

Hippocrates oath & “Charaka Shapath”

❖ Context

- The National Medical Commission, the regulator of medical education and practises, has suggested medical colleges that the traditional Hippocratic Oath should be replaced by “Charak Shapath”.

❖ Key Highlights

- The Hippocratic oath is a **charter of ethical principles** that physicians over the ages have sworn to uphold in the practice of their profession
- There is **no universally accepted version** of the physician’s oath. Modern codes of medical ethics such as those adopted by American Medical Association (AMA) and British Medical Association (BMA) are broadly rooted in the Hippocratic oath but also draws from other sources.
- **No single version of the oath** is in use in **medical colleges in India**, which have adopted their own versions.
- He is also known as the **“Father of Modern medicine”**.
- The ***Corpus Hippocraticum*** is a collection of 70 books on medicine associated with him.
- **Most scholars agree that the oath was probably not the work of Hippocrates.**
- The Charak Samhita is a medical pharmacopoeia and collection of commentaries & discussions, **written in Sanskrit**, on medical practises that is dated to **1st - 2nd centuries AD**.
- Along with the compendium of Sushruta (c. 4th century AD), which is about surgery, Charak Samhita is considered as foundational text of ancient Indian medicine. The samhita is divided into **8 books (sthana)** and **120 chapters**.

PSLV

❖ Context

- PSLV successfully launches EOS-04 and two small satellites from Satish Dhawan space centre, Sriharikota.

❖ Key Highlights

- Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) is the **third generation launch vehicle** of India.
- It is the **first Indian launch vehicle** to be equipped with **liquid stages**.
- After its **first successful launch in October 1994**, PSLV emerged as the reliable launch vehicle of India with **39 consecutively successful missions** by June 2017.
- During the 1994-2017 period, the vehicle had launched 48 Indian satellites and 209 satellites for customers from abroad.
- Besides, the vehicle proved its versatility by successfully launching two spacecraft – **Chandrayaan-1** in 2008 and **Mars Orbiter Spacecraft** in 2013 – that later travelled to Moon and Mars respectively.
- PSLV earned its title 'the **Workhorse of ISRO**' through consistently delivering various satellites to Low Earth Orbits, particularly the IRS series of satellites. It can take up to **1,750 kg of payload to Sun-Synchronous Polar Orbits** of 600 km altitude.
- PSLV has also been used to launch various satellites, of payload **upto 1425 kg**, like satellites from the IRNSS constellation, into **Geosynchronous and Geostationary orbits**.
- It is a four stage vehicle.
 - Stage-I: Solid fuelled.
 - Stage-II: (**Vikas engine** - Earth storable liquid rocket engine): Liquid fuelled.
 - Stage-III: Solid fuelled.
 - Stage-IV: Liquid fuelled.
- PSLV-G & PSLV-XL (the heaviest version) use **six solid fuelled strap on boosters** additionally in the stage -I, which is not used in the core alone version (PSLV-CA).

Essential Religious Practice Test (ERPT)

❖ Context

- Recently, **Significance of the test** has come to fore in the backdrop of the action of some pre-university colleges in Karnataka refusing entry to Muslim girl students wearing hijabs, or head-scarves.

❖ Key Highlights

- The Karnataka High Court is hearing a clutch of petitions challenging the **government order banning the hijab** in government educational institutions.
- As per school directive wearing a **headscarf is not an essential religious practice** for Muslims that can be protected under the Constitution.
- The court, by an interim order, has directed that **students should not wear attire linked to any religion** until it resolves the legal questions arising from the issue.
- ❖ **About E RTP**
 - It is a doctrine evolved by the supreme court (SC) to **protect only such religious practices under fundamental rights, which are essential and integral to religion**.
 - The doctrine of “essentiality” was invented by a seven-judge Bench of the SC in the ‘Shirur Mutt’ case in 1954.
 - Court held that the **term “religion” will cover all rituals** and practices “integral” to a religion, and took upon itself the responsibility of determining essential and non essential practice of a religion.

