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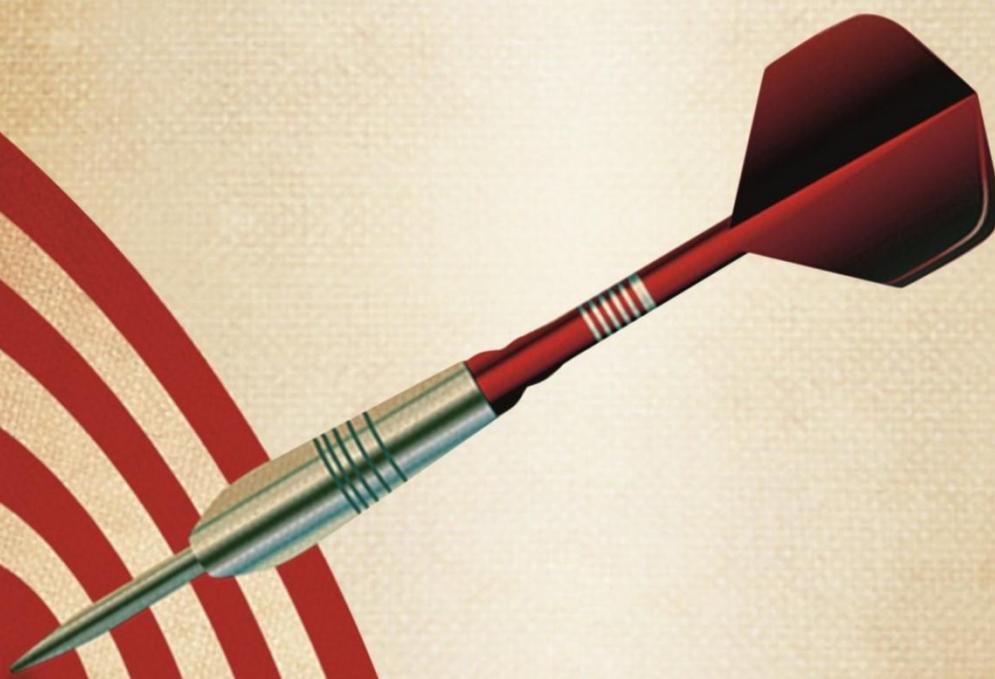
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A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative

TARGET 2020

ART & CULTURE

UPTO AUGUST 2020



SHANKAR IAS ACADEMY

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1. ARCHITECTURE

1.1 Chaukhandi Stupa

- Chaukhandi Stupa is an ancient Buddhist site in Uttar Pradesh's Sarnath.
- Stupas have evolved from burial mounds and serve as a shrine for a relic of the Buddha.
- The Chaukhandi Stupa was built as a terraced temple during the Gupta period between the 4th and 6th centuries to mark the site where Lord Buddha and his first disciples met traveling from Bodhi Gaya to Sarnath.
- Later Govardhan, the son of a Raja, modified the stupa by building an octagonal tower to commemorate the visit of Mughal ruler Humayun.
- The monument has been declared to be “of national importance” by the Archaeological Survey of India.



1.2 Vishwa Shanti Stupa

- The 50th anniversary of establishment of Vishwa Shanti Stupa (World Peace Pagoda) at Rajgir in Bihar was observed recently.
- A pagoda is a type of stupa which provides equality for worship and gathering at one place for common cause.
- It is one of the peace pagodas established around the world by Japanese Buddhist Monk Nichidatsu Fujii.
- It is made of white marble and is the tallest peace Pagoda in the world standing tall at 400 meters.
- It houses four statues of Lord Buddha on the four side-corners of the stupa depicting the 4 phases of life of Lord Buddha - birth, enlightenment, Teaching and Death.

1.3 Mamallapuram

- Mamallapuram, or Mahabalipuram is in focus as the venue for the informal summit between Indian PM and Chinese President.
- It is the ancient Pallava port city which has its origins in the word Mamallan (great wrestler), title of a Pallava King Narasimharvarman II (3rd – 9th century).
- The king's story was immortalised by Tamil writer Kalki in the novel *Sivagamiyin Sapatham*.
- The heroine, Sivakami, is portrayed as the daughter of the chief sculptor, Ayanar. She is the lover of Narasimharvarman.
- The town was originally called Mamallai or Kadalmallai and Mallai means prosperity.
- The town got the name because it was enriched by the wealth brought through sea trade.
- Vaishnavite literature refers to the town and temple of Sthalasayana Perumal situated in the town is one among the 108 Vaishnavite shrines.
- The earliest literary reference could be attributed to Poothathazhwar, the second in the lineage of Azhwars, who was born in Mamallapuram.

- The temple would have predated the period of the Pallavas, who expanded the town and made it a cultural capital.
- The name of the town was changed to Jananthapuram by Chola king Raja Rajan.
- Mamallapuram became Mahabalipuram in modern times, and the latter is not the Sanskrit equivalent.

1.4 Charminar

- Charminar (Four Minarets) is a historic monument in Hyderabad.
- It was built by Mohammad Quli Qutb Shah, 5th king of the Qutb Shahi dynasty (Golconda Sultnates).
- He shifted the capital from Golconda to Hyderabad at the time of devastating plague.
- He commemorated the end of plague by building mosque, which became known as Charminar because of its four towering and distinctive minarets, one on each of the building's four corners.
- It is a grand architectural composition in Indo-Saracenic style.
- It is built of granite and lime mortar with stucco ornamentation.
- It has recently suffered damage after a piece of lime stucco work on one of its minarets fell off.



1.5 Ugra Tara Temple

- UgraTara Temple is a temple dedicated to Tara (Devi) is an important Shakti shrine, located in Guwahati, Assam.
- The present temple of Ugra Tara was built by Ahom King Siva Singha in 1725 AD.
- In the garbhagriha of Ugra Tara there is no image or idol of her, a small pit filled with water is considered as the Goddess.
- Recently black soft shell turtle conservation was conducted in the temple pond.

1.6 Markandeshwar Temple

- Restoration work of architectural genius, Markandeshwar temple in Maharashtra was initiated by Archaeological Survey of India
- The Markandeshwar group of temples were built between the 9th and 12th centuries .
- Dedicated to Lord Shiva called Markandeshwar or Markandadeo temple on the banks of the Wainganga river.
- They are famously known as the 'mini Khajuraho' or 'Khajuraho of Vidarbha'.
- They belong to saiva, vaishnava and sakti faith, these belong to the Nagara group temples of North India.

1.7 Gurudwara Nankana Sahib

- Nankana Sahib is a city in Pakistan's Punjab province, where Gurdwara Janam Asthan (also called Nankana Sahib Gurdwara) is located.
- The shrine is built over the site where Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism, was believed to be born in 1469.
- It is 75 kms to the west of Lahore, and is the capital of Nankana Sahib district.
- The city was previously known as Talwandi, and was founded by Rai Bhoi, a wealthy landlord.
- Besides Gurdwara Janam Asthan, Nankana Sahib has several important shrines in memory of Guru Arjan (5th Guru) and Guru Hargobind (6th Guru).

- The Janam Asthan shrine was constructed by Maharaja Ranjit Singh, after he visited Nankana Sahib in 1818-19 while returning from the Battle of Multan.
- During British rule, the Gurdwara Janam Asthan was the site of a violent episode when in 1921, over 130 Akali Sikhs were killed after they were attacked by the Mahant of the shrine.
- The incident is regarded as one of the key milestones in the Gurdwara Reform Movement, which led to the passing of the Sikh Gurdwara Act in 1925 that ended the Mahant control of Gurdwaras.
- In 2014, Pakistan had a memorial for the massacre built.
- Until Independence, Nankana Sahib's population had an almost equal number of Muslims, Sikhs, and Hindus, which since Partition has been predominantly Muslim.

1.8 Conservation Plan for Konark Temple

- The Union Government has decided to restore and preserve the nearly 800-year-old Konark Sun Temple, Odisha.
- Konark was built by King Narasimhadeva I (1238-1264AD) in the 13th century and is located in Eastern Odisha near the sacred city of Puri.
- King Narasimhadeva I was a famous ruler of the Ganga Dynasty and with his accession to the throne, the Ganga Dynasty reached its zenith.
- It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site (1984).
- Dedicated to the Sun God, Konark is the culmination of Odisha temple architecture, and one of the most outstanding monuments of religious architecture in the world.
- Its scale, refinement and conception represent the strength and stability of the **Ganga Dynasty** as well as the value systems of the historic milieu.
- The entire temple was designed in the shape of a colossal chariot with 7 horses and 24 wheels, carrying the sun god, Surya, across the heavens.
- 'Konarka', the place bears a name composed of two world elements : KONA meaning corner and ARKA meaning the Sun.
- The Sun god worshipped in Ark Kshetra is also called Konark.
- In 'Brahma Purana' the Sun God in Ark-kshetra has been described as Konaditya.
- Surya has been a popular deity in India since the Vedic period.

1.9 Joykali Matar Temple

- India inaugurated the reconstructed Joykali Matar temple at Natore in **Bangladesh**.
- It was built approximately 300 years back in the early 18th century by Shri Dayaram Roy.
- He was an influential Dewan of Queen Bhahani of Natore and the founder of Dighapatia Royal Family.
- The MoU for the reconstruction of the temple at Lalbazar, Natore was signed between India and Bangladesh in 2016.
- The Government of India provided a grant assistance for the reconstruction of the historic temple under its High Impact Community Development Project (HICDP) scheme.

1.10 Hagia Sophia Mosque

- Hagia Sophia is the former Greek Orthodox Christian patriarchal cathedral, later an Ottoman imperial mosque.
- It is now a museum located in Istanbul, Turkey.
- Built in AD 537 (Byzantine architecture), during the reign of Justinian - I, the Eastern Roman emperor, it is famous for its large dome.

- In 1453, when Constantinople (capital city of the Roman Empire) fell to Sultan Mehmet II's Ottoman forces, the Hagia Sophia was turned into a mosque.
- In 1934, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of the Republic of Turkey, converted the mosque into a museum in an attempt to make the country more secular.
- The 1,500-year-old structure has been listed as a UNESCO'S World Heritage site as of special cultural or physical significance.
- Recently, the government of Turkey has decided to convert Istanbul's iconic Hagia Sophia Museum into a mosque.

1.11 Chora Museum

- Chora Museum in Turkey was built initially as a church in 534 AD, during the early Byzantine period.
- It is also known as Kariye in Turkish and the mediaeval Church of the Holy Saviour in Chora.
- In the 11th century, its internal walls, pillars and domes were covered with mosaics and frescoes showing scenes from biblical stories.
- After the conquest of Constantinople (capital city of the Roman Empire) by the Ottomans (1453), the church was seized and turned into a mosque in 1511.
- In 1945, it was converted into a museum.
- Recently, the Turkish President reconverted the Chora museum into a mosque.
- This is the second museum after Hagia Sophia to be converted into a mosque.

2. FESTIVALS

2.1 Kharchi Pooja

- It is an important festival celebrated in **Tripura**.
- The word **Kharchi** is derived from the word '**Khya**' which means '**Earth**'. It is basically done to worship mother Earth.
- It is performed after '**Ama pechi**' or '**Ambu bachi**' period.
- According to Tripuri, 'Ama Pechi' is menstruation of mother goddess or mother Earth.
- Among Tripuri the menstruation of a woman is considered as unholy.
- During this period all the auspicious functions performed by women are prohibited.
- After the menstruation period 'Ama pechi', mother Earth is considered to become unholy.
- So even the soil is not ploughed nor digging of any where on this day, to give it time to cleanse.
- The Puja is performed to wash out the sins and to clean the post menstrual phase of mother earth's menstruation.
- The festival lasts for 7 days and 14 gods of the dynasty deity of Tripuri people are worshipped.
- The 14 gods are worshipped by the royal priest called **Chantai**.
- Only members of chantai family descendants are allowed to take the post of 'Chantai'.
- All of rituals are of tribal origin but both tribal and non-tribal people join together to celebrate the festival.

2.2 Tansen Samaroh

- It is a popular classical music festival in Madhya Pradesh.
- It is a five-day festival celebrated every year in the memory of one of the most eminent singers of Indian history, 'Mian Tansen'.

- It begins with traditional style in Gwalior with the recitations of Harikatha and Milad.
- It is organised by Ustad Alauddin Khan Kala Evam Sangeet Academy, under the Madhya Pradesh culture department.
- Noted vocalist Pandit Vidyadhar Vyas will be presented the National Tansen Award for 2019 which is given to outstanding exponents of Hindustani classical music.
- Tansen was one of the nine gems in the court of one of the greatest Mughal rulers of India, Emperor Akbar.

2.3 Lai Haraoba

- Lai Haraoba, a ritualistic festival observed by Manipuri meitei communities since ancient times.
- Lai Haraoba is celebrated through oral literature, music, dance and rituals., to please the Umang Lai, the traditional deities of Sanamahism.
- It is one of the main festivals still performed in Manipur which has its roots in the pre-Vaishnavite period.
- Lai Haraoba is the earliest form of dance which forms the basis of all stylised dances in Manipur.
- The principal performers are the maibas and maibis (priests and priestesses) who re-enact the theme of the creation of the world.
- It is usually observed during the month of Kalen tha (summer season).
- Four types of Lai Haraoba are prevalent in the Meitei society, namely:
 1. Kanglei Haraoba,
 2. Chakpa Haraoba,
 3. Moirang Haraoba and
 4. Kakching Haraoba.

2.4 Madhavpur Mela

- Madhavpur Ghed, in Porbandar district a small but culturally significant village.
- It is the place where, according to folklore, Lord Krishna married Rukmini, the daughter of King Bhishmaka.
- Madhavpur lies on the seashore, close to Porbandar, a 15th century Madhavrai temple marks the site.
- The annual fair Madhavpur Mela is held here will commence a day after the Ram Navami festival.
- A colourful chariot carrying the idol of Lord Krishna circumnavigates the village and the festivities usually continue for five days.
- Madhavpur Mela will mark the cultural integration of Gujarat with the North-East under the Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat.
- The eight States of the Northern Eastern Region will participate in a big way during the Madhavpur Mela.
- The week-long 'Utsav' will see a vibrant cultural trail of art, dance, music, poetry, story-telling and folk drama from Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and other North-Eastern States with the aim to integrate the rich cultures of the two regions.

2.5 Surajkund Mela

- Surajkund is an ancient reservoir of the 10th century located on Southern Delhi Ridge of Aravalli range in Faridabad city of Haryana state.
- Surajkund is an artificial Kund ("lake" or reservoir) built in the backdrop of the Aravalli hills with an amphitheater shaped embankment constructed in semicircular form.
- king Surajpal of Tomar dynasty in the 10th century built by the Surajkund.
- Tomar, a younger son of Anangpal Tomar - the ruler of Delhi, was a sun worshipper and he had therefore built a Sun temple on its western bank.

- It is an important biodiversity area within the Northern Aravalli leopard wildlife corridor stretching from Sariska Tiger Reserve to Delhi.
- Surajkund is known for its annual fair "Surajkund International Craft Mela".
- The Surajkund International Crafts Mela is being organized since 1987 to display the richness and diversity of handicrafts, handlooms and cultural heritage of India.

2.6 Ambubachi Mela

- Ambubachi Mela is a four-day fair to mark the annual menstruation of the goddess at Kamakhya temple in Nilachal Hills in Guwahati, Assam.
- Kamakhya temple is one of 51 shaktipeeths or seat of Shakti followers.
- Shakti peeth is originated based on the story of the death of goddess Sati.
- God Shiva who held her dead body, then started his dance of destruction, causing Sati's body to disintegrate and fall into pieces.
- The sites where these portions of Sati goddess fell, are the Shakti peeth.
- Kamakhya temple's sanctum sanctorum houses the yoni - female genital symbolised by a rock.
- Ambubachi Mela is also considered as an occasion to promote awareness on menstrual hygiene.
- This ritualistic fair is one of the reasons why the taboo associated with menstruation is less in Assam compared with other parts of India.
- Four Major Shakti Peeths in India - Jagannath Temple, Puri; Kamakhya Temple near Guwahati; Dakshina Kalika in Kolkata; Tara Tarini near Brahmapur, Odisha.

