TABLES & HIGH-YIELD

Art and Culture

Teaching tables, Confused Pairs, Common Traps, Current Affairs, and other high-yield blocks.

UPPCS + UKPCS Study Library · chapter order follows Subject Notes.

Chapters

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Topic 1 — Institutions Related to Indian Culture

Current Affairs

- Sahitya Akademi **Yuva Puraskar 2025** ran in **23** languages. **Dogri** was not on the list.
- Budget **2025–26** restructured the National Mission for Manuscripts as the **Gyan Bharatam Mission**, a Central Sector scheme for about **2024–31**.
- The new **Nalanda University** (नालंदा विश्वविद्यालय) campus at **Rajgir** (राजगीर) was inaugurated in **June 2024**. The university sits under the **MEA**, not Culture.
- **Sachin Chaturvedi** assumed charge as Vice-Chancellor of Nalanda University in **May 2025**.

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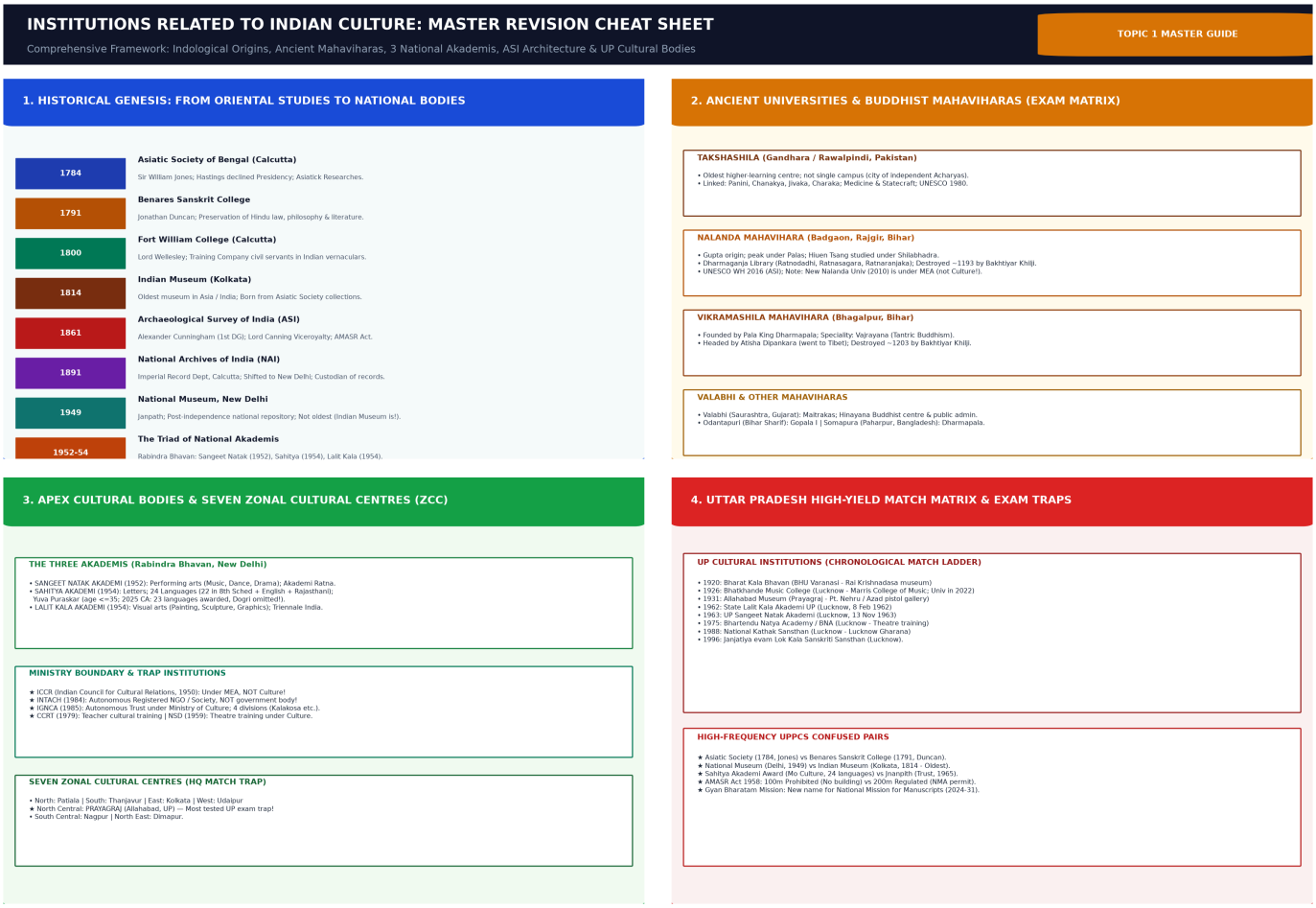
Confused Pairs

A	B	Correct	Hindi
Indology	Orientalism	Textual/philological study of India vs colonial framing of the "East"	भारतविद्या / प्राच्यवाद
Gurukul	Mahavihara	Residential guru-shishya vs large Buddhist monastic university	गुरुकुल / महाविहार
Taxila	Nalanda	NW multi-teacher city (Pakistan) vs E mahavihara campus (Bihar)	तक्षशिला / नालंदा
ASI ruins Nalanda	New Nalanda Univ.	ASI + UNESCO 2016 vs **MEA**, Act **2010**, Rajgir campus	ASI खंडहर / नालंदा विश्वविद्यालय
ASI	IGNCA	Monument protection vs arts research/documentation	पुरातत्व सर्वेक्षण / कला केंद्र
National Museum	Indian Museum	Delhi **1949** vs Kolkata **1814** (oldest)	राष्ट्रीय / भारतीय संग्रहालय
SNA	Sahitya / Lalit Kala	Performing **1952** vs literature **1954** / visual **1954**	संगीत नाटक / साहित्य / ललित कला
Sahitya Akademi	Jnanpith	Mo Culture academy vs Bharatiya Jnanpith trust **1965**	साहित्य अकादेमी / ज्ञानपीठ
ICCR	Mo Culture bodies	**MEA** cultural diplomacy vs Culture ministry akademis	ICCR = विदेश मंत्रालय
Protected monument	Site museum	AMASR-notified structure vs ASI museum at the excavation	संरक्षित स्मारक / स्थल संग्रहालय



1.1 Indological Studies

Person / body	Key fact
Sir William Jones	Founder-President; Sanskrit–Latin–Greek cognates; translated **Abhijnanashakuntalam** (अभिज्ञानशाकुन्तलम्)
Warren Hastings	GG when Society founded; **declined Presidentship** in favour of Jones; encouraged Sanskrit/Persian/Arabic
Jonathan Duncan	Founded **Benares Sanskrit College in 1791**; he was not associated with the Asiatic Society (a common distractor).
Charles Wilkins	Bhagavad Gita English **1785**
H.T. Colebrooke / H.H. Wilson	Hindu law–astronomy; Rigveda / Vishnu Purana
Max Müller	*Sacred Books of the East* (50 vols) — later, **German/Oxford**, not the 1784 start
Fort William College	**1800**, Calcutta, **Lord Wellesley** — language training for Company officers
Sanskrit College, Calcutta	**1824** (Vidyasagar later Principal — social-reform PYQ, not this topic's home)
Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute	Pune **1917** — critical editions (Mahabharata)
Macaulay Minute	**1835** — Anglicist win over Orientalist classical education

1.3 Ancient Indian Education System

Fact	Content
4 ashramas	Brahmacharya (student) → Grihastha → Vanaprastha → Sannyasa

Fact	Content
18 Vidyas	4 Vedas + 4 Upvedas (Ayurveda, Dhanurveda, Gandharvaveda, Shilpaveda) + 6 Vedangas + Itihasa, Purana, Nyaya, Mimamsa, Dharma-shastra, Arthashastra (list variants exist; tests the **concept**)
64 Kalas	Arts/skills (music, dance, painting, carpentry, metallurgy…) — **not** 64 Vedas
Languages	Sanskrit (Brahmanical), Pali (Buddhist), Prakrit (Jain), Tamil (Sangam)
Assessment	**Shastrartha** (debate); Nalanda gatekeepers (Hiuen Tsang: very low admission)
Decline	13th-c. raids (Khilji) + loss of patronage + Macaulay English model

1.7 Important Cultural Institutions of India

Short	Full form	Year	Parent	One-line function
ICCR	**Indian Council for Cultural Relations**	1950	**MEA** (Ministry of External Affairs)	Cultural diplomacy abroad
NGMA	**National Gallery of Modern Art**	1954	Ministry of Culture	Modern art **gallery** (Delhi + Mumbai + Bengaluru) — not an akademi
NSD	**National School of Drama**	1959	Ministry of Culture	National theatre school, New Delhi
CCRT	**Centre for Cultural Resources and Training**	1979	Ministry of Culture	Teacher training in culture for schools
INTACH	**Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage**	1984	**NGO** (non-governmental organisation)	Heritage conservation partner — not a government autonomous body
7 ZCCs	**Seven Zonal Cultural Centres**	1985–87	Ministry of Culture	Folk and tribal promotion — regional HQs below

ZCC	HQ
Eastern	Kolkata
Western	Udaipur
Northern	Patiala
Southern	Thanjavur
North Central	**Prayagraj (Allahabad)** — UP fact
North East	Dimapur
South Central	Nagpur

1.9 Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)

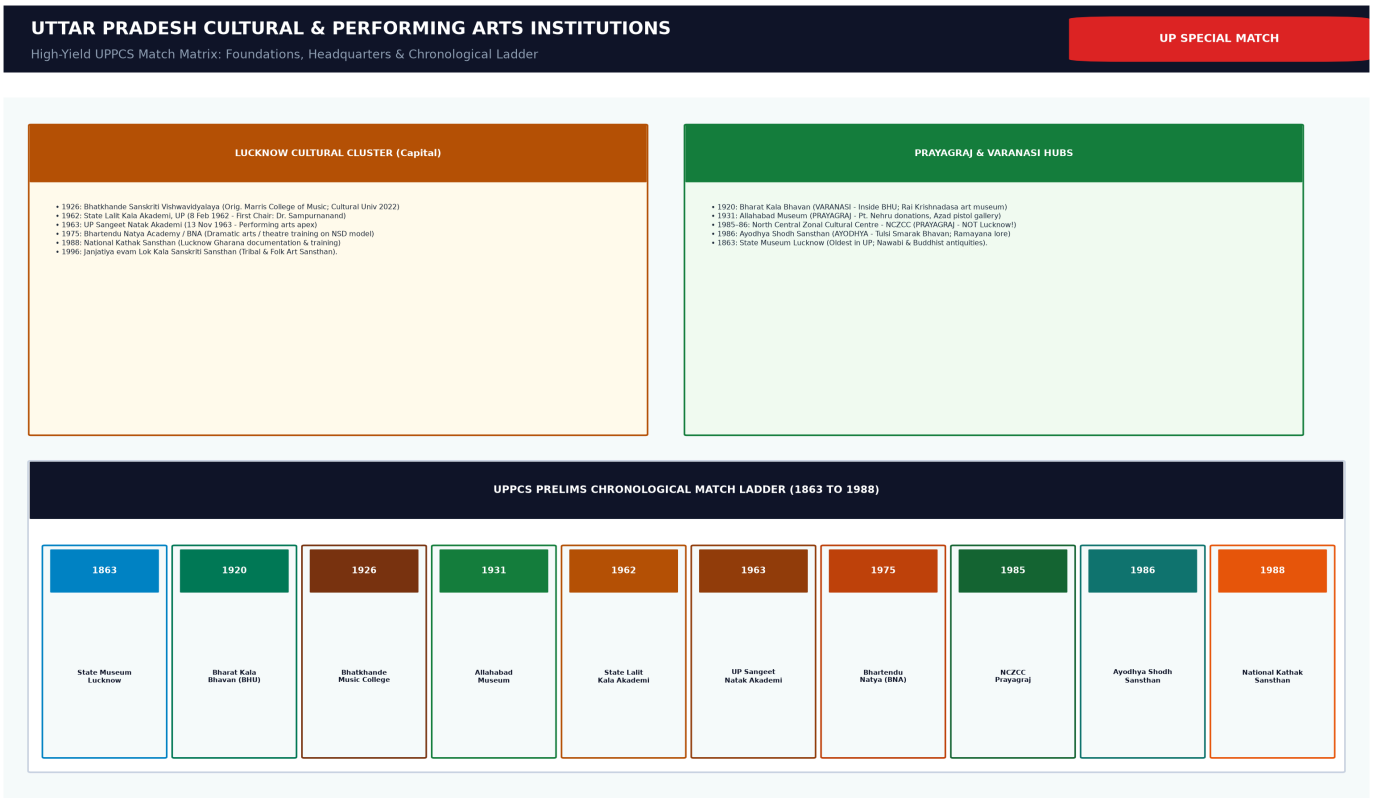
Division	Work
Kalakosa	Research + *Kalatattva Kosha* encyclopaedia
Janapada Sampada	Folk / tribal documentation
Kala Nidhi	Reference library + multimedia archive
Mati Ghar	Exhibition / auditorium

1.15 Museums in India

Museum	City	Est.	Speciality
Indian Museum	Kolkata	**1814**	Oldest; archaeology, art, anthropology

Museum	City	Est.	Speciality
Government Museum	Chennai	**1851**	Bronze Gallery, Amaravati
Napier Museum	Thiruvananthapuram	**1855**	Art / natural history
State Museum Lucknow	Lucknow	**1863** (evolved)	Nawabi art, archaeology
Dr. Bhau Daji Lad	Mumbai	**1872**	Decorative arts
Victoria Memorial	Kolkata	**1921**	Colonial Indian art
CSMVS (Prince of Wales)	Mumbai	**1922**	Indus, miniatures, sculpture
Allahabad Museum	**Prayagraj**	**1931**	Archaeology, freedom struggle
Calico Museum of Textiles	Ahmedabad	**1949**	Textiles
National Museum	New Delhi	**1949**	National archaeology/art
Salar Jung Museum	**Hyderabad**	**1951**	Nawab's collection
NGMA	Delhi (+ Mumbai, Bengaluru)	**1954**	Modern Indian art
Shankar's Dolls Museum	New Delhi	**1965**	International dolls
National Rail Museum	New Delhi	**1977**	Railway heritage
Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya	New Delhi	2022	**Teen Murti Bhavan** converted
Sarnath Site Museum	Sarnath (UP)	ASI	Buddhist finds from the site

1.15A Uttar Pradesh Cultural & Performing Arts Institutions (High-Yield Match List)



UPPCS recurring match trap: Papers often pair UP cultural academies with their establishment years and locations. Learn one identity sentence per institute.

