

HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

SYLLABUS: GS PAPER-III (CONSERVATION RELATED ISSUES)

CONTEXT: The figures pertaining human-wildlife conflict emerge after adding up data tabled in Lok Sabha on Monday by Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Forest, Environment and Climate Change, in a written response to a question on human-animal conflict raised by S Senthilkumar (DMK).

ABOUT HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

- Human-wildlife conflict is defined by the **World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)** as “any interaction between humans and wildlife that results in negative impacts of human social, economic or cultural life, on the conservation of wildlife populations, or on the environment.”
- The **IUCN SSC Human-Wildlife Conflict Task Force** describes human-wildlife conflict as struggles that emerge when the presence or behavior of wildlife poses an actual or perceived, direct, and recurring threat to human interests or needs, leading to disagreements between groups of people and negative impacts on people and/or wildlife.

FACTORS LEADING TO HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

- With a **rapidly increasing human population and high biodiversity**, interactions between people and wild animals are becoming increasingly prevalent.
- **Habitat disturbance** is the destruction of the home of wild animals. Humans kill or chase wild animals by digging, cutting, sealing by stones, and smoking in their natural habitat.
- Other factors include large scale habitat destruction through deforestation, overgrazing by livestock and expansion of human settlements and agriculture.
- **Urbanization:** In modern times rapid urbanization and industrialization have led to the diversion of forest land to non-forest purposes, as a result, the wildlife habitat is shrinking.
- **Transport Network:** The expansion of road and rail network through forest ranges has resulted in animals getting killed or injured in accidents on roads or railway tracks.

HUMAN-ANIMAL CONFLICT LATEST FINDINGS

- **222 elephants were killed by electrocution** across the country between 2018-19 and 2020-21. Out of which **45 deaths were caused by trains, 29 by poachers and 11 by poisoning.**
- Similarly, if we talk about human casualties of conflict with animals, 1,579 humans are killed by elephants in three years that is 585 in 2019-20, 461 in 2020-21, and 533 in 2021-22.
- Among tigers, too, **29 were killed by poaching between 2019 and 2021, while 197 tiger deaths are under scrutiny.**
- Tigers killed 125 humans in reserves between 2019 and 2021. Maharashtra accounted for half these deaths, at 61.

MITIGATION

There are many steps that can be taken to mitigate human-wildlife conflict, but the most successful ones are those that involve local community members in the planning, implementation, and maintenance.

- **Translocation of problematic animals:** Relocating supposed “problem” animals from a site of conflict to a new place is a mitigation technique used in the past, although recent research has shown that this approach can have detrimental impacts on species and is ineffective.
- **Erection of fences or other barriers:** Building barriers around cattle bomas (livestock enclosure), creating distinct wildlife corridors, and erecting beehive fences around farms to deter elephants have all demonstrated the ability to be successful and cost-effective strategies for mitigating human-wildlife conflict.
- **Compensation:** In some cases, governmental systems have been established to offer monetary compensation for losses sustained due to human-wildlife conflict. These systems hope to deter the need for retaliatory killings of animals and to financially incentivize the coexisting of humans and wildlife.
- **Predator-detering guard dogs:** The use of guard dogs to protect livestock from depredation has been effective in mitigating human-carnivore conflict around the globe. A recent review found that 15.4% of study cases researching human-carnivore conflict used livestock-guarding dogs as a management technique, with animal losses on average 60 times lower than the norm.

SWADESH DARSHAN SCHEME 2.0

SYLLABUS: GS PAPER-II (GOVERNMENT POLICIES & INTERVENTIONS)

CONTEXT: The Ministry of Tourism has revamped its Swadesh Darshan scheme as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0) with an aim to develop sustainable and responsible infrastructure at destinations.

KEY FEATURES OF THE REVAMPED SCHEME

- Develop sustainable and responsible tourism.
- Development of benchmarks and standards.
- Promote domestic tourism in tier-II and tier-III cities.
- The State government will designate implementing agencies for the projects (earlier ministry of tourism used to do that).
- 100% centrally funded.

