

An aerial photograph of a winding asphalt road through a dense green forest. Several cars are visible on the road, including a white car, a blue car, and a white van. The road curves through the trees, and the overall scene is lush and green.

[www.upschacks.com](http://www.upschacks.com)

# DAILY NEWS DECODE

03.09.21

# **BLACK-NECKED CRANES State bird of Ladakh**



- **Black-necked cranes (*Grus nigricollis*), considered loyal couples, are only found in Ladakh's Changthang region in India.**
- **It was the State bird of J&K before August 5, 2019.**
- **It is evaluated as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.**

# Behler Turtle Conservation Award



- Indian biologist Shailendra Singh has been awarded the Behler Turtle Conservation Award.
- He has immensely contributed to bringing three critically endangered turtle conservation species – Red-crowned Roofed Turtle, Northern River Terrapin and Black Softshell Turtle, back from the brink of extinction.
- Shailendra Singh was named to lead the Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA)/ Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) India turtle programme.
- There are 29 species of freshwater turtles and tortoises in India.

- **These critically endangered turtles are being conserved as a part of TSA India's research, conservation breeding and education programme in different parts of the country.**
- **The Northern River Terrapin (*Batagur baska*) is being conserved at the Sunderbans; the Red-crowned Roofed Turtle (*Batagur kachuga*) at Chambal; and the Black Softshell Turtle (*Nilssononia nigricans*) at different temples in Assam**
- **John L. Behler was an American naturalist, herpetologist, author, and activist known for his work in conserving endangered species of turtles, snakes, and other reptiles.**
- **The Behler Turtle Conservation Award was established in 2006 to recognise outstanding achievements, contributions and leadership excellence in international turtle conservation and biology.**

# Panj Piare



- Recently Former Uttarakhand chief minister Harish Rawat apologised for comparing Punjab Congress chief Navjot Sidhu and his four advisers to the Panj Piare.
- 'Panj Piare' is a concept and tradition founded by 10th Sikh Guru Gobind Singh.
- He established the institution while founding the Khalsa on the day of Baisakhi in 1699.
- Addressing a large gathering, he asked for five heads for sacrifice.
- Five men responded to his call and the Guru baptised them and called them Panj Piare.
- Since then, every group of five baptised Sikhs is called Panj Piare and accorded the respect enjoyed by the first five Sikhs.

- They were from different castes and states of India. While Bhai Daya Ram hailed from Lahore, Bhai Dharam Rai was from Hastinapur in Uttar Pradesh, Bhai Himmat Rai came from Jagannath in Odisha, Bhai Mohkam Rai from Gujarat and Bhai Sahib Chand was from Bidar, Karnataka.
- In return, Guru Gobind Singh made them drink Amrit (sweet water prepared by reciting Gurbani) from one utensil and suffixed Singh with their names and renamed them Bhai Daya Singh, Bhai Dharam Singh, Bhai Himmat Singh, Bhai Mohkam Singh and Bhai Sahib Singh.
- He himself got baptised from them at the same stage to tell the Sikhs that Panj Piaras have higher authority and decision making power than anyone in the community.
- Any baptised Sikh can become a Panj Piare.
- The unanimous decision taken by Panj Piare has to be followed by everyone in the community.

# Exercise ZAPAD 2021



 UPSCHACKS

- Indian Army is participating in Exercise ZAPAD 2021, a Multinational exercise being held at Nizhniy, Russia from 03 to 16 September 2021.
- It is one of the theatre level exercises of the Russian Armed Forces and will focus primarily on operations against terrorists.
- From India, the NAGA Battalion group participating in the exercise will feature an all Arms combined task force.
- The exercise aims to enhance military and strategic ties amongst the participating nations while they plan & execute this exercise.

- **Around 17 countries from Eurasian and South Asian Region have been invited by Russia for the exercise.**
- **Of these nine are Participating countries which include Mongolia, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Russia, India and Belarus.**
- **The other eight countries are Observers which include Pakistan, China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Uzbekistan and Sri Lanka.**



[www.upschacks.com](http://www.upschacks.com)



# Raptor species status around the world



- A new analysis of data from the IUCN and BirdLife International has found that 30% of 557 raptor species worldwide are considered near threatened, vulnerable or endangered or critically endangered.
- Of them, 18 species are critically endangered, 25 are endangered, 57 are vulnerable and 66 are near-threatened.
- The Philippine eagle, the hooded vulture and the Annobon scops owl are critically endangered.
- Of threatened birds of prey that are active mostly during the day including most hawks, eagles and vultures, 54% were falling in population.

- **The same was true for 47% of threatened nocturnal raptors, such as owls.**
- **In Asia and Africa, particularly West Africa, vulture populations have decreased by an average of 95 per cent in rural areas over the last 30 years as the result of shooting and poisoning through feeding on carcasses of livestock treated with diclofenac.**
- **The Andean condor is declining due to exposure to pesticides, lead and other toxic substances.**
- **In East Asia, many raptor species are long-distance migrants that breed in northern China, Mongolia or Russia and travel down the eastern coast of China to spend summers in Southeast Asia or India.**
- **But eastern China is also the most populous and urban part of the country, with steep development pressures that act as bottlenecks for migration.**
- **Globally, the biggest threats to these birds are habitat loss, climate change and toxic substances.**
- **Other threats include rodent pesticides and the lead in hunters' bullets and shot pellets.**
- **Indonesia has the most raptor species, followed by Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.**