

General Studies-1

PM pays tributes to the martyrs of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre

About Jallianwala massacre:

The **Jallianwala Bagh massacre**, also known as the **Amritsar massacre**, took place on 13 April 1919 when troops of the British Indian Army under the command of Colonel Reginald Dyer fired rifles into a crowd of Baishakhi pilgrims, who had gathered in Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar, Punjab.

The civilians, in the majority Sikhs, had assembled to participate in the annual Baisakhi celebrations, a religious and cultural festival for Punjabi people and also to condemn the arrest and deportation of two national leaders, Satya Pal and Dr Saifuddin Kitchlew.

Coming from outside the city, many may have been unaware of the imposition of martial law some time earlier.

Hunter Committee:

On 14 October 1919, after orders issued by the Secretary of State for India, Edwin Montagu, the Government of India announced the formation of a committee of inquiry into the events in Punjab. Referred to as the Disorders Inquiry Committee, it was later more widely known as the Hunter Commission.

The Hunter Commission did not impose any penal or disciplinary action because Dyer's actions were condoned by various superiors (later upheld by the Army Council)

In February 2013 David Cameron became the first serving British Prime Minister to visit the site, laid a wreath at the memorial, and described the Amritsar massacre as "a deeply shameful event in British history"

World Hindi Conference (WHC)

The 11th World Hindi Conference (WHC) is being organized in August 2018 in Mauritius by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India in association with the Government of Mauritius.

First World Hindi Conference (□□□□□ □□□□□ □□□□□□□) was inaugurated on 10 January 1975 by then Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi. The first conference held from 10 to 12 January 1975 in Nagpur. Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, then Prime Minister of Mauritius attended conference as the Chief guest

About the conference:

The event, held once in three years, is dedicated to Hindi language. It sees participation from Hindi scholars, writers and laureates from different parts of the world who contribute to the language.

Theme: "Vaishvik Hindi Aur Bharatiy Sanskriti".

The MEA has also set up the World Hindi Secretariat in Mauritius. The main objective of the WHS is to promote Hindi as an international language and further its cause for recognition at the United Nations as an Official Language

General Studies-2

Green Trains for Green India

Beginning with the introduction of 57 bio-toilets in one train i.e. Gwalior-Varanasi Bundelkhand Express in January 2011, Indian Railways has provided about 1,25,000 bio-toilets in its coaches till March 2018. This covers about 60% of coaching fleet of Indian Railways.

Presently, Indian Railways have commissioned and operating 27 sections as Green Corridors. All the trains plying on these sections are running with all the coaches equipped with bio-toilets. Thus, there is no direct discharge of human waste from the trains running on these Green Corridors.

About "Bio-Toilet project"

- This technology is first of its kind being used by any railroad in the world for On-board accelerated digestion of human waste.
 - These bio-toilets are fitted underneath the lavatories and the human waste discharged into them is acted upon by a colony of anaerobic bacteria that convert human waste mainly into water and small amount of bio-gases.
 - The gases escape into atmosphere and waste water is discharged after chlorination onto the track. Human waste, thus, does not fall on the railway tracks thus improving cleanliness and hygiene at platforms, and facilitate track and coaches maintenance staff to perform their work more efficiently.
 - The Bio-toilet project is very much aligned with 'Swachh Bharat Mission', launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.
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- The technology for Bio-toilets has been innovated, designed and is 'Made in India'.
 - It has been developed jointly by Indian Railways' Engineers & DRDO's scientists.

- It is one example where the technology developed for defence applications has been utilised for civilian purpose.

General Studies-3

Banks Board Bureau (BBB)

Why in News?

The government Thursday appointed Bhanu Pratap Sharma, former secretary of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), as the new chairman of the Banks Board Bureau (BBB) along with three other members.

Former Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Vinod Rai was the first Chairman of Banks Board Bureau (BBB).

About BBB:

Banks Board Bureau (BBB) is an autonomous body of the Government of India tasked to improve the governance of Public Sector Banks, recommend selection of chiefs of government owned banks and financial institutions and to help banks in developing strategies and capital raising plans.

The bureau was announced by the Union Government in August 2015 as part of seven point Indradhanush Mission to revamp the PSBs.

In February 2016, the Modi government approved the proposal for setting up BBB and it started functioning from April 2016.

The BBB works as step towards governance reforms in Public Sector Banks (PSBs) as recommended by P.J. Nayak Committee.

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

Why in News?

Approximately 1.5 Million rural residents in State of Madhya Pradesh are going to directly benefit from improved livelihoods, education and mobility with the USD \$ 140-Million loan approved by the Board of Directors of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) in a Meeting held recently in Beijing.

The Project, co-financed with the World Bank, aims to improve the rural road connectivity and management for residents of about 5,640 villages who use the rural roads for daily activities.

About AIIB:

- The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is an international financial institution proposed by China.
- The purpose of the multilateral development bank is to provide finance to infrastructure projects in the Asia-Pacific region.
- AIIB is regarded by some as a rival for the IMF, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), which the AIIB says are dominated by developed countries like the United States and Japan.
- The authorised capital of AIIB will be \$100 billion.
- AIIB's headquarters is to be located in Beijing.
- India is the second largest shareholder in the Bank after China.
- In October, 21 countries signed the memorandum of understanding establishing the bank.
- It now has more than 40 members, including South Korea, Austria and Spain.
- It is being called as a very positive development in the sense that it opens up more borrowing opportunities.