ABOUT SWADESH DARSHAN SCHEME

- Swadesh Darshan, a **Central Sector Scheme**, was launched in 2014 -15 for integrated development of theme-based tourist circuits in the country.
- This scheme is envisioned to synergize with other schemes like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Skill India, Make in India etc.
- Under the scheme, the **Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for infrastructure development of circuits.**

- One of the objectives of the scheme is to **develop theme-based tourist circuits** on the principles of high tourist value, competitiveness, and sustainability in an integrated manner.

TOURISM CIRCUITS

- Under the scheme, **fifteen thematic circuits have been identified**- Buddhist Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Desert Circuit, Eco Circuit, Heritage Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Krishna Circuit, North East Circuit, Ramayana Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Sufi Circuit, Tirthankar Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Wildlife Circuit.

STATUS OF TOURISM SECTOR

- India's Tourism is ranked in **10th position (World Travel and Tourism Council's report in 2019 in terms of contribution to GDP)**.
- **It contributed 6.8% to India's GDP and 8% of the total employment created.**
- India has **40 sites listed under World Heritage List** (32 cultural, 7 natural and 1 mixed site).
- India recently came up with **Draft National Tourism Policy focusing on Green, and digital tourism**. Its main points were:
 1. Industry status of the tourism sector.
 2. Focus on green, digital, destination management, skilling, and tourism-related support to MSMEs.

OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES

- **PRASHAD (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive) Scheme:** The was launched by the Ministry of Tourism in the year 2014-15 with the objective of holistic development of identified pilgrimage destinations. 30 projects for development of infrastructure have also been undertaken under the PRASHAD Scheme.
- **Iconic Tourist Sites:** Buddhist Sites at **Bodhgaya, Ajanta & Ellora** have been identified to be developed as Iconic Tourist Sites (**aimed at enhancing India's soft power**).
- **Buddhist Conclave:** Buddhist Conclave is organized every alternate year with the objective of promoting India as a Buddhist Destination and major markets around the globe.
- **Dekho Apna Desh' Initiative:** It was launched by the Ministry of Tourism in 2020 to encourage the citizens to travel widely within the country thus enabling the development of Domestic Tourism tourist facilities and infrastructure.

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION (DGCA)

SYLLABUS: GS PAPER-III (AVIATION INDUSTRY)

CONTEXT: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has recently amended its rules on carriage of disabled passengers. As per the new rules, the airlines cannot deny boarding to specially abled people without seeking the medical opinion of a doctor at the airport on a passenger's fitness to fly.

ABOUT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION (DGCA)

- It is an attached office of the **Ministry of Civil Aviation**.
- It is the regulatory body in the field of Civil Aviation primarily dealing with safety issues.
- It was accorded statutory status under the **Aircraft (Amendment) Act, 2020**.

- It also co-ordinates all regulatory functions with the **International Civil Aviation Organization**.
- **Headquarters: New Delhi** with regional offices in various parts of India.

FUNCTIONS

- Registration of civil aircraft.
- Certification of airports.
- **Licensing to pilots, aircraft maintenance engineers, air traffic controllers and flight engineers**, and conducting examinations and checks for that purpose.
- Formulation of standards of airworthiness for civil aircraft registered in India and grant of certificates of airworthiness to such aircraft.
- Conducting investigation into incidents and serious incidents involving aircraft up to 2250 kg AUW.
- Taking accident prevention measures, including formulation of implementation of Safety Aviation Management Programmes.
- Checks on the proficiency of flight crew and other operational personnel such as flight dispatchers and cabin crew.
- Granting Air Operator's Certificates to Indian carriers and regulation of air transport services and regulation of air transport services to/from/within India and for enforcement of civil air regulations, air safety and airworthiness standards.
- Approval of institutes engaged in flying training including simulator training.
- Safety oversight of all entities approved/certified/licensed under the Aircraft Rules 1937.

