GEOGRAPHY 26 October 2026

The Sundarbans at the Crossroads of Climate Change and Human Survival

A recent commentary highlighted the Sundarbans as a major epicenter of climate-induced displacement and distress migration, proposing the 'Amphibious Living Opportunities' framework.

The Sundarbans is the largest contiguous mangrove forest on Earth, formed by the delta of the Ganga, Brahmaputra, and Meghna rivers across India and Bangladesh.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- **India** comprises **40%** of the total area of the vast and ever-shifting Sundarbans mangrove forest.
- The delta derives its name from the **Sundari** (**Heritiera fomes**), the tall mangrove species flourishing abundantly in the region.
- The term 'Sunderbunds' was coined by **Walter Hamilton** in the **East India Gazetteer**, meaning 'Forests of the Soondry'.
- The Sundarbans are formed where the **Ganga**, Brahmaputra, and Meghna rivers discharge into the **Bay of Bengal**.
- Four protected areas within the Sundarbans landscape are recognized as **UNESCO World Heritage Sites** across India and Bangladesh.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

Mangrove forests in India are predominantly distributed along the tropical and subtropical coastlines, with **West Bengal** hosting the largest share due to the Sundarbans.

The Sundarbans National Park in India was declared a core region of the **Sundarbans Tiger Reserve** in **1973**.

Article 48A of the Constitution of India directs the State to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country.

The Sundarbans was designated as a **Ramsar Wetland Site** in **January 2019**, making it the largest Ramsar site in India.

The **Wildlife Protection Act** was enacted by the Parliament of India in **1972** to provide for the protection of wild animals, birds, and plants.

Mangrove ecosystems act as natural bio-shields against tropical cyclones, storm surges, and coastal erosion in the **Bay of Bengal** region.

REVISION FLASHCARD

The Sundarbans is the world's largest contiguous mangrove forest, with 40% located in India and designated as a Ramsar site.

Syllabus Relevance: High relevance for TNPSC Group 1 and Group 2 Geography syllabus covering Indian river systems, deltas, mangrove ecosystems, and environmental conservation.

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