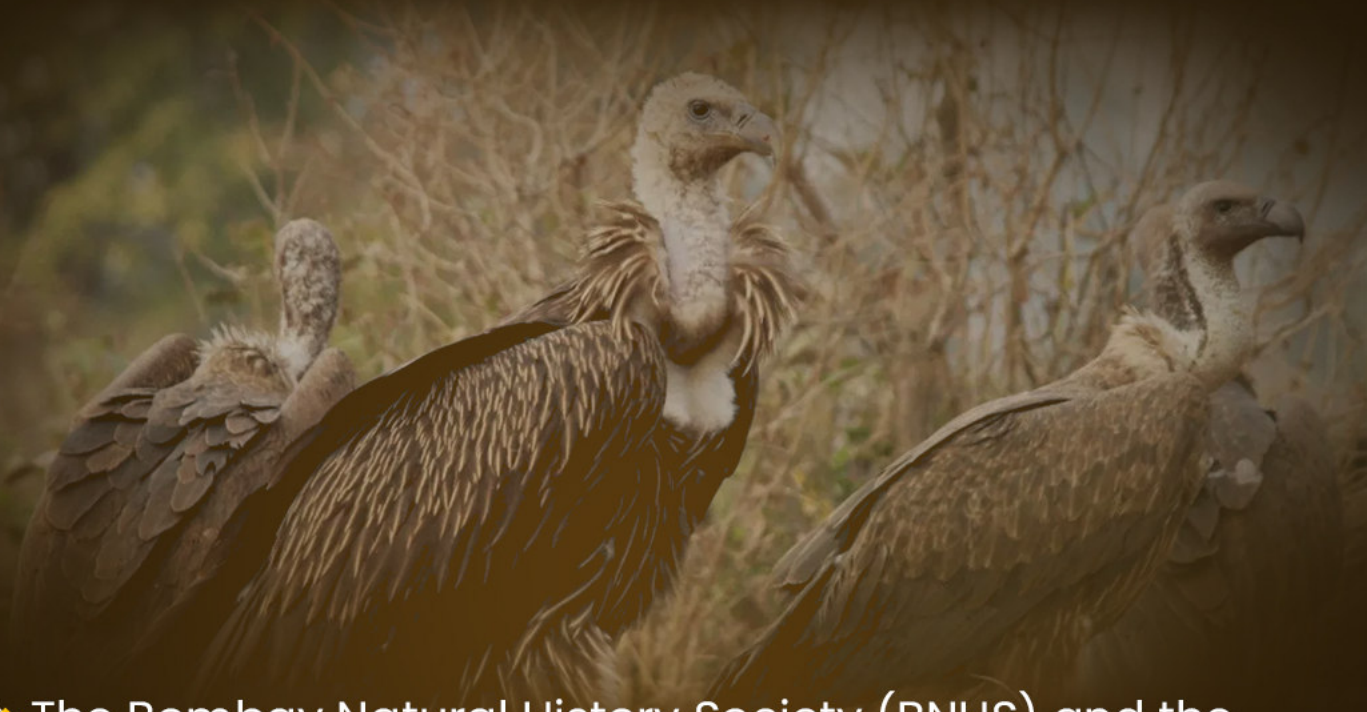




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HIMALAYAN VULTURES IN INDIA



- ◆ The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and the Assam Forest Department coordinate the captive-breeding project.
- ◆ The objective of captive-breeding programs is to preserve a healthy population of animals kept in captivity while protecting the genetic health of the animals.
- ◆ The Himalayan vulture is a common winter migratory bird endemic to the Indian plains.
- ◆ The Himalayan vulture is a high-altitude bird. As such, it is not a common occurrence for this species to breed in lowlands with tropical and humid climates.



