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COOPERATIVE FEDERALISM

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "Cooperative Federalism". The topic "Cooperative Federalism" has relevance in the Polity and Governance section for the UPSC CSE exam.

Relevance of the topic "Cooperative Federalism"

For Prelims:

What is Cooperative Federalism?

For Mains:

GS 2: Polity and Governance

What is the significance of Cooperative Federalism?

What are the issues with Cooperative Federalism?

Way Forward

Why in the news?

The Chief Ministers of Non BJP have decided not to attend the Governing Council meeting of NITI Aayog. They have cited previous engagements as reasons for not attending the meeting. This is a blow to the concept of Cooperative Federalism that binds the centre and states into one union.

What is Cooperative Federalism?

Cooperative federalism is a concept that describes the relationship and interaction between the central government and state governments in a federal system. It's all about working together and collaborating to tackle common issues and achieve shared goals.

In this model, the central government and state governments join forces to develop and implement policies, programs, and projects. They share responsibilities, resources, and decision-making authority to address complex problems that affect the entire nation.

What is the significance of Cooperative Federalism?

- **Effective Problem Solving:** Cooperative federalism allows for better problem-solving and policy implementation by combining the strengths and resources of the central government and state governments.
For example, the highest functionaries both from centre and states have the capacity to tackle complex issues efficiently.
- **Flexibility and Adaptability:** Cooperative federalism enables states to adapt national policies to their unique circumstances. While the central government sets overarching standards, state governments have the flexibility to tailor policies and programs to meet the specific needs of their constituents.

For example, a lot of Central schemes are modelled by the states catering to their requirements.

- **Resource Sharing:** Cooperative federalism promotes the sharing of resources between different levels of government. The central government often allocates funds to states to support specific initiatives or programs.

For example, the GST Council is a good example where decisions are made by both the centre and states.

What are the issues with Cooperative Federalism?

- **Fiscal Imbalance:** The central government holds greater financial resources and decision-making authority, while state governments often depend on the central government for financial assistance.

For example, only 42 percent of the divisible pool is given to the states. In times of emergency, the states are dependent on the centre.

- **Centralization of Power:** Critics argue that cooperative federalism in India is skewed toward the centralization of power. They contend that the central government often encroaches upon the domain of state governments and interferes in their policy areas, limiting their autonomy.

For example, the constitutional posts like governor are being misused for political purposes to stall the functioning of the state governments.

- **Political and Ideological Challenges:** Cooperative federalism requires effective coordination and collaboration between the central government and state governments. However, differing political ideologies, bureaucratic hurdles, and administrative complexities can hamper the smooth implementation of policies.

Way Forward

Thus, the benefits of Cooperative Federalism cannot be discounted. Addressing the issues requires ongoing efforts to strengthen cooperative federalism in India. It involves promoting fiscal autonomy, ensuring equitable resource distribution, enhancing intergovernmental coordination mechanisms, and fostering a better understanding of the respective roles and responsibilities of different levels of government.

Source:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1926777>

QUESTION FOR PRELIMS

Q.1 Cooperative federalism means:

1. Good relations between Centre and States.
2. Hostile relations between Executive and Judiciary.
3. Good relations between two states.
4. Hostile relations between Parliament and Legislature.

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

1. 1 only
2. 1 and 3 only
3. 3 and 4 only
4. All of the above

Answer: (b)

Q.2 Consider the following statements about NITI Aayog:

1. NITI Aayog is the successor to the erstwhile Planning Commission.
2. NITI Aayog has the power to grant finances to the states.
3. It has no representation from the Union Territories.

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

1. 1 only
2. 1 and 3 only
3. 3 and 4 only
4. All of the above

Answer: (a)

QUESTION FOR MAINS EXAMINATION

1. **Cooperative federalism is a healthy concept for the smooth functioning of the government. But this has been weakening in recent times. Substantiate with appropriate examples. What are the measures needed to strengthen Cooperative Federalism?**

Mohit pratap singh

PROJECT CHEETAH

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "Project Cheetah". The topic "Project Cheetah" has relevance in the Environment and biodiversity Section for the UPSC CSE exam.

For Prelims:

What is Project Cheetah?

For Mains:

GS 3: Environment and biodiversity.

What is the importance of Project Cheetah?

What are the challenges?

Solution to the challenges?

Why in the news?

Following the death of three cheetah cubs this week, the Centre on May 25 appointed a new steering committee, comprising national and international experts, to oversee the implementation of Project Cheetah.

What is Project Cheetah?

The Cheetah Project aims to reintroduce the cheetah into the habitat. With a focus on conservation and biodiversity restoration, the project strives to prevent the extinction of the species in India for the second time. By restoring cheetah populations, it hopes to contribute to ecosystem balance, promote scientific research, generate tourism opportunities, and raise awareness about the importance of wildlife conservation.

