**Chinese Mitten Crabs**



**Facts**

* The Chinese mitten crabs are listed as World’s 100 worst invasive species. It was introduced to North America and Europe nearly a century ago.
* It is named for its mitten look furry claws and they are native in the coastal estuaries of eastern Asia.
* Makes inland migration even hundreds of miles away from the sea and competes with local species whether they are inland or in the sea.
* Illegal to transport and import live Chinese mitten crabs in the US – risk of spreading if escaped



**Impacts**

* Damages embankments as they accelerates the rate of erosion and blocks drainage system which is a problem especially for the local people. Blocked drainage system can cause hazards like flooding.
* There are also reports indicating the sighting of the Chinese mitten crabs in swimming pools even hundreds of miles from the sea.
* Responsible to damages of fishing gear and river banks. Crabs caught in fishing nets can damage the nets which impacts the bait market.
* Modifies natural habitats. They reproduce and spreads to different places at a rapid rate as they can survive on land.
* Consumes both animals and plants which they can damage the aquatic food chain. They also consume the rice crops



**Management**

* It is illegal to import or transport like Chinese mitten crabs as it can spread at a really rapid rate if it is accidentally being released or escaped. In California, fishing for Chinese mitten crabs is allowed but with some restrictions. In some other states, possession of the Chinese mitten crabs are restricted.
* The Chinese mitten crabs are treasured in Asia. They could be fished and sold in Asia which will have a positive impact on the economy. At the same time, rivers and technically being cleaned and can be more safer.