



CURRENT AFFAIRS 19th April 2023

National News

1. Utsa Patnaik selected for Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2023.



- Utsa Patnaik, a well-known economist of both national and international acclaim, has been chosen for the prestigious Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2023.
- The award is presented annually by the Malcolm & Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust, with outstanding social scientists being recognized by a national-level jury from the nominations received.
- The recipient of the award will receive a citation and a cash prize of ₹2 lakh at a ceremony to be held in Chennai, the date of which will be announced by the Trust soon.
- In 2022, the award was presented to the Indian economist, Prabhat Patnaik.
- Utsa Patnaik is a renowned economist of national and international repute who has made seminal contributions to the fields of agrarian studies, political economy, history of economic thought, and colonialism and imperialism.

- She has authored several books and articles on various topics related to development economics, such as agrarian relations, peasant movements, food security, poverty alleviation, fiscal policy, trade policy, debt crisis, globalization, neoliberalism, capitalism, socialism, Marxism-Leninism-Maoism (MLM), Indian economic history, and world economic history.

2. Namami Gange: 8 Projects Worth Rs 638 Crores Approved.

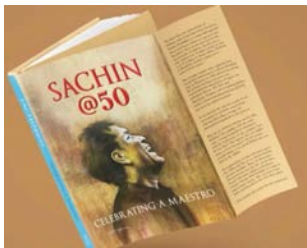


- The Executive Committee of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) chaired by Director General G Asok Kumar, approved eight projects worth approximately Rs 638 crore.
- The focus of these projects is to reduce pollution in River Hindon, which is a tributary of River Yamuna.
- As part of the comprehensive 'Hindon Rejuvenation Plan', four projects costing Rs 407.39 crore were approved for pollution reduction in the Shamli district.
- These projects aim to prevent the flow of contaminated water into the Krishna River.
- The 48th meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) approved eight projects worth around Rs 638 crore.
- Four projects costing Rs 407.39 crore were approved for pollution reduction in the Shamli district as part of the comprehensive 'Hindon Rejuvenation Plan'.
- The projects aim to prevent the flow of polluted water from Krishna River into River Hindon, and include the construction of sewage treatment plants (STPs), septage

co-treatment facilities, interception and diversion (I&D) systems, and other works in various locations in Shamli district.

- One project for the development of seven ghats in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, was also approved in preparation for the Mahakumbh in 2025.
- The ghats will have various amenities such as bathing areas, change rooms, universal access ramps, drinking water points, flood lights, kiosks, and landscaping.

3. A new book titled 'Sachin@50' - Celebrating A Maestro by Boria Majumdar.



- Boria Majumdar, a renowned sports historian and popular TV show host, unveiled a new book called 'Sachin@50 – Celebrating A Maestro' on the occasion of legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar's 50th birthday.
- The book has been conceptually designed and curated by Majumdar, with a special back cover note written by Gulzar.
- It will be officially released on Tendulkar's 50th birthday, which falls on April 24, 2023.
- The book covers Tendulkar's journey to success, starting from his teenage debut where he became globally recognized after his bloodied nose incident in Pakistan in 1989.
- It also highlights how he became the greatest batting sensation, transcending boundaries of sport.
- The publishing house Simon & Schuster is honoring the global icon Sachin Tendulkar by releasing a special book titled 'Celebrating a Maestro – Sachin@50', which features original essays and pieces by a range of notable figures.

- These include Tendulkar's wife, Anjali Tendulkar, his brother Ajit Tendulkar, cricket legends Sunil Gavaskar, Sourav Ganguly, and Rohit Sharma, and international cricketer David Warner.
- Additionally, the book features contributions from well-known personalities in other fields such as Abhinav Bindra, Farhan Akhtar, Prahlad Kakkar, and Viswanathan Anand.

4. Tamil Nadu's Cumbum grapes get GI tag.



- The famous Cumbum Panneer Thatchai or Cumbum grapes from Tamil Nadu have recently been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- The Cumbum valley in Tamil Nadu is popularly known as the 'Grapes City of South India' and is known for cultivating the Panneer Thatchai or Muscat Hamburg variety, which constitutes around 85% of the grape-growing regions in Tamil Nadu.
- The Panneer grapes were first introduced in Tamil Nadu by a French priest in 1832.
- These grapes are rich in vitamins, tartaric acid, and antioxidants, reducing the risk of some chronic diseases.
- They are also known for their superior taste.

5. Mangrove Pitta bird found in Odisha.



- In a first-ever census of its kind in the country, forest officials in Odisha's Bhitarkanika have sighted 179 mangrove pitta birds, which are known for their exotic and vibrant colours.
- These beautiful birds are found exclusively in the mangrove forest areas of Bhitarkanika in Odisha and Sundarban in West Bengal.
- According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the species has been assessed and classified as "Near Threatened".
- The Mangrove Pitta bird's habitats are limited to mangrove forests in Bhitarkanika of Odisha and Sundarban in West Bengal.
- The first census in India was conducted to analyze the population of these birds.
- The highest number of these birds were sighted in the Mahipura river mouth area of the Bhitarkanika wildlife sanctuary.

- Mangrove Pitta birds are colorful with black heads, brown crowns, white throats, greenish upper parts, buff under-parts, and reddish vent area.
- They feed on crustaceans, mollusks, and insects found in mangrove forests.
- The objective of the census is to monitor the growth pattern of these birds and assess whether they should be listed as endangered in the future.

6. Tribal Affairs Minister launched Marketing, Logistics Development for PTP-NER scheme.



- Arjun Munda, the Minister of Tribal Affairs, will launch the Marketing and Logistics Development for Promotion of Tribal Products from North-Eastern Region (PTP-NER) scheme in Manipur.
- This scheme has been designed to benefit the Scheduled Tribes residing in the North-Eastern Region by enhancing procurement, logistics, and marketing efficiency of tribal products.
- The scheme will be applicable to eight states, namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, and Sikkim.
- Under this scheme, the government plans to empanel tribal artisans from the North Eastern Region by organizing 68 Tribal Artisan Melas starting today.
- These melas will be conducted in various districts of the region and will provide a platform for tribal artisans to showcase their products and skills.

7. Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launches 'YUVA PORTAL'.



- Science and Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the YUVA PORTAL in New Delhi, which aims to connect and identify potential young Start-Ups.
- The minister also introduced the One Week – One Lab programme during the event.
- Dr. Singh emphasized the importance of broad-based stakeholder participation, particularly from the industry, for the sustainable growth of Start-Ups.
- He highlighted India's global excellence in technology, innovation, and Start-Ups, stating that each of the 37 CSIR Labs is dedicated to a unique area of work.
- The One Week – One Lab programme will provide an opportunity for these labs to showcase their work and enable others to benefit from it.