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IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR PRELIMS VOL 39

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IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS

FOR PRELIMS VOL - 39

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INDIAN POLITY

1) LOKPAL

IN NEWS: - The CBI has registered its first case on the basis of directives from the country's anti-corruption watchdog, Lokpal, against Manager Singh, the then director general of the National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property (NRLCCP),

ABOUT LOKPAL

- The Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013 provided for the establishment of Lokpal for the Union and Lokayukta for States.
- These institutions are statutory bodies without any constitutional status.
- They perform the function of an "ombudsman" and inquire into allegations of corruption against certain public functionaries and for related matters.
- The term Lokpal and Lokayukta were coined by Dr. L. M. Singhvi.
- In 1966, the First Administrative Reforms Commission recommended the setting up of two independent authorities- at the central and state level, to look into complaints against public functionaries, including MPs.
- "India Against Corruption movement" led by Anna Hazare put pressure on the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government at the Centre and resulted in the passing of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Bill, 2013, in both the Houses of Parliament.
- It received assent from President on 1 January 2014 and came into force on 16 January 2014.

Structure of Lokpal

- Lokpal is a multi-member body that consists of one chairperson and a maximum of 8 members.
- Chairperson of the Lokpal should be either the former Chief Justice of India or the former Judge of Supreme Court or an eminent person with impeccable integrity and outstanding ability, having special knowledge and

expertise of minimum 25 years in the matters relating to anti-corruption policy, public administration, vigilance, finance including insurance and banking, law and management.

- Out of the maximum eight members, half will be judicial members and minimum 50% of the Members will be from SC/ ST/ OBC/ Minorities and women.
- The judicial member of the Lokpal either a former Judge of the Supreme Court or a former Chief Justice of a High Court.
- The non-judicial member should be an eminent person with impeccable integrity and outstanding ability, having special knowledge and expertise of minimum 25 years in the matters relating to anti-corruption policy, public administration, vigilance, finance including insurance and banking, law and management.
- The term of office for Lokpal Chairman and Members is 5 years or till the age of 70 years.
- The members are appointed by the president on the recommendation of a Selection Committee.
- The selection committee is composed of the Prime Minister who is the Chairperson; Speaker of Lok Sabha, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Chief Justice of India or a Judge nominated by him/her and One eminent jurist.

The Lokpal and Lokayuktas (Amendment) Bill, 2016

- This Bill was passed by Parliament in July 2016 and amended the Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013.
- It enables the leader of the single largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha to be a member of the selection committee in the absence of a recognized Leader of Opposition.

- It also amended section 44 of the 2013 Act that deals with the provision of furnishing of details of assets and liabilities of public servants within 30 days of joining the government service.
- The Bill replaces the time limit of 30 days, now the public servants will make a declaration of their assets and liabilities in the form and manner as prescribed by the government.
- It also gives an extension of the time given to trustees and board members to declare their assets and those of their spouses in case of these are receiving government funds of more than Rs. 1 crore or foreign funding of more than Rs. 10 lakh.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Consider the following statements

1. The term of office for Lokpal Chairman and Members is 5 years or till the age of 65 years.
2. Lokpal is a constitutional body

Which among the above statements are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 or 2

Answer: - d

2) ELECTORAL BONDS

IN NEWS: - The 19th tranche of electoral bonds, which have been pitched as an alternative to cash donations, were on sale, ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections in five States.

ABOUT ELECTORAL BONDS

- Electoral Bond is a financial instrument for making donations to political parties.
- These bonds are issued in multiples of Rs. 1,000, Rs. 10,000, Rs. 1 lakh, Rs. 10 lakh and Rs. 1 crore without any maximum limit.
- State Bank of India is authorised to issue and encash these bonds, which are valid for fifteen days from the date of issuance.
- These bonds are only redeemable in the designated account of a registered political party.
- The bonds are available for purchase by any citizen of India for a period of ten days each in the months of January, April, July and October as may be specified by the Central Government.
- A person being an individual can buy bonds, either singly or jointly with other individuals.
- The donor's name is not mentioned on the bond.
- Through an amendment to the Finance Act 2017, the Union government has exempted political parties from disclosing donations received through electoral bonds. This means the voters will not know which individual, company, or organization has funded which party, and to what extent.

