

1. Raja Ram Mohan Roy

Topic: Modern India/Important Personalities in News

In News: The Ministry of Culture held inaugural ceremony to commemorate the year long celebration of the 250th Birth Anniversary of Raja Ram Mohan Roy recently. It will continue till next year 22nd May.

More on the Topic:

- Raja Ram Mohan Roy was a great social reformer, a thinker, an educator, a journalist, and a visionary. 2022 marks his 250th birth anniversary.
- Rammohan Roy was born in **1772 in Radhanagar, a small village in Bengal.**
- As a young man he had studied Sanskrit literature and Hindu philosophy in Varanasi and Persian, Arabic and Koran in Patna.
- He was a great scholar Roy who mastered several languages including English, Latin, Greek and Hebrew.
- He is remembered as **the father of the modern Indian renaissance** as he was one of the first liberals in India.
- Ram Mohan Roy was **one of the first to try to estimate the economic drain of India** by the Britishers.
- He was given the title of Raja by Akbar II, the Mughal emperor.



Contribution towards Religious Reforms:

- Rammohan Roy struggled persistently against social evils. He argued that ancient Hindu texts the Vedas and the Upanishads upheld the doctrine of monotheism. To prove his point, he translated the Vedas and five Upanishads into Bengali.
- **In 1849 he wrote Gift to Monotheism in Persian.** Rammohan Roy was a staunch believer in the philosophy of Vedanta (Upanishads) and vigorously defended the Hindu religion and Hindu philosophy from the attack of the missionaries.
- He only wanted to mould Hinduism into a new cast to suit the requirements of the age.
- In 1829 Rammohan Roy founded a new religious society known as the **Atmiya Sabha which later on came to be known as the Brahma Samaj.**
- This religious society was based on the twin pillars of rationalism and the philosophy of the Vedas. **The Brahma Samaj emphasised human dignity, criticised idolatry and denounced social evils like sati.**
- He opposed the rigidity of the caste system because it destroyed the unity of the country.

Contributions Towards Social Reforms:

- As a social reformer, Rammohan Roy fought relentlessly against **social evils like sati, polygamy, child marriage, female infanticide and caste discrimination.**

- He organised a movement against the inhuman custom of sati and helped William Bentinck to pass a law banning the practice (1829). It was the first successful social movement against an age-old social evil.
- Rammohan Roy was one of the **earliest propagators of modern Western education**. He looked upon it as a major instrument for the spread of modern ideas in the country. He was associated with **the foundation the Hindu College in Calcutta** (which later came to be known as the Presidency College). He also maintained at his own cost an English school in Calcutta.
- In addition, he established a **Vedanta College where both Indian learning and Western social and physical science courses were offered**.
- He also recognised the **importance of vernaculars for spreading new ideas**. He compiled a Bengali grammar and developed an easy and modern style of Bengali prose.

Contributions Towards Journalism:

- He himself published journals in Bengali, Persian, Hindi and English to educate the public on various current issues.
- Ram Mohan found three journals- The Brahmanical Magazine (1821); The Bengali weekly, Samvad Kaumudi (1821); and the Persian weekly, Mirat-ul-Akbar.

Source: Indian Express

2. Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity

Topic: International Relations

In News: India has joined Indo-Pacific economic bloc “Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity” led by US.

More on the Topic:

- It has a dozen initial partners. These countries include **India, Australia, Japan, Brunei, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam**. Together, these countries represent 40% of world GDP.
- New bloc is perceived as **an economic alternative to China’s strategic footprint in the Indo-Pacific**.
- IPEF has identified four pillars as its objective.
- **Trade:** To build **high-standard, inclusive, free, and fair trade commitments** and develop new and creative approaches in trade and technology policy. Trade should promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth.



- **Supply Chains:** To improve transparency, diversity, security, and sustainability in our supply chains to make them more resilient and well-integrated.
- Readiness for and mitigate the effects of disruptions to supply chains to ensure business continuity; ensure access to key raw and processed materials, semiconductors, critical minerals, and clean energy technology.
- **Clean Energy, Decarbonization, and Infrastructure:** To accelerate the development and deployment of clean energy technologies to decarbonize our economies and build resilience to climate impacts. This involves deepening cooperation on technologies, on mobilizing finance, including concessional finance, and on seeking ways to improve competitiveness and enhance connectivity.
- **Tax and anti-corruption:** To enact and enforce “effective tax, anti-money laundering, anti-bribery schemes

Source: Indian Express

3. Inter-State Council

Topic: Polity and Governance

In News: The Centre has reconstituted the Inter-State Council, which works to promote cooperative federalism.

