



INSIGHTSIAS

SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION



INSIGHTSIAS PT 2019 EXCLUSIVE



ART AND CULTURE

May 2018 - January 2019

www.insightsonindia.com

www.insightsias.com

Table of Contents

FESTIVALS / CELEBRATIONS	5
1. Indian Harvest Festivals	5
2. Makaravilakku Festival	5
3. Hornbill Festival 2018	5
4. Dwijing Festival.....	6
5. Kambala	6
6. SANGAI TOURISM FESTIVAL	6
7. India International Cherry Blossom Festival.....	7
8. Behdienkhlam Festival	7
9. Ambubachi Mela.....	8
10. Rashtriya Sanskrit Mahotsav-2018	8
MONUMENTS / PLACES / STATUES	10
1. Monuments of National Importance	10
2. Panj Tirath	10
3. Chowmahalla Palace.....	10
4. Heritage Park in Elum Valley	11
5. Buddhist Site Museum at <i>Lalitgiri in Odisha</i>	11
6. Char Dham Pilgrimage.....	11
7. STATUE OF LORD BUDDHA.....	12
8. Statue of Unity.....	12
9. Khirki Mosque	13
10. Statue of Ramanuja	13
11. Rani- ki- vav	13
12. Badshahi Ashoorkhana	14
13. Sanchi Stupa of India and Pho Minh Pagoda of Vietnam	14
14. Nalanda University.....	15
EVENTS / CONFERENCES.....	17
1. Kumbh Mela 2019.....	17
2. SANJHI-MUJH MEIN KALAKAR.....	17
3. Bhima Koregaon Anniversary	18
4. World Hindi Day 2019	19
5. World Hindi Day vs National Hindi Diwas	19
6. 11th World Hindi Conference	19
7. Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha.....	20
8. Kendriya Hindi Samiti.....	20
9. 2018 World Sanskrit Conference (WSC)	20
DANCE / MUSIC / OTHER ARTS.....	21
1. MANIYARO	21
2. Mayurbhanj Chhau	21
3. Kamsale Dance	21
4. Ghumot to be Goa's Heritage Instrument.....	22

PAINTINGS AND OTHER ART FORMS.....	23
1. Earliest-known Cave Painting of Animal	23
2. Tholu Bommalata	23
PERSONALITIES.....	24
1. Rajkumar Shukla.....	24
2. Pingali Venkayya.....	24
3. Nabin Chandra Das	25
4. Veer Surendra Sai	25
5. Sir Chhotu Ram	26
6. Sant Kabir	26
7. Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay	26
AWARDS / INSTITUTIONS	28
1. Various Awards.....	28
2. Philip Kotler Presidential Award.....	28
3. Gandhi Peace Prize	29
4. Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar	29
5. Rashtriya Bal Puraskar	29
6. National Tansen Samman	30
7. Jnanpith Award.....	30
8. National Unity Award	30
9. Sahitya Akademi Award	30
10. Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony.....	31
11. Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman Award	31
12. Ramon Magsaysay Award	31
INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS / INTERNATIONAL EVENTS	32
1. World Capital of Architecture.....	32
2. UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.....	32
3. UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage	32
4. UNESCO World HERITAGE SITE	33
5. Panini Language Laboratory	34
HISTORICAL EVENTS	35
1. Paika Rebellion	35
2. Hoisting of Tricolour	35
3. Jallianwalla Bagh Massacre	35
4. Azad Hind Government	36
5. Battle of Haifa.....	37
6. 76 th Anniversary of Quit India Movement.....	38
7. Important terms related to Mughal Administration.....	38
8. 100th year of Montford Reform	39
9. Pietermaritzburg.....	40
GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES.....	41
1. Spiritual circuit in Kerala	41

2. Paryatan Parv	41
3. International Buddhist Conclave 2018	42
4. National Culture Fund (NCF).....	42
5. National mission for manuscripts (NMM)	42
6. Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies (CIHTS)	43

MISCELLANEOUS.....44

1. Prayagraj	44
2. India's second Tulip garden	44
3. Karma Kagyu School	44
4. Lingayat/Veerashaiva Community.....	45
5. Gujarat Government is planning to rename Ahmedabad as Karnavati	45
6. Project Navlekha.....	46
7. Nathu La Pass	46
8. Lalit Kala Akademi	47
9. Sadharan Brahmo Samaj (SBS)	47
10. Geographical Indication (GI).....	48

Festivals / Celebrations

1. Indian Harvest Festivals

- **Makar Sankranti:** The festival of Makar Sankranti is being celebrated when the Sun enters the Makar zodiac and the days begin to lengthen compared to nights.
- **Pongal:** In South India and particularly in Tamil Nadu, it's the festival of Pongal which is being celebrated over 4 days at harvest time.
- **Magha Bihu:** In Assam and many parts of the North East, the festival of Magha Bihu is celebrated. It sees the first harvest of the season being offered to the gods along with prayers for peace and prosperity.
- **Uttarayan:** Gujarat celebrates it in the form of the convivial kite festival of Uttarayan.
- **Maghi:** In Punjab, Makar Sankranti is celebrated as Maghi. Bathing in a river in the early hours on Maghi is important.
- **Saaji:** In Shimla District of Himachal Pradesh, Makara Sankranti is known as Magha Saaji. Saaji is the Pahari word for Sankranti, start of the new month. Hence this day marks the start of the month of Magha.
- **Kicheri:** The festival is known as Kicheri in Uttar Pradesh and involves ritual bathing.
- **Outside India:**
 - **Shakraim** is an annual celebration of winter in Bangladesh, observed with the flying of kites.
 - **Maghe Sankranti** is a Nepalese festival observed on the first of Magh in the Bikram Samwat Hindu Solar Nepali calendar (about 14 January).

2. Makaravilakku Festival

- The hill shrine of **Lord Ayyappa in Kerala** was opened for the 21 day-long Makaravilakku festival season, marking the concluding phase of the annual pilgrimage season.
- Makaravilakku is an annual festival held on Makar Sankranti in Kerala, at the shrine of Sabarimala.
- The festival includes the **Thiruvabharanam (sacred ornaments of Ayyappan) procession** and a congregation at the hill shrine of Sabarimala.

3. Hornbill Festival 2018

- The Union Home Minister inaugurated the **Hornbill Festival 2018** in **Kohima**, coinciding with the **Formation Day of Nagaland**.
- Hornbill Festival offers unique opportunity for states to interact and exhibit their cultural heritage in the true spirit of **"Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat"**.
- **Hornbill Festival:**
 - Nagas celebrate this festival to revive, protect, sustain and promote the richness of the Naga heritage and traditions.
 - It occurs during **1 – 10 December on an annual basis**.
 - It is also called the **"Festival of Festivals"**.
 - The festival pays tribute to Hornbill, the most admired and revered bird for the Nagas for its qualities of alertness and grandeur.

- It is organized by **State Tourism and Art & Culture Departments** and also supported by Union Government.
- Hornbill Festival was established on 1st December 1963 and was inaugurated by the then President Dr. S Radhakrishnan.

4. Dwijing Festival

- Dwijing Festival, an **annual river festival**, was held on the bank of River Aie in Assam.
- **About Dwijing Festival:**
 - Dwijing Festival is an annual river festival celebrated in the Bodoland Territorial Area Districts (BTAD) region of Assam.
 - The festival provides a **platform of earning for the people in the region** by putting in to focus the business activities for the better economy generation through rural tourism.
 - The festival also aims to provide help to the flood victim families through charity generation and distribution.
- **About River Aie:** River Aie originates from the Himalayan Mountains of Bhutan and flows through the Chirang and Bongaigaon districts of Assam before joining the river Brahmaputra.

5. Kambala

- The coastal districts of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi are all set for the kambala. The races would be held under the auspices of the District Kambala Committee.
- **Background:**
 - Karnataka government had promulgated ***Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Karnataka Amendment)*** Ordinance, 2017 on July 20 last year.
 - The President gave his assent to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Karnataka Amendment) Bill **making Kambala a legal rural sport in Karnataka**.
 - The Bill seeks to exempt kambala and bullock-cart racing from the ambit of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960.
- **About Kambala:**
 - **What is it?** Kambla in its traditional form is non-competitive with buffalo pairs made to race one after another in paddy fields, which is considered a **thanksgiving to the Gods** for protecting the animals from diseases.
 - **Why it has become controversial?** Over the years, it has however become an organised sport with animal rights activists claiming that the buffaloes run in the race due to fear of being beaten, which the organizers dismiss, saying no violence is involved and that several modifications had been made to ensure that it is an animal friendly event.

6. SANGAI TOURISM FESTIVAL

- Every year the State of Manipur celebrates the ***"Manipur Sangai Festival"*** from 21st to 30th November.
- **About the Sangai festival:**
 - **What is it?** Sangai Festival is an annual cultural extravaganza in Manipur. The festival is labelled as the grandest festival of the State today and helps promote Manipur as a world class tourism destination.

Sangai Deer:

- The sangai is ***an endemic and endangered subspecies of brow- antlered deer found only in Manipur, India***. It is found in its natural habitat only at ***Keibul Lamjao National Park*** over the floating biomass locally called "phumdi" in the south eastern part of Loktak Lake.
- ***Its IUCN status:*** Endangered.

- Every edition of the festival showcases the tourism potential of the state in the field of Arts & Culture, Handloom, Handicrafts, Indigenous Sports, Cuisine, Music and Adventure sports of the state etc.
- **Background:** The 'Festival' is named after **the State animal, Sangai, the brow-antlered deer found only in Manipur**. It started in the year 2010 and has grown over the years into a big platform for Manipur to showcase its rich tradition and culture to the world.
- **Focus areas:** The festival will reflect the State's proud cultural heritage and the love for art which is inherent amongst various tribes inhabiting the State of Manipur.
- The State's classical dance form, '**Ras Leela**' is quite famous all over the world for its distinctiveness from any other dance forms in India.
- The Ras Leela will form an important part of the dance performances at the Manipur Sangai Festival besides the various other folk-dance performances like the Kabui Naga dance, Bamboo dance, Maibi dance, Lai Haraoba dance, Khamba Thoibi dance etc. which will be showcased at the festival.
- **Indigenous sports** will also be a major highlight of the festival this year.
- Manipur's famous martial arts- **Thang Ta** (a combination Spear & Sword skills), Yubi-Lakpi (a game played with greased coconut like rugby), Mukna Kangjei (a game that combines hockey and wrestling), and Sagol Kangjei- Modern Polo (believed to have evolved in Manipur) will all form part of the festival.

7. India International Cherry Blossom Festival

- India International Cherry Blossom festival was held in Shillong, Meghalaya.
- **Significance:** This festival is the **world's only autumn cherry blossom festival**.
- The festival is organised by Government of Meghalaya's Forest & Environment Department as well as by the Institute of Bioresources & Sustainable Development (IBSD) in collaboration with Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).
- **Aim:** The aim of the festival is to celebrate the unique autumn flowering of Himalayan Cherry Blossoms. The Cherry Blossom tree flowers only for a short period in a year.
- The festival will showcase full pink and white cherry blossoms found all along the roadside of the famous Ward Lake.



8. Behdienkhlam Festival

- Behdienkhlam, one of the most colourful festivals of the State, was recently celebrated in the **Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya**.
- **About the festival:**
 - Behdienkhlam is a major festival of the people in the Jaintia Hills.
 - It is celebrated to invoke the gods for a bumper harvest and drive away plague.
 - It is the ritualistic expression of the relentless struggle of mankind to



overcome the destructive forces of nature, including diseases, since the dawn of civilization.

- During the festival, decorated and colourful raths are immersed in 'Wah Ainar,' a muddy pool.
- The non-Christian 'Pnar' people who believe either in the traditional faith of 'Niamtre' or Hinduism observe this festival.

