



# YOJNA IAS

## WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## MAY 2022



### Indian PM's gift to the heads of the Quad countries



#### Indian PM's gift to the heads of the Quad countries – Today Current Affairs

- At the Quad Summit held in Tokyo, the Indian Prime Minister took with him gifts to the leaders of the US, Australia and Japan to showcase India's rich cultural heritage and art forms.

## Today Current Affairs

### Gifts and Significance:

#### Sanjhi Arts Panel for US President:



- The intricate sanjhi art panel is themed on the Thakurani Ghat, one of the most famous ghats on the banks of the holy river Yamuna in Gokul.
- The traditional art form that originated from the Krishnapanth involves making stencils based on events from the deity's life and then cutting them by hand on a thin sheet of paper using scissors.
- In olden times stencils were made using thick paper or banana leaves, but now this has changed to handmade and recycled paper. The Hindu Analysis
- Radha, according to Hindu mythology, used to paint common patterns on the walls for her beloved Krishna and was later followed by the gopis of Vrindavan.
- Later it was used to make ceremonial rangolis in temples dedicated to Lord Krishna.
- Actually the word 'sanjhi' is derived from 'sanjh' or sham (evening) and is related to the practice of making Rangoli in temples in the evening. The Hindu Analysis
- As a painting, sanjhi was popularized by Vaishnava temples in the 15th and 16th centuries and was practiced by priests.
- Contemporary subjects were added during the Mughal period and many families continue to practice it till date.
- Pictograms were inspired by traditional common art during the 2010 Commonwealth Games.

## Gond Art Painting for Australian Prime Minister : The Hindu Analysis



- A form of painting practiced by the Gond community in Madhya Pradesh, one of the largest tribal groups in India.
- Art scenes are often inspired by the works of Jangarh Singh Shyam, who began to paint tribal oral myths and legends extensively on the walls of houses in Patangarh village in the 1970s and 80s. The Hindu Analysis
- Dotted patterns, serrated patterns, dots, waves and squiggles tell the story of their gods and goddesses as well as the flora and fauna of the deep forests in Madhya Pradesh.
- Prominent names include Bhajju Shyam, Venkat Shyam, Durgabai Vyam, Ram Singh Urveti and Subhash Vyaam. The Hindu Analysis
- Gift given by PM Modi to Australian Prime Minister – The Tree of Life with intricate patterns and lines is an important symbol of the popular motif of the Gond art style.

## Wooden Handmade Box with Painting for Japanese Prime : The Hindu Analysis



- Rogan is a form of cloth painting which is believed to be more than four centuries old and is mainly practiced in Kutch district of Gujarat.

- The word 'rogan' comes from Persian, which means varnish or oil. The Hindu Analysis
- Paints made from boiled oil and vegetable dyes are used in the craft, where castor seeds are hand-grinded to extract the oil and boiled into a paste.
- Colored powder is dissolved in water and kept in earthen pots to make paste of different colors.
- Artists hold small amounts of paint paste in their palms and swirl it with a rod to create texture appearance on the fabric. The rod never actually comes into contact with the fabric and by moving it up the artist creates thin lines on the fabric. The Hindu Analysis
- Usually only half the cloth is painted and folded to form a mirror image, while originally only men practiced the art, now many women in Gujarat also follow it.

Swadeep Kumar

## 2nd anniversary of National Artificial Intelligence Portal



### 2nd anniversary of National Artificial Intelligence Portal – Today Current Affairs

- The second anniversary of the National Artificial Intelligence Portal was celebrated on 30th May, 2022.

#### Today Current Affairs

#### Regarding the portal:

- It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Ministry

of Electronics and IT- MeitY), National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and NASSCOM (NASSCOM).

### **National e-Governance Division : The Hindu Analysis**

- NeGD was set up as an independent business division in the year 2009 under Digital India Corporation (a non-profit company set up by MeitY).
- NASSCOM is a not-for-profit industrial association which is the apex body for the IT industry in India.
- It acts as a central hub for artificial intelligence (AI) related news, articles, events and activities in India and beyond.

