

Current Affairs - 31 March 2025

GREEN CREDITS



- **Green Credit (GC)** is a unit of incentive provided for engaging in **environmentally positive activities**.
- These credits can be **traded on a dedicated exchange**, similar to carbon credits.
- The **Green Credit Programme (GCP)** operates under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.

Green Credit vs Carbon Credit

Feature	Green Credit (GC)	Carbon Credit (CC)
Governing law	Environment (Protection) Act, 1986	Energy Conservation Act, 2001
Beneficiaries	Individuals, communities, private industries	Primarily industries and corporations
Objective	Encourages environment-friendly actions like afforestation, water conservation, and sustainable agriculture	Focuses on reducing carbon emissions by setting emission limits
Market mechanism	Can be traded on a domestic exchange	Traded in national & international carbon markets
Climate co-benefits	May qualify for carbon credits, leading to reduced carbon emissions	Cannot be converted into Green Credits

Current Affairs - 31 March 2025

Implementation of the Green Credit Programme (GCP)

- The **Environment Ministry** launched the **Green Credit Programme (GCP)** to enhance forest cover, promote sustainable practices, and incentivize pro-environmental actions.
- **Who can earn Green Credits?**
 - **Individuals, communities, and industries** that engage in **eco-friendly activities**.
 - Examples include:
 - Afforestation & reforestation
 - Water conservation
 - Sustainable agriculture
 - **How does it work?**
 - Participants receive **tradable Green Credits** for their contributions.
 - These credits can be **sold to industries** that need to fulfill environmental obligations (e.g., compensatory afforestation).
 - **Green credits can be traded on a domestic platform**, enabling entities to meet their legal obligations, such as **compensatory afforestation for industrial projects**.

Since its launch, **384 entities**, including **41 Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)** like **Indian Oil Corporation Ltd**, **Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd**, and **NTPC Ltd**, have registered under the scheme

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES (IFRC)



- It is the world's largest humanitarian network.
- Founded in 1919, the Geneva-based Federation brings together 192 Red Cross and Red Crescent societies and some 100 million volunteers.

Current Affairs - 31 March 2025

- The IFRC's mission is to improve the situation of the most vulnerable, coordinating emergency **international assistance to people affected by natural and man-made disasters, including the forcibly displaced, and in health crises.**
- The Federation also helps vulnerable communities to overcome crisis and become more resilient through disaster preparedness activities.
- Its mandate includes **strengthening the capacities of its member Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to conduct effective emergency relief, disaster preparedness, and health and community care programmes.**
- **It also represents these societies at an international level.**
- The IFRC also has programs addressing the humanitarian consequences of rapid urbanization, climate change, violence and migration.
- **Funding: Voluntary contributions** from governments, NGOs, corporate donors, and the public.
- **Relationship with ICRC:** Works alongside the **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)**, which focuses on **humanitarian law and aid in conflict zones.**

INIOCHOS-25



- It is a **biennial multinational air exercise hosted by Greece's Hellenic Air Force.**
- It serves as a platform for air forces to hone their skills, exchange tactical knowledge, and strengthen military ties.
- **INIOCHOS-25:**
 - It will take place at **Andravida Air Base** in the region of **Elis, Greece.**
 - It will integrate **multiple air and surface assets from fifteen countries** under realistic combat scenarios, designed to simulate modern-day air warfare challenges.
 - The **IAF contingent** will include **Su-30 MKI fighters**, along with combat-enabling **IL-78 and C-17**

Current Affairs - 31 March 2025

- Apart from the Hellenic Air Force and the IAF, the participants include **France** with the M-2000, **Israel** with G-550, **Italy** with Tornado, Montenegro with B-412, **Poland** with F-16, **Qatar** with F-15, Slovenia with 2 PC-9, **Spain** with F-18, the **UAE** with M-2000/9, and the **US** with F-16, KC-46, and KC-135.
- It will provide an opportunity to train in planning and executing combined air operations, refine tactics in complex air warfare scenarios, and gain insights into operational best practices.

