



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 13-03-2024

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Nyepi day

Syllabus: GS-1; Art and Culture

Context

- *Nyepi Day marked in Bali, Indonesia*



About

- *Nyepi Day, or **Bali's Day of Silence**.*
- *According to the Balinese calendar, Nyepi Day is a holy day that ushers in the **Hindu New Year**. The locals in the Bali island are mostly Hindu.*
- *It is a day to cleanse the island of bad omens and misdoings from the previous year, and to establish a positive year ahead.*
- *Nyepi is a day of silence, fasting, and meditation.*
- *On Nyepi day, the island of Bali turns off all lights and sounds, stops all traffic, and deserts all worldly activities.*
- *The Balinese use this day for being in silence, meditation, self-reflection and fasting.*

Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)

Syllabus: GS-2: Indian Polity – Citizenship.

Context:

- *Notification of **Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)**, 2019, rules, delayed by over four years, enforces CAA in the entire country.*

More about news:

- *It is already in force in certain identified districts of nine states. The notification of rules will, in effect, fast-track citizenship to undocumented non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan for the rest of the country.*

Where CAA is already in force?

- *CAA has been enforced in 31 districts across nine states since 2022*
- *Indian citizenship granted to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan*
- **Nine states where CAA is in force:** *Gujarat, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, and Maharashtra*
- **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** *annual report for 2021-22 shows 1,414 foreigners from these non-Muslim minority communities granted Indian citizenship by registration or naturalization.*

Why CAA notification was delayed?

- **Delay in CAA notification** *due to mass protests across the country leading to clashes between protestors and authorities*
- **Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic** *that began in March 2020*
- **The Manual on Parliamentary Work** *suggests rules for legislation to be framed within six months of Presidential assent or seek an extension from Committees on Subordinate Legislation in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha*
- **Union Home Ministry** *has been seeking extensions at regular intervals since 2020.*

What happens next?

- **The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** *has prepared a portal for the convenience of applicants, and the entire process will be conducted online.*
- *Applicants will be required to declare the year they entered India without travel documents.*
- **No documents will be requested** *from the applicants, according to reports quoting officials.*
- *The law specifies that benefits under **the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)** will be granted to undocumented minorities from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan.*

Where CAA does not apply?

- *Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) does not apply to **areas covered by the Constitution's sixth schedule**, which includes autonomous tribal-dominated regions in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.*
- *Migrants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan, belonging to identified communities based on religion, cannot be granted Indian citizenship if they reside in these areas.*
- *CAA also does not apply to **states with an inner-line permit (ILP) regime**, primarily in North-East India.*
- ***ILP is a special permit** required for non-residents to enter and stay in these states for a limited period.*
- ***States with ILP systems include** Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur, Lakshadweep, and Himachal Pradesh.*

What changes with CAA?

- ***Citizenship Act of 1955** previously barred illegal migrants in India, defining them as foreigners who could be deported.*
- ***CAA (Citizenship Amendment Act)** was introduced to provide a pathway to Indian citizenship for specific religious minority groups (Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi, or Christian) from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, or Pakistan.*
- *These minorities must have **left their home countries due to religious persecution** and arrived in India before 2015.*
- ***CAA grants immunity** to these migrants from legal proceedings for illegally entering India or exceeding their stay.*
- *Under the previous law, migrants had to live in India for "not less than 11 years" to qualify for citizenship, but CAA reduces this requirement to "not less than five years" for eligible persecuted minorities.*

Why some opposed CAA?

- ***Opposition to CAA based on two main concerns:** discrimination against Muslims and potential impact on the National Population Register (NPR) and National Register of Citizens (NRC) processes.*
- ***Critics argue that CAA discriminates against Muslims**, accusing the government of promoting its Hindutva agenda.*
- *Concerns raised about the **potential spillover effects of CAA on the NPR and NRC**, which have been contentious issues.*
- ***The backdrop of the NRC exercise in Assam**, where around 20 lakh people were excluded from the draft list of citizens due to failure to provide proof of residency, contributed to the opposition to CAA.*
- ***Several Opposition party and left-ruled states**, including Punjab, West Bengal, Kerala, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh, passed resolutions against the implementation of CAA, urging the central government to revoke the amendments.*

