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- 
- 
- Home
- UPSC
 - Current Affairs IAS
 -   
 - Quiz IAS
 -   
 - UPSC News Editorial (/Eng)
 - Answer Writing ( /Eng)
 - UPSC Essay (/Eng)
 - UPSC GS (/Eng)
 - UPSC GS 1 ( /Eng)
 - UPSC GS-2 ( /Eng)
 - UPSC GS-3 ( /Eng)
 - UPSC GS-4 ( /Eng)
 - Kurukshetra ( /Eng)
 - Yojana ( /Eng)
 - IAS Strategy for Prelims
 - General Studies
 - CSAT
 - IAS Strategy for Mains
 - IAS GS 1
 - IAS GS 2
 - IAS GS 3
 - IAS GS 4
 - IAS Test Series
- Himachal HPAS
 - Himachal Daily Current Affairs
 -   
 - Daily Himachal GK Quiz

- Himachal News Editorial (Hindi/Eng)
- Answer Writing (Hindi /Eng)
- Himachal Essay (Hindi/Eng)
- Giriraj
 - Magazine
 - Giriraj Quiz
- Himachal Pradesh
 - Himachal Pradesh
 - Himachal Pradesh Government Schemes
- HP Government Schemes
- Himachal Pradesh Government Schemes
- Syllabus Prelims Himachal HPAS
 - GENERAL STUDIES
 - CSAT
 - English
 - Hindi
- Syllabus Mains Himachal HPAS
 - English,Hindi,Essay & One Optional
 - HPAS GS 3
 - HPAS GS 2
 - HPAS GS 1
- Himachal HPAS Test Series
- All You need to Know about Himachal HPAS
- HARYANA HCS
 - Haryana Current Affairs
 - Himachal Pradesh Government Schemes
 - HCS Quiz
 - Himachal Pradesh Government Schemes
 - Haryana News Editorial (Hindi/Eng)
 - Answer Writing (Hindi /Eng)
 - Haryana Essay (Hindi/Eng)
 - HR Government Schemes
 - Himachal Pradesh Government Schemes
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 - Syllabus Prelims Haryana HCS
 - HCS Prelims Test Series

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- [Punjab PCS Current Affairs](#)
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- [Punjab Essay \(Eng\)](#)
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 - [General Studies](#)
 - [Prelims GS 1](#)
- [Syllabus Mains Punjab PCS](#)
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 - [PCS GS 2](#)
 - [PCS GS 3](#)
 - [PCS GS 4](#)
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 - [Geography \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Environment \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [History \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Economics \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Science and Technology \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [CSAT Concepts \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Maps \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
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 - [International Affairs \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Punjab PCS Concepts](#)
 - [Himachal HPAS Concepts \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Haryana HCS Concepts \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Rajasthan RAS Concepts \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
- [Concept Quiz](#)
 - [Polity Quiz \(Hindi/Eng\)](#)

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- Science and Technology Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- CSAT Concepts Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Maps Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Art and Culture Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Punjab PCS Concepts Quiz
- Himachal HPAS Concepts Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Haryana HCS Concepts Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Rajasthan RAS Concepts Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Mains
 - UPSC Answer Writing (हिंदी/Eng)
 - HPPSC Answer Writing (हिंदी/Eng)
 - Haryana HCS Answer Writing (हिंदी/Eng)
 - Punjab PCS Answer Writing
- Exam Blogs
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 - Himachal Exam Blogs
 - Punjab exam Blogs
 - Haryana Exam Blogs
 - Rajasthan Exam Blogs
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 - E-Magazine for HPAS
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 - E-Magazine for Punjab PCS
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 - National Exams
 - Himachal Pradesh Exams
 - Punjab Exams
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▪ youtube 

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Click on Drop Down for Current Affairs

Topics Covered



- Summary:
- What is the Himachal News?
 - About Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park:
 - Key Highlights of Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park
 - Location and Size
 - Phases and Project Cost
 - Design and Certification
 - Wildlife and Biodiversity
 - Special Features:
 - Environmental and Economic Significance
 - About Indian Green Building Council:
 - Importance of IGBC Certification
 - QuizTime:
 - Are you Ready!
- Read the Below Instructions Carefully:
 - Please Rate!
- Mains Questions:
 - Question 1:
 - Model Answer:
 - Question 2:
 - Model Answer:
 - Relevance to the Himachal HPAS Prelims and Mains syllabus under the following topics:
 - Prelims:
 - Mains:

Summary:

- **First IGBC-Certified Zoo:** Located in Bankhandi, Kangra district, Himachal Pradesh, it will be the first Indian zoo certified by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) for its sustainable practices.
- **Project Details:** The park will cover 25 hectares initially, expanding to 672 hectares, with a total investment of ₹619 crore.
- **Wildlife and Biodiversity:** It will house 73 species, including Asiatic lions, hog deer, and various bird species, with special features like a nocturnal house and wetland aviary.
- **Economic and Environmental Impact:** The park aims to promote eco-tourism, create local employment, and serve as a model for sustainable development in India.

