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CULTURE

Classroom Study Material

April 2022 - December 2022

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CULTURE

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NOTE:

Dear Students,

PT 365 document comprehensively covers the important current affairs of last 1 year (365 days) 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:

Summarised Infographics: Topics such as
- Temple and other Architecture details
- Information on different dynasties and civilisations
- Information about various personalities

have been summarised and added in the form of interactive infographics to improve ease of understanding, provide for smoother learning experience and ensure enhanced retention of the content.

Organization infographics: Prelims oriented information for key organisations have been consolidated alongside the respective article for quick revision.

Thumbnails: Pictorial and interacDve thumbnails for UNESCO's World Heritage Sites have been added for easier recogniDon and quick revision of topics.

Consolidated Maps: They have been used to provide geographical and contextual information about GI Tags, Festivals, Tribes in news.

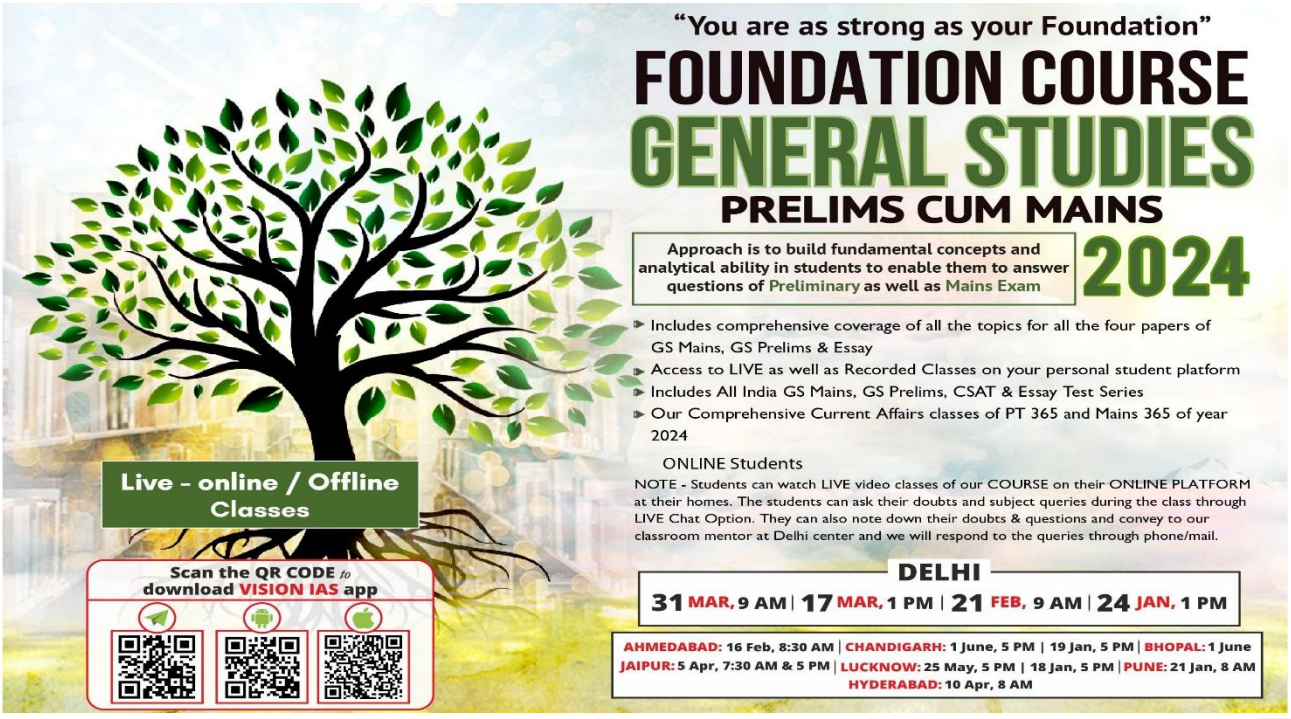
Do You Know: They have been used to provide prelims related additional information on several topics.

Quiz: QR based Smart quiz has been added to test the aspirant's learnings and understanding.

QUIZ

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.



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MADURAI (TAMIL NADU) | MANDI | MANGALURU | MATHURA | MEERUT | MIRZAPUR | MORADABAD | MUMBAI | MUNGER | MUZAFFARPUR | MYSURU | NAGPUR
NALANDA | NASIK | NAVI MUMBAI | NELLORE | NIZAMABAD | NOIDA | ORAI | PALAKKAD | PANAJI (GOA) | PANIPAT | PATIALA | PATNA | PRAYAGRAJ (ALLAHABAD)
PUDUCHERRY | PUNE | PURNIA | RAIPUR | RAJKOT | RANCHI | RATLAM | REWA | ROHTAK | ROORKEE | ROURKELA | RUDRAPUR | SAGAR | SAMBALPUR | SATARA
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1. SCULPTURE AND ARCHITECTURE

1.1. ODISHA TEMPLE ARCHITECTURE

Why in news?

Temples of Odisha representing Kalinga Architecture were recently in news due to various incidents.

More on news

- Central government **opposed Odisha government's ordinance to bring Lingaraj temple** and its associated temples **under a special law.**
- **Objections were raised against** Odisha government's **beautification project around the Jagannath temple.**

JAGANNATH TEMPLE, PURI

HISTORY

- **Dedicated to** Lord Jagannath.
- **Built by King Ananta Varman Chodaganga Deva,** first king of Eastern Ganga dynasty, **in 12th century.**

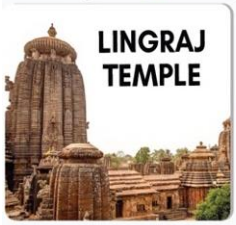
ARCHITECTURE DETAILS

- Main temple is **constructed in Kalinga architecture.**
- **No shadow of the main temple falls on the ground at any time** of the day.
- **Idols of holy trinity** (Lord Jagannath, Devi Subhadra, and elder brother Balabhadra) **carved out of wood.**
- **Carvings on the temples are predominantly of gods and goddesses.**

OTHER KEY FEATURES

- **Jagannath Rath Yatra,** also called as **Chariot Festival,** is celebrated here.
- **Temple is also called 'Yamanika Tirtha'.**
- At entrance stands the **Aruna stambha or sun pillar,** which was originally at Sun Temple in Konark.

LINGRAJ TEMPLE



HISTORY

- **Dedicated to Lord Shiva** located in Bhubaneshwar, Odisha and **referred to as 'Swayambhu'** - (self-originated Shivling).
- **Built by** Somavanshi Dynasty **King Jajati Keshari** (10th Century).
- **Completed by** King Lalatendu Keshari (11th Century).

ARCHITECTURE DETAILS

- Represents Kalinga type of architecture.
- Divided into four sections
  - **Garbha Griha** (sanctum sanctorum).
  - **Yajna Shala** (hall for prayers).
  - **Bhoga Mandap** (hall of offering).
  - **Natya Shala** (hall of dance).

OTHER KEY FEATURES

- Signifies the syncretisation of **Shaivism and Vaishnavism sects** in Odisha.
- **Shivling** is **known as Hari Hara.**
- Walled campus **has about 50 smaller shrines,** including one dedicated to Goddess Parvati.

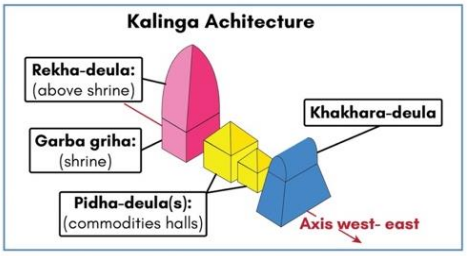
KALINGA ARCHITECTURE

Architecture Style
Sub-class under Nagara category

Building Stone
Sandstone

Unique Features

- **Types of temples:** Rekha Deula, Pidha Deula and Khakhara Deula.
  - **Rekha Deula, Pidha Deula:** Associated with Vishnu, Surya and Shiva temples.
  - **Khakhara Deula:** Associated with Chamunda and Durga temples.
- **Parts:** Temple **made in two parts,** a tower (called deula) and a hall (called Jagmohan).
- **Carvings:** Walls of both Deula and Jagmohan are sculpted with architectural motifs and a profusion of figures.



- **Rekha Deula and Khakhara Deula:** houses are sanctum sanctorum.
- **Pidha Deula constitutes:** Dancing (called NatyaMandap) and offering halls (called BhogaMandap).

Prominent Temples

Sun Temple at Konark

Jagannath Temple at Puri

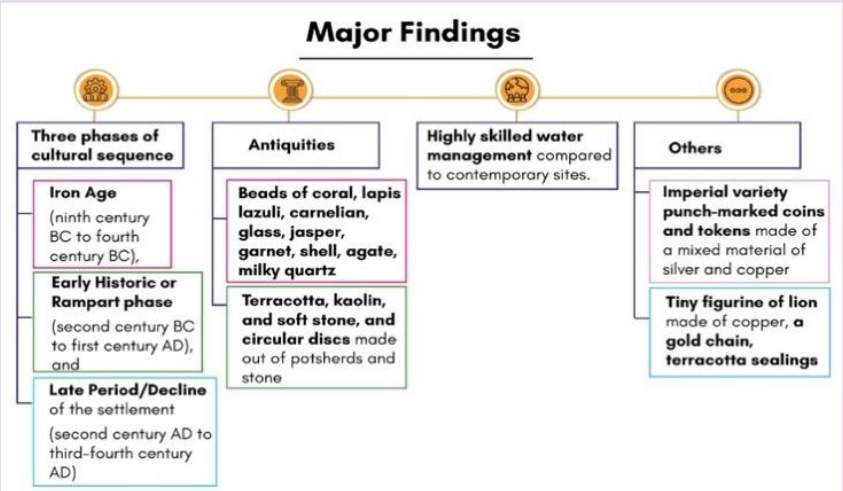
Lingraja Temple at Bhubaneswar

Laxmaneswar Temple at Bhubaneswar

Related News

Asurgarh as Odisha's oldest fortified settlement (ninth century BC)

- Asurgarh ascertained to be the **oldest among the major fortified settlements in the State.**
  - **Accelerator Mass Spectrometry radiocarbon technique**, a technology that allows to **distinguish** different types of atoms based on **differences in atomic weights (mass), was used.**
- **Other early historic sites in Odisha** include Sisupalgarh (near Bhubaneswar); Jaugarh, a fortified settlement on the Rushikulya valley (Ganjam); Khalkattapatna (Puri); port site of Manikpatna (Puri) etc.



1.2. HOYSALA TEMPLES

Why in news?

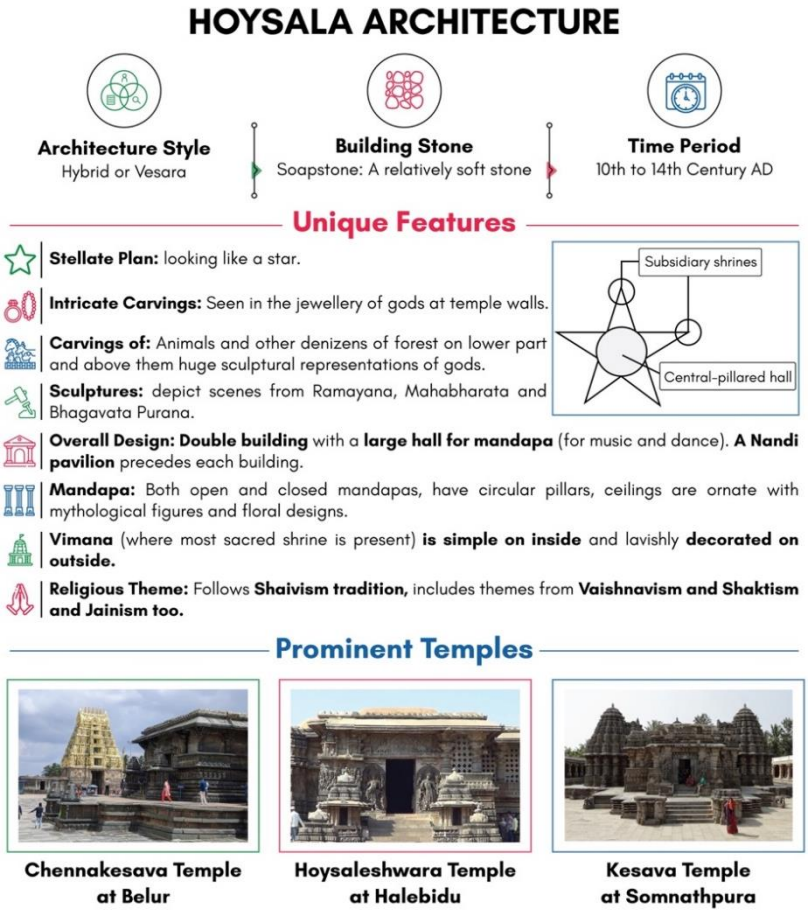
The Hoysala Temples of **Chennakesava at Belur, Hoysaleswara at Halebid and Kesava at Somnathapura** in Karnataka are India's official nominations for the World Heritage List for the year 2022-2023.

About Hoysala temples

- The **'Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala'** have been on **UNESCO's Tentative List** since 2014.
- They are **protected monuments of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).**

About World Heritage Site List

- Place listed by UNESCO for **its special cultural or physical significance.**
- **Maintained by international 'World Heritage Programme',** administered by UNESCO World Heritage Committee.
- **In 1994, World Heritage Committee launched the Global Strategy** for a Representative, Balanced and Credible World Heritage List as per **1972 Convention concerning Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage.**
- There are **three types of sites: cultural, natural, and mixed.**
  - India has **40 world heritage sites: 32 Cultural, 7 Natural and 1 mixed.**



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Details about Temple			
	Chennakesava Temple	**Hoysaleshwara Temple, Halebidu**	**Kesava Temple**
Dedicated to	• **Ekakuta** (temple with one shrine) and is dedicated **to Vaishnavism.**	• **Dvikuta (temple with two shrines)** and is dedicated to **Shiva.** • **One shrine** is dedicated to **King Vishnuvardhan and the other to his Queen Shantala**, therefore it is called Shantaleshwara.	• Trikuta Temple **dedicated to Lord Krishna in three forms** – Janardhana, Keshava and Venugopala.
Built/commissioned by	• **King Vishnuvardhana** in 1117 CE. • A **stepped pond called Vasudev Tirtha** was constructed by Veer Ballala II.	• **King Vishnuvardhana.**	• **Built under King Narasimha III**
Architectural details	• **Exterior sculpture depicts scenes from daily life,** music, and dance, and **narrates scenes from life of Vishnu** and his reincarnations and the **epics, Ramayana, and Mahabharata.** • **Images from Jainism and Buddhism.** • **Garbha griha** houses an enshrined **image of Krishna.**	• Has a **walled complex containing of three Jaina basadi** (temples) of the Hoysala period as well as a stepped well. • Sculptures inside the temple **depict scenes from Ramayana, Mahabharata and Bhagavata Purana.**	• **Known for its lathe turned pillars,** symmetrical architecture, and intricate sculptures. • **Sculptures found** are that **of Lord Vishnu, Lord Ganesha, Goddess Lakshmi and Saraswati.**
Waterbody nearby	• **Built on banks of Yagachi River** in Belur.	• Originally **Halebidu was called Dwarasamudra which refers to a large water reservoir.**	• **Built on the banks of River Kaveri.**
Others	• **Rathotsava** at temple **began with syncretic tradition after the moulvi recited the Koran.**		• **No longer used as a place of worship** as the temple was desecrated by armies of Sultanate.

Hoysala Dynasty

Founder: Nripa Kama

10th to 14th century AD

Prominent rulers	• **Vishnuvardhana Raya:** Followed Jainism. **Influenced by Ramanujacharya and converted into Vaishnavite** • **Veera Ballala II**: Freed Hoysalas from Chalukya subordination and established an independent kingdom. • **Narasimha III:** Last ruler.
Major cities	• **Capital city: Belur** and later moved to **Dorasamudra (modern Halebidu).**
Culture	• Main source of income was **revenues from an agrarian economy.** • **Collected taxes on irrigation systems** including tanks, reservoirs, canals and wells built and maintained at expense of local villagers. • Kannada and Sanskrit literature developed.
Language	• Used **Kannada and Sanskrit languages** extensively.
Administration	• Gave **importance to women in administration.** • **Senior ministers, called Pancha Pradhanas,** ministers responsible for **foreign affairs, designated Sandhivigrahi,** and chief treasurer, Mahabhandari or Hiranyabhandari conducted top level government affairs. • **Dandanayakas led armies** while **Dharmadhikari served as the chief justice** of Hoysala court.
Social-religious conditions	• **Adopted catholic attitude** towards different religions. • Education centers were developed. • Follows **Shaivism, Hinduism, Jainism and Buddhism.** Inspired by three philosophers, **Basavanna, Madhvacharya and Ramanujacharya.** • Practices like institution of Indian caste system, devadasi, voluntary form of sati was prevalent.
	Hoysala Dynasty defeated by Vijayanagar dynasty

1.3. CHOLA ERA IDOLS

Why in news?

Recently, Tamil Nadu submitted documents to US officials through the Central government to retrieve six exquisite Chola-era bronze idols.

More on news

- Stolen from India in 1960s, idols belong to **Nareeswara Sivan Temple** at **Veeracholapuram** in **Kallakurichi district**, constructed by **Rajendra Chola I** of **Chola Dynasty**.
- **Stolen idols include:** Panchaloha idols of **Tripuranthakam, Thirupurasundari, Nataraja, Dakshinamurthy Veenadhara, and Saint Sundarar** with his wife **Paravai Natchiyaar**.
  - Panchaloha idols are traditional **five metal alloys** prescribed by **Shilpa Shastras**.
  - They were made using **lost wax casting technique**.

About Rajendra Chola I (1014-44 AD)

- Rajendra Chola I, also known as **Gangaikondacholapuram**, was son of **Rajaraja Chola** (985-1014 AD).
- He made contributions to **art, religion** and **literature** including **Gangaikondacholapuram temple,** built after victory over **Pala King Mahipala**.
  - He assumed titles **Parakesari** and **Yuddhamalla**.

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- **Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972** makes export of such items without license a criminal offence.
    - **Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Criminal Matters** between India and U.S allows for assistance on such matters.

About Chola Sculpture

- Chola period is well **known for its metal sculpture**.
- Chola bronzes sculptures were made **using the cire perdue or lost-wax casting technique**.
    - Metal casting method in which **molten metal is poured into a mold** that has been **created by means of a wax model**.
    - Once the mold is made, wax **model is melted and drained away.**
- **Famous Chola Bronze Nataraja sculpture,** dancing Shiva, **presiding deity of Chola dynasty**.
    - **Upper right hand holds damaru** (hand drum that made first sounds of creation).
    - **Upper left hand holds agni** (fire that will destroy the universe)**.**
    - **Lower right hand makes abhayamudra** (gesture that allays fear).
    - **Dwarflike figure** being trampled by his **right foot represents apasmara purusha** (illusion, which leads mankind astray).
    - **Front left hand**, pointing to his raised left foot, **signifies refuge for troubled soul**.

CHOLA ARCHITECTURE

Architecture Style
Dravidian

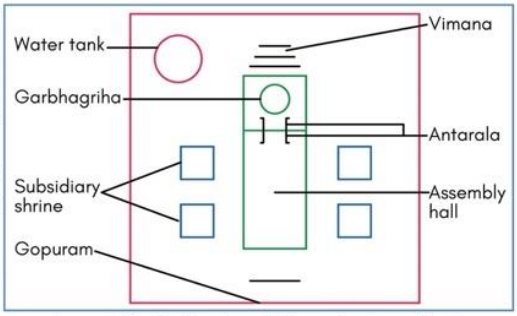
Building Stone
Gneiss and Granite

Time Period
8th to 12th Century AD

Unique Features

Influence of: Pallavas and other contemporary art and architecture schools.

Categories of Temples
- **Early temples** like Vijayalaya temple influenced with **Pallava architecture.**
- **Later temples** like Brihadishwar temple of Thanjavur and Gangaikonda Cholapuram have **Chalukya influence.**



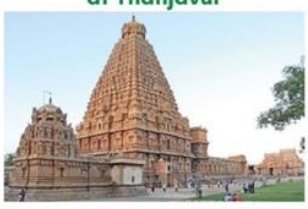
Other Prominent Features: Temples surrounded by **high boundary wall** unlike nagara, Main entrance with a **tower (gopura),** an entrance porch, **vestibule (antarala), main temple tower (vimana), inner sanctum (garbhagriha).**

Dedicated to: Lord Shiva

Paintings: Related to Lord Shiva, Shiva in Kailash, Shiva as Tripurantaka, Shiva as Nataraja, dancing figures etc.

Prominent Temples

Brihadiswara temple at Thanjavur



Built by: Rajaraja Chola

Brihadiswara temple at Gangaikonda Cholapuram

Built by: Rajendra Chola I

Airavatesvara Temple

Built by: Rajendra Chola II

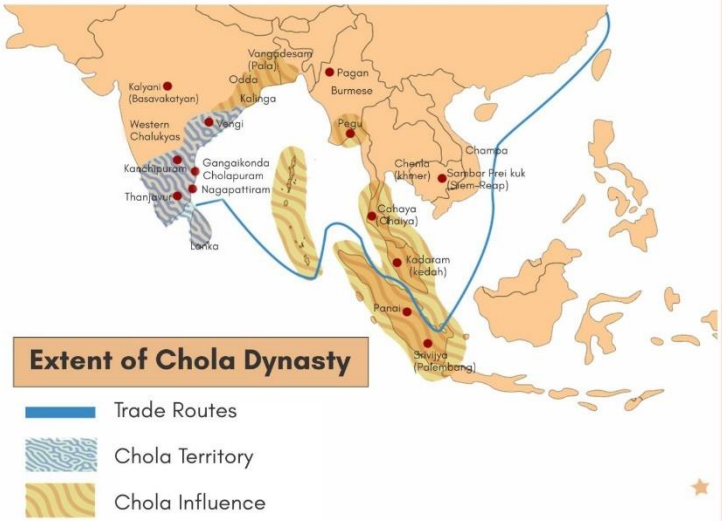
Chola Dynasty: Successor of Pallava Dynasty

Founder: Vijayalaya

8th to 12th century AD

Prominent rulers

- **Parantaka I (destroyer of Madurai (capital city of Pandyas)**: Defeated Sinhalese invaders and united Cholas and Pandyas lands.
- **Rajaraja Chola** (985–1014 AD): Acquired northern Sri Lanka, Lakshadweep and Maldive islands.
- **Rajendra Chola-I** (1014–1044 AD) **(known as Gangaikondacholapuram):** Conquered portions of Malay Peninsula and Malay Archipelago.
- **Kulottunga I:** United eastern coast with chola empire.



Major cities

- **Capital: Thanjavur (Tanjore) and later Gangaikonda Cholapuram.**
- **Regional capital: Kanchipuram and Madurai** in which occasional courts were held.
- **Present day territories:** Perambalur, Ariyalur, Nagapattinam, Pudukkottai, Vridhachalam, Pichvaram districts of Tamil Nadu.

Culture

- They sculpted and **cast exquisite bronze figures,** primarily depicting Hindu gods **(Bronze statue of Nataraja).**
- **Land tax was single largest source of income.**
- **Puravu-varitinaik – katam system of land revenue** was in existence.
- Officials were paid by **assignments of land called jivitas.**

Language

- **Official language was Tamil.** It was the medium of education for masses.
- **Sanskrit language was for liturgical purpose.**

Administration

- Cholas ruled in a **sustained Monarchy. Kingdom was divided into provinces** which were known as mandalams.
- **Each village acted as self-governing unit.**
- **King remained central authority who make major decisions.**

Social-religious conditions

- **Buddhism, Jainism, Saivism and Vaishnavism were all supported by Chola kings.**
- **Presence of high level of literacy and education** in society. **Sanskrit education was restricted to Brahmins. Religious monasteries (matha or gatika) were centres of learning.**
- **Practices like Division of caste** into "Idangai" and "Vadangai", Sati among royal families, devadasi system was prevalent.

Chola Dynasty defeated by Pandya Dynasty

1.4. QUTB SHAHI ARCHITECTURE

Why in news?

Recently, the step wells at the Qutb Shahi tombs of the Golconda fort was awarded **UNESCO's Asia-Pacific award (2022) for cultural heritage conservation.**

Stepwells of Golconda Fort

 © Vision IAS

More on News

- **Step wells of Golconda fort, Telangana** is a 16th century well.
  - This **structure is made in Persian style**.
- Monument got the **Award of Distinction.**
  - **The award has 6 categories of recognition:** Award of Excellence, Award of Distinction, Award of Merit, Award for New Design in Heritage Contexts, and the Special Recognition for Sustainable Development.

DO YOU KNOW?

- **UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards** for Cultural Heritage Conservation programme **started in 2000.**
- It recognises **efforts of private individuals and organisations** in restoring, conserving and transforming structures and **buildings of heritage value in the region.**

Other Awardees from India (2022)

Award of Excellence	Award of Merit	
Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya Museum, Mumbai, Maharashtra • **Part of Victorian Gothic** and Art Deco ensembles of Mumbai's World Heritage. • Formerly known as **Prince of Wales Museum of Western India.** Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya Museum 	**Domakonda Fort, Kammareddy, Telangana** • Built during **18th Century.** • Elevated compound of **granite rocks that forms fort wall.** Domakonda Fort 	**Byculla Station, Mumbai, Maharashtra** • **Asia's oldest railway station** commissioned in **1853.** Byculla Station

QUTB SHAHI ARCHITECTURE

Architecture Style
Indo-Islamic type

Building Stone
Use of Black Basalt

Time Period
1518-1687 AD

Unique Features

Minars in place of domes are used.

