



Culture

Classroom Study Material
(May 2018 to February 2019)



CULTURE

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1. DANCES & MUSIC

1.1. FOLK & TRIBAL DANCE

Why in News?

Some of the famous folk & tribal dances were performed during Republic Day celebrations.

List of Dances performed

- **Karakattam folk dance: Tamil Nadu**
 - It is an ancient folk dance of Tamil Nadu performed in praise of the **rain goddess Mariamman**.
 - The performers balance a **water pot (Karakam) on their head**. Traditionally, this dance is categorized into two types- **Aatta Karakam** is danced with decorated pots on the head and symbolizes joy and happiness. It is mainly performed to entertain the audience. The **Sakthi Karakam** is performed only in temples as a spiritual offering
- **Taakala Folk Dance: Maharashtra**
 - It is related to the exchange of the 'takla' vegetable among local tribal groups.
- **Koli Folk Dance: Maharashtra**
 - It is performed by fisherwomen.
- **Misra Raas of Gujarat**
 - Raas popularly known as dandiya raas is one of the most popular folk dances of Gujarat.
 - Mishra raas/Gop raas is a variant of this genre.
 - ✓ It is performed by both men and women.
 - ✓ It is not based on any criteria of caste or profession.
 - ✓ It has its roots in folklores and legends associated with raas of Krishna.
- **Monpa of Arunachal Pradesh**
 - It is a traditional dance form of the Monpa tribe, who inhabit parts of West Kameng District and Tawang District in Arunachal Pradesh.
 - This dance is performed during the Losar Festival, which marks the tribe's New Year.
- **Gangte folk dance, Arunachal Pradesh**
 - It is performed by men and women, celebrates closeness to nature.
- **Mamita of Tripura**
 - It is performed on the occasion of Mamita festival, which is harvest festival of Tripuri People.

- **Tamang Selo of Sikkim**

- It is a traditional Sikkimese folk dance patronised by the **Tamang community** of the state.
- A traditional musical instrument of the Tamangs, called the **Damphu**, accompanies the dance.
- It is performed during the Dasain or **Dusserah festival**.

- **Other dance performed: Satoiya Nitya of Assam; Fusim Dance of Jammu Kashmir; Hudka Chhudka of Uttarakhand.**

Related News

Karnataka's tableau was based on the 39th session of the Indian National Congress held in Belagavi (erstwhile Belgaum) in 1924, which was presided over by Mahatma Gandhi. It was the only session in which Gandhiji presided.

1.2. INDIA'S FIRST MUSIC MUSEUM

Why in News?

- India's first music museum will be set up in **Thiruvaiyaru, Tamil Nadu**, which is the birth place of **Saint Tyagaraja**.
- The **Tyagaraja Aaradhana Music Festival** is also held in Thiruvaiyaru which attracts musical talents from all over the world.

Saint Tyagaraja

- Saint Tyagaraja is **one of the Trinity of Carnatic music** (other two are Muthuswami Dikshitar and Syama Sastri) and his compositions are outpourings of love, prayer and appeal.
- He was the most illustrious composer among the trinity and **bhakti was the keynote of his compositions**.
- He firmly believed that **nadopasana** (the practice of music as an aid to cultivate devotion and contemplation) **can lead one to salvation only if it was combined with bhakti**.
- He mastered selfless devotion without any desire and it was **Nishkama Bhakthi**. He was an **ardent devotee of Lord Rama** and majority of his kritis are in praise of Rama.
- He mainly composed in **Telugu**.
- He set his face against '**narastuti**', **praise of men for profit or benefit** - a philosophy and principle underlying Hindu thought not to debase learning and knowledge.
- In fact, this principle was responsible for the old system of '**gurukulavasa**' - of disciples

learning at the feet of the master and the master imparting knowledge but not for money.

About Tyagaraja Aaradhana Festival

- It is celebrated every year at Thiruvayur as a **tribute to the musical Saint Tyagaraja**.
- Here hundreds of musicians come together and perform **Tyagaraja's Pancharatna Kritis** in unison.

Indian Classical Music is mainly divided into two parts

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

sitar, santoor, clarinet, violin & flute	mandolin, jalatarangam, violin & flute
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1.3. GHUMOT: GOA'S HERITAGE INSTRUMENT

Why in news?

Ghumot will soon be notified as a heritage instrument of Goa.

About Ghumot

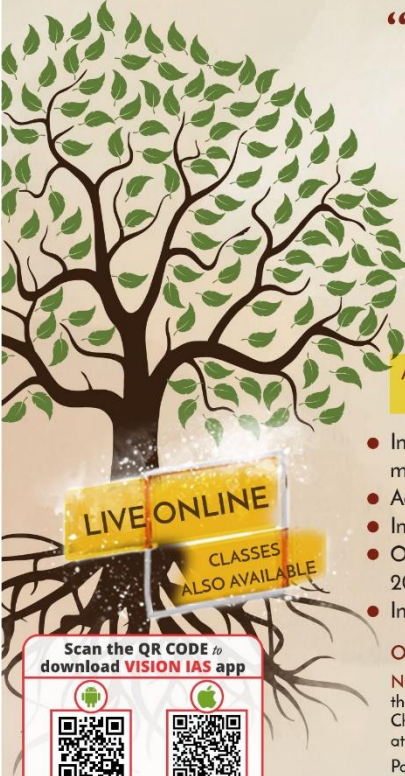

- It is a membranophone type **percussion instrument** and is also known as **Ghumat, Dakki or Budike**.
- It is a folk instrument of the Konkani people mainly the Siddis, Kudumis and Kharvis.
- It is part of the **Mando, a musical form of the Goan Catholics** that combines elements of both Indian and Western music.
- It is also part of the **Zagor folk dance and Dulpod** (Goan dance song).
- A smaller form of ghumot is generally used as the main accompaniment to the **'Burrakatha'** a folk, **storytelling tradition of Andhra Pradesh**.

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2. PAINTINGS & OTHER ART FORMS

2.1. THANJAVUR PAINTINGS

Why in news?

Raman Spectroscopy is now being used to ascertain if gold or gemstones on Thanjavur paintings are fake or not.

Raman Spectroscopy

- Raman spectroscopy is one of the vibrational spectroscopic techniques used to provide information on molecular vibrations and crystal structures.
- When light is irradiated on molecules, the light is scattered by them.
- Most of scattered light have the same frequency with incident light but some fraction of light has different frequency due to interaction between oscillation of light and molecular vibration.
- The phenomenon that the light is scattered with frequency change is called Raman scattering.

More on news

- Thanjavur painting is a form of **miniature painting** that flourished during the late 18th and 19th centuries. However, its origin can be traced back to early 9th century.
- It is characterised by **bold drawing, techniques of shading and the use of pure and brilliant colours along with semi-precious stones, pearls and glass pieces.**
- The **conical crown** appearing in the miniature is a typical feature of the Tanjore painting.
- Gold is extensively used in Thanjavur paintings as the glitter makes it more attractive as well as prolongs the life of the painting.
- It has also been granted **Geographical identification tag.**

Other famous miniature paintings

- **Pala School (11th to 12th century):** An example under this school is Astasahasrika Prajnaparamita (Buddhism)
- **Western Indian School (12th - 16th centuries):** Kalpasutra and Kalakacharya-Katha are the two very popular Jain texts repeatedly written and illustrated with paintings.
- **Other Isolated Styles (1500-1550 A.D.):** Examples include- Nimat Nama (Cookery Book); Kulhadar Group including Chaurapanchasika miniature, Gita Govinda, the Bhagavata Purana and Ragamala; Laur Chanda.
- **Mughal School (1560-1800 A.D.):** Various painting collections in this era include - Tuti-nama, Hamza-nama, Gulistan of Sadi, Razm-nama, Darab-nama, Ayar-i-Danish & Anwar-i-sunavli (under Jahangir)
- **Deccani Schools (1560-1800 A.D.):** Ahmednagar, Bijapur, Golconda, Hyderabad, Tanjore

- **Central Indian And Rajasthani Schools (17th - 19th Centuries):** Malwa, Mewar, Bundi, Kotah, Amber-Jaipur, Marwar, Bikaner, Kishengarh
- **Pahari Schools (17th to 19th Centuries):** Basohli, Guler, Kangra, Kulu Mandi
- **Orissa (17th century A.D.):** Gita Govinda

2.2. MITHILA PAINTING

Why in news?

Madhubani Railway Station in Bihar gets makeover with Mithila Paintings

About Mithila Painting

- Madhubani/Mithila painting is practiced in the **Mithila region of Bihar and Nepal** deriving its name from the **Madhubani town in Bihar.**
- It is often characterized by **complex geometrical patterns**, these paintings are known for representing **ritual content for particular occasions, including festivals, religious rituals, etc.**
- These colors are **often bright** and pigments like lampblack and ochre are used to create black and brown respectively.
- It commonly includes double line border, bold use of colours, ornate floral patterns and exaggerated facial features and it is **two-dimensional with no shading.**
- Instead of contemporary **brushes**, objects like **twigs, matchsticks and even fingers** are used to create the paintings.
- It is done on **freshly plastered walls using rice paste and vegetable colours** on a base of cow dung and mud. For commercial purposes, the work is now being done on paper, cloth, canvas etc. and men have also got involved along with women.
- It has been given **Geographical Indication (GI) tag.**

2.3. BAGRU BLOCK PRINTING

Why in news?

The 'Titanwala Museum' in Bagru (Rajasthan), a private initiative, was inaugurated to preserve the art of traditional Bagru block printing.

About Bagru Block printing

- It is a traditional technique of printing with natural colour done by the **Chippa community in Bagru village of Rajasthan.**
- Traditionally, **motifs** printed at Bagru are **large with bold lines.** The motifs include **wild**

**flowers, buds, leaves and printed geometrical patterns.**

- The main colors used in Bagru are **Red and Black**.

Some other important traditional block printing techniques in India

- **Gujarat:** Ajrakh Print
 - **Rajasthan:** Sanganeri, Ajrakh, Dabu
 - **Madhya Pradesh:** Bagh Print, Bherogarh Print (Batik)
 - **Andhra Pradesh:** Kalamkari
- Calcutta, Serampur (West Bengal), Varanasi and Farrukabad (Uttar Pradesh) are also important centres of block printing in India.

2.4. AIPAN**Why in news?**

Project Aipan was started with an aim to revive Aipan, an art form which hails from the Kumaon region of Uttarakhand, India.

More about Aipan art

- The background is prepared with red clay, called geru, and the designs are created with a white paste made from rice flour.
- Traditionally it was made on walls and floors.

2.5. THOLU BOMMALATA**Why in news?**

Tholu Bommalata, the shadow puppet theatre tradition of Andhra Pradesh, has been declining.

More about the Tholu Bommalatam

- It literally means "the dance of leather puppets" (tholu – leather and bommalata – puppet dance).
- The puppets are large in size and have jointed waist, shoulders, elbows and knees.
- The puppets are mostly made of skin of antelope, spotted deer and goat. Auspicious characters are made of antelope skin and deer skin.
- They are coloured on both sides. Hence, these puppets throw coloured shadows on the screen.
- Puppeteers narrate stories from the twin-epics of Ramanayana and Mahabharata with

animated movement of arms and hands to give a three-dimensional effect.

Puppetry in India

- The earliest reference to the art of puppetry is found in Tamil classic 'Silappadikaaram' written around the 1st or 2nd century B.C.
- The puppeteer narrates the story in prose or lyrical form while the puppet shows provides the visual treat.
- Stories from puranic literature, local myths and legends form the subject of puppetry shows in ancient India.
- There are mainly four types of puppet forms in India: **String puppets, shadow puppets, rod puppets and glove puppets.**
- **String Puppetry:** String puppets or marionettes have jointed limbs controlled by strings. Some of the famous string puppetry are:
 - Kathputli, Rajasthan
 - Kundhei, Odisha
 - Gombeyatta, Karnataka
 - Bommalattam, Tamil Nadu.
- **Shadow Puppetry:** Shadow puppets are flat figures which are pressed against a screen with strong source of light behind it to create shadows. Some of the famous shadow puppetry are:
 - Togalu Gombeyatta, Karnataka
 - Tholu Bommalata, Andhra Pradesh
 - Ravanachayya, Odisha
 - Tolpava Kuthu Vellalchetti, Kerala
 - Chamadyache Bahulya, Maharashtra
- **Glove Puppetry:** Glove puppets are also known as sleeve, hand or palm puppets. The head is made of papier mache, cloth or wood, with two hands emerging from just below the neck and rest of the body is generally a flowing skirt. These puppets are made to produce various types of movements at the hands of a puppeteer. Eg: Pavakoothu, Kerala.
- **Rod Puppetry:** Rod puppets are an extension of glove-puppets, but often much larger and supported and manipulated by rods from below. Some of the famous rod puppetry are:
 - Putul Nautch, West Bengal
 - Odisha Rod Puppet
 - Yampuri, Bihar

3. SCULPTURE AND ARCHITECTURE

3.1. KONARK SUN TEMPLE

Why in News?

