

Awards

The Order of Mubarak Al-Kabeer



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been conferred with Kuwait's highest honor, the *Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer*, during his two-day visit to the country. This visit marks a historic moment, as it is the first by an Indian Prime Minister to Kuwait in 43 years.

Key Points:

❖ Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer:

- A prestigious knighthood order of Kuwait.
- Conferred upon Heads of State, foreign Sovereigns, and members of foreign royal families as a gesture of friendship and diplomatic respect.

❖ Notable Recipients:

- Previous recipients include prominent international leaders such as:
 - ✓ Former U.S. Presidents *Bill Clinton* and *George Bush*.
 - ✓ *Prince Charles* of the United Kingdom.

Other Awards

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been conferred with numerous prestigious international awards.

International Civilian Honours:

- ❖ *Saudi Arabia*: Sash of King Abdulaziz (Highest civilian honor).
- ❖ *Russia*: The Order of the Holy Apostle Andrew the First (Top civilian award).
- ❖ *Palestine*: Grand Collar of the State of Palestine.
- ❖ *Afghanistan*: Amir Amanullah Khan Award.
- ❖ *UAE*: Order of Zayed Award (Top honor of the UAE).
- ❖ *Maldives*: Rule of Nishan Izzuddeen.
- ❖ *Bahrain*: King Hamad Order of the Renaissance.

- ❖ *Bhutan: Order of the Druk Gyalpo.*
- ❖ *Papua New Guinea: Grand Companion of the Order of Logohu.*
- ❖ *Fiji: Companion of the Order of Fiji.*
- ❖ *Egypt: Order of Nile (Highest honor of Egypt).*
- ❖ *France: Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour.*
- ❖ *Greece: The Grand Cross of the Order of Honour.*

Special Recognitions:

- ❖ *2018 Seoul Peace Prize: For contributions to peace and development.*
- ❖ *Global Goalkeeper Award: By the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for efforts in sanitation under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.*
- ❖ *Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award: By Cambridge Energy Research Associates (CERA) for contributions to sustainability.*

Report

India State of Forest Report 2023



Released on **21 December 2023** by Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, at the Forest Research Institute, Dehradun, this report presents a detailed overview of India's forest and tree resources.

Key Findings:

- ❖ **Total Forest and Tree Cover:**
 - **8,27,357 sq km** (25.17% of India's total geographical area).
 - **Forest Cover: 7,15,343 sq km.**
 - **Tree Cover: 1,12,014 sq km.**
- ❖ **Growth Since 2021 Assessment:**
 - **Total increase: 1,445 sq km.**
 - **Forest Cover: +156 sq km.**

- Tree Cover: +1,289 sq km.
 - ❖ Top States Showing Increase:
 - Forest and Tree Cover Growth:
 - ✓ Chhattisgarh: +684 sq km.
 - ✓ Uttar Pradesh & Odisha: +559 sq km each.
 - ✓ Rajasthan: +394 sq km.
 - ❖ Forest Cover Growth:
 - ✓ Mizoram: +242 sq km.
 - ✓ Gujarat: +180 sq km.
 - ✓ Odisha: +152 sq km.
 - ❖ Largest Forest and Tree Cover (Area-wise):
 - Madhya Pradesh: 85,724 sq km.
 - Arunachal Pradesh: 67,083 sq km.
 - Maharashtra: 65,383 sq km.
 - ❖ Largest Forest Cover (Area-wise):
 - Madhya Pradesh: 77,073 sq km.
 - Arunachal Pradesh: 65,882 sq km.
 - Chhattisgarh: 55,812 sq km.
 - ❖ Highest Forest Cover (Percentage of Geographical Area):
 - Lakshadweep: 91.33%.
 - Mizoram: 85.34%.
 - Andaman & Nicobar Islands: 81.62%.
 - ❖ Mangrove Cover:
 - Total: 4,992 sq km.
 - ❖ Carbon Stock in Forests:
 - Total: 7,285.5 million tonnes.
 - Increase: +81.5 million tonnes compared to the 2021 assessment.
- About ISFR:**
- ❖ Published biennially by the Forest Survey of India (FSI).
 - ❖ Based on satellite data and field surveys.
 - ❖ Aims to provide a comprehensive assessment of India's forest and tree resources.

Important Days

National Consumer Day



On National Consumers Day 2024 (24th December), the Department of Consumer Affairs will introduce three digital tools—Jago Grahak Jago App, Jagriti App, and Jagriti Dashboard—to strengthen consumer rights and protection mechanisms.

