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Art and Culture

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Art and Culture

Dances

NOTES

1. Kuchipudi

- **Andhra Pradesh's** own classical dance '**Kuchipudi**' has found a place in the **Guinness World Records** yet again when a record 6,117 dancers came together to present a show at the IGMC Stadium in Vijaywada.
- The "**Maha Brunda Natyam**" (grand group dance) was organised as part of the '5th International Kuchipudi Dance Convention' organised by the state Department of Language and Culture.
- Kuchipudi is one of the **classical dance forms** of the South India. Kuchipudi derives its name from the Kuchipudi village of Andhra Pradesh.
- Kuchipudi exhibits scenes from the **Hindu Epics**, legends and mythological tales through a **combination of music, dance and acting**.
- Kuchipudi also comprises **pure dance, mime and histrionics** but it is the use of **speech** that distinguishes Kuchipudi's presentation as dance drama.
- In its early form, the female roles were played by boys and young men of beautiful looks.
- In modern times the Kuchipudi dance is considerably different than it originally used to be. Most of the performances are solo, done by female dancers.
- The music that accompanies the dance is according to the classical school of **Carnatic music**.
- **Origin:**
 - In 17th century Kuchipudi style of Yakshagaana was conceived by **Siddhendra Yogi** a Vaishnava poet and visionary who had the capacity to give concrete shape to some of his visions.
 - It was **Lakshminarayan Shastri** (1886-1956) who introduced many new elements including solo dancing and training of female dancers in this dance style.
- **Indian Classical Dance:**
 - Indian classical dance, or **Shastriya Nritya**, is an umbrella term for various performance arts rooted in religious Hindu musical theatre styles, whose theory and practice can be traced to the Sanskrit text **Natya Shastra**.
 - The **Sangeet Natak Akademi** recognizes eight classical dances - **Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Kuchipudi, Odissi, Kathakali, Sattriya, Manipuri and Mohiniyattam**.
 - The Culture Ministry of the Government of India includes **Chhau** in its classical list.



Other Art Forms

NOTES

1. Harikatha

- Harikatha, a traditional art **story-telling** was in news for its revival due to patronage from various cultural organisations.
- Harikatha is a form of **Hindu religious discourse** in which the storyteller explores a religious theme, usually based on the life of a saint or a story from an Indian epic.
- Harikatha involves the narration of a story, intermingled with various songs relating to the story. **The subject for the Harikatha story may be any Hindu religious theme.**
- It had originated from **Ajjada village of Srikakulam in Coastal Andhra**. Its aim is to imbue truth and righteousness in the minds of people and sow the seeds of devotion in them.
- It also aims to **educate people** about knowledge of atman (self) through stories and show them the path of liberation.

2. Alpana Folk Art

- The traditional **Bengal art of alpana**, invoking Gods with finger-painted motifs, is now all but lost.
- This Bengal folk art practiced by **women**, where the **finger is the brush** and a **paste comprising mainly rice powder is the paint**, once adorned the walls and floors of houses.
- Traditionally, green from leaves and red from sindoor is used as colors.
- The motifs are **ritualistic images** from mythology and scriptures.
- Now an effort has been mounted to save this art from slipping into oblivion.
- Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (**INTACH**), under its **cultural heritage programme**, has joined hands with the **Daricha Foundation**, which also works to revive tribal and folk arts, to give alpana a fresh lease of life.



UNESCO Heritage Sites / Lists

NOTES

1. Angkor Wat

- Unprecedented new details of medieval cities hidden under jungle in **Cambodia** near **Angkor Wat** have been revealed using lasers, shedding new light on the civilisation behind the **world's largest temple complex**.
- Angkor Wat, a **UNESCO World Heritage site** seen as among the most important in south-east Asia, is considered one of the ancient wonders of the world.
- It was constructed from the early to mid 1100s by Khmer King **Suryavarman II**
- It was first a Hindu, later a Buddhist, temple complex and the largest religious monument in the world.

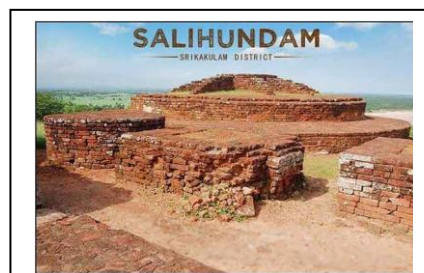
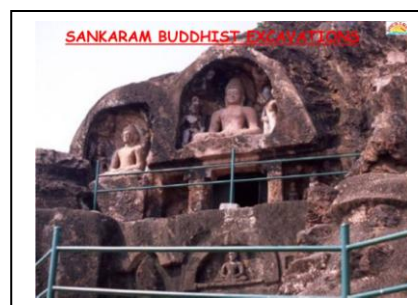


2. Cuban rumba and Ugandan music now on UNESCO's heritage list

- Cuba's sensual rumba dance and Belgium's thriving beer culture have been added to **UNESCO's coveted list of "intangible" heritage**.
- The list of "intangible" cultural treasures was created 10 years ago, mainly to **increase awareness** about them, while UNESCO also sometimes offers **financial or technical support** to countries struggling to protect them.

3. Move to get world heritage status for Sankaram

- The Buddhist Heritage sites at Salihundam (Srikakulam district) and Sankaram near Anakapalle in Visakhapatnam district, in addition to Lepakshi (Anantapur district) and the Nagarjunakonda International Museum (Guntur district) are likely to find a place in the list of Unesco World Heritage Sites.
- **Sankaram:**
 - **Sankaram**, also known as **Bojjannakonda**, was excavated under the aegis of Alexander Rim in 1906.
 - An interesting aspect of the Bojjannakonda finds is that they **feature all the three phases of Buddhism: Hinayana, Mahayana and Vajrayana**.
 - The caves at Bojjannakonda and those in Takshasila are similar.
- **Salihundam:**
 - Lying atop the hill on the south bank of vamsadhara River about 9 miles from Srikakulam town
 - Salihundam is a noted **Buddhist place that allures the folks from every nook and corner of the world**.



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- There are numerous **Buddhist stupas** nestled on a hill amid the picturesque surroundings.
- **Nagarjunakonda:**
 - A great religious and **educational centre of Brahmanism and Buddhism.**
 - Nagarjunakonda gets its name from the noted Buddhist scholar and philosopher-**Acharya Nagarjuna** who is said to have founded the Madhyamika school of Mahayana Buddhism which greatly influenced the masses in Andhra Pradesh of those days.
- **Lepakshi:**
 - Lepakshi It is located in Anantapur district in southern Andhra Pradesh.
 - Lepakshi is culturally and archaeologically significant as it is the **location of shrines dedicated to Shiva, Vishnu and Veerabhadra** which were built during the Vijayanagara Kings' period.

4. UNESCO lists Khangchendzonga National Park and Chandigarh' Capitol Complex in World Heritage Sites



- The **40th session of the World Heritage Committee (WHC)** of UNESCO, three sites from India were inducted in Word Heritage List.
- The sites include **Chandigarh's magnificent Capitol Complex, Mt Khangchendzonga, and the archaeological site at Nalanda Mahavihara (Nalanda University) in Bihar.**
- With this, **India becomes first country to get three sites inscribed in the Word Heritage List at a single session** of the committee meeting.
- With these additions, **India now has 35 world heritage sites, including 27 cultural heritage sites, 7 natural sites and 1 mixed site.**
- **Khangchendzonga National Park (KNP):**
 - KNP was added in the '**mixed**' **heritage site category** of the list i.e. it exhibits qualities of **both natural and cultural significance.**
 - It becomes the **first 'mixed' heritage site from India** to make it to the list.
 - KNP covers 25% of Sikkim and is home to a significant number of endemic, rare and threatened plant and animal species including large number of bird and mammal species.
 - The park combines the religious and cultural **practices of Buddhism** as well as the ecological significance of the region.
 - It signifies an outstanding example of **traditional knowledge and environmental preservation.**
 - It is home to the world's third highest peak, **Mt. Khangchendzonga.**
 - The park also has few **Lepcha** tribal settlements. Lepcha is an indigenous tribal community of Sikkim.
- **Chandigarh's Capitol Complex:**

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- Chandigarh's famed Capitol Complex **designed by Swiss-French architecture** Le Corbusier was added in the list in the **transnational category**.
- The site was added in the list as part of the **UNESCO's recognition of Le Corbusier's architectural works** in different parts of the world.
- The Capitol Complex includes the **Punjab and Haryana High Court, Secretariat and Legislative Assembly**.
- The complex was designed by Le Corbusier in the 1950s when the city was constructed as a symbol of independent, modern India.
- **UNESCO world heritage site:**
 - A UNESCO World Heritage Site is a place that is listed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as of **special cultural or physical significance**.
 - The list is maintained by the **international World Heritage Programme administered by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee**, composed of 21 UNESCO member states which are elected by the General Assembly.
 - Each World Heritage Site remains part of the legal territory of the state wherein the site is located and **UNESCO considers it in the interest of the international community to preserve each site**.
 - **Italy is home to the greatest number of World Heritage Sites with 50 sites.**

5. UNESCO declares Nalanda Mahavihara World Heritage Site

- UNESCO has declared Bihar's much awaited ancient site – the ruins of **Nalanda Mahavihara** – a World Heritage Site.
- With the inclusion of Nalanda, this would be the **second UNESCO Heritage Site in Bihar after Mahabodhi temple in Bodh Gaya**.
- 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**.
- The construction of Nalanda University began in 5th century AD and **flourished under the Gupta rulers (Kumāragupta)**.
- 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.
- **Revival:**
 - Years after the destruction of Nalanda, former President of India Dr. **A.P.J. Abdul Kalam** while addressing the Bihar State Legislative Assembly, in March 2006 mooted the idea of reviving the university.
 - The University is governed by **Ministry of External Affairs**.

