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India standardises names of 28 places in Ladakh

Vijaita Singh

NEW DELHI

The Government of India, in consultation with the Union Territory administration of Ladakh, has identified 28 places and geographical features in the region by standardised names on the official Survey of India (SoI) map.

The government said the formal identification on the map was aimed at ensuring accurate recognition and creating greater awareness among the public. The latest notification comes days after India standardised the names of places in Arunachal Pradesh amid cartographic aggression by China.

The list in Ladakh includes 11 peaks, five mountains, six land areas, two glaciers, two passes, one valley, one river, one lake and one other water body.

Centre says formal identification on map is aimed at ensuring accurate recognition and creating greater awareness among the public

Among the peaks identified are Atisha Giri, Kanishka Peak, Martand Giri, Zorawar Peak, Rinchen Zangpo, Sakyasri Giri, Marpa Lotsava Ri, Milarepa Kangri, Shiva Ri, and Maheshvara Ri. The list also includes Karun Pir, Drak Karpo and Jolmori as mountains.

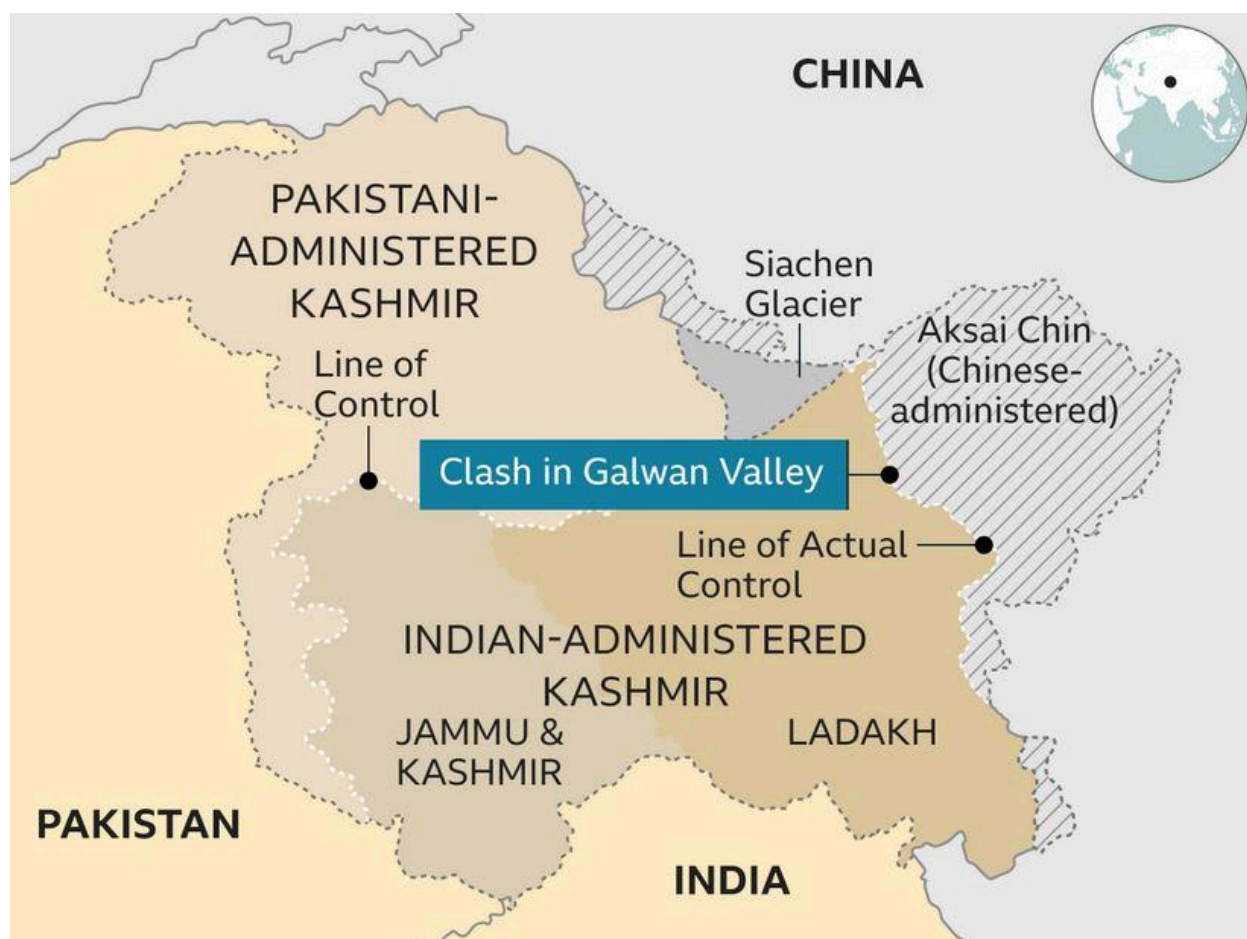
The government has identified Brangsa, Kuksel, Dehra Compass, Gogra, Kumarayana Point, Panglung, and Shamal Lungpa as land areas. Parpik and Skamri Glacier have been classified as glaciers, while Chapchinal Pass and