What is the Himachal News?

- The Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park, to be established in Bankhandi, Kangra district, will make history as the first Indian zoo to receive IGBC certification.

- This certification endorses the project's adherence to green building practices, environmental sustainability, and energy-efficient infrastructure.
- Registration with the IGBC not only highlights the Himachal Pradesh government's commitment to environmental stewardship but also sets a benchmark for eco-friendly development in the Indian tourism sector.

About Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park:

- The Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park is an upcoming eco-friendly zoological park located in the Bankhandi area of the Dehra assembly constituency in Kangra district, Himachal Pradesh.
- Announced by Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, the park is set to become India's first zoological park certified by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC), recognizing its commitment to sustainable and environmentally friendly practices.

Key Highlights of Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park

Location and Size

- Location: Bankhandi, Dehra assembly constituency, Kangra district, Himachal Pradesh.
- Total Area: The project will cover approximately 25 hectares in its first phase, eventually encompassing 672 hectares across its full development.

Phases and Project Cost

- Phase 1: Estimated to be completed by the third quarter of 2025, focusing on foundational infrastructure and enclosures.
- Total Investment: ₹619 crore, with an initial outlay of ₹230 crore dedicated to the first phase.

Design and Certification

- IGBC Certification: As the first IGBC-certified zoo in India, Durgesh Aranya will adhere to sustainable building standards in both construction and landscape design, promoting a low environmental impact.
- Central Zoo Authority (CZA) Approval: The project has received CZA clearance for the creation of 34 enclosures within the park, which will include enclosures for a wide variety of species and unique exhibits.

Wildlife and Biodiversity

- **Animal Enclosures:** The park will house 73 species including the Asiatic lion, hog deer, monitor lizard, crocodile, gharial, and numerous bird species.

Special Features:

- **Nocturnal House:** A specialized enclosure to provide visitors with a unique viewing experience of nocturnal animals and also provides rare glimpses of elusive feline species.
- **Wetland Aviary:** A naturalistic aviary showcasing indigenous bird species, enhancing the park's ecological authenticity.

Environmental and Economic Significance

Sustainable Infrastructure

- **Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park** emphasizes eco-friendly infrastructure that reduces resource consumption, minimizes pollution, and integrates

renewable energy sources.

Eco-Tourism and Employment

- The park is designed not only as a tourist attraction but also as an example of sustainable eco-tourism. The state government projects that it will stimulate local employment and self-employment opportunities, driving economic growth in Kangra and nearby districts.

Alignment with State Development Goals

- The initiative supports Himachal Pradesh's ambition to become a hub for eco-tourism and strengthens Kangra district's branding as the 'Tourism Capital' of Himachal Pradesh. The park reflects the state government's commitment to sustainable development and environmental conservation.

Broader Impact

- Once completed, Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park is expected to serve as a model for integrating conservation with modern infrastructure, highlighting India's shift towards sustainable tourism and eco-friendly infrastructure in public spaces. It will contribute to preserving local

biodiversity while promoting awareness about the importance of sustainable practices.

- This project exemplifies how environmental stewardship and tourism can co-exist, setting a new benchmark for sustainable development in India's zoological parks and other eco-tourism initiatives.

About Indian Green Building Council:

- The Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) is a part of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and was established in 2001 to promote environmentally responsible building practices in India.
- The council aims to facilitate sustainable growth in India's built environment by defining standards and certifying green buildings that prioritize resource efficiency and minimal environmental impact.
- IGBC certifications are awarded based on the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) framework and other standards tailored to the Indian context, making them a critical part of sustainable development initiatives in the country.
- The Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) is headquartered in Hyderabad, India.

