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## Prelim Bits 23-11-2022 | UPSC Daily Current Affairs

### Arittapatti Biodiversity Heritage Site

The Tamil Nadu Government declared Arittapatti in Madurai district, a biodiversity heritage site.

*Arittapatti is the first Biodiversity Heritage Site of Tamil Nadu.*

- Arittapatti was declared as a Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) under **Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002** by the State Government in consultation with local bodies.
- **Location** - The site located in the Melur block of Madurai district and spans a total area of 193.21 hectares.
- Arittapatti village is rich in ecological and historical significance.
- **Historical Significance** - Several megalithic structures, 2200-year-old rock-cut temples, Tamil Brahmi inscriptions and Jain beds are found here.
- **Ecological Significance** - The village houses wildlife such as the [Indian Pangolin](#) (*Manis crassicaudata*), [Slender Loris](#) (*Loris spp*) and pythons (*Python molurus*).
- It also houses around 250 species of birds including 3 important raptors namely
  1. Laggar Falcon (*Falco jugger*),
  2. Shaheen Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) and
  3. Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*).
- The area is surrounded by a chain of 7 inselbergs that serve as a watershed for 72 lakes and 3 check dams.

*The Anaikondan Lake built during the reign of the Pandiyas in the 16<sup>th</sup> century is one of the lakes in the site.*

### Biodiversity Heritage Sites

- [Biodiversity Heritage Sites](#) (BHS) are well defined areas that are unique, ecologically fragile ecosystems - terrestrial, coastal and inland waters and, marine having rich biodiversity.
- In accordance to the **Biological Diversity Act of 2002**, the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) issues the guidelines for selection and management of the BHS.

- The State Biodiversity Board (SBB) chooses and declares BHS in the state.
- SBB also constitutes State-level Monitoring Committee that monitors the implementation of management plan of BHS.

*Ameenpur Lake in Telangana is the first waterbody in the country to be declared as a BHS.*

## References

1. [The Hindu - TN gets its first biodiversity heritage site](#)
2. [Indian Express - Arittapatti - first biodiversity heritage site in TN](#)
3. [National Biodiversity Authority - Biodiversity Heritage Site](#)

## Champions of the Earth Award 2022

*Indian wildlife biologist Dr Barman is among the honourees of UN Environment Programme's 2022 Champions of the Earth award.*

- Dr Purnima Devi Barman has been honoured with the UNEP's 2022 Champions of the Earth award in the Entrepreneurial Vision category.
- Dr Barman, a wildlife biologist, leads the 'Hargila Army'.
- It is an all-female grassroots conservation movement dedicated to protecting the [Greater Adjutant Stork](#) from extinction.
- She has been awarded the Green Oscars, for her efforts in conserving greater adjutant storks.

## Champions of the Earth award

- The annual Champions of the Earth award has been awarded to trailblazers at the forefront of efforts to protect our natural world.
- It is the UN's **highest environmental honour** launched by UNEP in 2005.
- The Champions of the Earth award recognizes outstanding leaders from government, civil society and the private sector whose actions have a transformative impact on the environment.
- The Champions of the Earth award will celebrate visionaries in 4 categories:
  1. Inspiration and action
  2. Entrepreneurial vision
  3. Science and innovation
  4. Policy Leadership
- In addition to this award, UNEP confers 'Lifetime Achievement Award', recognising decades of consistent action on behalf of the planet and its inhabitants.
- To date, the award has recognised 111 laureates: 26 world leaders, 69 individuals and 16 organisations.
- 2022 Champions of the Earth award recognized individuals and organizations for their transformative action to prevent, halt and reverse **ecosystem degradation**.

