

**31 August 2018****Dialy News Pedia*****India's National Redd+ Strategy.***

(GS prelims and mains 3 – Environment)

**Environment Minister Releases India's National Redd+ Strategy.
"Cooperation of Society in Implementation of Redd+ Strategy is Crucial"**

Reiterating India's commitment to Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr. Harsh Vardhan has emphasised that the cooperation and involvement of the tribals, other forest dwelling people and the society as a whole, is crucial for the implementation of the REDD+ strategy.

India's National REDD+ strategy is one of the tools to achieve India's commitment to Paris Agreement.

In simple terms, REDD+ means "Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation", conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries. REDD+ aims to achieve climate change mitigation by incentivizing forest conservation. The strategy seeks to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and also developing a roadmap for enhancement of forest carbon stocks and achieving sustainable management of forests through REDD+ actions. The National REDD+ Strategy will soon be communicated to the UNFCCC.

Paris agreement on climate change also recognizes role of forests in climate change mitigation and calls upon country Parties to take action to implement and support REDD+. India has communicated in its Nationally Determined Contribution under Paris Agreement, that it will capture 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of Carbon dioxide through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

India's first biennial update report to UNFCCC has revealed that forests in India capture about 12% of India's total GHG emissions. Thus, forestry sector in India is making a positive cost effective contribution for climate change mitigation.

Complying with the UNFCCC decisions on REDD+, India has prepared its National REDD+ Strategy.

The Strategy builds upon existing national circumstances which have been updated in line with India's National Action Plan on Climate Change, Green India Mission and India's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to UNFCCC.

Innovation Cell.

(GS prelims and mains 2, 3 – Governance, Science and Technology)

Innovation Cell launched by M/o HRD to foster culture of innovation in Higher Education Institutions. Innovation cell is MHRD's initiative and has been established at AICTE premises with a purpose to systematically foster the culture of Innovation in all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across the country.

The primary mandate of Innovation Cell is to encourage, inspire and nurture young students by exposing them to new ideas and processes resulting in innovative activities in their formative years fostered through Network of Innovation clubs in Higher Educational Institutions.

The Union Minister also said that 21st century is century of Innovation, and the Prime Minister of India has called the decade 2010-20 as the 'Decade of Innovation', to unleash the creative potential of every Indian. India has already been improving on global stage in terms of Innovation ranking from 86th place, 5 years ago, to 57th place this year.

1st SAARC Agri Cooperative Business Forum Begins In Kathmandu

(GS prelims and mains 2 – Governance, International Relations)

The First South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Agri Cooperative Business Forum has begun in Kathmandu, Nepal. The theme of three-day Forum is the 'Organizing and Strengthening Family Farmers' Cooperatives to attain the Sustainable-Development-Goals-1 and 2 in South Asia'.

It is being co-organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and Asian Farmers' Association with the support from the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

About SAARC



The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is the regional intergovernmental organization and geopolitical union of nations in South Asia.

its member states include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, the Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. SAARC comprises 3% of the world's area, 21% of the world's population and 3.8% (US\$2.9 trillion)^[3] of the global economy, as of 2015.

SAARC was founded in Dhaka on 8 December 1985

Its secretariat is based in Kathmandu, Nepal. The organization promotes development of economic and regional integration

It launched the South Asian Free Trade Area in 2006. SAARC maintains permanent diplomatic relations at the United Nations as an observer and has developed links with multilateral entities, including the European Union.

Mukurthi National Park

(GS Prelims and mains 3 – Environment and Biodiversity)

Mukurthi National Park (MNP) is protected area located in the western corner of the Nilgiris Plateau west of Ootacamund hill station in the northwest corner of Tamil Nadu state in the Western Ghats mountain range of South India.

It is home to an array of endangered wildlife viz. royal Bengal tiger, Asian elephant, Nilgiri langur, Bonhote's mouse, Nilgiri tahr, etc. The park is a part of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, India's first International Biosphere Reserve.

NILGIRI TAHR

(GS Prelims and mains 3 – Environment and Biodiversity)

State animal of Tamil Nadu

Habitat :Open montane grassland habitat of the South Western Ghats montane rain forests ecoregion. Endemic to the Nilgiri Hills and the southern portion of the Western Ghats in the states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala in Southern India (ex: Anamalai Hills, Palni Hills). Only species of Caprine ungulate that is found south of the Himalayas in India.

