

**24 MAY 2019****UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT****About UNCTAD:**

- It is an United Nations organization dealing with trade, investment and development issues.
- It was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1964 and it reports to the UN General Assembly and United Nations Economic and Social Council.
- It has its headquarters at Geneva, Switzerland.
- The primary objective of UNCTAD is to formulate policies relating to all aspects of development including trade, aid, transport, finance and technology.
- It played a key role in conceiving and achieving the Generalised System of Preferences.
- It releases the following important reports
  1. The World Investment Report
  2. The Trade and Development Report
  3. The Trade and Environment Review
  4. The Information Economy Report
  5. The Least Developed Countries Report
  6. The Technology and Innovation Report
  7. The Economic Development in Africa Report
  8. The Review of Maritime Transport
  9. The World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) Report

**About Generalised System of Preferences:**

- It is a preferential tariff system which provides tariff reduction on various products.
- The concept of gsp is very different from the concept of MFN.
- MFN status provides equal treatment in the case of tariff being imposed by a nation but in case of gsp differential tariff could be imposed by a nation on various country whether it is a developed country or a developing country.
- Both the rules comes under the purview of wto.
- GSP provides tariff reduction for least developed countries but mfn is only for not discriminating among wto members.
- Recently, the U.S. President decided to remove India from its Generalised System of Preferences concessions.

**NOTE****INTERNATIONAL DAY OF BIODIVERSITY****In news:**

- The United Nations has proclaimed May 22 The International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues.
- In December 2000, the UN General Assembly adopted 22 May as IDB, to commemorate the adoption of the text of the Convention on 22 May 1992 by the Nairobi Final Act of the Conference for the Adoption of the Agreed Text of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- Theme 2019 - Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health



### About Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):

CBD is an international legally-binding treaty under UNEP with three main goals:

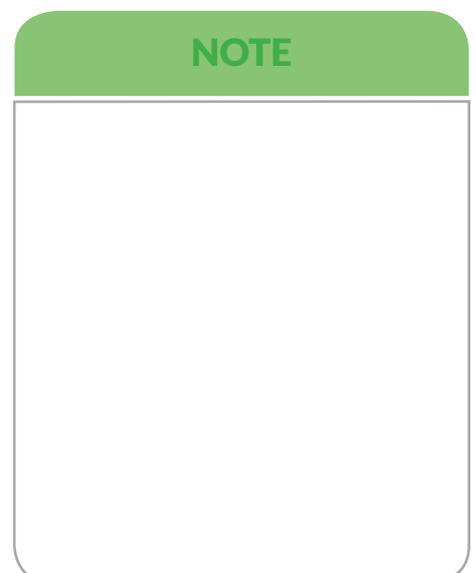
- » conservation of biodiversity;
  - » sustainable use of biodiversity;
  - » fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.
- CBD was opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and entered into force in 1993. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) is based in Montreal, Canada.
  - The CBD's governing body is the Conference of the Parties (COP), where the ultimate authority of all governments (or Parties) that have ratified the treaty meets every two years to review progress, set priorities and commit to work plans.
  - CBD publishes Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO).
  - The 14th COP in 2018 was recently held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt
  - The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to CBD is an international agreement adopted in 2000 and entered into force in 2003.
  - It aims to ensure the safe handling, transport and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health.
  - Nagoya Protocol: It is an international agreement aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way. It entered into force in 2014.
  - Nagoya - Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol: It requires that response measures are taken in the event of damage resulting from living modified organisms, or where there is sufficient likelihood that damage will result if timely response measures are not taken. The Supplementary Protocol also includes provisions in relation to civil liability.
  - It was adopted on 15 October 2010 and entered into force on 5 March 2018.



### 'NOT ALL ANIMALS MIGRATE BY CHOICE' CAMPAIGN

#### In news:

- UN Environment India and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) of India launched an awareness campaign 'Not all animals migrate by choice' to be displayed at major airports across the country.
- It aims at creating awareness and garnering public support for the protection and conservation of wildlife, prevention of smuggling and reduction in demand for wildlife products.
- The campaign also complements worldwide action on illegal trade in wildlife through UN Environment's global campaign, Wild for Life.
- In the first phase of the campaign, Tiger, Pangolin, Star Tortoise and Tokay Gecko have been chosen as they are highly endangered due to illegal trading in International markets.



#### About UNEP:

- UN Environment is the leading global voice on the environment.
- It coordinates the environmental activities and assists developing countries in implementing environmentally sound policies and practices.
- It was formed in 1972 and is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya.
- The World Meteorological Organization and UN Environment established the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 1988.



### About Wildlife Crime Control Bureau:

It is a statutory multi-disciplinary body established by the Government of India under the Ministry of Environment and Forests, to combat organized wildlife crime in the country.

Under Section 38 (Z) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, it is mandated

- to collect and collate intelligence related to organized wildlife crime activities and to disseminate the same to State and other enforcement agencies
- to establish a centralized wildlife crime data bank
- to assist foreign authorities and international organization concerned to facilitate co-ordination and universal action for wildlife crime control
- to advise the Government of India on issues relating to wildlife crimes having national and international ramifications, relevant policy and laws.
- It also assists and advises the Customs authorities in inspection of the consignments of flora & fauna as per the provisions of Wild Life Protection Act, CITES and EXIM Policy



## JOKHA ALHARTHI WINS MAN BOOKER LITERATURE PRIZE

### In news

Omani author Jokha Alharthi is the winner of the 2019 Man Booker International Prize for her novel Celestial Bodies (Story of slavery)

### In brief

- The first Arabic author to win the Man Booker International prize
- The work tells the coming-of-age story of three sisters in an Omani village, and was originally published in Arabic.
- Celestial Bodies also delves into the subject of slavery in Oman, which was only outlawed in 1970.

### Man Booker Literature Prize

- The Man Booker Prize is the leading literary award in the English speaking world, and has brought recognition, reward and readership to outstanding fiction for five decades.
- As of 2016, the Man Booker International Prize will be awarded annually for a single book, translated into English and published in the UK.



### NOTE



## PRELIMS BITS

### THEYYAM RITUAL

- Theyyam is a popular ritual form of worship in north Malabar region of Kerala and some parts of Karnataka.
- The roots of this folk art, which is a blend of dance, music and fervent devotion, can be traced back to the Chalcolithic Age.
- In many senses the Theyyam is often a form of historical documentation of the society. The Theyyam is also linked with fertility rites and many of its myths are intimately related to the curing of illnesses and agricultural productivity.
- It is believed that while performing, the artist becomes the representative of the divine. The word 'Theyyam' is local parlance for God.
- To millions in Kerala, Theyyam is their visible and tangible Gods and Goddesses. It is usually performed in shrines; sacred groves called kaavu or at ancestral homes called tharavadu in villages.
- The Theyyam season in Kerala usually commences in October and lasts up to May.

#### NOTE

