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MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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THE HINDU Page 8

HIMALAYAN GRAY LANGUR
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

Altitude decides simians' attitude to diet

Differing elevations of habitation make one group of Himalayan Gray Langur prefer fruits and another group relish flowers, says a study published in *Journal of Threatened Taxa*

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI


The Himalayan Gray Langur mostly eats leaves. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Differences in altitude make a primate species in the same Himalayan habitat choose between flowers and fruits as food options beyond their staple menu of leaves, a new study has revealed.

The Himalayan Gray Langur or the Chamba Sacred Langur (*Semnopithecus ajax*) is a colobine, meaning leaf-eating monkey. It is considered an endangered species globally as its population is estimated to be less than 1,500 mature individuals in 15-20 groups. Three primatologists studied the diet composition of five such groups in and around the Kalatop-Khajjiar Wildlife Sanctuary in Himachal Pradesh between September and November 2020. They especially concentrated on two groups, one inhabiting the Kalatop forest at an average altitude of 2,396 metres, and the other based in the Khajjiar forest at an average altitude of 2,188 metres.

The domains of the two groups were only 208 metres apart, but the altitudinal gap made a huge difference when the monkeys took a break from feeding on the leaves of some 20 species of plants, primarily the Himalayan ivy (*Hedera nepalensis*) and the Himalayan oak (*Quercus oblongata*).

While the Kalatop group satisfied their craving for something different by feeding on flowers, the Khajjiar group ate fruits for a change of taste. Flowers and fruits constituted 11.11% and 15.49% of the diet of the two groups respectively. The preference for fruits or flowers "may depend upon the difference in their distribution in terms of elevation and availability of a particular plant part", said the study published in the *Journal of Threatened Taxa*.

The study was conducted by Rupali Thakur and Kranti Yardi of the Pune-based Bharati Vidyapeeth Institute of Environment Education and Research, and P. Vishal Ahuja of the Wildlife Information Liaison Department and Zoo Outreach Organisation based at Hardaspura in Himachal Pradesh's Chamba district. Apart from recommending a census for the Himalayan Gray Langur in the district, the scientists advocated a further long-term study for a comparison of diet and behaviour in the forested groups and the urbanised groups of this primate species.

Context: Differing elevations of habitation make one group of Himalayan Gray Langur prefer fruits and another group relish flowers, says a study.

Himalayan Gray Langur

- **About:** Also called Hanuman langurs and Hanuman monkeys, are Old World monkeys native to the Indian subcontinent constituting the **genus Semnopithecus.**
  - The Himalayan Gray Langur was once considered a sub-species of the Semnopithecus entellus, commonly known as the Bengal Sacred Langur or Hanuman Langur, but it was **separated as a species in 2005**.
- **Habitat**: Found both in **forests and near human habitations**.
  - It is distributed in a varied habitat including **dry savannah and tropical rainforests**.
  - Most species are **found at low to moderate altitudes**, but the Nepal gray langur and Kashmir gray langur occur up to 4,000 m (13,000 ft) in the Himalayas.
- **Distribution**: Its 16 subspecies' range extends from the **Himalayas in the north to peninsular** India in the south.
  - In the Indian Subcontinent, their distribution is reported in **Bhutan, northern India and Nepal.**
- **Protection Status:**
  - **IUCN Red List:** Least Concern
  - **CITES**: Appendix-1
    - Appendix-1 lists species that are in danger of extinction. It prohibits commercial trade of these plants and animals except in extraordinary situations for scientific or educational reasons.
  - **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972** : Schedule-1
    - Species under the Schedule 1 are prohibited to be hunted throughout India, except under threat to human life.

BUSINESS STANDARD
Page 4

WHEAT PRODUCTION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy & Agriculture)

Context: Wheat sowing rose by almost 10 per cent during the week ended November 11 as against the same period last year with higher acreage reported from Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh among the major wheat growing states.