Institution	City / HQ	Established	Historical Fact
Bhatkhande Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya	**Lucknow**	**1926**	Founded by Pt. Vishnu Narayan Bhatkhande with help of Rai Umanath Bali. Originally named **Marris College of Music**; renamed Bhatkhande Hindustani Sangeet Mahavidyalaya in 1960; declared Deemed University in 2000; upgraded to State Cultural University in **2022**.
State Lalit Kala Akademi, UP	**Lucknow**	**8 Feb 1962**	Autonomous body for promotion of fine arts/visual arts under UP Dept of Culture. First Chairman: Dr. Sampurnanand.
Uttar Pradesh Sangeet Natak Akademi	**Lucknow**	**13 Nov 1963**	Apex body for music, dance and drama in UP (originally named UP Sangeet Natya Bharati; renamed in 1969).
Bhartendu Natya Academy (BNA)	**Lucknow**	**1975**	Autonomous institute for training in dramatic arts / theatre (modelled on NSD). Named after father of modern Hindi theatre, Bhartendu Harishchandra.
National Kathak Sansthan	**Lucknow**	**1988–89**	Apex institute for documentation, research and training in Kathak (Lucknow Gharana).
Ayodhya Shodh Sansthan	**Ayodhya** (अयोध्या)	**1986**	Located at Tulsi Smarak Bhavan; conducts research on Ramayana culture and folk traditions.
Tribal & Folk Art Culture Sansthan (*Janjatiya evam Lok Kala Sanskriti Sansthan*)	**Lucknow**	**1996**	Dedicated preservation and documentation of tribal and rural folk traditions of UP.
North Central Zonal Cultural Centre (NCZCC)	**Prayagraj**	**1985–86**	One of 7 Zonal Cultural Centres under Ministry of Culture; covers UP, MP, Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Haryana.
Bharat Kala Bhavan	**Varanasi**	**1920**	Renowned museum of art and archaeology situated inside Banaras Hindu University (BHU); founded by Rai Krishnadasa.

- **BNA** is theatre training, not painting.
- **Kathak Sansthan** is Lucknow gharana documentation, not Bharatanatyam.
- **NCZCC** HQ is **Prayagraj**, not Lucknow — the planted city swap in many match lists.

Inline PYQ — UPPCS Match Pattern

Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer:

List-I (Institution) A. Bhatkhande Music Institute B. State Lalit Kala Akademi C. UP Sangeet Natak Akademi D. Bhartendu Natya Academy

List-II (Establishment Year) 1. 1926 2. 1962 3. 1963 4. 1975

A. 1 2 3 4 B. 4 3 2 1 C. 1 3 2 4 D. 2 1 4 3

1.16 Government Schemes for Culture

Scheme	Year	Ministry	Objective	Trap
National Culture Fund	**1996**	Culture	PPP funding for heritage	Not 2006
National Mission on Manuscripts	**2003**	Culture	Survey/conserve manuscripts	Restructured as **Gyan Bharatam** (2024–31; Budget **2025–26**)
National Mission on Libraries	2012	Culture	Public library upgrade	Not IGNCA
Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat	**2015**	Culture + Education	State/UT cultural pairing	Not Tourism alone
HRIDAY	**2015**	Urban (heritage cities)	Heritage city infra	**Varanasi** included; not a Tourism scheme

Scheme	Year	Ministry	Objective	Trap
PRASAD	**2015**	**Tourism**	Pilgrimage infra	**Not** Culture
Seva Bhoj Yojana	2018	Culture (under KSVY)	CGST relief for free religious food	Not an FCI food subsidy
Museum Grant Scheme	Ongoing	Culture	State/central museum modernisation	Not ASI excavation money
Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana	Umbrella	Culture	Performing arts grants, festivals, guru-shishya	Not visual-arts-only
Young Artist Scholarships	Ongoing	Culture	Classical music/dance training	Age/guru criteria apply

Common Traps

1. The Asiatic Society founder is **Jones**, not Hastings (Hastings **declined**) and not **Jonathan Duncan**.
2. The oldest museum is the **Indian Museum Kolkata 1814**, not the National Museum Delhi 1949.
3. The National Museum is **not** in Kolkata. Salar Jung is **not** in Delhi (**Hyderabad**).
4. Taxila is in **Pakistan**, not Bihar/UP. The model is **many teachers**, not one campus.
5. The Nalanda destroyer is **Bakhtiyar Khilji ~1193**, not Iltutmish, Ghazni or Alauddin.
6. UNESCO Nalanda is **2016**. The Act of **2010** created the **new** university under **MEA** at Rajgir, not the ruins.
7. Vikramashila is linked to **Dharmapala, Atisha and ~1203**. It is **not** separately WH-listed.
8. SNA is **1952** performing arts. Sahitya and Lalit Kala are **1954**. Lalit Kala is not literature.
9. **ICCR** is under **MEA**. The new Nalanda University is also under **MEA**. ASI and the akademis are under **Culture**.
10. Jnanpith (**1965**, trust) is not the Sahitya Akademi Award.
11. Guru dakshina is not a monthly fee. 64 Kalas are not 64 Vedas.
12. INTACH is an **NGO**. NGMA is a **gallery**, not an akademi.
13. PRASAD is under **Tourism**. EBSB is Culture + Education, launched in **2015**. NCF is **1996**.
14. North Central ZCC is at **Prayagraj**, not Lucknow.
15. Rakhigarhi is not in UP (it is in Haryana). UP IVC sites are Alamgirpur, Mandi and Hulas.

Topic 2 — Religious and Philosophical Traditions

Current Affairs

- **Maha Kumbh** at Prayagraj ran from **13 January to 26 February 2025**, about **45** days.
- **Kumbh Mela** (कुंभ मेला) is on the UNESCO Intangible Heritage list from **2017**. It is not a tangible monument.

Confused Pairs

A	B	Correct	Hindi
Astika	Nastika	Accepts Veda as pramana vs rejects Vedic authority	आस्तिक / नास्तिक
Nyaya	Vaisheshika	Logic (Gautama) vs atomism (Kanada)	न्याय / वैशेषिक
Samkhya	Yoga	Theory (25 tattva) vs 8-limb practice	सांख्य / योग
Purva Mimamsa	Uttara Mimamsa	Ritual (Jaimini) vs Vedanta (Badarayana)	पूर्व / उत्तर मीमांसा
Advaita	Vishishtadvaita / Dvaita	Shankara vs Ramanuja vs Madhva	अद्वैत / विशिष्टाद्वैत / द्वैत
Anicca	Anatta	Impermanence vs no-self	अनित्य / अनात्म
Theravada	Mahayana	Arhat / Pali vs Bodhisattva / Sanskrit	थेरवाद / महायान
Digambara	Svetambara	Sky-clad; no women monks vs white-clad; women monks	दिगंबर / श्वेतांबर
Anekantavada	Syadvada	Many-sided reality vs seven-fold “syad” speech	अनेकांतवाद / स्याद्वाद
Saguna	Nirguna	Formed God vs formless Absolute	सगुण / निर्गुण
Alvar	Nayanar	12 Vaishnava vs 63 Shaiva (Tamil)	आलवार / नायनार
Parshva’s 4 vows	Mahavira’s 5	Brahmacharya is the added fifth	पार्श्व / महावीर व्रत
Chishti	Naqshbandi	Sama/qawwali, open vs silent dhikr, Sharia-leaning	चिश्ती / नक्शबंदी
Wujud	Shuhud	Unity of being (Ibn Arabi) vs unity of witness (Sirhindi)	वजूद / शुहूद
Tangible WH	Intangible ICH	Monument (Qutub) vs living rite (Kumbh, Yoga)	मूर्त / अमूर्त

Common Traps

1. Nyaya Gautama ≠ Buddha; Kanada ≠ Nyaya; Patanjali ≠ Vaisheshika.
2. Uttara Mimamsa = Vedanta/Badarayana, not Kapila.
3. Ramanuja ≠ Dvaita (Madhva); Vallabha = Shuddhadvaita; Nimbarka = Dvaitadvaita.
4. Sringeri = Yajur/South; Puri = Rig/East — do not swap.
5. Brahman ≠ Brahmin; Tat tvam asi = Chandogya.
6. First sermon = Sarnath (UP); enlightenment = Bodh Gaya (Bihar); death = Kushinagar (UP); birth = Lumbini (Nepal).
7. Councils: Rajagriha first; 3rd = Ashoka/Pataliputra; 4th = Kundalvana/Kanishka.
8. Milind Panho = Nagasena; Buddhacharita = Ashvaghosha; Nagarjuna = Shunya.
9. Mahavira = 24th, lion, Pavapuri; Rishabha = bull/Ashtapad; Vasupujya ≠ Shikhar (Champapuri).
10. Jain Triratna ≠ Buddhist Triratna; Middle Path ≠ Jainism.
11. Alvars = Vishnu 12; Nayanars = Shiva 63; Andal = woman Alvar.
12. Kabir ← Ramananda; Surdas ← Vallabha; Ramcharitmanas = Awadhi.
13. Namdev → Kabir → Nanak → Chaitanya.

14. Nizamuddin = Delhi not Multan; Fawaid = Hasan Sijzi not Khusrau.
15. Khalsa = Gobind Singh 1699; Adi Granth = Arjan; Gurmukhi = Angad.
16. Kumbh = intangible 2017; Qutub/Taj = tangible.
17. Gangabai ≠ Ganesh Dev Leela; Daya Bai = Vinay Malika.

Topic 3 — Indian Architecture

Current Affairs

- The **Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath** in Uttar Pradesh entered the UNESCO World Heritage list in **July 2026** at the 48th World Heritage Committee session in Busan.
- Sarnath is India's **45th** World Heritage property. The serial site joins **Chaukhandi Stupa** with the archaeological remains around **Dhamek** (धमेख) and the Ashokan pillar zone.
- **Maratha Military Landscapes of India** entered the list in **2025** as India's **44th** property. The set covers **12** forts: eleven in Maharashtra and **Gingee** in Tamil Nadu.
- **Moidams – the Mound-Burial System of the Ahom Dynasty** at Charaideo in Assam entered the list in **2024** as India's **43rd** property.
- These recent World Heritage inscriptions reflect India's architectural, fortificatory, and funerary landscape heritage.

Confused Pairs

A	B	Correct	Hindi
Nagara	Dravida	Curvilinear shikhara, no gopuram vs pyramidal vimana + tall gopuram	नागर / द्रविड़
Shikhara	Vimana	Nagara tower over sanctum vs Dravida tower over sanctum	शिखर / विमान
Gopuram	Shikhara	Dravida **gateway** vs Nagara **sanctum** tower — papers swap these	गोपुरम् / शिखर
Vesara	Nagara	Karnataka hybrid / storeyed vs pure north curvilinear	वेसर / नागर
Stupa	Chaitya	Solid relic mound vs congregational hall with apse stupa	स्तूप / चैत्य
Chaitya	Vihara	Prayer hall vs monastic cells	चैत्य / विहार
Rock-cut	Structural	Living rock (Ajanta, rathas) vs dressed blocks (Brihadeeswara, Shore)	शैल-कट / संरचनात्मक
Rekha deul	Pidha deul	Odisha sanctum tower vs jagamohana pyramidal hall	रेखा देउल / पिढ़ा देउल
Charbagh	Panchayatana	Islamic four-part garden vs Hindu five-shrine plan	चारबाग़ / पंचायतन
Indo-Islamic	Mughal	Sultanate arch-dome (Qutub) vs imperial garden-tomb synthesis (Taj)	भारतीय-इस्लामी / मुग़ल
True arch	Corbel	Voussoirs (Indo-Islamic) vs projecting courses (pre-Islamic temples)	सच्चा मेहराब / कॉर्बेल
Squinch	Pendentive	Corner arch to take a dome vs curved triangle (later)	स्क्विंच / पेंडेंटिव
Latina	Phamsana	Curvilinear sanctum tower vs stepped pyramidal mandapa roof	लतिना / फामसन
Khajuraho Chausath Yogini	Morena Chausath Yogini	Chandela hypaethral vs **Kachchhapaghata Devapala** circular	खजुराहो / मुरैना
Virupaksha Hampi	Virupaksha Pattadakal	Vijayanagara living shrine vs Early Chalukya Dravida	हम्पी / पट्टदकल
Ellora	Sakas	Rashtrakuta-age multi-faith caves vs wrong dynasty trap	एलोरा / शक
Meenakshi Madurai	Pallava	Nayaka / Pandya gopuram peak vs Pallava Mamalla–Rajasimha	मीनाक्षी / पल्लव

A	B	Correct	Hindi
Mahabalipuram	Rashtrakuta	**Pallava** rock-cut / Shore vs Ellora Kailasa dynasty	महाबलीपुरम / राष्ट्रकूट
Besnagar Heliodorus	Shaiva cave	**Vaishnava Garuda** pillar vs wrong Shaiva label	बेसनगर / शैव
Dilwara marble	Khajuraho sandstone	Mount Abu Jain Solanki vs Chandela Nagara	दिलवाड़ा / खजुराहो
Arasavalli	Omkareshwar	Sun temple (Andhra) vs Shiva jyotirlinga (MP)	अरासवल्ली / ओंकारेश्वर
Konark 24 wheels	"12 wheels" shorthand	Full chariot has **24** wheels (12 pairs)	कोणार्क चक्र
Mandu	Khajuraho / Sanchi / Bhimbetka	Mandu **not** UNESCO vs MP WHS trio	माण्डू / यूनेस्को

Common Traps

1. Gopuram ≠ shikhara; vimana ≠ gopuram.
2. Konark / Khajuraho = Nagara, not Dravida; Brihadeeswara / Shore = Dravida, not Nagara.
3. Khajuraho and Sanchi = **MP**, not UP. Qutub and Humayun's Tomb = **Delhi**, not UP.
4. Vesara = Karnataka hybrid; Lingaraja is Odisha Nagara.
5. Rathas are rock-cut; Shore Temple is structural — both Pallava, different kings.
6. Sapt Pagoda / rathas **before** Shore Temple **before** Brihadeeswara **before** Gangaikonda.
7. Aryaka pillars = Amaravati type, **not** Bodh Gaya.
8. Ajanta = Buddhist; Ellora = three religions; Kailasa = Ellora 16, not Elephanta.
9. Adina Masjid = Pandua, **not** Mandu.
10. Qutub: Aibak started, Iltutmish finished; Alai Darwaza = Alauddin, first true dome.
11. Buland Darwaza = Gujarat **victory**, not Jahangir's birth.
12. Tombs: Babur–Kabul, Humayun–Delhi, Jahangir–Lahore, Shah Jahan–Agra.
13. Bibi ka Maqbara = Aurangzeb / Rabia Daurani, **not** Shah Jahan.
14. Gupta = first structural temple (Deogarh, Bhitargaon); not Maurya.
15. Hathigumpha = Kharavela (Odisha), not Ashoka.
16. Sarnath WHS = **2026** (tangible), not ICH. Kumbh ICH = **2017**.
17. Konark = 24 wheels / 7 horses; Black Pagoda ≠ Jagannath (White Pagoda).
18. Two Udayagiris: Vidisha Gupta ≠ Bhubaneswar Jain (Hathigumpha).
19. Itimad-ud-Daulah = Agra "Baby Taj"; Salim Chishti = Fatehpur courtyard.
20. Ramappa = Kakatiya, not Hoysala; Dilwara = Jain Abu marble, not Khajuraho sandstone.
21. Sarnath capital = four lions (emblem); Vaishali = single lion; Sankisa = elephant; Rampurva = bull + lion.
22. Moti Masjid Agra = Shah Jahan; Moti Masjid Red Fort Delhi = Aurangzeb.
23. Konark "12 wheels" shorthand → full chariot has **24** wheels (12 pairs).
24. Dashavatara at Khajuraho → **Deogarh** (Gupta); Khajuraho is Chandela.
25. Morena Yogini = Khajuraho Yogini → different sites; Morena = **Devapala** circular.
26. Ellora = Sakas → **Rashtrakuta**-age multi-faith.
27. Mahabalipuram = Rashtrakuta → **Pallava**.
28. Besnagar = Shaiva cave → Heliodorus **Vaishnava Garuda** pillar.
29. Mandu = UNESCO with Khajuraho/Sanchi/Bhimbetka → Mandu is **not** WHS.
30. Virupaksha Hampi = Virupaksha Pattadakal → different ages and dynasties.
31. Jagannath idols = stone like Lingaraja → **neem wood** triad.
32. Elephanta = Buddhist-only Ajanta twin → mainly **Shaiva** Trimurti (+ smaller Buddhist group).

