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## **4. Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC)**

### **Why in News?**

- Russia's Deputy Prime Minister has recently attended the 24<sup>th</sup> Russia-India Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) meeting in India.

### **Highlights**

- Russia has expressed its interest in importing manufacturing equipment, including machinery, from India to replace those of Western origin.
- Both countries reviewed the defense cooperation between India and Russia, which has been facing challenges related to deliveries and payments due to the ongoing war in Ukraine.
- The two countries discussed the plans that India has for Russia's far eastern region, which is an essential part of Russia's strategy in the Indo-Pacific region.
- They held discussions on bilateral trade efforts and the identification of new industrial points that would provide additional impetus for trade between the two countries.
- Balance of trade currently tilts in favor of Russia, and hence, the two sides discussed ways to bring more balance in trade relations.
- Both sides also discussed a wide range of issues related to bilateral trade, economic, and humanitarian cooperation.
- These discussions covered many areas of mutual interest, including those related to technology, energy, healthcare, and education.
- Climate change is a significant threat to wildlife habitats, and it is likely to create threats to existing wildlife. The WPA needs to take into account the impact of climate change on wildlife and their habitats.
- The WPA 1972 has been in existence for more than 50 years, but it faces several challenges.
- Addressing these challenges will require a concerted effort from the government, civil society, and the public.
- Effective enforcement, community participation, and awareness-raising campaigns are some of the steps that can be taken to protect India's wildlife and their habitats.