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News: Sundarbans

- The Sundarbans face numerous environmental challenges including freshwater scarcity, pollution from microplastics and chemicals, and coastal erosion, making it important to look for sustainable solutions to protect it.

Sunderbans National Park

- Sunderbans is located in **West Bengal**.
- The Sunderbans ecoregion is located in the **tidally active lower deltaic plain of the Ganges–Brahmaputra–Meghna (GBM) basin**.
- It's a **National Park, Tiger reserve, Biosphere reserve and Designated Ramsar Site**.
- Part of Sunderbans on Ganges Delta, adjacent to Sunderbans Forest reserve in Bangladesh.
- It spans from the **Hooghly River in India's state of West Bengal to the Baleswar River in Bangladesh**.
- The **Muriganga River** runs through the Indian Sunderbans on the west, and the **Harinbhahga and Raimangal Rivers** run through it on the east.
- **Saptamukhi, Thakuran, Matla, and Goasaba** are some of the other major rivers that flow through this eco-system.

- Spread over parts of **Bangladesh and India**, the Protected Areas (PA) within the forested parts is designated by the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)** as **World Heritage Sites** in both countries.
- Four protected areas in the Sunderbans are enlisted as UNESCO World Heritage Sites, viz. **Sunderbans National Park, Sunderbans West, Sunderbans South and Sunderbans East Wildlife Sanctuaries**.
- Sunderbans hosts **the largest contiguous mangrove forest** and the **only mangrove tiger habitat in the world**.
- Sunderbans is home to **Royal Bengal Tiger, Salt-water Crocodile and Ganges River Dolphin** and the **Critically Endangered River Terrapin**.
- **Nine of the country's 12 kingfisher species can be found here**, as well as rare species like the **Goliath heron and Spoon-billed Sandpiper**.
- Recently, Sunderbans was **accredited with Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS)** for its excellence in Tiger conservation.