

**INDIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE, HISTORY****Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust**

Centre Government has issued gazette notification over setting up of Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust for the construction of Ram Temple in Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya.

**About:**

- The trust will have office in Delhi's Greater Kailash.
- Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust will have 15 trustees, out of which one trustee will always be from Dalit community.
- This trust will be completely free to take every decision related to the temple and 67 acres of land will be transferred to the trust.
- In the notification, Home Ministry also said, the Uttar Pradesh government had already issued the allotment letter of a five-acre plot to the Sunni Waqf Board for construction of a mosque, as directed by the Supreme Court.

**GEOGRAPHY- PHYSICAL AND ECONOMIC****Karimnagar**

The dreaded coronavirus outbreak in China has impacted granite industry in faraway Karimnagar district of Telangana.

**About:**

- Karimnagar is a city in Telangana. It is the headquarters of the Karimnagar district.
- It is situated on the banks of Manair River, which is a tributary of the Godavari River.
- It is widely known for Granite and Agro-based industries. It is also called as "City of Granites"
- It has been selected as one of the hundred Indian cities to be developed as a smart city under PM Narendra Modi's flagship Smart Cities Mission.

**Related Info:** Owing to the epidemic in China and some other countries, Chinese buyers have stopped visiting Karimnagar district to purchase the local granite, especially the popular Tan Brown and Maple Red varieties. The district has around 70 granite quarries and 200-odd polishing units.

**CONSTITUTION AND POLITY****Love Jihad**

The Centre said the term 'Love Jihad' is not defined under the law, and no such case has been reported by any of the Central agencies.

**About:**

- This was informed in Parliament in reply to a question "whether Central agencies have reported any case of 'Love Jihad' from Kerala during the past two years and if so, the details thereof?"
- Union Minister of State for Home, however, said two cases from Kerala involving inter-faith marriage have been probed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).
- He also said Article 25 of the Constitution provides for the freedom to profess, practice and propagate religion subject to public order, morality and health. Various courts, including the Kerala High Court, have upheld this view.

**Related Info:** Love Jihad or Romeo Jihad is a term coined by some section in Media to describe the alleged effort by Muslim men in targeting women belonging to non-Muslim communities for conversion to Islam by feigning love.

**GOVERNANCE- WELFARE SCHEMES, E-GOVERNANCE, SERVICES ETC.****Global Misery Index (GMI)**

The Congress said that India's economy needs to be evaluated in terms of the Global Misery Index (GMI).

**About:**

- American economist Steve Hanke of Johns Hopkins University, an applied economist has popularised the GMI concept. He has ranked India a measly 44 out of 95 countries on GMI.
- The benchmark index measures people's "misery score" instead of the conventional gross domestic product (GDP).

**Methodology:**

- It is based on the three parameters namely unemployment rate, inflation rate and lending rate.
- To calculate misery index, the annualised growth of GDP is subtracted from the sum total of these three rates. That gives a score which really defines how miserable people living in a particular geography are.

**INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS- BILATERAL, GROUPINGS, ORGANISATIONS****INDIA – RUSSIA ENERGY TIES**

Indian Oil Corp (IOCL) signed a deal with Russia's Rosneft for the annual purchase of 2 million metric tonnes of Urals grade crude oil from Rosneft.

**About:**

- The first-ever Term Contract between IOCL and Rosneft was signed for importing 2 Million Metric Tonnes of Urals grade crude oil during the year 2020 to India.

- The crude oil, being sourced under the contract, will be loaded in Suezmax vessels at Novorossiysk port of Russia and will come to India, bypassing Straits of Hormuz.
- This is the first ever annual oil purchase deal between India and Russia.

**Significance:**

- Sourcing of Russian crude oil through long term contracts is a part of India's strategy for diversifying the country's crude oil supplies from non-OPEC countries, and a part of the five-year roadmap for bilateral cooperation in the hydrocarbons sector that was signed during PM Modi's visit to Vladivostok in September 2018.
- The addition of Russia as a new source for crude oil imports by India's largest refiner will go a long way in mitigating the risks arising out of geo-political disruptions.

**Related Info:** Novorossiysk Sea Port of Russia is located on the Northeast coast of the Black Sea, in the Tsemes Bay (also called Novorossiysk Bay).

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT****Vadhavan Port**

The Union Cabinet has given its 'in-principle' approval for setting up a Major Port at Vadhavan near Dahanu in Maharashtra.

