

SANT TUKARAM

Context: Recently Maharashtra Deputy CM Shinde extended financial aid to kin of Tukaram descendent.



About Sant Tukaram:

- Sant Tukaram was a 17th-century saint poet (Contemporary of Shivaji Maharaj) and philosopher related to Bhakti movement of Maharashtra.
- He Belonged to 'Warkari' sect (along with Saint Dnyaneshwar, Eknath & Namdev) which flourished in medieval Maharashtra.
- He is known for **Abhanga devotional poetry** and **community-oriented worship** through spiritual songs known as **Kirtans**.
- His **Abhanga poetry** written in **Marathi** fused folk stories with spiritual themes.
 - Abhanga is in praise of **Lord Panduranga or Vitthal** (Chief deity)
 -

of Warkari, an incarnation of Vishnu).

- **Famous work:** Tukaram Gatha (1632-1650) in Marathi, includes about 4500 Abhangas.

His Philosophy:

- Tukaram mentions four people in his Abhangas work who had a major influence on his spiritual development: the previous Bhakti Sants **Namdev, Dnyaneshwar, Kabir, and Eknath**.
- Tukaram's teachings were regarded as **Vedanta-based**.

Social Reform:

- His message about a casteless society and his denial of rituals had led to a social movement.
- His Abhangs became a **strong weapon against the Brahmanical dominance** of society.

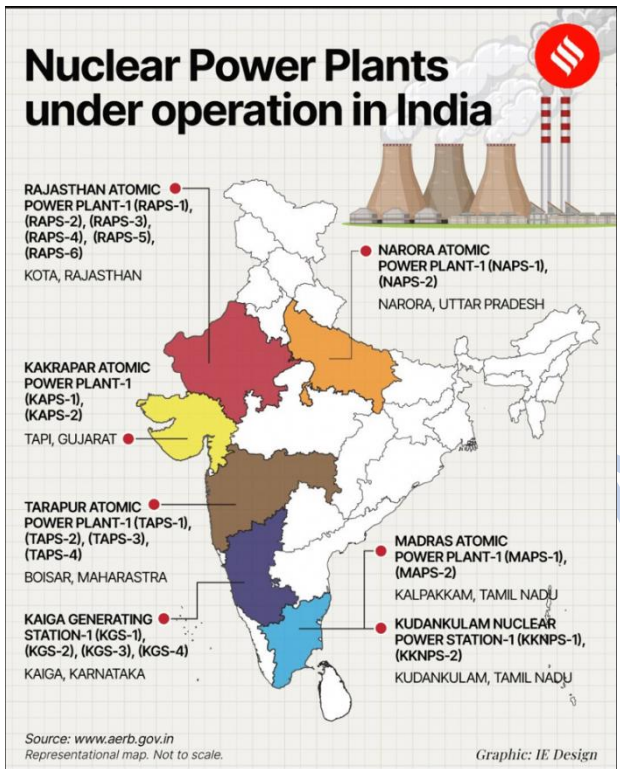
Commemoration:

- The **Sant Tukaram Shila Mandir** is located in the temple town of Dehu in the Pune district.
- Shila Mandir is a temple dedicated to a slab of stone (shila) on which Sant Tukaram meditated for 13 days.
- Shila refers to a rock that is currently on the Dehu Sansthan temple premises, and that for centuries has been the **starting point of Wari, the annual pilgrimage to Pandharpur**.
- The rock where he sat for 13 days is considered pious and a place of pilgrimage for the wakari sect.

Source: Shinde extends financial aid to kin of Tukaram descendent (The Hindu)

CIVIL LIABILITY FOR NUCLEAR DAMAGE ACT 2010

Context: The government has recently announced that amendments will be made to the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act 2010.



- Laws on civil nuclear liability ensure that compensation is available to the victims for nuclear damage caused by a nuclear incident or disaster and set out who will be liable for that damage.

About Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLNDA):

- India enacted the CLNDA in 2010 to put in place a **speedy compensation mechanism** for victims of a nuclear accident.

Liability on Operator:

- The CLNDA provides for **strict and no-fault liability** on the operator of the nuclear

plant, where it will be held liable for damage regardless of any fault on its part.

- It specifies the amount the operator will have to pay in case of damage caused by an accident at **₹1,500 crore**.
- It also **requires the operator to cover liability through insurance** or other financial security.

Government’s Role:

- In case the **damage claims exceed ₹1,500 crore**, the CLNDA expects the government to step in.
- It has limited the government liability amount to the rupee equivalent of **300 million Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)**.

Supplier Liability Clause:

- Having realized that the defective parts were partly responsible for the Bhopal gas tragedy in 1984, the govt went **beyond the provisions of international conventions (Convention on Supplementary Compensation)** to provide for **supplier liability** over and above that of the operator in CLNDA.
- Under this provision, the **operator of the nuclear plant can seek recourse from suppliers** in the event of a nuclear incident caused by supplier actions, including the supply of equipment or materials with defects, sub-standard services, or the actions of supplier employees.

International Conventions

- The **International Atomic Energy Agency** serves as depositary for several international legal instruments on civil liability for nuclear damage, these include the **Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage** and the **Convention on**

Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage.

- The umbrella Convention on Supplementary Compensation (CSC) was adopted in 1997 with the aim of establishing a minimum national compensation amount.
 - **India has ratified CSC** in 2016.