Ornamentation and decoration of buildings particularly the **parapets.**

Surface in stucco or cut plaster with **occasional use of tiles.**

Prominent Monuments

Golconda Fort

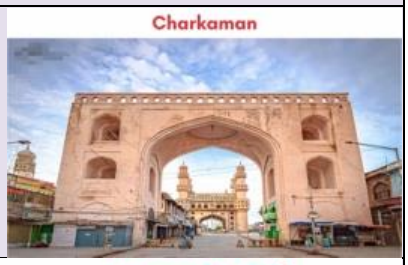
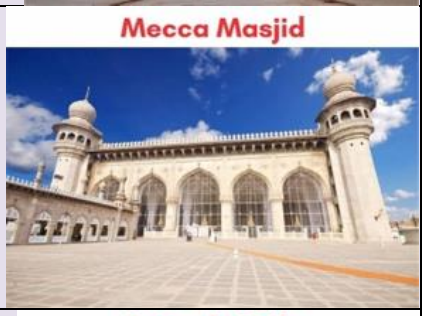
Charminar

The Tombs of the Qutb Shahi Kings

Sultan Quli Qutb-ul-Mulk ca. 1530 | Jamsheed Quli Qutb Shah ca. 1540 | Subhan Quli Qutb Shah ca. 1550 | Ibrahim Quli Qutb Shah ca.1570 | Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah ca.1600 | Sultan Muhammad Qutb Shah ca. 1620 | Abdullah Qutb Shah ca. 1670

Prominent Monuments of Qutb Shahi Dynasty	
Golconda Fort • **Fortified citadel** and early capital city of Qutb Shahi dynasty. • **Architectural styles:** Blend Persian, Pathan and Hindu and are built with local granite. • Surfaces ornamented with **intricate incised plasterwork and few monuments also bear glazed tile work.** • Tomb structures are derivations of the **geometrical designs** of the earlier **Bahmani tombs of Bidar,** though the **stucco ornamentation** carried out here is more intricate and on a far greater scale.	**Charminar** • Archetype of the chaubara or **"four-fold house"** marking the intersection of four cardinal avenues, affording a series of impressive vistas. • Built in **16th century**. • **First monument in the world** constructed using **lime mortar** and **granite.** • Urban ensemble of Charminar and the Char Kaman **resonates with commemorating** beginning of the **second Islamic Millennium** and is a remarkable example of Shia city planning.
Qutb Shahi Tombs • **Comprises major seven tombs.** The overall complex consists of 30 tombs, mosques, and a mortuary bath. • **Material used:** Grey granite embellished with stucco ornamentation. • Tombs form a **large cluster and stand on a raised platform**. They are **domed structures** built on square bases surrounded by pointed arches.	

Other key monuments of Qutb Shahi Architecture:

Monument	About	
Charkaman (or the Four Arches)	• **Constructed in 1592 A.D.** • **Northern arch is called Machli Kaman** (fish arch), the **Southern arch is Char Minar** arch, **Eastern arch is the Kali Kaman** or **Kaman of Shamboo Pershad** (the Black arch) and the **Western arch is Sher Dil or Sihr Batil.**	
Mecca Masjid	• **May be split into two classes**, the **great Mosque** (Djami) and **small Mosque (**Masjid). • **A large rectangular court** (Sahn) is **surrounded by arcades** (Riwak) and the flat roof (Sakf) of which rests on arches (Tak) supported by columns (Amud) of stone (Hadjar) or pillars (Rukn) of brick (libn).	
Daru-Ul-Shifa	• **Built in 1595. A.D.** • It was a **hospital as well as a college** of Unani Medicine.	
Badshahi Ashur Khana	• **House of Alams or conventional copies of standard** carried by Imam Hussain. • Entire hall is **enamelled with tiles of beautiful floral decorations**. • **On the western wall,** there is an inscription in the **Tughra style.**	

Qutb Shahi Dynasty: Successor of Bahamani Kingdom

Founder: Sultan Quli Qutb-ul Mulk

1518-1687 AD

Prominent rulers

- **Ibrahim Quli Qutub Shah**
- **Muhammad Quli Qutub Shah (founder of Hyderabad city)**
- **Abul Hasan Tana Shah (Last ruler)**

Major cities

- **Muhammad Nagar:** One of the leading cities of east, well **known for its trade in diamonds and precious stones.**
- **Hyderabad:** Planned and founded by **Muhammad Quli Qutub Shah.**

Culture

- Belonged to **Turkish tribe 'Qara Quyunlu'** - which had black **sheep as its emblem.**
- **Mahakali Jatara** in name of **Mankal Maisaram** was performed **annually during Qutb Shahi rule.**
- **No pilgrim tax on Hindus** to visit any temple.

Language

- Persian was court language whereas **Telugu** was language of the people.
- **Ibrahim Quli Qutub Shah** patronized and encouraged **learning and writing of Telugu in kingdom.**

Administration

- **No discrimination in appointments to public services** based on religion, caste and creed.
- **Hindus and Muslims were equally eligible to all posts** from clerk to Prime Minister post.

Social-religious conditions

- Qutb Shah Sultans belonged to **Shia sect of Muslims. Shias had taken high positions in administration** of Qutb Shahis.
- **Social evils** like child marriages, dowry system, sati was prevalent among Hindus of kingdom.
- Contemporary **Telugu author Ponnaganti Telaganarya** in his work Yayathi Chritra informs about **poor status of women in society.**

Dynasty ended with Mughal Emperor Aurangazeb seizing fortress of Golconda

1.5. MEGALITHIC SITES

Why in News?

Several megalithic sites were discovered in the country.

About Megaliths

- A **large stone used to construct a monument or a structure**. They were constructed **either as burial sites** or **commemorative (non-sepulchral)** memorials.
  - **Non-sepulchral megaliths** include memorial sites such as **menhirs.**
- **Megaliths in India:** Peninsular South, Deccan plateau, Vindhyas and Northwest region of Indian subcontinent.
- **Time Period:** In India from **1300 BCE to 12 century CE.**

Sites Discovered

Megalithic jars in Assam's Dima Hasao District	• Discovery suggests possible links **between India's Northeast and Southeast Asia,** dating back to the **second millennium BC.** ○ There are **typological and morphological similarities** between the jars found at Assam with the stone jars **found in Laos and Indonesia**
Megalithic Period Cave in Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka	• **A rock-cut cave from Megalithic period** (800 BC to 500 BC) has been found at Kadaba taluk. • Usually, Megalithic burial sites are **marked by stone circles and menhirs.** ○ **But in the cave found** in Dakshina Kannada, **a sepulcher** (relating to tomb) **is marked by a circle or zero.**

1.6. OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

Martand Temple (Jammu and Kashmir)	• After almost three decades, **Navgrah Ashtamangalam Pooja** was held at **Martand Sun temple.** • **Built by King Lalitaditya** of **Karkota Dynasty of Kashmir** (724 to 761 CE). • Example of **Kashmiri architectural skills** built in a **square field** using **limestone** and **pillars in Greek Pattern.** ○ In **15th century** it was **destructed** on order of **Muslim ruler Sikander Butshikan.** • It is tagged as a **site of national importance.** • **Other sun temples: Konark** (Odisha), Sun Temple at **Modhera (Gujarat), Katarmal Surya Temple** (Uttarakhand); **Surya Pahar Temple** (Assam); **Dakshinaarka Sun Temple** (Bihar); **Arasavalli sun temple** (Andhra Pradesh); **Suryan Kovil** (Tamil Nadu) etc.
Konark Sun temples	• Visitors will soon be able to see the **newly carved stones on the northern side** of Jagmohan. ○ **Located at:** Eastern Coast of Odisha, India ○ **Built in 13th Century.** ○ **Built by:** King Narasimhadeva I of Eastern Ganga dynasty. ○ **Architectural Style:** Kalinga architecture. UNESCO World Heritage Site
Mahuli Group of Temples	• **National Monuments Authority** will submit a report on development of **Mahuli group of temples.** • **Mahuli Group of Temples,** also known as **Dakshin Kashi,** comprises **five temples.** ○ **Built in 11th and 12th CE.** ○ **Location:** near **Satara, Maharashtra** at confluence of **Rivers Krishna and Venna.** ○ **Temple Architecture:** Hemadpanthi style of architecture ○ **Developed by:** Hemadri Pandit- Hemadpanta (Prime Minister) in the court of Seuna Yadavas of Devagiri. ○ **Features:** Built-in dry-stone masonry with Garbhagriha, Mandapa **Heptagonal compound** and **Deepmaal**- a tall structure carved out of one stone
Telangana rock art site	• A prehistoric rock shelter with rock paintings from **Mesolithic age, megalithic burials and microliths** have been found at **Kasipeta, Telangana.** ○ Located inside a **large formation of boulders** resembling the hood of a snake. • Microlithic tools, rock art style, and the items and **bisons in paintings** indicate that rock art site **belongs to the microlithic age.** • **Painting of man with the weapon** might be of a **later historical period.**
Adichanallur	• Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) **unearthed a gold diadem from a huge burial urn** while excavating the **museum site at Adichanallur,** Tamil Nadu. • Adichanallur is **located on the lower valley of Tamirabarani river** in present-day Thoothukudi district in southern Tamil Nadu. ○ **Korkai, ancient seaport mentioned in Sangam literature,** is about 25 km from Adichanallur. • It is a **megalithic site in Tamilnadu,** first site to be **excavated in India by German explorer Andew Jagor** in 1876 and **later by Alexander Rea,** a former superintendent of ASI, in 1902-03. ○ Adichanallur showcases **megalithic culture** and transitions to **Iron age and Sangam period.** ○ **Earliest Iron Age sites in South India** are Hallur, Karnataka and Adichanallur of Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu at around 1000 BC.

DELHI | JAIPUR | PUNE | HYDERABAD | AHMEDABAD | LUCKNOW | CHANDIGARH | GUWAHATI | RANCHI | ALLAHABAD | BHOPAL © Vision IAS

	• **Skeleton found at Adichanallur megalithic burial site** are said to be of **different ethnic origins.** ○ **Most skeletons were non- Indians** indicating presence of global traders.

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)

HQ: **New Delhi, India**

Founder: **Alexander Cunningham (Father of Indian Archaeology)** in 1861- first **Director-General of ASI.**

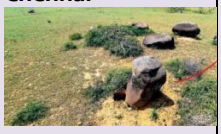
About: Premier organization, under **Ministry of Culture (MoC),** for archaeological **research and protection of cultural heritage and remains of national importance.**

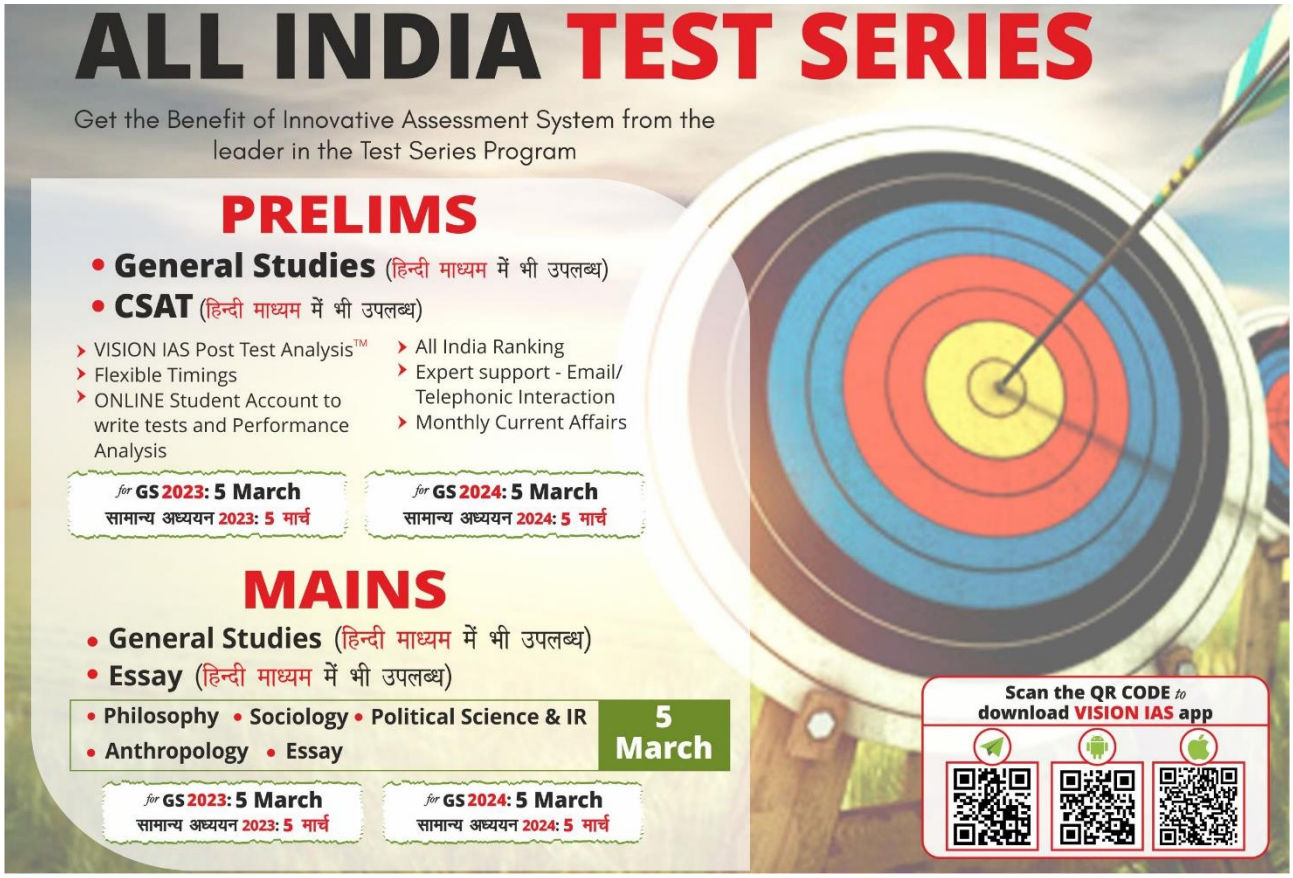
Mandate:

- **Regulate all archaeological activities** in country as per provisions of **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.** It also regulates **Antiquities and Art Treasure Act, 1972.**
- **In charge of protection and maintenance of Centrally protected monuments (CPMs). (June 2022: 3,693 CPMs** in country)

Other key information:

- **National Monuments Authority (NMA)** is responsible for protection of such sites through **management of prohibited and regulated area around CPMs.**
- **NMA,** statutory body, has been **setup under provisions of AMASR (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010.**

Evidence of 12,000 Years of Habitation in Chennai 	• Archaeological Survey of India unearthed **artefacts on outskirts of Chennai** (at Vadakkupattu village), suggesting some **12000 years of continuous habitation in the region.** • These artefacts give **evidence of continuous habitation** dating from **Mesolithic age** (approximately from 10,000 BCE to 8,000 BCE) **to Pallava period** (early 4th-century to late 9th-century CE). • **Excavations found were:** ○ **Below surface: Stone tools** including handaxes, scrappers, clevers from the **Mesolithic period.** ○ **Upper layer:** It was rich with **Roman sherds, glass beads, gold ornaments, terracotta toys from Sangam era.** ○ **Surface: Vishnu and Shivling sculptures** indicated the early and late Pallava era.



2. PAINTINGS AND OTHER ART FORMS

2.1. TRADITIONAL INDIAN TEXTILES

Why in news?

Recently, UNESCO has released **list of 50 exclusive and iconic heritage textile crafts** of the country under report titled **'Handmade for the 21st century: Safeguarding Traditional Indian Textiles'**.

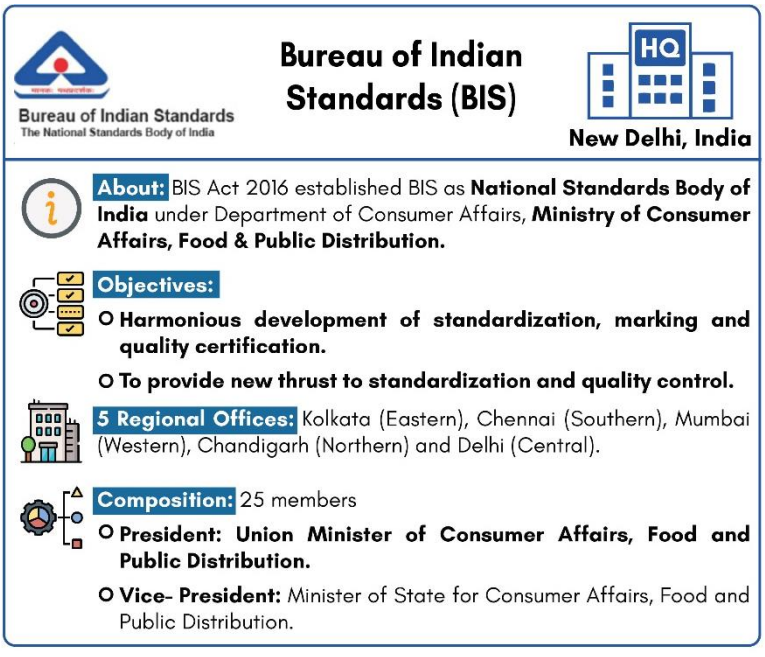
2.2. TOYS OF INDIA

Why in News?

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) published 10 Indian Standards on Safety aspects of toys.

More on News

- A total of **10 Indian Standards have been published,** out of which **7 are the part of Quality Control Order (QCO) on 'Safety of Toys'.**
  - QCO made it **mandatory, from Jan 1, 2021, that toys for children under 14 years of age** conform to 7 Indian Standards for Safety of Toys and **bear a Standard Mark (ISI Mark) under licence from BIS.**



Indian Toys

Market Value

Around **$1.5 bn making up 0.5% of global market share**

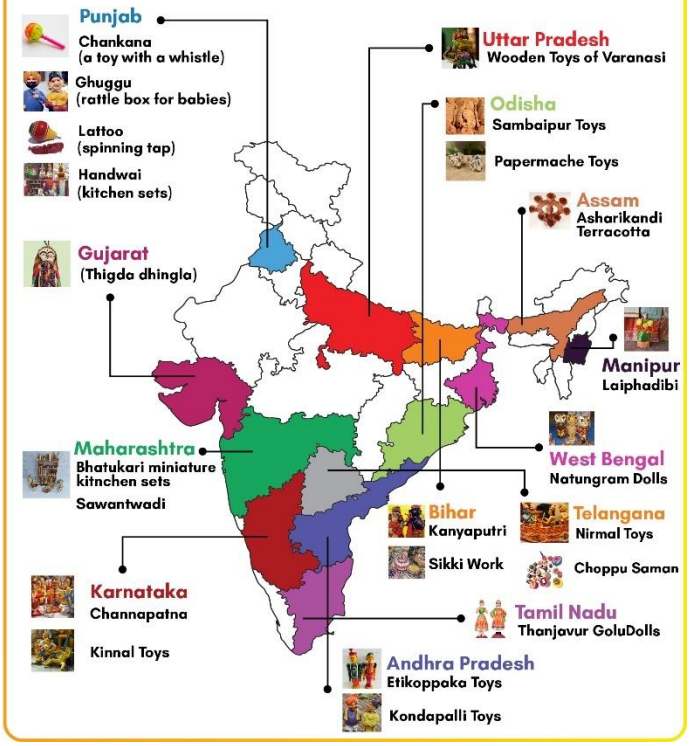
Initiatives Taken

National Action Plan for Indian Toy Story
To boost local manufacturing

Handicrafts Toy Clusters
Under Scheme of Funds for Re-generation of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) of Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises

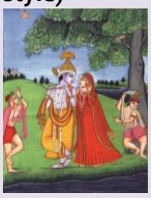
National Education Policy 2020
Toy-making to students from sixth standard onwards

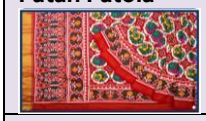
Manufacturing Location



2.3. CRAFTS IN NEWS

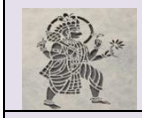
Recently, the Prime Minister gifted the heads of states different craft pieces from India at the G20 summit in Bali.

Gifts	Description
Pahari Miniature Painting (Kangra style) 	• **Style of miniature painting** and book illustration that developed in **independent states of the Himalayan foothills in India.** • Painting in the Kangra region blossomed under the **patronage of Raja Sansar Chand (1775–1823).** • **Kangra style** is by far the **most poetic and lyrical of Indian styles** marked with **serene beauty and delicacy of execution.** • **Characteristic features**: Delicacy of line, brilliance of colour and minuteness of decorative details. • **Popular themes:** Bhagvata Purana, Gita Govinda, Nala Damayanti, Bihari Satsai, Ragamala and Baramasa.
Mata Ni Pachedi	• It means **'behind the mother goddess'** and **is a cloth** that constitutes a temple of the goddess. ○ Story goes that **nomadic Vaghari community from Gujarat created their own places** of worship with illustrations of the Mother Goddess (Mata) on pieces of cloth. • **Also called Kalamkari of Gujarat** due to its resemblance to art of Kalamkari from South India and the same method of painting, namely using a pen (kalam) made of bamboo.
Pithora Paintings	• Pithora paintings **trail back long into history and find their roots in the cave paintings**, thousands of years old. • **Done by: Rathwa, Bhil, Nayak and Tadi tribes of Gujarat, parts of Rajasthan and MP.** ○ These paintings speak of **social, cultural and mythological life and beliefs** of the tribals. • Pithora paintings are **characterized by seven horses** representing the seven hills that surround the area where the Rathwas reside. • Pithora paintings are **more of a ritual** (to thank God or for a wish or a boon) **than an art form.**

Agate Bowls	• Agate or akik is the **semi-precious stone found in underground mines of Rajpipla and Ratanpur** in riverbeds and extracted to produce a variety of ornamental objects such as these bowls. • Also said to have **healing properties for balancing energies**. • In the 18th century, the **seaport of Khambhat** (now in Anand district Gujarat) **was the centre of the agate industry.**
Patan Patola 	• Double ikat or Patola is **woven in pure silk** and **dates to the 11th century.** • Patola fabrics bear an **equal intensity of colours and design on both sides.** • This **peculiar quality has its origins in** knot dyeing, known as **'bandhani'**.
Kinnauri Shawl	• These are **famous shawls from Himachal Pradesh.** • Its **geometric designs are heavily influenced by the Central Asian culture** and consists of motifs that usually **symbolise religions and cultures.** • **The base colours are natural** i.e., grey, black, brown and white and are embellished with orange, blue, green, etc. • These shawls are **mostly woven in 2 parts and then joined together** from the centre **with extensive hand-stitching.**

2.4. OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

Rogan painting	• **Indian PM,** during the Quad meeting, **gifted his Japanese counterpart a white Rogan.**
	• Rogan is a form of **cloth painting** that is **more than four centuries old and** now it is practiced by **only a single family in Nirona, Kachchh,** Gujarat**.**
	  ○ The word '**rogan**' comes **from Persian, meaning varnish or oil**. The craft uses **paint made from boiled oil and vegetable dyes.**
	  ○ A **special paste made of castor is used** in this craft.
	  ○ Generally, **geometrical motifs are preferred**.

Sanjhi Painting 	• **Indian PM,** during the Quad meeting, **gifted his US counterpart a Sanjhi Painting.** • **Painting, flourished in Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh** during 15th -16th century, involves **creating stencils** based on incidents from the **life of the Krishna.** • **Term 'sanjhi' is derived from 'sanjh' or dusk** and is related to the **practice of making rangolis in temples at dusk.**

Pattachitra painting	• **Odisha CM presented Pope Francis** a pattachitra painting.
	• **About Pattachitra painting**
	  ○ **Cloth based scroll painting** unique to Odisha.
	  ○ Believed to have originated as **early as the 12th century.**
	  ○ **Made on a special canvas** where **cotton sarees are layered with a tamarind paste** and then coated with clay powder.
	  ○ **Closely related to the cult of Shri Jagannath** and the temple traditions in Puri.

Rock Carvings (Petroglyphs) of Ratnagiri	• Experts **have red-flagged the proposed mega oil refinery project in Ratnagiri** (Konkan region of Maharashtra).
	  ○ Petroglyphs are **drawn by removing part of a rock surface.**
	• **Classified as protected monuments**, these rock **carvings are made in hard lateritic rock during Prehistoric era**.
	  ○ They are also added to **tentative list of UNESCO's world heritage sites.**
	• Total **rock cravings in Konkan region** goes over 1,000 (also called katal Shilpa), **depicting sculptures of various animals, birds, geometrical structures,** and ancient hieroglyphics.
	  ○ Unlike Bhimbetka and Mirzapur carvings, **no scenes of animal hunting are depicted here.**

Indian Classical musical instruments	• **Santoor Maestro Pandit Shivkumar Sharma,** an Indian Classical Musician and a Padma Vibhushan recipient, recently passed away.
	• **Indian Classical musical instruments** are classified into **four groups by Bharat Muni in Natya Shastra** (around **400-200 BC**) as:
	  ○ **Avanaddha Vadya** (membranophones or **percussion instruments**) producing sound by a stretch membrane. E.g., Damaru, Nagara.
	  ○ **Ghan Vadya** (idiophones or **solid instruments**) producing sound through vibration. E.g., Bell, Portal, Chimta.
	  ○ **Sushir Vadya** (aerophones or **wind instruments**) producing sound by wind. E.g., Flute, Harmonium.
	  ○ **Tat Vadya** (chordophones or **stringed instruments**) producing sound by way of vibration strings. E.g., Sarangi, Saraswati Veena, Santoor.

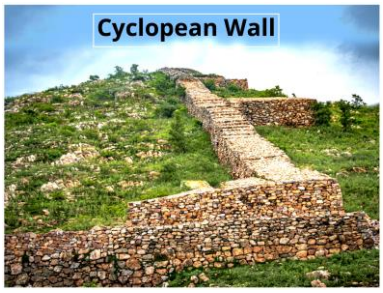
 © Vision IAS

Rang Swadheenta	• **Sangeet Natak Akademi organized** Rang Swadheenta, a **festival to cherish memories of freedom fighters**. • **Following folk performance were held** o **Panduan ka Kada,** from 17th century Mewat, centred around episodes from **Mahabharata and narration of Maharana Pratap's valor** in battlefield. o **Oggukatha**, folk theatre form of **Telugu-speaking regions**. o **Dhadi singing tradition from Punjab** was **begun by Guru Hargobind** to inspire bravery among armed men in battlefield. o **Powada,** a traditional style of **singing ballads popular in Maharashtra**. o **Dastangoi, Persian traditional storytelling**, Artists who performed dastangoi for Rani Laxmibai did come alive in their sonorous voices.
Shumang Leela	• **50th All Manipur Shumang Leela Festival was celebrated** in Imphal recently. • **Shumang Leel** is a **courtyard play/Manipuri theatrical art form** developed in the **19th-20th century**. o It is believed to be descended from **Lai Haraoba**, a ritual of the **Meitei community**. • Today, it focuses on **educating people** and **bringing reforms in society** by addressing issues of **moral values, unity and integrity**. • In it, **roles of female artists** are all **played by male actors** and **male characters** are played by **female artists** in case of **female theatre groups**.
Palm- leaf manuscript	• **First palm leaf manuscript museum was inaugurated** in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. • Palm-leaf manuscripts are one of humanity's **most ancient and widespread technologies for transmitting and preserving knowledge in written form.** o They are produced from **two main types of palms: palmyra and talipot.** ✓ **Palmyra leaf** is rather **thick and inflexible and tends to get brittle over time.** ✓ **Talipot is thinner and more flexible** and has excellent durability, reportedly **lasting as long as 600 years.** o They include many **unique sources on Indian, Nepalese, and Southeast Asian culture and religion**.
Dokra art	• **Bengal village Lalbazar** on the boundary with Jharkhand is **becoming a hub for Dokra metalcraft**. o Two places are famous in West Bengal for Dokra work — **Bikna in Bankura and Dariyapur in Bardhaman.** • Dokra is a **metal casted art that uses ancient lost-wax casting technique**. o It is the first of its kind to **use a non-ferrous metal** like copper and its alloys or bronze. o Its documented **history is about 5,000 years old.** o It is a **traditional art of Jharkhand.**

3. IMPORTANT SITES IN NEWS

3.1. CYLOPEAN WALL

Why in news?