2.7 Herath Festival

- Hindu community in Jammu and Kashmir celebrated most important festival Sivaratri, locally called 'Herath'.
- It is first such festival since J&K was reduced to a Union Territory (UT) last year.
- Walnuts and fish dishes are central to the festival. In fact, the weather gods also kept their tryst with the festival.
- Several temples, including the traditional temples located in the Kashmir, like the Shri Ganesh temple, the Purshyar Mandir, the Durgeshwari temple etc. saw local Pandits performing important rituals.
- The fact is that at the end of the religious ceremonies, a day is observed as 'Salaam', which entailed celebrations with the Muslim brethren in Kashmir.
- During such festivals shops run by Muslims provides paraphernalia for puja.
- Temporary stalls by Muslim vendors will sell local fish and Trout, which is preferred by the pundits during the occasion.

2.8 Kala Kumbh

- It is a Handicrafts Exhibitions for promotion of Geographical Indication (GI) Crafts and heritage of India organized by Ministry of Textiles.
- It is a thematic Exhibition in various parts of the country through the Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts).
- The exhibitions are planned in various major cities like Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai.
- The exhibitions sponsored by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH).
- The GI tag is used on handicrafts which correspond to a specific geographical location or origin (e.g., a town, region, or country).
- As on August 2019, 178 GI handicraft products were registered from all over India.

- Few of the exhibits are as follows - Mysore rosewood inlay, Channapatna lacquerware, Dharwad kasuti embroidery, Kolhapur chappal, Bidriware, Molakalmur handblock printing, Ananthapur leather puppet, Thrissur screwpine, Vishakapatna lacquerware, Sandur lambani embroidery, Jodhpur terracotta etc

2.9 Matribhasha Diwas

- The Matribhasha Diwas falls on 21st February was celebrated by Ministry of Human Resource Development across the country.
- The theme of the programme is 'Celebrating our Multilingual Heritage' reflecting the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat.
- MHRD along with educational institutions and language institutions is celebrating the Matribhasha Diwas since 2017.
- Under the even educational institutions will organize activities like Elocution, Debating, Singing, Essay writing competitions, painting Competitions, Music and dramatic performances, Exhibitions, Online resources and activities as well as events exploring the cognitive, economic, social and cultural activities of multilingual society,
- Exhibitions depicting linguistic and diverse wealth of India in at least two languages and also more.
- Matribhasha Diwas coincides with International Mother Language Day, which will be celebrated to promote the use of mother tongues

2.10 Pushkaram Festival

- Pushkaram festival is a festival of rivers that pertains to the 12 important rivers in India, It occurs once in 12 years for each river.
- In 2018, the Pushkaram festival was celebrated on the banks of the Tamiraparani in Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu.
- The Assam government is celebrating Brahmaputra Pushkaram- a 12-day mega river festival.
- Earlier, the Brahmaputra Pushkaram festival was held in 2007.
- It will be the second biggest river festival ever to be celebrated in the state of Assam after Namami Brahmaputra (State festival that celebrates the beauty of the Brahmaputra river)

2.11 AadiMahotsav

- TRIFED an organisation of Ministry of Tribal Affairs has started a new concept of organising "AadiMahotsav – National Tribal Festival".
- It aims to provide direct market access to the tribal master-craftsmen and women in large metros and State capitals.
- The concept of organising AadiMahotsav in major cities has proved to be a boon for tribal artisans by eliminating the middle man and providing direct access to large markets, otherwise impossible to reach for them.

2.12 Tara Tarini Hill Shrine

- The annual Chaitra Jatra festival at Odisha's Tara Tarini hill shrine has been cancelled as a precautionary measure against COVID-19 infection.
- The festival is held on each Tuesday in the month of Chaitra, which falls in March-April as per the English calendar.
- Tara Tarini hill shrine, located at a hilltop on banks of the Rushikulya river, is a major center of Shakti worship in Odisha.
- The twin goddesses Tara and Tarini represent one Shakti and are the main deity of Ganjam district (Odisha).
- Tara is an important deity of Mahayana Buddhist Sect.

- This temple had been built as per traditional Rekha style of Odia temple architecture, as per which famous Jagannath temple of Puri and Lingaraj temple of Bhubaneswar have been built.
- Unlike other temples, it wasn't built under the patronage of a King or a Noble, the temple was set up by a Brahmin named Basu Praharaj as per popular legend.
- Since its inception it has been an established seat of Tantrism.
- Indian Navy's sailboat INSV Tarini was named after Tara Tarini hill shrine.
- The first Indian all-woman crew had circumnavigated the globe in INSV Tarini.

2.13 Rath Yatra - Puri

- Rath Yatra or Rath Yatra is the Festival of Chariots of Lord Jagannatha is celebrated every year at Puri, the temple town in Odisha.
- It is associated with Lord Jagannath or Lord Krishna's annual journey to his aunt's residence along with his brother and sister.
- The festival is also known as Gundicha Jatra, Ghosa Jatra, Navadina Jatra, Dasavatara Jatra and by a variety of other names.
- It is the oldest Rath Yatra, whose descriptions can be found in Brahma Purana, Padma Purana, Skanda Purana and Kapila Samhita.
- The temple of Puri is dedicated to Lord Jagannath, his elder brother Balabhadra or Balaram and their sister Subhadra.
- Before the Rath Yatra starts, the three idols are given a ceremonial bath with 108 pitchers of water. This is known as Snana Yatra.
- The chariot of Lord Jagannath is named as Nandighosha or Garudadhwaaja or Kapiladhwaaja.
- Lord Krishna is the eighth avatar (incarnation) of Lord Vishnu. He is worshipped as Jagannath.
- The name comes from the conjugation of two Sanskrit words - Jagat (world) and natha (master). Hence, the word "Jagannath" means 'Master of the world'.
- Rath Yatra transcends all religious boundaries and is not only celebrated by Hindus but also draws Muslims, Buddhists and members from many other communities.

2.14 Bihu Festival

- Bihu is a set of three important Assamese festivals in the Indian state of Assam.
- Like other Indian festivals, Bihu is associated with agriculture, and rice in particular.
- There are three types of Bihu namely
 1. Rongali or Bohag Bihu (Sowing festival) - It is the most important of the three, celebrating spring festival, observed in April.
 2. Kongali or Kati Bihu (Crop protection festival) - It is the somber, thrifty one reflecting a season of short supplies and is an animistic festival, observed in October.
 3. Bhogali or Magh Bihu - It is a harvest festival, with community feasts, observed in January.
- The Rongali Bihu coincides the Assamese New year and as well as with other regions of Indian subcontinent, East Asia and South-East Asia, which follow the Hindu calendar and Buddhist calendar.
- The other two Bihu festivals are unique to Assamese people.
- The term Bihu is also used to imply Bihu dance otherwise called Bihu Naas and Bihu folk songs also called Bihu Geet.

2.15 Meru Jatra Festival

- Meru Jatra marks the end of the 21-day-long festival of penance named 'Danda Nata' in Odisha.

- Danda as the name implies, is self-inflicted pain, which the danduas (people who participate in the festival) undergo to pay their obeisance to the lord Kali.
- It is also a form of worshipping the lord Shiva and his consort Parvati.
- The origin of the festival is generally traced to 8th and 9th AD after the decadence of Buddhism in Orissa.
- On the occasion of MahavishubSankranti (odia new year) thousands of devotees used to gather at the Tara Tarini hill shrine and other temples.
- Tara Tarini hill shrine, located at a hilltop on banks of the Rushikulya river, is a major centre of Shakti worship in Odisha.
- The twin goddesses Tara and Tarini represent one Shakti and are the main deity of Ganjam district (Odisha).

2.16 Ambubachi Festival

- It is a four-day fair to mark the annual menstruation of the goddess at Kamakhya temple in Nilachal Hills in Guwahati, Assam.
- It is also considered as an occasion to promote awareness on menstrual hygiene.
- This ritualistic fair is one of the reasons why the taboo associated with menstruation is less in Assam compared with other parts of India.
- Recently, the festival was observed without mendicants, hermits and devotees for the first time in almost 500 years. The festival is celebrated since 1565.
- The attainment of womanhood of girls in Assam is celebrated with a ritual called 'TuloniBiya', meaning small wedding.
- A similar custom is followed at the Devi temple at Chengannur town in Alappuzha district of Kerala.
- The temple is shut for the days the Goddess there is believed to undergo her period.

2.17 Kamakhya Temple

- It is located atop the Nilachal Hills, in outskirts of Guwahati, Assam.
- It is one of 51 shaktipeeths or seat of Shakti followers. Shakti peeth is originated based on the story of the death of goddess Sati.
- God Shiva who held her dead body, then started his dance of destruction, causing Sati's body to disintegrate and fall into pieces. The sites where these portions of Sati goddess fell, are the Shakti peeth.
- Kamakhya temple's sanctum sanctorum houses the yoni - female genital symbolised by a rock.
- Four Major Shakti Peeths in India
 1. Jagannath Temple, Puri
 2. Kamakhya Temple near Guwahati
 3. DakshinaKalika in Kolkata
 4. Tara Tarini near Brahmapur, Odisha.

2.18 Nuakhai Juhar

- NuakhaiJuhar, also called NuakhaiParab or NuakahiBhetghat is an agricultural festival.
- It is adopted from the tribal communities of western Odisha, which is celebrated to welcome the new crop of the season.
- It traces its origin to the Vedic period in Panchyajna.
- It is widely celebrated in Western Odisha, southern Chhattisgarh and adjoining areas of Simdega (Jharkhand).
- Its coastal counterpart is Nabanna, observed in Coastal Odisha.

- Festive activities include farmers offer the first produce from their lands to Goddess Samaleswari, the famous 'Mother Goddess' of Sambalpur district of Odisha.
- Sambalpuri dance forms like Rasarkeli and Dalkhai can be witnessed during the festival.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

3.1 Lothal

- Lothal was one of the southernmost cities of the ancient Indus Valley Civilization,
- It is located in the Bhal region of the modern state of Gujarat and first inhabited c. 3700 BCE.
- Lothal had the world's earliest known dock, which connected the city to an ancient course of the Sabarmati River.
- It on the trade route between Harappan cities in Sindh and the peninsula of Saurashtra when the surrounding Kutch desert of today was a part of the Arabian Sea.
- Lothal was a vital and thriving trade Centre in ancient times, with its trade of beads, gems and valuable ornaments reaching the far corners of West Asia and Africa.
- The Lothal site has been nominated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and its application is pending on the tentative list of UNESCO.

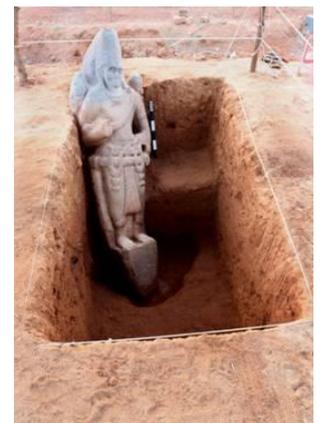


3.2 Harappan Civilization DNA Study

- A new DNA study finds 2500 BC 'Rakhigarhi' skeletons have no traces of 'Aryan gene'.
- Study examined DNA of skeletons found in Rakhigarhi, an Indus Valley Civilisation site in Haryana.
- It found that there are no traces of R1a1 or Central Asian 'steppe', gene.
- The population has no detectable ancestry from Steppe pastoralists or from Anatolian (modern day Turkey) and Iranian farmers.
- It suggests that farming in South Asia arose from local foragers rather than from large-scale migration from the West,
- The Central Asian 'steppe' gene is found in much of the Indian population today.
- These DNA in Rakhigarhi had little of any Steppe pastoralist-derived ancestry.
- It shows that it was not ubiquitous in north-west South Asia during the IVC as it is today
- The paper indicates that there was no Aryan invasion and no Aryan migration and all the developments from the hunting-gathering to modern times in South Asia were done by indigenous people.
- The paper concludes Indians came from a genetic pool predominantly belonging to an indigenous ancient civilisation.

3.3 Gottiprolu

- It is a new site excavated by Archaeological Survey of India in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- The remains of a huge settlement surrounded by a massive brick enclosure has been discovered.
- One life size Vishnu sculpture and a wide variety of pottery of the early centuries of current era have been excavated.
- The site of Gottiprolu lies on the right bank of a distributary of river Swarnamukhi in South Andhra Pradesh. It lies close to Tirupati and Nellore.



- Further explorations revealed various forms of antiquarian remains extending from Tamil Nadu and culturally linked with each other.

3.4 Lingdum Monastery

- President has recently visited Lingdum Monastery in Ranka, Sikkim.
- It is a Buddhist pilgrimage center following the Zurmang Kagyu sect of the ancient school of Tibetan Buddhism.
- The monastery symbolizes the Tibetan Buddhist architecture with a gigantic statue of Lord Buddha is enshrined at the end of the hall.

3.5 Bazeera

- The archaeological experts from Pakistan and Italy have discovered a 3000-year-old city, named Bazeera in joint excavation in northwest Pakistan.
- According to the findings in 326 B.C Alexander the Great, defeated the opponents in battle at odigram constructed the walled city named Bazeera.
- The experts also found traces of life in the city even before Alexander's period.
- Before Alexander, the followers of Indo-Greek, budhmat, Hindu Shahi and Muslims lived in the city.
- The discovery also find traces of Hindu temples, coins, stupa, pots and weapons of that period.

3.6 Nagardhan Excavations

- Archaeological excavations at Nagardhan, near Nagpur, have provided concrete evidence on the life, religious affiliations and trade practices of the Vakataka dynasty.
- It also gives clarity on Vakataka rule under Queen Prabhavatigupta.
- Oval-shaped sealing - has been traced, which belongs to the period when Prabhavatigupta was the queen of the Vakataka dynasty.
- It bears her name in the Brahmi script, along with the depiction of a conch.
- The presence of the conch is a sign of the Vaishnava affiliation that the Guptas held.
- Since the Vakataka people traded with Iran and beyond through the Mediterranean Sea, these sealings could have been used as an official royal permission issued from the capital city.
- Besides, these were used on documents that sought mandatory royal permissions.
- Copper plate - Issued by Queen Prabhavatigupta has also been found.
- It starts with a genealogy of the Guptas, mentioning the Queen's grandfather Samudragupta and her father Chandragupta II.

3.7 Pyramid of Djoser

- The Pyramid of Djoser or Step Pyramid is an archaeological remain in Egypt.
- The 6-tier, 4-sided structure is the earliest colossal stone building in Egypt.
- It was built in the 27th century BC during the Third Dynasty for the burial of Pharaoh Djoser.
- The pyramid is the central feature of a vast mortuary complex in an enormous courtyard surrounded by ceremonial structures and decoration.
- The pyramid went through several revisions and redevelopments of the original plan.
- Recently the pyramid was reopened for visitors after 14-year restoration.



3.8 Ancient North Siberians

- About 200,000-300,000 years ago, Homo sapiens – the modern humans evolved from their early hominid predecessors in Africa.
- They migrated out of Africa about 70,000-100,000 years ago to parts of Europe and Asia.
- Recently scientists have identified a previously unknown group of ancient people who lived in north eastern Siberia during the last Ice Age that lasted from about 126,000 to 11,700 years ago.
- During the Last Glacial Maximum (about 26,500 to 19,000 years ago), hunter-gatherer populations made their way from Siberia to North America through a land bridge at what is now Bering Strait.
- It was submerged at the end of the last Ice Age (that lasted from about 126,000 to 11,700 years ago).
- The people, known as the Ancient North Siberians, endured extreme conditions during the late Pleistocene (often referred to as the Ice Age).
- They were ancestors both to the first humans who inhabited the Americas (the first Peoples) and to a subsequent Siberian group (the Ancient Palaeo-Siberians).

3.9 Edakkal Caves

Recently a huge crack has developed on the eastern part of Ambukuthi hills, on which the Edakkal caves are situated.