Recently there were alleged irregularities in the Archaeological Survey of India's restoration of Konark Sun Temple, which was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984.

Other sun temples in India

- Dakshinaarka Temple, Gaya, Bihar
- Sun temple, Martand, J&K
- Modhera Sun Temple, Gujarat
- Sun Temple, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh
- Surya Narayan Temple, Arasavalli, Andhra Pradesh
- Suryanaar Temple in Kumbhakonam in Tamil Nadu
- Sun Temple in Osian, Rajasthan

About Konark Sun Temple

- Sun Temple of Konark, built in the middle of 13th century, is a massive conception of artistic magnificence and engineering dexterity situated in Odisha.
- King Narasimhadeva I, the great ruler of the Ganga dynasty had built this temple. Since the ruler used to worship the Sun, the temple was considered as a chariot for the Sun God.
- It was designed in the form of a gorgeously decorated chariot mounted on 24 wheels, each about 10 feet in diameter, and drawn by 7 mighty horses.
- It is a classic illustration of the Odisha style of Architecture or Kalinga Architecture.
- Konark forms the third arm of Odisha's Golden Triangle (other being Jagannath Temple, Puri, and the Lingaraja Temple of Bhubaneswar).
- The temple was used as a navigational point by European sailors. They referred to it as the 'Black Pagoda' due to its dark colour and its magnetic power that drew ships into the shore and caused shipwrecks.

3.2. KHAJURAHO TEMPLES

Why in News?

Recently, the Khajuraho Dance Festival was organised by the the government of Madhya Pradesh at the Khajuraho temple.

About Khajuraho Temples

- The Khajuraho Group of Monuments is a group of Hindu and Jain temples in Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh, and is one of the **UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India**.

- It was built between **950-1050 AD** by the **Chandela Dynasty** and famous for their **nagara-style architectural symbolism** and their erotic sculptures (only 10% of all sculptures). The erotic expression is given equal importance in human experience as spiritual pursuit, and it is seen as part of a larger cosmic whole
- It is built of **buff sandstone** and usually have been made on **high terraces**. Almost all the temples have an **inner shrine an assembly hall or mandapa**, and an entrance portico with circumambulatory passage.
- All the towers or shikharas of temple rise high, upward in a curved pyramidal fashion, emphasising the temple's vertical thrust ending in a horizontal fluted disc called an amalak topped with a kalash or vase.
- Some of the temples at Khajuraho are a cluster of five shrines - the main temple surrounded by four others at each corner (**Panchayatana**)
- The **Kandariya Mahadeva Temple (largest)**, the Devi Jagadamba Temple, the Chitragupta Temple, the Vishwanatha Temple, the Parvati Temple, the **Lakshamana or Chaturbhuj Temple (dedicated to Vishnu)**; the Varaha Temple; the Chaunsat Yogini Temple (the only temple made entirely of granite and dedicated to sixty four yoginis) are some of the very famous and worth studying from the art and architectural point of view.
- The South-East of Khajuraho is famous for Jain Temples. The Parsvanatha Temple is most important one whereas the Ghantai Temple is named because of the bell and chain ornaments at its pillars.

3.3. SANCHI STUPA

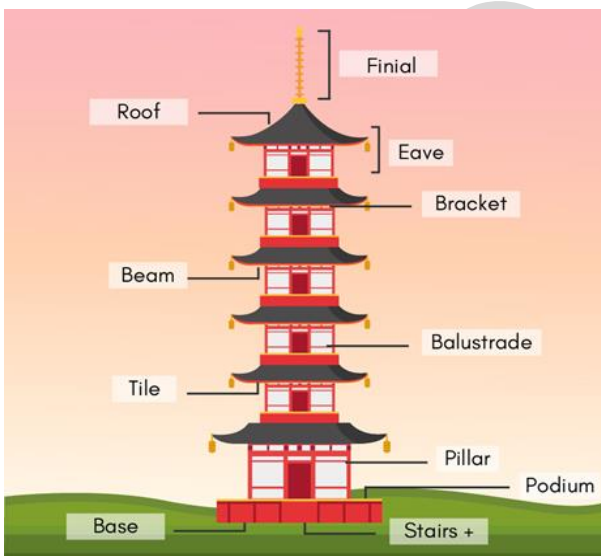
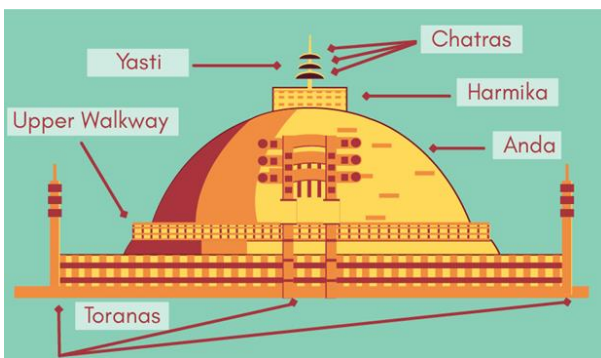
Why in news?

Recently, Union Cabinet has signed a MoU with Vietnam on joint postal stamp which depicts **Sanchi Stupa and Pho Minh Pagoda of Vietnam**.

Sanchi Stupa

- It is one of the oldest structures in India and was commission by 3rd century BCE by **Emperor Ashoka**.
- It is believed that during the reign of Shunga Emperor Pushyamitra Shunga **it was vandalised**. While under Agnimitra Shunga, son of Pushyamitra, it was refurbished.

- During the **Satavahans Period** the gateways, and the balustrade were built and highly decorated. The gateways commissioned were covered with **narrative structures**. The figure of Lord Buddha was carved in these structures as canopy under the Bodhi Tree at the point of Enlightenment. Various **events of life of Lord Buddha** were carved.
- As seen in the figure the main parts of the Stupa are – Anda, Harmika, Chatri, Pradakshinapatha, Medhi, Vedika and Torana.
- The Sanchi Stupa has four beautifully carved Toranas or the gateways which depict various **events of Buddhas' life** and Jatakas.
- It has been enlisted as **UNESCO world heritage site** in 1989.



Pho Minh Pagoda of Vietnam

- It was built originally during the **Ly Dynasty** and was later expanded in 1262 during Tran Dynasty.
- It was a place for **high-ranking mandarins** and the aristocracy of the Tran Royal Court to worship and lead their religious life.

What is the difference between a stupa and pagoda?

- In general, however, "stupa" is the term used for a Buddhist structure in India or Southeast Asia while "pagoda" refers to temple or a sacred building in East Asia which can be entered, and which may be secular in purpose.

- Stupa is a hemispherical dome shaped structure which contains relics of remains of Buddha or a Bodhisattva, whereas Pagodas have sets of multiple discs.
- Unlike the typical stupa, the pagoda actually has interior space, sometimes on several levels.
- Pagodas are found in Nepal, China, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Myanmar, Sri Lanka etc.

3.4. BADSHAHI ASHOORKHANA

Why in news?

Telangana government and Aga Khan Trust are working to restore the Badshahi Ashoorkhana monument.

About Badshahi Ashoorkhana

- Badshahi Ashoorkhana is a **Shia Muslim mourning place**, near Charminar in Hyderabad, India. It was constructed in memory of martyrdom of Imam Hussain in the battle of Karbala, and is used during the festival of Moharram.
- It was built by **Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah** in 1611, three years after building the Charminar.
- Ashoorkhana is famous for its resplendent tile work that have retained their lustre and vibrant colours even after four centuries.

About Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah

- He was the fifth sultan of the Qutb Shahi dynasty of Golkonda who ascended to the throne in 1580.
- He founded the city of Hyderabad and built its architectural centerpiece, the **Charminar**. He also built Charkaman archways.
- He is a contemporary of Tulsidas, Mirabai and Surdas. His poetry is bound to earth and revels in the universality of love and mystic experiences.
- During his reign, Jean Baptiste Tavernier visited and wrote about walking into the Qutb Shahi tombs complex where carpets were laid out and whoever walked in was served *pulao*.

Battle of Karbala

- It took place in 680 A.D. Ashoora or 10th day of Muharram. Brief military engagement in a place called Karbala in Iraq, in which a small party led by al-hussain, grandson of the Prophet was defeated and massacred by an army sent by the Umayyad caliph Yazid I.
- The battle is remembered by Shiite Muslims (followers of al-hussain) as an annual holy day of public mourning.

3.5. INDIA'S NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL

Why in news?

India's national war memorial (first proposed in 1960) was inaugurated at the India Gate complex in Delhi by the PM.

About the Memorial

- Spread across 40 acres, **it is built to honor soldiers who laid down their lives defending the nation, post-independence.**
- It also commemorates the sacrifices made by Indian soldiers sent on peace-keeping missions of the United Nations, Humanitarian Assistance Disaster Relief (HADR) and counter-insurgency operations.
- The Memorial has four concentric circles, a central stone obelisk (15.5m), and an eternal flame built at a cost of 176 crore.
- The concentric circles are designed as a Chakravyuh (an ancient Indian war formation) and are called:
 - **Amar Chakra or Circle of Immortality:** innermost circle, at its centre stands the obelisk topped by a bronze lion capital. **It has a hollow centre where the eternal flame is situated.**
 - **Veerta Chakra or Circle of Bravery:** a covered gallery, with bronze murals depicting Battles of Gangasagar, Longewala, Tithwal, Rizangla, and Operation Meghdoot (1984), Trident(1971).
 - **Tyag Chakra or Circle of Sacrifice:** two circles within Raksha Chakra consisting of 16 walls made of 25,942 granite tables dedicated to soldiers who fell in China and Pakistan wars and operations such as that of the Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka.
 - **Rakshak Chakra or Circle of Protection:** outermost circle comprising of 600 trees symbolises soldiers who ensure the territorial integrity of the nation, round the clock.
- The Param Yodha Sthal has the busts of 21 recipients of the Param Vir Chakra, India's highest military honour, with short descriptions of their acts of valour.

3.6. MONUMENTS OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE

Why in news?

ASI has declared 6 monuments as monuments of national importance in 2018.

More on news

- Under Section 4 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, ancient monuments or archaeological sites which are of historical, archaeological or artistic interest and which have been in

existence for not less than 100 years may be declared as of national importance.

- The protection and maintenance of monuments, declared as of national importance is taken up by ASI by way of structural repairs, chemical preservation and environmental development around the monument which is a regular and on-going process.
- **The 6 monuments are as follows:**
 - The 125-year-old Old High Court Building in Nagpur, Maharashtra,
 - Two Mughal-era monuments in Agra (U.P.):
 - ✓ Haveli of Agha Khan
 - ✓ Hathi Khana
 - The ancient Neemrana Baori in Alwar, Rajasthan
 - The Group of Temples at Bolangir, Odisha
 - The Vishnu Temple, Pithoragarh, Uttarkhand

Archeological Survey of India (ASI)

- The ASI under the Ministry of Culture, is the premier organization for the archaeological researches and protection of the cultural heritage of the nation.
- Maintenance of ancient monuments and archaeological sites and remains of national importance is the prime concern of the ASI.
- Besides it regulates all archaeological activities in the country as per the provisions of the **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.**
- It also regulates **Antiquities and Art Treasure Act, 1972.**
- It was founded in 1861 by Alexander Cunningham who also became its first Director-General.

3.7. WORLD CAPITAL OF ARCHITECTURE

Why in news?

The UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has named the Brazilian city of **Rio de Janeiro** as the World Capital of Architecture for 2020.

More on news

- As the **first World Capital of Architecture, Rio de Janeiro** will hold a series of events under the theme **“All the worlds. Just one world”**, and promote the internationally agreed **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’s 11th Goal:** “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.”
- Rio has a mix of modern and colonial architecture, with world-renowned sites like

the **statue of Christ the Redeemer** and contemporary constructions like the **Museum of Tomorrow**.

About World Capital of Architecture initiative

- It is a joint initiative of UNESCO and the International Union of Architects (UIA) launched in 2018.
- World Capital of Architecture is intended to become "an international forum for debates about pressing global challenges from the perspectives of culture, cultural heritage, urban planning and architecture".
- **UNESCO also hosts the UIA's World Congress**, an event that takes place every three years.

