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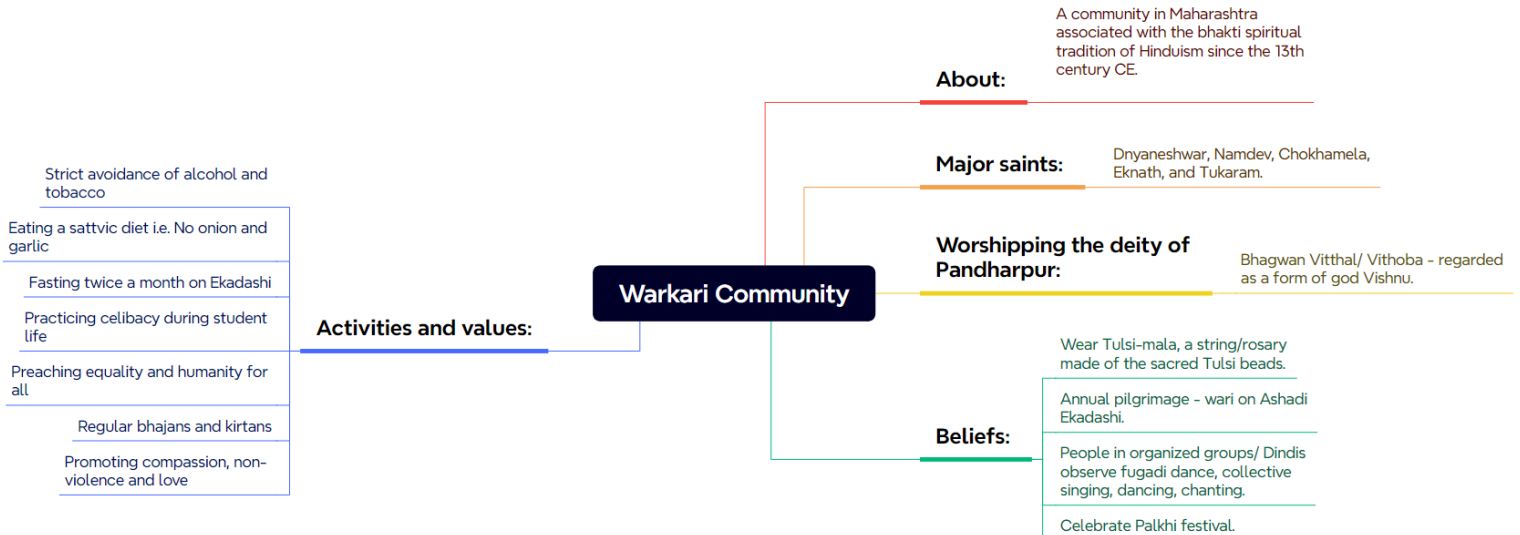
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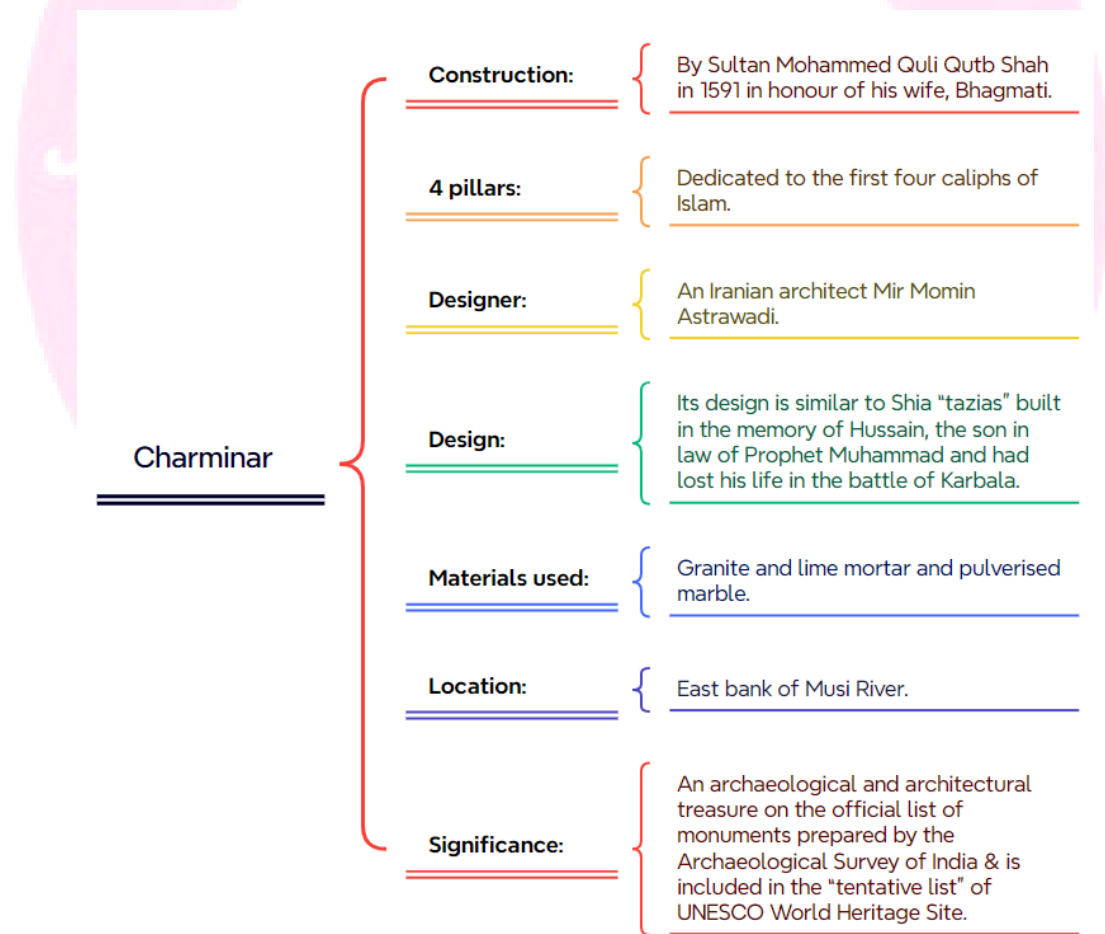
15. SPECIAL COUNSEL (IN THE US) - Indian Express