33. Draupadi ratha = largest → **smallest** of the Mamalla set.
34. Palitana = Mount Abu Dilwara → **Shatrunjaya / Bhavnagar**.
35. Angkor Wat = Java Borobudur → Angkor = **Cambodia** Vishnu; Borobudur = **Java** Buddhist.

Topic 4 — Indian Painting

Current Affairs

- **Pithora** (पिथौरा) painting of the Rathwa of Gujarat saw a GI-led livelihood push in **2025–26**. It is folk wall art. It is not a Mughal school.
- **Madhubani** (मधुबनी) carries a GI tag. It is not a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage element.

UKPCS Prelims 2025

Q. UKPCS Prelims 2025, Q85

Consider the following statements about the 'Garhwal painting' style:

1. Shyamdas and Hardas came to Srinagar in May 1658 in the court of Prithivipati Shah.
2. They got the post of 'Tasbirdaar' in the court of the art-loving Garhwal kings.

A. Only 1 B. Only 2 C. 1 and 2 D. None of the above

Confused Pairs

A	B	Correct	Hindi
Fresco	Tempera / secco	Pigment on **wet** plaster (Ajanta) vs binder on **dry** surface	भित्ति-फ्रेस्को / टेम्पेरा
Mural	Miniature	Wall/ceiling integral to building vs small album/manuscript	भित्ति / लघु चित्र
Mughal	Rajput	Imperial Persianised court vs Hindu princely, bhakti/ragamala	मुग़ल / राजपूत
Rajput	Pahari	Rajasthan plains (Mewar, Marwar) vs Himalayan hills (Kangra)	राजपूत / पहाड़ी
Basohli	Kangra	Early bold flat colour vs late lyrical Krishna–nature	बसोहली / कांगड़ा
Company	Bengal School	Colonial documentary for EIC vs nationalist wash revival	कंपनी / बंगाल स्कूल
Ravi Varma	Abanindranath	Oil + oleograph realism vs wash / anti-academic revival	रवि वर्मा / अवनिंद्रनाथ
Ajanta	Ellora	Famous for **paintings** vs famous for **sculpture** (Kailasa)	अजंता / एलोरा
Aniconic	Iconic (Ajanta)	Phase I symbols vs Phase II Buddha/Bodhisattva figures	अप्रतिमेय / प्रतिमेय
Hamzanama	Ragamala	Akbar adventure manuscript vs Rajput/Pahari musical-mode series	हमज़ानामा / रागमाला
Tanjore	Mysore	Gold foil + gems on wood vs finer gesso, less gem-studded	तंजावुर / मैसूर
Srikalahasti Kalamkari	Machilipatnam Kalamkari	Temple kalam (pen) religious vs block-print trade cloth	श्रीकालहस्ती / मछलीपट्टनम
Jogimara	Ajanta	Earliest secular fresco (Ramgarh, CG) vs Buddhist narrative peak	जोगीमारा / अजंता

Common Traps

1. **Bhimbetka** is **MP** prehistoric rock art (Wakankar **1957**), **not** Ajanta fresco.
2. **Bagh** is **MP**, not UP.
3. In Shadanga, **Pramanam** is proportion. **Bhava** is emotion. **Sadrisyam** is likeness. **Varnikabhangam** is colour.
4. **Ajanta** is paintings. **Ellora** is sculpture (Kailasa).
5. **Padmapani** is Cave **1**, Mahayana iconic — not Hinayana aniconic.

6. **Hamzanama**, **Daswanth** and **Basawan** are **Akbar. Mansur** and **Bishandas** are **Jahangir**.
7. **Bani Thani** is Kishangarh, **not** Kangra.
8. The order is Basohli → Guler → Kangra. Kangra is hills, not Marwar.
9. Company School is not Bengal School. Photography ends Company documentary demand.
10. Ravi Varma oil/oleograph is not Abanindranath wash.
11. PAG is **1947** Husain–Raza–Souza. **Raza** is Bindu, not Husain.
12. Haripura posters are Nandalal Bose **1938**, not Ravi Varma.
13. Venushilpa is **bamboo**, not painting.
14. **Sittanavasal** is Jain. **Ajanta** is Buddhist.
15. Madhubani is GI, not UNESCO ICH. Sigiriya is Sri Lanka.
16. Mughal painting is miniature, not mural.
17. **Jogimara** (Chhattisgarh) contains the earliest surviving Indian frescoes — **not** Ajanta and **not** Uttar Pradesh.
18. Dying Princess is Ajanta **Cave 16**, not Cave 1 Padmapani.
19. **Nimatnama** is Mandu cookbook, not Akbar. **Hamzanama** is Akbar cloth folios.
20. **Tanjore** is gold/gems on wood. **Mysore** is finer gesso.
21. Srikalahasti Kalamkari is pen. Machilipatnam is block-print.
22. Constitution illuminations and Haripura are **Nandalal**, not Ravi Varma.
23. **Sanjhi** is Braj/UP. **Pichwai** is Nathdwara. **Phad** is Pabuji.
24. Deccani (Bijapur/Golconda) is not Kangra. Awadh/**Mihr Chand** is not Sahibdin.

Topic 5 — Indian Music

Current Affairs

- Ustad **Zakir Hussain**, the tabla maestro, died in **December 2024**. He received the Padma Vibhushan in **2023**.
- The **Sangeet Natak Akademi** (संगीत नाटक अकादेमी) was founded in **1952**.
- Vedic chanting entered UNESCO ICH in **2008**.
- Manipuri **Sankirtana** (संकीर्तन) entered UNESCO ICH in **2013**.

Confused Pairs

A	B	Correct	Hindi
Hindustani	Carnatic	North improvisation + gharana vs south kriti + 72 melakarta	हिंदुस्तानी / कर्नाटक
Raga	Tala	Melody framework vs beat-cycle	राग / ताल
Dhrupad	Khayal	Oldest + **pakhawaj** vs dominant today + **tabla**	ध्रुपद / ख्याल
Khayal	Thumri	Full classical vs light romantic (Bol Banav)	ख्याल / ठुमरी
Tappa	Thumri	Fast, camel-song origin, **Muhammad Shah** court vs Awadh–Banaras romantic	टप्पा / ठुमरी
Gharana	Raga	Performance school vs melodic framework	घराना / राग
Melakarta	Janya	72 parent scales vs derived child ragas	मेलकर्ता / जन्य
Tabla	Mridangam	Hindustani khayal vs Carnatic primary drum	तबला / मृदंगम
Tabla	Pakhawaj	Khayal/thumri vs dhrupad	तबला / पखावज
Shehnai	Nadaswaram	Hindustani reed, Banaras vs Carnatic temple reed	शहनाई / नादस्वरम्
Tata	Vitat	Plucked string vs bowed string	तत / वितत
Avanaddha	Ghana	Membrane drum vs solid/idiophone (manjira, ghatam)	अवनद्ध / घन
Tansen	Amir Khusrau	Akbar dhrupad vs Nizamuddin, qawwali/tarana	तानसेन / अमीर खुसरो
Tyagaraja	Tansen	Carnatic Rama kritis vs Hindustani Navaratna	त्यागराज / तानसेन

Common Traps

1. **Tappa** is **Muhammad Shah**, not Akbar.
2. Tansen before Akbar is **Ramchandra of Bhata/Rewa**, not Malwa's Baz Bahadur.
3. **Raga Vibodh** is **Somanath**, not Venkatamakhin.
4. **Chaturdandi** is **Venkatamakhin**. It is melakarta, not Ragamala.
5. The Trinity is Tyagaraja, Dikshitar and Syama Sastri. It is **not Tansen.**
6. **Tyagaraja** is **Telugu**, not Tamil/Sanskrit.
7. Dhrupad uses **pakhawaj**. Khayal uses **tabla**. Carnatic uses **mridangam**.
8. Shehnai is **Bismillah / Varanasi**. Tabla is **Zakir**. Do not swap.
9. Gharana is not raga. Kirana is a **school**. Yaman is a **raga**.
10. Tanpura is a **drone**, not a solo sitar-class melody instrument.
11. Ghatam is **Ghana**, not Avanaddha.
12. Tansen Samaroh is **Gwalior (MP)**, not Varanasi.
13. Amir Khusrau's guru is **Nizamuddin Auliya**. Here he is qawwali/tarana.

14. **10** thatas are not **72** melakarta.
15. MS Subbulakshmi is **Carnatic**, first musician Bharat Ratna, not Hindustani khayal.

Topic 6 — Indian Dance

Current Affairs

- **Garba of Gujarat** entered the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list in **December 2023**. It is a folk form. It is not one of the eight classical dances.
- **Yamini Krishnamurthy**, a leading exponent of Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi, died on **3 August 2024**.
- **Birju Maharaj** (बिरजू) of the Lucknow Kathak gharana died in **January 2022**.
- **Kalbelia** (कालबेलिया) of Rajasthan entered UNESCO ICH in **2010**.
- **Chhau** (छऊ) entered UNESCO ICH in **2010**. It is still not on the Sangeet Natak Akademi list of eight.
- **Sankirtana** (संकीर्तन) of Manipur entered UNESCO ICH in **2013**. It is ritual music and dance. It is not a ninth classical dance.
- The **Sangeet Natak Akademi** (संगीत नाटक अकादेमी) was founded in **1952**. That year is not the year Sattriya was added.

Confused Pairs

A	B	Correct	Hindi
Kathak	Kathakali	North spins + Hindustani vs Kerala dance-drama + chutti	कथक / कथकली
Kathakali	Mohiniyattam	Kerala male, heavy aharya vs Kerala female solo lasya	कथकली / मोहिनीअट्टम्
Bharatanatyam	Odissi	Araimandi geometry vs tribhangi three bends	भरतनाट्यम् / ओडिसी
Bharatanatyam	Kuchipudi	TN temple margam vs AP village dance-drama + plate	भरतनाट्यम् / कुचिपुड़ी
Manipuri Ras Lila	Braj Raslila	Classical Manipur vs **UP folk** Krishna play	मणिपुरी रास / ब्रज रासलीला
Lasya	Tandava	Grace (Parvati / Mohini) vs vigour (Shiva / Kathakali)	लास्य / तांडव
Nritta	Nritya	Pure dance, no story vs expressive abhinaya	नृत्त / नृत्य
Mahari	Gotipua	Odissi temple women vs boys dressed as women	महारी / गोटिपुआ
SNA 8	Chhau	Official classical eight vs UNESCO martial/folk, **not** the 8	8 शास्त्रीय / छऊ
Folk	Tribal	Regional peasant festival vs adivasi ritual	लोक / आदिवासी
Garba	Dandiya	Circle around lamp vs sticks	गरबा / डांडिया

6.1 Indian Classical Dances

Terms used in every classical form

Rasa	Mood
Shringara	love
Hasya	humour
Karuna	compassion
Raudra	anger
Veera	valour
Bhayanaka	fear
Bibhatsa	disgust

Rasa	Mood
Adbhuta	wonder
Shanta	peace (the later ninth)

Common Traps

1. The Akademi classical count is **eight**, not seven. The one people drop is **Sattriya**, added in **2000**.
2. **Chhau** is UNESCO-listed martial-folk. It is not the ninth SNA classical dance.
3. **Kathak** is north Indian. **Kathakali** is Kerala dance-drama. Do not swap them.
4. **Kathak** the dance is not the **Kathaka** reciter name from Vedic lists.
5. Kerala has two classical forms: Kathakali (male, tandava, chutti) and Mohiniyattam (female, lasya, white-and-gold).
6. Manipuri **Ras Lila** is not Braj **Raslila**, which is Uttar Pradesh folk.
7. **Bihu** is Assam folk. **Sattriya** is Assam classical.
8. **Garba** UNESCO **2023** is still folk, not classical.
9. **Tribhanga** is Odissi. **Araimandi** is Bharatanatyam.
10. **Tarangam** plate dance is Kuchipudi, not Mohiniyattam.
11. Kathak uses **tabla** and Hindustani music. It does not use the Carnatic mridangam as its marker.
12. **Cheraw** belongs to **Mizoram**, not Manipur.
13. Lucknow Kathak belongs to **Uttar Pradesh**. **Kelucharan Mohapatra** is Odissi, not Lucknow Kathak.
14. **Gotipua** are boys. **Mahari** are temple women.
15. **Nritta** has no story. **Natya** is drama.

Topic 7 — Indian Theatre & Performing Arts

Current Affairs

- **Koodiyattam** (कूड़ियाट्टम्) was proclaimed a UNESCO masterpiece in **2001** and entered the Representative List in **2008**.
- **Ramlila** (रामलीला) entered UNESCO ICH in **2008**.
- **Mudiyettu** (मुडियेट्टु) of Kerala entered UNESCO ICH in **2010**. It is ritual theatre, not Kathakali.

