

January - 29

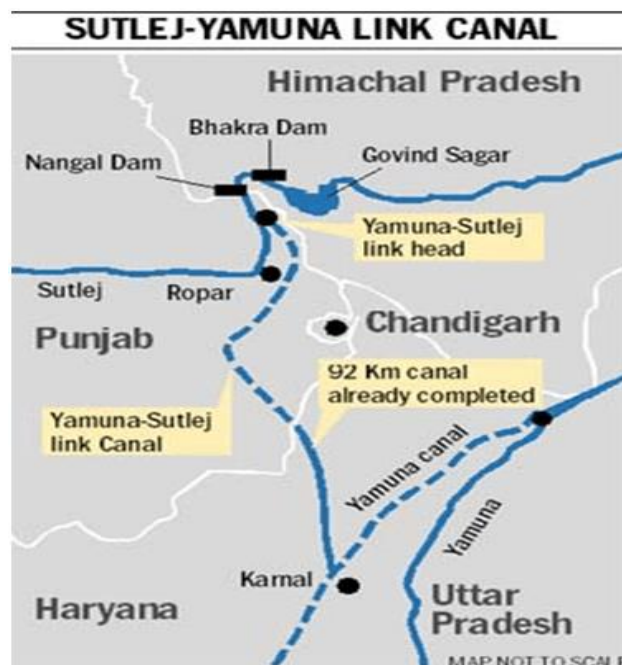
## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Hindu Tamil has won the Election Commission of India's award for its voter awareness and education campaign in 2019 as part of the poll panel's national awards given on the occasion of the 10th National Voters Day.
  - National Voter's day was celebrated on January 25,2020.
- ❖ Basketball legend Kobe Bryant, 41, and his 13-year-old daughter Gianna Bryant were killed in a helicopter crash in Calabasas, California.
  - Bryant retired in 2016 as a five-time NBA champion.
- ❖ After Kerala, Punjab and Rajasthan, West Bengal became the fourth state passed a resolution against Citizenship (Amendment) Act.
- ❖ Recently around 40 buffaloes have died due to suspected Sahana disease (hemorrhagic septicemia) in a number of villages located in the Garadapur block of Odisha's Kendrapara.

## NATIONAL

### Sutlej Yamuna Link (SYL) Canal

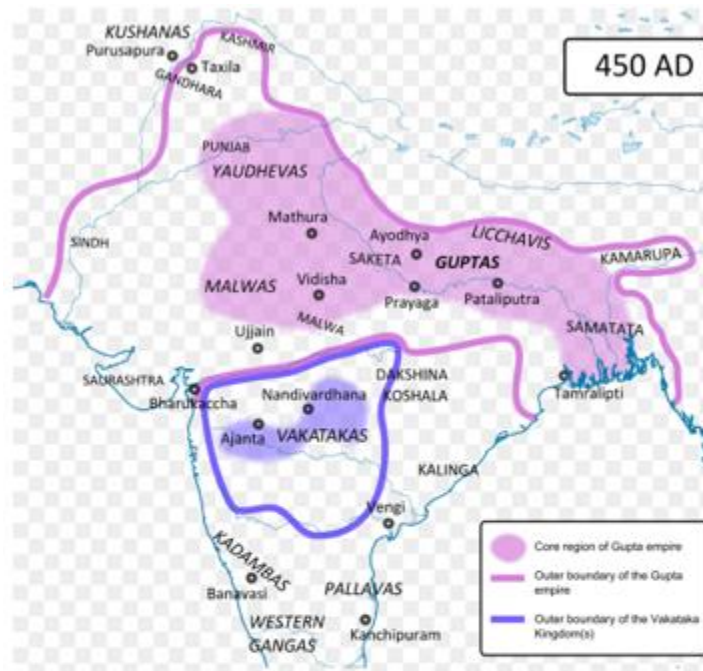
- ❖ Sutlej-Yamuna Link Canal (SYL Canal) is a 214 km water way proposed to connect the Sutlej River in Punjab to Yamuna canal in Haryana.



- ❖ The recent Supreme Court order asked Central government to sort out SYL issue between Punjab and Haryana amicably.
- ❖ This order has brought to centre stage the contentious issue of sharing of waters between the two states by central government.
- ❖ The creation of Haryana from the old (undivided) Punjab in 1966 threw up the problem of giving Haryana its share of river waters.
- ❖ Punjab was opposed to sharing waters of the Ravi and Beas with Haryana and arguing that it had no water to spare.

### **Nagardhan Excavations**

- ❖ Recently, archaeological excavations were carried out at Nagardhan village in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- ❖ The excavations have provided evidence on the life, religious affiliations and trade practices of the Vakataka dynasty.





- ❖ Nagardhan served as a capital of the Vakataka kingdom.
- ❖ Vakataka Dynasty originated in the Central Deccan in the mid-3rd century CE.
- ❖ Its empire is believed to have extended
  - from Malwa and Gujarat in the north to the Tungabhadra in the south and
  - from the Arabian Sea in the west to the Bay of Bengal in the east.