- Edakkal Caves also Edakal, are two natural caves around 120 km south-west of Mysuru, in Wayanad district of Kerala.
- The caves are situated 1,200 m (3,900 ft) above sea level on Ambukuthi Mala, on the Mysore Plateau, in the Western Ghats.
- It is believed to be camping shelters of the **Neolithic community** (the south Indian Neolithic culture zone).
- The cave walls contain a collection of Neolithic rock engravings and images of which major part belong to late Neolithic period (i. e., first millennium BC).
- With the exception of Edakkal, no concrete evidence for the existence of a true Neolithic culture in Kerala has so far been discovered.
- The caverns at Edakkal are not technically caves, but rather a cleft, rift or rock shelter, fissure caused by a piece of rock splitting away from the main body. On one side of the cleft is a rock weighing several tons that covers the cleft to form the "roof" of the cave.

3.10 Cairn Circles

Recently, the State Department of Archaeology, Chennai has identified 250 cairn-circles from the Kodumanal excavation site in Tamil Nadu.

- A megalith is a large prehistoric stone that has been used to construct a structure or monument, either alone or together with other stones.
- Cairn-circles are the prehistoric stone row which is a linear arrangement of parallel megalithic standing stones.
- Other types of megaliths are
 1. **Dolmenoid cists** - Box-shaped stone burial chambers,
 2. **Capstones** - Distinctive mushroom-shaped burial chambers (found mainly in Kerala)

Kodumanal

- Kodumanal is a village located in the Erode district in Tamil Nadu.
- The place is an important archaeological site.
- It is located on the northern banks of Noyyal River, a tributary of the Cauvery.
- The earlier excavations of Kodumanal revealed that multi-ethnic groups lived in the village.
- It also revealed that the site served as a trade-cum-industrial centre from 5th century BCE to 1st century BCE.

3.11 Adichanallur Excavations

Recently, at a maidan excavation, more than 35 burial urns have been retrieved from the site.

- Adichanallur is an archaeological site in Thoothukudi district in Tamil Nadu.
- It is known as the 'Cradle of ancient Tamil civilization'.

- Korkai, the capital of the Early Pandyan Kingdom, is located about 15 km from Adichanallur.
- Carbon dating of samples excavated in 2004 from this site has revealed that they belonged to the period between 1000 BC and 600 BC.
- Sivakalai near Eral, in Adichanallur is one of the important sites.

4. HERITAGE

4.1 Protection of Historical Monuments

- Government is planning a review list of monuments protected under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and the ones protected by the State governments.
- At present, 3,691 monuments nationwide are protected by the ASI, with the highest number, 745, in Uttar Pradesh.
- The list of the centrally protected monuments had not seen a substantial increase in many years, and important sites under the State governments could be added to the list.
- There are also some monuments that could be removed from the Central list and placed under the State governments.
- If reviewed the list of centrally protected monuments can go up to 10,000.
- In Tamil Nadu alone, there are about 7,000 temples, many of which are hundreds of years old.
- In India there is a ban on construction within 100 meters of a centrally protected monument and regulated construction within 100-200 meters under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.
- The Act protects monuments and sites that are over 100 years old.

4.2 UNESCO World Heritage Sites

- A World Heritage Site is a landmark or area, selected by the UNESCO for having cultural, historical, scientific or other form of significance, which is legally protected by international treaties.
- The sites are judged to be important for the collective and preservative interests of humanity.
- To be selected, a World Heritage Site must be an already-classified landmark, unique in some respect as a geographically and historically identifiable place having special cultural or physical significance.
- It can be an ancient ruin or historical structure, building, city, complex, desert, forest, island, lake, monument, mountain, or wilderness area.
- It may signify a remarkable accomplishment of humanity, and serve as evidence of our intellectual history on the planet.
- The sites are intended for practical conservation for posterity, which otherwise would be subject to risk from human or animal trespassing, unmonitored/uncontrolled/unrestricted access, or threat from local administrative negligence.
- Sites are demarcated by UNESCO as protected zones.
- The list is maintained by the international World Heritage Program administered by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, composed of 21 "states parties" that are elected by their General Assembly.
- The programme catalogues, names, and conserves sites of outstanding cultural or natural importance to the common culture and heritage of humanity.
- Under certain conditions, listed sites can obtain funds from the World Heritage Fund.
- The programme began with the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World's Cultural and Natural Heritage, which was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1972.
- Since then, 193 state parties have ratified the convention, making it one of the most widely recognized international agreements and the world's most popular cultural programme.

World Heritage Sites in India

- At present, India has 38 World Heritage Sites, The details of India's World Heritage Sites are as below,

Cultural Sites (30)

Under Protection of Archaeological Survey of India (22)

S.No	Name of Site	State
1.	Agra Fort (1983)	Uttar Pradesh
2.	Ajanta Caves (1983)	Maharashtra
3.	Ellora Caves (1983)	Maharashtra
4.	Taj Mahal (1983)	Uttar Pradesh
5.	Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram (1984)	Tamil Nadu
6.	Sun Temple, Konarak (1984)	Odisha
7.	Churches and Convents of Goa (1986)	Goa
8.	Fatehpur Sikri (1986)	Uttar Pradesh
9.	Group of Monuments at Hampi (1986)	Karnataka
10.	Khajuraho, Group of Temples (1986)	Madhya Pradesh
11.	Elephanta Caves (1987)	Maharashtra
12.	Great Living Chola Temples at Thanjavur, Gangaikondacholapuram & Darasuram (1987 & 2004)	Tamil Nadu
13.	Group of Monuments at Pattadakal (1987)	Karnataka
14.	Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi (1989)	Madhya Pradesh
15.	Humayun's Tomb, Delhi (1993)	Delhi
16.	Qutb Minar and its Monuments, Delhi (1993)	Delhi
17.	Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka (2003)	Madhya Pradesh
18.	Champaner-Pavagarh Archaeological Park (2004)	Gujarat
19.	Red Fort Complex, Delhi (2007)	Delhi
20.	Hill Forts of Rajasthan (Chittaurgarh, Kumbhalgarh, Jaisalmer and Ranthambhore, Amber and Gagron Forts) (2013) (Amber and Gagron Forts are under protection of Rajasthan State Archaeology and Museums)	Rajasthan
21.	Rani-ki-Vav (The Queen's Stepwell) at Patan (2014)	Gujarat



22.	Archaeological Site of Nalanda <i>Mahavihara</i> (Nalanda University) at Nalanda (2016)	Bihar
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Under Protection of Ministry of Railways (2)

23.	Mountain Railways of India (Darjeeling,1999), Nilgiri (2005), Kalka-Shimla(2008)	West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh
24.	Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus) (2004)	Maharashtra

Under Protection of Bodhgaya Temple Management Committee (1)

25	Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya, (2002)	Bihar
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Under Protection of Rajasthan State Archaeology and Museums (1)

26.	The Jantar Mantar, Jaipur (2010)	Rajasthan
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Under Protection of Chandigarh Administration (1)

27.	The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier, an Outstanding Contribution to the Modern Movement (2016)	Chandigarh
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Under Protection of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (1)

28.	Historic City of Ahmedabad (2017)	Gujarat
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Under Protection of Bombay Municipal Corporation (1)

29.	Victorian and Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai (2018)	Govt of Maharashtra
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Under Protection of Jaipur Municipal Corporation (1)

30.	Jaipur City, Rajasthan (2019)	Govt of Rajasthan
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Natural Sites (7)

Under Protection of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Changes

31.	Kaziranga National Park (1985)	Assam
32.	Keoladeo National Park (1985)	Rajasthan
33.	Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (1985)	Assam
34.	Sunderbans National Park (1987)	West Bengal
35.	Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks (1988, 2005)	Uttarakhand
36.	Western Ghats (2012)	Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu
37	Great Himalayan National Park (2014)	Himachal Pradesh

Mixed Site (1)

Under Protection of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Changes

38.	Khangchendzonga National Park (2016)	Sikkim
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4.3 World Heritage List for the year 2020

- UNESCO seeks to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity.
- This is embodied in an international treaty called the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by UNESCO in 1972.
- UNESCO's World Heritage mission is to encourage countries to sign the World Heritage Convention and to ensure the protection of their natural and cultural heritage.
- It encourage States Parties to the Convention to nominate sites within their national territory for inclusion on the World Heritage List.
- Once the sites gets nominated it is referred to World Heritage Centre (WHC) for completeness check.
- Inputs received from WHC have been conveyed to the State Government for further incorporation.
- After the approval of official entry into world heritage sites list UNSECO help States Parties safeguard World Heritage properties by providing technical assistance and professional training.
- It also provides emergency assistance for World Heritage sites in immediate danger.
- Recently India has nominated 'Dholavira: A Harappan City' and 'Monuments and Forts of Deccan Sultanate' for inclusion in the World Heritage List.
- Govt. of Madhya Pradesh has submitted the proposal of 'Group of Monuments at Mandu' in the year 2019.
- M.P has also proposed Bhedaghat (Narmada Valley) as one of the recommended potential site subject to criteria set by UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

4.4 Jaipur gets UNESCO World Heritage Tag

- Jaipur is a fortified city in Rajasthan.
- It is known for its iconic architectural legacy and vibrant culture.
- It is also known as the **Walled City**, the **Pink City**.
- It was founded in 1727 by **Sawai Jai Singh II**.
- Unlike other cities in the region located in hilly terrain, Jaipur was established on the plain and built according to a grid plan interpreted in the light of Vedic architecture.
- The city's urban planning shows an exchange of ideas from ancient Hindu and modern Mughal as well as Western cultures.
- Its iconic monuments such as the Govind Dev temple, City Palace, Jantar Mantar and Hawa Mahal excel in artistic and architectural craftsmanship of the period.
- Jaipur is an expression of the astronomical skills, living traditions, unique urban form.
- The city was nominated for its value of being an exemplary development in town planning and architecture and got UNESCO World Heritage tag.
- With this inclusion, the number of UNESCO World Heritage sites across India has grown to **38**, including 30 cultural properties, 7 natural properties and 1 mixed site.
- **Ahmedabad** became the first Indian city to get into the list.
- Apart from Jaipur, other cultural sites that have been designated as World Heritage site recently are,
 1. The Dilmun Burial Mounds in Bahrain

2. The Budj Bim cultural landscape in Australia
3. The archaeological ruins of Liangzhu city in China
4. The Ombilin coal mining heritage of Indonesia's Sawahlunto
5. The mounded tombs of ancient Japan and
6. Megalithic Jar Sites in Laos' Xiengkhouang.

4.5 Prosecco Hills

- **Italy's Prosecco hills** join UNESCO World Heritage list.
- The hills of **Conegliano** and **Valdobbiadene** are the home to the **grapes** that produce **world-famous sparkling Wine 'Prosecco'**.
- The landscape is characterized by ciglioni, small plots of vines on narrow grassy terraces, forests, small villages and farmland.
- Its the ancient tradition of wine-making and the territory is known for its well-preserved early settlements.

4.6 UNESCO's List of Intangible Cultural Heritage

- Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity is annually released by UNESCO.
- This coveted list is made up of those intangible heritage elements that help demonstrate diversity of cultural heritage and raise awareness about its importance.
- The list was established in 2008 when Convention for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage came into effect.
- It has two parts viz. Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of urgent safeguarding.
- District or State administration will nominate any cultural heritage to enter into the list to UNESCO through Sangeet Natak Akademi in New Delhi, which is the nodal center for such work in the country.
- UNESCO will take over a year to decide on the matter once the nomination is submitted.
- From India the Intangible Cultural Heritages added into this list include:
 1. Tradition of Vedic chanting
 2. Ramlila, the traditional performance of the Ramayana
 3. Kutiyattam, Sanskrit theatre
 4. Ramman, religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas.
 5. Mudi yettu, ritual theatre and dance drama of Kerala
 6. Kalbelia folk songs and dances of Rajasthan
 7. Chhau dance of Odisha
 8. Buddhist chanting of Ladakh: recitation of sacred Buddhist texts in the trans-Himalayan Ladakh region, Jammu and Kashmir.
 9. Sankirtana, ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur.
 10. Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, Punjab
 11. Yoga
 12. Nawrouz
 13. Kumbh Mela

4.7 New Additions to Intangible Cultural Heritage List

Culture Ministry published a draft list of more than 100 items that are to be listed as intangible cultural heritage.

- UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage is made up of those intangible heritage elements that help demonstrate diversity of cultural heritage and raise awareness about its importance.
- The list was established in 2008 when Convention for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage came into effect.
- As per the 2003 UNESCO Convention for Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, the list has five broad categories
 1. Oral traditions,
 2. Performing arts,
 3. Social practices,
 4. Knowledge and practices related to nature,
 5. Traditional craftsmanship.

Additions in the draft list -

- Traditional folk festival, Pachoti in Assam - where the birth of a baby, particularly a male infant as the tradition "relates to the birth of Krishna", is celebrated with relatives and neighbours,
- Oral traditions of the transgender community called **KinnarKanthgeet**
- Compositions of **Ameer Khusro** are among the entries from Delhi.
- **Gujarat's Patola silk textiles** from Patan with its geometric and figurative patterns also made it to the list.
- The practice of tying a turban or safa across Rajasthan was a part of the list.
- **Kalam Bhat** or Qalambaft gharana of Sufiana music in Budgam district, from Jammu and Kashmir.
- The making of khor, a rice beer, by the **Tangkhul community in Manipur** as well as other crafts associated with it, like making gourd vessels and wicker baskets, were also on the list.
- **Kalaripayattu** - Kerala's martial art form
- Practice of making **Kolam**, designs at the entrance of homes and temples in Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.
- **Different forms of shadow puppet theatre**
 1. ChamadyachaBahulya in Maharashtra,
 2. Tolu Bommalatta in Andhra Pradesh,
 3. TogaluGombeyatta in Karnataka,
 4. Tolu Bommalattam in Tamil Nadu,
 5. TolpavaKuthu in Kerala
 6. Ravanchhaya in Orissa

Heritage Sites

- In 1982, the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) announced, 18 April as the "World Heritage Day", approved by the General Assembly of UNESCO in 1983.
- A World Heritage site is classified as a natural or man-made area or a structure that is of international importance, and a space which requires special protection.
- These sites are officially recognized by the UNESCO.
- **India ranks sixth** in the largest number of heritage sites in the world, there are a total of 38 heritage sites in India.

4.8 UNESCO Tentative List

- A tentative list is an inventory of properties which a state party considers to be cultural and/or natural heritage of outstanding universal value, and therefore suitable for inscription on the World Heritage List.
- A position on a country's tentative list does not automatically tender that site with world heritage status.
- The tentative list simply provides a tool for planning and advocacy of a nation's outstanding natural and cultural heritage, and assists the World Heritage Committee to assess the context from which a country's particular nominations are made.

- According to the rules, to be a part of UNESCO's World Heritage sites, the heritage or any historical site first has to be on the tentative list.
- After it makes to the tentative list, another proposal is sent to the UNESCO for World Heritage Site recognition.

4.9 Kailash Mansarovar

- UNESCO has included the Indian part of Kailash Mansarovar in its tentative list of world heritage sites.
- Kailash Mansarovar is in the mixed category of the list, both as a natural as well as a cultural heritage.
- Covering an area of 6,836 sq km within India, the area is flanked in the east by Nepal and bordered by China on the north.
- The Indian site is part of the larger landscape of 31,000 sq km referred to as the 'Kailash Sacred Landscape' constituting the Mount Kailash and Lake Mansarovar in the remote south-western portion of the Tibet Autonomous Region of China and adjacent districts in the far-western region of Nepal.
- Both China and Nepal have proposed the landscape as a world heritage site to UNESCO.
- The Indian portion of the landscape in the State of Uttarakhand comprises four major watersheds viz. the Panar-Saryu, the Saryu-Ramganga, the Gori-Kali and the Dhauli-Kali.

4.10 Orchha Monuments

- The architectural heritage of Orchha have been included in UNESCO's tentative list of world heritage sites following a proposal sent by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to the U.N. body.
- Orchha is a town in Madhya Pradesh which depict peculiar style of the Bundela dynasty.
- Orchha is situated on the banks of the Betwa River, it was built by King Rudra Pratap Singh of Bundela dynasty in the 16th century.
- The ancient town is famous for its Chaturbhuj Temple, Orchha fort complex, Raja Mahal among others.
- Orchha is also famous for its two elevated minaret called Saavan and Bhadon and its four palaces Jahangir Palace, Raj Mahal, Sheesh Mahal and Rai Praveen Mahal and for its concept of open bungalows, stone work windows, animal statues depicting the culture of Bundelkhand.
- It is the only place in India where Lord Ram is worshipped as a king with a dedicated temple in his name called Sri Ram Raja Mandir.