# Art and Culture

## 1. Warkaris - The Hindu



## 2. Charminar - The Hindu



### 3. Muharram and Ashura - The Hindu

#### Muharram

Imam Hussain was martyred in this month in the battle of Karbala.

Month of mourning:

Considered one of the four sacred months in Islam, during which warfare and conflicts are traditionally prohibited.

Marks the beginning (first month) of the Islamic New Year.

Second holiest month after Ramzan.

Significance:

**Muharram**

About:

The first month of the Islamic lunar calendar.

Literal meaning:

"Forbidden" in Arabic, signifying the sacred nature of this month.

#### Ashura

<b>Ashura</b>	About:	The tenth day of Muharram and the most significant day in the month.
	Shia Muslims:	They commemorate martyrdom of Prophet Mohammed's grandson, Imam Hussain, killed in the Battle of Karbala. Shia Muslims observe mourning rituals, including self-flagellation, chest-beating, etc. 'Taziya', a tableaux procession is also held by the Shia Community.
	Sunni Muslims:	Ashura marks the day when Prophet Moses and the Children of Israel were saved from Pharaoh's tyranny by crossing the Red Sea.

### 4. Battle of Karbala - The Hindu

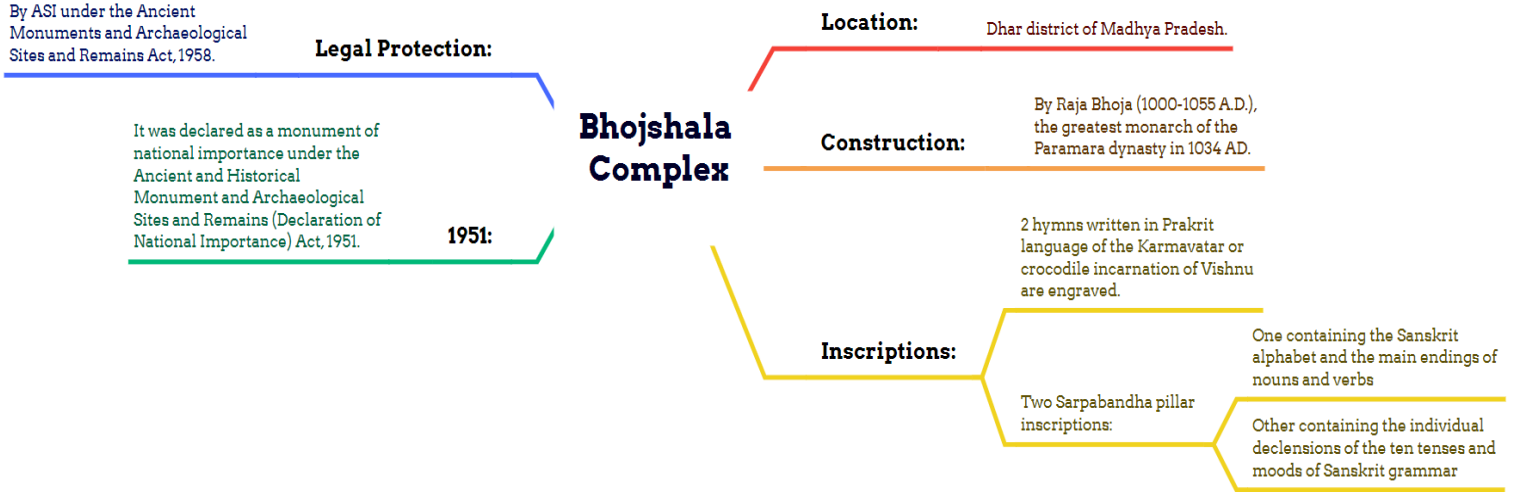
- **Started:** On the 10th day of Muharram in 680 CE (Ashura).
- **Fought between:** Yazid, a tyrant who had usurped the Muslim caliphate and Imam Hussain, grandson of the Prophet Muhammad with the help of his daughter Fatima and her husband Imam Ali.