**About:**

- Vadhavan port will be developed on "land lord model".
- A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) will be formed with Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) as the lead partner with equity participation equal to or more than 50% to implement the project.
- The SPV will develop the port infrastructure including reclamation, construction of breakwater, besides establishing connectivity to the hinterland. All the business activities would be undertaken under PPP mode by private developers.
- Total cost of the project is likely to be Rs.65,544 crore.

**Related Info:** The position of JN Port, the biggest container port in India is 28th in the world with a traffic of 5.1 million TEUs (Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units). Even after the completion of 4th terminal at JN Port with a capacity increase upto 10 million TEUs by 2023, it will stand as the 17th largest container port in the world. With the development of Vadhavan port, India will break into the countries with top 10 container ports in the world.

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

The flame-throated bulbul, also called the Rubigula, was chosen as the mascot of the 36th National Games to be held in Goa because it is the State bird of Goa.

**About:**

- Scientific Name: Pycnonotus gularis.
- Common Name: Flame-throated bulbul, Rubigula.
- Family: It is a member of the bulbul family of passerine birds.
- Physical description: They are olive backed with yellow undersides and a triangular orange-red throat that stands out against the contrasting black head.
- Distribution: It is found in the Western Ghats from southern Maharashtra and Goa southwards.
- IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern.

**Related Info:** The 36th National Games will be held in Goa between October 20 and November 4 this year.

**PRELIMS SPECIFIC FACTS- INDICES, DAYS, EVENTS, AWARDS ETC****India International Seafood Show (IISS) 2020**

The 22nd edition of India International Seafood Show (IISS) will be organized from 7-9 February 2020 in Kochi.

**About:**

The India International Seafood Show (IISS) 2020 is being organized by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), under Ministry of Commerce and Industry in association with the Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI).

- The theme of this year's seafood show is "Blue Revolution- Beyond Production to Value Addition".
- The biennial show returns to Kochi after 12 years and will provide a platform for Indian exporters and overseas importers of Indian marine products to interact.
- The 21st edition of IISS was held in Goa in January 2018.

**Related Info:** During 2018-19 India has exported over 14,37,000 tons of marine products worth USD 6.70 billion as per provisional figures. With a multi-pronged strategy, it is expected to achieve an export turnover of USD 15 billion in next five years.

**Rani Rampal**

The Indian women's Hockey team captain Rani Rampal is the World Games Athlete of the Year 2019, thus becoming the first-ever hockey player to win the prestigious World Games Athlete of the Year Award.

**About:**

- Rani Rampal (born 1994) is an Indian field hockey player from Haryana. She is currently the Captain for Indian Women's Hockey Team.
- In 2020, the Government of India honoured her with the Padma Shri.

**ODISHA DEVELOPMENT****Manoj Das To Receive Mystic Kalinga Literary Award 2020**

Noted writer Manoj Das will receive the Mystic Kalinga Literary Award-Indian and Global Languages during the fourth edition of the two-day Mystic Kalinga Festival (MKF). Das will also deliver the keynote address at the festival on "Divine Madness: Knowledge, Ecstasy, and Transformation".

**About:**

- From this edition onwards, the Mystic Kalinga Literary Award will carry a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh along with a khadi shawl and certificate.
- The award was instituted to recognise and celebrate prolific and inspiring writers, poets and performers.
- The Mystic Kalinga Literary Award is conferred to a person making towering contribution to the Odia language, literature and culture.
- An international jury has been formed to suggest and select the awardees, who will be chosen keeping in mind their contribution to their specific language, genres, contributions and contemporary appeal and relevance.
- From this year, the festival has also introduced 'Mystic Mi' for stand-up performers.

**DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE**

**Qns. Discuss the significance of National Infrastructure Pipeline for India. Also examine the associated challenges.**

**Ans:**

Recently, the Government has released a report of the task force on the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) for 2019-2025. Accordingly, total project capital expenditure in infrastructure sectors in India during the fiscals 2020 to 2025 is projected at over Rs 102 lakh crore.

NIP includes economic and social infrastructure projects in sectors such as Energy (24%), Roads (19%), Urban (16%), and Railways (13%) amount to around 70% of the projected capital expenditure in infrastructure in India.

