Today's Important Questions for UPSC CSE Aspirants (ESZ Monitoring)

Comprehensive Explanation for Questions:

Inside Story of the News (Bandipur Tiger Reserve (BTR)) :

- The Karnataka Forest Department recently directed the Mysuru Regional Commissioner, who heads the Bandipur Tiger Reserve's eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) monitoring panel, to act against illegal cottages built within the reserve's ESZ.

Kahani Ander Ki: After the above-mentioned incidents, it becomes necessary for us to get detailed information about Bandipur Tiger Reserve and Bandipur National Park. Since this reserve area is also related to the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, then it becomes necessary for us to know about this biosphere also. We know that at the international level, Biosphere Reserves are declared under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Program (MAB), so then it becomes necessary to know about Biosphere Reserves, MAB, and UNESCO.

About Bandipur Tiger Reserve (BTR):

Geographical Surroundings:

Location:

- The Tiger Reserve is situated in the contiguous landscape spread in the two revenue districts of Southern Karnataka namely the Mysore (Nanjangud & H.D. Kote Taluks) and Chamarajanagar (Gundlupet Taluk).
- It is a distinctive landmass located at the tri-junction area of the States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- The Bandipur, Nagarahole, Wayanad, Mudumalai and Sathyamangalam Tiger Landscape is spread across the states of Karnataka (Bandipur-Nagarahole), Tamil Nadu (Mudumalai-Sathyamangalam) and Kerala (Wayanad).
- Is a fine example of managing inter-state Tiger Reserves for the long-term Conservation of Tiger Source Population.
- It lies between the North Latitudes 110 35' 34" and 110 55' 02" and between the East Longitudes 760 12' 17" and 760 51' 32" of Karnataka State in Southern India.
- The South-Eastern portion of the Tiger Reserve gets connected to the adjoining Tiger landscape of BRT Tiger Reserve, M.M. Hills, and Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary through the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve.
- Geographically, it is an "ecological confluence" of the Western and Eastern Ghats meets and constitute this area as distinctive and extraordinary form the point of its fauna and flora.

Physical Feature:

- Bandipur National Park, established in 1973-74 as a tiger reserve under Project Tiger, is a national park located in the Indian state of Karnataka, which is the state with the second highest tiger population in India.
- It is one of the premiere tiger reserves in India alongside Nagarhole National Park, Mudumalai National Park, and Wayanad National Park.
- The park spans an area of 872.24 Sq.km. (337 Sq.mi), protecting several species of India's endangered wildlife.
- Together with the adjoining Nagarhole National Park (643 Sq.km) in North, Mudumalai National Park (320 Sq.km) in Tamil Nadu, and Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (344 Sq.Km) in Kerala, it creates the India's biggest biosphere reserve popularly known as the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve' (2183 Sq.km).
- The entire region comes under the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve which is one of the most widespread territories in India protected forests.
- The park has a variety of biomes including dry deciduous forests, moist deciduous forests and shrub lands.
- The wide range of habitats help support a diverse range of organisms.
- There are also two minor streams flowing through the region and the entire area is irrigated by river Moyar and these two rivulets.
- The park is surrounded by the Kabini River in the north and the Moyar River in the south while the Nugu River runs through the park.
- The highest point in the park is on a hill called Himavad Gopalaswamy Betta, where there is a Hindu temple at the summit.
- Bandipur is associated with Tiger Reserve , National Park, Important Bird Areas (IBAs) & Biosphere Reserves .

Geology, Rock and Soil :

- The foot hill plains of Nilgiri hills abutting smaller hill ranges along with the main chain of Nilgiri Mountain range bordering Bandipur Tiger Reserve comprises of Achaean metamorphic rock which include Charnockite, Biotitic, Magnetite, Quartzite, Hornblende, Granulite, Pegmatite, and Dolerite and Quartz veins.
- Hornblende Granulite is found along the areas bordering Wayanad, extending into the Bandipur Tiger Reserve.
- Intensive bands of Charnockite forms bulk of the rock units in bordering Mudumalai Tiger Reserve area, extending in to the Bandipur Tiger Reserve.
- This hypersthenes-bearing bluish grey rock forms the basement in high-grade metamorphic terrain.
- The Charnockite has granolithic texture and contains quartz, feldspar, hypersthenes garnet and hornblende, Biotite, apatite and zircon as accessory minerals.

- The substratum of loamy soils consists generally of metamorphic formations which are highly ferruginous.
- The reddish loam soils are the product of the process of weathering of these underlying ferruginous rocks.
- The best forest growth is found on deep well drained loamy soils.

