VISIONIAS
INSPIRING INNOVATION

CULTURE

Classroom Study Material

(May 2020 to January 2021)

DELHI LUCKNOW JAIPUR HYDERABAD PUNE AHMEDABAD CHANDIGARH GUWAHATI

8468022022
9019066066

enquiry@visionias.in /c/VisionIASdelhi /Vision_IAS vision_ias www.visionias.in /VisionIAS_UPSC

CULTURE

Table of Contents

1. SCULPTURE AND ARCHITECTURE _____ 2
1.1. Lingaraj Temple _____ 2
1.2. Other temples in news _____ 2
1.3. Monuments in news _____ 4
2. PAINTINGS & OTHER ART FORMS _____ 6
2.1. Cave Paintings _____ 6
2.2. India's Traditional Toys _____ 8
2.3. Textiles of Madhya Pradesh _____ 10
2.4. Other Art forms in news _____ 12
3. DANCES & MUSIC _____ 14
3.1. Inclusion of Indigenous Sports in Khelo India Youth Games 2021 _____ 14
3.2. Other Important News _____ 15
4. LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE _____ 16
4.1. Prabuddha Bharat Journal _____ 16
4.2. Other Important News _____ 16
5. INITIATIVES OF UNESCO _____ 18
5.1. UNESCO's World Heritage Cities (WHC) List _____ 18
5.2. Street Hawk Culture _____ 19
6. FESTIVALS _____ 21
7. ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL HISTORY _____ 23
7.1. Gurjara-Pratiharas _____ 23
7.2. Kakatiya Dynasty _____ 24
7.3. Evidence of Dairy Production in the Indus Valley Civilization (IVC) _____ 25
7.4. Sadikpur Sinauli Excavations _____ 26
8. PERSONALITIES _____ 28
8.1. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose _____ 28
8.2. Jyotiba Phule _____ 29
8.3. Bal Gangadhar Tilak _____ 30
8.4. 350th Jayanti of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur _____ 30
8.5. Purandara Dasa _____ 31
8.6. Other Personalities in News _____ 31
9. HISTORICAL EVENTS _____ 34
9.1. Malabar Rebellion _____ 34
9.2. All India Trade Union Congress _____ 35
9.3. World War 2 _____ 35
9.4. Qissa Khwani Bazaar Massacre _____ 36
9.5. Other Important News _____ 36
10. MISCELLANEOUS _____ 38
10.1. Geographical Indication (GI) tag _____ 38
10.2. Heritage Management _____ 40
10.3. Kushinagar _____ 42
10.4. Kartarpur Corridor _____ 42
10.5. Committee to Protect Language, Culture & Land of Ladakh _____ 43
10.6. Nobel Prize in Literature _____ 43
10.7. Tribes in News _____ 44
10.8. Prize and Awards _____ 46
10.9. Khelo India State Centres of Excellence _____ 46
10.10. Other Important news _____ 47

Note:

PT 365 documents comprehensively covers the important current affairs of last 1 year (365days) in a consolidated manner to aid Prelims preparation.

In our endeavour to further enhance the document in the interest of the aspirants, following additions have been incorporated:

1. Different colours have been used in the document for easy classification and recollection of a variety of information.
2. QR based Smart quiz has been added to test the aspirant's learnings and understanding.
3. Infographics have been added to ease understanding, provide for smoother learning experience and ensure enhanced retention of the content.

SMART QUIZ	You can scan this QR code to practice the smart quiz at our open test online platform for testing your understanding and recalling of the concepts.

© Vision IAS

1. SCULPTURE AND ARCHITECTURE

1.1. LINGARAJ TEMPLE

Why in news?

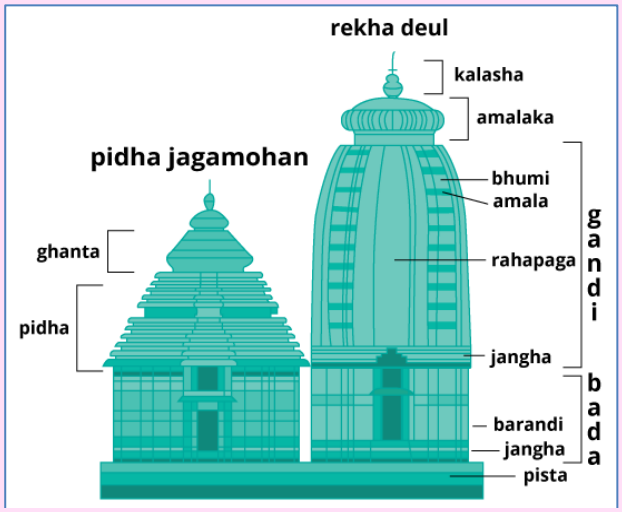
Odisha government recently announced to give a facelift to the **11th century Lingaraj Temple**, similar to its pre-350-year structural status.

About Lingaraj Temple

- It was built in **11th century AD by King Jajati Keshari of Somavanshi dynasty** with later additions by the **Ganga dynasty** rulers.
- It is **dedicated to Lord Shiva.**
  - Temple signifies the **syncretisation of Shaivism and Vaishnavism** sects in Odisha.
- Its **Deul** (tower) rises to a height of **180 feet** and marks the culmination of the temple architecture in Bhubaneswar which was the cradle of the **Kalinga School of Temple Architecture**.
- The temple can broadly be divided into 4 main halls –
  - **Garba Griha** (Sanctum Sanctorum),
  - **Yajana Mandapa** (the hall for prayers)
  - **Natya Mandapa** (dance and music hall)
  - **Bhoga Mandapa** (where devotees can have the prasad/offering of the Lord).
- The exquisite **carvings depicting chores of daily life,** the activity centres, apart from being a place of worship makes the temple a place for social and cultural gathering.
- Lingaraj is referred to as **"Swayambhu"** – (**self-originated Shivling**) and the **Shivling is known as Hari Hara**. It signifies the syncretisation of Shaivism and Vaishnavism sects in Odisha.
- The other attraction of the temple is the **Bindusagar Lake,** located in the north side of the temple.
- **Shivaratri festival** is the major festival celebrated in the temple.
- The **temple compound is not open to non-Hindus,** but there is **a viewing platform** beside the wall offering a good view of the main exteriors. This was originally erected for a visit **by Viceroy Lord Curzon**.

Kalinga school of temple architecture

- Kaḷinga architectural style is a **sub-style of Nagara architecture, flourished in the ancient Kalinga region** - present state of Odisha, West Bengal and northern Andhra Pradesh.
- In this, **Shikhara (called deul in Odisha**) is almost vertical before it curves near the top.
- Shikhara is preceded by a **mandapa (called Jagmohan** or 'dance pavilion' in Odisha).
- The style consists of **three distinct types of temples: Rekha Deula, Pidha Deula and Khakhara Deula.**
- The **Rekha Deula and Khakhara Deula** houses the sanctum sanctorum while the Pidha Deula constitutes outer dancing and offering halls.
- **Examples of Kalinga architecture:** Rajarani temple (Bhubaneshwar); Jagannath Temple, Puri.



1.2. OTHER TEMPLES IN NEWS

UNESCO Sites	
Konark Sun Temple, Odisha	• It was built in middle of **13th century, by King Narasimhadeva I of Ganga dynasty.** • Temple is a representation of **sun god Surya's chariot with 24 wheels.** • It is a **UNESCO world heritage site**. • It is also known as **'Black Pagoda'** due to its dark color. • Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has taken up the Complete Solarisation of **Konark sun temple and Konark town in Odisha to develop it as 'Surya Nagri'.**

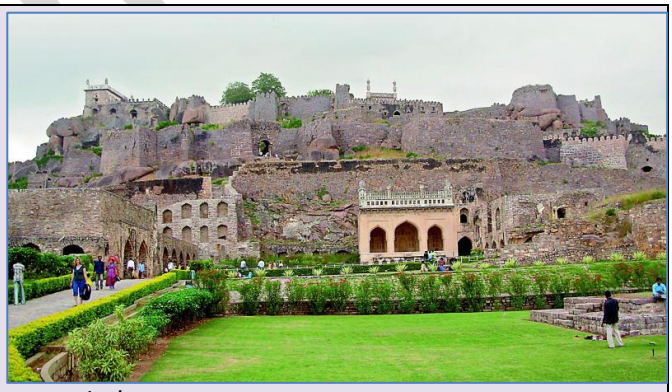
Vittala Temple, Karnataka	• Vittala Temple at **Hampi was built during the reign of King Devaraya II (1422 – 1446 A.D.)** of Vijayanagara Empire.
	  ○ Several sections of the temple were **expanded and renovated during the reign of Krishnadevaraya (1509- 1529 A.D).**
	• Temple is **dedicated to Vittala,** an avatar of Lord Vishnu. It is located in the north eastern part of Hampi, **near banks of Tungabhadra River**.
	• Temple is **built in the Dravidian style of architecture.** Highlight of Vittala temple is its **impressive pillared halls and the stone chariot.**
	• **It is one of the sites at Hampi.**
	  ○ Hampi is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** located in Karnataka.
	  ○ Its **name is derived from Pampa (old name of Tungabhadra River)** on whose banks the city is built. It was the **last capital of the Vijayanagar empire.**
	  ○ **Founded by Harihara and Bukka in 1336,** it fell to the Muslim rulers of the Deccan in 1565 **(Battle of Talikota).**
	• **Other Key sites at Hampi:** Achyutaraya temple, Pattabhirama temple, Lotus Mahal etc.

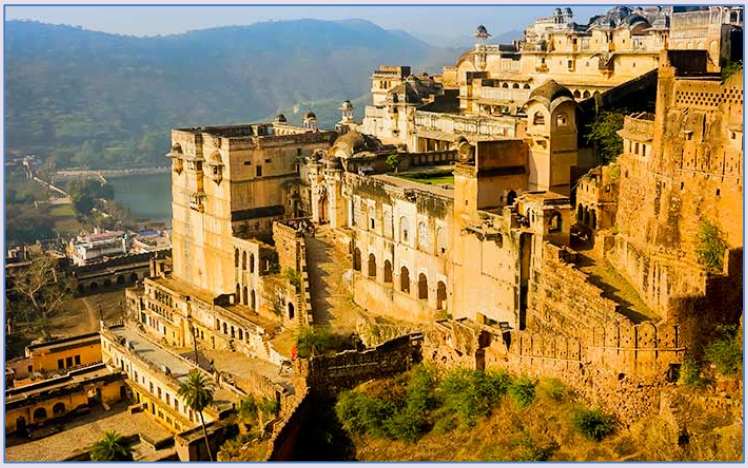
Pashupatinath Temple, Kathmandu, Nepal	• Recently, India Nepal signed MoU to improve the infrastructure in the temple complex. ○ Project is part of **Nepal-Bharat Maitri: Development Partnership** as a high impact community development scheme by India. • It is a Hindu Temple and is the **largest temple complex in Nepal.** It stretches on **both sides of the Bagmati River.** • It is one of the **UNESCO Cultural Heritage Sites**.
Other sites	
Somnath Temple, Gujarat	• **Recently, Prime Minister of India has been appointed as Chairman** of Somnath Temple Trust. • Somnath temple is located in Prabhas Patan near Veraval in Saurashtra on the western coast of **Gujarat** • It is considered the **first among the twelve jyotirlinga shrines of Shiva.** • Present temple was **reconstructed in Chaulukya style of Hindu temple architecture** and completed in May 1951 by Vallabhbhai Patel. • The site is considered to be a **Triveni sangam (confluence of three rivers)** of Kapila, Hiran and Sarasvati.

© Vision IAS

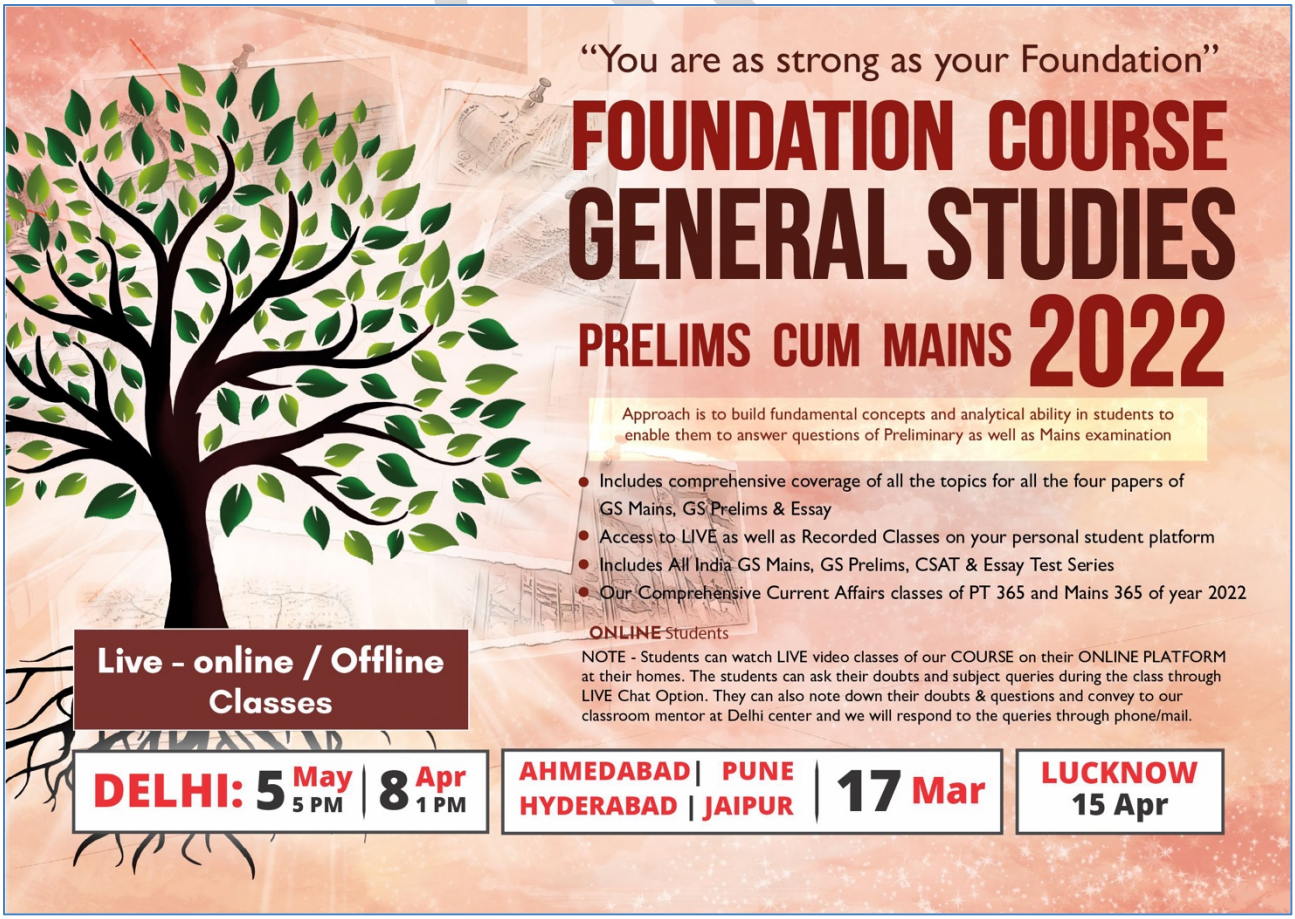
Sree Sree Joykali Matar temple, Natore, Bangladesh	• It is among the oldest temples in Bangladesh which was **built approximately 300 years back** by Shri Dayaram Roy, the **founder of Dighapatia Royal Family.** • Recently, it has been **reconstructed with assistance from India** under the High Impact Community Development Project. • MoU for the reconstruction of the temple was signed in 2016.
Barikot Ghundai, Pakistan	• Recently, **Ancient Hindu temple was discovered** in northwest Pakistan during an excavation at Barikot Ghundai. • A Hindu temple of **Lord Vishnu** has been discovered in northwest Pakistan's Swat district. • It was built **1,300 years ago during Hindu Shahi period** • **Hindu Shahis or Kabul Shahis (850-1026 CE)** was a Hindu dynasty that ruled the Kabul Valley (eastern Afghanistan), Gandhara (modern-day Pakistan), and present-day northwestern India. ○ Term Hindu Shahi was a **royal title of this dynasty** and not its actual clan or ethnological name. • Dynasty **descended from Kushana Empire** (Modern Afghanistan), or Turks (Tarushkas).

1.3. MONUMENTS IN NEWS

Golconda Fort, Telangana	• It is located in the **western part of Hyderabad city (Telangana)** near Hussain Sagar Lake. • It was originally known as Mankal, and built on a hilltop in the year 1143 and was a **mud fort** under the reign of Rajah of Warangal. • Later it was fortified between 14th and 17th centuries by the **Bahmani Sultans and then the ruling Qutub Shahi dynasty** respectively. 

Architectural heritage of Bundi, Rajasthan	• Bundi, **erstwhile capital of Hada Rajput province known as Hadauti**, is located in south-eastern Rajasthan. Bundi is **also known as City of stepwalls, blue city and also as Chotti Kashi.**
	• It's **Architectural heritage can be classified as:**
	  ○ **Garh (Fort):** Taragarh
	  ○ **Garh Mahal (Royal Palace):** Bhj Mahal; Chattar Mahal; Ummed Mahal
	 

	○ **Baori (Step well):** Khoj Darwaja ki Baori; Bhawaldi Baori ○ **Kund (Stepped tank):** Dhabhai ji ka Kund; Nagar Kund & Sagar Kund; Rani Kund ○ **Sagar mahal (Lake Palace):** Moti Mahal; Sukh Mahal; Shikar Burj ○ **Chhatri (Cenotaph):** Chaurasi
Hagia Sophia, Turkey	• Recently, Hagia Sophia, an iconic Istanbul museum has **been converted into mosque.** • It was originally built as the **cathedral for the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire in the 6th century**, and became a mosque in 1453 with the Ottoman conquest of Constantinople. • In 1934, it became a museum and is now a **UNESCO World Heritage site.**



© Vision IAS

2. PAINTINGS & OTHER ART FORMS

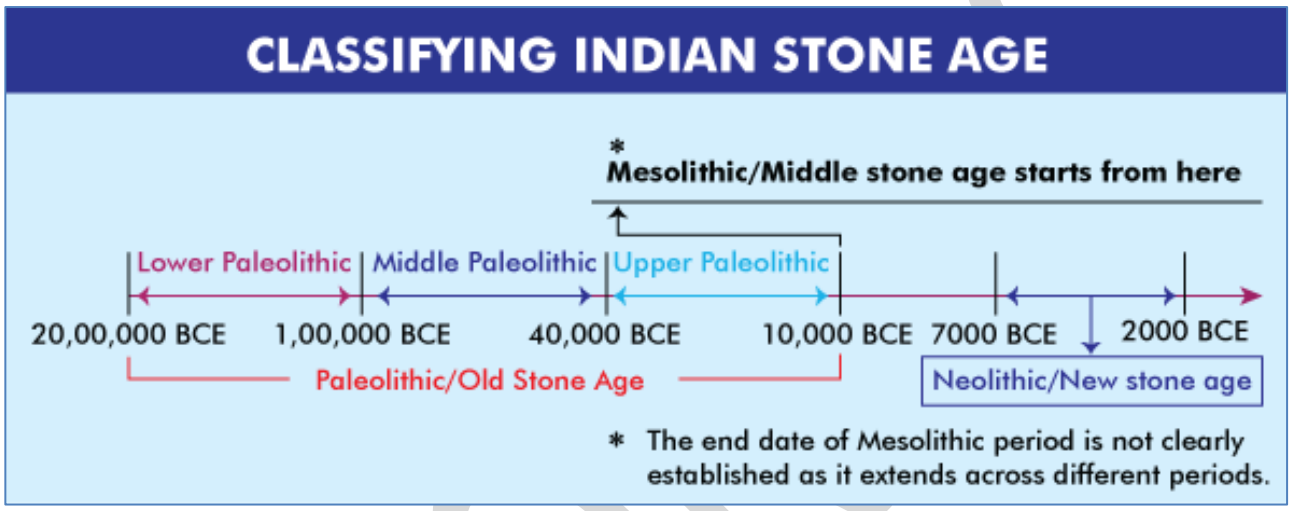
2.1. CAVE PAINTINGS

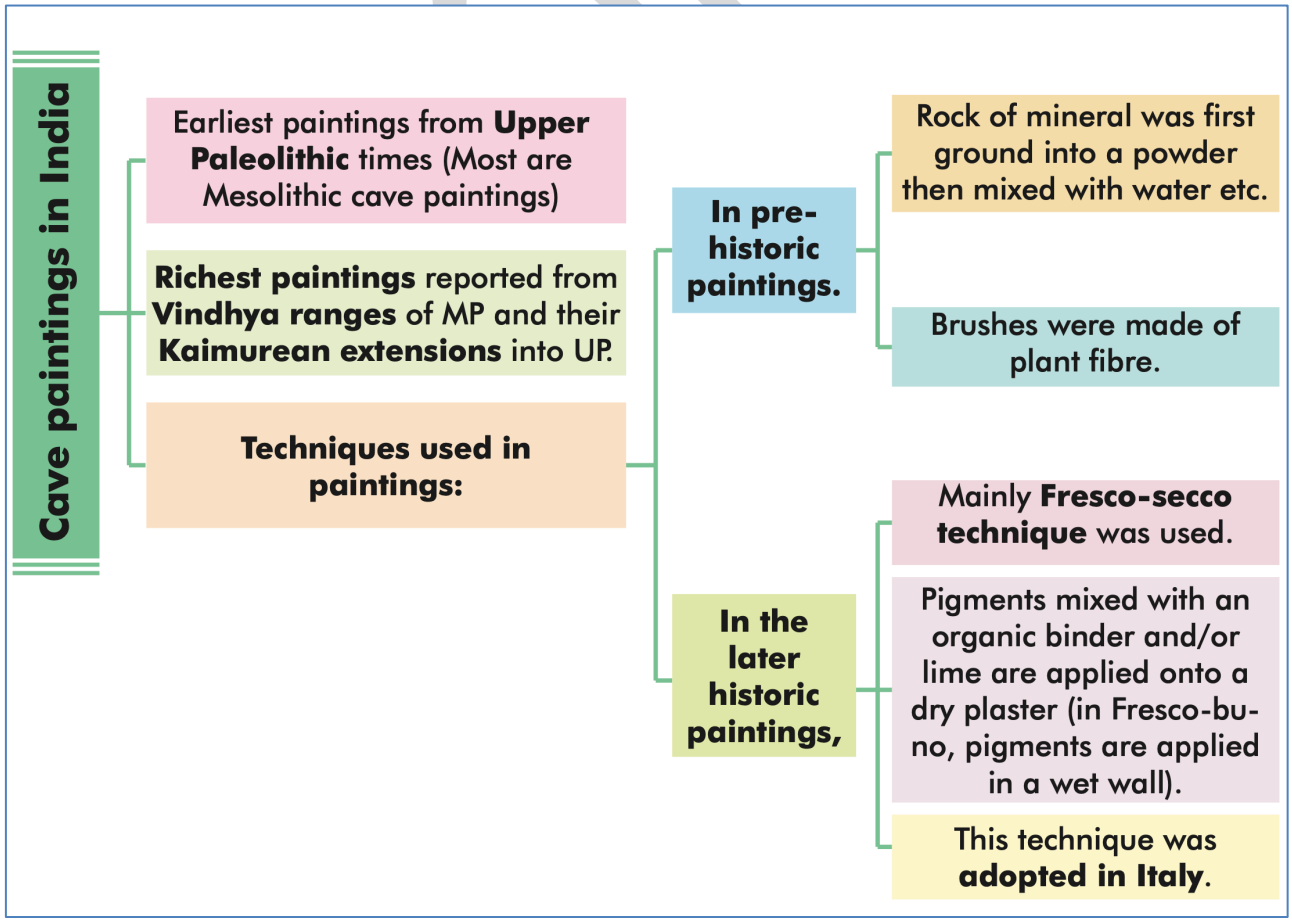
Why in news?

