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Important Facts for Prelims (31st January 2019)

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International Stock Taking Conference on Tiger Conservation

- Recently the **3rd Stock Taking Conference on Tiger Conservation** relating to Global Tiger Recovery Program (GTRP) implementation was **held in New Delhi**.
- This is the second edition to be held in India after 2012 wherein progress against **resolution** adopted by tiger range countries in 2010 at **St. Petersburg, Russia**, was measured.
- The conference was hosted by the **National Tiger Conservation Authority**, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in close collaboration with the **Global Tiger Forum** which is an International, Intergovernmental Organization for conserving tigers in the world.

St. Petersburg Declaration on Tiger Conservation

- This resolution was adopted In **November 2010**, by the leaders of **13 tiger range countries (TRCs)** assembled at an International Tiger Forum in **St. Petersburg, Russia**.
- The resolution's **implementation mechanism** is called the **Global Tiger Recovery Program** whose overarching goal was to double the number of wild tigers from about 3,200 to more than 7,000 by 2022.
- 13 Tiger range countries are: **Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, Thailand and Vietnam**.

African Asian Rural Development Organisation (AARDO)

- An international workshop on fisheries and aquaculture has called for regional cooperation among member countries of the African Asian Rural Development Organisation (AARDO) to develop joint fisheries management plans.
- African - Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO), **headquartered in New Delhi, was formed in 1962**, is an autonomous inter-governmental organization comprising 33 members from Africa and Asia.

- It was earlier known as Afro-Asian Rural Development Organization.
- AARDO is one of the **earliest examples of South-South cooperation** in rural development in the Afro-Asian region. The Organization was set up with a view to promote coordinated efforts, exchange of experiences and cooperative action for furthering the objectives of development of the **rural areas**.
- India is one of the **Founder Members of the Organization** and is the largest contributor in terms of membership contribution.
- The first Afro-Asian Conference on Rural Reconstruction held its historic Session in New Delhi during 18-25 January 1961.

Human Space Flight Center

- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has inaugurated Human Space Flight Center in **Bengaluru**.
- The center, a new management structure within the organization, will be in charge of all human-related programme at the ISRO, including the Gaganyaan project, that will send three astronauts to orbit the earth.
- Two unmanned flights are scheduled for December 2020 and July 2021, while manned flight is expected to take place by December 2021.