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DELHI MUKHERJEE NAGAR: 9205274741, 42 | **LAXMI NAGAR** : 9205212500, 9205962002 | **RAJENDRA NAGAR**: 9205274743 | **UTTAR PRADESH** PRAYAGRAJ: 0532-2260189, 8853467068 | **LUCKNOW** (ALIGANJ): 0522-4025825, 9506256789 | **LUCKNOW** (GOMTI NAGAR): 7234000501, 7234000502 | **GREATER NOIDA**: 9205336037, 38 | **KANPUR**: 7887003962, 7897003962 | **GORAKHPUR** : 7080847474, 9161947474 | **ODISHA** **BHUBANESWAR**: 9818244644/7656949029



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❖ Article 25 of the Constitution

- It guarantees the “**freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practise and propagate religion**”.
- It is a right that guarantees a negative liberty — which means that the state shall ensure that there is no interference or obstacle to exercise this freedom.
- However, like all fundamental rights, the state can restrict the right for grounds of public order, decency, morality, health and other state interests.

❖ Examples of the Use of the Doctrine

- Tandava’ a ritual dance (1983)**
 - SC observed that the ‘**Tandava**’ was not an essential religious practice among those in the sect.
- Sardar Syedna Taher Saifuddin Saheb vs. Bombay (1962).**
 - The Supreme Court struck down a law that prohibited the head of the Dawoodi Bohra community from excommunicating members.
- Sabarimala Case (2018)**
 - The majority ruled that the bar on entry of women in the age-group of 10 to 50 was not an essential or integral part of the religion.

News in Between the Lines

ModifiedElephant



❖ Context

- Recently, **American cybersecurity firm SentinelOne** has released a report on ModifiedElephant.

❖ About ModifiedElephant

- ModifiedElephant is a **hacking group** that allegedly planted incriminating evidence on the personal devices of Indian journalists, human rights activists, human rights defenders, academics and lawyers.

❖ Key Findings of the Report

- ModifiedElephant maliciously targeted specific groups and individuals, including the activists arrested in the **Bhima Koregaon case of 2018**.
- It called the incident ‘**one of the most serious cases of evidence tampering**’ that the firm had ever encountered.
- ModifiedElephant operators have been **infecting their targets using spear phishing emails** with malicious file attachments over the last decade, with their techniques getting more sophisticated over time.
 - Spear phishing** refers to the practice of sending emails to targets that **look like they are coming from a trusted source** to either reveal important information or install different kinds of malware on their computer systems.
- NetWire and DarkComet**, two publicly-available Remote Access Trojans (RATs), were the primary malware families deployed by ModifiedElephant,

Doxxing



❖ Context

- Recently, Meta’s oversight board, in a blog, suggested Facebook and Instagram to make strict doxxing rules.

❖ Key Highlights

- It has asked Meta to implement strict regulations on publishing and sharing personal information.
 - The **information could be an individual's residential address** that can easily identify people and make them targets for those with malicious intent.

❖ About Doxxing

- Doxxing is **publishing and analyzing others’ personal information on the internet** with a malicious intent that can reveal the person’s real identity.
 - It could make them victims of harassment and cyber-attacks.
- The firm highlighted how doxxing is used to **shame or punish people who would rather stay anonymous**, because of their controversial beliefs or other types of non-mainstream activity.
- Doxxing **can result in emotional distress, loss of employment and even physical harm or death**.



M2M Communication



❖ Context

- The Government has taken steps to facilitate wider proliferation and innovation in the **Machine to Machine communication (M2M)** sector.

❖ About M2M

- Machine-to-machine (M2M) refers to any **technology that enables networked devices to exchange information** and perform actions **without the manual assistance of humans**.
- M2M uses a device (such as a sensor or meter) to capture an event, which is relayed through a network (**wireless, wired or hybrid**) to an application, that translates the captured event into meaningful information.
- The first use of M2M communication is often credited to **Theodore Paraskevakos**, who invented technology related to the transmission of data over telephone lines, the basis for modern-day caller ID.

❖ Purpose

- The main purpose of M2M technology is to **tap into sensor data and transmit it to a network**.
- Unlike SCADA or other remote monitoring tools, M2M systems often use public networks and access methods - cellular or Ethernet - to make it more cost-effective.

Japanese Industrial Townships



❖ Context

- DPIIT & Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade & Industry jointly review the progress under Japanese Industrial Townships (JITs).

