ROSETTA STONE

Many Egypt historians are demanding the U.K. to return the 2,000-year-old Rosetta Stone.
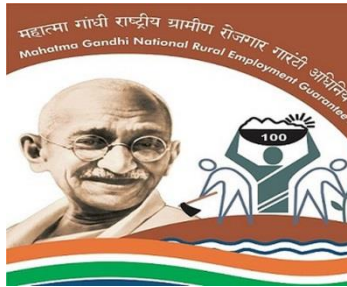

About:

- The Rosetta Stone is a large stone slab with inscriptions on it and is believed to be a piece of a bigger rock.
- It has inscriptions in three scripts, all of which convey a decree or public message.
- The decree is inscribed three times, in hieroglyphs (suitable for a priestly decree), Demotic (the cursive Egyptian script used for daily purposes, meaning 'language of the people'), and Ancient Greek (the language of the administration – the rulers of Egypt at this point were Greco-Macedonian after Alexander the Great's conquest).
- This is similar to how in Ancient India, King Ashoka ordered stambhas or edicts that had messages of Buddha's teachings and news about victory in a war inscribed. These were then placed throughout the kingdom for the public to see.
- Its discovery that helped develop the specific field of ancient Egypt studies, Egyptology.
- According to the British Museum, the engraving was done during the reign of King Ptolemy V who ruled from 204–181 BC.
- This stone was 'rediscovered' in the time of French king Napoleon Bonaparte, who launched a campaign in Egypt from 1798 to 1801.
- On Napoleon's defeat later at the hands of the British, the Treaty of Alexandria (1801) led to its transfer and it has been at the British Museum since then.

NATIONAL MOBILE MONITORING SYSTEM (NMMS)

The usage of the National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) is 50% or less in many states even after the Union government's order making it mandatory to record attendance of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

About:

- National Mobile Monitoring Software (NMMS) App was launched by the Minister of Rural Development on May, 21 2021.

- This app is aimed at bringing more transparency and ensure proper monitoring of the schemes.
- The NMMS App permits taking real time attendance of workers at Mahatma Gandhi NREGA worksites along with geo-tagged photograph.

- The app helps in increasing citizen oversight of the programme.
- The National Mobile Monitoring App is applicable for the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA workers for all the States/ Union Territories.

KERCH BRIDGE

The road-and-rail bridge linking Russia and the Crimean peninsula was damaged in a powerful blast recently, hitting a crucial supply route for Russian forces in Ukraine.
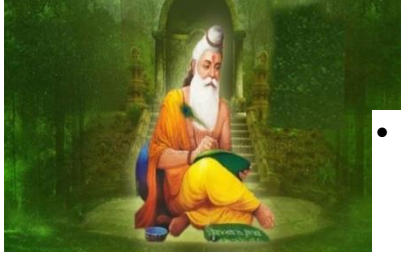
About:

- The 19-km (12-mile) Crimea Bridge over the Kerch Strait is the only direct link between the transport network of Russia and the Crimean peninsula, which Moscow annexed from Ukraine in 2014.
- The bridge is crucial for the supply of fuel, food and other products to Crimea, where the port of Sevastopol is the historic home base of Russia's Black Sea Fleet.

Kerch Strait

- The Kerch Strait is a crucial part of the regional grain trade connecting the Azov sea with the Black Sea.

MAHARISHI VALMIKI JAYANTI

This year Maharishi Valmiki Jayanti is being celebrated on October 9.

About:

- Maharishi Valmiki Jayanti celebrated every year on the full moon day of the month of Ashwin. This day is also popularly known as Pargat Diwas.
- It is observed as the birth anniversary of sage poet Maharishi Valmiki.
- He is considered as the first poet in the Sanskrit language.
- He is credited with writing the Ramayana.
- One of the famous temples dedicated to sage Maharishi Valmiki, is in Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai.

INDIAN AIR FORCE DAY

Indian Air Force Day is celebrated on October 8 every year.

About:

- The day aims to pay a tribute to the Air Force of India and acknowledge their contribution for a successful nation.
- As a part of the 90th anniversary celebration, nearly 80 military aircraft and helicopters participated in the Air Force Day fly-past on October 8 at the Sukhna Lake complex, Chandigarh.
- It is for the first time that the IAF decided to hold its annual Air Force Day parade and fly-past outside the Delhi NCR.

History

- On October 8, 1932, the former British Empire established the IAF.
- It was created to support the British Royal Air Force, particularly against Japan in World War II.
- The IAF was used to attack Japanese bases in Burma in order to stop the Japanese army's advance toward India.

- King George VI gave the IAF's accomplishments the prefix "Royal" in 1945.
- This honorific title was dropped in 1950, when India became a republic.

MODHERA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be declaring Modhera in Gujarat as a 24 x 7 solar-powered village on October 9.

About:

- Modhera will be India's first village to become a net renewable energy generator.
- It will be the first modern village to have a solar-based ultra-modern electric vehicle charging station.
- It is India's first grid-connected megawatt-hours (MWh) scale battery energy storage system.
- People in Modhera would be saving 60% to 100 % on electricity bills.
- The heritage lighting and 3-D projection at the Sun Temple would operate on solar energy.
- The 3-D projection will inform visitors about the history of Modhera.

