



IAS PARLIAMENT

Information is Empowering
A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative

Prelim Bits 23-03-2018

BrahMos

\n\n

- \n
- Supersonic cruise missile BrahMos was successfully flight-tested for the first time with an indigenous seeker.
- \n
- So far, the seeker, a critical technology in missiles, had come from Russia.
- \n
- The seeker was developed by Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad, in collaboration with other DRDO labs.
- \n
- The seeker technology, which determines the accuracy of a missile, is a closely guarded secret.
- \n
- Click [here](#) to know about BrahMos.
- \n

\n\n

Congo conflict

\n\n

- \n
- An ongoing conflict between the Pygmies and the Bantus has displaced 67,000 people in Congo.
- \n
- Cohabitation has never been easy between the two communities, with the land-owning Bantus accused of exploiting the hunter-gatherers pygmies.
- \n
- Bantu peoples is used as a general label for the 300-600 ethnic groups in Africa who speak Bantu languages
- \n
- The 'Pygmy' peoples of central Africa are traditionally hunter-gatherers living in the rainforests throughout central Africa.

- \n
- The Pygmies' nomadic lifestyle is increasingly under threat from deforestation, mining and extensive farming by the Bantus

\n

\n\n

Pacific Garbage Patch

\n\n

- \n
- The vast dump of plastic waste swirling in the Pacific ocean is now bigger than France, Germany and Spain combined —is growing rapidly.
- \n
- The immense accumulation of bottles, containers, fishing nets and microparticles in the ocean is known as the **“Great Pacific Garbage Patch” (GPGP)**.
- \n
- The dump now contains around 1.8 trillion pieces of plastic, posing a dual threat to marine life.

\n

\n\n

- \n
1. Microplastics, tiny fragments of plastic smaller than 50mm in size that make up the vast majority of items in the GPGP, is a major contributor to bioaccumulation in the food web.
- \n
2. The other environmental impact comes from the larger debris, especially the fishing nets. The net fragments kill marine life by trapping fish and animals such as turtles in a process known as **‘ghost fishing’**.

\n

\n\n

- \n
- At present, about 80,000 tons of buoyant plastic is in the GPGP.

\n

\n\n

Kawal Tiger Reserve

\n\n

- \n
- Kawal tiger reserve is situated in Northern Telangana state.

\n

- The wildlife sanctuary in Kawal is the catchment area of river Godavari and Kadam.
\n
- The indicator species of the sanctuary are Tiger and Nilgai.
\n
- The reserve forms the southern end of the central Indian Tiger Reserve Landscape.
\n
- It is also linked to the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra to its north and Indravathi Tiger Reserve to its east
\n
- The forest area found here is the southern tropical mixed dry deciduous forest and dry teak forest.
\n

\n\n

Dravidian Language Family

\n\n

- \n
- A study has found that the Dravidian language family had originated about 4,500 years ago.
\n
- The language family consists of 80 varieties spoken by nearly 220 million people across southern and central India.
\n
- The Dravidian language family's four largest languages — Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu — have literary traditions spanning centuries
\n
- The geographical origin of the Dravidian language or its exact dispersal through time is not known with certainty.
\n

\n\n

Integrated Scheme for Development of Silk Industry

\n\n

- \n
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had given its approval for Central Sector Scheme "Integrated Scheme for Development of Silk Industry".
\n
- The core objective of the scheme is to improve the productivity and quality of silk through R&D intervention.

- \n
- It is expected to increase the silk production from the level of 30348 MTs during 2016-17 to 38500 MTs by end of 2019-20
- \n
- It will promote Women Empowerment and livelihood opportunities to SC/ST and other weaker sections of the society.
- \n
- It will be implemented by the Ministry through Central Silk Board (CSB).
- \n
- The Scheme has four components,
- \n

\n\n

- \n
1. Research & Development (R&D), Training, Transfer of Technology and IT Initiatives
- \n
2. Seed Organizations and farmers extension centers
- \n
3. Coordination and Market Development for seed, yarn and silk products and
- \n
4. Quality Certification System (QCS) by creating amongst others a chain of Silk Testing facilities, Farm based & post-cocoon Technology Up-gradation, and Export Brand Promotion
- \n