3) CRIMINAL LAWS AMENDMENT

IN NEWS: - The Government has informed the Rajya Sabha that it has started the process of comprehensive amendments to criminal laws. This information was given in Lok Sabha by the Government in response to a question on marital rape (on whether the Centre had taken a position on inclusion of marital rape as an offence under the Indian Penal Code).

CRIMINAL LAWS IN INDIA

- Indian criminal laws are divided into three major acts:

- Indian Penal Code, 1860: It is a comprehensive code intended to cover all substantive aspects of criminal law.
- Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973: CrPC defines the rules with which substantive laws can be enforced.
- Indian Evidence Act, 1872: It contains a set of rules and allied issues governing the admissibility of evidence in the Indian courts of law.
- Other laws
 - Besides these major acts, special Criminal Laws are also passed by the Indian Parliament which includes:
 - Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act
 - Prevention of Corruption Act
 - Food Adulteration Act
 - Dowry Prohibition Act
 - The Defence of India Act, etc.

Issues with these laws

- Colonial ideas prevail in the code.
- Some laws don't reflect the aspirations of India's liberal Constitution
- It does not recognize the individual agency of citizens of free India
- Too many laws promote patriarchal attitudes, biased against women
- Sedition laws are misused by the state
- Tech crimes, cyber crimes, sexual offenses need to be defined
- Risk of excessive policing, which leads to harassment of people.
- Need to harmonize statute books with court rulings, which have often expanded the rights of people.
- Some provisions are disadvantageous for the underprivileged who are trapped in jail for long but favour the powerful, who get bail very easily
- Influence of media trials on the judiciary while using the IPC.

4) UAPA 1967

IN NEWS: - The judgment of the Delhi High Court granted the bail to three activists, who have been in jail for over a year without trial, for their alleged role in the 2020 Delhi riots. The judgment assumes significance because the charges were under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), 1967. UAPA is criticized by the civil society as antithetical to constitutional freedom to dissent, rule of law and fair trial.

ABOUT UAPA

- Originally enacted in 1967, the UAPA was amended to be modelled as an anti-terror law in 2004 and 2008.
- In August 2019, Parliament cleared the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019 to designate individuals as terrorists on certain grounds provided in the Act.
- In order to deal with the terrorism related crimes, it deviates from ordinary legal procedures and creates an exceptional regime where constitutional safeguards of the accused are curtailed.
- Between 2016 and 2019, the period for which UAPA figures have been published by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), a total of 4,231 FIRs were filed under various sections of the UAPA, of which 112 cases have resulted in convictions.
- This frequent application of UAPA indicates that it is often misused and abused like other anti-terror laws in the past in India such as POTA (Prevention of Terrorism Act) and TADA (Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act).

ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY**5) NATIONAL ADAPTATION FUND FOR CLIMATE CHANGE**

IN NEWS: - Recent data show that the central government grants released under the National Adaptation Fund on Climate Change (NAFCC) have declined steadily for the last five years. Grants released under NAFCC fell from Rs 115.36 crore in 2017-18 to Rs 42.94 crore in 2020-21, and Rs 27.76 crore (till December 2021) in the current year.

ABOUT NATIONAL ADAPTATION FUND FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

- It is a Central Sector Scheme which was set up in the year 2015-16.
- The overall aim of NAFCC is to support concrete adaptation activities which mitigate the adverse effects of climate change.
- The activities under this scheme are implemented in a project mode. The projects related to adaptation in sectors such as agriculture, animal husbandry, water, forestry, tourism etc. are eligible for funding under NAFCC.
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is the National Implementing Entity (NIE).