Key Highlights:

Jago Grahak Jago App:

❖ Purpose:

- Provides essential e-commerce information during online activities.
- Alerts consumers about potentially unsafe URLs requiring caution.

❖ Functionality:

- Assists consumers in identifying risks while navigating online platforms.

Jagriti App:

❖ Purpose:

- Enables users to report URLs where they suspect the presence of dark patterns.

❖ Action Mechanism:

- Complaints registered via the app will be escalated to the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) for review and action.

Jagriti Dashboard:

❖ Purpose:

- Acts as a centralized interface for the CCPA to monitor, analyze, and act on consumer complaints.
- Enhances the authority's ability to take suo moto action against practices like dark patterns.

Dark Patterns:

❖ Definition:

- *Dark Patterns* refer to deceptive design tactics used by online platforms to manipulate consumer behavior, often leading to unintended purchases or actions.

Miscellaneous

India's First Bio-Bitumen National Highway



Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the Nagpur-Mansar Bypass project on National Highway 44 in Nagpur District on **21 December 2024**, marking a major milestone in eco-friendly infrastructure development.

Key Points:

❖ Innovative Construction Material:

- The highway is constructed using **bio-bitumen** derived from crop residues (lignin).
- This is India's **first national highway** built with this sustainable material.

❖ Benefits of Bio-Bitumen:

- **Eco-friendly:** Helps curb pollution caused by **stubble burning** by utilizing agricultural waste.
- **Stronger Roads:** Roads made with bio-bitumen are **40% stronger** than traditional asphalt roads.
- **Cost-Effective:** Reduces construction costs compared to conventional methods.
- **Employment Generation:** Encourages the use of locally sourced agricultural residues, creating jobs.

❖ Innovative Road Construction:

- **Mixture:** The road incorporates **15% bio-bitumen** in the asphalt.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Collaborating Organizations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Central Road Research Institute (CRRI): Provided technical expertise. ➤ Praj Industries (Pune): Developed the bio-bitumen technology.
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Sports

<p>India to host ISSF Junior Shooting World Cup</p> 	<p>India is set to host the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup for the first time in the second half of 2025, marking a significant milestone for the country in the field of shooting sports.</p> <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Hosting Rights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Awarded by the ISSF to the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI). ➤ The competition will feature events across Rifle, Pistol, and Shotgun categories. ❖ This will be the ninth top-level ISSF championship hosted by India in the past decade. ❖ Previous ISSF events hosted by India include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Two World Cup Finals. ➤ Four Senior ISSF World Cups. ➤ Continental Championships. ❖ Recent ISSF Events in India: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2023 ISSF Senior World Cup in Bhopal. ➤ ISSF World Cup Final 2023, held earlier this year. ❖ Significance for Junior Athletes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Junior World Cup is a premier international competition for emerging talents in shooting, providing a global platform for young athletes. ➤ Hosting this event will inspire Indian juniors and further boost the sport's development at the grassroots level in the country.
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Short News

- ❖ **Kho Kho World Cup 2025:** Salman Khan has been named the brand ambassador for the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup, which will take place in New Delhi from January 13 to 19, 2025.
- ❖ **72nd NEC Plenary Session:** Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah addressed the 72nd Plenary Session of the North Eastern Council (NEC) in Agartala, Tripura, on December 21, 2024.
- ❖ **State Collaboration under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat:** Uttar Pradesh and Manipur signed an MoU to partner under the "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" initiative.
- ❖ **Nepal-India Relations:** Nepal's President Ram Chandra Paudel reappointed Dr. Shankar Prasad Sharma as the Resident Ambassador to India.
- ❖ **Google India Leadership:** Google appointed Preeti Lobana as its new Country Manager and Vice President for India.
- ❖ **TB Elimination Campaign:** Madhya Pradesh Health Department is spearheading a campaign to meet India's target of eliminating tuberculosis (TB) by 2025.
- ❖ **Under-19 Women's Cricket:** India won the inaugural Under-19 ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup title, defeating Bangladesh by 41 runs in the final held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Important Daily Current Affairs Question

1. Which of the following countries bestowed its highest honour, the Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer, to Prime Minister Narendra Modi?

- A. Oman
- B. Kuwait
- C. United Arab Emirates
- D. Iran

Answer –B

2. Which of the following states show maximum tree and forest cover according to 'India State of Forest Report 2023'?

- A. Chattisgarh
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Odisha

Answer –B