### 5. Existing structure at Bhojshala complex in Madhya Pradesh built from temple remains, says ASI survey - The Hindu

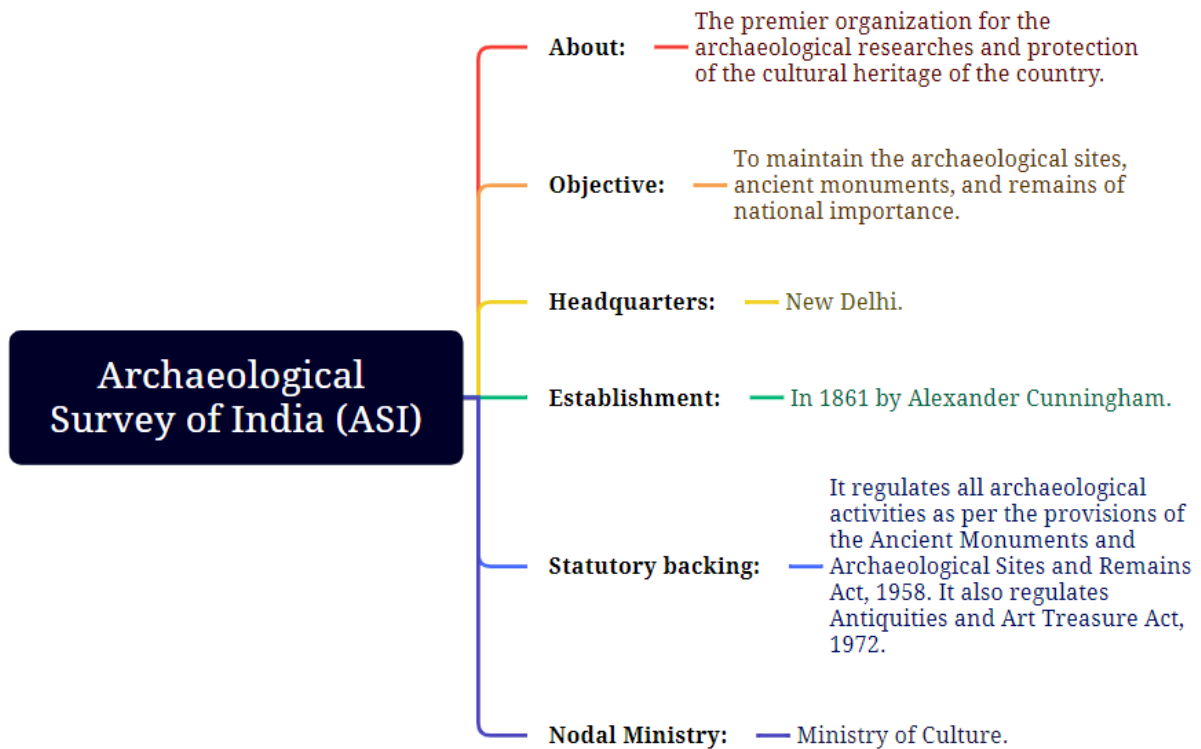
#### Context

The existing structure at the Bhojshala complex in Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district was constructed using remains of a temple that existed earlier at the site, said the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in its scientific survey report.

### Bhojshala Complex



### Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)



## Geography

### 6. What is causing widespread rainfall across India? - Indian Express

#### **Context**

For the first time this season, the southwest monsoon is active over a large geographical area of India. At least 80% of the country last week reported widespread rainfall, with heavy to very heavy spells lashing Assam, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, coastal Maharashtra and Karnataka, Kerala, and Lakshadweep.

#### **Factors responsible for widespread rains**

#### **Factors responsible for widespread rains**

**Continuous incoming of moisture-laden strong westerly winds from the Arabian Sea.**

**Position of monsoon trough:**

It is a semi-permanent, low-pressure area between Pakistan & Bay of Bengal during the monsoon season which usually oscillates between north and south within the season. Whenever it moves towards south, more rainfall can take place in central, eastern and peninsular India. When it shifts towards north, the Himalayan foothills are likely to receive more rainfall but the rest of India sees a drop in rainfall.

**Persistence of an off-shore trough:**

It is a shallow trough of low pressure, which develops along India's coast during the monsoon between south Gujarat and north Kerala for more than a week now.

**Intermittent development of a wind shear zone:**

The region where winds move with different velocities and directions along latitudes 20° N between central and peninsular India.

