

# **50 MOST IMPORTANT TOPICS**

## **UPSC CSE 2026**



# RAPID REVISION ROUND

**Sleepy Classes IAS**  
Awakening Toppers

**MOST IMPORTANT TOPICS FOR PRELIMS 2026**

**07**

**HOURS DAILY**

**LIVE FOR 15 DAYS**

- **Daily Live Classes** by Subject Matter Experts
- Value Addition Material
- **3 GS** Full Length Tests
- **1:1** Mentorship

Only at **₹4,999/-** **ENROL NOW**

☎ 1800-890-3043 | ✉ [sleepy.classes@gmail.com](mailto:sleepy.classes@gmail.com)



# Ungulates

- A 2025 report by the **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)** and the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** has flagged high tiger-human conflict risks in **Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha** due to a **shrinking prey base** (ungulates like chital(LC), sambar(VU), and gaur (VU)).
- There is a **direct link** between **low prey numbers** and **human-wildlife conflict**, tigers are attacking livestock due to the lack of natural prey, **sparking conflict with local communities**.
- These findings come from a **first-of-its-kind** assessment of ungulates (hoofed mammals) conducted by the **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)** and the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**, using data from India's 2022 tiger census.

Four-footed mammals with toes modified into hooves.  
2 orders, 6 suborders, and 26 families

## Artiodactyla

(Even-toed or Paraxonian Ungulates)

### Tylopoda



Camels and llamas

### Ruminantia



Chevrotains

Pronghorn

Deer

Musk Deer

### Suina



Pigs

Peccaries



Giraffes and Okapi

Cattle and Antelopes

### Whippomorpha



Hippopotamus

Whales

Porpoises

Dolphins

## Perissodactyla

(Odd-toed or Mesaxonian Ungulates)

### Hippomorpha



Horses, Asses and Zebras

### Ceratomorpha



Tapirs

Rhinoceroses

# Ungulates

- According to the report, a density of 30 ungulates per square km can support four tigers in 100 square km.
- Tiger numbers may rise with prey density, but **plateau** at about **75 ungulates per sq km** due to ecological constraints such as territoriality, competition and lack of habitat connectivity.
- Among the tiger reserves, **Pench in Madhya Pradesh** has one of the highest chital densities – nearly 54 per sq km.
- To revive prey populations, the report recommends **on-site breeding of chital and sambar in secure enclosures** designed to keep out predators.
- Odisha's first captive sambar breeding at Satkosia TR (2025 ) and Bengal's proposed 30-ha breeding centre in Buxa TR (2026).

# Ungulates

- However, even as eastern and central Indian states are seeing prey depletion, several other landscapes show healthier trends.
- The Shivalik Hills and Gangetic plains – from Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh to eastern Bihar – as well as tiger reserves in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have a stable prey base.
- In the Western Ghats, chital(LC), sambar (VU), wild pigs (LC), gaur (VU), and barking deer (LC), are widely distributed, while the hog deer (EN), and wild pigs (LC), dominate in the Northeast.

# Stingless Bees

- **Amazonian stingless bees** have become the **first insect in the world** to be granted legal rights, after two municipalities – Satipo and Nauta – **in Peru** passed an ordinance earlier this month.
- Stingless Bees are a class of bees which **either do not have stingers or have stingers that cannot cause much pain.**
- They do possess stingers, but they are too small to be useful in defense.
- Instead of stinging, **stingless bees use their mandibles** to bite their attackers.
- Stingless bees are among the planet's oldest pollinators, with a remarkable concentration of species in the **Amazon rainforest.**

# Stingless Bees



# Stingless Bees

- They are found in tropical regions across the world, and about half of the **500 known species** live in the Amazon.
- Africa, Australia, Southeast Asia, and parts of the Americas are the main areas where the stingless bee is found.
- In India, these bees are reported primarily from the **northeastern, eastern, and southern Indian States**.
- Stingless bees can be **used for pollination without fear of being stung**.
- They are known for their **popular medicinal honey and pollination potential**.
- **Deforestation** has reduced nesting sites, while pesticide use, climate change and competition from invasive honeybees have further weakened populations.

# Starfish

- Twelve years after a mysterious disease started killing off starfish in droves, **more than 5 billion** are estimated to have died **since 2013**, scientists have found the culprit to be a **bacterium**.
- The **starfish, or sea stars**, of various species were dying off a wasting disease, in which their limbs fell off and their bodies melted away to leave just a pile of gunk.
- The epidemic was found along the **Pacific coast of North America**, all the way from the freezing waters off Alaska to the warmer shores of Mexico.

