

CORAL REHAB PROGRAMME

Prelims: Environment- Bio Diversity & its Threat

Mains: GS3- Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, Environmental Impact Assessment.

Why in News?

- ✚ The National Centre for Coastal Research's (NCCR) proposal of dropping 'melted plastic rocks or slabs' on the seabed for growing coral reefs and address the problem of disposal of plastic waste has drawn criticism from the Gulf of Mannar (GoM) Marine National Park, which has been implementing coral rehabilitation programme since 2002.

Coral Rehabilitation Programme:

- ✚ The GoM Marine National Park has been implementing the corral rehabilitation programme since 2002. It has so far covered eight sq km areas in GoM region, where coral reefs suffered bleaching and degradation due to climate change and high temperature.
- ✚ The program employs 'concrete frame slabs' method.
- ✚ Corals would start growing in 60 days using the concrete frames as sub-state. The acropora coral species grow by 10 to 12 cm per year on these slabs.