



C.A Dated On 31-10-2018

General Studies-1

Statue of Unity

Why in News?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the 'Statue of Unity' in Gujarat on the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel today.

Salient Features:

- **Height:** 182 metres. This makes the statue almost twice the height of the iconic Statue of Liberty in New York.
- **Location:** Around 3.5 km downstream from the Sardar Sarovar Dam, on islet Sadhu Bet on the bed of the river Narmada.
- **Cost:** ₹2,989 crore (approx)
- **Sculptor:** Padma Bhushan Ram V. Suthar, a 93-year-old acclaimed sculptor who graduated from the prestigious J.J School of Art in Bombay. He has sculpted masterpieces including that of Mother Chambaal at Gandhi Sagar Dam in Madhya Pradesh, equestrian statue of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in Amritsar, and numerous statues of Mahatma Gandhi.
- **Specialities:** The statue is slender most at the base, which goes against the norms of what other tall statues have followed. The walking pose also opened up a gap of 6.4 metres between the two feet which then had to be tested to withstand wind velocity, says L&T.
- Engineered to withstand wind speeds of up to 50 m per second (almost 180 km per hour wind speed)
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- The viewing gallery at the height of 135 metres can accommodate up to 200 people at a time.

About Sardar Vallabhai Patel:



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- Sardar Patel is credited with uniting all 562 princely states in pre-independent India to build the Republic of India — hence the name of the statue.
- The date for the inauguration of the statue (October 31, 2018) also marks the 143rd birth anniversary of Sardar Patel.

Role in the Indian National Movement:

In 1918, he led a massive "No Tax Campaign" that urged the farmers not to pay taxes after the British insisted on tax after the floods in Kaira.

The peaceful movement forced the British authorities to return the land taken away from the farmers. His effort to bring together the farmers of his area brought him the title of 'Sardar'.

- He actively supported the *non-cooperation Movement* launched by Gandhi. Patel toured the nation with him, recruited 300,000 members and helped collect over Rs. 1.5 million.
- In 1928, the farmers of Bardoli again faced a problem of "tax-hike". After prolonged summons, when the farmers refused to pay the extra tax, the government seized their lands in retaliation. The agitation took on for more than six months. After several rounds of negotiations by Patel, the lands were returned to farmers after a deal was struck between the government and farmers' representatives.
- In 1930, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was among the leaders imprisoned for participating in the famous Salt Satyagraha movement initiated by Mahatma Gandhi.

Sardar Patel was freed in 1931, following an agreement signed between Mahatma Gandhi and Lord Irwin, the then Viceroy of India. The treaty was popularly known as the Gandhi-Irwin Pact. The same year, *Patel was elected as the President of Indian National Congress in its Karachi session* where the party deliberated its future path.

General Studies-2



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PM Awaas Yojana (U)

The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has approved the construction of another 2,15,083 more affordable houses for the benefit of urban poor under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban).

The approval was given in the 39th meeting of the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee held here today.

About PMAY:

- *Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana* ' (PMAY) is an initiative by Government of India in which affordable housing will be provided to the urban poor with a target of building 20 million affordable houses by 31 March 2022.
- It has two components: **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) (PMAY-U)** for the urban poor and [Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana \(Gramin\) \(PMAY-G](#) and also **PMAY-R**) for the rural poor.
- This scheme is converged with other schemes to ensure houses have a [toilet](#), Saubhagya Yojana electricity connection, [Ujjwala Yojana](#) LPG gas connection, access to [drinking water](#) and [Jan Dhan](#) banking facilities, etc.

Eligibility criteria

Condition for PMAY:

- (a) Beneficiary max age 70 years,
- (b) EWS (Economic Weaker Section) annual income Less than Rupees 3 Lac and LIG (Lower Income Group) Annual Income 3,00,001 to 6,00,000 Lac INR as well as Mid Income group since Feb 2017, and
- (c) The beneficiary should not have an own dwelling unit on the name of any family member in any part of India.

The houses given under this scheme will be owned by females or jointly with males

United States India Strategic Partnership Forum

Why in News?



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Board members of United States India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) comprising senior industry and business captains of the United States of America, called on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today.

Details :

The business leaders appreciated the economic and regulatory reforms implemented by the Government in the past four years, and expressed their desire to further deepen their engagements with India to make use of the mutually beneficial opportunities created by the rapidly growing Indian economy.

About USISPF

- The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) is a non-profit organization, with the primary objective of strengthening the U.S.-India bilateral and strategic partnership.
- The Executive Board came together in 2017 to establish USISPF with the purpose of enabling business and governments to collaborate...and create meaningful opportunities that can positively change the lives of citizens.
- The formation of USISPF signals a new chapter in U.S.-India relations.
- Dedicated to strengthening economic and commercial ties, USISPF plays a significant role in fostering a robust and dynamic relationship between the two countries through policy advocacy that will lead to driving economic growth, entrepreneurship, employment-creation, and innovation to create a more inclusive society.

USISPF has an established presence across both countries, with teams in New York, Silicon Valley, Washington DC, Mumbai, and New Delhi.

