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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

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Table of Contents

1. Supreme Court Intervention on Form 7 Misuse and Electoral Rolls 2
2. Census 2027: Door-to-Door Enumeration and Digital Upgradation 3
3. World Bank Report on India's Poverty Reduction and Economic Growth 4
4. Surge in Farm Fires and Stubble Burning Incidents in Punjab 5
5. Tribal Astronomy and Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) 7
6. Decline of Extreme Poverty in India: World Bank Data Analysis 8
7. External Affairs Minister at G20 Foreign Ministers Meeting: Addressing Terrorism and Global Security 9
8. Tiger Relocation and Inter-State Wildlife Management: Buxa to Assam Movement 11
9. Ashoke Sen's Scientific Journey and the Value of Theoretical Physics 12

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1. Supreme Court Intervention on Form 7 Misuse and Electoral Rolls

Key Highlights

- The Supreme Court directed the Election Commission of India (ECI) to examine allegations regarding the bulk and fraudulent filing of Form 7 applications during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Uttar Pradesh.
- Petitioners alleged that mass deletion requests were orchestrated to selectively target specific communities, pointing out irregularities such as multiple forms submitted in single constituencies.
- The ECI submitted that while bulk Form 7 applications were detected, field checks confirmed they were false and no illegal deletions were executed.
- The apex court instructed the petitioners to submit a formal representation detailing unresolved discrepancies to the ECI for factual verification and corrective action.
- The ECI has been directed to review these specific concerns and file a comprehensive compliance report within the stipulated timeframe.



- This judicial scrutiny highlights ongoing vulnerabilities in electoral roll management and the tension between routine list updates and voter disenfranchisement risks.

Essential Definitions

- **Form 7:** A prescribed statutory application form used under electoral laws to object to the inclusion of a name or to seek the deletion of an existing entry from the electoral roll.
- **Special Intensive Revision (SIR):** A comprehensive administrative exercise undertaken by the poll panel to clean up and update electoral databases through door-to-door enumeration and verification.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 324:** Vests superintendence, direction, and control of elections in the Election Commission of India, ensuring free and fair electoral processes.
- **Representation of the People Act, 1950:** Governs the preparation and revision of electoral rolls for parliamentary and assembly constituencies.
- **Registration of Electors Rules, 1960:** Statutory rules framing procedures for electoral roll modifications, including the specific operational provisions for Form 6, Form 7, and Form 8.
- **Section 31 of RP Act, 1950:** Penalizes making false declarations or statements regarding electoral roll entries with imprisonment up to 1 year, fine, or both.

Conclusion

Safeguarding the integrity of electoral rolls is foundational to representative democracy. While administrative machinery successfully flagged unauthorized deletion attempts during the SIR exercise, the recurrence of mass fraudulent applications points to critical enforcement gaps. Strengthening institutional checks, mandating strict legal penalties against bogus objectors under Section 31, and ensuring absolute

transparency in roll-revision data are imperative to prevent voter disenfranchisement and sustain public trust in democratic institutions.

UPSC Relevance

- **General Studies Paper II:** Indian Constitution-Historical Underpinnings, Evolution, Features, Amendments, Significant Provisions, and Basic Structure.
- **Governance & Polity:** Salient features of the Representation of the People Act, appointment to various Constitutional Posts, powers, functions, and responsibilities of the Election Commission of India.
- **Prelims Exam:** Important statutory provisions, electoral roll revision rules, and constitutional mandates governing elections.

2. Census 2027: Door-to-Door Enumeration and Digital Upgradation

Key Highlights, Summary & Background

- Population Enumeration, the second phase of Census 2027, will commence on January 10, 2027, with an online self-enumeration window.
- Door-to-door enumeration will take place nationwide from January 25 to February 28, 2027, preceded by early rollouts in specific poll-bound regions starting late 2026.
- Enumerators will collect data across 40 questions, introducing 13 new parameters including general caste details, religion, parental birthplace, bank accounts, digital literacy, and vaccine records.
- The exercise has already been completed in snow-bound and high-altitude areas like Ladakh, parts of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand by September 30.
- Enhanced technological integration allows for digital self-enumeration and extensive socioeconomic data mapping to aid policy formulation.
- The comprehensive exercise serves as the baseline for national demographic tracking, resource allocation, and targeted welfare delivery.

