



Current Affairs of the Day

‘Govt. lacks information for data enumeration of OBC’

1. The Social Justice and Empowerment (SJ&E) Ministry informed the Lok Sabha that the enumeration of data of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) was “administratively complex” and the information was incomplete and inaccurate.
2. The Census Act, of 1948 does not have a provision for enumeration of the OBCs. Also, the enumeration of OBC data is administratively complex and the information lacks completeness and accuracy since the State and Central list of OBCs are distinct.
3. Some MPs also asked why the report of the Justice G. Rohini Commission on OBC sub-categorisation had been delayed.

JUSTICE G ROHINI COMMISSION

SUB CATEGORIZATION OF OBC



The call for OBC quota rings louder in RS

1. Rajya Sabha members from the DMK and the BJP unusually made common cause to demand that the government bring in a law to break the constitutional deadlock in the enforcement of OBC reservations in local body elections.



2. The Supreme Court in a recent judgment held that OBC reservations in local body elections could be implemented only when empirical data is available and only when a dedicated commission approves it.
3. One MP said the government should either release the data that was collected as part of 2011 Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) or bring in a law that mandates “reservations for OBCs in local body elections based upon the empirical data collected by States under Article 342 A(3) and uphold social justice at the local body level.”
4. He pointed out that the constitutional reservations for OBCs in local body elections were brought in the year 1992. However, even 28 years later, “we are yet to implement the OBC reservations fully”.

India buys Russian sunflower oil at a record price.

1. India has contracted 45,000 tonnes of Russian sunflower oil at a record-high price for shipments as edible oil prices in the local market surged after supplies from rival Ukraine stopped.
2. Sunflower oil from Russia could help the world’s biggest edible oil importer in easing the shortfall at a time when the availability of vegetable oils is stretched because of Indonesia’s decision to restrict palm oil supplies and lower soybean crops in South America.
3. Refiners bought crude sunflower oil at a record \$2,150 a tonne, including cost, insurance and freight, for April shipments, compared with \$1,630 before Russia invaded Ukraine.

SC: Objective criteria needed for handing down the death penalty

1. The Supreme Court initiated proceedings on its own motion (suo motu) for revamping the manner in which death sentences are handed down by the courts in the country, observing that it is time to usher in more objectivity in the criminal justice delivery system.



2. The decision is taken in the wake of various issues arising out of the non-enforcement of the court's landmark ruling on death sentence cases issued over four decades ago in the Bachan Singh case.
3. The verdict in Bachan Singh established the doctrine of "rarest of rare" crime in handing down capital punishment while mandating a comparative analysis of aggravating and mitigating circumstances before reaching a conclusion that hanging remained the only suitable punishment for a convict.
4. Sentencing, right from the level of the trial court, needs to be revamped...we want to institutionalise a new system within the existing legal framework to ensure utmost objectivity in the process of sentencing, said the bench.
5. The suo motu application has been moved through Project39A. Project 39A, which works under the aegis of National Law University, Delhi, is criminal justice research and legal aid programme that works on death penalty cases

The persona of a judge

1. The court pointed out that the trial courts are at the very root of the subject matter.

2. Regretting that the persona of a judge and

CONSTITUTIONAL VALIDITY OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Bachan Singh v. State of Punjab

- Capital punishment is violative of Art. 19 of the Constitution because the freedom guaranteed therein cannot be enjoyed without the basic right to life.
- Capital punishment as an alternative punishment in Sec. 302 of IPC violates Art. 21.
- India was a party to the Stockholm Declaration of 1977 was committed to abolish death sentence.
- The court through the majority of four judges rejected all the contention and did not find it to be unconstitutional.

circumstances surrounding a case may have a certain influence on the trial courts, the SC, underscored that it is imperative to have a complete analysis of the mitigating circumstances related to an accused to enable a court to make an informed decision whether the death sentence is the only fitting punishment in the case.



The Bachan Singh case:

1. The Bachan Singh case laid down that a court must scrutinise both the crime as well as the criminal, and then decide whether the death penalty is the only suitable punishment in the facts of the case.
2. Emphasis is to be also laid on the aggravating and mitigating factors which are dependent upon the facts and circumstances of the case.

Assam, Meghalaya CMs sign border agreement

1. Assam and Meghalaya signed an agreement to resolve a five-decade-old border dispute in six of the 12 contested areas along their 884.9 km-long shared border.
2. The origin of the long-standing land dispute dates back to 1972 when Meghalaya was carved out of Assam, over different readings of the Assam Reorganisation Act, 1971.

