

7th December, 2021 Current Affairs

1: Russian Military positioned its defence missile systems on Matua Island:



Matua is an uninhabited volcanic island which is located in the Kuril Islands chain in the Sea of Okhotsk. It is situated in the northwest Pacific Ocean. Also, the Matua Island is 16 km from Golovnin Strait.

These all islands are located on the Ring of Fire.

Why is Matua in News?

Recently the Russian Military has deployed its defence missile system known as the Bastion systems to the Matua Island.

What is the concern around the island?

Japan also claims on the chain of islands, Kuril Islands. Japan claims four of the islands in the chain and call them Northern Territories. But these Islands were taken by the Soviet Union in the final days of World War II. During World War II, Japan had installed a military base in the island. After the disintegration of Soviet Union in 1991, the soviet military base established earlier was closed due to shortages of funding.

About Bastion Systems:

It is a coastal defence missile system. The Bastion Systems are fully capable of hitting sea targets up to a range of 500 kilometres. The main role of the system is

to engage convoys, ships and carrier battle groups. It uses P – 800 Oniks. The Oniks is a supersonic anti – ship missile. These missiles can carry 250 kg of warhead.

About Sea of Okhotsk:

The Sea of Okhotsk is a marginal sea in the Pacific Ocean. Marginal seas are large shallow seas. They are surrounded by land on one side. Other marginal seas in the world are Arabian Sea, Bering Sea, Baltic Sea, Black sea, Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea and the Gulf of California. On the other hand, Inland seas are surrounded by water on all sides. All Inland seas are Marginal seas.

About Matua Island:

The shape of the island is oval. Its length is 11 km and width is 6.5 km. It has a strato volcano. The strato volcano is also called composite volcano. It is built up by many layers of hard lava. They are characterised by a summit crater and periodic intervals of explosive eruptions.

2. International Civil Aviation Day



The International Civil Aviation Day is celebrated on December 7 annually. It is celebrated by the United Nations and several other international organisations as well.

What is the theme of International Civil Aviation Day 2021?

In 2021, the International Civil Aviation Day is celebrated under the following theme:

“Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development”

Why does ICAO celebrate this day?

ICAO celebrates the day to commemorate the signing of Convention on International Civil Aviation. It was signed on December 7, 1944 in Chicago. The ICAO was established under this convention. It is a United Nations agency and it coordinates air travel. The convention on International Civil Aviation established rules for aircraft registration, airspace, safety, sustainability and security.

What is the role of ICAO?

The International Civil Aviation Day is celebrated by ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organisation) since 1994. It is a specialised and funding agency of United Nations.

The ICAO recommends practices related to flight inspection, air navigation, border crossing procedures. It defines the protocols of investigation of air accidents.

The technical body of ICAO is Air Navigation Commission.

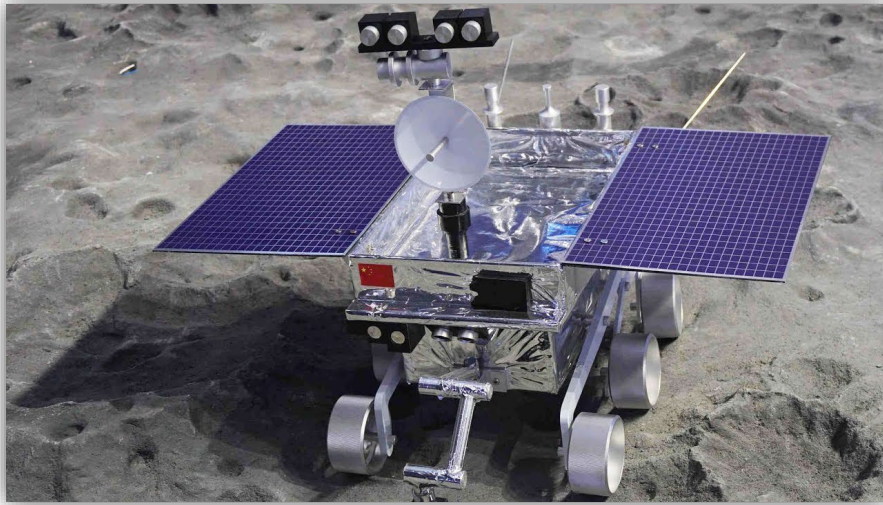
What is the need to celebrate the day?