About International Union of Architects (UIA)

- It is a **non-governmental organisation recognized by UNESCO** as the only architectural union operating at an international level.
- It was founded in Lausanne, Switzerland in 1948 to unite the architects of the world through a federation of their national organizations.

3.8. MY SON TEMPLE COMPLEX

Why in News?

President of India on his recent visit to **Vietnam** went to the My Son temple complex in Kwangan province.

About My Son Temple

- It is a cluster of abandoned and partially ruined Hindu temples in Vietnam, constructed

between the 4th and the 14th century AD by the Champa kings of Vietnam.

- It has been recognized by **UNESCO as a world heritage site**.
- Here many temples were built to the Hindu divinities such as Krishna and Vishnu, but **most importantly to Shiva**. (the most important of which is **Bhadreshvara**.)
- The temples have a variety of architectural designs symbolizing the greatness and purity of Mount Meru, the mythical sacred mountain home of Hindu gods at the center of the universe.
- They are constructed in fired brick with stone pillars and decorated with sandstone bas-reliefs depicting scenes from Hindu mythology
- **The Archaeological Survey of India is undertaking the restoration** of three temple groups at My Son.

Other conservation efforts by ASI across Asia

- **The Angkor Wat in Cambodia:**
 - It is the largest religious structure ever built.
 - It was built for the Hindu god Vishnu by the Khmer King Suryavarman II in the period 1113–50.
- **Ananda Temple in Myanmar:** It is a Buddhist temple.
- **Bamiyan Buddhas in Afghanistan:** It was destroyed in 2001 by the Taliban.
- **The Ta Prohm Temple in Cambodia**
- **The Vat Phou Temple in Laos**

फाउंडेशन कोर्स सामान्य अध्ययन 2020

प्रारंभिक एवं मुख्य परीक्षा

इनोवेटिव क्लासरूम प्रोग्राम के घटक



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4. LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE

4.1. SILAPPADIKARAM

Why in News?

A rare dance panel of Nayak period and an inscribed pillar of Chola period have been found on an abandoned brick mound at Pathalapettai near Kiliyur in Tiruchi.

More about the news

- The dance panel is depicted on a stone slab showing four pairs of well-dressed male and female dancers are seen engaged in a ritualistic dance in the panel.
- Silappadikaram has references to such ritualistic performances by rural folks.
- A round pillar found at the spot has an inscribed base. The base has a Tamil inscription of Chola paleography with a few Grantha letters used in between.

About Silappadikaram

- It was composed during Sangam Period (3rd century BC to 4th century AD).
- Silappadikaram (the story of the anklet) written by Ilango-Adigal (Tamil poet and Jaina Monk) is one of the five Great Epics of Tamil Nadu, followed by Manimegalai, Civaka Cintamani, Valayapathi and Kundalakesi.
- The epic revolves around Kannagi, who having lost her husband to a miscarriage of justice at the court of the Pandyan Dynasty, wreaks her revenge on his kingdom.
- All three of the Tamil kingdoms of the ancient era – the Chola, the Pandya and the Chera – are mentioned in the tale.
- It is considered to be one of the greatest poetic works detailing the Tamil culture. It also emphasizes the importance of various religions, town plans and city types, and the mingling of Greeks and Arabs with the Tamil peoples.

4.2. MAITHILI LANGUAGE

Why in news?

The Ministry of Human Resource Development has decided to implement the recommendations of a committee for the promotion and protection of Maithili language and its scripts.

About Maithili

- Mithilakshar or Tirhuta is the script of the language Maithili.
- It is mainly spoken in India (Bihar, Jharkhand etc.) and Nepal.

- The oldest form of Mithilakshar is found in the Sahodara stone inscriptions of 950 AD.
- Vidyapati Thakur, was the first writer to use Maithili as a literary language, his poetic works and songs are full of devotion to the God Shiva.
- In the 14th century, Jyotishwar Thakur enriched the literature in a holistic way.
- His work Dhurt Samagam is very popular in Maithili.
- In the 20th century, Baba Nagarjun, Ramanand Renu contributed in the field of prose writing.
- In 1910 the first Maithili organization, the Maithili Mahasabha came into being for the development of Maithili and Maithils.
- The language has been accorded a constitutional status in the 8th Schedule of the constitution in 2004, through the 92nd amendment.

The Eighth Schedule of the Constitution includes 22 major languages: Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Gujarathi, Hindi, Kananda, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali and Oriya.

4.3. DAKSHINA BHARAT HINDI PRACHAR SABHA

Why in News?

The President of India inaugurated the centenary celebrations of the Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha.

About Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha

- It was established in the year 1918 by Mahatma Gandhi with the sole aim of propagating Hindi in southern states.
- Hindi Prachar was a movement that emerged as part of Freedom Movement and the leaders who led the nation to "FREE INDIA" felt the necessity of making a single Indian Language the National Language, and through that language unify the people and thereby intensify National Integration.
- In 1964, the institution was recognised by the Indian Government as one of the Institutes of National Importance.

Related news

- Abu Dhabi has recently included Hindi as the third official language used in courts alongside Arabic and English. Other than UAE, Fiji also has Hindi as official language.

5. INITIATIVES OF UNESCO

5.1. UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK NETWORK STATUS

Why in news?

Recently Geological Survey of India (GSI) chose heritage locations in **Maharashtra and Karnataka** for UNESCO Global Geopark Network site status.

What is UNESCO Global Geopark Network Status?

- **UNESCO Global Geoparks** are single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development.
- It aims to enhance awareness and understanding of key issues facing society, such as using our earth's resources sustainably, mitigating the effects of climate change and reducing natural disasters-related risks.
- **The Global Geoparks Network (GGN)**, is a legally constituted not-for-profit organisation. Its membership is obligatory for UNESCO Global Geoparks.
- At present, there are **140 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 38 countries**.
- An aspiring Global Geopark must have a dedicated website, a corporate identity, comprehensive management plan, protection plans, finance, and partnerships for it to be accepted.
- As of now there is **no geo-heritage site from India is included under UNESCO Geo park Network**.

About the sites chosen:

- **Lonar Lake, Maharashtra:**
 - It is the **world's oldest meteoric crater** formed around 50,000 years ago and the **only one formed in basalt rock**.
 - It is a salt water lake.
 - It became a **national geo-heritage site in 1979**.
- **St. Mary's Island and Malpe Beach, Karnataka:**
 - It is a **hexagonal mosaic of basaltic rocks** in an island off Udupi.
 - It is estimated to be an **88-million-year-old formation** that goes back to a time when Greater India broke away from Madagascar.

- It was declared a **national geo-heritage site in 1975**.

About Geological Survey of India

- It is an attached office to the Ministry of Mines.
- It was set up in 1851 primarily to find coal deposits for the Railways.
- Its main function is creation and updation of national geoscientific information and mineral resource assessment.
- Its headquarter is in Kolkata.
- It has declared 32 Geological Heritage Sites/National Geological Monuments for conservation, protection and maintenance.
- GSI or the respective State governments take necessary measures to protect these sites

5.2. 37TH UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Why in news?

India's nomination of the architectures of "**Victorian and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai**" has been included in **UNESCO's World Heritage list**.

More about news

- India accepted the renaming of the ensemble as **Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai** as recommended by the World Heritage Committee.
- This is the **third site from Mumbai** after the **Elephanta Caves** and **Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus railway station**.
- Across India, there are now **37 world heritage sites**. With **five sites, Maharashtra has the maximum number of sites in India**.
- India stands **second largest in number after China in ASPAC (Asia and Pacific) region**. It is **overall sixth in the world**.

World Heritage Committee

- It is the executive body responsible for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.
- The **Convention** is an international agreement adopted in **1972** by the Member States of the UNESCO.
- The primary mission of the Convention is to **identify and protect the world's natural and cultural heritage considered to be of Outstanding Universal Value**
- Strategic Objectives Of the convention is based on the "**Five Cs**": **Credibility, Conservation, Capacity-building, Communication, Communities**
- The Convention **serves as a catalyst to raising awareness for heritage preservation**.
- **The World Heritage Fund**, setup under convention,



provides financial assistance to States Parties in **identifying, preserving and promoting World Heritage sites.**

UNESCO

- It is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) based in Paris.
- Its declared purpose is to contribute to peace and security by promoting international collaboration through educational, scientific, and cultural reforms in order to increase universal respect for justice, the rule of law, and human rights along with fundamental freedom proclaimed in the United Nations Charter.
- **The United States and Israel left UNESCO** on 31 December 2018.

About the sites

- This collection of **Victorian and Art Deco landmarks** is the **largest such conglomeration and first** of the combination of these two genres of architecture in the world **to be included in world heritage list.**
- The Ensemble consists of **94 buildings primarily of 19th century Victorian Gothic revival and early 20th century Art Deco style of architecture with the Oval Maidan in the centre.**
- Some characteristics of Victorian art are: Use of **pointed arches, Heavy stone and brick work**, Use of **polychromes** (contrasting colors) and **Bold** forms like towers, massive hip and gabled roofs.
- Art Deco, also called **style modern** was movement in the decorative arts and architecture. The Art Deco edifices, with their cinemas and residential buildings, blend Indian design with Art Deco imagery, creating a unique style that has been described as Indo-Deco.

World Heritage Sites in India

Man-made Sites	
Agra Fort	Ajanta Caves
Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi	Champaner- Pavagadh Archaeological Park
Chhtrapati Shivaji Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus)	Churches and Convents of Goa
Elephanta Caves	Ellora Caves
Fatehpur Sikri	Great Living Chola Temples
Group of Monuments at Hampi	Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram
Group of Monuments at Pattadakal	Hill Forts of Rajasthan
Humayun's Tomb, Delhi	Khajuraho Group of Monuments
Mahabodhi Temple, Bodh Gaya	Mountain Railways of India
Qutub Minar, Delhi	Rani-ki-Vav (the Queen's step-well), Patap, Gujarat
Red Fort	Rock Shelters of Bhimbhetka
Sun Temple, Konark	Taj Mahal
The Jantar Mantar, Jaipur	Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavira (Nalanda University), Bihar
Architectural Work of Le Corbusier (Capitol Complex, Chandigarh)	Historic City of Ahmedabad
Natural Sites	
Great Himalayan National Park	Kaziranga National Park
Keoladeo National Park	Manas Wildlife Sanctuary
Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks	Sundarbans National Park
Western Ghats	Mixed Site: Khangchendzonga National Park

6. FESTIVALS

6.1. SANSKRITI KUMBH

Why in News?

The Ministry of Culture is organizing Sanskriti Kumbh, a **29 days cultural extravaganza at Kumbh Mela** area, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh.

The ICH list for India includes

- **Koodiyattam:** Sanskrit Theatre, Kerala
- **Mudiyettu:** a ritual theatre of Kerala
- **The Tradition of Vedic Chanting**
- **Ramlila:** the Traditional Performance of the Ramayana
- **Ramman:** religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas
- **Kalbelia:** folk songs and dances of Rajasthan
- **Chhau dance:** 3 distinct styles from the regions of Seraikella (Jharkhand), Purulia (Bengal) and Mayurbhanj (Odisha). Of these, the first two use masks.
- **Buddhist chanting of Ladakh:** recitation of sacred Buddhist texts in the trans-Himalayan Ladakh region, Jammu and Kashmir
- **Sankirtana:** ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur
- **Traditional brass and copper craft** of utensil making among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, Punjab
- **Yoga**
- **Nawrouz**
- **Kumbh Mela** (latest addition in 2017)

About Kumbh

- Kumbh Mela is one of the **oldest and largest congregation** in the world which is attended by millions of people irrespective of all caste, creed, sex and region.
- The significance of Kumbh Mela has been enhanced at the Global level as the **UNESCO** has inscribed Kumbh Mela on the list of **Intangible Cultural heritage for humanity** in 2017.
- The Kumbh Mela is held **four times over the course of 12 years**, in rotation between four Hindu pilgrimage places on four sacred rivers:
 - Haridwar (banks of Ganga),
 - Prayagraj/Allahabad (Confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati),
 - Nashik (banks of Godavari)
 - Ujjain (banks of Shipra).
- Kumbh Mela can be traced back in history through the writings of 7th century Chinese traveller **Hiuen Tsang** who came to India during the rule of Harshavardhan. The festival was also popularised among people by the eighth century saint **Shankaracharya**.

