

### PROJECT UDBHAV: TO REDISCOVER 'INDIC HERITAGE OF STATECRAFT' FROM ANCIENT TEXTS

#### Why in News?

- The Indian Army has started an initiative, named Project Udbhav, to rediscover the profound Indic heritage of statecraft and strategic thoughts.

#### What is Project Udbhav?

- Project Udbhav was started in **2021** by the **Indian Army in collaboration with the United Service Institution of India**, a defence think-tank.
- It is an **initiative** to rediscover the profound Indic heritage of statecraft and strategic thoughts derived from ancient Indian texts of statecraft, warcraft, diplomacy and grand strategy.
- **It focuses on a broad spectrum** including Indigenous Military Systems, Historical Texts, Regional Texts and Kingdoms, Thematic Studies, and intricate Kautilya Studies.
- This pioneering initiative stands testimony to the **Indian Army's recognition of India's age-old wisdom** in statecraft, strategy, diplomacy, and warfare.

#### What is the Significance of the Project Udbhav?

- At its core, Project Udbhav seeks to **bridge the historical and the contemporary** to integrate age-old wisdom with modern military pedagogy.
- By reintroducing these classical teachings into contemporary military and strategic domains, **the Army aims -**
  - **To nurture its officers to apply ancient wisdom in modern scenarios** and
  - To allow a more profound understanding of international relations and foreign cultures.
- It seeks to understand the **profound depths of indigenous military systems**, their evolution, strategies that have been passed down through the ages, and the strategic thought processes that have governed the land for millennia.
- The Project is **not limited to just rediscovering these narratives** but also to also develop an indigenous strategic vocabulary, which is deeply rooted in India's multifaceted philosophical and cultural tapestry.

## News Summary Regarding Project Udbhav:

- A study to compile **Indian stratagems** based on ancient texts has been ongoing since **2021**, and a book has been released listing 75 aphorisms selected from ancient texts.
- Recently, a dialogue on the study of ancient texts from the 4th century BCE to the 8th century CE, with a focus on Kautilya, Kamandaka, and the Kural has been undertaken under the Project.
- In connection with the Project, USI will conduct a **Military Heritage Festival on October 21 and 22**, to acquaint future thought leaders -
  - With the dynamics of comprehensive national security,
  - With special emphasis on India's strategic culture, military heritage, education, modernisation of security forces and Atmanirbhar Bharat.

## OSIRIS-REX SPACECRAFT BRINGS BACK SAMPLE FROM ASTEROID BENNU

### Why in News?

- **OSIRIS-REx** (Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, and Security-Regolith Explorer), the first US mission to collect a sample from an asteroid, returned on Earth with material from asteroid **Bennu**.
- So far, **Japan** is the only other country to similarly bring asteroid samples to the Earth.

### About OSIRIS-REx:



- OSIRIS-REx (Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer) is a NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) asteroid-study and sample-return mission.
- The mission was launched in September, 2016. The spacecraft reached asteroid **Bennu** in 2018.
- **Objective:** To obtain a sample of at least 60 gm from Bennu and return the sample to Earth for a detailed analysis.
- In October 2020, the spacecraft contacted the surface of the asteroid successfully and fired a burst of nitrogen gas meant to stir rocks and soil.

- Once the surface was disturbed, the spacecraft's robotic arm captured some samples.
- NASA had also confirmed that shortly after the spacecraft made contact with the surface, it fired its thrusters and "safely backed away from Bennu".

### About Asteroids:

- Asteroids are **small, rocky objects** that orbit the Sun.
- Although asteroids orbit the Sun like planets, they are much smaller than planets. They are also known as **planetoids** or **minor planets**.
- There are millions of asteroids, ranging in size from hundreds of kms to several feet across.
- In total, the mass of all the asteroids is less than that of Earth's moon.

### About Asteroid Bennu:

- Bennu is a B-type **Near-Earth Asteroid**.
- B-type asteroids are a relatively uncommon type of carbonaceous asteroid.
- Because of its high carbon content, the asteroid reflects about four per cent of the light that hits it, which is very low.
- Earth reflects about 30 per cent of the light.
- There is a slight possibility that Bennu might strike the Earth in the next century, between the years 2175 and 2199.

