

**DAILY
CURRENT
AFFAIRS
ANALYSIS**

 LAKSHYA ACADEMY®

31 AUGUST 2023

1 - State of India's Birds (SoIB) report:

GS III

Topic → Environmental Conservation related issues

- **Context:**
- Numerous bird species in India are declining or are predicted to decline in the future, according to a survey.
- **As per the report, the bird population of India is primarily vulnerable to:**
- **The shifting climate**
- **Phenotypic discrepancies**
- Climate change disrupts species relationships, which impacts avian survival and reproduction due to phenological incompatibilities.
- It takes place when annual events including mating, nesting, and migration occur at irregular times.
- There may be deadly conflicts with other species if birds and their prey don't migrate, reproduce, or emerge at the appropriate times of the year.
- **Adaptive modifications:**
- Birds that are sedentary need to quickly adjust to the increasing temperatures.
- For example, Amazonian birds reduced their body weight during a 50-year span in order to dissipate heat more efficiently.
- **Modification of behaviour:**
- Furthermore, heat causes birds to change how they behave.
- They often spend more time seeking shade than they do actually foraging for food.
- This can make it harder for them to live and breed.
- **Unexpected relationships:**

- Climate change results in new and potentially dangerous interactions between species.
- Hawaii is a good example, where rising mercury levels have caused mosquito populations to soar at greater elevations.
- As a result, malaria has now spread to mountain birds.

- **Cities Growing:**

- **Diminished habitat:**

- The most urbanised regions of India are home to the fewest species of birds, unique species, and insectivorous species.
- The reason for this is that birds become more vulnerable to air pollution, intense heat, and the loss of their native habitats due to urbanisation.

- **Degradation:**

- Birds that are exposed to noise pollution in urban areas may sing more loudly, at other frequencies, or, in the worst situation, may completely abandon suitable habitat.
- Because of the light pollution, they could get lost and confused and bump into buildings.

- **Disappearance of particular bird species:**

- Bird groups are homogenised because only species with dominating behavioural patterns, such as feral Rock Pigeons and House Crows, can thrive in urban environments.

- **Single-cultures:**

- Monoculture is the practise of utilising only one type of seed in a field.
- In recent years, commercial monoculture farms of rubber, coffee, and tea have expanded dramatically in India.
- Oil palm plantations have expanded across the country, with growth hotspots being the northeastern Himalayas and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- These plants are detrimental to birds' health.
- Natural forests are known to host more bird species within the same biome than commercial monocultures.
- For example, oil palm farms in Mizoram sustain only 14% of the bird species found in equivalent rainforests.
- Teak plantations may be home to only half of the total species of woodpeckers found in Uttarakhand's sal forests.

- **Energy infrastructure:**

- **The turbines**

- Some countries have started to generate electricity through the use of renewable resources.
- It has led to an increase in wind turbines in a country like India.
- Despite being safe for the environment, wind turbines are beginning to threaten birds.
- It is well known that numerous animals have perished in accidents with wind turbines.
- A large number of them have moved to places without such large electronics.

- *Source → The Hindu*

2 - Naming of points on the moon's surface:

GS III

Topic → Science and Technology

- **Context:**

- The Indian Prime Minister declared that the Chandrayaan-3 lander's landing site on the moon would be called Shiv Shakti.

- **Important details:**

- There has often been a practise with such successful missions across the world, to give a name to that phenomenon.
- The accident location of Chandrayaan-2 has been dubbed "Tiranga" as of 2019.
- For example, there are already several Indian names on the Moon. Sarabhai crater on the moon.
- A site where the probe crashed (as it was supposed to for the mission's objectives) after the Chandrayaan-1 mission in 2008 was named "Jawahar Sthal" in honour of Jawaharlal Nehru, the nation's first prime minister.

- **What does the Outer Space Treaty say about this?**

- The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs produced the Outer Space Treaty in 1966.
- The Treaty states that no country may acquire the Moon or any other celestial body by usage, occupation, or any other method, including by a claim of sovereignty.
- As a result, countries had to cooperate to explore space rather than claiming it for themselves.

- A country may fly its flag on the moon, but that does not give it any official standing or legal importance.
- The Treaty makes no mention of designating sites on the Moon.
- **Who names the landing sites on the Moon?**
- The International Astronomical Union (IAU) also establishes other rules pertaining to space activity.
- Among its ninety-two members is India.
- Since its establishment in 1919, the IAU has served as the final arbiter for the naming of planets and satellites.
- It was common tradition to give informal names to locations during the Apollo missions.
- Official names were also used, such as Hadley Rille, but smaller craters and nearby mountains were given names, such as Shorty, St. George, and Stone Mountain.
- The bulk of the unofficial names selected during the Apollo missions were eventually officially recognised by the IAU.
- Although their decisions and recommendations are not legally enforceable under any federal or international law, they still build agreements that are meant to further our understanding of celestial objects and processes.
- *Source → The Hindu*

3 - 40% duty imposed on onion exports:

GS III

Topic → Indian Economy

- **Context:**
- To increase onions' availability on the market, especially ahead of the approaching holiday season, the government levied a 40% tax on their exports until the end of the year.
- **Important details:**
- **Aim of the activities:**
- By adding inventories to the market, the measures aim to stabilise prices and reduce the disparity between supply and demand.

- **Want:**

- The entire onion season saw higher than normal temperatures.
- Next, there was an unexpected downpour.
- The two climatic occurrences and the onion crop's growth cycle were timed to coincide.

- **When onions are cultivated in India:**

- Onion crops are planted in India in the late kharif, rabi, and kharif seasons.
- The kharif crop is harvested in late October or early December after being sowed in late July or early August;
- In late October and early November, the late kharif is sown, and it is harvested in January and March.
- Rabi is harvested in late March or early May after being sown in December or January.

