



CURRENT AFFAIRS



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DEBRIGARH WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary". This topic has relevance in the Environment section of the UPSC CSE exam.

GS 3: Environment

Why in the news?

Wildlife enthusiasts have been thrilled by a rare sighting of a pair of elusive wild dogs, commonly known as Dholes, in the Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary located in Bargarh district, Odisha.

About Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary:

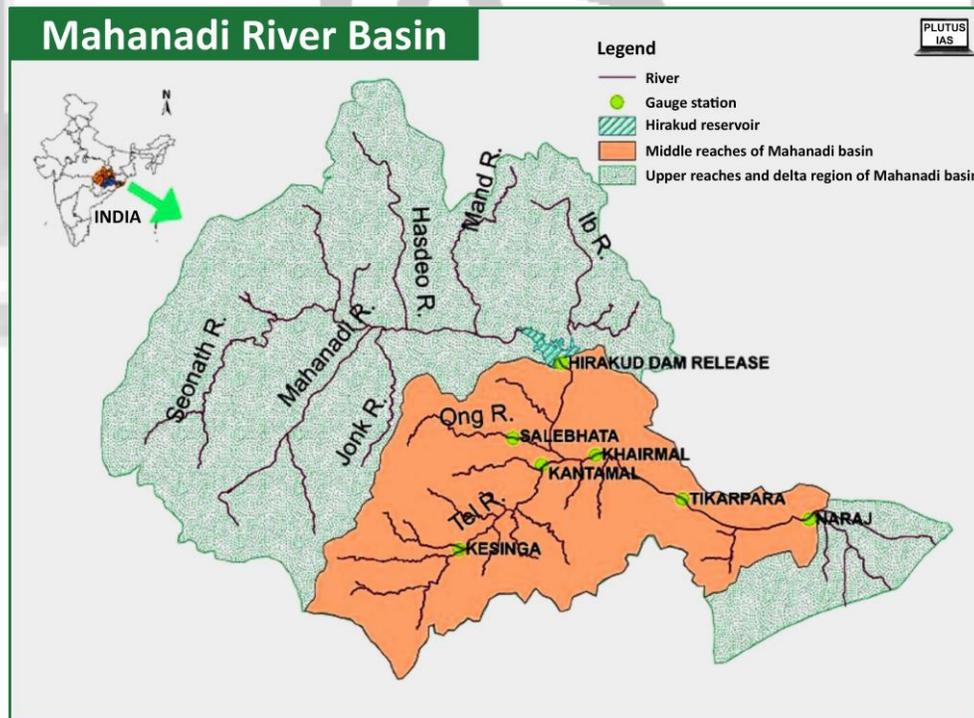
- **Location:** Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary, located in the state of Odisha, is situated near Mahanadi River's Hirakud Dam and its reservoir.
- **Establishment:** This wildlife sanctuary was declared as such in the year 1985.
- **Historical Significance:** Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary holds historical significance due to its association with the renowned freedom fighter, Veer Surendra Sai. During his resistance against British colonial rule, Veer Surendra Sai used "Barapathara," a location within the sanctuary, as his base of operations.
- **Fauna:** The sanctuary is known for its diverse wildlife, making it relatively easy to spot animals like Indian Bison, Wild Boars, and Sambhar.
- **Flora:** The sanctuary features a dry deciduous forest that attracts a wide variety of bird species, particularly during the winter months.