9. Ambubachi Mela

- Ambubachi Mela, a four-day fair to mark the annual menstruation of the goddess was held at Kamakhya temple in Guwahati.
- The Ambubachi Mela symbolises the **fertility cult of goddess Kamakhya**.
 - There is **no idol in the temple**, the goddess is worshipped in the form of a yoni-like stone over which a natural spring flows.
 - Also known as **Siddha Kubjika**, the goddess is a Hindu tantric goddess of desire who evolved in the Himalayan hills. She is also identified as Kali and Maha Tripura.
 - The festival is also known as '**Mahakumbh of the East**' as it draws lakhs of devotees from all over the world.
- **Social significance of the festival:**
 - The ritualistic fair celebrating the goddess' period is one of the reasons why the taboo associated with menstruation is less in Assam compared with other parts of India.
 - The attainment of womanhood of girls in Assam is celebrated with a ritual called 'Tuloni Biya', meaning small wedding.
 - Ambubachi Mela serves as an occasion to promote awareness on menstrual hygiene.
- **Facts for Prelims:**
 - Kamakhya, **atop Nilachal Hills in Guwahati**, is one of 51 shaktipeeths or seat of Shakti followers, each representing a body part of the Sati, Lord Shiva's companion.



10. Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav-2018

- To celebrate the idea of unity in diversity, the Ministry of Culture organised the the Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav in Tehri, Uttarakhand.
- **The paired state for Uttarakhand under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat matrix is Karnataka**, and while troupes from all over the country will be performing, special emphasis is being given to Karnataka.
- **Facts for Prelims:**

About RSM:

- Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav was conceived by the Ministry of Culture in the year 2015, when the Ministry decided to organize it with an intent to showcase the rich cultural heritage of the Country in all its rich and varied dimensions, viz Handicrafts, Cuisine, Painting, Sculpture, Photography, Documentation and Performing Arts- Folk, Tribal, Classical and Contemporary- all in one place.

- The Ministry of Culture is organising the event under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat matrix.
- Tehri Lake Festival where one can explore the water sports, organized by the Uttarakhand Tourism every year, will be subsumed within the Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav.
- **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat:**
 - The Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme was launched by the Prime Minister on 31st October, 2016 to promote engagement amongst the people of different states/UTs so as to enhance mutual understanding and bonding between people of diverse cultures, thereby securing stronger unity and integrity of India.

Monuments / Places / Statues

1. Monuments of National Importance

- The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** recently declared that it has added six structures to the list of **monuments of national importance**, taking the total number to 3,693.
- With 506 monuments under its belt, **Karnataka continues to top the list in South India**, followed by Tamil Nadu (413). Nationally too, Karnataka is in the second place after Uttar Pradesh, which has 745 such monuments.
- **The six monuments declared as Monuments of national importance in 2018 are:**
 1. Old High Court Building in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
 2. Haveli of Agha Khan in Agra.
 3. Haveli of Hathi Khana in Agra.
 4. Neemrana Baori in Rajasthan's Alwar district.
 5. Group of Temples at Ranipur Jharail in Odisha's Bolangir district.
 6. Vishnu Temple in Kotali, Pithoragarh district, Uttarkhand.
- **What is an Ancient Monument?**
 - According to the **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958**, any structure, sculpture, inscription, etc., which is in existence **for not less than 100 years** is termed ancient.

About ASI:

- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), under the Ministry of Culture, is the premier organization for the archaeological researches and protection of the cultural heritage of the nation.
- **Functions:** Maintenance of ancient monuments and archaeological sites and remains of national importance is the prime concern of the ASI. Besides it regulates all archaeological activities in the country as per the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. It also regulates Antiquities and Art Treasure Act, 1972.
- **The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) was formed in 1861 by a statute** passed into law by Canning, with Alexander Cunningham as its first Archaeological Surveyor, to excavate and conserve India's ancient built heritage.

2. Panj Tirath

- The provincial **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government** in northwest Pakistan has declared the ancient Hindu religious site of **Panj Tirath in Peshawar as national heritage**.
- The government also announced a fine of up to Rs 2 million- and five-years' imprisonment for anyone found guilty of damaging the historic site.
- **About Panj Tirath:**
 - Panj Tirath, which got its **name from the five pools of water present there**, also contains a temple and a lawn with date palm trees.
 - It is believed that **Pandu, a mythical king in the Mahabharata, belonged to this area** and Hindus used to come to these pools for bathing during the month of Kartik and worship for two days under the trees.
 - The site was damaged during the reign of **the Afghan Durrani dynasty in 1747**, however it was restored by local Hindus during the period of Sikh rule in 1834 and worship started again.



3. Chowmahalla Palace

- The restoration of the **Chowmahalla Palace** to its age-old grandeur has been completed.

- Chowmahalla Palace is **a palace of the Nizams of Hyderabad state**.
- It was **the seat of the Asaf Jahi dynasty and was the official residence of the Nizams of Hyderabad while they ruled their state**.
- The palace was **built by Nizam Salabat Jung**.

4. Heritage Park in Elum Valley

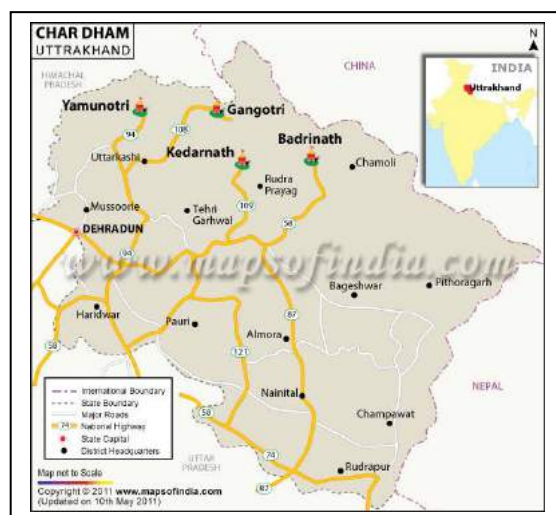
- The **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in Pakistan is planning to construct a heritage park in Elum Valley**, which carries a historical significance to both the Hindus and the Buddhists, to promote religious tourism.
- Under the project, the Elum Valley would be made a safe abode for the followers of Hinduism and Buddhism and as well as for tourists visiting the heritage park.
- Under the project, fencing of the entire Elum Valley would be done and a separate track would be constructed in the heritage park.
- **Elum Valley and its significance:**
 - Elum Valley is located between the Swat and Buner districts in the province, Elum Valley has been a site of divinity and pilgrimage for both the Hindu and the Buddhist communities.
 - According to Hindu belief, Lord Ram spent time meditating there during his 14 years of exile, while Buddhists believe it to be the site where a previous incarnation of Lord Buddha gave up his life.

5. Buddhist Site Museum at Lalitgiri in Odisha

- Buddhist site museum has been inaugurated at **Lalitgiri in Odisha**. Excavations at Lalitgiri have yielded ancient seals and inscriptions.
- Located in Cuttack district, **it will be the third site museum of the Bhubaneswar circle of the Archaeological Survey of India after Ratnagiri and Konarak**.
- **About Lalitgiri:**
 - It is a major Buddhist complex in the Indian state of Odisha comprising major stupas, 'esoteric' Buddha images, and monasteries (viharas), one of the oldest sites in the region.
 - Together with the Ratnagiri and Udayagiri sites, Lalitgiri is part of Puspagiri University located on top of hills of the same names. The three complexes are known as the **"Diamond Triangle"**. Tantric Buddhism was practiced at this site.
 - **Excavations at Lalitgiri** have yielded the remains of four monasteries, showing cultural continuity from the post-Mauryan period till the 13th century CE. The centre of attraction is a relic casket containing corporal remains found inside the Mahastupa.
 - **Location:** It is hemmed between the Parabhadi and Landa sandstone hills in the standalone Assian hill range. It is situated in the Mahanga Tahsil in Cuttack district.

6. Char Dham Pilgrimage

- The project involves developing and widening 900-km of national highways connecting the holy Hindu pilgrimage sites of; Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri, and Yamunotri at an estimated cost of Rs.12,000 crores.
- The highway will be called **Char Dham Mahamarg** (Char Dham Highway) and the highway construction project will be called as **Char Dham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojana** (Char Dham Highway Development Project).



- The roads will be widened from 12m to 24m and the project will involve construction of tunnels, bypasses, bridges, subways and viaducts.

7. STATUE OF LORD BUDDHA

- 70-feet tall statue of Lord Buddha was unveiled at Rajgir in Nalanda district of Bihar.
- ***It is second tallest statue of Buddha in the country.***
- Key Facts:
 - The statue has been installed above 16 metre radius pedestal in middle of lake Ghora Katora. Ghora Katora is natural lake surrounded by five hills.
 - It has been made from 45,000 cubic foot pink sand stone.



8. Statue of Unity

- Statue of Unity has been inaugurated in Surat. The Statue of Unity is built in dedication to Iron Man Sardar Vallabhai Patel, who served as the first home minister of independent India.
- October 31, 2018 marks the 143rd birth anniversary of Sardar Patel.
- Key facts:
 - At 182 metre, the statue is 23 metre taller than China's Spring Temple Buddha statue and almost double the height of the Statue of Liberty (93 metre tall) in US.
 - Located on the **Sadhu Bet island**, near Rajpipla on the Narmada river, the Statue of Unity is located between the Satpura and the Vindhya mountain ranges.
 - The **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Rashtriya Ekta Trust (SVPRET)**, a special purpose vehicle set up by Modi in 2011, arranged some 129 tonnes of iron implements to construct the base of the statue in the 'Loha' campaign.
 - The Statue of Unity was brought to fruition by Padma Bhushan-winning sculptor Ram V Sutar and intricate bronze cladding work was done by a Chinese foundry, the Jiangxi Toqine Company (JTQ).
- **About Sardar Vallabhai Patel:**
 - Sardar Patel is credited with uniting all 562 princely states in pre-independent India to build the Republic of India — hence the name of the statue.
 - The date for the inauguration of the statue (October 31, 2018) also marks the 143rd birth anniversary of Sardar Patel.
- **Role in the Indian National Movement:**
 - In 1917, Sardar Vallabhbhai was elected as the **Secretary of the Gujarat Sabha**, the Gujarat wing of the Indian National Congress.
 - In 1918, he led a massive **"No Tax Campaign"** that urged the farmers not to pay taxes after the British insisted on tax after the floods in Kaira.
 - The peaceful movement forced the British authorities to return the land taken away from the farmers. His effort to bring together the farmers of his area brought him the title of 'Sardar'.

- He actively supported the **non-cooperation Movement** launched by Gandhi. Patel toured the nation with him, recruited 300,000 members and helped collect over Rs. 1.5 million.
- In 1928, the farmers of Bardoli again faced a problem of “tax-hike”. After prolonged summons, when the farmers refused to pay the extra tax, the government seized their lands in retaliation. The agitation took on for more than six months. After several rounds of negotiations by Patel, the lands were returned to farmers after a deal was struck between the government and farmers’ representatives.
- In 1930, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was among the leaders imprisoned for participating in the famous **Salt Satyagraha** movement initiated by Mahatma Gandhi.
- Sardar Patel was freed in 1931, following an agreement signed between Mahatma Gandhi and Lord Irwin, the then Viceroy of India. The treaty was popularly known as the Gandhi-Irwin Pact. The same year, **Patel was elected as the President of Indian National Congress in its Karachi session** where the party deliberated its future path.

9. Khirki Mosque

- The Archaeological Survey of India (Delhi Circle) of Ministry of Culture has discovered a hoard of 254 Copper Coins in the premises of Khirki Mosque during the course of conservation of the monument.
- *This mosque lies on the southern periphery of the village Khirki. The mosque was built by Khan-i-Jahan Junan Shah, the Prime Minister of Firoz Shah Tughluq (1351-88), and is believed to be one of the seven mosques built by him.*

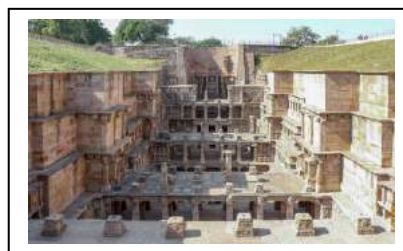


10. Statue of Ramanuja

- A 216-foot-tall statue of Ramanuja will be built at **Hyderabad**. When unveiled, it is set to become the world’s second tallest statue of a seated figure.
- **Facts for Prelims:**
 - Currently, **the Great Buddha of Thailand is the tallest statue, at 302-feet**. Once the Ramanujacharya statue is unveiled, it will become the second tallest, a distinction now held by the Guanyin figure on Mount Xiqiao in China’s Guangdong region, at 203 feet.
- **About Ramanujacharya:**
 - He was a Hindu theologian, philosopher, and one of the most important exponents of the Sri Vaishnavism tradition within Hinduism.
 - His philosophical foundations for devotionism were influential to the Bhakti movement.
 - He is famous as **the chief proponent of Vishishtadvaita subschool of Vedānta**.
 - He wrote **influential texts**, such as bhāṣya on the Brahma Sutras and the Bhagavad Gita, all in Sanskrit.