The 'Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India' was introduced in 2022 by MoEF&CC. In 2022, eight Cheetahs, from Namibia, were relocated to Kuno Palpur National Park, Madhya Pradesh.

What is the importance of Project Cheetah?

- **Conservation:** The project focuses on the conservation and restoration of the cheetah in India. By reintroducing cheetahs into the wild, the project aims to prevent their extinction and contribute to biodiversity conservation efforts.
- **Ecosystem Restoration:** Cheetahs play a vital role in the ecosystem as apex predators. Their reintroduction can help restore the natural balance of the ecosystem by controlling prey populations, which in turn can have cascading effects on other species and ecological processes.
- **Tourism and Economic Benefits:** Successful cheetah reintroduction can have positive impacts on tourism, attracting nature enthusiasts, researchers, and wildlife photographers. Increased tourism can contribute to local economies, generating revenue and employment opportunities for communities residing near the cheetah habitats.
- **Scientific Research:** The project provides an opportunity for scientists and researchers to study the behavior, ecology, and adaptations of the cheetah in the habitat. This research can lead to a better understanding of the species and aid in developing effective conservation strategies.
- **Awareness and Education:** The Cheetah project raises awareness about the importance of wildlife conservation and the need to protect endangered species. It can serve as an educational tool to promote environmental consciousness among local communities, schools, and the general public.

What are the Challenges?

- **Habitat Availability:** Ensuring suitable and sufficient habitat is available for cheetahs can be a significant challenge. Factors such as land fragmentation, human encroachment, and competition with other species may limit the available space for cheetahs to thrive.
- **Prey Availability:** Cheetahs rely on abundant prey populations for survival. Ensuring a sustainable prey base is crucial for the success of the cheetah project. Declining prey species or competition with other predators can pose challenges in maintaining a balanced ecosystem for cheetahs.
- **Human-Wildlife Conflict:** Cheetahs coming into contact with human settlements can lead to conflicts, as they may prey on livestock or face retaliatory actions from local communities.
- **Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade:** Cheetahs face the threat of poaching and illegal wildlife trade. Their valuable skin, bones, and other body parts are sought after in illegal markets.
- **Translocation and Adaptation:** Successfully translocating cheetahs to a new habitat and ensuring their adaptation and survival in the wild can be complex. Cheetahs may face challenges related to unfamiliar territories, availability of suitable food and water sources, and interactions with other wildlife.
- **Financial and Institutional Support:** Implementing and sustaining a cheetah project requires significant financial resources, as well as institutional support from government bodies, conservation organizations, and local communities.

Solution to the challenges?

- **Habitat Restoration and Protection:** Implement measures to restore and protect cheetah habitats, including creating wildlife corridors, establishing protected areas, and promoting sustainable land-use practices.

- **Prey Management:** Develop strategies to ensure a sustainable prey base for cheetahs, such as implementing wildlife management plans, monitoring prey populations, and promoting habitat restoration for prey species.
- **Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation:** Employ methods like predator-proof enclosures, improved livestock husbandry practices, and community-based conservation initiatives to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts.
- **Anti-Poaching and Law Enforcement:** Strengthen anti-poaching measures, increase patrols, and enhance collaboration between law enforcement agencies, conservation organizations, and local communities.
- **Translocation and Adaptation Support:** Provide post-release monitoring and support for reintroduced cheetahs, including tracking their movements, ensuring access to water and prey, and addressing any health or adaptation challenges.
- **Funding and Collaboration:** Seek sustained financial support from governments, international organizations, philanthropic foundations, and corporate partnerships.
- **Public Awareness and Education:** Conduct public awareness campaigns to highlight the importance of cheetah conservation, promote the ecological role of cheetahs, and engage local communities in conservation efforts.

Source:
The Hindu

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/new-committee-set-up-to-oversee-cheetah-project/article66893694.ece>

Q.1 Consider the following statements about Cheetah Project:

1. Cheetahs were relocated from Africa to Kanha National Park, Madhya Pradesh.
2. Cheetahs were relocated from Tanzania to India.

Select the correct statement(s) from the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (d)

Q.2 Consider the following statements regarding the significance and challenges of the cheetah project:

1. The cheetah project plays a non-significant role in biodiversity conservation by aiming to reintroduce the cheetah into the habitat.
2. The project aims to restore the natural balance of ecosystems by controlling prey populations through the reintroduction of cheetahs.
3. One of the challenges in the cheetah project is ensuring the availability of suitable and sufficient habitat for the cheetahs to thrive.

Select the correct statement(s) from the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 2 only
- (d) 1 only

Answer: (b)

Q.3 The project "Cheetah" aims to reintroduce the cheetah in India. Discuss the significance of this project and analyze the challenges associated with its implementation. Also, suggest measures to overcome these challenges and ensure the long-term success of the project.

(15 marks)

Rishabh



Yojna IAS
योजना है तो सफलता है