Hydrology and Water Sources :

- The Reserve is located in Wayanad plateau, characterized by the presence of several Swamps and Vayals of varying size. These Vayals and Swamps serve as wallowing grounds for the herbivores like Sambar and Wild Boar and Tiger.
- The central part of the Reserve is slightly elevated with intermittent hills of moderate height, interspersed with several seasonal streams and a few perennial water sources, the prominent ones being the Moyar River originating from the Nilgiri Mountain Range near Pykara, meandering through the Reserve over a length of more than 20 Km.
- Moyar River is the major water source for the wildlife and people living in and around the Reserve.
- On the western part of the Reserve bordering Wayanad of Kerala, a river by name Noolpuza enters Karnataka State, known as Nugu hole. This traverses through the Reserve for more than 30 Km, ends up in the backwaters of Nugu dam.
- There are several other seasonal streams and rivulets viz. Mavinahalla, Shikkatihalla, Bidarahalla, Hebballa, Kekkanahalla, Vaddattihole, Waranchihole and Mukkattihole.
- However, water is available in the form of puddles to the wildlife throughout the year.

Corridor :

- The reserve has contiguous corridor linkages within the State with Nagarahole and BRT. Besides, it is also contiguous with tiger habitats of Kerala (Wayanad) and Tamil Nadu (Sathyamangalam, buffer areas of Mudumalai). These areas require monitoring and protection, besides fostering ecologically sustainable land uses.

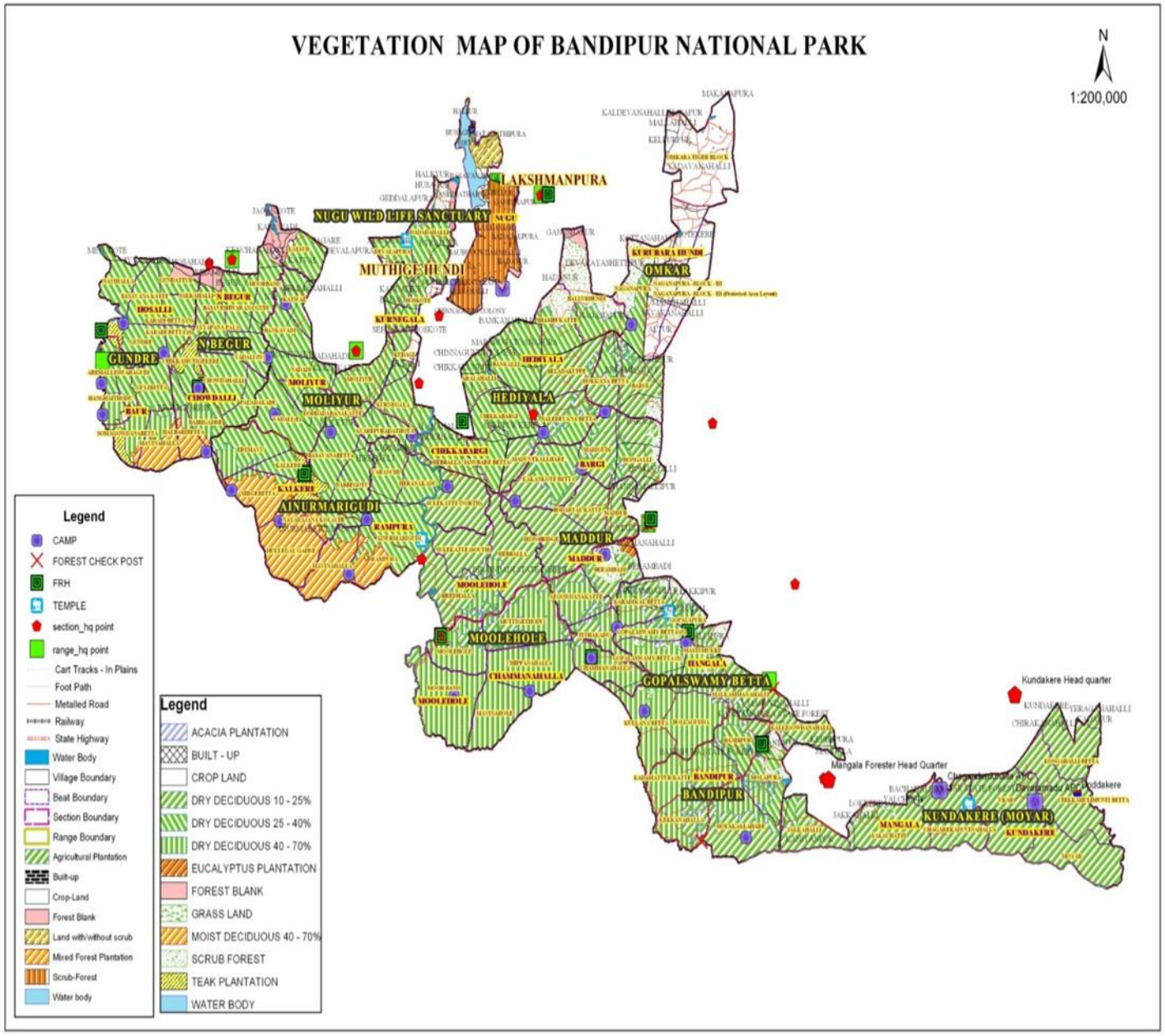
History :

