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India-Philippines

Recently, the President of India addressed the India-Philippines Business Conclave and the 4th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (**ASEAN**)-India Business Summit in Manila, Philippines.

- India is celebrating the **70th anniversary of diplomatic relations with the Philippines in 2019.**
- The President of India also unveiled the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Miriam College in Quezon City.

India-Philippines Business Conclave



- Both countries aim to integrate **India's "Make in India" with the Philippines' "Build, Build, Build" infrastructure initiative** to create immense opportunities for companies and investors on both sides.

- The bilateral trade between the two countries has shown **continuous progress**, though the **IT-BPO segment has remained an important** sector in overall trade.
The India-Philippines trade has **risen to nearly \$2.5 billion**, also the presence of Indian companies in the Philippines is **rising**.
- In recent years, India-Philippines have seen **two-way investment growth** in **infrastructure and energy sectors**.
The Indian investment in the Philippines has grown especially in concrete projects like LNG pipelines, waste management solutions and airport terminals
- Both the countries also agreed to sign a **Tourism Promotion Agreement** to bring the people of the two countries further closer.
- There is scope to enhance partnership in several areas - from trade, investment, services, agriculture, engineering to new technologies like digital devices, Artificial Intelligence etc.
The **Indian pharma and healthcare sectors offer immense value** to the Philippines.

4th ASEAN-India Business Summit

- ASEAN- India Business Summit **aims to upgrade economic and business relations** between each and every ASEAN country and India.
ASEAN-India relations are to be of utmost importance as India's "**Act East**" **policy** puts the region at the **centre of its engagement** with the **Indo-Pacific**.
- Though ASEAN-India trade has increased significantly in the past few years, both parties aimed to reach the **target of US\$ 200 billion by 2022**.

Timeline of India-Philippines Relation

- India and the Philippines formally established **diplomatic relations in 1949**, shortly after both countries gained independence. (Philippines in 1946 and India in 1947).
- Despite historical shared values and commonalities, such as anticolonialism, South-South cooperation, a strong democratic polity and the wide use of the English language, the **full potential of the relationship** between the two countries is yet to be achieved.
- When India launched **Look East Policy** and intensified partnership with ASEAN in **1992**, it also resulted in intensified relations with the Philippines **both bilaterally and in the regional** context.
With the **Act East Policy (2014)**, the relationship with the Philippines has diversified further into political-security; trade and industry, etc.
- India has a **positive trade balance** with the Philippines (more Export from India compared to Import from the Philippines to India).

- The Indian community in the Philippines has become an integral part of the population.
The **Philippines** is also beginning to **emerge as a destination for Indian students**.

Source:PIB

Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary

Recently, due to the anthrax, two Asiatic Water Buffaloes died in the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary.

Asiatic Water Buffalo

- The Asiatic Wild Water Buffalo is scientifically known as **Bubalus Arnee** is known to be found **in the Central Indian Forests** and is mostly restricted to the states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.
 - Recently, it was found in the forests of Maharashtra after which the Maharashtra Government declared the **Kolamarka forest area** as a conservation reserve for the Asiatic Wild Buffalo.
 - Asiatic buffalo has the **widest horn span** among all bovids found globally.
 - The wild buffalo is mainly found in the alluvial grasslands, marshes, swamps and river valleys. They are generally found in areas that have plenty of water holes and resources.
- The Asiatic wild buffaloes are of enormous **economic significance** as they are the direct ancestors of all the breeds of the domestic buffaloes.
However, over time their **population** has **decreased** at an alarming rate because of various reasons such as poaching, loss of habitat and breeding with domestic buffaloes.

- **Protection Status:**



- It has been listed as an endangered species by the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**.
- It is listed under Schedule-1 of the **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**.
- It is included in **CITES Appendix-III** and is legally protected in Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Thailand.
- Wild Water Buffalo is believed to be **extinct** in Bangladesh, Peninsular Malaysia, and on the islands of Sumatra, Java, and Borneo.

Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary** has the **highest density** of **one-horned rhinos** in the world and **second highest concentration** in Assam after **Kaziranga National Park**. It is often called '**Mini Kaziranga**' due to similar landscape and vegetation.
- The wildlife sanctuary is home to **endangered one-horned rhinoceros** and the other mammals such as **Leopard, Leopard cat, Fishing cat, Jungle cat, Feral Buffalo, Wild pigs, Chinese pangolins, etc.**
- About 72% of Pobitora Sanctuary consists of **wet savannah** of Arundo donax and Saccharum. The remaining area is covered by water bodies.
 - **Water hyacinth** (an invasive aquatic plant) is a major problem to the area especially to waterfowl, as it forms thick mats on the water surface.
- There are **5 national parks** in Assam namely,
 - Dibru-Saikhowa National Park,
 - Kaziranga National Park,
 - Manas National Park,
 - Nameri National Park,
 - Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park.

Anthrax

- It is a serious **infectious disease** that is caused by a **bacteria** known as Bacillus anthracis.

- Although it is rare but it can sometimes become **fatal** for humans if they get infected with anthrax when they come in contact with infected animals or contaminated animal products.
- It is characterized by symptoms like blisters on the skin, chest pain, vomiting, diarrhea, and fever.

Source: TH

76th Anniversary of Azad Hind Government

The 76th anniversary of the formation of the Azad Hind Government will be celebrated on 21st October, 2019, at the Red Fort, Delhi.

Last year on 21st October 2018, the Prime Minister of India hoisted the National Flag at the Red Fort and also **unveiled the plaque** commemorating the **75th Anniversary of the formation of Azad Hind Government.**

Azad Hind Government

- On 21st October 1943, **Subhash Chandra Bose** announced the formation of the Provisional Government of Azad Hind (Free India) in Singapore, with himself as the Head of State, Prime Minister and Minister of War.
- The Provisional Government not only enabled Bose to negotiate with the Japanese on an equal footing but also facilitated the mobilisation of Indians in East Asia to join and support the Indian National Army (INA).
 - The struggle for independence was carried on by Subhash Chandra Bose from abroad. He found the **outbreak of the Second World War** to be a convenient opportunity to strike a blow for the freedom of India.
 - Bose had been put under house arrest in 1940 but he managed to escape to Berlin on March 28, 1941. The Indian community there **acclaimed him as the leader (Netaji)**. He was greeted with **'Jai Hind' (Salute to the motherland)**.
 - In 1942, the Indian Independence League was formed and a decision was taken to form the Indian National Army (INA) for the liberation of India.
 - On an invitation from Ras Bihari Bose, Subhash Chandra Bose came to East Asia on June 13, 1943. He was made **president of the Indian Independence League and the leader of the INA popularly called 'Azad Hind Fauj'**.
 - He gave the famous **battle cry 'Chalo Dilli'**. He promised independence to Indians saying, **'tum mujhe khoon do, main tumhe Azadi dunga'** (You give me blood, I will give you freedom).

Source: PIB

Tasmanian Tiger

Tasmania's Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) has recently released a document detailing eight **reported sightings of the Tasmanian tiger, or thylacine**, in the last three years.

- The Tasmanian tiger, or thylacine (a dog headed pouched dog) was an exclusively **carnivorous marsupial** that is **considered to be extinct (also the IUCN status)**.
 - **Marsupial** is a mammal of an order whose members are born incompletely developed and are typically carried and suckled in a pouch on the mother's belly. Marsupials are **found chiefly in Australia and New Guinea, and also in America**.
 - Thylacine was widespread over continental Australia, extending North to New Guinea and south to Tasmania (an Island state of Australia).
 - It was **confined to Tasmania in recent times** and disappeared from mainland Australia over 2000 years ago, mainly **because of over-hunting by humans, diseases and competition from the Dingo (Canis lupus)**, a wild dog native to Australia.
 - The Thylacine was also persecuted because it was believed to be a threat to sheep and in its latter years it was hunted for the purposes of collection by museums and zoos.
 - The **last known thylacine died in captivity over 80 years ago**, in Tasmania's Hobart Zoo in 1936.
- It is **also known as the Tasmanian Wolf** and bears some resemblance to a dog, with its distinguishing features being the **dark stripes beginning at the rear of its body and extending into its stiff tail** and abdominal pouch.