### **With respect to artificial intelligence (AI) : The Hindu Analysis**

- In computer science, artificial intelligence or artificial intelligence refers to the performance of intelligence similar to humans by a computer, robot or other machine.
- Artificial intelligence is the ability of a computer or machine to mimic the capabilities of the human brain, including learning from examples and experiences, recognizing objects, understanding and responding to language, making decisions, solving problems, and so on. Combination includes the ability to do the same work as humans, etc. The Hindu Analysis
- AI involves complex things like feeding specific data into the machine and responding to different situations.
- AI is being used in various industries including finance and healthcare.
- According to a report by PwC (a global network of firms), India registered a 45% increase in the use of AI, which is the highest among all countries after the outbreak of the corona virus.

### **Recent examples of use of AI in India : The Hindu Analysis**

- In tackling COVID-19: AI-enabled chatbot was used by MyGov to ensure communication.
- In the judicial system: AI based portal 'SUPACE' aims to assist judges in legal research.
- In Agriculture: ICRISAT has developed an AI-powered sowing app that uses weather models and data on local crop yield and rainfall to advise local farmers when to sow their seeds. The Hindu Analysis
- In disaster management: AI-based flood forecasting model implemented in Bihar is now being expanded to cover entire India, ensuring that about 200 million people are exposed to impending flood risk within 48 hours. Earlier alerts and warnings can be. The Hindu Analysis
- In the banking and financial services industry: Some banks in India have adopted AI to enhance digitization to improve customer experience and use algorithms in risk management (eg fraud detection).

## **Initiatives taken to promote the use of AI : The Hindu Analysis**

- National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence (NITI Aayog, June 2018) which focuses on Inclusive AI (AI for All) and New Education Policy (NEP, 2020) which highlights the need to incorporate AI in curriculum, Core and are the right strategic steps to encourage applied research.
- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MTA) has signed an MoU with Microsoft for digital transformation of schools such as Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) and Ashram Schools. The Hindu Analysis
- The US India Artificial Intelligence (USIAI) initiative has been launched to enhance science and technology ties between India and the United States of America.
- In the year 2020, India joined the ‘Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence’ (GPAI) as a founding member to promote responsible and human-centred development and use of AI.
- ‘RAISE 2020 – Responsible Artificial Intelligence 2020 for Social Empowerment’, a mega virtual summit jointly organized by NITI Aayog and MeitY. The Hindu Analysis
- The larger objective of the “Responsible AI for Youth” program is to provide equal opportunities to all Indian youth to become human-centred designers in urban, rural and remote areas of India who are responsible for solving India’s economic and social issues. Can provide real AI solutions.

**Swadeep Kumar**

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# PM Cares for Children



## PM Cares for Children – Today Current Affairs

- Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has released various facilities under the scheme 'PM Cares for Children' for children who have lost their parents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Today Current Affairs

### About 'PM Cares for Children' scheme:

- This scheme was launched in May 2021.
- Objective: To help and empower children affected by COVID.
- Eligibility: All children who have lost both parents or either of the parents or the surviving guardian or legal guardian/adoptive parent due to COVID-19 will be given assistance under the scheme 'PM-CARES for Children'.

### Key points of this plan : The Hindu Analysis

- Fixed deposit in the name of the child: A corpus of Rs 10 lakh will be constituted for each child who completes the age of 18 years.
- Schooling: Children below the age of 10 years will be admitted as day scholars in the nearest Kendriya Vidyalaya or private school.
- Schooling: Children in the age group of 11 -18 years will be admitted to any residential

school of the Central Government such as Sainik School, Navodaya Vidyalaya etc. The Hindu Analysis

- Assistance for Higher Education: The child will be assisted in getting education loan for vocational courses/higher education in India as per the existing education loan norms.
- Health Insurance: All such children will be enrolled as a beneficiary under the 'Ayushman Bharat Yojana' (PM-JAY) with a health insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh.

### **The need for these measures : The Hindu Analysis**

- India is currently battling the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic and the number of deaths of parents of many children is increasing due to this pandemic.
- Along with this, the possibility of child trafficking in the guise of adoption of these children has also increased.
- There has also been an increase in 'child marriage' related cases during the lockdown implemented due to COVID-19.

