



## News Analysis (11 Feb, 2019)

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### Mahamastakabhisheka Celebrations

Recently, the **10-day long Mahamastakabhisheka** for the **monolith 39-foot high Bahubali** statue started in **Dharmasthala, Karnataka**.

- This year (2019), Mahamastakabhisheka Mahotsava will be observed from February 9 to February 18.
- This is the **fourth mahamastakabhisheka** of Lord Bahubali since its **installation in 1982**. Earlier were performed in 1982, 1995, and in 2007 in Dharmasthala.
- It was sculpted by **Renjala Gopalakrishna Shenoy** under the aegis of Ratnavarma Heggade in **1973**. It was then positioned atop **Ratnagiri Hill** in the temple town of **Dharmasthala in 1982**.

#### Note:

- In 2018, the anointing ceremony of the **Gomateshwara Bahubali statue at Shravanabelagola** took place from February 17 to February 25.
- The statue at Shravanabelagola is believed to be **one of the largest free-standing statues** in the world (at 57 feet), which was built in **983 AD by the minister of the Ganga dynasty, Chamunda-Raya**.

### Mahamastakabhisheka

- The word Mahamastakabhisheka is a combination of **three words viz: Maha (great), Masthaka (head) and Abhisheka (anointing) which literally means 'the head anointing ceremony'**.
- The ceremony is called Mahamastakabhisheka (also referred as Grand Consecration) and not Mastakabhisheka because the ceremony is performed **only once in 12 years**.
- The Mahamastakabhisheka Mahotsava is an anointing ceremony of the statue of Lord Bahubali.

### Lord Bahubali

- Lord Bahubali was the **son of lord Rishabhanatha** who was the first of the **24 Jain Tirthankaras**.
- Jain mythology holds up Bahubali as the one who succeeded in **attaining liberty from worldly desires** through a long period of **sustained meditation**.

- The sculpture of Lord Bahubali is in upright posture of **meditation known as Kayotsarga** which stands for renunciation, self-control and subjugation of the ego as a reflection of his life.
- This is the **digambara form of Bahubali** which represents complete victory over earthly desires and needs, which forms the edifice for spiritual ascent towards divinity.

## Jainism

- The most famous thinker of the Jainas, **Vardhamana Mahavira was born in 540 B.C.** in Kundagram village near Vaishali. He was a **Kshatriya prince** belonging to the **Lichchhavi clan**.
- According to the beliefs of the Jain tradition, Mahavir was the **24<sup>th</sup> Tirthankara, who succeeded the 23rd Tirthankara, Parshvanatha.**
- Tirthankara is a Sanskrit word meaning '**Fordmaker**', i.e., one who is able to ford the river, to cross beyond the perpetual flow of earthly life.
- Mahavir attained '**kaivalya**' or **omniscience at the age of 42.**
- He passed away at the age of 72 at a place called Pavapuri, near modern day Rajgir (in Bihar) after preaching for thirty years.
- Jainism attaches utmost importance to ahimsa or non-violence. It preaches **5 mahavratas (the 5 great vows):**
  - Ahimsa (Non-violence)
  - Satya (Truth)
  - Asteya or Achaurya (Non-stealing)
  - Brahmacharya (Celibacy/Chastity)
  - Aparigraha (Non-attachment/Non-possession)
- The **three jewels or triratna of Jainism** include **Samyak Darshana (right faith), Samyak Gyana (right knowledge) and Samyak Charitra (right conduct).**
- Jainism is a religion of self-help. There are no gods or spiritual beings that will help human beings. It does not condemn the varna system.
- The texts containing the teachings of Mahavira are **called the Agamas.**
- In later times, it got divided into **two sects: Shvetambaras (white-clad) under Sthalabahu and Digambaras (sky-clad) under the leadership of Bhadrabahu.**

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## 150 years of the Periodic Table

The **United Nations** has designated **2019** as the **International Year of the Periodic Table (IYPT2019)** to commemorate the **150th anniversary** of the establishment of the **Periodic Table of Chemical Elements** by **Dmitri Ivanovich Mendeleev** on **17th February 1869.**

- The International Year **aims to recognize the importance of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements as one of the most important and influential achievements in modern science** reflecting the essence not only of chemistry but also of physics, biology and other basic sciences disciplines.
- The initiative for IYPT2019 is supported by the **International Union of Pure Applied Chemistry (IUPAC)** in partnership with other science-related organization.
- **Mendeleev was not the first one to create a table of elements.** Earliest of such efforts was due to the father of modern chemistry, **Antoine Lavoisier in 1789** who classified them in terms of their properties.  
**John Newlands** introduced the **concept of octaves in chemistry**, wherein properties repeat for every eighth element.
- In comparison to the modern periodic table, **Mendeleev's periodic table was designed in the order of increasing atomic weight** while the **modern periodic table is designed according to increasing atomic number.**

