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WHO WAS TANAJI MALUSARE?

Tanaji Malusare is known for his role in the Battle of Sinhagad (1670), which he fought under the Maratha flag against the Mughals, losing his life in the campaign.

What was the Battle of Sinhagad, and why is Tanaji Malusare remembered?

- In 1665, as Mughal forces led by the Rajput commander Jai Singh-I besieged Shivaji at the Purandar fort in Deccan, the latter was forced to sign the Treaty of Purandar.
- Under the agreement, Shivaji had to hand over important forts to the Mughals, including Purandar, Lohagad, Tung, Tikona, and Sinhagad (then called Kondhana- **Known for Critically endangered Mammal Konadana Rat**).
- As part of the treaty, Shivaji had agreed to visit Agra to meet the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, which he did in 1666.
- Here, Shivaji was placed under house arrest, but was able to make a daring escape back to Maharashtra. Upon his return, Shivaji began to recapture the forts ceded to the Mughals under the treaty.
- To retake Kondhana (Sinhagad), the Marathas deputed Tanaji Malusare, a trusted general of Shivaji, and his brother Suryaji. The fort at the time was held by the Mughal commander Uday Bhan Rathod.
- In the early hours of February 4, 1670, Tanaji with around 300 soldiers successfully captured the fort, but lost his own life.
- It is said "A large number headed by Suryaji remained concealed near the main gate and Tanaji himself with his selected followers scaled the walls by means of an iguana and opened the gates by putting to the sword the few sentries that came out to oppose him..."
- A sanguinary action ensued in which both sides lost heavily including their leaders Tanaji and Uday Bhan.
- The fort was captured and a huge bonfire announced the result to Shivaji at Rajgad.
- Shivaji, who is known to have grieved Tanaji's loss heavily, had the fort Kondhana renamed 'Sinhagad' in the general's honour ('Sinh' meaning 'lion').
- A bard named Tulsidas was commissioned to write a 'powada' (ballad) for Tanaji, and this literary work continues to be popular in Maharashtra.

INSCRIPTIONS REVEALED TWO MEDIEVAL MONASTERIES AT MOGHALMARI

Why in news?

A study of inscriptions on clay tablets recovered from recent excavations at **Moghalmari**, a Buddhist monastic site of the early medieval period in West Bengal have confirmed the presence of two monasteries.

Details

- excavations at Moghalmari discovered date

from 6th century CE and were functional till the 12th century CE.

- It was mentioned by Huen Tsang

- Archaeologists and historians point out that famous Chinese traveler Xuan zang (more widely identified as Huen Tsang), who visited India in the 7th century CE, referred to the existence of 'ten monasteries' within the limits of Tamralipta (modern day Tamluk in adjoining Purba Medinipur district).

MATA SUNDARI GURUDWARA NEAR ROUSE AVENUE IN NEW DELHI

- After the death of Aurangzeb, when the war of succession broke out between Prince Moazzam and Prince Azam, the former sought the help of Gobind Singh who sent a token force to help his friend at the Battle of Jajua, near Agra, in June 1707.
- But the guru camped nearby and when the need arose for reinforcements, he rushed in to Muazzam's aid.
- Azam was fatally wounded and his elder brother ascended the throne as Shah Alam, Bahadur Shah I
- After the death of the guru and successive rulers came and went, Mata Sundari and Mata Sahib Devi were not unduly disturbed, except when the heroic Sikh warrior Banda Singh Bahadur was executed in 1716 and then in June 1725 when they had to leave Delhi and live in Mathura for two years.
- They continued to guide the panth (community) from Mata Sundari haveli, sending hukumnamas (encyclicals) to followers as far away as Kabul in the north and Dhaka in the east, rallying the Sikhs and prevailing upon them not to accept those who were trying to set up an 11th guru.

THE TERRACOTA TEMPLES OF MALUTI

- Maluti is a tiny village in Jharkhand with more than 70 exquisite terracotta temples dating back to the 17th century
- With intricate terracotta carvings of mythical scenes on their façades and walls, which have survived harsh weather and the ravages of time since the early 17th century, Maluti's terracotta temples are now being restored.
- The temples, mostly of Shiva, are dotted in five different clusters — Sikir Taraf, Rajar Bari, Madhya Bari, Chhoi Taraf and the Mauliksha temple complex
- Situated in Dumka district, the village is close to the border with West Bengal, and Chala architecture, inspired by traditional Bengali huts with their sloping roofs with curved edges, is a distinct feature of Maluti's temples.
- Influence of the exquisite Keshta Raya terracotta temple at Bishnupur in Bengal's Bankura district can be seen clearly in every temple.
- The 17th century masonry technique using moulded bricks has been applied extensively.

IN RAKHIGARHI, ANXIETY TRUMPS HISTORY

Why in news?

- Looking at the mounds at the Harappan site of Rakhigarhi, where locals dry cow dung cakes and dump garbage, there is little to show the thousands of years of history beneath.
- But the Centre is moving ahead with its plan to develop the site as a tourist hub and setting up a museum.
- This has got residents in two villages in Haryana's Hisar district — Rakhi Khas and Rakhi Shahpur — known as Rakhigarhi worried about the rehabilitation of homes around mound number four and five.
- The focus is – Dholavira changed history, Rakhigarhi is changing history for the second time and People in Delhi will have to visit Rakhigarhi for tourism.

Details

- The ASI has been able to get under its control just 83.5 acres of the 350-hectare site that spans 11 mounds, after first taking over the site in 1996, due to encroachments and pending court cases.
- If encroachments are removed, the cow dung on the mounds will also shift
- About 5% of the site had been excavated so far by the ASI and Deccan College, Pune.
- Among the findings, which indicate both early and mature Harappan phases, were a 4,600-year-old female skeleton, fortification and bricks.

Background

- Rakhigarhi, Rakhi Garhi (Rakhi Shahpur + Rakhi Khas), is a village in Hisar District in the state of Haryana in India, situated 150 kilometers to the northwest of Delhi.
- It is the site of a pre-Indus Valley Civilisation settlement going back to about 6500 BCE.
- Later, it was also part of the mature Indus Valley Civilisation, dating to 2600-1900 BCE.
- The site is located in the Sarasvati river plain, some 27 km from the seasonal Ghaggar river.



- The size and uniqueness of Rakhigarhi has drawn much attention of archaeologists all over the world.
- It is nearer to Delhi than other major sites, indicating the spread of the Indus Valley Civilization east across North India.

- In May 2012, the Global Heritage Fund, declared Rakhigarhi one of the 10 most endangered heritage sites in Asia.
- There are many other important archaeological sites in this area, in the old river valley to the east of the Ghaggar Plain. Among them are Kalibangan, Kunal, Haryana, Balu, Haryana, Bhirrana, and Banawali.

What is the relevance of Harappa in today's world?

- Harappan civilisation is amongst the first major urban civilisation that stretched over an area of 1.5 million square kilometres (the size of a modest sized modern country).
- It was highly standardised architecture, art and utilitarian items.
- It traded over an even larger area, getting raw material and exporting (to region where its standardisation rules did not apply) finished products, traders and some of its habits to different regions.
- The occurrence of the first civilization from which the emergence of the city and urbanism can be understood
- Their expertise in town planning, water management and harvesting systems as well as drainage mechanism is unparalleled.
- They had public and private wells at most of their sites and their houses were often equipped with bathing areas and toilets.
- They were also technologically very advanced in pyrotechnics and metallurgy.
- Their craftsmanship is evident in their beads, jewelry, pottery, seals as well as other artifacts made of metals and their alloys.
- Their trade networks were also quite widespread.
- They had standardized weights and measures.
- They often used standardized bricks in their architecture.
- Recent research has suggested that Harappan people were probably the first ones to introduce silk and lost-wax casting techniques.
- No large-scale weapons have been discovered from the Harappan sites which also suggests that they did not indulge in warfare.
- It post-dated the great cultures of Mesopotamia and was contemporaneous to Sumerian cultures.
- However, it received a lot of ideas also from Central Asia and in many ways, it collected the finest of ideas and technologies.
- Among other things, the Harappan civilization provides important insights into the relationship between civilizational collapse, violence, and disease.
- Global bodies and governmental organizations seeking to make predictions about global warming in the contemporary context have essentialized the relationship between climate change, environmental migration, and violence.
- In that sense it is relevant and important.

MOU: INDIAN AIR FORCE AND SAVITRIBAI PHULE PUNE UNIVERSITY

Why in news?

- As a unique initiative of Indian Air Force, the IAF and Savitribai Phule Pune University entered into an academic collaboration by signing a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a 'Chair of Excellence' at Department of Defence & Strategic Studies on 29 February, 2020.
- The Chair will enable IAF officers to pursue Doctoral Research and higher studies in Defence & Strategic Studies and allied fields.

Savitribai Phule



- Savitribai Phule (3 January 1831 – 10 March 1897) was an Indian social reformer, educationalist, and poet from Maharashtra.
- She is regarded as the first female teacher of India.
- Along with her husband, Jyotirao Phule, she played an important role in improving women's rights in India.
- She is regarded as the mother of Indian feminism.
- She worked to abolish the discrimination and unfair treatment of people based on caste and gender.
- She is regarded as an important figure of the social reform movement in Maharashtra.

ANALYSIS/ HOW PANDEMICS HAVE CHANGED THE WORLD

Introduction to influence of Pandemics in history

- Pandemics have had great influence in shaping human society and politics throughout history.
- From the Justinian Plague of sixth century to the Spanish flu of last century, pandemics have triggered the collapse of empires, weakened pre-eminent powers and institutions, created social upheaval and brought down wars.

Justinian Plague

- One of the deadliest pandemics in recorded history broke out in the sixth century in Egypt and spread fast to Constantinople, which was the capital of the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire.
- The plague was named after the then Byzantine Emperor Justinian. The outbreak, which spread from Constantinople to both the West and East, had killed up to 25 to 100 million people.
- The Plague came back in different waves and by the time plague disappeared, the Empire had lost territories in Europe to the Germanic-speaking Franks and Egypt and Syria to the Arabs.

Black Death

- The Black Death, or pestilence, that hit Europe and Asia in the 14th century was **the deadliest pandemic recorded in human history**.
- It killed some 75 to 200 million people, according to various estimates.
- In early 1340s, the plague struck China, India, Syria and Egypt.
- It arrived in Europe in 1347, where up to 50% of the population died of the disease.
- The outbreak also had lasting economic and social consequences.
- In parts of Europe, wages tripled as labour demand rose. And once the economy started improving, the landowning class pressured authorities to check rising labour costs.
- In England, the Crown passed legislation in this regard the tensions created by which would eventually lead to the Peasant Revolt of 1381.
- The pandemic also led to largescale Jewish persecution in Europe. Jews, blamed for spreading the illness, were burned alive in many parts of the continent.
- The most significant impact of the Black Death was perhaps the weakening of the Catholic Church.