# Starfish



# Starfish

- Till a few years ago, scientists believed a **virus** was causing the outbreak.
- However, a study published in the journal Nature on August 5 said the starfish were falling victim to *Vibrio pectenicida*, which is related to the bacteria that causes cholera in humans.
- Starfish perform a vital function in the **marine ecosystem**, maintaining a **stable food chain**.
- When billions of starfish died, the **population of sea urchins**, which they feed on, exploded.
- These sea urchins started eating away **whole forests of kelp**, a seaweed other marine animals thrive on and which helps sequester carbon.

# LSD Earth Tiger

- **Humid rainforests** of India's Western Ghats, **primarily in Kerala**.
- Commonly called the “**psychedelic earth tiger**” or the “**Indian rainbow tarantula**.”
- Like a **living kaleidoscope**, its body shimmers with metallic, holographic colors – a beauty that has captivated the world but has quickly become its curse.
- In 2026, this species was added to a **global watch list** for animals facing **immediate extinction**.
- In 2026, **Fauna & Flora** (one of the world's oldest conservation organizations) added it to their "10 Species to Watch" list.
- The spider is also an **impressive engineer**.
- As a fossorial species, it lives in **deep, silk-lined tunnels** that function as **climate-controlled bunkers**, maintaining the precise **temperature and humidity** needed to survive the tropical heat.
- **Not yet** formally listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

# LSD Earth Tiger



# Axolotl

- The Axolotl, a species of **salamander** (lizard-like amphibians) possesses an **extraordinary ability to regenerate lost body parts** and have a rare trait of **neoteny**, which means they retain larval features throughout life.
  - These interested cancer researchers for their unique resistance to developing cancerous tissues.
- The **elusive o** (for “ova deficient” gene) plays a pivotal role in the axolotl’s regenerative process.

# Axolotl



# Axolotl

- These are **amphibians** that spend their whole lives underwater.
- They exist in the wild in **only one place**—**Lake Xochimilco near Mexico City, UNESCO World Heritage site.**
- **Critically endangered.**
- They **feed** on mollusks, worms, insect larvae, crustaceans, and some fish.

# Blue Dragons



# Blue Dragons

- Several beaches in **Spain** were closed after a tiny species of **sea slug** began to wash ashore in droves.
- These were blue dragons, barely four centimetres long but capable of **delivering one of the most ferocious stings** in the animal world.
- Live on the **ocean surface**, drifting with the currents.
- Blue dragons are typically found in **tropical waters** and have been rarely seen in the Mediterranean Sea.
- While other sea slugs live on the seabed, blue dragons **float upside down**.
- They can do so by swallowing and maintaining an air bubble in the stomach.

# Blue Dragons

- They feed on **jellyfish and venomous siphonophores** such as the Portuguese man o' war, and incorporate the stinging cells of the jellies into multiple finger-like structures protruding from their bodies.
- This gives blue dragons a **potent form of weapon** against their predators.
- Also, the **venom becomes concentrated in blue creatures**, and their sting can be more powerful than that of the jellyfish they consume.
- A sting from a blue dragon can be **extremely painful** to humans and cause redness, swelling, nausea, and vomiting.
- However, it **cannot lead to death**.

# Green Sea Turtle

- According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) the Red List status of the **green sea turtle** (*Chelonia mydas*) has improved from **Endangered to Least Concern** due to sustained conservation.
- It is the **largest** hard-shelled sea turtle.
- The common name of this species refers to the **usually green fat** found **beneath its carapace**, not to the color of its carapace, which is olive to black.
- The **diet** of Green sea turtles changes **with age**.
  - Juveniles are **carnivorous**, but as they mature they become **omnivorous**.
- Green turtles serve as **keystone species** in tropical marine ecosystems.
- The species is found in **tropical and subtropical waters around the globe**.

# Green Sea Turtle

## Green sea turtles

Temporal range: 0.21–0 Ma<sup>[1]</sup>



At Moorea, French Polynesia

## Conservation status



Least Concern (IUCN 3.1)<sup>[2]</sup>

CITES Appendix I<sup>[3]</sup>

# Great Indian Bustard

- A Supreme Court-appointed committee has proposed **dedicated, concentrated power line corridors** in Rajasthan and Gujarat to protect the critically endangered Great Indian Bustard (GIB) **from fatal collisions with high-voltage lines.**
- Focuses on Jaisalmer (Rajasthan) and Kutch (Gujarat), where GIB populations are under severe threat.
- Instead of **scattered overhead lines**, power evacuation will be concentrated within **specific, designated, and narrower, 5 km wide corridors** to avoid flight paths.
- Existing lines near prime habitats may be rerouted or moved underground to prevent further population decline.

