

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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UNDERSTANDING ECONOMIC SURVEY AND BUDGET THROUGH PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q.1 Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for agriculture, recently seen in Union Budget 2024, comprises of:

- 1. AgriStack
- 2. Krishi-DSS
- 3. Soil Profile Maps

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

(a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation:

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday announced the implementation of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) in agriculture, with farmers across the country and their lands to be covered in three years. Using the DPI, digital crop survey of the ongoing Kharif season will be done in 400 districts, she said.
- Agriculture Ministry officials have been working to roll out different pilot projects under DPI in coordination with the state governments.
- Sources said that DPI for agriculture comprises three broad components AgriStack, Krishi-DSS, and Soil Profile Maps.

Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

Q2. Consider the following statements about Solar Power (PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana):

- 1. It is a government scheme that aims to provide free electricity to households in India.
- 2. The scheme was launched in 2022.
- 3. Under the scheme, households will be provided with a subsidy cover of 40 per cent to install solar panels on their roofs.
- 4. The scheme will promote the use of renewable energy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- (b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (d) 2, 3 and 4 only



Explanation:

- PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana is a government project aimed at providing free power to Indian families. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced the initiative on February 15, 2024. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- The initiative would give homes with a rebate for installing solar panels on their roofs.
- The subsidy will pay for up to 40% of the cost of the solar panels. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- The plan is anticipated to benefit one crore households in India.
- The scheme will promote the use of renewable energy. It is projected that the initiative will save the government Rs. 75,000 crore per year on electricity bills. Hence, statement 4 is correct.

Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

Q3.With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U), consider the following statements:

- 1. It aims to provide all weather pucca houses to all individuals in the urban areas of the country through States/UTs/Central Nodal Agencies.
- 2. The Mission promotes women empowerment by providing the ownership of houses in the name of female members or in joint names.
- 3. The houses under PMAY-U do not have access to electricity and a kitchen.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 2 only (b) 1 and 2 only (c) 1 only (d) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- The PM Awas Yojana Urban 2.0 aims to fulfil the housing requirements of 1 crore urban poor and middle-class families through an investment of ₹10 lakh crore.
- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U), being implemented since June 2015, is one of the
 major flagship programmes being implemented by the Government of India under the Ministry of
 Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). It aims to provide all weather pucca houses to all eligible
 beneficiaries in the urban areas of the country through States/UTs/Central Nodal Agencies. Hence,
 statement 1 is not correct.
- The scheme covers the entire urban area of the country, i.e., all statutory towns as per Census 2011 and towns notified subsequently, including Notified Planning/ Development Areas.
- All houses under PMAY-U have basic amenities like toilets, water supply, electricity and kitchen. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- The Mission promotes women empowerment by providing the ownership of houses in the name of female members or in joint names. Preference has also been given to differently abled persons, senior citizens, SCs, STs, OBCs, Minority, single women, transgender and other weaker & vulnerable sections of the society. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.



Q4. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Capital revenue consists of the acquisition of assets like land, buildings, machinery, equipment, and investments in shares.
- 2. Fiscal Deficit is the difference between the Revenue Receipts plus Non-deb Capital Receipts (NDCR) and the total expenditure.
- 3. Revenue expenditure results in the creation of assets for the Government of India.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one

Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Explanation:

- The revenue budget consists of the government's revenue receipts (Tax revenues and non-tax revenues) and revenue expenditures. Tax revenues comprise proceeds of taxes and other duties levied by the Union.
- Revenue expenditure is for the normal running of Government Department and for rendering of various services, making interest payments on debt, mee subsidies, 11 grants in aid, etc. Broadly, the expenditure which does not resu the creation of assets for the Government of India is treated as revenue expenditure. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- Capital receipts and capital expenditures together constitute the Capital Budget. The capital receipts are loans raised by the Government. Capital expenditure consists of the acquisition of assets like land, buildings, machine equipment, as well as investments in shares, etc., and loans and advances granted by the Central Government to the State and the Union Territory Governments, Government companies, Corporations, and other parties. Henc statement 1 is correct.
- Fiscal Deficit is the difference between the Revenue Receipts plus Non-de Capital Receipts (NDCR) and the total expenditure. In other words, the fiscal deficit is "reflective of the total borrowing requirements of the Government". Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

Q5. Consider the following states and answer the question below:

1. West Bengal

2. Andhra Pradesh

3. Assam

4. Bihar

5. Sikkim

6. **Arunachal Pradesh**

7. Odisha

Which of the above states are covered under Government of India's 'Purvodaya' plan as announced in Union Budget 2024?

