

11 APRIL 2019**Jallianwala bagh massacre (1919)****Why In News :**

Among the events planned in the city to mark the 100th anniversary of Jallianwala Bagh massacre, CM Amarinder Singh is expected to take part in a candle march in Amritsar on April 12. Vice President Venkaiah Naidu is slated to address a gathering at Jallianwala Bagh on April 13

In Brief :

- Also known as Amritsar massacre, it took place on 13 April 1919 when troops of the British Indian Army under the command of Colonel Reginald Dyer fired rifles into a crowd of Indians, who had gathered in Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar, Punjab.
- The unarmed crowd was protesting against the arrest of two local leaders Saifuddin Kichlew and Satyapal and the notorious Rowlatt Act.
- According to the official estimates the number of dead was around 400 but in reality it was more than 1500.
- Gandhi withdrew his anti-rowlatt satyagraha movement on April 19, 1919 and called it a “Himalayan Blunder”.
- On May 30, 1919, Rabindranth Tagore renounced his knighthood title awarded by British.
- Gandhi returned the Kaiser-i-Hind Gold medal given to him for his work during Boer War in South Africa.

THE HUNTER COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY (1919)

- Formed as Disorders Inquiry Committee on October 14, 1919 which came to be called as Hunter Committee after the chairman, Lord William Hunter.
- Indian members of the committee: Sir Chimanlal Harilal Setalvad, Pandit Jagat Narayan, Sardar Sahibzada Sultan
- The final report of the committee condemned Dyer's actions, but the committee did not impose any penal or disciplinary action.
- Also the government had passed an Indemnity Act for the protection of its officers.

CONGRESS VIEW:

- The Indian National Congress appointed its own non-official committee that included Motilal Nehru, C.R. Das, Abbas Tyabji, M.R. Jayakar and Gandhi.
- The committee criticised Dyer's act as inhuman.

Terror funding case: NIA arrests Yasin Malik inside Delhi court**In news:**

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on March 10th arrested separatist leader and Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Yasin Malik after a special court granted his 13-day custody to the probe agency.

Background:

- Mr. Malik, chief of the banned group, the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, and a constituent of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), was arrested on Wednesday in the alleged J&K “terror funding” case.

Note

- Malik was booked under the Public Safety Act on March 7 and shifted from Srinagar to a jail in Jammu. Earlier, the separatist leader was arrested on February 22 from his Maisuma residence, a week after the Pulwama attack. The NIA carried out searches of Malik's residence in Srinagar on February 26.

Call for shutdown

- The Joint Resistance Leadership (JRL), comprising Syed Ali Shah Geelani, the Mirwaiz and Malik, has called for a total shutdown on April 11 against the NIA crackdown.
- A complete shutdown called against the so-called Indian parliamentary elections and against the NIA aggression against our leaders, besides sustained interrogation and repeated summoning of two sons of Mr. Geelani, Syed Naeem-uz-Zafar Geelani and Syed Naseem Geelani.

National Investigation Agency (NIA)

- National Investigation Agency (NIA) is a federal agency established by the Indian Government to combat terror in India. It acts as the Central Counter Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency.
- The agency is empowered to deal with terror related crimes across states without special permission from the states.
- The Agency came into existence with the enactment of the National Investigation Agency Act 2008 by the Parliament of India on 31 December 2008.
- NIA was created after the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks as need for a central agency to combat terrorism was realised.
- NIA has concurrent jurisdiction which empowers the Centre to probe terror attacks in any part of the country, covering offences, including challenge to the country's sovereignty and integrity, bomb blasts, hijacking of aircraft and ships, and attacks on nuclear installations.
- Other than offenses of terrorism, it also deals with counterfeit currency, human trafficking, narcotics or drugs, organised crime (extortion mobs and gangs), plane hijacking and violations of atomic energy act and weapons of mass destruction act.

Special Courts:

- Various Special Courts have been notified by the Central Government of India for trial of the cases registered at various police stations of NIA under the NIA Act 2008. Any question as to the jurisdiction of these courts is decided by the Central Government. These are presided over by a judge appointed by the Central Government on the recommendation of the Chief Justice of the High Court with jurisdiction in that region.
- Supreme Court of India has also been empowered to transfer the cases from one special court to any other special court within or outside the state if the same is in the interest of justice in light of the prevailing circumstances in any particular state. They are empowered with all powers of the court of sessions under Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 for trial of any offense.
- An appeal from any judgment, sentence or order, not being an interlocutory order, of a Special Court lies to the High Court both on facts and on law. Such an appeal is heard by a bench of two Judges of the High Court.
- At present there are 38 Special NIA Courts. State Governments have also been empowered to appoint one or more such special courts in their states.

Commerce ministry for law to ban making, sale of e-cigarettes

In News:

The commerce ministry has also been asked to issue a notification banning the import of electronic nicotine delivery systems, including e-cigarettes and flavoured hookah.

In Brief:

Over 1,000 doctors from 24 states and three union territories in April urged Prime Minister to enforce a ban on electronic nicotine delivery systems

Note



before it becomes an “epidemic in India”, especially among the youth.