- At Prayagraj, Kumbh Mela held at every 6 years and Maha Kumbh at every 12 years. Earlier they were known as **Ardh Kumbh and Kumbh**. But this year the government has announced the Ardh Kumbh will be known as Kumbh and Kumbh as Maha Kumbh.

UNESCO's Lists of Intangible Cultural Heritage

- It is a list which is prepared to promote the intangible heritage and contribute to a greater awareness of their importance and was formed **after Convention for Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage** came into effect.
- Intergovernmental Committee for safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage meets and evaluates the nominations proposed by member states after which the List is published every year.
- UNESCO brings out two separate lists:
 - **Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (ICH)**– It is made up of those intangible heritage elements which bring out the diversity of culture.
 - **List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in need of Urgent Safeguarding** – It is made up of the intangible heritage elements which require urgent measures. It also helps to mobilize international cooperation.

Related information

- Scheme titled '**Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage and Diverse Cultural Traditions of India**' is being implemented by the Ministry of Culture
- It has objective of reinvigorating and revitalizing various institutions, groups, individuals, identified non-MoC institutions, non-government organisations, researchers and scholars so that they may engage in activities/ projects for strengthening, protecting, preserving and promoting the rich intangible cultural heritage of India.
- The scheme is being implemented through **Sangeet Natak Akademi**, an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Culture

6.2. VISHWA SHANTI AHIMSA SAMMELAN

Why in news?

Vishwa Shanti Ahimsa Sammelan (VSAS) 2018 took place in Mangi-Tungi in Satana Taluka of Nashik District, Maharashtra.

CORE BELIEFS



Both sects (Swetambar - monks; Digambar - monks) aim to make sure their soul does not receive any more Karma so that the Karman inside of them will be eliminated



Mahavira created the Three Jewels: Right Belief (Samyak Darshan) Right Knowledge (SamyakJnan) and Right Conduct



In the Three Jewels are the Five Abstinences: Ahisma (Non Violence), Satya (truthfulness), Asteya (Not stealing), Aparigraha (Non Acquisition), and Brahmacharya (Chaste Living).



Believe that souls: Exist forever, always independent, responsible for actions, can be liberated from cycle of Birth, Death, and Rebirth but not all souls are capable of this.



When human dies, the soul goes to its next body instantly. May not even be human or animal

About Mangi Tungi Hills

- These are the two hills of Sahyadri range.
- The hills have about 10 cave temples belonging to Jainism.
- These two peaks have special significance in Jainism because around 990 million Digambar Jains achieved salvation on these two hills. Therefore, the area is called 'Siddha Kshtera' (gateway to the state of enlightenment).
- Mangi Tungi is also the site of the 108-foot tall statue of Jain Tirthankar Bhagwan Rishabhdev. This is the tallest monolithic Jain statue in the world, erected in 2016.
- Before that 57-foot tall Gommateswar statue of Bahubali (Son of Lord Rishabhdev) at Sravan Belagola was the tallest single-rock Jain statue in the world.

About Lord Rishabhdev

- He is the first Jain Tirthankara (spiritual teacher). He is also called Adi Nath.
- He introduced the philosophy of Non-Violence.
- His symbol or emblem is Bull.
- He is considered as the founder of Ikshvaku dynasty to which Lord Rama belonged.

Tirthankara (ford-maker): Also called Jina (victor), is a great human being who attains liberation by destroying all his karmas and becomes a role model for every living being. A Tirthankara not only attains salvation himself but also helps all those who are sincerely trying to seek nirvana by preaching and guiding them.

6.3. AMBUBACHI MELA

Why in News?

Ambubachi Mela, a four day annual fair was held recently at Kamakhya Temple in Guwahati, Assam to mark the **annual menstruation of Goddess**.

About Kamakhya Temple

- Situated on the Nilachal Hills in Guwahati, Assam, it is one of the 52 Shakti peeths or Seat of Shakti followers.

- It is believed to be the site where Hindu deity Sati's womb and genitals fell after she burned to death.
- Kamakhya Devi, the reigning deity, is also worshipped as the Goddess of fertility.
- It is also considered as one of the prime seats of Tantric cult.

Related News

- **'Dwijing Festival'**, an annual river festival was celebrated on the bank of Aie River in Chirang District, Assam.

6.4. BEHDIENKHLAM FESTIVAL

Why in news?

Behdiengkhlam festival was recently celebrated at Jowai, Jaintia Hills District in Meghalaya.

Details

- It is a traditional festival celebrated after sowing is done **seeking a good harvest** and to drive away plague and diseases. ("beh dien" means to drive away with sticks and "khlam" means plague or pestilence.)
- The festival is observed by **'Pnars'** who believe in the traditional faith of "Niamtre".
- During the festival young men symbolically drive away evil spirits by beating the roof of every house with bamboo poles.
- Women do not participate in the dancing, and have an important function of offering sacrificial food to the spirits of the forefathers.
- The main feature of the festival is the making of the **"Dein Khlam", "Symlend" and "Khong"**, which are rounded, polished and tall trunks of trees.
- The people also display their artistic skills by erecting 'rots' (tall bamboo structures decorated with colour paper and tinsel).
- As part of the celebration, a game similar to football called **dat la wakor** is also held with each team trying to score a goal with a wooden ball.

The Jaintia tribe

- They are also known as **Syntengs and Pnars**.
- They reside in the east part of Meghalaya and they are of an Austro-Asiatic origin.
- They are a **matrilineal society** as the children take the identity or family title solely from the mother.
- Amongst the Jaintias, it is the **youngest daughter who inherits property** and has the obligation to take care and look after the family.
- The tribe is famous for artistic weaving, wood-carving and cane and bamboo work.
- Jaintia men wear Jymphong and dhoti while the women wrap several pieces of clothes so as to give a cylindrical shape. During functions they wear



crowns of silver and gold with peak attached at the back of it.

- Apart from Behdiengkhlam festival, the Laho Dance festivals also an important festivals of the Jaintias.

6.5. BATHUKAMMA FESTIVAL

Why in News?

- For the first time ever the New South Wales Parliament in Sydney, Australia celebrated the ethnic festival of Bathukamma.
- Pochampally Handloom Weavers also got a chance to promote their sarees in this celebration.

About Bathukamma

- Bathukamma that means ‘Mother Goddess come Alive’ is a colourful floral festival of Telangana celebrated towards the end of monsoon.
- Bathukamma is a beautiful flower stack of different unique seasonal flowers most of them with medicinal value, arranged in seven concentric layers in the shape of temple gopuram.
- The final day of Bathukamma, known as Pedha or Saddula Bathukamma falls two days before Dussehra.

About Pochampalli Sarees

- The art originated in 18th Century in Pochampally town of Telangana and is locally called as Chit-ku. The town is popularly known as the silk city of India.
- These sarees are culturally popular for the Ikat styling and designs (geometrical) imprinted on this fabric.
- The Poochampalli Ikat Sarees also have GI tag in their name.

6.6. NONGKREM DANCE FESTIVAL

Why in news?

Recently, Nongkrem dance festival was celebrated at **Smit village in Khasi Hills of Meghalaya**.

About the Nongkrem Dance Festival

- It is an annual dance festival celebrated for the **harvest thanksgiving and for peace and prosperity** for all the community people.
- It is one of the most important **festival of Khasi tribe – Hima Khyrim** during which men, women and children dance to the tunes of drums and pipes.

- Khasi tribe follows the **matrilineal system of society** and they practice **shifting cultivation**.

- The celebration begins with the sacrifice of a goat. In fact, the the word **Nongkrem** means “goat killing ceremony”.
- A special dance is performed by the men called ‘**Ka Shad Mastieh**’ in which they hold sword in their right hand and a whisks in left hand.

6.7. HORNBILL FESTIVAL

Why in news?

The Hornbill festival was recently celebrated in Nagaland.

About the festival

- The Hornbill Festival is one of the largest celebrations of the indigenous warrior tribes of Nagaland. The aim of the festival is to revive and protect the rich culture of Nagaland and display its extravaganza and traditions.
- The festival is named after Hornbill, one of the most venerated bird species in the state whose importance is reflected in a number of tribal cultural expressions, songs and dances.
- It starts on 1st December which happens to be Nagaland Formation Day and lasts 10 days.

Tribes in Nagaland	Associated Dances/ festivals
Angami Nagas	Melo Phita Dance
Ao tribe	Moatsu festival
Chakhesang tribe	Sekrenyi festival
Chang tribe	Chang Lo Dance
Dimasa tribe	Bushu Jiba festival
Khamniungan tribe	Miu and Tsokum festival
Konyak tribe	Traditional Head hunters
Kuki tribe	Kuki Dance
Lotha tribe	Rukhyo Sharu Dance
Phom tribe	Monyu Aasho Dance
Pochury tribe	Yenshe festival
Rengma tribe	Ngada festival
Sangtam tribe	Amongmong festival
Sumi tribe	Angushu Kighilhe Dance
Yimchunger tribe	Metemneo festival
Zeliang tribe	Zeliang Dance

Hornbill in India

Nine different species of Hornbill are found in India in:

- **Western Ghats:** Indian Grey Hornbill, the Malabar Grey Hornbill, Malabar Pied Hornbill, Great Hornbill (state bird of Kerela)
- **Narcondam Island:** Narcondam Hornbill (Endangered)
- **Others in North-East & Himalayan foothills:** White-throated Brown Hornbill, Rufous-necked Hornbill (Vulnerable), Wreathed Hornbill, Oriental Pied Hornbill

6.8. ATTUKAL PONGALA

Why in news?

Recently, **annual** 10-day Attukal Pongala festival was held at Attukal Temple in Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala).

More on news

- Pongala (meaning- 'to boil over') is the ritual in which women prepare sweet payasam (a pudding made from rice, jaggery, coconut and plantains) and offer it to the Goddess.
- The Goddess is fondly referred to as 'Attukalamma'.
- Attukal temple is also popularly known as **women's Sabarimala** - where only women are allowed to take part in the rituals.
- It was listed in the **Guinness World Records in 2009 for being the largest religious gathering of women on a single day.**

6.9. MAKARAVILAKKU FESTIVAL

Why in News?

Sabarimala celebrated **Makaravilakku festival** (two months long annual festival of the temple) on the occasion of Makara Sankranti.

About Sabarimala Temple

- It is located at Sabarimala inside the Periyar Tiger Reserve in Pathanamthitta district, Kerala, India.
- The temple is dedicated to the Hindu celibate deity Ayyappan also known as Dharma Sastha, who according to belief is the son of Shiva and Mohini, the feminine incarnation of Vishnu.
- The traditions of Sabarimala are a confluence of Shaivism, Shaktism, Vaishnavism, and other Sramaṇa traditions.
- The Supreme Court in September ordered the Sabarimala temple administration to throw it **open to women of all age** declaring unconstitutional a Kerala law that banned entry of menstruating women in the shrine.

Other religious places where women entry is restricted

- Lord Kartikeya Temple, Pushkar
- Patbausi Satra, Assam
- Nizamuddin Dargah, Delhi
- Hazratbal Mosque, Srinagar
- Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple, Thiruvananthapuram
- Kamakhya Temple, Guwahati, Assam
- Shani Shignapur Temple, Maharashtra

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7. HISTORICAL EVENTS

7.1. PIETERMARITZBURG STATION INCIDENT

Why in news?

India and South Africa jointly issued Postage Stamps on the theme “125th Year of Mahatma Gandhi’s Pietermaritzburg Station Incident”.

The Pietermaritzburg Station Incident

- In May 1893 Mahatma Gandhi was thrown off the train at Pietermaritzburg after he had refused to leave first-class carriage of the train.
- Gandhi made the momentous decision to stay on in South Africa and **fight the racial discrimination against Indians** there. Out of that struggle emerged his unique version of nonviolent resistance, **Satyagraha**.

Mahatma Gandhi’s experiments in South Africa

- **Indian immigration issue:** When Mahatma Gandhi arrived in 1893, the issue was rampant. Indians, who had initially arrived in the Natal region as indentured labour stayed back for economic reasons. But, their increased population was resented by the white colonists.
 - Mahatma Gandhi setup the **Natal Indian Congress**, which became a driving force behind the **satyagraha** campaigns between 1906 and 1913. Despite the efforts, a law was passed in 1896 disqualifying voters who were not of European origin.
- **Second Anglo-Boer (South African War), 1899:** He advised the Indian community to support the British cause, on the ground that since they claimed their rights as British subjects, it was their duty to defend the Empire when it was threatened.
- **Transvaal British Indian Association (BIA), 1903:** The organization formed by Mahatma Gandhi aimed to prevent proposed evictions of Indians in the Transvaal under British leadership.
- **Asiatic Registration Law (the Black Act):** It required all Indians - young and old, men and women - to get fingerprinted and to keep registration documents on them at all times. Gandhiji officially used **Satyagraha** for the **first time** in 1907 when he organised opposition to the act.

