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Current Affairs

[8th January 2021]

Content:

1. **Advisory for management of Human-Wildlife Conflict**
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4. **TRIFOOD PARK**
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Topic-1: Advisory for management of Human-Wildlife Conflict

Context:

- Government Of India has given its approval to the advisory for management of Human- Wildlife Conflict.

Recent Development:

- The Standing Committee of the National Board of Wildlife(SC-NBWL) has approved the advisory for management of Human-Wildlife Conflict(HWC) in India.
- The advisory has given important suggestions for the States/ Union Territories for dealing with Human-Wildlife conflict situations and seeks expedited inter-departmental coordinated actions.

National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)

The National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) is constituted by the Union Government under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972**.

- It is an advisory body and advises the Union Government on policies for the conservation of wildlife in India.
- Its main function is to encourage the conservation and development of wildlife and forests.
- It has power to review all wildlife-related matters and approve projects in and around national parks and sanctuaries.
- Alteration of boundaries in national parks and wildlife sanctuaries cannot be done without approval of the NBWL.
- It has 47 members including the Prime Minister. It is chaired by the Prime Minister.

Standing Committee of the National Board of Wildlife(SC-NBWL)

- The National Board of Wildlife may constitute a Standing Committee.

- The Standing Committee shall consist of the Vice-Chairperson (Union Minister of Forests and Wildlife) the Member Secretary and not more than ten members nominated by the Vice-Chairperson from amongst the members of the National Board.

Significant Points of the advisory:

- The advisory proposes the empowerment of the gram panchayats in dealing with the problematic wild animals as per WildLife (Protection) Act, 1972. (There are 2.5 lakh gram Panchayats in India)
- Coverage under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Yojna for crop compensation against crop damage due to HWC and increasing the fodder and water sources within the forest areas.
- Compensation payment as an interim relief within 24 hours of the incident to the victim/family.
- The advisory also has the provision of prescribing inter-departmental committees at local or state level.
- Adoption of early warning systems, creation of barriers, dedicated circle wise Control Rooms with toll free hotline numbers which could be operated on 24X7 basis.
- Identification of hotspots and formulation and implementation of special plans for improved stall-fed farm animals etc.

- A very important development took place in the meeting, i.e. Inclusion of caracal into the list of critically endangered species for seeking financial assistance from the central Government, under a Recovery Programme for Critically Endangered Species.
- The programme is one of the three components of the centrally sponsored scheme, Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH).



- IDWH is for providing support to protected areas (national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, conservation reserves and community reserves except tiger reserves), protection of wildlife outside protected areas and recovery programmes for saving critically endangered species and habitats.
- It started in 2008-09.
- There are 22 wildlife species under the recovery programme for critically endangered species.

Topic-2: First pollinator park in India

Context:

- First pollinator park of India was inaugurated in the **Nainital District** of **Uttarakhand**.

Who are Pollinators:

- A pollinator helps in the movement of the pollen grains, from one part of the flower to another, basically they are the carriers of the pollen.
- These pollens then fertilize the plant. Only fertilized plants can make fruits and seeds.
- Without pollination plants can not produce.
- EXAMPLES: Birds, bees, butterflies, insects etc.

Special Features of the park:

- It is a park specifically for the pollinator specie
- It has the arrangement to inhabit 50 such species.
- It was inaugurated by a naturalist and a lepidopterist, **Peter Smetacek**.



- It has exhibits on display, the process of pollination of flowers, role of pollinators etc.
- It has small water bodies for mud puddling for butterflies.
- It has arrangements for ultraviolet light to attract night pollinators like moths.
- This park has particularly focussed on the conservation of the endemic honey bee, as their numbers are continuously declining because people prefer european species over the indogenous species.

Did you know?

- In the last decade, honey production has increased upto 200% in India, due to the incentives like Honey Mission and Sweet Revolution.

Topic-3: One nation, one gas grid

Context:

- Recently, the prime minister of India has dedicated the 450-km natural gas pipeline from Kochi in Kerala to Mangaluru in Karnataka via videoconferencing.

Benefits of gas pipeline:

- The gas pipeline would make a positive impact on the economic growth of both the states, improve the standard of living of people and reduce expenses of both the poor and entrepreneurs alike.
- The project will also play a major role in reducing pollution.