Spanish Flu

- Spanish Flu, which broke out during the last phase of First World War, was the deadliest pandemic of the last century that killed up to 50 million people.
- The flu was first recorded in Europe and then spread fast to America and Asia.
- **India, one of the worst-hit by the pandemic**, lost between 17 and 18 million people, roughly 6% of its population.
- One of the major impacts of the outbreak was on the result of the war.
- Though the flu hit both sides, the Germans and Austrians were affected so badly that the outbreak derailed their offensives.

COVID-19

- It's too early to say how the COVID-19 outbreak that has already infected about 2 million and killed over 1,26,000 people would change the world.
- But the outbreak has seen countries, both democratic and dictatorial, imposing drastic restrictions on people's movements.
- The western world, the centre of the post-World War order, lies exposed to the attack of the virus.
- Unemployment rate in the U.S. has shot up to the levels not seen since the end of Second World War.
- Governments across the world, including the U.S. administration, are beefing up spending to stimulate an economy that shows signs of depression. Radical changes, good or bad, are already unfolding.

AMBEDKAR AND THE POONA PACT

Introduction to Poona Pact

- In late September 1932, B.R. Ambedkar negotiated the Poona Pact with Mahatma Gandhi.
- The background to the Poona Pact was the Communal Award of August 1932, which, among other things, reserved 71 seats in the central legislature for the depressed classes.

- Gandhi, who was opposed to the Communal Award, saw it as a British attempt to split Hindus, and began a fast unto death to have it repealed.

Fair representation

- In a settlement negotiated with Gandhi, Ambedkar agreed for depressed class candidates to be elected by a joint electorate.
- However, on his insistence, slightly over twice as many seats (147) were reserved for the depressed classes in the legislature than what had been allotted under the Communal Award.
- In addition, the Poona Pact assured a fair representation of the depressed classes in the public services while earmarking a portion of the educational grant for their uplift.
- The Poona Pact was an emphatic acceptance by upper-class Hindus that the depressed classes constituted the most discriminated sections of Hindu society.
- It was also conceded that something concrete had to be done to give them a political voice as well as a leg-up to lift them from a backwardness they could not otherwise overcome.
- The concessions agreed to in the Poona Pact were precursors to the world's largest affirmative programme launched much later in independent India.
- A slew of measures were initiated later to uplift Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Despite what Ambedkar had achieved for the depressed classes through the Poona Pact, there were carpers.

Positive outcomes

- The Poona Pact had several positive outcomes for Ambedkar. It emphatically sealed his leadership of the depressed classes across India.
- He made the entire country, and not just the Congress Party, morally responsible for the uplift of the depressed classes. Most of all he succeeded in making the depressed classes a formidable political force for the first time in history.
- As a practical man Ambedkar was not looking for the perfect solution. As he remarked in a 1943 address to mark the 101st birthday celebrations of Mahadev Govind Ranade, all he wanted was “a settlement of some sort”; that he was not “prepared to wait for an ideal settlement”.
- It is very much in this spirit that he affixed his signature to the Poona Pact saving Gandhi's life as well as that of the Congress Party's while giving a big voice to the depressed classes.
- On the 129th year of his birth on April 14 this year, we would do well to remember Ambedkar as much for the Poona Pact as we do for the Constitution he helped conjure. Without the former, the latter would never have been.

BRO BUILDS PERMANENT BRIDGE CONNECTING KASOWAL

Why in news?

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed and opened a new permanent bridge on the river Ravi connecting Kasowal enclave in Punjab to the rest of the country much ahead of its schedule.

The enclave of around 35 square kilometres had hitherto been connected via pontoon bridge of limited load capacity.

Why was this bridge necessary?

- The pontoon bridge used to be dismantled every year prior to the Monsoon or else it would have got washed away in the strong currents of the river.
- This meant thousands of acres of fertile land across the river could not be tilled by farmers during the Monsoon.
- The local population and the Army (by virtue of the sensitivity of the enclave) required a Class 70 permanent bridge to give all weather connectivity to the enclave.
- Border Roads Organisation conceived and planned for a permanent bridge.

Border Roads Organisation (BRO)

- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) develops and maintains road networks in India's border areas and friendly neighboring countries.
- BRO is under the control of the Ministry of Defence since 2015.
- BRO is engaged in road construction to provide connectivity to difficult and inaccessible regions in the border areas of the country.
- Officers from the Border Roads Engineering Service (BRES) and personnel from the General Reserve Engineer Force (GREF) form the parent cadre of the Border Roads Organisation. It is also staffed by officers and troops drawn from the Indian Army's Corps of Engineers on extra regimental employment (on Deputation).
- BRO has played a very important role in both maintenance of security and in the development of border areas. Most of the development in the North Eastern states of India can be attributed to the relentless work done by the BRO. Socio economic development in the most inaccessible nooks and corners of our country are a result of the infrastructural work undertaken by the BRO.
- BRO works in close association with the Indian Army in cases of natural disasters.
- BRO also undertakes work in neighboring countries such as Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka. Hence, it helps greatly in maintenance of friendly and diplomatic relations.

Kasowal enclave in History: 1971 War – Battle of Dera Baba Nanak



- Dera Baba Nanak (DBN) is a small town about 30 miles north of Amritsar and south of the Ravi. Near it are two strategically important enclaves, north and south of the Ravi, belonging to India and Pakistan respectively. The Indian enclave is called Kasowal and the Pakistani Jassar or DBN.
- The Pakistani enclave includes the Ravi road-rail bridge, over which the Pakistani communications network in the Passur-Narowal area can be integrated easily with ours in Punjab.
- Kasowal enclave provides a sizable bridgehead across the Ravi from where operations can be developed against the defences of Jassar and Narowal fortress. DBN enclave can be outflanked from Kasowal with ease.
- Thus, both sides have readymade bridgeheads in each other's territory which can be exploited both offensively and defensively, depending upon the requirements of overall strategic planning.
- The Indo-Pakistani War of 1971 was a military confrontation between India and Pakistan that occurred during the liberation war in East Pakistan.

SIKKIM STATEHOOD DAY

Why in news?

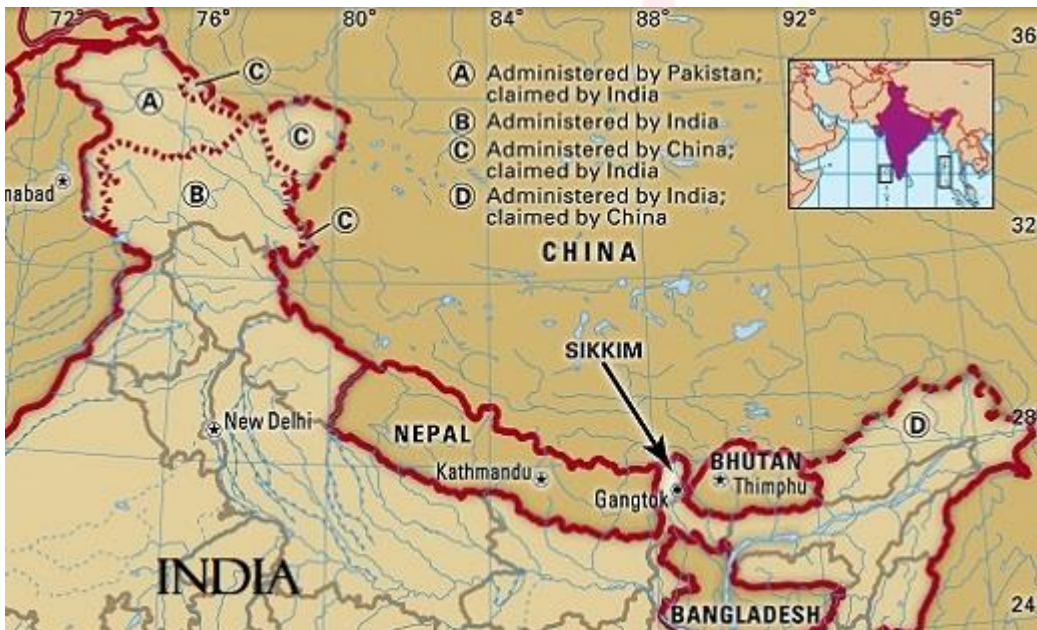
The Prime Minister greeted the people of Sikkim on their Statehood Day on May 16th.

On 16 May, 1975, the Himalayan Kingdom of Sikkim became the 22nd state of India, and putting an end to the monarchy.

Sikkim's Statehood: History

1. In the 1640s India, Pakistan Bangladesh and Nepal were still many princely states with many rulers at that time and had not unified.
But by this time, Sikkim had already solidified into country then with a king known as a Chogyal or dharma king, and till 16 May 1975 was an independent country ruled by the monarchs.
2. In the early 18th century, the British Empire sought to establish trade routes with Tibet, leading Sikkim to fall under British suzerainty until independence in 1947. The Treaty of Tumlong in 1861 made Sikkim a protectorate of the British.
3. Initially, Sikkim remained an independent country, until it merged with India in 1975 after a decisive referendum.
4. Indian independence and its move to democracy spurred a fledgling political movement in Sikkim, giving rise to the formation of Sikkim State Congress (SSC).
5. After India's independence in 1947, the guarantees of independence that Sikkim had acquired from the British were transferred to the new Indian government.
6. In 1950, a treaty was agreed between India and Sikkim which gave Sikkim the status of an Indian protectorate.
7. The then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru gave special protectorate status for Sikkim, which was to be a 'tributary' of India.
8. Sikkim came under the suzerainty of India, which controlled its external affairs, defence, diplomacy and communications.
9. In 1973, anti-royalist riots took place in front of the Chogyal's palace.

10. In 1975, the Prime Minister of Sikkim appealed to the Indian Parliament for Sikkim to become a state of India. In April 1975, the Indian Army took over the city of Gangtok and disarmed the Chogyal's palace guards.
11. Thereafter, a referendum was held for abolishing the monarchy, effectively approving union with India.
12. On 16 May 1975, Sikkim became the 22nd state of the Indian Union, and the monarchy was abolished.
13. To enable the incorporation of the new state, the Indian Parliament amended the Indian Constitution. First, the 35th Amendment laid down a set of conditions that made Sikkim an "Associate State", a special designation not used by any other state.
14. The 36th Amendment repealed the 35th Amendment, and made Sikkim a full state, adding its name to the First Schedule of the Constitution.



Creation of New States in Indian Constitution

The procedure for formation of new States laid down in Article 3 of the Constitution.

Article 3 assigns to Parliament the power to enact legislation for the formation of new States. Parliament may create new States in a number of ways, namely by:

1. separating territory from any State
2. uniting two or more States
3. uniting parts of States
4. uniting any territory to a part of any State

Parliament's power under Article 3 extends to increasing or diminishing the area of any State and altering the boundaries or name of any State.