- ❖ France was the first country where this species was bred in captivity.
- ❖ Vultures are also called condors. It is a large predatory bird. Its 23 species are found worldwide.
- ❖ There are 9 species of vultures found in the northern part of the Indian subcontinent (see infographic for species and their IUCN status).
- ❖ Out of these 9 species, three species are migratory. These migratory species are the cinereous vulture, the griffon vulture and the Himalayan vulture.
- ❖ They are considered to be the most efficient scavengers. They play a special and important role in the ecosystem, as they prevent the spread of diseases from rotting corpses.

Threats to Vultures:

- ❖ The use of diclofenac, a drug used in the treatment of cattle, has led to a decline in its population;
- ❖ A large number of vultures have died due to electrocution from electric wires etc.



Initiatives for Vulture Conservation:

- ◆ Diclofenac (in 2006) for veterinary use. Ketoprofen and Aceclofenac (2023) have been banned for use.
- ◆ Action plan 2020-25 is being implemented for vulture conservation in India.

VULTURE SPECIES IN INDIA

इसमें भारत की 9 गिद्ध प्रजातियों, उनकी पहचान संबंधी विशेषताओं और उनके IUCN लाल सूची में दर्जे को दर्शाया गया है:



सफेद पुढे वाला गिद्ध जिप्स बेंगालेसिस



पतलो चोंच वाला गिद्ध जिप्स टेन्यूरुस्ट्रिस



भारतीय गिद्ध जिप्स इंडिकस



लाल सिर श्वाला गिद्ध साकोजिप्स काल्वस



दाढ़ी वाला गिद्ध जिपेटस बारबटस



सिनेरियस गिद्ध एजिपियस मोनाकस



ग्रिफॉन गिद्ध जिप्स फलवस



इजिप्टियन गिद्ध नियोफोन परकनोपटेरस



हिमालयन ग्रिफॉन जिप्स हिमालयनेसिस

CR= क्रिटिकली एंडेंजर्ड
LC= लीस्ट कंसर्न

NT= नियर थ्रेटंड
EN= एंडेंजर्ड



KURIL ISLANDS



- ◆ Russia's invasion of Ukraine continues, creating challenges in resource allocation along its western border.
- ◆ Japan sees an opportunity to reclaim the Kuril Islands, also known in Japan as the Northern Territory, which were seized by Soviet forces during World War II.
- ◆ It is a group of four islands located between the Sea of Okhotsk and the Pacific Ocean, near the north of Hokkaido, the northernmost prefecture of Japan.
- ◆ They are part of the Pacific Ring of Fire belt and contain over 100 volcanoes, 35 of which are said to be active volcanoes with hot springs.



- ◆ It extends from the northeastern tip of Hokkaido in Japan to the southernmost tip of the Kamchatka Peninsula in Russia.
- ◆ It consists of 56 islands, of which Iturup, Kunashir, Shikotan and Habomai are the most important.
- ◆ The Kuril Islands are part of the Pacific Ring of Fire, a region of intense volcanic and seismic activity caused by the movement of tectonic plates.

DISPUTED TERRITORY



- ◆ The islands are home to several active volcanoes, notable among which are Alaid, Abeko and Chikurachki.



Japan-Russia dispute:-

- ◆ Japan calls them the Northern Territory, Russia calls them the Kuril Islands and South Korea calls them the Dokdo Islands.
- ◆ Both Russia and Japan claim sovereignty over them, although the islands have been under Russian control since the end of World War II.
- ◆ The 1951 San Francisco Treaty is the legal proof that Japan accepted Russian sovereignty over the islands. Under Article 2 of the treaty, Japan "renounced all rights, ownership and claim over the Kuril Islands".
- ◆ Japan claims the southernmost islands (Iturup, Kunashir, Shikotan and Habomai) and refers to them as the "Northern Territories".
- ◆ Russia maintains sovereignty over the islands and considers them an integral part of its territory.
- ◆ Territorial disputes have hindered the signing of a formal peace treaty between Russia and Japan to officially end World War II hostilities.

