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27 February 2024

West Bengal News

Singalila National Park

Context:

- The Forest Department's **decision to prohibit the movement of ponies inside Singalila National Park**, known for its trekking route to Sandakphu, has sparked anger among locals.
- The ban is based on concerns that ponies could spread diseases to wildlife in the park.
- This move has been met with opposition from villagers who have relied on pony rides for income for generations.

About:

- **Singalila National Park** is a national park of India located on the Singalila Ridge at an altitude of more than **7000 feet above mean sea level, in the Darjeeling district of West Bengal**.
- It is well known for the **trekking route to Sandakphu that runs through it**.
- The park is part of the **Eastern Himalayas**.
- The two highest peaks of West Bengal, **Sandakphu (3630 m) and Phalut (3600 m)** are located on the ridge and inside the park. River Rammam and River Sirikhola flow through the park.
- Singalila National Park, managed by the Darjeeling Wildlife Division, spans 78 square kilometers and is **home to red pandas, Himalayan black bears, and around 350 bird species**.
- The trek along the **Singalila Ridge to Sandakphu and Phalut is one of the most popular ones in the Eastern Himalayas, due to the grand vistas of the Kangchenjunga range, and the Everest range which can be seen from the ridge**.

Teesta River

Context:

- The Bengal irrigation department has allocated approximately Rs 28 crore for repairing the **embankments of the Teesta and other rivers in Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar districts ahead of the upcoming monsoon**.



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Key points:

- The Teesta River originates in the **Himalayas and flows through the Indian States of Sikkim and West Bengal** before entering Bangladesh, where it flows into the Brahmaputra.
- The source of the Teesta River is the So Lamo Lake at an altitude of 5,330 meters (17,487 ft) in the Himalayas in North Sikkim.
- Actually the river's Bengali name Teesta comes from Trisrota or three streams. It is called the lifeline of Sikkim and North Bengal.

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