Wheat Production

- **Global Status:** China is the top producer.
  - **Top 3 wheat producer**: China>India>Russia.
    - Ukraine is the world's eighth-largest producer of wheat.
  - **Largest exporter: Russia** is the world's largest exporter of wheat.
  - **Top five exporting countries**: Russia > United States > Canada > France > Ukraine.
  - **Largest importer:** Egypt is the world's biggest importer of wheat.
- **India's Status**: India is the **second largest producer of wheat** (Around 13.5% of world total production).
  - **Total production:** India produces around 107 MT of wheat annually while a major chunk of it goes towards domestic consumption.
  - **Less export**: India accounts for even less than 1% in world wheat export.
    - Its share has increased from 0.14% in 2016 to 0.54% in 2020.
  - **Under MSP:** Wheat is covered under Minimum Support Price.
  - **Cereal Crop**: Second most important cereal crop in India after rice.
  - **Top Wheat Producing States:** Uttar Pradesh > Punjab > Haryana>Madhya Pradesh > Rajasthan> Bihar>Gujarat

Wheat Crop

- **Rabi crop:** Requires a cool growing season and bright sunshine at the time of ripening.
- **Temperature:** Between 10-15°C (Sowing time) and 21-26°C (Ripening & Harvesting) with bright sunlight.
- **Rainfall**: Around 75-100 cm.
- **Soil Type:** Well-drained fertile loamy and clayey loamy (Ganga-Satluj plains and black soil region of the Deccan).

WHEAT ACREAGE ALMOST 10 % MORE THAN LAST YEAR

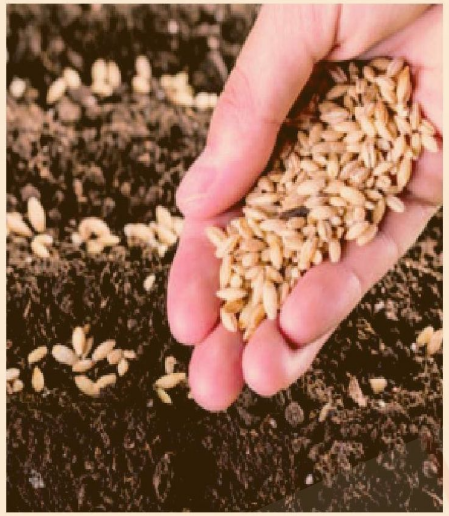
Wheat sowing rose by almost 10 per cent during the week ended November 11 as against the same period last year with higher acreage reported from Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh among the major wheat-growing states. Usually, in the full season, wheat is planted in 30.5-31 million hectares every year and in 2022 the talk is that acreage might rise by 10-15 per cent due to favourable market conditions.

The rise in acreage under wheat and other main rabi crops like mustard has created a temporary shortage of main fertilisers like DAP and urea in the market with farmers hurrying to plant crops early to take advantage of residual soil moisture.

However, the government and fertiliser company officials have said nutrient supplies are adequate.Till Friday, rabi crops were planted in around 18 million hectares, 5.51 per cent more than in the same period last year.

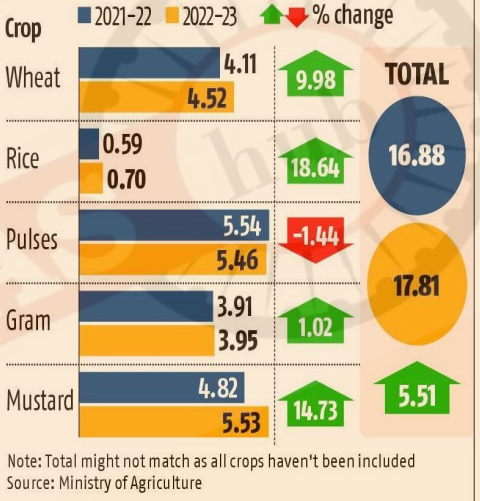
Meanwhile, wheat prices have touched a new high of almost ₹2,700 per quintal in North Indian markets due to high demand and no release of government stocks through open market sales.