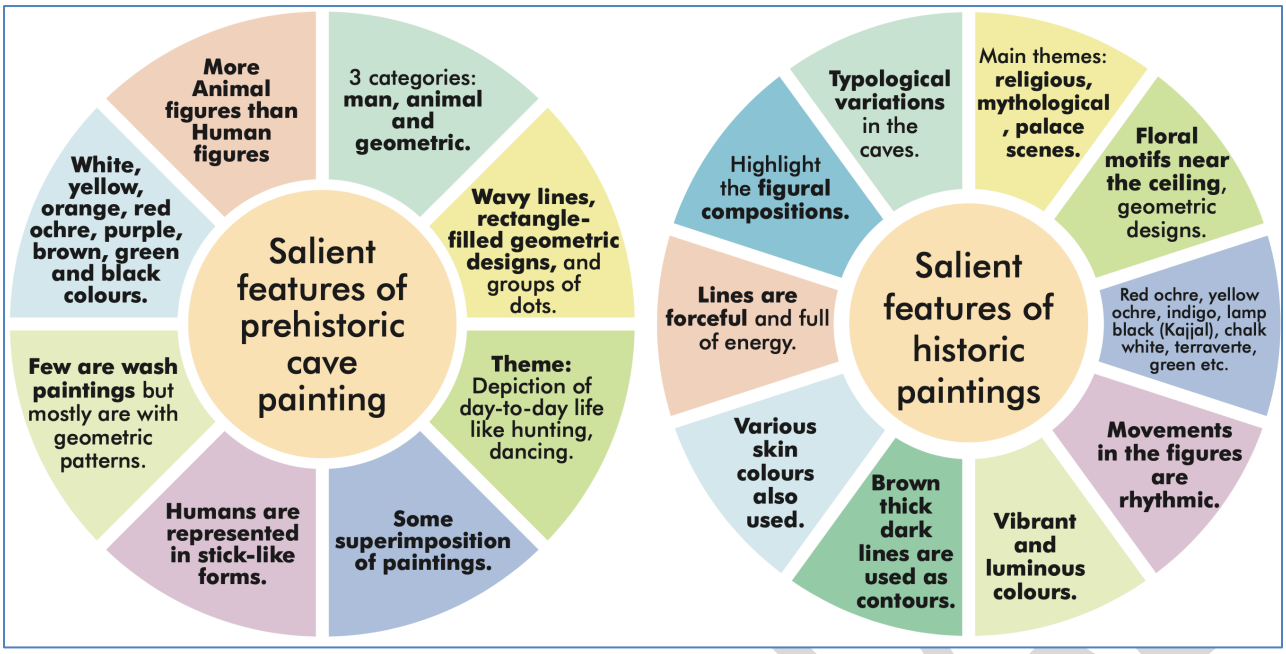
Recently, World's oldest known cave painting (painted at least 45,500 years ago) was found in the limestone cave of Leang Tedongnge, Indonesia.

More about News

- This cave painting **uncovered in South Sulawesi** consists of a life-sized depiction of a warty pig.
- The previously oldest dated rock art 'scene' at least 43,900 years old, was a **depiction of hybrid human-animal beings hunting Sulawesi warty pigs and dwarf bovids.**







Evolution of the prehistoric cave paintings		
Upper Paleolithic	**Mesolithic Cave paintings**	**Neolithic Cave paintings**
• **Simple iconic animal and human** forms appear for the first time. • Animals were shown in their natural outlines and **humans always in the dynamic action** of hunting or dancing executed in abstract form. • Characterized **by perfect 'S' shaped human** figures depicting activities that look as if they are hunting, dancing and running. • **Upper part of the rocks** in the shelter **was mostly painted.**	• **Explosion of creativity in the form of numerous motifs, designs** with figures in gently flowing fine lines reflecting dynamic action. • Hunters are shown wearing **simple clothes and ornaments, elaborate head-dresses** and masks. • Animal forms are naturalistic depictions while **human figures are static and abstract.** • **Male figures are stick like** while the **women are bulky box shaped** with intricate body designs as infilling consisting of spiral or honey-comb. • **Mythical stories** depicting huge defied animals chasing diminutive human beings, medical treatment and burial like activity. • **Dance, pregnant women,** childbirth and a mother with a child are also drawn. • **Example:** Lakhajoar (Fishing scene, family feasting in a hut), Bhimbetka (Magical treatment of an ill person), Chaturbhujnath Nala (dynamic archers).	• Paintings lose their sense of movement, figures are repetitive signs, humans and animals start becoming more and **more schematic and stylized.** • **Size, in general, goes on reducing,** though a few big figures are also there. • Hunting scenes are there, but **hunting as an act of a large group is absent.** From now onwards, the solitary hunter is shown. • **Example:** Chaturbhujnath Nala (Chariots appeared), Kupgallu, Piklihal and Tekkalkota

Other examples of cave paintings

- **Ajanta Caves:** Ajanta is the only surviving example of **painting of the 1st century BCE.**
  - The subject matter of these paintings is **almost exclusively Buddhist except for decorative patterns** on the ceilings and the pillars.
  - During the Gupta period (5^{th}- 6^{th} centuries A.D.), many more richly decorated caves were added to the original group.
- **Bagh Caves:** Located on the far banks of the **Baghini river,** these Caves contain **Buddhist paintings** and relics dating back to 5^{th}-7^{th} century**.**
  - Most significant is Cave No. 4, commonly known as the Rang Mahal (the Palace of Colours).
- **Badami Caves:** Badami was **capital of the early Chalukyan dynasty** (543 to 598 CE).
  - These cave paintings are **dedicated to Lord Shiva** and have earliest Brahmanical paintings (belonging to the 6th century A.D.) known so far.

© Vision IAS

- **Sittannavasal:** It is a rock-cut **Jain temple of the Pandyan era (9th century)** near Pudukkottai, Tamil Nadu. These cave paintings are dedicated to the Jain themes and symbolism.
- **Ellora Cave:** These caves show an uninterrupted sequence of monuments dating from A.D. 600 to 1000.
  - They harbour **Hindu, Buddhist and Jain temples.** Main theme of these paintings is also centered on these 3 religions.
- **Elephanta/Gharapuri Caves:** These Caves were constructed about the **mid-5th to 6th centuries AD.**
  - They harbour **Hindu and Buddhist** temples.
  - The remains of the Buddhists Stupas in Elephanta probably **belong to the early phase of Buddhism dating 2nd century BC.**

Related news
Sulawesi Art

- Recently, **World's Oldest Cave Painting** was discovered in **Indonesia**
- Cave painting, dating back to more than 45,000 years, **depicts a warty pigs endemic to Sulawesi island of Indonesia**, where the painting was found.
  - Painting was **found in a limestone cave and was made using red ochre pigment.**
  - Depiction of Sulawesi warty **pigs implies that these animals were important to ancient humans.**
- Archaeologists **used Uranium-series isotope analysis,** which uses calcium carbonate deposits that form naturally on the cave wall surface to determine its age.
- **Sulawesi island contains some of the oldest directly dated rock art** in the world and also some of the **oldest evidence for the presence of hominins beyond the southeastern limits** of the Ice Age Asian continent.
  - **Previous oldest painting,** around 44000 years old, depicting a pig and buffalo **was also found in Sulawesi.**
  - **Hominins include modern humans, extinct human species and our immediate ancestors.**
- Cave or rock paintings are **paintings painted on cave or rock walls and ceilings**. They have been found in Europe, Africa, Australia and Southeast Asia.

2.2. INDIA'S TRADITIONAL TOYS

Why in news?

Recently, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry **has exempted Handicraft and Geographical Indications (GI) toys from Quality Control Order** to fulfill the vision of making India a global manufacturing hub for sale & exports of toys.

Status of Indian Toy industry

- India's toy market stands at around $450-500 mn **around 0.5% of the world toy market** which is pegged at around $ 90 bn.
  - Also, India has **one of the largest young populations in the world,** owing to which, the toy industry in the country has witnessed a rapid growth.

- Till the 1980s, most of the toys used in India were made in India itself. However, the opening up of the economy in 1991 changed this as **made in China toys began to flood the market.**
- Currently, **80% of Indian toys are Chinese imports** and non-branded Chinese toys account for 90% of India's market.
    - China manufactures almost 75% of the world's toys.

About India's traditional toys

- India is an **old playground of a myriad of toys made from a variety of materials** like wood, polymer, cloth, fibre, wood pulp, rubber and metal.
- **India has a rich culture of storytelling through its toys** which show a perspective of life.
- Historically, Indian toys date back to 5000 years. The excavated toys and **dolls found in Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro included small carts, dancing woman, etc.**
    - Some of the traditional toy manufacturing hubs are Channapatna in Karnataka, Chitrakoot in Uttar Pradesh, Kondapalli in Andhra Pradesh and Budni-Rewa in Madhya Pradesh.
- **Traditional toy sector is eco-friendly** (they are made up of natural products like clay papers, wood, vegetable colours etc.)
- Under the 'Vocal for Local' slogan and the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' campaign, **the government is exploring opportunities to tap the potential of the sector.**

Other steps taken to revive toy industry of India

- **Toycathon-2021:** It was recently launched which is a special kind of hackathon organised by the Centre.
    - It aims to promote indigenous toy industry and reduce imports.
    - It provides students and teachers, design experts, toy experts and start-ups a platform to get together to crowdsource ideas for developing toys and games that are based on Indian culture, ethos, folklores, heroes and value systems.
- **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020:** As part of the school curriculum, toy- making will be introduced to students from the sixth standard onwards. This will be done through workshops, visits to manufacturing factories as well as through local craftsmen.

Name	State	Description
Channapatna toy	**Karnataka**	Mysore ruler Tipu Sultan, impressed by a **lacquer-coated wooden artifact** he received as a gift from Persia in the 18th century, invited Persian artisans to India to train the people in his realm.
Kinnal toys	**Karnataka**	These are wood toys depicting mostly Hindu gods and goddesses.
Kondapalli toys	**Andhra Pradesh**	Also Known as Bommala Koluvu (Dasara dolls) are made in Kondapalli of Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh. The style of these toys is a mix of Islamic and Rajasthani art, popular for their realistic expressions.
Etikoppaka Toys	**Andhra Pradesh**	Etikoppaka Toys are made of soft wood and lacquer color. Coloured with natural dyes derived from seeds, lacquer, roots and leaves. The way of toy making is also known as turned wood lacquer craft.
Nirmal toys	**Telangana**	The style of Nirmal toys of Telangana is a beautiful assimilation Ajanta floral and Mughal miniature.
Thanjavur Golu Dolls	**Tamil Nadu**	Thanjavur Dancing Dolls, traditionally known as Thanjavur Thalaiyatti Bommai, are a part of an eclectic heritage of beautiful handicrafts from Tanjore.
Laiphadibi	**Manipur**	Laiphadibi or doll is a feminine image of god made from shabby clothes. From being a play thing to being an integral part of rituals, these dolls, popularly called laidhibi, are treated as living spirits.
Asharikandi Terracotta Toys	**Assam**	These are similar to terracotta of Harappan civilization. They are made in Asharikandi (Madaikhali) craft village, Assam which is the single largest cluster where both Terracotta and Pottery crafts are found and practiced in traditional way.

 © Vision IAS

Other traditional toys		• **Odisha's** Sambalpur toys and paper mache and stone toys; • **Bihar's** Kanyaputri Dolls and Sikki work; • **Uttar Pradesh's** Wooden toys of Varanasi; • **West Bengal's** Natungram Dolls. • **Tamil Nadu's** Choppu saman • **Gujarat's** Thigda dhingla • **Punjab's** chankana (a toy with a whistle), ghuggu (rattle box for babies), lattoo (spinning top), handwai (kitchen sets) • **Maharashtra's** Bhatukali miniature kitchen sets and Sawantwadi toys

2.3. TEXTILES OF MADHYA PRADESH

Why in news?

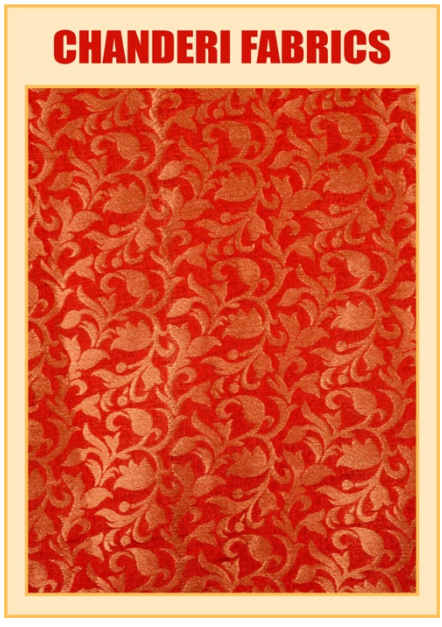
Local tribals in **Barwani, Madhya Pradesh** are being trained in the **Bagh, Maheshwari and Chanderi** textile crafts by **TRIFED** to ensure continuous livelihoods.

More on news

- Barwani in Madhya Pradesh is an **aspirational district** due its poor socio-economic development condition.
- There are **no traditional crafts in Barwani**, however, in the surrounding districts of **Khargone** and **Dhar**, tribal artisans are engaged in **Bagh printing** and traditional weaving of textiles in the **Maheshwari** style.

About Bagh Print

- It is a **traditional hand block print with natural colours**, practised in Dhar district in Madhya Pradesh.
- Its name is derived from the **village Bagh** on the banks of **the Bagh River**.
- In this printing technique the **cotton and silk cloth** are subject to treatment of a **blend of corroded iron fillings, alum and Alizarin (organic red dye).**
- On completion of the printing process, the **printed fabric is subject to repeated washing in the flowing waters of the river** and then **dried in the sun for a specific period** to obtain the **fine lustre**.
- Usually **geometric and floral compositions** with **vegetable colours of red and black over a white background** are found in this style.
- Bagh printing received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2008.



About Maheshwari fabrics

- Maheshwari fabrics are **cotton and silk fabric woven with zari or brocade** in varied designs **primarily used to make sarees**.
- The Maheshwari sarees comes from **Maheshwar** (located on banks of **Narmada**) in **Khargone** district of Madhya Pradesh.

- The **grandeur of the forts in Madhya Pradesh** and their designs played an important role in **inspiring the technique, weaves and motifs** on the Maheshwari fabrics.
- Some of these popular designs include the **Mat pattern (chattai), Jasmine pattern (Chameli), Brick pattern (Eent)** and **Diamond pattern (Heera).**
- There are 5 major categories of sarees woven out of Maheshwari fabric which are namely - **Chandrakala, Baingani Chandrakala, Chandratara, Beli and Parbi.** These sarees are **glossy** and **light weight**.
- Maheshwari sarees **were patronized by the royal family of Holkars** and are said to be created by **Rani Ahilya Bai Holkar** herself.

About Chanderi fabrics

- It is a traditional ethnic fabric characterized by its **lightweight, sheer texture and fine luxurious feel.**
- It is produced by **weaving in silk and golden Zari in the traditional cotton yarn** that results in the creation of the shimmering texture.
- The fabric borrowed its name from the small town **Chanderi** in **Madhya Pradesh** and can be classified into 3 types – **Chanderi silk cotton, pure silk and Chanderi cotton.**
- Chanderi sarees were **patronized by the royal family of Scindias.**

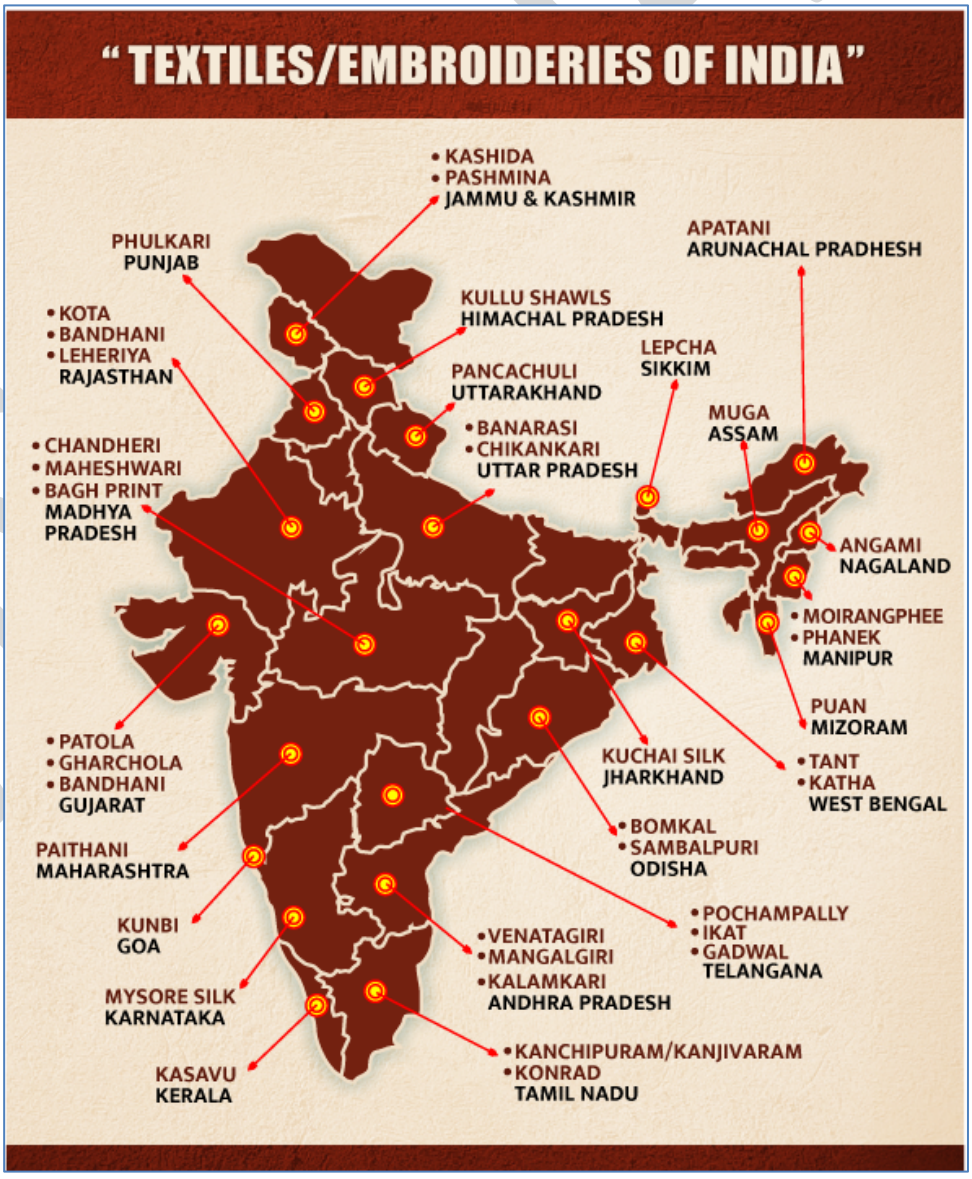
Related Information

Korvai weaving

- Korvai is an ancient and **complex technique of weaving**, practiced in Kanchipuram, **Tamil Nadu.**
- In this technique **the body of the sari is woven separately** and the border separately on the same loom and the two interlocked by skilful weaving.

Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)

- It was established in **1987** under the **Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984** by the Government of India as a **National level Cooperative body**.
- It falls under the **Ministry of Tribal Welfare.**
- TRIFED is **mandated to ringing about socio-economic development of tribals** of the country by **institutionalising the trade of Minor Forest Produce (MFP)** & **Surplus Agricultural Produce (SAP)** collected/ cultivated by them.
- It plays the dual role of both a market developer and a service provider.
- **TRIBES India** is the brand under which **the sourced handcrafted products from the tribal people are sold.**



© Vision IAS

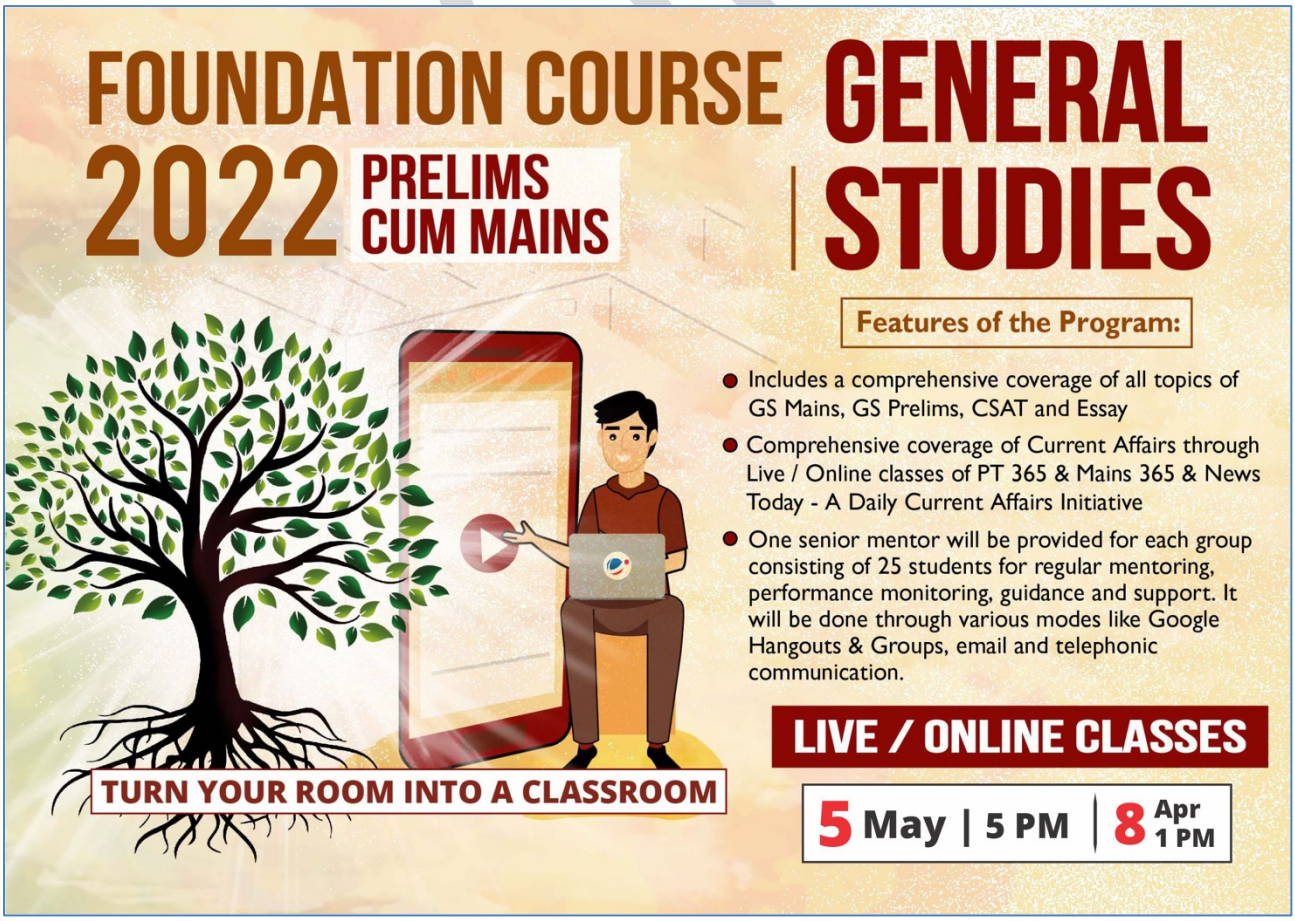
2.4. OTHER ART FORMS IN NEWS

Kollam Drawing	 • It is a **traditional Indian art form of drawing geometric patterns on the floors.** • They are drawn **to invite health and prosperity** into houses where they are displayed. • The raw materials include **edibles like rice flour, pulse and leaves.** • Motifs may include lotus, fish, birds etc which reflects the **unity of man and beast.** • Most of the designs **are circular exuding a sense of endlessness of time.** Sun, moon and other zodiac signs are also common themes.

Warli Paintings, Maharashtra	
	• It expresses **daily and social events of the Warli tribe** of Maharashtra. These paintings **do not depict mythological characters** or images of deities, but **depict social life.**
	• Images of human beings and animals, along with scenes from daily life are created in a loose rhythmic pattern.
	  ○ Paintings depict scenes of **human figures engaged in activities like hunting, dancing, sowing and harvesting.**
	  ○ In Warli paintings a **series of dots and dashes make one line.**
	• **Women are mainly engaged** in the creation of these paintings.

Madhubani Painting, Bihar	 • It is also referred to as **Mithila Art (as it flourishes in Mithila region of Bihar)** and is characterized by line drawings filled in by **bright colours and contrasts or patterns.** • It uses **tribal motifs and paintings** are done with mineral pigments prepared by artists. • **Themes**: Hindu deities, court scenes, wedding scenes, social happenings etc. • **Floral, animal and bird motifs, geometrical designs** are used to fill up all the gaps.
Rogan painting, Gujarat	 • It is a 300-year-old craft tradition that once **flourished in Gujarat's Kutch region.** • All the Rogan crafts are made without khaka (which means layout or blueprint). It's basically a **huge canvas and a metal rod with colourful paint.** • Rogan is **the technique of painting on fabric**, using a thick brightly coloured paint-like substance made with castor seed oil. ○ Rogan is a **mirror art**; the paint is sticky and transfers to the other cloth.
Monpa Handmade Paper, Arunachal Pradesh	 • Khadi and Village Industries Commission commissioned **a Monpa handmade paper making unit in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh** for reviving the 1000-year old heritage art • **Monpa is a fine-textured handmade paper**, which is called **Mon Shugu in the local dialect**, is integral to the vibrant culture of **the local Monpa tribe in Tawang.** • The paper originated over 1000 years ago and has great historic and religious significance as it is the **paper used for writing Buddhist scriptures and hymns in monasteries.**

	○ **Monpas used to sell these papers to countries like Tibet, Bhutan, Thailand and Japan** as no paper making industry existed in these countries at that time. ○ However, the local industry **gradually began declining and the indigenous handmade paper was taken over by inferior Chinese paper.** • The Monpa **handmade paper will be made from the bark of a local tree called Shugu Sheng,** which has medicinal values too.
Pulikkali, Kerala	• Pulikkali (Tiger Dance) **is the folk art form of Kerala.** • **Performers painted like tigers and hunters in bright yellow, red, and black** dance to the beats of instruments like Udukku and Thakil. • Pulikkali was introduced by erstwhile ruler of Cochin, **Maharaja Rama Varma Sakthan Thampuran,** two centuries ago.
Dhokra Decorative Pieces, West Bengal	• Dhokra artefacts are **metal figurines fashioned from bronze and copper** based alloys using a 'lost wax casting'. ○ The name is derived from the Dhokra Damar tribes, **the traditional metal smiths of West Bengal.** • One of the oldest Dhokra artefacts is the 'Dancing girl of Mohenjodaro.'



© Vision IAS

3. DANCES & MUSIC

3.1. INCLUSION OF INDIGENOUS SPORTS IN KHELO INDIA YOUTH GAMES 2021

Why in News?

Recently, Sports Ministry has approved the inclusion of four Indigenous Games to be a part of Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2021. The games include: Gatka, Kalaripayattu, Thang-Ta and Mallakhamba, along with Yogasana.

More in News

- KIYG is a **part of the revamped national programme for development of sports 'Khelo India'** which was approved by the Union Cabinet in 2017.
- **Khelo India programme has been introduced to revive the sports culture in India** at the grass-root level by building a strong framework for all sports played in our country and establish India as a great sporting nation.

Other martial arts of India

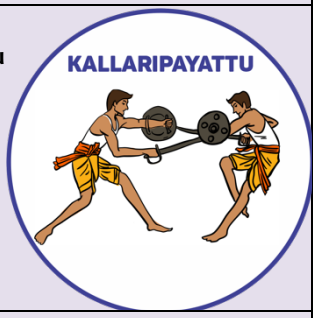
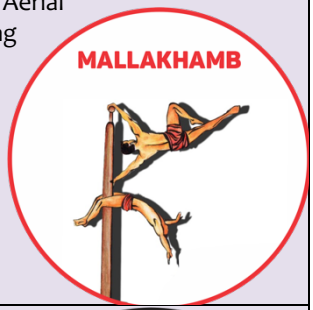
- **Tamil Nadu:** Silambam & Kuttu Varisai;
- **Manipur:** Sarit Sarak
- **Himachal Pradesh:** Thoda;
- **Bengal:** Lathi Khela;
- **Maharashtra:** Mardaani Khel
- **J&K:** Squay.

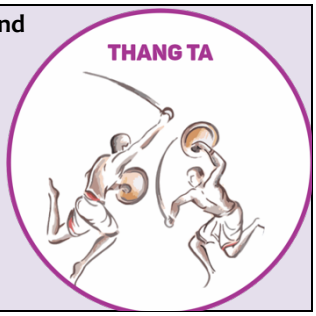
Related news

Yogasana as a competitive sport

- Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports announced the formal recognition of Yogasana as a competitive sport.
- It will ensure **new technologies and new strategies being inducted into the disciplines** to benefit athletes and officials.
- It will **encourage yoga**, spread awareness about its benefits and to help improve physical and mental wellbeing of the people.
- **Yogasana is an integral and important component of Yoga.**
- **Proposed events include** Traditional Yogasana, Artistic Yogasana (Single), Artistic Yogasana (Pair), Rhythmic Yogasana (Pair) etc.

Four Indigenous Games

Kallaripayattu	• It is the **martial art form of Kerala.** • Kalaripayattu has different techniques **like meipayattu** (physical body exercise), **vadipayattu** (fight using sticks), **valpayattu** (fight using swords) and **verumkaiprayoga** (bare hand exercise). • **Another focus of Kalaripayattu is specialisation in indigenous medicinal practices.** ○ **Kalari treatment (a system of medicine) is a part of the curriculum** 
Mallakhamb	• It is the **state sport of Madhya Pradesh.** • It is a traditional sport of India in which a gymnast performs Aerial yoga and wrestling on hanging wooden poles, cane or hanging rope. ○ There are various types of mallakhamb like **mallakhamb on cane, niradhar (supportless) mallakhamb, pole mallakhamb, hanging mallakhamb and rope mallakhamb.** • The origin of Mallakhamb can be **traced to the 12th century,** where it is mentioned in **"MANASOLHAS", a classic by Chalukya in 1135 A.D.** 
Gatka	• It is a **style of fighting with wooden sticks that originated in Punjab in the 15th Century.** • It is **stick fighting between two or more practitioners**, with wooden sticks called **Soti,** which is intended to simulate swords.

Thang Ta	• It is a **Manipuri martial art**, also called the **Art of the Sword and Spear**. • It is dedicated to **fighting skill and worship**. • It integrates various external weapons - **the sword, spear, dagger** etc. with the internal practice of physical control that **involves breathing methods, meditations, and rituals**. 

3.2. OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

Bhavai, Gujarat	• It is a form of **traditional street play** performed across villages of **Saurashtra and North Gujarat.** • It is a unique stage art form, **performed with 'Bhava', meaning expression revealing emotions**. • It is **exclusively performed by male members** in various costumes and character forms. • It is mainly **performed by the Targala community also known as Bhavaya**; they hail from both the Hindu and Muslim communities.
Garba -folk dance of Gujarat	• The word "Garbo" has originated from Sanskrit word "Garbhdeep", means an earthen pot with circular holes. • It is **linked with the worship of "Shakti"** – performed during Navratri & during weddings. • **Either a lamp (Garba Deep) or an image of Goddess Durga** is placed in middle of concentric rings. • In this, people dance around the centre clapping their hands to the beats of the Dhol.
Yakshagana, Karnataka	• It is a **traditional Indian theatre form of Karnataka** based on mythological stories and Puranas. Most popular episodes are from Mahabharata and Ramayana. • It **combines dance, music, dialogue, costume, make-up, and stage techniques** with a unique style and form. • Yaksha means Demi-God, and gana means song. • It is believed to be originated during **Bhakti movement in between 11th and 15th century.**

© Vision IAS

4. LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE

4.1. PRABUDDHA BHARAT JOURNAL

Why in News?

Recently, 'Prabuddha Bharata' journal celebrated its 125th anniversary.

About Prabuddha Bharata

- **Prabuddha Bharata** or **Awakened India** is an **english-language monthly journal** of the **Ramakrishna Mission**.
- Prabuddha Bharata **was founded in 1896** by P. Aiyasami, B. R. Rajam Iyer, G. G. Narasimhacharya, and B. V. Kamesvara Iyer, in Madras (now Chennai), at the behest of Swami Vivekananda.
- It is the **"longest-running" monthly English magazine of the country**.
- It carries articles on social sciences and humanities comprising historical, psychological, cultural and social sciences themes.
- Luminaries like **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Sister Nivedita, Sri Aurobindo, Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan etc.** wrote in the journal.
- Other publications from Ramakrishna mission:
  - **Udbodhan, Bengali Monthly** started by Swami Vivekananda in January 1899,
  - **Vedanta Kesari** is cultural and spiritual magazines in English. It was started in 1914
- **Sri Ramakrishna Vijayam**, the Tamil monthly magazine started in 1921

About Ramakrishna Mission

- Ramakrishna Mission was **founded near Calcutta (now Kolkata) by Vivekananda in 1897** with a twofold purpose:
  - to spread the teachings of Vedanta as embodied in the life of the Hindu saint Ramakrishna (1836–86) and
  - to improve the social conditions of the Indian people.
- It is a **philanthropic and volunteer organisation.**
- **Mission Motto** is Atmano Mokshartham Jagad Hitaya Cha, **"For one's own salvation and for the welfare of the world".** It was formulated by Swami Vivekananda.
- Organization is based on the three core ideals**: Work as worship, potential divinity of the soul, and harmony of religions**.

4.2. OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

Mongolian Kanjur	• Ministry of Culture has taken up project of **reprinting of 108 volumes of Mongolian Kanjur** under **National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM).** • Mongolian Kanjur is **Buddhist canonical text** which is held in high esteem by Mongolian Buddhists and they worship Kanjur at temples. ○ It is a source of providing a cultural identity to Mongolia. • **NMM under Ministry of Tourism and Culture** has mandate of documenting, conserving and disseminating the knowledge preserved in manuscripts.

Tangam	• It is an oral language that belongs the greater **Tibeto-Burman language family.**
	  ○ It is spoken by **Tangams, a community in Arunachal Pradesh.**
	• It is marked 'critically endangered' under **UNESCO World Atlas of Endangered Languages.**
	• **Endangered language**
	  ○ Around **197 languages are in various stages of endangerment in India i.e.** more than any other country in world.
	  ○ According to UNESCO, **any language that is spoken by less than 10,000 people** is potentially endangered**.**
	  ✓ **Critically endangered languages** are those whose youngest speakers are grandparents or older.
	  ○ In India, after the 1971 census, any **language spoken by less than 10,000 people is not included** in official list of languages.
	  ○ **Steps taken for preservation of endangered languages**
	  ✓ **Scheme for Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages.**
	  ✓ Government provides funds to set up **centres for endangered languages in nine central universities.**

Bakhshali manuscript	• A **black dot on a Bakhshali manuscript** has been identified by Oxford University as the **first recorded use of the mathematical symbol for zero.** ○ The earliest recorded example of the use of zero was previously believed to be a **ninth-century inscription on a wall in a temple at Gwalior in India.** • **Bakhshali manuscript is a third-century Indian mathematical manuscript** written in ink on birch bark. • It was **found in 1881** in the vicinity of the village of Bakhshali, near Peshawar, Pakistan. • **Zero has also been used in Lilavati** which was composed by astronomer and mathematician **Bhaskaracarya** (Bhaskara II).

Delhi govt nod to set up Konkani language academy	• Konkani an **Indo-European language** is spoken in Goa (Sate language) and coastal areas of Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Kerala
	• It is written in five scripts– **Roman, Nagari, Kannada, Persian-Arabic** and **Malayalam.**
	• It was included in the **8th Schedule of the Constitution in 1992, alongside Manipuri and Nepali.**
	  ○ **Other in 8th Schedule includes:** Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu Bodo, Santhali, Maithili and Dogri.
	• **Indo-European language has the highest number of speakers** in India accounting for about 73% of the total Indian population.
	  ○ It comprises of all the **principal languages of northern and western India** such as Hindi, Bengali, Marathi, Gujarati, Punjabi, Sindhi, Rajasthani, Assamese, Oriya, Pahari, Bihari, Kashmiri, Urdu and Sanskrit.

World Urdu Conference	• It is being organized by **National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL).** • NCPUL is an **autonomous body under the Ministry of Human Resource Development**, Department of Secondary and Higher Education. ○ It was set up to **promote, develop and propagate Urdu language.** • Urdu is **one of the languages under 8th schedule** of the Constitution of India.

© Vision IAS

5. INITIATIVES OF UNESCO

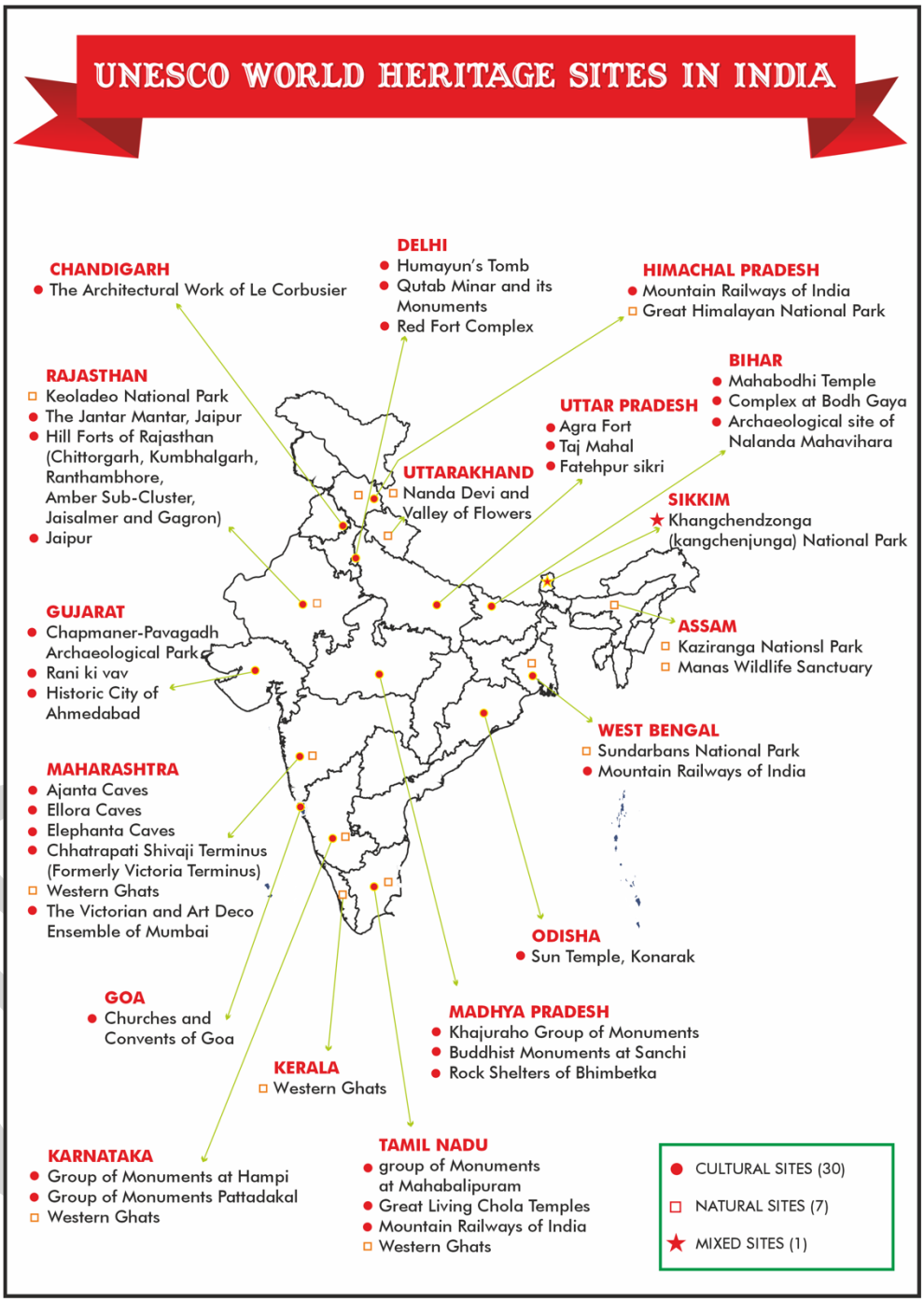
5.1. UNESCO'S WORLD HERITAGE CITIES (WHC) LIST

Why in News?

