

### WHAT IS OVERSEAS CITIZEN OF INDIA (OCI)?

India is in the process of cancelling the registration of more than a dozen Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) card holders for carrying out pro-Khalistan activities and anti-India propaganda



#### About Overseas Citizen of India (OCI):

- It is given to overseas Indians.
- OCI Scheme was introduced by amending the Citizenship Act, 1955, in August 2005.
- It provides long-term visa-free travel and stay in India and gives the cardholders a host of privileges normally not given to a foreign national.

**Who is eligible for an OCI card?** As per the ministry's statement, a foreign national -

- who was a citizen of India at the time of, or at any time after 26 January, 1950;
- who was eligible to become a citizen of India on 26th January, 1950;
- who belonged to a territory that became part of India after 15th August, 1947; who is a child or a grandchild or a great-grandchild of such a citizen;
- who is a minor child of such persons mentioned above;
- who is a minor child and whose both parents are citizens of India or one of the parents is a citizen of India - is eligible for registration as an OCI cardholder.

#### Entitlements:

- A registered OCI is granted multiple entry, multipurpose, life-long visa for visiting India.
- He/she is exempted from registration with the Foreign Regional Registration Officer or Foreign Registration Officer for any length of stay in India.
- He/she is entitled to general 'parity with Non-Resident Indians in respect of all facilities available to them in economic, financial and educational fields except in matters relating to the acquisition of agricultural or plantation properties.

OCI cardholder is NOT entitled to:

- OCI is not to be misconstrued as 'dual citizenship'. OCI does not confer political rights to vote;
- to be a member of a Legislative Assembly or of a Legislative Council or of the Parliament of India;
- to hold Indian constitutional posts such as that of the President, Vice President, Judge of the Supreme Court or High Court ;
- He/she cannot normally hold employment in the Government;
- to undertake any Missionary work, Mountaineering and Journalism work without prior permission of the Govt. of India;
- OCI cardholder shall also require Protected Area Permit (PAP)/Restricted Area Permit (RAP) to visit any place which falls within the Protected/Restricted Area notified by the Government as in the case of any other foreigner.
- **Renunciation of OCI:**
  - If any overseas citizen of India of full age and capacity makes in the prescribed manner a declaration renouncing his overseas citizenship of India, the declaration shall be registered by the Central Government, and; upon such registration, that person shall cease to be an overseas citizen of India.
  - Where a person ceases to be an overseas citizen of India, every minor child of that person registered as an overseas citizen of India, shall thereupon cease to be an overseas citizen of India.

## ANNULAR SOLAR ECLIPSE

The Annular solar eclipse will occur on October 14 and will be visible across different parts of the world.



About Annular solar eclipse:

- It is often referred to as the "ring of fire."
- This eclipse happens when the moon is at or near its farthest point from Earth in its orbit.

- The moon appears smaller than the sun in the sky and does not fully cover it, creating a striking visual effect.
- The moon appears as a dark disk superimposed on the larger, bright face of the sun, forming a glowing ring or "ring of fire."
- The path of this upcoming eclipse will span several countries in North, Central, and South America.

## Types of eclipses

- **Total solar eclipse:** It happens when the sun, moon and Earth are in a direct line. The dark silhouette of the Moon completely covers the intense bright light of the Sun. Only the much fainter solar corona is visible during a total eclipse which is known as a Totality.
- **Partial solar eclipse:** It happens when the shadow of the moon appears on a small part of the sun.

---

## SOUTH CHINA SEA

The Coast Guard of China was accused by the Philippines recently of installing a "floating barrier" in the South China Sea's disputed area.



### About South China Sea:

- It is an arm of the western Pacific Ocean that borders the Southeast Asian mainland.
- **Boundaries:** It is bordered by China, Taiwan, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, and Vietnam.
- It is connected by the Taiwan Strait with the East China Sea and by the Luzon Strait with the Philippine Sea (both marginal seas of the Pacific Ocean).
- The South China Sea and the East China Sea together form the China Sea.
- The two major archipelagos are known as the Paracel Islands, controlled by China, and the Spratly Islands.
- **Climate:** Weather in the sea is tropical and largely controlled by monsoons.

