

Alluri Sitharama Raju and Komaram Bheem

❖ Context

- With a win for Best Original Song for 'Naatu Naatu' at the 2023 Oscars, the Telugu movie 'RRR' is garnering attention on the global stage.
- Its story and characters have roots in real **historical figures**, inspired by the lives of Indian freedom fighters **Alluri Sitharama Raju and Komaram Bheem**.



❖ Alluri Sitharama Raju:

• About :

- Raju is believed to have been **born in present-day Andhra Pradesh in 1897 or 1898**.
- He is said to have become a **sanyasi at the age of 18**.
- He **gained a mystical aura** among the hill and tribal peoples with his austerity, knowledge of astrology and medicine, and his ability to tame wild animals.
- He was **inspired by the Non-Cooperation Movement**, & persuaded people to wear khadi and give up drinking.

• Rampa Rebellion :

- Colonial rule **threatened the tribals' traditional podu (shifting) cultivation**, as the government sought to secure forest lands.
- The **Forest Act of 1882** banned the collection of minor forest produce such as roots and leaves, and tribal people were forced into labor for the colonial government.
- **Strong anti-government sentiment**, shared by the muttadars who were aggrieved by the curtailment of their powers by the British, exploded into **armed resistance in August 1922**.
- **Several hundred tribals led by Raju** attacked the Chintapalle, Krishnadevipeta and Rajavommangi police stations in the Godavari agency.
- The Rampa or Manyam Rebellion continued in the form of a **guerrilla war until May 1924**, when Raju, the charismatic 'Manyam Veerudu' or Hero of Jungle, was finally captured and executed.

Komaram Bheem:

- Komram Bheem was **born in the Gond tribal community** at Sankepally village in Komarambheem District, renamed after him in 2016.
- It is said a jagirdar, who was an **informer of the Nizam**, occupied his family's land and Bheem killed him in a fit of rage.
- To escape authorities, he **went to Assam and worked as a labourer in coffee and tea plantations** for five years.
- Though he was illiterate, he learned to read and write and later **became aware of movements by the likes of Birsa Munda**.
- Around that time, the Nizam government used to collect tax in the name of '**Bambram**' and '**Dupapetti**' from **people grazing cattle and collecting firewood for cooking**.
- In opposition, Bheem spread the message of "**Jal, Jangal, Zameen**" (**water, forest, land**) among tribal people.
- This has become a clarion call for indigenous people's rights to natural resources, used in many parts of India to date.
- Villages in Adilabad were ready with the help of a **guerrilla army composed of Gond and Koya communities' men**.
- Bheem trained tribal people to fight with weapons.
- However, the Nizam's army overwhelmed them and Bheem died at their hands in the Jodeghat forest.

New Security Testing For Smartphones

❖ Context

- India plans to introduce new security rules that will mandate the screening of **major operating system updates** and the removal of pre-installed apps from smartphones.



❖ Key Highlights:

- Currently, most smartphones come with pre-installed apps that cannot be deleted, such as **Xiaomi's app store GetApps, Samsung's payment app Samsung Pay mini**, and Apple's browser Safari.
- Under the new rules, smartphone makers will have to provide an **uninstall option, and new models** will be checked for compliance by a lab authorized by the Bureau of Indian Standards agency.
- The government is also considering mandating the screening of every major operating system update before it is **rolled out to consumers**.
- India's fast-growing smartphone market is dominated by Chinese players, with Xiaomi and BBK Electronics' Vivo and Oppo accounting for **almost half of all sales**.

- South Korea's Samsung has a **20% share**, and Apple has **3%**.
- While European Union regulations require allowing the removal of pre-installed apps, it does not have a screening mechanism to check for compliance like India is considering.
- **Implications:** These new rules could have implications for smartphone makers such as Samsung, Vivo, Apple, leading to **losses in business** from pre-installed apps.
- ❖ Key Concerns:
- India's IT ministry is considering these new rules amid concerns about **spying and abuse of user data**.
- The ministry is worried that pre-installed apps can be a **weak security point**, and it wants to ensure that no foreign nations, including China, are exploiting it.

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- Many countries have imposed restrictions on the use of technology from Chinese firms, such as Huawei & Hikvision due to fears that Beijing could use them to **spy on foreign citizens**.
- Smartphone players often sell their devices with proprietary apps but also sometimes pre-install others with which they have **monetization agreements**.

- Some pre-installed apps, such as the camera, **are critical to user experience**, and the government must make a distinction between these and non-essential ones when imposing screening rules.
- Another worry is that more testing could prolong **approval** timelines for smartphones, hindering a company's go-to-market strategy.

