



Drishti IAS Presents...



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Guru Nanak Dev Jayanti

Why in News?

Recently, the 553rd birth anniversary of **Guru Nanak Dev** was celebrated.



Who was Guru Nanak Dev?

- **Birth:**
 - In 1459 at Talwandi Rai Bhoie village near Lahore, which was later renamed as Nankana Sahib.
 - He was the **first of the 10 Sikh gurus and the founder of Sikhism**.
- **Contributions:**
 - Initiated inter-faith dialogue way back in the 16th century and had conversations with most of the religious denominations of his times.
 - Wrote compositions which were included in the **Adi Granth**, compiled by **Guru Arjan (1563-1606)**, the fifth Sikh guru.
 - This came to be known as **Guru Granth Sahib** after the additions made by the **10th Sikh guru – Guru Gobind Singh (1666-1708)**.
 - Advocated the '**Nirguna**' (devotion to and worship of formless divine) form of bhakti.
 - **Rejected sacrifices**, ritual baths, image worship, austerities.
 - Set up rules for **congregational worship (Sangat)** involving collective recitation.
 - Gave the basic mantra of '**Ek Onkar**' to his followers and **insisted on treating all human beings equally**, without discriminating on the basis of caste, creed and gender.
- **Death:**
 - In 1539 at Kartarpur, Punjab.

Shivaji Jayanti 2022

Why in News?

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti is celebrated each year on 19th February to remember and praise his courage, warfare tactics and administrative skills.

- He carved an enclave from the declining Adilshahi sultanate of Bijapur that formed the genesis of the Maratha Kingdom.
- In 1870, social reformer **Mahatma Jyotirao Phule** initiated the celebration Shiv Jayanti in Pune which is now known as Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti.



What are the Key Points Related to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj?

- **Early Life:**
 - He displayed **his military zeal for the first time in 1645** when as a teenager, he successfully got control of the Torna Fort which was under Bijapur.
 - He also acquired the Kondana Fort. Both these forts were under Adil Shah of Bijapur.

| Important Battles | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Battle of Pratapgad, 1659 | Fought at the fort of Pratapgad near the town of Satara, Maharashtra, between the forces of the Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and the Adilshahi general Afzal Khan. |
| Battle of Pavan Khind, 1660 | Fought at a mountain pass in the vicinity of fort Vishalgad, near the city of Kolhapur, Maharashtra, between the Maratha Sardar Baji Prabhu Deshpande and Siddi Masud of Adilshahi. |
| Sacking of Surat, 1664 | Fought near the city of Surat, Gujarat, between Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Inayat Khan, a Mughal captain. |

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|----------------------------------|--|
| Battle of Purandar, 1665 | Fought between the Mughal Empire and Maratha Empire. |
| Battle of Sinhagad, 1670 | Fought on the fort of Sinhagad near the city of Pune, Maharashtra between Tanaji Malusare, a commander of Maratha ruler Shivaji Maharaj and Udaybhan Rathod, fortkeeper under Jai Singh I who was a Mughal Army Chief. |
| Battle of Kalyan, 1682-83 | Bahadur Khan of the Mughal Empire defeated the Maratha army and took over Kalyan. |
| Battle of Sangamner, 1679 | Fought between the Mughal Empire and Maratha Empire. This was the last battle in which the Maratha King Shivaji fought. |

➤ Conflict with Mughals:

- He raided Mughal territory near Ahmednagar and in Junnar, 1657.
- Aurangzeb responded to the raids by sending Nasiri Khan, who defeated the forces of Shivaji at Ahmednagar.
- Shivaji defeated a large force of Shaista Khan (Aurangzeb's maternal uncle) and the Bijapur army in Pune, 1659.
- In 1664, the wealthy Mughal trading port of Surat was sacked by Shivaji.
- In June 1665, the **Treaty of Purandar was signed** between Shivaji and Raja Jai Singh I (representing Aurangzeb).
 - As per this treaty, many forts were relinquished to the Mughals and it was agreed that Shivaji would meet Aurangzeb at Agra. Shivaji also agreed to send his son Sambhaji as well.

➤ Arrest of Shivaji:

- When Shivaji went to meet the Mughal emperor at Agra in 1666, the Maratha warrior felt he was insulted by Aurangzeb and stormed out of the court.
- He was arrested and kept prisoner. The **clever escape of Shivaji and his son from imprisonment in disguise** out of Agra is legendary today.
- After that there was peace between the Marathas and the Mughals until 1670.
- The jagir of Berar which was granted to Sambhaji by the Mughals was taken back from him.
- Shivaji in response attacked and recovered many territories from the Mughals in a short span of four months.

- Through his military tactics, Shivaji acquired a large part of the land in the Deccan and western India.

➤ Granted Title:

- He took on the titles of Chhatrapati, Shakakarta, Kshatriya Kulavantas and Haindava Dharma Dharak.
- The Maratha Kingdom founded by **Shivaji grew larger over time and became the dominant Indian power** in the early 18th century.

➤ Death:

- Shivaji passed away in Raigad in 1680 and was cremated at the Raigad Fort.

How was the Administration under Shivaji?

➤ Central Administration:

- It was founded by Shivaji for the sound system of administration which was greatly inspired from the Deccan style of administration.
- Most of the administrative reforms were inspired from Malik Amber reforms in Ahmednagar.
- The King was the supreme head of state who was assisted by a group of eight ministers known as the '**Ashtapradhan**'.
- The peshwa, also known as the mukhya pradhan, originally headed the advisory council of the raja Shivaji.

➤ Revenue Administration:

- Shivaji **abolished the Jagirdari System and replaced it with Ryotwari System**, and changes in the position of hereditary revenue officials which was popularly known as Deshmukhs, Deshpande, Patils and Kulkarnis.
- Shivaji strictly supervised the Mirasdars who had hereditary rights in land.
- The revenue system was **patterned on the Kathi system of Malik Amber** in which every piece of land was measured by Rod or Kathi.
- **Chauth and Sardeshmukhi** were other sources of income.
 - Chauth amounted to 1/4th of the standard which was paid to Marathas as a safeguard against Shivaji's forces raiding Non-Maratha territories.
 - Sardeshmukhi was an additional levy of 10% demanded from areas outside of the kingdom.

Note:

➤ **Military Administration:**

- Shivaji organized a **disciplined and efficient army**.
- The ordinary soldiers were paid in cash, but the chief and military commander were paid **through jagir grants (Saranjam or Mokasa)**.
- The army consists of Infantry i.e. Mavali foot soldiers, Cavalry i.e. Horse riders and equipment holders, Navy.

Veer Bal Diwas

Why in News?

On 9th January 2022, the **day of the Prakash Purab of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji**, the Prime Minister had announced that 26th December would be observed as '**Veer Bal Diwas**', to mark the martyrdom of sons of Sri Guru Gobind Singh - **Sahibzadas Baba Zorawar Singh Ji and Baba Fateh Singh Ji**.

Who were Sahibzadas Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh?

- Sahibzada Jorawar Singh (9) and Sahibzada Fateh Singh (7) are among the most revered martyrs in **Sikhism**.
- A combination of Mughals soldiers besieged **Anandpur Sahib** on the orders of emperor Aurangzeb (1704).
- The two sons of Guru Gobind Singh were captured.
- They were offered safe passage if they became Muslims but both of them refused, and so they were sentenced to death and were bricked alive.
- These two greats preferred death instead of deviating from the noble principles of Dharma.

Shaheedi Divas - 24th November

Why in News?

Every Year, **24th November**, is commemorated as the **Shaheedi Divas of Guru Tegh Bahadur**, the ninth guru of the Sikhs, who stood up against **forcible conversions by the Mughals**.

Who was Guru Teg Bahadur?

- Guru Tegh Bahadur was born in **Amritsar on 21st April 1621 to Mata Nanki and Guru Hargobind**, the sixth

Sikh guru, who raised an army against the Mughals and introduced the concept of warrior saints.

- As a boy, Tegh Bahadur was **called Tyag Mal because of his ascetic nature**.
- Guru Tegh Bahadur was the **9th Sikh Guru**, often venerated as the 'Protector of Humanity' (Srisht-di-Chadar) by the Sikhs.
- He is known as a **great teacher**, Guru Tegh Bahadur was also an **excellent warrior, thinker, and poet**, who wrote detailed descriptions of the nature of God, mind, body, and physical attachments among other things spiritual.
- He was only 13 when he distinguished himself in a battle against a Mughal chieftain.
- His writings are housed in the **sacred text, 'Guru Granth Sahib'**, in the form of 116 poetic hymns.
- He was also an avid **traveler and played a key role in setting up preaching centers throughout the Indian subcontinent**.
- During one such mission, he founded the town of **Chak-Nanki in Punjab**, which later became a part of Punjab's Anandpur Sahib.
- **In the year 1675**, Guru Tegh Bahadur was executed in Delhi under the orders of the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb.

Who were the Ten Gurus of Sikh Religion?

| Ten Gurus of Sikh Religion | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Guru Nanak Dev (1469-1539) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ He was the first guru of Sikh and the founder of Sikh religion. ➤ He started the GURU KA LANGAR. ➤ He was the contemporary of Babur. ➤ Kartarpur corridor was commemorated on the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev. |
| Guru Angad (1504-1552) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ He invented the new script called Guru-Mukhi and popularized and expanded the system of Guru ka Langar. |
| Guru Amar Das (1479-1574) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ He introduced the ceremony of the Anand Karaj Marriage. ➤ He abolished the custom of Sati and Purdah system among the Sikhs. ➤ He was a contemporary of Akbar. |
| Guru Ram Das (1534-1581) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ He founded Amritsar in 1577 on the land granted by Akbar. ➤ He started the construction of Golden Temple/Swarna mandir at Amritsar. |

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|--------------------------------------|---|
| Guru Arjun Dev (1563-1606) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ He composed the Adi Granth in 1604. ➤ He led to the completion of construction of the Golden temple. ➤ He was acclaimed as Shaheeden-de-Sartaj. ➤ He was executed by Jahangir on charges of helping prince Khusrau. |
| Guru Hargobind (1594-1644) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ He led to the transformation of the Sikh Community into a Military community. He is known as "Soldier Saint". ➤ He led to the establishment of Akal Takht and fortified the Amritsar City. ➤ He waged wars against Jahangir and Shah Jahan. |
| Guru Har Rai (1630-1661) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ He was a man of peace thus devoted most of his life in maintaining peace with Aurangzeb and doing missionary work. |
| Guru Har Krishan (1656-1664) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ He was the youngest guru of all and was given the title of Guru at a very early age of 5. ➤ He was summoned by Aurangzeb against anti-islamic blasphemy. |
| Guru Teg Bahadur (1621-1675) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ He founded Anandpur Sahib. |
| Guru Gobind Singh (1666-1708) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ He founded a warrior community known as Khalsa in 1699. ➤ He introduced a new rite "Pahul". ➤ He joined Bahadur Shah's as a noble. ➤ He was the last Sikh Guru in human form and he passed the Guruship of Sikhs to the Guru Granth Sahib. |

Assam's Charaideo Moidams

Why in News?

The Centre has decided to nominate the **Charaideo Maidams** in Assam for the **UNESCO World Heritage Site** for the year 2023.

- There is currently **no World Heritage Site** in the category of cultural heritage in **Northeast India**.
- The nomination of the Charaideo Maidams has attained significance at a time when the country is celebrating the **400th birth anniversary of Lachit Borphukan**.

What is Charaideo Maidams?

- The **Charaideo Maidams**, represents the late medieval (13th-19th century CE) **mound burial tradition** of the **Tai Ahom** community in Assam.

- It enshrines the mortal remains of the members of the Ahom royalty, who used to be buried with their **paraphernalia**.
 - After the 18th century, the **Ahom rulers adopted the Hindu method of cremation** and began entombing the cremated bones and ashes in a **Maidam at Charaideo**.
- Out of 386 Maidams or Moidams explored so far, **90 royal burials at Charaideo are the best preserved**, representative of and the most complete examples of mound burial tradition of the Ahoms.



What are the Key Facts About Ahom Kingdom??

- **About:**
 - Established in 1228 in the **Brahmaputra valley of Assam**, the Ahom kingdom retained its sovereignty for 600 years.
 - The kingdom was founded by **Chaolung Sukapha**, a 13th century ruler.
 - The Ahoms ruled the land till the province was annexed to British India in **1826** with the signing of the **Treaty of Yandaboo**.
- **Political Setup:**
 - Ahoms created a new state by suppressing the older political system of the **bhuiyans (landlords)**.
 - The Ahom state depended upon **forced labour**. Those forced to work for the state were called paiks.
- **Society:**
 - Ahom society was divided into **clans or khels**. A khel often controlled several villages.
 - Ahoms worshipped their own tribal gods, yet they accepted the Hindu religion and the Assamese language.

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- However, the **Ahom kings did not completely give up their traditional beliefs** after adopting **Hinduism**.
- **Military Strategy:**
 - The full contingent of the Ahom Army consisted of **infantry, navy, artillery, elephantry, cavalry and spies**.
 - The main war weapons consisted of bows and arrows, swords, Javelins discus, guns, matchlocks and cannons.
 - The **Ahom soldiers were experts in guerilla fighting**. They also learnt the technique of **constructing boat bridges in the Brahmaputra**.

Who was Lachit Borphukan?

- Born on 24th November, 1622, Borphukan was known for his **leadership in the Battle of Saraighat, 1671** in which an attempt by **Mughal forces** to capture Assam was thwarted.
- The battle of Saraighat was fought on the banks of the **Brahmaputra in Guwahati in 1671**.
- It is considered as one of the greatest naval battles on a river which **resulted in the victory of Ahoms over the Mughals**.
- He was the inspiration behind strengthening **India's naval force and revitalising inland water transport** and creating infrastructure associated with it due to his great naval strategies.
- The **Lachit Borphukan gold medal** is awarded to the best cadet from the **National Defence Academy**.
- The medal was instituted in 1999 to inspire **defence personnel to emulate Borphukan's heroism and sacrifices**.

Mutiny Memorial tells the Story of 1857 Revolt

Why in News?

Mutiny Memorial (New Delhi) was initially **built in 1863 to honour those who fought from the British side** during the **Revolt of 1857** but 25 years after Independence, they **re-dedicated it to the memory of those Indians who lost their lives fighting the British**.

- The monument has an indifferent **gothic design** with arched marble-backed recesses on all sides of the octagonal tower.

What was the 1857 Revolt?

- Indian Revolt of 1857-59 was a widespread but **unsuccessful rebellion** against the rule of British East India Company in India during **Governor General Canning's** regime.
- It was the **first expression of organised resistance against the company** led by sepoys of the company, eventually securing the **participation of the masses**.
- The rebellion of 1857 is referred to by various names, including the **Sepoy Mutiny** (according to British historians), **the Indian Mutiny, the Great Rebellion** (according to Indian historians), **the Indian Insurrection, and the First War of Independence** (as per Vinayak Damodar Savarkar).

What were the Causes?

➤ Immediate Causes:

- **Greased Cartridges:** The Revolt of 1857 was triggered by the use of new **Enfield rifles whose cartridges were believed to be greased with cow and pig fat**, leading to the refusal of both Hindu and Muslim sepoys to use them.
- **Repression of Grievances:** **Mangal Pandey's refusal to use the cartridges in Barrackpore and subsequent hanging**, along with the **imprisonment of 85 soldiers in Meerut** for similar refusal, were among the incidents that sparked the Revolt of 1857 in India.

➤ Political Causes:

- **Doctrine of Lapse:** The political causes of the revolt were the British policy of expansion through the **Doctrine of Lapse** and direct annexation.
 - The dislodgement of number of Indian rulers and chiefs and annexations including **annexations of Satara, Nagpur, Jhansi, Jaitpur, Sambalpur, Udaipur and Awadh** led to growing discontent against the **Policy of expansion**. Further many **nobles, officials and soldiers were left jobless**.

➤ Social and Religious Causes:

- **Spread of Western Civilization:** The rapidly **spreading Western Civilisation** in India was alarming concerns all over the country.
 - An act in 1850 **changed the Hindu law of inheritance** enabling a Hindu who had converted into Christianity to inherit his

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ancestral properties, which was **seen as an attempt to convert Indians to Christianity**

- Even the introduction of the railways and telegraph was viewed with suspicion.
- **Challenge to Orthodoxy:** The **abolition of practices like sati and female infanticide**, introduction of **western education** and the legislation legalizing widow remarriage, were believed as **threats to the established social structure**.
- **Economic Causes:**
 - **Heavy Taxes:** Peasants and zamindars, both were infuriated by the **heavy taxes on land** and the **stringent methods of revenue collection**, often leading to **loss of ancestral land**.
 - **Grievances of Sepoys:** Large numbers of **sepoys belonged to the peasantry class** and had family ties in villages, so the grievances of the peasants also affected them.
 - **Ruins of Local Industry and Handicrafts:** After the Industrial Revolution in England, there was an **influx of British manufactured goods** into India, which ruined industries, particularly the textile industry and handicrafts of India.
- **Military Causes:**
 - **Unequal Remuneration:** Indian sepoys formed more than 87% of the British troops in India but were **considered inferior to British soldiers** and **paid less** than European counterparts.
 - **Posting In Far Areas:** They were **required to serve in areas far away from their homes** and **across the seas**. Crossing the sea was **seen by many as losing the caste**.

Who were the Leaders of Revolt?

| Places of Revolt | Indian Leaders | British Officials who suppressed the revolt |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Delhi | Bahadur Shah II | John Nicholson |
| Lucknow | Begum Hazrat Mahal | Henry Lawrence |
| Kanpur | Nana Saheb | Sir Colin Campbell |
| Jhansi & Gwalior | Lakshmi Bai & Tantia Tope | General Hugh Rose |
| Bareilly | Khan Bahadur Khan | Sir Colin Campbell |
| Allahabad and Banaras | Maulvi Liyakat Ali | Colonel Ocell |
| Bihar | Kunwar Singh | William Taylor |

What was the British Response?

- The Revolt of 1857 lasted for more than a year. It was **suppressed by the middle of 1858 through severe repression**.
- On July 8, 1858, fourteen months after the outbreak at Meerut, peace was finally proclaimed by Lord Canning.

