

1 Atacama Desert (Source: *The Hindu*)

The Atacama desert is the driest non-polar place on earth. It is located in Chile.

Facts to know about the Atacama Desert

- It is an example of a coastal desert.
- It is situated between the Andes and the Pacific Ocean.
- It is known for its Martian-like landscape and high-altitude salt flats.
- It is rich in various resources like copper.

How are deserts formed?

- An area must receive less than 12.5 centimetres of rainfall a year is recognised as a desert.
- They can be formed due to the impact of air current like subtropical deserts(Mojave Desert of USA).





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2 Gaganyaan Mission (Source: *The Hindu*)

Gaganyaan Mission is the manned space mission of India.

Facts to Know

- The crewed spaceflight plans to place humans to Low Earth Orbit (LEO) in the initial missions.
- Will help India in gaining practical knowledge and experience in launching future space exploration mission.
- The first uncrewed mission with a robot called Vyom-Mitra will help in ascertain the preparedness of ISRO in manned missions.

Manned Space Exploration Across World

- Project Apollo of the USA- Moon
- Artemis Programme of the USA- Moon
- Tiangong space station of China





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3 Guru Teg Bahadur (Source: PIB)

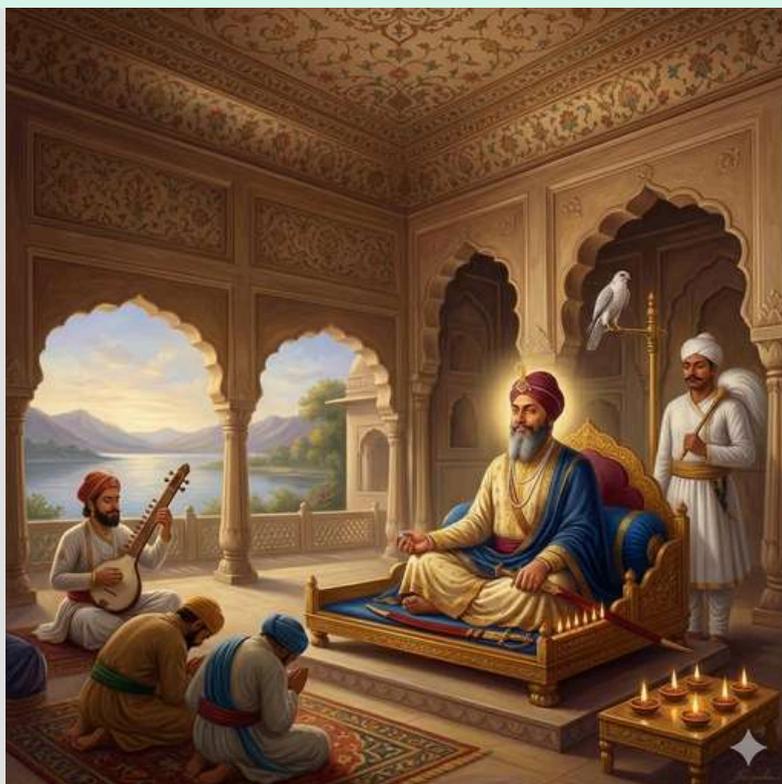
Guru Teg Bahadur is one among the gurus of Sikh Religion. He has earned the title “Hind di Chadar” (Shield of Hind).

What you need to know?

- Guru Teg Bahadur Sahib was the ninth guru of the Sikhs.
- He was assassinated by Aurangzeb in 1675.
- The sacrifice of Guru Tegh Bahadur inspired his son and 10th Guru, Guru Gobind Singh, to establish the Khalsa Panth.

What do you need to know about Sikhism?

- It is a monotheistic religion founded by Guru Nanak.
- Sikhism calls for belief in one creator, selfless service, honest work, and devotion.
- Guru Granth Sahib is the holy scripture.
- The religion has 5 symbols for the initiated Sikhs: Kesh, Kangha, Kara, Kirpan, and Kacchera.
- Gurdwara is a holy place, and free food is provided to all here. It is known as langar.





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4 Missile Defence System Across the World (Source: *The Hindu*)

Missile shields or defence shields are intended to protect the airspace of countries from enemies. Iron dome of Israel is one defence shield that is recurrently in news now.

Important Missile Shields Around the World

- **THAAD** - USA
- **S-400** - RUSSIA
- **NASAMS** - USA
- **Ballistic Missile Defence** - India
- **SPYDER** - ISRAEL
- **DAVID'S SLING** - ISRAEL

