

**PRELIMS  
SAMPORNA  
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**ENVIRONMENTAL  
ORGANISATION**

- INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS
- INDIAN INSTITUTIONS



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# INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

## World Wide Fund for Nature(WWF)

- It was established on **29<sup>th</sup> April 1961**.
- Its precursor organization was the **Conservation Foundation**.
- Its **original name was World Wildlife Fund**.
- **Mission:** "To conserve nature and reduce the most pressing threats to the diversity of life on Earth."
- **Headquarters: Gland, Switzerland.**
- WWF works in the areas of climate, food, forests, freshwater, oceans, and wildlife primarily.
- It runs several projects in various fields in partnership with people, bodies, and governments worldwide.
- In species conservation, they focus on tigers, elephants, gorillas, giant pandas, sea turtles, polar bears, rhinos, and whales.
- Campaigns launched by WWF include **Earth Hour and Debt-for-Nature Swap**.
- **'Living Planet Report' (started in 1998) is published by the WWF every two years** in which the health of the planet and the impact of human activities on nature are talked about. It is based on the **Living Planet Index** and the calculations of ecological footprints.

## International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

- It was established in 1948
- **Headquarters:**Gland, Switzerland.

- It was previously called the '**International Union for the Protection of Nature**' (1948–1956) and the **World Conservation Union (1990–2008)**.
- IUCN runs field projects for habitat and species conservation around the world.
- It produces the **IUCN Red List of Threatened Species** and the **IUCN Red List of Ecosystems** which in a similar way measures risks to ecosystems.
- **Funding:** Funded by governments, bilateral and multilateral agencies, foundations, member organizations, and corporations.
- It is governed by a Council elected by member organizations **everyfour years** at the IUCN World Conservation Congress.
- **IUCN has observer and consultative status at the United Nations** and plays a role in the implementation of several international conventions on nature conservation and biodiversity.
- It was involved in **establishing the World Wide Fund for Nature and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre**.
- India became a State Member of IUCN in 1969, through the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).
- The IUCN India Country Office was established in 2007 in New Delhi.
- Blue flag certification is obtained by a beach, marina, or sustainable boating tourism operator, and serves as an eco-label.
- Certification promotes sustainable development in freshwater and marine areas. It has members from United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

## Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

- It is the UN body for assessing the science related to climate change.
- It was established by the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1988**.

### In News

- IPCC made public '**The Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate**' which underlined the dire changes taking place in oceans, glaciers, and ice-deposits on land and sea at the United Nations Climate Summit underway in the United States.
- The published report is the last in a series of **three reports on specific themes** that IPCC has published namely:
  - **Global Warming of 1.5° C:** A special report, which was commissioned to specifically explore the **scientific feasibility of the 1.5°C** goal set in the Paris Agreement, on global warming.
  - **Land and climate change:** The report focuses on the **contribution of land-related activities to global warming** i.e how the different uses of land affect the emission of greenhouse gases.
- The report also updates the **IPCC's 5<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report** — and summarises the disastrous impacts of warming based on current projections of global greenhouse gas emissions.

- **Aim:** To provide political leaders with periodic scientific assessments concerning climate change, its implications, and risks, as well as to put forward adaptation and mitigation strategies.
- **Composition:** 195 member states.
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
- **The IPCC has three working groups:**
  - ▶ **Working Group I:** Deals with the physical science basis of climate change.
  - ▶ **Working Group II:** Deals with impacts, adaptation, and vulnerability.
  - ▶ **Working Group III:** Deals with the mitigation of climate change.
- The IPCC prepares comprehensive **Assessment Reports** about the state of scientific, technical and socio-economic knowledge on climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for reducing the rate at which climate change is taking place. However, **IPCC does not conduct its research.**
- The Assessment Report released by IPCC in 2014 was the 5<sup>th</sup> in a series of such reports.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report of IPCC is expected to be released in 2022.

## United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

- It was founded as a result of the **UN Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm Conference) in 1972**
- **Headquarter:** Nairobi, Kenya
- **Key Functions:**
  - ▶ It coordinates the UN's environmental activities, assisting developing countries in implementing environmentally sound policies and practices.
  - ▶ Its activities cover a wide range of issues regarding the atmosphere, marine and terrestrial ecosystems, environmental governance, and green economy.
  - ▶ It has also been active in funding and implementing environment related development projects

### UN Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm Conference)

- It was first declaration of international protection of the environment
  - Held in Stockholm, Sweden from June 5–16 in 1972.
  - The meeting agreed upon a Declaration containing 26 principles concerning the environment and development.
  - One of the seminal issue that emerged from the conference is the recognition for poverty alleviation for protecting the environment.
- ▶ It has aided in the formulation of guidelines and treaties on issues such as the international trade in potentially harmful chemicals, transboundary air pollution, and contamination of international waterways
  - ▶ It is also one of several Implementing Agencies for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol



- ▶ The International Cyanide Management Code, a program of best practice for the chemical's use at gold mining operations, was developed under UNEP's aegis.
- **Funding:** The three main sources of funding of the UN Environment are the **UN Regular Budget, the Environment Fund**, the core funding that enables UN Environment to implement its global and regional work, **and Earmarked Contributions**.
- **Emissions Gap Report:** It is a flagship report from UNEP and it assesses the gap between anticipated emissions in 2030 and levels consistent with the 1.5°C and 2°C targets of the Paris Agreement.
- **Health Environment Link Initiative (HELI):** To tackle environment related health hazards WHO has developed Health Environment Link Initiative (HELI). It is a global effort by WHO and UNEP to support action by developing country policymakers on environmental threats to health. HELI encourages countries to address health and environment issues as integral to economic development.