Why did the Revolt Fail?

- **Limited Uprising:** Although the revolt was fairly widespread, a large part of the country remained unaffected by it.
 - The Southern provinces and the large princely states, **Hyderabad, Mysore, Travancore, and Kashmir**, as well as the smaller ones of **Rajputana** did not join the rebellion
- **No Effective Leadership:** The rebels lacked an effective leader. Although Nana Saheb, Tantia Tope and Rani Lakshmi Bai were brave leaders, they **could not offer effective coordinated leadership** to the movement.
- **Limited Resources:** The rebels lacked resources in terms of men and money. The English, on the other hand, received a steady supply of men, money and arms in India.
- **No Participation of the Middle Class:** The English educated middle class, the rich merchants, traders and zamindars of Bengal helped the British to suppress the revolt.

What were the Impacts of the Revolt?

- **Direct Rule of the British Crown:** The Government of India Act, 1858, ended company rule in India and brought it under the direct rule of the British Crown.
 - **The India office** was created to handle the governance and the administration of the country.
- **Religious Tolerance:** It was promised, and due attention was paid to the customs and traditions of India. British support to religious reforms took a backseat.
- **Administrative Change:** The Governor General's office was replaced by that of the **Viceroy**.
 - The rights of Indian rulers were recognised.
 - The **Doctrine of Lapse** was **abolished**.
 - The right to adopt sons as legal heirs was accepted.
- **Military Reorganisation:** The ratio of British officers to Indian soldiers increased but the armoury remained in the hands of the English.

Note:

Lord Curzon and Partition of Bengal

Why in News?

Recently, the West Bengal Government has decided to erect a **statue of Bardhaman's Maharaja Bijay Chand Mahatab** and his wife Radharani in **front of the Lord Curzon Gate**.

Who Was Lord Curzon?

- George Nathaniel Curzon (11th January, 1859- 20th March, 1925) born in **Kedleston Hall, England** was a **British Statesman and Foreign Secretary** who during his terms in office played a major role in British policy making.
 - He succeeded **Lord Elgin** and served as **India's Viceroy between 1899 and 1905**.
 - He became the **youngest Viceroy of India** at the age of 39.
 - He was one of the **most controversial and consequential holders** of that post.
- Before assuming office as governor general and viceroy, Curzon had visited India (four times) Ceylon, Afghanistan. China, Persia, Turkestan, Japan, and Korea.

What were Curzon's Foreign Policies?

- **North-West Frontier Policy:**
 - Curzon, unlike his predecessors, pursued a policy of consolidation, strength and security of the British occupied territories in the north-west.
 - He kept **Chitral under British control and constructed a road connecting Peshawar and Chitral thereby** arranging for the security of Chitral.
- **Afghan Policy:**
 - Lord Curzon's Afghan policy was **conditioned by the political and economic interests, fear of Russian expansion** in Central Asia and Persian Gulf area.
 - From the very start there was an estrangement of relations between Afghans and the British.
- **Policy towards Persia:**
 - In order to secure British influence in that region Lord Curzon personally went to the Persian Gulf

area in 1903 and took firm measures to protect the British interests there.

➤ Relation with Tibet:

- Lord Curzon's Tibet policy was also influenced by fear of Russian dominance in the region.
- It was Lord Curzon's efforts that revived the trade relations between the two under which Tibet agreed to pay a huge indemnity to the British.

What were Reforms in Various Fields?

➤ Calcutta Corporation Act, 1899:

- The act reduced the number of elected legislatures and increased the number of nominated officials to deprive Indians from self-governance.
- 28 members of the Corporation resigned in protest and it, therefore, became a government department with the English and the Anglo-Indians as the majority in it.

➤ Economic:

- In 1899, the British currency was declared legal tender in India and a pound was declared equivalent to rupees fifteen.
- The rate of salt-tax was reduced by Curzon, from two-and-a-half rupees per maund (1 maund is equal to approximately 37 kg) to one-and-a-third rupees per maund.
- People with annual income of more than Rs. 500 paid the tax. Moreover, income-tax payers also received relaxation.

➤ Famine:

- When Curzon arrived in India, it was in the grip of a terrible famine which affected the extensive territories in south, central and western India. Curzon provided all possible relief to the affected people.
- **People were provided work on payment basis** and the cultivators were exempted from the payment of revenue.
- By 1900, when the famine was over, Curzon appointed a Commission to probe into the causes of the famine and suggest preventive measures which were later brought into consideration.

➤ Agriculture:

- In 1904, the **Co-operative Credit Societies Act** was passed to induce the people to form societies for the purpose of deposits and loans, mainly to save

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peasants from the clutches of the money-lenders who usually charged an exorbitant rate of interest.

- In 1900, the **Punjab Land Alienation Act** was passed which restricted the transfer of lands of the peasants to money-lenders in cases of failure of payment of their debts.
- **Railways:**
 - Curzon decided to **improve railway facilities in India** and also to make the Railway profitable to the government.
 - The Railway lines were increased, the Railway department was abolished and the management of the Railways was taken away from the hands of the Public Works Department and handed over to a Railway Board consisting of three members.
- **Education:**
 - In 1901, Curzon **called an education conference at Shimla** following which the University Commission was appointed in 1902.
 - The Indian Universities **Act was passed in 1904** upon the recommendations of the commission.
 - Gurudas Banerjee, Calcutta HC judge and a member of the commission, had given his dissent-note in the report and the Indian public despised the Act but all in vain.

What was Curzon's Role in the Partition of Bengal?

- The partition of the undivided Bengal Presidency in 1905 was one of Curzon's most criticized moves, which triggered widespread opposition not only in Bengal but across India, and gave impetus to the freedom movement.
- Bengal was the **most populous province of India**, with around 8 crore people.
- It comprised the present-day states of **West Bengal, Bihar, parts of Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Assam** and present-day Bangladesh.
- In July 1905, Curzon announced the partition of the undivided Bengal Presidency.
 - A new province of East Bengal and Assam was announced, with a population of 3.1 crore with a Muslim-Hindu ratio of 3:2.
 - The western Bengal province was overwhelmingly Hindu.

What are the Consequences of the Partition?

- The partition provoked great resentment and hostility all over India. All sections of the Congress, the Moderates and the Radicals, opposed it.
- The struggle that unfolded in the response, came to be known as the Swadeshi movement, was the strongest in Bengal but with echoes elsewhere too; in deltaic Andhra for instance, it was known as the Vande Mataram Movement.
 - The protest was to boycott British goods, especially textiles, and promote swadeshi goods.
- There were marches and demonstrations with the protesters singing Vande Mataram to underline their patriotism and challenge the colonialists.
- Rabindranath Tagore led the marches at many places, and composed many patriotic songs, most famously '**Amar Sonar Bangla**' (**My Golden Bengal**), which is now the national anthem of Bangladesh.

What are the Impacts of the Protests?

- Curzon left for Britain in 1905, but the agitation continued for many years.
- King George V at his Coronation Durbar abrogated Bengal's partition in **1911**.
 - **Lord Hardinge** was the Viceroy of India in 1911.
- The Swadeshi movement, which had grown significantly during the agitation, later reached nationwide proportions.
- The partition of Bengal and the highhanded behaviour of Curzon fired the national movement and the Congress.

Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

Why in News?

Recently, the **Prime Minister** paid tributes to people killed in the **Jallianwala Bagh massacre in 1919**.

- He asserted that their unparalleled courage and sacrifice will **keep motivating the coming generations**. **13th April, 2022** marks the **103 years of the incident**.
- Earlier, the Gujarat government marked 100 years of the **Pal-Dadhvav killings**, calling it a massacre "**bigger than the Jallianwala Bagh**".

Note:



What is the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre?

- **About:** The Jallianwala Bagh massacre or the Amritsar massacre of **13th April 1919** accounts for the **gruesome execution of hundreds of innocent people** by the **Gurkha British Indian army** on the orders of the then **Anglo-Indian Brigadier R.E.H. Dyer**.
 - These people were protesting peacefully against the **Rowlatt Act 1919**.

What was the Rowlatt Act 1919?

- During **World War I (1914-18)** the British government of India enacted a **series of repressive emergency powers** that were intended to combat subversive activities.
 - In this context, this act was passed on the recommendations of the **Sedition Committee chaired by Sir Sidney Rowlatt**.
 - It **gave the government enormous powers to repress political activities** and allowed detention of political prisoners without trial for two years.
- **Background:** **Mahatma Gandhi** wanted non-violent civil disobedience against such unjust laws, which would start with a hartal on **6th April 1919**.
 - In Punjab, on **9th April 1919**, two nationalist leaders, **Saifuddin Kitchlew and Dr. Satyapal**, were arrested by the British officials **without any provocation** except that they had addressed protest meetings and taken to some unknown destination.
 - This caused resentment among the Indian protestors who came out in thousands on **10th April** to show their solidarity with their leaders.

- To curb any future protest, the government put martial law in place and law and order in Punjab was handed over to **Brigadier-General Dyer**.

- **Day of the Incident:** On **13th April, Baisakhi day**, a large crowd of people mostly from neighbouring villages, unaware of the prohibitory orders in Amritsar gathered in the Jallianwala Bagh.
 - Brigadier-General Dyer arrived on the scene with his men.
 - The troops surrounded the gathering under orders from **General Dyer** and blocked the only exit point and opened fire on the **unarmed crowd killing more than 1000 unarmed men, women, and children**.
- **Aftermath/Significance of the Incident**
 - Jallianwala Bagh became a key point in the **history of India's struggle** for independence and it is now an **important monument in the country**.
 - The Jallianwala Bagh tragedy was one of the causes that led **Mahatma Gandhi** to begin organising his first large-scale and sustained nonviolent protest (satyagraha) campaign, the **Non Cooperation Movement (1920-22)**.
 - The Bengali poet and **Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore** renounced the knighthood that he had received in 1915.
 - The then government of India ordered an investigation of the incident (**the Hunter Commission**), which in 1920 **censured Dyer** for his actions and ordered him to resign from the military.

Mangarh Massacre

Why in News?

A horrifying tragedy occurred in **Mangarh** (Banswada, Rajasthan) **killing more than 1,500 Bhil tribals** on **17th November, 1913**.

- The **Mangarh hillock**, situated at the Gujarat-Rajasthan border, **is also known as the Adivasi Jallianwala**.
- A report by the **National Monuments Authority (NMA)** called for the Mangarh hilltop in Rajasthan to be **designated as a national monument in honor of 1500 Bhil tribal freedom fighters**.

Note:



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What is National Monuments Authority (NMA)?

- It was established under the **Ministry of Culture** in accordance with the requirements of the **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains AMASR (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010**.
- The NMA has been delegated specific tasks for the **conservation and preservation of monuments and sites, including control of the banned and restricted areas surrounding centrally designated monuments**.
- One of the NMA's roles is to **evaluate granting permits** to applicants for construction-related activities in restricted and regulated areas.

What led to the Mangarh Massacre?

- The **Bhils**, a tribal community **faced great troubles at the hands of the rulers of the princely states and the British**.
- By the end of the 20th century, the Bhils **living in Rajasthan and Gujarat became bonded labour**.
- The **great famine of 1899-1900** across the Deccan and Bombay Presidency, which killed over six lakh people, only **made the situation worst for the Bhils**.
- Mobilised and trained by social activist **Guru Govindgiri, also known as Govind Guru**, the **Bhils placed a charter of 33 demands before the British by 1910** primarily relating to forced labour, high tax imposed on Bhils and harassment of the guru's followers by the British and rulers of princely states.
- The **Bhils rejected the British's attempt to placate them and refused to leave Mangarh Hill**, vowing to declare freedom from British rule.
- The **British then asked the Bhils to leave Mangarh Hill before 15 November 1913**.
 - But that didn't happen and on **17 November 1913**, the **British Indian Army fired indiscriminately on Bhil protesters** and it is said that **over 1,500 people, including women and children died in the tragedy**.

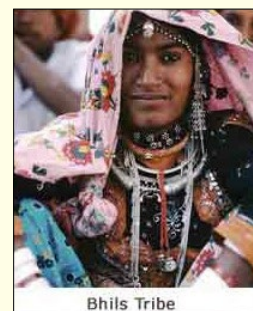
Who was Govind Guru?

- **Govind Guru was a revolutionary/ leader of the tribals of Mangarh** that included present-day **Udaipur, Dungarpur and Banswara in Rajasthan, Gujarat's Idar and Malwa in Madhya Pradesh**.

- **Guru was a living legend among the Bhil and Garasiya tribal communities**, a man who united thousands of tribals with his voice.
- Before Govind Guru became a leader in India's freedom struggle, he played **an important role in India's renaissance movement**.
- At the age of 25, he **impressed Swami Dayanand Saraswati**, a central figure of that movement in north India.
 - He along with Swami Dayanand Saraswati initiated a wave of **social reforms in the tribal areas**.
 - In 1903, Govind Guru pledged not to drink alcohol, shifting his focus to eradicating social evils, boycotting foreign goods, ending forced labour, educating girls, and resolving mutual disputes among tribes instead of taking them to the courts.
- This led to the **creation of a Sump (Unity) Sabha, whose first meeting was held on the hilltop in Mangarh**.
 - This historical event solidified Mangarh's significance in Indian history as it became central to the tribal movement in this area.
- **Bhagat movement initiated in 1908 by Govind Guru** where tribals gathered around the fire to reaffirm their oath was **seen by the British as a threat**.
- The consequence of the Mangarh massacre was cruel. **Govind Guru was given a death sentence, and his wife was arrested**.
 - But fearing that the movement of tribal Bhils would turn violent, the **British postponed his execution and sentenced him to 20 years of imprisonment** on an isolated island.
 - When he was released from jail, all the princely states came together to exile him.
 - He lived his **last years in Kamboi, Gujarat**, where he **died on October 30, 1931**.

What is Bhil Tribe?

- **About:**
 - **Bhils** are commonly referred to as **Rajasthan's bowmen**. They are India's most widely dispersed tribal communities.
 - As per Census 2011, Bhils are **India's largest tribe**.



Bhils Tribe

Note:

- They are broadly classified into **two types**:
 - Central or Pure Bhils
 - Eastern or Rajput Bhils.
- The central Bhils can be found in the mountain regions of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Rajasthan in India, and also can be found in Tripura's northwestern regions.
- They are considered as **Schedule Tribe** in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tripura.
- **Historical Perspective:**
 - Bhils are members of the pre-Aryan race.
 - The term '**Bhil**' is derived from the word **villu** or **billu**, which is known as **Bow** in the **Dravidian** language.
 - The name Bhil is also mentioned in the ancient epics of **Mahabharata** and **Ramayana**.

100 Years of Chauri Chaura Incident

Why in News?

Recently, the Prime Minister paid tribute to the heroes of freedom struggle on completion of the hundred years of **Chauri Chaura incident**.

- Chauri Chaura is a town in Gorakhpur district of Uttar Pradesh.
- On **4th February, 1922**, this town witnessed a violent incident - a large crowd of peasants set fire to a police station that killed 22 policemen. Due to this incident, **Mahatma Gandhi** called off the **Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-22)**.

What is the Background of the Incident?

- On 1st August, 1920, Gandhiji had launched the **Non-Cooperation Movement** against the government.
 - It involved using **swadeshi** and **boycott of foreign goods**, especially machine made cloth, and legal, educational and administrative institutions, "refusing to assist a ruler who misrules".
- In the winter of 1921-22, **volunteers of the Congress and the Khilafat Movement were organized** into a national volunteer corps.

- **Khilafat Movement** was a pan-Islamic force in India that arose in 1919 in an effort to salvage the Ottoman caliph as a symbol of unity among the Muslim community in India during the British raj.
- The Congress supported the movement and **Mahatma Gandhi sought to conjoin it to the Non-Cooperation Movement**.

What was the incidence of Chauri Chaura and the Aftermath reactions?

➤ Chauri Chaura Incident:

- On 4th February, volunteers congregated in the town, and after the meeting, proceeded in a procession to the local police station, and to picket the nearby Mundera bazaar.
- The police **fired into the crowd killing some people and injuring many volunteers**.
- **In retaliation**, the crowd proceeded to set the police station on fire.
- Some of the policemen who tried to **escape were caught and battered to death**. A lot of police property, including weapons, was destroyed.

➤ Reaction of the British:

- The British Raj prosecuted the accused aggressively.
- A sessions **court quickly sentenced 172 of the 225 accused to death**. However, ultimately, only 19 of those convicted were hanged.

➤ Reaction of Mahatma Gandhi:

- He **condemned the crime of the policemen's killing**. The volunteer groups in nearby villages were disbanded, and a **Chauri Chaura Support Fund** was set up to demonstrate «genuine sympathy» and seek atonement.
- Gandhi decided to **stop the Non-Cooperation Movement**, which he saw as having been tainted by unforgivable violence.
- He bent the Congress Working Committee to his will, and on **12th February, 1922**, the **satyagraha (movement)** was formally suspended.
 - Gandhi on his part, **justified himself on grounds of his unshakeable faith in non-violence**.

➤ Reaction of Other National Leaders:

- **Jawaharlal Nehru** and other leaders leading the Non-Cooperation movement were shocked that

Note:



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Gandhiji had stopped the struggle when the civil resistance had consolidated their position in the freedom movement.

- Other leaders like **Motilal Nehru and CR Das** recorded their dismay at Gandhi's decision and decided to **establish the Swaraj Party**.

Malabar Rebellion

Why in News?

Recently, the **Indian Council for Historical Research (ICHR)** has deferred its decision on a recommendation to remove the **1921 Malabar Rebellion (Moplah riots) martyrs** from the list of India's freedom fighters.

- The recommendation also included the names **Variamkunnaathu Kunhahamad Haji** and **Ali Musliyar**.

What is the Indian Council of Historical Research?

➤ About:

- It is an **autonomous organization**, established under Societies Registration Act, 1860 in 1972.
- It is under the **Ministry of Education**.

What is the Background?

