



IAS PARLIAMENT

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A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative

TARGET 2021

ART & CULTURE





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(UPTO AUGUST 2021)

1. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

1.1 Archaeological Excavations in Tamil Nadu

The Central Advisory Board for Archaeology (CABA) has given permission to excavate seven sites in Tamil Nadu for 2020-21.

- Tamil Nadu state archaeology department will soon begin excavations at three sites - Korkai (Tuticorin), Gangaikonda Cholapuram (Ariyalur) and Mayiladumparai (Krishnagiri).
- This is in addition to the ongoing excavations at Keeladi cluster, Adichanallur, Sivagalai and Kodumanal.
- The department will also conduct field studies in Tiruvannamalai, Salem, Krishnagiri and Vellore.
- The Korkai excavation will reveal more about the Thamirabarani river valley civilization because excavations are already on in sites such as Adichanallur and Sivagalai in the same region.

1.2 Cairn Circles

Kodumanal excavation, has identified 250 cairn-circles

- 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.
- Recently, the State Department of Archaeology, Chennai has identified 250 cairn-circles from the Kodumanal excavation site in Tamil Nadu.
- This is for the first time that 10 pots and bowls were discovered from the site, instead of the usual 3 or 4 pots, placed outside three-chambered burial cists and inside the cairn-circle.
- More numbers and bigger size of boulders suggests that the grave could be of a village head or the head of the community.
- Findings from the site also include an animal skull, beads, and copper smelting units, the mud walls of a workshop, potteries, and Tamil Brahmi script.
- 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.





1.3 Faridabad Cave Paintings

Mangar Bani hill forests in Faridabad, Haryana will be given state protection under the Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1964.

- It will be protected as this Stone Age (prehistoric) location has large number of sites with cave paintings and tools of the Palaeolithic age.
 - The art includes what appear to be symbols, markings, some are drawings that are very old, but what exactly it is, only the archaeology department will be able to tell.
- On the basis of tool topology, this site may be from about 1,00,000 to about 15,000 years ago. But there are also found evidence of later habitation, even up to 8th-9th century AD.
- It may be one of the biggest Palaeolithic sites in the Indian subcontinent, where Stone Age tools were recovered from different open air sites as well as from rock shelters.

1.4 World's Oldest Cave Painting

The world's oldest known cave painting was discovered in the limestone cave of Leang Tedongnge of Indonesia.

- The painting made using red ochre pigment depicts a wild boar endemic to the Sulawesi island of Indonesia.
- The painting of the Sulawesi warty pig seems to be the world's oldest surviving representational image of an animal.
- It was dated using a method called **U-series isotope analysis**.
- This analysis uses calcium carbonate deposits, also called 'cave popcorn', that form naturally on the cave wall surface to determine its age.
- It is dated that the minimum age of the painting to be around 45,500 years, which means the painting was made before this.

1.5 Lady of Bietikow

Recently German researchers are piecing together the life of a prehistoric woman from a skeleton found during an excavation.

- The woman is believed to be died more than 5,000 years ago in the Neolithic period.
- Researchers has named her the "Lady of Bietikow," a village of the same name in north eastern Germany's Uckermark region.
- The skeleton had been buried in a settlement in a squatting position, one of the oldest known forms of burial.
- Investigations have shown that she was between 30 and 45 years old and died more than 5,000 years ago.
- The Lady of Bietikow's teeth has been severely eroded and missing completely in some places.
- Based on these researchers have come to an interesting conclusion that she might had consumed certain grains that were very rich in fibre, very hard, that cause the teeth to wear out easily.
- It was during the Neolithic period that humans first introduced grains into their diet, since they could be stored more easily than meat and could also be used as a means of payment.
- However, this led to a deterioration in people's general health.

1.6 China's Dragon Man

Researchers from China have found an ancient human skull of new human species dubbed the "Dragon Man" or Homo longi in the Songhua River in China's Harbin city that could belong to an altogether.

- The name "Dragon Man" has been derived from the Long Jiang or Dragon River in China's Heilongjiang province where Harbin is located.
- The cranium, which was found almost complete, could be over 146,000 years old.



- Because of the distinctive shape of the skull some team members have suggested that it be declared a part of a new species of the genus Homo.
- Significantly, the size of the skull, which has a considerable brain capacity, is comparable to that of modern humans and Neanderthals.
- While sizes can vary between populations and males and females, the average capacity of a human brain is about 1,300 cubic centimetres, and it can weigh anywhere between 1,300-1,400 grams.
- **Significance of the discovery** - If the “Dragon Man” is a new species, it might bridge the gaps between our ancient ancestors called Homo erectus and us. It brings new knowledge about the evolution of sapiens.
- Interbreeding with ancient humans allowed Homo sapiens to acquire genes that improved their chances of survival, and that some of these genes are present in modern humans even today.

1.7 Nesher Ramla Homo

Researchers working in Israel had identified a previously unknown kind of ancient human called “Nesher Ramla Homo”.

- Nesher Ramla Homo co-existed with Homo sapiens nearly 140,000-120,000 years ago when several species of humans co-existed in Asia, Europe and Africa.
- These include Homo sapiens, the Neanderthals, and the Denisovans.
- This archaic Homo population had mastered the use of technology that until recently was linked only to Homo sapiens or Neanderthals.
- Members of this species could hunt small and large game, they used wood for fuel, cooked and roasted meat, and maintained fires.
- These findings are important because they provide evidence that there were cultural interactions between different human lineages.

Other Human Species

- As per the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, there are over 21 human species. These are,
- **Sahelanthropus tchadensis** is believed to be the oldest member of the human family tree. They lived about 7-6 million years ago in Africa.
- The other species that lived in Eastern Africa are Orrorin tugenensis, Ardipithecus kadabba, Ardipithecus ramidus, Australopithecus anamensis, Australopithecus afarensis (Lucy's species), etc.
- **Homo habilis** lived about 2.4-1.4 million years ago in Eastern and Southern Africa. This species still retained some of the ape-like features.
- **Homo erectus** lived about 1.89 million-110,000 years ago, in Northern, Eastern, and Southern Africa and Western and East Asia. ‘Turkana Boy’ is the most complete fossil belonging to this species.
- **Homo floresiensis** lived around 100,000-50,000 years ago, in Asia.
- **Hobbit** - One of the most recently discovered early human species has been nicknamed the “Hobbit”. Specimens have so far only been found on an Indonesian island.
- **Homo heidelbergensis** lived about 700,000-200,000 years ago in Europe, some parts of Asia and Africa. This was the first early human species to live in colder climes.
- **Homo neanderthalensis** lived about 400,000-40,000 years ago, and co-existed with Homo sapiens for a few thousand years.
- They lived in Europe and in southwestern and central Asia.
- **Homo sapiens** - The species to which all existing humans belong evolved in Africa nearly 300,000 years ago as a result of some dramatic climate change events.
- **Neanderthals** (Homo neanderthalensis) - They are believed to be the closest extinct human relatives and lived about 400,000-40,000 years ago in Europe and southwestern to central Asia.

1.8 The Cat Geoglyph

Recently, a giant cat geoglyph was discovered on a hill at the famous Nazca Lines site in Peru.

- It dates from 500 BC – 200 AD (Paracas age). The cat geoglyph is believed to be older than the ones previously found at Nazca.
- The Paracas culture was an Andean society existing between approximately 800 BCE and 100 BCE, with an extensive knowledge of irrigation and water management.
- It was in present day Peru in the Paracas Desert region.
- Representations of felines of this type are frequent in the iconography of ceramics and textiles of the Paracas society.
- Geoglyphs are sprawling designs formed with earth or stone.
- They are known from other deserts in Peru and in Kazakhstan.
- A set of sinuous lines are found in the Thar Desert of India.
- The Indian glyph consists of several spirals and a long, snaking line that doubles back on itself again and again.



Nazca Lines

- Nazca Lines are a group of geoglyphs known for the depictions of larger-than-life animals, plants and imaginary beings.
- Geoglyphs are the large designs made on the ground by creators using elements of the landscape such as stones, gravel, dirt or lumber.
- These are believed to be the greatest known archaeological enigma, owing to their size, continuity, nature and quality.
- The site is around 450 km away from capital Lima.
- Drawn more than 2 millennia ago on the surface of southern Peru's arid Pampa Colorada, the geoglyphs feature different subjects, but mainly plants and animals.
- The figures include pelicans (the largest ones sized around 935 feet long), Andean Condors (443 feet), monkeys (360 feet), etc.
- Variety of geometric shapes such as triangles, trapezoids and spirals, and some have been associated with astronomical functions.
- The Lines were first discovered in 1927, and were declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1994.



1.9 Earliest Dairy Production

Recently study by archaeologists has found that dairy products were being produced by the Harappans as far back as 2500 BCE.

- The finding reveals the earliest evidence of dairy production.
- The results of the study are based on molecular chemical analysis of residue in shards of pottery found at the archaeological site of KotadaBhadli, in Gujarat.



Excavations in Indus Valley

- In the 1920s, the Archaeological Department of India carried out excavations in the Indus valley wherein the ruins of the two old cities, viz. Mohenjodaro and Harappa were unearthed.
- In 1924, John Marshall, Director-General of the ASI, announced the discovery of a new civilisation in the Indus valley to the world.
- From the excavations it is found that IVC was faceless, means no king, no bureaucratic organisations, but there were very close regional interactions between settlements, a symbiotic relationship of give and take that helped the civilisation survive for so long.
- The year 2020 marks 100 years of discovery of Indus Valley Civilisation.

1.10 Sadikpur Sinauli Archaeological Site

- The 2018 Excavations from Baghpat district in UP, proved evidence of the existence of a warrior class around 2,000 BCE.
- Recently the archaeological site is at Sadikpur Sinauli, Baghpat District have been declared to be of “national importance” by the Archaeological Survey of India.
- The ASI’s notification under provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 brings the 28.67-hectare-site under Central protection.
- The site would now be maintained by the ASI and development works around it would be subject to Central rules.
- The notification comes two years after the ASI unearthed remains of chariots, shields, swords and other items indicating the presence of a warrior class at the site that is 68 km from Delhi.
- ASI termed the site the “largest necropolis of the late Harappan period datable to around early part of second millennium BCE”.

1.11 Adichanallur Excavations

- 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.
- Recently a maiden excavation at important site was initiated after the last excavation done in 2015.
- Sivakalai near Eral, in Adichanallur is one of the important sites.
- Recent Developments - More than 35 burial urns have been retrieved from the site.
- Small pots had been placed around these urns, which could be a custom followed by the ancient Tamils.

1.12 Panel to conserve Edakkal Caves

- The Edakkal Caves are located on the Ambukuthi Hills (a part of the Western Ghats) on the Mysore Plateau, in Wayanad district of Kerala. It is located 1,200m above the sea level.
- It has engravings from the late Neolithic period, the only evidence for the existence of true Neolithic Culture in Kerala.
- Some of the carvings in the caves date back to 6000 BC and hence, even sound can impact them.
- The neolithic petroglyphs on the cave walls still await protection from illegal constructions, mining, and urbanisation.
- Authorities had been looking to get the caves labelled as UNESCO World Heritage Site to help conserve the site.






