July-Aug-Sept, 2020

ENGINEERS' EXCLUSIVE

Current Affairs MADE EASY

UPSC Engineering Services Examination, State PSCs and other examinations

Manoj Sinha
Appointed as new Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir

Hagia Sophia
Turkey recently converted Museum into a Mosque

Kesavananda Bharati
The petitioner behind judgement on Basic Structure of Constitution, dies

- Manufacturing
- Financing, insurance, real estate and business services
- Agriculture, forestry and fishing
- Construction
- Mining and quarrying
- Trade, hotels, transport and communication
- Electricity, gas and water supply
- Community, social and personal services

India's GDP Nosedived

-23.9% slump in first quarter of FY 2020-21

National Recruitment Agency (NRA) approved

Ayodhya Ram Temple foundation stone laid

Recent Current Affairs Questions

ENGINEERS' EXCLUSIVE

Current Affairs

MADE EASY

Quarterly Edition

July-Aug-Sept. 2020

MADE EASY Publications

Corporate Office: 44-A/4, Kalu Sarai, New Delhi-110016

Visit us at: www.madeeasypublications.org

☎ 011-45124660, 8860378007

E-mail: infomep@madeeasy.in

© Copyright 2020

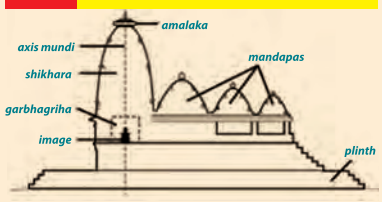
MADE EASY Publications has taken due care in collecting the data before publishing this book. Inspite of this, if any inaccuracy or printing error occurs then Made Easy Publications owes no responsibility. Made Easy Publications will be grateful if you could point out any such error. Your suggestions will be appreciated. © All rights reserved by MADE EASY PUBLICATIONS. No part of this book may be reproduced or utilized in any form without the written permission from the publisher.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this magazine are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect policy or position of CURRENT AFFAIRS Magazine or MADE EASY Publications. They should be understood as the personal opinions of the author/ authors. The MADE EASY assumes no responsibility for views and opinions expressed nor does it vouch for any claims made in the advertisements published in the Magazine. While painstaking effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and authenticity of the informations published in the Magazine, neither Publisher, Editor or any of its employee does not accept any claim for compensation, if any data is wrong, abbreviated, cancelled, omitted or inserted incorrect.

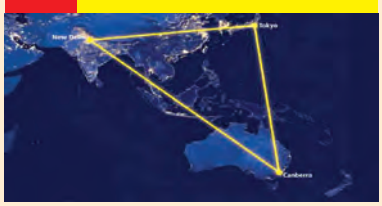
All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without either the prior written permission of the Publisher.

Contents

03 National Affairs



35 International Affairs



50 Science & Technology

66 Defence in News

74 Environment & Wildlife

84 Current Economy

93 Miscellaneous

101 Recent Current Affairs Questions

Disclaimer:
The views and opinions expressed in this magazine are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect policy or position of CURRENT AFFAIRS Magazine or MADE EASY Publications. They should be understood as the personal opinions of the author/ authors.

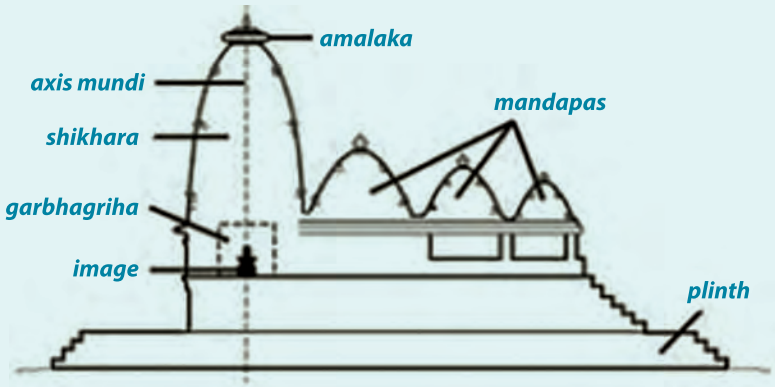
1 National Affairs

Foundation stone laid for the Ayodhya Ram Temple

- PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for a temple of Lord Ram in Ayodhya on 5th August, 2020.
- The grand temple at Rama Janmabhoomi in Ayodhya will follow the Nagara style of temple architecture.

Nagara Style of Temple Architecture

- The Nagara style of temple architecture is found in Northern India. It is further subdivided into different schools based on regions like Odisha, Khajuraho, Solanki, etc.
- The basic form of the Nagara style contains the following architectural elements:
  - **Garbhagriha:** The small room where the principle deity/deities of the temple reside.
  - **Mandapa:** The portico or hall at the entrance of the temple generally designed to house a large number of people.
  - **Shikhara:** The mountain-like spire which can have different shapes from pyramidal to curvilinear.
  - **Amalaka:** It is a segmented or notched stone disk, usually with ridges on the rim that sits on the top of the shikhara.



