

Multi Agency Centre (MAC)

❖ Context

- The Central government has asked the States to **share more intelligence inputs through the Multi Agency Centre (MAC).**

❖ Key Highlights

- It is a **common counter-terrorism grid** under the Intelligence Bureau that was made **operational in 2001 following the Kargil War.**
- As many as 28 organisations, including the Research and Analysis Wing (**R&AW**), **armed forces and State police, are part of the platform.**
- Various security agencies share **real-time intelligence inputs** on the MAC.
- The IB had informed the committee that **all organisations** that are in any way involved in the counter-terrorism effort are **members of this centre.**
- All the States have a **Subsidiary Multi Agency Centre (SMAC)** located in the capitals.

❖ About MAC

- MAC was **formed in December 2001** following the Kargil intrusion and the subsequent overhaul of the Indian national security apparatus suggested by the **Kargil Review Committee report and GoM report.**
- Accordingly, the Intelligence Bureau (IB) was authorized to **create a multi-agency centre (MAC) in New Delhi.**
- Now **functioning 24/7 as the nodal body for sharing intelligence inputs**, MAC coordinates with representatives from numerous agencies, different ministries, both central and state.
- As noted in a 2016 parliamentary report the major contributors of intelligence inputs to the MAC were the **Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) and the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW).**

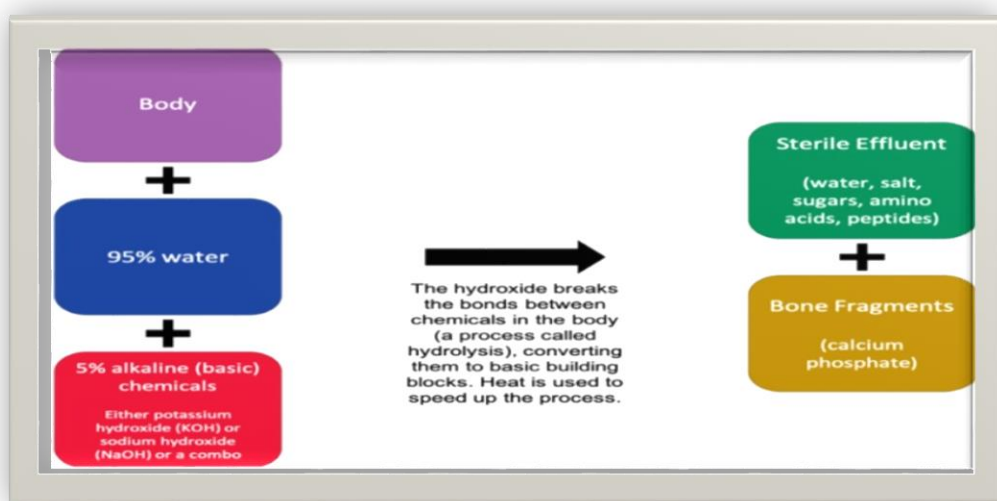
Aquamation

❖ Context

- Recently, the **body of Nobel Peace Prize winning** Anglican archbishop and anti-apartheid campaigner **Desmond Tutu** underwent aquamation, a **green alternative** to traditional cremation methods.

❖ Key Highlights

- He was very **passionate about protecting the environment** and taking necessary actions.
- The process of aquamation **uses energy which is five times less than fire.** It also **reduces by about 35%** the amount of greenhouse gases that are emitted during cremation.



❖ About Aquamation

- It is a process in which the **body of the deceased is immersed for a few hours in a mixture of water** and a strong alkali in a pressurized metal cylinder and heated to around **150 degree centigrade.**
- The combination of **gentle water flow, temperature and alkalinity accentuate the breakdown** of the organic materials.
- The process **leaves behind bone fragments** and a neutral liquid called effluent.
- The **effluent is sterile**, and contains salts, sugars, amino acids and peptides.
- There is **no tissue and no DNA left** after the process completes.
- This **effluent is discharged with all other wastewater**, and is a welcome addition to the water systems.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS)

❖ Context

- Mumbai's CSMVS completes 100 years in 2022.

❖ Key Highlights

- It was **designed by George Wittet (1878-1926)** who also designed the Gateway of India.
- He also **worked as an architect for the Tata company**, and designed its iconic headquarters, Bombay House.