(a) 2, 4, 6 and 7

(b) 1, 2, 4 and 7

(c) 1, 3, 5 and 6

(d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7



Explanation:

• "The states in the Eastern part of the country are rich in endowments and have strong cultural traditions. We will formulate a plan, Purvodaya, for the all-round development of the eastern region of the country covering Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. This will cover human resource development, infrastructure, and generation of economic opportunities to make the region an engine to attain Viksit Bharat."

Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.



AN OUTLINING OF URBAN TRANSFORMATION STRATEGIES



An outlining of urban transformation strategies

ities are home to about 50 crore people, accounting for about 36% of India's population. The urban population has been growing at a steady pace of 2% to 2.5% annually. The ever-growing pace of urbanisation in India calls for sustained investments, with a vision and determination. The maiden Budget of the new government has recognised cities as the growth hubs and offered many options and opportunities for the planned development and the growth of cities.

The issue of housing

The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) has been under implementation since 2015 and has provided as many as 85 lakh housing units for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)-Middle Income Groups (MIG) categories of population, with an investment of about ₹8 lakh crore. Of this, a quarter has been provided by the central government and the remaining by the beneficiaries and State governments. The Budget has proposed to give a further push to the scheme by announcing support for the construction of another one crore such units in urban areas with an investment of ₹10 lakh crore, which will include central assistance of ₹2.2 lakh crore in the next five years, against which ₹30,171 crore has been provided in the Budget for the current year. A part of this allocation will be available to provide interest subsidy to facilitate loans at affordable rates.

The migrant population working in industries has been surviving in general in slums and yearning for a roof over their heads and a functional housing unit close to their workplaces. The Budget has announced new rental housing with dormitory-type accommodation for industrial workers. This is envisaged to be developed in public-private partnership (PPP) mode with upfront financial support under the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme. This is to the extent of 20% from the central government, with the possibility of similar support from the State government.

The core infrastructure requirement for cities includes water supply, sanitation, roads and sewerage systems. Specific to the cities, the Atal



Sudhir Krishna former Secretary, Urban Development, Government of India

Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) provides ₹8,000 crore, which, by itself, may not appear to be very substantial. However, the Finance Minister has announced the availability of the VGF window, provided that the project is taken up as a commercial venture in PPP Mode. Most cities have, over the years, got exposed to the PPP model, and it should be possible to speed up the development of such core infrastructure, where it is unavailable and upgrade it where it exists but is inadequate.

The Budget Speech also mentions a huge investment of ₹11.11 lakh crore for capex in infrastructure. While this would include highways and many other sectors, cities can also make efforts to partake a share in it. Similarly, a provision of ₹1.50 lakh crore is made available to States as an interest-free loan for infrastructure development. States could use this window also, for cities.

The Smart Cities Mission, that was launched in 2015, was provided budgetary support of ₹8,000 crore in 2023-24, which has been scaled down to ₹2,400 crore in 2024-25, to take care of the remnant commitments. However, a new window, the National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM), has been opened in this Budget, with a provision of ₹1,150 crore, with a focus on the digitisation of property and tax records and their management, with GIS mapping. These will help urban local bodies in managing their finances better, and also help property owners.

