

X PRELIMS PRESS

2021



ART & CULTURE

Complete **Current Affairs** Compilation
from **July 2020 to March 2021**

**Vol-
II**

ART & CULTURE

Content

Religion, Philosophy & Literature	2
Festivals	5
Architecture & Sculpture	8
Music, Dance & Drama	21
Painting & Toys	25
Personalities	35
History	46
Miscellaneous	52

RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY & LITERATURE

Buddha Purnima

Context

- On the occasion of Buddha Purnima, **Ministry of Culture** in collaboration with the **International Buddhist Confederation (IBC)**, held a Virtual Prayer Event.
- It saw participation of all the supreme heads of the Buddhist Sanghas from around the world.

Buddha Purnima

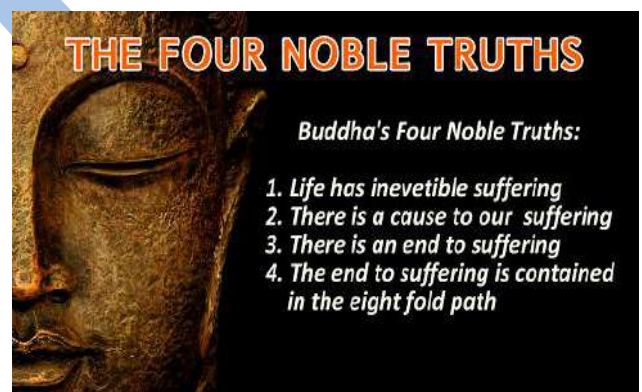
- It marks the birth anniversary of Gautam Buddha.

Gautam Buddha

- Born as Siddhartha Gautama, Buddha was a spiritual leader who is the founder of Buddhism.
- Lived from 563 B.C. to 483 B.C.
- Born in **Shakya clan in Lumbini**, Kapilvastu, Nepal.
- At 29, he abandoned his home and began to live as a homeless ascetic and practiced years of rigorous meditation.
- At 49, Siddhartha sat down under a Pipal tree at Bodhgaya (present day Bihar), where he finally attained **Nirvana (perfect enlightenment)** and came to be known as the Buddha.
- After this, Buddha gave his first sermon in **Sarnath**. This is called **Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta- turning of the wheel of law**. The faith of Buddhism was born.
- Buddha passed away in **483 BCE at Kushinagara**, Uttar Pradesh. This is termed as **Mahaparinibban**.

Tenets of Buddhism

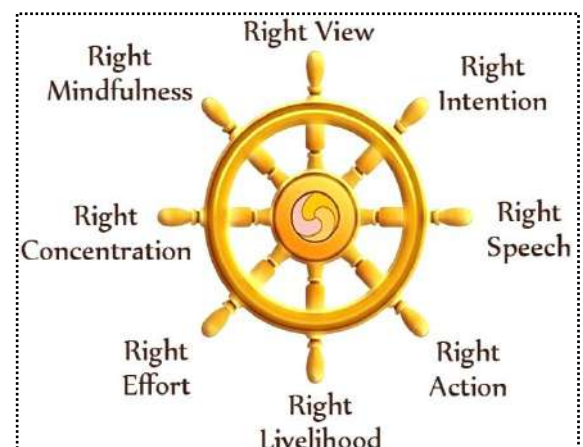
- Buddha's most important teachings is known as **The Four Noble Truths**.
- Buddhist traditions share the goal of **overcoming suffering and the cycle of death and rebirth**, by the attainment of Nirvana.
- The path to enlightenment is attained by utilizing **morality, meditation and wisdom**.
- Buddha discovered **"the Middle Way"**—a path of moderation, away from the extremes of self-indulgence and self-mortification.
- Buddhism **does not** believe in God or the soul.
- It stressed on karma and ahimsa.
- Buddha taught in Pali.



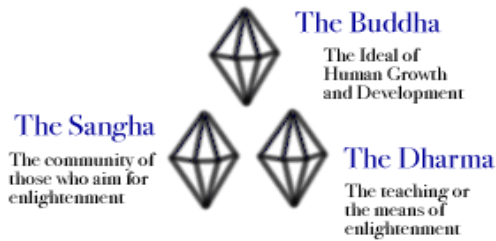
The Five Precepts

- Refrain from taking life. Not killing any living being
- Refrain from taking what is not given. Not stealing from anyone.
- Refrain from the misuse of the senses.
- Refrain from wrong speech.
- Refrain from intoxicants that cloud the mind.
- Bodhisattva is a person who has Enlightenment, but postpones Nirvana in order to help others to attain Enlightenment.**

Eight Fold Path



The Three Jewels - The Triratna



Bodhisattvas

1. Vajrapani (holds thunderbolt)
2. Avlokitesvara/Padmapani (lotus bearer)
3. Manjushri (holds books describing 10 paramitas)
4. Kshitigrha (guardian of purgatories)
5. Maitreya (the future Buddha)
6. Amitabha/Amitayusha (The Buddha of heaven)

Buddhist councils

Buddhist Councils	Year	Venue	Chairman	Royal Patronage	Developments
1 st Council	483 BC	Saptaparni Cave, Rajgir	Mahakassapa	Ajatshatru	Sutta & Vinaya Pitaka compiled
2 nd Council	383 BC	Vaishali	Sabakami	Kalasoka	Monks got split into Sthavirmadins & Mahasanghikas
3 rd Council	250 BC	Pataliputra	Mogalliputta Tissa	Ashoka	Abhidhammapitaka compiled
4 th Council	72 AD	Kundalvan, Kashmir	Vasumitra & Ashwaghosha	Kanishka	Buddhists got split into Hinayana & Mahayana

Important Events

Events	Symbols	Place
Birth	Lotus & Bull	Lumbini, Nepal
Mahabhinishkramana (Renunciation)	Horse	Buddha's Kingdom
Nirvana (Enlightenment)	Bodhi Tree	Uruvella (Bodh Gaya)
Dharmachakra pravartana (1 st Sermon)	Wheel	Sarnath
Mahaparinirvana (Death)	Stupa	Kusinagara

Buddhist Literature

- Tripitaka or three baskets includes the prominent Buddhist scriptures. Other includes Jatakas, Mahavamsa, Bodhivamsa.

Tripitakas

- **Vinaya Pitaka:** Contains monastic rules of conduct for monks.
- **Sutta Pitaka:** This scripture describes the first Buddhist council.
- **Abhidhamma Pitaka:** It is a detailed scholastic analysis and summary of the Buddha's teachings.

Milinda Panha

- Milinda Panha means "Questions of Milinda". It is a dialogue between Indo-Greek king Meander and Buddhist monk Nagasena. (Written in Pali)

Dipavamsa

- Dipavamsa or "Chronicle of Island" deals with the arrival of Buddha's teaching and preachers in Sri Lanka. (Written in Pali)

Mahavamsa

- Deals with the royal dynasties of Indian subcontinent. The consecration of Asoka and details of Selucus and Alexander have been detailed in it.

Buddha Charita

- It is an epic poem on the life of Buddha written in **Sanskrit**. It was written by a Buddhist philosopher Ashwaghosha who was a member of King Kanishka's court.

Branches of Buddhism

	Theravada (Way of the Elders)	Mahayana (Great Vehicle)	Vajrayana (Tantric Buddhism)
Origins	Believed to be from the original followers of Buddha.	200 BCE Mahayana (a more liberal school) emerges.	750 CE Buddhism spread to Tibet and mixed with local religion.
Areas of Practice	Southeast Asian countries (i.e. Sri Lanka, Myanmar (Burma), Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, South Vietnam)	China, Korea and Japan	Tibet, Nepal and Bhutan.
Focus	<p>Cultivation of wisdom through knowledge of the 4 noble truths and practice of the 8-fold path (especially meditation).</p> <p>Emphasis on monastic life resulting in a religious hierarchy. The Sanga consists of monks/nuns and only they can achieve enlightenment. Lay people support the monks/nuns and can gain merit by following the Buddha.</p> <p>Guidelines for monks/nuns include: chastity, begging for good, giving up possessions, meditating and pacifism.</p>	<p>Buddhism for the masses – emphasizes compassion for all living things (particularly fellow humans) as the supreme virtue.</p> <p>Does not hold to monasticism as the only legitimate path (more inclusive).</p> <p>Focuses on the Buddha himself, celebrates him as a divine saviour.</p>	<p>Fighting fire with fire – harness the sensual energies of life and turn them against themselves.</p> <p>Practices used to achieve this are: mandalas, mudras, mantras, and in rare cases ritualized (tantric) sex. All of which can only be learned through study with a master.</p> <p>Together these practices invoke sound, movement and sight, capitalizing on sensual energies as ways to enhance spiritual energies.</p>
	Theravada (Way of the Elders)	Mahayana (Great Vehicle)	Vajrayana (Tantric Buddhism)
View of the Buddha	<p>A human who experienced enlightenment and then taught others how to do the same. Buddha is forever beyond human reach as he has passed into the eternal peace of nirvana.</p> <p>The Buddha's teachings, not the figure of the Buddha are central.</p>	<p>Buddha is more than one historical person. Buddhas existed before and will exist after Gautama and are considered divine beings.</p> <p>Buddhahood is everlasting and creates new Buddhas from its power. Every person is a potential Buddha.</p>	A human who experienced enlightenment and then taught others how to do the same.
Important Individuals	<p>Ultimate goal is to become an Arhat (worthy one, saint who has achieved Nirvana).</p> <p>Arhats are the ideal types that all strive to imitate.</p> <p>Reject the idea of heavenly figures etc. helping followers.</p>	<p>Believe in Bodhisattvas (persons who have reached enlightenment but refuse to enter Nirvana until everyone has achieved enlightenment) who answer prayers and aid people (guides).</p> <p>These individuals are Buddhas in the making and can dwell on earth or in one of the Buddhist heavens from where they offer divine assistance (transference of their Karma) to those who worship them.</p>	<p>Lamas are important religious leaders who reincarnate to continue leading out of compassion.</p> <p>Dali Lama is the current leader of Tibet (the 14th in a direct line of succession through re-birth).</p>
	Theravada (Way of the Elders)	Mahayana (Great Vehicle)	Vajrayana (Tantric Buddhism)
Scriptures	<p>Follows the early texts and teachings of the Buddha.</p> <p>Scriptures = Tripitaka ("Three Baskets") recorded sayings of the Buddha or historical Buddha documents.</p>	The Tripitakas are worthy scriptures but there are others including "secret" teachings of the Buddha and later Chinese & Tibetan writings.	In English it is also known as Tantric Buddhism, due to its reliance on sacred texts called Tantras.
End Goal	Liberation from the world = enlightenment achieved through individual effort (meditation, NOT worship).	<p>Believes in compassion and liberation for everyone. Salvation is offered through the grace and compassion of the Buddha.</p> <p>Wisdom is attained through meditation, devotion to a bodhisattva, ritual and spiritual exercises.</p>	***To reach Nirvana in a single lifetime – rather than passing through countless lives before achieving salvation. In Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism, followers hope to gain enough merit in this life to reincarnate into the next with better Karma - thereby moving one step closer to Nirvana.

Mongolian Kanjur

Why in news?

- The Ministry of Culture has taken up the project of reprinting of 108 volumes of Mongolian Kanjur under the National Mission for Manuscript, NMM.
- Mongolian Kanjur, is considered to be the most important **Buddhist religious text in Mongolia**.
- In the Mongolian language, 'Kanjur' means 'Concise Orders'- the words of Lord Buddha.
- The **National Mission for Manuscripts** was launched in February 2003 by the Government of India with the mandate of documenting, conserving and disseminating the knowledge preserved in the manuscripts.



Dharma Chakra Day

Context

- Recently, Dharma Chakra Day was celebrated by the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), under the aegis of Ministry of Culture.
- This day commemorates **Buddha's First Sermon** to his first five ascetic disciples at the Deer Park, **Isipatana** in the **present day Sarnath** near Varanasi, UP.
- The day is also celebrated by Buddhists all over the world as the day of Dharma Chakra Parvattana or "**Turning of the Wheel of Dharma**".
- This day is observed as **Guru Poornima** by both **Buddhists and Hindus** as a day to mark reverence to their gurus.
- International Buddhist Confederation is the biggest religious Buddhist confederation, based in Delhi, India.
- The architect of the International Buddhist Confederation is **Lama Lobzang**.
- This confederation is named as the first organization, which unites Buddhists from the whole world.

Bon Bibi

Context

- Bonbibi, the lady of the forest, is a **guardian spirit of the forests** venerated by **both the Hindu and the Muslim** residents of the Sundarbans - spread across West Bengal and Bangladesh.
- She is called upon mostly by the honey-collectors and the woodcutters before entering the forest for protection against the attacks from the tigers.
- People express their belief in Bon Bibi through **Bon Bibi'r Palagaan** - a dramatic **storytelling form** that is enacted throughout the island.
- The Bon Bibi faith is a check on human greed and acquisition.
- An **unwritten code prohibits** islanders from carrying guns or weapons into the forest.
- They must enter the forest only if they absolutely need to earn a livelihood and not take more honey or crabs, fish or prawns than they need.
- According to local lore, poachers, pirates and those who disobey Bon Bibi are attacked by tigers as punishment.

FESTIVALS

Parshayan Parva

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday wished Jains on the last day of '**Paryushan Parva**'.
- Paryushan Parva is a major Jain festival that lasts seven days, culminating in '**Samvatsari Parvi**' (**Forgiveness Day**)
- On this day, Jains greet each other with "Michhami Dukkadam" and observe a day-long fast.

- 'Michhami Dukkadam' is an ancient phrase from Prakrit language, which is uttered by one seeking forgiveness for any ill-will or bad deeds and offering a renewal of relationship.
- Digambaras refer the event as **Das Lakshana Dharma** while Śvētāmbaras refer to it as Paryushana ("abiding" or "coming together").

Thumbimahotsav 2020

- It is the first ever Dragon Fly Festival of Kerala. It is a part of National DragonFly Festival organised by WWF India, Bombay Natural History Society & Indian Dragon Fly Society in collaboration with National Biodiversity Board, UNEP, UNDP & IUCN.
- DragonFly Festival started in 2018 to educate people about role of dragonflies in our ecosystem.

Prakash Pura Utsav

- Prime Minister Modi greeted the people on the occasion of the Parkash Purab Utsav of the holy book Guru Granth Sahib (19th August 2020).
- The first Prakash Purab Utsav marked the installation of **Guru Granth Sahib in Harmandir Sahib**, also known as the Golden temple, in 1604.
- The Guru Granth Sahib is the central religious scripture of Sikhism.
- The Adi Granth, its first rendition, was compiled by the fifth guru, Guru Arjan (1563–1606).
- The Guru Granth Sahib was composed predominantly by six Sikh gurus: Guru Nanak, Guru Angad, Guru Amar Das, Guru Ram Das, Guru Arjan, and Guru Teg Bahadur.
- It also contains the poetic teachings of thirteen Bhakti movement saint poets and two Sufi Muslim poets.
- The vision in the Guru Granth Sahib is of a society based on divine justice without oppression of any kind.
- While the Granth acknowledges and respects the scriptures of Hinduism and Islam, it **does not imply a moral reconciliation with either of these religions**.

Nuakhai Juhar

- Nuakhai Juhar is harvesting festival of **Odisha**. Nuakhai is a combination of two words, 'nua' meaning new and 'khai' means eat, it thus signifies "eating of new rice".
- People worship food grain on this auspicious day.
- The farmers offer the first produce from their lands to **Goddess Samaleswari**, the famous mother goddess of Sambalpur district of the state.

Pulikali

- Recently, during the Onam celebrations the annual folk art Pulikali (tiger play) festival engulfed Thrissur in Kerala.
- The origin of Pulikkali dates back to over 200 years, when the **Maharaja Rama Varma Sakthan Thampuran**, the then Maharaja of Cochin, is said to have introduced the folk art.
- During the Onam celebrations, performers painted like tigers and hunters in bright yellow, red, and black dance to the beats of instruments like Udukku and Thakil.
- Onam is a rice harvest

Thrissur Pooram

- For the **first time in 58 years**, **Thrissur Pooram**, has been **cancelled** in the wake of the nationwide lockdown.
- Thrissur Pooram is an annual Hindu festival held in **Kerala**.
- Known as the **festival of festivals**, Thrissur Pooram has a tradition of more than 200 years.
- This event was **started by Sakthan Thampuran**, the erstwhile ruler of Kochi.
- One can see elephant procession, fireworks, and stunning cultural representation during the event.
- Deities from 10 temples of Thrissur are unified to pay obeisance to Lord Shiva, the presiding deity of the **Vadakkunnathan Temple**.

Zyeshth Ashtami Festival

- It is a rare occasion when Muslims & Kashmiri Pandits in Ganderbal district, Kashmir unite to celebrate the festival at the Ragyna Devi Temple also called Kheer Bhawani temple.
- The festival is fast emerging as a source of healing of relationships between the Pandits and Muslims of Kashmir.
- The celebration has been cancelled this year due to COVID-19 Pandemic.

Bishnu Sendra Parv

- It is an annual hunting festival observed by the Tribals of Jharkhand, Odisha & West Bengal.
- It was reported that for the first time, not single animal was killed in Jharkhand on Bishnu Sendra Parv.

Sindhu Darshan Festival

Context

- Recently, the Sindhu Darshan Festival was celebrated for three days in Leh, Ladakh.
- Also called the Singhe Kabaab Festival, Sindhu Darshan is a celebration of unity as well as communal harmony along with national integration.
- Dance, art and music are the highlights of this festival, which are held **on the banks of the Indus River (Sindhu River)**.
- This festival is celebrated **to pay homage to River Sindhu**, with the intention of endorsing it as an icon of communal harmony in India.

Makar Sankranti

- Makar Sankranti is a major harvest festival celebrated in India and is dedicated to the Sun God, Surya.
- This year the festival will be celebrated on January 14.

About Makar Sankranti

- Makar Sankranti or Uttarayan or Maghi, is a festival day in the Hindu calendar, dedicated to the deity Surya (sun).
- It marks the first day of the sun's transit when winter solstice ends and there is a start of longer days.

A NEW LOOK & WITH ADVANCED FEATURES



IAS GYAN

PREDICT THE UNPREDICTABLE

An online initiative of **APTI PLUS**

- DAILY NEWS ANALYSIS, EDITORIALS, VIDEOS & BLOGS
- PIB / YOJANA / KURUKSHETRA MONTHLY COMPILATION
- THE IAS GAZETTE MAGAZINE
- RSTV, AIR DISCUSSION & SUMMARIES
- ADVANCED LMS FEATURES
- DAILY PRELIMS & MAINS QUESTION/ANSWER & many more...



www.iasgyan.in

ARCHITECTURE & SCULPTURE

World's Oldest Cave Painting

Context

- Archaeologists have discovered the world's oldest known cave painting: a life-sized picture of a wild pig that was made at least 45,500 years ago in Indonesia.