Shachmirk Pass have been identified as passes.

Other features on the list include Shkorga Valley, Yangpa River, Guru Rinpoche, which has been identified as a lake, and Hot Spring, classified as a water body.

The government said the map of Ladakh, incorporating the additional places and geographical features, can be viewed on the Survey of India website.

Since April 2020, the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) has amassed a large number of troops and armaments in eastern Ladakh and other areas along the 3,488-km-long LAC. The PLA moved into Indian territory and built fortified structures and defences, in an attempt to permanently alter the *status quo* on the ground.



1. India Standardises Names of 28 Geographical Features in Ladakh

Source: The Hindu

GS: GS-1 — Geography | GS-2 — India–China Relations, Border Management

Context: China has repeatedly assigned Chinese names to places in territories claimed by India, particularly in **Arunachal Pradesh**, as part of its broader territorial narrative. India has consistently rejected such naming exercises, stating that changing names cannot alter sovereignty. In this backdrop, India has now formally standardised **28 geographical features in Ladakh** on the official Survey of India map.

1. What Has India Standardised?

The 28 features include:

- **11 peaks:** Atisha Giri, Kanishka Peak, Martand Giri, Zorawar Peak, Rinchen Zangpo, Sakyasri Giri, Marpa Lotsava Ri, Milarepa Kangri, Shiva Ri and Maheshvara Ri, among others.
- **3 mountains:** Karun Pir, Drak Karpo and Jolmori.
- **6 land areas:** Brangsa, Kuksel, Dehra Compass, Gogra, Kumarayana Point and Panglung.
- **2 glaciers:** Parpik and Skamri.
- **2 passes:** Chapchingal and Shachmirk.
- **Other features:** Shkorga Valley, Yangpa River, Guru Rinpoche Lake and Hot Spring.

2. India–China Border Dispute: Basic Context

- India and China share a **3,488-km disputed boundary**, with the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** separating areas under their respective control.
- The dispute is divided into **Western Sector (Ladakh)**, **Middle Sector** and **Eastern Sector (Arunachal Pradesh)**.
- China does not recognise India's sovereignty over **Arunachal Pradesh** and refers to it as **"Zangnan" or Southern Tibet**.
- China has repeatedly announced Chinese names for locations in Indian-administered areas; India has rejected these as attempts to change nomenclature without changing the underlying territorial position.
- India itself standardised **27 geographical features in Arunachal Pradesh in August 2026**, before undertaking the present exercise in Ladakh.

3. Why Has India Done This Now?

- **Response to competing nomenclature:** India is ensuring that its official maps use names recognised by India rather than allowing another country's nomenclature to gain wider acceptance.
- **Territorial clarity:** The exercise reinforces India's official geographical representation of areas it administers and claims.
- **Strategic frontier:** Some of the newly mapped features, including **Gogra and Hot Spring**, are located in the sensitive eastern Ladakh sector along the LAC.
- **Administrative consistency:** Standard names provide a common reference for government agencies, maps and official records.
- **Broader pattern:** The Ladakh exercise follows the earlier Arunachal Pradesh exercise, making it part of a wider effort to strengthen India's official cartographic record of frontier areas.