**Significance of the National Infrastructure Pipeline:**

- NIP will enable a forward outlook on infrastructure projects which will create jobs, improve ease of living, and provide equitable access to infrastructure for all, thereby making growth more inclusive.
- It is estimated that India should invest \$4.5 trillion in infrastructure by 2030 to support faster growth. The National Infrastructure Pipeline is a part of that attempt to invest \$4.5 trillion.
- The National Infrastructure Pipeline will ensure that infrastructure projects are adequately prepared and launched.
- It will help in stepping-up annual infrastructure investment to achieve the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of \$5 trillion by 2024-25.
- It will boost the agrarian economy by strengthening agricultural and rural infrastructure.
- It will further increase the connectivity in India, especially in rural areas, through the expansion of roads and railways.
- It will ensure credit availability from the government sources to boost the economic growth, in a time when there is a lack of private investment.
- Well-developed infrastructure enhances the level of economic activity, creates additional fiscal space by improving the revenue base of the government, and ensures the quality of expenditure focused in productive areas.
- Overcoming slowdown: The policy of high government spending in infrastructure energises demand in other sectors and led to more fund flows to various sectors besides creating valuable assets.

**Challenges**

- Credit availability is the biggest challenge in the backdrop of the NPA crisis. Envisaged Private sector participation in capital expenditure (22%) may largely suffer due to this.
- State governments' financial commitment may not be realised because of fiscal concerns. Presently, more than 20 states already have a debt-GSDP ratio of above 25 per cent.
- Land acquisition is a big challenge for the completion of infrastructure projects.

**Conclusion**

- Availability of quality infrastructure is a prerequisite to achieve broad-based and inclusive growth on a sustainable basis. If the concerns regarding fiscal availability are addressed properly, National Infrastructure Pipeline would be a massive exercise to realise the vision of becoming a 5 trillion \$ economy by 2024.

**DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQs**

- With reference to the Global Misery Index (GMI), consider the following statements:
  - American economist Steve Hanke of Johns Hopkins University, an applied economist has popularised the GMI concept.
  - It is based on the three parameters namely unemployment rate, inflation rate and lending rate.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
  - 1 only
  - 2 only
  - Both 1 and 2**
  - Neither 1 nor 2
- With reference to the flame-throated bulbul, also called the Rubigula, consider the following statements:
  - It is found in the Western Ghats from southern Maharashtra and Goa southwards.
  - Its IUCN Red List Status is Vulnerable.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
  - 1 only**
  - 2 only
  - Both 1 and 2
  - Neither 1 nor 2
- Which of the following city is situated on the banks of Manair River?
  - Karimnagar**
  - Chennai
  - Kochi
  - Mangaluru
- With reference to the India International Seafood Show (IISS) 2020, consider the following statements:
  - The theme of this year's seafood show is "Blue Revolution- Beyond Production to Value Addition".
  - It is being organized by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), under Ministry of Commerce and Industry in association with the Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI).
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
  - 1 only
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  - Both 1 and 2**
  - Neither 1 nor 2
- With reference to the India- Russia energy ties, consider the following statements:
  - Indian Oil Corp (IOCL) recently signed a deal with Russia's Rosneft for the annual purchase of 2 million metric tonnes of Urals grade crude oil from Rosneft.
  - The crude oil, being sourced under the contract, will be loaded in Suezmax vessels at Novorossiysk port of Russia and will come to India, bypassing Straits of Hormuz.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
  - 1 only
  - 2 only
  - Both 1 and 2**
  - Neither 1 nor 2
- The Union Cabinet has recently given its 'in-principle' approval for setting up a Major Port at:
  - Vadhavan, Maharashtra**
  - Mangaluru, Karnataka
  - Puri, Odisha
  - Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu
- With reference to the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, consider the following statements:
  - It will have 15 trustees, out of which one trustee will always be from Dalit community.
  - It will be completely free to take every decision related to the temple and 67 acres of land will be transferred to the trust.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
  - 1 only
  - 2 only
  - Both 1 and 2**
  - Neither 1 nor 2
- Who among the following is the World Games Athlete of the Year 2019?
  - Rani Rampal**
  - P.V Sindhu
  - Hima Das
  - Mary Kom
- With reference to the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:
  - Article 25 deals with the freedom as to attendance at religious instruction or religious worship in certain education institutions.
  - Article 28 deals with the freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
  - 1 only
  - 2 only
  - Both 1 and 2
  - Neither 1 nor 2**