

INDIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE, HISTORY**Shilpostav 2019**

Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment visited the “Shilpostav- 2019” to encourage the artisans at Dilli Haat, INA, in New Delhi. It began on 1st November and will continue till 15th November 2019.

About:

- Shilpostav- 2019 is the annual fair of artisans from across the country, belonging to the weaker sections of the society.
- It is organized by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- The artisans assisted by the Apex corporations of the Ministry Social Justice and Empowerment i.e. National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC), National Scheduled Caste Finance & Development Corporation (NSFDC), National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation (NHFDC), National Safai Karamchari Finance & Development Corporation (NSKFDC) and National Trust are displaying and selling their products.
- The range of products in this fair include dress materials, leather, cane & bamboo products, hand embroidery, bead products, block printing, wooden toys, handloom etc.

GEOGRAPHY**Kalapani**

The new political map of India, recently released by the government to account for the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir, has triggered fresh protests over an old issue in Nepal.

About:

- The new political map of India shows Kalapani as part of India.
- Kalapani is a 372-sq km area mapped within Uttarakhand, bordering far-west Nepal and Tibet.
- While the Nepal government and political parties have protested, India has said the new map does not revise the existing boundary with Nepal and accurately depicts the sovereign territory of India.

Timeline: Defining the boundaries

- Nepal's western boundary with India was marked out in the Treaty of Sugauli between the East India Company and Nepal in 1816. Nepali authorities claim that people living in the low-density area were included in the Census of Nepal until 58 years ago.
- Nepal claims that the late King Mahendra had “handed over the territory to India” in the wake of India-China War of 1962.
- The Prime Ministers of the two countries discussed the issue in 2000, with Atal Bihari Vajpayee assuring Nepal that India would not occupy even an inch of Nepal. Five years ago, the matter was referred to a new mechanism comprising foreign secretaries of both sides.
- Apart from Kalapani, another unresolved issue involves a vast area along the Nepal-Uttar Pradesh border. During his visit to Nepal in 2014, Prime Minister Modi had said that the Susta and Kalapani issues would be sorted out.

CONSTITUTION AND POLITY**Places of Worship Act, 1991**

The Supreme Court in its recent Ayodhya verdict made mention of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 which prohibits the conversion of religious places of worship as it existed at the time of Independence.

Significance of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991

The Act was passed in September 1991, over a year before the demolition of the Babri Masjid (1992).

Purpose:

- Section 3 of the Act bans the conversion of a place of worship or even a section of it into a place of worship of a different religious denomination or of a different segment of the same religious denomination.
- The Act also imposes a positive obligation on the State to maintain the religious character of every place of worship as it existed at the time of Independence.
- This legislative obligation on the State to preserve and protect the equality of all faiths is an essential secular feature and one of the basic features of the Indian Constitution.

Exemption:

- The disputed site at Ayodhya is exempted from the Act. Due to this exemption, the trial in the Ayodhya case proceeded even after the enforcement of this law.
- The Act also does not apply to any place of worship which is an ancient and historical monument or an archaeological site covered by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.
- Penalty: Section 6 of the Act prescribes a punishment of maximum three-years imprisonment along with a fine for contravening the provisions of the Act.

ISSUES RELATED TO INTERNAL SECURITY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT**Special Protection Group**

Recently, the central government has withdrawn the Special Protection Group (SPG) cover of the family of late PM Rajiv Gandhi

About:

- The SPG was raised in 1985 with the intention to provide proximate security cover to the Prime Minister, former Prime Ministers and their immediate family members.
- It was created after the assassination of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Parliament passed the SPG Act (1988) dedicating the group to protecting the Prime Ministers of India.
- After Rajiv Gandhi's assassination (1991), the SPG Act was amended, offering SPG protection to all former Prime Ministers and their families for a period of at least 10 years.

ENVIRONMENT- CONSERVATION, BIO-DIVERSITY AND ISSUES**2g Ethanol Plant, Panipat**

The Ministry of Environment has given Environment Clearance to Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) to set up new 2G Ethanol plant at Panipat.

About:

- IOCL had earlier submitted a proposal seeking Environmental Clearance for its proposed 100 KLPD Ligno-Cellulosic 2G Ethanol Plant in Baholi, Panipat district of Haryana.
- Central Government has identified production and use of ethanol as one the thrust area to reduce import dependency and increase farmers' income. The Ethanol produced will be used for blending in transportation fuel.
- Recently the Central Government had declared that no separate environmental clearance is required to produce additional ethanol from B-heavy molasses as it does not contribute to the pollution load, giving further benefits to farmers and the sugar industry.