Essential Definitions

- **Population Enumeration:** The second core phase of the census process involving the systematic counting and collection of demographic, social, and economic particulars of every individual residing in the country.
- **Self-Enumeration:** A digital mechanism allowing citizens to independently fill out census questionnaires online before field verification by official enumerators.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 246 of the Constitution:** Allocates the subject of census to the Union List (Entry 69) of the Seventh Schedule, vesting exclusive law-making power in the Parliament.
- **Census Act, 1948:** The foundational statutory legislation governing the collection of census data, empowering the central government to notify and conduct decennial population counts.
- **Census Rules, 1990:** Statutory rules detailing the operational framework, administrative roles, and procedural guidelines for conducting census operations across states and union territories.

- **Legal Obligation:** Section 15 of the Census Act mandates citizens to answer truthful questions posed by authorized census officers, ensuring statutory data compliance backed by penal provisions for refusal or false information.

Conclusion

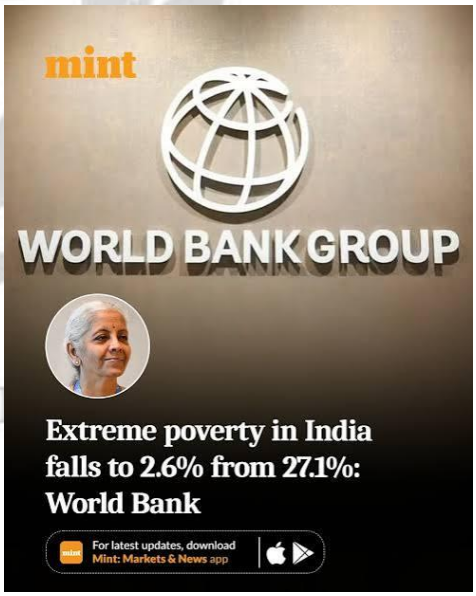
Census 2027 represents a critical milestone in modernizing India's demographic architecture through digital integration and expanded socioeconomic parameters. By capturing nuanced metrics like digital literacy and non-SC/ST caste details, the exercise will empower policymakers with robust empirical data. Ensuring strict data privacy, seamless field execution, and public cooperation will be vital for the accurate and successful culmination of this monumental national exercise.

UPSC Relevance

- **General Studies Paper I:** Population and Associated Issues, Developmental Issues, Urbanization, their problems and remedies.
- **General Studies Paper II:** Statutory, Regulatory, and Quasi-Judicial Bodies, Governance, and Administration of Government Policies and Interventions.
- **Prelims Exam:** Constitutional provisions under Union List, Census Act 1948, and demographic terminology.

3. World Bank Report on India's Poverty Reduction and Economic Growth

Key Highlights & Background



- The World Bank's 'Poverty and Equity Brief for India' highlights that India achieved remarkable progress in poverty reduction across both monetary and non-monetary dimensions between 2011 and 2023.
- Extreme poverty (living on less than $3.00/day) sharply declined from 27.1% to 2.6%, lifting nearly 496 million people out of poverty during this period.
- Population living below the Lower Middle-Income Country poverty line ($4.2/day) fell from 57.7% to 16.1%, driven by strong consumption growth, social transfers, and food subsidies.
- Employment increased by 134 million between 2017 and 2023, largely fueled by rural women entering the workforce, outpacing working-age population growth.
- Structural challenges persist, as income disparities remain high with the top 10% earning 13 times more than the bottom 10%, while 57% of the poor are concentrated in a contiguous belt from Uttar Pradesh to West Bengal.
- Youth unemployment rose to 15.9% in Q1 FY2027, particularly affecting rural young women, underscoring the need for targeted skill creation and job opportunities.