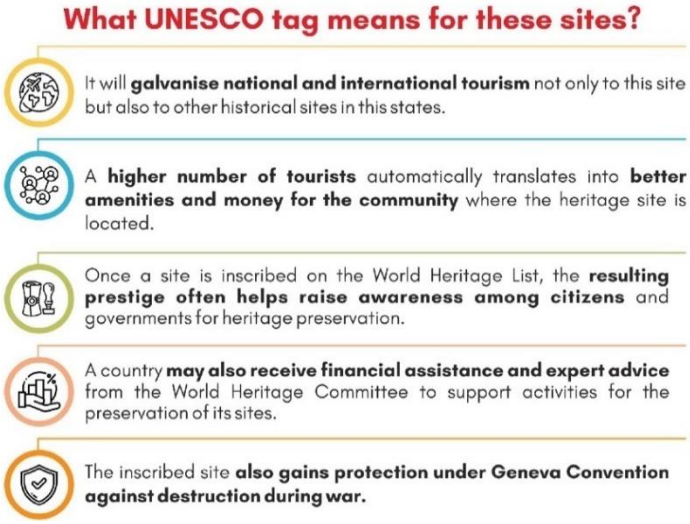
Bihar government has again sent a proposal to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to get Cyclopean wall listed in the UNESCO World Heritage Site.

About Cyclopean Wall

- The Cyclopean Wall is a **40 km long wall of stone** (more than 2,500 years old structure) **which encircled the ancient city of Rajgir in Bihar**.
  - **Rajgir was the capital city of King Bimbisara** and his son Ajatshatru who were contemporaries of the Buddha.
- **Built in the pre-Mauryan era** (before 3rd century BC) and was erected by King Jarasandha, the 2nd ruler of **Brihadratha (Rawani) dynasty** to protect their capital from external invaders and enemies.
- **Among the oldest examples of cyclopean masonry** in the world.
  - Cyclopean masonry is a term (coined by Greeks) used to describe a **type of megalithic architecture** entailing the **working of unusually large blocks of stone without mortar**, often for the construction of fortifications.
- It is believed that the Cyclopean Wall at Rajgir is **like "Frontiers of the Roman Empire"** that runs through Germany, UK and Northern Ireland, which was included **on UNESCO's world heritage list in 1987.**

Nomination process of World Heritage Sites

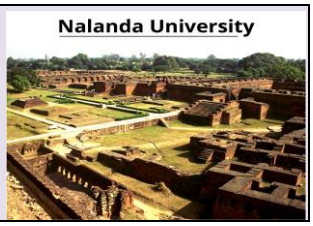
- **Tentative List:** First step a country must take by making an 'inventory' of its important natural and cultural heritage sites.
- **Nomination File**: After UNESCO includes a property in the Tentative List, that country has to prepare a nomination document This is sent for evaluation to the advisory bodies.
- **Final Inscription:** Once a site has been nominated and evaluated, it is up to the **World Heritage Committee to make the final decision** on its inscription.



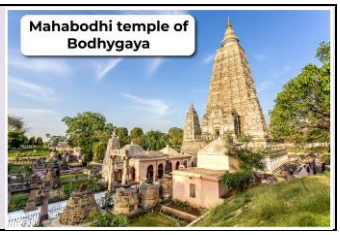
Other UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Bihar

- **Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara** (listed in 2002).
  - It was **founded by Kumaragupta (Shakraditya)** of the Gupta dynasty in the early 5th century.
  - **Flourished for 600 years** until the 12th century.

UNESCO World Heritage Site



- Listed as an "**Institute of National Importance**" by the government.
- **Mahabodhi temple of Bodhygaya** (listed in 2002).
  - Site where **Lord Buddha had attained enlightenment**.
  - Original structure was **built by the Mauryan emperor Ashoka** which was reconstructed entirely in brick in late Gupta period.
  - Present temple **dates to 5th or 6th centuries.**



Related News

- Experts have warned that **Mohenjo-daro might be removed from UNESCO's world heritage list**.
- In 2021, **Liverpool became only the third location**, after **Arabian Oryx Sanctuary in Oman** (2007) and **Elbe Valley in Dresden, Germany** (2009), **to lose its World Heritage status.**

3.2. IRON AGE

Why in news?

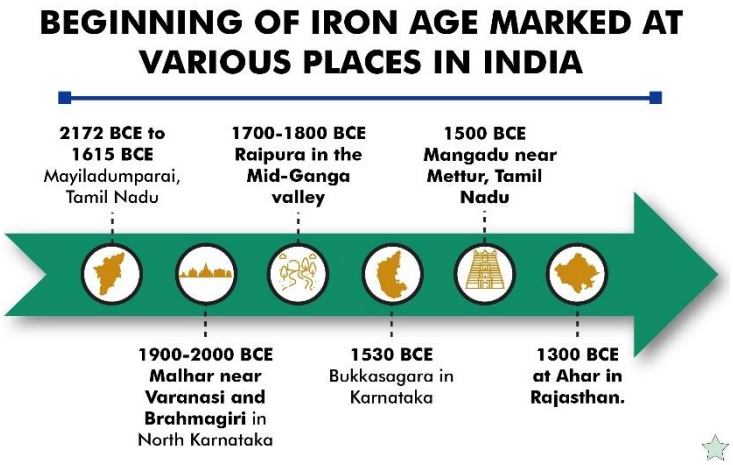
Recently Carbon dating of excavated **finds at Mayiladumparai, Tamil Nadu** has pushed evidence of iron being used in India back to 4,200 years ago.

Key findings

- **Date of iron artefacts** unearthed 'ranges **from 2172 BCE to 1615 BCE'.**
  - **Mayiladumparai** is an important site with cultural material dating back between the **Microlithic (30,000 BCE) and Early Historic (600 BCE) ages.**
- Cultural items revealed that the **site had survived since the Neolithic period** till the historical period.
  - **Microlithic, Neolithic, Iron Age, Early Historic and Historic are the five cultural sequence**s identified based on ceramics, iron objects, rock art, memorial stones and inscriptions.

Major Periods in early Indian Archaeology

2 million BP (Before Present)	Lower Palaeolithic
80,000	Middle Palaeolithic
35,000	Upper Palaeolithic
12,000	Mesolithic
10,000	Neolithic (early agriculturalists and pastoralists)
6,000	Chalcolithic (First use of copper)
2600 BCE	Harappan civilisation
1000 BCE	Early iron, megalithic burials
600 BCE - 400 CE	Early Historic



- Late **Neolithic period in Tamil Nadu** began before 2200 BCE, based on a cultural deposit 25 cm below the dated level.
- **Black and red ware pottery** were introduced during the **late Neolithic period**, rather than the Iron Age, as previously thought.
- **Before the latest discovery**, the earliest evidence of **iron use for Tamil Nadu** was from Thelunganur and Mangadu near Mettur, dating back to **1500 BCE.**
- **Significance of the findings:** Iron-age timeline revisited in India, beginning of culture might be in 2000 BCE, narrowed the gap between Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC) and Sangam Age.

Relevance of use of metal in Indian civilisation: Metals are **needed for agriculture** and in turn shape the **socio-economic conditions** of the civilisation.

- **Society during usage of copper:** Copper was widely **used in IVC.** However, Iron was not known to them.
  - Useful **tools made from copper** were **brittle**.
  - Also, **non-availability of copper for technological and mass exploitation** forced other regions of the country to remain in the Stone Age.

- **Society during usage of iron age:** Main factor in the **expansion of the Aryan culture** during the later Vedic period was the beginning of the use of iron around 1000 BC.
  - Use of iron technology led to the **production of agricultural tools and weapons and** agriculture became the mainstay of the later Vedic people.
  - Also, iron tools were **used to clear the dense forest** of northern and eastern parts of India.

3.3. RAKHIGARHI

Why in news?

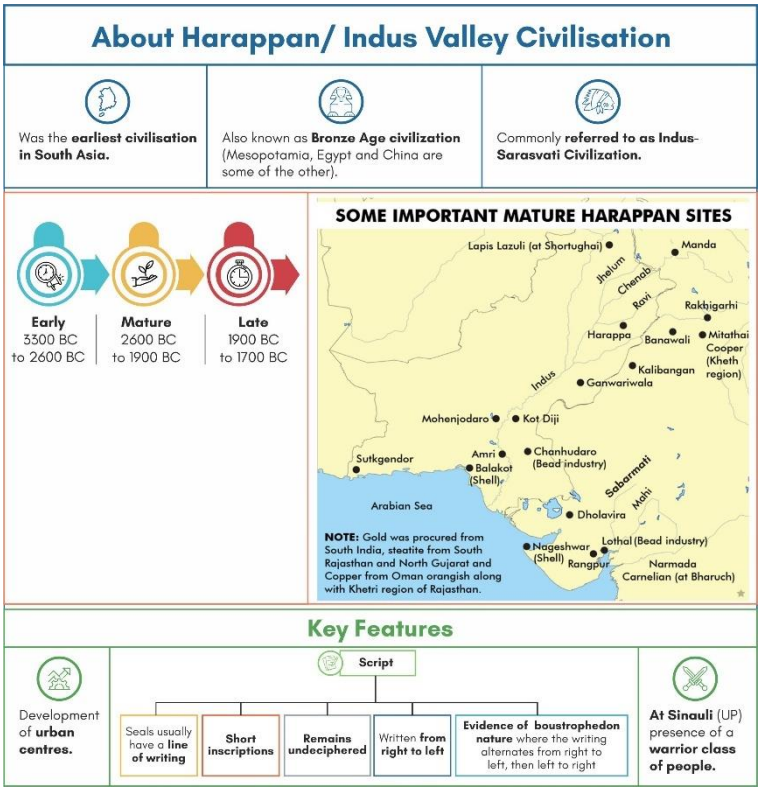
The latest round of excavations at the Harappan site of Rakhigarhi in Haryana's Hisar has revealed the structure of some houses, lanes and a drainage system.

Related information
100 years of discovery of Mohenjo-daro

- Archaeological ruins at Mohenjo-daro were discovered in 1922 by **Rakhaldas Banerji.**
  - He was an officer of **Archaeological Survey of India**.
  - **He published 'Prachin Mudra' in 1914**, book on **numismatics** (study of coins).
  - He wrote **several monographs and books** (including Banglar Itihas) and novels in Bengali and English.
  - He was a **teacher of ancient Indian history** and culture **at Banaras Hindu University.**

About Rakhigarhi

- **One of the five known biggest townships of Harappan civilization** on Indian sub-continent.
  - Other four are **Harappa, Mohenjodaro and Ganveriwala** in Pakistan and **Dholavira** (Gujarat).
- **Represents mature Harappan phase** as it had planned township having mudbrick as well as burnt-brick houses with proper drainage system.
- **Animal sacrificial pit lined with mud brick** and triangular and circular fire alters on the mud floor have also been excavated.
- **Key findings during recent excavation**
  - **Skeletal remains** of two women were found that is believed to be nearly 5,000 years old. Pots and other artefacts were found buried next to the remains, part of funerary rituals back.
  - **Artefacts:** Steatite seals, terracotta bangles, terracotta unbaked sealing with relief of elephants, and the Harappan script.
  - **Signs of settlement:** Excavation at Mound No. 3 has revealed what appears to be **"an aristocratic settlement"**.
    - ✓ In all Harappan sites excavated so far, there have been **similar signs of three tiers of habitation — 'common settlements'** with mudbrick walls, **'elite settlement'** with burnt brick walls alongside mud brick walls, **and possible middle-rung settlements.**
    - ✓ Researchers are **yet to determine** whether these three levels were **based on community or occupation.**
  - **Jewellery unit:** Possible remains of a 5,000-year-old jewellery making unit have been traced, which signifies that trading was also done from the city.



Major Harappan sites	Distinct features
Dholavira in Gujarat	• Located on the **arid island of Khadir** in Gujarat, Dholavira is the **fifth largest metropolis of IVC.** • Site has a **fortified citadel, a middle town and a lower town** with walls **made of sandstone or limestone instead of mud bricks** in many other Harappan sites. • It also has a **sophisticated water management system** with a cascading series of water reservoirs.

UNESCO World Heritage Site

	• The site includes a **large cemetery** with cenotaphs of six types testifying to the **Harappan's unique view of death.** • Evidence for **inter-regional trade** with other Harappan cities, as well as with cities in the **Mesopotamia** region and the **Oman** peninsula have also been discovered. • It was also a **hub of manufacturing jewellery** made of shells and semi-precious stones, like agate and used to export timber.
Lothal in Gujarat	• It was an important **port city**, with a dockyard, of the Harappan civilisation, with structures made of **mud bricks.** ○ It is located between **Bhogavo and Sabarmati** rivers near Gulf of Khambat (Gujarat). • From **a graveyard** in Lothal, 21 human skeletons were found. • **Foundries for making copperware** were also discovered. • **Ornaments made of semi-precious stones, gold etc. were also found** from the site.
Harappa in Pakistan	• **Harappan seal,** made of a stone called steatite, such seals **often contain animal motifs and signs** from a script that remains undeciphered • **A granary** has also been found at Harappa. It has **the rows of circular brick platforms,** which were used for threshing grains. • It is included in the **tentative list of UNESCO world Heritage** list.
Mohenjodaro in Pakistan	• It is the **best-preserved urban settlement in South Asia.** • The planned city mostly built with **baked bricks** has two sections the **Citadel in west and the Lower Town in East.** • On the Citadel a **Buddhist stupa** was constructed with unbaked brick in the **2nd century AD.** • Buildings are laid out along streets **intersecting each other at right angles** • The city had **public baths** (the Great Bath is the most prominent); a college of priests; an **elaborate drainage** system; **wells, soak pits for disposal of sewage,** and a **large granary.** • **Other important findings:** A piece of **woven cloth,** the bronze **'dancing girl'** figurine and stone sculpture of a **bearded man** discovered at Mohenjodaro.
Kalibangan, Rajasthan	• Kalibangan or **'black bangles'** - derives its name for the **dense distribution of the fragments of black bangles** which were found at the surface of its mounds. • It **had ploughed field** and the **lower city of Kalibangan was fortified.**
Banawali, Haryana	• It is known for its **centralized planning** among Harappan settlements. • In Banawali, the **main streets were winding rather than straight.** • The excavations have **yielded three-fold culture sequence**: Pre-Harappan (Early-Harappan), Harappan and Bara (post Harappan).

Related Info

- **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)** is planning to build a **National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC)** at **Lothal.**
  - NHMC will **showcase country's rich and diverse maritime heritage.**
  - It is one of the major projects under **Sagarmala scheme** (for promotion of port-led development) in India.
- It is funded by the **MoPSW** and **Ministry of Culture** through **National Culture Fund** by way of grant.

UNESCO World Heritage Site

3.4. MAHAKALESHWAR TEMPLE

Why in news?

Prime Minister recently inaugurated the first phase of **Mahakal Lok in Ujjain's Mahakaleshwar temple.**

More on news

- The Mahakal Lok is the **mega corridor project that will expand the Mahakaleshwar temple complex area,** significantly enhancing the holding capacity.
- **Corridor will have two grand gateways:**
  - Colonnade of 108 ornate pillars which **depict Anand Tandav Swaroop (the elated dance form) of Lord Shiva.**
  - A running panel of over **50 murals depicting stories from Shiv Purana.**

Mythological story of Mahakaleshwar

Local legend says that there once was a king called Chandrasena who ruled Ujjain and was a Shiva devotee. The Lord appeared in his Mahakal form and destroyed his enemies. Upon the request of his devotees, Shiva agreed to reside in the city and become its chief deity.

About Mahakaleshwar temple

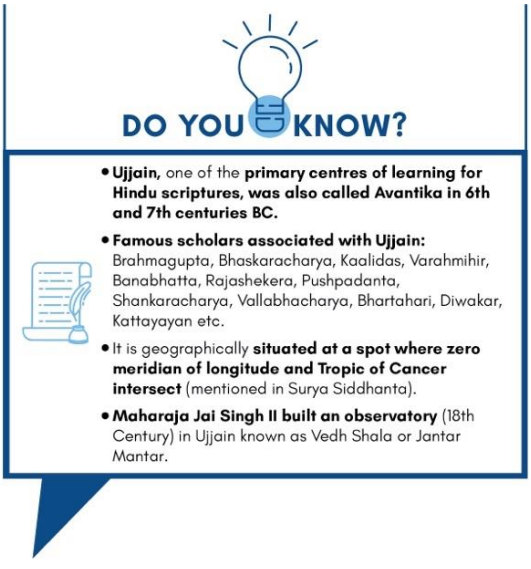
- **Exact time of establishment of Mahakala temple is not known.** As per Puranas, it was **first established by Prajapita Brahma.**
  - Later on, prince **Kumarasena** (son of king Chanda Pradyota of Pradyot dynasty) **in 6th century BC** looked after the law-and-order situations of Mahakala temple.
    - ✓ **Pradyota dynasty ruled over Avanti** (now Madhya Pradesh), **between 8th to 6th century BC.**

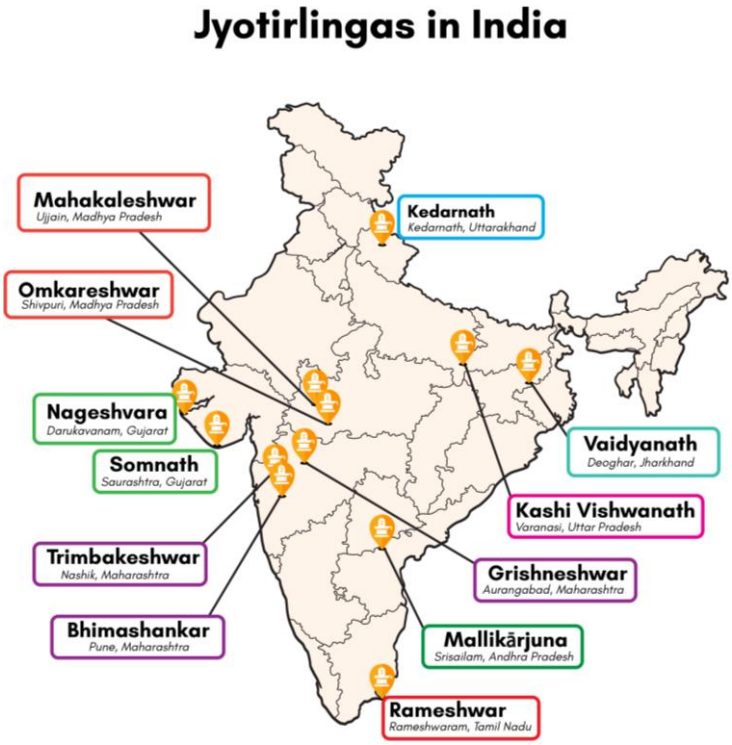
- **Kalidasa in Raghuvansam described this temple as 'Niketana'** possibly because the roofs of temples had mostly been flat.
- It was **redeveloped and reconstructed over the centuries** and as a result, the temple complex **bears strong influences of the Bhumija, Chalukya, and Maratha architectural styles.**
- The **Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga** is among the **most eminent of the 12 Jyotirlingas in India**:
  - It is the **only jyotirlinga facing the south,** as opposed to the traditional placement in north or east. By facing the south, believed to be the direction of Yama – the God of Death, Shiva symbolises that he's the master of death or Mahakaleshwar.
  - It is **believed to be swayambhu i.e. self- manifested** while other Jyotirlingas are believed to have been ritually established.

More about architectural styles

- **Bhumija style** was characterized by a central Latina/ Shikhara tapering from all sides, with minor spires decorating the central spire.
- **Chalukya style** had distinguishable characteristics as their stellate (start shaped) and stepped plans.
- **Maratha style** temples are conspicuous by their wooden *sabhamandaps* with cypress-shaped columns, stone fountains, and the *shikharas* constructed in brick and lime.

- **One of the most famous features** of Mahakaleshwar Temple is the **Bhasma aarti** —prayer offering of ashes (made from burning dried wood and cow dung).
  - The aarti is quite exclusive and **women are not allowed to witness it.**





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3.5. UNESCO'S TENTATIVE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE SITES

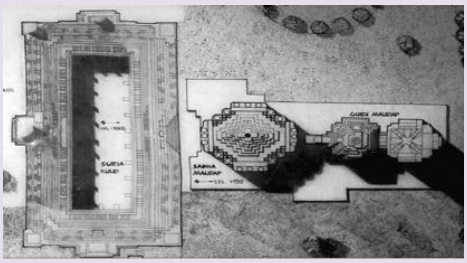
Why in News?

Gujarat's **Vadnagar town, Sun Temple at Modhera,** and **rock cut sculptures of Unakoti** in Tripura have been added to the list.

More on News

- UNESCO tentative list is **an inventory of those properties** which each **State Party intends to consider for nomination.**
  - **India now has 52 sites** on tentative list.

About three Sites

Sites	About
Vadnagar town (Gujarat)	• Vadnagar is a **municipality under Mehsana district** of Gujarat. • It is a **multi-layered and multi-cultural mercantile settlement** with its history stretching back to nearly 8th Century BCE. • It is an **L-shaped town** with **Sharmishtha Lake located on its north-eastern edge.** • At Vadnagar, **two major ancient trade routes crossed** each other. ○ One of them joined **central India with Sindh** and further northwest regions while another connected **port towns on Gujarat coast to northern India.** • It has **hinterland port, centre for industries of shells and beads,** religious centre/temple town etc. • It is also mentioned **in the travelogue of the great Chinese traveler,** Hieu-en-Tsang. • It is the **hometown of PM Narendra Modi**.
Sun Temple at Modhera and its adjoining monuments (Gujarat)	• Located on **left bank of the river Pushpavati,** a tributary of river Rupan **in Mehsana district of Gujarat.** • **Built in Maru-gurjara architectural style of 11th century** (under patronage of Solanki dynasty). • **Built** during **Chalukya King Bhimdev I** (**1022-1063 AD**) regime. • Earliest **Dilwara Temples** and **Rani ki vav** (attributed to his **Queen Udayamati**) were also built during his regime. • It **consists of main temple shrine** (garbhagriha), **a hall** (gadhamandapa), **an outer hall or assembly hall** (Sabhamandapa or rangamandapa) **and a sacred pool** (Kunda), which is now called Ramakunda. • Built **with bright yellow sandstone.** • **Sculptures features** include life-sized figures belonging to **three groups of deities:** Adityas, Lokapalas, and Devis. • It is designed in such a way that **during every equinox, the first ray of the rising sun would fall on a diamond placed on the head of the Sun God.** 

Rock cut sculptures and Reliefs of Unakoti, Unakoti Range	• Located in **north- eastern region of Tripura.** Unakoti literally translates as **"one less than a crore".**
	• It provides evidence of **ancient Saiva worship in Tripura from 8th-9th centuries CE.**
	• Famous for its **colossal rock cut panels depicting Hindu deities.**
	  ○ **Images found at Unakoti** can be classified into **rock-cut images and loose sculptures.**
	  ○ **Famous figures and sculptures** include Unkotiswara Kala Bhairav, Gangadhara, depictions of Boddhisattavas, chaturmukhalinga and one Eka-mukalinga etc.
	• **Streamlet at Unakoti forms three kundas,** a big part of the annual Ashokashtomi Mela.

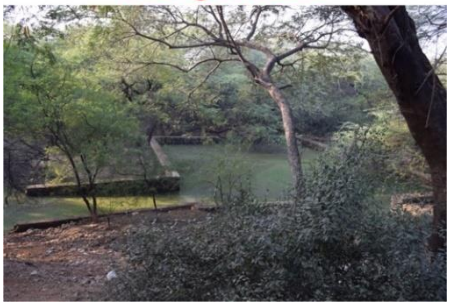
Related Information

- **PM declared Modhera as India's first 24x7 solar-powered village**
  - Along with the Modhera village, the Sun Temple of Modhera also became the **first heritage site in India** to be powered **solely by solar energy.**

3.6. ANANG TAL LAKE

Why in News?

Anang Tal Lake



Ministry of Culture has declared **Anang Tal Lake as a monument of national importance** under Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains **(AMASR) Act, 1958.**

About Anang Tal Lake

- Anang Tal Lake, dated back to 1060AD, is situated to **north of Jog Maya temple** and northwest of **Qutub Complex** in South Delhi.
  - It is ascribed to **Anangpal II** of **Tomar**
  - **Dynasty.**

About National Monuments

- National Monuments are **ancient monuments and all archaeological sites and remains** which have been deemed/declared to be of national importance under:
  - **Section 3** covering monuments declared by **Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Declaration of National Importance) Act, 1951.**
  - Section 126 of States Reorganisation Act, 1956.
- **Archaeological Survey of India** is responsible for protection, conservation and maintenance of such monuments.

Founder: Anangpal I	**Tomar Dynasty**	**8th to 12th Century AD**
Prominent rulers	• **Anangpal Tomar II:** Credit to have established and populated Delhi. • **Prithviraj Chauhan:** Fought Battle of Tarain with Muhammed Ghuri.	
Major cities	• **Capital:** Changed many times from being initially at Anangpur (near Faridabad) to Dhillikapuri (Delhi). • **Present Day Territories:** Delhi and Haryana.	
Culture	• **Anangpal Tomar II built Lal Kot** (later merged into Qila Rai Pithora by Prihviraj Chauhan). • **Brought Iron Pillar of Mehrauli** from Udayagiri. • **Anangpur Dam** built at village Anangpur. • **SurajKund lake** attributed to king Suraj Pal	
Prithviraj Chauhan was defeated by Ghurid forces **in Battle of Tarain** after which the Delhi Sultanate was established.		

