



Current Affairs of the Day

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➤ Art & Culture:

1. Revamp of Lingaraj Temple, Odisha

PAPER 2:

➤ Polity & Governance:

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2. Citing SC verdict, Madras HC orders enhanced pension

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2. ASEAN-India network of think tanks (AINTT) organised

PAPER 3:

➤ Environment & Biodiversity:

1. Mobile App called HARIT PATH developed



Centre sets up Council for transgenders

National Council for Transgender Persons:

- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has constituted the National Council for Transgender Persons.
- An August 21 notification stated that the Social Justice Minister would be the Council's chairperson and its members would include officials from some other Ministries.
- Five nominated members from the community — Laxmi Narayan Tripathi, Gopi Shankar Madurai, Meera Parida, Zainab Javid Patel and Kak Chingtabam Shyamcand Sharma — are also part of the Council.

U.S.-led troops withdraw from Taji base

- United States-led international coalition troops withdrew from Iraq's Taji military base on Sunday and handed it over to Iraqi security forces, the coalition said.
- The base, 20 km north of Baghdad, had been the site of frequent rocket attacks by Iran-backed militias.

Citing SC verdict, Madras HC orders enhanced pension

- The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court, citing the Supreme Court verdict in the landmark **R.C. Gupta case (2016)**, has ordered enhancement of pension payable to a litigant found eligible for the revision of pension on higher wages.
- The petitioner, B. Dhanasekaran, had joined the Agricultural Cooperative Credit Society in Paramakudi as secretary in 1978 and retired in 2012. He contended that from 1992, he had been remitting the provident fund contribution on the entire salary and not based on the wage ceiling limit.
- Under Clause 11(3) of the **Employees Pension Scheme, 1995**, on the determination of pensionable salary, the maximum pensionable salary was limited to ₹6,500 per month.



- However, if at the option of the employer and the employee, the contribution paid on the salary exceeding ₹6,500 per month from the date of commencement of this scheme or from the date the salary exceeded ₹6,500, whichever is later, and the 8.33% share of the employer is remitted into the pension fund, the pensionable salary will be based on such higher salary.
- In 2014, under the **Employees Pension (Amendment) Scheme**, the maximum pensionable salary was revised to ₹15,000.

No cut-off date:

- The Supreme Court ruled in the R.C. Gupta case that there was no cut-off date to determine the eligibility of the employer-employee to indicate their option under Clause 11(3) of the Pension Scheme.
- A beneficial scheme ought not to be allowed to be defeated by reference to a cut-off date.
- Further, the Supreme Court held that in the situation where the deposit of the employer's share was on actual salary and not the ceiling amount, all that the Provident Commissioner was required to do was adjustment of accounts. He/she could seek the return of all such accounts that employees concerned may have taken or withdrawn from their Provident Account Fund before granting the benefit of Clause 11(3) of the Pension Scheme.

Revamp of Lingaraj Temple, Odisha

- The Odisha government has decided to give a facelift to the 11th century Lingaraj Temple, similar to its pre-350-year structural status.
- This is a part of the Lingaraj Temple Heritage Development Project under Ekamra plan.
- Through Ekamra plan, it is expected that heritage redevelopment will enhance the attraction of Bhubaneswar as a tourist site and claim for a UNESCO heritage site will be stronger.

Value Added Information

Lingaraj Temple:

- It was built in 11th century AD.



- Dedicated to: Lord Shiva.
- The largest temple of the city Bhubaneswar.
- It is believed to have been built by the Somvanshi King Yayati I.
- It is built in red stone.
- It is a classic example of Kalinga style of architecture.
- The temple is divided into four sections:
 1. Garbha Griha (sanctum sanctorum)
 2. Yajna Shala (the hall for prayers)
 3. Bhoga Mandap (the hall of offering)
 4. Natya Shala (hall of dance).
- It signifies the convergence of Shaivism and Vaishnavism sects in Odisha.
- The presiding deity of the Temple: Hari-Hara.
- The other attraction of the temple: Bindusagar Lake.

Other Important Monuments in Odisha:

1. Konark Sun Temple (UNESCO World Heritage Site)
2. Jagannath Temple
3. Tara Tarini Temple
4. Udaygiri and Khandagiri Caves

Mobile App called HARIT PATH developed

- A mobile App called 'Harit Path' is recently developed.
- **Developed by:** The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).
- **Objective:** To monitor:
 - location,
 - growth,
 - species details,



- maintenance activities,
 - targets and achievements
- It shall include each field units for each and every plant under all plantation projects.
- The launch will further facilitate creation of Green Highways across India.
- NHAI has also recently undertaken 'Harit Bharat Sankalp.
- It is a nation-wide plantation drive to promote environment protection and sustainability.
- Under this initiative, NHAI planted over 25 lakh plants in 25 days along the stretches of the National Highways between 21st July to 15th August 2020.

ASEAN-India network of think tanks (AINTT) organised

- 6th Round Table of ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks (AINTT) was recently organised.
- **Organized by:** Indian Ministry of External Affairs and Foreign Ministry of Thailand.
- **Theme:** 'ASEAN-India: Strengthening Partnership in the Post COVID Era'.

Value Added Information

The ASEAN-India Round Table:

- **Established at:** 7th ASEAN-India Summit in Thailand in 2009.
- **Objective:** To provide policy inputs to Governments on future direction of cooperation.

Comprises of: Think tanks, policy makers, scholars, media and business representatives.