HISTORY OF THE DISPUTED AREA





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PRIVILEGE MOTION



- ◆ The Rajya Sabha Chairman referred the complaints regarding the privilege of the House against two MPs (Derek O'Brien of TMC and Raghav Chadha of AAP) to the Committee of Privileges.
- ◆ According to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, the notice was filed against O'Brien for publishing the clipping of his statement made in the House on his Twitter handle, despite the Chairman deleting it from record.



- ◆ The complaint against Raghav Chadha alleges a deliberate act of misrepresenting facts to the media regarding the suspension of an AAP MP (Sanjay Singh) for the remainder of the monsoon session of Rajya Sabha.

What is Privilege Motion?

- ◆ Parliamentary privileges are certain rights and immunities enjoyed by Members of Parliament, individually and collectively, to enable them to 'discharge their functions effectively'.
- ◆ When any of these rights and immunities are violated, the offence is termed a breach of privilege and is punishable under an Act of Parliament.
- ◆ A notice is moved in the form of a motion by a member of either House against a person found guilty of breach of privilege. Its purpose is to censure the minister concerned.

Role of Rajya Sabha Speaker

- ◆ Speaker/Chairman of Rajya Sabha is the first level of examination of privilege motion.
- ◆ The Speaker/Chairman can take a decision on the privilege motion himself or refer it to the Privileges Committee of the Parliament.
- ◆ If the Speaker/Chairman consents under the relevant rules, the member concerned is given an opportunity to make a brief statement.



Rules Governing

- ◆ Rule number 222 in Chapter 20 of the Lok Sabha Rule Book and Rule 187 in Chapter 16 of the Rajya Sabha Rule Book governs the privilege.
- ◆ The rules state that any member may, with the consent of the Speaker or Chairperson, raise a question regarding a breach of privilege of a member of the House or a committee concerned with it.

Parliamentary Privilege

- ◆ Parliamentary privilege refers to the special rights, immunities and exemptions enjoyed by both Houses of Parliament, their committees and their members.
- ◆ The Constitution also confers parliamentary privileges on persons who are entitled to speak and take part in the proceedings of either House of Parliament or any committee thereof. These include the Attorney General of India and Union Ministers.
- ◆ Parliamentary privileges are not available to the President who is also an integral part of the Parliament. Article 361 of the Constitution confers privileges on the President.
- ◆ Article 105 of the Constitution clearly mentions two privileges: the freedom of speech in Parliament and the right to publish its proceedings.

