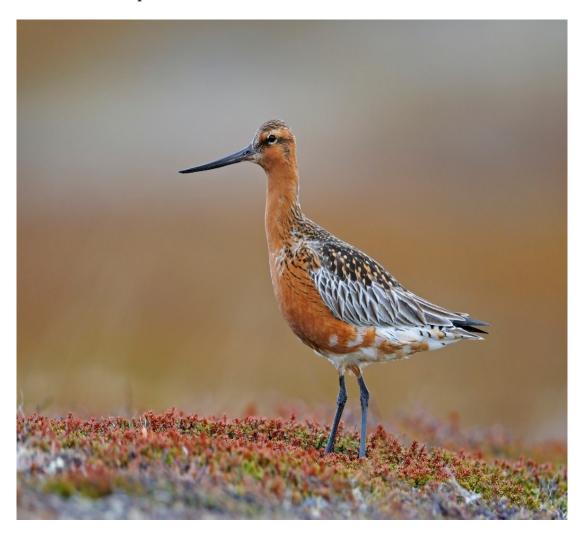


UPSC Daily Current Affairs | Prelim Bits 30-11-2024

Bar-Tailed Godwits

Recently, the naturalist spotted a 5 bar-tailed godwits at Pulicat lake in Andhar Pradesh.

- Scientific Name Limosa lapponica.
- It is a small bird with long, sharp beaks.
- **Appearance** It is a large long-legged wader, predominantly brown above, pale below, with a long tapering and slightly upturned bi-coloured bill, pink at the base and black towards the tip.



- Size Males are smaller with shorter bills than females.
 - ∘ **Male -** 39 cm
 - ∘ **Female -** 41 cm
- **Wingspan** 70-80cm.
- Call It is onomatopoeic, which means it sounds similar to their name going 'godwit, godwit'.

- Habitat Marine and Intertidal, Wetland, Grassland, Mudflats, shores, tundra.
- **Distribution** Widespread in summer across northern Europe and Asia.
- **Diet** Mainly shellfish, marine snails and worms and shrimps.
- Breeding It is in the Arctic of Scandinavia and Siberia.
- Conservation Status IUCN Near Threatened.
- Other Similar species
 - Hudsonian godwit
 - Marbled Godwit
 - Whimbrel
 - Terek Sandpiper

References

- 1. The Hindu Bar-Tailed Godwits
- 2. RSPB| Bar-Tailed Godwits
- 3. NZBO Bar-Tailed Godwits

Japanese Encephalitis Virus (JEV)

Recently, a suspected case of Japanese Encephalitis Virus was reported in Bindapur, New Delhi.

- **JEV** It is a *mosquito-borne flavivirus* that belongs to the same genus as dengue, Zika, yellow fever and West Nile viruses.
- It is spread through the bite of an infected mosquito especially a mosquitoes called *Culex tritaeniorhynchus*.
- This virus infection resulted in febrile illness, including meningitis or encephalitis.
- First case Reported on 1871 in Japan.
- **Symptoms** It doesn't have any symptoms or have only mild symptoms in most of the people.
 - Initial Includes fever, headache, Seizures, gastrointestinal pain and vomiting.
 - **Severe** High fever, headache, neck stiffness, disorientation, weakness, coma, seizures, spastic paralysis and ultimately death.
- **Signs** The time from infection until illness onset is **typically 5-15 days**.
- **Transmission** It circulates in the environment between mosquitoes and other animals, namely wading birds and pigs.
- Humans infected with the virus when mosquitoes feed on other infected animals and then bite people.
- It is **not transmitted from person-to-person**, except rarely by blood transfusion.
- **Region** In temperate areas of Asia, transmitted mainly during the warm season.
- In tropics and subtropics, transmission intensifies during the rainy season.
- Risk Factors Majorly occur to children **below 15 years of age**.
 - Less than 1% Develop neurologic illness.
 - 20-30% Die due to inflammation in the brain.
 - 30%-50% Suffer permanent cognitive, behavioural illness such as seizures, hearing or vision loss, speech, language, memory, and communication problems or weakness of the limbs.
- Treatment There is no antiviral treatment.

- It is focused on relieving severe signs and supporting the patients to overcome the infection.
- Vaccine It is available to prevent disease.
- Rest, fluids, and counter pain medicine relieve some symptoms.

24 countries in the World Health Organisation (WHO) South-East Asia and Western Pacific Regions have endemic JEV transmission, exposing more than 3 billion people to risks of infection.

References

- 1. The Indian Express Japanese Encephalitis Virus (JEV)
- 2. WHO Japanese Encephalitis Virus (JEV)
- 3. CDC Japanese Encephalitis Virus (JEV)

Gelephu Mindfulness City

The Prime Minister recently inaugurated the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) with Bhutan for the upcoming Gelephu Mindfulness City project.

- Gelephu Mindfulness City It is an *innovative urban development project* that integrates economic growth with mindfulness, holistic living, and sustainability.
- Located on The Indian border, about 30 km to the east of Sarpang in Bhutan.
- It is the *biggest "co-operative project" in Bhutan*.
- It is being developed as a "Zero Carbon" city.
- **Government** It is a special administrative region in Bhutan, envisioned by the Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck.
- It have its own government and the independence to have its own lawmaking, as well as an independent judiciary.
- **Area** It is a massive city spread over 2,500 square km.
- 2 protected areas
 - National Park.
 - Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Its forests and biological corridors are teeming with wildlife.
- Land It is beautiful and pristine, which is a *biological hot spot* with abundant potential for clean energy.
- Features It is around a series of inhabitable bridges.
 - It is a low-rise city which will have its own university, health care facilities for both western and traditional medicine.
 - Its rivers have the potential to generate 4,000 to 5,000 megawatts of electricity through renewable energy.
 - It plans to build a hydroelectric power project and a hydroponic greenhouse.
- **Benefits** It is designed to be a hub of knowledge, technology, and finance, grounded in the values of mindfulness, sustainability and harmony.
- It is the place where people can live with harmony with others from all over the world.
- It is to improve the lives of Bhutanese people and take to the next level.

References

- 1. The Hindu | Gelephu Mindfulness City
- 2. GMC| Gelephu Mindfulness City
- 3. NDTV Gelephu Mindfulness City