About

- Measuring 136 by 54 centimeters (53 by 21 inches) the Sulawesi warty pig was painted using dark red ochre pigment.
- It has a short crest of upright hair, as well as a pair of horn-like facial warts characteristic of adult males of the species.
- There are two hand prints above the pig's hindquarters, and it appears to be facing two other pigs that are only partially preserved, as part of a narrative scene.
- Humans have hunted Sulawesi warty pigs for tens of thousands of years, and they are a key feature of the region's prehistoric artwork, particularly during the Ice Age.



Gavi Gangadhareshwara Temple

Context

- Recently, citizens celebrated Sankranti day and blocked the sun's rays from falling on the Shiva Linga at Gavi Gangadhareshwara Temple in Gavipuram.

About

- Gavi Gangadhareshwara Temple also Gavipuram Cave Temple, an example of Indian rock-cut architecture, is located in Bangalore in the state of Karnataka.
- The temple is famous for its mysterious stone discs in the forecourt and the exact planning allowing the sun to shine on shrine in certain time of the year.
- It was built in the 16th century by Kempe Gowda I, the founder of the city.
- This cave temple dedicated to Shiva in Bengaluru is a well visited temple.
- Built by Gautama Maharshi and Bharadwaja Muni in Vedic period.
- Renovated in the 16th century AD by Kempe Gowda, the founder of Bengaluru, Temple Gavi Gangadhareshwara is an architectural marvel.

Edakkal Caves

- The government recently constituted a nine-member committee to suggest measures for the conservation of Edakkal caves.
- Edakkal Caves are two natural caves at Edakkal, in Wayanad district of **Kerala**.
- Location: Ambukutty Mala, on the Mysore Plateau, in the Western Ghats. Discovered by: Fred Fawcett, Superintendent of Police, Malabar District in 1896.
- The Edakkal caves are believed to be shelters of the Neolithic community.
- The major part of images on the cave walls may belong to late Neolithic period (i. e., first millennium BC).
- Among other findings: Tamil-Brahmi inscription, containing the word Chera and Prakrit-Grantha inscription of Kadamba king Vishnu Varma.

Patrika Gate

Context

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated the Patrika Gate in Jaipur.

Who built it and where?

- Patrika Gate derives its name from newspaper and media company-Rajasthan Patrika.
- It has been built by Rajasthan Patrika in association with JDA- Jaipur Development Authority.
- The gate is built on Jawahar Circle near Sanganer International Airport. **Jawahar Circle is one of the biggest circular parks in Asia** developed on a highway traffic circle.



Patrika Gate

- The idea of building this gate is linked with the old city gates of Jaipur walled city.
- When Maharajah Sawai Jai Singh II founded the pink city in 1727 AD, he secured the city with a wall and seven gates.
- Later Sawai Man Singh built a new gate (eighth) gate. The Patrika Gate has now become the ninth gate of Jaipur.
- The city was founded on the principles of Shilp Shastra and Vaastu. Several buildings and temples were built on the same axis--**Govind Dev Ji Temple, Jaipur City Palace, Garh Ganesh Temple, the Albert Hall Museum, Tripolia Gate, and the New Gate.** Now, Patrika Gate is being represented as the ninth gate of Jaipur.

Art & Architecture

- Patrika Gate is inspired by the old architectural legacies. The facade is inspired by the traditional architecture and features like **Jharokhas, Pals, Pavilions, and Chhatris.**
- It is flanked by figures of elephants, horses, and soldiers.
- The images and elements of Rajasthan are brought alive in Patrika Gate through its **hand-painted walls and ceilings.**
- There's famous Bani Thani painting, Jal Mahal, Mehrangarh Fort, Srinathji, legendary rulers to name a few.
- Artists have also depicted the **scenes from daily lives** that were popular subjects of ancient and medieval paintings.

The role of Number 9

- Number nine plays a critical part in the making of the Patrika Gate. There are a total of nine pavilions. Each pavilion is 9 feet wide. The width of the gate is 81 feet and height is 108 feet. Also, Patrika Gate is the ninth gate of Jaipur.
- Relevance: The number nine holds great significance in our traditions and beliefs such as the Nine Gates, Nine Planets, Navratra (Nine Nights) etc. It is considered an auspicious number.

Jaipur

- Jaipur was founded in 1727 by the Rajput ruler Jai Singh II, the ruler of Amer.
- It was one of the earliest planned cities of modern India, designed by Vidyadhar Bhattacharya.
- Jaipur forms a part of the west Golden Triangle tourist circuit along with Delhi and Agra.
- On 6 July 2019, UNESCO World Heritage Committee inscribed Jaipur the 'Pink City of India' among its World Heritage Sites.
- The city is also home to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites Amber Fort and Jantar Mantar.
- Jaipur is also known as the Pink City, due to the dominant color scheme of its buildings.

Natesa

Context

- A rare sandstone idol of the 9th century Pratihara style, is returning to the country after 22 years.
- Called as Natesa, it was stolen in 1998. Eventually, a London collector J. Kasmin, who had possession of it in 2003, handed it over to the Indian High Commission.



About Natesa

- The sandstone Natesa figure stands tall at almost 4 ft.
- It is a rare and brilliant depiction of **Shiva** in the late 9th century **Pratihara style of Rajasthan**.
- A depiction of Nandi is shown behind the right leg of the Natesa icon.

Gurjara Pratihara

Gurjara-Pratihara Dynasty	Characteristics
Area of Rule	Northern India (Ujjain & then Kannauj)
Time Period	Mid-8th to the 11th century.
Founder	Nagabhata I
Role	Instrumental in containing Arab armies moving east of the Indus River.
Most successful under	Nagabhata II
Capital	Kannauj
Language	Sanskrit & Prakrit
Contemporaries	Gupta, Rashtrakuta, Pala
Known for	Sculptures, carved panels and open pavilion style temples.
Greatest development	Khajuraho, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site
Last important king	Rajyapala
De-established by	Mahmud of Ghazni in 1018

Konark Sun Temple

Context

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has taken up the Complete Solarisation of Konark sun temple in Odisha.

About the Sun temple

- The temple was built by king Narasingha Deva I of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty in 1250 CE.
- It was built the form of a giant ornamented chariot dedicated to the Sun god.
- The chariot has twelve pairs of stone wheels pulled by seven horses.
- The wheels are sundials, which can be used to calculate time accurately.
- The temple is oriented towards the east, so that the first rays of sunrise strike the principal entrance.
- This temple was called the "**Black Pagoda**" in European sailor accounts because its great tower appeared black.
- They used the temple's tower for navigation.
- The temple was originally located at the mouth of the **river Chandrabhaga**.
- Declared a **UNESCO world heritage site** in 1984, it is a major pilgrimage site for Hindus.
- People gather here every year for the **Chandrabhaga Mela**.
- The temple is a classic illustration of **Kalinga Architecture**.
- The temple has intricate stone carvings built from **Khondalite rocks**.
- Khondalite is a foliated metamorphic rock. In India, it is also called Bezwada Gneiss and Kailasa Gneiss.
- It was named after the Khond tribe of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.



Important Sun Temples in India

- Dakshinaarka temple at Gaya, Bihar
- Bhramanya Dev Temple at Unao in Madhya Pradesh
- Suryanaar Temple near Kumbakonam in Tamilnadu
- Suryanarayanawamy temple at Arasavilli in Andhra Pradesh
- The Sun Temple at Modhera - Gujarat
- Martand Sun temple, Kashmir
- Katarmal Sun Temple, Uttarakhand

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is mainly responsible for research and development, intellectual property protection, and international cooperation, promotion, and coordination in renewable energy sources such as wind power, small hydro, biogas, and solar power.

Note: The Jagannath Temple in Puri was called the **"White Pagoda"**.

Jagannath Rath Yatra

Context

- Recently, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) allowed the construction of chariots for the annual Rath Yatra at Jagannath Puri in Odisha.

Instruction

- Complete segregation of the construction site should be ensured and social-distancing norms should be followed amid COVID 19 pandemic.

Jagannath Rath Yatra

- It is the **oldest Chariot festival** in India and the World.
- It commemorates **Lord Jagannath's** annual visit to **Gundicha Temple**.
- As part of Ratha Yatra, the principle deities **Lord Jagannath, Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra, Sudarshan**, are taken out in a procession out of Jagannath Temple and placed in the Chariot.
- Finally, the devotees pull the chariots up to the **Gundicha Temple - the birthplace of the Lords**.

Jagannath Temple

- The temple was built by the Ganga dynasty king Anantavarman Chodaganga in the 12th century CE.
- The temple is sacred to Vaishnava traditions.
- Bhakti movement Saints, such as Ramananda and Ramanuja, were closely associated with the temple.
- The temple is of particular significance to the followers of the Gaudiya Vaishnavism whose founder was Bhakti saint Chaitanya. Chaitanyawas attracted to the deity, Jagannath, and lived in Puri for many years.
- The temple is one of the Char Dham- Badrinath, Dwaraka, Puri, Rameswaram
- The temple was called **"White Pagoda"**. Konark Sun temple was called **"Black Pagoda"**.
- Both temples served as important landmarks for sailors in the Bay of Bengal.



Padmanabha Swamy Temple

Context

- Reversing the 2011 Kerala High Court decision, the Supreme Court upheld the right of the Travancore royal family to manage the property of deity at Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram.
- Padmanabhaswamy temple:
- It is a Hindu temple.
- The temple is built **in an intricate fusion of the Chera style and the Dravidian style** of architecture, featuring high walls, and a 16th-century gopura.
- The **principal deity Padmanabhaswamy (Vishnu)** is enshrined in the "Anantha Shayana" posture, the eternal yogic sleep on the serpent Adi Shesha.
- The Temple has been **referred to in the Sangam period of literature** between 500 BCE and 300 CE several times.

Lingaraj Temple

Context

- Recently, the Odisha government announced to give a facelift to the 11th century Lingaraj Temple to be renovated in similarity to its pre-350-year structural status.

Details of Lingaraj temple

BUILT BY	Somavamshi Dynasty
DEDICATED TO	Shiva
ALTERNATE NAME	Ekamra Kshetra as the deity of Lingaraja was originally under a mango tree
STYLE	Deula (element in a hindu temple in the local style of Odisha temple in Eastern India.)
COMPONENTS OF DEULA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vimana (structure containing the sanctum), Jagamohana (assembly hall), Natamandira (festival hall) and Bhoga-mandapa (hall of offerings)
ARCHITECTURE	Kalinga
MAINTAINED BY	Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)
RITUALS	Closely associated with nearby Bindusagar Lake

Somavamshi Dynasty

- Ruled parts of present-day Odisha in eastern India between the 9th and the 12th centuries.
- Their capitals included Yayatinagara (modern Binka) and Abhinava-Yayatinagara (modern Jajpur).
- Introduced a new style of art and architecture in Odisha.
- Their rule saw a remarkable shift from **Buddhism to Brahmanism in the region**.
- The Somavamshi rule ended in the early 12th century, when the Eastern Ganga ruler Anantavarman Chodaganga captured their territories.



ASI

- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is an agency attached to **the Ministry of Culture**.
- It is responsible for archaeological research and the conservation and preservation of cultural monuments in the country.
- It was founded in **1861** by **Alexander Cunningham** who also became its first Director-General.

Vishnupada Temple

Context

- Recently, Patna High Court reprimanded the private managing body of Vishnupad temple in Gaya asking it to manage the temple properly for lakhs of devotees who visit every year.

About

- Vishnupada Temple is an ancient temple in Gaya, Bihar, dedicated to Lord Vishnu.
- This temple is located along the Falgu River, marked by a footprint of Lord Vishnu known as Dharmasila, incised into a block of basalt.
- The present day structure was rebuilt by Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar, the ruler of Indore,

Heritage Tourism Policy

Context

- Recently, **Gujarat government** announced its first Heritage Tourism Policy.

Highlights of the Policy

- It allowed opening up of heritage hotels, museums, banquet halls and restaurants **inside historic palaces, forts and buildings.**
- It is applicable to historic structures that existed **before January 1, 1950.**
- Under this policy, a new heritage hotel or an existing one will get financial assistance of Rs 5-10 crore for renovation or expansion. The basic heritage structure should not be altered during this process.
- In next five years, the government will give 100 per cent relief in electricity duty, marketing support and rent assistance in national and international events.

Significance

- Tourism department pointed out that there are more than 100 heritage properties in Gujarat but only 20 of them have been opened up for tourism.
- A dedicated policy will not only encourage owners to renovate the old structures, but will also help attract foreign tourists to some of the princely states and jagirs once ruled by Maratha Gaekwads, Kathi Durbars, Rajput clans and Muslim dynasties.
- This move will boost tourism and create jobs.

Some Historical places in Gujarat

Kanthkot Fort & Temple	A Jain & Sun temple. Capital of the Kathi people.
Tera fort	Built by Jadejas during the reign of Deshalji I (18th century).
Rani ki Vav, Patan (UNESCO's World Heritage Site)	Built by Udaymati, queen of Solanki Dynasty. Situated on the banks of Saraswati river
Sarkhej Roza Tomb	Prominent centre of Sufi culture. Sufi saint Shaikh Ahmed Ganj Baksh lived here. Built by Sultan Ahmed Shah on the banks of the Sabarmati
Vijaya Vilas Palace	Summer palace of Jadeja Maharao of Kutch. Built during reign of Maharao Shri Khengarji III
Lakshmi Vilas Palace	Styled on the Indo-Saracenic Revival architecture, built by Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III in 1890
Prag Mahal	Built by Rao Pragmalji II (Jadeja dynasty). Indo-Saracenic Revival style
Champaner-Pavagadh, a UNESCO World Heritage Site	Founded by Vanraj Chavda (Chavda Dynasty)
Sun Temple, Modhera	Built during rule of Bhima I of the Chaulukya dynasty. On the bank of the river Pushpavati. Protected under Archaeological Survey of India.

Renati Chola Era Inscription

Context

- A rare inscription dating back to the Renati Chola era has been unearthed in a remote village of Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh.

Renati Cholas

- Renati Cholas were from one of the Telugu Chola families.
- The Telugu Cholas ruled parts of present-day Andhra Pradesh between the sixth and the thirteenth century.
- Telugu Cholas of Renadu (also called as Renati Cholas) ruled over Renadu region between 6th and 8th centuries, in the present day Cuddapah district.
- They were originally independent. But later forced to the suzerainty of the Eastern Chalukyas.

- They used the Telugu language in their inscriptions belonging to the 6th and 8th centuries.
- The earliest ruler of this family was **Nandivarman** (500 AD) who claimed descent from the family of Karikala.
- Karikala was a Chola dynasty king who ruled southern India. He is credited with the conquest of the whole of India up to the Himalayas and the construction of the flood banks of the river Kaveri. He is recognised as the greatest of the Early Cholas.

Renati Chola Inscription

- Found engraved on a dolomite slab and shale.
- The inscription was written in **archaic Telugu**.
- It was assigned to the 8th Century A.D., when the region was under the rule of Chola Maharaja of Renadu.
- The inscription throws light on the record of a gift of six Marttus (a measuring unit) of land gifted to a person Sidiyamayu, one of the Brahmins serving the temple.

Dynasties related to Cholas: Telugu Chodas of Andhra; Chodagangas of Kalinga; Nidugal Cholas of Karnataka; Rajahnate of Cebu.

Note: Read about Chola Dynasty from Ancient History Book in detail.

Hampi

Context

- Recently, The Ministry of Tourism organised their latest webinar titled Hampi- Inspired by the past; Going into the future under **Dekho Apna Desh Webinar series**.

• Hampi	• UNESCO World Heritage Site in Karnataka
• Capital of	• Vijayanagar Empire (14th century)
• Location	• On the banks of Tungabhadra River
• Prosperity	• World's second-largest medieval-era city after Beijing,
• In ruins	• 1600 surviving remains
• Vitthala Temple in Hampi	• Built by Devaraya II. Dedicated to Lord Vishnu.
• Achyutaraya temple Complex in Hampi	• Dedicated to Vishnu. Other name: Tiruvengalanatha temple
• Pattabhirama temple complex	• Dedicated to Rama.
• Virupaksha temple in Hampi	• Oldest shrine. Contains monastery dedicated to Vidyananya of Advaita Vedanta tradition; Shiva, Pampa and Durga temples.
• Ganagitti temple complex in Hampi	• Jain Temple. Dated to Hindu king Harihara II. Dedicated to Tirthankara Kunthunatha (17 th Tirthankara)
• Hemkunta Hill in Hampi	• Contains monolithic Ganesha, Narasimha & Jain temples.
• Other Monuments in Hampi	• Ahmad Khan Tomb; Hemkutta Hill Monuments; Krishna Temple; Mahanavmi Platform; Kodandarama Temple.

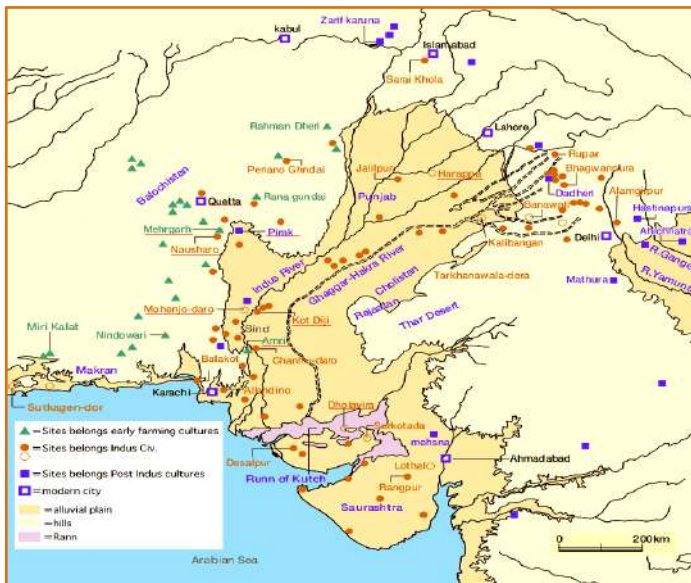
- **Note:** Hampi contains remains of monuments belonging to **Hindu, Jain as well as Muslim religion**.

Indus Valley Civilization

Context

- 2020 marks 100 years of the discovery of Indus Valley Civilization (IVC).
- And a new study has shown that dairy products were being produced by the Harappans as far back as 2500 BCE.

