



Date – 5 May 2022

Anang Tal Lake: Delhi



- Recently the Ministry of Culture has ordered the restoration of the historic Anang Tal Lake located in South Delhi.
- The National Monuments Authority (NMA) and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) have asked the authorities to expedite its conservation work so that the site can be declared a national monument

Key points:

- This lake is located in Mehrauli, Delhi, which was built by Tomar king Anangpal II in 1060 AD.

- He is known to have founded and settled Delhi in the 11th century.
- The millennium old Anang Tal symbolizes the early period of Delhi.
- Anang Tal has a strong connection with Rajasthan as Maharaja Anangpal is known as the maternal grandfather of Prithviraj Chauhan, whose fort Rai Pithora, is included in the list of ASI.

Anangpal II:

- Anangpal II, popularly known as Anangpal Tomar, belonged to the Tomar dynasty.
- He was the founder of Dhillika Puri, which eventually came to be known as Delhi.
- Evidence of the early history of Delhi is carved on the iron pillar of the Masjid Quwwat-ul-Islam adjacent to the Qutub Minar.
- Study of several inscriptions and coins shows that Anangpal Tomar was the ruler of Delhi and Haryana between 8th-12th century.
- He got the city built on the ruins and under his supervision got the construction of Anang Tal Baoli and Lal Kot.
- After Anangpal Tomar II, his grandson Prithviraj Chauhan became the successor.
- The Delhi Sultanate was established in 1192 after Prithviraj Chauhan's defeat against the Ghurid armies in the Battle of Tarain (present-day Haryana).

About Tomar Dynasty:

- The Tomar dynasty is one of the early medieval minor dynasties of northern India.

- Puranic evidence (writings of the Puranas) confirm its inclusion in the early dynasties of the Himalayan region. According to the Bhat tradition, the Tomar dynasty was one of the 36 Rajput tribes.
- The history of the dynasty can be traced back to the period of the reign of Anangpal who founded the city of Delhi in the 11th century and incorporated Delhi into the Chauhan (Chaman) kingdom in 1164.
- Although Delhi later became decisively part of the Chauhan Empire, numismatics and comparatively later literary evidence indicate that the Tomar kings such as Anangpal and Madanpal probably served as feudatories until the final conquest of Delhi by the Muslims in the year 1192–93.

[Swadeep Kumar](#)

Air-Independent Propulsion (AIP)



- Recently France's Naval Group rejected the bid for the P-75 India project, saying it does not yet use Air-Independent Propulsion (AIP) technology.
- About 10 countries have developed or are nearing to develop AIP technology and about 20 countries have AIP submarines.

Project-75 India:

- In June 1999, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) approved a 30-year submarine building plan that included building 24 conventional submarines by 2030.
- In the first phase, two series of production were to be established – the first, the P-75; Second, the P-75i. Each series was to produce six submarines.
- While the six P-75 submarines are diesel-electric, they can be equipped with AIP technology later.
- The project envisages indigenous construction of six conventional submarines equipped with state-of-the-art air-independent propulsion systems at an estimated cost of Rs 43,000 crore.

Air independent propulsion:

- AIP is the technology for conventional non-nuclear submarines.
- There are essentially two types of submarines: conventional and nuclear.
- Conventional submarines use diesel-electric engines, which require them to surface daily to obtain atmospheric oxygen for fuel combustion.

- If the submarine is equipped with an AIP system, they will need to take oxygen only once a week.
- Indigenously developed AIP is one of the major missions of Naval Materials Research Laboratory (NMRL-DRDO), which is considered as one of the ambitious projects of DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation) for Navy.

Fuel Cell Based AIP System:

- In fuel cell based AIP, the electrolytic fuel cell produces energy only by combining hydrogen and oxygen with water, thereby generating less marine polluting waste products.
- These cells are highly efficient and do not have moving parts, thus ensuring that the submarine has less noise emissions.

Advantages and Disadvantages of AIP:

Benefit:

- AIP has a force multiplier effect on the firepower of a diesel electric submarine as it multiplies the underwater capability of the boat.
- Fuel cell based AIP performs better than other technologies.
- AIP technology keeps a conventional submarine submerged for longer than normal diesel-electric submarines.
- All conventional submarines have to come to the surface to run their generators, which recharge their batteries and enable the boat to function underwater.

