

CURRENT AFFAIRS

22 APRIL 2023



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Chardham Project

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Daily cap on
Char Dham
pilgrims
withdrawn

Chardham project:

- The project involves developing and widening 900-km of national highways connecting the holy Hindu pilgrimage sites of; Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri, and Yamunotri at an estimated cost of Rs.12,000 crores.
- The highway will be called Char Dham Mahamarg(Char Dham Highway) and the highway construction project will be called Char Dham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojana(Char Dham Highway Development Project).

Botanical Garden

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Botanical gardens and life on earth

Botanic gardens are institutions holding documented collections of living plants for the purpose of scientific research, conservation, display and education.

Purposes of Botanical Garden are:

To study the taxonomy as well as growth of plants

To study the introduction and acclimatization process of exotic plants

It acts as a germplasm collection

It helps development of new hybrids

It augments conserving rare and threatened species

National Security Act (NSA)

Why invoke
NSA against
YouTuber, SC
asks T.N. govt.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

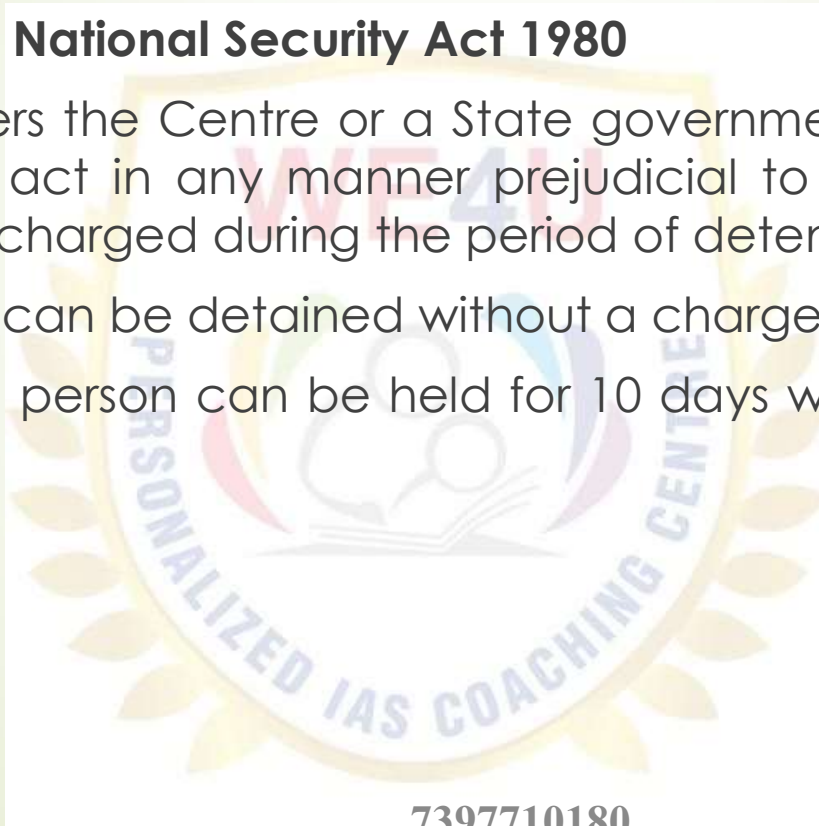
The Supreme Court on Friday found the Bihar and Tamil Nadu governments on the same page against a proposal to club multiple FIRs against YouTuber Manish Kashyap and transfer them all to Bihar.

Appearing before a Bench led by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, the Bihar government counsel agreed with senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who represented Tamil Nadu, that the FIRs registered against Mr. Kashyap cannot be combined into one investigation. However, the court questioned the Tamil Nadu government about the invocation of the National Security Act (NSA) against Mr. Kashyap.

- The National Security Act (NSA) in existence for more than four decades has been questioned for its draconian effects and its potential misuse.
- The National Security Act (NSA) has its roots in preventive detention laws. The first iteration of these laws was framed during British rule. However, post-independence these laws were carried forward as the Preventive Detention Act of 1950.
- This was replaced by the Maintenance of Internal Security Act of 1971 and finally the National Security Act of 1980.

Provisions of the National Security Act 1980

- ▶ NSA empowers the Centre or a State government to detain a person so that he does not act in any manner prejudicial to national security. The person need not be charged during the period of detention.
- ▶ An individual can be detained without a charge for up to 12 months.
- ▶ The detained person can be held for 10 days without being told the charges against him.



