

SHORTNEWS:

1.INDIGENOUS TERRITORIES AND PROTECTED AREAS

Context: A global study published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)* underscores the critical role of **Indigenous Territories and Protected Areas (ITPAs)** in conserving the Amazon rainforest and maintaining ecosystem connectivity.

Key Highlights from the Study

- Over 25% of the Amazon already degraded
- Major threats include **deforestation, fires, mining, roads, oil and gas extraction, and dam construction.**
- **Ecosystems at risk:** forests, wetlands, and rivers—essential for **biodiversity and climate regulation.**
- **Role of ITPAs:**
 - Indigenous Territories and Protected Areas cover **more than half of the Amazon.**
 - These areas show **much lower degradation** (14–16%) compared to **unprotected lands (38%).**
 - ITPAs help maintain **connectivity of forest ecosystems**, allowing natural processes like **animal migration, nutrient cycling, and water flow.**

Indigenous Territories

- These are **lands traditionally owned, used, or occupied by Indigenous peoples.**
- They are legally or customarily recognized spaces that aim to Secure ancestral land rights, Support Indigenous livelihoods, Conserve biodiversity.
- Indigenous territories in the Amazon Biome make up about **35%** of the region

Protected Areas

- Protected areas are **geographically defined zones set aside for the conservation of nature, biodiversity, and cultural heritage.**
- They are established by governments or communities under national or international law.

Key Difference

- **Indigenous Territories** prioritize **cultural and land rights** of Indigenous peoples, with conservation often as a natural outcome.
- **Protected Areas** are primarily created for **environmental conservation**, but can include or overlap with Indigenous lands.

2. OPERATION AKHAL

Context: Security forces have killed two terrorists during ‘**Operation Akhal**’ in Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Key Highlights

- **Location:** Akhal forest area, Kulgam district, Jammu & Kashmir.
- **Security Forces Involved:** Indian Army, CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force) and Jammu and Kashmir Police.

Recent Major Encounters in J&K

- **Operation Shivshakti:** Kalsian-Gulpur area, Poonch district near LoC.
- **Operation Mahadev:** Forested Lidwas area near **Harwan**, Srinagar outskirts.

3. 71ST NATIONAL FILM AWARDS

Context: The winners of the **71st National Film Awards** were announced in **New Delhi**.

More on News: The awards recognise the best in Indian cinema for films certified between **January 1 and December 31, 2023**.

About the National Film Awards (NFA)

- The **NFA** was established in **1954** to promote cinematic excellence in India.
- The **first edition** awarded films released in **1953**. Initially, the awards were known as ‘**State Awards**’.
- Originally known as ‘**State Awards**’, the early recognitions included two President’s Gold Medals, two certificates of merit, and 12 silver medals for regional films.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.
- Administered by the **Directorate of Film Festivals** since **1973**.
- In 1968, the first **Best Actor** and **Best Actress** awards were given to **Uttam Kumar** and **Nargis**, respectively (for films of 1967).

- Initially, the Best Actress award was named **Urvashi** while the Best Actor award was named **Bharat**.
- Each year, after inviting entries, the Ministry forms separate juries for Feature Films, Non-Feature Films, Best Writing on Cinema.
- From the **57th edition onwards**, the **Feature Film** section follows a two-tier selection:
 - Five regional panels shortlist entries
 - A national panel selects the winners
- Separate juries handle Non-Feature Films and Best Writing on Cinema
- Eligibility:** Films must be produced in India, with the director and makers being Indian nationals.
 - Co-productions with foreign entities are eligible only if they meet prescribed conditions.

Awards and Recognition

- Winners are honored with a **medallion**, **cash prize**, and a **certificate of merit**.
- The **Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus Award)** is presented in:
 - Six categories** from the Feature Film section
 - Two categories** from the Non-Feature Film section
 - The **Best Writing on Cinema** category
- All other categories receive the **Rajat Kamal (Silver Lotus Award)**.

Top Award Winners of 2023

- Best Feature Film:** *12th Fail* (Dir. Vidhu Vinod Chopra)
- Best Actor :** **Shah Rukh Khan** for *Jawan* and **Vikrant Massey** for *12th Fail*
- Best Actress:** **Rani Mukerji** for *Mrs. Chatterjee vs Norway*
- Best Director:** **Sudipto Sen** for *The Kerala Story*
- Best Supporting Actor:** Vijayaraghavan (*Pookkaalam*), MS Bhaskar (*Parking*)
- Best Supporting Actress:** Urvashi (*Ullozhukku*)
- Best Hindi Film:** *Kathal*

- **Best Malayalam Film:** *Ullazhukku*
- **Best Tamil Film:** *Parking*
- **Best Telugu Film:** *Bhagavanth Kesari*

4. ICRISAT LAUNCHES AI-DRIVEN CLIMATE ADVISORY FOR FARMERS

Context: ICRISAT, in collaboration with ICAR and other partners, has launched a new AI-based advisory system to support smallholder farmers with real-time, personalised climate and weather guidance.

- **Project Name:** *AI-powered Context-Specific Agromet Advisory Services for Climate-Resilient Agriculture at Scale*
- **Launched by:**
 - **ICRISAT** (International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics)
 - **ICAR** (Indian Council of Agricultural Research)
 - Supported under **Monsoon Mission III** by the Government of India

Features of the Advisory Service

- **Core Platform: iSAT (Intelligent Systems Advisory Tool)**
 - Evolved from Monsoon Mission II
 - Integrates **real-time weather data, crop models, and ML analytics**
 - Offers tailored advice on **sowing, irrigation, pest/disease management**
- **Delivery Mechanism:** AI-powered WhatsApp bot and Other Farmer friendly digital tools
- **Target Users:** Smallholder farmers, especially in **remote rural areas**
- **Type of Information Provided:**
 - Hyper-local weather data
 - Real-time agricultural advisories
 - Climate-resilient decision support

Implementation

- **Pilot Phase:** In Maharashtra through ICAR's Agro-Meteorological Field Units (AMFUs).
- **Future Prospect:** National rollout and serve as a model for adaptation across the Global South

Significance

- Fills the **last-mile gap** in agrometeorological services
- Empowers farmers to adapt to **climate risks**
- Improves **yields, resource efficiency, and climate resilience**
- Promotes **AI and ML** applications in **rural agriculture**

About ICRISAT

- ICRISAT is an internationally recognized organization dedicated to improving dryland farming and agri-food systems
- Establishment: Founded in **1972** through a **Memorandum of Agreement** between the **Government of India** and the **CGIAR**(Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research)
- Operates as a **non-profit, non-political, public international organization**
- **Headquarters: Hyderabad, India**
- **Regional hubs:**
 - **Nairobi, Kenya** – for Eastern and Southern Africa
 - **Bamako, Mali** – for Western and Central Africa
- **Focus Regions:** Semi-arid tropics of Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa

5.EL SALVADOR

Context: El Salvador's legislature has approved constitutional changes allowing **indefinite presidential re-election** and **extending presidential terms to six years**, consolidating President Nayib Bukele's hold on power.

About El Salvador

- **Location:** Situated in **Central America** on the **isthmus** connecting North and South America

- Bordered by **Guatemala** (northwest), **Honduras** (northeast), and the **Pacific Ocean** (south)
- The **only Central American country** without a **Caribbean coastline**
- It is positioned in the **Northern and Western hemispheres** of the Earth
- **Capital and Largest City: San Salvador**

Geographical features

- **Volcanic Terrain:** Part of the **Pacific Ring of Fire**; notable volcano – ***Volcán Chaparrastique***
- **Highest Peak:** ***Cerro El Pital*** – 2,730 metres (8,957 ft), on the border with Honduras
- **Major Lakes:** *Formed in volcanic craters; Lake Ilopango, Lake Coatepeque , **Lake Güija** – the largest natural lake*
- **Climate:** Tropical climate with distinct wet and dry seasons
 - Lowlands: hot and humid
 - Central plateau and mountain areas: moderate temperatures
- **Flora and Fauna:** El Salvador's coast is home to **four species** of nesting sea turtles:
 - Leatherback
 - Hawksbill
 - Green sea turtle
 - Olive ridley

6.TULSIDAS

Context: UP CM Yogi Adityanath Paid Tribute to Tulsidas on his **500th Birth Anniversary celebration** in Chitrakoot, Uttar Pradesh (U.P).

About Tulsidas

- **Tulsidas (1532–1623)**, born in **Rajapur (Uttar Pradesh)**, is revered as a **Vaishnav saint and poet** known for his unwavering devotion to **Lord Ram**.
 - His real name was **Rambola Dubey**.
 - He was a **contemporary of** the Mughal emperor **Akbar**.

- **Contribution to Indian Spiritual Thought**
 - He **revived Bhakti traditions**, making devotion to **Ram accessible through vernacular literature**.
 - His works offered **moral, spiritual, and cultural guidance**, strengthening faith during turbulent political times.
- **Notable Works**
 - **Ramcharitmanas**: A retelling of the Ramayana in **Awadhi**, democratizing spiritual knowledge.
 - **Vinay Patrika** : Hymns of devotion and surrender to Lord Ram.
 - **Hanuman Chalisa** : Celebrated hymn praising Lord Hanuman's virtues and strength.
 - **Kavitavali and Gitavali** : Explored philosophical and devotional themes.
 - **Dohavali**: Collection of **573 dohas (couplets)** and **85 sorathas** offering moral, spiritual, and philosophical teachings.
- **Legacy**: Tulsidas remains a symbol of spiritual resilience and cultural unity, influencing Bhakti literature and continuing to inspire devotion across India and the global diaspora.

7.HUMAN OUTER PLANET EXPLORATION (HOPE) RESEARCH STATION

Context: Recently, a Bengaluru-based company, **Protoplanet**, has launched the **HOPE research station in Tso Kar, Ladakh**.

About HOPE Research Station

- HOPE is a research initiative aimed at **simulating Moon and Mars conditions** to study **human adaptability and resilience** for future manned space missions.
 - Involves **physiological and psychological studies** of selected crew members.
- **Objective:**
 - Research focused on developing robust protocols and technologies for **sustained human presence beyond Earth**.

- Extensive studies on the impact of isolation in **space-like conditions**, including experiments on psychology, physiology, and epigenetics.
- **Collaboration with ISRO:** ISRO provided **funding for the station's development** and helped in the selection criteria for crew candidates.
- **Similar International Projects simulate conditions of life on Mars and the Moon**
 - **Mars Desert Station (USA),**
 - **Flashline Mars Arctic Research Station (Canada)**
 - **BIOS-3 (Russia)**