Confused Pairs

A	B	Correct	Hindi
Nataka	Prakarana	Mythic heroic play vs invented social plot	नाटक / प्रकरण
Natya	Nritta	Drama-story vs pure dance	नाट्य / नृत्त
Nautanki	Tamasha	**UP** folk opera vs Maharashtra + lavani	नौटंकी / तमाशा
Ramlila (Braj)	Koodiyattam	Hindi Ramayana folk vs Kerala Sanskrit temple	रामलीला / कूड़ियाट्टम्
Koodiyattam	Kathakali	Sanskrit theatre vs Kerala dance-drama makeup	कूड़ियाट्टम् / कथकली
Yavanika	Nepathya	Curtain vs backstage	यवनिका / नेपथ्य
Kathputli	Shadow puppet	Rajasthan string marionette vs leather silhouette	कठपुतली / छाया
Kalidasa	Bhavabhuti	Shakuntala trio vs **Uttararamacharita**	कालिदास / भवभूति
Rasa	Bhava	Spectator flavour vs actor's emotion	रस / भाव
String	Glove	Kathputli threads vs Gulabo-Sitabo hand-puppets	सूत्र / दस्ताना
Yakshagana	Koodiyattam	Karnataka Kannada dance-drama vs Kerala Sanskrit temple theatre	यक्षगान / कूड़ियाट्टम्
Ramman	Ramlila	Uttarakhand masked ritual vs UP Ramayana folk play	रम्माण / रामलीला
Mudiyettu	Kathakali	Kerala ritual theatre vs Kerala dance-drama	मुडियेट्टु / कथकली
Tholu Bommalata	Ravana Chhaya	Andhra coloured leather vs Odisha dark deer-skin shadow	तोलू बोम्मलता / रावण छाया
Bidesiya	Nautanki	Bhojpuri migrant play vs UP folk opera	बिदेसिया / नौटंकी

Common Traps

1. **Nautanki** belongs to **UP** (Kanpur and Lucknow). Tamasha belongs to Maharashtra. Jatra belongs to Bengal.
2. **Yakshagana** belongs to **Karnataka**, not Kerala.
3. **Koodiyattam** is **Sanskrit theatre**, not Kathakali and not SNA dance no. 9.
4. Kalidasa dramas are **three**. *Uttararamacharita* is by **Bhavabhuti**.
5. *Mrichchhakatika* is by **Shudraka**. *Mudrarakshasa* is by **Vishakhadatta**. *Sariputraprakarana* is by **Ashvaghosha**.
6. *Shringara Shataka* is not by Kalidasa (**Bhartrihari**).
7. **Kathputli** is **Rajasthan string**, not Lucknow. **Kundhei** is **Odisha string**.
8. **Gulabo-Sitabo** is **Lucknow glove**, not Kathputli.
9. In shadow puppetry, Tholu belongs to AP. Ravana Chhaya belongs to Odisha. Tolpavakoothu belongs to Kerala.
10. Yavanika is the curtain. Nepathya is backstage.
11. IPTA is **1943**. NSD is **1959**. SNA is **1952**.
12. Ramlila is UNESCO folk **theatre**, not a classical dance. **Ramman** belongs to **Uttarakhand**, not UP.

13. Koothambalam is the Kerala temple stage, not NSD Delhi.
14. Khayal singing is not Khyal, the Rajasthan folk play.
15. In Swang, men play women. In Tamasha, women may play men.
16. **Indra Sabha** is by Amanat, Lucknow, not Kalidasa.
17. Sitabenga is the amphitheatre (CG). Jogimara next door is the painting fact.
18. Learn all ten rupakas. Do not stop at Nataka/Prakarana only.

Topic 8 — Indian Languages & Literature

Current Affairs

- On **3 October 2024** the Union added Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali. India now has **11** classical languages.
- The Nepal–India Sanskrit Conclave of **March 2024** was held at **Kathmandu**, not Delhi.
- **Yuva Puraskar** is Sahitya Akademi's prize for writers of **35** and under. It is not Jnanpith.

Confused Pairs

A	B	Correct	Hindi
Shruti	Smriti	Heard/revealed (Veda–Upanishad) vs remembered (epic, Purana, smriti-law)	श्रुति / स्मृति
Samhita	Brahmana	Mantra collection vs ritual prose	संहिता / ब्राह्मण
Shukla Yajurveda	Krishna Yajurveda	Vajasaneyi (Madhyandina, Kanva) vs Taittiriya, Maitrayani, Kathaka, Kapisthala	शुक्ल / कृष्ण यजुर्वेद
Itihasa	Purana	Ramayana–Mahabharata vs 18 Maha Puranas	इतिहास / पुराण
Kavya	Nataka	Poem (Meghaduta) vs drama (Shakuntala)	काव्य / नाटक
Kalidasa	Bhavabhuti	3 plays + 4 poems vs Uttararamacharita	कालिदास / भवभूति
8th Schedule	Classical language	Constitutional **22** vs Culture tag **11**	अष्टम अनुसूची / शास्त्रीय भाषा
8th Schedule	Sahitya Akademi	22 vs **24** award languages	22 / 24
Awadhi	Braj	Tulsidas vs Surdas	अवधी / ब्रज
Pali	Prakrit	Buddhist canon vs Jain/secular Middle Indo-Aryan	पाली / प्राकृत
Valmiki	Tulsidas	Sanskrit Adikavi vs Awadhi Ramcharitmanas	वाल्मीकि / तुलसीदास
Harsha plays	Harshacharita	Ratnavali / Nagananda / Priyadarshika vs Banabhatta's biography	हर्ष नाटक / हर्षचरित
Karpuramanjari	Harsha	**Rajasekhara** vs Harsha's three plays	कर्पूरमंजरी / हर्ष
Kalhana	Jonaraja / Srivara	Rajatarangini founder vs continuators	कल्हण / जोनराज–श्रीवर
Amarakosha	Brihatsamhita	Amarasimha lexicon vs Varahamihira encyclopedia	अमरकोश / बृहत्संहिता
Mitakshara	Dayabhaga	Vijnaneshwara (son's right in father's lifetime) vs Jimutavahana (after death)	मिताक्षरा / दायाभाग
Nagasena	Nagarjuna	Milindapanha monk vs Madhyamaka philosopher	नागसेन / नागार्जुन
Vishakhadatta	Bilhana	Mudrarakshasa / Devichandraguptam vs Vikramankadevacharita	विशाखदत्त / बिल्हण
Pliny	Ptolemy	Natural History vs geography / Almagest	प्लिनी / टॉलेमी
Panini	Patanjali	Ashtadhyayi (earlier) vs Mahabhashya (Shunga link)	पाणिनि / पतंजलि

8.2 Sanskrit Literature

The Great Classical Dramas & Works Master Matrix

Playwright / Author	Major Works	Genre / Category	Patron / Court / Period	Protagonists, Core Theme & High-Yield Exam Facts
Shudraka (शूद्रक)	***Mrichchhakatika*** (मृच्छकटिकम् — "The Little Clay Cart")	10-Act *Prakarana* (Social / Middle-class Drama)	Classical / Post-Gupta Era	• **Protagonists: Charudatta** (impoverished, noble Brahmin merchant of Ujjayini) & **Vasantasena** (wealthy, virtuous courtesan). • **Subplot:** Political revolution in Ujjayini where the rebel cowherd **Aryaka** overthrows the tyrant King Palaka. • **Key Figures:** Samsthanaka (Shakara — the wicked villain who strangles Vasantasena and frames Charudatta), Maitreya (the Vidushaka), Rohasena (Charudatta's young son who cries for a golden toy cart, filled with jewels by Vasantasena). • **Exam Trap:** Distinct from royal heroic plays; realistically portrays thieves, gamblers, city crowds, and justice.
Vishakhadatta (विशाखदत्त)	1. ***Mudrarakshasa*** (मुद्राराक्षस — "Signet Ring of Rakshasa") 2. ***Devichandraguptam*** (देवीचन्द्रगुप्तम्)	Political Drama / Historical Play	Gupta Period (circa 5th–6th c. CE)	• *Mudrarakshasa:* **Zero female lead / romance**. Pure political espionage. Depicts **Chanakya** outwitting Rakshasa (loyal minister of the overthrown Nandas) to secure the throne for **Chandragupta Maurya**. • *Devichandraguptam:* Tragic story of cowardly king **Ramagupta** offering Queen **Dhruvadevi** to Shaka invaders, rescued by younger brother **Chandragupta II** disguised as Dhruvadevi (do not assign to Bilhana!).
Bhasa (भास)	**13 Surviving Plays** (*Trivandrum Plays*, discovered in 1912 by **T. Ganapati Sastri**)	Classical Nataka & Vyayoga	Pre-Kalidasa (approx 2nd–3rd c. CE)	• ***Svapnavasavadattam*** (स्वप्नवासवदत्तम्): Love story of King **Udayana** of Vatsa (Kaushambi) and Queen **Vasavadatta** (Avanti). • ***Urubhanga*** (ऊरुभंग — "Breaking of the Thighs"): **The ONLY known tragedy in classical Sanskrit drama**, depicting Duryodhana's death on Kurukshetra. • ***Madhyama-vyayoga*** (मध्यमव्यायोग): Bhima, Hidimba & Ghatotkacha reunion. • ***Karnabhara*** (कर्णभार): Karna gifting his divine armor & earrings to disguised Indra. • ***Charudatta***: 4-act prototype later expanded by Shudraka into *Mrichchhakatika*.

Playwright / Author	Major Works	Genre / Category	Patron / Court / Period	Protagonists, Core Theme & High-Yield Exam Facts
Kalidasa (कालिदास)	1. ***Abhijnanashakuntalam*** 2. ***Malavikagnimitram*** 3. ***Vikramorvashiya***	Nataka (Court Dramas)	Chandragupta II (Vikramaditya) / Gupta Golden Age	• *Abhijnanashakuntalam:* King Dushyanta & Shakuntala; ring lost in Sachitirtha. • *Malavikagnimitram:* Kalidasa's first play; love story of Shunga King **Agnimitra** and princess Malavika. • *Vikramorvashiya:* Vedic legend of King Pururavas and celestial nymph Urvashi.
Harshavardhana (हर्षवर्धन)	1. ***Ratnavali*** (रत्नावली) 2. ***Priyadarshika*** (प्रियदर्शिका) 3. ***Nagananda*** (नागानन्द)	Sanskrit Natika & Buddhist Drama	King of Kannauj (Pushyabhuti dynasty, 606–647 CE)	• *Ratnavali:* King Udayana and Princess Ratnavali (Sagarika). • *Nagananda:* Buddhist-themed play depicting the supreme self-sacrifice of Prince **Jimutavahana** offering his own body to Garuda to save the Nagas. • Remembered as a monarch who excelled with both sword and pen.
Bhavabhuti (भवभूति)	1. ***Uttararamacharita*** (उत्तररामचरित) 2. ***Mahaviracharita*** 3. ***Malatimadhava***	Sanskrit Drama (Kavya-Nataka)	Court poet of King **Yashovarman** of Kannauj (8th c. CE)	• *Uttararamacharita:* Later life of Rama, exile of pregnant Sita, reunion with sons Lava and Kusha; acclaimed as the supreme masterpiece of the **Karuna Rasa** (pathos/compassion). • *Malatimadhava:* Passionate love of Malati & Madhava, featuring chilling tantric Aghoraghanta & Kapalika rituals in cremation grounds.
Mahendravarman I (महेन्द्रवर्मन प्रथम)	***Mattavilasa Prahasana*** (मत्तविलास प्रहसन — "The Farce of Drunken Sport")	Short Satirical Farce (*Prahasana*)	Pallava Dynasty of Kanchi (early 7th c. CE)	• Hilarious satire mocking the moral degeneration and hypocrisy of drunken **Kapalika** Shaivite ascetics, Pashupatas, and heterodox Buddhist monks in Kanchi.
Bhattanarayana (भट्टनारायण)	***Venisamhara*** (वेणीसंहार — "Braiding of the Hair")	Heroic Drama (*Nataka*)	Early Medieval (Bengal / Kannauj tradition)	• Based on the Mahabharata; depicts **Bhima** fulfilling his vow to kill Duhshasana, break Duryodhana's thighs, and braid Draupadi's dishevelled hair with their blood.
Rajasekhara (राजशेखर)	1. ***Karpuramanjari*** (कर्पूरमंजरी) 2. ***Kavyamimamsa*** (काव्यमीमांसा) 3. ***Balaramayana***	Prakrit Drama & Literary Poetics	Gurjara-Pratihara court of **Mahendrapala I** & **Mahipala**	• *Karpuramanjari* is celebrated for being composed entirely in **Sauraseni Prakrit** (not Sanskrit; do not attribute to Harsha!). • *Kavyamimamsa:* Practical reference handbook on poetic craft and geography for aspiring poets.
Banabhatta (बाणभट्ट)	1. ***Harshacharita*** (हर्षचरित) 2. ***Kadambari*** (कादंबरी)	Akhyayika (Biography) & Katha (Prose Romance)	Court of King **Harsha** of Kannauj	• *Harshacharita:* First formal historical biography in Sanskrit prose. • *Kadambari:* Celebrated complex romantic novel (completed by his son Bhushanbhatta); do not confuse with Subandhu.
Jayadeva (जयदेव)	***Gita Govinda*** (गीत गोविंद)	Lyrical Devotional Poem (Giti-Kavya)	Court poet of King **Lakshmana Sena** of Bengal (12th c. CE)	• 12 Sargas and 24 Prabandhas describing the mystical divine love, separation, and union of Radha and Krishna; fundamental to Vaishnava Sahajiya and Bhakti movements.

Playwright / Author	Major Works	Genre / Category	Patron / Court / Period	Protagonists, Core Theme & High-Yield Exam Facts
Somadeva (सोमदेव)	1. ***Kathasaritsagara*** (कथासरित्सागर) 2. ***Lalit Vigraharaja***	Narrative Lore & Drama	Kashmir (under Ananta/Kalasha) & Chahamana court	• *Kathasaritsagara:* Massive compilation of folk tales in 18 books (*Lambakas*), adapting Gunadhya's lost *Brihatkatha* (written in Paisachi Prakrit). • *Lalit Vigraharaja:* Court drama celebrating King Vigraharaja IV (Visaladeva) of Shakambhari.
Kshemendra (क्षेमेन्द्र)	***Brihatkathamanjari***, *Deshopadesha*, *Auchityavicharacharcha*	Narrative Anthologies & Literary Criticism	11th c. Kashmir	• Famous for *Brihatkathamanjari* (abridgement of Brihatkatha) and establishing the **Auchitya** (propriety) school of poetics.
Subandhu (सुबन्धु)	***Vasavadatta*** (वासवदत्ता)	Sanskrit Prose Romance	Gupta / Post-Gupta Era	• Romantic prose tale renowned for relentless double entendres (*Shlesha* — every syllable carrying two meanings); completely different book from Bhasa's play *Svapnavasavadattam*.
Bilhana (बिल्हण)	***Vikramankadevacharita*** (विक्रमांकदेवचरित)	Historical Mahakavya	Court of Western Chalukya King **Vikramaditya VI**	• Epic eulogy describing the life and triumphs of the Kalyani Chalukya king. Also wrote the famous lyrical love poem *Chaurapanchashika*.
Kamandaka (कामन्दक)	***Nitisara*** (नीतिसार)	Treatise on Statecraft & Polity	Gupta Era	• Classic political treatise based directly on Kautilya's Arthashastra; explains Mandala theory, Rajadharma, and diplomacy.

