

## Current Affairs of the Day

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## Promotion of Buddhist Sites under Swadesh Darshan & PRASHAD

- Development of tourism related infrastructure and facilities at various Buddhist Sites in India under flagship schemes of Swadesh Darshan & PRASHAD has been undertaken.

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Tourism

### What are the steps taken?

- Swadesh Darshan Scheme has included Buddhist circuit and Spiritual circuit among its 13 thematic circuits.
- 30 projects for development of infrastructure have also been undertaken under the PRASHAD Scheme.
- Buddhist Sites at Bodhgaya, Ajanta & Ellora have been identified to be developed as Iconic Tourist Sites.
- Buddhist Conclave is organised every alternate year with the objective of promoting India as a Buddhist Destination.
- Signages have been installed in Chinese language at buddhist monuments in Uttar Pradesh and in Sinhala language at Sanchi monuments in Madhya Pradesh.

### Value Added Information

#### What is PRASHAD Scheme?

- The 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive' (PRASAD).
- **Launched by:** Ministry of Tourism (2014-15).
- It was changed from PRASAD to "National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)" in October 2017.
- **Objective:** (1) Holistic development of identified pilgrimage destinations; (2) Rejuvenation and spiritual augmentation of important pilgrimage and heritage sites; (3) Follow community-based development and create awareness among the local communities; (4) Strengthen the mechanism for bridging the infrastructural gaps.



## Swadesh Darshan Scheme:

- It is a Central Sector Scheme launched in 2014 -15.
- **Objective:** (1) Integrated development of theme based tourist circuits in the country; (2) To position the tourism sector as a major engine for job creation
- The Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) for infrastructure development of circuits.

## USA Sanctions against ICC Officials

- The USA had announced sanctions, including asset freezes and visa bans, against two officials of the International Criminal Court (ICC) for their investigation into alleged war crimes by the USA forces and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in Afghanistan since 2003.

## Value Added Information

### About International Criminal Court:

- It is an intergovernmental organization and international tribunal.
- **Headquarter:** The Hague, Netherlands.
- It is a criminal court.
- **Jurisdiction:** Prosecute individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.
- When a state's legal system collapses or when a government is a perpetrator of heinous crimes, the ICC can exercise jurisdiction.
- India is not a party to ICC.

## Green Strategic Partnership between India and Denmark launched

- India and the Kingdom of Denmark have launched the Green Strategic Partnership for delivering sustainable solutions to India.
- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Intellectual Property (IP) Cooperation with Denmark.



## Key takeaways:

- **Green Strategic Partnership:** The Partnership will focus on expanding economic ties, green growth, and cooperation on global challenges such as climate change.
- Danish companies with niche technologies and expertise have offered to help India in meeting its air pollution control targets, Covid-19 pandemic and cooperation in water efficiency and water loss.
- The creation of India-Denmark energy parks in areas with large numbers of Danish firms and an India-Denmark skill institute to train Indian manpower has been proposed.
- **Intellectual Property Cooperation:** The MoU aims at increasing IP co-operation between the two countries through exchange of information and best practices on processes for disposal of applications for patents, trademarks, Geographical Indications, and cooperation in the field of protection of Traditional Knowledge.
- It will be a landmark step forward in India's journey towards becoming a major player in global innovation and further the objectives of the National Intellectual Property Rights Policy, 2016.

## RAISE 2020 to be organised

- Global Virtual Summit on Artificial Intelligence (AI), RAISE 2020- 'Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020,' shall be held from October 5-9, 2020.
- **Organised by:** The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and NITI Aayog
- **Inaugurated by:** Indian Prime Minister

## Key takeaways:

- It is a first of its-kind, global meeting of minds on Artificial Intelligence to drive India's vision for social transformation through responsible AI.
- Global industry leaders, key opinion makers, Government representatives and academia shall participate in the event.