



C.A Dated On 22nd June 2018
General Studies-1

Therukoothu:

Why in News?

Shri Bavaani Amman Therukkoothu Nataka Manram, Kanchipuram, presented 'Alamugasooran Samhaaram', an unusual story of Arjuna being helped by Draupadi, who takes on the Kali avatara to kill the asura.

The show was organised on Sunday last as part of the Mahakumbabhishekam festival at Shri Thiruveedi Amman Temple, Medavakkam.

About Therukoothu:

Terukkuttu is a Tamil street theatre form practised in Tamil Nadu state of India and Tamil-speaking regions of Sri Lanka.

Terukkuttu is a form of entertainment, a ritual, and a medium of social instruction.

The terukkuttu plays various themes. One theme is from the Tamil language versions of the Hindu epic Mahabharata, focusing on the character Draupadi.

The terms Terukkuttu and Kattaikkuttu are often used interchangeably in the modern times; however, historically the two terms appear to have distinguished, at least in certain villages, between two different kinds of performance: while *Terukkuttu* referred to mobile performances in a procession, Kattaikkuttu denotes overnight, narrative performances at a fixed performance space.

General Studies-2

UN hunger Report:

The number of hungry people in the world has risen for the first time in more than a decade, according to a United Nations report released on Wednesday.



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There are now approximately 38 million more undernourished people in the world, rising from 777 million in 2015 to 815 million in 2016, the year for which the latest statistics are available.

Reasons for increasing hunger:

According to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals 2018 report, conflict is now one of the main drivers of food insecurity in 18 countries.

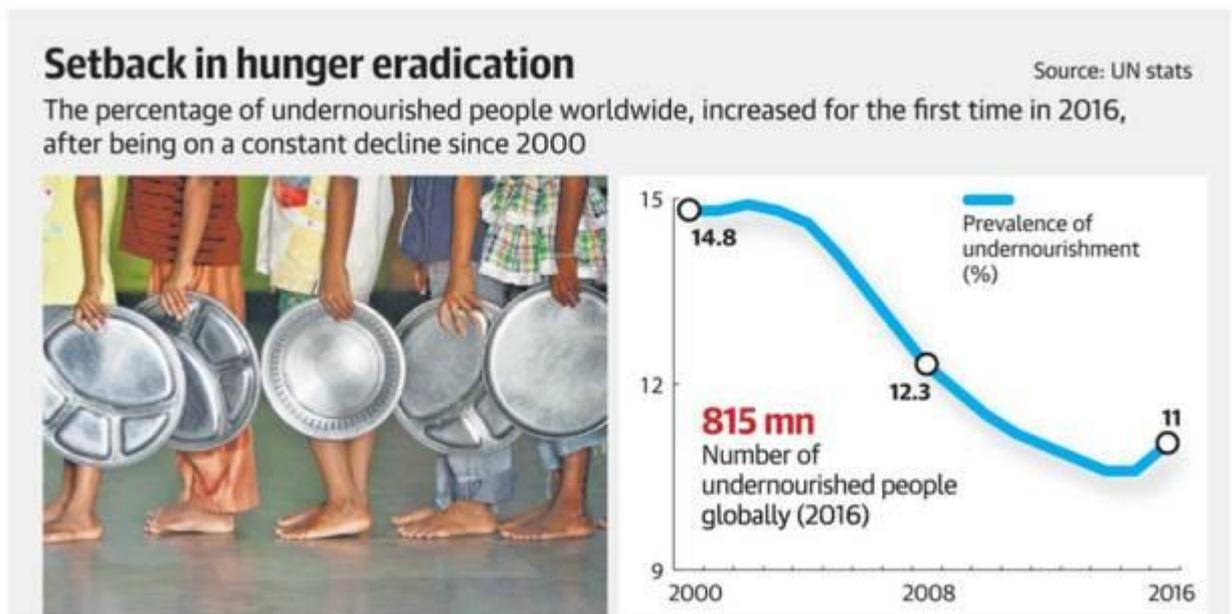
Conflict, drought and disasters linked to [climate change](#) are among the key factors causing this reversal in progress," said the report.