On city planning

The Budget has declared the intention of focusing on the planned development of cities. Municipalities would get the normal 'Finance Commission Grant' of ₹25,653 crore. In addition, a provision of ₹500 crore has been made for the incubation of new cities. With the development of mass rapid transit systems, cities can embark on transit-oriented development, wherein transit hubs can be surrounded by denser development without creating a traffic overload on roads. Moreover, a well-designed mobility plan can conveniently connect cities with their peri-urban areas and 'new cities'. Accordingly, the Budget

has announced an enhanced focus on economic and transit planning, with the orderly development of peri-urban areas utilising town planning schemes. The Budget has also proposed encouraging electric bus systems for cities and has provided ₹1,300 crore for it. E-buses offer an economical and eco-friendly operating system, but the main challenge is their higher upfront cost. However, with this budgetary support, it should get going.

Solid waste management

Solid waste management (SWM) is perhaps the biggest challenge that most cities face today. The Budget has announced a special thrust to introduce bankable projects for SWM in collaboration with State government and financial institutions. States and municipalities can also make use of the VGF for this purpose. Cities such as Indore, Madhya Pradesh, have shown the way in making SWM a financially viable proposition.

The Street Vendors Act, 2014, was enacted by Parliament to regulate street vendors in public areas and protect their rights. It also envisaged the preparation of street-vending plans and the creation of street-vending zones, with a view to make street-vending a healthy and safe option for consumers and vendors. The Budget has proposed to develop 100 weekly 'haats' or street food hubs in select cities. Perhaps States need not feel constrained with the number and can facilitate all cities in preparing street-vending plans and developing street vending 'haats' in various parts of the city, according to felt needs.

While the Budget has made a slew of provisions, financial as well as procedural, to push for planned urbanisation, cities, represented by the municipalities, and guided by the respective State governments, will have to show the vision and the determination to incorporate all the resources coming not only from the Union Budget but also augmented by their own resources.

Above all, the participation of citizens would remain the bedrock for the success of any city's development strategy.

The views expressed are personal

Urban Transformation Strategies in Union Budget 2024-25

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Urban development has been one of the key focal points of the budget which is addressed through various initiatives aimed at improving housing, rental facilities, city planning, water supply, sanitation, and support for street vendors.

Need of Urban Transformation strategy

- Currently, urban areas constitute ~35% of India's population which is expected to grow to 53% by 2047.
- Urban centres contribute ~66% to the national GDP and expected to reach 80% by 2050.
- Key issues in India's urban centres include infrastructure deficit, rapidly deteriorating environment like air pollution, sub-optimal planning and governance, etc.

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Key Strategies announced in the budget

- **Housing:** Expansion of PM Awas Yojana for the construction of 3 crore additional houses and interest subsidies to facilitate loans at affordable rates.
 - Facilitation of rental housing with dormitory-type accommodation for industrial workers through PPP mode
- **Cities as Growth Hub:** Creative brownfield redevelopment of existing cities, focusing on enabling policies, market-based mechanisms, and regulation.
 - Transit Oriented Development plans will be implemented for 14 large cities with populations above 30 Lakhs.
- **Street Vendors:** New scheme to support development of 100 weekly 'haats' or street food hubs each year for the next 5 years in select cities



ARTICLE 361-IS IMMUNITY FOR THE PRESIDENT AND GOVERNORS ABSOLUTE?

Is immunity for the President and Governors absolute?

Does Article 361 grant absolution to the Governor even against criminal charges?

Krishnadas Rajagopal

The story so far:

three-judge Bench headed by the Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud has impleaded the Union government and sought assistance from the Attorney General of India to decide if a "blanket" immunity granted under Article 361 to the President and Governors, while in office, from criminal proceedings undermines fairness, constitutional morality and violates fundamental rights to equal protection of the law and fair trial.

What is the case?

The question came up in a petition filed by a contractual woman employee with the Raj Bhavan who has accused West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose of sexual harassment and molestation.