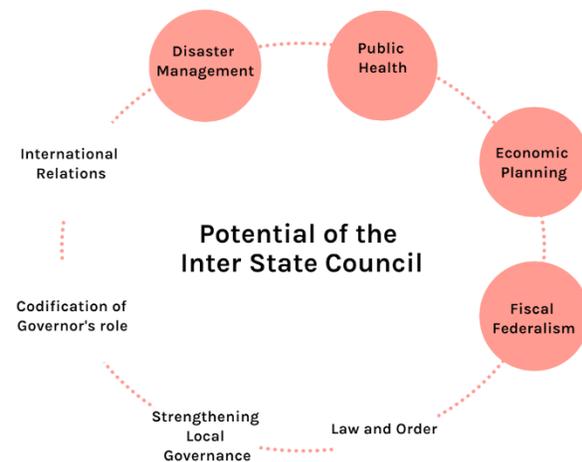
More on the Topic:

- **Art 263** contemplates the establishment of an inter-state council to effect coordination between the states and between centre and states.
- **The President can establish such a council at any time** it appears to him that public interest would be served by its establishment. He is also authorized to define the nature of duties to be performed by such a council and its organization and procedure

Composition of the Council:

- Headed by the PM, the Council will comprise six Union ministers, besides the Chief Ministers of the 28 states and UTs with a legislature, and administrators of UTs without a legislature.
- It will also have 10 Union ministers as permanent invitees. The government has also reconstituted the standing committee of the Council, with Home Minister Amit Shah its chairman.

Significance of the Council:



- Mandated with creating a strong institutional framework to promote and support cooperative federalism, the Council helps the Centre and states to find solutions to differences on policy and governance.

Source: Hindu

4. Indian Gas Exchange

Topic: Economy

In News: ONGC has become the first exploration and production (E&P) company in India to trade domestic gas on Indian Gas Exchange.

More on the Topic:

- India's first gas exchange - The Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) was launched in 2020. The exchange is expected to facilitate transparent price discovery in natural gas, and facilitate the growth of the share of natural gas in India's energy basket.
- The IGX is a digital trading platform that will allow buyers and sellers of natural gas to trade both in the spot market and in the forward market for imported natural gas across three hubs — Dahej and Hazira in Gujarat, and Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh.
- Imported Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) will be regassified and sold to buyers through the exchange, removing the requirement for buyers and sellers to find each other.
- Gas exchange price only applies to imported Natural gas. The price of domestically produced natural gas is decided by the government. It will not be sold on the gas exchange.