Essential Definitions

- **Extreme Poverty Line:** A international monetary threshold (defined at $3.00/day PPP in lower middle-income context) measuring population lacking basic survival necessities.

- **Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI):** A composite metric developed by OPHI and UNDP measuring deprivations across health, education, and living standards beyond monetary income.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 38:** Directs the State to promote public welfare by securing a social order characterized by justice and minimizing inequalities in income and opportunities.
- **Article 39(a) & (b):** Mandates state policies toward securing an adequate means of livelihood for all citizens and distributing material resources for the common good.
- **Article 47:** Imposes a primary duty on the State to raise the level of nutrition, standard of living, and public health.
- **National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013:** Provides statutory backing for food subsidies and subsidized foodgrains to vulnerable households.

Impact & Measures

- **Economic Empowerment:** Massive expansion of targeted social safety nets, digital financial inclusion, and rural welfare schemes significantly boosted bottom-tier household consumption.
- **Policy Interventions Needed:** Mitigating regional disparities through localized infrastructure investments, enhancing quality job creation, closing wage gaps, and reforming vocational skill training for youth are imperative to sustain poverty reduction trends.

Conclusion

India's substantial drop in extreme and multidimensional poverty marks a historic socio-economic transformation driven by inclusive welfare measures and increased female labor force participation. However, geographical poverty concentration, widening wage disparities, and youth unemployment highlight structural bottlenecks. Sustained emphasis on high-value job creation, rural industrialization, and equitable regional development will be essential to ensure inclusive and lasting prosperity.

UPSC Relevance

- **General Studies Paper I:** Social Empowerment, Poverty and Developmental Issues, Urbanization, and Population Dynamics.
- **General Studies Paper II:** Welfare Schemes for Vulnerable Sections, Issues Relating to Development and Management of Social Sector/Services.
- **General Studies Paper III:** Indian Economy and issues relating to Planning, Mobilization of Resources, Growth, Development, and Employment.

4. Surge in Farm Fires and Stubble Burning Incidents in Punjab

Key Highlights, Summary & Background

- Farm fire incidents in Punjab witnessed a sharp spike, doubling over a week with a single day surge of 194 cases, bringing the cumulative total to 1007.
- Geographic concentration is severe, with three districts—Tarn Taran, Amritsar, and Ferozepur—accounting for 672 of these recorded events.
- Tarn Taran alone reported 397 cases, followed by Amritsar with 171 and Ferozepur with 104 instances.

- State enforcement agencies have reacted by imposing fines totaling over ₹17 lakh across 349 cases, recovering more than ₹13 lakh, alongside filing 246 First Information Reports (FIRs).
- The trend reflects recurring seasonal challenges tied to the short window between paddy harvesting and wheat sowing.
- Unchecked stubble burning significantly degrades regional air quality, directly contributing to severe winter smog episodes across northern India.



Essential Definitions

- **Stubble Burning:** The practice of intentionally setting fire to crop residue—such as paddy straw remaining after harvesting—to clear fields quickly for the next crop cycle.
- **Air Quality Index (AQI):** A standardized numerical scale used to communicate how polluted the air currently is or how clean it is expected to become.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 21:** Guarantees the right to a clean and wholesome environment as an intrinsic component of the right to life and personal liberty.
- **Article 48A:** Directs the State to protect and improve the environment and safeguard forests and wildlife.
- **Article 51A(g):** Imposes a fundamental duty on every Indian citizen to protect and improve the natural environment, including forests, lakes, rivers, and wildlife.
- **Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) Act, 2021:** Establishes a statutory framework for better coordination, research, identification, and resolution of air quality problems in the National Capital Region and adjoining areas.