PRACTICE QUESTION

Consider the following statements

1. National Adaptation fund for climate change (NAFCC) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme
2. NABARD is the implementing agency for NAFCC

Which among the above statements are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only

- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 or 2

Answer: - b

6) FIRE READY FORMULAE

IN NEWS: - The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has called on global governments to adopt a new 'Fire Ready Formula,' as it warned that incidences of wildfires would rise in the future.

ABOUT FIRE READY FORMULAE

- The new formula envisages that 66 per cent of spending be devoted to planning, prevention, preparedness and recovery.
- The remaining 34 per cent can be spent on response.

7) OCEAN MAPPING- SEABED 2030 PROJECT

IN NEWS: - It was announced that mapping of nearly one-fifth of the world's ocean floor had been finished under the Seabed 2030 Project.

ABOUT SEABED 2030 PROJECT

- Seabed 2030 is a collaborative project between the Nippon Foundation of Japan and the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO).
- It was launched at the United Nations Ocean Conference in June 2017 and is aligned with the UN's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources.
- The United Nations Ocean Conference intended to be a game-changer in reversing the decline in the health of the ocean for people, planet and prosperity.

- The project aims to bring together all available bathymetric data to produce the definitive map of the world ocean floor by 2030 and make it available to all.
- Bathymetry is the measurement of the shape and depth of the ocean floor.
- In the past, satellites and planes carrying altimeter instruments have been able to provide large swathes of data about the ocean floor.
- However, the Seabed 2030 Project aims to obtain higher quality information that has a minimum resolution of 100 metres at all spots, using equipment such as deepwater hull-mounted sonar systems, and Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs).

GENERAL BATHYMETRIC CHART OF OCEANS

- GEBCO is the only intergovernmental organisation with a mandate to map the entire ocean floor.
- It traces its origins to the GEBCO chart series initiated in 1903 by Prince Albert I of Monaco.
- It aims to provide the most authoritative publicly-available bathymetry of the world's oceans.
- It operates under the joint auspices of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) (of UNESCO).
- The IHO is an intergovernmental organization that works to ensure all the world's seas, oceans and navigable waters are surveyed and charted. It was established in 1921.
- India is its member.
- The IHO Secretariat is hosted by the Principality of Monaco.

8) UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY

IN NEWS: - The Fifth UN Environment Assembly concluded with 14 resolutions to strengthen actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The overall theme for UNEA-5 was “Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”, which was hosted by the UN Environment Programme. The Assembly will be followed by "UNEP@50", a two-day Special Session of the Assembly marking UNEP's 50 anniversary where member states are expected to address how to build a resilient and inclusive post-pandemic world, as well as to endorse a draft Political Declaration.

ABOUT UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY

- It is the governing body of the UN Environment Programme.
- It is the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment.
- The Assembly is made up of the 193 UN Member States and convenes every two years to advance global environmental governance.
- It was created in June 2012, during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, also referred to as RIO+20.

HIGHLIGHTS OF UNEA 5

- The theme of UNEA-5 is “Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”.
- It aimed to end plastic waste and forge an international legally binding agreement by 2024.
- Draft for 14 Resolutions with the purpose to strengthen the efforts of SDGs were made.
- Following the assembly, a two-day Special Session of the Assembly “UNEP@50”, to commemorate UNEP's 50th anniversary, where member states are supposed to discuss how to construct an inclusive and resilient

post-pandemic world, as well as to endorse a draft Political Declaration, was held.

- **Outcome of the meet to end Plastic Pollution:** The world's environment ministers decided to form an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) with the mission of forging an international legally enforceable agreement to reduce plastic pollution.
 - INC will begin its work in 2022, with the ambition of completing a draft global legally binding agreement by the end of 2024. This is regarded as the most significant environmental agreement since the Paris Agreement in 2015.
 - Under the legally binding agreement, countries will be expected to develop, implement, and update national action plans that reflect country-driven approaches to contribute to the instrument's objectives.
 - As a result, the resolution is expected to promote national action plans to work toward the prevention, reduction, and elimination of plastic pollution, as well as to support regional and international cooperation.