6. List of UNESCO Cultural Heritage Sites in India

Name of the Site	Location
Taj Mahal	Uttar Pradesh
Ellora Caves	Maharashtra
Ajanta Caves	Maharashtra
Agra Fort	Uttar Pradesh
Sun Temple, Konârak	Odisha
Khajuraho Group of Monuments	Madhya Pradesh
Group of Monuments at Hampi	Karnataka
Fatehpur Sikri	Uttar Pradesh
Churches and Convents of Goa	Goa
Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram	Tamil Nadu
The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier	Chandigarh
Group of Monuments at Pattadakal	Karnataka
Great Living Chola Temples	Tamil Nadu
Elephanta Caves	Maharashtra
Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi	Madhya Pradesh
Qutb Minar and its Monuments	Delhi
Humayun's Tomb	Delhi
Mountain Railways of India	West Bengal
Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya	Bihar
Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka	Madhya Pradesh
Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus)	Maharashtra
Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park	Gujarat
Red Fort Complex	Delhi
The Jantar Mantar	Jaipur, Rajasthan
Hill Forts of Rajasthan	Rajasthan
Rani-ki-Vav (the Queen's Stepwell)	Patan, Gujarat
Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara (Nalanda University)	Nalanda, Bihar

NOTES

Important Personalities

NOTES

1. Babu Jagjivan Ram

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, paid tributes to Babu Jagjivan Ram on his death anniversary on 6th July.
- Jagjivan Ram was a crusader of social justice and champion of depressed classes.
- Jagjivan Ram had organized a number of **Ravidas Sammelans** and had **celebrated Guru Ravidas Jayanti in different areas of Calcutta** (Kolkata).
- In 1934, he founded the **Akhil Bhartiya Ravidas Mahasabha** in Calcutta and the **All India Depressed Classes League**. Through these Organizations he involved the depressed classes in the freedom struggle.
- In October 1935, Babuji appeared before the **Hammond Commission at Ranchi and demanded, for the first time, voting rights for the Dalits**.
- Inspired by Gandhiji, he entrenched himself deeply into the **Civil Disobedience Movement** and Satyagraha. He actively participated in the **Quit India Movement**.
- He has also served as the deputy prime minister of India.

2. Tirot Sing

- The sacrifices of Tirot Sing, the **legendary freedom fighter from Meghalaya**, were recently commemorated.
- The function was part of a **15-day campaign** undertaken by the Government of India to hold a series of programmes across the country to commemorate the sacrifices of the freedom fighters at their respective places of origin.
- **About Tirot Sing:**
 - Tirot Sing was one of the greatest freedom fighters to hail from the northeast.
 - In the attempt to **prevent the Khasi Hills from falling into colonial hands**, Tirot Sing, a **Khasi chief**, had raised the battle cry against the invasive British forces on April 4, 1829, but was eventually captured and defeated.
 - He died in captivity in Dhaka on July 17, 1835. His death is commemorated as **U Tirot Sing Day in Meghalaya**.

3. M.S. Subbulakshmi

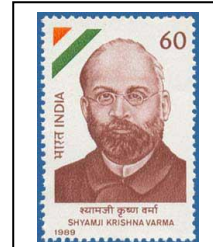
- The **United Nations issued a stamp** to mark the birth centenary of M.S. Subbulakshmi.
- Subbulakshmi performed at the UN fifty years ago, making her the first Indian to have the honour.
- Subbulakshmi was a **Carnatic vocalist**. She was the first musician ever to be awarded the **Bharat Ratna**, India's highest civilian honour.
- She is the first Indian musician to receive the **Ramon Magsaysay award**, often considered Asia's Nobel Prize.
- **Carnatic Music:**
 - Most popular in **South Indian states** viz. Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala.

NOTES

- A song composed in the Carnatic style necessarily comprises of a **Pallavi, Anupallavi** and one or two or more **Charanas**.
- The main emphasis in Carnatic music is on **vocal music**.
- The basic elements of **śruti, swara, rāga, and tala** form the foundation of improvisation and composition in both Carnatic and Hindustani music.

4. Shyamji Krishna Varma

- Birth anniversary of Shyamji Krishna Varma was celebrated on 4th October.
- He founded the **Indian Home Rule Society, India House and The Indian Sociologist in London**.
- Shyamji Krishan was also an **admirer of Lokmanya Tilak** and supported him during the Age of Consent bill controversy of 1890.
- However, he rejected the petitioning, praying, protesting, cooperating and collaborating policy of the Congress Party.
- An **admirer of Dayanand Saraswati's approach of cultural nationalism**, and of Herbert Spencer, Krishna Varma believed in Spencer's dictum: "Resistance to aggression is not simply justified, but imperative".

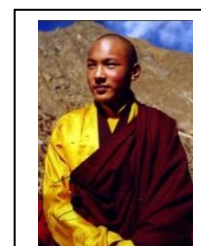


5. Shri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu

- **Ministry of Culture** has released a Commemorative Non-Circulation Coin of ₹500 and a Circulation Coin of ₹10 as part of year-long celebrations of commemoration of "**500th Anniversary of Shri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's Coming to Vrindavan**".
- Shri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu is a famous **Hindi Saint and social reformer**. He was a distinguished promoter for the **Vaishnava School of Bhakti Yoga**.
- The **Bhakti movement initiated by him** strove to **eradicate the evils of caste and feudal systems** of medieval India. He propagated the **worship of Shri Krishna** and popularized the chanting of "**Hare Krishna Mantra**" to all without any discrimination.
- In the year 1515, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu visited Vrindavan, with the objective of locating the lost holy places associated with Lord Krishna's transcendent pastimes.
- It is believed that through his intuitive powers, Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu was able to locate all the places associated with Lord Sri Krishna and restore the pristine purity of the religious practices of the yore.

6. Urgyen Trinley Dorje

- The government had allowed Urgyen Trinley Dorje, the **17th Gyalwang Karmapa**, to address a public gathering at Mon in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The Gyalwang Karmapa is the head of the **Karma Kagyu School**, one of the four main schools of Tibetan Buddhism.
- **About Karma Kagyu school:**



NOTES

- 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.

7. Thiruvalluvar

- Uttarakhand Chief unveiled the statue of renowned Tamil poet and philosopher **Thiruvalluvar** on the premises of **Mela Bhawan in Haridwar**.
- Thiruvalluvar is a celebrated Tamil poet and philosopher whose contribution to Tamil literature is the **Thirukkural, a work on ethics**.
- Thiruvalluvar is thought to have lived sometime between the 4th century BC and the 1st century BC. There is no historical evidence for when and where he lived.
- The **Tamil poet Mamulanar** of the Sangam period mentioned that Thiruvalluvar was the greatest Tamil scholar.

8. Shri Gaya Prasad Katiyar

- **Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications** has brought out a Special Cover on freedom fighter “Shri Gaya Prasad Katiyar”.
- He was one of the most dedicated soldiers of India’s freedom struggle.
- He joined **Hindustan Socialist Republican Association** in 1925 and got connected with Chandra Shekhar Azad and Bhagat Singh.
- Later he participated on **Lahore Conspiracy Case** and was arrested from Saharanpur in 1929. He joined the **hunger strike at Lahore Jail** with his co prisoners.

9. Ramanujacharya

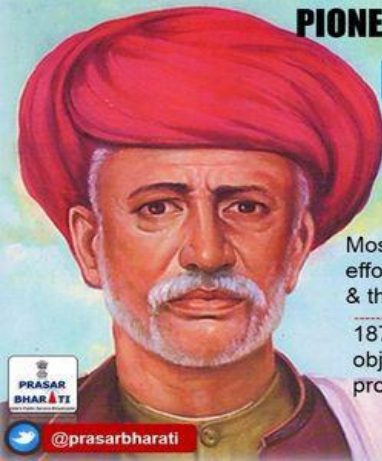
- A complex with 108 temples and a towering 216-feet-high sitting statue of 10th century Bhakti saint **Ramanuja** is taking shape on the outskirts of Hyderabad.
- Called the **Statue of Equality** as a tribute to Ramanujacharya’s philosophy and teachings, the gigantic structure will mark the beginning of the **1000th birth anniversary celebrations**.
- **Ramanuja** (1017–1137 CE) was a Hindu theologian, philosopher, and one of the most important exponents of the **Sri Vaishnavism tradition** within Hinduism.
- **Rāmānuja** is famous as the chief **proponent of Vishishtadvaita subschool of Vedānta**.
- According to him, **God, the soul, and the universe together formed one reality**.
- His Vishishtadvaita (qualified monism) philosophy has competed with the **Dvaita (theistic dualism) philosophy of Madhvāchārya**,



and **Advaita (monism) philosophy of Ādi Shankara**, together the three most influential Vedantic philosophies of the 2nd millennium.

NOTES

10. Jyotirao Phule



PIONEER OF WOMEN'S EDUCATION IN INDIA
MAHATMA JYOTIRAO PHULE
 (11 Apr 1827 – 28 Nov 1890)

Indian activist, thinker, social reformer, writer & theologian from Maharashtra

Was pioneer of women's education in India

Most known for his efforts to educate women & the lower castes

Along with his wife Savitribai Phule, He opened the first school for girls in 1848


1873: Formed Satya Shodhak Samaj with main objective of liberating the Bahujans, Shudras & protecting them from exploitation & atrocities.

Campaigned for widow marriages & opposed child marriages

PRASAR BHARATI
 @prasarbharati

- Jyotiba Phule devoted his entire life for the **liberation of untouchables** from the exploitation of Brahmins.
- Viewing the pathetic condition of widows and unfortunate children Jyotirao **established an orphanage** in 1854.

11. Lala Lajpat Rai



LALA LAJPAT RAI
 (28 January 1865 – 17 November 1928)

Chiefly remembered as a leader in the Indian Independence movement & popularly known as Punjab Kesari.

Was part of the Lal Bal Pal trio with Bal Gangadhar Tilak, and Bipin Chandra Pal.

Credited for foundation of Punjab National Bank.

SHER-E-PUNJAB

Founded the Hindu Orphan Relief Movement in 1897 to keep the Christian missions from securing custody of the children.

