



## Panna Biosphere Reserve

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### Why in News

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Recently, the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization** (UNESCO) has included the Panna Biosphere Reserve (PBR) in its **World Network of Biosphere Reserves** (WNBR).

- The PBR is the **third in Madhya Pradesh** to be included in the list after **Pachmarhi and Amarkantak**.
- Along with PBR, the **Fuvahmulahand Addu Atoll in the Maldives** has also been included in the WNBR.

### Key Points

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- **About:**
  - Established in **1981**, PBR is located in the **Panna and Chhatarpur districts of Madhya Pradesh** with an area of around 540 km. sq.
  - It is situated in the **Vindhya mountain range** in the northern part of Madhya Pradesh.
  - **Ken River** (one of the least polluted tributaries of the Yamuna River) flows through the reserve and the **Ken-Betwa river interlinking project** will also be located in it.
  - The region is also famous for **Panna diamond mining**.
- **Conservation and Recognition:**
  - **1994:** The **Panna National Park** got the status of **Project Tiger Reserve** as **India's 22<sup>nd</sup> tiger reserve**.
  - **2011:** It was **notified as a Biosphere Reserve** by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
  - **2018:** By 2018, it witnessed a **remarkable turnaround in tiger population** by increasing their numbers remarkably from zero estimated a decade ago.  
Madhya Pradesh has the **highest number of tigers** in the country followed by **Karnataka and Uttarakhand**.
  - **2020:** UNESCO included it in the **Man and Biosphere Programme** (MAB).

## Biosphere Reserves

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- **Biosphere Reserves** (BRs) are representative parts of natural and cultural landscapes extending over large areas of terrestrial or coastal/marine ecosystems or a combination thereof and representative examples of biogeographic zones/provinces.
- The idea of the biosphere reserve was initiated by **UNESCO in 1974 under the MAB** with the **objective** of obtaining international cooperation for the **conservation of the biospheres**.
- The **first biosphere reserve of the world** was established in **1979** and since then the network has increased to **more than 600 in 119 countries** across the world.
- A scheme called **Biosphere Reserve** has been **implemented by the Government of India since 1986**.
  - Under it, financial assistance is given in a **90:10 ratio to the North Eastern Region States and three Himalayan states** and in the ratio of **60:40 to other states** for maintenance, improvement and development.
- The **State Governments** prepare the **Management Action Plan** which is approved and monitored by the Central MAB Committee.
- India has a **total of 18 Biosphere Reserves** and with the inclusion of PBR, the number of **internationally designated WNBR has become 12**.
  - In **2000**, the **Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve** became the **1<sup>st</sup> BR from India** to be included in the WNBR.
  - In **2018**, the **Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve** became the **11<sup>th</sup> BR** to be included in the list.

## Man and Biosphere Programme

- **Launched by the UNESCO in 1971**, it is an **intergovernmental scientific programme** that **aims** to establish a scientific basis for the improvement of relationships between people and their environments.
- **Every year UNESCO designates new Biosphere reserves and removes others** to promote the **conservation of biodiversity and resolve man-animal conflict** at that site and enable sustainable use of natural resources.
- MAB combines the natural and social sciences, economics and education to improve human livelihoods and the equitable sharing of benefits, and to safeguard natural and managed ecosystems, thus **promoting innovative approaches to economic development that are socially and culturally appropriate, and environmentally sustainable**.

**Source: HT**