

13-03-2024

Mission Divyastra

Why in News?

- India announced the successful testing of an Agni-5 missile capable of carrying multiple warheads meant to hit multiple targets simultaneously. The success of Mission Divyastra, as the test was named, was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

More About the News

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted first successful flight test of indigenously developed Agni-5 missile with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-Entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology.
- The flight test named Mission Divyastra was carried out from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha. Various Telemetry and radar stations tracked and monitored multiple re-entry vehicles. The Mission accomplished the designed parameters.

About Agni-5 Missiles

- Agni is a long-range missile developed indigenously by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

- The family of Agni missiles has been in the arsenal of the Indian armed forces since the early 1990s.
- The latest variant of the missile is equipped with what is known as MIRV (Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle) technology, first developed at least five decades ago but in possession of only a handful of countries.
- Agni-5 has been successfully tested multiple times since 2012. In December 2022, a successful flight test of Agni-5 was undertaken off the coast of Odisha.
- Medium to Intercontinental versions of Agni missile systems 1 to 5 have varying ranges - starting from 700 km for Agni-1 to 5000 km and above for Agni-5.
- In June 2021, DRDO successfully tested Agni P, a canisterised missile with a range capability between 1,000 and 2,000 km.
- This means that the missile can be launched from road and rail platforms, making it easier for it to be deployed and launched at a quicker pace.



About MIRV Technology

- The MIRV can target multiple targets that can be hundreds of kilometers apart with a single missile.
- The Agni-5, capable of carrying nuclear warheads, has a range of more than 5,000 km, making it a long-range missile, and is aimed mainly at thwarting the challenge from China.
- As of now, the United States, Russia, China, France and the United Kingdom are known to have MIRV-equipped missiles.
- These missiles can be launched from land or from sea from a submarine. While Pakistan is developing such a missile system, Israel too is suspected to either possess the missile or be developing it.
- In contrast to a traditional missile, which carries one warhead, MIRVs can carry multiple warheads. Warheads on MIRVed missiles can be released from the missile at different speeds and in different directions.
- The development of MIRV technology is not easy. It requires the combination of large missiles, small warheads, accurate guidance, and a complex mechanism for releasing warheads sequentially during flight.
- While the USA had the technology in 1970 and the Soviet Union followed suit in the same decade, since then, only a few countries have the MIRV capabilities, a club India has now joined.

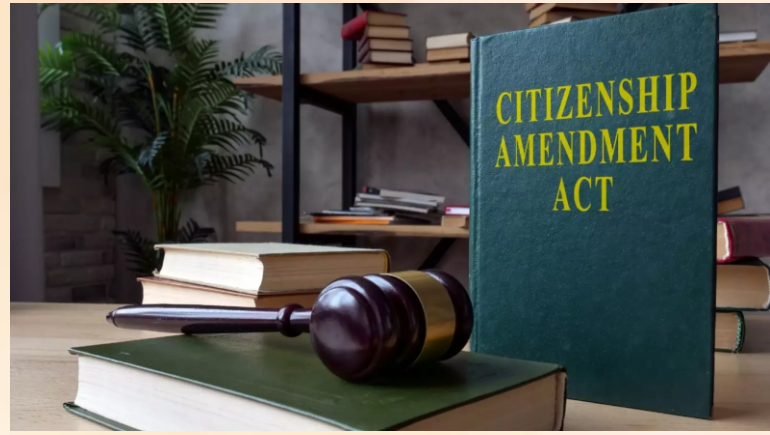
Citizenship Amendment Act's (CAA) Rules Notified

Why in the News?

- The Home Ministry on March 11 notified the implementation of Citizenship Amendment Act's (CAA) rules. The CAA will facilitate the granting of citizenship to undocumented non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

More About the News

- The law paves the way for Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Christian and Parsi refugees, who



came to India before December, 31 2014, from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan to acquire Indian citizenship without having a valid passport of these countries or an Indian visa.

- The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2019 was passed in Parliament in December 2019. The Lok Sabha passed the Bill on December 9 while the Rajya Sabha passed it on December 11, 2019.

About Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)

- The Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019 amends the Citizenship Act, 1955 so as to grant a certain class of illegal migrants a path to Indian citizenship.
- The CAA makes illegal migrants eligible for citizenship if they (a) belong to the Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi or Christian community and (b) are from Afghanistan, Bangladesh or Pakistan.
- It only applies to migrants who entered India on or before 31 December, 2014. Certain areas in the North-East are exempted from the provision.

