

6th Dec - 12th Dec Weekly Compilation

(The Hindu+ Indian Express + PIB + Other World Wide News)

❖ 65th Mahaparinirvan Diwas

(Source: PIB)

Why in News: Recently, the Prime Minister has paid tributes to Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar on Mahaparinirvan Diwas.

Key Points

About Mahaparinirvan Diwas:

Parinirvana, regarded as one of the major principles as well as goals of Buddhism, is a Sanskrit term which means release or freedom after death.

As per the Buddhist text Mahaparinibbana Sutta, the death of Lord Buddha at the age of 80 is considered as the original Mahaparinirvana.

6th December is observed to commemorate the unfathomable contribution to society given by Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar and his achievements. Owing to Ambedkar's status as a Buddhist leader, his death anniversary is referred to as Mahaparinirvana Diwas.

Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar:

Birth: 14th April 1891 in Mhow, Central Province (now Madhya Pradesh).

Brief Profile:

- Dr. Ambedkar was a social reformer, jurist, economist, author, polyglot orator and a scholar of comparative religions.
- In 1916, he received a doctorate degree from Columbia University, becoming the first Indian to do so.
- He is known as the Father of the Indian Constitution and was India's first law minister.

Related Information:

- He established a fortnightly newspaper "Mooknayak" in 1920 which laid the foundations of an assertive and organised Dalit politics.

- He founded Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha (1923), devoted to spreading education and culture amongst the downtrodden.
- He was appointed by the Bombay Presidency Committee to work in the Simon Commission in 1925.
- He led the Mahad Satyagraha in March 1927 to challenge the regressive customs of the Hindus.
- The Kalaram Temple Movement of 1930 formed a pivotal role in the Dalit movement in India in which Ambedkar led a protest outside the Kalaram temple which did not allow Dalits to enter the temple premises.
- He participated in all three round-table conferences.
- In 1932, he signed the Poona pact with Mahatma Gandhi, which abandoned the idea of separate electorates for the depressed classes (Communal Award).
- However, the seats reserved for the depressed classes were increased from 71 to 147 in provincial legislatures and to 18% of the total in the Central Legislature.

Quotes:

- 'Democracy is not merely a form of government. It is primarily a mode of associated living, of conjoint communicated experience. It is essentially an attitude of respect and reverence towards fellow men'.
- "I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women have achieved".
- 'Humans are mortal. So are ideas. An idea needs propagation as much as a plant needs watering. Otherwise, both will wither and die'.

❖ Default Bail

(Source: PIB)

Why in News: Recently, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed an appeal against the Bombay High Court order, which granted statutory bail to lawyer-activist Sudha Bharadwaj.

Bail is the conditional/provisional release of a person held under legal custody (in matters which are yet to be pronounced by the Court), by undertaking a promise to appear in the Court as and when required.

Key Points

About Default Bail:

Legal Source:

This is a right to bail that accrues when the police fail to complete investigation within a specified period in respect of a person in judicial custody.

It is also known as statutory bail.

This is enshrined in Section 167(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Supreme Court Judgment: In Bikramjit Singh case 2020, the Supreme Court had observed that the accused gets an indefeasible right to 'default bail' if he makes an application after the maximum period for investigation of an offence is over, and before a charge sheet is filed.

Right to default bail under Section 167(2), CrPC not merely a statutory right, but part of procedure established by law under Article 21.

Underlying Principle: In general, the right to bail on the investigation agency's default is considered an 'indefeasible right', but it should be availed of at the appropriate time.

Default bail is a right, regardless of the nature of the crime.

The stipulated period within which the charge sheet has to be filed begins from the day the accused is remanded for the first time.

Under Section 173 of CrPC, the police officer is obligated to file a report after the completion of the necessary investigation of an offence. This report is called the Charge Sheet in common parlance.

Time Period: The issue of default bail arises where it is not possible for the police to complete an investigation in 24 hours, the police produce the suspect in court and seek orders for either police or judicial custody.

For most offences, the police have 60 days to complete the investigation and file a final report before the court.

However, where the offence attracts death sentence or life imprisonment, or a jail term of not less than 10 years, the period available is 90 days.

