



Current Affairs of the Day

- Guwahati zoo new home to rescued exotic animals
- Plea on draft West Ghats notification
- Global Eco Watch: NGT committee renders entire Baghjan oil field illegal



Guwahati zoo new home to rescued exotic animals

GS III: Conservation

Non-Asian exotic animals rescued from cramped cages smuggled in from Myanmar have found a home — the Assam State Zoo-cum-Botanical Garden in Guwahati.

Highlights:

1. On November 6, Assam released six blue or hyacinth macaws and two capuchin monkeys in the Guwahati zoo.
2. The birds and monkeys are native to Central and South America.
3. They were rescued in July from southern Assam's Cachar district along with three Aldabra tortoises, one of the largest species from the Seychelles group of islands in the Indian Ocean off East Africa, and a kangaroo from Australia. These animals were packed among crates of fruits in a truck that was loaded in Mizoram.

Prelims:

1. Zoos under WPact 1972 (Ex-situ conservation, pros and cons)

Plea on draft West Ghats notification

GS III: Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation, Environmental Impact Assessment.

A Kerala-based NGO for farmers moved the Supreme Court on Sunday to declare unconstitutional a draft notification of the Centre demarcating 56,825 sq. km spread across six States as the 'Western Ghats Ecologically Sensitive Area'.

Highlights:

1. The petition has also sought a direction to the government not to implement the Madhav Gadgil and Kasturirangan committees' reports on the conservation of the Western Ghats and the demarcation of 'no-go' zones.
2. The petition said the draft notification would affect 22 lakh people and cripple the economy of Kerala.



3. The draft notification to declare “123 agricultural villages in Kerala as ecologically sensitive area villages and the recommendations based on the Kasturirangan report (and earlier the Gadgil report) on land use, farming practices, animal husbandry, forestry, industries, infrastructure development, power generation, transport, tourism, etc., would convert the semi-urban villages in the region into forests with no facilities and roads.

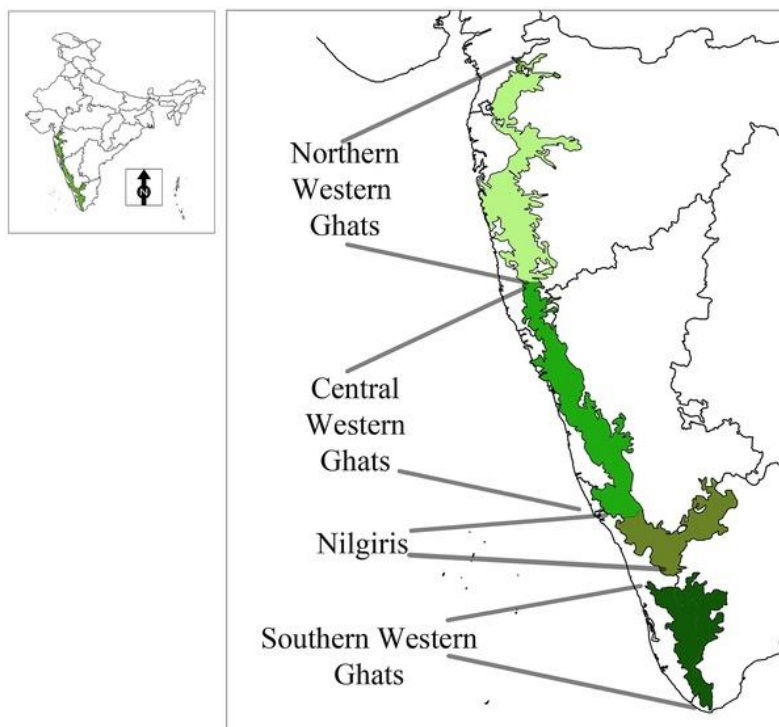
Mains:

1. States consider the Western Ghats ecological area as an impediment to their development. Recent extreme weather events in Kerala suggest the unsustainable nature of development in western ghats. Suggest methods to enhance political will in favour of the protection of Western Ghats.

Prelims:

1. States in which western ghat is located
2. Important protected areas in Ghats
3. Influence on the climate of India, importance

Learn Through Graphics: Western Ghats in various States





NGT committee renders entire Baghjan oil field illegal

GS III: Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation

The Baghjan oilfield, along with 26 oil wells in Assam was operating without mandatory environmental clearances when one of the wells experienced a blowout May 27, 2020, followed by a fire, a National Green Tribunal (NGT) committee said November 3.

Highlights:

1. The blowout site, located next to the Dibru Saikhowa National Park (DSNP) in Tinsukia district, has been burning for 160 days. It continues to impact an area of 10 kilometres around the controversial Baghjan 5 oil and gas rig.
2. Judge Katakey submitted a status report on the ongoing investigation into the cause and impact of the blowout. The committee has recommended payment of Rs 25 Lakh to 173 families and Rs 20 lakh to 439 families identified by the district administration.
3. The authorities found that 57 houses had been completely gutted during the explosion June 9, when the spilt gas condensates and crudes caught fire.
4. The committee found that a pregnant woman living in the vicinity had suffered a miscarriage. Similar instances of miscarriages were also reported among cattle and the endangered Hoolock Gibbon in the neighbouring forests.

Prelims:

1. Hoolock Gibbon (IUCN Status, protected areas in India etc)
2. The Dibru Saikhowa National Park (DSNP) (profile of the park)
3. Baghjan oil field location for prelims



Learn Through Graphics:

Baghjan oil field is located next to Maguri Bill and Dibru Saikhowa National Park