4.11 Ger or 'Phag Yatra'

- Indore district administration plans to nominate 'Ger', a traditional Holi procession, for UNESCO's list of intangible cultural heritage.
- 'Ger' or 'Phag Yatra' is a procession that is taken out on Rang Panchami in different parts of Madhya Pradesh's Indore city during the five-day Holi festivities.
- Efforts are also being made to observe 'Ger' in traditional Holkar style.
- The tradition of Ger in Indore was started under the Holkar dynasty, when royals would take to streets to celebrate Holi with the general public.

Holkar Dynasty

- The Holkar dynasty was a Maratha clan of Dhangar origin in India.
- The Holkars were generals under Peshwa Baji Rao I, and later became Maharajas of Indore in Central India as an independent member of the Maratha Empire until 1818.
- Later, their kingdom became a princely state under the protectorate of British India.
- The dynasty was founded with Malhar Rao, who joined the service of the Peshwas Baji Rao of the Maratha Empire in 1721, and quickly rose to the rank of Subedar.
- Malhar Rao Holkar (1694-1766) established the dynasty's rule over Indore.

- The name of the dynasty was associated with the title of the ruler, who was known informally as Holkar Maharaja.

4.12 World Monument Watch

- The World Monuments Watch is a biennial selection program of ‘at-risk cultural heritage sites’ that combine great historical significance with contemporary social impact.
- It is a nomination-based program uses cultural heritage conservation to empower communities and improve human well-being.
- It was launched in 1995 on the 30th anniversary of World Monuments Fund to identify imperilled cultural heritage sites and provide direct financial and technical support for their preservation.
- The program also seeks to improve the resilience of communities, enhance social inclusion, and build new capacities in the heritage conservation field and beyond.
- Anyone can nominate a site to the World Monuments Watch, including private individuals and representatives of civil society organizations, community groups, government agencies, educational institutions, or other entities.

World Monument Fund

- World Monuments Fund is a private nonprofit organization.
- It was founded in 1965 by individuals concerned about the accelerating destruction of important artistic treasures throughout the world.

4.13 Suranga Bawadi

- Suranga Bawadi which is situated in Bijapur Karnataka has entered the World Monuments Watch List under “Ancient Water System of the Deccan Plateau” of the World Monument Funds.
- It is an integral part of the **ancient Karez System** of supplying water through subterranean tunnels.
- It was built by Adil Shah-I of Adilshahi dynasty of Bijapur in the 16th century to supply water to Vijayapura in Karnataka.

4.14 Cultural Heritage of Iran

- Iran is home to one of the world’s oldest civilizations dating back to 10,000 BC.
- Its rich heritage and culture is an amalgam of Arab, Persian, Turkish and South Asian cultures.
- Twenty-four Iranian sites are on UNESCO’s World Heritage List, two of which are natural sites and the rest cultural sites.
- Among the main World Heritage Sites in Iran are
- Meidan Emam and Masjed-e-Jame in Isfahan;
- Golestan Palace in the historic heart of Tehran;
- Pasargadae and Persepolis, capitals of the Achaemenid Empire, founded by Cyrus II and Darius I in the 6th century BC
- Archaeological site of Takht-e Soleyman, which has the remains of an ancient Zoroastrian sanctuary.

4.15 Conventions against targeting of cultural heritage

- Following the unparalleled destruction of cultural heritage in World War II, the nations of the world adopted at The Hague in 1954.
- The Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, the first international treaty focused exclusively on the protection of cultural heritage during war and armed conflict.
- The Convention defined cultural property as “movable or immovable property of great importance to the cultural heritage of every people, such as monuments of architecture, art or history, whether religious or secular; archaeological sites....”, etc.

- The signatories, referred to in the Convention as “the High Contracting Parties”, committed themselves to protecting, safeguarding, and having respect for cultural property.
- There are currently 133 signatories to Convention, including countries that have acceded to and ratified the treaty.
- Both the United States and Iran (as well as India) signed the Convention on May 14, 1954, and it entered into force on August 7, 1956.

Cultural properties destroyed during wars

- **Dubrovnik** - During the Siege of Dubrovnik in 1991-92 by the Yugoslav People’s Army, the old town of Dubrovnik in Croatia was targeted in an attempt to wipe out Croatian history and cultural heritage.
- **Stari Most bridge** - During the Croat-Bosniak war, Croat paramilitary forces destroyed the 16th century Stari Most bridge in Mostar in today’s Bosnia-Herzegovina, in 1993.
- **Bamiyan** - In 2001, the Taliban destroyed statues of the Buddha that had been carved into sandstone cliffs in Bamiyan, Afghanistan, between the 3rd and 6th centuries AD.
- **Cambodia’s cultural assets** - In 2006, the UN and the Cambodian government established the Khmer Rouge Tribunal to prosecute the destruction of Cambodia’s cultural assets that included mosques, churches and temples along with other sites of cultural significance.
- **Palmyra** - In 2015, the IS captured and destroyed the ancient Syrian city of Palmyra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

4.16 UNESCO Creative City

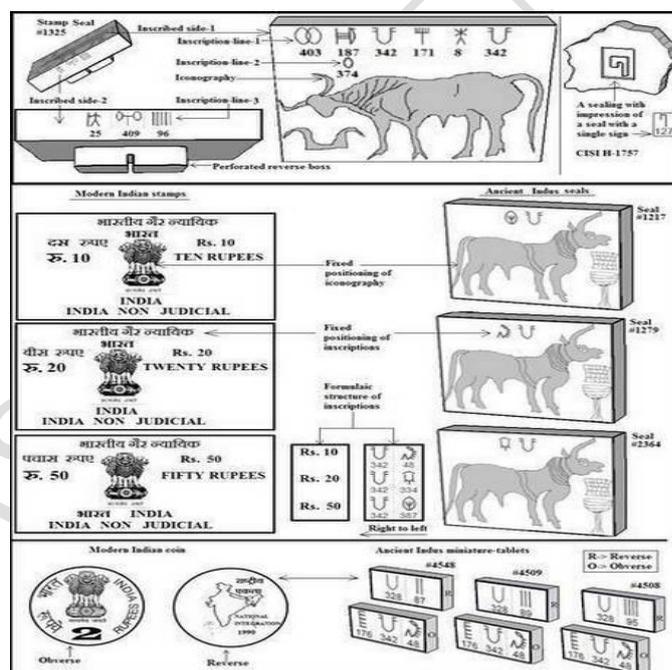
- The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) was launched in 2004 to promote cooperation among cities which recognized creativity as a major factor in their urban development.
- It aims to foster mutual international cooperation with and between member cities committed to investing in creativity as a driver for sustainable urban development, social inclusion and cultural vibrancy.
- The Network recognizes the following creative fields:
 1. Crafts and Folk Arts
 2. Media Arts
 3. Film
 4. Design
 5. Gastronomy
 6. Literature
 7. Music
- The overall situation and activities within the Network are reported in the UCCN Membership Monitoring Reports, each for a 4-year period for a particular city.
- The Network recognizes the concept of creative tourism, defined as a travel associated with creative experience and participation
- The following three Indian cities has been added to UCCN - Varanasi for Music, Jaipur for Crafts and Folk Art and Chennai for Music.
- To become part of the network of 180 cities, where development is believed to be intricately linked to their creative traditions.
- **Recent Developments**– Hyderabad has now been officially designated as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy and Mumbai in Film Category on the occasion of World Cities Day 2019.
- These 2 cities are among 66 cities named by the UNESCO in the list of new Creative Cities which aims at pushing the Sustainable Development Goals through innovative thinking and action.
- Hyderabad is the city of biryanis, kebabs, haleem, kallu, shikampur and chowki dinners.

- Pre-Islamic Kakatiya cuisines (12th century) have interacted in an incredible fashion with the arrival of Turks in 15th century, followed by Mughal influences in the 17th century.

5. LANGUAGES

5.1 Indus Script

- It is the earliest form of writing known in the Indian subcontinent, developed by the ‘Indus Valley Civilization’.
- It is also known as the Harappan script.
- The origin of this script is poorly understood and it remains undeciphered.
- The languages that the script represents is still unknown and its connection with proper Indian writing systems is uncertain.
- There is no known bilingual inscription to help to decipher the script.
- The earliest known examples of the Indus Script signs, attested on ‘Ravi’ and ‘Kot Diji pottery’ was excavated at Harappa.
- It dates back to early Harappan phase (3500-2700 BCE).
- Examples of Indus writing has been found on seals pottery, bronze tools, stoneware bangles, bones, ivory.
- Square stamp seals are the dominant form of Indus writing media.
- The Indus Script was generally written from right to left but there are some exceptions where the writing is bidirectional.
- It combined both word signs and symbols with phonetic value.
- This type of writing system is known as "logo-syllabic", where some symbols express ideas or words while others represent sounds.
- A majority of the Indus Valley inscriptions were written ‘logographically’ (by using word signs).
- Indus Script sometimes used ‘**rebus principle**’, where a word-symbol used only for its sound value.
- E.g The combination of the pictures of a honey bee and a leaf to signify the word “belief” (bee+leaf).
- The Indus script has been assigned the **ISO 15924** code “**Inds**”.



5.2 Indo-European language origins

- Largest-ever study of ancient human DNA illuminates the Indo-European language origins.
- It indicated that Indo-European languages, arrived in Europe via the steppes.
 1. Indo-European languages are the world’s biggest language group.
 2. It includes Hindi-Urdu, Farsi, Russian, English, French, Gaelic and more than 400 other languages.
- It suggests that the mass migration of Bronze Age herders from Eurasian Steppes, starting 5,000 years ago, westward to Europe and east to Asia.
- Despite being spread over a vast area encompassing myriad cultures, these languages share uncanny similarities in syntax, numbers, basic adjectives and numerous nouns.
- The study also found that the present-day speakers of both these groups descend from a subgroup of steppe herders.

- They moved west toward Europe 5,000 years ago, then spread back east to Central and South Asia in the following 1,500 years.
- It also found that,
 1. South Asians who today speak Dravidian languages (mainly in southern India and southwestern Pakistan) had very little steppe DNA.
 2. While those who speak Indo-European languages like Hindi, Punjabi, Bengali have far more.
- As far as agriculture is concerned, prior work has found that farming spread to Europe via people of Anatolian ancestry.
- The study also points out that these steppe land herders have left their genetic mark on most Europeans living today.

5.3 Classical Status for Marathi

- A proposal for granting **classical language** status to **Marathi** is under ‘**active consideration**’.
- Marathi is an Indo-Aryan language of western and central India.
- It is the **official language of Maharashtra** and co-official language in Goa.
- It is descended from the ‘**Mahārāṣṭrī Prākṛit**, Marāṭhī literature books are printed in **Devanāgarī script**, which is also used for handwriting.
- Although for handwriting there is also an alternate cursive form of Devanāgarī called **Modi**.
- **Marathi** gained prominence with the rise of the **Maratha Empire** beginning with the reign of Chhatrapati Shivaji (1674–1680).
- **Criteria** for Classical language status,
 1. High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years.
 2. A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers.
 3. The literary tradition is original and not borrowed from another speech community.
 4. The classical language and literature being distinct from modern, there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.
- Current Classical Languages in India are,
 1. Tamil (since 2004)
 2. Sanskrit (since 2005)
 3. Telugu (since 2008)
 4. Kannada (Since 2008)
 5. Malayalam (since 2013)
 6. Odiya (since 2014)
- Benefit of declaring Indian language as the Classical Language,
 1. A **Centre of Excellence for Studies** in Classical Languages will be set up.
 2. The UGC can be requested to create, a certain number of **professional chairs** for classical languages, for scholars of eminence in the concerned language in Central Universities.
 3. Two major annual international awards for scholars of eminence in the classical language.

5.4 Marsiya Poetry in India

- The word ‘Marsiya’ means ‘**Elegy**’, meaning a poem which is a lament for the dead.
- Recently, Former Vice President, praised Marsiya tradition of Urdu poetry, calling the art form an important part of ‘**Adab**’ (literature)
- Marsiya poetry, holds special significance for **Shia Muslims**.

- It is a form of literary expression that is dedicated to describing the persona of ‘Imam Hussain’,
 1. He is the grandson of the Prophet and a revered figure in the Islamic world.
 2. He and his kin underwent hardships during the historic Battle of Karbala.
 3. It praise his family members who died at the Battle of Karbala in the year 680 CE in present-day Iraq.
- Marsiya is typically read in the month of Muharram.
- The Marsiya tradition first evolved in Delhi and the Deccan.
- It reached its zenith under the patronage of the Nawabs of Lucknow,
 1. He encouraged the art form in 18th and 19th centuries around the same time when Mughal power was steadily receding.
- Its most iconic poets are ‘**Mir Anis**’ and ‘**Mirza Dabir**’, who made a profound impact on Marsiya.
- Marsiya is usually sung, and set to Indian Ragas, creating a fusion of music and poetry.

5.5 Seke Language

- Nepalese language Seke is reported to be “near-extinct” which has only 700 speakers around the world.
- According to the Endangered Language Alliance (ELA), Seke is one of the over 100 indigenous languages of Nepal and is mainly spoken in the five villages of Chuksang, Chaile, Gyakar, Tangbe and Tetang in the Upper Mustang district.
- The dialects from these villages differ substantially and are believed to have varying degrees of mutual intelligibility.
- In recent years, Seke has been retreating in the face of Nepali, which is Nepal’s official language and is considered to be crucial for getting educational and employment opportunities outside villages.
- According to ELA, difficult conditions at home and job prospects elsewhere have brought speakers of Seke to places such as Pokhara, Kathmandu and even New York.
- Therefore, the vulnerability of the language is linked to the migration of people to places where Seke is not spoken, which has reduced the intergenerational transmission of the language.
- Furthermore, the younger generation does not find much use in learning the language, giving preference to Nepali and English.

5.6 International Mother Language Day

- February 21 was International Mother Language Day.
- It has been observed since 1999 to promote “linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism”.
- UNESCO declared International Mother Language Day in 1999, to commemorate a 1952 protest against West Pakistan’s imposition of Urdu as the official language of East Pakistan (present-day Bangladesh).
- Globally, English remains the most widely spoken language with 1.13 billion speakers in 2019, followed by Mandarin with 1.17
- Hindi is third with 615 million speakers while Bengali is seventh with 265 million.
- In India, Hindi is the most spoken language with over 528 million speakers in 2011, as per the Census.
- Bengali had 97.2 million speakers in 2011, followed by Marathi (83 million), while other languages with over 50 million speakers are Telugu (81 million), Tamil (69 million), Gujarati (55.5 million) and Urdu (50.8 million).
- Percentage trends from 1991 to 2011 underline the growth of the most widely spoken language, Hindi, which was spoken by 39.29% of the Indian population in 1991, and whose share grew to 43.63% in 2011.
- For other languages in India’s top 12, the 2011 percentage share has fallen when compared to that in 1991.
- Of the world’s 6,000 languages, 43% are estimated as endangered, according to the UN.

- On the other hand, just 10 languages account for as many as 4.8 billion speakers over 60% of the world population.