ODISHA DEVELOPMENT**Odisha MMR Improved To 168 Per Lakh In 2015-17**

While Odisha has recorded an improvement in the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in the country during 2015-17, there is a need to bridge the gaps in ante natal and post natal care in the state to tally with the national average. Odisha still has the 5th highest MMR in the country.

About

- As per the latest Sample Registration Survey (SRS) 2015-17 released recently, the MMR in the State has declined to 168 per lakh from 180 per lakh in 2014-16. Odisha's MMR improved by 12 points during the period 2015-17. The national average MMR is 122 per lakh births. The report has been released by Registrar General of India (RGI)
- An analysis of maternal deaths in Odisha reveals that most deaths in the State take place either due to delivery-related complications or lack of proper post natal care. Reports available with the State Health department reveal that nearly half of the deaths were reported in home deliveries. And nearly 3 in every 5 deaths were attributed to poor post natal care. It was also observed that a proper ante-natal care could prevent the deaths due to delivery-related complications.
- Sample how gaps exist in Odisha's Ante Natal Care (ANC) umbrella. When a total of 2.36 lakh expectant mothers have registered themselves during the period April – July 2019 for ante-natal checkups, only 1.79 lakh have availed four or more such ante natal check-ups.
- Similarly, the coverage under distribution of 180 IFA (Iron Folic acid) tablets stood at around 73 per cent of total ANC registrations in 2018-19.
- Moreover, the proportion of institutional deliveries in the State stood at around 96 per cent. And 41 per cent of home deliveries were not attended by SBA (skilled birth attendants).
- In order to bring an effective reduction in MMR, the State has to address the above indicators, observed a recent NRHM report.

PRELIMS SPECIFIC- AWARDS, DAYS, EVENTS ETC**eCAPA 2019 - Art From The Heart**

India's first-ever Arts Exposition for Artists blessed with Down Syndrome, Autism, Mental Retardation, Seizure Disorder and Dyslexia is being held in New Delhi.

About:

- "eCAPA 2019 - Art from the Heart" is India's first-ever Arts Exposition for talents with intellectual challenges. This exposition will continue till 14th November at STIR Gallery, Chattarpur Farms.
- It is a unique nationwide platform cum social venture for such artists to showcase their visual and performing arts.
- The aim of this exposition is to create an exclusive platform to showcase the visual and performing art talents of young adults with intellectual challenges. Divyang artists are presenting their varied skills in areas including drawings, paintings, doodles, dance and music in the event.

Global Exhibition On Services (GES) 2019

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry launched the curtain raiser of 5th Global Exhibition on Services (GES) which will be held in Bengaluru from 26th – 28th November 2019.

About:

- Four editions of GES have already been held.
- The event is organised by Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry in partnership with Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

Highlights of GES 2019:

- Focus on increasing 'trade in services'
- Showcasing 12 Champion Services Sectors
- Over 500 participants from 100 countries
- Release of Report on Services Sectors
- Avenues for partnerships through B2B, B2G, G2G meetings
- Food Festivals, Cultural Evenings, Networking Dinners
- In GES 2019 SEPC is also looking to promote eSports. The eSports industry is expected to grow rapidly and in 2017 worldwide revenue generated in eSports market amounted to USD 655 million.

Related Info :

- The 'India Services' brand was created by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to promote the 12 champion services sectors.
- Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC) is an export promotion council set up by Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India in 2006 as an apex trade body to facilitate service exporters of India.

DEFENCE**INS Baaz**

Recently, the Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh visited INS Baaz, the southernmost air station of the Indian Armed Forces. The Indian Naval Ship (INS) Baaz is located at Campbell Bay on the Great Nicobar island, the southernmost and largest island of the Nicobar islands, in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

About:

- It was commissioned in July 2012.
- It is a part of the Andaman and Nicobar Command, the only tri-services formation of the Indian Armed Forces that was started in 2001.

Functions of INS Baaz

- Helps in building maritime domain awareness by providing information via airborne surveillance using aircraft and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs).
- Ensures maritime security in the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea and substantially enhances the Indian Navy's maritime surveillance capability.
- Assists the local populace in times of need such as facilitating evacuation during medical emergencies.

Significance of the Location

- The Great Nicobar Island is the location of the Indira Point and is less than 250 km by sea from Banda Aceh in Indonesia.
- The Andaman & Nicobar Islands are strategically important for India's national security as they provide a critical capability to monitor sea areas in the region.
- The location has been described as India's "window into East and Southeast Asia", and is in close vicinity of the Six Degree Channel, also called the Great Channel, one of the Indian Ocean's busiest shipping lines, carrying strategic cargo to East Asian countries.
- It is also close to the Strait of Malacca.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

You just can't beat the person who won't give up.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns. Discuss the role of paramilitary forces in ensuring the internal security of India.