SANJEEB MUKHERJEE



TRACKING THE FIELDS

Rabi sowing as on November 11 (in million hectares)



Note: Total might not match as all crops haven't been included
Source: Ministry of Agriculture

INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 1

APPOINTMENT OF SC JUDGES

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

Explain delay in appointment of judges: SC to Govt

'Keeping names on hold… a device to compel persons to withdraw names'

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 11

UNDERLINING THAT the government is bound to accept the Collegium's reiteration of its decision on appointment of judges, the Supreme Court issued notice Friday and sought a response from the Ministry of Law and Justice over delays in appointing judges.

"Needless to say that unless the Bench is adorned by competent lawyers, the very concept of Rule of Law and Justice suffers. In the elaborate procedure from taking inputs from the Government post recommendation from the Collegium of the High Court, the Supreme Court Collegium bestowing consideration on the names, there are enough checks and balances," the Court said.

A bench comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Abhay Oka issued a "simple notice" to the Justice Secretary and the Additional Secretary (Administration and Appointment) in the Ministry of Law and Justice to respond before November 28.

As the second-most senior judge of the SC, Justice Kaul is also part of the Collegium headed by CJI D Y Chandrachud.

The Supreme Court noted that currently there are 10 recommendations pending with the government where the Collegium has reiterated its decision on appointment of a candidate as a judge of the HC. Separately, it noted that 11 names recommended by the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Context: Underlining that the government is bound to accept the Collegium reiteration of its decision on appointment of judges, the Supreme Court issued notice and sought a response from the Ministry of Law and Justice over delays in appointing judges.

Appointment of SC Judges

- **Constitutional provisions**: The procedure to appoint judges to the Supreme Court of India is listed under clause 2 of Article 124 of the country's Constitution.
  - Every Judge of the Supreme Court shall be **appointed by the President**.
  - In judicial appointments, it is **obligatory for the President** to take into account the opinion of the CJI.
  - The opinion of the CJI is **binding on the Government.**
  - The opinion of the CJI must be formed after due **consultation with a collegium of at least four senior-most judges** of the Supreme Court.
  - Even if **two judges give an adverse opinion,** then he should not send the recommendation to the Government.
- **Eligibility Criteria for Supreme Court Judge:** Article 124 (3) says that in order to be appointed as a judge in the Supreme Court of India, the person has to fit in the following criteria:
  - He/She is a citizen of India and
    - has been for at least 5 years a Judge of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession; or
    - has been for at least 10 years an advocate of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession; or
    - is, in the opinion of the President, a distinguished jurist.
- **Memorandum of Procedure (MoP)**: Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) is an **agreement between the Government and the judiciary** that has a set of guidelines for the appointment of judges of supreme court/
  - The MoP was **formulated after the Third Judges Case (1998)** in order to govern the process of how the Collegium System would make recommendations to the executive.
  - The **Collegium System of the Supreme court of India** deals with the Appointment and transfer of Judges. It ensures that there **won't be any interference of any branch of the state** including the Executive and the Legislature in the appointment and transfer of Judges.

LIVEMINT Page 16

NATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING AUTHORITY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

NFRA sets norms to inspect audit cos

Gireesh Chandra Prasad
gireesh.p@livemint.com
NEW DELHI



The norms are along the lines of best practices followed by global regulators. ISTOCK

Audit regulator, the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA), on Friday brought out a set of guidelines for monitoring the audit firms' quality and compliance standards.

NFRA said the audit quality inspections will bring systemic improvement in the financial reporting framework in India. Audit inspections are distinct from investigations, but the inspections often forms the basis for initiating a probe.

Quality inspection guidelines is a step towards further improving quality of the audit profession, NFRA said.

The guidelines are along the lines of best practices followed by global regulators. NFRA said audit quality inspections are integral to the functioning of independent audit regulators, world-wide.

The International Forum for Independent Audit regulators (IFIAR), which comprises independent audit regulators from 54 countries, requires that audit regulators, should conduct recurring inspections of audit firms to certify financial statements of public interest entities to assess compliance with applicable professional standard, independence requirements and other rules, laws and regulations.

NFRA said inspections are intended to identify areas and opportunities for improving the system of quality control. Inspections consist of firm-wide review of audit quality and individual file reviews to evaluate the level of compliance with applicable auditing standards and quality control policy and processes.