Indus Valley Civilization	Features
Period	Bronze Age
Date	3300 BC – 1300 BC
Geographical Range	Indus River Basin; NW India & Eastern Pakistan
Preceded by	Mehrgarh
Succeeded by	Painted Grey Ware Culture
Noted for	Urban planning, baked brick houses, elaborate drainage systems, water supply systems, clusters of large non-residential buildings, and new techniques in handicraft (carnelian products, seal carving) and metallurgy (copper, bronze, lead, and tin)
Status	UNESCO World Heritage Site



City	River Bank	Province	Year of Discovery	Archaeologist(s)
Harappa	Ravi	Pakistani Punjab	1921	Daya Ram Sahni
Mohenjodaro	Indus	Sind	1922	RD Banerjee
Ropar	Sutlej	Indian Punjab	1953	YD Sharma
Lothal	Bhogava	Gujarat	1957	SR Rao
Kalibangan	Ghaggar	Rajasthan	1959	BB Lal
Chanhudaro	Indus	Sind	1931	MG Majumdar
Alamgirpur	Hindon	Uttar Pradesh	1974	YD Sharma
Sutkagendor	Dasht	Baluchistan	1931	Aurel Stein
Banawali	Haggar	Haryana	1974	RS Bist
Rangpur	Bhadur	Gujarat	1931	MS Vats

Archaeological Findings

Harappa	Cemetery H & R37; Coffin burial; Phallus worship; Mother goddess, Bullock Carts, Single Roomed Barracks, Granaries, Sandstone Steatite of a youth with muscular body, Bronze Image of a Dog Attacking a Deer, Sandstone Girl Dancer, Reserved slip ware of Mesopotamian Type
Mohenjo-Daro	Prepared garments, Pashupati seal, Bronze statue of a dancing girl, Ivory weight balance, The Great Bath, The Great Granary, Priest king statue (of steatite), human skeleton huddled together
Kalibangan	Lower fortified town, Fire Altar, Boustrophedon style writing, Wooden drainage, Copper ox, Evidence of earthquake, Wooden plough, Camel's bone, 6 types of pottery
Lothal	Dockyard, Port Town, Evidence of Rice, Fire Altar, Ivory weight balance, Copper dog.
Rangpur	Evidence of Rice
Surkotada	Horse bone, stone covered grave, Human ashes
Chanhudaro	Bangle factory, Ink pot, only city without citadel, Carts with seated driver, Small Pot Shell Ornament Makers Factory, Metal Workers Factory, Bead Making Factory Shell Ornament Makers Factory
Balakot	Bangle Factory
Daimabad	Bronze Buffalo, Copper Rhinoceros, Copper Elephant
Amri	Remains of Rhinoceros
Ropar	Dog buried with humans, steatite seal, oval pit burials.

Banawali	Oval shaped settlement, only city with radial streets, toy plough
Dholavira	Only site to be divided into three parts, giant water reservoir, unique water harnessing system, Dam, Embankments, stadium, rock – cut architecture
Balakot	Shell Ornament makers Factory
Rakhigarhi	Skeletons of a 4,500-old woman, Clay plough

Note: Indus Valley Script has not yet been deciphered. 70% of the city is yet to be excavated.

Recent Findings

- After studying 59 shards of pottery from **Kotada Bhadli**, in present-day Gujarat, researchers showed the earliest direct evidence of **dairy product processing in IVC**.
- This throws fresh light on the **rural economy of the civilization**.
- Researchers also confirmed the presence of **cattle, water buffalo, goat, cow and** sheep found in the area.
- Until now, there was no evidence of cow from IVC.
- Cows and water buffalo consumed millets, while sheep and goats ate nearby grass and leaves.
- Most of the cattle and water-buffalo died at an older age, suggesting they could have been raised for milk.
- Whereas the majority of goat/sheep died when they were young, indicating they could have been used for meat.
- Milk was produced in surplus so that it could be exchanged and there could have been some kind of trade between settlements.
- This could have given rise to an industrial level of dairy exploitation.

Bundi

Context

- Recently, the Ministry of Tourism organized Dekho Apna Desh Webinar series titled “**Bundi: Architectural Heritage of a Forgotten Rajput Capital.**”

The Background of Bundi

- In ancient times, Bundi was inhabited by various local tribes like-The Parihar Tribes, Meena tribes.
- Later, **Rao Deva** took over Bundi from Jaita Meena in 1242. He renamed the surrounding area as **Haravati or Haroti** and the rulers came to be known as Hada Rajputs.
- Hadas are a branch of the **Chauhan Rajput community**. They claim descent from the Suryavansha (Solar dynasty)
 - Thus, Bundi remained the capital of this **Hada Rajput province** in south-eastern Rajasthan.
 - For the next two centuries, the Hadas of Bundi were the **vassals of the Sisodias of Mewar** and ruled by the title of Rao until 1569.
 - In 1569, Emperor Akbar conferred the **title of Rao Raja upon Rao Surjan Singh** after the surrender of Ranthambore Fort and his submission to Akbar.

Ranthambore Fort lies near the city of Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan. It is a formidable fort having been a focal point of the historical developments of Rajasthan. The fort was held by the Chahamanas (Chauhans) until the 13th century, when the Delhi Sultanate captured it. During reign of Rana Udai Singh I of Mewar Kingdom (1468–1473) the fortress had passed to the Hada Rajputs of Bundi.

In 2013, the fort was declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

- In 1632, **Rao Raja Chhattar Sal** became the ruler. He was one of the most valiant, principled and just kings of Bundi.
- He built the temple of Keshavarao at Keshoraipatan and Chathra Mahal at Bundi.
- Despite being a Vassal State of Mughal empire, Hada rulers retained their Hindu religious and cultural traditions.
- Bundi is also known as City of stepwalls, blue city and also as Chotti Kashi.
- Bundi was known as Chotti Kashi owing to presence of over hundred temples within and around the Hada capital.

Note: Absence of monumentality in their scale is a distinctive feature of temples in Bundi.

Taragarh Fort

- Taragarh Fort was constructed by **Rao raja Bair Singh** in 1354.
- The palace is a tribute to Rajput style.
- The fort includes Hazari Darwaza, Ratan Daulatkhana, Ratan Niawas, Chatra mahal, Badal Mahal & Moti Mahal.



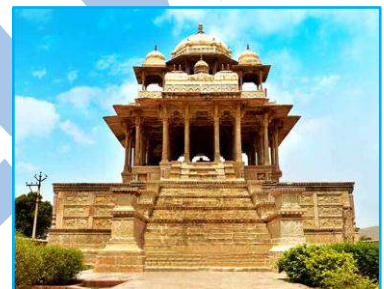
Sukh Mahal

- Located on **banks of Jait Sagar lake**, the palace was constructed **by Rao raja Vishnu Singh** in 1773 A.D.



Rani Ki Baori

- Bundi has more than 50 stepwells and rightly known as **city of stepwalls**.
- Rani ki Baori, also known as 'Queen's Stepwell' was built **by Rani Nathavati, queen of the ruling king Rao Raja Anirudh Singh** of Bundi in 1699.



84 Pillared Cenotaph

- 84 Pillared Cenotaph is a structure supported by 84 columns.
- Commissioned by **Rao Anirudh**, the Maharaja of Bundi, this cenotaph was constructed in memory of his nurse, Deva, under whose love and guidance the prince grew up.
- A cenotaph is an empty tomb or a monument erected in honor of a person or group of people whose remains are elsewhere.

Golconda Fort

- Early capital city of the **Qutb Shahi dynasty (c. 1512-1687)**, located in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- Flourished as a trade centre of large diamonds, known as the Golconda Diamonds because of the vicinity of **Kollur Mine**.
- Golconda Fort was **first built by the Kakatiyas** as part of their western defenses.
- The fort was rebuilt and strengthened by Rani Rudrama Devi and her successor Prataparudra.
- Later, the fort came under the control of **the Musunuri Nayakas**, who defeated the Tughlaqi army occupying Warangal.
- It also remained the **capital of the Qutb Shahi dynasty** until 1590 when the capital was shifted to Hyderabad. The **Qutb Shahis expanded the fort**.
- The fort finally fell into ruin in 1687, after an eight-month-long siege by Mughal emperor Aurangzeb.
- Diamonds excavated from Golconda include: Daria-i-Noor, Noor-ul-Ain, Koh-i-Noor, Hope Diamond, Princie Diamond, Regent Diamond, Wittelsbach-Graff Diamond.

Vishnu Temple and Gandhara Civilization

Context

- A Hindu temple, believed to have been constructed 1,300 years ago, has been discovered by Pakistani and Italian archaeological experts at a mountain in northwest Pakistan's Swat district.

The temple

- It was built by the Hindus 1,300 years ago during the Hindu Shahi period.
- The Hindu Shahis or Kabul Shahis (850-1026 CE) was a Hindu dynasty that ruled the Kabul Valley (eastern Afghanistan), Gandhara (modern-day Pakistan).

Gandhara Civilization

- Gandhara was a region in the Peshawar basin of the ancient Indian subcontinent, corresponding to **present-day north-west Pakistan and east Afghanistan**.
- The centre of the region was at the confluence of the Kabul and Swat rivers, bounded by the Sulaiman Mountains on the west and the Indus River on the east.
- Well-known cities of the Gandhara include **Takshasila (Taxila)**, **Purushapura (Peshawar)** & **Pushkalavati (Mardan)**, where remains continue to be found to this day.
- During the Achaemenid period and Hellenistic period, its capital city was **Pushkalavati**.
- Later the capital city was moved to **Peshawar by the Kushan emperor Kanishka** the Great in about 127 AD.



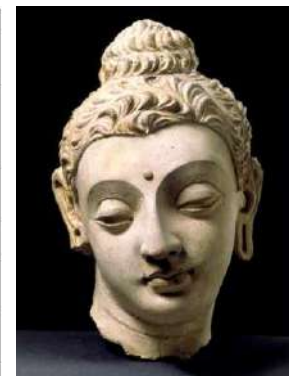
Political History of Gandhara

- Gandhara witnessed the rule of several major powers of antiquity as listed here:
- Persian Achaemenid Empire (c. 600-400 BCE)
- Greeks of Macedon (c. 326-324 BCE),
- Mauryan Empire of Northern India (c. 324-185 BCE),
- Indo-Greeks of Bactria (c. 250-190 BCE),
- Scythians of Eastern Europe (c. 2nd century to 1st century BCE),
- Parthian Empire (c. 1st century BCE to 1st century CE),
- Kushans of Central Asia (c. 1st to 5th century CE),
- White Huns of Central Asia (c. 5th century CE)
- Hindu Shahi of Northern India (c. 9th to 10th century CE)
- This was followed by Muslim conquests by which time we come to the medieval period of Indian history.

Gandhara School of art

- The Gandhara School of art had also developed in first century AD along with Mathura School **during reign of Kushana** emperor Kanishka.
- Both Shakas and Kushanas were patrons of Gandhara School, which is known for the first sculptural representations of the Buddha in human form.
- The art of the Gandhara school was primarily Mahayana and shows Greco-Roman influence.

Gandhara	Mathura	Amravati
1. High influence of helenistic and greek art features.	1. Indegenous in nature	1. Indegenous in nature
2. Grey-sandstone is used. (we also find images made of stucco with lime plaster)	2. Spotted red sandstone	2. White marble
3. Mainly Buddhist images are found	3. Buddhism, Jainism and hindu images are found.	3. Mainly Buddhism
4. Patron- kushana	4. Kushana	4. Shatavahanas
5. Found in north-west india	5. North india. Mainly region of Mathura	5. Deccan region near Krishna-godavari delta.
6. Spiritual Buddha images. Very stylish with wavy hair,	6. Delighted Buddha and not spiritual look	6. Mainly depicts stories of jatakas.
7. Has beard and moustache.	7. No beard and moustache	
8. Lean body.	8. Strong muscular feature	
9. Both seated and standing images are found.	9. Most of them are seated.	
10. Eyes are half closed and ears are large	10. Eyes are open with small Ears.	



Monolith

Context

- A metal monolith, was spotted on a hillside in Romania days after a similar structure mysteriously disappeared in Utah.

Monoliths in India

a) Gommateshwara Statue in Shravanabelagola, Karnataka

- It is tallest monolithic statue in the world, carved out of a single block of granite.
- It is 57-foot (17 m) high located on Vindhyagiri Hills and symbolizes Peace, Non violence, sacrifice worldly affairs, and simple living as followed by Jainism.
- The Gommateshwara statue is dedicated to the Jain figure Bahubali (son of Rishabhanatha - the first Tirthankara of Jainism).
- It was built around 983 C.E. and is one of the largest free standing statues in the world.
- The construction of the statue was commissioned by the Ganga dynasty minister and commander, Chavundaraya.

b) The Statue of Ahimsa

- It is located at Mangi-Tungi, in Nashik, in Maharashtra. It was built on the inspiration of Gyanmati Mataji in 2016
- It is the tallest Jain statue in the world.
- The statue depicts the first Jain Tirthankara, Rishabhanatha.
- The statue is 121 feet (36.8 meters) and has been carved out of the Mangi-Tungi hills, which are considered to be sacred by the Jains.

c) Bawangaja

- Bawangaja is a famous Jain pilgrim center in southwestern Madhya Pradesh.
- It is the world's second largest megalithic statue (carved out of the mountain) of Lord Rishabhadeva, the first Jain Tirthankara.
- The statue is 84 feet (26 m) high and was created early in the 12th century.

d) Bellary Fort, Karnataka

- It is built in two parts namely, the Upper Fort and the Lower Fort.
- The Upper Fort was built by **Hanumappa Nayaka**, a feudatory of Vijayanagara Empire, but the Lower Fort was built by **Hyder Ali** in later part of the 18th century.
- Built: 16th century; Materials: Granite Stones and mud.

e) Bhongir/Bhuvanagiri Fort

- Bhongir Fort was built on an isolated monolithic rock by the **Western Chalukyan ruler Tribhuvanamalla Vikramaditya VI** in the year 1076.

f) Kailasha temple

- The Kailasha temple is the largest of the rock-cut Hindu temples at the Ellora Caves, Maharashtra. It is a megalith carved from a rock cliff face.
- It was commissioned by **Rashtrakuta king Krishna I** (r. 756-773 CE).

g) Savandurga

- Savandurga is a hill 60 km west of Bengaluru, **Karnataka**.
- The hill is considered to be among the **largest monolith hills in Asia**.
- The hill rises to 1226 m above mean sea level and forms a **part of the Deccan plateau**.
- It consists of peninsular gneiss, granites, basic dykes and laterites. The Arkavathi river passes nearby.

h) Gopachal rock-cut Jain monuments

- Gopachal rock-cut Jain monuments, are a group of monolithic Jain carvings dated to between 7th and 15th century.
- They are located around the walls of the Gwalior Fort, Madhya Pradesh.
- They depict **Tirthankaras in seated Padmasana** posture as well as standing Kayotsarga posture.

Foreign Architects' contribution to India

Context

- Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad has decided to bring down 18 dormitories built by legendary American architect Louis Kahn and replace them with new building.
- Kahn, is one among several foreign architects whose work defines several Indian cities.



Contribution of architects

Louis Kahn

- He conceived the IIMA campus in his distinctive style of architecture.
- It comprises of circles and arches, using red bricks that were locally available.
- Louis Kahn's majestic red-brick campus is an architectural masterpiece.
- Kahn is also known for his monolithic complexes of buildings including the Capitol Complex in Dhaka, Bangladesh and the recently restored Salk Institute in California.

Antonin Raymond & George Nakashima

Background

- Pondicherry city a French colony in South India was home to the reclusive philosopher Sri Aurobindo.
- He was joined by Mirra Alfassa, a French artist and spiritual seeker later known as "The Mother".
- Together they established the Sri Aurobindo Ashram in 1926.
- The Ashram served as a commune where people came from all over the world, drawn to the teachings of the prolific writer and spiritual guide - Sri Aurobindo.
- Mirra Alfassa envisioned "Golconde" as a home for members of the community, and contacted Tokyo-based Czech architect Antonin Raymond to design it.



The building

- Antonin Raymond designed Golconda as a universal commune.
- Japanese-American woodworker George Nakashima completed it after Raymond left India.
- Golconde is **India's first reinforced concrete buildings**, built between 1937 and 1945.
- Its ascetic interiors helped provide a meditative atmosphere for disciples.

Otto Koenigsberger

- Koenigsberger from Berlin worked for the Maharaja of Mysore in the late 1930s.
- Later, he was commissioned by Tata & Sons to develop the industrial township of Jamshedpur in the early 1940s.
- He also designed the masterplan for Bhubhaneswar (1948) and Faridabad (1949).
- He planned for schools and bazaars in the city centre after seeing children and women walk punishing distances to reach schools and workplaces.
- At the time of Partition and communal riots his housing plans included people from different social classes and religions.

Frank Lloyd Wright

- American architect Frank Lloyd Wright never built a structure in India, but his influence was unfathomable.
- Two of his students, Gautam and Gira Sarabhai, were the founders of the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad.
- Gira remodelled an existing bungalow using Wright's signature cantilever roofs and a strong indoor-outdoor connect.
- Padma Vibhushan Charles Correa, one of India's finest architects and urban planners, was hugely influenced by Wright



Le Corbusier

- Swiss-French painter-writer-architect Corbusier designed many of Chandigarh's civic buildings -- from courts to housing.
- Corbusier's modernist approach, without decoration, gave India its brutalist, bare concrete buildings.
- Many architects like B V Doshi and Shivnath Prasad, were inspired by him.
- Corbusier built the Sarabhai House, Shodhan House, Mill Owner's Association Building and Sankar Kendra.
- He is often called the "father of modern Indian architecture".

Buckminster Fuller

- Fuller is known for his geodesic domes – large-span structures made of a network of triangles.
- Gautam Sarabhai, inspired by Fuller, designed the Calico Dome in 1962.

Joseph Allen Stein

- He established the Department of Architecture and Planning at the West Bengal Engineering College.
- Stein gave Delhi many cultural landmarks that blended Indian craft with international modernism.
- It includes:
 - Triveni Kala Sangam
 - the High Commissioner's Residence and Chancery for Australia,
 - 'Steinabad' in Lodhi Estate, where many of his buildings stand, including the India International Centre, Ford Foundation and the India Habitat Centre.

MUSIC, DANCE & DRAMA

Yakshagana

Context

- Recently an Yakshagana artist died while performing on the stage.

About Yakshagana

- Yakshagana is a traditional Indian theatre form, developed in the state of **Karnataka and Kerala**.
- It combines dance, music, dialogue, costume, make-up, and stage techniques with a unique style and form.
- It is believed to have evolved during the period of the Bhakti movement.
- Yakshagana is strongly influenced by the Vaishnava Bhakti movement.
- Its stories are **drawn from Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bhagavata** and other epics from both Hindu and Jain.
- Yakshagana is usually recited in Kannada. But it is also performed in Malayalam as well as Tulu (the dialect of south Karnataka).
- It is performed with percussion instruments like chenda, maddalam, jagatta or chengila (cymbals) and chakratala or elathalam (small cymbals).



Literature

- Early Yakshagana poets included Ajapura Vishnu, Purandaradasa, Parthi Subba, and Nagire Subba.
- King Kanteerava Narasara Wodeyar II (1704–1714) authored 14 Yakshaganas in various languages in the Kannada script.
- Mumtaz Ali Krishna Rao Wodeyar (1794–1868) also wrote several Yakshagana prasanga, including *Sougandhika Parinaya*.
- Noted poet, Muddana, composed several Yakshagana prasanga's, including the very popular *Rathnavathi Kalyana*.

