

Week 4 Current Affairs Update

22nd- 30th September 2020

EVENTS

NATIONAL

TRADE & COMMERCE

MINERAL EXPLORATION STARTS IN KOLAR AFTER 16 YEARS



Date: 29th September, 2020

Key Points:

- The mineral exploration started again in Kolar Gold Fields (KGF) in Karnataka after a long gap of 16 years.
- The mineral exploration is carried out by Mineral exploration Corporation Limited (MECL).
- Recommencement of exploratory drilling started at Betrayaswamy block of Kolar Gold Fields.
- The mining activities were pending on the Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) issue over exploration in KGF.
- The exploration started after meeting of Union Minister for Coal and Mines Pralhad Joshi with Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa.

DEFENCE

INDIA JAPAN CONDUCTS NAVAL EXERCISE JIMEX -2020



Date: 28th September, 2020

Key Points:

- Navies of India and Japan participated in the joint naval exercise-JIMEX 2020.
- The bilateral exercise was conducted for three days between Indian Navy and Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force in the North Arabian Sea.
- During this exercise naval ships undertook anti-air and anti-submarine warfare exercises, weapon firings, tracking and tactical manoeuvres.
- Since 2012 both navies are participating in the JIMEX series of exercises with a special focus on maritime security cooperation.
- The last edition of JIMEX was conducted 2018 in Visakhapatnam.
- With the successful conduct of JIMEX 20 both navies are hopeful of further enhancement mutual confidence.

POLITY

QUADRILATERAL COALITION MEET FOR COOPERATION IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION



Date: 25th September, 2020

Key Points:

- Quadrilateral coalition or “Quad” forum formed by four nations India, US, Japan and Australia held their virtual meeting.
- The focus of the meeting was collaboration to promote peace, security, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The meeting also paved the way for Foreign minister’s talks in Tokyo next month to further boost their cooperation in region.
- The meeting is important as China’s military presence and aggressiveness in the Indo-Pacific region is a major concern faced by the members.
- The senior officials also exchanged their views on multi-lateral cooperation related to areas like maritime security, counter-terrorism, connectivity, infrastructure, etc.



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PEOPLE

NATIONAL

AWARDS & HONOURS

GURPREET SINGH SANDHU AND SANJU YADAV



Date: 26th September, 2020

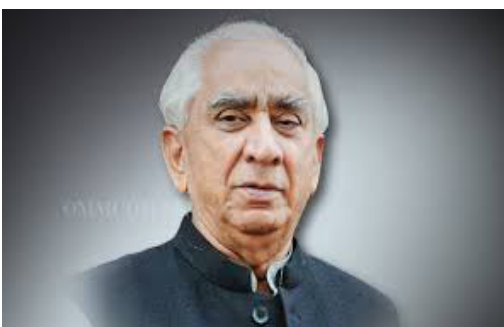
Why in News: Named AIFF player of the Year

Key Highlights:

- Indian National Football team members Gurpreet Singh Sandhu and Sanju Yadav selected for the AIFF player of the Year Award for 2019-2020 season.
- Gurpreet Singh Sandhu plays as Goalkeeper in Men's team while Sanju Yadav is a midfielder in the national Women's team.
- Sandhu becomes the only second goalkeeper to be selected for the prestigious award after Subrata Pal in 2009.
- The winners were decided based on a poll conducted among the coaches of Indian Super League (ISL) and I-League.
- The AIFF player of the Year award was constituted in 1992.

OBITUARY

JASWANT SINGH



Date: 27th September, 2020

Key Highlights:

- Former Union Minister Jaswant Singh passed away at the age of 82.
- He held important portfolios like Finance, Defence and External affairs in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee led NDA Government between 1998-2004.
- He served as Member of Parliament to either of the houses between 1980 and 2014, a rare feat.
- He also served as the Deputy Chairman of the Planning commission between 1998-1999.
- He served as officer in the Indian Army and was an alumnus of prestigious National Defence Academy.

SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR



Date: 29th September, 2020

Key Highlights:

- Syeda Anwara Taimur, the only woman Chief Minister of Assam passed away at age 84 due to cardiac arrest.
- She held the post of CM December 1980 to June 1981 as a member of the Indian National Congress.
- She was elected to the state's Legislative Assembly four times and also held a ministerial berth twice.
- She was also a member of the Rajya Sabha twice, first as a nominated member in 1998 and then in 2004 as an elected member.

