

UPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS NOTES 10-12-2023

Satpura National Park

The forest department of Satpura Tiger Reserve has hit upon a rock painting dating back 10,000 years.



Satpura Tiger Reserve (STR) also known as Satpura National Park is located in the Narmadapuram District of Madhya Pradesh.

Protected areas it includes

The tiger reserve comprises three protected areas, Satpura National Park, Bori Wildlife Sanctuary, and Pachmarhi Sanctuary.

Watershed Area

Satpura, basically meaning "Seven Folds", forms a watershed between Narmada and Tapti River is triangular in shape.

Biogeography

It is part of the Deccan bio-geographic zone of India.



Animals

Satpura National Park is rich in biodiversity. The animals here include leopard, sambar, chital, Indian muntjac, nilgai, four-horned antelope, Chinkara, wild boar, bear, black buck, fox, porcupine, flying squirrel, mouse deer, and Indian giant squirrel.

Birds

There are a variety of birds. Hornbills and peafowl are common birds found here.

The flora consists mainly of sal, teak, tendu, Phyllanthus emblica, mahua, bel, bamboo, and grasses and medicinal plants.

Tiger Population

STR increased its numbers from 13 in 2010 to 48 in 2021.

Satpura also received the Conservation Excellence Award for outstanding reserve management.

Home to Rare Bryophytes

It is a unique area of diverse land resources and is endowed with a rich bio-diversity including rare and endemic bryophytes and pteridophytes like Psilotum, Cythea, Osmunda, Lycopodium.

Vegetation

The Park is identified as a mixed deciduous forest with a variety of flora typical of the Central Indian Highlands.

These include teak, bamboo, Indian Ebony, various acacias, wild mango, Indian gooseberry, satinwood, axil wood to name a few.

Recognition

Satpura Tiger Reserve was declared as the first biosphere reserve of Madhya Pradesh in the year 1999.

Trivia

Pachmarhi is the only place in Central India where one can see the teak forest and saal forest merging.

Satpura National Park is one of the only ecosystems in Central India that houses Indian **Giant squirrel and Malabar Whistling Thrush**, which are species otherwise commonly found in the Western Ghats.

The Satpura Tiger Reserve is also home to the **Hard Ground Barasingha**, an **endangered** species previously only found in Kanha National Park.

Green Turtle

As per a study, rising global temperatures could lead to an increase in the nesting range of green turtles in the Mediterranean Sea.



About Green Turtle:

- The Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) is one of the largest sea turtles and the only herbivore among the different species.
- They are in fact named for the greenish color of their cartilage and fat, not their shells.
- In the Eastern Pacific, a group of green turtles that have darker shells are called black turtles by the local community.
- They graze on seagrasses and algae, which maintains the seagrass beds and makes them more productive.
- These species migrate long distances between feeding grounds and the beaches from where they hatched.



- They are potentially particularly susceptible, as the sex of their offspring is dependent on incubation temperature.
- **Distribution:** Green turtles are found mainly in **tropical and subtropical waters.**
- **Conservation status**
- **IUCN: Endangered**
- **CITES: Appendix 1**
- **Threats:** Habitat loss, fisheries by catch and illegal trade etc.

Key facts about the Mediterranean Sea

- It is an intercontinental sea that is bordered by the continent of Europe in the north, by Asia in the east, and by Africa in the south.
- In the west, the Mediterranean Sea is connected to the Atlantic Ocean via the narrow Strait of Gibraltar.
- In the extreme northeast, it is connected to the Black Sea via the Dardanelles Strait, the Sea of Marmara, and the Bosphorus Strait.
- The Mediterranean Sea is also connected to the Red Sea via the Suez Canal in the southeast.
- **Climate:** The region is characterized by the prevailing subtropical climate known as the Mediterranean climate, with usually mild, wet winters and hot, dry summers.
- Mediterranean Sea waters are more saline compared to the waters of the Atlantic. There is a continuous movement of water from the Atlantic into the Mediterranean and vice versa through the Strait of Gibraltar.

Green Rising Initiative

Recently, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)'s Generation Unlimited in collaboration with India's Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change unveiled the "Green Rising" initiative at COP28 in Dubai.