- Recently government has constituted a nine-member expert committee to conduct a detailed study on the present state of the Edakkal caves.
- The committee would consist of experts in archaeology, history, geology, rock mechanics, and conservation.

1.13 Buddhist Monastery in Jharkhand

ASI has unearthed a Buddhist monastery of at least 900 years old, buried under a mound in a village of Hazaribagh district, Jharkhand.

- ASI has excavated 10 stone statues of deity Tara and the Buddha near Juljul Pahar of Sitagarhi Hills, around 12 km from district headquarters Hazaribagh.
- They also found a sculpture which appears to be that of Shaivite deity Maheswari – with a coiled crown and chakra – indicating cultural assimilation in the area.
- The findings were significant since the monastery is on the old route to Varanasi, where the Buddha gave his first sermon.
- The central shrine had Tara's statue and two subsidiary shrines had the Buddha's.
- Tara is in Varad Mudra [gesture of hand showing dispensing of boons] and six statues of the Buddha in Bhumisparsha Mudra [gesture of hand showing five fingers of right hand towards the earth symbolising the Buddha's enlightenment].
- The presence of statues of deity Tara shows proliferation of Vajrayana form of Buddhism in the region.
- Vajrayana is a form of Tantric Buddhism, which flourished in India from 6th to 11th century.
- A script of four-five words in Nagri was also found.
- Nagri is a previous version of Devnagri script and the words indicate Buddhist religious affiliation.

Mudra Name	Description	Image
Right Hand Mudras		
Abhaya	<p>“Gesture of Protection “ “Gesture of Fearlessness” or “Blessing” or “Fearless Mudra”</p> <p>Sometimes also as a left-hand gesture</p> <p>Characteristic of Buddha Shakyamuni and Dhyani Buddha Amogasiddhi.</p>	
Vitarka	<p>“The Gesture of Debate” or “Discussion” mudra</p> <p>Mystic gesture of Taras and Bodhisattvas</p> <p>Used when explaining the Buddha's teachings</p>	
Bhumisparsha	<p>“Touching the earth” mudra or “Calling the earth to witness” mudra</p> <p>Symbolizes Shakyamunis victory over Mara.</p> <p>The Dhyani Buddha Akshobhya shows the same Mudra</p>	



Varada	<p>“Gesture of Charity”, “Gift bestowing Gesture of Compassion” or “conferring boon” or “grace”</p> <p>Mudra of Dhyani Buddha Ratnasamhava, Bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara and (sometimes) standing Buddha Shakyamuni</p>	
Shramanamudra	<p>Gesture of Ascetic, Renunciation mudra</p> <p>A symbol for renunciation of secular pleasures</p>	
Jnana	<p>“Gesture of Knowledge” Differs from the vitarka mudra in which the palm faces away from the body.</p>	
Kartari	<p>“Gesture of Discord” Frequently, symbols appear between these two fingers.</p>	
Left Hand Mudras		
Avakasha	<p>Gesture of Leisure</p>	
Kataka	<p>Flower-holding Gesture</p> <p>Frequently used in icons in which fresh flowers or other venerated objects are inserted.</p>	
Dhyana	<p>Gesture of Meditation</p> <p>Also called Samadhi or Yoga Mudra</p> <p>Characteristic gesture of Budha Shakyamuni, Dhyani Buddha Amitaba and the Medicine Buddhas.</p>	



1.14 Dickinsonia

Researchers have discovered fossils of the earliest known living animal, 550-million-year-old 'Dickinsonia' in the Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka.

- The fossils were found in the roof of the 'Auditorium Cave' at Bhimbetka.
- These are the only Dickinsonia fossils available in the country, and are similar to those seen in southern Australia.
- This is further proof of the similar paleoenvironments and confirms the assembly of Gondwanaland by the 550 Ma (Mega Annum), but not reconstructions adjusted for true polar wander.
- One can identify the fossils from the white leaf-like patches with a central vertebra (central midrib) and connecting veins.
- Dickinsonia is an extinct genus of basal animal that lived during the late Ediacaran period in what is now Australia, Russia and Ukraine.

Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka

- Bhimbetka is an archaeological site in the foothills of the Vindhyan Mountains on the southern edge of the central Indian plateau.
- It is a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site.
- Within massive sandstone outcrops, there are five clusters of natural rock shelters displaying paintings that spans from the prehistoric Paleolithic and Mesolithic Period through to the historical period.
- Bhimbetka, which has the oldest-known art in India, is also known as Bhima's Lounge (Bhima - Pandava prince from the Mahabharata).
- It also exhibits the earliest traces of human life in India and evidence of Stone Age starting at the site in Acheulian times.

2. TRIBES & TRIBAL ARTS

2.1 Hakki-Pikki Tribes

Hakki-Pikki community of **Karnataka** has been severely impacted by the Covid-19. They are Scheduled Tribes in Karnataka.

- Hakki Pikki (literally **bird hunters**) are a semi-nomadic tribe who have travelled and lived in various parts of the country.
- Alternate names of the Hakkipikki are Haranashikari, Pashi pardhi, Adavichencher and Shikari in Karnataka as per the available materials.
- As part of a 'rehabilitation drive' by the Government of Karnataka in the 1950s and '60s, they were forced out of their forest dwellings and brought into the edges of cities like Bengaluru, Mysuru, Hassan etc.
- **Language** - Though the community lives in Southern part of India surrounded by Dravidian languages, they speak Indo Aryan language called 'Vaagri'. This is because they migrated from the Northern India.
- The UNESCO has listed Hakkipikki is one of the endangered languages.
- **Uniqueness** - The tribe follows a curious naming practice (or used to at least), where the parents named their new born child after the first word that came to their mind. Eg: Doctor, English, British, Gun, etc.,

2.2 Yanomami Tribe

- Guarani, Kaingang, Pataxó, Hã Hã Hãe, Tupinambá, Yanomami, Tikuna and Akuntsu are popular tribes of the Amazon basin.
- The Yanomami live in the rainforests and mountains of northern Brazil and southern Venezuela.
- They are the largest relatively isolated tribe in South America and live in large, circular houses called yanos or shabonos, some of which can hold up to 400 people.



- The Yanomami consider all people to be equal, and do not have a chief.
- Instead, all decisions are based on consensus after long discussions and debates.
- They are speakers of a Xirianá language.
- A Brazilian indigenous leader Davi Kopenawa who secured the land rights of the Yanomami people was awarded the Right Livelihood Award-2019, also known as Sweden's alternative Nobel Prize.
- Recently Yanomami tribe has launched a global campaign to expel 20,000 gold miners from their land.

2.3 Tharu Tribe

The Uttar Pradesh government is working to connect Tharu villages in districts bordering Nepal, with the home stay scheme of the UP Forest Department.

- The biggest chunk of UP's tribal population is made up of Tharus.
- The intention is to put Tharu villages on the tourism map, and to create jobs and bring economic independence to the tribal population.
- Tharus belong to the Terai lowlands, amid the Shivaliks.
- They live in both India and Nepal.
- In India, they live mostly in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar.
- Most of them are forest dwellers, and some practice agriculture.
- The word tharu is believed to be derived from sthavir, meaning followers of Theravada Buddhism.
- They speak various dialects of Tharu, a language of the Indo-Aryan subgroup, and variants of Hindi, Urdu, and Awadhi.
- Tharu women have stronger property rights than is allowed to women in mainstream North Indian Hindu custom.

2.4 Char-Chaporis Island & Miya Muslims

- Char-chaporis are shifting riverine islands of the Brahmaputra.
- A char is a floating island while chaporis are low-lying flood-prone riverbanks.
- These islands are primarily inhabited by the Muslims of Bengali-origin.
- They are derogatively referred to as 'Miyas'.
- The 'Miya' community comprises descendants of Muslim migrants from East Bengal (now Bangladesh) to Assam.
- The community migrated in several waves starting with the British annexation of Assam in 1826, and continuing into Partition and the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War.
- It has resulted in changes in demographic composition of the region.
- According to official data the population of chars at 24.90 lakh as per a socio-economic survey in 2002-03.
- While Bengali-origin Muslims primarily occupy these islands, other communities such as Misings, Deoris, Kocharis, Nepalis also live in the island.

2.5 Risa

Tripura Chief Minister has made it his style statement to sport the Risa, a customary hand-woven cloth used by Tripura's tribal communities.

- The customary Tripuri female attire has three parts - Risa, Rignai and Rikutu.
- **Risa** is used as a head gear, stole, female upper cloth or presented to honour a distinguished recipient.



- Adolescent Tripuri girls are first given risa to wear in an event called Risa Sormani. The event involves prayers to a Lampra god.
- **Rignai** is primarily used to cover lower part of the body.
- **Rituku** covers the upper half of the body, wrapping it all around.
- It is also used to cover the head of newly married Tripuri women.

2.6 Monpa Paper

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) opened a Monpa paper making unit in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh.

- This unit aims at reviving the art and also engaging the local youths with this art professionally and earn.
- Monpa Paper or Mon Shugu is the fine-textured handmade paper of Arunachal Pradesh that originated over 1000 years ago.
- It has great historic and religious significance as it is the paper used for writing Buddhist scriptures and hymns in monasteries.
- It will be made from the bark of a local tree called Shugu Sheng, which has medicinal values too.
- It is a local product with great global potential, which is aligned with the Prime Minister's mantra of "Local to Global".

2.7 Sentinelese

Anthropological Survey of India has published a paper titled 'Draft of the Policies for Great Andamanese and Sentinelese'.

- Sentinelese are the most secluded, particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG) who reside in complete isolation on the North Sentinel Island.
- With the population of about 50 to 100, they are not only among the most isolated of nearly 70 PVTGs across the country, but also among the five in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands which include Great Andamanese, Onge, Jarawa, and Shompens
- Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI) has said that any exploitation of the Island for commercial and strategic gain would spell the death knell for its occupants
- AnSI says that the right of the people to the island is unassailable, non-negotiable and unfringeable.
- The prime duty of the state is to protect these rights as eternal and sacrosanct.
- Therefore, their island should not be eyed for any commercial or strategic gain.
- It also calls for building a knowledge bank on the Sentinelese.
- Since 'on-the-spot study' is not possible for the tribal community, anthropologists suggest the 'study of a culture from distance'.
- This is first detailed policy draft for the Sentinelese island, prepared at the request of the Andaman and Nicobar Administration.
- The policy document also talks about the Great Andamanese, a tribe that has had significant exposure to outside world.
- It traces the history of conflict of the Great Andamanese with the British in the 19th century and the outbreak of disease which brought down the number of members of the tribe from nearly 5,000 in 1858 to 30 in 1951.
- It also states that in 1969, the members of the tribe were settled at Strait Island having an area of about five sq. km and due to the changes, the Great Andamanese are no longer a foraging community.
- They are now a semi-acculturated and biogenetically not as pure as the Sentinelese or the Jarawa.
- The policy for Great Andamanese calls for bringing out the population from the "State's development dependency" and make them a self-sustaining group.



