

CURRENT AFFAIRS= 22-10-2020

Asan Conservation Reserve gets first Ramsar site tag from Uttarakhand

The **Asan Conservation Reserve** in **Uttarakhand** has become the first **Ramsar site** in the state, giving it the status of ‘**Wetland of International Importance**’.

The Reserve is located near **Dehradun** district in Garhwal region of the Himalayan state on the banks of Yamuna river.

Apart from this, **Kabartal Wetland from Bihar** is the another new site to be recognised by Ramsar.

With this, the total number of Ramsar sites in India has increased to **39**, which is the highest in South Asia.

INS Kavaratti, last in series of 4 indigenously-built stealth corvettes, commissioned into Indian Navy



The **Chief of Army Staff, General MM Naravane** commissioned the ‘**INS Kavaratti**’, the last of four indigenously built **anti-submarine warfare (ASW) stealth corvettes**, into the Indian Navy in Visakhapatnam on 22 October 2020.

The ship has been designed by the Indian Navy’s in-house organisation, **Directorate of Naval Design**

(**DND**), and built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata**.

The anti-submarine warfare (ASW) stealth corvettes has been undertaken under ‘**Project 28**’, also called Kamorta-class corvettes of the Navy.

INS Kavaratti has a state-of-the-art weapons and sensor suite capable of “detecting and prosecuting” submarines and good endurance for long-range deployments.

DRDO successfully conducts final trial of Nag anti-tank guided missile in Pokhran range



India successfully carried out the final trial of the third generation, **anti-tank guided missile ‘NAG’** on 22 October 2020, from the **Pokhran field firing ranges in Rajasthan**.

The Nag anti-tank guided missile has been developed by the Defence Research and

Development Organization (DRDO), to engage highly fortified enemy tanks in day and night conditions.

The successful **final user trial of the missile** makes the Nag anti-tank missile ready for induction in the Indian Army.

Following the final trial, the missile will now enter into the production phase.

It will be manufactured by defence **PSU Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)**, under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP), of DRDO.

Nokia selected by NASA to build first ever cellular network on the Moon

Finland based telecom company **Nokia** has been selected by **NASA** as its partner to build the **first cellular network on the moon.**



NASA plans to leverage these innovations for its **Artemis program**, the US government-funded crewed spaceflight program for landing “the first woman and the next man” on the Moon, specifically at the lunar south pole region by 2024.

The **Nokia Bell Labs’** will undertake this project to build and deploy the first wireless end-to-end broadband/LTE communications system on the lunar surface in **late 2022.**

Nokia will partner with US-based **Intuitive Machines** for this mission. This project of deploying the first LTE/4G communications system in space will help pave the way towards sustainable human presence on the lunar surface.

First woman IAF Officer Vijayalakshmi Ramanan (retd) passes away at 96

Wing Commander (Retd) Dr Vijayalakshmi Ramanan, the first woman



officer to be commissioned in the **Indian Air Force**, has passed away due to old age ailments. She was 96.

Dr Ramanan was commissioned in the Army Medical Corps on August 22, 1955 and was promoted to the rank of Wing Commander in August 1972. She served as an obstetrician and gynaecologist at various Air Force

Hospitals.

She was honoured with the Vishist Seva Medal five years later. She had retired in February, 1979.

KALESHWARAM LIFT IRRIGATION SYSTEM

On October 12, the National Green Tribunal, New Delhi, ruled that the Environmental Clearance given to the Kaleshwaram project in December 2017 was void as the Telangana government subsequently changed the design of the project to increase its capacity.



About:

The Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation System is considered to be one of the world's largest multi-purpose projects.

It is designed to provide water for irrigation and drinking purposes to about 45 lakh acres in 20 of the 31 districts in Telangana, apart from Hyderabad and Secunderabad.

Telangana will harness water at the confluence of two rivers with Godavari by constructing a barrage at Medigadda in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district and reverse pump the water into the main Godavari River.

The project has set many records with the world's longest water tunnels, aqueducts, underground surge pools, and biggest pumps.

The cost of the project is Rs 80,000 crore, but is expected to rise to Rs 1 lakh crore by the time it is completely constructed by the end of 2020.

KAVARATTI

The last of four indigenously built Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) stealth corvettes "INS Kavaratti" under Project 28 (Kamorta class) is scheduled to be commissioned into the Indian Navy on 22 October 20.



