



Upgradation and Expansion of Zoos in PPP Mode

Why in News

The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** is formulating a policy for the up-gradation and development of **Zoos** in **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)** across the country to encourage interaction between wildlife and humans, and help people observe and understand wildlife behaviour more closely.

- Wildlife Week, 2020 is also being celebrated. **Wildlife Week** is celebrated every year in India between **October 2 and 8**.
 - It started in the year 1952 with the notion to preserve fauna of the country.

Key Points

- A report of the **Central Zoo Authority (CZA)**- **The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)** titled **“Economic valuation of ecosystem services, National Zoological Park, New Delhi”** was also released.
 - The study was first of its kind in India.
 - It pegs the total annual economic value of the ecosystem services (biodiversity conservation, employment generation, carbon sequestration, education, and research, recreational and cultural) of the zoo.
- The Minister also gave away the **CZA-Prani Mitra** awards to encourage the zoo officers and staff towards working for captive animal management and welfare.
- **Zoological Parks**
 - Zoos or Zoological parks are facilities used for **ex situ conservation** of animals.
 - **Ex-situ conservation** is the technique of conservation of organisms outside their natural habitats through different techniques like captive breeding, aquarium, botanical garden, and gene bank.
 - The process of protecting an endangered plant or animal species in its natural habitat is commonly known as **in situ conservation**. It includes National Parks, Biosphere Reserves, Wildlife Sanctuaries, community reserves, sacred groves etc.
 - The Zoos in India are managed as per the provisions of the **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972** and guided by the **National Zoo Policy, 1998**.
 - The Government of India established the **Central Zoo authority in the year 1992** to oversee the functioning of Zoos in the country and to control mushrooming of ill-planned and ill-conceived Zoos.

Central Zoo Authority

- The CZA is a **statutory body** under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. It was constituted in 1992 under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.
- **Members:** It is **chaired by the Environment Minister** and has 10 members and a member-secretary.

- **Objective:** The main objective of the authority is **to complement and strengthen the national effort in the conservation of rich biodiversity.**
- **Functioning:** The authority provides **recognition to zoos** and is also tasked with **regulating the zoos** across the country.
 - It **lays down guidelines** and prescribes rules under which animals may be transferred among zoos nationally and internationally.
 - It **coordinates and implements programmes** on capacity building of zoo personnel, planned breeding programmes, and ex-situ research.

The Energy and Resources Institute

- TERI is a non-governmental research institute in New Delhi that specializes in the fields of energy, environment, and sustainable development.
- Established in 1974, it was formerly known as the Tata Energy Research Institute.

Source: PIB

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