2.8 Maldharis

- Project Lion could displace Maldharis within Gir to create 'involute space'
- Involute spaces are areas free from anthropomorphic pressures.
- Resource extraction of forest produce like fuel wood, fodder and minor forest produce as well as human habitation are not allowed in such places.
- So the proposal seeks to relocate 2,500 families of the community from the Gir protected area within 10 years
- Maldharis are a traditional pastoral people found in and around the Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary.
- They live in settlements called ness and make their living by selling milk from their water buffaloes.
- The importance of the human-lion relationship in Gir has been explained in scientific studies.
- Presently Maldhari and lions coexist in a win-win state where lions get a considerable part of their food from Maldhari livestock and Maldharis profit substantially by free access to forest resources.
- The study even found that the absence of Maldharis and their livestock would negatively impact the lion population in Gir.
- With no availability of livestock biomass for lions, the predicted lion carrying capacity went down to 12 lions per 100 sq km.

2.9 Siddis

- Siddis are spread along the coast of Karnataka, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Andhra Pradesh.
- Siddi community is an ethnic African group brought to India in the early 7th century by the Portuguese, to work for them.
- The community is included in the list of the Scheduled Tribes in Karnataka.
- About 50,000 Siddi people reside in India today, of which, more than a third live in northern Karnataka.
- Their mother tongue is called Siddi Basha and many are fluent in Kannada.

2.10 Giant Rock Bee Honey

- It is a Unique Variant of Honey Sourced From Malayali Tribes of Tamil Nadu.
- Malayali is a tribal group from the Eastern Ghats in North Tamil Nadu.
- With a population of around 3,58,000 people they are the largest Scheduled tribes in that region.
- The tribals are usually hill farmers and they cultivate different types of millet.

2.11 Kutia Kondhs

- They are a particularly vulnerable tribal groups in Kalahandi district, Odisha.
- Members of the community take turns to protect forests and wildlife that surround their houses.
- Despite living in abject poverty and depending on natural resources for survival, the Kondhs do not use wood from the forests for fuel and also prevent illegal tree.
- However, in Lanjigarh, where over 90% residents are Kondhs, every 6th household experiences severe food insecurity and hunger.
- Apart from hunger, the tribe faces several other development challenges such as illiteracy; lack of access to basic services like schools, health, nutrition, employment, land ownership; low agricultural production, lack of institutional credit and access to non-timber forest produce (NTFP).



3. LANGUAGES

3.1 Bharati Script

- Script refers to a set of letters used for writing a particular language. E.g. Devanagari, Roman, etc.
- Bharati is a simple and unified script which can be used to write most major Indian languages.
- It is developed by Srinivasa Chakravathy's team at IIT Madras.
- It is designed using simplest shapes, often borrowing simple characters from various Indian languages/scripts and English.
- Scripts supported are - Hindi/Marathi (Devanagari), Tamil, Telugu, Gujarati, Punjabi (Gurmukhi), Bengali, Oriya, Kannada and Malayalam.
- The significance of the script are as follows
 1. It can help the next generation of Indians to easily read in Indian languages.
 2. It is an ideal script for languages like Konkani or Tulu that don't have their own script.
 3. It can serve as a writing system for the innumerable tribal languages of India, and languages of the Northeast.
 4. It can lead to a new system of Braille (for blind persons) for Indian languages and even a fingerspelling system for the hearing-impaired.
 5. It can shorten the duration of adult literacy programs from 6 months to a few weeks, as the script is easy to learn.

3.2 Urdu Language

- Urdu is a major language of South Asia, It is spoken in countries including India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal.
- Both Urdu and Hindi belong to the new Indo-Aryan group sharing the same Indic base.
- Urdu is one of the languages mentioned in the 8th Schedule to the Constitution.
- Urdu had developed and flourished in Delhi during the period of 'Delhi Sultanate' from 12th to 16th century.
- Then during the period of 'Mughal Empire' in Delhi from 16th century to 19th century when several court poets used this language in their great poetry and writings.
- Its first major folk poet Amir Khusrau (1253-1325), composed dohas (couplets) and riddles in the newly-formed speech, then called Hindavi.
- When Delhi Sultanate and then Mughal Empire spread in the Deccan, Urdu spread in southern states.
- The language derived even local words from the local languages of those states and developed as a 'Dakhni' language which was a bit distinctive of Urdu language in the North.
- The divide between Urdu and Hindi occurred under the colonial impact.
- Hindi and Urdu got split along religious lines with Hindi in Nagari script becoming identified with Hindus, and Urdu in Persian script identified with Muslims.
- World Urdu Conference 2020 was held recently by the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL)

National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language

- National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language started functioning as an autonomous body in 1996, under the Union Ministry of Education.
- It is the National Nodal Agency for Promotion of Urdu.
- NCPUL has also been assigned the responsibility of promotion of Arabic and Persian.
- NCPUL would advise the Government on issues connected with Urdu language as may be referred to it.



3.3 Mongolian Kanjur

- The Ministry of Culture has taken up the project of reprinting 108 volumes of Mongolian Kanjur by March 2022 under the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM).
- It is a Buddhist canonical text in 108 volumes and is considered to be the most important religious text in Mongolia.
- It is a source of providing a cultural identity to Mongolia.
- In the Mongolian language 'Kanjur' means 'Concise Orders'- the words of Lord Buddha in particular.
- It has been translated from Tibetan and is written in classical Mongolian.
- The publication of Mongolian Kanjur by the Government of India for the Government of Mongolia will act as a symbol of cultural harmony.

National Mission for Manuscripts

- The National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) was launched in 2003, under the Ministry of Culture.
- It aims to document, conserve and disseminate the knowledge preserved in the manuscripts.
- One of the objectives of the mission is to publish rare and unpublished manuscripts so that the knowledge enshrined in them is spread to researchers, scholars and the general public at large.
- A manuscript is a handwritten composition on paper, bark, cloth, metal, palm leaf or any other material dating back at least 75 years that has significant scientific, historical or aesthetic value.
- Manuscripts are distinct from historical records such as epigraphs on rocks, revenue records which provide direct information on events or processes in history.

3.4 Language of the Tangams

Last week Arunachal Pradesh CM released a book titled Tangams: An Ethnolinguistic Study Of The Critically Endangered Group of Arunachal Pradesh.

- The Tangams are a community within the larger Adi tribe of Arunachal Pradesh and reside in the hamlet of Kugging in Upper Siang district.
- They are now concentrated in only one village (Kugging), with only 253 reported speakers.
- As per the UNESCO World Atlas of Endangered Languages (2009), Tangam — an oral language that belongs to the Tani group, under the greater **Tibeto-Burman language family** — is marked 'critically endangered'.
- To communicate with their neighbours over the years, the Tangams have become multilingual, speaking not just Tangam, but other tongues such as Shimong, Khamba and Hindi.
- The languages of Arunachal Pradesh have been classified under the Sino-Tibetan language family, and more specifically under the Tibeto-Burman and Tai group of languages, such as Lolo-Burmish, Bodhic, Sal, Tani, Mishmi, Hruish and Tai.
- While the education system has introduced Devanagari, Assamese and Roman scripts for most tribal languages, new scripts such as Tani Lipi and Wancho Script have been developed by native scholars.
- There has been no systematic, scientific or official survey on the number of languages in Arunachal.
- Still, experts peg the number of languages at 32-34.
- Despite there being a plethora of languages in the state, almost all are endangered.
- According to the UNESCO Atlas more than 26 languages of Arunachal Pradesh have been identified as endangered.
- The degrees range from 'unsafe', 'definitely endangered' to 'critically endangered'.
- The diversity of languages has led various communities to depend on English, Assamese and colloquial variety of Hindi called Arunachalee Hindi as the link languages.
- Many believe this shift has led to loss of native languages of the tribal communities.

3.5 Avadhanam

A seven-day Avadhana Saptaham commenced in Visakhapatnam.

- 'Avadhanam' is like a test of the poet's literary prowess and scholarship.



- It is a cerebral exercise that originated during the Vedic time.
- It has evolved over ages to become a literary feat in Sanskrit.
- It has since evolved into a distinct genre in the Telugu literature and has greatly contributed to the Telugu language.
- It involves solving tricky literary posers, improvising poems and tests a person's capability of performing such multiple tasks simultaneously.
- Its salient features involve Dattapadi, Samasya, Nishiddakshari etc.
- Initially it had a octave template of Ashtavadhanam, involving eight questioners. Then it manifested as Sathavadhanam, Dwisathavadhanam and Sahasravadhanam involving 100, 200 and 1000 questioners respectively.
- Renowned poet duo Tirupati Venkata Kavulu immensely popularised avadhanam, making it enjoyable even for a layman.

4. FINE ARTS

4.1 Bhaona

The Congress in Assam has tweaked Bhaona for a statement against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the National Register of Citizens.

- Bhaona is a dramatic form of entertainment to convey spiritualism in the Vaishnav mould. It is a presentation of the Ankia Naat of Assam.
- It was created by the saint Srimanta Sankaradeva five centuries ago.
- In Bhaona cultural glimpses of Assam, Bengal Orissa, Mathura and Brindavan can be seen.
- The Sutradhaar, or narrator begins the story, first in Sanskrit and then in either Brajboli or Assamese.
- [Brajboli or Brajavali is a literary language developed by Sankaradeva that was limited to theatrical usage.]

Shankaradeva

- Initially, Shankaradeva wrote his prose in Sanskrit but later used Assamese and Brajavali to develop the following art forms:
- Bhaona - a mythology-based theatrical performance,
- Borgeet - a new form of spiritual music, and
- Monastic dances that evolved into the classical Sattriya (a classical dance form which is a medium for propagation of Vaishnava faith).

4.2 Tholpavakkoothu Robots

- It is the first-ever robotic shadow leather puppet based on Tholpavakkoothu art.
- Tholpavakkoothu is Kerala's famous temple art, in which shadow leather puppets are used to tell stories from the epic Ramayana.
- It is also known as Nizhalkkoothu and Olakkoothu, and has its roots in Palakkad and neighbouring regions.
- It used to be performed in the Bhadrakali temples of Palakkad and is confined largely to Pulavar families of Palakkad district.

4.3 Indian Miniature Paintings

- Indian miniatures are small-scale highly detailed paintings.
- They trace back to at least 9th century CE, and are a living tradition with many contemporary artists still pursuing the art form.
- By the 12th century free from restrictions of paintings on palm leaf Indian miniatures grew bigger in format.
- They began to include more intense colours and extensive border embellishments, with the influence of paintings styles of Persia and mamluks under the ottomans.