Impact & Measures

- **Environmental and Public Health Crisis:** Stubble smoke exacerbates respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses, lowers visibility, and severely spikes particulate matter $\text{(PM}_{2.5}$ and PM_{10} concentrations.
- **Mitigation Strategies:** Enforcement measures include imposing monetary fines, filing FIRs, distributing ex-situ and in-situ crop residue management machinery like Happy Seeders, and promoting alternative stubble utilization.

Conclusion

The rapid escalation of farm fires in Punjab underscores the persistent limitations of punitive measures alone in curbing stubble burning. While legal actions like FIRs and monetary penalties enforce compliance, a sustainable resolution requires robust economic incentives, accessible crop-diversification models, and unhindered administrative support for residue management machinery to protect public health and ecology.

UPSC Relevance

- **General Studies Paper III:** Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation, Environmental Impact Assessment, and Disaster Management.

- **General Studies Paper II:** Government Policies and Interventions for Development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- **Prelims Exam:** Environmental statutes, Air Quality Index parameters, and constitutional provisions relating to environmental protection.

5. Tribal Astronomy and Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS)

Key Highlights, Summary & Background

- Researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Jodhpur, have conducted ground-breaking research connecting tribal astronomy in western Rajasthan with the broader Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS).
- The study examined celestial beliefs and practices among major tribal communities, including the Bhil, Meena, Banjara, Gond, Kolam, and Korku tribes.
- For the first time, researchers systematically compiled a glossary of astronomical terms and concepts utilized by tribal groups to interpret sky movements and seasons.
- Indigenous practices demonstrate close observational alignments with Sanskrit astronomical traditions, despite lacking formal mathematical notations.
- In collaboration with residents of Nandiya Kalan village, researchers established a 'Nakshatra Vatika' planting over 1,000 trees linked to star constellations and zodiac signs on degraded land.
- The study highlights the potential of ethno-astronomical wisdom in addressing contemporary challenges related to climate change, rural livelihoods, and environmental conservation.

Essential Definitions

- **Tribal Astronomy (Ethno-astronomy):** The study of how indigenous communities observe, interpret, and integrate celestial phenomena, stars, and lunar cycles into their agricultural, cultural, and pastoral practices.
- **Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS):** An interdisciplinary initiative aimed at preserving, documenting, and integrating traditional Indian knowledge across science, philosophy, technology, and arts into contemporary governance and research.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

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- **Article 29(1):** Guarantees any section of citizens residing in India having a distinct language, script, or culture the fundamental right to conserve the same.
- **Article 51A(f):** Mandates a fundamental duty upon every citizen to value and preserve the rich heritage of the country's composite culture.
- **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020:** Emphasizes the integration of Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) and traditional community wisdom into academic research and curriculum.
- **Biological Diversity Act, 2002:** Recognizes and protects traditional knowledge associated with biological resources and equitable benefit-sharing.

Impact & Measures

- **Preservation of Oral Traditions:** Prevents the loss of invaluable oral histories, symbolic ecological interpretations, and ritual practices threatened by modern socio-cultural shifts.

- **Eco-Restoration Initiatives:** Translates celestial cosmology into action through projects like 'Nakshatra Vatika,' fostering biodiversity conservation and degraded land revival with indigenous plant species like gular, peepal, khrejri, and jamun.

Conclusion

Integrating tribal ethno-astronomy with the formal Indian Knowledge System establishes a bridge between ancient empirical observation and modern scientific inquiry. Documenting indigenous sky-reckoning practices not only protects India's intangible cultural heritage but also provides community-driven models for sustainable ecosystem management and climate resilience.

UPSC Relevance

- **General Studies Paper I:** Indian Culture - Salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature, and Architecture from ancient to modern times; Diversity of India and Tribal Wisdom.
- **General Studies Paper II:** Government Policies and Interventions for Development, Protection of Heritage and Minority Rights.
- **General Studies Paper III:** Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation, Environmental Impact Assessment, and Biodiversity Preservation.

