



**30-04-2024**

### **Goldman Prize or 'Green Nobel'**

#### **Why in News?**

- Alok Shukla, convenor of the Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan and founding member of the Hasdeo Aranya Bachao Sangharsh Samiti, has been awarded the 2024 Goldman Prize from Asia.



#### **More About the News**

- He has been declared winner for his efforts to save the forests of Hasdeo Aranya in Chhattisgarh.
- Alok Shukla led a successful community campaign that saved 445,000 acres of biodiversity-rich forests from 21 planned coal mines in the central Indian state of Chhattisgarh.
- The Goldman Environmental Foundation, which gives away the prize, recognised that the Hasdeo movement's "ability to successfully influence policy has made it a model for environmental justice in India and generated an unprecedented amount of national and regional solidarity".

- Hasdeo, spread across 657 square miles, is one of India's most extensive contiguous forest tracts.
- Hasdeo's forests are also a catchment area for the Hasdeo river, a tributary of the Mahanadi. The river serves as the watershed for the Hasdeo Bango reservoir, irrigating 741,000 acres of farmland.
- The state of Chhattisgarh, 44 per cent of which is forested, has India's third largest concentration of forests. Additionally, nearly 15,000 Adivasi-Indigenous peoples depend on the Hasdeo Aranya forests for their livelihood, cultural identity, and sustenance.

#### **About the Goldman Award**

- The Goldman Environmental Prize is awarded by the Goldman Environmental Foundation. The Prize was founded by Richard and Rhonda Goldman in 1989.
- It recognises grassroots environmental leaders from six regions - Asia, Africa, Europe, North America, South and Central America and lastly, islands and island nations.
- The winners are selected by an international jury and awarded \$200,000 as prize money.

### **Bambi Bucket**

#### **Why in the News?**

- Indian Air Force's MI 17 V5 helicopter was deployed to extinguish the raging forest fires in Nainital district, Uttarakhand, used a "Bambi Bucket", also known as a helicopter bucket or a helibucket, to collect water from Bhimtal lake, located near Nainital, and poured it over the burning forests.

#### **More About the News**

- Bambi Bucket is a specialized aerial





firefighting tool which has been in use since the 1980s.

- It is essentially a lightweight collapsible container that releases water from underneath a helicopter to targeted areas. The water is released by using a pilot-controlled valve.
- One of its key features is that it can be quickly and easily filled. The bucket can be filled from various sources, including lakes and swimming pools, which allows firefighters to swiftly refill it and return to the target area.
- The Bambi Bucket was invented by Don Arney, a Canadian business, in 1982. Arney came up with the idea after he realised that the aerial firefighting water buckets in use at the time were not efficient and had a high failure rate.
- These water buckets were generally made of "solid fibreglass, plastic, or canvas with metal frames" and were "too rigid to fit inside the aircraft" and had to be "trucked to fire sites or flown in on the hook of a helicopter thereby slowing the aircraft down."
- Bambi Bucket is used in more than 115 countries around the world by more than 1,000 helicopter operators.
- In 2017, Arney was inducted into the Inventors Hall of Fame for the invention of the Bambi Bucket.

## Green Taxonomy

### Why in the News?

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Finance Ministry could take inspiration from the developing world, especially the ASEAN region, where a layered green taxonomy as a living document keeps getting updated with sectoral views of possible sustainable trajectories.

### More About the News

- A notable feature of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) latest Monetary Policy Report is the primacy given to "extreme weather events" and "climate shocks" affecting not only food inflation but also likely having a broader impact on the natural rate of interest, thereby influencing the economy's financial stability.
- Natural, or neutral, rate of interest refers to the central bank's monetary policy lever, which allows it to maintain maximum economic output, while keeping a check on inflation.
- The report mentions a "New-Keynesian model that incorporates a physical climate risk damage function" being used to estimate the "counterfactual macroeconomic impact of climate change vis-à-vis a no climate change scenario".



- Beginning with its July 2022 discussion paper on 'climate risk and sustainable finance', the RBI has made incremental progress to address the transition to a green



economy, even while admitting that India requires over \$17 trillion to achieve its net zero ambitions by 2070.

- Its peers in advanced economies, most notably the European Central Bank, have aided the formulation of a green taxonomy for the entire Eurozone's economic value chain.
- A green taxonomy is a framework to assess the sustainability credentials and possible ranking of an economic activity.
- While the issuance of Rs 16,000 crore worth of Sovereign Green Bonds and expanding the resource pool by allowing Foreign Institutional Investors to participate in future green government securities are welcome steps, the RBI must undertake a thorough-going assessment on the quantitative and qualitative impact on economic and financial stability due to climate change.
- It must encourage administrative consultation to begin populating a layered green taxonomy that is reflective of India's fragmented developmental trajectories.
- The effort should be to mitigate the transitional risks to the financial system as the economy moves towards a sustainable future.

### IIT-Patna awarded patent for its cost-effective inverter

#### Why in the News?

- In a remarkable achievement, the Indian Institute of Technology-Patna (IIT-P) has been awarded a patent on its indigenously developed lightweight, compact and easy-to-carry inverter from the Patent Office, Government of India.

#### More About the News

- The patented technique would go a long way in making the country self-reliant in the field of portable power module (inverter/UPS).
- IIT-P will have a copyright on the commercial use of this technique for 20 years.

- Developed under startup scheme of 'Portable Power Technology' at IIT-P's incubation centre by a group of five young scientists – Abhijit Kumar, Saurabh Rai, Abhishek Ranjan, Radheshyam Kumar and Rahmat Ali - under the guidance of IIT-P's academic dean A K Thakur, this unique technique is ready to be put into commercial use next month.
- This cost-effective product will promote clean and green energy generation without any harmful emission causing health hazards.
- This machine has got improved endurance of battery life and durability compared to its other commercial counterparts.
- The inverter will be manufactured by the startup made by the students themselves.

### Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi Taken Over As Chief Of Naval Staff

#### Why in the News?

- Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi has taken over as the Chief of the Naval Staff today. He has succeeded Admiral R Hari Kumar.



#### More About the News

- He has served as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command.

- A Communication and Electronic Warfare specialist, he has served on frontline warships of the Navy as Signal



Communication Officer and Electronic Warfare Officer, and later as the Executive Officer and Principal Warfare Officer of Guided Missile Destroyer INS Mumbai.

- He commanded the Indian naval ships Vinash, Kirch and Trishul.
- Admiral Tripathi is a recipient of the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and the Nausena Medal for devotion to duty.
- After assuming the charge, Admiral Tripathi said, the Indian Navy should remain operationally ready at all times to deter potential adversaries at sea in peace and to win the war at and from the sea.
- He also stressed that he will strengthen the ongoing efforts of the Indian Navy towards 'Aatamnirbharta' by introducing new technologies and becoming an important pillar of national development.



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