



C.A Dated On 12-01-2019

GS-1

Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD

Context:

The Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned four new projects for Rs. 190.46 Crores under the tourism infrastructure development schemes, Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD in the states of Meghalaya, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh recently.

Following are the sanctioned projects and the details.

1. Under North East Circuit of Swadesh Darshan Scheme, the Ministry has sanctioned the project '**Development of West Khasi Hills (Nongkhaw- Krem Tirok - Khudoi & Kohmang Falls – Khri River- Mawthadraishan, Shillong), Jaintia Hills (Krang Suri Falls- Shyrmang- Iooksi), Garo Hills (Nokrek Reserve, Katta Beel, Siju Caves)**' in Meghalaya
2. **Development of Gorakhnath Temple (Gorakhpur), Devipattan Temple (Balrampur) and Vatvashni Temple (Domariyagunj)**
3. Under the PRASHAD scheme, the Ministry has sanctioned the project '**Development of Govardhan**' in **District Mathura in Uttar Pradesh**
4. The Ministry has also sanctioned the project '**Development of Pilgrimage Amenities at Somnath – Phase II**' for **Rs. 44.59 Crores** under the PRASHAD scheme.

Background:

The Ministry of Tourism has launched the schemes of Swadesh Darshan - Integrated Development of Theme-Based Tourist Circuits and PRASHAD-Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive in the year 2014-15 for the development of tourism infrastructure in the country.

GS-2



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Women of India Organic Festival'

Why in News?

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is organising the three-day 6th 'Women of India Organic Festival' from tomorrow at Leisure Valley, Chandigarh.

Objectives:

- to celebrate and promote women farmers and entrepreneurs in the organic sector from the remotest parts of India.

Purpose of Festival:

- The festival aims to encourage Indian women entrepreneurs and farmers to connect with more buyers and thus, empower them through financial inclusion, while promoting organic culture in India.
- Through this festival, the Ministry also aims to educate people about its various initiatives and schemes relating to women and children.
- The Festival will showcase over 1,000 varied organic products, including fabric, wellness, grains, seeds, jewellery, bakery items and a lot more.

Background:

The Women of India Organic Festival has been held annually in New Delhi since 2015, and makes its debut in Chandigarh this year, bringing the joy of going organic to the evergreen Leisure Valley, which is a continuum of gardens, to showcase the varied products of women farmers and entrepreneurs.

Partnership Summit

Why in News?



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The 25th edition of Partnership Summit 2019, a global platform for dialogue, debate, deliberation and engagement among Indian and global leaders on economic policy and growth trends in India, is being held in Mumbai from tomorrow

Expected Outcome:

The Summit is expected to build new partnerships and explore investment opportunities through high level exchanges and B2B meetings.

About the Summit:

- This edition of the Summit, on 12th and 13th January 2019, will showcase India in the present landscape of an emerging "New India", the "New Global Economic Address".
- The Summit is being organized by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, State Government of Maharashtra and Confederation of Indian Industry.
- The Summit will see New India in active engagement and collaboration within the country and with the world. Discussions will be held among key stake holders - policy makers, institutions, business, media and academia.

The Summit also see the discussions on the critical sectoral series:

- Innovations
- India 4.0: AI, Big Data
- Agri and Food Processing
- Health Care
- Tourism and Hospitality
- Defence and Aeronautics
- Renewable Energy

GS-3

Human Space Flight Centre

Why in News?

Gaganyaan, the great Indian human leap to space by 2022, will soon get cracking under a new Human Space Flight Centre and a dedicated team around five months after it was first unveiled. A team of 800 to 900 people is to be deployed over time to carry it out.