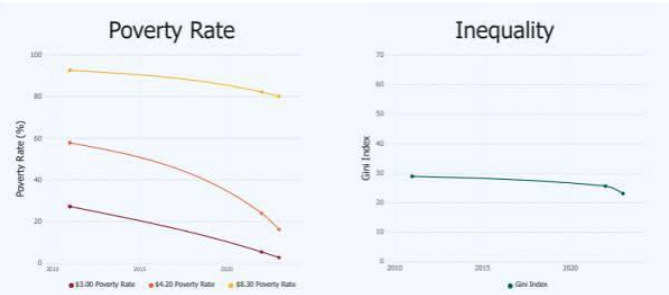
6. Decline of Extreme Poverty in India: World Bank Data Analysis

Key Highlights, Summary & Background

- Extreme poverty in India, measured at the threshold of under 3 per day in 2021 Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) terms, fell significantly to 2.6% in 2023 according to World Bank data.
- This represents a sharp drop of more than 10 times compared to 27.1% in 2011, and a halving from 5.3% in 2022-23.
- Despite this progress, wage disparity remains pronounced, with median earnings for the top 10% of workers being about 13 times greater than those for the bottom 10%.
- Poverty has become increasingly concentrated geographically, with about 57% of India's poor living in a contiguous belt stretching from Uttar Pradesh to West Bengal.
- Employment rose by 13.4 crore between 2017 and 2023, largely driven by rural women entering paid work, though youth unemployment rose from 14.6% to 15.9% in the same three-month fiscal period.
- Sustained policy interventions, targeted social transfers, and resilient household consumption growth have been cited as major drivers behind this rapid reduction in poverty.

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Essential Definitions



- **Extreme Poverty Rate:** The proportion of a country's population living below an international monetary threshold set at 3 per day in 2021 PPP terms.
- **Purchasing Power Parity (PPP):** An economic metric used to determine the relative value of currencies and compare the purchasing power of different nations by analyzing the cost of a basket of goods.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 38:** Directs the State to promote the welfare of the people by securing and protecting a social order characterized by social, economic, and political justice and minimizing income inequalities.
- **Article 39:** Directs state policy towards ensuring that citizens have adequate means of livelihood and that the operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth.
- **Article 47:** Imposes a duty on the State to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and to improve public health.
- **National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013:** Provides statutory backing for subsidized foodgrains distribution to two-thirds of India's population, reinforcing social protection frameworks.

Impact & Measures

- **Socioeconomic Impact:** Rapid poverty alleviation has elevated hundreds of millions above survival thresholds, transforming consumption patterns and expanding social safety nets.
- **Policy Measures Required:** Addressing regional concentration of poverty and rising youth unemployment requires focused economic development, localized job creation in eastern states, and enhanced workforce skill training.

Conclusion

India's substantial drop in extreme poverty reflects strong structural progress, resilient labor markets, and effective welfare delivery. However, persistent geographical disparities and wage gaps indicate that future poverty reduction will increasingly depend on generating productive employment and inclusive growth within lower-income regional belts.

UPSC Relevance

- **General Studies Paper I:** Poverty and developmental issues, population and associated issues, and inclusive growth.
- **General Studies Paper II:** Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and design/implementation of welfare schemes.
- **General Studies Paper III:** Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development, and employment.

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7. External Affairs Minister at G20 Foreign Ministers Meeting: Addressing Terrorism and Global Security

Key Highlights, Summary & Background

- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar addressed the first plenary session of the G20 Foreign Ministers' meeting in Atlanta, cautioning that tactical calculations should not overshadow the grave dangers of terrorism.
- The EAM criticized nations engaging with groups or regimes sponsoring cross-border terrorism, warning that such high-risk geopolitical maneuvers eventually backfire on the practitioners.
- India flagged that the Global South is disproportionately bearing the negative consequences of attacks on civilian shipping and seafarers, which jeopardize fuel, food, and fertilizer supplies.