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation also directed all drug controllers in states and union territories not to allow the manufacture, sale, import and advertisement of electronic nicotine delivery systems, including e-cigarettes and flavoured hookah, in their jurisdictions.

WHO Report:

World Health Organisation report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic 2017, 30 countries, including Mauritius, Australia, Singapore, Korea (Democratic People’s Republic), Sri Lanka, Thailand, Brazil, Mexico, Uruguay, Bahrain, Iran, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates, have already banned electronic nicotine delivery systems.

E- Cigarettes:

- ENDS are devices that heat solution to create aerosol, which also frequently contains flavours, usually dissolved into propylene glycol and glycerin.
- e-cigarettes (electronic cigarettes) are most common prototype of ENDS.
- These devices do not burn or use tobacco leaves but instead vaporise solution, which user then inhales.
- ENDS solutions and emissions contain other chemicals, some of them considered to be toxicants.
- They contain nicotine, addictive component of tobacco products.
- In addition they contain metals, including lead, chromium and nickel and chemicals like formaldehyde with concentrations equal to or greater than traditional cigarettes.
- Use of ENDS may affect development of foetus during pregnancy.
- It may contribute to cardiovascular disease to people who use ENDS.
- Moreover, nicotine may function as ‘tumour promoter’ and seems to be involved in biology of malignant diseases.
- Foetal and adolescent nicotine exposure have long-term consequences for brain development, potentially leading to learning and anxiety disorders.



Netanyahu set for record fifth term

In News:

Benjamin Netanyahu has won a fifth term in the Israeli elections, putting him on course to become the country’s longest serving prime minister.

In Brief:

Important Issues of Israel:

About Golan Heights

- The Golan Heights, a rocky plateau in south-western Syria, has a political and strategic significance which belies its size. Whoever controls this area has a major strategic advantage.

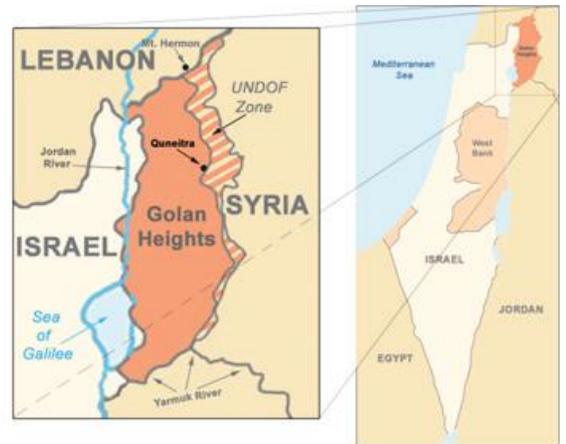
Note



- Golan Heights is the area captured from Syria and occupied by Israel during the Six-Day War, territory which Israel annexed in 1981.
- Israel unilaterally annexed the Golan Heights in 1981. The move was not recognised internationally.

Importance of Golan Heights

- Having control of the Golan gives Israel a vantage point from which to monitor any Syrian military movements towards Israel.
- The area is a key source of water for an arid region. Rainwater from the Golan's catchment feeds into the Jordan River. The area provides a third of Israel's water supply.
- The land is fertile, with the volcanic soil being used to cultivate vineyards and orchards and to raise cattle. The Golan is also home to Israel's only ski resort.



GAZA Strip:

- The Gaza Strip is a small Palestinian territory, located along the Mediterranean coast between Egypt and Israel. Palestinians are ethnic Arab and majority Muslim. It is deeply impoverished, kept in isolation by the Israeli military and ruled by Hamas, an anti-Israeli terrorist group.
- Israelis and Arabs have been fighting over Gaza on and off, for decades. It's part of the wider Arab Israeli conflict.
- The Rafah Border Crossing or Rafah Crossing Point is the sole crossing point between Egypt and Gaza Strip. It is located on the Gaza–Egypt border, which was recognized by the 1979 Israel–Egypt Peace Treaty.

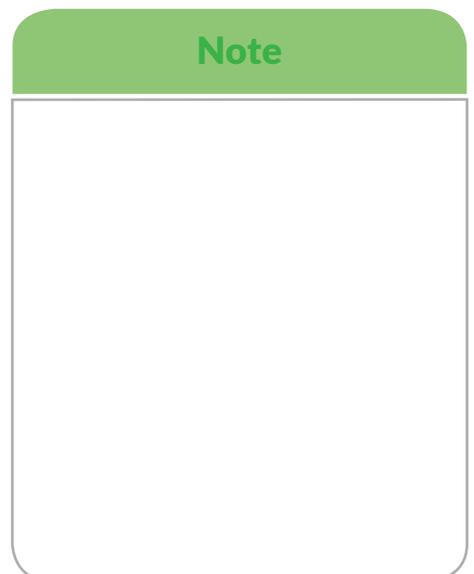


India-Israel relations:

- India had formally recognised Israel in September 1950.
- Embassies were opened in 1992 after full diplomatic relations were established.
- Since the upgradation of relations in 1992, defence and agriculture have been the main pillars of bilateral engagement.
- In recent years, bilateral ties have expanded to areas such as education, science and technology and homeland security.
- The future vision of the cooperation is of a strong hi-tech partnership as both countries leading knowledge economies.
- Both countries have friendly political ties.