Answer:

A paramilitary organization is organized like an army and performs either civil or military functions. The Central Armed Police Forces (commonly referred to as Paramilitary forces) play an important role in border security as well as internal security. The Ministry of Home Affairs manages seven central police forces which assist in internal security and law and order.

Role of paramilitary forces in ensuring the internal security

- **Assam Rifles (AR):** Established in 1835, AR is the oldest of all paramilitary forces. AR's job is to counter insurgency and hold border security operations in the North-Eastern areas of India. Since 2002, they are also guarding more than 1,643 km long Indo-Myanmar border.
- **Border Security Force:** Established in 1965, their main role is to keep a watch over international borders against intrusion and to assist the Indian Army during war time, check infiltration on the borders. During the Kargil conflict in May-July 1999, the BSF remained on the heights of the mountains and defended the integrity of the country with all the might at its command in unison with the Army.
- **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF):** CISF's role is to provide security to Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). It is the largest industrial security force in the world having about 165,000 personnel.
- **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF):** The CRPF looks after the internal security of every part of India. It counters Left Wing Extremism, assists the State and Union Territories in police operations to maintain law and order. The CRPF guarded the India-Pakistan Border until 1965, after which the BSF was created. In 2001 Parliament attack, it was the CRPF troops that killed the terrorists who entered the premises.
- **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP):** The ITBP was established after the 1962 Indo-China war for reorganizing the frontier intelligence and security set up along the Indo-Tibetan border and for keeping a check on illegal immigration and trans-border smuggling. In 2004, to achieve "One Border One Force", the entire stretch of India-China Border was assigned to the ITBP for Border Guarding duty and, accordingly, ITBP, replaced Assam Rifles in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.
- **National Security Guard (NSG):** It was raised in 1980s to combat terrorist activities and to ensure that states do not witness any internal disturbances.
- **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB):** Established in 1963, the SSB guards the Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan borders. The 2450 km long Indo- Nepal and Indo- Bhutan border is more challenging because the open border not only provides alluring encouragement to traffickers and smugglers but also offers huge opportunities for militants trained on foreign soil to infiltrate and pose a serious threat to national security.

Conclusion: These paramilitary forces act as our first line of defence against security threats to India and hence their smooth coordination, communication and functioning is of critical importance, for which government should provide required mechanisms and platforms. Moreover, these forces need to be upgraded and trained to face the new forms of challenges arising like cyberthreats, technological, space warfares, thereby making them ready for any such eventualities.

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQs

1. With reference to the Shilpostav- 2019, consider the following statements:
 1. It is the annual fair of artisans from across the country, belonging to the weaker sections of the society.
 2. It is organized by the Union Ministry of Culture.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - (a) **1 only**
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
2. Global Exhibition on Services (GES), 2019 is an event organized by:
 - (a) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
 - (b) **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**
 - (c) Ministry of Finance
 - (d) Ministry of External Affairs
3. With reference to "eCAPA 2019 - Art from the Heart", consider the following statements:
 1. It is India's first-ever Arts Exposition for talents with intellectual challenges.
 2. It is a unique nationwide platform cum social venture for such artists to showcase their visual and performing arts.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) **Both 1 and 2**
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
4. With reference to the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), consider the following statements:
 1. It will be funded and managed by NITI Aayog.
 2. It primarily aims at creation of an ecosystem to foster innovation in Defence and Aerospace by engaging Industries including MSMEs, start-ups, individual innovators, R&D institutes & academia.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) **2 only**
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
5. The Ministry of Environment has recently given Environment Clearance to Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) to set up new 2G Ethanol plant at:
 - (a) **Panipat**
 - (b) Udupi
 - (c) Nagpur
 - (d) Villupuram
6. Kalapani, a territory disputed between India and Nepal, is located in which of the following states?
 - (a) Andaman and Nicobar
 - (b) **Uttarakhand**
 - (c) Himachal Pradesh
 - (d) Bihar
7. Consider the following statements with reference to the INS Baaz.
 1. It is located at Campbell Bay on the Great Nicobar island
 2. It was commissioned in July 2012.
 3. It is a part of the Andaman and Nicobar Command, the only tri-services formation of the Indian Armed Forces that was started in 2001.
 Which of the above statements are correct?
 - (a) 1 and 2
 - (b) 1 and 3
 - (c) 2 and 3
 - (d) **1, 2 and 3**