

CIVIL SERVICE DIGEST (CSD-Daily)

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Koregaon-Bhima violence case

Context:

The Supreme Court today directed the Maharashtra government to submit before it the charge sheet filed against arrested rights activists before a Pune court in connection with the Koregaon-Bhima violence case.



History:

- BhimaKoregaon in Pune, Maharashtra, the seat of unrest now, is a tiny village, but is associated with an extraordinary phase of Maratha history.
- Two hundred years ago, on January 1, 1818, a few hundred Mahar soldiers of the East India Company, led by the British, defeated the massive Peshwa army, led by PeshwaBajirao II, in Koregaon. This battle has, since, attained legendary stature in Dalit history.
- AmbedkariteDalits do not see this from the narrow lens of nationalism versus imperialism. Over the years, as the battle came to be seen as a victory of the Mahars against the injustices perpetuated by the BrahminicalPeshwas, thousands of Ambedkarites have been gathering in BhimaKoregaon on January 1 to pay their respect at the Vijay Sthamb (victory pillar).
- The pillar was erected by the East India Company in memory of those who fought the battle and includes the names of the Mahar soldiers who unknowingly brought an end to the Peshwa rule in 1818.

The past and the present:

- Dalits are unanimous in drawing inspiration from the victory. In recent years, particularly in Maharashtra, since the Bhima-KoregaonRanstambhSevaSangh (BKRSS) was formed, Dalits regard the pillar as a site of positive memory of their valour and a symbol of their renewed political aspiration.
- Their denunciation of the Peshwas is strategic; it helps them relate to their social and political marginalisation in contemporary times. The debate here, however, is whether such invoking of history is effective in hoisting Dalit politics to a new level.

What happened on the day of the battle's 200th anniversary which led to the death of one?

- Prakash Ambedkar, the grandson of B.R. Ambedkar and a prominent Dalit leader from Maharashtra, has said that a few Hindutva organisations planned and perpetuated violence against the Dalits in Bhima Koregaon.
- He has named Sambhaji Bhide and Milind Ekbote, prominent Maharashtrian leaders who have been actively promoting organisations that advance the cause of Hindutva, as being responsible for bringing the State to a halt.
- These organisations have been polarising the political landscape on religious and caste lines, particularly against Ambedkarite Dalits who are seen as impediments to their political project.
- A recent, and crucial, illustration of this was at Vadhu Budruk, a village not far from Bhima Koregaon. Vadhu Budruk is where Sambhaji, the eldest son of the Maratha ruler Shivaji, was cremated after being killed by the Mughals in 1689.
- As the legend goes, Sambhaji's body was mutilated and thrown into a river by Aurangzeb. It was Govind Mahar (Gaikwad), a Dalit resident of Vadhu Budruk, who then gathered the body parts together and made arrangements for the last rites. Sambhaji's memorial was said to have been erected by the Mahars of that village. Consequently, Govind Mahar's tomb was also erected in the village after his death.

A planned attack:

- A few days ago, upper caste Marathas, who refuse to acknowledge the role played by GovindGaikwad and other Mahars in the last rites of Sambhaji, objected to a sign at the site that recounted the story.
- Complaints were filed with the police by both sides. In Maharashtra, there has been a consistent effort to situate Maratha history within the anti-Muslim Hindutva framework — in fact, this even predates the rise of the political right-wing in the State.
- Maratha youth, who are facing unemployment and a lack of educational opportunities, are now being easily pulled into these conflicts by Hindutvaorganisations that are consequently built by invoking past Maratha glory.
- The violent clashes in BhimaKoregaon were an extension of the conflict in WadhuBudruk. All indications are that this was a pre-planned attack.
- Being the 200th anniversary, that gathering in BhimaKoregaon this year was much larger than usual. Many Dalit and Bahujan groups collectively organised a big public conference in the name of Elgar Parishad at Shaniwar Wada, which was the seat of the Peshwas until 1818.
- The agenda of this conference was evidently against Hindutva politics which was powerfully manifested by projecting Hindutva politics as the neo-peshwai (new Peshwas). JigneshMevani and PrakashAmbedkar were invited.
- The conspicuous politicisation of Dalits against Hindutva, particularly after the Una violence in Gujarat, has been a cause of concern for those who propagate the latter.
- The Elgar Parishad helped consolidate their apprehensions against the politicisedDalits. The new political articulation of the Dalits (by equating

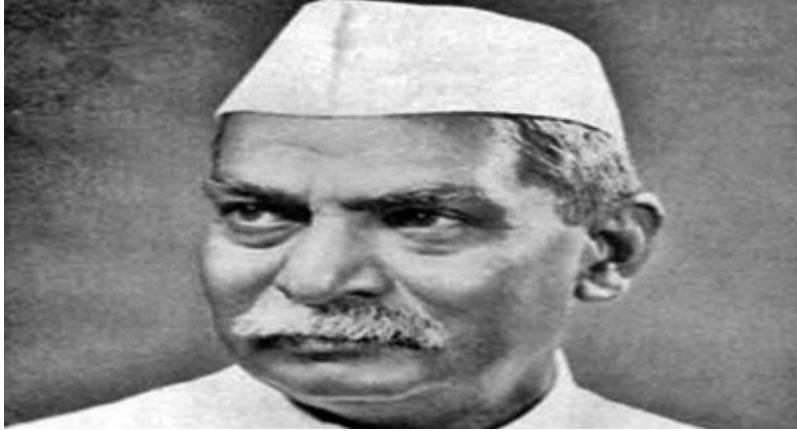
Hindutva with the Peshwai) has annoyed the right-wing forces and exposed the fault lines we are seeing today.

Qatar to withdraw from OPEC as of January 2019



- Qatar has decided to withdraw its membership from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, OPEC, from January next year.
- Addressing a press conference in Doha, the Gulf state's new energy minister, Saad al-Kaabi made the announcement today.
- AFP news agency quotes MrSaad as saying that OPEC was informed about the decision ahead of the announceme

Nation pays homage to first President DrRajendra Prasad on his 134th birth anniversary

**Context:**

The nation pays homage to the first President DrRajendra Prasad on his 134th birth anniversary today.

About:

- Rajendra Prasad (3 December 1884 – 28 February 1963) was the first President of India, in office from 1952 to 1962.
- He was an Indian political leader, and lawyer by training, Prasad joined the Indian National Congress during the Indian Independence Movement and became a major leader from the region of Bihar.
- A supporter of Mahatma Gandhi, Prasad was imprisoned by British authorities during the Salt Satyagraha of 1931 and the Quit India movement of 1942.
- After the 1946 elections, Prasad served as Minister of Food and Agriculture in the central government.

- Upon independence in 1947, Prasad was elected as President of the Constituent Assembly of India, which prepared the Constitution of India and served as its provisional parliament.
- When India became a republic in 1950, Prasad was elected its first president by the Constituent Assembly.
- Following the general election of 1951, he was elected president by the electoral college of the first Parliament of India and its state legislatures.
- As president, Prasad established a tradition of non-partisanship and independence for the office-bearer, and retired from Congress party politics.
- Although a ceremonial head of state, Prasad encouraged the development of education in India and advised the Nehru government on several occasions. In 1957, Prasad was re-elected to the presidency, becoming the only president to serve two full terms.

Ex Cope India-2018



- The joint exercise between Indian Air Force and United States Air Force will begin today.
- The 12-day exercise-Ex Cope India-2018 has been planned at Kalaikunda and Panagarh Air Force Base in the country.
- Ministry of Defence in a statement said, the aim of exercise is to provide operational exposure and undertake mutual exchange of best practices towards enhancing operational capability.
- It will be the fourth edition in the series of bilateral joint exercise held by the Air Forces of the two nations which is conducted in India.

India's first locomotive-less Train 18, breaches 180 kmph speed limit during test run



- India's first locomotive-less train, known as Train 18, has breached the 180 kilometres per hour speed limit during a test run at Kota-SawaiMadhopur section in Rajasthan. When this indigenously designed train is made operational, it will become the country's fastest train.

- "Train 18 is capable of touching 200 kilometres per hour provided the rest of Indian Railways' system, such as tracks and signals, permit. With 16 coaches, the train will have the same passenger carrying capacity as that of the Shatabdi Express. It has aerodynamically designed driver cabins at both ends for quicker turn-around at destinations.
- The train also sports an advanced regenerative braking system which saves power. The fully air-conditioned train offers better passenger comfort and safety, as all equipment are fixed under the carriage so that more space is available on board.

Today is International Day of Persons with Disabilities



Context:

- Today is International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The annual observance of the Day was proclaimed in 1992, by a United Nations General Assembly resolution.
- International Day of Persons with Disabilities aims to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of

society and development and to increase awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.

- The theme for this year is Empowering persons with disabilities and ensuring inclusiveness and equality. Today, the United Nations will launch the first-ever flagship report on disability and development "UN Flagship Report on Disability and Development 2018 - Realizing the SDGs by, for and with persons with disabilities".
- The Report provides an evidence base for disability-inclusive policy-making, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of an inclusive, accessible and sustainable global development agenda.
- On the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities, Vice President M Venkiah Naidu will confer the National Awards today on Individuals, Institutions, Organizations, States and Districts for their outstanding achievements and work done towards empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

World Bank unveils USD 200 bn in climate action investment for 2021-25



Context:

- The World Bank has unveiled 200 billion US Dollars in climate action investment for 2021 to 2025. The move coincides with a **UN climate summit in Katowice**.
- In a statement, the World Bank said, the move represents a significantly ramped up ambition to tackle climate change and sends an important signal to the wider global community to do the same.

Funding:

The statement said the breakdown of 200 billion dollars would comprise approximately 100 billion in direct finance from the World Bank. Around one-third of the remaining funding will come from two World Bank Group agencies with the rest private capital mobilised by the World Bank Group.

SushmaSwaraj co-chair 12th session of India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting

- External Affairs Minister SushmaSwaraj will visit United Arab Emirates today to co-chair the 12th session of the India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting for Economic and Technical Cooperation with UAE Foreign Minister, Sheikh Abdullah binZayed Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi.
- MrsSwaraj will also inaugurate a Gandhi - Zayed Digital Museum in Abu Dhabi to mark the celebrations of 150 years of Mahatma Gandhi's birth and centenary celebrations of the birth of ShaikhZayed, founder of the modern UAE.

- India and the UAE enjoy strong bonds of friendship, which are founded on cultural, religious and economic interaction between the two regions. With nearly 50 billion US dollars bilateral trade, the two countries are one the largest trade partners for each other.