News in Between the Lines

Power Take off Shaft



❖ Context

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted a maiden flight-test of the **Power Take off (PTO) Shaft** on Light Combat Aircraft (LCA Tejas) Limited Series Production (LSP) -3 aircraft in Bengaluru recently.

❖ Key Highlights:

- The PTO shaft is indigenously designed and developed by the **Combat Vehicles Research & Development Establishment (CVRDE), Chennai of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- The successful realisation of the PTO shaft is another major milestone towards **'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'**.

❖ About PTO Shaft

- The PTO shaft, is a critical component in the aircraft, will support the requirements of future fighter aircraft and their variants and **offers competitive cost** and reduced time of availability.
- The PTO shaft was designed with a unique innovative patented **'Frequency Spanning Technique'** which enables it to negotiate different operating engine speeds.
- The lightweight high speed, lubrication free PTO shaft transmits higher power between the aircraft engine gear box and Aircraft Mounted Accessory Gear Box while accommodating **misalignments that arise in the drive line**.

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)



❖ Context

- **India remained the world's largest arms importer** for the five-year period between 2018-22 even though its arms imports dropped by 11% between 2013-17 and 2018-22, according to the **Swedish Think Tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**.

❖ Key Highlights:

- **Russia was the largest supplier of arms to India** in both 2013-17 and 2018-22, but its share of total Indian arms imports fell from 64% to 45%.
- **France emerged as the second largest supplier** between 2018-22.
- Among the top 10 arms exporters for the period 2018-22, **India was the biggest arms export market to three countries — Russia, France and Israel** and the second largest export market to South Korea.
- India was also the **third largest market for South Africa** which was ranked 21 in the list of arms exporters.
- For the same period, India remained the largest arms importer followed by Saudi Arabia.
- Russia accounted for 45% is India's imports followed by France (29%) and the US (11%).
- The **US was the world's topmost military exporter** in the past five years, accounting for 40% of global exports, followed by **Russia (16%)**, France (11%), China (5.2%), and Germany (4.2%).
- Overall, the U.S. share of global arms exports increased from 33% to 40% while Russia's fell from 22% to 16%.



About SIPRI

- ✓ The **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)** is an independent international institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament.
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Possessing Firearms Under the Indian Arms Act



❖ Context

- Recently, **Punjab government cancelled the 813 gun licenses** across the state in a bid to clamp down on the “gun culture” in the state.
- Now there is a ban on carrying and displaying weapons in public functions, religious places, marriage ceremonies, or any other events in Punjab.

❖ Possessing Firearms Under the Indian Arms Act:

- **The Indian Arms Act of 1959** was passed after India attained independence.
- According to the 1959 Act, no one can acquire, possess or carry any firearms in India without a license.
- The Act bars one person from carrying more than three firearms after its amendment in 1983, except if :
 - The person is a licensed dealer.
 - Belongs to the armed forces of the Union, or
 - Is a member of a rifle club or association licensed or recognised by the Centre.
- The Arms Act **allows Indian citizens aged 21 years** and above to get **Non-Prohibited Bore (NPB) guns**.
 - Bore refers to the diameter of a gun’s bullets.
- A license can only be granted for purposes of **self-defence, crop protection, or sports**.
- An **amendment to the Act in December 2019** reduced the number of permitted firearms from three to one.
- Applications for the grant of arms license for NPB weapons are dealt with by the **State Government/DM concerned**, based on the report of the police authorities, prepared after a thorough background check.

Very Short Range Air Defence System Missile



❖ Context

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) recently conducted two consecutive successful flight tests of **Very Short Range Air Defence System missile**.

❖ Key Highlights:

- The test flight was conducted at the Integrated Test Range in **Chandipur, Odisha**.
- The flight tests were carried out from a **ground-based man portable** launcher against high-speed unmanned aerial targets, mimicking approaching and receding aircraft.
- The targets were successfully intercepted, meeting all mission objectives.
- The missile is a Man Portable Air Defence System meant for neutralising low altitude aerial threats at short ranges.
- It has been designed and developed indigenously by Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories and Indian Industry Partners.
- The missile equipped with **novel technologies** will give further technological boost to the Armed Forces.

❖ About VSHORAD:

- Very Short Range Air Defense (VSHORAD) systems are designed to engage and destroy hostile aircraft, drones, & incoming missiles at ranges typically between **0.5 km & 5 km**.
- These systems typically include a combination of **radar, electro-optical sensors, and missiles**.
- Examples of **VSHORAD missiles include the AIM-9 Sidewinder, FIM-92 Stinger, and Iгла-1/2**.