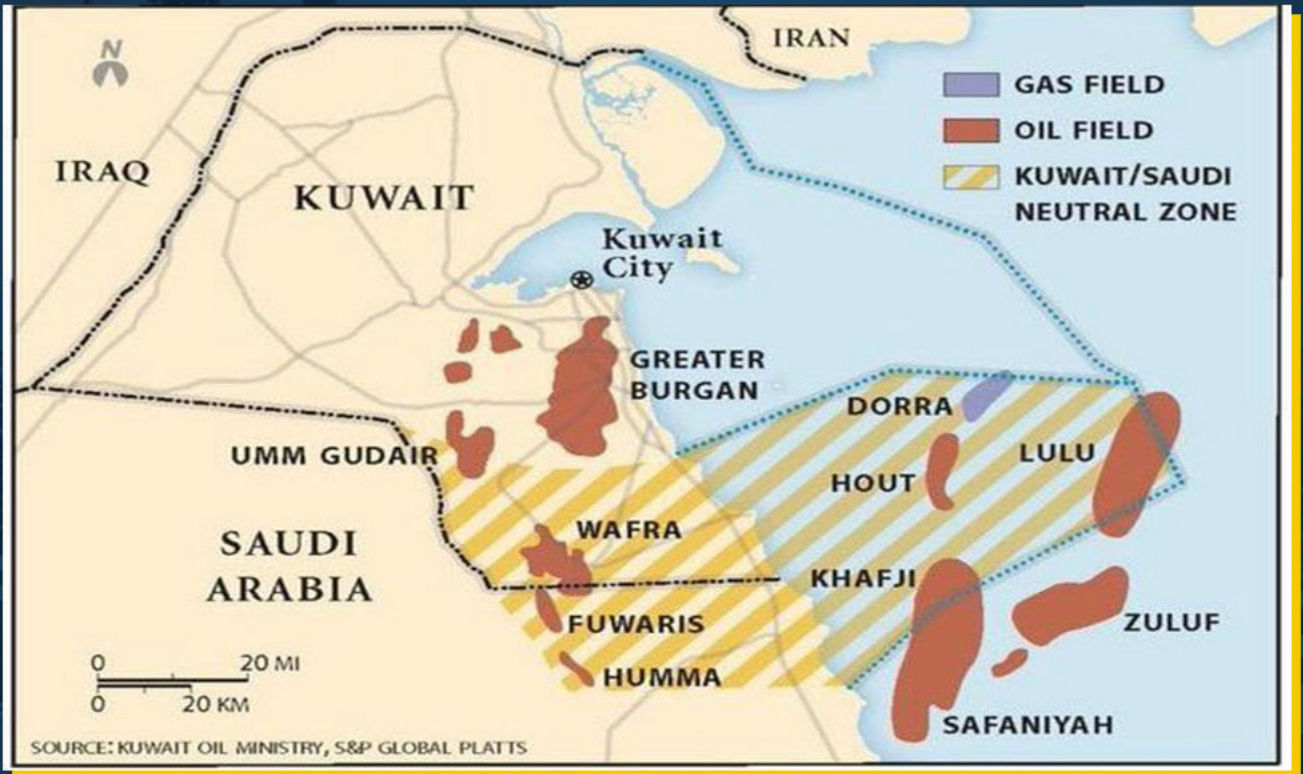


- ◆ In addition to the privileges specified in the Constitution, the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 may exempt members from arrest and detention under civil process during a meeting of the House or a committee thereof and for 40 days before its commencement and 40 days after its commencement.
- ◆ It may be noted that the Parliament has not yet made any special law to codify all the privileges comprehensively.

Committee of Privileges:-

- ◆ It is a standing committee. It inquires into cases of breach of privileges of the House and its members and recommends appropriate action.
- ◆ The Lok Sabha Committee consists of 15 members, while the Rajya Sabha Committee consists of 10 members.

ARASH-DORRA GAS FIELD DISPUTE



- ◆ Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have claimed sole ownership of the disputed gas field, which is also claimed by Iran after Tehran threatened to stop exploration.
- ◆ The Arash region has been a focal point of dispute between the countries for years. Both the Gulf countries have called on Iran to hold talks on the demarcation of their maritime borders to resolve the issue.
- ◆ Iran, however, said it can exploit and explore the area by any means if a solution could not be found.



- ◆ It is a resource-rich offshore area that is also claimed by Iran.
- ◆ The Arash-Dorra gas field, known as Arash in Iran and Dorra in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, has been a focal point of dispute between the three countries.
- ◆ The region contains significant natural gas reserves, making it a highly valuable resource for all parties involved.
- ◆ The roots of the dispute can be traced back to the 1960s when Iran and Kuwait awarded offshore concessions to separate companies – the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (now BP) and Royal Dutch Shell respectively.
- ◆ Concessions overlap in the northern part of the Arash-Dorra area, leading to conflicting claims and disagreements over ownership and exploitation rights.
- ◆ Iran has expressed willingness to pursue exploration and exploitation of the Arash-Dorra gas field even without a formal agreement.
- ◆ Iranian Oil Minister Javad Ovjii said Iran would defend its rights and interests with respect to the region and urged understanding and cooperation to be a priority in resolving the issue.



- ◆ However, Kuwait's recent aggressive actions, including inviting Iran to talks and announcing its plans for drilling and production in the region, have further complicated the situation.

