

PT TRICKS 2023 Environment Animals-3

Covering: Basic concepts- current- terms and application NOTE: FOR ALL EXAMINATIONS

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SOFTWARE WITH INTELLIGENCE MARKING BASED IDENTIFICATION OF ASIATIC LIONS (SIMBA) TO IDENTIFY ASIATIC LIONS

- o Asiatic lions have unique spots on either side of their muzzle. According to scientific studies, these precise patterns do not change over time
- o SIMBA, with machine learning technique automates the individual identification, based on the variability in the individual's whisker spot pattern, presence of scars on face, notches on ears and other metadata of the photograph.
- Asiatic Lion is one of five big cats inhabiting India, along with the Bengal tiger, Indian leopard, snow leopard, and clouded leopard
- Found only in India, in five protected areas in Gujarat Gir National Park, Gir Sanctuary, Pania Sanctuary, Mitiyala Sanctuary, and Girnar Sanctuary
- o Lions are the only cats that live in groups, called pride.
- o Female lions are the pride's primary hunters.
- \circ The gestation period lasts between 100 119 days.
- o Asiatic lions are slightly smaller than African lions.
- Conservation Status:
 - Schedule 1 of Wildlife Protect Act, 1972.
 - Appendix-I of CITES
 - Endangered on IUCN Red List.
 - **IUCN** status of African Lion is Vulnerable.

INDIAN WOLF

- o First scientific population estimate of Indian peninsular wolves has revealed that only 3,100 members of the species are left in the country
- o It is one of the common large carnivores found in scrub, grasslands and agro-pastoral regions of semi-arid India.
- o Highest concentration is currently in Madhya Pradesh, followed by Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh.
- o Threat- Hunting, encroachment and land conversion, growing man-animal conflict.

Conservation status

- o Endangered species in Schedule I of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- Appendix 1 of CITES.
- IUCN- Least Concern

ROUGH-TOOTHED DOLPHIN

- o A Research team has reported the first-ever live sighting of rough-toothed dolphins in Indian waters.
- o Rough-Toothed Dolphin is Found in tropical and warmer temperate waters all over the world but little is known about them.
- Grow up to 8.5ft in length and have grey body with white lips and throat and a speckled belly.

Conservation status:

- o IUCN: Least Concern.
- o CITES Appendix II.

CARBOFURAN

o Recent death of more than 95 Himalayan griffon vultures (Near Threatened) in Assam has been attributed to pesticide poisoning due to carbofuran

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- Habitat of Himalayan griffon vultures: western China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan, east through the Himalayan Mountain range in India, Nepal and Bhutan, to central China and Mongolia
- o Carbofuran is a pesticide that is widely used to control insects and nematodes on a variety of agricultural crops.
- Its extensive use for agricultural and nonagricultural purposes has been directly responsible for the environmental contamination and human health issues

| Sr. No. | Name of the Vulture Species | IUCN status | Representation |
|---------|--|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1. | Oriental White-backed Vulture (Gyps Bengalensis) | Critically Endangered | |
| 2. | Slender-billed Vulture (Gyps Tenuirostris) | Critically Endangered | |
| 3. | Long-billed Vulture (Gyps Indicus) | Critically Endangered | |
| 4. | Egyptian Vulture (Neophron Percnopterus) | Endangered | |
| 5. | Red-Headed Vulture (Sarcogyps Calvus) | Critically Endangered | |
| 6. | Indian Griffon Vulture (Gyps Fulvus) | Least Concerned | |
| 7. | Himalayan Griffon (Gyps Himalayensis) | Near Threatened | |
| 8. | Cinereous Vulture (Aegypius Monachus) | Near Threatened | |
| 9. | Bearded Vulture or Lammergeier (Gypaetus Barbatus) | Near Threatened | |

World Wildlife Day

- o World Wildlife Day is celebrated every 3rd of March since 2013.
- The date chosen coincides with the day of the Convention on International Trade in **Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)**
- Theme 2022: Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration

Project Dolphin

- o Project Dolphin is one of the activities planned under Arth Ganga, an initiative of the government approved in 2019.
- It is expected to be implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- o They live in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems of Nepal, India, and Bangladesh.
- \circ The Ganges river dolphin can only live in freshwater and is essentially blind. \square
- They hunt by emitting ultrasonic sounds, which bounces off of fish and other prey. They are also called 'susu'
- o It is a reliable indicator of the health of the entire river ecosystem