Key Facts about Dhole (Wild Dogs):

- **Distribution:** Dholes, also known as wild dogs, are found in the forests of central, south, and southeast Asia. They inhabit a vast range, from as far north as Siberia to as far south as some Malaysian islands and as far west as the Indian peninsula. In India, they are clustered in three primary regions: the Western and Eastern Ghats, the central Indian landscape, and North East India. The Western and Eastern Ghats are particularly strongholds for dhole populations.
- **Habitat:** Dholes can be found in various habitats, including dense jungles, steppes, mountains, scrub forests, and pine forests.
- **Conservation Status:**
 - IUCN: Endangered
 - CITES: Appendix II
 - The Wildlife Protection Act 1972: Schedule II

Key Points About Mahanadi River:

- **Overview:** The Mahanadi River system is the third largest river system in peninsular India, following the Godavari and Krishna rivers. It holds the distinction of being the largest river in the state of Odisha.
- **Catchment Area:** The river's catchment area extends across multiple states, including Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand, and Maharashtra.
- **Geographic Boundaries:** The basin of the Mahanadi River is demarcated by geographical features, including the Central India hills to the north, the Eastern Ghats to the south and east, and the Maikala range to the west.
- **Source:** The Mahanadi River originates near Sihawa, close to Raipur in the state of Chhattisgarh, to the south of Amarkantak.
- **Major Tributaries:** The river is fed by several significant tributaries, including the Seonath, Hasdeo, Mand, and Ib, joining from the left side, and the Ong, Tel, and Jonk, joining from the right.
- **Mahanadi River Dispute:** In 2018, the Central Government established the Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal to address issues related to the river's water usage and allocation.
- **Major Dams/Projects:** Notable dams and projects on the Mahanadi River include the Hirakud Dam, which is the longest dam in India, as well as the Ravishankar Sagar, Dudhawa Reservoir, Sondur Reservoir, Hasdeo Bango, and Tandula projects.
- **Urban Centers:** Within the basin of the Mahanadi River, three significant urban centers are Raipur, Durg, and Cuttack.
- **Industries:** The Mahanadi basin is conducive to industrial development due to its rich mineral resources and ample power resources. Industries in the region encompass iron and steel plants in Bhilai, aluminum factories in Hirakud and Korba, a paper mill near Cuttack, a cement factory in Sundargarh, and other agro-based sectors such as sugar and textile mills. Additionally, the basin supports coal, iron, and manganese mining activities.



SOURCE:

[Wild dogs resurface in Odisha's Debrigarh Sanctuary – The Hindu](#)

Q.1 Which of the following statements regarding Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary is accurate?

1. Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary is situated near the Brahmaputra River's Hirakud Dam.
2. Veer Surendra Sai, a famous freedom fighter, used the sanctuary as his base during his resistance against the British colonial rule.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: B

Q.2 Which of the following statements regarding the Mahanadi River and its features are correct?

1. The Mahanadi River's catchment area includes the states of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand, and Maharashtra.
2. The Mahanadi River originates near Amarkantak in the state of Madhya Pradesh.
3. The Hirakud Dam is the longest dam in India and is built on the Mahanadi River.

How many of the above statement/s is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

ANSWER: B

Q.3 Explain the significance of river drainage systems in shaping the physical and human geography of a region.

Rishabh

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "Parliamentary Committees". This topic has relevance in the "Polity and Governance" section of the UPSC CSE exam.

For Prelims:

What are Parliamentary Committees?

For Mains:

GS2: Polity and Governance

Parliament and State legislatures—structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues.

Why in the news?

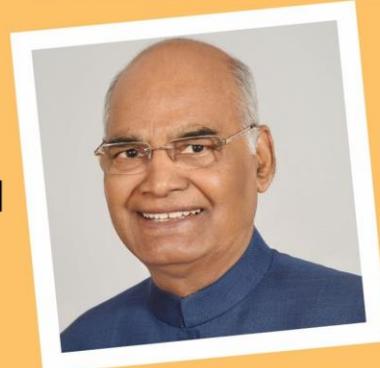
The Lok Sabha Ethics Committee is currently investigating a complaint regarding the alleged involvement of a Member of Parliament in the 'Cash-for-Query' case.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

- A Parliamentary Committee refers to a group of Members of Parliament (MPs) appointed, elected, or nominated by the Speaker.
- These committees operate under the Speaker's guidance and trace their origins to the British Parliamentary System.
- Their authority is rooted in Article 105, which addresses MPs' privileges, and Article 118, granting Parliament the power to establish rules governing its procedures and business conduct.
- The Committees present their findings to either the House or the Speaker.
- It's essential to note that Parliament is not obligated to follow the committee's recommendations.

