




MOST IMPORTANT TOPICS

1. WARLI TRIBE  PRELIMS, GS-3, GS-1
2. SUPREME COURT ON HINDENBURG RESEARCH'S ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE ADANI GROUP  GS-2, PRELIMS
3. INDIA JOINS SQUARE KILOMETRE ARRAY OBSERVATORY (SKAO)  PRELIMS
4. CHANDUBI FESTIVAL *The Assam Tribune* GS-5, PRELIMS, GS-3

WARLI TRIBE



CONTEXT

- **Warli tribe** in **Mumbai** objects to construction of Shivaji museum on the land they live on.
- The Warli tribe is an indigenous community that lives in the **Sanjay Gandhi National Park** (SGNP) in Mumbai, India.



- The **Warlis** have lived in the **forest** for generations and consider the **river** as their **god**.
- They have a historical association with the forest and have been living in the park for 500 years.
- The Warlis' livelihoods depend on the forest, and they face challenges from the Forest Department (FD), which restricts them from making wadis and growing fruits and vegetables.

- The Warlis have also faced the threat of eviction from SGNP after a 1997 High Court ruling permitted the demolition of all homes settled in the vicinity of the park.
- However, they continue to live in the park and **coexist peacefully** with nature, including **leopards**.

- Additionally, the Warlis are known for their unique art form called **Warli painting**, which depicts their **daily life, nature** and **social customs**.
- **Festivals** and **folk dances** are also **common scenes** depicted through Warli art.
- This art form has also helped **tribals** to **reflect** upon **social injustices** caused by the systems of power imbalances.



ABOUT THE PAINTING

- The **paintings** are mostly created by the **tribal people** and **depict** the basic **principles of life** using **geometric shapes** like circles, triangles, and squares.
- The Warli paintings use **white color** on a **red earthen background**.
- The circle and triangle come from their observation of nature, while the square seems to be a human invention.
- The Warli paintings are done on **mud walls** of their own houses, and the design is never traced or drawn.

PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. Consider the following paintings and their origin.

1. Warli painting-Orissa
2. Pattachitra painting-Maharashtra
3. Pithora painting-Gujarat

Select the correct codes.

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 1 only
- c. 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

SUPREME COURT ON HINDENBURG RESEARCH'S ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE ADANI GROUP

Transfer of probes to CBI should be done only in rare cases: top court

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said that while it does indeed have the ability to transfer a probe to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) or even form a Special Investigation Team (SIT), such a power should only be exercised sparingly and in extraordinary situations.

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud was addressing a plea to transfer the investigation into Hindenburg Research's allegations against the Adani Group from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to the Central Bureau of Investigation, or to constitute a Special Investigation Team.

Chief Justice Chandrachud said that courts should not ordinarily supplant an authority which has been vested with the power to investigate. "Such powers must not be exercised by the court in the absence of cogent justification indicative of a likely failure of justice," the judgment clarified.

'Onus on petitioners'
It said that the onus was on the petitioners seeking a transfer to produce "strong evidence" indicating that the current investigating agency had portrayed inadequacy in the investigation or *prima facie*

appeared to be biased.

"The power to transfer an investigation to investigating agencies such as the CBI must be invoked only in rare and exceptional cases... No person can insist that the offence be investigated by a specific agency," the court noted.

While seeking a transfer, the petitioners should limit their plea to ensuring that the offence is investigated properly, the court said.

The court, referring to past judgments, touched upon the issue of shifting an ongoing investigation from the police force of a State to the CBI, a central agency.

Quotes precedents

The judgment, quoting from precedents, said such a shifting of the investigation by a judicial order should be done only in rare occasions like when the high officials of State authorities are involved in the case or the accusation itself is against the top officials of the investigating agency affording them an opportunity to influence the probe or when it is so necessary to do justice and instil confidence in the investigation or where the investigation is *prima facie* found to be tainted/biased.

"One factor that courts may consider is that such transfer is imperative to retain public confidence in the impartial working of the State agencies," the Supreme Court noted.

