



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 18-01-2024

GS-1

1. Chandubi Festival

GS-2

2. PM Kisan

GS-3

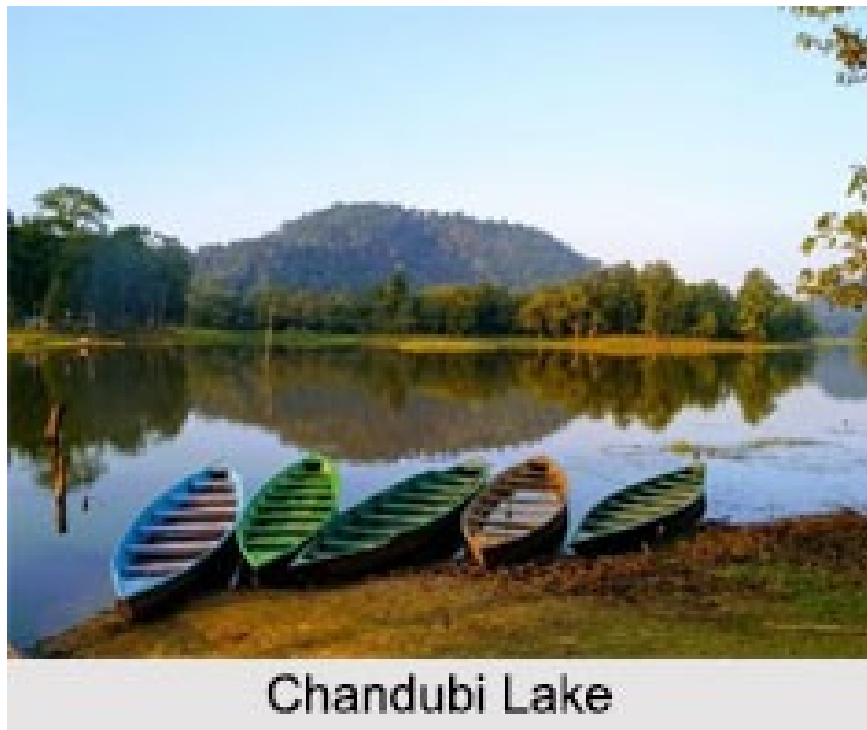
3. What are the complaints about digi Yatra?
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Chandubi Festival

Syllabus: GS-1; Art and Culture

Context

- *The Chandubi Festival is a vibrant event that takes place near the picturesque Chandubi Lake in Assam's Kamrup district.*



About

- *The Chandubi Festival is a five-day celebration of **Assamese culture and traditions** that takes place annually near Chandubi Lake in Assam's Kamrup.*
- *The festival begins on New Year's Day and **aims to promote and preserve the cultural heritage of the tribal communities living near the lake.***
- *The festival includes local folk culture, ethnic cuisine, local handloom and dresses, and boating.*
- *It also serves as a rallying point for environmental awareness, with the goal of sustaining the biodiversity hotspot.*

Significance

- *The Chandubi Festival serves as a platform not only for cultural festivities but also as a rallying point for **environmental awareness, aligning with the crucial goal of sustaining this precious biodiversity hotspot in Assam.***

PM Kisan

Syllabus: GS-2: Schemes for welfare of weaker sections of society.

Context:

- *Every fourth beneficiary added under PM-Kisan over past 2 months is a woman.*

More about news:

- *The new beneficiaries were added to the scheme under the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY), the Centre's flagship initiative to raise awareness on its schemes.*

About Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY)

- *Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) is a **nationwide campaign launched** by the Government of India in November 2022.*
- *The campaign is aimed at **taking the benefits of various government schemes and initiatives** to the doorsteps of the people, especially those living in rural and remote areas.*
- *The campaign is being **led by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO)** and is being implemented by various central and state government departments.*

Objectives

- *Ensure that all eligible beneficiaries are aware of the government schemes and initiatives available to them.*
- *Facilitate the implementation of government schemes and initiatives in a timely and efficient manner.*
- *Address the grievances of the people and ensure that their feedback is taken into account.*

Target audience

- *The target audience of VBSY is the entire population of India, with a special focus on the poor, marginalized and vulnerable sections of society.*

Mode of implementation

- *The VBSY campaign is being implemented through a **series of roadshows, public outreach programs and social media campaigns.***

- *The roadshows are being **organized by the PMO and various central and state government departments.***
- *These roadshows will cover **all parts of the country, including rural and remote areas.***
- *The public outreach programs will be **organized by the government at the local level.***
- *These programs will provide information about the **government schemes and initiatives available to the people.***
- *The social media campaigns will be used to **reach out to a wider audience.***

About PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana for UPSC Exam

- *The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana (PM-KISAN), is a direct benefit transfer (DBT) scheme launched by the Government of India in 2019.*

Objectives:

- *Supplement the income of eligible farmers and their families.*
- *Enable farmers to make investments in farm inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, and implements.*
- *Reduce the dependence of farmers on moneylenders and prevent them from falling into debt traps.*
- *Improve the overall welfare of farmers and their families.*

Eligibility:

- *All Indian farmers owning cultivable **land up to 2 hectares** are eligible for the scheme.*
- *There is **no landholding limit for landless farmers** cultivating someone else's land as tenants or sharecroppers.*
- *Institutional Landowners such as **Temples, Mutts etc. are not eligible.***
- *Non-resident Indians, Income Tax Payers and people from higher income groups are not eligible.*

Benefits:

- *An **annual income support of Rs. 6,000** is provided to each eligible farmer family.*
- *The amount is disbursed in **three equal installments of Rs. 2,000** each, directly transferred to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.*
- *The first installment is transferred in April-May, the second in July-August, and the third in October-November.*

Implementation:

- *The scheme is implemented through the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**.*
- ***State governments** are responsible for identification and verification of eligible beneficiaries.*
- *The funds are transferred directly to the bank accounts of beneficiaries through the **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** system.*

What are the complaints about digi Yatra?

