



Wildlife Protection (Amendment) Act

CONTEXT :

Parliament has proposed an amendment to the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Background

- The geographic location and latitudinal position of India has gifted India with a diverse wildlife species.
- India with 6 biodiversity hotspot possesses several numbers of species of plants and animals. In order to conserve and protect these species of biodiversity India needs a speculative and strong legislative backing.
- Wildlife (Protect) Act, 1972 provides a legal backing for protection of the wildlife species and to the commitments made by India to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wildlife Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- Rationalization of scheduled species of plants and animals were long overdue.
- The new bill proposes for 50 Amendments to the existing act of 1972.
- Despite several sequential amendments wildlife species are still facing survival threat in India.

Analysis

■ Origin of the act:

- To protect the biodiversity of India, Government of India has passed an act Wildlife (Protection) Act in the year 1972.
- Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has several Provisions:
 - Schedule 1: Endangered species immune from all kind of trading and poaching with extreme protection
 - Schedule 2: Species with lesser protection and prohibition of trade.
 - Schedule 3 and 4: Non – Endangered species
 - Schedule 5: Plants species
 - Schedule 6: Vermin Species