APPOINTMENTS

PD VAGHELA



Date: 28th September, 2020

Key Highlights:

Why in News: Appointed as new Chairman of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

- His appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.
- He will replace Present TRAI Chairman RS Sharma, who is due to complete his tenure.
- PD Vaghela is a 1986-batch IAS officer of Gujarat cadre and currently serving as Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals.
- He will work as TRAI Chairman for three years or till he attains the age of 65 whichever is earlier.



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ISSUES

NATIONAL

AGRICULTURE

PRESIDENT GAVE ASSENT TO RECENTLY PASSED FARMER'S BILL



Date: 27th September, 2020

Key Points:

- Recently passed Farmers' bill became laws with the signature of President.
- The Parliament passed the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020.
- Bills aimed at transforming agriculture in the country and raising farmers' income.
- The opposition had requested the President not to sign the bill and send it back to parliament for reconsideration.
- However the opposition is protesting the bill on various issues including the confining of APMC mandis.
- Their concern is that the bill will confine APMC mandis to their physical boundaries and give a free hand to big corporate buyers.
- The Government on the other hand has reiterated that the Mandis established under State laws will also continue to operate.
- The new laws enable farmers to deal directly with big corporations for the sale of produce and even allow pre-harvest contracts.
- Farmers are apprehensive about direct-dealing with corporate and fear that they will not be paid even the MSP fixed by the government.
- The bill passed in the Parliament will replace ordinances promulgated in June.

SOCIAL

NCRB DATA REPORTS RISE IN CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN & SCHEDULED CASTES



Date: 30th September, 2020

Key Points

- Rise in crimes against women and Scheduled Castes was reported according to the National Crime Record Bureau's "Crime in India" 2019 report.
- The annual data released by NCRB reported 7.3 per cent increase in crime against women and also against Scheduled Castes from 2018.
- The crime rate registered per lakh women population is reported to be 62.4 in 2019 while it was 58.8 in 2018.
- Uttar Pradesh reported the highest number of cases in both these categories based on absolute numbers.
- Rajasthan reported highest rate of crimes against Scheduled Castes
- The highest rate of crimes against women based on per lakh population was reported in Assam with 177.8.
- Rajasthan (110.4), Haryana (108.5) and Odisha (103.5) followed Assam in crime against women in terms of per lakh population.

INTERNATIONAL

POLITY

TENSION RISES IN ARMENIA – AZERBAIJAN BORDER SIGNALS WAR



Date: 23rd September, 2020

Key Points

- The concentration of foreign fighters and transfer of artillery near Armenia-Azerbaijan border signals for a war.
- This escalation started following deadlock in the Nagorno-Karabakh negotiation process.
- Amid reports of Armenia concentrating their forces near the line of contact the Azerbaijan stated that it will defend its nation.
- Recently Azerbaijani army downed an Armenian unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) while an Azerbaijani soldier was killed by the armed forces of Armenia.
- The experts view this as a distressing signal for an imminent escalation or a new war.
- This happened against the backdrop of the news reported by the Egyptian news about the transfer of terrorist groups of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) and People's Protection Forces (YPG) to Armenia using the transit route of Syria, Iraq and Iran.
- Armenia's rejection of the Madrid Principles, a conflict settlement formulation proposed by the Minsk Group was seen as the final nail in the coffin of negotiations.
- Azerbaijan views this as abusing of peace negotiations by Armenia to consolidate its control over the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

HEALTHCARE

SAUDI SUSPENDS TRAVEL TO INDIA DUE TO RISING COVID-19 CASES



Date: 24th September, 2020

Key Points

- Saudi Arabia has announced to suspend air travel to India and other countries.
- The gulf nation suspended travel to and from India, Brazil and Argentina because of the rise in CoVid-19 cases in these countries.
- In the statement Saudi Arabia's General Authority said that "Suspending travel to and from the India, Brazil, and Argentina including any person who has been in any of these countries in the last (14) days prior to their arrival to the Kingdom.
- However the official invitations have been exempted from this travel suspension
- India, Brazil and Argentina are in the list of top ten countries with more number of CoVid-19 cases.
- India and Brazil are at 2nd and 3rd position respectively, while Argentina is at 7th position.