❖ About CSMVS

- It is formerly known as the **Prince of Wales Museum of Western India.**
- **Situated on the southern tip of Mumbai** on the 'Crescent Site'.
- Fine **examples of Indo-Saracenic architecture** and among the most identifiable landmarks of Mumbai

Face to Face Centres

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

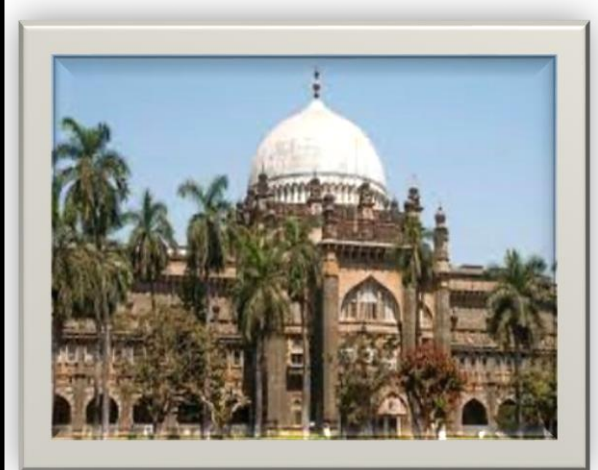


06 January, 2022

- This building is listed as a **Grade I Heritage Building** and has been awarded the '**2010 UNESCO Asia – Pacific Heritage Award**' for Cultural Heritage Conservation.
- The aim of it is to **create awareness and sensitivity towards our rich heritage** through a visitor-friendly museum for the purposes of education, study and enjoyment of the public.

❖ Indo-Saracenic Style

- It was **promoted by British architects** starting from the late 19th century.
- It is **exemplified by the use of elements seen in architecture across India**, from Mughal structures to Hindu temples.
- The style was **dominated by Indo-Islamic elements**, but sometimes **combined with Gothic and neo-classical** elements popular in Britain at that time.
- More **Examples of the style**:- Victoria Memorial in Kolkata, the Amba Vilas Palace (Mysore Palace) in Mysuru, the Senate House (on the Madras University campus) in Chennai, and the Secretariat Building (Central Secretariat) in New Delhi.



Is China a Developing Country?

❖ Context

- At WTO's China's trade policy review recently, India questioned China's developing country status

❖ World Bank's definition

- As per the World Bank's definition, China's per capita income belongs to that of an upper middle income country.
- Country classification on the basis of per capita income

\$1045 or less	Low income countries
\$1045 - \$ 4096	Lower middle income countries
\$ 4096 - \$ 12696	Upper middle income countries
\$12696 or above	High income countries

- In 2020, **per capita income of USA was \$63,413, of China was \$10,435 and of India was \$1,928**

❖ Relevance of status in WTO

- **There are no WTO definitions of “developed” and “developing” countries.** Members announce for themselves whether they are “developed” or “developing” countries. However, other members can challenge the decision of a member to make use of provisions available to developing countries.
- **Developing country status in the WTO brings certain rights.**
- All WTO agreements contain special provisions for developing countries, including longer periods to implement agreements and commitments, handle disputes and implement technical standards. They even can receive technical assistance.

Akal Takht

❖ Context

- Delhi Assembly on Monday passed an amendment Bill to the **Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Act, 1971**, recognising **Takht Damdama Sahib as the fifth Takht of Sikhs**. If signed by LG, it would add one more ex officio member in the **Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC)** house. Earlier, there were four ex officio members in the house- the chiefs (**jathedars**) of the other **four Sikh Takhts**.

❖ Sikh Takht

- Meaning throne, it is **seat of temporal authority** for Sikhs
- They are known to issue **hukumnamas** on issues concerning Sikh community
- According to experts, the first hukamnama was issued by Guru Hargobind from Akal Takht.
- There are **five sikh takhts** - three in Punjab and one each in Maharashtra and Bihar.

❖ Akal Takht, Harmandir Sahib, Amritsar

- Oldest and supreme of all takhts
- **Set up by Guru Hargobind in 1606** who succeeded as 6th guru after execution of his father Guru Arjan Dev
- It **symbolized the coming together** of the temporal authority and the political

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Four takhts are associated with the life of Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth guru

Takht Patna Sahib, Patna, Bihar	Guru Gobind Singh was born here in 1666.
Takht Keshgarh Sahib, Ananpur Sahib, Punjab	It was here that Guru Gobind Singh raised Khalsa, the initiated Sikh warriors, in 1699.
Takht Damdama Sahib, Talwandi, Bathina, Punjab	Guru Gobind Singh spent several months here. A seal believed to have been used by Guru Gobind Singh for his edicts is preserved at Damdama Sahib.
Takht Hazur Sahib, Nanded, Maharashtra	In Nanded, where Guru Gobind Singh spent time and was cremated in 1708.

sovereignty of the Sikh community (**miri**) with the spiritual authority (**piri**).