NFRA clarified that inspections by nature, are distinct from investigations. However, in certain cases, test-check by the inspection teams may provide basis for enforcement or investigation under applicable provisions of law.

"Audit quality inspections will provide an opportunity for feedback and course correction to the audit firms and at the same time foster a greater mutual understanding of the policies and procedures that underlie audit quality management," NFRA added.

Inspections are intended to bring about systemic improvements in the overall financial reporting framework, it said.

In response to a consultation paper it had brought out in 2021, many suggested that onsite inspection of the firms by NFRA will help inspection teams familiarize themselves with the ways of audit firms and enable audit firms to comply with auditing standards, the regulator said.

Context: Audit regulator, the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA), on Friday brought out a set of guidelines for monitoring the audit firms' quality and compliance standards.

National Financial Reporting Authority

- **About**: An independent regulator set up to oversee the a**uditing profession and the Indian Accounting Standards.**
- **Origin**: Constituted in 2018 by the Government of India under section 132 (1) of the **Companies Act, 2013.**
- **Headquarter**: New Delhi.
- **Nodal Ministry**: Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
    - Its account is monitored by the **Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.**
- **Members**: Consists of a chairperson, who shall be a person of eminence and having expertise in accountancy, auditing, finance or law, appointed by the Central Government and such other members not exceeding 15.
- **Powers & duties**: Responsible for recommending **accounting and auditing policies and standards** in the country, undertaking investigations, and imposing sanctions against defaulting auditors and audit firms in the form of monetary penalties and debarment from practice for up to 10 years.
- **NFRA Rules, 2018:** The powers of the NFRA were extended to include the governing of auditors of companies listed in any stock exchange, in **India or outside of India,** unlisted public companies above certain thresholds, and other companies specified in the rules.
    - It allow for the monitoring of accounting and auditing professionals of the companies referred to in rules.
    - Companies under rules are required to disclose information of their auditors to the NFRA.

ECONOMIC TIMES

Page 1

INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)



Industrial Output Grows 3.1% in Sept

Economists expect growth to remain muted in the coming months

Our Bureau

New Delhi: India's industrial production swung into the green in September at 3.1% growth, recovering from a 0.7% contraction in the preceding month, though the rebound was less than expected as manufacturing disappointed.

Economists said lacklustre growth just ahead of the festive season points to weak demand in the economy, pencilling in modest performance in the months ahead.

Rating agency ICRA had forecast a 5.1% rise in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) in September.

In terms of the three broad constituents of IIP, manufacturing grew a tepid 1.8%, mining rose 4.6% and electricity generation surged 11.6% in the month.

"Consumer durables have registered contraction in the past two months, which is a period when manufacturers ramp up white goods production to meet festive demand," India Ratings said in a note, citing it as a sign of weak demand in the economy.

Consumer durables production contracted 4.5% in September from a year earlier while the consumer non-durables shrinkage deepened to 7.1%.

MOODY'S PARES INDIA GROWTH FOR 2022 TO 7% ▸▸ PAGE 7

"There is disappointment again when it comes to consumer goods with both durable and non-durable de-growing (contracting) which was not expected considering that industry would have been expected to be ready for the festival sale," said Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at Bank of Baroda.