Note: A state has no say over the formation of new States beyond communicating its views to Parliament.

1. A bill calling for formation of new States may be introduced in either House of Parliament only on the recommendation of the President.
2. The bill must be referred by the President to the concerned State Legislature for expressing its views to Parliament if it contains provisions which affect the areas, boundaries or name of that State.

DR. SYAMA PRASAD MOOKERJEE

Focus: GS 1, Post Independence Indian History

Why in news?

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has paid tributes to Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee on 6th July 2020 on the occasion of his Jayanti

More about Dr. syama Prasad Mookerjee

Shyama Prasad Mukherjee is an example of great leadership and political milestone. He was born on July 6, 1901. He was the independent India's first Minister of Industry and Supply and founder of Bharatiya Jana Sangh.

- Shyama Prasad Mukherjee was born in a Bengali family on 6th July 1901. His father Ashutosh Mukherjee was a judge of the Calcutta High Court.
- He started his initial education in Bhawanipur's Mitra Institution in 1906. He passed his matriculation exam and was admitted to Presidency College.
- He stood seventeenth in the Inter-Arts Examination in 1916 and graduated in English, securing the first position in first class in 1921.
- He lost his father in 1924, the same year he enrolled as an advocate in Calcutta High Court.
- At the age of 33, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee became the youngest vice-chancellor of Calcutta University in 1934.
- During Mukherjee's 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.
- Mukherjee demanded the partition of Bengal in 1946 to prevent the inclusion of its Hindu-majority areas in a Muslim-dominated East Pakistan. A meeting held by the Mahasabha on April 15, 1947, in Tarakeswar, authorised him to take steps for ensuring partition of Bengal.
- In May 1947, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee wrote a letter to Lord Mountbatten telling him that Bengal must be partitioned even if India was not. 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.
- After he left the Indian National Congress due to difference of opinion with the then-Prime Minister Dr Jawaharlal Nehru on Jammu and Kashmir issues, he co- founded Janata Party in the year 1977-1979, which later on became the Bharatiya Janata Party.
- Shyama Prasad Mukherjee died after 40 days of being arrested by the Jammu and Kashmir State police for entering the state without permit. He passed away in jail under mysterious circumstances.

RABARI, BHARVAD AND CHARAN TRIBES OF GUJARAT

The Gujarat government will constitute a commission to identify the members of Rabari, Bharvad and Charan communities who are eligible to get the benefits of Schedule Tribe (ST) status.

About the Tribes

Rabari

- The Rabari, also called the Rewari are an indigenous tribal caste of nomadic cattle and camel herders and shepherds that live throughout northwest India, primarily in the states of Gujarat, Punjab and Rajasthan.
- The word “Rabari” translates as “outsiders”, a fair description of their primary occupation and status within Indian society.
- They speak ‘Bhopa’ which is a mixture of Gujarati, Kachchi, Marwari words and Pharasi (Persian) and use Gujarati script.
- The Rabari are known for their distinctive art, particularly the mirrored and whitewashed mud sculpture-work that adorns their homes and villages.
- Rabari women are responsible for this artwork and also traditionally spin the wool from their sheep and goats, and give it to local weavers to make their woollen skirts, veils, blankets and turbans.

Bharvad

- The Bharwad are tribals primarily engaged in herding livestock.
- The Bharwad name may derive from the Gujarati word badawad, constructed from bada (sheep) and wada (a compound or enclosure).
- The Bharwads have numerous subgroups known as ataks or guls (clans) whose main purpose is to determine eligibility for marriage.
- Constrained exogamy is practised between clans.

Charan

- The Charan, also called Gadhvi, is a small tribe in Gujarat and the name Charan is derived from the word ‘Char’ which means grazing.
- Members of the caste are considered to be divine by a large section of society.
- Women of the caste are adored as mother goddesses by other major communities of this region.

KARGIL VIJAY DIWAS

Why in news?

Homage was paid to armed forces on Kargil Vijay Diwas by the Prime Minister of India and others.

Kargil Vijay Diwas

Kargil Vijay Diwas is observed in India on the 26th of July, to mark the day when India successfully took command of the high outposts in 1999 during the Kargil War.

Background: History of the conflict

- After the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971, there had been a long period with relatively few direct armed conflicts involving the military forces of the two neighbours.
- During the 1990s escalating tensions and conflict due to separatist activities in Kashmir, as well as the conducting of nuclear tests by both countries in 1998, led to an increasingly belligerent atmosphere.
- Both countries signed the Lahore Declaration in 1999 promising to provide a peaceful and bilateral solution to the Kashmir conflict.

- During the winter of 1998–1999, some elements of the Pakistani Armed Forces were covertly training and sending Pakistani troops and paramilitary forces, into territory on the Indian side of the line of control (LOC).
- Initially the Indian troops in the area assumed that the infiltrators were jihadis.
- Subsequent discovery of infiltration elsewhere along the LOC, along with the difference in tactics employed by the infiltrators, caused the Indian army to realize that the plan of attack was on a much bigger scale.

The Government of India responded with Operation Vijay, a mobilization of 200,000 Indian troops. The war came to an official end on July 26, 1999, thus marking it as Kargil Vijay Diwas.

“KNIT INDIA MOVEMENT” AND QUIT INDIA GOALS

Why in news?

On the occasion of the 78th anniversary today of the launch of Quit India movement, Vice President of India has called for an intensified campaign of ‘Knit India’ to enable a strong and fully emotionally integrated nation that would offer the best defence against the evil designs of forces inimical to the country.

Highlights of the Vice-President’s call for a new “Knit India Movement”

- The series of foreign invasions and the colonial exploitation during the long period of 1000-1947 was marked by lack of unity in the country.
- During this long period of second millennium, the country paid a very heavy price in the form of cultural subjugation and economic exploitation that enfeebled the once rich India.
- The hard-fought independence in 1947 was not just about ending the colonial rule of the preceding 200 years but also bringing down curtains on the 1000 year long dark age during when the country was plundered at will by the invaders, traders and the colonialists taking advantage of the lack of unity among the Indians.
- The Vice-President referred to the destruction of Somnath temple and the long period of 925 taken to rebuild the same after independence.
- The British drained US \$ 45 Trillion of India’s wealth during 1765-1938 in various forms that amounted to 17 times the GDP of the UK in 2018.

Way forward

- **Learning from history, all Indians need to be bound by the shared sense of ‘Indianness’ while pursuing their respective cultural values and ethos.**
- The Vice-President stressed on the need to Knit India into one single fabric by ensuring equality of all and equal opportunities for all and noted that a divided and iniquitous society does not enable the fullest development of all Indians to their capacity.
- Referring to the celebration of 75 years of independence in 2022, he urged the people of the country to take a pledge to drive poverty, illiteracy, inequality, gender discrimination, corruption and all kinds of social evils that are in the way of realizing a new India of the dreams of Mahatma Gandhi and every aspiring Indian.

Quit India Movement

- The Quit India Movement also known as the August Movement, was a movement launched at the Bombay session of the All-India Congress Committee by Mahatma Gandhi on 8 August 1942, during World War II, demanding an end to British Rule of India.

- The Cripps Mission had failed, and Gandhi made a call to Do or Die in his Quit India speech, followed by the launch of a mass protest demanding what Gandhi called “An Orderly British Withdrawal” from India.
- Almost the entire leadership of the Indian National Congress was imprisoned without trial within hours of Gandhi’s speech.

Lack of Unity

- *The British had the support of the Viceroy’s Council (which had a majority of Indians), of the All India Muslim League, the princely states, the Indian Imperial Police, the British Indian Army, the Hindu Mahasabha and the Indian Civil Service.*
- *Many Indian businessmen profiting from heavy wartime spending did NOT support the Quit India Movement.*

Result

- Due to various reasons including effective arrests (over 100,000 arrests were made) by the British and lack of unity, the Quit India campaign was effectively crushed.
- Many students paid more attention to Subhas Chandra Bose, who was in exile and supporting the Axis Powers.
- The only outside support came from the Americans, as President Franklin D. Roosevelt pressured Prime Minister Winston Churchill to give in to some of the Indian demands.
- The British refused to grant immediate independence, saying it could happen only after the war had ended.

LACHIT BORPHUKAN

Why in News?

PM pays tribute to Lachit Borphukan on Lachit Diwas

About Lachit Borphukan Ji

- The Lachit Borphukan (24 November 1622 – 25 April 1672) was a commander and Borphukan (Phu-Kon-Lung) in the Ahom kingdom, located in present-day Assam, India.
- He was known for his leadership in the 1671 Battle of Saraighat that thwarted a drawn-out attempt by Mughal forces under the command of Ramsingh I to take over Ahom Kingdom, he died about a year later due to illness.



Above image of Lachit Barphukan's Statue at Jorhat, Assam, India.

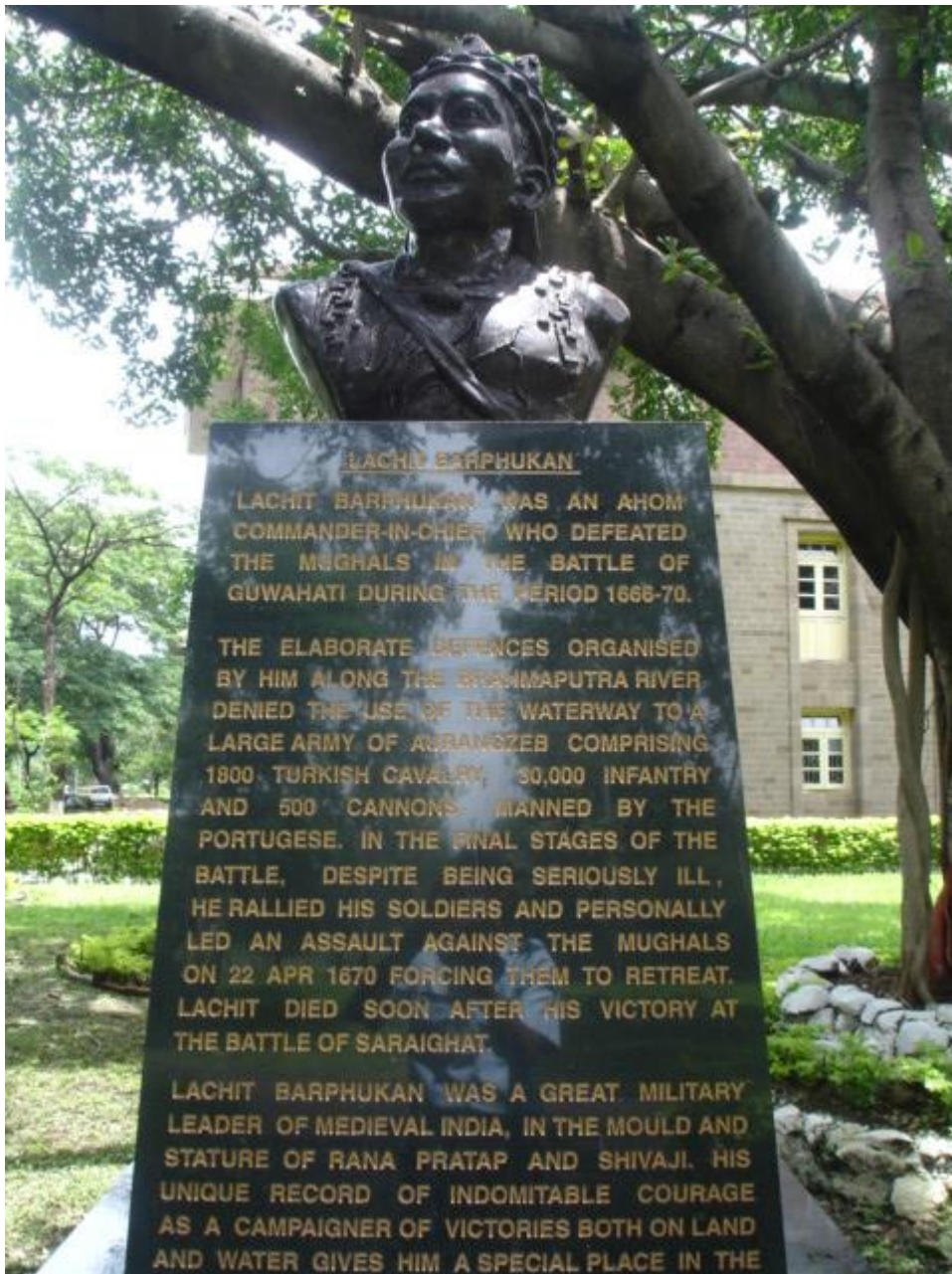
- The Battle of Saraighat was a naval battle fought in 1671 between the Mughal Empire (led by the Kachwaha king, Raja Ramsingh I), and the Ahom Kingdom (led by Lachit Borphukan) on the Brahmaputra river at Saraighat, now in Guwahati, Assam, India.