The woman, identified as 'XXX' in Supreme Court records to protect her identity, said the "absolute immunity" given to the Governor is based on the victorian belief that the "King can do no wrong". She said the police have treated her complaint against the constitutional authority in a "cavalier manner" citing the immunity clause. She said the only option left to her is to wait for the Governor to demit office for the investigation to commence on her complaint of gender violence. She, however, fears that the delay in the criminal investigation against such a powerful person may eventually deny her justice during trial. She has urged the court to mandate the State of West Bengal through its police machinery to carry out an investigation. The employee has also asked the court to frame guidelines and qualify the extent of the immunity.

Do Governors have immunity?

Article 361 (1) provides that the President and Governors are not answerable to any court for acts done in exercise and performance of their powers and duties.

However the first proviso to Article 361(1) allows the conduct of the President

to be reviewed by any court, tribunal or body designated by either House of Parliament for the investigation of a charge under Article 61 (impeachment for violation of the Constitution). The second proviso to Article 361(1) holds that the immunity cannot stop a person from suing the Centre or State concerned.

The clause in question before the Supreme Court in the current case is clause (2) of Article 361 which mandates that "no criminal proceedings whatsoever shall be instituted or continued against the President, or the Governor of a State, in any court during his term of office". The apex court has decided to interpret clause (2) of Article 361 to determine when exactly could criminal proceedings be instituted against a President or Governor. In short, the court has decided to rattle the protective cover of immunity to see if it is "unfettered or unbridled".

Interestingly, the Constituent Assembly debates on Article 361 (Draft Article 302) in September 1949 show that a Member had indeed found the language of clause

(2) vague. The discussion concerned the phrase "during the term of his office" in Article 361(2). The Member had queried if this would mean the President or a Governor could enjoy immunity by continuing in office despite committing a criminal act. The question was left open.

What are the arguments raised?

The petitioner argues that a bar on criminal proceedings under Article 361(2) does not extend to illegal acts or those which "strike at the roots" of a citizen's fundamental rights. The alleged actions of Governor Bose infringed upon her right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution, she submitted. The immunity under Article 361 cannot impair the police's powers to investigate the offence or even name the perpetrator in the complaint/FIR. No part of the powers of the Governor provide for him to sexually abuse employees, the employee said.

The Supreme Court, in Rameshwar Prasad vs. Union of India, had interpreted that 'civil immunity' under Article 361(4) did not take away the power of citizens to challenge the actions of the President or Governors on the ground of 'malafides'. An analogy could be drawn to interpret criminal immunity the same way. The petition referred to a Madhya Pradesh High Court ruling in Ram Naresh vs State of Madhya Pradesh, which had held that the immunity would not impair the police's powers to investigate an offence, which included recording the Governor's statement.

THE GIST

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A three-judge Bench has impleaded the Union government to decide if a "blanket" immunity granted under Article 361 to the President and Governors, while in office, from criminal proceedings undermines fairness and constitutional morality.

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What are Immunities Provided to the Governor under Article 361?

Origin of Governer's Immunity:

- It is linked to the Latin maxim "rex non potest peccare," or "the king can do no wrong".
- During the Constituent Assembly's discussion on Article 361, member H V Kamath questions the extent of criminal immunity for the President and Governors, particularly regarding the initiation of proceedings against them for criminal acts.
- Despite these concerns, the article was adopted without further debate.

Immunities under Article 361:

- Non-Answerable to Courts: Article 361(1) states that the President or the Governor of a State is not
 answerable to any court for the exercise of their powers and duties, or for any act done in the exercise
 of those powers and duties.
- Article 361 is an exception to Article 14 (Right to Equality).
- Protection from Criminal Proceedings: Under Article 361(2), no criminal proceedings whatsoever shall be instituted or continued against the President, or the Governor of a State, in any court during his term of office.
- No Arrest: Under Article 361(3), no arrest or imprisonment processes can be issued against the President or Governor during their term of office.



- Protection from Civil Proceedings: Under Article 361(4), no civil lawsuits can be filed against the President or Governor of a State during their term of office for any personal acts until two months after giving written notice.
- The notice must include the nature of the proceedings, the cause of action, the party filing the lawsuit, and the relief being sought.

How has the Courts Interpreted Article 361?