General Studies-3

INS Tarangini

Why in News?



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The sail training ship of Indian Navy, INS Tarangini based at Kochi, returned after a seven month long sailing across the world to a grand reception at naval base, Kochi on 30 Oct 18.

About the Voyage:

- The Voyage named "Lokayan 18" was flagged off on 10 Apr 18 from Kochi. During the voyage, the ship has proudly 'shown the flag' and highlighted the diverse culture of India across 15 ports in 13 countries.
- The ship sailed across the Arabian Sea, Red Sea, Suez Canal, Mediterranean Sea, Strait of Gibraltar, North Atlantic Ocean, Bay of Biscay, English Channel and North Sea, right up to Norway before commencing her homeward passage back to Kochi.
- The ship also participated in the culminating event of the 'Three Festival Tall Ships Regatta' at Bordeaux, France.

About INS Tarangini:

- INS Tarangini is a three masted 'square rigged' barque which carries a total of 20 sails.
- She is the First Sail Training Ship in Indian Navy and was commissioned on 11 Nov 1997.
- In her 21 years of glorious service, she has sailed over 2,20,000 nautical miles to date across the world's oceans.
- The primary role of these Sail Training Ships is to develop character and professionalism, as well as inculcate the qualities of initiative, courage, resilience and esprit-de-corps amongst the Sea Trainees and also impart practical training to them, primarily on navigation, sailing and seamanship.
- Over the years, INS Tarangini has been extensively deployed for long voyages away from her base port of Kochi, which includes one circumnavigation of the globe (2003-04) and three previous 'Lokayans' (2005, 2007 and 2015).

Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)

Why in News?



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The Nineteenth Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Arun Jaitley reviewed the current global and domestic economic situation and financial sector performance.

The Council decided that the Regulators and the Government would keep a close watch on the developing situation and take all necessary measures.

About FSDC:

- **Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)** is an apex-level body constituted by the [government of India](#).
- The idea to create such a super [regulatory body](#) was first mooted by the *Raghuram Rajan Committee* in 2008.
- Finally in 2010, the then Finance Minister of India, [Pranab Mukherjee](#), decided to set up such an autonomous body dealing with macro prudential and financial regularities in the entire financial sector of India.
- An apex-level FSDC is not a statutory body.

Reasons for setting up FSDC:

- The recent global economic meltdown has put pressure on governments and institutions across the globe to regulate their economic assets.
- This council is seen as [India's](#) initiative to be better conditioned to prevent such incidents in future.
- The new body envisages to strengthen and institutionalise the mechanism of maintaining [financial stability](#), [financial sector development](#), inter-regulatory coordination along with monitoring *macro-prudential regulation* of [economy](#).

Composition of the council:

- Chairperson: The Union Finance Minister of India
- Members:
 - Governor [Reserve Bank of India](#) (RBI),
 - Finance Secretary and/ or Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA),
 - Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS),
 - Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs,



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- Chief Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance,
 - Chairman, [Securities and Exchange Board of India](#) (SEBI),
 - Chairman, [Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority](#) (IRDA),
 - Chairman, [Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority](#) (PFRDA),
 - Chairman, [Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India](#) (IBBI)
- Additional Secretary, Ministry of Finance, DEA, will be the Secretary of the Council,
- The Chairperson may invite any person whose presence is deemed necessary for any of its meeting(s).

Parker Solar Probe

NASA's historic Parker Solar Probe — enroute to the Sun to unravel its mysteries — has become the closest spacecraft to it.

The spacecraft passed the current record of 26.55 million miles from the Sun's surface on October 29, as calculated by the Parker Solar Probe team.

The previous record for closest solar approach was set by the German, American Helios 2 spacecraft in April 1976.

As the Parker Solar Probe mission progresses, the spacecraft will repeatedly break its own records, with a final close approach of 3.83 million miles from the Sun's surface expected in 2024.

Parker Solar Probe will begin its first solar encounter on October 31, continuing to fly closer and closer to the Sun's surface until it reaches its first perihelion — the point closest to the Sun — on November 5.

About Parker Solar Probe:



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- **Parker Solar Probe** (previously **Solar Probe**, **Solar Probe Plus**, or **Solar Probe+**, abbreviated **PSP**) is a [NASA robotic spacecraft](#) *en route* to probe the outer [corona](#) of the [Sun](#).
- It will approach to within 9.86 [solar radii](#) (6.9 million kilometers or 4.3 million miles) from the center of the Sun and will travel, at closest approach, as fast as 690,000 km/h (430,000 mph).
- It became the first NASA spacecraft named after a living person, honoring physicist [Eugene Parker](#), professor emeritus at the [University of Chicago](#).
- On 29 October 2018, the spacecraft surpassed the current record of 26.55 million miles from the Sun's surface.
- The previous record was set in April 1976 by the [Helios 2](#) spacecraft.

The goals of the mission are:

- Trace the flow of energy that heats the [corona](#) and accelerates the [solar wind](#).
- Determine the structure and dynamics of the [magnetic fields](#) at the sources of solar wind.
- Determine what mechanisms accelerate and transport energetic particles.
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