



Swami Vivekanand

❖ Context

- Recently, Prime Minister of India paid tribute to Swami Vivekananda on 125th Anniversary of Sri Ramakrishna Math, in Chennai

❖ About Swami Vivekanand:

- The great-born Indian Swami Vivekananda took birth as Narendra Nath Datta, on January 12th, 1863.
- He was one of the **monks and the chief disciple of Sri Ramakrishna Paramhansa**.
- He introduced to the whole world the **Indian philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga** and this is credited with the interfaith raising awareness, which is bringing the religion of Hinduism to the world stage during the late 19th century.
- He **preached 'neo-Vedanta'**, an interpretation of Hinduism through a Western lens, and believed in combining spirituality with material progress.
- **In 1897 he established Ramakrishna Mission** which was named after his Guru Swami Ramakrishna Paramhansa. This particular institution did extensive educational as well as philanthropic work in India.
- In the country of India, he also **represented the first Parliament of Religion** held in Chicago which is in the US in 1893.
- Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had called Vivekananda the **"maker of modern India."**
- In 1893, he took the **name 'Vivekananda'** after **Maharaja Ajit Singh of the Khetri State requested him to do so**, changing from 'Sachidananda' that he used before.
- **'Raja Yoga', 'Jnana Yoga', 'Karma Yoga'** are some of the books he wrote.

❖ Ramkrishna Paramhansa:

- Ramakrishna Paramhansa was a **priest** in a temple at Dakshineswar near Calcutta.
- After coming in contact with the leaders of other religions, he accepted the sanctity of all faiths.
- Almost all religious reformers of his time, including **Keshab Chandra Sen and Dayanand**, called on him for religious discussion and guidance.
- The contemporary Indian intellectuals, whose faith in their own cultures had been shaken by the challenge from the west, found reassurance from his teachings.
- In order to **propagate the teachings of Ramakrishna** and put them into practice, **Ramakrishna Mission was founded in 1897** by his favourite disciple Vivekananda.

❖ Contributions of Ramakrishna Mission:

- The mission **worked to help the poor, improve the conditions of women, fight against untouchability and superstition** and overhaul the **education system**.
- It stressed the **supremacy of the Hindu religion & culture**.
- It believed in the **unity and equality of all religions**.
- Economically, it was in favor of **agro-based small-scale industries**.
- It contributed to **Indian Nationalism** and the awakening of the countrymen.
- It led to the development of moral and physical strength and Unity based on common spiritual ideas.
- It **awakened Indian youth** to rise and work to eradicate hunger and ignorance among the masses.

Project – 75I

❖ Context

- Germany is offering its HDW Class Dolphin submarine - based on the (Air Independent Propulsion) AIP system - to India to jointly build six conventional submarines.



❖ About Project – 75I:

- Project 75I is a program initiated by the Indian Navy to design and construct six new conventional submarines in collaboration with foreign vendors.
- The "I" in the project's name stands for "India," while "75" denotes the **approximate length of the submarines in meters**. The primary objective of Project 75I is to enhance the Indian Navy's underwater combat capabilities & maintain a strong maritime presence in the Indian Ocean region.
- The program aims to acquire advanced technology and build state-of-the-art submarines that can effectively carry out a range of tasks, such as anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, & intelligence gathering.
- The submarines under Project 75I will be equipped with **air-independent propulsion (AIP) systems**, which will enable them to remain **submerged for longer periods**, making them harder to detect.

- The construction of these submarines will provide a significant boost to India's indigenous defense manufacturing capabilities, as most of the systems and equipment required for the submarines will be built in India.
- **HDW Class Dolphin Submarine:**
- The HDW Class Dolphin submarine is a class of diesel-electric submarines built by **Howaldtswerke-Deutsche Werft (HDW) in Germany**.
- The Dolphin class submarines are considered to be some of the most advanced conventional submarines in the world and are primarily used for **intelligence gathering, special operations & deterrence missions**.
- These are equipped with advanced sensors and weapons systems, including torpedoes, mines, and nuclear-capable cruise missiles.
- They are also equipped with an **air-independent propulsion system** that allows them to stay submerged for longer periods of time without having to surface to recharge their batteries.