Threats

Habitat loss (mainly from domestic livestock and spread of invasive plants)
Poaching. Populations of these animals are small and isolated, making them vulnerable to local extinction. Currently, the only populations with more than 300 individuals are in Eravikulam National Park and in the Grass Hills in Anamalai.

Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972

Note: Adult males develop a light grey area or “saddle” on their backs and are hence called “saddlebacks”.

Nilgiri tahr



Male (left)



Female

Eravikulam National Park, Kerala, India

Conservation status



Endangered (IUCN 3.1)^[1]

EDITORIAL

To read.

TADA to UAPA, what India's terror laws say?

Pune Police have said that five prominent human rights activists are being investigated for offences under The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967, a tough anti-terror law that was last amended in 2012 to give sweeping

powers to law-enforcement agencies. Here is how India's central laws against terrorism have evolved over the years.

TADA

The Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1987, was at one time the main law used in cases of terrorism and organised crime, but due to rampant misuse, it was allowed to lapse in 1995. The Act defined a "terrorist act" and "disruptive activities", put restrictions on the grant of bail, and gave enhanced power to detain suspects and attach properties. The law made a confession before a police officer admissible as evidence. Separate courts were set up to hear cases filed under TADA.

POTA

In wake of the 1999 IC-814 hijack and 2001 Parliament attack, there was a clamour for a more stringent anti-terror law, which came in the form of The Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA), 2002. A suspect could be detained for up to 180 days by a special court. The law made fundraising for the purpose of terrorism a "terrorist act". A separate chapter to deal with terrorist organisations was included. The Union government could add or remove any organisation from the schedule. However, reports of gross misuse of the Act by some state governments led to its repeal in 2004.

UAPA

In 2004, the government chose to strengthen The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. It was amended to overcome some of the difficulties in its enforcement and to update it in accordance with international commitments. By inserting specific chapters, the amendment criminalised the raising of funds for a terrorist act, holding of the proceeds of terrorism, membership of a terrorist organisation, support to a terrorist organisation, and the raising of funds for a terrorist organisation. It increased the time available to law-enforcement agencies to file a charge sheet to six months from three.

The law was amended in 2008 after the Mumbai attacks, and again in 2012. The definition of "terrorist act" was expanded to include offences that threaten economic security, counterfeiting Indian currency, and procurement of weapons, etc. Additional powers were granted to courts to provide for attachment or forfeiture of property equivalent to the value of the counterfeit Indian currency, or the proceeds of terrorism involved in the offence.

The Union Home Secretary told a Parliamentary Committee in 2012 that the proposed amendment in the principal Act was in order to comply with the guidelines of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), an inter-governmental organisation set up in 1989 to develop policies to combat money laundering and terrorist financing. India got FATF membership in 2010 on the assurance that it would make suitable amendments in the Act by March 31, 2012. Non-compliance would lead to diminution of India's stature, and the country could be placed under the "enhanced follow up procedure", which would require giving a progress report every four months to the FATF, the 160th Report of the Department-related Committee on Home Affairs noted. The report was tabled on March 28, 2012.

PRELIMS QUESTIONS

1. The Mukurthi National Park (MNP) is located in which state?

- a. Tamil Nadu.
- b. Kerala
- c. Goa.
- d. Telangana.

2. Choose the correct statement related to Nilgiri Tahr

- a. Largest population of Nilgiri Tahr is found within the *Eravikulam National Park*, Munnar, Tamil nadu.
- b. IUCN has put them in critically endangered species.
- c. The species faces competition from domestic livestock.
- d. None of the above.

3. Consider the following statements:

- 1. India's National REDD+ strategy is one of the tools to achieve India's commitment to Paris Agreement.
- 2. REDD+ aims to achieve climate change mitigation by incentivizing forest conservation

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

4. Consider the following statements:

- 1. 4th BIMSTEC Summit and International Buddhist Conclave was held in Nepal.

2. 2018 Theme is 'Towards a Peaceful Prosperous, and Sustainable Bay of Bengal Region'.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

YesUPSC