



pravahini

Monthly Compendium

SUCCESS MANTRA (GTB Nagar)

PREFACE

It gives us great pleasure to release the monthly edition of the PRAVAHINI – Monthly e-Compendium & Weekly e-Periodicals of Current Affairs. The magazine's members have shown considerable cooperation as well as devotion. We at successmantra.in work tirelessly to create this magazine and bring it to you with a great sense of gratitude.

The PRAVAHINI May-2022 eBook covers the current events that happened in the month of May. Current Affairs is a crucial component of any competitive exams including CLAT, AILET, DU-LLB, HM, CAT, IAS, PCS, SSC, Banking, MBA and various other competitive examinations.

Current Affairs play the bigger role in many competitive and government exams. It holds the power of making or breaking your chance of success. Therefore, the candidates should cover the Current Affairs thoroughly and smartly.

The PRAVAHINI May-2022 eBook is divided into different sections keeping in mind the need of various exams. The sections covered namely International, National, Economy, Ecology and Environment, Science & Technology, Legal Affairs, Sports, States News Makers and few others.

We would also be pleased to receive any suggestion that could assist us with the upcoming editions.

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Our goal at Success Mantra is to provide Quality education at rational price and thereby to create an environment that guides students towards the path of the success. Along with designing the curriculum and delivering the lectures, we work upon the ways the students think and approach problems asked.

B.S. Shanti



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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

MAY 2022



NATIONAL AFFAIRS

#WHAT IS TAJ MAHAL CONTROVERSY?

- A petition has been filed in the Allahabad High Court seeking directions to open **20 rooms of Taj Mahal to check for presence of Hindu Idols.**
- **The petitioner has argued that several Hindutva groups claim that the Taj Mahal is actually Tejo Mahalaya, an old Shiva temple.**
- He has sought directions from the Allahabad HC to the Archaeological Survey of India to open the rooms inside the monument to ascertain facts and check whether there are any idols or inscriptions hidden inside.



Taj Mahal Petition: Key Claims

- As per reports, the petition claims that **King Paramardi Dev** had built the **Tejo Mahalaya temple** palace in 1212 AD. The temple was then passed down to rulers and it was annexed by **Shah Jahan in 1632 from king Jai Singh and converted it into a memorial for his wife.**
- The petitioner claimed that it was absurd and beyond reality that the construction of a mausoleum takes 22 years for completion. He further stated that in many books, **the wife of Shah Jahan is described as Mumtaz-ul-Zamani not Mumtaj Mahal.**
- The petition seeks to set aside the provisions of the **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and the Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Declaration of National Importance) Act, 1951**, under which Taj Mahal along with other monuments was declared as a historical monument.
- The petitioner seeks that correct and complete historical facts about the monument should be disclosed to the public since crores of money is being invested for the preservation of the ancient monument.

What is the controversy over Taj Mahal?

- Taj Mahal controversy is a long persisting controversy that has been gaining momentum since the past decade.

- There have been petitions filed in the past as well **raising questions on whether the historical monument is Taj Mahal or Tajo Mahalaya?**
- A group of seven petitions had filed their petitions before the Agra civil judge in **2015 seeking permission for hindu devotees to visit the Taj Mahal** to conduct prayers, as they believe that the iconic 16th-century historical monument was originally a Shiva temple named Tejo Mahalaya.
- **The petitions sought permission from the court to allow Hindu devotees to perform darshan and aarti within the monument**, claiming that only Muslim devotees are allowed to offer prayers at the mosque that is located adjacent to the World Heritage monument.
- The petitions also sought directions to open the locked rooms inside the Taj Mahal premises. The main petitioner was Hari Shankar Jain who claimed that at least 109 archaeological features and historical evidence establish beyond any doubt that the property is a Hindu temple.
- However, the **petition was not successful and is still pending in the trial court in Agra.**
- The petitioners subsequently filed an application in the Agra court on October 25, 2017 seeking permission for videography and photography of the closed chambers of **Taj Mahal, a plea that was turned down.**

#GYANVAPI MOSQUE & KASHI VISHWANATH TEMPLE

- On May 12, 2022, the Varanasi court, in a landmark judgment on the **Gyanvapi mosque**, refused to remove advocate commissioner Ajay Kumar Mishra, who was appointed for the survey of the mosque, and ordered a survey of the basement of the Gyanvapi mosque before May 17.