11. Rani- ki- vav

- **Located in Gujarat's Patan**, the 900-year-old structure is a major tourist attraction, a **UNESCO World Heritage site**, and was awarded as the cleanest iconic place in India in 2016. It is located on the banks of Saraswati River.
- **Who built it?** It was built by the Solanki dynasty's **queen Udayamati** in the 11th century as a memorial to her deceased husband Bhimdev I.
- **Architectural significance:** Rani-ki-Vav was built in the complex Maru-Gurjara architectural style.
- It highlights the sanctity of water as it is designed as an inverted temple under the earth's surface.
- The central theme is the **Dasavataras, or ten incarnations of Vishnu**, including Buddha. The avatars are accompanied by sadhus, brahmins, and apsaras (celestial dancers).



12. Badshahi Ashoorkhana

- Telangana government and Aga Khan Trust are working to restore Hyderabad's 17th century Badshahi Ashoorkhana.
- **About Hyderabad's 17th century Badshahi Ashoorkhana:**
 - The 400-year old Ashoorkhana was built by **Muhammed Quli Qutub Shah**.
 - **It was a house of mourning**, where large congregations of Muslims gathered in memory of the martyrdom of Imam Hussain during the month of Muharram.
 - **The building consists of** a Kaman, Naqqar Khana (where ceremonial drums are beaten), Niyaz Khana (where visitors are fed), Sarai Khana (place to rest), Abdar Khana (drinking water is stored), the chabutra (platform) and a guard room.
 - During the rule of the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb, the Ashoorkhana was converted into a **bandikhana**. For 80 years, it was used as a stable where horses were kept, before it was restored as a place of worship by the then mutawalli Mir Nawazish Ali Khan.
 - The eight wooden pillars were reconstructed and the alams were reinstalled. During this time, the main entrance, Bab-e-Faiz-e-Imam-e-Alamiyan, was also constructed.

13. Sanchi Stupa of India and Pho Minh Pagoda of Vietnam

- Cabinet approves MoU between India and Viet Nam on Joint issue of postage stamp. Joint Issue depicts Sanchi Stupa of India and Pho Minh Pagoda of Vietnam.
- **About Sanchi Stupa:**
 - **When was it built:** Commissioned in 3rd century BCE, Expansion/ additions/restoration works/ made in different periods.
 - **Who built it:** Commissioned by Emperor Ashoka of the Maurya Dynasty.

- **Where is it located:** Located 46 km north-east of Bhopal, the capital city of Madhya Pradesh, India.
- **Architectural Style:** Buddhist Art and Architecture.
- **Other facts:** It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- **About Pho Minh Pagoda:**
 - The pagoda was originally built during the Ly Dynasty and later expanded in 1262 during the Tran Dynasty.
 - It was a place for high-ranking mandarins and the aristocracy of the Tran Royal Court to worship and lead their religious life.



14. Nalanda University

- The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for withdrawal of **Nalanda University (Amendment) Bill, 2013** pending in the Rajya Sabha.
- **Background:**
 - The Nalanda University was established on the basis of a Joint Press Statement at the 4th East Asia Summit held in Thailand in October, 2009, which supported its establishment as a non-state, non-profit, secular and self-governing international institution.
 - Subsequently, the Nalanda University Act, 2010 was passed by the Parliament and came into effect from 25th November 2010.
- **Highlights of Nalanda University (Amendment) Bill, 2013:**
 - It establishes **Nalanda University in Bihar** as a result of decisions taken at the East Asia Summits.
 - Under the Act, the University is a **non-profit public-private partnership**, supported by each member country as well as other sources.
 - The Bill amends the Act to provide for the Government of India to meet the university's capital and recurring expenditure to the extent required.
 - The powers of the University are amended to include the power to set up a consortium of international partners to meet the objectives of the University, and appoint persons working in any other University or academic institution, including those located outside India, as faculty of the University.
 - The size of the Governing Board of the University is being increased to include two persons of eminence and two members from the academic faculty of the University. The Bill also makes provision for the appointment of Deans and Provosts.
- **Key facts:**
 - Nalanda stands out as the **most ancient university of the Indian Subcontinent**. It engaged in the organized transmission of knowledge over an uninterrupted period of 800 years.
 - The historical development of the site testifies to the development of Buddhism into a religion and the flourishing of monastic and educational traditions.
 - It was a major **Mahavihara or a large Buddhist monastery** that also doubled up as an important centre of learning from the 5th to 1200 AD in the erstwhile kingdom of Magadh.
 - The construction of Nalanda university began in 5th century AD and flourished under the Gupta rulers. It came to an end in the 12th century when it was destroyed in 1193 AD by the invading Turkish army led by its commander Bakhtiar Khilji.

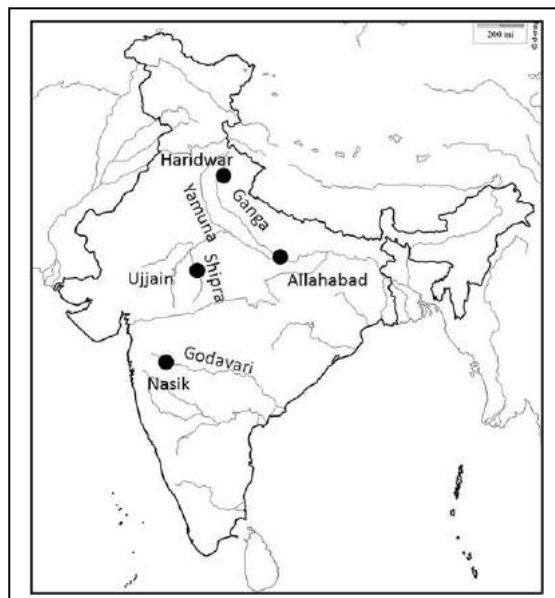
- UNESCO has declared the ruins of Nalanda Mahavihara – a World Heritage Site.

NOTES

Events / Conferences

1. Kumbh Mela 2019

- **The world's largest religious and cultural human congregation, 'Kumbh 2019'** began at Prayagraj (erstwhile Allahabad), Uttar Pradesh on January 15, 2019.
- **About Kumbh Mela:**
 - The Kumbh Mela (the festival of the sacred pitcher) is **anchored in Hindu mythology**.
 - It is **the largest public gathering and collective act of faith, anywhere in the world**.
 - Crowds gather at the sacred **confluence of the Ganga, the Yamuna, and the mystical Sarasvati**.
 - Primarily, this congregation includes Ascetics, Saints, Sadhus, Sadhvis, Kalpvasis, and Pilgrims from all walks of life.
 - The Mela was **included in the list of "Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity" by UNESCO in 2017**.
- **Celebration:**
 - Kumbh Mela is celebrated **four times over a course of 12 years**.
 - The **geographical location of Kumbh Mela spans over four locations** in India and the Mela site keeps rotating between one of the four pilgrimage places on four sacred rivers as listed below:
 - **Haridwar** on the Ganges in Uttarakhand.
 - **Ujjain** on the Shipra in Madhya Pradesh.
 - **Nashik** on the Godavari in Maharashtra.
 - **Prayagraj** at the confluence of the Ganges, the Yamuna, and the mythical Sarasvati in Uttar Pradesh.
- **Selection of site:**
 - Each site's **celebration is based on a distinct set of astrological positions of the Sun, the Moon, and the Jupiter**. The celebrations occur at the exact moment when these positions are fully occupied, as it is considered to be the holiest time in Hinduism.



2. SANJHI-MUJH MEIN KALAKAR

- Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA) the National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama will launch the second phase of the Web Campaign '**SANJHI-MUJH MEIN KALAKAR**'.
- It is an initiative to document and promote the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) and diverse cultural traditions of the country by direct public-participation.
- The literal meaning of the term SANJHI is "to share" and "to partner".
- **The Second Phase:**
 - The second phase of this campaign has its main focus area like the folk, traditional, customary, socially events and ritualistic art forms – woven as a cultural fabric around the harvest festival season of January.
 - It is widely celebrated as various nomenclatures like **Makar Sankranti, Pongal, Lohri, Bhogali Bihu, Torgya, Uttarayan, Attukkal Pongal**, etc.

- **The Intention:**
 - It intends to bring forth such forms that are aligned with the domains of intangible cultural heritage as per the Convention of Safeguarding the ICH under UNESCO:
 - Oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage;
 - Performing arts;
 - Social practices, rituals and festival events;
 - Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe;
 - Traditional craftsmanship.
- **About The Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA) –**
 - **Founded in 31st May 1952 [HQ: New Delhi]**
 - The Sangeet Natak Akademi – India’s national academy for music, dance and drama – is the first National Academy of the arts set-up by the Republic of India.
 - It is presently an **Autonomous Body of the Ministry of Culture**, and is fully funded by the Government for implementation of its schemes and programmes.
 - It is the nodal agency of the Ministry of Culture, to coordinate the matters related to Intangible Cultural Heritage and various UNESCO Conventions addressing Cultural Diversity and promotion and dissemination of multifarious cultural traditions and expressions of the country.
- **What is Intangible Cultural Heritage?**
 - The term ‘cultural heritage’ has changed content considerably in recent decades, partially owing to the instruments developed by UNESCO.
 - Cultural heritage does not end at monuments and collections of objects.
 - It also includes traditions or living expressions inherited from our ancestors and passed on to our descendants, such as oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe or the knowledge and skills to produce traditional crafts.

3. Bhima Koregaon Anniversary

- January 1st, 2018 marks the 201st anniversary of the Bhima Koregaon battle.
- **About the Bhima- Koregaon battle:**
 - A battle was fought in Bhima Koregaon, a district in Pune with a strong historical Dalit connection, **between the Peshwa forces and the British** on January 1, 1818.
 - The British army, which comprised mainly of Dalit soldiers, fought the upper caste-dominated Peshwa army. The British troops defeated the Peshwa army.
- **Outcomes of the battle:**
 - The victory was seen as a win against caste-based discrimination and oppression. Peshwas were notorious for their oppression and persecution of Mahar dalits.
 - The victory in the battle over Peshwas gave dalits a moral victory against caste-based discrimination and oppression and sense of identity.

- However, the divide and rule policy of the British created multiple fissures in Indian society.
- **Why Bhima Koregaon is seen as a Dalit symbol?**
 - The battle has come to be seen as a symbol of Dalit pride because a large number of soldiers in the Company force were the Mahar Dalits.
 - Since the Peshwas, who were Brahmins, were seen as oppressors of Dalits, **the victory of the Mahar soldiers over the Peshwa force is seen as Dalit assertion.**
 - On 1 January 1927, B.R. Ambedkar visited the memorial obelisk erected on the spot which bears the names of the dead including nearly two dozen Mahar soldiers.

4. World Hindi Day 2019

- World Hindi Day is celebrated on January 10 every year, marking the anniversary of first World Hindi Conference which was held in 1975 by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.
- World Hindi Day was first observed on January 10, 2006. Since then, it is celebrated on January 10 every year.

