

April - 19

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The union government has set the target of producing 170 million tonnes of coal from captive and commercial coal blocks in the country during the current financial year.
- ❖ DRDO & Indian Army conducted a successful trial of indigenous Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile Weapon System.
- ❖ Rashmi Kumari wins national women's carrom title for the 12th time in the women's final of the 51st National carrom championship.
- ❖ Indian Prime Minister is set to become the 2nd prime minister of India to feature on the cover of Newsweek, an American magazine, after Indira Gandhi.
 - Former prime minister Indira Gandhi featured on the cover of Newsweek's April 1966 issue.
- ❖ NASA is now publicly distributing science-quality data from its newest Earth-observing PACE satellite.
 - It is providing first-of-their-kind measurements of ocean health, air quality, and the effects of a changing climate.
- ❖ The British-American author Salman Rushdie, who was attacked with a knife at a public event in 2022, narrated the incident in his new biography 'Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder'.
- ❖ Dr Gagandeep Kang, Director of Global Health at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, has been selected for the prestigious John Dirks Award in global health.
- ❖ US hosted the first-ever trilateral summit meeting between the leaders of the USA, the Philippines, and Japan at the White House, Washington D.C.
- ❖ International Turban Day is an annual celebration observed on April 13th to honour the rich cultural and religious significance of the turban in Sikhism.

NATIONAL

Cotton Test Labs in 6 States

- ❖ The union government is planning to set up dedicated labs for testing high-grade cotton for Kasturi Cotton global brand push.
- ❖ The 6 states are Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Punjab, Gujarat and Karnataka.

- ❖ India aims to compete with global cotton brands such as Supima and Giza, which are known for their exceptional softness, strength and durability.
- ❖ The testing facilities under the textiles ministry are operated by the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI).

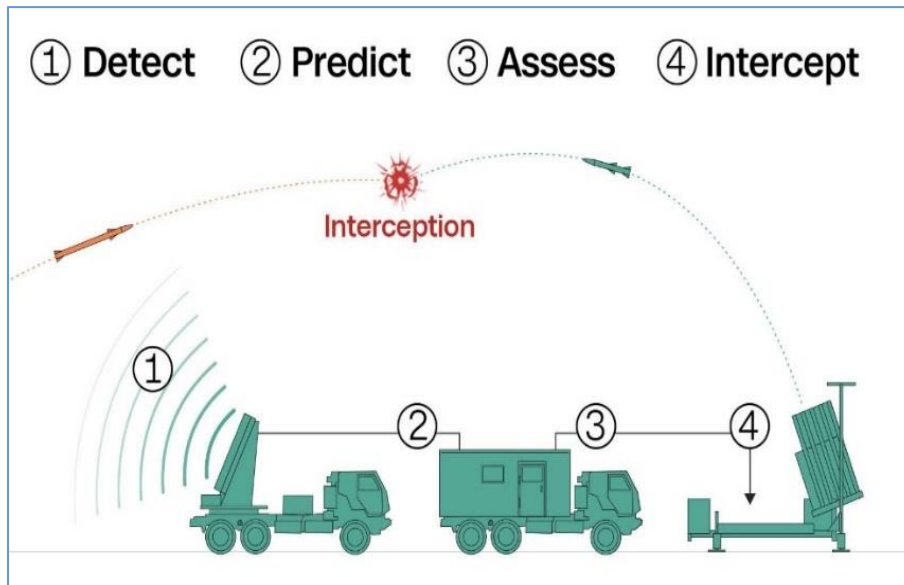


INTERNATIONAL

Iran-Israel Conflict 2024

- ❖ Iran's massive aerial attack marks the first direct strike by Iran on Israeli territory from Iranian soil.
- ❖ Iran called the attack Operation True Promise.
- ❖ Iran's attack involved more than 120 ballistic missiles, 170 drones and more than 30 cruise missiles.
- ❖ Israel's military said that "99%" of the more than 300 projectiles were intercepted.
- ❖ Israel's Iron Dome is a crucial component of its defense system, designed to protect the country from short-range rockets and artillery shells.
- ❖ A naval version of the Iron Dome to protect ships and sea-based assets was deployed in 2017.

