

13 June, 2023

India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement

Context: The 1st Meeting of the Joint Committee (JC) of the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was successfully held.

- Mutual exchange of preferential trade data on a quarterly basis was agreed upon for effective monitoring of the CEPA.
- A new sub-committee on Trade in Services was created, and a UAE-India CEPA Council (UICC) was established as a B2B collaboration mechanism, focusing on MSMEs and start-ups.
- Views on WTO matters were exchanged, and the 13th Ministerial Conference of the WTO (MC13) is scheduled to be held in Abu Dhabi in February 2024.
- The target of USD 100 billion in non-petroleum trade by 2030 was set, with bilateral trade already reaching around USD 84.84 billion in FY 2022-23.
- India's exports to the UAE recorded remarkable growth of 12% in 2022-23, reaching USD 31.6 billion.
- Initiatives discussed include Virtual Trade corridors, potential set-up of Abu Dhabi Investment Authority offices in GIFT City, UPI partnership, and the development of an efficient system for direct Rupee-Dirham trade.
- The UAE affirmed its commitment to strengthen bilateral relations and collaborate with India in various areas of mutual importance.
- The B2B event organized by the Department of Commerce in partnership with CII saw active participation from business communities and senior officials of both countries.

What is CEPA?

- The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) is a type of free trade agreement that includes discussions on various aspects of economic partnership, including trade in services, investment, and other areas.
- CEPA negotiations may also cover topics such as trade facilitation, customs cooperation, competition, and Intellectual Property Rights.
- Partnership agreements or cooperation agreements are more extensive in scope compared to Free Trade Agreements.
- CEPA specifically addresses regulatory matters related to trade and includes an agreement that tackles regulatory issues.
- India has entered into CEPAs with both South Korea and Japan.

Various types of Trade Agreements

Trade agreements are accords between two or more countries that establish specific terms for trade, commerce, transit, or investment, often involving mutually beneficial concessions. Various types of trade agreements exist:

- **Free Trade Agreement (FTA):**
 - Countries agree to provide preferential trade terms and tariff concessions to partner nations.
 - A negative list of products and services specifies items excluded from FTA terms, making it more comprehensive than a preferential trade agreement.
 - India has negotiated FTAs with countries like Sri Lanka and trading blocs such as ASEAN.
- **Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA):**
 - Partners grant preferential entry rights to certain products by reducing duties on agreed tariff lines.
 - A positive list identifies products eligible for preferential access, with tariffs potentially reduced to zero for some items.
 - India signed a PTA with Afghanistan.
- **Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA):**
 - Generally, focuses on negotiating trade tariff and trade quantity restrictions (TQR) rates only.
 - Not as extensive as CEPA in terms of coverage.
 - India has signed a CECA with Malaysia.

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➤ Framework Agreement:

- Establishes the scope, provisions, and orientation for potential agreements between trading partners.
- Sets the stage for discussions on new areas and outlines the timeline for future liberalization.
- India has previously signed framework agreements with ASEAN, Japan, etc.

➤ Early Harvest Scheme (EHS):

- Serves as a preliminary stage to an FTA/CECA/CEPA between trading partners.
- Identifies specific products for tariff liberalization during ongoing negotiations.
- Functions as a confidence-building measure and enhances engagement.
- For instance, the early harvest scheme of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) has been implemented.

Right to life

Context: The Delhi High Court has stated that the right to life encompasses the right to be free from the constraints of caste discrimination.

What is Right to life?

- Article 21 of the Indian Constitution covers the arena of protection of human life and liberty. It prescribes that “no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to the procedure established by law.”
- For Article 21, the courts also look for the “due process of law” along with “procedure established by law”.
- The right to life, liberty, and security of a person is enshrined in Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights recognizes the inherent right to life for every human being and emphasizes the need for legal protection against arbitrary deprivation of life.
- Constitutions of various countries worldwide incorporate the right to life within their legal frameworks.

Due Process of Law	Procedure Established by Law
Ensures fairness, justice, and protection of individual rights.	Focuses on the adherence to established legal procedures.
Requires a fair and impartial legal system and safeguards against arbitrary actions.	Emphasizes compliance with the procedural requirements outlined by the law.
Applies to both substantive and procedural aspects of law.	Primarily concerned with the procedural aspects of law.
Incorporates principles of natural justice, including the right to notice, hearing, and legal representation.	Relies on the specific procedures prescribed by legislation or legal codes.
Requires a balance between the interests of the state and the rights of individuals.	Places importance on the legality and validity of the prescribed procedure.
Provides safeguards against violations of fundamental rights.	Ensures conformity to established legal norms and regulations.
Often found in legal systems based on common law traditions.	Commonly associated with civil law legal systems.
Protects against arbitrary deprivation of life, liberty, or property.	Ensures compliance with established legal norms without considering the substantive fairness of the outcome.

