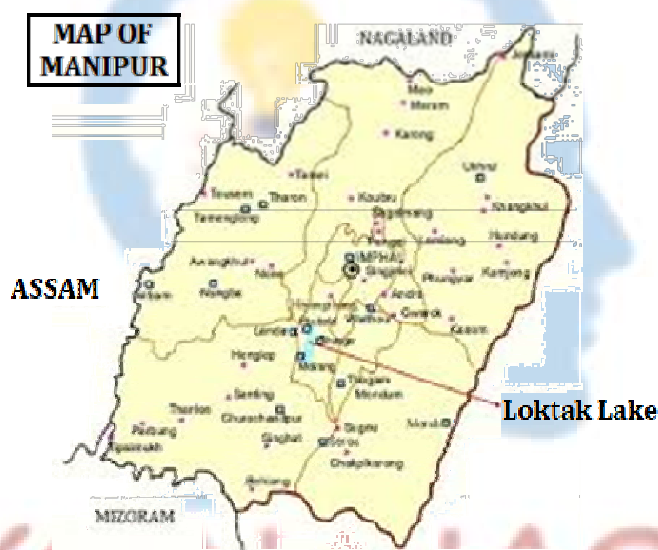




Date – 24 June 2022

Kebul Lamjao National Park



- Residents of Keibul Lamjao National Park (KLNP) in Manipur are protesting against the relocation of the site.
- People argue that the proposed site has nothing to do with efforts to save the endangered deer. On the other hand the people of nearby villages are making every effort to save the deer.

Important facts about Kebul Lamjao National Park:

- It is the only floating national park in the world, Keibul Lamjao National Park on Loktak Lake is the last natural habitat of dancing deer 'Sangai' (*Rucervus eldii eldii*) of Manipur.

- In the 1950s, it was believed that the 'Sangai' deer had become extinct in the country. However, it was later rediscovered in Manipur.
- Hog deer, otter, water fowl and a group of migratory birds are found here.

Loktak Lake:

- Loktak Lake is the largest freshwater lake in Northeast India and is famous for the phumdi floating above the water surface.
- Phumdi is a heterogeneous mass of vegetation, soil and organic matter in different stages of decomposition.
- This ancient lake plays an important role in the economy of Manipur. It serves as a source of water for irrigation, drinking water supply and hydropower generation.
- Keeping in view the ecological status and its biodiversity values, Loktak Lake was initially designated as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention in 1990
- Later it was also listed under Montreux Records in the year 1993.
- Human activities have put severe strain on the ecosystem of the lake.

Antlered Deer:

- **Common names:** Sangai, brow horned deer, dancing deer
- **Scientific name:** Rucervus eldi

Introduction:

- The brow-horned deer, or sangai, is the state animal of Manipur.
- The cover of the animal is dark reddish brown in winter months and becomes very light in summer.
- Native to Cambodia, China, India, Laos and Myanmar, these animals were previously widespread in the habitats of South and Southeast Asia.

Accommodation:

- The habitat of deer varies from scrub and grassland to dry forests and marshlands, depending on the country in which they are found.
- In India these animals are found only in the famous Loktak lake of Manipur.

- The brow-antlered deer usually consume grass.

Hazard:

- While globally habitat loss has been a serious concern in the conservation of this deer, hunting is an additional threat in Manipur. While habitats have been encroached upon for grazing, farming and pisciculture, the animals are highly threatened by a hydroelectric project in the lake.

Security Status:

- **IUCN Red List:** Endangered
- **CITES:** Appendix I
- **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule-I

Swadeep Kumar

Central Institute of Educational Technology: King Hamad bin Isa Al- Khalifa Award



- The Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET) won the 'King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa Award' of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for the year 2021.

- CIET is a constituent unit of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) under the Department of School Education and Literacy.
- CIET has been awarded by UNESCO under a comprehensive initiative called PM e-VIDYA for use of ICT in education.

PM e-Vidya

- PM e-Vidya was launched on May 17, 2020 by the Ministry of Education as part of the Self-Reliant India Campaign.
- It integrates all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education by using technology to reduce learning losses.

King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa Award

- It was established in the year 2005 in collaboration with Bahrain.
- The award recognizes innovative approaches in leveraging new technologies to expand educational and lifelong learning opportunities for all, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and it's Goal 4 on Education.
- The award recognizes individuals and organizations that are implementing outstanding projects and promoting the creative use of technologies to enhance learning, teaching and overall academic performance in the digital age.

Prize:

- An international jury annually selects the two best projects.
- Each laureate receives a medal and a diploma of \$25,000 during the ceremony at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.

Efforts made by Ministry of Education through CIET, NCERT:

- Keeping in view the recommendations of the New Education Policy (NEP), 2020, the Ministry of Education through CIET, NCERT is working tirelessly and meticulously in the design, development and dissemination.
- Working on a large number of e-books, e-content – audio, video, interactive, augmented reality content, Indian Sign Language (ISL) videos, audiobooks, talking books etc.