Ayodhya Verdict:

- The main issue of contention regarding Ayodhya disputed land was the belief among sections of Hindus that the Babri Masjid, named after Mughal emperor Babur, was built at the site where Lord Ram was born.
- A bench led by the then CJI Ranjan Gogoi delivered the Ayodhya verdict alongside Justices S.A. Bobde, D.Y. Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and S.A. Nazeer. The verdict was unanimous.
- As per the verdict, Hindus would get the entire disputed 2.77 acres in Ayodhya where the demolished Babri Masjid once stood.
- The Muslims will get alternate five acres of land to build a mosque at a prominent place in Ayodhya.
- A trust to be formed in 3 months to build a temple on the disputed land.

NOTE

The Supreme Court had invoked Article 142 of Constitution of India for the verdict which states that "The Supreme Court in the exercise of its jurisdiction may pass such decree or make such order as is necessary for doing complete justice in any cause or matter pending before it, and any decree so passed or order so made shall be enforceable throughout the territory of India in such manner as may be prescribed by or under any law made by Parliament and, until provision in that behalf is so made, in such manner as the President may by order prescribe".

Basic Structure of the Constitution

- Kesavananda Bharati, on whose petition the Supreme Court delivered a landmark judgement defining the Basic Structure of the Constitution, passed away recently.

About Kesavananda Bharati vs. State of Kerala Case, 1973

- It was a landmark decision of the Supreme Court of India that outlined the Basic Structure doctrine of the Constitution and restricted absolute power of Parliament to amend the Constitution.
- In Kesavananda Bharati Case, the Supreme Court held that constitutional amendments through Article 368 were subject to judicial review if they affect the 'Basic Structure of the Constitution'.
- A 13-judge Bench was set up by the Supreme Court, the biggest so far, for this case. The ruling was pronounced with 7-6 majority of judges led by the then Chief Justice of India S. M. Sikri.
- The Case was heard for 68 days and continues to hold the top spot for the longest proceedings ever to have taken place in the Supreme Court.
- In this verdict, the Court overturned the Golaknath vs. State of Punjab Case, 1967, as well, in which the Court ruled that Parliament cannot curtail any of the Fundamental Rights mentioned in the Constitution.

Background:

- Kesavananda Bharati had challenged the Kerala government's attempts to impose restrictions on the management of Edneer Mutt's property, under two State land reform acts.

Doctrine of Basic Structure

- Under this, the Supreme Court put a limitation on the amending powers of the Parliament so that the 'basic structure of the basic law of the land' cannot be amended in exercise of its 'constituent power' under Article 368 of the Constitution of India.
- Basic structure though is not exactly defined but through its contents some of its constituents are Rule of law, Sovereignty, liberty and republic nature of Indian polity, judicial review, Separation of power, secularism, and Republic nature of India etc.
- This doctrine was mentioned in the judgement order of Justice Hans Raj Khanna who was part of the 13-judge bench.

About Kesavananda Bharati

- Kesavananda Bharati was the head priest of the Edneer Mutt in Kasaragod district of Kerala since 1961.
- He was a patron of education, Kannada culture and arts, including Yakshagana, music and dramas.

AFSPA extended in Assam

- The extension of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act [AFSPA] has been announced by the Assam Government for 6 more months in the state, which is going to be effective from 28th August 2020.

About AFSPA

- The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 is an Act of Parliament that grants special powers to the armed forces to maintain public order in "disturbed areas."
- The Act was adopted as a consequence of growing violence in the North-Eastern States decades earlier.
- Jammu and Kashmir (now a UT) has also been placed under this Act.

Note

A 'disturbed area' shall be proclaimed by issuing a notice under Section 3 of the AFSPA. There might be disruptions related to religious conflict, racial violence, conflicts between two groups, etc.

Arunachal Pradesh passed resolution under Schedule VI

- Arunachal Pradesh Assembly passed a resolution to be included in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. It provides protection of tribal people's rights in Northeast India.

Schedule VI:

- The sixth schedule of the Constitution provides for the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya and Mizoram.
- It safeguards the rights of tribal populations in these states. It was included based on the reports of the Bordoloi Committee that was formed by the Constituent Assembly of India.

Autonomous District Councils:

- This Schedule gives tribes to exercise executive and legislative powers in their districts through these councils. The State Government cannot interfere with the decisions taken by these councils within their powers.

Common Electoral Roll

- Recently, a meeting with representatives of the Election Commission and the Law Ministry was held to discuss the possibility of having a common electoral roll for elections to the panchayat, municipality, state assembly, and the Lok Sabha.

Issue:

- The voters' list for the panchayat and municipality elections is different from the one used for Parliamentary and Assembly elections in many states. This causes duplication of essentially the same task, thereby duplicating the effort and the expenditure.
- The difference of data arises from the fact that the supervision and conduct of elections in India are entrusted with two constitutional bodies:
- **Election Commission (EC) of India:** It is charged with the responsibility of conducting polls to the offices of the President, Vice-President, Parliament, the state assemblies and the legislative councils.
- **State Election Commissions (SECs):** They supervise municipal and panchayat elections. They are free to prepare their own electoral rolls for local body elections, and this exercise does not have to be coordinated with the EC.
- There are some state laws which allow the SEC to borrow and use the EC's voter's rolls for the local body elections.
- All the states except Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Odisha, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, adopt EC's rolls for local body polls.

