



## News Analysis (25 Feb, 2020)

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### Consultative Committee

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#### Why in News

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The meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Members of Parliament for the Ministry of Steel was held on 24th February 2020.

#### Key Points

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##### Formation

- These committees are **constituted by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.**
- These are normally constituted after the new Lok Sabha is constituted.
- This implies that these committees stand dissolved upon dissolution of every Lok Sabha and thus, are reconstituted upon the constitution of each Lok Sabha.

##### Composition

- The guidelines regarding the composition, functions and procedures of these committees are formulated by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.
- These consist of **members of both the Houses of Parliament.**
- However, the membership of these committees is voluntary and is left to the choice of the members and the leaders of their parties.
- The **maximum membership of a committee is 30** and the **minimum is 10.**

##### Functions

- These committees are **attached to various ministries/departments of the Central Government.**
- The **Minister/Minister of State in charge of the Ministry concerned acts as the chairman** of the consultative committee of that ministry.

- These provide a forum for informal discussions between the ministers and the members of Parliament on policies and programmes of the government and the manner of their implementation.
- The Consultative Committees are not Parliamentary Committees. A parliamentary committee:
  - Is appointed or elected by the House or nominated by the Speaker/Chairman.
  - Works under the direction of the Speaker/Chairman.
  - Presents its report to the House or to the Speaker/Chairman.
  - Has a secretariat provided by the Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha.

**Source: PIB**

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## Hampi

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### Why in News

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The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is about to install a wooden barricade around the **stone chariot inside Vittala Temple complex** at the **UNESCO World Heritage site of Hampi to protect it from damage.**

The Vittala Temple is among the **most-visited and the most photographed** protected monuments at Hampi.

## Hampi

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- Hampi is the **14th century capital of the Vijayanagar Empire**, located in the **Tungabhadra basin** in **Bellary District, Central Karnataka**.
- Vittala Temple Complex is the finest example of **Vijayanagar Temple Architecture**.  
A large number of royal buildings were raised by **Krishnadeva Raya (A.D. 1509-30)** and **Vittala Temple Complex is one of them**.
- Temples of Hampi are noted for their large dimensions, florid ornamentation, bold and delicate carvings and stately pillars which include **subjects from the Ramayana and the Mahabharata**.
- Majority of these temples in Hampi were provided with widespread bazaars flanked on either side by storied Mandapas.
- The **Mahanavami Dibba, a variety of ponds and tanks, and the row of pillared Mandapas** are some of the important architectural remains of Hampi. In **1986**, Hampi was declared a **World Heritage site by UNESCO**.

### Vijayanagar Empire

- Vijayanagara or “city of victory” was the name of both a city and an empire.

- The empire was founded in the fourteenth century (1336 AD) by Harihara and Bukka of Sangama dynasty. They made Hampi as the capital city.
- It stretched from the river Krishna in the north to the extreme south of the peninsula.
- Vijayanagar Empire was ruled by four important dynasties and they are:
  - Sangama
  - Saluva
  - Tuluva
  - Aravidu
- Krishnadevaraya (ruled 1509-29) of the Tuluva dynasty was the most famous ruler of Vijayanagar.
- He is credited with building some fine temples and adding impressive gopurams to many important south Indian temples.
- He composed a work on statecraft in Telugu known as the Amuktamalyada.

**Source: TH**

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## One Year of PM-KISAN

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### Why in News

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The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare observed the 1st anniversary of the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)** Scheme on 24th February.

- The PM-KISAN was launched on **February 24 in 2019**.
- **All states are implementing** the scheme, **except West Bengal**.
- The PM-KISAN Mobile App developed and designed by the National Informatics Centre in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has been launched.
- The farmers can view the status of their application, update or carry out corrections of their Aadhaar cards and also check the history of credits to their bank accounts.

### PM-KISAN

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- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) is a **Central Sector Scheme** with 100% funding from the Government of India.
- It is being implemented by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare**.
- Under the scheme, the **Centre transfers an amount of Rs 6,000 per year, in three equal instalments**, directly into the bank accounts of the **farmers holding cultivable land of up to two hectares**.

- It intends to **supplement the financial needs of the Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs)** in procuring various inputs to ensure proper crop health and appropriate yields, commensurate with the anticipated farm income at the end of each crop cycle.
- The entire responsibility of **identification of beneficiary** farmer families rests with the **State / UT Governments**.

**Source: TH**

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## Kalasa-Banduri Nala Project

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### Why in News

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The cost of the **Kalasa-Banduri Nala project on the Mahadayi basin** has **risen** from about ₹94 crores (2000) to ₹1,677.30 crores (2020) due to the **ongoing inter-State river water dispute**.

### Mahadayi River

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- Mahadayi or Mhadei, the **west-flowing river**, originates in **Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary (Western Ghats)**, Belagavi district of **Karnataka**.
- It is essentially a rain-fed river also called **Mandovi in Goa**.
- It is joined by a number of streams to form the Mandovi which is one of two major rivers (the other one is Zuari river) that flows through Goa.
- The river travels 35 km in Karnataka; 82 km in Goa before joining the Arabian Sea.

### Kalasa-Banduri Nala Project

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- It is undertaken by the Government of Karnataka to improve drinking water supply to the **three districts of Belagavi, Dharwad, and Gadag**.
- It involves building across **Kalasa and Banduri**, two tributaries of the Mahadayi river to divert water to the **Malaprabha river (a tributary of Krishna river)**.
- Malaprabha river supplies the drinking water to Dharwad, Belgaum, and Gadag districts.
- Kalasa-Banduri project was planned in **1989**; Goa raised an objection to it.  
The Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal was set up in 2010. **Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra** are parties to the tribunal.



Source: TH

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## SERB Women Excellence Award- 2020

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### Why in News

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**Dr Niti Kumar**, a senior scientist from the **CSIR- Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI)**, Lucknow has received **SERB Women Excellence Award-2020**.

- Award will be **conferred by the President of India during National Science Day (NSD) celebrations on 28th February, 2020**. The **theme** for the NSD 2020 is **'Women in Science'**.
- SERB Women Excellence Award is a **one-time award given to women scientists below 40 years of age** and who have received recognition from national academies such as Young Scientist Medal, Young Associate etc.
- The women researchers will be supported by **a research grant of 5 lakhs per annum for 3 years** by the **Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)**, Ministry of Science and Technology.
- Niti Kumar's research group is trying to understand the **protein quality control machinery in human malaria parasite** for exploration of alternative drug targets for malaria intervention.
- Dr. Niti Kumar has many awards and recognitions in her credit including, Innovative Young Biotechnologist Award (DBT-IYBA, 2015), INSA Medal for Young Scientist (2010) by Indian National Science Academy, etc.

**Source: PIB**

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