In other words, a magistrate cannot authorise a person's judicial remand beyond the 60-or 90-day limit.

At the end of this period, if the investigation is not complete, the court shall release the person "if he is prepared to and does furnish bail".

Special Cases: The 60- or 90-day limit is only for ordinary penal law. Special enactments allow greater latitude to the police for completing the probe.

In the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act 1985, the period is 180 days, which can be extended up to one year.

In the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967, the default limit is 90 days only, which can be extended to another 90 days.

This extension can be granted only on a report by the Public Prosecutor indicating the progress made in the investigation and giving reasons to keep the accused in continued detention.

These provisions show that the extension of time is not automatic but requires a judicial order.

❖ Indo-Pak War: 1971

(Source: PIB)

Why in News: Recently, National Cadet Corps (NCC) has announced to conduct 'Azadi ki Vijay Shrankhla aur Sanskritiyon ka Mahasangam' event as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav (75th Anniversary of India's Independence).

Under Azadi ki Vijay Shrankhla' program, the bravehearts of the Indo-Pakistan 1971 War are being honoured at 75 locations throughout the country.

Sanskritiyon ka Maha Sangam entails a special national integration camp will be conducted in New Delhi wherein candidates from all over the country will participate in cultural exchange.

Key Points

Timeline of India-Pakistan War 1971:

Political Imbalance: In the 1950s the centralised Pakistani state was run undemocratically by a military-bureaucratic oligarchy dominated by West Pakistan.

Under this system, Bengalis had no political say. But West Pakistan dominance was challenged in 1970 during general elections.

Landslide Victory of Awami League: East Pakistan's Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Awami League had a clear overall majority, enough to become the prime minister.

However, west Pakistan was not willing to let a leader from its eastern provincial wing rule the country.

Cultural Differences: The then West Pakistan (present Pakistan), under the leadership of Yahya Khan, started a brutal assault on the people of East Pakistan (present Bangladesh) who were demanding freedom because of the language and cultural differences between the two regions.

After political negotiations failed, the Pakistani army under General Yahya Khan decided to start the crackdown.

Operation Searchlight: West Pakistan kicked in operation searchlight across the whole of East Pakistan on March 26, 1971.

This resulted in millions of Bangladeshis fleeing to India, mainly West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura.

West Bengal, in particular, was massively burdened by the onrush of the refugees and the state appealed to the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and her government for assistance for food and shelter.

Indo-Bangla Cooperation: With the subsequent bravery of the Indian Army coupled with the spirited fight put up by Mukti Bahini — the Bangladeshi guerilla resistance movement consisting of the Bangladeshi military, paramilitary and civilians — defeated the Pakistani forces.

Defeat of Pakistani Military: On December 16, 1971, Lt Gen Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi, the Chief Martial Law Administrator of East Pakistan and Commander of Pakistan Army forces located in East Pakistan signed the Instrument of Surrender.

Over 93,000 Pakistani troops surrendered to the Indian forces and Bangladesh Liberation forces making it the largest surrender since World War II.

The intervention brought a conclusion to the war in 13 short days and led to the birth of a new nation.

Significance of Indo-Pakistan War For India:

Diminishing the Two-front War Threat: The East Pakistan uprising provided India with the opportunity to break up Pakistan and eliminate the threat of a two-front war in any future confrontation.

Although the eastern front remained largely inactive in 1965, it tied down substantial military resources that could have been deployed to greater effect in the western theatre.

Departure from Non-Alignment: The India-Pakistan war was preceded by the signing of the Indo-Soviet Treaty in August 1971, which boosted India diplomatically.

The victory defined India's much broader role in foreign politics.

Many countries in the world, including the United States, realised that the balance of power had shifted to India in South Asia.

❖ **World Inequality Report 2022**

(Source :The Hindu)

Why in News: According to the recently released World Inequality Report 2022, India is now among the most unequal countries in the world.

The report was released by the World Inequality Lab, which aims to promote research on global inequality dynamics.

This report presents the most up-to-date synthesis of international research efforts to track global inequalities.

Key Points

Findings about the World:

Distribution of Wealth:

The poorest half of the global population “barely owns any wealth” possessing just 2% of the total, whereas the richest 10% of the global population own 76% of all wealth.

