

20 – 07 – 2022

News: Varanasi as SCO region's first "Tourism and Cultural Capital" for 2022-23.

- Ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit to be held in September 2022, Varanasi has been selected as the SCO regions first "Tourism and Cultural Capital for 2022-23.

About

- Varanasi' "Cultural and Tourism Capital" has been **decided under a new rotating initiative to promote people-to-people contacts and tourism among the member states.**
- **Each year a city of the cultural heritage of a member country that will take over the rotating Presidency of the organisation** will get the title to highlight its prominence.
- The new **initiative will come into force after the Samarkand summit (2022) following which India will take over the Presidency** and host the next Heads of the State summit.

News: Digi Yatra

Digi Yatra

- Digi Yatra is a project conceived to achieve contactless, seamless processing of passengers at Airports, based on Facial Recognition Technology (FRT).
- The project envisages that any traveler may pass through various checkpoints at the airport through a paperless and contactless processing, using facial features to establish the identity which would be linked to the boarding pass.
- It provides a decentralized mobile wallet based identity management platform which is cost effective and addresses privacy / data protection issues in implementation of Digi Yatra.

Digi Yatra Foundation

- Digi Yatra Foundation has been set up as a joint venture (JV) company in 2019 under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013.
- The Foundation was formed, with the objective of creating the Digi Yatra Central Ecosystem (DYCE).
- Digi Yatra Foundation will be a pan India entity and the custodian of the Passenger ID validation process.
- It will also develop consensus amongst the Aviation Stakeholders in India.

- It would also define the criteria for compliance and guidelines for the local airport systems.

Implementation

- In the first phase, Digi Yatra is proposed to be rolled out at two Airports namely Varanasi and Bengaluru in August 2022 and at five Airports namely Pune, Vijayawada, Kolkata, Delhi and Hyderabad by March next year.
- Airports Authority of India (AAI) will identify their airports where Digi Yatra would be implemented in a phased manner.

Objectives of Digi Yatra

- Enhance passenger experience and provide a simple and easy experience to all air travellers.
- Achieve better throughput through existing infrastructure using “Digital Framework”.
- Result in lower cost operations.
- Digitize current manual processes and to bring better efficiencies
- Enhance security standards and improve current system performance.
- Rollout of “Digi Yatra” system with a digital “ID” backed by a strong verifiable government issued identity like AADHAAR.

News: Over 1.6 lakh Indians gave up citizenship last year

- Over 1.6 lakh Indians renounced their citizenship in 2021, highest in the past five years, according to information provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.
- Over 78,000 Indians acquired the U.S. citizenship, the highest among all other countries. As many as 362 Indians living in China also acquired Chinese citizenship.

Renunciation of Citizenship

Voluntary Renunciation

- If an Indian citizen wishes, who is of full age and capacity, he can relinquish citizenship of India by his will.
- When a person relinquishes his citizenship, every minor child of that person also loses Indian citizenship. However, when such a child attains the age of 18, he may resume Indian citizenship.

By Termination

- The Constitution of India provides single citizenship. It means an Indian person can only be a citizen of one country at a time.

- If a person takes the citizenship of another country, then his Indian citizenship ends automatically. However, this provision does not apply when India is busy in war.

Deprivation by Government

The Government of India may terminate the citizenship of an Indian citizen if;

- The citizen has disrespected the Constitution.
- Has obtained citizenship by fraud.
- The citizen has unlawfully traded or communicated with the enemy during a war.
- Within 5 years of registration or naturalization, a citizen has been sentenced to 2 years of imprisonment in any country.
- The citizen has been living outside India for 7 years continuously.