❖ Key Highlights

- Japan Industrial Townships (JITs) were set up pursuant to the "**Action Agenda for the India-Japan Investment and Trade Promotion and Asia-Pacific Economic Integration**" signed between METI, Government of Japan and DPIIT in **2015**.
- These are being developed especially in **Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC)** and **Chennai Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC)** regions in order to facilitate Japanese investment to India.
- **Japan is the only country that has dedicated country-focused industrial townships across India.**
- These Japanese Industrial Townships (JITs) offer facilities such as, **special Japan desks** for translation and facilitation support, world class infrastructure facilities, **plug and play** facilities, **residential clusters**, and special incentives for Japanese companies.
- There are **ready to move in facilities** and **fully developed land available** for allotment in these townships.
- As the **5th largest investor**, Japan has contributed over **USD 36.2 Billion in cumulative investments since 2000**, especially in key sectors such as automobiles, Electronics System Design & Manufacturing (ESDM), Medical Devices, Consumer goods, Textiles, Food processing and Chemicals.
- Currently there are **114 Japanese companies across the JITs**. The **Neemrana and Sri City industrial townships** host the majority of the Japanese companies. Companies such as Daikin, Isuzu, Kobelco, Yamaha Music, Hitachi Automotive etc. are the marque Japanese investors which have set up manufacturing in these townships.

Medaram Jathar

❖ Context

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has sanctioned ₹2.26 Crores for various activities pertaining to Medaram Jathara 2022.

❖ Key Highlights

- Medaram is a **village in Mulugu district of Telangana**.
- **Samakka Sarakka Jathara** is the **second-largest fair of India**, after the Kumbh Mela, celebrated by the **second-largest Tribal Community of Telangana- the Koya tribe** for four days.

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15 February, 2022



- It commemorates the fight of a mother and daughter," **Sammakka and Saralamma**" (also known as Sarakka), with the reigning rulers against an unjust law. Considering the footfall of the festival and its auspicious significance, the Jathara was declared a **State Festival in 1996**. Last year nearly **1 crore pilgrims participated** in the Jathara from different states.
- It is celebrated **once in two years in the month of "Magha" (February) on the full moon day**.

Sea buckthorn plant



❖ Context

- Ladakh Administration recently decided to start the commercial plantation of "**Leh Berry**" from April-May this year.

❖ Key Highlights

- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) under the aegis of Union Ministry of Science & Technology is promoting "Leh Berry" cultivation.
- It is **sourced from Sea buckthorn**, a shrub aka santhorn, sawtooth or sea berry. It is an **exceptionally hardy plant** able to withstand **winter temperatures as low as -43 °C**.
- Because the shrub develops an aggressive and extensive root system, it is planted to **inhibit soil erosion** and is used in **land reclamation** for its **nitrogen fixing properties, wildlife habitat, and soil enrichment**.
- It produces **orange-yellow berries**, which have been used over centuries as **food, traditional medicine, and skin treatment** in **Mongolia, Ladakh, Russia, Ukraine, and northern Europe**, which are its origin regions.
- Leh berry is an exclusive food product of the cold desert and also a means of wide-ranging entrepreneurship as well as self-livelihood.
- About 100 odd products can be sourced from sea buckthorn plant like jams, **juices, herbal tea, vitamin C supplements, healthy drinks, cream, oils, and soaps** in a completely organic manner.
- Ladakh is also **going to commence commercial cultivation of three medicinal plants** this spring season at the height of above 15,000 feet. This also **includes "Sanjeevni Booti"**, locally known as "**Sola**" which has **very high life saving and therapeutic properties**.

Vienna Convention 1988



❖ Context

- SC is hearing petitions filed complaining of the alleged subversion of the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)** by the government and the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

❖ Key Highlights

- Drug trafficking and money laundering are inextricably linked—traffickers convert the monetary proceeds of their illicit activities into revenue from a seemingly legal source.
- The 1980s were marked by increased focus on controlling global drug trafficking.
- Against this backdrop, member states of the United Nations, including India, adopted and signed the **Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (the Vienna Convention) in 1988**.
- The Convention was the **first international instrument** that squarely addressed the issue of **money laundering**. The Vienna Convention required **signatory states to recognise money laundering as a criminal offence**, preventing traffickers from reaping the profits of the narcotics trade.
- At the time, India too was home to a burgeoning drug trade, and served as an emerging transit point for trafficking. The **Government enacted the PMLA in 2002** to honour India's commitment under this Convention.
- The Act and Rules notified there under impose **obligation on banking companies, financial institutions and intermediaries** to verify identity of clients, maintain records and **furnish information** in prescribed form to **Financial Intelligence Unit**. It is the **2018 Amendments to the Act** that have been challenged at the Supreme Court.

