

THE HINDU 9TH FEB NOTES

SC to handle Ayodhya title dispute only as a 'land issue'

1. 70-year-old Ram janma bhoomi-Babri Masjid title dispute to treat it merely as a "land issue".
2. Hindu parties and sects involved in the dispute believe Lord Ram was born on this land.
3. Kar sevaks razed the 15th century Babri Masjid on December 6, 1992.
4. In September 2010 Allahabad HC directed a three-way partition
5. Led to appeals and cross-appeals filed by parties in SC

India rejects Maldives offer

1. Offer by Maldivian President Abdulla Yameen to send a special envoy to discuss the ongoing emergency
2. First address its concerns over the suspension of constitutional rights in the Maldives.
3. Yameen has sent special envoys to what he called "friendly countries" — China, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.
4. Delhi rejected offer because of protocol, scheduling, emergency and military crackdown
5. The arrests of the Chief Justice and another judge — part of the bench that ordered the release of nine Opposition leaders including former President Mohamed Nasheed
6. Yameen stands accused of multiple charges of corruption and human rights violations
7. China rejected UN intervention to resolve the crisis but offered to mediate
8. It should be properly resolved through dialogue and consultation by the relevant parties.
9. The international community should respect Maldives' sovereignty and territorial integrity

Galapagos struggles with growing tourism

1. Ecuador is in the odd position of having to turn away millions of would-be tourists each year.
2. Volcanic string of 19 large islands, dozens of islets and rocky outcroppings.
3. Environmental, social and biological features of this place forces us to set a limit
4. Illegal fishing, the effects of climate change and the arrival of intrusive species
5. Authorities have been limiting construction and promoting the use of renewable energy sources and electric cars.

'Auto policy will fix tax issues'

1. Centre is working on policy for automobile sector to address issues raised by the industry, particularly tax rates
2. Automakers had been given only 4 years to shift to BS-VI: premature introduction of the norms could add to costs.
3. Industry must be ready to accept the challenge of change and adopt new technologies.
4. Need to invest in technology, make products affordable for consumers.
5. West, east coasts may get auto clusters to boost the sector's growth and exports.

Taxmen send one lakh notices to cryptocurrency investors

1. \$3.5 billion worth of transactions on various cryptocurrency exchanges across India over a period of 17 months.
2. People who have made investments in cryptocurrency and have not declared income while filing taxes and have not paid tax on the profit earned by investing, we are sending them notices
3. Budget stressed that cryptocurrencies were not legal tender. This means that you cannot use it in place of the rupee. But he did not say anything about investing in it as an asset.
4. Industry players said the action taken still did not mean that holding cryptocurrencies was illegal.
5. This action by the tax department is only against those who made investments but did not declare it in their returns.
6. India accounted for 10% of the global trade in cryptocurrencies.

CCI slaps Rs. 136 cr. fine on Google

1. Unfair business practices in the Indian market for online search; for "infringing anti-trust conduct", abuse of dominant position in the market leading to search bias

'Russian military relations with Pakistan very minimal'

1. Priority for New Delhi and Moscow would be sealing several defence agreements
2. It is not that we are running apart from each other.
3. Is India-Russia military cooperation keeping pace, given India's move to diversify its hardware procurement? This is one of the pillars of our strategic cooperation
4. Anti-aircraft systems S-400, Ka-226T helicopters, and joint manufacture of frigates, Sukhoi/HAL FGFA, supply of Mi-17 helicopters and upgrade of Mig-29 fighters.
5. Russian side is a pioneer of 'Make in India.' Almost all new projects envisage a very high level of localisation.
6. Collaborations in the nuclear sector: Rosatom has been doing business in India for decades, producing energy
7. India and Russia need a peaceful and democratic Afghanistan free from terrorism, crime and drug trafficking. However, according to the U.S. policy, Russia stands as a threat for U.S. and its allies
8. Why has Russia shifted its stand on not dealing with Pakistan in the past? Our relations with Pakistan in the military sphere are strictly limited to anti-terrorism operations, and are not comparable to relations with India. Most importantly, our ties with Pakistan cannot be viewed as an attempt to change the regional strategic balance.
9. We have started tri-service drills. We have been cooperating for a long time on military infrastructure construction.

