

## Prelim Bits 12-11-2022 | UPSC Daily Current Affairs

### Himalayan Gray Langur

*A study on diet of Himalayan Gray langur of the Kalatop-Khajjiar Wildlife Sanctuary (Himachal Pradesh) says that differing elevations of habitation changed the preference of two groups of Gray Langur.*

	<b>Altitude</b>	<b>Food preference</b>	<b>Constitution of fruits and flowers</b>
<b>Kalatop Forest Group</b>	2,396 m	Flowers	11.11%
<b>Khajjiar Forest Group</b>	2,396 m	Fruits	15.49%

*The Himalayan Gray Langur was once considered a sub-species of the Bengal Sacred Langur or Hanuman Langur (*Semnopithecus entellus*) but it was separated as a species in 2005.*



- The Himalayan Gray Langur (*Semnopithecus Ajax*) is also known as the **Chamba Sacred Langur**.
- They are largely **arboreal** but can be found sometimes on ground.
- **Food** - Colobine (leaf-eating monkey), sometimes feed on fruits.
- **Habitat** - Very restricted distribution especially at higher elevations i.e. between 2200 m to 4000 m.
- **Range** - India (Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh), Pakistan and Nepal.
- In India, it is mainly reported from **Chamba valley** in Himachal Pradesh.
- Except for Khajjiar-Kalatop Wildlife Sanctuary, its occurrence in other protected areas is difficult to determine.
- **Population** - Estimated to be less than 1,500 mature individuals in 15-20 groups.
- **Threat** - Habitat fragmentation and anthropogenic activities such as logging, residential and commercial development.
- **Conservation**
  1. IUCN - Endangered
  2. CITES - Appendix I
  3. Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 - Schedule II

## References

1. [The Hindu - Altitude decides simian attitude to diet](#)
2. [IUCN - Himalayan Gray Langur](#)

## Statue of Prosperity

*The Prime Minister unveiled the statue of Bengaluru founder Kempegowda in the premises of Bengaluru International Airport.*

- The Statue of Prosperity is the bronze statue of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda in a 23-acre heritage park on the airport premises.
- The Statue of Prosperity is also known as the '**Pragatiya Prathime**' and named in lines with [Statue of Unity](#).
- The statue is 108-ft height made of bronze. It has a 4,000 kg sword.
- The statue holds the record in the World Book of Records for the **first and tallest bronze statue of a founder of a city**.



## Nadaprabhu Kempegowda

- Nadaprabhu Hiriya Kempegowda is a 16th century chieftain of the Vijayanagara Empire.
- Kempegowda assumed the chieftaincy from his father in 1513.
- He was multilingual and authored **Gangagaurivilasa**, a [yakshagana](#) play in Telugu.
- After having ruled for about 56 years, he died in 1569.
- **Founder of Bengaluru** - He conceived the idea of a new city during a hunting expedition towards Shivanasamudra.
- He later marked its territory by erecting towers in four corners of the proposed city.

- He sought permission from the Vijayanagara emperor Achyutharaya and built Bangalore Fort and the town in AD 1537.
- He then shifted his capital from Yelahanka to the new Bengaluru Pete.
- Kempegowda have developed around 1,000 lakes in the city to cater to drinking and agricultural needs.

*The Bengaluru International Airport, the Bus Stand, and even the main metro station in the Bengaluru city all are named after Nadaprabhu Kempegowda.*

## References

1. [The Hindu - Modi unveils 108-feet Kempegowda Statue](#)
2. [The Indian Express - PM Modi unveils Kempegowda statue](#)
3. [Times of India - Nadaprabhu Kempegowda](#)

## Afzal Khan

*The Maharashtra Government completed the demolition of all alleged encroachments around the 17<sup>th</sup> Century tomb of Afzal Khan in Satara.*

- Afzal Khan was a **general** from the **Adil Shahi dynasty** of **Bijapur Sultanate**, in Maharashtra's Satara.
- He played an important role in the southern expansion of the Sultanate by defeating the Nayaka chiefs who took control of the former Vijayanagara territory.
- Khan was defeated and killed by Chhatrapati Shivaji in November 1659 in **Battle of Pratapgad**.

*The day (November 10) Chhatrapati Shivaji killed Afzal Khan in the battle of Pratapgad is celebrated as 'Shiv Pratap Din'.*

- The tombs of Khan and his bodyguard Sayyid, an expert swordsman lie near the Pratapgad fort (close to Mahabaleshwar).
- Later Shivaji built the tomb and a tower in his honour, which is still known by the name '**Afzul Buruj**' at Pratapgad.