Worked tirelessly to improve education, to promote unity among Hindus and to reform society

Fought against Untouchability

"I declare that the blows struck at me today will be the last nails in the coffin of British rule in India"

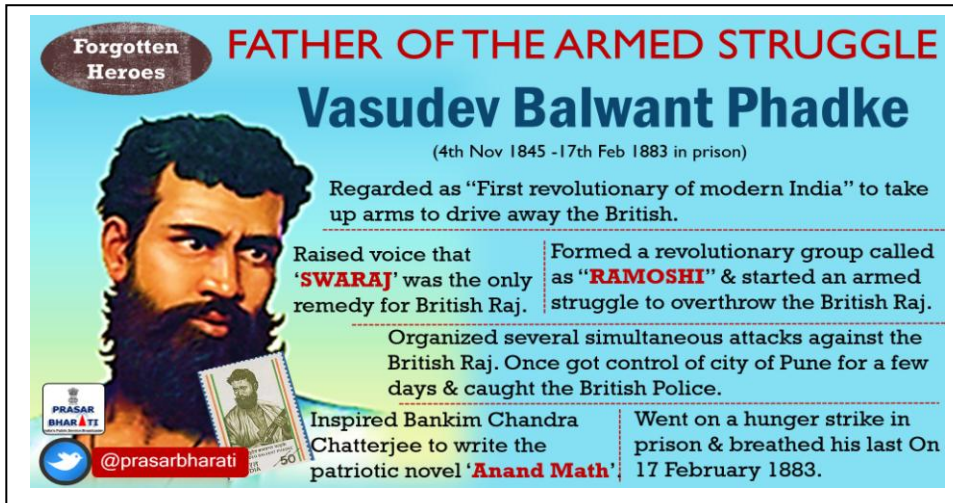
PRASAR BHARATI
 @prasarbharati

- He joined the **Arya Samaj** founded by Swami Dayanand Saraswati.
- He founded the **Indian Home League Society of America** and wrote a book called "**Young India**".
- Lala Lajpat Rai led the Punjab protests against the Jalianwala Bagh Massacre and the Non-Cooperation Movement.
- He became Congress President in 1920.
- In 1921, He founded **Servants of the People Society**, a non-profit welfare organisation, in Lahore.
- Lala Lajpat Rai died on November 17, 1928 due to lathi charge in the procession against Simon Commission.

NOTES

12. Vasudev Balwant Phadke

- **Ganesha darshan** at Mumbai's '**Lalbaugcha Raja**' reverberate with the echoes of history.
- The organisers showcased **arms used by the revolutionaries in the last decade of the 19th century**.



- The arms movement against the British Raj gained momentum in the late 1870s with the **Ramoshi movement**, spearheaded by **Vasudev Balwant Phadke** in and around Pune district.
- **Maharashtra was the first state in India to start militant revolutionary activities** in order to overthrow the British rule.
- Long before the foundation of Anusilan Samity in Calcutta a **secret society was formed in Maharashtra under the leadership of Vasudev Balwant Phadke**.

13. M Balamuralikrishna

- Legendary vocalist, playback singer and composer Mangalampalli Balamuralikrishna passed away recently.
- He was a prominent **Carnatic vocalist, multi-instrumentalist, playback singer, composer and actor**.
- The **ragas like Ganapathi, Sarvashri, Mahati, Lavangi** etc. were credited to him.
- Awards and Honours include **Padma Vibhushan**, Mahatma Gandhi Silver Medal from UNESCO, France's Chevalier of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres.
- He is also a recipient of Filmfare awards and National Film Awards for best music direction and playback singing.

14. Mother Teresa

- Mother Teresa, a **Roman Catholic religious sister** and missionary was **proclaimed a Saint** by Pope Francis in a ceremony at the Vatican.
- Indian delegation was represented by Union External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj.
- With this, Mother Teresa became the **fifth Indian to be canonised as Saint**. Others are Father Kuriakose Elias Chavara, Sister Alphonsa and Sister

NOTES

Euphrasia.

- Saint Gonsalo Garcia, though of Portuguese parentage, was born in India and is considered an India-born saint.
- Mother Teresa was born on 26 August 1910 in Skopje (Now in Macedonia) then part of the Kosovo Vilayet in the Ottoman Empire.
- In 1950 she founded the **Kolkata based Missionaries of Charity**, which went on to become a global order of nuns, priests, brothers and lay co-workers.
- Through the charity organisation, she had spent around 45-years serving the poor, sick, orphaned and dying on the streets of Kolkata.
- She was awarded **Padma Shri in 1962, Ramon Magsaysay Award in 1962, Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, and Bharat Ratna in 1980.**

15. Guru Gobind Singh

- The **350th Prakash Parv** (also Prakash Utsav) or **birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh** was celebrated in January 2017 in Patna, India.
- 2017 is the year of the 350th anniversary of the **10th Sikh Guru**, a spiritual master, warrior, poet and philosopher.
- Among his notable contributions to Sikhism are founding the **Sikh warrior community called Khalsa** in 1699 and **introducing the Five Ks**, the five articles of faith that Khalsa Sikhs wear at all times.
- Wrote important Sikh texts, and enshrined the **scripture the Guru Granth Sahib** as Sikhism's eternal Guru.
- He **appraised Mughals of the misdeeds towards Sikhs** in his letter to Aurangzeb called **Zafarnama**. He also fought him in the **Battle of Muktsar** in 1705.
- Bahadur Shah named the Guru as **Hind Ka Pir or the Saint of India.**

Tribes

NOTES

1. Khasis of Meghalaya

- **Pre-historic megaliths** and tools discovered in Meghalaya's Ri-Bhoi district indicate that the Khasi tribe had made the State their home since around 1200 BCE.
- Excavations carried out in the slopes of **Sohpetbneng (Heaven's Naval) peak near the NH-40** revealed these facts.
- **Key facts:**
 - The Khasi people are an **indigenous tribe**, the majority of whom live in **Meghalaya**, with a significant population in **Assam**, and in certain parts of **Bangladesh**.
 - They call themselves **Ki Khun U Hynñiewtrep**, which means "The Children of The Seven Huts" in their language.
 - The Khasi people designed and built the famous living **root bridges of the Cherrapunjee region**.
 - Under the *Constitution* of India, the *Khasis* have been granted the status of **Scheduled Tribe**.
 - A unique feature of the Khasi people is that they follow the **matrilineal system of descent and inheritance**.

2. Apatani tribe

- A book that tells the story of the **Apatani tribe of Arunachal Pradesh** during British India has bagged the M.M. Bennetts Award for Historical Fiction 2016 in the U.K.
- The Apatani, or Tanw, are a tribal group of people living in the **Ziro valley in the Lower Subansiri district** of Arunachal Pradesh in India.
- Unlike the other tribes, they are **non- nomadic** in nature.
- They practice permanent **wetland cultivation** in hilly terrain by slicing the hills, whereas other tribes practice cultivation in dry land by cutting down forests.
- Their **wet rice cultivation** system and their agriculture system are extensive even without the use of any farm animals or machines.
- UNESCO has proposed the Apatani valley for inclusion as a World Heritage Site for its "extremely high productivity" and "unique" way of preserving the ecology.

3. Irulas

- Irulas reside in the **Nilgiri hills of Tamil Nadu** and are one of the oldest tribes in India.
- The term Irula means being **capable of finding one's path in dark forests**, according to an Irula myth.
- Irulas are recognised as the **Primitive Tribal Group (PTG) of Tamil Nadu**.
- They are known as the last **"forest scientists"** of the world, they have been snake catchers and rat catchers for generations.
- Irulas are also very knowledgeable about medicinal plants.

4. Major Tribes in India

State	Tribes
Andhra Pradesh	Bhil, Chenchus (Chenchawar), Gadabas, Gond, Jatapus, Kammara, Kattunayakan, Konda, Dhulia, Thoti, Sugalis.
Arunachal Pradesh	Abors, Aptanis, Dafla, Galong, Momba, Singpho.
Assam	Chakma, Chutiya, Dimasa, Hajong, Garos, Khasis, Gangte, Mikirs.
Bihar	Baiga, Birhor, Chero, Gond, Santhals, Mundas, Oraons (also called Kurukh)
Himachal Pradesh	Gujjars, Gaddis, Bhot
Jammu and Kashmir	Bakarwal, Gaddi, Mon.
Jharkhand	Birhors, Gonds, Mundas, Santhals.
Karnataka	Barda, Gond, Bhil, Iruliga, Koraga, Hakkipikki, Jenu Kuruba, Yerava.
Kerala	Adiyan, Eravallan, Kurumbas, Moplahs, Uralis.
Madhya Pradesh	Baigas, Bhils, Bharia, Birhors, Gonds, Khond, Kol, Murias.
Maharashtra	Bhils, Bhaina, Bhunjia, Dhodia, Khond, Rathawa, Warlis
Manipur	Angami, Chiru, Kuki, Monsang, Thadou.
Meghalaya	Chakma, Garos, Hajong, Jaintias Khasis, Pawai.
Mizoram	Chakma, Dimasa, Khasi, Kuki, Lushais, Synteng.
Nagaland	Angami, Garo, Kuki, Mikir, Nagas.
Odisha	Gadaba, Gonds, Mundas, Oraons, Santhals, Chenchus
Rajasthan	Bhils, Damaria
Sikkim	Bhutia, Khas, Lepchas.
Tamil Nadu	Irular, Kadar, Kotas, Todas.
Telangana	Chenchus.
Tripura	Bhil, Bhutia, Chakma, Khasia, Lushai.
Uttarakhand	Bhotias, Buksa, Khas.
Uttar Pradesh	Bhotia, Buksa, Kol.
West Bengal	Khond, Hajong, Ho, Santhals, Mundas, Oraons (also called Kurukh)
Andaman and Nicobar	Oraons, Onges, Sentinelese, Shompens, Jarawa.

NOTES

Architecture and Sculpture

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1. Fort St. George

- **Archaeological Survey of India** has begun the **restoration plan** at **Fort St. George in Chennai**.
- Fort St George is the name of the **first English fortress in India, founded in 1644 at the coastal city of Madras, the modern city of Chennai**.
- The fort which was built in the wake of a **French attack** became a wastewater chamber over the years.
- The fort **currently houses the Tamil Nadu legislative assembly** and other official buildings. The fort is one of the 163 notified areas (megalithic sites) in the state of Tamil Nadu.

