



Spreading Awareness on Cleanliness | Madhya Pradesh | 16 Apr 2024

Why in News?

Women from a [self-help group](#) in **Burhanpur, Madhya Pradesh**, are going door-to-door to raise awareness about cleanliness among the locals.

Key Points

- The **municipal corporation** has offered a **special job to women in self-help groups** to **promote cleanliness in households** in the region, paying them **₹100 for the task**.
- Under this initiative, women associated with the **Vaibhav Lakshmi Self-Help Group** are going door-to-door in areas like Mahajanapeth and Shikarpura and spreading information related to cleanliness to the locals.

Self-Help Groups (SHGs)

- These are **informal associations** of people who choose to come together to find ways to **improve their living conditions**.
- It can be defined as a **self governed, peer controlled information group** of people with **similar socio-economic background** and having a desire to collectively perform common purpose.
- Villages face numerous problems related to **poverty, illiteracy, lack of skills, lack of formal credit** etc. These problems cannot be tackled at an individual level and need collective efforts.
- Thus SHG can become a vehicle of change for the **poor and marginalized**. SHG relies on the notion of **"Self Help" to encourage self-employment** and poverty alleviation.

Meteorological Department Issues Warning in Madhya Pradesh | Madhya Pradesh | 16 Apr 2024

Why in News?

[The Meteorological Department](#) in Madhya Pradesh has **issued a warning for 15 districts**. Over the past few days, the state has experienced storms, rain, and hailstorms in various areas.

Key Points

- Due to [western disturbance](#), [cyclonic circulation](#) and trough line, a strong system is active in the state. There may be more activity of two western disturbances in the coming days. Due to this,

rain and hail are expected.

- The Meteorological Department has also **issued advisory for the people.**

Western Disturbances

- These are a series of **cyclonic storms that originate in the Mediterranean region, travel over 9,000 km to bring winter rains to northwest India.**
 - A Western Disturbance **collects moisture from the [Mediterranean Sea](#), [Black Sea](#), and [Caspian Sea](#)** and traverses over **Iran and Afghanistan before hitting the western Himalayas.**
- Western Disturbances are the **primary source of snowfall that replenishes the Himalayan glaciers** during winter.
- These glaciers **feed major Himalayan rivers like the Ganga, Indus and Yamuna** as well as myriad mountain springs and rivulets.

Monsoon Trough

- **A trough is a belt of low pressure extending to a large area.** This trough is seen during monsoon period, hence known as **Monsoon trough.**
- Monsoon trough is a **part of the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ)** where the northern hemisphere and southern hemisphere winds meet.
- This is **normally shown as a line connecting the location of monsoon low pressure areas.** These troughs run across continents during peak monsoon periods.

Eurasian Otter Radio-Tagged in Satpura Tiger Reserve | Madhya Pradesh | 16 Apr 2024

Why in News?

For the first time in India, a **Eurasian otter** was radio-tagged in the [Satpura Tiger Reserve \(STR\)](#) in **Narmadapuram district** in Madhya Pradesh.

Key Points

- There are three species of otters commonly found in India — **smooth-coated otter, Asian small-clawed otter, and Eurasian otter.**
- Apart from the smooth-coated otter, there had been no proof of the presence of the remaining two otter species in Central India until 2016 when the Eurasian otter was first captured on camera in STR, marking the expansion of the species' habitat to Central India.
- To fill this deficiency, a **project was launched in Satpura in 2019** by the Madhya Pradesh forest department in partnership with **Wildlife Conservation Trust (WCT).**
 - The aim is to investigate the ecology of Eurasian otters and explore forest riverine ecosystems, with backing from the Astral Foundation and the Alkyl Amines Foundation.
 - Wildlife Conservation Trust is an Indian not-for-profit organisation based in Mumbai which was registered in 2002.

Smooth-Coated Otter



- It is a species of otter. Its scientific name is *Lutrogale perspicillata*.
- **Distribution:**
 - They are found throughout much of **southern Asia, from India eastward.**
 - There is also an **isolated population found in the marshes of Iraq.**
- **Habitat:**
 - They are mostly found in lowlands, coastal mangrove forests, peat swamp forests, freshwater wetlands, large forested rivers, lakes, and rice paddies.
 - Some build permanent burrows near water with an underwater entrance and a tunnel that leads to a chamber above the high-water line.
 - Although adapted for water, smooth-coated otters are equally comfortable on land and can travel long distances overland in search of suitable habitat.
- **Conservation Status:**
 - **IUCN Red List:** Vulnerable

Small-Clawed Otter



- Its scientific name is *Aonyx cinereus*.
- **Distribution:**
 - It has a wide distribution range, extending through India in South Asia to eastwards in Southeast Asia and Southern China.
 - In India it is found mostly in the protected areas of West Bengal, Assam, and Arunachal Pradesh and in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and some parts of Kerala in the Western Ghats region.
- They are primarily found in freshwater habitats such as rivers, streams, and wetlands.

- They feed on fish, crustaceans, and mollusks.
- Conservation Status:
 - **Wildlife Protection Act 1972:** Schedule I
 - **IUCN Status:** Vulnerable

Eurasian Otter



- **About:**
 - It is a **semi-aquatic carnivorous mammal**.
 - Its scientific name is *Lutra lutra*.
- **Distribution:**
 - It has one of the **widest distributions of all Palaearctic mammals**.
 - Its range covers parts of three continents: Europe, Asia, and Africa.
 - In India, it occurs in **northern, northeast, and southern India**.
- **Habitat:**
 - It lives in a wide variety of aquatic habitats, including highland and lowland lakes, rivers, streams, marshes, swamp forests, and coastal areas.
 - In the Indian subcontinent, Eurasian otters occur in cold hills and mountain streams.
- **Conservation Status:**
 - **IUCN:** Near threatened
 - **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule II
 - **CITES:** Appendix I