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Daily
Current
Affairs

Subansiri river in Lakhimpur teeming with Siberian ducks

FARHANA AHMED

MORNOI-BEBEJIA (Dhakuakhana), Feb 23: They are winter migratory birds, flying from as far away as Lake Baikal in Siberia and upper Mongolia. Ruddy shelduck or Brahminy duck (*Tadorna ferruginea*), locally called *Chakoi-Chokuwa*, are coming in large hordes to the river Subansiri in Moghuwachuk in Lakhimpur district.

Besides, there are also the large whistling teal, lesser adjutant stork, pheasant tailed jacana, black-headed gull, Indian river tern, white wagtail, purple moorhen, open-billed stork, cotton pygmy goose, swamp partridge, pied myna, drongo, kingfisher, fishing eagle and many other species.

These exotic migratory birds have begun to arrive from December onwards at a time when most of the wetlands and riverine areas of the district are constantly affected by infrastructure development activities. Large wetlands in the Subansiri basin of Lakhimpur district are being encroached upon and filled with earth for agriculture purposes or are cleared of its natural vegetation for fishery projects under various rural development schemes. These activities are causing extensive damage to the ecosystem of the region, resulting in loss of habitat for different avian and aquatic species.

The nearby 11.25 square km Bordoibaam bird sanctuary in Beelmukh, declared as such by the State government in 1996, has already been lost to encroachment and increased human activities.

However, the arrival of the winged guests from the North Pole region to the abandoned course of the Subansiri has brought cheer to Nature lovers and conservationists. Situated in Moghuwachuk village under Mornoi Gaon Panchayat under Ghilamora Development Block of Dhakuakhana subdivision of Lakhimpur district, the Mora Subansiri was formed following the change of course of the Himalayan glacier-river during the 1999 flood. Since then, the sand bars formed on the left hand side of the abandoned course of the river have evolved as a fertile ground for various oilseeds like mustard and sesame and a home to migratory and local birds.

This year, the number of migratory birds like the Brahminy duck has increased considerably. The local villagers have been protecting birds from any harm and hunting activities, as a result of which their numbers are increasing.

However, in all the nearby sites of this riverine area, these pristine wetlands and water bodies have been constantly vitiated by machinery and vehicles used in sand mining and transporting of materials for various road and bridge projects. The whizzing of earth movers, excavators, dumpers and tractors throughout the day has been disturbing these eco-sensitive areas. Conservationists are also apprehensive that the proposed bridge over the Subansiri at Ghunasuti would further disturb these areas with noise and pollution.

Protection of wetlands and other freshwater bodies in their natural form, plantation of indigenous species of trees and regulated extraction of sand and other mining should be followed for maintaining the balance of these eco-sensitive zones of Lakhimpur district. Massive plantations in newly-evicted forest lands should be the top priority to ensure that the migratory birds return in the next winter season.

Category:
- **Prelims**

Context:
- Recently spotted in the Subansiri River

Brahminy Duck
- **aka - Ruddy Shelduck/ Chakoi (female)-Chokuwa (male) IUCN Status: Least Concerned**
- It is a migratory bird, wintering in the Indian subcontinent and breeding in **southeastern Europe and central Asia.**
- It inhabits inland water-bodies such as lakes, reservoirs and rivers.
- But their nest may be well away from water
- The male and female form a lasting pair bond

Subansiri River
- Trans-Himalayan river
- The total length of the **Subansiri** is about **442 km.**
- Out of which **192 km** lie in **Arunachal Pradesh** and **190 km in Assam** and the rest fall in Tibet.
- **Right/North** bank tributary of **Brahmaputra**
- It is the longest tributary of Brahmaputra.
- It flows through Lakhimpur district.
- Its tributaries are **Jai Dhal (or Kumotia) (Dhemaji), Ranga Nadi (Lakhimpur) and Dikrong (Bihpuria, Lakhimpur).**

BORN TO DANCE

Kanak Rele helped rescue Mohiniyattam from neglect and give it a formal structure

NOTED DANSEUSE KANAK Rele, who died in Mumbai on Wednesday at the age of 85, believed that she was born to dance. She let nothing stand in her way — not a childhood diagnosis of polio and not, later in life as she built her career as one of the country's foremost classical dance performers and researchers, the lack of institutional support and a society that remained largely indifferent to its vast and varied cultural heritage.