5. World Hindi Day vs National Hindi Diwas

- National Hindi Diwas is celebrated every year on September 14. On that day in 1949, the constituent assembly adopted Hindi, written in Devanagari script, as the official language of the Union.
- While the focus of the World Hindi Day is to promote the language at the global stage, the National Hindi Diwas, which is held across the country at a national level, marks adaptation of Hindi as the official language.
- **Why do we celebrate National Hindi Diwas?**
 - The Constituent assembly of India adopted Hindi as the official language of the country on September 14, 1949 under Article 343. It started being observed as Hindi Day after stalwarts like Beohar Rajendra Simha, Hazari Prasad Dwivedi, Kaka Kalelkar, Maithili Sharan Gupt and Seth Govind Das lobbied hard for the cause.
 - Hindi language is spoken by as many as 250 million people as the original language and it is the fourth language of the world.

6. 11th World Hindi Conference

- 11th World Hindi Conference was held at Mauritius.
- **Theme:** "Vaishvik Hindi Aur Bharatiy Sanskriti".
- **About the conference:**
 - The event, **held once in three years**, is dedicated to Hindi language. It sees participation from Hindi scholars, writers and laureates from different parts of the world who contribute to the language.
- **Key facts for Prelims:**
 - The decision to organize the 11th edition of the Conference in Mauritius was taken at the 10th World Hindi Conference held in Bhopal, India in September 2015.
 - The **first World Hindi Conference was held in 1975 in Nagpur, India.** Since then, ten such Conferences have been held in different parts of the world.

- The MEA has also set up **the World Hindi Secretariat in Mauritius**.
- The main objective of the WHS is to promote Hindi as an international language and further its cause for recognition at the United Nations as an Official Language.

7. Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the centenary celebrations of the Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha on September 22, 2018.
- The organisation was **established by Annie Besant in 1918 with support from Mahatma Gandhi**, who became the founder president of the Sabha, who held the post till his death.
- In 1964, the institution was recognised by the Indian Government as one of **the Institutes of National Importance**.
- It was **established to propagate the study of Hindi** in the then Madras Presidency and princely states of Banganapalle, Cochin, Hyderabad, Mysore, Pudukkottai, Sanduru and Travancore.
- **The first Hindi class was taken by Gandhi's son Devdas Gandhi.**

8. Kendriya Hindi Samiti

- 31st meeting of the Central Hindi Committee was recently held in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
- The Kendriya Hindi Samiti was constituted in the year 1967. Chaired by PM, it is the apex policy making body which lays the guidelines for the propagation and progressive use of Hindi as official language of the union.

9. 2018 World Sanskrit Conference (WSC)

- The 2018 World Sanskrit Conference (WSC) was hosted by the Department of Asian Studies at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. It is 17th such conference.
- **World Sanskrit Conference:**
 - The World Sanskrit Conference is the premier international forum for professional researchers and educators of the Sanskrit language and its literatures, and of the history, religion, and cultures of premodern South Asia.
 - It is convened every three years under the auspices of the International Association of Sanskrit Studies (IASS).
- **About IASS:**
 - At the 29th International Congress of Orientalists, held in Paris in 1973, Sanskritists from various countries endorsed the formation of the International Association of Sanskrit Studies and drafted its constitution.
 - The main task of the IASS was agreed to be the **organizing of a World Sanskrit Conference** at different venues around the world.
 - The 1972 International Sanskrit Conference in New Delhi was recognised retrospectively as the **First World Sanskrit Conference**.
 - **Indologica Taurinensia** is the journal of the IASS.

Dance / Music / Other Arts

1. MANIYARO

- MANIYARO is a variety of folk dance of **Gujarat**.
- It carries the sentiments of heroism in the **Dandiya RAAS of Maher community in Gujarat**.
- In Gujarat and especially in Saurashtra region, generally Men wear traditional costumes, having preset sized wooden sticks and present Maniyaro.
- Maniyaro is usually being played with the ancient instruments like Drum, Flute, and RAVAN Hattho etc.
- Lyrics of the songs that are being sung in Maniyaro are sometimes flowing enjoyment, at times expressing the feeling of separation and sometimes inspiring heroism.

2. Mayurbhanj Chhau

- Mayurbhanj Chhau dance form has a long history. Originally *a tribal dance*, which originated from the forests of **Mayurbhanj, Odisha** in the 18th century, it got the status of *a martial art form* in the 19th century.
- Slowly & steadily Mayurbhanj Chhau left its martial character and mellowed. Under the Royal Patronage it received proper attention & direction and showed a bright future and utmost perfection as a dance of excellent style in the field of eastern art and culture of India.
- **Background:**
 - Chhau is found in *three styles named after the location where they are performed*, i.e. the **Purulia Chau of Bengal, the Seraikella Chau of Jharkhand, and the Mayurbhanj Chau of Odisha**.
 - The most prominent difference among the three subgenres is regarding the use of masks. While, *the Seraikella and Purulia subgenres of Chhau use masks during the dance, the Mayurbhanj Chhau uses none*.



3. Kamsale Dance

- Kamsale is known as **Beesu Kamsale**. It is a unique folk art performed by the **devotees of God Mahadeshwara**.
- Kamsale also refers to a brass made musical instrument. Its origin is traced to the Mythological period. The kamsale comprises a cymbal in one hand and a bronze disc in the other and is used to produce a rhythmic clang.
- It is a group dance form performed by the menfolk in villages in the Mysore, Nanjanagudu, Kollegala and Bangalore areas in Karnataka.



- Kamsale is used both as an instrument and also as a prop by the dancers themselves.
- The Kamsale nritya is closely connected to a tradition of Male Mahadeshwara, or Lord Shiva worship by the haalu kuruba community.
- The dance is a part of a 'diiksha', or oath and is taught by teacher or spiritual leader.

4. Ghumot to be Goa's Heritage Instrument

- **Ghumot, Goa's indigenous traditional percussion instrument** made from an earthen vessel, will be notified as a **heritage instrument of Goa**.
- The instrument was banned due to the use of the skin of the endangered monitor lizard for the drum membrane.
- In recent years, ghumot makers have started using goat skin instead.
- The ban is applicable to the use of any animal listed in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and that the goat is not one of them.
- Ghumot is widely played during Ganesh Chaturthi Aarties.
- A smaller form of ghumot is generally used as the main accompaniment to the 'Burrakatha' a folk, **storytelling tradition of Andhra Pradesh**.



Paintings and Other Art Forms

1. Earliest-known Cave Painting of Animal

- The world's earliest-known cave painting of an animal has been discovered.
- **Where?** On Borneo in Indonesia.
- **When?** It dates back to at least 40,000 years ago.

2. Tholu Bommalata

- Tholu Bommalata, the traditional puppetry art form of **Andhra Pradesh**, has lost its sheen. Now, there are only a few artisans to carry forward the art.
- Tholu Bommalata is the **shadow puppet theatre tradition** of the state of Andhra Pradesh. Tholu Bommalata literally means "the dance of leather puppets".
- The puppeteers make up some of the various entertainers who perform all night and usually re-enact various stories from Hindu epics such as the Ramayana and Mahabharata.
- Its performers the part of a group of wandering entertainers and peddlers who pass through villages during the course of a year and offer to sing ballads, tell fortunes, sell amulets, perform acrobatics, charm snakes, weave fishnets, tattoo local people and mend pots.



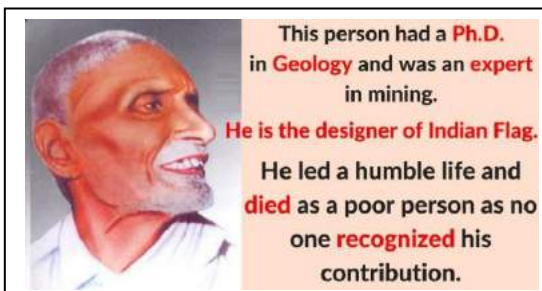
Personalities

1. Rajkumar Shukla

- The government recently released a Commemorative Postage Stamp on Rajkumar Shukla.
- **Who was Rajkumar Shukla?**
 - In drawing the attention of Mahatma Gandhi to the plight of peasants suffering under an oppressive system established by European indigo planters in **Champaran**, Bihar, Rajkumar Shukla made a seminal contribution culminating in the **launch of the Champaran Satyagraha** in 1917 by Mahatma Gandhi.
- **About the Champaran Satyagraha:**
 - It was undertaken in the erstwhile undivided Champaran district in northern Bihar. Mahatma Gandhi went there in April, 1917 on learning about the abuses suffered by the cultivators of the district, forced into growing indigo by British planters/estate owners.
 - Gandhi was so thoroughly persuaded by Rajkumar Shukla, an indigo cultivator from Champaran that he decided to investigate into the matter.
 - Gandhi's method of inquiry at Champaran was based on surveys by the volunteers. The respondents who willingly gave statements should sign the papers or give thumb impressions.
 - For those unwilling to participate, the reasons must be recorded by the volunteers. The principal volunteers in this survey were mostly lawyers like Babu Rajendra Prasad, Dharnidhar Prasad, Gorakh Prasad, Ramnawami Prasad, Sambhusaran and Anugraha Narain Sinha.
- **Outcomes:**
 - In June 1917, the British administration declared the formation of a formal inquiry committee with Gandhi aboard. The Government accepted almost all its recommendations. The principal recommendation accepted was complete abolition of **Tinkathia system**. It was a major blow to the British planters who became resentful. But they could not prevent the passage of **Champaran Agrarian Act** in Bihar & Orissa Legislative Council on March 4, 1918.
 - It was in Champaran that Gandhi first met J. B. Kripalani and Rajendra Prasad; and it was through his work in Champaran that Gandhi attracted the attention (and admiration) of Vallabhbhai Patel and Mahadev Desai.

2. Pingali Venkayya

- 141st birth anniversary of freedom fighter and designer of Indian National Flag Pingali Venkayya was observed on August 2, 2018.
- **Who was Pingali Venkayya?**
 - Pingali Venkayya was **a freedom fighter and the designer of the Indian National Tricolour**. The national flag that we see



today was based upon his design.

- **Early life:** Born on August 2, 1876 in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh, Venkayya served as a soldier in the British Army in South Africa during the Anglo Boer war in Africa. A firm believer in Gandhian principles and an ardent nationalist, Venkayya met the Mahatma during the war.
- **The evolution of Indian National Flag:**
 - Between 1918 and 1921, Venkayya raised the issue of having an own flag in every session of the Congress. Back then, he was working as a lecturer in the Andhra National College in Machilipatnam.
 - He met the Mahatma once again in Vijayawada and showed him his publication with the various designs of the flag. Acknowledging the need for a national flag, Gandhi then asked Venkayya to design a fresh one at the national congress meeting in 1921.
 - Initially, Venkayya came up with saffron and green colours, but it later evolved with a spinning wheel at the centre and a third colour-white. (LALA HANS RAJ SONDHI SUGGESTED ADDING A SPINNING WHEEL — SHOWING THE INDEPENDENT INDIANS WHO CAN SPIN THEIR OWN CLOTHING FROM LOCAL FIBRES.)
 - The flag was officially **adopted by the Indian National Congress in 1931.**

3. Nabin Chandra Das

- A postal stamp dedicated to **Nabin Chandra Das**, inventor of Rosogolla was launched recently on Bagbazar-O-Rosogolla Utsob marking the **150th year of its invention.**
- **Bagbazar-O-Rasogolla Utsob:**
 - Bagbazar O Rosogolla Utsob, a three-day Rosogolla Utsav is being held at Bagbazar, Kolkata as a tribute to Nabin Chandra Das, inventor of Rosogolla. The statue of Nabin Chandra Das was also unveiled during the inaugural programme.



4. Veer Surendra Sai

- The Union Cabinet has approved renaming of Jharsuguda Airport in Odisha as “Veer Surendra Sai Airport, Jharsuguda”.
- Veer Surendra Sai who is well-known freedom fighter and a tribal leader of **Odisha.**
- Born in 1809 in Khinda in Sambalpur, he was direct descendant of Madhukar Sai and was legally entitled to be crowned as king of Sambalpur after demise of king Maharaja Sai in 1827. But he was not acceptable to British power and ignored his claim for succession.
- He revolted against the British for throne after it allowed widow of Madhukar Sai Rani Mohan Kumari to succeed him and then followed by succession of Narayan Singh, a descendant of royal family but born of low caste as king of Sambalpur.
- The aim of Surendra Sai’s revolt was to **drive the British out of Sambalpur.** His revolution against the British commenced from 1827 when he was only 18 years of age and continued till 1862 when he surrendered and even after that, until he was finally arrested in 1864.

