





MOST IMPORTANT TOPICS

- SHILPI DIWAS  GS- 5, PRELIMS
- CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI)  PRELIMS, GS-3
- PENCH TIGER RESERVE  PRELIMS
- eSAKSHI APP  PRELIMS, GS-3, GS-2

PRELIMS PRACTISE QUESTION

Q. Who is called the father of mobile theatre?

- A. Brajanath Sarma
- B. Achyut Lahkar
- C. Nipon Goswami
- D. Hemchandra Goswami

PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. Saryu Ghat is located in

- (a) Guwahati
- (b) Prayagraj
- (c) Ayodhya
- (d) Varanasi

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SHILPI DIWAS



CONTEXT

- Assam celebrated **Silpi Diwas** to commemorate the **70th death anniversary** of **Rupkonwar Jyotiprasad Agarwala**, the father of Assamese films and a poet, lyricist and music composer



EARLY LIFE AND FAMILY BACKGROUND

- **Jyoti Prasad Agarwala** was born into a culturally rich family, with ancestors who significantly contributed to Assamese culture.
- His grandfather, **Chandra Kumar Agarwala**, was a **prominent figure** in **Assamese literature** and a founding member of the **Unnati Sadhini Sabha**.
- Jyoti Prasad's father, Parmananda Agarwala, was a talented singer and behela player, influencing Agarwala's cultural upbringing.

CONTRIBUTION TO LITERATURE AND CULTURE

- Agarwala was a versatile artist, excelling in playwriting, storytelling, novel writing, poetry and more.
- He authored notable plays like "Sonitkonwari," "Lavita," "Rupalim" and others, enriching Assamese drama literature.
- His works often reflected national consciousness and a deep connection with Assamese culture.

PARTICIPATION IN THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT

- Agarwala actively participated in India's freedom struggle under Mahatma Gandhi's leadership.
- He faced imprisonment and physical hardship, including a battle with tuberculosis, due to his involvement in the movement.
- After his release, he continued to contribute to the freedom struggle, including participation in the Quit India Movement of 1942.

IMPACT ON ASSAMESE CINEMA

- Agarwala studied filmmaking in Germany and founded Chitravan Studios in Assam.
- He produced significant Assamese films like "Joymati" and "Indramalati," contributing to the growth of the regional film industry.
- His work in cinema earned him the title of the father of Assamese cinema

LEGACY AND RECOGNITION

- Agarwala's artistic endeavors extended to newspaper editing and leading the Assam Artists' Association.
- His contributions to Assamese culture and society were honored with a commemorative postage stamp by the Indian government in 2004.
- His death anniversary on January 17 is celebrated as "Artist's Day (Silpi Divas)" in Assam, highlighting his enduring influence on art and culture.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI)



CONTEXT

- India's consumer price index (CPI) based inflation rate touched 5.7% in December.



- The **CPI inflation** is nothing but the **rate of inflation** that consumers face.
- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** (MoSPI), releases the data.
- The data shows that the YoY inflation rate has started rising towards the end of 2023. The MoM data, however, shows deflation in December.

- Among the different components, it was the **relative spike** in **food prices** that caused the YoY inflation to rise in December. In particular, vegetable prices increased by almost 28% (relative to December 2022), while pulses were costlier by 21% and spices by 20%. Cereals, too, were costlier by 10%.
- Such high levels of **inflation** in just these **four food groups**, which account for 23% of the total index weight, pushed up the **overall inflation rate**.

- The inflation rate varied across the country with Odisha registering the highest inflation at 8.7% and Delhi experiencing the lowest at 2.9%.

PENCH TIGER RESERVE



CONTEXT

- Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra has become India's first Dark Sky Park and the fifth in Asia.
- The certification was awarded by the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) after a rigorous evaluation process.

ABOUT

- The park aims to **shield skies** and **nature** from **light pollution** and is set to welcome a host of infrastructure and activities to **promote astrotourism**.
- The certification is expected to boost tourism in the region and promote awareness about the importance of preserving dark skies for wildlife and human health.



BENEFITS OF HAVING A DARK SKY PARK

- **Attracting Visitors:** Dark sky status can lead to increased tourism as it attracts stargazers and nature enthusiasts, thereby benefiting local communities economically.
- **Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection:** Dark sky areas safeguard true wilderness conditions vital for space research and local ecosystems. They are crucial for protecting light-sensitive wildlife populations and preserving the natural balance of ecosystems.

- **Energy Conservation and Cost Savings:** Implementing dark sky-friendly lighting not only reduces light pollution but also saves energy and reduces costs. It also minimizes the harmful effects of artificial light on plants and animals.
- **Educational and Research Opportunities:** Dark Sky Parks provide an ideal environment for astronomy and stargazing, offering educational and research opportunities for both locals and visitors.

eSAKSHI APP



CONTEXT

- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** launched a new app called **eSakshi** this week to **track** the **fund flow** under the **Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme** (MPLADS) for 2023.
- The app aims to capture the entire MPLADS fund allocation cycle and provide greater convenience and accessibility in monitoring the scheme.

REVAMPING MPLADS MANAGEMENT

- The eSakshi app launch is part of the ministry's ongoing efforts to strengthen the management and efficiency of the MPLADS.
- Last year, the ministry introduced revised guidelines for MPLADS to help MPs better direct funds toward needed works in their constituencies. The guidelines came after a third-party evaluation of the scheme based on works done from 2014-2019.

DEMANDS TO INCREASE MPLADS FUNDS

- Given the large volume of pending works, some **Members of Parliament** have demanded that the **annual MPLADS fund allocation** per MP be doubled from Rs 5 crore to Rs 10 crore.
- They argue this will enable them to sanction more high-impact projects for their constituents.

SAKSHI PORTAL AND APP TO IMPROVE MONITORING

- The **SAKSHI portal** launched last year and the new **eSakshi app** represent the **ministry's** focus on **leveraging technology** to **strengthen MPLADS governance**.
- Features like real-time visibility into the status of sanctions, funds and work should assist all parties in tracking and accelerating projects.

By the Officers,
For the Officers