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INS Valsura

- Recently the President of India presented the prestigious President's Colour to INS (Indian Naval Ship) 'Valsura'.

Meaning of 'President's Colour':

- It is the highest award given to a military unit in India for exceptional services to the country.
- Among the three defense forces, the Indian Navy was the first Indian Armed Forces to be awarded the 'President's Colour' by Dr. Rajendra Prasad in the year 1951.

Legacy:

- The origin of the 'President's Colour' in the Army is as old as the Army itself. In ancient India, whenever the armies of various kings went to war, they used to carry 'flag' with them.
- These traditions were also followed in the armies of ancient Egypt or Rome, where armies carried flags and 'Roman eagles' in battle.
- In India as well as in many Commonwealth countries, this tradition is taken from the British Army.
- Traditionally there have been four types of symbols associated with it – standard, guideline, color and banner.
- Infantry regiments, army establishments and naval and air force units are awarded the 'President's Colour', while armored regiments are awarded 'standards'.
- The regiment's war honors are displayed on the 'President's Colour' and hence serve as a link to the regiment's past.

INS Valsura:

History:

- The name 'Valsura' was derived from the combination of two Tamil words- 'Val' (meaning sword) and 'Sora' (meaning shark). Due to the variety of swordfish found on the coast of Saurashtra, it was considered suitable.
- Swordfish was also the name of a World War II torpedo-carrying aircraft.
- The unit was commissioned as a torpedo training school during World War II to enhance the capability of the Indian Royal Navy.
- It was established on December 15, 1942 by the then Maharani of Nawanagar, Gulab Kunwarba Sahiba. After independence, HMIS Valsura was renamed as INS Valsura on 1 July 1950.

Important Outreach Activity:

- A remarkable 'outreach' activity was performed by Valsura after the devastating earthquake in Gujarat.
- It played a key role in the restoration of earthquake-ravaged Moda village and the creation of a new Navy Moda village in a stipulated record time.
- This achievement was recognized by the Navy when the unit was awarded the Special Unit Citation in December 2001, an honor normally reserved for operational units.

Current status of INS Valsura:

- The unit provides quality training on contemporary and specialized technologies through progressive enhancement of training infrastructure.
- Establishment of Artificial Intelligence, Big Data and Medium Voltage Lab in recent years is a unique example for training of officers and sailors and technical excellence in contemporary technology.
- INS Valsura has also emerged as the preferred training destination for friendly foreign navies.
- INS Valsura has also helped India in strengthening bilateral relations with the countries of the Indian Ocean region.

Quad group

- Increasing both the membership and influence of the Quad, experts say, could serve as the basis for the Biden administration's strategy to curb China's lofty ambitions in Asia.
- For this, experts have suggested inviting South Korea to join the quadrilateral security dialogue 'Quad'.

Reason for inclusion of 'South Korea' in 'Quad':

- South Korea has a population of about 50 million, and its economy is now G7, on par with that of Canada or Russia.
- It has a population of 600,000 soldiers and women, and has a military budget of US\$50 billion (\$69.5 billion), which will soon overtake Japan. Given all these facts, South Korea's engagement with the Quad is becoming more important than ever.

'Quad Grouping':

- The Quad is a quadrilateral security negotiating organization consisting of the countries of Japan, India, the United States and Australia.
- All member states of this grouping are democratic nations and share the interests of non-disrupted maritime trade and security.
- The grouping is often referred to as "Asian" or "mini" NATO, and is seen as a response to China's military and economic clout in the Indo-Pacific.

Origin of Quad Group:

- The origins of the Quad group can be traced back to the coordinated efforts of the four countries for relief efforts after the 2004 tsunami.
- After this, these four countries met for the first time during the ASEAN Summit in 2007.
- Its aim was to increase maritime cooperation between the four countries, Japan, India, the United States of America and Australia.

Significance of this organization:

- Quad is an opportunity for like-minded countries to share information and collaborate on projects of mutual interest.

- Its member states share an open and open Indo-Pacific approach.
- It is one of the many forums of dialogue between India, Australia, Japan and the US and should not be viewed in any one specific context.