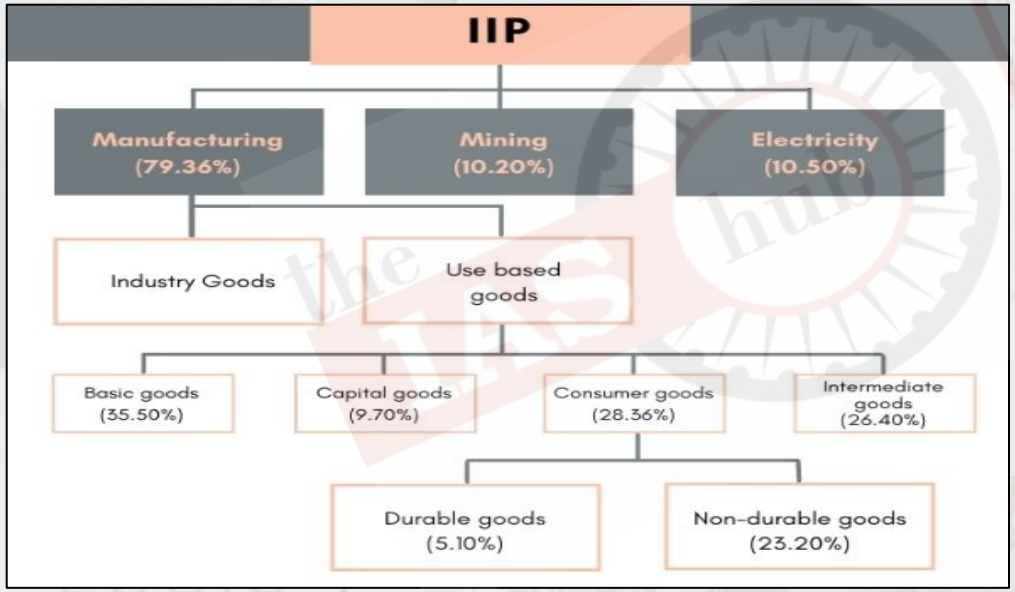
Capital goods output, an indicator of investments, jumped 10.3%.

'Eight-quarter Low of 1.5% in Q2' ▸▸ 9

Direct Tax Collections up 31% to ₹10.54 Lcr

India's direct tax collections have increased 30.69% YoY to 10.54 lakh crore till November 10 in this financial year, showed government data. Direct tax collections, net of refunds, stood at 8.71 lakh crore or 25.71% higher YoY. ▸▸ 7

Passenger Vehicle Sales Grow 29% in October ▸▸ 6



Context: India's industrial growth, measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), recorded a growth of 3.1 per cent in September, as against a contraction of 0.7 per cent in August.

Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

- **About**: An index which **shows the growth rates** in different industry groups of the economy in a stipulated period of time.
- **Official Definition given by Central Statistical Organisation (CSO):** It is a composite indicator that measures the short-term changes in the volume of production of a basket of industrial products during a given period with respect to that in a chosen base period.
- **Compiled and published**: By the **National Statistical Office** (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation) on monthly basis.
- **Base Year**: 2011-2012 (previous base year was 2004 - 05)
- **Classification**: Measures the growth rate of industry groups classified under,
  - **Broad sectors**: Mining, Manufacturing and Electricity
  - **Use-based sectors**: Basic Goods, Capital Goods and Intermediate Goods.
- **8 core industry:** The eight core industries of India represent about **40% of the weight of items** that are included in the IIP.
  - **Weightage (in descending order):** Refinery Products> Electricity> Steel> Coal> Crude Oil> Natural Gas> Cement> Fertilizers.
- **Significance**: It is the **only measure of the physical volume of production.**
  - The Index is used by government agencies and departments such as the Finance Ministry and the RBI for policy making.
- **IIP Latest Change**
  - **Some new items introduced**: Refined palm oil, Surgical accessories and Cement clinkers.
  - **Some items removed**: Chewing tobacco, Toothbrush, Calculators, Fans, Watches and Pens.

TIMES OF INDIA

Page 13

DRUGS AND MAGIC REMEDIES ACT 1954

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Government Policies & Interventions)

U'khand halts manufacture of 5 drugs of Patanjali unit

Anti-Ayurveda Plot, Says Co, Plans Legal Action

Sheo S Jaiswal & Tanmayee Tyagi | TNN

Haridwar/Dehradun: The Ayurveda and Unani Licensing Authority (AULA) of Uttarakhand has halted manufacture of five drugs by Divya Pharmacy, a unit of yoga guru Ramdev's Patanjali Ayurveda. Patanjali in a statement slammed the move as "an anti-Ayurveda conspiracy by drug mafia cartels," and has sought punitive action against the culprits, threatening legal action.

The drugs whose manufacturing has been halted include medicines for blood pressure (BPgrit), diabetes (Madhugrit), goitre (Thyrogrit), glaucoma (Eyegrit) and high cholesterol (Lipidom).