- ❖ The Iron Dome system works by detecting incoming rockets using radar, which then calculates their trajectory and speed.
- ❖ Other defence systems of Israel:
 - Like the Dome, David's Sling medium-range interception system was developed by Israeli firm Rafael and made operational in 2017.
 - Arrow 2 was operationalised in 2000 and aims to destroy long-range ballistic missiles.
 - The Arrow 3 defence system targets long-range ballistic missiles while they are still flying through space.
- ❖ Iran was one of the first countries in the region to recognise Israel after its formation in 1948.
- ❖ A religious state was established in Iran after the Shah was overthrown in the 1979 Islamic Revolution.
- ❖ The regime's view of Israel changed, and it was seen as an occupier of Palestinian land.
- ❖ It was only after 1979 that their diplomatic ties ended.

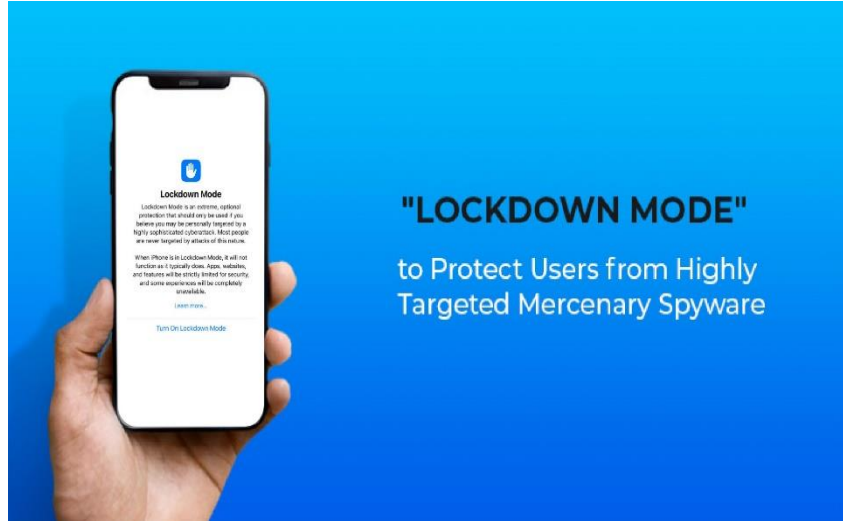


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Mercenary Spyware: Apple

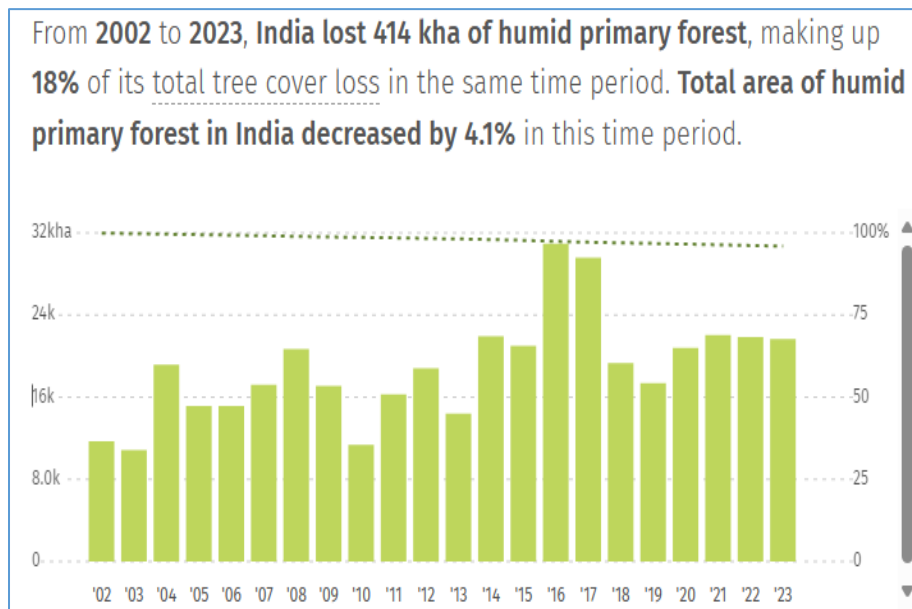
- ❖ Apple has sent out the first batch of threat notifications for this year to 92 countries, including India.

