Alexandrine Parakeet

District administration of Jhalawar in Rajasthan is using the **Alexandrine Parakeet,** as the mascot of voter awareness program for the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

- Also known as **Gagroni parakeet,** it derives its name from the Gagron fort of Jhalawar, it is also **known for imitating the human voice.**
- Apart from focusing on the upcoming polls, the administration is concentrating on the conservation of parakeet
- The district administration has made a cartoon series under **SVEEP programme** which is based on Gagroni parakeet.

Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP)

- SVEEP started in 2009 is the flagship program of the **Election Commission of India for voter education, spreading voter awareness** and promoting voter literacy in India.
- SVEEP is designed according to the **socio-economic, cultural and demographic profile of the state** as well as the history of electoral participation in previous rounds of elections and learning thereof.

Alexandrine Parakeet //

- It is protected under the **Schedule 1 (B) of the Wildlife protection act (WPA) 1972.** It is **native to South and South East Asia.**
- It is '**Near Threatened' in the Red list of the IUCN** and in **Appendix II of CITES.**
- The male parakeet has a **red ring on its neck** and **red spots on wings.**
- **Poaching** of this parakeet for its **household pet** uses and for the **flesh**, and **habitat destruction** has led to the sharp decline in the population of the bird.

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