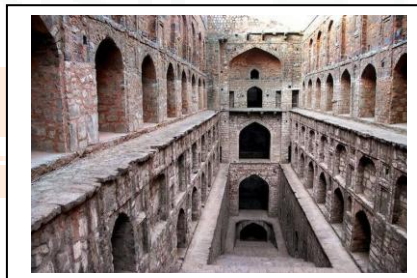
2. Australia returns sculptures to India

- Australia has returned to India three sculptures.
- The returned sculptures are – a 900-year-old stone statue of **Goddess Pratyangira**, a third century rock carving of **worshippers of the Buddha** and the sculpture of **'Seated Buddha'**.



3. Baolis of Delhi

- The Delhi government's calendar for 2017 celebrates the history of Baolis in Delhi.
- **Step wells** were the pride of the Capital over the centuries – starting with the pre-Sultanate period and finding their heyday during the Mughal era.
- The baolis of Delhi were built by its early rulers as **secular structures** that drew water from the ground in the dry season and harvested rain water during the monsoon for use by the community at large.
- Baolis are unique to India and mostly prevail in states of **Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Delhi**.
- Step wells can be traced back in the **sites of Indus Valley Civilization** such as **Dholavira and Mohenjo-daro**.



Excavations

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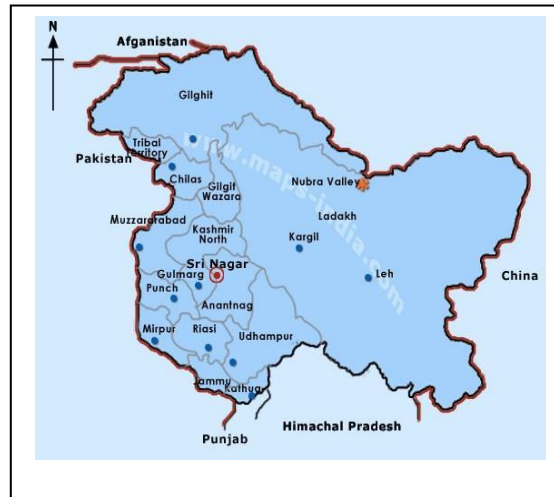
1. Buddhist remains unearthed in A.P.

- Buddhist remains on a mound called '**Ernamma Pallu Dibba**' in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh were unearthed.
- limestone pillars** carved with half-lotus medallions, two limestone panels and a fragment of a Buddha image were visible
- These remains, basing on the style of art and architecture are datable to the 3rd Century AD — i.e., **Ikshwaku times**.
- The remains have been unearthed under the campaign, "**Preserve Heritage for Posterity**", an initiative of the Cultural Centre of Vijayawada and Amaravati.



2. Pre-historic camping site found in Ladakh

- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has found an **ancient camping site used by pre-historic man**, at an altitude of about 4,200 metres **near Saser La in Nubra Valley, Ladakh**.
- The camping site is a place where **hunter-gatherers** in the ancient times **stayed temporarily** before they moved on to another place.
- This camping site is located in Saser La which leads to the **Karakoram Pass**.
- The carbon dating of the charcoal pieces found reveals that, the site dates back to circa **8500 BCE**.
- It is the **earliest camping site in Ladakh** and is the very first for that region.



Ancient India

1. Chinese scholar Xuan Zang

- Seventh century Chinese Buddhist pilgrim and scholar **Xuan Zang stayed a couple of years in Bezawada** (the old name of Vijayawada) to copy and study Buddhist scriptures.
- In 630 AD, Xuan Zang came to India** through Kashmir after visiting Central Asia, Iran and Afghanistan through the Silk Route.
- At **Nalanda University**, Xuan Zang had interacted with scholars and students, **mastered local languages and discovered Buddhist stupas**.
- Xuan Zang travelled to **Andhradesa** to visit the Viharas (monasteries) at Amaravathi and Nagarjunakonda around 640 CE and stayed at Amaravathi for a couple of years. During his stay, he had studied and copied the Abhidhammapitakam, the last of the three pitakas constituting the Pali

canon, the scriptures of Theravada Buddhism.

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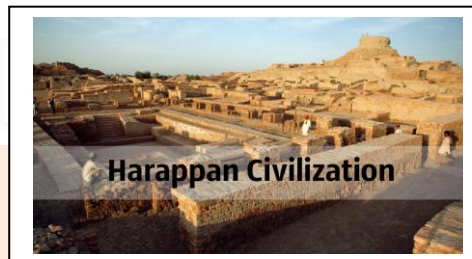
2. Ashoka pillar

- A stone pillar dating to the **Mauryan Empire** at the Feroz Shah Kotla Fort, Delhi has shown signs of corrosion.
- The pillar was **set up by Mauryan Emperor Ashoka** at Topra, near Ambala. It was later installed at the Feroz Shah Kotla Fort on the orders of Feroz Shah Tughlaq.
- The pillar is made of **sandstone** and is 13 meters high.
- The inscription on pillar is in **Brahmi script**, which was deciphered by James Prinsep, a renowned scholar.
- It conveys the message of Ashoka's policy of **Dhamma**.
- The **special feature** of this pillar is that there is also a **reference to issues related to taxation**.



3. Urban planning kept peace in Harappa: Experts

- According to Indus Valley Civilisation expert Jonathan Mark Kenoyer, **Harappa was peaceful in comparison with all other first civilisations cities because of its urban planning**.
- The efficient water supply, proper sewage treatment and good drainage systems in Harappa were main reason for conflict avoidance.
- Harappa was an **Indus Valley civilization's urban centre**. It lies on an old bank of **River Ravi** in Punjab Province of Pakistan.
- It was the **first site of the civilization to be excavated in 1921**. The civilization had diversified social and economic system.
- It had a **fortified citadel**. Houses with kitchens and wells, tanks or water reservoirs were also found. Presence of **wheel** made pottery and practice of burying the dead is also seen.
- Its main feature was **town planning**. It had planned straight roads and a system of **drainage**. There was use of baked as well as sundried bricks.



4. Mahasthangarh

- Mahasthangarh, the **3rd century BC archaeological site in Bogra, Bangladesh**, has been declared as the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (**SAARC**) **cultural capital for the year 2016-17**.
- As a SAARC cultural capital, the historic place will host festivals on literature, films, foods and dances from October 2016 to September 2017.
- The year 2016-17 has also be declared the **SAARC Year of Cultural Heritage**.
- Mahasthangarh is one of the earliest urban archaeological sites so far



discovered in Bangladesh.

- **Bamiyan, a historic city of Afghanistan, was the SAARC cultural capital for 2015-16.**

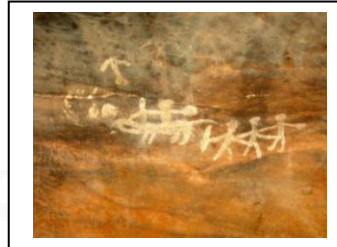
5. Kanishka Stupa

- **Pakistan government urged to ensure 8th wonder tag to the ancient Buddhist monument Kanishka Stupa, in Peshawar.**
- It was built during the reign of **Kushan Kanishka** in the 1st century AD.
- **Hiuen Tsang** after visiting it during his travels from 620—645 AD called the site the “**tallest architectural building**” in this part of Asia.
- With the decline of Buddhism in the region, the traces of the Stupa and monastery faded away.



6. World's oldest rock art

- The **petroglyph rock art** found in the rock shelters of **Bhimbetka** at Daraki-Chattan (hillock) near Bhanpura in Mandsaur district, Madhya Pradesh is the “**world's oldest rock art**” and is almost 2 to 5 lakh years' old, according to experts.
- **Petroglyphs:**
 - Petroglyphs are **images created by removing part of a rock surface** by incising, picking, carving, or abrading, as a form of rock art.
 - Petroglyphs are found worldwide, and are often associated with prehistoric peoples.



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Temples

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1. Koti Lingala Temple

- **Koti Lingala**, in Karnataka, the shrine of Shiva, as well as the **first capital city of the Satavahana dynasty** said to date back to 271 BCE, located on the shores of the **Godavari**, is on the verge of submergence with the backwaters of the **Sripada Yellampalli project lapping** at the temple shrine.
- Sripada Yellampalli project is an irrigation project located at Yellampalli Village in Karimnagar district – Adilabad district in Telangana.
- Satavahanas dominated the Deccan region from the 1st century BCE to the 3rd century CE.
- The dynasty reached its zenith under the rule of **Gautamiputra Satakarni** and his successor **Vasisthiputra Pulamavi**.



2. Yazidi temple

- A huge **Yazidi temple** is under construction in a small **Armenian** village, intended as a symbol of resilience for a persecuted religious tradition.
- Named **Quba Mere Diwane**, **this will be the largest Yazidi temple in the world**
- **Yazidis are the largest minority group in Armenia**, with a population of about 35,000, although many have left or are leaving to find work elsewhere, particularly in Russia.
- The Yazidi faith is derived from **Zoroastrianism, Christianity and Islam**.



Events and Celebrations

NOTES

1. New Year Celebrations

- **Kutchi new year**
 - **Kutchi new year** was celebrated on 6th July. The Kutchi people celebrate Kutchi New Year on Ashadi Beej, that is 2nd day of Shukla paksha of **Aashaadha month of Hindu calendar**. This Hindu New Year is observed in the **Kutch region in Gujarat**.
 - As for people of Kutch, this day is associated with **beginning of rains in Kutch**, which is largely a desert area.
 - Hindu calendar month of Aashaadh usually begins on 22 June and ending on 22 July.
- **Navroz festival**
 - It is the **Iranian New Year**, also known as **Parsi New Year** festival.
 - It marks the first day of the first month (Farvardin) in the Iranian calendar.
- **Andhra Pradesh and Telangana:** Ugadi.
- **Karnataka:** Yugadi /Ugadi.
- **Kerala:** Vishu
- **Maharashtra:** Gudi Padwa.
- **Sindhis:** Cheti Chand.
- **Manipuris:** Sajibu Cheiraoba.
- Hindus of **Bali and Indonesia** also celebrate their new year on the same day as Nyepi.