8.3 Vedic Literature

Vedic Shakhas, Priests, and Texts Master Matrix

Veda	Priest (*Ritvik*)	Upaveda	Surviving Shakhas / Samhitas	Associated Brahmana	Key Upanishads & High-Yield Exam Facts
Rigveda (ऋग्वेद) *(Oldest, 1028 hymns in 10 Mandalas)*	**Hotri** (होतृ)	**Ayurveda** (medicine)	• **Shakala** (शाकल — standard extant text) • **Bashkala** (बाष्कल)	• **Aitareya** (ऐतरेय) • **Kaushitaki / Shankhayana** (कौषीतकि)	• **Aitareya Upanishad** (*Prajnanam Brahma*) • **Kaushitaki Upanishad** • *Gayatri Mantra*: Mandala 3 (Vishwamitra) • *Purusha Sukta* (origin of 4 Varnas): Mandala 10 • *Nadistuti Sukta* (rivers hymn): Mandala 10
Shukla Yajurveda *(White / Pure — verses only)*	**Adhvaryu** (अध्वर्यु)	**Dhanurveda** (archery/warfare)	• **Vajasaneyi Samhita** (वाजसनेयी) Two shakhas: 1. *Madhyandina* (North India) 2. *Kanva* (South/West India)	• **Shatapatha Brahmana** (शतपथ — 100 chapters; largest Brahmana; mentions Videha Madhava, Manu's Flood legend)	• **Isha Upanishad** (ईश — 40th chapter of Samhita itself) • **Brihadaranyaka Upanishad** (*Aham Brahmasmi*, *Tamaso Ma Jyotirgamaya*, Yajnavalkya–Maitreyi & Yajnavalkya–Gargi dialogues)

Veda	Priest (*Ritvik*)	Upaveda	Surviving Shakhas / Samhitas	Associated Brahmana	Key Upanishads & High-Yield Exam Facts
Krishna Yajurveda *(Black / Mixed — verse + prose mixed)*	**Adhvaryu** (अध्वर्यु)	**Dhanurveda** (archery/warfare)	• **Taittiriya** (तैत्तिरीय) • **Maitrayani** (मैत्रायणी) • **Kathaka / Katha** (काठक) • **Kapisthala** (कपिष्ठल)	• **Taittiriya Brahmana**	• **Taittiriya Upanishad** (*Satyam Vada, Dharmam Chara*) • **Katha Upanishad** (कठ — Yama–Nachiketa dialogue on death/soul) • **Shvetashvatara Upanishad** (first explicit mention of *Bhakti* & Rudra/Shiva) • **Maitri Upanishad**
Samaveda (सामवेद) *(Book of Chants / Indian Music root)*	**Udgatri** (उद्गातृ)	**Gandharvaveda** (music & drama)	• **Kauthuma** (कौथुम — Gujarat/Bengal) • **Ranayaniya** (राणायनीय — Maharashtra/Karnataka) • **Jaiminiya / Talavakara** (जैमिनीय — Kerala/TN)	• **Panchavimsha / Tandya** (पञ्चविंश / ताण्ड्य Maha Brahmana) • **Shadvimsha** • **Jaiminiya Brahmana**	• **Chhandogya Upanishad** (छांदोग्य — *Tat Tvam Asi*, Satyakama Jabala story, earliest mention of Devakiputra Krishna) • **Kena Upanishad** (केन)
Atharvaveda (अथर्ववेद) *(Spells, healing, charms, everyday life)*	**Brahma** (ब्रह्मा — silent chief supervisor)	**Shilpaveda** / Arthashastra	• **Shaunaka** (शौनक — standard text) • **Pippalada** (पिप्पलाद — preserved in Odisha/Kashmir)	• **Gopatha Brahmana** (गोपथ — **ONLY single Brahmana** belonging to Atharvaveda)	• **Mundaka Upanishad** (मुण्डक — *"Satyameva Jayate"* from 3.1.6) • **Mandukya Upanishad** (माण्डूक्य — shortest, 12 verses; *Ayam Atma Brahma*) • **Prashna Upanishad** (प्रश्न)

The Four Great Sayings (Mahavakyas)

Mahavakya	Meaning	Upanishad	Veda
Prajnanam Brahma (प्रज्ञानं ब्रह्म)	"Consciousness is Brahman"	**Aitareya**	**Rigveda**
Aham Brahmasmi (अहं ब्रह्मास्मि)	"I am Brahman"	**Brihadaranyaka**	**Shukla Yajurveda**
Tat Tvam Asi (तत्त्वमसि)	"That Thou Art"	**Chhandogya**	**Samaveda**
Ayam Atma Brahma (अयमात्मा ब्रह्म)	"This Self is Brahman"	**Mandukya**	**Atharvaveda**

8.6 Regional Literature

Match spine (Tamil texts)

Text	Nature
Tirukkural (तिरुक्कुरल)	Philosophy / ethics
Tolkappiyam (तोल्काप्पियम्)	Grammar
Silappadikaram (शिलप्पदिकारम्)	Love / Kannagi story
Manimekalai (मणिमेकलै)	Merchant / Buddhist nun story

8.7 Indian Languages

Classical languages = 11 (not 6)

Language	Year
Tamil	**2004**
Sanskrit	**2005**
Kannada	**2008**
Telugu	**2008**
Malayalam	**2013**
Odia	**2014**
Marathi	**3 Oct 2024**
Pali	**3 Oct 2024**
Prakrit	**3 Oct 2024**
Assamese	**3 Oct 2024**
Bengali	**3 Oct 2024**

8.8 Important Literary Works

Master author ↔ work spine (raata table)

Author	Work(s)
Panini	*Ashtadhyayi*
Patanjali	*Mahabhashya*
Yaska	*Nirukta*
Katyayana	*Varttika*
Chanakya / Kautilya	*Arthashastra*
Vatsyayana	*Kamasutra*
Amarasimha	*Amarakosha*
Kalhana	*Rajatarangini*
Bharavi	*Kiratarjuniya*
Magha	*Shishupalavadha*
Sriharsha	*Naishadhiyacharita*
Dandin	*Dashakumaracharita*
Harsha	*Nagananda, Ratnavali, Priyadarshika*
Rajasekhara	*Karpuramanjari*
Varahamihira	*Brihatsamhita, Panchasiddhantika, Brihat Jataka*
Vishakhadatta	*Mudrarakshasa, Devichandraguptam*
Shudraka	*Mrichchhakatikam*
Bilhana (बिल्हण)	*Vikramankadevacharita* (विक्रमांकदेवचरित)
Sarvavarman	*Katantra*
Vijnaneshwara	*Mitakshara*

Author	Work(s)
Jimutavahana	*Dayabhaga*
Vishnu Sharma	*Panchatantra*
Bharata Muni	*Natyashastra*
Bhasa	*Svapnavasavadattam*, *Madhyama-vyayoga*
Ashvaghosha	*Buddhacharita*, *Saundarananda*
Jayadeva	*Gita Govinda*
Bhaskara II	*Siddhantashiromani* (*Lilavati*, *Bijaganita*...)
Aryabhata	*Aryabhatiya*
Mahendravarman I	*Mattavilasa Prahasana*
Vakpati	*Gaudavaho*
Kamandaka	*Nitisara*
Surdas	*Sursagar*, *Sur Saravali*, *Sahitya Lahiri*
Tulsidas	*Ramcharitmanas*, *Vinaya Patrika*, *Kavitavali*

Common Traps

1. *Shringara Shataka* is not by Kalidasa. It is by **Bhartrihari**.
2. *Uttararamacharita* is not by Kalidasa. It is by **Bhavabhuti**.
3. *Mrichchhakatika* is not by Kalidasa. It is by **Shudraka**.
4. *Kathasaritsagara* is **Somadeva**, not Kshemendra (*Brihatkathamanjari*).
5. *Gita Govinda* is **Jayadeva**, not Trivikram Bhatta.
6. Shukla Yajurveda is **Vajasaneyi**, not Taittiriya. Kathaka is not Kathak dance.
7. **Bhojpuri** is not Eighth Schedule. Nepali, Dogri and Bodo are.
8. Schedule 8 is **22**. Sahitya Akademi is **24**. Classical is **11** from Oct 2024, not 6.
9. **Hindi is not** classical. **Tamil was first** (2004).
10. CIIL is **Mysuru**, not Banaras.
11. Baburnama language is **Turki**. Court language is **Persian**.
12. The Tutinama translator is **Nakhshabi**, not Khusrau.
13. Tulsidas is not Valmiki. The Gita is not a Veda.
14. The 2024 Sanskrit conclave was at **Kathmandu**, not New Delhi.
15. Kavindra Acharya of Banaras is **Shah Jahan**, not Akbar.
16. *Harshacharita* / *Kadambari* = **Banabhatta**; Harsha's own plays are *Ratnavali*, *Priyadarshika*, *Nagananda*.
17. *Karpuramanjari* = **Rajasekhara**, not Harsha.
18. *Milindapanha* monk = **Nagasena**, not Nagarjuna; language = **Pali**.
19. *Devichandragupta* = **Vishakhadatta**, not **Bilhana** (बिल्हण) (*Vikramankadevacharita* (विक्रमांकदेवचरित)).
20. *Amarakosha* = **Amarasimha**, not Varahamihira (*Brihatsamhita* / *Panchasiddhantika*).
21. Panini ≠ Pushyamitra court; **Patanjali** is the Shunga-linked grammarian. Amarasimha ≠ Harsha.
22. *Janakiharanam* = **Kumaradasa**, not Kalidasa. *Malavikagnimitram* protagonist = **Agnimitra**.
23. Mitakshara ≠ upper-caste-only law; tested difference is **lifetime vs after-death** inheritance claim.
24. *Natural History* = **Pliny**, not Ptolemy. Father of History = **Herodotus**.
25. *Panchatantra* = **Vishnu Sharma**; Mughal Persian = ***Ayar-e-Danish*** (Abul Fazl).
26. Zero = **anonymous Indian** in many keys; do not force Aryabhata on every zero stem.
27. *Rajatarangini* continuators = **Jonaraja** and **Srivara**; contemporary king = **Jayasimha / Jai Singh**.

28. *Gita Govinda* court = **Lakshmana Sena**, not Dharmapala / Devapala.
29. *Natyashastra* = **Bharata Muni**. *Mattavilasa* = **Mahendravarman I**.
30. Dashakumaracharita is **not** a Mahabharata-theme mahakavya.

Topic 9 — Indian Festivals & Fairs

Current Affairs

- **Maha Kumbh** at Prayagraj ran from **13 January to 26 February 2025**, about **45** days.
- **Pushkar Kumbh** of **May 2025** was at Mana / Keshav Prayag in **Uttarakhand** (उत्तराखंड). It is not the Rajasthan camel fair.
- **Garba** (गरबा) of Gujarat entered UNESCO ICH in **December 2023**.
- **Durga Puja of Kolkata** entered UNESCO ICH in **2021**.
- **Kumbh Mela** (कुंभ मेला) entered UNESCO ICH in **2017**.
- The **SCO Film Festival** was held at Mumbai in **January 2023**.

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Confused Pairs

A	B	Correct	Hindi
Kumbh (4 sites)	Pushkar Fair	Prayagraj–Haridwar–Nashik–Ujjain vs Rajasthan camel fair	कुंभ / पुष्कर मेला
Pushkar Fair	Pushkar Kumbh 2025	Ajmer **Rajasthan**, Kartik vs **Mana, Uttarakhand**, May	पुष्कर मेला / पुष्कर कुंभ
Magh Mela	Kumbh	Annual Prayagraj bath vs 12-year mega at a Kumbh site	माघ मेला / कुंभ
Pongal	Onam	**Tamil Nadu** January vs **Kerala** Aug–Sep	पोंगल / ओणम
Bihu	Hornbill	**Assam** harvest trio vs **Nagaland** Dec showcase	बिहू / हॉर्नबिल
Garba	Bhangra	**Gujarat** Navratri vs **Punjab** Baisakhi	गरबा / भांगड़ा
Durga Puja	Navratri	**Bengal** pandals vs 9-night goddess (Gujarat Garba)	दुर्गा पूजा / नवरात्रि
Ramlila	Dussehra	Ramayana play (UNESCO 2008) vs Vijayadashami / Ravana effigy	रामलीला / दशहरा
Surajkund	Pushkar Fair	**Haryana** Feb crafts vs **Rajasthan** Kartik livestock	सूरजकुंड / पुष्कर
Ugadi	Gudi Padwa	AP/Telangana/Karnataka New Year vs Maharashtra New Year (same season)	उगादि / गुड़ी पड़वा
Folk	Tribal	Peasant/community (Braj Holi) vs adivasi ritual (Sarhul)	लोक / आदिवासी
Eid-ul-Fitr	Eid-ul-Adha	End of Ramadan vs Bakrid / sacrifice	ईद उल फितर / बकरीद

Common Traps

1. The **Kumbh 4 sites** are Prayagraj, Haridwar, Nashik and Ujjain. **Pushkar is not** one of them.
2. **Pushkar Fair** is the Rajasthan camel fair in Kartik. **Pushkar Kumbh May 2025** is **Uttarakhand (Mana)**.
3. **Magh Mela** is annual at Prayagraj. It is not the 12-year Ujjain Kumbh.
4. **Pongal is Tamil Nadu. Onam is Kerala**. Never swap.
5. **Bihu is Assam. Hornbill is Nagaland (Kisama, December)**.
6. **Surajkund is Haryana**, not Rajasthan and not UP.
7. **Bastar Dussehra** is Chhattisgarh, about 75 days, Danteshwari. It is not Rama–Ravana.
8. **Chhath is Sun**, Bihar / east UP. It is not moon.
9. **Garba** is Gujarat Navratri, UNESCO 2023. It is not SNA classical.