- Tala-Maddale is an ancient form of debate performance in Karnataka and Kerala.
- It is a derived form of Yakshagana – a classical dance or musical form of art from the same region.
- Unlike the Yakshagana performance, in the conventional 'talamaddale,' the artists sit across in a place without any costumes and engage in testing their oratory skills based on the episode chosen.
- Music is common for both Yakshagana performance and 'talamaddale'. But Talamaddale has only spoken word without any dance or costumes.
- Yakshagana on the other hand is a traditional Indian theatre form, developed in Karnataka and Kerala that combines dance, music, dialogue, costume, make-up, and stage techniques with a unique style and form.
- It is believed to have evolved from pre-classical music and theatre during the period of the Bhakti movement.
- Its stories are drawn from Ramayana, Mahabharata and other epics from both Hindu, Jain and other ancient Indian traditions.

Dhrupad

Context

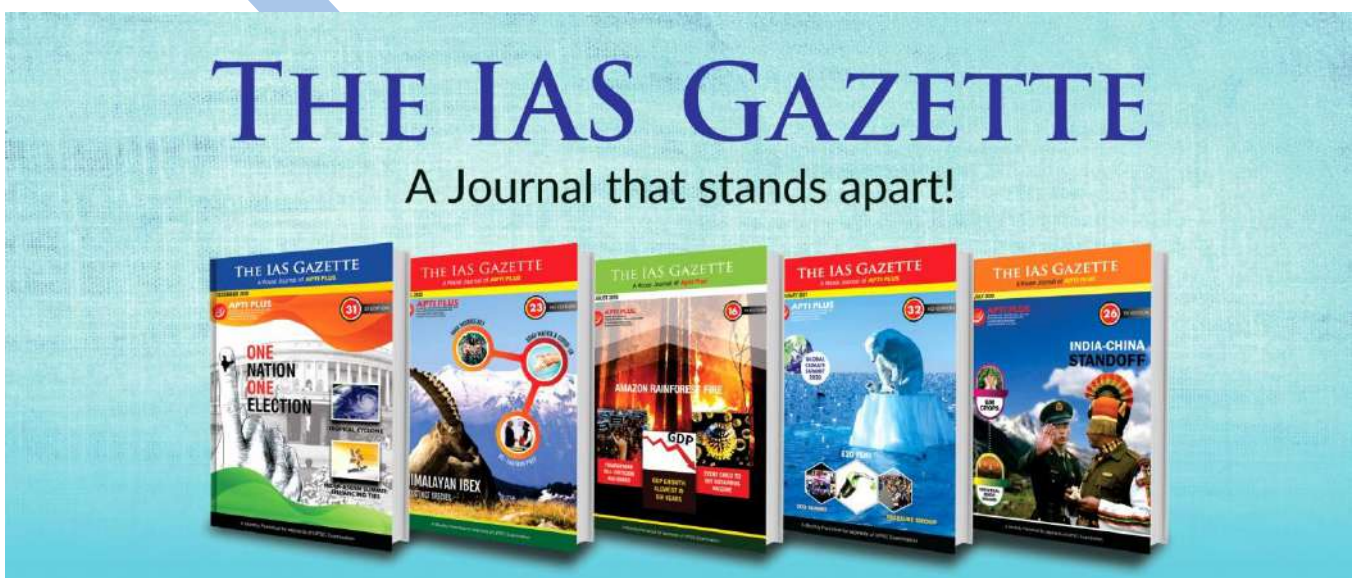
- Two Dhrupad singers are giving online lessons on the principles and intricacies of the style of Hindustani classical music.

About Dhrupad

- Dhrupad is the oldest surviving classical style of Hindustani vocal music.
- Dhrupad music traditionally has three major parts - alap, jor-jhala, and composition.
- A dhrupad is introduced by a slow tempo, with recurrent set of syllables (non-words) known as an alap.
- The singer attempts to emphasize the purity and clarity of each note, with perfect pitch.
- The alap is followed by the jor - a raga that develops a steady beat which is non-cyclical, and then continues into a faster paced jhala.
- The song concludes with the Dhrupad composition, usually is set in chau taal (12 beat cycles), sul tall (10 beat cycles) triva taal (7 beat cycles) or dhamar (14 beat cycles).
- There are several different gharanas (traditions) of Dhrupad. Some traditions center around a location (e.g., Vishnupur) while others reflect a given style (bani).
- Dagar:** This is the most well known of the gharanas worldwide. Other Gharanas include: Bettiah, Darbhanga, Jaipur Beenkar, Mewati, Kadri, Talwandi, Vishnupur, Rampur etc.
- There are said to be four broad stylistic variants (vanis or banis) of classical dhrupad - the Gauri (Gauhar), Khandar, Nauhar, and Dagar.
- Dhrupad are performed by a solo singer, or a small number of singers in unison, to the beat of a barrel drum, the mridangam or pakhawaj, and can be accompanied by a sitar.
- The songs are highly devotional, and are mostly in praise of Hindu deities.
- In early times Dhrupad was sung in the temples, the singer facing the divinity. About six centuries ago, Dhrupad came to be patronised by the royal courts.
- The language of Dhrupad changed from Sanskrit Brij Bhasha sometime between the 12th and the 16th century.
- In later times Dhrupad declined with the shift of interest in Khayal.
- The earliest source that mentions a musical genre called Dhrupad is Ain-i-Akbari of Abu Fazl (1593).

Origin

- The origins of Indian classical music can be traced to Samaveda, one of the four Vedas.
- The Samaveda was chanted with the help of melody and rhythm called **Samgana**.
- Gradually this developed into other vocal style called 'Chhanda' and 'Prabandha' with introduction of verse and meter.
- The fusion of these two elements led to the emergence of Dhrupad.



Theatre Forms of India

Bhand Pather

- Bhand Pather, the traditional theatre form of Kashmir, is a unique combination of dance, music and acting.
- Satire, wit and parody are preferred for inducing laughter.
- In this theatre form, music is provided with surnai, nagaara and dhol.
- Since the actors of Bhand Pather are mainly from the farming community, the impact of their way of living, ideals and sensitivity is discernible.

Swang

- Originally the theatre form Swang, was mainly music-based.
- Gradually, prose too, played its role in the dialogues.
- The softness of emotions, accomplishment of rasa along with the development of character can be seen in this theatre form.
- The two important styles of Swang are from Rohtak and Haathras.
- In the style belonging to Rohtak, the language used is Haryanvi (Bangru) and in Haathras, it is Brajbhasha.

Nautanki

- Nautanki is usually associated with Uttar Pradesh.
- The most popular centres of this traditional theatre form are Kanpur, Lucknow and Haathras.
- The meters used in the verses are: Doha, Chaubola, Chhappai, Behar-e-tabeel.
- Nowadays, both men and women take part in the performances.
- Among those remembered with reverence is Gulab Bai of Kanpur. She gave a new dimension to this old theatre form.

Raasleela

- Raasleela is based exclusively on Lord Krishna legends; it is believed that Nand Das wrote the initial plays based on the life of Krishna.
- In this theatre form the dialogues in prose combined beautifully with songs and scenes from Krishna's pranks.

Bhavai

- Bhavai is the traditional theatre form of Gujarat.
- The centers of this form are Kutch and Kathiawar.
- The instruments used in Bhavai are: bhungal, tabla, flute, pakhaawaj, rabaab, sarangi, manjeera, etc.
- In Bhavai, there is a rare synthesis of devotional and romantic sentiments.
- Jatra
- Fairs in honour of gods, or religious rituals and ceremonies have within their framework musical plays are known as Jatra.
- This form was born and nurtured in Bengal.
- Krishna Jatra became popular due to Chaitanya's influence.
- Later, however, worldly love stories too, found a place in Jatra.
- The earlier form of Jatra has been musical. Dialogues were added at later stage.
- The actors themselves describe the change of scene, the place of action, etc.

Maach

- Maach is the traditional theatre form of Madhya Pradesh.
- The term Maach is used for the stage itself as also for the play.
- In this theatre form songs are given prominence in between the dialogues.
- The term for dialogue in this form is bol and rhyme in narration is termed vanag.
- The tunes of this theatre form are known as **rangat**.

Bhaona

- Bhaona is a presentation of the Ankia Naat of Assam.
- In Bhaona cultural glimpses of Assam, Bengal Orissa, Mathura and Brindavan can be seen.
- The Sutradhaar, or narrator begins the story, first in Sanskrit and then in either Brajboli or Assamese.

Tamaasha

- Tamaasha is a traditional folk theatre form of Maharashtra.
- It has evolved from the folk forms such as Gondhal, Jagran and Kirtan.
- Unlike other theatre forms, in Tamaasha the female actress is the chief exponent of dance movements in the play.
- She is known as Murki. Classical music, footwork at lightning-speed, and vivid gestures make it possible to portray all the emotions through dance.

Dashavatar

- Dashavatar is the most developed theatre form of the Konkan and Goa regions.
- The performers personify the ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu-the god of preservation and creativity.
- The ten incarnations are Matsya (fish), Kurma (tortoise), Varaha (boar), Narsimha (lion-man), Vaman (dwarf), Parashuram, Rama, Krishna (or Balram), Buddha and Kalki.
- Apart from stylized make-up, the Dashavatar performers wear masks of wood and papier mache.

Krishnattam

- Krishnattam, folk theatre of Kerala, came into existence in the middle of 17th century A.D. under the patronage of King Manavada of Calicut.
- Krishnattam is a cycle of eight plays performed for eight consecutive days.
- The plays are Avataram, Kaliyamandana, Rasa krida, kamasavadha, Swayamvaram, Bana Yudham, Vivida Vadham, and Swargarohana.
- The episodes are based on the theme of Lord Krishna - his birth, childhood pranks and various deeds depicting victory of good over evil.

Mudiyettu

- Mudiyettu, traditional folk theatre form of Kerala is celebrated in the month of Vrischikam (November-December).
- It is usually performed only in the Kali temples of Kerala, as an oblation to the Goddess.
- It depicts the triumph of goddess Bhadrakali over the asura Darika.
- The seven characters in Mudiyettu-Shiva, Narada, Darika, Danavendra, Bhadrakali, Kooli and Koimbidar (Nandikeshvara) are all heavily made-up.

Koodiyaattam

- Koodiyaattam, one of the oldest traditional theatre forms of Kerala, is based on Sanskrit theatre traditions.
- The characters of this theatre form are: Chakyaar or actor, Naambiyaar, the instrumentalists and Naangyaar, those taking on women's roles.
- The Sutradhar or narrator and the Vidushak or jesters are the protagonists.
- It is the Vidushak alone who delivers the dialogues. Emphasis on hand gestures and eye movements makes this dance and theatre form unique.

Therukoothu

- Therukoothu, the most popular form of folk drama of Tamil Nadu, literally means "street play".
- It is mostly performed at the time of annual temple festivals of Mariamman (Rain goddess) to achieve rich harvest.
- At the core of the extensive repertoire of Therukoothu there is a cycle of eight plays based on the life of Draupadi.
- Kattiakaran, the Sutradhara of the Therukoothu performance, gives the gist of the play to the audience and Komali entertains the audience with his buffoonery.
- Bhavai
- Bhavai is a popular folk theatre form in Gujarat with a 700-year old history.
- It acted as a medium of entertainment and information, presented in a vernacular form.
- It is partly entertainment and partly a ritual offering made to Goddess Amba.
- Bhavai Veshas portray people from all classes of society.
- It functioned as a **counter-voice in a society marked by caste and class distinctions**, by subverting the social norms of the cultural elite.

- The Targala Community of Gujarat mainly performs it. They belong to both Hindu & Muslim religion.

Behrupiyas

Context

- Outbreak of Covid-19, has wreaked havoc on the livelihood and work of folk artists including Behrupiyas.

Who are Behrupiyas?

- The word behrupiya is a derivative of the Sanskrit word bahu (many) and roop (form).
- Behrupiyas are impersonators, mostly known to perform in villages and markets all over India.
- Currently, they are increasingly seen in stage shows, festivals and functions.

Behrupiya Festival

- Takes place every year in a different locations- Delhi, Ahmedabad, Udaipur, Jaipur, Kumbh, Muzaffarnagar and others.
- In 2018 **National Behrupiya Festival** was organised by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)

Significance

- In the old days, Behrupiyas were the main source of entertainment everywhere —from village squares to royal courts.
- They assisted in circulating, transmitting and publicising the various knowledge forms in the popular domain of Samaj, the people.
- The vibrant tradition of **Ramlila is an extension of this practice** which continues even today.
- Due to their expertise with disguise and impersonation, good Behrupiyas were recruited as spies by medieval Indian Kings.

Other Traditional Theatres in India:

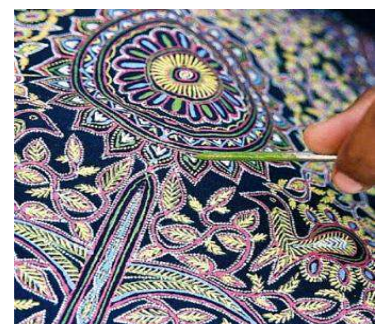
THEATRE	STATE
Bhand Pather	Kashmir
Nautanki	Uttar Pradesh
Maach	Madhya Pradesh
Bhavai	Gujarat
Jatra	West Bengal
Bhaona	Assam
Tamasha	Maharashtra
Dashavtar	Goa & Konkan
Krishanattam	Kerala
Koodiyattam	Kerala
Mudiyettu	Kerala
Yakshagana	Karnataka
Therukoothu	Tamil Nadu

PAINTING & TOYS

Rogan Art

Context

- Rogan art practicing families have been motivating themselves and connecting digitally during the pandemic.
- The art
- Rogan is an ancient textile art, with its origins in Persia. It came to Kutch, Gujarat around 300 years ago.
- Rogan painting began among the Khattris - a Muslim community who came



to India from Sindh, Pakistan.

- Traditionally, the craft was used to beautify bridal clothing of the regional tribes.
- The term Rogan means 'Oil-based' in Persian and refers to a paint made from thick brightly colored **castor seed oil**.
- This paint is laid down on fabric using either a metal block (printing) or a stylus/kalam (painting).
- Pattern: Intricate motifs like- **geometric flowers, peacocks, the tree of life**, etc. – are drawn from the history and folk culture of the Kutch region.
- An extraordinary aspect about this technique is that during the entire process of the gummy paint being carefully twisted into motifs, the blunt needle never comes into contact with the cloth.



Other important Painting Styles in India

Pichwai	Rajasthan	Miniature style. Made on cloth. Depicts Lord Krishna related stories.
Patachitra	Bengal, Odisha	Cloth-based scroll painting. Mythological narratives and folktales
Kalighat Paintings	Bengal	Themes- Mythology, Daily life, Social evils, Independence Movement
Kalamkari	Andhra Pradesh	Hand-painted. Use of tamarind pen & natural dyes. Hindu epic scenes.
Kishangarh School	Rajasthan	Individualistic facial type. Radha-Krishna Theme. Large landscapes.
Madhubani	Bihar	Use of: fingers, twigs. In Mithila area by women. Geometrical patterns. GI tag
Warli	Maharashtra	Theme: Mother Nature. Rudimentary wall paintings. Symbolic shapes
Kangra	Himachal Pradesh	Patron- Maharaja Sansar Chand. Theme- Bhakti, Jayadev's love poems etc.
Thanjavur Paintings	Tamil Nadu	Secular + Religious (Hindu, Muslim, Jain) Themes. Timeline- 1600 AD.
Phad	Rajasthan.	Scroll painting depicting folk deities Pabuji or Devnarayan.
Mandana Paintings	Rajasthan & MP	On Wall & floor. Use of chalk on cowdung. To protect home & welcome Gods.
Nirmal Painting	Telangana	On wood surface. Bright colors touched with golden hues.
Pithora Painting	Gujarat	By Rathwa and Bhilala tribes. Ritual to thank God. Wall painting.
Thangka Paintings	Arunachal, Himachal	Tibetan art depicting a Buddhist deity.

Warli Panting

Context

- National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) a PSU under the Department of Fertilizers has displayed Warli painting on the outer walls of its Corporate Office to promote Indian Folk Art.

WARLI PAINTING

DETAILS

Origin	Maharashtra
Depiction	Life and beliefs of the Warli tribe

Technique	Rudimentary wall paintings
Usage of	Geometric shapes such as circles, triangles and squares
Pigment used	White pigment made from a mixture of rice, clay paste and water, with gum as a binder
Paint Brush	Bamboo stick chewed at the end
Background of Painting	Brown. Mixture of mud and cow dung cakes
Popular Theme	Spiral chain of humans around one central motif.
Dates back to	10th century A.D
Central Concept	Mother Nature
Recently popularized by	Padmashree Jivya Soma Mashe

Warli Tribe

- Indigenous tribe of Maharashtra-Gujarat border and surrounding areas.
- Animistic beliefs. Life, customs and traditions transformed as a result of acculturation. Adoption of many Hindu beliefs.
- Speak an unwritten Varli language which belongs to the southern zone of the Indo-Aryan languages.
- Traditionally semi-nomadic.
- Practice polygyny.



Toda Embroidery

- Indigenous Toda artisans from the Nilgiris are producing embroidered masks for local residents, police, and sanitary workers amid COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Todas
- Toda tribal people are a **Dravidian ethnic group** who live in the Nilgiri Mountains of Tamil Nadu.
- The Toda traditionally live in **settlements called mund**, consisting of small thatched houses.
- Their economy is pastoral, based on the buffalo, whose dairy products are traded with neighbouring peoples of the Nilgiri Hills.



Embroidery

- The Toda Embroidery, also locally known as "**pukhoor**"
- The embroidery, appears like a woven cloth but is made with use of **red and black threads** with a white cotton cloth background.
- This handicraft has got a GI Tag.



Madhubani Painting

Context

- Recently, artists from Madhubani district of Bihar became famous for making masks with hand-painted Madhubani motifs.

About Madhubani/Mithila Painting

Origin

- Traditionally, created by the women of Bihar **Mithila region**.
- Characteristics
- Traditionally done on freshly plastered mud walls and floors of huts.



- However, now they are also done on cloth, handmade paper and canvas.
- Paintings are made from the **paste of powdered rice**.
- Uses two-dimensional imagery.
- Tools used: Twigs, Fingers, brushes, nib-pens matchsticks.
- Colors used are derived from plants. **Ochre, Lampblack and Red** is used for reddish-brown and black, respectively.
- This painting is done with a variety of tools, including fingers, twigs, brushes, nib-pens, and matchsticks and using natural dyes and pigments. It is characterised by its eye-catching geometrical patterns.

Styles & Theme

- Madhubani art has five distinctive styles: **Bharni, Kachni, Tantrik, Godna and Kohbar**.
- **Themes: Mainly religious.** Depict Gods and Goddesses.
- Natural objects like the **sun, the moon, and religious plants** like Tulsi are also widely painted, along with scenes from the **royal court and social events like weddings**.

Centres

- **Kalakriti** in Darbhanga, **Vaidehi** and **Benipatti** in Madhubani district are some of the major centres of Madhubani painting, which have kept this ancient art form alive.

Recognition

- Madhubani painting has remained confined to a compact geographical area and the skills have been passed on through centuries.
- The content and the style have **largely remained the same**. Thus, Madhubani painting has received **GI (Geographical Indication) status**.
- Madhubani art has received worldwide attention.