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) are the most unequal regions in the world, whereas Europe has the lowest inequality levels.

Gender Inequalities:

Women’s share of total incomes from work (labour income) was about 30% in 1990 and is less than 35% now.

Inequalities within countries are now greater than those observed between countries.

At the same time, the gap between the average incomes of the top 10% and the bottom 50% of individuals within countries has almost doubled.

Rich Countries Poor Governments:

Over the past 40 years, countries have become significantly richer, but their governments have become significantly poorer.

The currently low wealth of governments has important implications for state capacities to tackle inequality in the future, as well as the key challenges of the 21st century such as climate change.

Impact of Covid Crisis on Inequality:

The Covid-19 pandemic and the economic crisis that followed hit all world regions, but it hit them with varying intensity.

Europe, Latin America, and South and Southeast Asia recorded the largest drops in national income in 2020 (between -6% and -7.6%) while East Asia (where the pandemic began) succeeded in stabilizing its 2020 income at the level of 2019.

India Specific Findings:

Distribution of Wealth:

India stands out as a poor and very unequal country.

The top 1% of the population hold more than one-fifth of the total national income in 2021 and the bottom half just 13%.

The economic reforms and liberalization adopted by India have mostly benefited the top 1%.

❖ Kasturirangan Committee on Western Ghats

(Source: The Hindu)

Why in News: Recently, the Government of Karnataka has informed the Center government that the state is opposed to the Kasturirangan Committee report on Western Ghats.

The Kasturirangan committee report has proposed 37% of the total area of Western Ghats to be declared as Eco-Sensitive Area (ESA).

The Karnataka's Government is of the opinion that declaring Western Ghats as ESA would adversely affect the livelihood of people in the region.

Key Points

About Eco-Sensitive Areas:

Eco-Sensitive Areas (ESAs) are located within 10 kms around Protected Areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.

ESAs are notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) under Environment Protection Act 1986.

The basic aim is to regulate certain activities around National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries so as to minimize the negative impacts of such activities on the fragile ecosystem encompassing the protected areas.

About Recommendations Of The Kasturirangan Committee Report:

Area to be Covered: The Kasturirangan committee report proposes roughly 60,000 square kilometers, to be declared as eco-sensitive area (ESA).

Out of this, 20,668 sq km of the area falls in Karnataka covering 1,576 villages.

The boundary of the sites, are in most cases, boundaries of the legally demarcated national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, tiger reserves and forest divisions and therefore, already accorded with high level of protection.

Desired and Banned Activities: The report recommended a blanket ban on mining, quarrying, setting up of red category industries and thermal power projects.

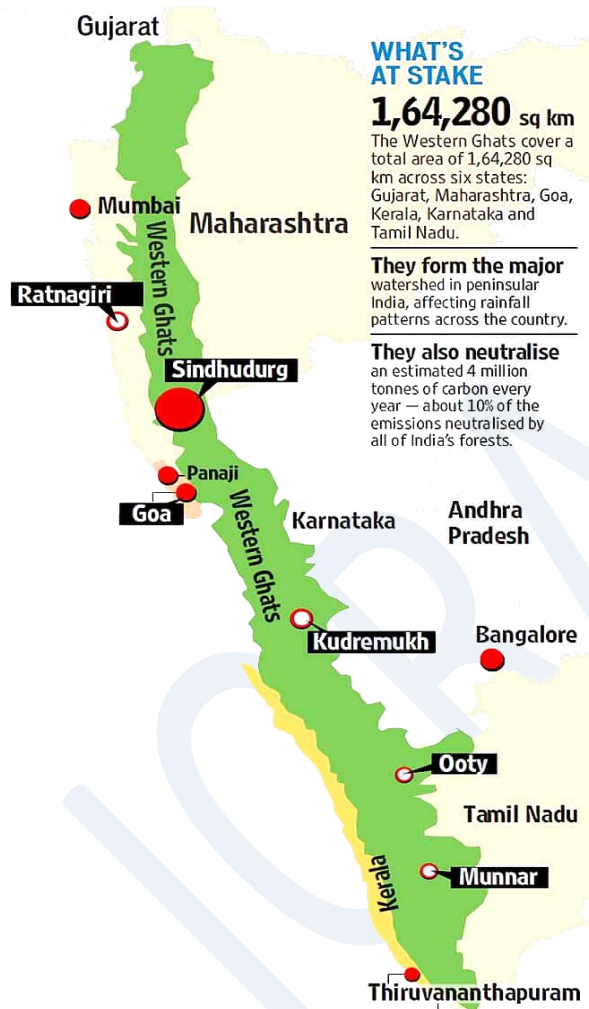
It also stated that the impact of infrastructural projects on the forest and wildlife should be studied before permission is given for these activities.