PARBATI-II HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT



- The Parbati Hydroelectric Project (Stage II) is a **run-of-the-river project** under construction in Sainj, **Kullu, Himachal Pradesh**.
- It proposed to **harness the hydro potential** of the lower reaches of the **Parbati River** (major **tributary of the Beas River**).
- The river is proposed to be diverted with a **concrete gravity dam** at Village Pulga in Parbati Valley through a 31.52 km long head race tunnel and the power house shall be located at village Suind in Sainj Valley.
- **Total Capacity: 800 MW** (four units of 200 MW each)
- Once fully commissioned, the Parbati-II project is expected to generate approx. 3,074 million units (MU) of electricity annually.
- The project is being **developed and currently owned by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Private Limited (NHPC)**. The company has a **stake of 100%**.
- The Parbati-II project was initiated in 2003 and was originally scheduled for commissioning in 2010.
- However, it faced continuous delays due to various challenges, including tunnelling issues, water and silt seepage, flash floods, cloudbursts, and adverse geological conditions.

Current Affairs - 31 March 2025

AN IJS IS AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME

A Persistent Concern Over Judicial Accountability

- The fire brigade incident, though shocking, is **only one among several recent controversies that have cast a shadow on judicial credibility.**
- The Supreme Court's intervention in staying an insensitive verdict by a High Court judge regarding a minor's sexual harassment case **further exposes the lack of quality control in judicial appointments.**
- Additionally, the Supreme Court's response to the Lokpal's attempt to investigate corruption allegations against a judge **underscores the judiciary's resistance to external oversight.**
- These instances collectively reflect a judicial system struggling to maintain **accountability** while remaining immune to public scrutiny.

The Case for an Indian Judicial Service (IJS)

- **Diversity and Inclusivity:** The current judiciary is dominated by a few elite families, with limited representation from marginalized communities and women. **A nationwide examination would open doors for deserving candidates from all backgrounds.**
- **Merit-Based Selection:** A structured, competitive recruitment process **would ensure that judges are selected based on knowledge, competence, and ethical integrity** rather than personal connections.
- **Transparent Selection Process:** Unlike the closed-door Collegium meetings, **the IJS recruitment process would be conducted in a publicly accountable manner,** reducing the scope for favouritism.
- **Standardized Training:** Newly appointed judges **could undergo rigorous training in various branches of law, ensuring uniformity in judicial competence** across different courts.

Current Affairs - 31 March 2025

- **Insulation from Executive Interference:** The judiciary can still maintain its **independence** by formulating selection criteria while entrusting the recruitment process to an external, neutral body like the UPSC.

Conclusion

- The repeated controversies surrounding the judiciary indicate that **judicial accountability and selection processes in India need urgent reforms.**
- While the Collegium system has allowed the judiciary to remain independent, **its lack of transparency has led to serious concerns about favouritism and inefficiency.**
- The NJAC, though struck down, **could be reconsidered with necessary safeguards to prevent executive overreach.**
- More importantly, **the establishment of an Indian Judicial Service could be a game-changing reform that ensures a fair, merit-based, and transparent process for judicial appointments.**

KARIMPUZHA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY



- It lies in the Malappuram district in **Kerala.**
- Spanning approximately 227.97 sq.km, the sanctuary is situated on the western slopes of the Nilgiri Hills.
- The forest areas of Karimpuzha WLS forms **part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (NBR)**, recognized under the Man and Biosphere Programme of UNESCO.
- Karimpuzha WLS shares a **boundary with Mukurthi NP (Tamil Nadu)** on the eastern side and **Silent Valley NP (Kerala)** on the southern side.
- The name 'Karimpuzha' is derived from the **Karimpuzha River**, a **tributary of the River Chaliyar.**
- The sharp topographical gradient of the hills ranging from 40 m to 2550 m is the primary reason for the unique biodiversity of the Karimpuzha Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The area **merges with landscapes of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.**

