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Daily News Discussion (DND)

19th - 22nd October 2021

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Note -

- The Newspaper clippings pasted in PDF are important from Mains point of view as it contains the fodder material for Mains Answer Writing.
- Also watch DND video lectures everyday @ 4 PM on Sleepy's YouTube channel in order to understand how to get the most out of everyday's Newspaper .

Click [here](#) to watch the following topics on YouTube

1. Mains value addition

Indigenous knowledge (P-I/II/III) Example

- Based on the indigenous knowledge shared by a farmer from **Gujarat**, **National Innovation Foundation(NIF)** has developed a poly-herbal and cost-effective medicine named ***Mastirak Gel*** to treat Mastitis, an infectious disease of dairy cattle
- It can be a sustainable alternative towards the treatment of mastitis with minimal use of antibiotic therapy.

Technology advancement (Paper III)

Xenotransplantation

- For the first time, a pig kidney has been transplanted by US Surgeon into a human without triggering immediate rejection by the recipient's immune system. This is a potentially huge milestone in the quest to use animal organs for human transplants.

2. Environment

2.1. Arctic melt: will polar bears vanish by 2100?

- The shrinkage of summer sea ice in the Arctic has long been a concern, as has been the survival of the species that depend on it for survival.
- A new study has now put a timeline to an impending disaster: If carbon emissions continue at current levels, summer ice will disappear by 2100 — and, along with it, creatures such as seals and polar bears.

Key Findings

- The study covers a 1 million-sq km region north of Greenland and the coasts of the Canadian Archipelago. The researchers looked at two scenarios:
- **Optimistic** (if carbon emissions are brought in check) : Under the optimistic scenario, some summer ice could persist indefinitely
- **Pessimistic** (if emissions continue as they are) : Under the pessimistic scenario, summer ice would disappear by the end of the century.
- Under the **low-emissions scenario**, ice from even the central Arctic will wane by mid-century, and will no longer endure through the year. Locally formed summer ice will persist in what is known as the **Last Ice Area**, but will now be only a metre thick.

Ice and life

- **In winter**, most of the Arctic Ocean surface freezes, and scientists expect this to continue for the foreseeable future, even as climate warms.
- **In summer**, when some of the ice melts, winds and currents carry it for great distances — some of it into the North Atlantic, but much of it into the Arctic's farthest-north coasts, along Greenland and the Canadian islands.
- This results in a **rich marine ecosystem**. On the **Arctic ice**, **algae bloom**. These feed **tiny animals, which in turn feed fish, which in turn feed seals, which feed polar bears** at the top of the chain. The irregular topography also helps create lairs for seals, and ice caves for polar bears during the winter.
- But **with a warming climate**, summer sea ice has been shrinking fast, and now consistently spans less than half the area it did in the early 1980s.

Implications

- The study forecasts **that under the low-emissions scenario, at least some seals, bears and other creatures may survive**. These species currently exist under similar summer conditions along western Alaska and parts of Hudson Bay.
- However, under the **higher-emissions scenario**, by 2100, even the locally formed **ice will disappear in summer**, the study has found. With no summer ice anywhere, there will be no ice-dependent ecosystems.
- This may **not mean the end of all life**.

- **New things will emerge**, but it may take some time for new creatures to invade. Fish, algae etc may come up from the North Atlantic, but it is not clear if they could survive there year round. "...it may be getting warmer, but the **planet's rotation around the sun will not change**, and any new occupants including photosynthetic organisms would have to deal with the long, sunless Arctic winter

2.2. Africa's rare glaciers soon to disappear (IE)

- **Africa's rare glaciers** will disappear in the next two decades because of **climate change**, a new report warned recently
- The report from the World Meteorological Organisation and other agencies, released ahead of the UN climate conference in Scotland that starts October 31

