

28 MAY 2019

MALAYSIA'S LAST MALE SUMATRAN RHINO DIES

In news:

Malaysia's last surviving male Sumatran rhino has died

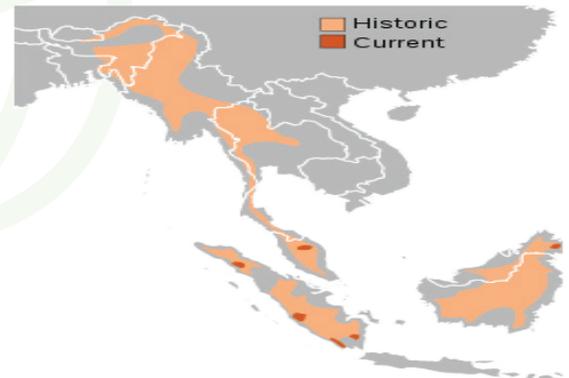
In brief:

The Sumatran rhino, the smallest species of rhinoceros, was declared extinct in the wild in Malaysia in 2015. Iman, a female captured in 2014, is now the only surviving member of the subspecies left in the country.

Since 2011, Malaysia has tried to breed the species in captivity through in vitro fertilization, but without success. Tam's genetic material has been preserved for future attempts to reproduce Sumatran rhinos.

About Sumatran rhino:

- Also known as the hairy rhinoceros or Asian two-horned rhinoceros, it is the smallest species of rhinoceros.
- IUCN status: Critically Endangered
- According to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), it once inhabited rainforests, swamps, and cloud forests in India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and China. In historical times, they lived in southwest China, particularly in Sichuan.
- There are now only five substantial populations in the wild: four in Sumatra and one in Borneo.
- Wildlife experts estimate that only about 30 to 80 Sumatran rhinos remain in the world, mostly on the Indonesian island of Sumatra and on the Indonesian side of Borneo.



SPACE-X'S STARLINK PROGRAM

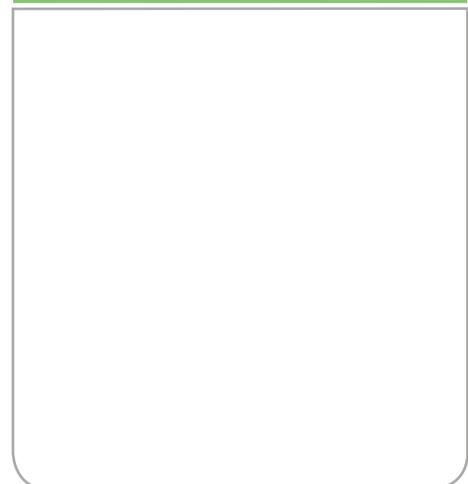
In news:

SpaceX launched the first batch of 60 small satellites into low-Earth orbit for its new Starlink internet service.

About Starlink:

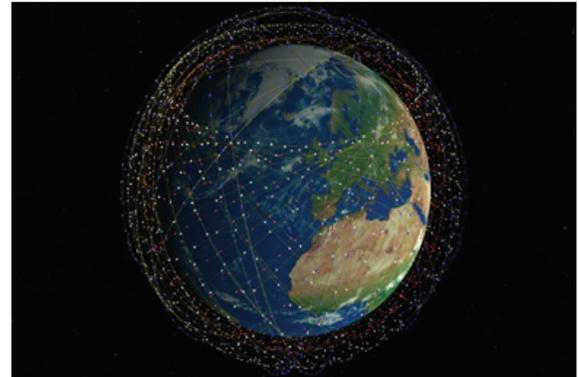
- Its aim is to make a planned constellation capable of beaming signals for high-speed internet service from space to paying customers around the globe.
- As many as 2,000 satellites will be launched per year, with the ultimate objective of placing up to 12,000 into orbit in three orbital shells by the mid-2020s.
- The satellites will be positioned in a relatively low orbit of 550 kilometers.
- Once SpaceX completes its Starlink network, users will need a \$200 receiver to access the internet, which will be small enough to fit in homes, the roof of cars, ships, aeroplanes etc.
- Its estimated revenue will be around \$3 billion a year.

NOTE



- Starlink is only currently authorized for operations in the United States.
- SpaceX also plans to sell satellites that use a satellite bus that may be used for military, scientific or exploratory purposes
- Starlink satellites are capable of tracking orbital debris and autonomously avoid a collision.
- To avoid being converted into space debris, each satellite of the Starlink system has a life span of five years, after which it will burn in Earth's atmosphere.

Other efforts: In February, Airbus SE-backed OneWeb launched its own clutch of satellites, while LeoSat Enterprises and Canada's Telesat are also working to build data networks.



BIMSTEC HEADS INVITED TO PM'S SWEARING

In news

India has invited several heads of state, including those from the Bay of Bengal community (BIMSTEC) for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's swearing-in ceremony on May 30.

In brief

- Leaders from Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) — have been invited, as part of the Modi government's focus on its "Neighbourhood First" policy.

Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

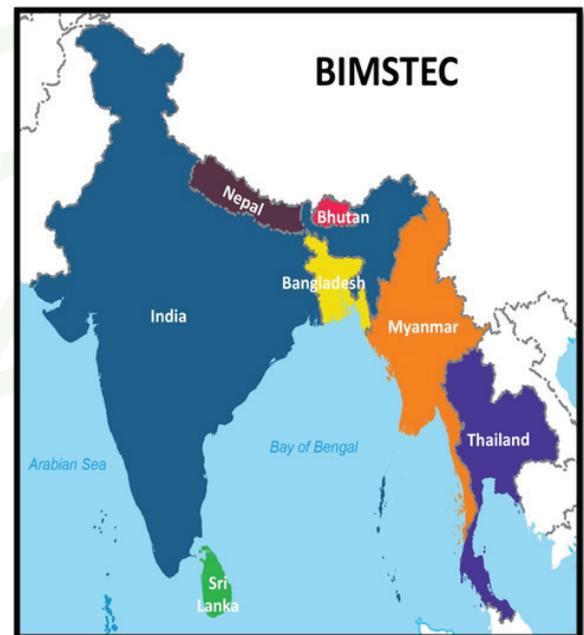
- BIMSTEC is a regional multilateral organisation, came into being in 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration.
- Its members lie in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal constituting a contiguous regional unity.
- It became renamed 'BIMST-EC' in 1997, following the inclusion of Myanmar.
- With the admission of Nepal and Bhutan in 2004, the name of the grouping was changed to 'Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation' (BIMSTEC).

Objectives

- Creating an enabling environment for the rapid economic development of the sub-region.
- Encouraging the spirit of equality and partnership.
- Promoting active collaboration and mutual assistance in the areas of common interests of the member countries
- Accelerating support for each other in the fields of education, science, and technology, etc.

Recent Summit

- The 4th BIMSTEC summit was held in Kathmandu, Nepal on August, 2018



NOTE



- The Kathmandu Declaration was adopted unanimously at BIMSTEC-2018, called for a Peaceful, Prosperous and Sustainable Bay of Bengal Region.

GURU NANAK

Why in news?

Recently, the historical Guru Nanak Palace constructed over four centuries ago in Punjab province of Pakistan was destroyed by the locals.

About Guru Nanak:

- He was born in Nankana Sahib, near Lahore, Pakistan in a **merchant family**.
- He was the founder and **first Sikh Guru** of Sikhism.
- His poems are included in **Guru Granth Sahib**.
- He started the **Guru Ka Langar** (Free community kitchen).
- Along with his disciple Mardana, he developed the Sikh music called Shabad
- He died in **Kartarpur**, Pakistan.

POBITORA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

- It is a wildlife sanctuary in Morigaon district of Assam, about 30 km east of Guwahati. **POBITORA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY harbors the highest density of Rhino in the world and second highest concentration of Rhino in Assam after Kaziranga National Park**
- It is located in the southern bank of Brahmaputra river.
- Pobitora is mainly famous for its great Indian One-horned rhinoceros.
- Besides rhinoceros, the other animals are leopard (IUCN status - Vulnerable), wild boar, Barking deer (IUCN status - Least Concern), wild buffalo (IUCN status - Endangered) etc.
- Under the Indian Rhino Vision 2020 (Rhino conservation programme), six rhinos were translocated from Pobitora and re-introduced into the Manas National Park between December 2010 and January 2011.

DRAFT EXPORT POLICY UNVEILED

Why in news?

The Commerce Ministry has released a product specific draft export policy.

