

Daily Current Affairs 29/07/2021

1. Capacity Building Initiative on ‘Making Water Sensitive Cities in Ganga Basin’ Launched



Why in News

- A new capacity building initiative on ‘**Making Water Sensitive Cities in Ganga Basin**’ aimed at improving river health/flows was launched by **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** in association with **Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)**.

Key Points

About Capacity Building Initiative:

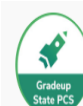
- **Key focus areas of the programme:** Water Sensitive Urban Design and Planning, Decentralized Wastewater Treatment and Local Reuse, Urban Water Efficiency and Conservation, Urban Groundwater Management and Urban Water bodies / Lake Management.
- The program will engage all the **stakeholders** which includes, SPMGs (State Program Management Group, Namami Gange), Municipal corporations, Technical & research constants, international organizations and local grassroot communities.
- This initiative is part of the series of ongoing efforts by NMCG aimed to ensuring convergence of the Namami Gange Mission with national flagship urban missions (AMRUT, Smart Cities, Swachh Bharat Mission, NULM, HRIDAY) and other missions (Atal Bhujal Yojana, Jal Shakti Abhiyan, Jal Jeevan Mission) at state /city level across Ganga basin states.

Water Sensitive Urban Design and Planning:

- It is an emerging urban development paradigm aimed to minimize hydrological impacts of urban development on the environment.
- It includes the method of planning and designing urban areas for optimum utilization of water.



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Other Related Initiatives:

- ‘Catch the Rain’ initiative for rain water harvesting
- “River Cities Alliance” which will provide a unique platform for river cities to collaborate for collectively achieving river rejuvenation

Source: PIB

2. India gets its 40th UNESCO World Heritage Site- Dholavira: A Harappan City



Why in News

- India’s nomination of Dholavira, the Harappan City in the Rann of Kutch, Gujarat has been inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage list.

Key Points

- Dholavira site was on UNESCO’s tentative list since 2014.
- India now enters the **Super-40** club for World Heritage Site inscriptions.
- With this successful nomination, India has **40 world heritage** properties overall, which includes **32 cultural, 7 natural and one mixed property**.

Note: This follows a few days after the **Rudreswara Temple**, (also known as the Ramappa Temple) at Palampet, Mulugu district, Telangana State becoming the **39th World Heritage Centre** in India.

About the Harappan city of Dholavira:

- Dholavira: a Harappan city is one of the very few well preserved urban settlements in South Asia dating from the 3rd to mid-2nd millennium BCE.
- Being the 6th largest of more than 1,000 Harappan sites discovered so far, and occupied for over 1,500 years, Dholavira not only witnesses the entire trajectory of the rise and fall of this early civilization of humankind, but also demonstrates its multifaceted achievements in terms of urban planning, water management, construction techniques, social governance and development, trading, art and manufacturing.
- Unlike other Harappan antecedent towns normally located near to rivers and perennial sources of water, the location of Dholavira in the island of Khadir was strategic to harness different mineral and raw material sources and to facilitate internal as well as external trade to the Magan (modern Oman peninsula) and Mesopotamian regions.



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- Dholavira is an exceptional example of a proto-historic Bronze Age urban settlement pertaining to the Harappan Civilization.

World Heritage Sites in Gujarat:

- Gujarat now has **four world heritage sites** — Dholavira, Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park, Rani ki Vav in Patan and the Historic City of Ahmedabad.

Source: PIB

3. Exercise INDRA-2021



Why in News

- The **12th Edition of Indo-Russia joint military Exercise INDRA-2021** will be held at **Volgograd, Russia** from 01 to 13 August 2021.

Key Points

About

INDRA-21:

- The armies of the two countries will conduct anti-terrorist exercises in compliance with the **United Nations' decision** on joint action against international terrorist groups.
- 250 personnel from both the nations will form part of the exercise.
- Exercise will strengthen mutual confidence and interoperability between the Indian & Russian Armies.

Note:

- The first Exercise INDRA was held in 2003.
- In 2020, the 11th edition of the Exercise was held in the Bay of Bengal.

Joint Military Exercises of India conducted with Foreign Countries:

Country	Exercise
Australia	AUSTRA HIND
Bangladesh	SAMPRTI
China	HAND IN HAND
France	SHAKTI
Indonesia	GARUDA SHAKTI
Kazakhstan	PRABAL DOSTYK
Kyrgyzstan	KHANJAR

Maldives	EKUVERIN
Myanmar	IMBEX
Nepal	SURYA KIRAN
Sri Lanka	MITRA SHAKTI
Thailand	MAITREE
UK	AJEYA WARRIOR
USA	YUDHABHAYAS
	VAJRA PRAHAR
Vietnam	VINBAX

Source: PIB

4. Karnataka's new Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai



Why in News

- Lingayat leader Basavaraj Bommai took oath as the new Chief Minister of Karnataka.

Key Points

- In the ceremony at the Glass House of the Karnataka Raj Bhavan in Bengaluru, Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot administered the oath of office and secrecy to Basavaraj Bommai.

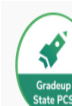
About Basavaraj Bommai:

- Bommai is the son of former chief minister S R Bommai.
- He is a two-time MLC and three-time MLA from Shiggaon in Haveri district in North Karnataka.

Note: BS Yediyurappa resigned as the Chief Minister of Karnataka on 26 July, 2021.



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Source: Indian Express

5. Legendary badminton player Nandu Natekar passes away



- Legendary badminton player Nandu Natekar became the first Indian player to win an international event when he won the Sellanger International in Malaysia in 1956.
- Natekar won over 100 national and international titles.
- He was conferred with the prestigious Arjuna Award in 1961.
- He won 12 out of the 16 singles matches and 8 out of 16 in doubles as part of the Indian team at the Thomas Cup between 1951 and 1963.

Source: The Hindu

6. July 29, International Tiger Day



Why in News

- **International Tiger Day** or **Global Tiger Day** is an annual celebration to raise awareness for tiger conservation, held annually on 29 July.

Key Points

- **International Tiger Day** was created at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit in Russia in 2010.

Tiger Range Countries: 13

tiger range countries are India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, China, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Malaysia, Nepal, Russia, Vietnam & Thailand.

Tiger Reserve in India:

- Recently, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change approved the conversion of the Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary in Rajasthan's Bundi district into the 4th tiger reserve in the state.
- It is the country's 52nd tiger reserve.

About National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA):

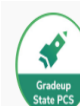
- It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change constituted under enabling provisions of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, as amended in 2006.

About Project Tiger:

- It is a tiger conservation programme launched in **April 1973** by the Government of India.



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- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the conservation of the tiger in the country.

Source: The Hindu

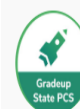
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