\n\n

- \n
- Brand Promotion of Indian silk will be encouraged through quality certification by Silk Mark.
- \n
- Efforts will be strengthened for collaborating with National Institute of Fashion Technology and National Institute of Design for support on design and product development.
- \n

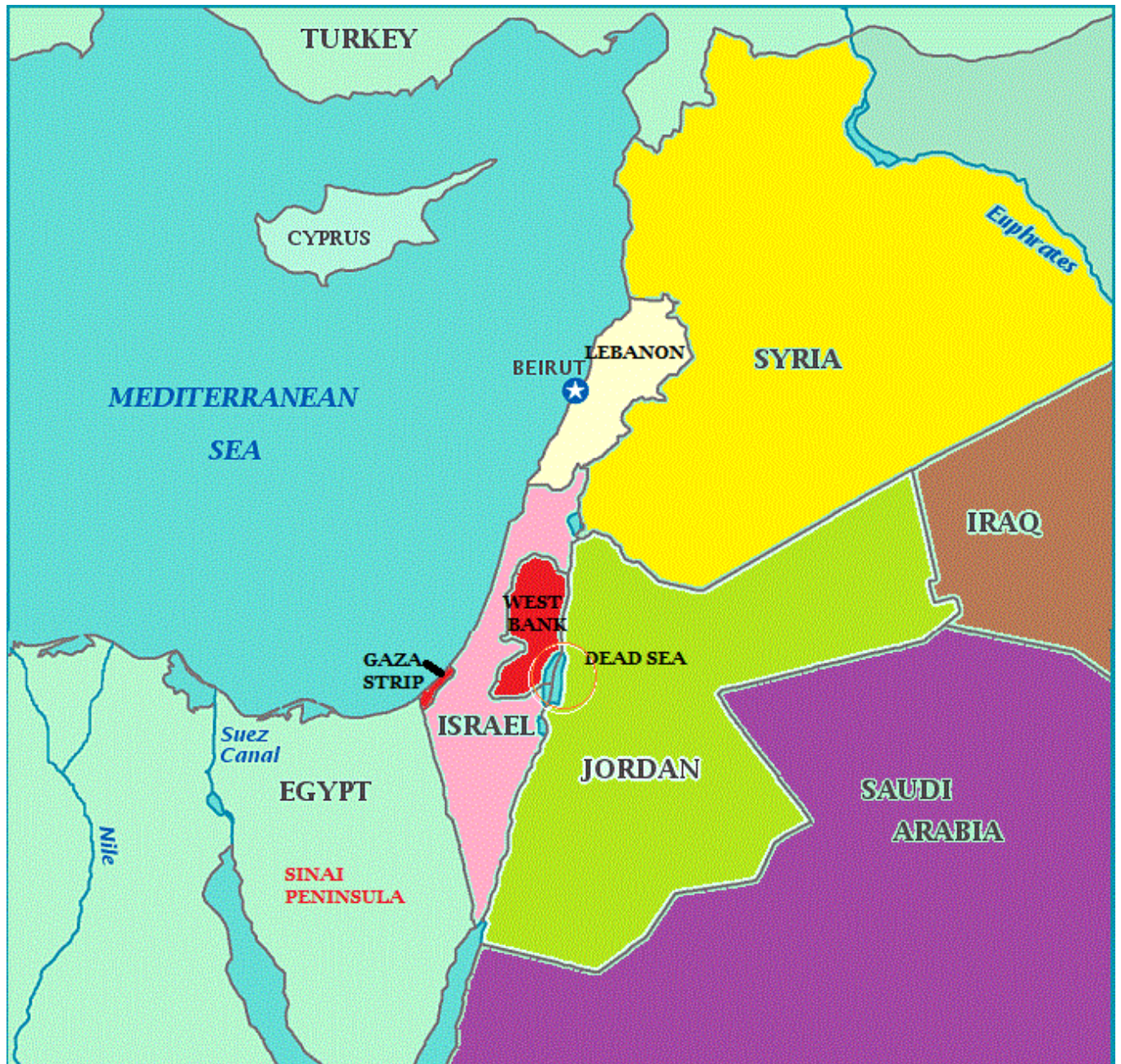
\n\n

Map of the day