UNESCO Tag: It also stated that the UNESCO Heritage tag is an opportunity to build global and domestic recognition of the enormous natural wealth that exists in the Western Ghats.

The 39 sites are located across the Western Ghats and distributed across the states (Kerala 19), Karnataka (10), Tamil Nadu (6) and Maharashtra (4).

Role of State Governments: The state governments should view this development and build a plan to protect, conserve and value the resources and opportunities of the region.

ESA Proposed By Kasturirangan Committee



Opposition of Karnataka Government:

Impeding Developmental Progress: Karnataka has extensive forest cover and the government has taken care to protect the biodiversity of Western Ghats.

The state government believes that implementation of the report will halt the developmental activities in the region.

People-Centric Developmental Model: The Kasturirangan report has been prepared based on the satellite images, but the ground reality is different.

People of the region have adopted agriculture and horticultural activities in an eco-friendly manner.

Priority has been accorded for environment protection under the Forest Protection Act 19

❖ Cyclone Management Framework

(Source: The Hindu)

Why in News: Recently, Cyclone Jawad has hit the east coast of India particularly the State of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.

Although the cyclone weakened and didn't cause much damage, it highlighted that India's cyclone management approach was largely based on evacuation.

Thus, India's cyclone management must incorporate Mitigation and Preparedness measures. Mitigation means measures taken prior to the impact of a disaster to minimize its effects.

Key Points

About Cyclone: Cyclones are rapid inward air circulation around a low-pressure area. The air circulates in an anticlockwise direction in the Northern hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern hemisphere. Cyclones are usually accompanied by violent storms and bad weather.

The word Cyclone is derived from the Greek word Cyclos meaning the coils of a snake.

It was coined by Henry Piddington because the tropical storms in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea appear like coiled serpents of the sea.

Classification of Cyclone: There are two types of cyclones:

Tropical cyclones: Tropical cyclones develop in the region between the Tropics of Capricorn and Cancer. They are large-scale weather systems developing over tropical or subtropical waters, where they get organized into surface wind circulation.

The World Meteorological Organization uses the term 'Tropical Cyclone' to cover weather systems in which winds exceed 'Gale Force' (minimum of 63 km per hour)

Extra Tropical cyclones: They are also called Temperate cyclones or middle latitude cyclones or Frontal cyclones or Wave Cyclones. Extra tropical cyclones occur in temperate zones and high latitude regions, though they are known to originate in the Polar Regions.

Governmental Initiatives for Cyclone Management in India

▪ **National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project:**

- India initiated this project to undertake structural and non-structural measures to mitigate the cyclone's effects.
- The aim of the project is **to protect the vulnerable local communities from the impact of cyclones** and other hydro-meteorological calamities.
- After the formation of **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)**, the management of the Project was transferred to NDMA in September, 2006.

▪ **Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Project:**

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has unveiled the **draft Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)** for Integrated coastal management.

- The draft plan will dictate how prospective infrastructure projects would be assessed for clearance by laying out guidelines for coastal States.
- **Coastal Regulation Zones (CRZ):** The coastal areas of seas, bays, creeks, rivers, and backwaters which get influenced by tides up to **500 m from the high tide line (HTL)** and the land between the low tide line (LTL) and the high tide line have been declared as **coastal regulation zone (CRZ)** in 1991.

❖ Ken-Betwa Inter-Linking Project

(Source: Indian Express)

Why in News: Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved the funding and implementation of Ken-Betwa inter-linking of rivers project.

The project envisages transferring water from the Ken river to the Betwa river, both tributaries of the Yamuna. The project will be completed in eight years.

