

SHORTNEWS:

GBU-57 Massive Ordnance Penetrator (MOP) and the B-2 Spirit Stealth Bomber

NEWS: The USA military has **recently dropped the GBU-57 Massive Ordnance Penetrator (MOP) on Iran's Fordo nuclear site**, entering the Israel- Iran conflict.

- **Iran's Fordo site is believed to be located 90 metres** beneath a mountain and allegedly stockpiled the enriched uranium for weapons purposes.

About the GBU-57 Massive Ordnance Penetrator (MOP) or 'Bunker Buster'

- **Objective:** The MOP or The "bunker buster" is a **non nuclear weapon system** designed to attack **deeply-buried and well protected facilities** which can host weapons of mass destruction.
 - A "bunker buster" is a type of munition capable of penetrating and hitting targets secured in underground facilities.
- **The Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) of the USA** government launched the MOP project in 2003.
- **Size:** The MOP measures about **20.5 feet in length and weighs about 13,000 kgs**
- **Combat Operations:** The GBU-57 was **first tested in 2007 and the Iran airstrikes marked the first known use** of the MOP in combat.
- **Developed By:** The system is developed by the **Air Force Research Laboratory** with aerospace and defence company **Boeing as the industry partner**.
- **Feature:** The MOP is designed to **penetrate up to 60 metres of earth before exploding**.
 - The warhead is encased in a special high-performance steel alloy.

B2 Spirit Stealth Bomber

- The B-2 is a **heavy strategic bomber with Northrop Grumman** as the prime contractor.
- The B2 Spirit Stealth Bomber is **currently the only flight which can carry the MOP**. Each B2 can **carry at most two MOPs at a time**.
- **Flight:** The B-2 was first **deployed in the Kosovo War in 1999**.
 - Later deployments included **missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Yemen, and now Iran**.
- **Features:**
 - **Long Range:** The B-2 has an **extremely long range flying capability** allowing it to fly across continents from its base, complete the mission, and fly back.

- **Stealth:** The B-2's low observability i.e. **stealth** qualities are **derived from a combination of reduced infrared, acoustic, electromagnetic, visual and radar signatures.**

GENIUS Act

NEWS: The GENIUS Act bill was passed by the US Senate for **regulating stablecoins in the US.**

About Genius Act

- Genius Act refers to **Guiding and Establishing National Innovation for U.S. Stablecoins act.**
- The bill **aims to set rules for stablecoins, including measures to prevent money laundering,** ensure stablecoins are fully backed by reserves, and require monthly audits.
- It will now **go to the US House of Representatives.**

What Are Stablecoins?

- Stablecoins are a type of **cryptocurrency designed to keep their value stable,** unlike other highly volatile crypto assets.
- They act like digital versions of regular money **(like the U.S. dollar) but still offer the benefits of cryptocurrencies.**
- Their value is backed by other assets like **cash, gold, or even other cryptocurrencies.**
- **There are four types:**
 - **Fiat-backed** (linked to currencies like the dollar)
 - **Crypto-backed** (secured by other cryptocurrencies)
Commodity-backed (like gold or oil)
 - **Algorithmic** (stabilized using smart algorithms, not physical assets)