

Prelim Bits 22-10-2017

Snakehead Fish Species

\n\n

∖n

 A global digital database of the snakehead fish species has been developed to avoid confusions over.

∖n

- The members of the species are found distributed from the Middle East to eastern Asia, Central and West Africa and the Nile. \n
- Earlier, it was widely believed that there were 38 species in this group. $\nline{\$
- However, DNA-level analysis showed that there were several more species than first thought.

∖n

• Since these species are mostly found in the inland waterbodies, no data on their catch is available.

\n

• The wide ranging species are currently listed as of "least concern" in the Red List of IUCN.

\n

• One of the criteria for assessing a species as of least concern is its wide distribution.

\n

- The breaking down of the species complex into individual species may have a different story to tell about its distribution which may prompt the scientific community to think for more species-specific conservation programs. \n

\n\n

Efforts to promote Millets

\n\n

\n

- Karnataka is trying to convince the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to declare a year as an 'international year of millets'. \n
- This is in a bid to popularise these mineral-rich and drought-tolerant

foodgrains at the international level.

∖n

- If it happens, several activities will be lined up to create awareness about the benefits of millets and it would in turn help their growers. \n
- Karnataka's millet-growing area as well as production is set to get a boost with the recent good spell of rains.
- Non-availability of primary processing machine was a major lacuna in the value chain of millets so far as traders were sending the produce to States such as Maharashtra for processing.
- This was adding to the selling cost of millets. $\slash n$
- Providing primary processing facilities is expected to help farmers get better prices.

∖n

\n\n

Pollution in Ganga

\n\n

∖n

- Ganga is the longest river within India's borders. $\slash n$
- Its basin constitutes 26% of the country's land mass and supports 43% of India's population.
- Its basin traverses 11 States out of which five States are located along the river's main stem spanning Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal.

\n

- Much of the river's polluted by chemical effluents, sewage, dead bodies, and excreta coming from these States. \n
- In the Ganga basin, approximately 12,000 million litres per day (mld) of sewage is generated, for which there is now a treatment capacity of just 4,000 mld.
- Though the contribution of industrial pollution, volume-wise, is about 20%, its toxic and non-biodegradable nature has a disproportionate impact. \n
- The industrial pollutants largely emanate from tanneries in Kanpur, distilleries, paper mills and sugar mills in the Kosi, Ramganga and Kali river

catchments.

∖n

 \bullet The municipal sewage is about a billion litres a day i.e 80% of the pollution load.

\n

\n\n

Avian Influenza A(H7N9)

\n\n

\n

- It is a subtype of influenza viruses.
- \r
- This particular A(H7N9) virus was first found in March 2013 in China. \n
- Since then, infections in both humans and birds have been observed. $\space{\label{eq:linear} \space{\label{eq:linear} \space{\linear} \space{\linear} \space{\linear} \$
- The disease is of concern because most patients have become severely ill. \n
- Most of the cases of human infection with this avian H7N9 virus have reported recent exposure to live poultry or potentially contaminated environments.
- \bullet This virus does not appear to transmit easily from person to person, and sustained human-to-human transmission has not been reported. \n
- However, Lab experiments on a new strain of the H7N9 bird flu suggest the virus can transmit easily among animals and can cause lethal disease. \n
- This raise alarm that the virus has the potential to trigger a global human pandemic.

∖n

\n\n

Impact of climate change on Greenland

\n\n

\n

- Ocean data from Northeast Greenland reveals the long-term impact of the melting of the Greenland ice sheet. γn
- From the ocean, the fresh water flows into the Greenland fjords. \n
- More fresh water in the surface water layers makes it harder for the

nutrient-rich bottom water to rise to the upper layers where the the production of plankton algae happens. \n

- Plankton algae form the basis for all life in the sea and a lower production of algae will result in a lower production of fish. \n
- At a global scale, the increased melting of the ice sheet may impact global ocean circulation patterns through the 'thermohaline circulation'. \n

\n\n

∖n