10. **Ramlila** is UNESCO 2008 theatre. It is not a ninth classical dance.
11. **Tansen Samaroh is Gwalior (MP)**. **Taj Mahotsav is Agra (UP)**.
12. **Sangai is Manipur**. Kisama is Hornbill, not Sangai.
13. **Vishu is Kerala. Ugadi is AP / Telangana / Karnataka. Gudi Padwa is Maharashtra**.
14. **Sonepur is Bihar. Gangasagar is West Bengal**.
15. **Saras Ajeevika Mela 2021 is Noida**, not Lucknow.
16. **Losar** is Buddhist New Year across Sikkim, Arunachal and Ladakh. It is not “Assam Bihu.”

Topic 10 — Ancient Indian History Related to Culture

Current Affairs

- **Mandi** and **Hulas** are Indus sites in Uttar Pradesh. **Rakhigarhi** (राखीगढ़ी) is in Haryana.
- **Dholavira** (धोलावीरा) entered the UNESCO World Heritage list in **2021**.
- **Sarnath** (सारनाथ) entered the UNESCO World Heritage list in **2026**.

Confused Pairs

A	B	Correct	Hindi
Gandhara	Mathura	Grey schist, Greco-Roman Buddha vs **red sandstone**, indigenous, **UP**	गांधार / मथुरा
Mathura	Amaravati	UP red sandstone vs Andhra white limestone narrative	मथुरा / अमरावती
Stupa	Chaitya	Solid relic mound vs rock-cut hall with apse stupa	स्तूप / चैत्य
Rock-cut	Structural	Barabar / chaitya vs Gupta built temple	शैल-कट / संरचनात्मक
Punch-marked	Gupta dinara	Irregular silver/copper vs die-struck **gold**	आहत मुद्रा / दीनार
IVC	Rigvedic	Urban brick + seals vs pastoral	सिंधु / ऋग्वैदिक
Alamgirpur	Rakhigarhi	**UP** eastern edge vs **Haryana** (largest, not UP)	आलमगीरपुर / राखीगढ़ी
Terracotta	Bronze	Mother goddess / plough models vs **Dancing Girl** lost-wax	पकी मिट्टी / कांस्य
Sreni	Nanadesi	General craft guild vs itinerant “many-country” merchants	श्रेणी / नानादेशी

Common Traps

1. **Rakhigarhi** is in **Haryana**, not UP. **Mandi, Hulas and Alamgirpur** are in **Uttar Pradesh.
2. **Alamgirpur** is the **eastern** Harappan edge. **Manda** is the **north** (J&K).
3. The **Great Bath** is at **Mohenjo-daro**, not Harappa and not Varanasi.
4. **Boats** are from **Mohenjo-daro and Lothal**, not Kalibangan.
5. **Gandhara uses** grey schist **and a Greco-Roman style.** Mathura **uses** red sandstone **and is in** Uttar Pradesh.
6. The **Dancing Girl** is **bronze lost-wax**, not terracotta.
7. **NBPW** is **Mauryan**, not Harappan painted ware.
8. **Punch-marked** coins are not the **Gupta gold dinara**.
9. The **first structural Hindu temple** is **Gupta** (Deogarh / Bhitargaon), not Maurya.
10. **Barabar** is **Ajivika** and **Ashoka**, in Bihar. It is not Chandragupta’s standard donation card.
11. **Bhimbetka** is linked to **Wakankar** and is MP prehistoric. It is not Gupta painting.
12. The **IVC** is **urban** and grew wheat, barley and cotton. **Rigvedic** society is **pastoral**. Maize is not IVC.
13. **Amaravati** uses **limestone** and **Aryaka-pillars**, not Mathura stone.
14. **Sreni** is the general guild. **Manigrama** is the 2018 foreign-trade option.
15. The **Sarnath Lion Capital** is Mauryan. The **Sarnath standing Buddha** is Gupta classical.

Topic 11 — Medieval Indian Cultural History

Current Affairs

- **Fatehpur Sikri** (फतेहपुर सीकरी), the **Taj Mahal** (ताज महल), and **Humayun (हुमायूँ)'s Tomb** remain UNESCO World Heritage (विश्व धरोहर) monuments. Tomb–city pairs and **Buland Darwaza** (बुलंद दरवाज़ा) still sit in the standing Mughal (मुग़ल) set.

Confused Pairs

A	B	Correct	Hindi
Khalsa	Jagir / Iqta	Crown land under **direct** control vs revenue assignment	खालसा / जागीर
Zat	Sawar	Personal rank vs cavalry-contingent rank	जात / सवार
Zabt	Dahsala	Measured assessment vs **10-year** average (Todar Mal)	जब्त / दहसाला
Turki	Persian	Babur's memoir language vs **Mughal court** language	तुर्की / फ़ारसी
Akbarnama	Ain-i-Akbari	Narrative reign-history vs gazetteer / statistics	अकबरनामा / आइने अकबरी
Sulh-i-kul	Din-i-Ilahi	Public peace policy vs private 1582 fellowship	सुलह-ए-कुल / दीन-ए-इलाही
Buland Darwaza	Jahangir's birth	Gujarat **victory** gateway vs 1569 birth (not the cause)	बुलंद दरवाज़ा
Iqta	Khalsa	Muqti keeps revenue for troops vs cash to the treasury	इक्ता / खालसा

11.4 Medieval Indian Administration

Delhi Sultanate Central Administration & Departments Master Table

Department	Purpose / Function	Key Head / Creator	High-Yield Prelims Notes
Diwan-i-Wizarat (दीवान-ए-विज़ारत)	Finance, Taxation & Revenue	**Wazir** (Chief Minister / Prime Minister)	Central engine of administration; Khwaja Jahan under Tughlaqs.
Diwan-i-Arz (दीवान-ए-अर्ध / अरीज़)	Military Department, Troop inspection & rolls	**Ariz-i-Mumalik**; Created by **Balban**	Balban created it separate from Wazir to keep military under royal eye; Alauddin introduced *Dagh* (branding) & *Chehra/Huliya* (descriptive rolls).
Diwan-i-Insha (दीवान-ए-इंशा)	Royal correspondence, drafts, records & farmans	**Dabir-i-Khas**	State secrecy and official royal communication.
Diwan-i-Risalat (दीवान-ए-रसालत)	Foreign affairs, diplomatic envoys & religious appeals	Headed by Sadr / Chief Diplomat	Handled relations with other states and appeals.
Diwan-i-Mustakhraj (दीवान-ए-मुस्तखराज)	Arrears collection from revenue officials	Created by **Alauddin Khalji**	To extract unpaid balances from Muqtis and Amils.
Diwan-i-Riyasat (दीवान-ए-रियासत)	Market control & economic regulation	Created by **Alauddin Khalji**; officer: *Shahna-i-Mandi*	Enforced strict price fixation in Delhi markets (Grain, Cloth/Sugar, Horses/Cattle).
Diwan-i-Kohi (दीवान-ए-कोही)	Agricultural development, uncultivated land & loans	Created by **Muhammad bin Tughlaq** (MBT)	Advanced agricultural loans (**Sondhar / Takkavi**) to peasants.
Diwan-i-Khairat (दीवान-ए-खैरात)	Charity, marriage grants for poor Muslim girls	Created by **Firoz Shah Tughlaq** (FST)	Welfare department for widows and orphans.

Department	Purpose / Function	Key Head / Creator	High-Yield Prelims Notes
Diwan-i-Bandagan (दीवान-ए-बंदगान)	Welfare & oversight of royal slaves (*ghulams*)	Created by **Firoz Shah Tughlaq** (had ~180,000 slaves)	Slaves trained in crafts, workshops, and army.
Dar-ul-Shafa (दार-उल-शफ़ा)	Free charitable hospitals	Established by **Firoz Shah Tughlaq**	Free food and medicine distributed.

Sultanate Taxation System Matrix

Tax Name	Nature / Target	Standard Rate / Rule	High-Yield Exam Note
Kharaj (खराज)	Land revenue from non-Muslim agriculturalists	Usually 1/3rd to 1/2 of produce	Alauddin Khalji raised it to 50% (1/2) based on measurement (*Masaahat*).
Jizya (जज़िया)	Poll tax on non-Muslim subjects (*Zimmis*)	Graded by wealth (48, 24, 12 dirhams)	**Firoz Shah Tughlaq was the FIRST to impose Jizya on Brahmins** (earlier exempted). Abolished by Akbar in 1564; reimposed by Aurangzeb in 1679.
Zakat (ज़कात)	Religious charity tax on Muslims	2.5% on wealth/savings	Exclusively spent for poor Muslim relief.
Khams (खम्स)	State share of booty taken in war	Sharia: 1/5th to State, 4/5th to Soldiers	**Alauddin Khalji & MBT reversed it:** State took 4/5th, leaving only 1/5th to soldiers! Firoz Shah Tughlaq reverted back to orthodox 1/5th.
Haqq-i-Shurb (हक-ए-शर्ब)	Water / irrigation canal tax	1/10th of agricultural produce	Imposed by **Firoz Shah Tughlaq** on lands irrigated by royal canals.
Charai & Ghari (चराई एवं घरी)	House tax (*Ghari*) & Pasture tax (*Charai*)	Levied on cattle and houses	Introduced by **Alauddin Khalji**.

11.5 Akbar's Administration

Master Matrix: Mughal Provincial Administration Evolution (Subas)

Reign / Timeline	Total Subas (Provinces)	List of Subas / Additions
Akbar (1580 — *Ain-i-Akbari*)	**12 Subas** (original division)	Agra, Delhi, Allahabad, Awadh, Ajmer, Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Bihar, Bengal, Malwa, Lahore, Multan, Kabul.
Late Akbar (Post-Deccan Annexations)	**15 Subas** (mature map)	+3 Deccan subas added: **Berar** (बरार), **Khandesh** (खानदेश / renamed Dandesh), and **Ahmadnagar** (अहमदनगर).
Jahangir	**15 – 17 Subas**	Retained 15; added **Orissa** (separated from Bengal) and Kangra.
Shah Jahan	**18 – 22 Subas**	Expanded to 18–22; split Deccan into 4 subas (Khandesh, Berar, Daulatabad, Telangana); added **Kashmir** (separated from Kabul) and **Thatta / Sindh**.
Aurangzeb (Maximum Extent)	**21 Subas** (Peak of Mughal Empire)	14 in North India, 1 in Afghanistan (Kabul), and 6 in Deccan (+**Bijapur** in 1686, +**Golconda** in 1687). Total = **21 Subas**.

Mughal Currency Matrix (Coins, Metals, & Ratios)

Metal	Coin Name	Weight / Standard	Ratio / Important Facts
Silver (चांदी)	**Rupiya** (रुपिया)	**178 grains** pure silver (standardized by **Sher Shah Suri**)	Akbar continued Sher Shah's silver Rupiya. Remained the monetary standard throughout Mughal era.

Metal	Coin Name	Weight / Standard	Ratio / Important Facts
Copper (तांबा)	**Dam** (दाम / पैसा)	**380 grains** pure copper (introduced by **Sher Shah Suri**)	**Exchange Ratio:** • Under **Sher Shah: 1 Rupee = 64 Dams**. • Under **Akbar: 1 Rupee = 40 Dams** (most frequent exam question!). Fractions: *Adhela* (1/2 dam), *Paulah* (1/4 dam), *Damri* (1/8 dam).
Gold (सोना)	**Mohur / Ashrafi** (मोहर / अशरफ़ी)	Approx 169–170 grains	Standard gold coin; equivalent to **9 to 10 silver rupees**. Akbar's square gold coin was called **Jalali**; round coin was **Ilahi**. Largest gold coin: **Sahansah** (शहंशाह — 101 tolas, used for ceremonial gifts).

Land Classification under Dahsala System (Ain-i-Dahsala — Todar Mal, 1580)

Land Class	Cultivation Frequency	Tax Assessment Rule
Polaj (पोलज)	Cultivated continuously every year; never allowed to lie fallow.	Paid full revenue every year; highest yield class.
Parauti (परौती)	Left fallow temporarily for 1 or 2 years to recover fertility.	Paid full revenue only when under cultivation.
Chachar (चाचर)	Left uncultivated/fallow for 3 or 4 years.	Assessed at progressively concessional rates when brought back to plough.
Banjar (बंजर)	Uncultivated for 5 or more years; poorest wasteland.	Minimal token tax to incentivize reclamation.

Local Administrative Hierarchy (Empire to Village)

Level	Administrative Unit	Chief Executive / Military Officer	Chief Revenue / Financial Officer	Other Key Functionaries
Central	Empire (साम्राज्य)	Emperor	**Wazir / Diwan** (finance)	**Mir Bakshi** (military & mansab), **Mir Saman** (stores & karkhanas), **Sadr-us-Sudur** (ecclesiastical & judicial head)
Provincial	**Suba** (सूबा — Province)	**Subahdar / Sipahsalar**	**Provincial Diwan** (directly appointed by Centre)	**Bakshi** (provincial army), **Sadr/Qazi** (judiciary), **Kotwal** (city law & order)
District	**Sarkar** (सरकार — District)	**Faujdar** (military commander & police)	**Amalguzar** (revenue assessment & collection)	**Kotwal** (head of city administration), **Bitikchi** (accountant/writer), **Khazandar** (treasurer)
Sub-District	**Pargana** (परगना — Tehsil)	**Shiqdar** (law, order, executive head)	**Amil / Munsif** (revenue assessment & collection)	**Fotadar** (treasurer), **Qanungo** (hereditary keeper of land & revenue records)
Village	**Gram / Mauza** (ग्राम — Village)	**Muqaddam / Mandal** (village headman)	**Patwari** (village accountant)	Village Panchayat / Council

Common Traps

1. The **court language was Persian**. Babur's book was in **Turki**.
2. **Buland Darwaza** marks the **Gujarat victory**, not Jahangir's birth.
3. Tomb cities: **Babur** at **Kabul**, **Humayun** at **Delhi**, **Jahangir** at **Lahore**, **Shah Jahan** at **Agra**.
4. **Khalsa** means **direct** control. **Jagir / iqta** are not direct treasury land.
5. **Mansab is not hereditary** in Akbar's system. **Zat** is not **sawar**.

6. **Din-i-Ilahi is not a state religion.** Sulh-i-kul is the public ethic.
7. **Khan-i-Khanan** on Bairam is from **Humayun**, not Akbar's vazir gift.
8. **Tughlaqnama** is by **Khusrau**, not Ibn Battuta.
9. **Hamida Banu** is tied to **Humayun**, not Alauddin.
10. **Adina Masjid** is in **Bengal/Pandua**, not Mandu. **Atala** is at **Jaunpur**.
11. **Tutinama** is by **Nakhshabi**, not Khusrau.
12. **Faizi died in 1595.Abul Fazl was murdered in 1602.**
13. **Tansen** before Akbar was at the court of **Ramchandra of Bhata**.
14. The **dam** is the copper coin of Sher Shah **and** Akbar.
15. Iqta revenue is **not** fully parked in the Sultan's chest. The muqti pays troops from it.