Gwalior, Orcha of Madhya Pradesh (MP) have been **included under UNESCO's urban landscape city programme.**

Details

- Prior to this **India had 38 world heritage sites** that include 30 Cultural properties, 7 Natural properties and 1 mixed site (refer box).
- Historic Urban Landscape approach **moves beyond preservation of physical environment and focuses on the entire human environment** with all of its tangible and intangible qualities.
    - It focuses on involving **more people in preservation efforts, raise levels of awareness, and seek innovative schemes.**
- **Gwalior was established in 9th century** and ruled by Gurjar Pratihar Rajvansh, Tomar, Baghel Kachvaho and Scindias.
    - It is **known for its palaces and temples,** including Sas Bahu Ka Mandir temple.
- **Orchha is located in the Bundelkhand region of MP** and was the 16th century capital of the erstwhile Bundela dynasty.
    - **Famous spots in the town are** Jehangir Mahal, Ramraja Temple, Laxminarayan Temple etc.
- **After Inclusion in WHC list**
    - **Chemical treatment of historic spots will be done** so that art inscribed on them will become more visible.
    - **UNESCO will suggest best measures and resources** for the development of these places.



5.2. STREET HAWK CULTURE

Why in News?

Recently, Singapore's popular and vibrant Street Hawker culture was designated an **Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) by UNESCO.**

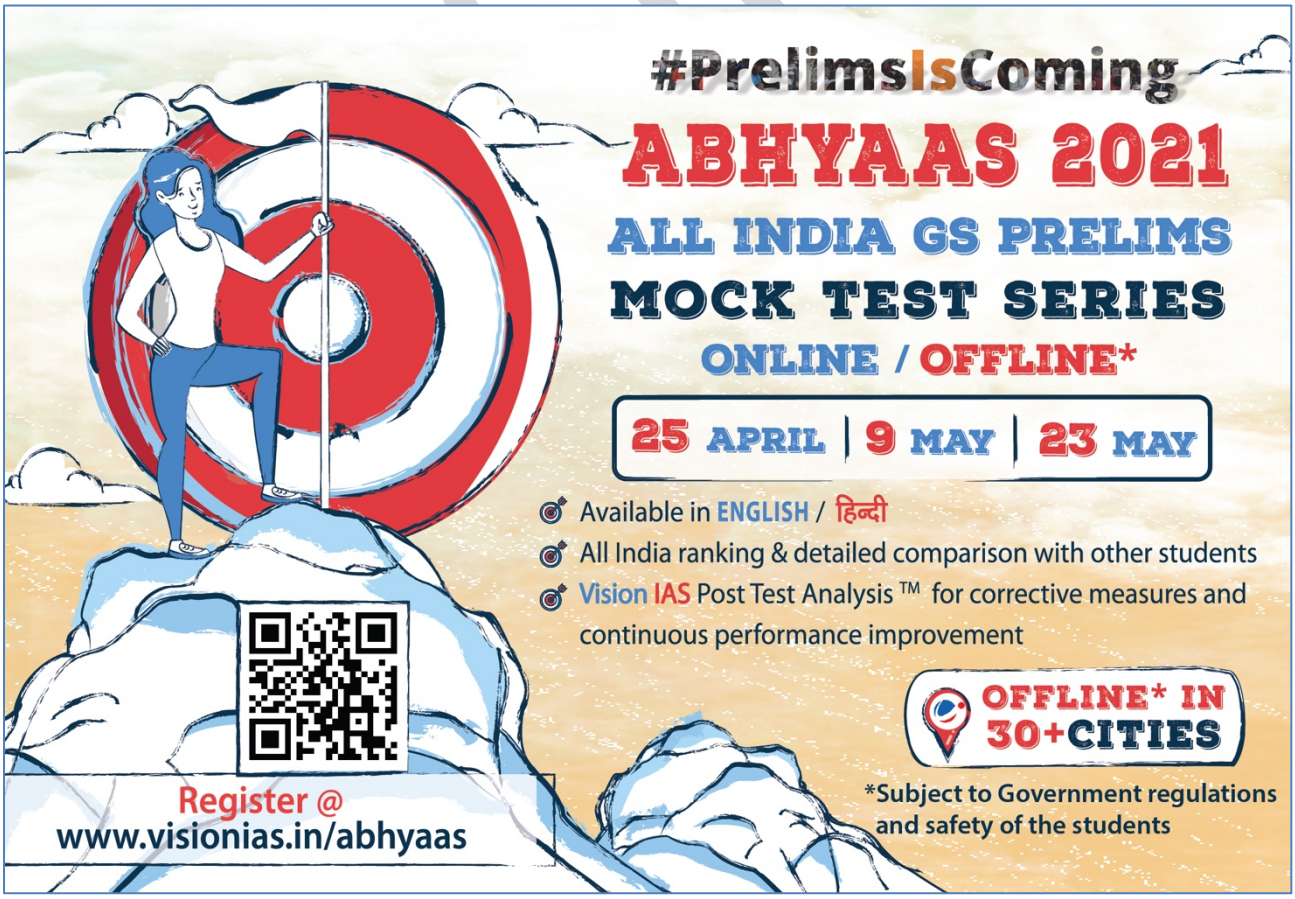
Details

- **'Intangible Cultural Heritage' indicates 'the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated** therewith – that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognize as part of their Cultural Heritage'. Examples of intangible heritage are oral traditions, performing arts, local knowledge, and traditional skills.
- **'Tangible Cultural Heritage' refers to physical artefacts produced, maintained and transmitted intergenerationally in a society.** It includes artistic creations, built heritage such as buildings and
- monuments, and other physical or tangible products of human creativity that are invested with cultural significance in a society.
- The hawker centres are **representative of Singapore's multiculturalism with stalls selling cheap and delicious food of** Chinese, Malay, Indian origins among others.
- The Singapore government under its **National Environment Agency** has implemented various steps to keep the hawker culture alive.
- It has set up the **Incubation Stall Programme** and **Hawkers' Development Programme among others** to equip aspiring and existing street hawkers with relevant skills.

ICH from India inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List	
Kerala	
Mudiyettu	• It is a ritual theatre form of Kerala based on the mythological tale of the battle between Goddess Kali and Darika, an evil king.
Kutiyattam	• It is a **Sanskrit theatre** and is one of India's oldest living theatrical traditions.
Ladakh	
Buddhist Chanting of Ladakh	• The recitation of ancient sacred Buddhist texts are chanted every day **by the monks living in various monasteries and following different sects of Buddhism** in the trans-Himalayan region of Ladakh in India
Manipur	
Sankirtan	• It is the artistic manifestation of **Manipuri worship.**
Punjab	
Thatheras of Jandiala Guru	• The craft of the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru represents the **traditional technique of manufacturing brass and copper utensils in Punjab.**
Rajasthan	
Kalbelia	• Kalbelia Dance is an expression of the **Kalbelia community's way of life as snake charmers.**
Uttarakhand	
Ramman	• It is a **form of traditional ritual theatre** celebrated every year in the courtyard of the temple of Bhumiyal Devta of Chamoli district, Uttarakhand.
Ramlila, the traditional performance of the Ramayana	• It is a performance of the **Ramayana epic in a series of scenes that include song, narration, recital and dialogue.** • It is performed across northern India **during the festival of Dussehra,** held each year according to the ritual calendar in autumn.
Other Elements Common in India	
Nowrouz	• It is a festival of whole community of **Parsi Zoroastrians and Irani Zoroastrians.**
Tradition of Vedic chanting	• The Vedas comprise a vast corpus of **Sanskrit poetry, philosophical dialogue, myth, and ritual incantations d**eveloped and composed by Aryans over 3,500 years ago. • **Regarded by Hindus as the primary source of knowledge** and the sacred foundation of their religion, the Vedas embody one of the world's oldest surviving cultural traditions.
Kumbh Mela	• It is a **mass congregation of generally Hindu pilgrims** in which people gather to take a bath/dip in a sacred river. • It is **considered to be the largest peaceful gathering** in the world. • It **is celebrated four times every 12 years**, the site of the observation rotating between four pilgrimage places on the four sacred rivers at **Allahabad (UP), Haridwar (Uttarakhand), Ujjain (MP) and Nashik (Maharashtra).**

 © Vision IAS

	• **Ardha ("Half") Kumbh Mela** is held at only two places, Haridwar and at Allahabad, every sixth year. • **Maha Kumbh** is held after every 144 years. • In Ujjain, the **Kumbh Mela (Simhastha Kumbh) is** held every 12 years when the zodiac position of Jupiter is in Leo.
Chhau Dance	• It is a major dance tradition of **Eastern India.** • There are three distinct forms of Chhau: **Seraikella Chhau of Jharkhand, Mayurbhanj Chhau of Orissa and Purulia Chhau of West Bengal.** • It traces its origin to indigenous forms of dance and **martial practices using masks** to identify the character. • Dancers perform a repertoire that explores a variety of subjects: local legends, folklore and episodes from the **epics Ramayana/ Mahabharata** and abstract themes. • Chhau dance is intimately connected to regional festivals, notably the **spring festival Chaitra Parva.** • The dance is accompanied with loud beats and instruments like drum and marui.
Yoga	• It is a traditional and time honoured Indian holistic system of personal, physical, mental and spiritual wellness focusing on all-round unification of body, mind and soul.

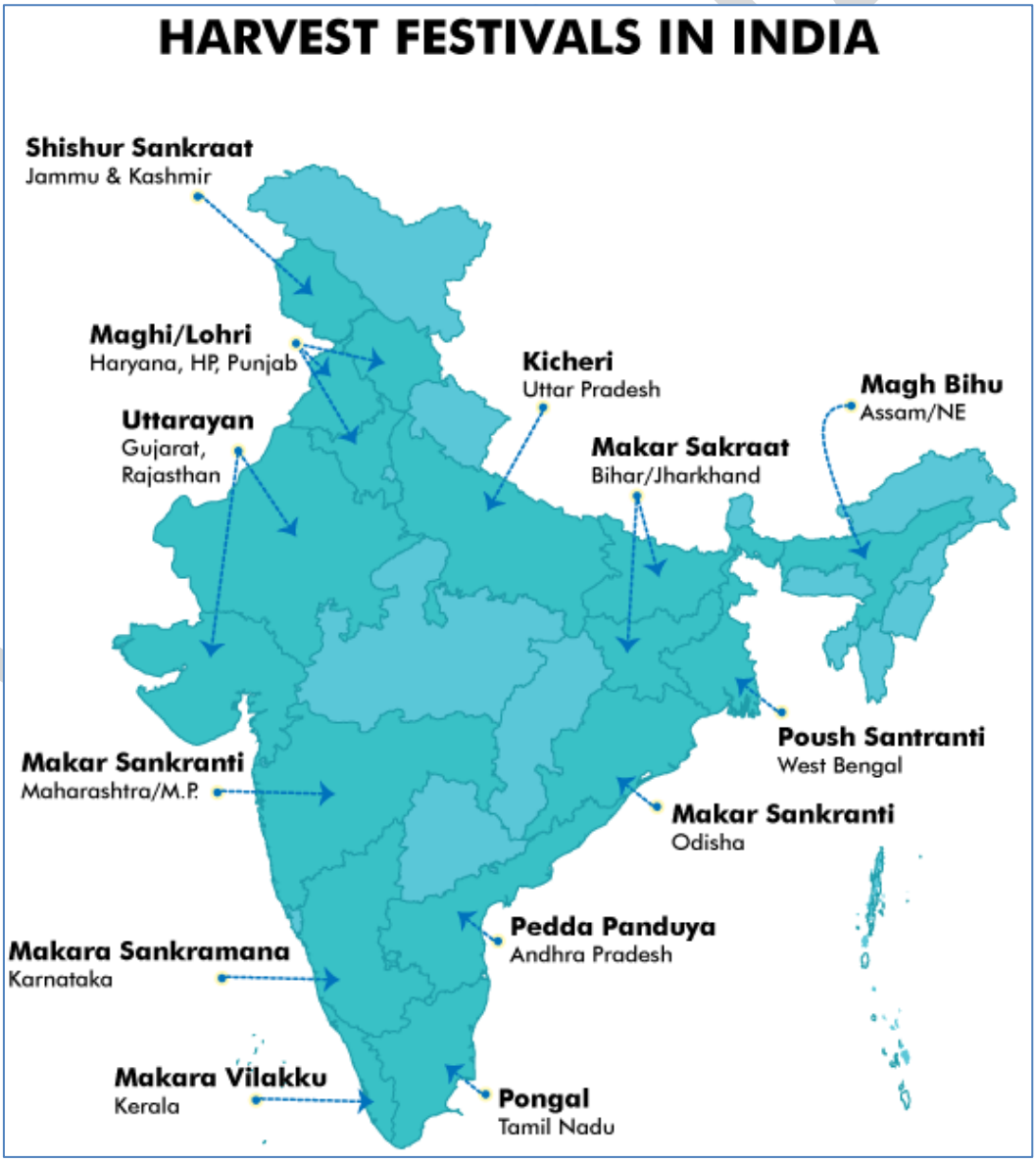


6. FESTIVALS

Odisha	
Raja Parba festival	• It is a unique **three-day festival of Odisha** celebrating the **onset of monsoon and beginning of earth's womanhood.** • As a mark of respect towards the earth during her menstruation days, **all agricultural works, like ploughing, sowing are suspended for three days.**
Nuakhai Juhar	• It is an agricultural festival **to welcome the new crop of the season.** • It is also called NuakhaiParab or NuakahiBhetghat and is **celebrated in Odisha, Chhattisgarh and areas of neighbouring states.** • Nuakhai is a combination of two words that **signifies eating of new rice** as 'nua' means new and 'khai' means eat.
Lord Jagannath Rath Yatra	• Rath Yatra **marks the annual ceremonial procession of Lord Jagannath, his elder brother Balabhadra and younger sister Subhadra,** from their home temple to another temple, located in what is believed to be their aunt's home. • Jagannath temple was **sculpted by Anantavarman Chodaganga,** a ruler of the Eastern Ganga dynasty, in 11th Century.
Chaitra Jatra	• It is an annual festival **organised at Tara Tarini hill shrine.** • Shrine, is located at Kumari hill, **Odisha on banks of the Rushikulya river.** • It is a major centre of **Shakti worship.**
Bishnu Sendra Parva	• It is an annual **hunting festival observed by tribals** of Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal. • It was reported that for the first time, not a single animal was killed in Jharkhand on Bishnu Sendra Parva.
Kerala	
Thrissur Pooram	• Thrissur Pooram is one of the **biggest temple festivals of Kerala** and has a tradition of more than 200 years. • This is a post-harvest festival. It is celebrated in the Malayalam month Of Medom (April-May) in Thrissur. • This event was **started by Sakthan Thampuran, the erstwhile ruler of Kochi.** • Festival related events take place at the Vadakkumnathan temple, Thrissur.
Thumbimahotsavam 2020	• It is **first-ever State Dragonfly Festival in Kerala** ○ **'Pantalu'** is the official mascot of the festival. • This is part of National Dragonfly Festival organised by WWF India, Bombay Natural History Society and Indian Dragonfly Society in association with National Biodiversity Board, UN Environmental Programme, UN Development Programme and IUCN-CEC. • **Dragonfly Festival started in 2018** to educate and inform the public about the integral role that dragonflies, and their lesser known siblings damselflies, play in our environment.
Malayalam New Year	• First day of the **Chingam month in Malayalam calendar** is considered as the New Year day. • This is also known as **Puthuvarsham.**
Makaravilakku festival	• Makaravilakku festival is set to begin at Sabarimala. • It is an **annual festival held on Makar Sankranti at SabarimalaTemplein Kerala.** • The festival includes the Thiruvabharanam (sacred ornaments of Lord Ayyappan) procession and a congregation at the hill shrine of Sabarimala.
Assam	
Ambubachi Mela	• It is an **annual festival held at Kamakhya temple**, atop Nilachal hills of Guwahati, Assam on the bank of Brahmaputra river. • Devi Kamakhya is worshipped as **Goddess of fertility.** • Kamakhya temple is **one of 51 Shakti Peethas**, important shrines in the Hindu tradition of Shaktism that are spread across India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, China and Sri Lanka.
Gujarat	
Ashadhi Bij	• It is associated with beginning of rains in **Kutch, Gujarat.** • **Kutchi people celebrate their New Year** on Ashadi Beej.
Nagaland	
Hornbill Festival	• It is one of the largest celebrations of the **indigenous warrior tribes of Nagaland.** It is organized every year in the first week of December • The aim of the festival is **to revive and protect the rich culture of Nagaland and display its extravaganza and traditions.** • The festival is named **after Hornbill, one of the most venerated bird species in the state** whose importance is reflected in a number of tribal cultural expressions, songs and dances

 © Vision IAS

Others	
Sankalp Parva	• **Ministry of Culture** will be celebrating Sankalp Parva from 28th June to 12 July 2020. • Under this, Ministry expects all its Subordinate Offices, Academies, Attached Institutions, and Affiliated Institutions **to plant trees in its campus or at the surroundings wherever it is possible.** • Five trees recommended are **Bargad, Awla, Pepal, Ashok, Bel.**
Dharma Chakra Day / Asaadh Poornima	• International Buddhist Confederation, under Ministry of Culture is **celebrating Asadha Poornima on July 4, 2020, as Dharma Chakra Day.** • Day commemorates **Buddha's First Sermon to his first five ascetic disciples** at the Deer Park, Rsipatana **in present day Sarnath near Varanasi, UP.** • It is celebrated by Buddhists as **day of Dharma Chakra Parvattana or Turning of the Wheel of Dharma.** • This day is also observed as **Guru Poornima by both Buddhists and Hindus** as a day to mark reverence to their Gurus.
Paryushan Parva	• Paryushan Parva is **annual festival of Jain religion** celebrated for spiritual upliftment and self-purification. • For Jains, fasting during Paryushan is a chance to eliminate bad karma. It helps one develop discipline, self-control, patience, forgiveness and repentance.
Destination North East-2020'	• It is an **annual festival organised by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.** • Objective is to take **the north-eastern region to other parts of the country and bringing them closer together in order to strengthen national integration.** • For this year, theme is **The Emerging Delightful Destinations.**



7. ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL HISTORY

7.1. GURJARA-PRATIHARAS

Why in news?

Natesa, a 9th century's rare sandstone idol of Rajasthan temple smuggled out of country in 1998 returned to India.