Olive ridley turtles

Millions of olive ridleys make it to sea after Odisha beach hosts record turtle nesting

+ Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Millions of baby olive ridley sea turtles crawled towards the Bay of Bengal after emerging from eggshells along Odisha's Rushikulya beach in Ganjam district, recording one of the most successful mass nesting and hatchings in past few decades.

This year, the Rushikulya beach has hosted around 6.37 lakh turtles – highest ever congregation – from February 23 to March 3. After 50 days, baby turtles have emerged from eggs themselves and started their journey towards sea. "This year, mass nesting and hatching have been smooth. There was no adverse weather condition that could have hampered the processes. On part of the forest department, we have provid-



Highest congregation: Rushikulya is estimated to have hosted 6.37 lakh turtles from February 23 to March 3, BISWARANJAN ROUT

ed best possible protection for turtles to lay eggs and prevent damage during incubation period," Sunny Khokkar, Berhampur Divisional Forest Officer, said.

Generally, an olive ridley turtle lays 100-150 eggs in a cavity created by them with their front flippers in the beach sand. They scoop out sand for hours to create the void. After laying eggs at one go, these creatures cover it again with sand. Before sunrise, the turtles return

to the sea, leaving behind the eggs to hatch after 40-60 days. Sometime, a turtle lays eggs in a pit at a place that was previously used by another turtle, leading to loss of thousands of eggs.

The Rushikulya beach is a unique phenomenon – it is not a wildlife sanctuary, yet turtles feel safe to carry out mass nesting. Baby turtles started coming out from egg shells from the second week of April this year.

- The Olive ridley turtles are the smallest and most abundant of all sea turtles found in the world.
- These turtles are carnivores and get their name from their olive-coloured carapace.
- They are best known for their unique mass nesting called Arribada, where thousands of females come together on the same beach to lay eggs.

Habitat

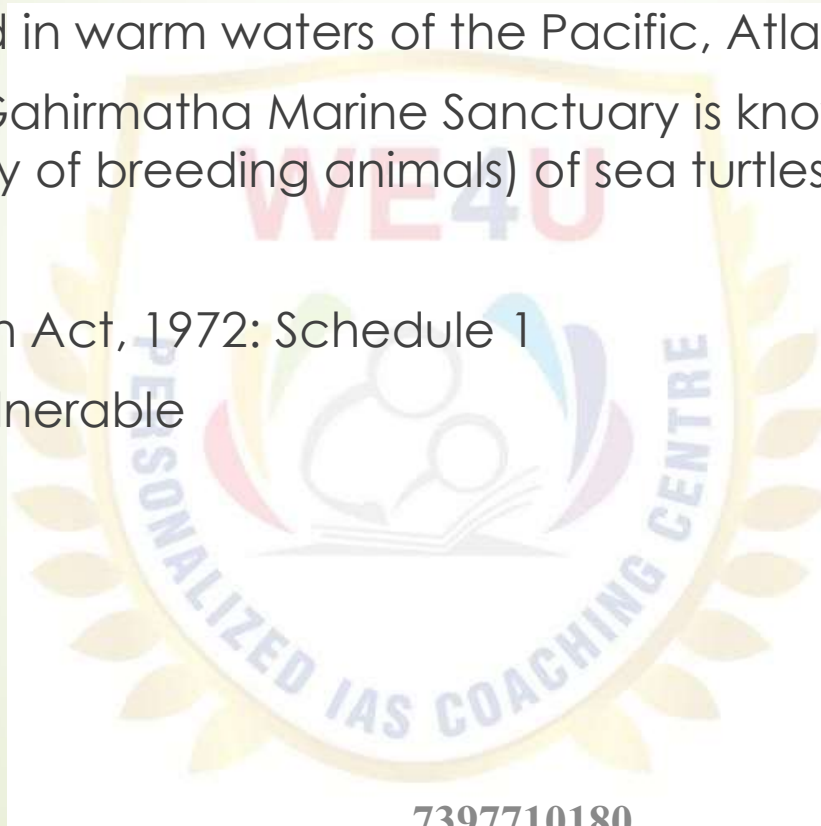
- ▶ They are found in warm waters of the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans.
- ▶ The Odisha's Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary is known as the world's largest rookery (colony of breeding animals) of sea turtles.

Protection Status:

Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule 1

IUCN Red List: Vulnerable

CITES: Appendix I



THANK YOU