Key Point of the controversy



- It is a **popular belief that the Gyanvapi Mosque** was built in 1669 by the Mughal ruler Aurangzeb by demolishing the ancient Vishweshwar temple. It is worth mentioning that in Saqib Khan's book 'Yasir Alamgiri', it is also mentioned that **Aurangzeb had demolished the temple in 1669 by ordering Governor Abul Hassan.**
- The **case of Gyanvapi mosque has been in court since 1991**, when three persons, including Pandit Somnath Vyas, a descendant of the priests of the Kashi Vishwanath temple, filed a suit in the court of the civil judge of Varanasi claiming that Aurangzeb had **demolished the temple of Lord Vishweshwar and built a mosque on it so that the land should be returned to them.**
- On August 18, 2021, in the same court in Varanasi, five women had filed a petition demanding to worship in the temple of Mother Makeup Gauri, accepting which the court constituted a commission to know the present status of the Makeup Gauri Temple.
- In this context, the court had asked the court to give the survey report by **videographing the idol of Makeup Gauri and the Gyanvapi complex**, which has created an uproar, as questions were raised on the impartiality of the court commissioner appointed by the Muslim side for the survey.
- **Vijay Shankar Rastogi**, appearing for the Hindu side, has submitted a map of the entire Gyanvapi complex as evidence in the court, which mentions the temples of Hindu-deities around after the entrance of the mosque, as well as the Vishweshwar temple, Gyankoop, the big Nandi and the basement of the Vyas family.
- **There has been a controversy over the survey and videography of this basement.**
- At the same time, the Muslim side says that no decision can be given on the dispute under the Religious Places Act of 1991.

- **Under Section 3 of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991**, it is prohibited to convert a place of worship, even its clause, into a place of worship of a different religious denomination or a different class of the same religious denomination.
- Section 4(2) of the Act states that all litigations, appeals or other proceedings relating to changing the nature of the place of worship (which were pending till August 15, 1947) shall cease after the enactment of this Act and no fresh action can be taken on such cases.
- However, if the change in the nature of the place of worship has occurred after the cut-off date of August 15, 1947 (after the act came into force), legal action can be initiated in that case. **The disputed site of Ayodhya (Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid) was exempted from the Act.**

What is the Places of Worship Act?

- **About:** It is described as “**An Act to prohibit conversion of any place of worship** and to provide for the maintenance of the religious character of any place of worship as it existed on the 15th day of August 1947, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”
- **Exemption:** The **disputed site at Ayodhya** was exempted from the Act. Due to this exemption, the trial in the Ayodhya case proceeded even after the enforcement of this law.
- Besides the Ayodhya dispute, **the Act also exempted:**
 - Any place of worship which is an ancient and historical monument, or an archaeological site covered by the **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.**
 - A suit that has been finally settled or disposed of. \Any dispute that has been settled by the parties or conversion of any place that took place by acquiescence **before the Act commenced.**
- **Penalty:** Section 6 of the Act prescribes a punishment of a maximum of three years imprisonment along with a fine for contravening the provisions of the Act.
- **Criticism:** The law has been **challenged on the ground that it bars judicial review**, which is a basic feature of the Constitution, imposes an “**arbitrary irrational retrospective cutoff date,**” and abridges the right to religion of Hindus, Jains, Buddhists, and Sikhs.

What Are its Provisions?

- **Section 3:** This section of the Act bars the conversion, in full or part, of a place of worship of any **religious denomination into a place of worship** of a different religious denomination or even a different segment of the same religious denomination.
- **Section 4(1):** It declares that the religious character of a place of worship “**shall continue to be the same as it existed**” on 15th August 1947.
- **Section 4(2):** It says any suit or legal proceeding with respect to the conversion of the religious character of any place of worship existing on 15th August, 1947, pending before any court, **shall abate and no fresh suit or legal proceedings shall be instituted.**
- The proviso to this subsection saves suits, appeals, and legal proceedings that are **pending on the date of commencement of the Act** if they pertain to the conversion of the religious character of a place of worship after the cut-off date.
- **Section 5:** It stipulates that the Act shall not apply to the Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid case, and to any suit, appeal, or proceeding relating to it.

What was the Supreme Court's view during Ayodhya Judgement?

- In the 2019 Ayodhya verdict, the Constitution Bench referred to the law and said **it manifests the secular values of the Constitution** and prohibits retrogression.
- The law is hence a legislative instrument designed to **protect the secular features of the Indian polity**, which is one of the basic features of the Constitution.

#WHAT IS SAGARMALA PROJECT?

Recently, the Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) chaired the meeting of the National Sagarmala Apex Committee (NSAC) in New Delhi.

- NSAC is the apex body providing policy **directions and guidance for port led development-Sagarmala projects and reviews its implementation.**
- It was **constituted in May, 2015** by the Union Cabinet.