Trade and economic Relations

- The bilateral trade from \$200 million in 1992 (comprising primarily trade in diamonds) has reached \$5.19 billion in 2011. Since then it has stagnated around \$4.5 billion.
- The diamonds constitutes close to 50% of bilateral trade between both countries.
- In recent times trade has diversified into several sectors such as agriculture, pharmaceuticals, IT and telecom and homeland security.
- Major exports from India to Israel include precious stones and metals, textiles and textile articles, chemical products, plants and vegetable products, and mineral products.
- Major imports by India from Israel include precious stones and metals, chemicals (mainly potash) and mineral products, base metals and machinery and transport equipment



FTA Talks:



- Israel is very much keen on the relaunch of the negotiations on the proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with India to boost ties.
- New Delhi promised Israeli companies that it would address their concerns and make it easier for them to do business in India.
- The FTA talks had begun a decade ago and missed the 2014 deadline.

Defence Relations:

- India is already buying an average of \$1 billion per year in military equipment.
- The earliest India-Israel defence collaboration took place during the 1962 Sino-Indian war when Israel provided military aid to India.
- Israel also helped India during its two wars with Pakistan in 1965 and 1971.
- India reciprocated by helping Israel during the six-day war in 1967 by supplying spare parts for French-made Mystere and Ouragan aircraft as well as AX-13 tanks.
- In April 2017, India and Israel had signed a \$2 billion deal for an advanced medium-range surface-to-air missile system which will be helpful for the Indian army to shoot down aircraft, missiles and drones etc.

Recent Developments:

India and Israel have inked two agreements in the field of water resources management and agriculture

First image of a Black hole

In news:

Astronomers have captured the first image of a black hole at the center of Messier 87 or M87, a giant galaxy in the constellation Virgo. The breakthrough image was captured by the Event Horizon telescope (EHT), a network of eight radio telescopes spanning locations from Antarctica to Spain and Chile, in an effort involving more than 200 scientists.

The black hole measures 40 billion km across - 3 million times the size of the Earth and 500 million trillion km away. It has a mass 6.5 billion times that of the Sun.

Black hole:

Black holes were first predicted by Einstein's theory of relativity – although Einstein himself was sceptical that they actually existed. Since then, astronomers have accumulated overwhelming evidence that these cosmic sinkholes are out in space, including recent detection of gravitational waves that ripple across the cosmos when pairs of them collide.

The dark shadow within marks the edge of the event horizon, the point of no return, beyond which no light or matter can travel fast enough to escape the inexorable gravitational pull of the black hole.



Note

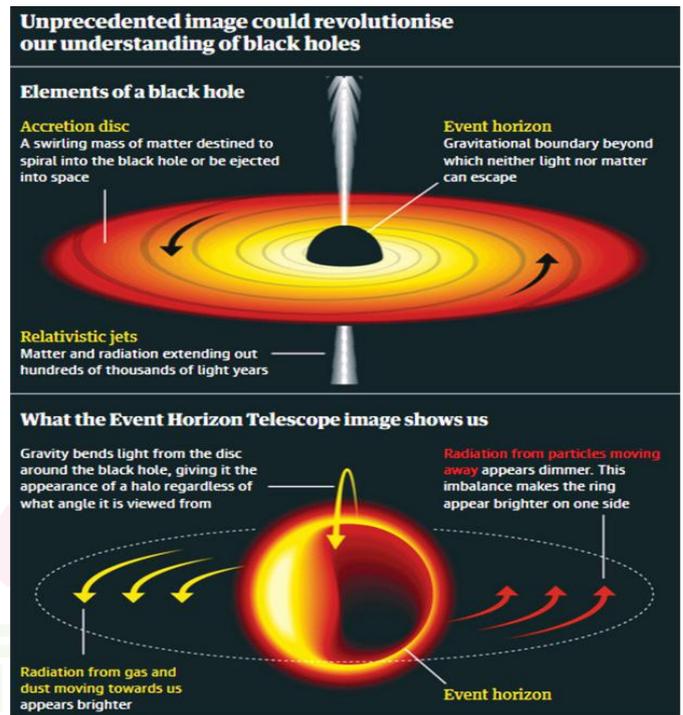


EHT:

The Event Horizon Telescope relies on a technique called interferometry. This is a bit like trying to reconstruct a pebble being dropped into a pond by placing detectors around the pond's edge to measure the ripples sent out. Similarly, with the EHT, the signals from all eight telescopes have to be combined and fed through a computer to turn a mountain of incomprehensible blips into a visual picture.

The EHT picks up radiation emitted by particles within the disc that are heated to billions of degrees as they swirl around the black hole at close to the speed of light, before vanishing down the plughole.

The EHT team has also attempted to image Sagittarius A*, the black hole at the center of the Milky Way galaxy. That data is still being processed.



Note