Need for Constitutional Reforms

- It is required to move a constitutional amendment to Articles 243K and 243ZA that give the power of superintendence, direction and control of preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of local body elections to the SECs.
- The amendment would make it mandatory to have a single electoral roll for all elections in the country.
- It is necessary to persuade the state governments to abolish their respective election laws and adopt the Election Commission's (EC) voters list for municipal and panchayat polls

Union Govt. to build Shinku La Tunnel

- The Union Government is planning for the construction of another high-altitude tunnel after Rohtang Pass under the 16,730-ft-high Shinku La in Himachal Pradesh.

Key Highlights

- The National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) has speeded up the detailed project report (DPR) work on the 13.5-km Shinku La Tunnel connecting the Union Territory of Ladakh and Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh.
- With the construction of the tunnel under Shinku La, the inhabitants of around 15-odd villages of Zanskar valley will be all-weather connected as the valley remains cut off due to heavy snowfall during the winter.

Government Schemes *in news*

Mid-day Meal Scheme

- The Vice President of India recently suggested that milk could be given either as part of breakfast or the mid-day meal in order to improve the nutritional levels of children.

Mid Day Meal Scheme

About scheme :

- The scheme guarantees one meal to all children in government aided schools and madrasas supported under Samagra Shiksha.
- Students up to Class VIII are guaranteed one nutritional cooked meal at least 200 days in a year.
- The Scheme comes under the Ministry of Education.
- It was launched in the year 1995 as the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP–NSPE), a centrally sponsored scheme. In 2004, the scheme was relaunched as the Mid Day Meal Scheme.
- The cost of the MDMS is shared between the central and state governments. The central government provides free food grains to the states. The cost of cooking, infrastructure development, transportation of food grains and payment of honorarium to cooks and helpers is shared by the centre with the state governments.

Objectives:

- To enhance the enrollment, retention and attendance and simultaneously improve nutritional levels among school going children studying in Classes I to VIII of Government, Government - aided schools, Special Training centres (STC) and Madrasas and Maktabs supported under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

The MDM rules 2015, provide that:

- The place of serving meals to the children shall be school only.
- If the Mid-Day Meal is not provided in school on any school day due to non-availability of food grains or any other reason, the State Government shall pay food security allowance by 15th of the succeeding month.
- The meal shall be prepared in accordance with the Mid Day Meal guidelines issued by the Central Government from time to time.
- Procuring AGMARK quality items for preparation of midday meals, tasting of meals by two or three adult members of the school management committee, including at least one teacher, before serving to children.
- The School Management Committee mandated under the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 shall also monitor implementation of the Mid-day meal Scheme.
- The State Steering-cum Monitoring Committee (SSMC) shall oversee the implementation of the scheme including establishment of a mechanism for maintenance of nutritional standards and quality of meals.

PM-KISAN Scheme

PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi
Department of Agriculture,Cooperation & Farmers Welfare
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

- The Union Government is planning to crack down on those farmers who are unlawfully receiving payments from the PM-KISAN scheme by concealing important details required.

About scheme :

- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) is a scheme to provide minimum income support of Rs. 6,000 per year. It was announced during the presentation of the 2019 Interim Union Budget of India.
- It aimed at providing financial assistance to the Small and Marginal Farmers in procuring various substances to ensure proper crop health and appropriate yields.
- It provides protection to the farmers from the corrupt practices of moneylenders in the matter of meeting agricultural expenses.
- The distribution of the yearly amount of 6,000 to each eligible farmer is provided in three installments to their bank accounts.