**Development of a low pressure system over west-central Bay of Bengal**

## Society

### 7. Political representation of women - The Hindu

#### Context

In the recently concluded general elections in the U.K., a record 263 women MPs (40%) have been elected to the House of Commons. The South African National Assembly has around 45% women representation, while the U.S. House of Representatives has 29%. New Zealand was the first to grant universal women suffrage in 1893. The U.K., provided all its women the right to vote in 1928. The U.S., granted equal voting rights through the nineteenth amendment only in 1920.

#### Women representatives in independent India

- **Universal adult suffrage in India:** India provided the right to vote for all its women right from the first general elections in 1952.
- **Representation of women in Lok Sabha & State legislative assemblies:** The percentage of women in the Lok Sabha stands at 14% in the 18th Lok Sabha. The representation in State Legislative Assemblies is even poorer with the national average being around 9%.
- **Women representation in local communities:** The 73rd & 74th amendments in 1992/1993, provided for one-third reservation for women in panchayats and municipalities.

Country	% of elected women	Quota In Parliament	Quota In political parties
Sweden	46%	No	Yes
South Africa	45%	No	Yes
Australia	38%	No	Yes
France	38%	No	Yes
Germany	35%	No	Yes
U.K.	40%	No	Yes
U.S.	29%	No	No
Pakistan	16%	Yes	No
Bangladesh	20%	Yes	No

#### Methods to ensure higher representation of women

- **Voluntary or legislated compulsory quotas** for candidates within political parties
- **Quota in parliament** through reservation of seats.
- **Quotas within political parties**

#### 106th amendment/ Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam

- **About:** It provided for one-third reservation of seats for women in the Lok Sabha and State legislative assemblies.
- **Importance:**
  - This would ensure a fair representation of women in legislatures
  - It would increase gender sensitivity in parliamentary processes and legislation.
  - It would also hopefully increase the number of women Ministers in the Centre and States.