CONTEXT

- The **Supreme Court** said that while it does indeed have the **ability** to **transfer** a **probe** to the **Central Bureau of Investigation** (CBI) or even form a **Special Investigation Team** (SIT), such a power should only be **exercised sparingly** and in extraordinary situations.
- A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud was **addressing** a **plea** to transfer the **investigation** into **Hindenburg Research's** allegations against the **Adani Group** from the **Securities and Exchange Board of India** (SEBI) to the **Central Bureau of Investigation**, or to constitute a Special Investigation Team.

ABOUT CBI

- The **Central Bureau of Investigation** (CBI) is an investigating agency of India that operates under the **jurisdiction** of the **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions**.
- It was originally set up to **investigate bribery** and **governmental corruption** and in **1965**, it received **expanded jurisdiction** to investigate breaches of **central laws** enforceable by the **central government**, **multi-state organized crime**, **multi-agency** or **international cases**.

➤ The **CBI** has the authority to **investigate offenses** against **central government employees**, cases with inter-state or international ramifications, and specific offenses listed in the **Delhi Special Police Establishment Act**.



- However, the **power of states to withhold consent to the CBI is not absolute** and the agency's jurisdiction has been a subject of debate due to its implications on **India's federal character**.
- The CBI is **exempted** from the **provisions** of the **Right to Information Act** and is India's officially designated single point of contact for liaison with the Interpol

ABOUT SEBI

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India** (SEBI) is the regulatory body for **securities markets** in **India**, similar to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in the U.S.
- Established in April 1988 as a **non-statutory body** and given **statutory** powers in January **1992**, SEBI is responsible for protecting the interests of investors in securities and promoting the development of and regulating the securities market.

SOME OF THE KEY FUNCTIONS OF SEBI INCLUDE

- **Regulation of securities market:** SEBI has wide-ranging regulatory, investigative, and enforcement powers, including the ability to impose fines on violators
- **Protecting investor interests:** SEBI's primary objective is to protect the interests of investors in securities and ensure their safety and well-being
- **Market regulation:** SEBI oversees the functioning of the securities market, ensuring a fair and transparent trading environment.

- **Ensuring compliance:** SEBI enforces statutory regulations and self-regulating codes on market intermediaries to maintain the integrity of the securities market.
- **Promoting transparency:** SEBI aims to ensure transparency and accountability in the securities market.

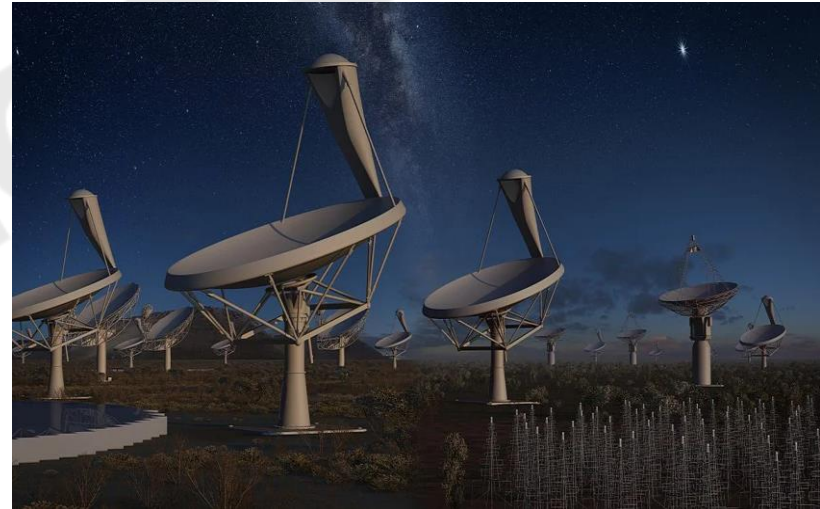
- **SEBI** is **headquartered** in **Mumbai** and has regional offices in Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Chennai and Delhi, as well as local offices in Jaipur, Bangalore, Guwahati and Bhubaneswar.
- The board of **SEBI** consists of a **Chairman** and several other members, including representatives from the **finance ministry**, the **Reserve Bank of India** and other organizations.

INDIA JOINS SQUARE KILOMETRE ARRAY OBSERVATORY (SKAO)



CONTEXT

- India has officially joined the **Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO)**, a global project aimed at constructing the **world's largest radio telescope**, covering an area of over **one square kilometer**.