- **Tolstoy farm:** He built it in 1910 to support the families of jailed passive resisters.
- **March into Transvaal:** It was illegal for Indians to cross the border between Transvaal and Natal without a permit. Gandhiji led a march from Natal Colony into Transvaal to purposefully defy the **Immigrants Regulation Act of 1913** and was arrested.
 - Reports in India relating the arrest of Gandhi and police brutality caused uproar. Gandhi was released in 1914. The British government was forced to **concede** to the main **Indian demands**.

7.2. PAIKA REBELLION

Why in News?

There have been demands to declare the Paika Rebellion (also known as **Khurda uprising**) of 1817 as the first war of Independence.

About Paika Rebellion

- Paiks were the **traditional landed militia of Odisha** who used to perform policing functions.
- Paiks **owned rent-free land** that had been given to them for their military service to Kingdom of Khurda.
- However problem started when **British forcefully usurped their land** rendering them landless.
- They were also **subjected to repressive land revenue policies** and humiliation by the British.
- Over the years, various other factors that added to these grievances were:
 - the **introduction of sicca rupee** (silver currency) in the region,
 - the insistence on payment of revenue in the new currency,
 - an unprecedented **rise in the prices of food-stuff and salt**,
 - the auction of local estates in Calcutta, which brought in **absentee landlords** from Bengal to Odisha.
- It was led by **Jagabandhu Bidyadhar Mahapatra Bhramarabar Rai or Buxi Jagabandhu**, the military chief of the King of Khurda.
- The uprising was set off on **29 March 1817** as the Paiks attacked the police station and other government establishments at Banpur.

Soon the uprising spread to various parts of Odisha.

- Both **zamindars and ryots** joined the Paiks.
- A '**no-rent campaign**' was also started.
- The **priests of the Jagannath Temple** also extended the Paiks their full support.
- The British imposed Martial Law and by May 1817 the uprising was mostly contained. Buxi Jagabandhu surrendered in May, 1825.
- Following the uprising, **British henceforth adopted a policy of 'leniency, indulgence and forbearance'** towards the people of Khurda.
 - The **price of salt was reduced** and necessary reforms were made in the police and the justice systems.
 - **Revenue officials found to be corrupt were dismissed** from service and former land-holders were restored to their lands.
 - The son of the king of Khurda was allowed to move to Puri and take charge of the affairs of the Jagannath Temple with a grant of rupees twenty-four thousand.

7.3. SADHARAN BRAHMO SAMAJ

Why in News?

Recently, governing bodies of eight colleges of **Sadharan Brahmo Samaj (SBS)**, has been dissolved by the West Bengal government.

More on News

The government stated that SBS is not a "**separate minority religion**", the related colleges administered by it should be treated as "non-minority Government-aided Colleges.

About Sadharna Bhramo Samaj (SBS)

- It was formed in 1878 by **Anandmohan Bose** (first president), **Dwarkanath Ganguly** and other after a split in Brahmo Samaj of India.
 - **The reason of split was marriage of Keshab Chandra Sen's 13 year old daughter with Maharaja of Cooch-Bihar** which was in violation of Brahmo Marriage Act, 1872.
 - Keshab and his followers inaugurated Nava Vidhan, as **New Dispensation Church**, with Keshab as prophet of a universal religion.

About Brahmo Samaj

- **Founded** in 1829 as **Brahmo Sabha** by Raja Ram Mohan Roy. Later it become Brahmo Samaj.

- Raja Ram Mohan Roy had also established the '**Calcutta Unitarian Committee**' alongwith Dwarkanath Tagore and William Adam as its precursor organisation. Its membership was both Indian and European.

- **Doctrine:** Believe in existence of one God,
 - No revelation, prophet or holy book is infallible or to be considered as authority.
 - Human being is created from Singularity
- **Social and Religious reform:** abolition of caste system, child marriage and practice of Sati, opposed idolatry, condemned polygamy, and dowry system.
- Brahmos were the first Hindus to defy the taboo about crossing the seas to the west.
- In 1843, Devendranath Tagore joined the Brahmo Sabha and renewed its zeal. He started the famous Bengali monthly Tattvabodhini Patrika with Akshoykumar Datta as its editor.
- Keshabchandra Sen was the first non-brahmin to be appointed as the Acharya of the Samaj by Debendranath Tagore.
- In 1866, ideological differences between liberal younger Brahmos and conservative older Brahmos led to creation of the 'Brahmo Samaj of India' under Keshab chandra. Hence forward, the original Brahmo Samaj became known as the 'Adi Brahmo Samaj' (Rabindranath Tagore assumed its leadership in 1911).
 - Keshab chandra also established the '**Indian Reform Association**' in 1870 and started the 'Sulabh Samachar'.

7.4. BATTLE OF HAIFA

Why in news?

The Embassy of India held a ceremony in Haifa to mark the Centenary of the Battle of Haifa when on 23 Sep 1918, **Indian soldiers** from the **Jodhpur, Mysore and Hyderabad Lancers** liberated the city of Haifa.

Indian participation in World War I

- In World War I the Indian Army (alongside Britain) fought against the German Empire on the Western Front, in East Africa, Mesopotamia, Egypt and Gallipoli.
- The **Indian Army was the largest volunteer force in the world**
- The **nationalist response** to British participation in the War was three-fold –
 - **the Moderates** supported the empire in the War as a matter of duty;

- **the extremists**, including Tilak supported the war efforts in the mistaken belief that Britain would repay India's loyalty with gratitude in the form of self-government. Both Mahatma Gandhi and Bal Gangadhar Tilak tried to raise money and men for the British through war tours.
- **the revolutionaries** decided to utilize the opportunity to wage a war and liberate the country.
- However the expectation of nationalists leaders were dashed by the extension of Rowlatt act at the end of the conflict.
- Following this period, Mahatma Gandhi launched his first India-wide campaign of civil disobedience against British authority in February 1919.
- India's contribution to the British and resistance that followed became one of the reasons for passing the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms
- **India Gate in New Delhi** commemorates the 70,000 Indian soldiers who lost their lives fighting for the British Army during the World War I.

Haifa

- It is third largest city in Israel.
- It is home to the Bahá'í World Centre, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a destination for Bahá'í pilgrims (one of the religious group in Israel).
- The Indian cavalry brigades fighting under the leadership of British General Edmund Allenby helped liberate Haifa from the clutches of the Turkish-German forces in 1918.

7.5. MONTAGU-CHELMSFORD REFORMS

Why in news?

July 2018 marked the 100th year of the publication of the '**Report on Indian constitutional reforms**', commonly known as the Montagu-Chelmsford Report (MCR).

About Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms(MCR Reforms)

- The Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms were reforms introduced by the colonial government in British India in 1919 to **introduce self-governing institutions gradually to India**.
- It became the basis for the Government of India Act, 1935, and, ultimately, the Constitution.

- MCR reforms along with the Montagu Declaration (1917) are claimed of the title of the Magna Carta of modern India.
- The **main provisions** were the following:
 - Relaxed central control over the provinces by separating the central and provincial subjects.
 - Introduction of diarchy (Reserved subjects with Governor & Transferred subjects with Ministers) for the executive at the level of provincial government.
 - Bicameralism (Lower House & Upper House) and direct legislation was introduced for first time in the country. It granted franchise to a limited number of people on the basis of property, tax or education.
 - The Governor General was given powers to summon, prorogue, dissolve the Chambers, and to promulgate Ordinances.
 - The number of Indians in Viceroy's Executive Council would be three out of eight members.
 - It extended the principle of communal representation by providing separate electorate for Sikh, Indian Christian, Anglo Indians and Europeans.
 - It provided for establishment for public service commission. Hence a central public service commission was set up in 1926.
 - It separated for the first time provincial budget from the central budget and authorized the provincial legislature to enact the budget.
 - It provided for the appointment of a statutory commission (Simon Commission in 1927 was outcome of this) to inquire into and report on its working after ten years of its coming into force.

7.6. AZAD HIND GOVERNMENT

Why in news?

Government recently celebrated the 75th Anniversary of formation of Azad Hind Government.

Azad Hind Government

- Subhas Chandra Bose on October 21, 1943, established the **provisional Azad Hind government in Singapore**. He was the leader of Azad Hind Government and also the Head of State of this Provisional Indian Government-in-exile.
- It was a **part of the freedom movement**, originating in 1940s outside India with a purpose of allying with Axis powers to free India from British rule.
- The existence of the Azad Hind Government gave a **greater legitimacy to the independence struggle** against the British.

Indian National Army (INA)

- The idea of INA was first conceived in Malaya by **Mohan Singh**, an Indian officer of the British Indian Army.
- The Indian National Army was **founded by prisoners of wars** of British Indian Army captured by the Japanese in Singapore, Malaysia and other countries of Southeast Asia during the World War II.
- On 1 September 1942, the **first division** of INA was formed.
- The main task of gathering them and forming the INA was carried out by **Rashbehari Bose**.

Later it was reconsolidated as an army by Subhas Chandra Bose.

- The INA was also at the forefront of **women's equality**, and the formation of a women's regiment, the **Rani of Jhansi Regiment** was formed as an all-volunteer women's unit to fight the British Raj as well as provide medical services to the INA.

INA Trials

- A joint court-martial of hundreds of captured INA soldiers, led by Colonel Prem Sehgal, Colonel Gurbaksh Singh Dhillon, Major General Shah Nawaz Khan, was held during 1945-46 at the Red Fort.
- Leaders of independence movement Jawaharlal Nehru, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, Kailashnath Katju, Bhulabhai Desai, Asaf Ali, along with Muslim league defended the comrades of Bose despite difference of ideology.
- **The famous INA trial sparked off massive unrest** across the country, including the strike by the ratings (sailors) and officers of the Royal Indian Navy and Air Force -- from the ports of Mumbai and Karachi to Madras, Vishakhapatnam and Calcutta in February 1946. The airmen too struck work at various places including Karachi and Kalaikunda (now in West Bengal).
- Historians termed this unrest as **"the last nail in the coffin"** of the British Empire.

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8. PERSONALITIES

8.1. GURU NANAK DEV JI

Why in News?

Government of India has decided to commemorate **550th Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji** at national as well as international level by building **Kartarpur Corridor**.

Kartarpur Corridor

- **About the Project:** The proposed project will connect the Dera Baba Nanak Sahib Gurdwara in India's state of Punjab to the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur shrine in Narowal district of Pakistan's Punjab province which is reportedly to be completed before the 550th anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev. It runs across the Ravi River.
 - The Kartarpur Corridor, seeks to visa-free access from India to the shrine inside Pakistan.
- **About Gurdwara:** It was ordered by Maharaja of Patiala between 1921-1929 and is believed to be place where Nanak ji spent about last 18 years of his life.

About Guru Nanak Dev ji

- He was the founder of Sikhism (the first of the ten Sikh Gurus) and a Bhakti saint.
- He was born in 1469 in Nanakana Sahib, Punjab, Pakistan and died in Kartarpur, Pakistan.
- Guru Nanak and Sikhism were influenced by the nirguni (formless God) tradition of Bhakti movement in medieval India.
- He emphasized the importance of the worship of one God.
- He insisted that caste, creed or gender was irrelevant for attaining liberation.
- His idea of liberation was not that of a state of inert bliss but rather the pursuit of active life with a strong sense of social commitment.
- He himself used the terms nam, dan and isnan for the essence of his teaching, which actually meant right worship, welfare of others and purity of conduct.
- His teachings are now remembered as nam-japna, kirt-karna and vand-chhakna, which also underline the importance of right belief and worship, honest living, and helping others.
- He insisted that his followers must be householders and should adopt productive and useful occupations. They were also

expected to contribute to the general funds of the community of followers.

- Before his death in 1539, Guru Nanak appointed one of his followers Lehna (later known as Guru Angad) as his successor. Guru Angad compiled the compositions of Guru Nanak, to which he added his own in a new script known as Gurmukhi.

Related News

Recently, a proposal was made for a sixth Sikh takht at Nankana Sahib in Pakistan.