3.7. MANGARH HILLOCK

Why in News?

Rajasthan Chief Minister has sought **National Monument Status for the Mangarh Dham in Banswara district in Rajasthan.**

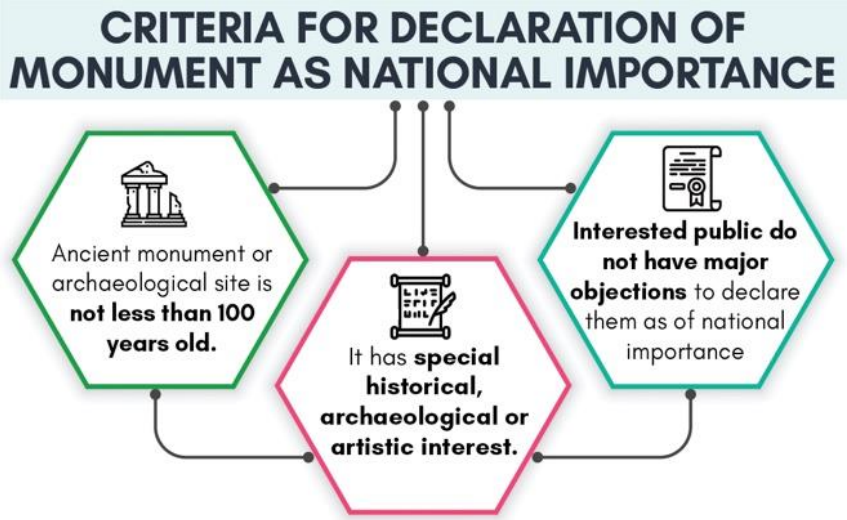
About Govind Guru

- **Revolutionary leader of the tribals** of present-day Udaipur, Dungarpur and Banswara in Rajasthan, Idar in Gujarat, and Malwa in Madhya Pradesh.
- **United tribals** among the **Bhil and Garasiya tribal communities.**
- He began **Bhagat Movement in 1908** in which he propagated practices such **as vegetarianism and abstinence from alcohol.**
  - Asked his supporters to **reject bonded labour and fight for their rights.**
  - **He advocated boycotting foreign goods,** ending forced labour, educating girls, and resolving mutual disputes among tribes instead of taking them to the courts.

 © Vision IAS

About Mangarh massacre

- In 1913 some **bhils revolted against British rule under leadership of a social reformer Govind Guru** (a local tribal) and Punja.
- **In November 1913, hundreds of tribals** had gathered at the Mangarh hillock for a peaceful meeting when they **were surrounded and shot dead** by British forces.
    - Event is also known as **Mini Jalianwala Bagh massacre**.



National Importance declaration

- **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** under Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958 **considers sites for declaration as national importance** provided, they meet certain criterion.

Related News:

- National Monuments Authority has also **recommended following two sites to be declared as Monuments of National Importance:**
    - **Sankalp Bhumi Banyan tree campus in Vadodara,** where Dr. Ambedkar had taken a resolve to eradicate untouchability on 23rd September 1917.
    - **Pratap Rao Bhosle High School,** place in Satara in Maharashtra where Dr Ambedkar received his primary education.

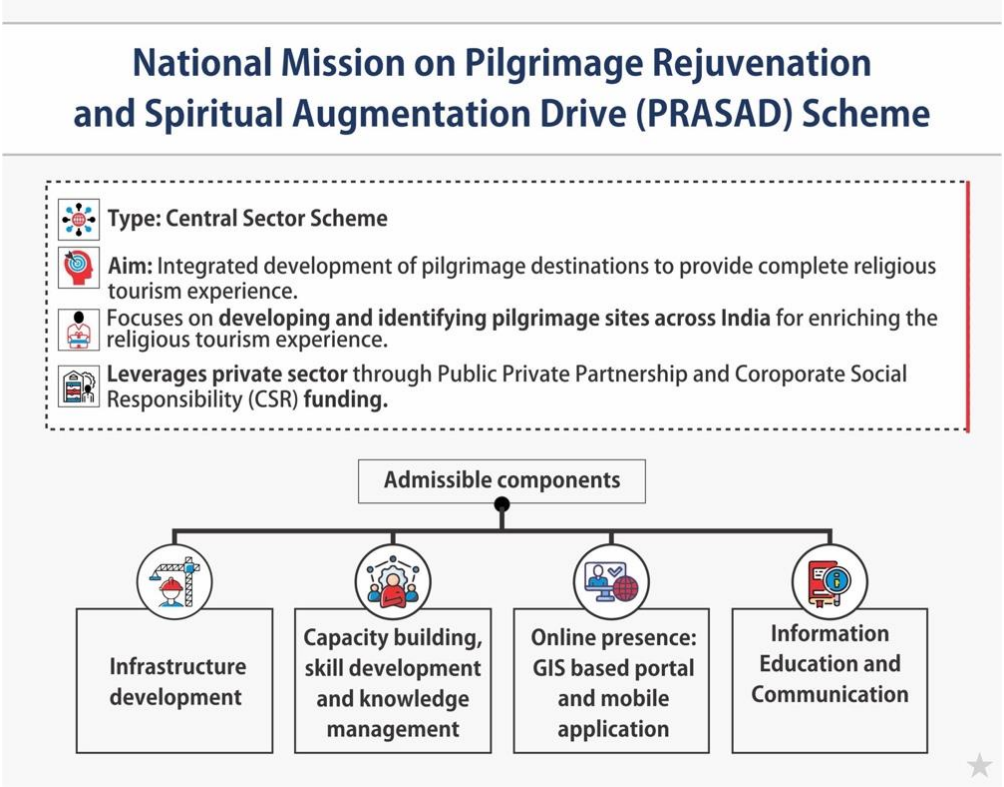
3.8. PROJECTS UNDER PRASHAD SCHEME

Why in News?

Recently, President inaugurated several projects under PRASHAD scheme.

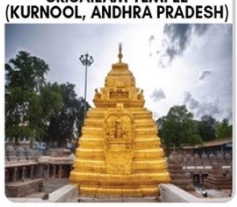
More about News

- President inaugurated **project "Development of Srisailam Temple in Andhra Pradesh"** under PRASHAD scheme.
- President laid foundation stone for **PRASHAD project in Bhadrachalam and Rudreshwar Temple (Ramappa) in Telangana.**



About the Projects

SRISAILAM TEMPLE (KURNOOL, ANDHRA PRADESH)



HISTORY

- **Dedicated to Lord Shiva** (Lord Mallikarjuna Swamy) and **Goddess Parvati** (Goddess Bhramaramba Devi).
- It has **Ikshavakus Patronage** (200-300 AD) with its golden age under **Reddi Kings** (1325-1448).
- **Chalukya, Kakatiyas** and **Vijayanagara empire also contributed** to its development.

ARCHITECTURE DETAILS

- **Presiding deity is Brahmaramba Mallikarjuna Swamy** in the shape of Lingam.
- Considered one of the **12 Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva** and one of the **18 Maha Shakti Peethas** Parvati.

OTHER KEY FEATURES

- **Only temple in India significant to both Saivism and Shaktism.**
- **Built on top of Nallamala hills** situated on the **banks of river Krishna.**
- Classified as one of **Paadal Petra Sthalam** (glorified in Tamil Tevaram hymns).
- **Earliest reference in Pulumavi's Nasik Inscription** (2nd Century) of Satavahana Dynasty.

RUDRESHWARA (RAMAPPA TEMPLE, MULUGU, TELANGANA)

HISTORY

- Dedicated to Ramalingeswara Swamy.
- **Built by Ramappa (sculptor)** during the **Kakatiya period (1123-1323 CE)** under rulers **Rudradeva** and **Recharla Rudra.**

ARCHITECTURE DETAILS

- **Sandstone temple** manifests **distinct style, technology and decoration of Kakatiyan** such as:
  - **Decorated beams and pillars** of carved granite and dolerite.
  - **Pyramidal Vimana** (horizontally shaped tower) made of lightweight porous bricks etc.

OTHER KEY FEATURES

- In 2021 it was **included in the UNESCO World heritage List** (Cultural).
- Popularly known as **Thousand Pillar Temple** and **Ramappa temple.**

SRI SEETHA RAMACHANDRA SWAMIVARI DEVASTHANAM, BHADRACHALAM, TELANGANA

HISTORY

- **Dedicated to** Lord Rama.
- **Constructed or reconstructed by Kancherla Gopanna,** also known as Bhadrachala Ramadasu revenue officer (Tehsildar) **under reign of Abul Hasan Qutub Shah, sultan of Golconda (1626-1672 CE).**

OTHER KEY FEATURES

- **Situated on** left bank of **River Godavari.**
- It is close to **Parnasala village (of Dandakaranya forest)** and the place of **Mata Sita abduction by Ravana.**

3.9. OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

Angkor Wat Temple Complex (Cambodia)	• External Affairs Minister highlighted **India's efforts to restore Angkor Wat temple complex** because of civilisational ties. • Angkor Wat, meaning **city of temples**, is an ancient temple complex built by **Suryavarman II** in **early 12th century**. o Initially, it was dedicated to **Hindu Gods Shiva, Brahma, and Vishnu**. Later, it was transformed into a **Buddhist temple**. o Located in **Siem Reap** province of **Cambodia.** It is **world's largest religious structure**. o It covers scores of temples, hydraulic structures (basins, dykes, reservoirs, canals) and communication routes.
Ambedkar Circuit	• **A special tourist train**, to cover Ambedkar Circuit, **was announced.** • **Ambedkar Circuit covers:** o **Madhya Pradesh's Mhow,** Ambedkar's **birthplace.** o **Maharashtra's Nagpur**, where he **converted to Buddhism.** o **Delhi's Residence** where he lived during his last years. o **Maharashtra's Dadar**, where his body was **cremated.**

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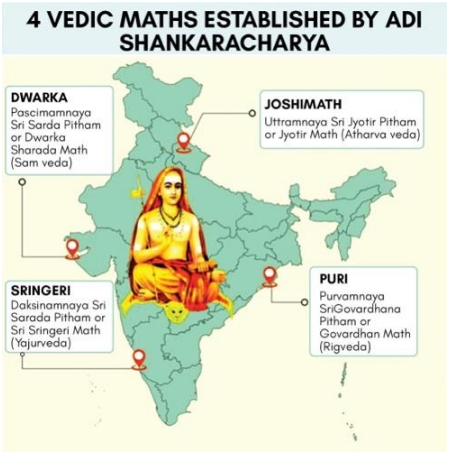
4. PERSONALITIES

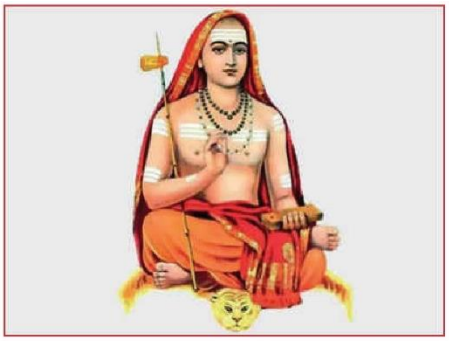
4.1. ADI SHANKARACHARYA

Why in News?

PM visited Sri Adi Shankaracharya Janma Bhoomi Kshetram at **Kalady village** in **Kerala**.



Adi Shankaracharya



About

- Also **known as Jagadguru Sri Adi Shankaracharya** and considered **incarnation of Lord Shiva.**
- **Known for Advaita Vedanta** and **Dashanami Sampradaya.** Worked to revive **Sanatana Dharma.**

His Teacher

- **Govinda Bhagavatpada (student of Gaudapada) :** Philosopher of Vedanta School of System, under whom **he studied Gaudapadiya Karika,** Brahmasutra, Vedas, and Upanishads.
  - **Gaudapada-karikas:** Earliest extant Advaita Vedanta text.
  - **Gaudapada:** Known for inception of 'asparśa yoga' or yoga of non-contact and 'ajāti-vāda' or doctrine of non-origination

His Disciples

- **Padmapada, Totakacharya, Hastamalaka, and Suresvara.**
- **Each headed one math** (monastery) established by him.

His Philosophy

- **Belonged to: Vedanta philosophy** and gave **Advaita Vedanta (Non-dualism) philosophy.**
  - **Advaita Vedanta,** also known as **Jnana Kanda or non-dualism** is the first main school under Vedanta philosophy by aligning **Vedas with Upanishads.**
  - Asserted one can attain liberation within one's life by **gaining true knowledge** on one's **true self or soul** (Atman) and of **Supreme Soul** (Brahman).
- **Opposed: Mimamsa philosophy** (one of **six-Astika or orthodox philosophies**), for its ritualism and idea of attaining **salvation after death.**
  - Defeated **Mandana Misra** and his wife Ubhaya Bharati on **Mimamsa Philosophy.**
  - On his defeat, **Mandana Misra** became his disciple, later known as **Suresvara.**

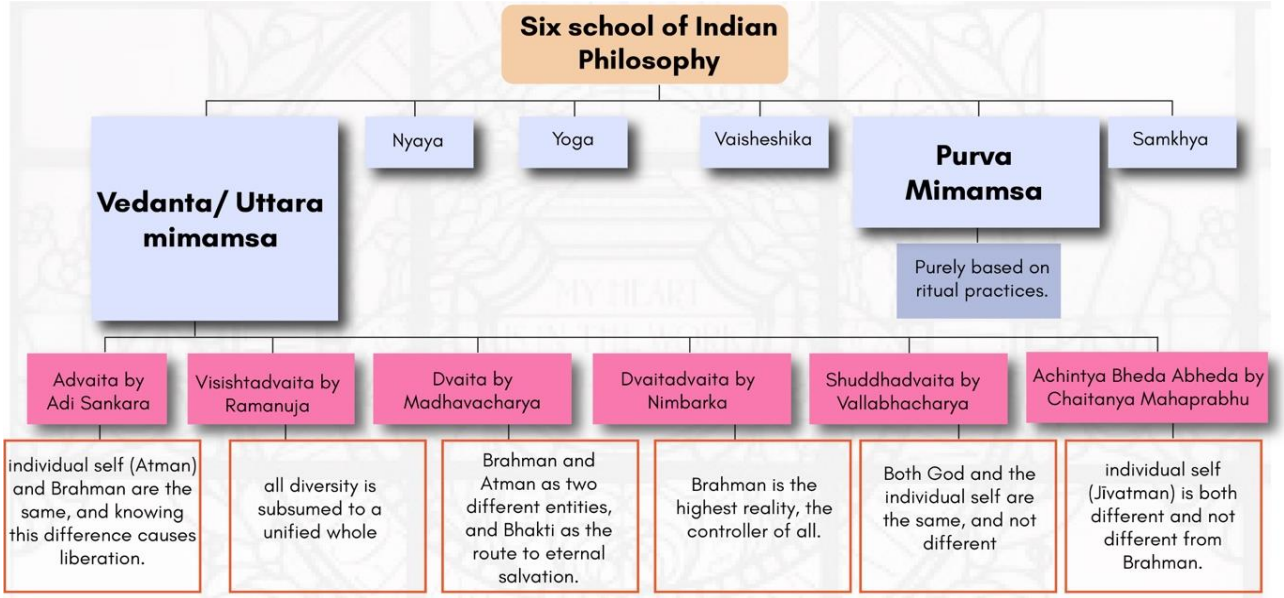
Other contributions by Sri Adi Shankaracharya

Sects and Traditions	**Shanmata** • **Shanmata,** i.e., **six religions,** is a synthesis of **six sub-sects.** ○ Each of these sub-sects **worship one of the six supreme deities,** i.e. Shiva, Vishnu, Shakti, Ganesha, Surya and Skanda (Kumara)- who are part of one divine power. • **Shanmata** merges them and its followers are known as **Smartas** (or the **Smarta tradition**), i.e., those who follow **Smriti** (or **dharma shastras**). **Dashanami Sampradaya** • It is a **monastic tradition** of Hinduism founded by Adi Shankara for living a monastic life. It organizes monks under 10 different titles.
Religious texts	• He wrote commentaries on religious texts such as **Brahma Sutras, Upanishads** and **Bhagavad Gita.** E.g., **Brahmasutrabhasya,** is the oldest surviving commentary on **'Brahma Sutra'.**

	• He wrote **'Upadesasahasri'**, i.e., a thousand teachings- a comprehensive description of his philosophy of **advaita** (**non-dualism**). ○ **Other Books:** Viveka Chudamani, Atma Bodha, Vakya Vritti. • He **composed 72 devotional and meditative hymns** like Soundarya Lahari, Sivananda Lahari, Nirvana Shatakam and Maneesha Panchakam.

About Advaita Vedanta (Non-Dualism)

- According to it, Brahman (Atman) is the **Paramartha** or **absolute reality** which doesn't change. It is **metaphysically true** and **ontologically** (study of concepts such as existence, reality etc.) **accurate.**
  - **Individual soul** is identical to it and the world has no separate existence apart from Brahman.
- The **surroundings** or **physical environment** is the ever-changing **vyavahara** or **empirical** (**pragmatic**) **reality** created by **illusion or māyā**.
  - **Pratibhasika** or **deceptive reality** is another level of reality constructed through imagination.
- Because of errors in **judgments** (mithya) and **ignorance** (avidya), individuals see **plurality** or being different from Brahman.
- **Knowledge** helps individual to reach **absolute reality** to liberate from the cycle of transmigration and worldly bondage, described in three words by Vedanta as: **"sat-chit-ananda"**, i.e. **Truth, consciousness** and **Bliss**.
- According to it, **Atman** is the **only 'sat'** or **absolute truth**. A person attains bliss or happiness by gaining consciousness or knowledge of absolute truth.



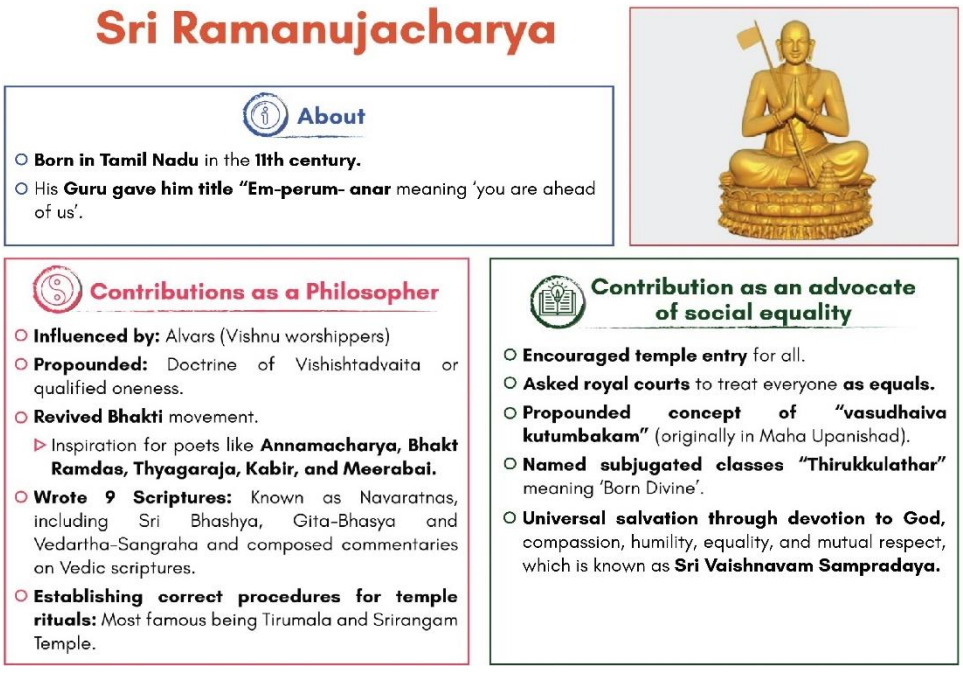
4.2. SWAMI RAMANUJACHARYA

Why in News?

Union Home Minister unveiled Statue of Peace of Swami Ramanujacharya in Srinagar located in a temple in the Sonwar region.

More about News

- In Feb 2022, PM also unveiled 216-feet tall **Statue of Equality of Swami Ramanujacharya in Hyderabad.**



- **Note:** It is **different from Statue of Peace**, unveiled by PM in Rajasthan (2020), **of Jain monk Acharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer**.
    - Also, there is **Statue of Unity,** world's tallest statue, **dedicated to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.**

About Sri Ramanujacharya's Philosophy - Vishishtadvaita

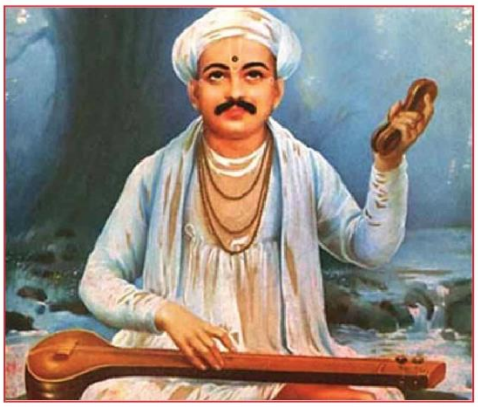
- According to him the **soul even when united with the Supreme God remained distinct.**
- **Philosophy believes** that the supreme reality is *Saguna Brahman,* a personal being with countless auspicious attributes, and it is a qualified whole of which Brahman is the soul, and the *Jiva* and the *Jagat* (the soul and material nature) constitute the body, which has an inseparabe relationship with the whole.
    - Though it is a **non-dual** whole, yet it is characterised by internal differences in it.
    - This is why this one reality is **called 'Visistadvaita" meaning 'qualified non- dualism'.**
    - Here the **non-dual reality is made known by its qualities**—the souls and the world which are of two different natures. These two kinds of entities are distinct yet real parts of the whole.
- **The 'Visistadvaita" was not coined by Ramanuja but came to be used by others afterwards.**

4.3. SANT TUKARAM

Why in news?

Prime Minister inaugurated **the Sant Tukaram Shila (rock) Mandir in the temple town of Dehu in Maharashtra.**

Sant Tukaram



About

- Also **known as Tukoba, Tukaram Bolhoba Ambile etc.**
- **Saint of Bhakti movement** in Maharashtra.
- **Shivaji Maharaj was a great admirer** of the saint.
- **Mahatma Gandhi read and translated his poetry** while in Yerwada Central Jail.

Literary Works

- **Composed Abhanga Poetry:** a Marathi genre of literature which fused **folk stories with spiritual themes.**
- **Songs devoted to:** Vithoba or Vitthala, an avatar of Hindu god Vishnu.
- **Composed Tukaram Gatha:** Marathi language compilation of his works (popular as Abhanga Gatha).

Social Reforms

- **Denied caste hierarchy** and opposed rituals
- Helped **extend Varkari tradition** to pan-Indian Bhakti literature.
- Starting **Wari pilgrimage.**

About Varkari

- Varkari can be referred to an **individual or group** who undertakes a **pilgrimage to the temple of Lord Vithoba or Vitthala in the town of Pandharpur**, Maharashtra
- The journey to Pandharpur commences **from various cities and towns** in Maharashtra.
    - Towns and cities include **Jalgaon, Paithan, Daulatabad, Alandi, Dehu**, and many more.
    - Each city or town is **associated with one or more saints of the bhakti movement** in Maharashtra such as **Muktabai, Eknath, Janardanswami, Jnanesvar, and Tukaram.**

About Sant Tukaram Maharaj - Gatha Temple

- It is situated in **Dehu village, near Pune.**
- It is made up of **white marbles.**
- Located on the **bank of Indrayani river** near old temple of the Sant Tukaram Maharaj.

4.4. LACHIT BARPHUKAN

Why in News?

A three-day long celebration of 400th birth anniversary of **Ahom General Lachit Barphukan** held in New Delhi.

Lachit Barphukan

About

- 17th-century **commander of Ahom forces.**
- Chosen as **one of the five Borphukans** by Ahom king Charadhwaj Singha.

Other Key information

- **Battle of Saraighat (1671):** He defeated Mughals
- **Remains:** At Lachit Maidaam, built(1672) by Swargadeo Udayaditya Singha.

Ahom dynasty

Founder: Chao Lung Siu-ka-Pha

13th to 19th Century AD

Prominent rulers	• **Chao Lung Siu-Ka-Pha:** He was a Shan prince of Mong Mao who came to Assam from Myanmar. • **Sudangpha:** Adopted Hinduism during his reign.
Major cities	• **Charaideo** (east of Guwahati) **was the first capital.** • **Later capital cities:** Charagua ,Garhgaon, Rangpur, Jorhat etc. • Blend of distinct architecture style.
Culture	• Pioneers in **rearing Muga worms** and wearing dresses made of yarns spun out of Muga cocoons. • **Poets and scholars were given land grants** and theatre was encouraged. • **Buranjis,** chronicles written in a prose tradition. • Built **elaborate maidams** (burial tombs). • Built **magnificient temples like at Shivdhol, Devidol** and Vishnudol.
Language	• Ahom or **Tai-Ahom language.** • **Later shifted to Assamese.** • Important **works of Sanskrit** translated **into local language.**
Administration	• Ahom **king was known as Swargadeo.** • **Council of ministers** was referred **as patra mantris.** • **Borbarua** (military and judicial head) **and Borphukan** (military and civil) were important officers. • They **replaced the older political system of the bhuiyans** (landlords). • Ahom Army consisted of infantry, navy, artillery, elephantry, cavalry and spies. • Ahom soldiers were **expert in guerrilla fighting.**
Social-religious conditions	• Society was **divided into clans or khels.** A khel often controlled several villages. • Several **elements from the Hinduism** such as Varna system **was adopted.** • In beginning, they **worshiped tribal gods.** • They **adopted Hinduism,** during the reign of Sudangpha.

Ahom rule **came to end with the annexation of Assam by British in 1826** (Treaty of Yandaboo)

PT 365 - Culture

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4.5. RAJA RAM MOHAN ROY: FATHER OF INDIAN RENAISSANCE

Why in news?

Recently, India celebrated the 250th birth anniversary of Raja Ram Mohan Roy.

Various designations to Raja Ram Mohan Roy

- The **title 'Raja'** was bestowed upon him by the Mughal emperor **Akbar II, in 1831.**
- **Gopal Krishna Gokhale** called him **the 'Father of Modern India'.**
- **Rabindranath Tagore** called him a **'Bharatpathik'**.