This last obstacle was a formidable one, as Rele discovered during her journey to becoming one of India's leading exponents of Mohiniyattam, a classical dance form from Kerala. Born Kanak Divecha into a nationalist family from Gujarat, she grew up steeped in the arts. As a young child, she spent a few years in Shantiniketan where she had moved with her mother and uncle, after her father died. Her uncle was studying at Kala Bhavana and she credited his work with shaping her aesthetic sensibilities. Her formal education in classical dance began with Kathakali under the tutelage of "Panchali" Karunakara Pillai. She also learned Bharatanatyam from the formidable K P Kitappa Pillai, but it was the "exquisite lyricism" of Mohiniyattam that captivated her. She began learning under Kalamandalam Rajalakshmi and as she was drawn deeper into the art form, she realised that a large part of her work would be to rescue it from neglect and vilification as a "devadasi" dance and formalising its structure.

This she did — like she did everything else, including academics — with total dedication and eventually set up the Nalanda Nritya Kala Mahavidyalaya in Mumbai. Driven by her conviction that no traditional performing art form should be studied in isolation, she taught generations of students not only dance, but also its deep links to the music, literature and philosophy of the land. If today Mohiniyattam is one of the eminent classical dance forms of India, some of the credit goes to Rele's unflagging devotion to it.

Category:
- **Prelims**

Kanak Rele
- She was one of **India's leading exponents of Mohiniyattam**, a classical dance form from **Kerala**
- She enedeavoured to rescue **Mohiniyattam** from neglect and vilification as a **"devadasi"** dance and formalising its structure.
- This she did by setting up the Nalanda Nritya Kala Mahavidyalaya in Mumbai
- Her formal education in classical dance, however, began with Kathakali, another classical dance from Kerala

Mohiniyattam
- Mohiniyattam's roots, like all classical Indian dances, are in the Natya Shastra
- However, it follows the Lasya style described in Natya Shastra, which is a dance which is delicate, eros-filled and feminine.
- It is traditionally a solo dance performed by women.

Daily MCQ for APSC CCE Prelims

Consider the following statements regarding Customs Duty

1. Customs duty is a type of Indirect tax levied only on goods imported into India.

2. Both Centre and state government can impose customs duty.

Select the *incorrect* statements using the codes given below

A. 1 Only

B. 2 Only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Ans. C. Both 1 and 2

Customs Duty is a type of indirect tax levied on goods imported into India as well as on goods exported from India. In India, the basic law for levy and collection of customs duty is the Customs Act, 1962. It provides for levy and collection of duty on imports and exports, import/export procedures, prohibitions on importation and exportation of goods, penalties, offences, etc. The Constitutional provisions have given to Union the right to legislate and collect duties on imports and exports. The Central Board of Excise & Customs (CBEC) is the apex body for customs matters.

LUCENT IAS
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Daily MCQ for APSC CCE Prelims

Sometime seen in news the terms Param Siddhi, Param Ganga, Pratyush are related to

A. Student Satellites

B. Loan category under MUDRA Scheme

C. Super Computers

D. Covid-19 Vaccine

Ans. C. Super Computers

India's first supercomputer was PARAM 8000. The National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) has deployed PARAM Ganga-a High-Performance Computational (HPC) facility at IIT Roorkee, with a supercomputing capacity of 1.66 Petaflops.

PARAM Shivay, the first supercomputer assembled indigenously, was installed in IIT (BHU), followed by PARAM Shakti, PARAM Brahma, PARAM Yukti, PARAM Sanganak at IIT-Kharagpur, IISER, Pune, JNCASR, Bengaluru and IIT Kanpur respectively.

In 2020, PARAM Siddhi, the High-Performance Computing-Artificial Intelligence (HPC-AI) supercomputer, achieved global ranking of 62nd in Top 500 most powerful supercomputer systems in the world.

Pratyush and Mihir are the Fastest Supercomputers in India. These are the 2 High-Performance Computing Units (HPC) with a combined speed of 6.8 PetaFlops. Pratyush is established in Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune. Mihir is established in the National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecast (NCMWF), Noida.

Daily MCQ for APSC CCE Prelims

Surya Kiran is military exercise between

A. India and Bhutan

B. India and Nepal

C. India and Bangladesh

D. None of the above

Ans. B. India and Nepal

It is a military exercise conducted annually between India and Nepal.

15th edition- conducted at Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand.

16th Edition- conducted at Saljhandi, Nepal.

Daily MCQ for APSC CCE Prelims

Unakoti, famously known as the Angkor Wat of the North-East is located in

A. Tripura

B. Assam

C. Nagaland

D. Arunachal Pradesh

Ans. A. Tripura

Daily MCQ for APSC CCE Prelims

Integers are listed from **700** to **1000**. In how many integers is the sum of the digits is **10** ?

(UPSC 2021)

A. 6   B. 7   C. 8   D. 9

Correct Answer : **D. 9**

- Between 700 to 800, the possible numbers are: **703, 730, 721, 712**

- Between 800 to 900, the possible numbers are: **802, 820, 811**

- Between 900 to 1000, the possible numbers are: **910, 901**

- Hence, there are 9 integers between 700 to 1000 for which the sum of the digits is 10.