Conservation Status: \Box

- o Indian Wildlife (Protection), Act 1972: Schedule I. \square
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN): Endangered. □ Convention on International Trade in Endangered **Species** (CITES): Appendix I endangered). \square
- Convention on Migratory Species (CMS): Appendix II (migratory species that need conservation and management or would significantly benefit from international cooperation).
- Dolphin Sanctuary: Vikramshila Ganges Dolphin Sanctuary has been established in Bihar.
- National Ganga River Dolphin Day: The Mission Clean Ganga celebrates 5th October as National Ganga River Dolphin Day

PROJECT DOLP PRESERVING OUR UNDERWATER FRIENDS





10-YEAR PROJECT TO FOCUS ON BOTH RIVER AND SEA DOLPHINS



AIM TO STRENGTHEN BIODIVERSITY, CREATE **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND** ATTRACT TOURISM



KILLING, HABITAT FRAGMENTATION BY DAMS AND BARRAGES AND INDISCRIMINATE FISHING HAS REDUCED THE GANGES RIVER DOLPHIN POPULATION FROM TENS OF THOUSANDS TO AROUND 3,700 OVER THE LAST CENTURY



GANGES RIVER DOLPHIN, A SPECIES OF FRESHWATER DOLPHINS, IS PRIMARILY FOUND IN GANGA AND BRAHMAPUTRA RIVERS, AND THEIR TRIBUTARIES IN INDIA. BANGLADESH AND NEPAL



IN INDIA, THESE DOLPHINS ARE SIGHTED IN DEEP RIVERS IN ASSAM, BIHAR, JHARKHAND, MADHYA PRADESH, RAJASTHAN, UTTAR PRADESH AND WEST BENGAL



GANGES RIVER DOLPHIN, OFFICIALLY DISCOVERED IN 1801, CAN LIVE ONLY IN FRESHWATER

Tiger Density in India

o A study by the Wildlife Institute of India(WII) suggest that the density of tigers in the Sunderbans reached the carrying capacity of the mangrove forests, leading to a surge in human-wildlife conflict.

Tiger Reserves and Tiger Census UPSC - AspireIAS

Northern River Terrapin

- o Experts and forest officials had installed GPS transmitters on Nothern River Terrapin in Indian Sundarbans.
- o It is a species of riverine turtle native to Southeast Asia.
- o IUCN Status: Critically endangered.
- Habitat: Currently found in Bangladesh and India(in the Sunderbans), Cambodia, Indonesia and Malaysia.
- It is regionally extinct in Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.



Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary:

- Keeping in mind "ecological security and habitat ecology" of the Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, the Tamil Nadu Forest Department has withdrawn proposal to reduce the core area of the sanctuary.
- It is the oldest water bird sanctuary in the country.

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- It is home to migratory birds such as pintail, garganey, grey wagtail, blue-winged teal, common sandpiper
- Vedanthangal in Tamil language means 'hamlet of the hunter'.

Forest elephants

- Across the African continent the populations of both species of African elephants forest and savanna — have been declining due to habitat loss, poaching and human-wildlife conflict.
- o Forest elephants are listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature as "Critically Endangered"
- o And it has listed savanna elephants as "Endangered
- o Forest elephants are native to humid forests in West Africa and the Congo Basin.
- It is the smallest of the three living elephant species, reaching a shoulder height of 2.4 m
 Elephants AspireIAS

World Sparrow Day

- o March 20 is observed as World Sparrow Day to raise awareness about the bird.
- o Sparrow is a very social bird.
- The theme for this year is "Monitor the Sparrows & other common birds".
- World Sparrow Day is an initiative of the Nature Forever Society, which is a non-government organization.
- o It is Delhi's State Bird.





