



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 09-02-2024

GS-1

- 1. 390 year old lamp post in nalgonda**
- 2. Martand Sun Temple**

GS-2

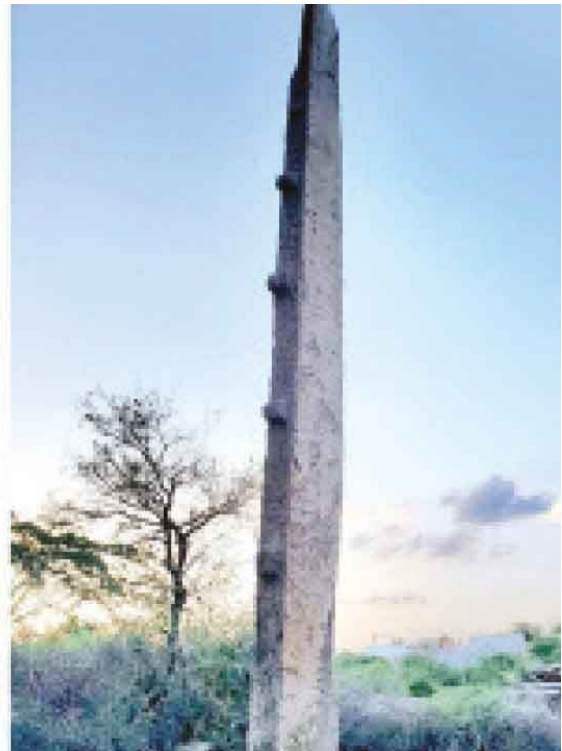
- 3. Motion of Thanks**
- 4. UCC**
- 5. Kaladan project**

390 year old lamp post in nalgonda

Syllabus: GS-1; Medieval History

Context

- Recently, archaeologists discovered a 390-year-old lamp post, known as a **Deepastambham**, on the banks of the River Krishna in Nalgonda, Telangana.



More to know

- The discovery highlights the region's historical significance as part of a riverine trade route during early medieval times. The 20-foot tall lamp post is dedicated to **Kasi Viswanatha**.
- The pillar has hollows for lamps and a **multi-lingual inscription**. The inscriptions suggest a connection between the local community and wider trade networks.

Significance

- The discovery sheds light on **trade ties in the region** during early medieval times. The inscriptions and detailed records of travelers from the time provide valuable insights into the land trade routes.

Martand Sun Temple

Syllabus: GS-1; Art and Culture, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)

Context

- *Members of a little-known Hindutva group forced their way into the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)-protected Martand sun temple in southern Kashmir's Anantnag to hold prayers, the same day as the consecration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.*



About

- *The Martand Sun Temple is a Hindu temple in the Kashmir Valley of Jammu and Kashmir, India. It's located in the village of Kehribal, 9 kilometers northeast of **Anantnag**.*
- *The temple was built between 725–756 AD by **Lalitaditya Muktapida**, the third ruler of the **Karakota Dynasty**.*
- *The foundation was laid down by **Ranaditya** in 370–500 AD. The temple is **dedicated to Surya**, the primary solar deity in Hinduism, who is also known as Martand in Sanskrit.*
- *The temple is also known as **Pandou Laidan**.*
- *The army of the **Shah Miri empire** demolished the temple in the 15th century at the command of the former Muslim emperor of Kashmir, **Sikandar Shah Miri**.*

Architecture

- *The Martand temple was built on top of a plateau from where one can view whole of the Kashmir Valley.*
- *From the ruins and related archaeological findings, it can be said it was an excellent specimen of Kashmiri architecture, which **had blended the Gandharan, Gupta and Chinese forms of architecture**.*

Conservation

- *The Archaeological Survey of India has declared the Martand Sun Temple as a site of national importance in Jammu and Kashmir.*
- *The temple appears in the list of centrally protected monuments as Kartanda (Sun Temple)*

Motion of Thanks

Syllabus: GS-2; Parliament

Context

- *Prime Minister Narendra Modi replied on the 'Motion of Thanks' on the President's address delivered on January 31 2024, the first day of the budget session in Parliament.*

About

- *A Motion of Thanks is a motion in the Indian Parliament that follows the **President of India's address to the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.***
- *The President's address outlines the government's policies, achievements, and plans.*
- *The Motion of Thanks is a speech by Members of Parliament in response to the President's Address.*
- *A member of the ruling party moves the Motion of Thanks in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. The motion is then debated in both Houses.*
- *The Motion of Thanks is adopted in the amended form if any amendments are put forward and accepted.*

What if a motion of thanks is not passed?

- *If the Motion of Thanks is not passed by the **Lok Sabha, the government's survival is called into question.***
- *If the motion is not passed by the **Rajya Sabha, it does not affect the government.***
- *The Motion of Thanks is one of the ways for the Lok Sabha to **express its displeasure** with the government. If the motion is adopted, it amounts to a no-confidence vote. If the government fails to get the numbers in the lower House, it is obliged to resign.*

What is the time limit for motion of thanks?

- *Generally, **three days** are allotted for the discussion on the Motion of Thanks.*

Is the motion of thanks deemed to be a no confidence motion?

