

PRADHAN MANTRI AADI ADARSH GRAM YOJANA

Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda has said that the government has started a scheme, "Pradhan Mantri Aadi Adarsh Gram Yojana" for faster development of tribal villages.



About:

- The focus of the scheme is on converging different programs of 41 ministries in the tribal villages to ensure their all-round development.
- Aim of the program is to turn the focus on such remote and backward villages of the country which are lagging behind due to lack of attention. Efforts are also being made to ensure the geo-tagging of and market linkages for the tribal products through TRIFED.

NEED TO WORK TOGETHER FOR A CRIME-FREE BORDER, INDIA TELLS BANGLADESH

In News:

- The seventh round of the India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Commission (JCC) was held in New Delhi.

India-Bangladesh Bilateral Relation

Current status of the relationship

- India-Bangladesh relations today are deeper than any other strategic partnership. It is a role model for relations between two neighbouring countries.
 - The relationship rests on two pillars of India diplomacy – Neighbourhood First Policy and Act East.
- The spirit of friendship, understanding and mutual respect engendered during the liberation of Bangladesh continues to permeate different aspects of this relationship.

- He highlighted that Bangladesh is India's biggest development partner and India's largest trading partner in South Asia.
- It is contributing to economic prosperity and supply chain resilience in the region and beyond.

2021: A Golden Chapter

- The fact that PM Modi's first foreign visit since pandemic to Dhaka to commemorate the golden jubilee is testimony to the highest priorities the countries attach to the relationship.
- 2021 marks the triveni of events that have epochal significance:
 - The golden jubilee of liberation of Bangladesh
 - The birth centenary of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman
 - 50th anniversary of diplomatic ties
- Bangladesh's decision to establish a memorial in remembrance of the sacrifices made by members of Indian armed forces in 1971 was a key step towards preserving this history of shared sacrifice.

Trade

- Bangladesh is India's biggest trade partner in South Asia and India is the second biggest trade partner of Bangladesh.

Connectivity

- India-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge 1 (also known as Feni Bridge) is being constructed which will connect Tripura with Chittagong port of Bangladesh.
- A land port in Ramgarh upazila of Khagrachhari will serve as a link between India and the Chittagong Hill Tracts.
- A ship carrying cargo from Bhutan to Bangladesh was flagged off from Assam in July 2019. It sailed over river Brahmaputra and the Indo Bangladesh Protocol Route.

Energy Cooperation

- Energy cooperation between the two sides has also shown a lot of positivity.
 - Indian state Tripura supplying a total of 160 MW of power to Bangladesh in addition to the 500 MW the country is receiving from West Bengal since 2013.

- Bangladesh has offered two special economic zones (SEZs) for investment by private Indian companies in Bheramara, Kushtia and the coastal Mongla belt in Bagerhat.
- Reliance Power has signed an agreement to invest US\$3 billion to set up a 3000 MW power plant and a floating liquefied natural gas import terminal in Bangladesh.
- In September 2018, Indian Prime Minister and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina jointly inaugurated the construction of a friendship pipeline project through video conferencing.
- The 130-kilometre India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline Project will connect Siliguri in West Bengal in India and Parbatipur in Dinajpur district of Bangladesh.

Defence Cooperation

- Navies of India and Bangladesh participated for the first time in a IN-BN Bilateral Exercise at Visakhapatnam in October 2019.
- The maiden edition of this Bilateral Exercise was held after the second edition of Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT, first edition in 2018).
- India and Bangladesh have inked an important MoU that will enable Delhi to set up a coastal surveillance system radar in Bangladesh.
- This will be useful amid growing terror threats via seas and growing presence of China in the Bay of Bengal region.
- In January 2021, marking 50 years of the 1971 India-Pakistan war that led to the liberation of Bangladesh, a 122-member contingent of the Bangladesh Armed Forces participated in the Republic Day parade.