Sagartat Samridhi Yojana

- Prime Minister launched the Sagarmala – Sagartat Samridhi Yojana during the release of “Maritime India Vision 2030” in March 2021.
- MoPSW formulated this detailed project to address challenges in coastal areas of the nation.
- The Sagartat Samridhi Yojna has identified a **total of 1,049 projects** with an estimated cost of Rs. 3, 62,229 crores.
- The **four key areas** in which this initiative falls include:
 - Coastal Infrastructure Development
 - Coastal Tourism
 - Coastal Industrial Development
 - Coastal Community Development

What is Sagarmala Project?

- The **Sagarmala Programme** was **approved by the Union Cabinet in 2015** which aims at holistic port infrastructure development along the 7,516-km long coastline through modernisation, mechanisation and computerisation.
- The vision of the Sagarmala Programme is to **reduce logistics costs for EXIM** (Export-Import) and domestic trade with minimal infrastructure investment.
- Sagarmala could **boost India’s merchandise exports to USD 110 billion by 2025** and create an estimated 10 million new jobs (four million in direct employment).
- The Ministry has started the ambitious **Project of Sagarmala Seaplane Services (SSPS)** with potential airline operators.

RELATED: DEEP OCEAN MISSION

- The **blueprint of the DOM** to explore the deep recesses of the ocean was unveiled in 2018. Earlier, MoES had also rolled out the **draft Blue Economy Policy**.
- The cost of the Mission has been estimated at Rs. 4,077 crore **over a five-year period** and will be **implemented in phases**. MoES will be the **nodal ministry** implementing this multi-institutional ambitious mission.
- It will be a **mission mode project to support the Blue Economy Initiatives** of the Government of India.
- **Blue Economy** is the **sustainable use of ocean resources** for economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs, and ocean ecosystem health.
- The **technology and expertise** needed in such missions is now available with only five countries - US, Russia, France, Japan and China.
- **India will now be the sixth country to have it.**

#LAUNCH OF INS SURAT & INS UDAYGIRI

Recently, the Defence Minister launched the **Indian Navy destroyer warship INS Surat** and frigate **INS Udaygiri** in Mumbai.

What is INS Surat?

- 'Surat' is the **fourth ship of Project 15B Destroyers** which heralds a significant makeover of the **P15A (Kolkata Class) Destroyers**.
- The **first ship (Visakhapatnam)** of this class was **commissioned in 2021**.
- The **second (Mormugao)** and **third (Imphal)** ships have been launched and are at different stages of outfitting/ trials.



Named After:

- It is **named after the commercial capital of the state of Gujarat** and also the second largest commercial hub of western India after Mumbai.
- Surat city has a rich maritime & ship building history and vessels built at the city in the 16th and 18th centuries were known for their longevity (of more than 100 years).
- The ship Surat has been **built using the Block construction methodology**.
- This methodology includes **hull construction at two different geographical locations** and has been joined together at MDL, Mumbai.

What is Project 15B?

- These ships are **amongst the most technologically advanced Guided Missile Destroyers** of the world, with state-of-the-art weapon/sensor package, advanced stealth features and a high degree of automation.
- In 2011, the deal to build four warships -- **Visakhapatnam, Mormugao, Imphal, and Surat** -- was signed under the Project-15B programme worth Rs 29,643.74 crore.
- However, the final cost escalated to Rs 35,000 crore.
- All four ships have been **christened after cities from four corners of the country** and the induction of ships will be completed by 2024.

What is INS Udaygiri?

- **About:** It is the **third ship of Project 17A frigates**.
- **Named After:** The ship 'Udaygiri' is **named after a mountain range in the state of Andhra Pradesh**.
- 'Udaygiri' is the **reincarnation of erstwhile 'Udaygiri'**, the Leander Class ASW Frigate, which saw numerous challenging operations in its illustrious service to the country spanning over three decades from 1976 to 2007.

Progress under P17A:

- Under the P17A program, **a total of seven ships, with 04 at Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL), Mumbai and 03 at GRSE are under construction**.
- **Various novel concepts and technologies** like Integrated Construction, Mega Block Outsourcing, Project Data Management/ Project Lifecycle Management (PDM/PLM) etc have been adopted for the first time in indigenous Warship Design and Construction in this project.

What is Project 17A Frigates?

- **About: Project 17A frigates** are follow-on of the **P17 Frigates (Shivalik Class)** with improved stealth features, advanced weapons and sensors and platform management systems.
- A total of **seven ships are being constructed**, four at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders (MDL), Mumbai and three at **Garden Reach Ship Builders Limited (GRSE), Kolkata**.
- **Features:** The main advanced stealth features of P-17A pertain to the **smaller Radar cross-section of the ship** achieved through the use of a special super structure shape which reduces radar wave reflections.
- Another important feature is regarding the **ship's low acoustic noise emanating from propellers**, operating machinery like Diesel Generators etc., which helps sonars on other ships to detect its presence.
- Such **stealth features play an important role in improving the ship's survivability** in any hostile environment during operations.