## Polity

### 8. What does Maharashtra's Public Security Bill stipulate? - The Hindu

**Context**

Recently, the state government tabled the Maharashtra Special Public Security (MSPS) Act, 2024 to curb the 'menace of Naxalism' in urban areas.

**Maharashtra Special Public Security (MSPS) bill, 2024**

#### Maharashtra Special Public Security (MSPS) bill, 2024

<b>About:</b>	It allows the State to declare any organisation as 'unlawful' with offences categorised as cognisable and non-bailable.	
<b>Rationale:</b>	The state Govt stated that naxalism is not limited to rural areas, but is increasing in urban areas through frontal organisations. Such unlawful groups 'propagate their ideology of armed rebellion against the constitutional mandate and disrupt public order in the State.	
<b>Difference from UAPA:</b>	This law empowers the state to classify organisations as 'unlawful associations.' But, in MSPS Act, an advisory board of three persons who are qualified to be appointed as judges of High Court shall oversee the confirmation process, while under UAPA, a tribunal led by a High Court judge verifies the State's declaration.	
<b>Key provisions:</b>	Empowers the State to designate any suspected 'organisation' as an 'unlawful organisation'.	
	Outlines four offences for which a person may be penalised:	being a member of an unlawful organisation,
		being a member and raises funds for an unlawful organisation or harbours any member of the unlawful organisation,
		whoever manages or assists in the management of an unlawful organisation, or promotes or assists in promoting a meeting,
	whoever commits or abets or attempts to commit or plans to commit any unlawful activity.	
<b>Term of punishment:</b>	Ranging from two to seven years, along with fines between ₹2 lakh and ₹5 lakh.	



## Economy

### 9. IPEF: India likely to sign clean, fair economy pacts - The Hindu

#### Context

India is likely to soon be able to sign the clean economy and fair economy agreements under the U.S.-led IPEF. However, it is not yet ready to join the trade pillar of IPEF as it continues to be uncomfortable with some of its components, such as framing of high-standard rules on digital economy, including cross-border data flows and data localisation, and labour and environment issues

#### Indo Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)

**Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity has four pillars:**

» Trade	Trade pillar deals with environment, labour, digital trade and agri	On remaining 3 pillars, India 'very much comfortable with final outcome'
» Supply chains		
» Clean economy (clean energy)	India has chosen to stay out of trade pillar until contours clearer	IPEF structured jointly by the US and Indo-Pacific countries
» Fair economy (tax and anti-corruption)		



- **About:** A US-led initiative to strengthen economic partnership among participating countries to enhance resilience, sustainability, inclusiveness, economic growth, fairness, and competitiveness in the Indo-Pacific region.
- **Launch:** 2021
- **Nature:** Not a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) but allows members to negotiate the parts they want to.
- **4 main "pillars":**
  - Supply-chain resilience
  - Clean energy, decarbonisation & infrastructure
  - Taxation & anti-corruption
  - Fair & resilient trade.
- **14 IPEF partners:** Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, the United States, and Viet Nam

#### Difference between IPEF & Other Trade Deals

- **Not exactly a trade pact:** The provision of multiple pillars does entail an option for participants to choose what they want to be a part of.
- **Not a take-it-or-leave-it arrangement:** But most multilateral trade deals are.

## 10. Sebi's proposed 'new asset class': How will investors gain from it? - Indian Express

### Context

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has outlined plans to introduce a 'new asset class' which will offer investment products that lie between mutual funds (MFS) and portfolio management services (PMS). This new category of products, to be introduced under the MF structure, will have a minimum investment limit of Rs 10 lakh.