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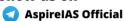
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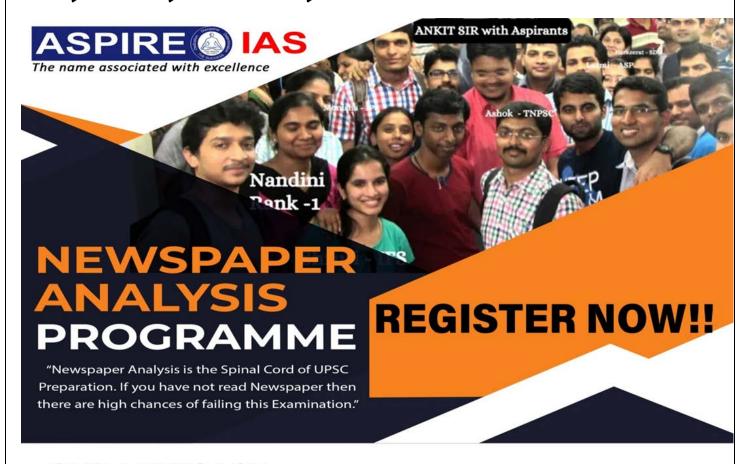
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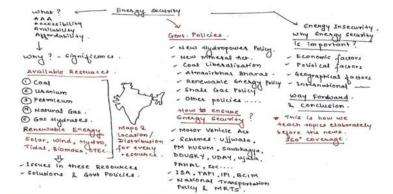








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BAMBOO DWELLING BAT IN MEGHALAYA

- A new species of bamboo-dwelling bat was discovered in Meghalaya near Nongkhyllem Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Meghalaya harbours the highest bat diversity in the country.
- They live in the internodes of bamboo. The present discovery is the first report of a thickthumbed bat from South Asia.

Culling of Vermin

- o The Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Bill aligns the act according to changes in circumstances and trying to emulate a proper solution as per culling of vermin are concerned.
- o Vermins are basically a problematic animal or a nuisance creature because they threaten humans, crops, livestock, or property.
- o Species which have been classified as the Vermin placed in schedule V of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
- The act does not define the word Vermin.
- o The 62nd section of the Wildlife Protection Act grants the central government the power to declare any wild animal as vermin
- o Wild animal species which are placed in the Schedule I and Schedule II of the Wildlife Protection Act. 1972 can not be declared as Vermin.
- o The Center declared rhesus monkeys in Himachal Pradesh, wild boar in Uttarakhand and Nilgai in Bihar to be vermin

Biodiversity Park in Sirumalai Hills: Tamil Nadu

- The Government of Tamil Nadu is developing a biodiversity park in the Sirumalai Hill Range in Dindigul district.
- The biodiversity park is a unique landscape of wilderness where ecological assemblages of native plant and animal species in the form of biological communities are recreated in a
- The Sirumalai Hills are considered to be the spur of the Eastern Ghats.
- Animals like Gaur, Leopard, spotted deer, mouse deer, barking deer, Jackal, Sloth Bear, wild boar, Indian pangolin, slender loris and several species of reptiles and avifauna (Birds) are found in the region.

Painted Leopard Gecko

- The new species lives in dry evergreen forests mixed with scrub and meadows.
- It is strictly nocturnal, actively foraging along trails in the forest after dusk.
- Near Threatened (NT)
- Geckos are reptiles and are found on all continents except Antarctica.

Four Species of Azooxanthellate Corals

- Scientists have recorded Four Species of Azooxanthellate Corals from Indian waters.
- These groups of coral were previously found from Japan to the Philippines and Australian waters & now Waters of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- They are Azooxanthellate corals, which are a group of corals that do not contain zooxanthellae and derive nourishment not from the sun but from capturing different forms of plankton.□
- They are hard corals and are not only solitary but have a highly compressed skeletal structure
- They are deep-sea representatives, with the majority of species reporting from between 200 m to 1000 m.
- They also occur in shallow coastal waters.
- There are two types of corals- Hard, shallow-water corals—the kind that builds reefs & Soft corals and deepwater corals that live in dark cold waters

Burmagomphus Chaukulensis

- a rare dragonfly, Burmagomphus chaukulensis was spotted in Kerala.
- This species is known to be endemic to the Western Ghats.
- Dragonflies is an aerial predator insect most commonly found near freshwater habitats
- Most species of dragonflies live in the tropics and particularly in the rainforests
- Dragonflies act as important bio-indicators of the ecological health of an area.
- they feed on mosquitoes and other insects that are vectors to life-threatening diseases like Malaria and Dengue.