## World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

- It is an intergovernmental organization.
- **Members:** 192 Member States and Territories.
- It originated from the International Meteorological Organization (IMO), which was **established after the 1873 Vienna International Meteorological Congress**.
- Established by the ratification of the WMO Convention on 23 March 1950, WMO became the specialized agency of the United Nations for meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences.'
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Reports:**
  - ▶ Greenhouse Gas Bulletin.
  - ▶ Status of the World Climate.
- Every year on March 23, World Meteorological Day is celebrated. The Day is being observed by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and also by the United Nations.
- The theme of 2020 World Meteorological Day is **"Climate and Water"**. The theme focuses on drought, floods, frozen water, and many more. The Slogan of this year World Meteorological Day is **"Count Every Drop, Every Drop Counts"**.

## International Whaling Commission (IWC)

- It was set up under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW) which was signed in Washington DC in 1946.
- **Objective:** To provide for the proper conservation of whale stocks and thus make possible the orderly development of the whaling industry.
- **Headquarter:** Impington, near Cambridge, England.
- In 1982 the IWC adopted a moratorium on commercial whaling (Whale Hunting).
- However, it allows non-zero whaling quotas for aboriginal subsistence, and also member nations may issue 'Scientific Permits' to their citizens.
- Also, there are limits to its authority as it's a voluntary international organization not backed up by treaty.

### Whale Sanctuary

- In 1994, it created the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary surrounding the continent of Antarctica. Here, the IWC has banned all types of commercial whaling.
- Only two such sanctuaries have been designated by IWC till date. Another is Indian Ocean Whale Sanctuary by the tiny island nation of the Seychelles.

## BirdLife International

- It was formerly named was **International Council for Bird Preservation**
- It was established on **1922**
- It is an **international not-for-profit, non-governmental organization**
- **Headquarters:** Cambridge, United Kingdom
- **Mission:** Global partnership of conservation organizations that strives to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, working with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources
- It is the world's largest partnership of conservation organizations,
- Official listing authority for birds for the World Conservation Union's Red List of threatened species
- **Regional work:** BirdLife International has conservation work programmes in the following parts of the world, which it describes as "regions" – Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Central Asia, the Middle East and the Pacific
- BirdLife partnership has 6 Regional BirdLife Coordination Offices throughout the world and a Global Office in Cambridge, UK – together known as "**The BirdLife International Secretariat**".
- The Secretariat co-ordinate and facilitate the BirdLife International strategies, programmes, and policies.
- **Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA)** is an area identified using an internationally agreed set of criteria as being globally important for the conservation of bird populations.
- Criteria are:
  - ▶ **A1. Globally threatened species** — hold a population of a species categorized by the IUCN Red List as Critically Endangered, Endangered, or Vulnerable.
  - ▶ **A2. Restricted-range species**
  - ▶ **A3. Biome-restricted species** — adequate representation of all species restricted to a given biome, both across the biome as a whole and for all of its species in each range state.
  - ▶ **A4. Congregation**

## TRAFFIC (Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network)

- **It is a leading non-governmental organization** working on wildlife trade in the context of both biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.
- It is a joint program of **the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**.
- **It was established in 1976.**

- **Headquarters:** Cambridge, United Kingdom
- It aims to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature.
- **It is governed by the TRAFFIC Committee which is** a steering group composed of members of TRAFFIC's partner organizations, WWF and IUCN.
- **TRAFFIC also works in close co-operation with the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).**
- TRAFFIC's latest campaign is the **WANTED ALIVE series on the four Asian big cats- Tiger, Leopard, Snow Leopard and Clouded Leopard**—all of them threatened by the illegal trade in their body parts.
- TRAFFIC came to India in 1991, operating as a division of WWF-India.

## Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

- It is an international agreement between governments that aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants should not threaten their survival.
- It was conceptualized in 1963 at a meeting of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.
- **It came into force in 1975 and consists of 183 member countries.**
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland.
- It is administered by the **United Nations under its UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) Wing.**
- **The Convention of Parties to CITES** is the supreme decision-making body of the Convention and comprises all its Parties.
- **Although CITES is legally binding on the Parties, it does not take the place of national laws.**
- Rather, it provides a framework to be respected by each Party, which has to adopt its domestic legislation to ensure that CITES is implemented at the national level.
- Three CITES Appendices.
  - ▶ **Appendix I:**
    - Species that are **in danger of extinction**
    - **Commercial trade is prohibited.**
    - Permits are required for import and export.
    - Trade permitted just for research only if the origin country ensures the trade won't harm the species' chance of survival.
  - ▶ **Appendix II:**
    - Species that aren't facing imminent **extinction but need monitoring so that any trade doesn't become a threat.**
    - Trade permits obtained legally and only if the origin country ensures that its harvesting and trade won't harm the species' chance of survival.

- ▶ **Appendix III:**
  - Species that are protected in at least one country.
  - Regulations for these species vary, but typically the country that requested the listing can issue export permits, and export from other countries requires a certificate of origin.
- Species may be added to or removed from Appendix I and II, or moved between them, **only by the Conference of the Parties.**
- However, **species may be added to or removed from Appendix III at any time and by any Party unilaterally.**
- **India is a CITES Party since 1976.**
  - ▶ As an active CITES Party, India prohibits the international trade of endangered wild species.
  - ▶ India has placed several measures to control the threats from invasive alien species.
  - ▶ This is done by regulating the trade by export certificates and import permits.
- The Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) programme is an international collaboration that measures the levels, trends and causes of elephant mortality. It was established by CITES in 1997. It provides an information base to support international decision-making related to conservation of elephants in Asia and Africa.
- In 2017, IUCN was engaged by CITES to implement the MIKE Asia programme in two sub-regions: South Asia and Southeast Asia.

