

February - 23

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Herath festival has celebrated by Kashmiri Pandits. This festival is marked by a night of praying followed by a day of feasting.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals (CMS)

- ❖ The 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals (CMS) was hosted by India at Gandhinagar in Gujarat.
- ❖ India hosted this CoP for the first time.
- ❖ Theme: Migratory species Connect the Planet and we welcome them
- ❖ The mascot designated for the CMS COP-13 is Indian Bustard.

#### Gibi

- ❖ The mascot for the event, Great Indian Bustard has been fondly named as 'Gibi'.
- ❖ The Conservation status of Indian Bustard is Critically Endangered in IUCN red list.
- ❖ It has been accorded the highest protection status (listed in Schedule I) under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

#### Animal Culture

- ❖ Proposals were presented to conserve Sperm Whales and Chimpanzees based on their culture.
- ❖ This is the first time such proposal is being made in the world.

#### Bio Diversity

- ❖ The 13<sup>th</sup> conference of Migratory Species is the first meet on bio diversity.
- ❖ The Conference will consider the need for implementation of guidance tools that will mitigate the impacts of infrastructure on migratory species.
- ❖ So far, the infrastructural threats to large mammals was governed by the Central Asian Mammals Initiative.
- ❖ The CMS Guidelines currently deals only with the underwater noises.
- ❖ It does not include threats related to infrastructural development.



- ❖ This CoP is to discuss the effects of insects decline on migratory species for the first time.
- ❖ The EUROBATS agreement, proposed by the European Union, is one such agreement that focuses on insect decline.

#### **Visionary Perspective Plan (2020-2030)**

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has introduced a draft Visionary Perspective Plan (2020-2030) to conserve ecosystems, habitats, avian diversity and landscapes in the country.
- ❖ According to the draft, there are 1,317 bird species in India.
- ❖ Out of these 72 are endemic, 100 are threatened, 17 are critically endangered, 63 are vulnerable and 20 are endangered.
- ❖ Around 270 species of avifauna fall under “rare” category.

#### **Infrastructure of Migratory Mammals**

- ❖ The Agenda of the convention included proposals on infrastructure of migratory mammals.
- ❖ The migratory mammals to be focused in the summit includes Gobi bear, Persian Leopard and Urial.
- ❖ The summit will also provide Biodiversity conservation to Ganges river Dolphins, great Indian Bustard and Asian Elephants.
- ❖ The Gobi Bear is a sub species of Brown Bear. It is found in Gobi-desert of Mongolia.
- ❖ The Persian Leopards are found in Iran, Afghanistan and central Asia.
- ❖ Urials are wild sheep which are found in western and Central Asia, that is, in Kazakhstan, Pakistan and India.
- ❖ The year 2020 has been nick named as “Super Year” by global advocacy groups including the United Nations.
- ❖ This has been done to highlight 21 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and their targets.
- ❖ India marks the “Super Year of Biodiversity” with the Conservation of Migratory Species Conference of Parties 13.
- ❖ India and Norway declared the 2020-30 decade as the “Decade of rapid action on Climate Change and Environment”.

#### **“Endangered Migratory Species”**

- ❖ Asian Elephant, Indian Bustard and Bengal Florican were declared as “Endangered Migratory Species” at the CMS COP 13.
- ❖ India declared Indian Elephant as “National Heritage Animal”.



- ❖ This provides highest degree of legal protection to the animal under Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

### Upcoming Summits

- ❖ The year 2020 includes UN summit in September 2020 and will end with UN Biodiversity Conference in the end of 2020.
- ❖ In Super Year, the SDGs of Climate, Ocean, Gender, life below water and land are to be implemented.
- ❖ The Beijing Programme of Action marks 25th anniversary in 2020.
- ❖ It was framed in 1995 at the fourth United Nation World Conference on Women.
- ❖ The COP 26 of United Nations Climate Conference is to be held in Glasgow in 2020 to address the gaps that were undermined at COP 25.
- ❖ The first Global Transport on Sustainable Transport is to be held in May 2020.
- ❖ The Strategic Plan for Bio Diversity 2011-20 comes to an end in 2020.
- ❖ It was adopted in 2010 at the convention on Biological Diversity.
- ❖ The IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) is to hold World Conservation Congress in Marseille, France in June 2020.
- ❖ It is being organized once on 4 years.
- ❖ The Second UN Ocean Conference is to be held in 2020.
- ❖ The first was held in 2017 in New York.
- ❖ The 2020 will also close bio-diversity related agendas.
- ❖ It includes the Decade for Deserts which marked the fight against desertification.
- ❖ This was marked by the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.