- However, the more often a submarine comes to the surface, the more likely it is to be monitored by enemies.
- AIP is able to keep a submarine underwater for around 15 days, compared to two to three days by diesel-electric boats.

Loss:

- Installing AIP increases the length and weight of boats, requiring onboard pressurized liquid oxygen (LOX) storage and supplies for all three technologies.
- Some acoustic noise is generated from the moving parts of the MESMA (Autonomous Submarine Energy Module) and Stirling engine, which increases the unit cost of the submarine by about 10%.

Submarines currently available with India:

- India has 16 conventional diesel-electric submarines, classified as SSKs. With the commissioning of the last two Kalvari class submarines under the P-75, this number will increase to 18.
- India also has two nuclear ballistic submarines classified as Submersible Ship Ballistic Missile Nuclear-SSBN.
- India is estimated to have six diesel-electric, six AIP-powered and six nuclear strike submarines by the time the P-75I is completed under the 30-year project.

Swadeep Kumar

World press freedom index



- The 20th edition of the World Press Freedom Index was published by 'Reporters without Borders' (RSF) on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day (WPDF) on May 3, 2022.
- India is ranked 150 out of 180 countries.

World Press Freedom Day:

- After the recommendation of the General Conference of UNESCO in 1991, the United Nations General Assembly declared World Press Freedom Day in the year 1993.
- This day also marks the 'Windhoek' Declaration adopted by UNESCO in the year 1991.
- The 'Windhoek Declaration' of 1991 deals with the development of a free, independent and pluralistic press.

Theme of World Press Freedom Day 2022:

- Journalism under digital siege.

World Press Freedom Index:

- It is published every year by Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF) or Reporters without Borders since 2002.
- Based in Paris, the RSF is an independent non-governmental organization with consultative status to the United Nations, UNESCO, the European Council and the International Organization for Francophony (OIF).
- The OIF is a grouping of 54 French-speaking nations.
- The index ranks countries and regions according to the level of freedom available to journalists. However, it is not an indicator of the quality of journalism.

Scoring Criteria:

- The ranking of the index is based on a score from 0 to 100 assigned to each country or region, with 100 representing the best possible score (the highest possible level of press freedom) and 0 representing the worst.

Evaluation Criteria:

- The score for each country or region is assessed using five relevant indicators, including political context, legal framework, economic context, socio-cultural context and security.

Ranking of countries:

Top and worst performers:

- Norway (1st), Denmark (2nd), Sweden (3rd), Estonia (4th) and Finland (5th) have topped.
- North Korea ranked at the bottom of the list of 180 countries.
- Russia has been placed at 155th position.

Neighbours of India:

- Nepal has jumped 30 points to rank 76th in the global rankings.
- The index has placed Pakistan at 157th, Sri Lanka at 146th, Bangladesh at 162nd and Myanmar at 176th.
- China is ranked 175th.

India's performance:

- India has slipped eight places to 150th out of 180 countries in 2022.
- India was ranked 133rd in the 2016 index, since then its ranking has been continuously declining.
- The reason behind the drop in the rankings is the rise in “violence against journalists” and “politically partisan media”.

Reasons for the fall in India's ranking:

Government pressure:

- According to the index, the media in India is facing pressure from “increasingly authoritarian and/or nationalist governments” compared to democratically established nations.

Defects in the policy framework:

- Although the policy framework is protective in principle, it accuses journalists criticizing the government of defamation, sedition, contempt of court and endangering national security as “anti-national”.

India most dangerous country in the world for media persons:

- According to the report, India is also one of the most dangerous countries in the world for media persons.
- Journalists face all forms of physical violence, including police violence, ambushes by political activists, and deadly retaliation by criminal groups or corrupt local officials.

Freedom of Press in India:

- The Constitution is the supreme law of the country, which guarantees freedom of speech and expression under Article 19, which deals with the ‘protection of certain rights with respect to freedom of speech, etc.’

- Freedom of the press is not expressly protected by the Indian legal system, but it is protected under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution, according to which “all citizens shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression”.
- In *Romesh Thapar v State of Madras*, 1950 the Supreme Court held that freedom of the press is the foundation of all democratic organisations.
- However, even the freedom of the press is not complete in itself. Some restrictions have been imposed on it under Article 19(2), which are as follows-
- Sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, decency or morality or contempt of court, defamation, abetment of any offence.

[Swadeep Kumar](#)