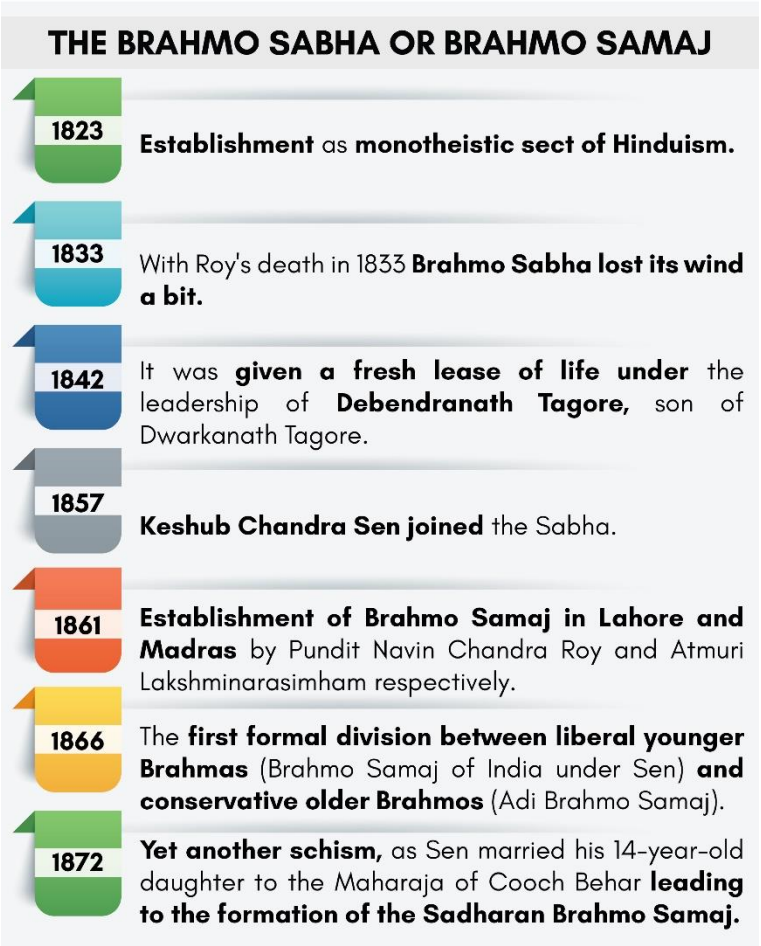
Personal life

Birth: He was born on May 22, 1772 to Ramakanta Roy and Tarini Devi in Radhanagar village of Hoogly district, Bengal Presidency.

- **Education:** Along with the modern education, he also studied **Vedas, the Upanishads, Kalpa Sutra and other Jain texts** and the **Tantric works** with the aid of Hariharananda Tirthaswami and religious texts of **Islam and Christianity**.
  - **Polyglot:** He knew Bengali, Persian, Arabic, Sanskrit, and English.
- **Career:** Entered East India Company as a **clerk** and later on was **promoted to the post of Deewan.**
- **Death:** He died of **meningitis in 1833** while residing in Bristol, England.

Some of his important contributions are as follows-

- **Bengal Sati Regulation, 1829:** Passed under Governor General William Bentinck, regulation banned the practice of Sati.
- **Equal rights to women:** He opposed child marriage and polygamy, while demanding equal inheritance rights for women.
- **Educational Reforms**: He campaigned for the modernisation of education, in particular the introduction of a Western curriculum. In this spirit, he **opposed establishment of the Sanskrit College.** Important educational institutions established by him include:
  - **Hindu College in 1817** in collaboration with Scottish philanthropist David Hare. Later, this came to be known as **Presidency University.**
  - **Anglo-Vedic School in 1822.**
  - **Vedanta College in 1826.**
  - **The General Assembly's Institution in 1830** in collaboration with Alexander Duff. Later, this came to be known as **Scottish Church College.**



- **Religious Contributions:**
  - **Hindu reformer:** Gave a Unitarian reaction to the Hindu Shastras from the Vedanta and the Mahanirvana Tantra. He established:
    - ✓ **Atmiya Sabha (Society of Friends), 1814:** It was established to nurture philosophical discussions on the idea of monotheism in Vedanta and to campaign against idolatry, casteism, child marriage and other social ills.
    - ✓ **Brahmo Sabha, 1828:** It was setup with Debendranath Tagore, Rabindranath Tagore's father. It is also known as Brahmo Samaj.
  - **Muslim defender:** He wrote the **'Tuhfat-Ul-Muwahhiddin'** (1803) and the **'Monozeautul Adiyan',** which were polemical (piece of writing or a speech in which a person strongly attacks or defends a particular opinion) works.

- **Christianity**: He gave a **Unitarian version of the entire body of scriptures,** old and new, in his controversies with the Christian Missionaries.

- **Freedom of the press:** He petitioned the British for freedom of the press in 1829 and 1830. He published:
  - **'Sambad Kaumudi' (Moon of Intelligence):** Founded in the year 1821, this Bengali weekly was **the first newspaper in an Indian language.**
  - **'Miratul- Akhbar' (Mirror of News):** Founded in the year 1822, it was **India's first Persian newspaper**. Roy was also the first editor of this newspaper.
    - ✓ It was **published on a weekly basis** on Fridays.
    - ✓ In 1823, it was **stopped from publication** under the Licensing Regulations for Press.
- **Economic reforms:** Exposed British for economic exploitation of India, voiced for poor peasants, rise in stipend to Mughal emperor.
- **Political reforms**: He publicly, never demanded independence for India, but still, fought for the civil rights of the Indians and opposed the racial superiority of Europeans.

4.6. SRI AUROBINDO

Why in News?

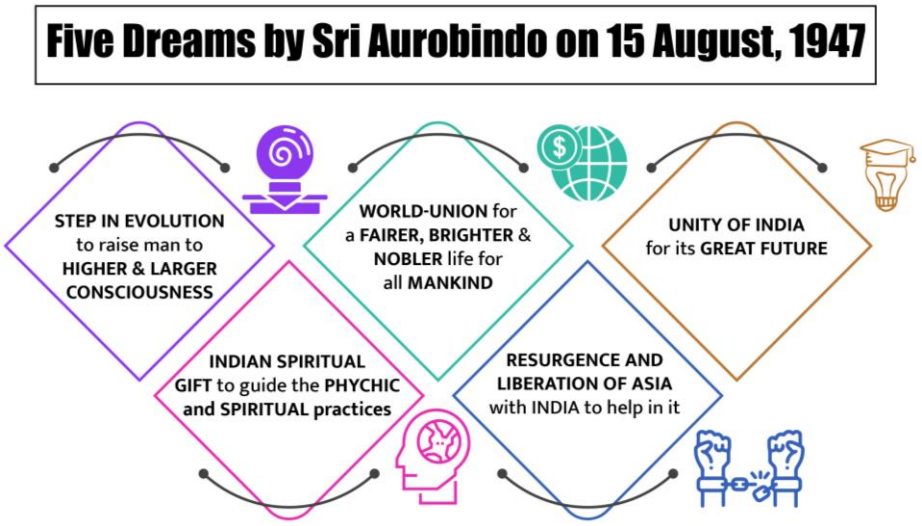
India recently celebrated the 150th birth anniversary of Sri Aurobindo Ghosh.

About Sri Aurobindo

- Was a **20th century Bengali poet, philosopher, spiritual leader** and a **revolutionary freedom fighter.**
- Born in **Calcutta** on **15 August 1872** as **Aurobindo Ghose**, he received his early education from a convent school in **Darjeeling.**
- He **studied at St. Paul's School London (1884)** and **King's College in Cambridge** in **1890.** Also, he scored 11th rank in the **ICS examination** but didn't clear the probation.
- He was among the **first leaders to demand a mass-based movement for India's independence.**

Sri Aurobindo's contributions

- **Political Contributions:**
  - He helped in establishing **Anushilan Samiti in 1902.**
  - He was a part of the **Alipore Conspiracy case in 1908.**
  - During the **Surat session of INC in 1907, he joined the extremist group led by Bal Gangadhar Tilak against the moderates.**
- **Spiritual Contributions**
  - In **1914,** he started a **magazine "Arya"** which led to the founding of **Sri Aurobindo Ashram in 1926** with **Mirra Alfassa.**
    - ✓ **Mirra Alfassa** founded the **Auroville,** i.e., the city of dawn, a universal town for a peaceful, progressive, and harmonious existence.



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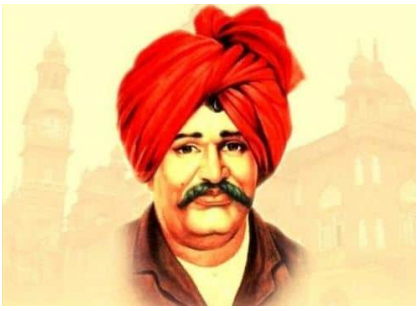
- He developed the concept of **"Integral Yoga"** through which he believed human beings can achieve true self-realization.

- **Literary contributions:**
  - **'New Lamps for Old',** articles written by him in **InduPrakash from 1893-94, criticizing moderate politics of Congress.**
  - **Started Bande Mataram** (English Daily), **Karmayogin** (English newspaper) **and Dharma** (Bengali Weekly).
  - Wrote articles in **Jugantar Patrika** (Bengali revolutionary newspaper) **to inspire revolutionaries and the Bhawani Mandir, a pamphlet published by the Anushilan Samiti.**
  - He had studied the scriptures and **translated texts ranging from the Ramayana, the Mahabharata, and the Upanishads to Kalidasa, Bhavabhuti and Bharatthari.**
  - **Other Books** include compilation as poems, letters and essays such as **Essays on the Gita** (1922), **Collected Poems and Plays** (1942), **The Synthesis of Yoga** (1948), **The Human Cycle** (1949), **The Ideal of Human Unity** (1949), **Savitri: A Legend and a Symbol** (1950), etc.
- He argued that **caste-based discrimination was external, and it furthered social degradation.**
- He was influenced by **teachings of Sri Ramanujacharya,** inspired by the **neo Vedantic philosophy of Swami Vivekananda and** was a firm believer of **Sanatan Dharma.**

4.7. CHHATRAPATI SHAHU MAHARAJ

Why in news?



The death centenary (May 6th, 1922) of legendary king Shahu Maharaj was observed by the State of Maharashtra.

About Shahu Maharaj

- **Born in Kolhapur District**. He was a **descendant of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj**, the founder of the modern Maratha Empire.
- Originally named **Yashwantrao Ghatge**, he was **adopted into the Bhonsale dynasty** and became the ruler of Kolhapur in 1894.
- **Major Events associated with Shahu Maharaj**
  - **Vedokta controversy:** 'Vedokta' refers to Vedic religious rites which are supposedly the right of all the twice-born castes, as opposed to the 'Puranokta' (from the Puranas) rites which all Shudras were entitled to perform.
    - ✓ In 1899, **Shahu maharaj staked his claim to Vedokta**. His **royal priest, however, refused to oblige** him since Shahu maharaj, in his view, was a Shudra.
  - **Association with Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:**
    - ✓ He **provided financial support** to Ambedkar to complete his study.
    - ✓ In 1920, together they **organised a conference** where Shahu maharaj **declared Dr. Ambedkar "the true leader of the oppressed classes in India".**
    - ✓ He also financed **Dr Ambedkar's newspaper 'Mooknayak** (Leader of the Dumb)'.

His key contributions in making of the modern India:

- **Education:** Established **Miss Clarke Boarding School**, initiated a **compulsory free primary education for all** in his state, established **Vedic Schools etc**.
- **Social reforms:** He **legalised widow remarriage** in Kolhapur, legalised Inter-caste and Inter-religion Marriage. He also passed the **Law for Prevention of Cruelty against Women** and the Manifesto against Observance of Untouchability.
  - Shahuji was **influenced by the works of Jyotiba Phule** and patronised his **Satya Shodhak Samaj**. In his later life, he **moved towards the Arya Samaj**.
  - Shahu Maharaj **reserved 50% of the posts** in the state's services, for the backward classes.
- **Political reform:** He established the **Deccan Rayat Association** in Nipani during 1916. The association sought to secure **political rights for non-Brahmins** and invited their equal participation in politics.
- **Economic reforms:** He introduced several projects like spinning and weaving mill, dedicated marketplaces, establishment of co-operative societies for farmers, and established the King Edward Agricultural Institute. He **initiated the Radhanagari Dam** in 1907 (the project was completed in 1935).

- **Freedom Fight:** On Bal Gangadhar Tilak's suggestion, he helped the Shivaji Club, who undertook revolutionary activities, with money and weapons.

4.8. ALLURI SITARAMA RAJU

Why in news?

PM launched year-long **125th birth anniversary** celebration of legendary freedom fighter **Alluri Sitarama Raju in Bhimavaram, Andhra Pradesh** by unveiling his bronze statute.

Alluri Sitarama Raju

About

- **Born:** In Mogallu, a west Godavari district of Madras Presidency.
- **Emerged as a holy man** who supposedly had messianic powers.
- **Also referred to as 'Manyam Veerudu'** – hero of forests.

Other Key information

- **Played significant role** during **Rampa rebellion.**
- **Was a Revolutionary:** Member of a Calcutta Secret Society, attended a meeting of revolutionaries in Chittagong.
- **Spreading Non-cooperation movement** in the hill region (Rampa and Gudem)
- **Brilliant tactician** who studied geographical contours.
- **Engaged in guerrilla warfare** with British.

About Rampa Rebellion (August 1922 – May 1924)

- The Rampa Revolt, also referred to as the **Manyam Uprising**, was a tribal rebellion.
- **Factors that led to the revolt**
  - **The Muttadars** who were the **actual rulers** of the region had their socio-economic status **challenged** as they were **forcefully brought under the colonial structure.**
  - The sudden declaration **of Podu cultivation** (shifting cultivation) **as illegal** under the new colonial regime.
  - The colonial **government usurped the rights of the local people** to **collect Minor Forest Produce.**
  - The tribals were forcefully engaged **in Vetti, that is, free or unpaid labour**.
- **Alluri Sitarama Raju** told them that they were the sole owners of the forest produce and **prepared them to fight** against the oppressive Madras Forest Act, 1882.

Related Information
Komaram Bheem

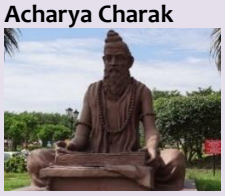
- He was a **Gond tribal leader from Telangana.**
- He was **inspired by Alluri Seetha Rama Raju and Birsa Munda.**
- **Gave slogan of Jal,Jangal, Jameen** (water, forest land) to fight for tribal freedom and rights.
- He **formed a guerrilla army** with young men of Gondu and Koya **to fight against Nizams.**

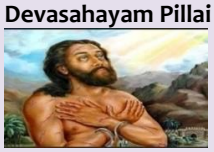
Course of the movement

- He **launched attacks on police stations** to snatch modern weapons to fight against the heavily armed the British forces.
  - The first of **such attacks was made on Chintapalli police station** in Visakhapatnam Agency area.
- All the attacks were **concluded by a trademark letter** signed by Raju himself.
- Another hallmark of his attacks was that he would **announce the date and time of the attack.**
- Rama Raju was **martyred on May 7, 1924.**

DELHI | JAIPUR | PUNE | HYDERABAD | AHMEDABAD | LUCKNOW | CHANDIGARH | GUWAHATI | RANCHI | ALLAHABAD | BHOPAL © Vision IAS

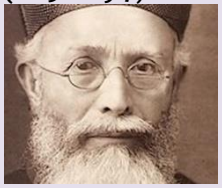
4.9. OTHER IMPORTANT PERSONALITIES IN NEWS

Acharya Charak
 
	• **National Medical Commission** has recommended a **modified Maharishi Charak Shapath** for candidates on introduction to medical education.
	• **Acharya Charak,** also known as **Pranacharya Charak**, was born in **Kashmir** and remembered as **Father of Indian Medicine.**
	• He was an Ayurvedic practitioner and **considered to be a court physician of King Kanishka.**
	  ○ **Other scholars** who resided in Kanishka's court **included Vasumitra, Asvaghosa, Nagarjun, Parsva etc**
	• He is believed to have written **Charaka Samhita**, a **Sanskrit text** on **Ayurveda** dealing with basic physiological and anatomical details of humans, **Tridosha** (vata, pitta and kapha), etc.
	  ○ **Charaka Samhita** is dedicated to **Maharshi Bharadwaja**, as it traces its root to **Atharva Veda** with verses from Maharshi Bharadwaja to treat various ailments.
	  ○ **Agnivesha Samhita** (by **Rishi Agnivesha**) on Ayurveda is **also mentioned in Charaka Samhita.**

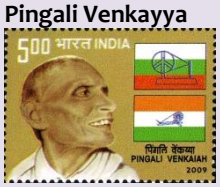
Devasahayam Pillai 	• Devasahayam Pillai (Blessed Lazarus) has been **granted sainthood** by the Vatican Roman-Catholic church. ○ He is the **first Indian layman to be declared a saint** by the Vatican. • **Devasahayam was born** on April 23, 1712 **in Nattalam village in Kanyakumari district** (Tamil Nadu)**.** • He went on to **serve in the court of Marthanda Varma** of Travancore. • **He became a Catholic in 1745,** a few years after meeting a captain from Dutch East India Company while serving the royal house of Travancore. • He was **baptised in 1745,** and assumed the name **'Lazarus', meaning 'God is my help'.**

Chhatrapati Sambhaji
 	
	• Maharashtra Government gave its **approval to rename Aurangabad and Osmanabad cities as Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar and Dharashiv**, respectively.
	  ○ **Aurangabad, originally called Khadki**, was built-in 1610 by **Malik Ambar**.
	  ○ It was later **renamed Aurangabad after it became the headquarters of Aurangzeb** during his rule over the Deccan.
	• **Sambhaji** was the **eldest son of Chhatrapati Shivaji** (founder of Maratha Empire) and the **second ruler** of Maratha Empire after his father's death.
	  ○ He is **remembered for sacrificing his life to protect his people and beliefs.**
	• **Books written by Sambhaji:** Sanskrit treatise Budhabhushan-Rajneeti, Nayikabhed, Nakhshikha, Satshatak.
	  ○ He wrote these books in **Braj language.**

Dara Shikoh 	• **Vice-President released** the Arabic Version of **Majma Ul-Bahrain of Dara Shikoh.** ○ Majma-ul-Bahrain (which means 'Confluence of Two Oceans') throws **light on the similarities between Hinduism (Vedanta) and Islam (Sufism).** • He was **eldest son of Shah Jahan** and was **executed after losing the war of succession** against his brother Aurangzeb. • He is **described as a "liberal Muslim"** and showed keen **interest in Sufi mysticism** and was **initiated** into the **Kadiri order of Sufis** by his pir (spiritual guide), Mulla Shah. • He **translated into Persian the Bhagavad Gita as well as 52 Upanishads**, which were earlier known only to a few upper caste Hindus. • **Other Famous works:** Safinat-ul-Awliya, Risala-i-hak Numa, Shathiyat or Hasanat-ul-Arifin and Iksir-i-Azam, Jug Bashist and Tarjuma-i-Akwal-i-Wasili.

Dadabhai Naoroji (1825 to 1917)
 
	• 2022 marks **130th anniversary of election, in 1892**, in which Dadabhai Naoroji became **first person of Indian origin** to be elected **to British House of Commons**.
	• **Key Achievements**
	  ○ Proponent of the **'drain theory'**, building up a **detailed economic critique** of British imperialism in India.
	  ○ Active member of the **Bombay Association (1852)**, the **first association in the western India** to consider political issues.
	  ○ Founded **East Indian Association** (1867) and One of the founders of the **Indian National Congress** (1885).
	  ○ **Founder-editor** of the journal **Rast Goftar.**
	  ○ **Major works:** Poverty of India, Poverty and Un-British Rule in India etc.

Uda Devi	• On November 16, **events to commemorate the martyrdom of Uda Devi** were held at various places in Uttar Pradesh.

	• Uda Devi was a **Dalit freedom fighter in the Indian Rebellion of 1857**. She was born in a small village in Awadh, Uttar Pradesh. • She was **part of the royal guard of Begum Hazrat Mahal of Awadh**. • She was **Known for her courageous battle** in Lucknow termed as **Battle in Sikandar Bagh.**
Pingali Venkayya 	• Nation paid homage to **Pingali Venkayya**, the **architect of India's National Flag**. • Born in **Krishna District** of **Andhra Pradesh**, he was a freedom fighter and a **Gandhian** who went on to become synonymous with the spirit of free and independent India. • He **designed the new flag for the National Congress Meeting** in **1921**. It was officially **adopted** by the Indian National Congress (INC) **in 1931**. • It served as the **template** on which the present **National Flag** evolved.
Braj Basi Lal (BB Lal) 	• Veteran archaeologist B. B. Lal passed away. • **Key achievements** o He worked extensively on **sites associated with Harappan civilisation and epic Mahabharata** and **discovered number of Painted Grey Ware sites** in Indo-Gangetic divide and upper Yamuna-Ganga Doab o **Served as director general of Archaeological Survey of India** (ASI) from 1968 to 1972 and served on several UNESCO committees. o **Founded temple-like pillars during excavation at Ayodhya site** in mid-70s, where Ram temple is now being built. o **Awarded Padma Bhushan** in 2000 and **Padma Vibhushan in 2021.** o **Famous books:** Saraswati flows on: The continuity of Indian culture and Rama, his historicity, Mandir and Setu: Evidence of Literature, Archaeology and other Sciences etc.

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5. BUDDHISM AND JAINISM

ABOUT BUDDHISM

Founded By: Gautam Buddha (born as Siddhartha Gautama)

Born in 563 BC in Sakya Kshatriya family

Left family at age of 29 and later **achieved enlightenment** (nirvana) **under a pipal tree**

- **Famous sites linked to Buddha**
- **Lumbini** (Birthplace)
- **Bodh Gaya** (Enlightenment)
- **Sarnath** (First Sermon)
- **Kushinagar** (Death place)

DOCTRINE OF BUDDHISM

Core of Buddha doctrine is expressed through **Four Noble Truths**

Eight Fold path, also called middle path, recommended by Buddha **for elimination of human misery**

- Rather than believingin God, Buddhism focuses on **moral progress independent of God**
- Accepts **theory oftransmigration** but not exactly transmigration of soul

IMPORTANT SECTS IN BUDDHISM

Hinayana Buddhism

- Means **lesser vehicle**
- More of an **orthodox school**
- **Did not believe in idol or image** worship
- **Pali language** is used

Mahayana Buddhism

- Means **greater vehicle**
- It is **more liberal**
- Believes in **heavenliness of Buddha and Bodhisattvas**
- **Believes in idol** or image worship
- **Sanskrit** is used

Theravada Buddhism

- **Sub-sect of Hinayana**
- Goal is **cessation of kleshas** and **attainment of Nirvana**
- Believes in **vibhajjavada** i.e. teaching of analysis
- **Pali** language is used

Vajrayana (Tantric Buddhism)

- **Sub-sect of Mahayana**
- **Combined Brahmanical** (Veda based) **rituals with Buddhist philosophies.**
- **Main deity:** ara.
- **Classical Tibetan language** used

BUDDHIST COUNCILS

S.No	Location	Royal Potronage	President	Important Remarks
1	Rajgriha	Ajatshatru	Mahakasyapa	Vinaya pitaka and sutta pitaka were recited.
2	Vaishali	Kalasoka	Sabakami	First split in buddhism with the split in Mahasanghikas and sthaviravadinis over rules of monastic discipline.
3	Pataliputra	Ashoka	Moggaliputra Tissa	Abhidhamma pitaka was codified
4	Kashmir	Kanishka	Vasumitra	Division between Hinayana & Mahayana sects.

BUDDHIST LITERARY TEXTS

Sutta Pitaka

It is a collection of sermons of the Buddha

It is an extensivebody of texts consituting the basic doctrinal sectionof the buddhist canon.

Vinaya Pitaka

It contains the rules of monastic life for monks and nuns

It is the book of discipline.

Abhidhamma Pitaka

It contains interpretations and analyses of buddhist concept.

It contains 7 works which mainly deal with the philosophy & doctrine of buddism.

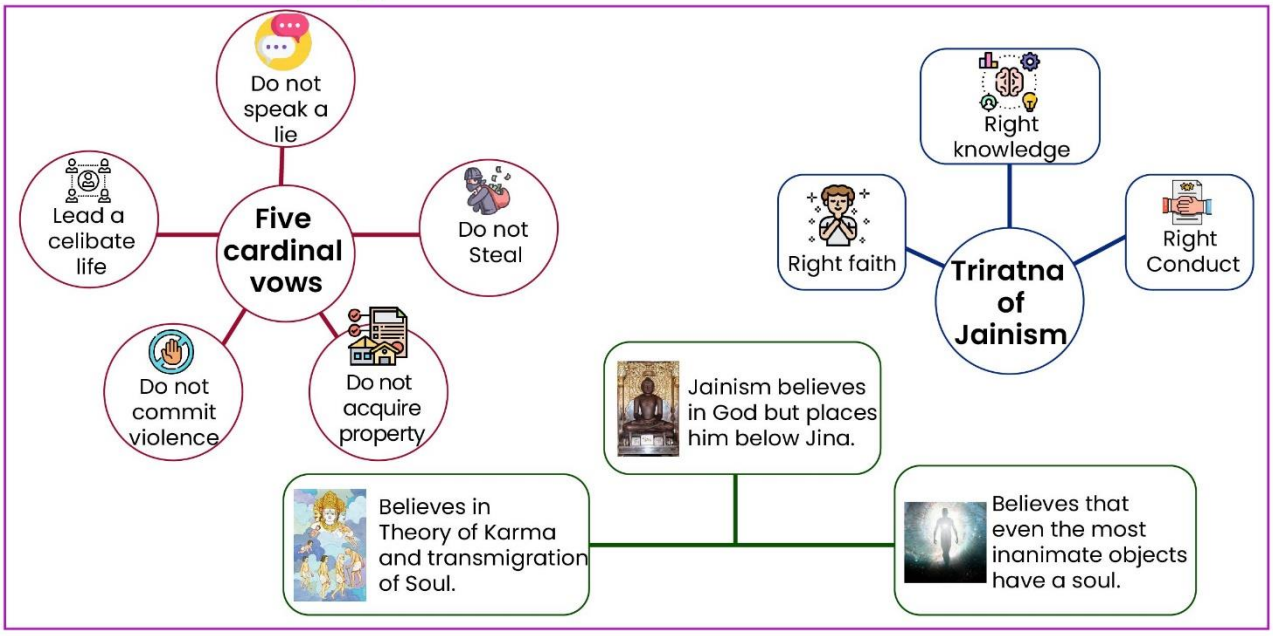
ABOUT JAINISM

Originated around **Rig Vedic Age**	**Founded by a lineage of** 24 Great Teachers known as **Tirthankaras**	**First tirthankara was Rishabdeva,** 23rd was Parsvanath and 24th was Vardhmana Mahavira.	**Sects in Jainism** Svetambara and Digambara

VARDHMANA MAHAVIRA

Born in 540 BC at Vaishali (in present day North Bihar)	**His father Siddhartha was chief of the Jnatri clan,** his **mother Trishala was a Lichchhavi princess**	Abandoned household at the age of 30 and **attained Kavalya** or perfect knowledge **at age of 42**	**Propagated religion** through **Kosala, Magadha, Mithila, Champa** etc.	**Passed away** at age of 72 **at Pavapuri** (near present day Rajgir)

DOCTRINE OF JAINISM



FAMOUS COUNCILS

S.No	Year	Location	President	Remarks
1	300 BC	Pataliputra	Sthulabhadra	Compilation of Mahavira's teachings into 12 Angas
2	512 AD	Vallabhi	Devridhigani	Systematic coding of Mahavira's teachings into 11 angas as the 12th was lost by that time.