#INS Vikrant: First Indigenous Aircraft Carrier

- INS Vikrant, is likely **to be commissioned in 2022**. At present, **India has only one aircraft carrier**, the Russian-origin **INS Vikramaditya**.
- Earlier, the **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)** approved issuance of **Request for Proposal (RFP)** for six advanced submarines for the Indian Navy under **Project-75I**.

About:

- The vessel, to be named Vikrant after the decommissioned maiden carrier of the Navy.
- It will have **an air component of 30 aircraft**, comprising **MiG-29K fighter jets, Kamov-31 airborne early warning helicopters** and the soon-to-be-inducted **MH-60R multi-role helicopter**, besides the **indigenous Advanced Light Helicopters**.
- It is expected to have **a top speed of 30 knots (approximately 55 kmph)** and is propelled by four gas turbines. Its endurance is 7,500 nautical miles at 18 knots (32 kmph) speed.
- The **shipborne weapons include Barak LR SAM and AK-630**, while it has **MFSTAR and RAN-40L 3D radars** as sensors. The vessel has a **Shakti EW (Electronic Warfare) Suite**.
- It has a pair of runways and a 'short take off but arrested recovery' system to control aircraft operations.

Aircraft Carrier in India:

- **INS Vikrant (decommissioned):** Beginning with INS Vikrant which served India from 1961 to 1997.
- India acquired the **Vikrant from the United Kingdom in 1961**, and the carrier played a stellar role in the **1971 war** with Pakistan that led to the birth of Bangladesh.
- In 2014, INS Vikrant, was broken down in Mumbai.
- **INS Viraat (decommissioned):** INS Vikrant was followed by the Centaur-class carrier **HMS (Her Majesty's Ship) Hermes**, which was rechristened in India as **INS Viraat** and served in the Indian Navy from 1987 to 2016.

INS Vikramaditya:

- It is the **Indian Navy's largest aircraft carrier and warship** converted from the **Russian Navy's decommissioned Admiral Gorshkov/Baku**.
- INS Vikramaditya is a modified Kiev-class aircraft carrier that was commissioned into service in November 2013.

#AIR INDIA & AIR ASIA MERGER

- **Tata-owned Air India** has proposed to acquire AirAsia India, low-cost Indian airline run by Tata Group. Tata Sons currently hold an 83.67 percent stake in AirAsia India, while the remaining 16.33 percent of the company is owned by AirAsia Investment Ltd (AAIL), which is part of Malaysia's AirAsia Group.



- **Air India Ltd (AIL) and its subsidiary Air India Express** were also acquired last year by Talace Private Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Sons Private Ltd. Under the current proposition, Air India has reached out to the anti-trust regulator Competition Commission of India (CCI) to wholly acquire AirAsia India.
- The proposal relates to the acquisition of the entire equity share **capital of AirAsia India Private Limited by Air India Ltd.**
- The proposed merger will not lead to any change in the competitive landscape or cause any appreciable adverse effect on competition in India, irrespective of the manner in which the relevant markets are defined.

Air India and Airasia are different?

- Yes, Air India is an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Sons. AirAsia India is also run by **Tata Group as it holds a majority stake of 83.67 percent** in the airline company, but the remaining 16.33 percent is owned by its parent company AirAsia Investment Ltd (AAIL), which is a part of Malaysia's AirAsia Group.
- AirAsia India, which began flying in June 2014, operates domestically and does not have international operations.

Air India Airasia India merger expected?

- The merger between Air India and Airasia India was expected by **many experts as they feel it does not make sense for the Tata Group to own stakes in separate airlines.**
- **Tata Sons had raised its stake in AirAsia India in December 2020.** The group formally took over Air India on January 27, 2022 in a homecoming moment, as the airline returned to its original owner 69 years after it was nationalised by the government, taking control of it from its original founder JRD Tata in August 1953.

- The **Tata Group took over both Air India and Air India express** after it emerged as the winning bidder in October 2021. The Tata Group had offered a bid of Rs 18000 crore, including a cash payment of Rs 2700 crore and taking over its debt worth Rs 15,300 crore.

Background

- The Tata Group has undertaken one of the most challenging tasks of **turning around the Maharaja, Air India, one of India's leading carriers** that has been struggling in recent years with its aging fleet and dwindling financial and service levels.

#INDIA'S SEMICONDUCTOR MISSION – SEMICON INDIA

Recently, **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology** has inaugurated the first ever **Semicon India 2022 Conference** under **India Semiconductor Mission** in Bengaluru.