President of India in Mauritius

Why in the News?

- The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu reached Mauritius on March 11, 2024 on her first State Visit to the country.

More About the News

- In a special gesture, the Prime Minister of Mauritius, Shri Pravind Kumar Jugnauth along with members of his Cabinet and senior Mauritian dignitaries, received the

President at Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport upon arrival with full state honours.

- The President said that in a short span of 56 years as an independent nation, Mauritius has emerged as one of the leading democracies, an epitome of pluralism, a prosperous country, a prestigious international financial centre, thriving tourist destination, and most importantly – among the safest and peaceful countries in the world.
- She appreciated the visionary Mauritian nation-builders who made the economy a “Mauritian Miracle” that inspires not only Africa but the entire world.
- The President said that as India moves forward towards becoming a developed country, we will continue to take close partners like Mauritius along with us. India will continue to be a source for global peace and prosperity, following its core values of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” and “Sarvajana Sukhina Bhavantu”.



More About India-Mauritius Relations

- Mauritius was one of the handful of important countries with which independent India established diplomatic relations in 1948, even before the independence of Mauritius.
- India has close, longstanding relations with Mauritius, an island nation in the Western Indian Ocean, owing to historic, demographic and cultural reasons.

- A key reason for the special ties is the fact that Indian origin people comprise nearly 70% of the island’s population of 1.2 million (28% Creole, 3% Sino-Mauritian, 1% Franco-Mauritian).
- The enduring cultural and people-to-people ties between India and Mauritius are nurtured by the Indian Cultural Centre in Mauritius (India’s biggest in the world) and the World Hindi Secretariat, a bilateral organization for the global promotion of Hindi.

Kochrab Ashram in Sabarmati, Gujarat

Why in the News?

- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Sabarmati Ashram and inaugurated Kochrab Ashram and launched the Master plan of Gandhi Ashram Memorial on 12th March 2024.

More About the News

- It was the first Ashram established by Mahatma Gandhi after coming to India from South Africa in 1915.
- It is still preserved as a memorial and tourist space by Gujarat Vidyapeeth. The Prime Minister also launched the Master Plan of the Gandhi Ashram Memorial.
- It has been the constant endeavor of the Prime Minister to uphold and cherish the ideals that Mahatma Gandhi stood for and also develop avenues which showcase his ideals and bring him closer to the people.
- In yet another effort in this endeavor, the Gandhi Ashram Memorial Project will help revitalize Mahatma Gandhi’s teachings and philosophy for present and future generations.
- Under this master plan, the existing five-acre area of the Ashram will be expanded to 55 acres. 36 existing buildings shall undergo restoration, out of which, 20 buildings including ‘Hriday Kunj’, which served as Gandhi’s residence, will be conserved, 13 will undergo restoration, and 3 will be reproduced.



- The masterplan includes new buildings to house administration facilities, visitor facilities like orientation center, interactive workshops on charkha spinning, handmade paper, cotton weaving and leatherwork and public utilities.
- The Masterplan also envisages the creation of a library and archives building to preserve, protect and disseminate Gandhiji's ideas. It will also create facilities for visiting scholars to use the Ashram's library and archives.
- The Memorial will serve as an inspiration for future generations, fostering Gandhian thoughts and will enliven the essence of Gandhian values, through a process informed by principles of Trusteeship.

AS Rajeev appointed as Vigilance Commissioner

Why in the News?

- The Honourable President of India vide warrant dated 9th February 2024 and by virtue of the power vested under Section 4 (1) of the Central vigilance Commission Act, 2003 has appointed Shri AS Rajeev as Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission.

More About the News

- Shri AS Rajeev made and subscribed oath on 11th March 2024 as Vigilance Commissioner before the Central Vigilance

Commissioner, who was authorized by the President of India in pursuance of the provision contained in Section 5 (3) of the CVC Act 2003.

- The Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003, provides for the appointment of a Central Vigilance Commissioner and two Vigilance Commissioners. The tenure of the Vigilance Commissioner is of four years or till the incumbent attains the age of 65 years.

Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)

- The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is an apex governmental body in India that is responsible for promoting integrity, transparency, and accountability in the country's public administration.
- It was established in 1964 as a result of the recommendations of the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption.
- The Commissioners in the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) play a crucial role in upholding integrity and accountability in India's public administration.
- The Commissioners bring expertise and experience to the CVC, contributing to its mission of promoting transparency and preventing corruption.