5.7 International year of Indigineous Languages

- In 2016, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages.
- International Mother Language Day is celebrated every year on the 21st of February to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism.
- Since 2019 is also the International Year of Indigenous Languages, the theme of this year's Mother Language Day is Indigenous Languages as a factor in development, peace and reconciliation.
 1. 2024 – International Year of Camelids
 2. 2022 – International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture
 3. 2020 – International Year of Plant Health
 4. 2019 – International Year of Indigenous Languages

5.8 Sanskrit Language

- Sanskrit is an Indo-Aryan language of the ancient Indian subcontinent with a 3,500-year history.
- It is the primary liturgical language of Hinduism and the predominant language of most works of Hindu philosophy as well as some of the principal texts of Buddhism and Jainism.
- Sanskrit, in its variants and numerous dialects, was the lingua franca of ancient and medieval India.
- In the early 1st millennium CE, along with Buddhism and Hinduism, Sanskrit migrated to Southeast Asia, parts of East Asia and Central Asia, emerging as a language of high culture and of local ruling elites in these regions.
- Sanskrit traces its linguistic ancestry to the Proto-Indo-Aryan language, Proto-Indo-Iranian and the Proto-Indo-European languages.
- Sanskrit is traceable to the 2nd millennium BCE in a form known as Vedic Sanskrit, with the Rigveda as the earliest-known composition.
- A more refined and standardized grammatical form called Classical Sanskrit emerged in the mid-1st millennium BCE with the Aṣṭadhyayi treatise of Paṇini.
- It is the root language of many Prakrit languages, Examples include numerous, modern, North Indian, subcontinental daughter languages such as Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Punjabi, Gujarati, Sindhi, Kashmiri, Kumaoni, Garhwali, Urdu, Dogri, Maithili, Konkani, Assamese, Odia, and Nepali.
- The body of Sanskrit literature encompasses a rich tradition of philosophical and religious texts, as well as poetry, music, drama, scientific, technical and other texts.
- The earliest known inscriptions in Sanskrit are from the 1st century BCE, such as the few discovered in Ayodhya and Ghosundi-Hathibada (Chittorgarh).
- It is one of the 22 languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India, it has only 24,821 speakers (according to 2011 Census).
- It continues to be widely used as a ceremonial and ritual language in Hinduism and some Buddhist practices such as hymns and chants.

5.9 Kaka Hathrasi

- Kaka Hathrasi is counted among the foremost poets of 'haasya' (humour) and 'vyanga' (satire) in Hindi literature.
- Born Prabhulal Garg on September 18, 1906, he took the name 'Kaka Hathrasi' based on his hometown, Hathras in Uttar Pradesh, and on the popular character of a 'Kaka' (uncle) he had essayed in a play.

- His poetry looks at politics, social ills, the pomposity of the cultural elite, the everyday struggles of middle-class life with the same razor-sharp, but good-natured gaze.
- Hathrasi was honoured with the Padma Shri in 1985 for his contributions to Hindi literature.
- Apart from humour, he wrote on classical dance and music under the pen name 'Vasant'. Kaka Hathrasi was also an accomplished painter.
- He founded a whole new genre of humour-writing, which authors since then have tried to emulate.

6. TRIBES & FOLK ARTS

6.1 Toda Tribes

- Toda Tribe is a pastoral tribe of the Nilgiri Hills of southern India.
- They live in settlements of from three to seven small thatched houses.
- They traditionally trade dairy products, as well as cane and bamboo articles, with the other Nilgiri peoples.
- The **Toda language is Dravidian** but is the most unusual and different among the languages belonging to the Dravidian family.
- Toda Embroidery is very famous it is known as pohor in Toda language.
- The traditional Toda dress is a distinctive shawl which is called putukuli.
- The embroidery is done by Toda women and has distinctive red and black (and occasionally blue) thread work in geometric designs on unbleached white cotton fabric.



6.2 Katkari Tribes

- Katkaris are located primarily in Raigad and in parts of Palghar, Ratnagiri and Thane districts of Maharashtra as well as in some places of Gujarat.
- They are one of the 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), who are historically forest dwellers.
- The name Katkari is derived from a forest-based activity – the making and bartering or sale of Catechu from the Khair tree (Acacia Katechu).
- Catechu is an extract of acacia trees used variously as a food additive, dye, etc. It is extracted by boiling the wood in water and evaporating the resulting brew.
- The British administration had classified them under the Criminal Tribes Act, 1871.
- Recently Katkari tribal youth from Shahpur in Maharashtra are making a name by selling Giloy and other products online during lockdown.
- Giloy (*Tinospora Cordifolia*) is an Ayurvedic herb that has been used and advocated in Indian medicine for ages.

6.3 Tribal Lockdown Rituals

- Tribes in Arunachal Pradesh have revived indigenous lockdown rituals to contain the spread of COVID-19.
- It is to be noted that state of Arunachal Pradesh is geographically closest to China's Hubei province where the COVID-19 outbreak began.
- The tribes which follow self-quarantine are as follows

Galos Tribe

- The Galos, which are one of the 26 major tribes of Arunachal Pradesh that dominate West Siang district practised the Arr-Rinam ritual.
- The Galo community has been recognized as a Scheduled Tribe in the Amendment to the Constitution (ST), Order, 1950, Part-XVIII.

- Mopin is the main festival in Galos which is celebrated for the prosperity of the villages.
- The Galos perform Popir dance.
- Arr-Rinam is the Galo equivalent of lockdown imposed by consensus for 48 hours whenever an epidemic strikes.
- The Arr-Rinam follows the Ali-Ternam (the word Ali means epidemic and Ternam means forestall) ritual to ward off an epidemic.
- These rituals were last performed almost four decades ago when a water-borne disease had affected many members of the community.
- However, these rituals have been performed periodically for livestock, primarily the semi-wild animal mithun, that are prone to contagious diseases.
- This is for the first time in 30-40 years that the rituals were performed for the safety of humans.
- The Bos or deputy priests performed the Ali-Ternam under the guidance of a Nyibo (shaman).
- The ritual ended with the community leaders sealing five major entry points of the district.

Adi Tribe

- The Adi tribe of Arunachal Pradesh is believed to have come from southern China in the 16th century.
- They are the Tibeto-Burman language speaking population.
- They reside in the far north inhabiting East Siang and Lower Dibang Valley districts of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The Adis are experts at making cane and bamboo items.
- Solung (harvesting festival where animal sacrifices and rituals are performed) and Aran (a hunting festival where all the male members of the family go for hunting) are two major festivals of the Adi tribes.
- The Adi community perform lock down ritual called the motor or pator system in the Adi (tribe) dialect.
- This is a customary self-restriction, where the locals lock down several villages by erecting barricades to prevent the entry of outsiders.
- No person is allowed to enter or leave the villages.
- They believe that this ritual lets shamans with legendary powers to locate wild herbs to combat an epidemic.

Nyishi Tribe

- Nyishi Tribes also called Bangni are the tribal people of eastern Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh (formerly North East Frontier Agency).
- Nyishi is a Scheduled Tribe.
- It is the single largest tribe of Arunachal Pradesh.
- They speak the Tibeto-Burman language of the Sino-Tibetan family.
- The Nyishi support themselves with slash-and-burn agriculture and with hunting and fishing.
- They live together in a longhouse without partitions but with a separate fireplace for each conjugal family.
- Aside from a patrilineal household there is no formal social organization or village government.
- Their religion involves belief in spirits associated with nature.
- In districts such as Papum Pare and East Kameng, the dominant Nyishi community observed Arrue involving self-quarantine.

6.4 Siddi Community

Shantharam, India's first legislator from Siddi community was elected as Member of Legislative Council of Karnataka.

- Siddi Community is a small group of the community believed to be descendants of the Bantu people from Southeast Africa.

- They spread along the coast of Karnataka, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Andhra Pradesh.
- It is an ethnic African group brought to India in the early 17th century by the Portuguese.
- They are included in the list of the Scheduled Tribes in Karnataka.

6.5 Bon Bibi

- Bon Bibi is a deity of the Sunderban forest, west Bengal.
- The followers of Bon Bibi are fishermen, crab-collectors and honey-gatherers who live in the mangroves with wild animals such as tigers and crocodiles to earn a livelihood.
- They believe that only Bon Bibi protects them when they enter the forest and survive in tiger dominated areas.
- People express their belief in Bon Bibi through Bon BibirPalagaan, it is a centuries-old folk theatre and dramatic storytelling form that is enacted throughout the island.
- Traditionally, the performances are held near Bon Bibi temples or villages bordering the forests.

6.6 Behrupiyas

- Behrupiya festival is a traditional Indian style of street theatre and takes place every year in different locations - Delhi, Ahmedabad, Udaipur, Jaipur, Kumbh, Muzaffarnagar and others.
- Behrupiyas are impersonators, mostly known to perform in villages and markets all over India.
- They put on various costumes to play figures from mythology, folklore and traditional stories.
- They assisted in circulating, transmitting and publicising the various knowledge forms in the popular domain of Samaj, the people.
- The vibrant tradition of Ramlila can also be seen as an extension of this practice which continues even today.
- Arthashastra makes a mention of religious processions in the Mauryan times where artistes dressed as gods and were taken out in tableaux all around the kingdom.

6.7 Dalkhai Folk Dance

- Dalkhai is the most popular folk dance of Odisha.
- Mainly the theme of this dance is Radha and Krishna, Ramayana, Mahabharata, etc.
- It is known as Dalkhai because in the beginning and end of every stanza men shout the word 'DalkhaiBo!', it is used as an address to a girlfriend.
- It is performed in various festivals such as Bhaijiuntia, PhagunPuni, Nuakhai, etc.

6.8 Folk arts of Himachal Pradesh

- Himachal Pradesh has two stylistic streams of art and culture - classical or courtly (the Great Tradition) and folk (the Little Tradition).
- The figures of Hindu deities such as Shiva, six-headed Karttikeya or Kumara, Gaja-Lakshmi, Krittika, Rishi Vishvamitra, etc were engraved on the coins issued by the chieftains of the janapadas (republics) such as the Kunindas, the Malavas, the Audumbaras, etc. by the 3rd century BCE.
- The stone statues of Vishnu and numerous reliefs carved in the Sarnath style are found in Ambika Mata and Parashurama temples in Nirmand in Kulu district, popularly known as the Kashi of the Himalayan region, dated to the 4th-5th centuries CE.
- Free standing wood statues of Surya and one of his attendants Dandi and Pingala, and four door frames featuring flowing forms of Hindu goddesses executed in Gupta and post-Gupta style, i.e. late 6th-early 7th centuries CE are found in wooden temple of Surya that has been reconstructed and dedicated to Docha-Mocha (a village deity) in Gajan hamlet in Kulu valley.

6.9 Thudumbattam

- It is one of the folk art form belongs to the Kongu region (Coimbatore, Erode, Salem) of Tamil Nadu.
- It is the 'Rhythm of celebration' and are played at temple festivals.
- The instrument 'thudumbu', locally known as jamab, kidumutti, thidumam, uruti and chera thudumbu.
- The origin of the name thudumbu has been attributed to the 'Thudumbars', a tribal community.
- They are living in Pollachi, Mettupalayam, Karamadai, Nilgris and Kovai areas.
- This community used to serve and entertain the Chola, Chera and the Pandya kings, who went for 'vana bhojana' in the forests.
- The thudumbu was also played to chase away the wild animals.
- It was also said tha 'thudumbu' was introduced by the Vijayanagar empire.
- The bowl-shaped thudumbu that resembles the bayan of the tabla is made of mud.
- Its single face is covered with skin and connected with chords to the bottom of the instrument.
- It is either hung over the waist of the performer and played or held between the legs and played with two sticks.
- It is mostly performed by a group of men.
- This instrument has found its way to Kerala, where it is known as the 'thambolam melam'.
- This is performed during festivals in and around Palakkad, Koyyamarakkadu and Attapadi and Kizhakkumpattukara.

6.10 Gamosa

- It is a symbol of Assamese culture. It is equivalent to towel by meaning 'Ga' means 'body' and 'mosa' means 'wipe' (literally meaning a towel but multi-functional in practice).
- It is mostly woven out of white threads with colourful and intricate inlays in red.
- There are different varieties woven for religious and auspicious occasions.
- It is also known as 'Bihuwaan' and it is an essential part of Bihu festival of Assam.
- It is valued as a gift for visitors, used as a scarf, anti-dust mask, wrapped around the head as a turban.
- It has been assigned a new function for conservation of rare freshwater turtles.
- Conservationists are using this cultural icon to carry forward the message of turtle conservation, with *gamosas* woven with turtle images



6.11 Patola Saree

- Patola, the trademark Saree of Gujarat, is considered to be very costly and worn only by the Royals or the Aristocrat.
- Reason being the raw material silk yarn is purchased from Karnataka or West Bengal, where silk processing units are situated, thus increasing the cost of the fabric manifolds.
- It can take six months to one year to make one sari due to the long process of dyeing each strand separately before weaving them together.
- Patola was woven in Surat, Ahmedabad and Patan.
- Highly valued in Indonesia, became part of the local weaving tradition there.

- Recently under initiative of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), a first Silk Processing Plant was inaugurated at Surendranagar in Gujarat.
- This would help cut down the cost of production of silk yarn drastically and increase the sale and availability of raw material for Gujarati Patola Sarees locally.

6.12 Yakshagana

- Yakshagana is a rare and unique traditional theatre of Karnataka state in India and has a recorded history of more than 5 centuries.
- It is a rich artistic blend of music, dance, speech, and costumes, this art combines the features of opera as well as drama, the characteristics of moral education and mass entertainment.
- Yakshagana is strongly influenced by the Bhakti movement.
- Recently, the Yakshagana committee (Non-Government Organization) hosted the 60th annual Yakshagana in the Padmanur village, Karnataka.
- The committee is officially known as the Sarvajanika Yakshagana Bayalata Samithi and was set up in 1959.
- It is a multi-faith committee consisting of Hindus, Christians and Muslims and it hosts Yakshagana every year.

7. PAINTINGS

7.1 Karikiyoor Rock Paintings

- 5,000 year old rock paintings are found Karikiyoor at KilKotagiri in the Nilgiri forests.
- The society that painted the symbols onto these rocks were contemporaneous with the Indus Valley civilisation.
- The rock paintings in Karikiyoor contain analogous-Indus script, meaning they resemble the script found in Indus civilization sites of northern India.
- Members of the Irula tribal community have an ancestral link to the site.
- The rock paintings serve both, as a “historical record,” detailing the hunting habits and ways of life of the local communities, and also a ritualistic purpose.

7.2 Ajanta Cave Paintings

- Ajanta Cave Paintings is a classic masterpiece of Buddhist Art in the State of Maharashtra.
- It is a UNESCO world heritage site and a protected monument of the Archaeological Survey of India.
- The first Buddhist cave monuments at Ajanta date from the 2nd and 1st centuries B.C.
- During the Gupta period (5th and 6th centuries A.D.), many more richly decorated caves were added to the original group.
- But the cave paintings have started deteriorating in the past few decades due to insects and other climatic stressors.
- The basal layer of the murals was made of mud plaster and organic matter such as paddy husks, grass, vegetable fibres, thus making it a good breeding place for microbes and insects.
- The most common insects were silverfish, beetles and common bugs.
- Another main problem was the entry of rainwater and water from the Waghura River.
- This leads to dampness in the cave atmosphere causing an increase in algae, fungi, insects, and microbes.
- All these together were changing the original colour of the paintings white is turning to yellow and blue is becoming green.
- **Solution** - The researchers have suggested using certain lights and colour to tackle the problem of insects.

- For instance, they suggest using ultraviolet light traps as nocturnal insects are known to get attracted to ultraviolet radiation.

7.3 Pattachitra Painting

- It is one of the oldest and most popular art forms of Odisha portraying simple themes mostly mythological in depiction.
- It has evolved from the Sanskrit words Patta, meaning canvas, and Chitra, meaning picture.
- It is done on canvas and is manifested by rich colourful application. When painted on cloth, follows a traditional process of preparation of the canvas.
- First, the base is prepared by coating the cloth with powder of chalk and glue from tamarind seeds. The borders are painted first and when it is completed, held over a charcoal fire and lacquer is applied to the surface.
- This makes the painting water resistant and durable, besides giving it a shining finish.
- Popular themes -
 1. ThiaBadhia - depiction of the temple of Jagannath.
 2. Krishna Lila - enactment of Jagannath as Lord Krishna displaying his powers as a child.
 3. Dasabatara Patti - the ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu.
 4. Panchamukhi - depiction of Lord Ganesh as a five-headed deity.