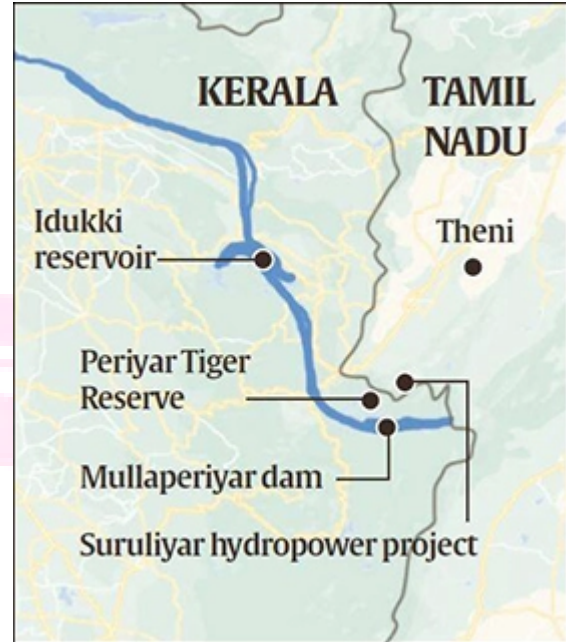
### New asset class

New asset class	
<b>About:</b>	A new product category aimed at bridging the gap between MFs and PMS in terms of flexibility in portfolio construction.
<b>Aim:</b>	To fill the gap between MFs and PMS by offering a regulated product featuring greater flexibility, higher risk-taking capability, and a higher ticket size to meet the needs of the emerging category of investors.
<b>Minimum investment limit:</b>	It has been proposed at Rs 10 lakh per investor within the asset management company (AMC)/MF.
<b>Investment strategies:</b>	<b>Long-Short Equity Fund:</b> A fund that seeks to deliver returns by taking long and short positions in equity and equity-related instruments. For example, the fund may be bullish on the automobile sector and bearish on the IT sector, investing in both by going long on the automobile sector and short on the IT sector.
	<b>Inverse ETF/Fund:</b> A fund that seeks to generate returns that are negatively correlated to the returns of the underlying index.
<b>Benefits:</b>	It will be able to take exposure to derivatives for purposes other than hedging and portfolio rebalancing.
	This will provide more flexibility and risk-taking in investments and potentially generate higher returns.

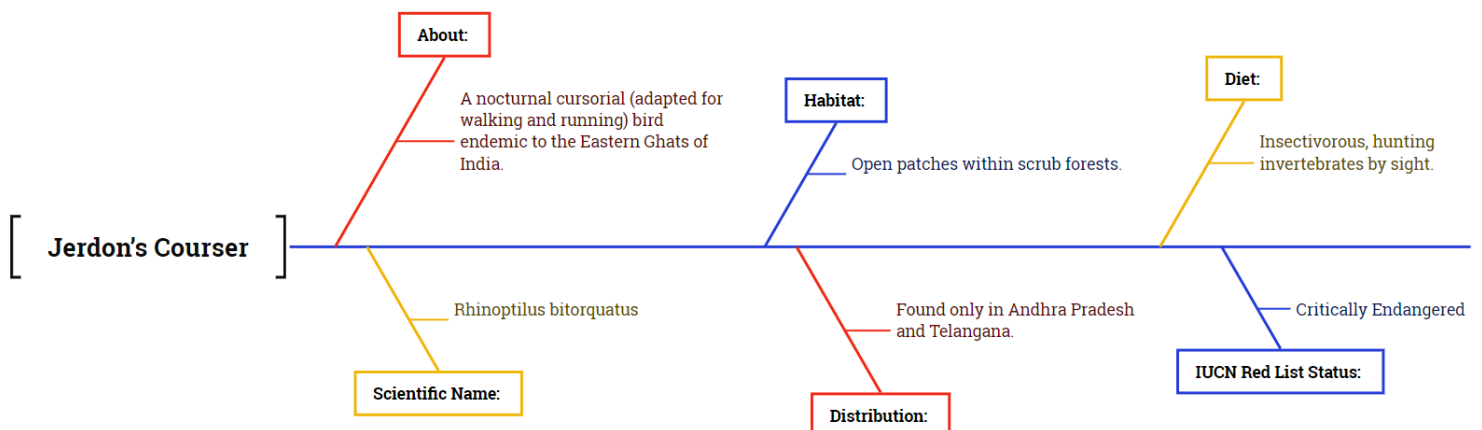
## Environment

### 11. Periyar Tiger Reserve - The Hindu

- **Location:** Western Ghats of Kerala.
- **Designation:** It was designated as Tiger Reserve in 1978.
- **Rivers:** Mullayar and Periyar
- **6 major tribal communities:** Mannans, Paliyans, Malayarayangans, Mala Pandarams, Uralis and Ulladans
- **Terrain:** Hilly and undulating with a maximum altitude of 2016 m.
- **Vegetation:** Tropical evergreen, semi- evergreen and moist deciduous.
- **Flora:** Teak, mangoes, rosewood, jamun, jacarandas, terminalias, tamarind, royal ponciana, bamboo etc.
- **Fauna:** Elephants, Wild Pigs, Sambar, Gaur, Mouse Deer, lion-tailed macaque, Nilgiri Langur, Gee's Golden Langur, Common Langur and Bonnet Macaque.