# Great Indian Bustard

- The Great Indian Bustard is a **bustard found in India and the adjoining regions of Pakistan.**
- A large bird with a horizontal body and long bare legs, giving it an **ostrich like appearance**, this bird is among the **heaviest of the flying birds.**
- It is the **state bird of Rajasthan.**
- It is considered the flagship grassland species, representing the health of the grassland ecology.
- But with less than 200 GIBs remaining in the world, most of them found in **Rajasthan's 'Desert National Park'**, we are on the brink of forever losing a majestic bird species, which was once a **strong contender to be declared as India's National Bird.**

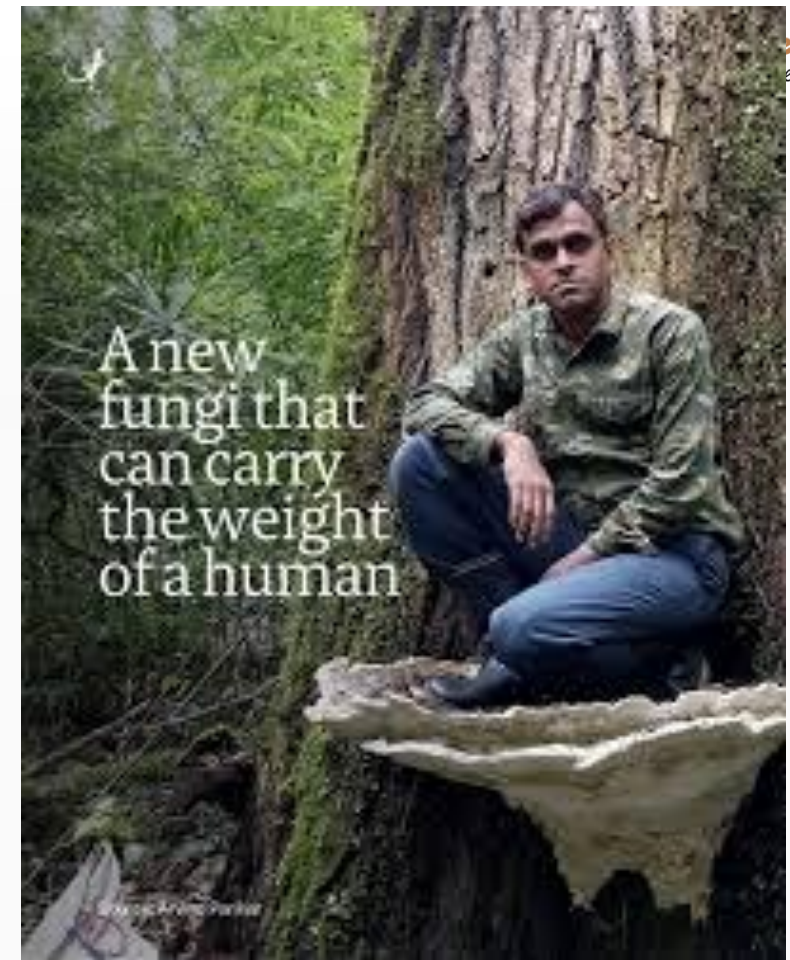


# Great Indian Bustard

- **IUCN Red List** - Critically Endangered.
- **CITES** - Appendix I
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972** - Schedule I
- The **Great Indian Bustard, Asian Elephant and Bengal Florican** have been included in **Appendix I of the UN Convention on Migratory Species** at the 13th Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) in Gandhinagar (Gujarat) COP.

# *Bridgeoporus kanadii*

- It is a newly discovered species of giant, wood-decaying fungus found in the West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh, India, by Botanical Survey of India (BSI) researchers.
- Named after mycologist Dr. Kanad Das, this massive, inedible fungus produces fruiting bodies that can reach over three meters in radius, strong enough to hold a person's weight.
- First record of genus *Bridgeoporus* in India.