Face to Face Centres

News in Between the Lines

The Belfast/Good Friday Agreement



❖ Context

- Recently, the US President visited Belfast, the capital of Northern Ireland, on April 11 to mark the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement.

❖ Key Highlights:

- **Background :**
 - **Northern Ireland was created in 1921** and remained part of the UK when the rest of Ireland became an independent state.
 - This created a **split in the population** between **unionists**, who wish to see Northern Ireland stay within the UK, and **nationalists**, who want it to become part of the Republic of Ireland.
- The Good Friday Agreement was **signed on April 10, 1998**, between factions of Northern Ireland, and the governments of Britain and Ireland.
- It was aimed to end decades of violence in Northern Ireland among those who wished to remain with the United Kingdom (UK) and those who wanted to join Ireland.
- The Good Friday Agreement is based on the idea of co-operation between communities.
- It set up a new government for Northern Ireland representing both nationalists & unionists.
- The Westminster government gave this government control over key areas such as health and education - a process known as devolution.

UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF)



❖ Context

- Recently India said that it has no objections to the UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF) giving grants to NGOs funded by George Soros, while he is put on the watchlist in India underlines a contradiction.

❖ Key Highlights:

- In 2005, it was set up as a **United Nations General Trust Fund** to strengthen global participation in democratization efforts.
- India and the US were prime movers behind the UN Democracy Fund in 2005, when they were negotiating the civilian nuclear co-operation deal.
- **India is a founding partner of the UNDEF** and has **contributed over US\$ 32 million to the fund since its inception**. Presently, **the United States (1st) followed by Sweden (2nd) top the contributor chart, respectively and India is in 3rd position**.
- UNDEF supports projects that strengthen the voice of civil society, promote human rights, and encourage the participation of all groups in democratic processes.
- The large majority of UNDEF funds go to local civil society organizations.
- UNDEF works entirely on voluntary contributions from governments around the world.
- UNDEF provides financial support for the projects depending on the **six thematic areas**, including-
 - Rule of law and human rights.
 - Women's empowerment.
 - Youth engagement.
 - Strengthening civil society interaction with the government.
 - Media and freedom of information, and Electoral processes.

Suicide Drone



❖ Context

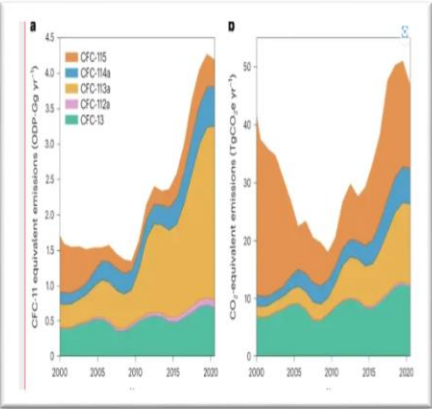
- An Iranian official has said that the country's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) has successfully tested a long-range, high-precision **kamikaze drone** loaded.

❖ Key Highlights:

- The unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) has been named "**Meraj-532**". It has a range of **450 kilometres**. It is reportedly capable of flying at a maximum altitude of 12,000 feet for 3 hours straight.
- The drone had pinpoint accuracy when it came to hitting targets.
- The suicide drone is equipped with a **piston engine** and can take off from a vehicle.
- The UAV has a 50-kg warhead and can be assembled and prepared for flight easily, making it suitable for rapid reaction operations.

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Ozone-Depleting Chemicals



❖ Context

- A new study published in Nature Geoscience has found that emissions of several ozone-depleting chemicals, including chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), have been increasing despite being banned for most uses under the Montreal Protocol.

