

Prelim Bits 24-06-2023 | UPSC Daily Current Affairs

Liaquat-Nehru Pact

It has been 73 years since the treaty of Liaquat-Nehru pact signed between India and Pakistan.

- It was signed in 1950 by the prime ministers, Jawaharlal Nehru and Liaquat Ali Khan.
- It was a bilateral treaty between *India* and *Pakistan* regarding the rights of minorities and refugees.
- **Aim** - To provide a framework for the treatment of minorities in both countries following Partition, which was accompanied by massive communal rioting.
- The Nehru-Liaquat Pact is also known as the *Delhi Pact, 1950*.
- An estimated *1 million people* Hindus from East Pakistan and Muslims from West Bengal crossed the borders during 1950 after the partition.
- **Features** - It is to ensure that
 - Refugees were allowed to return unmolested to dispose of their property,
 - Abducted women and looted property were to be returned,
 - Forced conversions were unrecognized, and
 - Minority rights were confirmed.
- Minority commissions were established to implement these terms, and confidence was in fact restored for a time.
- The Governments of India and Pakistan solemnly agree that each shall ensure, to the minorities throughout its territory, complete equality of citizenship.
- Members of the minority shall have the equal opportunity with the members of the majority community.
- They have the rights to participate in the public life, to hold political and other office and to serve in civil and armed forces of their country.
- Both governments agreed to declare these rights to be fundamental and undertake to enforce them respectively.

Reference

[The Indian Express | liaquat-nehru-pact](#)

Gandhi Peace Prize

Gandhi Peace Prize 2021 has been conferred upon Gorakhpur-based Gita Press

- **Instituted Year** - 1995, on the 125th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- **Eligibility** - It is awarded for social, economic and political transformation through

non-violence, to any deserving *persons* or *institutions*, annually by the Government of India.

- It is open to all persons *regardless* of nationality, race, language, caste, creed or gender and any association, institution or organisation.
- Work achieved *within the 10 years* preceding the nomination is considered for the award.
- **Rewards** - The award carries a cash prize of ₹1 crore, a citation, a plaque and an exquisite traditional handicraft/handloom item.
- **Awarding Committee** - The awardee is selected by a 5-member jury comprising of the Prime Minister, Chief Justice of India, *Leader of Opposition* and 2 eminent personalities.
- The decision of the jury is final and *cannot be challenged* or appealed.
- **Gandhi Peace Joint Award** - If 2 persons or an organization deserved equally for this prize.
- **Past Awardees** - Ramakrishna Mission (1998), Grameen Bank (2000), Nelson Mandela (2000), ISRO (2014), Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (2020).

Gita Press

- Founded in 1923 by Hanuman Prasad Poddar and Jay Dalal Goyandka.
- It is a unit of Gobind Bhawan Karyalaya, Kolkata, registered under the West Bengal Societies Act, 1960.
- It is one of the world's largest publishers and is most famous for publishing the Hindu text *Srimad Bhagwat Gita*.
- As of date, the institution has published 41.7 crore books in *14 languages*, including 16.21 crore copies of the Gita.

Reference

[The Hindu | gita-press-gandhi-peace-prize-explained](#)

PM- KISAN

Recently face authentication feature is enabled in PM-Kisan mobile app expansion.

- It is a *Central Sector scheme* with 100% funding from Government of India.
- **Launch Year** - 2018.
- **Ministry** - Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare.
- **Features** - Under this scheme an income support of 6,000/- per year in 3 equal installments will be provided to all land holding farmer families (subject to exclusion criteria).
- Under the PM Kisan scheme, the farmer can also get a loan facility in the form of short-term loans by using Kisan Credit Card (KCC).
- Definition of family for the scheme is husband, wife and minor children.
- **Identification of Beneficiaries** - State Government and UT administration will identify the farmer families which are eligible for support as per scheme guidelines.

- The fund will be *directly transferred* to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.
- It has roped in *India Post Payment Bank (IPPB)* to open Aadhaar linked bank accounts for beneficiaries at their doorstep and asked *Common Services Centres* to organize village-level e-KYC camps with the help of States/UTs.

PM-KISAN Mobile App

- It is developed and designed by the National Informatics Centre in collaboration with the *Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology*.
- The farmers can view the status of their application, update or carry out corrections of their Aadhaar cards and also check the history of credits to their bank accounts.
- **Face authentication feature** will enable beneficiary farmers to complete their e-KYC process by just scanning their face on mobile phones instead of using one-time password or fingerprints.
- It is the first government scheme to have this feature.

Reference

[The Indian Express | face-authentication-now-in-pm-kisan-mobile-app](#)

Minerals Security Partnership

India joins US-led Mineral Security Partnership (MSP) recently.

- **Launch** - 2022.
- It is a US-led collaboration of countries that includes Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, UK, the European Commission, Italy, and now India.
- It is also known as the critical minerals alliance.
- **Aim** - To ensure that critical minerals are produced, processed and recycled in a way that helps countries secure a stable supply of critical minerals for their economies.
- The focus is primarily on the supply chains of critical minerals such as cobalt, nickel, lithium and the 17 "rare earth" minerals.
- **Objectives**
 - Strengthened information sharing between partner countries
 - Increased investment in secure critical minerals supply chains
 - Develop recycling technologies

Critical minerals

- **Critical minerals** - A critical mineral is a *metallic* or *non-metallic* element that is essential for the functioning of our modern technologies, economies or national security and there is a risk that its supply chains could be disrupted.
- Many critical minerals, including rare earth minerals and metals such as lithium, gallium, tellurium, and indium, are central to high-tech sectors.
- **The major critical minerals** - Graphite, lithium and cobalt are used for making semiconductors, high-end electronics manufacturing, fighter jets, drones, and radio

sets.

- **Rare earth minerals** - Rare earth minerals are a set of 17 metallic elements, which includes scandium, yttrium, and the 15 lanthanides.
- **Examples** - Lanthanum, cerium, neodymium, praseodymium and samarium, dysprosium, terbium, europium.
- It is used a wide range of applications such as cellular telephones, flat-screen monitors and televisions, and electric vehicles.
- **Top producers** - According to the International Energy Agency, the major producers of critical minerals are China, Congo, Chile, Indonesia, South Africa, and Australia.
- China has global dominance in terms of processing.

*India and Australia decided to strengthen their partnership in the field of projects and supply chains for critical minerals under **the Australia-India Critical Minerals Investment Partnership**.*

References

[The Indian Express | India-joins-us-led-critical-mineral-club-boost-likely-for-ev-electronics](#)

[Business Standard | India-news/minerals-security-partnership-what-is-it](#)

Carbon-dioxide Auroras

NASA's satellite spots infrared carbon dioxide aurora from outer space

Aurora

- An aurora is a natural light display that shimmers in the sky.
- When solar storm interacts with the magnetic field lines at the north and south poles into Earth's atmosphere, it results in beautiful displays of light called auroras.
- Auroras are only visible *at night*, and usually only appear in *lower polar regions*.
- *Oxygen* gives off green and red light and *Nitrogen* glows blue and purple.
- Auroras are visible near the Arctic and Antarctic Circles, which are about 66.5 degrees north and south of the Equator.
- In the north, the display is called *aurora borealis*, or northern lights.
- In the south, it is called *aurora australis*, or southern lights.

Carbon-dioxide Auroras

- A NASA satellite has spotted an aurora that is invisible in optical frequencies.
- While carbon dioxide is known for its effects on the troposphere as a greenhouse gas, it also exists in trace amounts in Earth's atmosphere at the edge of space.
- High above Earth, near 90 km, Co₂ becomes vibrationally excited during an aurora, emitting more infrared radiation than typically observed in the atmosphere.

Reference

[The Indian Express | satellite-carbon-dioxide-aurora](#)