- It was once a private hunting reserve for the Maharaja of the Kingdom of Mysore but has now been upgraded to Bandipur Tiger Reserve
- It was declared a Reserve Forest the year of 1931.
- Total area of the Reserve is about 90 Sq.km .
- The Venugopala Wildlife Park was instituted at this site which was extended up to an area of 800 Sq.km.
- In the April 1, 1973, it was declared a Tiger Reserve under Project Tiger.
- Bandipur recently completed 50 years as Project Tiger Reserve, the flagship conservation program launched by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on April 1, 1973, to stem the declining population of the big cat. Under this, the following nine tiger reserves were established, which

are: Jim Corbett (Uttarakhand), Manas (Assam), Ranthambore (Rajasthan), Simlipal (Odisha) , Bandipur (Karnataka), Palamau (Bihar), Sundarbans (West Bengal), Melghta(Maharashtra) and Kanha (MP).

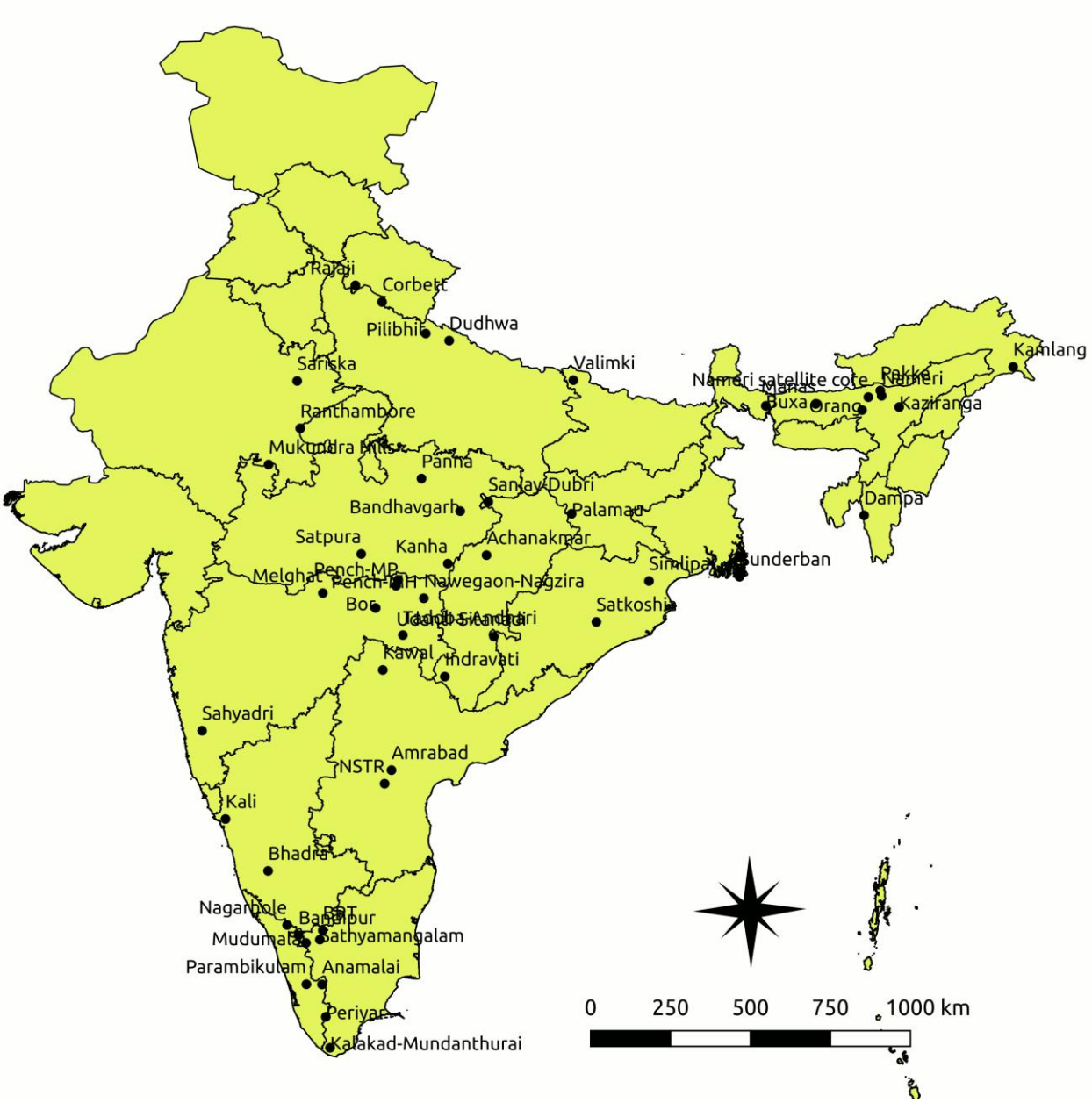
- The Reserve declared as a National Park in the year of 1974.
- Total area of the park is about 872.24 Sq.km.
- This National Park was formed by including most of the forest areas of the then Venugopala Wildlife Park established under Govt. Notification dated 19th February 1941 and the area was enlarged in 1985 extending over an area of 874.20 Sq.km. and named as Bandipur National Park.
- The present area under the control of Bandipur Tiger Reserve is 1,456.30 Sq.km (Area of the core / critical tiger habitat : 872.24 Sq.km. ; Area of the buffer / peripheral : 584.06 Sq.km.)
- Bandipur Tiger Reserve formerly known as the Bandipur National Park since 1970's came into being during the year 2007.
- The name is derived from a village called Bandipur where the administrative unit of the Tiger Reserve is located.