- In the **sixteenth century** when **Portuguese traders arrived on the Malabar coast**, they noted the Mappilas to be a mercantile community concentrated in urban centres and fairly segregated from the local Hindu population.
- However, **with the rise in Portuguese commercial power**, the Mappilas found themselves a competitor and increasingly started moving inland in search of new economic opportunities.
- The **shifting of the Mappilas led to a clash of religious identities** both with the local Hindu population and the Portuguese.

Who was Moplahs/Mappilas?

- The name Mappilla (lit. son-in-law, anglicized form Moplah) is given to Malayali-speaking Muslims who reside along the entire length of the Malabar Coast of northern Kerala.
- By 1921, the **Moplahs formed the largest and fastest growing community in Malabar**. With a population of one million, 32% of that of Malabar as a whole, the Moplahs were concentrated in South Malabar.

What was Mapillah Revolt?

➤ About:

- Fuelled by the **fiery speeches by Muslim religious leaders and anti-british sentiments**, the Mopillahs launched a violent rebellion. Numerous acts of violence were reported and a series of persecutions were committed both against the British and the Hindu landlords.
- While there are some who call it a **case of religious fanaticism**, there are others who look at it as an instance of struggle against British authority, and then there are others who perceive the Malabar rebellion to be a peasant revolt against unfair practices of the landlords.
- While **historians continue to debate on the matter**, the broad consensus on the episode notes it to have started off as a struggle against political power, which later took on a communal colour.
 - Most of the **landlords were Namboodiri Brahmins** while most of the tenants were Mapillah Muslims.
 - The **riots led to the mass killings of over 10,000 Hindus, raping of women**, forced religious conversions, destruction or damage of nearly 300 temples, loot and arson of properties worth crores of rupees and burning of houses belonging to the Hindus.
- **Support:** In the initial stages, the movement had the support of **Mahatma Gandhi** and other Indian nationalist leaders, but as it turned violent they distanced themselves from it.
- **Collapse:** By the end of 1921, the rebellion was crushed by the British who had raised a special battalion, the Malabar Special Force for the riot.
- **Wagon Tragedy:** In November 1921, **67 Moplah prisoners were killed** when they were being transported in a closed freight wagon from Tirur to the Central Prison in Podanur. They died of suffocation. This event is called the Wagon Tragedy.

What were the Reasons behind the Mapillah Revolt?

➤ Non-Cooperation & Khilafat Movement:

- The trigger of the uprising came from the **Non-Cooperation Movement** launched by the Congress in 1920 along with the Khilafat agitation.

Note:

- The anti-British sentiment fuelled by these agitations affected the Muslim Mapillahs.
- **New Tenancy Laws:**
 - After the death of **Tipu Sultan in 1799** in the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War, Malabar had come under British authority as part of the Madras Presidency.
 - The British had **introduced new tenancy laws** that tremendously favoured the landlords known as Janmis and instituted a far more exploitative system for peasants than before.
 - The new laws **deprived the peasants of all guaranteed rights to the land**, share in the produce they earlier got and in effect rendered them landless.

Dandi March 1930

Why in News?

Recently, the Prime Minister paid tributes to **Mahatma Gandhi** and all the eminent persons who **Marched to Dandi (1930)** in order to protest injustice and protect our nation's self-esteem.

- Earlier in 2021, a **commemorative 'Dandi March'** was launched, which was undertaken by 81 marchers from **Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad to Dandi in Navsari**, a journey of **386 km**.

What was the Dandi March?

- The Dandi March, **also known as the Salt March and the Dandi Satyagraha** was an act of **nonviolent civil disobedience led by Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi**.
- The march lasted from **12th March, 1930 to 6th April, 1930** as a direct action campaign of tax resistance and nonviolent protest against the British salt monopoly.
- On 12th March, Gandhiji set out from **Sabarmati** with 78 followers on a **241-mile march** to the coastal town of Dandi on the Arabian Sea. There, Gandhi and his supporters were to defy British policy by making salt from seawater.
- At Dandi, thousands more followed his lead, and in the coastal cities of Bombay and Karachi, Indian nationalists led crowds of citizens in making salt.

- **Civil disobedience broke out all across India**, soon involving millions of Indians, and British authorities arrested more than 60,000 people. Gandhiji himself was arrested on 5th May, but the satyagraha continued without him.
- On 21st May, the poet **Sarojini Naidu led 2,500 marchers on the Dharasana Salt Works**, some 150 miles north of Bombay. The incident, recorded by American journalist Webb Miller, prompted an international outcry against British policy in India.
- In **January 1931, Gandhiji was released from prison**. He later met with Lord Irwin, the viceroy of India, and agreed to call off the satyagraha in exchange for an equal negotiating role at a London conference on India's future.
 - In August 1931, **Gandhiji traveled to the conference as the sole representative of the nationalist Indian National Congress**. The meeting was a disappointment, but British leaders had acknowledged him as a force they could not suppress or ignore.

What was its Background?

- The Lahore Congress of 1929 had authorized the **Congress Working Committee (CWC)** to launch a programme of civil disobedience including non-payment of taxes.
- On **26th January 1930**, "Independence Day" was observed, with the national flag being hoisted in different venues, and patriotic songs being sung.
- In February 1930, **CWC meeting at Sabarmati Ashram, invested Gandhiji with full powers to launch the Civil Disobedience Movement** at a time and place of his choice.
- Gandhiji's ultimatum to Lord Irwin, the Viceroy of India (1926-31), stating the minimum demands had been ignored and there was only one way out-civil disobedience.

What was the Effect of the Movement?

- Civil Disobedience in different forms continued in different provinces. **Special stress was laid on the boycott of foreign goods**.
- In eastern India, payment of chowkidari tax was refused. **This no-tax campaign became very popular in Bihar**.

Note:

- In Bengal, J.N. Sengupta defied Government laws by reading openly the books banned by the government.
- Defiance of forest laws assumed a **mass character in Maharashtra**.
- The movement had taken a fire hold in the provinces of **U.P., Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Assam**.

What is its Significance?

- **Imports from Britain had fallen considerably**. For example, imports of cloth from Britain had fallen by half.
- The movement was more **widespread than the previous one**. Mass participation including women, peasants, workers, students, urban elements like merchants, shopkeepers provided the Congress a new all-India status.
- The support that the movement had **garnered from the poor and the illiterate both in the town and countryside was remarkable**.
- For Indian women, **the movement was the most liberating experience** to date and can truly be said to have marked their entry into the public space.
- Although the **Congress withdrew the Civil Disobedience in 1934**, the movement received global attention and marked a critically important stage in the progress of the anti-imperialist struggle.

Quit India Movement

Why in News?

On 8th Aug 2022, India completed **80 years of Quit India Movement** also known as **August Kranti**.

What was the Quit India Movement?

- On 8th August 1942, **Mahatma Gandhi** called to end **British rule and launched the Quit India Movement** at the session of the All-India Congress Committee in Mumbai.
- Gandhiji gave the call **"Do or Die"** in his speech **delivered at the Gowalia Tank Maidan**, now popularly known as **August Kranti Maidan**.
- Aruna Asaf Ali popularly known as the **'Grand Old Lady'** of the Independence Movement is **known for hoisting the Indian flag at the Gowalia Tank Maidan** in Mumbai during the Quit India Movement.

- The slogan **'Quit India'** was coined by **Yusuf Meherally**, a socialist and trade unionist who also served as Mayor of Mumbai.
 - Meherally had also coined the slogan **"Simon Go Back"**.

What caused the Movement?

- **Failure of Cripps Mission:** The immediate cause for the movement was the collapse of Cripps Mission.
 - Under Stafford Cripps, the mission was sent to **resolve the Indian question of a new constitution and self-government**.
 - It failed because it **offered India not complete freedom but the Dominion Status** to India, along with the **partition**.
- **Indian Involvement in World War II without prior consultation:**
 - The British assumption of unconditional support from India to the British in **World War II** was not taken well by the **Indian National Congress**.
- **Prevalence of anti-British Sentiment:**
 - The anti-British sentiments and **demand for full-independence had gained popularity** among Indian masses.
- **Centralisation of Many Small Movements:**
 - The two decades of mass movement which were being conducted on a much more radical tone under the leadership of the various associated and affiliated bodies of the Congress, like All India Kisan Sabha, Forward Bloc etc. **had already prepared the ground for the movement**.
- **Shortage of Essential Commodities:**
 - The economy was **also in shatters as a result of World War II**.

What were the Demands of the Movement?

- The demand was **to end the British rule in India with immediate effect** to get the cooperation of Indians in World War-II against fascism.
- There was a demand **to form a provisional government** after the withdrawal of the Britishers.

What were the Phases of Movement?

- **First Phase:**
 - **First Phase**, urban revolt, marked by strikes, boycott and picketing (protesting), which were quickly suppressed.

Note:

- There were **strikes and demonstrations all over the country** and workers provided the support by not working in the factories.
- Gandhiji was soon **imprisoned at Aga Khan Palace in Pune** and almost all leaders were arrested.
- **Second Phase:**
 - The focus **shifted to the countryside, which witnessed a major peasant rebellion**, marked by destruction of communication systems, such as railway tracks and stations, telegraph wires and poles, **attacks on government buildings or any other visible symbol of colonial authority**.
- **Third Phase:**
 - The last phase witnessed the **formation of national governments or parallel governments** in isolated pockets (Ballia, Tamluk, Satara etc.)

Shaheed Diwas – 30 January

Why in News?

On January 30, 2023, India observes **Martyrs' Day** or **Shaheed Diwas** to pay tribute to all the freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the country. The day is also marked as the death anniversary of the nation's 'Bapu', **Mahatma Gandhi**.

- Martyrs' Day or Shaheed Diwas or Sarvodaya Day is celebrated in India several times a year.

What is Shaheed Diwas?

- **In Remembrance Of:**
 - Mahatma Gandhi, who was born on October 2, 1869, was one of the most influential leaders of India and **played a significant role in the independence of the country**.
 - On this day in 1948 Mahatma Gandhi **was assassinated in the Birla House in New Delhi by Nathuram Godse**.
- **Way of Celebrating:**
 - India celebrates Martyrs' Day **by paying tribute to Mahatma Gandhi's Samadhi at Raj Ghat in Delhi**.
 - The **President, Vice President**, Prime Minister, Defense Minister, and the three Service Chiefs (**Army, Air Force, and Navy**) pay their respects to the '**Father of the Nation**'.

➤ Significance:

- The significance of Shaheed Diwas lies in the fact that Mahatma Gandhi who **led major movements against British rule through a non-violent approach**.
 - His philosophy was **based on the principles of non-violence**, the fight for truth (**satyagraha**), and political and individual freedom (**Swaraj**) and inspired millions of people with his principles.

Other Martyrs' Days in India: What are they?

| Days | About |
|-------------|---|
| March 23 | ➤ On this day Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar were hanged to death by the British in Lahore Jail. |
| May 19 | ➤ It is celebrated in Assam to remember the people who were killed by the state police on May 19, 1961. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The day was designated as Bhasha Shaheed Diwas or Language Martyrs' Day. |
| July 13 | ➤ Jammu and Kashmir celebrates July 13 as Kashmir Martyr's Day to remember people who were killed, when demonstrating against the rule of Maharaja Hari Singh of Kashmir . |
| November 17 | ➤ Odisha celebrates this day to remember famous freedom fighter Lala Lajpat Rai on his death anniversary. |
| November 19 | ➤ Jhansi celebrate this day , the birth anniversary of Rani Lakshmibai , as Martyrs' Day. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The day celebrates the contribution of all who passed away in the Revolt of 1857. |
| November 24 | ➤ It is celebrated as Martyrs' Day by the Sikh community as it is the death anniversary of ninth Sikh Guru Tegh Bahadur . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ He resisted the forced conversions of non-Muslims and was executed publicly in 1675 by Mughal emperor Aurangzeb. |

Martyrs' Day – 23 March

Why in News?

Every year, Martyrs' Day, also known as **Shaheed Diwas** or **Sarvodaya Day**, is observed on 23rd March.

Note:



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What is the History behind Shaheed Diwas?

- It was on this day that **Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru** were executed by the British government in 1931.
- They were **hanged to death for assassinating John Saunders**, a British police officer in 1928. They had mistaken him for British police superintendent James Scott.
 - It was Scott who had ordered lathi charge, which eventually led to the death of **Lala Lajpat Rai**.
- While Bhagat Singh, who had publicly announced avenging Lala Lajpat Rai's death, went into hiding for many months after this shootout, **he resurfaced along with an associate Batukeshwar Dutt**, and the two, in April 1929, set off two explosive devices inside the Central Legislative Assembly in Delhi.
 - Allowed themselves to be arrested, while shouting the famous slogan: **"Inquilab Zindabad"**, or **"Long live the revolution"**.

Who was Bhagat Singh?

- **Early Life:**
 - Born as Bhaganwala on the **26th September, 1907**, Bhagat Singh grew up in a petty-bourgeois family of Sandhu Jats settled in the Jullundur Doab district of the Punjab.
 - He belonged to a **generation that was to intervene between two decisive phases** of the Indian national movement - the phase of the **«Extremism» of Lal-Bal-Pal** and the **Gandhian phase of nonviolent mass action**.
- **Role in Freedom Struggle:**
 - In 1923, Bhagat Singh **joined the National College, Lahore** which was founded and managed by **Lala Lajpat Rai and Bhai Parmanand**.
 - In 1924 in Kanpur, he became a member of the **Hindustan Republican Association**, started by **Sachindranath Sanyal** a year earlier. The main organiser of the Association was **Chandra Shekhar Azad and Bhagat Singh** became very close to him.
 - It was as a **member of the HRA that Bhagat Singh began to take seriously the philosophy of the Bomb**.
 - **Armed revolution** was understood to be the only weapon with which to fight British imperialism.

- In 1925, **Bhagat Singh returned to Lahore** and within the next year he and his colleagues started a militant youth organisation called the **Naujawan Bharat Sabha**.
- In April 1926, **Bhagat Singh established contact with Sohan Singh Josh** and through him the **«Workers and Peasants Party»** which brought out the monthly magazine Kirti in Punjabi.
 - For the next year **Bhagat Singh worked with Josh** and joined the editorial board of Kirti.
- In 1927, **he was first arrested on charges of association with the Kakori Case**, accused for an article written under the pseudonym Vidrohi (Rebel). He was also **accused of being responsible for a bomb explosion** at Lahore during the Dussehra fair.
- In 1928, Bhagat Singh **changed the name of Hindustan Republican Association to Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)**. In 1930, when Azad was shot, the HSRA collapsed.
 - **Naujawan Bharat Sabha replaced HSRA in Punjab**.
- His time in the prison was spent **protesting, seeking better living conditions for inmates**. During this time, he gained the sympathy of the public, especially when he joined fellow defendant Jatin Das in a hunger strike.
 - The strike ended with **Das' death from starvation in September 1929**. Two years later, Singh was convicted and hanged at the age of 23.

Raja Ram Mohan Roy

Why in News?

Recently, the Ministry of Culture has organized an inaugural Ceremony to commemorate **Raja Ram Mohan Roy** on his 250th Birth Anniversary.

- It is a year-long celebration which will continue till next 22nd May (2023).
- The Ministry of Culture has inaugurated an **Iconic Statue of Raja Ram Mohan Roy at the Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation**.

Note:



Who Was Raja Ram Mohan Roy?

➤ About:

- Raja Ram Mohan Roy was the **father of Modern India's Renaissance** and a tireless social reformer who inaugurated the age of enlightenment and liberal reformist modernisation in India.

➤ Life:

- Raja Ram Mohan Roy was born on 22nd May 1772 in Bengal. His early education included the **study of Persian and Arabic at Patna** where he read the Quran, the works of Sufi mystic poets and the Arabic translation of the works of Plato and Aristotle.
- In Benaras, he studied Sanskrit and read Vedas and Upnishads.
- From 1803 to 1814, he worked for East India Company as the personal diwan first of Woodforde and then of Digby.
- In 1814, he resigned from his job and moved to Calcutta in order to devote his life to religious, social and political reforms.
- In November 1830, he sailed for England to be present there to counteract the possible nullification of the Act banning Sati.

- Ram Mohan Roy was given the title of 'Raja' by the titular Mughal Emperor of Delhi, Akbar II whose grievances the former was to present before the British king.
- In his address, entitled 'Inaugurator of the Modern Age in India,' Tagore referred to Ram Mohan as 'a luminous star in the firmament of Indian history'.

What are his Contributions?

➤ Religious Reforms:

- Raja Ram Mohan Roy's first published work **Tuhfat-ul-Muwahhiddin** (a gift to deists) published in 1803 exposed irrational religious beliefs and corrupt practices of the Hindus as the belief in revelations, prophets, miracles etc.
- In 1814, he founded Atmiya Sabha in Calcutta to campaign against idolatry, caste rigidities, meaningless rituals and other social ills.
- He criticized the ritualism of Christianity and rejected Christ as the incarnation of God. In **Precepts of Jesus** (1820), he tried to separate the moral and philosophical message of the New Testament, which he praised, from its miracle stories.

➤ Social Reforms:

- Raja Ram Mohan Roy conceived reformist religious associations as instruments of social and political transformation.
- He founded the Atmiya Sabha in 1815, the Calcutta Unitarian Association in 1821, and the Brahmo Sabha in 1828 which later became the Brahmo Samaj.
- He campaigned against the caste system, untouchability, superstitions and use of intoxicants.
- He was well known for his pioneering thought and action on the emancipation of women and especially on the abolition of sati and widow remarriage.
- He attacked child marriage, illiteracy of women and the degraded state of widows and demanded the right of inheritance and property for women.

➤ Educational Reforms:

- Roy did much to disseminate the benefits of modern education to his countrymen. He supported David Hare's efforts to found the Hindu College in 1817, while Roy's English school taught mechanics and Voltaire's philosophy.

Note:

- In 1825, he established Vedanta college where courses in both Indian learning and Western social and physical sciences were offered.