According to United Nations, more than 120 million passengers travel by air on daily basis and the air travel industry supports 65.5 million jobs. So, this day highlights the significance of aviation in improving global connectivity. Thus, it is important to celebrate International Civil Aviation Day.

Uniqueness of the theme of the day:

Unlike the other international days, the theme of International Civil Aviation Day is selected once in five years. It was previously selected in 2019. However, the day is celebrated annually. Till 2023, the day will be celebrated with the theme chosen in 2019. The next theme will be selected in 2024.

3. The Chinese Yutu - 2 rover has spotted a mysterious cube-shaped object:



Recently, the Chinese Yutu - 2 rover has spotted a mysterious cube-shaped object on the far side of the moon - nearly 80m away from the rover in Von Kármán crater, as it is mentioned in the media reports.

Reports also added that the object has been referred to as a "mystery house" and in the next two to three lunar days, the rover will attempt to get closer and check it out.

Yutu - 2 is a Chinese lunar rover. It was launched to the moon in Chang'e 4 mission. It was launched in 2018 and it has landed on the moon in 2019. Recently, the rover has spotted a cube - shaped mystery hut on the far side of the moon.

The mystery object spotted by Yutu - 2:

The Yutu - 2 rover found a cube shaped object in the far side of the moon. A likely explanation for the object is that it can be a larger boulder that was excavated by an impact event.

About Chang'e 4 mission:

As the name suggests, Change'e 4 was the fourth lunar mission of China. The Chang'e 1 and Chang'e 2 missions were orbiters. The Chang'e 3 landed on the near side of the moon with Yutu - 1. Chang'e 5 mission brought moon sample to the earth.

About Yutu - 2

It is solar powered rover and propelled by six wheels.

The Yutu – 2 landed in Von Karman crater.

Yutu – 2 captured Lunar Ejecta Sequence for first time.

In 2020, scientists reported high resolution image of Lunar Ejecta Sequence for the first time. The geology of the moon is called Selenology. The moon lacks true atmosphere. It does not hold any known actions of plate tectonics. It has a lower gravity. It cooled faster. Its surface was formed by volcanism and cratering.

Yutu – 2 Heater Unit and its Record

The Yutu – 2 is equipped with a radioisotope heater unit. The unit is used to heat the subsystems in the rover during long lunar nights. It set record of traversing for a greater number of lunar days. It continuously traversed the lunar surface for 11 days. Earlier, the record was held by Lunokhod – 1 rover of Russia. This was possible because of the heater unit. It takes 29 earth days for the moon to complete one lunar day or to complete one rotation around its axis. This means that the nights in moon are longer. Thus, the heater unit is mandatory to increase the functioning of the rover.

About the far side of the moon:

The rotation and revolution period of the moon are same. That is, the time taken by the moon to make one complete revolution around the earth and the time taken by the moon to make one complete rotation along its axis is the same. This is why, the earth is constantly seeing only one side of the moon. The earth has never seen the other side. This other side is called far side of the moon.

4. BWF World Tour 2021: PV Sindhu won Silver:



Recently, the BWF world Tour 2021 finals was held between PV Sindhu of India and Seyoung of Korea. Seyoung won the cup and Sindhu settled in for a silver medal. In Men's Singles of the BWF World Tour 2021, Viktor Axelsen won the cup.

About the BWF World Tour:

The BWF World Tour is a Grade 2 Badminton tournament series. It is held by the BWF, Badminton World Federation. It is held among the top world ranked players in singles (men and women) and doubles (men, women and mixed).

There are six levels in BWF World Tour. They are as follows:

World Tour Finals

Super 1000

Super 750

Super 500

Super 300

BWF Tour Super 100 level

The BWF rank the players based on the above tournaments. The prize money of the levels are as follows:

World Tour Finals: 1.5 million USD

Super 1000: 850 thousand USD

Super 750: 600 thousand USD

Super 500: 320 thousand USD

Super 300: 140 thousand USD

Super 100: 75 thousand USD

Player regulations:

The tournament is held among top 15 single players and top 10 double pairs. The BWF imposes a fine of 5000 USD per event, if a player fails to play. However, a valid medical certification will exempt the fine.

5. Project RE – HAB:



Project RE – HAB stands for Reducing Elephant Human – Attacks using Bees.

It was recently launched in Assam.

Key Features of Project RE – HAB:

The Project RE – HAB creates “bee fences”. The honey bees in these fences’ thwart elephant attacks in human habitations. They dissuade the elephants without harming them. It is highly economical process as compared to erecting fences or digging trenches. Simultaneously, it increases honey production and increases farmer income. Also, the project helps to address climate change issues by regenerating forest cover.

