



Debatrya Mitra

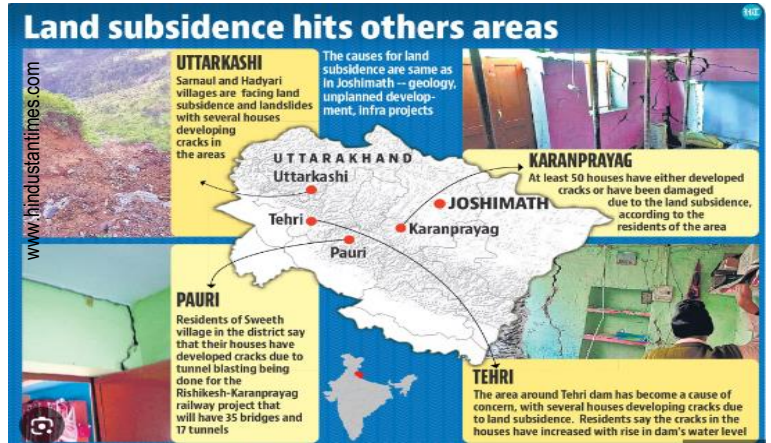
**Recent**  
**Happenings**

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## Joshimath

Joshimath town, (Chamoli district, Uttarakhand) faced severe subsidence in **January'2023**, cracks developed all over, panic, and protests by locals. It is a high-risk seismic zone-V, rapid average sinking rate is 6.5cm/yr. ancient landslide sites, heavy construction, hydroelectric project, and NH widening are among the causes. 3000 people were affected by the event.

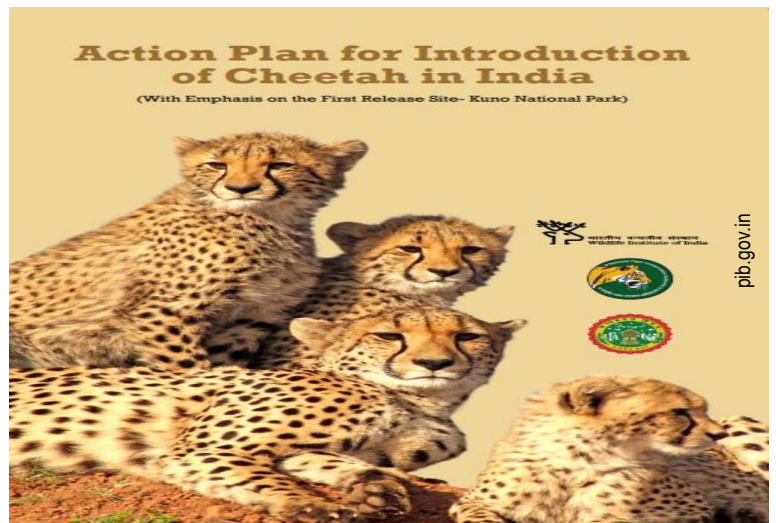


## Ramsar Sites in India

India surges its Ramsar sites tally to 75 adding 11 more wetlands for proper conservation in August'2022 in order to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day. The Central Government also initiated a scheme 'Amrit Dharohar' in the Union budget 2023-24 in February'2023 for optimal usage of wetlands over the next 3 years.

## Reintroduction of Cheetah

Cheetahs, a species which went extinct from India in 1952 were reintroduced in India at Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh on 17<sup>th</sup> September'2022 under the 'Project Cheetah' initiative. Initially, 8 cheetahs from Namibia and later 12 from South Africa were brought to bring the present population to 20 cheetahs with the main aim to establish a viable cheetah population in the country and boost conservation efforts of the species.



## Dr. Purnima Devi Barman

Indian Wildlife biologist Dr. Purnima Devi Barman became a recipient of UNEP 'Champions of the Earth' Award, the world's highest environmental honour in **November'2022**. She won the award under 'Entrepreneurial Vision' category for her conservation efforts in protecting 'Hargila', the greater adjutant stork.



## The Elephant Whisper

Indian Documentary 'The Elephant Whisperers' won at Oscars 2023 on **13<sup>th</sup> March, 2023** in the Documentary Short Film Category. Directed by Kartiki Gonsalves, the documentary is a story of an indigenous couple Bomman and Bellie who take care of an orphaned baby elephant Raghu and the film inspires many for living in harmony with nature and other living beings.

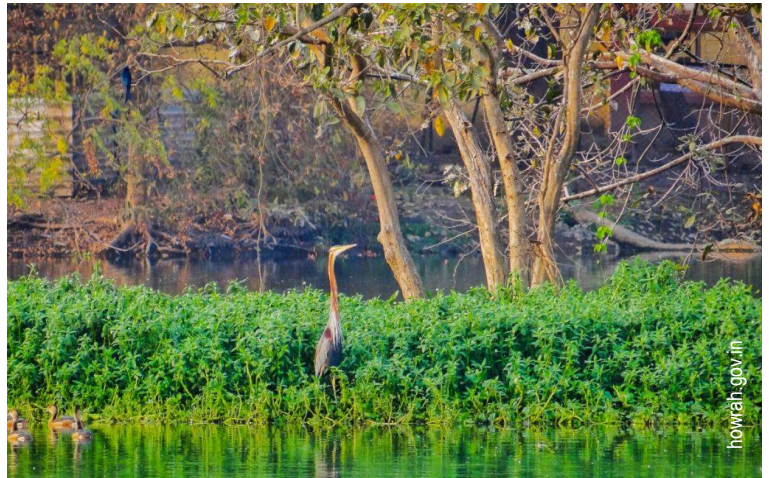


## Ban on single-use plastics

Nationwide ban of single-use plastics came into effect on 1 July'2022 and production, distribution, stocking and sale of single-use plastic items were prohibited considering the deep environmental damage it creates. However, the implementation of the ban felt a little weak and the circulation of such items again started few months after in

## Migratory birds in santragachi

The Santragachi Jheel has seen a recent surge in the number of migratory birds with over 7000 birds in December'2022 which is around 15% more than the winter of 2021 according to a count by the Prakriti Samsad and Nature Mates Club, Kolkata. Some sighted birds include Trans-Himalayan Migrant Ducks, Lesser Whistling duck, the Gadwall, Garganey, Northern Pintail and the Glossy Ibis.