Topic 12 — Sculpture

Current Affairs

- The **Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath (सारनाथ)** entered the UNESCO World Heritage (विश्व धरोहर) list on **25 July 2026**. It is India's **45th** property and Uttar Pradesh (उत्तर प्रदेश)'s **fourth**. The serial site joins **Chaukhandi Stupa (स्तूप)** with the archaeological remains.
- The **National Emblem** is taken from the Sarnath Lion (सिंह) Capital, adopted (अंगीकृत) in **1950**.

Confused Pairs

A	B	Correct	Hindi
Gandhara	Mathura	Grey **schist**, Greco-Roman, NW vs red **sandstone**, indigenous, **UP**	गांधार / मथुरा
Mathura	Amaravati	Free-standing red-sandstone icons vs Andhra **limestone** narrative panels	मथुरा / अमरावती
Mathura Kushan	Gupta Sarnath	Heavy volume vs transparent robe + spiritual calm	कुषाण / गुप्त
Aniconic	Iconic	Wheel, tree, throne vs human Buddha from Kushan	अनिकोनिक / साकार
Mauryan polish	Gupta finish	Mirror Chunar surface vs smooth idealism, not that polish	मौर्य / गुप्त
Chola Nataraja	IVC Dancing Girl	Processional Shiva bronze vs Harappan lost-wax girl	नटराज / नर्तकी
Khajuraho	Konark	Chandela mithuna vs Ganga Sun-chariot wheels	खजुराहो / कोणार्क
Chola bronze	Dhokra	Temple lost-wax utsava murti vs tribal bell-metal	चोल / ढोकरा

12.3 Buddhist Sculpture

Buddhist / Jain art-site matrix (quick)

Site	Region	School / age cue	What to mark
Bharhut	MP	Shunga relief	Early railing narratives; aniconic
Sanchi	MP	Mauryan start → later	Toranas; early aniconic, later icons
Amaravati	Andhra	Satavahana–Ikshvaku	Limestone panels; Aryaka-pillars
Nagarjunakonda	Andhra	Ikshvaku	Related Andhra relief belt
Ajanta (अजंता)	Maharashtra	Vakataka (वाकाटक) peak	Painted caves + chaitya (चैत्य) / vihara (विहार)
Ellora Jain caves	Maharashtra	Later rock-cut	Caves **30–34** Jain — not Buddhist-only
Mathura Kankali Tila	UP	Kushan–Gupta	Jain image findspot
Dilwara / Ranakpur / Palitana (पालिताना)	West India	Medieval Jain	Marble temple sculpture

Common Traps

1. **Gandhara = schist + Greco-Roman + NW.Mathura = red sandstone + UP.**
2. **Amaravati = limestone + Aryaka-pillars**, not Bodh Gaya.
3. **Sarnath Buddha = Gupta**, not Kushan bulk.
4. **Bharhut = Shunga**, not Mauryan.
5. **Early Sanchi = aniconic.** Human Buddha = Kushan onward.
6. **Dharmachakra ≠ bhumisparsha.** Sermon vs enlightenment.

7. **Dancing Girl = bronze**, not terracotta.
8. **Nataraja = Chola lost-wax**, not Hoysala soapstone.
9. **Khajuraho = Nagara mithuna**, not Dravida.
10. **Konark = 24 wheels / 7 horses.** Elephanta ≠ Konark.
11. **Udayagiri Varaha = MP Gupta.** Odisha Udayagiri–Khandagiri = Jain caves.
12. **Didarganj = Mauryan polish Yakshi**, not a Buddha.
13. **Dhokra ≠ Chola temple bronze.**
14. **Chunar polish = Mauryan pillars.** Hoysala = soapstone.
15. Mathura cuts **Jain and Buddhist** images. It is not Buddha-only.

Topic 13 — Folk Culture

Current Affairs

- The **e-Pehchan** (ई-पहचान) portal for handloom workers' digital IDs opened in **January 2025**.
- In **December 2025** Uttar Pradesh (उत्तर प्रदेश) led the GI count with **81** tags. India had **445** handicraft (हस्तशिल्प) GIs.
- The **12th** National Handloom Day fell on **7 August 2026**. Sant Kabir (कबीर) and the National Handloom Awards sit with that Day.
- **NHDP** and **RMSS** remain the two handloom umbrella schemes.

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Confused Pairs

A	B	Correct	Hindi
Folk art	Classical art	Community, oral, ritual vs codified school (Bharatanatyam, Mughal miniature)	लोक कला / शास्त्रीय कला
Folk tradition	Folk belief	Custom passed socially vs supernatural village worldview	लोक परंपरा / लोक विश्वास
Handloom	Powerloom	Manual loom vs machine mass weave	हथकरघा / पावरलूम
Handloom	Khadi	Hand-woven (yarn may be mill-spun) vs **hand-spun and** hand-woven (KVIC)	हथकरघा / खादी
Handicraft	Handloom	Handmade object (pottery, metal, embroidery) vs cloth woven on a loom	हस्तशिल्प / हथकरघा
GI tag	Trademark	Place + community quality vs a firm's brand	भौगोलिक संकेत / व्यापार चिह्न
Madhubani	Warli	Bihar Mithila, bright geometric vs Maharashtra tribal white-on-red	मधुबनी / वारली
Chikankari	Zardozi	Lucknow white thread on muslin vs metallic-thread court embroidery	चिकनकारी / ज़रदोज़ी
Surajkund Mela	Pushkar Fair	Haryana February crafts vs Rajasthan Kartik camel fair	सूरजकुंड / पुष्कर मेला
Pushkar Fair	Pushkar Kumbh 2025	Ajmer **Rajasthan**, Kartik vs **Mana, Uttarakhand**, May	पुष्कर मेला / पुष्कर कुंभ
DC Handicrafts	KVIC	Textiles artisan body vs MSME khadi commission	हस्तशिल्प आयुक्तालय / KVIC
Sant Kabir Award	Shilp Guru	Highest **handloom** weaver honour vs highest **handicraft** artisan honour	संत कबीर / शिल्प गुरु
PEHCHAN	e-Pehchan	Handicraft artisan card **2016** vs handloom worker digital ID **2025**	पहचान / ई-पहचान

Common Traps

- Warli is **not** Bihar. **Maharashtra**.
- Madhubani is **not** Rajasthan. **Bihar**. It is GI, **not** UNESCO ICH.
- Sanjhi is **not** Jaipur. **Mathura–Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh.
- Pushkar **Fair** is Rajasthan. Pushkar **Kumbh May 2025** is **Uttarakhand**. Neither is UP.
- Surajkund is **Haryana**, not Rajasthan.
- GI ministry is **Commerce**, not Culture and not Textiles. Registry is **Chennai**, not Delhi.

- First GI is **Darjeeling Tea 2004**, not Banarasi.
- Blue Pottery is **Jaipur**, not Lucknow.
- Moradabad is **brass**. Firozabad is **glass**. Do not swap.
- Chikankari is **Lucknow**. Banarasi is **Varanasi**.
- National Handloom Day is **7 August**, not 15 August.
- Khadi needs **spinning + weaving**. KVIC is **MSME**.
- Sujni is **Bihar**, not Maharashtra. Uppada Jamdani is **Andhra**, not Karnataka.
- Shilp Guru ≠ Sant Kabir Award.
- Saura (Odisha) is not Warli.

Topic 14 — Cultural Heritage

Current Affairs

- **Moidams** (मोइदाम) of Charaideo, Assam, entered the World Heritage list in **2024** as India's **43rd** property.
- **Maratha (मराठा) Military Landscapes** entered in **2025** as the **44th**. The serial covers **12** forts: eleven in Maharashtra and **Gingee** in Tamil Nadu (तमिलनाडु).
- **Sarnath** (सारनाथ) was inscribed in **July 2026** as India's **45th** property and Uttar Pradesh (उत्तर प्रदेश)'s **fourth**.
- **Deepavali** (दीपावली) entered UNESCO ICH on **10 December 2025** as India's **16th** element, at 20.COM at the Red Fort (लाल किला), Delhi.

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UKPCS Prelims 2025

Q. UKPCS Prelims 2025, Q52

Which of the following UNESCO World Heritage Sites is/are located in Uttarakhand (उत्तराखंड)?

A. Valley of Flowers (फूलों की घाटी) B. Kaziranga (काजीरंगा) National Park C. Mountain Railways of India D. Nanda Devi (नंदा देवी) National Park

A. A only B. A and B only C. A, B and C only D. A and D only

Confused Pairs

A	B	Correct	Hindi
Tangible heritage	Intangible heritage	Physical monument/site vs living practice/skill	भौतिक / अभौतिक विरासत
WH Convention 1972	ICH Convention 2003	Sites and OUV vs living traditions	1972 / 2003
World Heritage	Ramsar	1972 outstanding sites vs 1971 wetlands	विश्व धरोहर / रामसर
Cultural WHS	Natural WHS	Criteria **i–vi** vs **vii–x**	सांस्कृतिक / प्राकृतिक
Mixed WHS	Cultural WHS	Both criteria sets. India has **one**: Khangchendzonga	मिश्रित / सांस्कृतिक
Representative List	Urgent Safeguarding List	Living identity vs endangered ICH needing emergency action	प्रतिनिधि / तात्कालिक संरक्षण
Tentative List	Inscribed List	India's proposed pipeline vs official WHS	अस्थायी / अंकित
ASI monument	UNESCO WHS	AMASR 1958 national protection vs WHC international inscription	ASI / यूनेस्को
Sarnath WHS	Varanasi ghats	Inscribed **2026** vs still **Tentative**	सारनाथ / वाराणसी घाट
Ramlila ICH	Taj Mahal WHS	Intangible 2008 performance vs tangible 1983 tomb	रामलीला / ताज
Masterpiece year	Representative List year	Kutiyattam **2001** / Vedic **2003** / Ramlila **2005** vs all three on RL in **2008**	घोषणा / प्रतिनिधि सूची
World Heritage Day	ICH Convention day	**18 April** vs **17 October 2003**	18 अप्रैल / 17 अक्टूबर

14.5 UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India

Site	State/UT	Year	Type
Agra Fort	**UP**	1983	Cultural
Ajanta Caves	Maharashtra	1983	Cultural
Ellora Caves	Maharashtra	1983	Cultural
Taj Mahal	**UP**	1983	Cultural
Sun Temple, Konark (कोणार्क)	Odisha	1984	Cultural
Group of Monuments, Mahabalipuram (महाबलीपुरम)	Tamil Nadu	1984	Cultural
Kaziranga National Park	Assam	1985	Natural
Manas Wildlife Sanctuary	Assam	1985	Natural
Keoladeo National Park	Rajasthan	1985	Natural
Churches and Convents of Goa (गोवा)	Goa	1986	Cultural
Khajuraho Group of Monuments	Madhya Pradesh	1986	Cultural
Group of Monuments, Hampi (हम्पी)	Karnataka	1986	Cultural
Fatehpur Sikri	**UP**	1986	Cultural
Group of Monuments, Pattadakal (पट्टदकल)	Karnataka	1987	Cultural
Elephanta (एलिफेंटा) Caves	Maharashtra	1987	Cultural
Great Living Chola Temples	Tamil Nadu	1987/2004	Cultural
Sundarbans National Park	West Bengal	1987	Natural
Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers	Uttarakhand	1988/2005	Natural
Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi	Madhya Pradesh	1989	Cultural
Humayun's Tomb	Delhi	1993	Cultural
Qutb (कुतुब) Minar and its Monuments	Delhi	1993	Cultural
Mountain Railways of India	TN / WB / HP	1999/2005/2008	Cultural
Mahabodhi Temple Complex, Bodh Gaya	Bihar	2002	Cultural
Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka	Madhya Pradesh	2003	Cultural
Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park	Gujarat	2004	Cultural
Chhatrapati Shivaji (शिवाजी) Maharaj Terminus	Maharashtra	2004	Cultural
Red Fort Complex	Delhi	2007	Cultural
Jantar Mantar, Jaipur	Rajasthan	2010	Cultural
Western Ghats	Multi-state	2012	Natural
Hill Forts of Rajasthan	Rajasthan	2013	Cultural
Rani-ki-Vav, Patan	Gujarat	2014	Cultural
Great Himalayan National Park	Himachal Pradesh	2014	Natural
Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara	Bihar	2016	Cultural
The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier (Capitol Complex)	Chandigarh	2016	Cultural (serial)
Khangchendzonga National Park	Sikkim	2016	**Mixed**
Historic City of Ahmadabad	Gujarat	2017	Cultural
Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai	Maharashtra	2018	Cultural
Jaipur City	Rajasthan	2019	Cultural

Site	State/UT	Year	Type
Kakatiya (काकतीय) Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple	Telangana	2021	Cultural
Dholavira: a Harappan City	Gujarat	2021	Cultural
Santiniketan	West Bengal	2023	Cultural
Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas	Karnataka	2023	Cultural
Moidams – Ahom mound-burial system	Assam	2024	Cultural
Maratha Military Landscapes of India	Maharashtra + Tamil Nadu	2025	Cultural
Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath	**UP**	2026	Cultural

14.6 UNESCO Intangible Heritage List (India)

Element	Year	Region
Kutiyattam (Koodiyattam (कूड़ियाट्टम)), Sanskrit theatre	2001★ / RL 2008	Kerala
Tradition of Vedic chanting	2003★ / RL 2008	Pan-India
Ramlila, performance of the Ramayana (रामायण)	2005★ / RL 2008	North India, **UP** centre
Ramman, religious festival and ritual theatre	2009	Uttarakhand
Mudiyettu, ritual theatre and dance drama	2010	Kerala
Kalbelia folk songs and dances	2010	Rajasthan
Chhau dance	2010	JH / WB / Odisha
Buddhist chanting of Ladakh	2012	Ladakh
Sankirtana of Manipur	2013	Manipur
Thatheras' brass and copper craft of Jandiala Guru	2014	Punjab
Nawrouz / Novruz	2016	Multinational
Yoga	2016	Pan-India
Kumbh Mela	2017	Four sacred cities
Durga Puja in Kolkata	2021	West Bengal
Garba of Gujarat	2023	Gujarat
Deepavali	2025	Pan-India

Common Traps

- India WHS is **45**, not 43. UP is **4**, not 3. Add **Sarnath 2026**.
- **Varanasi ghats** are still Tentative. Sarnath ≠ the ghats.
- **Khajuraho** is MP, not UP. **Humayun's Tomb** is Delhi, not UP.
- Only mixed WHS = **Khangchendzonga**, Sikkim. Kaziranga is **natural**.
- **Jaipur City (2019)** ≠ **Jantar Mantar (2010)**. Session city = **Baku**.
- **Ramappa** is Telangana **2021**. Hoysala is Karnataka **2023**. Do not swap.
- Maratha landscapes include **Gingee, TN**, not Maharashtra-only.
- World Heritage Day is **18 April**, not 18 May and not 17 October.
- **1972** sites vs **2003** living heritage. Do not reverse.
- Ramsar ≠ WHS. **Keoladeo** is a rare both. **Sultanpur** and **Rudrasagar** are not WHS.
- **Bharatanatyam / Kathak / Nautanki** are not named ICH. **Deepavali now is** (2025).