Key Points

About: It is the first project under the National Perspective Plan for interlinking of rivers. The Ken-Betwa Link Canal will be 221 km long, including a 2-km long tunnel.

Ken and Betwa Rivers

- Ken and Betwa rivers originate in MP and are the tributaries of Yamuna.
- Ken meets with Yamuna in Banda district of UP and with Betwa in Hamirpur district of UP.
- Rajghat, Paricha and Matatila dams are over Betwa river.
- Ken River passes through Panna tiger reserve.

Background: The idea of linking Ken with Betwa got a major push in August 2005, when a tripartite memorandum of understanding for preparation of a **Detailed Project Report (DPR)** was signed among the Centre and governments of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

In 2008, the Centre declared KBLP a National Project. Later, it was included as part of the Prime Minister's package for development of drought-prone Bundelkhand region.

In 2021, a memorandum of agreement was signed for implementation of this project among the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the two states.

Implementing Agency:

A **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** called **Ken-Betwa Link Project Authority (KBLPA)** will be set up to implement the project.

The National Interlinking of Rivers Authority (NIRA) has the powers to set up SPV for individual link projects.

Phases of the Project: The project has two phases, with mainly four components.

Phase-I will involve one of the components — Daudhan Dam complex and its subsidiary units such as Low Level Tunnel, High Level Tunnel, Ken-Betwa Link Canal and power houses.

Phase-II will involve three components — Lower Orr Dam, Bina Complex Project and Kotha Barrage.

Benefits: The project lies in Bundelkhand, a drought-prone region, which spreads across 13 districts of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

According to the Jal Shakti Ministry, the project will be of immense benefit to this water-starved region.

Further, it will pave the way for more interlinking of river projects to ensure that scarcity of water does not become an inhibitor for development in the country.

According to the Jal Shakti Ministry, the project is expected to provide annual irrigation of 10.62 lakh hectares, supply drinking water to about 62 lakh people, and generate 103 MW of hydropower and 27 MW of solar power.

Associated Challenges:

Submergence of Panna Tiger Reserve: According to the National Water Development Agency, the reservoir of Daudhan dam will involve “a submergence of 9000 ha area, out of which 5803 ha comes under Panna Tiger Reserve (PTR).

To mitigate this, three Wildlife Sanctuaries (WLS), viz Nauradehi, Rani Durgawati of MP and Ranipur WLS of UP are planned to be integrated with PTR.

Several Clearances Required: Various types of clearances are required, such as:

- **Techno-economic clearance:** To be given by the Central Water Commission;
- **Forest clearance and environmental clearance:** To be given Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change
- **Resettlement and rehabilitation plan of tribal population:** to be given by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

❖ **Observer Status to International Solar Alliance: UN (Source: Indian Express)**

Why in News : Recently, the United Nations General Assembly(UNGA) has granted Observer Status to the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

It will help provide for regular and well-defined cooperation between the Alliance and the United Nations that would benefit global energy growth and development.

Earlier, the fourth general assembly of the ISA was held, where a total of 108 countries participated in the assembly, including 74 member countries, 34 observer and prospective countries, 23 partner organisations and 33 special invitee organisations.

United Nation General Assembly

About:

UNGA is the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN.

All 193 Member States of the UN are represented in the General Assembly, making it the only UN body with universal representation.

The President of the General Assembly is elected each year by assembly to serve a one-year term of office.

Meetings:

Each year, in September, the full UN membership meets in the General Assembly Hall in New York for the annual General Assembly session, and general debate, which many heads of state attend and address.

Decisions on important questions, such as those on peace and security, admission of new members and budgetary matters, require a two-thirds majority of the General Assembly.

Decisions on other questions are by simple majority.

Key Points

About ISA:

The ISA is an intergovernmental treaty-based organisation with a global mandate to catalyse solar growth by helping to reduce the cost of financing and technology.

ISA is the nodal agency for implementing One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG), which seeks to transfer solar power generated in one region to feed the electricity demands of others.

Launch:

It is an Indian initiative that was launched by the Prime Minister of India and the President of France on 30th November 2015 in Paris, France on the side-lines of the UNFCCC Conference of

the Parties (COP-21), with 121 solar resource rich countries lying fully or partially between the tropic of Cancer and tropic of Capricorn as prospective members.

