

PLAN BEE

Prelims- Environment EN2 Biodiversity

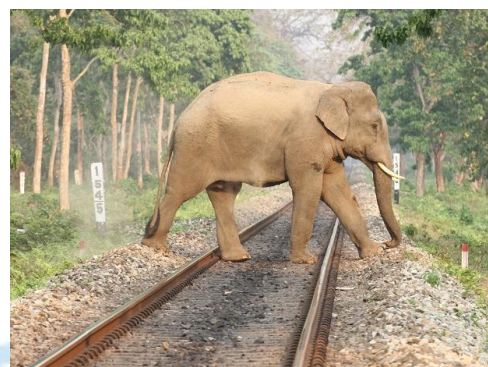
Mains - GS3: Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation, Environmental Impact Assessment.

What is Plan Bee?

- ✚ Plan Bee, is an amplifying system imitating the buzz of a swarm of honey bees to keep wild elephants away from Railway Tracks.

Award:

- ✚ For Plan Bee, Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) earned the best innovation award in Indian Railways for the 2018-19 fiscal year.

**Why Plan Bee?**

- ✚ There are 29 earmarked elephant corridors with the operating zone of NFR spread across the north-eastern states and parts of Bihar and West Bengal.
- ✚ Trains are required to slow down at these corridors and adhere to speed specified on signs
- ✚ But elephants have ventured into the path of trains even in non-corridor areas, often leading to accidents resulting in elephant deaths.

About Elephant:

- ✚ **Elephant as National Heritage Animal of India in 2010**
- ✚ The status was recommended by a task force on elephant project

Types of Elephant:

- ✚ Indian Elephant: *elephas maximus indicus*
- ✚ Sri Lankan Elephant: *elephas maximus maxicus*
- ✚ Mainland Asian Elephants: *elephas maximus sumatranus*

Conservation of Elephants in India - Project Elephant:

- ✚ There are 30 thousand elephants spread across 16 Elephant states in India.
- ✚ Maximum number of elephants is in Kerala, followed by Karnataka and Assam.
- ✚ Three key areas:
 1. Protection of wild elephants, their habitat and corridors

2. Address the issue of man-animal conflict and
3. Welfare of domesticated elephants

✚ This Project Elephant is being implemented in 13 states.

Elephant Reserves:

- ✚ There are a total of 28 elephant reserves.
- ✚ ERs, maximum number is in Assam and Odisha with five each.

Elephant Corridors:

- ✚ 183 identified elephant corridors in India
- ✚ State corridors: maximum number of them are located in **Meghalaya**
- ✚ Among, inter-state corridors, maximum are shared by **Jharkhand and Odisha**
- ✚ Maximum International corridors India shares with **Bangladesh**