➤ **Economic and Political Reforms:**

- **Civil liberties:** Roy was impressed and admired the British system of constitutional government for the civil liberties it gave to the people. He wanted to extend the benefits of that system of government to Indian people.
- **Press freedom:** Through his writings and activities, he supported the movement for free press in India.
- When press censorship was relaxed by Lord Hastings in 1819, Ram Mohan found three journals- The Brahmanical Magazine (1821); The Bengali weekly, Samvad Kaumudi (1821); and the Persian weekly, Mirat-ul-Akbar.
- **Taxation reforms:** Roy condemned oppressive practices of Bengali zamindars and demanded fixation of minimum rents. He also demanded the abolition of taxes on tax-free lands.
- He called for a reduction of export duties on Indian goods abroad and the abolition of the East India Company's trading rights.
- **Administrative reforms:** He demanded the Indianisation of superior services and separation of the executive from judiciary. He demanded equality between Indians and Europeans.

Pandurang Khankhoje & Swami Vivekananda

Why in News?

Lok Sabha Speaker travelled to Mexico to unveil statue of **Swami Vivekananda** and Maharashtra-born freedom fighter and agriculturalist **Pandurang Khankhoje** (1883-1967).

- The Speaker's visit is part of India's efforts to honor lesser-known Indian-origin leaders outside India.

Who was Pandurang Khankhoje?

➤ **Birth:**

- Pandurang Khankhoje was born in **Wardha, Maharashtra**, in the late 19th century.

➤ **Revolutionary Connections:**

- Pandurang Khankhoje came in **contact with other revolutionaries early on.**
 - Hindu reformer **Swami Dayanand** and his **Arya Samaj movement**, which called for a spirit of reform and social change, **became the hero to a young student group led by Khankhoje.**
- Khankhoje was an **ardent admirer of the French Revolution** and of the **American War of Independence.**
- Before leaving India for training in abroad, he visited **Bal Gangadhar Tilak**, by who he was inspired.

➤ **Life Abroad:**

- Khankhoje **decided to go abroad for further training in revolutionary methods and militaristic strategy.**
- After spending time with nationalists from Japan and China, Khankhoje eventually **moved to the US, where he enrolled in college as a student of agriculture.**
 - A year later, he joined the **Mount Tamalpais Military Academy in California** to fulfil his original purpose of leaving India.



How was Khankhoje associated with the Indian Independence Movement?

➤ **Khankhoje & Ghadar Party:**

- In the US, **Khankhoje met Lala Har Dayal**, an Indian intellectual teaching at Stanford University.
 - Har Dayal had begun a propaganda campaign, **publishing a newspaper that featured patriotic songs and articles in the vernacular languages of India.**

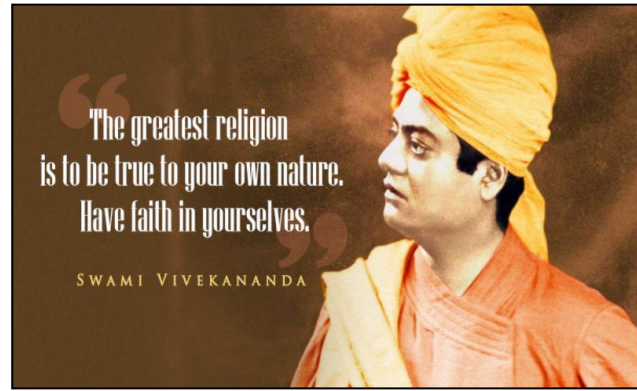
Note:

- This was the seed from which the **Ghadar Party** would emerge.
 - Khankhoje was **one of the founding members of the Ghadar Party**, established by Indians living abroad in 1913, mostly belonging to Punjab.
 - Its aim was to **lead a revolutionary fight against the British in India**.

What is the Connection between Khankhoje and Mexico?

- **Connections with Mexicans in the US:**
 - At the **military academy in the US**, Khankhoje met many people from Mexico.
 - Khankhoje was inspired by **"The Mexican Revolution of 1910"** which led to the overthrow of the dictatorial regime.
 - While he was reaching out to **Indians working on farms in the US** with the aim of discussing the idea of Indian independence with them, **he met with Mexican workers as well**.
 - He reached out to **Bhikaji Cama in Paris**, and met with **Vladimir Lenin in Russia** among other leaders, seeking support for India's Independence.
 - He was **facing deportation from Europe and he could not go to India**, so he sought shelter in Mexico.
- **Life in Mexico:**
 - With the help of some friends in Mexico, he was appointed a **professor at the National School of Agriculture in Chapingo**, near Mexico City.
 - He researched **corn, wheat, pulses and rubber**, developing **frost and drought-resistant varieties**, and was part of efforts to bring in the **Green Revolution in Mexico**.
 - Later on in the 20th Century, the American agronomist Dr Norman Borlaug, called the **Father of the Green Revolution in India**, brought the **Mexican wheat variety to Punjab**.
 - Khankhoje was revered as an **agricultural scientist in Mexico**.
 - The renowned Mexican artist **Diego Rivera** painted murals that featured Khankhoje, including one titled **'Our Daily Bread'** that prominently depicted **him breaking bread with people seated around a table**.

Who was Swami Vivekananda?



- **Birth:**
 - Swami Vivekanand, original name **Narendranath Datta** was born on 12th January, 1863.
 - **National Youth Day** is held every year to observe the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
 - In 1893, upon the request of **Maharaja Ajit Singh of the Khetri State**, he took the name **'Vivekananda.'**
- **Contributions:**
 - Introduced the world to the **Indian philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga**.
 - He preached **'neo-Vedanta'**, an interpretation of Hinduism through a Western lens, and believed in **combining spirituality with material progress**.
 - Laid the greatest emphasis on **education for the regeneration of our motherland**. Advocated a man-making character-building education.
 - Best known for his speech at the **World Parliament of Religion in Chicago in 1893**.
 - Spelt out the **four pathways of attaining moksha from the worldly pleasure and attachment** in his books:
 - Raja-yoga
 - Karma-yoga
 - Jnana-yoga
 - Bhakti-yoga
 - **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** had called Vivekananda the **"maker of modern India."**
- **Associated Organisations:**
 - He was the chief disciple of the 19th-century mystic **Ramakrishna Paramhansa** and established the **Ramakrishna Mission in 1897**.

Note:

- Ramakrishna Mission is an organization which works in the area of **value-based education, culture, health, women's empowerment, youth and tribal welfare and relief and rehabilitation.**
- In 1899, he established **Belur Math, which became his permanent abode.**
- **Death:**
 - He **died at Belur Math in 1902.**
 - Belur Math, located in West Bengal, is the headquarters of Ramakrishna Math & Ramakrishna Mission.

Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati Jayanti

Why in News?

Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati Jayanti is celebrated every year to mark the birth anniversary of the **Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati.**

- This year, the day will be celebrated on **26th February.**
- As per the traditional Hindu calendar, Dayanand Saraswati was born on the Dashami Tithi of Phalguna Krishna Paksha.



Who was Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati?

- **Birth:**
 - Swami Dayanand Saraswati was born on **12th February 1824** in Tankara, Gujarat in a Brahmin family
 - He wandered as an **ascetic for fifteen years (1845-60)** in search of truth.

- Dayananda's views were published in his famous work, **Satyarth Prakash (The True Exposition).**
- **Contribution to the Society:**
 - He was an **Indian philosopher, social leader and founder of the Arya Samaj.**
 - Arya Samaj is a **reform movement of Vedic dharma** and he was the **first to give the call for Swaraj** as **"India for Indian"** in 1876.
 - He was a **self-taught man and a great leader of India** leaving a significant impact on Indian society. During his life, he made a prominent name for himself and was known among a **wide array of Princes and the public.**
 - The **first Arya Samaj** unit was formally set up by him at **Mumbai (then Bombay) in 1875** and later the **headquarters of the Samaj were established at Lahore.**
 - His vision of India included a **classless and casteless society**, a united India (**religiously, socially and nationally**), and an India free from foreign rule, with Aryan religion being the common religion of all.
 - He took inspiration from the Vedas and considered them to be **'India's Rock of Ages'**, the infallible and the true original seed of Hinduism. He gave the slogan **"Back to the Vedas"**.
 - He subscribed to the **Vedic notion of chaturvarna system** in which a person was **not born in any caste** but was identified as a **brahmin, kshatriya, vaishya or shudra** according to the occupation the person followed.
- **Contribution to the Education System:**
 - He introduced a **complete overhaul of the education system** and is often considered as **one of the visionaries of modern India.**
 - The **DAV (Dayanand Anglo Vedic) schools** came into existence in 1886 to realize the vision of Swami Dayanand Saraswati.
 - The **first DAV School** was established at Lahore with Mahatma Hansaraj as the headmaster.

What is Arya Samaj?

- It aims to **reestablish the Vedas**, the earliest Hindu scriptures, as revealed truth. He rejected all later accretions to the Vedas as degenerate but, in his own interpretation, included much post-Vedic thought.

Note:

- During the 1920s and early 1930s **tension grew around a number of issues. Muslims were angered by “music-before-mosque”, by the cow protection movement**, and by the efforts of the Arya Samaj to bring back to the Hindu fold (**shuddhi**) those who had recently converted to Islam.
- The Arya Samaj has always had its **largest following in western and northern India**.
- The Samaj **opposes worship of murtis (images), animal sacrifice, shraddha** (rituals on behalf of ancestors), basing caste upon birth rather than upon merit, **untouchability, child marriage**, pilgrimages, priestly craft, and temple offerings.
- It upholds the **infallibility of the Vedas, the doctrines of karma** (the accumulated effect of past deeds) and samsara (the process of death and rebirth), the sanctity of the cow, the importance of the samskaras (individual sacraments), the efficacy of Vedic oblations to the fire, and programs of social reform.
- It has **worked to further female education and intercaste marriage**, has built missions, orphanages, and homes for widows, has established a network of schools and colleges, and has undertaken famine relief and medical work.

Savitribai and Jyotirao Phule

Why in News?

Recently, Maharashtra Governor was criticised for allegedly mocking **19th century social reformers Savitribai and Jyotirao Phule** for “getting married at a young age”.

- Mahatma Jyotirao and Savitribai Phule stand out as an extraordinary couple in the social and educational history of India.
- They spearheaded path-breaking work towards **female education and empowerment, and towards ending caste- and gender-based discrimination**.

Who were Savitribai and Jyotirao Phule?

- In 1840, at a time when **child marriages were common**, Savitri at the age of ten was married to Jyotirao, who was thirteen years old at the time.
- The couple later in life strove to oppose child marriage and also organised widow remarriages.



➤ Jyotirao Phule:

- He was an Indian **social activist, thinker, anti-caste social reformer and writer from Maharashtra**.
 - He is also known as **Jyotiba Phule**.
- **Education:** In 1841, Phule was enrolled at the **Scottish Missionary High School (Pune)**, where he completed education.
- **Ideology:** His Ideology was based on: **Liberty, Egalitarianism, Socialism**.
 - Phule was influenced by **Thomas Paine's book titled The Rights of Man** and believed that the only solution to combat the social evils was the enlightenment of women and members of the lower castes.
- **Major Publications:** Tritiya Ratna (1855), Powada: Chatrapati Shivajiraje Bhosle Yancha (1869), Gulamgiri (1873), Shetkarayacha Aasud (1881).
- **Title of Mahatma:** He was bestowed with the **title of Mahatma on 11th May, 1888** by a Maharashtrian social activist **Vithalrao Krishnaji Vandekar**.
- **Social Reforms:** Jyotirao, the revolutionary that he was, **observed the lack of opportunities for education for young girls and women**.
 - He started to **educate his wife at home** and trained her to become a teacher.
 - He realised the **pathetic conditions of widows and established an ashram for young widows** and eventually became an advocate of the idea of Widow Remarriage.
 - He attacked the **orthodox Brahmins and other upper castes** and termed them as «**hypocrites**».
 - In 1868, Jyotirao constructed a **common bathing tank** outside his house to exhibit his embracing attitude towards all human beings and wished to dine with everyone, regardless of their caste.

Note:

- He started **awareness campaigns** that ultimately inspired the likes of **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar** and **Mahatma Gandhi**, stalwarts who undertook major initiatives against caste discrimination later.
- It is believed by many that it was Phule who first used the **term 'Dalit'** for the depiction of oppressed masses often placed outside the 'varna system'.

➤ **Savitribai Phule:**

- In 1852, Savitribai started the **Mahila Seva Mandal** to raise awareness about women's rights.
- Savitribai called for a women's gathering where members from all castes were welcome and everybody was expected to sit on the same mattress.
- She published **Kavya Phule in 1854** and **Bavan Kashi Subodh Ratnakar in 1892**.
- In her poem, **Go, Get Education**, she urges the oppressed communities to get an education and break free from the chains of oppression.
- She simultaneously **campaigns against child marriage, while supporting widow remarriage**.
- She initiated the **first Satyashodhak marriage**—a marriage without a dowry, Brahmin priests or Brahminical rituals in 1873.

What is their Legacy?

- Together, by 1848, the Phules started a **school for girls, Shudras and Ati-Shudras in Poona**.
- In the 1850s, the Phule couple initiated **two educational trusts—the Native Female School, Pune and The Society for Promoting the Education of Mahars, Mangs and Etceteras**—which came to have many schools under them.
- In 1853, they opened a **care centre for pregnant widows** to have safe deliveries and to end the practice of infanticide owing to social norms.
 - The **Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha (Home for the Prevention of Infanticide)** started in their own house.
- The **Satyashodhak Samaj (The Truth-Seeker's Society)** was established on 24th September, 1873 by Jyotirao-Savitribai and other like-minded people.

- The Samaj **advocated for social changes that went against prevalent traditions**, including economical weddings, inter-caste marriages, eradication of child marriages, and widow remarriage.
- Also, Satya shodhak samaj was founded with a purpose to give education to the lower castes, scheduled caste, scheduled tribes and made them aware of the exploiting tradition of society.

Women Heroes of India's Freedom Struggle

Why in News?

Recently, **Prime Minister** in his Independence Day Speech paid tribute to women freedom fighters.

What is the Role Played by Women in Freedom Struggle?

➤ **Jhalkari Bai:**



- A **soldier in Rani Laxmibai's women's army**, Durga Dal, rose to become one of the queen's most trusted advisers.
- She is **known for putting her own life at risk to keep the queen out of harm's way**.
- Till date, the story of her valor is recalled by the people of Bundelkhand, and **she is often presented as a representative of Bundeli identity**.
- Many Dalit communities of the region look up to her as an incarnation of God and also celebrate Jhalkaribai Jayanti every year in her honour.
- **Durga Bhabhi:**
 - Durgawati Devi, who was popularly known as Durga Bhabhi, was a **revolutionary who joined the armed struggle against colonial rule**.

Note:



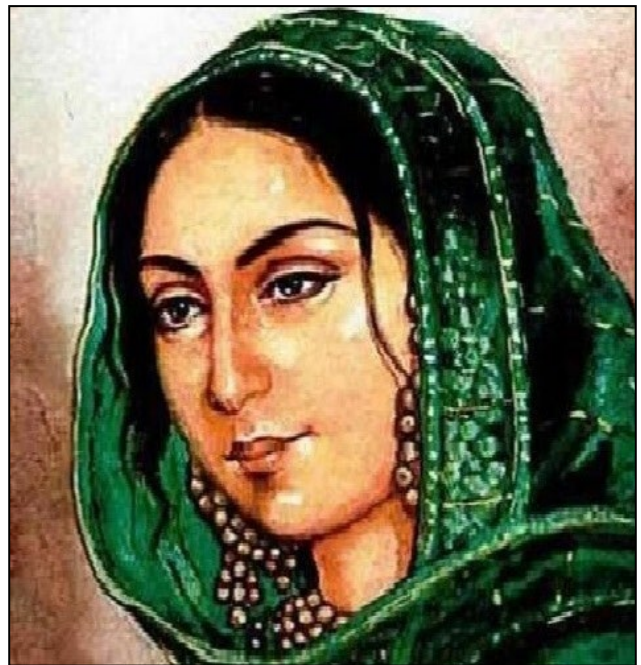
- A member of the **Naujawan Bharat Sabha**, she helped **Bhagat Singh** escape in disguise from Lahore after the 1928 killing of British police officer John P Saunders.
- During the train journey that followed, Durgawati and Bhagat Singh posed as a couple and Rajguru as their servant.
 - Later, as revenge for the hanging of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev, she made an unsuccessful attempt to kill the former Punjab Governor, Lord Hailey.
- Born in Allahabad in 1907 and married to **Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)** member Bhagwati Charan Vohra, Durgawati, along with other revolutionaries, also ran a bomb factory in Delhi.

➤ **Rani Gaidinliu:**

- Born in 1915 in present-day Manipur, Rani Gaidinliu was a **Naga spiritual and political leader who fought the British**.
- She joined the **Heraka religious movement** which later became a movement to drive out the British.
- **She rebelled against the Empire and refused to pay taxes, asking people to do the same.**
- The British launched a manhunt, but she evaded arrest, moving from village to village.
- Gaidinliu was finally arrested in 1932 when she was just 16 and later sentenced for life.



- She was released in 1947.
 - **Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru** described Gaidinliu as the “daughter of the hills”, and gave her the title of ‘Rani’ for her courage.
- **Begum Hazrat Mahal:** After her husband, Nawab of Awadh Wajid Ali Shah was exiled after the 1857 revolt, Begum Hazrat Mahal, along with her supporters, took on the British and wrested control of Lucknow. She was forced into a retreat after the colonial rulers recaptured the area.



Note:

➤ **Velu Nachiyar:**

- Many years **before the revolt of 1857**, **Velu Nachiyar** waged a war against the British and emerged victorious.
- **Born in Ramanathapuram** in 1780, she was married to the king of Sivagangai.



- After her husband was killed in battle with the East India Company, she entered the conflict, and won with support of neighbouring kings.
- She went on to **produce the first human bomb** as well as establish the first army of trained women soldiers in the late 1700s.
- Her army commander Kuyili is believed to have set herself ablaze and walked into a British ammunition dump.

Rani Lakshmibai

Why in News?

Recently, the Prime Minister of India visited Jhansi on the eve of **Rani Lakshmibai's birth anniversary**.

Who was Rani Lakshmibai?