4. Why Does Ladakh Matter to India?

- **Strategic location:** Ladakh borders both **China and Pakistan**, making it crucial to India's national security.
- **LAC:** Eastern Ladakh is a major area of India–China border management.

- **Siachen:** Northern Ladakh is strategically connected with the **Siachen Glacier** and the India–Pakistan frontier.
- **Connectivity:** Roads, passes and other infrastructure are essential for maintaining access to India's forward areas.
- **Water resources:** Himalayan glaciers and river systems make the region important from a long-term water-security perspective.
- **Geopolitics:** Ladakh's location gives India strategic depth in the wider Himalayan and Central Asian region.

5. Why Is the Move Important?

1. **Cartographic sovereignty:** Official maps reflect India's own geographical nomenclature and territorial position.
2. **Border management:** Precise identification of geographical features assists administration and security planning.
3. **Territorial documentation:** Creates a consistent official record of sensitive frontier locations.
4. **Administrative clarity:** Common nomenclature reduces ambiguity across government institutions.
5. **Strategic signalling:** Demonstrates that nomenclature changes by another country do not determine India's official territorial position.

Gujarat's UCC Bill gets President's assent

Press Trust of India
AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, 2026, has received the assent of President Droupadi Murmu, paving the way for its implementation, a notification published in the Gujarat government gazette has informed.

The Act will come into force on a date to be decided by the State government through a notification in the gazette. The legisla-

tion, passed by the Assembly in March 24, was published in the extraordinary gazette dated October 1. The notification said the Act received the President's assent on September 17.

The Act seeks to "govern and regulate the laws relating to marriage and divorce, succession, live-in relationship and matters related thereto" and extends to the whole of Gujarat, also applying to residents of Gujarat living

outside the State.

The Act, however, specifically excludes members of Scheduled Tribes covered under Article 342 of the Constitution and persons or groups whose customary rights are protected under Part XXI of the Constitution.

The legislation, which provides a common framework for marriage, divorce and succession, besides regulating live-in relationships, prohibits bigamy. It also allows marriages to be

solemnised according to customary practices, religious beliefs, ceremonies, rites and rituals, and specifically lists practices.

Registration of marriages is mandatory, with parties having to submit a memorandum for registration within 60 days for marriages solemnised after the commencement of the code. The Act provides for a penalty of up to ₹10,000 for wilfully failing to submit a mandatory registration memorandum.

2. Gujarat's Uniform Civil Code Bill Receives Presidential Assent

Source: The Hindu / PTI

GS: GS-2 — Polity & Governance, Constitution, Social Justice

Context: Gujarat's **Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, 2026** has received Presidential assent, making Gujarat the second State after Uttarakhand to enact a comprehensive State-level UCC. Uttarakhand's UCC has been in force since **27 January 2025**.

1. What Is a Uniform Civil Code?

- UCC means a common civil framework for matters such as **marriage, divorce, succession, inheritance and live-in relationships**, irrespective of religion.
- **Article 44** directs the State to endeavour to secure a UCC; it is a **Directive Principle of State Policy**.
- Marriage, divorce, succession and related matters fall largely under **Entry 5 of the Concurrent List**.

2. What Does Gujarat's UCC Provide?

- Common rules for **marriage, divorce and succession**.
- **Mandatory registration of marriages**.
- **Prohibition of bigamy**.
- Regulation and registration of **live-in relationships**.
- Common inheritance framework with greater uniformity in succession.
- Certain **Scheduled Tribes and constitutionally protected customary groups** are excluded.

3. Supreme Court and UCC

- **Shah Bano (1985)**: Discussed maintenance rights and highlighted Article 44.
- **Sarla Mudgal (1995)**: Examined conversion and second marriage and stressed the relevance of Article 44.
- **Shayara Bano (2017)**: Invalidated instant triple talaq, demonstrating that personal-law practices can face constitutional scrutiny.
- **Jose Paulo Coutinho (2019)**: Recognised Goa as an important example of a common civil-law framework applicable across communities.

4. Key Issues with UCC

1. **Uniformity vs diversity**: India has diverse religious and customary practices.
2. **Fundamental rights**: The law must balance **equality, dignity, privacy and religious freedom**.
3. **Tribal customs**: Constitutionally protected customary practices require appropriate safeguards.

