



Date - 23 April 2022

Arunachal Pradesh and Assam dispute

- Recently the governments of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam have decided to set up district-level committees to resolve border disputes.
- These district committees will undertake joint survey in disputed areas to find concrete solutions to the long pending issue on the basis of historical perspective, ethnicity and proximity, will of the people and administrative convenience of both the states.

Border disputes in the country:

Assam-Arunachal Pradesh:

- Assam shares an inter-state border of 804.10 km with Arunachal Pradesh. The state of Arunachal Pradesh, created in 1987, claims that some of the land traditionally owned by its residents has been given to Assam.
- A tripartite committee had recommended that some areas be shifted from Assam to Arunachal. Both the states are in the shelter of the court regarding this issue.

Assam-Mizoram:

- Mizoram used to be a district of Assam before becoming a separate union territory which later became a separate state.
- Mizoram shares its border with Cachar, Hailakandi and Karimganj districts of Assam.
- With the passage of time, different perceptions of both the states started forming about the demarcation.
- Mizoram wants it to be along an internal line notified in 1875 to protect the tribals from external influence, which Mizos consider to be part of their historical homeland, Assam believes the boundary was drawn up later be done within limits.

Assam-Nagaland:

- The border dispute between the two states has been going on since the formation of Nagaland in the year 1963.
- Both the states claim Merapani, a small village next to the plains of Golaghat district of Assam.
- Violent clashes have been reported in the region since the 1960s.

Assam-Meghalaya:

- Meghalaya has identified about a dozen areas over which it has disputes with Assam over the state's boundaries.

Haryana-Himachal Pradesh:

- The northern states of the two have a border dispute over the Parwanoo region, which is located near the Panchkula district of Haryana.
- Haryana has claimed a large area of land and has accused Himachal Pradesh of occupying some hilly areas of Haryana.

Ladakh-Himachal Pradesh:

- Both the Union Territories of Ladakh and Himachal claim the Sarchu region, which is a major stopover point for those traveling on the Leh-Manali highway.
- This region is situated between Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh and Leh district of Ladakh.

Maharashtra-Karnataka:

- Perhaps the biggest border dispute in the country is between Maharashtra and Karnataka over Belgaum district.
- Belgaum has a large population of both Marathi and Kannada speaking people and there have been conflicts in the region in the past between the two states.
- This area used to be part of Bombay Presidency during the British, but after the reorganization of the states in the year 1956, it was included in Karnataka.

Why are interstate border disputes unresolved?

Idea of Reorganization on Linguistic Basis:

- Although the States Reorganization Commission, 1956 was based on administrative convenience, the reorganized states were largely similar to the idea of one language one state.

Geographical Complexity:

- The second complication has been the region, where rivers, hills and forests are spread across the two states at many places and the boundaries cannot be physically marked.
- Colonial maps left large areas of the northeast outside Assam as “thick forests” or marked as “unexplored”.

Indigenous Community:

- Indigenous communities for the most part were left alone. Boundaries were drawn only when “needed” for administrative convenience.
- The demarcation of the year 1956 did not resolve the discrepancies.
- When new states were carved out of Assam (Nagaland in 1963, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Tripura and Manipur in 1972 and Arunachal Pradesh in 1987), it was also ignored.

Earth Day

- The 52nd anniversary of Earth Day was celebrated on April 22, 2022. Earth Day is an international event celebrated around the world to pledge support for environmental protection.
- The theme of Earth Day, 2022 is “Invest in our Planet”.

Background:

- For the first time Earth Day was celebrated in the year 1970. It started after the call of US Senator Gaylord Nelson, as a result of which about 20 million people took to the streets to protest against environmental degradation.
- It was fueled by the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill, as well as other issues such as smog and polluted rivers.
- In the year 2009, the United Nations announced to celebrate 22 April as ‘International Mother Earth Day’.

About Earth Day:

- Earth Day is organized globally by EARTHDAY.ORG, a non-profit organization. It was formerly known as the Earth Day Network.

- Its aim is to “build the world’s largest environmental movement to bring about transformative change in people and the earth.”
- It accepts a collective responsibility, as stated in the 1992 Rio Declaration (Earth Summit), to promote harmony with nature and the earth to ensure the economic, social and environmental protection of present and future generations of humanity. To strike a balance between the needs.
- It is worth noting that due to its international importance, the day of Earth Day (April 22, 2016) was chosen for the signing of the historic Paris Agreement by the United Nations in the year 2016 to deal with climate change.

Other Important Days:

- **March 22:** World Water Day
- **April 22:** Earth Day
- **May 22:** International Day for Biodiversity
- **June 5:** World Environment Day
- Earth Overshoot Day
- Earth Hour

Earth hour

- Is an annual initiative of the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF), which started in the year 2007? It is organized every year on the last Saturday of March.
- It encourages people from more than 180 countries to switch off the lights from 8.30 pm to 9.30 pm as per their local time.
- This symbolic call for environmental protection aims to reduce the use of non-essential lighting to save energy.

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