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1 Sarnath (Source: The Hindu)

It is a Buddhist heritage site located near Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

- **Recently, it became India's 45th UNESCO World Heritage Site**

Fact To Know

- *The location where Buddha delivered his first sermon.*
- Tied to the **Mauryan period** and the spread of Buddhism.
- The **Lion Capital of Sarnath pillar** was adopted as the **National emblem of India.**

Architectural Significance

- *Ashokan Pillar and its Lion Capital were erected here as a memorial for Buddha's first sermon by Ashoka.*
- The famous **Gupta period (5th cent CE)** sculpture of the Buddha Shakyamuni in the Dharmachakra Pravartana mudra was uncovered during the excavations at Sarnath
- The Dhamek Stupa is a huge stupa in Sarnath.

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2 International Criminal Court (ICC) (Source: The Hindu)

- **What is it?**: The International Criminal Court (ICC) is an intergovernmental organisation and international tribunal.
- **Formation**
  - It is the first international criminal court that is permanently established.
  - The Rome Statute, which served as its founding document, entered into force on July 1, 2002.
- **Headquartered**: The Hague, Netherlands
- **What they do?**: It looks into and prosecutes those accused of heinous offences such as genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and acts of aggression.
- **Status of India**: India is not a member.

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3 Debentures (Source: The Hindu)

A debenture is a medium- to long-term debt security issued by a company as a means of borrowing money at a fixed interest rate.

Features

- Classified as borrowed funds or liabilities, making debenture holders creditors (not owners) of the company.
- Pay a fixed rate of interest (coupon rate) regularly, regardless of whether the company makes a profit or loss.
- Debenture holders have no voting rights in company management.

Types of Debentures

- **Convertible Debentures**: Can be changed into equity shares of the company after a set time.
- **Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs)**: Cannot be changed into shares and are repaid at maturity with higher interest rates.
- **Secured Debentures**: Secured debentures are backed by company assets.
- **Unsecured Debentures**: Unsecured debentures rely only on the general creditworthiness and reputation of the issuer.