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DAILY NEWS DIARY

Of

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FOR PRELIMS AND MAINS

Warm Greetings.

- DnD aims to provide every day news analysis in sync with the UPSC pattern.
- It is targeted at UPSC – Prelims & Mains.
- Daily articles are provided in the form of Question and Answers
- To have a bank of mains questions.
- And interesting to read.
- Providing precise information that can be carried straight to the exam, rather than over dumping.

Enjoy reading.

THE HINDU - TH
INDIAN EXPRESS - IE
BUSINESS LINE - BL
ECONOMIC TIMES - ET
TIMES OF INDIA - TOI



INDEX

Essay Paper

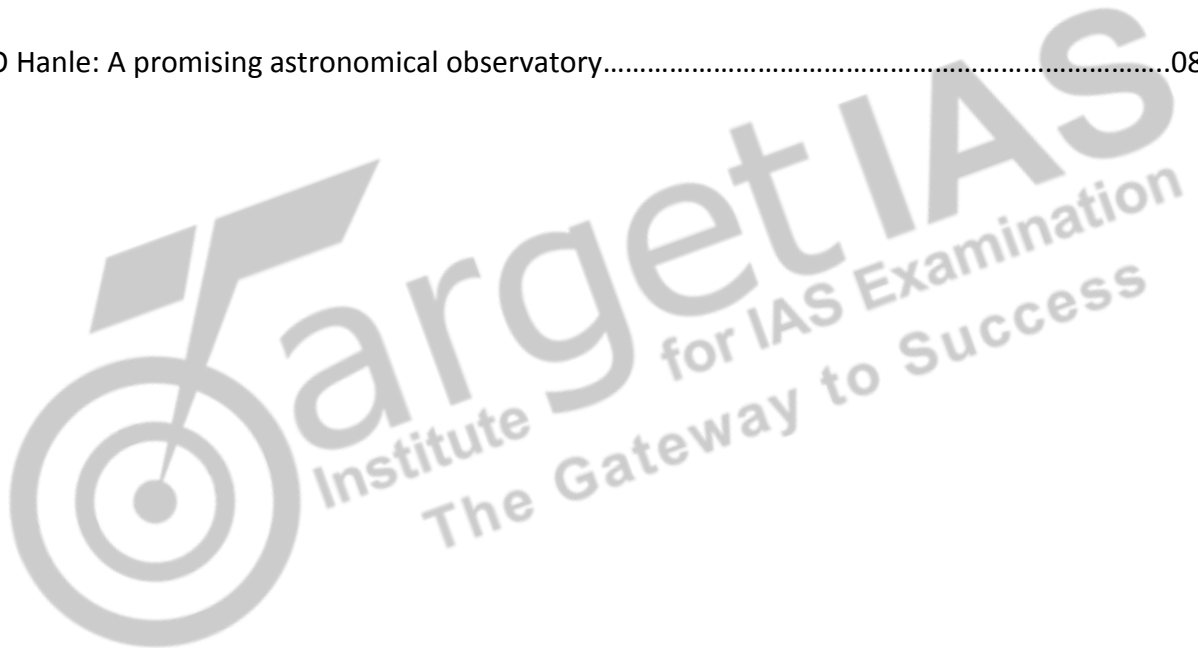
1. Panel set up to implement Assam Accord.....04
2. Election Symbols after Party Split.....05

GS 2

1. Locked in a stalemate.....06

GS 3

1. IAO Hanle: A promising astronomical observatory.....08



ESSAY PAPER

Editorial

Q) Examine and discuss the clauses of the Assam Accord of 1985.

Background: The Assam government set up an eight-member sub-committee to examine and prepare a framework for the implementation of all clauses of the Assam Accord of 1985.



Assam Accord:

- The Assam Accord was a Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) signed the Government of India and the leaders of the Assam Movement.
- It the movement demanded the identification and deportation of all illegal foreigners – predominantly Bangladeshi immigrants.
- They feared that past and continuing large scale migration was overwhelming the native population, impacting their political rights, culture, language and land rights.
- The Assam Movement caused the estimated death of over 855 people.
- It ended with the signing of the Assam Accord in 1985.

Major clauses of Assam Accord:

- Clause 5: Foreigners Issue
- Clause 6: Constitutional, Legislative & Administrative safeguards

- Clause 7: Economic Development
- Clause 9: Security of International Border
- Clause 10: Prevention of Encroachment of Government lands
- Clause 11: Restricting acquisition of immovable property by foreigners
- Clause 12: Registration of births and deaths

Clauses discussed: A sub-committee has been tasked to examine and prepare a framework for implementation of all clauses of Assam Accord in general with special emphasis on Clause 6, Clause 7, Clause 9 and Clause 10.

Q) Assess the powers of Election Commission with regard to the election symbol.

Context: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has frozen an election symbol of a political party in Bihar to which a cabinet minister belonged.

Election Commission's powers in a dispute over the election symbol:

- The question of a split in a political party outside the legislature is dealt by Para 15 of the Symbols Order, 1968.
- It states that the ECI may take into account all the available facts and circumstances and undertake a test of majority.
- The decision of the ECI shall be binding on all such rival sections or groups emerged after the split.
- This applies to disputes in recognised national and state parties.
- For splits in registered but unrecognised parties, the EC usually advises the warring factions to resolve their differences internally or to approach the court.