2. Yaad Karo Kurbani

- It is a **15-day programme** aimed to **commemorate 75th anniversary of the Quit India Movement (QIM) and 70 years of Independence**.
- It was recently launched by PM Modi at birthplace of freedom fighter **Chandra Shekhar Azad** at Alirajpur, Madhya Pradesh.
- The campaign is aimed at developing a feeling in every person that **nation is first and individual is secondary**.

3. Krishna Pushkaralu

- It is a **festival of River Krishna** which normally occurs once in every 12 years and is celebrated with much glory.
- The Pushkaram is observed for a period of 12 days from the time of **entry of Jupiter into Virgo (Kanya rasi)**.
- Krishna Pushkaralu 2016 recently began in Telangana.

4. Rashtriya Ekta Diwas

- Rashtriya Ekta Diwas was observed on **31st October** across the nation.
- It marks the occasion of the birth anniversary of **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**.
- The theme for 2016 was **"Integration of India"**.
- This occasion provides an opportunity to re-affirm the inherent strength and resilience of the nation to withstand the threats to its unity, integrity and security.

NOTES**5. Quami Ekta Week**

- With a view to foster and reinforce the **spirit of Communal Harmony, National Integration** and pride in vibrant, composite culture and nationhood, the “Quami Ekta Week” (**National Integration Week**) was observed all over the country for one week.
- The observation of the ‘Quami Ekta Week’ will help to highlight the inherent **strength and resilience of our nation** to withstand actual and potential threats to the eclectic and secular fabric of our country, and nurture a spirit of communal harmony in its widest sense.
- This occasion also provides an opportunity to reaffirm **age old traditions and faith** in the values of tolerance, co-existence and brotherhood in a multi-cultural and multi-religious society.

6. Yoga in list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

- Yoga, India’s one of the ancient practices has now been inscribed as an element in the **UNESCO’s list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of humanity**.
- Yoga has become the **13th intangible cultural heritage** that has been listed **from India** so far with UNESCO.
- This decision was taken during the recently held 11th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- **Previous ones includes**
 - **Chhau dance**: classical Indian dance originated in the eastern Indian states.
 - **Buddhist chanting of Ladakh**: Recitation of sacred Buddhist texts in Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir.
 - **Sankirtana** –the ritual singing, drumming, and dancing of Manipur,
 - **Traditional brass and copper craft** of utensil making among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, Punjab
 - **Ramlila**- the traditional performance of the Ramayana.
 - Tradition of **Vedic Chanting**.
 - **Koodiyattam**: Sanskrit Theatre of Kerala.
 - **Mudiyett**: Theatre ritual of Kerala.
 - **Ramman**: Religious festival and ritual theatre of Garhwal, Uttarakhand
- **UNESCO’s list of Intangible Cultural Heritage:**
 - It was established in 2008 after **Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage**, 2003 came into effect.
 - The list of intangible cultural treasures was created mainly to **increase awareness** about them, while UNESCO also sometimes offers **financial or technical support** to countries struggling to protect them.
 - It compiles two lists viz. **Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity** and **List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding**.

7. Indian harvest festivals

- The festival of **Makar Sankranti** is celebrated when the Sun enters the Makar

NOTES

zodiac and the days begin to lengthen compared to nights.

- In South India and particularly in **Tamil Nadu**, it's the festival of **Pongal** which is being celebrated over 4 days at harvest time.
- In **Assam** and many parts of the North East, the festival of **Magha Bihu** is celebrated.
- **Gujarat** celebrates it in the form of the convivial **kite festival of Uttarayan**.
- In **Punjab**, Makar Sankranti is celebrated as **Maghi**.
- In **Shimla** District of Himachal Pradesh, Makara Sankranti is known as **Magha Saaji**.
- The festival is known as **Kicheri** in **Uttar Pradesh**.

8. National Youth Day

- The National Youth Day is observed every year on **12 January** to mark the **birth anniversary** of social reformer, philosopher and thinker **Swami Vivekananda**.
- Observance of the day seeks to **propagate the philosophy and the ideals of Swami Vivekananda** for which he lived and worked.
- To celebrate this day, the **21st National Youth Festival** was held in **Rohtak, Haryana**. The theme this Festival was '**Youth for Digital India**'.
- Swami Vivekananda **introduced Indian philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga to the "Western" World**.
- He is also considered as the major force in the **revival of Hinduism in India**, and contributed to the concept of nationalism in colonial India.
- He is best known for his speech which began, "**Sisters and brothers of America ...**," at the Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago in 1893 in which he introduced Hinduism.

9. Jallikattu

- Jallikattu is a **bull taming or bull vaulting sport** played in **Tamil Nadu on Mattu Pongal day** as a part of Pongal celebrations.
- Jallikattu has been derived from the words 'calli' (coins) and 'kattu' (tie), which means a **bundle of coins is tied to the bull's horns**.
- In the ancient Sangam literature the sport has been called as '**Yeru thazhuvuthal**' (means to embrace bulls).
- In older times Jallikattu was popular amongst warriors during the Tamil classical period. The bull tamer sought to remove this bundle from the animal's head to win gold or silver coins to be called 'brave' and 'valourous'.
- **All castes participate in the event** and majority of jallikattu and bulls used for the sport belong to the **pulikulam breed of cattle**.



10. Kambala

- Kambala is an annual traditional **Buffalo Race** held in **coastal districts of Karnataka** to entertain rural people of the area.



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- Slushy/marshy paddy field track is used for Kambala.
- In the **traditional form of Kambala, buffalo racing is non-competitive** and the buffalo pairs run one by one in paddy fields.
- There is also **ritualistic approach** as some agriculturists' race their buffaloes for **thanks giving** to god for protecting their animals from diseases. But in recent times, Kambala has become an organised rural sport.

11. Second Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav-2016

- The **"Second Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav (RSM)-2016"** was held in the premises of **Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA)**, Janpath, New Delhi.
- Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav was conceived by the **Ministry of Culture** in the year 2015.
- 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 Mahotsav will go to different cities under the banner of the slogan- **"Ek Bhaarat, Shreshth Bhaarat"**.

12. Bathukamma

- Bathukamma is **floral festival** celebrated by the Hindu women of **Telangana**.
- Bathukamma is celebrated for **nine days during Durga Navratri**.
- Bathukamma is a **beautiful flower stack**, arranged with different unique seasonal flowers most of them with medicinal values, in seven concentric layers in the shape of **temple gopuram**.
- It is the festival for **feminine felicitation**.



13. Hornbill Festival

- Hornbill Festival is celebrated in **Nagaland** every year in the first week of December. It is one of the biggest **indigenous festivals** of the country.
- The festival coincides with the **Statehood Day of Nagaland** which is observed on **December 1**.
- It was established on 1st December 1963 and was inaugurated by the then President **Dr. S Radhakrishnan**.
- The festival is a **tribute to Hornbill, the most admired and revered bird for the Nagas** for its qualities of alertness and grandeur.
- It is organized by the **State Tourism and Art & Culture Departments**. It is also supported by the Union Government.
- It exposes both the culture and tradition of tribal peoples, and reinforces **Nagaland's identity as a unique state** in India's federal union.
- The Hornbill Festival provides a colourful mixture of dances, performances,



crafts, parades, games, sports, food fairs and religious ceremonies.

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14. Solung festival

- Solung festival is the annual **socio-religious festival of Adi tribe in Arunachal Pradesh**.
- Solung is 5-day long **agro-based festival** celebrated every year by the Adi tribe in the first week of September.
- Adi or '**Bangni-Boker lhoba**' people are the major collective tribes living in the himalayan hills of 'Nyingchi' prefecture in Arunachal Pradesh.
- To mark the celebrations, people perform various rituals and make offerings to gods and goddesses during the celebration and **pray for a bumper harvest**.
- During the celebration, **Mithun (Great Indian Bison)** which is considered as holy animal and occupies an important religious significance among the Adis is sacrificed.



15. National Ayurveda Day

- The **first National Ayurveda Day** was observed on **28 October 2016 on the occasion of Dhanwantari Jayanti**.
- The theme was '**Ayurveda for Prevention and Control of Diabetes**'.
- **Dhanvantari is the form of Lord Vishnu**. He is considered as the ideal doctor and manifestation of compassion, representing the wisdom of ayurveda in practical application.
- **Ayurveda is the traditional Hindu system of medicine** based on the idea of **balance in bodily systems and uses diet, herbal treatment, and yogic breathing**.
- It has been incorporated in **Atharva Veda**, the last of the four Vedas.
- **Mission Madhumeha:**
 - The Union Ministry of AYUSH also had launched Mission Madhumeha through Ayurveda on the occasion.
 - The Mission Madhumeha will be implemented throughout the country through a specially designed **National Treatment Protocol** for **effective management of Diabetes through Ayurveda**.

16. International Day of Yoga

- Every year **21 June** is observed as **International Day of Yoga across the globe** to spread **awareness about practicing yoga**.
- The year 2016 it is second edition of the International Day of Yoga.
- Theme for 2016 is "**Connect the Youth**".
- 2016 observance seeks to **highlight the importance of healthy living in the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
- Union Government had organised National Event of Mass Yoga Demonstration at the Capitol Complex in Chandigarh.
- **Background:**
 - In December **2014, UNGA had unanimously adopted** India-led resolution to observe 21st June as '**International Day of Yoga**'.

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- This resolution was adopted under the agenda of '**Global Health and Foreign Policy**'.
- 21st June was selected because it represents **summer solstice** and it is the longest day in the Northern Hemisphere and shares special significance in many parts of the world.
- **About Yoga:**
 - Yoga is a **physical, mental, and/or spiritual practice** attributed mostly to India.
 - The most well-known types of yoga are **Hatha yoga and Rāja yoga**.
 - There is a broad variety of Yoga schools, practices, and goal in **Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism**
 - **Maharishi Patanjali is considered as the 'father of Yoga'**. He had compiled **195 Yoga Sutras** which had become the foundation of Yoga philosophy.
 - The core essence of Patanjali's yoga philosophy is the **eightfold path of Yoga (Ashtanga Yoga)** that focusses upon healthy living through Yoga.
 - Yoga balances body and soul, mental and physical well-being.