About Green Rising Initiative:

- This initiative focuses on **engaging youth** for **impactful environmental actions** at the grassroots level, aligning with the global effort to address the severe impacts of climate change.
- The global "Green Rising" initiative and the "Green Rising India Alliance" marks a collaborative effort involving UNICEF, Generation Unlimited, and a diverse network of public, private, and youth partners.
- The main goal is to mobilize millions of young people worldwide, encouraging their active participation in green initiatives addressing and adapting to the severe impacts of climate change on their communities.
- Through the **YuWaah campaign** in India, the focus is on engaging youth to drive impactful environmental actions at the grassroots level.

Key points about the UNICEF

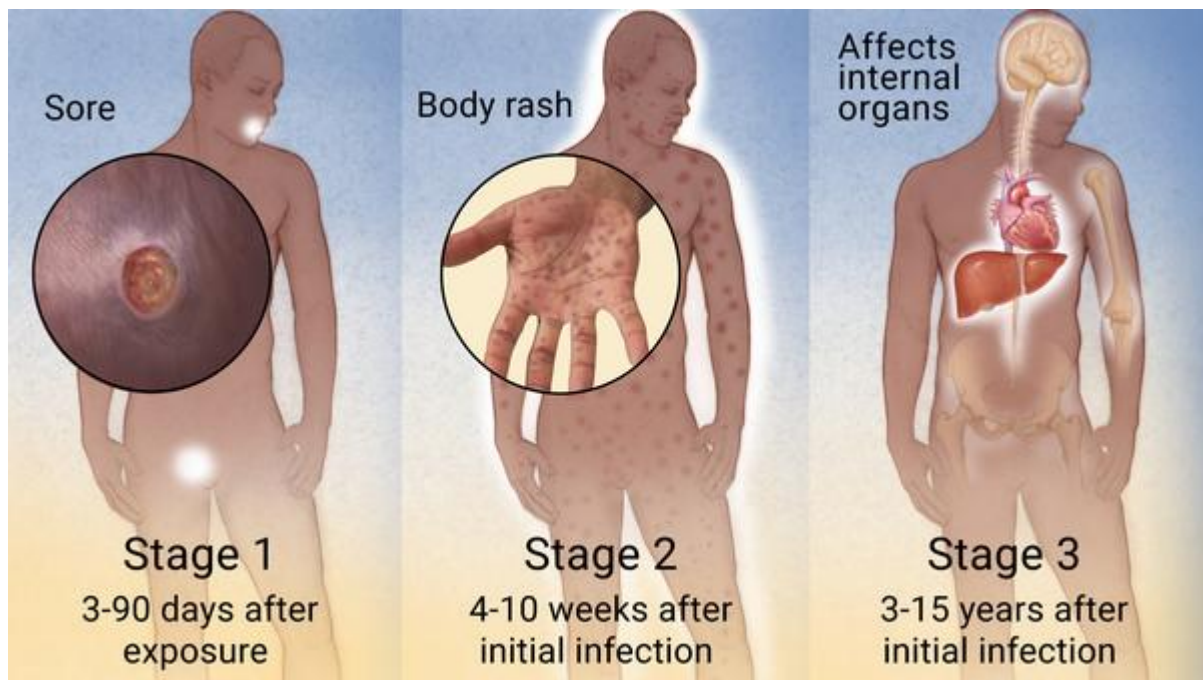
- The United Nations Children's Fund was originally founded as the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).
- It was founded by the UN General Assembly on 11 December 1946, to provide emergency food and healthcare to children and mothers in countries that had been devastated by World War II.
- It is a leading source of **information on the situation of children** around the world.

- It relies entirely on contributions from governments and private donors.
- The **Executive Board** is made up of **36 Member States**, elected to **three-year terms** by the Economic and Social Council, with the following regional allocation: Africa (8 seats), Asia (7), Eastern Europe (4), Latin America and Caribbean (5) and Western Europe and Others (12).
- **Headquarters:** New York City.

Syphilis

A cluster of cases of ocular syphilis has been recently reported in Michigan, US.

About Syphilis:



It is a Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI).

It is caused by the bacteria, *Treponema pallidum*.

After the infection happens, syphilis bacteria can stay in the body for many years without causing symptoms. But the infection can become active again.

Transmission:

Syphilis spreads from person to person through direct contact with these sores.