Swadeep Kumar

## **India Drone Festival 2022**



### **India Drone Festival 2022 – Today Current Affairs**

- Recently, India's biggest drone festival- India Drone Festival 2022 was inaugurated by the Prime Minister in New Delhi.
- Virtual Award of Drone Pilot Certificate, Panel Discussion, Product Launch, Demonstration of 'Made in India' Drone Taxi Prototype, Flight Demonstration were other major events of the festival.

## Today Current Affairs

### Drones:

- Drone is a common term used for unmanned aircraft (UA).
- Originally developed for the military and aerospace industries, drones have established themselves in the mainstream due to increasing levels of safety and efficiency.
- A drone can be remotely operated (human controlled), which means it relies on a system of sensors and LIDAR detectors to calculate its speed.

### Applications of Drone Technology:

#### Agriculture : The Hindu Analysis

- With the help of drones, micronutrients can be sprayed in the agriculture field.
- It can also be used in survey to identify the challenges faced by the farmers.

#### Defence : The Hindu Analysis

- Drone systems can be used as weapons against terrorist attacks.
- Drones can be integrated into the National Airspace System.
- Drones can be deployed in combat, can be used to establish communication in remote areas and for counter-drone solutions.

#### Healthcare Delivery : The Hindu Analysis

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has developed a drone-based vaccine delivery model, the i-Drone. Telangana and North-Eastern states have been allowed to use this drone technology to deliver vaccines to remote areas.

#### Supervision : The Hindu Analysis

- Drone technology in SVAMITVA scheme launched by Government of India has helped about half a million village residents to get their property cards by mapping densely populated areas in less than a year.
- Drones can be used for real time monitoring of assets and transmission lines, theft prevention, visual inspection/maintenance, construction planning and management etc.
- They can be used for anti-poaching operations, monitoring of forests and wildlife, pollution assessment and evidence collection.

#### Law enforcement : The Hindu Analysis

- Drones are also important for law enforcement agencies, fire incident and emergency

services, where human intervention and health services are not safe.

- Significance of Drone Festival : The Hindu Analysis
- Promoting drone technology is yet another way to enhance our commitment to good governance and ease of living.
- We have got a smart tool in the form of Drone which is going to become a part of common people's life.
- Since drone technology has its own applications in diverse sectors such as defence, disaster management, agriculture, health care, tourism, film and entertainment, there is potential for a major revolution creating immense employment opportunities. The Hindu Analysis
- Roads, electricity, optical fiber and digital technology are coming to the villages. However, agriculture is still being carried out in the old ways, leading to problems, low productivity and wastage.
- Drone technology can play a major role in empowering farmers and modernizing their lives.
- The government is striving towards building a strong drone manufacturing ecosystem in India through schemes like Production-Linked Incentives (PLIs).

### **Drone Rules, 2021 : The Hindu Analysis**

- In the year 2021, the ministry notified liberalized drone regulations with an aim to encourage research and development and make India a drone hub.
- Under this, many types of permissions and approvals were abolished. For this the number of forms that need to be filled was reduced from 25 to five and the type of fee was reduced from 72 to 4.
- Now no permission is required to operate drones in green zone and no pilot license is required for non-commercial use of micro and nano drones.
- It allows a payload of up to 500 kg so that drones can be used as unmanned flying taxis.
- Apart from this, foreign ownership of companies operating drones has also been allowed.

### **PLI Scheme for Drones : The Hindu Analysis**

- The government also approved a Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for drones and its components with an allocation of Rs 120 crore over three financial years.
- The PLI plan for the drone and drone components industry addresses the strategic, tactical and operational uses of this revolutionary technology.

### **Drone power plan : The Hindu Analysis**

- The Union Budget has emphasized on promotion of drones through startup and skilling in Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs).

- Startups will be promoted through various applications and to facilitate 'Drone Shakti' for 'Drone-as-a-Service' (DrAAS). Courses for skilling will also be started in selected ITI institutes of all the states.
- DrAAS allows enterprises to avail various services from drone companies, without the need to invest in drone hardware or software, pilot and training programs.
- There are many areas where drones can be used and these include photography, agriculture, mining, telecommunications, insurance, oil and gas, construction, transportation, disaster management, geospatial mapping, forest and wildlife, defense and law enforcement.
- Drones will also be promoted for crop evaluation, digitization of land records, spraying of pesticides and nutrients (Kisan Drones).
- The drone services industry is expected to grow by over Rs 30,000 crore and create more than five lakh jobs in the next three years.

