

- **Illegal killing:** Hunting along migration routes threatens migratory bird species.
- **Stopover habitat loss:** Migratory birds use stopover sites to feed, rest and reenergize during their migration period. But many stopover sites are threatened due to increased urbanization and overexploitation.
- **Increasing Light pollution:** The artificial light at night adversely affects migration by confusing the birds.
- **Loss of biodiversity:** Due to the overexploitation, unsustainable use of natural resources, population explosion along with increased weather variabilities, and climate change has resulted in the loss of biodiversity.
- **Declining water sources:** Majority of peninsular lakes in India are shrinking in their size, due to heavy use by the industry and farmers.

IMPORTANCE OF MIGRATORY BIRDS:

- **Maintaining biodiversity:** Saving migratory birds saves the ecosystem in their permanent habitat and maintains the biodiversity in the temporary stopover area.
- **Locust attack:** Prevalent absence of these birds from an ecosystem can lead to disasters like a Locust attack.
- **Balancing ecosystem:** Migratory birds play a critical role in the ecosystem balance, helpful in pollinating plants, dispersing seeds, and acting as pest control agents.

WAY FORWARD:

- **Bird-friendly landscape:** There is an urgent need to create Bird-friendly landscaping and maintain natural habitat to help birds roost and build their nests.
- **Minimizing the plastic pollution:** Banning single-use plastics and avoiding dumping of single-use plastics in water bodies.
- **Monitoring programme:** Long-term monitoring programs to assess the migration trends in birds, diseases monitoring and enumeration
- **Educating people:** About bird migrations and their impacts. Seeking local support for nesting and conservation of migratory birds
- **Minimizing the harvest:** Harvesting operations such as fishing activities need to be minimized/abandoned/banned during the migration season.
- **Strict law enforcement:** It is required to support the conservation of migratory birds.
- **Modern technologies:** Like drones can be used to track poachers in areas where birds converge to save the migratory bird from the illegal hunting.

SUPER YEAR FOR BIODIVERSITY

- **In news:** Recently, In a virtual celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity 2020, the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, launched five key initiatives towards conservation of biodiversity.

SUPER YEAR FOR BIODIVERSITY:

- **Super Year:** The year 2020 which is also the "SUPER YEAR FOR BIODIVERSITY", as the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity with 20 global Aichi targets adopted in 2010 ends in 2020.
- **Post Aichi preparation:** All the countries together are in the process of preparing for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.
- **Information exchange:** India, a mega biodiverse country, welcomes those countries who are interested in improving their bio diversity scenarios, and we are ready to share our experiences and best practices with them.
- **Sustainable lifestyle:** There is renewed emphasis on the need to limit our consumption and promote a sustainable lifestyle.

INDIAN INITIATIVE:

- **National Biodiversity Authority:** India launched the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) "Biodiversity Samrakshan Internship Programme".
- **Engagement with student:** which proposes to engage 20 students with postgraduate degrees for a period of one year through an open, transparent, online competitive process.