

10.05.21

## MAHARANA PRATAP (1540 – 1597)



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to Maharana Partap on his birth anniversary.
- Pratap Singh popularly known as Maharana Pratap, was a king of Mewar, a region in the present day state of Rajasthan.
- He was the eldest son of Udai Singh II (founder of city of Udaipur).
- Battle of Haldighati: It was fought on 18 June 1576 between the forces Maharana Pratap; and the Mughal emperor Akbar's forces, led by Man Singh I of Amber.
- The Mughals were the victors but failed to capture Pratap, who escaped.
- Resurgence: Mughal pressure on Mewar relaxed after 1579 following rebellions in Bengal and Bihar.
- Taking advantage of the situation, Pratap recovered Western Mewar including Kumbhalgarh, Udaipur and Gogunda. During this period, he also built a new capital, Chavand, near modern Dungarpur.
- Chetak: Chetak is the name given in traditional literature to the horse ridden by Maharana Pratap at the Battle of Haldighati.
- However, some Historians debate it. According to tradition, Chetak, although wounded, carried Pratap safely away from the battle, but then died of his wounds.
- The story is recounted in court poems of Mewar from the 17th century onwards.
- Pratap Gaurav Kendra: It is a tourist spot at Tiger Hill in Udaipur city, Rajasthan.
- It aims at providing information about Maharana Pratap and the historical heritage of the area with the help of modern technology.

## GOPAL KRISHNA GOKHALE



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to Freedom Fighter and social reformer Gopal Krishna Gokhale on his birth anniversary.
- Gokhale became a member of the Indian National Congress in 1889. He was the leader of the moderate faction of the Congress party.
- In 1905, he was elected president of the Indian National Congress (Benares Session).
- He played a leading role in bringing about Morley-Minto Reforms, the beginning of constitutional reforms in India.

- In 1899, Gokhale was elected to the Bombay Legislative Council and in 1901 he was elected to the Imperial Council of the Governor-General of India.
- Servants of India Society: It was formed by him in Pune (Maharashtra) in 1905 to further the expansion of education in India.
- The Society organised mobile libraries, founded schools, and provided night classes for factory workers.
- Ranade Institute of Economics: In 1908, he founded the 'Ranade Institute of Economics'.
- In his autobiography, Gandhi calls Gokhale his mentor and guide. In 1912, Gokhale visited South Africa at Gandhi's invitation.
- He received personal guidance from Gokhale, including a knowledge and understanding of India and the issues confronting common Indians.

## 2021 LAUREUS WORLD SPORTS AWARDS



- Spain's Rafael Nadal was named the 2021 Laureus Sportsman of the year, while fellow tennis player Naomi Osaka won the top women's honour.
- Japan's Osaka won her second U.S. Open title last year, while Nadal equalled Roger Federer's record of 20 Grand Slam titles by claiming his 13th French Open crown.
- Nadal picked up his fourth Laureus honour, having previously scooped the Breakthrough, Comeback and men's individual awards.
- German soccer champions Bayern Munich, who won last season's Champions League, was named the Team of the Year.
- Britain's Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton claimed the inaugural Athlete Advocate of the Year Award for his involvement in the fight against racism.
- Tennis legend Billie Jean King was awarded the "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Laureus Academy.
- The Laureus World Sports Awards is an annual award ceremony honouring individuals and teams from the world of sports along with sporting achievements throughout the year.
- It was established in 1999 by Laureus Sport for Good Foundation.

## LONG MARCH 5B ROCKET



- Debris from a Chinese rocket made an uncontrolled re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere and disintegrated over the Indian Ocean, with remnants falling at a location to the west of Maldives.
- The debris came from the upper stage of a Long March 5B rocket— China's largest— that had been launched into space on April 29 for putting into orbit a core module of the new Tianhe space station, which is expected to become operational in 2022.
- For days, there had been speculation on whether the debris would hit a populated area on the Earth's surface, leading NASA to criticise China over lack of transparency and for "failing to meet responsible standards".

## Mount Sinabung:



- Located in Indonesia. The volcano has been active since 2010 when it erupted after nearly 400 years of inactivity.
- Indonesia is home to many active volcanoes owing to its location in the "Ring of Fire" or the Circum-Pacific Belt — an area along the Pacific Ocean characterised by active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes.
- The Ring of Fire is home to about 75 per cent of the world's volcanoes and about 90 per cent of earthquakes also occur here.
- Basically, there are three types of volcanoes — active, dormant or extinct.
- An eruption takes place when magma (a thick flowing substance), that is formed when the earth's mantle melts, rises to the surface.
- As magma is lighter than rock, it is able to rise through vents and fissures on the surface of the earth.
- Following eruption, the magma is called lava.
- Not all volcanic eruptions are explosive since explosivity depends on the composition of the magma.
- When the magma is runny and thin, gases can easily escape it.
- In such cases, the magma will flow out towards the surface. However, if the magma is thick and dense and gases cannot escape it, it builds up pressure inside resulting in a violent explosion.

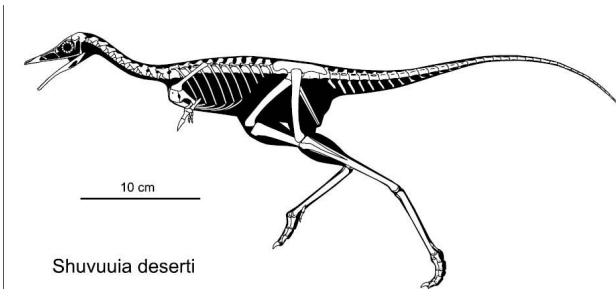


## Badrinath Dham:



- Five oil PSUs have pledged Rs 100 crore for development of Badrinath Dham in Uttarakhand as a spiritual smart city.
- The developmental activities will include river embankment work, building all-terrain vehicular path, building bridges, beautifying existing bridges, establishing gurukul facilities with accommodation etc.
- The expenditure will be borne by the companies from their CSR fund.

## Shuvuuia deserti:



- It is a small bird-like nocturnal dinosaur that lived 70 million years ago.
- It was a pheasant-sized, two-legged Cretaceous Period dinosaur weighing about as much as a small house cat.
- It employed excellent night vision and superb hearing to thrive.
- Lacking the strong jaws and sharp teeth of many carnivorous dinosaurs, it had a remarkably bird-like and lightly built skull and many tiny teeth like grains of rice.

## Puducherry becomes 'Har Ghar Jal' UT



- Puducherry has become 'Har Ghar Jal' UT by ensuring that every rural home in the Union Territory gets a household tap connection.
- With this, the UT becomes the fourth State/UT after Goa, Telangana and Andaman & Nicobar Islands to provide assured tap water supply to every rural home under Union Government's flagship programme, Jal Jeevan Mission.
- All 1.16 lakh rural households in Puducherry have tap water supply now.
- The UT has achieved the 'Har Ghar Jal' status much ahead of the target fixed.
- During Annual Action Plan finalization of the UT in April, 2021, it was urged to utilize various funds available through the convergence of different programmes like MGNREGS, JJM, SBM (G), 15th FC Grants to PRIs, District Mineral Development Fund, CAMPA, CSR Fund, Local Area Development Fund, etc. at the village level and the Village Action Plan (VAP) are to be prepared by dovetailing these resources for achieving long-term drinking water security.
- The UT is also planning to get NABL accreditation/ recognition for its water quality testing laboratories and take up testing of all drinking water sources on a campaign mode.

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