Ecology :



Flora :

- Bandipur has good numbers of timber trees comprising rosewood (Dalbergia latifolia), giant clumping bamboo (Dendrocalamus giganteus) , sandalwood (Santalum album V), teak (Tectona grandis), Indian laurel (Terminalia tomentosa), Indian kino tree (Pterocarpus marsupium), clumping bamboo (Bambusa arundinacea) , Dhaman (Grewia tiliaefolia) & male bamboo/ solid bamboo/ Calcutta bamboo (Dendrocalamus strictus) .



Fauna:

- Bandipur Park is possessor of so many endangered and vulnerable species like Indian elephants, gaurs, tigers, sloth bears, muggers, four-horned antelopes, jackals, dholes and Indian rock pythons.
- Peafowl are among the most commonly seen birds in Bandipur along with grey junglefowl, crows and drongos. Bandipur is home to over 200 species of birds including honey buzzards, red-head vultures, Indian vultures, flowerpeckers, hoopoes, Indian rollers, brown fish owls, crested serpent eagles, changeable hawk-eagles, bee-eaters and many kingfishers and ospreyss are a common sight in winter.

Name of Protected Area	Date of Notification	Year of Creation	Year of Inclusion under	Year of Notification/ Re-notification	Area of the core / critical	Area of the buffer / peripheral	Total area (In Sq.km.)	Location (State)	IBA Criteria

			Project Tiger	under Section 38V, WPA, 1972, India	tiger habitat (In Sq. km.)	(In Sq. km.)			
Bandipur Tiger Reserve			1973-1974	2007	872.24	584.06	1,456.30		
Bandipur NP		1974					872.24		
Bandipur National Park under Important Bird Areas (IBAs)							874.2		A1,A2, A3.
Nilgiri Biosphere Reserves	01.09.1986						5520 (Core 1240 & Buffer 4280)	Part of Wayanad, Nagarhole, Bandipur and Madumalai, Nilambur, Silent Valley and Siruvani hills (Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka).	

About Biosphere reserves :

- Biosphere reserves are 'learning places for sustainable development'.
- They are sites for testing interdisciplinary approaches to understanding and managing changes and interactions between social and ecological systems, including conflict prevention and management of biodiversity.
- They are nominated by national governments and remain under the sovereign jurisdiction of the states where they are located.
- They are designated under the intergovernmental MAB Programme by the Director-General of UNESCO following the decisions of the MAB International Coordinating Council (MAB-ICC).
- Their status is internationally recognized.