It can also be passed to a baby during pregnancy, childbirth and sometimes through breastfeeding.

Symptoms:

Syphilis develops in stages. The symptoms vary with each stage and is often painless.

During the first stage, one or more sores develop on the genitals, rectum, or mouth, and are often painless.

During the second stage, people may get a rash and experience flu-like symptoms, such as fatigue, fever, a sore throat and muscles aches.

After the second stage, the symptoms of syphilis are hidden (latent stage).

Without treatment, syphilis can damage the heart, brain, or other organs. It can become life-threatening.

Treatment:

Syphilis is curable with quick diagnosis and treatment. It is curable with the right antibiotics.

Goldilocks Effect

The RBI's growth and inflation forecasts indicate a Goldilocks Effect on the economy by the second quarter of the next fiscal year.

About Goldilocks Effect:

The Goldilocks Effect, or the Goldilocks Principle, is the premise that people are inclined to seek 'just the right' amount of something.

People prefer something that is neither too extreme nor too moderate but falls within an optimal or desirable range, fitting their specific needs or preferences.

The concept is derived from the children's story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears, where Goldilocks preferred the porridge, chair and bed that were neither too hot nor too cold, too big nor too small, but just right.

It has a place in several fields and disciplines. It applies to elements of psychology, hard sciences, economics, marketing and engineering, and each one has its own twist on how the principle is applied.



Goldilocks Pricing:

It is one of the effect's more prominent applications. It's a psychological pricing strategy that rests on the concepts of

Product differentiation

Comparative pricing

Bracketing

Product differentiation is the practice of distinguishing certain products from others.

Businesses can only leverage the Goldilocks Effect if they can differentiate their own products from one another.

This then needs to be combined with something known as comparative pricing where businesses offer multiple versions of a product simultaneously of varying quality, attached to corresponding price points.

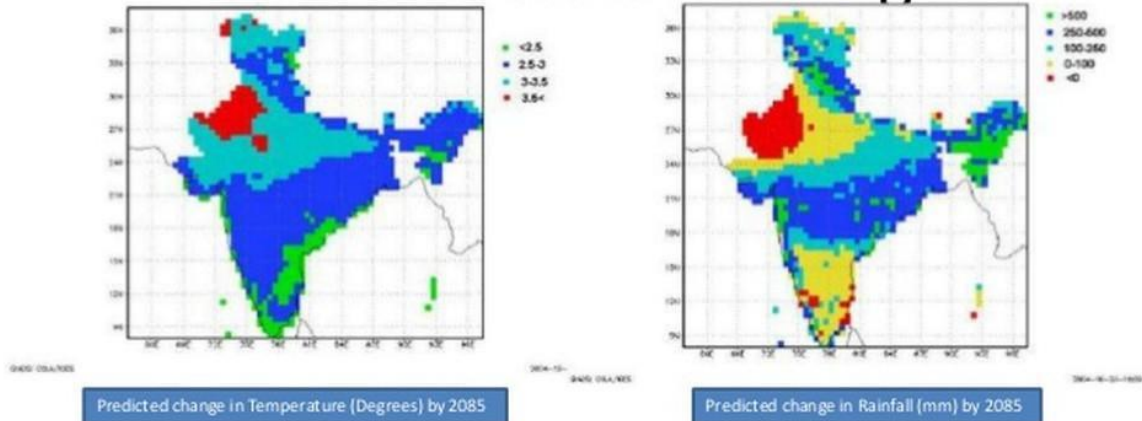
It ultimately informs a comparative pricing strategy involving three options. One that's too high for most, one that's too low for most, and one that's just right.

When done right, the strategy allows a business to appeal to various parts of the market-registering with premium buyers, standard consumers and discount seekers.

Spending on Adaptation to Climate Change 5.6% of GDP: India puts on Record

The Central government told the UN Framework for Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC) that India has spent about Rs 13.35 lakh crore in 2021-22, just over 5.5% of its GDP.

India and climate change



Source: Indian Network for Climate Change Assessment (INCCA)

- Simulations indicate an all-round warming, associated with increasing greenhouse gas concentrations, over the Indian subcontinent. The rise in annual mean surface air temperature by

The world is already experiencing changes in average temperature, shifts in the seasons, an increasing frequency of extreme weather events, and slow onset events.

