22 Jan 2022: UPSC Exam Comprehensive News Analysis

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A. GS 1 Related

Category: HISTORY

1. Amar Jawan Jyoti now merged with the War Memorial flame: govt.

Syllabus: Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present – significant events, personalities, issues.

Context: –

The Amar Jawan Jyoti at the India Gate was merged with the eternal flame at the National War Memorial (NWM).

What is the Amar Jawan Jyoti?

- Amar Jawan Jyoti is an eternal flame at India Gate in central Delhi.
- It is an iconic symbol of the nation's tributes to the soldiers who have died for the country in various wars and conflicts since Independence.

Why was Amar Jawan Jyoti constructed?

- After India defeated Pakistan in the 1971 war, the Amar Jawan Jyoti was constructed as a memorial for Indian soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice.
- Amar Jawan Jyoti was inaugurated by the then prime minister, Indira Gandhi, on January 26, 1972.

What are the Key Elements of Amar Jawan Jyoti?

- The key elements of the Amar Jawan Jyoti included a black marble plinth, a cenotaph, which acted as a tomb of the unknown soldier.
- The plinth had an inverted L1A1 self-loading rifle with a bayonet, on top of which was a soldier's war helmet.
- The installation had four burners called the eternal flame which was never allowed to be extinguished.

How was the eternal flame kept burning?

- Since 1972, Amar Jawan Jyoti has been kept alive with the help of cylinders of liquified petroleum gas, or LPG.
- In 2006, the fuel for the flames was changed from LPG to piped natural gas, or PNG.

Why was the eternal flame merged with the flame at the National War Memorial (NWM)?

- The government sources have claimed that the eternal flame paid homage to the soldiers killed in the 1971 War, but does not mention their name.
- Besides the India Gate is a "symbol of our colonial past"
- The names of all Indian martyrs from all the wars are housed at the National War Memorial. Hence it is a true tribute to have the flame paying tribute to martyrs there.
- Indian political and military leaders and foreign dignitaries pay their tributes to the fallen soldiers at the National War Memorial, which used to happen at the Amar Jawan Jyoti earlier.
- Many criticized that Amar Jawan Jyoti was etched so strongly in the emotional psyche of the country that the new war memorial did not get the attention as the government had expected, and the government wants to promote the new memorial.

What is the National War Memorial (NWM)?

- The National War Memorial was inaugurated in 2019.
- It is located at the 'C' Hexagon near India Gate.
- It was built in memory of the soldiers who laid down their lives for the country in the post-Independence period.

- The architecture of the memorial is based on four concentric circles:Raksha Chakra, Tyag Chakra, Veerta Chakra, and Amar Chakra.

Nut Graf
The eternal flame at the Amar Jawan Jyoti underneath India Gate in central Delhi was an iconic symbol of the nation's tributes to the soldiers who have died for the country in various wars and conflicts since Independence.

B. GS 2 Related

Category: POLITY & GOVERNANCE

1. Pushback to change in IAS cadre rules

Syllabus: Role of civil services in a democracy.

Prelims: IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954;

Mains: Concerns with Proposed Amendments to IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954

Context: – The Center has proposed amendments to the Indian Administrative Service (Cadre) Rules 1954 in order to exercise greater control in central deputation of IAS officers.

What is the Present Deputation Rule?
According to Rule-6 (1) of the IAS (Cadre) Rules-1954, "a cadre officer may, with the concurrence of the State Governments concerned and the Central Government, be deputed for service under the Central Government or another State Government or under a company, association or body of individuals, whether incorporated or not, which is wholly or substantially owned or controlled by the Central Government or by another State Government."

- The Union government asks states to provide an "offer list" with officers of the All India Services which includes IAS, IPS and IFS officers willing to go on central deputation.
- Even within the new proposal, the Center can decide the number of officers going on central deputation "in consultation with the State Government concerned".
- The Rule-6 (1) of the IAS (Cadre) Rules-1954 further provides in case of a disagreement between the Center and the states that "the matter shall be decided by the Central Government and the State Government or State Governments concerned shall give effect to the decision" of the Center.

What is the Need of Amendment?

Various state/joint cadres were found to be not sponsoring an adequate number of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers as part of the central deputation reserve even though the personnel ministry had flagged the issue several times.

What are the proposed amendments?

- In its amendment, the Center has proposed to insert a provision in Rule 6 of IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954, which stated that any IAS officer could be posted on central deputation with the concurrence of the state government concerned.
- The actual number of officers to be deputed to the central government shall be decided by the Center in consultation with the state government concerned," it added.

- Incidentally, the Center, in its proposal to amend the IAS Cadre (Rules), has recently asked the state governments to send lists of IAS officers for central deputation.

What are the Concerns with Proposed Amendments?

