



21 Aug 2024

National and International News

<p>National Geoscience Awards</p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The <b>President of India</b> will confer the prestigious <b>National Geoscience Awards 2023</b> at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre in New Delhi.</li></ul> <p><b>About National Geoscience Awards:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One of the <b>oldest and most prestigious national awards</b> in the field of geosciences.</li><li>• <b>Instituted:</b> The award was instituted by the <b>Ministry of Mines</b> in <b>1966</b>.</li><li>• <b>Previous Name:</b> Before 2009, these awards were known as the <b>National Mineral Awards</b>.</li><li>• <b>Objective:</b> To honor individuals and teams for <b>extraordinary achievements and outstanding contributions in various fields of geosciences</b>.</li><li>• <b>Award Categories:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ National Geoscience Award for Lifetime Achievement</li><li>○ National Geoscience Award</li><li>○ National Young Geoscientist Award</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Recognition:</b> The award symbolizes recognition and appreciation for exceptional individuals and organizations demonstrating excellence, dedication, and innovation in geosciences.</li></ul>
<p>Banni grasslands</p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Researchers in <b>Bhuj</b> have recently <b>conducted a study to assess the suitability of different areas in Banni</b> for <b>sustainable grassland restoration</b>, with ecological value as the primary criterion.</li></ul> <p><b>About Banni grasslands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Location:</b> The Banni Grasslands are located along the northern border of <b>Kachchh district in Gujarat</b>.</li><li>• <b>Ethnic Groups:</b> Home to <b>22 ethnic groups</b>, the majority of whom are pastoralists.</li><li>• <b>Biodiversity:</b> The area is rich in biological diversity, featuring:</li></ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Wildlife:</b> Includes Nilgai, Chinkara, Blackbuck, Wild boar, Golden Jackal, Indian Hare, Indian Wolf, Caracal, Asiatic Wildcat, and Desert Fox.</li> <li>● <b>Protected Areas:</b> The <b>Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary</b> and <b>Chhari Dhand Conservation Reserve</b> are part of the Banni Grasslands.</li> </ul>
Miyawaki Method	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The <b>Chhattisgarh Forest Department</b> recently organized a <b>Van Mahotsav program</b> in the <b>Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur (MCB) district</b>, where saplings were planted using the Miyawaki method.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Miyawaki Method:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Origin:</b> Developed by Japanese botanist and plant ecology expert, Professor <b>Akira Miyawaki</b>.</li> <li>● <b>Planting Technique:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Involves <b>planting two to four types of indigenous trees within every square meter</b>.</li> <li>○ <b>Only native species that naturally occur in the area</b>, based on the specific climate condition, are used.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Growth Process:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Dense planting leads to seedlings competing for sunlight</b>, resulting in rapid growth.</li> <li>○ <b>Trees become self-sustainable</b> and grow to their full length within three years.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Speed and Density:</b> Miyawaki forests <b>grow 10x faster</b>, are <b>30x denser</b>, and contain <b>100x more biodiversity</b> compared to conventional methods.</li> </ul>
Sustainable agriculture	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A number of <b>issues such as climate change, environmental sustainability and food security</b> accelerated the transition to <b>sustainable agriculture</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Sustainable agriculture:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Key Principles of Sustainable Agriculture:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Increasing Productivity:</b> <b>Enhance productivity while reducing reliance on chemical fertilizers and pesticides</b>, and focus on <b>water- and energy-efficient systems</b>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Protecting Natural Resources:</b> Sustainable use and <b>conservation of soil and water resources.</b></li> <li>○ <b>Improving Livelihoods:</b> Increase agricultural income, <b>reduce poverty.</b></li> <li>○ <b>Enhancing Resilience:</b> Build resilience to extreme weather events and market volatility.</li> <li>● <b>Methods of Sustainable Agriculture:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Organic Farming:</b> Focus on <b>ecological balance, natural inputs, crop rotation, and organic fertilizers.</b></li> <li>○ <b>Crop Rotation:</b> Enhances soil health, breaks pest cycles, and reduces chemical inputs.</li> <li>○ <b>Agroforestry:</b> Integrates trees with crops/animals, promotes biodiversity, and supplements income.</li> <li>○ <b>Integrated Pest Management (IPM):</b> Minimizes pesticide use, manages pests while preserving beneficial organisms.</li> <li>○ <b>Zero Tillage:</b> Preserves soil structure, reduces erosion, and improves water retention.</li> <li>○ <b>Hydroponics and Aquaponics:</b> Efficient resource use, reduces land degradation, and combines plant and fish farming in a symbiotic system.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Yaks</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Recently, around <b>40 Chinese yaks</b> entered Indian territory in the <b>Demchok area of eastern Ladakh</b> and are currently under the control of the local villagers.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Yaks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Geographical Distribution:</b> Found throughout the <b>Himalayan region of south-central Asia, the Tibetan plateau, and Mongolia.</b></li> <li>● <b>Species:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Scientific Name:</b> Wild yaks (<i>Bos mutus</i>) and domestic yaks (<i>Bos grunniens</i>).</li> <li>○ <b>Wild yaks and domestic yaks are sometimes considered separate species</b> but can interbreed with various kinds of cattle.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Habitat:</b></li> </ul>



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## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

- Wild yaks inhabit **alpine tundra** at altitudes of 5000 to 7000 meters.
- Domestic yaks can **survive at much lower altitudes**.
- **Habitat consists of three vegetation types:** Alpine meadow, alpine steppe, and desert steppe.
- **Yak-Rearing States in India:** Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.
- **Conservation Status:** Wild Yaks are classified as '**Vulnerable**' under the **IUCN Red List**.



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