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UPSC Current Affairs 2017: News Analysis

A. GS1 Related

Category: ART AND CULTURE

1. [Ahmedabad gets world heritage tag](#)

In news:

- The Walled City of Ahmedabad, founded by **Sultan Ahmed Shah** in the 15th century, has been declared **India's first World Heritage City**.
- The **World Heritage Committee (WHC) of UNESCO** made the announcement
- The UNESCO had preferred Ahmedabad over Delhi and Mumbai.
- The 5.5 km walled city area with an approximate population of four lakh, living in century-old wooden residences is regarded as a living heritage.
- It has now joined the privileged club of heritage cities like **Paris, Cairo, Edinburgh and two cities in the subcontinent, Bhaktapur in Nepal and Galle in Sri Lanka**

Ahmedabad

The walled city of Ahmedabad on the eastern banks of Sabarmati river presents a rich architectural heritage from the sultanate period, notably the **Bhadra citadel**, the walls and gates of the Fort city and numerous mosques and tombs, as well as important Hindu and Jain temples of later periods.

C. GS2 Related

Category: POLITY

1. [Committee formed to study legalities for separate State flag](#)

Context: separate flag for Karnataka

In news:

- The Karnataka State government has constituted a nine-member committee headed by Principal Secretary, Department of Kannada and Culture, to study and submit a report to the government on the possibility of redesigning a separate flag for Karnataka and providing it a statutory standing.

Constitutional and legal position of the State having its own flag:

- **R. Bommai v/s Union of India (Supreme Court 1994) case verdict:**
- The Supreme Court has declared that federalism is a basic feature of the Constitution and States are supreme in their sphere.

Inference:

- This being the Constitutional position, there is no prohibition in the Constitution for the State to have its own flag. However, the manner in which the State flag is hoisted should not dishonour the national flag. It has to be always below the national flag.
- The national flag code specifically authorises use of other flags subject to the regulation by the court. So State flag is not unauthorized.

2. [Do what you feel is good for your faith and let others do the same: Chief Justice of India](#)

Context:

- A plea was filed before Supreme Court seeking an end to the practice of burning effigy of Ravana on the eve of Dussehra festival.
- Supreme Court dismisses the plea upholding Article 25 of the Indian Constitution.

Chief Justice of India J.S. Khehar's Observation:

- Every person has the right to do what he feels is good for his faith
- "This court is not about good or bad. It is about what is legal and what is illegal. You do what you feel is good for your faith and let others do what is good for their faith."

C. GS3 Related

Category: INTERNAL SECURITY AND DEFENSE

1. [Cyberattack link to glitches in RJio, NSE under probe](#)

Context:

Last week's attack:

Data breach fears loom

Major glitches and data breaches that occurred in the first week of July

R-Jio


On July 9, magicapk.com posted details of RJio customers, their email IDs and Aadhaar data. The website was suspended

Airtel

On July 7, Airtel said it experienced a network outage in Delhi and parts of NCR. The outage affected lakhs of customers in Delhi

NSE

Trading at the country's largest stock exchange was stalled for three hours on Monday due to a technical glitch. Finance ministry has sought a report



1. Outage of Airtel network in Delhi
2. Data breach of users of Reliance Jio Infocomm
3. Technical glitch at the National Stock Exchange (NSE)

In news:




- India is investigating on a "possible cyber attack."
- The Home Ministry is preparing an internal cybersecurity policy as it is required under the national plan.

2016 data breach: In 2016, security codes of around 32 lakh debit cards were breached and several users reported unauthorised transactions from locations in China.

Worrisome dependence on Chinese equipments:

- Two years ago various telecom giants had been sensitised by the Government, about the vulnerability of equipment and products imported from China.
- Both Airtel and Jio use Chinese equipment.

2. [Ships and planes arrive, it's days of war games](#)