- The amendments could be misused.
- A sense of instability and ambiguity is likely to arise among the officers of the All India Services, who are posted at various important posts in various districts.
- The proposed amendment grants the Central government unilateral right to appoint AIS officers without the consent of the State government.
- There will be confusion in the discharge of official responsibilities by them and due to political interference.

Know More About IAS Cadre Rules: CNA 21 Jan 2022

Nut Graf

The Chief Ministers of several states have opposed the proposed amendments to the Indian Administrative Service (Cadre) Rules 1954. The proposed amendments will give overriding powers to the Union government to post All India Services (AIS) officers without the State government's nod.

2. A-G gives nod for contempt action against Narsinghanand

Syllabus: Structure, organization and functioning of the Judiciary

Prelims: Contempt of Court

Mains: A-G's Consent to initiate contempt of court proceedings

Context: – Attorney-General (A-G) gave consent to a plea to initiate contempt proceedings under arrest in the Haridwar hate speech case.

Contempt of Court: –

- An individual who disobeys a judge or otherwise interrupts the legal process in the courtroom is charged with contempt of court.
- Criminal and civil contempt of court are the two primary forms of contempt of court.

Why is the A-G's Consent needed to initiate contempt of court proceedings?

- The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 states that In the case of a criminal contempt the Supreme Court or the High Court may take action on its own motion or on a motion made by
  - (a) the Advocate-General, or
  - (b) any other person, with the consent in writing of the Advocate-General.

Know More About **Contempt of Court** And **Attorney General of India**

Nut Graf

The Attorney General has a significant role in matters of giving consent to initiate contempt proceedings against persons who undermine the majesty of the institution and the authority vested in the Supreme Court of India.

C. GS 3 Related

Nothing here for today!!!

D. GS 4 Related

Nothing here for today!!!

E. Editorials

Category: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. Setting sail for a powerful India-German partnership

Syllabus: Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.

<u>**Context: –**</u>

The German Navy frigate Bayern arrival in India is a remarkable step for Indo-German relations.

Background

- Germany has realized that the world's political and economic center of gravity is shifting to the Indo-Pacific region, with India as a key player and strategic partner.
- Germany is determined to contribute to buttressing the rules-based international order at a time when it is exposed to grave challenges.
- For Europe, it is vital that trade routes stay open, that freedom of navigation is upheld and that disputes are resolved peacefully on the basis of international law.
- India is a maritime powerhouse and a strong advocate for free and inclusive trade partners on that mission.

What are the Significant Aspects of India-German partnership?

1. **Tackling Global Issues: –**

- The Indo-Pacific region is home to around 65% of the global population and 20 of the world's 33 megacities.
- The region accounts for 62% of global GDP and 46% of the world's merchandise trade.
- On the other hand, it is also the source of more than half of all global carbon emissions.
- This makes the region's countries key partners in tackling global challenges such as climate change and sustainable energy production and consumption.

2. **Importance of Indo-pacific region to Germany: –**

- More than 20% of German trade is conducted in the Indo-Pacific neighborhood.
- This is why Germany and India share a responsibility to maintain and support stability, prosperity and freedom in this part of the world.

3. **Significance of Germany's Warship Bayern: –**

- The Bayern participated in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and European Union missions Sea Guardian in the Mediterranean Sea and Operation ATALANTA in the Arabian Sea.
- Bayern also helped monitor United Nations sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Conclusion: –

As major democracies and strategic partners, India and Germany should step up their cooperation to tackle common challenges, with climate change on top of the agenda. This is an opportunity for joint and coordinated action. Together India and Germany can work on a sustainable path for India's growth that will benefit both our countries.

Nut Graf
The German frigate Bayern sailed to India after traversing the South China Sea as part of Berlin's focus on maritime and security cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, marking the first visit by a German warship to India in almost a decade. The visit of the German frigate follows forays into the Indo-Pacific by other European navies.

F. Prelims Facts

1. Two States plan to revive Saraswati river

Context: –In an attempt to revive the Saraswati river, the Haryana and Himachal Pradesh governments signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the construction of a dam in Himachal Pradesh near the Adi Badri area of Haryana's YamunaNagar district.

About Saraswati River: –

- The Saraswati River is a legendary river that is revered in Vedic literature.
- The river ran through Haryana, Rajasthan, and Gujarat's northwestern region.
- It also passed through Pakistan on its way to the Western Sea via the Rann of Kutch.
- Know More About **River Saraswati**

2. All set for tiger count at Bandipur, Nagarahole

Context: –Tiger census will commence at Bandipur and Nagarahole National Park.

Tiger Census in India: –

- The national tiger census is conducted once every four years.
- The Nation-wide tiger census was earlier held in 2006, 2010, 2014, 2018.
- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) conducts tiger censuses in partnership with state forest departments, conservation NGOs, and the Wildlife Institute of India (WII).
- Know More About **Tiger Census**

3. Start-ups raised a record $24.1 bn in 2021: study

Context: – According to a new study, Start-ups have seen a two-fold increase over pre-COVID-19 levels.