4. **Federalism:** Different State UCCs could create different civil-law frameworks across India.
5. **Privacy and autonomy:** Particularly relevant to regulation of live-in relationships.
6. **Gender justice:** The objective should be substantive equality in marriage, divorce, maintenance and inheritance.

5. Way Forward

- **Consultation:** Involve communities, women's organisations, tribal groups, legal experts and civil society.
- **Rights-based drafting:** Ensure consistency with Fundamental Rights.
- **Protect legitimate customs:** Preserve constitutionally protected tribal and customary practices.
- **Focus on equality:** Prioritise equal rights rather than uniformity for its own sake.
- **Clear implementation:** Provide simple procedures, awareness and accessible legal remedies.

GENEVA

At least 5,700 killed or wounded in Haiti gang violence this year: UN



AP

▲ Haiti's gang violence crisis has left at least 5,700 people dead or wounded this year while more than 1,000 women and girls have been raped, UN rights chief Volker Turk said on Friday. He said the casualties and rapes and 230 kidnappings had been recorded by the UN mission in Haiti up to September 11. AFP



3. Haiti's Gang Violence Crisis: A Deepening Security and Humanitarian Challenge

Source: The Hindu / United Nations

GS: GS-2 — International Relations, Humanitarian Issues, United Nations

Context: Haiti is facing a severe crisis of **gang violence, weak state authority and humanitarian insecurity**. The UN reported at least **5,700 people killed or injured**, over **1,000 women and girls subjected to rape**, and **230 kidnappings** up to September 11, 2026.

1. Haiti: Location and Basic Context

- **Haiti** is a Caribbean country occupying the **western part of Hispaniola**, an island shared with the **Dominican Republic**.
- It lies between the **Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean**; its capital is **Port-au-Prince**.
- Political instability, weak institutions and socioeconomic problems have made the country vulnerable to the rise of armed groups.

2. What Is Happening in Haiti?

- Powerful armed gangs control **large parts of Port-au-Prince and important transport corridors**.
- Violence includes **killings, kidnappings, sexual violence, recruitment of children and displacement**.
- The crisis has weakened the government's ability to provide **security and basic services**.
- Thus, Haiti's problem is not only criminal violence but a combination of **security, governance and humanitarian crises**.

3. What Is the UN Doing?

- **BINUH — United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti**: supports political stability, human rights, governance and Haitian institutions.
- **Gang Suppression Force (GSF)**: a multinational force authorised by the UN Security Council to support Haitian authorities in combating gangs and restoring security. It is **not a UN peacekeeping operation**.
- **UNSOH — United Nations Support Office in Haiti**: provides the GSF with logistics, transport, medical support, accommodation, aviation and communications.

BJP tells Karnataka CM to prove Form 7 charge or quit

Only 25,000 Form 7 applications filed in the State, not lakhs as the Chief Minister claims, says Karnataka BJP chief; party not afraid even if 1,000 FIRs are filed, will fight in court, he adds

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka BJP unit president B.Y. Vijayendra on Friday challenged the Chief Minister to resign if he fails to prove his allegation that the party misused Form 7 applications to seek the deletion of eligible voters from the electoral rolls.

“The Chief Minister should prove his allegations,” he said. “We [BJP] will not be afraid even if 1,000 FIRs are filed against us. We will fight the cases in court,” he said.

On Thursday, D.K. Shivakumar, with his Cabinet colleagues, protested in front of the Chief Electoral Officer’s (CEO’s) office in Bengaluru demanding an



BJP leader R. Ashok and others condemned the protest by Congress leaders in front of the election officials’ office. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

investigation into the filing of Form 7 applications in bulk seeking the deletion of voters, particularly from Muslim, Dalit, and backward-class communities. He alleged that ‘pre-filled’ forms containing voters’ details had been submitted in several constituencies as

part of a ‘conspiracy’ to remove eligible voters from the rolls.

Calling the protest a “staged drama”, Mr. Vijayendra accused the Congress of shifting the blame onto the BJP instead of addressing reported irregularities. “Your party is run-

ning the government. Booth Level Officers are under your control,” he said.