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5.1. ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS IN BANDHAVGARH FOREST RESERVE

Why in News?

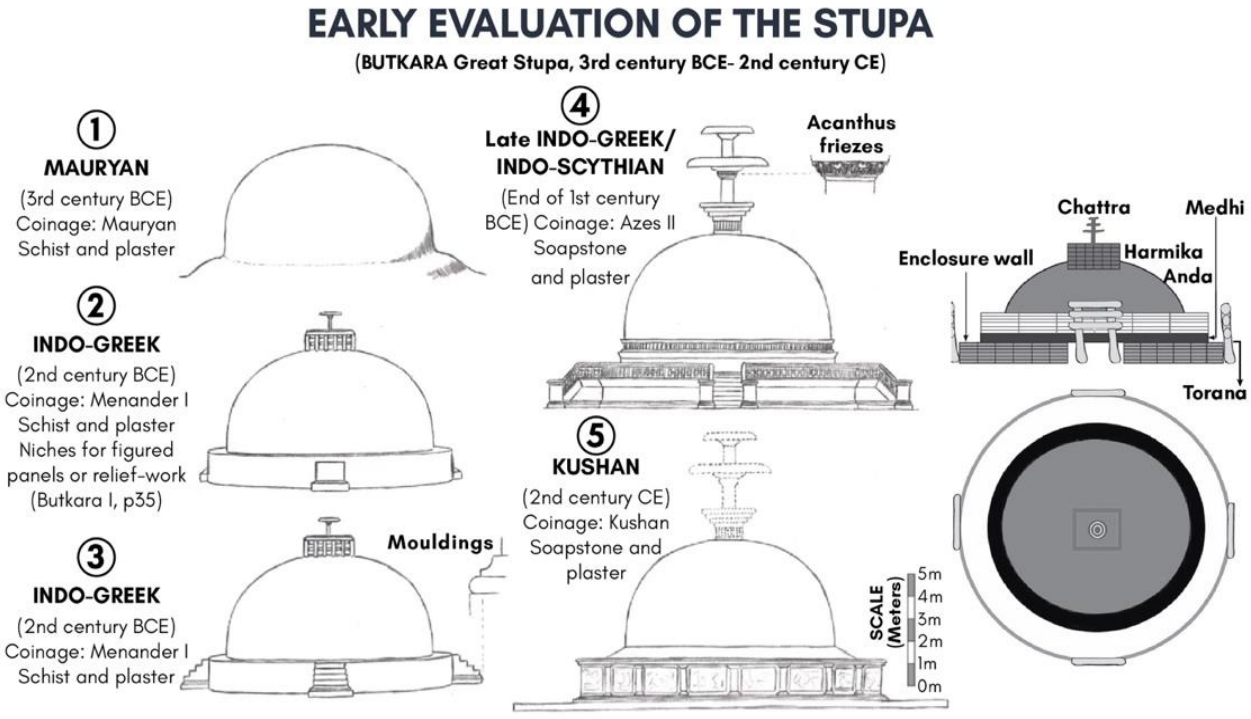
Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) unravelled archaeological remains in Bandhavgarh Forest Reserve.

More on News

- An archaeological site was discovered for **first time in Bandhavgarh in 1938.**
  - **It is located between Vindhyan and Satpura ranges** of Madhya Pradesh.
- Name of cities located suggest that **there might have been trading ties** and people from other cities may have donated something.

Key findings

Specifications	Detail
Buddhism	• **26 Buddhist caves and stupas**: Caves had **'Chaitya' (rounded) doors and stone beds** typical of **Mahayana Buddhism sites**. • **A Votive stupa and Buddhist pillar fragment** containing miniature stupas carving, which roughly date back to **2nd-3rd century AD**.
Hinduism	• Remains of **26 temples dated to Kalachuri period (9th-11th centuries CE).** In addition to this, **two Saiva mutts** have been documented. ○ Kalachuri dynasty was spread over parts of **Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh**, and it is also **associated with earliest Ellora and Elephanta cave monuments**. • Among 46 sculptures**, Varah sculpture (incarnations of Lord Vishnu)**- possibly **world's largest**- from 2nd - 15th century CE.
Inscriptions	• 24 inscriptions in **Brahmi text of 2nd-5th centuries CE**. ○ They **mention cities** including **Mathura, Kaushambi, Pavata, Vejabharada, Sapatanaairikaa** and **kings** including **Bhimsena, Pothasiri and Bhattadeva.** • Inscriptions are also in **Nagari and Shankhalipi**.
Other findings	• **Coins** belonging to **Mughal-era and Sharqi dynasty** of Jaunpur Sultanate • **Gupta period remains** such as **door jambs and carvings in caves from 4th-5th century CE;** 19 waterbodies from 2nd- 15th CE.



About Buddhist Caves and Stupas

- The earliest rock-cut caves in India are attributed to the **Mauryan period, mainly to Ashoka (273-232 BC).** Caves in this period were generally **used as viharas,** i.e. living quarters, by the Jain and Buddhist monks**.**
  - Significant Buddhist caves **include karla and bhaja rock cut caves, near lonavala, Ajanta and Ellora caves, Bagh caves.**
- **Stupa,** Sanskrit for heap, **is a mound-like** (hemispherical) **burial structure** containing **relics of Buddhist monks.**
  - E.g., **Sanchi Stupa** built over Buddha relics.
- **Architectural features of Stupa** (refer image)
  - A **hemispherical mound** or **anda's shaped dome**
  - **A square railing or harmika**
  - **Central pillar supporting a triple-umbrella form (*chattra*),** representing three jewels of Buddhism**.**
  - Enclosure wall with **decorated gateways** (***toranas***) at cardinal directions.
  - **A circular terrace (*medhi*) for** ritual circumambulation.

5.2. OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

Lumbini	• **Prime Minister visited Lumbini** to boost India- Nepal ties.
	  ○ Both nations agreed in principle to **establish sister city relations between Lumbini (birthplace of Lord Buddha) and Kushinagar (death place of Lord Buddha).**
	• **Significance of Lumbini**
	  ○ It is **a UNESCO World Heritage site.**
	  ○ **Archaeological remains of Buddhist viharas** (monasteries) **and stupas** (memorial shrines) from 3rd century BC to 15th century AD.
	  ○ **Other structures** include **Shakya Tank; remains within Maya Devi Temple** consisting of brick structures in a cross-wall system and **sandstone Ashoka pillar** with its Pali inscription in Brahmi script.

Ancient Buddhist site finally in focus after 20 years	• Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) **plans to conserve an ancient Buddhist site near Kanaganahalli** (forming part of Sannati site) in Karnataka.
	• Sannati is a **small village situated on banks of Bhima River**.
	  ○ It is famous for **discovery of a Buddhist Mahastupa** (referred to as Adholoka Maha Chaitya) and **stone-portrait of Emperor Ashoka.**
	• Stupa is believed to have been **developed in three constructional phases** – Maurya, Early Satavahana and Later Satavahana period (3rd Century B.C. to 3rd Century A.D).
	  ○ Stone-portrait is considered the **only surviving image of Ashoka with inscription 'Raya Asoko' in Brahmi on it.**

Kanheri caves	• **Ministryof Tourism** inaugurated **public amenities at Kanheri Caves**.
	• Kanheri Caves were created by **Buddhist monks** between **2nd and 9th centuries AD.**
	  ○ Located within forests of Sanjay Gandhi National Park at **Borivali in Mumbai, Maharashtra,** they are **collection of rock cut monuments**.
	  ○ **Kanheri is derived from Sanskrit word 'Krishnagiri'**, which literally means 'black mountain'.
	• These have **artistic evidence of all the three vehicles of Buddhism:** Hinayana, Mahayana, Vajrayana.
	  ○ Kanheri flourished under the **patronage of Satavahana, Traikutakas, Vakatakas and Silaharas.**
	  ○ **Earliest reference** of Kanheri is ascribed to **Fa-Hein.**

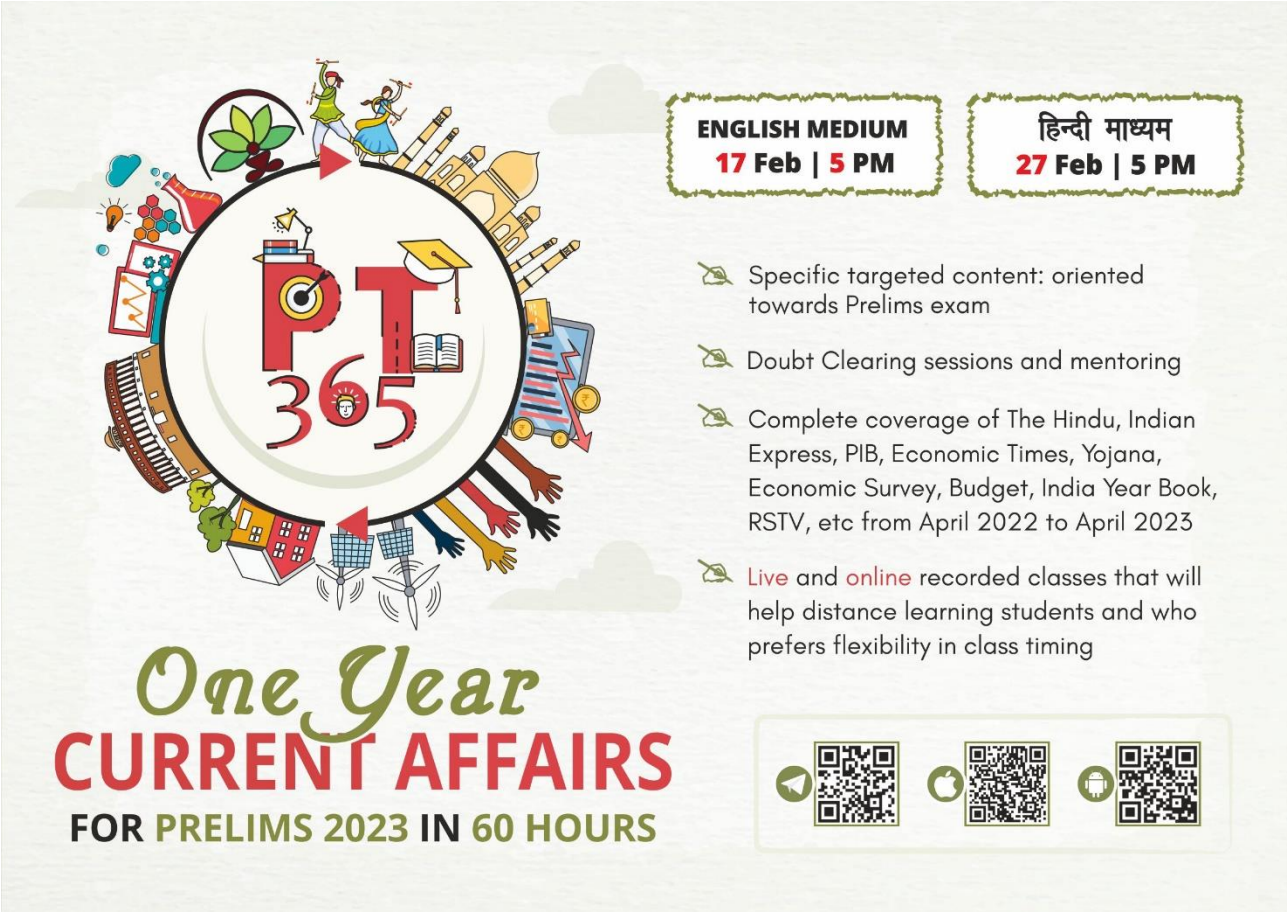
Sittanavasal	• Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has recently undertaken **conservation measures at Sittanavasal**.
	• Sittanavasal or Chithannavasal is a **Jain heritage site in Tamil Nadu**.
	• **It is a hillock housing:**
	  ○ A **second century Rock cave temple** of **Arivar Kovil** (temple of **Arihats,** i.e. Jain Monks who conquered their senses) with **Mahavir statue, meditation hall** and **Pandya paintings.**
	  ✓ It uses **fresco-secco technique-** a process that dispenses with preparation of the wall with wet plaster).
	  ○ **17 polished rock beds**- collectively known as **Ezhadipattam,**
	  ○ **Burial pots,** known as **Muthumakkal Thazhi,** to bury the Jain monks after death.

Nyingma sect of Buddhism	• Buddhist Nyingma sect has found the **'reincarnation' of late Taklung Rinpoche**, a scholar known for his knowledge of Tibetan Tantric school.

 © Vision IAS

	• **About the sect**
	  ○ It has the **longest establishment history** of transmitting all the four major traditions of Tibetan Buddhism.
	  ○ Nyingma **literary means "Old Order".**
	  ○ The Other three main Tibetan Buddhism schools, **Sakya, Kagyu, and Gelug, collectively refer to New Order (Sarma).**
	  ○ The most important teacher in the Nyingmapa tradition is **Padmasambhava.**

Paryushan Parv	• It is an **important Jain festival** taking place in the middle of the rainy season, when the **Jain monks and nuns cease travelling and stay with a community and are available to them for instruction and guidance.** ○ Paryushan means **'abiding'** or **'coming together'**. • It concludes with a **time of confession and forgiveness for the transgressions** of the previous year.
Aparigraha	• It is **Jainism principle of non-possessiveness** that focuses on creating a balance between desires and needs and detachment from your own possessions. • It is also one of the yamas, or codes of ethical behavior**, listed in Patanjali's Eight Limbs of Yoga.**

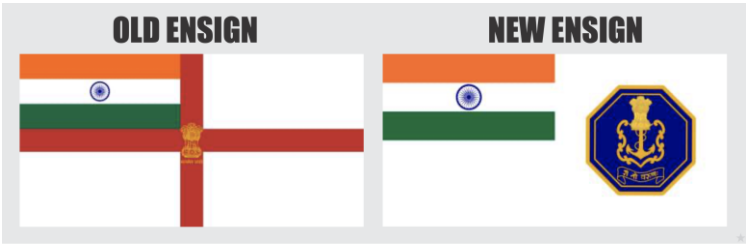


6. MISCELLANEOUS

6.1. NAVAL TRADITIONS IN INDIA

Why in news?

Recently the new naval ensign (flag) was unveiled by Prime Minister during the commissioning of INS Vikrant.

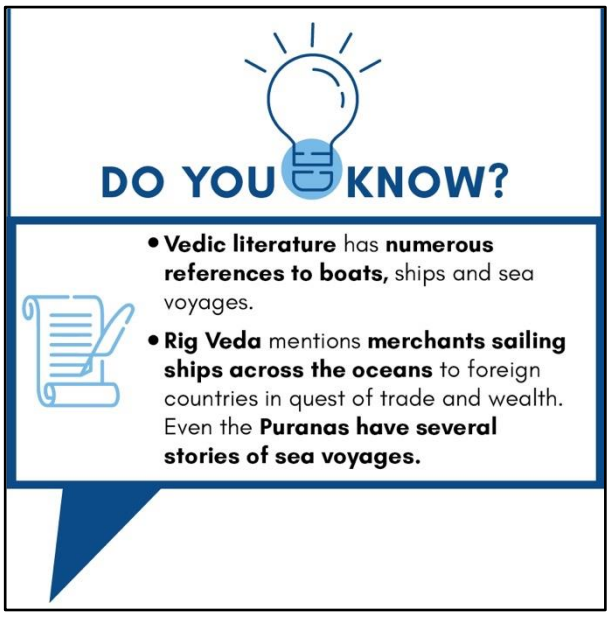


More on News

- **Naval Ensigns** are **flags that naval ships** or formations **bear to denote nationality.**
- **Old naval ensign carried the Saint George's Cross** with the Tricolour in the canton (top left corner of flag).
  - **Naval ensign was also changed** in 1950, 2001, 2004, 2014.
- New naval ensign bears the **seal of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.**
- Tricolour is placed on the upper canton (top left) of the flag, and on the right a **blue octagonal shape that encompasses the national emblem sits atop an anchor, which depicts steadfastness.**
  - The octagonal shape has been designed to **represent eight directions, symbolising the multi-directional reach and multi-dimensional operational capability of the Indian Navy.**
  - **Twin golden borders** surrounding it are said to draw **inspiration from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.**

Role played by the Navy

- **Creating trade routes:** IVC's maritime trade route with Mesopotamia, Gupta empire trade routes with West Asia etc.
- **Establishing external links:** Mauryan empire relationship with Sri Lanka, Egypt etc. (the route of propagation of Buddhism).
- **Protecting the sea border:** Although limited, the naval war fighting capabilities existed especially in Maurya, Chola and Maratha dynasties.
- **Scientific exchanges:** For example, the knowledge of the monsoon winds was also developed during sea voyages.



Evolution of Indian Navy

- **Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC)**
  - World's **first tidal dock** is believed to have been **built at Lothal around 2300 BC** during the Harappan Civilisation, near the present day Mangrol harbour on the Gujarat coast.
  - Inhabitants of IVC had **maritime trade link with Mesopotamia.**
- **Mauryan Dynasty**
  - **Extensive maritime trading activities** that paved the way for Indian immigration to Indonesia and other surrounding islands.
  - **Megasthenes** has described the presence of a **special group** that looked after different aspects of **naval warfighting.**
  - **Arthashastra**, written by Chanayaka, has details of the **department of waterways under a Navadhyaksha** (Superintendent of the ships).

Chola period

- **Extensive sea trade existed and new harbours** with quarters, warehouses, and workshops where established.
- **Ship repair yards, wharfs and light houses** were also built.
- **Naval supremacy** of the Cholas attained its **zenith in the reign of Rajendra Chola.**

- **Satvahana Dynasty**
  - They **controlled the East coast of India,** along the Bay of Bengal and had healthy trade with the Roman Empire. Also had **contacts with various parts of Southeast Asia through the sea route.**
  - Were the **first native Indian rulers** to issue their **own coins with inscription of ships.**

- **Gupta Dynasty**
  - Chinese travelers including **Fa-Hien, Huein Tsang** etc had given accounts of the vast **overseas trade during the Gupta period.**
  - During this period, several ports in the east and west were opened which greatly revived **maritime trade with European and African countries.**
- **Southern dynasties**
  - **Cholas, Cheras and Pandyas** rulers had established strong maritime trade links with the local rulers of Sumatra, Java, Malay Peninsula, Thailand and China.
  - They **navigated through various rivers** which opened into the Arabian Sea.
  - **Cheras** had a **flourishing trade with the Greeks and the Romans.**
  - **Pandyas controlled pearl farming** that took place along the India's southern coastline.

Mughals, Marathas, Mysore, and the advent of Europeans

- **Mughal empire was largely a land-based empire.** They did not pay much attention to the affairs of the sea. This **enabled the Arabs to establish a monopoly over trade in the Indian Ocean.**
- Hearing about India, **Europeans and among them Portuguese took the lead** and were the first to arrive on Indian shores.
- **Most staunch resistance** to them was by **Mysore under Tipu Sultan** and by **Marathas under Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.**

Mysore's Naval power under Tipu Sultan

- He **built several warships** and many transport ships.
- He **created a board of admiralty** and planned a **world-class oceanic navy consisting of several battleships** and large frigates.
- There were **dockyards at Jamalabad, Wajidabad and Majidabad.**
- His **navy is believed to have been 10,000 strong**; the **French were his consultants.**

Why was Naval prowess of Marathas special?

- **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj** laid the **foundations of a modern naval force** in the 17th century.
- **A strong naval presence** along the Konkan coast to **protect the sea trade of the Maratha empire.**
  - For **more than 40 years**, the Marathas **held both the Portuguese and the British at bay.** (The Portuguese accepted his right to sea and the English company had to pay an annual tribute, to ensure the safety of their vessels.)
  - He also **protected** the western Konkan coastline from the **attacks of Siddis fleet.**
- **Major Naval events in Maratha history**
  - **1665:** Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj undertook a sea-borne naval expedition to North Canara and raided Barcelor along with Karwar, Shiveshwar, Miraj, Ankola etc.
  - **1679:** Marathas occupied the island of Khanderi, south of Bombay.
  - **1690s:** Kanhoji established the might of Maratha navy by introducing new fighting techniques, adopting the European technologies and improved artillery.
  - **1756:** The **Maratha naval supremacy came to an end** with the joint task force of the Peshwa and English against Tulaji Angre at **Vijaydurg.**

Maratha Navy

- **Organization:** The Navy was **divided into two '*Subhas*' or divisions**; every division; had five *Gurabs* and, fifteen *Galbats* (fighting ships), each division was under the command of two admirals; *Darya Sarang and Mai Nayak (Bhandari).*
- **Ships:** The Maratha ships were of two types; **fighting ships and merchant ships.** The fighting ships included *Gurabs*, and *Galbats*. The merchant ships consisted of *machuva, shibar, tarandi*and *pagar*.
- **Strength:** Maratha navy developed into a ferocious force with more than 500 ships. **Special among his warships was Sanghameshwari.** It was designed such that it could trawl through the shallows.
- **Naval Infrastructure:** Many coastal forts were built such as at Vijaydurg, Sindhudurg and others along the Konkan coast.

6.2. NATIONAL SYMBOLS OF INDIA

National Symbols

National Flag	**State Emblem** Adaptation from the Sarnath Lion Capital of Ashoka. The emblem represents **the seal of the Republic of India.**	
National Anthem Composed originally in Bengali **by Rabindranath Tagore**, was adopted	**National Song** Vande Mataram, composed in Sanskrit **by**	**National Calender** The national calendar **based on the Saka Era,** with Chaitra as its first month and a normal year

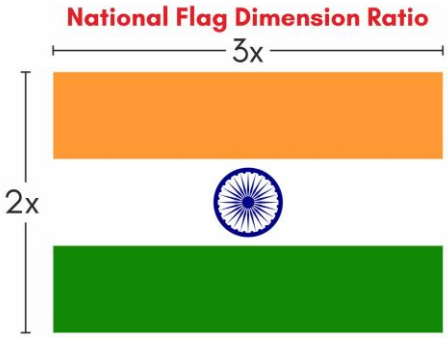
in its Hindi version by the Constituent Assembly on 24 January 1950.	**Bankimchandra Chatterji**. The song was a part of Bankimchandra's Anand Math (1882).	of 365 days was **adopted from 22 March 1957** along with the Gregorian calendar for official purposes. It is based on the **ascension of King Shalivaahan to the throne** in 78 AD

National Bird: The Indian peacock, PAVO CRISTATUS.	**National Animal:** The tiger, *Panthera tigris.*	**National Flower:** Lotus, *Nelumbo Nucifera Gaertn.*	**National Tree:** Indian fig tree, *Ficus bengalensis.*

6.3. AMENDMENTS TO FLAG CODE OF INDIA

Why in news?

Recently, the centre amended the Flag Code of India (FCI).



More about the news

- The amendment allows the national flag to be flown **both in day and at night** if it is displayed in **the open or on the House of a member of the public**. Earlier, the tricolour could be **hoisted only between sunrise and sunset**.
    - FCI was earlier amended in **December 2021,** allowing the **use of polyester, apart from cotton, wool, silk and khadi for making hand-spun, hand-woven and machine -made flags.**
- The amendment is brought with regards to **the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign**.
    - Campaign, under the aegis of **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav,** was to encourage people to bring the **Tiranga home and hoist it to mark the 75th year of India's independence.**
- **Department of posts** was tasked with making the people aware of the importance of the **'Har Ghar Tiranga' Campaign**.

The Flag Code of India, 2002

- **A set of laws** and **conventions about the use, display and hoisting** of the Indian national flag. It was brought into effect on **January 26th, 2002.**
- **It governs the display of the National flag** by private, public and government institutions.
- **Size and shape of the national flag**: It shall be **rectangular.** It can be of any size but the ratio of **the length to the height of the national flag should be 3:2**.
- **National Flag at home**: A member of the **public, a private organizatio**n, or an educational institution may display the **national flag on all days or occasions** in accordance with the dignity and honour of the national flag.

6.4. STATE EMBLEM OF INDIA

Why in news?

Recently, a cast of State Emblem was constructed atop the new Parliament building- the Central Vista Project.

The History behind the State Emblem

- **The Lion Capital** was erected by **Mauryan Emperor Ashoka during the year 250 BC** to mark the spot where Buddha imparted **Dharmachakra Pravartana** (first sermon after Enlightenment, explaining the Four-Noble Truths).
- **The National Emblem** is the **graphic representation of the Lion Capital** that originally sits at the top of the **Ashoka Pillar at Sarnath,** along with the **National Motto** (taken From **Mundaka Upanishad**) **written** below it.
- **Five students** of renowned artist **Nandalal Bose** created the emblem. Among them were **Jagdish Mittal, Kripal Singh Shekhawat, Gauri Bhanja and Dinanath Bhargava.**

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Why did the Constituent Assembly embrace the Sarnath pillar as the national emblem?