Modhera Sun Temple

- The Modhera Sun Temple was made by King Bhima I of the Chalukya dynasty in the early 11th century.
- It is a temple made to honour the Sun God in Modhera village of Mehsana district on the bank of River Pushpavati.
- The temple is designed in such a way that during every equinox, the first ray of the rising sun would fall on a diamond placed on the head of the Sun God. This would also light up the shrine with a golden glow.
- The Sabha Mandap stands on 52 pillars, signifying the 52 weeks in a year. There are carvings of the sun on the walls to show its unity with air, water, earth and space.
- In 2014, Modhera Sun Temple entered the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

- It enjoys the same significance as other two well-known sun-temples in Kashmir (Martand) and Orissa (Konark).
- The Gujarat Tourism hosts a three-day dance festival every year, known as the Uttarardha Mahotsav, at the temple every January after Makar Sankranti festival.

ELON MUSK WANTS TO CREATE AN 'EVERYTHING APP'; WHAT IS IT?

In News:

- Recently, Elon Musk tweeted that buying Twitter is an accelerant to creating X, the everything app.
- The concept of an everything app, often referred to as a "super app," is massively popular in Asia and tech companies across the world are trying to replicate it.

Super app

- A super app, or what Musk refers to as an "everything app," offers a suite of services for users such as messaging, social networking, peer-to-peer payments and e-commerce shopping.
- In other words, a super app is a platform developed by a company offering various services under one umbrella.
- A physical world comparison of a super app would be a mall, which allows retail space to various brands and shops across businesses and verticals.

Some examples of super apps

- China's WeChat, which started out as a messaging app, expanded into payments, shopping, food ordering, cab services to become a super app.
- It has more than 1 billion monthly users, according to one estimate, and is a part of daily life in China.
- Grab, a leading super app across Southeast Asia, offers food delivery, ride-hailing, on-demand package delivery and financial services and investing.

Who makes super apps?

- Typically, companies that have a slew of services and products to offer tend to consolidate these offerings into a super app.

- The concept first emerged in China and southeast Asia where internet companies like WeChat, GoJek, Grab leveraged the opportunity of customer traffic on their platforms.

Which companies in India are building super apps?

- The Tata Group will be an entrant in an already crowded super app ecosystem of India.

- Currently, Reliance Industries, under its Jio umbrella, is consolidating various services and offerings.

- Paytm has also brought together services like payments, ticket bookings, games, online shopping, banking, consumer finance, etc into one app.

- Flipkart Group-owned payment app PhonePe has tied up with companies such as Ola Cabs, Swiggy, Grofers, AJio, Decathlon, Delhi Metro, booking.com, etc to offer these services from within its own app.

Why do Indian companies want to build super-apps?

- A country or a region becomes super app-ready when its large base of the population is smartphone first instead of desktop and the ecosystem of apps customised to local needs is not evolved.

- India has already become a market where a majority of those experiencing the internet for the first time are doing so on their mobile phones.

- Apart from increased revenue realisation due to consolidation of services at one place, such apps also provide companies large swaths of consumer data which can then be harnessed to learn more about user behaviour.

Concerns about super apps

- The very concept of a conglomerate trying to keep a customer within its own ecosystem for most services, increases the possibility of a monopoly.

- This is in addition to concerns of privacy in cases where a super app has onboarded third-party service providers.

o Experts pointed out that data collected by the master app could then be used to train machines in artificial intelligence and predict consumer behaviour even more accurately.

- It is one of the main reasons why super apps have not picked pace in countries such as the US and the UK.

TECHNOLOGY EASES PATH FOR THE WEARY NOMADS IN J&K

In News:

- Jammu and Kashmir's nomadic community, known as Gujjars and Bakarwals, have been offered smart cards and free transport to aid their biannual migration.

About Gujjar-Bakarwal community:

- The nomadic pastoralists of Jammu and Kashmir, also known as the Gujjar-Bakarwal community are a transhumance community of the Himalayas.
- Gujjar and Bakarwals are the third largest ethnic group in J&K constitute more than **9% of the total population of the union territory**.

o Around 99.3 per cent population of Gujjar and Bakarwals in J&K follow Islam.

- They were given the status of **Scheduled Tribe** in 1991.
- **Gujjars –**

o The Gujjars are traditionally called as Goajar, Gujar and Gurjara.

o They have their own dialect **GOJRI** which is a branch of Indo-Aryan dialect and have their own particular customs, workmanship and specialty.

- **Bakarwals –**

o The term Bakarwals derived from the combination of two terms "Bakri" means goat/ sheep and "wal" meaning "one who take care" of essentially the name "Bakarwal" implies **high altitude goats and sheep herders**.

- o Bakarwals are primarily pastoral nomads rearing goats and sheep in high altitude of Great Himalayan during summers and spent their winters in plains and foothills of Shivaliks.

Biannual Migration:

- They undertake a biannual migration with their flock between the pastures of Kashmir and Ladakh during summers, and the plains of Jammu in winters.
- Historically, they have been known for their immense knowledge of the ecosystems that they traverse.
- Across their migratory routes, their daily activities benefit the environment as they –
- o Conserve local soil and water,
- o Seasonally maintain the grasslands,
- o Regulate the frequency of forest fires by limiting excessive growth, and
- o Keep invasive plant species in check by weeding them out.

Challenges faced by the community:

- Gujjar-Bakarwal Tribe of J&K is one of the most backward of all tribes of J&K.
- Most habitation areas of Gujjar Bakarwals tribe in Jammu and Kashmir are lacking in facilities like –
- o Road communication, electricity, water supply schemes, medical facilities and educational facilities which put Gujjar Bakarwal tribe in lots of hardships and troubles.

Government Initiatives for the community:

- For the upliftment of Gujjar and Bakarwals community, the government came out with many employment schemes in union territory of Jammu and Ladakh which are as follows -
- o Jawahar Rojgar Yojana
- o Indira Awas Yojana
- o Self-Employment for Educated Unemployed Youth
- o Programs of Execution of Lift Irrigation