

WORLD POPULATION DAY

SYLLABUS: GS PAPER-II (POPULATION & ASSOCIATED ISSUES)

ABOUT WORLD POPULATION DAY

- In 1989, the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** recommended that **11th July be observed by the international community as World Population Day**, a day to focus attention on the urgency and importance of population issues.
- UNDP was inspired by the public interest and awareness that was created by "**Five Billion Day**" on **11th July 1987** when the world's population reached 5 billion.
- A resolution to the effect was passed, and the day was first marked on 11th July, 1990.
- The **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** was created in 1969, the same year the United Nations General Assembly declared "parents have the exclusive right to determine freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children."

THEME OF WORLD POPULATION DAY 2022

- "**A world of 8 billion: Towards a resilient future for all - Harnessing opportunities and ensuring rights and choices for all**".
- The world population reached 7 billion in the year 2011 and this will hit 8 billion prompting the attendant responses. Advancements in health have extended lifespans and reduced maternal and child mortality. The theme of World Population Day 2022 is focusing towards a resilient future of all 8 billion people and harnessing opportunities and ensuring rights and choices for all.

NEW FOREST (CONSERVATION) RULES 2022

SYLLABUS: GS PAPER-II & GS PAPER-III (CONSERVATION, ISSUES RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT, FOREST RESOURCES)

CONTEXT: Recently, the **Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** has notified the **Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2022** under the Forest (Conservation) act of 1980.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEW RULES

- **Formation of Committees:** It constituted an Advisory Committee, a regional empowered committee at each of the integrated regional offices and a screening committee at State/Union Territory (UT) government-level.
- **Advisory Committee:** The role of the Advisory Committee is restricted to advise or recommend with regards to grant of approval under relevant sections in respect of proposals referred to it and any matter connected with the conservation of forests referred to it by the Central government.
- **Project Screening Committee:** The MoEFCC has directed the constitution of a project screening committee in each state/UT for an initial review of proposals involving diversion of forest land.
- **Regional Empowered Committees:** All linear projects (roads, highways, etc.), projects involving forest land up to 40 hectares and those that have projected a use of forest land

having a canopy density up to 0.7 — irrespective of their extent for the purpose of survey — shall be examined in the Integrated Regional Office.

- **Compensatory Afforestation:** The applicants for diverting forest land in a hilly or mountainous state with green cover covering more than two-thirds of its geographical area, or in a state/UT with forest cover covering more than one-third of its geographical area, will be able to take up compensatory afforestation in other states/UTs where the cover is less than 20%.

IPBES ASSESSMENT REPORT ON THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF WILD SPECIES

SYLLABUS: GS PAPER-III (ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION & DEGRADATION)

CONTEXT: A report released by the **Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)** has stated that Sustainable use of wild species can meet needs of billions.

KEY POINTS

- Delegates from 140 countries came together to discuss and reach an outcome on the sustainable use of wildlife.
- The assessment shortlisted five categories of practices used for wild species — **Fishing, Gathering, Logging, Terrestrial animal harvesting which includes hunting and non-extractive practices such as observing.**
- The report is the first of its kind and was conceived after a period of four years.

KEY FINDINGS OF THE REPORT

Dependence on Wild Species:

- About 70% of the world's poor population is directly dependent on wild species.
- 20% source their food from wild plants, algae, and fungi.

Wild-Species-Important Source of Income

- The use of wild species is an important source of income for millions of people worldwide.
- Wild tree species account for two thirds of global industrial roundwood, trade in wild plants, algae and fungi is a billion-dollar industry, and even non-extractive uses of wild species are big business.

Local Variations:

- About 34% of marine wild fish stocks are overfished and 66% are fished within biologically sustainable levels. But within this global picture, there are significant local and contextual variations.

Unsustainable Logging of Tree Species:

- The survival of an estimated 12% of wild tree species is threatened by unsustainable logging.
- Unsustainable gathering is one of the main threats for several plant groups, notably cacti, cycads, and orchids.
- Unsustainable hunting has been identified as a threat for 1,341 wild mammal species – with declines in large-bodied species that have low natural rates of increase also linked to hunting pressure.

Rural People are at Risk of Unsustainable Use:

- Rural people in developing countries are most at risk from unsustainable use of Wild Species, with lack of complementary alternatives often forcing them to exploit wild species already at risk.
- About 50,000 wild species are used through different practices, including more than 10,000 wild species harvested directly for human food.

