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Kaziranga National Park

Kaziranga National Park – Today Current Affairs

- Recently, a case of poaching of world famous 'Greater one-horned rhinoceros' has come to the fore in Kaziranga National Park of Assam.

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Introduction:

- There are five species of rhinoceros – White and Black Rhinos in Africa, Greater one-horned rhinoceros in Asia, Java and Sumatran rhinoceros (Javan and Sumatran rhino) species.

Status on the IUCN Red List: The Hindu Analysis

- Black Rhino: Critically Endangered. The smaller of the two African species.
- White Rhino: Near danger or danger. Researchers have created an embryo of a northern white rhino using in vitro fertilization (IVF) procedure.
- One Horned Rhinoceros:
- Java: Critically Endangered.
- Sumatran Rhino: Critically Endangered.
- Only one-horned rhinoceros is found in India.
- The one-horned rhinoceros (Indian rhinoceros) is the largest of the rhino species.
- This rhinoceros is identified by a single black horn and brown color with folds of skin.
- They mainly graze on grasses, leaves, branches of shrubs and trees, fruits and aquatic plants.

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Habitat: The Hindu Analysis

- This species is restricted to the Terai region of Indo-Nepal, northern West Bengal and Assam.
- Rhinos in India are mainly found in Assam, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh.
- Assam has 2,640 rhinos in four protected areas (Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park, Kaziranga National Park and Manas National Park).
- About 2,400 of these rhinos are in Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve.

Conservation status: The Hindu Analysis

- IUCN Red List:
- CITES: Appendix I (includes 'endangered' species that may be at greater risk if traded.)
- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule-I

To risk: The Hindu Analysis

- Poaching for horns
- Loss of Habitat
- Population density
- Decreasing Genetic Diversity

Conservation Efforts by India: The Hindu Analysis

- Five countries of the rhino range (India, Bhutan, Nepal, Indonesia and Malaysia) have signed the New Delhi Declaration on Asian Rhinos, 2019 for the conservation and protection of these species.
- Recently, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has started a project to create DNA profiles for all rhinos in the country.
- National Rhino Conservation Strategy: It was launched in the year 2019 to conserve one-horned rhinoceros.
- Indian Rhino Vision 2020: It was launched in the year 2005. The Indian Rhino Vision 2020 was an ambitious effort to increase the population of one-horned rhinoceros to at least 3,000 by the year 2020 spread across seven protected areas located in the Indian state of Assam.
- Kaziranga National Park was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in the year 1985.
- It was declared a tiger reserve by the Government of India in 2006.

'Bent-toed Gecko'

Bent-toed Gecko – Today Current Affairs

- Recently a team of veterinarians has recorded the presence of a new species of 'Bent-toed Gecko' lizard in a wild part of Umroi Military Station in Meghalaya.
- Its scientific name is 'Crytodactylus Exercitus' and its English name is 'Indian Army's Bent-Toed Gecko'.
- Apart from this, another new 'Bent-toed Gecko' was named 'Cyrtoactylus siahaensis' after the Siaha district of Mizoram (where it was found).
- A herpetologist or herpetologist is a person who specializes in the study of reptiles and amphibians.

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Geckos:

- Gecko comes under the reptile category of fauna and is found in all continents except Antarctica.
- These colorful lizards have adapted to habitats ranging from rainforests to deserts and cold mountain slopes.
- In the past, geckos have developed certain physical characteristics to survive and avoid predators.
- Geckos serve many purposes with their tails. It helps them to balance their weight while climbing branches and acts as a fuel tank to store fat as well as help them to become invisible in the environment.
- Geckos are able to drop their tail while being caught by the hunter. The Hindu Analysis.
- Most gecko species are nocturnal, meaning they are active at night, but gecko species that are active during the day depend on pollen from insects, fruits and flowers.
- Most geckos make noises such as chirping, barking and clicking when they are defending their territory or attracting a mate. Today Current Affairs.
- There are many species of geckos. Their conservation status ranges from Least Concern- LC to Critically Endangered, depending on the species.

Arunachal Pradesh: 36th Foundation Day

Arunachal Pradesh: 36th Foundation Day – Today Current Affairs

- Recently, the Prime Minister greeted the people of Arunachal Pradesh on its 36th Foundation Day.
- Arunachal Pradesh became the 24th state of the Indian Union on February 20, 1987, through the 55th amendment to the Indian Constitution (the year 1986).

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About Arunachal Pradesh:

Historical background: The Hindu Analysis

- The state was known as the North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA) until 1972 during the British colonial rule.
- On January 20, 1972, it became a union territory and was named Arunachal Pradesh. It was granted statehood by the Arunachal Pradesh State Act, 1986.

Geographical Location: The Hindu Analysis

- Arunachal Pradesh was formed in the year 1987 as a full-fledged state separate from Assam.
- Arunachal Pradesh is bordered by Bhutan to the west and the Tibetan region of China to its north.
- Nagaland and Myanmar are in its south-eastern part, while Assam lies in the south-western part.