## South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)

- It is a regional network comprised of eight countries in South Asia: **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.**
- It aims at working as a strong **regional inter-governmental body for combating wildlife crime** by attempting common goals and approaches for combating illegal trade in the region.
- **Secretariat:**Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Adoption of SAWEN statute envisions India being part of the regional intergovernmental body in combating wildlife crime in the region and beyond. Following objectives have been set to attain the goal:
  - ▶ To take initiatives for bringing harmonization and standardization in laws and policies of member countries concerning the conservation of fauna and flora;
  - ▶ To document the trend of poaching and illegal trade and related threats to the natural biodiversity within and across countries in the region;
  - ▶ To strengthen institutional responses to combat wildlife crime by promoting research and information sharing, training and capacity building, technical support, sharing experiences and outreach; and
  - ▶ To encourage member countries to prepare and implement their National Action Plans in curbing wildlife crime and to collaborate towards effective implementation.

## Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR)

- It is an interdisciplinary body of the **International Council for Science (ICSU)**.
- It was **established in February 1958** to continue the international coordination of Antarctic scientific activities that had begun during the **International Geophysical Year of 1957-58**.
- It is charged with the initiating, developing, and coordinating of scientific research in the Antarctic region.
- The scientific business of SCAR is conducted by its **Standing Scientific Groups**.
- It also provides scientific advice to the **Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings** and other organizations on issues of science and conservation affecting the management of Antarctica and the Southern Ocean.
- **It meets every two years to conduct its administrative business at the SCAR Delegates Meeting.**
- An executive committee elected from the delegates is responsible for the day-to-day administration of **SCAR through its secretariat at the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge, England.**
- In 2002 SCAR received the **prestigious Prince of Asturias Award for International Cooperation.**

## World Nature Organization (WNO)

- It was born in 2010 by states which are threatened by rising sea levels.
- The WNO Treaty officially entered into force on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014. (**India is not a member**).
- **Headquarters:** Geneva
- **Key Functions:**
  - ▶ It is an intergovernmental organization that promotes global environmental protection.
  - ▶ It acts as a centre of competence for environmental protection, green technologies and sustainability, and as a mediator and initiator, making the available experience of practical applications and strategies, offering support on all issues related to responsible conduct as regards the natural environment and its resources and assisting States to benefit from efficient development and scientific and technology transfer.
  - ▶ It promotes sustainable conduct as regards the natural environment, together with new, environments-friendly technologies, green economies, and renewable energies.

## Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (GACSA)

- It is an **inclusive, voluntary, and action-oriented multi-stakeholder platform on Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA)**.
- Its vision is to improve food security, nutrition, and resilience in the face of climate change.
- It aims to catalyze and help create transformational partnerships to encourage actions that reject an integrated approach to the three pillars of CSA.

- GACSA works towards three aspirational outcomes to:
  - ▶ Improve farmers' agricultural productivity and incomes in a sustainable way;
  - ▶ Build farmers' resilience to extreme weather and changing climate;
  - ▶ Reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with agriculture, when possible.
- **Members:**
  - ▶ GACSA is a voluntary platform open to governments, international and regional organizations, institutions, civil society, farmers' organizations, and businesses who agree with its vision and its Framework Document.
  - ▶ Being a member **does not create any binding obligations** and members determine their particular voluntary actions according to their needs and priorities.
  - ▶ **Individuals cannot be members, but they can join GACSA's Action Groups**

## Arctic Council

- It is the leading intergovernmental forum promoting cooperation, coordination, and interaction among the Arctic States, Arctic indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants on common Arctic issues, in particular on issues of sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic.
- The Arctic Council works as a **consensus-based body** to deal with issues such as the change in biodiversity, melting sea ice, plastic pollution, and black carbon.
- **The Arctic Council is a high-level intergovernmental body set up in 1996 by the Ottawa.**
- The Council has **eight circumpolar countries as members**(Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the United States).
- As of May 2019, **thirteen non-Arctic states** have Observer status (Observers have **no voting rights** in the Council).
  - ▶ In 2019, India has been re-elected as an Observer to the Council.
- **Arctic Council Secretariat:Tromsø, Norway.**
- India does not have an official Arctic policy and its Arctic research objectives have been centered on ecological and environmental aspects, with a focus on climate change, till now.
- The work of the Council is primarily carried out in six Working Groups.
  - ▶ **Arctic Contaminants Action Program (ACAP):**It acts as a strengthening and supporting mechanism to encourage national actions to reduce emissions and other releases of pollutants.
  - ▶ **Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP):**It monitors the Arctic environment, ecosystems, and human populations, and provides scientific advice to support governments as they tackle pollution and adverse effects of climate change.
  - ▶ **Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group (CAFF):**It addresses the conservation of Arctic biodiversity, working to ensure the sustainability of the Arctic's living resources.
  - ▶ **Emergency Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Working Group (EPPR):**It works to protect the Arctic environment from the threat or impact of an accidental release of pollutants or radionuclides.
  - ▶ **Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) Working Group:**It is the focal point of the Arctic Council's activities related to the protection and sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment.

- ▶ **Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG):** It works to advance sustainable development in the Arctic and to improve the conditions of Arctic communities as a whole.

## Global Environment Facility (GEF)

- It was established in **October 1991 as a \$1 billion pilot program in the World Bank** to assist in the protection of the global environment and to promote environmentally sustainable development.
- **Headquarter:** Washington, United States of America
- It unites **183 countries** in partnership with international institutions, civil society organizations (CSOs), and the private sector to address global environmental issues while supporting national sustainable development initiatives.
- The GEF is jointly managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- The GEF provides grants for projects related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, the ozone layer, and persistent organic pollutants.
- The GEF also serves as a financial mechanism for the following conventions:
  - ▶ Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
  - ▶ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
  - ▶ UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
  - ▶ Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
  - ▶ Minamata Convention on Mercury.

## Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA)

- **It was established by the European Union (EU) in 2007** to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with developing countries, in particular, least developed countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
- In 2014, a new phase of the GCCA, the **GCCA+ flagship initiative, began in line with the European Commission's new Multiannual Financial Framework (2014-2020).**
- The GCCA+ aim is to boost the efficiency of its response to the needs of vulnerable countries and groups. Using ambitious and innovative approaches, it will achieve its goals by building on its two mutually reinforcing pillars:
  - ▶ Under the first pillar, the GCCA+ serves as a platform for dialogue and exchange of experience between the EU and developing countries, focusing on climate policy and bringing renewed attention to the issue of international climate finance. The results feed into negotiations for a new climate deal under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
  - ▶ Under the second pillar, the GCCA+ acts as a source of technical and financial support for the world's most climate-vulnerable countries, whose populations need climate finance the most. Extra efforts will be made to strengthen the strategically important issues of ecosystems-based adaptation, migration, and gender equality.
- The GCCA+ focuses its technical support on three priority areas:
  - ▶ Climate change mainstreaming and poverty reduction
  - ▶ Increasing resilience to climate-related stresses and shocks
  - ▶ Sector-based climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.

## Climate Action Network (CAN)

- It is a worldwide network of over 1300 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in more than 120 countries, working to promote government and individual action to limit human-induced climate change to ecologically sustainable levels.
- It has regional network hubs that coordinate these efforts around the world.
- Its members place a high priority on both a healthy environment and development that “meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (**Brundtland Commission**).
- Its vision is to protect the atmosphere while allowing for sustainable and equitable development worldwide.

## Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE)

- It was launched in 2013 as a response to the call at Rio+20 to support those countries wishing to embark on greener and more inclusive growth trajectories.
- **PAGE brings together five UN agencies – UN Environment, International Labour Organization, UN Development Programme, UN Industrial Development Organization, and UN Institute for Training and Research** – whose mandates, expertise and networks combined can offer integrated and holistic support to countries on an inclusive green economy, ensuring coherence and avoiding duplication.
- PAGE represents a mechanism to coordinate UN action on green economy and to assist countries in achieving and monitoring the emerging Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 8: “Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.”

## Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)

- The FCPF currently has 47 REDD Country Participants (18 in Africa, 18 in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 11 in Asia-Pacific).
- **The World Bank assumes the functions of the trustee and secretariat.** The World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and United Nations Development Programme are Delivery Partners under the Readiness Fund and responsible for providing REDD+ readiness support services to distinct countries.
- The four strategic objectives of the FCPF:
  - ▶ To assist countries in their REDD+ efforts by providing them with financial and technical assistance in building their capacity to benefit from possible future systems of positive incentives for REDD+.
  - ▶ To pilot a performance-based payment system for REDD+ activities, to ensure equitable benefit sharing and promoting future large-scale positive incentives for REDD+.
  - ▶ Within the approach to REDD+, to test ways to sustain or enhance the livelihoods of local communities and to conserve biodiversity.
  - ▶ To disseminate broadly the knowledge gained in the development of the Facility and the implementation of Readiness Preparation Proposals (RPPs) and Emission Reductions Programs (ERPs).



- The FCPF's funding mechanisms:
  - ▶ The FCPF has two separate but complementary funding mechanisms — **the Readiness Fund and the Carbon Fund** — to achieve its strategic objectives.
  - ▶ Both funds are underpinned by a multi-donor fund of governments and non-governmental entities, including private companies that make a minimum financial contribution of \$5 million.
    - Contributors to the Readiness Fund are known as Donor Participants.
    - Contributors to the Carbon Fund are known as Carbon Fund Participants.
  - ▶ Developing countries participating in the FCPF (both funds) are known as REDD Country Participants.

## Global Tiger Forum (GTF)

- **Formed in 1994 with its secretariat at New Delhi, GTF is the only inter-governmental & international body campaigning to save the tiger worldwide.**
- The General Assembly of **GTF meets once in three years.**
  - ▶ To promote a worldwide campaign to save the tiger, its prey and its habitat;
  - ▶ To promote a legal framework in the countries involved in biodiversity conservation;
  - ▶ To increase the protected area network of habitats of the tiger and facilitate their inter passages in the range countries;
  - ▶ To promote eco-development programmes with the participation of the communities living in and around protected areas;
  - ▶ Elimination of illegal trade;
  - ▶ Scientific research
  - ▶ The development and exchange among themselves, of appropriate technologies and training programmes for scientific wildlife management
  - ▶ To set up a participative fund of an appropriate size to engender awareness in all places

## Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)

- It was first launched as a think tank in 2010 by Korean President Lee Myung-bak and was later converted into an international treaty-based organization in 2012 at the Rio+20 Summit in Brazil.
- **Headquarter:** It is headquartered in **Seoul, Republic of Korea**
- **Key Functions:** It works to produce three major outcomes: adoption and implementation of green growth plans; provision of research for policymakers; and private sector engagement in the implementation of the national green growth plans.
- The organization uses three approaches to achieve these outcomes: Green Growth Planning & Implementation (GGP&I), Knowledge Development & Management (KDM), and Public-Private Cooperation (PPC).
- **Funding:** Funds are given by contributing members.
  - ▶ Contributing members are defined as Member countries that make a multi-year financial contribution of core funding of no less than USD 15 million over three years.
  - ▶ Participating members are defined as Member countries that are not contributing members.

- GGGI has been working in India to promote green growth and sustainable development since 2013.
  - ▶ At the state level, GGGI worked closely with the governments of Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh (HP), and Punjab to develop comprehensive green growth strategies together with each.

## International solar Alliance (ISA)

- ISA was launched at Paris Climate Change Conference in 2015 by the President of France and the Prime Minister of India.
- The body aims to scale up solar energy applications, take coordinated action through programmes and activities launched on a voluntary basis and facilitate collaborative research and development activities in solar energy technologies.
- It is a multi-country partnership organization with membership from solar resource rich countries between the two tropics, where the global community can make a positive contribution towards increasing the use of solar energy.
- It has now been decided to extend the membership of the alliance to all the UN member states.
- Each Member shares and updates, for those solar applications for which it seeks the benefits of collective action under the ISA.
- Till October 2021, 101 countries have signed the ISA Framework Agreement and 80 countries have signed and ratified the ISA Framework Agreement.
- ISA is the first international organization headquartered in India.