Source: Business Standard

5. Hyperloop Technology

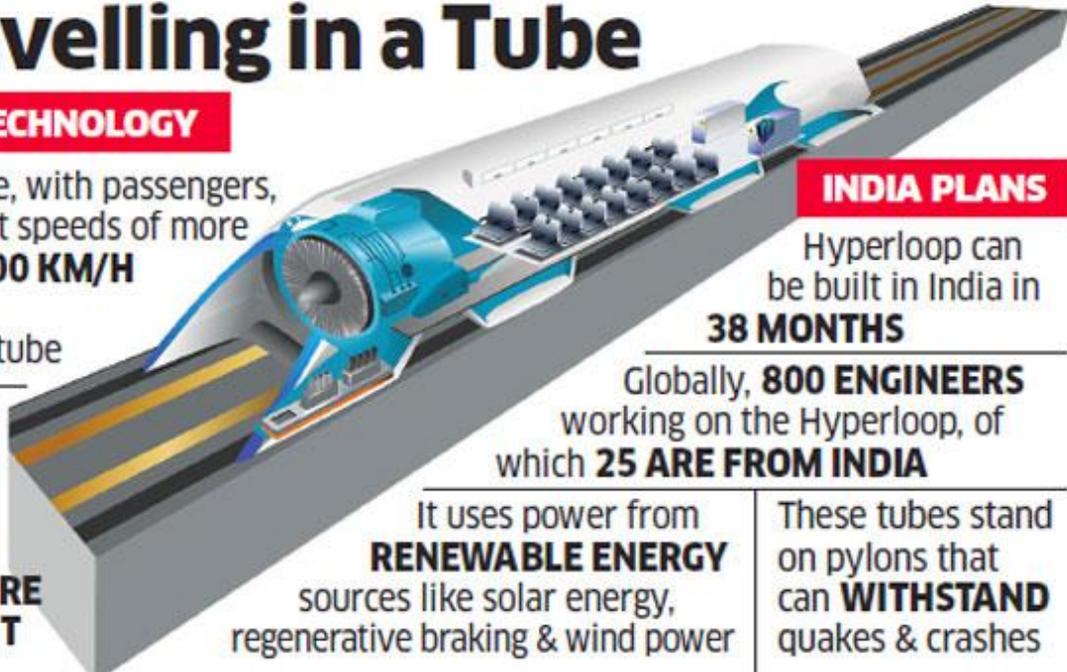
Topic: Science and Technology

Travelling in a Tube

THE TECHNOLOGY

A capsule, with passengers, travels at speeds of more than **1200 KM/H** inside a vacuum tube

Vacuum tube has an area of **LOW PRESSURE INSIDE IT**



INDIA PLANS

Hyperloop can be built in India in **38 MONTHS**

Globally, **800 ENGINEERS** working on the Hyperloop, of which **25 ARE FROM INDIA**

It uses power from **RENEWABLE ENERGY** sources like solar energy, regenerative braking & wind power

These tubes stand on pylons that can **WITHSTAND** quakes & crashes

In News: Indian Railways has approved funding for IIT Madras' Hyperloop technology.

More on the Topic:

- A hyperloop is a super speed ground-level transportation system in which people could travel in a hovering pod inside a vacuum tube at speeds as high as 760 mph (1220 km/h).
- The propulsion is done through magnetic levitation, with the air capsules or pods gliding or levitating over the tracks.
- A maglev train system uses two sets of magnets; one for attracting and moving the train forward along the track, and another for repelling and pushing the train off the track.

Advantages of Hyperloop:

- Hyperloop is fully autonomous and sealed, so no driver-related error is anticipated.
- It functions in a sealed environment with almost no air resistance, the pods are expected to reach very high speeds unmatched to existent transportation systems.
- Motion will not involve contact, so the vehicle will be virtually noiseless.
- The capital and operational costs of Hyperloop will be two-thirds that of high-speed rail.

Source: Business Standard

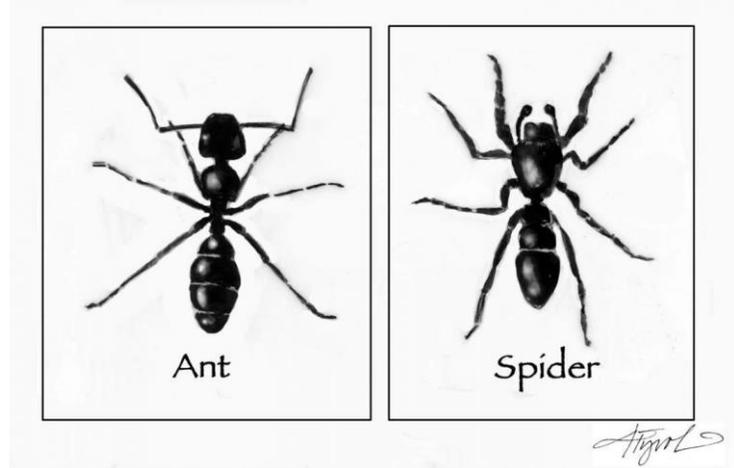
6. Money spider, ant-mimicking spider

Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: Money spiders, commonly found in European meadows, have been reported for the first time in the country from the Muthanga range of the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary.

More on the Topic:

- The male and the female money spiders are typically 3 mm and 4 mm long respectively. Both sexes are dark brown and have irregular silver patches and black spots on elliptical abdomen. There are numerous fine black spines on their olive green legs. Eight dark eyes are arranged in two rows.
- Females build triangular webs in between dry tree twigs and feed on small insects, while males prefer to hide beneath dry leaves. Two or more male spiders can be found in the web of a single female.
- They have also discovered ant-mimicking spiders, belonging to the group of jumping spiders, from the Mananthavady range.
- **The ant-mimicking spider has been named *Toxeus alboclavus*.**
- They perfectly mimic ants by lifting their front pair of legs while walking as a mechanism to escape from potential predators. Only three species of this genus have been reported from India, and this is the first species reported from the Western Ghats.



Source: Hindu