**ENVIRONMENT**

**CONEVNTION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES**

**WHY IN NEWS**?

THE HINDU: Postal department releases stamps on migratory birds

**BACKGROUND**

The **Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals**, also known as the **Convention on Migratory Species** (**CMS**) or the **Bonn Convention**, is an international agreement that aims to conserve migratory species throughout their ranges

**FOUNDING**

The agreement was signed under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme

Signed in 1979 in Bonn, West Germany, the convention entered into force in 1983

**PARTIES:**

As of 1 March 2022 the Convention on Migratory Species has 133 Parties. (India is a party)

Several countries although not Party to the Convention are Party to one or more of the Agreements and/or have signed one or more of the MOUs (Eg: USA, China)

**SECRETARIAT:** Bonn, Germany(Administered by UNEP)

**IMPORTANT FEATURES**

The convention has legally binding agreements and non-legally binding Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) which are tailored according to conservation needs.

**SPECIES COVERAGE**

The appendices of CMS include many mammals, including land mammals, marine mammals and bats; birds; fish; reptiles and one insect (Monarch butterfly)

Classifies species into 2 appendices (Though a species can be included in both the appendices)

### **Appendix I – Threatened migratory species**

Migratory species threatened with extinction are listed on Appendix I of the convention,

Parties that are range states to Appendix I species are **obliged** to afford them strict protection.

### **Appendix II – Migratory species requiring international cooperation**

Migratory species that need or would significantly benefit from international co-operation are listed in Appendix II of the convention.

The convention **encourages** the range states to conclude **global or regional agreements**

**CONFERENCE OF PARTIES**

Held every 3 years

Includes all 133 parties, other non parties are allowed to participate as observers

The most recent convention (COP 13) was held in 2020 Gandhinagar, India

**INDIA’S PARTICIPATION**

India has signed a non-legally binding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CMS on conservation and management of **Siberian Cranes (1998), Marine Turtles (2007), Dugongs (2008), and Raptors (2016).**

**COP 13 IN GANDHINAGAR (2020)**

Ten new species were added to CMS Appendices at COP13. Seven species were added to Appendix I, which provides the strictest protection: **the Asian Elephant, Jaguar, Great Indian Bustard, Bengal Florican, Little Bustard, Antipodean Albatross and the Oceanic White-tip Shark.**

**The Urial, Smooth Hammerhead Shark and the Tope Shark** were listed for protection under Appendix II