Army officer's father moves SC

1. Army officer Aditya Kumar, named as an accused in an FIR filed by JK police for opening fire at protestors in Shopian district and killing three of them, moved the Supreme Court seeking an order to quash the criminal proceedings.
2. He also demanded guidelines to protect the dignity of soldiers acting in the line of duty.
3. FIR against serving Army personnel had a "numbing effect" on the morale of soldiers
4. Mob had attacked an Army convoy. They threw stones at military vehicles and tried to lynch a Junior Commissioned Officer, after which warning shots were fired.
5. Fire was lawfully opened with the aim of dispersing the violent mob

Rafale deal: Jaitley counters opposition

1. Compromising national security by seeking to make public the details of the Inter-Governmental Agreement
2. If such specifics were revealed, enemies would get to know about the weapons systems and their capacity.

SC flags exclusions under Aadhaar

1. To ensure that ordinary people, especially pensioners and the marginalised, were able to access entitlements till an "adequate mechanism" for authentication of identity under the Aadhaar Act is put in place.
2. Possession of Aadhaar is enough to access entitlements if online authentication is not feasible.
3. Scanners were unable to read or scan their fingerprints or irises.
4. But many people are illiterate and may not know about these provisions.

Should States have their own flags?

1. Committee constituted in Karnataka to design a flag for the State has finalised a design.
2. Under the Constitution, a flag is not enumerated in the Seventh Schedule.
3. There is no other provision other than 51A; no prohibition under the Constitution to hoist any flag
4. Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950: prohibition is only against "use for any trade, business
5. Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971: there is no prohibition against any State hoisting its own flag. What is prohibited under this Act is insulting the national flag by burning it, mutilating it, defacing it, etc.
6. Even the Flag Code of India, 2002 does not impose prohibitions on a State flag.
7. Code expressly authorises the flying of other flags under the condition that they should not be hoisted from the same masthead as the national flag or placed higher than it.
8. State boundaries are demarcated on the basis of linguistic homogeneity. This has naturally generated aspirations in the States for promoting their own languages and cultures.
9. A flag serves this purpose better than any other symbol.
10. Having a separate flag is not going to strengthen the federal structure

A disquieting silence

1. 650,000 of the community fleeing to Bangladesh
2. India has sent basic aid including rice, pulses
3. Delhi intends to send the nearly 40,000 Rohingya in India back to Myanmar.
4. Rijiju: they are all illegal immigrants. They have no basis to live here.
5. India argues that it is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention (the concept of non-refoulement)
6. China taking a lead in bringing Myanmar and Bangladesh together in talks for return of the Rohingya.

A boost to rural entrepreneurship

1. The amendments to National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) Act, 1981 support the government's push to boost the rural and agricultural sector.
2. Amendments recognise the vital role of MSMEs in rural entrepreneurship; to make financing easier for them.
3. 1981 Act was enacted to establish a development bank to provide and regulate credit and other facilities
4. With its expanding activities, NABARD needed additional equity from time to time
5. The government said its focus was on the employment potential in rural areas, medium enterprises, and handlooms. It proposed to include these enterprises in the ambit of refinance activities of NABARD.

Big discoveries have small origins

1. Economic Survey calls for doubling R&D expenditure from its current 1LC, amounting to 0.8% of GDP.
2. Would still lag behind China, Israel, Japan and the U.S., each spending more than 2% of their GDP on research.
3. Diminishing funds for exploratory small-scale science research escapes attention
4. 3.22% is earmarked for basic science projects
5. A significant fraction of science budget goes to mission-oriented projects in defence, space, nuclear and environment
6. Enhanced competitive research grants for universities will help address the needs of a larger pool of scientific talent outside national labs and bring in returns by way of publications, patents and innovations
7. Economic Survey recommends that India "gradually move to have a greater share of an investigator-driven model for funding science research".

The Zuma hurdle

1. Jacob Zuma appearing to be finally willing to resign as President of South Africa
2. Litigation in countless cases, arms deal, questionable access the Guptas gained with ANC

Cease fire

1. 2003 ceasefire agreement is alive only in the breach
2. 2017 has turned out to be the worst year since the agreement brought calm to the border 15 years ago.
3. It was the high point of Atal Bihari Vajpayee's premiership, and his successor, Manmohan Singh, heeded the legacy.
4. 860 incidents of ceasefire violations recorded on the LoC alone. In 2015 there had been 152 incidents, and 228 in 2016

Protect investors from unfair trading, says SC

1. SC asked the Centre to frame a more comprehensive legal framework to govern the securities market
2. Fairness, integrity and transparency are the hallmarks of the stock market in India.
3. It is essential that SEBI keeps up with changing times and develops principles for good governance in the stock market which ensure free and fair trading