Current Affairs - 31 March 2025

- Steep hills, deep valleys, marshy lands, grasslands, and shola forests with hillocks, and perennial water sources combined with **altitudinal variations** make it an ideal habitat for a variety of flora and fauna.
- The **nomadic tribe cholanaikans**, cavemen of Kerala, are living inside the Karimpuzha WLS.
 - They are classified as **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)** by the Government of India.
- **Flora:** It is the state's only forest stretch where **seven forest types** found in the state are all present, including **evergreen rainforest**, **semi-evergreen forest**, **moist deciduous forest**, **sub-tropical hill forest**, **sub-tropical savannah**, **montane wet temperate forest** and **montane wet grasslands**.
- **Fauna:** It is home to a variety of fauna **endemic** to the Western Ghats, including the **Nilgiri Tahr**, **Lion-tailed macaque**, **slender loris**, tiger, gaur.

SARHUL FESTIVAL



- **Meaning:** Sarhul means “**worship of the Sal tree**” and signifies the **union of the Sun and the Earth**, which is essential for life.
- **Nature worship:** The **Sal tree** is considered sacred, believed to be the abode of **Sarna Maa**, the village deity.
- **Three-Day Festival:**
 - **Day 1** – Preparations begin, with homes and Sarna Sthals cleaned, Sal flowers gathered, and the village priest (pahan) observing a strict fast.
 - **Day 2** – **Main rituals** are performed at **Sarna Sthals (Sacred Groves)**, including **sacrifices**, **prayers for prosperity**, and **cultural performances**.
 - **Day 3** – Concludes with a **community feast**, featuring **Handia (rice beer)**, **ceremonial fishing**, and **traditional adivasi cuisine**.

Current Affairs - 31 March 2025

Sarhul across regions:

- The festival is celebrated by several tribes, including the **Oraon, Munda, Santal, Khadia, and Ho**.
- Anthropologist **Sarat Chandra Roy (1928)** noted that **Sarhul evolved from a hunting-based ritual to an agricultural festival**, reflecting changes in adivasi life.
- Due to historical migration, Sarhul is now celebrated in Assam, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Bhutan.

What Are Sacred Groves?

- **Sacred Groves** are **small forest patches** protected by **local communities** due to their **religious and cultural**
- These groves serve as **biodiversity hotspots**, **preserving rare plant and animal species**.
- **Human activities** such as **hunting and deforestation** are **restricted**, while **sustainable practices** like **honey collection and deadwood gathering** are permitted.

Sacred Groves Across India

Region	Local Name
Jharkhand, Bihar	Sarna
Himachal Pradesh	Dev Van
Karnataka	Devarakadu
Kerala	Kavu or Sarpa Kavu
Maharashtra	Devrai or Deorai
Meghalaya	Law Kyntang or Asong Khosi
Rajasthan	Oran

Current Affairs - 31 March 2025

CENTRIFUGE



- Centrifuges play a crucial role in uranium enrichment, which is necessary for nuclear power generation and weapons development.
- Natural uranium contains 3% U-238 and only 0.7% U-235. Since only U-235 is fissile, it must be enriched for use in reactors and weapons.
- Nuclear power reactors require uranium with 3-20% U-235, while nuclear weapons need 90% enrichment.
- Iran's uranium enrichment program has drawn global attention, with thousands of advanced centrifuges being deployed.

What is a Centrifuge?

- A centrifuge is a device that separates substances based on density using centrifugal force.
- Used extensively in scientific research, medical applications, and nuclear technology.

How Centrifuges work in Uranium Enrichment

- **Uranium conversion:** Uranium is converted into uranium hexafluoride (UF_6)
- **Centrifugation process:** UF_6 gas is introduced into high-speed centrifuges spinning at 50,000 RPM (revolutions per minute).
 - Heavier U-238 isotopes move outward, while lighter U-235 isotopes concentrate towards the center.
- **Gradual Enrichment:** The U-235-rich fraction is transferred to additional centrifuges to increase purity further.
 - Over multiple separation stages, uranium is enriched to the desired levels.