Above image of 35-feet-high statue of Ahom general Lachit Borphukan and his army in the middle of the Brahmaputra.

- On 24 November each year Lachit Divas (Lachit Day) is celebrated statewide in Assam to commemorate the heroism of Lachit Borphukan and the victory of the Assamese army at the Battle of Saraighat.
- The Lachit Divas is celebrated to promote the ideals of Lachit Borphukan the legendary general of Assam's history.

PMIAS
be inspired



Above image attached of Lachit bust at National Defense Academy pune Maharashtra.

SIR CHOTU RAM

Why in News?

PM Pays Tribute to Sir Chotu Ram Ji on His Birth Anniversary

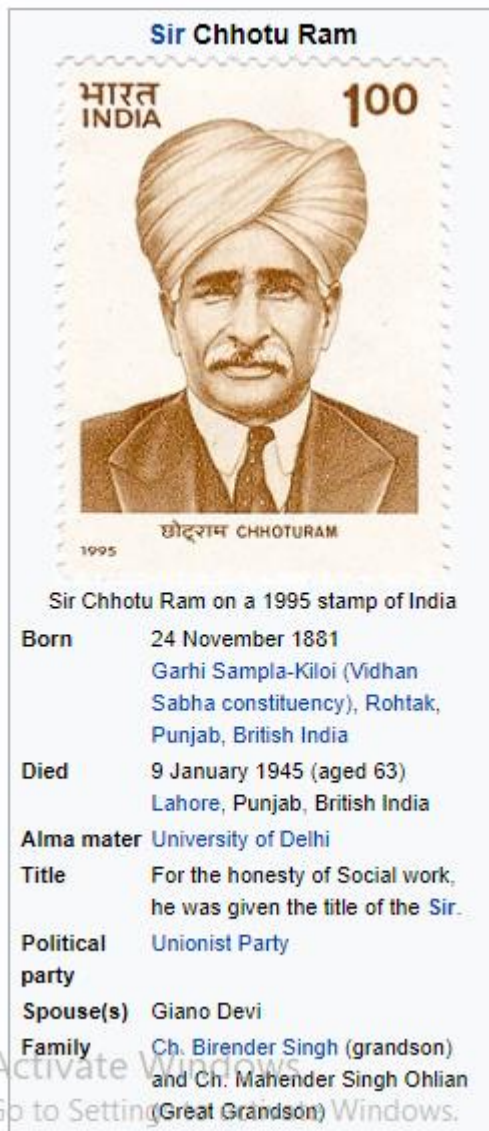
About Sir Chotu Ram Ji

- Sir Chhotu Ram was a prominent politician in British India's Punjab Province, an ideologue of the peasants of pre-Independent India.



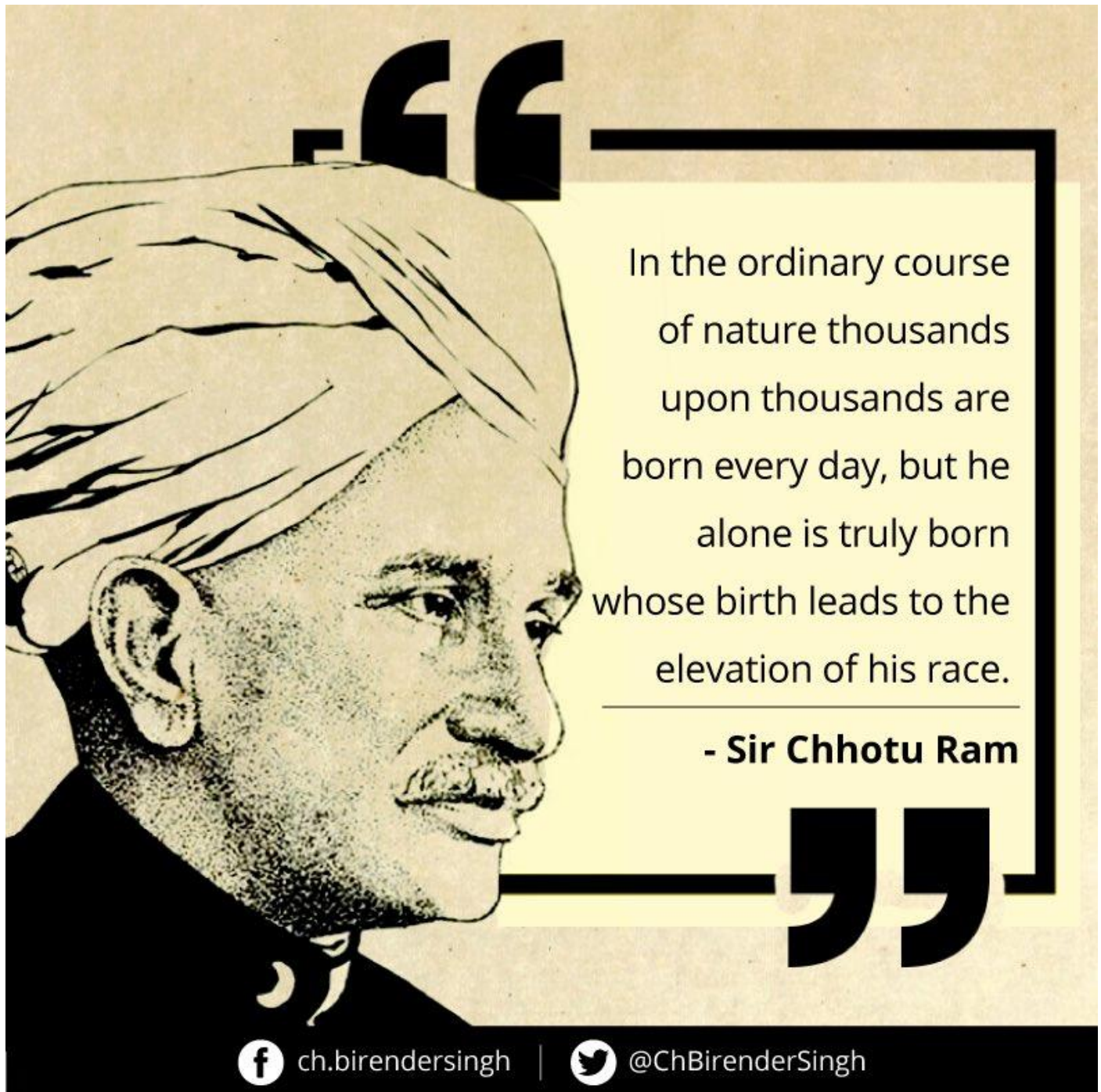
- He championed the interest of oppressed peasants of the Indian Sub-continent.
- He tried to create a non-sectarian peasant group consciousness.
- He formed the Unionist Party (Zamindara League) in 1923, which was a cross-communal alliance of Hindu, Jats and Muslim agriculturists.
- He was awarded the title of 'Rao Bahadur' and was accorded knighthood in 1937.
- He popularly came to be known as Deen Bandhu.

PMIAS
be inspired



- He was the Alumni of St. Stephens College, Delhi.
- He was the founder of National Unionist Party.
- Sir Chhotu Ram rose to become Revenue Minister of undivided Punjab and was instrumental in empowering farmers in pre-Independence era and getting pro-farmers law enacted.
- The modern concepts like debt settlement boards, caps on interest, the basic fairness to the tiller were included in these 1930s laws.
- **He is called as The father of Bhakra Nangal Dam.**
- **He conceived of the Bhakra Dam way back in 1923, to rid the farmers of the so called economic plague spots of erstwhile Punjab state.**
- As a member of the pre-Partition Punjab Legislative Council, his first major achievement was the passage of the Punjab Land Revenue (Amendment) Act, 1929, which remains a landmark social legislation till date.
- He was also the originator of the concept of compensating the farmer for at least the expenses incurred by him on farming.

- Sir Chhotu Ram emerged as country's first big agrarian reformer who stood up and fought for the rights of agriculturists.
- He used to recite the following lines of the poet Iqbal quite often: "Raise thyself to such a height that God may himself ask you what do you wish to achieve".



DEFYING TURKEY, AMERICA RECOGNISES ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Context:

- U.S. President recognised the 1915 killings of Armenians by Ottoman forces as genocide in a historic moment, defying decades of pressure by Turkey.
- The statement is a massive victory for Armenia and its extensive diaspora.

- Starting with Uruguay in 1965, nations including France, Germany, Canada and Russia have recognised the genocide but a U.S. statement has been a paramount goal that proved elusive under other presidents until Mr. Biden.

