Prelim Bits 14-05-2019

Database for Indian Rhino

- Union Environment ministry has commenced a project to create DNA Profiles of all Rhinos in the country by 2021.
- There are three species of rhinos, of which only one, the Indian rhino is found in the country.
- Indian rhino could be the first wild animal species in India to have all its members DNA-sequenced.
- World Wide Fund for Nature – India (WWF-India) and Wildlife Institute of India (WII) are part of this project.
- This project would be useful in curbing poaching and gathering evidence in wildlife crimes involving rhinos.
- There are about 2,600 rhinos in India, with more than 90% of the population concentrated in Assam's Kaziranga National Park.
- It is listed as Vulnerable in IUCN red list of threatened species.
- It is mainly poached for its hard, hair-like growth, which is revered for medicinal use in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore.
- The horn is also valued in North Africa and the Middle East as an ornamental dagger handle.

Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization

- CTBTO has invited India to be an observer in the treaty.
- It is expected to give India access to data from the International Monitoring System, which can detect even small nuclear explosions using seismology, hydroacoustics, infrasound and radionuclide technology.
- It is a multilateral treaty that bans all nuclear explosions, for both civilian and military purposes, in all environments.
- It was adopted by the United Nations 1996 but has not entered into force as eight specific states have not ratified the treaty.
- 166 states have ratified the CTBT and another 17 states have signed but not ratified it.
- China, Egypt, Iran, Israel and the United States have signed but not ratified the Treaty.
- India, North Korea & Pakistan have not signed it. They have neither signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty 1968.

- According to CTBT each State Party undertakes not to carry out any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion, and to prohibit and prevent any such nuclear explosion at any place under its jurisdiction or control.

MANAV

- It is a human atlas initiative launched by the Department of Biotechnology.
- It aims at creating a database network of all tissues in the human body from the available scientific literature.
- **Applications** – Better biological insights through physiological and molecular mapping, develop disease models and have a wholistic analysis and finally drug discovery.
- The project encouraged colleges and universities to register as teams and work in this project.
- The project can be signed up by students from science background who are in their final year graduation and above.
- Initially, the project will focus on curating information revolving skin tissues.

FCRA license

- The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) registration of Bengaluru-based NGO Infosys Foundation has been cancelled by the Home Ministry recently.
- As per the FCRA Act 2010, all NGOs are required to be registered under the Act to receive foreign funding, and also have to furnish the same.
- An FCRA applicant can be a Trust or Society or a Section 8 Company.
- The not-for-profit entity must have also been in existence for a minimum of 3 years while making the FCRA application.
- It should not have received any foreign contribution prior to that without the Government's approval.
- Organisations have to submit their annual return to the government within 9 months from the closure of the previous financial year.

Rules/ Procedures	Society	Trust	Section 8 Company

Purpose	Entities which are generally associated with promotion of literature, science, or the fine arts, or for the diffusion of useful knowledge, or for charitable purposes;	A trust is usually floated with a property involved, especially in terms of land and building. It can be a public charitable entity for the benefit of general public (or) A private trust for the benefit of closed groups like relatives, friends.	A company (without the addition to its name to the word “limited”) with the objective of promotion of commerce, art, science, sports, education, research, social welfare, religion, charity, protection of environment or any such other object;
Governing Legislation	1. Federal Act - Societies Registration Act, 1860. 2. Every State has its own legislation of Societies Act for registration, management & dissolution of society.	1. Private Trusts are regulated by Indian Trust Act, 1882. 2. Public Trusts are regulated by State-specific legislations. (In the absence of state legislation, it is governed by the Trust Act)	Indian Companies Act, 2013. It can enjoy all the privileges and be subject to all the obligations of limited companies.
Conditions	Needs a minimum of 7 members to form a society.	A trust deed with aims and objectives of trust should be signed by settlor and trustee. Settlor – A person who transfer his/her property to the trust.	Needs a minimum of 3 trustees.
Eligibility of Members	Members of the same family cannot be members	No restriction on family members.	No restriction on family members.
Registering Authority	Registrar or Deputy Reg. of societies of concerned State/ Charity Commissioner	Sub-Registrar of Registration/Charity commissioner	Registrar of company

Income	It receives income from subscription, gifts, grants-in-aid and donations from the members and the general public. The income should not be distributed among its members. Upon dissolution, all its income/debts shall be given to other society, which is determined by voting.	The trustee has the right to maintain the property, arise income from it and use it for beneficiaries. When it is mentioned in the trust deed, trustee may even have powers to sell the property subject to the charges or free of them.	Profits from the company should be used for promoting its objectives and should not be paid as dividends to its members.

Source: The Hindu, The Indian Express