- Semicon India – 2022 has been organized to take forward the vision of the Prime Minister to make India **a leader in the electronics manufacturing, semiconductor design, manufacturing & innovation.**
- **Theme of Conference:** Catalyzing India's Semiconductor Ecosystem.

What are Semiconductors?

- Any of a class of crystalline solids intermediate in **electrical conductivity between a conductor and an insulator.**
- Semiconductors are employed in the manufacture of various kinds of electronic devices, including diodes, transistors, and integrated circuits. Such devices have found wide application because of their compactness, reliability, power efficiency, and low cost.
- As discrete components, they have **found use in power devices, optical sensors, and light emitters, including solid-state lasers.**

What is the India Semiconductor Mission?

- The ISM was launched in 2021 with a total financial outlay of Rs76,000 crore under the aegis of the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY).
- It is part of the **comprehensive program for the development of sustainable semiconductor and display ecosystem** in the country.
- The programme **aims to provide financial support to companies investing in semiconductors, display manufacturing and design ecosystem.**
- Envisioned to be led by **global experts in the Semiconductor and Display industry, ISM will serve as the nodal agency** for efficient, coherent and smooth implementation of the schemes.

What are the Initiatives related to Semiconductors?

- **For Compound Semiconductors:** Government will support fiscal support of 30% of capital expenditure to approved Compound Semiconductors units.
- **Production Linked Incentives:** Incentive support to the tune of Rs.55,392 crore (7.5 billion USD) have been approved under **Product Linked Incentive (PLI)** for Largest Scale Electronics Manufacturing, PLI for IT Hardware, SPECS Scheme and Modified **Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC 2.0)** Scheme.

#RAJIV KUMAR APPOINTED AS NEW CEC

- **Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar** has been appointed as the new Chief Election Commissioner by the President of India. Kumar will **replace Sushil Chandra** and take charge of the office on May 15, 2022.
- The new **Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar** is a former Finance Secretary, he retired in February 2020. **The same year in August, Kumar was appointed as the Election Commissioner.**
- The 62-years old officer has an extensive work experience across the environment & forests, the social sector, finance & banking sector, and human resources.



Who is Rajiv Kumar?

- The new Chief Election Commissioner of India Rajiv Kumar is a 1985 batch Indian Administrative Service Officer.
- **After retiring as a Finance Secretary in February 2020**, Rajiv Kumar was appointed as the Chairman Public Enterprises Selection Board from April 2020 to August 2020.
- He was then appointed as the **Election Commissioner in August, of the same year.**

Why Rajiv Kumar's appointment is significant?

- Chief Election Commissioner Appointment also holds importance as several major states gear up to elect a new government, including Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh. The crucial Lok Sabha elections are also scheduled for 2024.

About the Election Commission of India:

- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** is an **autonomous constitutional authority** responsible for administering **Union and State election** processes in India.
- It was established in accordance with the Constitution on **25th January 1950 (celebrated as national voters' day)**. The **secretariat** of the commission is located in **New Delhi**.
- The body administers elections to the **Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and State Legislative Assemblies** in India, and the **offices of the President and Vice President in the country**.
- It is not concerned with the elections to panchayats and municipalities in the states. For this, the Constitution of India provides for a separate **State Election Commission**.

Constitutional Provisions:

- **Part XV (Article 324-329) of the Indian Constitution:** It deals with elections, and establishes a commission for these matters.
- **Article 324: Superintendence, direction and control of elections** to be vested in an Election Commission.
- **Article 325:** No person to be ineligible for inclusion in, or to claim to be included in a special, electoral roll on grounds of religion, race, caste or sex.
- **Article 326:** Elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assemblies of States to be on the basis of adult suffrage.

- **Article 327:** Power of Parliament to make provision with respect to elections to Legislatures.
- **Article 328:** Power of Legislature of a State to make provision with respect to elections to such Legislature.
- **Article 329:** Bar to interference by courts in electoral matters.

Structure of ECI:

- Originally the commission had only **one election commissioner** but after the **Election Commissioner Amendment Act 1989**, it has been made a multi-member body
- The Election Commission **shall consist of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and such number of other election commissioners**, if any, as the President may from time to time fix.
- Presently, it consists of the CEC and two Election Commissioners.
- At the state level, the election commission is helped by the **Chief Electoral Officer** who is an IAS rank Officer.

Appointment & Tenure of Commissioners:

- The **President appoints** CEC and Election Commissioners.
- They have a **fixed tenure of six years**, or up to the **age of 65 years**, whichever is earlier.
- They enjoy the **same status and receive salary and perks as available to Judges of the Supreme Court (SC)** of India.