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DESIGN OF INDIA'S FIRST RAPID TRANSIT TRAIN UNVEILED



Date: 25th September, 2020

Key Points

- The first look of India's Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) train was unveiled by officials of MoHUA & NCRTC.
- This RRTS train that can attain speed up to 180 kilometres per hour on the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor.
- This is one of three proposed RRTS corridors in the country.
- The 82 km long Delhi–Ghaziabad–Meerut Corridor will bring down the travel time by less than an hour from 3-4 hours by road at present.
- The design is inspired by Delhi's Lotus Temple as there is provision of maximal use of natural light and energy-efficient green train.
- The rolling stocks of RRTS will be manufactured at Bombardier's plant in Savli, Gujarat.
- The train will be fitted with stainless steel outer body, lightweight and fully air-conditioned with aerodynamic features.
- RRTS rolling stock will have lighting and temperature control systems to enhance the passenger experience with less energy consumption.
- It will also have automatic plug-in type wide doors for reducing air-friction and noise and equipped with CCTV, fire & smoke detector, fire extinguisher and door indicator.
- RRTS will have environment-friendly, energy-efficient features that will also help in accelerating economic growth and creating more economic opportunities.

DEFENCE

DRDO COMPLETES ALL RELEVANT DETAILS FOR MASS PRODUCTION OF PINAKA ROCKET SYSTEMS



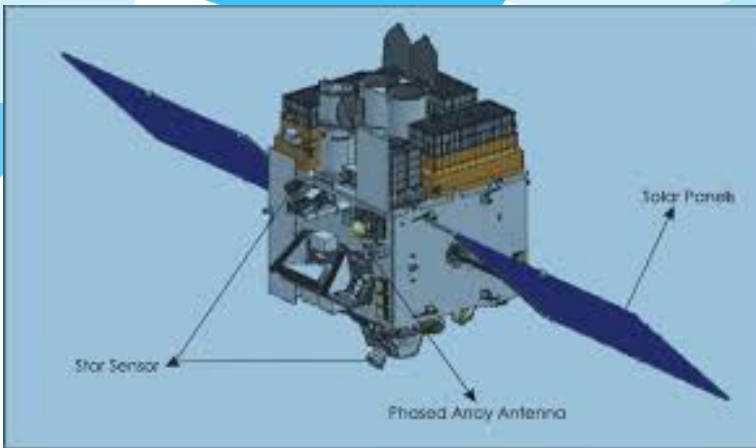
Date: 26th September, 2020

Key Points

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) complete all important processes related to mass production of Pinaka rockets.
- These processes also include mass production of related launchers and strategic equipments.
- The DRDO handed all relevant details over to the Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA).
- The DGQA is responsible for ensuring quality specifications and standards of all defence equipment.
- The Authority Holding Sealed Particulars (AHSP) responsibility of Pinaka weapon system was handed DGQA as AHSP is responsible for collecting, collating and analysing key defence items as per standard procedure.
- Pinaka is a free flight artillery rocket system having a range of 37.5 km. And can be launched from a multi barrel rocket launcher to launch 12 rockets in 44 seconds.

SPACE

INDIA'S ASTROSAT COMPLETES FIVE YEARS IN SPACE



Date: 28th September, 2020

Key Points

- India's first multi-wavelength astronomical observatory-the AstroSat completed five years of imaging celestial objects in space.
- It was launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on 28th September 2015.
- During these five years AstroSat has carried out 1,166 observations of 800 unique celestial sources.
- It also has explored stars, star clusters, mapping of large and small satellite galaxies of the Milky Way 'Magellanic Clouds' etc.
- AstroSat has proved to be an important satellite capable of carrying out simultaneous observations over a range of wavelengths from the far ultraviolet to the hard X-ray band. The data gathered by five payloads of AstroSat are telemetered to the ground station at MOX.
- The data is then processed, archived and distributed by Indian Space Science Data Centre (ISSDC) located at Bylalu, near Bengaluru.

DEFENCE

SUCCESSFUL FLIGHT TESTING OF BRAHMOS MISSILE



Date: 30th September, 2020

Key Points

- Successful flight testing of BrahMos missile with indigenous subsystems took place from Integrated Test range, Balasore (Odisha).
- These 'Made in India' subsystems include important component like Booster and Airframe section.
- This is a major step towards enhancement of indigenous component in Indian Defence equipments.
- It also paved the way for the serial production of the indigenous booster and other indigenous components of the powerful BrahMos Missile Weapon System.
- BrahMos is a surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missile with top speed of Mach 2.8.
- It is developed by BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture between Defence Research and Development Organisation and NPOM of Russia.



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