



Chhattisgarh Activist to Receive Green Nobel

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, Surguja 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.**