Mr. Vijayendra said only 25,000 Form 7 applications had been filed in Karnataka, not the lakhs the Chief Minister claimed were putting voters at risk. He said that Form 7 is a mechanism for seeking the removal of ineligible entries and its use by itself is not illegal. Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka, along with other BJP leaders, met Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh and sought an FIR against the Chief Minister and his Cabinet colleagues for their protest outside the CEO’s office, arguing that protests were permitted only at Freedom Park.

4. Controversy Over Form 7 Applications in Karnataka

Source: The Hindu

GS: GS-2 — Election Commission, Electoral Reforms, Representation of the People Act

Context: During the **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls in Karnataka, allegations have emerged that Form 7 was being used in bulk to seek deletion of names of eligible voters, raising concerns about wrongful exclusion from electoral rolls.

1. What Is Form 7?

- **Form 7** is an official Election Commission of India (ECI) form used to **object to the inclusion of a name or seek deletion of a name from an existing electoral roll**.
- It can be filed by an elector registered in that constituency.
- Grounds include **death, under-age status, permanently shifting, duplicate enrolment or non-citizenship**.
- The applicant has the **onus of supporting the reason given** and must make a declaration that the information is truthful. A knowingly false declaration is punishable under **Section 31 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950**.

2. What Is the Karnataka Controversy?

- The State government and political parties have alleged **bulk submission of Form 7 applications** seeking deletion of names of eligible voters.
- A major concern is the alleged use of **pre-filled forms containing voters' details**, including cases where applicants allegedly did not belong to the concerned locality.
- Complaints have included alleged targeting of voters from particular communities and allegations that genuine voters could be wrongly removed.
- These are **allegations under investigation**, not established findings of a coordinated voter-deletion operation.

3. What Is the Election Commission's Position?

- **Form 7 itself is a legitimate mechanism**; filing it does **not automatically delete** a person's name.
- Deletion requires the prescribed **verification and due process** by election authorities.
- For proposed deletions, the ECI's procedures provide for **notice to the concerned elector and an opportunity to object/hearing**, except in specified cases such as verified deaths.
- In Karnataka, following complaints about bulk/false Form 7 applications, the **Chief Electoral Officer sought reports from district authorities and directed action against false declarations**; FIRs have also been registered in some cases.

4. Why Does It Matter?

- **Electoral integrity**: Electoral rolls must exclude ineligible entries without excluding genuine voters.
- **Right to vote**: Wrongful deletion can prevent an eligible citizen from participating in elections.
- **Due process**: Verification, notice and opportunity to respond are important safeguards against arbitrary deletion.
- **Transparency**: Bulk applications should be scrutinised to detect false or coordinated submissions.

Buxa Reserve regains its stripes with the release of a three-year-old tigress

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

A three-year-old tigress, T138, was released into the Buxa Tiger Reserve in West Bengal on Friday, marking the beginning of a phased programme to reintroduce tigers and establish a viable, self-sustaining population in the reserve.

The tigress was translocated from Bihar's Valmiki Tiger Reserve and released in the presence of Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav and West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari. Mr. Adhikari said three more tig-



New home: The tigress was brought from Valmiki Tiger Reserve, marking the beginning of a phased programme. X/BYADAVBJP