Key points

- The new report seizes on the shrinking glaciers of **Mount Kilimanjaro, Mount Kenya and the Rwenzori Mountains in Uganda** as symbols of the rapid and widespread changes to come. "Their current retreat rates are higher than the global average. If this continues, it will lead to total de-glaciation by the 2040s,
- While African nations **contribute less than 4% of global greenhouse gas** emissions, the report underscored the outsize impact that changes in the climate are having on the continent's 1.3 billion people.
- Estimates of the economic effects of climate change vary across the African continent, but "in sub-Saharan Africa, climate change **could further lower gross domestic product by up to 3 per cent by 2050**

2.3. Earthshot Prize (IE)

- **Earthshot Prize:** Established in 2020, 2021 was the first year when awards were handed out to finalists for their contributions towards the **five UN Sustainable Development Goals**.
- The five UN Sustainable Development Goals – restoration and protection of nature, air cleanliness, ocean revival, waste-free living and climate action.

About

- Dubbed as the "**Eco Oscars**", The Earthshot Prize is an award set up by Prince **William and the Royal Foundation, the charity founded by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, and historian David Attenborough** to honour five finalists between 2021 and 2030 for developing solutions to fight the climate crisis.
- The inaugural edition remains special for **India as Vidyut Mohan's technology that recycles agricultural waste to create fuel** was named among the winners of the coveted prize

How does Takachar transform agro-waste into saleable agro-products?



- Indian company **Takachar** won the "**Clean our Air**" prize for creating a portable machine which turns agricultural waste into fertiliser – a possible solution to stubble burning.
- Takachar has developed and patented the design of small-scale, low-cost, portable equipment to convert waste biomass into solid fuel, fertilizer, and other speciality chemicals. To do this, they use a novel concept called 'oxygen-lean torrefaction'.
- **Torrefaction** is the process of removing moisture and volatiles from biomass, leaving bio-coal. Using torrefaction reactors, Takachar turns small pockets of biomass into products that can be further used in agriculture

What are the prizes about?

- **Inspired by former US President John F Kennedy's Moonshot** – when the president had set a goal of reaching the Moon in less than a decade – the Earthshot Prize hopes to encourage and support the development of solutions for Earth's environmental problems
- Each year **five winners will be selected**, one for each of the UN SDG goal categories, with a total of 50 million euros being awarded by 2030.
- The winners will be **chosen from 15 finalists**, three for each category, by the Earthshot Prize Council. The council comprises global spokespersons who are striving to bring impactful action in various capabilities.

2.4. Micro snail in Mawsmmai cave (DTE)

- A **micro snail species named *Georissa mawsmmaiensis*** has recently been discovered from **Mawsmmai**, a limestone cave in Meghalaya, 170 years after the last such discovery was made.
- The members of the *Georissa* genus are widely **distributed across and reported from Africa, Asia, and the Pacific**. However, they are confined to microhabitats consisting of limestone caves or karst landscapes formed by the dissolution of limestone.
- *Georissa* is found in soil or subterranean habitats in **lowland tropical forest as well as high altitude evergreen forests or on rock surfaces** rich in calcium

Mawsmmai cave

- The Mawsmmai cave is situated in the small village of Mawsmmai, around four kilometres from Cherrapunjee (Sohra) in the East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya.
- The term 'Mawsmmai' means '**Oath Stone**' in the **Khasi language**. The Khasi people use the local term 'Krem' for the cave.
- Mawsmmai cave is located at an altitude of 1,195 metres above sea level and is indirectly influenced by the **streams of the Kynshi river originating from the East Khasi Hills**.
- The Mawsmmai cave is one of the **major tourist attractions** in Meghalaya.
- Some changes have been made to increase the aesthetics of the cave, such as artificial lights and cemented floor and steps. These changes, along with the high tourist influx, may pose threat to this micro snail species including other cave faunas

3. Science & Technology

3.1. James Webb Space Telescope (NYT)

- Recently Engineers have unboxed the **James Webb Space Telescope** in French Guiana and will now prepare it for launch.
- It will ride to orbit on 18 December.