- Miniature paintings began to break new ground in colour with golds, silver and a new ultramarine blue from lapis lazuli.
- Miniatures were heavily influenced by Indian literature and were often used as illustration to texts as well as individual paintings.
- Indian painters illustrated epics fables and religious texts visualizing these stories through art for those who might not be able to read.
- The painters of these tiny, extraordinary works were craftspeople of the highest order.
- Often brushes with only a single bristle would be used to pick out fine details and the technique is very refined.

4.4 Nirmal Art

- This 400-year-old rich tradition (which has a geographical indication tag) encompasses wood toys and duco paintings (Shiny paintings) as well as furniture.
- Nirmal wooden toys are exclusively made in Nirmal town in Adilabad district of Telangana.
- Rajasthan's Naqqash families, who migrated during 17th century, brought this art to Nirmal. It flourished due to the legacy of Hyderabad Nizam.
- These toys were made of finely carved softwood called Ponki chekka or white sander. They are even painted in enamel colours.

4.5 Warli Art

- Warli is a traditional art form of Maharashtra, its roots can be traced to as early as the 10th century A.D.
- It is drawn by Warli Tribe, who are an indigenous tribe living in the Mountainous as well as coastal areas of Maharashtra-Gujarat border and surrounding areas.
- They speak an unwritten Varli language which belongs to the southern zone of the Indo-Aryan languages.
- Warli paintings are mainly dominated by basic geometric shapes like circles, triangles and squares.
- In warli paintings the circles represent the sun and moon, the triangles represent the mountains and the squares are considered as the central motifs of the painting.
- People and animals are represented by two inverted triangles joined together, where the upper triangle is the torso and the lower triangle is the pelvis.
- The central theme of the paintings are scenes portraying hunting, fishing, farming, festival and dances, trees and animals are used to surround the central theme.

Other Toys

- Wooden toys and dolls of Varanasi, Budhni and Chitrakoot
- Clay toys of Rajasthan
- Doll of East Medinipur, Dingla and Dingli of the Kutch
- Terracotta toys of Dhubri-Assam

4.6 Annapurna Idol

PM told that an 18th century idol of goddess Annapurna, carved in the Benares style, is being brought back from Canada.

- This idol was stolen from a temple of Varanasi and smuggled out of the country somewhere around 1913.
- It is part of the University Of Regina, Canada's collection at the MacKenzie Art Gallery.
- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is the official custodian of all such repatriated artefacts.
- So, ASI was tasked with ascertaining the security arrangements at the idol's original location before handing it back to trustees at the temple.
- Recently, Union Culture Minister handed over 13th-century bronze idols of Lord Rama, Lakshmana and goddess Sita, which were repatriated from the UK, to the Tamil Nadu government.

4.7 Natesa Idol

Natesa, a rare sandstone idol in the 9th century Pratihara style of Rajasthan, is returning to the country after 22 years.

- It is a rare sandstone 9th century idol that was smuggled out of country in 1998.
- It is of made of Pratihara style of Rajasthan.
- The Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty ruled much of northern India from the mid-8th to 11th century CE.
- Archaeologists and enthusiasts behind the 'India Pride Project' have also taken consistent efforts for the restitution of the Natesa icon
- It is a rare and brilliant depiction of Shiva.
- A beautiful depiction of Nandi is shown behind the right leg of the Natesa icon.



4.8 Pattachitra

- It is a traditional art form of Odisha, which dates back to 5 BC.
- It continues to live on in India's first heritage village Raghurajpur.
- The name 'Pattachitra' has evolved from the Sanskrit words 'patta' (canvas) and 'chitra' (picture).
- Thus, it refers to a painting done on canvas and is manifested by rich colorful applications, creative motifs, and designs.
- It involves the portrayal of simple themes, mostly mythological in depiction.
- All colours used in the paintings are natural.
- The tassar cloth Pattachitra is also quite popular.
- The one etched on dried palm leaves is more often picked up by tourists as souvenirs.
- Other forms of Pattachitra include paper mache masks, paintings on coconut and betel nut.
- Interestingly, the Raghurajpur village is also known for Gotipua dance (a traditional dance form that is the precursor to Odissi classical dance).



4.9 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 Roopwadh Pratishthan's the Tanvir Award (2004) for lifetime contribution to the theatre.
- He received the Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan.
- He received Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship for lifetime contribution to theatre.



5. ARCHITECTURE

5.1 Largest Reclining Buddha Statue

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the ceremony to install India's largest Reclining Buddha statue (on Buddha Purnima or Vesak) at the Buddha International Welfare Mission temple, Bodh Gaya, was put off.

- The giant 100-foot fibreglass statue was built over three months by a team of 22 artisans in Kolkata.
- It remains a fascinating work of art, as much for its size as for the way The Buddha has been depicted.

Reclining Buddha

- A Reclining Buddha statue or image represents the Buddha during his last illness, about to enter Parinirvana (483 BC), the stage of great salvation after death that can only be attained by enlightened souls.
- Buddha died at the age of 80, in meditation state, in Kushinagar in UP.
- Buddha's Mahaparinirvana that happened in Kushinagar is the great demise, after which there is no rebirth for him. It is his final going away.
- The Reclining Buddha also signifies the Buddha's last deeksha - even while on his deathbed, he took a follower into the fold.
- The statues and images of the Reclining Buddha show him lying on his right side, his head resting on a cushion or on his right elbow.
- This popular iconographic depiction shows that all beings can be awakened and be released from the cycle of death and rebirth.
- The Reclining Buddha was first depicted in Gandhara art, which began in the period between 50 BC and 75 AD and peaked during the Kushana period from the 1st to 5th centuries AD.

Other Depictions

- Sitting Buddha (world's most common depiction) signifies teaching or meditating.
- Standing Buddha signifies rising to teach after reaching nirvana.
- Walking Buddha -least common of the Buddha postures- is either beginning his journey toward enlightenment or returning after giving a sermon. This is seen mostly in Thailand.
- The Buddha statues found in South East Asia are an amalgamation of all his various postures and life events, including mahaparinirvana.
- In India, there are a lot of Buddhas in sitting postures, mostly pertaining to his Enlightenment rather than to his demise.
- **Mahabodhi temple** - The Buddha is sitting in the bhoomi-sparsha mudra, where his hand is pointing towards the ground. It symbolises earth as being witness to his enlightenment.
- **Sarnath** - The stone statue of the Buddha has a hand gesture called the dharma-chakra mudra, which signifies preaching.
- This is the most popular depiction in India, along with the Bodhi tree depiction.

Reclining Buddha outside India

- In Sri Lanka and India, the Buddha is mostly shown in sitting postures, while the reclining postures are more prevalent in Thailand and other parts of South East Asia.
- The World's largest Reclining Buddha is the 600-foot Winsein Tawya Buddha built in 1992 in Mawlamyine, Myanmar.
- In the late 15th century, a 70-metre statue of the Reclining Buddha was built at the Hindu temple site of Baphuon in Cambodia's Angkor.
- The World's oldest statue of its kind is the Bhamala Buddha Parinirvana (2nd century AD) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan.

Reclining Buddha in India

- **Ajanta** - Cave No. 26 of Ajanta contains a 24-foot-long and 9-foot-tall sculpture of the Reclining Buddha (5th century AD).
- **Kushinagar** - It has a 6-metre-long red sandstone monolith statue of the Reclining Buddha inside the Parinirvana Stupa.



5.2 Thotlakonda Buddhist Complex

- Thotlakonda Buddhist Complex is situated on a hill near Bheemunipatna, closer to Mangamaripeta arch formation.
- Thotlakonda was well within the influence of ancient Kalinga, which was an important source of dissemination of Buddhism to Sri Lanka and various parts of Southeast Asia.
- It provides an insight into the process of transoceanic diffusion of Indic culture, especially Buddhism.
- A hill on the sea coast with salubrious climate was an ideal attraction for the Buddhist monks to build a monastery complex here.
- Nikaya Buddhism appears to have been practiced here, including the worship of Gautama Buddha through symbols such as padukas and other material remains rather than using human representation.
- Excavations established the existence of a Hinayana Buddhist complex which flourished 2000 years ago.
- The excavations reveal Satavahana dynasty lead and Roman silver coins indicating foreign trade.
- Thotlakonda's peak activity was between the 2nd century BCE and the 2nd century CE owing to brisk Roman trade and religious missions sent abroad.

5.3 Hoysala Lakshmi Devi Temple

Recently, a Hoysala-era idol of Goddess Kali of the Lakshmi Devi Temple at Doddagaddavalli, Karnataka has been found damaged.

- Lakshmi Devi temple was built by the Hoysalas in the year 1114 CE during the rule of king Vishnuvardhana.
- The building material is Chloritic schist, more commonly known as soapstone.
- The temple does not stand on a jagati (platform), a feature which became popular in later Hoysala temples.
- The temple is a Chatuskuta construction (4 shrine and tower) and the towers are in Kadamba nagara style.
- The mantapa is open and square, the reason for the square plan is the presence of shrines on all four sides of the mantapa.
- The main deity is Goddess Lakshmi whereas all Hoysala temples are dedicated to either Lord Vishnu, Lord Shiva and in some cases to Jains.
- An archaeological Survey of India (ASI) monument and is also among the monuments proposed for the UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Hoysala Temple Architecture

- It is the building style developed under the rule of the Hoysalas and is mostly concentrated in southern Karnataka.
- Hoysala temples are sometimes called hybrid or vesara as their unique style seems neither completely dravida nor nagara, but somewhere in between.
- They are easily distinguishable from other medieval temples by their highly original star-like ground-plans and a profusion of decorative carvings.
- The temples, instead of consisting of a simple inner chamber with its pillared hall, contain multiple shrines grouped around a central pillared hall and laid out in the shape of an intricately-designed star.
- The most characteristic feature of these temples is that they grow extremely complex with so many projecting angles emerging from the previously straightforward square temple.
- The plan of these temples starts looking like a star, and is thus known as a stellate-plan.

5.4 Bundi Temples and Stepwells

- Bundi is a district in the Hadoti region of Rajasthan.
- It was the erstwhile capital of Hada Rajput province known as Hadoti located in south-eastern Rajasthan.
- It is also known as City of stepwalls, blue city and also as Chotti Kashi.



- It was known as Chotti Kashi owing to presence of over hundred temples within and around the hada capital.
- Temples constructed in early phase of Bundi's growth were in classical Nagara style, while in later phases new temple typologies emerged from amalgamation of architectural form of traditional haveli with the classical Nagara style.
- Jain temples formed third type of temple type constructed in an introvert form.
- A fourth temple type emerged in the form of raised or elevated temple.
- Absence of monumentality in their scale is a distinctive feature of temples in Bundi.

5.5 Junagadh Rock Inscription

- The Junagadh rock inscription of Rudradaman, also known as the Girnar Rock inscription of Rudradaman, is a Sanskrit prose inscribed on a rock by the Western Satraps ruler Rudradaman I.
- It is located near Girnar hill near Junagadh, Gujarat, India.
- The inscription is dated to shortly after 150 CE.
- The Junagadh rock contains inscriptions of Ashoka (one of fourteen of the Major Rock Edicts of Ashoka), Rudradaman I and Skandagupta.

