Committee to Implement Biodiversity Act

Why in News?

Recently, the **Madhya Pradesh high court** ordered the state government to **set up a committee** to implement the **Biodiversity Act, 2002.**

Key Points

- The high court started hearing the case as a **Public Interest Litigation (PIL)** after taking **suo motu** cognisance of a report published on protests by tribals against the translocation of **Baobab trees** by a Hyderabad businessman.
    - The report highlighted the heritage and historical value of the trees, native to Africa, but likely **brought to this corner of Madhya Pradesh by African soldiers** hired **by the local Islamic Kingdoms between the 10th and 17th century.**
- The state government subsequently stripped the forest department of power to permit translocation of Dhar's famed Baobab trees, and decided that this can be done only by the **State Biodiversity Board.**

The Biological Diversity Act, 2002

- The act was enacted in 2002, it **aims at the conservation of biological resources,** managing its **sustainable use** and **enabling fair and equitable sharing benefits** arising out of the use and knowledge of biological resources with the local communities.

Baobab Trees

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- **Type of Trees:** Baobabs are **deciduous trees** ranging in **height from 5 to 20 meters.**
  - Deciduous forest is a vegetation composed primarily of broad-leaved trees that **shed all their leaves during one season.**
- **Found in: The African baobab (Adansonia digitata)** is one of the **nine species of baobab and is native to mainland Africa.** They are also found in **African Savannah.**
  - The African savanna ecosystem is a **tropical grassland** with **warm temperatures year-round** and with its highest seasonal rainfall in the summer.
- **Tree of Life:** As African baobab is a succulent, which means that during the rainy season it absorbs and stores water in its vast trunk, enabling it to produce a nutrient-dense fruit in the dry season when all around is dry and arid.

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