Assam has different case:

- **Opposition to CAA in Assam** primarily revolves around concerns regarding its potential impact on the **Assam Accord of 1985** and the **NRC (National Register of Citizens) process**.
- **Assam Accord**, signed between the **Rajiv Gandhi** government and leaders of the **Assam Movement**, mandates the detection and deportation of individuals who entered Assam from Bangladesh after **March 24, 1971**, aiming to address illegal immigration concerns.
- Critics argue that providing a path to citizenship for certain migrants under CAA **contradicts the spirit of the Assam Accord**, which is a sensitive issue in the state.
- **The NRC process in Assam**, mandated by the Supreme Court, was completed in 2019 but has not been implemented yet. The issuance of rejection slips to those excluded from the final list has not been carried out.
- Resumption of anti-CAA protests in Assam in February adds to the complexities surrounding the CAA-NRC link in the state.

How government defended CAA?

- Government defends CAA by **highlighting the religious persecution** faced by Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan.
- CAA supporters argue that **India has a historical obligation and moral duty** to protect persecuted minorities from these countries.
- CAA is framed as a **humanitarian response to the plight of religious minorities** facing persecution in neighboring countries, deserving special consideration and assistance.
- The act **aims to provide a legal pathway to citizenship** for these minorities who may have entered India illegally or overstayed their visas due to fear of persecution in their home countries.
- Granting citizenship offers them **long-term security and protection** from persecution, aligning with the principles of religious freedom and human rights.

India was the top arms importer in 2019-2023

Syllabus: GS-2: International Relations – Defense relations.

Context:

- *India was the world's top arms importer from 2019 to 2023, with imports increasing by 4.7% compared to the previous period (2014-2018), according to SIPRI.*

Major findings of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI):

- *European countries saw a significant increase in arms imports by 94% between 2014–18 and 2019–23, possibly influenced by the war in Ukraine.*
- *Russia remained India's main arms supplier, but its share dropped below half for the first time since 1960–64.*
- *Nine out of the top 10 arms importers were in Asia, Oceania, or the Middle East.*
- *Ukraine became the fourth largest arms importer after receiving major arms transfers from over 30 states in 2022–23.*
- *In India's interim budget for FY 2024–25, the total allocation for the Defence Ministry was ₹6.2 lakh crore, with a capital allocation of ₹1.72 lakh crore for new procurements, marking a 5.78% increase from the previous year's budget estimates.*
- *Pakistan, the fifth largest arms importer, saw a 43% increase in imports, with China supplying 82% of its arms.*
- *U.S. arms exports grew by 17%, while Russian exports fell by more than half (-53%). France emerged as the world's second largest arms supplier with a 47% increase in exports.*
- *Among the top 10 arms exporters, China, Germany, U.K., Spain, and Israel saw decreases in exports between 2014–18 and 2019–23.*
- *Over half (55%) of arms imports by European countries from 2019–23 were from the U.S., a significant increase from 35% in 2014–18.*
- *Europe accounts for about a third of global arms exports, indicating its strong military-industrial capacity, according to SIPRI Director Dan Smith.*
- *France, now the second largest arms supplier, primarily exported arms to Asia, Oceania, and the Middle East. India was the largest recipient of French arms exports, comprising nearly 30%.*
- *The increase in French arms exports was mainly due to deliveries of combat aircraft to countries like India, Qatar, and Egypt.*

About SIPRI

- *SIPRI stands for Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.*
- *It is an independent international institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control, and disarmament.*
- *SIPRI was established in 1966 by the Swedish Parliament as a part of Sweden's commitment to disarmament and peace research.*
- *The institute provides data, analysis, and recommendations to policymakers, researchers, media, and the public on matters related to international security.*
- *SIPRI's research covers a wide range of topics including arms transfers, military expenditure, nuclear disarmament, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding.*

Local Currency Trade between India-Indonesia

Syllabus: GS-3: Indian Economy - External Sector

Context:

- *The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Bank Indonesia (BI) inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to lay down a framework for advancing the utilization of local currencies (the Indian Rupee (INR) and the Indonesian Rupiah (IDR)) for cross-border transactions.*