9) IPCC SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT

IN NEWS:-The second part of the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report was released recently. This second part of the report is about climate change impacts, risks and vulnerabilities, and adaptation options.

ABOUT IPCC SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT

- IPCC reports form the scientific basis on which countries across the world build their policy responses to climate change.

- The Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the sixth in a series of reports intended to assess scientific, technical, and socio-economic information concerning climate change.
- The Assessment Reports, the first of which had come out in 1990, are the most comprehensive evaluations of the state of the earth's climate.
- **Highlights**
 - The latest report has, for the first time, made an assessment of regional and sectoral impacts of climate change.
 - It has included risks to, and vulnerabilities of, mega-cities around the world. For example, it has said Mumbai is at high risk of sea-level rise and flooding, while Ahmedabad faces serious danger of heat-waves.
 - Impact on health: For the first time, the IPCC report has looked at the health impacts of climate change.
 - It has found that climate change is increasing vector-borne and water-borne diseases such as malaria or dengue, particularly in sub-tropical regions of Asia.
- India specific study: The report identifies India as one of the vulnerable hotspots, with several regions and important cities facing very high risk of climate disasters such as flooding, sea-level rise and heat-waves. Mumbai is at high risk of sea-level rise and flooding.

ABOUT INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE (IPCC)

- It is an intergovernmental body of the United Nations responsible for advancing knowledge on human-induced climate change.
- It was established in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- Headquarter: Geneva, Switzerland.

- It provides policymakers with regular assessments of the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Consider the following statements about Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

1. IPCC is headquartered at Geneva
2. Its reports provide binding targets for national governments

Which among the above statements are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 or 2

Answer: - a

10) NORTHERN RIVER TERRAPIN

IN NEWS: - Recently, forest officials installed GPS transmitters on the northern river terrapin in the Indian Sundarbans. However, In just six weeks after the release, at least three of the 10 turtles of the critically endangered Batagur baska species have travelled hundreds of kilometres and are now in Bangladesh.

ABOUT NORTHERN RIVER TERRAPIN

- The northern river terrapin (Batagur baska) is a species of riverine turtle native to Southeast Asia.
- It is one of Asia's largest freshwater and brackwater turtles, reaching a carapace length of up to 60 cm and a maximum weight of 18 kg. Its carapace is moderately depressed.

- The species is currently found in Bangladesh and India(in the Sunderbans), Cambodia, Indonesia and Malaysia.
- It is strongly aquatic but uses terrestrial nesting sites, frequenting the tidal areas of estuaries, large rivers, and mangrove forests.
- It is classified Critically Endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List and considered extinct in much of its former range, principally due to exploitation as a food item (including egg harvesting).



PRACTICE QUESTION

Consider the following statements

1. The Northern River Terrapin is found in India only
2. It is listed as Least Concern in the IUCN Red List

Which among the above statements are incorrect?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 or 2

Answer: - c

SCHEMES

11) NUTRIENT BASED SUBSIDY SCHEME

IN NEWS:- The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Department of Fertilizers for fixation of Nutrient Based Subsidy Rates for P&K Fertilizers for the year 2021-22.

ABOUT NUTRIENT BASED SUBSIDY (NBS) SCHEME

- Under the NBS regime – fertilizers are provided to the farmers at the subsidized rates based on the nutrients (N, P, K & S) contained in these fertilizers.
- Also, the fertilizers which are fortified with secondary and micronutrients such as molybdenum (Mo) and zinc are given additional subsidy.
- The subsidy on Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers is announced by the Government on an annual basis for each nutrient on a per kg basis – which are determined taking into account the international and domestic prices of P&K fertilizers, exchange rate, inventory level in the country etc.
- NBS policy intends to increase the consumption of P&K fertilizers so that optimum balance (N:P:K= 4:2:1) of NPK fertilization is achieved.
- This would improve soil health and as a result the yield from the crops would increase, resulting in enhanced income to the farmers.

