

CURRENT AFFAIRS 2 DECEMBER 2022

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Will form committee to implement Uniform Civil Code in M.P.: CM

- UCC is one that would provide for one law for the entire country, applicable to all religious communities in their personal matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption etc.
- Article 44 of the Constitution lays down that the state shall endeavour to secure a UCC for the citizens throughout the territory of India.
- Article 44 is one of the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP).
- DPSP as defined in Article 37, are not justiciable (not enforceable by any court) but the principles laid down therein are fundamental in governance.

Constitutional Hurdle:

Article 25 of Indian constitution, that seeks to preserve the freedom to practise and propagate any religion gets into conflict with the concepts of equality enshrined under Article 14 of Indian Constitution.

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The battle to bring freshwater turtles back from the brink

In a move to curb turtle trafficking, earlier this month, the Conference of the Parties (COP) adopted India's proposal to transfer two species of freshwater turtles found in the country – the red-crowned roofed turtle (*Batagur kachuga*) and the Leith's Softshell Turtle (*Nilssonia leithii*) – to Appendix I (which lists the most endangered species that need the highest level of protection) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES).

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Red Crowned Roofed Turtle

- Red Crowned Roofed Turtle is one of the 24 species endemic to India, is characterised by the bright colours such as red, yellow, white and blue on the faces and necks of the males.
- It is a freshwater turtle species found in deep flowing rivers with terrestrial nesting sites.
- The Red-crowned roofed turtle is native to India, Bangladesh and Nepal.

- ► Historically, the species was widespread in the Ganga River, both in India and Bangladesh. It also occurs in the Brahmaputra basin.
- Currently in India, the National Chambal River Gharial Sanctuary is the only area with a substantial population of the species, but even this Protected Area and habitat are under threat.

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Leith's Soft-shelled Turtle

- Leith's Softshell Turtle (Nilssonia leithii) is a large freshwater soft-shelled turtle which is endemic to peninsular India and it inhabits rivers and reservoirs.
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List: Critically Endangered
- Wildlife Protection Act (WPA): Schedule IV
- CITES: Appendix I

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Centre halves windfall profit tax on crude, cuts diesel levy

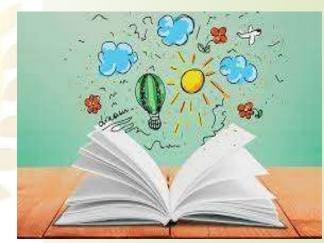
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a tax levied on an unforeseen or unexpectedly large profit, especially one regarded to be excessive or unfairly obtained.

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