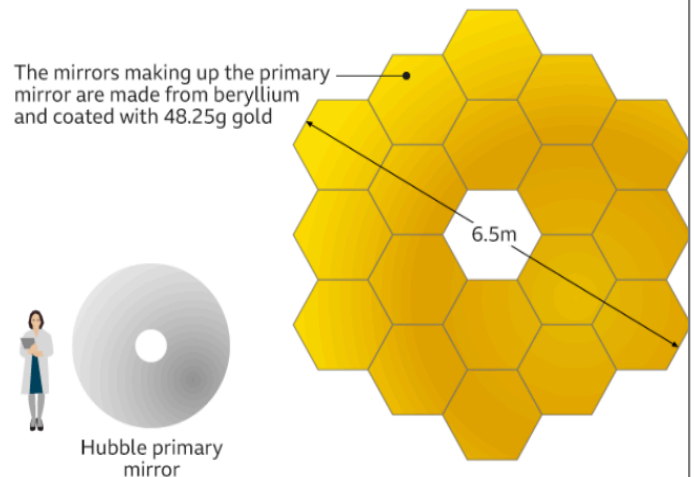
Hubble Space Telescope (HST) -NASA

- First major optical telescope to be placed in space and has made ground breaking discoveries in the field of astronomy since its launch (into **Low Earth orbit** in 1990).
- **Contribution**-Universe expansion (Dark energy), dwarf galaxies, comets etc

James Webb Space Telescope

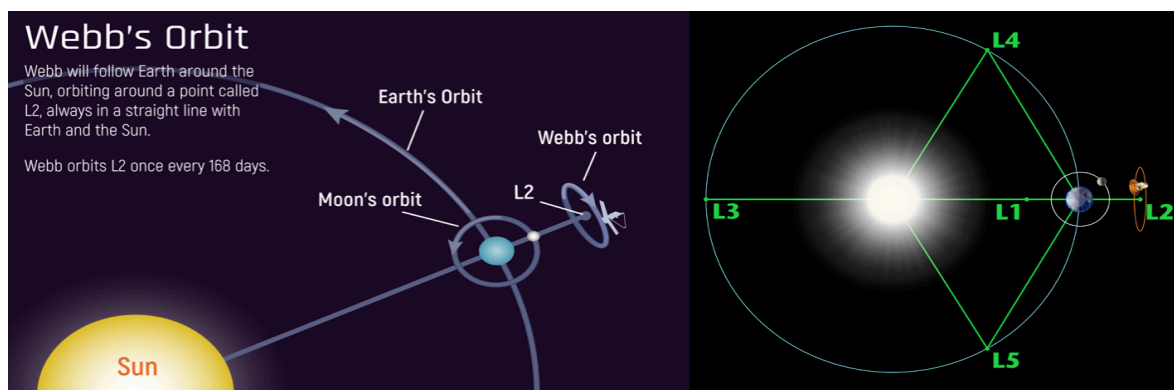
- Successor to Hubble
- It will be a **large infrared telescope** with a 6.5-meter primary mirror.
- The telescope will be launched on an Ariane 5 rocket from French Guiana in 2021.
- It will study every phase in the history of our Universe, formation of stars etc
- It is an international collaboration between **NASA, the European Space Agency (ESA), and the Canadian Space Agency (CSA).**
- It will look deeper into the cosmos
- It will do this with a much **bigger mirror** (6.5m in diameter versus 2.4m) and instruments that are tuned to the infrared.
- Scientists hope this set-up can detect the **light from the very first population of stars** in the Universe to switch on more than 13.5 billion years ago.

James Webb Space Telescope primary mirror is 6.5 metres wide



Source: Nasa

BBC



4. Economy

4.1. Rise in global fuel prices (IE)

- As the global recovery gains strength, the **price of crude oil is nearing its highest level since 2018**, while the price of natural gas and coal are hitting record highs amid an intensifying energy shortage.

Why are fuel prices rising?

