The Hindu News Analysis – 10th July 2019 – Shankar IAS Academy

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*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; T – Thiruvananthapuram
DRDO gets clearance for missile test facility in A.P.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has granted environment and Coastal Regulatory Zone clearances for setting up Missile Testing Launch Facility on the Bay of Bengal coast and Technical Facility at Guillemotada village in Krishna district. With this, all necessary clearances to begin the construction work have been obtained by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Strategic requirement
The Hindu has access to a copy of the EC and CRZ clearance that was communicated by MoEFCC to K. Radhakrishna, Chief Construction Engineer, Defence Research and Development Organisation, Secunderabad, on July 3. The EC and CRZ clearance document say: “There is confirmation from Secretary, Ministry of Defence, that this project is a strategic requirement and of national importance and cannot be located anywhere else. It is thus exempted from the public hearing as per EIA notification 2006.”

News:
- DRDO got environmental clearance and Coastal Regulatory Zone clearance
  - For Missile Testing Launch Facility and Technical Facility
    - Launch Facility - Coast of Bay of Bengal
    - Technical Facility - Guillemotada Village, A.P
  - Clearance granted by MoEF & CC
  - Project exempted from Public hearing of Environmental Impact Assessment
  - Under EIA notification 2006

Environmental Impact Assessment:
- To harmonize developmental activities with the environmental concerns
- A planning tool - Integral component of sound decision making

* Objective
  - to foresee the potential environmental problems or concerns at early stages of project planning and design
  - to address aforesaid problems or concerns
* Identifying key impact issues and formulating mitigation measures
  - ‘Identifying environmental impacts of a project prior to its approval’
* Benefits
  - Protection of Environment
  - Optimum utilisation of resources
  - Saving time & cost
* EIA in India → 1976 - 77
  - Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986
* EIA as statutory → 30 activities
Q. Consider the following statements.

1. National Green Tribunal is the nodal agency for making rules or regulations pertaining to environmental clearance.
2. The public hearing under the Environmental Impact Assessment is conducted by the State Pollution Control Board.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2
Full rehearsal for Chandrayaan-2 held

It is scheduled for launch next week.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said it conducted a dry run till late on Sunday of all operations related to the Chandrayaan-2 lunar mission, scheduled for launch next week.

The full-dress rehearsal was conducted at ISRO’s launch centre at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh, a week before the launch of India's second lunar mission in 11 years.

Site not explored:
Chandrayaan-2 is designed to place a lander and a roving rover near the lunar south pole, a site that has not been explored by any country yet. Only Russia, the U.S. and China have soft-landed on the moon so far.

Chandrayaan-2 will take off at 2.31 a.m. on July 15. The spacecraft is due to land on the moon on September 6. Soon after the launch, the spacecraft – the orbiter carrying the lander rover combo – will complete five orbit-raising manoeuvres around the earth.

Five-day journey:
The journey to the moon, some 3.84 lakh kilometres away from the earth, will take five days.

However, once it goes near the moon, the spacecraft will do another round of manoeuvres and orbit the moon for 27 days before the lander separates to touch down on the lunar surface.

ISRO is using its heavy lift launch vehicle, the GSLV Mk-III, to launch the 8.19-tonne Chandrayaan-2. The spacecraft weighs 3,840 kg.

The previous orbiter-only mission was launched on the GSLV in October 2008.

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1. Lunar Mission - a mission to moon
   - Luna means 'Moon' in Latin

2. Chandrayaan II Launch
   - On July 15 at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh

3. Chandrayaan II
   - Robotic Rover inside the Lander, Orbiter
   - Soft land 'Vikram' near lunar South pole
   - India's 1st mission to conduct Soft landing on moon - with indigenous technology
   - ISRO’s 1st mission to land on any celestial body

4. Soft land closer to lunar South pole
   - Completely unexplored section
   - Possibility of discovering something new
   - Possibility of presence of water
   - Supposed to have ancient rocks and craters

5. Mission will conduct
   - Topographical studies
   - Mineralogical studies

6. Overall,
   - 13 Indian payloads
   - 1 payload of NASA
   - Rover: 3 payloads - analyse the content on moon’s surface

7. Launch Vehicle: GSLV Mark III
Practice Question – Prelims
Q. Consider the following statements.

1. The second lunar mission of India aims to orbit the moon and also to soft land on moon’s surface on any one of the poles.
2. It aims to soft land the lander at a location so far been unexplored by any other country in the world.
3. It is ISRO’s first mission to land on any celestial body.

Which of the above statements are correct?

a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3
Recent initiatives announced in Budget 2019:

- Phase II FAME India Scheme
  - Commenced from 1st April 2019
  - By offering ‘upfront incentive’ on purchase of electric vehicles
- Under ‘Mega Investment in Sunrise and Advanced Technology Areas’
  - A scheme to invite Global companies to setup mega-manufacturing plants
  - Lithium Storage batteries
  - Solar Electric Charging Infrastructure
- Exemption of Customs duty on certain parts of electric vehicle
- GST for Electric Vehicles: 12.7% – 5%
- Income tax deduction of 1.5 lakh on interest paid on loans to purchase electric vehicles

The announced measures

- ‘bold move’ to make a transition
- ‘forward looking’
- Led by public transport and commercial vehicles
  - Phase II FAME India - top allocation of Demand incentives is for Electric buses
  - Will have immediate impact on pricing

