles | Uttar Pradesh | 05 Jun 2024

Why in News?

Recently, in Varanasi, **Agniveers** from the third batch marched on to the parade ground of the **39 Gorkha Training Centre (GTC)**, crossing the 'Antim Pag' to join the **3 & 9 Gorkha Rifles** of the [Indian Army](#).

- 3 & 9 Gorkha Rifles are **Gorkha infantry regiments of the Indian Army**.
- These are among the **seven Gorkha regiments** of the Indian Army. The other regiments are **1 GR, 4 GR, 5 GR (FF), 8 GR and 11 GR**.

Key Points

- **Agnipath Scheme** was launched in 2022. It allows patriotic and motivated youth to serve in the Armed Forces for a period of four years. The youth joining the army will be called **Agniveer**.
 - Under the scheme, around 45,000 to 50,000 soldiers will be recruited annually, and most will leave the service in just four years.
 - It provides for recruiting youths between the age bracket of 17-and-half years and 21 for four years with a provision to retain 25% of them for 15 more years.
- **Eligibility Criteria:**
 - It is only for personnel below officer ranks (those who do not join the forces as commissioned officers).
 - Commissioned officers hold an exclusive rank in the Indian armed forces. They often hold a commission under the president's sovereign power and are officially instructed to protect the country.
 - Aspirants between the ages of 17.5 years and 23 years are eligible to apply.
- **Objectives:**
 - It is expected to bring down the average age profile of the Indian Armed Forces by about 4 to 5 years.
 - The scheme envisions that the average age in the forces is 32 years today, which will go down to 26 in six to seven years.

Faculty Induction in IIT-BHU | Uttar Pradesh | 05 Jun 2024

Why in News?

A 24-day faculty induction programme was inaugurated at **IIT (BHU)**, Varanasi under the **Malviya Mission Teachers Training programme**, sponsored by the [University Grants Commission \(UGC\)](#).

Key Points

- This intensive programme will host 40 distinguished faculty members from across India, aiming at fostering **professional growth and enhancing pedagogical skills**.
- **Malviya Mission Teachers Training Programme:**
 - The program aims to **enhance the quality of education** by providing customised training for teachers in higher educational institutions.
 - It aspires to equip **15 lakh teachers across India** with the skills needed to meet the goals of the [National Education Policy \(NEP\)](#).
 - Renaming of **Human Resource Development Centres (HRDCs)** as [Madan Mohan Malaviya Teachers' Training](#) Centres was also announced.

University Grants Commission

- It came into existence on **28th December, 1953** and became a **statutory body by an Act of**

Parliament in 1956, for the coordination, determination and maintenance of standards of **teaching, examination and research in university education.**

- The head office of the **UGC is located in New Delhi.**

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/statepcs/05-06-2024/print>