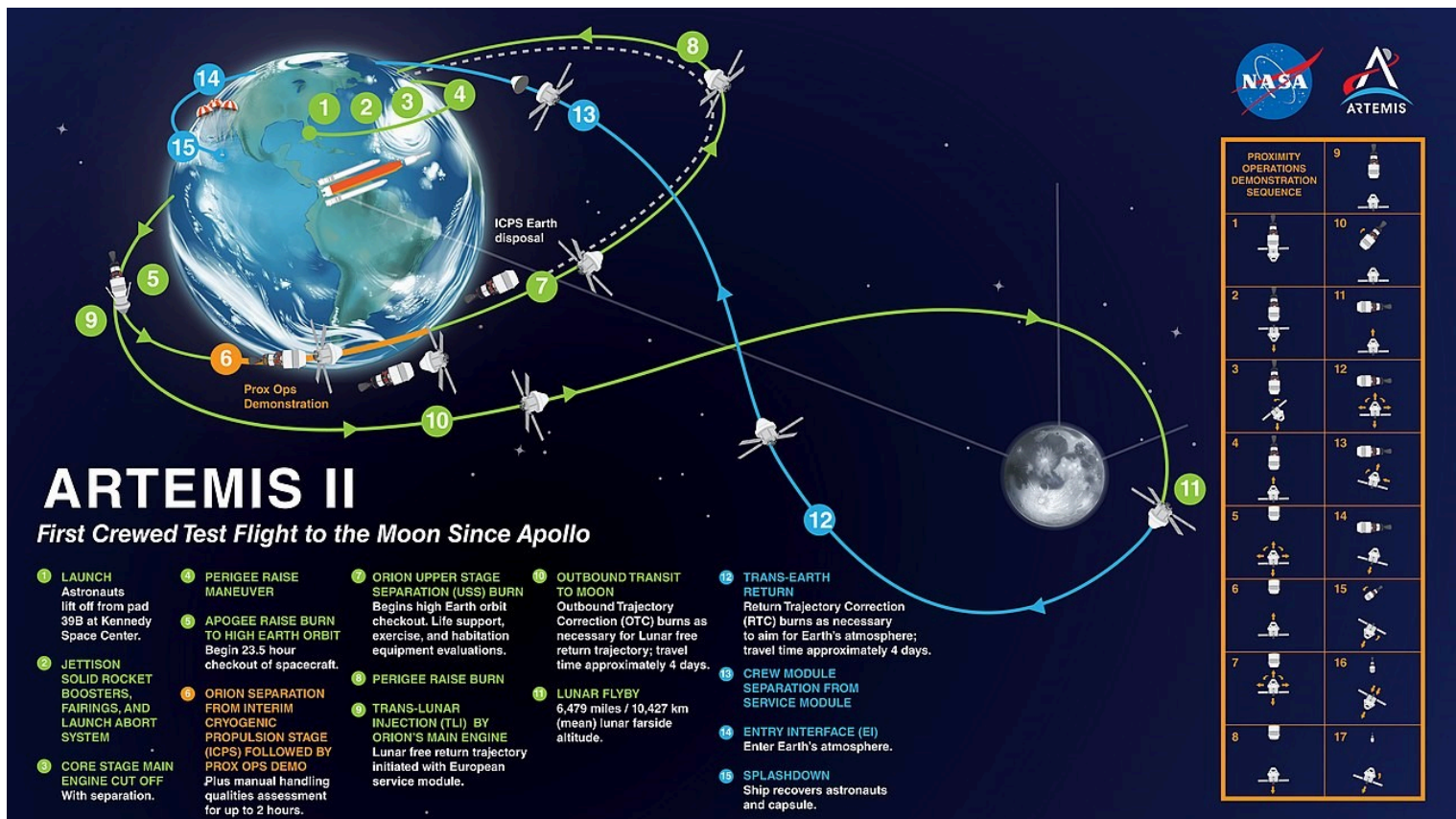
### 12. Jerdon's Courser - Indian Express