Importance of IGBC Certification

- **Environmental Sustainability:** IGBC certification promotes eco-friendly practices in design, construction, and operation. Certified buildings prioritize energy efficiency, water conservation, waste management, and pollution reduction, leading to a lower carbon footprint.
- **Resource Efficiency:** Buildings with IGBC certification use resources like water and energy more efficiently. This reduces operational costs and lessens the strain on local resources, making buildings sustainable over the long term.
- **Enhanced Indoor Environment Quality:** IGBC certification considers aspects like air quality, natural lighting, and ventilation, which improve the health and well-being of occupants. This is particularly important in public buildings like offices, schools, and hospitals.
- **Economic Benefits:** While the initial cost of constructing a green building might be higher, IGBC-certified structures tend to have lower operational costs, especially in energy and water savings. This certification can also increase the building's market value, making it an attractive investment.
- **Boosts India's Global Green Goals:** IGBC certifications contribute to India's commitments under the Paris Agreement and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by fostering green building practices that align with global sustainability standards.



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1

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General Studies

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 - Attempt all questions (You can attempt or leave)
 - After Attempting Last Question.
 - Enter Name & Email
 - Click on - Check Result
 - Scroll down - Check out Solutions too.
- Thank you.

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1 / 5

Category: **General Studies**

Which of the following statements best explains the significance of the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) certification for Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park?

- It indicates that the park has the largest area among all zoological parks in India.
- It certifies that the park complies with eco-friendly and sustainable building practices.
- It allows the park to house exotic species from other continents.
- It makes the park eligible for additional funding from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Prev

Finish

Next

2 / 5

Category: **General Studies**

Which of the following best describes the environmental and economic impact expected from

Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park?

- It is expected to degrade local biodiversity while boosting revenue.
- It aims to preserve biodiversity and provide employment opportunities.
- It focuses on reducing tourism while expanding local agriculture.
- It seeks to limit infrastructure development within protected areas only.

Prev

Finish

Next

3 / 5

Category: **General Studies**

What is the primary objective of establishing Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park in Kangra, Himachal Pradesh, according to recent announcements?

- To create the largest collection of animal species in India
- To serve as a model for sustainable eco-tourism
- To preserve and showcase rare species of reptiles exclusively
- To promote commercial tourism activities in protected forest areas

Prev

Finish

Next

4 / 5

Category: **General Studies**

In the context of the Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park, which of the following represents a direct benefit of integrating eco-tourism with sustainable development goals (SDGs)?

- Promotion of unrestricted tourism in sensitive ecological zones
- Increase in deforestation for infrastructure expansion
- Alignment with SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 13 (Climate Action)
- Reduction in government regulation of animal welfare

5 / 5

Category: **General Studies**

Which feature of Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park reflects its commitment to biodiversity conservation and providing unique visitor experiences?

- Introduction of international animal species
- Construction of a wetland aviary and nocturnal house
- Offering guided hunting expeditions
- Night safaris through the park's core area

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Mains Questions:



**Below Mains
Question**

Write in Comment Section

Question 1:

Critically analyze the role of eco-friendly initiatives like Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park in promoting sustainable tourism in biodiversity-rich areas. How do such initiatives impact the local environment and economy? (Word Limit: 250)

Model Answer:

- Eco-friendly initiatives like Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park in Himachal Pradesh represent a forward-thinking approach to sustainable tourism, especially in

ecologically sensitive and biodiversity-rich areas like Kangra. This zoological park, envisioned as India's first IGBC-certified zoo, highlights the Himachal Pradesh government's commitment to sustainable development through conservation-driven tourism.

Role in Promoting Sustainable Tourism:

- **Environmental Preservation:** Eco-friendly zoological parks prioritize habitat conservation, allowing visitors to appreciate natural ecosystems without causing harm. By adhering to IGBC guidelines, the park incorporates green architecture and sustainable landscaping that limits its ecological footprint.
- **Biodiversity Conservation:** Featuring over 70 species, including Asiatic lions and other indigenous species, the park contributes to biodiversity preservation and environmental education, raising awareness about endangered species and their habitats.

Local Environment and Economy:

- **Positive Environmental Impact:** The park's eco-sensitive design emphasizes minimal energy consumption, waste reduction, and water conservation. This sustainable infrastructure mitigates the usual ecological impacts of tourism by maintaining a balanced natural habitat.
- **Economic Boost:** Eco-tourism projects attract environmentally conscious tourists, which can stimulate local economic growth by creating jobs, fostering small businesses, and promoting local handicrafts. With a planned investment of ₹619 crore, Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park is set to create numerous employment opportunities, aiding in socio-economic upliftment.

