



Rapid Fire Current Affairs

Dongria Kondh Tribe

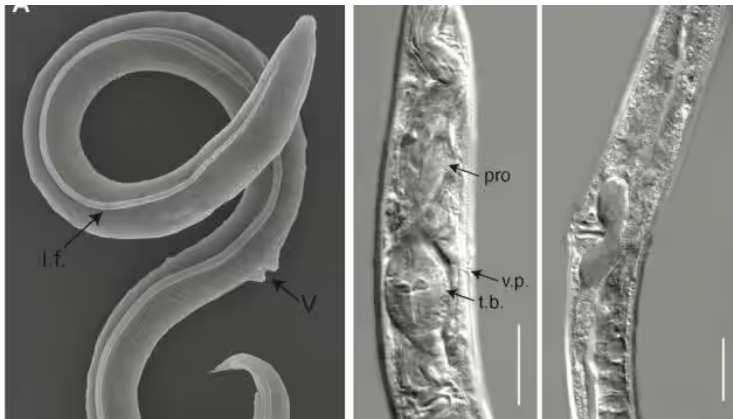
The **Niyamgiri Hills in Odisha**, home to the **Dongria Kondh tribe**, face potential threats due to proposed amendments to the [Forest \(Conservation\) Act, 1980](#), raising concerns about the protection of their **ancestral land and cultural identity**.

- The Dongria Kondh tribe is **one of the 13 PVTGs** in Odisha, India.
- The proposed [Forest Conservation \(Amendment\) Bill, 2023](#), seeks to alter the **definition of 'forest' set by the Supreme Court of India in 1996**.
- According to the amendment, the Forest Conservation Act, of 2023, will apply only to notified **'forest' areas as per the Indian Forest Act, 1927**, and government records from **October 25, 1980, onwards**.
 - About **95% of Niyamgiri land is not classified as 'forest'** in government records.
- The amendment may potentially open a window for diverting **land not classified as 'forest' in government records** to other purposes, which could impact the Niyamgiri hill range and other forest areas in Odisha.

Read more: [Dongria Kondh tribe](#), [Forest Conservation Amendment Bill 2023](#) , [Major Tribes in India](#)

46,000-Year-Old Worms and Cryptobiosis

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Scientists found and revived **two frozen microscopic nematodes** in Siberia five years ago. A recent study published in the *journal PLOS Genetics* revealed key findings about these ancient organisms, showing that **these worms are 46,000 years old**. The study provides valuable insights into the incredible phenomenon of **cryptobiosis**.

- Cryptobiosis is a **state of extreme inactivity** in response to adverse environmental conditions. In the cryptobiotic state:
 - **All metabolic procedures stop**, preventing **reproduction, development, and repair**.
 - Organisms can **survive extreme conditions by entering a dormant state** where they **halt their life processes** surviving between life and death.

- The study significantly increases the documented cryptobiosis period in **nematodes by tens of thousands of years.**
 - Ancient worms' remarkable ability to survive in a dormant state has profound implications for evolutionary studies and understanding species adaptation, shedding light on how **animals endure habitat changes due to [climate change](#).**

Nyaya Vikas Portal

Recently, the Union Minister of Law and Justice provided valuable insights into the [Nyaya Vikas Portal](#) during a written reply in the Lok Sabha.

- Nyaya Vikas is an online monitoring system developed with the technical expertise of the **National Remote Sensing Centre of [ISRO](#).**
 - To leverage space technology effectively, the **Nyaya Vikas Web Portal and mobile app were launched in 2018**, providing efficient and real-time monitoring of infrastructural projects related to judiciary.
- Other initiatives Targeted to reform the Indian Judiciary include:
 - [AI based SUPACE Portal](#)
 - [Centrally Sponsored Scheme \(CSS\) for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities](#).

Read more: [Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary](#)

World Nature Conservation Day with Mission-LiFE

World Nature Conservation Day is observed annually on **July 28 annually with an** aim to preserve **natural resources**, [biodiversity](#) and **ecology** across all regions.

- The National Zoological Park, New Delhi commemorated **World Nature Conservation Day** linking it with the goals of [Mission-LiFE](#).
- At UNFCCC COP26, India's Prime Minister introduced **Mission LiFE**, aiming to prioritize individual behaviors in global climate action.
 - LiFE seeks to **shift from the wasteful 'use-and-dispose' economy** to a sustainable [circular economy](#) based on mindful and intentional consumption.
- Theme for World Nature Conversation Day 2023 is '**Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet**'

Read more: [Mission-LiFE](#)

SMILE-75 Scheme

Recently, the **Minister of State for Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** provided valuable insights into the SMILE-75 Initiative during a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

- **The umbrella scheme “SMILE - Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprises”** also includes sub-scheme - 'Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging'.
- The objective of SMILE- 75 is to make Indian cities/town and municipal areas **begging-free and make a strategy for comprehensive rehabilitation of the persons engaged in the act of begging** through the coordinated action of various stakeholders.
- According to **Census 2011**, India has **over 4 lakh beggars. West Bengal** tops the chart followed by **Uttar Pradesh and Bihar** at number two and three respectively.

Read more: [SMILE-75 Scheme](#), [Census in India](#)

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