## Important Facts about Periodic Table

- There are **118 confirmed elements in the periodic table.** Among those, **90 elements can be found in nature**, others are strictly man-made. **Technetium** was the **first man-made element.**
- **Hydrogen** is the **lightest element** with its **atomic weight 1.** **Uranium** is the **heaviest element** with an atomic **weight of 238.**
- Helium, neon, argon, krypton, xenon, and radon are known as the Noble Gases as they were believed to be unreactive. But recent studies have shown reactive compounds of xenon, krypton, and radon.
- The **IUPAC** is **responsible for maintaining the periodic table.**
- Most of the elements on the periodic table are metals (almost 75 percent).
- Different forms of pure elements are called **allotropes.** For example, diamond, graphite, buckminsterfullerene, and amorphous carbon are allotropes of Carbon.
- The only **two elements** that are **liquid in room temperature** are **mercury** and **bromine.**

## The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC)

- IUPAC is the **world authority on chemical nomenclature and terminology**, including the naming of new elements in the periodic table; on standardized methods for measurement; and on atomic weights etc.
- A neutral and objective scientific organization, IUPAC was **established in 1919 by academic and industrial chemists who shared a common goal** – to unite a fragmented, global chemistry community for the advancement of the chemical sciences via collaboration and the free exchange of scientific information.
- **Four new elements discovered in 2015** have been named by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC).
  - These are **Nihonium (113Nh)**, **Moscovium (115Mo)**, **Tennessine (117Te)** and **Oganesson (118Og)**.
  - Of these elements, **Nh-278** is **highly radioactive** with a very short half-life of 0.24 milliseconds.

## Kawtchhuah Ropui Heritage Site, Mizoram

Archaeological survey of India has discovered traces of ancient civilization in Vangchhia, a village in Mizoram's Champhai district bordering Myanmar.

- The site has been named as the **Kawtchhuah Ropui heritage site**. Kawtchhuah Ropui means the Great Entranceway.
- Kawtchhuah Ropui the heritage site is **Mizoram's first site which is under the protected monuments of Archaeological Survey of India's (ASI)**.
- The area is part of the Lower Himalayas and has rows of steep hills largely made up of various kinds of sandstone shading from light grey to blackish.
- The site, measuring about 45 sq km has yielded pictographs etched on **large stone slabs, menhirs (large standing stones), a necropolis (a large cemetery), a water pavilion among other artifacts**.
- The ancient people of Vangchhia also carved terraces on rocks for their settlement — the main excavated site consists of 15 such terraces.
- There are over 100 menhirs, rising almost 15 feet tall, stand at the excavation site depicting floral, animal and humans.
- Water pavilion has strategically drilled holes — between one foot and one meter across — spread over several sandstone slopes and used for storing water.
- ASI has not been able to accurately date the Vangchhia settlement. Initially, ASI estimated site to be from the 15th century.
- However, recently, the ASI team has also discovered neolithic caves near Vangchhia, indicating that the lost civilization could be much older.

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## Important Facts for Prelims (11th February 2019)

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### PETROTECH - 2019

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- PETROTECH-2019, considered to be **India's flagship hydrocarbon conference** is being organised at India Expo Centre, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh under the aegis of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India.
- This is the **13<sup>th</sup> edition with the theme of - 'Shaping the New Energy World through Innovation and Collaboration'**.
- PETROTECH is a **biennial platform** for national and international experts in the oil & gas industry to exchange views and share knowledge, expertise, and experiences.

### Mobile-App e-Cocoon

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- Recently **Ministry of Textiles** launched a **mobile application e-cocoon for quality certification in silkworm seed sector**.
- Mobile app e-cocoon will help **quality certification in silk worm sector** as it will be used by the Seed Analysts and Seed Officers nominated under Central Seed Act for system and product certification through real time reporting.
- India has the unique distinction of **being the only country** producing **all the five known commercial silks -Mulberry, Tropical Tasar, Oak Tasar, Eri and Muga**.
- Mulberry Silk is produced mainly in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand and West Bengal.
- Non-Mulberry Silk or Vanya Silk (Tasar, Eri and Muga) is produced in Odisha, Chhattisgarh and North-Eastern States.
- **North East is the only region** that produces four varieties of silk -Mulberry, Oak Tasar, Muga and Eri.
- India is the **second largest producer of silk after China** and the largest consumer of silk.

### Wind-Rush Scheme

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- More than 450 Indians have been confirmed their British citizenship under the **British government's 'Windrush Scheme'**.
  - Under the **Windrush Scheme**, citizenship has been granted to **immigrants from Commonwealth countries to the UK**, who arrived or settled in the **UK before 1 January 1973** and have been continuously resident in the UK since their arrival.
  - The 'Windrush Generation' refers to citizens of former British colonies who **arrived in the the UK before 1973**, when the rights of such Commonwealth citizens to live and work in Britain was substantially curtailed.
  - While a large proportion of them were of Jamaican/Caribbean descent, they also included Indians and other South Asians.
  - The immigrants referred to under the bracket of 'Windrush Generation' **relates to a ship named 'Windrush', which brought Jamaican workers to the UK shores in 1948.**
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