Relevance:

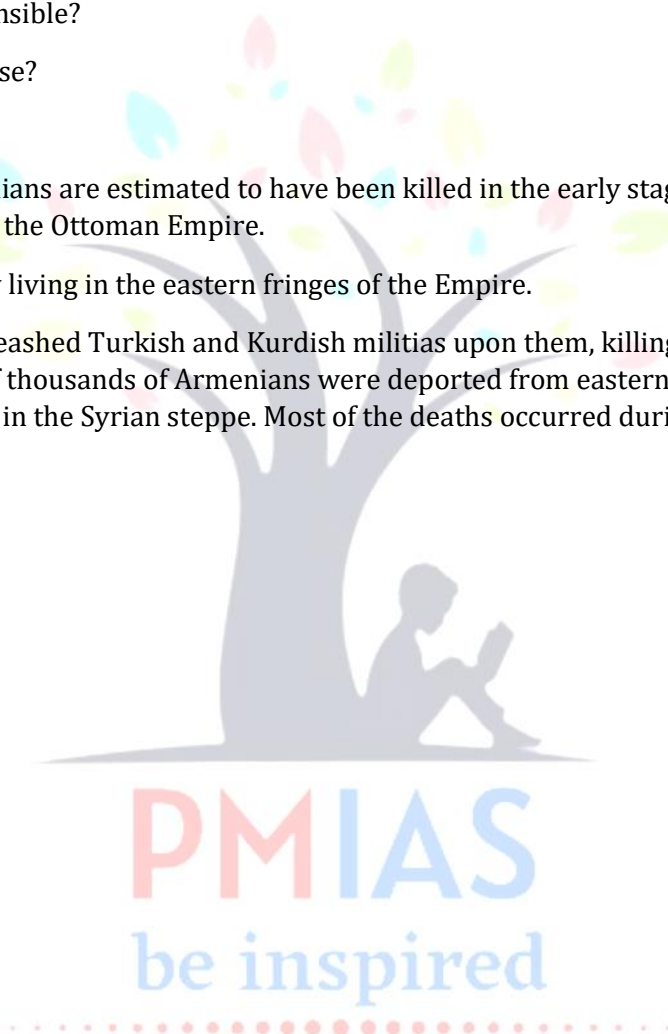
GS-I: History (World History), GS-II: International Relations (Foreign policies affecting India's Interests)

Dimensions of the Article:

1. About the Armenian Genocide
2. Why Armenians were targeted?
3. Was anyone held responsible?
4. What's Turkey's response?

About the Armenian Genocide

- Up to 1.5 million Armenians are estimated to have been killed in the early stage of the First World War within the territories of the Ottoman Empire.
- Armenians were largely living in the eastern fringes of the Empire.
- The Ottoman Turks unleashed Turkish and Kurdish militias upon them, killing and pillaging tens of thousands. Hundreds of thousands of Armenians were deported from eastern Anatolia (today's Turkey) to concentration camps in the Syrian steppe. Most of the deaths occurred during this flight.





Was it a genocide?

- According to Article II of the UN Convention on Genocide of December 1948, genocide has been described as carrying out acts intended “to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group”.
- Before the First World War broke out in 1914, there were 2 million Armenians in the Ottoman Empire.
- According to a study, in 1922, four years after the War, the Armenian population in the region was about 400 thousand. This has led historians to believe that up to 1.5 million Armenians were killed during the course of the War.

Why Armenians were targeted?

- In a way, the Armenians were victims of the great power contests of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

- When the Ottoman Empire was in decline on its fringes by the last quarter of the 19th century, Armenians were seen by the rulers in Constantinople as a fifth column.
- The resentment started building up after the Russo-Turkish war of 1877-78 in which the Turks lost territories.
- In the Treaty of Berlin, big powers dictated terms to the Ottomans, including putting pressure on Sultan Abdülhamid II to initiate reforms “in the provinces inhabited by Armenians, and to guarantee their security against the Circassians and Kurds.”
- The Sultan saw this as a sign of strengthening ties between the Armenians and other rival countries, especially Russia.
- Post the treaty, there were a series of attacks on Armenians by Turkish and Kurdish militias. In 1908, the Young Turks wrested control from the Sultan and promised to restore imperial glory and under them the empire became more and “Turkik” and persecution against the ethnic minorities picked up.
- In October 1914, Turkey joined the First World War on the side of Germany. In the Caucasus, they fought the Russians, their primary geopolitical rival. But the Ottomans suffered a catastrophic defeat in the Battle of Sarikamish by the Russians in January 1915. The Turks blamed the defeat on Armenian “treachery”. First, Armenians in the Ottoman Army were executed.
- On April 24 (now known as the Remembrance Day) the Ottoman government arrested about 250 Armenian intellectuals and community leaders and most of them were later executed.
- The Ottoman government passed legislation to deport anyone who is a security risk – fearing that Armenians in eastern Anatolia would join the Russians if they advanced into Ottoman territories. Then they moved Armenians, including children, en masse to the Syrian Desert. That was a march of death.

Was anyone held responsible?

- After the fall of the empire, many Ottoman officials, including a governor in Anatolia, were tried and executed for the atrocities committed against Armenians.
- But the Three Pashas fled the country and took refuge in Germany. They were sentenced to death in absentia.
- In 1921, Talat Pasha, the Grand Vizier and the key architect of the atrocities, was assassinated on the street of Berlin by Armenian student Soghomon Tehlirian.

What's Turkey's response?

- Turkey has acknowledged that atrocities were committed against Armenians, but denies it was a genocide (which comes with legal implications) and challenges the estimates that 1.5 million were killed.
- The Turkish Foreign Ministry has issued a strong statement to Mr. Biden's announcement saying it doesn't not have “a scholarly and legal basis, nor is it supported by any evidence”.

RARE SCULPTURES OF RANI RUDRAMA DEVI UNEARTHED

Context:

Two rare sculptural portraits of Kakatiya queen Rudrama Devi were unearthed and identified by an archaeologist on the premises of Sangameswara Swamy Temple at Teerthala village in Khammam district recently.

Relevance:

Dimensions of the Article:

1. Rudrama Devi
2. Kakatiya dynasty

Rudrama Devi

- Rudrama Devi was a monarch of the Kakatiya dynasty in the Deccan Plateau from 1263-1289 (or 1295).
- She was one of the very few women to rule as monarchs in India and promoted a male image in order to do so.
- Rudrama Devi faced challenges from the Eastern Ganga dynasty and the Yadavas soon after beginning her rule.
- She was, however, unsuccessful in dealing with the internal dissent posed by the Kayastha chieftain Ambadeva after he became head of his line in 1273. Ambadeva objected to being subordinate to the Kakatiyas and he gained control of much of southwestern Andhra and what is now Guntur District.
- Rudrama Devi may have died in 1289 while fighting Ambadeva, although some sources say she did not die until 1295.

Kakatiya dynasty

- The Kakatiya dynasty was a South Indian dynasty that ruled most of eastern Deccan region comprising present day Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, and parts of eastern Karnataka and southern Odisha between 12th and 14th centuries. Their capital was **Orugallu, now known as Warangal**.
- Ganapati Deva (r. 1199–1262) significantly expanded Kakatiya lands during the 1230s and brought under Kakatiya control the Telugu-speaking lowland delta areas around the Godavari and Krishna rivers.
- Ganapati Deva was succeeded by Rudrama Devi (r. 1262–1289) and is one of the few queens in Indian history. Marco Polo, who visited India sometime around 1289–1293, made note of Rudrama Devi's rule and nature in flattering terms.
- In 1303, Alauddin Khilji, the emperor of the Delhi Sultanate invaded the Kakatiya territory which ended up as a disaster for the Turks
- But after the successful siege of Warangal in 1310, Prataparudra II was forced to pay annual tribute to Delhi.
- Another attack by Ulugh Khan in 1323 saw stiff resistance by the Kakatiyan army, but they were finally defeated.

NAGORNO-KARABAKH REGION AND TURKISH VISIT

Context:

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he will visit Azerbaijan to celebrate its victory over Armenia in a brief war in 2020, touring a region recaptured in disputed Nagorno-Karabakh.

Relevance:

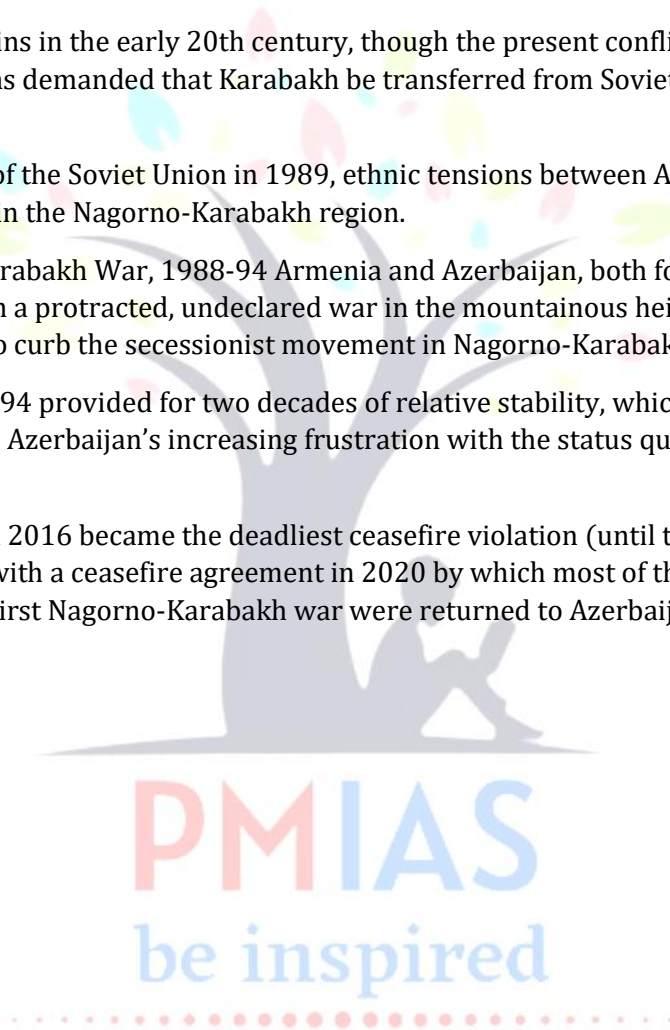
Prelims, GS-II: International Relations (Important Foreign Policies and Developments), GS-I Geography (Maps), GS-I: History (World History)

Dimensions of the Article:

1. Nagorno-Karabakh conflict
2. About the 2020 Conflict
3. How the ceasefire in 2020 was achieved?

Nagorno-Karabakh conflict

- The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is an ethnic and territorial conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh, inhabited mostly by ethnic Armenians, and seven surrounding districts, inhabited mostly by Azerbaijanis until their expulsion during the First Nagorno-Karabakh War between 1988 and 1994.
- The conflict has its origins in the early 20th century, though the present conflict began in 1988, when the Karabakh Armenians demanded that Karabakh be transferred from Soviet Azerbaijan to Soviet Armenia.
- During the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1989, ethnic tensions between Armenians and Azerbaijanis increased in the Nagorno-Karabakh region.
- In the First Nagorno-Karabakh War, 1988-94 Armenia and Azerbaijan, both former Soviet Republics, entangled themselves in a protracted, undeclared war in the mountainous heights of Karabakh as Azerbaijan attempted to curb the secessionist movement in Nagorno-Karabakh.
- A ceasefire signed in 1994 provided for two decades of relative stability, which significantly deteriorated along with Azerbaijan's increasing frustration with the status quo, at odds with Armenia's efforts to cement it.
- A four-day escalation in 2016 became the deadliest ceasefire violation (until the 2020 conflict) and the 2016 fighting stopped with a ceasefire agreement in 2020 by which most of the territories lost by Azerbaijan during the First Nagorno-Karabakh war were returned to Azerbaijan.