What is a Tasmanian tiger?

The thylacine, or Tasmanian tiger, is a large carnivorous marsupial believed extinct for more than 80 years.



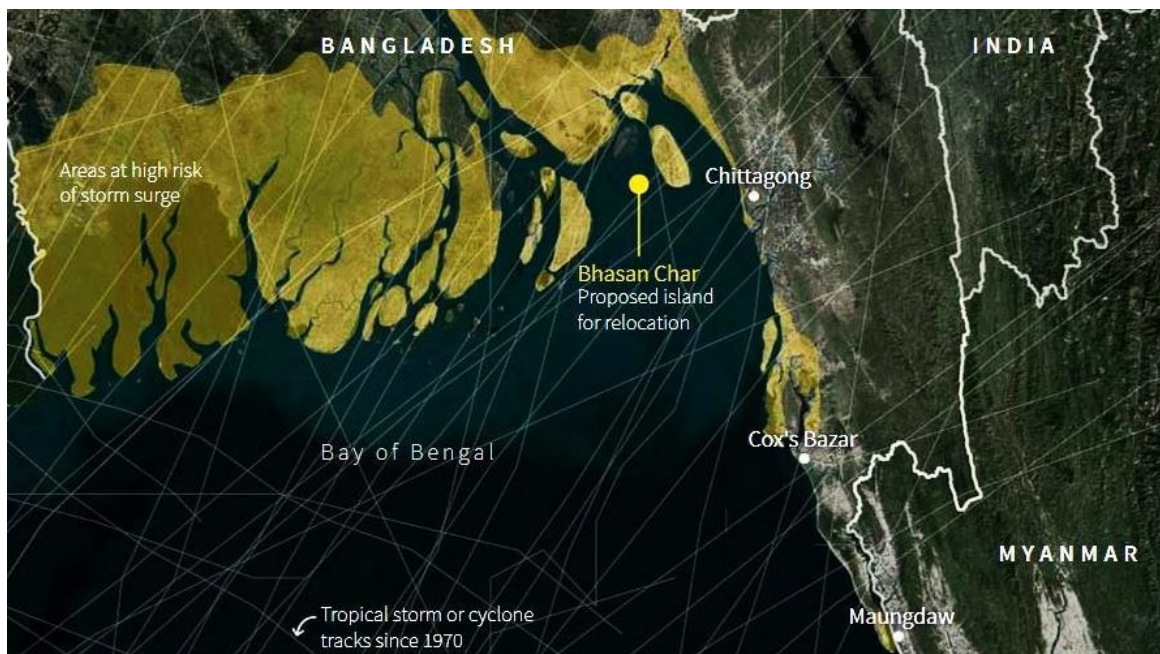


Source: IE

Bhashan Char Island

The Rohingya refugees living in Bangladesh camps have agreed to move to Bhashan Char Island in the Bay of Bengal.

The island is also known as **Thengar Char Island**.



- Bhashan Char island was formed about **two decades ago** on the **mouth of river Meghna**.

The **uninhabited** island is located around **30 kilometres east of Hatiya island in South-East Bangladesh**.

- Bangladesh wanted to move 100,000 **Rohingya refugees** to the muddy silt island to take the pressure off the overcrowded border camps.
- The Bhashan Char falls in an **ecologically fragile area prone to floods, erosion and cyclone**.

Though the Bangladesh government has built a three-metre-high embankment along its perimeter to keep out tidal surges during cyclones.

Source: TH

Liver Transplant Registry

India's first voluntary liver transplant registry has been started by the **Liver Transplantation Society of India**.

The registry aims to **collate national data of the procedures and their outcomes**.

- Nearly 2,000 liver transplants are carried out in the country annually, the highest in the world, yet there is no India-specific data.
- In the Western countries, organ transplants are highly regulated and permissions are given to hospitals and doctors based on the outcomes, rate of mortality, morbidity, etc.
- India has a 90% survival rate in liver transplants, but it may vary from hospital to hospital and doctor to doctor.

Source: TH