Scope of Article 21

The Court gave a list of rights that Article 21 covers based on earlier judgments. Some of them are:

- Right to privacy
- Right to go abroad
- Right to shelter
- Right against solitary confinement
- Right to social justice and economic empowerment
- Right against handcuffing
- Right against custodial death
- Right against delayed execution
- Doctors' assistance
- Right against public hanging
- Protection of cultural heritage

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- Right to pollution-free water and air
- Right of every child to a full development
- Right to health and medical aid
- Right to education
- Protection of under-trials

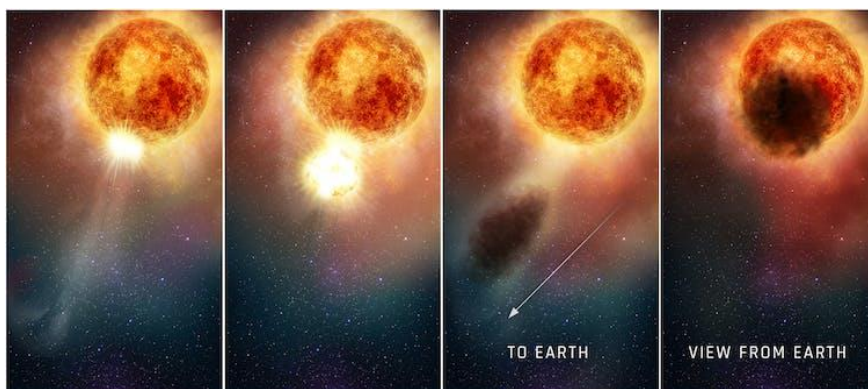
Important Cases related to Right to life

- **A.K Gopalan vs. State of Madras (1951):** Article 21 protection is available only against executive action, and the legislature can deprive a person of their rights through legislation.
- **Maneka Gandhi vs. UOI (1978):** Article 21 protection is available against both executive and legislative action. The legislature cannot deprive a person of the right to life and personal liberty through legislation.
- **Kharak Singh vs. State of UP and Others:** The right to privacy is included in the right to life.
- **Sunil Batra vs. Delhi Administration:** Fatal cuffs are unconstitutional for convicted persons as it violates Article 21.
- **Prem Shankar Shukla vs. Delhi Administration:** Handcuffing is unconstitutional and violates Article 21.
- **Mohini Jain vs. State of Karnataka (1992):** The right to life includes the right to education.
- **Unni Krishnan vs. State of Andhra Pradesh (1993):** Right to education is a fundamental right for children aged 6-14 years.
- **Satwant Singh vs. APO Delhi:** Right to go abroad is a fundamental right under Article 21.
- **Subhash Kumar vs. State of Bihar:** Right to pollution-free air is a fundamental right under Article 21.
- **Olega Tellis vs. Bombay Municipal Corporation (B.M.C):** Right to livelihood is included in Article 21.
- **Lachma Devi vs. Attorney General of India:** Execution of a death sentence at a public place is unconstitutional and violates Article 21.
- **Hussainara Khatoon vs. State of Bihar:** Equal justice and free legal aid for accused persons is a fundamental right under Article 21.
- **Rudal Shah vs. State of Bihar:** Compensation for illegal imprisonment is a fundamental right of prisoners.
- **Chandrima Das vs. Railway Chairman Board:** Compensation for rape victims is a fundamental right under Article 21.

Betelgeuse

Context: Researchers from Japan and Switzerland recently reported that the star is in its late carbon-burning stage.

- The bright red star Betelgeuse is known as "Thiruvathirai" or "Ardra" in Indian astronomy.
- Betelgeuse is located in the constellation Orion and is easily visible.
- Recent research conducted by scientists from Japan and Switzerland focused on Betelgeuse's pulsation, which refers to its periodic contraction and expansion.
- The study revealed that Betelgeuse is currently in its late carbon-burning stage.
- In massive stars like Betelgeuse, the carbon-burning stage typically lasts only a few hundred years.
- After this stage, the star reaches the end of its life and undergoes a supernova explosion.
- The collapse into a supernova occurs within a few months after the carbon-burning stage ends.



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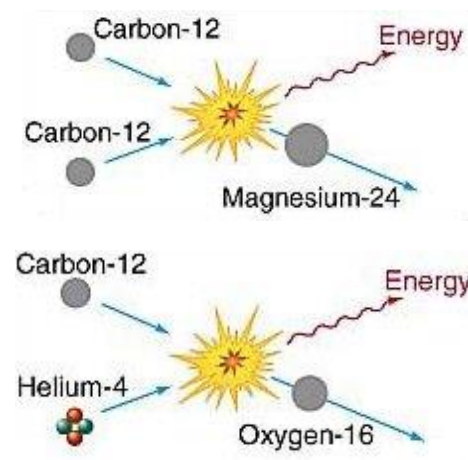
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What is Carbon-burning?