8. RELIGION

8.1 Ajivika Philosophy

- Around the 6th century BC, at the time of the Buddha, there was an explosion all across India of different schools of thought and philosophy.
- One of the most popular was the Ajivika sect, Makkhali Goshala was its most important leader.
- The Ajivikas' central belief was that absolutely everything is predetermined by fate, or niyati, and hence human action has no consequence one way or the other.
- Like Jains, Ajiviks wore no clothes, and lived as ascetic monks in organised groups.
- They were known to practice extremely severe austerities, such as lying on nails, going through fire, exposing themselves to extreme weather, and even spending time in large earthen pots for penance.
- There was no caste discrimination and people from all walks of life joined them.
- The Barabar Caves (ancient rock cut caves) in Bihar dating from the Mauryan Empire, were made for Ajiviks and Jains to retreat and meditate.
- Buddhist and Jain texts are very critical of the Ajiviks, Ajiviks are considered fairly important rivals of both.
- The sect reached its peak during the Mauryan Emperor Ashoka's father's Bindusara's was a follower of Ajivika.
- Ashoka himself, best known for his spreading of Buddhism all over India and Southeast Asia, was an Ajivik for most of his life.

8.2 Vedic Chanting

- To preserve the purity of the Vedas, ancient Indians came up with ingenious techniques.
- In addition to memorizing each mantra the standard way, they would learn the same sentence in many different ways backwards, forwards, combining two words at a time and so on.
- There were more than ten recitation techniques, which are as follows Vakya-patha (Sentence recitation), Pada-patha (ord recitation), Krama-patha (Step recitation), Jata-patha (Woven recitation), Ghana-patha, mala (garland), shikha (peak), dhvaja (flag), rekha (line), danda (stick) and ratha (chariot).

- Reciting the entire Rigveda in the Ghanam style just once could take up to 450 hours.
- UNESCO has designated the tradition of the Vedic chant a “Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity”, due to its cultural significance.

Vedas

- Vedas are the most sacred and ancient Hindu texts, there are four Vedas, the Rigveda, Samaveda, Yajurveda and Atharvaveda.
- The Rigveda is by far the oldest and consists of about one thousand hymns, made up of about 10,600 verses.
- The others are typically shorter; the Samaveda has about 1,500 verses, the Atharvaveda has about 6,000 mantras and so on
- The Vedas were composed somewhere around 2000 BC, while writing in India began more than 2,500 years later.
- Vedas transferred from one to the other through the process of memorization, by listening was called the ‘shruti’, which means “what is heard”, and is often used to refer to the Vedas themselves.

8.3 Vedanta Desikan

- Vedanta Desikan (1268–1369) was one of the most prominent preceptors in the Srivaishnava tradition, born in Tamil Nadu.
- He had authored literary works in Sanskrit, Tamil, Prakrit and Manipravalam.
- His ‘Subhashita Neevi’ contains a fund of moral and ethical advice which is relevant and practical.
- Desikan’s talent as a military strategist came to the fore during the repeated invasions of the holy city of Srirangam by the forces of the Delhi Sultanate in 1327.
- On the occasion of the 750th anniversary of Vedanta Desika, Indian postal department unveiled a stamp to commemorate the great philosopher's life and highly valued works.

Sri Vaishnava philosophy

- Sri Vaishnava philosophy was initially propounded by that Saint Ramanuja and got a much wider audience with Vedanta Desikann’s writings and preaching.
- One of the essential features of this philosophy was the aspect of inclusion.
- Anyone, irrespective of caste and creed could join the Sri Vaishnava fold.
- This is a truly democratizing movement that obliterated caste distinctions.

8.4 Bodhisattva

- A bodhisattva is a Buddhist deity who has attained the highest level of enlightenment, but who delays their entry into Paradise in order to help the earthbound.
- The bodhisattva, known in Sanskrit as Avalokitesvara, takes both male and female form and is associated with the qualities of mercy and compassion
- The Archaeological department has recently excavated a Bodhisattva sculpture from Telangana.

8.5 Buddha Purnima

- Buddha's Purnima is traditionally celebrated in most of East Asia to commemorate the birth of the Gautama Buddha.
- It is also celebrated in South and Southeast Asia as Vesak which also acknowledges the enlightenment and death of the Buddha.
- According to the Theravada Tripitaka scriptures Buddha was born c. 563/480 BCE in Lumbini in modern-day Nepal, and raised in the Shakya capital of Kapilvastu, in the present day Tilaurakot, Nepal.
- He attained enlightenment (nirvana) underneath a Bodhi tree at Bodhgaya (modern day India).
- He delivered his first sermon at Sarnath, India and at the age of eighty, he died at Kushinagar, India.
- The exact date of Buddha's birthday is based on the Asian lunisolar calendars.

8.6 Bhakta Ramadasu

- Kancharla Gopanna (c. 1620 – 1680), popularly known as Bhakta Ramadasu, was a 17th-century Indian devotee of Lord Rama and a composer of Carnatic music.
- He lived in the village of Nelakondapalli, near the town of Bhadrachalam,
- His contemporaries include the stalwarts of Telugu literature such as Tallapaka Annamayya, Tyagaraja, Kshetrayya, and Shyama Sastri.
- In 17th century he constructed Sri Sitaramachandra Swamy temple in Bhadrachalam.
- His devotional lyrics to Rama are famous in South Indian classical music as Ramadaasu Keertanali.
- He also wrote Dasarathi Shatakamu, a collection of nearly 108 poems dedicated to the son of Dasaratha (Lord Rama).

9. OTHERS

9.1 Indian Culture Portal

- Indian Culture Portal was launched in December, 2019.
- It aims to showcase information about the rich cultural heritage of India across the globe.
- The Indian Culture Portal is available in two languages i.e. Hindi and English.
- The portal will create awareness about both the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of India, through the content available on the portal.
- The portal comprises mainly of rare books, e-books, manuscripts, artefacts from museums, virtual galleries, archives, photo archives, gazetteers, Indian National Bibliography, videos etc.
- The portal also has detailed accounts of Indian UNESCO World Heritage site, Musical Instruments of India, write-ups and beautiful pictures on cuisines, festivals, paintings, folk art and classical art from different States of India etc.

9.2 So'ham

- It is the **first cultural media platform of India**, under the banner of NGMA.
- The platform aims to develop a dialogue between NGMA, artists and art enthusiasts.
- It is inspired by the Vedic philosophy of So'ham, which stands for one's identity and its connection to the universe.
- **National Gallery of Modern Art** was established in 1954, at the Jaipur House, New Delhi.
- It is run and administered as a subordinate office to the Ministry of Culture with 2 branches - Mumbai and Bengaluru.
- One of its objectives is to acquire and preserve works of modern art from the 1850s onward.

9.3 Asiatic Society of Mumbai

- Recently, the Asiatic Society of Mumbai, elected its **first** woman president ('Prof. VispiBalaporia') in 215 years of its existence.
- The Asiatic Society began its journey in 1804 as the Literary Society of Bombay.
- It was founded by 'Sir James Mackintosh', a Scottish colonial administrator who had a keen interest in Oriental studies.
- In 1826, the Literary Society became the Mumbai arm of the London-based Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland.
- It came to be called the Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society (**BBRAS**).

- In its early days, membership of the Society was restricted to Europeans and the natives were not allowed to join until 1841.
- In 1954, the institution was severed from its London parent and became the Asiatic Society of Bombay.
- In 2002, it acquired its present name and its journal has been in publication since 1841.
- Its activities include conducting historical research, awarding historians, and running an institute of post-graduate studies.
- Its library, home to over 1 lakh books, consists of rare manuscripts contributed to it by the East India Company.
- It also the prized collections of Original copy of Dante's Divine Comedy and Coins issued by 'Kumaragupta' (5th century), 'Akbar' (16th century) and 'Shivaji' (17th century).
- The Society offers Junior Fellowships for research.
- It recommends scholars for the 'Tagore National Fellowship' of the Ministry of Culture.
- The Governor of Maharashtra is the Society's Chief Patron.

9.4 Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation

- Following SC's Ayodhya verdict, Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board has constituted a trust to build a mosque in Dhannipur, Ayodhya.
- The Trust will be called the Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation.
- Nine trustees have been announced, while it will "co-opt" the remaining six (Max.15 member trust).
- Four out of the nine trustees are affiliated to the Board.
- The Trust would construct a center showcasing Indo-Islamic culture of several centuries.
- Along with it, a center for research and study of Indo-Islamic culture, a charitable hospital, a public library and other public utilities will also be established at the site in Dhannipur.

9.5 Schemes to Preserve and Promote Culture

- Union Ministry of Culture has launched various schemes to preserve and promote languages, folk dance, Art and culture of tribal.
- Government of India has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centers (ZCCs) with headquarters at Patiala, Nagpur, Udaipur, Prayagraj, Kolkata, Dimapur and Thanjavur.
- These ZCCs organize various cultural activities and programmes all over the country on regular basis.
- These ZCCs under Ministry of Culture are also implementing a number of schemes for promoting the folk/tribal art and culture, details of which are as below
- **Young Talented Artists Awards** - The Scheme is carried out to encourage and recognize the young talents especially in the field of rare art forms.
- Talented youngsters of the age group of 18-30 years are selected and given a onetime cash award of Rs. 10,000/-
- **Guru Shishya Parampara** - This scheme envisages transmitting valued traditions to the coming generations.
- Disciples are trained under veterans in art forms which are rare and vanishing.
- Rare and vanishing art forms of the region are identified and eminent exponents are selected to carry out the training programmes in 'Gurukula' tradition.
- The monthly remuneration for Guru is Rs. 7,500/-, Accompanist is Rs. 3,750/- and Pupils is Rs. 1,500/- each for the period of six month to maximum 1 year for one scheme.
- The names of the Gurus are recommended by the State Cultural Affairs Departments.

- **Theatre Rejuvenation** - To promote theatre activities including stage shows and Production oriented workshops, etc. Honorarium Up to Rs. 30,000/- per show excluding TA & DA is paid.
- The groups finalized on the basis their credentials as well as the merit of project submitted by them.
- **Research & Documentation** - To preserve promote and propagate vanishing visual and performing art forms including folk, tribal and classical in the field of music, dance, theatre, literature, fine arts etc. in print/ audio – visual media.
- The art form is finalized in consultation with state Cultural Department.
- **Shilpgram** - To promote folk and tribal art and crafts of the zone by organizing seminar, workshops, exhibitions, craft fairs, design development and marketing support to the artisans living in the rural areas.
- **Octave** - To promote and propagate the rich cultural heritage of North East region comprising of eight States namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Nagaland, Manipur and Tripura to the rest of India.
- **National Cultural Exchange Programme (NCEP)** - It can be termed as the lifeline of the Zonal Cultural Centers.
- Under this scheme, various festivals of performing arts, exhibitions, yatras etc are organized in member States.
- Artists from other zones/states are invited to participate in these programmes.
- Participation of artists from the Zone in festivals held in other parts of the country are also facilitated.
- Zonal centers also participate in Major festivals happening in member States by arranging performances during these festivals where large number of audience get chance to enjoy and understand art forms of other regions.
- **Sahitya Akademi** - An autonomous organization under Ministry of Culture, encourages the preservation and promotion of languages, especially the unrecognized and tribal languages.
- The Akademi periodically organizes language conventions throughout the country in this regard.

10. GI TAGS

10.1 Gorakhpur Terracotta Products

- Baked clay or 'terracotta' products made from the special soil found in Bhathat area of Uttar Pradesh's Gorakhpur district.
- The clay used in the terracotta products is 'Kabis' clay which is found in the ponds of Aurangabad (UP), Bharwalia and Budhadih areas.
- Also, such clay is found only in the months of May and June, as for the rest of the year, the ponds are filled with water.
- **No colours are used** in this terracotta products, artisans only dip the clay structure in a mixture of soda and mango tree barks, and bake it. The red colour of terracotta does not fade for years.
- The terracotta artists make various structures like bells, vases, Ganeshas, tables, elephants, deer, horses, bullock carts, horse carts, lamps and chandeliers.

10.2 Manipur Black Rice Chak-Hao

- It is scented glutinous rice which is cultivated in Manipur since centuries and popular to people apart from the State.
- The application for GI was filed by North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (NERAMAC).
- However, the whole documentation processed was done by Manipur State Agriculture Department in collaboration with other agencies including Manipur Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium.
- It is genuinely originated from Manipur and some States contended in the battle.



10.3 Kashmir Saffron

- It is cultivated and harvested in Karewas (High lands) of Jammu and Kashmir.
- It is the only saffron in the world which is grown at an altitude of 1600m-1800m above MSL.
- It is grown in Kishtwar, which is popularly known as “The Land of Sapphire and Saffron”.
- It is known as Bahukam in ancient Sanskrit literature (Amarakosara).
- It was introduced in India by central Asian migrants around 1st century BC.
- Three types of Kashmir saffron are Lachha Saffron, Mongra saffron and Guchhi saffron.
- Its unique characteristics - Longer and thicker stigmas, Natural deep-red color of stigmas, High aroma, Bitter flavor (Picrocrocin), Chemical free processing, High quality of crocin (coloring strength) and High medicinal values.

10.4 Kangra Tea

- It is grown in the Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh.
- It is well known for its unique colour and flavour.
- It is loaded with antioxidants like catechins and polyphenols, and said to offer these health benefits: promotes weight loss, builds immunity, improves oral health and mental alertness, etc.
- It is also used in making soaps, vinegar, wine etc.
- Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT), Himachal Pradesh has claimed that Kangra tea chemicals can boost immunity and block coronavirus activity better than anti-HIV drugs.
- IHBT, Palampur, Himachal Pradesh is a constituent of CSIR.

10.5 Kovilpatti Kadalai Mittai

- It is a candy made of peanuts held together with glistening syrup, and topped with wisps of grated coconut dyed pink, green and yellow.
- It is produced by using both groundnuts and jaggery (organic jaggery), in carefully selected quantities from selected specific locations in Tamil Nadu.
- The groundnuts are grown in the native black soil in and around Kovilpatti.
- It is manufactured in Kovilpatti and adjacent towns and villages in Thoothukudi district.
- This product has a long shelf life and has a huge export potential.

10.6 Sohari Khovar Painting

- It is a traditional and ritualistic mural art from Jharkhand.
- A mural is any piece of artwork painted or applied directly on a wall, ceiling or other permanent surfaces.
- It is being practiced by local tribal women during local harvest and marriage seasons using local, naturally available soils of different colors in the area of Hazaribagh district of Jharkhand.
- Style features a profusion of lines, dots, animal figures and plants, often representing religious iconography i.e. visual image and symbols.
- It has been painted on the walls of important public places in Jharkhand, such as the Birsa Munda Airport in Ranchi.
- **Telangana's Telia Rumal Handloom**
- It involves intricate handmade work with cotton loom displaying a variety of designs and motifs in three particular colors such as red, black and white.
- It is an art of Ikat tradition using natural vegetable dyes.
- Ikkat is a dyeing technique used to pattern textiles.

- It can only be created using the traditional handloom process and not by any other mechanical means as otherwise, the very quality of the Rumal would be lost.
- Telia Rumals were worn as a veil by princesses at the erstwhile court of the Nizam of Hyderabad, and as a turban cloth by Arabs in the Middle East.
- In Earlier times the fabric was exported to Persian Gulf, Middle East, Aden, East Africa, Singapore and Burma.

11. HISTORY

11.1 Queen Prabhavati Gupta

- The Vakataka rulers were known to have forged several matrimonial alliances with other dynasties of their times.
- One of the key alliances was with Prabhavati Gupta of the mighty Gupta dynasty, which was then ruling north India.
- After marrying Vakataka king Rudrasena II, Prabhavati Gupta enjoyed the position of Chief Queen.
- Scholars say Queen Prabhavati Gupta was among a handful of women rulers in India to have reigned over any kingdom during ancient times.
- Also, there had been no evidence so far of any successor female ruler within the Vakataka dynasty.
- She ruled for about 10 years until her son Pravarasena II, and had a pivotal role in propagation of Vaishnava practices in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.

