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MK Yadav Sir

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BUSINESS STANDARD

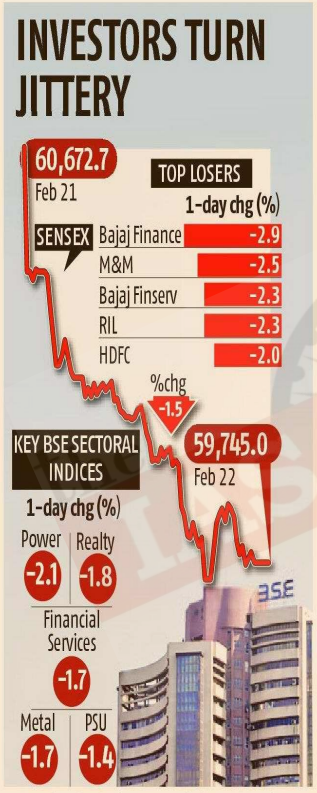
Page 1

SENSEX

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Sensex sees worst day in 2 months on Fed rate fears

Indices tumble 1.5%, extending losing streak to fourth session



Source: *Bloomberg*/Exchange Compiled by *BS* Research Bureau

SUNDAR SETHURAMAN
Mumbai, 22 February

India's stock market tumbled on Wednesday, along with global peers, on resurgent worries that the US Federal Reserve may have to raise interest rates more than what the Street has been factoring in.

The Sensex posted its worst single-day fall since December 23, plunging 1.52 per cent, or 928 points, to end the session at 59,745. The Nifty50 index closed at 17,554, with a decline of 272 points, or 1.53 per cent — the most since January 27. Overseas investors sold shares worth ₹580 crore, while domestic institutions were net buyers to the tune of ₹372 crore, according to provisional data from the exchanges.

Investors' worries were stoked by strong US payroll data and higher-than-expected readings on S&P Global's US composite purchasing managers' index, suggesting that it would take more rate hikes for the world's largest economy to cool off. The economic data pushed the benchmark 10-year US Treasury yield to 3.95 per cent — the highest in four months and close to 2007 highs. Typically, US bond yields and global equities move in opposite directions.

Key Wall Street indices dropped more than 2 per cent on Tuesday, their worst single-day fall in two months, setting the stage for a broader correction in Asia. These indices were again in the red in early trade on Wednesday.

Investors were also nervous ahead of the release of the minutes of the Federal Open Market Committee's meeting later Wednesday. Turn to Page 6

PAGE 10

Sell-off in Adani group stocks resumes

All the 10 stocks belonging to the Adani group came under a fresh bout of selling on Wednesday as the group's debt levels and repayment capabilities continued to worry investors. Adani Enterprises and Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone – the two most valuable firms of the group, and part of the Nifty50 – tumbled 10.4 and 6.2 per cent, respectively.

EDIT ▸ CLOSING BELL PAGE 9

Context: India´s stock market tumbled, along with global peers, on resurgent worries that the US Federal Reserve may have to raise interest rates more than what the Street has been factoring in.

- The **Sensex** posted its worst single day fall since December 23, plunging 1.52 per cent, or 928 points, to end the session at 59,745.

SENSEX

- **About**: SENSEX is the **benchmark index of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** in India.
  - The SENSEX index is **made up of 30 of the BSE's largest and most actively traded stocks,** and it serves as a gauge for the Indian economy.
  - It is a market **capitalization-weighted and float-adjusted.**
- **Origin**: Sensex is India's oldest stock index, having been **established in 1986 by Standard & Poor's (S&P).**
  - It is a bellwether index as well as an investable index that tracks the performance of India's 30 largest and most financially healthy corporations.
  - The SENSEX is **re-evaluated twice a year,** between June and December.
- **Calculation Method**: When it first started, it was computed using market capitalization, but in September 2003, it switched to a f**ree-float capitalization technique.**
  - This strategy is similar to the **market-capitalization weighted method,** which weights firms based on their percentage of the index's overall market capitalization.
  - The **Indian rupee (INR) and US dollar (USD)** are used to calculate the SENSEX.
- **Limitations**: Because the index uses the float rather than the outstanding shares of a firm, it **excludes restricted stocks that can't be sold easily,** such as those held by corporate executives.
- **Significance**: The Sensex is used by many investors across the world as a **barometer of the general status of the Indian economy,** which has developed significantly in recent decades.

PIB FEB 23

GAUGES OF RAILWAY TRACKS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Infrastructure)

PM expresses happiness over 100 percent electrification of Broad Gauge rail network in Uttar Pradesh

Context: The Prime Minister expressed his happiness over **100 percent electrification of Broad Gauge rail network in Uttar Pradesh.**

- The railways achieved a significant milestone by completing the electrification of all broad gauge routes in Uttar Pradesh with the completion of the **Subhagpur-Pachperwa Broad Gauge (BG) route** in North Eastern Railway.
- With this, the Railways has **completed electrification of broad gauge routes in six railway zones** namely East Coast Railway, North Central Railway, North Eastern Railway, Eastern Railway, South Eastern Railway and West Central Railway.