Source: Plan to amend nuclear liability law may enthrone American, French firms (The Hindu)

JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION (JCPOA)

Context: US President Donald Trump’s pressure tactics on Iran raise questions about the future possibility of the JCPOA finding conclusion.



About JCPOA:

- The **Iran nuclear agreement**, formally known as the **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)**, is a landmark accord reached between Iran and several world powers, including the United States, in July 2015.
- Under its terms, Iran agreed to **dismantle much of its nuclear program** and **open its facilities to more extensive international inspections** in exchange for billions of dollars’ worth of sanctions relief.
- The agreement was meant to prevent a revival of Iran’s nuclear weapons program

and thereby reduce potential for conflict in the region.

- However, the deal has been in jeopardy since **President Donald Trump withdrew the United States** from it in 2018.
- In retaliation for the U.S. departure and for deadly attacks on prominent Iranians in 2020, including one by the United States, Iran has resumed its nuclear activities.
- UN inspectors reported in early 2023 that Iran had enriched trace amounts of uranium to nearly weapons-grade levels.
 - Weapons-grade uranium is typically **highly enriched uranium (HEU)** with a uranium-235 (**U-235**) content of **at least 90%**.
 - Uranium enriched to **5 percent** is used in nuclear power plants, and at **20 percent** it can be used in research reactors or for medical purposes.
- **Participants:** The P5 + 1 (China, USA, UK, France, Russia) and Germany
- **Need for this treaty:** Iran had previously agreed to forgo the development of nuclear weapons as a signatory to the **Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty**, which has been in force since 1970.
- However, after the overthrow of the Pahlavi dynasty in 1979, Iranian leaders secretly pursued this technology.

Source: Port of Contention (The Hindu)

TEJAS LCA

Context: Aero India 2025 is going to showcase Tejas LCA.

About Light Combat Aircraft Tejas:

- It is a **4.5-generation single seat supersonic multirole fighter aircraft.**



- **The Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)** led the design and development of the aircraft under the **light combat aircraft (LCA) programme**, with **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** working as the prime industrial contractor.
- LCA programme was envisioned in the late 1980s to **replace the MiG-21 and Su-7 fleet**.
- It entered service with the Indian Air Force (IAF) in July 2016.
- It is India's **second indigenous fighter jet** after the **HAL HF-24 Marut**.
- It is designed for offensive air support, close combat, and ground attack roles.
- It has three production models: **Tejas Mark 1, Mark 1A, and trainer variant**.

Features:

- It is the **smallest and lightest** in its class of contemporary **supersonic combat aircraft**.
- It features a fin but lacks a horizontal tail.
- The aircraft weighs approximately 5,450 kg and has a maximum take-off weight of 13,500 kg.
- It is powered by a single uprated General Electric F404-GE-IN20 engine.
- It is designed to carry a range of air-to-air, air-to-surface and precision-guided weapons.

Source: In a first, chiefs of Air Force and Army fly together in light combat aircraft Tejas (The Hindu)

PLACES IN NEWS

Nur Shams refugee camp

- **Nur Shams camp** is a Palestinian refugee camp located in the **northern part of the West Bank** and is roughly three kilometres east of **Tulkarm City**.
- The first refugees of the camp took shelter in the Jenin area until a snowstorm destroyed their tents and forced them to relocate to the Tulkarm area.
- As a result, Nur Shams camp was established in 1952.



Cascade Range

- It is a prominent collection of mountains found in the **Pacific Northwest area** of the **northwestern United States and southwestern Canada**.
- The range was formed by the **subduction of the Juan de Fuca Plate beneath the North American Plate**, which continues to drive volcanic activity.
- It is known for its snow-capped peaks, massive glaciers, steep scree slopes, and lush forests.
- The range is home to 4375 named mountains, the biggest and most visible of which is **Mount Rainier (4,392 m)**.
- It includes both non-volcanic mountains, including the rugged spires of the North

Cascades, and the notable volcanoes known as the High Cascades.

- The Cascades are **part of the Pacific Ring of Fire**, the ring of volcanoes and associated mountains around the Pacific Ocean.
- All of the known historic eruptions in the contiguous United States have been from Cascade volcanoes.



PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q1. With reference to Sant Tukaram, consider the following statements:

1. Sant Tukaram was a contemporary of Chhatrapati Sivaji.
2. Tukaram was known for his abhanga devotional poetry written in Marathi.
3. He is an important poet saint of the Lingayat sect.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Q2. How many of the following countries are part of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)?

1. Saudi Arabia
2. Iran
3. Italy
4. Germany
5. France

Choose the correct answer:

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only three
- (c) Only four
- (d) All five

Q3. With reference to civil nuclear liability in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act places liability on operators as well as suppliers.
2. The liability on operators is capped at 1500 crores.
3. India is not a signatory of the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Q4. Consider the following statements:

1. LCA Tejas is a 5th generation single-seat supersonic multirole fighter aircraft.
2. It is India's first indigenous fighter jet.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only

- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q5. Cascade Volcanoes are thought to have large reserves of magma, belong to which of the following countries?

- (a) Philippines
- (b) Ecuador
- (c) USA
- (d) Panama

Answers:

1. B
2. B
3. B
4. D
5. C