- Highlighting ongoing maritime vulnerabilities, it was noted that at least 22 Indians, including 14 seafarers, have lost their lives in West Asia conflicts since the war began.
- India and Liberia launched a joint initiative to safeguard seafarers within the framework of international law, specifically referencing UNCLOS.
- The EAM also criticized weaponizing supply chains and market flooding through export controls, urging global resilience, alternate connectivity, and a halt to market distortions.

Essential Definitions

- **State-sponsored Terrorism:** The covert or overt support, financing, or harboring of terrorist organizations by a sovereign state to achieve strategic foreign policy objectives.
- **Global South:** A term broadly used to designate regions outside Europe and North America, characterizing developing or low-income countries sharing common challenges of economic and geopolitical marginalization.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 51:** Directs the Indian State to promote international peace and security, maintain just and honorable relations between nations, and foster respect for international law and treaty obligations.
- **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS):** The international treaty providing a regulatory framework for the use of the world's seas and oceans, ensuring freedom of navigation and maritime security.
- **UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR):** International legal instruments under Chapter VII binding member states to suppress and eliminate terrorist financing, safe havens, and cross-border movement.
- **Extradition Treaties and Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLAT):** Bilateral frameworks utilized by India to prosecute international terrorists and dismantle cross-border terror syndicates.

Impact & Measures

- **Geopolitical and Maritime Impact:** Terrorist attacks on commercial shipping lines severely disrupt global supply chains, spike energy costs, and endanger merchant mariners.
- **Strategic Measures:** India continues to champion a zero-tolerance policy against terrorism at multilateral forums, advocate for comprehensive anti-terror conventions (CCIT), and forge maritime security coalitions like the India-Liberia seafarer initiative.

Conclusion

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's strong stance at the G20 meeting reiterates India's unwavering position that short-term geopolitical calculations must not dilute global resolve against cross-border terrorism. As maritime choke points and global supply chains face mounting threats, fostering multilateral consensus, protecting the Global South, and enforcing strict compliance with international law are vital for sustainable global security.

UPSC Relevance

- **General Studies Paper II:** Bilateral, Regional, and Global Groupings and Agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests; Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests.
- **General Studies Paper III:** Security Challenges and Management in Border Areas, Linkages of Organized Crime with Terrorism, and Internal Security Dynamics.

8. Tiger Relocation and Inter-State Wildlife Management: Buxa to Assam Movement

Key Highlights, Summary & Background

- A three-year-old tigress named T-138, relocated to West Bengal's Buxa Tiger Reserve under the state's first tiger relocation project, strayed across state lines into Assam.
- The tigress has moved through multiple villages in Assam's Kokrajhar district, killing domesticated livestock, which has prompted alerts at the nearby Raimona National Park.
- Joint tracking operations by the forest departments of West Bengal and Assam are underway, though tracking has been complicated by temporary gaps in radio-collar signals.
- Officials are weighing options, including tranquilizing and retrieving the big cat as a last resort, while conducting public awareness campaigns and advising local villagers to stay indoors after dark.
- Buxa Tiger Reserve, spanning around 760 square kilometers, historically suffered from habitat degradation and prey decline, necessitating this phased tiger recovery program.
- The incident underscores the complexities of inter-state wildlife dispersal and the challenges of managing large carnivore movements across administrative boundaries.

Essential Definitions

- **Tiger Relocation:** The deliberate capture and trans-location of tigers from one protected area to another to re-establish viable breeding populations in historical habitats where the species has local extinction.
- **Radio-Telemetry:** A tracking technique using VHF or satellite radio-collars fitted on animals to monitor their real-time movement, home ranges, and dispersal patterns remotely.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

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- **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** The core statutory framework governing the protection of wild animals, birds, and plants, regulating national parks and tiger reserves.
- **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA):** A statutory body established under the Wildlife (Protection) Act to oversee tiger conservation projects like Project Tiger and formulate relocation guidelines.
- **Article 48A:** Directs the State to protect and improve the environment and safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country.
- **Article 51A(g):** Imposes a fundamental duty on every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment, including forests and wildlife.

