

Chirbirey River Fest

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Environment

Why in news?

Sikkim Chief Minister recently released 'Chocolate Mahseer' fish into the Rangeet River during the Chirbirey River Fest near Jorethang.

- **Chirbirey River Fest** - It is a three-day eco-tourism and river conservation festival held on the banks of the Rangeet River at Chirbirey Tar near Jorethang in South Sikkim.
- **Organiser** - Sikkim Anglers' Association (SAA) in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries, Government of Sikkim.
- It celebrates Sikkim's natural beauty, spirit of adventure, and rich cultural heritage while promoting lesser-known destinations, supporting local communities, and encouraging responsible and sustainable tourism.
- It brings people together through local culture, tourism and activities centred on rivers and natural heritage.
- The event combines river-related activities with cultural programmes and tourism initiatives, while drawing attention to the conservation of the state's natural resources.
- **Release of the 'Chocolate Mahseer'** - An initiative aimed at promoting the conservation of freshwater resources and river ecosystems.
- The initiative underscores the need to conserve indigenous fish species and protect Sikkim's aquatic biodiversity by strengthening the health and sustainability of freshwater ecosystems.
- **Fisheries & Sustainable Livelihoods** - Sikkim's freshwater resources have the potential to support fisheries and aquaculture.
- The introduction and development of hybrid fish varieties, particularly hybrid mahseer and other improved fish strains where suitable, can contribute to local livelihoods, food security, and sustainable fish farming.



Quick Fact

Chirbiroy River

- **Chirbiroy River** - It is a prominent riverside area situated along the banks of the Rangeet River near Jorethang in Namchi district, Sikkim.
- **Location** - Chirbiroy is roughly 10 minutes outside the town of Jorethang. It is an area characterised by riverbeds ("tar") and riverine biodiversity.
- **Significance** - Rather than being an independent river itself, it is famously known as the home of the Chirbiroy River Fest, a major environmental and eco-tourism event.

Reference

[The Print | Sikkim CM bats for conserving indigenous fish species](#)