- ❖ It warns users that they may have been individually targeted using mercenary spyware.
- ❖ This attack is likely targeting you specifically because of who you are or what you do.



ENVIRONMENT

Global Forest Watch - Report

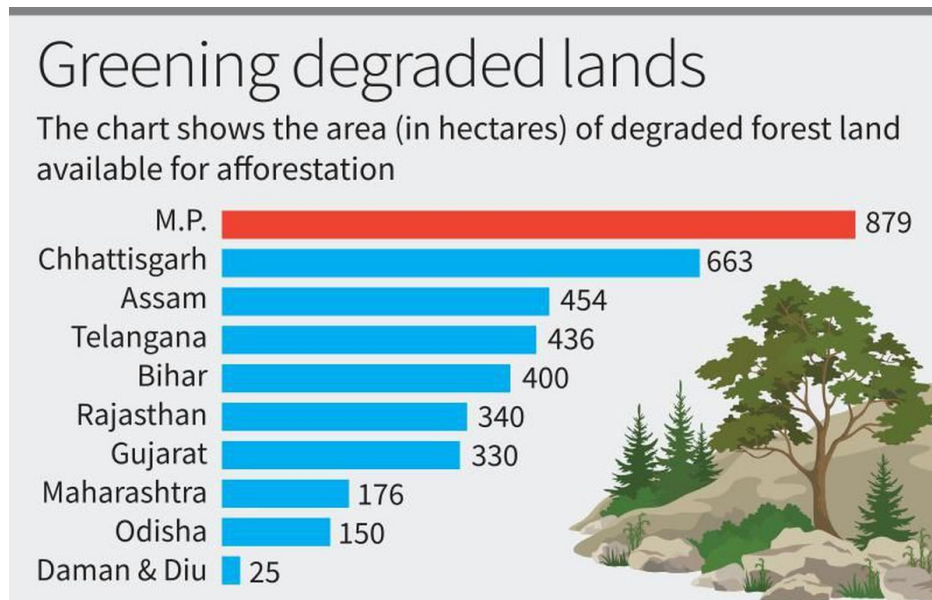


- ❖ The Global Forest Watch tracks forest changes in near real-time using satellite data and other sources.

- ❖ India has lost 2.33 million hectares of tree cover since 2000, equivalent to a six per cent decrease in tree cover during this period.
- ❖ Between 2001 and 2022, forests in India emitted 51 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent a year and removed 141 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent a year.
- ❖ This represents a net carbon sink of 89.9 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent a year.
- ❖ Assam had the maximum tree cover loss at 324,000 hectares compared to an average of 66,600 hectares.
- ❖ Mizoram lost 312,000 hectares of tree cover, Arunachal Pradesh 262,000 hectares, Nagaland 259,000 hectares, and Manipur 240,000 hectares.
- ❖ The GFW data showed that five states accounted for 60 per cent of all tree cover loss between 2001 and 2023.
- ❖ The rate of deforestation in India was 668,000 hectares per year between 2015 and 2020, the second highest worldwide.
- ❖ From 2001 to 2022, Odisha had the highest rate of tree cover loss due to fires with an average of 238 hectares lost per year.