- The price of **Brent Crude breached the \$85 per barrel mark** earlier this week reaching its highest level since 2018 on the back of a sharp increase in global demand as the world economy recovers from the pandemic.
- **Key oil producing countries have kept crude oil supplies on a gradually increasing production** schedule despite a sharp increase in global crude oil prices.
- The OPEC+ group of oil producing countries reaffirmed that they would increase total crude oil supply by only **400,000 barrels per day** in November despite a sharp increase in prices
- The output of the top oil-producing countries – **Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, UAE and Kuwait** – would still be about **14 per cent lower** than reference levels of production post the increase in November.

Natural gas and coal

- Supply side issues in the US including **disruptions caused by hurricane Ida** and **lower than expected natural gas supplies from Russia** amid increasing demand in Europe have raised the prospect of natural gas shortages in the winter.
- A faster than expected recovery in global demand has pushed the price of Indonesian coal up from about \$60 per tonne in March to about \$200 per tonne in October

Impact on India

- The increase in oil prices will **increase the country's import bill**, and further disturb its current account deficit
- It further increase **inflationary pressures** that have been building up over the past few months.
- The increase in gas prices has put upward pressure on the price of both **Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)** used as a transport fuel and **Piped Natural Gas (PNG)** used as a cooking fuel.

Basics

- There are 3 main crude oil benchmarks worldwide;
✓ Brent crude oil Benchmark

✓ WTI (West Texas intermediate) Benchmark

✓ Dubai and Oman Benchmark

• **Dubai and Oman Benchmark:-**

✓ Oil extracted from Arab countries is sold by referencing this benchmark.

✓ **India imports primarily from OPEC countries**, Brent is the benchmark for oil prices in India.

Brent	WTI
• Crude Oil of Brent benchmark is extracted from the North Sea near Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom	• WTI benchmarked oil is extracted from American oil wells.
• The price of Brent crude is the international benchmark price used by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)	• WTI crude price is a benchmark for US oil prices.
• Crude oil of this region contains a high percentage of sulfur.	• Low Sulphur (sweeter)
• Light	• Lighter than Brent
• Lower shipping cost as it is sourced directly from the ocean from where ships are easily loaded	• WTI is priced higher since it is produced in landlocked areas

Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)

- is a permanent, intergovernmental organization, created at the Baghdad Conference in 1960, by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela.
- It is headquartered in **Vienna, Austria**
- Its membership is open to **any country** that is a substantial **exporter of oil** and which shares the ideals of the organization.
- Later joined by Qatar (1961), Indonesia (1962), Libya (1962), the United Arab Emirates (1967), Algeria (1969), Nigeria (1971), Ecuador (1973), Gabon (1975), Angola (2007), Equatorial Guinea (2017) and Congo (2018)
- Ecuador suspended its membership in December 1992, rejoined OPEC in October 2007, but decided to withdraw its membership of OPEC effective 1 January 2020.





- Indonesia suspended its membership in January 2009, reactivated it again in January 2016, but decided to suspend its membership once more in November 2016.
- **Gabon** terminated its membership in January 1995. However, it **rejoined** the Organization in July 2016.
- **Qatar** terminated its membership on 1 January 2019.
- This means that, currently, the Organization has a total of **13 Member Countries**.

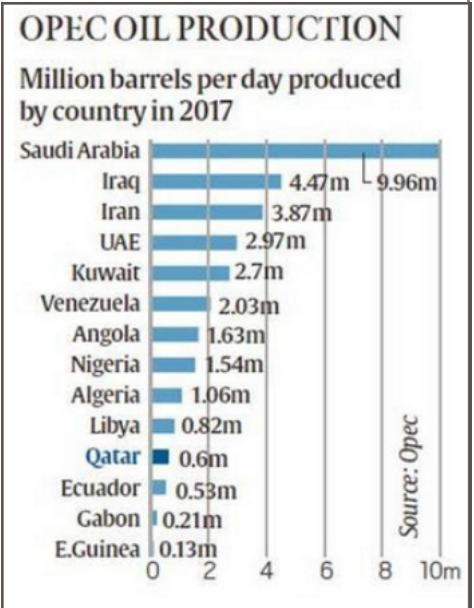
Qatar left & impact on india

Reason

- To focus on its **gas industry rather than on oil**, in which it was in any case a small player.
- Qatar's riches are due to its natural gas reserves, and it is the world's largest exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG).

