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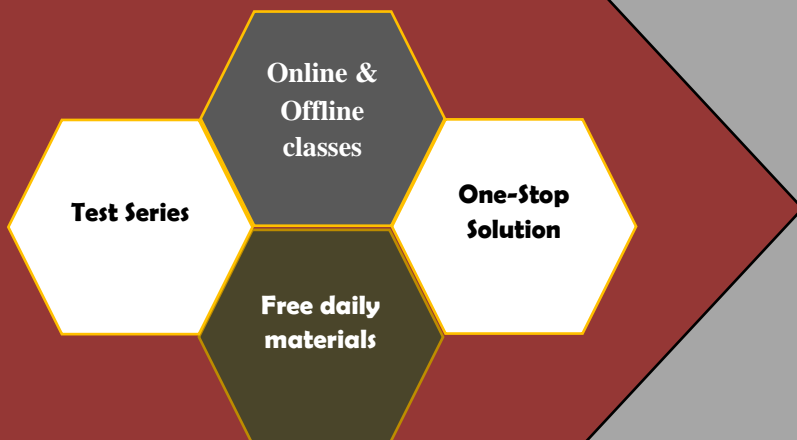
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Blue-finned Mahseer

Notes for civil services preparation



UPSC

General Studies

Blue-finned Mahseer

Recently, the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** has moved **Blue-finned Mahseer** from **Endangered** to the **Least Concern**' status on its **Red List**.

Key Points

- **About:**
 - The Mahseer belongs to the genus **Tor**, of which there are **several subspecies to be found in India** and in other range countries in South Asia.
 - The Blue-finned Mahseer or **Tor Khudree** is **one of the subspecies of the mahseer**.

Habitat:

- - Mainly found in the **Mota Mola river east of** This species is also found in other **ivers of the Deccan Plateau**.
 - The species is migratory; **moving upstream during** It prefers **clean, fast flowing and well oxygenated waters**.

Threats:

○ Threatened by habitat manipulation, over harvesting and competition from other fish species.

Significance:

- - **Freshwater Ecosystem Indicator:**
 - It is very **sensitive to dissolved oxygen levels, water temperature and sudden climatic changes**. It just cannot bear pollution.

Cultural:

- - - They have cultural and religious significance as well as they are protected in 'temple sanctuaries' across India.

Conservation Initiatives:

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- Tata Power (private company) is involved in **conservation of the blue- finned for 50 years in Lonavala (near Pune),Maharashtra.**

Protection status:

- - **IUCN Red List:** Least Concern.

International Union for Conservation of Nature

- **About:**
 - IUCN is a **membership union uniquely** composed of both government and civil society organisations.
- Created in 1948, it is the **global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard** It is headquartered in **Switzerland.**

The Red List:

- - The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, is the **world's most comprehensive inventory of the global conservation status** of plant and animal species.
 - It **divides species into nine categories:** Not Evaluated, Data Deficient, Least Concern, Near Threatened, Vulnerable, Endangered, Critically Endangered, Extinct in the Wild and extinct.
 - It is recognized as the **most authoritative guide to the status of biological diversity.**