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**Topic: For Prelims and Mains**

**CFC-11:**

**Why in news?** Rogue emissions of a gas that harms the **ozone layer** are coming from **eastern China**, primarily from **two heavily industrialised provinces**, an international team of researchers said on recently

Environmental groups and policymakers had suspected after an initial study a year ago reported **new global emissions of the gas, CFC-11**, but could only **locate the source generally as East Asia**.

**About the CFC-11:**

- Trichlorofluoromethane, also called **freon-11, CFC-11, or R-11**, is a **chlorofluorocarbon**. It is a **colorless, faint ethereal, and sweetish-smelling liquid** that **boils around room temperature**
- It was the first widely used refrigerant. Because of its high boiling point (**compared to most refrigerants**), it can be used in systems with a low operating pressure, making the mechanical design of such systems less demanding than that of **higher-pressure refrigerants R-12 or R-22**.
- R-11 is assigned an ozone depletion potential of **1.0**, and **U.S. production was ended on January 1, 1996**.

- **Trichlorofluoromethane is used as a reference compound for fluorine-19 NMR studies.**
- Prior to the knowledge of the ozone depletion potential of chlorine in refrigerants and other possible harmful effects on the environment, **trichlorofluoromethane was sometimes used as a cleaning/rinsing agent for low-pressure systems.**
- Trichlorofluoromethane was formerly used in the drinking bird novelty, largely because it has a boiling **point of 23.77°C (74.79°F)**. The **replacement, dichloromethane, boiling point 39.6°C (103.3°F)**, requires a higher ambient temperature to work.

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**Topic: For Prelims and Mains**

**‘ Women still under-represented in science, tech’**

**Why in news?** Women remain considerably under-represented across STEM (**science, technology, engineering and math**) studies and **careers, says UNESCO**. That’s because most young women do not identify with STEM and assume these subjects won’t align with their desire to be creative and make an impact in the world.

**About the UNESCO:**

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was formed on **16 November 1945**.
- 195 countries as member states are part of the UNESCO along with **9 associate members**. India became an UNESCO member state on **4th November 1946**.
- UNESCO pursues its objectives through five major programs: education, natural sciences, social/human sciences, culture, and communication/information.
- **UNESCO World Heritage Sites are located in 157 countries** around the world. **32 of them are in India**. Of these **32 sites, 25 are cultural sites and the other seven are natural sites**. A tentative list of further sites/properties submitted by India for recognition includes 51 sites. India’s first two sites inscribed on the list at the Seventh

Session of the World Heritage held in 1983 were the Agra Fort and the Ajanta Caves.

- **Taj Mahal, one of the Seven Wonders of the World** was also given World Heritage Site status in the same year. **Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus airport** was nominated on **2nd July 2004**. Other notable inclusions in this illustrious list are **Delhi's Qutb Minar** and its Monuments, the Western Ghats, West Bengal's Sundarbans National Park, Rock Shelters of **Bhimbetka in Madhya Pradesh**, the **Konark Sun Temple in Orissa** among many others.
- The field offices of the UNESCO are known as "**cluster**" offices, which usually cover **3 or more nations**. National and regional offices also exist. **The UNESCO cluster office for India is located in the nation's capital New Delhi.**

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### 'Not all animals migrate by choice' campaign:

#### **Why in News?**

**United Nation (UN) Environment India and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)** of India, on the International Day of Biological Diversity, initiated an awareness campaign by the name of '**Not all animals migrate by choice**' to be displayed at major airports across India.

The campaign was inaugurated by Dia Mirza, the UN Environment Goodwill Ambassador (and also UN Secretary-General's SDG Advocate), in presence of officials from Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Wildlife Crime Control Bureau of India (WCCB), UN Environment, UN agencies, and GMR Group.

#### **About the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau:**

It is a statutory multi-disciplinary body established by the Government of India under the **Ministry of Environment and Forests**, to combat organized wildlife crime in the country.

### **Aims:**

The aim is to raise awareness on **illegal wildlife trade**, to garner **public support for conservation and protection of wildlife**, prevention from smuggling and for the reduction in demand for wildlife products.

It also complements worldwide action taken on illegal trade in wildlife via UN Environment's global campaign called Wild for Life.

**WCCB and UN Environment** started a comprehensive approach with a focus on **awareness building** towards the issue of prevention of illegal trade, smuggling of wildlife (and wildlife products) through exit points.

### **Phases of the initiative:**

In the **first phase** of the campaign, Tiger, Pangolin, Star Tortoise and Tokay **Gecko** have been chosen as they are highly endangered due to illegal trading in International markets.

- ✓ Tiger is traded for its **skin, bones and body parts**
- ✓ Pangolin, the most illegally traded wild mammal on the planet is trafficked for its **meat and its scales** are used in traditional medicines
- ✓ Star Tortoise for **meat and pet trade**
- ✓ Tokay Gecko in **traditional medicine** mostly into South East Asia and particularly Chinese Markets.

**Phase two** will see more threatened species and explore other routes of trafficking.

### **Need for the initiatives:**

Illegal wildlife trade drives a **species to the brink of extinction**. India is also seeing a sharp rise in its illegal trade in wildlife. There is an urgent need for **awareness, action and stringent law** enforcement to curb illegal wildlife trade which is threatening biodiversity and conservation in wild.

Although, while wildlife faces global threat and India's flora and fauna's demand continues to rise in illegal global markets, India's stringent provisions for protection of wildlife under its **Wildlife Protection Act**

(WPA), 1972, and efforts towards creating awareness among public at large would still have to go a long way to help protect our wildlife.

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