11.2 Vakataka dynasty

- The Vakataka Empire originated from the Deccan in the mid-3rd century CE, with Nagardhan as capital.
- Vindhya Shakti (c. 250 – c. 270 CE) is known to be the founder of the family.
- The elephant god was a commonly worshipped deity in those times.
- Animal rearing was one of the main occupations. Remains of seven species of domestic animals – cattle, goat, sheep, pig, cat, horse and fowl – have been traced.
- Their state is believed to have extended from the southern edges of Malwa and Gujarat in the north to the Tungabhadra River in the south as well as from the Arabian Sea in the west to the edges of Chhattisgarh in the east.
- They were the most important successors of the Satavahanas in the Deccan and contemporaneous with the Guptas in northern India.
- The Vakataka dynasty was a Brahmin dynasty and rulers were pre-dominantly Shaivites.
- The Gupta emperor Chandragupta II married his daughter into Vakataka royal family and with their support annexed Gujarat from the Saka Satraps in 4th century CE.
- The Vakataka power was followed by that of the Chalukyas of Badami in Deccan.
- The rock-cut Buddhist viharas and chaityas of Ajanta Caves (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) were built under the patronage of Vakataka emperor, Harishena.

11.3 State of Rampur

- The state of Rampur was founded by Nawab Ali Muhammad Khan, the adopted son of Sardar Daud Khan, the chief of the Rohillas in Northern India.
- The Rohillas were Afghans who entered India in the 18th century as the Mughal Empire was in decline, and took control of Rohilkhand, at the time known as Katehr.
- Rampur, under Nawab Raza Ali, was the first kingdom to accede to India in 1949, becoming the only Muslim-majority district in Uttar Pradesh.

- Soon after accession, the Nawab handed over the official royal residence - the Rampur Qila or Fort, built in 1775, to the Indian government.
- The fort along with a several other properties such as the royal complex, which is now used as the district collectorate that houses the offices of the District and City Magistrates.
- In return, the Indian government bestowed two key rights to the Nawab such as he was granted full ownership of the properties, and guaranteed succession to the gaddi or rulership of the state based on customary law, which gave exclusive property rights to the eldest son.
- There are five royal properties left with the Rampur royals, now up for division between the different branches of the family.
- These include the summer residence, the Khas Bagh Kothi, the Benazir and Shahbad Kothis, the Sarhari Kunda, and the Rampur royals' railway station, built for the exclusive use of the royal family.
- The Rampur royals have played an important role in the socio-cultural history of the Ganga-Yamuna belt.
- They run the Amir Raza library in Rampur, once known as the official darbar of the Nawab, which is home to some 15,000 manuscripts in Arabic, Urdu, Persian and Turkish, as well as a seventh-century Quran.
- In the 19th century, the royals established courts of law and a standing army, and built irrigation works. In the 20th century, they set up sugar and textile mills.

11.4 Bundela Dynasty

- The Bundelas are a Rajput clan of central India, the families belonging to this clan ruled several small states in the Bundelkhand region from the 16th century.
- Bundelkhand is a hilly region of central India divided between the states of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, with the larger portion lying in the MP.
- Jhansi is the largest city in Bundelkhand and is a major cultural, educational, transport and economic hub.
- The Bundela architecture has Mughal influence since the two dynasties were very close.
- The famous King of Bundela dynasty Veer Singh Dev was a close friend of Mughal emperor Jahangir and fought wars as Akbar's aid.



11.5 Holkar Dynasty

- The Holkar dynasty was a Maratha clan of Dhangar origin in India.
- The Holkars were generals under Peshwa Baji Rao I, and later became Maharajas of Indore in Central India as an independent member of the Maratha Empire until 1818.
- Later, their kingdom became a princely state under the protectorate of British India.
- The dynasty was founded with Malhar Rao, who joined the service of the Peshwas Baji Rao of the Maratha Empire in 1721, and quickly rose to the rank of Subedar.
- Malhar Rao Holkar (1694-1766) established the dynasty's rule over Indore.
- The name of the dynasty was associated with the title of the ruler, who was known informally as Holkar Maharaja.

11.6 Kota Rani

- Kota Rani is a medieval queen of Kashmir, the last ruler of the Hindu Lohara dynasty that ruled Kashmir.
- Kota Rani was the daughter of Ramachandra, the commander-in-chief of Suhadeva, the king of Lohara dynasty in Kashmir.
- She was regent during the minority of her son, and ruled as monarch between 1300- 1339.

- Shah Mir, who became the first Muslim ruler of Kashmir, deposed her.
- She was very intelligent and a great thinker. She saved the city of Srinagar from frequent floods by getting a canal constructed, named after her and called "Kute Kol".
- This canal gets water from Jhelum River at the entry point of city and again merges with Jhelum River beyond the city limits.

11.7 Dara Shikoh

- Dara Shikoh was a prince of Mughal Empire (1615-59), he was the eldest son of Shah Jahan.
- Dara Shikoh is described as a "liberal Muslim" who tried to find commonalities between Hindu and Islamic traditions.
- He translated into Persian the Bhagavad Gita as well as 52 Upanishads.
- Dara Shikoh realised the greatness of the Upanishads and translated them, which were earlier known only to a few upper caste Hindus.
- Dara Shikoh was killed after losing the war of succession against his brother Aurangzeb.
- He is believed to be buried somewhere in the Humayun's Tomb complex in Delhi, one of around 140 graves of the Mughal clan.
- The Ministry of Culture recently set up a seven-member panel of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to locate the grave of the Mughal prince Dara Shikoh.
- However, there no proper evidence on location of Dara Shikoh's grave, since most graves in the Humayun tomb complex have no names.

11.8 Maharaja Ranjit Singh

- A Statue of Ranjit Singh, who ruled Punjab for almost four decades (1801-39), was recently inaugurated in Lahore.
- He is Known as the Sher-e-Punjab (Lion of Punjab).
- The statue has his favourite horse named Kahar Bahar, a gift from Dost Muhammad Khan, the founder of the Barakzai dynasty.
- Earlier Punjab was ruled by powerful chieftains who had divided the territory into Misl.
- He overthrew the warring Misl and established a unified Sikh empire after he conquered Lahore in 1799.
- He brought unity and welded together warring states.
- He combined the strong points of the traditional Khalsa army with western advances in warfare to raise Asia's most powerful indigenous army of that time.
- The boundaries of his empire went up to Ladakh in the northeast, Khyber pass in the northwest, and up to Panjnad in the south.
- Both Hindus and Muslims were given powerful positions in his darbar.
- He turned Harimandir Sahib at Amritsar into the Golden Temple by covering it with gold.
- His general Hari Singh Nalwa built the Fort of Jamrud at the mouth of the Khyber Pass, the route the foreign rulers took to invade India.
- He amassed huge wealth and was also in possession of the Koh-i-Noor diamond.
- In his will, Ranjit Singh gave it to Jagannath Temple in Puri, which was administered by the East India Company.

11.9 Paika Rebellion Memorial

- President has recently laid the foundation stone for a memorial to mark completion of 200 years of Paika Rebellion.

- The proposed project will come up at the foothills of Barunei hills in Khurda district.
- The rebellion is a valiant uprising of Paikas in 1817 against the British Rule which is often termed as the First War of Independence.
- The Paikas were the traditional landed militia of Khurda, Odisha.
- Rulers of Khurda were traditionally the custodians of Jagannath Temple and ruled as the deputy of Lord Jagannath on earth.
- The British, having established their sway over Bengal Province occupied the Khurda's land in 1803 and took over the hereditary rent-free lands granted to Paikas.
- The Paikas rose in armed rebellion in 1817 under the leadership of Baxi Jagabandhu.
- The tribals of Ghumusar and other sections of the population actively took part in it.
- Many scholars, researchers and historians have opined that the Paika Rebellion was India's first organized armed rebellion against British Raj.

11.10 Pathalgadi Movement

- The Pathalgadi Movement, gained popularity in several villages of Jharkhand's Khunti district in late 2016.
- The district is widely known for being the birthplace of tribal freedom fighter and folk hero Birsa Munda.
- Since 2016, the movement has gained popularity in Chhattisgarh, Odisha, other districts of Jharkhand and parts of West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh.
- Historically, the word 'Pathalgadi' comes from a tribal custom of positioning a stone on a dead person's tomb.
- The custom is more frequently practised among tribes from the "Austro-Asiatic linguistic family such as the Mundas, Khasis, etc."
- Contemporarily, drawing from this custom, Adivasi communities display messages on large stones, known locally as Pathalgadi, that are painted green and measure about 15 feet and 4 feet.
- The movement seeks to replace the power of the central and state government with that of the local gram sabha.
- Thus, the messages they display include excerpts from the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA) as well as warnings to outsiders that inform them not to enter the villages.

11.11 Dadabhai Naoroji Birth Anniversary

- September 4, 2019 was the 194th birth anniversary of 'Dadabhai Naoroji'.
- "Grand Old Man of India", was among the first leaders who stirred national consciousness in the country.
- He was closely involved with the Indian National Congress in its early phase.
- His first agitation, in 1859, concerned recruitment to the 'Indian Civil Service' (today's IAS).
- In 1865 and 1866, Naoroji helped in founding the 'London Indian Society' and the 'East India Association' respectively.
- In 1885, Naoroji became a vice-president of the Bombay Presidency Association.
- He was nominated to the Bombay legislative council and helped form the Indian National Congress (INC).
- He was Congress president thrice, in 1886, 1893, and 1906.
- He was the first Asian to become a 'British MP' when he was elected to the House of Commons in 1892.
- In the British Parliament, he worked to bring Indian issues to the fore and a moderate himself, he acted as a liaison between nationalist Indians and British parliamentarians.
- In 1893, he helped form an Indian parliamentary committee to attend to Indian interests.
- Naoroji was a vocal critic of the colonial economic policy in India.

- He was the key proponents of “**Drain Theory**”, disseminating it in his book “Poverty and Un-British Rule in India”.
- He argued that imperial Britain was draining away India’s wealth to itself through exploitative economic policies.
- He set up the ‘Gyan Prasarak Mandali’ (Society for Promotion of Knowledge) for the education of Indians.
- He acted as a mentor to Mahatma Gandhi, Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Gopal Krishna Gokhale.

11.12 Savitribai Phule

- Savitribai Phule, was a social reformer, an educationist and a poetess, and regarded as ‘mother of Indian feminism’.
- Phule, along with her husband Jyotirao Phule, dedicated her life to the cause of women’s rights and education.
- She is an important figure in the social reform movement, particularly in the state of Maharashtra.
- Education of all women is what she focused on, despite facing ostracism from her community for it.
- Along with her husband, she opened the very first school for girls in India.
- Phule would also give stipends to children, so as to encourage them to attend schools and complete their education.
- She also campaigned against the caste system in the country and advocate of inter-caste marriages.
- Along with Jyotirao Phule she founded the Satyashodhak Samaj which, it is believed, organised marriages without priests and dowry.

11.13 Sree Narayana Guru

- Sree Narayana Guru was a great saint, scholar, philosopher, poet and the forerunner of social renaissance in Kerala.
- He was born in 1856 in a peasant family of then untouchable Ezhava caste, in Thiruvananthapuram.
- He led a reform movement in Kerala, against the injustice in the caste-ridden society in order to promote social equality.
- He gave the universal message, “One caste, one religion, one God.”
- ‘Sahodaran Ayyappan’ (Pulaya Ayyappan), a social reformer from Kerala coined a rejoinder ‘No Caste, No Religion, No God for Mankind’.
- ‘Aravipuram Movement’ was launched by Narayana Guru.
- He defied the religious restrictions traditionally placed on the Ezhava community and consecrated an idol of Shiva at Aravipuram.
- He was a follower of Advaita philosophy.
- He translated Tamil works like “Thirukkural” into Malayalam.
- He had written number of hymns to different gods and some of the notable ones are “Atmopadesa Sathakam” and “Darsanamala”.
- He lent his support to the ‘Vaikom Satyagraha’. Mahatma Gandhi met him during this time.
- ‘Sivagiri pilgrimage’ was conceived by three of the disciples, Vallabhasseri Govindan Vaidyar, T. K. Kittan and Muloor S. Padmanabha Panicker.
- The goal of the pilgrimage was the promotion of education, cleanliness, devotion to God.

11.14 Gandhi an Anthropologist

- Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI) has published a journal “Gandhian insights into applied anthropology”.
- The journal was published as part of the commemoration of Gandhi’s 150th birth anniversary.

- The journal had 10 essays dedicated to Gandhian thoughts from the perspective of anthropology.
- According to the journal Gandhi's writings, teaching and life so far has been the subject of interest of historians and political scientists but a closer look will point out that Gandhi and his life has been centered in anthropology.
- Coast Guard Ship 'Annie Besant'
- The recently inducted Indian Coast Guard Ship Annie Besant has reached its base harbour at Chennai.
- The ship Annie Besant is the third Fast Patrol Vessel of the 'Priyadarshini' class.
- The ship has been indigenously designed and built and was commissioned at Khidderpore Dock, Kolkata.
- The ship ICGS Annie Besant is fitted with modern navigational and communication equipment and sensors.
- It is capable of undertaking multi-faceted maritime operations such as Surveillance, Search and Rescue and Interdiction.

11.15 Pujya Thakkar Bapa

- Pujya Thakkar Bapa, is a social worker of the Servants of India Society.
- Being a close associate of Mahatma Gandhi inspired him to work for removal of deep-rooted poverty of tribals while giving service to untouchables.
- The national level voluntary organization Bhratiya Adim Jati Seval Sangh was constituted by Pujya Thakkar Bapa.
- In formulation of the Sangh, he got active participation of other eminent national level social workers and leaders.
- The first President of the Sangh was Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India.

11.16 Rajkumari Amrit Kaur

- Rajkumari Amrit Kaur was born into the Kapurthala royal family, she was educated in Oxford and returned to India in 1918, and began to be drawn towards the work and teachings of MK Gandhi.
- Apart from joining the nationalist freedom struggle, Kaur also began work on a number of other social and political issues such as the purdah system, child marriage and the Devadasi system.
- When the civil disobedience movement took off in the 1930s, Kaur dedicated her life to it.
- Kaur was jailed after the Quit India movement and carried to the jail a spinning wheel, the Bhagwat Gita and the Bible.
- Amrit Kaur was the first woman in independent India who joined the Cabinet as the Health Minister and remained in that position for 10 years.
- Before taking up the position of a Health Minister, Kaur was Mahatma Gandhi's secretary.
- During these 10 years, she founded the Indian Council for Child Welfare.
- She also laid the foundation of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and Lady Irwin College in Delhi in the following years.
- While Kaur advocated for equality, she was not in favour of reservations for women and believed that universal adult franchise would open the doors for women to enter into the legislative and administrative institutions of the country.
- In light of this, she believed that there was no place left for reservation of seats.



11.17 Malabar Rebellion of 1921

- It is also called as the Mappila or Moplah Rebellion by the British.
- It broke out in the southern taluks of Malabar in August 1921.
- By the time the government troops captured Haji in January 1922, the rebellion had fizzled out.
- It largely took the shape of guerrilla-type attacks on janmis (feudal landlords, who were mostly upper caste Hindus) and the police and troops.
- Mappilas had been among the victims of oppressive agrarian relations protected by the British.
- The Khilafat movement launched in 1919 provided a fresh stimulus to the grievances of Mappilas.

Kunhamed Haji

- He was one of the three most important rebel leaders and considered as the **face of the Mappila rebellion**.
- He was familiar with the commemoration of shaheeds (martyrs) who fought against the tyranny of landlords and their helpers, mostly upper caste Hindus in the region.
- During the rebellion, he led many attacks on individuals, including Muslims, who had been loyal to the British.

11.18 Queen VeluNachiar

- She was the princess of Ramanathapuram and the only child of Raja Vijaya ragunathaSethupathy of the Ramnad kingdom.
- VeluNachiar was married to Muthu VaduganathaPeriaOdayaThevar a native ruler of Sivaganga.
- In 1772, there was a conflict with king Muthu and Arcot rulers who were the allies of British.
- British forces swept in Muthu's kingdom and massacred all of his forces including King Muthu.
- VeluNachiar determined to avenge her husband's death waged a heroic war against the British.
- She had the support of the **Marudu Brothers**, fierce warlords who stood by her, along with a band of loyalists.
- VeluNachiar was protected by Udaiyal, the leader of her bodyguards.
- The British captured her and tortured her to get her to reveal the whereabouts of VeluNachiar. She was killed later.
- The brave Velu raised one more battalion of women and named it Udaiyal Regiment commanded by Loyal Kuyili.
- VeluNachiar met **Haidar Ali**, the king of Mysore, who sent 5000 men to help her to get back Sivaganga.
- But, by now, Sivaganga had been handed over to the British, and they had fortified the place.
- Kuyili smuggled some female guerillas in, and while they held the British at bay, she entered the ammunition store, and set it on fire. She died in the process.
- VeluNachiar became Queen of Sivaganga and ruled for ten years.
- The Government of India has released a stamp in her honour in 2008.