- It was felt that the pillar **epitomised the power, courage and confidence of the free nation.**
- The emblem depicts a **two-dimensional sculpture with the words Satyameva Jayate (truth alone triumphs)** written below it **in Devanagari script.**

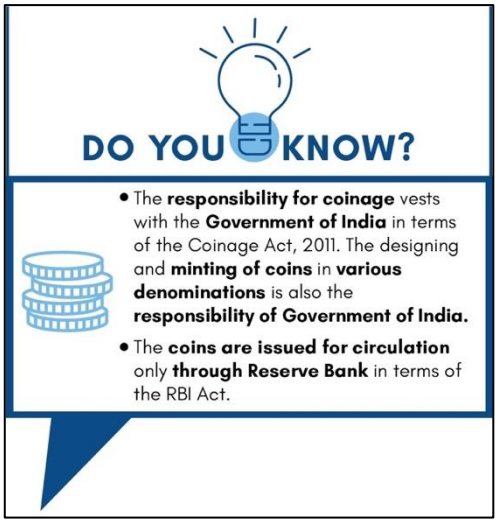
Design of the State Emblem

- **The Animals**
  - The **four majestic lions, roaring and facing the four cardinal directions represent power, courage, pride, confidence**. The four lions of the **capital holistically** symbolize **stress on equality and justice in all spheres of life.**
  - The four animals in between the chakras are regarded as the **guardians of four directions**. These animals appear to be rolling the chakras in the Abacus.
    - ✓ **The elephant** represents the **conception** of Prince Siddhartha.
    - ✓ **The bull** is the representative of Prince Siddhartha in **his youth.**
    - ✓ **The horse** depicts Siddhartha **renouncing his royal life** in search of **Enlightenment.**
    - ✓ **The lion** is the depiction of Siddhartha attaining **Enlightenment** under the **Peepal tree** and his **transformation as Buddha**.
- **Dharma Chakra or the Ashok Chakra** is the 'Wheel of Law' that signifies Dharma (virtue).
  - **The 24 spokes of the Chakra** represent the **number of hours in a day** and **portray the passage of time.** The spokes signify **moving forward in life** and thus one **avoids stagnation of the mind.**

6.5. NUMISMATIC HISTORY OF INDIA

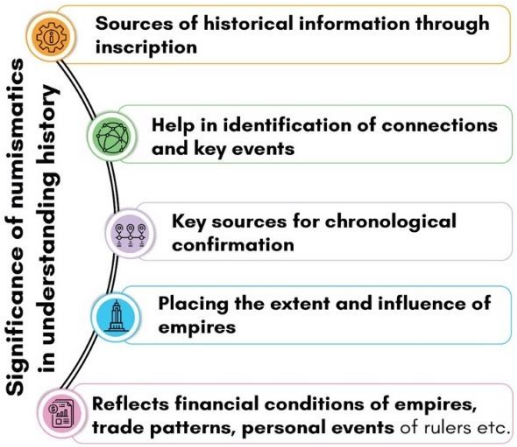
Why in news?

The recent discussion on putting images of Gods and Goddesses on coins and banknotes has renewed interest in Numismatic history of India.



More on News

- **Who changes the design on Currency notes?**
  - The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and central government** have the power to design the currency notes in India.
  - **Any change in currency design** needs to be approved by **RBI's Central Board and Central Government**.
- **How does the process of changing currency notes work?**
  - **RBI's Department of Currency Management** works on the design.
  - It **submits the design to the RBI** and then **it sends for recommendation to the central government**.
  - **The Centre gives the final approval for the design** of the currency notes.



Beginning of Numismatic study in India

- Numismatics is **the study and collection of coins, tokens, and other coin-like objects** that people used as currencies **throughout history**.
- With the **discovery of some Roman coins** in 1790 begins the **history of Indian Numismatics**. It started as a **subject of study and research** in 1824 when Col. Todd published some **Greek, Parthian, and Indian coins** in the Transactions of the **Royal Asiatic Society.**
- **Numismatic Society of India** (founded in 1910) at Allahabad was intended as a **coordinating body** to **regulate the study of Indian numismatics.**

Coins of modern India

- The **first Rupee coin** of Republic of India was minted in 1950.
  - Other denominations of **coins of modern India** were also produced like the 1/2 Re, 1/4 Re, 2 Anna, 1 Anna, 1/2 Anna & 1 Pice coins which are also referred as **Anna series or pre-decimal coinage**.

- In 1957, India shifted to the **decimal system.**

- Some of commemorative coins include coins depicting **Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, B. R. Ambedkar, Rajiv Gandhi, Saint Dnyaneshwar, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Subhas Chandra Bose** etc.

NUMISMATIC HISTORY OF INDIA

ANCIENT INDIA COINAGE:

Key Feature	Image (Obverse and reverse)
⊖ **Punch marked coins (issued between the 7th-6th century BC and 1st century AD)** ⊖ **First documented coinage** is deemed to start with **'Punch Marked' coins.** These coins are called so because of their manufacturing technique i.e., symbols were **punched on the coin** with a separate punch. ⊖ They are **broadly classified into two periods:** First period (attributed to the **Janapadas or small local states)** and the second period (attributed to the **Imperial Mauryan period).**	Seven symbols Five symbols Five symbols

DYNASTIC COINS

Dynasty	Key Feature	Image (Obverse and reverse)
Indo-Greek	⊖ **The first coins to bear the names and images of rulers were issued by the Indo-Greeks,** who established control over the north-western part of the subcontinent c. second century BCE. ⊖ **Coins that circulated to north of Hindu Kush (Graeco-Bactrians)** O Made of **gold, silver, copper, and nickel** O Followed Attic **weight standard.** ⊖ Coins have **royal portraits on obverse, while reverse generally depicts Greek deities** (such as Zeus, Apollo, and Athena) along with the name and title of king. ⊖ **Coins that circulated to the south of Hindu Kush (Indo-Greek coins)** O Made of **silver and copper,** and were **often square in shape.** O Had bilingual **inscriptions in Greek and Kharoshthi** (more rarely, Brahmi) and followed an **Indian weight standard.** O **Royal portraits occur on the obverse,** but the motifs on the **reverse include religious symbols that were Indian** rather than Greek in inspiration.	
Kushan	⊖ Introduced **gold and copper** coins. ⊖ Generally depicted iconographic forms drawn from **Greek, Mesopotamian, Zorastrian and Indian mythology.** ⊖ **Siva, Buddha and Kartikeya** were the major Indian deities portrayed.	
Satavahana	⊖ Coins are made up of **Copper, Silver, Lead and Potin** in different shapes. ⊖ Coins carry **symbols, motifs, portraits and legends.** ⊖ Carried the **motifs of fauna** like elephants, lions, bulls, horses, etc. often juxtaposed against **motifs from nature** like hills, tree, etc.	
Western Kshatrapa	⊖ Legends on the coins were generally in **Greek and Brahmi** Kharoshti too was used. ⊖ The Western Kshatrap coins are reckoned to be the **earliest coins bearing dates**	
Other coins (between Post- Mauryan and Gupta phase)	⊖ Various **tribal republics** in the Punjab and **monarchies in the Undo-Gangetic plain** issued coins. ⊖ The **coins of the Yaudheyas** were **influenced in design and motif** by the coins of the **Kushans** and followed the **weights of the Indo-Bactrian rulers**	
Gupta coinage	⊖ Followed the tradition of the Kushans, depicting the king on the **obverse and a deity on the reverse;** the deitieswere Indian and the **legends were in Brahmi** ⊖ Coins often **commemorate dynastic succession** as well as significant **socio-political events,** like marriage alliances, the horse sacrifice, etc.	
Post-Gupta coinage	⊖ Highly artistic **gold and silver coins** of the Indo-Greeks, Kushanas and Guptas were replaced by **base silver, copper and mixed metal coinages.** ⊖ **Bull & Horseman** type of coins were the most common motif appearing on coins **struck by the Rajput clans.**	

DELHI | JAIPUR | PUNE | HYDERABAD | AHMEDABAD | LUCKNOW | CHANDIGARH | GUWAHATI | RANCHI | ALLAHABAD | BHOPAL © Vision IAS

South Indian Coinage	⊖ The symbols and motifs were confined to **dynastic crests such as the boar (Chalukya), bull (Pallava), tiger (Chola), fish (Pandya and Alupas), bow and arrow (Cheras) and lion (Hoysala) etc.** ⊖ **Yadavas of Devagiri** issued 'Padmatankas' with an eight-petalled lotus on the obverse and a blank reverse. ⊖ **Decorative features are rare** and divinities are almost absent till the medieval Vijayanagar period (14th- 16thcenturies AD).	

MEDIEVAL INDIA COINAGE

Dynasty/Empire	Key Features	Image
Delhi Sultanate	⊖ Coins were struck in **gold, silver and copper.** ⊖ Khilji rulers issued coins in abundance with **grandiloquent titles** (Ala-ud-din Khilji struck coins assuming the title 'Sikandar al Sani', the second Alexander). ⊖ **Gold coins** were issued in very large numbers during the reign of **Muhammed bin Tughlaq**, thereafter gold coins became scarce. ⊖ By the time of the **Lodhis**, coins were struck almost **exclusively of copper and billon.**	**Coin of Ghiyasu-d-din Balban 1266 - 1287 AD** **Coins of Khiljis**
Vijayanagar Empire	⊖ Coins were largely struck in **gold and copper.** ⊖ Most Vijayanagar gold coins bore a **sacred image** on the obverse and the **royal legend** on the reverse. ⊖ Amongst the **significant gold coins of the Vijayanagar Empire were those bearing the image of the deity of Tirupati, i.e., Lord Venkatesvara** represented either singly or with his two consorts.	
Mughals	⊖ Mughal coinage was largely the **creation of Sher Shah Suri**, an Afghan, who ruled for a brief time in Delhi. Sher Shah issued a **coin of silver** which was termed the **Rupiya**, precursor of the **modern rupee**. It remained **largely unchanged** till the early 20thCentury. ⊖ Together with the silver Rupiya were issued **gold coins called the Mohur** and copper coins **called Dam.** ⊖ Mughal Coinage reflected **originality and innovative skills.**	**One Rupee- Sher Shah Suri (Afghan)** **Mohur-Aurangzeb**

BRITISH INDIA COINAGE

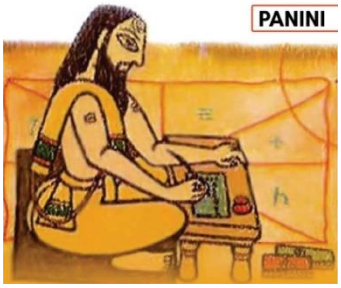
⊖ Gold coins were termed **Carolina**, the silver coins **Anglina**, the copper **coins Cupperoon** and tin coins **Tinny.** Enactment of **Coinage Act of 1835 led uniform coinage** to be issued.
⊖ Newly designed coins with the **effigy of Prince William IV** on the obverse and the value on the reverse in English and Persian, were issued in 1835. Coins issued after 1840 **bore the portrait of Queen Victoria.**
⊖ The In**dian Coinage Act, 1906** governed the **establishment of Mints as well as the coins** that would be issued and the standards that would be maintained.

6.6. PANINI CODE

Why in News?

An Indian scholar cracked 2500 year old panini code.

About Panini Code



- Panini taught a **"metarule"** in the event of a **conflict between two rules of equal strength**.
  - Traditionally, scholars interpreted it in terms of **using the rule that comes later in the grammar's serial order**, which often led to **grammatically incorrect results**.
- New research argues that in such conflicts, Panini wanted us to **choose the rule applicable to the right side over the left side** of a word.
- **Significance:** It could allow **Sanskrit grammar** to be taught to computers.

About Panini and Ashtadhyayi

- **Panini** was a **Sanskrit grammarian** who gave a **comprehensive and scientific theory** of **phonetics, phonology, and morphology**.
- He is also referred to as an **Informatician as he used language to decode information.**
- Panini's grammar, known as the **Astadhyayi (or Astaka, given in 6th or 5th century BCE)** contains **4000 sutras** to explain the **science behind Sanskrit**.
  - It relies on a system that **functions like an algorithm** to turn the base and suffix of a word into grammatically correct words and sentences.
  - It is compared to the **Turing Machine** of **Alan M Turing** due to its complex set of rules for creating words.
- **Astadhyayi** is further augmented by ancillary texts such as **Sivasutras** (special order of phonemes); **Dhatupatha** (list of verbal roots); **Ganapatha** (various sets of nouns) and **Linganusaasana** (system for deciding the gender).

6.7. CONVENTION FOR SAFEGUARDING OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE (ICH)

Why in News?

India was **elected** to Intergovernmental Committee of **UNESCO's 2003 Convention for Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH).**

About the Committee

- **Committee consists of 24 members** and is elected according to principles of equitable geographical representation and rotation.
  - **India has been elected** (overall third time) **for 2022-2026 cycle.**
  - Earlier, India was **also elected to UNESCO's World Heritage committee** (2021-2025).
- **Some of the core functions** of Committee include **promoting objectives of Convention, providing guidance on best practices,** and making recommendations for safeguarding of ICH.
  - It also **examines requests for inscription of intangible heritage** on Lists. Committee is also in charge of **granting international assistance.**

Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

- The "intangible cultural heritage" means 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.
- Preserving living traditions that are transmitted from generation to generation is the **cornerstone of the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage**.
  - **India has been a signatory to the Convention**.

About UNESCO's 2003 Convention for safeguarding of ICH

- It aims for **Safeguarding of Intangible Heritage** along with traditions and living expression.
- **It has 4 primary goals:** Safeguard ICH, ensure respect for ICH, Raise awareness of the importance of ICH, Provide for international cooperation and assistance.
- Following 2003 Convention, **ICH list has been classified into five broad domains:**
  - Oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of ICH
  - Performing arts
  - Social practices, rituals and festive events
  - Knowledge and practices concerning nature and universe
  - Traditional craftsmanship.

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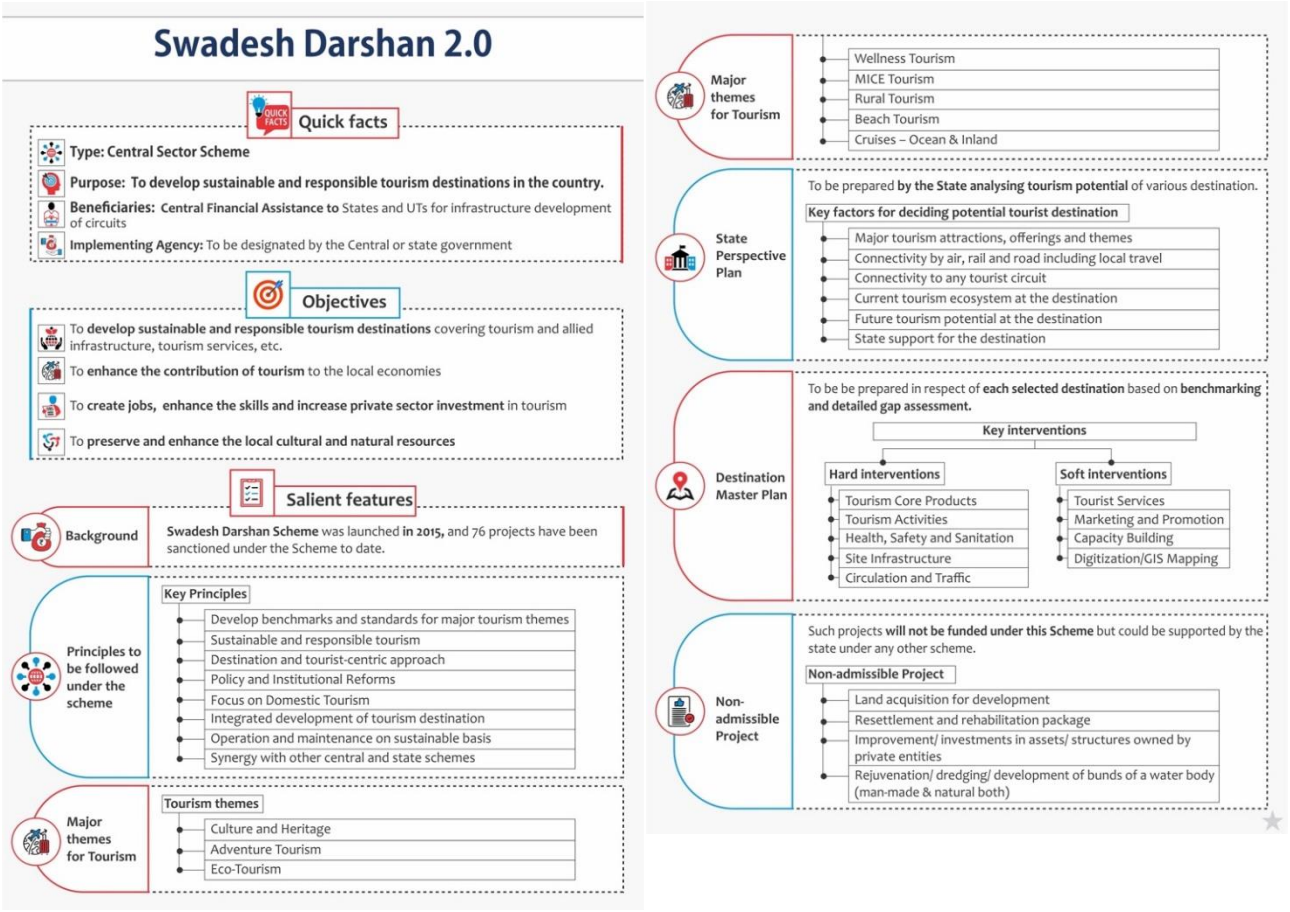
- **There are 14 Indian elements on ICH list** with Durga Puja (2021), Kumbh Mela (2017), Yoga (2016) being the latest.

6.8. SWADESH DARSHAN SCHEME

Why in News?

Ministry of Tourism has revamped its **Swadesh Darshan Scheme as Swadesh Darshan 2.0** as a **holistic mission to develop sustainable and responsible tourism destinations** in India.



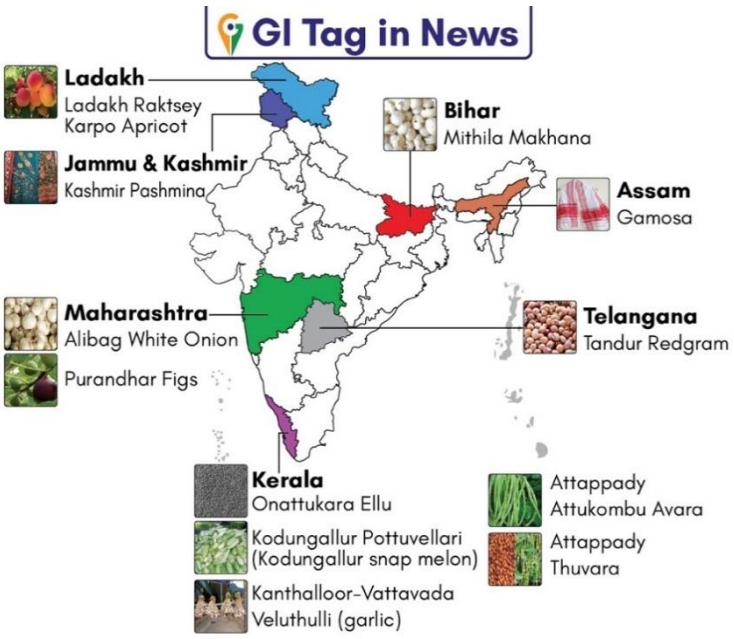
6.9. GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION (GI) TAG

Why in news?

Recently, the **Government** has granted the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag to 9 products** from across the country

More on news

- With this the **total number of GI Tags of India comes to 432.**
    - **Top 5 states** holding maximum number of GIs are **Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala.**



Geographical Indication (GI) Tag

Identifies a good as originating in territory of a member, or a regional locality in that territory, where a given characteristic of good is essentially attributable to its geographical origin.

Defined in the TRIPS Agreement.

Registered for a period of 10 years and can be renewed again for a period of 10 years at a time.

Importance

Enables right holders to use the indication **to prevent its use by a third party.**

Does not enable the holder **to prevent** someone from **making a product using same techniques.**

Legislation in India

Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999

Geographical Indication of Goods (Regulation and Protection) Rules, 2002

Mechanism

Registrar of Geographical indications: Controller-General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks under Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).

Supervises functioning of **Geographical Indications Registry** (GIR).

GIR has **All-India jurisdiction.**

About recent GI tags

Product	State	Description
Gamosa	**Assam**	• The Assamese gamosa is **mostly woven out of white threads with colourful and intricate inlays in red.** • This is a **traditional textile having great significance for the people of Assam.** • Gamosa is **also known as 'Bihuwaan,** as it is an essential part of Bihu festival of Assam.
Alibag White Onion	**Maharashtra**	• It is a traditional variety of white onion in Alibag tehsil of Raigad district in Maharashtra. ○ The soil **of Alibaug taluka has low sulphur content & its geo-climatic conditions** make it unique compared to other white onion-producing areas. • This onion **does not have a strong odour** like the standard onion commonly available in the market. • It has a **sweet taste, different from other onions.**
Tandur Redgram	**Telangana**	• It is a **traditional crop in the rain-fed tract of the Telangana region.** • It **contains about 22-24% protein,** which is almost three times that of cereals. • As per the researchers, the **fertile deep black soil with clay minerals specifically in Tandur Region along with huge limestone deposits can be attributed to the specific quality** traits of Tandur Redgram.
Ladakh Raktsey Karpo Apricot	**Ladakh**	• Raktsey Karpo, from family of apricot, **packed with vitamins and low on calories is rich in sorbitol** – a natural glucose substitute that can be consumed by diabetics. • These apricots are **grown organically without using any chemical fertilisers.** • **Seeds of Raktsey Karpo fruit have white seed stones.** However, world over, apricot fruits have brown seed stones.
Attappady Thuvara	**Kerala**	• The Attappady Thuvara is an **important traditional crop of the Attappady tribal area in Palakkad district, Kerala.** ○ It is a woody shrub, generally grown as an annual crop. • Attappady Thuvara is **having seeds with white coat.**

 © Vision IAS

		○ Compared to other red grams, **Attappady Thuvara seeds are bigger and have higher seed weight.** ○ It is **rich in protein, carbohydrate, fibre, calcium and magnesium**.
Onattukara Ellu	**Kerala**	• It is an ancient and traditional annual **oilseed crops**. • It has **relatively higher antioxidant content.** • It helps in **fighting the free radicals,** which destroy the body cells. • The high content of unsaturated fat makes it beneficial for heart patients.
Kodungallur Pottuvellari (Kodungallur snap melon)	**Kerala**	• It is cultivated for its fully **matured fruit which is used for making juice.** • In some States, it is **also used as a vegetable.** • It contains **high amount of Vitamin C**. • **Compared to other cucurbits** (gourd family), nutrients such as calcium, magnesium, fibre and **fat content are also high in Kodungalloor Pottuvellari.**
Attappady Attukombu Avara	**Kerala**	• It is cultivated in the Attappady region of Palakkad. • It's **higher anthocyanin content compared to other dolichos beans imparts violet colour** in the stem and fruits. • Anthocyanin is **helpful against cardiovascular diseases** along with its antidiabetic properties. ○ Other than this, **calcium, protein, and fibre content are also high.** • The higher phenolic content of Attappady Attukombu Avara imparts resistance against pest and diseases, making the crop suitable for organic cultivation.
Kanthalloor-Vattavada Veluthulli (garlic)	**Kerala**	• It contains **high amount of sulphides, flavonoids, and proteins.** • **It is rich in allicin**, which is effective against microbial infections, blood sugar, cancer, cholesterol, heart diseases, and damages to blood vessels.

6.10. OTHER GI TAG IN NEWS

Banarasi Pashmina	• **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** launched Banarasi Pashminain Varanasi. • This is **for the first time that Pashmina products** are being **produced outside the region of Leh-Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir.** • **Changthangi or Pashmina goats** are raised for ultra-fine **cashmere wool, known as Pashmina** once woven. ○ Changthangi or Pashmina goat is a **special breed of goat indigenous to the high-altitude regions of Ladakh** (domesticated and reared by Changpa nomadic communities). • **Kashmir Pashmina** has been **assigned GI tag.**
Mithila Makhana	• **Bihar's Mithila Makhana gets a GI tag** to help farmers get maximum price for their produce. • **Mithila Makhana,** simply known as 'makhan', is a **variety of aquatic fox nut.** ○ They are **rich in protein and fiber and have various micro-nutrients** such as magnesium, calcium, phosphorous and iron. ○ It is famously **consumed during Kojagara Puja by Maithil Brahmins.** ○ It is **cultivated in Mithila region of Bihar and some parts of Nepal.**
Purandhar Figs	• Fresh figs from **Purandhar taluka of Pune district were exported for the first time.** • **Dry loamy soil of Purandhar is ideal** for the growth of figs.

	• Purandar has **arid or semi-arid conditions with plenty of sunshine and moderate moisture** in the air and soil making it ideal for fig cultivation. • **Specialty of Purandhar Fig:** has about 80 percent pulp, sweet to taste, has low acidity and high TSS (Total soluble sugar). • However, **lower shelf-life of fig** was making it difficult to explore its export potential.
Kalanamak rice 	• Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI) has successfully developed **two dwarf varieties of Kalanamak rice.** o **Pusa Narendra Kalanamak 1638 and Pusa Narendra Kalanamak 1652.** o These varieties **resolve the issue of lodging.** • **About Kalanamak rice:** o Also known as **Buddha Rice, Kalanamak is a scented**, one of the finest and short grain rice with an unusual black husk. o **Rich in micronutrients such as iron and zinc and can help prevent Alzheimer's.** o **Awarded GI tag in 2013.**
Nicobari hodi 	• **Andaman & Nicobar's first application for GI tag** is for the Nicobari hodi craft. • **About Nicobari Hodi** o The hodi is the **Nicobari tribe's traditional craft.** o **It is an outrigger canoe**, very commonly operated in the Nicobar group of islands. o The hodi is built using **either locally available trees or from nearby islands, , and its design varies slightly from island to island.** • It is used for **transporting people and goods from one island to another and racing purposes.**
Nihonshu 	• **Japanese Embassy has applied for a GI tag for Nihonshu**, an alcoholic beverage made from fermenting rice. • India's **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999** allows **GI Tag registration from citizens of convention countries** which gives similar privileges to Indian citizens.

6.11. FESTIVALS

6.11.1. BALIYATRA

Why in News?

