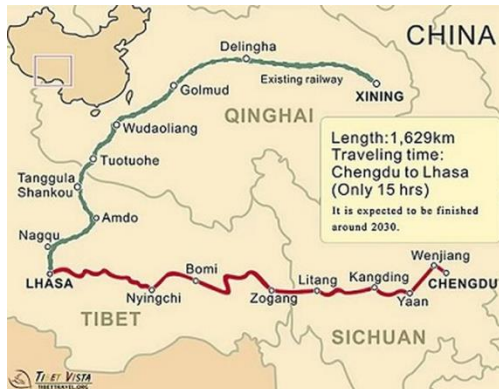


CURRENT AFFAIRS= 07/08-11-2020

SICHUAN-TIBET RAILWAY



Chinese President Xi Jinping instructed officials to expedite the construction of the new USD 47.8 billion railway project connecting the country's southwest Sichuan province to Linzhi in Tibet close to the Indian border in Arunachal Pradesh, saying it would play a key role in safeguarding stability in the border areas.

About:

- The Sichuan-Tibet Railway will be the second railway line into Tibet after the Qinghai-Tibet Railway project. It will go through the southeast of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, one of the world's most geologically active areas.
- The Sichuan-Tibet Railway starts from Chengdu, capital of Sichuan province and travels through Ya'an and enters Tibet via Qamdo, shortening the journey from Chengdu to Lhasa from 48 hours to 13 hours.
- Linzhi, also known as Nyingchi, is located close to the Arunachal Pradesh border.
- The India-China border dispute covers the 3,488-km-long Line of Actual Control, the de-facto border between the two countries. China claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of south Tibet which is firmly rejected by India.

WORLD SCIENCE DAY FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT



World Science Day for Peace and Development will be observed on 10 November.

About:

Celebrated every 10 November, World Science Day for Peace and Development highlights the significant role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues.

2020 Theme: This year, at a time when the world is struggling with the global COVID-19 pandemic, the focus of World Science Day is on “Science for and with Society in dealing with the global pandemic.”



Background:

The organization of a focused event related to the commitment to science and society was one of the positive outcomes of the 1999 World Conference on Science in Budapest.

It was considered an opportunity to reaffirm each year the commitment to attaining the goals proclaimed in the Declaration on Science and the Use of Scientific Knowledge and to follow up the recommendations of the Science Agenda:

Framework for Action.

It was proclaimed by UNESCO in 2001 and was first celebrated worldwide on 10 November 2002.

SOCIAL REFORMS IN U.A.E

The United Arab Emirates announced a slew of legal reforms relating to personal freedoms that seek to move the country away from its hardline interpretation of Islamic law.



About:

The overhaul includes changes in laws related to honour killings, alcohol restrictions, cohabitation of unmarried couples, divorce and succession.

- **Honour killings:** Previously, under “honour crimes”, male relatives could evade prosecution or get lighter sentences for assaulting women who purportedly brought “dishonour” to the family by acts such as disobeying religious scriptures or promiscuity. Such incidents would now be treated as similar to any other assault.
- **Harassment of Women:** There would be stricter punishments for men who subject women to harassment, including stalking and street harassment. The rape of a minor or someone “with limited mental capacity” will be punished with execution.
- **Consumption of alcohol:** Drinking alcohol has been decriminalised for those above 21 years of age, and penalties for possessing or selling alcoholic beverages without an alcohol licence in authorised areas have been removed.
- **Unmarried couples living together:** Cohabitation of unmarried couples” has been made legal for the first time. Previously, it was illegal for an unmarried couple, or

even unrelated flatmates, to share a home in the UAE.



- **Divorce:** For couples who were married in their home country but want to get a divorce in the UAE, laws of the country where the marriage took place would apply.
- **Suicide:** The reforms decriminalise suicide and attempted suicide. Previously, a person who survived a suicide attempt could be prosecuted. However, this offence has now been removed and the courts and police are supposed to provide mental health support to vulnerable people.

U.S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

Democrat Joe Biden has been declared the winner of the 2020 US presidential election, defeating Donald Trump, to become the 46th President of the United States.



About:

With the declaration of Joe Biden as the President-Elect based on the projections of the electoral votes, Democratic Party candidate Kamala Harris has also secured her position as the first woman to be the Vice President of the USA.

- Harris, is also credited to be the first woman of Indian-American and African-American origin to be a member of the United States Senate.
- The electoral college representatives elected by the popular votes will cast their votes to officially elect the new president on the 14th of next month. The new president will thereafter assume office on the 20th of January next year after the inauguration ceremony.

View of Donald Trump:

- Amidst the ongoing electoral process, Republican Candidate Donald Trump has challenged the lengthy process of counting mail ballots across many key states.
- Raising serious allegations, the Trump campaign team has also filed legal suits against the process in the States of Pennsylvania, Nevada and Arizona among others.

HIMACHAL PRADESH'S LAW AGAINST RELIGIOUS CONVERSION

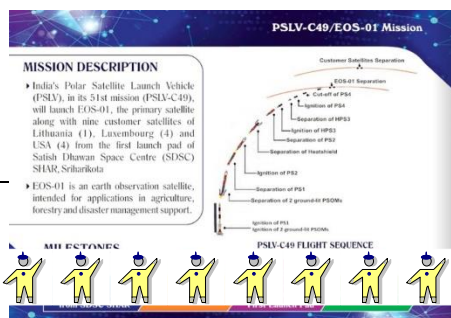


Haryana Home Minister said that his government is considering a law against forced religious conversions and has sought information about such a law already in force in Himachal Pradesh.

Salient features of the law:

- Last year, the Himachal Pradesh assembly passed the Freedom of Religion Bill, 2019.
- According to it, no person shall convert any other person from one religion to another by use of misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion, inducement or by any fraudulent means or by marriage; nor shall any person abet or conspire such conversion.
- The Act does not cover a person re-converting to his “parent religion”.
- Any marriage done for the sole purpose of religion conversion may be declared null and void by a court on a petition by either party.
- Anyone who wishes to convert to any other religion will give a **declaration to the district authorities at least one month in advance**, specifying that one is doing so as per his/her “own volition or free consent”.
- **The burden of proof** as to whether a religious conversion was not effected through force or fraud lies on the person so converted, or the person who has facilitated the conversion.
- **All offences under the Act are cognizable and non-bailable.** The violator can be punished with a prison term ranging from one to five years, along with a fine.

PSLV-C49/EOS-01



India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, in its fifty first flight (PSLV-C49), successfully launched EOS-01 along with nine international customer satellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre

(SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota on November 07, 2020.



About:

- PSLV-C49 is the 2nd flight of PSLV in 'DL' configuration (with 2 solid strap-on motors).
- EOS-01 is an earth observation satellite, intended for applications in agriculture, forestry and disaster management support.
- The nine customer satellites from Lithuania (1), Luxembourg (4) and USA (4) were launched under a commercial arrangement with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL).
- This is the first launch in the last ten months with the previous launch from Sriharikota was on December 11, 2019, when ISRO launched the 50th PSLV and its 75th launch from the spaceport.

CROSS & CLIM