EC handling the matters:

- Before 1968, the EC issued notifications and executive orders under the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961.
- The most high-profile split of a party before 1968 was that of the CPI in 1964.
- A breakaway group approached the ECI in December 1964 urging it to recognise them as CPI(Marxist). They provided a list of MPs and MLAs of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and West Bengal who supported them.
- The ECI recognised the faction as CPI(M) after it found that the votes secured by the MPs and MLAs supporting the breakaway group added up to more than 4% in the 3 states.

First case decided under Para 15 of the 1968 Order:

- It was the first split in the Indian National Congress in 1969.
- Indira Gandhi's tensions with a rival group within the party came to a head with the death of President Dr Zakir Hussain on May 3, 1969.

Other ways to resolve a dispute over election symbols:

- In almost all disputes decided by the EC so far, a clear majority of party delegates/office bearers, MPs and MLAs have supported one of the factions.
- Whenever the EC could not test the strength of rival groups based on support within the party organisation (because of disputes regarding the list of office bearers), it fell back on testing the majority only among elected MPs and MLAs.

The EC in 1997 did not recognise the new parties as either state or national parties. It felt that merely having MPs and MLAs is not enough, as the elected representatives had fought and won polls on tickets of their parent (undivided) parties. The EC introduced a new rule under which the splinter group of the party — other than the group that got the party symbol — had to register itself as a separate party. It could lay claim to national, or state party status only based on its performance in state or central elections after registration.

GS-2**❖ INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

Q) On the context of 13th round of talks, assess the India-China relations.

Context:

Military commanders from India and China are expected to hold the 13th round of talks to continue the effort to find a way out of the LAC crisis.

India-China Relations:

- The bilateral relations are at their lowest since 1988.
- Recently, the Chinese Foreign Ministry laid the blame for the border crisis entirely on India's doorstep, saying India's illegal trespass caused the dispute.
- India in turn reminded China that it was its provocative behaviour, and amassing of troops following annual military exercises, that led to the flashpoints in 2020.

Details:

- The military commanders' talks will take up disputes in Hot Springs, while disputes in Demchok and Depsang remain unresolved.
- Since the crisis in 2020, both sides have set up buffer zones in Galwan Valley and on the north bank of Pangong Lake and have disengaged on the south bank and in Gogra.
- This temporary arrangement has helped prevent the recurrence of clashes, but with past agreements in disarray, a longer-term understanding to keep the peace is of utmost importance.

Issues:

- The recent transgression by Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) soldiers at Barahoti in Uttarakhand is part of a pattern of large-size patrols by China to assert their claim while also testing India across the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Way Forward:

- There is a need for better operational synergy between the Army and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), to avoid any surprises as in Galwan, which is presently severely lacking.
- Safeguarding territorial integrity and national security holds equal value for both sides.
- A continued military build-up in the Eastern Sector, underline the pressing need for reaching an understanding.
- Both sides have the space to cooperate on issues including tackling the pandemic, concerns about terrorism in the region and the situation in Afghanistan. Doing so will certainly build trust.
- However, it would be possible for both sides to delve deeper into other issues once normalcy is restored along the LAC.

GS-3

❖ SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Q) IAO Hanle is a promising astronomical observatory. Comment.

A new study shows that the Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO) located in Hanle is one of the emerging sites for infrared and optical astronomy studies.

**About IAO Hanle**

- The IAO, located in Hanle at Mount Saraswati near Leh in Ladakh, has one of the world's highest located sites for optical, infrared, and gamma-ray telescopes.
- It was established in 2001 and is operated by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore.
- It is currently the ninth highest optical telescope in the world, situated at an elevation of 4,500 meters.

University of Tokyo Atacama Observatory (TAO) located in the Atacama Desert of Chile is the highest at an elevation of 5,640 m.

Major telescopes at Hanle include:

1. Himalayan Chandra Telescope (An optical-infrared telescope named after India-born Nobel laureate Subrahmanyam Chandrasekhar)
2. GROWTH-India Telescope (A robotic optical telescope)
3. High Altitude Gamma Ray Telescope

Distinct factors of IAO Hanle

- IAO Hanle offers a clear view of space among all observatories globally.
- This is due to its advantages of more clear nights, minimal light pollution, background aerosol concentration, extremely dry atmospheric condition and uninterrupted monsoon.
- Hanle site is as dry as Atacama Desert in Chile and much drier than Devasthal and has around 270 clear nights in a year and is also one of the emerging sites for infrared and submillimetre optical astronomy.
- This is because water vapor absorbs electromagnetic signals and reduces their strength.



Q) Consider the following pairs:

Tiger Reserve	State
1. Indravati	Chhattisgarh
2. Valmiki	Bihar
3. Kawal	Telangana
4. Mudumalai	Tamil Nadu

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

- 1 and 4 only
- 2, 3 and 4 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2, 3 and 4



Q) Consider the following statements about National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC):

1. It is India's largest iron ore producer and exporter.
2. It is a Navratna Company under the administrative control of the Ministry of Steel.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both
- d. None

Answer: c

Explanation:

- National Mineral Development Corporation is India's largest iron ore producer and exporter.
- It is a Navratna Company under the administrative control of the Ministry of Steel.
- In 1958, it was established as an owned and operated public company by the Indian government.
- It also maintains the nation's sole diamond mine at Patna in MP, with an annual output of one lakh carats.

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