

**28-07-2022**

## **Swadesh Darshan Scheme**

### **Why in Newspapers?**

Recently the Ministry of Tourism has revised its Swadesh Darshan Scheme as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0), which aims to develop sustainable and responsible infrastructure at destinations.

### **Quick Issue?**

- It was started in the year 2014-15 for the integrated development of theme based tourism circuit in the country. Fifteen thematic circuits have been identified under this scheme – Buddhist Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Desert Circuit, Eco Circuit, Heritage Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Krishna Circuit, North East Circuit, Ramayana Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Sufi Circuit, Tirthankar Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Wildlife Circuit.
- It is 100% centrally funded and efforts are made to converge with other schemes of the Central and State Governments and to leverage the voluntary funding available for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives of Central Public Sector Undertakings and Corporate Sector.

### **Other Key Facts?**

- The following major themes have been identified for the tourism sector under the scheme.
  - Culture and Heritage
  - Adventure Tourism
  - Eco tourism
  - Kalyan Tourism
  - MICE Tourism
  - Rural tourism
  - Coastal tourism
- **Cruises-** Ocean and Inland.

### **Historical Background?**

- Under the Swadesh Darshan and PRASAD (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Promotion Campaign) schemes, the Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to the States and Union Territories for the development of tourism infrastructure.
- Projects under the scheme are sanctioned subject to availability of funds, submission of detailed project reports, adherence to scheme guidelines and utilization of funds released earlier.
- To establish tourism as a major engine of economic growth and employment generation.
- To develop circuits with tourism potential on a planned and priority basis.
- To promote the cultural and heritage value of the country to generate livelihood in the identified areas.
- Enhancing tourist attraction by developing world class sustainable infrastructure in circuits/destination.
- Adhering to community based development and pro-poor tourism approach.
- Raising awareness of tourism among local communities in the context of increasing sources of income, better living standards and overall development of the region.



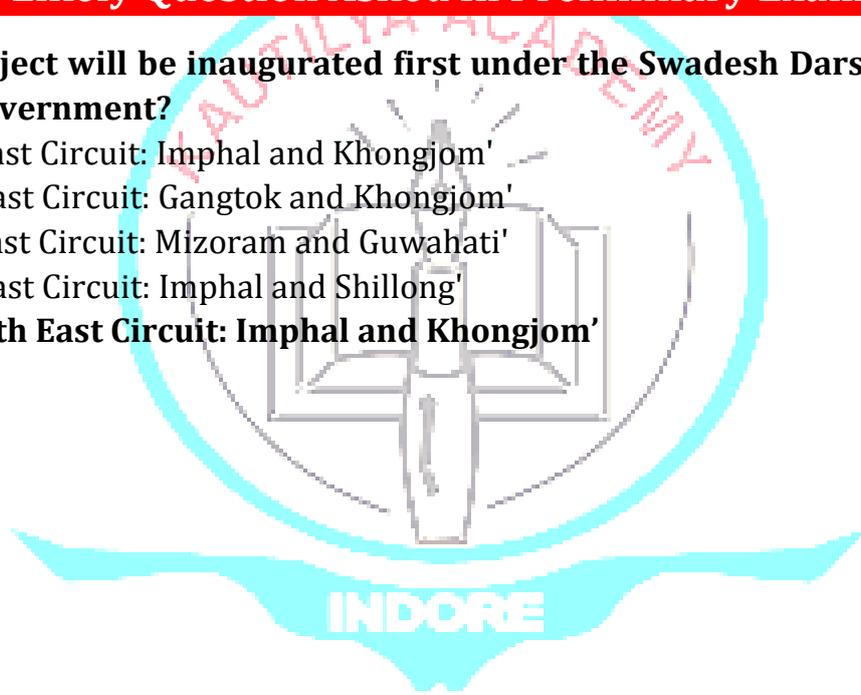
- To make full use of the potential and benefits of developing theme-based circuits with reference to available infrastructure, national culture and specific sites in each region across the country.
- To develop tourist facilitation services to enhance the visitor experience/satisfaction.
- The new scheme called Swadesh Darshan 2.0 with the mantra of 'Vocal for Local' aims to achieve the goal of "Self-reliant India" by realizing India's full potential as a tourism destination.
- Swadesh Darshan 2.0 is not an incremental change but a generational change to develop the Swadesh Darshan scheme as an overall mission to develop sustainable and responsible tourist destinations.
- It will encourage the development of benchmarks and standards for general and subject-specific development of tourist destinations so that benchmarks and standards can be followed while planning and developing state projects.

### Likely Question Asked In Preliminary Exam

**Que. Which project will be inaugurated first under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme of the Central Government?**

- (a) 'North East Circuit: Imphal and Khongjom'
- (b) 'North East Circuit: Gangtok and Khongjom'
- (c) 'North East Circuit: Mizoram and Guwahati'
- (d) 'North East Circuit: Imphal and Shillong'

**Answer – (a) 'North East Circuit: Imphal and Khongjom'**



## 5 New Ramsar Sites in India

### Why in Newspapers?

R India has designated five new wetland sites of international importance, including three wetland sites in Tamil Nadu (Karikili Bird Sanctuary, Pallikaranai Marsh Reserve Forest and Pichavaram Mangrove), one in Mizoram (Pala wetland) and one wetland site in Madhya Pradesh (Sakhya Sagar) are included.

### Quick Issue?

- Thus, the total number of Ramsar sites in the country has increased from 49 to 54.
- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupendra Yadav said, "Happy to share that 5 more Indian wetlands have received Ramsar's recognition as Wetlands of International Importance."

### Other Key Facts?

#### Purpose of Ramsar List

- The Ramsar List aims to develop and maintain an international network of wetlands that are critical to the conservation of global biological diversity and to human life through the maintenance of their ecosystem components, processes and benefits.

### Historical Background?

- **Karikili Bird Sanctuary:** - More than 100 bird species are found in this sanctuary located in Kancheepuram district.
- **Pallikaranai Marsh Reserve Forest :-** It is a freshwater marsh in Chennai which is situated near the Bay of Bengal.
- **Pichavaram Mangroves :-** It is one of the largest mangrove forests in India, which is home to about 180 species.
- **Pala semi-land :-** It is a natural lake, Pala or Palak lake is located in Pura village of Siah district of Mizoram.
- **Sakhya Sagar :-** Sakhya Sagar Lake is a major tourist attraction in Shivpuri.
- The Ramsar site is a wetland site designated for international importance under the Ramsar Convention.
- The name Ramsar comes from the city of Ramsar in Iran, where the treaty was signed.
- The Convention on Wetlands is also known as the Ramsar Convention.
- It is an intergovernmental environmental treaty established by UNESCO in 1971 and came into force in 1975.
- The wetlands declared as Ramsar sites are protected under the strict guidelines of the convention.

### Likely Question Asked In Preliminary Exam

Que. Question- Which is the largest Ramsar site in India?

(A) Sunderbans

(B) Vembanad



(C) Loktak

(D) Lonar

**Answer: (A) Sundarbans**

**Que. From the following choose the correct statement about Ramsar Convention -**

1. The Convention of Wetlands was established in 1971.
2. India had signed the Ramsar Convention on 1 February 1982.

(A) 1 only

(B) 2 only

(C) Both 1 and 2

(D) none of these

**Answer: (C) Both 1 and 2**

**Que. Which was the first Ramsar site in India?**

(A) Vembanad Coal Wetland

(B) Wular Lake

(C) Keoladeo National Park

(D) Renuka Wetland

**Answer: (C) Keoladeo National Park**