Members:

101 members, after being joined by the US.

Headquarters:

The Headquarters is in India with its Interim Secretariat being set up in Gurugram.

Objectives:

To collectively address key common challenges to the scaling up of solar energy in ISA member countries.

New ISA Programmes:

New ISA programmes have been launched on management of solar PV panels & battery usage waste and solar hydrogen programme.

The new Hydrogen initiative is aimed at enabling the use of solar electricity to produce hydrogen at a more affordable rate than what is available currently (USD 5 per KG), by bringing it down to USD 2 per KG.

Some Solar Energy Initiatives of India:

National Solar Mission (a part of National Action Plan on Climate Change): To establish India as a global leader in solar energy, by creating the policy conditions for its diffusion across the country as quickly as possible.

INDC's target:

It targets installing 100 GW grid-connected solar power plants by the year 2022.

This is in line with India's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) target to achieve about 40% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel based energy resources and to reduce the emission intensity of its GDP by 33 to 35% from 2005 level by 2030.

International Solar Alliance (ISA) and One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG):

Government Schemes: Such as Solar Park Scheme, Canal bank & Canal top Scheme, Bundling Scheme, Grid Connected Solar Rooftop Scheme etc.

First Green Hydrogen Mobility project: National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) Renewable Energy Ltd (REL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Union Territory of Ladakh to set up the country's first Green Hydrogen Mobility project.

Green hydrogen is produced by electrolysis of water using renewable energy (like Solar, Wind) and has a lower carbon footprint.

❖ First Democracy Summit

(Source: Indian Express)

Why in News: Recently, the Summit for Democracy was hosted by the United States "to renew democracy at home and confront autocracies abroad".

The US President also announced the establishment of the Presidential Initiative for Democratic Renewal that will provide foreign assistance initiatives.

The initiative will be powered by \$424.4 million and will be aimed to support free media, fight corruption, strengthen democratic reforms, for use of technology for democracy and for defence of free and fair elections.

Key Points

About:

It aims to show how open, rights-respecting societies can work together to effectively tackle the challenges of present time, such as the Covid-19 pandemic, the climate crisis, and inequality.

The Summit was centered around three principal themes:

- Defending against authoritarianism
- Addressing and fighting corruption
- Advancing respect for human rights

India's Stand:

Democracies should jointly deal with social media and crypto currencies, so that they are used to empower democracy, not to undermine it.

India is the largest democracy in the world which has 2,500-year-old democratic traditions and proposes to share India's democratic experience through digital solutions.

Referred to the civilisational tradition of democracy in India citing the ancient city states under the Lichhavis and other people that flourished in India during the late Vedic and Buddhist period and continued to the early medieval period.

Democracy has taken various shapes across the world and there is a need to work on the democratic practices and symptoms.