What is Saudi's problem with Qatar?

- Qatar has long showed an **independent mind in foreign policy that does not always align with the priorities of its regional Arab neighbours**.
- This includes having a **close economic and diplomatic relationship with Shia Iran**, Sunni Saudi's great regional rival.
- Riyadh claimed **Qatar had refused to end ties with "terrorists"**, after Doha declined to fulfil 13 demands that were presented to it, **including cutting diplomatic relations with Tehran and military ties with Turkey, shutting down the TV station Al Jazeera**, and aligning with other Arab countries "militarily, politically, socially and economically"
- Qatar said the demands amounted to surrendering our **sovereignty**.



Qatar left & impact on India

- Qatar is a **tiny player** that pumped 609,000 barrels a day in October, only 2% of OPEC's total output of 32.9 million barrels per day
- Qatar has limited influence on OPEC's pricing decisions.
- From India's perspective, its position as the **world's top LNG exporter** (annual production of 77 million tonnes per year) and an influential player in the global LNG market is more pertinent.
- Qatar is **one of India's oldest LNG suppliers**, with Petronet LNG among the companies that have contracted to buy LNG from Qatar.
- But **LNG pricing is not in OPEC's domain**, so Qatar's decision is unlikely to impact these trends.

OPEC+

- In 2016, **OPEC allied with other top non-OPEC oil-exporting nations** to form an even more powerful entity named OPEC+ or OPEC Plus.
- OPEC **plus** countries include Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, **Russia**, South Sudan and Sudan.
- The cartel's goal is to exert **control over the price of the precious fossil fuel known as crude oil**. OPEC+ controls over 50% of global oil supplies and about 90% of proven oil reserves.
- If OPEC+ countries are unsatisfied with the price of oil, it is **in their interests to cut the supply of oil so prices rise**.
- In March 2020, **Saudi Arabia and Russia**, the second leading exporter and, arguably, the 2nd most important player in the recently formed OPEC+, **failed to reach an agreement about cutting production to stabilize the price of oil**.

4.2.DAP fertilizer shortage

- The long queues of farmers looking to buy DAP (di-ammonium phosphate) in different parts of Haryana has been fueled by rumours, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare JP Dalal said while claiming there was sufficient stock of fertiliser in state.
- Earlier **Rajasthan continues to reel under an acute shortage of diammonium phosphate (DAP) fertilizer**, which has adversely affected the sowing of rabi crops, especially mustard and gram, in an estimated 50- lakh hectare area. The State government has made a request to the Centre to make available 1.10 lakh tonnes of DAP during October

Di-ammonium phosphate (DAP)

- It contain **46% P, 18% Nitrogen**
- Farmers normally **apply this fertiliser just before or at the beginning of sowing**, as it is high in phosphorus (P) that stimulates root development.

Causes of shortage

- Disruption in global supply due to pandemic
- **Companies** have scaled down the DAP production **as they feel subsidy is not sufficient**

Way forward

- Urea and DAP contain 46 per cent nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P), respectively, while MOP has 60 per cent potassium (K).
- **We can** replace them with NPK complexes such as 12:32:16 and 10:26:26, or single super phosphate having 16 per cent P and 11 per cent sulphur

5. Polity

5.1. Contempt of court (TH)

- Recently Attorney General for India declined to grant consent to initiate criminal contempt proceedings against the National President of Azad Samaj Party, Chandra Shekhar Azad for his comments levelling allegations against the judges of the Supreme Court.

Contempt of court

- Contempt of court, as a concept that seeks to **protect judicial institutions from motivated attacks and unwarranted criticism**, and as a legal mechanism to punish those who lower its authority, is back in the news in India

How did the concept of contempt come into being?