5. Sir Chhotu Ram

- A 64-foot-tall statue of peasant leader Sir Chhotu Ram has been unveiled at his native village Sampla in **Haryana's** Rohtak district.
- Sir Chhotu Ram, who was born on November 24, 1881, was regarded as **a messiah of peasants** and was instrumental in empowering farmers in pre-Independence era and getting pro-farmers law enacted. He had fought for farmers' rights during the British rule.
- On political front, he was a **co-founder of the National Unionist Party** which ruled all the time Panjab Province in pre-Independent India and kept Congress and Muslim League at bay.
- Chhotu Ram was awarded the title of '**Rao Bahadur**'. He was knighted in 1937 and was popularly known as Deen Bandhu.
- His legacy has been evoked by the formation of a new party, **the National Unionist Zamindara Party** by guar farmers in Rajasthan in 2013.

6. Sant Kabir

- **June 28** marks **Sant Kabir's 500th** death anniversary and is celebrated as **Kabir Jayanti** across the country.
- Sant Kabir Das was a very renowned **saint, poet and social reformer** of India who lived during the 15th century.
- His esteemed works and poems describe the greatness and oneness of the Supreme Being.
- **He did not believe in any religious discrimination and readily accepted all the religions.** Sant Kabir Das propagated that there is the presence of same Supreme Being in all religions.
- Sant Kabir Das was a highly acclaimed poet of his time. His writings significantly **influenced the Bhakti movement**. Some of his famous writings include '**Sakhi Granth**', '**Anurag Sagar**', '**Bijak**' and '**Kabir Granthawali**'.
- A religious community known as '**Kabir Panth**' was founded by him and the members of this forum are referred as '**Kabir Panthis**', implying the followers of Kabir Das. He was admired by individual of all faiths and his teachings are still alive and passed from generations.
- **Swami Ramananda influence:** Kabir Das' ideologies were greatly influenced by Vaishnava saint Swami Ramananda who accepted Kabir as his disciple.
- The UP-Tourism department has initiated to promote **Maghar** as a tourist destination where Hindus have built a temple in memory of Kabir, while Muslims have constructed a mausoleum in his memory.

7. Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay

- Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay wrote the national song **Vande Mataram**.
- The 19th century author's novel **Anandamath** — which was set in the background of the Sanyashi Bidroho (rebellion of monks in late 18th century) — is considered to be one of key works on Bengal's nationalism.
- His first Bengali fiction is called '**Durgeshnondini**' published in 1865.
- He also wrote other famous novels like Kapalkundala in 1866, Mrinalini in 1869, Vishabriksha in 1873, Chandrasekhar in 1877, Rajani in 1877, Rajsimha in 1881

and Devi Chaudhurani in 1884. He brought out a monthly magazine called Bangadarshan in 1872.

NOTES

Awards / Institutions

1. Various Awards

- **Bharat Ratna:**

- Bharat Ratna is the **highest civilian award** of the Republic of India. The provision of Bharat Ratna was introduced in **1954**.
- **Eligibility:** Any person without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex is eligible for these awards.
- There is no written provision that Bharat Ratna should be awarded to Indian citizens only.
- It is awarded in recognition of **exceptional service/performance of the highest order in any field of human endeavour**.
- The award was originally limited to achievements in the arts, literature, science and public services but the government expanded the criteria to include “any field of human endeavour” in December 2011.
- In terms of **Article 18 (1) of the Constitution**, the award cannot be used as a prefix or suffix to the recipient’s name. However, should an award winner consider it necessary, he/she may use the expression in their biodata/letterhead/visiting card etc. to indicate that he/she is a recipient of the award.

- **About Padma Awards:**

- Padma Awards – one of the highest civilian Awards of the country, are conferred in three categories, namely, **Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri**.
- They were instituted in the year 1954.
- The Awards are given in various disciplines/ fields of activities, viz.- art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc.
- **Categories:**
 - Padma Vibhushan is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service;(it is a second degree honour).
 - Padma Bhushan is awarded for distinguished service of high order. (it is a third degree honour).
 - Padma Shri is awarded for distinguished service in any field. (it is a fourth degree honour).

- The awards are announced on the occasion of Republic Day every year. The award is normally not conferred posthumously. However, in highly deserving cases, the Government could consider giving an award posthumously if the demise of the person proposed to be honoured has been recent, say within a period of one year preceding the Republic Day on which it is proposed to announce the award.

2. Philip Kotler Presidential Award

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded first ever Philip Kotler Presidential Award. He was selected for his outstanding leadership for the nation.
- *The Philip Kotler Presidential Award* recognises and celebrates achievements of organisations, marketing teams, and individuals in different industries around the world.

- *Philip Kotler* is a world-renowned Professor of Marketing at Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management.

3. Gandhi Peace Prize

- The Gandhi Peace Prize for the years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 was announced by the Union Ministry of Culture.
- The awardees were selected by the jury under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. ***The 2018 Gandhi Peace Prize was conferred on Yohei Sasakawa.***
- **About the Gandhi Peace Prize:**
 - The Gandhi Peace Prize was instituted in the year 1995 on the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
 - This annual award is given to individuals and institutions for their contributions towards social, economic and political transformation through non-violence and other Gandhian methods.
 - The award carries a cash prize of Rs 1 crore, a citation and a Plaque as well as an exquisite traditional handicraft/handloom item.
 - The Award for every year is selected by a Jury under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister.

4. Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar

- Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar, an annual award, has been instituted by the government. The award is to be announced every year on 23rd January on the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.
- **Eligibility:** All Indian Citizens and organizations, who have excelled in areas of Disaster Management; like Prevention, Mitigation, Preparedness, Rescue, Response, Relief, Rehabilitation, Research/ Innovations or Early Warning are eligible for the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar.
- **2019 awardee:** For the year 2019, 8th Battalion of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) located at Ghaziabad has been selected for its commendable work in Disaster Management. The Award recipient will receive a certificate and a cash prize of Rs. 51 lakh.

5. Rashtriya Bal Puraskar

- Rashtriya Bal Puraskar was recently awarded to 26 awardees by the President.
- **About Rashtriya Bal Puraskar:**
 - The earlier national awards for children have been revamped as Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar. An additional component of bravery has also been added.
- **Categories:**
 - **Bal Shakti Puraskar:** The Bal Shakti Puraskar is given in the fields of Innovation, Social Service, Scholastic, Sports, Art & Culture, and Bravery. The award carries a medal, a cash prize of Rs 100000, book vouchers worth Rs. 10,000, a certificate and a citation.
 - **Bal Kalyan Puraskar:** The Bal Kalyan Puraskar is given in the categories of Individual and Institution. The award for Individual category consists of a cash prize of Rs 100000, a medal, a citation and a certificate. The award for Institution category consists of a prize of Rs 500000 each, a medal, a citation and a certificate.

6. National Tansen Samman

- Noted sitar player Manju Mehta has been conferred with the '**Tansen Samman**' for 2018 by the Madhya Pradesh government for her contribution in the field of music.
- **Key facts:**
 - The prestigious '**National Tansen Samman**' is a musical award **conferred to the exponents of Hindustani music**. This award carries a cash prize of Rs. 2 Lakh along with a memento.
 - **The Tansen Music Festival is organised every year by Madhya Pradesh culture department** in the memory of Tansen, one of the greatest artists in Indian history. **It is held annually in Gwalior.**
- **About Tansen:**
 - He was a prominent figure of **Hindustani classical music**.
 - He began his career and spent most of his adult life in the court and patronage of the Hindu **king of Rewa, Raja Ramchandra Singh** (1555–1592), where Tansen's musical abilities and studies gained widespread fame.
 - This reputation brought him to the attention of the Mughal Emperor Akbar, who sent messengers to Raja Ramchandra Singh, requesting Tansen to join the musicians at the Mughal court.
 - Akbar considered him as **a Navaratnas (nine jewels), and gave him the title Mian**, an honorific, meaning learned man.
 - Tansen is remembered for his epic **Dhrupad compositions**, creating several new ragas, as well as for writing two **classic books on music Sri Ganesh Stotra and Sangita Sara**.

7. Jnanpith Award

- Renowned English fiction writer Amitav Ghosh has been selected for Jnanpith award, 2018.
- The Jnanpith Award is one of the prestigious literary honours in the country. The award was instituted in 1961.
- Eligibility: Any Indian citizen who writes in any of the official languages of India is eligible for the honour.

8. National Unity Award

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced the institution of a new national honour for National Unity on the pattern of Padma Awards. The annual award would be given to any Indian who has contributed to national unity in any manner.

9. Sahitya Akademi Award

- India's national academy of letters Sahitya Akademi has announced names of 24 poets and authors who will be conferred the prestigious 2018 Sahitya Akademi Award in 24 different Indian languages.
- **About Sahitya Akademi Award:**
 - It is literary honour that is conferred annually on Indian writers for their outstanding works of literary merit.
 - It was established in 1954.

- It is conferred annually on writers of outstanding works in one of the twenty-four major Indian languages (22 Scheduled Languages+ English and Rajasthani).
- The award consists of a casket containing an engraved copper-plaque (designed by film-maker Satyajit Ray), a shawl and cheque of Rs.1 Lakh.

10. Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony

- The Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony for the years 2014, 2015 & 2016 is being conferred on the doyen of Manipuri dance Sh. Rajkumar Singhajit Singh; Chhayanaut (a cultural organization of Bangladesh) and on one of India's greatest sculptors, Sh. Ram Vanji Sutar, respectively.
- **About the Tagore award:**
 - The annual award was instituted by the Government of India during the commemoration of 150th Birth Anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore.
 - The first Tagore Award was conferred on Pt. Ravi Shankar, the Indian Sitar Maestro in 2012 and second was conferred on Shri Zubin Mehta in 2013.
 - The award carries an amount of Rs. 1 crore, a citation in a scroll, a plaque as well as an exquisite traditional handicraft/ handloom item.
 - The award is open to all persons regardless of nationality, race, language, caste, creed or sex.
 - Awardees are selected by a jury headed by the Prime Minister of India.

11. Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman Award

- The Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman distinction is conferred on persons once a year on the Independence Day in recognition of their substantial contribution in the field of Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic, Pali, Prakrit, Classical Oriya, Classical Kannada, Classical Telugu and Classical Malayalam.
- The award introduced in the year 2002, is given to selected young scholars in the age group of 30 to 45 years. It carries a certificate of honour and a one time cash prize of Rs.1 lakh.

12. Ramon Magsaysay Award

- Two Indians Bharat Vatwani and Sonam Wangchuk are among six who have been declared winners of 2018 Ramon Magsaysay Award.
- **About Ramon Magsaysay Award:**
 - It is Asia's highest honour and is often regarded as the region's equivalent of the Nobel Prize.
 - It was established in 1957 by trustees of the New York City based Rockefeller Brothers Fund and Philippine government in the memory of Philippines' third President Ramon Magsaysay.
 - It is awarded annually to individuals or organizations from Asia region for their altruistic and philanthropic service.
 - It carries Medallion bearing the likeness of the late President Ramon Magsaysay, cash prize and a certificate.



International Efforts / International Events

1. World Capital of Architecture

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has announced that the Brazilian city of **Rio de Janeiro will be the World Capital of Architecture for 2020**.
- Rio will be the first city to receive the title under a program launched together by UNESCO and the International Union of Architects (UIA) in November last year. The city will host the World Congress of UIA, in July 2020, an event that occurs every three years.
- **Significance:** According to UNESCO, the World Capital of Architecture is intended to become an international forum for debates about pressing global challenges from the perspectives of culture, cultural heritage, urban planning and architecture.

2. UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation

- UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation have been announced.
- **Various awardees:**
 - **Award of Distinction:** Restoration of LAMO Center from a state of partial ruin in Ladakh.
 - **Honourable Mention:** Rejuvenation of iconic Rajabai Clock Tower and Ruttonjee Muljee Jetha Fountain in Mumbai, along with a project in China.
 - **Award of Excellence:** Shijo-cho Ofune-hoko Float Machiya, of Kyoto, Japan.
 - **New Design in Heritage Contexts:** Kaomai Estate 1955, Chiang Mai (Thailand) and Harts Mill, Port Adelaide, (Australia).
- **Facts for Prelims:**
 - Mumbai has won 19 recognitions since the inception of the awards in 2000 – the most for any city in India.
- **About the award:**
 - **Launched in 2000**, UNESCO Asia-Pacific awards for cultural heritage conservation programme is aimed at acknowledging the efforts taken to restore and conserve historical structures without affecting their heritage value in the region comprising 48 countries.
 - **The awards are classified under four categories** — Award of Excellence, Awards of Distinction, Awards of Merit and Award for New Design in Heritage Context.
 - **They are being given to encourage** the efforts of all stakeholders and the public in conserving and promoting monuments and religious institutes with rich heritage in the Asia-Pacific region.

3. UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage

- UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, has added **reggae to its list of cultural institutions worthy of protection and preservation**.

- **About Reggae:**
 - It is ***Jamaican music originating from marginalized groups***, mainly in Western Kingston. It was started out as voice of marginalized. But now it is played and embraced by wide cross-section of society, including various genders, ethnic and religious groups.
- **About UNESCO's List of Intangible Cultural Heritage:**
 - This coveted list is made up of those intangible heritage elements that help demonstrate diversity of cultural heritage and raise awareness about its importance.
 - The list was established in 2008 when Convention for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage came into effect.
 - It has two parts viz. Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of urgent safeguarding.
- **From India the Intangible Cultural Heritages added into this list include:**
 - Tradition of Vedic chanting
 - Ramlila, the traditional performance of the Ramayana
 - Kutiyattam, Sanskrit theatre
 - Ramman, religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas.
 - Mudi yettu, ritual theatre and dance drama of Kerala
 - Kalbelia folk songs and dances of Rajasthan
 - Chhau dance
 - Buddhist chanting of Ladakh: recitation of sacred Buddhist texts in the trans-Himalayan Ladakh region, Jammu and Kashmir.
 - Sankirtana, ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur
 - Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, Punjab
 - Yoga
 - Nawrouz
 - Kumbh Mela

4. UNESCO World HERITAGE SITE

- **India gets its 37th WORLD UNESCO World HERITAGE SITE.** The decision was taken at the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO at Manama in Bahrain.
- **37th site:** Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai.
- **Facts for Prelims:**
 - This makes Mumbai city the second city in India after Ahmedabad to be inscribed on the World Heritage List.
 - In the past 5 years alone, India has managed to get inscribed seven of its properties/sites on the World Heritage List of UNESCO.
 - **India now has overall 37 World Heritage Inscriptions** with 29 Cultural, 07 Natural and 01 Mixed sites.
 - **While India stands second largest in number after China** in terms of number of World Heritage properties in ASPAC (Asia and Pacific) region, **it is overall sixth in the world.**



- **What is a World Heritage site?**
 - A World Heritage site is classified as a natural or man-made area or a structure that is of international importance, and a space which requires special protection.
 - These sites are officially recognised by the UN and the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation, also known as UNESCO.
 - UNESCO believes that the sites classified as World Heritage are important for humanity, and they hold cultural and physical significance.
- **Background:**
 - ***In 1982, the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) announced, 18 April as the “World Heritage Day”,*** approved by the General Assembly of UNESCO in 1983, with the aim of enhancing awareness of the importance of the cultural heritage of humankind, and redouble efforts to protect and conserve the human heritage.

5. Panini Language Laboratory

- ‘Panini Language Laboratory’ has been set up at Mahatma Gandhi Institute (MGI) in Mauritius.
- The lab, gifted by the Indian government, will help MGI in teaching Indian languages in Mauritius. It aims to promote reading and writing Hindi amongst young generation and its further development. It will serve as medium to generate more interest in learning Hindi amongst youngsters thereby strengthening language.

Historical Events

1. Paika Rebellion

- Two-hundred years ago in 1817, a valiant uprising of soldiers led by **Buxi Jagabandhu** (Bidyadhar Mohapatra) took place in **Khurda of Odisha**. This is known as Paika rebellion.
- The **Paikas were the traditional land-owning militia of Odisha** and served as warriors.
- When armies of the East India Company overran most of Odisha in 1803, the Raja of Khurda lost his primacy and the power and prestige of the Paikas went on a decline.
- The British were not comfortable with these aggressive, warlike new subjects and set up a commission under Walter Ewer to look into the issue.
- The commission recommended that the hereditary rent-free lands granted to the Paikas be taken over by the British administration and this recommendation was zealously adhered to. They revolted against the British.
- However, the rebellion had several other underlying causes – like the rise in the price of salt, abolition of the cowrie currency for payment of taxes and an overtly extortionist land revenue policy.
- Although initially the Company struggled to respond they managed to put down the rebellion by May 1817. Many of the Paik leaders were hung or deported. Jagabandhu surrendered in 1825.

2. Hoisting of Tricolour

- The Government released a Rs 75 commemorative coin on the occasion of **75th anniversary of the hoisting of Tricolour for the first time by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose at Port Blair**.
- **Hoisting of Tricolour:**
 - During his visit to Andaman in on December 30, 1943, Subhash Chandra Bose hoisted the Tricolor for the first time at Cellular Jail of Port Blair, much before India attained Independence declaring the island as the free territory from the British rule.
 - On the same occasion, he announced the freedom of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the first Indian Territory, from the British rule.
 - The island at that time was liberated from British rule by Japan which captured it during the World War – II.
 - **Bose named Andaman Island as Shaheed and Nicobar Island as Swaraj and appointed INA General AD Loganathan as the governor of the Islands.** Azad Hind Government was not merely a Government in Exile anymore but had its own land, own currency, civil code and stamps.

3. Jallianwalla Bagh Massacre

- Government of India decided to mark the remembrance of 100 years of the historical **Jallianwalla Bagh Massacre**.
- **About the incident:**
 - **April 13, 1919**, marked a turning point in the Indian freedom struggle. It was **Baisakhi that day**, a harvest festival popular in Punjab and parts of

north India. Local residents in Amritsar decided to hold a meeting that day **to discuss and protest against the confinement of Satya Pal and Saifuddin Kitchlew**, two leaders fighting for Independence, and implementation of **the Rowlatt Act**, which armed the British government with powers to detain any person without trial.

- **The crowd had a mix of men, women and children. They all gathered in a park called the Jallianwala Bagh**, walled on all sides but for a few small gates, against the orders of the British. The protest was a peaceful one, and the gathering included pilgrims visiting the Golden Temple who were merely passing through the park, and some who had not come to protest.
- While the meeting was on, **Brigadier-General Reginald Edward Harry Dyer**, who had crept up to the scene wanting to teach the public assembled a lesson, ordered 90 soldiers he had brought with him to the venue to open fire on the crowd. Many tried in vain to scale the walls to escape. Many jumped into the well located inside the park.
- **Outcomes:**
 - Considered the **'The Butcher of Amritsar'** in the aftermath of the massacre, General Dyer was removed from command and exiled to Britain.
 - Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi, as a sign of condemnation, renounced their British Knighthood and Kaiser-i-Hind medal respectively.
 - In 1922, the infamous Rowlett Act was repealed by the British.
- To keep in mind this significance of this place, a trust was founded in 1920 to build a memorial site at Jallianwala Bagh. **American architect, Benjamin Polk**, built the memorial site which was inaugurated by the then President of India, **Rajendra Prasad** on 13 April 1961.

4. Azad Hind Government

- Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose had announced the establishment of the provisional government of Azad Hind in occupied Singapore in 1943.
- Known as **Arzi Hukumat-e-Azad Hind**, it was supported by the Axis powers of Imperial Japan, Nazi Germany, the Italian Social Republic, and their allies.
- The revered freedom fighter had launched a struggle to free India from British rule under the banner of the provisional government-in exile during the latter part of the Second World War.
- **Objectives:**
 - Bose was convinced that armed struggle was the only way to achieve independence for India. He had been a leader of the radical wing of the Indian National Congress in the late 1920s and 1930s, rising to become Congress president in 1938 and 1939 but was ousted following differences with Mahatma Gandhi and the Congress leadership.
 - Under his provisional government, the Indians living abroad had been united. The Indian National Army drew ex- prisoners and thousands of civilian volunteers from the Indian expatriate population in Malaya (present-day Malaysia) and Burma (now Myanmar).
- The formation:

- On October 21, 1943, in his address announcing the setting up of the provisional government, he said India's Army of Liberation was drawn up in military formation on the battlefield of Singapore which was once the bulwark of the British Empire.
- Under the provisional government, ***Bose was the head of the state, the prime minister and the minister for war and foreign affairs. Captain Lakshmi headed the women's organisation while S A Ayer headed the publicity and propaganda wing.***
- Revolutionary leader ***Rash Behari Bose was designated as the supreme advisor.*** The provisional government was also formed in the Japanese-occupied Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The islands were reoccupied by the British in 1945.
- Bose's death was seen as the end to the Azad Hind movement. The Second World War, also ended in 1945 with the defeat of the Axis powers.

5. Battle of Haifa

- The northern Israeli coastal city of Haifa, on September 6th, celebrated the centenary year of its liberation from Ottoman rule during World War I, honouring the brave Indian soldiers who laid down their lives in what is considered "the last great cavalry campaign in history".
- Haifa day:
 - The Indian Army commemorates September 23 every year as Haifa Day to pay its respects to the ***three Indian Cavalry Regiments – Mysore, Hyderabad and Jodhpur Lancers***, that helped liberate Haifa following a dashing cavalry action by the 15th Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade of the then British Indian Army at the Battle of Haifa in 1918.
- History and significance of Haifa war and its Indian Cemetery:
 - Owing to its rail and harbour, Israeli port city of Haifa was a strategic supply base. In addition to Haifa, the Allied Forces also engineered a plan to annexe Nazareth and Damascus in present-day Israel and Syria.
 - On September 23, 1918, the 15th (Imperial Service) Cavalry Brigade comprising lancers from the regiments of princely states of Jodhpur and Mysore inflicted heavy assault on positions held by Ottoman Turks in and around the city of Haifa. Eventually, the Indian cavalry brigades fighting under the leadership of British General Edmund Allenby helped liberate Haifa from the clutches of the Turkish-German forces.
 - ***The victory was even more special as the Indian soldiers were armed only with lances (a kind of spear) and swords*** while the Turks had in their possession advance artillery and machine guns. The Indian troops displayed exemplary cavalry skills and valour during what was considered to be the last major cavalry campaign in military history.
- Teen Murti memorial:
 - The Teen Murti memorial was constructed in 1922 in the memory of the Indian soldiers from three princely states namely Jodhpur, Hyderabad and Mysore who served present day
 - Gaza strip, Israel and Palestine during the World War I under British India Army.

6. 76th Anniversary of Quit India Movement

- 76th anniversary of Quit India movement was observed on August 8th, 2018.
- **What is Quit India Movement?**
 - It was in **1942** when the world was going through the havoc caused by World War II. India too was facing the heat and after the Cripps Mission had failed, and on 8 August 1942, Mahatma Gandhi made a Do or Die call through the Quit India movement.
 - Large protests and demonstrations were held all over the country. However, as the movement didn't get too much support from the outside, it was crushed and the British refused to grant immediate Independence, saying that it could happen only after the war had ended.
- **Who started Quit India Movement?**
 - The Quit India movement was started by **Mahatma Gandhi in 1942** but drew protests from the All-India Congress Committee demanding what Gandhi called was "An Orderly British Withdrawal" from India.
 - This forced the British to act immediately and soon all the senior INC leaders were imprisoned without trial within hours of Gandhi's speech.
- **Where was the Quit India Speech given?**
 - On 14th July 1942, the **Congress Working Committee at Wardha** had passed a resolution demanding complete independence from the British government.
 - On August 8, 1942, **Mahatma Gandhi made a Do or Die call in his Quit India speech** which was **delivered in Bombay at the Gowalia Tank Maidan**.
 - Even though the speech caused some turmoil within the party and even leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru and Maulana Azad were apprehensive and critical of the call, but backed it and stuck with Gandhi's leadership until the end.
- **Other key facts:**
 - Several national leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Abdul Kalam Azad, Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel were arrested.
 - The Congress was declared an unlawful association, leaders were arrested and its offices all over the country were raided and their funds were frozen.
 - The first half of the movement was peaceful with demonstrations and processions. The peaceful protest was carried till Mahatma Gandhi's release.
 - The second half of the movement was violent with raids and setting fire at post offices, government buildings and railway stations. Lord Linlithgow adopted the policy of violence.
 - The Viceroy's Council of Muslims, Communist Party and Americans supported Britishers.