Population: The Hindu Analysis

- Itanagar is the capital of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The total literacy rate of the state (as per 2011 census) is 65.38%, in which male literacy rate is 72.55% and female literacy rate is 57.70%.
- The state's sex ratio is 938 females per 1000 males (National Sex Ratio: 943).
- The state is home to 26 major tribes, of which there are more than 100 sub-tribes, many of which are unidentified tribes. About 65% of the population of this state is tribal.

Business: The Hindu Analysis

- Majority of the population of this state is dependent on agriculture (mainly shifting cultivation) for their livelihood.
- Cultivation of other cash crops such as potatoes etc.
- Horticulture crops like pineapple, apple, orange etc. are also cultivated.

Biodiversity: The Hindu Analysis

- State Animal: Mithun (also known as Gayal).
- State Bird:
- Dihang Dibang Biosphere Reserve is also located in this state.

Protected Areas: Today Current Affairs

- Namdapha National Park
- Mouling National Park
- Sesa Orchid Sanctuary
- Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary
- Pucca Tiger Reserve

Tribals of Arunachal: The Hindu Analysis

- Important tribal groups of Arunachal Pradesh include Monpa, Nishi, Apatani, Nokte and Sherdukpen.

- Monpa: considered to be the only nomadic tribe in the Northeast, living in West Kameng and Tawang districts, they are predominantly Buddhists who follow the Mahayana sect.
- Apatani: They follow pre-Aryan beliefs, as is evident from their worship of trees, rocks and plants etc. They mainly cultivate bamboo.
- Nocte: They live in Tirap district of Arunachal Pradesh and follow Theravada Buddhism and Animism.
- Sherdukpen: A small tribal group, this group is one of the most progressive tribes of Arunachal Pradesh. These people do agriculture, fish farming and animal husbandry. Although they have adopted Buddhism, most of their practices are still pre-Buddhism and more animistic.
- Nishi: This is the most populous tribe of Arunachal Pradesh, these people mainly practice shifting cultivation and produce rice, bajra, cucumber, etc.

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Mizoram: 36th Foundation Day

Mizoram: 36th Foundation Day – Today Current Affairs

- Recently, on the occasion of the 36th Foundation Day of Mizoram (February 20), the Prime Minister greeted the people there.
- Mizoram became the 23rd state of the Indian Union on 20 February 1987 with the 53rd amendment of the Indian Constitution (the year 1986).

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Mizoram:

Historical background: The Hindu Analysis

- The Mizo Hills region became the Lushai Hills district within Assam at the time of independence. Later in the year 1954, its name was changed to Mizo Hills district of Assam.
- Mizoram was given Union Territory status in the year 1972 after the signing of an agreement with the Moderates of the Mizo National Front (MNF).
- The Union Territory of Mizoram was given full statehood in 1986 after the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (Mizoram Peace Accord) between the Central Government and the MNF.

Geographical Location: The Hindu Analysis

- International Border: Myanmar and Bangladesh.
- State Boundary: Tripura (North-West), Assam (North) and Manipur (North-East).

Demographics: The Hindu Analysis

- The population of Mizoram is estimated to be 1.27 million in the year 2022, making it the second least populous state in India after Sikkim.
- Sex Ratio is 975 females per 1000 males (National level it is 943).
- Literacy rate of the state is 91.58% (National rate: 74.04%).

Biodiversity: The Hindu Analysis

- According to India Forest Status Report (ISFR), 2021, Mizoram has the highest forest cover area (85.4%) as compared to other states in the country.
- State Animal: Serow
- State bird: Hume Bartailed Pheasant

Protected Areas: The Hindu Analysis

- Dampa Tiger Reserve
- Murlen National Park
- Phawngpui National Park
- Nengengpui Wildlife Sanctuary
- Tawi Wildlife Sanctuary

Tribes: The Hindu Analysis

- Mizoram has the highest percentage of tribal population as compared to all other states of India.
- The Mizo community consists of 5 major and 11 minor tribes collectively called Awzia. These 5 major tribes include Lushai, Ralte, Hmar, Pahi, Pavi (or Poi).
- Mizo is a socially connected society in which there is no discrimination on the basis of gender, status or religion.
- Mizo is an agricultural community, the people of this community adopt the system of Jhum Cultivation.

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Mizo community has two main festivals- Mim Kut, Chapchar Kut

- Mim Kut: Mim Kut or Maize festival is celebrated during the months of August and September after the harvesting of maize.
- Chapchar Kut: This is a festival of spring, which is celebrated "after the completion of forest clearing work for jhum cultivation, it is the most popular festival of Mizoram.
- The most colorful and distinctive dance of Mizos is called 'Cherava'. Long bamboo steps are used for this dance, hence many people also call it 'Bamboo Dance'.

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