- Also, as the government expects rational use of fertilizers, this would also ease off the burden of fertilizer subsidy.
- It is being implemented from April 2010 by the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers.

INDIAN ECONOMY

12) CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

IN NEWS: - The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has clarified that the contributions to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund or the State relief fund will not qualify as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) expenditure, while any donation to the PM CARES Fund will.

ABOUT CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is referred as a corporate initiative to assess and take responsibility for the company's effects on the environment and impact on social welfare and to promote positive social and environmental change.
- It efforts that go beyond what may be required by regulators.
- The income is earned only from the society and therefore it should be given back.
- Under Companies Act, 2013 any company with a
 - net worth of the company to be Rs 500 crore or more or
 - turnover of the company to be Rs 1000 crore or more or
 - net profit of the company to be Rs 5 crore or more.
 - has to spend at least 2% of last 3 years average net profits on CSR activities as specified in Schedule VII and as amended from time to time. The rules came into effect from 1 April 2014.

- Further as per the CSR Rules, the provisions of CSR are not only applicable to Indian companies, but also applicable to branch and project offices of a foreign company in India.
- Further, the qualifying company will be required to constitute a CSR Committee consisting of 3 or more directors.
- The CSR Committee shall formulate and recommend to the Board, a policy which indicates the activities to be undertaken, allocate resources and monitor the CSR Policy of the company.
- If the company did not spend CSR, it has to disclose the reason for not spending. Non-disclosure or absence of the details will be penalised from Rs 50,000 to Rs 25 lakh or even imprisonment of up to 3 years
- India is the first country in the world to enshrine corporate giving into law.
- CSR is a commitment to support initiatives that measurably improve the lives of underprivileged by one or more of the following focus areas as
 - Eradicating hunger, poverty & malnutrition
 - Promoting education
 - Improving maternal & child health
 - Ensuring environmental sustainability
 - Protection of national heritage
 - Measures for the benefit of armed forces
 - Promoting sports
 - Contribution to the Prime Minister's National Relief
 - Slum area development etc.

13) CENTRAL BANK DIGITAL CURRENCY

IN NEWS: - Recently, in its Budget 2022-23, the Government of India announced that its central bank will issue a digital currency as early as 2022-23.

ABOUT CENTRAL BANK DIGITAL CURRENCY

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will issue the digital currency in the next fiscal which will be called Digital Rupee.
- A central bank digital currency (CBDC) uses an electronic record or digital token to represent the virtual form of a fiat currency of a particular nation (or region).
- The digital rupee will allow users to transfer purchasing power from deposit accounts into smartphone wallets in the form of online tokens, which like cash will be a liability of the Reserve Bank of India.
- A digital rupee will be like banknotes, minus ATMs.
- CBDC aims to bring in the best of both worlds - the convenience and security of digital forms like cryptocurrencies, and the regulated, reserved-backed money circulation of the traditional banking system.
- Consumers may find an e-rupee to be a safer alternative to bank deposits, which underpin ₹ 76 trillion in annual real-time payments via apps like PhonePe, Google Pay and Paytm.
- Some countries have already introduced CBDCs in some form or the other. In 2020, the central bank of Bahamas issued a digital currency.
- The only large economy where a CBDC is being experimented on a national scale is China, which had the compulsion to go for a CBDC in view of absence of competition to two large players in digital payments.

ART AND CULTURE

14) DARLONG COMMUNITY

IN NEWS: - The Lok Sabha passed the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2022. The bill sought to include the Darlong community as a sub-tribe of the Kuki tribal community in the list of Scheduled Tribes (STs).

