

Blackbuck

- The blackbuck is found only on the Indian subcontinent.
- While males have screw-shaped horns and black-to-dark brown coats, the female is fawn-colored.
- The animals are mainly seen in three broad clusters across India that pertain to the northern, southern, and eastern regions.
- This geographic separation as well as dense human habitation between the clusters would be expected to make it difficult for them to move from one location to another,



Habit and Habitat:

- The black buck mostly lives in open grasslands, dry scrub areas, and thinly forested areas.
- They are generally seen in the area where there are good sources of

water all year round. Blackbucks cannot sustain cold climate.

- Hence, they are mostly found in the desert areas of Rajasthan and coastal areas.
- It is also found at the foothills of the Himalayas where the climate is moderate and jungles are not very dense.
- In India, they are found predominantly in the states of Gujarat, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Haryana.
- They are considered one of the fastest-running animals on earth.
- The blackbucks are active during the day and their activities generally slow down with the onset of noon. They generally move in herds.

Conservation:

- The IUCN List has declared this species as Nearly Threatened. Hunting of blackbuck is prohibited under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972.
- Many national Parks have taken firm steps in the conservation of this species. They include the following:
 - Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary (Bihar)
 - Gir Forest National Park.
 - Velavadar Wildlife Sanctuary (Gujarat)
 - Ranibennur Blackbuck Sanctuary (Karnataka)

- Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary (Maharashtra)
- National Chambal Sanctuary
- Ranthambhore National Park
- Tal Chhapar Sanctuary
- Guindy National Park
- Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary
- Vallanadu Wildlife Sanctuary (Tamil Nadu).

THE HINDU

Paigah Tombs

- Paigah Tombs or Maqbara Shams al-Umara, are the tombs belonging to the nobility of the Paigah family, who were fierce loyalists of the Nizams, and served as states people, philanthropists, and generals under and alongside them.
- The Paigah tombs are among the major wonders of Hyderabad State which is known for its architectural excellence as shown in their laid mosaic tiles and craftsmanship work.
- The Paigah's necropolis is located in a quiet neighborhood 4 km southeast of Charminar Hyderabad, at the Piscal banda suburb.

THE HINDU

Can the governor depart from the text?-Tamil Nadu case

- The constitutional convention is that the President or the Governor should not depart from the text, as it is nothing but a statement of policy of the elected government.
- Most Chief Ministers have in the past avoided confrontation despite the occasional departure from the convention.
- Article 356 which is commonly known as President's Rule is imposed when a state government is unable to function according to constitutional provisions.
- The union government then takes over the administration of the state through the Governor.
- "Governor" is neither a decorative emblem nor a glorified cipher.
- His powers are limited but he has an important constitutional role to play in the governance of the state and in strengthening federalism. He is the head of the state and all chief ministers, including the Tamil Nadu chief minister, must remember it.
- All governors too must remain true to their oath of "preserving, protecting and defending the Constitution"
- A good governor must stay above politics and manifestly be seen as impartial and fair.

- In 1937, when the Congress won elections in seven provinces, it took office on the condition that the British governors would not interfere in the functioning of its ministries and refrain from exercising “discretion and special powers”.
- However, after Independence, India conferred the same special powers on governors
- The governor is an integral part of the legislative assembly. He calls its sessions and he dissolves the House.
- Under Article 176(2)(b), he has the right to address the first session of the House.
- This address is an integral part of constitutional symbolism and has huge significance.
- The Constitution gives no discretion to governors in the matter of convening the session of the assembly.
- Parliamentary democracy is the basic structure of our Constitution, this is the prerogative of the Cabinet though Article 174 does say that the governor from time to time summons the assembly to meet at such time and place “he thinks fit”.
- Governors have no business to question the purpose of convening the sessions of the House.
- A five-judge bench of the Supreme Court in Nabam Rebia (2016) had observed that the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, J P Rajkhowa, who advanced the session of the assembly without the advice of the chief minister, had exceeded his jurisdiction as he had no discretion in convening the assembly session.
- In Yogender Singh Handa v. State of Rajasthan (1967), the Rajasthan High Court held that some portion read by the governor was good enough to deem the whole address as read. On February 8, 1965, when her request for “silence, silence, permit me to address” was ignored, West Bengal Governor Padmaja Naidu left the assembly without delivering the ceremonial address.
- The Speaker took the chair and announced that the governor had been pleased to make her speech and lay a copy of her speech on the table of the House.
- It was subsequently held by Justice B N Banerjee of the Calcutta High Court in Andul Gafoor Habibullah v. Speaker, West Bengal Assembly (1966) that the governor cannot decline to deliver his address and refuse to fulfill his constitutional duty.
- Thus, the address under Article 176 is mandatory. However, the HC held

that when the government fails to deliver its address under Article 176 and walks out of the House after laying down the address on the table of the House, this is mere irregularity, not illegality.

- Thus, it cannot be questioned under Article 212, wherein the validity of the House proceedings cannot be challenged on the ground of mere irregularity in the procedure.
- The petitioner's claim, in this case, was that since the House did not start its proceedings with the customary address by the governor, it has vitiated the proceedings of the House.
- As per the settled British convention since 1829, the governor must read the full speech as it is basically the government's statement about which the office, like that of the British monarch, has no responsibility.