About Natesa sandstone idol

- Natesa is a rare sandstone idol from the **Pratihara Style of architecture** in Rajasthan.
- It is originally from the **Ghateswar Temple at Baroli, Rajasthan**.
- The sandstone Natesa figure stands tall at almost 4 ft in a rare and **brilliant depiction of Shiva**.
  - A depiction of Nandi (sacred bull calf) is shown behind the right leg of the Natesa icon.
- Pratihara Style of architecture is associated with **Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty around 800-900 AD.**

About Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty

- **Dynasty**
  - Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty **ruled much of Northern India** from the mid-8th to the 11th century.
  - They were one of the first four patrilineal clans of the caste group referred to as the **Rajputs.**
  - The Pratiharas, derived their name from the Sanskrit meaning doorkeeper, **are seen as a tribal group or a clan of the Gurjaras.**
  - **Important rulers:**
    - **Nagabhata I** contained Arab armies moving east of the Indus River and rose to fame in the late 8th century CE.
    - **Nagabhata II, Mhir Bhoj (Bhoja) and Mahendrapala I** were the other important rulers of dynasty.
  - The expansion of the Gurjara-Pratihara kingdom involved constant conflicts with other contemporary powers such as the **Palas and the Rashtrakutas known as the tripartite struggle for Kanauj** (refer to infographics).
- **Administration and military**
  - They retained **terms of administration, on line of the Gupta Empire's and Harshvardhana's ideas.**
  - Some areas were administered directly by the centre and some were divided into **provinces (bhukti) and districts (mandala or vishaya), respectively, governed by a governor (uparika) and a district head (vishayapati).**
  - **Governor and district heads were tasked with collecting land revenue and maintaining law and order** with the help of the army units stationed in their areas.
  - They were **well-known for their cavalry** in which horses were imported from Central Asia and Arabia etc.
  - After Bhoja, military power of the Pratiharas declined, and they suffered defeats under successive kings.
- **Architecture**
  - The Pratiharas extended Gupta architecture tradition by adding a full-fledged mandapa to the single shrine temple and mandovara too got articulated into either the triratha, or the pancharatha plan. E.g. **Gadarmal temple, Badoh-Pathari etc**.
  - Gurjara-Pratiharas were known for their **open pavilion temples**.
  - They are known for their **new space concepts, structural and functional constructs, motifs etc.**together with aesthetic and iconographic norms temples belonging to **Nagara Style of temple Architecture.**

 © Vision IAS

- **Trade/economy**
  - Economy in Gurjara-Pratihara Empire was **mainly dependent on agricultural production** and major source of government revenue at that time was the tax derived from the bulk of agricultural production.
  - **Horses were important commodity** in trade of Gurjara-Pratihara Empire.
- Primary literary sources include the accounts of Arab merchants like **Suleiman, al-Masudi and poet Rajashekhara in court of Mahendrapala I.**

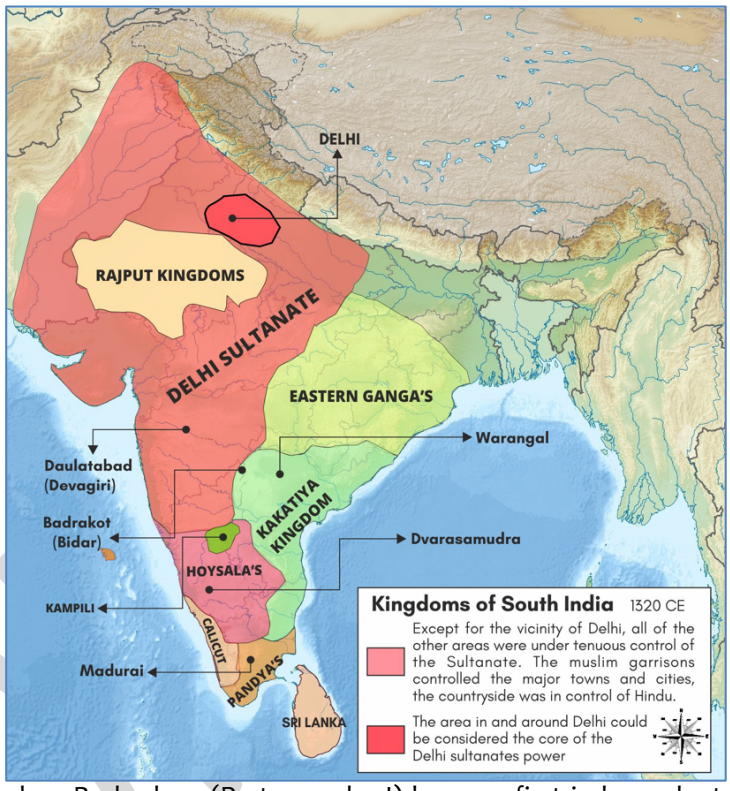
7.2. KAKATIYA DYNASTY

Why in news?

A temple constructed by **Kakatiya ruler**, in **Andhra Pradesh's capital Amaravathi** has been converted into an abode of local goddess **Balusulamma (Goddess Durga).**

More on news

- The temple was constructed by **emperor Ganapati Deva,** a mighty ruler of **Kakatiya dynasty**.
- The presiding deity at this **13th century temple** was **Kakati Devi**, the **deity of Kakatiya rulers**.



About Kakatiya dynasty

- They were earlier **feudatories of Western Chalukyas.** All three contemporary dynasties of Deccan i.e., Hoysalas, Yadavas and Kakatiyas were feudatories of Western Chalukyas.
- The independent dynasty was established when Rudradeva (Prataparudra I) became first independent ruler of Kakatiya dynasty in 1158AD.
- **Warangal** was the **capital** of Kakatiyas.
- They faced **Islamic invasion from 1310 (by Alauddin Khilji)** and ultimately **came under control of Delhi Sultanate in 1323 (invasion by Sultan Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq)**.
- **Prominent rulers:**
  - **Ganapatideva's** reign was the **longest amongst all the Kakatiya rulers,** starting from **1199 till 1262 CE** during which he expanded his kingdom from the coastal Bay of Bengal in the east to Kanchipuram in the south.
  - **Rani Rudrama Devi (1262-89)** was one of the few queens in Indian history belonged to Kakatiya dynasty.
- **Socio-Economic history:**
  - **Motupalli** was the **famous trading seaport of the Kakatiyas**.
  - **Marco Polo**- the famous Venetian traveler **visited Kakatiya kingdom** through this port and wrote about the **prosperity and power** in Andhras in his travelogue.
  - Kakatiya dynasties were **famous for the construction of large tanks and used the sluice-weir device** in it to **boost crop production.**
  - **The Koh-i-noor diamond** was mined during Kakatiya rule from the Golconda mines
- **Architecture:**
  - **Rudreswara Temple:** also known as VeyyisthambalaGudi **(Thousand pillars temple)** in Telugu is one of the earliest structures of Kakatiya architecture.
    - ✓ It was built by Rudra Deva in 1163 AD.
    - ✓ The temple is known for its richly carved pillars, perforated screens, special icons like rock-cut elephants and monolithic Nandi.
    - ✓ The temple was desecrated by the rulers of Tughlaq dynasty during their invasion of the Deccan region.

- **Rammappa Temple (Telangana):** It is the **only temple in India known by the name of the sculptor** who built it, rather than after the presiding deity
  - ✓ It was built on behalf of the king, Kakati Ganapathi Deva by his chief commander Rudra Samani.
  - ✓ The sculptural work of dance postures in the temple were great inspiration for the famous work 'Nritya Ratnavali', by Jayapa Senani.
- **Warangal Fort:** Warangal fort was built by King Ganapathi in 13th century and completed by his daughter Rudrama Devi, in 1261 A.D.
  - ✓ The fort has four paths with decorative and lofty gateways known as **Keerthi Thorana or Hamsa Thorana.**
- Warangal Fort, Thousand Pillar Temple, and Ramappa Temple of this region have been added **to the tentative list of UNESCO's World Heritage sites.**

7.3. EVIDENCE OF DAIRY PRODUCTION IN THE INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION (IVC)

Why in news?

The year 2020 marks **100 years of discovery of IVC or also known as Harappan Civilization.**, and a new study has shown that dairy products were being produced by the Harappans as far back as 2500 BCE.

Key findings

- **Earliest evidence of industrial level of dairy production:** These were based on analysis of the absorbed lipid residues in unglazed ceramic vessels.
- **Evidence of dairy processing:** that is, the preservation of milk through fermentation and other techniques.
  - The results are based on molecular chemical analysis of residue of pottery found at **Kotada Bhadli, in Gujarat.**
  - Even in the present day, Gujarat is still a major producer of dairy products in India.
- **Animal used for dairy production:** They studied the tooth enamel from fossils of cattle, water buffalo, goat and sheep found in the area. Cows and water buffalo were found to consume millets, while sheep and goats ate nearby grass and leaves.
  - The large herd indicates that milk was produced in surplus so that it could be exchanged and there could have been some kind of trade between settlements.
- **Hence, these findings throw a light on rural economy of IVC.**

Related News
Cattle, Buffalo Meat Residue Found in Indus Valley Vessels

- **According to new study in North Western India sites**
  - Diet of people of IVC had a **dominance of meat, including extensive eating of beef.**
  - It finds dominance of animal products **such as meat of pigs, cattle, buffalo, sheep and goat, as well as dairy products.**
  - **Ceramics are one of the most ubiquitous artefacts** recovered.
  - **Wild animal species like deer, antelope, gazelle**, birds, and riverine/marine resources are also found in small proportions

About Indus Valley Civilization

- It is one of the four earliest civilizations of the world along with the Mesopotamia, Egypt and China.
- IVC was a cultural and political entity which flourished in the northern region of the Indian subcontinent **between c. 7000 - c. 600 BCE.**
- **Dayaram Sahni** first discovered Harappa in 1921.
- Its modern name derives from its **location in the valley of the Indus River**, but it is also commonly referred to as the Indus-Saraswati Civilization (after the Saraswati River mentioned in Vedic sources which flowed adjacent to the Indus) and the Harappan Civilization.
- It remains unclear how the Indus civilization came to an end.
- The civilization's southernmost parts may have continued until Iron Age civilization developed in India about 1000 BCE.

© Vision IAS

Recent IVC related discoveries

- According to a recent study **shifting monsoon patterns linked to climate change** likely caused the rise and fall of IVC.
- **Bhirrana, Haryana is now considered the oldest discovered IVC site,** dating back to 7500 BCE.
  - Previously, Mehrgarh, in Pakistan (7000 BCE) was considered the oldest site.
  - DNA sample of skeletal remains excavated from Rakhigarhi has claimed that inhabitants of IVC were a distinct indigenous people and **challenges theory of an Aryan invasion ending Harapan culture**.

Important IVC Sites		
Places	**Locations**	**Archaeological Findings**
Harappa	Pakistan, River Ravi	Six Granaries, stone symbol of Lingam and Yoni, Mother Goddess figure, Sculpture of dog chasing a deer in bronze metal, a Red sandstone male torso.
Mohenjodaro	Pakistan, River Ravi	Citadel, the Great Bath, Sculpture of bearded priest, the Great Granary, the famous bronze statue of the Dancing Girl and Pashupati seal.
Dholavira	Gujarat, India	Giant water reservoir, unique water harnessing system.
Lothal	Gujarat, India	Dockyard, fire altars, terracotta figure of horse and ship
Rakhigarhi	Haryana	Largest site of Indus Valley civilization, Granary, Terracotta bricks
Ropar	Punjab, India located on River Sutlej	Dog buried with human oval pit burials, Copper axe
Balathal and Kalibangan	Rajasthan, India	Bangle factory, toy carts, bones of Camel, decorated bricks, Citadel and lower town, fire altar
Surkotada	Gujarat, India	First actual remains of Horse bones
Banawali	Haryana, India on dried up River Saraswati	Beads of semi-precious stones, terracotta, steatite and bangles of clay, shell, faience and copper. Well-planned fortified township laid in a radial pattern
Alamgirpur	Meerut, Uttar Pradesh on River Yamuna	Eastern most site of IVC, blade made of Copper, Ceramic items
Mehrgarh	Pakistan	Precursor to IVC, Pottery and Copper tools have been found

7.4. SADIKPUR SINAULI EXCAVATIONS

Why in News?

ASI declared site and remains at **Sadikpur Sinauli in Uttar Pradesh's Baghpat district to be of National Importance**.

About Sadikpur Sinauli

- First excavated in 2003-04, site reveals a late Harappan period **necropolis- largest known burial site in India.**
- It is located on the **left bank of the River Yamuna.**
- **Carbon dating** has confirmed burials date to **1900 BC i.e., 3800 years ago**
- **Findings at site**
  - **Wooden coffin burials, "chariots", copper swords.**
  - **Royal burials** discovered first time.
  - **Impressions of cloth found on bodies** suggesting purification similar to Hindu rituals.
  - Pottery -**Ochre Coloured Pottery (OCP) culture.**
  - **Horse debate:** Excavation found **chariots,** swords and other objects pointing to the presence of a **warrior class of people** in the region during the **Copper-Bronze Age (3300 BC –1200 BC).**
    - Size and shape of chariots indicate they were **pulled by horses.**
    - Other supporting evidence is **domesticated horse bones found at Surkotda**, mature Harappan site.
  - **Questions Aryan Invasion Theory:** Theory claims that **horse was brought from central Asia** by invading Aryan army around **1500 to 1000 BC** and that gave Aryans edge over "Dravidians" with bullock carts.
    - However new findings are suggestive that **horse driven chariots** were used by the **OCP people around 2000 BC.**
    - Other supporting evidence is **the domesticated horse bones found at Surkotda,** mature Harappan site.

About Aryan Invasion Theory

- According to theory by British archaeologist Mortimer Wheeler, a **nomadic, Indo-European tribe (Steppe pastoralists or from Anatolian and Iranian farmers), called the Aryans**, suddenly overwhelmed and conquered the Indus River Valley, **causing the decline of Indus Valley civilization.**
- He posited that **many unburied corpses found in the top levels of the Mohenjo-Daro** archaeological site were victims of war.
- The **theory suggested that by using horses** and more advanced weapons against the peaceful Harappan people, the Aryans may have easily defeated them.
- **Evidence from Rig Veda:**
  - The Rig Veda time and again refers to the fortresses of the Dasas and Dasyus. The Vedic god Indra is called **'Purandara' meaning 'the destroyer of forts'**.
  - The geographical area of the **habitation of the Rig Vedic Aryans included the Punjab and the Ghaggar-Hakra regio**n.
  - Since there are **no remains of other cultural groups having forts in this area in this historical phase**, Wheeler believed that it was the Harappan cities that were being described in the Rig Veda.
  - In fact, the **Rig Veda mentions a place called Hariyupiya**. This place was located on the bank of the river Ravi. The Aryans fought a battle here. The name of the place sounds very similar to that of Harappa.
  - These evidences led Wheeler to **conclude that it was the Aryan invaders who destroyed the cities of Harappa.**

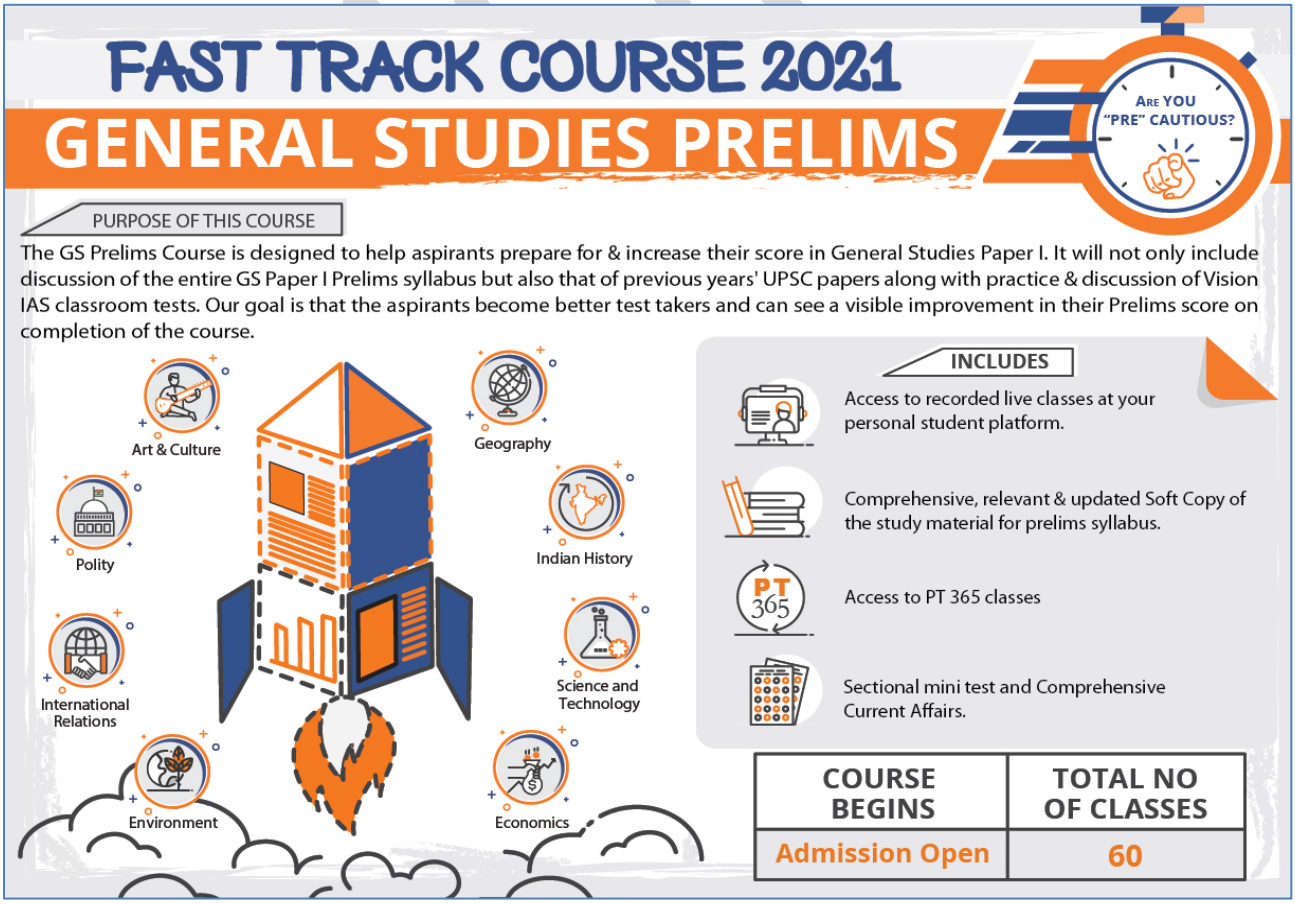
About National Importance Tag

- Archaeological site and remains means any area which contains or is, reasonably believed to **contain ruins or relics of historical or archaeological importance**, which have been in **existence for not less than one hundred years.**
- **National importance** tag puts sites on world tourism map, and ensure them regular fund for conservation, preservation and maintenance by ASI on priority basis.

Related News

Rare Renati Chol Inscription Unearthed

- Inscription was **unearthed in Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh.** It is written in archaic Telugu language.
  - It **shows record of a gift of six Marttus (a measuring unit) of land** gifted to a Brahmin
- It was **assigned to 8th Century A.D.,** when region was under the **rule of Chola Maharaja of Renadu.**
  - Telugu Cholas of Renadu (also called as Renati Cholas) **ruled over Renadu region,present day Cuddapah district.**
- They were originally independent, later forced to suzerainty of Eastern Chalukyas.



© Vision IAS

8. PERSONALITIES

8.1. NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

Why in News

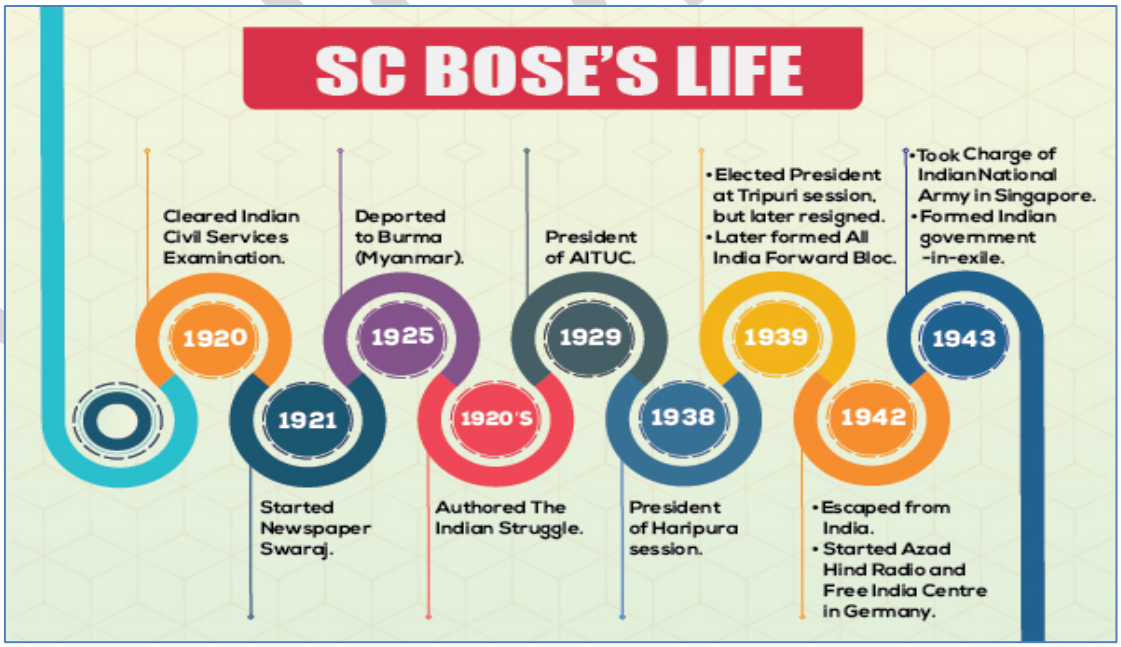
On 23rd January, 2021, India celebrated the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose as 'Parakram Divas.'