The move follows a complaint filed in July by Kerala-based ophthalmologist KV Babu, who alleged that Divya Pharmacy had "repeatedly violated the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954; the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945." The complaint was made again on October 11, alleging that advertisements about the medicines preventing or curing disorders like BP, glaucoma, goitre, diabetes etc was being done in contravention of the Acts.

iStock



The drugs whose manufacturing has been halted include medicines for blood pressure, goitre, glaucoma, high cholesterol & diabetes

Uttarakhand drug controller GCS Jangapangi, who issued a letter to Divya Pharmacy on November 9, told **TOI**, "Samples of the five medicines are undergoing pharmaceutical tests. Till the time the results are out, which should happen in a day or two, we have asked Patanjali to stop manufacture. They are complying with the instructions so far. We have not placed any ban on the sale of these five products in the market. Once the products clear the testing, they will be permitted to resume production." He described the action as "fairly routine."

Meanwhile, Patanjali officials said that they had not received any letter from AULA and dismissed it as a "smear tactic". In a statement, Patanjali termed the move "part of a conspiracy on Ayurveda by the drug mafia, which Patanjali won't allow to succeed".

They further said "in a letter written to AULA on September 30, 2022, the question regarding 'objectionable advertisements' was already answered." The letter refuted the charge that "formulations mentioned in the labels of the drugs are different from those approved" by AULA. "The formulations are the same as had been approved," the letter said.

Patanjali further maintained in its statement that, "arbitrary action against the pharmacy has been taken in violation of high court orders." It said it has requested the department to "rectify its mistake and proceed against those involved in the conspiracy." "Otherwise, we will take recourse to law to get the guilty punished," it said.

Context: The Ayurveda and Unani Licensing Authority (AULA) of Uttarakhand has halted manufacture of five drugs by Divya Pharmacy, a unit of yoga guru Ramdev's Patanjali Ayurveda.

Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisement) Act 1954

- **About:** An Act of the Parliament of India which **controls the advertising of drugs in India.**
- **Key feature**: It prohibits advertisements of drugs and remedies that claim to have **magical properties** and makes doing so a **cognizable offense.**
  - As per the Act, advertisement is **prohibited for drugs for 54 diseases**, disorders, and conditions.
- **Definition of the magic remedy under the act**: The act defines "magic remedy" as any talisman, mantra, amulet, or any other object which is **claimed to have miraculous powers** to cure, diagnose, prevent or mitigate disease in humans or animals.
  - It also includes such devices that are **claimed to have the power to influence the structure or function of an organ** in humans or animals.
- **Prohibition**: The law prohibits the advertising of drugs and remedies for:
  - Inducing miscarriage or preventing conception in women.
  - Improving or maintaining the capacity for sexual pleasure.
  - Correction of menstrual disorders.
  - Curing, diagnosing or preventing any disease or condition mentioned in an included schedule.
- **Penalty**: Under the Act, the first conviction is punishable with imprisonment of up to six months, and a fine.
  - A subsequent conviction may result in imprisonment of up to a year, and a fine.

PIB

Nov 12

NADAPRABHU KEMPEGOWDA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Personality in News)

PM unveils 108-feet-long bronze statue of Sri Nadaprabhu Kempegowda in Bengaluru

Context: The Prime Minister unveiled a 108-feet-long bronze statue of Sri Nadaprabhu Kempegowda in Bengaluru.

Key Points

- The statue is built **to commemorate the contribution of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda**, the founder of the city, towards the growth of Bengaluru.
- **Conceptualised and sculpted by Ram V Sutar** of the Statue of Unity fame, 98 tonnes of bronze and 120 tonnes of steel have gone into making this statue.

