Prelim Bits 09-03-2017

New Tiger Reserves in Uttarakhand

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- The Uttarakhand state is soon to get two new tiger reserves.
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- The Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary across India and Nepal and Surai Range in Terai are the two proposed tiger reserves.
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- Presently, the state has two tiger reserves – the Corbett tiger reserve and the Rajaji tiger reserve.
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- With the addition, Uttarakhand would become the first state in North India to get four tiger reserves.
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- Uttarakhand state has the second highest tiger population in the country after Karnataka.
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- Corbett tiger reserve is also the oldest national park in India and it was the first to come under the Project Tiger initiative.
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- To get the tiger reserve status to a national park, the state government has to send a proposal to National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). After NTCA has given its final approval, the State Govt can notify the tiger reserve based on NTCA recommendation.
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- The National Tiger Conservation Authority is a statutory body created under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, for strengthening tiger conservation.
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Ropar Wetland

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- Recent Asian Waterbird census revealed that only fewer winter migratory

water birds from central and north Asia were sighted at the Ropar Wetland.
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- Asian Waterbird census is part of International Waterbird census of Wetlands International, South Asia.
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- Ropar in Punjab is a riverine wetland and it has been designated as Wetlands of International Importance i.e Ramsar Site.
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- The Convention on Wetlands was created after an intergovernmental treaty signed in Ramsar, Iran in the year 1971 for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.
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- The convention entered into force in India on 1 February 1982 and India currently has 26 Ramsar sites.
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- The **Montreux Record** is a register of wetland sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference.
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- The record is maintained as part of the Ramsar List.
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Indian Ocean Rim Association

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- IORA was established in 1995 with the objective to bring Economic Cooperation among of the countries of Indian Ocean region, with the Coordinating Secretariat of IORA is located at **Mauritius**.
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- IORA has no binding contracts or rigid institutional structures.
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- IORA has 21 member states, including Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, UAE, and Yemen.
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- For the first time, leaders of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) met in Jakarta, Indonesia, for a summit.
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- **Jakarta Concord** – It is a strategic vision document signed during the meeting for a revitalized and sustainable regional architecture.
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- The Meeting drew attention to issues in the greater Indian Ocean region, including maritime security, fisheries management, disaster relief and humanitarian assistance, people-to-people exchanges, trade and investment, and tourism.
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