Related information

- **He cleared the Indian Civil Service examination in 1920. However, he resigned** during the probation period in April 1921.
- Along with Chittaranjan Das, Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhash Chandra Bose **served as the President of All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC).**
- He was inspired by Bhagvad Gita and teachings of Swami Vivekananda and Sri Aurobindo Ghosh.

Political Career

- **His work under political leader Chittaranjan Das in early 1920s:**
  - In 1921, Bose edited the newspaper 'Forward' and later **started his newspaper 'Swaraj'.**
  - He also served as the **Chief Executive Officer of the Calcutta Municipal Corporation,** with Das as mayor of Calcutta.
- **His role as a youth leader in INC in late 1920s:**
  - He had been a leader of the younger, **radical wing of the INC.**
  - He was arrested countless times, and **deported to Burma (Myanmar) in 1925 as he was suspected of connections with secret revolutionary movements.**
  - He authored the book **'The Indian Struggle',** which covered the country's independence movement in the years 1920–1934.
- **His role as the President of INC in 1930s**
  - **He took over as the elected President of Haripura session of INC in 1938 in** Bardoli district of Gujarat.
    - He mentioned the need of a **comprehensive scheme of industrial development under state-ownership and state-control.**
    - During the session he talked of economic development of country through planning and was instrumental in setting up a National Planning Committee (under the Chairmanship of Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru) later.
    - It is in this session where his ideological differences with Gandhiji emerged.



  - **In 1939 at Tripuri session, he was again elected as the President defeating** Pattabhi Sitaramayya who had been supported by Gandhiji himself. This was the first time when Gandhiji's authority had been challenged within the INC. Netaji did not want the national movement to look divided and preferred to withdraw.
  - **Then, he formed the All India Forward Bloc,** a faction within the INC aimed at consolidating the political left. However, he was **EXPELLED from the INC** because of his extreme left, anti-imperialist stand.

- **His exile from India**
  - Alarmed by Netaji's radical activities the **British Indian Govt put him under house arrest.**
  - Netaji believed that India could not be liberated unless a military campaign was launched from outside India.
  - **He knew also that facilities could be obtained for such a campaign only from Britain's enemies** and not from Britain's allies during the course of World War II.
  - With these basic ideas, in 1942 **he made well his escape from India and proceeded first to Germany and thence to Japan.**
- **His military activities during World War II**
  - After reaching Germany in 1942, he started **'Azad Hind Radio' and established 'Free India Centre'** (a precursor of the Azad Hind Government)**.**
  - He arrived in Singapore in July 1943 and **took charge of the Indian National Army (INA) or Azad Hind Fauj** and expanded it to three divisions. INA was established by Mohan Singh. Rash Behari Bose, a veteran nationalist exiled in Japan came to aide Netaji.
  - **In Singapore, he formed an Indian government-in-exile 'the Azad Hind Government'.** This provisional government also had its own currency, court, civil code, Army (the INA) and national anthem.
  - In 1943, as the Head of the State of the Provisional Government**, he declared war on Britain for the liberation of India.**
  - The INA under the clarion **call of "Chalo Delhi" reached Moirang in Manipur and shook the British confidence.**
    - **The INA was able to win back Rangoon, Imphal and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.**
    - Netaji renamed Andaman and Nicobar (A&N) Island as **Shaheed and Swaraj.** In 2018, the Ross Island, Neil Island and Havelock Island of (A&N) Islands were renamed as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep, Shaheed Dweep and Swaraj Dweep respectively.
  - The great salutation every Army personnel uses today, **'Jai Hind', was coined by Netaji's aide Abid Hasan.**

8.2. JYOTIBA PHULE

Why in news?

Recently 130th death anniversary was observed.

About Jyotiba phule

- Jyotirao 'Jyotiba' Govindrao Phule was a prominent social reformer and thinker of the nineteenth century India. He was born in **Satara** district of **Maharashtra** in **1827.** His family belonged to **'mali'** caste of gardeners and vegetable farmers.
- At the age of thirteen years, Jyotirao was married to **Savitribai.**
- After reading **Thomas Paine's famous book 'The Rights of Man'(1791),** Jyotirao was greatly influenced by his ideas. **He believed that enlightenment of the women and lower caste people** were the only solution to combat the social evils.
- He was bestowed with the **title of Mahatma by Vithalrao Krishnaji Vandekar in 1888** and passed away in **1890.**
- **Efforts Towards social reform**
  - **Education:**
    - Suggested compulsory, universal and creative education.
    - He and his wife Savitrirao Phule opened **the first-ever school for Dalit girls at Bhide Wada, Pune, in 1848.**
    - **Curriculum of the school was based on western education** and included mathematics, science and social studies.
  - **Women empowerment:**
    - Believed in the **equality of men and women.**
    - **Stressed on women's education** and emancipation of women.
    - **Opposed social evils like Child marriage and Female infanticide.**

© Vision IAS

    - **Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha** (1863), first-ever infanticide prohibition home helping pregnant Brahmin widows and rape victims deliver children.
  - **Advocated the idea of Widow Remarriage.**
  - **Against Caste System:**
    - Radical opponent of untouchability
    - First person to coin the term **'Dalits'** to apply to all people considered **lower caste and untouchables**.
    - **Condemned the Vedas** and held Brahmins responsible for framing exploitative and inhuman laws.
    - He was a source of inspiration for Maharshi Shinde, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, Gadgebaba and Sahu Maharaj.
- **Association:** In 1873, he formed the **Satya Shodhak Samaj (Society of Seekers of Truth) in Pune.** It was a social reform society that fought for equal rights for the depressed classes. The community included Muslims, non-Brahmins, Brahmins and government officials.

8.3. BAL GANGADHAR TILAK

Why in news?

Recently, **Bal Gangadhar Tilak 100th Death Anniversary** (23 July 1856 – 1 August 1920) was observed.

Details

- Keshav Gangadhar Tilak, **popularly known as Lokmanya Tilak**, was **among the first leaders of the Indian independence movement.**
  - He belonged to **extremist faction of Indian National Congress**, supported by Bipin Chandra Pal in Bengal and Lala Lajpat Rai in Punjab. Tilak was called father of the **Indian unrest by British colonial rulers.**
  - He **advocated for Swaraj or self-rule** and was a proponent of boycott and Swadeshi movements.
  - He **organised festivals such as Ganesh Chaturthi and Shiv Jayanti to create unity** and a national spirit among the people.
  - While **Jawaharlal Nehru called him the father of Indian revolution, Mahatma Gandhi described Tilak as the maker of modern India.**
- **Organisations associated**
  - He was one of the **founders of the All India Home Rule League (1916),** along with Annie Besant.
  - He was **founding fathers of the Deccan Education Society created in 1884** with an aim to educate common people in English.
- **Literary works**
  - Weekly newspapers **namely Kesari (in Marathi) and Mahratta (in English**).
  - **Book:** Gita Rahasya, Arctic Home of the Vedas.

8.4. 350TH JAYANTI OF BABA BANDA SINGH BAHADUR

Why in news?

The Prime Minister recently paid tribute to Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Ji on his **350th Jayanti.**

About Baba Banda Singh Bahadur (1670-1716)

Contemporaries of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur

- **Guru Gobind Singh (1666-1708)** – He was **10th Sikh Guru** who **transformed Sikhs into a martial race** and established **Khalsa (Pure) Panth.**
- **Shah Alam (1643-1712)** – He was 7th Mughal Emperor and son of Aurangzeb.

- He was **a Sikh warrior known for his struggle against the Mughal Empire** in the early eighteenth century after meeting with Sri Guru Gobind Singh.
- He was also called Lachman Das, Lachman Dev, or Madho Das and was born in a Minhas Rajput family.
  - He **established a monastery at Nanded** (in present day Maharashtra), on the bank of river Godavari, where in **1708** he was visited by, **and became a disciple of, Guru Gobind Singh**, who gave him the new name of Banda Bahadur.
- After the fortress town of **Gurdas Nangal** fell to the Mughals in **1715,** Baba Banda Singh was **captured and brought to Delhi** where he was tortured to death in **1716** in the reign of Mohammad Farrukhsiyar.
- **Contribution of Banda Bahadur**
  - He was known for **the abolition of the zamindari syste**m, and granting proprietary rights to the actual tillers of the land.

- He **minted coins in the names of Guru Nanak Dev** and **Guru Gobind Singh** and issued orders under his seal.
- The name of **Mukhlisgarh in Haryana was changed to Lohgarh (Fort of Steel),** and it became the **capital of the first Sikh state**.

8.5. PURANDARA DASA

Why in news?

Karnataka government will commence field research at **Keshavapura in Karnataka** to solve the mystery regarding the **birth place of Purandara Dasa. Indian Classical Music is mainly divided into two parts:**

Hindustani Music	Carnatic Music
It has its **roots in Vedic traditions** where hymns in Sama Veda, a sacred text, were sung rather than chanted.	It developed significantly **during the Bhakti movement.**
It is **raga-based.**	It is **Kriti-based.**
It features a number of **Turko-Persian musical elements**.	**No Turko-Persian influence.**
There is **bandish of time**.	There is **no such Bandish.**
There are more than one style of singing known as **gharanas**.	It is written to be sung in a **specific way.**
Use of **tabla, sarangi, sitar, santoor, clarionet, violin & flute.**	Use of **veena, mridangam, mandolin, jalatarangam, violin & flute.**

More on news

- Till now, it was believed that Purandara Dasa was born in **Purandaragarh near Pune**, Maharashtra.
- However, an expert committee constituted by Karnataka Government reported that there is enough evidence to suggest **Keshavapura as his birth place** and recommended further research.

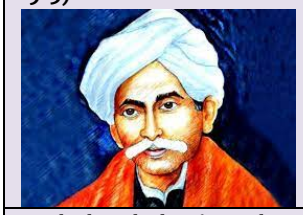
About Purandara Dasa

- **Purandara Dasa (1484- 1564)** was a **saint, poet and singer** during the Vijayanagara empire.
- He was the disciple of **Vyasatirtha**, Rajaguru of Vijayanagara empire**.**
- Prior to his **initiation to Haridasa tradition** (music and literary tradition followed by Vaishnavaits)**,** Purandara Dasa was a rich merchant and was called **Srinivasa Nayaka**.
- He is regarded as the **'Pitamaha' of Carnatic music.** His **systemized method of teaching Carnatic music** is followed till present day.
- He introduced the raga **"Maya malava gowla"** as the **basic scale for music instruction**.
- Under the **pen name 'Purandara Vittala'**, he has written around **4.75 lakh devotional** songs in simple **Kannada,** known as **kirtanas** touching th**e local issues and traditions of South India.**
- **Swami Haridas,** teacher of the foremost **Hindustani musician Tansen,** was a disciple of Purandara Dasa.

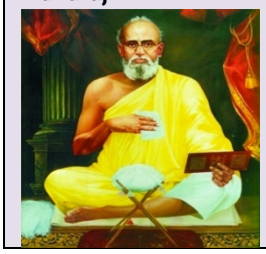
8.6. OTHER PERSONALITIES IN NEWS

Ancient & Medieval India	
Lachit Borphukan	• He was a **commander in the erstwhile Ahom kingdom (Assam)** and is considered as cultural idol in Assam after he defeated a large Mughal Army on the banks of Brahmaputra in the Battle of Saraighat in 1671 to defend Guwahati. • Lachit was **appointed as 'Borphukan' by King Chakradhwaj Singha**. ○ Borphukan is a position embedded with both executive and judicial powers.
Malik Ambar	• He was an African slave turned warrior who **founded city '**Aurangabad'. • Born in 1548 in southern Ethiopia's Khambata region, Ambar is **believed to have been associated with the Oromo tribe**. • Ambar was amongst one of a thousand other 'Habshi' (a term used to refer to members of various ethnic communities from the Abyssinian highlands) purchased by Chengiz Khan, when fate **brought him to the Deccan.**

 © Vision IAS

Rahim 	• **Rahim** was one of the Navratnanas, **a reputed military commander and a poet in** the court of emperor Akbar. ○ He is known as the **proponent of a secular all-embracing all-encompassing culture** of inclusiveness. • He wrote extensively in **Braj, Sanskrit, Arabic and Persian. He translated Babur's autobiography *Baburnama*** from Turkish to Persian.
Modern India	
Narmadashankar Dave ('Narmad') (1833 –1886) 	• Prime Minister paid tributes to Narmadashankar Dave on his 187th birth anniversary. • He was a **Gujarati poet, playwright and social reformer**. • He is considered to be the **founder of modern Gujarati literature.** • His magagine: **Dandio**.
Ram Manohar Lohia 	• He was a **Socialist leader** who played a major role in Independence struggle. • Lohia set up underground radio stations called, **Congress Radio**, at Bombay and Calcutta during Quit India Movement. • He was one of the **founders of 'Congress Socialist Party'** in 1934 and edited its periodical called **'Congress Socialist'.** • He **opposed India's involvement in World War-II.** • He suggested **compulsory intercaste marriages** for government servants and community festivals for eradication of caste system.
Gurajada Appa Rao (1862-1915) 	• He was a **Telegu a poet, writer and social reformer**. • He wrote in support of **gender equality and against caste and communal prejudice.** • His work includes Kanyasulkam, Desamunu Preminchumanna, Kondu Bhatteeyamand, Bilhaneeyam, Pedda Maseedu, Mee Peremiti, Puthadi Bomma Poornamma

Kushok Bakula Rinpoche
 	
	• During Prime minister's visit to Nimu in Ladakh, PM recalled greatness of Ladakh's culture as well as **the noble teachings of Kushok Bakula Rimpoche.**
	  ○ He was a **prominent Buddhist monk, statesman and international diplomat** often called "the architect of Modern Ladakh.
	  ○ He made a detailed case for Ladakh to remain a part of India following an attack by tribal raiders from Pakistan and talk of UN-backed plebiscite.
	• **Nimu** is surrounded by Zanskar range and is on banks of river Indus.

Mahatma Ayyankali (1863- 1941) 	• He is a social reformer in **Travancore, British India** (present day Kerala). • He belonged to the **'untouchable' Pulaya caste** and faced caste discrimination. • He founded **Sadhu Jana Paripalana Sangham** (association for the protection of the poor) which raised funds to start their own schools. • He also **became a member of the assembly of Travancore**, known as Sree Moolam Popular Assembly or Praja Sabha
Jainacharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj 	• Recently, **151st Birth Anniversary of Jainacharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj** was celebrated and Prime Minster unveiled **Statue of Peace on the occasion of Birth Anniversary of Surishwer Ji Maharaj in Pali, Rajasthan.** • Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj (1870-1954) was a Jain Saint who worked dedicatedly to **spread the message of Lord Mahavira.** • He **worked relentlessly for the welfare of masses, the spread of education, eradication of social evils etc.** • He also **gave active support to the freedom movement and the cause of Swadeshi.**

Sri Viswanatha Satyanarayana 	• He was a **Telugu writer** whose works included poetry, novels, drama, short stories and speeches, • In 1971 he was awarded with **Jnanpith Award for his book "Ramayana Kalpavriksham".** He was the **first telugu** writer to receive Jnanpith Award. ○ Jnanpith Award is presented by the Bharatiya Jnanpith (a literary and research organisation) to an author for their outstanding contribution towards literature. • His **'Veyipadagalu'** was translated into Hindi by former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao as **Sahasraphan**. • Some of his **poems and novels have been translated** into English, Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam, Urdu and Sanskrit.

Pandit Jasraj
 	
	• He was one of the **prominent Indian classical vocalists**. He was **associated with Mewati gharana.**
	  ○ Mewati Gharana is a **Khayal-based Hindustani Classical musical family-hood (Gharana)** founded in the late 19th Century.
	  ○ Mewati Gharana **acquired its name** after Mewar region of Rajasthan, from which its founding exponents hailed.
	• **Pandit Jasraj** was awarded Padma Vibhushan and was also a master of haveli sangeet.

Others	
Florence Nightingale 	• **200th birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale**, founder of modern nursing was celebrated. • Florence Nightingale (1820-1910) also known as **"The Lady with the Lamp"** was a British nurse, social reformer and statistician best known as the founder of modern nursing. • She established **St. Thomas' Hospital, London and the Nightingale Training School for Nurses in 1860**. • She is **credited with being the first healthcare professional to use data** to show that infections control improves health outcomes. ○ Through her career she stressed on practice of handwashing that is relevant as ever today. • She was instrumental in **setting up training for midwives and nurses in workhouse infirmaries**. She was **the first woman to be awarded the Order of Merit (1907)**. • The **International Nurses Day** is observed annually on **May 12** commemorating her birth and celebrates the important role of nurses in health care. • **World Health Organization (WHO)** has **designated 2020 as the "International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife,"** in honor of the 200th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth.
Nanaji Deshmukh 	• Chandikadas Amritrao Deshmukh also known as Nanaji Deshmukh was a **social reformer and politician**. He worked in the fields of education, health, and rural self-reliance. • He set up the **Chitrakoot Gramodaya Vishwavidyalaya** in Madhya Pradesh, which is considered the **country's first rural university**. • He was **inspired by freedom fighter Lokmanya Tilak** and his thoughts on nationalism. ○ In 2019, he was awarded the **'Bharat Ratna' posthumously**.

© Vision IAS

9. HISTORICAL EVENTS

9.1. MALABAR REBELLION

Why in news?

The year 2021 will be the 100th-year anniversary of the Malabar uprising.

About Malabar rebellion

- It is also known popularly as the **Moplah rebellion,** was an armed revolt staged by the **Mappila Muslims of Kerala against the British authorities and their Hindu landlords in 1921.**
- The six-month-long rebellion is often perceived to be one of the **first cases of nationalist uprisings in Southern India.**
- It occurred within the broader spectrum of the **Khilafat/Non-cooperation movement** led by Mahatma Gandhi.
- Moplahs/Mappilas were the **Muslim tenants** (**kanamdars**) and **cultivators (verumpattamdars)** inhabiting the Malabar region where most of the landlords (**janmi or jenmies**) were upper caste Hindus.
    - Moplahs had gained some prominence over their landlords during the Mysorean invasions by Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan.
    - But after the British occupation of Malabar in 1792 (following the 3rd Anglo-Mysore war), the domination of the Hindu landlords was re-established.
- In this scenario, the Mappilas soon found themselves **at the mercy of their Hindu landlords who were sustained by the British authority as their agents.**

Causes of the revolt

- **History of feudal conflicts in the Malabar region:** Peasant-landlord relations were historically strained in the region. Evidently, about **32 uprisings** were organized by the Moplahs, between 1836 and 1919, against high caste Hindu landlords, their relatives or assistants and British officials.
- **Agrarian discontent**: The economic condition of Mappila tenants had deteriorated overtime due to oppressive British policies resulting in increased taxation, insecure tenancy, rack renting, forced evictions etc. This had given rise to anti-British and anti-feudal sentiments.
- **Political mobilization of mappilas**: The Congress reached out to the Mappila cultivators to mobilize support for independence through Khilafat movement and support agrarian reforms in the region.
    - A **Khilafat committee** was formed in Malabar in June 1920, which became increasingly active.
    - In August, 1920, **Gandhi along with Shaukat Ali** (the leader of the Khilafat movement in India) visited Calicut to spread the combined message of non-cooperation and Khilafat among the residents of Malabar.
    - By January 1921, the Mappilas, under their religious head **Mahadum Tangal** pledged support to the non-cooperation movement.
- **Immediate cause**: Mappilas under the leadership of **Variyamkunnath Kunjahammed Haji** took up arms in August 1921 due to the arrest of Khilafat leader Ali Musaliyar and a widespread rumour that a prominent mosque in Thirurangadi has been raided.

Course of the rebellion

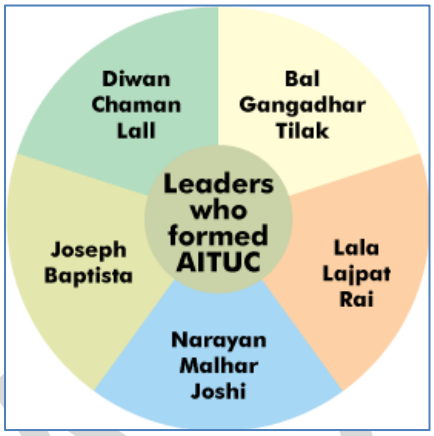
- It largely took the **shape of guerrilla-type attacks on janmis, police and troops.**
- Symbols of the colonial state – **telegraph lines, train stations, courts, post offices etc. and homes of landlords were attacked.**
- When the rebellion spread across the Malabar district, British officers and the local police escaped, leaving **vast tracts of territory firmly under the control of the local rebels.**
    - **The territory was declared an 'independent state'** in August 1921 with Haji as its ruler.
    - For nearly six months, he ran a **parallel Khilafat regime headquartered in Nilambur,** with even its own separate passport, currency and system of taxation.
    - **Tenants were granted the power over the lands** they cultivated along with tax incentives.
- Although the movement started off largely as a protest against British authorities, it acquired communal overtones that culminated into **communal violence.**
- **British suppression of the revolt-**
    - The British government responded to the movement with much aggression, bringing in **Gurkha regiments** to suppress it and imposing **martial law.**
        - **Wagon tragedy:** Approximately 60 Mappila prisoners on their way to a prison, suffocated to death in a closed railway goods wagon.