About the 2020 Conflict

- In 1994, Russia mediated a ceasefire between Armenia and Azerbaijan, but the conflict has continued for three decades, with instances of ceasefire violations and violence instigated from both sides.

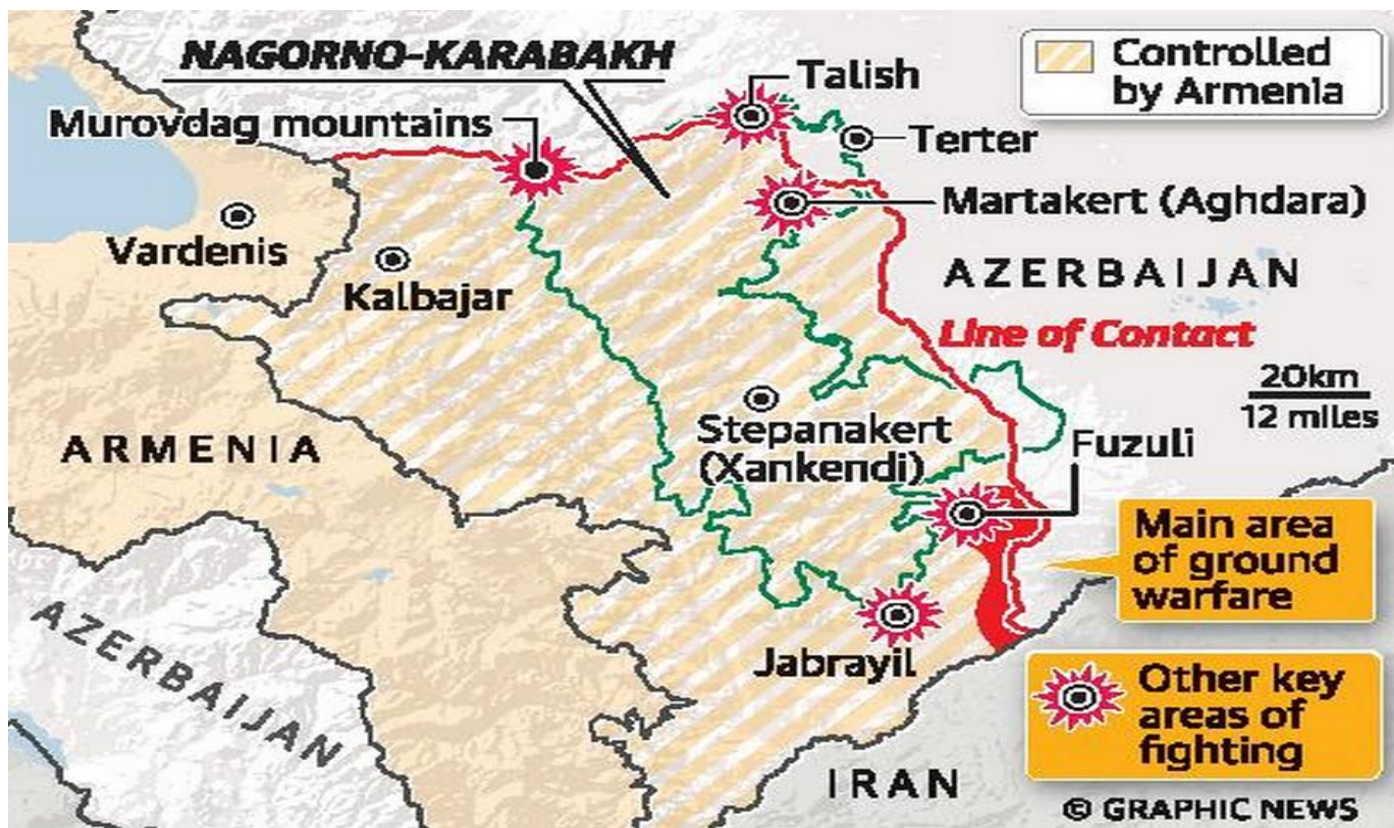
- In 2016, the region was particularly tense because of violent fighting between the two countries in what came to be known as the Four-Day War.
- Experts say the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan has been tense since 2018, particularly after Azerbaijan moved troops into the area, close to its border with Georgia.
- In a break from the violence that the disputed region has witnessed for over 30 years, this area had been relatively calm in 2018 and 19.
- It was not immediately clear what started the round of fighting in 2020, with multiple reports from the two countries reporting deaths of soldiers in the border.
- According to one report, Azerbaijan had said it had destroyed an Armenian fortification and artillery and had inflicted casualties on “hundreds” of Armenian soldiers, a claim that Armenia had denied. Armenia in turn said Azerbaijan had triggered the conflict.

How the ceasefire in 2020 was achieved?

- Russia, which has a security agreement with Armenia, remained neutral in the early days of the war when Turkey threw its weight behind Azerbaijan. Russia brokered a ceasefire two weeks into the conflict, but it didn't hold.
- Later, Russia established small military outposts along the Armenian border, apparently to prevent the conflict spilling into mainland Armenia and also to send a message to Baku.
- Also, Russia conducted a massive air strike in Syria's Idlib against Turkish-backed militants, killing dozens of them, which is seen as Moscow's warning against Turkey.
- Russian President Putin accepted Azerbaijan's victory (as the ceasefire allows Azeri troops to control the territories they have seized) but prevented a total defeat of Armenia. Under pressure from a decisive Moscow, both sides agreed to cease the operations.

What are the terms of the ceasefire?

- According to the ceasefire, Armenia agreed to withdraw its troops from much of the territories around Nagorno-Karabakh.
- The core of the enclave with ethnic Armenians and Stepanakert as its capital would remain outside the control of Azerbaijan.
- Baku will build a road linking the newly captured territories to Nakhchivan, an autonomous republic of Azerbaijan which had been geographically separated from the mainland.
- As the broker of the truce, Russia would send some 2,000 peacekeepers to the region, who would patrol between the Azeri troops and Nagorno-Karabakh, including the Lachin corridor, which connects the enclave with Armenia.
- **Basically, Azerbaijan gained territories, but not the whole of Nagorno-Karabakh.**
- **Armenia lost territories it controlled since the 1990s but avoided a total defeat as much of Nagorno-Karabakh would remain independent of Azeri control.**
- **And Russia gained a bigger foothold in the region with its troops being deployed within Azerbaijan.**



POLICY TO DECLASSIFY WAR HISTORIES & OPERATIONS

Context:

In a significant development that will help set the record straight on India's military history, defence minister approved a new policy to declassify war histories and records of other military operations in a time-bound manner to give the country an accurate account of events, provide authentic material for research and counter unfounded rumours.

Relevance:

GS-I: History, GS-II: Governance, GS-III: Internal Security Challenges

Dimensions of the Article:

1. About the policy to declassify war histories & operations
2. Important operations from the perspective of the policy implementation . . .
3. Challenges in implementing the policy

About the policy to declassify war histories & operations

- The policy on “archiving, declassification and compilation of war and operations histories” mandates the setting up of a committee headed by a joint secretary in the defence ministry and consisting of representatives of the armed forces, external affairs ministry, home ministry and prominent military historians.
- The development is significant as the military has faced uncomfortable questions about several events including the sinking of an Indian warship in the 1971 Indo-Pak war, the 1999 Kargil war and contentious war accounts authored by veterans.

- The responsibility for declassification of records rests with the respective organisations as specified in the Public Records Act 1993 and Public Record Rules 1997.
- According to the policy, records should ordinarily be declassified in 25 years. Records older than 25 years should be appraised by archival experts and transferred to the National Archives of India once the war/operations histories have been compiled.
- The ministry's **History Division**, set up in 1953, will be responsible for coordination with various departments for compiling, seeking approval and publishing war and operations histories.
- All organisations under the ministry will transfer the records, including war diaries, letters of proceedings and operational record books to the History Division for upkeep, archival and writing the histories.
- The new policy lays down timelines for compilation and publication of war and operations histories.
- The history of wars and operations compiled within five years will be for internal consumption first and later the committee may decide to publicly release whole or parts of it, considering the sensitivity of the subject.

Important operations from the perspective of the policy implementation

1. **Exercise Brasstacks (1986-87)** – Heavy mobilisation of Indian troops along Rajasthan border led to crisis between India and Pakistan. Government of India maintained that the core objective of Operation Brasstacks was to test new concepts of mechanization, mobility, and air support devised by Indian army. The scale of the operation was bigger than any North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) exercise and the biggest land exercise since World War II. Initially, around 600,000–800,000 troops were mobilized and stationed on Rajasthan state's western border, less than 100 miles away from Pakistan.
2. **Operation Meghdoot (Siachen)** – Operation Meghdoot was the codename for the Indian Armed Forces' operation to seize control of the Siachen Glacier in Kashmir, precipitating the Siachen conflict. Executed in the morning of 13 April 1984 in the highest battlefield in the world, Meghdoot was the first military offensive of its kind. Operation Meghdoot, was in support of the Indian Army and paramilitary forces in Northern Ladakh, to secure control of the heights predominating the Siachen glacier, also referred to as the world's third pole and potentially a dangerous flash point on the disputed Northern borders.
3. **Operation Falcon** – This is the conflict that developed in the Sumdorong Chu region, north of Tawang in 1986, and led to a major military push, Operation Falcon. Both Sumdorong Chu and Namka Chu flowed into this north-south flowing river, the former from the east and the latter from the west. The team camped there through summer and went back in winter. They did so in 1984 and 1985, but when they went back in 1986, they found the Chinese there in force. The Indians protested in June 1986, but the Chinese insisted that the area was north of the McMahon Line.
4. **Operation Pawan** – Operation Pawan was the code name assigned to the operation by the Indian Peace Keeping Force to take control of Jaffna from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in late 1987 to enforce the disarmament of the LTTE as a part of the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord. In support of nearly 100,000 troops and paramilitary forces, Indian Air Force maintained a continuous air-link from air bases in Southern India to Divisional headquarters at Palaly (Jaffna), Vavuniya, Trincomalee and Batticaloa, transporting men, equipment, rations and evacuating casualties on the outbound flights.

