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Important Facts for Prelims (12th December 2018)

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Eco-Sensitive Zone around Protected Regions

- The Supreme Court directed the Union Environment Ministry to **declare 10 km area around 21 national parks and wildlife sanctuaries** across the country as **'eco-sensitive zones'**.
- Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) does not affect the ownership rights of people on land resources, it, however restricts land-use change.

BioBlitz

- People from across the India participated in the BioBlitz conducted by Bengaluru's **National Centre for Biological Sciences**.
- Participants observed individual trees in their neighbourhoods and campuses, and contributed information including the tree species, its location, proportions of flowers, fruits and leaves.
- This will generate a baseline for tree **phenology(periodic events such as fruiting and flowering) across India** over the years, helping scientists analyse if **climate change is altering tree phenology in future**.

BioBlitz

- A bioblitz is an event that focuses on **finding and identifying** as many species as possible in a specific area **over a short period of time**.
- It is also known as a **biological inventory or biological census** whose primary goal is to get an overall count of the plants, animals, fungi, and other organisms found in a place.
- It **differs from a scientific inventory** in a number of ways. Scientific inventories are usually limited to biologists, geographers, and other scientists. A bioblitz brings together volunteer scientists, as well as families, students, teachers, and other members of the community.

- While a scientific survey often focuses on unique or isolated areas, bioblitzes focus on areas that are connected to residential, urban, and industrial areas.
- These differences make a bioblitz a unique biological survey that encourages a relationship between the natural and human communities of a given area. It aims to promote and improve local natural spaces by empowering citizens to better understand and protect biodiversity.