Cultural Significance leading to Exploitation:

- Certain species have cultural importance as they offer multiple benefits that define tangible and intangible features of people's cultural heritage.
- The use of wild species is also a source of culturally meaningful employment for such communities and they have engaged in the trade of wild species and materials for millennia.
- Wild rice (*Zizania palustris* L.) is a cultural keystone species, providing physical, spiritual, and cultural sustenance for many indigenous peoples in the Great Lakes region of North America.

Drivers and Threats:

- Drivers such as land- and seascape changes, climate change, pollution and invasive alien species that impact the abundance and distribution of wild species, and can increase stress and challenges among the human communities that use them.

Illegal Trade:

- Global trade in wild species has expanded in volume, value, and trade networks over the past four decades.
- Illegal trade in wild species represents the third largest class of all illegal trade – with estimated annual values of up to USD199 billion. Timber and fish make up the largest volumes and value of illegal trade in wild species.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Integration of diverse value systems, equitable distribution of costs and benefits, changes in cultural norms and social values and effective institutions and governance systems** can facilitate the sustainable use of wild species in future.
- Addressing the causes of unsustainable use and, wherever possible reversing these trends, will result in better outcomes for wild species and the people who depend on them.
- **Bringing scientists and indigenous people together** to learn from each other will strengthen the sustainable use of wild species.
- In fishing, **fixing current inefficiencies, reducing illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing**, suppressing harmful financial subsidies, supporting small-scale fisheries, adapting to changes in oceanic productivity due to climate change, and proactively creating effective transboundary institutions will help sustainable use.
- In logging this would entail **management and certification of forests for multiple uses**, technological innovations to reduce waste in manufacturing of wood products, and economic and political initiatives that recognize the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including land tenure.

PRELIMS FACTS

HEAT INDEX

- Due to **high humidity and lack of rain**, the temperature in Delhi felt like 52 (on Heat Index) degree Celsius though the measured high was 39 degrees Celsius.
- Heat index, also known as **apparent temperature**, refers to the **temperature felt by the human body when relative humidity is combined with the air temperature**.
- On getting hot, the human body begins sweating to cool itself through evaporation.
- In the case of high humidity, i.e., **higher amount of water vapor in a water-air mixture**, the body is unable to regulate its temperature due to **decreased evaporation rate**.

PARIMAN

- The National Capital Region Planning Board (**NCRPB**) has made **PARIMAN (Geo-Portal for NCR)** open to the public.
- The PARIMAN portal covers details of various sectors like land use, transport, industries, water, power, health, shelter, heritage and tourism, disaster management etc.
- It will help to improve **decentralized planning and management in the NCR region**.

NONYLPHENOL (NP)

- A study revealed the presence of elevated levels of toxic chemical NP in drinking water across India.
- Nonylphenol is commonly used in the production of **Nonylphenol Ethoxylates (NPEs)** which is not only used in surfactants but also in day-to-day consumer products such as detergents, wetting agents, and dispersants.
- NP is an **endocrine disruptor** associated with birth defects, skin, and eye irritation etc.
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has designated NP as a **chemical of global concern**.
- In India, there are no standards exclusively for NP in drinking and surface waters.

GLACIERS IN DRASS

- The decadal pace at which glaciers are receding in the Drass region, a key battleground in Ladakh during the 1999 Kargil war, points to a grave threat to Himalayan glaciers.
- A recent study attributes this to the **growing vehicular traffic in the region**, which has been witnessing a massive military build-up on both the sides of Line of Actual Control (LAC) since 2020.
- The study is based on satellite images of 77 glaciers observed over two decades, from 2000 to 2020, in the Drass basin of the western Himalayas.
- The study reports that the glacier area decreased from 176.77 sq.km in 2000 to 171.46 sq.km in 2020, which is about 3% of the total glacier area.
- The study found that heavy vehicular movement is the main cause for the rapid pace at which glaciers are receding in the region. Debris cover had a significant impact on glacier melting, with clean glaciers losing 5% more than debris-covered glaciers.
- The study points out that 17 glaciers situated close to the highway showed higher glacier shrinkage (4.11%) and snout retreat (209 m) than the glaciers situated further away from the national highway, with glacier shrinkage (2.82%) and snout retreat (148 m).