| Matching skills | | PARTICIPANTS | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <p>Malabar Exercise began in 1992 as a bilateral naval exercise between India and the U.S. In 2015, it was expanded into a trilateral format with the inclusion of Japan. The 21st edition of Malabar naval exercises is currently under way off Chennai</p> | |  Indian Navy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aircraft carrier <i>INS Vikramaditya</i> • Guided missile destroyer <i>Ranvir</i> • Indigenous stealth frigates <i>Shivalik</i> and <i>Sahyadri</i> • Anti-submarine corvette <i>Kamorta</i> • Missile corvettes <i>Kora</i> and <i>Kirpan</i> • Fleet tanker <i>Jyoti</i> • Sindhughosh class <i>Sindhudhvaj</i> • One long-range P-8I patrol aircraft | |
|  U.S. Navy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aircraft carrier <i>USS Nimitz</i> (CVN 68) with embarked Carrier Air Wing 11 • Guided-missile cruiser <i>USS Princeton</i> • Guided-missile destroyers <i>USS Howard</i>, <i>USS Shoup</i>, <i>USS Kidd</i> and <i>USS Pinckney</i> • One P-8A Poseidon aircraft • One Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine <i>USS Jacksonville</i> | |  Japanese SDF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helicopter carrier <i>JS Izumo</i> (DDH 183) and missile destroyer <i>JS Sazanami</i> | |

Context:

- The Malabar Exercise 2017.
- Participants: naval forces of India, Japan and the United States.

Exercise not aimed at China

- Malabar is not to send a message to any specific country.
- The underlying theme of Malabar is to understand each other's standard operating procedures and each other's ways of working better, to enhance camaraderie and bonhomie
- S. Navy officer: U.S. participation in the exercises indicated the country's interests in maritime security in the Indo-Asia Pacific region.

Focus Areas:

The thrust of the exercise at sea this year would be on aircraft carrier operations, air defence, anti-submarine warfare (ASW), surface warfare, visit board search and seizure (VBBS), joint manoeuvres and tactical procedures.

Category: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. [Curcumin nanoparticles found to shorten TB treatment time](#)

In news

- Researchers have found that the basic ingredient of turmeric, when administered in a nanoparticle formulation has several favourable properties in the treatment of tuberculosis in mice
- Name of the basic ingredient: Curcumin
- The results were published in the journal *Frontiers in Immunology*

Results of the Research

- During the research, regular curcumin was able to drastically reduce liver toxicity induced by TB drug isoniazid
- Also, the treatment of TB with isoniazid along with 200 nanometre curcumin nanoparticles led to **“dramatically reduced”** risk of disease reactivation and reinfection
- Because of the increased bioavailability of curcumin, the duration of treatment to achieve complete eradication of the bacteria is reduced significantly

Other positive effects of using “Curcumin”

- Quite often, patients stop taking anti-TB drugs for a few days due to liver toxicity
- Since the addition of curcumin reduces liver toxicity there can be better treatment and lesser risk of drug resistance emerging

Category: ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

1. [Concrete may help curb air pollution](#)

In news:

- Scientists found that Concrete surfaces can help tackle air pollution as it absorbs **sulphur dioxide** “a major

pollutant.

Importance:

- The strategy of using pollution-causing material and turning it into an environmental solution could lead to new thinking in urban design and waste management.
- Concrete buildings in urban areas can serve as a kind of sponge adsorbing sulphur dioxide to a high level.
- Waste concrete coming from building demolitions can also be used to adsorb these pollutants

Air Pollution menace

- According to the WHO, as many as seven million premature deaths of people worldwide may be linked to poor air quality and pollution
- Sulphur dioxide emissions are among the most common pollutants into the air globally, with power plants emitting the most sulphur dioxide.

Basic Information:

Sulphur dioxide (SO₂)

- It is a toxic gas with a pungent, irritating smell.
- The SO₂ is hygroscopic, when it is in the atmosphere it reacts with humidity and forms sulphuric and sulphurous aerosol acid that is later part of the so-called acid rain.

D. GS4 Related

Nothing here for Today!!!

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E. Concepts-in-News: Related Concepts to Revise/Learn

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F. Bills/Acts/Schemes/Orgs inÂ News

ARTICLE IN NEWS

ABOUT THE ARTICLE

(1) Subject to public order, morality and health and to the other provisions of this Part, all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practise and propagate religion

*Article 25.
Freedom of
conscience and
free profession,
practice and
propagation of
religion*

(2) Nothing in this article shall affect the operation of any existing law or prevent the State from making any law

(a) regulating or restricting any economic, financial, political or other secular activity which may be associated with religious practice;

(b) providing for social welfare and reform or the throwing open of Hindu religious institutions of a public character to all classes and sections of Hindus Explanation I The wearing and carrying of kirpans shall be deemed to be included in the profession of the Sikh religion Explanation II In sub clause (b) of clause reference to Hindus shall be construed as including a reference to persons professing the Sikh, Jaina or Buddhist religion, and the reference to Hindu religious institutions shall be construed accordingly