- Dr SC Barat And Anr vs. Hari Vinayak Pataskar Case, 1961: In this, a distinction was made between the Governor's official and personal conduct. While complete immunity is granted for official actions, civil proceedings can be initiated with the prior notice of 2 months for the Governor's actions.
- Rameshwar Prasad vs. Union of India Case, 2006: The Supreme Court acknowledged the Governor's
 "complete immunity" under Article 361(1) for constitutional actions but allowed judicial scrutiny for
 malafide actions.
 - This case established that while official actions are protected, there are mechanisms for accountability.
- Madhya Pradesh High Court, 2015: In the Vyapam scam case, the court ruled that Governor Ram Naresh Yadav had "absolute protection" under Article 361(2) from malicious publicity while in office.
 - His name was removed from the investigation to prevent undue legal harassment, maintaining the integrity of the office.
- State of UP vs. Kalyan Singh Case, 2017: The Supreme Court held that Kalyan Singh, then Governor of Rajasthan, was entitled to immunity under Article 361 while in office. Charges related to the Babri Masjid demolition would proceed once he ceased to be Governor, reinforcing the protection of the Governor's duties and dignity.
- Telangana High Court Judgment (2024): In this, HC observed that "there is no express or implicit bar in the Constitution which excludes the power of judicial review in respect of an action taken by the Governor".
 - Further, the court stated that Article 361 immunity is personal and does not exclude judicial review



CENTRE DEFENDS FACT-CHECK UNIT, SAYS RIGHT TO CORRECT INFORMATION IMPORTANT

Centre defends fact-check unit, says right to correct information important

The Hindu Bureau

MUMBAI

Defending the formation of a fact-checking unit (FCU), the Union government said in the Bombay High Court on Wednesday that the right to know factually correct information and the right to not be misled were equally important as the right to freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(1)(a).

Stand-up artist Kunal Kamra, the Editors Guild of India, and the Association of Indian Magazines have challenged the constitutionality of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2023 that permit an FCU of the Union government to identify "fake or false or misleading" online content "related to the business of the Central Government" and



The Centre will continue its arguments in the Bombay High Court on Thursday.

demand its removal.

Tie-breaker judge Justice A.S. Chandurkar is hearing arguments in the case after a Division Bench of the High Court delivered a split verdict on January 31.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the Union government, said the FCU would prevent people from false information.

"This approach represents the least restrictive method to counteract fake, false, and misleading infor-

mation. Private companies and individuals also maintain fact-checking units and the government is similarly justified in providing accurate information to the public. In many instances, the government acts as the adjudicator and beneficiary. However, in this context, my [government's] role is simply to identify and highlight instances of falsehood or misinformation," he said.

The petitioners completed their argument in April, contending that the amendment enables the government to be the "prosecutor, the judge, and in that loose sense, the executioner" of what constitutes the 'truth' online, thereby violating the cardinal principles of natural justice. They also pointed out that "over-broad vague" nature of the rules created a "chilling effect" on the freedom of speech

and expression guaranteed under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution.

Mr. Mehta said the argument of "chilling effect" was incorrect.

"We (government) are not the final arbiter here. Just like individuals, the government can also intimate. The FCU is a methodical way of doing that. And being a statutory regime, it has consequences. We are not the arbiter. The first arbiter is the intermediary, the final arbiter is a court of competent jurisdiction. The right to be informed correctly is necessarily inherent in my right under Article 21. Because. if somebody's freedom of speech incites violence or threatens public order, it directly infringes my right under Article 21," Mr. Mehta added.

The government will continue its arguments on Thursday.



GANDHI SAGAR SANCTUARY-GRASSLANDS IN KUTCH LIKELY TO HOST CHEETAHS FROM AFRICA

Grasslands in Kutch likely to host cheetahs from Africa

While the Gandhi Sagar sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh is the preferred location for the next lot of imports, Banni in Gujarat is also getting readied to house some of the big cats to land in India

Jacob Koshy NEW DELHI

ome of the next batch of cheetahs being brought in from Africa, as part of the next phase of Project Cheetah, may be sent to a cheetah-breeding and conservation centre being built in the sprawling grasslands of Banni in the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat, senior officials in the Environment Ministry told *The Hindu*.