Key Highlights of the MoU between RBI and Bank Indonesia:

- **Primary Objective:** *Facilitate bilateral transactions in INR and IDR, encompassing all current account transactions, permissible capital account transactions, and other economic and financial transactions as mutually agreed upon by both nations.*
- **Framework Facilitation:** *Enables exporters and importers to invoice and pay in their respective domestic currencies, fostering the development of an INR-IDR foreign exchange market. This approach aims to optimize costs and settlement time for transactions.*
- **Trade Promotion:** *Expected to boost trade between India and Indonesia, deepen financial integration, and enhance historical, cultural, and economic relations between the two countries.*

What is Internationalisation of the rupee?

Definition: *Internationalisation of the rupee refers to increasing its use in cross-border transactions.*

Process:

- *Begins with promoting the rupee for import and export trade.*
- *Expands to other current account transactions between residents in India and non-residents.*
- *Eventually extends to its use in capital account transactions.*

Objective: *Linked to the nation's economic progress.*

Requirements:

- *Further opening up of currency settlement.*
- *Development of a robust swap and forex market.*
- *Full convertibility of the currency on the capital account.*
- *Cross-border transfer of funds without restrictions.*

Current Status: *Full convertibility only on the current account as of now.*

Comparison:

- Major reserve currencies in the world include the US dollar, Euro, Japanese yen, and pound sterling.
- China's efforts with the renminbi have had limited success so far.

AGNI 5 Missile**Syllabus: GS-3: Science and Technology – Defense tech.****Context:**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the scientists of the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** for successfully conducting the maiden flight test of the indigenously developed Agni-5 missile, dubbed **Mission Divyastra** with the **Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV)** technology.

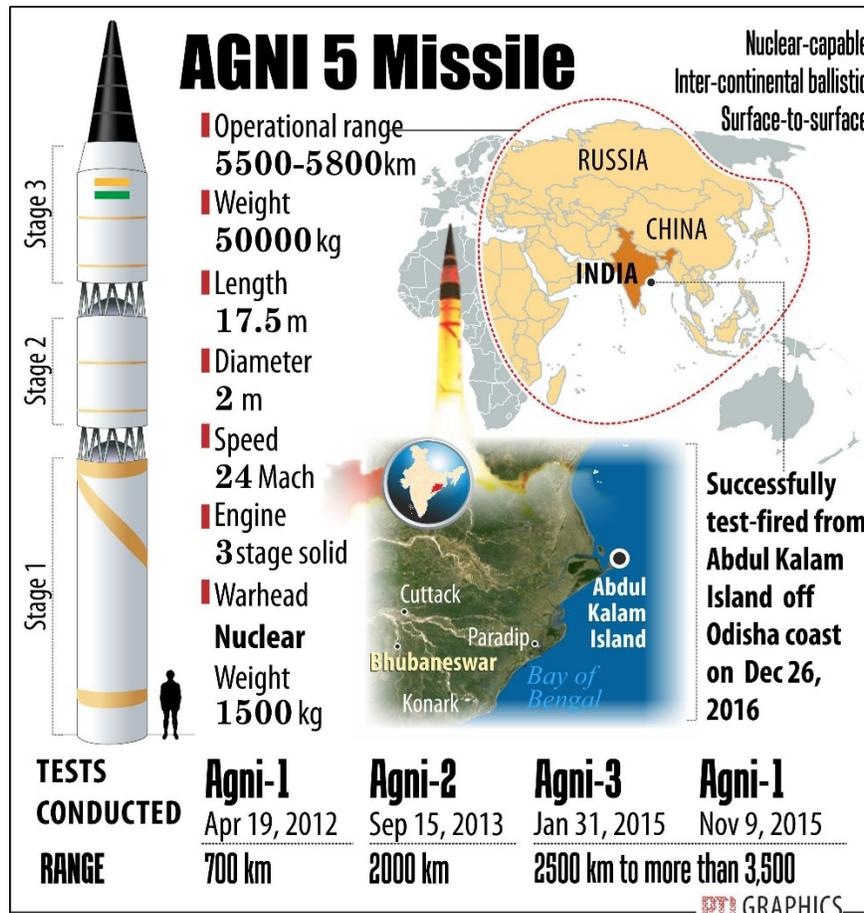
What is the news?