- The Akal Takht is a five-storey building today; the first storey houses the Guru Granth Sahib.
- Any edict or order concerning the entire community is issued only from Akal Takht.
- It is from Akal Takht that Sikhs found to be violating the Sikh doctrine and code of conduct are awarded religious punishment and even excommunicated

News in Between the Lines

'One District-One Product'



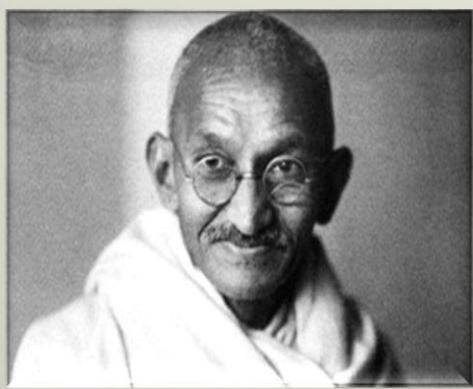
❖ Context

- Govt launches six brands developed as part of 'One District-One Product' approach under PMFME scheme

❖ Key Highlights

- Food Processing Industries Minister launched six brands developed as part of the 'One District-One Product' approach under the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises Scheme
- The products are **Amrit Phal, Cori Gold, Kashmiri Mantra, Madhu Mantra, Somdana, and Whole Wheat Cookies of Dilli Bakes**.
- According to NAFED, all the products come in unique and attractive packaging to ensure a longer shelf life of the product and keeping it fresh.
- The Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises Scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme that aims to enhance the competitiveness of existing individual micro-enterprises in the unorganized segment of the food processing industry and to provide support to **Farmer Producer Organizations, Self Help Groups, and Producers Cooperatives** along their **entire value chain**.

NAI TALIM



❖ Context

- The Vice President said **New education policy follows Mahatma Gandhi's "Nai Talim"** in terms of mother tongue.

❖ Key Highlights

- "Nai Talim" **proposed by Gandhiji in Wardha in 1937** emphasised **mother tongue as the medium of instruction, free compulsory education and skill training** to the students. Dr. Zakir Hussain was actively associated with this scheme
- **Basic Education** principle states that knowledge and work are not separate. Gandhiji promoted an educational curriculum with the same name based on this pedagogical principle.
- The three pillars of Gandhi's pedagogy were its focus on the **lifelong character of education, its social character and its form as a holistic process for moral development**

Indravati Tiger Reserve



❖ Context

- The **tiger census work covered 400 square kilometers** in Indravati Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh's a Maoist-affected area.

❖ Key Highlights

- The tiger reserve spans **2799.1 sq km**; the core area is **1,258.4 sq km**. The reserve had three tigers in 2018-19, when the last census took place.
- The tiger reserve is located in the Bijapur district, Chhattisgarh. The **perennial river 'Indravati' forms the boundary of the reserve** on the Northern and Western side. It is one of three Project Tiger sites in Chhattisgarh, along with Udanti-sitanadi.

Face to Face Centres



UJALA



- It is **home to one of the last remaining populations** of the endangered wild **water buffalo**.
- Indravati attained the status of a national park in 1981 and a tiger reserve in 1983.
- It is home to gaur (Indian bison), nilgai, blackbuck, chausingha (four-horned antelope), sambar, chital, Indian muntjac, Indian spotted chevrotain, wild boar, tigers, leopards, sloth bears, dholes (wild dog) and striped hyenas.

❖ Context

- **Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA)** scheme has **completed 7 years**

❖ Key Highlights

- **Launched in Jan 2015 by Ministry of Power, being implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Ltd**, a PSU under Ministry of Power
- Under UJALA scheme, LED bulbs, LED Tube lights and Energy efficient fans are being provide to domestic consumers for replacement of conventional and inefficient variant
- In a short span, the programme has evolved to be **world's largest zero subsidy domestic lighting programme**
- It has provided an **impetus to the domestic lighting industry**. It encourages Make in India as domestic manufacturing of LED bulbs has **increased from 1 lakh per month to 40 million per month**
- Garnered attention from the top management schools of India. It is **now a part of Leadership case study in Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad** and also under consideration for being included in the curriculum of Harvard Business School

SAAR



❖ Context

- As **part of the Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav (AKAM) celebrations** across the country, the Smart Cities Mission, MoHUA has launched “**Smart cities and Academia Towards Action & Research (SAAR)**” program, a joint initiative of MoHUA, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) and leading Indian academic institutions of the country.

❖ Key Highlights

- The program marks the 75th anniversary of India's independence, with the idea to showcase the country's best practices and on-ground achievements.
- Since the start of the Mission in 2015, the 100 Smart Cities have been developing a total of 5,151 projects with an investment of Rs. 2,05,018 crore.
- The first activity envisaged under SAAR is to **prepare a compendium of 75 landmark urban projects distributed across 47 Smart Cities**
- These 75 urban projects are **innovative, multi-sectoral, and have been implemented across geographies**.
- The compendium will act as a **first point of reference for future research** in the field, help disseminate learnings from projects under the Mission, act as a repository for Urban Projects, and contribute to dissemination of best practices and peer-to-peer learning.
- **MoHUA and NIUA will facilitate linkages** between the Institutions and Smart Cities
- **The Institutes will document the outcomes** of these projects, on how they are impacting the lives of urban citizens.

