

9 Elaborate the env. impacts of invasive species & discuss the flaws in laws that govern growth of invasive species in India.

Invasive alien species are one of the component of the evil quartet of biodiversity loss. It has costed India more than ₹ 8.3 trillion in the last sixty years.

Environmental impacts

The environmental impacts are myriad due to their colonising power.

1. Competition for space - more than 66% of natural spaces of the nation is occupied by eleven invasive species.

Species such as the Lantana, Prosopis juliflora, Senna spectabilis have taken over our forest.

2. Reducing biodiversity The proliferation of invasive species has reduced our native flora. The shola grasslands of Western ghats has shrunk due to wattle and lantana camara.

3. Pushes animals out of their range. The invasive species greatly affects the megaherbivores such as elephants and Rhinos. Due to the non-availability of grazing grounds these animals venture into human habitations causing human animal conflicts.

The environment - laws that regulate invasive species needs a tweak as they do not possess sufficient teeth to tackle the menace.

Flaws in laws 1. No single nodal agency

Unlike conservation agency such as the

NCA - the invasive species are not regulated by any. A comprehensive legislation is needed at the earliest.

2. Divided responsibility - The National Plant Genetic Resources and animal genetic resources deal individually rather synergising each other.

3. Lack of clarity - The definition of invasive alien species stands demarcated between amended wildlife protection act and Convention of Biodiversity.

4. Obsolete acts - The Plant Quarantine order Livestock importation act and Environment Protection act were enacted before recognising invasive species.

future The aim is to achieve the target of Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to reduce impact of invasive species by 50% by 2030 needs co-ordinated policy approach and changes to existing laws.