

Prelim Bits 29-10-2017

Bonn Convention

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- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) is popularly known as Bonn convention.

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- It is an environmental treaty under the aegis of United Nations Environment Programme.

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- It brings together the States through which migratory animals pass (the range states) and lays down conservation measures.

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- Migratory species threatened with extinction are listed on Appendix I of the Convention.

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- CMS Parties strive towards strictly protecting these animals, conserving and mitigating obstacles to their migration.

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- Migratory species that need or would significantly benefit from international co-operation are listed in Appendix II of the Convention.

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- India is a party to this convention whereas China, Russia, US, Canada, Japan are not party to it.

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Meeting of CMS and its outcomes

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- The Twelfth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Bonn Convention (CMS COP12) was held in Manila, the Philippines.

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- It is the first time that the COP has been held in Asia.

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- The slogan for the Conference is “Their Future is Our Future - Sustainable Development for Wildlife & People”, links to the Sustainable Development

Goals.

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- Four Asian Vultures such as red-headed vulture, white-rumped vulture, Indian vulture and slender-billed vulture are set to get highest protection by the convention.

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- The whale shark, which inhabits the Indian Ocean, got global protection too.

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- The Caspian seal, the only marine mammal found in the world's largest inland sea has also been identified for conservation.

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- The next edition of the meeting will be held in India in 2020.

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Cholera

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- After the 2010 earthquake in Haiti there was a sudden outbreak of cholera.

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- According to a recent study, bacterial strains similar to those found in Haitian cholera were present in Delhi as early as 2004, showing that the disease may have originated in the Indian subcontinent.

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- Cholera is an acute diarrhoeal infection caused by ingestion of food or water contaminated with the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*.

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- Diarrhoea can be so severe that it leads within hours to severe dehydration and electrolyte imbalance. It can be successfully treated with oral rehydration solution.

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- Cholera transmission is closely linked to inadequate access to clean water and sanitation facilities.

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- During the 19th century, cholera spread across the world from its original reservoir in the Ganges delta in India.

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Exocomets

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- Scientists have detected the dusty tails of six exocomets – comets outside our solar system – orbiting a faint star 800 light years from Earth.
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- They are some of the smallest objects yet found outside our own solar system.
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- The discovery marks the first time that an object as small as a comet has been detected using **transit photometry**, a technique by which astronomers observe a star’s light for revealing dips in intensity.
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- The detection was made using data from NASA’s Kepler Space Telescope, a stellar observatory that was launched into space in 2009.
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ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus)

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- ADMM-Plus was inaugurated in Hanoi, Vietnam in 2010.
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- It is an annual meeting that brings together the defence ministers of ten ASEAN countries, with those of eight “dialogue partners”.
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- These include India, China, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia, and the United States.
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- This year it was recently held in Manila, Philippines.
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- India called for safeguarding freedom of navigation, over flight and commerce in regional waters.
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Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

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- ASEAN is a regional organisation comprising 10 Southeast Asian states which promotes intergovernmental cooperation and facilitates economic integration amongst its members.
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- Member nations are: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam.

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- ASEAN plus Three was created to improve existing ties with the People's Republic of China, Japan, and South Korea.

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- ASEAN became ASEAN Plus Six with additional countries: Australia, New Zealand and India

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- Even larger East Asia Summit (EAS) was formed which included ASEAN plus Three countries as well as India, Australia, New Zealand, the United States, and Russia.

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- In 2006, ASEAN was given observer status at the United Nations General Assembly.

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- In response, the organisation awarded the status of "dialogue partner" to the UN.

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Source: The Hindu, Business Standard, Indian Express

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