- **Challenges to Local Ecosystems:** While the park promises sustainability, unchecked visitor influx can lead to habitat disruption. Effective management and visitor regulation are essential to ensure that the environmental benefits of eco-tourism are not compromised.

In conclusion, eco-friendly zoological parks, when managed responsibly, are a sustainable model for tourism, blending economic development with conservation goals.

Question 2:

Examine the significance of green building certifications, such as those from the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC), in infrastructure projects across India. How does IGBC certification contribute to the broader goals of sustainable development in the tourism sector? (Word Limit: 250)

Model Answer:

- Green building certifications by organizations like the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) are becoming increasingly significant in India's infrastructure projects, particularly in the tourism sector. These certifications help ensure that projects like Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park prioritize environmental sustainability, resource efficiency, and reduced carbon footprints.

Significance of IGBC Certification:

- **Promotes Sustainable Building Practices:** IGBC certification benchmarks the project's adherence to eco-friendly construction standards, such as energy-efficient lighting, rainwater harvesting, and sustainable waste management. This helps reduce the environmental impact of infrastructure and contributes to India's climate goals.
- **Enhances Tourism Sector Sustainability:** In the tourism sector, green-certified projects are crucial for attracting environmentally conscious travelers. They help create an image of India as a responsible tourism destination, fostering eco-tourism and generating revenue without compromising on sustainability.

Contribution to Broader Sustainable Development Goals:

- **Alignment with SDGs:** IGBC certifications support India's commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 13 (Climate Action). By promoting green-certified tourism infrastructure, India moves closer to its goals of reducing environmental degradation and promoting sustainable urban and rural development.
- **Economic and Social Benefits:** Sustainable infrastructure creates long-term benefits for the local economy, providing jobs and reducing resource dependency. In projects like Durgesh Aranya, this ensures balanced economic growth with minimal ecological disruption.

Thus, IGBC certification is an essential tool for embedding sustainability in India's tourism sector, setting a precedent for responsible development practices that prioritize environmental and social well-being.

Remember: These are just sample answers. It's important to further research and refine your responses based on your own understanding and perspective. Read entire HPAS Current Affairs.



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Relevance to the Himachal HPAS Prelims and Mains syllabus under the following topics:



Prelims:

- **General Studies (GS) Paper I: Environment, Geography, and Current Affairs**
- **Environment and Ecology:** Topics on biodiversity, sustainable development, and conservation efforts are emphasized. The certification by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) and eco-friendly practices of the zoo highlight contemporary environmental issues that are relevant for Prelims questions on current developments in environmental policies.
- **Geography:** Knowledge of Himachal Pradesh's geographic and ecological diversity is part of the syllabus. The location of the zoo in Kangra district, its ecological features, and biodiversity conservation initiatives are integral to this section.
- **Current Affairs:** Any new development within Himachal Pradesh that has a broader ecological or social impact is a key part of the Prelims. The park's establishment in Bankhandi and its emphasis on sustainable tourism would be relevant in current affairs for Himachal Pradesh.

Mains:

- **Paper I (Geography of Himachal Pradesh)**Physical Geography: Understanding the geography of Kangra district, as well as the project's

environmental impact, relates to this section. Natural Resources and Biodiversity: The conservation-focused design and inclusion of local and rare species in the zoo align well with topics covering natural resources, ecosystems, and biodiversity within the state.

- **Paper II (Environment and Sustainable Development in Himachal Pradesh)** Environmental Issues and Sustainable Development: The park's IGBC certification makes it a pioneering project in sustainable infrastructure, aligning with HPAS topics on environmental preservation, eco-friendly initiatives, and their implications for Himachal's tourism industry. Tourism in Himachal Pradesh: Eco-tourism and its impact on local economies is a significant focus in Paper II. As an upcoming eco-friendly tourist destination, Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park supports discussions on sustainable tourism, employment generation, and economic development in Himachal Pradesh.
- **Paper III (Current Events of National and State Importance)** State Policies and Development Programs: The park is a significant initiative of the Himachal Pradesh government, which aligns with state development programs aimed at fostering tourism while emphasizing ecological balance and environmental preservation. The emphasis on creating an eco-friendly tourist destination provides relevant material for this paper.
- **Essay Paper** Sustainable Development and Tourism: This topic provides a practical case study on blending environmental conservation with economic development. Aspirants may discuss the significance of eco-tourism, green certifications, and biodiversity in relation to

sustainable development, which are key areas for essay writing.



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- Option 1
- Option 2
- Option 3



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