### Initiatives taken by ISA

- **Green Grids Initiative - One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG):** It is launched by India at the global climate conference COP26 with an aim to harness solar energy wherever the Sun is shining, ensuring that generated electricity flows to areas that need it most.
- **Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP)** launched at COP26 with USD10 billions of committed capital to accelerate investment in green energy transitions and renewable energy solutions in developing and emerging economies.
- **Scaling Solar Applications for Agriculture Use (SSAAU):** It focuses on providing greater energy access and a sustainable irrigation solution to farmers through deployment of Solar Water Pumping Systems in member countries.

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# INDIAN INSTITUTIONS

## Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)

- It is the nodal agency in the administrative structure of the Central Government, for the planning, promotion, co-ordination and overseeing the implementation of Environmental and Forestry programmes.
- It is also the **Nodal agency in the country for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**.
- The principal activities undertaken by it consists of:
  - ▶ Conservation & survey of flora, fauna, forests, and Wildlife,
  - ▶ Prevention & control of pollution,
  - ▶ Afforestation & regeneration of degraded areas,
  - ▶ Protection of the environment in the framework of legislation,
  - ▶ The welfare of animals.
- The main tools utilized for this include Environmental surveys, impact assessment, control of pollution, regeneration programmes, support to organizations, research to solve solutions and training to augment the requisite manpower, collection, and dissemination of environmental information and creation of environmental awareness among all sectors of the country's population.
- MoEFCC recently constituted a high-level inter-ministerial Apex Committee for Implementation of Paris Agreement (AIPA) Its purpose is to ensure that India is on track towards meeting its obligations under the Paris Agreement including its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)

## Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI)

- It is a **statutory advisory body** created under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.
- It was **setup in 1962** to advise on animal welfare laws and policymaking.
- **Headquarters** - Chennai.
- Board has 28 members with a **three-year term** but can be renewed.
- The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) scheme relates to the provision of assistance for the following type of activities:
  - ▶ **Financial assistance to animal welfare organizations** for maintaining the stray animals in distress and for their treatment.
  - ▶ **Human education programmes for the welfare of animals are implemented by the AWBI.**
  - ▶ Expenditure on a variety of other animal welfare activities such as the rescue of cattle from illegal smuggling and transportation, rehabilitation of rescued circus animals, lab animals, inspections, legal expenses in connection with court cases about animal welfare, mobile clinics are also incurred.

## Central Zoo Authority (CZA)

- It is an affiliate member of the **World Association of Zoos and Aquariums.**
- It has been constituted under the **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.**
- The main objective of the authority is to complement the national effort in the conservation of wildlife.
- **Functions:**
  - ▶ To set standards for the upkeep of zoos and recognize and derecognize zoos.
  - ▶ Assign endangered species to zoos for nurturing.
  - ▶ To undertake training programs for zoo personnel, coordinate and research in captive breeding, provide technical and other assistance to zoos.
  - ▶ To undertake other actions with regards to zoos as may be necessary under the act.

## National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)

- **Biodiversity Act, 2002** has created NBA and state biodiversity boards and biodiversity management committees.
- It is created to ensure fair and equitable benefits sharing that arise out of research on Indian biodiversity.
- Anyone seeking to obtain intellectual property rights to knowledge obtained out of research on biological resources has to obtain the permission of the NBA.
- **NBA can impose conditions for approving the grant of approvals.**
- It also advises state governments to denote certain natural sites as heritage sites.
- State biodiversity boards grant approval for bio-survey or bio-utilization or commercialization of biological resources by Indians.

- At the local level, Biodiversity management committees are created for conservation, sustainable use, and documentation of biodiversity.

## Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)

- It is a **statutory body** established in 2007, by **amending the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.
- The bureau would complement the efforts of the state governments, primary enforcers of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and other enforcement agencies of the country.
- **Functions:**
  - ▶ Collect, collate, and disseminate intelligence and help form wildlife data bank.
  - ▶ Coordinate enforcement activities of various agencies for implementing this act.
  - ▶ Implementation of obligations under various international conventions and protocols.
  - ▶ Assistance to foreign agencies for wildlife crime control, capacity building of officers, and advice central and state governments on policies and laws.

## National Green Tribunal (NGT)

- It has been established for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources including enforcement of any legal right relating to the environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- The Tribunal's dedicated jurisdiction in environmental matters shall provide speedy environmental justice and help reduce the burden of litigation in the higher courts.
- The Tribunal **shall not be bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but shall be guided by principles of Natural Justice. It has the power of the civil court.**
- It can have 20 members each from the judicial background and Expert members.
- The judicial members have to be SC Judge or Chief Justice of High courts.
- Appeals against the orders of NGT have to be made to SC and **within 90 days**.
- The cases filed under NGT have to be **disposed of within 6 months**.
- **Headquarters** - Delhi with regional benches at Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata, and Chennai.

## National Board of Wildlife (NBWL)

- It is constituted under the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**.
- **Prime Minister is the Chairman** of the board and the vice-chairman is the Union Minister for Environment,
- Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).
- The other members are MPs, Secretaries of the government of India from relevant departments, ecologists, conservationists, heads of research institutes, etc.
- Functions of the Board:
  - Carry out Environment impact assessment for projects.

- Making recommendations on the setting up of and management of national parks, sanctuaries, and other protected areas.
- Decide on the restriction of activities in those protected areas;
- Reviewing the progress of measures taken for wildlife safety.
- Frame policies for wildlife protection, forests, and curbing illegal poaching.
- No state can alter a Tiger reserve without the approval of this body.
- Publish reports on the state of wildlife in India.

## Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC)

- It is a **statutory body** constituted under the '**Rules for the Manufacture, Use /Import /Export and Storage of Hazardous Microorganisms/Genetically Engineering Organisms or Cells, 1989' notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.**
- It was formed as the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee and was renamed to its current name in 2010.
- It functions under the **Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC).**
- The body regulates the use, manufacture, storage, import, and export of hazardous microorganisms or genetically-engineered organisms and cells in India.
- The **Committee is chaired by the Special Secretary/Additional Secretary of the MoEF&CC.** A representative of the Department of Biotechnology is a co-chair.
- The functions of the GEAC are:
  - ▶ It is responsible for the appraisal of activities that involve the large scale use of hazardous microbes and recombinants in research and industrial production from the environment.
  - ▶ It assesses proposals regarding the release of genetically engineered products and organisms into the environment, and this includes experimental field trials as well.
  - ▶ It looks into proposals regarding the use of living modified organism that comes in the risk category III and above in the import/manufacture of recombinant pharma products, or where the end-product of the recombinant pharma product is a modified living organism.
- The Committee has the power to take **punitive action against people/bodies under the Environment (Protection) Act.**
- The approval of the GEAC is mandatory before genetically modified organisms and products derived from them can be used commercially.

## Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)

- It is a statutory organization constituted under the **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.**
- It was entrusted with the powers and functions under the **Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.**
- It serves as a field formation and also provides technical services to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) of the provisions of the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.**

- Principal functions of the CPCB, as spelled out in the **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981**, to
  - ▶ Promote cleanliness of streams and wells in different areas of the States by prevention, control, and abatement of water pollution, and
  - ▶ Improve the quality of air and to prevent, control, or abate air pollution in the country.
- It is led by its **Chairman followed by the Member Secretary, and other members.**
- The CPCB performs its various functions through the following nine major project budget heads.
  - ▶ Pollution assessment (survey and monitoring).
  - ▶ R&D and laboratory management.
  - ▶ Development of standards and guidelines for industry-specific emissions and effluent standards
  - ▶ Training
  - ▶ Information database management and library
  - ▶ Pollution control technology
  - ▶ Pollution control enforcement
  - ▶ Mass awareness and publications
  - ▶ Hazard waste management

## National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)

- It is a **statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)** constituted under enabling provisions of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, as amended in 2006, for strengthening tiger conservation, as per powers and functions assigned to it under the said Act.
- It is set up under **the Chairmanship of the Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)**
- The Authority will have eight experts or professionals having qualifications and experience in wildlife conservation and welfare of people including tribals, apart from three Members of Parliament of whom two will be elected by the House of the People and one by the Council of States.
- The Inspector-General of Forests, in charge of project Tiger, will **be ex-officio Member Secretary.**
- **The objective of the NTCA:**
  - ▶ Providing statutory authority to Project Tiger so that compliance of its directives become legal.
  - ▶ Fostering accountability of Center-State in management of Tiger Reserves, by providing a basis for MoU with States within our federal structure.
  - ▶ Providing for oversight by Parliament.
  - ▶ Addressing livelihood interests of local people in areas surrounding Tiger Reserves.
- **Power and Functions of the NTCA:**
  - To approve the tiger conservation plan prepared by the State Government under sub-section (3) of section 38V of this Act.
  - Evaluate and assess various aspects of sustainable ecology and disallow any ecologically unsustainable land use such as mining, industry, and other projects within the tiger reserves.
  - Provide for management focus and measures for addressing conflicts of men and wild animals and to emphasize on co-existence in forest areas outside the National Parks, sanctuaries or tiger reserve, in the working plan code.

- ▶ Provide information on protection measures including future conservation plan, estimation of population of tiger and its natural prey species, the status of habitats, disease surveillance, mortality survey, patrolling, reports on untoward happenings, and such other management aspects as it may deem fit including plan conservation.
- ▶ Ensure critical support including scientific, information technology and legal support for better implementation of the tiger conservation plan;
- ▶ Facilitate ongoing capacity building programme for skill development of officers and staff of tiger reserves.

## National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board (NAEB)

- It was setup in August 1992
- It is **responsible for promoting afforestation, tree planting, ecological restoration and eco-development activities in the country**, with special attention to the degraded forest areas and lands adjoining the forest areas, national parks, sanctuaries, and other protected areas as well as the ecologically fragile areas like the Western Himalayas, Aravallis, Western Ghats, etc.
- It evolves mechanisms for ecological restoration of degraded forest areas and adjoining lands through systematic planning and implementation, in a cost-effective manner.
- It restores fuelwood, fodder, timber, and other forest produce on the degraded forest and adjoining lands to meet the demands for these items.
- It sponsors research and extension of research findings to disseminate new and proper technologies for the regeneration and development of degraded forest areas and adjoining lands.

## Wildlife Institute of India (WII)

- It is an **autonomous institution** under the **Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)**.
- It was established in 1982.
- It is based in **Dehradun, Uttarakhand**.
- It offers training programs, academic courses, and advisory in wildlife research and management.
- WII carries out wildlife research in areas of study like Biodiversity, Endangered Species, Wildlife Policy, Wildlife Management, Wildlife Forensics, Spatial Modeling, Eco-development, Habitat Ecology, and Climate Change. WII has a research facility that includes Forensics, Remote Sensing and GIS, Laboratory, Herbarium, and an Electronic Library.

## Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA)

- It has been created by the **Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)**.
- The Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Act was passed by the centre in 2016 and the related rules were notified in 2018.



- The CAF Act was enacted to manage the funds collected for compensatory afforestation which till then was managed by **ad hoc Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA)**.
- The law establishes the **National Compensatory Afforestation Fund under the Public Account of India** and a **State Compensatory Afforestation Fund under the Public Account of each state**.
- **These Funds will receive payments for** compensatory afforestation, the net present value of forest (NPV), and other project-specific payments.
- The **National Fund will receive 10% of these funds, and the State Funds will receive the remaining 90%**.
- According to the Act's provision, **a company diverting forest land must provide alternative land to take up compensatory afforestation**.
- For afforestation, **the company should pay to plant new trees in the alternative land provided to the state**.

## Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)

- It was established to promote the survey, exploration, and research of the fauna in the region.
- The activities of the ZSI are coordinated by the **Conservation and Survey Division under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)**.
- It originated as a **Zoological Section of the Indian Museum in Kolkata**.
- Initially, the ZSI had eight regional centres across India. Currently, there are 16 regional centres spread across the country.
- **Headquarters: Kolkata**.
- It has been declared as a designated repository for the **National Zoological Collection as per Section 39 of the National Biodiversity Act, 2002**.
- **Primary objectives:** Exploring, Surveying, Inventorying and Monitoring of faunal diversity in various states, selected ecosystems and protected areas of India; Taxonomic studies of the faunal components collected; Status survey of Threatened and Endemic species; Preparation of Red Data Book, Fauna of India and Fauna of States.
- **Secondary objectives:** GIS and Remote Sensing studies on recorded animal diversity as well as on threatened species; Chromosomal Mapping and DNA Barcoding.

## Botanical Survey of India (BSI)

- It is the apex research organization under the MoEF&CC for carrying out taxonomic and floristic studies on wild plant resources of the country.
- It was established on 13<sup>th</sup> February 1890.
- **Sir George King, the then Superintendent of the 'Royal Botanic Garden' Calcutta** was appointed as the **First ex-officio Honorary Director of the BSI**.
- After independence, the department was reorganized in 1954 by the Government of India as a part of the scientific development of the country. Its functional base was further expanded to include various new areas.
- The prime objectives are to undertake intensive floristic surveys and collect accurate and detailed information on the occurrence, distribution, ecology, and economic utility of plants in the country.

## Forest Survey of India (FSI)

- It is a national organization responsible for the assessment and monitoring of the forest resources of India regularly.
- It functions under the **Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)**.
- It is headquartered in **Dehradun, Uttarakhand**.
- It was established in **1981**.
- FSI is one of the major national survey organizations in India.
- The organization's precursor was the '**Pre-investment Survey of Forest Resources**' (PISFR), a project started in 1965 with aid from UNDP and FAO.
- **Functions:**
  - ▶ It is engaged in the assessment of the country's forest resources on a regular interval.
  - ▶ It is involved in forest cover assessment of the country on a **biennial basis** by interpretation of satellite data on a two-year cycle and presents the information in the form of '**India State of Forest Report**'.
  - ▶ It also forms an inventory of forests and **Trees Outside Forests (TOF) in both urban and rural areas**.
- The FSI is headed by a **Director-General who is an Indian Forest Service (IFoS) Officer**.
- The FSI uses satellite data for mapping the forest cover in the country.

## National Ganga Council

- It is **chaired by Prime Minister**.
- It is formed under **the Environment (Protection) Act (EPA), 1986**.
- It has been given overall responsibility for the superintendence of pollution prevention and rejuvenation of River Ganga Basin, including Ganga and its tributaries.
- National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) acts as an implementation arm of the National Ganga Council.
  - ▶ NMCG was established in the year 2011 as a registered society.
  - ▶ It has a two-tier management structure and comprises of Governing Council and Executive Committee.
  - ▶ The aims and objectives of NMCG are:
    - To ensure effective control of pollution and rejuvenation of the river Ganga by adopting a river basin approach to promote inter-sectoral coordination for comprehensive planning and management.
    - To maintain minimum ecological flows in the river Ganga to ensure water quality and environmentally sustainable development.

## Wildlife Trust of India (WTI)

- It was formed in November 1998 in response to the rapidly deteriorating condition of wildlife in India.

- WTI is a **registered charity in India (under Section 12A of the Income Tax Act, 1961)**.
- It is a non-profit organization.
- **Headquarter:** Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- **Objective:** To conserve wildlife and its habitat and to work for the welfare of individual wild animals.
- **Key Functions:**
  - ▶ WTI currently focuses its resources on six priority landscapes – northeast India, western Himalayas, terai, southern Ghats system, central India, and marine.
  - ▶ Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) currently runs 44 projects across India.
  - ▶ Its Depth Projects holistically address multiple conservation hurdles specific to an area through a multi-pronged approach
  - ▶ Its Breadth Projects address specific conservation issues that may not be limited in time and space in the country, such as the training of frontline forest staff and preventing wild animal deaths due to train hits.

## Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)

- It was founded on 15 September 1883 and is one of the largest non-governmental organizations in India engaged in conservation and biodiversity research.
- **BNHS is the partner of BirdLife International in India.** It has been designated as a **‘Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation’ by the Department of Science and Technology.**
- It is one of the largest non-governmental organisations in India engaged in conservation and biodiversity research.
- **BNHS Mission:** Conservation of nature, primarily biological diversity through action based on research, education and public awareness
- **BNHS Vision:** Premier independent scientific organization with a broad based constituency, excelling in the conservation of threatened species and habitats.
- **Logo:** The BNHS logo is **agreat hornbill.**
- **Internet of Birds:** IT consultancy firm Accenture and the Bombay Natural History Society have developed the Internet of Birds platform that identifies bird species found in India using Artificial Intelligence technology, including machine learning and computer vision, from digital photos that are uploaded by the public.
- **The Asian waterbird census** is an **annual exercise** undertaken in India by Bombay Natural History Society in association with Wetlands International.
  - ▶ In waterbird census enthusiastic birdwatchers count the birds by observing them near their respective breeding grounds.
  - ▶ The exercise is a part of ‘International waterbird census’, an international exercise.
  - ▶ It also aims to create awareness regarding bird species as well as health of the wetlands, which are facing severe threat amidst anthropogenic disturbance.
  - ▶ It is conducted in the month of January every year.

