

20 May 2019: UPSC Exam PIB Summary & Analysis

Nomination for Vayoshreshtha Samman 2019

Context

- Nominations for Vayoshreshtha Samman- National Awards for Senior Citizens 2019 for individuals/institutions should be sent by 31st May, 2019.

Vayoshreshtha Samman

- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment decided in the year 2005 to confer Vayoshreshtha Sammans to eminent senior citizens and Institutions in recognition for their service to elderly persons, especially indigent senior citizens.
- The “Vayoshreshtha Samman” was elevated to the level of national awards in 2013 under 13 categories.
- The scheme shall showcase the Government's concern for senior citizens and its commitment towards senior citizens with the aim of strengthening their legitimate place in the society.
- Vayoshreshtha Sammans shall be conferred every year in thirteen categories.
- The recipients of the Sammans shall be declared every year on the 1st September and will be conferred on the 1st October on the occasion of International Day of Older Persons (IDOP).
- The Award in each category shall carry a Citation, a Plaque and also cash award in some of the categories as decided from time to time.

‘Not all animals migrate by choice’ campaign launched

Context

Ahead of the International Day of Biological Diversity celebrated on May 22, UN Environment India and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) of India launched an awareness campaign ‘Not all animals migrate by choice’ to be displayed at major airports across the country.

About the campaign

- Campaign launched by Wildlife Crime Control Bureau of India and UN Environment aimed at airports across India.
- The campaign ‘Not all animals migrate by choice’ aims at creating awareness and garnering public support for the protection and conservation of wildlife, prevention of smuggling and reduction in demand for wildlife products.
- The campaign also complements worldwide action on illegal trade in wildlife through UN Environment’s global campaign, Wild for Life.
- This campaign is an important step forward in creating much-needed awareness on wildlife trafficking which threatens the very survival of these species.

Significance of these species

- In the first phase of the campaign, Tiger, Pangolin, Star Tortoise and Tokay Gecko have been chosen as they are highly endangered due to illegal trading in International markets.
 - Tiger is traded for its skin, bones and body parts;

- Pangolin, the most illegally traded wild mammal on the planet is trafficked for its meat and its scales are used in traditional medicines;
- Star Tortoise for meat and pet trade and
- Tokay Gecko in traditional medicine mostly into South East Asia and particularly Chinese Markets.

