Prelim Bits 21-05-2022 | UPSC Daily Current Affairs

Tantra Art

- **Tantra** is a unique spiritual system capable of resolving the mystery of Being and its relationship with the world.
- It is considered to be a system comprising incredible, primitive, unscientific beliefs, which promotes blind faith and exploits undeveloped or under-developed minds.
- It is the religious practice that prescribes breaking of taboos, equality of the sexes and sexual freedom.
- Tantra philosophy found its artistic impressions with various symbols like the lingam and yoni in sculptures and scrolls of ancient India.
- The Tantra Art form is the form of art that is 'influenced' immensely by the Tantra philosophy.
- This art form refers to as a broadly 'aesthetic and visual exercise' or 'non-figurative abstract,' **based on scriptures**.

Reference

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2. https://www.hindustantimes.com/india/the-art-of-tantra/story-Q5iqBLtkc2EYnrlfb1YS6L.html
3. https://artsandculture.google.com/story/tantric-paintings-academy-of-fine-arts-and-literature/WQVhXgrrnM2vLQ?hl=en

Indo-Pacific Economic Framework

The United States is expected to launch his Administration's much discussed Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) in the Japanese capital along with Prime Minister Kishida Fumio.

- The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) is not a traditional trade agreement.
- Rather, it would include different modules covering fair and resilient trade, supply chain resilience, infrastructure and decarbonization, tax and anticorruption, worker standards, etc.
- Countries would have to sign up to all of the components within a module, but do not have to participate in all modules.
- The "fair and resilient trade" module will be led by the US Trade Representative and include digital, labor, and environment issues, with some binding commitments.
- The IPEF will not include market access commitments such as lowering tariff barriers, as the agreement is "more of an Administrative arrangement".
- It will not include Congressional approval, which is a must for trade agreements.
- **Significance** - The IPEF is also seen as a means by which the US is trying to regain credibility in the region after former President Donald Trump pulled out of the Trans Pacific Partnership TPP).
- The Biden Administration is projecting IPEF as the new US vehicle for re-engagement with East Asia and South East Asia.

Reference

1. https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-indo-pacific-economic-framework-7928434/
2. https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/Biden-s-Asia-policy/Indo-Pacific-Economic-Framework-is-not-an-FTA-5-things-to-know

Retinoblastoma

- Retinoblastoma is a rare type of eye cancer (malignant tumor) that usually develops in early childhood, typically before the age of 5.
- This form of cancer develops in the retina, which is the specialized light-sensitive tissue at the back of the eye that detects light and color.
- It can occur in one or both eyes and may be **hereditary or sporadic**.
- It can be life-threatening as well as take away vision if not treated timely and is detected by seeing **White Reflex** (WR).
- **Symptoms**
    1. White Reflex - Pupil that looks white or yellow instead of red when light hits it.
    2. Squinting - A crossed eye, looking either toward the nose or towards the ear.
    3. Poor vision with or without WR. The eye may be red or painful.
- **The burden -** Nearly 1,500-2,000 children are diagnosed with retinoblastoma every year in India.
- Majority of these children belong to lower socio-economic strata of society and nearly 60% of these patients have advanced disease at presentation.
- It is associated with low treatment and survival rates which are due to lack of awareness, poor access to care, high treatment cost, lack of infrastructure, good treatment protocols, quality drugs, etc.
- **Detection -** Ocular ultra-sonography and fundus examination are the immediate OPD procedures.
- Its extent is determined by MRI and systemic staging investigations (bone marrow biopsy, CSF, and whole-body PET scan).
- **Treatment** - Retinoblastoma is often curable when diagnosed early.
- Retinoblastoma treatment requires a multi-disciplinary approach, and is individualised to each patient.
- Chemotherapy can be delivered intravenously or intra-arterial, and is the most common modality of treatment.
- This has to be followed up with local therapy, which is managed by the ophthalmologist using various modalities.

Reference

1. https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-what-is-retinoblastoma-the-common-eye-cancer-in-children-7928636/
2. https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/retinoblastoma/#causes

PACER Initiative

The Polar Science and Cryosphere (PACER) scheme has been approved for continuation during 2021-2026.

- The Polar Science and Cryosphere Research (PACER) scheme comprises of the Antarctic program, Indian Arctic program, Southern Ocean program and Cryosphere and Climate program.

- It is implemented through the Goa-based National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- The PACER studies are aimed at a holistic understanding of the Polar Regions and the Southern Ocean.
- **Components** - PACER encompasses the following six components.
    1. Construction of polar research vessel
    2. Construction of the third research base in Antarctica
    3. Indian scientific endeavours in the Arctic
    4. Polar expeditions-Antarctica
    5. Replacement of Maitri station
    6. Southern Ocean

Reference

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2. https://moes.gov.in/schemes/polar-science-cryosphere?language_content_entity=en
3. https://ncpor.res.in/pages/view/260/189-polar-science-cryosphere

Transit Anticipatory Bail

The Bombay High Court is looking into the issue of whether the HC or sessions courts can grant transit anticipatory bail to accused in cases registered or likely to be registered in another state, outside their jurisdiction.

- **Bail** is an important concept present in the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) which provides an arrested person with an option of liberty in order to not be detained.
- The bail can be pleaded during the proceedings after the individual is arrested or in the case of anticipation of an arrest by the police in case of a non-bailable offence.
- **Transit anticipatory bail** is not mentioned under the CrPC.
- Generally, it is understood to mean an order under Section 438 (grant of bail for person apprehending arrest) of CrPC for 'short duration' for an offence registered in a different state.
- This means that the applicants can approach the court in that state for obtaining regular anticipatory bail.
- **Problem** - In a given case, only with a view to harass somebody, the informant may choose to file his FIR at a faraway place in India, by showing some part of cause of action there.
- In such a case, the accused would require some protection to approach that court.
- On the other hand, the accused may take wrong advantage of this provision by obtaining this type of order to buy time, which could be used to destroy the evidence.

Reference

1. https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/mumbai/transit-anticipatory-bail-be-granted-by-courts-in-cases-registered-in-other-states-hc-division-full-bench-7912324/
2. https://blog.ipleaders.in/detailed-outline-transit-anticipatory-bail/

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