

Defence exports touch ₹13,000 crore

(GS Paper 3, Defence)

Why in news?

- India's defence exports for 2021-22 were estimated at ₹13,000 crore, the highest ever.
- The U.S. was a major buyer, as also nations in Southeast Asia, West Asia and Africa.

Year	Value (cr)
2014-15	₹1,941
2015-16	₹2,059
2016-17	₹1,522
2017-18	₹4,682
2018-19	₹10,746
2019-20	₹9,116
2020-21	₹8,435
2021-22	₹13,000

Key Achievements:

- The **private sector accounted for 70% of the exports**, while public sector firms accounted for the rest. Earlier, the private sector used to account for 90% but now the share of defence public sector units had gone up.
- While India's defence imports from the U.S. have gone up significantly in recent years, Indian companies have been increasingly becoming part of the supply chains of U.S. defence companies.
- In January, India signed a **\$374.96-million deal with the Philippines**, its single biggest defence export order, for the supply of three batteries of shore-based anti-ship variant of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile.

AI in defence:

- In 2018, the Defence Ministry had created a task force to work out an action plan to prepare the armed forces for AI and the challenges.
- The Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will inaugurate a symposium and exhibition on "Artificial Intelligence in defence", organised by the Department of Defence Production.
- 75 newly developed AI products and technologies, having applications in defence, would be launched.
- The products to be launched are in the domains of automation, unmanned, robotics systems; cyber security; human behaviour analysis; intelligent monitoring system; logistics and supply chain management, speech/voice analysis and Command, Control, Communication, **Computer & Intelligence, Surveillance & Reconnaissance (C4ISR) systems** and operational data analytics.

Sites associated with Dr. Ambedkar to be declared as Monuments of National Importance

(GS Paper 1, Culture)

Why in news?

- Recently, the National Monuments Authority has recommended two sites associated with Dr Ambedkar, to be declared as Monuments of National importance.



Sites recommended:

- NMA has recommended that **Sankalp Bhumi Banyan tree campus in Vadodara**, where Dr. Ambedkar had taken a **resolve to eradicate untouchability on 23th September, 1917** be declared as Monument of National Importance.
- This place is more than hundred years old and a witness to the beginning of social respect revolution heralded by Dr. Ambedkar.
- NMA has also recommended a place in Satara (Maharashtra) where Bhim Rao Ramji Ambedkar received his primary education in **Pratap Rao Bhosle High School** to be declared as monument of National importance.
- The school register still shows with pride a child student Bhim Rao's signatures in Marathi. The school, now under Zila Parishad is in a dilapidated condition.

About NMA:

- National Monuments Authority (NMA) under the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India has been setup as per provisions of The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains AMASR (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010 which was enacted in March, 2010.
- Several functions have been assigned to the NMA for the protection and preservation of monuments and sites through management of the prohibited and regulated area around the centrally protected monuments.
- One amongst these responsibilities of NMA is also to consider grant of permissions to applicants for construction related activity in the prohibited and regulated area.