## Sci and Tech

### 13. Artemis-II - The Hindu

- **About:** The first mission to carry four humans to the moon's vicinity since 1972.
- **Program:** It is the second scheduled flight of the Artemis program and the first crewed Artemis mission.
- **Mechanism:** It will use the huge Space Launch System (SLS) mega-rocket and Orion spacecraft to launch the crew on the lunar flyby mission.



#### Artemis Program

- **About:** A NASA's program to return astronauts to the Moon, preparing the way for human missions to Mars.
- **Aim:** To "land the first woman and first person of colour on the Moon", explore the lunar surface.
- **Components:** Construction of the Lunar Gateway space station in orbit around the Moon.

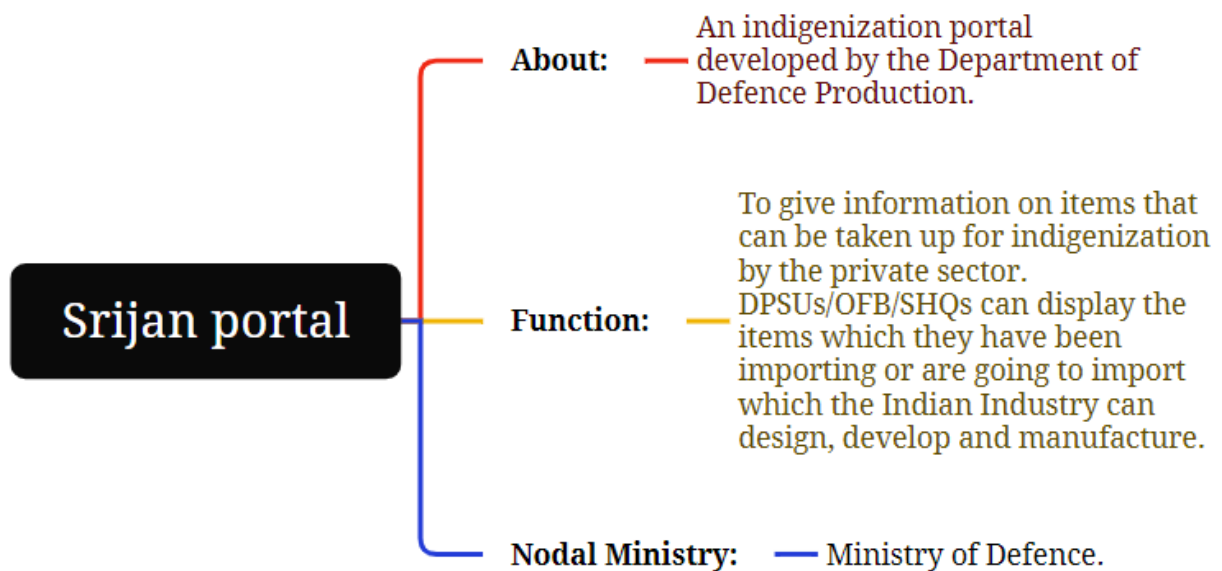
## Defence

### 14. Aatmanirbharta in defence: MoD notifies fifth Positive Indigenisation List of 346 items for DPSUs - PIB

#### **Context**

In a major boost to Aatmanirbharta in defence & minimise imports by Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), Department of Defence Production (DDP), Ministry of Defence has notified the fifth Positive Indigenisation List (PIL) consisting of 346 items. The items will only be procured from the Indian Industry after the timelines of indigenisation as indicated in the list available on the Srijan portal.

#### **Srijan portal**



# Miscellaneous

## 15. SPECIAL COUNSEL (IN THE US) - Indian Express

### Context

A criminal case against former US President and current presidential candidate Donald Trump, related to his alleged illegal handling of government documents, was dismissed recently. US District Judge declared that Special Counsel Jack Smith, who was in charge of the case, was improperly selected and lacked the power to proceed with the lawsuit.

### Special counsel