MODI GOVT SIGNS HISTORIC AGREEMENT TO END BRU-REANG REFUGEE CRISIS

Around 34,000 Internally Displaced people to be settled in Tripura



- The 23-year-old crisis has been resolved by Modi Govt
- Agreement between Govt of India, State Govt of Tripura and Mizoram and Bru-Reang representatives signed
- Around Rs. 600 crores to be given to Tripura for rehabilitation and all-round development of refugees
- Each of the displaced families would be given 40x30 sq.ft. residential plots
- Other benefits including a fixed deposit of Rs. 4 lakhs to be provided



Readfull: bit.ly/Bru-ReangRefugee



The Centre has signed several agreements to end extremism and bring lasting peace:

1. NLFT (SD), National Liberation Front of Tripura, an agreement was signed in 2019 to bring the extremists into the mainstream of society in Tripura which contributed greatly to making Tripura a peaceful state.
2. Then a landmark agreement was signed in 2020 to solve the 23-year-old Bru-Reang refugee crisis forever.
3. The Bodo Accord signed in 2020, resolved the 50-year-old Bodo issue while maintaining the original form of Assam.



- The Karbi-Anglong Agreement was signed in 2021 to resolve the long-standing dispute in the Karbi regions of Assam.
- Between 2019 and 2022, over 6,900 armed cadres of insurgents have surrendered in the region. This is a very big achievement.



WHAT THE BODOS GET

<p>1 A national sports university</p> <p>2 A central university named after Upendra Nath Brahma, former president of All Bodo Students' Union</p> <p>3 A railway coach factory</p> <p>4 Sports Authority of India (SAI) centres at Udalguri, Baksa and Chirang</p> <p>5 A cancer hospital and medical college at Tamulpur</p> <p>6 A veterinary college at Kumarikata</p> <p>7 A central university and RIIMS</p>	<p>8 Institutes of livelihood management and hotel management</p> <p>9 A regional campus of Indira Gandhi National Tribal University</p> <p>10 A Bodo memorial museum</p> <p>11 A National Institute of Technology campus in Udalguri</p>	<p>12 Bodoland institute of rural development, polytechnic and vocational training institute, organic university at Rwota, paramedical institute, provincialisation of music and fine arts colleges, Birsa Munda cultural centre, Swami Vivekananda youth centre, Gorkha memorial, Bhupen Hazarika memorial multi-utility auditorium and a Mother Dairy plant</p> <p>13 Centre to expedite the process of granting ST Hills status to Bodos living in the hill areas</p> <p><small>*The Bodoland Territorial Area District will now be known as Bodoland Territorial Region</small></p>
--	---	---



What is the Bru-Refugee crisis?

1. During 1997-98, about 5000 Bru-Reang families i.e. around 30,000 Bru-Reang tribals were displaced from Mizoram to Tripura because of ethnic violence in Mizoram. In North Tripura, these people were living in temporary camps.
2. Now, Bru-Reangs can settle in Tripura state because of the agreement that is signed on 17 January 2020 between the Government of India, the two-State Governments, and representatives of Bru-Reangs. They will get all the facilities of the schemes of the Central and State governments like other people of Tripura.

Who are Bru-Reang tribes?

1. Bru-Reang tribes are one of the 21 scheduled tribes of the Tripura state in India. They are recognised as the 75 primitive tribes in India.
2. Reang first comes from the Shan State of upper Burma (now Myanmar) to the Chittagong Hill Tracts and then to the Southern part of Tripura. Another group entered Tripura through Assam and Mizoram during the 18th century.
3. The Bru tribes are found in Tripura, Mizoram, Assam, Manipur, and Bangladesh. Dance is an integral part of their life. The most attractive form of dance is Hozagiri with the melodious tune of the flute.
4. Ethnically Reangs are divided into two major clans namely Meska and Molsoi. They speak the "Kaubru" language which has a tonal effect of the Kuki language and broadly it is the Kok-Borok dialect.
5. For their livelihood, they pursue Hilltop Jhum Cultivation, several activities of food gathering including a collection of jungle fruits, leaves, plants, fishing in stagnant water on hill slopes, hunting of wild animals and birds, etc. They are nomadic tribes. It is said that they are polytheists and believe in multiple Gods and Goddesses.