- The concept of contempt of court is several centuries old.
- In England, it is a common law principle that **seeks to protect the judicial power of the king, initially exercised by himself, and later by a panel of judges who acted in his name.**
- Violation of the judges' orders was considered an affront to the king himself.
- Over time, any kind of disobedience to judges, or obstruction of the implementation of their directives, or comments and **actions that showed disrespect towards them came to be punishable**

Types of Contempt

- Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 does not define what is contempt, it simply explains the types of contempt: Civil contempt and Criminal contempt.

Civil contempt

- means wilful disobedience of any judgment, decree, direction, order, writ or other process of a court, or wilful breach of an undertaking given to a court

Criminal contempt

- is attracted by the publication (whether by words, spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representations, or otherwise) of any matter or the doing of any other act whatsoever which:
 - ✓ **Scandalises or tends to scandalise, or lowers or tends to lower the authority of, any court**
 - ✓ **Prejudices, or interferes or tends to interfere with, the due course of any judicial proceeding**
 - ✓ **Interferes or tends to interfere with, or obstructs or tends to obstruct, the administration of justice in any other manner.**

- The punishment for contempt of court is simple imprisonment for a term up to six months and/or a fine of up to ₹. 2,000.
- What is the statutory basis for contempt of court?
- There were **pre-Independence laws** of contempt in India.
- Besides the early High Courts, the **courts of some princely states also had such laws.**
- When the **Constitution was adopted**, contempt of court was made one of the **restrictions on freedom of speech and expression.**
- Separately, Article 129 of the Constitution conferred on the Supreme Court the power to punish contempt of itself.
- Article **215 conferred a corresponding power on the High Courts.**
- The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, gives statutory backing to the idea.
- Article 129 declares that the supreme court as a “Court of record” and that it shall have **all the powers of a court of record including the power to punish for its contempt of itself.**
- Further Article 142(2) empowers the **Supreme Court to investigate and punish for any contempt of itself i.e. contempt of Supreme court of itself.**
- Article 215 declares **High courts as a “Court of record”** and that it shall have all the powers of such a court including the powers to punish for contempt for itself.
- **Section 10 of The Contempt of Courts Act of 1971** defines the power of the **High Court to punish contempts of its subordinate courts.**
- In **Vinay Chandra Mishra case (1995)**, the Supreme court said that **contempt jurisdiction of the superior court is not based on law, but it is inherent in the court because it is a court of record.**
- Thus power to **contempt resides in the Supreme Court and High courts** because they are deemed as a court of record by the constitution

What is not contempt of court?

- **Fair and accurate reporting of judicial proceedings** will not amount to contempt of court.
- Nor is **any fair criticism** on the merits of a judicial order after a case is heard and disposed of.

Is truth a defence against a contempt charge?

- For many years, truth was seldom considered a defence against a charge of contempt.
- The **Act was amended in 2006** to introduce **truth as a valid defence**, if it was in public interest

What is the procedure for bringing a criminal contempt of court case against an individual?

- The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, lays down the law on contempt of court. **Section 15 of the legislation describes the procedure on how a case for contempt of court can be initiated.**
- In the case of the **Supreme Court, the Attorney General or the Solicitor General**, and in the case of **High Courts, the Advocate General**, may bring in a motion before the court for initiating a case of criminal contempt.
- However, if the motion is **brought by any other person, the consent in writing of the Attorney General or the Advocate General is required.**
- The motion or reference made for initiating the case will have to **specify the contempt of which the person charged** is alleged to be guilty.

why does the Attorney General have to grant consent?

- The objective behind requiring the consent of the Attorney General before taking **cognizance of a complaint is to save the time of the court.**
- The AG's consent is meant to be a **safeguard against frivolous petitions**, as it is deemed that the AG, as an officer of the court, will independently ascertain whether the complaint is indeed valid.

Is the AG's consent mandatory for all contempt of court cases?