- It is the **second most used sea lane in the world**. It is a significant **trade route for crude oil** from the Persian Gulf and Africa through the Strait of Malacca to Singapore, Thailand, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan.
- **Major Ports: Hong Kong, Singapore, and Kaohsiung** in southern Taiwan.

## What is the South China Sea dispute?

- **Several countries claim various parts** of the sea, and these claims often overlap.
- In particular, **China's sweeping claims - which include sovereignty claims over land parcels and their adjacent waters** - have angered competing claimants like Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei.
- **Other countries have staked claims on islands and various zones in the sea**, such as the **Paracels and the Spratlys**.
- **Nine-dash line:**
  - **China claims by far the largest portion of territory** in an area demarcated by its so-called "nine-dash line".
  - The line comprises nine dashes, which extend hundreds of miles south and east from its most southerly province of Hainan.

## EXERCISE YUDH ABHYAS

The 19th edition of “EXERCISE YUDH ABHYAS” will be conducted from 25th September to 8th October 2023 in Fort Wainwright, Alaska, USA.



### About Exercise Yudh Abhyas:

- It is an **annual exercise conducted** jointly by the Indian Army and the United States Army.
- Indian Army contingent comprising 350 personnel will participate in this edition of the Exercise.
- The lead battalion from the Indian side is affiliated to **MARATHA Light Infantry Regiment**.
- Both sides will practice a series of tactical drills to enhance interoperability in conducting UN peacekeeping operations.

- The theme is ‘**Employment of an Integrated Battle Group in Mountain/ Extreme Climatic Conditions**’ under Chapter VII of the United Nations mandate.
- The scope of the Field Training Exercise includes validation of Integrated Battle Groups against hostile forces at the Brigade level, Integrated Surveillance Grid at the Brigade/ Battalion level, employment of Heliborne/ Airborne elements and Force Multipliers etc.
- The Exercise will also involve exchange of views and best practices in drills on a wide spectrum of combat skills including combat engineering, obstruction clearance, mine and Improvised Explosive Devices warfare.

### Other Exercises between India and USA

- **Army:** Vajra Prahar
- **Navy:** MALABAR (Multilateral)
- **Air Force:** Cope India, Red Flag (Multilateral)

---

### HOYSALA TEMPLES ON UNESCO HERITAGE LIST

#### Why in News?

- Three Hoysala-era temples in Karnataka [Chennakeshava (Belur), Hoysaleswara (Halebidu) and Keshava Temple (Somanathapura, Mysuru)] recently made it to UNESCO’s World Heritage List, under the collective entry of ‘**Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas**’.
- The announcement was made by UNESCO, during the World Heritage Committee’s 45th session in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

#### Who were the Hoysalas?



- The Hoysalas, which began as provincial governors under the Western Chalukyas, held power in **Karnataka from the 10th century to the 14th century**.
- The dynasty came to power when the two dominant empires of the South, the Western Chalukyas and the Cholas crumbled.

- The capital of the Hoysalas was initially located at **Belur**, but was later moved to **Halebidu**(or Dwarasamudra).
- It was an important period in the development of South Indian **art, architecture, and religion**.
- The empire is remembered today primarily for **Hoysala architecture** - ~100 surviving temples are scattered across Karnataka.
- **No known monuments other than temples**, like palaces or forts, survive from the Hoysala period.
- This is one of the paradoxes of the early medieval and medieval non-Islamic world, because the **non-temple buildings were all built in either mud or brick or wood**.

### About the Hoysala Temples:

- Hoysala temples are known for the **rare beauty and finesse of their wall sculptures**, and have been described as **art which applies to stone the technique of the ivory worker or the goldsmith**.
- One notable feature of Hoysala architecture is the use of **soapstone**, a malleable stone that is easy to carve.
- This is one of the **reasons behind the abundance of intricate sculptures** (animals, scenes of daily life, depictions from the epics and the Puranas)one can see on the temple walls.
- **The temples are generally built on stellate (star-shaped) platforms**, and have several structures inside the complex.
- Another special feature of Hoysala architecture is the unique confluence of styles - Hoysala architecture is an **amalgamation of 3 distinctive styles** (Dravidian, Vesara and the North Indian Nagara style).
- An interesting feature of Hoysala temples is that they are **'signed'** - the sculptors, masons leave behind their names, and sometimes a few more details.
- These **Vaishnava and Shaiva shrines** were built at the time Jainism was prominent in the region, and thus **mark a turn towards Hinduism**.