❖ Key Highlights:

- The rise in emissions is attributed to a **loophole in the rules** that allows the use of CFCs to manufacture other ozone-friendly alternatives.
- Although the emissions currently do not pose a significant threat to ozone recovery, they are **potent greenhouse gases that affect the climate**.
- The researchers suggest that these emissions could be reduced by reducing leakages associated with **hydrofluorocarbon production** and properly destroying any co-produced CFCs.
- The study also notes that if emissions of these five CFCs continue to rise, their impact may negate some of the benefits gained under the Montreal Protocol.
- **Montreal Protocol:** The Montreal Protocol is an international treaty signed in 1987 to protect the Earth's ozone layer by phasing out the **production and consumption** of substances that deplete it, such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).

Siren Sphagnicola



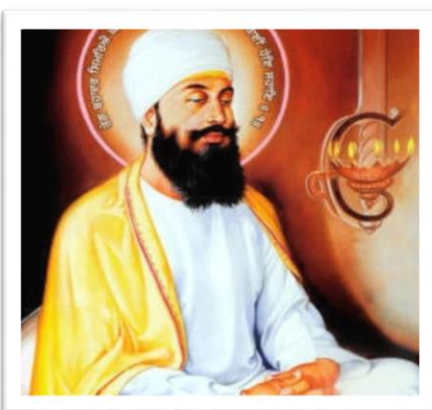
❖ Context

- Siren sphagnicola is a recently discovered species of aquatic salamander that inhabits seepage areas in the eastern **Gulf Coastal Plain of the United States**.

❖ Key Highlights:

- It belongs to the family Sirenidae and is the smallest known species in the Siren genus, measuring around **20 cm in total length**.
- Siren sphagnicola has external gills with three fimbriate gill stalks, three associated gill slits, and four toes on the forelimbs.
- It is unique within salamanders in its lack of pelvic girdles and associated hindlimbs.
- The species is restricted to the environs of **sandy, seepage-fed creeks in the lower Gulf Coastal Plain, ranging from the Florida Parishes** of Louisiana eastward to the westernmost tributary creeks of Choctawhatchee Bay in the western Florida panhandle.
- Most specimens have been found in the Blackwater, Yellow, and Escambia/Conecuh river **drainages of Florida and Alabama**.

Guru Tegh Bahadur



❖ Context

- Recently, the Parkash Purab of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth guru of the Sikhs, was celebrated on April 11.

❖ About Guru Tegh Bahadur

- **Born** in Amritsar on April 21, 1621.
- He was the ninth of 10 Gurus of the Sikh religion his term as Guru ran from **1665 to 1675**. Aurangzeb was the ruling Mughal emperor at the time.
- He is often **regarded as the 'Protector of Humanity'** (Srisht-di-Chadar) by the Sikhs.
- Guru Tegh Bahadur was **trained in martial arts, swordsmanship, and horseback riding as a kid**.
- Despite being a capable soldier with his father in several battles, **he seems to have chosen a life of renunciation and meditation**.
- He **traveled widely to spread Nanak's teachings**.
- **One hundred and fifteen of his hymns** are in **Guru Granth Sahib**.
- He founded the town of **Chak-Nanki in Punjab**, which later became a part of **Punjab's Anandpur Sahib**.
- He **opposed forcible conversions of non-Muslims to Islam**.
- In the year 1675, Guru Tegh Bahadur was **executed in Delhi under the orders of the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb**.
- **Gurudwara Sis Ganj Sahib and Gurudwara Rakab Ganj Sahib** in Delhi mark the places of execution and cremation of his body.
- Inspired by him, Guru Gobind Singh Ji, finally formed the Sikh group into a separate, formal, symbol-patterned society that became known as Khalsa (Martial).

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Cope India 23



❖ Context

➤ Exercise Cope India 23 started between the **Indian Air Force and the United States Air Force** recently.