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### [SELA TUNNEL PROJECT](#)

The BRO officials recently said that nearly 96 percent of the work on the strategically crucial Sela Tunnel is complete, and it is likely to be inaugurated by year-end.



### About Sela Tunnel Project:

- **Location:** It is located in the West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Once completed, the Sela tunnel will be **the world's longest bi-lane tunnel at an altitude above 13,000 feet**.

- It will ensure **all-weather connectivity** between **Guwahati in Assam** and **Tawang** in Arunachal Pradesh.
- It is being excavated **below the Sela Pass** on the NH-13 component of the **Trans-Arunachal Highway system**.
- It is being **built by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** under Project Vartak and the tunnel's construction **commenced on April 1, 2019**.
- **Project Details:**
  - **Tunnel 1:** This **single-tube tunnel** has a length of **980m**.
  - **Tunnel 2:** This **bi-lane tunnel** has a length of **1555m**. It includes **one escape tube** for emergencies.
  - **Roads:** **Approach to Tunnel 1** is **7100m**, the road between the two tunnels is **1340m**, and the **approach to Tunnel 2** is **340 m long**.

### Key Facts about Sela Pass:

- It is a **high-altitude mountain pass** located in the **Tawang district** of Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Elevation: 4,170 meters** above sea level
- It **connects Tawang Valley** to the rest of India.
- **Open throughout the year**, Sela Pass is **managed by the BRO**.

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### SASTRA RAMANUJAN PRIZE

**Ruixiang Zhang**, Assistant Professor, University of California, Berkeley, USA will be awarded with the **2023 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize** for his outstanding contributions in mathematics.



### About Sastra Ramanujan Prize:

- The prize was instituted **in the year 2005**.
- It is **awarded every year** by the SASTRA University on its campus near Kumbakonam in Tamil Nadu, on Ramanujan's birth anniversary, December 22.

- The prize is **conferred annually to mathematicians from across the world who is less than 32 years of age**, working in an area influenced by the Srinivasa Ramanujan.
- The age limit is 32 years to commemorate the fact that Ramanujan accomplished a phenomenal body of work in this short span.
- **Cash prize:** It carries a citation and an award of \$10,000.
- This award has gained global repute ever since it was instituted.
- **Other recipients:** Manjul Bhargava and Akshay Venkatesh

### Contribution of Ruixiang Zhang

- He is a young mathematician whose fundamental work spans from analytic number theory, **combinatorics, and Euclidean Harmonic Analysis to geometry.**
- Building on his Princeton PhD thesis, Zhang in collaboration with Shaoming Guo proved a multivariable generalisation of the main conjecture in **Vinogradov's Mean Value Theorem.**
- This work, which has appeared in *Inventiones Mathematicae* in 2019, is considered a major achievement.

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### INTELLIGENT GRIEVANCE MONITORING SYSTEM (IGMS) 2.0

Recently, the union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, MoS Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions launched the Intelligent Grievance Monitoring System (IGMS) 2.0



#### About Intelligent Grievance Monitoring System (IGMS) 2.0:

- It is a **public grievance portal** and Automated Analysis in Tree Dashboard portal of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).
- It has been **implemented by IIT Kanpur.**
- **Objectives:** The Dashboard provides instant **tabular analysis of Grievances Filed & Disposed**, State-wise & District-wise Grievances Filed & Ministry-wise data.
- It will also help the officials identify **the root cause of the grievance.**

- This portal will help the DARPG with creation of draft letter for selected scheme/ministry and expedite the grievance redressal process by the concerned ministry/department.
- It has been enabled with **Artificial intelligence (AI) capacity**.

## What is CPGRAMS?

- **Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)** is an online platform available to the **citizens 24x7 to lodge their grievances** to the public authorities on any subject related to service delivery.
- It is a single portal connected to all the Ministries/Departments of Government of India and States.
- Every Ministry and States has role-based access to this system.
- It is also accessible to the citizens through standalone mobile application downloadable through Google Play store and mobile application integrated with UMANG.
- The status of the grievance filed in CPGRAMS **can be tracked with the unique registration ID** provided at the time of registration of the complainant.

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## WHAT IS THE FINANCIAL STABILITY BOARD (FSB)?