2 International Affairs

Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) proposed by Japan

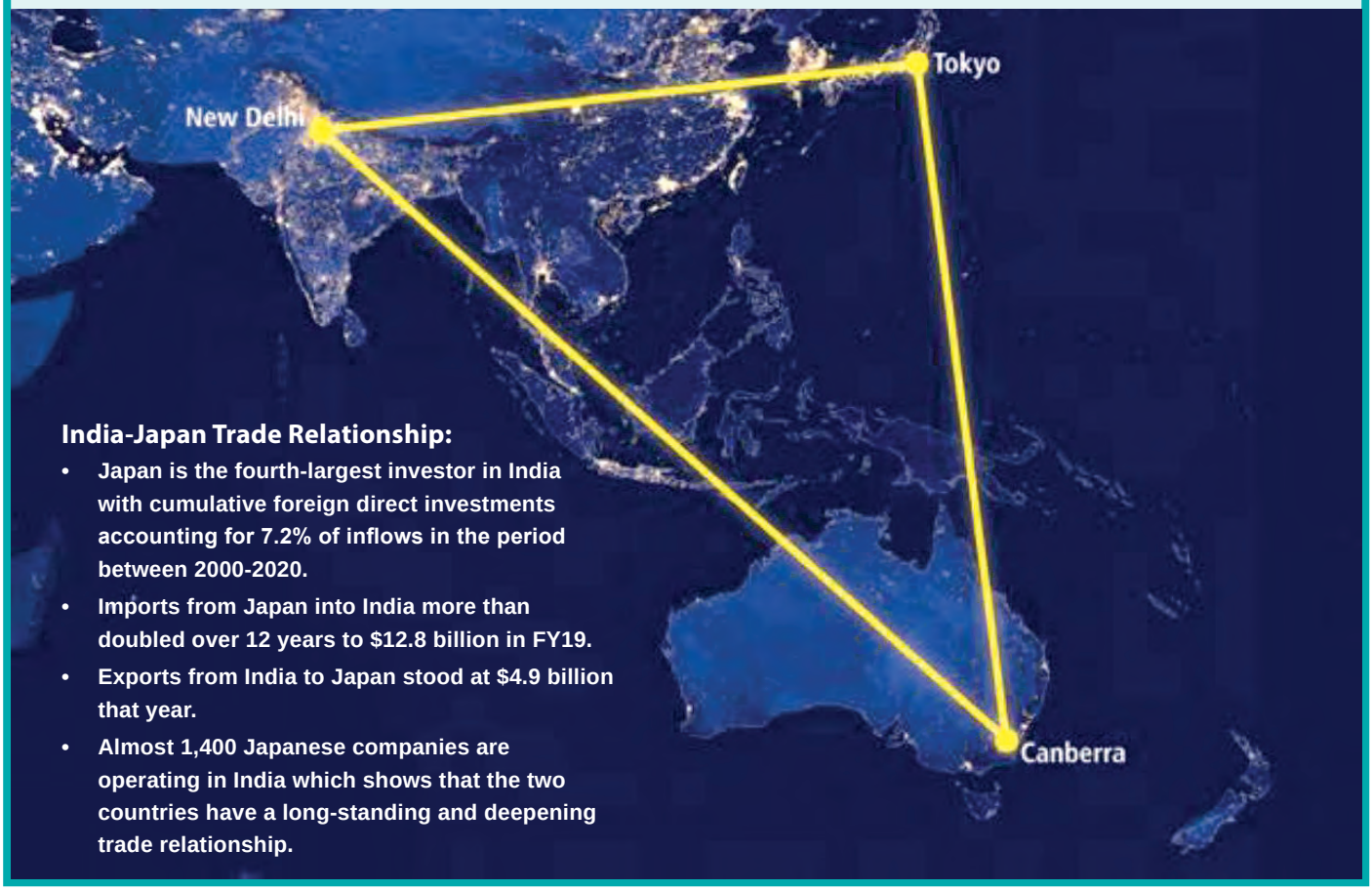
- Japan has proposed the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) as a trilateral approach to trade with India and Australia.

Key highlights:

- Supply chain resilience is an approach that helps a country to ensure that it has diversified its supply chain of nations instead of being dependent on just one or a few.
- In the light of the COVID-19 pandemic and trade tensions between China and the United States, Japan proposed this initiative.

Objective of SCRI:

- It aims to attract foreign direct investment to turn the Indo-Pacific into an economic powerhouse and to build a mutually complementary relationship among partner countries.
- Under the proposal, the aim is to work out a plan to build on the existing bilateral supply chain networks.
- India and Japan already have an Indo-Japan Industrial Competitiveness Partnership that deals with locating Japanese firms in India.
- After an understanding emerges among India, Japan and Australia, the initiative could also be thrown open for the ASEAN countries.



India-Japan Trade Relationship:

- **Japan is the fourth-largest investor in India with cumulative foreign direct investments accounting for 7.2% of inflows in the period between 2000-2020.**
- **Imports from Japan into India more than doubled over 12 years to $12.8 billion in FY19.**
- **Exports from India to Japan stood at $4.9 billion that year.**
- **Almost 1,400 Japanese companies are operating in India which shows that the two countries have a long-standing and deepening trade relationship.**

WHO declared Africa Wild Polio free

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared Africa polio-free. The disease is now found only in Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- Nigeria is the last African country to be declared free from wild polio.
- As more than 95% of Africa's population have now been immunized, therefore Africa met a condition set by the WHO to declare the continent polio free.

About Polio Virus

- Polio virus spreads from person to person through contaminated water and surroundings.
- It can attack the nervous system and lead to paralysis.
- There is no cure, but can be prevented through immunization.

Pulse Polio Programme

- It is the flagship programme of the Indian Government to eradicate Polio, launched in 1995.
- India was officially declared polio-free along with the rest of the South East Asian region in 2014.

'BRICS Innovation Base': China plans to build base on 5G

- China is going to establish a BRICS innovation base for strengthening the cooperation among the five-member countries group including India in technical sectors like 5G, Artificial Intelligence, digital economy, industry, and information technology.

