

Prelim Bits 22-03-2018

Periyar Tiger Reserve

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- Periyar Tiger Reserve is in Thekkady, Kerala, comprising the Periyar National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary.

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- Besides being a tiger reserve, it is also one of the most significant Elephant Reserve in the country housing Asiatic Elephants.

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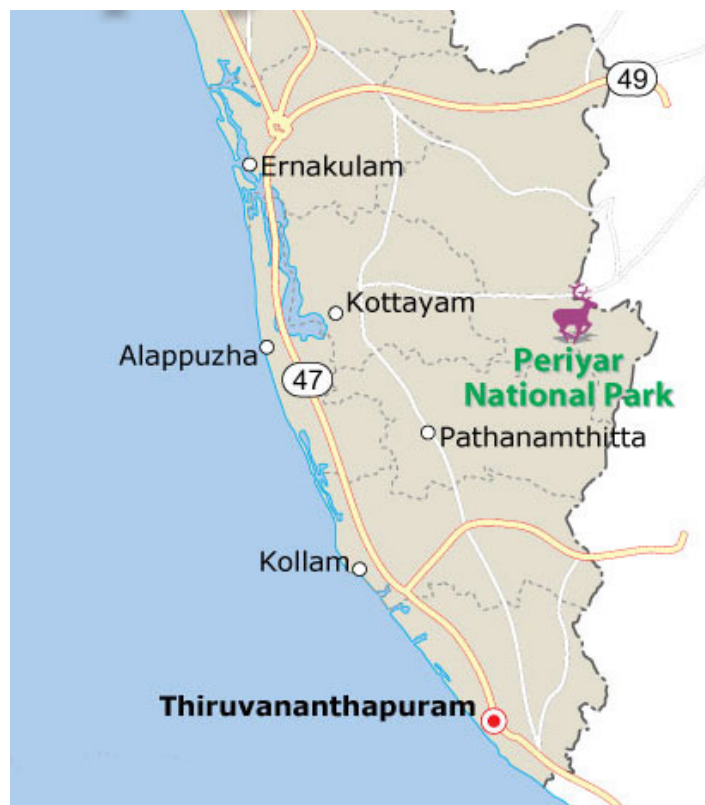
- It comprises a range of tropical evergreen and semi-evergreen forests, moist deciduous forests, grasslands and eucalyptus plantations.

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- Periyar and Pamba rivers flow through the reserve.

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- In 2015, the Periyar Tiger Reserve won the National Tiger Conservation Authority biennial award for encouraging local public participation in managing the Reserve.

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Angkor

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- Angkor is situated in Cambodia and consists of several temples, hydraulic structures like basins, dams and reservoirs, and communication routes.
- It is also known as Yashodarapura and was the capital city of the Khmer empire.

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- It is one of the most important archaeological sites in Southeast Asia.
- The world-famous Angkor Wat and the Bayon temple at Angkor Thom form a major part of Angkor ruins.
- Angkor was declared as a World heritage Site by UNESCO.
- The Archaeological Survey of India had undertaken major conservation work at the Angkor Wat in Cambodia.

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World Water Day

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- World Water Day, on 22 March every year, is about focusing attention on the importance of water.

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- The theme for World Water Day 2018 is 'Nature for Water' - exploring nature-based solutions to the water challenges we face in the 21st century.

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- The United Nations General Assembly responded by designating 22 March 1993 as the first World Water Day to a recommendation made in Rio summit 1992.

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- On this day, an assessment by Down To Earth sounds alarm bells for many cities across the globe which is fast approaching the 'Day zero'.

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- 'Day Zero' is a situation when taps start running dry.

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- Cape Town, one of the richest cities of Africa, has been reeling under one of the worst ever water crisis.

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National Health Mission (NHM)

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- The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the National Health Mission which is a major boost to health infrastructure.

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- The National Health Mission (NHM) encompasses its two Sub-Missions, the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and National Urban Health Mission (NUHM).

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- Some of the salient features of NHM are

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1. NHM will be the principle vehicle for the UHC (Universal Health Coverage).

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2. The goals/targets are aligned with National Health Policy, 2017 and SDG-3.
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3. It will integrate with the proposed National Health Protection Mission under Ayushman Bharat.
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4. In addition it will facilitate horizontal integration of all vertical disease program to ensure integrated approach to health and wellness.
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Rashtriya Uchchatar ShikshaAbhiyan (RUSA) - National Higher Education Mission

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- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for continuation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA).
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- RUSA was launched in 2013that aims at providing strategic funding to eligible state higher educational institutions.
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- Transformative reforms such as governance, academic, affiliation and accreditation reforms are pre-requisites in the implementation of the scheme in State higher educational institutions.
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- The funding would flow from the central ministry through the state governments/union territories to the State Higher Education Councils before reaching the identified institutions.
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- RUSA seeks to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio of the country to 30% by 2020.
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- It also seeks to increase the spending on higher education by the State Governments.
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Copernicus Program

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- Recently, India has joined Europe's mega global arrangement of sharing data

from Earth observation satellites, called Copernicus.

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- Under this arrangement, both European Commission and India will mutually share the data from Copernicus Sentinel family and ISRO's land, ocean and atmospheric series of civilian satellites (Oceansat-2, INSAT-3D) respectively.
- Copernicus is the European Union's Earth Observation Program.
- The Program is coordinated and managed by the European Commission.
- It is implemented in partnership with the Member States, the European Space Agency (ESA), and European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT), the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF), EU Agencies and Mercator Océan.
- The space-based information will be used for forecasting disasters, providing emergency response, to glean land, ocean data and for issues of security, agriculture, climate change and atmosphere.

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- The Copernicus emergency response mapping system was activated on at least two Indian occasions — during the 2014 floods in Andhra Pradesh and after the 2013 storm in Odisha.

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Map of the Day

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Central Asia

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- Central Asian Countries are landlocked countries.

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- TAPI pipeline will run from Dauletabad gas field in Turkmenistan to India through Afghanistan and Pakistan.

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- Ashgabat agreement is a multimodal transport agreement between India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Oman, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan for creating an international transport and transit corridor

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Source: PIB, The Hindu, Business Standard

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