➤ **About:**

- Rani Lakshmibai is also known as **Jhansi Ki Rani**.
- She was the **queen of the Maratha-ruled princely state of Jhansi**.
- She was one of the **leading figures of the Indian Revolt of 1857**.
- She's seen as a **symbol of resistance to British rule in India**.

➤ **Manu as Jhansi Ki Rani:**

- At the age of 14, Manu **got married to the Maharaja of Jhansi, Gangadhar Rao Newalkar**, whose first wife had passed away before having a child and who was trying to have an heir to succeed him at the throne.
 - Hence, **Manikarnika became Laxmibai, Rani of Jhansi**.
- Rani Lakshmibai gave **birth to a son in who died** after just three months of birth. The couple later **adopted a son, Damodar Rao**, from Gangadhar Rao's extended family.
- **Role in Struggle for Independence:**
 - Rani Lakshmibai was **one of the brave warriors of India's struggle for Independence**.
 - In 1853, when the Maharaja of Jhansi died, **Lord Dalhousie refused to acknowledge the (adopted) child** and applied the **Doctrine of Lapse**, and **annexed the state**.
 - Rani Lakshmibai **fought bravely against the British** so as to save her empire from annexation.
 - She **died fighting on the battlefield on 17th June 1858**.
 - When the **Indian National Army** started its first **female unit (in 1943)**, it was **named after the valiant queen of Jhansi**.

What was the Doctrine of Lapse?

- It was an **annexation policy** followed widely by **Lord Dalhousie** when he was **India's Governor-General** from **1848 to 1856**.
- According to this, any princely state that was under the direct or indirect control of the East India Company where the ruler did not have a **legal male heir** would be annexed by the company.
 - As per this, **any adopted son of the Indian ruler could not be proclaimed** as heir to the kingdom.
- By applying the doctrine of lapse, Dalhousie annexed the States of:
 - Satara (1848 A.D.),
 - Jaitpur, and Sambalpur (1849 A.D.),
 - Baghat (1850 A.D.),
 - Udaipur (1852 A.D.),
 - **Jhansi (1853 A.D.)**, and
 - Nagpur (1854 A.D.)

Note:

Sarojini Naidu



Why in News?

13th February marks the **birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu**. She was famously known as **Bharatiya Kokila (The Nightingale of India)**.

- India celebrates Sarojini Naidu's birth anniversary as **National Women's Day**.

Who was Sarojini Naidu?

- **About:**
 - Sarojini Naidu, was an **Indian independence activist, poet, and politician**.
 - She was born on **February 13, 1879, in Hyderabad, India**.
 - She joined the **Indian national movement** in the wake of **partition of Bengal in 1905**.
 - The British government lauded Sarojini Naidu with the '**Kaisar-i-Hind' Medal** for her service during the plague epidemic in India.
- **Contribution to Indian Freedom Movement:**
 - **First Indian Woman President of INC:** Naidu was elected as the **first Indian woman president of the Indian National Congress(INC)** in 1925(Kanpur Session) and continued to hold this position till 1928.
 - **Annie Besant** was the **first woman President of the INC** who presided it in 1917.
 - **Participated in Non-Cooperation Movement:** Naidu took part in the **Non-Cooperation Movement** launched by Gandhi in 1920 and **was arrested several times** for her involvement in various freedom activities.

- **Lead Salt Satyagraha:** In 1930, Naidu was selected by Gandhi to lead the **Salt Satyagraha**, a **nonviolent protest against the British monopoly on salt production** in India.
 - On May 21, Sarojini Naidu led 2,500 marchers on the Dharasana Salt Works, some 150 miles north of Bombay.
- **Quit India Movement:** In 1942, Sarojini Naidu was arrested during the **"Quit India" movement** and was jailed for 21 months with Gandhiji.
- **Traveled Abroad to Raise Awareness:** Naidu traveled to different countries, including the **United States and the United Kingdom**, to raise awareness about India's struggle for independence and **to mobilize international support**.
 - She also **represented India at various international forums** and spoke about the Indian independence movement and **women's rights**.
- **Contribution as a Politician:**
 - **Second Round Table Conference:** She accompanied Gandhiji to London for the inconclusive **second session of the Round Table Conference** for Indian-British cooperation (1931).
 - **Governor of Uttar Pradesh:** After India gained independence, **Naidu was appointed as the governor of Uttar Pradesh**, becoming the **first woman to hold a governor's office in India**.
- **Other Contributions:**
 - **A Renowned Poetess:** Naidu was a renowned poetess and wrote in both English and Urdu.
 - Published in 1912, '**In the Bazaars of Hyderabad**' remains one of her **most popular poems**.
 - Her other works include "**The Golden Threshold (1905)**", "**The Bird of Time (1912)**", and "**The Broken Wing (1912)**".
 - **Worked for Women's Empowerment:** Naidu was a strong advocate of women's rights and worked tirelessly to empower women in India.
 - She was also a member of the **All-India Women's Conference** and worked to improve the status of women in India.
- **Death:**
 - She died on **March 2, 1949, in Lucknow, India**.

Note:

➤ **Relevance of Sarojini Naidu in Present Times:**

- Sarojini Naidu was a **multifaceted personality** and **remains a role model for women in India and around the world**. Her **courage, dedication, and leadership inspired millions of Indians** and continue to inspire generations to come.

Gopal Krishna Gokhale

Why in News?

The Prime Minister of India paid tribute to Gopal Krishna Gokhale on his Jayanti.

- Gopal Krishna Gokhale was a **great social reformer and educationist** who provided exemplary leadership to India's freedom movement.

What do we know about Gopal Krishna Gokhale?

➤ **Ideology:**

- Gokhale worked towards social empowerment, expansion of education, struggle for freedom in India for three decades and rejected the use of reactionary or revolutionary ways.

➤ **Role in Colonial Legislatures:**



- **Between 1899 and 1902**, he was a member of the **Bombay Legislative Council** followed by work at the **Imperial Legislative Council from 1902** till his **death (1915)**.

- At the Imperial legislature, Gokhale played a key role in framing the **Morley-Minto reforms of 1909**.

➤ **Role in INC:**

- He was **associated with the Moderate Group of Indian National Congress** (joined in 1889).
- He became **president of INC in 1905** in Banaras session.

- This was the time when bitter differences had arisen between his group of **'Moderates'** and the **'Extremists'** led by **Lala Lajpat Rai** and **Bal Gangadhar Tilak** among others. The two factions **split at the Surat session of 1907**.

- Despite the ideological difference, in **1907**, he intensely **campaigns for the release of Lala Lajpat Rai**, who was imprisoned that year by the British at Mandalay in present-day Myanmar.

➤ **Related Societies and Other Works:**

- He **established the Servants of India Society in 1905** for the expansion of Indian education.
- He was **also associated with the Sarvajanic sabha journal** started by Govind Ranade.
- In 1908, Gokhale **founded the Ranade Institute of Economics**.
- He started English weekly newspaper, **The Hitavada** (The people's paper).

➤ **Mentor to Gandhi:**

- As a liberal nationalist, he is **regarded by Mahatma Gandhi as his political guru**.
- Gandhi wrote a book in Gujarati dedicated to the leader titled **'Dharmatma Gokhale'**.

What is Morley-Minto Reforms 1909?

- The reforms included the **admission of Indians to the Secretary of State's council, to the viceroy's executive council**, and to the executive councils of Bombay and Madras, and the **introduction of an elected element into legislative councils** with provision for **separate electorates for Muslims**.
 - The reforms were regarded by Indian nationalists as too cautious, and the provision of separate electorates for Muslims was resented by Hindu.

Note:

- The **legislative councils** at the **Centre and the provinces** were increased in size.
 - The Act increased the maximum **additional membership of the Imperial Legislative Council from 16 to 60.**
- The legislative councils at the Centre and the provinces were to have **four categories of members** as follows:
 - **Ex officio members:** Governor-General and members of the executive council.
 - **Nominated official members:** Government officials who were nominated by the Governor-General.
 - **Nominated non-official members:** Nominated by the Governor-General but were not government officials.
 - **Elected members:** Elected by different categories of Indians.
- The elected members were **elected indirectly.**
- **Indians were given membership** to the Imperial Legislative Council for the **first time.**
- It introduced **separate electorates for the Muslims.**
 - Some constituencies were earmarked for Muslims and only Muslims could vote for their representatives.
- **Satyendra P Sinha** was appointed the first Indian member of the **Viceroy's Executive Council.**

Veer Savarkar

Why in News?

Recently, the Prime Minister has **paid tributes to freedom fighter Veer Savarkar** on his **Punya tithi** (26th February).

Who was Veer Savarkar?

- **Related Organisations and Work:**
 - Founded a secret society called **Abhinav Bharat Society.**
 - Went to the United Kingdom and was **involved with organizations such as India House and the Free India Society.**
 - He was the **president of Hindu Mahasabha from 1937 to 1943.**

- Savarkar wrote a book titled '**The History of the War of Indian Independence**' in which he wrote about the guerilla warfare tricks used in **1857 Sepoy Mutiny.**
- He also wrote the book '**Hindutva: who is hindu?**'.



➤ **Trial and Sentences:**

- **Arrested in 1909** on charges of plotting an armed revolt against the **Morley-Minto reform (Indian Councils Act 1909).**
- **Arrested in 1910** for his connections with the **revolutionary group India House.**
- One of the charges on Savarkar was **abetment to murder of Nashik Collector Jackson** and the second was waging a conspiracy under Indian Penal Code 121-A against the King emperor.
- Following the two trials, Savarkar was **convicted and sentenced to 50-years imprisonment** also known as **Kala Pani** and transported in 1911 to the Cellular Jail in the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands.**
 - **Death:** He died on **26th February 1966** due to fasting on his own wish of death.

Abhinav Bharat Society (Young India Society)

- It was a secret society founded by Vinayak Damodar Savarkar and his brother Ganesh Damodar Savarkar **in 1904.**
- Initially founded at Nasik as Mitra Mela, the society was associated with several revolutionaries and political activists with branches in various parts of India and London.

Note:

India House

- It was **founded by Shyamji Kishan Verma in 1905** in London.
- It was opened to promote nationalist views among Indian students in London.

Free India Society

- **Savarkar** went to London in 1906. He soon founded the Free India Society, based on the thoughts of the Italian nationalist Giuseppe Mazzini (Savarkar had written a biography of Mazzini).

Hindu Mahasabha

- **Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha** is one of the oldest organizations of India as it was **formed in 1907**. Eminent leaders **extended this Organization in 1915 on ALL India basis**.
- The Eminent personalities who founded this Organisation and who presided over the ALL INDIA Sessions held include Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, Lal Lajpat Rai, Veer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, etc.

J C Bose: A Satyagrahi Scientist

Why in News?

Recently, the Ministry of Culture has organized an **international conference on the contributions of J C Bose: A Satyagrahi Scientist** on his 164th birth anniversary.

Who was Jagdish Chandra Bose?

➤ About:

- Born on 30th November, 1858 to Bama Sundari Bose and Bhagawan Chandra, Bengal.
- He was a **Plant Physiologist and physicist** who invented the crescograph, a device for measuring the growth of plants. He for the first time demonstrated that plants have feelings.

➤ Education:

- He earned a **BSc from University College London**, which was connected with the University of London in 1883, and a BA (Natural Sciences Tripos) from the University of Cambridge in 1884.

➤ Scientific Contribution:

- Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose was a biologist, physicist, botanist and an early writer of science fiction.



- Bose discovered **wireless communication** and was named the **Father of Radio Science** by the **Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering**.
- He was responsible for the **expansion of experimental science in India**.
- Bose is **considered the father of Bengali science fiction**. A crater on the moon has been named in his honour.
- He founded **Bose Institute**, a premier research institute of India and also one of its oldest. Established in 1917, the Institute was the **first interdisciplinary research centre in Asia**. He served as the Director of Bose Institute from its inception until his death.
- To facilitate his research, he constructed **automatic recorders capable of registering extremely slight movements**; these instruments produced some striking results, such as quivering of injured plants, which Bose interpreted as a power of feeling in plants.
- **Books:**
 - His books include **Response in the Living and Non-Living (1902)** and **The Nervous Mechanism of Plants (1926)**.
- **Death:**
 - He died on 23rd November 1937 in Giridih, Bihar.

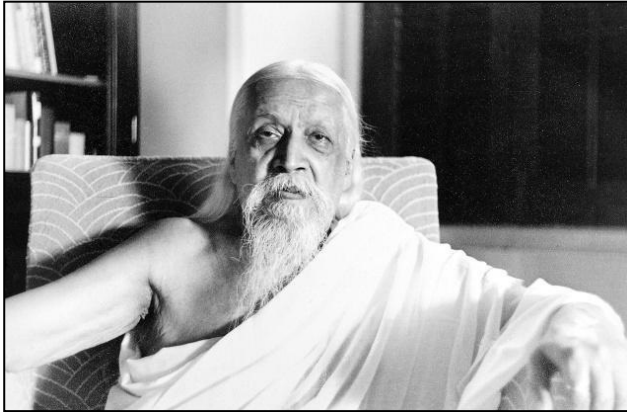
Note:

Sri Aurobindo: Prophet of Indian Nationalism

Why in News?

Recently, the Indian Prime Minister has participated in a programme commemorating **Sri Aurobindo's 150th birth anniversary** in Puducherry, under the aegis of **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**.

- The PM has released a commemorative coin and postal stamp in honor of Sri Aurobindo.



Who was Sri Aurobindo?

- **About:**
 - Aurobindo Ghose was born in Calcutta on **15th August 1872**. He was a yogi, seer, philosopher, poet, and **Indian nationalist who propounded a philosophy of divine life on earth through spiritual evolution**.
 - Aurobindo's pragmatic strategies to get rid of British rule **marked him as "the Prophet of Indian Nationalism"**.
- **Indian Revolutionary Movement:**
 - From 1902 to 1910 he partook in the struggle to free India from the British.
 - The partition of Bengal in 1905 provoked **Aurobindo to leave his job in Baroda and plunge into the nationalist movement**. He edited the patriotic journal **Bande Mataram** to propagate radical methods and revolutionary tactics instead of supplication.
 - He was **arrested thrice by the British** — twice for sedition and once for conspiring to "wage war".

- He was imprisoned in 1908 (Alipore Bomb case).

- Two years later he fled British India and **found refuge in the French colony of Pondicherry (Puducherry)**, gave up overt political activities and embraced spiritual pursuits, soon to emerge as one of the most original thinkers, philosophers and spiritual masters.

- He met Mirra Alfassa in Pondicherry, and their **spiritual collaboration led to "Integral Yoga"**.

➤ Aurobindo's Ideas on Second World War:

- Several Indians saw the Second World War as an opportune moment to get rid of colonial occupation; **Aurobindo asked his compatriots to support the Allies and ensure Hitler's defeat**.

➤ Spirituality:

- In Pondicherry he founded a community of spiritual seekers, which took shape as the **Sri Aurobindo Ashram in 1926**.
- He believed that the **basic principles of matter, life, and mind would be succeeded through terrestrial evolution by the principle of supermind** as an intermediate power between the two spheres of the infinite and the finite.

➤ Literary Works:

- An English newspaper called **Bande Mataram** (in 1905)
- Bases of Yoga
- Bhagavad Gita and Its Message
- The Future Evolution of Man
- Rebirth and Karma
- Savitri: A Legend and a Symbol
- Hour of God

- **Death:** He died on 5th December 1950 in Pondicherry.

Acharya Kripalani

Why in News?

Recently, the Prime Minister of India has paid tributes to **Acharya Kripalani on his Jayanti**.

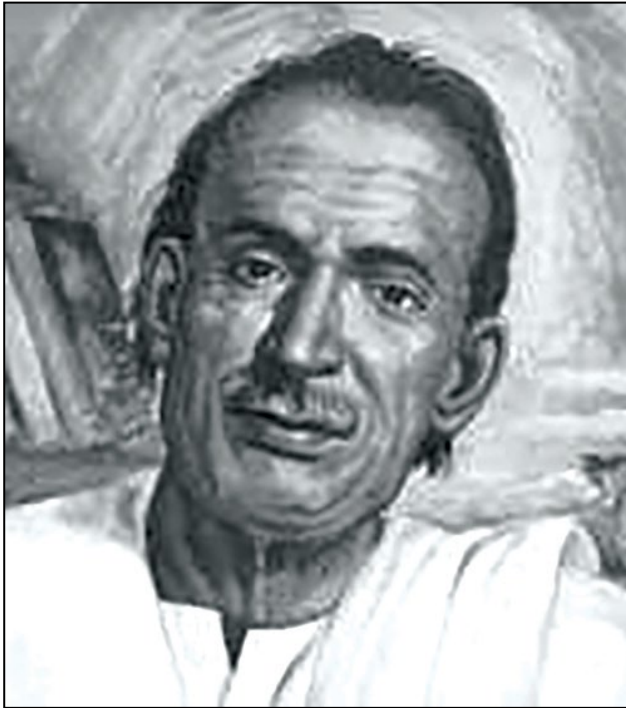
Who was Acharya Kripalani?

➤ About:

- He was born on **11th November 1888** in Hyderabad, Sindh.

Note:

- His original name was **Jivatram Bhagwandas Kripalani** but was popularly known as Acharya Kripalani. He was an independence activist, Indian politician and an Educationist.



- **Educationist:**
 - From 1912 to 1927, he taught at various places before becoming wholly involved in the freedom movement.
 - He earned the moniker 'Acharya' around 1922 when he was teaching at the Gujarat Vidyapith, founded by the Mahatma a couple of years before.
- **Independence Activist:**
 - He was associated with Gandhi by 1917 after Gandhi had taken up the cause of indigo workers in Gujarat.
 - He was part of the **Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-22)** and the Civil Disobedience movements (started in 1930) and **Quit India Movement (1942)**.
 - He was the President of **Indian National Congress (INC)** at the time of independence. He served in the Interim government of India (1946-1947) and the Constituent Assembly of India.
- **Political Career:**
 - He became **one of the founders of the Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party (KMPP)** after independence leaving congress.