Findings of 'Indian Tech Start-up Ecosystem: Year of The Titans' Study

- Numerous start-ups were added in 2021, over 600 more than what was added in the previous year.
- Start-ups raised USD 24.1 billion in 2021, a two-fold increase over pre-COVID levels.
- There was a 3X increase in the number of high value deals.
- Know More About **Startup India**
- About 50% of the deals had at least one India-domiciled investor.
- It said that more than $6 billion has been raised via public markets with 11 start-up IPOs in 2021.
- Know More About **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)**

G. Tidbits

Nothing here for today!!!

H. UPSC Prelims Practice Questions

Q1. The Living Root Bridges which are like a suspension bridge formed with living plant roots by tree shaping is seen in the State of

a. Kerala
b. Odisha
c. Meghalaya
d. Chhattisgarh

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Living Root Bridges in Meghalaya are made from rubber tree roots also known as Ficus elastica tree.
- The double-decker root bridge in Cherrapunji and the single-decker root bridge in Shillong are unique living root bridges in the world.
- **Hence Option C is correct.**

Q2. Which of the following are public authorities under the Right to Information Act?

1. Election Commission
2. Indian Olympic Association
3. Non-Governmental Organization
4. SEBI

Options:

a. 1, 2 and 3 only
b. 2, 3 and 4 only
c. 1, 2 and 4 only

d. 1, 3 and 4 only

Answer: c

Explanation:-

- "Public authority" is defined in Section 2(h) of the RTI Act. The "public authority" means any authority or body or institution of self government established or constituted—
    - (a) by or under the Constitution;
    - (b) by any other law made by Parliament;
    - (c) by any other law made by State Legislature;
    - (d) by notification issued or order made by the appropriate Government,
- and includes any—
    - (i) body owned, controlled or substantially financed;
    - (ii) non-Government organization substantially financed.

- The definition clearly delineate bodies created
    - by the Constitution of India (Union and state executives, **Election Commission**, etc.),
    - by laws made by Parliament and state legislatures (Central and state universities, regulators such as RBI, **SEBI**, TRAI etc.), and
    - by **government orders or notifications** as public authorities.

- Hence Option C is correct.

Q3. Consider the following statements with respect to Contempt of court:

1. The Attorney General's (AG) consent is mandatory when a private citizen wants to initiate a case of contempt of court against a person
2. The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, has a limitation period of two years for bringing in action against an individual.
3. Supreme Court has the power to initiate contempt cases on its own, independent of the motion brought before it by the AG or with the consent of the AG

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a. 1 only
b. 2 and 3 only
c. 1 and 3 only
d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, lays down the law on contempt of court.

- 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.

- The AG's consent is mandatory when a private citizen wants to initiate a case of contempt of court against a person. **Hence Statement 1 is correct.**

- The Contempt of Court Act, 1971 provides for limitation for filing contempt petitioner within **1 year(NOT 2)** for bringing in action against an individual. **Hence Statement 2 is incorrect.**

- Article 129 of the Constitution gives the Supreme Court the power to initiate contempt cases on its own, independent of the motion brought before it by the AG or with the consent of the AG. **Hence Statement 3 is correct.**

Q4. Consider the following statements with respect to Saraswati River:

1. It is a major Rig Vedic River
2. It is part of the Sapta Sindhu rivers mentioned in the Rig Veda.
3. The River had originated from Kapal tirith in the Himalayas in the west of Kailash

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a. 1 and 2 only
b. 2 and 3 only
c. 1 and 3 only
d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The Saraswati is a major Rig Vedic river mentioned in the Rig Veda and other Vedic texts.

- It is part of the Sapta Sindhu rivers mentioned in the Rig Veda.

- The river, which had formed in the Himalayas west of Kailash at Kapal tirith, was flowing southward to Mansarovar before turning westward.

- **Hence All the Statements are correct.**

Q5. The term M-STRIPES' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of [PYQ (2017)]

a. Captive breeding of Wild Fauna
b. Maintenance of Tiger Reserves
c. Indigenous Satellite Navigation System
d. Security of National Highways

Answer: b

Explanation:

Monitoring System for Tiger-Intensive Protection and Ecological Status(M-STRIPES)

- The Indian government launched M-STrIPES, a software-based monitoring system, across Indian tiger reserves.

- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has improved the monitoring system for tigers in the country's tiger reserves (TRs) by adopting M-STrIPES.

- **Hence Option B is correct.**

I. UPSC Mains Practice Questions

1. Public funding is a sound method of increasing capital expenditure in the nation when the government is facing a funds crunch. Comment. (250 words; 15 marks)[GS-3, Infrastructure]
2. How can deepening of India – Germany relations work in the interest of both the nations? Give examples to substantiate your answer. (250 words; 15 marks)[GS-2, Infrastructure Relations]