

## **Prelim Bits 12-03-2019**

### **Massive Harappan Burial site**

- A massive burial site of Harappan civilization has been found near Dholavira, Kutch district in Gujarat.
- It is for the first time rectangular graves are found in Gujarat, so far only semi-circular and circular graves have been unearthed in Gujarat.
- The rectangular graves each of varying dimensions contained skeletons that were oriented east-west with the heads positioned on the eastern side.
- The presence of animal skeletons along with those of humans was also recorded in a few graves.
- Instances of primary burial and secondary burial (when the remains of the primary burial are exhumed and moved to another grave) were found.
- The remains of those who were possibly cremated were also found in a few graves.

### **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**

- Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) based in Stockholm is an independent international institute established in 1966.
- It is dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament.
- It releases the National Reports on Arms Exports to highlight the oversight of government implementation of arms export control policies.
- According to a recent SIPRI report, India was the world's second-largest arms importer from 2014-18, in the year 2009-2013 India was the largest arms importer.

### **Pinaka Extended Range Rocket**

- Pinaka is guided extended range rockets which can immobilize enemies from a 90Km distance, developed indigenously by DRDO.
- Pinaka rocket launcher can fire a salvo of 12 rockets in 44 seconds.
- Pinaka Mark I was extensively used by Indian Army in 1999 Kargil war to neutralize enemies on mountain tops.

- The initial version of the Pinaka rocket had a range of 40km before it was developed into Pinaka Mark II, which had an enhanced range of 70-80 km.
- Each Pinaka launcher has its own computer, allowing it to work independently and able to fire rockets in different directions, fire all rockets in one go or select few.

## Reko Diq Mine

- Reko Diq Mine is one of the world's biggest untapped copper and gold deposits located in Baluchistan, Pakistan.
- Reko Diq area is buried at the foot of an extinct volcano near the frontier with Iran and Afghanistan.
- It has estimated reserves of 5.9 billion tons of low-grade copper and gold reserves amounting to 41.5 million oz.



## Sirsi Supari

- Recently registrar of Geographical Indications accorded a GI tag, 'Sirsi Supari'.
- Sirsi Supari is an arecanut grown in Sirsi, Siddpaur and Yellapur taluks of Uttara Kannada district in Karnataka.
- The Totagars' Cooperative Sale Society (TSS) Ltd, a Sirsi-based agri cooperative, is the registered proprietor of the GI 'Sirsi Supari'.
- 'Sirsi Supari' is medium sized and round in shape, it has a somewhat ash coloured hard seed.
- 'Sirsi Supari' is unique in taste from areca nuts grown in other parts of the

country due to the differences in the chemical composition of different areca nuts.

## **Wood Snake**

- A species of wood snake that wasn't seen for 140 years has resurfaced in a survey conducted at the Meghamalai Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The wood snake is point endemic, which can be only found in Meghamalai forests and the Periyar Tiger Reserve landscape.
- The scientific name of the species is *Xylophis indicus*, and it is uniformly dark brown in colour.



**Source: PIB, the Hindu, Business Line**