- Member States can submit sites through the designation process.
- They involve local communities and all interested stakeholders in planning and management.
- They integrate three main "functions": Conservation of biodiversity and cultural diversity, Economic development that is socio-culturally and environmentally sustainable & Logistic support underpinning development through research, monitoring, education and training.
- These three functions are pursued through the Biosphere Reserves' three main zones :
- Core areas (3)
- They comprise a strictly protected zone that contributes to the conservation of landscapes, ecosystems, species and genetic variation.
- Buffer zones (2)
- They surround or adjoin the core area(s) and are used for activities compatible with sound ecological practices that can reinforce scientific research, monitoring, training and education.
- Transition area (1)
- The transition area is where communities' foster socio-culturally and ecologically sustainable economic and human activities.
- Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) :
- Launched in 1971, UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme is an intergovernmental scientific programme that, from its beginning, has aimed to establish a scientific basis for the improvement of relationships between people and their environments.
- MAB combines the practical application of natural and social sciences, economics and education to improve human livelihoods and the equitable sharing of benefits, and to safeguard natural and managed ecosystems, promoting innovative approaches to economic development that are socially and culturally appropriate and environmentally sustainable
- The MAB Programme's World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) was launched in 1976.
- As of 2015, it comprises 651 biosphere reserves in 120 countries, including 14 transboundary biosphere reserves on the territory of two or more countries.
- As specified in the 1995 Statutory Framework for the WNBR, biosphere reserves should strive to be sites of excellence to explore and demonstrate approaches to conservation and sustainable development on a regional scale.
- To do this, each biosphere reserve should combine three interconnected functions : conservation, development and logistical support – through appropriate zoning, comprising: (1) one or more legally constituted core areas, devoted to long-term protection; (2) adjacent buffer zones; and (3) an outer transition area where sustainable development is promoted and developed by public authorities, local communities and enterprises.
- Thus, biosphere reserves integrate biological and cultural diversity, particularly recognizing the role of traditional and local knowledge in ecosystem management.

- They focus on a multi-stakeholder approach with a particular emphasis on the involvement of local communities in management, and often have highly innovative and participative governance systems.
- At the global level, the MAB Programme is governed by its International Coordinating Council (ICC), under the overall authority of the UNESCO General Conference and its Executive Board.
- The next level of governance is represented by regional and thematic networks. Governance at the national level is ideally through MAB National Committees.
- UNESCO's primary objective – besides working together with its Member States to develop and promote education, science, culture, communication and information in all countries of the world – is to achieve mutual understanding among nations and peoples.
- Towards this goal, the Member States of UNESCO have established two programmes that recognize the global importance of natural and cultural heritage.
- The first, in 1971, was the MAB Programme. The second, in 1972, was the Convention for the Conservation of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, which established a World Heritage List of Cultural and Natural Sites, inscribed for their outstanding universal value
- For these sites, the main concerns are the conservation and management of exceptional natural and cultural sites, as well as raising awareness for heritage preservation.
- In addition to these globally important sites designated under UNESCO, others are designated under the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention), signed in 1971.
- This intergovernmental treaty provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.
- Many biosphere reserves are also designated as World Heritage Sites, under the Ramsar Convention, and/or as Global Geoparks.
- Such multiple designations emphasize even further the global importance of these sites and offer opportunities for synergies between these global programmes, all of which, like the MAB Programme, have ongoing review processes to ensure that activities in the constituent sites continue to move towards defined goals.
- Given the diverse objectives of biosphere reserves and the stakeholders involved in them, there are clear opportunities for synergies with other UNESCO programmes, particularly the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP), the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the Management of Social Transformation Programme (MOST).
- There are also good opportunities for collaboration with the Global Action Programme (GAP) on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), and UNESCO institutes, centres, Chairs and networks, such as the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet).
- In all of these contexts, collaboration with UNESCO's Communication and Information Sector is essential.
- Building on its experience in leading intergovernmental and international science programmes and on their global observation capacities, UNESCO seeks to contribute to shaping the

research agenda of global and regional scientific cooperation, based on the Rio+20 outcome document 'The Future We Want' and the post-2015 development agenda.

- The important role of MAB and its WNBR is emphasized in UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy 2014-2021, notably in relation to UNESCO's Strategic Objective 5: 'Promoting international scientific cooperation on critical challenges to sustainable development', as well as Strategic Objective 4: 'Strengthening science, technology and innovation systems and policies – nationally, regionally and globally'.
- The evolution of the MAB Programme and its WNBR has been steered by a series of meetings, beginning with those of a MAB Task Force in 1974 and continuing with the First International Biosphere Reserve Congress in Minsk, Belarus in 1984, which led to an Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves
- A second international conference on biosphere reserves took place in Seville, Spain in 1995, and started a new era for the WNBR.
- The actions decided at that meeting were incorporated into the Seville Strategy and the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, both approved by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1995.