## WATERBODY COUNT

### STATES WITH MOST WATERBODIES

State	No. of waterbodies
West Bengal	7,47,480
Uttar Pradesh	2,45,087
Andhra Pradesh	1,90,777
Odisha	1,81,837
Assam	1,72,492
Jharkhand	1,07,598
Tamil Nadu	1,06,957

### STATES/UTs WITH LEAST WATERBODIES

Sikkim	134
Chandigarh	188
Delhi	893
Arunachal Pradesh	993

### WATERBODIES LOST TO ENCROACHMENTS

Uttar Pradesh	15,301
Tamil Nadu	8,366
Andhra Pradesh	3,920

## State with Most Waterbodies

West Bengal has been declared with the state having the highest number of ponds and reservoirs in April'2023 according to a report of India's first water bodies census conducted by the Ministry of Jal Shakti. The same report presented that Maharashtra State is the leading state for water conservation schemes, Andhra Pradesh has highest number of tanks, Tamil Nadu has highest number of lakes.





## Best Zoo in India

The Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park (PNHZP) in West Bengal's Darjeeling has been adjudged the best zoo in the country according to an evaluation done by The Central Zoo Authority in September'2022. The Red Panda is one of the top attractions of this zoo and other attractions include the Himalayan Black Bear, Snow Leopard, Goral and Himalayan tahr.



## Mangrove pitta birds

The forest officials of Bhitarkanika National Park, Odisha have sighted 179 mangrove Pitta birds in a first-ever census of its kind in **April'2023**. This Near-threatened species is exclusive to mangrove regions of Odisha and Sundarbans and is famous for its exotic and vibrant colours.

## West Bengal Heat Wave

The state of West Bengal faced severe heat waves in April'2023 where temperature rose as high as 45°C in some parts of the state including capital Kolkata. The schools, colleges, universities and other academic institutions were closed from 17<sup>th</sup> April for next 7 days. The state was under an 'extreme' heat index danger according to a study.



## Sand Battery

Finland develops world's first commercial-scale Sand battery at Vatajankoski power plant capable of storing 8 MWh of thermal energy around August 2022. The battery uses a 7m-high steel container containing 100 tonnes cheap, low-quality sand, reusable, retaining heat for long time periods and a way towards renewable and sustainable development.



## COP 27

Egypt hosted the 27th session of The Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP27) in Sharm El-Sheikh from 6<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> November'2022. The main agenda of COP 27 was implementation of the Global Climate observing system along with other significant topics of discussion such as Communication and Engagement, Law and Climate, Low Carbon Economy, Energy, Climate Policy, Land use and Food System. The conference also launched a New Five-year work program to promote climate technology solutions in developing countries.



## Pakistan Flood

Pakistan faced a devastating flood between June-October'2022 due to heavy monsoon rain, poor urban planning and melting glaciers of Baloch, Sindh and POK regions. The death toll was reported around 1739 and more than 50 thousand people were rescued by the country's army. An estimated \$14.9 billion property damage was reported and economic loss of around \$15.2 billion was also reported.

## Turky Earthquake

Turkey and Syria experienced a deadly 7.8 magnitude earthquake on 6<sup>th</sup> February,2023. The epicenter of the earthquake was located at Gaziantep, Turkey. This was the largest earthquake the nation faced since the 1939 Erzincan earthquake. The combined death-toll was reported to be around 60,000 and affected almost 15.73 million people. The earthquake caused damages worth US\$104 billion in Turkey and US\$14.8 billion in Syria and is considered to be the 4<sup>th</sup> costliest earthquake ever recorded.

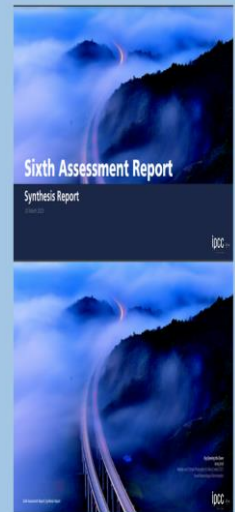


## IPCC Report, 2023

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its Synthesis Report for the Sixth Assessment Cycle on 20 March 2023 in Interlaken, Switzerland. The report emphasized the need of an urgent global action in order to curb the effects of climate change and global warming. The report also focused on highlighting the cause of global temperature rise by 1.1°C criticizing current policy actions and emission levels. The report advised to cut down GHG emissions in all sectors, shift to low-carbon economy and to have strong political commitments and equity to fulfill these targets.

## IPCC RELEASED THE SYNTHESIS REPORT OF THE 6TH ASSESSMENT CYCLE

The Core Writing Team (CWT) finally finalise the Synthesis Report of the IPCC 6th Assessment Cycle



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