ABOUT THE IDY LOGO

- *Folding of both hands in the logo symbolise Yoga, the union, which reflects the union of individual consciousness with that of universal consciousness, a perfect harmony between mind & body, man & nature; a holistic approach to health & well being.*
- *The brown leaves symbolise the Earth element, the green leaves symbolise the Nature, blue symbolises the Water element, brightness symbolises the Fire element and the Sun symbolise the source of energy and inspiration.*
- *The logo reflects harmony and peace for humanity, which is the essence of Yoga.*

17. Chapchar Kut

- Chapchar Kut, the most important traditional festival of the **Mizos** was celebrated across Mizoram and Mizo-inhabited areas in the neighbouring states.
- There are three Kuts celebrated in the state- **Chapchar Kut, Mim Kut and Pawl Kut**. All the three festivals are connected with **agricultural activities**.
- The festivals are celebrated to **mark the arrival of spring** with feasts and traditional dances.

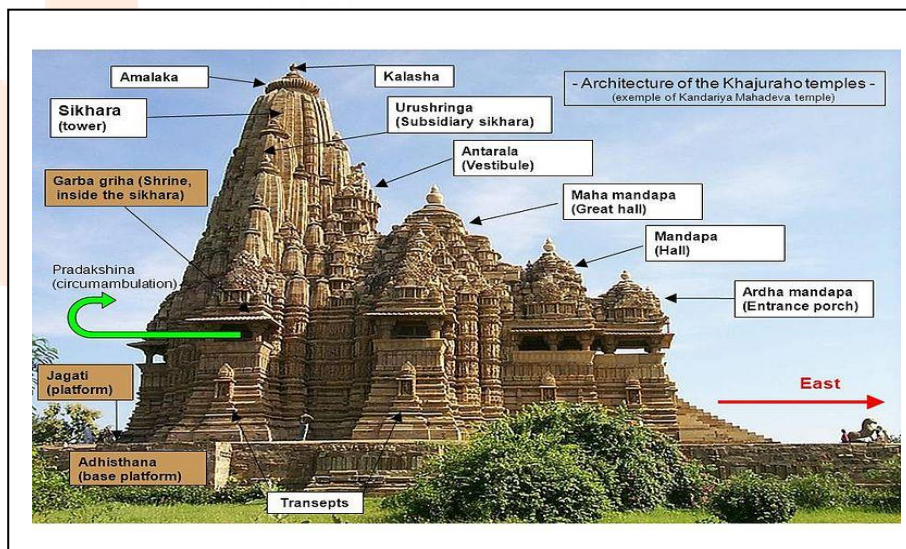


18. Khajuraho Dance Festival

- The **43rd edition** of the Khajuraho Dance Festival in the historic city had **Bangladesh as the guest country**.

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- Organised by the **Department of Culture of Madhya Pradesh**, the festival was held in the backdrop of the **Khajuraho temples** in Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh.
- Khajuraho Dance Festival 2017 artistes performed different forms of Indian classical dances like Kathak, Bharatnatyam, Odissi, Chhau, Mohiniyattam, Kuchipudi and Kathakali.
- Besides India, **22 countries**, including Bangladesh, Canada, Bahrain, France, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Korea and Turkey participated.
- **Khajuraho Temples:**
 - The **Khajuraho Group of Monuments** is a group of **Hindu and Jain temples** in Madhya Pradesh.
 - They are one of the **UNESCO World Heritage Sites** in India.
 - The temples are famous for their **nagara-style** architectural symbolism and their erotic sculptures.
 - Most Khajuraho temples were built between 950 and 1050 by the **Chandela dynasty**.
 - Of the various surviving temples, the **Kandariya Mahadeva Temple** is decorated with a profusion of sculptures with intricate details, symbolism and expressiveness of ancient Indian art.



19. Losar festival

- The Losar festival in **Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir** is celebrated to mark the **beginning of New Year** in the Himalayan region.
- It is celebrated on the **first day of the lunisolar Tibetan calendar**, which corresponds to a date in February or March in the Gregorian calendar.
- Following the old tradition, people from Ladakh **visit graveyards of ancestor** family members and pray for peace for the departed soul.
- In India, Losar is also celebrated by Yolmo, Sherpa, Tamang, Gurung, and Bhutia communities residing in different regions in the country.
- It is celebrated in **Tibet, Nepal, and Bhutan**. It is also called as **Tibetan New Year**.

NOTES

20. Chhatpuja

- Chaatpuja is an ancient **Hindu Vedic festival** historically **native to eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar of India and the Madhesh of Nepal**.
- The Chhath Puja is **dedicated to the Sun and his wife Usha** in order to thank them for bestowing the bounties of life on earth and to request the granting of certain wishes.
- The worshippers request the Sun God for **prosperity and progress**.
- The Chhat Puja rituals find mention in the **Mahabharata**.

21. Tendong Lho Rum Faat

- Tendong Lho Rum Faat is one of the oldest and most important festivals celebrated in **Sikkim especially by the Lepcha tribe**.
- The tribe worship the **Mount Tendong** which is located in South Sikkim by offering of prayers.
- Significance: As per the Lepcha mythology, it was believed that the entire tribe was saved by Mt. Tendong from great deluge caused by continuous rain which drowned the entire Mayel Lyang, the modern day Sikkim.



22. Wangala Festival

- Annual **Hundred Drums Wangala Festival** was celebrated in **Meghalaya**.
- Wangala Festival is an annual **post-harvest festival** of the **Garos tribes** generally celebrated in the second week of November every year.
- They **give thanks to the God and Goddess**, called Misi Saljong, for blessing the people with a **rich harvest**.



Awards

NOTES

1. Jnanpith award

- Eminent modern **Bengali poet Shankha Ghosh** was awarded the prestigious Jnanpith Award for the year 2016.
- He is the **52nd recipient** of Jnanpith Award. He is sixth Bengali litterateur to bag this prestigious literary award.
- Gujarati litterateur Dr **Raghuveer Chaudhari** was honoured with the **51st Bharatiya Jnanpith award** for the year 2015.
- **About Jnanpith Award:**
 - Jnanpith Award is **India's highest literary honour**. Its name has been taken from Sanskrit words Jnana and Pitha which means knowledge-seat.
 - It was **instituted in 1961** by **Bharatiya Jnanpith trust** founded by the **Sahu Shanti Prasad Jain family that owns the Times of India newspaper group**.
 - It is bestowed upon any **Indian citizen** who writes in any 22 official languages of India mentioned in VIII Schedule of Constitution of India and English.
 - Prior to 1982, the award was only given for a single work by a writer. But after 1982, the award is given for lifetime contribution to Indian literature.
 - The award carries cash prize of 11 lakh rupees, a citation plaque and a bronze replica of Saraswati, the Hindu goddess of knowledge and wisdom.
 - **G. Sankara Kurup from Kerala was the first winner of the Jnanpith Award.**



2. Ramon Magsaysay Award for 2016

- **Bezwada Wilson**, a prolific campaigner for eradication of manual scavenging in India, and Carnatic singer **T M Krishna** from Chennai, are the winners of the prestigious **Ramon Magsaysay Award for 2016**.
- The Ramon Magsaysay Award is often considered to be an **Asian equivalent to the Nobel Prize**.
- The award is given to **individuals and organisations from Asia** region for their service to the society.
- The prize was established in April 1957 by the trustees of the **Rockefeller Brothers Fund** based in New York City with the concurrence of the Philippine government.
- **Bezwada Wilson** — one of the founders and convener of the **Safai Karmachari Andolan**, a civil society movement that aims to eradicate manual scavenging.



NOTES**3. Vyas Samman Award**

- Renowned Hindi Scholar, litterateur and playwright **Surendra Verma** is selected for the prestigious Vyas Samman 2016.
- The Vyas Samman award was instituted by the **K.K. Birla Foundation** in 1991.
- It is awarded annually to outstanding **literary work in Hindi authored and published in past 10 years by an Indian citizen.**
- The award carries monetary award of 2.5 lakh rupees, a citation and a plaque.
- Hindi scholar and writer **Sunita Jain** was conferred with the prestigious 25th Vyas Samman 2015.

4. National Awards for Master Craftspersons

- The **Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts)** is implementing a scheme of National Awards for Master craftspersons since 1965.
- The main objective was to give **recognition to the outstanding craftspersons in the Handicraft sector.** The awardees represent almost all states of the country, apart from different crafts styles of different locations in the country.
- The main crafts in which Awards have been given are Metal Engaving, Terracotta, **Warli Painting, Madhubani Painting, Paper Machie, Punjabi Tilla Juti, Miniature Painting, Gold Leaf Painting, Pichawai painting, Phad Painting,** Hand Block Printing, Bone Carving, Sandal Wood Carving, Tie and Dye Clay Modelling, coconut shell carving, Lac work, Stone Dust, Patta chitra paddy Jewellery & Straw craft & Maru Embroidery.
- It will be awarded to a craftsperson **only once in a lifetime**, to encourage master craftspersons to maintain excellence in craftsmanship and keep alive our old tradition.

5. Shilp Guru Awards

- The Shilp Guru Awards were launched by the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) on 15th November, 2002, to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the **resurgence of Handicrafts in India.**
- Selection of Shilp Guru has to be from among some extraordinarily **skilled masters** whose work has not been recognized and who deserve the title of Shilp Guru because of their contribution **in keeping alive the craft skill,** reviving a languishing craft, setting up of institutions for training of Master Craftspersons.
- Under exceptional circumstances Shilp Guru Award can be presented to a person who may not be a hereditary craftsperson, but who has mastered the technique and has been responsible for the revival of tradition, training of masters and contributing to the development of technology.

6. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya National Awards

- The Government has announced '**Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya National Awards**', a new category of awards **specially for women handloom weavers and women handicraft artisans.**

- The awards are being instituted from this year, so that **women weavers and artisans receive due recognition** and **economic benefits** associated with the Awards.
- **About Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay:**
 - Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay was an Indian **social reformer** and **freedom fighter**.
 - She is most remembered for her contribution to the Indian independence movement; for being the driving force behind the **renaissance of Indian handicrafts, handlooms, and theatre** in independent India; and for upliftment of the socio-economic standard of Indian women by pioneering the co-operative movement.
 - Several cultural institutions in India today exist because of her vision, including the **National School of Drama, Sangeet Natak Akademi, Central Cottage Industries Emporium, and the Crafts Council of India**.
 - In 1974, she was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship the highest honour conferred by the Sangeet Natak Akademi, India's National Academy of Music, Dance & Drama.

NOTES



INSIGHT
SIMPLIFYING
IAS EXAM PREPARATION

Government Initiatives

NOTES

1. 5th International Buddhist Conclave

- It was being organized by the **Ministry of Tourism** in Varanasi-Sarnath in collaboration with the State Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.
- The International Buddhist Conclave is also one of the initiatives being taken by India as its **commitment as the land of origin of Buddhism** and to improve the experience of pilgrims as well as tourists wishing to savor the essence of Buddhist heritage, at the Buddhist sites of the country.
- The Conclave includes business to business meetings between the international and domestic tour operators, an exhibition highlighting the Buddhist attractions in India, as well as visits to important Buddhist sites in and around Varanasi and Sarnath.

2. Bharat Parv

- Bharat Parv is a national festival **showcasing the country's diverse culture, cuisines, handicrafts and catch glimpses of a progressive India.**
- Bharat Parv event is organized by the Government of India at the **Red Fort, Delhi as part of the Republic Day Celebrations.**
- The prime objective of organizing the event is to generate a patriotic mood, promote the rich cultural diversity of the country, ensure wider participation of the general public and to popularise the idea of "**Ek Bharat Shreshta Bharat**".
- The **Ministry of Tourism** is the nodal Ministry for the event.

3. National Tribal Carnival

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **first National Tribal Carnival** in New Delhi to promote a sense of **inclusiveness among the tribals.**
- Eminent tribal personalities who have excelled in various fields like arts and culture, literature, sports, academics and medicine also participated.
- The idea behind the carnival is to **preserve and promote various facets of the tribal life** relating to culture, tradition, customs and their skills.
- Besides it also seeks to expose it to the general public with a view to utilise the potential for overall **holistic development of the Scheduled Tribes.**

4. Bharatvani Portal

- The Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has launched the **multilingual knowledge portal Bharatvani.**
- The **first knowledge portal of its kind in India** will help the government to showcase the Indian culture and heritage to the world.
- It will be **implemented by Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) Mysuru.**
- Bharatvani is the **largest online repository of dictionaries** in India consisting more than 130 dictionaries, glossaries and terminology books.
- Being a **multilingual and cross-lingual learning tool** it will play pivotal role in **fostering integration** by providing many cross-lingual grammar books,

learning courses and also allow their transliteration.

- The portal has been launched in **22 scheduled languages** and later will be extended to 100 more languages.

5. INTACH to get new chapter in Darbhanga

- **Heritage preservation efforts in Bihar's Darbhanga** is all set to get a boost with **INTACH opening its new chapter in the city**.
- Darbhanga is a historic city, associated with the legendary **Darbhang Raj, the royal family**.
- The generations of the royal family had built some of the most fabulous forts and palaces over centuries.
- Darbhanga is situated in the **historic Mithila region** and is home to several landmarks, many of which were rebuilt after the devastating 1934 earthquake.
- Some of the most prominent buildings include **Anand Bagh Palace** (now a Sanskrit university), the **Raj Palace** which now houses the Lalit Narayan Mithila University, **Nargouna Palace**, Zilla School and Hospital and Ram Bagh Qila.
- **INDIAN NATIONAL TRUST FOR ART AND CULTURAL HERITAGE (INTACH):**
 - INTACH was founded in 1984 in New Delhi with the vision to spearhead **heritage awareness and conservation** in India.
 - Today INTACH is recognized as **one of the world's largest heritage organizations**, with over 190 Chapters across the Country.
 - INTACH has pioneered the **conservation and preservation** of not just our **natural and built heritage** but **intangible heritage** as well.
- **INTACH's mission:**
 - **Sensitize the public** about the pluralistic cultural legacy of India.
 - Instil a sense of **social responsibility** towards preserving India's common heritage.
 - **Document unprotected buildings** of archaeological, architectural, historic and aesthetic significance, as well as the cultural resources.
 - **Develop heritage policies and regulations**, and make **legal interventions** to protect India's heritage when necessary.
 - Undertake **emergency response measures** during natural or man-made disasters and support the local administration whenever heritage is threatened.
 - **Sponsorships** for conservation and educational projects.
 - Foster **collaborations, Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) and partnerships** with government and other national and international agencies.
 - **Provide expertise in the field of conservation**, restoration and preservation of specific works of art; and encourage **capacity-building** by developing skills through training programmes.

6. Muziris Heritage Project

- Muziris was an **ancient sea port on the Malabar Coast** in Kerala which served as one of the world's greatest trading centre in East.

- The port has its name mentioned in the **Sangam literature** and is also designated as the **first place from where Christianity entered India**.
- The port was used for trade of goods ranging from spices to precious stones with Greeks, Romans and rest of the World during 3rd century BC to 4th century AD.
- To bring back the past glory and to revive its lost legacy, the Kerala Government has initiated the concept of the **Muziris Heritage Project**.
- The Muziris Heritage Project started in **2006**, is being implemented by the Government of Kerala, with the **support of the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India**.
- The Project will be the **first Green Project of the Government of Kerala**.
- The project envisages conservation of monuments across Thrissur and Ernakulam.
- The project is billed as **India's largest heritage conservation plan**.
- The project is implemented with the support of **UNESCO and United Nations World Tourism Organization**.
- Kerala Tourism has won **2015 Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) award** in the 'Heritage & Culture' category for its Muziris Heritage Project.
- Further, this project also might **supplement the "Project Mausam"** of India's culture ministry in helping creation of cultural links with India's maritime neighbours.

7. ICHR plans encyclopedia of village-level folklore across the country

- The **Indian Council of Historical Research** wants to **document stories and legends relating to villages and towns across India into an encyclopedia** in a bid to **"connect" people better with the oral and folk traditions**.
- The others key initiatives are the **study of the princely States of modern India** and to initiate **studies to "fill the gaps" between the Harappan civilisation** (the first Indian urbanisation) **and the 6th century BC** (the second urbanisation).
- **Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR):**
 - ICHR is an autonomous body of the **Union Ministry of Human Resource Development**.
 - It was established by an **Administrative Order** of the then Union Ministry of Education and Social Welfare.
 - It is based in **New Delhi** with regional centres in Bengaluru (Karnataka) and Gowahati (Assam).
 - ICHR disburses **funds for carrying out research** to Indian as well as foreign scholars.
 - It has provided financial assistance to the historians and direction to the research scholars in their multifarious topics of historical research.

8. Century-old silent film boosts NFAI heritage plan

- The **National Film Archive of India (NFAI)** has acquired the surviving footage of a **1919 Indian silent film, Bilwamangal**, from the **Cinematheque Francaise in France**.
- The acquisition is significant for the NFAI as it is implementing the **National**

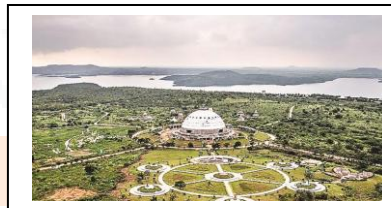
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Film Heritage Mission to preserve the national cinematic heritage.




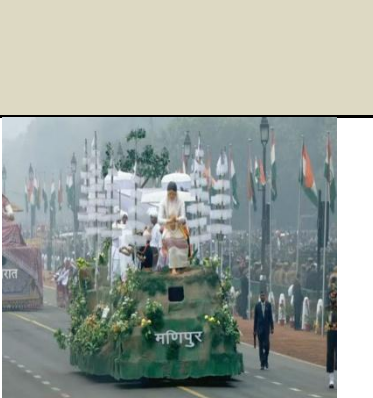


- **National Film Heritage Mission:**
 - An initiative by the government of India for the **preservation, conservation, digitization and restoration** of rich cinematic heritage of the country.
 - This is a one-of-its-kind project in the world, wherein the government is spending huge amount of money towards the aspect of film preservation, in order to make rich filmic heritage available for the future generations to come
 - **National Film Archive of India (NFAI)** is the nodal agency for the implementation of this project.
 - National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM) is carried out by the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**, Government of India.
- **National Film Archive of India (NFAI):**
 - The **National Film Archive of India** was established as a **media unit of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** in February 1964.
 - Since 1969 the NFAI has been a member of **FIAF (International Federation of Film Archives)** and has played an active role in the work of this organization.








9. Buddhavanam Project

- A first of its kind **Buddhist heritage project, Buddhavanam** is at the **Telangana** side of Nargarjunasagar dam, on the banks of River Krishna.
- Consisting of stupas, the Buddhavanam project spread over 274-acre site **depicts the life of Buddha**.
- **Telangana State Tourism Development Corporation** initiated Buddhavanam project and Sanctioned by Govt of India.
- The place was once inhabited by **Acharya Nagarjuna**.
- **Acharya Nagarjuna:**
 - He was the great **Buddhist philosopher** and the most revered person after Gautam Buddha in Buddhism.
 - Nagarjuna is considered as **second Buddha**.
 - He is widely considered one of the most important **Mahayana philosophers**.
 - Founder of the **Madhyamaka school of Mahāyāna Buddhism**.
 - Head of Nalanda University for some time.



