



27-06-2024 NEWS

Navratna Status for Mazagon Company

- Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders at Masagan, Mumbai has got Navratna status.
- It is a Public Sector Undertaking managed by the Ministry of Defence.
- It is the 18th PSU in India to receive this prestigious recognition.
- By obtaining this qualification, it is authorized to make investments up to Rs 1,000 crore without the approval of the Central Government.
- In addition, the company, up to 30 percent of its net worth. It also gets the power to invest in other companies.

Mancholai: The future of workers must be protected

- Mancholai tea plantation workers have been living for generations since before the independence of India. Being forced to move out because the lease is about to expire is heartbreaking.
- In 1929, Bombay Burma Trading Corporation Limited (BPTCL), owned by the Wadia group, took a 99-year lease of about 8,373 acres of land from Singambatti Zamin.
- In 1952 Mancholai estate owned by Singampatti came under the Tamil Nadu Inam Estate Abolition Act 1948 after independence.
- As per the decree issued by the Government of Tamil Nadu in 1958 it was decided that the company could enjoy a lease of 99 years.
- Mundanthurai Tiger Sanctuary was declared in this area in 1962 and came into effect in 1976.
- Accordingly, the area containing this tea estate also came under this forest reserve. Hence the company approached the court.
- In the long-running case, in 2017, it was decided that it falls within the protected forest area.
- But the judgment said that till the end of the lease period - if no new plantations are created - this plantation can be used.
- Accordingly, eviction is being done to hand over the estate to the Government of Tamil Nadu as the lease period is due to expire on 11th February 2028.
- Although commonly known as Mancholai, it is the region that includes the areas of Kakachi, Nalumukku, Uthu and Kuthiraioti etc and has seen five generations of people.

Did the summit find a way to peace?

- Representatives from 100 countries and international organizations attended the recent Ukraine Peace Summit in Switzerland.
- Strategies for ending Russia's war on Ukraine were discussed. The conference was held in the mountain city of Lucerne on June 15 and 16.
- Ukraine is reeling under various impacts such as loss of human lives, destruction of many basic infrastructure facilities, disconnection of water and electricity etc.
- It is important that not only government representatives but also international justice organizations and other businesses participated in this conference seeking a solution.

What does the agreement say?

- At the end of the summit most delegates signed a declaration.
- The report urged that the nuclear power plant in Ukraine be safeguarded. Europe's largest nuclear power plant is located in southwestern Ukraine.
- Ukraine's export of agricultural products to other countries must be ensured at no cost and any attack on merchant ships is unacceptable, the report said.
- Ukraine urged people displaced by the war to return to their places of residence. (It is worth noting that Russia has ordered the evacuation of others living in parts of Ukraine where Russian speakers are predominant).

Stand of the countries

- Countries that have signed this statement include Australia, Canada and the European Parliament, France, Germany, USA, Ukraine, Japan, Israel.
- Among the non-signatories, Brazil declared that it was only an observer and did not support the statement.
- Representatives of countries like India, Mexico, South Africa, Thailand, Indonesia, United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia did not sign the agreement.
- It can be assumed that these countries do not want to be part of any document that would put Russia's war crimes in writing.
- A peace summit means both sides must be present. But Russia was never invited.
- Russia has expressed its view that such conferences are futile, China was invited but has not attended. Hence, Pakistan also did not participate.
- In this case, the question is raised as to why India has not signed this statement. Pawan Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, India said Russia did not attend the summit.
- He said that this issue will be resolved only if all concerned work together. Saudi Arabia took up a similar position.
- It is also surprising to see the involvement of Israel in the summit.
- South Africa questioned why European countries did not advance solutions for the Israel-Palestine ceasefire.
- US Vice President Kamala Harris announced that 1.4 billion (€1.4 billion) funds would be sent to Ukraine.
- Many other countries have also agreed to provide funding. It also agreed to negotiate Ukraine's membership in the European Union.

Om Birla is the Speaker of the Lok Sabha

- Om Birla (62), who was nominated by the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) as the speaker in the 18th Lok Sabha, was elected for the second consecutive term.
- With this, a speaker has been elected for the 4th time after independence.
- Om Birla, who has been elected as an MP three times is from the NDA coalition, and Kodikunnil Suresh who is an 8 time MP is from the India coalition were the candidates.
- The Interim Speaker called for a voice vote in the House. Then the members of the ruling NDA alliance said 'yes' to electing Om Birla as Lok Sabha Speaker. Opposition members voiced no.
- Om Birla got majority support in this voice vote and he was elected as Lok Sabha Speaker, as announced by the Pro-tem speaker Bhartruhari Mahtab.

Adani - Thales alliance

- Adani Defense and Aerospace, a company belonging to the Adani Group, is involved in the design and manufacture of defense products.
- The company has tied up with France's Thales Group to manufacture rockets in India.
- The Thales Group designs and manufactures electrical devices and equipment for the aerospace, defense, transportation and security sectors.
- The agreement also involves setting up research and development centers in India and the UAE. It is said to help in setting up production and maintenance centers for defense and aerospace sectors.