Nadaprabhu Hiriya Kempe Gowda

- **About**: He was a chieftain under the Vijayanagara Empire and ruled over most parts of Karnataka in the 16th century.
  - He was born in 1513 in a village near Yelahanka and belonged to **Gowda community**.
- **Contribution and Achievements:**
  - **Founder of Bangalore City**: He visualized a city with military cantonment, water tanks, temples etc. that provide employment to tradesmen.
  - **Art and Literature**: He authored **Gangagaurivilasa**, a yakshagana play in Telugu, the court-language of the time.
  - **Coins**: In the 1550s, Kempe Gowda struck coins known as **Pagodas**.
  - **Social reforms:** Prohibited the custom of amputating the last two fingers of the left hand of the unmarried women during "**Bandi Devaru**", an important custom of Morasu Vokkaligas.



PIB

Nov 12

SOLAR ENERGY CORPORATION OF INDIA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy & Infrastructure)

Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) participates in COP 27, Egypt

Context: Delegation of Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) visited to COP 27, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)

- **About**: A **not-for-profit company** established in 2011 under the Companies Act 1956.
  - It is the **only Central Public Sector Undertaking (PSU)** dedicated to the solar energy sector.
- **Renamed**: The company's mandate has been broadened to cover the entire renewable energy domain and has been renamed to **Renewable Energy Corporation of India (RECI) in 2015.**
- **Other changes**: SECI **converted into a Section 3 Company** from being a Section 8 Company under the Companies Act, 2013.
  - **Significance**: With this SECI will be a self-sustaining and self-generating organisation.
    - It can own solar power plants for generating and selling power, participate in solar sector activities like manufacturing of solar products and materials.
- **Nodal Ministry**: Ministry of **New and Renewable Energy.**
- **Functions**: Responsible for implementation of a number of government schemes, major ones being the **Viability Gap Funding Schemes** for large-scale grid-connected projects under NSM, solar park scheme and grid-connected solar rooftop scheme, along with a host of other specialised schemes such as defence scheme, solar canals, and Indo-Pak border scheme.

DTE

Nov 12

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)



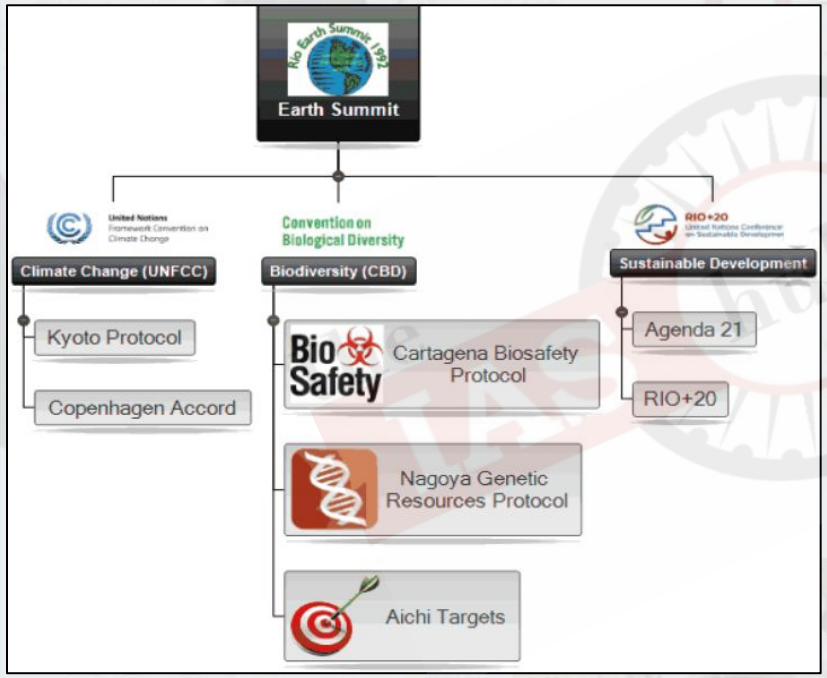
WILDLIFE & BIODIVERSITY

Over 10,000 to attend UN biodiversity convention next month

Clear mandates needed from delegates for a biodiversity framework that is strong and yet implementable

NEXT NEWS >

By Vibha Varshney
Published: Friday 11 November 2022



Context: The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has garnered huge interest from stakeholders and more than 10,000 delegates are expected to attend the conference.

- The event is less than a month away and will be held in Montreal, Canada.