About BRICS

- The BRICS group is composed of the five major emerging economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS). It was formed in 2009.
- The group together represents about 42% of the population of the world, 30% of the territory, 18% of the global trade and 23% of the GDP.
- Every year the member countries meet at the annual BRICS summit held by member states turn by turn to discuss the recent progress and happenings across the world.

Israel-Bahrain Peace deal finalised

- Israel and Bahrain have reached a landmark deal to fully normalise their relations, under the mediation deal offered by the USA. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa issued a joint statement about the deal.
- Bahrain is only the fourth Arab country in the Middle East - after the UAE, Egypt and Jordan - to recognize Israel since its founding in 1948.

Key Points:

- The UAE welcomed the latest move by Bahrain to ease ties with Israel.
- The Palestine who has been long relied on a unified Arab response for the acceptance of a Palestinian state, criticized the move by Bahrain. It recalled its ambassador to Bahrain.
- Iran termed the deal as a betrayal of the Palestinian cause.

Israel-UAE Agreement:

- In August 2020, Israel and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) announced an agreement to normalize the diplomatic relations between the two countries.
- This agreement is named as the Abraham Accords.

AGRIOTA: India-UAE e-Market Platform launched

- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) Government has launched AGRIOTA, a new technology driven agricultural commodity trading platform that will connect rural farmers from India and the food industry of UAE.
- The platform will also help to improve the Global Food Security Index of UAE.

About Global Food Security Index

- The Global Food Security Index (GFSI) is an annual assessment measuring food security through affordability, availability, and quality and safety.
- India ranked 72nd out of 113 countries in the Global Food Security Index in 2019.
- Singapore was ranked the first followed by Ireland, United States, Switzerland and Finland.

India joined United Nations Commission on Status of Women (CSW)

- India recently became a member of the United Nations' Commission on Status of Women (CSW), which works under the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations.
- India and Afghanistan managed to win in the elections to become a member whereas China could not.

Significance

- As a member of the Commission on Status of Women, India will have tenure of four years starting from 2021 to 2025.
- This membership will strengthen the initiatives taken by India on the issue of women's empowerment and promoting gender equality.

About UN-CSW

The Commission on the Status of Women is the prime global intergovernmental body that was established in 1946 for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Note

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is a principal organ of the United Nations. It is responsible for coordinating the economic, social, and other activities of UN specialized agencies, their functional commissions, and regional commissions.

India become a part of 'Djibouti Code of Conduct'

- India has joined the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCOC) as an observer which will enhance India's efforts for maritime security in the Indian Ocean region.

Key Points about Conduct:

- The Djibouti Code of Conduct has been instrumental in repressing piracy and armed robbery against ships in the western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden.
- It has broadened its scope to cover other illicit maritime activities, including human trafficking and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.
- It was adopted on 29th January 2009.
- It was established under the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

Jeddah Amendment

- In 2017, a high-level meeting of signatories to the Djibouti Code of Conduct, held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, adopted a revised Code of Conduct, known as the "Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct 2017".
- Under an amendment, DCOC to cover other illicit maritime activities also, including human trafficking and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.
- Signatories: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Seychelles, Somalia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Comoros, Egypt, Eritrea, Jordan, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sudan and the United Arab Emirates.
- **Observers:** India, Japan, Norway, the UK and the USA.

Germany launched Indo-Pacific Strategy

- Germany has recently launched its Indo-Pacific strategy with India in focus.
- Germany is expected to play a key role in the region where China's aggressive foreign policy has triggered countries to oppose it.

Key Highlights:

- The strategy has several indirect references to Chinese behaviour in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Germany has also suggested a key role in the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). It will work on maritime safety and disaster risk management.
- Apart from this, Germany has also exhibited its willingness to cooperate with India and Japan in United Nations Security Reforms.

3 Science & Technology

GEAC approved BRL-II trials of Bt Brinjal

Experts have slammed a recent move of the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) giving clearance for biosafety research-level-II (BRL-II) field trials for Event 142, a new variety of Bt brinjal.

Key Points:

- Bt Brinjal is a genetically-modified (GM) crop created by inserting Cry1Ac gene from the soil bacterium Bacillus thuringiensis into Brinjal.
- The insertion of the gene gives Brinjal plant resistance against lepidopteran insects like the Brinjal Fruit and Shoot Borer (Leucinodes orbonalis) and Fruit Borer (Helicoverpa armigera).

Issues with BT Brinjal

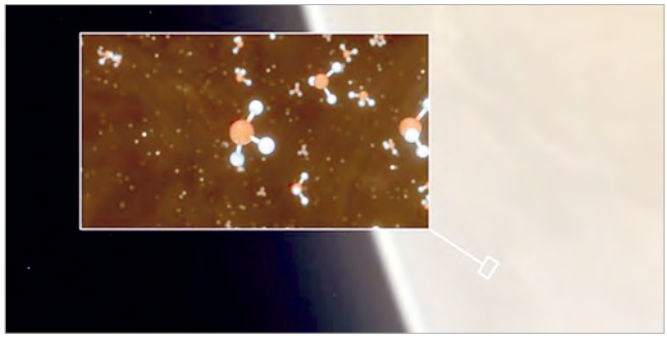
- **Institutional dilemma:** The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare has not given proof that Bt Brinjal would help farmers.
- **Biosafety issues:** While some scientists have been in support of launching Bt Brinjal, others have identified important shortcomings in the analysis of Bt Brinjal and in the environmental impact assessment.
- **Nutrition issues:** There tend to be several major variations in nutrition between Bt and ordinary brinjal. Many health experts have proposed that Bt Brinjal faces human health threats.
- **Inefficient Regulatory system:** Concerned body recommended a thorough probe by a team of eminent independent scientists and environmentalists for commercialization of GM crops and endorsed labeling GM foods to protect a consumer's right to know.

Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC)

- The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) is the apex body that allows for commercial release of GM crops.
- It was formed as the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee and was renamed to its current name in 2010.
- It functions under the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change.
- The body regulates the use, manufacture, storage, import and export of hazardous microorganisms or genetically-engineered organisms and cells in India.

A Genetically-modified (GM) or transgenic crop is a plant that has a novel combination of genetic material obtained through the use of modern biotechnology. *For example*, a GM crop can contain a gene that has been artificially inserted instead of the plant acquiring it through pollination.

Discovery of Phosphine on Venus Atmosphere



- An international team of astronomers has announced the finding of phosphine (PH3) gas in the atmosphere of Venus, triggering excitement about the possibility of the presence of life forms on that planet.

Significance of Discovery

- This is the most credible evidence yet for the possibility of life away from Earth.
- In the search for extraterrestrial life, this is the biggest finding, however, this cannot be taken to mean that there is indeed life on Venus.
- With this discovery, the possible presence of life-forms can be explored.
- However, the temperature of Venus is too high, and its atmosphere is highly acidic, just two of the things that would make life impossible.

About Phosphine

- Phosphine, a colourless and smelly gas, is known to be naturally made only by some species of bacteria that survive in the absence of oxygen.
- Phosphine can be produced only through biological processes, and not through any naturally occurring chemical process. However, there are some other ways in which this chemical might be produced, for example, in the underbelly of volcanoes or meteorite activity, but that would have shown in much lower concentrations.
- The traces of phosphine are found in a concentration of approximately 20 parts per billion.
- The presence of phosphine in the atmosphere of Venus is something that was not expected and is found in oxidised forms.
- According to scientists, PH3 could originate from unknown photochemistry or geochemistry, or, by analogy with biological production of PH3 on earth, from the presence of life.

RPF obstructed the use of Real Mango Software

- The Railway Protection Force (RPF) recently obstructed the use of Real Mango software.

Key Points:

- Real Mango software is an illegal notorious software developed for booking Tatkal tickets over the IRCTC website.
- This illegal and commonly banned software makes the complete process of Indian Rail ticket booking at a fly speed.
- The software is mainly used by the ticket booking agent who by illegal means books the tatkal ticket and sells to the customer at a high rate.

Department of Post released stamp on A-SAT

- On the occasion of Engineer's Day, the Department of Post released a stamp on India's first Anti-Satellite Missile (A-SAT) launch.

About A-SAT

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) had successfully conducted an Anti-Satellite (A-SAT) missile test under 'Mission Shakti' from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha on 27th March 2019.
- It has the capability of destroying enemy satellites in space.
- India is only the 4th country to acquire such a specialised and modern capability. Till now, only the US, Russia and China had the capability to hit a live target in space.

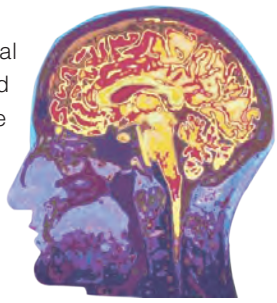
IIT-M developed Integrated Road Accident Database (iRAD) Project

- The Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M) has developed Integrated Road Accident Database (iRAD) app which aims to enhance road safety.
- The project will be implemented by the National Informatics Centre.

Key Highlights

- The iRAD app will enable police personnel to enter details about a road accident, along with photos and videos, following which a unique ID will be created for the incident.
- The collected data will be analysed by a team at IIT-M, which will then suggest if corrective measures in road design need to be taken.

NIMHANS developed Indian Brain Templates & Brain Atlas



- The neuroscientists from National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences (NIMHANS) have developed Indian brain templates and a brain atlas for five age groups covering late childhood to late adulthood (6 to 60 years).

Key Highlights

- With this, now India will be using its own brain templates instead of Montreal Neurological Index (MNI) template.
- Montreal Neurological Index (MNI) template is based on Caucasian brains, which are different from Asian brains.
- Indian Brain Templates and atlas will provide more precise reference maps for individual patients with neurological disorders like strokes, brain tumours, dementia, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), autism, etc.

South-Western Railways started RO-RO Service

- Recently, South Western Railway started its first ever Roll On Roll Off (RO-RO) service from Nelamangala (near Bengaluru) to Bale (near Solapur).
- This was the first private RORO train service run on Indian Railways.