- By January 1922, they had taken back the areas held by the rebels and captured all their key leaders.
  - Haji was arrested and was sentenced to death along with his compatriots.

9.2. ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

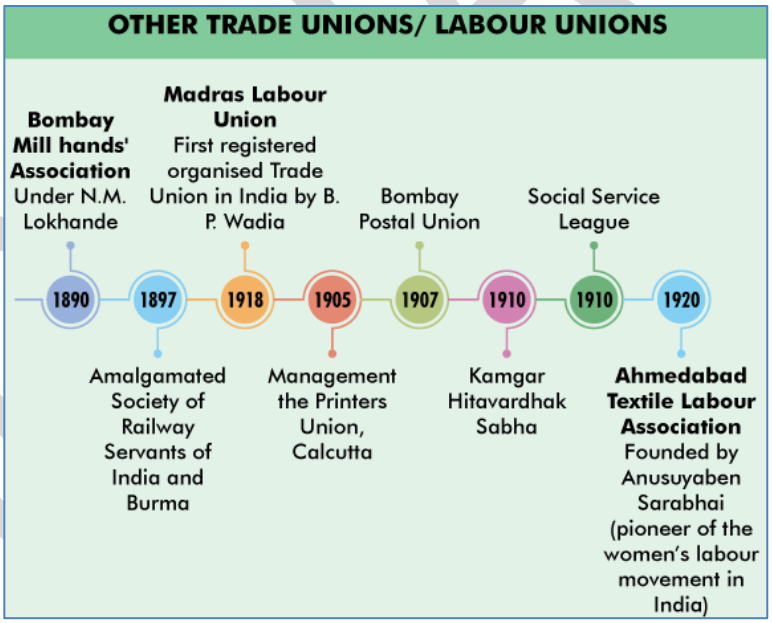
Why in News?

Recently, All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) completed **100 years of formation.**



About AITUC

- AITUC was **formed in 1920** to provide labour representation for India at the International Labor Organization (ILO).
- **Lala Lajpat Rai was elected as the first president** of AITUC and Dewan Chaman Lal as the first general secretary.
  - C.R. Das, Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhash Chandra Bose also served as AITUC presidents.
- **Gaya session of the Congress (1922) welcomed formation of the AITUC** and a committee was formed to assist it.
- Later, AITUC was split to form **National Trade Union Federation (NTUF) in 1929 and Red Trade Union Congress (RTUC) in 1931.**
- In the aftermath of Second World War, **AITUC played significant role in the foundation of World Federation of Trade Unions** (international federation of trade unions).
- **Labour unions or trade unions** are organizations formed by workers from related fields that work for common interest of its members like fairness of pay, hours of work, etc and hence providing a **link between the management and workers.**



Factors that led to formation of Trade Unions

- **Influenced by world labour movements like** Russian Revolution in 1917 etc.
- **Industrial unrest like** Strikes in Bombay against extension of working hours etc.
- **Oppression and exploitation under British rule**
- **National freedom movement.**

9.3. WORLD WAR 2

Why in news?

US, Europe and Russia celebrated **May 8, 2020 (May 9** in Russia) **as Victory Day** to mark **75th anniversary of end of Second World War in Europe.**

About Second World War

- It was **total war** and **most destructive war** that world has observed till date.
- **Primary combatants**
  - **Axis nations** - Germany, Italy, Japan
  - **Allied nations** - Great Britain (and its Commonwealth nations), France, Soviet Union and United States.

© Vision IAS

Events related to WW II

- **Holocaust and Nuclear bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.**
- **United Nations** was established in 1945 for **maintenance of world peace,** protection of rights of individuals etc.
- **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR),** was drafted.
- **European domination of world ended** and balance of power shifted in favor of USSR and US.
- **Start of Cold war**
- **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and Third World Concept emerged which** meant to **be non-Aligned** to any of two super powers.
- **Decolonization & rise of nationalism** in colonies in Asia & Africa and emergence of many new nation states from 1950s.

Causes of Second World War

- **Versailles Treaty** which was considered humiliating and caused resentment in Germany.
- **Failure of the League of Nations** to uphold concept of 'Collective Security'.
- **Global economic crisis** - spurred by **Great Depression** in America, as it led to rise of Hitler and other Fascist powers.
- **Hitler's Role**
  - He **attacked Poland** on all fronts, rather than just capturing the Polish Corridor and Danzig. This is considered **most immediate cause** of war.
  - Hitler wanted to destroy Russia and use its territory as 'Living Space for Germans' and his propaganda capitalized on anger among Germans who approved of Hitler's action.
- **Role of Appeasers: Policy of Appeasement** by UK and France raised Hitler's prestige at home.

9.4. QISSA KHWANI BAZAAR MASSACRE

Why in News?

Qissa Khwani Bazaar massacre in **Peshawar completed 90 years in April 2020.** Also, it is the **100th Anniversary of Anjuman-e Islah ul-Afghan in 1921,** which is seen as the precursor of the Khudai Khidmatgar Movement.

About the Massacre

- **Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan was arrested during protests** arising out of the Salt Satyagraha in 1930s. A crowd of **Khudai Khidmatgars gathered** in Peshawar's Qissa Khwani (Storytellers) Bazaar.
- In order to bring the situation under control, the **British troops opened fire on the unarmed crowd, leading to Massacre killing over 400 people.**

About Khudai Khidmatgar

- Khudai Khidmatgar was a **Pashtun non-violent resistance movement** against the British Raj in the North-West Frontier Province.
  - It was also called **Surkh Posh or "Red Shirts".** The movement was led by **Abdul Ghaffar Khan,** known locally as Bacha Khan or Badshah Khan.
  - It was initially a social reform organization focusing on education and **the elimination of blood feuds from Afghan society but turned more political later.**
- In June 1947, the **Khudai Khidmatgars declared the Bannu Resolution,** demanding that the Pashtuns be given a choice to have an independent state of Pashtunistan, composing all Pashtun territories of British India, instead of being made to join Pakistan.
  - Later, a plebiscite resulted in the Frontier Province becoming part of the newly independent Pakistan.

About Abdul Ghaffar Khan

- **Abdul Ghaffar Khan earned himself the nickname Frontier Gandhi** by his close associate Amir Chand Bombwal for his devotion to non-violent resistance.
- He **strongly opposed the proposal for the partition of India,** siding with the Indian National Congress and All India Azad Muslim Conference.
- He founded the **Pashto language monthly political journal 'Pashtun' in 1928.** His autobiography My Life and Struggle, was made public in 1969.
- In 1987 he was awarded the Bharat Ratna Prize, and was the first non-Indian to receive this honour.

9.5. OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

60th Goa Liberation Day	• Goa Liberation Day is observed on December 19 every year and it marks the day Indian armed forces freed Goa in 1961 **following 450 years of Portuguese rule.** • **Portuguese colonised several parts of India in 1510** but by the end of the 19th-century Portuguese colonies in India were limited to Goa, Daman, Diu (liberated on December 1961) and Dadra, Nagar Haveli (liberated on August 2, 1954).

Punnapra-Vayalar revolt	• A report to the Indian Council for Historical Research (ICHR) has suggested **dropping Communist martyrs of Punnapra-Vayalar, Karivelloor, and Kavumbayi agitations** from list of martyrs of India's Independence struggle. • **Punnapra Vayalar movement** was an armed struggle movement against the Maharaja of Travancore and his Prime Minister, Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer, under the leadership of the Communist Party of India. • The year 1946 witnessed the **Dewan of Travancore Sir CP Ramaswamy Iyer** declaring the "American Model" for Travancore princely state, according to which it would remain an independent state. • The Punnapra Vayalar struggles served the **cause of strengthening the peasant worker unity in the struggle for agrarian reforms and labor rights**.
100 years of Jamia Millia Islamia	• Recently, Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) completed 100 years • It was established as the **Independent National University** at Aligarh **in 1920 during the Khilafat and Non- Cooperation Movement** in response to Gandhiji's call to boycott Government - supported educational institutions. • It was established by **Shaikhul Hind Maulana Mahmud Hasan, Maulana Mohammed Ali, Hakim Ajmal Khan, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad Ansari, Abdul Majeed Khwaja and Dr. Zakir Husain**. • It aimed to have an **indigenous education free from British influence**. • It was renamed **Jamia Millia Islamia** (JMI), and shifted from Aligarh to **New Delhi**. • **Jauhar** became its first vice-chancellor and **Hakim Ajmal Khan** was its first chancellor. • The first batch graduated in **1921** comprised 21 students - all male. • In 1938, Jamia established the **Ustadon ka Madarsa**, which came to be called the Teachers' Training College at Karol Bagh, and the **Idara-e-Talim-o-Taraqqi** that would provide evening classes for adult education.

© Vision IAS

10. MISCELLANEOUS

10.1. GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION (GI) TAG

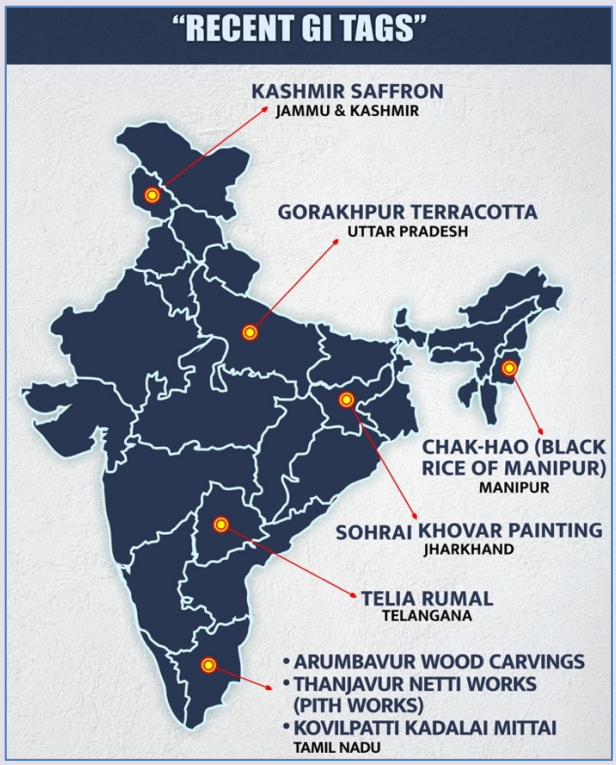
Why in news?

Recently, GI tags were awarded to multiple products.

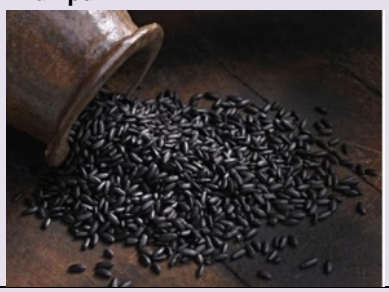
About GI tag

- **GI Tag** is a sign used on products that have a **specific geographical origin** and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.
- These are regulated under **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act,1999** and given by **Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks** who is Registrar of Geographical Indications.
- GI is covered under **Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement**.
- A **GI Tag is valid for a decade**, after which it can be renewed for another 10 years.

Products to which GI tags were granted



GI Tags	State	Features
Kashmir Saffron	**Jammu & Kashmir** 	• It is cultivated in **Karewas (highlands) of Jammu & Kashmir.** • It is only saffron in world grown at an altitude of 1,600 m to 1,800 m. • In ancient Sanskrit literature, saffron is referred to as **'bahukam'.** • **Characteristics:** Longer and thicker stigmas, natural deep-red colour, high aroma, bitter flavour, chemical-free processing, and high quantity of crocin (colouring strength), safranal (flavour) and picrocrocin (bitterness). • **Three types include**: Guchhi, Lachha and Mongra Saffron. • **Iran is the largest producer** of saffron and **India comes second.**

		• **Other GI products from J&K:** Kashmiri Pashmina, Kashmiri Sozani Craft, Kani Shawl, Kashmir Paper Machie, Kashmiri Walnut Carving, Khatamband, and Kashmiri Hand Knotted Carpet.
Chak-Hao (black rice of Manipur)	**Manipur** 	• It is a **scented glutinous rice** which has been in cultivation in **Manipur** over centuries, is characterised by its special aroma. • Chak-Hao has also been used by **traditional medical practitioners** as part of traditional medicine. • This rice takes the **longest cooking time of 40-45 minutes** due to the presence of a fibrous bran layer and higher crude fibre content.
Gorakhpur terracotta	**Uttar Pradesh** 	• It is a centuries-old traditional art form, where the potters make various animal figures like, horses, elephants, camel, goat, ox, etc. with hand-applied ornamentation. • The **entire work is done with bare hands** and artisans use **natural colour**, which stays fast for a long time. There are more than 1,000 varieties of terracotta work designed by the local craftsmen.
Sohrai Khovar painting	**Jharkhand** 	• It is a **traditional and ritualistic mural art** being practised by local tribal women in the area of Hazaribagh district of **Jharkhand**. • It is done during local harvest and marriage seasons using local, naturally available soils of different colours.
Telia Rumal	**Telangana** 	• It involves intricate handmade work with cotton loom displaying a variety of designs and motifs in three particular colours — red, black and white.
Arumbavur Wood Carvings	**Tamil Nadu** 	• Arumbavur wood carvings made by the **artisans of Perambalur** are mainly made out of wooden logs of lingam tree, mango, Indian ash tree, **vaagai, maavilangai, aththi, vembu, vengai, teak wood,** neem and rosewood tree. • Artists make **wooden cars for temples, statues, decorative and other wooden products** of various kinds. • The craftsmen follow rules of iconography **prescribed in the Shilpa Shastra.** • Temple cars are **mostly made of illuppai.** They are handmade with the artisans using traditional instruments. • No machine is used for different stages of carving right from sizing, chiselling and carving the patterns and details.

 © Vision IAS

		• The wood supply comes from the **Pachamalai Hills along the Trichy - Perambalur boundary** and the Thanjavur - Kumbakonam zone.
Thanjavur Netti Works (pith works)	**Tamil Nadu** 	• It is a traditional craft **crafted from Netti (pith), a marshy plant known as Aeschynomene Aspera.** • Netti Works are **visible in the Brihadeeswara Temple, garlands, idols** of Hindu deities, door hangings and decorative items. • Netti works are produced in **Thanjavur, Kumbakonam and Pudukkottai.** • The pith work models are delicate to handle and are **usually preserved inside glass boxes.** They resemble ivory and marble handicrafts in looks.
Kovilpatti kadalai mittai	**Tamil Nadu** 	• It is a **candy made of peanuts** held together with glistening syrup, and topped with wisps of grated coconut dyed pink, green and yellow. • It is made using **all natural ingredients** such as the traditional and special 'vellam' (jaggery) and groundnuts and water from the **river Thamirabarani** is used in the production, which enhances the taste naturally.

Other GI tags in News

- **Vazhakulam pineapples**
  - Mauritius variety of Vazhakkulam pineapples from Kerala had **got the geographical indication (GI) tag in 2009.**
  - It is grown in the districts of Ernakulam, Kottayam, Pathanamthitta and the **low elevation areas of Idukki district in Kerala.**
  - Vazhakulam pineapple is **unique in aroma, flavour and sweetness due to its high sugar content and low acidity.** It has a shelf life of around 10-15 days.
- **Toda Embroidery**
  - It is an art work among the **Toda pastoral people of Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu.**
  - It has received **GI tag in 2013.**
  - It is also locally known as "**Pukhoor**" and is made exclusively by women of Toda community.
  - The embroidery is made with the use **of red and black threads** with a white cotton cloth background. It has a fine finish and appears like a woven cloth.

10.2. HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

Why in news?

NITI Aayog released a working **group report on 'Improving Heritage Management in India'.**

Overview

- There are roughly **5 lakh plus heritage sites and monuments** across the country. It includes 3691 ASI Protected Monuments, 38 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, 6000 + State Archaeology Protected Monuments and 4 lakh plus Religious Heritage sites.
- The Constitution of India has divided the **jurisdiction** over these monuments, cultural heritage, and archaeological sites as follows:

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)

- It is the nodal agency responsible for archaeological research and the conservation and preservation of cultural monuments in the country.
- It was founded in 1861.
- It functions as an **attached office to the Ministry of Culture.**
- **The important functions of ASI are identified as**: Exploration/ Excavation; Protection of Monuments and archaeological sites; Registration and Regulation of trade of antiquities; Maintenance and Conservation and Environmental Development; Archaeological Site Museums; Research and Publications; Epigraphical Surveys (Sanskrit, Dravidian, Arabic and Persian); Institute of Archaeology.
- **Recently, Ministry of Culture announced 7 new circles of ASI.**
  - The new circles: Trichy, Raiganj, Rajkot, Jabalpur, Jhansi, Meerut and Hampi.
  - Earlier there were 29 ASI circles across country.

- **Union:** Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological sites and remains, declared by Parliament to be of national importance.
  - Under the above provision union government has enacted **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act (AMASR Act) of 1958.**
  - **Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972** was enacted to regulate the export trade in antiquities and art treasures and to provide for the prevention and smuggling of, and fraudulent dealings in, antiquities.
- **State:** Ancient and Historical Monuments other than those declared by Parliament to be of national importance through Departments of Archaeology for the State Protected Monuments and Museums.
- **Concurrent:** Besides the above, both the Union and States have concurrent jurisdiction over archaeological sites and remains other than those declared by law and Parliament to be of national importance

Related statistics:
- India **ranked 34th** on the **World Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index 2019,** released by the **World Economic Forum.**

NGOs in Heritage Conservation and Management in India
- **The Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC)** focuses on the physical, social, cultural, and economic revitalisation of communities in the developing world.
- **Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)** spearheads heritage awareness and conservation in India.
- **International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)** is global monument conservation body (non-government organisation) dedicated to promoting the application of theory, methodology and scientific techniques for the conservation of architectural and archaeological heritage across the world.
  - It is also **an advisory body to UNESCO for cultural heritage**, in particular for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.
  - It was founded in 1965 in Warsaw (Poland) as a result of the Venice Charter of 1964.
  - It is headquartered in **Paris, France**
- **World Monuments Fund** focuses on heritage conservation projects and awareness programmes in India. Established in 2015, WMF India serves as a local representative for WMF, assisting with project management and outreach.

- **Other constitutional provisions:**
  - **Article 253** enables Parliament to legislate for the implementation of any treaty, agreement or convention with any other country or countries, or any decision, made at any international conference, association or other body.
  - **Article 51-A (f)** – puts a duty on every citizen to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture.

Initiatives by the Government of India to conserver heritage
- **HRIDAY - National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana** –by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for preserving and revitalizing the unique character of the heritage cities in India.
- **PRASHAD (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive)**- Scheme was launched by **the Ministry of Tourism** in the year 2014-15 for **integrated development of identified pilgrimage and heritage destinations.**
  - The scheme aimed at **infrastructure development** such as entry points (Road, Rail and Water Transport), **last mile connectivity**, **basic tourism facilities** like Information/ Interpretation Centers, ATM/ Money exchange, eco-friendly modes of transport, area Lighting and illumination with renewable sources of energy, parking etc.
- **Swachh Iconic Places**- under Swachh Bharat Mission to transform monuments as model 'Swachh Tourist Destination' to enhance the experience of tourists.
- **'ADOPT A HERITAGE'- "Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan":** It is **launched by Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with Ministry of Culture,** Archaeological Survey of India and State/ UTs Government for developing tourism amenities at heritage/ natural/ tourist sites spread across India for making them tourist friendly, in a planned and phased manner.
  - Project aims to encourage companies from public sector, private sector, corporate citizens, NGOs, individuals and other stakeholders to **take up the responsibility of developing and upgrading the basic and advanced tourist amenities at these sites**
  - These **organizations would be known as "Monument Mitras" for their collaboration initiative.**
- **Swadesh Darshan scheme** by Ministry of Tourism to develop theme-based tourist circuits & world class infrastructure
- **Incredible India 2.0 campaign,** (2018) international tourism promotion campaign
- **Adarsh Smarak:** ASI has identified 100 monuments to be developed as Model Monuments.
- **Project Mausam:** to re-connect and re-establish communications between countries of the Indian Ocean world, which would lead to an enhanced understanding of cultural values and concerns in their regional maritime milieu.

© Vision IAS

10.3. KUSHINAGAR

Why in News?

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for declaration of Kushinagar Airport in Uttar Pradesh as an **International Airport**.

About Kushinagar

- Kushinagar is one of the important **Buddhist Pilgrimages sites** and is also a part of the **Buddhist Circuit** as Lord Buddha attained **Mahaparinirvana** here.
    - Mahaparinirvana in Buddhism refers to the **ultimate state of Nirvana (everlasting, highest peace and happiness)** entered by an awakened being at the moment of physical death.
- Prominent archaeological sites in the city are the **Mahaparinirvana Stupa** and temple (the latter houses a stunning 1,500-year-old reclining Buddha) and the **Muktabandhan Stupa** (representing the Buddha's cremation site).
- The site of Kushinagar was first identified by **Sir Alexander Cunningham** in 1877, the first Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

10.4. KARTARPUR CORRIDOR

Why in news?

