



C.A Dated On 22-01-2019

**GS- 1**

**Super Blood moon:**

**Why in News?**

Here comes a total lunar eclipse and supermoon, all wrapped into one.

The moon, Earth and sun will line up this weekend for the only total lunar eclipse this year and next. At the same time, the moon will be ever so closer to Earth and appear slightly bigger and brighter than usual a supermoon.

**Why is it named So?**

- During totality, the moon will look red because of sunlight scattering off Earth's atmosphere.
- That's why an eclipsed moon is sometimes known as a blood moon.
- In January, the full moon is also sometimes known as the wolf moon or great spirit moon.
- So informally speaking, the upcoming lunar eclipse will be a super blood wolf or great spirit moon.

**About the Event:**

- The next total lunar eclipse won't be until May 2021.
- As for full-moon supermoons, this will be the first of three this year.
- The upcoming supermoon will be about 222,000 miles (357,300 kilometres) away.
- The Feb. 19 supermoon will be a bit closer and the one on March 20 will be the farthest.

**Bridge Over River Raavi:**

**Why in News?**



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Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Nitin Gadkari will dedicate to the nation a 1210-meter span-bridge over the river Raavi in Jammu and Kashmir tomorrow.

**About the Bridge:**

- This bridge has been constructed to improve inter-state connectivity.
- This project will benefit over 2,20,000 people living on the two sides – Kathua in Jammu, and Pathankot in Punjab.
- This will reduce the distance between the two cities from 45 kms to 8.6 kms, which will save on both time and fuel cost.
- Two major road corridors are being built in J&K– Jammu–Srinagar and Srinagar–Leh.

**Other Projects:**

- The Chenani-Nashri tunnel road under the first is the largest highway tunnel in the country.
- It has resulted in reducing the travel time between Jammu and Srinagar by two and a half hours, while the distance between the two has come down by 30 kms.
- The tunnel is benefitting by way of making travel possible throughout the year and saving of upto Rs 27 lakh worth fuel on the route.
- The Zojila Tunnel for connecting Srinagar with Leh will be Asia's longest 14.2 km long two-lane tunnel, which will prove to be a milestone all weather road in the forward region.
- This strategically important tunnel will drastically reduce the travel time from three and a half hours to just 15 minutes.

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**Vishwakarma Awards and Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) Awards**

**Why in News?**



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The Vice President of India Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu presented the 2<sup>nd</sup> ChhatraVishwakarma Awards to students and their mentors and Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) Awards to institutions at an event organized by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) today at New Delhi.

#### **About the awards:**

##### **Chhatra Vishwakarma Awards -**

- The ChhatraVishwakarma Awards are inspired by the spirit of engineering and creation patronized by Lord Vishwakarma, the ruling deity of construction practices in India.
- The Awards are aimed for motivating young individuals, inspiring leaders and institutions/ organizations to recognize and applaud the innovations and achievements of individuals as well as institutions.
- This year AICTE in association with Engineering Council of India (ECI) and the Indian Society for Technical Education (ISTE) announced the 2<sup>nd</sup> AICTE-ECI-ISTE ChhatraVishwakarma Awards 2018 under the theme **"Empowerment of Villages through Technologies"**.

##### **Sansad Adarsh GramYojana (SAGY) Awards -**

- Sansad Adarsh GramYojana (SAGY) was launched in October 2014 with the aim to translate the comprehensive vision of Mahatma Gandhi of an ideal Indian village. Under the scheme, Member of Parliament adopted Gram Panchayats for its holistic progress.
- AICTE has encouraged institutes located in proximity of villages which can be supported under the scheme.
- These institutes have been working hard to develop the adopted villages.
- AICTE has instituted the SAGY Award with an aim to motivate, recognize and honor the institutions under the theme **"Developed Village-Developed Nation"**.
- It is to raise their performance in the specific domains leading to significant contribution for the growth and development of villages and Country as well.

#### **Malabar Exercise:**



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**Why in News?**

Involving Australia in the Malabar exercises would send a political message, which India is not prepared to do. But there is no pressure from China to keep Australia out of the exercises with the U.S. and Japan, a defence source said on Monday.