Gauges Of Railway Tracks

- **About**: The clear **minimum vertical distance** between the inner sides of the two tracks is known as the railway gauge. That is, the distance between two tracks on any railway route is called a railway gauge.
  - There are mainly **four types** of railway gauge used in India, which are: **Broad gauge, Narrow gauge, Standard gauge (for Delhi Metro), and Meter Gauge.**
- **Broad Gauge**: A broad-gauge is also known as a **wide gauge or large line**.
  - The distance between the two tracks in these railway gauges is **5 ft 6 in (1676 mm)**. Any gauge wider than the standard gauge or 1,435 mm is called a broad gauge.
  - Broad gauge railways are also used on ports for cranes etc. This gives better stability and they are even better than the thinner gauges.
- **Standard Gauge:** The distance between two tracks in this type of railway gauge is **4 ft 8½ inches (1435 mm).**
  - In India, **standard gauge is used for urban rail transit systems** like Monorail, Metro, and Tram.
  - The only standard gauge line in India till 2010 was the Kolkata tram system.
  - All metro lines coming in the urban areas are made only in the standard gauge because it is very easy to get rolling stock for the standard gauge as compared to the Indian gauge.
- **Metre Gauge**: The distance between the two tracks is **3 ft 3 3/8 inches or 1,000 mm.**
  - The meter gauge lines are made to reduce the cost.
  - Under project Unigauge, all the meter gauge lines except the **Nilgiri Mountain Railway** which is legacy run on a meter gauge in India will be converted into broad gauge.
- **Narrow Gauge**: The small railway gauge is known as a **Narrow gauge or a small line**.
  - The narrow-gauge railway is the railway track, in which the distance between two tracks is **2 ft (610 mm) and 2 ft 6 in (762 mm).**
  - In 2015, there was a 1,500 km narrow gauge rail route, which is considered to be about two percent of the total Indian rail network.

PIB FEB 23

SANSAD RATNA AWARDS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

PM congratulates MP colleagues who will be conferred the Sansad Ratna Awards 2023

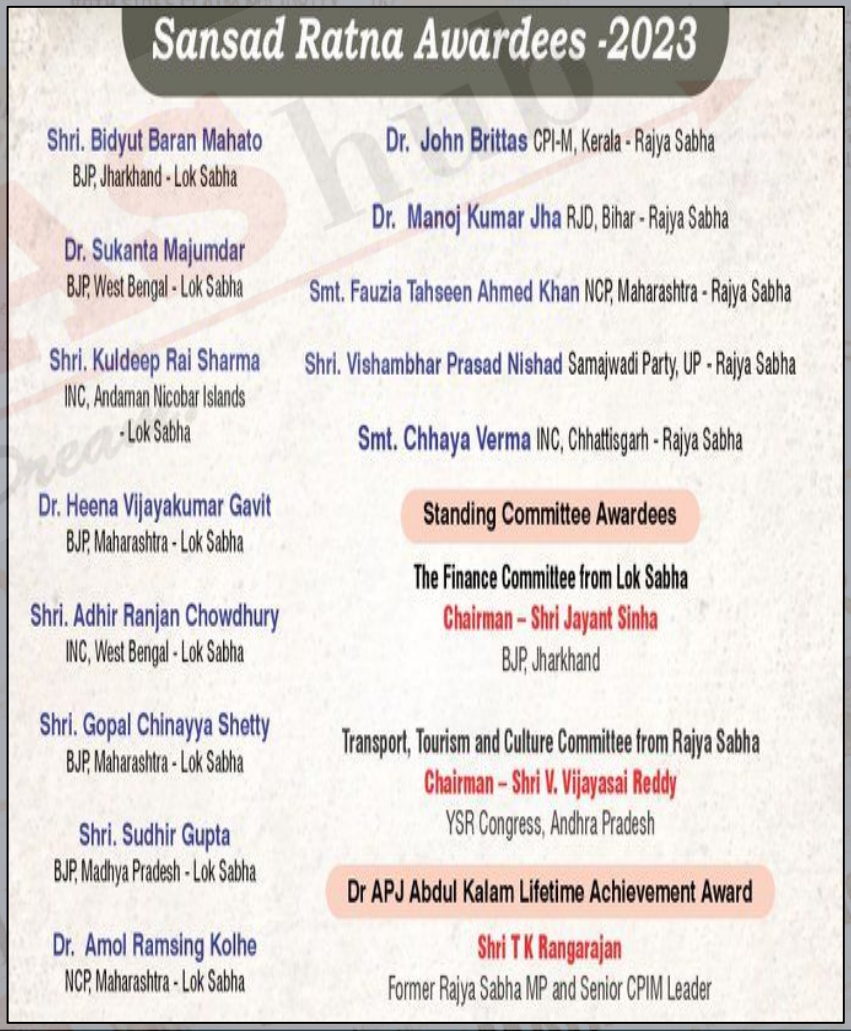
Context: The Prime Minister has congratulated MP colleagues who will be conferred the Sansad Ratna Awards 2023.

Key Points: Sansad Ratna Awards 2023

- **Eight Lok Sabha members and five Rajya Sabha members** have been nominated for the Sansad Ratna Awards 2023, based on performance in questions, private members' Bills and participation in debates.
- **Two Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DRSC)** and a veteran and distinguished leader (Shri T K Rangarajan, Former Rajya Sabha MP) has also been nominated under the special awards category.
- The **Finance Committee (Lok Sabha Committee)** and Transport, Tourism and Culture Committee (Rajya Sabha Committee) are nominated for Awards for their outstanding cumulative performance from the beginning of the 17th Lok Sabha until the end of Winter Session of 2022.

Sansad Ratna Award ("Gem of Parliament")

- **About**: It is a **private award** established in 2010 by the **Prime Point Foundation and e-magazine PreSense.**
  - It is **not related to the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award** given by the Indian Parliamentary Group.
    - The Outstanding Parliamentarian Award is an award given by the Indian Parliamentary Group to an outstanding sitting Member of the Indian Parliament for overall contribution in the Indian Parliament.
    - It was instituted in 1995 by Shivraj Patil, who was the Speaker of Lok Sabha.
- **Objectives**: Its aim is to honour **top performing Members** of the Indian Parliament.
- **Origin**: It was formed on the suggestions given by **A. P. J. Abdul Kalam,** Former President of India.
- **Process**: Sansad Ratna Awards are **given on behalf of civil society** through a transparent selection process by a Jury committee of eminent Parliamentarians, based on the data on various performance parameters.



TIMES OF INDIA

Page 11

6+ RULE FOR ADMISSION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2: Education)

Centre to states: Fix minimum age for class I admission at 6 years

Manash.Gohain
@timesgroup.com

Make PM's 'Exam Warriors' available in school libraries, states & UTs told

New Delhi: The Centre on Wednesday directed all states and Union Territories to fix the minimum age for admission to class I at six years. At present, the minimum age of admission is not uniform. For example in Delhi, Rajasthan, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Tamil Nadu the minimum age for admission to class I is five years. In UP, Maharashtra and West Bengal the minimum age is already six years.

One of the key components of the National Education Policy 2020 is the restructuring of the 10+2 system with that of the 5+3+3+4 system, bringing in early childhood education into formal education. The education ministry has asked the states and UTs to align their age to admission in schools with that of NEP 2020 and provide admission to class I at the age of six years and above.

As per the 5+3+3+4, the first stage (foundational) is for students between the age of three to eight (classes pre-school/ anganwadi up-to II). The second stage (preparatory) is for age group eight to 11, which is for classes III to V. Next level (middle school) for ages 11 to 14, which covers classes VI to VIII and last phase (secondary school) is for ages 14 to 18 for classes IX to XII.

As per a senior MoE official, the 5+3+3+4 envisaged in the policy promotes seamless learning and development of children from pre-school to class 2.

The education ministry has urged all states and UTs to make the book 'Exam Warriors', authored by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi,** available in school libraries. "The education minister has requested the CMs of all states and administrators of UTs to make the book available in libraries of each school under 'Samagra Shiksha' so that a maximum number of students, teachers and parents get benefit from the PM's words of wisdom," a senior official of the ministry said on Wednesday. AGENCIES

Context: The Centre directed all states and Union Territories to fix the minimum age for admission to **class I at six years (6+ Rule).**

- At present, the minimum age of admission is not uniform.

Key Points

- The Centre's reminder is in line with the latest **National Education Policy** emphasis on improving foundational learning by bringing early childhood care and education under the formal schooling system and moving it from the aegis of the Ministry of Women and Child Development to the Education Ministry.
  - Until the NEP 2020, children in the **age group of 3 years to 6 years** were not covered within the 10+2 structure of formal schooling.
  - Under the new structure, children aged 3 to 8 years come under the foundational section - including three years of pre-school and two years of primary school - followed by preparatory, middle and secondary sections in a 5**+3+3+4 formula.**
  - The strong base of early learning from age 3 is aimed at **promoting better overall learning, development, and well-being.**
- The **Department of School Education and Literacy** has now reiterated directions to all States and UTs to align their age of admission with the policy and provide admission to Grade-I at the age of 6+ years.
  - It urged them to ensure accessibility to three years of quality preschool education for all children, whether they were studying in anganwadis, or in preschools run or aided by the government, by NGOs or by other private players.
- According to a response furnished by the Centre in the Lok Sabha in March 2022, there are **wide variations in the age criteria currently followed by States,** with 14 States and Union Territories allowing Class 1 admission for children who have not completed six years.
  - In Assam, Gujarat, Puducherry, Telangana and Ladakh, children who have turned five can get admitted to Class 1.
  - In Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Goa, Jharkhand, Karnataka and Kerala, the minimum age is five plus.

LIVE MINT

Page 9

CASTE DISCRIMINATION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Social Justice)

Seattle becomes first US city to ban caste discrimination

Seattle has become the first city in the United States to ban discrimination based on caste, following a city council vote on Tuesday.

"It's official: our movement has won a historic, first-in-the-nation ban on caste discrimination in Seattle!" tweeted Indian American council member Kshama Sawant, who introduced the legislation.

"Now we need to build a movement to spread this victory around the country." The city council of Seattle, in the northwest state of Washington, voted 6-1 in favour of the ban, which applies to employment, housing, public transport and retail establishments.

Activists say caste-based discrimination has followed the South Asian diaspora to the United States.

"Caste discrimination doesn't only take place in other countries. It is faced by South Asian American and other immigrant working people in their workplaces, including in the tech sector, in Seattle and in cities around the country," said Sawant, when her office introduced the legislation in Jan. AFP

Indian American council member Kshama Sawant. AP

Context: The **Seattle City** Council added caste to the city's anti-discrimination laws, becoming the first U.S. city to specifically ban caste discrimination.

Caste discrimination in India

- **Prohibited**: Caste discrimination has been **prohibited in India since 1948**, a year after the nation's independence from British rule.
  - In 1948, **negative discrimination** on the basis of caste was banned by law and further enshrined in the Indian constitution in 1950.
- **Constitutional mechanism:**
  - **Article 17** abolishes Untouchability.
  - **Article 46** requires the State 'to promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and to protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.
  - **Article 335** provides that the claims of the members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes shall be taken into consideration, consistently with the maintenance of efficiency of administration, in the making of appointments to services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or of a State.
  - **Article 15(4)** refers to the special provisions for their advancement.
  - **Article 16(4A)** speaks of "reservation in matters of promotion to any class or classes of posts in the services under the State in favour of SCs/STs, which are not adequately represented in the services under the State'.
  - **Article 338** provides for a National Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes with duties to investigate and monitor all matters relating to safeguards provided for them, to inquire into specific complaints and to participate and advise on the planning process of their socio-economic development etc.
  - **Article 330 and Article 332** of the Constitution respectively provide for reservation of seats in favour of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the House of the People and in the legislative assemblies of the States.
  - Under **Part IX relating to the Panchayats and Part IXA of the Constitution relating to the Municipalities,** reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in local bodies has been envisaged and provided.

WMCC MEETING

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - International Relations)

India, China Hold 1st Physical Meet of WMCC Since Galwan

Both discuss proposals for disengagement in the remaining flashpoints near the Ladakh border

Our Political Bureau

New Delhi: India and China discussed proposals for disengagement in the remaining flashpoints near the Ladakh border, in the first ever physical meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination (WMCC) on India-China Border Affairs since the Galwan clash in 2020.

The meeting was held in Beijing and both sides have agreed to take forward the talks, with a meeting of senior military commanders to be held at an early date. A statement by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said that the talks were held in a constructive manner that can help create conditions for restoration of normalcy in bilateral relations.

"The two sides reviewed the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the western sector of India-China border areas and discussed proposals for disengagement in the remaining areas in an open and constructive manner, which would help in restoration of peace and tranquillity along the LAC in western sector and create conditions for restoration of normalcy in bilateral relations," the MEA said.

The 26th meeting of the WMCC is the first to be held in the physical format since July 2019. Following the meeting, tensions broke out on the Ladakh front from May 2020 and China also imposed strict Covid-19 protocols.

Joint secretary (East Asia) from the Ministry of External Affairs led the Indian delegation. The Chinese delegation was led by director general of the Boundary & Oceanic Affairs Department of the Chinese ministry of foreign affairs.

The statement added that the next (18th) round of senior commanders meeting will take place at an early date and the "two sides agreed to continue discussions through military and diplomatic channels".

For 'Peace and Tranquillity Along LAC'

"Two sides reviewed the situation along the Line of Actual Control in the western sector of India-China border areas and discussed proposals for disengagement in the remaining areas in an open and constructive manner, which would help in restoration of peace and tranquillity along the LAC in western sector and create conditions for restoration of normalcy in bilateral relations"

Ministry of External Affairs

Joint secretary (East Asia) from the Ministry of External Affairs led the Indian delegation

Chinese delegation was led by director general of the Boundary & Oceanic Affairs Department of the Chinese foreign ministry

IN A STATEMENT

'Two sides agreed to continue discussions through military and diplomatic channels'

Context: India and China discussed proposals for disengagement in the remaining flashpoints near the Ladakh border, in the first ever physical meeting of the **Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination (WMCC) on India-China Border Affairs** since the Galwan clash in 2020.

- The **26th meeting of the WMCC** is the first to be held in the physical format since July 2019.
- The meeting was **held in Beijing** and both sides have agreed to take forward the talks, with a meeting of senior military commanders to be held at an early date.

WMCC Meeting

- **About**: It was set up through an **India-China agreement in January 2012** for improved institutionalized information exchange on border related issues.
  - The mechanism was first suggested by **Wen Jiabao in 2010.**
- **Composition & Working Mechanism**: It is **headed by joint secretary-level officials** from both sides. They are entrusted to help the special representative for boundary talks, a position currently held by NSA Ajit Doval.
  - According to the agreement, the mechanism is led by a "Joint Secretary level official from the **Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and a Director General level official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China** and will be composed of diplomatic and military officials".
  - The working mechanism **will "not discuss resolution of the Boundary Question** or affect the Special Representatives Mechanism".

DTE FEB 23

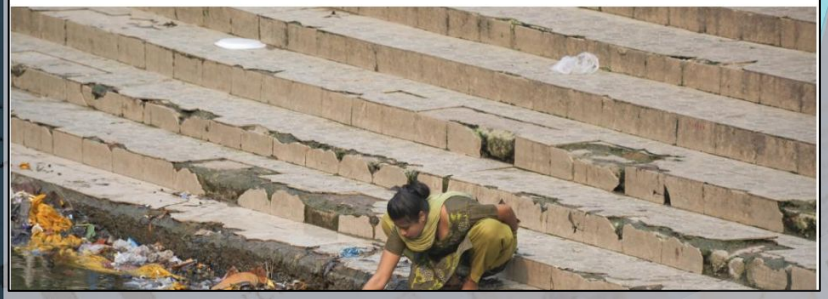
ADI GANGA

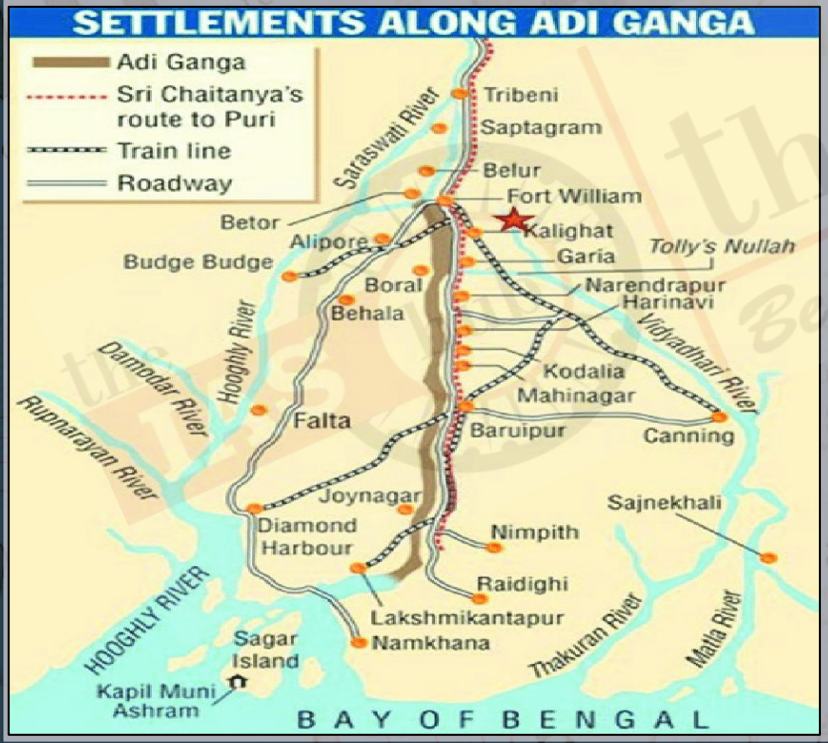
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

Reviving Adi Ganga: Central funds, international project give hope

Adi Ganga was chosen from India as a part of a project to address pollution in South Asian rivers

By Jayanta Basu
Published: Wednesday 22 February 2023





Context: Plans to revive the dying **Adi Ganga** - the original channel of River Ganga passing through the city of Kolkata - may finally see the light of the day.

Key Points

- The **National Mission for Clean Ganga** has allotted around Rs 650 crore to revive the ancient river and it has also been included in a multi-country river project on combating pollution.
- The developments come after the **National Green Tribunal** had directed the West Bengal government to complete its rejuvenation "positively by September 30, 2025".
- The panelists at an international water conference organised in Sylhet, Bangladesh by the non-profit Actionaid decided to explore the possibility of a pan-south Asian project to address the pollution of one key river each in **India, Bangladesh, Nepal, China and Malaysia. Adi Ganga was selected from India.**
- Apart from Adi Ganga, **Buriganga in Bangladesh, Puyang in China, Bagmati in Nepal and Klang in Malaysia** were also chosen for pollution study during the conference.

Adi Ganga

- **About: Adi Ganga (also known as the** Gobindapur Creek and Tolly's Canal), is a stream that was part of the Hooghly River in the Kolkata area of India.
  - It was the **main flow of the Hooghly River** between the 15th and 17th centuries, but it eventually dried up due to natural causes.
- **Reviving part of the old route**: Around 1750, a canal was dug to connect the main course of the river with the lower part of **River Saraswati** adjacent to Howrah.
  - The resultant Hooghly became the main river stretch and Adi Ganga turned into a secondary tributary.
  - Moreover, a few rectangular ponds named **Karer Ganga (Kar's Ganga), Ghosher Ganga (Ghosh's Ganga)** and the like were observed.
  - These were created when the erstwhile zamindars cut out parts of the river as their personal property, only to be used by their family members.
- **Issues and Concerns:** Apart from the obvious **environmental and ecological impact**, the choking of Adi Ganga severely impacted the natural drainage of the area.
  - The river is now **practically dead** and has turned into a sewer with a load of faecal bacteria crossing 17 million in 100 millilitres of river water.

DTE

FEB 23

ASIAN MALARIA VECTOR

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

Alarms ring as deadly Asian malaria vector detected in Kenya

Anopheles Stephensi expanding its geographic range over the last decade; may derail Kenya's progress against malaria control

NEXT NEWS >

By Tony Malesi

Published: Wednesday 22 February 2023

Context: A deadly **malaria vector from Asia** has been detected in Kenya, raising alarms.

- **Kenya is now the sixth and latest country in Africa** to report an invasion of the deadly malaria species.

Key points

- Transmitter **Anopheles Stephensi** was detected in the drylands of northern Kenya during routine mosquito surveillance.
  - **Anopheles stephensi is a primary mosquito vector of malaria** in urban India and is included in the same subgenus as Anopheles gambiae, the primary malaria vector in Africa.
- Anopheles Stephensi **originated in Southeast Asia**, West Asia and the Arabian Peninsula.
- The species has been **expanding its geographic range** over the last decade, with detections in Africa first reported in Djibouti (2012), Ethiopia and Sudan (2016), Somalia (2019), and Nigeria (2020), according to KEMRI.
- The species is r**eported to spread faster in different climatic conditions,** especially in countries experiencing rapid urban development through devolution, like Kenya, with spiralling population growth rates in towns and concentration of malaria control programmes in rural areas.
- It also poses a significant threat because, unlike other main malaria-causing mosquito vectors that primarily breed in rural areas, **Anopheles Stephensi is highly adaptive and can thrive in urban environments.**
- **Africa accounts for at least 95 per cent of all malaria cases** world over and 96 per cent of deaths, according to WHO.
- African children bear the brunt of the disease, with an estimated 80 per cent of all malaria deaths.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched **new initiatives** to stop the spread of invasive malaria vectors in Africa which aims to support a regional response to Anopheles stephensi on the African continent.
- **The WHO had also released** Global Vector Control Response 2017-2030.

India's Effort to Combat Malaria

- **Malaria Elimination Efforts**: It was initiated in 2015 and were later brought under the **National Framework for Malaria Elimination (NFME)** in 2016.
  - **Nodal Agency:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- **National Strategic Plan for Malaria Elimination for 2017-22**: It was launched in July 2017 which laid down strategies for the **control of the disease.**

INDIAN EXPRESS Page 12

PARROT LADY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Art & Culture)

'900-yr-old Parrot Lady' relives journey from Canada

Exhibition on repatriated artefacts showcases their cultural biographies, creates awareness about restitution laws

DIVYA A
KHAJURAHO, FEBRUARY 22

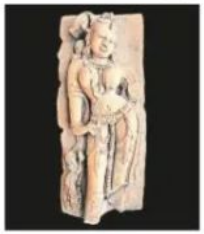
"I AM the Parrot Lady," announces a female voice, as the hologram of sandstone sculpture from Khajuraho comes alive in a dark room, on a silken screen. "I was in a faraway land for many years, missing my people, and so happy to be back," the voice announces, going on to narrate its journey of 900 years — from Khajuraho, where it was installed in one of the main temples, to being smuggled abroad, and its return to India in 2015.

With the Parrot Lady as the chief narrator, the five-minute immersive experience at Maharaja Chhatrasal Convention Centre has been organised on the sidelines of an exhibition titled 'Re(ad)dress: Return of Treasures', comprising 26 artefacts that have returned to the country after being stolen from India and smuggled abroad.

While all other artefacts have travelled from Delhi for the exhibition, the Parrot Lady has been housed at the Archaeological Survey of India's museum in Khajuraho, and gets a pride of place at the exhibition on her home turf.

The sculpture, which depicts a lady with a parrot near her right ear (symbolising love), was seized from a person in Canada a few years ago and handed over by former Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the latter's visit to Canada in April 2015.

According to the ASI, the sculpture must have been taken away from one of the unprotected monuments in the Khajuraho region, even as there is no official record of when exactly it went missing.



The 'Parrot Lady', a sandstone sculpture from Khajuraho, is among the 26 artefacts on display. *Express*

The Parrot Lady talks about her love for her homeland and her longing to be back, while also introducing her other friends who have had a similar fate — the 12th-century Dancing Ganesha, a stone sculpture from central India that went missing but was repatriated from the US in 2021; the 11th-century marble sculpture of Brahma and Brahmani from Gujarat, repatriated from the UK in 2017; and the Yaksha, Amin Pillar from 2nd century BC, which went missing from Haryana, but was later discovered in the UK and repatriated in 1979-80.

Through the exhibition, India will not only present the story of these 26 repatriated objects and their cultural biographies but also create awareness about restitution laws and conventions and highlight successful case studies, officials said. The exhibition is part of the first G20 Culture Working Group (CWG) meeting, which kicked off in Khajuraho on Wednesday. The meet, being attended by 50 delegates from more than 20 countries, is themed around the protection and restitution of cultural property.

The objective of the meet is to achieve a reduction in illicit trafficking of cultural property by 2030, strengthen regulation of online trading platforms, and raise awareness among the general public through educational and social media campaigns, officials said, adding that the delegates will also discuss the loss of cultural property due to armed conflicts, colonialism, looting and illicit trafficking.

The exhibition is conceptualised in six thematic sections: cultural heritage, repatriation of cultural property, historical precedents, conventions and guiding principles, global cooperation and glimpses of the return. These antiques, once victims of illicit trafficking, are now being displayed as cultural ambassadors and advocates of Repatriation of Cultural Heritage, officials said.

Context: While all other artefacts have travelled from Delhi for the exhibition, the **Parrot Lady** has been housed at the Archaeological Survey of India's museum in Khajuraho, and gets a pride of place at the exhibition on her home turf.

Key Points

- With the Parrot Lady as the chief narrator, the five-minute immersive experience at Maharaja Chhatrasal Convention Centre has been organised on the sidelines of an exhibition titled 'Re(ad)dress: **Return of Treasures'**, comprising 26 artefacts that have returned to the country after being stolen from India and smuggled abroad.
- The sculpture, which depicts a lady with a parrot near her right ear **(symbolising love),** was seized from a person in Canada a few years ago and handed over by former Canadian Prime Minister to Prime Minister during the latter's visit to Canada in April 2015.

Parrot Lady

- **About**: It is a life-sized, s**andstone sculpture** and is said to be around 900 year old.
  - The sculpture of a **Naayika or Heroine** has a parrot on her back.
  - It was carved for placement in one of the **Khajuraho temples** that form a UNESCO World Heritage Site in the Madhya Pradesh.
- **UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, Paris 1970**: The sculpture of Parrot Lady was found in Canada in 2011 when it was seized under the Cultural Property Export and Import law from a person who did not have proper documentation.
  - It was then turned over to the **department of Canadian Heritage in Edmonton.**

UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property

- **About**: It is an **international treaty** which was signed to combat the illegal trade in cultural items, was signed on 14 November 1970, and came into effect on 24 April 1972.
  - 142 states have ratified the treaty.
- **Key Features**: Under the Convention, **cultural property is under protection.**
  - Cultural property includes **anything of scientific, historical, artistic, and or religious significance**, as defined by Article I of the convention.
  - However, every state can define its own cultural property, as long as it is an item of importance and within the categories defined in Article I.
- **4 Pillars**: The Convention recommends the e**nforcement of the protection of cultural property** in "three main pillars", each being preventive measures, restitution provisions, and international cooperation.
- **Recovery and assistance:** Under the convention, any party may seek the recovery and assistance of another state for the recovery of stolen or illegally exported cultural property imported into another state party, **albeit only after the enforcement of the Convention in both states.**
  - However, **the import or export of any cultural property is not legitimized,** and can still fall under the terms of the convention

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MOHINIATTAM

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Art & Culture)

Mohiniyattam artiste Kanak Rele no more

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Classical dance legend Kanak Rele passed away on Wednesday in Mumbai. The Mohiniyattam exponent was awarded the first Guru Gopinath National Puraskaram of the Government of Kerala.

Born to Shivdas and Madhuri in 1937, Dr. Rele, 85, spent her childhood in West Bengal's Santiniketan.

At the age of seven, Dr. Rele was initiated into Kathakali by Guru Karunakara Panicker. The Gujarat-born crossed many obstacles as she was initiated into the male-dominated world of Kathakali. During her training, a nagging pain in her leg at the age of 10 was diagnosed as polio. But she overcame it with her dedicated dance practice.

Kanak Rele

In 1973, Dr. Rele established the Nalanda Nritya Kala Mahavidyalaya offering undergraduate, post-graduate and Ph.D. degrees affiliated to the Bombay University.

In 2022, Dr. Rele released the book, *Me and My Mohini Attam*, which gave a peek into her life with biographical narrations by her niece, Radha Khambati.

Dr. Rele created another record for herself by earning her Ph.D. in dance, the first in India, in 1977. Her doctoral thesis was titled, 'Mohini Attam: All Aspects and Spheres of Influence'.

In 2013, Dr. Rele was conferred the Padma Bhushan.

Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais in a condolence message said: "Padma Bhushan Dr. Kanak Rele dedicated her entire life to the cause of promotion, propagation and research of Indian classical dance forms. She was one of the finest exponents of Mohiniyattam and Kathakali. In her demise we have lost a great Nritya Tapaswini".

Context: Classical dance legend **Kanak Rele** passed away on February 22, 2023.

- The **Mohiniyattam exponent,** who was awarded the first Guru Gopinath National Puraskaram of the Government of Kerala, died at the age of 85 in Mumbai.

Kanak Rele

- **About**: Born to to parents Shivdas and Madhuri in 1937 Dr. Rele spent her childhood in **West Bengal Santiniketan.**
  - At the age of seven, Dr. Rele was initiated into **Kathakali** by Guru Karunakara Panicker.
  - The Gujarat-born Kanak crossed insurmountable obstacles as she was initiated into the **male-dominated world of Kathakali.**
  - During her training, a nagging pain in her leg at the age of ten was diagnosed as **polio**. But she overcame it with her dedicated dance practice.
- **Achievements & Contributions:** In 1973, Dr. Rele established the **Nalanda Nritya Kala Mahavidyalaya** offering undergraduate, post-graduate and Ph.D degrees affiliated to the Bombay University.
  - Dr. Rele created record for herself by earning her **Ph.D in dance, the first in India, in 1977.**
  - Her doctoral thesis was titled, **'Mohiniyattam: All aspects and Spheres of Influence'.**
  - Later in 2013, Dr. Rele was conferred the **Padma Bhushan.**
- **Book**: In 2022, Dr. Rele had released the book - **Me and My Mohiniyattam,** which gave a peek into her life with biographical narrations by her niece, Radha Khambati.

Mohiniattam

- **About**: It originated in the state of **Kerala**.
- **Exclusively danced by women**: The dance is **performed by women** in honor of the Hindu god Vishnu in his incarnation as the enchantress Mohini..
  - It is softer than the very vigorous **Kathakali**.
  - The dance projects the essence of **feminine grace.** It is also noted for the **Shringara (erotic) depictions** of divine love.
  - Traditionally, the dance was **performed solo**, but in the 21st century it may also be performed in groups.
- **Key Features**: Mohiniyattam is characterized by **graceful, swaying body movements with no abrupt jerks or sudden leaps**. It belongs to the **Lasya style** which is feminine, tender and graceful.
  - The most characteristic element of the "form" component of Mohiniattam is the circular or spiral movement of all the limbs of the body.
    - This gives it a swaying effect which resembles the movement of a pendulum and thus it is called **aandolika**.
  - The **hand gestures, 24 in number**, are mainly adopted from Hastalakshana Deepika, a text followed by Kathakali. Few are also borrowed from Natya Shastra, Abhinaya Darpana and Balarambharatam.
- **Imminent Personalities**: Imminent 20th-century exponents of Mohiniattam apart from Vallathol Narayana Menon were Kalamandalam Kalyanikutty Amma, Thankamony, Krishna Panicker and Mukundraja.
  - Present day exponents include **Sunanda Nair; Smitha Rajan, granddaughter of Kalyanikutty Amma; Radha Dutta; Vijayalakshmi; Gopika Varma and Jayaprabha Menon among others.**

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