



19 December 2024

National and International News

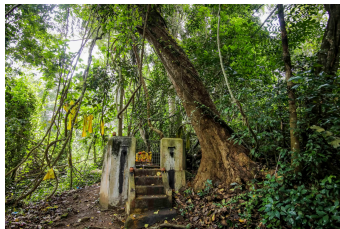
<p>India-China Agreement on Line of Actual Control (LAC)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India and China "positively acknowledged" the outcome of their disengagement agreement on the Line of Actual Control (LAC). <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the current agreement, Indian and Chinese soldiers will return to patrolling along the LAC in the same manner as before the border tensions erupted in May 2020. Dis-engagement in other areas of friction that erupted post 2020 in eastern Ladakh i.e. Galwan, Hot Springs, Gogra, north and south banks of Pangong Tso had already been completed. The agreement marks the first step of a three-step process – disengagement, de-escalation and de-induction of troops on the India-China border areas. About 2020 India-China Standoff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to incursion by Chinese soldiers, clashes erupted on the north bank of Pangong Tso in Ladakh. After this, clashes were also reported at Naku La in north Sikkim and Galwan in Ladakh. The Galwan incident of June 2020, described as a physical clash that did not involve the use of firearms, resulted in India losing 20 soldiers and is considered to be the deadliest since 1962. Since then, both sides have amassed thousands of troops on each side, deployed a range of long-range firepower and equipment, and have undertaken massive infrastructure build-up.
<p>Gaganyaan Mission</p> <p>Gaganyaan Mission</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) began assembling the Human Rated Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (HLVM3) for the maiden uncrewed flight of the Gaganyaan mission. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gaganyaan is the 1st human space flight programme of ISRO. Objective: To demonstrate indigenous capability of human space flight to low earth orbit. Payloads: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crew Module: It is the spacecraft carrying human beings. Service Module: It will support the crew module and is powered by liquid propellant engines.



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- **This mission consists of:**
 - **Two unmanned missions (G1 & G2):** 2nd uncrewed mission (G2) will carry “Vyommitra” (a female-looking humanoid robot developed by ISRO to function on-board the Gaganyaan).
 - **One manned mission (G3):** The Orbital Module of the crewed mission will carry three Indian astronauts, including a woman into space for 7 days. It will orbit the Earth at a low-earth-orbit at an altitude of 300-400 km.
- India will become the **4th nation in the world to launch a Human Spaceflight Mission after the USA, Russia, and China.**
- Russia and France are cooperating with India for the Gaganyaan mission.
- **Human-Rated LVM3:**
 - A modified version of ISRO’s most-reliable rocket, **LVM3 (previously called Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk III), is the launching vehicle of the Gaganyaan Mission.**
 - It is re-configured as a **human rated launch vehicle to be capable of safely transporting humans into the intended orbit.**
 - It has a three stage propulsion system - **solid stage, liquid stage, and cryogenic stage.**
 - It consists of **Crew Escape System (CES) as well as Orbital Module, along with solid stage, liquid stage, and cryogenic stage.**

Sacred Groves



Why in news?

- The Union Ministry of Environment has been directed to create a plan for a nationwide survey of groves, traditionally protected by local communities, to assess their ecological value and cultural significance.

Key Points:

- Sacred Groves are **patches of natural or near-natural vegetation, dedicated by local communities to their ancestral spirits or deities.**
- These groves are protected by local communities, usually through customary taboos and sanctions with ancestral and ecological implications.
- India has well over **13,000 documented sacred groves.** The states particularly rich in abundance of groves are **Kerala, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu.**
- These are known as **Kavu/Sarpa Kavu in Kerala, Devarakadu/Devkad in Karnataka, Deorai/Devrai in Maharashtra, Jahera/ Thakuramma in Odisha,** etc.
- The sacred groves are important repositories of floral and faunal diversity that have been conserved by local communities in a



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	<p>sustainable manner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They are often the last refuge of endemic species in the geographical region. 																
<p>Awards & Honors: Sahitya Akademi Awards</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hindi poet Gagan Gill and English writer Easterine Kire are among the 21 recipients of the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Awards. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters, is the central institution for literary dialogue, publication and promotion in the country and the only institution that undertakes literary activities in 24 Indian languages, including English. It was registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. About Award: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is awarded for the most outstanding books of literary merit published in any of the major Indian languages recognised by the Akademi. Akademi gives 24 awards annually to literary works in the languages it has recognized and an equal number of awards to literary translations from and into the languages of India. Besides the 22 languages enumerated in the Constitution of India, the Sahitya Akademi has recognised English and Rajasthani as languages in which its programme may be implemented. The award, in the form of a casket containing an engraved copper-plaque, a shawl and 1,00,000 rupees will be presented. 																
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<p>Section 6A of the Citizenship Act 1955</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 4:1 majority ruling by a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court of India in October 2024, which upheld the constitutional 																



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	<p>validity of Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955, is significant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This provision creates a separate framework for migrants from the former East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) who settled in Assam, enabling them to obtain Indian citizenship if they arrived before March 25, 1971. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Section 6A was introduced following the Assam Accord of 1985, which aimed to address concerns regarding migrants from Bangladesh.• The accord established that January 1, 1966, would be the base cut-off date for identifying foreigners in Assam, with provisions for regularising those who entered between this date and March 24, 1971.• This was meant to mitigate the socio-political tensions arising from immigration in the state.• Provisions of Section 6A:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Under this section, individuals of Indian origin who entered Assam before January 1, 1966, are deemed citizens.○ Those who entered after this date but before March 24, 1971, can register as citizens, though they are excluded from electoral rolls for ten years.○ Anyone entering after March 24, 1971, is classified as an illegal immigrant.
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