C.A Dated On 12-01-2019

Details:

- Indian Space Research Organisation on Friday named Unnikrishnan Nair, who led its Advanced Space Transportation Programme at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, as the man to steer it - as also the director of the new centre.
- The Human Space Flight Centre [based in Bengaluru] will carry out all activities related to the human programme.
- Under it will function the Gaganyaan Project."
- All work related to the mission will formally begin now," including the schedule, blueprint of various tasks, astronaut selection with the Indian Air Force and systems based on the project report. Latest report relied on four studies, published between 2014 and 2017, that gave more precise estimates of past trends

About Gaganyaan Project:

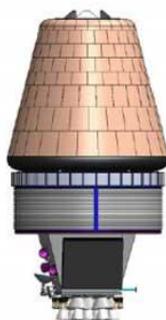
GAGANYAAN : OBJECTIVES & BENEFITS



Statement of Honourable Prime Minister

" ... a son or a daughter of India will go to Space from Indian Soil by an Indian Vehicle by 2022 (75th Year of India's Independence) or earlier"

BENEFITS



- Enhances Science & Technology Levels of the Country
- National project involving other Institutes, Academia and Industry
- Improves Industrial Growth
- Inspires Youth to take challenges in Science & Technology
- Technologies developed for societal benefits
- Additional Human Resource Development
- Provides way for the International Collaboration & Policies

Ocean Warming:



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Why in News?

The world's oceans are heating up at an accelerating pace as global warming threatens a diverse range of marine life and a major food supply for the planet, researchers said on Thursday.

Details of Findings:

- The findings in the U.S. journal *Science*, led by the Chinese Academy of Sciences, debunk previous reports that suggested a so-called pause in global warming in recent years.
- The latest technology shows no such hiatus ever existed, raising new concerns about the pace of climate change and its effect on the planet's main buffer — the oceans.
- About 93% of excess heat — trapped around the Earth by greenhouse gases that come from the burning of fossil fuels — accumulates in the world's oceans.
- The latest report relied on four studies, published between 2014 and 2017, that gave more precise estimates of past trends in ocean heat, allowing scientists to update past research and hone predictions for the future.

How was Monitoring done?

A key factor in the more accurate numbers is an ocean monitoring fleet called Argo, which includes nearly 4,000 floating robots that "drift throughout the world's oceans, every few days diving to a depth of 2,000 m and measuring the ocean's temperature, pH, salinity and other bits of information as they rise back up.

About Monitoring fleet:

- Argo "has provided consistent and widespread data on ocean heat content since the mid-2000s.
- The new analysis shows warming in the oceans is on pace with measurements of rising air temperature.
- And if nothing is done to reduce greenhouse gases, "models predict that the temperature of the top 2,000 metres of the world's oceans will rise 0.78 degrees Celsius by the end of the century.



C.A Dated On 12-01-2019

- The thermal expansion — water swelling as it warms — would raise sea level 30 cm, above any sea level rise from melting glaciers and ice sheets.

The global warming signal is a lot easier to detect if it is changing in the oceans than on the surface.”

Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme

Why in News?

Sovereign Gold Bonds 2018-19 (Series V) will be opened for the period from **14th to 18th January, 2019**.

About Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme:

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRAFT OF SOVEREIGN GOLD BOND SCHEME

RBI will issue sovereign gold bonds on behalf of the government

सत्यमेव जयते **The bonds, in demat form, will be marketed through post offices and brokers on a commission basis**

The bonds will be issued in 2, 5, 10 grams of gold or other denominations

The tenor of the bond could be for a minimum of 5-7 years

On maturity, investor gets equivalent of the face value of gold in rupee terms

The rate of interest on the bonds will be payable in terms of grams of gold

Likely interest rate will be 2 per cent

or 3 per cent

The bonds can be sold and traded on commodity exchanges

There will be a cap of 500 grams per person per year

Upside gains and downside risks will be with the investor

Will attract capital gains tax as is applicable to bars and coins

The bonds can be used as collateral for loans

The Know Your Customer norms will be the same as that of gold

Estimated stocks of gold in India - over 20,000 tonnes

India, the world's largest consumer of gold, imports around 800-900 tonnes of the metal annually



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