

**INDIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE, HISTORY****Virupapura Gaddi**

The Supreme Court confirmed the Karnataka government authorities' decision to demolish restaurants and hotels constructed in Virupapura Gaddi, an oval islet formed by Tungabhadra river and located west of the Hampi World Heritage site.

**About:**

- The Supreme Court concluded that the constructions were in violation of the Mysore Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act of 1961.
- The court upheld the validity of a 1988 State notification that "clearly indicates the entire village of Virupapura Gaddi as a protected zone". It said a place need not necessarily boast a monument to be protected.
- The 1988 notification issued under Section 19(3) of the 1961 Act declaring Virupapura Gaddi as a protected area can't be said to be without basis.

**CONSTITUTION AND POLITY****Criminalisation of Polity**

The Supreme Court ordered political parties to publish the entire criminal history of their candidates for the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections along with the reasons that goaded them to field suspected criminals over decent people.

**About:**

- The information should be published in a local and a national newspaper as well as the parties' social media handles.
- It should mandatorily be published either within 48 hours of the selection of candidates or less than two weeks before the first date for filing of nominations, whichever is earlier.
- It ordered political parties to submit compliance reports with the Election Commission of India within 72 hours or risk contempt of court action.
- The judgment is applicable to parties both at the Central and State levels.
- The published information on the criminal antecedents of a candidate should be detailed and include the nature of the offences, charges framed against him, the court concerned and the case number.

**GOVERNANCE- WELFARE SCHEMES, E-GOVERNANCE, SERVICES ETC.****Apiary On Wheels**

Union Minister of MSME flags off Apiary on Wheels in Delhi.

**About:**

- 'Apiary on Wheels' is a unique concept designed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) for the easy upkeep and migration of Bee Boxes having live Bee colonies.
- Apiary on Wheels is a platform which can carry 20 Bee Boxes from one place to another without any difficulty.

**Related Info:**

- KVIC launched Honey Mission in 2017 and has been training beekeepers, distributing Bee Boxes and helping rural, educated but unemployed youth to earn extra income through beekeeping activities, at their doorstep.

**INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS- BILATERAL, GROUPINGS, ORGANISATIONS****Exercise Ajeva Warrior-2020**

The fifth edition of Exercise AJEYA WARRIOR-2020 between India and United Kingdom Army commenced at Salisbury Plains, United Kingdom.

**About:**

- The aim of exercise, now in its fifth edition, is to conduct training of troops in counter insurgency and counter terrorist operations in both Urban and Semi Urban areas.
- Exercise AJEYA WARRIOR-2020 is a shining example of long standing strategic ties between India and United Kingdom.

**India-US Trade Relations**

The United States Trade Representative (USTR) removed India from its list of developing countries that are exempt from investigations into whether they harm American industry with unfairly subsidised exports.

About:

- The USTR also eliminated Brazil, Indonesia, Hong Kong, South Africa and Argentina from getting special preferences under the methodology for countervailing duty (CVD) investigations, stating that the previous guidance that dated back to 1998 “is now obsolete”.
- The US removed India from the list on account of it being a G-20 member and having a share of 0.5% or more of world trade.
- The move has cast a shadow on India being able to restore preferential benefits under the Generalised System of Preference (GSP) as part of its trade talks with the US, as only developing countries are eligible for it.
- For purposes of US CVD law, the USTR therefore considers countries with a share of 0.5% or more of world trade to be developed countries. India’s share in global exports was 1.67% in 2018. In global imports, it was 2.57%.

**ENVIRONMENT- CONSERVATION, BIO-DIVERSITY AND ISSUES**

**Fossil Fuel Air Pollution Cost**

A new Greenpeace report has estimated the global cost of air pollution from fossil fuels at around \$2.9 trillion per year, or \$8 billion per day — 3.3% of the world’s GDP.

About:

- India is estimated to bear a cost of \$150 billion, or 5.4% of the country’s GDP, which is the third-highest absolute cost from fossil fuel air pollution worldwide.
- China and the US are estimated to bear the highest absolute costs from fossil fuel air pollution, respectively at \$900 billion and \$600 billion.
- Globally, air pollution is estimated to cause 4.5 million premature deaths each year. This includes 3 million deaths attributable globally to PM2.5, which is one of the principal pollutants in northern Indian cities including Delhi.
- Globally, PM2.5 is also estimated to cause the loss of 62.7 million years of life, 2.7 million emergency room visits due to asthma, 2 million preterm births and 1.75 billion work absences. The 2 million preterm births include 981,000 in India and over 350,000 in China.
- In India, exposure to fossil fuels also leads to a loss of around 490 million workdays.

**The Future Of Earth, 2020 Report**

‘The Future of Earth, 2020’ report was jointly released by the South Asia Future Earth Regional Office, Divecha Centre for Climate Change and the Indian Institute of Science.

About:

- The report lists five global risks that have the potential to impact and amplify one another in ways that may cascade to create global systemic crisis.
- The five global risks are: failure of climate change mitigation and adaptation; extreme weather events; major biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse; food crises; and water crises.
- Related Info:
- Future Earth is an international sustainability research network. The report was prepared with the aim of reducing carbon footprint and halting global warming below 2 degree Celsius by 2050.