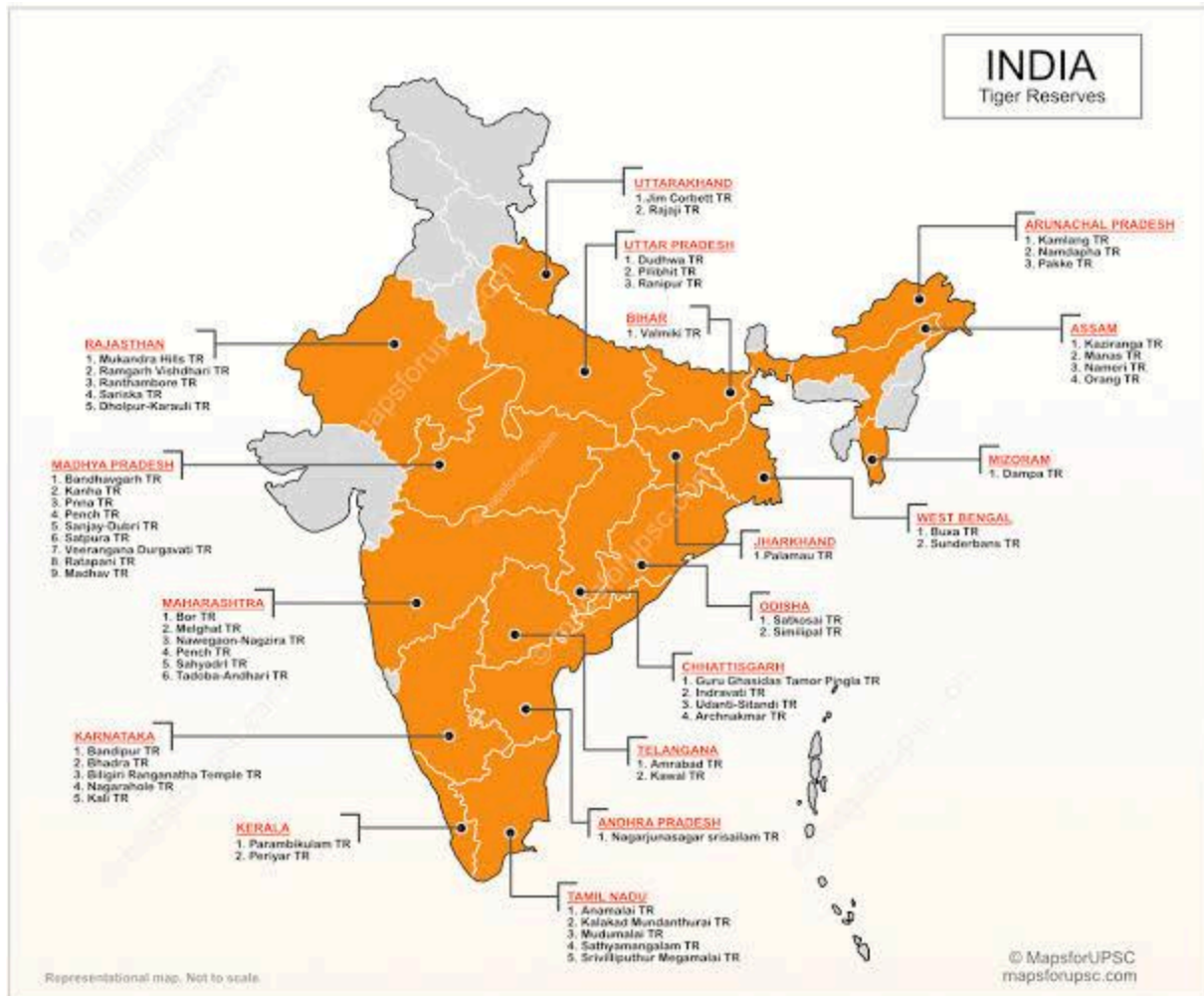
ers would be released in Buxa in the next two months, and the initiative would not only help in conservation of wildlife but also in boosting tourism in the region. "Inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's push for landscape

conservation and species protection, today we have fulfilled the significant promise to reintroduce a tiger in Buxa," Mr. Yadav posted on social media.

Buxa was declared a Tiger Reserve in 1983. "Over the decades, however,

habitat degradation and fragmentation, changes in land use and decline in prey availability have affected the ecological conditions required to sustain a resident tiger population. The Reserve subsequently witnessed a prolonged absence of a stable resident tiger population," a press statement by the PIB said.

Senior forest officials said T138 would be subject to intensive post-release monitoring using a combination of telemetry, camera trapping and field-based monitoring to assess her movement, adaptation, health and behaviour.



5. Buxa Tiger Reserve Begins Tiger Reintroduction Programme

Source: The Hindu

GS: GS-3 — Environment & Ecology, Wildlife Conservation

Context: A three-year-old tigress, T138, has been translocated from Valmiki Tiger Reserve in Bihar to Buxa Tiger Reserve in West Bengal, marking the beginning of a phased effort to establish a viable, self-sustaining tiger population in Buxa.