ABOUT DARLONG COMMUNITY

- Darlong is a tribal community of 11,000 people with a high prevalence of education, cultural activities serving in different high positions in the local administration.
- Darlongs, despite being Scheduled Tribes, were never given ST certificates.
- They were considered a generic tribe under the Kuki community, and were handed their tribal certificates as members of 'Kuki' community.
- The identity crisis among them culminated in the demand for a separate statutory identity of their own in 1995.
- A bill to include Darlongs in the list of STs as a sub-tribe of Kuki community was first placed before the Parliament in 2016.

Note: - Tripura houses 19 tribal communities including Tripuri, Brus, Jamatia, Noatia, Uchoi, Chakma, Mog, Lushai, Kuki, Munda, Kour, Oram, Santhal, Bhil, Bhutia, Sermai, Garo, Khasi, Lepcha and Halam.

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Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2022

- As per Article 342 (1), the President may after consultation with the Governor specify the tribal communities as Scheduled Tribes.
- As per Article 342 (2), Parliament may by law include in or exclude any tribal community from the list of Scheduled Tribes specified in a notification issued under clause (1)
- The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2022 seeks to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 for inclusion of certain community in the list of Scheduled Tribes in relation to the State of Tripura.
- The Bill proposes to include Darlong community as a sub-tribe of "Kuki" in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

15) NARASINGHAPETTAI NAGASWARAM

IN NEWS:- Nagaswaram made in Narasinghapettai in Thanjavur district has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag on the application filed by the Thanjavur Musical Instruments Workers Co-operative Cottage Industrial Society Ltd.

ABOUT NARASINGHAPETTAI NAGASWARAM

- The artisans based at Narasinganpettai village inherited the skill of making these wooden instruments from their forefathers.
- The nagaswaram now being used by artists throughout is called 'pari nagaswaram', which is longer than the 'thimiri'.
- A major portion of the 'Narasinghapettai nagaswaram' is made from the aacha (Hardwickia binata) tree and many a time the artisans use the wood from parts of old houses.
- The front portion — 'anusu' or enhancer — is made of 'vaagai' wood.
- 'Seevali', the reed, is made from a type of grass that grows on the banks of the Cauvery and the Kollidam.

Nagaswaram

- It is a wind instrument made of wood and metal.
- It is a conical double-reed aerophone of southern India.
- There are seven small holes on top of the kuzhal and five below it.
- Used in religious ceremonies.
- Mostly used on auspicious occasions and also in classical concerts.



16) SRI RAMANUJACHARYA

IN NEWS:- PM Narendra Modi unveiled the world's second-largest statue (Statue of Equality) in Hyderabad on February 5. The 216-foot-tall statue of 11th-century social reformer and saint, Ramanujacharya will be in a sitting position.

ABOUT SRI RAMANUJACHARYA

- Ramanuja or Ramanujacharya (1017–1137 CE) was a philosopher, Hindu theologian, social reformer, and one of the most important exponents of Sri Vaishnavism tradition within Hinduism.
- His philosophical foundations for devotionalism were influential to the Bhakti movement.
- **Major works**
 - Ramanuja's philosophical foundation was qualified monism and is called Vishishtadvaita in the Hindu tradition.
 - His ideas are one of three subschools in Vedanta, the other two are known as Adi Shankara's Advaita (absolute monism) and Madhvacharya's Dvaita (dualism)
- **Important writings**
 - Vedarthasangraha (literally, "Summary of the Vedas meaning"),
 - Sri Bhashya (a review and commentary on the Brahma Sutras),

- Bhagavad Gita Bhashya (a review and commentary on the Bhagavad Gita), and
- The minor works titled Vedantapida, Vedantasara, Gadya Trayam (which is a compilation of three texts called the Saranagati Gadyam, Sriranga Gadyam and the Srivaikunta Gadyam), and Nitya Grantham.

