
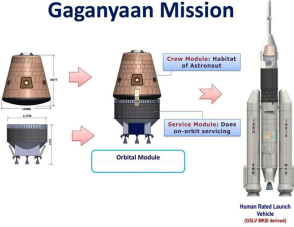




19 December 2024

### National and International News

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| <p><b>India-China Agreement on Line of Actual Control (LAC)</b></p>  | <p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India and China "positively acknowledged" the outcome of their disengagement agreement on the Line of Actual Control (LAC).</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Dis-engagement in other areas of friction that erupted post 2020 in eastern Ladakh i.e. <b>Galwan, Hot Springs, Gogra, north and south banks of Pangong Tso had already been completed.</b></li> <li>The agreement marks the first step of a three-step process – <b>disengagement, de-escalation and de-induction of troops on the India-China border areas.</b></li> <li><b>About 2020 India-China Standoff:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Due to incursion by Chinese soldiers, clashes erupted on the north bank of Pangong Tso in Ladakh.</li> <li>After this, clashes were also reported at Naku La in north Sikkim and Galwan in Ladakh.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Gaganyaan Mission</b></p> <p>Gaganyaan Mission</p>           | <p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gaganyaan is the <b>1st human space flight programme of ISRO.</b></li> <li><b>Objective:</b> To demonstrate indigenous capability of human space flight to low earth orbit.</li> <li><b>Payloads:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Crew Module:</b> It is the spacecraft carrying human beings.</li> <li><b>Service Module:</b> It will support the crew module and is powered by liquid propellant engines.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>This mission consists of:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Two unmanned missions (G1 &amp; G2):</b> 2nd uncrewed mission (G2) will carry "<b>Vyommitra</b>" (a female-looking humanoid robot developed by ISRO to function on-board</li> </ul> </li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |



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|  | <p>the Gaganyaan).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>One manned mission (G3):</b> 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.</li> <li>● India will become the <b>4th nation in the world to launch a Human Spaceflight Mission after the USA, Russia, and China.</b></li> <li>● Russia and France are cooperating with India for the Gaganyaan mission.</li> <li>● <b>Human-Rated LVM3:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A modified version of ISRO's most-reliable rocket, <b>LVM3 (previously called Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk III),</b> is the launching vehicle of the Gaganyaan Mission.</li> <li>○ It is re-configured as a <b>human rated launch vehicle to be capable of safely transporting humans into the intended orbit.</b></li> <li>○ It has a three stage propulsion system - <b>solid stage, liquid stage, and cryogenic stage.</b></li> <li>○ It consists of <b>Crew Escape System (CES) as well as Orbital Module, along with solid stage, liquid stage, and cryogenic stage.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
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| <p><b>Sacred Groves</b></p>  |
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| <p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 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.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sacred Groves are <b>patches of natural or near-natural vegetation, dedicated by local communities to their ancestral spirits or deities.</b></li> <li>● These groves are protected by local communities, usually through customary taboos and sanctions with ancestral and ecological implications.</li> <li>● India has well over <b>13,000 documented sacred groves.</b> The states particularly rich in abundance of groves are <b>Kerala, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu.</b></li> <li>● These are known as <b>Kavu/Sarpa Kavu in Kerala, Devarakadu/Devkad in Karnataka, Deorai/Devrai in Maharashtra, Jahera/ Thakuramma in Odisha,</b> etc.</li> <li>● The sacred groves are important repositories of floral and faunal diversity that have been conserved by local communities in a sustainable manner.</li> <li>● They are often the <b>last refuge of endemic species in the geographical region.</b></li> </ul> |
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## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

**Awards & Honors: Sahitya Akademi Awards**

**Why in news?**

- Hindi poet Gagan Gill and English writer Easterine Kire are among the 21 recipients of the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Awards.

**Key Points:**

- 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:**
  - 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.

| Category           | Awardees                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Poetry             | Sameer Tanti (Assamese), Dileep Jhaveri (Gujarati), Gagan Gill (Hindi), K. Jayakumar (Malayalam), Haobam Satyabati Devi (Manipuri), Paul Kaur (Punjabi), Mukut Maniraj (Rajasthani), Dipak Kumar Sharma (Sanskrit) |
| Novel              | Aron Raja (Bodo), Easterine Kire (English), Sohal Koul (Kashmiri)                                                                                                                                                  |
| Short Stories      | Yuva Baral (Nepali), Hundraj Balwani (Sindhi)                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Essays             | Mukesh Thali (Konkani), Mahendra Malangia (Maithili), Baishnab Charan Samal (Odia)                                                                                                                                 |
| Literary Criticism | K.V. Narayana (Kannada), Sudhir Rasal (Marathi), Penugonda Lakshminarayana (Telugu)                                                                                                                                |
| Play               | Maheswar Soren (Santali)                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Research           | A.R. Venkatachalapathy (Tamil)                                                                                                                                                                                     |

**Section 6A of the Citizenship Act 1955**

**Why in news?**

- The 4:1 majority ruling by a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court of India in October 2024, which upheld the constitutional validity of Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955, is significant.
- 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



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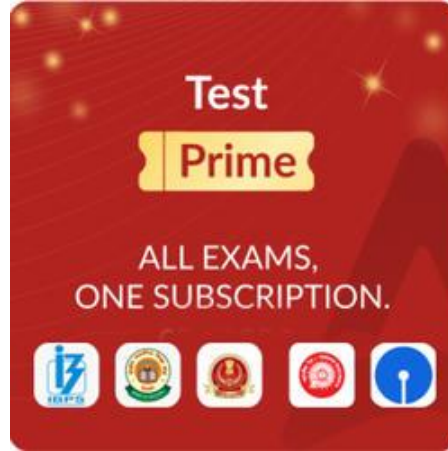


## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

before March 25, 1971.

### Key Points:

- 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:**
  - 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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