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## Goa Foundation Day



### Goa Foundation Day – Today Current Affairs

- On Goa's foundation day (May 30), the Prime Minister greeted the people of the state.

### Today Current Affairs

### Geographical Location of Goa:

- Goa is located on the south-west coast of India in the region known as the Konkan and is geographically separated from the Deccan highlands by the Western Ghats.

### **Capital:**

- Official Language: Its official language is Konkani which is one of the 22 languages included in the Eighth Schedule.

### **Boundaries : The Hindu Analysis**

- It is surrounded by Maharashtra in the north, Karnataka in the east and south and the Arabian Sea forms its western coast.

### **History : The Hindu Analysis**

- India requested the Portuguese to return their territory on August 15, 1947, with the attainment of independence, but the Portuguese refused to do so.
- After the failure of diplomatic efforts, it was liberated from the Portuguese on December 19, 1961 by the Indian Navy, Air Force and Army in Goa by conducting 'Operation Vijay'.
- Goa Liberation Day is celebrated in India every year on 19th December. The Hindu Analysis
- It is noteworthy that the Portuguese were the first Europeans to come to India (in the year 1498) and the last to leave this land (in the year 1961).
- On May 30, 1987, this region was divided and Goa was given the status of a full state and Daman and Diu as a union territory.

### **Geographical feature : The Hindu Analysis**

- The highest point of Goa is Sonsogor.
- To the north of Goa flows the Terekhol River which separates Goa from Maharashtra, other major rivers of the state include Mandvi, Zuari, Chapora, Rakhol, Galgibagh, Kumbarjua Canal, Talpona and Sal etc.
- Most of the soil cover of Goa is made up of laterite.

### **Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks : The Hindu Analysis**

- Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary
- Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary
- Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary
- Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary
- Bhagwan Mahavir Sanctuary
- Molem National Park

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# Astra Mark-1



## Astra Mark-1 – Today Current Affairs

- Recently the Ministry of Defense has signed a contract with Hyderabad based public sector 'Bharat Dynamics Limited' (BDL) company for the supply of Astra Mark-1.
- Contract was signed for deployment of fighter jets of Indian Air Force and Indian Navy at a cost of Rs 2,971 crore.

## Today Current Affairs

### Astra Missile and its Variants:

- The Astra project was officially launched in the early 2000s with defined parameters and proposed future forms.
- The development phase of the Astra Mark-1 missile variant was completed around the year 2017.
- Many successful trials have been done from Sukhoi-30 MKI since the year 2017.
- Astra Mark-1 Missile : The Hindu Analysis
- Astra is India's first indigenously manufactured Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM).
- BVM missiles are capable of hitting beyond a range of 20 nautical miles or 37 kms.
- AAMs are released in the air to destroy an air target.

### Range : The Hindu Analysis

- The Astra Mark-1 has a range of about 110 km.
- Mark-II with a range of more than 150 km is being developed and a longer-range Mark-

III variant is being envisaged.

- Another variant of Astra, which has a lower range than the Mark-I, is under construction.
- It has been developed by the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO).

### **Strategic Importance:**

#### **Reduction in dependence on foreign sources : The Hindu Analysis**

- The missile is designed based on the requirements specified by the Indian Air Force (IAF) for BVR as well as reducing dependence on close-competition, foreign sources.
- AAMs with BVR capability provide a large stand-off range for their fighters which can neutralize enemy air assets while shielding themselves from adverse air defense measures.
- Stand-off range refers to the sufficient distance at which the missile can be launched to protect the attacking side from attack.

#### **Technically and economically better : The Hindu Analysis**

- Astra is technically and economically superior to many such imported missile systems.
- This missile can travel more than four times the speed of sound and has a maximum range of 20 km. Therefore, it is highly efficient for aerial warfare.

