



Carrying Capacity of Himalayan States

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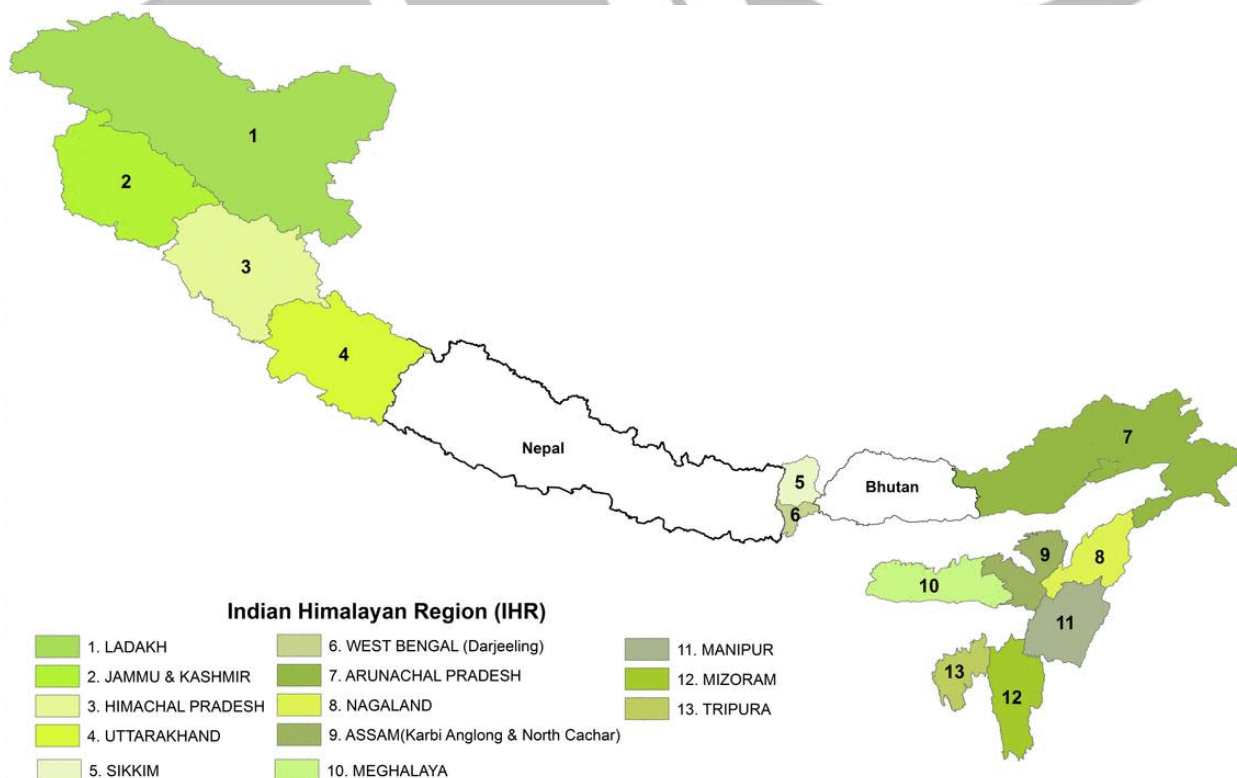
Why in News?

The Centre has urged the [Supreme Court](#) to direct 13 Himalayan states of the country to assess their 'carrying capacity' and proposed setting up of an expert panel to evaluate the action plans submitted by each of them.

- This initiative is essential to ensure **sustainable development and preservation of the fragile [Himalayan ecosystem](#)**.

What is Carrying Capacity?

- Carrying capacity refers to the **maximum population size that an ecosystem or environment can sustainably support** over a specific period without causing significant **degradation or harm to its natural resources** and overall health.
- Carrying capacity assessments is crucial for understanding and **managing the balance between human activities and the preservation of natural ecosystems** to ensure long-term sustainability.



What are the Government Initiatives Related to the Conservation of the Himalayan Region?

- [National Mission on Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystem \(2010\)](#):
 - Covers **11 states (Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, all northeast states, and West Bengal)** and **2 UTs (Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh)**.
 - Part of the [National Action Plan on Climate Change \(NAPCC\)](#), comprising eight missions.
- **Indian Himalayas Climate Adaptation Programme (IHCAP)**:
 - It aims to enhance the **resilience of vulnerable communities in the Indian Himalayas** by strengthening the capacities of **Indian institutions in climate science**, with a specific focus on glaciology and related areas
- **SECURE Himalaya Project**:
 - Integral to the "**Global Partnership on Wildlife Conservation and Crime Prevention for Sustainable Development**" (Global Wildlife Program), funded by the [Global Environment Facility \(GEF\)](#).
 - Focuses on promoting sustainable management of alpine pastures and forests in the high-range Himalayan ecosystems.
- [Mishra Committee Report 1976](#):
 - Named after **MC Mishra**, the then Garhwal commissioner in erstwhile Uttar Pradesh. It provided findings on land subsidence in Joshimath.
 - Recommendations included **imposing restrictions on heavy construction work**, blasting, excavation for road repairs and other construction activities, and tree felling in the region.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Prelims:

Q. Consider the following pairs: (2020)

Peak	Mountains
1. Namcha Barwa	Garhwal Himalaya
2. Nanda Devi	Kumaon Himalaya
3. Nokrek	Sikkim Himalaya

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) 3 only

Ans: (b)

Q. If you travel through the Himalayas, you are likely to see which of the following plants naturally growing there? (2014)

- 1. Oak
- 2. Rhododendron
- 3. Sandalwood

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (a)

Q. When you travel in the Himalayas, you will see the following: (2012)

1. Deep gorges
2. U-turn river courses
3. Parallel mountain ranges
4. Steep gradients causing landsliding

Which of the above can be said to be the evidence for Himalayas being young fold mountains?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 1, 2, and 4 only

(c) 3 and 4 only

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans: (d)

Mains:

Q. Differentiate the causes of landslides in the Himalayan region and Western Ghats. (2021)

Q. How will the melting of Himalayan glaciers have a far-reaching impact on the water resources of India? (2020)

Q. "The Himalayas are highly prone to landslides." Discuss the causes and suggest suitable measures of mitigation. (2016)