### About the UNESCO World Heritage Sites:

- A World Heritage Site (WHS) is a landmark or area **with legal protection by an international convention** administered by the UNESCO under the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, established in **1972**.
- These sites are designated by UNESCO for having **cultural, historical, scientific** or other forms of significance.
- The sites, classified as **cultural, natural and mixed** (meeting both cultural and natural criteria) heritage around the world, are considered to be of outstanding value to humanity.
- As of September 2023, A total of 1,199 WHSs exist across 166 countries.
  - With 59 selected areas, **Italy** is the country with the most sites on the list; **China** is the second with 57 sites
  - Presently, there are **42 WHSs** (including 3 Hoysala-era temples) located in **India** (out of these, 34 are cultural, 7 are natural and 1 is mixed).

---

## NASA'S FIRST ASTEROID SAMPLES LAND ON EARTH

### Why in news?

- NASA's first asteroid samples fetched from deep space was parachuted into the Utah desert on September 24.
- The asteroid hunting spacecraft OSIRIS-Rex dropped a capsule containing pristine asteroid material in the Utah desert.
  - In a flyby of Earth, the spacecraft released the sample capsule from 100,000 km out.
  - The small capsule landed four hours later on a remote expanse of military land, as the mother-ship set off after another asteroid.
- Osiris-Rex is already chasing the asteroid Apophis, and will reach it in 2029.

### What is OSIRIS-Rex?

- Name stands for
  - OSIRIS-Rex stands for - **Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer**.
- About

- OSIRIS-REx is NASA's first mission to collect a sample from an asteroid.
- The spacecraft launched in September 2016 and arrived at the near-Earth **asteroid Bennu** in December 2018.
- In October 2020, OSIRIS-REx briefly touched down on Bennu to collect a sample from the surface.
  - Using a long stick vacuum, it grabbed rubble from the small roundish space rock in 2020.
  - The sample was brought back to Earth for study.
- By the time it returned, the spacecraft had logged 6.2 billion km (4 billion miles).
- This sample return mission aims to provide valuable insights into the early history of our solar system and the potential for asteroid impacts on Earth.
- **Goal**
  - to understand the origins of our solar system,
  - study the composition of the asteroid, and
  - collect a sample of regolith (surface material) from Bennu.
- **NASA's third sample return mission**
  - Osiris-Rex was NASA's third sample return from a deep-space robotic mission.
  - The Genesis spacecraft dropped off bits of solar wind in 2004, but the samples were compromised when the parachute failed and the capsule slammed into the ground.
  - The Stardust spacecraft successfully delivered comet dust in 2006.

## What is Bennu?

- **About**
  - Bennu is a **near-Earth asteroid** that is the target of NASA's OSIRIS-REx mission.
  - Currently orbiting the sun 81 million km from Earth, Bennu is about one-half of a km across, roughly the size of the Empire State Building but shaped like a spinning top.
  - It is believed to be the broken fragment of a much larger asteroid.
- **Why Bennu was chosen for OSIRIS-Rex?**
  - **Proximity to Earth**
    - The closest asteroids to Earth are called Near-Earth Objects (NEOs).



- NEOs are objects that orbit within 1.3 AU of the Sun. (1 AU = the distance between Earth and the Sun, or ~93 million miles).
  - For a sample return mission like OSIRIS-REx, the most accessible asteroids for a spacecraft to reach are located between 1.6 AU and 0.8 AU.
  - It completes an orbit around the Sun every 436.604 days (1.2 years) and every 6 years comes very close to Earth, within 0.002 AU.
  - These close encounters give Bennu a high probability of impacting Earth in the late 22nd century.
  - **Size**
    - Asteroids with small diameters rotate more rapidly than those with large diameters.
    - With a diameter less than 200 meters, an asteroid spin so rapidly that the loose material on its surface (regolith) can be ejected from it.
    - The ideal asteroid has a diameter larger than 200 m (Bennu's diameter – 490 m).
  - **Composition**
    - The most primitive asteroids are carbon-rich and have not significantly changed since they formed nearly 4 billion years ago. (Bennu is also carbon-rich asteroid)
    - This means it may contain organic molecules and other materials that could shed light on the early solar system and the origins of life on Earth.
-