Sohrai Khovar

- Recently got GI Tag.
- The Sohrai Khovar painting is a traditional and ritualistic **mural art** being practiced by local tribal women during local harvest and marriage seasons.
- For this they use local, naturally available soils of different colours in the area of Hazaribagh district of Jharkhand.
- Traditionally painted on the walls of mud houses, they feature a profusion of lines, dots, animal figures and plants, often representing religious iconography.



Telengana's Telia Rumaal

- Recently got GI Tag.
- Telia Rumaal cloth involves intricate handmade work with **cotton loom** displaying a variety of designs and motifs in three particular colours – **red, black and white**.
- **Chak-Hao**, the black rice of Manipur, **Gorakhpur terracotta** & **Kovilpatti kadalai mittai** have bagged the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.



Gorakhpur Terracotta

- Recently got GI Tag.
- The terracotta work of Gorakhpur is a centuries-old traditional art form, where the potters make various animal figures like, horses, elephants, camel, goat, ox, etc. with hand-applied ornamentation.
- The entire work is done with bare hands and artisans use natural color, which stays fast for a long time.

Zardosi Art

Context

- The lockdown has left Zardosi Craftsperson with mounting losses and joblessness.

About

- Zardozi is an important handicraft **in Persian culture**.
- Its literal translation, 'Zar' means gold and 'dozi' meaning embroidery. Thus, Zardozi means '**embroidering with gold threads**'
- Gold embroidery has **existed in India since the time of the Rig-Veda**, between 1500 and 1200 BC.
- But Zardosi per se was brought to India in the Mughal Era.
- Today, zardozi is popular in the Indian cities of **Lucknow, Farrukhabad, Chennai and Bhopal**.
- In **2013**, the Geographical Indication Registry (GIR) accorded **Geographical Indication (GI)** registration to the Lucknow zardozi.

Tripuri Risa

Context

- Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb and his government have been promoting the traditional Risa.

About

- Risa is a handwoven cloth used as a female upper garment, and also as headgear, a stole, or a present to express respect. As an upper garment, it is wrapped around the torso twice.
- The traditional Tripuri female attire comprises three parts — risa, rignai and rikutu.
- The traditional risa, a handwoven cloth used by the state's indigenous communities, is a signature identity of the state.
- The risa is used in religious festivals such as Garia Puja by tribal communities,
- The risa is being branded under the India Handloom Brand, Deb announced recently.

Further details

- Rignai is primarily worn as the lower garment and literally translates into 'to wear'. It can be understood as an indigenous variety of the sari of mainland India.
- Rituku is mainly used as a wrap, or like a 'chunri' or a 'pallu' of the Indian saree. It is also used to cover the head of newly married Tripuri women.
- These garments were traditionally handwoven. Handloom remains an integral part of the Tripuri household, even with the advent of powerloom-manufactured garments.

Channapatna Toy

Context

- Channapatna toy industry has been struggling since March due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

About

- Channapatna toys are a particular form of **wooden toys** that are manufactured in the town of Channapatna in **Karnataka**.
- GI tagged Channapatna Toys are also known as **Gombegala Ooru**.
- Traditionally, the work involved lacquering the wood of the ***Wrightia tinctoria*** tree. Vegetable dyes are used in the colouring process.
- The **origin** of these toys **can be traced to the reign of Tipu Sultan** who invited artisans from Persia to train the local artisans in the making of wooden toys.
- **Bavas Miyan** is the father of Channapatna Toy.



Sawantwadi Toys

Context

- Maharashtra Circle of India Post recently released picture postcards on Sawantwadi Toys to mark the 151 years of postcards in India.

About

- Sawantwadi toys refer to **handmade works made of wood** in Sawantwadi, Maharashtra.
- These toys are made from the wood of the Indian Coral tree - *Erythrina variegata*.
- Craftsmen who make these toys belong to the **Chittari community** who came to Sawantwadi from Karwar and Goa.

Postcards

- In India, postcards were **introduced in 1879**. "East India Post Card" was inscribed on the first product.
- In 1899, the word 'East' was removed and it became India Post Card.
- In 1911, special postcards, without stamp print, were released for official use to commemorate the coronation of King George V during Delhi Durbar.
- After Independence, the first postcards were issued in 1949, and on October 2, 1951, the first postcards featuring Mahatma Gandhi were introduced.

Some Indigenous Toys of India

Chandigarh- Wooden Boards & showcase, Wooden Jali, Sunmica Boards, God statues	Haryana- babushka dolls, lacquer dolls, string puppets, clay Indian toys, leather stuffed toys	TamilNadu- Thanjavur Thalaiyatti Bommai, Choppu saman	Karnataka- Channapatna	Telangana- Nirmal Toys	Chhattisgarh- Clay & Terracotta, Dhokra Metal Casting, Wood Carving, Metal craft toys
Himachal Pradesh- Wooden Toys	Uttarakhand- Wooden toy-making	West Bengal- Clay Toys, Teracotta Toys, Wooden Toys, Batik Print Cloth toys, Bamboo Musk	Madhya Pradesh- Adivasi Gudra Hastashilpa (Dolls), Betel Nut's Toys, Tin-Toys	Maharashtra- Wooden Toys of Sawantwadi, Bahaktuli	Gujarat- Puppets, Stuffed Toys Made of wood & cloth, Clay toys and figures
Jammu & Kashmir- Walnut wood carving, Paper Machie	Uttar Pradesh- lacquered toys and miniature utensils,	Odisha- Papermade Toys, Clay toys, wooden toys, Aplic	Goa- Wooden Toys, Soft Toys, Cair Toys	Daman & Diu- Tortoise shell toys and crafts,	
Punjab- Folk toys, Handwai, Chankana, Lattu, Ghuggu	Kerala- Kathakali dance dolls, animal shaped toys, Woodcraft	Jharkhand- Wooden toys, Painted cloth dolls, Toy Archery	Bihar- Horse & rider, Bamboo toys, Toy House, Cloth dolls, Turtle toys	Andaman & Nicobar Island- Timber Toys, Coconut shell toys	

Toy Story of Punjab



Folk toys of Punjab are the products of the perfect amalgamation of artistry and social values. The **earliest handmade toys** of Punjab can be traced back to the **Indus Valley Civilization, from 2500 to 1700 BC**



- Folk toys are available in a variety of designs; all of them having the most desired appeal. They usually depict **animals, birds, equestrian and wheeled vehicles**, with variation in quality and purpose.
- Handwai** is a localized version of what we today call the kitchen set.
- Chankana** is a toy whose traces were found even in the era of Indus valley civilization. It is a lollipop-shaped whistle toy with ghunghroo onto it.
- Lattu** is a spinning toy, designed to spin rapidly on the ground.
- Ghuggu** is a traditional form of rattlebox.
- During the **fairs of Punjab**, you can find a **beautiful collection of folk toys** representing vibrancy and enormous culture of Punjab. A lot of foreign tourists as well as Indian tourists buy these toys as souvenirs. They are easily available across Punjab.

Toy Story of Uttar Pradesh



- Varanasi is known for **lacquered toys and miniature utensils**. The sets of **birds, animals, orchestras, soldiers and dance ensembles** are made in wood, gaily painted and packed in boxes.
- **Mirzapur** in Uttar Pradesh are famous for their **wooden lacquer ware and wooden toys**. Design are created with the natural veins of the wood
- **Chitrakoot** in Uttar Pradesh has a distinct place in the country in **wood craft**. A well mixture of **traditional way and modernity done** and craftsmen of the districts added new horizons



Toy Story of Karnataka- Channapatna Toys



Referred to as the Lacquerware toys, **Channapatna** has become a household name in Karnataka

- Received a Geographical Indication (GI) under the World Trade Organization (WTO)
- The toys have ensured that innovation and being eco-friendly become the hall mark of this locally known Gombegala Ooru (toy town)
- The Hereditary artists are known as '*Chitragars*'.
- The wood, primarily used was 'ivory-wood', though rose and Sandal wood were also used.



Toy Story of Andhra Pradesh: Kondapalli Toys



The famous Kondapalli toys are made in Kondapalli of Krishna district near Vijayawada. Also Known as Bommala Koluvu

- The art is believed to be ancient with Mythological roots, originating from MuktaRishi who obtained the Knowledge from Lord Shiva.
- The style of these toys is a mix of Islamic and Rajasthani art, popular for their realistic expressions. The subject of the toys vary from Mythological scenes to Village life, Animals, Birds etc.

Toy Story of Telangana- Nirmal Toys



- The style of Nirmal toys is a beautiful assimilation of Indian and Mughal art – used Ajanta floral and combines with Mughal miniature
- The material used is soft wood & enamel colours. Panicki and white sander is the local available softwood, easy to shape and give perfect finish. The enamel colours give the toy the shine.
- The artisans are called *Naqqash*, they came from Rajasthan in 17th Century.

Toy Story of Kerala



Traditionally, **coconut palm leaves** are used in making a wide range of toys & are the most popular toys played and are made at homes itself

- Coir is used in making eco-friendly toys & Coconut shell products are used to make animal shaped toys
- Woodcraft is another famous craft item of Kerala
- Lacquer Ware, the craft combining metal and wood, is a favorite among the tourists. A wide variety of lacquer products are produced in Kerala especially in Ernakulam district
- Leather is used to make puppets for Tholpavakoothu (shadow puppetry)

Toy Story of Odisha



In Odisha, **wood** has been used for **carving statues**, idols and toys for time immemorial. Woodworkers were an essential part any village's economy

- **Raghurajpur Artisan Village** is famous for **Papermache Toys**, Clay toys, wooden toys.
- Bargarh in Sambalpur district is famous for its artistic wooden toys. The animal figures are richly carved and, at times, even carry riders
- Subarnapur is known for making wooden toys. Generally wood from shamli, shavan and ghamandi are used in the making of these toys.

Toy Story of Jammu & Kashmir



Walnut wood carving is an ornamental and delicate craft process that is unique to Kashmir due to the concentration of walnut trees in this region



- There are five main styles of woodcarving: Undercut (Khokerdar), Open or Lattice work (Jalidahr), Deep carving (Vaboraveth), Semi carving (Padri) & Shallow carving (Sadikaam)
- Paper Machie is one of the unique crafts in the entire world. The product is protected under the Geographic Indication Act 1999 of Government of India.

Toy Story of Daman & Diu



Daman and Diu is famous for **Mat Weaving Craft and Tortoise shell toys and crafts.**

- The residents make use of traditional and folk motifs to make beautiful mats and toys
- The craftsmen make several decorative toys, household items using these shells
- The seashores on the coastline of Diu are home to a variety of tortoise and their shells are used by skilled craftsmen to create decorative toys and household items.

Toy Story of Chhattisgarh



The tribes of Chhattisgarh are excellent artisans, experts in crafting artistic Toys/ Items with **clay, stone, bamboo and metals**.

- They express their deep talent and through Gharwha art, Wood art, and other with peacock feathers.
- Due to availability of bamboo in the state the tribals have been traditionally making Toys/Crafts from bamboo and wood based products.

Toy Story of Rajasthan



- **Udaipur** is a big centre for **wooden toys**. The craftsmen use the local **wood doodhia** which is soft and can be finely chiselled and shaped. The toys are **lacquered and polished** with leaves of a **flowering cactus** to give them a better look and increase their life.
- **Bassi in Chittorgarh district** is another noted centre for **wooden toys** where the entire village is engaged in wood-carving and in making wooden products. **Jaipur too is very well known for cloth dolls and toys** which are generally dyed and stuffed with waste material.



Toy Story of Bihar



Dolls & Toys are made with different materials such as clay, cloth and wood with each material having its own style and designated areas where the craft is practiced.

- **Kanyaputri Dolls (Champan)**: This art form comes from Champan. In the month of Saavan (monsoon), sisters make dolls for their brothers and dip them in the pond and brother brings these dolls back
- **Sikki Work**: Sikki work is a craft whereby the craftsmen turn unnecessary riverside grass into beautiful decorative objects
- **Bamboo Work**: Bamboo work has been remained a culture of Bihar throughout the ages and time. Right from the pre-historic time forest dwelling tribes are experts in bamboo and cane work.

Toy Story of Maharashtra



Wooden Toys of Sawantwadi in Ratnagiri is famous and has followed traditional craft of Wooden toy making from centuries.

- Sawantwadi is popularly known for Ganjifa playing cards and wooden toys made from mango tree traditionally done by the Chitari or Chitrakar community.
- Bahatuktli is the miniature version of all household items put together



Toy Story of Tamilnadu



Thanjavur Dancing Dolls, traditionally known as **Thanjavur Thalaiyatti Bommai**, are a part of an eclectic heritage of beautiful handicrafts from **Tanjore**

- They are now listed in the Government of India's Geographical Indications Registry.
- **Choppu Saman** is a traditional **role play toys for kids**. All the **utensils** are either made up of **fine wood** with **polished edges** or **clay** and painted with harmless **natural colors**.

Toy Story of Andhra Pradesh: Etikoppakka Toys

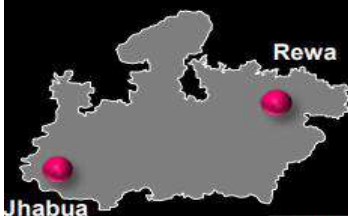


Popularly known as "**Etikoppakka Bommalu**" the Etikoppakka Toys got the Geographical Indications tag in 2017



- The wood used to make the toys is soft in nature and the art of toy making is also known as Turned wood Lacquer craft
- Today around 700 artisans are working on the Etikoppakka Toys
- Cannons, bullock carts, Lord Ganesha, Lord Balaji are very popular figurines

Toy Story of Madhya Pradesh



Adivasi Gudia Hastashilpa (Dolls) From Jhabua

- Exhibits the dual phenomenon of the tribal way of life comprising of colorful ethnics and means of daily subsistence of Bhil and Bhilala tribes from Jhabua Dist. who make these toys

Betel Nut's Toys from Rewa

- Developed by Kunder family in Rewa City this toy is made from betel nuts (Suparis.) Earlier these families had the task of making wooden toys. Later on experimenting with the betel, these people started preparing the betel nut toys.

Tin-Toys

- Most of the toys are made using machinery of gears and pinions
- The tin toys in India were extremely famous a few decades back as India didn't have access to any more evolved toys then.



Asharikandi Terracotta Toys – Assam

- The traditional toys in Assam are made with clay, bamboo, pith, cloth and mud in the figures of brides and grooms, animals, birds and deities.
- But one of the most famous dolls found in the region is from Asharikandi.
- Located 2,500 km east of the ancient city of Harappa lies the village of Asharikandi in Assam's Dhubri district.
- It's influence of the prehistoric Indus Valley Civilisation site is evinced in the heritage craft of terracotta toys.

Natungram Dolls–West Bengal

- In Natungram, Burdwan, West Bengal the age-old tradition of doll making has been retained to an extent.
- Crafted from a piece of wood chiseled to the requisite length, the doll gets the face and its attire painted on it.
- The Gour-Nitai dolls are one of the distinct types of these dolls which came from the wave of Bhakti movement in Bengal in the 15 and 16th century.

PERSONALITIES

Thiruvalluvar

Context

- Recently, Tamil Nadu celebrated Thiruvalluvar Day.

About Thiruvalluvar

- Thiruvalluvar, was a celebrated Tamil poet and philosopher.
- The exact date and religious identity of Thiruvalluvar is debated.
- Some place him in the 4th century BCE to early 6th century CE, based on the analysis of his writings.
- He is best known as the author of **Thirukkural** which contains 1330 couplets (kurals).
- It is a collection of couplets on ethics, political and economical matters, and love. He contributed to **Sangam Literature**.
- He is generally thought to have belonged to either Jainism or Hinduism.
- However, almost every religious group in India, including Christianity, has claimed Thirukkural and Thiruvalluvar as one of their own.
- Dravidians count him as a saint, as he rejected the caste system.
- The famous **Thiruvalluvar Statue of Kanyakumari**, is a 133-feet tall stone sculpture of the poet located atop a small island on the southernmost point of the Indian peninsula on the Coromandel Coast.
- At this point two seas (the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea) and an ocean (the Indian Ocean) meet. It is currently the 25th tallest statue in India.



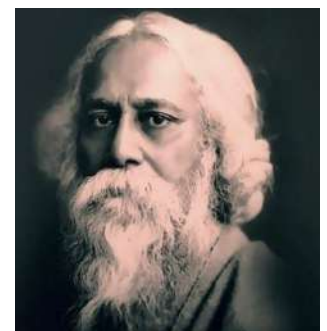
Purandara Dasa

- Recently, Karnataka Govt. formed a committee to solve the mystery regarding birthplace of Purandara Dasa.
- Purandara Dāsa (c. 1484 – c. 1565) was a renowned composer of Carnatic music, a great devotee of Lord Krishna, a Vaishnava poet, a saint and a social reformer.
- His original name was **Srinivasa Nayaka**.
- He was a disciple of the Dvaita philosopher-saint **Vyasatirtha**.
- In honor of his significant contributions to Carnatic music, he is widely referred to as the **Pitamaha of Carnatic music**.

Rabindranath Tagore

Context

- Recently, the country paid tribute to the **159th birth anniversary** of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore.
- About Rabindranath Tagore
- Son of Debendranath Tagore (leader of the Brahmo Samaj); Rabindranath Tagore was a poet, writer, music composer, and painter.
- He was known by his pen name **Bhanu Singha Thakur**.
- He is referred to as 'Gurudev', 'Kabiguru', and 'Vishwakavi'.



Contributions

- Literature & Art
- He reshaped Bengali literature and music, as well as Indian art.
- In 1913, Tagore became the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize in Literature for his novel Gitanjali.
- He wrote the National Anthems of India and Bangladesh.

Education

- Tagore despised rote classroom schooling. His vision led to the **establishment of** a unique educational institution - **Visva-Bharati University**.
- **Santiniketan Ashram** established by **Devendranath Tagore**, was later expanded by Rabindranath Tagore.
- The educational complex invented its own syllabus —that kept students abreast of political, social and environmental changes in the country.
- Social Reform
- He used his literature to mobilize people towards political and social reform.
- Through his works, he protested against Brahmanical social order, Caste System, narrow sectarianism, untouchability and animal sacrifice.
- Economy
- In 1921, Tagore and agricultural economist **Leonard Elmhirst** set up the "**Institute for Rural Reconstruction**", later renamed **Shriniketan**.
- He emphasized on **expansion of small-scale cottage industries** in the villages. The aim was to supply fresh blood to the rural economy depending on local resources.

Freedom Struggle

Partition of Bengal (Swadeshi Movement)

- Tagore wrote the song Banglar Mati Banglar Jol (Soil of Bengal, Water of Bengal) to unite the Bengali population.
- He started the **Rakhi Utsav** where people from Hindu and Muslim communities tied colorful threads on each other's wrists.
- He urged the masses to seek **self-reliance** and unite themselves against oppression.

Protest against Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

- He was awarded a knighthood by **King George V** in 1915, but Tagore renounced it after the 1919 **Jallianwala Bagh massacre**.

Maharana Pratap

- Recently, the nation paid tributes to **Maharana Pratap** on his 480th birth anniversary.
- Maharana Pratap, was the 13th king of Mewar, present-day state of Rajasthan.
- He was born to **Udai Singh II**, the founder of Udaipur.

Battle of Haldighati

- The Battle of Haldighati was fought on 18 June 1576 between Maharana Pratap, and the Mughal emperor Akbar's forces, led by **Man Singh I of Amber**.
- The Mughals were the victors but failed to capture Pratap.

Gopal Krishna Gokhale

Context

- Recently, PM Narendra Modi paid tribute to Gopal Krishna Gokhale on his 154th Birth Anniversary.

Contributions of Gopal Krishna Gokhale

- Indian Struggle for Freedom
- He was one of the **founding social and political leaders** during the Indian Independence Movement.
- He was a **Moderate Leader** of India's National Congress, revered by Mahatma Gandhi as "**my political guru**."
- Gokhale campaigned for Indian self-rule and for social reforms.



- His principles –
- Non-violence and
- Constitutional reform within existing government institutions.

Political

- He became president of INC in 1905 in Banaras session.
- At the Imperial legislature, Gokhale played a **key role in framing the Morley-Minto reforms of 1909**.
- He advocated for the expansion of legislative councils at both the Centre and the provinces.
- A critic of British imperial bureaucracy, Gokhale favoured decentralisation and the promotion of panchayat and taluka bodies.

Social

- He was the founder of the Servants of India Society.
- The society organized campaigns to promote education, sanitation, health care and fight the social evils of untouchability and discrimination, alcoholism, poverty, oppression of women and domestic abuse.
- He was a firm believer in the theory that mass education was a prerequisite to national political consciousness.
- He advocated that **primary education should be free** in all schools throughout India at once.
- Gokhale opposed the British government's land revenue policies and asked for the creation of equal opportunities to fight against untouchability.

Economic

- In 1908, he founded the 'Ranade Institute of Economics'.

Works

- English weekly newspaper, **The Hitavad** (The people's paper)

Veer Savarkar

Context

- Recently, the country paid tribute to Veer Savarkar on his birth anniversary.
- Veer Savarkar was an Indian independence activist and politician.



About Veer Savarkar

Nationalism

- Along with his brother Ganesh Damodar Savarkar, he founded the **Abhinav Bharat Society**.
- Initially founded as "Mitra Mela", Abhinav Bharat Society comprised of hundreds of revolutionaries and political activists.
- He was associated with **Swadeshi Movement**. He was against foreign goods and propagated the idea of Swadeshi. He burnt all the foreign goods in a bonfire during Swadeshi Movement.
- Later, he joined Bal Gangadhar Tilak's **Swaraj Party**.
- In 1906, he went to the United Kingdom, where he involved himself with organizations such as **India House and the Free India Society**.
- He advocated complete Indian independence by revolutionary means.

Social Reform

- He worked on abolishment of untouchability in Ratnagiri. Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar also compared his work to Lord Buddha.

Political Party

- He formed the **Hindu Mahasabha** political party & served as its President.

Opposition to Quit India Movement

- Under Savarkar, the Hindu Mahasabha openly opposed the call for the Quit India Movement and boycotted it officially.

Alliance with Muslim League and others

- The Indian National Congress won a massive victory in the 1937 Indian provincial elections, decimating the Muslim League and the Hindu Mahasabha.
- However, in 1939, the Congress ministries resigned in protest. Reason- Viceroy Lord Linlithgow's declared India to be a belligerent in the Second World War without consulting the Indian people.
- This led to the Hindu Mahasabha, under Savarkar's presidency, joining hands with the Muslim League and other parties to form government.
- Such coalition governments were formed in **Sindh, NWFP and Bengal**.

Two-nation Theory

- He founded the two-nation theory in his book '**Hindutva**' calling Hindus and Muslims two separate nations. In 1937, **Hindu Mahasabha passed it as a resolution**.

Works

- He was the first to call the Indian Rebellion of 1857 as the First War of Independence. He authored the book 'The History of the War of Indian Independence'.
- While the book was banned by Britishers, **Bhikaji Cama** published it in Netherlands, Germany and France, which eventually reached many Indian revolutionaries.
- Other Books : 'Hindutva: who is hindu?'; Moplah Rebellion and the Transportation etc

Jyotirao Phule

Context

- Maharashtra, recently waived off loans under the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule crop loan waiver scheme.

Who was Jyotirao Phule?

- He was an Indian social activist, anti-caste social reformer and writer from Maharashtra.

Contributions

- Worked extensively for eradication of untouchability, caste system, women education, women empowerment and women's emancipation.
- Started the first indigenously run school for girls in 1848 in Pune at Tatyasaheb Bhide's residence.
- Formed the Satyashodhak Samaj (Society of Truth Seekers) in 1873.

Aim: Attainment of equal rights for people from lower castes.

- Started schools for children from the then untouchable castes such as **Mahar and Mang**.
- **Championed widow remarriage** and started a home for high caste pregnant widows to give birth in a safe and secure place in 1863.

Aim: Reduce the rate of infanticide.

- Phule was bestowed with the title of Mahatma on 11 May 1888 by another social reformer from Bombay, Vithalrao Krishnaji Vandekar.

Important Works

- ✓ Manav Muhammad
- ✓ Gulamgiri
- ✓ Tritiya Ratna

Bal Gangadhar Tilak

Context

- India paid tribute to Bal Gangadhar Tilak on his 100th death anniversary.

Tilak & his Legacy

- Leader of the Indian Independence Movement.
- One of the **Lal Bal Pal triumvirate**. The other being Lala Lajpat Rai and Bipin Chandra Pal.



- Was conferred with the title of "**Lokmanya**", which means, "accepted by the people."
- Mahatma Gandhi called him "The Maker of Modern India."
- The British colonial authorities (Sir Valentine Chirol) called him "The father of the Indian unrest."

Contribution

- First and strongest advocates of **Swaraj** ("self-rule").
- Extremist Leader who is known for his quote: "Swarajya is my birthright and I shall have it!"
- Encouraged the Swadeshi movement and the Boycott movement.
- Transformed the household worshipping of Ganesha into a grand public event. The aim was to ignite patriotic consciousness among the masses.
- Gave trisutri or three-point programme for national awakening – Swaraj, Swadeshi and Nationalist Education based on vernacular.
- Set up the **Deccan Education Society in 1884** along with V.Chiplunkar and Ganesh Agarkar.
- Aim- To create a new system of education that taught young Indians nationalist ideas through an emphasis on Indian culture.
- Founded the **Indian Home Rule League** and served as its president and in 1916.
- Concluded the **Lucknow Pact with Mohammed Ali Jinnah**, which provided for Hindu-Muslim unity in the nationalist struggle.

Works

- Maharatta newspaper in English
- Kesari newspaper in Marathi
- **Books:** "The Arctic Home in the Vedas", "The Orion", "Shrimadh Bhagvad Gita Rahasya"

Mahatma Ayyankali

Context

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently paid tribute to social reformer Mahatma Ayyankali.

Mahatma Ayyankali

- Social Reformer
- Worked for the advancement of deprived untouchable people in the princely state of Travancore, British India.
- Due to his efforts, Pulayars gained the right to access roads, temples and schools that were still inaccessible.
- Historian P. Sanal Mohan has described Ayyankali as "the most important Dalit leader of modern Kerala"
- Founded the Sadhu Jana Paripalana Sangham (SJPS) (Association for the Protection of the Poor).
- It campaigned for access to schools and raised funds to set up Pulayar-operated schools in the interim.
- He prompted the Travancore government to issue an order mandating the admission of Dalit children in public schools in 1907.
- Sri Narayana Guru was his contemporary.
- Ayyankali led a rally to assert the rights of 'untouchables' at Balaramapuram. An 'upper caste' mob attacked them and a fight broke out.
- The walk Ayyankali took came to be known as '**walk for freedom**' and the consequent riots as '**Chaliyar riots**'.



Abanindranath Tagore

Context

- Recently, 150th birth anniversary of Abanindranath Tagore was celebrated.

Contributions

- Principal artist and creator of the "**Indian Society of Oriental Art**"
- First major exponent of Swadeshi values in Indian art.

- Founder of **Bengal school of art**, which led to the development of modern Indian painting.
- Sought to modernise Mughal and Rajput styles to counter the influence of Western models of art.
- Abanindranath looked to ancient murals and medieval Indian miniatures for inspiration both for subject matter as well as indigenous material such as temper.
- He moved away from oil painting and subjects that were popular with British.
- Advocated in favour of a nationalistic Indian art derived from Indian art history, drawing inspiration from the Ajanta Caves.
- Nandalal Bose who illustrated the Constitution was Tagore's student.
- Integrated Chinese and Japanese calligraphic traditions in later works into his style.
- Books: Rajkahini, Budo Angla, Nalak, and Khirer Putul.
- Notable Paintings: Ganesh Janani, Bharat Mata, The Victory of Buddha, Asoka's Queen etc

Pingali Venkayya

Context

- Recently, birth anniversary of Pingali Venkayya was observed.

Pingali Venkayya

- Pingali Venkayya was an Indian freedom fighter and the designer of the flag on which today's Indian national flag is based.

Viswanatha Satyanarayana

Context

- Recently, 125th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Kavi Samrat Shri Viswanatha Satyanarayana were celebrated.

About

- Shri Viswanatha Satyanarayana was a 20th century Telugu writer. He was the first writer to impart a true Teluguness to the Ramayana.
- Through his works, he had highlighted the importance of imparting learning in the mother tongue, preserving culture and protecting the nature.
- **Popular works:** Ramayana Kalpa Vrukshamu (Ramayana the wish-granting divine tree), Kinnersani Patalu (Mermaid songs) and the novel Veyipadagalu (The Thousand Hoods).

10 FULL LENGTH TEST SERIES

WITH COMPLIMENTARY
3 CSAT TESTS
FOR PRELIMS 2021

AT ₹1499 ONLY

Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan

- Indian philosopher, academic, and statesman who served as the first Vice President of India (1952–1962) and the second President of India.
- Defended Hinduism against what he called "uninformed" Western criticism.
- Influential in shaping the understanding of Hinduism, in both India and the west, and earned a reputation as a bridge-builder between India and the West.
- One of the most prominent spokesmen of Neo-Vedanta. His metaphysics was grounded in Advaita Vedanta, but he reinterpreted Advaita Vedanta for a contemporary understanding.
- Famous works: The Philosophy of Rabindranath, Living with a purpose, The philosophy of Hinduism, The pursuit of Truth, The Philosophy of the Upanishads, Eastern Religions and Western Thought, etc.

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan

Context

- Birth anniversary

About

- Sir Syed Ahmed Khan was an educationist, a politician, philosopher, social reformer and a historian.
- He is considered as the pioneer of Muslim nationalism in India.

Educationist

- Believing that the future of Muslims was threatened by the rigidity of their orthodox outlook, Sir Ahmad began promoting Western-style scientific education.
- He founded modern schools and journals and organized Islamic entrepreneurs.
- Established -
- Gulshan School at Muradabad
- Victoria School at Ghazipur in 1863, and a scientific society for Muslims in 1864.
- In 1875, founded the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College, the first Muslim university in Southern Asia.
- It was the predecessor of Aligarh Muslim University.
- 1857 Revolt
- Sir Syed supported the British during the 1857 uprising.
- In 1859, he published the booklet Asbab-e-Baghawat-e-Hind (The Causes of the Indian Revolt) in which he studied the causes of the Indian revolt.
- It critiqued British policies that he blamed for causing the revolt.
- At first he believed in Hindu-Muslim unity but later resolved to the two-nation theory.

Social Reformer

- He pushed for social reforms and was a champion of democratic ideals and freedom of speech. In one of his essays he wrote, "Freedom of expression is the right of everyone"

Works

- He founded the Scientific Society in 1863 to translate major works in the sciences and modern arts into Urdu.
- He released two journals to this end –
- The Aligarh Institute Gazette, which was an organ of the Scientific Society, and
- The Tehzib-ul Akhlaq, known as the Mohammedan Social Reformer in English.

Avid Historian

- He was the first person to publish an archaeological study in an Indian language.
- As a result, he was also named as an honorary member of the Royal Asiatic Society.
- He also collected sculptures and rare artefacts, including those of Hindu deities.

Critique of INC

- He was critical of the Congress and said it was essentially a party of Bengali Hindus who could not best represent the viewpoint of a Muslim population.
- He called for greater representation of Muslims.
- In later years, he supported the Two- Nation Theory and opposed the National Movement.

Bhagat Singh

Context

- Birth anniversary.

About

- Bhagat Singh was an Indian socialist revolutionary.

Views

- Initially supported Mahatma Gandhi in Non-Cooperation Movement.
- Turned to revolutionary nationalism after Gandhiji withdrew NCM post Chauri Chaura incident.
- Inspired by Marxist ideologies.
- By 'revolution' Bhagat Singh never meant violent strife but a systemic change.
- He aimed to bring about a revolution which would end all exploitation of man by man.
- He underscored the grave danger communalism posed to the country and its freedom struggle.

Contributions

- Founded the Naujawan Bharat Sabha in 1926.
- The association sought to foment revolution against the British Raj by gathering together worker and peasant youths.
- Established the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) along with Sukhdev, Chandrashekhar Azad and others in 1928.
- Aimed to overthrow British rule.
- Part of Lahore Conspiracy Case
- To avenge the killing of Lal Lajpat Rai, Bhagat Singh, Raj guru, Jai Gopal and Sukh Dev conspired to kill the police chief, Scott. But my mistake they shot on the DSP - J. P. Saunders, who was killed on the spot.
- Part of Central Assembly Bombing Case
- Along with Batukeshwar Dutt; Singh hurled a bomb in the Central Assembly at Delhi.
- Reason- As a mark of protest against the Public Safety Bill.
- Aim: 'to make the deaf hear'. The bomb was deliberately made harmless.
- Coined a powerful slogan 'Inquilab Zindabad' which became the slogan of India's armed struggle.

Martyrdom

- Executed along with Rajguru, Sukhdev and others on 24 March 1931.

Jayaprakash Narayan (Birth Anniversary)

- Indian independence activist, theorist, socialist and political leader.
- He is also known as the "Hero of Quit India Movement"
- He is remembered for leading the mid-1970s opposition against Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, for whose overthrow he had called for a "total revolution".
- Founding member of Congress Socialist Party (1934)
- Formed Praja Socialist Party with associates in 1952.

Nanaji Deshmukh (Birth Anniversary)

- Social reformer and politician inspired by Bal Gangadhar Tilak.
- Participated in Bhoodan Movement started by Vinoba Bhave.
- Established **Chitrakoot Gramoday Vishwavidyalaya** in Chitrakoot, India's first rural University.

- Implemented the philosophy of integral humanism to improve the living standards of more than 150 villages of Bundelkhand.
- Published the journal "Manthan" (introspection).

Guru Teg Bahadur

Context

- Recently, President Ram Nath Kovind paid tribute to Guru Teg Bahadur on his 345th Martyrdom Day.

About

- Guru Tegh Bahadur was **the ninth Sikh Guru**. His term as Guru ran from 1665 to 1675.
- In the Guru Granth Sahib, there are one hundred and fifteen hymns of Guru Tegh Bahadur.
- Guru Tegh Bahadur is remembered for his selfless service to people. He travelled across the country with the teachings of Guru Nanak - the first Sikh Guru.
- He had set up community kitchens and wells for the local people wherever he went.
- Anandpur Sahib, the famous holy city and a global tourist attraction in the foothills of Himalayas, was **founded by Guru Tegh Bahadur**.
- Guru Tegh Bahadur had resisted forced conversions of non-Muslims to Islam during Aurangzeb's rule.
- He was publicly executed on the orders of Aurangzeb because he had opposed religious persecution.
- Gurudwara Sis Ganj Sahib and Gurudwara Rakab Ganj Sahib** in Delhi are the sites of his execution and cremation.

Guru Gobind Singh

Context

- Recently, the 353rd birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh was celebrated.

About Guru Gobind Singh

- He was the 10th Sikh Guru.
- Founded** Sikh Warrior community called **Khalsa** in 1699.
- Named Guru Granth Sahib and declared it as the holy scripture of Sikhism.
- Introduced five Ks in Sikhism, called the "**Panj Kakar**". They are - uncut hair (Kesh), an iron bracelet (kara), a wooden comb (Kangha), cotton undergarment (Kachera) and iron dagger (Kirpan).
- Introduced turban to cover hair.
- Established the highest order in the Sikh community.
- Fought against the Mughals in **Battle of Muktsar** in 1705.
- Dasam Granth** is dedicated to Guru Gobind Singh.



Basavanna

Context

- Karnataka Chief Minister recently laid the foundation stone for the 'New Anubhava Mantapa' in Basavakalyan.
- It is the place where 12th century poet-philosopher Basaveshwara lived for most of his life.

About Basavanna

- Basavanna was an Indian 12th-century statesman, philosopher, poet, in the Bhakti movement.
- He was also a Hindu Shaivite social reformer during the reign of the Kalyani Chalukya/Kalachuri dynasty.
- His influence reached its peak during the rule of King Bijjala II in Karnataka.

Contributions

- He was the founder of Lingayat sect.
- Basavanna was a social reformer during the reign of the **Kalyani Chalukya/Kalachuri** dynasty.
- He-

- **Rejected temple worship**, superstitions and rituals led by Brahmins.
- Advocated **equality of all human beings** irrespective of caste.
- launched a devotional movement called **Virashaivas**. It means "**ardent, heroic worshippers of Shiva**". Roots of this movement could be traced to **Tamil Bhakti movement**, particularly the **Shaiva Nayanars traditions** of 7th- to 11th-century.
- promoted personalized devotional worship of Shiva through symbols like **ishtalinga**. Anyone could worship God irrespective of gender, class or caste discrimination.
- used his poetry –**Vachanaas** to spread social awareness.
- Established **Anubhava Mantapa**- a hall for gathering and discussion of spiritual ideas by any member of the society from **both genders**.

Literary works

- The **Basavarajadevara Ragale** by the Kannada poet **Harihara (c.1180)** is the earliest available account on the life of Basavanna.
- The **Basava Purana**, written by **Palkuriki Somanatha** in 13th-century is a sacred text in Lingayatism.

Sree Narayana Gurudev

Context

- Vice President of India did the virtual book launch of "Not Many, But One", an English translation of poems of Sree Narayana Gurudev.

Sree Narayan Guru

- Narayana Guru was a philosopher, spiritual leader and social reformer in India.
- He was born into a family that belonged to the Ezhava caste.