Recently, **First Anniversary of Kartarpur corridor** was observed.

About Kartarpur Corridor

- Kartarpur corridor was opened in November 2019 **on the eve of the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.**
- Corridor connects the **Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Gurdaspur district (Punjab) with the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartapur (in Narowal district of Pakistan's Punjab province).**
- The length of the corridor is about 4 km, 2 km on either side of the international border and **runs cross over Ravi River.**
- **Gurdwara Darbar Sahib was ordered by Maharaja of Patiala** between 1921-1929 and is believed to be place where Nanak ji spent about last 18 years of his life.

About Guru Nanak Dev ji

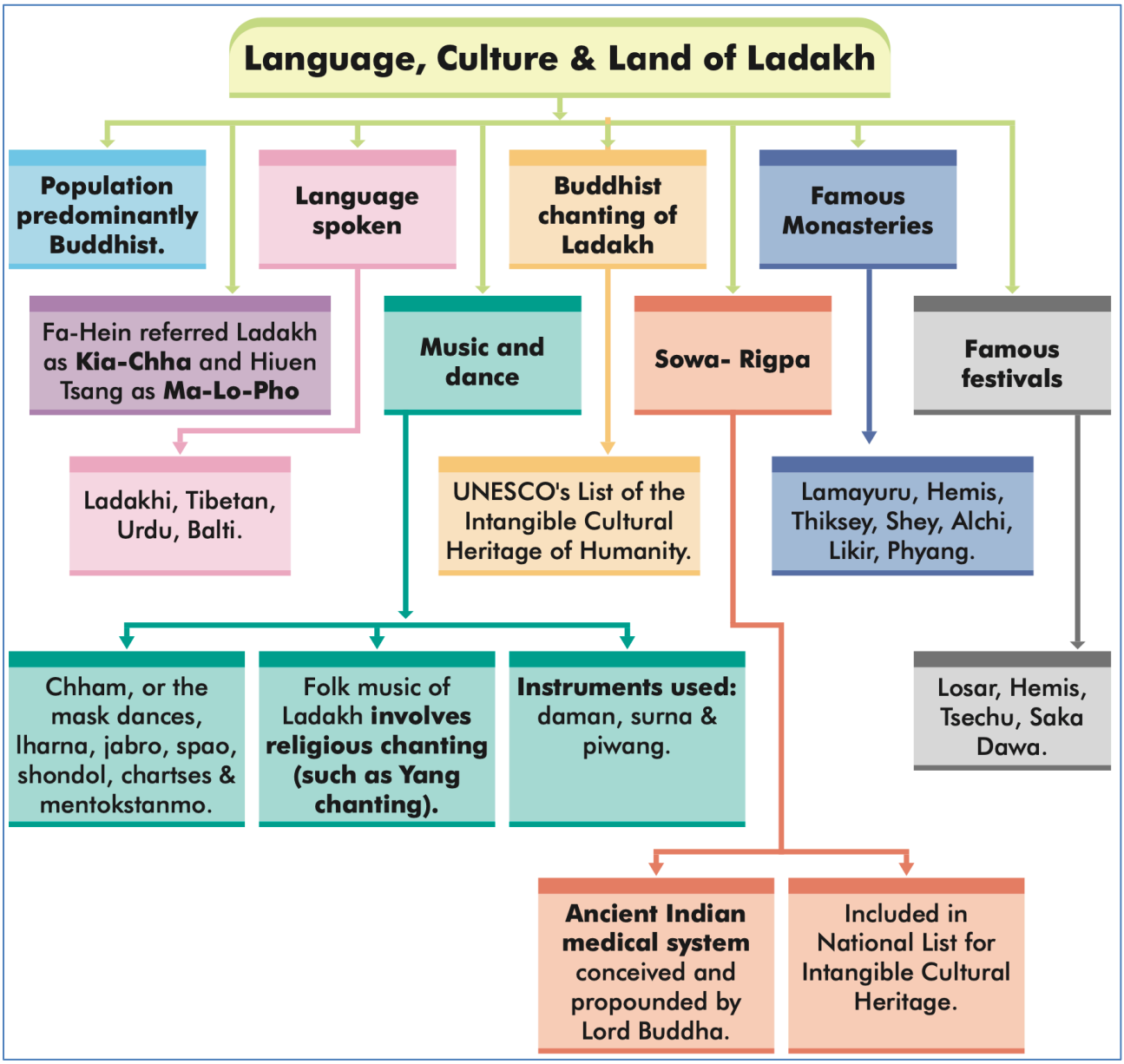
- He was the **founder of Sikhism (the first of the ten Sikh Gurus)** and a Bhakti saint.
- He was born **in 1469 in Nanakana Sahib, Punjab**, Pakistan and died in Kartarpur, Pakistan.
- Guru Nanak and Sikhism were influenced by the **nirguni (formless God) tradition of Bhakti movement** in medieval India.
- He believed that **God is Formless (Nirankar)**, and there is **'One God'** that dwells in every one of his creations, and that all human beings can have **direct access to God without the need of any rituals or priests.**
- Guru Nanak founded and **formalised the 3 pillars of Sikhism.**

- **Naam Japna**- meditation on God
- **Kirat karni**- To honestly earn by ones physical and mental effort
- **Vand Chakna**- Sikhs were asked to share their wealth within the community by practising Vand Chakna.

10.5. COMMITTEE TO PROTECT LANGUAGE, CULTURE & LAND OF LADAKH

Why in News?

Centre recently decided to form the committee headed by Minister of State for Home Affairs **as there has been a demand from locals to include Ladakh in 6th schedule of the constitution** to protect its unique identity.



10.6. NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE

Why in news?

The **Nobel Prize in Literature 2020 was awarded to Louise Glück** "for her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal."

About Louise Glück

- The Nobel Prize in Literature is given by Royal Swedish Academy **for a writer's entire body of work** and is regarded as perhaps the world's most prestigious literary award.

© Vision IAS

- **Glück is the first female poet** to win the prize since Polish writer Wisława Szymborska won in 1996.
- Born in New York City in 1943, Glück has written **12 collections of poetry and 2 books of essays**.
- She has also won the **Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1993** for her work **'The Wild Iris'** written in **1992.**
- Her themes include **childhood, family life, trauma, death and healing**.

About Nobel Prize

- Nobel Prizes, as designated in the will of Alfred Nobel, are in **physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature and peace.**
- It is **not awarded posthumously** and is awarded to maximum of three person for single category.
- Alfred Nobel specifically designated the institutions responsible for the prizes he wished to be established:
  - The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences for the Nobel Prize in Physics and Chemistry,
  - Karolinska Institute for the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine,
  - The Royal Swedish Academy for the Nobel Prize in Literature
  - Committee of five persons to be elected by the Norwegian Parliament (Storting) for the Nobel Peace Prize.
- **Rabindranath Tagore was the first non-European** to win the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913 for Gitanjali.

10.7. TRIBES IN NEWS

Katkari Tribe	• They are located **primarily in Maharashtra and in some places of Gujarat.**
	  ○ Katkari is **one of the 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups**, as per the classification by Ministry of Home Affairs.
	• A group of tribal youth from the Katkari community has come together to market **Giloy** through Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana run by TRIFED,
	  ○ Giloy is a **herb used in treatment of viral fever, malaria as well as diabetes**. The herb has a huge demand from pharmaceutical companies.

Siddi Community	• Siddi community has got its **first representative in Karnataka State legislature.** • They are an ethnic group inhabiting India and Pakistan. • They are descendants of Africans from North-East and East Africa who were brought to India as slaves, soldiers or servants.

	• In India, they are spread **along the coast of Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.** • Current estimated population: 20,000–55,000 individuals. • **Religion:** Siddis are primarily Sufi Muslims, although some are Hindus and Roman Catholic Christians.

Tharu Tribe	• **Recently,** Uttar Pradesh government has embarked upon a scheme to take the unique culture of its ethnic Tharu tribe across the world
	• **About Tharu tribes**
	  ○ Tharu people are an ethnic group indigenous to the Terai in southern Nepal and northern India. In India, they live **mostly in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar**.
	  ○ Most of them are **forest dwellers, and some practice agriculture**.
	  ○ They speak **various dialects of Tharu**, a language of the Indo-Aryan subgroup, and variants of Hindi, Urdu, and Awadhi.
	  ▪ In central Nepal, they speak a variant of Bhojpuri, while in eastern Nepal, they speak a variant of Maithili
	  ○ Tharus **worship Lord Shiva as Mahadev** and call their supreme being "Narayan", who they believe is the **provider of sunshine, rain, and harvests**.
	  ○ Tharu tribes celebrate **'Barna' festival** during the month of Shrawan every year. During the festival, they remain indoors so that the plants are not trampled. The festival shows their **love for nature and commitment towards conservation of forests.**
	  ○ Tharu women have strong property rights.

Bonda Tribe	• **Bondas, a particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG),** live in settlements comprising small hutments in the hill ranges of Malkangiri district in Odisha. • Bondas **follows a matriarchal society.** They still continue to speak in their language, Remo. • As per Census 2011 there are around 12,000 Bondas left.
Great Andamanese tribe	• Great Andamanese are **one of five Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)** that reside in Andamans archipelago. Others are: Jarwas, Onges, Shompens and Sentinelese.
Maldhari tribe	• It is being reported that **project Lion has proposed relocation of Maldhari settlements** from within the Gir Conservation Areas. • Maldhari community is a **tribe of herdsmen in Gujarat**. They live in settlements called ness and make their living by selling milk from their water buffaloes. • The Maldharis have **lived in the Gir National Park, in the Banni Grasslands Reserve area,** for the past thousand years.
'Miya' community	• Recently, a proposal **"Miya museum"** reflecting the "culture and heritage of the people living in char-chaporis" has stirred up a controversy in **Assam.** ○ 'Miya' community comprises **descendants of Muslim migrants from East Bengal** (now Bangladesh) to Assam. • Char-chaporis are **shifting riverine islands of the Brahmaputra** and are primarily inhabited by the Muslims of Bengali-origin (referred to as 'Miyas'). • A char is a floating island while chaporis are low-lying flood-prone riverbanks.
Sentinelese and Great Andamanese	• Anthropological Survey of India has warned of **threat to these 2 endangered groups from commercial activity.** • Sentinelese and Great Andamanese both are **among the 5 particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTG) of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands** (others are Onge, Jarawa, and Shompen). • **Sentinelese** with a population of about 50 to 100 **live on the North Sentinel Island and their contact to the outside world is almost nil.** • Unlike the other PVTGs in the Andamans, the Great Andamanese are in contact with the general population.
Malayali tribes	• **Giant Rock Bee Honey,** a unique variant of honey sourced from Malayali Tribes **was added to Tribes India collection.** • Malayali is a **tribal group from the Eastern Ghats in North Tamil Nadu.** Tribals are usually hill farmers and they cultivate different types of millet. • Malayalis originally belonged to the Vellala caste of cultivators and **emigrated from the sacred city of Kanchi to the hills about ten generation ago**, when Muhammadan rule was dominant in Southern Indian.
Chakmas and Hajongs	• Ministry of Development of the North Eastern Region has directed Arunachal Pradesh government to **include these communities in COVID-19 relief programme**. • **Chakmas and Hajongs are ethnic people** who **lived in the Chittagong Hill Tracts**, most of which are located in Bangladesh.

© Vision IAS

	• **Chakmas are predominantly Buddhists, while Hajongs are Hindus.** They are found in northeast India, West Bengal, Bangladesh, and Myanmar.
Mankidia tribe	• Recently a newly constituted Panda committee under the Tribal Affairs Ministry is to look into the issue of forest rights of the **Mankidia tribe in Simlipal Tiger Reserve.** • Mankidiya is one of the 13 **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) in Odisha.** • They critically depend on making rope with siali fibre that is richly available in **Similipal Tiger Reserve** (STR). • They were denied habitat rights inside STR under **Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006**.

10.8. PRIZE AND AWARDS

Prize	Features
Ramon Magsaysay Awards	• Ramon Magsaysay awards have been cancelled this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, • It is regarded as Asia's version of the Nobel Prize. It was started in 1957. • The awards are named after the **third president of the Republic of the Philippines.** • The awards were traditionally given every year to individuals or organisations in Asia in **five categories:** government service; public service; community leadership; journalism, literature, and creative communication arts; and peace and international understanding. • However, post 2009, the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation annually selects the awardees for the **field of Emergent Leadership.**
Pulitzer Prize 2020	• Three photojournalists from Jammu and Kashmir - Channi Anand, Mukhtar Khan and Dar Yasin - are among 2020 Pulitzer Prize winners. • Pulitzer Prize awards across **22 categories in journalism and the arts** (newspaper, magazine and online journalism, photojournalism and literature) annually. • The award is **administered by Columbia University**. It is named after American newspaper publisher Joseph Pulitzer and is being **given since 1917**.
Gandhi Peace Prize (GPP)	• Government has **extended last date for receipt of nominations** for 2020 **up to 15th of June** • It is annual award given by **Ministry of Culture** to **individuals, associations, institutions or organizations** who have worked selflessly for **peace, non-violence and amelioration of human sufferings**. • It was instituted in 1995 & is **open to all persons r**egardless of nationality, race, language, caste, creed or gender. • **Jury of GPP** is a **high level committee headed by PM**.

10.9. KHELO INDIA STATE CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

Why in News?

The Sports Ministry will establish **Khelo India State Centres of Excellence (KISCE)** under the ministry's flagship, **Khelo India -National Programme for Development of Sports Scheme.**

Details

- **Aim:** To scale-up State/UTs existing training centre to world standard level. One of the existing training centres in each state and union territory will be designated as KISCE under the State Level Khelo India Centre (SLKIC) vertical of Khelo India Scheme.
- In the first phase, the **Ministry has identified state-owned sports facilities in eight states of India,** including, Karnataka, Odisha, Kerala, Telengana and the north east states of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland **which will be upgraded into KISCE.**
- In order to upgrade the existing centre to the KISCE, the government will extend a **'Viability Gap Funding'** for the following components:
  - sports science and technology support for sports disciplines practiced at the respective centre
  - bridging the gaps in requirement of sports equipment, expert coaches and high performance managers.

About the Khelo India scheme

- It has been introduced to revive the sports culture in India at the grass-root level by building a strong framework for all sports played in our country and establish India as a great sporting nation.
- **Objective**
  - Conduct structured annual sports competition and encourage Mass participation of youth.
  - Identify talent through these competitions.
  - Guidance and nurturing of the talent through the existing and new infrastructure
  - Creation of Sports infrastructure at various levels.
- It is the **merger of three schemes** Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA), Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme (USIS), National Sports Talent Search Scheme (NSTSS).

- **Implementing agency**: **Sports department** of the respective State/UT.
- **Financial assistance:** All eligible centres will receive **annual grant** for the identified KISCE.
- The project **is part of India's pursuit for excellence in Olympics**.

10.10. OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

Indigenous Mango Heritage Area	• Recently, **Kannapuram Panchayat** in Kannur town in Kerala has been declared as **Indigenous Mango Heritage Area.** • The **Kerala State Biodiversity Board** has identified the area as **heritage zone** in coordination with the **Kannapuram grama panchayat.** • Kannapuram is home to over **200 varieties of mangoes,** and is home to various indigenous mango varieties. • As part of the heritage area declaration, **nurseries would be set up at each household** for selling the mango sapling of the varieties available at the household. It is the first of its type in the country.
Gandhi-King Scholarly Exchange Initiative Bill	• This bill was recently passed by US House panel. • It **seeks to establish an exchange program between India and U.S**. to study the work and legacies of Mahatma Gandhi and civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. • It also seeks **to establish Gandhi-King Global Academy**, a conflict resolution initiative based on the principles of nonviolence.

Saathi Initiative	• **Ministry of Tourism** has partnered with the **Quality Council of India** (QCI), to assist the **Hospitality Industry** through an initiative called **SAATHI (System for Assessment, Awareness and Training for Hospitality Industry).**
	• **It seeks to:**
	  ○ sensitize the industry on the COVID regulations by the government
	  ○ instill confidence amongst the staff and guests that the hospitality unit has exhibited intent towards ensuring safety and hygiene at the workplace.
	• This initiative is in 3 phases:
	  ○ **Self Certification** by the hotels
	  ○ **Webinars** to builds capacities on the guidelines issued.
	  ○ **Site-assessment (optional)** through QCI accredited agencies
	• **United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) has designated 2020 as the Year of Tourism and Rural Development.**

Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana' (KSVY)	• Ministry of Culture issued **guidelines for holding cultural events/activities in Virtual / Online mode** under various scheme components of Central Sector Scheme KSVY.
	  ○ KSVY is an umbrella scheme for the promotion of art and culture in the country.
	  ○ KSVY has the following sub-schemes through which financial assistance is provided to cultural organizations.
	  ▪ Scheme of Financial Assistance for Promotion of Art and Culture.
	  ▪ Scheme of Financial Assistance for Creation of Cultural Infrastructure.
	  ▪ Scheme for Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

San Isidro Movement	• It is a **campaign in Cuba by artists and activists** demanding greater freedom of expression in the country which is under an authoritarian communist regime for more than six decades. • San Isidro is a Black-majority locality that is among Havana's poorest yet most culturally active wards, and which also forms part of the Old Havana UNESCO World Heritage Site.
Visva-Bharati University	• It was founded by Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore in 1921. • In 1951 it was declared to be a Central University and "an Institution of National Importance" by an Act of Parliament. • It is also the oldest Central University in the country. • Prime Minister is the Chancellor of the University.

Sarna Code	• **Jharkhand Assembly passed resolution on Sarna Code** which seeks the inclusion of Sarna as a separate religion in Census, 2021. It will now be sent to the centre for approval.
	• Sarna followers are nature worshippers who do not consider themselves Hindus and have been fighting for a separate religious identity for decades.
	  ○ Tribal leaders across Jharkhand had been demanding the implementation of Sarna Code in census surveys.
	  ○ So far, the census surveys have included them as "others" in the religion column.

Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat	• Under this, Every **State and UT is paired with another State/UT for a year**, during which they would carry out a structured engagement with one another in the spheres of language, literature, cuisine, festivals, cultural events, tourism etc.

© Vision IAS

	• Knowledge of the culture, traditions and practices of different States & UTs will lead to an **enhanced understanding and bonding between the States,** thereby strengthening the unity and integrity of India. • **Ministry of Education** has been designated as Nodal Ministry.
Nazca Lines, Peru	• A **massive carving of a resting cat** (figurative geoglyph) was recently discovered in **Peru's famous Nazca Lines.** • The Nazca lines are **huge drawings in the soil of the Nazca desert**, in Peru. • These Nazca Lines were created by the Nazca culture between 500 BCE and 500 CE. • It is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. • The cat figure is 37 meters long when seen horizontally, and **dates from the late Paracas era (500 BC – 200 AD).**
Avadhanam	• The **'International Satavadhanam'** program has been launched virtually by the Vice president recently. • He observed that **'avadhanam'** as a literary feat has greatly contributed to the Telugu language's glorious tradition. • Avadhanam is a **literary performance popular from ancient days in India.** • It originated as a **Sanskrit** literary process and revived by the poets in **Telugu** and **Kannada** in modern times. • It also involves the partial improvisation of poems using specific themes, forms, or words.

Jallikattu	• It is a traditional **bull-chasing sport of Tamil Nadu** which is organised during the harvest festival Pongal.
	  ○ There are references to **Jallikattu in Sangam literature too**.
	  ○ Also, a reference to bull taming is found in a seal discovered at Mohenjodaro, which is dated **between 2,500 BC and 1,800 BC.**
	• The term 'jallikattu,' comes from Tamil terms 'salli kaasu' which means coins and kattu which means package tied to the horns of bulls as prize money.

SPIC MACAY (Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music And Culture Amongst Youth)	• It is a non-political, nationwide, voluntary movement founded in 1977 by Dr Kiran Seth. • It seeks to **inspire youth through experiencing the mysticism** embodied in the rich and heterogeneous **cultural tapestry of Indian and World Heritage**. • **SPIC MACAY is supported nationally** by the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, and the HRD Ministry. • Internationally, SPIC MACAY is recognised and supported by Rikskonsertene (Norway) and Goethe Institute (Germany)

Copyright © by Vision IAS
All rights are reserved. No part of this document may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior permission of Vision IAS.

Heartiest Congratulations to all successful candidates

7 IN TOP 10 SELECTIONS IN CSE 2019

FROM VARIOUS PROGRAMS OF VISION IAS

9 IN TOP 10 SELECTION IN CSE 2018

8468022022 WWW.VISIONIAS.IN

DELHI | JAIPUR | PUNE | AHMEDABAD | HYDERABAD | CHANDIGARH | LUCKNOW | GUWAHATI