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News: Buxa Tiger Reserve

- Buxa Tiger Reserve (BTR) in West Bengal witnessed the return of a tiger for the second time in two years after a 23-year absence, sparking hope for a flourishing ecosystem and a potential resurgence of tiger populations.

Buxa Tiger Reserve

- Buxa Tiger Reserve is situated in the **Alipurduar Sub-division of Jalpaiguri District, West Bengal.**
- It was created in 1983 as the **15th tiger reserve of India.**
- It was declared as a **National Park** in January 1992.
- The **northern boundary of Buxa Tiger Reserve runs along the international border with Bhutan.**
- The Sinchula hill range lies all along the northern side of Buxa National Park and the Eastern boundary touches that of the Assam State.
- The main rivers flowing across the Tiger Reserve **are Sankosh, Raidak, Jayanti, Churnia, Turturi, Phashkhawa, Dima and Nonani.**

Tiger Corridor

- The reserve has corridor **connectivity across the border with the forests of Bhutan in the North; on the East it has linkages with the Kochugaon forests, Manas Tiger Reserve and on the West with the Jaldapara National Park.**

The following corridor links are important:

- **Buxa-Titi (via Torsa):** Connecting Rangamati Reserve Forest area of Buxa Tiger Reserve with Titi Reserve Forest.
- **Buxa-Titi (via Beech and Bharnabari Tea estate):** Connecting Bharnabari Reserve Forest of Buxa Tiger Reserve and Titi Reserve Forest situated south of Dalsingpara tea estate by passing through Bharnabari tea estate and Beech tea estate.
- **Nimati-Chilapata (Buxa-Chilapata):** Facilitating elephant movement between Nimati Range of Buxa Tiger Reserve and Chilapata Reserve Forest, thereby maintaining elephant movement between Buxa Tiger Reserve and Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary (West Bengal).
- **Buxa-Ripu at Sankosh (Sankosh):** This corridor is a contiguous forest that connects Buxa Tiger Reserve of West Bengal with the Ripu Reserve Forest of Kachugaon Forest Division, Assam.

- The corridors mentioned above form part of North East and Brahmaputra Valley tiger landscape, providing crucial linkages for the dispersal of tigers to various protected areas like, Buxa, Manas Tiger Reserve (Assam), Phipsoo Wildlife Sanctuary in Bhutan and Jaldapara National Park.

Flora

- The forests of the reserve can be broadly classified as the ‘**Moist Tropical Forest**’.

Fauna

- Some important species found in the reserve are **Indian Tiger, Leopard, Clouded Leopard, Hog badger, Jungle Cat** etc.
- Historically, tigers were distributed throughout the reserve including the southernmost ranges and fringe areas.
- However, **the reserve has a low tiger density at present.**