The faster the climate changes and the longer adaptation efforts are put off, the more difficult and expensive responding to climate change will be.

Adaptation refers to adjustments in ecological, social or economic systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli and their effects.

It refers to changes in processes, practices and structures to moderate potential damages or to benefit from opportunities associated with climate change.

In simple terms, countries and communities need to develop adaptation solutions and implement actions to respond to current and future climate change impacts.

Adaptation actions can take on many forms, depending on the unique context of a community, business, organization, country or region.

There is no ‘one-size-fits-all-solution’—adaptation can range from building flood defences, setting up early warning systems for cyclones, switching to drought-resistant crops, to redesigning communication systems, business operations and government policies.



Many nations and communities are already taking steps to build resilient societies and economies.

Benefits of Climate Adaptation:

Adaptation efforts are meant to reduce the impacts of climate change. Along with mitigation, or reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, adaptation is a central pillar of global climate action.

Timely effort towards adaptation can prevent climate disasters and economic losses.

The money spent on protecting an airport or a power station against flooding, for example, would be much less than the chaos or economic losses incurred when they go out of operation because of an extreme rainfall or flooding event.

India spent about Rs 13.35 lakh crore in 2021-22, just over 5.5% of its GDP, on climate adaptation and expects to incur another about Rs 57 lakh crore over the next seven years for this purpose.

The Central government informed the UN Framework for Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC), recently.

The UNFCCC secretariat (UN Climate Change) is the United Nations entity tasked with supporting the global response to the threat of climate change.

The secretariat is located in Bonn, Germany.

However, climate-induced damage could escalate this amount by another Rs 15.5 lakh crore.

Why Did the Government Provide this Information to UNFCCC?

Under the global climate change framework, countries are supposed to measure their annual greenhouse gas emissions every few years, and submit it to UNFCCC for maintaining a global inventory.

This used to be called National Communication (NATCOMs), under the 1997 Kyoto Protocol mechanism.

Under the Paris Agreement (2015) that has replaced the Kyoto Protocol, this submission is called Biennial Update Reports, or BURs.

On Saturday (9th Dec, 2023), India submitted its third NATCOM which will finish its obligations under the Kyoto Protocol.



It has also submitted three BURs under the Paris Agreement so far, and that will continue.

The third NATCOM contains detailed inventory of India's greenhouse gas emissions for the year 2019.

It shows that India's total emissions in 2019 was 3.13 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.

Accounting for the absorptions by the forestry sector, the net emissions was 2.64 billion tonnes.

This is less than half of the United States and less than one-fourth of that of China.

The inventory shows that the energy sector, comprising, among others, electricity production and road transport, accounted for over 75 per cent of India's total emissions.

It is followed by agriculture which contributed about 13 per cent and industry whose share was about 8 per cent.

The Paris Agreement also asked countries to submit and, periodically, update, an adaptation communication, detailing their priorities on this front, and the actions they were taking along with.

India's first adaptation communication

Recently, India's first Adaptation Communication was submitted along with the third NATCOM.

The Adaptation Communication provides a detailed description of India's vulnerability to climate change, its adaptation requirements, and actions being taken or envisaged.

Several government plans and policies, like the Jal Jeevan Mission, PM Awas Yojana, Swachhta Mission, Ganga cleaning exercise, heat action plans, or cyclone warning system have important adaptation co-benefits.

In an assessment of the risks it faced on account of climate change, India said total economic value of crop loss (food as well as non-food) due to climate impacts were projected to range between USD 28.6 and 54.8 billion between 2030 and 2050 (2015 prices).



Over the next 50 years, these losses could shoot up to USD 612 billion to USD 1 trillion.

State-wise, it said, “Uttar Pradesh would suffer the highest economic loss due to impacts of climate change on state agriculture”.

India said its expenditure on adaptation-relevant activities, both in absolute amount as well as in proportion to the GDP, had been rising.

It is up from about Rs 5 lakh crore and 3.7 per cent of GDP in 2015-16 to Rs 13.35 lakh crore and 5.6 percent of GDP in 2021-22.

It said it would benefit from international financial support in this regard.

The international climate change regime mandates developed countries to provide finance to the developing countries for carrying out mitigation, adaptation and several other climate-related activities.