STATUE OF EQUALITY

- The ‘Statue of Equality’, as it is called, is being installed to mark the 1,000th birth anniversary of Sri Ramanuja.
- It was built of panchaloha, a combination of gold, silver, copper, brass and zinc, by the Aerospun Corporation in China and shipped to India.
- It is the second largest in the world in sitting position of the saint.
- The monument will be surrounded by 108 “Divya Desams” of Sri Vaishnavite tradition (model temples) like Tirumala, Srirangam, Kanchi, Ahobhiliam, Badrinath, Muktinath, Ayodhya, Brindavan, Kumbakonam and others.
- The idols of deities and structures were constructed in the shape at the existing temples.

17) SAINT RAVIDAS

IN NEWS: - The President of India addressed the ‘Shri Guru Ravidas Vishva Mahapeeth Rashtriya Adhiveshan-2021’ in New Delhi.

ABOUT SAINT RAVIDAS

- Ravidas was an Indian mystic poet-saint of the Bhakti movement and founder of the Ravidassia religion during the 15th to 16th century CE.
- Venerated as a guru (teacher) in the region of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and mainly Punjab and Haryana. He was a poet-saint, social reformer and spiritual figure.

- The life details of Ravidas are uncertain and contested. Scholars believe he was born in 1450 CE, in the cobbler caste.
- Ravidas's devotional Verses were included in the Sikh scriptures known as Guru Granth Sahib.
- The Panch Vani text of the Dadupanthe tradition within Hinduism also includes numerous poems of Ravidas.
- He taught the removal of social divisions of caste and gender and promoted unity in the pursuit of personal spiritual freedoms.
- Philosophy and values of Sant Ravidas like social justice, equality and fraternity have been imbued in our constitutional values.
- He had envisaged a society that is based on equality and free from any kind of discrimination.
- He gave it the name 'Be-gampura' (a city near Lahore) where there is no place for any kind of grief or fear.
- Such an ideal city would be bereft of fear, vulnerability or scarcity. Rule of law based on the right ideas like equality and welfare of all would be the principle for governance.

18) PAAL DADHVAV MASSACRE

IN NEWS: - On March 7, the Gujarat government marked 100 years of the Pal-Dadhvav killings, calling it a massacre "bigger than the Jallianwala Bagh". Before this, the incident had been featured on the state's Republic Day tableau.

ABOUT PAAL DADHVAV MASSACRE

- The Pal-Dadhvav massacre took place on 7th March, 1922, in the Pal-Chitariya and Dadhvaav villages of Sabarkantha district, then part of Idar state (Now Gujrat).

- The day was Amalki Ekadashi, which falls just before Holi, a major festival for tribals.
- Villagers from Pal, Dadhvav, and Chitariya had gathered on the banks of river Heir as part of the 'Eki movement', led by one Motilal Tejawat.
- Tejawat, who belonged to Koliyari village in the Mewad region of Rajasthan, had also mobilised Bhils from Kotda Chhavni, Sirohi, and Danta to participate.
- The impact of the protest was felt in Vijaynagar, Dadhvaav, Poshina and Khedbrahma, which are now talukas of Sabarkantha; the Aravalli districts, Banaskantha and Danta of Banaskantha district; and Kotda Chhavni, Dungarpur, Chittor, Sirohi, Banswada and Udaipur of Rajasthan, all of which were then princely states.
- The movement was to protest against the land revenue tax (lagaan) imposed on the peasants by the British and feudal lords.
- The British Paramilitary force was on hunt for Tehawat. It heard of this gathering and reached the spot.
- Nearly 200 bhils under the leadership of Tehawat lifted their bows and arrows. But, the Britishers opened fire on them. Nearly 1,000 tribals (Bhils) fell to bullets.
- While the British claimed some 22 people were killed, the Bhils believe 1,200-1,500 of them died.
- Tejawat, however, escaped and later "returned to the spot to christen it 'Veer Bhumi'.



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