- The AG's consent is **mandatory when a private citizen wants to initiate a case of contempt of court** against a person.
- Before such a plea can be filed, the **Attorney General must sign off on the complaint**, determining if it requires the attention of the court at all.
- However, **when the court itself initiates a contempt of court case, as it did in the case of Prashant Bhushan** recently, the AG's consent is **not required.**
- This is because the **court is exercising its inherent powers under the Constitution to punish for contempt** and such Constitutional powers cannot be restricted because the AG declined to grant consent.

What happens if the AG denies consent?

- If the AG denies consent, **the matter all but ends.**
- **AG Venugopal had refused to grant consent to initiate criminal contempt proceedings against actor Swara Bhasker** for allegedly making derogatory comments against the Supreme Court.
- The law has a limitation period of one year for bringing in action against an individual.
- The **complainant can, however, separately bring the issue to the notice of the court and urge the court to take suo motu** (on its own motion) cognizance.

- If the court does take suo motu cognizance, as it did in the case of Prashant Bhushan, the consent of the senior-most law officer is not required.

What happens after the AG has granted consent?

- Once the consent of the Attorney General is given in writing, a **notice under The Contempt of Courts Act is served personally on the person** against whom the proceedings are sought to be initiated by the court.
- If the court is satisfied that the alleged contemnor is likely to abscond or evade judicial proceedings, **it can order attachment of property of a value that it deems reasonable.**
- Once the notice is served, **the alleged contemnor may file an affidavit in support of his defence**, explaining the nature and circumstances of her remarks.
- The case is required under the **Act to be heard by a Bench of at least two judges.**
- The court then takes into account any evidence available to check the affidavit, and pass appropriate orders.

6. International Relations

6.1. Middle-Eastern Quad (TH)

- The first-ever meeting between the foreign ministers of India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States is being widely perceived as a new QUAD group.
- The group is intended as an **“international economic forum”** that will work on furthering the economic and political ties between the four countries.

Related topics

Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD)

- The quadrilateral security dialogue includes Japan, India, United States and Australia.
- In March 2020, the **Quad** members held a meeting with representatives from New Zealand, South Korea and Vietnam to discuss their respective approaches to the COVID-19 pandemic. Instigated by the US, this new grouping of key Indo-Pacific states was called **“Quad Plus”**.

Abraham Accord

- The **Israel-UAE** normalization agreement is officially called the Abraham Accords Peace Agreement.
- It was initially agreed to in a joint statement by the **United States, Israel** and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on August 13, 2020.
- The UAE thus became the **third Arab country, after Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994**, to agree to formally normalize its relationship with Israel as well as the first Persian Gulf country to do so.

7. History

7.1. Mount Manipur (IE)

- Recently Union government **rechristened Mount Harriet**, a historical tourist spot in the Andaman and Nicobar islands, as 'Mount Manipur'.

Background

- After the **Anglo-Manipur War of 1891**, several Manipuris who had fought the British in the war, including Maharaja Kulachandra Dhwaja Singh, were exiled to the British penal colony in the Andaman Islands.
- Since the cellular jail (Kalapani) was yet to be built, **Kulachandra and the prisoners were kept on Mount Harriet**, a hillock in what is now the Ferragunj tehsil of South Andaman district
- **23 men, including King Kulachandra and his brothers, were "transported for life" to the Andamans.** While some died there, Kulachandra was released and shifted elsewhere before his death.
- That is why Mount Harriet is an important symbol of the Anglo-Manipur War of 1891

Who was Mount Harriet originally named after?

- Mount Harriet is the **third highest peak in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands**, and served as the summer headquarters of the Chief Commissioner during British Raj.
- It is believed to be named after British artist and photographer, Harriet Christina Tytler, who was the wife of Robert Christopher Tytler, a soldier who served in the British Indian Army.
- Between 1862 and 1864, Tytler was the superintendent of the penal colony at Port Blair.