During the G20 Summit **PM mentioned Baliyatra, one of the country's largest open-air fairs.**

About Baliyatra

- Baliyatra is organised every year **to commemorate maritime and cultural links between ancient Kalinga** (today's Odisha) **and Bali and other South and Southeast Asian regions** like Java, Sumatra, Borneo, Burma (Myanmar) and Ceylon (Sri Lanka).
- **It is celebrated on the banks of river Mahanadi** and begins on Kartik Purnima (full moon day in October-November).
- The festival is like the **'Masakapan Ke Tukad' festival of Bali**.

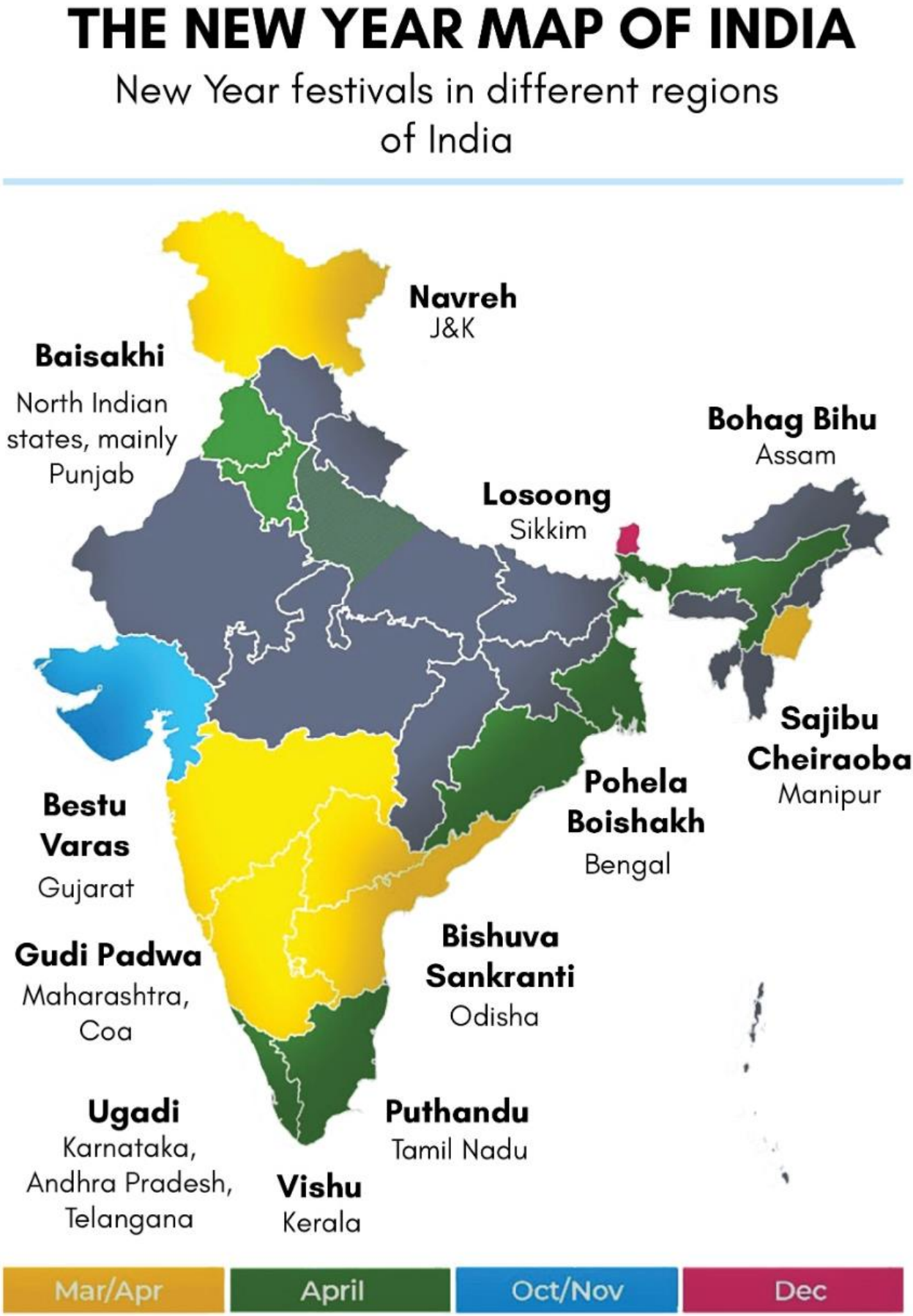
Evidences of Kalinga Connection with Bali

- **Temples as socio-cultural centers** are common both in Bali and Odisha.
- **Similar type of roulette ware seen at Sembiran**, located in northeastern Bali, and from the sites like Manikpatna, Tamluk (Odisha), etc.
- In Bali, there is an **inscription of the fourteenth century CE written in Odia language, and scripts used in Bali in the tenth century CE were also used in Kalinga**.
- A section of Brahmanas in Bali styled themselves as **Brahmana-Bouddha- Kalinga.**

About maritime history of Kalinga Empire

- **Kalidasa in Raghuvamsa** referred to the **King of Kalinga as 'The Lord of the Sea'** (Mahodadhipati) highlighting their dominance over sea routes.
- Due to its geographical location, **Kalinga saw growth of ports as early as 4th and 5th century BC.**
  - **Some famous ports:** Tamralipti, Manikpatna, Chelitalo, Palur, Pithunda, Dantapura, Kalinga Nagar etc.
- Kalingas **constructed large boats called 'Boitas'**.
- Apart from **South and Southeast Asia**, trade **links with East African and certain Arab countries** were also present.
- Trade **declined during Mughal and British rule**.

6.11.2. NEW YEAR MAP OF INDIA



6.11.3. OTHER IMPORTANT FESTIVALS

Festival	Details
Hornbill Festival	• Hornbill Festival **started in Nagaland.** • **About Hornbill Festival** o **Conceptualised in 2000,** the Hornbill Festival is **annually celebrated.** o It is celebrations of the **indigenous warrior tribes of Nagaland** with an aim to revive and protect the culture of Nagaland. o It is **named after Hornbill – a tropical bird reflected** in tribal cultural expressions, songs and dances.
Sammakka Saralamma Jatara	• **Also known as Medaram Jatara,** it is a biennial tribal festival **celebrated in Telangana.** o It commemorates the **valiant fight of the mother and daughter** duo i.e. Sammakka and Saralamma **against the then Kakatiya dynasty** rulers **protesting exaction of land tribute even at the time of severe drought.** • It is the **second-largest fair of India,** after the Kumbh Mela, celebrated by the **second-largest Tribal Community of Telangana- the Koya tribe**. o Koya is a **warrior tribe** inhabiting **Eastern Ghats -** living in Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Telangana etc., practising **pastoralism** and **shifting cultivation** as traditional livelihood.
Ambubachi Mela	• AmbubachiMela, a four day annual fair **celebrated at Kamakhya Temple in Guwahati, Assam.** o It is celebrated **to mark the annual menstruation of Goddess Kamakhya** (reigning deity). o It also marks as an occasion to **promote awareness about menstrual hygiene.** • **About Kamakhya Temple:** o Situated on the **Nilanchal Hills in Guwahati,** and **one of the 52 Shakti peeths or Seat of Shakti followers**. o It is also considered as one of the **prime seats of Tantric rituals**.
Losar Festival	• **PM extended his greetings** on Losar. • **Marking the beginning of the Tibetan new year** in the traditional schedule of **Tibetan Buddhism,** Losar is an **important festival of Ladakh**. • It **dates to the pre-Buddhist era in Tibet**.

	• **Celebration consists of offering of prayers** in the name of God and Goddess**, dances and songs** in honour of Ibex and **pilgrimage of Mount Kailash**
Nuakhai Juhar	• Prime Minister **extended greetings on Nuakhai Juhar**. • Nuakhai Juhar is celebrated in **western Odisha and southern Chhattisgarh** to observe the **welcome of the new season of rice**. • It is **observed on** the fifth day of the lunar fortnight of the month of August–September, the **day after the Ganesh Chaturthi** festival.
Sangai Festival	• PM addressed **Manipur Sangai Festival** via video message. • **About Sangai Festival** o Named after **State animal, Sangai**, brow-antlered deer found **only in Manipur**. ✓ Sangai is **found in Keibul Lamjao National Park** and is seen **over floating biomass**, called **phumdi**. o It is the biggest **annual cultural festival** of Manipur, organized every year in **November.** o **Locals exhibit their skills in native sports** like: ✓ Famous **martial art** of Manipur: **Thang Ta** (a combination of Spear & Sword skills). ✓ **Sagol Kangjei,** an indigenous form of polo etc.
Navroz (Parsi New Year)	• Navroz (New day), **popularly referred as Pateti**, celebrates the first day of **Zoroastiran calender's first month, Farvardin**. • According to **Iranian Calendar**, it falls every year on **Spring Equinox** (21st March) but as per **Shahenshahi Calendar** (followed by **Parsi community** in India), it comes in **July-August** (16 August in 2022). o It is also known as **Jamshed-i-Navroz** after Persian King **Jamshed** who started the **Shahenshahi Calendar**. • It is included into **List of UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage.**
Kashi Tamil Sangamam	• **Ministry of Education** organised 'Kashi Tamil Sangamam', a month-long **programme to rediscover the centuries-old bond of knowledge** and ancient civilisational linkage between Varanasi and Tamil Nadu. o It aims to **bring to light** deep **academic, economic, social and cultural relationships between Varanasi and Tamil Nadu.** o **Indian Institute of Technology, Madras** and Banaras Hindu University (BHU) will serve as a **knowledge partner** for event. • Both are also connected by Shiva temples, like **Kasi Viswanathar temple in Tenkasi (Tamilnadu).** o It was **built by Parakrama Pandyan in Dravidian style,** for devotees who could not visit Kashi. o It is **dedicated Lord Shiva** in a self-incarnated form (swayambu). o Tenkasi is known as **Kasi of South.** o The nearby **river Chittar** is considered equivalent to Ganga.

6.12. PRIZES AND AWARDS

Sangeet Natak Akademi, Lalit Kala Akademi Awards conferred	• **Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards** o Awards are **national honours** given by the government **to performing artists, teachers and scholars** in the field of **performing arts.** o Sangeet NatakAkademi, **apex body in the field of performing arts, was set up in 1953** for the preservation and **promotion of the vast intangible heritage** of India's diverse culture expressed in forms of music, dance and drama. • **Lalit Kala Akademi** o Awards are provided to **recognize achievements in the field of Visual Arts.** o It was **inaugurated in New Delhi in 1954**. o Lalit Kala Akademi manifests a commitment to the service of the **visual arts by establishing, preserving and documenting visual art of the highest order that** in turn reflects the vitality, complexity and unfolding patterns of ancient, modern and contemporary art in India.
Nobel Peace Prize for 2022	• **Norwegian Nobel Committee** awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2022 to **one individual and two organisations:** o Human rights advocate **Ales Bialiatski from Belarus**, o Russian human rights organisation **Memorial** and o Ukrainian human rights organisation **Center for Civil Liberties.** • They were awarded for their consistent efforts in favour of **humanist values, anti-militarism and principles of law.** • Nobel Peace Prize is **awarded by a committee elected by the Norwegian Parliament**.

2022 Nobel Prize in Literature	• Prize was awarded to **French author Annie Ernaux** for her work that sheds light on the **murky recesses of memory, family, and society.** • The Nobel Prize in Literature is awarded by the **Swedish Academy, Stockholm, Sweden.** • **Rabindranath Tagore was the first Indian** and non-European **to win the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913.**
2022 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award	• **Angela Merkel**, former Chancellor of Germany, won 2022 **UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award for protecting refugees** at Syria crisis. • Award, established in 1954, honor **individuals, groups or organizations** who go above and beyond call of duty to protect refugees, internally displaced or stateless people. o It is named after Norwegian explorer, scientist, diplomat and humanitarian **Fridtjof Nansen**. o He was **first High Commissioner for Refugees** for **League of Nations** and won **Nobel Peace Prize** in **1922**. o **First Laureate: Eleanor Roosevelt**, first chair of the **UN** in 1954.
UNESCO Felix Houphouet-Boigny Peace Prize	• Former German Chancellor **Angela Merkel has won UNESCO Felix Houphouet-Boigny Peace Prize 2022 for her 'efforts to welcome refugees.** • It **honours living individuals and active public or private bodies or institutions.** o It is awarded to those who have **made a significant contribution to promoting, seeking, safeguarding or maintaining peace**, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and the Constitution of UNESCO. o This prize was established in 1989. o **First Felix Houphouet-Boigny Peace Prize** was given to Nelson Mandela and Frederik W. de Klerk in 1991.
UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize	• It has been **awarded to Franca Ma-ih Sulem Yong** from Cameroon. • This Prize is given for the **Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence** is **awarded every two** years to **individuals or institutions** for their exceptional contributions through the **arts, education, culture, science and communication.** o Prize is named after its **benefactor, former Indian artist, writer and diplomat,** Madanjeet Singh **(1924-2013)**, who was also a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador. The Prize is **managed by the UNESCO.**
Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development	• Prize for **2021** was awarded to **Pratham**, an NGO functioning in the field of education. o The award recognises Pratham's work in **ensuring quality education for children**, particularly **during the COVID-19 pandemic.** • Instituted in memory **of former prime minister**, it consists of a **monetary award** of ₹25 lakh along with a citation. o **Accorded annually** by Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust to **individuals or organisations.**
Gandhi Mandela Award	• 2022 award was recently **conferred upon the 14th Dalai Lama.** • **Award, constituted by Gandhi Mandela Foundation**, is in recognition of **promoting the values and ideals of Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela** by making significant contributions in fields of Peace, Social Welfare, Culture, Environment, Education, Healthcare, Sports and Innovation. o **A government of India registered Trust**, Gandhi Mandela Foundation is a non-profit organisation. o Foundation instituted the **award on 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.**
Thomas Cup	• **India won its maiden Thomas Cup title** beating Indonesia 3-0 in the final. • Thomas Cup is an **international badminton competition** (started in 1948). The 16 teams that compete are representing member nations of the Badminton World Federation (BWF). • It was **started by** a legendary badminton player of England **Sir George Alan Thomas.** • The three teams with the most titles are **Indonesia (14), China (10), and Malaysia (5).** o **Denmark was the first non-Asian country** to win the Thomas Cup.
Laureus World Sports Award	• **Max Verstappen** (Formula One) and **Elaine Thompson-Herah** (Athletics) have been named **Laureus World Sportsman and Sportswoman** of the Year (2021) respectively. • First held in 2000, **annual event honours greatest and most inspirational sporting triumphs of the year** and showcases work of Laureus Sport for Good. o **Shortlists for six categories** (Sportswoman, Sportsman, Team, Breakthrough, Comeback and Action) are created. • American golfer **Tiger Woods was the first winner** in 2000. • Winner list is **dominated by Tennis players** (11 times), athletes (4) and Formula One drivers (4). • **Roger Federer received** this award **maximum number of times (6).**

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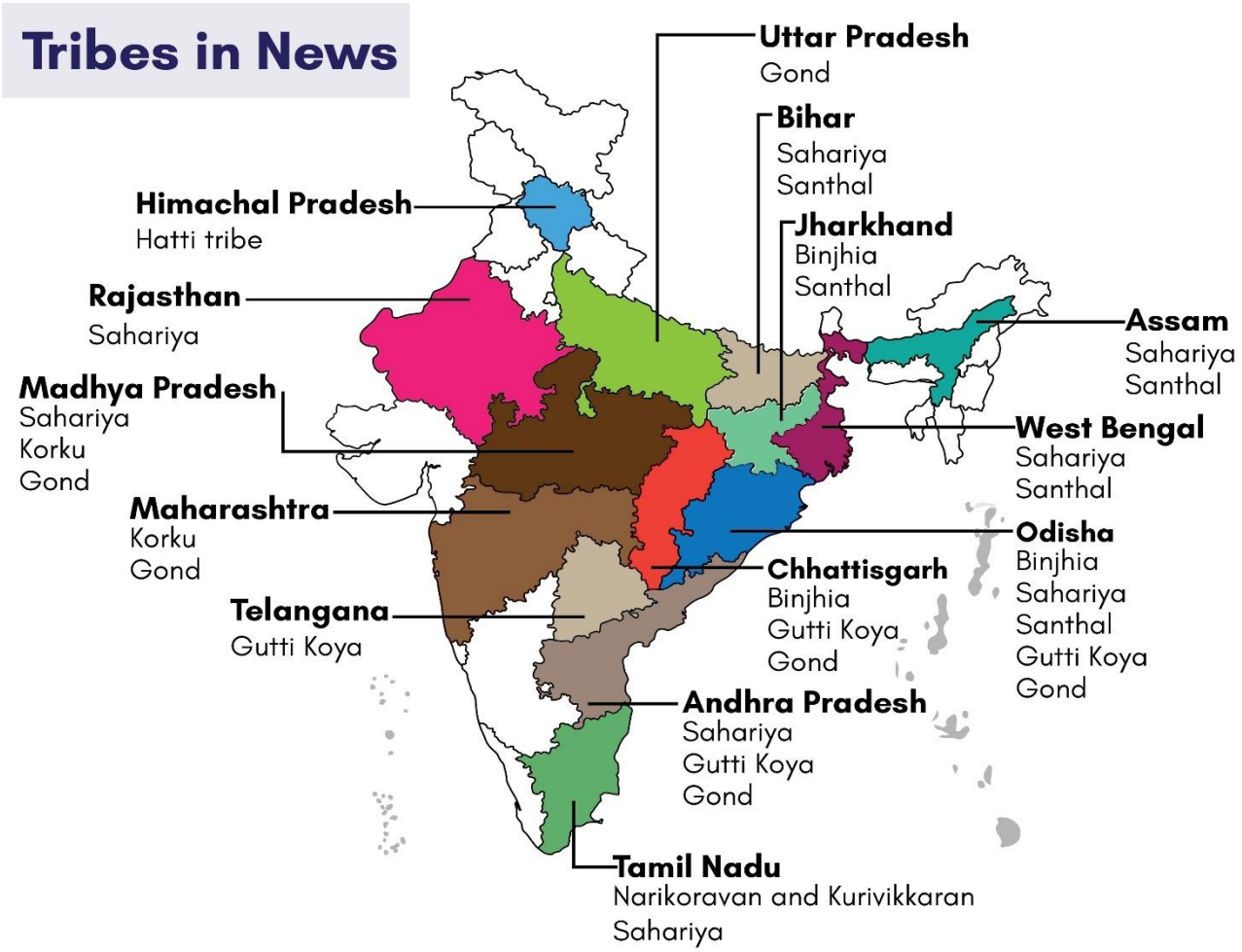
6.13. TRIBES IN NEWS



Revisions in Schedule Tribes (STs) lists	• Cabinet recently approved the **addition of four tribes to STs list as** part of Constitution (ST) Order (Amendment) Bill 2022. • **Hatti tribe** in Trans-Giri area of Himachal Pradesh, **Narikoravan and Kurivikkaran hill tribes of Tamil Nadu** and **Binjhia in Chhattisgarh**, were newly added to list. o Hattis are **close-knit community** who take their **name from their traditional occupation** of selling home-grown crops, vegetables, meat, and wool etc. o **Narikoravan (jackal catchers) and Kuruvikaras (bird eaters)** are **nomadic tribal communities.** o **Binjhia, ethnic group found in Odisha and Jharkhand,** have rich heritage of tradition and culture.
Sahariya tribe	• **Food inflation have made Sahariya tribe extremely vulnerable.** • Saharia, Sahar, Sehariya, or Sahariya are an **ethnic group in state of Madhya Pradesh.** o They are classified as **Particularly vulnerable tribal group** (PVTG) and are found in Rajasthan, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Assam. • They speak **Munda language** that belongs to **Austro-Asiatic language family.** • They use **"slash and burn" method of cultivation** along hill slopes. • Main crops include **gourds, millet, sorghum, and wild rice.**
Santhal tribes	• **Droupadi Murmu from Santhal** community **elected President of the country.** • **About Santhal community:** o **Third largest schedule tribe** community in the country **after Gond and Bhil.** o Mostly found in the states of **West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Jharkhand and Assam.** o **Language:** Speak Santhali (belongs to the Austro- Asiatic language family) and Script called Olchiki. o **Festivals:**Karam festival, Maghe, Baba Bonga, Sahrai, Ero, Asaria and Namah and Disumsendra. o Santhals are credited for **taking on the force of the East India Company through the Santal Hul (revolution) of 1855-56.** o Santhals have their **script called Olchiki,** which was developed by Dr Raghunath Murmu in 1925.

Gutti Koya Tribals	• A Forest Range Officer was killed by a **group of Gutti Koya Adivasis**.
	• **About Gutti Koya Adivasis –**
	  ○ Koya are an Indian tribal community found in the **states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha.**
	  ○ They speak the **Koya language, also known as Koya basha**, which is a Dravidian language related to Gondi.
	• During the British **period in 1880, Koya Rebellion led by a Koya youth Tama Dora** took place.

Korku Tribe	• Korku tribe performed Korku tribal folk dance at **Jharokha** - Compendium of Indian handicraft, handloom, art and culture. • Korku tribe is a **central India tribe** living in the state of **Madhya Pradesh** and **Maharashtra**. • **Social Structure:** Divided into **four territorial groups**, with each subsection ruled by **tribal village council** under Patel (**village headman**). ○ **Jai-Patel** is headman above **Patel** with jurisdiction over several **korku villages**. • They **worship nature** with influence of Hinduism on religious beliefs and Festivals. • **Language: Korku Language** (one among the **196 endangered languages in India**).
Gond Tribe	• **Rajya Sabha clears bill to move** Gond community **from Scheduled Castes list to Scheduled Tribes list** in four districts of Uttar Pradesh (UP). • Gonds are **one of the largest tribal groups** spread across Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and also in parts of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, UP. • They are **mostly peasants and nature worshippers.** • They **speak Gondi** a language which **belongs to the Dravidian family.**

6.14. OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

Chapekar Brother Case	• On 22 June 1897 (125 years ago), Chapekar brothers **assassinated British official W. C. Rand and his military escort Lieutenant Ayerst** at Pune, Maharashtra.
	• Chapekar Brothers, **Damodar Hari, Balkrishna Hari and Vasudeo Hari** were involved in **assassination**.
	  ○ **Mahadev Vinayak Ranade** was also **an accomplice**.
	  ○ This was the **first case of militant nationalism in India after the 1857 Revolt.**
	• During 1896-97, **bubonic plague was spread in Pune** (Poona), also called Poona plague.
	  ○ In 1897, Government set up a **Special Plague Committee to control the spread of the disease** under **Charles Walter Rand (W.C Rand)**.
	  ○ Regular harassments of Rand commission **had prompted Chapekar brothers and other members of revolutionary "Chapekar Club" to take action against Rand.**
	• Chapekar brothers organized an association called **"Chapekar Club" for physical and military training.**

Central Advisory Board on Archaeology (CABA)	• **CABA was re-constituted recently.**
	• **Its functions would include:**
	  ○ **Advising Centre** on matters relating to archaeology,
	  ○ **Promoting closer contacts** of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) with Indian Universities conducting Archaeological Researches.
	  ○ **Training future Archaeologists,**
	  ○ Providing for **closer association of State Governments with ASI** activities.
	• **Minister of Culture will be the Chairman** and members will include officials from Ministry of Culture and ASI, MPs, nominees of State governments etc.
	• Board **will meet once a year.**

Heritage By-Laws (HBL)	• **National Monuments Authority (NMA) has made 101 HBL during COVID period**, covering a total of 126 centrally protected monuments.
	• Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010 **made it mandatory for all centrally-protected monuments to have their own HBL.**
	  ○ HBL will help in **regulating property and individual growth around the monuments.**
	• **Under AMASR Act**, while only **repairs are allowed in a 100-metre radius** of protected monuments, **HBL have to be drawn up to regulate construction in the area between 100 metres and 300 metres.**
	  ○ HBLs work was **supposed to be finished by 2012.**

Project Vanni	• **Google India** has teamed up with the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** for this initiative. • It aims to build an **artificial intelligence/machine learning (AI/ML) model** to **collect language samples** from 773 districts across India.

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	○ It will be an **AI-based language model** that can understand diverse Indian languages and dialects. ○ Potential use of such datasets is in building apps in areas such as **health, agriculture, and financial inclusion**.
Mumbai Samachar	• Prime Minister participated in **Dwishatabdi Mahotsav** of Mumbai Samachar in Mumbai and released a **postal stamp** to commemorate the occasion. • **About Mumbai samachar(Formerly called Bombay Samachar):** ○ The **Gujarati newspaper** (office located in **Mumbai's Fort** area) was first published in **1822.** ○ It was founded by a Parsi scholar **Fardoonji Murazban.** ○ started as a **weekly edition**, primarily covering the **movement of goods** across the sea and **other business news**. ○ The newspaper has been published **continuously for 200 years**.
Hundis	• **Hundi at the temple of Lord Venkateswara** (at Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh) has **crossed ₹1,000 crore-mark** in the current financial year. • Hundis are **drop boxes where worshippers put money as a token of material sacrifice** for Gods and Goddesses. • **Hundis also refer to financial instruments** evolved on the Indian sub-continent **used in trade and credit transactions.** ○ **They were used as** instruments for **remittance; credit or for trade transactions** (as bills of exchange).
Harijan Sevak Sangh (HSS)	• Recently, **90th Foundation Day of Harijan Sevak Sangh** was celebrated. • **HSS,** also known as All India **Anti-Untouchability League**, was founded by **Mahatma Gandhi in the year 1932 to eradicate untouchability.** • The founding president was **Ghanshayamdas Birla, and the secretary was Amritlal Thakkar.** • The **objective of Harijan Sevak Sangh was eradication, by truthful and nonviolent means, of untouchability in Hindu society.**
Meetei Mayek Script	• Newspapers in Manipur were asked **to switch to Meetei Mayek from Bengali script.** • According to the Sahitya Akademi, the history of the Meetei Mayek script dates to **at least the 6th century** and **was in use till the 18th century.** • The script nearly became extinct because of a **mass burning of all books in Meeteilon ordered by Ningthau Pamheiba** who ruled Manipur in the 18th century.

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ANKITA AGARWAL

3 AIR

GAMINI SINGLA

4 AIR

AISHWARYA VERMA

5 AIR

UTKARSH DWIVEDI

6 AIR

YAKSH CHAUDHARY

CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION 2020

1 AIR

SHUBHAM KUMAR

7 AIR

SAMYAK S JAIN

8 AIR

ISHITA RATHI

9 AIR

PREETAM KUMAR

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