About Sikh Takhts

- **Panj Takht:** Panj Takht are 5 important Gurudwaras of Sikhism which have a significant respect and take Religious, Social and Political decisions as required by Sikh community. Takht is a Persian word that means imperial throne.
- **Location:**
 - Akal Takht (Amritsar), set up in 1606 by Guru Hargobind, is the Supreme of Panj takht.
 - Four Other Takhts: Takht Keshgarh Sahib (Anandpur Sahib); Takht Damdama Sahib (Talwandi Sabo, Bhatinda); Takht Patna Sahib (Bihar) and Takht Hazur Sahib (Nanded, Maharashtra).
 - These 4 are linked to Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Guru. It was at Keshgarh Sahib that Guru Gobind Singh raised Khalsa, the initiated Sikh warriors, in 1699.
- **Control:** The three takhts in Punjab are directly controlled by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) which appoints the jathedars (who leads Takht) for these while the two takhts outside Punjab have their own trusts and boards.

Related Information

Guru Granth Sahib

- It is the holy book of the Sikhs. It contains **hym of six of the ten Sikh Gurus** apart from several holy men coming from the Hindu and the Muslim tradition like **Kabir, Ravidas, Ramananda, Namdev, Bhagat Bhikan and Sheikh Farid**.
- It was compiled by **Guru Arjan Dev Ji** (5th Sikh Guru) in 1604.

Related News

- Pakistan issued visas to Indian pilgrims to visit Katas Raj, Pakistan, which is considered one of the holiest places for the Hindu community in Pakistan and is located in the **Potohar Plateau region of Pakistan's Punjab province**.

8.2. SAINT KABIR

Why in news?

Recently PM offered tributes at Sant Kabir Samadhi, on the 500th death anniversary of Saint Kabir.



About Saint Kabir

- He was born in the year 1440 and died in the year 1518.
- Kabir's teachings were based on a complete, indeed vehement, rejection of the major religious traditions and he vouched for **Nirguna form of Bhakti**.
- His teachings openly ridiculed all forms of external worship of both Brahmanical, Hinduism and Islam, the pre-eminence of the priestly classes and the caste system.
- It is considered that he got all his spiritual training from his Guru named, Ramananda, in his early childhood.
- **Kabir Panth** is the huge religious community which identifies the Kabir as the originator of the Sant Mat sects.
- Kabir Das is the first Indian saint who has coordinated the Hinduism and Islam by giving a universal path which could be followed by both Hindus and Muslims.
- According to him every life has relationship with two spiritual principles, Jivatma and Paramatma. His view about the moksha that, it is the process of uniting these two divine principles.
- Some of the great writings of the Kabir Das are **Bijak, Kabir Granthawali, Anurag Sagar, Sakhi Granth** etc.

Nirguna bhakti and Saguna bhakti

- The nirguna bhaktas were devotees of a formless God even while calling him variously as Rama, Govinda, Hari or Raghunatha. The most conspicuous among them were Kabir and Nanak.
- The saguna bhaktas were devotees of god with attributes or in human form. Vishnu in its incarnations as Rama, or Krishna, are most popular deities that were worshipped by Saguna Bhakti saints.
- Thus, Saguna bhakti movement of North India was essentially vaishnavite in character as compared to Southern Bhakti movement which had both Vashnav as well as Shaiv streams.

8.3. SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

Why in news?

This year marks the **125th anniversary** of Swami Vivekananda's **address at Parliament of the World's Religions** in 1893 held in Chicago.

About Swami Vivekananda

- His teachings and philosophy stressed on **different aspects of religion, youth, education, faith, character building as well as social issues pertaining to India**.

- He was a major force in the **revival of Hinduism** in India, and contributed to the concept of nationalism in colonial India.
- He was a **disciple of Ramakrishna**, from whom he **learned of the Divine and spiritual part of oneself** as well as the importance of kindness and service to mankind.
- Some of great literary works of Swami Vivekananda are Raja Yoga, Karma Yoga, Bhakti Yoga, Jnana Yoga, My Master, Lectures from Colombo to Almora.

Philosophy on Nationalism

- Swami Vivekananda's nationalism is deeply rooted in **Indian spirituality and morality**. He linked India's regeneration to her age-old tradition of spiritual goal.
- Unlike western nationalism which is secular in nature, Swami Vivekananda's nationalism was **based on religion**.
- He galvanized the National Spirit by **exposing the British policy of profiteering** in complete disregard to the Indian interests and taught people to get rid first of self-inflicted bondages and resultant miseries.
- Like Vivekananda, **Aurbindo Ghosh and Mahatma Gandhi** also worked for India's unification through awakening the force of religion and spirituality.

Philosophy on Religion

- Swami Vivekananda was a great proponent of Vedantic philosophy and he spread Advaita Vedanta to the west via the Ramakrishna Mission.
 - Advaita Vedanta is a non-dualistic school of Hinduism with its roots in the Vedas and Upanishads which recognizes one reality and one God.
 - Shankaracharya is the founder of advaita Vedanta.
 - According to Shankara, the atman experiences a false sense of plurality and individuality when under the influence of the delusive power of maya. A soul becomes liberated from the cycle of rebirth by realizing that its very experience of samsara is an illusion.
- He presented karma, bhakti, jnana and raja yoga as equal means to attain moksha, to present Vedanta as a liberal and universal religion, in contrast to the exclusivism of other religions.
- He told that though the paths are different for different religions but the goal is same.



- He attached great importance to the unity of all religions and their fusion into **one universal religion**.
- Swami Vivekananda said in his speech ‘**not only tolerate other religions, but positively embrace them, as truth is the basis of all religions.**’
- He promoted the idea of the **equality of all human beings**.

Philosophy on Education

- Swami Vivekananda laid the greatest emphasis on education for the regeneration of our motherland and a nation is advanced in proportion as education is spread among the masses.
- He advocated a **man-making character-building education**.
- He said that education must make the students self-reliant and help them face the challenges of life.

Ramakrishna Mission

- The Mission, founded by Vivekananda in 1897 is a **humanitarian organization which carries out medical, relief and educational programs**.
- Two main purposes of mission are to spread the teachings of Vedanta as embodied in the life of the Hindu saint Ramakrishna (1836–86) and to improve the social conditions of people.
- The ideals propagated by the mission include work as worship, the inherent divinity of every soul and the harmony of religions.

8.4. SRI SATGURU RAM SINGHJI

Why in News?

Recently Ministry of Culture inaugurated an International Seminar to commemorate the 200th Birth Anniversary of **Sikh philosopher, Sri Satguru Ram Singhji**, also known as Ram Singh Kuka.

About Sri Satguru Ram Singhji

- He was born in 1816 in Ludhiana and was a social reformer, and a freedom fighter.
- He fought against the caste system among Sikhs and encouraged inter-caste marriages.
- He preached against killing the girl child in infancy, stood firmly against the Sati Pratha and advocated widow remarriage.

Namdhari/ Kuka Movement

- The movement was **founded in 1840 by Bhagat Jawaharmal** in Western Punjab.
- Its basic tenets were abolition of caste and similar discriminations among Sikhs, discouraging the eating of meat and taking of

alcohol and drugs, and encouraging women to step out of seclusion.

- After the British took the Punjab, the movement transformed from a religious purification campaign to a political one.
- During the Mutiny of 1857, Satguru Ram Singhji formally inaugurated the Namdhari movement, with a set of rituals modelled after Guru Gobind Singh’s founding of the Khalsa.
- He **strongly opposed to the British rule** and started an intense non-cooperation movement against them. Led by him, the people boycotted English education, mill made cloths and other imported goods. The Kuka followers actively propagated the civil disobedience.
- All followers of satguru are distinguished by the white dress, straight and pressed turban and a woolen rosary.
- They were required to wear the five symbols of Sikhism, with only exception of the Kirpan (sword). However, they were required to keep a Lathi (a bamboo stave) with them.

8.5. STATUE OF RAMANUJACHARYA

Why in news?

A 216-foot tall statue of Vaishnavite saint Sri Ramanujacharya is set to be unveiled in Hyderabad soon.

About the statue

- It will become the **world’s second tallest statue** in a seated position and will be called as **Statue of Equality**, after the statue of the Great Buddha of Thailand (302 feet).
- It is **made of panchaloha** (an alloy of gold, silver, copper, brass and tin/lead) and its base depicts 36 elephants and 27-foot-high lotus petals.

About Ramanujacharya

- **Ramanujacharya**, or **Ilaiya Perumal** was a bhakti saint and also spread the message of equality.
- His philosophy became known as **vishishtadwaita** or **qualified monism**.
- He provided an intellectual basis for the practice of bhakti in three major commentaries: the Vedartha-Samgraha, the Shri-Bhashya and the Bhagavadgita-Bhashya.

- He tried to establish a careful balance between orthodox Brahmanism and popular bhakti which was open to all.
- Though he did not support the idea of the "lower" castes having access to the Vedas, he advocated bhakti as a mode of worship accessible to all including the Sudras and even the outcastes.
- While propagating bhakti, he did not observe caste distinctions and even tried to eradicate untouchability.

According to Vishishtadwaita (qualified monism)-

- Ramanuja's philosophy was called vishishtadwaita, or 'qualified monism'.
- Ramanuja's God (Brahma) is a personal God with omniscient qualities.
- He has created the world, but he has created the world out of His own self. Thus the world bears to Brahman the relation of part to whole, or the relation of a 'qualified effect' to the base (hence qualified monism) full of grace and love for his creation. It was one with God, but yet separate.
- According to him, the best means of salvation was devotion, and the best yoga was bhakti-yoga, such intense devotion to Vishnu that the worshipper realized that he was but a fragment of God, and wholly dependent on him. Another means of salvation was prapatti, the abandonment of self, putting one's soul completely in the hands of God, trusting in his will, and waiting confidently for his grace.

8.6. SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL

Why in News?

Recently **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's statue**, known as **the Statue of Unity**, was inaugurated in the Narmada district of Gujarat.

About the Statute of Unity

- It is the **world's tallest statue** at about 597 feet (182 meters) surpassing the height of Spring Temple Buddha, China.
- It is conceptualised as **Sardar Patel walking on the Narmada river** towards the Sardar Sarovar dam. It offers a spectacular view of this reservoir, and the Satpura and Vindhya mountain ranges.
- It is **plated with bronze** and core of the statue is made up of cement concrete, reinforced steel and structural steel.
- Near the statue, there is a **'Wall of Unity'** which has been created with the earth samples collected from various states across the country.

About Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

- He was a political and social leader of India who played a major role in the country's struggle for independence and subsequently guided its integration into a united, independent nation. He was called the **"Iron Man of India"**.
- He already had a successful practice as a lawyer when he was first inspired by the work and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi.
- Patel subsequently organised **the peasants of Kheda, Borsad, and Bardoli in Gujarat** in a **non-violent civil disobedience movement** against oppressive policies imposed by the British Raj; in this role, he became one of the most influential leaders in Gujarat.
- He is also remembered as the **"Patron Saint of India's civil servants"** for establishing modern all-India services.
- He played a **very significant role in mobilizing people** for the Dandi march.
- He was elected **President of the Indian National Congress in 1931 (Karachi Session)**.
- He took charge of the task to **forge a united India from the 565 semi-autonomous princely states and British-era colonial provinces**.

Kheda Satyagraha (1918) – First Non Cooperation

- It was Satyagraha movement organized by Mohandas Gandhi in Kheda district of Gujarat.
- It was the third Satyagraha movement after Champaran Satyagraha and Ahmedabad mill strike.
- Gandhi organised this movement to support peasants of the Kheda district.
- People of Kheda were unable to pay the high taxes levied by the British due to crop failure and a plague epidemic.

Bardoli Satyagraha (1928)

- The Bardoli Satyagraha movement was started in January 1928 after the land revenue in Bardoli taluka was increased by 30 per cent.
- In February 1928, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was called to lead the movement.
- It was Bardoli satyagraha where Vallabhbhai Patel got title "Sardar" by women.

8.7. SIR CHHOTU RAM

Why in news?

Recently, Prime Minister unveiled a statue of Sir Chhotu Ram (1881-1945) in Rohtak district.

Political activities of Sir Chhotu Ram

- He founded the **Jat Sabha**, followed by the launch of the **Jat Gazette** in 1915.
- He joined the **Congress** in 1916. In 1920, he launched Zamindaran Party, which later became the Unionist Party in 1923 in alliance



with Fazl-e-Hussain and Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan.

- His party **won the general elections** of 1936 and formed a coalition government along with the Congress and Sikh Akali Dal. He became the Revenue Minister.