Impact & Measures

- **Human-Wildlife Conflict:** The movement of large carnivores near human settlements heightens the risk of livestock depredation and public panic, necessitating immediate mitigation.
- **Administrative Coordination:** Effective containment requires seamless inter-state intelligence sharing, continuous radio-collar monitoring, rapid deployment of veterinary rapid-response teams, and community sensitization.

Conclusion

The straying of relocated tigress T-138 across state borders emphasizes the intricate challenges involved in large carnivore conservation and rewilding initiatives. While reintroduction projects are vital for reviving depleted populations in reserves like Buxa, success hinges on robust inter-state administrative synergy, advanced tracking technology, and proactive community engagement to manage human-wildlife coexistence sustainably.

UPSC Relevance

- **General Studies Paper III:** Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation, Environmental Impact Assessment, and Biodiversity Preservation.
- **General Studies Paper II:** Government Policies and Interventions for Development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- **Prelims Exam:** National parks, wildlife sanctuaries, tiger reserves in India (Buxa and Raimona), and provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

9. Ashoke Sen's Scientific Journey and the Value of Theoretical Physics

Key Highlights, Summary & Background

- Renowned Indian theoretical physicist Professor Ashoke Sen was recently awarded the prestigious Oskar Klein Medal, becoming the first Indian to join a stellar list that includes Stephen Hawking.
- The recognition marks the centenary of Oskar Klein's 1926 foundational paper, drawing parallels between Klein's initially abstract ideas and Sen's revolutionary work in string theory.
- Sen's monumental contributions include discovering electric-magnetic duality in string theory in 1994, providing striking mathematical evidence that advanced our understanding of particle physics.
- Despite lacking direct experimental applications thus far, string theory and theoretical physics remain invaluable as rich reservoirs of profound mathematical possibilities and conceptual frameworks.
- The historical trajectory of physics shows that many theoretical concepts, such as Klein-Gordon or string frameworks, take decades before finding experimental validation.
- Institutions like the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) and DAE have played a critical role in fostering a supportive ecosystem for frontier theoretical research in India.

Essential Definitions

- **String Theory:** A theoretical framework in physics where point-like particles are replaced by one-dimensional extended objects called strings, attempting to unify quantum mechanics and general relativity.
- **Electric-Magnetic Duality:** A symmetry in theoretical physics proposing that electric and magnetic forces or particles can be mathematically interchanged under specific conditions.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 51A(h):** Enjoins every citizen of India to develop a scientific temper, humanism, and the spirit of inquiry and reform as a fundamental duty.
- **Article 51A(j):** Mandates citizens to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity to constantly elevate national achievements.
- **National Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy (STIP):** Policy framework aimed at positioning India among the global scientific superpowers through robust funding and promotion of fundamental research.
- **Scientific Policy Resolution (SPR), 1958:** Foundation document committing the Indian government to nurture, promote, and sustain scientific research across all pure and applied fields.

Impact & Measures

- **Global Scientific Standing:** Celebrating pioneers like Ashoke Sen elevates India's profile in global theoretical physics and inspires the next generation of researchers to pursue fundamental science.
- **Institutional Support Needed:** Sustaining long-term grants, ensuring academic freedom, and strengthening autonomous research institutions are vital to cultivate high-risk, high-reward theoretical discoveries.

Conclusion

Professor Ashoke Sen's remarkable journey underscores the vital truth that science must continually make room for untested ideas and abstract theoretical explorations. While empirical validation remains essential, nurturing pure intellectual inquiry is often the bedrock of future technological revolutions. Building robust institutional ecosystems will ensure India continues to lead in shaping fundamental human knowledge.

UPSC Relevance

- **General Studies Paper III:** Science and Technology - Developments and their applications and effects in everyday life; Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, and nano-technology.
- **General Studies Paper IV:** Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service, including the spirit of scientific inquiry and rational decision-making.
- **Prelims Exam:** Basic concepts in modern physics, prestigious international scientific medals, and fundamental duties relating to scientific temper.