Process of the project:

Under the project, the bee boxes are placed in the premises of human habitation. They are placed as fences. Around 15 to 20 bee boxes are placed around the habitation that is to be protected. The buzz of the bees irritate the elephants the most. They fear that the honey bees might sting them in their trunks and eyes. And therefore, they do not walk ahead of the boxes. The boxes are connected with a string. When the elephants try to pass through the string, a pull or tug causes the bees to swarm towards the elephant.

Implementing Agency

The Project RE – HAB is implemented by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).

The KVIC is a statutory body which is established under Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956.

The main function of KVIC is to plan, promote, organize and implement programmes for the development of village industries in rural areas.

Project RE – HAB a sub – mission to National Honey Mission

The Project RE – HAB is a sub mission to National Honey Mission of KVIC. It was launched to provide awareness and training in using bee boxes along the bee colonies. The mission was launched in 2017 and is in line with Sweet Revolution.

Where was Project RE – HAB launched?

The Project was first launched in Karnataka. Upon its huge success in the state, it is to be launched in West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Why this project is needed?

Between 2014 and 2019, around 403 deaths occurred due to elephant – human conflict. 397 deaths occurred in Odisha, 349 in Jharkhand, 332 in Assam, 170 in Karnataka and 289 in Chhattisgarh. Also, around 500 elephants died in human – elephant conflict in the last five years alone.

6. Carcass Of Endangered Bryde's Whale found:



Recently, the carcass of an endangered Bryde's whale has been found near the border of Puri and Ganjam districts of Odisha.

Key Highlights:

It was a 48-foot-long female whale, buried near the shore.

But the exact cause of the death will be known only after getting post-mortem report.

Two whales, one male and the other female, were found near the coast. It is likely that, carcass is of a female got stuck in the sea bed because of low water level.

About Bryde's whale or Bryde's whale complex:

- Bryde's whale comprises of three species of rorqual and maybe four. "Complex" means the number and its classification remains unclear due to lack of definitive information & research.
- Common Bryde's whale is a larger form occurring worldwide in warm temperate and tropical waters.
- Sittang or Eden's whale is a smaller form, which are restricted to the Indo-Pacific.
- A smaller & coastal form of B. Brydei is found off southern Africa.

Distribution of B. brydei:

Brydei occurs in Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans in between the 40th parallels of latitude. They prefer highly productive, tropical, subtropical, and warm, temperate waters having 16–22 °C. They also occur in Honshu in the north Pacific, west & southern California as well as in Washington in the United States.

ONLINE LEARNING WITH EXPERTS

7. Human Rights Day 2021



The United Nations General Assembly observes Human Rights Day on December 10, annually.

Key Highlights:

- The day is observed to raise awareness regarding people's social, cultural and physical rights as well as to ensure the welfare people across the globe.
- The day encourages nations to create equal opportunities for everyone.
- It also addresses the issues of exclusion, inequality, and discrimination.

Background of celebrating the day:

United Nations General Assembly had adopted the Universal Declaration of the Human Rights in the year 1948. The Allies of World War II, also known as the United Nations, adopted four freedoms, they are:

1. Freedom of religion
2. Freedom of speech
3. Freedom from fear
4. Freedom from want

They created the Charter of United Nations on the basis of faith in fundamental human rights. Thus, Universal Declaration of Human Rights is significant and forms one of the bases of the United Nations.

Importance of the day:

The Human Rights Day signifies the absolute rights to which all humans are entitled, irrespective of their race, religion, colour, language, sex, political or other opinions, poverty, national or social origin, birth or another status. Equality and non-discrimination are at the heart of human rights. Human Rights Day has become more significant in the aftermath of covid-19, as it has deepened poverty and raised inequality, discrimination & other gaps in human rights protection.

What is the Theme of this year?

The Human Rights Day in year 2021 was observed under the theme- "Equality, reducing inequalities, advancing human rights."

About UN Human Rights Council:

The Human Rights Council is consisted of 47 elected United Nations Member States. These states are empowered to prevent inequality, protect the most vulnerable, abuses & discrimination, and punish the perpetrators of human rights violations. Council was established by the United Nations General Assembly on

March 15, 2006 for replacing the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. It has been strongly criticized for including member countries which engage in human rights abuses.