#TWIN CYCLONES: CYCLONE ASANI & CYCLONE KARIM

Recent satellite images have Captured Twin Cyclones in the **Indian Ocean region**, one in the northern hemisphere and one in the southern hemisphere, named cyclone Asani and cyclone Karim respectively.



What are Cyclone Karim and Asani?

- Karim is classified as a **category II hurricane**, with a wind speed of 112 kilometers per hour (kmph).
- Asani remains a **Severe Cyclonic Storm over the Bay of Bengal**, with wind speeds of 100-110 kmph gusting to 120 kmph.
- Both were formed in the **Indian Ocean region**.
- Both cyclones **originated in the same longitude and now drifting apart**.
- Cyclone Karim has **created a path in the open seas west of Australia**.
- The name **Karim was given by the South African country Seychelles**. The name Cyclone Asani was suggested by Sri Lanka.

What are Twin Cyclones?

- The interplay of the wind and the **monsoon system** combined with the Earth system produces these synchronous cyclones.
- The twin tropical cyclones are caused by what are called **equatorial Rossby waves**.
- **Rossby waves are huge waves in the ocean with wavelengths of around 4,000–5,000 kilometres.**

- Rossby waves are named for famous meteorologist **Carl-Gustaf Rossby** who was the first to explain that these waves arose due to the rotation of the Earth.
- This system has a vortex in the northern hemisphere and another in the southern hemisphere, and each of these is a mirror image of the other.
- The vortex in the north spins counterclockwise and has a positive spin, while the one in the southern hemisphere spins in the clockwise direction and therefore has a negative spin.
- Both have a positive value of the vorticity which is a measure of the rotation.
- Very often twin cyclones are formed from these Rossby waves.

How are cyclones named?

- If the speed of a cyclone is more than 34 nautical miles per hour then it becomes necessary to give it a special name. **If the speed of the storm reaches or crosses 74 mph, it is then classified into a hurricane/cyclone/typhoon.**
- The cyclones that are formed in any ocean basin around the world are named by the **Regional Specialised Meteorological Centres (RSMCs) and Tropical Cyclone Warning Centres (TCWCs).**
- There are a total of **six RSMCs in the world**, including the India Meteorological Department (IMD).
- **The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for the Asia Pacific (ESCAP) has been naming cyclonic storms since 2000.**
- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) names the cyclones developing over the north Indian Ocean, including the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea.
- It also issues advisories to 12 other nations in the region on the development of cyclones and storms.
- In 2000, a group of nations called WMO/ESCAP-- **Bangladesh, India, the Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand**-- decided to name cyclones in the region.
- In 2018, five more countries were added-- **Iran, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.**
- After the aforementioned countries sent in suggestions, the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones (PTC) finalise the list.

Where Do Tropical Cyclones Form?

- Tropical cyclones generally form in any ocean where water temperatures are greater than 80 degrees Fahrenheit and the upper-level winds are benign. Here are oceans where they can form and their commonly used names:
- North Atlantic (including Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico): **Hurricanes**
- Eastern and Central North Pacific: **Hurricanes**
- Western Northern Pacific: **Typhoons**
- Arabian Sea/Northern Indian Ocean: **Tropical Cyclones**
- South Indian Ocean: **Tropical Cyclones/Willy-Willy for southwest Australia**
- Coral Sea/South Pacific: **Tropical Cyclone**
- There are several tropical oceans where colder water currents and strong upper-level winds usually prevent tropical cyclones from forming. These locations include the parts of the Atlantic Ocean near the African coast and south of the Equator and Pacific Ocean off of the South American Coast.
- However, a rare tropical cyclone did form just off the Brazilian Atlantic Coast in March 2004.

- This cyclone made landfall on the Brazilian coast with winds estimated to be 100 mph, causing millions of dollars of damage.

#RECONSTITUTION OF INTER-STATE COUNCIL

Recently, the **Inter-State Council (ISC)** has been reconstituted with the Prime Minister as Chairman and Chief Ministers of all States and six Union Ministers as members.



- **Ten** union ministers will be the permanent invitees to the Inter-State Council.
- The government has also reconstituted the **standing committee of the Inter-State Council** with Union Home as Chairman.
- The Chief Ministers of **Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh** are also members of the standing committee of the Inter-State Council.

What is the Inter-State Council?

- As part of the **process of reviewing the working of the existing arrangements** between the Union and the States, the Government constituted a commission in 1988 under the Chairmanship of Justice R.S. Sarkaria.
- One of the **important suggestions of Sarkaria Commission** was for establishing a permanent **Inter-State Council** as an independent national forum for consultation with a mandate well defined in accordance with **Article 263 of the Constitution of India**.