#### **Other fighters can be integrated with : The Hindu Analysis**

- The missile is fully integrated on the Sukhoi 30 MK II and will be integrated with other fighter aircraft in a phased manner including the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas.
- It will integrate the missile on MiG-29K fighter aircraft that are deployed on Navy aircraft carriers. Thus increasing the lethality of India's aircraft carriers.

**Swadeep Kumar**

# Jal Jeevan Mission



- So far 50% of rural households in India have been covered under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).
- At the time of the launch of Jal Jeevan Mission in 2019, only 3.23 crore households i.e. 17 percent of the rural population had access to drinking water through taps.

## **Performance under the scheme:**

- Goa, Telangana, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Puducherry and Haryana have already made significant achievements by reaching 100% household tap water.
- Punjab, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Bihar have more than 90 percent coverage and are making rapid progress towards achieving 'Har Ghar Jal' status.

## **About Jal Jeevan Mission:**

- Under the 'Jal Jeevan Mission', it is envisaged to supply 55 liters of water per person per day through Functional House Tap Connections (FHTC) to all rural households by the year 2024.
- This campaign is being implemented by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- It was launched in 2019.

## **This mission ensures the achievement of the following objectives:**

- Functionality of existing water supply systems and water connections.
- Sustainable agriculture along with water quality monitoring and testing.
- Combined use of protected water.
- Increase in drinking water sources.

- Drinking water supply system, gray water treatment and its reuse.

### **Under this the following works are included:**

- Prioritizing installation of Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) in quality affected areas, villages in drought prone and desert areas, villages under Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY), etc.
- To facilitate functional tap connections to schools, Anganwadi centres, Gram Panchayat buildings, health centres, wellness centers and community buildings.
- Technological interventions to make water-quality problem areas pollution-free.

### **Execution:**

- The 'Jal Jeevan Mission' is based on a community approach to water and includes comprehensive information, education and dialogue as a key component of the mission.
- The objective of this mission is to create a mass movement for water, through which it becomes everyone's priority.
- 90:10 for the Himalayan and North Eastern States, by the Center and the States for this mission; in the ratio of 50:50 for other states; And for the Union Territories 100% financial assistance will be provided by the Central Government.

Swadeep Kumar

## **Prevention of Money Laundering Act**



- Recently, the Enforcement Directorate has arrested Delhi Health Minister and senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Satyendar Jain in connection with his alleged involvement in the 'Hawala transaction' case under the 'Prevention of Money Laundering Act'. Act – PMLA) under criminal provisions.

## **About 'Prevention of Money Laundering Act':**

- The 'Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)' was enacted as a response to India's global commitment to combat the menace of money laundering (including the Vienna Convention).

## **Objectives of the Act:**

- The 'Prevention of Money Laundering Act' (PMLA) was enacted in the year 2002 to curb money laundering (the process of converting black money into white) and to provide for confiscation of money-laundering property was implemented in.

## **There are mainly three objectives of PMLA:**

- Preventing and controlling money laundering.
- Forfeiture of property received out of money laundering.
- Dealing with any other issue related to money laundering in India.

## **Dispute Redressal:**

- Under the Act, the 'Adjudicating Authority' is appointed by the Central Government. This authority decides whether the property attached or confiscated is related to 'money laundering'.
- The Adjudicating Authority shall not be bound by the procedure laid down by the 'Code of Civil Procedure, 1908' but shall be guided by the principles of natural justice and shall act subject to other provisions of PMLA.

## **Appellate Tribunal:**

- An Appellate Tribunal appointed by the Government has been empowered to hear appeals against the orders of the 'Adjudicating Authority'. An appeal can also be made against the orders of the Tribunal to the appropriate High Court.

## **Special Court:**

- Under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA), a provision has been made for the establishment of a special court by the central government.

## **Prevention of Money Laundering (Amendment) Act, 2012:**

- Under the Amendment Act, the concept of 'reporting entity' has been included which would include a banking company, financial institution, intermediary etc.
- Under PMLA, 2002, there was a provision to impose a fine of up to Rs 5 lakh, but this upper limit has been removed by the Amendment Act.
- Under the Amendment Act, provision has also been made for temporary attachment and

confiscation of property of any person involved in money laundering activities..