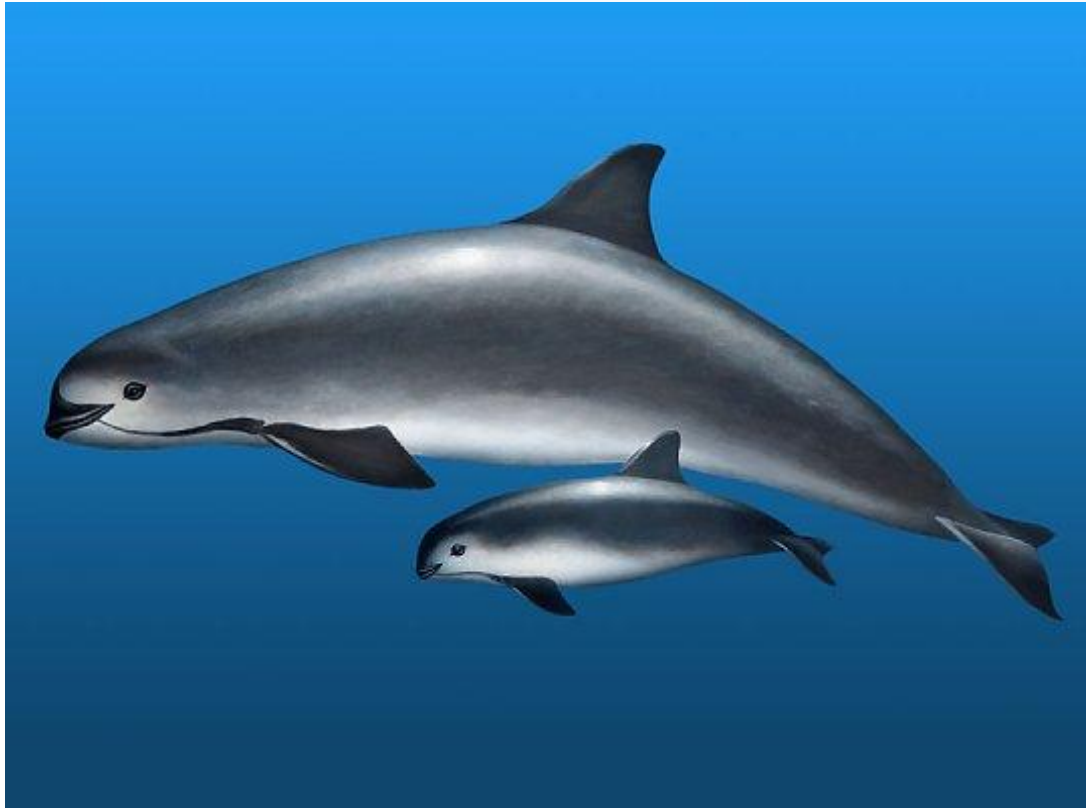
# *Bridgeoporus kanadii*

- **Dense coniferous forests on old-growth fir trees.**
- **Wood-rotting polypore** (saprotrophic decomposer)
- Plays vital role in nutrient cycling, ecosystem health, and forest decomposition.
- Highlights **Arunachal's fungal diversity.**
- Inedible.


# Vaquita Porpoise

- **World's smallest and most critically endangered marine mammal**, with fewer than 10-20 individuals left.
- Endemic to the northern **Gulf of California, Mexico**, it is nicknamed the "**panda of the sea**" due to black eye rings.
- "**Little cow**" in Spanish.
- It is unique among the porpoises as it is the only species of that family **found in warm waters**.
- **Critically Endangered** on the IUCN Red List.
- Their numbers have plummeted due to **entanglement in illegal gillnets** used for catching **totoaba** (an endangered fish prized for its swim bladder).

# Vaquita Porpoise



**Totoaba**  
Temporal range:  
Early Miocene to present



## Conservation status



Vulnerable (IUCN 3.1)<sup>[1]</sup>

CITES Appendix I<sup>[2]</sup>

# Hoolock Gibbon

- Hoolock Gibbons, known as the **smallest and fastest of all apes**, inhabit tropical and subtropical forests in Southeast Asia.
- Hoolock Gibbons are **India's only ape species**.



# Hoolock Gibbon

- **Western Hoolock Gibbon**

- It inhabits in all the states of the north-east, restricted between the south of the Brahmaputra River and east of the Dibang River. Outside India, it is found in eastern Bangladesh and north-west Myanmar.
- IUCN Status - **Endangered**

- **Eastern Hoolock Gibbon**

- It inhabits specific pockets of **Arunachal Pradesh and Assam** in India, and in southern China and north-east Myanmar outside India.
- IUCN Status - **Vulnerable**

- In India, both species are listed on **Schedule I** of the Indian (Wildlife) Protection Act 1972.

# Hollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary

- The Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL), chaired by the Union Environment Minister has approved carrying out **oil and gas exploration** in the **eco-sensitive zone of the Hollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary** in Assam's Jorhat district.
- The **Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary**, formerly known as the Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary or Hollongapar Reserved Forest, is an isolated protected area of evergreen forest located in Assam, India.
- The sanctuary was officially constituted and renamed in 1997.
- Biodiversity thriving under the canopy of **Hollong trees**, which rise to heights of 12–30 metres.

