

Current Affairs (2023): North-East India At a Glance

Assam

- * **Ten Cities Development Concept-** Assam Government Unveils 'Ten Cities Development Concept' for Rapid Urban Growth. The ten cities identified for comprehensive development are Silchar, Dibrugarh, Nagaon, Bongaigaon, Biswanath Chariali, Karimganj, Tinsukia, Golaghat, Jorhat, Tezpur, Sibsagar, and North Lakhimpur.
- * **Raas Mahotsav in Majuli-** The enchanting annual Raas Mahotsav has unfolded its divine festivities in Majuli, Assam, making it the perfect destination to immerse oneself in the bhakti (devotion) of Lord Krishna.

Arunachal Pradesh

- * **China announces renaming of 11 places in Arunachal Pradesh-** For the third time in six years, China has announced Chinese names for geographical features in Arunachal Pradesh, reiterating its claim to the entire Indian state. The areas that were named included two residential areas, five mountain peaks and two rivers.

Why is China giving names to places that are in India? –

China claims some 90,000 sq. km of Arunachal Pradesh as its territory. It calls the area Zangnan in the Chinese language and makes repeated references to "South Tibet". Chinese maps show Arunachal Pradesh as part of China, and sometimes parenthetically refer to it as "so-called Arunachal Pradesh". China makes periodic efforts to underline this unilateral claim to Indian territory. Giving Chinese names to places in Arunachal Pradesh is part of that effort.

- * **Parshuram Kund Festival-** Recently, the Arunachal Pradesh Government informed that Parshuram Kund Festival (PKF), is to be celebrated from 12 to 16 January 2023. It is a Hindu pilgrimage site situated on the Brahmaputra plateau in the lower reaches of the Lohit River and 21 km north of Tezu in the Lohit district of Arunachal Pradesh, India. Devotees and sadhus take a holy dip in its water each year on the occasion of Makar Sankranti, in January. It is also known as the Kumbh of the Northeast. Religious significance: It is dedicated to a mythological figure sage Parshuram. This popular festival attracts pilgrims from Nepal, from across India, and from nearby states of Manipur and Assam. The project "Development of Parasuram Kund is sanctioned under the Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive' (PRASHAD) Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism.

Manipur

- * **Saurauia Punduana:** A Rare Discovery in Manipur- The Saurauia Punduana, categorized as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List, has been found for the first time in Manipur's Tamenglong district.
- * **Meira Paibis-** The Meira Paibis, also known as the "women torch bearers" or "Mothers of Manipur," hold great significance in the state of Manipur. They are regarded as a powerful moral force and serve as society's conscience keepers.

Mizoram

- * **New Gecko Species Discovered in Mizoram-** Researchers have recently identified a new species of gecko in India, specifically in the town of Vairengte in Mizoram. Named

'Cyrtodactylusvairengtensis' after its place of discovery, this gecko species is characterized by distinct features, particularly the number of femoral pores, setting it apart from other members of the Cyrtodactylus family.

- * **Mizoram to export Bird's eye chilli to the US-** The Birds Eye Chilli is widely used in Asian cuisines. The chilli is also called Thai chilli. It is native to Mexico. The Spanish and Portuguese people spread the chilli all over the world.

Meghalaya

- * **Meghalaya Enterprise Architecture Project (MeghEA)-** Meghalaya has become the first state to implement IndEA as MeghEA and promote Enterprise Architecture to digitise governance process. The project aims to improve service delivery and governance for the people using power of Digital technologies at grassroots level.

Nagaland

- * **Unity Mall in Dimapur-** The Central Government has allocated ₹145 Crore to Nagaland for the construction of a Unity Mall in Dimapur. The Unity Mall aims to promote and showcase the state's One District One Product (ODOP) offerings.

Sikkim

- * **Startup20 Engagement Group-** The second meeting of the Startup20 Engagement Group under India's G20 Presidency will be held on 18-19 March in Gangtok, Sikkim. This meeting will provide a unique opportunity to promote startups in North East India.

Tripura

- * **Saharsh' Initiative of Tripura-** Tripura Government has launched a special education programme called 'Saharsh' in an effort to encourage social and emotional learning. The initiative was launched on a pilot basis in August last year in 40 schools in the state, and from January 2023, it will be extended to all Government and aided schools of the state.