SCO Youth Council



❖ Context

- The 16th meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Youth Council was held in hybrid mode in New Delhi recently under the **chairship of India**.

❖ Key Highlights:

- During the meeting, the SCO Member States shared information on the activities of the SCO Youth Council in 2022-2023.
- SCO is a permanent intergovernmental organization which was established in 2001.
- SCO has eight member States - **India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan**.
- India became a full member of SCO on **9th June, 2017**.

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ATL Sarthi



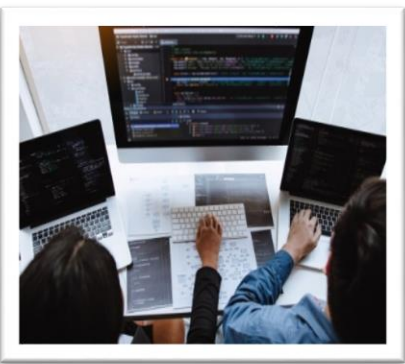
❖ Context

➤ NITI Aayog recently launched ATL Sarthi, a comprehensive self-monitoring framework to strengthen the **ecosystem of Atal Tinkering Labs**.

❖ Key Highlights:

- Atal Innovation Mission is establishing Atal Tinkering Laboratories in schools across the country to foster **curiosity, creativity, and imagination in young minds**.
- Atal Tinkering Labs Sarthi is a charioteer and it will enable the Atal Tinkering Labs to be efficient and effective.
- Atal Innovation Mission aims to foster millions of young innovators in India by setting up Atal Tinkering Labs in schools.
- It will provide a **monitoring and evaluation framework** to enhance the performance of Atal Tinkering Labs.

Behavioural Lab



❖ Context

➤ Recently, the Rajasthan state government announced to **develop behavioural lab at Harishchandra Mathur Rajasthan State Institute of Public Administration**.

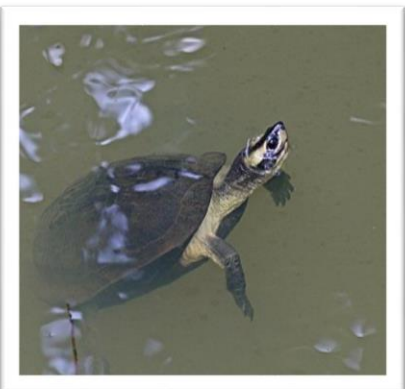
❖ Key Highlights:

- This will be the **first behavioural lab in the country** to be built with state-of-the-art technology.
- The lab to be set up in about 2665.04 square feet area will be **managed and operated by IIM Udaipur**.
- The lab will see **PhD level certificates for students**. "International experts will also be involved in conducting experiments and workshops.
- Here **human behaviour will be studied with the help of innovative technology including the latest software and hardware**.
- Through this laboratory, training programs will be organized in various colleges and universities in the field of conducting experiential studies, training teachers and practical management.

Behavioural lab

- ✓ Human behaviour will be studied with the help of innovative technology including ultramodern software and hardware. All necessary rooms will be built in the ultramodern laboratory including Focus Group Room, PC Lab, Control Room for Measurement, Waiting Area and Office Space.
- ✓ Training programmes will be organised in various colleges and universities in the field of experiential studies through this laboratory along with imparting training to teachers and organising training programmes in the field of practical training.

Black Turtles



❖ Context

➤ Recently, the Marakkanam police seized 46 live Indian **Black Turtles (Melanochelys trijuga)** from two persons who were allegedly smuggling them on a two-wheeler, from neighbouring Puducherry.

❖ Black Turtles:

- **About :**
 - The Indian black turtle (Melanochelys trijuga) or Indian pond terrapin is a **species of medium-sized freshwater turtle found in South Asia**.
 - Despite its name, the color of its **upper shell or carapace can vary from reddish to dark brown and black** with yellow streaks running along its length.
 - The species shows a crepuscular to a **nocturnal lifestyle**, with individuals seen foraging after dark along the edges of water bodies.
- **Distribution and Habitat :**
 - The species occurs in **India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Nepal, and the Chagos Archipelago**, where it may have been introduced.
 - The Indian black turtle inhabits a variety of water bodies including **ponds, marshes streams, rivers and artificial water bodies like rice-paddies, watering holes etc.**
- **Diet :**
 - The species is an omnivore, consuming both aquatic macrophytes and invertebrates.
- **Conservation :**
 - **IUCN Red List- Least Concern.**

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