## References

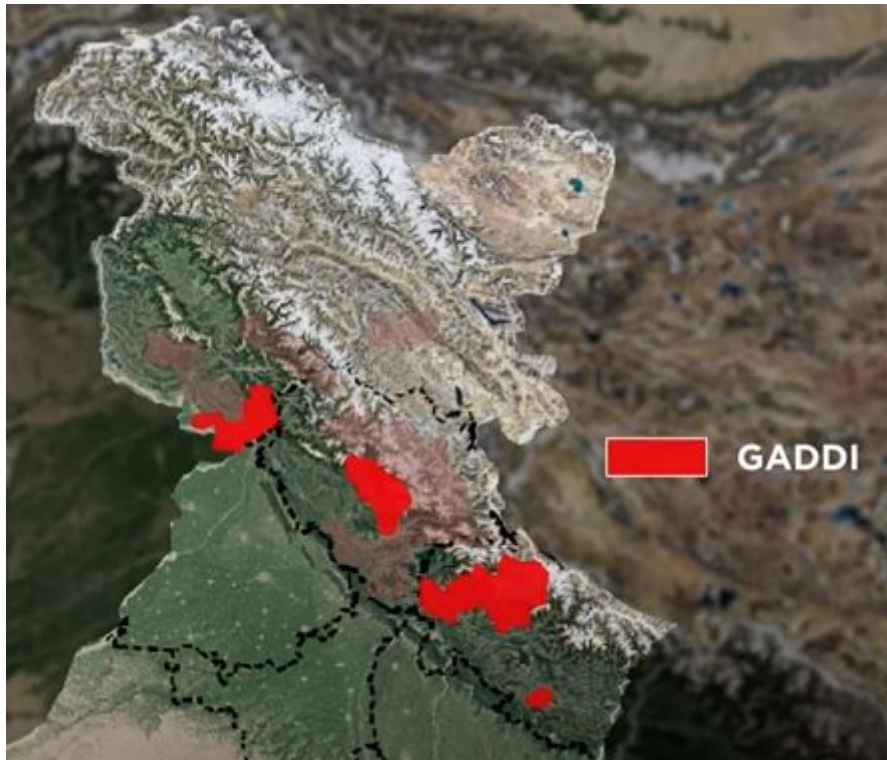
1. [The Hindu - Illegal structures around Afzal Khan's tomb demolished](#)
2. [The Indian Express - Legal battle over demolitions near tomb of Afzal Khan](#)
3. [Hindustan Times - Afzal Khan Tomb: SC to hear plea to stop demolition in Satara](#)

## Gaddi Tribe

*Climate change is making it difficult for the pastoralist Gaddi tribe to preserve its traditional livelihood.*

- The Gaddis is a **semi-nomadic pastoralist** tribe.

- The Gaddi tribe mostly lives in the **high-altitude areas** of Kinnaur, Lahaul Spiti and Kangra districts of Himachal Pradesh.
- The Gaddis are followers of Lord Shiva.



- **Transhumance** - For most time of the year, they engage in transhumance or the seasonal movement of livestock from one grazing ground to another.
- They travel with their herd and plod along difficult terrains in search of appropriate climate and grazing pastures.
- During summer months the Gaddis move with their sheep and goats to pastures as high as 14,000 feet in altitude.
- The Gaddis travel long distances to graze their livestock on the decided route before setting out.
- These are traditional routes which have been followed for hundreds of years.
- Their pastoral routines are affected by climate change.
- The seven-day Bharmour Yatra is celebrated at the Chaurasi Temple at Bharmour once the herdsmen return.
- **Similar Transhumance Tribe** - [Van Gujjars](#)

## References

1. [Down To Earth - The lost shepherds of Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh](#)

## Methane Alert and Response System

*The United Nations to launch satellite based detection system to track global methane emissions.*

- The Methane Alert and Response System (MARS) is a data-to-action platform set up as part of the UNEP International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO) strategy.
- MARS aims to get policy-relevant data into the right hands for emissions mitigation.

- MARS will alert governments, companies and operators about large methane sources to foster rapid mitigation action of this potent gas.
- MARS will integrate data from a large number of existing and future satellites that have the ability to **detect methane emission events** anywhere in the world,
- UNEP's IMEO will **send out notifications** to the relevant stakeholders to take appropriate action.
- MARS partners will also provide **technical or advisory services** on request, such as help in assessing mitigation opportunities.

### **Methane and Climate change**

- Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) is a powerful but short-lived greenhouse gas (GHG).
- CH<sub>4</sub> accounts for a small portion of human-induced GHG emissions compared to carbon dioxide but 80 times more potent than CO<sub>2</sub>.
- CH<sub>4</sub> accounts for about half of the net rise in global average temperature since the pre-industrial era.

*Global Methane Pledge is an initiative from COP26 Glasgow, to cut methane emissions by at least 30% by 2030 from the 2020 levels.*

### **References**

1. [The Indian Express - UN to set up system to track methane emissions from space](#)
2. [Down To Earth - A satellite data system will help detect, act on methane emissions](#)
3. [UNEP - UN announces satellite-based global methane detection system](#)