Carbon burning is the stage at which a star fuses carbon inside its core, making heavier elements such as neon and magnesium. Carbon burning eventually occurs in all stars that start out with more than about eight solar masses.

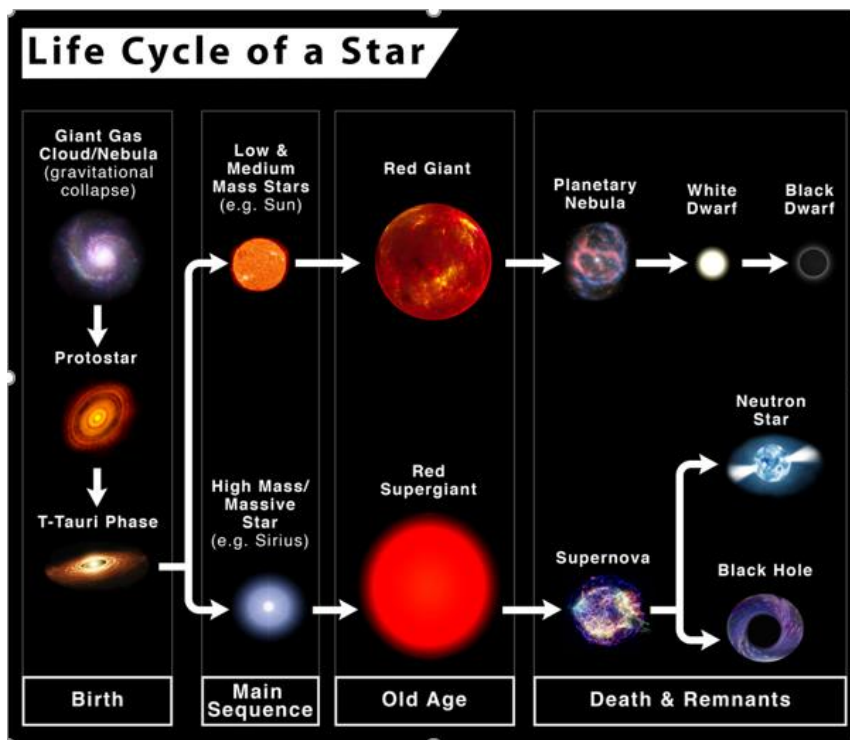
It takes place in two ways

1. Carbon-Carbon fusion
2. Helium capture



What is Betelgeuse?

- Betelgeuse is a red supergiant star classified as spectral type M1-2.
- It is one of the largest stars visible to the naked eye.
- Among the stars in the night sky, Betelgeuse is typically the tenth-brightest and the second-brightest in the constellation of Orion, after Rigel.
- Betelgeuse has a distinctive reddish color and is a semiregular variable star, meaning its brightness fluctuates over time.
- Its apparent magnitude, a measure of brightness, can vary between +0.0 and +1.6, making it the first-magnitude star with the widest range.
- In near-infrared wavelengths, Betelgeuse is the brightest star in the night sky.
- It is designated as α Orionis, Alpha Orionis, or α Ori.
- Betelgeuse's size is so immense that if it were located at the center of our Solar System, its surface would extend beyond the asteroid belt and engulf the orbits of Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars.
- Estimates of Betelgeuse's mass range from slightly less than ten to slightly over twenty times that of the Sun.



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NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

India-Norway Space Cooperation



Context: India and Norway collaborated on a significant rocket launch from Svalbard in 1997, strengthening space sector ties and yielding new findings despite technical challenges faced by ISRO.

India-Norway Space Cooperation:

India-Norway space cooperation refers to the collaborative efforts between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Norwegian Space Agency (NSA) in the field of space exploration, research, and technology.

The India-Norway rocket launch:

The India-Norway rocket launch refers to a collaborative space mission between India and Norway in which a rocket was launched from Svalbard, Norway.

Purpose:

The purpose of the launch was to conduct scientific experiments and gather data related to atmospheric research and space exploration.

When did the India-Norway rocket launch?

In 1997, India and Norway collaborated on a rocket launch from Svalbard, Norway.

Rocket used in the Mission:

The Rohini RH300 MkII sounding rocket was used for the launch.

Challenges faced by ISRO during the launch:

ISRO faced technical challenges during the launch, including issues with the rocket's onboard instruments and telemetry systems, which affected the collection of scientific data.

Why was the Rohini RH300 MkII rocket renamed Isbjorn1?

The Rohini RH300 MkII rocket was renamed Isbjorn1 (Polar Bear 1) to symbolize the collaborative effort between India and Norway in launching the rocket from Svalbard, known for its polar bear population.