THE HINDU

Technical textile

- The textiles sector, which has a great job creating potential, is a key part of our mission to become a developed country by 2047.
- India's textiles market is expected to grow at a CAGR of 12-13% to nearly \$2 trillion by 2047, while exports

from the sector are expected to grow at double digits.

- 5F formula (farm, fiber, fabric, fashion, foreign) will accelerate growth in the sector and transform the lives of farmers and weavers.
- Kashi and Tamil Nadu have a key role to play to achieve this vision.
- The government is also encouraging technical textiles, which have phenomenal potential.
- These products include functional textiles that are used in vehicles, protective clothing, bulletproof vests, and construction.
- Man-made fiber, also an area of focus, has great potential for growth and exports.
- The Sangamam was in step with the entire spectrum of this government's policies.
- These policies accord top priority to accelerating development with a focus on the welfare of the poorest of the poor, a love for Indian culture, and the promotion of local industries and handicrafts.

THE HINDU

Criticism RVMs

- First, how will it be ensured that all those who wish to apply for remote voting are able to do so without let or hindrance and that all applications

are processed fairly without inadvertent or selective exclusions?

- Second, how will it be ensured that a person allowed to vote remotely is invalidated for local voting and also that nobody is incorrectly invalidated?
- Third, how will the votes both the electronic votes and the VVPAT slips be consolidated and counted?

Fourth, who will be the polling agents at the remote locations?

- The software cannot be used in electronic voting, but an undetected change or error in the software should not cause an undetectable change or error in an election outcome.
- It is well known that a standalone EVM, whichever way its components are internally connected, cannot be software-independent, which is a necessary condition for verifiability.
- One way out as an approximation to software independence is to audit the electronic results with a count of the VVPATs.

THE HINDU

APvs Telangana

- More than eight years after the bifurcation of the erstwhile united Andhra Pradesh, the division of assets and liabilities between the

two States remain elusive as the States make their own interpretation of the provisions under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act 2014.

- Several bilateral meetings between the two States as well as those convened by the Union Home Ministry failed and the Andhra Pradesh government has now approached the Supreme Court seeking “just, reasonable and equitable apportionment” of assets and liabilities.

What assets are to be divided?

- There are 91 institutions under Schedule IX and 142 institutions under Schedule X of the Act. The division of another 12 institutions not mentioned in the Act has also become contentious between the States.
- The AP Government is firm on the implementation of the recommendations given by the expert committee headed by retired bureaucrat Sheela Bhide for the bifurcation of 89 out of the 91 Schedule IX institutions.
- The Telangana government has contended that the expert committee’s recommendations were against the interests of Telangana. There is a clear definition of the division of headquarters

assets in Section 53 of the Reorganisation Act, officials say

- Several meetings of the dispute resolution committee headed by the Union Home Secretary and comprising of the Chief Secretaries of the two States and those convened by the dispute resolution sub-committee headed by the Home Ministry's joint secretary could not break the impasse.
- The Act empowers the Union Government to intervene as and when needed.

THE HINDU

New guidelines for locker management

- While allotting lockers, banks have to enter into an agreement with the customer on duly stamped paper, with a copy being provided to both parties.
- The terms of the contract must not be "more onerous than required in the ordinary course of business to safeguard the interests of the bank".
- The provisions entail ensuring the safety of the locker, its management, rent collection, and verification for transfer or revealing of the contents.
- Banks would now be allowed to obtain a 'term deposit' at the time of allotment to a consumer.

- It would cover three years' rent and the charges for breaking open a locker should the locker -hirer neither operate it nor pay rent.
- The central idea here is to ensure the prompt payment of locker rent.
- In the event of a merger, closure, or shifting of a branch that would require physical relocation of lockers, the banks would be required to give notices in at least two newspapers with customers intimated at least two months in advance along with the option to change or close the facility.
- Further, if the locker rent is collected in advance, the proportionate amount would require to be refunded to the customer should s/he surrender the account.
- Banks would not be under any liability to insure the contents of the locker against any risk whatsoever.
- Additionally, under no circumstances can it offer insurance products to its customers for insuring the contents.
- For lockers operated through an electronic system, the bank must institute measures to safeguard them against any breach of security.

THE HINDU

Section 6A of the citizenship amendment act

- Section 6A was a special provision inserted into the 1955 Act in furtherance of a Memorandum of Settlement called the 'Assam Accord' signed on August 15, 1985, by the then Rajiv Gandhi government with the leaders of the Assam Movement to preserve and protect the Assamese culture, heritage, and linguistic and social identity.
- The Accord came at the end of a six-year agitation by the All Assam Students Union (AASU) to identify and deport undocumented immigrants, mostly from neighboring Bangladesh, from the State.
- It was enacted as part of a statute, that is, the 1955 Act.
- Under Section 6A, foreigners who had entered Assam before January 1, 1966, and been "ordinarily resident" in the State, would have all the rights and obligations of Indian citizens.
- Those who had entered the State between January 1, 1966 and March 25, 1971 would have the same rights and obligations except that they would not be able to vote for 10 years.

THE HINDU