Energy Transition Roadmap of India:

- It aims to double the share of cleaner energy in the energy basket.
- It will help in diversifying the sources of energy.
- It will help the nation to connect various regions with one gas pipeline grid.
- It will assist the government in bringing affordable fuel to people and industry.

Why is there a need for a diversified energy basket?

- Currently, the energy demand is being met through a huge import of fossil fuels in India.
- The import of fossil fuel is a major contributor to the current account deficit in India.
- Dependence on fossil fuels puts India into a list of high greenhouse gas emission countries which is a detriment to the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs).
- A gas based economy is crucial for Atmanirbhar Bharat & work is being done in the direction of one nation, one gas grid.

What is One Nation, One Gas Grid?

- It is a recently conceptualised project of the Government of India under which the government is trying to increase the share of natural gas by more than two fold. It will also assist the government of India in diversifying the

How is it going to benefit India?

- It will help the government in meeting the target of 15% natural gas mix in the energy basket by 2030. Currently, the energy mix is 6.2% to 6.5 %. So, it's going to diversify the energy basket of India.

- It will play a major role in bringing more natural gas based energy and will help India in being an energy rich nation from hitherto energy poor economy.
- It will provide employment opportunities to a greater number of people in the energy sector.
- The pipeline grid will not only help improve the clean energy access but also aid in the development of city gas projects.
- It will help the government in connecting the source to the consumers through the natural gas grid and actually raising the share of natural gas in the energy basket.
- It helps improve the regional balance because currently the natural gas is located in different pockets in the country. So, basically, improving the regional balance of the country, the natural gas grid would be a step towards that.

Way Forward:

- India should look forward to making a roadmap to implement the One Nation, One Gas Grid.
- India's intended nationally determined contributions must be kept in mind while going forward with the diversification of the energy basket in meeting the energy demand in India.

Topic-4: TRIFOOD PARK

Context -

- TRIFED and Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram have signed a MoU to set up a TRIFOOD park in Madhya Pradesh.

Ministry -

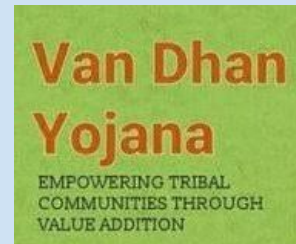
It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of TRIBAL Affairs and Ministry of Forest Produce.

Objectives -

- They are established as food processing units whose goal is to promote and do value addition to minor forest produce.
- It will be launched under Vandhan Yojna.

Van dhan Yojna -

This scheme focuses on the economic development of the tribals who are involved in the collection of minor forest produce. This scheme helps them in the utilization of forest produce with sustainable livelihood.



- These parks will procure the raw materials from Van Dhan Kendras and process them and then that procured food will be sold through outlets of Tribes.

How is MSP decided for forest produce?

- Minimum support price for minor forest produce is fixed by the Tribal Affairs Ministry and it is revised every 3 years by a pricing cell constituted under the ministry of Tribal Affairs.

TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Federation of India)

- It is a statutory body.
- It has been registered as a National Level cooperative body by the Government of India.
- It's focus is on institutionalizing the trade of minor forest produce.
- It helps the tribal people manufacture products which is important for National and international markets
- It provides training to Self Help Groups which is related to Tribal sectors.

Topic-5: TAMPON TAX

Context -

- Recently the Government of the United Kingdom has abolished 5 % Value added tax on the sanitary napkins of women which is also known as Tampon Tax.

Significance for United Kingdom (UK)-

- Now the UK has also joined the list of the nation, which has already eliminated the tampon tax, which includes India, Australia and Canada.
- Earlier the UK was part of the European Union and the EU classifies products like sanitary napkins as non essential commodities therefore member states are required to levy a 5% tax on them.
- After BREXIT UK is not part of the EU so it is not obliged to follow those norms.

What is BREXIT?

- Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union is termed as BREXIT.



Points to be remembered -

- Despite being a member of European Union, the Republic of Ireland has already removed the tampon tax because This tax system removal has already been performed by the Republic of Ireland before the EU imposed it.