### CMS and India

- ❖ It is an environmental treaty under the aegis of United Nations Environment Programme.
- ❖ It is also known as the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) or the Bonn Convention.
- ❖ Signed in 1979 in Bonn, Germany, the Convention entered into force in 1983.
- ❖ Its headquarters are in Bonn, Germany.
- ❖ India has been a Party to the CMS since 1983.
- ❖ India has also signed non-legally binding MOU with CMS on the conservation and management of Siberian Cranes (1998), Marine Turtles (2007), Dugongs (2008) and Raptors (2016).
- ❖ The Indian sub-continent is a part of the major bird flyway network, i.e, the Central Asian Flyway (CAF).



- ❖ India is a temporary home to several migratory animals and birds.
- ❖ The important among these include Amur Falcons, Bar headed Geese, Black necked cranes, Marine turtles, Dugongs, Humpback Whales, etc.

## **STATES**

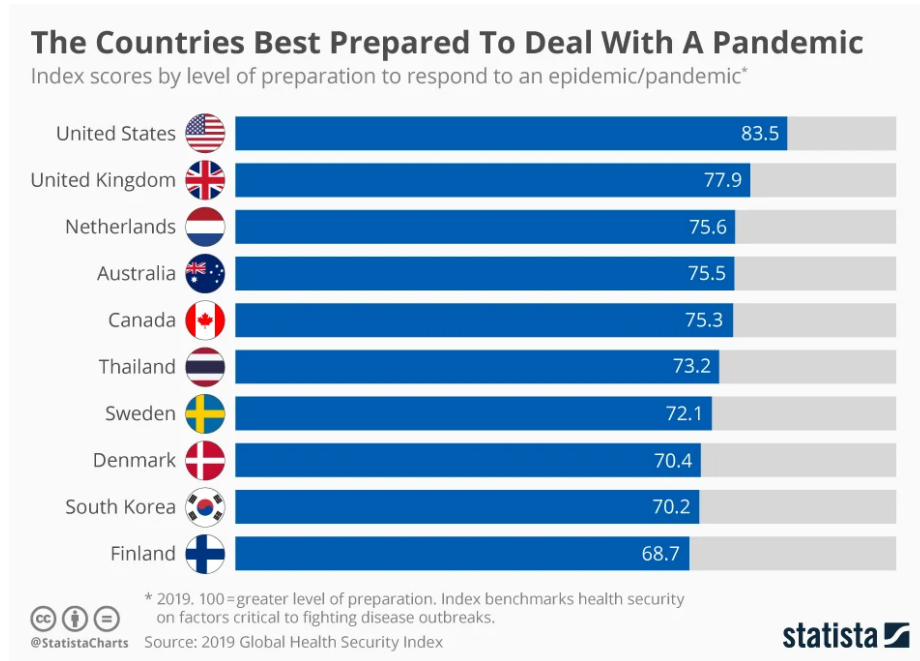
### **Thirumathikart App**

- ❖ The National Institute of Technology, Trichy, has developed a mobile app for SHG (Self Help Group) products named Thirumathikart.
- ❖ The application was developed in coordination with the Union Department of Science and Technology.
- ❖ The main objective of the app is to empower women and help them access market opportunities in a seamless manner.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Global Health Security (GHS) Index- 2019**

- ❖ The Global Health Security Index is the first comprehensive assessment of health security and related capabilities in 195 countries.
- ❖ The GHS Index assesses countries' health security and capabilities across six categories, 34 indicators, and 85 sub-indicators.
- ❖ The six categories are - prevention, early detection, rapid response, health system quality, standards, and the risk environment.
- ❖ In this Index, India was ranked 57th out of 195 countries with a score of 46.5 out of 100.
- ❖ The United States topped the list globally, followed by United Kingdom and Netherlands.
- ❖ China, which is at the centre of the recent coronavirus outbreak is at the 51<sup>st</sup> place,
- ❖ North Korea, Somalia and Equatorial Guinea are listed in the index's bottom three.



### Website for Kiliki language

- ❖ The filmmaker and Madhan Karky, the man behind the language, launched a website to help anyone learn the “world’s easiest language”.
- ❖ The website ([www.kiliki.in](http://www.kiliki.in)) has a 3,000-word English-Kiliki-English dictionary, a tool to convert names, videos and vocabulary games.
- ❖ The language spoken by the Kalakeyas in the film Baahubali, which was created exclusively for the film.