Tableaux in Republic Day Parade – 2017

State		Theme	Features
ODISHA		Dola Jatra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This festival signifies the journey of Goddess Radha & Lord Krishna for ultimate union in the tradition of Bhakti cult. 'Dola Jatra' coincides with the Holi festival
ARUNACHAL PRADESH		Yak Dance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of the most famous pantomimes of the Mahayana sect of Buddhist Tribes of Arunachal Pradesh. The Yak is the most useful animal of these tribes owing its multipurpose uses.
MAHARASHTRA		Lokmanya Balgangadhar Tilak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This year is being commemorated as the 160th birth anniversary of the honoured freedom fighter, Lokmanya Balgangadhar Tilak. His newspapers, the 'Mahratta' and 'Kesari'. He initiated the celebrations of 'Ganeshotsav' (completed 125 years) and also the 'Shivjayanti Utsav'. Strongest advocates of 'Swaraj' or Self Rule for India.
MANIPUR		Lai Haraoba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lai Haraoba is one of the oldest ritualistic theatres of the world. Lai Haraoba, translated as 'Happiness of the Gods' is celebrated to worship local deities to bring prosperity and well-being of the land and its inhabitants.
GUJARAT		The Art and Lifestyle of Kutch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Rogan art, Mud work and the art of making Bhunga gives Kutch a unique identity across the globe.
KARNATAKA		Folk Dances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goravas, the worshippers of Lord Shiva engaged in the traditional ritualistic dance.

HIMACHAL PRADESH		Chamba Rumal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chamba Rumal is the finest specimen of Pahari art flourishing in Chamba town of Himachal Pradesh during late 18th century. Rasleela, Astanayika and scenes from ancient legends and myths are generally depicted on Rumal.
West Bengal		Sharod Utsav	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Related to Durga Puja
Punjab		Jago Aaiya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jago is a festive dance full of energy and celebrations which would take place the night before a Punjabi Wedding.
TAMIL NADU		Karakattam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Karakattam', a popular folk dance of Tamil Nadu Dancers hold, balance and dance with a brass pot decorated in cone shape with colourful flowers and adorned with a parrot made of light wood on the top of it.
TRIPURA		Hojagiri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Magnificent Reang Tribal Dance of Tripura It is performed by women and young girls, about 4 to 6 members in a team, singing, balancing on an earthen pitcher and managing other props such as a bottle on the head and earthen lamp on the hand while only the lower half of the body is moved.
JAMMU & KASHMIR		Winter Sports at Gulmarg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winter Sports at Gulmarg, a world famous tourist destination of the state Jammu & Kashmir.
ASSAM		Kamakhya Temple	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holy shrine of Kamakhya located in its capital – Guwahati. Kamakhya shrine is considered as one of the greatest Shaktipeeths of the country. It has no image or idol for worship.

Miscellaneous

NOTES

1. Best Museums in India

- Five Indian museums have featured among the best 25 in Asia.
- **Leh's 'Hall of Fame'** has topped the India list as a "must-visit" place by travellers in a survey.
- The other top four most rated museums of India are — **Bagore Ki Haveli (Udaipur)**, **Victoria Memorial Hall (Kolkata)**, **Salar Jung Museum (Hyderabad)** and **Jaisalmer War Museum (Jaisalmer)**.

- **Leh's 'Hall of Fame':**

- The Hall of Fame, located near the Leh Airfield, is a museum constructed as well as maintained by the **Indian Army** in the memory of the soldiers who had lost their lives during the Indo-Pak wars.
- The building consists of information about the brave soldiers, artifacts of various wars (mainly **Kargil war**) such as the weapons used during the war and some important documents, related to the same.



- **Bagore Ki Haveli:**

- **Bagore-ki-Haveli** is a haveli in Udaipur in Rajasthan.
- Amir Chand Badwa, the Prime Minister of Mewar, built it in the **eighteenth century**.
- The museum portrays the **culture of Mewar**. It has glass and mirror interior work. There are also displays of costumes and modern art.



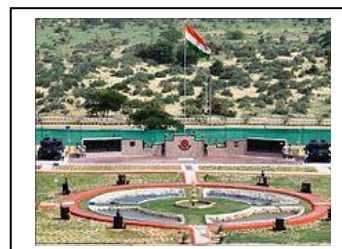
- **Victoria Memorial Hall:**

- The Victoria Memorial Hall is one of the most magnificent monuments, representing the British architecture.
- Victoria Memorial Hall was **envisaged by Lord Curzon**, the Viceroy of British India, as a memorial to the deceased Queen Victoria.
- It is now under the auspices of the **Ministry of Culture**.



- **Jaisalmer War Museum**

- The museum is built and maintained by **The Indian Army**.
- To **commemorate war heroes** of 1965 Indo Pak War and Battle for Laungewala in 1971 Indo Pak War.



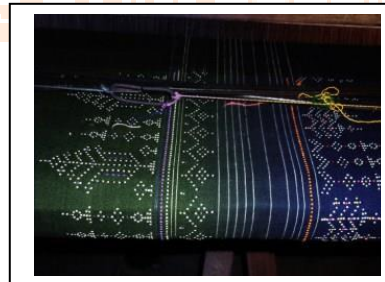
2. Kohinoor diamond

- The diamond was given by the successors of **Maharaja Ranjit Singh** to East India Company in **1849** as compensation for helping them in the Sikh wars.
- **The return of Kohinoor diamond to India has been a long-standing demand**, with many claiming that the diamond was taken forcibly.
- The Indian government, believing the gem was rightfully theirs, made the **first demand for the return of the Kohinoor diamond soon after independence**.
- It is not just India that is claiming ownership of the diamond; the list includes **Pakistan and Aghanistan**, too.
- Though both India and the U.K. were signatories to the **UNESCO Convention on Means of Prohibiting and Preventing Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property**, a restitution of Kohinoor would require a “special agreement” between both countries.
- **Origin:**
 - The diamond that was found near **Guntur in Andhra Pradesh**, India, possibly in the 13th century.
 - It was first owned by the **Kakatiya dynasty**. The stone changed hands several times between various factions in South Asia over the next few hundred years, before ending up in the possession of Queen Victoria after the British conquest of the Punjab in 1849.



3. Tangaliya

- Tangaliya is a 700-year-old **indigenous weave of Gujarat** which employs an exquisite technique of weaving, using **raw wool yarn**.
- It is found only in Gujarat.
- It is usually worn as a wraparound skirt by the women of the Bharwad shepherded community.
- Tangalia designs are used for preparing Shawl, Dupatta, Dress material and products of Home décor & accessories such as bedsheets, pillow covers etc.
- The patterns formed during weaving process to create **design in dots** for **floral and geometrical motifs** by using cotton or woollen yarn.



4. Yogoda Satsang Math

- A commemorative postage stamp was recently released by the PM on 100 years of **Yogoda Satsang Math**.
- This year marks the **100th anniversary** of Yogoda Satsanga Society of India (YSS), founded in 1917 by **Paramahansa Yogananda**.
- **Paramahansa Yogananda** universal Kriya Yoga teachings provide methods for achieving spiritually harmonious lives.
- The “science” of **Kriya Yoga** is the foundation of Yogananda’s teachings. Kriya Yoga is “union (yoga) with the Infinite through a certain action or rite (kriya).

NOTES

5. Tipu's armoury finds a new home

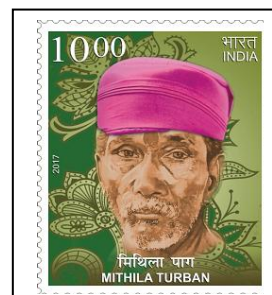
- The task of **relocation of the 18th Century Tipu Sultan's armoury at Srirangapatna** has successfully been completed, making it the **first such exercise in the history of Indian Railways** that entailed moving a monument in one piece to a new site.
- The location **approved by the ASI** for the final shifting of the monument is at a distance of 100 meters from the original site.
- **About Tipu Sultan:**
 - He was a ruler of the **Kingdom of Mysore**. He was the eldest son of Sultan Hyder Ali of Mysore.
 - Tipu introduced a number of **administrative innovations** during his rule, including his **coinage, a new Mauludi lunisolar calendar, and a new land revenue system which initiated the growth of Mysore silk industry.**
 - Tipu expanded the iron-cased Mysorean rockets and commissioned the military manual Fathul Mujahidin.
 - He is considered a pioneer in the **use of rocket artillery**. Tipu Sultan deployed the rockets against advances of British forces and their allies in their 1792 and 1799 Siege of Srirangapatna.
 - Napoleon sought an alliance with Tipu. In **alliance with the French** in their struggle with the British, and in Mysore's struggles with other surrounding powers, both Tipu and his father used their French trained army against the Marathas, Sira, and rulers of Malabar, Kodagu, Bednore, Carnatic, and Travancore.

6. Revitalising a language

- Kurukh, an **endangered tribal language** of the **Dravidian family**, is set to get a new lease of life in West Bengal. It is spoken by the **Oraon tribal community**.
- West Bengal government is taking steps for the recognition of the Kurukh language of the Oraon community.
- The language was given **official status in the State**.
- **Key facts:**
 - Kurukh a member of the North Dravidian, subfamily of Dravidian languages, spoken by some 1.8 million people of the **Oraon tribes of the Chota Nagpur plateau**.
 - The script is called **Tolong Siki**.
 - The language is marked as being in a "vulnerable" state in **UNESCO's list of endangered languages**.
 - **Jharkhand has recognised Kurukh as a language.**

7. Mithila Paags

- **Turbans** in India are tied not just for fashion but have great significance.
- In different hues, paags are on display at the **Crafts**



NOTES

Museum as symbols of Mithila culture.

- The exhibition of paags (turbans), organised by **Textiles Ministry and Mithilalok Foundation**.
- The main idea behind exhibition is to **show the age-old tradition of Mithila culture to the public** at large and strengthen Indian culture.

8. UNESCO Artists for Peace

- They are **internationally renowned personalities** who use their charisma and influence to **promote the message and programs of UNESCO**.
- The programme was started in 1995.
- UNESCO appoints celebrities in various fields so that they work with them to **increase public awareness on key development issues**.
- **Turkish musician Kudsi Erguner** was appointed as the UNESCO Artist for Peace.

9. Kabaddi Sport

- **Kabaddi** is a contact sport that **originated in ancient India**.
- The word "Kabbadi" originates from the **Tamil language**.
- Kabaddi is known by their regional names, such as hadudu in Bengal, bhavatik in Maldives, chedugudu in Andhra Pradesh, Kabaddi in Karnataka, sadugudu in Tamil Nadu and jai bhavani in Maharashtra.
- Kabaddi is the **national game of Bangladesh** and also state game of India's states of Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Punjab.