SKAO OVERVIEW

- The **Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO)** is an international effort to build the world's largest radio telescope.
- It comprises thousands of antennas across **South Africa** and **Australia**, functioning as a unified array for **advanced astronomical research**.

INDIA'S INVOLVEMENT

- India has significantly contributed to the SKAO, especially through the **National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA)**.
- A key achievement is the development of the '**Telescope Manager**' software, crucial for controlling the telescope.

GLOBAL COLLABORATION

- The SKAO is a collaboration of over 15 countries, uniting **science**, **engineering**, and **industry expertise**.
- This project represents a model of **international scientific cooperation**, surpassing geopolitical boundaries for **cosmic exploration**.

CHANDUBI FESTIVAL



CONTEXT

- The 14th edition of the Chandubi Festival in Kamrup district of Assam began on January 1, 2024 which will end on January 5.



SIGNIFICANCE

- This festival, celebrated **annually**, has become a significant attraction, drawing thousands of tourists to the region.
- The festival is known for showcasing **traditional dances**, offering local foods, and highlighting the cultural richness of the area.

KEY FACTS

- One of the key features of the festival is its location at Chandubi Lake, a natural lake formed due to a massive **earthquake** in **1897**
- Efforts have been made by the state government to promote the lake, including welcoming YouTube vloggers and celebrating **World Tourism Day**.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

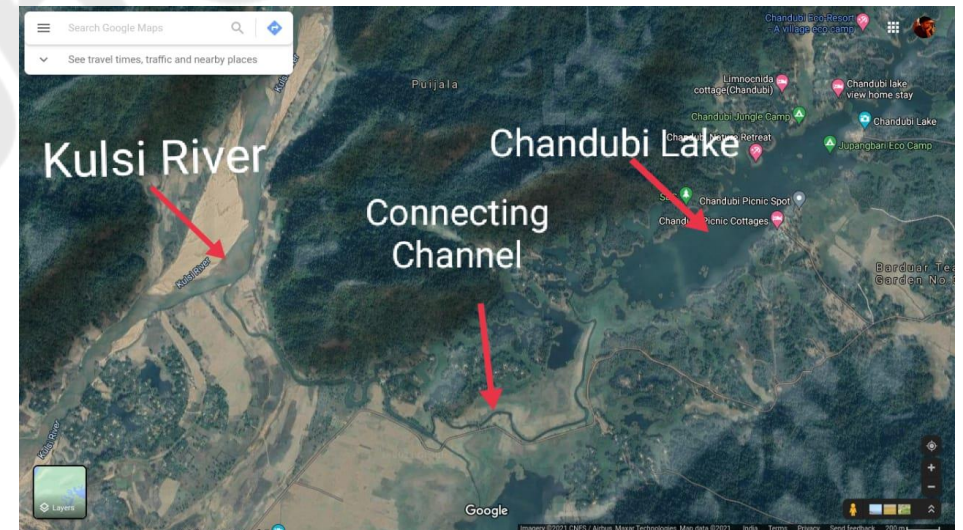
- There are increasing concerns about the drying up of the lake, prompting calls for collaborative efforts between the **government of Assam** and the **forest department** for **sustainable tourism**.

MULTIPLE REASONS FOR CHANDUBI LAKE DRYING UP

- One reason being the **growth** of **aquatic plants** and **weeds** in the **lake** because of which the lake itself is getting **shallower** and water holding capacity of the lake has reduced.
- While Chandubi lake's close proximity to Guwahati is a boon for tourism, it has its demerits too. **Rapid urbanisation** so close to an **ecologically sensitive biodiversity hotspot** impacts it **negatively**.
- **Unscientific sand mining** in **Kulsi** is a major reason as the Kulsi river has become deeper and water from the lake is flowing out through the connecting channel.

THE KULSI CONNECTION

- The **Kulsi**, a **southern tributary** of the **Brahmaputra**, surrounds **Chandubi lake** and even has a connecting water channel (locally known as **lokeiyadar**) with the lake, making it a perfect habitat for the **world-famous Gangetic river dolphins**.
- The 2.5 km long spiralling channel, apart from being a migratory channel for fishes, also helps in **maintaining** a **balance** in the **water level** of the lake.



MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. What are the problems and prospects of the tourism industry of Assam.

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