**ODISHA DEVELOPMENT**

**Konark Sun Temple**

Union Culture Minister said that a plan to restore the Konark Sun temple in Odisha would be drawn up soon. According to Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the temple had been filled with sand and sealed by the British authorities in 1903 to stabilise the structure.

About:

- Location: It is located on the coastline of Odisha in Puri district. The temple was originally constructed at the mouth of the river Chandrabhaga, but the waterline has receded since then.
- History: It was built in the 13th century. The temple is attributed to king Narasingha deva I of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty about 1250 CE.

Features:

- Also called the Surya Devalaya, the temple is dedicated to the Hindu god Surya.
- The temple complex has the appearance of a 100-foot high solar chariot, with 24 wheels and pulled by six horses, all carved from stone.
- It is a classic example of the Odisha style of Architecture or Kalinga Architecture.

- It is oriented towards the east so that the first rays of the sunrise strike the main entrance. The wheels of the temple are sundials, which can be used to calculate time accurately to a minute.
- The temple, built from Khondalite rocks, was also known as 'BLACK PAGODA' due to its dark colour.
- It was given the status of a World Heritage Site in 1984 by UNESCO.
- The temple remains a site of contemporary worship for Hindus, during the annual Chandrabhaga Festival, around the month of February.

### DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

**Qns. Genome India Project provides an opportunity for India to make great progress in the fields of biotechnology, agriculture and healthcare. Discuss.**

**Ans:**

Genome India Project (GIP) is a gene-mapping exercise to be done by collaboration of 20 institutions like IISC, IITs, AIIMS with aim of ultimately building a grid of the Indian “reference genome”, to fully understand the type and nature of diseases and traits that comprise the diverse Indian population. The project hopes to form a grid after collecting 10,000 samples in the first phase from across India, to arrive at a representative Indian genome.

This will help provide an opportunity for India to make progress in various fields:

- **Biotechnology:** The project itself is inspired from Human Genome Project (HGP) to decode the entire human genome based on the concept of DNA. But HGP is mapped mostly from urban white peoples. GIP will add Horizontal Diversity, as by migration numerous races have come to India and intermingled, and also Vertical Diversity, as due to endogamy, inter-marriages some traits have been passed on within some groups.
- **Healthcare:** GIP will help in the development of personalised medicine, anticipating diseases and modulating treatment according to the genome of patients. For example, cardiovascular disease generally leads to heart attacks in South Asians, but to strokes in most parts of Africa. If such propensities to disease can be mapped to variations across genomes, it is believed that public health interventions can be targeted better, and diseases anticipated before they develop.
- **Agriculture:** Better understanding of the genetic basis of the susceptibility of plants to pests, insects and other issues hampering productivity along with reducing dependence on chemicals will help in attaining the goal of Sustainable Agriculture.

#### Challenges to GIP

- Collection of genes and mapping groups can reinforce stereotypes, more so in countries like India where caste, race distinction is clearly visible.
- Integrity of data collection, storage and usage will remain elusive as till Data Protection Bill has not been passed.
- Ensuring that project upholds the medical ethics.

#### Conclusion

- GIP, thus, gives India immense opportunity to encash on biotechnology revolution. There is a need for enhanced collaboration among research institutions, more human resources in related fields, tackle challenges to GIP along with diversifying benefits to more sectors.

### DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQs

1. With reference to the Supreme Court judgement on criminalization of politics, consider the following statements:
  1. The criminal history of candidates for the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections should be published in a local and a national newspaper as well as the parties' social media handles.
  2. It should mandatorily be published either within 48 hours of the selection of candidates or less than two weeks before the first date for filing of nominations, whichever is earlier.

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. The Konark Sun temple was originally constructed at the mouth of which of the following river?
  - (a) **Chandrabhaga**
  - (b) Krishna

- (c) Mahanadi  
(d) Kaveri
3. With reference to the 'The Future of Earth, 2020' report, consider the following statements:
1. It was released by UNFCCC.
  2. According to the report the five global risks are: failure of climate change mitigation and adaptation; extreme weather events; major biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse; food crises; and water crises.
- 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 India- U.S.A trade relations, consider the following statements:
1. The United States Trade Representative (USTR) removed India from its list of developing countries.
  2. Recently India has been included under the U.S.A Generalised System of Preference (GSP).
- 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. With reference to the Greenpeace report on global cost of air pollution from fossil fuels, consider the following statements:
1. China and the US are estimated to bear the highest absolute costs from fossil fuel air pollution.
  2. Globally, air pollution is estimated to cause 4.5 million premature deaths each year.
- 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
6. 'Apiary on Wheels' is a unique concept designed by:
- (a) NITI Aayog  
**(b) Khadi and Village Industries Commission**  
(c) Bureau of Indian Standards  
(d) National Highways Authority of India
7. Virupapura Gaddi, recently seen in news, is an oval islet formed by which of the following river?
- (a) Periyar  
(b) Kaveri  
(c) Narmada  
**(d) Tungabhadra**