**Expanding exercise**

- Malabar began as a bilateral naval exercise between India and the US in 1992 and has grown in scope and complexity in recent years.
- In 2015, it was expanded into a trilateral format with the inclusion of Japan.
- However, India has not accepted repeated requests from Australia to be included in the exercise, which is seen with suspicion by China.

**Recent Exercise:**

- The 2018 Malabar exercise was conducted from 7 to 16 June 2018 off the coast of [Guam](#) in the [Philippine Sea](#).
- This was the 22nd edition of the exercise and the first time to be held in United States territory.
- The exercise is divided into two phases.
- The exercise focused on onshore and at-sea training, aircraft carrier operations, maritime patrol and reconnaissance operations, visit, board, search and seizure operations and professional exchanges.
- Based on news reports, India refused Australia participation in the exercise to avoid posturing it as a military group against China.

**GS-3**

**IMF report on Indian Economy:**

**What does it say?**



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- India is projected to grow at 7.5 per cent in 2019 and 7.7 per cent in 2020, an impressive over one percentage point ahead of China's estimated growth of 6.2 per cent in these two years.
- The IMF in its January World Economy Outlook update on Monday said India would remain the fastest growing major economies of the world.
- India's economy is poised to pick up in 2019, benefiting from lower oil prices and a slower pace of monetary tightening than previously expected, as inflation pressures ease.

**Regarding Chinese Economy:**

- Despite fiscal stimulus that offsets some of the impact of higher US tariffs, China's economy will slow down due to the combined influence of needed financial regulatory tightening and trade tensions with the US.
- Growth in emerging and developing Asia will dip from 6.5 per cent in 2018 to 6.3 per cent in 2019 and 6.4 per cent in 2020, it said.
- China which grew at 6.9 per cent in 2017, as compared to 6.7 per cent by India, had a growth rate of 6.6 per cent in 2018. In the next two years — 2019 and 2020 — it is projected to grow at 6.2 per cent each, the IMF said.

The IMF report comes days after the PwC's Global Economy Watch said that India is likely to surpass the United Kingdom in the world's largest economy rankings in 2019.

**Commodity Exchanges Indices:**

*Why in News?*

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed allowing commodity exchanges to create indices on which futures contracts can be introduced.

**About the Indices:**

- Such indices can be based on the most liquid contracts traded on the bourses and have to be diversified with the weightage of a single constituent capped at 20%, according to a consultation paper by the SEBI.



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**Benefits Expected:**

- Index-based products will also encourage the participation of institutions such as mutual funds, insurance companies etc., in the commodity derivatives market.
- Further, trading in derivatives products on commodity indices may also increase liquidity in underlying commodity derivatives products [futures and options] as entities would like to carry out arbitrage trades across index products and constituents or may use one product to hedge their positions in other.
- Incidentally, the Commodity Derivatives Advisory Committee (CDAC) has recommended that to begin with, futures contracts on commodity indices may be launched by exchanges.

**Time frame**

- Meanwhile, the capital markets regulator has proposed that the indices can include as constituents only those commodity contracts that have been in existence on the respective exchange for at least the previous 12 months, or the previous calendar year, or the previous financial year, and traded for at least 90% of the trading days in the stipulated period.
- Further, the average daily turnover of the constituent futures contracts during the period under consideration has to be at least ₹75 crore for agricultural and agri-processed commodities.
- For all other commodities, it has been pegged at ₹500 crore.
- Meanwhile, the minimum lot size of a futures contract introduced on such indices has been proposed at ₹5 lakh.

**Critically Endangered Amphibians:**

**Why in News?**

An updated list of Indian amphibians was released on the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) website last week, with 19 species being treated as critically endangered and 33 species as endangered.



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**IUCN status**

- The current list bears the names of 432 amphibian species from India, the year of discovery and their IUCN 'red list' conservation status.
- Among the amphibians listed, 19 species are treated as critically endangered and 33 species as endangered.
- The list describes 19% of amphibians as data deficient species and 39% as not assessed by the IUCN