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## Caste based census in Bihar



- Recently, in the all-party meeting held in Bihar, it has been unanimously decided to start the 'Caste-based Census' very soon.

### Background:

- Two proposals by the Bihar Legislature demanding a 'caste based census' have already been rejected by the central government. The central government says the 'caste-based census' will be a "divisive exercise".
- However, the central government has also said that "states can conduct caste census on their own if they want".

### How has the 'caste-related' details been collected so far?

- As per the prevailing practice, the 'Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes' details are collected by the enumerators as a part of the census, whereas, the details of other castes are not collected.
- Under the core method of census, all citizens provide 'self-declared' information to the 'enumerator'.
- Till now, the 'Backward Class Commissions' in different states have been doing their own calculations to find out the population of backward castes.

## **What type of caste data are published in the census?**

- In independent India, data on only Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been published in every census conducted between 1951 and 2011. The details of other castes have not been published in the census.
- However, prior to this, caste data was published in every census conducted till the year 1931.

## **About Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011:**

- The Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) conducted in the year 2011 was an important program to obtain data about the socio-economic status of different communities.

### **It had two components:**

- First, a survey of rural and urban households and ranking of these households on predetermined parameters, and

### **Second 'Caste Census'.**

- However, the details of the economic status of the people in rural and urban households were released by the government only. The caste data has not been released yet.
- Difference between 'Census' and 'Socio-Economic and Caste Census':
- Census provides a picture of India's population, while 'Socio-Economic and Caste Census' (SECC) is a tool to identify state-aided beneficiaries.
- 'Census' comes under the 'Census Act of 1948' and all its data is considered confidential, whereas all personal information given under SECC, government departments to provide benefits to families and/or available to be used to prevent.

### **Advantages of Caste Census:**

- The exact number of population of each caste will help in formulating the reservation policy to ensure equal representation to all.

### **Related concerns:**

- There is a possibility that the caste census will create resentment among some sections and some communities will demand higher or separate quota for themselves.
- It is reportedly believed that merely by labeling individuals as belonging to a caste, the caste-system can always be maintained in the society.

Swadeep Kumar

## Arms control law



### Arms control law – Today Current Affairs

- Recently there were two incidents of mass shootings in the United States during the last 11 days, in which more than 30 people including elementary school children were killed.
- A total of 24,576 murders were recorded in the US in the year 2020, of which about 79%, (19,384) deaths were due to shootings.
- Arms regulation in the US is done through a shared authority existing between federal, state, and local governments.
- The US Supreme Court previously held that the Second Amendment to the US Constitution protects the right to “keep and bear a weapon” in self-defense, while federal courts have argued for possible violations by federal, state and local. The rules constrain this right.

### Today Current Affairs

#### Arms Control Laws in India:

##### Arms Act, 1959:

- It aims to cover all aspects related to the acquisition, possession, manufacture, sale, import, export and transport of arms and ammunition in India.

#### Qualifications for obtaining a gun license in India : The Hindu Analysis

- The minimum age limit for obtaining a gun license in India is 21 years.

- The applicant must not have been convicted of any offense involving violence or morality, of 'unsound mind', or endangering public safety and peace, for five years prior to the application.
- Property qualification is not a criterion for obtaining a gun license.
- On receipt of an application the Licensing Authority (i.e., Ministry of Home Affairs) asks the Officer-in-Charge of the nearest Police Station to submit a report about the applicant after thorough investigation within the stipulated time.

### **Other Features of the Act : The Hindu Analysis**

- It defines 'prohibited weapons' as weapons that release either any harmful liquid or gas, or weapons that require the trigger to be pressed
- It allows the use of smoothbore guns with barrels of at least 20 inches for crop protection or sport.
- No entity is permitted to sell or transfer a gun that does not bear the manufacturer's name, manufacturer's number or any other visible seal or identification mark.

### **Amendment in Arms Act : The Hindu Analysis**

- The Arms Act, as amended in 2019, can reduce the number of guns a person can purchase from 3 to 2.
- The validity of the license has been increased to 5 years from the present 3 years.
- It also lists specific provisions to reduce the use of licensed weapons to ensure social harmony.

