Prelim Bits 28-03-2023 | UPSC Daily Current Affairs

Sarus crane

The Forest department has filed a case and issued a notice to an Uttar Pradesh man who rescued a Sarus crane and took care of it for a year.

- The Sarus crane is the tallest flying bird in the world.
- They are found mostly in pairs or small groups of 3 or 4.
- They mate for life with a single partner and its breeding season coincides with heavy rainfall in monsoon.
- They are known for their ability to live in association with humans.



- **Diet -** Omnivorous; they feed on fish and insects, as well as roots and plants.
- **Habitat -** Typically wades in shallow wetlands or in cropped agricultural areas.
- **Distribution -** Sarus crane has 3 disjunct populations - the Indian sub-continent, south-east Asia and northern Australia.
- **Threats -** Habitat loss and degradation due to draining the wetland and conversion of land for agriculture.
- **Conservation**

Protection	Status
Wildlife Protection Act, 1972	Schedule I
IUCN	Vulnerable
CITES	Appendix II
CMS	Appendix II

Sarus crane is the official State bird of Uttar Pradesh.

Possession of Wildlife in India

- No person is allowed to acquire or keep in his possession, custody or control any wildlife which is state property, under **Section 39** of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- If anyone does so they must report it to the nearest police station or the authorised officer within 48-hours of obtaining such possession.
- **Burden of proof -** Further, under **Section 57** of the Act, if a person is found in possession, custody or control of any wildlife, the burden of proof for establishing that it is not illegal is on the person.

References

1. IE - The special bond between the Sarus crane and an Indian farmer
2. New Indian Express - Sarus rescuer gets Forest department notice
3. WWF-India - Sarus crane
4. IUCN - Sarus Crane

Coffee Berry Borer

The Coffee Board has issued an advisory to coffee farmers to tackle the attack of berry borer in Robusta coffee plants.

- **Pest -** Coffee Berry Borer (*Hypothenemus hampei*)
- Coffee berry borers are a small species of beetle that live, feed and breed inside coffee berries.
- The damage to the berry severely impacts the quality of coffee beans produced.
- **Infestation -** Pinhole at the tip of berries indicates presence of the pest.
- Female beetle bores into the berries through the navel region and feed on the inside content.
- Infested berries may fall due to injury or secondary infection.
- Severe infestation may result in heavy crop loss.
- **Control Measure -** Brocca traps is an effective measure to control berry borer population in coffee plantations.

References

1. The Hindu - Berry borer infestation
2. Coffee Board of India - Pests and Diseases

Bharat 6G Vision

The Prime Minister unveiled the Bharat 6G Vision Document in the ITU Area Office in Vigyan Bhawan.

- The Bharat 6G Vision Document lays out a roadmap to roll out 6G services across the country by 2030.
- 6G will be implemented in 2 phases (2023 - 2025 and 2025 - 2030).
- An apex council will be set up to oversee the project and deal with issues related to it.
- The apex council will facilitate and finance research and development, design and development of 6G technologies by Indian start-ups, companies, research bodies and universities.
- The document is prepared by the Technology Innovation Group on 6G (TIG-6G).
- TIG-6G was constituted in 2021 to develop a roadmap and action plans for 6G in India.
- The national mission for 6G will have a 9-year tenure (2022-2031), with funding in 3 tranches.
- The mission will catalyse coordination and interactions between various stakeholders in Centre and State governments as well as with industry and academia.
- **6G Test Bed** will provide a platform to test and validate the evolving ICT technologies.

- The Bharat 6G Vision Document and 6G Test Bed will be key in boosting the faster technology adoption in the country.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

- ITU is the United Nations' specialised agency for information and communication technologies (ICTs).
- It is headquartered in Geneva and has a network of field offices, regional Offices and area offices.
- **ITU Area Office -** The ITU Area Office is fully funded by India.
- It is located in the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT) building at Mehrauli, New Delhi.
- It will serve India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Afghanistan and Iran, promoting economic cooperation in the region.

References

1. Live Mint - PM launches Bharat 6G vision document
2. Outlook - What Is Bharat 6G Vision Document?
3. Business Line - 6G: How India is gearing up for this game-changer

Daylight Saving Time

Lebanon saw mass confusion after its government decided to delay Daylight Saving Time (DST) by a month.

- Daylight Saving Time (DST) is the practice of setting the clocks forward one hour from the standard time during the summer and back again in the autumn.
- This practice is done to make better use of natural daylight.
- **Northern Hemisphere -** Many countries in the Northern Hemisphere use DST in the summer time, but not all.
- Daylight Saving Time usually starts in March-April and ends in September-November when the countries return to standard time, or winter time.
- **India** does not follow daylight saving time as countries near the Equator do not experience high variations in daytime hours between seasons.
- **Southern Hemisphere -** In the Southern Hemisphere the participating countries usually start the DST period in September-November and end DST in March-April.
- **History -** For the first time in the world, the town of Thunder Bay in Ontario, Canada implemented DST in 1908.
- Germany started following DST since 1916 and became the first country in the world to use DST on a national level.

References

1. IE - Chaos in Lebanon over what time it is?
2. Time and Date - Daylight Saving Time

Sukanya Samriddhi Account Scheme

- **'Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana'** is a small deposit scheme for girl child, launched as a part of the *'Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao'* initiative in 2015.
- **'Sukanya Samriddhi Account' (SSA)** can be opened at any time from the birth of a girl child till she attains the age of 10 years.
- The account offers a higher interest rate as well as several tax benefits.
- The account can be opened in any post office or authorised branches of commercial banks.
- The account requires a minimum deposit of Rs 250 and a maximum of Rs 1.5 lakh in a year.
- **Interest -** The government determines the SSY scheme's interest rate is calculated quarterly and it is compounded annually.
- Currently, the interest rate has been reduced from 8.4% to 7.6%.
- **Interest not payable -** Expiration of scheme's duration or if the girl becomes a Non-resident Indian (NRI) or a non-citizen.
- **Maturity -** After 21 years of opening or, in the event of the marriage of the girl child after she gains the age of 18 years.

Interest Calculation of SSA

- The central government reviews the interest rates of small savings schemes like SSA every quarter based on the G-Secs yields of the previous 3 months in the secondary market.
- This is to ensure that the interest rates of small savings schemes are market-linked, as per the recommendations of the ***Shyamala Gopinath Committee, 2011.***

References

1. The Hindu - SSA interest rate hike may remain elusive
2. Economic Times - Hike in PPF, Sukanya Samriddhi schemes' interest rates?
3. Vikaspedia - Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana

SHANKAR IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering