



Important Facts For Prelims (13th May 2019)

Apache Helicopter

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) has received the **first AH-64E (I)-Apache Guardian helicopter** at the Boeing production facility in Mesa, Arizona, USA.
- The Indian government has signed a **contract for 22 Apache helicopters** with the US government and M/s Boeing Ltd.
- Better known as an **'attack helicopter'**, Apache will lead to the modernisation of the IAF's attack helicopter fleet which at present is equipped with Russian origin MI-35 helicopters that are on the verge of retirement.
- The helicopter has been customized to suit IAF's future requirements and would have significant capability in mountainous terrain.
 - The helicopter has the capability to carry out precision attacks at standoff ranges and operate in hostile airspace with threats from ground.
 - The helicopter also has the ability to transmit and receive battlefield picture through data uplinking and networking.



Lecanorchis taiwaniana //

- **Lecanorchis taiwaniana** has been recently discovered in Assam.
- It is one of India's smallest orchids in terms of size and duration of bloom to be recorded botanically.
- The orchid, discovered earlier in Japan, Taiwan, and Laos, is found to have a maximum height of 40 cm and a blossoming period of five-six days.
- **Lecanorchis taiwaniana is a myco-heterotroph** - one of the parasitic plants that have abandoned photosynthesis.

Abandoning Photosynthesis

- There are a number of flowering plants that have abandoned photosynthesis, and these fall into two categories: **haustorial parasites** and **myco-heterotrophs**. (It is also called, parasitic plant, as both these groups derive their nutrients from another plant).
- The difference is that haustorial parasites feed directly on another plant via a modified root called the **haustorium**.
- Mycoheterotrophs obtain their nutrition indirectly from the plant via a **mycorrhizal fungus**. The mycorrhizal fungus, attached to the roots of a photosynthetic plant, thus acts as a bridge between

that plant and the mycoheterotroph, such that nutrients (carbon) flow from plant root, to mycorrhizal fungus to the myco-heterotroph.

Ganga Jatara

- Tirupati Ganga Jatara is the annual folk festival of Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh. It is a weeklong event which falls between the first and second weeks of May every year.
- This festival is to offer prayers to the goddess **Gangamma, the Gramadevata** (the goddess looking after the village) of Tirupati.
- Tirupati Balaji temple has its origins in **Vaishnavism**, which advocates the principles of equality and love, and prohibits animal sacrifice. The sanctum sanctorum, which houses the awe-inspiring idol of the Lord of the Seven Hills, is situated in the main temple complex of Tirumala.
- The ancient and sacred temple of Sri Venkateswara is located on the seventh peak, **Venkatachala (Venkata Hill)** of the **Tirupati Hill**, and lies on the southern banks of Sri Swami Pushkarini what is known popularly today as Tirupati Balaji Temple.

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