

KALIKA MATA TEMPLE

SYLLABUS: GS PAPER-I (ART AND CULTURE)

CONTEXT: PM has inaugurated the redeveloped Kalika Mata Temple atop the Pavagadh hill in Panchmahal district of Gujarat.

ABOUT THE TEMPLE:

- It is a Hindu goddess temple complex and pilgrim centre at the summit of **Pavagadh** within the **Champaner-Pavagadh** Archaeological Park, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
- This temple which dates back to **10th or 11th century**, is the site of one of the **Shakti Peethas**
- Kalika Mata Temple has been built in **Nagara style**. The **Shikhara** of the temple which was believed to have been destroyed in the 15th century by Sultan Mahmud Begda during his Champaner conquest, has been rebuilt during the redevelopment programme.
- The temple complex houses the **Hazrat Sadanshah Wali Peer dargah**, that was relocated to a space next to it in an amicable settlement during redevelopment.

BAMBOO DWELLING BAT

SYLLABUS: GS PAPER-III (BIODIVERSITY)

CONTEXT: Scientists have discovered a new species of bamboo dwelling bat from the in **Ri Bhoi** district of **Meghalaya**.

FACTS

- The species, found near the forested patch of **Nongkhylllem Wildlife Sanctuary**, has been named **Glischropus meghalayanus**.
- The present discovery is the first report of a thick-thumbed bat not only from India but also from South Asia.
- The newly discovered species is small in size and has a dark brown colour with sulphur yellowbelly.
- Bamboo-dwelling bats are a particular kind of bats living in the internodes of bamboos with specialized morphological characters that help them to adopt to the life inside a bamboo.
- With this new discovery, the total number of bat species known from India stands at 131. **Meghalaya**, a State with a small geographical area, harbours the highest bat diversity in the country with **67 species**, which is about 51% of total bat species in the country.

WANCHUWA FESTIVAL

SYLLABUS: PRELIMS- HISTORY AND CULTUREFACTS ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

- Wanchuwa Festival is celebrated by the **Tiwa tribesmen** of **Assam** to mark their good harvest.
- People clad in their native attires perform various songs, dances and rituals during the festivity.
- With bamboo sticks in hand, the people proceed to rhythmically beat the rice powder, and occasionally pause to move around the circle.

ABOUT TIWA TRIBESMEN

- Also known as Lalung, this indigenous community inhabits the hills as well as the plains of Assam and Meghalaya.

- It is recognized as a Scheduled Tribe (ST) within the state of Assam.
- They are divided into 2 sub-groups– **Hill Tiwa** and **Plains Tiwa** which have contrasting cultural features.
 1. **Hill Tiwa:** They live in the westernmost areas of Karbi Anglong district. They speak Tibeto-Burman language and practice matrilocality.
 2. **Plains Tiwa:** They live on the flatlands of the Southern bank of the Brahmaputra valley. The vast majority speak Assamese as their mother tongue. Their descent system is patrilineal.

AMRIT SAROVAR MISSION

SYLLABUS: PRELIMS–WELFARE SCHEMES

CONTEXT: In a move that could expedite the implementation of railway and highway projects across the country, the Centre has asked the Ministry of Railways and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to use the soil or silt excavated from ponds and tanks in all districts under the Amrit Sarovar mission for their infrastructure projects. Since the project would involve excavation of several thousands of tonnes of earth in the form of soil or silt, the Ministry of Rural Development has told the Ministry of Railways and the NHAI to map its infrastructure projects with the Amrit Sarovar sites in all States and UTs.