5.6 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 Shakthi Peeths in India
 1. Jagannath Temple, Puri
 2. Kamakhya Temple near Guwahati
 3. Dakshina Kalika in Kolkata
 4. Tara Tarini near Brahmapur, Odisha.

5.7 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 in 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.

5.8 Ekamravan Kshetra

- Ekamravan Kshetra or Lingaraj Temple was built in 11th century AD, is dedicated to Lord Shiva, it is the largest temple of Bhubaneswar.
- It is believed to have been built by the Somvanshi King Yayati I.
- It is built in red stone and is a classic example of Kalinga style of architecture.



- The temple is divided into four sections - Garbh Griha (sanctum sanctorum), Yajna Shala (the hall for prayers), Bhoga Mandap (the hall of offering) and Natya Shala (hall of dance).
- The sprawling temple complex has one hundred and fifty subsidiary shrines.
- The other attraction of the temple is the Bindusagar (a sprawling pond), that has religious relationship with the main temple.
- Odisha government has announced to give a facelift to the 11th century Lingaraj Temple, akin to its pre-350-year structural status.
- The proposed plan quoted to spend a total of ₹ 700 crore for bringing transformational changes in areas surrounding the Lingaraj Temple.

5.9 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.

6. HERITAGE

6.1 National Maritime Heritage Complex

- This world-class facility is to be developed by the Ministry of Culture (MoC) and Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) in the vicinity of the ASI site of Lothal, Gujarat.
- It is to be developed as a first of its kind in the country dedicated to the legacy of Maritime Heritage of India from ancient to modern times, to showcase India's rich and diverse maritime glory.
- It would be developed as an international tourist destination that would be showcased for edutainment purpose.
- **Features** - The unique feature of NMHC is the recreation of ancient Lothal city - one of the cities of the Indus valley civilization (2400 BC).
- NMHC would have structures such as National Maritime Heritage Museum, Light House Museum, Heritage Theme Park, Museum Themed Hotels & Maritime themed eco-resorts, Maritime Institute etc.
- Various theme parks would be developed through public-private partnership.
- **NCF** - MoC will facilitate in the fundraising for NMHC through the National Culture Fund (NCF).
- The services of National Culture Fund (NCF) shall be utilized to receive funds by way of grant, donation, CSR and foreign contribution.
- MoC will also provide needed collaboration to NMHC for all maritime heritage subjects under its project 'Mausam'.



6.2 Kakatiya Ramappa Temple - A UNESCO World Heritage Site

The World Heritage Committee (WHC) of UNESCO has declared Kakatiya Ramappa Temple (Rudeshwara Temple), Telangana as a World Heritage site (WHS). It is India's 39th WHS.

- **About** - Ramappa Temple was constructed in 1213 AD during the reign of the Kakatiya Empire by Recherla Rudra, a general of Kakatiya king Ganapati Deva. The presiding deity here is Ramalingeswara Swamy.
- The temple is located at the foothills of a forested area, close to the shores of the Ramappa Cheruvu, a Kakatiya-built water reservoir.
- It stands on a 6-ft high star-shaped platform with walls, pillars and ceilings adorned with intricate carvings that attest to the unique skill of the Kakatiyan sculptors.
- **Engineering Marvel** - The temple is a 13th century engineering marvel named after its architect Ramappa, who executed the work in the temple for 40 years.
- The distinct style of Kakatiyas for the gateways to temple complexes, unique only to this region confirms the highly evolved proportions of aesthetics in temple and town gateways in South India.
- A European traveler had remarked that the temple was the "brightest star in the galaxy of medieval temples of the Deccan".

6.3 Tentative List of UNESCO World Heritage Site

The Archaeological Survey of India forwarded the Maharashtra government's tentative serial nomination seeking the World Heritage Site tag for 14 forts, to UNESCO through the Ministry of Culture.

- These 14 forts are from the era of 17th century Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj on the theme of Maratha Military Architecture in Maharashtra.
- **Tentative Lists** - The UNESCO has accepted the serial nomination in Tentative Lists of its World Heritage Site (WHS).
- According to the World Heritage Convention's guidelines, a tentative list is an "inventory" of properties a country believes deserves to be a WHS.
- After UNESCO includes a property in the Tentative List, that country has to be preparing a nomination document that will be considered by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.
- **WHS** - A WHS is a location with a cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity".
- The list of WHS is maintained by the international 'World Heritage Programme', administered by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

The 14 Forts in Maharashtra's Proposal

- **Raigad Fort or Rairi Fort** - It is built on a large wedge of a hill in the Sahyadris, separated from the main range by a ravine.
- The capital fort of the Maratha Empire, it was rebuilt for the coronation of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.
- **Rajgad Fort** - Hill fort in Pune district, capital of the Maratha Empire under Shivaji for 26 years, before the capital moved to the Raigad Fort.
- **Shivneri Fort** - Near Junnar in Pune district. It is Shivaji's birthplace, and an example of Bahamani/ Nizamshahi architecture providing a backdrop to narrative of guerrilla warfare.
- **Torna Fort** - It was captured by Shivaji in 1646, and this marked the beginning of the Maratha empire.
- **Lohagad** - Close to Lonavala, it is an example of Maratha hill fort architecture until Peshwa period.
- **Salher Fort** - One of the highest forts in Sahyadris, located in Dolhari range, Nashik. Battle of Marathas and Mughals happened here in 1672.
- **Mulher Fort** - Surrender of Mulher in Nashik ended 3rd Maratha War.
- **Rangana Fort** - Aurangzeb tried to conquer this fort in Kolhapur along with Bhudargad and Samangad in his Deccan campaign, did not succeed.



- **Ankai Tankai Forts** - In Nashil district, Ankai and Tankai are separate forts on adjacent hills, with a common fortification wall.
- **Kasa Fort or Padmadurg** - It was built on a rocky island off coast of Murud, and provided a base for naval military operations.
- **Sindhudurg Fort** - This sea fort was built by Shivaji in 1668. A masterpiece in military defence.
- **Alibag Fort or Kulaba Fort** - One of the Naval base of Shivaji.
- **Suvarnadurg** - Built on an island, it was repaired by Shivaji in 1660.
- **Khanderi Fort** - It is located in Khanderi or Kanhoji Angre Island. Built in 1679, Khanderi Fort was the site of many battles between Shivaji Maharaj's forces and the navy of the Siddhis.

6.4 Indian Institute of Heritage

- This Institute will be set up by the government at Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar. This would be a standalone Institution of its type in the country. It is being set up as Deemed to be University by integrating,
 1. Institute of Archaeology (Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute of Archaeology),
 2. School of Archival Studies under National Archives of India, New Delhi,
 3. National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property (NRLC), Lucknow,
 4. National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology (NMICHM) and
 5. Academic Wing of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi.
- It will be a world-class University that would focus on the conservation and research in India's rich tangible heritage.
- It will offer research, development and dissemination of knowledge, excellence in the education of its students and activities associated with heritage that contribute to cultural, scientific and economic life of India.

6.5 World Heritage City

Gwalior and Orchha of Madhya Pradesh have been included in the list of World Heritage City by UNESCO.

- Orchha, located in the Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh, was the 16th century capital of the erstwhile Bundela dynasty.
- It is famous for its temples and palaces for a unique confluence of Rajput and Mughal architectural influences
- Gwalior city has been the capital of GurjarPratihara, Tomar, BaghelKachhwahs and ScindiaRajvansh.
- The ancient signs left by them will be found in the form of monuments, forts, palaces.
- After being included in the list of World Heritage, UNESCO will work with the tourism department of the state to preserve and refine these archaeological monuments of Orchha and Gwalior.

6.6 Geo-Heritage Monument

- Geo-heritage refers to the geological features which are inherently or culturally significant offering insight to earth's evolution or history to earth science or that can be utilized for education.
- Geological Survey of India (GSI) is the parent body which is making efforts towards identification and protection of geo-heritage sites.

6.7 Indigenous Mango Heritage Area

Kannapuram in Kannur district of Kerala is being declared an 'Indigenous Mango Heritage Area'

- The panchayat is home to over 200 different varieties of mangoes.
- No study has been conducted to understand the availability of so many varieties in this area.



- The assumption is that there might have been mango villages in other parts of Kerala as well, and those trees were cut down to grow various crops.
- But that didn't happen in Kannapuram.

7. FESTIVALS

7.1 Bonalu Festival

- Bonalu is a popular religious festival of the Jagadambika Temple on Golconda Fort, Telangana.
- It is the state festival of Telangana. It is celebrated in parts of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.
- The Word Bonalu came from “Bhojanalu” meaning food, which is offered to the goddess during festival time.
- According to the Hindu calendar month of Aashadam, Bonalu festival starts with the religious procession starting from Langar Houz to the temple near Bala Hissar on top of the Golconda Fort.
- It is believed that during Ashada Maasam, the Goddess comes back to her maternal home.
- So people come to see her and bring offerings of food (Bonalu) to show their love and affection, just as they would prepare a special meal when their own daughters visit them.

7.2 Cherry Blossom Mao Festival

In Manipur, this Festival was held at Mao area of Senapati district marking the beginning of pink season in the district.

- The Mao area is known for Cherry Blossom, a plant which is popularly known as Sakura in Japan.
- Manipur government started organizing the festival from 2017 onward.
- The festival featured the picturesque landscape of Mao town adorned with Cherry Blossom flowers.

7.3 Thumbimahotsavam

- Thumbimahotsavam is a part of a national dragonfly festival.
- It is being organized by the following organizations –
 1. WWF India
 2. Bombay Natural History Society
 3. National Biodiversity Board
 4. UNEP, UNDP and IUCN-Centre for Environment Conservation
 5. India Dragonfly Society
- Kerala is set to host first-ever state Dragonfly Festival.
- WWF-India State unit has joined hands with the Society for Odonate Studies (SOS) and Thumbipuram for the state dragonfly festival.
- It aims at building awareness about the importance of dragonflies and damselflies and the need to conserve them.
- Dragonflies act as important bio-indicators of the ecological health of an area.

7.4 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 ‘Tuloni Biya’, 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.

7.5 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 Bibir Palagaan, 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.

7.6 Nuakhai Juhar

- Nuakhai Juhar is an agricultural festival, also called Nuakhai Parab or Nuakahi Bhetghat.
- It is adopted from the tribal communities of western Odisha, which is celebrated to welcome the new crop of the season.
- Nuakhai festival traces its origin to the Vedic period in Panchyajna.
- One among them was Pralambana yajna which means the cutting of new crops and offering them to the mother goddess.
- Oral tradition of this festival dates back to the 12th century A.D. when this festival was celebrated by Chauvan Raja Ramai Deo, Bolangir district of Odisha.
- The festival 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.

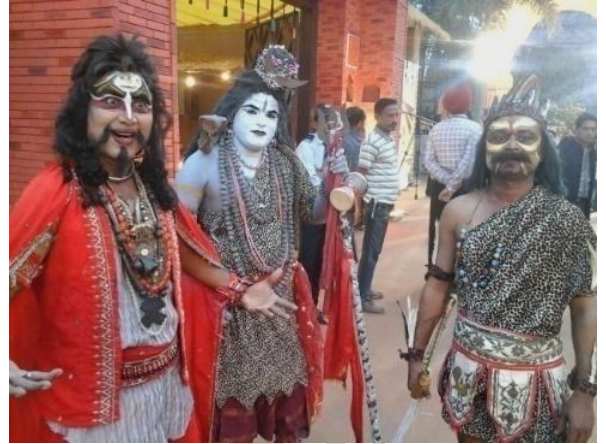
Dalkhai Folk Dance

- 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 ‘Dalkhai Bo!’, it is used as an address to a girlfriend.
- It is performed in various festivals such as Bhaijiuntia, Phagun Puni, Nuakhai, etc.



7.7 Behrupiyas

- Behrupiya festival is a traditional Indian style of street theatre and takes place every year in different locations-
 1. Delhi,
 2. Ahmedabad,
 3. Udaipur,
 4. Jaipur,
 5. Kumbh,
 6. 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.
- Behrupiyas are also said to have helped freedom fighters during the struggle for Independence.



7.8 Prakash Purab Utsav

- Prakash Purab Utsav is a festival of Sikhs, it marks the first installation of Guru Granth Sahib in Harmandir Sahib in 1604.
- Guru Granth Sahib is the central religious scripture of Sikhs.
- It is regarded by Sikhs as the final, sovereign and eternal living Guru following the lineage of the ten human gurus of the religion.
- The Adi Granth, its first rendition, was compiled by the fifth Guru, Guru Arjan (1563–1606).
- Guru Gobind Singh (10th Sikh Guru) added all 115 hymns of Guru Tegh Bahadur (9th Sikh Guru) to the Adi Granth and affirmed the text as his successor.
- Guru Gobind Singh did not add any of his own hymns to the Adi Granth.
- This second rendition became known as Guru Granth Sahib and is sometimes also referred to as Adi Granth.
- The Guru Granth Sahib is written in the Gurmukhi script, in various languages, including Lahnda, Braj Bhasha, Kauravi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, and Persian.

7.9 Raja Parba

Raja Parba, a 3-day festival celebrating womanhood is being celebrated across Odisha

- During this period, it is believed that Mother Earth menstruates and prepares herself for future agricultural activities with the arrival of monsoon.
- She mentioned that the festival is synonymous with varieties of cakes (pithas).
- Keeping this in view, Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC) Sunday launched a special programme
- During the three days, women are given a break from household work and time to play indoor games.
- It welcomes the agricultural year in Odisha, which marks, through biological symbolism, the moistening of the sun-dried soil with the first showers of the monsoon in mid-June thus making it ready for productivity.



7.10 Thrissur Pooram

Kerala government declared that the Pooram would be scaled down in 2021, with entry allowed only to the organizers, media and artists.

- Thrissur Pooram is a celebration of the masses and the mother of all temple festivals in Kerala.
- Sakthan Thampuran, Maharaja of Cochin (1790-1805) started the Thrissur Pooram to beat all the other poorams in the state.
- In its 200-year-old history, the Pooram has always taken place on the grounds of the Vadakkunnathan temple.
- The celebrations involve 16 caparisoned elephants, massive decorated umbrellas, percussion artists, dancers and massive fireworks.
- 10 lakh people from across the state would attend every year.

7.11 Chaitra Jatra festival

Tara Tarini Development Board has decided not to allow any gathering or mass feast at the foothill

- It is a famous annual festival in Tara Tari Shrine hosted in the Chaitra month.
- Tara Tarini hill shrine is located at Kumari hill on banks of the Rushikulya river, is a major centre of Shakti worship in Odisha.
- 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.

8. RELIGION

8.1 Ajmer Sharif Dargah

Afghanistan President has sent the first ever sacred 'Chadar' to the Ajmer Sharif Dargah through its diplomatic mission in New Delhi.

- This Chadar was given during the 809th 'Urs Mubarak(Death Anniversary)' of Khawaja Gharib Nawaz, of AjmerSharif Dargah.
- Ajmer Sharif Dargah is a **Sufi shrine of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti**, which was built by Mughal Emperor **Humayun**.
- Located in Rajasthan, this shrine has Chishti's grave (Maqbara) inside a white marble dome, 11 arches and Persian inscriptions.
- There are several mosques inside the dargah complex, built by Akbar and Shah Jahan, who made it a point to visit Ajmer at least once a year.

8.2 Guru Ram Das

- Guru Ram Das was the fourth of the ten Gurus of Sikhism, he lived between 1534 – 1581.
- His birth name was Jetha, he became the Guru of Sikhism in 1574 and served as the Sikh leader until his death in 1581.
- He appointed his own son as his successor, and unlike the first four Gurus who were not related through descent, the fifth through tenth Sikh Gurus were the direct descendants of Ram Das.
- Guru Ram Das is credited with founding the holy city of Amritsar in the Sikh tradition.
- He shifted his official base to lands identified by Guru Amar Das as Guru-ka-Chak.
- This newly founded town was eponymous Ramdaspur, later to evolve and get renamed as Amritsar.
- While Guru Amar Das introduced the manji system of religious organization, Ram Das extended it with adding the masand institution.



- The masand were Sikh community leaders who lived far from the Guru, but acted to lead the distant congregations, their mutual interactions and collect revenue for Sikh activities and temple building.
- Birth anniversary of guru ram das has commemorated recently.

8.3 Girnar

- Girinar is one of the most ancient Hindu and Jain pilgrimage shrine in India.
- Girnar, also known as Girinagar ('city-on-the-hill') or Revatak Parvata, is a group of mountains in the Junagadh District of Gujarat, India.
- Mount Girnar has Gorakhnath peak, Guru Dattatreya peak and a Jain temple.
- It is the place where 22nd Tirthankar Lord Neminath attained Nirvana.
- Temples located in the hill are sacred to the Digambara and the Svetambara branches of Jainism.
- Recently a 2.3 Km long rope way has been inaugurated in India, it is being touted as the longest temple ropeway in Asia.

8.4 Sarna Religion

Recently Jharkhand government has passed a resolution to recognise Sarna religion and include it as a separate code in the Census of 2021.

- The holy grail of the faith is "Jal, Jungle, Zameen" and its followers pray to the trees and hills while believing in protecting the forest areas.
- It is believed that 50 lakhs tribal in the entire country put their religion as 'Sarna' in the 2011 census, although it was not a code.
- Many of the tribals who follow this faith have later converted to Christianity, the state has more than 4% Christians most of whom are tribals.
- The population of Sarna tribals in the state has declined from the 38.3 per cent in 1931 to 26.02 per cent in 2011.
- One of the reasons for this was tribals who go for work in different states not being recorded in the Census, in other states they are not counted as Tribals.
- The separate code proposed by the state government will ensure recording of their population.
- If the Centre approves the new Sarna code, Census 2021 would have to make space for a new religion.
- Currently, citizens can choose from only six religions: Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism and Jainism.

8.5 Assam's Sattras

- *Assam's Sattras is gaining more attention due the upcoming state's assembly elections.*
- Sattras/Thans are monastic institutions created as part of the 16th century Neo-Vaishnavite reformist movement started by Vaishnavite saint-reformer Srimanta Sankaradeva (1449-1596).
- Each Sattra has a naamghar (worship hall) as its nucleus and headed by an influential Sattradhikar.
- Monks also known as bhakats are inducted into Sattras at a young age.
- They may or may not be celibate which depends on the kind of Sattra they are inducted into.
- Now there are about 900 Sattras spread across Assam but the main centres are Bordowa (Nagaon), Majuli and Barpeta.
- They promulgate Sankaradeva's unique worship through art approach with music (borgeet), dance (xattriya) and theatre (bhauna).
- These sattras are of paramount importance for Assam people and lies at the heart of Assamese culture.



Sankardeva's Philosophy

- He propagated a form of Bhakti called eka-sharana-naam-dhrama, and embraced a society based on equality, fraternity, free from caste differences, orthodox Brahmanical rituals and sacrifices.
- His teaching focused on prayers and chanting (naam) instead of idol worship.
- His dharma was based on the four components of deva (god), naam (prayers), bhakats (devotees), and guru (teacher).
- These satras acted as the centres of religious, social and cultural reforms for his movement in the 16th century.
- But after the demise of Sankardeva, due to ideological differences among his disciples, Satras got divided into four independent sectarian divisions.
- Hence the institution deviated from its basic goal and lost its original reformative thrust.

9. GI TAGS

9.1 Channapatna Toys

- These are wooden toys that are made in Channapatna town in Ramanagara district, Karnataka.
- Due to the popularity of this geographical indication (GI) tagged toys, Channapatna is known as **Gombegala Ooru** (toy-town) of Karnataka.
- This toy is made by **lacquering** the Wrightia tinctoria wood (Aale mara or ivory-wood) or sandalwood or rosewood.
- Origin of these toys - Reign of Tipu Sultan who invited artisans from Persia to train the locals in toy making.
- Father of Channapatna Toy - Bavas Miya (Used Japanese technology for toys making).

9.2 Etikoppaka Bommalu

- Etikoppaka is a village located on the banks of the river Varaha in Vishakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh.
- Etikoppaka Bommalu (or Etikoppaka toys), which have Geographical Indication (GI) Tag, are the toys made of **soft wood** in this region.
- They are also called as lacquer toys because of application of **Turned Wood Lacquer Coating**.
- They are coloured with natural dyes derived from seeds, lacquer, bark, roots and leaves.

10. OTHERS

10.1 National Film Archive of India

- NFAI, Pune was set up in 1964 as a media unit of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B), with the primary objective to acquire and preserve Indian cinematic heritage.
- This includes preservation of film and non-film material including but not limited to celluloid, stills, glass slides, posters, lobby cards, scripts and song booklets.

10.2 National Film Heritage Mission

- Launched in 2017, National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM) is an initiative of the I&B Ministry to preserve, conserve, digitize and restore the rich cinematic heritage of the country.
- National Film Archive of India (NFAI) is the nodal organization for the implementation of this project.
- The broader objectives under NFHM are,
 - a) Film condition assessment and preventive conservation of film reels,



- b) Digitization of films,
- c) 2K/4K Picture & sound restoration of landmark films of Indian cinema, and recording of new picture and sound inter-negatives of each film,
- d) Construction of archival, preservation and conservation facilities (vaults),
- e) Training and workshops for in-house capacity building and
- f) Creating comprehensive web-based end to end IT solutions.

10.3 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.

10.4 Rudraksh

- PM inaugurated the JICA-assisted International Cooperation and Convention Centre, also known as 'Rudraksh' in Varanasi.
- JICA has assisted the construction of the convention centre by providing a Grant in Aid of 3,042 million Japanese yen (INR 200 crore) under the Japanese ODA scheme.
- **Objective of the Project** - To provide opportunities for social and cultural interactions between people at this centre, and this would strengthen Varanasi's competitiveness by developing its tourism sector.
- It is an environment-friendly building, fit for level 3 of Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA).

10.5 Street Hawker Culture

- UNESCO designated Singapore's street hawker culture as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
- Street hawker stalls are a part of the city-state's local life and it attracts tourists for dishes like nasilemak, chilli crab, kaya toast, etc.
- They represent Singapore's multiculturalism, with stalls selling cheap, delicious food of Chinese, Malay, Indian origins, among others.

10.6 Anubhav project

- It is a week-long online project, organized by SPIC MACY seeks to help youngsters indulge in mystical and diverse aspects of Indian art, culture and heritage. It is expected to reduce the stress triggered by Covid-19.
- The movement has a central executive body in New Delhi and organizes its programmes through a worldwide network of schools, colleges and educational institutions.
- SPIC MACAY (Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music And Culture Amongst Youth) is a non-political, nationwide, voluntary movement founded in 1977 by Dr Kiran Seth.
- He was awarded the Padma Shri for his contribution to the arts in 2009.
- It is a participatory student movement registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- In 2011, it was awarded the Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana award in recognition of its contribution to youth development.



- Its intention is to enrich the quality of formal education by increasing awareness about different aspects of Indian heritage and inspiring the young mind to imbibe the values embedded in it.
- It is supported nationally by the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, and the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- It has been organizing national and international conventions for the last 35 years.

10.7 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, Government of India.
- The NGMA has two branches, one at Mumbai and the other at Bengaluru.
- One of its objectives is to acquire and preserve works of modern art from the 1850s onward.

10.8 Cultural places in Bengal

- Super cyclone Amphan swept through south Bengal, it had severely damaged some of its centuries-old heritage structures.
- St. Andrew's Church - It is the only Scottish church in Calcutta. First stone was laid by the Marquis of Hastings in 1815 and opened to the public only in 1818.
- Serampore College - It was established in 1818 by William Carey. It is one of the oldest educational institutes in India that is still functional.
- Dupleix Palace - Located at Chandannagar, built by French Governor-General Joseph Francois Dupleix. It has preserved French antiques like painting (that of Mughal courts), clay model utensils of French times.
- Metcalfe Hall - It was built between 1840-1844 in honor of Metcalfe, the Governor-General of India for his efforts towards a free press. It is visually similar to ancient Greek temples.
- Hooghly Imambara - It is a Shia Muslim congregation hall and mosque it was established by Muhammad Mohsin in 1841-1861.
- Jatar Deul - It is an early medieval brick temple located in Sundarbans settlements, dating back to the 11th and 12th century CE. It belongs to a small sub-group of Bengal temples, with architectural suggestions from Odisha.
- Currency Building - It was named when the government occupied a large portion of it for its Currency Department in 1868 from the Agra Bank Limited.

10.9 Dhamma Chakra Day

- The International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) in partnership with Ministry of Culture, celebrated the Asadha Poornima on July 4 as Dharma Chakra Day.
- The day marks Buddha's first teaching after attaining Enlightenment to the first five ascetic disciples (pañcavargika).
- It was on the full-moon day of Asadha at 'Deer Park', Rishipatana in the current day Sarnath, near Varanasi, India.
- The teaching of Dhamma Cakka- PavattanaSutta (Pali) is also known as the First Turning of Wheels of Dharma.
- Asadha Poornima falls on the first full moon day of the month of Asadha as per Indian sun calendar.
- It is the second most sacred day for Buddhists after the Buddha Poornima or Vesak.



- The Rainy Season retreat (Varsha Vassa) for the Monks and Nuns also starts with this day lasting for three lunar months from July to October, during which they remain in a single place, generally in their temples dedicated to intensive meditation.
- They are served during this period by lay community who also observe Uposatha i.e. to observe eight precepts and meditate under the guidance of their teachers.
- The day is also observed as Guru Purnima by both Buddhists and Hindus as a day to mark reverence to their Gurus.

Loya Jirga

- A Loya Jirga, or "grand council", is a mass national gathering that brings together representatives from the various ethnic, religious, and tribal communities in Afghanistan.
- The gathering involves participation of Afghan tribal elders, religious figures, and political leaders.
- The Loya Jirga is a centuries-old institution that has been convened at times of national crisis or to settle national issues.
- Historically, it has been used to approve a new constitution, declare war, choose a new king, or to make sweeping social or political reforms.
- It is considered the "highest expression" of the Afghan people, but it is not an official decision-making body.
- Its decisions are not legally binding and any verdict it hands out must be approved by the two houses of the Afghan parliament and the president in order for it to be made official.
- Recently Loya Jirga, opened in Afghanistan to determine whether a last set of 400 hard-core prisoners from the Taliban insurgency should be freed to clear the way for long-awaited direct peace talks between Afghanistan's warring sides.

11. HISTORY

11.1 Ghandhara Civilisation

- The Gandhara Civilization existed in what is now Northern Pakistan and Afghanistan from the middle of the 1st millennium BCE to the beginning of the 2nd millennium CE.
- Gandhara was not known to have been geographically described in detail until the pilgrimage of the Buddhist monk Xuanzang (Hsüan-tsang, 602- 664 CE) in the 7th century CE.
- He visited the region during the tail end of the Gandhara civilization, after the time when it had achieved its greatest feats and was falling into decay.
- Well-known cities of the Gandhara include
 1. Takshashila (Taxila),
 2. Purushapura (Peshawar)
 3. Pushkalavati (Mardan),
- It has been speculated that Gandhara was a triangular tract of land about 100 kilometers east to west and 70 km north to south, lying mainly to the west of the Indus River and bounded on the north by the Hindukush Mountains.
- The name of Gandhara may have several meanings, but the most prominent theory relates its name to the word Qand/Gand which means "fragrance", and Har which means 'lands'.
- Hence in its simplest form, Gandhara is the 'Land of Fragrance'.
- Gandhara witnessed the rule of several major powers of antiquity as listed here:
 1. Persian Achaemenid Empire (c. 600-400 BCE)
 2. Greeks of Macedon (c. 326-324 BCE),
 3. Mauryan Empire of Northern India (c. 324-185 BCE),



4. Indo-Greeks of Bactria (c. 250-190 BCE),
5. Scythians of Eastern Europe (c. 2nd century to 1st century BCE),
6. Parthian Empire (c. 1st century BCE to 1st century CE),
7. Kushans of Central Asia (c. 1st to 5th century CE),
8. White Huns of Central Asia (c. 5th century CE)
9. Hindu Shahi of Northern India (c. 9th to 10th century CE)
10. This was followed by Muslim conquests by which time we come to the medieval period of Indian history.

11.2 Sarnath

- Sarnath is a place located 10 kilometres north-east of Varanasi city near the confluence of the Ganges and the Varuna rivers in Uttar Pradesh, India.
- In ancient times, this place was known by many names such as Isipatana, Rishipatana, Mrigadava and Mrigadaya.
- The word Sarnath comes from a corruption of the name Saranganatha (lord of deer).
- It is the site of the Buddha's Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta, which was his first teaching after attaining enlightenment, in which he taught the four noble truths and the teachings associated with it.
- Dharmarajika stupa is the one said to have been built by Ashoka to commemorate Buddha's first sermon.
- Alexander Cunningham, first Director-General of Archaeological Survey of India) excavated the Dhamekh, Dharmarajika, and Chaukhandi stupas along with a monastery and temple between 1834 and 1836.
- The Chinese pilgrim Hiuen-Tsang (602-664) left detailed accounts of the Dharmarajika stupa and Ashoka's lion pillar.

11.3 Kakatiya Dynasty

- Kakatiyas is an Andhra dynasty that flourished in the 12th century CE.
- The Kakatiya dynasty ruled from Warangal (Telangana) from CE 1083-1323.
- They were known for the construction of a network of tanks for irrigation and drinking water and thereby gave a big boost to the overall development of the region.
- There are hundreds of Hindu temples built under the patronage of Kakatiya kings like Ganapati Deva, Rudrama Devi and Prataparudra of Kakatiya dynasty.
- Following are the famous temples of Kakatiya Dynasty
 1. Thousand Pillar Temple or Rudreshwara Swamy Temple, Telangana.
 2. It is a star-shaped, triple shrine (Trikutalayam) dedicated to Vishnu, Shiva and Surya.
 3. Ramappa Temple, Warangal, Telangana.
 4. Golconda Fort in Hyderabad (Telangana) was also constructed by the Kakatiya rulers.
 5. Later, it became the capital of the Qutb Shahi kings, who ruled from CE 1518-1687.
- Recently a temple constructed by Emperor Ganapati Deva, in Dharanikota (Andhra Pradesh) has been converted into an abode of local goddess Balusulamma (Goddess Durga).

11.4 Renati Cholas

- The Telugu Cholas of Renadu are also called as Renati Cholas.
- They ruled over Renadu region, the present day Cuddapah district.
- They were originally independent, later forced to the suzerainty of the Eastern Chalukyas.



- They had the unique honour of using the Telugu language in their inscriptions belonging to the 6th and 8th centuries.
- The inscriptions at Gandikota at Jammulamadugu and Proddatur are proof of this fact.
- The earliest of this family was Nandivarman (500 AD) who claimed descent from the family of Karikala and the Kasyapa gotra.
- Recently a rare inscription dating back to the Renati Chola era has been unearthed in a remote village of Kadapa district.
- The inscription has been found engraved on a dolomite slab and shale.
- The inscription was written in archaic Telugu which was readable in 25 lines.
- It was assigned to the 8th Century A.D., when the region was under the rule of Chola Maharaja of Renadu.

11.5 Rahim Khan's Tomb

- This tomb is opened to the public after six years of restoration work.
- Abdur Rahim Khan-e-Khanan, commander-in-chief of Akbar's army and poet, built a tomb in Delhi in memory of his wife MahBanu.
- It was the first Mughal tomb built for a woman, five decades before the Taj Mahal was built by Shah Jahan.
- Rahim's tomb was an inspiration to the architecture of the Taj.
- Just like his dohas, Rahim used Hindu motifs on the mausoleum.
- Rahim's persona as a hydraulic engineer, who built the Burhanpur water supply system, was demonstrated here with a fountain that lifted water over 20 feet high from a pool on the sandstone terrace of the tomb.
- But, in the 18th-19th centuries, stones from this tomb were plundered to build monuments elsewhere in the city, such as the Safdarjung Tomb.
- This had left the structure at a risk of collapse, which was the reason why conservation steps were taken.

11.6 Epigraphy on Krishnadevaraya's Death

ASI discovered the first epigraphical reference to the death of Krishnadevaraya of Vijayanagara Empire.

- The inscription in **Kannada** was found near Gopalakrishna temple at Honnenahalli, Karnataka. It records the demise of Krishnadevaraya in Śaka calendar, which corresponds to October 17, 1529 AD, Sunday.
- It mentions about Honnenahalli being empowered to provide offerings to God Viraprasanna Hanumanta of Tumkur by Timmappa Nayaka.
- The inscription in third prakara of Kalahastisvara temple, Srialahasti mentioned the coronation of Krishnadevaraya's cousin Achyutaraya as the king after Krishnadevaraya's death.

11.7 Edward Colston

- Colston was born in 1636 to a merchant family that had been living in Bristol since the 14th century.
- 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.
- The ships of the Company enjoyed the protection of the Royal Navy, and the traders made good profits.
- Many of the enslaved Africans were branded with the initials 'DY', standing for Duke of York.
- They 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.
- Colston 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.



- Bristol, Liverpool, Glasgow, and London were the key ports for British companies trafficking African slaves across the Atlantic.
- The merchants, shipbuilders, sailors involved in the trade were a major source of income and wealth for these cities.
- 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.
- Recently in the English port city of Bristol, a group of 10,000 demonstrators pulled down a 125-year-old statue of 17th century slave trader Edward Colston and dragged it through the city's streets into the harbour of river Avon.

11.8 Queen Velu Nachiar

- She was the princess of Ramanathapuram and the only child of Raja Vijaya ragunatha Sethupathy of the Ramnad kingdom.
- Velu Nachiar was married to Muthu Vaduganatha Peria Odaya Thevar 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.
- Velu Nachiar 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.
- Velu Nachiar was protected by Udaiyal, the leader of her bodyguards.
- The British captured her and tortured her to get her to reveal the whereabouts of Velu Nachiar.
- Udaiyal did not give in, and was killed.
- The brave Velu raised one more battalion of women and named it Udaiyal Regiment.
- It was commanded by the fiercely loyal Kuyili.
- Velu Nachiar met Haidar Ali, the king of Mysore, and convinced him to help her.
- Haider Ali sent 5,000 men to help Velu Nachiar 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.
- Velu Nachiar became Queen of Sivaganga and ruled for ten years.
- The Government of India has released a stamp in her honour in 2008.

11.9 King Leopold

- 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.
- Leopold 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.
- Leopold's administration of the Congo was characterized by murder, torture, and atrocities, resulting from notorious systematic brutality.



- 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.

11.10 Hul Divas

- The Santhal rebellion was taken place in present-day Jharkhand, against both the British colonial authority and zamindari system by the Santhali people.
- It started on June 30, 1855 and in 1856 the movement was brutally ended by troops loyal to the British.
- The rebellion was led by the four Murmu Brothers - Sidhu, Kanhu, Chand and Bhairav, at Bhognadih.
- Bhognadih is a village in Sahebganj district of Jharkhand was the main center of the Santhal Rebellion.
- Hul Divas is celebrated to commemorate the tribal brothers and sisters of Jharkhand who revolted against the injustice of foreign rule.

11.11 Patharughat Uprising

- Before the Jallianwallah Bagh massacre, in 1894, more than a hundred peasants fell to the bullets of the British in Patharughat village of Assam.
- The unarmed peasants were protesting against the increase in land revenue levied by the colonial administration.
- **Reason** - After the British annexation of Assam in 1826, surveys of the lands of the state began.
- On the basis of such surveys, the British began to impose land taxes.
- In 1893, the British decided to increase agricultural land tax by 70 - 80%.
- Up until then the peasants would pay taxes in kind or provide a service in lieu of cash.
- Across Assam, peasants began protesting the move by organising Raj Mels, or peaceful peoples' conventions.
- Despite these gatherings being democratic, the British perceived them as breeding grounds for sedition and came down on them heavily.

11.12 Pagdi Sambhal Jatta

Bhagat Singh's nephew said that farmer's protest against the three agrarian laws mirrors Pagdi Sambhal Jatta movement of 1907.

- In 1906, the British passed three detrimental agrarian laws - Doab Bari Act, Punjab Land Colonisation Act and Punjab Land Alienation Act.
- In 1906-1907, Ajit Singh (Bhagat Singh's uncle) started the 'Pagdi Sambhal Jatta' agitation with Lala Lajpat Rai, Kishan Singh (Bhagat Singh's father), Ghasita Ram and others to get the laws repealed.
- The laws enraged the farmers, which led to unrest across Punjab, with the British government ultimately cancelling the three laws.

11.13 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.

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.



- The Khilafat movement launched in 1919 provided a fresh stimulus to the grievances of Mappilas.

11.14 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

- He was 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.
- Following organizations are established by Lala Lajpat Rai - Arya Gazeette, Hisar congress, Hisar Arya Samaj, National DAV managing Committee.

Bal Gangadhar Tilak

- He was the 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".
- Tilak was one of the first and strongest advocates of Swaraj ("self-rule") and a strong radical in Indian consciousness.
- Tilak 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

- Aurobindo studied for the Indian Civil Service at King's College, Cambridge, England.
- He involved in nationalist politics in the Indian National Congress 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.

11.15 Winston Churchill

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



11.16 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.

11.17 Prabuddha Bharata

The 125th anniversary of Prabuddha Bharata recently passed.

- Prabuddha Bharata (Awakened India) is the name of the journal started by Swami Vivekananda in 1896.
- It is the longest running English journals of the country.
- It carries writings on Indian culture, spirituality, philosophy, history and psychology.
- It is printed and published from Kolkata by the Advaita Ashrama that belongs to the Ramakrishna Order.

11.18 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 Moghul 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.

11.19 Qissa Khwani Bazaar massacre

- The Khudai Khidmatgar was a non-violent movement against British occupation led by Abdul Ghaffar Khan in the North-West Frontier Province.
- Members of the Khudai Khidmatgar were organised and wore bright red shirts they wore as uniforms, while the women wore black garments.
- Abdul Ghaffar Khan and other leaders were arrested on April, 1930 by British police after he gave a speech at a gathering in the town of Utmanzai in NWFP.
- Khan’s arrest spurred protests in neighbouring towns, including Peshawar.
- Protests spilled into the Qissa Khwani Bazaar in Peshawar on the day of Khan’s arrest.
- British soldiers entered the market area to disperse crowds that had refused to leave.
- In response, British army vehicles drove into the crowds opened fire on unarmed protestors, killing protesters and bystanders.
- The British ramped up the crackdown on Khudai Khidmatgar leaders and members following the Qissa Khwani Bazaar massacre.
- This included physical violence and religious persecution.
- British also adopted their tactic of sowing divisions on religious grounds in the NWFP as well.



- In August 1931, the Khudai Khidmatgar aligned themselves with the Congress party, forcing the British to reduce the violence.
- The Khudai Khidmatgar also opposed Partition.

11.20 Jamia Millia Islamia

Jamia Millia Islamia recently turned 100.

- In 1920, when Gandhi visited the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College in Aligarh, he asked the students gathered, “How can you remain, even for an hour, in an institution in which you are obliged to put up with the Union Jack?”
- Moved, a group of students, faculty members and activists including Mohammad Ali Jauhar and Shaukat Ali (Ali brothers) joined the Non-Cooperation Movement within the fortnight.
- The group also established the Independent National University with an aim to have an indigenous education free from British influence.
- It was renamed Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), and shifted from Aligarh to New Delhi soon after.
- Prominent educationalist Zakir Husain, who went on to become India’s third President, was associated with the university from the start.

11.21 AITUC turns 100

All India Trade Union Congress is India’s first national trade union.

- 64 unions came together to form the AITUC in 1920 at Mumbai.
- The founding of AITUC was part of the workmen struggle to demand a 10-hour working day and dearness allowance that brought together a wide spectrum of workers.
- Freedom fighters Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Lala Lajpat Rai were instrumental in forming the union.
- The first Congress of AITUC was held on October 31, 1920, by which time Tilak had died.
- Rai presided over the congress of AITUC.
- The success of the Quit India movement in 1942 depended on the participation of textile mill workers.

11.22 Chauri Chaura Centenary

2021 marks the Centenary year of the Chauri Chaura incident, a violent event with far-reaching consequences during the freedom struggle.

- On August 1, 1920, Gandhi had launched the Non-Cooperation (Asahayog) Movement against the government.
- It involved a boycott of foreign goods, especially machine-made cloth, and legal, educational and administrative institutions.
- Essentially, the idea is “refusing to assist a ruler who misrules”.
- As the movement gathered momentum over the next year and a half, large numbers of volunteers became active across the country.
- In the winter of 1921-22, volunteers of the Congress and the Khilafat movement were organised into a national volunteer corps.
- Volunteers were trying to stop trade in foreign cloth, and enforce a just price for meat and fish.
- A few days before the February 4 incident, police cracked down on these volunteers.
- They severely beat up one Bhagwan Ahir, a demobilised soldier from the British Indian Army.
- On February 4, volunteers congregated in the town.
- After a meeting, they proceeded in a procession to the local police station, to picket the nearby Mundera bazaar.



- They ignored warning shots fired in the air by police and pelted the police with stones.
- The police fired into the crowd, killing three people and injuring many others.
- A volcano of anger then erupted, there was heavy brickbattling, and the policemen were forced to flee inside the station.
- The crowd proceeded to douse the building with kerosene and to set it on fire.
- Some of the policemen who tried to escape were caught and battered to death.
- Some others managed to escape by throwing away their conspicuous red turbans, which the angry crowd tore to shreds.
- A lot of police property, including weapons, was destroyed.
- The volunteers saw the abolition of the station as a sign of the arrival of “Gandhi raj”.
- A sessions court quickly sentenced as many as 172 of the 225 accused to death.
- Ultimately, 19 of those convicted were sent to the gallows.

Gandhi's response

- Gandhi's non-violence strategy was based on the premise that the use of repressive force against non-violent protesters would expose and weaken the semi-hegemonic character of the colonial state.
- So, incidents such as Chauri Chaura defeated that strategy.
- Gandhi was deeply disturbed by the incident. He condemned the “crime” of the policemen's killing.
- The volunteer groups in the nearby villages were disbanded.
- A Chauri Chaura Support Fund was set up to demonstrate “genuine sympathy” and seek prayashchit (atonement).
- Gandhi decided to stop the Non-Cooperation Movement, which he saw as having been tainted by unforgivable violence.
- He bent the Congress Working Committee to his will, and on February 12, 1922, the satyagraha was formally suspended.
- He justified himself on grounds of his unshakeable faith in non-violence:
- “I would suffer every humiliation, every torture, absolute ostracism and death itself to prevent the movement from becoming violent.”
- Most of the leaders of the national movement were disappointed with Gandhi's decision.
- The disillusionment made many of the younger Indian nationalists to come to a conclusion that India would not be able to throw off the colonial yoke through non-violence.
- It was from the ranks of these impatient patriots that some of India's most beloved revolutionaries were to arise in the years to come.
- These include Jogesh Chatterjee, Ramprasad Bismil, Sachin Sanyal, Ashfaqulla Khan, Jatin Das, Bhagat Singh, Bhagwati Charan Vohra, Masterda Surya Sen, and many others.
