

Prelims Focus - 11th March 2024

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1. Asiatic Lions

Recent News:

The IUCN has upgraded the conservation status of the Asiatic lion from endangered to vulnerable, indicating a positive change in its situation.

About:

- The genetic similarity between Central African, West African, and Asiatic lions has led the IUCN to classify all three as *Panthera leo leo*, whereas the Asiatic lions were previously classified as *Panthera leo persica*.
- The Asiatic lion is a smaller subspecies of lion, also known as Persian or Indian lions.
- They used to be found across Asia, but now their only habitat is Gir National Park in Gujarat, India.
- They are one of the five big cats found in India and are often referred to as the “king of beasts.” Their scientific name is *Panthera leo leo*.

2. Gold Nanoparticles

Recent News:

Recent experts have suggested that Gold nanoparticles in medicines and beauty products can not only protect the skin from external damage but also have anti-aging effects.

About:

- Gold nanoparticles are small particles of gold ranging from 1 to 100 nm in diameter, also known as colloidal gold or 'gold bhasma.'
- They have unique properties such as optoelectronic properties, biocompatibility, and low toxicity.
- These nanoparticles exhibit different colours in aqueous solutions based on their size.
- They are used in various applications such as electronics, photodynamic therapy, therapeutic agent delivery, sensors, and diagnostics.

3.Shankaracharya Hill

In News: Prime Minister of India paid obeisance to Shankaracharya Hill during his visit to Jammu and Kashmir.

- The ancient Shankaracharya Temple, constructed with gray stones, stands on Shankaracharya Hill, on the Zabarwan Range in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir.
- Initially known as Takht-i-Sulaiman, which means Throne of Solomon, it was later renamed after a saint who preached enlightenment right here in AD 750.
- The temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, is located at a top of 1000 feet and may be reached in 10-15 mins through stairs.
- This historical temple holds significance because the area wherein the renowned seer Adi Shakaracharya attained enlightenment.

4.Right to Repair Portal

In News: The Department of Consumer Affairs of India (DoCA) has launched the Right to Repair Portal India.

- **Aim:** To offer customers with access to repair data for his or her merchandise and decrease e-waste.
- **Vision:** The internet site affords facts about the circular financial system, that is the brand new financial model that focuses on repairing and reusing merchandise, as opposed to throwing them away.
 - This shift is consistent with the government's imaginative and prescient approach of creating a round economic system by way of selling aware and planned utilisation of products instead of mindless and wasteful consumption.
- **Key targets:**
 - The Right to Repair Portal India brings together information from exceptional sectors such as automobiles, consumer durables, mobile and electronics, and farming equipment.
 - It presents clients with access to product manuals and restore movies, in addition to records at the fee and warranty of spare parts.
 - The portal also permits purchasers to publish feedback and hints on products and services.
- **Role:** The website is predicted to play a key position in allowing customers to make knowledgeable choices about the acquisition and upkeep in their products, and to promote a circular economy model.