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1. Jeypore Ground Gecko included in Appendix II of the CITES (Nov. 30, 2022)

Jeypore Ground Gecko included in Appendix II of the CITES

The **Jeypore ground gecko (Cyrtodactylus jeyporensis)**, an **endemic reptile** of India, has been included in **Appendix II** of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (**CITES**).

About Jeypore Ground Gecko

- It is a wild reptile species endemic to India.
- It is a **rare species** and was first described in 1878 by Colonel Richard **Henry Beddom**, a British officer and naturalist.
- It was rediscovered by a team of researchers in 2011 after a gap of over **130 years**.
- It is found in the **Eastern Ghats** and is known to be present in four locations including southern **Odisha** and northern **Andhra Pradesh**.
- The inclusion of this species in Appendix II was **proposed by India** at the recently concluded 19th Conference of the Parties (COP19) to CITES in Panama City.
- IUCN Status: **Endangered**

Threats to this species

- Habitat loss and degradation, poaching for domestic and international trade, forest fires, tourism, quarrying and mining activity.
- This species is not included in the protection list mentioned under the **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**.

2. NITI Aayog releases study report on 'Carbon Capture to achieve net zero emission target by 2070 (Nov. 29, 2022)

NITI Aayog releases study report on 'Carbon Capture'

National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog has released a report titled '**Carbon Capture, Utilisation, and Storage Policy Framework and its Deployment Mechanism in India**' on 29 November 2022.

The report explores the importance of Carbon Capture, Utilisation, and Storage as an emission reduction strategy to meet the Net Zero target of India by 2070. The report outlines broad level policy interventions needed across various sectors for its application.

India's has **committed** through its updated nationally determined contributions (NDC) to achieve **50% of its total installed** capacity from non-fossil-based energy sources, **45%**

reduction in emission intensity by 2030 and taking steps towards achieving **Net Zero by 2070**,

It means India has to reduce the consumption of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas. However the recent study suggests that India's reliance on fossil fuel especially coal for power generation is likely to increase rather than reduce.

According to the Niti Aayog Vice Chairman **Suman Bery**, the Carbon Capture, Utilisation, and Storage (CCUS) can enable the production of clean products while still utilizing our rich endowments of coal.

Possible benefits of the CCUS

The report indicates that CCUS can provide a wide variety of opportunities to convert the captured CO₂ to different value-added products like green urea, food and beverage form application, building materials (concrete and aggregates), chemicals (methanol and ethanol), polymers (including bio-plastics).

CCUS projects will also lead to a significant employment generation. It estimates that about 750 Million tonnes per annum of carbon capture by 2050 can create employment opportunities of about **8-10 million** on full time equivalent (FTE) basis in a phased manner

Carbon Capture and Storage and Utilisation

Carbon Capture and Storage is the process of capturing the carbon dioxide which is released due to industrial activities/power generation using fossil fuels, before it is released in the atmosphere.

- The captured carbon- dioxide can be used to make commercially marketable products. This is called Capture Storage and Utilisation (CCSU). Normally it is used in enhanced oil extraction where carbon dioxide is injected in oil fields to increase their extraction efficiency.
- The first large-scale CCSU project began operating at Sleipnerin Norway in 1996.

Other Initiatives of the government in the field of CCSU

The Government of India is setting up two National Centres of Excellence in Carbon Capture and Utilisation for long-term research, design development, collaborative and capacity-building hubs for state-of-the-art research and application-oriented initiatives in the field of Carbon capture.

The two centres are:

- National Centre of Excellence in Carbon Capture and Utilisation (NCoE-CCU) at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay,
- ational Centre in Carbon Capture and Utilisation (NCCCU) at Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bengaluru .

3. A UN panel has recommended that Australia's Great Barrier Reef be listed as a World Heritage Site (Nov. 29, 2022)

Australia's Great Barrier Reef be listed as a World Heritage Site

A **United Nations panel** recommended on November 29, 2022 that **Australia's Great Barrier Reef** should be listed as a **World Heritage Site** that is "**in danger**".

Important facts

- The world's largest coral reef ecosystem has been greatly affected by climate change and ocean warming.
- Frequent bleaching events and **La Nina** are threatening the reef.
- Bleaching occurs when water gets too warm, causing corals to expel the colourful algae living in their tissues and turn white.
- **Australia's** recently elected government has pledged to spend A\$1.2 billion (\$800 million) over the coming years to protect the reef.

What are Coral reefs?

- Coral reefs are one of the most **biologically diverse marine ecosystems on Earth**.
- They play an important role in marine ecosystems and support habitats for **flora and fauna** in the ocean.
- Each coral is called a **polyp** and thousands of such polyps live together to form a colony.

About Great Barrier Reef

- It extends for **1400 miles** along the **north-east coast of Queensland, Australia** and is the world's most extensive and rich coral reef ecosystem.
- It is made up of more than **2,900 reefs and more than 900 islands**.
- It is the largest single structure in the world made by living organisms.
- This reef was selected as a **World Heritage Site in 1981**.