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“
Parliamentary democracy
would be incomplete without
Parliamentary committees, and
scrutiny of public accounts by
the people's representatives
plays an important role in
ensuring accountability, which
is central to governance.
”



— *Former President
Ram Nath Kovind*

TYPES OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

- Parliamentary Committees encompass Financial Committees, Departmentally Related Standing Committees, Other Parliamentary Standing Committees, and Ad hoc Committees.
- **Financial Committees:** They constitute the Estimates Committee, Public Accounts Committee, and the Committee on Public Undertakings.

- **Departmentally Related Standing Committees:** In 1993, seventeen Departmentally Related Standing Committees were instituted to scrutinise budget proposals and significant government policies, with their number later expanding.
- **Ad hoc Committees** serve specific purposes and dissolve upon completing their assigned tasks and presenting a report.
- Parliament also has the option to form a **Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)** with members from both Houses for in-depth scrutiny of a subject or bill.
- Additionally, each House has other **Standing Committees**, such as the Business Advisory Committee and the Privileges Committee.

SIGNIFICANCE OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES:

- **Improves Parliament's Effectiveness:** These committees scrutinise legislation and hold the executive accountable, enhancing Parliament's effectiveness.
- **Facilitates Inter-Ministerial Coordination:** Working closely with multiple Ministries, these committees foster inter-ministerial coordination.
- **Performs Vital Functions:** They examine Bills, grant demands, annual reports, and long-term plans of Ministries/departments.
- **Provides Technical Expertise:** They offer a platform for Members to engage with domain experts and government officials, enabling Parliament to deliberate on complex matters requiring technical expertise.
- **Builds Consensus Across Political Parties:** Closed-door committee meetings allow members to question and discuss issues, leading to consensus freely.
- **Shares Legislative Mandate:** These committees share the legislative mandate and are responsible for control, vigilance, and supervision, supporting the legislature in fulfilling its duties.
- **Provides Thorough Investigation and Analysis:** They conduct thorough investigations and analysis, essential for Parliament's effective functioning.
- **Handles Legislative Process:** Due to time constraints and the complexity of legislative activities, the Committees manage a significant portion of the legislative process.

ISSUES WITH PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES:

- **Recommendatory nature:** Parliamentary committees lack enforcement power, relying on the government's discretion to act on their recommendations, potentially undermining their effectiveness.
- **Limited resources:** Insufficient staff and expertise hinder committees from conducting in-depth studies and preparing comprehensive reports.
- **Lack of independence:** Influence from the government or other powerful entities can compromise committees' impartiality and independence.
- **Poor referral rate:** Not all bills undergo committee scrutiny, resulting in unequal levels of legislative examination.
- **Short time period:** Committees often face time constraints, hampering their ability to review bills and government proposals thoroughly.

Despite these challenges, parliamentary committees play a vital role in democracy. By strengthening the committees and addressing the issues they face, governments can make them more effective in holding the executive accountable and improving the quality of legislation.

Sources:

[Ethics, parliamentary conduct and the Indian MP - The Hindu](#)

Q1. With reference to Parliamentary Committees, consider the following statements:

1. The Parliamentary Committees find their mention in the Constitution of India.
2. The Parliament is obligated to follow the committee's recommendations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (d)

Q2. Consider the following:

1. The Parliamentary Committees improve parliament's effectiveness.
2. They are completely free from influences from the government and pressure groups.
3. All constitutional amendment bills undergo committee scrutiny.

How many of the abovementioned statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Answer: (a)

Q3. Parliamentary democracy would be incomplete without Parliamentary committees. Discuss.

Gaurav