



# DAILY PRELIMS NEWSLETTER

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- The Panna National Park got the status of Project Tiger Reserve in 1994.
- In 2011, it was notified as a Biosphere Reserve by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- It is situated in the **Vindhya mountain**.
- Associated River: Ken River
- In 2020, Panna Biosphere Reserve became recognised under the Man and Biosphere Programme of UNESCO.
- This region is also famous for Panna diamond mining.
- Protected Areas included:
  - Panna National Park/ Tiger Reserve
  - Gangau Wildlife Sanctuary
  - Ken-Gharial Wildlife sanctuary (dedicated to breeding programs and proper housing of Gharials)

## Science and Technology

### African swine fever

An outbreak of African swine fever (ASF) has killed about 300 domestic pigs in of Mizoram.

### About African Swine Fever (ASF):

- It is a highly contagious and mostly fatal animal disease.
- It infects domestic and wild **pigs**, resulting in an acute form of **hemorrhagic fever**.
  - Hemorrhagic fevers refers to illness caused by four families of viruses- Ebola and Marburg, Lassa fever, and yellow fever viruses.
- ASF's first case was detected in Africa in the 1920s.
- The mortality is almost 100 per cent.
- Since there is no treatment known, the only way to stop it spreading is by culling the animals.

## Environment

### Panna Biosphere Reserve

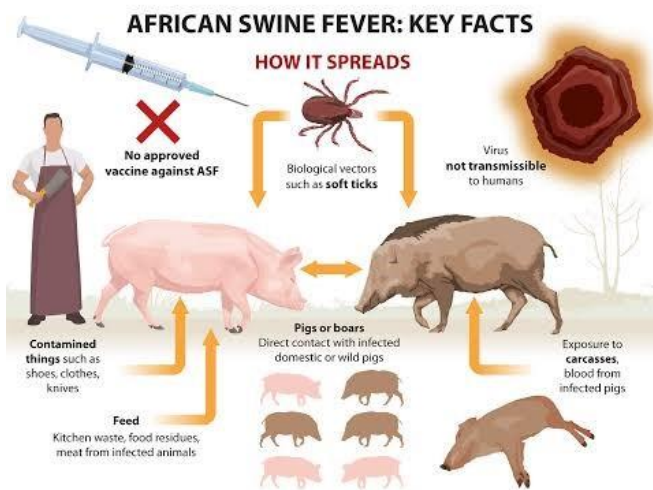
#### Why in News?

Recently, Congress President has asked the GoI to relook into Ken Betwa River Link project as this will negatively impact Panna Tiger Reserve.

#### About Panna Tiger Reserve:

- It lies in Panna and Chhatarpur districts of Madhya Pradesh.
- Vegetation: Thick deciduous forest of the Panna National
- Fauna: Tiger, Sloth, Indian wolf, Bear, Pangolin, Leopard, Gharial, Indian fox, etc.
- The region also has some stone carvings that date back to the **Neolithic era**.

- ASF is not a threat to human beings. It is known to spread only from animals to other animals.
- According to the FAO, ASF has high potential for transboundary spread. It is a disease of growing strategic importance in context of **global food security** and **household income**.



## Economy

### National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)

#### Why in News?

The NCLAT has stayed the formation of committee of creditors in proceedings under the IBC against a subsidiary of OYO.

#### About NCLAT:

- The NCLAT was constituted under **Companies Act, 2013**.
- It acts as appellate tribunal:
  - against the orders of the **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)**.
  - against the orders passed by NCLT(s) under **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC)**.
  - against the orders passed by **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India** under IBC.

- against any direction or decision made by Competition Commission of India (CCI).

- The chairperson and members of the NCLAT is appointed in consultation with the Chief Justice of India (CJI).
- Appeals against decisions of NCLAT lies with Supreme Court of India.

#### Related information:

- NCLT or National Company Law Tribunal is a **quasi-judicial** body which adjudicates issues pertaining to the companies in the country.
- It is formed under Companies Act, 2013.

## Polity and Governance

### Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act

#### Why in News?

Kerala Congress is seeking imposition of UAPA against the murderers of a Youth League Activist citing deep conspiracy behind.

#### About UAPA, 1967:

- The law aims at effective prevention of unlawful activities' associations in India.
- The Act gives **absolute power** to the **central government**, i.e., centre can deem an activity as unlawful by way of declaration through an Official Gazette.
- It has provisions for **death penalty** and **life imprisonment** as highest punishments.
- Under provisions of UAPA, both **Indian and foreign nationals** can be charged.
- It is applicable to the offenders in the same way, even if crime is committed on a foreign land outside India.

#### Later Amendments' to UAPA:

- The 2004 amendment added **Terrorist act** to the list of offences for purpose of banning organisations engaged in terrorist activities.

- The 2019 Amendment empowered central govt. to designate even **individuals** as terrorists on certain grounds provided in the Act.
- The Act also empowers the **Director General** of National Investigation Agency (NIA) to grant approval of seizure or attachment of property when the case is investigated by NIA.
- The Act also empowers the officers of the NIA, of Inspector rank or above, to investigate cases of terrorism in addition to those conducted by the DSP/ACP or above rank officer in the state.

- Its Mandate is to facilitate promotion and adoption of renewable energy.
- It was founded in 2009.
- Headquarters: Abu Dhabi, UAE.
- It has an **observer** status at the United Nations.

## Places in News

### Seychelles

#### Why in News?

Indian PM and Seychelles President recently jointly inaugurated several projects in Seychelles.

#### About Seychelles:

- Seychelles is an **archipelagic** island country in the Indian Ocean.
- It lies at the eastern edge of Somali Sea.
- Seychelles has the second-highest Human Development Index of any African country after Mauritius.
- It is one of the only two African countries classified as a **high-income economy** by the World Bank (the other one being Mauritius).

### Combating terror

The Ministry of Home Affairs on Wednesday declared four individuals as terrorists under the recently amended Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. A look at its provisions:

- It empowers the government to designate individuals as terrorists. Previously, only an organisation could be designated as one

- It empowers the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to seize properties, which previously required permission from the Director General of Police

- Also, it allows NIA officers, of the rank of Inspector or above, to investigate cases. Before, only Deputy Superintendent

or Assistant Commissioner of Police or above, could do so

- Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) chief Masood Azhar, Hafiz Saeed of the Lashkar-e-Taiba, his deputy Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi and underworld don Dawood Ibrahim have been designated as terrorists



Under Masood Azhar's leadership, JeM carried out an attack on the Pathankot air base

## Indices and Reports

### World Energy Transitions Outlook: 1.5°C Pathway

- The **International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)** recently released the World Energy Transitions Outlook report.
- The report proposes energy transition solutions to contain the rise of temperature to 1.5 degree Celsius.
- The COVID-19 crisis also offers an opportunity for countries to accelerate the shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources.

#### About IRENA:

- It is an **intergovernmental** Organisation.

