



Important Facts for Prelims (15th February 2019)

Taj View Garden

- Recently **Ministry of Culture** and **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**, laid the Foundation Stone of **Taj View Garden** on the Taj Corridor Area **between the Agra Fort and Taj Mahal in Agra**.
- The main purpose is to increase greenery by enormous plantation around the Taj Mahal which will not only help to reduce the pollution around the Taj Mahal but also provide a pleasant view to the visitors.
- The Taj View Garden is being developed on the **Mughal period Charbagh garden pattern** by the Archaeological Survey of India.
- **Charbagh** is a **Persian quadrilateral garden** layout based on the **four gardens representing the Islamic ideal of paradise**. The quadrilateral garden is divided by walkways or flowing water into four smaller parts.
- They are found in countries throughout **Western Asia** and **South Asia**, including **Iran** and **India**.
- In India, the Char Bagh concept is epitomised in **Humayun's Tomb (Delhi)** and **Taj Mahal (Agra)**.

India signs defence pacts with Germany and Sweden

- **India** has concluded **defence cooperation and security protection agreements** with **Germany** and **Sweden** during the ongoing visit of Defence Minister to both the countries.
- **India and Sweden** have concluded a **security protection agreement** that will enable **both countries to share classified information with each other**.
- India and Sweden have had a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the area of defence since 2009.
- Earlier in **Germany**, Defence Minister signed an implementing arrangement on **enhanced defence and defence industry cooperation** to **strengthen military to military engagement** as well as defence industry and **research and development linkages**.
- Both **Germany** and **Sweden** are **important suppliers of defence equipment to India** and their companies are currently in the race for multi-billion tenders to supply submarines and fighter aircraft.