### **Punishment : The Hindu Analysis**

- Imprisonment has been increased from 7 to 14 years along with fine for the offense of possession, possession or carrying of prohibited ammunition without a licence.
- It prohibits conversion of unlicensed guns from one class to another.
- Unlawful manufacture, sale and transfer shall be punishable with imprisonment of not less than seven years, which may extend to imprisonment for life, and shall also be liable to fine.

**Swadeep Kumar**

# Telangana Foundation Day



## Telangana Foundation Day – Today Current Affairs

- The Governor of Telangana greeted the people of the state on Telangana Foundation Day (June 2).

### Introduction:

- On 2 June 2014, the 29th state of Telangana was carved out of the north-western part of Andhra Pradesh.
- The Andhra State Act (1953) separated the Telugu-speaking regions from the Madras State (now Tamil Nadu) to form the first linguistic state in India, known as the State of Andhra.
- Under the States Reorganization Act (1956), the Telugu speaking areas of Hyderabad State were merged with Andhra State to form a larger Andhra Pradesh State.
- The Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act (2014) bifurcated Andhra Pradesh into two separate states, (i.e. Andhra Pradesh (Remaining) and Telangana).

### Capital: Hyderabad

### Today Current Affairs

### Boundaries:

- Telangana is surrounded by Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh in the north, Karnataka in

the west and Andhra Pradesh in the south and east directions.

### **Four symbols of Telangana : The Hindu Analysis**

- State Bird – Palpitta (Indian Roller or Blue Jay).
- State Animal – Jinka (Deer).
- State Tree – Jammi Chettu (Prosopis cinerea).
- State Flower – Tangedu (Tanner Cassia).

### **Popular festivals : The Hindu Analysis**

- Hindu festivals like Ugadi, Shri Ram Navami, Bonalu, Vinayaka Chaturthi, Dussehra, Deepawali, Sankranti, Holi, Mahashivratri are celebrated with pomp, gaiety and devotion.
- Dussehra is the main festival along with 'Peda Panduga'.

### **Global recognition : The Hindu Analysis**

- The Ramappa temple in Mulugu district presents the distinctive style of the Kakatiyas. The foundation of this temple is "Sandbox Technique". It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Sadarmat Anicut across river Godavari in Nirmal district and Pedda Cheruvu River in Kamareddy district are included in the ICID Register of Heritage Irrigation Structures.

### **National Park : The Hindu Analysis**

- Kasu Brahmananda Reddy National Park
- Mahavir Harina Vanasthali National Park
- Mrigavani National Park

### **Wildlife Sanctuary : The Hindu Analysis**

- Kinnarsani Wildlife Sanctuary
- Ethurnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary
- Kawal Tiger Reserve
- Lanja Madugu Shivaram Wildlife Sanctuary
- Manjeera Crocodile Wildlife Sanctuary
- Nagarjuna Sagar-Srisailam Wildlife Sanctuary
- Pakhal Wildlife Sanctuary
- Pocharam Wildlife Sanctuary
- Pranhita Wildlife Sanctuary

## Other Initiatives : The Hindu Analysis

- Telangana has approved the use of i-drone, a drone-based vaccine delivery model developed by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), to deliver vaccines to remote areas.

Swadeep Kumar

## Taliban government and India



### Taliban government and India – Today Current Affairs

- For the first time since the Taliban's occupation of Afghanistan, India has sent an official delegation led by Joint Secretary 'JP Singh' in the Ministry of External Affairs to Afghanistan.

### Today Current Affairs

#### Areas of discussion:

- restarting stalled infrastructure projects,
- activating diplomatic relations, and
- Resumption of the issue of visas for Afghan students and patients.

### Aid given by India to Afghanistan so far : The Hindu Analysis

- In terms of humanitarian aid, India has so far sent 20,000 metric tonnes (MT) of wheat,

13 tonnes of medicines, 500,000 doses of COVID vaccines and winter clothing to the Afghan people.

- This aid has been distributed through international organizations like United Nations, World Health Organisation, World Food Program and UNICEF, because India did not have people in Afghanistan to distribute this aid material.