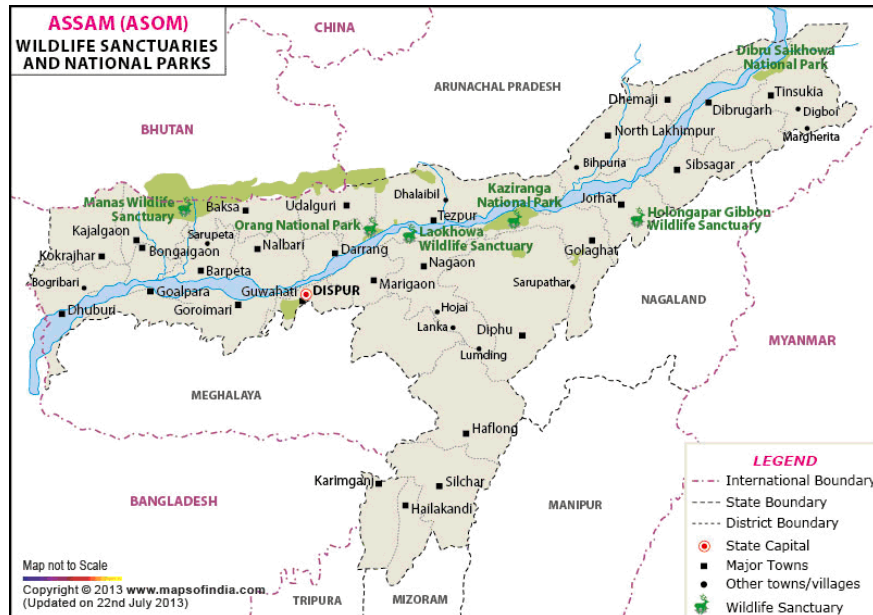
One-horned rhinos increase by 200 at Kaziranga: Census

1. The population of one-horned rhinos in Assam's Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR) has increased by 200 in the past four years, results of



the latest census revealed, highlighting the success in combating poaching of the mammals whose horns are used in Chinese medicine.

2. As per the census conducted in March 2022, the count at KNPTR, which is the world's largest habitat for the endangered one-horned rhinos, stood at 2,613. In the last census, carried out in 2018, the national park recorded a rhino population of 2,413.



3. The census revealed that Kaziranga has a healthy population of rhinos despite casualties due to natural deaths, floods and in-fighting. Reduction in poaching has benefitted the species.
4. Rhino censuses were carried out in other national parks and wildlife sanctuaries in the state. Orang national park recorded an increase of 24 rhinos from 101 in 2018 to 125 now while in Pobitora wildlife sanctuary, the figure went up by 5 — from 102 in 2018 to 107 in 2022. A census of rhinos in Manas national park will begin in April.

Sariska fire grows, officials on alert for 3 tigers, 2 cubs



1. Military helicopters were pressed into service after a wildfire in the Sariska Tiger Reserve. The reserve situated in Rajasthan has 27 tigers.

2. According to the Forest Survey of India, a total of all 211 major forest fires have been reported across India with, the most reported

from Madhya Pradesh, followed by Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.





Guj asks Centre to halt Narmada river linking project amid protests

1. Gujarat has asked the central government to put on hold the project connecting the Par, Tapi and Narmada rivers as the state government does not want to displace tribal people from their ancestral land.
2. Residents of the region have been protesting the project since 2010 when it was first proposed. The latest agitation started in early March after Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the Par-Tapi-Narmada (PTN) project, among other river-linking programmes, in her budget speech.
3. The PTN link envisages the transfer of surplus flows from the west-flowing Par, Auranga, Ambika, and Purna rivers between the Par and Tapi basins to water-scarce regions in Saurashtra and Kutch, and the Narmada, Chhota Udepur and Panchmahal districts in South Gujarat.
4. The PTN link involves the construction of six dams: one on the Jheri reservoir across the Par in Nashik, two in Valsad's Dharampur, and three in Dang's Ahwa.

