Date - 7 Feb 2022

Golden Langur Habitat

- Villagers of Assam are protesting against the tag of a sanctuary for a 'Golden Langur Habitat'.

Conflict:

- The Assam Forest Department had issued a preliminary notification to convert 19.85 sq km of forest into 'Kakoijna Bamuni Hill Wildlife Sanctuary'.
- Kakoijna Reserve Forest is very famous for the Golden Langur.
- Villagers have demanded that the 'traditional idea of wildlife sanctuary' be dropped and the reserve forest be converted into a community forest resource by using the Forest Rights Act, 2006, so that the community co-participates for sustainable conservation. Managed system to be ensured.
- Villagers reported that the conservation efforts of the local people have helped the concerned authorities to reduce the forest canopy from 5% to 70% in almost three decades and increase the population of 'Golden Swarna Langur' from 100 to 600.

Difference between Wildlife Sanctuary, Reserved Forest and Community Forest Resource:

- **Wildlife Sanctuary:** This is the place which is specially reserved for the use of wildlife, in which animals, reptiles, insects, birds etc. are present. Its purpose is to provide wildlife with a place where they can keep their populations viable for a lifetime.
- The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 empowers the central and state governments to declare any area as a wildlife sanctuary or a national park.
- **Reserved Forests:** Reserved forests are the most restricted forests and are created by the state government on any forest land or barren land that is the property of the

government. The movement of local people is prohibited in the reserved forests without the special permission of any forest officer.
● **Community Forest Resources:** As per section 2(a) of the Forest Rights Act, these are the resources existing in common forest lands within the traditional or customary boundaries of the village where communities have traditional access to forests and protected areas such as sanctuaries and national parks.

About Golden Langur:

Scientific name: Trachypithecus geei

● Golden langurs can be identified by the color of their fur, after which they are named.
● It has been observed that their fur changes color according to the season as well as the geographical location (the area they live in).
● Their coloration in puberty also differs from that of adults as they are almost pure white.
● They are highly dependent on trees with upper canopy in the forests. They are also known as leaf monkeys.
● **Habitat:** It is found in western Assam and areas along the Indo-Bhutan border.
● Their habitat is confined to an area surrounded by four geographical sites: Bhutan (North), the Manas River (East), the Sankosh River (West), and the foothills of the Brahmaputra River (South).

To risk:

● **Restricted Habitat:** As mentioned above, their habitats are restricted by natural limits and they are heading towards extinction.
● **Habitat fragmentation:** Their habitat in Assam has been largely fragmented, especially after rural electrification and large-scale deforestation.
● **Inbreeding:** Constraints such as lack of dense forests due to deforestation have increased the risk of inbreeding in golden langurs.

Conservation Efforts:

● The Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi in 2011 entrusted a project to the state zoo for conservation, breeding of golden langur in Assam.
● In the year 2009, their estimated number in Assam was 5,140. The census could not be completed in 2020 due to the Kovid-19 lockdown.

Protection Status:

● **Schedule I** species under the **Wildlife Protection Act (1972).**

- Listed in **Appendix I** of the Convention on International Trade in Wildlife and Flora **(CITES).**
- This species has been kept in the category of **Endangered in the IUCN Red List.**

'One Station, One Product' scheme

- **Keeping in mind the wide reach and importance of railways, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a number of measures in this budget.**
- **An amount of Rs 1, 40,367.13 crore has been allocated for the Ministry of Railways in the budget. Apart from this, important announcements like the introduction of new generation 400 Vande Bharat trains and 'One Station One Product' have also been made.**
- **Railways can play an important role in promoting local products from different places. Keeping this in view the 'One Station One Product' scheme has been announced in the budget.**
- **This will be similar to the one when the 'One District-One Product' scheme was introduced. Under this, stalls will be set up at railway stations across the country for the sale of specific products of that place. With this, the railway station at which the passengers will get down will be able to easily know about the particular product there.**
- **For example, Lucknow's Chicken Suit and Malihabadi Mango are very famous, so in such a situation, stalls of these products can be set up at big stations like Charbagh, Lucknow Junction, Aishbagh of Lucknow.**
- **This will bring opportunities in both the promotion and employment of the product here. Trains will also provide facility to send these products from one place to another.**
- **The detailed information of this scheme will be available only after the Pink Book comes about it. However, in his budget speech, the Finance Minister said that under this scheme, Railways will develop efficient logistics for small farmers and enterprises.**

- **Each railway station can be seen as a promotional center for a local product. It will help develop more efficient logistics for farmers and agri-enterprises and offer unique regional products to a wider audience, i.e. railway passengers passing through the stations.**
- **It aims to improve the supply chain of local produce by using railways.**

PM Gati Shakti Project

- **The NDA government has presented the fourth general budget of its second term. This time also the Finance Minister has presented the budget through digital medium i.e. tablet.**
- **Many important announcements were made in the budget which include PM Gati Shakti Project, One Station One Product and many other important announcements like E Vidya.**
- **PM Gati Shakti Project is a kind of digital platform with which 16 ministries including rail and road are connected. This scheme was launched on 13 October 2021.**
- **Actually the system of bureaucracy is such that it works in different slots. This not only adds complexity to any project clearance or other support, but it also takes a lot of time.**
- **For example, once a road is built, it is dug up by other government agencies to lay cables and lay gas pipelines. This not only causes inconvenience but also wastes public money at large.**
- **To tackle a similar problem, Gati Shakti Yojana was proposed to meet the targets of all major infrastructure and connectivity projects by 2024-25.**
- **This time in the budget, 7 factors have been identified to promote PM Gatishakti, which include roads, rail routes, air routes, airports, goods transport, waterways and logistic infrastructure.**
- **Projects related to these 7 factors in the national infrastructure pipeline will be linked to the PM Gatishakti Framework. In these,**

- some targets related to each factor have been fixed, which have to be completed by the year 2024-25.
- In this program, the government plans to spend Rs 107 lakh crore in which economic zones and connectivity infrastructure will be developed.
- For example, under the road factor, in the budget 2022 under this project, the network of national highways will be increased by a total of 25 thousand km and the existing cargo handling capacity will be increased to 1600 million tonnes to give more convenience to the Indian Railways business.
- Simultaneously, the gas pipeline network will be expanded to 35,000 km to achieve the goal of One City, One Grid.
- Under this project 400 new Vande Bharat trains will be run during the next three years. At the same time, 100 PM Gati Shakti cargo terminal will also be prepared.
- The PM Gati Shakti Project Master Plan has 6 pillars namely Comprehensiveness, Priority, Adaptation, Synchronization, Analytical and Dynamic.
- The government believes that this scheme will lead to rapid development of infrastructure in India and increase connectivity in the country. At the same time, due to this, employment opportunities will be created on a large scale in the country; Logistics cost will be cut; Supply chain will improve; and make local goods globally competitive.

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