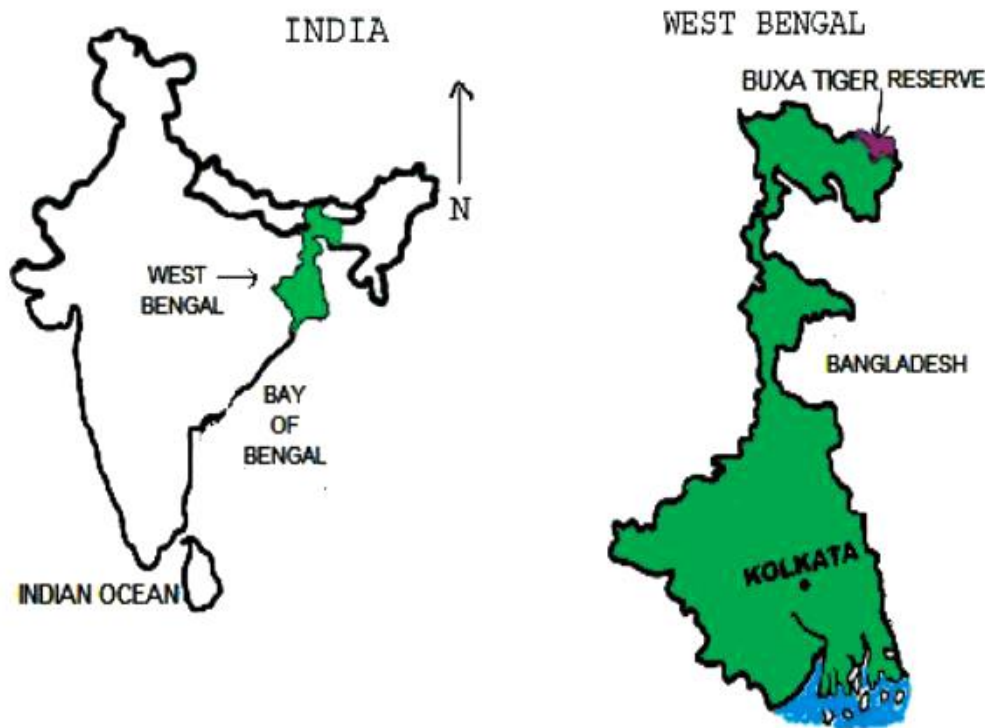
It is needed to constantly improve the democratic practices and systems and to continuously enhance inclusion, transparency, human dignity, responsive grievance redressal and decentralisation of power.

❖ Buxa Tiger Reserve: West Bengal

(source: Indian Express)

Why in News: Recently, a Royal Bengal tiger was sighted at the Buxa reserve - a first such sighting in 23 years.

- Historically, tigers were distributed throughout the reserve including the southernmost ranges and fringe areas. However, the reserve has a low tiger density at present.



Key Points

About:

- Buxa Tiger Reserve is situated in the Alipurduar Sub-division of Jalpaiguri District, West Bengal. It was created in 1983 as the 15th tiger reserve of India. It was declared as a National Park in January 1992.

- The northern boundary of Buxa Tiger Reserve runs along the international border with Bhutan. The Sinchula hill range lies all along the northern side of Buxa National Park and the Eastern boundary touches that of the Assam State.
- The main rivers flowing across the Tiger Reserve are Sankosh, Raidak, Jayanti, Churnia, Turturi, Phashkhawa, Dima and Nonani.
- **Tiger Corridor:**
 - The reserve has corridor connectivity across the border with the forests of Bhutan in the North, on the East it has linkages with the Kochugaon forests, Manas Tiger Reserve and on the West with the Jaldapara National Park. The following corridor links are important:
 - **Buxa-Titi (via Torsa):** Connecting Rangamati Reserve Forest area of Buxa Tiger Reserve with Titi Reserve Forest.
 - **Buxa-Titi (via Beech and Bharnabari Tea estate):** Connecting Bharnabari Reserve Forest of Buxa Tiger Reserve and Titi Reserve Forest situated south of Dalsingpara tea estate by passing through Bharnabari tea estate and Beech tea estate.
 - **Nimati-Chilapata (Buxa-Chilapata):** Facilitating elephant movement between Nimati Range of Buxa Tiger Reserve and Chilapata Reserve Forest, thereby maintaining elephant movement between Buxa Tiger Reserve and Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary (West Bengal).
 - **Buxa-Ripu at Sankosh (Sankosh):** This corridor is a contiguous forest that connects Buxa Tiger Reserve of West Bengal with the Ripu Reserve Forest of Kachugaon Forest Division, Assam.
 - The corridors mentioned above form part of North East and Brahmaputra Valley tiger landscape, providing crucial linkages for the dispersal of tigers to various protected areas like, Buxa, Manas Tiger Reserve (Assam), Phipsoo Wildlife Sanctuary in Bhutan and Jaldapara National Park.
- **Flora:**
 - The forests of the reserve can be broadly classified as the '**Moist Tropical Forest**'.
- **Fauna:**
 - Some important species found in the reserve are Indian Tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*), Leopard (*Panthera pardus*), Clouded Leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*), Hog badger (*Arctonyx collaris*), Jungle Cat (*Felis chaus*) etc.

Other Protected Areas in West Bengal:

- Gorumara National Park
- Sundarbans National Park
- Neora Valley National Park
- Singalila National Park
- Jaldapara National Park

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