



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 12-04-2024

GS-2

1. Right to Privacy

GS-3

2. Lavender cultivation
3. TSAT 1A Satellite
4. Indian Laurel Tree
5. Karwar naval base

Right to Privacy

Syllabus: GS-2: Fundamental Rights & SC judgments.

Context:

- *The Supreme Court on April 9 held that an election candidate has a right to privacy from voters and need not lay out every scrap of his or her personal life and possessions, past and present, for the electorate to examine with a magnifying glass.*

Right to Privacy for Election Candidates:

- *Candidates have a right to privacy from voters.*
- *They don't need to disclose every detail of their personal life and possessions to voters.*

Legal Ruling:

- *The Supreme Court decided that a candidate's choice to maintain privacy on irrelevant personal matters isn't a corrupt practice under the law.*
- *Non-disclosure of certain personal details doesn't constitute a substantial defect in candidacy.*

What Candidates Must Disclose:

- *Candidates aren't obligated to reveal every small possession unless it's significant enough to affect their candidacy or lifestyle.*
- *Items like clothing, shoes, crockery, etc., need not be disclosed unless they represent substantial assets or affect the candidate's suitability for office.*

Judgment Specifics:

- *Each case will be judged individually on what constitutes substantial non-disclosure.*
- *Suppression of information about valuable possessions like expensive watches would be considered a defect.*

Case Example:

- *The judgment was made in response to a petition by an MLA challenging a court's decision to void his election due to not declaring certain vehicles as assets.*
- *The Supreme Court ruled in favor of the MLA, stating that the vehicles, once sold, couldn't be considered as assets anymore.*

Purpose of Asset Declaration:

- *Asset declaration aims to enhance voters' right to information and enable them to make informed choices.*
- *Voters have a right to essential information for making rational voting decisions.*

Key Figures:

- *The total worth of the candidate's assets and income far exceeded the value of the vehicles in question, making their non-disclosure insignificant.*

Conclusion:

- *The disclosure of assets is intended to promote democratic participation and informed voting decisions.*

Lavender cultivation

Syllabus: GS-3; Agriculture

Context

- *lavender turned small farmers into big businessmen in J-K's Doda*



Geographical conditions

- **Soil**
 - *Lavender grows best in low to moderately-fertile soils with a pH between 5.8 and 8.3. You can add lime to raise the soil pH to around 7.0. Too moist soils can cause poor plant growth, diseases, or kill the plant. English lavenders prefer alkaline soils, whereas the lavandin varieties require slightly more acidic soils.*
- **Spacing**

- *Depending on the variety, space plants 1 to 3 feet apart.*
- **Planting**
 - *Prepare a planting hole that's twice as deep and twice as wide as the root ball of your lavender plant.*
- **Climate**
 - *Lavender thrives in the arid West, but is best grown as annuals or container plants in the South, as they do not thrive in areas of high humidity.*

Is lavender farming profitable in India?

- *Lavender, which can be grown in areas that experience snowfall and have a hilly terrain, blossoms and is ready for harvesting two-and-a-half years after it is planted.*
- *The same plant can bear flowers for 18-20 years, and does not require the amount of insecticides, pesticides, and other chemicals used on conventional crops like maize and paddy.*

Contribution

- **Biodiversity**
 - *Lavender plants attract a wide range of pollinators and other beneficial insects, which helps create a balanced ecosystem.*
- **Local flora and fauna**
 - *Increased lavender cultivation can help preserve local flora and fauna, which can have positive environmental impacts.*
- **Sustainable agricultural practices**
 - *Lavender cultivation can support sustainable agricultural practices.*
- **Skill development**
 - *Training programs and skill development initiatives may help farmers and entrepreneurs acquire new agricultural techniques, processing methods, and marketing strategies.*
- **Economic growth**
 - *The cultivation of lavender in Kashmir has become a booming business due to the government's aroma mission, and the increasing demand for lavender in the international market.*
- **Rural employment**
 - *The Aroma Mission through the Purple Revolution aims to generate rural employment through targeted interventions during cultivation, product refinement, market development, and curating an expansion strategy for the lavender crop.*

- **Health benefits**

- *Research into the potential health benefits of lavender residue from flower steam distillation could offer farmers a lucrative opportunity.*

Know more

- *Bhaderwah in Jammu region has been called the Lavender capital of India.*

TSAT 1A Satellite

Syllabus: GS-3: Science and Technology – Satellites.

Context:

- *TASL announces successful deployment of sub-metre resolution optical satellite TSAT-1A.*

Launch Details:

- **Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL)** deployed TSAT-1A, an optical satellite, into space.
- The deployment occurred **via SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket** as part of the Bandwagon-1 mission.
- The launch took place from **Kennedy Space Centre, Florida, U.S.**, on April 7 at 11:16 p.m. UTC.

Purpose:

- *TASL collaborated with Satellogic in November 2023 for this project.*
- *TSAT-1A aims to **provide high-resolution optical satellite images** with advanced capabilities.*
- *It offers increased collection capacity, dynamic range, and low-latency delivery using **multispectral and hyperspectral technologies.***

Indian Laurel Tree

Syllabus: GS-3: Biodiversity in India.

