

Sankalp Smarak

Sankalp Smarak:

- Sankalp Smarak is a monument dedicated to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
- Built in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- It is a tribute to the resolve of the soldiers of the Indian National Army and their innumerable sacrifices.

Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose & Andaman and Nicobar Islands

- During World War II (1942–45), Japan had conquered the Andaman and Nicobar Islands from the British and handed it over to Netaji and his army, the Azad Hind Fauj.
- Netaji then arrived at Andaman and Nicobar Island on 29th December 1943 and declared the island free from British rule, much before India got its Independence in 1947.
- On the next day, i.e. 30 December 1943, **Netaji hoisted the national flag for the first time on Indian soil**, at Port Blair.
- During his visit, he also visited the Cellular Jail and met the freedom fighters lodged there.
- Before his departure, he renamed **Andaman as Shaheed** (“*Martyrs*”) Island, and **Nicobar as Swaraj** (“*Freedom*”) Island.

Significance of Netaji’s visit to Andaman and Nicobar Islands:

- Netaji’s visit to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as the Head of the Provisional Government of Azad Hind and Supreme Commander of the Indian National Army marked a symbolic fulfilment of his promise that the Indian National Army would stand on Indian soil by the end of 1943.
- This historic visit also marked a declaration of Andaman and Nicobar Islands as the “first liberated territory of India”.

Belgaum Border Dispute

Belgaum Border Dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra:

- Belgaum or Belagavi is part of Karnataka but is claimed by Maharashtra.
- At the time of Independence, the region of Belagavi (the Belgaum) was part of the Bombay presidency.
- However, the region was integrated with the state of Mysore (now Karnataka) during the reorganisation of states on linguistic lines.
- **Maharashtra’s claim on Belgaum:**
 - The essential claim of pro-Marathi groups is that Belagavi is a largely Marathi-speaking region with many parts being exclusively Marathi speaking and that the region should be a part of Maharashtra.
 - Moreover, Maharashtra also points out the historical fact that the revenue records in these Marathi-speaking areas are also kept in Marathi.
- **Karnataka’s position:**
 - Karnataka has argued that the settlement of boundaries as per the States Reorganisation Act is final. The boundary of the State was neither tentative nor flexible.
 - Hence, the State argues that the issue would reopen border issues that have not been contemplated under the Act and that such a demand should not be permitted.