In brief

- Draft export policy, aimed at consolidating export norms for each product, has accorded eight digit HS codes to every product.
- ITC (HS) codes are better known as Indian Trade Clarification (ITC) and are based on Harmonized System (HS) of Coding.
- It was adopted in India for import-export operations. Indian custom uses an eight digit ITC (HS) code to suit the national trade requirements.
- ITC-HS codes are divided into two schedules. Schedule I describe the rules and exim guidelines related to import policies.
- Export Policy Schedule II describe the rules and regulation related to export policies.

NOTE



- This compendium will help an exporter know all the applicable norms pertaining to a particular product, helping them understand policy conditions for that item.

About Export Import Policy of India

- Exim Policy or Foreign Trade Policy is a set of guidelines and instructions established by the DGFT (Directorate General of Foreign Trade) in matters related to the import and export of goods in India.
- Foreign trade in India is guided by the EXIM Policy of the Indian Government and is regulated by the Foreign Trade Development and Regulation Act, 1992.

Objectives

- Exim policy or Foreign Trade Policy for the years 2015-20, aims at doubling the overseas sales to \$900 billion by 2019-20 and making India global, while integrating the foreign trade with “Make in India” and “Digital India Programme”.

Features

- MEIS scheme: Five existing schemes to promote merchandize exports have been merged into a single Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS).
- Service Exports from India Scheme (SEIS) will be only for India based service providers and will be based on net foreign exchange earned. Both SEIS and MEIS schemes are applicable to SEZ units.
- Paperless Trade and Online filling of forms will ensure trade facilitation and ease of doing business.
- E-commerce export is applicable to items of worth upto 25,000.
- Provision for Export oriented units, Export hardware technology park and software technology park.
- The Duty free scrips (form of credit)s are provided to the exporters under various export promotion schemes of the government. The scrips may be transferable or nontransferable.

CHANGE IN THE PROVISION OF THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT

Why in news?

In a significant judgement that will ensure more equity in any case of marital discord, a two-judge bench of Supreme Court reinterpreted the provisions of the Domestic Violence Act of 2005.

In brief

- A Bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and Hemant Gupta interpreted the provisions of the Domestic Violence Act of 2005 to confirm an order related to pay maintenance for widow and minor child of his dead brother.
- Both brothers lived in the ancestral family home on different floors. After the brother's death, the widow was not permitted to live in the same house.
- What's the New Provision?
- The supreme court defined “relationship” in the case of Hindu undivided family (HUF).
- According to the court, relationship in case of HUF means “relationship where two persons live or have lived together at any point of time in a shared household when they are related by consanguinity, marriage or through a relationship in the nature of marriage, adoption or are members living together as a joint family”.
- The court further read the term “shared household” to include “such a household which may belong to the joint family of which the respondent is a member, irrespective of whether the respondent or the aggrieved person has any right, title or interest in the shared household”.

NOTE



INDIAN WOMEN FACE MOST VIOLENCE- WHO

Why in news?

Global estimates published by the World Health Organization (WHO) indicate that about 1 in 3 (35%) women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime.

In Brief

- Worldwide as many as 38% of murders of women are committed by a male intimate partner. In INDIA intimate partner violence is 37.7% the highest among South-East Asia region.
- Violence against women — particularly intimate partner violence and sexual violence — is a major public health problem and a violation of women’s human rights.
- Men are more likely to perpetrate violence if they have low education, a history of child maltreatment, exposure to domestic violence against their mothers, harmful use of alcohol, unequal gender norms, including attitudes accepting of violence, and a sense of entitlement over women.
- Warning that intimate partner violence cause serious short-and long-term problems for women and adversely affect their children besides leading to high social and economic costs for women, their families and societies.

When the home is not safe



- Sexual violence, particularly during childhood, can lead to increased smoking, drug and alcohol misuse, and risky sexual behaviours in later life
- Sexual violence also leads to behaviours leading to perpetration of violence (for males) and being a victim of violence (for females)
- 42% of women who experience intimate partner violence report an injury as a consequence of this violence
- Women who were physically or sexually abused were 1.5 times more likely to have a sexually transmitted infection and, in some regions HIV too, compared with women who had not experienced partner violence
- Violence can lead to depression, post-traumatic stress and other anxiety disorders, sleep difficulties, eating disorders, and suicide attempts
- Adverse health effects can also include headaches, back pain, abdominal pain, gastrointestinal disorders, limited mobility and poor overall health
- They are also twice as likely to have an abortion

(Source: WHO)

NOTE