- He was elected to the Lok Sabha in 1952, 1957, 1963 and 1967 as a member of Praja Socialist Party.
- He moved the **first-ever No confidence motion** in Lok Sabha in 1963, immediately after the India-China War (1962).
 - In 1963, Sucheta Kripalani, a Congress leader became the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, a first for any woman in the country while her husband Acharya remained an opponent to the Congress.
- He was a critic of Nehru's policies and Indira Gandhi's rule. He was arrested during Emergency (1975).
- **Books:**
 - **My Times**, his autobiography published posthumously in 2004.
 - Kripalani was the author of several books, including **Gandhi: His Life and Thought (1970)**.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

Why in News?

Prime Minister of India paid tributes to **India's first education minister** Maulana Abul Kalam Azad on his **134th birth anniversary**.

- **11th November** is observed as **National Education Day** every year since 2008 to commemorate his birth anniversary.

Who was Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad?

- **Birth:** Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, originally named Muhiyuddin Ahmad, was born in **1888 in Mecca, Saudi-Arabia**.
 - Azad was a brilliant debater, as indicated by his name - "Abul Kalam" which literally means "Lord of Dialogues".
- **Brief Profile:**
 - He donned many hats of being a journalist, freedom fighter, politician, and educationist.
- **Contributions (Pre-Independence):**
 - He was a proponent of **Hindu Muslim unity, opposed to Partition**.
 - In 1912, he started a weekly journal in Urdu called **Al-Hilal** which played an important role in forging Hindu-Muslim unity after the bad

Note:

blood created between the two communities in the aftermath of **Morley-Minto reforms (1909)**.

- Under the 1909 reforms, the provision of separate electorates for Muslims was resented by Hindu.
- The government regarded Al- Hilal as a propagator of secessionist views and banned it in 1914.
- Maulana Abul Kalam Azad then started another weekly called **Al-Balagh** with the same mission of propagating Indian nationalism and revolutionary ideas based on Hindu-Muslim unity.
- In 1916, the government banned this paper too and expelled Maulana Abul Kalam Azad from Calcutta and exiled him to Bihar from where he was released after the **First World War 1920**.



- **Azad supported the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-22)** started by Gandhiji and entered the Indian National Congress in 1920.
- In 1923, he was elected as the president of Indian National Congress. At an age of 35, he became the youngest person to serve as the President of the Indian National Congress.
- Maulana Azad was arrested in 1930 for violation of the salt laws as part of **Gandhiji's Salt Satyagraha**. He was put in Meerut jail for a year and a half.

- He again became the president of Congress in 1940 and remained in the post till 1946.

➤ **An Educationist:**

- In the field of education, Maulana Azad had been an uncompromising exponent of universalism, a truly liberal and humanitarian educational system.
- Azad's ideal was a fusion of **the Eastern and Western concepts of man**, to create a fully integrated personality. Whereas the Eastern concept dwelt on spiritual excellence and individual salvation, the Western concept laid stress on worldly achievements and social progress.
- He was one of the founding members of the Jamia Millia Islamia University, originally established at Aligarh in the United Provinces in 1920.

- **His Works:** Basic Concept of Quran, Ghubar-e-Khatir, Dars-e-Wafa, India Wins Freedom, etc.

➤ **Contributions (Post-Independence):**

- In 1947, he became the first education minister of free India and remained at this post till his death in 1958. In his tenure, he did tremendous work for the upliftment of the country.
 - The first IIT, IISc, School of Planning and Architecture and the University Grants Commission were established under his tenure as the education minister.
- **Indian Council for Cultural Relations**, for introduction of Indian culture to other nations.
- Following three **academics were formed**:
 - **Sahitya Academy** for development of literature;
 - **Sangeet Natak Academy** for the development of Indian music and dance;
 - **Lalit Kala Academy** for the development of painting.
- Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was posthumously awarded India's highest civilian honour, **Bharat Ratna** in 1992.

Netaji SC Bose – Parakram Diwas 2023

Why in News?

On the Occasion of **Parakram Diwas (23rd January) 2023**, 21 unnamed islands of **Andaman and Nicobar** have been named after **Param Veer Chakra** awardees.

Note:

- Netaji's Memorial, a National Memorial dedicated to Netaji will be built on **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep**.
- **Parakram Diwas** is celebrated to commemorate the 126th birth anniversary of freedom fighter **Subhas Chandra Bose**.
- The islands have been named after Major Somnath Sharma, Subedar and Hony Captain (then Lance Naik) Karam Singh, Nayak Jadunath Singh, etc.

Note: Besides renaming Ross Islands Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Dweep in 2018, Neil Island and Havelock Island were also renamed Shaheed Dweep and Swaraj Dweep respectively.

Who was Subhash Chandra Bose?

- **Birth:**
 - Subhas Chandra Bose was born on **23rd January 1897**, in Cuttack, Orissa Division, Bengal Province, to **Prabhavati Dutt Bose** and Janakinath Bose.
- **About:**
 - In 1919, he had cleared the Indian Civil Services (ICS) examination. Bose, however, resigned later.
 - He was **highly influenced by Vivekananda's teachings** and considered him as his spiritual Guru.
 - His political mentor was **Chittaranjan Das**.
- **Association with Congress:**
 - He stood for **unqualified swaraj (independence)**, and **opposed the Motilal Nehru Report** which spoke for dominion status for India.
 - He actively participated in the **Salt Satyagraha of 1930** and vehemently opposed the suspension of Civil Disobedience Movement and signing of the Gandhi-Irwin Pact in 1931.
 - In the 1930s, he was closely **associated with left politics in Congress along with Jawaharlal Nehru and M.N. Roy**.
 - Bose won the congress **presidential elections at Haripura in 1938**.
 - Again in **1939 at Tripuri**, he won the **presidential elections against Gandhi's candidate Pattabhi Sitarammaya**. Due to ideological differences with Gandhi, Bose resigned and left congress. Rajendra Prasad was appointed in his place.
 - He founded a new party, **'the Forward Bloc'**. The purpose was to consolidate the **political left and major support base** in his home state Bengal.

Indian National Army:

- He reached Japanese-controlled Singapore from Germany in **July 1943**, issued from there his famous call, **'Delhi Chalo'**, and announced the formation of the **Azad Hind Government and the Indian National Army** on **21st October 1943**.
- The INA was first formed under Mohan Singh and Japanese Major Iwaichi Fujiwara and comprised Indian prisoners of war of the British-Indian Army captured by Japan in the Malayan (present-day Malaysia) campaign and at Singapore.
- The INA included both the Indian prisoners of war from Singapore and Indian civilians in South-East Asia. Its **strength grew to 50,000**.
- The INA fought allied forces in 1944 inside the borders of India in Imphal and in Burma.
- In November 1945, a British move to put the INA men on **trial immediately sparked massive demonstrations** all over the country.

V. O. Chidambaram Pillai

Why in News?

Recently, the Prime Minister paid tribute to **V. O. Chidambaram Pillai**, the legendary freedom fighter on his **151th birth anniversary** on 5th September 2022.

- He was popularly known as **Kappalottiya Tamilan (The Tamil Helmsman)** and **Sekkizuththa Semmal** (scholarly gentry who suffered at the oil press).

Who was Chidambaram Pillai?

- **Political Life:** VOC entered politics in 1905 following the **partition of Bengal**.
 - Towards the end of 1905, VOC visited Madras and was drawn closer to the **Swadeshi Movement** initiated by **Bal Gangadhar Tilak** and **Lala Lajpat Rai**.
 - VOC was drawn towards **Ramakrishna Mission** and came into contact with Subramania Bharati and the Mandayam family.
 - It was not until the arrival of VOC at Tuticorin (Present day Thoothukudi) that the **Swadeshi movement** in Tirunelveli district began to gather force and momentum.

Note:



drishti



- **Role Played in Freedom Movement:** By 1906, VOC won the support of merchants and industrialists in Tuticorin and Tirunelveli **for the idea of establishing a Swadeshi merchant** shipping outfit by the name of the **Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company (SSNCo)**.
 - He established many institutions like **Swadeshi Prachar Sabha**, Dharmasanga Nesavu Salai, National Godown, Madras Agro-Industrial Society Ltd and Desabimana Sangam.
 - VOC and Siva were aided in their efforts by a number of Tirunelveli-based lawyers, who formed an organisation called the **Swadeshi Sangam, or 'National Volunteers'**.
 - The nationalist movement acquired a secondary character with the beginning of the Tuticorin Coral Mills strike (1908).
 - Even prior to **Gandhiji's Champaran Satyagraha (1917)**, VOC took up the cause of the working class in Tamil Nadu, and thus **he is a forerunner to Gandhiji in this respect**.
 - VOC, along with other leaders, resolved to take out a mammoth procession on the morning of 9th March 1908 to celebrate the release of Bipin Chandra Pal from jail and to hoist the flag of Swaraj.

- **Writings:** Meyyaram (1914), Meyyarivu (1915), Anthology (1915), Thirukural with literary notes of Manakudavar (1917), Tholkappiam with literary notes of Ilampooranar (1928), Autobiography (1946).
- **Death:** V.O.C died on **18th November 1936 in the Indian National Congress Office** at Tuticorin.

Rabindranath Tagore

Why in News?

The Prime Minister on 9th May, 2022 paid tribute to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore on his birth anniversary.

- According to the Bengali calendar, the Tagore Jayanti falls on the 25th day of the Boishakh month.

What do we know about Rabindranath Tagore?

- **About:**
 - He was also referred to as '**Gurudev**', '**Kabiguru**', and '**Biswakabi**'.
 - He was a **good friend of Mahatma Gandhi** and is said to have **given him the title of Mahatma**.
 - He had always stressed that **unity in diversity** is the only possible way for India's national integration.
 - He had spoken at the **World Parliament for Religions in the years 1929 and 1937**.
- **Contributions:**
 - He is said to have **composed over 2000 songs** and his songs and music are called '**Rabindra Sangeet**' with its own distinct lyrical and fluid style.
 - He is responsible for modernising Bengali prose and poetry. His notable works include **Gitanjali, Ghare-Baire, Gora, Manasi, Balaka, Sonar Tori**. He is also remembered for his song '**Ekla Chalo Re**'.
 - He published his first poems aged 16 under the pen-name '**Bhanusimha**'.
 - He not only gave the **national anthems for two countries, India and Bangladesh**, but also **inspired a Ceylonese student of his, to pen and compose the national anthem of Sri Lanka**.
 - Besides all his literary achievements he was also a philosopher and educationist who in **1921 established the Vishwa-Bharati University**, a university that challenged conventional education.

Note:

➤ **Awards:**

- In **1913** he was awarded the **Nobel Prize in Literature** for his work on Gitanjali.
- He was the **first non-European** to receive the Nobel Prize.
- In 1915 he was awarded **knighthood** by the British King George V. In 1919, following the **Jallianwalla Bagh massacre**, he renounced his Knighthood.

➤ **Death:**

- He died on **7th August 1941** in Calcutta.

➤ **Quotes by him:**

- "You can't cross the sea merely by standing and staring at the sea."
- "Don't limit the child to your own learning, for he was born in another time."
- "If I can't make it through one door, I'll go through another door- or I'll make a door. Something terrific will come no matter how dark the present."
- "Facts are many, but the truth is one".

Dr. BR Ambedkar – Mahaparinirvan Diwas

Why in News?

Recently, the **Prime Minister paid homage to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar on Mahaparinirvan Diwas** and recalled his exemplary service to our nation.

What is Mahaparinirvan Diwas?

- Parinirvana, regarded as **one of the major principles as well as goals of Buddhism**, is a Sanskrit term which means **release or freedom after death**.
- As per the Buddhist text **Mahaparinibbana Sutta**, the **death of Lord Buddha** at the age of 80 is considered as the **original Mahaparinirvan**.
- **6th December** is observed to commemorate the **unfathomable contribution to society** given by Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar and his achievements. Owing to Ambedkar's status as a Buddhist leader, his **death anniversary is referred to as Mahaparinirvan Diwas**.

Who was Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar?

➤ **About:**

- **Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar** was a **social reformer, jurist, economist, author, polyglot**

(knowing or using several languages) orator, a scholar, and thinker of comparative religions.

➤ **Birth:**

- He was born in **1891 in Mhow, Central Province** (now Madhya Pradesh).

➤ **Brief Profile:**

- He is known as the **Father of the Indian Constitution** and was **India's first Law Minister**.
- He was the **Chairman of the Drafting Committee for the new Constitution**.
- He was a **well-known statesman who fought for the rights of the Dalits** and other socially backward classes.

➤ **Contributions:**

- He led the **Mahad Satyagraha in March 1927 against Hindus** who were opposing the decision of the Municipal Board.
 - In **1926, the Municipal Board of Mahad** (Maharashtra) passed an order to throw open the tank to all communities. Earlier, the untouchables were not allowed to use water from the Mahad tank.
- He participated in **all three Round Table Conferences**.
- In **1932, Dr. Ambedkar signed the Poona pact with Mahatma Gandhi**, which abandoned the idea of separate electorates **for the depressed classes** (Communal Award).
 - However, the seats reserved for the depressed classes were increased from **71 to 147 in provincial legislatures** and to **18% of the total in the Central Legislature**.
- His ideas before the **Hilton Young Commission** served as the foundation of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.
- **Election and Designation:**
 - In **1937**, he was elected to the **Bombay Legislative Assembly** as a legislator (MLA).
 - He was **appointed to the Executive Council of Viceroy** as a Labour member in **1942**.
 - In **1947**, Dr. Ambedkar accepted **PM Nehru's invitation to become Minister of Law** in the first Cabinet of independent India.
- **Shift to Buddhism:**
 - He **resigned from the cabinet in 1951**, over differences on the Hindu Code Bill.

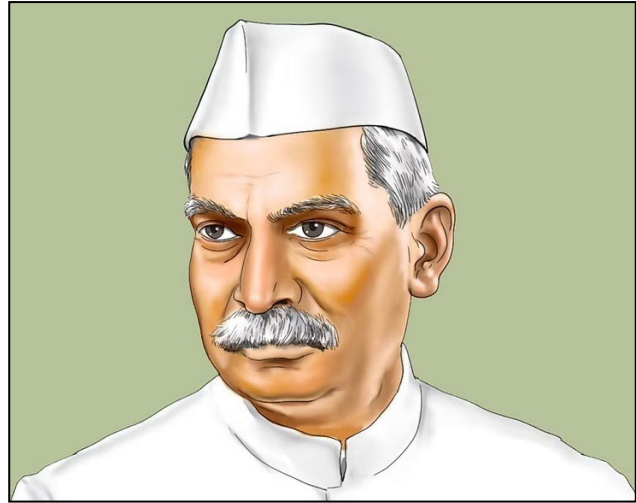
Note:

- He **converted to Buddhism in 1956**.
- He was awarded India's highest civilian honour the **Bharat Ratna** in 1990.
- **Important Works:**
 - **Journals:**
 - Mooknayak (1920)
 - Bahishkrit Bharat (1927)
 - Samatha (1929)
 - Janata (1930)
 - **Books:**
 - Annihilation of Caste
 - Buddha or Karl Marx
 - The Untouchable: Who are They and Why They Have Become Untouchables
 - Buddha and His Dhamma
 - The Rise and Fall of Hindu Women
 - **Organisations:**
 - Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha (1923)
 - Independent Labor Party (1936)
 - Scheduled Castes Federation (1942)
- **Death:**
 - He **died on 6th December 1956**.
- **Chaitya Bhoomi** is a memorial to B R Ambedkar, located in Mumbai.
- **Relevance of Ambedkar in Present Times:**
 - Caste-based inequality in India still persists. While Dalits have acquired a political identity through **reservation** and forming their own political parties, they **lack behind in social dimensions** (health and education) and economic dimension.
 - There has been a **rise of communal polarization and communalization of politics**. It is necessary that Ambedkar's vision of constitutional morality must supersede religious morality to avoid permanent damage to the Indian Constitution.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad

Why in News?

The **President of India** paid floral tributes to **Dr. Rajendra Prasad**, the **First President of India**, on his birth anniversary at Rashtrapati Bhavan on **3rd December 2022**.



Who was Dr. Rajendra Prasad?

- **Birth:**
 - Son of Mahadev Sahai, he was born in **Zeradei, Siwan, Bihar** on **3rd December 1884**.
- **Education:**
 - He joined the famed **Calcutta Presidency College** in **1902**.
 - In 1915, Prasad appeared in the **examination of master's in law from the Department of Law, University of Calcutta**, passed the examination and won a gold medal.
 - In 1916, he commenced his **legal career in the Patna High Court**. He completed his **Doctorate in Law from Allahabad University in 1937**.
- **Role in Fight for Freedom:**
 - **Association with Gandhiji:**
 - While **Gandhiji** was on a fact-finding mission in **Chamaparan district of Bihar** to address grievances of local peasants, he called on **Dr. Rajendra Prasad to come to Champaran with volunteers**.
 - Gandhiji's influence **greatly altered many of his views**, most importantly on **caste and untouchability**.
 - The **Champaran Satyagraha** not only brought him closer to Mahatma Gandhi, but also changed the entire course of his life.
 - The **Rowlatt Act of 1918** and the **Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 1919** pushed Rajendra Prasad closer to Gandhiji.