1. Buxa Tiger Reserve: Basic Facts

- **Location:** Alipurduar district, West Bengal; close to the **Bhutan border**.
- **Status:** Declared a **Tiger Reserve** in 1983.

- **Ecological importance:** Part of the **Dooars–Eastern Himalayan landscape**, providing important forest and wildlife habitat.
- **Major challenge:** Buxa has struggled to maintain a **stable resident tiger population**.

2. Why Did Buxa Lose Its Stable Tiger Population?

- **Habitat degradation:** Decline in the quality of suitable tiger habitat.
- **Habitat fragmentation:** Continuous forests have become divided, affecting movement and breeding.
- **Prey decline:** Reduction in prey availability makes it difficult to sustain tigers.
- **Land-use changes:** Human activities have altered parts of the surrounding landscape.
- Together, these factors weakened the ecological conditions required for a resident tiger population.

3. What Is the Current Reintroduction Programme?

- **T138:** A three-year-old tigress from **Valmiki Tiger Reserve, Bihar**, has been released in Buxa.
- **Phased release:** Three more tigers are expected to be introduced in the coming months.
- **Objective:** Not merely to increase tiger numbers, but to establish a **breeding and self-sustaining population**.
- **Source population:** Tigers are being brought from another suitable tiger landscape rather than captured from the wild outside the conservation network.

4. How Will T138 Be Monitored?

- **Telemetry:** Tracks her movement and habitat use.
- **Camera traps:** Monitor movement, behaviour and interactions.
- **Field monitoring:** Forest officials assess health, adaptation and behaviour.
- **Post-release monitoring:** Helps determine whether she adapts successfully and whether the habitat is suitable for long-term survival and breeding.

5. What Is Required for Long-Term Success?

1. **Prey-base recovery:** Adequate deer and other natural prey are essential.
2. **Habitat protection:** Prevent further degradation and fragmentation.
3. **Wildlife corridors:** Maintain connectivity with surrounding forests for natural movement.
4. **Human–wildlife conflict management:** Reduce conflict around the reserve.
5. **Protection from poaching:** Strong patrolling and surveillance are essential.
6. **Scientific monitoring:** Continue tracking health, movement, reproduction and population growth.

Centre frames rules to standardise recruitment to various tribunal posts

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The government has come out with rules for the National Tribunals Commission which seek to standardise recruitment and eligibility for various tribunal posts; establish a formal inquiry mechanism for misconduct complaints; and to prescribe service conditions and remuneration.

Issued on September 30 and published on Thursday by the Union Law Ministry, the rules will enable the newly-created National Tribunals Commission to appoint chairpersons and members to 16 tribunals and appellate bodies.

According to the National Tribunals Commission and Qualification, Selection and Conditions of Service of Chairperson and

The rules will enable the National Tribunals Commission to appoint chairpersons and members to 16 tribunals and appellate bodies

Members of Tribunals Rules, 2026, a commission chairperson will get ₹2.5 lakh per month and commission members ₹2.25 lakh a month. A similar pay is applicable to tribunal chairpersons and members. There is a provision for specified exceptions.

Expert evaluation

The rules stipulate that the process to fill vacancies in tribunals is to be initiated at least six months before they arise. Search-cum-selection committees will as-

sess candidates through expert evaluation, personal interaction and, where applicable, writing exercises.

The National Tribunals Commission was set up following the passage of the Tribunals Reforms Bill by Parliament in August. The Bill was brought following a Supreme Court direction.

Ensuring independence

The key aim of the commission is to improve efficiency and ensure independence, transparency and uniformity in the qualification and appointment of chairpersons and members to various tribunals.

To be headquartered in Delhi, the proposed commission will consist of a chairperson and four members, of whom two will be judicial members

and two technical members. A retired Supreme Court judge or a retired Chief Justice of a High Court will be qualified to head the proposed panel.

The Supreme Court had recently struck down certain provisions of the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021, on the grounds that they were contrary to the principles of separation of powers and judicial independence and not in consonance with the earlier judicial pronouncements that have clarified the standards governing the appointment, tenure and functioning of chairpersons and members of tribunals.