China's approach towards 'Quad Group':

- It is a common understanding that the Quad will not compete militarily against any country. Nevertheless, by China's strategic community, it is described as an emerging "Asian NATO" brand.
- Notably, the 'Confluence of Two Seas' address by Japanese PM Shinzo Abe in the Indian Parliament has given a new thrust to the Quad concept. It has recognized the economic rise of India.

Fundamental duty

- Recently, Attorney General of India KK Venugopal has objected to a writ petition seeking "directions to enforce/enforce the Fundamental Duties and take steps to make citizens aware of their duties".

Background:

- In February 2022, a petition was filed in the Supreme Court seeking 'Enforcement of Fundamental Duties' under the Indian Constitution through comprehensive and well-defined laws.
- The petitioners have argued that presently a new illegal practice of protest by blocking road and rail routes under the guise of 'freedom of speech and expression' is being adopted by the protesters, so that the government has to meet their demands. to be forced. In view of this the need arises for 'implementation of Fundamental Duties'.
- It is also necessary to remind the citizens that 'Fundamental Duties' are as important as 'Fundamental Rights' under the Constitution.

Central Government's efforts to create awareness about 'Fundamental Duties':

- Much work has been done to sensitize both citizens and students about Article 51A.
- The entire article 51A has been included in the school curriculum, along with the duties to be taught to the students, and debates are organized across the country in this context, etc.
- The leaders of the country – President, Prime Minister – address the country from time to time in this context.

- For this a 'One Year Awareness Campaign' has also been run by the government.

Supreme Court verdict in Ranganath Mishra case – 2003:

- The Supreme Court, while delivering its judgment in this case, had observed that Fundamental Duties should be enforced not only by legal restrictions but also by social restrictions. After all, rights and duties are co-related to each other.
- For implementation of the recommendations of the Justice JS Verma Committee Report on making Fundamental Duties functional, directions were issued to the Central Government to consider and take appropriate steps.

Reason behind this demand:

- The petition mentions the Bhagavad Gita on the importance of 'duty'. Lord Krishna guides Arjuna and educates him on the importance of duties in all walks/stages of life.
- The petition also referred to the then Soviet Constitution, in which rights and duties were placed on the same footing.
- Fundamental duties create a "serious sense of social responsibility towards the nation". Therefore, they should be implemented.

Effect:

- Enforcement of Fundamental Duties shall protect and maintain the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India.
- Fundamental duties prepare citizens to defend the country and render such national service when required.
- Fundamental duties, try to spread the spirit of nationalism and promote the spirit of patriotism to maintain the unity of India after the rise of China as a superpower.

Fundamental Duties:

- No provision was made in the original constitution related to Fundamental Duties (FD).
- This clause was added to the Constitution of India through the '42nd Amendment Act' on the basis of the recommendations of the 'Swarna Singh Committee'. In the year 2002, one more Fundamental Duty was added to this list.
- The concept of this clause was taken from the constitution of 'Soviet Union'.
- Probably the only 'Japanese constitution' among other democratic nations has included provisions regarding the duties of its citizens.
- Like the Directive Principles of State Policy – DPSP, 'Fundamental Duties' are also non-justiciable in nature.

Importance of Fundamental Duties:

- Fundamental duties serve to remind citizens that while exercising their rights, they should also be aware of their duties towards their country, society and their fellow citizens.
- Fundamental duties act as a warning against anti-national and anti-social activities like burning of national flag, destruction of public property etc.
- Fundamental duties act as a source of inspiration to the citizens and inculcate a sense of discipline and commitment in them.
- Fundamental Duties create the view that citizens are not mere spectators but active participants in the achievement of national goals.

Criticism of Fundamental Duties:

- Fundamental duties have been made non-justiciable in nature.
- The list of duties included in this section is not exhaustive, as it does not cover some important duties such as voting, tax-payment, family planning, etc.
- Some duties are vague, multi-meaning and difficult to understand for the common man.
- The inclusion of 'Fundamental Duties' in the Constitution has been termed as redundant by some critics, as they would normally be performed even if they were not included.
- Inclusion as an appendage of the Constitution dilutes the value and importance of 'Fundamental Duties'.

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