- The Seville+5 meeting, held in Pamplona, Spain in 2000, followed through on the strategic recommendations from Seville and led to decisions on various actions, particularly with regard to transboundary biosphere reserves. Vision and Mission of the MAB Programme :
- Our vision is a world where people are conscious of their common future and interaction with our planet, and act collectively and responsibly to build thriving societies in harmony within the biosphere. The MAB Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) serve this vision within and outside biosphere reserves.

- Our mission for the period 2015-2025 is to

  ➜develop and strengthen models for sustainable development in the WNBR;

  ➜communicate the experiences and lessons learned, facilitating the global diffusion and application of these models;

  ➜support evaluation and high-quality management, strategies and policies for sustainable development and planning, as well as accountable and resilient institutions;

  ➜help Member States and stakeholders to urgently meet the Sustainable Development Goals through experiences from the WNBR, particularly through exploring and testing policies, technologies and innovations for the sustainable management of biodiversity and natural resources and mitigation and adaptation to climate change.
- Strategic Objectives :
- MAB's Strategic Objectives for 2015-2025 derive directly from the three functions of biosphere reserves identified in the Statutory Framework for the WNBR and the key global challenge of climate change, identified in the Madrid Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves. These Strategic Objectives are to:

1.Conserve biodiversity, restore and enhance ecosystem services, and foster the sustainable use of natural resources

2.Contribute to building sustainable, healthy and equitable societies, economies and thriving human settlements in harmony with the biosphere

3.Facilitate biodiversity and sustainability science, education for sustainable development (ESD) and capacity building

4.Support mitigation and adaptation to climate change and other aspects of global environmental change

- World Network of Biosphere Reserves(WNBR) :
  - The World Network of Biosphere Reserves of the MAB Programme consists of a dynamic and interactive network of sites of excellence.
  - It fosters the harmonious integration of people and nature for sustainable development through participatory dialogue; knowledge sharing; poverty reduction and human well-being improvements; respect for cultural values and society's ability to cope with change - thus contributing to the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
  - Accordingly, the Network is one of the main international tools to develop and implement sustainable development approaches in a wide array of contexts.
  - The World Network of Biosphere Reserves promotes North-South and South-South collaboration and represents a unique tool for international co-operation through sharing knowledge, exchanging experiences, building capacity and promoting best practices.
- There are 748 biosphere reserves in 134 countries, including 23 transboundary sites. They are distributed as follows:
  - 93 sites in 33 countries in Africa
  - 36 sites in 14 countries in the Arab States
  - 176 sites in 24 countries in Asia and the Pacific
  - 309 sites in 41 countries in Europe and North America
  - 134 sites in 22 countries Latin America and the Caribbean.
- About Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve:
- General Information:
  - Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, established in 1986, was the first biosphere reserve in India.
  - Sprawling over the three major states of India-Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, there are seven major wildlife reserves within its vicinity-Bandipur National Park, Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary, Mukurthi National Park, Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary, Nagarhole National Park, Silent Valley National Park and Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary.
  - The area has the largest population of the two most endangered species- Lion-tailed macaque and Nilgiri tahr. The region has been honoured as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in the year 2012.

- Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve exemplifies the tropical forest biome and falls within the Western Ghats system which portray the confluence of Afro-tropical and Indo-Malayan biotic zones of the world.
- Biogeographically, Western Ghats is the most important region and one of the noted 'Hot Spots' for speciation in the tropics.
- The Biosphere Reserve is represented by unique and threatened ecosystems including a host of forest systems, ranging from seasonal rain forests in the low hills, tropical montane forests and grasslands in the higher reaches and moist deciduous to scrub through dry-deciduous towards the plains in the Eastern end
- The region is noted for its rich biodiversity.
- It houses about 3500 species of flowering plants, out of which 1500 are endemic to the Western Ghats.
- The fauna consists of over 100 species of mammals, 550 species of birds, 30 species of reptiles and amphibians, 300 species of butterflies, and a large number of invertebrates and many more species that await discovery by scientists.

Ecological Characteristics :

- The NBR harbors a wide spectrum of ecosystem types such as tropical evergreen forests, Montane sholas and grasslands, semi-evergreen forests, moist deciduous forests, dry deciduous forests and thorn forests.
- Major part of the core areas spread over Kerala and Tamil Nadu States, include evergreen, semi evergreen, moist deciduous montane sholas and grassland types of vegetation.
- Whereas the core area spread over the State of Karnataka contain mostly dry deciduous forests and a few patches of moist deciduous, semi evergreen and scrub jungles.
- These range of ecosystem occur from hilly terrain to the meadows extending from 300 to 2670 m constitute an excellent habitat for the flora, fauna and other microbial forms.
- The varied habitats of the NBR houses a sizeable number of species of animals and plants including large number of endemics having special relevance to conservation.
- To name a few among endemic plants are Rhododendron arboretum Ssp. nilagiricum, Actinodaphne malabarica, Garcinia morella, Glochidion neilgherrensis, Garcinia gummi-gutta, Litsea bourdillonii, Michelia nilgirica, Mahonia leschenaultiana, Cinnamomum sulphuratum. etc.