Popularising Electric Vehicles

- Government to undertake suitable IEC Programme to create awareness

To achieve the goals

- Deadlines, market driven approach - necessary
- Providing non-fiscal incentives to vehicle manufacturers
  - Approach to make EVs with low emissions cheaper and EVs with high emissions costlier

Target: To achieve 30% of EVs by 2030 in the overall composition of Vehicles

- Enabling a fast rollout of charging infrastructure
  - ‘Affordable’ Charging
  - Normal and fast charging
    - at parking lots, retrofitted fuel outlets, charging stations, charging facilities in hotels, offices, homes, etc.
    - Swapping of drained battery with pre-charged battery
  - A longer-term policy priority - to setup lithium battery production and solar charging infrastructure

With price competition - Speedy spread of Electric Two wheelers - possible

- 79% of conventional vehicles sold in India are Two wheelers
- 4% → Three Wheelers
- 12% → Economic 4-wheelers
- 2% → Premium 4-wheelers
- 3% → Buses and large goods vehicles
Practice Question – Mains
GS-III

Q. “India has set ambitious target of achieving 30% of total vehicles to be Electric Vehicles”. In the light of the above statement, discuss the measures taken and challenges of realizing the target.
**Practice Question – Prelims**

**Q.** Which among the following best describes the objective of “Plan Bee”?  

a) It aims to conserve the Bumble Bees, which are important pollinators.  
b) It aims to set up a Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) to reduce the energy intensity of the Indian economy.  
c) It aims to install devices that play or imitate the sound of swarm of buzzing honey bees to drive away the pachyderms from the rail tracks.  
d) It is an Indian version of World Bee Project to increase food security and livelihoods by combining Artificial Intelligence and sensor systems.
Kartarpur corridor to be fast-tracked

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

India on Tuesday asserted that the construction work on the Kartarpur corridor, which will allow its pilgrims to access the famed Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan, will be completed expeditiously.

Giving a detailed description of the work under way, sources said a passenger terminal building, a four-lane highway and other amenities were being built at a fast pace. The response came after The Tribune newspaper carried a report suggesting that India was lagging behind, when Pakistan had completed 70% of the work.

"A four-lane highway connecting zero point of the Kartarpur corridor up to National Highway 354 is being constructed by the National Highways Authority of India. Nearly 45% of the work has been completed. The road is scheduled to be completed by September 2019, 30" said a source.

The facilities on both sides of the international border could be ready by the time celebrations begin in November in Kartarpur on the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.

News:

- Construction work in Kartarpur corridor will be completed expeditiously
  - Passenger terminal building, 4 lane highway and other amenities
  - Response to report - India lagging behind Pakistan in construction work

- 4 lane highway connecting zero point of kartarpur corridor to NH 354
  - Constructed by National Highways Authority of India

Kartarpur Corridor:

- Sikh pilgrims to visit Gurdwara Darbar Sahib
  - Situated at Kartarpur, Pakistan
  - Guru Nanak Dev Ji assembled Sikh community at Kartarpur and lived for 18 years
  - It is built where the Guru Nanak Dev took last breath

- 2019 → 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji
  - GoI decided to build Kartarpur corridor
  - Upto international border between India and Pakistan
  - Integrated development project
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statement with reference to the “Kartarpur Corridor”.

1. It will facilitate the Sikh pilgrims to visit the Gurudwara Darbar Sahib without visa.
2. It is constructed by the Government of India to mark the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. Consider the following statements.

1. National Green Tribunal is the nodal agency for making rules or regulations pertaining to environmental clearance.
2. The public hearing under the Environmental Impact Assessment is conducted by the State Pollution Control Board.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only 

b) 2 only 

c) Both 1 and 2 

d) Neither 1 nor 2
Practice Question – Prelims

Q2. Consider the following statements.

1. The second lunar mission of India aims to orbit the moon and also to soft land on moon’s surface on any one of the poles.
2. It aims to soft land the lander at a location so far been unexplored by any other country in the world.
3. It is ISRO’s first mission to land on any celestial body.

Which of the above statements are correct?

a) 1 and 2 only  
b) 2 and 3 only  
c) 3 only  
d) 1, 2 and 3

Practice Question – Prelims

Q3. Which among the following best describes the objective of “Plan Bee”?

a) It aims to conserve the Bumble Bees, which are important pollinators.  
b) It aims to set up a Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) to reduce the energy intensity of the Indian economy.  
c) It aims to install devices that play or imitate the sound of swarm of buzzing honey bees to drive away the pachyderms from the rail tracks.  
d) It is an Indian version of World Bee Project to increase food security and livelihoods by combining Artificial Intelligence and sensor systems.
Practice Question – Prelims

Q4. Consider the following statement with reference to the “Kartarpur Corridor”.

1. It will facilitate the Sikh pilgrims to visit the Gurudwara Darbar Sahib without visa.
2. It is constructed by the Government of India to mark the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Practice Question – Mains

GS-III

Q. “India has set ambitious target of achieving 30% of total vehicles to be Electric Vehicles”. In the light of the above statement, discuss the measures taken and challenges of realizing the target.
Practice Question – Prelims Answers
10-07-2019

1. Option - b
2. Option - b
3. Option - c
4. Option - a