STATES

Green Credit Program implementation



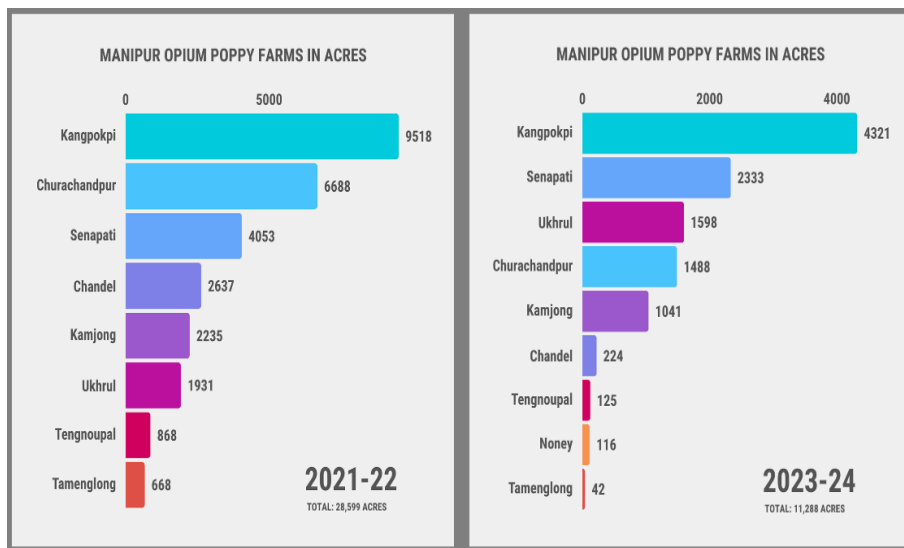
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh has taken the lead in implementing the Centre's Green Credit Programme (GCP).



- ❖ It got over 500 land parcels spanning 4,980 hectares across 10 states approved for tree plantation in the past two months.
- ❖ These states, along with three others, have together identified more than 10,000 hectares of land for the programme.
- ❖ MP has, so far, reported the highest 954 hectares of approved degraded forest land for plantation/greening exercises.
- ❖ It is followed by Telangana (845 hectares), Chhattisgarh (713 hectares), Gujarat (595 hectares) and Assam (454 hectares).

Opium cultivation in Manipur

- ❖ Opium poppy cultivation area fell 40 per cent from 28,599 acres in 2021-22 to 16,890 acres in 2022-23.
- ❖ The area shrunk further by 32 per cent to 11,288 acres in 2023-24 from the previous year.
- ❖ The total area of opium poppy cultivation in violence-hit Manipur has declined 60 per cent since 2021.

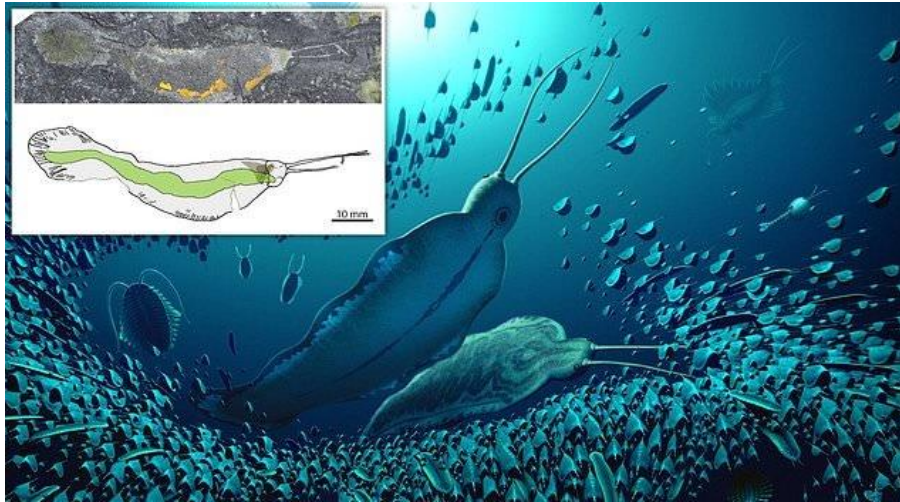


MISCELLANEOUS

Fossils of “Terror Beasts” Worms

- ❖ Scientists have unearthed the fossils of a previously unknown group of animal predators.
- ❖ The fossils have been discovered in North Greenland's Early Cambrian Sirius Passet fossil locality.

- ❖ They are named Timorebestia, meaning 'terror beasts' in Latin.
- ❖ These large creatures may represent some of the earliest carnivorous animals to inhabit the water more than 518 million years ago.
- ❖ The discovery sheds light on a previously unknown dynasty of predators.
- ❖ The giant worm (30cm) sported fins along its body, had a distinctive head with long antennae, and formidable jaw structures inside its mouths.
- ❖ These features, coupled with their swimming prowess, made them one of the largest predators in the Early Cambrian era, about half a billion years ago.



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