## Environmentalist Foundation of India (EFI)

- It was started in 2007 and registered in 2011

- **Headquarter:** Chennai, Hyderabad, Puducherry, and Coimbatore
- **Objective:** Wildlife conservation and habitat restoration
- **Key Functions:**
  - ▶ The organization is known for its work in cleaning and scientific restoration of lakes in India for biodiversity.
  - ▶ The organization and its efforts grew from that one pond in Chennai to include over 39 lakes and 48 ponds in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Pondicherry and Gujarat in the last 10 years (2007 to 2017)
  - ▶ EFI is also involved in the setting up of herbal biodiversity gardens at schools and special interest zones. The idea behind the herbal gardens is to increase people's interest in green cover and live healthy with native Indian herbs.
  - ▶ EFI's "**Clean for Olive Green**" is a beach clean-up project that is organized every year in December to May to keep Chennai's beaches clean for the nesting Sea Turtle Mothers.

## National Interlinking of Rivers Authority (NIRA)

- Recently, the Centre decided to create the exclusive body to implement river-linking projects in India.
- NIRA is an independent autonomous body for planning, investigation, financing and the implementation of the river interlinking projects in the country.
- NIRA will be headed by a Government of India Secretary-rank officer.
- It will replace the existing National Water Development Agency (NWDA) and will function as an umbrella body for all river linking projects.
- **Function of NIRA:**
  - ▶ It will coordinate with neighbouring countries and concerned states and departments on the directions of Ministry of Jal Shakti or the Ministry of External Affairs.
  - ▶ It will have powers on issues related to environment, wildlife and forest clearances under river linking projects and their legal aspects.
  - ▶ It will have the power to raise funds and act as a repository of borrowed funds or money received on deposit or loan given on interest.
  - ▶ It will have the power to set up a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for individual link projects.

## National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC)

- India's and Asia's first National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC) is going to be set up in the premises of Patna University, Bihar.
- National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC), a big step for the conservation of the endangered Gangetic river dolphin.
- NDRC would boost conservation efforts of dolphins and would provide an opportunity for in-depth research on dolphins including its changing behaviour, survival skills, food habits, cause of death and other aspects.

### **Gangetic river dolphin**

- The Gangetic river dolphin is India's national aquatic animal.
- It is a Schedule I animal under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- It has been declared an endangered species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- The Gangetic river dolphin is one of four freshwater dolphin species in the world. The other three are found in the Yangtze river in China (now extinct), the Indus river in Pakistan and the Amazon river in South America.
- The dolphin is found in India, Bangladesh and Nepal. It is blind and finds its way and prey in river waters through echolocation.
- Bihar is home to around half of the estimated 3,000 Gangetic dolphins in India.
- Dolphins prefer water that is at least five to eight feet deep.
- They are usually found in turbulent waters, where there are enough fish for them to feed on.
- Gangetic dolphins live in a zone where there is little or no current, helping them save energy. If they sense danger, they can dive into deep waters. The dolphins swim from the no-current zone to the edges to hunt for fish and return.

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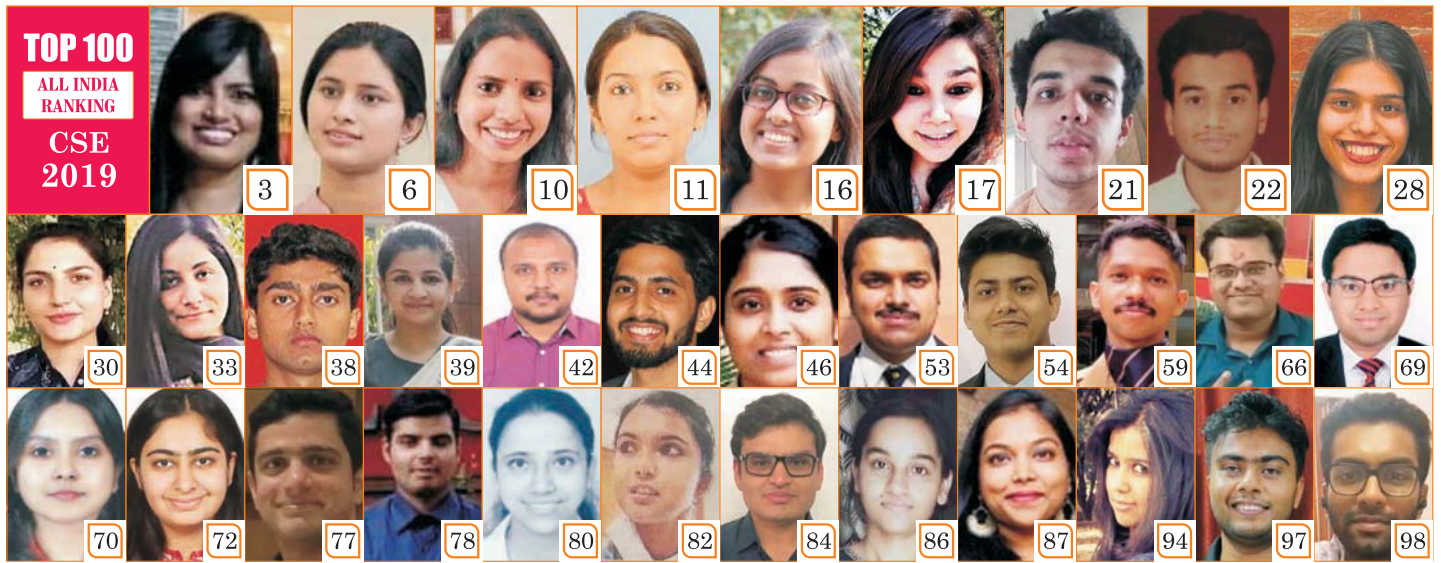
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