About RO-RO Service

- Roll On Roll Off (RO-RO) is a concept of carrying road vehicles on open flat railway wagons loaded with different goods.
- RORO services are a combination of best road and rail transport functionality in the sense that they provide door-to-door operation with direct rail transport handling.

RO-RO train services were first introduced on Konkan Railways in 1999.

India developed World's Largest Solar Tree

- The Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI) working under CSIR, has developed the world largest solar tree. The tree has an annual capacity of generating 12,000 to 14,000 units of clean and Green power.

Key Points:

- The Solar Tree has been designed in such a way that maximum exposure of each Solar Photovoltaic panel is achieved. There are a total of 35 Solar PV panels in each tree. Each panel has a capacity of 330 watt-power.
- The Solar tree also has capability to incorporate with Internet of Things based features. This includes wind speed, real-time humidity, rainfall prediction and soil analytics sensors.

Karnataka approved New Information Technology Policy 2020

- Karnataka Cabinet has approved a new Information Technology Policy, 2020.
- The main goal of the policy is to enable the IT industry to contribute 30% to India's goal of becoming a trillion-dollar economy.
- The new policy will boost IT penetration and innovation, distributed labour force and evolve a Cyber security policy.
- The policy is to be executed between 2020 and 2025.

TRAI suggested multi-stakeholder body for Net Neutrality

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) recently suggested setting up a multi-stakeholder body (MSB) to ensure that internet service providers in the country adhere to the principles of net neutrality.

Net Neutrality:

- Net neutrality means that governments and internet service providers treat all da-ta on the internet equally and does not differentially charge consumers for higher-quality delivery or giving preferential treatment to certain websites.
- Network neutrality requires all Internet service providers (ISPs) to provide the same level of data access and speed to all traffic, and that traffic to one service or website cannot be blocked or degraded.

ISRO in News

ASTROSAT satellite observed UV rays

- The Pune-based Inter-University Center for Astronomy and Astrophysics has reported that the ASTROSAT satellite has observed extreme ultraviolet (UV) rays.
- It's far from a galaxy that's 9.3 billion light years away from Earth.

Astrosat:

- ASTROSAT is the first multi-wavelength space telescope launched by ISRO from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in 2015. It has a set of five unique X-ray and ultraviolet telescopes.
- The mission duration was planned for 5 years.

ISRO launched Amazonia-1

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched Amazonia-1 which is the first earth observation satellite entirely developed by Brazil.
- Amazonia-1 is the first satellite that has been completely designed, integrated, and tested by Brazilian Space Agency (AEB), also when launched successfully. It is the first satellite to be completely operated by Brazil.
- The launch is based on an agreement that was signed in 2004 between India and Brazil for cooperation in the field of outer space. As a part of the framework agreement, ISRO will be launching a micro-satellite of the Brazilian Space Agency (AEB). This microsatellite is for atmospheric studies as per the agreement.

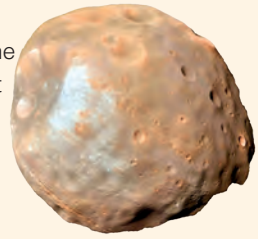
Chandrayaan-2 completed 1 year

- As per a statement of the Indian Space Research Organisation, the second lunar mission of India, Chandrayaan-2 has completed one full year around the moon in lunar orbit. All its instruments are functioning well and there is sufficient fuel for its operations for seven more years.
- ISRO reportedly claimed even after completing one year there is no sign of technological glitch in any of the instruments and it is expected to be in operation for about seven more years.

India's Lunar missions:

- In 2008, Chandrayaan-1, India's first lunar probe was launched with a lunar orbiter and an impactor by ISRO. It was in operation until Aug 2009.
- In 2019, Chandrayaan-2, the second of its kind was launched with an orbiter, a lander named Vikram, and a six-wheeled rover named Pragyaan by ISRO. The orbiter is still functional but the lander crashed before its induction in any research operation.

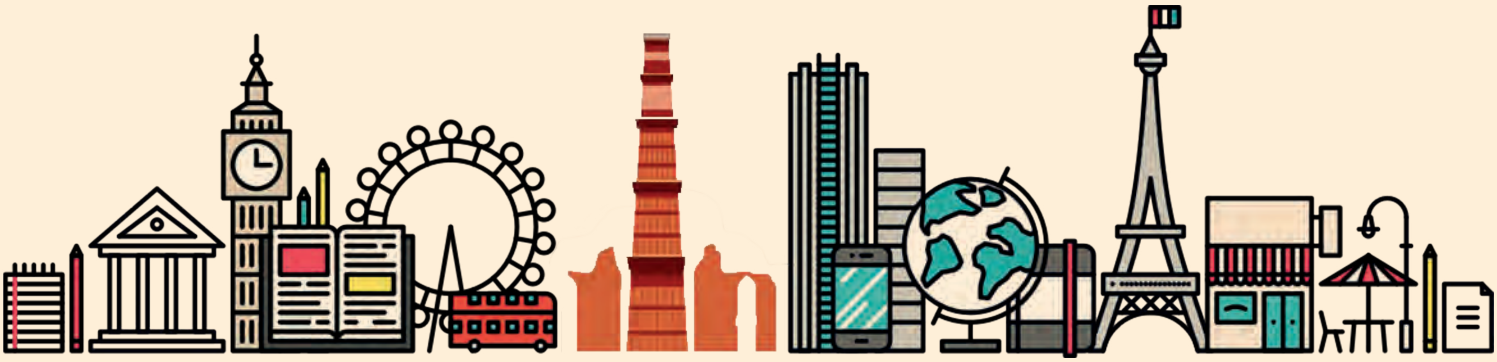
Mangalyaan Mission: Orbitor captured images of Phobos



- Mars Orbiter has captured the image of Phobos (the largest moon of Mars).The image of Phobos was captured from a distance of 4200 kilometres.

