

DAILY PT POINTERS

13th January, 2024



HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: Polity and Governance (GS2) (Page 1)

SC refuses to stay law on selection of CEC, EC

Bench issues notice to the Centre, lists case for hearing in April; petitioner says the Act diluted earlier judgment of top court in the matter by replacing CJI with a Union Cabinet Minister in selection committee; petition argues that excluding the CJI had 'nullified' the committee, and the law is against the concept of separation of powers

A look at what the Sections 7 and 8 of the CEC and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023 say



■ Section 7 mandates the selection committee to consist of the Prime Minister, a Union Cabinet Minister, and the Leader of the Opposition or the leader of the largest Opposition party in the Lok Sabha

■ Section 8 allows the selection committee to regulate its own procedure in a transparent manner and consider persons other than those suggested by the search committee

- The Supreme Court declined to stay a new law which brushed aside a top court judgment to include the Chief Justice of India as a member of the high-powered selection committee to appoint the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs).
- It replaces the 'Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991'.
- It provides for the appointment, salary, and removal of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs).
- According to the provisions, the CEC and ECs will be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of a Selection Committee.
- The Selection Committee will consist of the Prime Minister, a Union Cabinet Minister, and Leader of Opposition or leader of the largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



The Hindu: Infrastructure (GSIII)-Page 1



Lighting up: A view of India's longest sea bridge, the Atal Setu or Vajrapada Setu—Mumbai Sea-Atal Setu, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in Mumbai on Friday. The 21.8 km long bridge is expected to see the movement of more than 70,000 vehicles every day. ANI

India's longest sea bridge which provides a link to Navi Mumbai inaugurated by PM

- Atal Setu has been constructed at a total cost of more than Rs 17,840 crore.
- It is about 21.8 km long 6-lane bridge having about 16.5 km length over sea and about 5.5 km on the land. It is the longest bridge in India and also the longest sea bridge in India.
- It will provide faster connectivity to Mumbai International Airport and Navi Mumbai International Airport and will also reduce the travel time from Mumbai to Pune, Goa and South India.
- It will also improve connectivity between Mumbai Port & Jawaharlal Nehru Port.

The Hindu: (S&T-GS III)-Page 5

Science Ministry team visits Hawaii to take stock of telescope project

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

In a signal of renewed enthusiasm for a global scientific project, an official delegation from the Department of Science and Technology visited Mauna Kea, an inactive volcano on the island of Hawaii in the U.S., to discuss “challenges” to the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) project, a press release said.

The TMT has been conceived as a 30-metre diameter primary-mirror optical and infrared telescope that will enable observations into deep space. It is proposed as a joint collaboration involving institutions in the U.S., Japan, China, Canada, and India. Indian participation in the project was approved by the Union Cabinet in 2014. India expects to be a major



Clear view: Mauna Kea, an inactive volcano on the island of Hawaii, hosts multiple telescopes. AP

contributor to the project and will provide hardware worth \$200 million.

Mauna Kea hosts multiple telescopes. However, upcoming projects have invited local opposition on the grounds that building telescopes violates religious and cultural customs, with many of these projects having been imposed upon the region without addressing the concerns of inhabitants.

Though permits for constructing the TMT were availed, the Supreme Court of Hawaii invalidated them in 2015. Permissions were restored in 2018, though construction is yet to begin because of continued local opposition. There are plans to construct the TMT at an alternate site, with the Observatorio del Roque de los Muchachos (ORM) on La Palma in Spain's Canary Is-

lands seen as the next best choice.

In 2020, Ashutosh Sharma, the then-Secretary of the DST, told *The Hindu*, “We would like the project to move to an alternate site if all the procedures and permits there are in place. The difficulty is that even if construction [in Mauna Kea] were to go ahead, there could be future agitations.” However, it is not clear whether India's views have changed.

“The Mauna Kea site is the world's best for astronomy. Discussions are on to see how best the project can go forward with consensus and support of the local people. Hopefully, a decision on the site should be firm in the next two years,” Annapurni Subramaniam, director of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIAP), told *The Hindu*.

- an official delegation from the Department of Science and Technology visited Mauna Kea, an inactive volcano on the island of Hawaii in the U.S., to discuss “challenges” to the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) project.
- The TMT has been conceived as a 30-metre diameter primary-mirror optical and infrared telescope that will enable observations into deep space.
- It is proposed as a joint collaboration involving institutions in the U.S., Japan, China, Canada, and India.
- Indian participation in the project was approved by the Union Cabinet in 2014.
- India expects to be a major contributor to the project and will provide hardware worth \$200 million.

Do you know?

- Mauna Kea, the highest peak on the Island of Hawai'i (4,207.3 m, 13,803 ft), is a shield volcano
- Mauna Kea hosts multiple telescopes
- The Mauna Kea site is the world's best for astronomy

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu : Defence-(GS3) Page 5



- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful flight test of the new generation Akash surface-to-air missile (SAM) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha,
- It has validated the functioning of the complete weapon system consisting of the missile with indigenously developed radio frequency seeker, launcher, multi-function radar and command, control & communication system,”
- AKASH-NG system is a state-of-the-art missile system capable of intercepting high speed, agile aerial threats.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu : IR (GSII) / Defence-(GS3) Page 12



The H2A rocket lifts off from the launch pad at Tanegashima Space Centre in Japan on Friday. AP



- Japan successfully launched a rocket carrying a government intelligence-gathering satellite on Friday on a mission to watch movements at military sites in North Korea and to improve responses to natural disasters.
- The H2A rocket, launched by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd., lifted off from the Tanegashima Space Center in southwestern Japan, carrying the optical satellite as part of Tokyo's reconnaissance effort to rapidly build up its military capability.
- Japan aims at setting up a network of 10 satellites, including those carrying radars that can operate at night or in severe weather, to spot and provide early warning for possible missile launches.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu : Places in news (GS1) Page 13

Global shipping in a spot as Panama Canal short of water



Panama Canal.

