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History, Art and Culture

Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

On a recent occasion, the Prime Minister honored those who tragically lost their lives in the Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 1919.

• This horrific event unfolded on *1919*, in Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar.
• **Tragedy** – Hundreds of unarmed and peaceful civilians gathered to protest against the *Rowlatt Act of 1919*.
• **Causes** – The Gurkha British Indian army, acting under the command of Brigadier *R.E.H. Dyer, carried out the brutal firing* upon the defenseless crowd.

Ambedkar Jayanti

Recently, India observed the 135th Dr. Ambedkar Jayanti on April 14th, 2025.

• It is observed annually to commemorate *Dr. Ambedkar birth anniversary*.
• Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, popularly known as Babasaheb was born in *1891* at Mhow, Central Province(now Madhya Pradesh).
• He was a renowned jurist, economist, and social reformer.
• He was the *Chairman of the Drafting Committee* for the new Constitution.
• He is known as the *Father of the Indian Constitution* and was the *1st, Law Minister*.

Polity & Governance

The Hindu Code Bill

The Supreme Court recently recalled the first President's power struggle over Hindu Code Bill in the Tamil Nadu's Governor case.

• **Introduced in** – *1950*, when Ambedkar was Law Minister.
• **Objectives** – To codify and *modernize Hindu law*, specifically focusing on granting *enhanced rights to women*.
• To *equalize social laws* between men and women within the Hindu community.
• **Significance** – It focused on issues like *marriage, divorce, inheritance, and guardianship.*
• It *represents a crucial aspect of Ambedkar's vision* for social reform.
• **Role of the President** – Dr. Rajendra Prasad had sought to assert his independent authority *to withhold assent to the legislation.*
• Jawhaharlal Nehru government had referred the issue to the Attorney General of India, MC Setalvad, for an opinion.
• Mr. Setalvad clarified that the role of the President under the Indian Constitution was analogous to that of the British monarch and he was expected to serve as a constitutional figurehead

Kavach 5.0

Recently, the Railway Ministry announced the launch of 'Kavach 5.0 for Mumbai's suburban trains.

• **Kavach** – It is an indigenous *Automatic Train Protection (ATP)* system to enhance railway safety.
• **Developed by** – Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO).
• **Aim** – To prevent train collisions and over speeding by automatically initiating brake application when necessary.
• **Kavach 5.0** – It is a *new and an advanced version*, currently under development.
• It will be implemented to *increase the number of Mumbai local trains by 30%.*

Karnataka Caste Census Report

Recently, the Caste Census Report was submitted to Karnataka Chief Minister, marking a significant step in the state's socio-economic landscape.

• **Based on** – Socio-Educational Survey, 2015, which was conducted by the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes in 2015.
• **Aim** – To develop and *uplift the backward classes in Karnataka*.
• **Methodology** – The Data was collected using *54 indicators*, to understand the socio-economic conditions of various caste groups.
• **Significance** – It contains detailed social and economic indicators for *non-SC/ST communities*, including taluk-wise data and insights from secondary sources.

International Relations and Issues

Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act

The United States (US) House of Representatives recently approved the SAVE Act.

• It is a Republican-backed bill, *mandates that individuals provide proof of U.S. citizenship* when registering *to vote and to update the name or address changes*.
• **Objective** – To enhance election integrity by preventing non-citizens from voting in U.S. elections.
• **Existing federal law** – It *prohibits non-citizens from voting*, with significant penalties in case of violations.
• **Impact** – It will affect *new voter registrations.*

Sudan's Humanitarian Crisis

The United Nations stated that Sudan is currently facing worst humanitarian crisis, marked by extreme hunger affecting nearly half of its population.

• It is the *world's largest humanitarian emergency*, over 25 million people require urgent assistance.
• **Causes** – The ongoing *civil war*, is the primary cause of widespread suffering and immense humanitarian needs across the nation.
• **Impacts** – It has triggered *mass displacement*, over 8 million people to flee their homes within Sudan and an additional 4 million have sought refuge in neighbouring countries.
• Women and girls are disproportionately affected, facing heightened risks of *gender-based violence and severe food insecurity*.

Security

India's BM-04 Missile

India's DRDO recently unveiled the BM-04, a next-generation short-range ballistic missile (SRBM) akin to the Agni-P, specifically targeting Pakistan with conventional capabilities.

• **Technical Specifications** – The BM-04 is 10.2m long, weighs 11,500 kg, and has a 1,500 km range with a 500 kg conventional warhead and 30m CEP.
• It utilizes a *two-stage solid-fuel system* and a six-wheel Transporter Erector Launcher (TEL) for launch.
• **Advanced Features** – Likely a hypersonic missile with AI assistance, the BM-04 can be upgraded with new technologies.
• Its manoeuvrable re-entry vehicle that is designed to evade enemy air defences, enabling strikes on time-sensitive targets.
• **Strategic Implications** – A potential pre-emptive strike posture *against Pakistan's military assets* and critical infrastructure from a safer distance.

Science

Acoustic Test Facility (ATF)

Recently, the Underwater Acoustic Test Facility (ATF) at the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) has attained global recognition and international certification.

• **Established in** – *2004*.
• It is the only facility accredited by the *National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL)*.
• **Objective** – To enhances ocean observation capabilities, supports tsunami detection systems, and reinforces national security.
• It includes precise testing and calibration of a wide range of underwater acoustic instruments such as hydrophones, transducers, and acoustic modems
• **Significance** – ATF is *India's only facility accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) for hydrophone calibration*.
• **Underwater Acoustic Test Facility (ATF)** – It is crucial for ensuring measurement accuracy across strategic sectors.
• In the field of underwater acoustics under the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM), Paris, have recognised the underwater ATF facility of CSIR-NPL.

Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT) Pharmacy

Recently, the Union Minister of Health inaugurated the EHS Clinic and AMRIT Pharmacy in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

• It is a *pharmacy chain initiative* of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
• **Operated by** – HLL Lifecare Ltd.
• **Objective** – To *provide essential medicines, life-saving drugs, and medical devices at affordable prices to the public*.
• It provides a wide range of products, including specialised medicines for,
  - Oncology and Cardiology, stents, orthopaedic implants, medical disposables, and a variety of branded and generic drugs at *discounts of up to 50% on MRP*.
• **Significance** – It supports tertiary healthcare facilities such as AIIMS, medical colleges, district hospitals and general hospitals across India.

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