Key Points:

- The Mangalyaan Mission was launched by ISRO on 5th November 2013 from the first launch pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre located in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- The mission was launched by the Rocket PSLV-C25. It entered the orbit of Mars successfully in the first attempt on 24th September 2014.
- In the image captured by Mars Orbiter, the Stickney Crater is visible along with Roche, Shklovsky and Grildrig craters of Phobos. Stickney Crater is the largest crater on the Phobos.



Recent Current Affairs Questions

1. Manika Batra, who has been conferred with the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award 2020, is associated with which of the following sports?
(a) Discuss throw
(b) Table Tennis
(c) Wrestling
(d) Athletics

2. Which one of the following countries has discovered a large natural gas reserve in Black Sea?
(a) Turkey (b) Russia
(c) Bulgaria (d) Romania

3. Which Indian state has recently passed a resolution for inclusion in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution?
(a) Meghalaya
(b) Arunachal Pradesh
(c) Andhra Pradesh
(d) Jharkhand

4. Who among the following Union Ministries will head newly formed National Council for Transgender Persons?
(a) Minister of Health and Family Welfare
(b) Minister of Women and Child Development
(c) Minister of Minority Affairs
(d) Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment

5. The Union Government has recently advised states to include all eligible disabled persons under which Act?
(a) National Food Security Act
(b) MGNREGA
(c) Essential Commodities Act
(d) None of the above

6. Who has been appointed as the new Managing Director of the State Bank of India (SBI)?
(a) Rajnish Kumar
(b) Rajiv Kumar
(c) Ashwani Bhatia
(d) G.C. Murmu

7. Which zone of the Indian Railways has conducted a trial run of Roll-on Roll-off (RO-RO) service?
(a) Northern Railways
(b) South-Western Railways
(c) Eastern Railways
(d) Western Railways

8. Kesavananda Bharti, a priest who passed away recently, was the petitioner in a case which led to Supreme Court's landmark judgement on:
(a) Independence of Judiciary
(b) Separation of Judiciary from Executive
(c) Establishment of Lokpal
(d) Basic Structure of Constitution

9. Typhoon Haishen, which was in the news recently, hit the coast of which of the following countries?
(a) Japan (b) USA
(c) Myanmar (d) Mauritius

10. Jigyasa, a student-scientist connect programme, is being implemented by:
(a) ISRO
(b) DRDO
(c) CSIR
(d) None of the above

11. Real Mango software, which has been in the news, is related to:
(a) Aviation Sector
(b) Railways
(c) MSMEs
(d) Agriculture

12. The Union Ministry of Shipping has launched a new Redressal Platform, named as:
(a) SAROJ-Ports (b) SAGAR-Ports
(c) SAROD-Ports (d) SAHIL-Ports

ANSWERS

1. (b) 2. (a) 3. (b) 4. (d) 5. (a) 6. (c) 7. (b) 8. (d) 9. (a)
10. (c) 11. (b) 12. (c)

Advt.

MADE EASY PRIME

- Lectures by India's top faculties
- In-depth quality teaching with best time utilization
- Systematic subject sequence
- Doubt chat facility with subject experts
- Updated, structured and exam oriented classes

Online Courses of MADE EASY for GATE & ESE 2021

GATE 2021 Comprehensive Course

Streams : CE, ME, EE, EC, CS, IN • **Duration :** 4-5 Months
Course is live | Admission open

Module-wise Courses for GATE & ESE 2021

Streams : CE, ME, EE, EC, CS • **Duration :** 4-5 Week/Module
Course is live | Admission open

Online Test Series for GATE & ESE Pre 2021

GATE Streams : CE, ME, EE, EC, CS, IN, PI • **ESE Streams :** CE, ME, EE, E&T
Tests are live | Enrollment Open

1 Year & 2 Year Courses for GATE & ESE 2022 & 2023

*With flexibility to convert **Online** to **Offline** and **vice-versa***

Streams : CE, ME, EE, EC, CS, IN, PI

Commencing from 28th Dec, 2020 | Admission Open from 15th Nov, 2020

www.madeeasy.in

Online Courses : www.madeeasyprime.com 8851176822, 9958995830
Online Test Series : onlinetestseriesmadeeasy.in 9818098817, 011-45124612

ISBN : 978-93-90283-22-4

₹ 150