- The artificial 82-kilometre waterway connects the Atlantic Ocean with the Pacific Ocean.
- It has been a major thoroughfare for international trade for over 100 years, connecting nearly 2,000 ports in 170 countries.
- The top origin and destination countries are the U.S., China, and Japan.
- As of Friday, a total of 47 ships were waiting in the queue to cross the Panama Canal.
- The waiting time for north-bound ships has doubled to 10 days in the past month, according to information on the Internet.



HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express : Art culture (GSI) -Page 18

The story of Nashik's Kalaram temple, visited by Modi — and by Ambedkar many decades ago

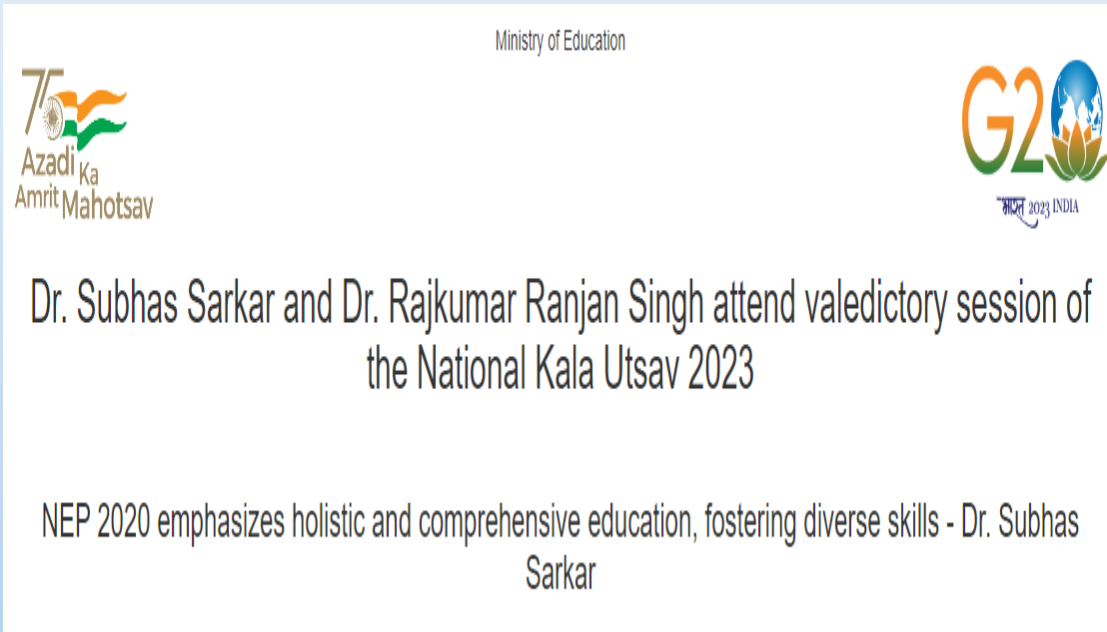
The revered mandir has black-colour idols of Ram, Sita, and Lakshman. Why is it important? And why did Babasaheb lead a satyagraha at the temple?



- Kalaram Mandir is situated within the Panchvati area of Nashik City
- . It was built in 1782 by Sardar Rangrao Odhekar on the site of an old wooden temple.
- It is one of the finest modern temples of Ramji in western India. The temple has a seventeen feet high wall of plain dressed stone which surrounds a well kept enclosure 245 feet long and 105 broad. It has separate sabhamandap which is 75'*31''*12 which is open from all sides. The temple has standing images of Lord Rama, Sita, Laxmana are of black stone and around 2 feet height. The Ramnavami festival is celebrated in Chaitra (March-April).
- The temple is also the site of a landmark agitation led by Babasaheb Ambedkar demanding temple entry rights for Dalits more than 90 years ago.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB : Art culture (GSI)





- The Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education, and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) organised the Kala Utsav 2023 from 9-12 January 2024 at National Bal Bhavan and the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi.
- Kala Utsav 2023 witnessed performances in 10 art forms: 1. Vocal Music – Classical; 2. Vocal Music – Traditional Folk; 3. Instrumental Music – Percussive; 4. Instrumental Music – Melodic; 5. Dance – Classical; 6. Dance – Folk; 7. Visual Arts (2-dimensional); 8. Visual Arts (3-dimensional); 9. Indigenous Toys and Games; and 10. Drama (Solo acting)

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB : Miscellaneous

Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions



'ANUBHAV Awards Scheme, 2024'

Last Date for submissions on ANUBHAV portal will be 31 March 2024, all Line Ministries/ Departments to reach out to Pensioners to make submissions on ANUBHAV Portal.

- Recognizing the invaluable experiences of retiring Central Government employees, the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DOPPW) introduced the ANUBHAV Awards Scheme in 2016.
- Launched on the directive of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the scheme aims to cultivate a culture of sharing insights and stories by retirees to promote good governance and administrative reforms.
- The government has recently notified the ANUBHAV Awards Scheme 2024, providing a structured framework for participation