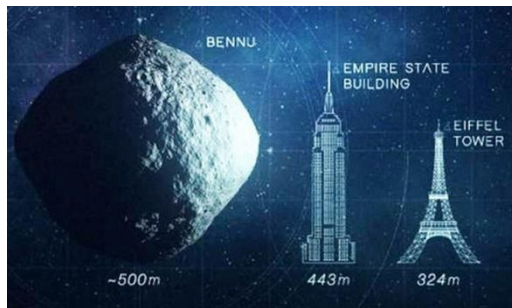
About:

Touted as a potent Stealth ASW Corvette, Kavaratti is indigenously designed by the Indian Navy's in-house organisation, Directorate of Naval Design(DND), and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata

- Kavaratti has a state-of-the-art weapons and sensor suite capable of detecting and prosecuting submarines. In addition to its anti-submarine warfare capability, the ship also has a credible self defence capability and good endurance for long-range deployments.
- Kavaratti takes her name from erstwhile INS Kavaratti which was an Arnala class missile corvette. The older Kavaratti distinguished herself by operating in support of was Bangladesh's liberation in 1971.

ASTEROID BENNU

NASA's OSIRIS-REx — Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer — spacecraft briefly touched asteroid Bennu, from where it is meant to collect samples of dust and pebbles and deliver them back to Earth in 2023.



About:

The asteroid was named after an Egyptian deity by a nine-year-old boy from North Carolina in 2013 who won NASA's "Name that Asteroid" competition.

The asteroid was discovered by a team from the NASA-funded Lincoln Near-Earth Asteroid Research team in 1999.

- Bennu is an asteroid located at a distance of about 200 million miles away from the Earth.
- OSIRIS-REx mission is NASA's first mission meant to return a sample from the ancient asteroid. The mission was launched in 2016, it reached its target in 2018 and since then, the spacecraft has been trying to match the velocity of the asteroid.
- Scientists study asteroids to look for information about the formation and history of planets and the sun since asteroids were formed at the same time as other objects in the solar system. Another reason for tracking them is to look for asteroids that might be potentially hazardous.

What is an asteroid?

Asteroids are rocky objects that orbit the Sun, much smaller than planets. They are also called minor planets. According to NASA, 994,383 is the count of known

asteroids, the remnants from the formation of the solar system over 4.6 billion years ago.

Asteroids are divided into three classes.

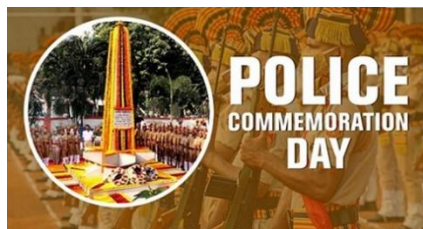
First, those found in the main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter, which is estimated to contain somewhere between 1.1-1.9 million asteroids.

The second group is that of trojans, which are asteroids that share an orbit with a larger planet. NASA reports the presence of Jupiter, Neptune and Mars trojans. In 2011, they reported an Earth trojan as well.

The third is Near-Earth Asteroids (NEA), which have orbits that pass close by the Earth. Those that cross the Earth's orbit are called Earth-crossers. More than 10,000 such asteroids are known, out of which over 1,400 are classified as potentially hazardous asteroids (PHAs).

POLICE COMMEMORATION DAY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to police personnel martyred in the line of duty on Police Commemoration Day.



About:

Police Commemoration Day is observed on 21st October every year to honour the loyalty and supreme sacrifice of police personnel for the nation.

It was on this day in 1959 when a patrol party of 20 personnel of CRPF and Intelligence Bureau had gone to search for a missing reconnaissance party when it was ambushed by PLA (Chinese Army) in Ladakh.

In spite of the sudden attack and disadvantageous tactical position, they fought valiantly against the Chinese army personnel who were in large numbers and heavily armed. In this battle, ten CRPF men were martyred in defence of the country.

COMMITTEE ON ELECTION EXPENDITURE LIMITS

Election Commission of India (ECI) has constituted a committee comprising Harish Kumar, Ex. IRS and DG (Investigation) and Umesh Sinha, Secretary General and DG (Expenditure) to examine the issues concerning expenditure limit for a candidate.



About:

The Ministry of Law & Justice on 19.10.2020 has notified an amendment in Rule 90 of Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 enhancing the existing expenditure limit by 10%. This increase of 10% will

be applicable with immediate effect in ongoing elections.

Expenditure limit for a candidate was last revised in 2014 vide notification dated 28.02.2014, while in respect of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana it was revised vide notification dated 10.10.2018.

Reason for review:

In last 6 years the limit was not increased despite increase in electorate from 834 million to 910 million in 2019 to 921 million now.

Further, Cost Inflation Index during this period has increased from 220 to 280 in 2019 to 301 now.

CROSS