About:

- The inter-state council is a **recommendatory body** that has been empowered to **investigate and discuss subjects of common interest** between the Union and state(s), or among states.
- It also **makes recommendations for better coordination of policy** and action on these subjects, and deliberations on matters of general interest to the states, which may be referred to it by its chairman.
- It also **deliberates on other matters of general interest** to the states as may be referred by the chairman to the council.
- The Council may **meet at least thrice in a year**.
- There is also a **Standing Committee of the Council**.

Composition:

- Prime Minister Chairman
- Chief Ministers of all States Members
- Chief Ministers of Union Territories having a Legislative Assembly and Administrators of UTs not having a Legislative Assembly and Governors of States under President's Rule (Governor's Rule in the case of J&K) Members.
- Six Ministers of Cabinet rank in the Union Council of Ministers to be nominated by the Prime Minister Members.

Which other Bodies Promote Interstate Relation?

- **Zonal Council:** The Zonal Councils are the **statutory (and not the constitutional) bodies**. They are established by an Act of the Parliament, that is, States Reorganization Act of 1956.

- The **act divided the country into five zones**- Northern, Central, Eastern, Western and Southern and provided a zonal council for each zone.
- **Inter-State Water Disputes:**
- **Article 262 of the Constitution** provides for the adjudication of interstate water disputes.
- It makes two provisions:
 - Parliament may by law provide for the adjudication of any dispute or complaint with respect to the use, distribution and control of waters of any inter-state river and river valley.
 - Parliament may also provide that neither the Supreme Court nor any other court is to exercise jurisdiction in respect of any such dispute or complaint

#BONGOSAGAR EXERCISE BETWEEN INDIA & BANGLADESH

- The third edition of the **Bongosagar Naval exercise** commenced at Port Mongla, Bangladesh on the 24th May 2022 between the navies of India and Bangladesh.
- The **harbour phase of this naval exercise was held from 24th to 25th May 2022.**
- This will be followed by the sea phase which is scheduled to be held in the Northern Bay of Bengal from 26th to 27th May 2022.



What will be done during this naval exercise?

- **During the exercise**, the Navies from both countries will be discussing various operational procedures, conducting joint drills, and exchanging best practices.
- The **sea phase of this Naval exercise** will facilitate the participation of the ships from both the navies in intensive weapon firing drills, surface warfare drills, coordinated air operations in a tactical scenario, and seamanship evolutions.

Which ships are participating in this exercise?

- The Indian Navy is being represented by the indigenously built **Offshore Patrol Vessel Sumedha and the Guided Missile Corvette Kora**. Guided-missile frigates **BNS Ali Haider and Abu Ubaidah** are representing the Bangladesh Navy.

India-Bangladesh Relations

- **India was one of the first countries to recognize Bangladesh** and establish diplomatic relations immediately after its independence in December 1971.
- **Defence Cooperation:**
- Various **Joint exercises** of Army (**Exercise Sampriti**) and Navy (**Exercise Milan**) take place between the two countries.
- **Border Management:** India and Bangladesh share **4096.7 km.** of border, which is **the longest land boundary that India shares with any of its neighbours.**
- The India-Bangladesh **Land Boundary Agreement (LBA)** came into force following the exchange of instruments of ratification in June 2015.

Partnership on Multilateral forums:

- India thanked Bangladesh for supporting India in its election to **the United Nations Security Council**.
- Both countries agreed to continue working together towards achieving early reforms of the **UNSC** combating climate change, attainment of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and protection of the rights of migrants.
- Highlighted that regional organisations such as the **(SAARC)** and the **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)** have an important role to play.
- Bangladesh thanked India for convening the **SAARC leaders Video Conference** in March 2020 and for creation of **the SAARC Emergency Response Fund** to counter effects of the global pandemic in the South Asian region.
- Bangladesh will assume chairmanship of **the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)** in **2021** and requested the support of India for working towards greater maritime safety and security.

Recent Development:

- The use of the **Chattogram and Mongla ports** in Bangladesh for movement of goods to and from India, particularly from Northeastern India.
- Use of **Bangladesh's Feni river** for drinking water supply in Tripura.

#FIRST WOMAN OFFICER TO JOIN ARMY AVIATION CORPS

Recently, **Captain Abhilasha Barak**, created history by becoming **the first woman officer to join the Army Aviation Corps as a Combat Aviator (pilot)**.