PRELIMS FACTS

OFF-BUDGET BORROWING

- Off-budget borrowings are a means by which **the government keeps its fiscal deficit in check by making quasi-government entities borrow on its behalf**, to partly fund its expenditure plan for the year.
- Since the liability of the loan is not formally on the Centre, the loan is not included in the national fiscal deficit. This helps keep the country's fiscal deficit within acceptable limits.
- Such off-budget financing is not part of the calculation of the fiscal indicators despite fiscal implications.
- The government can ask an implementing agency to raise the required funds from the market through loans or by issuing bonds.

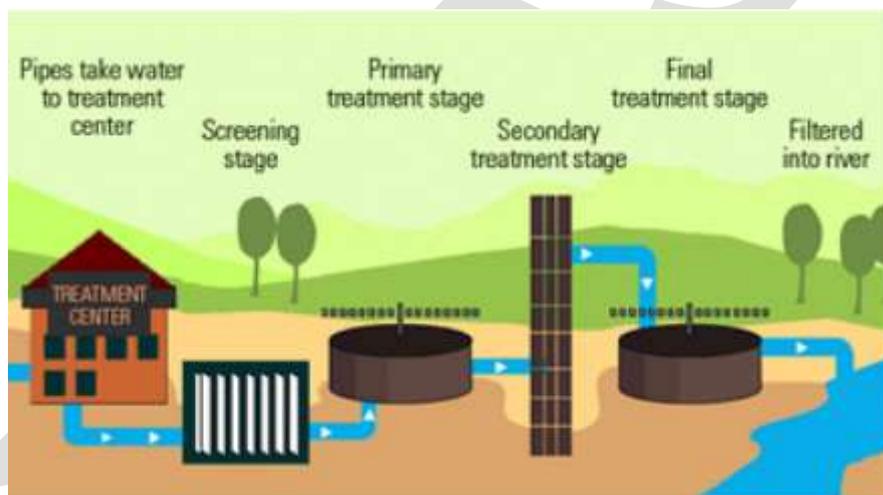
N-TREAT TECHNOLOGY

- IIT-Bombay to help treat Mumbai's sewage with innovative technology.
- N-Treat is a **seven-stage process for waste treatment** that uses **screens, gates, silt traps, curtains of coconut fibers for filtration, and disinfection using sodium hypochlorite**.
- The first stage involves **screening to prevent the entry of floating objects** such as plastic cups, paper dishes, polythene bags, sanitary napkins, or wood.

- The second stage has proposed the **construction of a silt trap, which creates an inclination and 'parking spot'** on the bed of the nullah for sedimentation.
- The next three stages are the **installation of 'bio zones' in the form of coconut fiber curtains** that will act as filters and promote the growth of biofilm to help in the decomposition of organic matter.
- The final stage for **sewage treatment** will include disinfection using sodium hypochlorite, to kill the bacteria in the water.

LUMPY SKIN DISEASE

- **Lumpy skin disease (LSD)** is an infectious disease in cattle caused by a virus of the family Poxviridae, also known as the **Neethling virus**.
- The disease is characterized by **fever, enlarged superficial lymph nodes and multiple nodules (measuring 2–5 centimeters in diameter) on the skin and mucous membranes** (including those of the respiratory and gastrointestinal tracts).
- It is **transmitted by blood-feeding insects**, such as certain species of flies and mosquitoes, or ticks.
- Lumpy skin disease virus is capable of infecting humans with direct transmission without the need for an insect vector; **most probably by inhalation and certainly by direct contact with infected materials, infected persons [man to man], and as laboratory-acquired infection.**



WHITE ONION

- White onion from **Alibagh (Maharashtra)** gets GI tag.
- These onions are grown in Alibagh only with traditional methods and genuine seeds.
- The unique taste, flavor and shape of the onion is due to the **geo-climatic conditions of the region**.
- A GI or Geographical Indication is a name or a sign given to certain products that relate to a specific geographical location or origins like a region, town, or country.
- GI Tag ensures that none other than those registered as authorized users are allowed to use the popular product name. To function as a GI, a sign must identify a product as originating in each place.
- In India, Geographical Indications registration is administered by the **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999** which came into force with effect from September 2003.