- Providing various types of e-curriculum for school and teacher education.
- Organized digital programs primarily for students and teachers like online quizzes by leveraging online/offline, on-air technology one class-one channel, DIKSHA, e-pathshala, Nishtha, Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds etc.

Launch of PM e-Vidya:

- To further the objectives of NEP and Samagra Shiksha and to address the above pillars, PM e-VIDYA was launched in May 2020.

Learning till the door

- CIET was proactive in doorstep learning of children through comprehensive, flexible, ethical and consistent use of 12 PM e-Vidya DTH TV channels and around 397 radio stations including community radio stations under PM e-VIDYA programme.
- These efforts were especially helpful in reaching out to students in pandemic situations when schools were closed.
- These efforts have helped in closing the learning gap to a great extent.

Swadeep Kumar

Single-use plastic



- Recently, the central government has prepared a list of single-use plastic items that will be banned from July 1, 2022.
- The manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of notified single-use plastics, including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene, will be prohibited with effect from July 1, 2022.

Single use plastic

- It refers to plastic items that are used once and are thrown away.

Highest Shares of Manufactured and Used Plastics:

- Single-use plastic products such as plastic bags, straws, coffee bags, soda and water bottles, and plastics used mostly for food packaging.

One-third of the plastic produced worldwide is:

- According to a 2021 report by the Minderoo Foundation, an Australian philanthropic organisation, single-use plastics account for a third of global production, of which 98% is made up of fossil fuels.

Plastic is mostly discarded:

- Single-use plastics are responsible for most of the 130 million metric tons of plastic waste globally in 2019, all of which is burned, landfilled or released directly into the environment.

Contribution to Greenhouse Gas Emissions:

- On the current trajectory of production, it is estimated that single-use plastics could be responsible for 5-10% of greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2050.

Data for India:

- The report found that India is among the top 100 countries producing single-use plastic waste – rank 94 (the top three are Singapore, Australia and Oman).
- With domestic production of 11.8 million MT annually and imports of 2.9 MMT, India's net production of single use plastic waste is 5.6 MMT and per capita production is 4 kg.

Selection Basis:

- The selection of the first set of single-use plastic items to ban was based on the difficulty of collection and their recycling.
- When plastic is present in the environment for a long time and does not decompose, it turns into microplastic. After that first it enters our food sources and then human body, and it is extremely harmful.

- The largest share of single-use plastics is in packaging, 95% belonging to this category are used in everything from toothpaste to shaving cream and frozen food.
- The selected items are of low value and low turnover and are not likely to have a major economic impact.

Procedure for enforcement of sanctions:

By monitoring:

- The ban will be monitored from the Center by the CPCB and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) who will regularly report to the Centre.

Issued Guidelines:

- Directives have been issued at the national, state and local levels – for example all petrochemical industries have been asked not to supply raw materials to industries engaged in prohibited items.
- Directions have been issued to SPCBs and Pollution Control Committees to modify or cancel consents issued under the Air/Water Act to industries engaged in single-use plastic items.

Promotion of compostable and biodegradable plastics:

- CPCB issues one-time certificates to 200 manufacturers of compostable plastics and BIS passed standards for biodegradable plastics.

Punishment:

- Violators of the ban can be punished under the Environment Protection Act 1986 – which allows for imprisonment of up to 5 years or a fine of up to Rs 1 lakh, or both.
- Violators may also be asked by the APCB to pay environmental damage compensation.
- There are municipal laws on plastic waste, their own penal codes.

Efforts by other countries to tackle single-use plastics:

Signing the Resolution:

- In the year 2022 at the United Nations Environment Assembly, 124 countries, including India, signed a resolution to draft an agreement to

end plastic pollution to address the full life of plastics from production to disposal for future signatories will be made legally binding.

- As of July 2019, 68 countries have banned plastic bags with varying degrees of enforcement.

Countries that have banned plastics:

Bangladesh:

- Bangladesh became the first country to ban thin plastic bags in the year 2002.

New Zealand:

- New Zealand became the latest country to ban plastic bags in July 2019.

China:

- China issued a ban on plastic bags in the year 2020 with a phased implementation.

America:

- Eight states in the US have banned single-use plastic bags, beginning with California in 2014. Seattle became the first major US city to ban plastic straws in the year 2018.

The European Union:

- Directive on single-use plastics came into effect in the European Union in July 2021.
- This directive bans certain single-use plastics for which alternatives are available; Single-use plastic plates, cutlery, straws, balloon sticks and cotton buds cannot be placed on the markets of EU member states.
- The same measure applies to cups, food and beverage containers made of expanded polystyrene and all products made of oxo-degradable plastic.

Swadeep Kumar