4. World's largest active volcano Mauna Loa erupts in Hawaii (Nov. 28, 2022)

volcano Mauna Loa erupts in Hawaii

The world's largest active volcano, Hawaii's Mauna Loa, has erupted after 40 years. The US Geological Service (USGS) has upgraded the situation from advisory to "warning" which is the highest classification for a volcanic eruption. At present the lava flow is mostly contained within the summit, but residents have been placed on alert.

Mauna Loa is located inside **Hawaii Volcanoes National Park** which covers half of the US state's Big Island. The volcano rises 13,679ft (4,169m) above sea level and spans an area of more than 2,000 sq miles (5,179 sq km).

The eruption began on 27 November 2022 night at Moku'āweoweo, the volcano's summit caldera. **Calderas** are hollows that form beneath the summit at the end of an eruption.

According to the USGS, Mauna Loa has erupted 33 times since its first documented eruption in 1843. The previous eruption in 1984 sent lava flows within 5 miles of the city of Hilo, the island's most populous town.

5. KVIC Chairman Manoj Kumar inaugurates the ambitious RE-HAB Project in Nainital (Nov. 28, 2022)

Manoj Kumar inaugurated the ambitious RE-HAB, Project

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) Chairman **Manoj Kumar** inaugurated the ambitious **RE-HAB, Project (Reducing Human Attacks using Honey Bees)** of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission at village **Chausla**, in Forest Range Fatehpur, Haldwani, District Nainital, **and Uttarakhand** on 28 November 2022. He also distributed 330 Bee-boxes, bee-colonies and toolkits along with the honey extractors to the rural beneficiaries in Chausla village.

Project RE-HAB,

Government is promoting the use of bees to discourage attacks of wild elephants on human settlements. KVIC has launched a project RE-HAB, in the states of **Assam, Uttarakhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, West Bengal, and Orissa.**

How it works

- Under Project RE-HAB, "Bee-fences" are created by setting up bee boxes in the passageways of elephants to block their entrance to human territories.
- The boxes are connected with a string so that when elephants attempt to pass through, a tug or pull causes the bees to swarm the elephant herds and dissuade them from progressing further.
- It is a cost-effective way of reducing human-wild conflicts without causing any harm to the animals.
- It is scientifically recorded that elephants are annoyed by the honey bees. Elephants also fear that the bee swarms can bite their sensitive inner side of the trunk and eyes. The collective buzz of the bees is annoying to elephants that force them to return.
- Project RE-HAB is a sub-mission of KVIC's **National Honey Mission**.
- While the Honey Mission is a programme to increase the bee population, honey production and beekeepers' income by setting up apiaries, Project RE-HAB uses bee boxes as a fence to prevent the elephant attacks.
- As a new initiative, the RE-HAB project will be run by KVIC at selected locations **for a period of one year.**

The Khadi Village and Industries Commission (KVIC)

- The Khadi Village and Industries Commission (KVIC) was set up in 1957 under the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act of 1956.
- It is under the Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises.
- It is responsible for planning, promotion, organisation, and implementation of programs for the development of Khadi and other village industries in the rural areas along with other agencies engaged in rural development wherever necessary.

Chairperson of KVIC: **Manoj Kumar**

6. Bollywood actor Jackie Shroff, Karan Kundrra join Goa CM in beach clean-up drive (Nov. 28, 2022)

Jackie Shroff, Karan Kundrra join Goa CM in beach clean-up drive

Actors Jackie Shroff and Karan Kundrra, on 28 November 2022. Joined Goa Chief Minister **Pramod Sawant** to launch the state government's '**CleanATHon**' initiative, at **Miramar Beach** in Panjim.

The 'CleanATHon' initiative was also joined by the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra Devendra Phadnavis, Amruta Fadnavis also joined the initiative.

Goa is famous for its beaches and which attracts lakhs of domestic and International tourists. Miramar Beach in Panjim is one of the most popular beaches with tourists.

For this cleanliness drive, several people gathered at the beach, dressed in black and white uniforms, to get rid of the garbage.

Goa

It is the **smallest state by area** of India located along the Arabian Sea coast.

It was earlier a colony of **Portugal and** the government of India launched **operation Vijay** to liberate Goa in 1961.

It became a Union Territory in 1962 and became the **25th State of India on 30 May 1987**.

When it became a state, Daman & Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli were separated from it and made a Union Territory.

Capital: **Panjim**

Governor: P **S Sreedharan Pillai**

7. India's proposal for enhance protection to Leith's softshell turtle adopted at wildlife summit in Panama (Nov. 25, 2022)

protection to Leith's softshell turtle

India's proposal for enhancing protection status to **Leith's softshell turtle** has been adopted at the ongoing **world wildlife conference in Panama**, the Union Environment Ministry said on 24 November.

Important facts

- India has strengthened protection to Leith's Soft-shelled Turtle under the [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species \(CITES\)](#).