7. Important terms related to Mughal Administration

- Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-miscellaneous/tp-others/deccan-papers-shine-the-light-on-aurangzeb-rule/article24668654.ece>

- The Telangana Archives and Research Institute holds a whopping 1.55 lakh documents — all on handmade paper — including 5,000 from the period of Shah Jahan (1628-1658) and another 1.5 lakh of Aurangzeb (1658-1707).
- Written in *Persian in Shikasta script, cursive style*, the documents are linked and arranged in chronological order — date, month and regnal year-wise.
- *Farman*- order of the emperor.
- *Nishan*- order of a member of the royal family.
- *Yaddasht-i-ahkam-i-muqaddas*- Memorandum containing imperial orders.
- *Parwana*- orders issued by higher authorities.
- *Siyaha huzur*- proceedings of the provincial court.
- *Roznamcha-i-waqai*- daily news report.
- *Qabzul wasil*- bill payments.
- *Andarz-o-chihra*- documents on personnel and horses.
- *Daftar-i-Diwani*- the administrative wing of Hyderabad State.
- *Theyaddasht-i-ahkam-i-muqaddas*- Reports on recommendations of pay hikes for staff sent to the emperor.

8. 100th year of Montford Reform

- 2018 marks the 100th year of the publication of the '**Report on Indian Constitutional Reforms**', commonly known as the Montagu-Chelmsford Report (MCR).
- Edwin Montagu was the Secretary of State for India. Lord Chelmsford was the Viceroy of India.
- **Features of the Act:**
 - It relaxed the central control over the provinces by **demarcating and separating the central and provincial subjects**. The central and provincial legislatures were authorised to make laws on their respective list of subjects. However, the structure of government continued to be centralised and unitary.
 - It further divided the **provincial subjects into two parts—transferred and reserved**. The transferred subjects were to be administered by the governor with the aid of ministers responsible to the legislative Council. The reserved subjects, on the other hand, were to be administered by the governor and his executive council without being responsible to the legislative Council. **This dual scheme of governance was known as 'dyarchy'**—a term derived from the Greek word di-arche which means double rule. However, this experiment was largely unsuccessful.
 - **It introduced, for the first time, bicameralism**. Thus, the Indian Legislative Council was replaced by a bicameral legislature consisting of

Magna Carta of Modern India:

- The 1919 Act went on to become the basis for the Government of India Act, 1919 and 1935, and, ultimately, the Constitution.
- The key principles of responsible government, self-governance and federal structure grew out of these reforms.
- The Act on Indian constitutional reforms along with the Montagu Declaration are, thus, worthy claimants of the title of the Magna Carta of Modern India.

an Upper House (Council of State) and a Lower House (Legislative Assembly). The majority of members of both the Houses were chosen by direct election.

- It required that ***the three of the six members of the Viceroy's executive Council (other than the commander-in-chief) were to be Indian.***
- It ***extended the principle of communal representation*** by providing separate electorates for Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians and Europeans. It granted ***franchise to a limited number of people*** on the basis of property, tax or education.
- It created ***a new office of the High Commissioner for India in London*** and transferred to him some of the functions hitherto performed by the Secretary of State for India.
- It provided for ***the establishment of a public service commission.*** Hence, a Central Public Service Commission was set up in 1926 for recruiting civil servants.
- It ***separated, for the first time, provincial budgets from the Central budget*** and authorised the provincial legislatures to enact their budgets.
- It provided for ***the appointment of a statutory commission*** to inquire into and report on its working after ten years of its coming into force.
- How was it received by Indians?
 - The 1919 reforms did not satisfy political demands in India. The British repressed opposition, and restrictions on the press and on movement were re-enacted through the ***Rowlatt Acts*** introduced in 1919. The act allowed certain political cases to be tried without juries and permitted internment of suspects without trial.
 - These measures were rammed through the Legislative Council with the unanimous opposition of the Indian members. Several members of the council including Jinnah resigned in protest. ***These measures were widely seen throughout India of the betrayal of strong support given by the population for the British war effort.***

9. Pietermaritzburg

- External Affairs Minister recently undertook a train journey from Pentrich to Pietermaritzburg.
- **Significance of the place:**
 - It is a railway station in South Africa where a young Mahatma Gandhi was thrown out of a "Whites-only" compartment 125 years ago.
 - On June 7, 1893, Gandhi, then a young lawyer, was thrown off the train's first class compartment at Pietermaritzburg station after he refused to give up his seat as ordered by racially prejudiced officials.
- **Outcomes:**
 - The incident led him to develop his Satyagraha principles of peaceful resistance and mobilize people in South Africa and in India against the discriminatory rules of the British.

Government Initiatives

1. Spiritual circuit in Kerala

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated a project for the development of ***spiritual circuit comprising three important pilgrimage centres of Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple, Aranmula and Sabarimala in Kerala.***
- The Sree Padmanabaswamy Temple is one of the 108 divyadesams of Lord Vishnu.
- The project is being ***implemented under the Swadesh Darshan scheme*** of the tourism ministry.
- ***About Swadesh Darshan Scheme:***
 - The Tourism Ministry had launched 'Swadesh Darshan' scheme (Central Sector Scheme) with an objective to **develop theme- based tourist circuits** in the country.
 - These tourist circuits will be developed on the principles of high tourist value, competitiveness and sustainability in an integrated manner.
 - The scheme is **100% centrally funded** for the project components undertaken for public funding.
 - To leverage the voluntary funding available for **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** initiatives of Central Public Sector Undertakings and corporate sector.
 - Funding of individual project will vary from state to state and will be finalised on the basis of detailed project reports prepared by **PMC (Programme Management Consultant)**.
 - A **National Steering Committee (NSC)** will be constituted with Minister in charge of M/O Tourism as Chairman, to steer the mission objectives and vision of the scheme.
 - In January 2015 Ministry of Tourism launched the Swadesh Darshan Scheme with following five circuits **Himalayan Circuit, North East Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Buddhist Circuit and Coastal Circuit.**
 - Later during 2015, 2016 and 2017, 10 more thematic circuits namely Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Ramayana Circuit, Heritage Circuit, Tirthankar Circuit and Sufi Circuit were added in the scheme making it to 15 thematic circuits.

2. Paryatan Parv

- The second edition of 'Paryatan Parv' of the **Ministry of Tourism** was started across the country.
- The Paryatan Parv will **showcase the cultural diversity of the country**, with cultural performances, crafts bazaar, food court showcasing folk and classical dance & music, handicrafts & handlooms and cuisine from all regions and States of the country.
- The Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with other Central Ministries, State Governments and Stakeholders is organizing "Paryatan Parv" across the country.

- The programme is being organized with the objective of drawing focus on the benefits of tourism, showcasing the cultural diversity of the country and reinforcing the principle of “Tourism for All”.

3. International Buddhist Conclave 2018

- With an aim to encourage the prominent Buddhist heritage and pilgrim sites in the state of Maharashtra, Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation in association with Ministry of Tourism recently organized the 6th International Buddhist Conclave 2018 in Aurangabad.
- The Conclave will highlight the traditional and historical facets of Buddhism across the world.
- *Theme: ‘Buddha Path – The Living Heritage’.*
- *Significance:* The International Buddhist Conclave is testament of the **Ministry of Tourism** and **Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation** towards its commitment to advance the experience of travellers as well as tourists looking to experience the spirit of Buddhist inheritance of our country.

4. National Culture Fund (NCF)

- As per the latest data, about Rs. 904.80 Lakhs has been received as part of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) under NCF for development Works at Historic Monuments in last 3 yrs.
- **About National Culture Fund (NCF):**
 - National Culture Fund (NCF) was set up as a Trust under the **Charitable Endowment Act, 1890** in November 1996 by the Government, with a view to mobilize extra resources **through Public Private Partnerships**.
 - The National Culture Fund is **managed and administered by a council headed by Culture Minister** to decide the policies and an Executive Committee headed by Secretary, Culture to actualize those policies.
 - The Fund aims at inviting the participation of the corporate sector, non-government organizations, private/public sector as well as individuals in the task of promoting, protecting and preserving India’s cultural heritage.
 - All the projects undertaken by the NCF are **completed within a specified period**, in accordance with an MoU signed by NCF with the concerned donor organization.
 - The donations/contributions to NCF are eligible **for 100% tax deduction under the Income Tax Act, 1961** subject to the limits and conditions prescribed in the said Section and relevant Rules.

5. National mission for manuscripts (NMM)

- In 2003, National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM), a **Mission mode Project**, was **launched by the Ministry of Culture** for documentation, conservation, preservation and digitization of manuscripts.
- The manuscripts documented and digitized by the NMM will be made **available to researcher and scholars through a Trusted Digital Repository**.
- The **ultimate object of the Mission** is to establish a Digital Manuscripts Repository at IGNCA in which researchers and scholars can view and consult the manuscripts to understand our past in its totality.
- **What are Manuscripts?**

- A manuscript is a **handwritten composition** on paper, bark, cloth, metal, palm leaf or any other material dating back at least seventy-five years that has significant scientific, historical or aesthetic value. **Lithographs and printed volumes are not manuscripts.**
- **Manuscripts are found in hundreds of different languages and scripts.** Often, one language is written in a number of different scripts. For example, Sanskrit is written in Oriya script, Grantha script, Devanagari script and many other scripts.
- Manuscripts are distinct from historical records such as epigraphs on rocks, firmans, revenue records which provide direct information on events or processes in history. Manuscripts have knowledge content.

6. Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies (CIHTS)

- Prime Minister of India recently honoured the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies (CIHTS) as part of celebrations to mark Buddha Purnima.
- **CIHTS is a centrally funded institute** that was started in 1967 following a discussion between Dalai Lama and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in the early 1960s.
- It was started with a view to **educating the young Tibetan Diaspora** and those from the Himalayan border regions of India, who have religion, culture and language in common with Tibet.
- Originally the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies (CIHTS), began to function as a constituent wing of the Sampurnananda Sanskrit University, and eventually emerged as an autonomous body in 1977 under the Ministry of Culture.
- It is located at Sarnath, Varanasi.

Miscellaneous

1. Prayagraj

- The Union Home Ministry approved the proposal of the Uttar Pradesh Government to rename Allahabad as Prayagraj.
- The city of Allahabad was originally known as Prayag in ancient times. Between 1574 and 1583, the 16th-century Mughal emperor Akbar founded a fort near the confluence of the Ganga and the Yamuna, known as Sangam, as he was impressed with its strategic position.
- Hence, Akbar named the fort and its neighbourhood as Ilahabad, which meant the “Abode of God”, inspired by the religion he had founded, Din-i-Ilahi.
- In the later years, Akbar’s grandson Shah Jahan renamed the entire city as Allahabad. However, the area near the Sangam, which is the site of the Kumbh Mela, continued to be called Prayag.

2. India’s second Tulip garden

- **India’s second Tulip garden will be set up in Pithoragarh district** at a cost of Rs 50 crore. First one is located in Srinagar of Jammu and Kashmir.
- **The Tulip Garden will be developed by ONGC**, under its corporate social responsibility programme in over 50 hectares of forest land near Chandak hilltop.
- The site was selected under the 13 districts, 13 new destinations’ scheme, to attract more tourists to the Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand.