*In 2018, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was recognized by UNEP under*

*Policy Leadership category for his pledge to eliminate single use plastic in India by 2022.*

## References

1. [The Hindu - Indian honoured with Champions of the Earth award](#)
2. [UNEP - 2022 Champions of the Earth award](#)

## Project UNNATI

*The Union Ministry of Rural Development wants to link performances of the States under the UNNATI project with its labour budget for the upcoming financial year.*

- UNNATI project was **launched in 2020** to reduce dependence on MGNREGA scheme.
- It was launched with the intention of **upgrading the skill base** of the MGNREGA workers to help them transition from partial employment to full employment.
- The project was planned to end on March 2022 but has now been extended by 2 years.
- So far the project has trained 25,056 persons against the 2 lakh target.
- **Objective** - The project aims to train one adult member (18-45 years) of a household that has completed 100 days of work under the MGNREGA.
- **Structure** - Under the project, the selected candidates are skilled using 3 established training programmes —
  1. The Deen Dayal Upadhyay Grameen Kaushal Yojana (**DDU-GKY**)
  2. The Rural Self Training Institute (**RSETI**) and
  3. The Krishi Vigyan Kendra (**KVK**).
- The 3 training programmes are coordinated by Rural Skill Division of Rural Development Ministry.
- The skilling project will have 2 types of skilling
  1. Skilling for wage employment - By DDU-GKY
  2. Skilling for Self-employment - By RSETI and KVK
- **Fund** - The expenditure towards stipend is borne by the Central government and released to the States.
- **Monitoring** - The MGNREGA Scheme along with Rural Skill Division monitors the progress of the project.

## References

1. [The Hindu - Skill training of MGNREGS workers lags](#)
2. [Project UNNATI on skilling MGNREGA workers](#)

## Karmayogi Bharat technology platform

*The Prime Minister launched the 'Karmayogi Bharat' technology platform and the Karmayogi Prarambh module.*

- The Karmayogi Bharat is responsible for any other digital assets pertaining to the **Mission Karmayogi** Programme, including iGOT - Karmayogi platform.
- It will be responsible for owning, managing, maintaining, and improving the digital

assets on behalf of Government with an annual subscription-based revenue model.

*Mission Karmayogi is a national programme for civil services capacity building.*

## **Karmayogi Prarambh Module**

- The Karmayogi Prarambh module falls under the ambit of Mission Karmayogi.
- The Karmayogi Prarambh module is an online **orientation course for all new appointees** in various government departments.
- The instructive module would provide a **code of conduct** for government servants, including directives on workplace ethics and integrity.
- The Centre has designed the program to improve the functioning of civil services through online instructive modules.
- The newly appointed government employees would be able to access courses on the website of Karmayogi Bharat platform to enhance their knowledge, skills and competencies.
- The government through this module, provides to acclimatise government servants to human resource policies and facilitates their smooth transition into their new roles.

## **References**

1. [PIB - PM Launches Karmayogi Prarambh module](#)
2. [Karmayogi Bharat](#)
3. [Hindustan Times - Karmayogi Prarambh launched at Rozgar Mela](#)

## **Famine**

*Somalia is on the brink of its worst famine in half a century as drought intensifies and global food prices soar.*

- Famine is declared in an area when severe hunger is already widespread, and when people have started dying of starvation because they do not have enough nutritious food.
- According to the United Nations, the affected area must meet three conditions:
  1. At least 20% of the population is facing extreme food shortages
  2. At least 30% of children are suffering from acute malnutrition
  3. At least two people out of every 10,000 inhabitants are dying each day due to starvation, or a combination of severe hunger and illness.
- **Declaration of famine** - The decision to declare a famine is generally made jointly by the government and the United Nations.

*Famine is an extreme crisis of access to adequate food, manifested in widespread malnutrition and loss of life due to starvation and infectious disease - Oxfam*

## Famine in Somalia

- The United Nations (UN) has projected that parts of Somalia will be hit with famine and it would be more severe than the 2011 Somalia Famine.
- **Causes of Famine in Somalia** - Along with the below reasons hunger has been worsened due to the soaring cost of grain, fuel and fertilizer following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and aggravated **famine in Somalia**.
  1. Climate change and 5<sup>th</sup> failed rainy season in a row.
  2. Loss of income due to the COVID-19 pandemic
  3. Years of insurgency by Islamist insurgents al Shabaab.

## References

1. [Indian Express - Somali Reluctant On Famine Declaration](#)
2. [Outlook - Somalia Is Reluctant To Declare Famine](#)



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