Indian Assistance during COVID-19 Pandemic

- India gifted one lakh anti-malarial tablets of hydroxychloroquine and 50,000 surgical gloves to Bangladesh. It also donated 30,000 COVID-19 test kits to Bangladesh.
- India assisted the neighbouring countries including Bangladesh under SAARC framework. It provided training to the medical staffs of member countries and took lead role in creating the SAARC COVID-19 emergency fund.
- In January 2021, India supplied 2 million doses of Made-in-India Covid-19 vaccines to Bangladesh under Vaccine Maitri initiative.

Key Highlights

- **New areas of cooperation**
 - Indian side conveyed that it is looking forward to work on new areas of cooperation with Bangladesh.
 - This includes artificial intelligence, cyber security, start-ups and fintech.
- **Better management of Border**
 - India's EAM said that better management of India's long border with Bangladesh is a key priority.
 - The two countries must continue to work together to make sure that the border remains crime-free.
- **Repatriation of Rohingya refugees to Myanmar**
 - Bangladesh sought India's support for early repatriation of Rohingya refugees to Myanmar.
 - More than a million refugees are living in camps in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazaar area, close to the border with Myanmar.
 - Dhaka is also worried about an influx of Rohingyas from India.
- **India extended solidarity at the unprecedented flooding in northern Bangladesh**
 - Jaishankar conveyed India's support and solidarity at the unprecedented flooding in northern Bangladesh.
 - Both the countries are now sharing flood management data for an extended period.
 - The two ministers agreed to work closely to further strengthen cooperation in the areas of common rivers and water resources management.

KRANTI GATHA (GALLERY OF INDIAN REVOLUTIONARIES)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 'Kranti Gatha' a newly created Gallery of



Indian Revolutionaries inside an underground British - era bunker at Raj Bhavan in Mumbai and Jal Bhushan, the new residence and office of the Governor of Maharashtra.

About:

- The Gallery of Indian Revolutionaries has been created in the bunker that was discovered below Raj Bhavan in 2016 by the then Governor of Maharashtra N Vidyasagar Rao. Built before the First World War, it was used by the British store arms and ammunition.
- The bunker has 13 rooms of various sizes and the different cells in it were known as 'Shell Store', 'Gun Shell', Cartridge Store, Shell Lift, Central Artillery Room, Workshop etc. Many of these rooms as well as the wall in the hallway have now been used for the 'Kranti Gatha - Gallery of Revolutionaries'.
- The 'Kranti Gatha' gallery commemorates many revolutionaries from Maharashtra from the First War of Independence in 1857 to the Naval uprising in Mumbai in 1946.
- In this Vasudev Balwant Phadke, Chaphekar brothers, Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Veer Savarkar, Babarao Savarkar, Krantiguru Lahuji Salve, Anant Laxman Kanhere, Rajguru, Madam Bhikaji Cama feature prominently.

BOMBAY SAMACHAR (MUMBAI SAMACHAR)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the bi-centenary celebration of Mumbai Samachar Newspaper.



About:

- The Bombay Samachar, now Mumbai Samachar, is the oldest continuously published newspaper in India.
- Established in 1822 by Fardunjee Marzban, it is published in Gujarati and English.
- The Bombay Samachar is also Asia's oldest continuously published newspaper.

AIR INDIA ACQUIRES AIR-ASIA INDIA

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of AirAsia India's entire equity share by Tata Group-owned Air India.



About:

- Currently, Tata Sons, the holding company of the Mumbai-based conglomerate, has 83.67% share in AirAsia India, while the remaining is held by Malaysia's AirAsia Bhd. This is the first formal regulatory approval to Tata Group's plan to consolidate its aviation portfolio.
 - AirAsia India operates low-cost airline services in domestic sectors in India. The airline was founded as a joint-venture between the Tata Group and Tony Fernandes-led AirAsia Bhd in 2014.
 - Tata Group later launched full-service airline Vistara in a 51:49 joint-venture with Singapore Airlines and bought 100% stake in Air India, along with its low-cost subsidiary Air India Express earlier this year.
 - The conglomerate is in process of consolidating its aviation portfolio. It is also learnt to be moving all its aviation brands to a single corporate office in Gurugram.
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