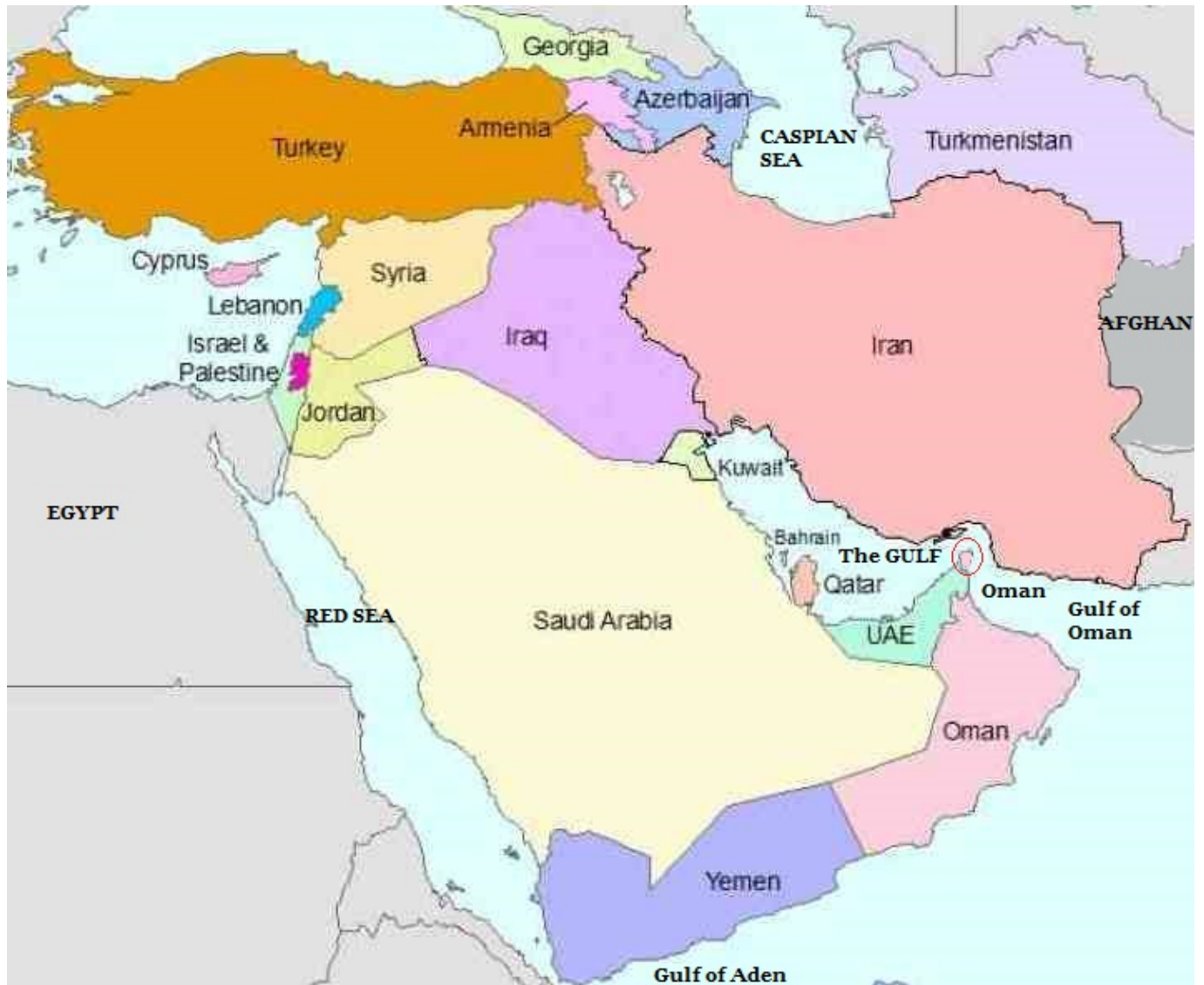
\n\n

Middle East Asia

\n\n



\n\n



\n\n

\n

- West bank and Gaza strip constitute Palestine.

\n

- Armenia and Azerbaijan are land locked countries.

\n

\n\n

\n\n

Source: PIB, The Hindu, Business Standard

\n\n

\n



IAS PARLIAMENT

Information is Empowering

A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative