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GS-1

Jallianwalla Bagh massacre

Why in News?

Government of India has decided to mark the remembrance of 100 years of the historical Jallianwalla Bagh Massacre next year.

Purpose and Plans:

- As we prepare for remembrance of the “100 years of Jallianwala Bagh Massacre” in 2019, Jallianwala Bagh shall undergo necessary redevelopment and upgradation. Jallianwala Bagh shall continue to remind the young generation about the sacrifices made in freedom struggle.”
- The Government is planning to renovate the historical site by creating suitable infrastructure for providing basic amenities for the tourists, the Culture Minister said.
- A number of commemorative as well as constructive activities will be taken up during the remembrance period.
- The commemorative coin and postage stamps will be released on 13th April, 2019 (the day the incident took place 100 years ago). Ministry of Culture will organise cultural activities such as kavi sammelan, plays, exhibition, seminars, etc. across the country.

About Jallianwala Bagh 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 Indians, who had gathered in [Jallianwala Bagh](#), [Amritsar](#), [Punjab](#).
- The civilians had assembled for a peaceful protest to condemn the arrest and deportation of two national leaders, Satya Pal and [Saifuddin Kitchlew](#).



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- Raja Ram has argued however, that the Proclamation was ineffective, the crowd formed in deliberate defiance and the event signals a beginning of [Indian nationalism](#).

Martyrdom Day of Guru Teg Bahadur

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind in his message on the eve of the martyrdom day of Guru Tegh Bahadur has said, "On the sacred occasion of the observation of the Martyrdom Day of Guru Teg Bahadur, I pay respectful homage to him.

Guru Teg Bahadur emphasised the values of freedom of worship, oneness, love and fraternity. Let us follow his commitment and values towards safeguarding the dignity of humanity and the welfare of all."

About Guru Teg Bahadur:

- **Guru Tegh Bahadur** (Punjabi pronunciation: [\[gʊɾu tey bəhədʊr\]](#); 1 April 1621 – 24 November 1675,) was the ninth of ten [Gurus](#) of the [Sikh religion](#).
- Tegh Bahadur continued in the spirit of the first guru, [Nanak](#); his 116 poetic hymns are registered in [Guru Granth Sahib](#).
- Guru Tegh Bahadur resisted the forced conversions of [Kashmiri Pandits](#) and non-Muslims to [Islam](#), and was publicly beheaded in 1675 on the orders of [Mughal emperor Aurangzeb](#) in [Delhi](#) for himself refusing to convert to Islam.
- [Gurudwara Sis Ganj Sahib](#) and [Gurdwara Rakab Ganj Sahib](#) in Delhi mark the places of execution and cremation of the Guru's body.
- The martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur is remembered as the *Shaheedi Divas of Guru Tegh Bahadur* every year on 24 November, according to the [Nanakshahi calendar](#) released by the [Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee](#) in 2003.



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Indo-China Border Talk:

Why in News?

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held the 21st round of border talks in China's southwestern Sichuan province on Saturday, officials said.

Besides the border dispute, the two senior officials at the picturesque Duijiangyan city, would also review the progress made in bilateral ties since the Wuhan Summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping in April.

Details:

- Mr. Doval and Mr. Wang are the designated special representatives for border talks between India and [China](#). The talks were expected to be concluded later Saturday.
- Officials maintain that this round of talks may focus more on reviewing the progress on trade and maintenance of peace at borders than movement towards a solution to the border dispute as India is headed for general elections next year.
- Since the first-ever "informal summit" between Prime Minister Modi and President Xi in Wuhan, the two countries have launched a dialogue between trade officials to enhance India's exports to China to address the over \$51-billion trade deficit.
- Since then, progress has been made towards increasing India's export of rice, sugar and pharmaceuticals. This is expected to come under review at the talks, officials said.



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Background:

- Negotiations between the special representatives are regarded highly significant by both the countries as they cover all aspects of bilateral ties besides making efforts to resolve the vexed border dispute.
- The [India-China](#) border dispute covers 3,488-km-long Line of Actual Control.
- China claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of southern Tibet.
- The last round, held in New Delhi between Mr. Doval and Mr. Yang, took place in the backdrop of the 73-day standoff between the two militaries at Doklam over Chinese army's plan to build a road close to India's strategic "Chicken's Neck" corridor connecting the north-eastern states.
- The standoff ended after the People's Liberation Army halted the plans to build the road.
- Officials on both sides say a lot of spadework has been done to ensure peace and tranquillity at the border, though the solution to the border dispute is still elusive even after 20 rounds of talks.

Sanction Exemptions for South Korea:

What is it?

[South Korea](#) said on Saturday it had received sanctions exemptions from the U.N. Security Council for a joint survey of inter-Korean railways, the first step towards reconnecting rail and road links cut during the 1950-53 Korean War.

In April, the leaders of the two Koreas agreed to adopt practical steps to reconnect railways and roads as part of efforts to improve bilateral relationships.

Implications:

- The sanctions exemption has big implications given that the project has garnered recognition and support from the United States and the international society.



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- It will help in quick construction of the railways, which will take inter-Korean cooperation to a new level.
- South Korea requested an exemption for deliveries of fuel and other equipment needed to conduct the [railway](#) survey in the North..
- Pyongyang is under wide-ranging U.N. sanctions for its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes.

Background:

- In October, the two Koreas agreed to carry out joint field studies on transport plans, with a ground-breaking ceremony in late November and early December.
- But the plan was delayed amid stalled talks between Washington and Pyongyang following an unprecedented summit in June at which the two sides agreed to work toward nuclearisation and peace on the Korean peninsula.
- Negotiations have since made little headway, with Pyongyang upset by Washington's insistence that international sanctions must remain until it gives up its nuclear weapons.
- The United States has told its ally South Korea it should not improve ties with [North Korea](#) faster than Pyongyang takes steps to give up its nuclear weapons.

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Capital Infusion Plan:

Why in News?

The Finance Ministry would not curtail its capital infusion plan for this financial year even as state-owned banks would be needing lesser funds following the



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Reserve Bank's decision to defer the deadline to meet Basel III norms by a year, according to sources.

Details:

- Under the new dispensation, the capital infusion by the government in public sector banks (PSBs) for meeting the capital buffer norms would come down to around ₹15,000-20,000 crore, sources said.
- However, there will not be any reduction in the capital funding plan as announced in October last year despite a lower requirement due to the RBI extending the deadline for meeting the CCB of 2.5%, under Basel-III norms, until March 2020, sources said.
- The extension could reduce the burden of PSBs by ₹35,000 crore this fiscal, according to rating agency Crisil.
- After assessing the requirement of each bank, the ministry is expected to finalise capital infusion of about ₹54,000 crore by this month-end or by the first half of the next month.

Growth capital

- The infusion would help improve banks' financial health.
- Some banks would get necessary regulatory capital while others would get it for fuelling growth.
- The CCB is currently at 1.875% and the remaining 0.625% was to be met by March 2019.
- Generally, there is a leverage of 10 times on the capital and lending capacity would increase by ₹3.5 lakh crore.



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Indo-China Agriculture Trade:

Opportunities:

- As the trade war with the United States continues to bite — with only a slim chance that the world's two biggest economies can go past a possible truce — China appears to be opening up to non-U.S. imports.
- Smelling an unexpected opportunity to export more to the Middle Kingdom, India is quietly squeezing in the door.
- The focus so far has been on pushing agri-products into the Chinese market.
- Sensing that China would look first at its food security by diversifying imports in view of the trade war, New Delhi has stepped up its agro-diplomacy with Beijing.
- Over the past two months, Indian food and beverage producers have been conducting seminars and road shows in the Chinese capital.

Progress Made

- Though Indian soya bean exports are apparently a priority, especially after the China imposed a 25% levy on U.S. imports, success in the huge Chinese soya bean market is yet to materialise, though some progress may have registered during talks.
- However, other agri-products may have stolen a march over soya beans in finding a niche in the Chinese market.
- China has been traditionally a green tea market. But of late, its young people are developing a taste for milk infused bubble tea, potentially opening a larger market for Indian black teas
- India's efforts to export sugar to China, which began in earnest in June, also appear to have paid dividends.
- China has also opened up imports of non-Basmati rice from India in June on the sidelines of the Qingdao summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).
- Officials say China is a lucrative \$1.5-\$2 billion market for Indian rice.



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- A delegation of Indian rice traders was in Beijing in October on a follow-up visit after China, in principle, opened its doors to 24 India-based rice mills.

Trade imbalance

- Despite signs of incremental progress, India's \$63-billion trade imbalance with China is alarming.
- Pharmaceuticals, information technology services and tourism, in which India has a significant global footprint, had a "minuscule presence" in China.
- Earlier this year, India had raised the red flag about its adverse trade balance during China's trade policy review at the WTO, specifically citing hindrances that Indian exporters of rice, meat, pharmaceuticals and IT products were encountering to access the Chinese market.

Milk Adulteration Sensor:

Why in News?

A smart phone-based sensors are being developed by the researchers at IIT-H to detect adulteration in milk.

How does it work?

As a first step, they have developed a detector system to measure the acidity in milk through an indicator paper that changes colour according to the acidity in the milk.

They have also developed algorithms that can be incorporated into a mobile phone to accurately detect the colour change.



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Benefits:

- "While techniques such as chromatography and spectroscopy can be used to detect adulteration, they generally require expensive set-up and are not amenable to miniaturisation into low-cost easy-to-use devices.
- Given this, they do not appeal to the vast majority of milk consumers in the developing world.
- We need to develop simple devices that the consumer can use to detect milk contamination.
- It should be possible to make milk adulteration detection fail-safe by monitoring all of these parameters at the same time, without the need for expensive equipment."
- On testing with milk spiked with various combinations of contaminants, they found near-perfect classification with accuracy of 99.71%.

Chandrayaan 2

Why in News?

The Chandrayaan-2 lunar lander's sensors are set to undergo a crucial test in the next few days as the mission races towards a planned take-off in around two months.

Details:

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) plans to fly the sensors on an aircraft over its artificial lunar site at Challakere to see how they will function and guide the Chandrayaan-2 landing craft when it starts descending on the lunar terrain.
- The test flight is slated tentatively for November 24.
- The orbiter carrying the lander and a rover is scheduled to be sent to the Moon from Sriharikota on January 31 and expected to reach there sometime in February 2019.



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- The test on ground, called the Lander Sensor Performance Test or LSPT, will be conducted at ISRO's new R&D campus in Chitradurga district, about 200 km from here, ISRO Chairman K. Sivan said.

Need for test?

- The highly autonomous or pre-programmed mission uses a large number of sensors.
- Among them are those that help the lander to precisely assess its height from the landing spot; decide its speed and help it to steer clear of any boulders or uneven surface.
- The lander is being developed and tested by the U.R. Rao Satellite Centre in Bengaluru.
- For the test, a prototype module carrying the sensors will be flown on one of ISRO's two small aircraft.
- As the plane descends from around 7 km to about 1 km over the artificial terrain, the sensors must show how they will guide the soft landing of the lunar craft at the right spot, speed and position.

Surface simulated

- About two years back, ISRO had started readying a part of the Challakere site to resemble lunar craters and had conducted a few preliminary sensor tests.
- Features of the lander have since been modified and the upcoming tests will also validate the new design.
- The development and testing of the orbiter are over.
- Lander-related activities are going on.