

What are aluxes?

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In news– Mexico President claimed a blurry, dark photo of a tree at night showed a figure from Mayan mythology as 'alux'.

What are aluxes?

- **According to Mayan mythology, aluxes are small, mischievous creatures that inhabit forests and fields and play tricks on people**, like hiding things. It is said that some people leave small offerings to appease them.
- As per the legends, **shelter-like structures were built for aluxes when construction works were undertaken in the area**.
- It was believed these shelters would attract the creatures, who would then help ward off any hindrances and help work proceed smoothly.
- Similarly, there are **myths about angering the forest spirits**. During a 2010 concert by British singer Elton John in the region, local Mayan leaders complained about it being held near the **Mayan pyramids of Chichen Itza**.
- They said a state collapse before the performance, which hurt three people, was the work of aluxes for not taking permission from the Gods.

History of the Mayan civilization-

- **The larger Mayan civilisation (which reached its zenith between 300 AD to 900 AD) is recognised as one having significant cultural heft in its time** with innovations in farming, stone architecture, the study of mathematics and astronomy, devising calendars, as well as large-scale human sacrifices as part of religious rituals.
- **It spanned present-day Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala in Central America**.

- **Yucata, a peninsula in Mexico on the Gulf of Mexico, has important Mayan sites.** Ek Balam, the archaeological site referenced by President AMLO, is also in Yucata.
- Mayan people, to date, continue inhabiting some of these regions.
- Though the number of people speaking the indigenous languages and following traditional customs has fallen over time with Spanish colonisation or the post-Hispanic period, president AMLO has been known to emphasise aspects of indigenous culture.
- Lopez Obrador has often spoken about the pre-colonisation culture and blamed colonial-era abuses for present-day injustices in the country.
- The socialist leader has also pressured a Vienna museum to lend Mexico a bejewelled feather headdress in the last few years.
- Another pet project of his is the Maya Train tourism project, which runs through Mexico's thickly-forested regions.
- **In 2022, a prehistoric human skeleton believed to be at least 8,000 years old was found in a cave on this path.**