7.2. Bachelor of Sowa Rigpa Medicine and Surgery (BSRMS)- (ToI)

- Recently, UGC issued a notification regarding the recognition of Bachelor degree program of minimum 5 years in Sowa Rigpa Medicine and Surgery (BSRMS).
- It recognized BSRMS as a new degree under Medicine & Surgery, Ayurveda, Unani, Homeopathy and Health & Allied Sciences, Pharmacy, Paramedical and Nursing.
- The **duration of the degree will be of minimum five years** and Ten plus Two (10+2) is fixed as entry qualification.
- **Until now**, Central Institute of Buddhist Studies (CIBS) in Leh and Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies (CIHTS) located in Sarnath, Tibetan Medical and Astrological Institute, Dharamshala HP, Chakpori Medical Institute, Darjeeling (W.B.) were offering the degree in Sowa Rigpa medicine.



- With the UGC's recognition of BSRMS, **any University can offer a BSRMS degree**

Sowa-Rigpa (Source: Min of Ayush)

- Commonly known as **Amchi system of medicine** is one of the oldest, living and well documented medical tradition of the world. It has been popularly practiced in **Tibet, Mongolia, Bhutan, some parts of China, Nepal, Himalayan regions of India** and few parts of former Soviet Union etc
- It was recognized by the Government in 2011.
- Some scholars believe that it **originated from India, some say China** and while others consider it to have originated from **Tibet itself**
- Sowa-Rigpa is based on the principles of **Jung-wa-nga** (Skt: panchamahabhutas) and **Ngepa-Sum** (Skt: Tridosa). Bodies of all the living beings and non living objects of the universe are composed of Jung- wa-nga; viz Sa, Chu, Me, Lung and Nam-kha (Skt: Prithvi, Jal, Agni, Vayu and Akash).
- Our body is composed of these five Cosmo physical elements of Jung-wa- nga; when the proportion of these elements is in imbalance in our body disorder results.
- The medicine and diet used for the treatment of disorders are also composed of the same five basic elements.
- In the body these elements are present in the form of **Ngepa-Sum** (Skt: Tri- dosa) **Lus-sung-dun** (Skt: Sapta Dhatu) and **Dri-ma-Sum** (Skt: Trimala).
- In drugs, diet and drinks they exist in the form of **Ro-dug** (Skt: Shast-rasa) **Nus-pa** (Virya) **Yontan** (Skt: Guna) and **Zhu-jes** (Skt: Vipaka).
- **The basic theory of Sowa-Rigpa may be adumbrated in terms of the following five points:**
 - ✓ The body in disease as the locus of treatment
 - ✓ Antidote, i.e., the treatment
 - ✓ The method of treatment through antidote
 - ✓ Medicine that cures the disease
 - ✓ Materia Medica, Pharmacy & Pharmacology

7.3.Kushinagar international Airport (TH)

- Recently, the Prime Minister of India inaugurated the **Kushinagar International Airport**.

About Kushinagar

- Kushinagar is located in the north-eastern part of Uttar Pradesh about 50 km east of Gorakhpur and is one of the **important Buddhist pilgrimage sites**.

- Kushinagar is a pilgrimage town in the Kushinagar district of Uttar Pradesh.
- It is an important Buddhist pilgrimage site, where Buddhists believe Gautama Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana after his death. It is an international Buddhist pilgrimage centre.
- Kushinagar also finds a mention in the accounts of **Chinese travellers Fa Hsien and Hieun Tsang**.
- Kushinagar is the **centre of the Buddhist circuit**, which consists of pilgrimage sites at Lumbini, Sarnath, Gaya and others.

Buddhist Circuit

- In 2014-15, the **Ministry of Tourism launched the Swadesh Darshan scheme** with a vision to develop theme-based tourist circuits on the principles of high tourist value.
- It identified Buddhist Circuit as one of the **fifteen thematic circuits for development under the scheme**.
- Investing in the Buddhist Circuit is the result of first-time **collaboration between the Government of India's Ministry of Tourism, the State Governments of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, the private sector, Buddhist monasteries and sects, and the World Bank Group**.