The court had also directed for the establishment of the National Tribunals Commission which is independent and has professional expertise.

6. National Tribunals Commission Rules Seek to Standardise Tribunal Appointments

Source: The Hindu / PTI

GS: GS-2 — Polity & Governance, Judiciary, Separation of Powers

Context: The Centre has notified the National Tribunals Commission and Qualification, Selection and Conditions of Service of Chairperson and Members of Tribunals Rules, 2026. The rules operationalise the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2026 and provide a common framework for

appointments, qualifications, service conditions and disciplinary inquiries across 16 tribunals and appellate bodies.

1. Why Are Tribunals Important?

Constitutional basis:

- **Article 323A:** Provides for administrative tribunals, particularly for service-related disputes.
- **Article 323B:** Provides for tribunals dealing with specified matters such as taxation, labour, land reforms and other areas.
- 1. **Specialised justice:** Tribunals deal with specialised disputes involving areas such as taxation, company law, environment, armed forces and service matters.
- 2. **Reduce court burden:** They were created to provide specialised and relatively quicker adjudication and reduce the workload of constitutional courts.
- 3. **Judicial + technical expertise:** Their composition allows both judicial members and domain experts to participate in adjudication.

2. What Has the 2026 Reform Changed?

1. **National Tribunals Commission (NTC):** A permanent body will oversee selection, performance, disciplinary inquiries and administrative functioning of tribunals.
2. **Judicial majority:** The NTC consists of a Chairperson, two Judicial Members and two Technical Members.
3. **Standardised appointments:** Common procedures are prescribed for qualifications and selection instead of fragmented tribunal-wise arrangements.
4. **Five-year tenure:** Tribunal Chairpersons and Members generally have a five-year term, subject to prescribed age limits.
5. **Assessment of candidates:** Selection can involve expert assessment, personal interaction and order-writing exercises, depending on the post.
6. **Vacancy management:** The process is to begin at least six months before a vacancy arises, helping address prolonged vacancies.
7. **Accountability:** The rules provide a formal procedure for complaints and inquiries against tribunal members.

3. What Did the Supreme Court Say?

The reform is closely linked to the Supreme Court's long-running tribunal jurisprudence:

1. **Rojer Mathew v. South Indian Bank (2019):** The Supreme Court examined the government's control over tribunal rules and emphasised the need to protect judicial independence.
2. **Madras Bar Association v. Union of India (2021):** The Court struck down provisions relating to tribunal appointments and tenure, including aspects that gave the executive excessive discretion.

3. **Madras Bar Association v. Union of India (2025):** The Court again struck down provisions of the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021, holding that re-enacting provisions earlier invalidated by the Court could not be used to circumvent binding judicial decisions. It reiterated the need for an independent National Tribunals Commission.
4. **Core principle:** Tribunal independence requires protection from excessive executive control over appointments, tenure, administration and finances.

4. What Concerns Still Remain?

1. **Executive role remains:** The Central Government continues to be the formal appointing authority for tribunal Chairpersons and Members.
2. **NTC appointments:** The Union Government formally appoints the Chairperson and Judicial Members of the NTC, although consultation with the Chief Justice of India is provided.
3. **Financial dependence:** Tribunal funding ultimately involves Central Government grants and parliamentary appropriation, so complete financial autonomy remains a concern.
4. **Secretariat:** The NTC Secretariat is headed by a Secretary to the Government of India, retaining an executive administrative component.
5. **Rule-making power:** The Centre continues to have significant powers concerning qualifications and service conditions.
6. **Implementation challenge:** Institutional reform alone will not solve vacancies, infrastructure shortages and case pendency unless tribunals receive adequate personnel and resources.

5. Way Forward

1. **Genuine independence:** Appointment and administration should minimise avoidable executive influence.
2. **Transparent selection:** Selection criteria and assessments should be objective, merit-based and publicly accountable.
3. **Adequate resources:** Timely recruitment, infrastructure and financial support are necessary to reduce pendency.
4. **Judicial-technical balance:** Tribunals should combine judicial independence with genuine domain expertise.
5. **Continuous oversight:** Performance monitoring should improve efficiency without compromising adjudicatory independence.