### **Findings**

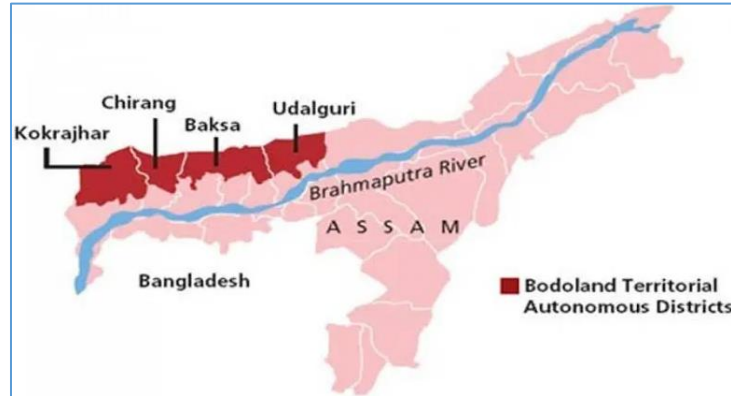
- ❖ It is the first-time clay sealings have been excavated from Nagardhan.
- ❖ The copper plate issued by Queen Prabhavatigupta starts with a genealogy of the Guptas, mentioning the Queen's grandfather Samudragupta and her father Chandragupta II.
- ❖ Vakatakas traded with Iran and beyond, through the Mediterranean Sea and the sealings are believed to be used as official royal permission issued from the capital.

### **Bodo agreement with central and state**

- ❖ Government of India signed the historic agreement with the nine factions of the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB).
- ❖ According to the agreement, the Bodoland Territorial Area District will hold special rights for the locals.
- ❖ However, the outsiders will have to obtain "permit" to work in the territory.
- ❖ The agreement was signed in the presence of Home Minister Amit Shah and Assam Chief Minister Sarbanand Sonowal and the leaders of the NDFB.
- ❖ This agreement led to the formation of Bodoland Territorial Council under the sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

### **About Bodos**

- ❖ Bodos are the single largest tribal community in Assam, making up over 5-6 per cent of the state's population.
- ❖ The BTC now administrates 4 districts in Assam namely Chirang, Kokrajhar, Baska and Udalguri.
- ❖ These areas are called the Bodoland Territorial Area Districts.



### **Global Potato Conclave**

- ❖ The Global Potato Conclave is to be held between January 28 and January 31, 2020 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ❖ The Conclave is being organized by Indian Potato Association (IPA) in collaboration with
  - Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi,
  - ICAR-Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla and
  - International Potato Center (CIP), Lima, Peru.
- ❖ With a productivity of more than 30t/ha, Gujarat is holding the No. 1 position in India for last one decade.
- ❖ After rice and wheat, potato is the third most important food crop in the world.



## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Biorock or mineral accretion technology**

- ❖ India begins coral restoration in Gulf of Kachchh.
- ❖ The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), with help from Gujarat's Forest Department, is attempting for the first time a process to restore coral reefs using bio rock or mineral accretion technology.

- ❖ The technology works by passing a small amount of electrical current through electrodes in the water.
- ❖ India has four major coral reefs areas:
  - Andaman and Nicobar Islands,
  - Lakshadweep,
  - Gulf of Mannar and
  - Gulf of Kutch.



## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS**

### **Republic Day 2020**

- ❖ India celebrated its 71<sup>st</sup> Republic Day on January 26, 2020.
- ❖ Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro was the chief guest at India's 71st Republic Day Parade.
  - Bolsonaro is the third Brazilian President to be invited as Chief Guest for India's Republic Day Parade.
- ❖ This year, for the first time, the wreath laying ceremony was held at the newly built National War Memorial instead of Amar Jawan Jyoti beneath the India Gate arch.
- ❖ PM Modi was joined by newly appointed Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat along with the Tri-Services chief.
- ❖ The marching contingent of the Indian Air Force (IAF) has been adjudged the first among the Marching contingents of the three services while The Central Industrial Security Force Has bagged the first prize among paramilitary forces for the parade.



- ❖ Captain Tanya Shergil, a fourth generation Army Officer led an all-male marching contingent of the Indian Army Corps of Signals.
  - The motto of the Corps is “Teevra Chaukas”.
- ❖ All-woman biker contingent of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) make its debut as a part of the 71st Republic Day Parade.
- ❖ Key highlight of the 71st Republic Day Parade was inclusion of the Dhanush artillery gun for the first time.
  - The Dhanush Artillery Guns are being produced by Ordnance Factory Board under the flagship project of “Make in India”.

**List of Participants / Tableaux for Republic Day**

- ❖ The Republic Day Parade 2020 included a total of 22 tableaux including 16 from various states and union territories and remaining 6 from various ministries, departments and the National Disaster Response Force.

State	Tableaux
<b>Gujarat</b>	Rani ki Vav - Jal Mandir
<b>Meghalaya</b>	Living Root Bridge
<b>Punjab</b>	550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	Rural and ancient cultural heritage- statue of Ayyanar
<b>Rajasthan</b>	Jaali Jharokha
<b>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</b>	Back to Village – rehabilitate Kashmiri Pandits
<b>NDRF</b>	Disaster Relief Technology
<b>Ministry of Finance</b>	Financial Inclusion
<b>Ministry of Commerce</b>	Startup India

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Global Talent Competitive Index 2020**

- ❖ Global Talent Competitive Index (GTCI) for 2020 has been released at the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF).
- ❖ INSEAD Business School released the GTCI report with the help of Google and Adecco Group.
- ❖ This year India climbed eight ranks and secured the 72nd rank in the index.
- ❖ Switzerland is in the first place while the USA and Singapore grabbed the second and third positions respectively.

**About GTCI**

- ❖ GTCI launched in 2013.
- ❖ GTCI is an annual benchmarking report that measures the ability of countries to compete for talent.
- ❖ GTCI gives ranking based on six indicators – attract, retain, enable, grow, vocational skills and global knowledge skills.

