

SHORTNEWS:

1.THE DALAI LAMA

Context: As the **14th Dalai Lama**, Tenzin Gyatso, approaches his **90th birthday on July 6, 2025**, the future of the **Dalai Lama institution** is at a critical juncture.

About 14th Dalai Lama

- **Identified as the reincarnation** of the 13th Dalai Lama in 1939; enthroned in 1940
- **Fled Tibet in 1959** after Chinese suppression of the Tibetan uprising; settled in **Dharamshala, India**
- **Formally relinquished political authority** in 2011, transferring power to a **democratically elected Tibetan leadership** in exile.

About Institution of the Dalai Lama

- The institution of the Dalai Lama is part of the **tulku concept** in **Tibetan Buddhism**, in which **spiritual masters are reincarnated** upon their death, so that their teachings can be preserved and carried forward
- Dalai Lamas are considered manifestations of **Avalokiteshvara (Chenrezig)**, the **Bodhisattva of Compassion**.
- In Mahayana Buddhism, **Bodhisattvas** are enlightened beings who postpone nirvana to assist all sentient beings.
- The title “Dalai Lama” (*Dalai* = ocean) was first given in **1578** to **Sonam Gyatso** (3rd Dalai Lama) by **Altan Khan** of Mongolia.
 - The **first two predecessors** were later given the title **posthumously**.
 - The first Dalai Lama, Gedun Drupa, was born in 1391.
- The Dalai Lama belongs to the **Gelug school** of Tibetan Buddhism, the leading tradition since **1640**.
- From the **5th Dalai Lama**, the position combined **religious authority** with **secular governance** of Tibet.
- Reincarnation was institutionalized by the 5th Dalai Lama to maintain continuity of leadership.
- The **14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso**, was recognized at age **2** and fled to **India in 1959**, living in exile in **Dharamsala**.

Dalai Lama and China

- China labels the 14th Dalai Lama as a “**splittist**” and “**traitor**,” denying his authority to represent the Tibetan people and prohibiting public displays of support for him within its borders.
- In 2011, the Dalai Lama stated that his reincarnation should be identified in a **free country**, not under Chinese control.
- China has institutionalised its own selection process

- In 2007, it issued a decree requiring **state approval** for identifying reincarnations of Tibetan lamas.

2.INS TAMAL

Context: INS Tamal, the **last foreign-built warship of the Indian Navy**, was recently commissioned at Yantar Shipyard, Kaliningrad, Russia.

About INS Tamal

- INS Tamal (F71) is a **multi-role stealth guided missile frigate** and the eighth ship in the Project 1135.6 (Talwar-class) series, also the second of the follow-on Tushil-class frigates.

Key Features of INS Tamal

- **Multi-Dimensional Warfare Capability:** Tamal is designed for blue-water operations and can engage threats across air, surface, sub-surface, and electronic warfare domains.
- **Advanced Weapon Systems:** The ship is armed with **BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missiles, Vertically Launched Surface-to-Air Missiles , Close-In Weapon Systems (CIWS)**, Anti-Submarine Rocket Launchers, and Heavyweight Torpedoes.
- **Indigenous Systems Integration:** About 26% of the ship's systems are indigenously developed, including the **BrahMos missiles** and **HUMSA-NG sonar system**, showcasing India's growing technological capabilities.
- **Modern Defence Mechanisms:** The ship is equipped with advanced Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical (NBC) defence systems, centralised damage control, and automated firefighting systems for enhanced survivability.

Significance of INS Tamal

- **Strengthening the Western Fleet:** The ship joins the Navy's Western Fleet, enhancing maritime strength and operational readiness in the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean Region.
- **Indo-Russian Defence Cooperation:** INS Tamal symbolizes 65 years of Indo-Russian naval collaboration, being the 51st ship built under this partnership, strengthening defence ties.