Dekho Apna Desh Webinar

- Ministry of Tourism conducted a webinar series titled "Dekho Apna Desh".
- As a part of 74th Independence Day celebrations, a webinar "Lesser known stories of India's struggle against the British" was conducted.
- The webinar as highlighted the known sides of historic events, places and personalities such as
- **VeluNachiar** - Queen of Sivaganga
- **Benjamin Horniman** - British Editor
- **Royapuram Railway station** - Oldest existing railway station in the whole of India.
- **Madras regiment** - Oldest regiment of the Indian Army, formed by Major Stringer Laurence.

11.19 Benjamin Guy Horniman

- Benjamin Horniman was a British editor of a newspaper called "**The Bombay Chronicle**".
- The Bombay Chronicle was begun by **Sir Pherozeshah Mehta**.
- As its editor, Horniman spoke up against colonialism and about Indian nationalist causes.



- He defied the censorship of British after the Jallianwala Bagh incident in 1919.
- He smuggled a first-hand report of the massacre out of Punjab and published it, following the incident he was deported.
- He continued to protest against the cruelties of the British rule in India in all his writings from England.
- In 1926, he exploited a loophole in his deportation order and returned to India to continue his work.
- The Horniman Circle Gardens is a large park in South Mumbai, got its name in honor of an Englishman who showed Indians the power of a free press.

11.20 Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray

- Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray (1861 – 1944) is known as “Father of Indian Chemistry, a well-known Indian scientist and teacher and one of the first “modern” Indian chemical researchers.
- He discovered the stable compound mercurous nitrite in 1896.
- He established a chemical firm called the *Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works (1901)*.
- The British Government first honoured him with the imperial title of CIE (Companion of the Indian Empire) and then with the Knighthood in 1919.
- In 1920, he was elected General President of the Indian Science Congress.
- He was completely against the caste system and other irrational social systems and carried on work of social reformation till his death.

Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (BCPL)

- Bengal Chemical & Pharmaceutical Works Ltd., precursor of Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd (BPCL), was formed by Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray on April 12, 1901.
- BPCL, nationalized in 1980, is the only Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) that produces the anti-malarial drug in the country, i.e. manufactures chloroquine phosphate.
- The company became the first Indian Company to manufacture quality Chemicals, Drugs, Pharmaceuticals and Home Products, employing indigenous technology, skill and raw materials.

11.21 Abanindranath Tagore

- Abanindranath Tagore was an Indian painter who transformed the post-Renaissance academic realism.
- He founded the *Indian Society of Oriental Art* and also founded the *Bengal School of Art*.
- He promoted a style based on a modern interpretation of traditional *Rajput and Mughal art*.
- His sole aim for establishing the school was to counter the English influence on Indian artists.
- National Gallery of Modern Art has decided organize the virtual tour titled “The Great Maestro: Abanindranath Tagore”, to commemorate his 150th Birth Anniversary.

11.22 Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

- Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was born on 11th November 1888 in Mecca, Saudi-Arabia.
- He was a proponent of Hindu Muslim unity, opposed to Partition.
- In 1912, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad started a weekly journal in Urdu called *Al-Hilal* which played an important role in forging Hindu-Muslim unity in the aftermath of Morley-Minto reforms but banned in 1914.
- He entered INC in 1920. Supported NCM and elected as the President of INC in 1923, again in 1940-45.
- Works - Basic Concept of Quran, Ghubar-e-Khatir, Dars-e-Wafa, India Wins Freedom, etc.
- In 1947, he became the first education minister of free India and remained at this post till his death in 1958.
- Institutions established by him -
 1. Scientific Research Institute (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research),

2. A separate institute for atomic development,
 3. Indian Council for Agriculture and Scientific Research,
 4. Indian Council for Medical Research,
 5. Indian Council for Historical Research, and
 6. Indian Council for Social Science Research.
 7. Indian Council for Cultural Relations, for introduction of Indian culture to other nations.
- **Following three academics were formed:**
 1. Sahitya Academy for development of literature.
 2. Sangeet Natak Academy for the development of Indian music and dance.
 3. Lalit Kala Academy for the development of painting.
 - Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was posthumously awarded India's highest civilian honour, Bharat Ratna in 1992.

11.23 PurandaraDasa

- PurandaraDasa belonged to the **Vaishnava tradition** during the Vijayanagar rule.
- Prior to the adoption of Vaishnava tradition, he was a rich merchant and was called Srinivasa Nayaka.
- It is believed that he was born in Malnad, his older name was attributed to locally influential people including wealthy merchants in malnad during the Vijayanagar rule.
- He is considered the **father of Carnatic Music**.
- He formalized the music system which was a blend of various traditions of South India and the musical science as explained in the Vedas.
- He identified 84 ragas and devised a system of teaching Carnatic music in graded lessons.
- He composed songs in Kannada and Sanskrit with the **pen name PurandaraVithala**.
- In his compositions, he expressed his love for Sri Krishna describing various aspects of Krishna's life.
- It was widely believed that the PurandaraDasa was born in Purandharagad, Maharashtra.
- Recently, Department of Archaeology, Heritage and Museums, Karnataka announced it will soon commence field research work at Araga in Malnad (Malenadu) region in Karnataka, to end the speculations regarding the birthplace of PurandaraDasa.
- The department comes under the Ministry of Culture and is responsible for archaeological studies and the preservation of cultural monuments.

11.24 Dr. B R Ambedkar's Birth Anniversary

- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was born on 14th April 1891 in Mhow, Central Province (now Madhya Pradesh).
- He was India's first Law Minister and was Chairman of the Drafting Committee for the new Constitution.
- 1927 - He led the Mahad Satyagraha against Hindus who were opposing the decision of the Municipal Board to throw open the tank to all communities.
- He participated in all three Round Table Conferences.
- In 1932 Dr. Ambedkar signed the Poona pact with Mahatma Gandhi, which abandoned the idea of separate electorates for the depressed classes (Communal Award).
- His ideas before the Hilton Young Commission served as the foundation of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- 1936 - He was elected to the Bombay Legislative Assembly as a legislator (MLA).
- 1942 - He was appointed to the Executive Council of Viceroy as a Labour member.
- 1947 -Dr. Ambedkar accepted PM Nehru's invitation to become Minister of Law in the first Cabinet of independent India. But he later resigned in 1951 over differences on the Hindu Code Bill.

- **Organisations** - BahishkritHitkarini Sabha (1923), Independent Labor Party (1936), Scheduled Castes Federation (1942).
- **Books** - Annihilation of Caste, Buddha or Karl Marx, The Untouchable: Who are They and Why They Have Become Untouchables, Buddha and His Dhamma, The Rise and Fall of Hindu Women.
- **Journals** -Mooknayak (1920), Bahishkrit Bharat (1927), Samatha (1929), Janata (1930).
- **Panchteerath** - The Indian Government has set up Panchteerath in the memory of Dr BR Ambedkar.
 1. Amedbkar's birthplace in Mhow,
 2. The place in London where he stayed while studying in the UK
 3. Deeksha Bhoomi in Nagpur, where he took education
 4. Mahaparinirvan Sthal in Delhi, and
 5. Chaitya Bhoomi in Mumbai

11.25 Maharashtra-Bengal Friendship Chapter

- Pune-based NGO Sarhad to launch a series of literary and cultural programmes to strengthen connections between Maharashtra and West Bengal.
- It aims in a bid to revive the Independence-era spirit of the 'Lal-Bal-Pal', named after nationalists Lala Lajpat Rai, 'Lokmanya' Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Bipin Chandra Pal.
- 'Maharashtra-Bengal friendship chapter' is a two year long event that will commence on Tilak's death centenary (August 1, 1920-August 1, 2020).
- The festival will go on till August 15, 2022 to mark the 150th birth anniversary of the great philosopher, Sri Aurobindo Ghosh.
- **Lala Lajpat Rai** ,popularly known as Punjab Kesari.
 - He was also associated with activities of Punjab National Bank and Lakshmi Insurance Company in their early stages in 1894.
 - Organisations - Arya Gazaette, Hisar congress, Hisar Arya Samaj, National DAV managing Committee.
- **Bal Gangadhar Tilak** - First leader of the Indian Independence Movement.
 - He is known as the "Father of the Indian unrest.", Mahatma Gandhi called him "The Maker of Modern India".
 - He was one of the first and strongest advocates of Swaraj ("self-rule") and a strong radical in Indian consciousness.
 - He helped found the All India Home Rule League in 1916–18, with G. S. Khaparde and Annie Besant.
- **Bipin Chandra Pal** - He was an Indian nationalist, writer, orator, social reformer and Indian independence movement activist.
 - He stood against the partition of Bengal by the colonial British government.
 - He was recognised as the chief exponent of a new national movement revolving around the ideals of Purna Swaraj, Swadeshi, boycott and national education.
- **Aurobindo Ghose**- Hestudied for the Indian Civil Service at King's College, Cambridge, England.
 - He involved in nationalist politics in the INC and the nascent revolutionary movement in Bengal with the Anushilan Samiti.
 - At Pondicherry, Sri Aurobindo developed a spiritual practice he called Integral Yoga and founded the Sri Aurobindo Ashram.

11.26 1947 Agreement on Gurkha Regiment

- From the first quarter of the 19th century, Gurkhas had served under the British, first in the armies of the East India Company, and then the British Indian Army.

- East India Company first recruited Gurkhas after suffering heavy casualties during the Anglo-Nepalese War, also known as the Gurkha War.
- The war ended with the signing of the *Treaty of Sugauli in 1816*.
- It ensured that Gurkhas in British and Indian service would enjoy broadly the same conditions of service as that of British and Indian citizens.
- In 1947, when India became independent, it was decided to split Gurkha regiments between the British and Indian armies.
- After the 1947 Tripartite Agreement, the British Army amalgamated the Gurkha regiment into combined Royal Gurkha Rifles (RGR).
- Currently, the Gurkhas comprise up to 3% of the British Army. The Gurkhas are recruited every year at the British Gurkha camp at Pokhara in Nepal.
- The camp enlists fresh recruits not only for the British Army, but also for the counter-terror arm of the Singapore Police Force.

11.27 Ahom Kingdom

Recently, Assam Chief Minister ordered the arrest of a Kolkata-based political commentator, who had described Chaolung Sukapha as a Chinese invader.

- Chaolung Sukapha, was a 13th century ruler who founded the Ahom kingdom that ruled Assam for six centuries.
- Sukapha was a leader of the Ahoms.
- He reached Brahmaputra valley in Assam from upper Burma with around 9,000 followers.
- Ahoms also subjugated many other tribes. Due to this, the Ahoms had built a kind of a large state and during the 1530's.
- The founders of the Ahom kingdom had their own language and followed their own religion.
- Over the centuries, the Ahoms accepted the Hindu religion and the Assamese language.
- Sukapha's significance, especially in today's Assam lies in his successful efforts towards assimilation of different communities and tribes.
- He is widely referred to as the architect of "BorAsom" or "greater Assam".

11.28 Tablighi Jamaat

- Tablighi Jamaat, which literally means a society for spreading the faith, is a **Sunni Islamic missionary** movement.
- Its roots lie in the Deobandi version of the Hanafi school of jurisprudence.
- It was launched by Deoband cleric and prominent Islamic scholar Maulana Muhammad Ilyas Khandhalaw in 1927 in Mewat.
- It aims to reach out to ordinary Muslims and revive their faith, particularly in matters of ritual, dress, and personal behavior. Its emergence also coincided with Hindu proselytizing movements.
- **Organizational Structure** - There is no defined structure for Tablighi Jamaat, but there exists a hierarchic network of elders and mosques.
- Originally, it used to be headed by the Ameer, who would preside over the shura (council), the core of the organisation, and deal with important matters including international congregations known as Aalmiljtama.
- **Spread of the movement** – Muhammad Ilyas (1884 - 1944) was an Indian Islamic scholar who founded the Tablighi Jamaat Islamic revivalist movement, in 1925, in Mewat province.
- He trained several young men from Deoband and Saharanpur and sent them to Mewat, where the Tablighi Jamaat established a network of madrasas and Mosque.

- After Partition in 1947, a Pakistan chapter was started in the town of Raiwind, Lahore, Currently, Bangladesh has one of the largest chapters.
- It also has a significant base in the United States, Britain, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore.
- **6 principles of Tablighi Jamaat –**
 1. Kalimah, an article of faith in which the Tabligh accepts that there is no God but Allah and that Prophet Muhammad is his messenger.
 2. Salaat, or prayer five times daily.
 3. **Ilm** - The knowledge and remembrance of Allah conducted in sessions in which the congregation listens to preaching by the imam, performs prayers, recites the Quran and reads the Hadith.
 4. **Dhikr** - the congregation uses these sessions to dine together, thus fostering a sense of community and identity.
 5. **Ikram-i-Muslim**, the treatment of fellow Muslims with honour.
 6. **Ikhlas-i-niyat**, or sincerity of intention. And the sixth is dawat-o-tabligh, or proselytisation.

11.29 Ebrahim Alkazi

- Recently Ebrahim Alkazi, the longest-serving director of the National School of Drama passed away.
- Ebrahim Alkazi is remembered as the **Father of Indian Theatre**.
- He revolutionized Indian theatre. He was the first person to bring regional language plays to NSD.
- He was the first recipient of RoopwedhPratishtan's the Tanvir Award (2004) for lifetime contribution to the theatre.
- He received the Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan.
- He received Sangeet NatakAkademi Fellowship for lifetime contribution to theatre.

11.30 Edward Colston

Recently, a group of 10,000 demonstrators pulled down a 125-year-old statue of Edward Colston and dragged it through the city's streets into the harbour of river Avon in England.

- Colston was born in 1636 to a merchant family that had been living in Bristol, England.
- In 1680, he joined the Royal African Company (RAC), which had a monopoly in England on the trade of gold, silver, ivory, and slaves, along the west coast of Africa.
- He rose up to the company's board quite rapidly, taking on the position of Deputy Governor in 1689.
- During the period of his involvement with RAC till 1692, the company is believed to have transported about 84,000 slaves, out of which close to 20,000 are known to have died.
- Slaves were shipped to Barbados and other Caribbean islands to work on the new sugar plantations, as well as further north to England's American colonies.
- Bristol, Liverpool, Glasgow, and London were the key ports for British companies trafficking African slaves across the Atlantic.
- Colston was one such slave trade magnate, who funded a wide range of charitable projects in Bristol and London, including schools and almshouses for the poor of the city, thereby developing the reputation of a philanthropist.

11.31 Winston Churchill

Recently in central London, the statue of former British PM Winston Churchill was vandalized and demonstrators reportedly wrote 'was a racist' on it.

- He was Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1940 to 1945, when he led the country to victory in the Second World War, and again from 1951 to 1955.



- Ideologically an economic liberal and imperialist, he was for most of his career a member of the Conservative Party, as leader from 1940 to 1955. He was also a member of the Liberal Party from 1904 to 1924.
- The wartime prime minister of the country, known for his 'indomitable spirit' among the British, has also been accused by historians for his racist, imperial policies that led to the death of many in British India.

11.32 King Leopold

Recently in Belgium demonstrator's targeted statues of the 19th century monarch King Leopold II, whose administration of the Congo has been heavily criticized for the atrocities and exploitation it led to.

- Leopold II was King of the Belgians from 1865 to 1909, he succeeded his father to the Belgian throne in 1865 and reigned for 44 years until his death – the longest reign of any Belgian monarch.
- He was the founder and sole owner of the Congo Free State, a private project undertaken on his own behalf.
- He used Henry Morton Stanley to help him lay claim to the Congo, the present-day Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- He extracted a fortune from the territory, initially by the collection of ivory, and after a rise in the price of rubber in the 1890s, by forced labour from the native population to harvest and process rubber.
- He used great sums of the money from this exploitation for public and private construction projects in Belgium during this period.
- His administration of the Congo was characterized by murder, torture, and atrocities, resulting from notorious systematic brutality.