**The Financial Stability Board (FSB) is launching a probe into the buildup of debt outside traditional banks, as it seeks to limit hedge funds' borrowing and boost transparency.**



### About Financial Stability Board (FSB):

- FSB was established by the G20 in 2009 in the wake of the financial crisis.
- **Mandate:** It was created expressly to **coordinate at the international level the work of national financial authorities and international standard-setting bodies** and to develop and promote the implementation of effective regulatory, supervisory, and other financial sector policies **in the interest of financial stability.**



# CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK



- The FSB brings together national authorities responsible for financial stability (central banks, supervisory authorities, and finance ministries), international organisations, and standard-setting bodies.
- The FSB operates by monitoring, analyzing, and making recommendations on key aspects of the financial system. It assesses emerging issues that could impact global financial stability.
- The FSB's decisions are not legally binding on its members.
- **Headquarters: Basel, Switzerland.**
- **Members:**
  - The FSB consists of 68 member institutions. It comprises several **central banks, ministries of finance, and supervisory and regulatory authorities** from 25 jurisdictions, as well as 10 international organizations and six Regional Consultative Groups (RCGs).
  - The board includes all **G20 major economies**.

## Structure:

- **The Plenary, which serves as the sole decision-making body.**
- **The Steering Committee, which takes forward operational work** in between plenary meetings.
- **Three Standing Committees, each with specific but complementary responsibilities.**
- **India and FSB:** India is an active member of the FSB, having three seats in its Plenary represented by the Secretary (Dept of Economic Affairs), Deputy Governor-RBI, and Chairman-SEBI.

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## WHY BALOCHISTAN REMAINS A PROBLEM PROVINCE FOR PAK

### Balochistan

- **About**
  - Balochistan, the **largest Pakistani province**, is sparsely populated and impoverished when compared to the rest of the country.
  - At the same time, its location as well as abundance of natural resources, especially oil, make it strategically vital for Pakistan.

- **Geographical location**



- It is located in the southwestern half of Pakistan, and is bordered by:
  - Iran to the west
  - Afghanistan and FATA to the north
  - Punjab and Sindh to the east
- The Arabian Sea to the south
- Balochistan is located at the eastern edge of the Iranian plateau.
- It strategically bridges the Middle East and Southwest Asia to Central Asia and South Asia.
- It is the closest oceanic frontage for the land-locked countries of Central Asia.

## **Forced accession of Balochistan**

- **Situation at the time of independence**

- The region comprised Makran, Las Bela, Kharan and Kalat, the tribal chiefs of which had sworn allegiance to the British.
- The chief of Kalat was the most powerful chief, with the rest owing feudal allegiance to him.

- **Demand for independent Baloch state**

- As British withdrawal from the subcontinent drew closer, **Ahmed Yar Khan**, the last chief of Kalat, began openly advocating for an independent Baloch state.
- On August 11, 1947, his vision seemed to fructify when Pakistan signed a treaty of friendship with him — instead of forcing him to accede.

- **British opposed an independent Baloch state**

- The British, wary of Russian expansionism in the region, were vehemently against this. They wanted Kalat's accession to Pakistan.
- The three feudatories of Kalat all wanted to accede to Pakistan. Thus, by October 1947, Pakistan changed its tune and began pushing for accession.

- **Treaty of accession**

- On March 17, 1948, the Pakistan government decided to accept the accession of Kalat's three feudatory states.



- This left Kalat landlocked and with less than half its landmass.
- Moreover, rumour broke that Khan actually wanted to accede to India.
- This prompted the Pakistan Army to move into Balochistan on March 26, 1948.
- The chief signed the treaty of accession a day later.

### Why has this conflict persisted for such a long time?

- **Ethnic difference**
    - One fundamental reason is ethnic difference. People of Balochistan have a shared history, language and other cultural similarities very different from Punjabis or Sindhis.
    - Ethnic differences were the cause of East Pakistan breaking away in 1971 and are also the driving force behind Baloch nationalism.
  - **Skewed power relations among the different Muslim ethnicities**
    - Punjabi landlords had an almost unchallenged hold over Pakistan's bureaucracy.
  - **Deep economic and political grievances**
    - Exacerbating ethnic differences are deep economic and political grievances held by the Baloch people.
    - Baloch nationalists argue that the Baloch people themselves do not enjoy the fruits of **Balochistan's abundant natural resources**.
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