Violent conflicts also led to the forced displacement of a record high 68.5 million in 2017.

Economic losses

Noting the increasing impact of extreme events related to a changing climate, the report said economic losses attributed to disasters were estimated at over \$300 billion in 2017.

This is among the highest losses in recent years, owing to three major hurricanes affecting the United States of America and several countries across the Caribbean.





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Other Developments:

South Asia, which includes India, has seen child marriage rates plunge, with a girl's risk of getting married in childhood dropping by 40% from 2000 to 2017.

On the other hand, water stress levels for many countries in the region are above 70%, indicating fast-approaching water scarcity.

More than nine out of 10 people living in urban areas around the world are breathing polluted air, with southern Asia scoring the worst in this area.

While electricity and sanitation deficits in south Asia are still poor, the report noted efforts are being made to close the gap.

Sense of urgency

With just 12 years left to the 2030 deadline, we must inject a sense of urgency," said UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres in the foreword to the report.

Achieving the 2030 Agenda requires accelerated actions by countries along with collaborative partnerships among governments and stakeholders at all levels.

This ambitious agenda necessitates profound change that goes beyond business as usual.

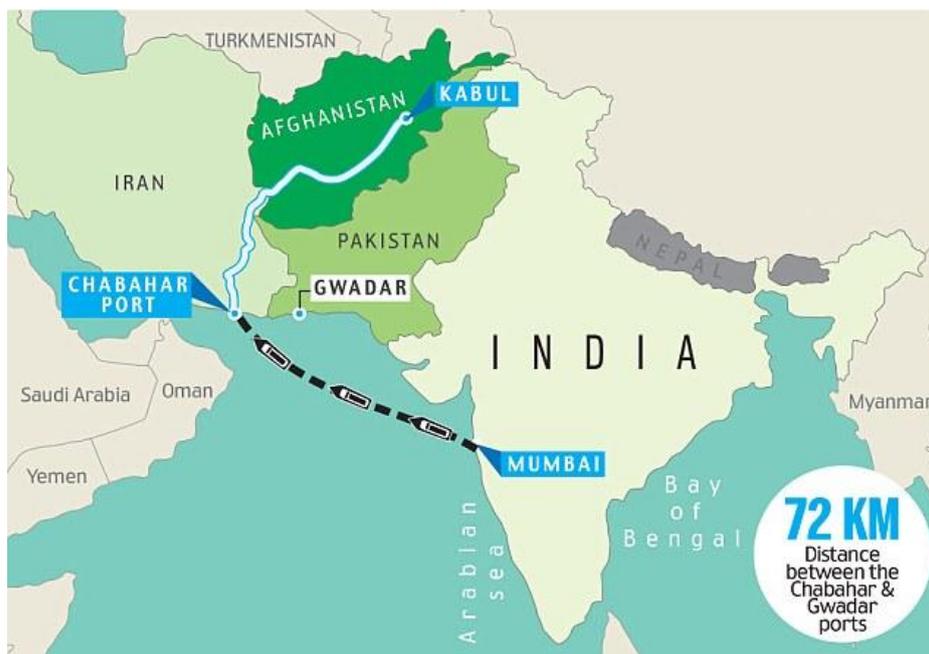
India Trying to Make Chabahar Port in Iran Operational by 2019

Shri Nitin Gadkari, the Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Road Transport & Highways and Shipping said in Dushanbe yesterday, that India is trying to make Chabahar Port in Iran operational by 2019.



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About Chabahr Port:



Chabahar Port is a seaport in Chabahar located in southeastern Iran, on the Gulf of Oman.

It serves as Iran's only oceanic port, and consists of two separate ports named *Shahid Kalantari* and *Shahid Beheshti*, each of which has five berths.

The India-Iran-Afghanistan three-way memorandum of understanding (MoU) plans have committed at least \$21bn to Chabahar-Hajigak corridor, including \$85m for Chabahar port development by India,

\$150m line of credit by India to Iran,



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\$8bn India-Iran MoU for Indian industrial investment in Chabahar Special Economic Zone, \$11-billion Hajigak iron and steel mining project awarded to seven Indian companies in central Afghanistan,

and India's \$2bn commitment to Afghanistan for developing supporting infrastructure including the *Chabahar-Hajigaj railway*, with potential for several times more trade via connectivity to 7,200-km-long multi-mode North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) connecting to Europe and Turkey, R297 Amur highway and Trans-Siberian Highway across Russia, and planned Herat to Mazar-i-Sharif railway providing access to Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Benefits to India:

Chabahar Port also provides direct access to India's Farkhor Air Base in Tajikistan.

Chabahar route will result in 60% reduction in shipment costs and 50% reduction in shipment time from India to Central Asia.

The trilateral transit agreement signed by India, Iran and Afghanistan allows Indian goods to reach Afghanistan through Iran.

It links ports in the western coast of India to the Chabahar port and covers the road and rail links between Chabahar and the Afghan border

General Studies-3

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the mining sector

The Union Government has allowed 100 per cent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the mining sector and exploration of metal and non-metal ores under the automatic route, which will propel growth of this sector.

Reasons for Liberalization:

Demand for iron and steel is set to grow, given the strong growth expectations for the residential and commercial building industry.

Exploration of the deep seated minerals needs to be focused.



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Lot of work needs to be done and private sector must play role in exploration

There is large number of small players in the mining business. Now the time has come for the consolidation, either through consortium of miners.

In our country there is lot of low grade minerals. For example, bauxite reserve in Orissa, however there is huge reserve of low grade bauxite in Maharashtra and Gujarat also.

India is deficient in lithium and cobalt. These two minerals are required for electric vehicle which is one of the major missions of Government of India.

The government has initiated a proposal where NALCO, Hindustan Copper and MECL will form a joint venture to acquire lithium and cobalt mines abroad.

Panama Papers

Why in News?

The Finance Ministry said in a statement on Thursday, "The fresh release made in the media today under the 'Panama Paper Leaks' is being promptly looked into by the law enforcement agencies, under the aegis of the MAG already constituted for facilitating coordinated and speedy investigation."

What are Panama Papers?

The **Panama Papers** are 11.5 million [leaked](#) documents that detail financial and attorney–client information for more than 214,488 [offshore](#) entities.

The documents, some dating back to the 1970s, were created by, and taken from, Panamanian law firm and [corporate service](#) provider [Mossack Fonseca](#), and were leaked in 2015 by an anonymous source.

The documents contain personal financial information about wealthy individuals and public officials that had previously been kept private.



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While offshore business entities are legal , reporters found that some of the Mossack Fonseca [shell corporations](#) were used for illegal purposes, including [fraud](#), [tax evasion](#), and evading [international sanctions](#).

Discovery of a Sub-Saturn like Planet around a Sun-like star

A Team of scientists and engineers led by Prof. Abhijit Chakraborty of Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad, discovered a sub-Saturn or super-neptune size planet (mass of about 27 Earth Mass and size of 6 Earth Radii) around a Sun-like star.

The planet will be known as EPIC 211945201b or K2-236b.

The discovery was made by measuring the mass of the planet using the indigenously designed "PRL Advance Radial-velocity Abu-sky Search" (PARAS) spectrograph integrated with 1.2m Telescope at PRL's Gurushikhar Observatory in Mount Abu, India.

Only 23 such planetary systems (including this discovery) are known to this date with masses between 10 and 70 Earth mass and size of 4 to 8 Earth radii with such precise measurement of mass.

This discovery is very important for understanding the formation mechanism of such super-Neptune or sub-Saturn kind of planets, that are too close to the host star and as well as planet formations around Sun-like stars.

With this discovery, India has joined a handful of countries, which have discovered planets around stars beyond our solar system.

About PARAS:

Further, PARAS is the first of its kind spectrograph in Asia, which can measure the mass of a planet going around a star.

Very few spectrographs exist around the world that can do such precise measurements.