Note:

- **Call for Non-cooperation:**
 - Dr. Prasad called for **non-cooperation** in Bihar as part of **Gandhiji's non-cooperation movement**.
- **National College:**
 - He gave up his law practice and started a **National College near Patna, 1921**.
- **Salt Satyagraha:**
 - In March 1930, Gandhiji launched the **Salt Satyagraha**. Under the guidance of Dr. Prasad, a salt Satyagraha was launched in Nakhas Pond, Bihar.
 - Batch after batch of volunteers courted arrest while making salt. He called for more volunteers.
 - Public opinion forced the Government to withdraw the police and allow the volunteers to make salt.
 - He then sold the manufactured salt to raise funds. He was sentenced to six months imprisonment.
- **Dr. Prasad & Indian National Congress:**
 - He officially **joined the Indian National Congress in 1911**, during its annual session held in Calcutta.
 - He presided over the **Bombay session of the Indian National Congress** in October 1934.
 - Following the **resignation of Subhash Chandra Bose** as the President of the Congress in April 1939, **He was elected President for the second time**.
 - In 1946, he **joined the Interim Government of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru** as the Minister of Food & Agriculture and gave the slogan of **"Grow More Food"**.
- **Dr. Prasad & Constituent Assembly:**
 - In July 1946, when the **Constituent Assembly** was established to frame the **Constitution of India**, he was elected its President.
 - **Committees of Constituent Assembly under the chairmanship of Dr. Prasad includes:**
 - Ad hoc Committee on the National flag
 - Committee on the Rules of Procedure
 - Finance and Staff Committee
 - Steering Committee
- Two and a half years after independence, on **26th January 1950**, the **Constitution of independent India was ratified** and he was elected **India's First President**.
- **Awards & Recognition:**
 - In 1962, after 12 years as President, **Dr. Prasad retired**, and was subsequently awarded the **Bharat Ratna**, the nation's highest civilian award.
 - Dr. Prasad recorded his life and the decades before independence in many books, which includes:
 - Satyagraha at Champaran
 - India Divided
 - His autobiography "Atmakatha"
 - Mahatma Gandhi and Bihar, Some Reminiscences
 - Bapu ke Kadmon Mein
- **Death:**
 - Dr. Rajendra Prasad spent the last few months of his life in retirement at the Sadaqat Ashram in Patna.
 - **He died on 28th February 1963**.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

Why in News?

On **National Unity Day 2022**, the Union Home Minister of India remembered **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** on his 147th birth anniversary saying that the latter realised the dream of a strong and united India with his farsightedness.

Why is National Unity Day Celebrated?

- National Unity Day is celebrated every year on 31st October to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**. It is also known as **Rashtriya Ekta Diwas**.
 - The reason behind the celebration of this day is to **make people aware of the ideas of staying together and uplifting society**.
 - It was celebrated for the **first time in 2014**.
- Several events are organised on this day like **'Run For Unity'** - a nationwide **marathon** to increase awareness about the contribution of Sardar Patel to national integrity, **National Unity pledge**, etc.
- In 2018, the Government of India unveiled the **'Statue of Unity'** in Gujarat to mark the 143rd birth anniversary of Sardar Patel.

Note:

What is the Statue of Unity?

- The **Statue of Unity** is the tallest statue in the world. At 182 meters, it is 23 meters taller than **China's Spring Temple Buddha statue** and almost double the height of the **Statue of Liberty** (93 meters tall) in the US.
- In January 2020, it was added to the 'Eight Wonders' of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**.

Who was Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel?**About:**

- He was born on 31st October 1875 in Nadiad, Gujarat.
- Sardar Patel was the **first Home Minister** and **Deputy Prime Minister of India**.
- He is recognized as the **real unifier of India** for his colossal contribution to integrate and **make India a united (Ek Bharat)** and an independent nation.
- He requested the people of India to live together by uniting in order to create **Shreshth Bharat** (Foremost India).
- This ideology is still reflected in the **Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative** which seeks to **make India Self-Reliant**.
- He is also remembered as the '**Patron saint of India's civil servants**' as he established the modern all-India services system.

Role in Framing Constitution:

- He headed various Committees of the Constituent Assembly of India, namely:
- Advisory Committee on **Fundamental Rights**.
- Committee on **Minorities** and **Tribal** and **Excluded Areas**.
- Provincial Constitution Committee.

Major Contributions:

- He **worked extensively against alcohol consumption, untouchability, caste discrimination** and for **women emancipation** in Gujarat and outside.
- He integrated the farmer's cause in **Kheda Satyagraha (1918)** and **Bardoli Satyagraha (1928)** with the national freedom movement.
- **Women of Bardoli bestowed the title 'Sardar'** on Vallabhbhai Patel, which means 'a Chief or a Leader'.

- During 1930 **Salt Satyagraha** (prayer and fasting movement), Sardar Patel served three months imprisonment.
- In March **1931** Patel presided over the **Karachi session (46th session) of the Indian National Congress** which was called upon to ratify the **Gandhi-Irwin Pact**.

Integration of the Princely States:

- Sardar Patel played a key role in the **integration of about 565 princely states** into the Indian Union.
- Few princely states like **Travancore, Hyderabad, Junagadh, Bhopal, and Kashmir** were averse to joining the state of India.
- Sardar Patel worked tirelessly to build a consensus with the princely states but did not hesitate in employing methods of **Sama, Dama, Dand and Bhed** wherever necessary.
- He had used force to **annex princely states of Junagadh ruled by Nawab and Hyderabad ruled by Nizam**, both of whom had wished not to merge their respective states with the Union of India.
- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel stitched the princely states along with British Indian territory and **prevented the balkanization of India**.
- He is known as the "**Iron Man of India**" for playing an important role in unification and integration of Indian princely states into the Indian federation and for convincing princely states to align with the Indian Union.

Death:

- **15th December 1950** in Bombay.

Jawaharlal Nehru**Why in News?**

India is celebrating **Children's Day** on **14th November 2022** to commemorate the **133rd birth anniversary** of the **Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru**.

- **World Children's Day** is celebrated on **20th November** each year.

Who was Jawaharlal Nehru?**About:**

- **Birth:** 14th November 1889 in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh.

Note:



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- **Father's Name:** Motilal Nehru (a lawyer who held the office of **Indian National Congress** as President two times.)
- **Mother's Name:** Swarup Rani
- **Contribution in Indian Freedom Movement:**
 - Nehru participated in the **Bankipore Congress** as a delegate in **1912**.
 - In 1916, he joined **Annie Besant's Home Rule League**.
 - He became Secretary of the **Home Rule League, Allahabad** in **1919**.
 - When the **Non-Cooperation Movement** began in **1920**, he interacted with **Mahatma Gandhi** and joined the **national independence movement**.
 - In **1921**, he was detained on suspicion of engaging in **anti-government activity**.
 - Nehru was appointed as **General Secretary** of the **All India Congress Committee** in **September 1923**.
 - Since **1927**, he has twice served as the **general secretary** of the **Congress party**.
 - Nehru was **lathi-charged** in **Lucknow** in **1928** while leading a protest against the **Simon Commission**.
 - Nehru was elected as **president** of the **Lahore Session of Indian National Congress** in **1929**.
 - Nehru advocated for India's **complete independence** in this session.
 - In **1929-31**, he drafted a resolution called **Fundamental Rights and Economic Policy**, which outlined the congress's main goals and the nation's future.
 - The resolution was ratified by the Congress party during the **Karachi Session** in **1931**, which was presided over by **Saradar Vallabhai Patel**.
 - He participated in the **Salt Satyagraha** in **1930** and was put in jail.
 - Nehru became a more **prominent leader** within the **Congress** and grew close to **Mahatma Gandhi**.
 - In **1936**, he presided over the **Lucknow session** of the **Indian National Congress**.
 - Nehru was arrested for attempting to organize an **individual satyagraha** to oppose India's forced participation in the war.
 - He took part in the **civil disobedience movement** in **1940**, for which he received a four-year jail term.
- Nehru introduced the historic '**Quit India**' movement at the **All-India Congress Committee session** in **Bombay** in **1942**.
- Nehru along with other leaders was arrested on **August 8, 1942** and taken to **Ahmednagar Fort**.
- He was released in **1945** and went on to arrange legal defence for officers and troops accused with disloyalty in the **Indian National Army (INA)**.
- He was chosen to serve as the **president** of **Indian National Congress** fourth time in **1946**.
- To recommend a strategy for the transfer of power, the **Cabinet Mission** was dispatched to India in **1946**.
 - An **interim government** headed by **Jawaharlal Nehru** as **Prime Minister** was formed.
- On **August 15, 1947**, India attained independence but also suffered the pain of partition.
- **First Prime Minister of India:**
 - A princely state must join in the constituent assembly, according to Nehru, who also affirms that there would be no princely states in an independent India.
 - He assigned **Vallabhbhai Patel** to oversee the effective integration of the states.
 - India became a **sovereign democratic republic** on **January 26, 1950**, when the new Indian Constitution came into effect.
 - In order to divide up states according to **languages**, **Jawaharlal Nehru** created the **states reorganization committee** in **1953**.
 - In addition to promoting **democratic socialism**, he promoted India's **industrialization** by carrying out the **first five-year plans**.
 - The **Non-alignment movement (NAM)** is regarded as his greatest **geopolitical accomplishment**.
 - India decided to not align with any superpower during the **cold war era** after **World War II**.
 - His final term as prime minister was troubled by the **Sino-Indian War, 1962**.
 - He promoted democratic socialism during his 17 years as prime minister, highlighting the necessity for India to attain both democracy and socialism.
 - His internal policies were founded on the four tenets of democracy, socialism, unification, and secularism. He was able to incorporate these pillars into the construction of new independent India.

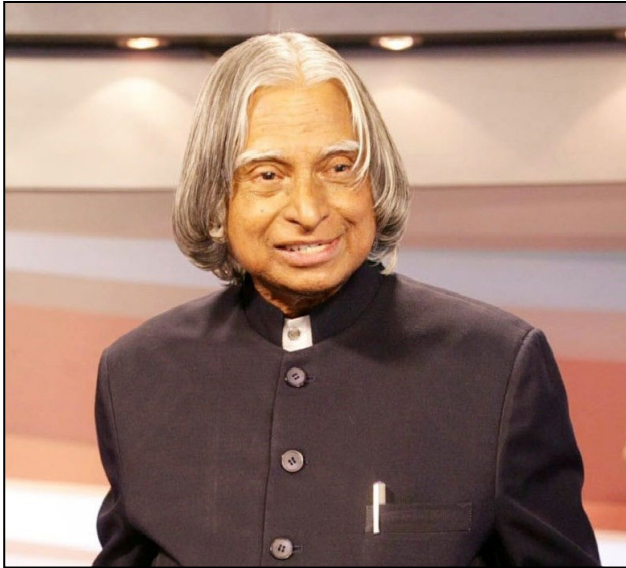
Note:

- **Books Written:** The Discovery of India, Glimpses of World History, An Autobiography, Letters from a Father to His Daughter.
- **Death:** 27th May 1964.

Dr A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

Why in News?

Recently, the Prime Minister paid tribute to the former **President APJ Abdul Kalam** on his 90th birth anniversary.



Who was Dr A. P. J. Abdul Kalam?

- **About:**
 - Born on 15th October 1931 at Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu.
 - His birth anniversary is celebrated as the National Innovation Day and World Students' Day.
 - He graduated in Science from St Joseph's College, Trichy in 1954 and specialized in Aeronautical Engineering from Madras Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1957.
 - He is one of the most distinguished scientists of India with the unique honour of receiving honorary doctorates from 48 Universities and institutions from India and abroad.
 - He was sworn in as India's 11th President in 2002 and completed the full term in 2007.

- He planned programmes to produce a number of successful missiles, which helped earn him the nickname "**Missile Man of India**".

➤ Awards Received:

- He was awarded the coveted civilian awards - **Padma Bhushan** (1981) and Padma Vibhushan (1990) and the highest civilian award Bharat Ratna (1997).

➤ Literary Works:

- "Wings of Fire", "India 2020 - A Vision for the New Millennium", "My journey" and "Ignited Minds - Unleashing the power within India", "Indomitable Spirit", "Guiding Souls", "Envisioning an Empowered Nation", "Inspiring Thoughts" etc.

➤ Death:

- 27th July 2015 at Shillong, Meghalaya.

What has been the Contribution of Dr A. P. J. Abdul Kalam?

➤ His Contribution:

○ Pioneer in Fiberglass Technology:

- He was a **pioneer in fiberglass technology** and led a young team to initiate this effort in **ISRO** from design, development leading to the production of composites rocket motor cases.

○ Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV-3):

- He made a significant contribution as Project Director to develop India's first indigenous Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV-3) which successfully injected the Rohini satellite into **Near-Earth Orbit** in July 1980 and made India an exclusive member of Space Club.
- He was responsible for the evolution of ISRO's launch vehicle programme, particularly the **PSLV configuration**.

○ Indigenous Guided Missiles:

- After working for two decades in ISRO and mastering launch vehicle technologies, he took up the responsibility of developing Indigenous Guided Missiles at the DRDO.
- He was the Chief Executive of **Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP)**.

Note:

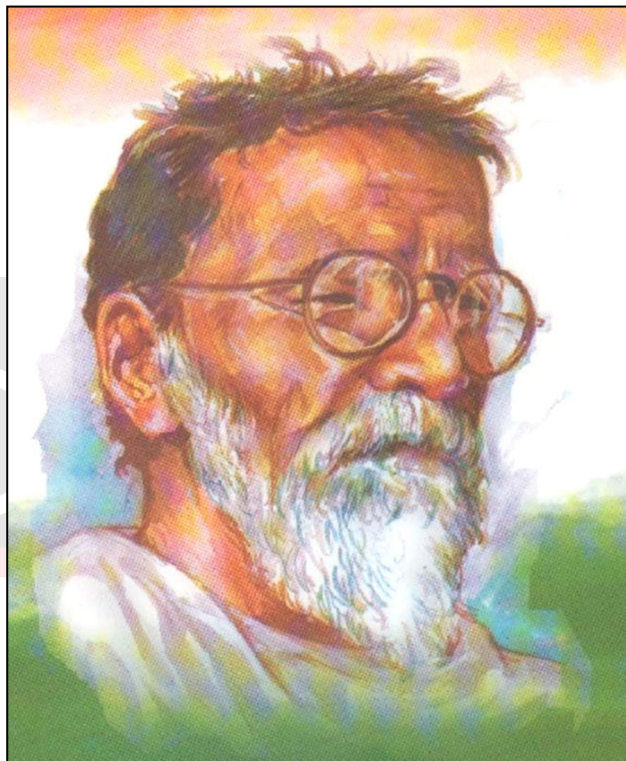
- He led to the weaponization of strategic missile systems and the **Pokhran-II nuclear tests** in collaboration with the Department of Atomic Energy, which made India a nuclear weapon State.
- **Technology Vision 2020:**
 - In 1998, he put forward a countrywide plan called **Technology Vision 2020**, which he described as a road map for transforming India from a less-developed to a developed society in 20 years.
 - The plan called for, among other measures, increasing agricultural productivity, emphasising technology as a vehicle for economic growth, and widening access to health care and education.
- **Medical and Healthcare:**
 - APJ Abdul Kalam in collaboration with cardiologist B. Soma Raju designed a cost-effective coronary stent known as '**Kalam-Raju-Stent**' for coronary heart disease which made healthcare accessible to all.
 - The device led to reduction of prices of imported coronary stents in India by more than 50%.
- **Light Combat Aircraft project:**
 - He was deeply involved in the country's **Light Combat Aircraft project**.
 - He had been associated with avionics. He also became the **first Indian Head of State** to fly a fighter plane. His first **aeronautical project** led him to designing **India's first indigenous hovercraft 'Nandi'**.
 - A hovercraft is a vehicle that can travel over land, water, mud and ice by lifting itself off the ground with large blowers that create an air cushion beneath the craft.
- **Others:**
 - He was passionate about **bringing rural prosperity through PURA (Providing Urban Amenities to Rural Areas)**, in which science and technology has to play a key role.
 - Based on his diverse experience he propagated the concept of **World Knowledge Platform** through which the core competencies of organizations and nations can be synergized to innovate and create solutions and products for the challenges of the 21st century.

Acharya Vinoba Bhave

Why in News?

Recently, the Prime Minister paid rich tributes to **Acharya Vinoba Bhave** on his birth Anniversary.

What do we need to know about Acharya Vinoba Bhave?



➤ Brief Profile:

- Acharya Vinoba Bhave was a **nonviolence activist, freedom activist, social reformer and spiritual teacher**.
- Being an avid follower of **Mahatma Gandhi**, Vinoba upheld his doctrines of **non-violence and equality**.
- He dedicated his life to serve the poor and the downtrodden, and stood up for their rights.

➤ Awards & Recognition:

- Vinoba was the first recipient of the international **Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Leadership** in 1958.
- He was also conferred with the **Bharat Ratna** (India's highest civilian awards) posthumously in 1983.

Note:

➤ **Association with Gandhi:**

- Vinoba met Gandhi on **7th June 1916** and took residence at the Ashram.
- Gandhi's teachings led Bhav to a life of austerity dedicated to improving Indian village life.
- The name Vinoba (a **traditional Marathi epithet signifying great respect**) was conferred upon him by **Mama Phadke, another member of the Ashram.**

➤ **Role in Freedom Struggle:**

- He took part in programs of **non-cooperation** and especially the call for **use of Swadeshi goods** instead of foreign imports.
- He took up the **spinning wheel churning out Khadi** and urged others to do so, resulting in mass production of the fabric.
- In 1932, **Vinoba was sent to jail for six months to Dhulia** as he was accused of conspiracy against British rule.
- During the imprisonment, he explained to fellow prisoners the different subjects of '**Bhagwad Gita**', in Marathi.
- He was also chosen as the **first Individual Satyagrahi** (an Individual standing up for Truth instead of a collective action) **by Gandhi himself.**
- He served a **five-year prison sentence in the 1940s** for leading nonviolent resistance to British rule.
- He was given the honorific title "**Acharya**" (teacher).

➤ **Role in Social Work:**

- He worked tirelessly towards eradicating social evils like inequality.
- Influenced by the examples set by Gandhi, **he took up the cause of people who were referred to as Harijans by Gandhi.**
- He adopted the term **Sarvodaya from Gandhi** which simply means "**Progress for All**".
- **The Sarvodaya movement** under him implemented various programs during the 1950s, the chief among which is the **Bhoodan Movement.**

➤ **Bhoodan Movement:**

- In 1951, Vinoba Bhav started his **peace-trek on foot through the violence-torn region of Telangana.**
- On 19th 1951, the **Harijans of the Pochampalli** village requested him to provide them with around 80 acres of land to make a living.

- Vinoba asked the **landlords of the village to come forward and save the Harijans.**
- A landlord got up and offered the required land. It was the beginning of the **Bhoodan (Gift of the Land) movement.**
- The movement **continued for thirteen years** and Vinoba toured the length and breadth of the country, a total distance of 58741 Km.
- He was successful in **collecting around 4.4 million acres of land, of which around 1.3 million was distributed** among poor landless farmers.
- The movement attracted admiration from all over the world and was commended for being the only experiment of his kind to incite voluntary social justice.