# State tree of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.



## *Dipterocarpus retusus*



from Koehler's *Medicinal-Plants* (1887)

### Conservation status



**Endangered** (IUCN 3.1)<sup>[1]</sup>

# Guggul

- Produces a **fragrant resin** called gugal, guggul or gugul, that is used in **incense and vedic medicine**.
- The resin contains **guggulsterones** (plant steroids) credited with **lipid-lowering, anti-inflammatory, and metabolism-boosting effects**.
- **India successfully opposed** a European Union proposal to list **guggul** (*Commiphora wightii*) (CR) in Appendix II, arguing for a comprehensive population assessments first at **CITES CoP20** (Samarkand, Uzbekistan, 2025).
- **Population decline >80%** due to overharvesting as resin tapping often kills plants, habitat loss (arid lands converted), poor germination, slow growth, climate change, etc.
- **Aravalli ranges** (Rajasthan/Gujarat).
- **Kutch in Gujarat** has more than 70% population.

# Jatamansi

- *Nardostachys jatamansi*
- IUCN Status is Critically Endangered
- CITES Appendix II
- Heavily featured for **World Wildlife Day 2026** as a prime example of **overharvested Himalayan MAPs**.
- **Aromatic roots** used in Ayurveda (sedative, anti-stress), perfumery, and essential oils.
- Unsustainable harvesting in Nepal/India/China led to severe decline; trade restrictions in Nepal

# Arogyapacha

- **Arogyapacha** (*Trichopus zeylanicus*), the ‘miracle plant’ of tribal healers known for its **anti-fatigue and therapeutic properties**, was once a secret well-preserved by **the Kani community**.
- The plant is **endemic** to the southern tips of the Western Ghats.
- Studies have also proved its varied spectrum of pharmacological properties such as **antioxidant, aphrodisiac, anti-microbial, anti-inflammatory, immunomodulatory, anti-tumour, anti-ulcer, anti-hyperlipidemic, hepatoprotective and anti-diabetic**.
- **Korean ginseng** has a huge market worldwide while our **Arogyapacha is more potent**.

# Kani Tribe

- They are **indigenous** to **tropical forests of the Agasthyamalai hills** of the Western Ghats, a mountain range in Kerala.
- Kani has a rich tradition of **using wild plants** found in the region for **health reasons**.
- The tribal physicians, known as **Plathi** - are the exclusive holders of the traditional medicinal knowledge of the tribe.

According to Kani tribal customs, **only the Plathi** have the right to transfer and disseminate their traditional medicinal knowledge

# Arogyapacha

- It is the primary ingredient in "**Jeevani**," a restorative and anti-fatigue drug developed by the **Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (TBGRI)**.
- This case is a **landmark example of bioprospecting** where 50% of the license fee and royalties from the commercial sale of Jeevani were shared with the Kani community through the **Kerala Kani Samudaya Kshema Trust**.
- The model influenced India's **Biological Diversity Act (2002)** and serves as a global reference for protecting **Traditional Knowledge (TK)** and ensuring equitable **Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)**

# EPIC COURSE

 **Sleepy Classes IAS**  
Awakening Toppers

₹3,499/-

Extreme Proficiency In Current affairs course

FOR UPSC PRELIMS 2026

## Course Features

- ▶ Prelims-Relevant Current Affairs — Filtered
- ▶ PYQ aligned, Exam-Centric Approach
- ▶ Subject-Wise Live Classes
- ▶ 360° Coverage with Clear Boundaries
- ▶ LMR Master Compilations – SC judgements, Index/Ranking/Reports etc
- ▶ Built for Speed, Clarity & Retention

 1800-890-3043 |  [sleepy.classes@gmail.com](mailto:sleepy.classes@gmail.com)



# RAPID REVISION ROUND

 **Sleepy Classes IAS**  
Awakening Toppers

**MOST IMPORTANT TOPICS FOR PRELIMS 2026**

**07**

**HOURS DAILY**

**LIVE FOR 15 DAYS**

- **Daily Live Classes** by Subject Matter Experts
- Value Addition Material
- **3 GS** Full Length Tests
- **1:1** Mentorship

Only at **₹4,999/-** **ENROL NOW**

☎ 1800-890-3043 | ✉ [sleepy.classes@gmail.com](mailto:sleepy.classes@gmail.com)