- Leith's soft-shelled turtle is a large freshwater soft-shelled turtle that is **endemic to peninsular India** and is found in rivers and reservoirs.
- It has been illegally hunted and consumed within India.
- It has also been **illegally traded** abroad for the meat and its calypso.
- The population of this turtle species has been estimated to have **declined by 90%** over the past 30 years, making the species difficult to find.
- It is classified as '**critically endangered**' by the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**.
- The species is listed in **Schedule IV** of the **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**, which protects it from hunting as well as its trade.
- Placing the listing of this turtle species on **CITES Appendix I** will ensure that legal international trade in these species does not occur for commercial purposes.
- The 19th meeting of the COP for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) is being held in Panama from 14 to 25 November 2022.

8. JNPA inaugurates Continuous Marine Water Quality Monitoring Station (Nov. 23, 2022)

JNPA inaugurates Continuous Marine Water

One of the best performing **Continuous Marine water Quality Monitoring Station (CMWQMS)** in India at **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA)** in collaboration with the Department of Civil Engineering, **IIT Madras** was inaugurated on 21 November 2022.

Important facts

- Along with this, the **Electric Driven Environment Monitoring Vehicle (EV)** was formally launched.
- JNPA is committed to achieving sustainability and creating value for the business, which is reflected in economic, social and environmental parameters.
- The continuous water quality system and electrically powered monitoring vehicle will assist in sea water and air quality management in the port area and improve the environmental quality within the port area.
- JNPA will be able to reduce **green-house gas emissions** from vehicles.
- Apart from this, it will also be possible to monitor the compliance of **environmental quality** around the port estate.
- This work will be done through water quality station data, water temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, ammonia, conductivity, nitrate, salinity, TDS of sea water etc.
- The TDS of seawater is based on the sea water quality database.

- This is essential for maintaining sanitary standards in the marine environment.
- **E-Vehicles** will also monitor the existing air and noise level in JNPA.

Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA)

- Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) located in **Navi Mumbai** is the major **container handling port** in India.
- Commissioned on **26 May 1989**, the port has grown from a bulk-cargo terminal to a major container port in the country in three decades.
- JNPA is connected to over **200 ports in the world** and is ranked **26th in the list of top 100 Container Ports globally**.

9. Change in rules for Shisham based items by CITES to benefit Indian exporters (Nov. 22, 2022)

Change in rules for Shisham based items

In a major relief to the handicraft exporter from India the 19th Conference of Parties (CoP 19) to Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES) has agreed that any numbers of Shisham (Dalbergia sissoo, North Indian rosewood) timber-based items can be exported as a single consignment in a shipment without CITES permits if the weight of **each individual item of this consignment is less than 10 kg**.

The 19th meeting of the Conference of Parties to Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild fauna and flora (CITES) is being held in Panama City, Panama from 14th to 25th of November 2022.

Earlier every consignment of furniture or handicrafts weighing above 10 Kg required CITES permission which badly affected Shisham exports from India. This change in rule is expected to boost export of furniture or handicrafts made of Shisham from India and will benefit 50,000 artisans who work on it.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was set up in 1973 to help protect wild flora and fauna from extinction by requiring government permits for international trade in threatened wildlife and wildlife products.

At present **184 countries** are its members.

The **first meeting** of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora was held in **Berne, Switzerland** in 1976.

The **18th meeting** was held in **Geneva, Switzerland** in 2019.

10. BASIC group ministerial meeting held at the COP27 in Egypt (Nov. 15, 2022)

The Ministers of **Brazil, South Africa, India** and **China** (BASIC group) met on 15 November 2022 at the 27th Conference of Parties (COP 27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in **Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.**

The meeting was **chaired by the South African Environment minister Barbara Creecy** and was attended by the Indian Environment minister **Bhupendra Yadav**, Brazilian Environment minister **Joaquim Leite**, Chinese special envoy on Climate change **XIE Zhenhua**.

Currently South Africa is the chairman of the BASIC group and it rotates annually amongst the member countries.

The ministers pledged their full support to the Egyptian COP27 Presidency for a successful conference. They emphasised the principle of common but different responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of national circumstances.

They expressed concern that the developed countries are not keeping up their promise of providing **USD 100 billion per year financial aid** to the Developing countries to deal with the adverse effect of climate change. In the **15th Conference of Parties** meeting at Copenhagen, Denmark in 2009. The developed countries had promised such aid to the developing countries.

BASIC Group

The BASIC Group of countries was formed by India, Brazil, South Africa and China in November 2009 just before the 15th Conference of Parties (COP) meeting at Copenhagen, Denmark in 2009.

The group was formed so as to collectively bargain with the Developed countries on issues such as reduction of greenhouse gasses and need of climate financing.

Brazil, South Africa, India and China together have **one-third of the world's geographical area** and nearly **40% of the world's population**.

China is the largest emitter of Carbon dioxide in the world and **India is the third largest** .The United States is the second largest emitter of Carbon dioxide in the world.