



Rescued Exotic Animals

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Why in News

Recently six **blue or hyacinth macaws** and two **capuchin monkeys** were released in the **Assam State Zoo-cum-Botanical Garden in Guwahati**.

Earlier, a large consignment of exotic animals was confiscated by the **Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)** in the same region.

Key points

- **Provisions Related to Illegal Wildlife Trade:**
 - Illegally exotic animals are **confiscated under Section 111 of the Customs Act, 1962** which is read with the provision of the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora CITES and the Foreign Trade Policy (Import-Export Policy) of India**.
 - Also, Sections 48 and 49 of the **Wildlife Protection Act** prohibit trade or commerce in wild animals, animal articles or trophies.
- **Concerns:**
 - The possibility of spread of **zoonotic diseases** on account of smuggling in such exotic species is increasingly becoming a global concern against the backdrop of **Covid-19**.
 - Illegal wildlife trade was ranked the **fourth largest transnational organised crime** globally, after the smuggling of narcotics, counterfeit goods and human trafficking.
 - **West Bengal and northeast India** are vulnerable to cross-border wildlife smuggling because of their proximity to the Bangladesh and Myanmar borders, and to Thailand.
 - Many international organisations involved in wildlife crime use the Indo-Bangladesh Border for various other illegal activities, such as smuggling of drugs, commercial goods, and even gun-running, apart from illegal movement of foreign currency.

Assam State Zoo-cum-Botanical Garden

- The Guwahati Zoo was established in 1957.
- The Zoo is located in the **Hengrabari Reserve Forest** in the capital city of Guwahati.
- Owing to its rich fauna, the Assam State Zoo is popularly known as "**Green Lung**" of the Guwahati city.



Blue Macaws

- Scientific Name: ***Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus***
- It is a parrot native to central and eastern South America.
- With a length of about one meter it is longer than any other species of parrot.
- It is the largest macaw and the largest flying parrot species.
- **Threat:** Habitat loss and the trapping of wild birds for the pet trade have taken a heavy toll on their population in the wild.
- **Protection status :**
 - **International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List:**
Vulnerable.
 - **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES):** Appendix I.

Capuchin Monkeys



- Scientific name: **Cebus**.
- **Capuchin Monkeys**, also called **sapajou**, is a common Central and South American primate found in tropical forests from Nicaragua to Paraguay.
- They are named for their “caps” of hair, which resemble the cowls of Capuchin monks.
- **Protection status:**
International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List: Least concerned.

Source:TH