- India successfully tested a **new Agni-5 missile** on March 11.
- The missile is capable of carrying **multiple warheads** and **striking multiple targets**.
- It integrates with **MIRV (Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle)** technology.
- **MIRV technology** allows **multiple warheads on a single missile** to hit different targets.
- This enhances the missile's **destructive potential significantly**.
- India's development of **MIRV capability** upgrades its missile systems and expands its nuclear options.

About AGNI 5 Missile:

Feature	Description
<i>Development</i>	<i>Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) of India</i>
<i>Range</i>	<i>Reported range: >7,000 km</i>
	<i>Alleged range by Chinese researchers: 8,000 km</i>
<i>Design</i>	<i>- Type: Three-stage, road-mobile, canisterized</i>

Feature	Description
	- Propulsion: Solid-fueled ballistic missile
Capabilities	MIRV-capable: Can carry multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicles (MIRVs)



What is MIRV technology?

- MIRV stands for Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle.
- **Traditional missiles** carry a single warhead to hit a target, while MIRV-equipped missiles can carry multiple warheads.
- Each warhead can be **programmed to strike separate targets** or the same location sequentially, enhancing destructive potential.

- *MIRV technology was developed in the 1960s and first deployed in the 1970s by the United States and the Soviet Union.*
- *It requires **miniaturized warheads** with independent guidance and navigation controls.*
- *Besides the US and the Soviet Union, France, the United Kingdom, China, and Pakistan have developed MIRV technology.*
- *The number of warheads a missile can carry depends on its design, weight, size, and other parameters.*
- *The India-tested missile can **carry three to four warheads**, while some systems can carry as many as 15 warheads or more.*
- *MIRV-equipped missiles **have not been used in any conflict yet.***
- *Some argue that MIRV technology increases the risk of nuclear weapons use by incentivizing preemptive strikes.*

Advantages of MIRV technology

- **Multiple Damage Potential:** *MIRV technology allows for multiple warheads to be delivered with a single missile, increasing the potential for inflicting damage across multiple targets or locations.*
- **Penetration of Missile Defense Systems:** *MIRV-equipped missiles can complicate the task of tracking and intercepting incoming warheads for missile defense systems.*
- *Each warhead follows an independent trajectory, making interception more challenging.*
- *Decoy warheads can further confuse defense systems, increasing the likelihood of successful penetration.*
- **Enhanced Deterrence:** *For nations with a no-first-use policy for nuclear weapons, MIRV technology offers the capability to deliver a devastating response strike in the event of an enemy attack.*
- *This disproportionate retaliation potential serves as a deterrent against aggression.*

Agni Upgrade:

- **Upgrade for Agni Missiles:** *Integration of MIRV technology represents a significant upgrade for the Agni family of ballistic missiles developed by DRDO, which serve as India's main land-based nuclear delivery systems.*
- **Agni Missiles Overview:**
- *The Agni missile series, developed in the 1990s, includes short, medium, and intercontinental range missiles. Agni-1 to Agni-IV have ranges from 700 to 3,500 km and carry single payloads.*
- *Agni-5, equipped with MIRV technology, can travel over 5,000 km, potentially reaching intercontinental ranges.*
- **Testing History:** *Agni-5 has undergone multiple tests since 2012, with advancements in capabilities, including night-time testing in December 2022.*

- **Agni-P Development:** *DRDO has also been working on Agni-P missiles, modernized versions of Agni-1 and Agni-2 for short-range applications, with expectations of integrating MIRV technology.*
- **Strategic Imperatives:** *India's acquisition of MIRV technology was eagerly anticipated following China's development and Pakistan's claimed tests, making it essential to integrate into Agni missiles. The upcoming Agni-6 missile is also expected to feature MIRV capability.*
- **Prime Minister's Announcement:** *Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the significance of the MIRV integration, akin to his announcement of DRDO's successful anti-satellite test five years prior, showcasing India's technological prowess.*
- **Test Details:** *The recent test of Agni missiles with MIRV technology was conducted from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island, off the coast of Odisha, at India's integrated missile test range. DRDO confirmed the successful accomplishment of the mission's objectives.*