❖ Key Highlights:

- This 11 days exercise is being held at **Panagarh, Kalaikunda & Agra** air force stations.
- The exercise aims at enhancing mutual understanding between the two Air Forces and share their best practices.
- In the exercise, **C-130J, C-17, MC-130J** aircrafts are participating.
- The exercise also includes the presence of Japanese Air Self Defence Force aircrew, who will participate in the capacity of observers.

Public Interest Immunity Claim



❖ Context

➤ The Supreme Court last week set aside the Centre's order imposing a broadcast ban on the **Malayalam news channel MediaOne**.

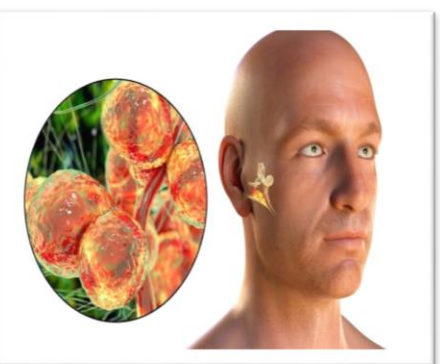
❖ Key Highlights:

- The top court set aside a March 2, 2022 judgment of the Kerala High Court that had upheld the I&B Ministry's order.
- In making its decision, the **High Court had relied on material disclosed solely to it by the Home Ministry in a 'sealed cover'**.
- The SC, which has repeatedly expressed unhappiness with so-called "**sealed cover jurisprudence**", also devised a procedure for "**public interest immunity claim**" as a less restrictive alternative to sealed covers for deciding claims involving state secrets.

❖ Public Interest Immunity Claim:

- It refers to situations where the disclosure of certain information in a legal case might harm national security or other important public interests.
- In such cases, the government or other parties can seek to withhold or redact such information.
- The Supreme Court said that the **validity of a claim involving national security considerations must be based on the test of** :
 - i. whether there is material to conclude that the non-disclosure of information is in the interest of national security; and
 - ii. whether a reasonable prudent person would draw the same inference from the material on record".
 - iii. Even if the non-disclosure is in the interests of national security, the means adopted by the government should satisfy the proportionality of action.

Candida Auris



❖ Context

➤ Candida auris, a recently identified single-cell fungus that can infect humans, is spreading across US hospitals.

❖ Key Highlights:

- Unlike superficial fungal infections like athlete's foot, Candida auris and other related fungi can cause infections within a person's body and are much more dangerous.
- Candida auris is a type of yeast that is moderately **resistant to existing antifungal** drugs, making it difficult to treat.
- Two groups of people are most at risk for dangerous candida infections:
 - patients in **intensive care units** who also have central intravenous catheters and are receiving broad-spectrum antibiotics,
 - and patients with **weak immune systems**, such as cancer patients on chemotherapy or patients with human immunodeficiency virus.
- If candida cells on a person's skin contaminate an intravenous line, the fungus can get into a **patient's bloodstream** and cause often deadly bloodstream infections.
- The most effective measures to fight the rise of drug-resistant Candida auris are **good infection control practices**.

Why is Candida auris a problem?

- It causes serious infections.** *C. auris* can cause bloodstream infections and even death, particularly in hospital and nursing home patients with serious medical problems. More than 1 in 3 patients with invasive *C. auris* infection (for example, an infection that affects the blood, heart, or brain) die.
- It's often resistant to medicines.** Antifungal medicines commonly used to treat *Candida* infections often don't work for *Candida auris*. Some *C. auris* infections have been resistant to all three types of antifungal medicines.
- It's becoming more common.** Although *C. auris* was just discovered in 2009, it has spread quickly and caused infections in more than a dozen countries.
- It's difficult to identify.** *C. auris* can be misidentified as other types of fungi unless specialized laboratory technology is used. This misidentification might lead to a patient getting the wrong treatment.
- It can spread in hospitals and nursing homes.** *C. auris* has caused outbreaks in healthcare facilities and can spread through contact with affected patients and contaminated surfaces or equipment. Good hand hygiene and cleaning in healthcare facilities is important because *C. auris* can live on surfaces for several weeks.

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