Context:

- Forest officials in Andhra Pradesh's Alluri Sitharama Raju district discovered water gushing out of the bark of an Indian laurel tree in **Papikonda National Park**.



About Indian Laurel tree

- Forest authorities observed water gushing out while cutting the trunk of a **Terminalia elliptica tree, also known as Indian Laurel or Nalla Maddi**.
- The **Indian Laurel tree** is native to southern and southeast Asia, thriving in countries like India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam.
- The bark of the tree is fire-resistant, and its wood is used for crafting furniture and musical instruments.
- The leaves of the **Nalla Maddi tree** are a primary food source for *Antheraea paphia* silkworms, which produce tussar silk, a commercially valuable wild silk.
- **Kintukuru village** is located in the Rampachodavaram mandal of the former East Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh.

About Konda Reddi Tribes:

- **The Konda Reddi tribe is a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) in India, primarily located along the banks of the river Godavari and in the hilly forest tracts of Godavari and Khammam districts of Andhra Pradesh.**

Language and Culture:

- **The Konda Reddis speak Telugu with a unique accent.**
- They are **divided into exogamous septs** for regulating matrimonial relations.
- Each sept is exogamous, but certain septs are considered brother septs, prohibiting marriage alliances within them.

Family and Marriage:

- The family structure is **patriarchal and patrilocal**.
- While **monogamy is the norm**, polygamous families are also found.
- Marriage practices include negotiations, love and elopement, service, capture, and exchange.

Political Organization:

- They have their own social control institution called '**Kula Panchayat**'.
- Each village is led by a traditional headman **known as 'Pedda Kapu'**, whose position is hereditary.
- The headman also serves as the **priest (Pujari) of the village deities**.

Livelihood:

- The Konda Reddi tribe primarily **relies on shifting cultivation**.
- They **depend on the forest for their livelihood**, collecting and selling non-timber forest produce such as tamarind, adda leaves, myrobolan, and broom sticks.
- **Jowar is a staple food for them**, and they cultivate it extensively.

About Papikonda National Park

- Papikonda National Park is situated in the **East and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh, India**.
- Here are some key features of the national park:

Location and Importance:

- **Papikonda National Park** is located in the **East and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh**.
- The area is significant for its high precipitation, which contributes to the origin of various small streams and rivulets that enrich the perennial River Godavari.

Unique Wildlife:

- The national park is home to a unique dwarf breed of goat known **locally as the "kanchumekha."**
- It supports a diverse range of wildlife, including tigers, leopards, hyenas, and the vulnerable Indian gaur.
- Other notable species include sambar deer, barking deer, chowsinga, and spotted deer.
- **Papikonda National Park** was declared a national park relatively recently, in 2008.
- **Biodiversity:**
- The park has been recognized as an **Important Bird and Biodiversity Area** by BirdLife International.

- *It features various vegetation types, including Dry Mixed Teak Forests, Southern dry mixed deciduous forests, and Southern moist mixed deciduous forests.*
- *The predominant forest type is **Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous**, characterized by dry deciduous species.*
- *Some of the flora species found in the park include Albizia Amara, Albizia Latifolia, Albizia Lebbeck, Terminalias, Tectona Grandis, Lagerstroemia Lanceolata, Tomentosa, Arundinacea, Bambusa, Dendrocalamus Strictus, and Pterocarpus.*

Karwar naval base

Syllabus: GS-3; Security Challenges & their Management in Border Areas

Context

- *Navy Chief Admiral R. Hari Kumar inaugurated a 350m long major pier for Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) and a residential accommodation at Naval Base Karwar.*

Project Seabird

- *These **infrastructure developments** are part of the ongoing Phase IIA of Project Seabird, which will accommodate 32 ships and submarines, 23 yardcraft, a dual-use Naval Air Station, a full fledged naval dockyard, four covered dry berths and logistics for ships and aircraft.*
- *The ongoing construction of Phase IIA of Project Seabird has **created 7,000 direct and 20,000 indirect jobs.***
- *The project aligns with **Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative**, sourcing over 90% of material domestically.*

Naval base

- *A naval base, navy base, or military port is a military base, **where warships and naval ships are docked when they have no mission at sea or need to restock.***
- *Ships may also undergo repairs.*

Where is India's largest naval base?

- ***INS Kadamba or Naval Base Karwar or Project Seabird** is an Indian Navy base located near Karwar in Karnataka.*
- *The first phase of construction of the base, code-named Project Seabird, was completed in 2005 and the base was commissioned on 31 May 2005.*

The Indian Navy's major bases

- *Mumbai, Goa, Karwar, Kochi, Chennai, Visakhapatnam, Kolkata, and Port Blair.*
- *The Indian Navy also has two fleets of the largest ships.*
- *In March 2024, India opened a new naval base on an island in the Indian Ocean close to the Maldives.*
- *The base, **INS Jatayu**, is located on Lakshadweep's Minoy Island, about 130 kilometers from Tuuku, the Maldives' northernmost island.*
- *The base will help India achieve maritime domain awareness, with the military deploying officers and setting up radar stations to oversee the waters around the island.*