Reforms initiated by Sir Chhotu Ram

- He conceived the **Bhakra Dam project** way back in 1923. He, along with the King of Bilaspur, signed the Bhakra Dam project.
- He was considered as an **agrarian reformer**. Under him, **various legislations** were passed such as Punjab Land Revenue (Amendment) Act, 1929, Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets Act was passed in 1939 (Mandi Act), Punjab Relief of Indebtedness Act, 1943.
- For his work, the peasantry rewarded him with the titles of **Deen-bandhu** and **Rahbar-e-Azam**. Also, the British honoured him with a **knighthood** in 1937.

8.8. TRIBAL FREEDOM FIGHTERS

Why in News?

The Centre will set up six museums dedicated to tribal freedom fighters in Gujarat, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala.

Details on Tribal Freedom Fighters

- **Birsa Munda:** led the "**Ulgulan**" (revolt) or the Munda rebellion against the British in Chota Nagpur area.
 - In 1894 Birsa declared himself a god, and began to awaken the masses and arouse them against the landlord-British combine.
 - ✓ Munda tribals practiced **Khuntkatti system** (joint holding by tribal lineages).
 - ✓ But rich farmers, merchants, moneylenders, **dikus** (outsiders who made the tribal people dependent upon them), thekedars from Northern

India came and tried to replace it with typical Zamindari-tenancy system.

- ✓ These new landlords caused indebtedness and **beth-begari (forced labour)** among the tribal.
 - He declared an end to Victorian rule and the **establishment of Munda Rule**.
 - He organised the people to **stop paying debts/interest to moneylenders and taxes to the British**.
 - He formed **two military units** - one for military training and armed struggle, the other for propaganda. He declared December 24, 1899, as the day for the launching of the armed struggle.
 - Finally, on February 3, 1900 Birsa was caught.
 - As a result of Munda Ulgulan the government enacted Chotanagpur Tenancy Act 1908, recognized Khuntkatti rights and banned Beth Begari (forced labour)
- **Veer Narayan Singh**
 - The **Revolt 1857** was spearheaded in **Chhattisgarh** by Veer Narayan Singh who was a benevolent zamindar of Sonakhan.
- **Alluri Sita Rama Raju**
 - He led **The Rampa Rebellion of 1922**, a tribal uprising in **Godavari Agency of Madras Presidency, British India** during which a band of tribal leaders and other sympathisers fought against the British Raj, which had passed the 1882 Madras Forest Act.
 - ✓ The act put restrictions on the free movement of tribal peoples in the forest prevented them from engaging in their traditional podu agricultural system, which involved shifting cultivation.
- **Thalakkal Chandu**
 - He was an archer and commander-in-chief of the Kurichya soldiers of the Pazhassi Raja who fought British forces in the **Wayanad jungles, Kerala** during first decade of the 19th century.



9. ANCIENT HISTORY

9.1. VAKATAKA DYNASTY

Why in news?

A team of archaeologists have confirmed that the Vakataka dynasty ruled from its capital Nandivardhan, or the present day Nagardhan in Nagpur district.

About Vakataka Dynasty

- The **Vakataka Empire** originated from the Deccan in the mid-3rd century CE.
- They were the **successors of the Satavahanas in the Deccan** and **contemporaneous with the Guptas** in northern India.
- The Vakataka dynasty was a **Brahmin dynasty**. Little is known about **Vindhyashakti**, the founder of the family.
- Territorial expansion began in the reign of his son **Pravarasena I**.
- The Gupta emperor Chandragupta II married his daughter into Vakataka royal family.
- The Vakatakas are noted for having been patrons of the arts, architecture and literature. The rock-cut Buddhist viharas and chaityas of Ajanta Caves (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) were built under the patronage of Vakataka emperor, Harishena.

9.2. COUPLE'S GRAVE IN HARAPPAN SETTLEMENT

Why in News?

In a first, archaeologists have discovered a 'couple's grave' in a cemetery from Rakhigarhi, Haryana (the biggest Harappan site).

Burial practices in Indus Valley Civilisation

- At burials in Harappan sites the dead were generally laid in pits.

- Sometimes, there were differences in the way the burial pit was made – in some instances, the hollowed-out spaces were lined with bricks. This could indicate at social differentiation.
- Some graves contain pottery and ornaments, perhaps indicating a belief that these could be used in the afterlife. Jewellery has been found in burials of both men and women.
- In some instances the dead were buried with copper mirrors. But on the whole, it appears that the Harappans did not believe in burying precious things with the dead.

Major Discoveries at Harappan Sites

- **Harappa** – 2 rows of six granaries with big platform, stone symbol of lingam and yoni, mother goddess figure, wheat and barley in wooden mortar, dice, copper scale and mirror, sculptor of dog chasing a deer in bronze metal, nude dancing girl of stone and red sand stone male torso
- **Mohenjodaro** – Great bath, great granary, post cremation burial, sculpture of bearded priest, Bronze dancing girl.
- **Dholavira** – giant water reservoir, stadium, dams and embankments, inscription comprising 10 large sized signs like an advertisement board.
- **Lothal** – Dockyard, double burial, rice husk, fire altars, painted jar, modern day chess, terracotta figure of horse and ship, instrument of measuring 45, 90 and 180 degree angles
- **Ropar** – Dog buried with human oval pit burials
- **Balathal and Kalibangan** – Bangle factory, toy carts, bones of camels, decorated bricks, citadel, lower town
- **Surkotada** – first actual remains of the horse bones
- **Banawali** – toy plough, barley grains, only city with radial streets, oval shaped settlement
- **Alamgirpur** – Impression of a cloth on a trough

10. GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES/SCHEMES & INSTITUTIONS

10.1. ADOPT A HERITAGE

Why in news?

Recently Ministry of Culture informed Parliament that **ten monuments** have been adopted under 'Adopt a Heritage' (**Apni dharohar Apni pehchan**) project.

Adopt A Heritage: Apni Dharohar Apni Pehchan

- It is a **joint initiative** of Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture, ASI and State/UT Governments.
- It aims to involve **public sector companies, private sector companies and corporate citizens/individuals** to take up the responsibility for making heritage and tourism more sustainable through development, operation and maintenance of world-class tourist infrastructure and amenities at the Indian heritage sites.
- Company utilises its **CSR** to develop and upkeep the monument.
- The program **outlines concrete responsibilities** for the private companies, such as creating new infrastructure, new amenities and new levels of cleanliness, maintaining the existing operations, making the monument more popular, and taking better care of tourists.
- The firm will, among others, have a responsibility to better advertise the site but will also be able to advertise itself through the site.
- The companies are selected through **Vision Bidding** (i.e. company with best vision for the heritage site gets the opportunity), and are called **Monument Mitras**.
- The **legal status of the monument does not change** after adoption. The Project envisages **limited 'access'** to non-core areas and **'no handing over of monuments'** are involved.
- The company does not collect any money from the public unless allowed by the government, and profits, if any, are used to maintain and upgrade tourism facilities.

Archeological Survey of India (ASI)

- Founded in 1861 by Alexander Cunningham, it is an attached office of the Ministry of Culture.

- It is the premier organization for the archaeological research, scientific analysis, excavation of archaeological sites, etc.
- Under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archeological Sites Remains Act of 1958, the ASI administers more than 3650 ancient monuments, archaeological sites and remains of national importance.

10 monuments adopted	
Red Fort	Delhi
Gandikota Fort	Andhra Pradesh
Jantar Mantar	Delhi
Hampi (Hazara Rama Temple)	Karnataka
Leh Palace, Leh	Jammu & Kashmir
Ajanta Caves	Maharashtra
Qutub Minar	Delhi
Surajkund	Haryana
Mt. Stok Kangri Trek, Lakakh	Jammu & Kashmir
Area surrounding Gangotri Temple and Trail to Gaumukh	Uttarakhand

10.2. SEVA BHOJ SCHEME

Why in news?

Recently, Ministry of Culture launched a new scheme "Seva Bhoj Yojna".

More about the scheme

- It is a central sector scheme to reduce financial burden of Charitable Religious Institutions.
- It envisages **reimbursing the Central Government share of Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and Integrated Goods and Service Tax (IGST) of such Charitable Religious Institutions** who provide Food/Prasad/Langar/Bhandara free of cost without any discrimination to Public/Devotees.
- It is applicable to all Charitable Religious Institutions such as Temples, Gurudwara, Mosque, Church, Dharmik Ashram, Dargah, Matth, Monasteries etc. which follows following norms:
 - which have been in existence for preceding five years before applying for financial assistance/grant.
 - which have been distributing free food, langar and prasad to public for at least past three years on the day of application.
 - which serve free food to at least 5000 people in a month.



- which should not be blacklisted under provisions of FCRA or any other Act/Rules of the Central/State Government.

10.3. PRASAD SCHEME

Why in news?

Recently Gangotri, Yamunotri, Amarkantak, Parsanath have been included in the list of sites under PRASAD scheme bringing the number of sites under the scheme to **41 in 25 states**.

About the sites

- **Gangotri and Yamunotri, Uttarakhand:** Gangotri is a **Hindu** pilgrim town on the banks of the river Bhagirathi and origin of River Ganges while Yamunotri is the source of river Yamuna.
- **Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh:** It is a unique natural heritage area and is the meeting point of the Vindhya and the Satpura Ranges, with the Maikal Hills being the fulcrum. It is a **Hindu** pilgrim site where the Narmada River, the Son River and Johila River emerge.
- **Parasnath, Jharkhand:** It is the highest mountain peak in the state, the Shikharji temple, an important **Jain** pilgrimage site, is located here.

Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) scheme

- It aims at **integrated development** of pilgrimage destinations in planned, prioritised and sustainable manner to provide complete religious tourism experience. It focuses on the development and beautification of the identified pilgrimage destinations. Its objectives include:
 - Harness pilgrimage tourism for its direct and multiplier effect upon employment generation and economic development.
 - Enhance tourist attractiveness while ensuring sustainable development of world class infrastructure at religious destinations.
 - Promotion of local culture, art, handicrafts, cuisine, etc.

10.4. GANDHI CIRCUIT

Why in news?

Project for “Development of Gandhi Circuit: Bhitiharwa-Chandrahia-Turkaulia” has been sanctioned in Bihar.

Swadesh Darshan (Central Sector Scheme)

- **Ministry of Tourism (MoT)** launched the Scheme for integrated development of theme based tourist circuits in the country in 2014-15.
- This **scheme aims to synergise with other Government of India schemes** like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Skill India, Make in India etc. with the idea of positioning the tourism sector as a major engine for job creation, driving force for economic growth, building synergy with various sectors to enable tourism to realise its potential.
- Under the Swadesh Darshan scheme, **fifteen thematic circuits** have been identified, for development namely: North-East India Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, **Rural Circuit**, Spiritual Circuit, Ramayana Circuit, Heritage Circuit, Sufi Circuit and Tirthankar Circuit.

More on news

- Government commemorated the **centenary of Champaran Satyagraha** during April 2017 to April 2018. Development of Gandhi circuit is part of this celebration.
- The project is sanctioned under “**Rural Circuit theme of Swadesh Darshan Scheme**” with central financial assistance.
- It is one of the projects identified for development **under the Special Package for Bihar** announced in 2015.

Significance of the Places

- **Chandrahia:** It is a village in Bihar’s East Champaran district, holding a special position in the Champaran movement because (1916) Gandhiji was **stopped at this village** when he was on his way to the hamlet of Jasaulipatti to listen to problems faced by farmers who were being forced to cultivate indigo instead of food crops.
- **Bhitiharwa:** This was one of the **centre for social work** selected by Gandhiji, when he was in Champaran in 1917. There is a Gandhi Ashram where **Mahatma Gandhi had stayed** during the Indian Freedom struggle.
- **Turkaulia:** It was a burning **centre of Indigo agitation**. It has been widely referred to as “**Turkaulia Concern**” in context of Champaran Satyagraha to refer to the plight of indigo cultivators.

Champaran Satyagraha (1917)

- It was **Gandhi Ji’s first satyagraha in India** as well as **India’s First Civil Disobedience Movement**.
- In Champaran the farmers were forced to grow indigo on 3/20 of their land, by European planters. This was called **tinkathia system**.
- Gandhi Ji went to Champaran on the **invitation by Rajkumar Shukla**.

- Gandhiji forced the government to **appoint inquiry committee** that awarded 25% refund. The planters had to leave the place within a decade thereafter.

10.5. INDIAN COUNCIL OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH

Why in news?

Recently, government reconstituted Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), an **autonomous organization under Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD)**.