Challenges in implementing the policy

Conversion of the policy into actual deliverables will face the following challenges:

1. Fusion of political directives and strategic decision making with the operational and tactical happenings on ground.

2. Compilation and reconciling and analysis of events at multiple levels such as headquarters, commands and field formations.
3. Putting together a team of dedicated researchers and historians with a mix of academics and practitioners with access to records and files.
4. Putting together a concurrent oral history and digitisation of all archival compilations associated with this initiative.

PRESERVING INDIA'S ARCHIVES

Context:

- The National Archives is the primary repository of documents on India's past. The last time it was in the news was in 2016 when digital copies of files relating to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose were made publicly accessible. The imminent demolition of its annexe by the Government of India has brought the institution to public attention once again.
- A petition by leading Indian and foreign scholars is in circulation demanding that the government show greater openness in the proposed demolition of the National Archives annexe and the safe storage of its contents since "several centuries of India's history lie in the documents that make up the National Archives of India".

Relevance:

GS-I: History, GS-II: Polity and Governance (Government Policies and Initiatives)

Dimensions of the Article:

1. National Archives of India (NAI)
2. Poor shape of National Archives

National Archives of India (NAI)

- The National Archives of India (NAI) is a repository of the non-current records of the Government of India and holds them in trust for the use of administrators and scholars.
- Originally established as the Imperial Record Department in 1891, in Calcutta, the capital of British India, the NAI is situated at the intersection of Janpath and Rajpath, in Delhi.
- It functions as an Attached Office of the Department of Culture under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.
- The holdings in the National Archives are in a regular series starting from the year 1748.
- The National Archives of India also holds regular exhibitions such as the display of declassified files on Subhas Chandra Bose in 2016 and the recent exhibition, "The Jammu and Kashmir Saga", commemorating 70 years of Jammu and Kashmir's accession to India which was held from 10 January 2018 to 10 February 2018.
- The archival records include 4.5 million files, 25,000 rare manuscripts, more than 100,000 maps, treaties, 280,000 premodern documents and several thousand private papers.

Objectives of Indian National Archives

- The National Archives of India envisions to help in spreading a feeling of national pride in our documentary cultural heritage and ensuring its preservation for posterity.

- It aims to encourage the scientific management, administration and conservation of records all over the country.
- Another key objective of NAI is that it aims to foster close relations between archivists' and archival institutions, both at the national and international levels.
- To encourage greater liberalization of access to archival holdings.
- To help in developing greater professionalism and a scientific temper among creators, custodians and users of records for proper care and use of our documentary heritage.

Poor shape of National Archives

- A series of articles published in The New York Times in 2012 talk about the parlous state of the National Archives, focusing on the letters penned by Mohandas K. Gandhi, B.R. Ambedkar, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, and other eminent Indian nationalists that have suffered from exposure to humid weather, staff negligence and mishandling, and improper preservation methods.
- Another article in 2021 pointed to lack of expertise to manage acquisitions which has led to "the locking up of some of the rare documents in Persian, Urdu, Arabic, Sanskrit, Prakrit, Tamil, Malayalam, and Modi (records from Maharashtra)".

LIMESTONE CAVE IN ASIFABAD FOREST

Prelims, GS-I: Art and Culture, History, GS-III: Environment and Ecology

Dimensions of the Article:

1. About Paleolithic Period in India
2. About the limestone cave in Asifabad forest
3. About Kawal Wildlife Sanctuary
4. Gondi people

About Paleolithic Period in India

- Ancient history can be divided into different periods according to the tools used by people then.
 - Paleolithic Period (Old Stone Age): 500,000 BCE – 10,000 BCE
 - Mesolithic Period (Late Stone Age): 10,000 BCE – 6000 BCE
 - Neolithic Period (New Stone Age): 6000 BCE – 1000 BCE
 - Chalcolithic Period (Stone Copper Age): 3000 BCE – 500 BCE
 - Iron Age: 1500 BCE – 200 BCE
- The stone age is the prehistoric period before the development of the script. The main source of information for this period is archaeological excavations.
- On the basis of geological age, the type and technology of stone tools, and subsistence base, the Indian stone age is classified primarily into three types-
 - Palaeolithic age (old stone age): Period – 500,000 – 10,000 BCE
 - Mesolithic age (late stone age): Period – 10,000 – 6000 BCE
 - Neolithic age (new stone age): Period – 6000 – 1000 BCE

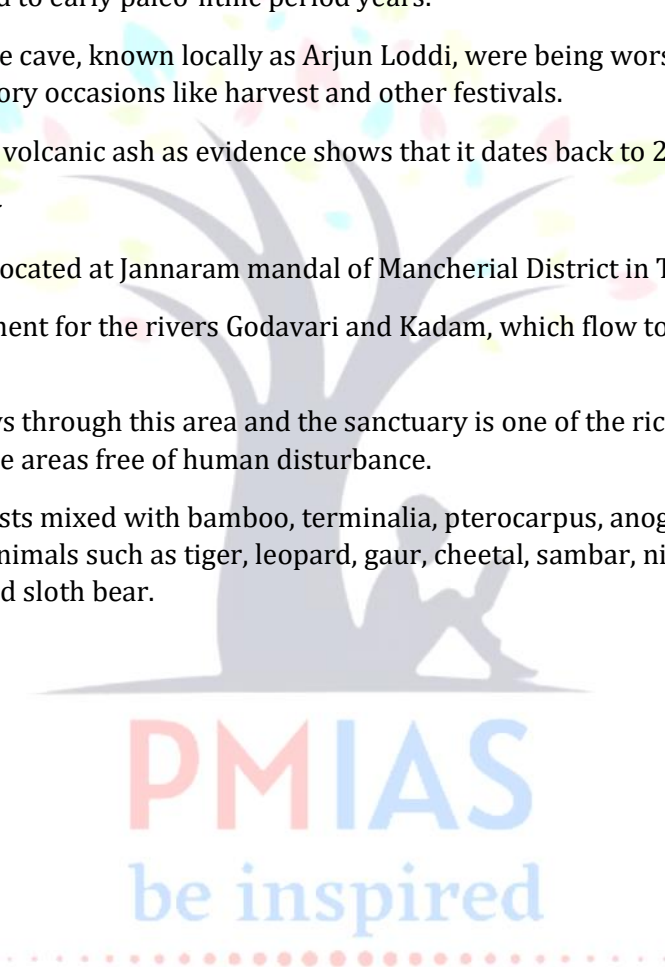
- The term 'Palaeolithic' is derived from the Greek word 'palaeo' which means old and 'lithic' meaning stone. Therefore, the term Palaeolithic age refers to the old stone age.
- The Indian people of the Palaeolithic age are believed to have belonged to the 'Negrito' race, and lived in the open air, river valleys, caves and rock shelters.
- They were food gatherers, ate wild fruits and vegetables, and lived on hunting and there was no knowledge of houses, pottery, agriculture.

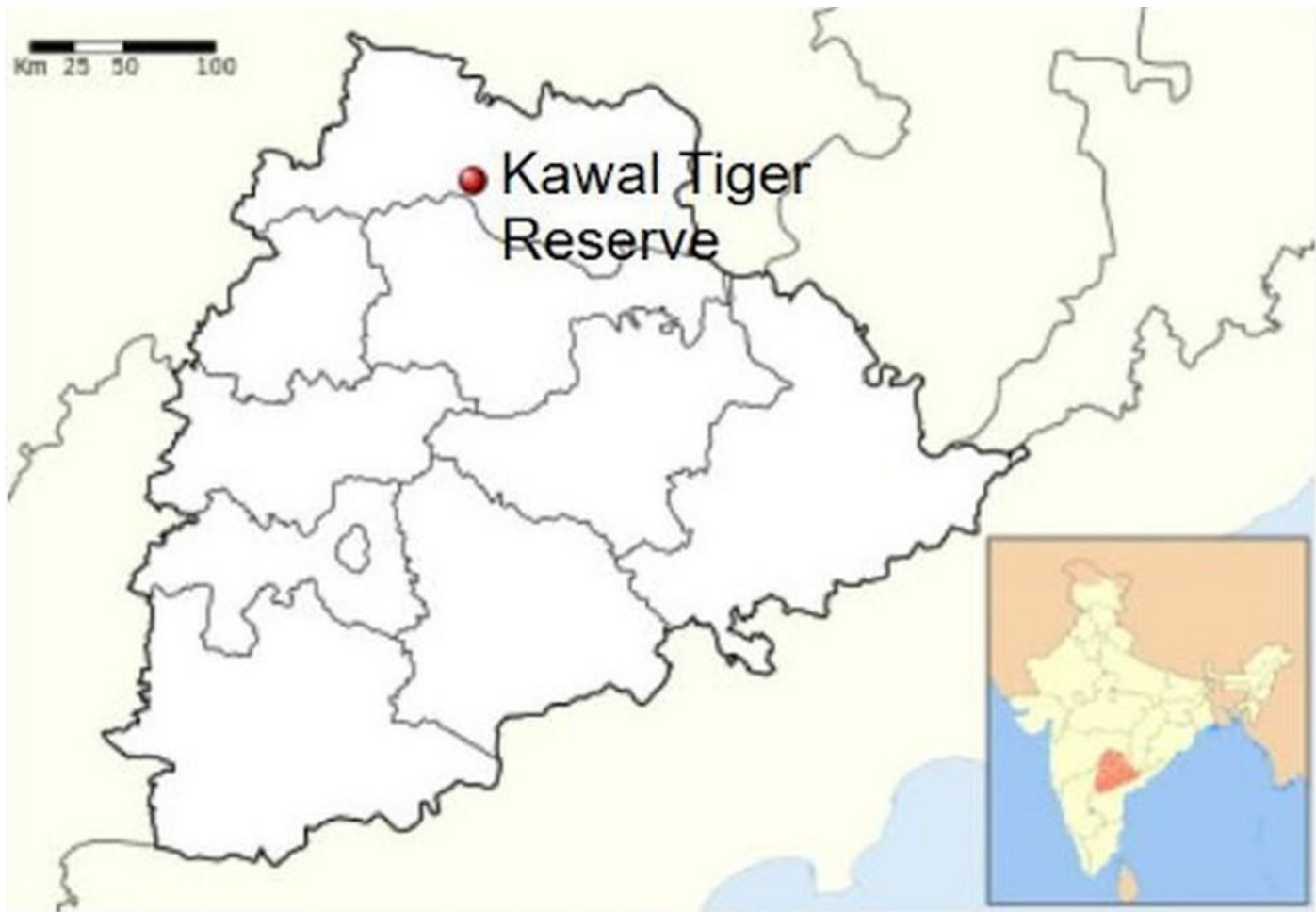
About the limestone cave in Asifabad forest

- The cave in which pre-historic tools were discovered is located deep inside the Kawal Tiger Reserve and only portions of it have been explored.
- The cave was possibly inhabited due to the discovery of prehistoric tools including a hand-axe and a cleaver that can be dated to early paleo-lithic period years.
- The stalagmite inside the cave, known locally as Arjun Loddi, were being worshipped by Gond and Gordi tribes on celebratory occasions like harvest and other festivals.
- The cave sediment with volcanic ash as evidence shows that it dates back to 2,50,000 years.