- At present women are only given the **responsibility of traffic control and ground duty in the Aviation Department** but now Abhilasha Barak will take **over the responsibility of the pilot**.
- Barak has been assigned to the second flight of the 2072 Army Aviation Squadron that operates the **Dhruv Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH)**.
- While women officers in the Indian Air Force and the Indian Navy have been flying helicopters for long, the Indian Army paved the way for women pilots in 2021 by starting the 'Army Aviation course'.



What is the Army Aviation Corps?

- Army Aviation Corps is the **component of the Indian Army which was established on 1st November, 1986**.
- The Army Aviation Corps is headed by a **director-general at the Army headquarters in New Delhi**.
- It was immediately **inducted into 'Operation Pawan'** which was a crucial test for the newly formed corps.
- The Army Aviation Corps of the Indian Army **primarily carries out the evacuation of the injured troops during operations or health emergencies** in the high-altitude areas.
- The choppers of the Aviation Corps are also **used for observation, reconnaissance, casualty evacuation, combat research and rescue**, and essential load drops.

What is the State of Women's Representation in the Military?

- **Background:** The Army, Air Force and Navy **began inducting women as short-service commission (SSC) officers in 1992.**
- This was the first time when women were allowed to join the military outside the medical stream.
- One of the turning points for women in the military came in 2015 when Indian Air Force (IAF) decided to induct them into the fighter stream.
- In 2020, the **(SC)** ordered the central government to grant **permanent commission (PC)** to women officers in the Army's non-combat support units on par with their male counterparts.
- India's only aircraft carrier **INS Vikramaditya** and **fleet tanker INS Shakti** are the **warships** that have been assigned their first women crews since the late 1990s.
- **In May 2021**, the Army inducted the **first batch of women into the Corps of Military Police**, the first time that women joined the military in the non-officer cadre.
- However, Women are still not allowed in combat arms like Infantry and Armored Corps.

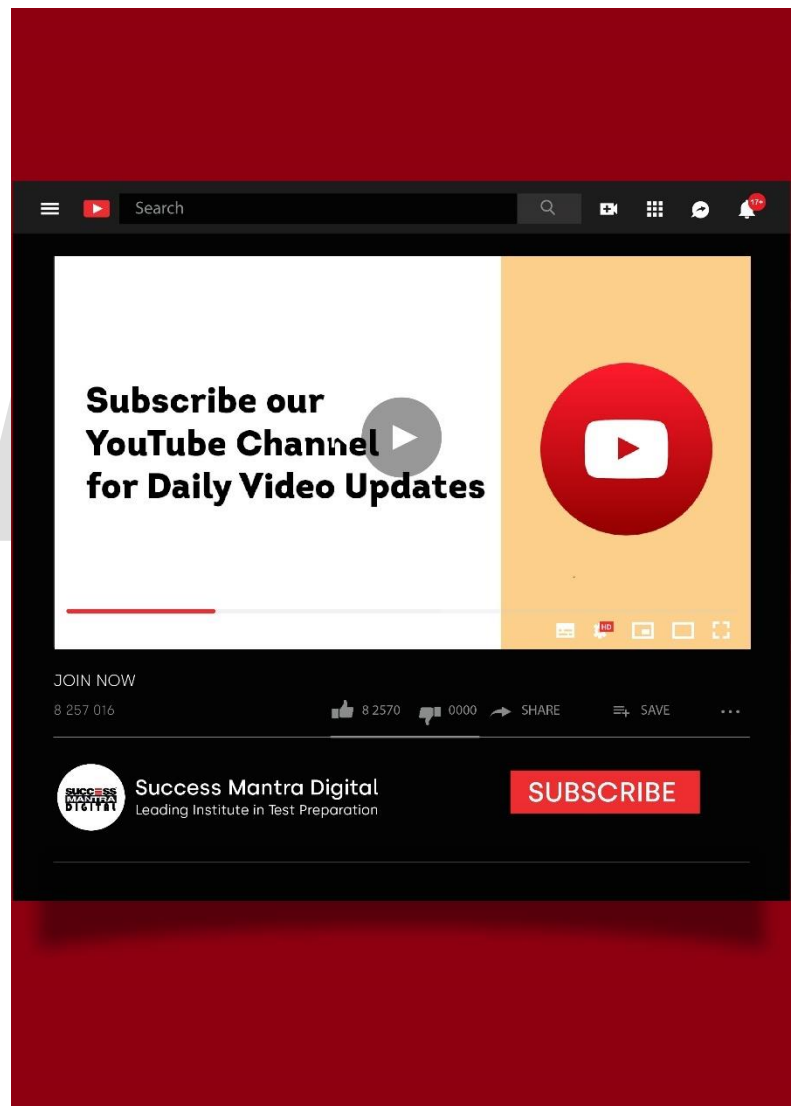
PRAVAHINI

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