Water Hyacinth

- West Bengal has made an outstanding example by utilising Water Hyacinth, an aquatic weed plant to develop small-scale cottage industry
- This is not an indigenous species but was introduced to India during the British colonial rule as an ornamental aquatic plant from South America
- This floating aquatic plant also an obnoxious weed that has been suffocating surface freshwater sources.
- This cuts off sunlight as well as reduces oxygen level in the water, making it unfit for commercial use.
- The plant has been used as a bio-fertiliser in some organic agriculture practises. \Box
- This plant is a good phytoremediation species, suggesting it has the ability to trap and remove toxic metabolites and harmful heavy metals from water

Rajasthan's Menar Bird Village to Become Wetland

- Recognised as the "bird village" following communitydriven conservation efforts, Menar in Udaipur is Rajasthan's new wetland
- The two lakes in the Menar village the Brahma and Dhandh play host to a large number of migratory birds every year

• They include Greater Flamingo, White-tailed Lapwing, Pelican, Marsh Harrier, Bar-headed Goose, Common Teal, Greenshank, Pintail, Wagtail, Green Sandpiper and Red-wattled Lapwing.

At present, Rajasthan has two wetlands recognised as Ramsar sites –

- Keoladeo Ghana in Bharatpur district
- Sambhar Salt Lake in Jaipur district.

Monarch Butterflies

- migratory monarch butterflies have been declared endangered in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- It's a butterfly that travels around 4,000 kilometres across America. It is also found in countries like Australia, Hawaii, and India.
- They breed in only one particular plant The Milkweeds, but the removal of this plant by farmers led to their decrease in population.

Great Indian Bustard

Only four Female Great Indian Bustards (GIB) are left in Gujarat.

<u>Great Indian Bustards - AspireIAS</u>

Snow Leopard

- A study conducted by Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) under National Mission on Himalayan Studies highlighted relation between habitat uses by Snow Leopard, Siberian ibex and blue sheep
- Predators such as snow leopards regulated the populations of herbivores such as blue sheep and Siberian ibex in the mountains, protecting the health of grasslands
- Snow leopards act as an indicator of the health of the mountain ecosystem in which they live, due to their position as the top predator in the food web.
- They have a vast but fragmented distribution across the mountainous landscape of central Asia, which covers different parts of the Himalayas such as Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Sikkim.
- IUCN List of Threatened Species: Vulnerable. \square
- CITES: Appendix I. □
- Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule-I.
- SECURE Himalaya: Global Environment Facility (GEF)-United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) funded the project on conservation of high altitude biodiversity and reducing the dependency of local communities on the natural ecosystem.

Light-Mantled Albatross

- Recently Light-mantled Albatross, a species native to the Antarctic seas, was recorded in Tamil Nadu
- As the nearest recorded site of the bird is around 5,000 km away from Rameswaram, a change in atmospheric pressure may be among the reasons for the Albatross to land on an Indian shore.
- The Light-mantled Albatross, with broad pelagic habits, maintains a circumpolar distribution in the Southern Ocean.
- **IUCN Red List: Near Threatened**

Red Panda

- The Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park has started a programme to release 20 Red Pandas in about five years to the forests
- There are only two different panda species in the world, the Giant Pandas and the Red **Pandas**
- It is also the state animal of Sikkim.
- Red Pandas are shy, solitary and arboreal animals and considered an indicator species for ecological change
- India is home to both the (sub) species: Himalayan red panda (Ailurus & Chinese red
- Siang river in Arunachal Pradesh splits the two phylogenetic species. \Box
- It is found in the forests of India, Nepal, Bhutan and the northern mountains of Myanmar and southern China.

| \mathbf{Dro} | taction | ı Status: | П |
|----------------|---------|-----------|---|
| FIU | nectioi | i Status. | ш |

- Giant Pandas: IUCN Red List: Vulnerable & CITES: Appendix I
- **Red Pandas:**
 - o IUCN Red List: Endangered
 - o CITES: Appendix I
 - o Wildlife Protection Act 1972: Schedule I □

Australia Killing Million of its Bees

- o Australian authorities have killed millions of honeybees to stop a potentially catastrophic parasite plague named Varroa mite
- o The decision could adversely impact the growth of macadamia nuts, and blueberries that are dependent on hives for pollination
- o Varroa Mite is a parasitic insect that infects and feeds on honeybees, often known as the varroa destructor.

Chenkurinji

- Chekuriniji has been affected due to climate change.
- Chenkurinji is a species endemic to the Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve, and inspired the name of the Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary

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- It flowers in January on average, but the species has recently reported a tendency to extend the process due to climate change.
- It's used to treat lower blood pressure and treat arthritis

Direct-seeded Rice

- o State of Punjab is trying to achieve its target in the water-saving method of direct-seeded rice cultivation.
- also known as the 'broadcasting seed technique,' DSR is a water-saving method of sowing
- In this method, seeds are directly drilled into the fields.
- In contrast to the traditional water-intensive method of transplanting rice seedlings from a nursery to waterlogged fields, this method saves groundwater.