About Kawal Wildlife Sanctuary

- Kawal Tiger Reserve is located at Jannaram mandal of Mancherial District in Telangana.
- This sanctuary is catchment for the rivers Godavari and Kadam, which flow towards the south of the sanctuary.
- The River Godavari flows through this area and the sanctuary is one of the richest teak forests in the state, with dense pristine areas free of human disturbance.
- Dry deciduous teak forests mixed with bamboo, terminalia, pterocarpus, anogeissus and cassias can be found here along with animals such as tiger, leopard, gaur, cheetal, sambar, nilgai, barking deer, chowsingha, peacock and sloth bear.





Gondi people

- The Gondi are a Dravidian ethno-linguistic group and one of the largest Adivasi groups in India.
- They are spread over the states of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Odisha.
- For the past few decades, they have been witnesses to the Naxalite–Maoist insurgency in the central part of India.

DRAVIDIAN LANGUAGES SPOKEN IN IVC

Context:

A recent publication has provided crucial evidence that Ancestral Dravidian languages were possibly spoken by a significant population in the Indus Valley civilisation.

Relevance:

GS-I: History (Ancient Indian History), Prelims, GS-I: Art and Culture (Languages)

Dimensions of the Article:

1. About Indus Valley Civilization
2. What is the relevance of Harappa in today's world?
3. Proto-Dravidian language
4. Dravidian languages

5. About the recent study on Dravidian Languages and the IVC

About Indus Valley Civilization

- The history of India begins with the birth of the Indus Valley Civilization (IVC), also known as Harappan Civilization which flourished around 2,500 BC, in the western part of South Asia (contemporary Pakistan and Western India).
- The Indus Valley was home to the largest of the four ancient urban civilizations of Egypt, Mesopotamia, India and China.
- In 1920s, the Archaeological Department of India carried out excavations in the Indus valley wherein the ruins of the two old cities, viz. Mohenjodaro and Harappa were unearthed.
- Three phases of IVC are:
 1. the Early Harappan Phase from 3300 to 2600 BCE,
 2. the Mature Harappan Phase from 2600 to 1900 BCE, and
 3. the Late Harappan Phase from 1900 to 1300 BCE.

What is the relevance of Harappa in today's world?

- Harappan civilisation is amongst the first major urban civilisation that stretched over an area of 1.5 million square kilometres (the size of a modest sized modern country).
- It was highly standardised architecture, art and utilitarian items.
- It traded over an even larger area, getting raw material and exporting (to region where its standardisation rules did not apply) finished products, traders and some of its habits to different regions.
- The occurrence of the first civilization from which the emergence of the city and urbanism can be understood
- Their expertise in town planning, water management and harvesting systems as well as drainage mechanism is unparalleled.
- They had public and private wells at most of their sites and their houses were often equipped with bathing areas and toilets.
- They were also technologically very advanced in pyrotechnics and metallurgy.
- Their craftsmanship is evident in their beads, jewelry, pottery, seals as well as other artifacts made of metals and their alloys.
- Their trade networks were also quite widespread.
- They had standardized weights and measures.
- They often used standardized bricks in their architecture.
- Recent research has suggested that Harappan people were probably the first ones to introduce silk and lost-wax casting techniques.
- No large-scale weapons have been discovered from the Harappan sites which also suggests that they did not indulge in warfare.
- It post-dated the great cultures of Mesopotamia and was contemporaneous to Sumerian cultures.

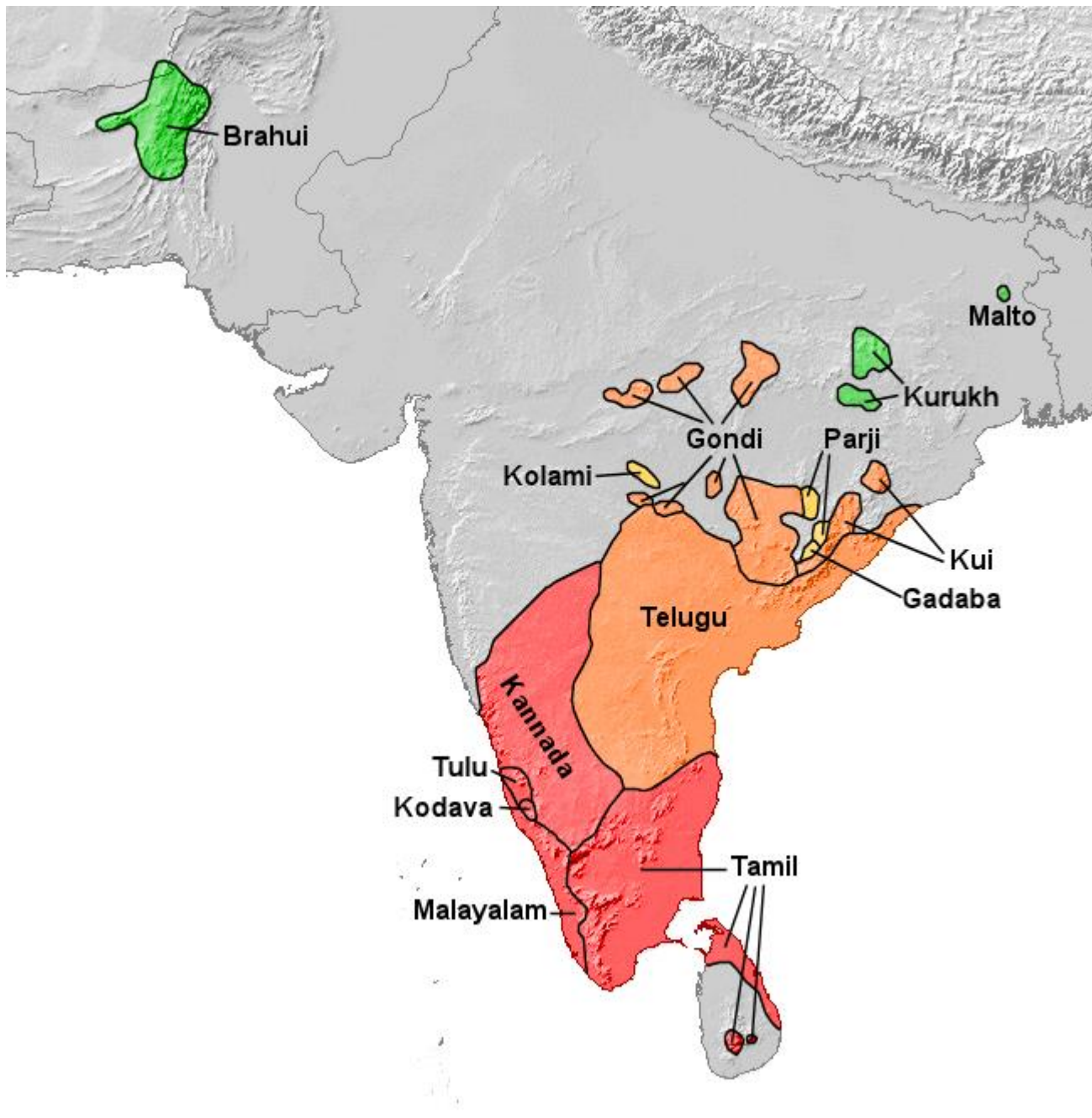
- However, it received a lot of ideas also from Central Asia and in many ways, it collected the finest of ideas and technologies.
- Among other things, the Harappan civilization provides important insights into the relationship between civilizational collapse, violence, and disease.
- Global bodies and governmental organizations seeking to make predictions about global warming in the contemporary context have essentialized the relationship between climate change, environmental migration, and violence.

Proto-Dravidian language

- Proto-Dravidian is the linguistic reconstruction of the common ancestor of the Dravidian languages.
- It is thought to have differentiated into Proto-North Dravidian, Proto-Central Dravidian, and Proto-South Dravidian, although the date of diversification is still debated.
- **As a proto-language, Proto-Dravidian is not itself attested in historical records. Its modern conception is based solely on reconstruction.**
- The reconstruction has been done on the basis of cognate words present in the different branches (Northern, Central and Southern) of the Dravidian language family.

Dravidian languages

- Dravidian is a family of languages spoken by 220 million people, mainly in southern India and north-east Sri Lanka, with pockets elsewhere in South Asia.
- The Dravidian languages are first attested in the 2nd century BCE as Tamil-Brahmi script inscribed on the cave walls in the Madurai and Tirunelveli districts of Tamil Nadu.
- The Dravidian languages with the most speakers are (in descending order of number of speakers) Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam, all of which have long literary traditions. Smaller literary languages are Tulu and Kodava.
- There are also a number of Dravidian-speaking scheduled tribes, such as the Kurukh in Eastern India and Gondi in Central India.
- **Only two Dravidian languages are spoken exclusively outside the post-1947 state of India: Brahui in the Balochistan region of Pakistan and Afghanistan; and Dhangar, a dialect of Kurukh, in parts of Nepal and Bhutan.**
- Dravidian place names along the Arabian Sea coasts and Dravidian grammatical influence such as clusivity in the Indo-Aryan languages, namely, Marathi, Gujarati, Marwari, and Sindhi, suggest that Dravidian languages were once spoken more widely across the Indian subcontinent.



About the recent study on Dravidian Languages and the IVC

- Analysing numerous archaeological, linguistic, archaeogenetic and historical evidences the study finds some proto-words whose likely origin in Indus Valley civilisation gets confirmed through historical and linguistic evidence (whereas archaeological evidence indicates that the objects signified by those proto-words were prevalently produced and used in the Indian Valley civilization).
- The study claims that the words used for elephant (like, 'pīri', 'pīru') in Bronze Age Mesopotamia and the ivory-word ('pīruš') recorded in certain sixth century BC Old Persian documents, were all originally borrowed from 'pīlu', a Proto-Dravidian elephant-word, which was prevalent in the Indus Valley civilisation, and was etymologically related to the Proto Dravidian tooth-word '*pal' and its alternate forms.
- The paper points out that elephant-ivory was one of the luxury goods coveted in the Near East, and archaeological, and zoological evidence confirms that Indus Valley was the sole supplier of ancient Near East's ivory in the middle-third to early-second millennium BC.

- Some of this Indus ivory came directly from Meluhha to Mesopotamia, whereas some of it got imported there through Indus Valley's thriving trade with Persian Gulf, and even via Bactria.
- Thus, along with the ivory trade, the Indus word for ivory also got exported to the Near East and remained fossilised in different ancient documents written in Akkadian, Elamite, Hurrian, and Old Persian languages.
- However, the study says that it would be very wrong to assume that only a single language or language-group was spoken across the one-million square kilometre area of Indus Valley civilisation.