### **India's stand on Afghanistan after Taliban capture : The Hindu Analysis**

- 'Resolution 2593' was adopted by the 'United Nations Security Council' (UNSC) headed by India. The resolution states that the territory of Afghanistan shall not be used to threaten any country or to harbor terrorists.
- India participated in the United Nations High-Level Meeting on the 'Humanitarian Situation in Afghanistan' held in September. In this meeting, India sought normalization of the regular commercial operations of 'Kabul Airport', to help in the flow of relief material to the Afghans.
- India hosted the 'Delhi Regional Security Dialogue' on Afghanistan held in November 2021.

### **Related matter : The Hindu Analysis**

- The Taliban has established complete control over Afghanistan. Since then, people in the country have no jobs and no means of income. More than 22 million Afghans faced food insecurity this winter, and climate change-induced droughts added to their woes. All these conditions are forcing Afghans to choose between fleeing the country or starvation.

### **Significance of Afghan stability : The Hindu Analysis**

- The effect of the restoration of Taliban in Afghanistan can spread to its neighboring Central Asian countries like Tajikistan, Uzbekistan etc.
- Resurgence of Taliban will revive 'insurgency' in this region and this area can become a safe haven for 'Lashkar-e-Taiba', ISIS etc.
- A civil war in Afghanistan would lead to a refugee crisis in Central Asia and beyond.
- Afghanistan's stability will allow Central Asian countries to access ports located in the Indian Ocean region – by the shortest-distance route.
- Afghanistan is an important link for regional trade and culturally, acting as a bridge between Central-Asia and the rest of the world.

### **Today Current Affairs**

- Why is it important for India to establish contact with the Taliban?
- The Taliban now have a significant presence in Afghanistan.
- India has already invested heavily in Afghanistan. To safeguard its \$3 billion assets, India should establish contact with all parties in Afghanistan.

- Taliban forging deeper state ties with Pakistan would not be in India's interest.
- If India does not establish contacts now, Russia, Iran, Pakistan and China will emerge as political and geopolitical fortune-tellers of Afghanistan, which will certainly be detrimental to Indian interests.
- The US has announced the formation of a "Quad" in the form of 'America-Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan', surprising everyone on regional-connections – which does not include India.
- India's attempt to trade with Afghanistan through the Chabahar port to boost its economy is in jeopardy.

### **Time Requirement : The Hindu Analysis**

- There is an urgent need to work collectively to protect the Afghan civilians by stopping the violence perpetrated by the Taliban.
- Afghanistan should be given adequate place in Central Asian organization like Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).
- US, Iran, China and Russia should actively involve India to maintain stability in Afghanistan.
- Consolidated action should be taken when refugee crisis arises.
- India should establish contacts with Taliban to maintain peace with immediate neighbours.

Swadeep Kumar

## **50 years of the Stockholm Convention**



### **50 years of the Stockholm Convention- Today Current Affairs**

- Stockholm+50 is being held in Stockholm, Sweden. It is a celebration of the 50th

anniversary of the 1972 United Nations (UN) Conference on the Human Environment (also known as the Stockholm Conference).

- This international meeting is being organized by the United Nations General Assembly.
- It is being held at a time when the world is still facing the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution and waste, loss of nature and biodiversity, among other issues, 50 years after the Stockholm Declaration. It is a threat to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- A sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic will also be one of the agenda points.

## **Today Current Affairs**

### **About Stockholm Conference:**

- The 'United Nations Conference on the Human Environment' was held in Stockholm, Sweden from 5 June to 16 June 1972.
- It was the first such worldwide conference on Earth's environment, and its theme was 'Only One Earth'.
- The conference culminated in the Stockholm Declaration, which included environmental principles and an action plan with recommendations for environmental policy.
- The conference had three dimensions : The Hindu Analysis
- The participating countries agreed not to "harm each other's environment or areas outside their national jurisdiction".
- An action plan to study the threat to the Earth's environment was prepared.
- An international body named 'United Nations Environment Program' (UNEP) was established to establish cooperation between countries.

### **Significance and Outcome of Stockholm Conference : The Hindu Analysis**

- Till the year 1972, there was no 'Environment Ministry' in any country in the world.
- Representatives of 'Norway' returned from the conference to 'establish a ministry for the environment'.
- India established its 'Ministry of Environment and Forests' in 1985.

**Swadeep Kumar**