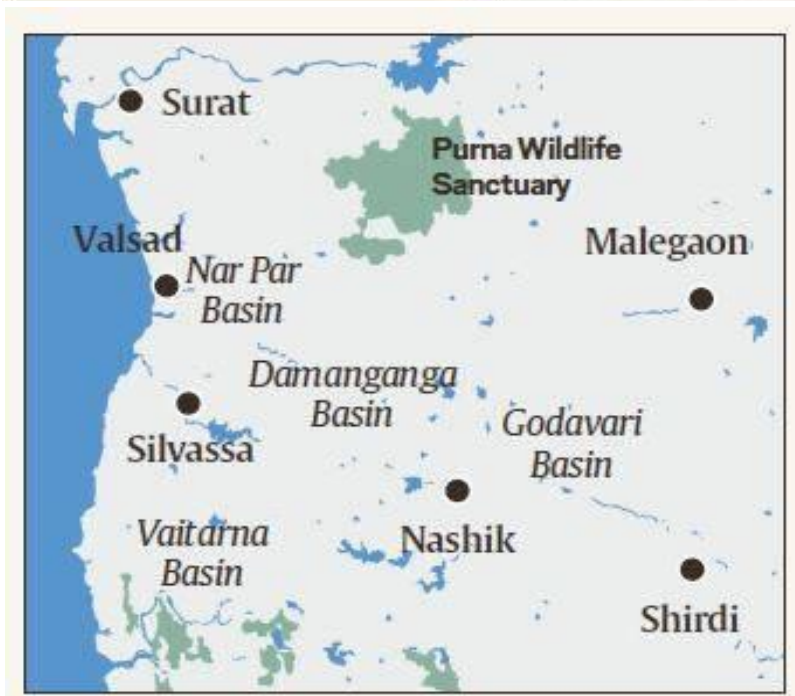
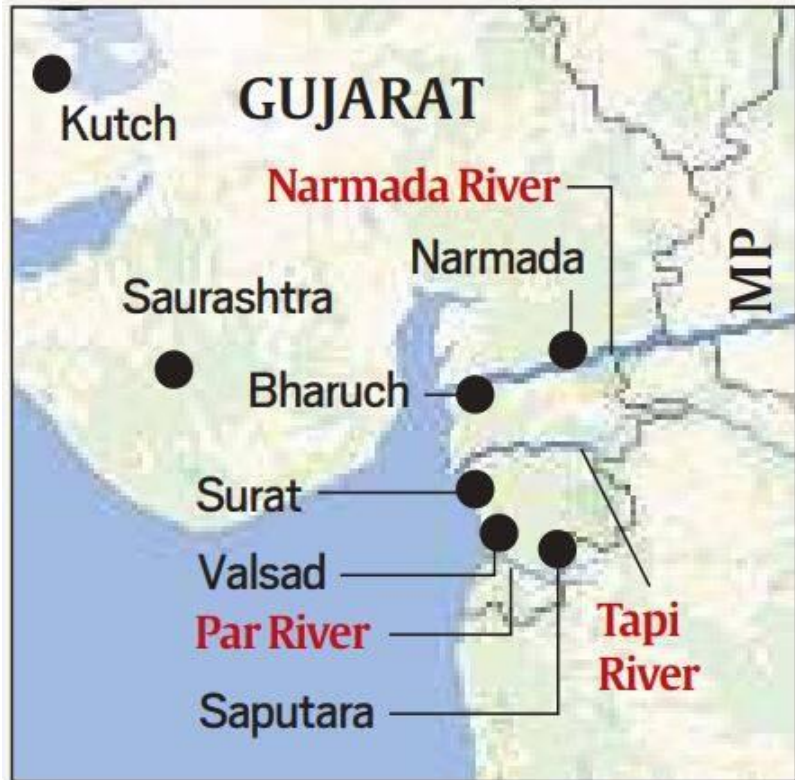




5. The project mainly covers areas in southern Gujarat, but it also covers part of Maharashtra, north of Mumbai on the Western Ghats.

**The basins of the links:
The Damanganga-Pinjal (DP) link**

The DP link proposes to tunnel unutilised water from the Bhugad (in Gujarat's Valsad district) and Khargihill (in Maharashtra's Palghar district) reservoirs in the Damanganga basin to Mumbai via the Pinjal river in the Vaitarna basin. Estimated to cost Rs 2,800 crore, it involves the construction of two dams — in Valsad's Kaprada and Palghar's Jawahar — and three gravity-based tunnel links.





MAINS DAWP

Q1. *'Equality, Quality, and Quantity'* has been the elusive triangle of Indian education in recent years. Elaborate.

Q2. Uniform objective criteria are needed for handing down the death penalty in India. Critically discuss.

Q3. The decision to conduct a Common University Entrance Test (CUET) for admission in undergraduate programmes in all University Grants Commission-funded Central Universities (CUs) from 2022-23 has raised various concerns. Discuss.

MCQs

Q1. Which of the following rivers fall into the Arabian Sea?

1. Vaitarna
2. Par
3. Tapi
4. Narmada

Select the correct answer from the codes given below

- a. 1, 2 and 3
- b. 2, 3 and 4
- c. 1, 2 and 4
- d. 1, 2, 3 and 4