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International Day for Biological Diversity

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Why in News

The **International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB)** (International Biodiversity day) is observed on **22nd May** every year.

Key Points

- **About:**

The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** in 1993 proclaimed **22nd May** as IDB to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues.

- The UNGA also declared the period **2011-2020** as the **United Nations (UN) Decade on Biodiversity** to promote the implementation of a strategic plan on biodiversity and its overall vision of living in harmony with nature.
- It also declared **2021-2030** as the **UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development** and the **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration**.

- **2021 Theme:**

- This year's theme is "**We're part of the solution**" which is a continuation of **2020 theme- Our solutions are in nature**.
- This serves as a reminder that **biodiversity remains the answer to several sustainable development challenges**.

- **Some Global Initiatives to Save Biodiversity:**
 - **Convention on Biological Diversity:**
It is a **legally binding treaty** to conserve biodiversity that has been in force since 1993.
India is a party to the convention.
 - **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora:**
It provides public, private and **non-governmental organisations** with the knowledge and tools that **enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.**
India is a member of the convention.

Biodiversity

- **About:**
 - It is a term used to describe the **enormous variety of life on Earth**. It can be used more specifically to refer to all of the species in one region or ecosystem. Biodiversity refers to **every living thing, including plants, bacteria, animals, and humans.**
 - It is often understood in terms of the wide variety of plants, animals and microorganisms, but it also **includes genetic differences within each species.**
- **Concerns:**
 - **World Wide Fund for Nature** in its flagship **Living Planet Report 2020** warned that **global biodiversity is in steep decline.**
 - It has revealed a **global species loss of 68% in less than 50 years**, a **catastrophic decline never seen before.**
- **Need for Conservation:**
 - It **boosts ecosystem productivity** where each species, no matter how small, all have an important role to play.
 - A **larger number of plant species means a greater variety of crops.** Greater species diversity ensures natural sustainability for all life forms.
 - The world should conserve it so as to **maintain the food chain**. The **disturbance in the food chain may affect the whole ecosystem.**
- **Some Indian Initiatives For Conservation of Biodiversity:**
 - **National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems.**
 - **Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules 2017.**
 - **The Biological Diversity Act, 2002.**
 - **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.**

Other Important Initiatives

- **5th June: World Environment Day**
- **22nd March: World Water Day**

- 22nd April: Earth Day
- Last Saturday of March: Earth Hour

Source:DTE