

Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)-UPSC Notes

The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) is a premier Indian organization in zoological research and studies. It is a topic that comes under GS-III of the [UPSC](#) exam.

Zoological Survey of India - Introduction

The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) was launched in 1916 to promote survey, exploration, and research to enhance the knowledge regarding the flora and fauna of the British Indian Empire. It is India's apex organization on animal taxonomy.

- 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.
- The headquarters are in Kolkata.
- It has been declared as a designated repository for the National Zoological Collection as per **Section 39 of the National Biodiversity Act, 2002**.

Zoological Survey of India - Objectives

The ZSI has contributed significantly to knowledge and research on the fauna of the country. The primary objectives of the ZSI are:

- To promote the survey, exploration, research, and documentation on various aspects of animal taxonomy in the Indian subcontinent. It also seeks the advancement of knowledge on animal taxonomy.
- Make a status survey of the threatened and endemic species.
- Preparation of Red Data Book, Fauna of India and Fauna of States.
- Bio-ecological studies on important communities/species.
- Preparation of database for the recorded species of the country.
- Maintenance and Development of National Zoological Collections.

Zoological Survey of India - Functions

The activities of the ZSI are coordinated by the Conservation and Survey Division under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Its functions are as follows:

- ZSI publishes the Red Data Book on Indian Animals. It was first published in 1983 and is similar to the Red Data Book published by [IUCN](#).
- Publication of results including Fauna of India, Fauna of States and Fauna of Conservation Areas.
- Training, Capacity Building and Human Resource Development of the people involved.
- Geographic Information System (GIS) and Remote Sensing studies on recorded animal diversity as well as on threatened species.
- It works for the development of **Environmental Information System (ENVIS)** and **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)** Centers.
 - **CITES** is a multilateral treaty to protect endangered plants and animals.
- Conducts collaborative research programs on "Biodiversity" with other organizations in India and abroad.

UPSC Questions related to Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)

What is the ZSI?

ZSI stands for the Zoological Survey of India. It is an apex research organization for zoological research and studies in India.

Where is the ZSI headquartered?

ZSI has its headquarters in Kolkata.

What are the primary objectives of ZSI?

To promote the survey, exploration, research, and documentation on various aspects of animal taxonomy in the Indian subcontinent. It also seeks the advancement of knowledge on animal taxonomy. It is responsible for the preparation of Red Data Book, Fauna of India and Fauna of States.