Legacy

Social Reform

- Sri Narayana Guru was at the forefront of the temple entry movement and against the social discrimination of untouchables.
- He launched the Aravipuram Movement in 1888.
- He defied the religious restrictions traditionally placed on the Ezhava community, and consecrated an idol of Shiva at Aravipuram.
- In 1925 Guru supported the famous Vaikom Satyagraha movement, which demanded entry for lower caste people in the Shiva temple at Vaikom and all temples in Kerala.
- His famous message "**One Caste, One Religion and One God to Mankind**", which was a clarion call to the mankind to unite, instead of breaking down in the name of caste and religion.
- This philosophy formed the basis for his reform movements, which sought to remove inequalities and social distortions.
- Sree Narayana Guru also emphasized the practice of ideals of cleanliness, promotion of education, agriculture, trade, handicrafts and technical training as a part of the Sivagiri pilgrimage.

SNDP Movement

- Sri Narayana Guru formed a programme of action known as the Sri Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam (SNDP).
- The Movement took up several issues, including the right of admission to public schools, recruitment to government employment, entry into temples, on roads and political representation.
- Guru did not approve polygamy and polyandry. He discouraged some unnecessary traditions in marriage.
- Religious harmony
- He considered all religions to be a way for man's goodness and welfare and thus are equal.
- He held that the essence of all religions is one and the same, and advocated the comparative study of all faiths.

Literature

- Some of the notable ones are "Atmopadesa Sathakam " and Darsanamala " which give in condensed way the moral and spiritual principles.

Philosophy

- Narayana Gurudev was a mystic who contemplated the concept of Advaita or non-duality or the non-differentiation between the Atma and the Paramatma.

Lala Lajpat Rai

Context

- Recently, Prime Minister Modi paid tribute to Lala Lajpat Rai on his Jayanti.

Legacy

- Popularly known as “Punjab Kesari”, Lala Lajpat Rai, is **remembered for his role during the Swadeshi movement** and for his advocacy of education.
- He had joined the Indian National Congress (INC) at the early age of 16 and participated in many political agitations in Punjab.
- In 1885, he established the **Dayanand Anglo-Vedic School in Lahore** and remained a committed educationist throughout his life.
- He co-founded the **Punjab National Bank in 1894**.
- He had opposed the partition of Bengal and founded the **Home Rule League of America in 1917** in New York.
- He was elected **President of the Indian National Congress at the Calcutta session-1920**. Mahatma Gandhi's Non-cooperation Movement was launched in this very session.
- As he took much interest in the condition of the working class people, he was also elected as the **President of the All India Trade Union Congress**.
- He was the **founder of Arya Gazette** and was its editor as well.
- He also **founded the Servants of People Society in 1921**.
- He was elected deputy leader of the Central Legislative Assembly in 1926.
- He moved a resolution in the assembly in 1928, refusing cooperation with the Simon Commission as the Commission had no Indian members.
- Rai passed away at Lahore in 1928 after he was attacked by police during a protest rally against the Simon Commission.



Important works

Gifted with a perceptive mind, he was a prolific writer and authored several works like-

- History of Arya Samaj,
- England's Debt to India,
- Evolution of Japan,
- India's Will to Freedom,
- Message of the Bhagwad Gita,
- Political Future of India,
- Problem of National Education in India,
- the travelogue 'United States of America.
- Young India: An Interpretation
- Unhappy India

Mannathu Padmanabhan

Context

- Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has paid tribute to Sri Mannathu Padmanabhan Ji on his jayanti.

About

- Mannathu Padmanabhan was an Indian social reformer and freedom fighter from Kerala.
- He is recognised as the founder of the Nair Service Society (NSS), which claims to represent the Nair community that constitutes 12.10% of the population of the state.
- Padmanabhan is considered as a visionary reformer who organised the Nair community under the NSS.

- He fought for social equality, the first phase being the Vaikom Satyagraha, demanding the public roads near the temple at Vaikom be opened to low caste Hindus.
- He took part in the Vaikom(1924) and Guruvayoor(1931) temple-entry Satyagrahas; the anti-untouchability agitations.
- He opened his family temple for everyone, irrespective of caste distinction.
- He became a member of the Indian National Congress in 1946 and took part in the agitation against Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Iyer's administration in Travancore.
- As the first president of Travancore Devaswom Board he revitalized many temples which had almost ceased to function.

HISTORY

Hul Divas

Context

- India paid tribute to freedom fighters on the occasion of Hul Divas.
- Hul Divas is observed annually on June 30 in memory of tribals – **Sidho and Kanhu Murmu – who led the Santhal hul (rebellion) on June 30, 1855 at Bhognadih, Jharkhand.**

Santhal rebellion

- It was a **revolt against the oppression of the colonial rule** to end despotic British revenue system and the zamindari system in India.
- The rebellion was led by the four Murmu Brothers - **Sidhu, Kanhu, Chand and Bhairav.**
- The Santhals **took to arms.** In many villages, the Zamindars, money lenders and their operatives were put to death.
- The revolt was brutally crushed, the two celebrated leaders Sidhu and Kanhu were killed.
- The legend of the Santhal Rebellion lives on as a turning point in Santhal pride and identity.

Parliament of World Religion

Context

- September 11, marked the 127th anniversary of Swami Vivekananda's speech in Parliament of World Religion, Chicago.

About

- The Parliament of Religions opened on 11 September 1893 at the World's Congress Auxiliary Building which is now The Art Institute of Chicago. It ran from 11 to 27 September, making it the first organized interfaith gathering.
- Swami Vivekananda, represented Hinduism as a delegate, introducing Hinduism at the opening session of the Parliament on 11 September.
- **Participants in the first conference:** Jain preacher Virchand Gandhi, Buddhist preacher Anagarika Dharmapala; Soyen Shaku, the "First American Ancestor" of Zen; Swami Vivekananda represented Hinduism; Christianity was represented by G. Bonet Maury; Islam was represented by Mohammed Alexander Russell Webb; Theism or the Brahmo Samaj was represented by Pratap Chandra Majumdar; The Theosophical Society was represented by the Vice-President of the society, William Quan Judge and by activist Annie Besant.
- So far, six international modern Parliaments have been hosted.

Birsa Munda

Context

- Birth anniversary of Birsa Munda.

About

- Birsa Munda was an Indian tribal freedom fighter, reformer and religious leader. He was nicknamed as 'Dharti Abba' or Father of the Earth, by his followers.

Contribution

Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renounced Christianity and protested against conversion of Tribals by Christian missionaries. Created a new religion called "Birsait", which worshipped only one god. Birsait soon became the popular religion among the Mundas and Oraons. Preached a strong anti-British sentiment through his religion.
Reformer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stressed on the need of the tribals to study their own religion and not forget their cultural roots. Convinced people to give up superstition, alcohol, theft, lying, murder and begging under his new religion.
Munda Rebellion	<p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Munda tribals practiced Khuntkatti system (joint holding by tribal lineages). However, British colonial system intensified the transformation of the tribal agrarian system into a feudal state by introducing Zamindari-tenancy system. Outsiders (Dikus) were invited by the British to settle on and cultivate the tribal land. Thus, the various tribes, who were the original owners of the land, were left bereft of land and any means of livelihood. <p>'Ulgulan' or the 'Great Tumult' (1899-1900)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birsa infused in tribals the values to love, respect, support and safeguard their land from outsiders. He used traditional symbols and language to rouse people, urging them to destroy "Ravana" (dikus and the Europeans) and establish a kingdom under his leadership. He mobilised thousands of tribal folk to form guerrilla armies to attack the British Raj. He declared that the reign of Queen Victoria was over and the Munda Raj had begun. He gave orders to the raiyats (tenant farmers) to pay no rents. The people attacked police stations and churches, and raided the property of moneylenders and zamindars. They raised the white flag as a symbol of Birsa Raj. The attacks were launched not only on the moneylender-landlord-mahajan-contractor combine, but directly against the British. The massacre at Dumbri Hill made it a "hill of the dead" when hundreds of tribals lost their lives for the cause of freedom against the modern ammunition of the British. The Great Tumult against Britishers sought to establish Munda Raj and independence. The slogan of the movement was "Abua Raj ete jana, Maharani Raj Tundu Jana" which means "Let the kingdom of queen be ended and our kingdom established". <p>Outcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Britishers were forced to abolish the feudal system that plagued the Adivasi lands in Jharkhand and Bihar. Birsa compelled the Britishers to introduce new legislation - the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 1908. This Act prohibited the transfer of tribal land to non-tribal parties. Government recognized Khuntkatti rights and banned Beth Begari (forced labour)

Punnapra-Vayalar Uprising

Context

- A report by the Indian Council for Historical Research (ICHR) has suggested dropping the Communist martyrs of Punnapra-Vayalar, Karivelloor and Kavumbayi agitations from the list of martyrs of India's Independence struggle.

The uprising

- The Punnapra-Vayalar uprising (October 1946) was a **communist uprising in the Princely State of Travancore**, British India against the Diwan (Prime Minister), C. P. Ramaswami Iyer and the state.

- Immediate Background
- Sir CP Ramaswami Iyer had proposed constitutional reforms making Travancore an independent country, not joining Indian Union. CP had proposed an 'American model' for Travancore.
- The Communists in Travancore opposed this move with the slogans, 'Chuck the Americans and British agents into the Arabian Sea'.
- The struggle against the Travancore Kingdom began in 1939. The famine conditions in Travancore Kingdom during the Second World War had pushed the peasants towards the Communists.
- Workers' agitations led by communist trade unions for labour rights during that period culminated in a massive rebellion against the rule of the King and his Diwan (Prime Minister), C. P. Ramaswami Iyer.
- A large number of workers who participated in that rebellion against the rule of Ramaswami Iyer were killed by the army of the Diwan during October 1946.
- Hundreds got killed in police firing at Punnappra, Mararikulam Vayalar, Olathala and Menachery.

Kakatiya Dynasty

Context

- A temple constructed by Ganapati Deva, ruler of Kakatiya dynasty, has been converted into an abode of local goddess Balusulamma (Goddess Durga).

Details

- The presiding deity at this 13th century temple was Kakati Devi, the tutelary deity of Kakatiya rulers.
- Due to ravages of time and for no upkeep, the presiding deity got damaged.
- The villagers who had no knowledge about the hoary past of the temple, installed Balusulamma idol and started worshipping.

Kakatiya Dynasty

KAKATIYA DYNASTY	FEATURES
Kakatiya/ Andhra Dynasty	Time period: 1083-1323 AD
Founder	Betaraja I
First Independent Ruler	Prola II (Earlier feudatory of Kalyani Chalukyas)
Capital	First capital : Hanamakonda ; Next - Orugallu, now known as Warangal
Preceded by	Western Chalukyan Empire
Succeeded by	Bahmani Sultanate
Common Language	Sanskrit, Telugu
Religion	Hinduism (Converted from Jainism)
Rani Rudramadevi	First woman ruler of Kakatiya Dynasty
King Rudramba	Thousand-Pillared Temple at Hanamkonda
Kakatiya Ganapati	Built Warangal fort
Foreign visitor during the reign	Marco Polo (Italian) - made note of Rudrama Devi's rule.
Kohinoor Diamond	Originally owned by Kakatiya Dynasty
Earlier known record	Anumakonda inscription of Prataparudra I
Notable Trend	Construction of reservoirs for irrigation. Example of tanks at Pakala and

	Ramappa.
Prataparudra/ Rudradeva	Patron of art literature. Authored 'Nitisara' in Sanskrit. Built Rudresvara temple in Anamakonda
Ganapathideva	Built Pakhal Lake in Warangal
Temples	Thousand Pillar Temple or Rudreshwara Swamy Temple-dedicated to Vishnu, Shiva and Surya; Ramappa Temple in Warangal; Golconda Fort in Hyderabad
Conquered by	Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq, Sultan of Delhi. (1323 AD)

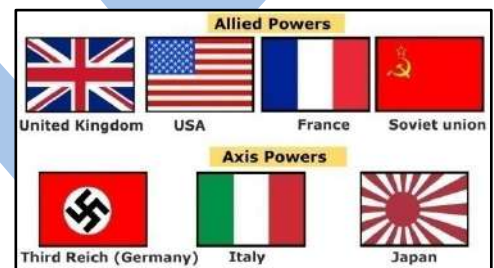
Azad Hind Government

Context

- October 21 marked the 77th anniversary of Azad Hind Government.

About Azad Hind

- The Provisional Government of Free India or, simply, Azad Hind, was an Indian provisional government established in Japanese occupied Singapore during World War II.
- Other name:** Arzi Hakumat-e-Azad Hind
- Head of State and Prime Minister:** Subhas Chandra Bose (1943–1945)
- Supreme Advisor:** Rashbehari Bose
- Capital:** Port Blair (provisional)
- Capital-in-exile:** Rangoon, Singapore and Tokyo City
- Anthem:** Subh Sukh Chain
- Motto:** Ittehad, Itmad aur Qurbani (Urdu: Unity, Faith and Sacrifice)



Purpose

- Allying with the **Axis powers** during World War II to liberate India from British rule.
- It was established by Indian nationalists in exile during the latter part of the Second World War in Singapore.
- Monetary, military and political assistance from Imperial Japan.

Azad Hind Fauj/INA – A look back

- It was an armed force formed by **Indian nationalists** and **Imperial Japan** in 1942 in Southeast Asia during World War II. (Before the formation of Azad Hind Government.)
- Aim** -To secure Indian independence from British rule. It fought alongside Japanese soldiers in the latter's campaign in the Southeast Asian theatre of World War II.
- Formed under -- Mohan Singh
- Comprised of by Indian PoWs of the British-Indian Army captured by Japan in the Malayan campaign and at Singapore.

TRACING INA HISTORY

(Clockwise from top) Bose with INA; its currency was used in Moirang, Manipur, during Azad Hind government; a stamp issued on 25th anniversary of Azad Hind govt

► Subhas Chandra Bose formed the provincial government of Azad Hind in Singapore on Oct 21, 1943. With Indian leaders in prison and people unnamed, he said it was not possible to set up the provisional government in India or launch an armed struggle from within

► Nataji's declaration guaranteed Indian citizens religious liberty as well as equal rights and opportunities. It declared its resolve

to... transcend all the differences fostered by an alien government

► 3 INA officers, Capt Shah Nawaz Khan, Capt P K Sahgal and Lt G S Dhillon, were branded traitors by the British and put on trial at Red Fort. The swelling tide of support for the trio led to their release

► On July 8, 1945, Netaji laid the foundation of INA War Memorial to commemorate INA's 'Unknown Warrior'

- INA collapsed and was disbanded within a year after differences between the INA leadership and the Japanese military over its role in Japan's war in Asia.
- Later, Rash Behari Bose handed over INA to Subhas Chandra Bose.
- It was revived under the leadership of Subhas Chandra Bose after his arrival in Southeast Asia in 1943.
- The army was declared to be the army of Bose's Azad Hind Government.
- Under Bose's leadership, the INA drew ex-prisoners and thousands of civilian volunteers from the **Indian expatriate population in Malaya (present-day Malaysia) and Burma.**
- This second INA fought along with the Imperial Japanese Army against the British in Imphal and Kohima, and later against Burma.

Aftermath

- The Azad Hind Government came to an end with the defeat of axis powers in WWII & the disappearance of Subhash Chandra Bose in 1945.

Hoysala Empire

Context

- Recently, a Hoysala-era idol of Mahakali at the Lakshmi Devi temple, Karnataka was found damaged.

The temple

- Lakshmi Devi temple, built in a chatuskuta style (four shrines), is one of the earliest known temples built by the Hoysalas.
- It was built by the Hoysala Empire King **Vishnuvardhana** in 1114 C.E.
- The building material is Chloritic schist, more commonly known as **soapstone**.
- The temple does not stand on a jagati (platform), a feature which became popular in later Hoysala temples.
- It is an archaeological Survey of India (ASI) monument.

About Hoysalas

Hoysala Empire	Details
Area of Rule	Karnataka and Kaveri delta in present-day Tamil Nadu.
Time Period	Between the 10 th and the 14 th centuries.
Preceded by	Western Chalukyas
Succeeded by	Vijaynagara Empire
Founder	Nripakama II/Sala
Most important ruler	Bittaga Vishnuvardhana. Annexed Chola province of Gangawadi. Defeated Chalukya Vikramaditya VI
Capital	Initially Belur. Later- Halebidu
Administration	Divided into provinces: Nadu, Vishaya, Kampana and Desha
Remarkable for	Art, Architecture, and Religion. Hoysala Architecture
Literature	Kannada and Sanskrit.
Important Temples	Chennakeshava Temple, Belur; the Hoysaleswara Temple, Halebidu; Chennakesava Temple
Architecture	Hybrid or vesara style
Learning Schools	Ghatikas
Religion	Jainism, Vaishnavism and Lingayatism
Contemporary Philosophers	Basava, Madhvacharya and Ramanuja in Karnataka
Rajaditya	Mathematician who wrote Vyavaharanigita and Lilavati during Vishnuvardhana's reign
Last Ruler	Veera Ballala III

Battle of Bhima-Koregaon

Context

- The 1818 battle of Bhima-Koregaon, should be included in the history textbooks, said Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment.

Battle of Koregaon

- The Battle of Koregaon was fought on 1st January 1818 between the British East India Company and the Peshwa faction of the Maratha Confederacy, at Koregaon Bhima (present day Maharashtra)
- It is also called the Battle of Koregaon Bhima, after the river Bhima that flows close to it.
- The battle was part of the **Third Anglo Maratha war** - a series of battles that culminated in the defeat of the Maratha Empire. It led to the subsequent rule of the British East India Company.

Note- The Company troops of Indian origin included Mahars, Marathas, Rajputs, Muslims and Jews.

Significance of the Battle

- The Mahars were considered as untouchable in the contemporary caste-based society.
- The Peshwas, who were high-caste Brahmins, were notorious for their mistreatment and persecution of the untouchables.
- This battle has thus attained legendary stature in Dalit history.
- The Dalits who follow BR Ambedkar view this battle as a victory of Mahars over the injustice and torture meted out to them by the Brahminical Peshwas.

Mahars and the Victory Pillar

- The Koregaon pillar inscription features the names of Company soldiers killed in the battle. 22 of these soldiers were Mahars.
- The pillar was erected by the East India Company in memory of those who fought the battle.
- While the obelisk was built by the British as a symbol of their own power, today it serves as a memorial of the Mahars.
- Ever since Bhima-Koregaon Ranstambh Seva Sangh (BKRSS) was formed, they regard the stambh or pillar as a site of their valour and a symbol of their place in the political diaspora.
- B. R. Ambedkar visited the site on 1st January 1927. To commemorate his visit to the site, today thousands of his followers visit the site.



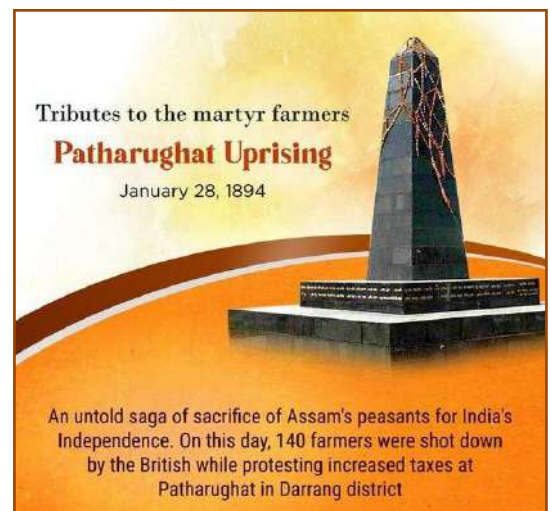
Patharughat Peasant Uprising

Context

- Patharughat peasant uprising took place on January 28, 1894 in Assam.