FEATURES OF AMRIT SAROVAR MISSION

- This mission was launched on 24th April, 2022.
- Amrit Sarovar aims to develop & rejuvenate 75 water bodies in each district of the country as a part of celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. In total, it would lead to creation of 50,000 waterbodies of a size of about an acre or more. The Mission Amrit Sarovar is to be completed by 15th August 2023.
- This Mission has been launched with a whole of Government Approach in collaboration with 6 Ministries/Department namely:
 1. Department of Rural Development
 2. Department of land resources
 3. Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation
 4. Department of Water resources
 5. Ministry of Panchayati Raj
 6. Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change
- Technical partner for the Mission–Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Application and Geo-informatics (BISAG–N).
- The Mission works by refocusing on various schemes such as MGNREGA, XV Finance Commission Grants, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) sub schemes such as Watershed Development Component, **Har Khet Ko Pani besides States’ own schemes.**
The Mission encourages mobilisation of citizen and non-government resources for supplementing efforts for water conservation.

BLACK SWAN EVENT

SYLLABUS: GS PAPER–III (INDIAN ECONOMY, MOBILISATION OF RESOURCES)

CONTEXT: As per a study of the Reserve Bank of India, capital outflows to the tune of \$100 billion (around Rs. 7,80,000 crore) are likely to take place from India in a major global risk scenario or a blackswan event.

ABOUT BLACK SWAN EVENT

- The concept of black swan events was popularized by the writer **Nassim Nicholas Taleb** in his book,

"The Black Swan: The Impact Of The Highly Improbable" (Penguin, 2008).

- Black swans are extremely rare events, often with large negative consequences.
- Such events cannot be predicted beforehand, but may seem obvious in hindsight.
- Reliance on standard forecasting tools and investment models can both fail to predict and potentially increase vulnerability to black swans by propagating risk and offering false security.
- Examples: The 1997 Asian financial crisis, Dotcom crash, Brexit etc.

HOW INDIA CAN DEAL WITH BLACK SWAN EVENTS?

Delineating here are certain aspects which India can increasingly focus on as a matter of its strategic interest, in the process of becoming more indigenous, and possibly a more indispensable force globally:

1. **UTILISING SERVICE SECTOR:** India should provide significant emphasis on services which has done consistently well. India's global share in services sector in 2005 stood at 2 per cent which increased to touch 3.1 per cent in 2011 and 4.1 per cent in 2020.
 - The share of the services sector in India's GDP increased from 45 per cent in 2001–02, to 49 percent in 2011–12 and touched 54 per cent in 2020–21.
 - With access to mobile connectivity, the services sector in India can do wonders across less developed, developing and developed economies at a fraction of the cost, allowing India to earn a much greater amount of foreign exchange. Mutual recognition agreements on legal services with countries could open a market for India by offering services at a rate which will be unmatched globally.
2. **REDUCE DEPENDENCY ON CRUDE:** India's dependency on crude remains high and has increased by more than 165 times, and by annualised average growth rate of 5 per cent, between FY01 and FY21.
 - With the ongoing crisis in Europe, the elevated oil prices will result in a domestic inflation and raw-material prices going up.
 - Exploring and using unconventional energy (like natural gas, solar, coal bed methane and fuel cells, amongst others) will not only help the country save billions on imported fuel but also protect it from energy price jolts.
3. **DIVERSIFYING DEFENCE SOURCES:** India accounts for 3.7 per cent of the world military expenditure, making it the third highest military spender.
 - Nearly 70 per cent of military hardware of India is of Russian origin. This exhibits high concentration risk and India needs to diversify a lot more.
 - India should use its strategic position in Asia to leverage and incentivise some of the largest defence companies to produce in India.
4. **FINANCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE:** Given the extremely volatile situation and the uncertainty the world over, India should also consider building an alternative to SWIFT, which could facilitate trade with countries by offering incentives to cut the cost of operating beyond SWIFT. Both Russia and China had developed alternatives to SWIFT—System for Transfer of Financial Messages, and China's Cross-Border International Payments System — a few years ago.
5. **STRONG DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION:** India should help boost household consumption, as this would drive the cycle of growth and to an extent keep India immune from global economic turmoils. Household consumption constitutes the largest part of aggregate demand. The level of consumption by every household is mainly contingent on their level of income.