Advantages of DSR

- o DSR can solve labour shortage problems because like the traditional method it does not require a paddy nursery and transplantation
- According to the results from research trials and farmers' field survey, after this technique the yield is per acre higher than transplanted rice

Dragon Fruit

- The Centre is promoting the growth of dragon fruit, which is recognized as a "super fruit" for its health advantages.
- Dragon fruit grows on the Hylocereus cactus, also known as the Honolulu queen.
- The plant is native to southern Mexico and Central America.
- At the moment, Mizoram tops among the States that cultivate this fruit.
- It goes by many names, including pitaya, pitahaya, and strawberry pear
- The fruit is considered good for diabetic patients, low in calories and high in nutrients like iron, calcium, potassium and zinc
- o The world's largest producer and exporter of dragon fruit is Vietnam, where the plant was brought by the French in the 19th century
- As per the Indian Council of Agriculture Research, the fruit plant doesn't need much water and can be cultivated on dry land. \Box
- The cost of cultivation is initially high. but the plant doesn't need productive land; it gives maximum production from the non-productive, less fertile areas.

PROJECT TIGER

- Project Tiger will complete 50 years in the year 2023
- o Launched in 1973, it is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.
- o It provides central assistance to tiger range States for in-situ conservation of tigers in designated tiger reserves.
- National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was established through Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2006 to provide statutory authority to Project Tiger

- Funding pattern: Centre provides financial assistance to States of 60% and 50% for expenditure on all non-recurring items and expenditure on recurring items respectively.
- Indian Tiger is the tiger species native to India.
- o It is a flagship species of India and has been declared as the National Animal of India
- o International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN): Endangered
- o Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES): Appendix I
- The largest population is in India, but there are some smaller groups in Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan.
- o Madhya Pradesh has the maximum number of tigers followed by Karnataka and Uttarakhand.

| | | | | Tiger |
|---------------|-----------|-----|---|--------------|
| Wetlands | State | Fea | tures | Reser |
| Karikili Bird | Tamil | - | Home to cormorants, | ves |
| Sanctuary | Nadu | | egrets, grey heron, open- | and |
| | | | billed stork, darter, | |
| | | | spoonbill, white Ibnis, | <u>Tiger</u> |
| | | | night herons, grebes, grey | Censu |
| | | | pelican among others. | LIDCO |
| Pallikaranai | Tamil | • | One of the last remaining | <u>UPSC</u> |
| Marsh | Nadu | | natural wetlands of | |
| Reserve | | | Chennai city. | Aspire |
| Forest | | | | <u>IAS</u> |
| Pichavaram | Tamil | - | One of the largest | |
| Mangrove | Nadu | | mangrove ecosystems in | 5 |
| | | | India with littoral and | WET |
| | | | swamp forest habitats. | LAN |
| | | - | Located between the | DS |
| | | | estuaries of the Vellar and | GET |
| | | | Kollidam rivers. | 'INT |
| | | - | Trees here are | ERN |
| | | | permanently rooted under | ATIO |
| Pala wetland | Mizoram | _ | a few feets of water. | NAL |
| Pala Wetland | iviizoram | - | The largest natural wetland in Mizoram. | IMP |
| | | _ | A deep lake (over 16 | ORT |
| | | - | metres deep), supports a | ANC |
| | | | rich diversity of animal | E' |
| | | | species etc. | TAG |
| | | _ | Provide an excellent | |
| | | _ | habitat for the sambar | |
| | | | deer, wild boars and | |
| | | | barking deer. | |
| | | - | Habitat for the endangered | |
| | | | Hoolock gibbon and | |
| | | | Phavre's leaf monkey. | |
| | | - | Revered by the local Mara | |
| | | | people. | |
| Sakhya Sagar | Madhya | - | Created from the Manier | |
| wetland | Pradesh | | | ificial |
| | | - | Located near Madhav | . iciai |
| | | | National Park in the | |
| | | | Shivpuri district of Madhya | |
| | | | Deadach | |



o Criteria for a Ramsar Site: A wetland must meet at least 1 of 9 criteria as defined by the Ramsar Convention such as supporting vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities or, if it regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds among others.

All the Best to all my Economics students... Hope this material will help you. God bless... Jai Hind