Syllabus: GS-3: Transportation sector – Civil Aviation.

Context:

- *In December 2023: During the busy holiday season, a concerning discovery was made. Airports experienced a surge in air travel during this period.*
- ***Unauthorized collection of facial biometrics** was found at airport entry gates. The individuals involved were security personnel and private staff.*
- *This data collection was done **without the consent or knowledge** of passengers. The purpose was for the Digi Yatra app, which was not disclosed to the passengers.*

What are the complaints from air travellers?

- ***Surge in complaints** from air travelers last month.*
- *Complaints focused on the "**coercive and deceptive**" methods used during enrollment for Digi Yatra.*
- ***Both private staff and CISF personnel** were involved in enrolling passengers.*
- *CISF personnel at entry gates **requested passengers to scan boarding passes and capture photos**.*
- ***Consent for Digi Yatra registration** was provided on behalf of passengers without their permission or knowledge.*
- *Enrolment for Digi Yatra intensified in December due to high airport footfall.*

What is Digi Yatra? What are its objectives?

- ***Aims to facilitate digital processing** of passengers at airports for a paperless and seamless experience.*
- ***Checkpoints covered include** entry gate, security check area, and boarding gate.*

Objectives:

- **Promote digital processing** for efficient movement through airport checkpoints.
- Introduced by the **Ministry of Civil Aviation in 2018** as a voluntary program.
- Initially rolled out in December 2022 at three airports, expanded to 13 airports, and planned for 24 more in 2024.

Ownership and Funding:

- Digi Yatra app is **owned by the Digi Yatra Foundation**, a consortium including the Airports Authority of India and five private airports.
- **Government doesn't provide funding**; airports spend from their own resources.

Registration Process:

- Passengers download the app and provide name, mobile number, email, and Aadhaar document for registration.
- Selfie upload for facial recognition leads to the creation of a Digi Yatra travel ID.
- Uploading air tickets updates the ID with travel details.

Airport Process:

- At e-gates, passengers scan their boarding pass and undergo a facial scan.
- Successful face verification opens the e-gate, creating a passenger dataset.
- This dataset, a combination of facial scan and **Passenger Name Record (PNR)**, serves as a single token for subsequent checkpoints.
- **Enables quick facial scans** without the need for a physical boarding pass.

Benefits:

- Improves operational efficiency.
- Allows faster processing of passengers.
- Helps airlines track delayed passengers.
- Enhances security by preventing pass exchange or incorrect boarding.

India's first Dark sky park

Syllabus: GS-3; Environment and Ecology

Context

- **The Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR)** in Maharashtra has been marked as India's first Dark Sky Park and the fifth such park in Asia for **protecting the night sky and preventing light pollution**, making the facility ideal for astronomy enthusiasts.



More to know

- **The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** emphasises on the recognition of the intrinsic value of the night sky as a natural, cultural, and historical resource.
- The Dark and Quiet Skies for Science and Society Working Group, led by the International Astronomical Union, has recommended the establishment of 'Dark Sky Oases' by national and local governments
- The Dark Sky Place certification focuses on lighting policy, dark sky-friendly retrofits, outreach and education, and monitoring the night sky.

About Pench Tiger Reserve

- Pench Tiger Reserve or Pench National Park is one of the **premier tiger reserves of India and the first one to straddle across two states - Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.**
- The fictional works of Rudyard Kipling, *The Jungle Book* and *The Second Jungle Book*, are set in the region. Kipling himself never visited the area, instead basing his descriptions on other locations in India.

What is a Dark Sky Park?

- A dark-sky preserve is an area, usually surrounding a park or observatory, that restricts artificial light pollution. The purpose of the dark-sky movement is generally to promote astronomy.

- **The Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO)**, a high-altitude astronomy station located in Hanle, and operated by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, is India's first dark-sky preserve.
- Situated in the Western Himalayas at an elevation of 4,500 meters (14,764 ft), the IAO is one of the world's highest located sites for optical, infrared and gamma-ray telescopes.

India Club

Syllabus: GS-3: Transportation – Coastal and Inland waterways.

Context:

- India is strategically developing its own **Protection and Indemnity (P&I)** entity, aptly named **the India Club**, with the primary objective of offering insurance coverage for vessels navigating its coastal and inland waterways.

What are P&I Clubs?

- P&I clubs function as **mutual insurance associations**, specializing in risk pooling and providing coverage for third-party risks.
- These risks encompass scenarios such as **cargo damage, war, and environmental hazards**.

Aim of the Initiative:

- The overarching goal of this initiative is to **enhance India's resilience to international pressures**, particularly in periods of heightened conflict, as exemplified by situations like the ongoing Russia-Ukraine tensions.
- Initially, the **India Club will concentrate on insuring vessels engaged in domestic movements**, with the leadership of this effort vested in the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways**.
- **Global P&I Club Perspective: International Group of P&I Clubs**
- On the global stage, the **International Group of P&I Clubs** takes center stage, headquartered **in London**.
- Comprising 13 distinct clubs, this international consortium extends coverage to **approximately 90% of the world's ocean-going vessels**.