Convention on Biological Diversity

- **About**: A **United Nations treaty** that is responsible for the conservation of Biological Diversity around the world.
- **Origin**: It is a multilateral treaty opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio De Janeiro in 1992 and and **entered into force on 29 December 1993.**
  - It comes under the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**.
- **Governing body**: The **Conference of Parties (COP)** is the governing body of the convention. It consists of the governments that have ratified the treaty.
  - Its Secretariat is in **Montreal, Canada.**
- **Members**: 196 countries are a party to the CBD.
  - The **United States** is the only UN member state which has **not ratified the Convention.**
  - **India is also a party** to the Convention and ratified it in 1994.
- **Key features**: The convention is **legally binding** on its signatories.
- **3 main goals**:
  - The conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity).
  - The sustainable use of its components.
  - The fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources.
- **2 supplementary agreements**:
  - **Cartagena Protocol**: An international treaty governing the movements of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology from one country to another.
  - **Nagoya Protocol**: It provides a transparent legal framework for the effective implementation of one of the three objectives of the CBD: the **fair and equitable sharing of benefits** arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

DTE

Nov 12

LUMPY SKIN DISEASE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)



HEALTH

Lumpy Skin Disease outbreak shows livestock diseases are not just about animals; here is why

Down To Earth reports from Rajasthan and Delhi on how outbreaks like Lumpy Skin Disease have harsh economic and food security implications and can pose a major threat to human health

NEXT NEWS >

By Shagun, Snigdha Das
Published: Friday 11 November 2022



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

WHAT IS LSD?
➤ Lumpy skin disease affects cows and buffaloes. It is caused by Capripoxvirus

HOW DOES IT TRANSMIT?
➤ It is transmitted between animals by direct contact

DOES IT SPREAD TO HUMANS?
➤ No, the spread is limited to bovines

Treatment | Immunity boosters and treatment for secondary infections

Context: Down To Earth reports from Rajasthan and Delhi on how outbreaks like Lumpy Skin Disease have harsh economic and food security implications and can pose a major threat to human health.

Key Points

- **Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying report**: As of September, the disease has claimed nearly **0.1 million head of cattle and infected over 2 million in 251 districts** across 16 states, according to the
- **UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) report**: Cows with **high milk production** are usually the most severely affected by lumpy skin disease.
- **Twin threat:** Lumpy skin disease has wreaked havoc in India at a time when the country is faced with outbreak of another livestock disease - **African swine fever** - a highly contagious haemorrhagic viral infection that afflicts domestic and wild pigs and boars with a 100 percent mortality rate.
    - African swine fever was **first reported in Kenya in 1921 a**nd has since spread to Europe, Russia, China and Myanmar. India had managed to avert the virus for a century, with the first case only reported in 2020.
- **India's status:** Bengaluru's National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology and Disease Informatics (NIVEDI), the only institute in the country that monitors and conducts surveillance of animal diseases, has **identified 13 priority livestock diseases.**
    - **Lumpy skin disease and African swine fever** are not yet in the list.
    - These 13 have become endemic to the country and are highly contagious, with a high mortality rate.

Lumpy Skin Disease

- **About**: A poxvirus that belongs to the same genus as **sheep pox and goat pox viruses.**
- **Origin**: Lumpy skin disease was first seen as an epidemic in **Zambia** in 1929.
- **Transmission**: It spreads through blood-sucking insects like mosquitoes, flies and ticks as well as through saliva and contaminated water and food.
- **Mortality rate:** According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the mortality rate is less than 10%.
- **Symptoms:** It primarily **consists of fever, fluid excretion from eyes and nose,** dribbling of saliva from the mouth and blisters on the body.
    - The animal **stops eating and faces problems** while chewing or eating, resulting in reduced milk production.
- **Prevention and Treatment:** Though there is **no cure, the disease has preventive vaccines**, which the state governments are trying to administer to cattle populations.
    - Currently, the country uses the **goat pox vaccine** to protect against lumpy skin disease.
    - In August, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) announced an indigenous vaccine for the disease, which has been approved for use. But its **commercial production is yet to begin.**

THANK YOU!

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