

08 May 2020: PIB Summary & Analysis

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1. PM pays tributes to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore

What's in News?

The Prime Minister paid tributes to **Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore** on his Jayanti.

- Rabindranath Tagore's birth anniversary is celebrated by Bengalis all over the world as **Rabindra Jayanti**.
- It is marked on the **25th day of the Bengali month of Boisakh** (falls in early May in the Gregorian calendar).
- It is **celebrated in Bangladesh also**.

Rabindranath Tagore:

- Rabindranath Tagore is also known by his pen name **Bhanu Singha Thakur**.
- He is also known by his sobriquets **Gurudev, Kabiguru, and Biswakabi**.
- He was a polymath, poet, musician, artist and ayurveda-researcher.
- Tagore is the composer of **India's national anthem 'Jana Gana Mana'**.
- He also composed **Bangladesh's national anthem 'Amar Shonar Bangla'**.

Background:

- Rabindranath Tagore was born on 7 May 1861 to an upper class Bengali family in his ancestral home in Calcutta.
- Tagore wrote his first poetry when he was 8 years of age.
- He published his first poems aged 16 under the pen-name 'Bhanusimha'.
- His notable works include **Gitanjali, Ghare-Baire, Gora, Manasi, Balaka, Sonar Tori**.
- He is also remembered for his song '**Ekla Chalo Re**'.
- He became the **first non-European to win the Nobel Prize for Literature** when he won the award in 1913 for his translation of his own work in Bengali, **Gitanjali**.
- He has composed over 2000 songs and his songs and music are called '**Rabindrasangeet**' with its own distinct lyrical and fluid style.
- Tagore had composed **Amar Shonar Bangla in 1905** in the wake of the Bengal partition to foster a spirit of unity and patriotism among Bengalis.
 - Tagore **fiercely opposed the partition**.

2. Kailash-Mansarovar pilgrimage

What's in News?

Ushering in a new era in undertaking Kailash-Manasarovar Yatra and border area connectivity, Raksha Mantri inaugurated the **road link from Dharchula (Uttarakhand) to Lipulekh (China Border)**.

- The Kailash-Mansarovar road alignment is along the Kali river, which is the **boundary between India and Nepal**.
- The endpoint of the road is at Lipulekh Pass, **a tri-junction of India, China and Nepal**.
- Pilgrimage to Kailash-Manasarovar is sacred and revered by Hindus, Buddhists and Jains.

Darchula:

- Dharchula lies north of Pithoragarh, along the route of the Kailash-Mansarovar pilgrimage tour.
- Dharchula is a major **trading centre** for the trans-Himalayan trade routes since medieval times.
- Dharchula is surrounded by **Himalayan Peaks**.

Lipulekh:

- Lipulekh is a **Himalayan pass on the border between India's Uttarakhand state and the Tibet region of China, near their trijunction with Nepal**.
- Nepal has ongoing claims to the southern side of the pass, called **Kalapani territory**, which is controlled by India.

What is the Kalapani dispute?

- Kalapani is a 372-sq km area at the China-Nepal-India tri-junction.
- India claims Kalapani as a part of Uttarakhand while Nepal depicts the area in its map.
- The border dispute flared up again recently after India released its new political map following the reorganisation of J&K showing the area as its own.
- According to **the Sugauli treaty signed between Nepal and British India in 1816**, the **Mahakali river** that runs through the Kalapani area is the boundary between the two countries.
- However, British surveyors subsequently showed the origin of the river, which has many tributaries, at different places.
- While Nepal claims that the river, west of the disputed territory is the main river and so Kalapani falls in its territory, **India claims a different origin and includes the area in its territory**.
- Strategically, Lipulekh pass in Kalapani serves as an important vantage point for India to keep an eye on Chinese movements.
- Since 1962, **Kalapani has been manned by the Indi-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)**.