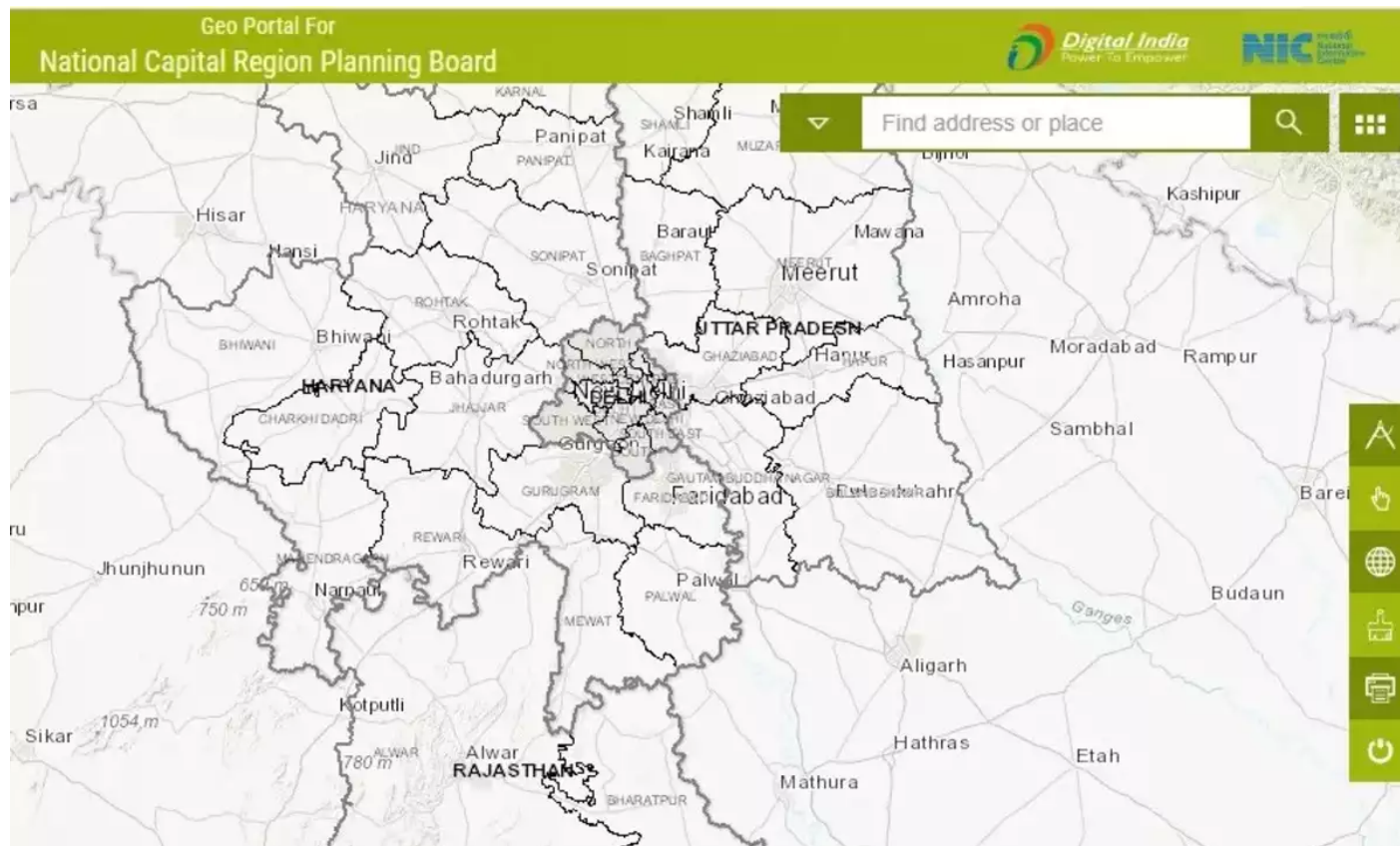
PARIMAN: The Geo-Portal for NCR made Public (GS Paper 3, Economy)

Why in news?

- Recently, the NCR Planning Board (NCRPB) has opened its geo-portal for people who can now see details of planning related to transport, industries, power and health in the National Capital Region.

Details:

- National Capital Region (NCR) is presently spread over 55,083 Sq. Kms and has four participating states (24 Districts and entire NCT of Delhi) as its constituent area.
- For the purpose of effective utilization of Remote Sensing and GIS technology, a web geo-portal has been developed through National Informatics Centre (NIC), initially for use by NCR Participating states and the Office of NCRPB.



Significance:

- This Geo-Portal will help to improve decentralized planning and management in NCR region.
- The Portal consists of around 179 Layers presented as Line, Point & Polygon feature covering details of various sectors like Land Use, Transport, Industries, Water, Power, Health, Shelter, Heritage & Tourism, Disaster Management, etc.

PARIMAN:

- Geo-Portal for NCR known as 'PARIMAN' was launched on 31st August 2021.