Important faunal elements which need protection are Panthera tigris (Tiger), Elephas maximus (Elephant), Boss gaurus (Gaur), Macaca silenus (Lion tail macaque), Axis axis (Cheethal), Cervus unicolor (Sambar), Sus scrofa (Wild Boar), Muntiacus muntjak (Barking deer), Nilgiri Tahr etc

Socio-Economics Characteristics :

- The very name Nilgiris' with literary meaning 'blue mountains' has originated from the spectacular appearance of blue flower clad mountains of the Nilgiris plateau within the State of Tamil Nadu
- It is home for a number of tribes, the forest dwelling people with striking countenances and unique rituals and traditions, particularly relating to health care and nature reverence/conservation.

- While economic activities are strictly forbidden and only a few activities are permitted in the buffer zone, the transition area is occupied mostly by private agriculture enterprises and degraded forests.
- Tourism is a growing activity, which provide an extra income for locals, who work as guides, trekkers, drivers, etc.

Do You Know about it ?

- **There are 18 biosphere reserves in India, the first of which is Nilgiri (Date of Notification- 01.09.1986; Tamil Nadu, Kerala & Karnataka) and the eighteenth is Panna (Date of Notification- 25.08.2011 ; MP) . (Answer's Explanation of Question 15)**
- Biosphere Reserve with the **largest area in India** : **Kachchh** (12,454 Sq.km.; **Gujarat**; 29.01.2008)
- Biosphere reserve with **minimum area in India**: **Dibru-Saikhowa** (765 Sq.km. ; Core -340 & Buffer-425; **Assam**; 28.07.1997)

About UNESCO :

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO French: Organization des Nations unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture) is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) .
- Its declared purpose is to contribute to peace and security by promoting international collaboration through educational, scientific, and cultural reforms in order to increase universal respect for justice, the rule of law, and human rights along with fundamental freedom proclaimed in the United Nations Charter.
- It is the successor of the League of Nations' International Committee on Intellectual Cooperation.
- UNESCO pursues its objectives through five major programs: education, natural sciences, social/human sciences, culture and communication/information.
- Projects sponsored by UNESCO include literacy, technical, and teacher-training programs, international science programs, the promotion of independent media and freedom of the press, regional and cultural history projects, the promotion of cultural diversity, translations of world literature, international cooperation agreements to secure the world's cultural and natural heritage (World Heritage sites) and to preserve human rights and attempts to bridge the worldwide digital divide.
- It is also a member of the United Nations Development Group.

- UNESCO's aim is "to contribute to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information".
- Other priorities of the organization include attaining quality Education for All and lifelong learning, addressing emerging social and ethical challenges, fostering cultural diversity, a culture of peace and building inclusive knowledge societies through information and communication.
- The broad goals and objectives of the international community—as set out in the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)—underpin all UNESCO strategies and activities.
- The UNESCO Liaison Office to the United Nations (UN) in New York is dedicated to building stronger links between UNESCO's headquarters in Paris and the UN's decision-making centre.
- The Office leverages UNESCO's expertise, strategic insights, and analysis to promote the Organization's priorities and engagement with UN Member States, UN System, including specialized agencies, funds and programs, as well as civil society organizations based in New York.
- Specialized agencies and related organizations maintaining liaison offices at Headquarters.
  - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
  - International Atomic Energy Agency
  - International Criminal Court
  - International Fund for Agricultural Development
  - International Labour Organization
  - International Monetary Fund
  - International Organization for Migration
  - International Seabed Authority
  - International Telecommunication Union
  - International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
  - Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization
  - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
  - United Nations Industrial Development Organization
  - World Bank
  - World Health Organization
  - World Intellectual Property Organization
  - World Meteorological Organization
- UNESCO's programmes contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals defined in the 2030 Agenda, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015.
- UNESCO's mission is to contribute to the building of a culture of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information.

- It works to create the conditions for dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples, based upon respect for commonly shared values.
- It is through this dialogue that the world can achieve global visions of sustainable development encompassing observance of human rights, mutual respect and the alleviation of poverty, all of which are at the heart of UNESCO's mission and activities.
- Our mission since 1945 is to build peace through international cooperation as it is the only way to build bridges between nations.
- Therefore, as a laboratory of ideas, UNESCO seeks to offer a broad range of expertise in the fields of Education, the Sciences and Culture.

- UNESCO focuses on a set of objectives in the global priority areas "Africa" and "Gender Equality".
- And other overarching objectives are as follows :
  - Attaining quality education for all and lifelong learning
  - Mobilizing science knowledge and policy for sustainable development
  - Addressing emerging social and ethical challenges
  - Fostering cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and a culture of peace
  - Building inclusive knowledge societies through information and communication
- UNESCO mobilized philosophers, artists, intellectuals from every nation. From the very beginning we debunked racist theories, and we developed innovative projects that changed the world:
  - The Universal Copyright Convention (1952)
  - Man and the Biosphere programme (1971)
  - World heritage Convention (1972)
  - Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)
- UNESCO's History :
- Origins :
  - UNESCO and its mandate for international cooperation can be traced back to a League of Nations resolution on 21 September 1921, to elect a Commission to study the feasibility of having nations freely share cultural, educational and scientific achievements.
  - This new body, the International Committee on Intellectual Cooperation (ICIC), was created in 1922 and counted such figures as Henri Bergson, Albert Einstein, Marie Curie, Robert A. Millikan, and Gonzague de Reynold among its members (being thus a small commission of the League of Nations essentially centred on Western Europe).
  - The International Institute for Intellectual Cooperation (IIIC) was then created in Paris in September 1924, to act as the executing agency for the ICIC.
  - However, the onset of World War II largely interrupted the work of these predecessor organizations.
  - As for private initiatives, the International Bureau of Education (IBE) began to work as a non-governmental organization in the service of international educational development since 18 December 1925 and joined UNESCO in 2021, after having established a joint commission in 1952.

- Creation :
  - After the signing of the Atlantic Charter and the Declaration of the United Nations, the Conference of Allied Ministers of Education (CAME) began meetings in London which continued from 16 November 1942 to 5 December 1945.
  - On 30 October 1943, the necessity for an international organization was expressed in the Moscow Declaration, agreed upon by China, the United Kingdom, the United States and the USSR.
  - This was followed by the Dumbarton Oaks Conference proposals of 9 October 1944.
  - Upon the proposal of CAME and in accordance with the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on International Organization (UNCIO), held in San Francisco in April–June 1945, a United Nations Conference for the establishment of an educational and cultural organization (ECO/CONF) was convened in London 1–16 November 1945 with 44 governments represented
  - The idea of UNESCO was largely developed by Rab Butler, the Minister of Education for the United Kingdom, who had a great deal of influence in its development.
  - At the ECO/CONF, the Constitution of UNESCO was introduced and signed by 37 countries, and a Preparatory Commission was established.
  - The Preparatory Commission operated between 16 November 1945, and 4 November 1946—the date when UNESCO's Constitution came into force with the deposit of the twentieth ratification by a member state.
  - The first General Conference took place from 19 November to 10 December 1946, and elected Julian Huxley to Director-General. U.S. Colonel, university president and civil rights advocate Blake R. Van Leer joined as a member as well.
  - The Constitution was amended in November 1954 when the General Conference resolved that members of the executive board would be representatives of the governments of the States of which they are nationals and would not, as before, act in their personal capacity.
  - This change in governance distinguished UNESCO from its predecessor, the ICIC, in how member states would work together in the organization's fields of competence.
  - As member states worked together over time to realize UNESCO's mandate, political and historical factors have shaped the organization's operations in particular during the Cold War, the decolonization process, and the dissolution of the USSR.
  - The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was founded and the Constitution of UNESCO, signed on 16 November 1945. It came into force on 4 November 1946
  - Two years later, the National Commission for cooperation with UNESCO was founded on the 22nd of July 1949.
  - The official ceremony was attended by UNESCO's director general and took place on the 15th of December of the same year.
  - The economist and historian Albert Calmes was the first president of the National Commission for cooperation with UNESCO and François-Léon Lefort took up the role of secretary general.

- It has 194 Members and 12 Associate Members and is governed by the General Conference and the Executive Board.
- The Secretariat, headed by the Director-General, implements the decisions of these two bodies.
- The Organization has more than 50 field offices around the world and its headquarters are located in Paris.

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1199

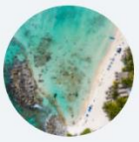
World Heritage Sites

of exceptional cultural and natural value.

677

Intangible Heritage Elements

in 140 countries.



748

Biosphere reserves

in 134 countries.

3.9 billion

people live in cities

discover the Creative Cities Network.