Outcome of the launch:

The outcome of the launch included significant new findings in the field of space research. The mission provided valuable data on the Earth's atmosphere, including the study of neutral winds in the polar region and the behavior of atomic oxygen. The collaboration between India and Norway in this space research project strengthened bilateral ties and laid the foundation for future cooperation in the field.

Diego Garcia Island



Context: Recently, dozens of migrants have found themselves stranded on Diego Garcia Island in the Indian Ocean after being rescued from their distressed fishing boat.

Diego Garcia Island:

Diego Garcia Island is a coral atoll and the largest member of the Chagos Archipelago, located in the central Indian Ocean.

Significance:

The island holds strategic significance as it hosts a major military base, specifically an air and naval base, jointly operated by the United Kingdom and the United States.

Key highlights:

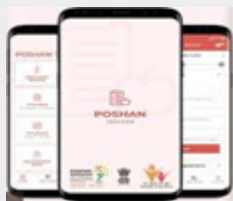
- It is part of the British Indian Ocean Territory and houses a crucial U.S. air and naval base.
- The Chagos Archipelago has been a subject of territorial dispute between the United Kingdom and Mauritius.
- In 1965, the UK separated the Chagos islands from Mauritius, establishing the British Indian Ocean Territory.
- The UK leased Diego Garcia to the US in 1966, leading to the forcible removal of the island's inhabitants.
- In 2019, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued an advisory opinion calling for the decolonization of Mauritius and an end to the UK's administration of the Chagos Archipelago.

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Poshan Tracker App



Context: Recently, more than 57000 migrant workers have registered for the special one nation one Anganwadi program through the Poshan app.

Poshan Tracker App:

The Poshan Tracker app facilitates coordination between central and state governments in providing Anganwadi services to migrant workers. The app offers a comprehensive view of Anganwadi activities, service deliveries, and beneficiary management.

Aim:

The One Nation, One Anganwadi programme aims to ensure that children under six years of age and pregnant and lactating women continue to receive government benefits and support regardless of their place of residence.

Key features:

- **Coordination between Central and State governments:** The app facilitates coordination between the Central and State governments to ensure the delivery of benefits to beneficiaries.
- **Anganwadi center activities:** The app provides a view of the activities conducted at Anganwadi centers, which are child care centers.
- **Beneficiary management:** The app manages and tracks beneficiaries, including pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children under the age of six, ensuring they receive the required services.
- **Digitization and automation:** It digitizes and automates physical registers used by workers, improving the quality of their work and reducing paperwork.
- **Efficient service delivery:** Anganwadi workers are provided smartphones through the Government eMarketplace (GeM), enabling them to deliver services efficiently.
- **Training and support:** Anganwadi workers are trained in using the app, and nodal persons are appointed in each state to provide technical support and resolve any issues related to the app's functioning.
- **Beneficiaries registered under the Poshan Abhiyan:** Since the launch of the Poshan Abhiyan in 2018, a total of 10.6 crore beneficiaries have been registered. These beneficiaries include 47.6 lakh lactating mothers, 7.48 crore pregnant women, and the remaining beneficiaries are children.

Homo naledi



Context: Recently, major new research claims smaller-brained Homo naledi made rock art and buried the dead.

Key Highlights:

- Homo naledi, an extinct human species, was discovered in South Africa's Rising Star cave system, with more than 15 individuals found.
- Recent studies claim Homo naledi practiced intentional burial and created rock art, indicating advanced cognitive abilities.
- The evidence presented for intentional burial fails to meet the established criteria for deliberate burials, such as anatomical alignment and excavated pits.
- The alleged rock art lacks reliable dating and could potentially be attributed to another species at a later date.
- Claims of hearths and the use of fire in Rising Star Cave require further investigation and confirmation through scientific research.

Anak Krakatau Volcano Eruption



Context: Indonesia's Anak Krakatau volcano has recently experienced a significant eruption, resulting in the release of ash reaching heights of up to 3 kilometers.

Anak Krakatau Volcano and its Historical Significance:

Anak Krakatau is the offspring of the legendary Krakatau volcano, which erupted in 1883 and had far-reaching global consequences.

The eruption of Anak Krakatau in 2018 caused a catastrophic tsunami, making it the longest eruption since the volcanic collapse that triggered the disaster.

Location: Anak Krakatau volcano, situated in Indonesia's Sunda Strait between Java and Sumatra islands, has gained prominence due to its recent eruption.

The Sunda Strait Connects:

The Sunda Strait, where Anak Krakatau is located, serves as a vital waterway connecting the Java Sea to the Indian Ocean.

The strait is home to numerous volcanic islands, emphasizing the region's geological activity.

The significance of the name "Anak Krakatau":

The name "Anak Krakatau" holds significance as it translates to "child of Krakatau." It symbolizes the volcanic island's connection to the famous Krakatau volcano, also known as Krakatoa.

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