3. Karma Kagyu School

- The **17th Karmapa, Ogyen Trinley Dorje**, who has been out of India since May 2017, has taken the citizenship and passport of Dominica, a Caribbean island country.
- The passport of Dominica allowed Karmapa the visa-free entry into many Commonwealth countries.
- **About Karma Kagyu school:**
 - The Karma Kagyu lineage belongs to one of the **4 main schools of Tibetan Buddhism**.
 - As a lineage of direct oral transmission it places particular emphasis on meditation and the realization of the direct experience of mind gained through the guidance of a teacher.
 - The Karma Kagyu lineage has its roots in the teachings of the historical Buddha and developed into a practical way to enlightenment in India and Tibet.
 - For over a 1000 years Buddhist Masters (Mahasiddhas) such as Naropa and Maitripa in India as well as the famous Tibetan Yogis Marpa and Milarepa shaped the lineage as a practical everyday practice for lay people.
- **Karmapa:**
 - Since the 12th century the Karmapas have been the heads of the Karma Kaygü lineage and responsible for the continuation of this direct transmission lineage.

4. Lingayat/Veerashaiva Community

- The Union government has told the Karnataka High Court that it has rejected the recommendation of the State government to grant **religious minority status to Lingayat and Veerashaiva community**.
- The Union government has reiterated the earlier stand of the Centre that Lingayat/Veerashaiva community is part of Hindu religion.
- **Background:**
 - The community has been demanding status of a separate religion for a long time. One part of the community demands the minority status for both Veerashaiva and Lingayats considering them the same, while another wants it only for the Lingayats as it considers Veershaivas to be Hindus.
 - The Karnataka government had decided to declare Lingayats as a religious minority and include the Veerashaivas who follow Basavanna as a group within the community.
- **Who are Lingayats?**
 - Lingayats are **followers of 12th-century social reformer Basavanna** and his vachana (verses) philosophy.
 - Their beliefs, practices and faith are different.
 - Veerashaivas worship Lord Shiva, the one mentioned in Hindu mythology.
 - However, the Shiva that Basavanna referred to in his vachanas (verses) is not the Hindu god Shiva but the ishtalinga (formless God), which people of the community wear around their neck.
- **Who are Veerashaivas?**
 - Veerashaivas are **a sub-sect of Lingayats and ardent followers of Lord Shiva**. They preceded Basavanna, the founder of Lingayatism.
 - Veerashaivism has its roots in the Vedas and Agamas, and Veerashaivas do not worship any god other than Shiva; they can be found spread across Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- **Who is Basavanna?**
 - Basavanna was a 12th-century **social reformer**. The revolution that Basavanna led came years after the Buddha.
 - It was Basavanna and his contemporary Sharanas who launched a very strong spiritual, social and religious rebellion against Brahminical hegemony. Basavanna had declared that “work is worship”.
 - He gave women equal status in his movement through **the vachanas (verses)**. In order to take the social movement closer to the people, Basavanna and all the other Sharanas voiced their concerns in simple Kannada vachanas so that even lay people could comprehend them.

5. Gujarat Government is planning to rename Ahmedabad as Karnavati

- Gujarat government is planning to rename Ahmedabad as Karnavati.
- **Historical background:**
 - Historically, the area around Ahmedabad has been inhabited since the 11th century, when it was known as Ashaval.

- Chaulukya ruler Karna of Anhilwara (modern Patan) had waged a successful war against the Bhil king of Ashaval and established a city called Karnavati on the banks of the Sabarmati river.
- Sultan Ahmed Shah in 1411 A.D. Had laid the foundation of a new walled city near Karnavati and named it Ahmedabad after the four saints in the area by the name Ahmed.

6. Project Navlekha

- **Google has unveiled Project Navlekha** to make online content relevant for more Indian users especially in local languages.
- **About Project Navlekha:**
 - Navlekha in Sanskrit means “*a new way to write.*”
 - **Google is using its expertise in artificial intelligence for Project Navlekha**, using which, it will quickly render any PDF with Indian language content into editable text, overcoming issues that usually occur when you try to copy text in Indian languages from a PDF.
 - The project **aims to bring 135,000 local language publishers online** by making web hosting smooth and simple.
 - It will allow local publishers who do not have websites to make their offline content fit for online publishing in less than a minute. It also comprises tool that uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) to allow publishers to simply scan documents or PDFs and create instant web pages on the platform.
 - The project will provide a handy online publishing tool for local language newspapers and content companies—90% of which do not have a website.
 - The registered publishers on Navlekha will also be provided with free web hosting, along with a branded domain for three years. They’ll also have AdSense support to begin monetising their content.
 - Under Navlekha project, Google will help these publishers to receive training and support and a branded page domain for the first three years.
- **Significance of the project:**
 - At present, amount of online content in Indian languages is only 1% of what is available in English.
 - India is important market for Google as it has second largest population of internet users in the world. Hence, with the new project the amount of resources available for Indians in local languages will increase.

7. Nathu La Pass

- Nathu La pass has been reopened for the annual **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra**.
- **Background:**
 - China had shut down the Nathu La pass in Sikkim and denied entry to the Kailash Mansarovar (located in Tibet) pilgrims last year due to the standoff in Doklam between troops of India and China at the border on account of security reasons.
- **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra:**
 - Kailash Mansarovar Yatra (KMY) is known for its religious importance, cultural significance and arduous nature.

- The annual pilgrimage holds religious importance for Hindus, Jains and Buddhists.
- The Yatra is organized by the government of India in close cooperation with the Government of the People's Republic of China.
- State Governments of Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Delhi, and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam Limited (KMVN) are other major Indian partners of the Ministry in organizing the Yatra.
- **Facts for Prelims:**
 - **Mansarovar Lake** is located at an altitude of 14,950 ft (4,558 m) is said to be the highest freshwater lake in the world. It is located in the Tibet Autonomous Region, China, 940 kilometres from Lhasa. To the west of it is Lake Rakshastal and to the north is Mount Kailash.
 - **Nathu La** is a mountain pass in the Himalayas. It connects the Indian state of Sikkim with China's Tibet Autonomous Region. It is also one of the BPM (Border Personnel Meeting) points between the Indian Army and People's Liberation Army of China for regular consultations and interactions between the two armies, which helps in defusing stand-offs.
 - **There are five BPM points** along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) at Bum La and Kibithu in Arunachal Pradesh, Daulat Beg Oldi and Chushul in Ladakh, and Nathu La in Sikkim.

8. Lalit Kala Akademi

- The Lalit Kala Akademi or National Academy of Art is India's National Academy of Fine Arts.
- It is an **autonomous organization**, established at New Delhi in 1954 to promote and propagate understanding of Indian art, both within and outside the country.
- It does so through providing scholarships, a fellow program, and sponsoring and organizing numerous exhibitions in India and overseas.

9. Sadharan Brahmo Samaj (SBS)

- Sadharan Brahmo Samaj (SBS), the party funded by Rabindranath Tagore's father in the initial years, has entered into a legal battle with the West Bengal State government over its decision to dissolve the governing bodies of eight colleges in Kolkata run by the organisation.
- **Sadharan Brahmo Samaj:**
 - The Sadharan Brahmo Samaj was formed in May 1878.
 - Mr. **Anandamohan Bose** was appointed the first President, Mr. Shib Chandra Deb the first Secretary and Mr. Umesh Chandra Dutta the Assistant Secretary. It was formed as a result of schisms in the Brahmo Samaj.
 - **Debendranath Tagore**, father of Rabindranath Tagore was actively involved with the organisation.
 - The Samaj had faith in a Supreme Being and believed that existence after Death is natural to man. It regarded the relation between God and men to be direct and immediate. It did not believe in the infallibility of any man or any scripture.

10. Geographical Indication (GI)

- **Odisha's Kandhamal Haldi (turmeric)**, famous for its healing properties, has received GI tag.
 - The golden yellow spice, named after the district where it is produced, has been cultivated since time immemorial and is known for its medicinal value.
 - Turmeric is the main cash crop of tribal people in Kandhamal. Apart from domestic use, turmeric is also used for cosmetic and medicinal purposes.
 - More than 60,000 families (nearly 50% of Kandhamal population) are engaged in growing the variety. The crop is sustainable in adverse climatic conditions.
- **GI Certification for five varieties of Indian coffee:**
 - **Coorg Arabica coffee:** grown specifically in the region of Kodagu district in Karnataka.
 - **Wayanaad Robusta coffee:** grown specifically in the region of Wayanad district which is situated on the eastern portion of Kerala.
 - **Chikmagalur Arabica coffee:** grown specifically in the region of Chikmagalur district and it is situated in the Deccan plateau, belongs to the Malnad region of Karnataka.
 - **Araku Valley Arabica coffee:** grown in hilly tracks of Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha region. The coffee produce of Araku, by the tribals, follows an organic approach.
 - **Bababudangiris Arabica coffee:** grown specifically in the birthplace of coffee in India and the region is situated in the central portion of Chikmagalur district. This coffee is also called high grown coffee which slowly ripens in the mild climate and thereby the bean acquires a special taste and aroma.
 - **Some key facts related:**
 - In India, coffee is cultivated in about 4.54 lakh hectares by 3.66 lakh coffee farmers of which 98% are small farmers.
 - Coffee cultivation is mainly done in the Southern States of India: Karnataka – 54%, Kerala – 19% and Tamil Nadu – 8%.
 - India is the only country in the world where the entire coffee cultivation is grown under shade, hand-picked and sun dried.
- **Bihar's Shahi litchi has got the Geographical Indication (GI) tag:**
 - The famous Shahi litchi, which is famous for its sweet, juicy, unique flavour and aroma, is mostly grown in Muzaffarpur and neighbouring districts including East Champaran, Vaishali, Samastipur and Begusarai.
 - The GI registration was done in the name of Litchi Growers Association of Bihar, which had applied for the tag.
 - Bihar produces 40% of the litchi grown in the country on 38% of the area.
- **Alphonso from Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Palghar, Thane and Raigad districts of Maharashtra, is registered as Geographical Indication (GI).**
 - The king of mangoes, Alphonso, better known as 'Hapus' in Maharashtra, is in demand in domestic and international markets not only for its taste but also for pleasant fragrance and vibrant colour.

- It is exported to various countries including Japan, Korea and Europe. New markets such as USA and Australia have recently opened up.
- **Kadaknath chicken meat from Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh has now got a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.**
 - Kadaknath is famous for its delicious black meat, which is supposed to be invigorating and full of medicinal properties.
 - The Indian poultry breed is famous for its unique black colour of feathers as well as black meat, which is claimed to contain low cholesterol level as compared to the routine table chicken.
 - Kadaknath is found mainly in the tribal district of Jhabua. This poultry is reared mainly by the tribal community of Bhil & Bhilala in the districts of Jhabua and Dhar.
 - **It is locally known as Kalamasi** and is used for treatment of many diseases, besides being considered an aphrodisiac.
- **Other products which received GI tag recently:**
 - The Sirsi Supari of Karnataka.
 - Erode Turmeric of Tamil Nadu.
 - The Marayur Jaggery largely produced in the regions of Marayur and Kanthallur grama panchayats of Kerala.
- **About GI tag:**
 - **What is it?** A GI is primarily an agricultural, natural or a manufactured product (handicrafts and industrial goods) originating from a definite geographical territory.
 - **Significance of a GI tag:** Typically, such a name conveys an assurance of quality and distinctiveness, which is essentially attributable to the place of its origin.
 - **Security:** Once the GI protection is granted, no other producer can misuse the name to market similar products. It also provides comfort to customers about the authenticity of that product.
 - **Provisions in this regard:** GI is covered as element of intellectual property rights (IPRs) under Paris Convention for Protection of Industrial Property.
 - **At international level, GI is governed by WTO's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).** In India, **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection Act), 1999 governs it.**
 - GI tag in India is administered by the **Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks**, who is the Registrar of Geographical Indications.
 - **India has unveiled a tagline and a tricolour logo for geographical indication (GI) certified products.** From now on, the GI-registered goods will sport the logo and the tagline to make them more attractive.
 - **Tagline:** "Invaluable Treasures of Incredible India".