While the Gandhi Sagar sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh is the preferred location for the next lot of wild cats, with Banni being considered a potential habitat for over a decade, officials say there is a surge in activity to set up basic infrastructure in Banni and get it ready this year.

"The next [lot of] animals will go to Gandhi Sagar. However, the Gujarat government is setting up suitable enclosures in Banni where cheetahs can be bred. If all goes to plan, there is no reason (the site) cannot be readied in the next six months and some animals sent there," an official told *The Hindu*.

Banni is a vast grassland in the southern part of Kutch and extends to near-



Banni is a vast grassland in the southern part of Kutch and extends to nearly 3,500 sq.km. VIJAY SONEJI

ly 3,500 square kilometres. While that is plenty of space, more than that available in Kuno and Gandhi Sagar, there is barely enough prey to sustain a viable population.

Antelope species such as chinkara and blackbuck – the prey for the cheetah – are present in the Banni landscape but not enough for the big cat. "It will take years for enough prey, and practically this means chital – the main prey for the cheetahs in India – needs to be brought into these grasslands. There isn't an official plan yet but it is a site that is under consideration," the official added.

While the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department is tasked with managing the cheetahs at Kuno in Madhya Pradesh, an expert steering committee gives scientific input on managing the programme. This includes recommending future sites for introducing fresh batches of cheetahs at regular intervals.

Of the 20 adult cheetahs brought to Kuno since September 2022, 13 survive. Additionally there are 13 cubs, making it 26 animals overall. However, the maximum capacity (in terms of available prey) of the Kuno reserve is for 21 adult animals.

The government's estimate is that India will need to import anywhere between 10 and 12 adult cheetahs every year for the next five years to groom a sus-

tainable breeding population. "One attractive aspect of Banni is that there are no leopards. So with enough prey, we can overtime sustain a larger population. But this is a longterm plan," an official said.

In October, all of the cheetahs in Kuno are expected to be released into the wild. Currently, most of them are in the bomas, or large enclosures that are a kilometre wide and long. These animals were brought in after infections and acclimatisation problems led to fatalities. Following the release of all the animals into the wild, preparations for the next batch are expected to begin - again from South Africa and Namibia.



Context: The central government has approved a proposal to establish a <u>cheetah conservation</u> <u>breeding centre in Gujarat's Kutch district's</u> Banni grassland.

Aspect	Details
Location	Banni Grassland is situated near the Great Rann of Kutch in Gujarat.
Size	It is considered to be the <u>largest Grassland</u> <u>in Asia</u> , spreading over 2,618 kilometres and accounting for almost <u>45% of the pastures in Gujarat</u> .
Formation	The land in Banni was formed from the <u>sediments deposited by the Indus and other rivers</u> <u>o</u> ver thousands of years.
Ecosystem	Two ecosystems, wetlands, and grasslands, coexist in Banni.
Vegetation	The vegetation is sparse and highly <u>dependent on rainfall</u> . It is dominated by <u>low-growing forbs</u> <u>and graminoids</u> , many of which are halophiles (salt-tolerant). The grasslands were traditionally managed by a system of rotational grazing.
Flora and Fauna	Rich biodiversity with <u>192 species of plants, 262 species of birds</u> , several species of mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. It is also known for the Banni breed of buffaloes
Reserve Forest Status	In 1955, the court notified the grassland as a reserve forest. In 2019, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) ordered to demarcation of the boundaries of Banni grassland and <u>restricted non-forest activities.</u>
	Most of the <u>livestock keepers in Banni</u> belong to the <u>Maldhari community</u> . They rear the Banni or Sindhi buffalo, <u>Kankrej cattle</u> , sheep, goats, horses, donkeys and camels
Significance	The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) has identified Banni Grassland as one of the <u>last remaining</u> <u>habitats of the cheetah in India</u> .