About ICHR

- Its objective is to promote and give direction to historical research and to encourage and foster objective and scientific writing of history.
- It also provides **fellowships and financial assistance** to the young teachers in colleges, universities and also assists to promote scientific research, both in India and abroad.
- The **composition of council** is:
 - An eminent historian nominated by the Government of India (Chairman);
 - Eighteen historians nominated by the Government of India;
 - A representative of the University Grant Commission;
 - Director General of Archaeology ○ Director of National Archives;
 - Four persons nominated by the Government of India with one representative each of the Ministry of Education, the Department of Culture and the Ministry of Finance, and Member Secretary.

10.6. PARYATAN PARV 2018

Why in news?

The Union Ministry of Tourism recently organized the second edition of “Paryatan Parv”- a **nation-wide celebration of Tourism**.

About Paryatan Parv

- **Paryatan Parv** is being organized with the objective of drawing focus on the benefits of tourism, showcasing the cultural diversity of the country and reinforcing the principle of “Tourism for All”.
- **Components of Paryatan Parv**
 - **Dekho Apna Desh:** It will encourage Indians to visit their own country. It will include stories of India through Travelers’ Eyes to promote tourism.
 - **Tourism for All:** It will promote tourism events at sites across all States in country. These will mainly be People’s events with large scale public participation.
 - **Tourism & Governance:** It will have interactive sessions and workshops on varied themes like Skill Development in Tourism Sector, Innovation in Tourism etc
- **India Tourism Mart 2018(IMT-2018):** The Tourism Ministry in partnership with the Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism and Hospitality (FAITH) will organize the first ever ITM 2018 during Paryatan Parv. **FAITH** is the apex organization of all the important trade and hospitality associations of the country.

10.7. CULTURAL HERITAGE YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME (CHYLP)

- It aims to **promote, understand and develop fondness for India’s rich cultural heritage amongst the youth** with a view to develop appropriate leadership qualities amongst youth.
- It focusses on the less privileged children residing in backward areas by interacting with them in vernacular languages for their better understanding.
- **Centre for Cultural Resources and Training**, an autonomous organization under the **Ministry of Culture**, is the implementation agency for this programme.

11. MISCELLANEOUS

11.1. RECENT GI TAGS

Recently GI tags were given to following items.

Details

- **Erode turmeric:** Tamil Nadu
- **Sirsi Supari:** Karnataka (It is the **first in the arecanut sector** to get a GI Tag)
- **Chikmagalur Arabica Coffee & Bababudangiris Arabica Coffee:** Karnataka
- **Coorg Arabica Coffee:** Karnataka
- **Wayanad Robusta Coffee:** Kerala
- **Marayoor jiggery:** Kerala
- **Araku Valley Arabica Coffee:** Andhra Pradesh & Odisha
- **Kandhamal Turmeric:** Odisha

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

- As a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), India enacted the Act to comply with the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).
- GI is covered as element of intellectual property rights (IPRs) under Paris Convention for Protection of Industrial Property.
- The Act is administered by the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks, who is also the Registrar of Geographical Indications.

How are GI protected?

- Sui Generis Systems (i.e. special regimes of protection)
- Using Collective or Certification; and
- Methods focusing on business practices, including administrative product approval schemes.

What is GI tag?

- It is an indication that is definite to a specific geographical territory. It is used for agricultural, natural and manufactured goods having special quality and established reputation.
- For a product to get the tag, it needs to be produced or processed or prepared in that region.
- The registration of a GI is valid for 10 years after which it needs to be renewed.
- GIs support local production and are an important economic tool for the uplift of rural and tribal communities.
- GI is a collective right. Producers can use the collective GI mark to commercially exploit the products.
- Geographical Indicators in India are governed by "The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999".

11.2. BHARAT RATNA

Pranab Mukherjee, Nanaji Deshmukh (posthumously) and **Bhupen Hazarika** (posthumously) were awarded Bharat Ratna.

Padma Awards

- These are among the highest civilian Awards of the country.
- The Awards are given in three categories: **Padma Vibhushan** (for exceptional and distinguished service), **Padma Bhushan** (distinguished service of higher order) and **Padma Shri** (distinguished service).
- Government servants including those working with PSUs, except doctors and scientists, are not eligible for these Awards.
- The awards are announced on the occasion of Republic Day every year.
- All nominations received for Padma Awards are placed before the **Padma Awards Committee** (headed by the Cabinet Secretary) which is constituted by the Prime Minister every year.

About the winners

- **Pranab Mukherjee:** He is an Indian politician who served as the 13th President of India from 2012 until 2017.
- **Nanaji Deshmukh:** He was a politician and a social activist from India. He worked in the fields of education, health, and rural self-reliance.
 - He established Chitarkoot Gramodya Vishwavidyalaya in Chitrakoot, **India's first rural university** and was its first Chancellor.
 - He established **India's first Saraswati Sishu Mandir** at Gorakhpur in 1950.
 - He actively participated in **Bhoodan Movement** started by Vinoba Bhave and also joined Jai Prakash Narayan when he gave the call for "**Total Revolution**".
- **Bhupen Hazarika:** He was an Indian singer, poet, musician and film-maker from Assam. He was popularly known as the '**Bard of Brahmaputra**'.
 - He was also the recipient of **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award** (1987), as well as the prestigious **Dada Saheb Phalke Award** (1992).
 - India's longest bridge (Dhola-Sadia bridge), which runs over the Lohit river in Assam has been named the after him.



About Bharat Ratna

- ‘Bharat Ratna’ is **the highest civilian award** of the country and was instituted in the year 1954.
- It is awarded in recognition of exceptional service/performance of the highest order in **any field of human endeavour**. Any person without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex is eligible for these awards.
- The **recommendations for Bharat Ratna are made by the Prime Minister** himself to the President. No formal recommendations for this are necessary.
- The number of annual awards is restricted to a **maximum of three in a particular year**. It is not mandatory for the government to announce the award each year.
- On conferment of the award, the recipient receives a **Sanad (certificate)** signed by the President and a **Peepal-leaf-shaped medallion**.
- The Award **does not carry any monetary grant**.
- In terms of Article 18 (1) of the Constitution, the award **cannot be used as a prefix or suffix to the recipient's name**.
- They are placed at **7A in the Table of Precedence**.
- There are two Non-Indian Bharat Ratna winners **Khan Abdul Ghaffar** (Pakistan) and **Nelson Mandela** (former president of South Africa).

Table of Precedence

1. President
2. Vice-President
3. Prime Minister
4. Governors of States within their respective States
5. Former Presidents
- 5A. Deputy Prime Minister
6. Chief Justice of India Speaker of Lok Sabha
7. Cabinet Ministers of the Union. Chief Ministers of States within their respective States Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission Former Prime Ministers Leaders of Opposition in Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha
- 7A. Holders of Bharat Ratna decoration

11.3. NOBEL PEACE PRIZE 2018

- Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to **Denis Mukwege** and **Nadia Murad** for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict.
- **Denis Mukwege**
 - Known as “Doctor Miracle”, he is a Congolese doctor, who along with his staff, have treated thousands of patients who have fallen victim to sexual assaults.

- He is an outspoken critic of the abuse of women during war who has described rape as “a weapon of mass destruction.” His work has also been of an acclaimed 2015 film titled: “The Man Who Mends Women.
- **Nadia Murad**
 - A human rights campaigner, she is one of an estimated 3,000 Yazidi girls and women who were victims of rape and other abuses by the IS army. She is currently working to bring the IS before the International Criminal Court.
 - In 2016, she was named the UN’s first Goodwill Ambassador for the Dignity of Survivors of Human Trafficking. She also founded and dedicated herself to an initiative called ‘Our Peoples’ Fight’.
 - Her courageous book, The Last Girl, speaks about her peaceful childhood in rural Iraq, the Islamic State-led genocide, the destruction of her community, and her escape to Germany.

11.4. INTERNATIONAL GANDHI PEACE PRIZE

- Recently the government announced the winners of Gandhi Peace Prize for four years beginning 2015 to 2018 which was last given in 2014.

List of Awardees

- **2018: Yohei Sasakawa**, who is Goodwill Ambassador of the World Health Organisation for Leprosy Elimination.
- **2017: Ekal Abhiyan Trust** for contributing in education for rural and tribal children in remote areas, rural empowerment, gender, and social equality.
- **2016:** jointly given to **Akshaya Patra foundation** for contributions towards mid-day meals to children and **Sulabh International** for improving the condition of sanitation and emancipation of manual scavengers.
- **2015: Vivekananda Kendra**, Kanyakumari, for their contribution to rural development, education, development of natural resources.

About the Gandhi peace prize award

- This annual award was instituted in **1995** on **125th birth anniversary** of **Mahatma Gandhi**.
- It is given to individuals and institutions for their contribution to social, economic and political **transformation** through **non-violence** and **other Gandhian methods**.



- Jury includes **Prime minister of India** as Chairman, **Chief Justice of India**, **Leader of Opposition** in Lok Sabha, and **two other eminent persons**.
- **Posthumous award cannot be given except** in the case when death occurred subsequent to a proposal submission to the jury
- Only **achievements within 10 years** immediately preceding the nomination are considered for the award.

11.5. INDIRA GANDHI PEACE PRIZE

- Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has been awarded with Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for the year 2018.
- This prize is given **annually to organizations and individuals in recognition of creative efforts towards promoting peace**, development internationally using scientific discoveries for the greater good of humanity.
- Some notable recipients of the prize are: Dr. Manmohan Singh (2017), UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) (2015), Indian Space Research Organization (2014), Angela Merkel (2013), UN and its secretary-general Kofi Annan (2003) and MS Swaminathan (1999).

11.6. SEOUL PEACE PRIZE 2018

- Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been conferred with Seoul Peace Prize 2018.
- **About Seoul Peace Prize** - They were established in 1990 to commemorate the success of the 24th Olympic Games held in Seoul and are awarded biennially to individuals for their contributions to the harmony of mankind, reconciliation between nations and to world peace.

11.7. MAGSAYSAY AWARDS

- Two Indian nationals, **Bharat Vatwani** and **Sonam Wangchuk** were given the Ramon Magsaysay award.
- **Bharat Vatwani** has dedicated his life for **rescuing mentally ill people** from the streets of India who number around 400,000 according to estimates and providing them with shelter and treatment through his Shraddha Rehabilitation Foundation.
- **Sonam Wangchuk** has been recognised for “his uniquely systematic, collaborative and community driven reform of learning systems in remote northern India, thus **improving the life opportunities of Ladakhi youth**, and his constructive engagement of all sectors in local society to harness science and culture

creatively for economic progress, thus setting an example for minority peoples in the world.

Magsaysay awards

- It is popularly known as **Asia’s Nobel Prize**.
- Established in 1957, the Ramon Magsaysay Award is Asia’s highest honor.
- It celebrates the memory and leadership example of the third Philippine president, Ramon Magsaysay after whom the award is named.

11.8. KOTLER PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the first-ever **Philip Kotler Presidential award** recently.
- **Philip Kotler**, the **Father of Modern Marketing** is a professor of marketing at Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management. The award aims to honour mastery in the field of marketing and management. It focuses on the triple bottom-line of ‘**people, profit and planet**’. It will be offered annually to the leader of a nation.

11.9. STATE SYMBOLS OF ANDHRA PRADESH AND TELANGANA

- Recently, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana announced its state animal, tree, flower and bird.
- Andhra Pradesh Government Order notified
 - **Black Buck** also known as Krishna Jinka - **State animal**
 - **Rose Ringed Parakeet** also known as Rama Chiluka - **State Bird**
 - **Neem (Vepa Chettu)** - **State Tree**
 - **Jasmine (Malle Puvvu)** - **State Flower**
- Telangana Government has retained **Palapitta (Blue Jay)** as the state bird and announced **Jinka (deer)** as state animal, **Jammi Chettu** as state tree and **Tangedu Puvvu** as the state flower.

Related News

- Recently the **Queen variety of pineapple** is declared as **Tripura’s state fruit**.
- It had received Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2015.

11.10. BABABUDAN SWAMI

The Karnataka government has opposed the demand to declare the Sri Guru Dattatreya Bababudan Swami Dargah near Chikkamagaluru as an exclusively Hindu place of worship.

More about news

- Baba Budangiri shrine - shrine named after the saint **Sufi saint Baba Budan**, who is revered by both Muslims and Hindus.
- Its origin appears to be a syncretization of reverence for an 11th-century Sufi, Dada

Hayath (Abdul Azeez Macci); for the 17th-century Sufi Baba Budan, said to have brought coffee to India; and for Dattatreya, an incarnation of Shiva (or of Brahma, Shiva and Vishnu).

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