- The rabi crop (onions) is projected to deliver 70% of its total output in a given year.
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- **Significant states where onions are produced:**

- Maharashtra is the leading state in onion production, accounting for 39% of the total, followed by Madhya Pradesh at 17%.
- Other notable States that produce onions are Karnataka, Gujarat, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, and Telangana.

- **Concerns about storage:**

- Warm weather generally produces greater results for onions.
- The sudden increase in temperature caused the crop to develop earlier, resulting in a small-sized bulb.
- In addition, the unseasonal rains in key growing regions in March affected the quality of onions and cut their six-month shelf life short by nearly a month.
- This caused farmers to panic and start selling since they were worried about storage.

- **Exporting onions:**

- Over 2.5 million tonnes of fresh onions were exported by India in 2022–2023, bringing in a total of 4,522 crore.
- It is the third-largest exporter, behind the Netherlands and Mexico, with around 15.8% and 11.7% of the market share, respectively.
- Around 10% of the influence is Indian.

- Among its main export destinations are Bangladesh, Malaysia, Malaysian Asia, the United Arab Emirates, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Indonesia, Qatar, Vietnam, Oman, and Kuwait.
- **Going forward:**
 - Three lakh metric tonnes of buffer stock was raised to five lakh metric tonnes.
 - Onions from the buffers would be made accessible to retail customers at a subsidised rate of 25/kg through retail outlets and the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India (NCCF).
 - The targeted release, procurement, and export tariff activities would benefit farmers as well as consumers since they would ensure that onion producers receive fair prices while keeping onions available to consumers at reasonable prices.
- *Source → The Hindu*

4 - Care protocol for babies in India:

GS II

Topic → Social issues

- **Context:**
 - A former nurse was found guilty in the bloodiest child serial murder case in British history and sentenced to life in prison.
- **India's measures to ensure patient safety:**
 - Being free from unnecessary or potential harm brought on by obtaining medical care is the status of being a patient.
 - The core idea of patient safety is found in the Hippocratic Oath itself.
 - Inadequate services and medical malpractice are covered by the Consumer Protection Act.
 - The patients' legal rights are outlined in the Clinical Establishment Act.
 - Patients' rights regarding medication and medical equipment are protected, and they are not overcharged, thanks to mechanisms put in place by the Drugs Controller General of India and the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority.
- **Baby safety:**

- Although there are no particular requirements for neonatal care and safety or protection against external injury in Indian hospitals, there are processes and controls in place to defend against issues like inadvertent infant mixing up at delivery and abduction.
- Many comprehensive measures are in place to ensure the safety and well-being of neonates, or newborn newborns, in an effort to lower potential dangers.
- The training that medical staff has received in parent counselling and emotional support helps to ensure the safety and development of babies.
- Neonates are frequently housed in well controlled environments to shield them from environmental fluctuations in temperature and other diseases.
- In addition to being cautious to prevent the transmission of diseases, parental engagement is recommended.
- Regular training and continuing medical education are essential for healthcare providers to maintain safety standards and deliver high-quality newborn care.

- **Problems that infants face:**

- Although there were 2.4 million fewer newborn fatalities globally in 2019 than there were in 1990 (5 million), the World Health Organisation states that newborns are most at risk of dying in their first 28 days of life.
- Almost three quarters of all under-five deaths in 2019 occurred within the first week of life, with the newborn period accounting for almost one-third of these deaths, according to their statistics.
- India's infant mortality rate fell by 3.89% from 2022 to 26.6 per 1,000 live births in 2023.
- In India, the infant mortality rate decreased by 3.74% from 2021 to 27.6 per 1,000 live births in 2022.

- **Causes of death:**

- Expert care and treatment during pregnancy, delivery, and the early days of life can prevent many illnesses and issues that are common in children who die within the first 28 days of life.
- Preterm birth, intrapartum complications (birth hypoxia, or lack of breathing at birth), infections, and birth anomalies account for most newborn deaths.

- **In summary:**

- Midwives who follow international standards for education and regulation and who provide midwife-led continuity of care (MLCC) to women are 16% less likely to lose their baby and 24% less likely to give birth prematurely.
- Families have also been advised by the WHO to seek prompt medical assistance in the event of danger symptoms.
- Along with registering the birth, families must bring the kid in for a timely immunisation.

- **Source → The Hindu**

5 - Seethakali folk art:

GS I

Topic → Indian Culture

- **Context:**

- Kerala is seeing a rebirth of Seethakali folk art.

- **About Seethakali:**

- The centuries-old traditional art form known as "Seethakali" is said to have originated in the village of Perinad in the Kollam district of Kerala.
- About 150 years ago, people from the Vedar and Pulayar civilizations performed this art form for the first time.
- Seethakali drew influence from the Indian epic Ramayana.
- It recounts the events of Seetha's journey from the moment she went into the woods with Rama until her ascent to the skies.
- Onam, the harvest festival, used to include Seethakali performances in the past.
- The artists, who are from impoverished neighbourhoods, display this sort of expression from Atham Star to the 28th day of Onam.
- It was traditionally banned for people from lower social classes to wear colourful clothing because the art form included gods and goddesses.
- Bamboo and palm fronds are used in the construction of all the staging equipment, including the instruments and props.
- The costumes and makeup are eye-catching and colourful.
- The reason why the characters of Rama and Laxmana are shown in green in Kathakali is that the colour green is associated with gods and goddesses.
- Performances often feature folk songs that have been passed down orally from one generation to the next.
- The only legally recognised Seethakali performance group in Kerala at the time is Perinad Seethakali Sangham.

- **Source → The Hindu**