UPSC Daily Current Affairs | Prelim Bits 19-12-2020

Great Indian Bustard

- The Wildlife Institute of India proposed to put all power transmission lines passing through Great Indian Bustard (GIB) habitat underground.
- GIB, a bird native to India and Pakistan, is the State Bird of Rajasthan.
- The largest population is found in Rajasthan.
- The sanctuaries that shelter or conserve GIB are
    a. Desert National Park, Rajasthan
    b. Kutch Bustard Sanctuary, Gujarat
    c. Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary or Jawaharlal Nehru Bustard Sanctuary, Maharashtra
- Protection status of GIB:
    a. IUCN Status is Critically Endangered
    b. Appendix I of CITES
    c. Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection)Act, 1972
- Threats include agriculture; energy production & mining; transportation; human intrusions, and invasive and other problematic species.

IUCN Red List

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has updated its Red List of Threatened Species.
- Now, Ganga, Amazon, Indus, Irrawaddy species of freshwater dolphins are “threatened with extinction” on the IUCN Red List.
- Tucuxi species (Sotalia fluviatilis) of freshwater dolphins is moving from ‘data deficient to ‘endangered’.
- IUCN also declared that 31 species as extinct which include 15 freshwater fish species endemic to Lake Lanao and its outlet in the Philippines; three Central American frog species; Lost Shark.
- Also, three Macadamia species of protea (a genus of South African flowering plants) family; 9 Asian oak species.
- The European bison has moved from Vulnerable to Near Threatened.
- To know more, click on these links:
    a. Ganga and Indus species,
    b. Irrawaddy species

Chang’e 5 Lunar Mission

- This lunar mission of China returned with 2Kg of the fresh rock samples from the moon, which would help us know more about moon's origins and formation.
- The spacecraft landed in Siziwang Banner, China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.
- These lunar samples were retrieved from a previously unvisited area of the moon known as the Oceanus Procellarum, or Ocean of Storms.
- Ocean of Storms is a site near the Mons Rumker, which was believed to have been volcanic in ancient times.
- Mons Rumker, never sampled before, is geologically younger than the sampling areas of the U.S. and the Soviet missions.
- These young samples could help widen the spectrum of their analysis to understand the moon's volcanic activity and evolution.
- To know more about Chang'e 5 mission, click here.

Young Champions of the Earth

- An Indian entrepreneur is among the seven winners of UN Environment Programme's (UNEP) "Young Champions of the Earth" 2020 prize.
- This award is given to spot global change-makers between the ages of 18 and 30 and support their ideas to save the environment.
- Seven champions are selected from each global region: Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, West Asia and two from Asia and the Pacific.
- This prize, launched by the UNEP in 2017, is in similar lines to UNEP's Champions of the Earth prize.
- To know about Champions of the Earth prize, click here.

Right to Protest

- The Supreme Court said farmers have a constitutional right to protest as long as their opposition against the three agricultural laws did not slip into violence.
- But the CJI said whether the farmers should be allowed into the city or not was a question best left to the police and not the court.
- The court reiterated its suggestion of forming a committee of experts in agriculture to hear both farmers and the Union government on the laws.
- **Right to protest** is a fundamental right as per Indian Constitution.
- This right is a part of the right to free speech under Article 19.

Source: AIR, The Indian Express, The Hindu, Down To Earth



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