- *The Motion of Thanks must be passed in the House. Otherwise, it amounts to the **defeat of the government.***
- *It is one of the ways through which the Lok Sabha can also express a lack of confidence in the government.*

UCC

Syllabus: GS-2; DPSP, Government policies and Interventions

Context

- *Uttarakhand assembly passes the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill.*

About

- *The Uniform Civil Code is a proposal in India to formulate and **implement personal laws of citizens** which apply on all citizens equally regardless of their religion, gender and sexual orientation. Currently, personal laws of various communities are governed by their religious scriptures.*
- **Personal laws are distinguished from public law and cover marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption and maintenance.**

Constitutional Provisions

- *While **Article 25-28** of the Indian Constitution guarantees religious freedom to Indian citizens and allows religious groups to maintain their own affairs, **article 44** of the constitution expects the Indian state to apply directive principles and common law for all Indian citizens while formulating national policies.*

Pros

- **Gender equality:** *The UCC can help address gender disparities and promote gender equality.*
- **National integration:** *The UCC ensures that all citizens are treated equally under the law, irrespective of their religious affiliations.*
- **Equal status to all citizens:** *The UCC can ensure that all sections of the population access the benefits of development and contribute for the well being of the country.*
- **Simplifies the legal framework:** *The UCC simplifies the legal framework by replacing diverse personal laws with a single set of rules applicable to all.*

- **Social reform:** *The UCC is considered crucial to achieving social reform, eliminating inequities, and upholding fundamental rights.*

Cons

- **Cultural and religious sensitivities:** *The UCC could potentially erode cultural and religious identities.*
- **Opposition from minority communities:** *Minority communities may see the UCC as a way for the majority community to impose its values on them.*
- **Group rights versus individual rights:** *The UCC is perceived as granting people the right to demand equitable treatment, but it is also perceived as an infringement on a group or community's ability to establish its own laws.*

Shah Bano Case

- *The Shah Bano case is a 1985 landmark case that led to the Supreme Court recommending a uniform civil code (UCC) for India.*
- *The case involved a Muslim woman who was abandoned by her husband after 43 years of marriage.*
- *The Supreme Court ruled in her favor, upholding her right to claim maintenance from her husband.*
- *The court also noted that a UCC would help remove contradictions based on ideologies.*
- *The case began when Shah Bano, who was married to advocate Mohd Ahmed Khan in 1932, was driven out of her home in 1975. She sought monthly alimony of Rs 179. The Supreme Court ruled in her favor under Section 125 of the All India Criminal Code, which applies to all citizens regardless of religion.*
- *The UCC draft includes recommendations for inheritance rights, mandatory marriage registration, and an increased marriageable age for girls.*

Know More

- **Goa is the only state in India with a uniform civil code (UCC).**

Syllabus: GS-2: International Relations.

Context:

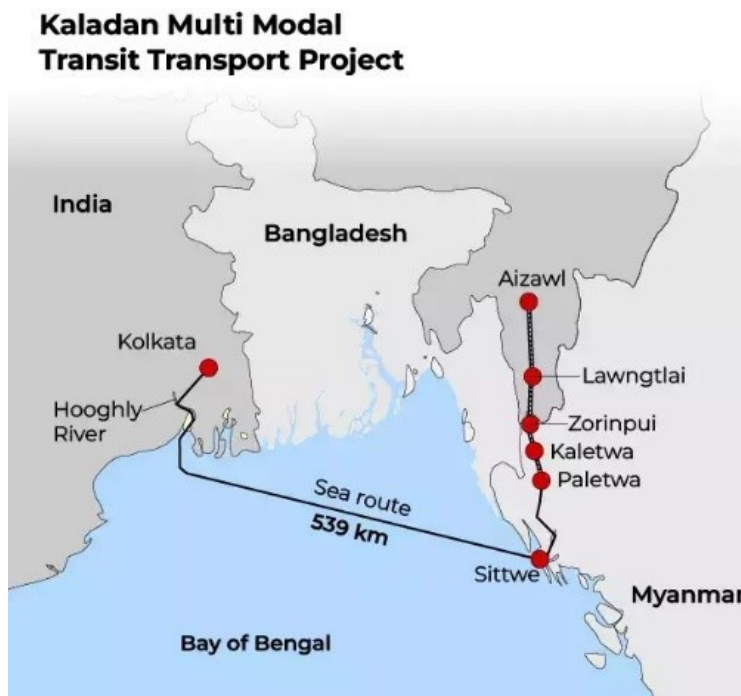
- *India's Kaladan project 'almost dead' after Paletwa fell to Arakan Army: senior Myanmar Opposition leader.*

What is the issue?

- **Rebel Arakan Army (AA)** captured Paletwa township in Myanmar, affecting the project.
- AA control over major towns and supply routes in Rakhine State hampers connectivity projects.
- Military junta no longer in control of Paletwa, **essential for the Kaladan project.**

About Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project

- *The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project facilitates connectivity between **India and Myanmar via the Bay of Bengal.***
- *A collaborative effort between India and Myanmar, the project aims to establish a **multi-modal transportation** system for cargo movement from eastern Indian ports to Myanmar and the **North-Eastern region of India** through Myanmar.*



- *Funded by **India under the Grant in Aid Scheme**, the project is currently under construction.*

- *Upon completion, it will establish a **connection between Kolkata and the Sittwe seaport in Rakhine state**, spanning a distance of over 500 km across the Bay of Bengal.*
- **The project comprises four crucial stages:**
 - *Development of the Kolkata to Sittwe waterway.*
 - *Establishment of the Sittwe to Paletwa inland waterway along the River Kaladan.*
 - *Extending the transportation route from Paletwa to the India-Myanmar border post.*
 - *The final phase involves linking the road to Lawngtlai in Mizoram, completing the project's last leg.*