➤ **Religious Work:**

- He set up a number of Ashrams to promote a simple way of life, devoid of luxuries that took away one's focus from the Divine.
- He established the **Brahma Vidya Mandir in 1959**, a small community for women, aiming at self-sufficiency on the lines of Mahatma Gandhi's teachings.
- He took a strong stand on **cow slaughter** and declared to **go on fast until it was banned in India.**

➤ **Literary Work:**

- **His important books include:** Swarajya Sastra, Geeta Pravachane, Teesri Shakti or The Third Power etc.

➤ **Death:**

- Died in 1982, Wardha, Maharashtra.

Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee

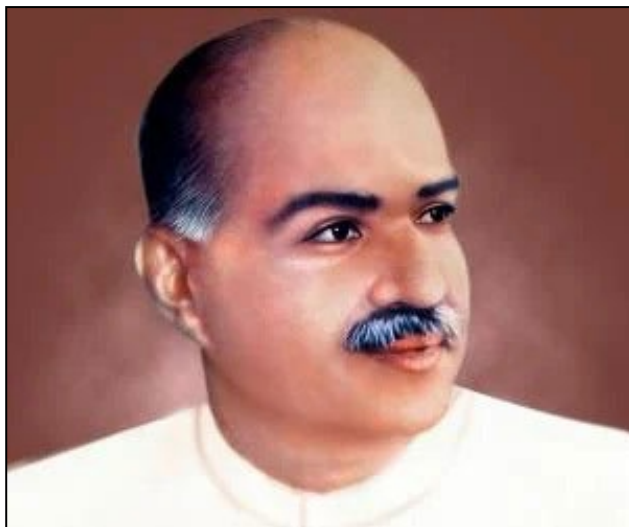
Why in News?

The Union Home Minister paid tribute to Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee on his birth anniversary.

Who was Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee?

- Shyama Prasad Mukherjee was born in a Bengali Brahmin family on the 6th July, 1901, in Calcutta.
- He was an **Indian politician, barrister, and academician** who served as the **Minister for Industry and Supply** in Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's cabinet.

Note:



- At the age of 33, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee **became the youngest vice-chancellor of Calcutta University in 1934.**
- During His term as Vice-Chancellor, **Rabindranath Tagore delivered the university convocation address in Bengali for the first time**, and the Indian vernacular was introduced as a subject for the highest examination.
- He **demanding the partition of Bengal in 1946** to prevent the inclusion of its Hindu-majority areas in a Muslim-dominated East Pakistan.
- He also **opposed a failed bid for a united but independent Bengal made in 1947** by Sarat Bose, the brother of Subhas Chandra Bose, and Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, a Bengali Muslim politician.
- He **founded the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS)**, the predecessor of the modern-day Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).
- In 1953, to **protest against the special status given to Kashmir** he tried to enter Kashmir without seeking permission and was arrested. He died in mysterious circumstances during detention.

Janjatiya Gaurav Divas

Why in News?

Recently, the **President of India** on the occasion of the **Janjatiya Gaurav Divas** (15th November 2022) paid tribute to the **freedom fighter Bhagwan Birsa Munda on his birth anniversary.**

Why do we Celebrate Janjatiya Gaurav Divas?

- The Janjatiya Gaurav Divas is **celebrated every year to recognize the efforts of the tribals in the preservation of cultural heritage** and promotion of Indian values of national pride, valour, and hospitality.
- **Tribals held several tribal movements** across different regions of India against the British colonial rule. These tribal communities include Tamars, Santhals, **Khasis, Bhils, Mizos**, and Kols to name a few.

Who were the Tribal Freedom Fighters?

- **Birsa Munda:**
 - Birsa Munda born on 15th November 1875 was a **member of the Munda Tribe of the Chhota Nagpur Plateau.**
 - He was an **Indian freedom fighter, religious leader**, and folk hero.
 - He **spearheaded an Indian tribal religious Millenarian movement during British rule in the late 19th century** across the tribal belt of modern-day Jharkhand and Bihar.
 - Birsa was a **close observer of the Sardari Larai movement** in the region in the 1880s, which sought to restore tribal rights through nonviolent means such as petitioning the British government. These demands, however, were ignored by the harsh colonial authority.
 - The tribals were **quickly demoted from landowners to labourers** under the zamindari system, which resulted in Birsa taking up the cause of the Adivasis.
 - **Birsa Munda went on to form Birsait**, a new religion.
 - The **religion preached the belief in a single God** and urged people to return to their old religious convictions. People began to refer to him as a cost-effective religious healer, a miracle worker, and a preacher.
 - People from Oraon and Munda became convinced Birsaites, and many began calling him **'Dharti Abba, meaning Father of the Earth.'** He brought a fresh perspective to the religious realm.
 - Birsa Munda **led the rebellion that came to be known as Ulgulan (revolt) or the Munda rebellion** against the British government-imposed feudal state system.

Note:

- He awakened the masses and sowed the seeds of revolt in them against the landlords as well as the Britishers.
- His **struggle against the exploitation and discrimination against tribals led to the passing of the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act in 1908** which restricted the passing of land from the tribal people to non-tribals.

➤ **Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh:**

- He is **considered the Pride of Sonakhan in Chhattisgarh**, he looted trader's grain stock and distributed them amongst the poor after the 1856 famine.
- The sacrifice of Veer Narayan Singh made him a tribal leader and he became the first martyr from Chhattisgarh in the independence struggle of 1857.

➤ **Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu:**

- On 30th June 1855, two years before the Great Revolt of 1857, two Santhal brothers Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu organised 10,000 Santhals and proclaimed a rebellion against the British.
- The tribals took an oath to drive away from the British from their homeland. The Murmu brothers' sisters Phulo and Jhano also played an active part in the rebellion.

Alluri Sitarama Raju

Why in News?

Prime Minister has unveiled a bronze statue of **Alluri Sitharama Raju** in Andhra Pradesh to celebrate 125th birth anniversary on 4th July 2022.

- As part of **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**, Government is giving due recognition **to the contribution of freedom fighters and making people across the country aware** of them.

Who Was Alluri Sitarama Raju?

➤ **About:**

- He was an Indian revolutionary involved in the Indian independence movement.
- He was born in **present-day Andhra Pradesh in 1897 or 1898**.

- He became a sanyasi at the age of 18, and gained a **mystical aura among the hill and tribal peoples with his austerity, knowledge of astrology and medicine**, and his ability to tame wild animals.



➤ **Freedom Movement:**

- At a very young age, Raju channelled the **discontent of the hill people in Ganjam, Visakhapatnam, and Godavari into a highly effective guerrilla resistance** against the British.
 - **Guerrilla warfare** is a form of irregular warfare in which small groups of combatants use military tactics including **ambushes, sabotage, raids, petty warfare, hit-and-run tactics, and mobility, to fight a larger and less-mobile traditional military**.
- Colonial rule **threatened the tribals' traditional podu (shifting) cultivation**, as the government sought to secure forest lands.
- He became involved in **anti-British activities in response to the 1882 Madras Forest Act**, which effectively restricted the free movement of Adivasis (tribal communities) in their forest

Note:

habitats and prevented them from practicing a traditional form of agriculture known as podu (shifting cultivation).

- Rising discontent towards the British led to the **Rampa Rebellion/Manyam Rebellion of 1922**, in which he played a major part as a leader.
 - The Rampa Rebellion coincided with **Mahatma Gandhi's Non-Cooperation Movement**. He persuaded people to wear **khadi** and give up drinking.
 - But at the same time, he asserted that India could be liberated only by the use of force, not non-violence.
- He was nicknamed "**Manyam Veerudu**" (Hero of the Jungle) by local villagers for his heroic exploits.
- In 1924, Raju was taken into police custody, **tied to a tree, and shot by a public execution**, effectively ending the armed rebellion

Hyderabad Liberation Day

Why in News?

The Telangana Government and Central government will observe 75 years of Liberation of Hyderabad on 17th September 2022 to signify the merger of erstwhile Hyderabad State under Nizam rule **with the Indian Union**.

What is the History about Integration of Princely State of Hyderabad into India?

- Hyderabad was one of the largest natives/princely states in India. It was **ruled by the Nizams who accepted the paramountcy** of the British sovereign.
- The Nizam of Hyderabad like the **Nawab of Junagadh** and the ruler of Kashmir did not accede to India before the date of independence, i.e., **15th August 1947**.
- He was encouraged by Pakistan and Muslim natives peoples, **to stay as an independent power** and improve his armed forces to resist the integration.
- During this military improvisation, internal chaos emerged in the state of Hyderabad because of which, on **13th September 1948, the Indian Army was sent into Hyderabad under Operation Polo** (military operation to annex Hyderabad into the Union of

India), on the grounds that the law-and-order situation in Hyderabad threatened the peace of South India.

- The troops met little resistance by the Razakars (the private militia who were resisting the integration), and between the **13th and 18th September, the military took complete control of the state**.
- The operation led to **massive communal violence with estimates of deaths ranging from the official one of 27,000 to 40,000** to scholarly ones of 200,000 or more.
- After the integration, the **Nizam was retained as the head of state in the same manner** as the other princes who acceded to India.
- He thereupon, disowned the complaints that had been made to the UN and, despite vehement protests from Pakistan and strong criticism from other countries, the UN Security Council did not deal further with the question, and **Hyderabad was absorbed into India**.

Goa's Liberation Struggle

Why in News

Recently, the **liberation of Goa became a controversial topic** during the political campaign in the election of Goa.

- In **1962**, Goa was liberated from **Portuguese rule**, 15 years after India attained freedom in 1947. Goa, not becoming independent immediately after independence was because of a **variety of complex factors**.
- Goa was liberated on **19th December 1961 (Statehood Day of Goa)** by swift Indian military action that lasted less than two days.

What is the Timeline of Integration of Goa into the Indian Union?

- Relations between **India and Portugal** began amicably in 1947 after India's independence and diplomatic relations were established in 1949.
- Bilateral relations however went into decline after 1950 over Portugal's refusal to surrender its enclaves of **Goa, Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli on India's west coast**.

Note:



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- Daman & Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli were integrated into India in 1961.



- Portugal had changed its constitution in 1951 to claim Goa **not as a colonial possession, but as an overseas province**.
 - The move was apparently aimed at making Goa a part of the newly formed **North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)** military alliance.
 - It was intended to invoke the collective security clause of the treaty, in the event of an attack by India.
- By 1955, the two nations had **cut off diplomatic relations**, triggering a crisis which **precipitated the liberation of Goa by Indian military forces**, ending Portuguese rule over **Indian enclaves in 1961**.
- In 1961, after the failure of diplomatic efforts with the Portuguese, the Indian Government launched **Operation Vijay** and annexed Daman and Diu and Goa with the Indian mainland on 19th December.

- It brought an end to **451 years of Portuguese overseas provincial governance in Goa**.

What is the History of Goa's Freedom Movement?

- Goa became a **Portuguese colony in 1510**, when **Admiral Afonso de Albuquerque** defeated the forces of the **sultan of Bjiapur, Yusuf Adil Shah**.
- By the turn of the twentieth century, Goa had started to witness an upsurge of **nationalist sentiment opposed to Portugal's colonial rule**, in sync with the anti-British nationalist movement in the rest of India.
- Stalwarts such **Tristão de Bragança Cunha**, celebrated as the father of Goan nationalism, founded the **Goa National Congress at the Calcutta session of the Indian National Congress in 1928**.
- In 1946, the socialist leader **Ram Manohar Lohia** led a historic rally in Goa that **gave a call for civil liberties and freedom, and eventual integration with India**, which became a watershed moment in Goa's freedom struggle.
- At the same time, there was a thinking that civil liberties could not be won by peaceful methods, and a more aggressive armed struggle was needed. This was the view of the **Azad Gomantak Dal (AGD)**.
- As India moved towards independence, however, it became clear that Goa would not be free any time soon, because of a variety of **complex factors like**:
 - **Trauma of Partition**
 - **Experience of War with Pakistan**
 - **India wanted to showcase itself as a peace-abiding nation.**
 - **Portugal being member of NATO**
- These factors kept the Government of India from opening another front in which the international community could get involved.
- Besides, it was **Mahatma Gandhi's** opinion that a lot of groundwork was still needed in Goa to raise the consciousness of the people, and the diverse political voices emerging within should be brought under a common umbrella first.
- The dichotomies within the groups fighting **(Satyagraha vs Military Action)** for freedom in Goa, also led to delay in liberation of Goa.
 - The idea of satyagraha emphasised the **power of truth and the need to search for truth**.

Note:

- It suggested that if the cause was true, if the struggle was against injustice, then **physical force was not necessary** to fight the oppressor.

Statehood Day of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram

Why in News?

Recently, the Prime Minister of India extended his wishes to the people of **Arunachal Pradesh** and **Mizoram** on their **36th Statehood Day**.

- The formalization of Mizoram State took place on 20th February 1987 after the 53rd Amendment of the Indian Constitution, 1986.
- Through the **55th amendment to the Indian Constitution in 1986**, Arunachal Pradesh became the 24th state of the Indian Union on 20th February 1987.



What do we Know about Arunachal Pradesh?

- **Historical Background:** During the British Colonial Rule, until 1972, the state was named as the **North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA)**.
 - On 20th January, 1972, it became a Union Territory and was named Arunachal Pradesh. It was **granted statehood by the State of Arunachal Pradesh Act, 1986**.

- **Geographical location:** The state was formed out of Assam in the year 1987.
 - In the west, **Arunachal Pradesh is bordered by Bhutan** and in the north falls the **Tibetan region of China**.
 - In the Southeastern region falls **Nagaland and Myanmar** and to the southwestern region falls **Assam**.
- **Demography:** The **capital of Arunachal Pradesh is Itanagar**.
 - The total literacy rate of the state (**as per Census 2011**) is **65.38%** with male literacy rate being 72.55% and for females, it is 57.70%.
 - The Sex Ratio of the states is 938 female per 1000 male (National: 943)
 - The state is home to 26 major tribes, there are more than 100 sub-tribes, many of them are still unexplored. About 65% of the population of the state is tribals.
- **Occupation:** Mostly the population of the state depends on Agriculture, mainly Jhum cultivation (slash and burn cultivation).
 - Other cultivation of cash crops is also done like potatoes.
 - Horticulture crops such as pineapple, apple, oranges, etc are also done.
- **Biodiversity:**
 - **State Animal:** Mithun (also known as Gayal)
 - **State Bird:** Hornbill
 - It is also home to the **Dihang Dibang Biosphere Reserve**.
- **Protected Areas:**
 - **Namdapha National Park**
 - Mouling National Park
 - Sessa Orchid Sanctuary
 - Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary
 - **Pakke Tiger Reserve**
- **Tribals of Arunachal:** The significant tribal groups include **Monpas, Nyishis, Apatanis, Noctes and Sherdukpens**.
 - **Monpas:** They are believed to be the only nomadic tribe of northeast, inhabit the West Kameng and Tawang districts, are essentially Buddhists who follow the Mahayana sect.

Note:

- **Apatanis:** They practice pre-Aryan beliefs, which is evident from their worship of trees, rocks and plants amongst other things. They mainly practise bamboo cultivation.
- **Noctes:** Found in the Tirap district, they follow Theravada Buddhism and Animism.
- **Sherdukpens:** A small tribal group, they are one of the most progressive tribes that can be found in Arunachal Pradesh practising agriculture, fishing and rearing of livestock. Although they have adopted Buddhism, most of their practices still remain pre-Buddhist and more Animistic.
- **Nyishis:** They are the most populous tribe of Arunachal Pradesh and are mainly involved in shifting cultivation and produce rice, millet, cucumber, etc.

What do we know about Mizoram?

- **Historical background:** The Mizo hills area became the **Lushai Hills district** within Assam at the time of independence. Further, in 1954 it was renamed the Mizo Hills District of Assam.
 - Mizoram was granted the **status of a Union Territory in 1972** after signing an accord with the moderates of the **Mizo National Front (MNF)**.
 - The Union Territory of Mizoram was conferred the status of a full state in 1986 after signing of a memorandum of settlement (**Mizoram Peace Accord**) between the Central government and the MNF.
- **Geographical Location:**
 - **International Border:** Myanmar and Bangladesh
 - **State Border:** Tripura (northwest), Assam (north) and Manipur (northeast).
- **Demography:** Mizoram population in 2022 is estimated to be **1.27 Million** and is the **second least populous state in India after Sikkim**.
 - The Sex Ratio is **975 female per 1000 male** (National: 943).
- The Literacy rate of the state is **91.58 %** (National: 74.04%).
- **Biodiversity:** According to **India State of Forest Report (ISFR), 2021** Mizoram has the **maximum forest cover as a percentage** of their own geographical area at (84.53%) from the **North eastern region of the country**.
 - **State Animal:** Saza (serow)
 - **State Bird:** Vavu (Hume Bartailed Pheasant).
- **Protected Areas:**
 - **Dampa Tiger Reserve**
 - Murlen National Park
 - Phawngpui National Park
 - Ngengpui Wildlife Sanctuary
 - Tawi Wildlife Sanctuary
- **Tribals:** It has the **highest concentration (percentage) of tribal population** among all states of India.
 - Mizos consist of 5 major and 11 minor tribes known as Awzia. The 5 major tribes include: **Lushei, Ralte, Hmar, Paithe and Pawi**.
 - The Mizos are a close- knit society with no class distinction and discrimination on grounds of sex, status or religion.
 - Mizos are agriculturists, practise "Jhum Cultivation" or slash- and- burn system of cultivation.
- **Festivals and Dance:** The Mizos have two main festivals- **Mim Kut and Ch apchar Kut**.
 - **Mim Kut:** It is a Maize festival that is celebrated during the months of August and September, after the harvest of maize.
 - **Chapchar Kut:** It is a Spring Festival, most popular and celebrated after completion of the task of jungle clearing for "jhum" operations.
 - The most colourful and distinctive dance of the Mizo is called **Cheraw**. Long bamboo staves are used for this dance, therefore many people call it 'Bamboo Dance'.



Note:

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Summary

Key Points

Details

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Summary

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