What led to the Patharughat uprising?

- After the British annexation of Assam in 1826, surveys of the vast lands of the state began.
- On the basis of such surveys, the British began to impose land taxes, much to the resentment of the farmers.
- In 1893, the British government decided to increase agricultural land tax reportedly by 70- 80 per cent.
- Up until then the peasants would pay taxes in kind or provide a service in lieu of cash.
- Across Assam, peasants began protesting the move by organising Raj Mels, or peaceful peoples' conventions.
- Whenever there was a Raj Mel, the British used to come down on it with a heavy hand to disperse them.



- The British perceived them as “breeding grounds for sedition”.
- On January 28, 1894, when the British officers were refusing to listen to the farmers’ grievances, things heated up.
- There was a lathi charge, followed by an open firing which killed many of the peasants present.

Time Capsule

Context

- Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) will bury a time capsule containing the history and achievements of the institution in front of the Victoria Gate on the campus.
- The AMU is completing 100 years of its establishment.

About

- A time capsule is a historic cache of goods or information, usually intended as a deliberate method of communication with future people, and to help future archaeologists, anthropologists, or historians.

AMU

- The university was established as the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College in 1875 by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan.
- The movement associated with Syed Ahmad Khan and the college came to be known as the Aligarh Movement, which pushed to realize the need for establishing a modern education system for the Indian Muslim populace.
- He considered competence in English and Western sciences necessary skills for maintaining Muslims' political influence.
- Khan's vision for the college was based on his visit to Oxford University and Cambridge University, and he wanted to establish an education system similar to the British mode.

MISCELLANEOUS

Chak Hao

- Recently got GI tags.
- Chak-Hao, a scented glutinous rice that has been in cultivation in **Manipur** over centuries, is characterised by its special aroma.
- This rice takes the longest cooking time of 40-45 minutes due to the presence of a fibrous bran layer and higher crude fibre content.
- It has also been used as part of **traditional medicine**.

Kovilpatti Kadalai Mittai

- Recently got GI tags.
- Kovilpatti kadalai mittai is a candy **from Tamil Nadu**. It is made using ‘vellam’ (jaggery), groundnuts. Water from the river **Thamirabarani** is used in the production, which enhances the taste naturally.

Kashmir Saffron

Context

- Recently, Kashmir saffron, has been given the **Geographical Indication (GI)** tag.

What is it?

- Kashmir saffron is renowned globally as a spice.
- It has been associated with traditional Kashmiri cuisine.
- It rejuvenates health and is used in cosmetics and for medicinal purposes.



- It represents the rich cultural heritage of the region.

Where is it grown?

Karewas

- Karewas are lacustrine deposits (deposits in lake) in the Valley of Kashmir and Jammu.
 - They lie between Great Himalayas & Pir Panjal Range.
 - They are characterized with fossils of mammals and at places by peat.
 - Karewas were formed during the Pleistocene Period (1 million years ago), when the entire Valley of Kashmir was under water.
 - Due to the rise of Pirpanjal, the drainage was impounded and a lake of about 5000 sq. km area was developed and thus a basin was formed.
 - The deposits left in the process are known as karewas. The thickness of karewas is about 1400 m.
 - The Karewa deposits are composed of sand, silt, clay, shale, mud, lignite, gravel and loessic sediments.
 - Therefore, it is extremely important for agricultural and horticultural practices in the valley.
 - Apart from saffron, it also helps in the cultivation of almond, walnut, apple and orchards.
- It is cultivated and harvested in the **Karewa (highlands) of Jammu and Kashmir.**

Characteristics

- The unique characteristics of Kashmir saffron are its longer and thicker stigmas, natural deep-red colour, high aroma, bitter flavour, chemical-free processing.
- It is the only saffron in the world grown at an altitude of 1,600 m to 1,800 m above mean sea level.

Tangams

Context

- Recently, Arunachal Pradesh released a book titled "Tangams: An Ethnolinguistic Study Of The Critically Endangered Group of Arunachal Pradesh".
- The Tangams are a little-known community within the larger **Adi tribe of Arunachal Pradesh.**
- Tangam language spoken by these people has only 253 speakers now. They reside in a village called **Kugging, Arunachal Pradesh.**
- Tangam is an **oral language** that belongs to the Tani group, under the greater **Tibeto-Burman language family.**
- As per the **UNESCO World Atlas of Endangered Languages (2009)**, the language is marked '**critically endangered**'.
- UNESCO's Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger is **intended to raise awareness about language endangerment** and the need to safeguard the world's linguistic diversity among policy-makers, speaker communities and the general public.

Kushinagar

Context

- The Union Cabinet on June 24 approved the declaration of the airport in Uttar Pradesh's Kushinagar as an international airport.
- Kushinagar is an international Buddhist pilgrimage centre. Gautama Buddha attained **MahaParinirvana** after his death here.
- The word "**Mahaparinirvana**" usually refers to **the ultimate state of Nirvana** (everlasting, highest peace and happiness) entered by an Awakened Being (Buddha).
- Parinirvana Stupa is present here. Alexander Cunningham conclusively proved that Gautama Buddha had died in the area.
- Maurya king Ashoka visited **Kushinagar in 260 BCE** where he built several chaityas, stupas to honor the Buddha's place of Nirvana.
- Kushinagar Buddhist sites was steadily expanded during Kushan empire (c. 50-241 CE).

- Kushinagar witnessed golden age during Gupta empire (c. 320-647 CE) when Parinirvana stupa was largely expanded and Parinirvana Temple was reconstructed.

Swadesh Darshan Scheme

- Recently, "Thenzawl Golf Resort" Project, was inaugurated under Swadesh Darshan Scheme- North east Circuit.
- Swadesh Darshan Scheme is a scheme of Ministry of Tourism. The scheme aims to promote, develop and harness the potential of tourism in India.
- This is a central sector scheme; i.e. - 100% funded by Central Government of India.
- The funding available for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives of Central Public Sector Undertakings and Corporate Sector is also used in this scheme.
- The entire scheme is based on theme-based tourism. Each theme is called a "circuit" and composed of various tourist destinations.
 - Buddhist circle
 - Coastal circle
 - Desert circle
 - Eco circle
 - Heritage circle
 - Himalayan circle
 - Krishna circle
 - North-East circle
 - Ramayana circle
 - Rural circle
 - Spiritual circle
 - Sufi circle
 - Tirthankar circle
 - Tribal circle
 - Wildlife circle

Pokkali Rice

- The pokkali variety of rice is known for its **saltwater resistance** cultivated using extensive aquaculture in an organic way in the water-logged coastal regions of coastal Alappuzha, Ernakulam and Thrissur districts of Kerala
- The uniqueness of the rice has brought it the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**.
- Vyttila-11 is the latest variety OF Pokkali Rice.

Korvai

- The Korvai of Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu is one of the prized textile techniques of the South. It involves a specialised process where the borders and pallu, in contrast colour with the body, are woven separately. **No GI Tag.**

Odisha's Kandhamal Haldi

Context

- With COVID-19 sweeping across the region, farmers in Odisha have been left in the lurch due to procurement of the Kandhamal Haldi herb being badly affected by the pandemic.

About

- Kandhamal Haldi had received **geographical indication (GI) tag** last year.
- Kandhamal haldi — has more oleo resin and volatile oil content compared to other turmeric.
- The unique properties in Kandhamal haldi give it a **strong aroma and a higher medicinal value**.
- Kandhamal haldi is popular in foreign countries and 95 per cent of Kandhamal Apex Spices Association for Marketing (KASAM's) procurement is exported to the US, Europe, Australia, Japan and Korea.

- But the lockdown has forced exporters to not purchase turmeric.

Chendamangalam Saree

Context

- Care 4 Chendamangalam, an initiative is supporting 2018 Kerala flood-affected weavers, by holding a saree exhibition in Chennai.

About

- Kerala has three clusters that have been given a Geographical Indication (GI) tag. These three famous clusters are Balaramapuram, Chendamangalam and Kuthampully.
- The second cluster called Chendamangalam is famous for saris. The **GI-tagged Chendamangalam sari is recognisable by its puliyilakara border**, a thin black line that runs abreast with the sari's selvedge.
- The saris are made from the fine-count cotton yarn of 120s, 100s and 80s. The sarees have extra-weft chuttikara and stripes and checks of varying width.
- Dekho Apna Desh
- It is a webinar series launched by **Ministry of Tourism**, to promote domestic travel and provide information on many hidden destinations in India.
- It provides an in-depth knowledge on several destinations & takes a close look at Indian culture and heritage.
- The **first webinar, 'City of Cities – Delhi's Personal Diary'**, took place on April 14, and touched upon the history of Delhi.
- Recently, DekhoApnaDesh Webinar series titled **"Punjab- A historic perspective"** took the participants on a journey through the history and prominent tourist places in Punjab.
- The focus was on
- **Virasat-e- Khalsa Museum**, an architectural marvel commemorating the 550-years of culture and tradition of Punjab and Sikhism and
- **Partition Museum**-world's first museum on the largest human migration.
- DekhoApnaDesh Webinar Series is an effort to showcase India's rich diversity under **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme**.

Bharati Script

Context

- Bharati Script.

What is Bharati Script?

- Bharati is a unified script for nine Indian languages.
- It has been designed to be a common script that can express all the major Indian languages.
- Bharati Script can express: Hindi/Marathi (Devanagari), Tamil, Telugu, Gujarati, Punjabi (Gurmukhi), Bengali, Oriya, Kannada and Malayalam.
- The script has been designed using simplest shapes, often borrowing simple characters from various **Indian languages/scripts including English.**

Note: Bharati script **cannot** express English and Urdu as of now.

Who developed it?

- Srinivasa Chakravathy's team at IIT Madras.

Need for a common script

- The Roman script is used as a common script for many European languages like English, French, German, Italian etc.



- This facilitates communication across nations that speak and write different languages.
- In India however, most major languages are written in their own unique scripts.
- This poses barriers to communication in a multilingual society like India.
- Thus, a common script for the entire country is hoped to **bring down many communication barriers in India.**

Compatibility with Technology

- Due to its simplicity, Bharati script is ideal for technology development:
- **Optical Character Recognition** (Even at 10-20% noise, Bharati OCR system gives close to 100% Accuracy)
- Optical character recognition or optical character reader (OCR) is the electronic or mechanical conversion of images of typed, handwritten or **printed text into machine-encoded text.**
- **Handwritten Character Recognition** - realized in an app called Bharati Handwriting Keyboard.
- **Bharati Transliterator** - a tool, based on Google lens that enables the user to read Indian language signs in Bharati script.

Life in Miniature Project

Context

- Recently, Ministry of State for Culture and Tourism virtually launched “Life in Miniature” project.
- About
- The Project is a collaboration between the National Museum, New Delhi; Ministry of Culture, and Google Arts & Culture today.

Purpose

- Under this project several hundred miniature paintings from the National Museum, New Delhi **can be viewed online** on **Google Arts & Culture App** by people around the world.
- Users will be able to see famous miniature collections like the Ramayana, Royal Saga, Pahari style paintings in extraordinary detail.



Technology used

- On this App, online viewers can experience the **first Augmented Reality-powered art gallery.**
- Thus, people can explore a virtual space and walk up to a selection of miniature paintings.
- The project uses technologies like **machine learning, augmented reality and digitization** with **high-definition robotic cameras**, to showcase these special works of art.
- The App is also backed by Artificial Intelligence.
- “Magnify Miniatures” feature in the App- enables online users to explore multiple artworks simultaneously.

About Google Arts & Culture

- Google Arts & Culture puts the collections of more than 2,000 museums at one’s fingertips.
- It’s an immersive way to explore art, history and the wonders of the world.
- The Google Arts & Culture app is free and available online for iOS and Android.

Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana

Context

- Ministry of Culture has issued guidelines for holding cultural events and activities in online mode under various scheme components of ‘Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana’ (KSVY) amid COVID-19.

About the Yojana

- In 2014, the Government consolidated all major schemes of the Ministry of Culture under a single umbrella of Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana. It is a central sector scheme.
- These schemes include missions, autonomous organizations, schemes and grantee institutions of the Culture ministry.
- KSVY has the following sub-schemes through which financial assistance is provided to cultural organizations:
- Scheme of Financial Assistance for Promotion of Art and Culture.
- Scheme of Financial Assistance for Creation of Cultural Infrastructure.

- Scheme for Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Parampara Series

Context

- The annual Parampara Series — National Festival of Music and Dance will be held online this year.

About

- Parampara Series started in 1997. It is an endeavour to promote Indian classical arts.
- It is organised by Natya Tarangini and Kuchipudi exponents Raja Radha Reddy and Kaushalya Reddy.
- This year's Parampara Series will partner with United Nations India to celebrate 75 years of UN.

Jallikattu

Context

- Ahead of Tamil Nadu Assembly polls, Jallikattu has become the subject of politics.
- About Jallikattu
- Jallikattu is a traditional bull taming event practiced in Tamil Nadu as a part of Pongal celebrations on Mattu Pongal day.
- The sport involves releasing a running bull into a crowd of people.
- Participants attempt to grab the bull's hump and ride it for as long as possible, in an attempt to stop it.

History

- Jallikattu has been known to be practiced during the Tamil classical period (400-100 BC).
- It was common among the Ayar people who lived in the 'Mullai' geographical division of the ancient Tamil country.
- Later, it became a platform for display of bravery and prize money was introduced for participation encouragement.
- A seal from the Indus Valley Civilization depicting the practice is preserved in the National Museum, New Delhi.

The controversy over Jallikattu

- Jallikattu first came under legal scrutiny in 2007 when the Animal Welfare Board of India and the animal rights group PETA moved petitions in the Supreme Court against Jallikattu as well as bullock cart races.
- Over 200 people - both tamers and spectators - have lost their lives in the last two decades.



- Kambala
- Kambala is an annual buffalo race held in Karnataka. Traditionally, it is sponsored by local Tuluva landlords and households in the coastal districts of Udupi of Karnataka and Kasaragod of Kerala. This region is collectively known as Tulu Nadu. The Kambala season generally starts in November and lasts until March.
- Traditional Kambala was non-competitive, and the buffalo pair was run one by one. In modern Kambala, the contest takes place between two pairs of buffaloes. There is also a ritualistic aspect, as farmers race their buffaloes to give thanks for protecting them from diseases.

G Kishan Reddy

Context

- Centre has decided to form a committee to protect the language, culture and land of Ladakh and ensuring citizen's participation in the Union Territory's development.
- About

- The Committee will be headed by the Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy and will include elected representatives from Ladakh, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, central government, and the Ladakh administration.

Kovilpatti Kadalai Mittai

- Kovilpatti kadalai mittai is a candy **from Tamil Nadu**. It is made using 'vellam' (jaggery), groundnuts. Water from the river **Thamirabarani** is used in the production, which enhances the taste naturally.

Gandhi Peace Prize

- Recently, the **Ministry of Culture** extended the nomination period for the Gandhi Peace Prize due to the lockdown throughout the country amid COVID-19 Pandemic.
- The Government launched the Peace Prize in **1995** on the occasion of the **125th birth anniversary of Gandhiji**.
- This is an annual award given to individuals and institutions for their **contributions towards social, economic and political transformation through non-violence** and other Gandhian methods.
- A jury consisting of the Prime Minister of India, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, the Chief Justice of India, Speaker of the Lok Sabha and one other eminent persons decides the awardee each year.

Cultural Heritage of Hyderabad

Context

- Recently, Ministry of Tourism's DekhoApnaDesh Webinar Series reached a landmark of 50th session with the webinar titled "Cultural heritage of Hyderabad".

Aim of Webinars

- To create awareness & promote various tourism destinations of India - including the lesser known destinations.
- It also promotes spirit of Ek Bharat Sreshtha Bharat.

History of Hyderabad

- **Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah (Delhi Sultanate)** established Hyderabad in **1591** to extend the capital beyond the fortified Golconda.
- In 1687, the city was annexed by the Mughals.
- In 1724, Mughal governor Nizam Asaf Jah I declared his sovereignty and founded the Asaf Jahi dynasty, also known as the Nizams.
- Hyderabad served as the imperial capital of the Asaf Jahis from 1769 to 1948.
- Hyderabad was integrated into the Indian Union in 1948 and continued as a capital of Hyderabad State (1948-56). (Operation Polo- Operation Polo was the code name of the Hyderabad "police action" in September 1948, by the then newly independent Dominion of India. It was a military operation annexing Hyderabad into the Indian Union.)

Significance of Hyderabad

- Charminar symbolises the city.
- Painting, handicraft, jewellery, literature, dialect and clothing are prominent still today. Through its cuisine, the city is listed as a **UNESCO creative city of gastronomy**.
- Until the 19th century Hyderabad was known for the pearl industry and was nicknamed **the "City of Pearls"**.
- It was the only Golconda Diamonds trading centre in the world.
- Since the 1990s, the city has emerged as an Indian hub of pharmaceuticals and biotechnology.
- The City is famous for edible silver foil, Zardozi work, Calligraphy etc.

Important cultural sites of Hyderabad

- **Golconda Fort, Hyderabad**- a fortified citadel and an early capital city of the Qutb Shahi dynasty. Because of the vicinity of **Kollur Mine**, Golconda flourished as a trade centre of Golconda Diamonds. The region has

produced some of the world's most famous diamonds, including the colourless Koh-i-Noor. Golconda Fort was first built by **the Kakatiyas**.

- **Chowmahalla Palace**- Once the seat of the AsafJahi Dynasty. Chowmahalla Palace, has bagged the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Merit Award for Culture Heritage Conservation.
- **Charminar**- The monument was erected when QuliQutab Shah shifted his capital from Golconda to Hyderabad.
- **Purani Haveli**- known for its remarkable exhibits of artwork and talent.
- **Mecca Masjid**- Completed by Aurangazeb in 1693. The bricks used here are believed to be from Mecca, and hence the name.
- **Qutub Shahi Tombs**- Located in the Ibrahim Bagh, QutubShahi Tombs are a group of small and big mosques and tombs built by the rulers of the Qutub Shah dynasty.
- **Paigah tombs**- Paigah Tombs are a group of tombs of the Paigah royal family.
- **Salar Jung Museum**- Is an art museum established in the year 1951 and located on the southern bank of the Musi River in the city of Hyderabad.
- **Warangal Fort**- This fort existed since at least the 12th century when it was the capital of the Kakatiya dynasty. The fort has four ornamental gates, known as Kakatiya Kala Thoranam, that originally formed the entrances to a now ruined great Shiva temple.



DAILY EDITORIAL
COMPILATION
FROM THE HINDU &
THE INDIAN EXPRESS
FOR
UPSC-CSE 2021

AUGUST 2020
TO
JANUARY 2021

is now available on
amazon

Buy Now