

2020



drishti

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

**ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

24<sup>th</sup> February - 29<sup>th</sup> February



BusinessLine



## **1. Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals**

### **Why in News?**

The 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP13) concluded in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

- The theme of CMS COP-13 was **‘Migratory species connect the planet and we welcome them home’**.
- The mascot for CMS COP-13 was **‘Gibi – The Great Indian Bustard’**.

### **Key Takeaways**

- **Seven species added to Appendix I:**
  - Asian Elephant
  - Jaguar
  - Great Indian Bustard
  - Bengal Florican
  - Little Bustard
  - Antipodean Albatross
  - Oceanic White-tip Shark
- **3 species added to Appendix II:**
  - Urial
  - Smooth Hammerhead Shark
  - Tope Shark
- **Adoption of Gandhinagar Declaration:**
  - It calls for migratory species and the concept of ‘ecological connectivity’ to be integrated and prioritized in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework which is expected to be adopted at the UN Biodiversity Conference in October 2020
- **The first-ever report on the Status of Migratory Species:**
  - It shows that despite some success stories, the populations of most migratory species covered by CMS are declining.

### **Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals**

- The Convention was signed in 1979 in Bonn, and entered into force in 1983.
  - It is also referred to as the **Bonn Convention**.
- It is an environmental treaty exclusively for migratory species under the aegis of the **United Nations Environment Programme**.
- It provides a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats.
- It is a treaty agreed by 129 countries plus the European Union.
- CMS Parties strive towards strictly protecting these animals, conserving or restoring the places where they live, mitigating obstacles to migration and controlling other factors that might endanger them.

- CMS acts as a framework Convention.
  - The agreements may range from legally binding treaties (called Agreements) to less formal instruments, such as Memoranda of Understanding, and can be adapted to the requirements of particular regions.

### Appendixes of the Convention:

- **Appendix I:** Migratory species threatened with extinction.
- **Appendix II:** Migratory species that need or would significantly benefit from international co-operation.

### Organisational Structure of the Convention

- The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the decision-making body of the Convention. It meets at three-year intervals.
- The Scientific Council meets between COP sessions to offer scientific advice and identify research and conservation priorities.
- **Secretariat:** Bonn, Germany.

### India and CMS

- During COP 10, the Ministry of Environment and Forests, WWF-India, Wetlands International and BNHS (Bombay Natural History Society) jointly organized a side event on Black-necked Crane urging the Range States for regional cooperation for conservation of this unique species found in the Himalayan high altitude wetlands.

## 2. Craspedotropis gretathunbergae

### Why in News?

- A new species of land snail has been found in Brunei.
- The species has been named *Craspedotropis gretathunbergae*, in honour of climate activist Greta Thunberg.

### *Craspedotropis gretathunbergae*

- **Habitat:** Tropical rainforests.
- The species is sensitive to drought and extreme temperatures.
- The two-millimetre-long snail has
  - dark grey tentacles
  - a pale body and a concave shell whose outer part is greenish-brown.

## Greta Thunberg

- Greta Thunberg is a Swedish climate activist who led the movement FridaysForFuture.
- It is a movement that began in Sweden in August 2018 to protest against the lack of action on the climate crisis.
- She has been named as Time magazine's 2019 Person of the Year.

## 3. Pakke Tiger Reserve

### Why in News?

The Government in Arunachal Pradesh is planning to build a 692.7 km highway through the 862 sq km Pakke Tiger Reserve (PTR).

- Named the East-West Industrial Corridor, the highway aims to connect Arunachal Pradesh with Assam.
- It has been argued that the corridor will also be a threat to the **Nameri Tiger Reserve in Assam**.

### Pakke Tiger Reserve

- Pakke Tiger Reserve (declared in 1999 - 2000) lies in the foothills of the eastern Himalaya in the **East Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh**.
- It is also known as **Pakhui Tiger Reserve** and falls within the **Eastern Himalaya Biodiversity Hotspot**.
- It is home to over 2000 species of plants, 300 species of birds, 40 species of mammals, 30 species of amphibians and 36 species of reptiles.
  - Many species of the flora and fauna are globally threatened, and PTR is one of the last remaining strongholds left for these species.
- This Tiger Reserve has won **India Biodiversity Award 2016** in the category of 'Conservation of threatened species' for its Hornbill Nest Adoption Programme.
- Pakke River is to the east of the reserve and Bharelipur Kameng river is to the west of the reserve.

### Nameri Tiger Reserve

- Nameri Tiger Reserve is located in the foothills of the eastern Himalayas in the Sonitpur district of the state of **Assam**.
- The **Pakke Tiger Reserve of Arunachal Pradesh adjoins it** on its north-eastern point.
- The river **Jia-Bhareli** (a tributary of Brahmaputra River) with its tributaries, the Nameri, Upper Dikorai and Bor Dikorai flow through the Reserve.
- **Fauna:** Besides Tiger, the reserve is also home to the sambar, barking deer, wild boar and bison.
- Nameri is a **birders' paradise** with over 300 species of birds.

#### 4. Kawal Tiger Reserve

- Kawal Tiger Reserve is located in Adilabad district in **Telangana** state.
- It was **declared as a Tiger Reserve in 2012**.
- The reserve is a catchment area for the rivers Godavari and Kadam.
- **Flora:** Dry Deciduous Teak Forests mixed with Bamboo.
- **Fauna:** Mammal species that have been sighted include tiger, leopard, gaur, cheetal, sambar, nilgai, barking deer, chowsingha, sloth bear.
- The area is increasingly getting threatened by growing human encroachments, rampant poaching, illegal wood felling and habitat loss.



drishti