- Kutiyattam **2001** Masterpiece and **2008** RL are the **same** element.
- ASI-protected ≠ UNESCO inscribed.

Topic 15 — Archaeology

Current Affairs

- In **2025–26** ASI (पुरातत्व सर्वेक्षण) dug Rakhigarhi (राखीगढ़ी) Mound 7. Burials went to **AnSI Kolkata**. aDNA samples went to **BSIP Lucknow (लखनऊ)**. The site remains in **Haryana**, not Uttar Pradesh (उत्तर प्रदेश).
- **Sarnath** (सारनाथ) was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage (विश्व धरोहर) site in **2026**.

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Confused Pairs

A	B	Correct	Hindi
Archaeology	History	Material remains and excavation vs written narrative	पुरातत्व / इतिहास
Stratigraphy	Typology	Layer age vs artefact-style comparison	स्तरिकी / प्रकारिकी
Vertical excavation	Horizontal excavation	Time sequence vs one-period layout	ऊर्ध्वाधर / क्षैतिज
C-14	Thermoluminescence	Organic carbon vs fired clay/brick	कार्बन-14 / ताप-संदीप्ति
Sahni 1921	Banerji 1922	**Harappa** vs **Mohenjo-daro**	साहनी / बनर्जी
Marshall	Wheeler	Announces IVC / mass dig vs **1946** scientific grid	मार्शल / व्हीलर
Rakhigarhi	Alamgirpur	**Haryana**, largest vs **Meerut UP**, easternmost	राखीगढ़ी / आलमगीरपुर
Lothal	Dholavira	Dockyard vs reservoirs and signboard (both Gujarat)	लोथल / धोलावीरा
In-situ	Ex-situ	Conserve on the mound vs shift to a museum	स्थान पर / स्थानांतरित
Bhimbetka	Harappa	Prehistoric rock shelter, **MP** vs IVC city	भीमबेटका / हड़प्पा

Common Traps

- **Rakhigarhi = Haryana**, never UP. Largest ≠ easternmost.
- **Alamgirpur = eastern** edge. **Manda = northern** (J&K).
- **Mandi and Hulas = Uttar Pradesh. Padri = Gujarat. Balu = Haryana.
- **Sahni = Harappa 1921. Banerji = Mohenjo-daro 1922**. Do not swap.
- **Wheeler ≠ first IVC excavator**. He is the 1946 grid.
- **C-14 ≠ stone/metal**. Organic only.
- **Vertical ≠ horizontal**. Time vs plan.
- **Bhimbetka = Wakankar + MP**, not Harappan, not UP.
- **Lothal = dock. Dholavira = water**. Both Gujarat.
- **Sanauli ≠ Alamgirpur**. Chariot 2018, Baghpat.
- **Mohenjo-daro is in Pakistan**. Boat models = Mohenjo-daro **and** Lothal.
- Lion Capital find = **Oertel 1904–05**, not Cunningham's 1835 survey.
- 2026 Rakhigarhi DNA at **Lucknow lab** does not move the site into UP.

Topic 16 — Awards, Personalities & GI Tags

Current Affairs

- Sahitya Akademi **Yuva Puraskar (युवा पुरस्कार) 2025** ran in **23** languages. **Dogri** was not on the list.
- The **58th Jnanpith (ज्ञानपीठ)** went to **Rambhadracharya** (Sanskrit), in a cycle shared with Gulzar. The prize began in **1965**.
- The **2025** Padma (पद्मा) Vibhushan (पद्म विभूषण) in Art went to **L. Subramaniam**.
- In **June 2026** the Sangeet Natak Akademi announced Fellowships and Awards for **2024** and **2025**.

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UKPCS Prelims 2025

Q. UKPCS Prelims 2025, Q53

Who among the following received the Padma Shri Award in 2025 for social work from Uttarakhand (उत्तराखंड)?

A. Dr. Yashwant Singh Katoch B. Dr. Madhuri Barthwal C. Smt. Radha Bahin Bhatt D. Shri Hugh and Colleen Gantzer (posthumously)

Q. UKPCS Prelims 2025, Q49

Which one of the following books is NOT written by Pushpesh Pant, a noted author of Uttarakhand?

A. From the King's Table to Street Food B. Victory Mantra: The Leader's Path to Success C. Himalaya (हिमालय) Ke Barf (हिमालय के बर्फ) D. Lazzatnama (लज़्ज़तनामा)

Confused Pairs

A	B	Correct	Hindi
SNA	Sahitya / Lalit Kala	Performing **1952** vs letters **1954** / visual **1954**	संगीत नाटक / साहित्य / ललित कला
Sahitya Akademi Award	Jnanpith	Culture academy, annual book vs **Bharatiya Jnanpith trust, 1965**	साहित्य अकादमी / ज्ञानपीठ
Sahitya Yuva Puraskar	Bismillah Khan Yuva	Authors **≤35** vs young **performing** artists (SNA)	युवा पुरस्कार / बिस्मिल्लाह खां युवा
Akademi Award	Akademi Ratna	Annual discipline prize vs lifetime Fellowship	अकादमी पुरस्कार / अकादमी रत्न
Lalit Kala	NGMA	Visual **academy** vs modern-art **gallery**	ललित कला / राष्ट्रीय आधुनिक कला गैलरी
Bharat Ratna	Padma Vibhushan	Highest civilian vs second Padma tier	भारत रत्न / पद्म विभूषण
24 Akademi languages	22 Eighth Schedule	Adds **English + Rajasthani**	24 भाषाएँ / 22 अनुसूची
GI tag	Trademark	Place + community vs a firm's brand	भौगोलिक संकेत / व्यापार चिह्न
GI ministry	Culture ministry	**Commerce / DPIIT** runs GI; Culture runs Akademis	वाणिज्य / संस्कृति
MS Subbulakshmi	Lata Mangeshkar	First musician BR **1998** Carnatic vs playback BR **2001**	एम.एस. / लता
Bismillah Khan	Birju Maharaj	Shehnai, Varanasi, BR 2001 vs Kathak Lucknow, **not** BR	बिस्मिल्लाह / बिरजू

Common Traps

- SNA is **1952**. Sahitya and Lalit Kala are **1954**.
- **Jnanpith ≠ Sahitya Akademi**. First year **1965**.
- Yuva Puraskar **≤35** is Sahitya. **Bismillah Khan Yuva** is SNA.
- **24** Akademi languages ≠ **22** Schedule. **Bhojpuri** is not a separate Akademi language.
- **2025 Yuva**: 23 languages, **no Dogri**. Dogri is still a recognised language.
- First musician Bharat Ratna = **Subbulakshmi 1998**, not Ravi Shankar, not Bismillah.
- **1963 Bharat Ratna Zakir Husain ≠ tabla Ustad Zakir Hussain**.
- **Birju Maharaj** is Kathak, **not** Bharat Ratna.
- Tagore = Nobel **1913**, not Bharat Ratna.
- GI ministry = **Commerce**, registry **Chennai**, first = **Darjeeling Tea 2004**.
- Blue Pottery = **Jaipur**, not Lucknow. Chikankari = **Lucknow**, not Varanasi.
- SNA Ratna living cap is about **40**, not 5.
- Lalit Kala ≠ literature. NGMA ≠ the academy.

Topic 17 — UP Art, Culture & Demographics

Confused Pairs & Common Traps

Concept A	Concept B	Difference / Trap Clarification
Bateshwar Mela (Agra)	**Dadri Mela (Ballia)**	Both are large cattle fairs — Bateshwar is on the Yamuna in western UP; Dadri is on the Ganga in easternmost UP.
Dewa Sharif (Barabanki)	**Syed Salar (Bahraich)**	Dewa Sharif = Haji Waris Ali Shah (Barabanki); Syed Salar = Ghazi Miyan (Bahraich).
Kajri (Mirzapur)	**Charkula (Braj)**	Kajri = Monsoon folk song of Mirzapur/Banaras; Charkula = 108-lamp dance of Braj (Mathura).
Alha (Bundelkhand)	**Birha (Purvanchal)**	Alha = Martial heroic ballads of Alha-Udal (Bundelkhand); Birha = Lyrical narrative songs of Yadav community (Purvanchal).
IIPR (Kanpur)	**IISR (Lucknow)**	IIPR = Pulses (Kanpur); IISR = Sugarcane (Lucknow); NSI = Sugar (Kanpur).
IVRI (Bareilly)	**CIRG (Mathura)**	IVRI = Veterinary (Izatnagar, Bareilly); CIRG = Goats (Makhdoom, Farah, Mathura).
Highest SC % vs Absolute	**Kaushambi vs Sitapur**	Highest SC percentage = **Kaushambi (34.7%)**; Highest absolute SC population = **Sitapur**.
Lowest Literacy vs Female	**Shrawasti (Both)**	Shrawasti ranks lowest in overall literacy (46.7%), lowest in male literacy (57.2%), and lowest in female literacy (34.8%).
Highest Literacy District	**Gautam Buddha Nagar**	Gautam Buddha Nagar has highest overall literacy (80.1%) and male literacy (88.1%), but **Kanpur Nagar** holds highest female literacy (75.1%).

1. Demographics: Master Census 2011 Data for UP

1.1 Complete Census 2011 League Table

Demographic Parameter	Uttar Pradesh (उत्तर प्रदेश) Figure	National Average	Top District (Highest)	Bottom District (Lowest)
Total Population	**19,98,12,341** (19.98 Cr)	121.08 Crore	**Prayagraj (प्रयागराज) (59.54 Lakh)**	**Mahoba (8.75 Lakh)**
Decadal Growth Rate (2001–11)	**20.22%**	17.70%	**Gautam Buddha Nagar (49.1%)**	**Kanpur Nagar (9.9%)**
Population Density	**829 persons / km²**	382 persons / km²	**Ghaziabad (3,971)**	**Lalitpur (242)**
Sex Ratio (Females per 1000 Males)	**912**	943	**Jaunpur (1,024)**	**Gautam Buddha Nagar (851)**
Child Sex Ratio (0–6 years)	**902**	919	**Balrampur (950)**	**Baghpat (841)**
Overall Literacy Rate	**67.68%**	73.00%	**Gautam Buddha Nagar (80.12%)**	**Shrawasti (46.74%)**
Male Literacy Rate	**77.28%**	80.90%	**Gautam Buddha Nagar (88.06%)**	**Shrawasti (57.16%)**
Female Literacy Rate	**57.18%**	64.60%	**Kanpur Nagar (75.05%)**	**Shrawasti (34.78%)**
Scheduled Caste (अनुसूचित जाति) (SC) %	**20.69%** (4.13 Crore)	16.60%	**Kaushambi (34.72%)**	**Baghpat (11.44%)**
Scheduled Tribe (अनुसूचित जनजाति) (ST) %	**0.57%** (11.34 Lakh)	8.60%	**Sonbhadra (20.67%)**	**Baghpat / Jalaun (0.001%)**

Demographic Parameter	Uttar Pradesh (उत्तर प्रदेश) Figure	National Average	Top District (Highest)	Bottom District (Lowest)
Urban (नगरीय) Population %	**22.27%** (4.45 Crore)	31.16%	**Ghaziabad (67.6%)**	**Shrawasti (3.5%)**
Rural Population %	**77.73%** (15.53 Crore)	68.84%	**Shrawasti (96.5%)**	**Ghaziabad (32.4%)**

2. Master Calendar: Fairs & Festivals (Melas) of UP

Fair / Festival (Mela)	District / Venue	Sacred Occasion / Timing	Key Historical & Cultural Highlights
Kumbh (कुंभ) & Mahakumbh Mela	**Prayagraj** (Triveni Sangam (संगम))	Every 12 years (Makar Sankranti (मकर संक्रांति))	Inscribed on **UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage (2017)**; largest human gathering on Earth.
Ardh Kumbh Mela (कुंभ मेला)	**Prayagraj**	Every 6 years	Ritual (कर्मकाण्ड) bathing at the confluence of Ganga (गंगा), Yamuna, and mythical Saraswati (सरस्वती).
Magh Mela (माघ मेला)	**Prayagraj**	Annually in Jan–Feb	Month-long spiritual retreat where pilgrims (*Kalpavasis*) live in austerity on river sands.
Bateshwar Mela	**Agra** (आगरा) (Bateshwar)	Kartik Shukla Ekadashi	Historic **animal and cattle fair** held at the complex of 101 Shiva temples on the Yamuna.
Kailash Mela	**Agra** (Sikandra)	3rd Monday of Shravan	Commemorates the appearance of Lord Shiva's lingam.
Sulah-e-Kul Festival	**Agra**	February	Cultural festival initiated by Emperor Akbar (अकबर) celebrating universal peace and Hindu-Muslim amity.
Nauchandi Mela	**Meerut**	2nd Sunday after Holi	Lasts for a month; symbolic of communal harmony between the **Navchandi Devi Temple** and the **Dargah of Bale Miyan**.
Dewa Sharif Mela	**Barabanki**	Kartik month (Oct–Nov)	Annual Urs of celebrated 19th-century Sufi saint **Haji Waris Ali Shah**; famous for all-faith *Qawwalis*.
Syed Salar Masood Ghazi	**Bahraich**	Jyeshtha month (May–June)	Urs at the historical Dargah of Ghazi Miyan; pilgrims offer ornate *Nishan* (flags).
Shakumbhari (शाकंभरी) Devi Mela	**Saharanpur** (Behat)	Chaitra and Ashwin Navratri (नवरात्रि)	Held at the ancient Shaktipeeth temple of Goddess Shakumbhari in the Shivalik (शिवालिक) foothills.
Dadri Mela	**Ballia**	Kartik Purnima (Nov–Dec)	India's **second largest cattle fair**; named after Maharishi Bhrigu's disciple Dardar Muni.
Govind Saheb Mela	**Ambedkar (अम्बेडकर) Nagar** (Atraulia)	Agahan Sankranti (Dec–Jan)	Large rustic rural fair commemorating Mahatma Govind Saheb; famous for cattle and indigenous crafts.
Khichdi Mela	**Gorakhpur** (गोरखपुर) (Gorakhnath Math)	Makar Sankranti (14 Jan)	Devotees offer raw (रॉ) rice and pulses (*Khichdi*) to Guru (गुरु) Gorakhnath; month-long event.
Ramnagarhiya Mela	**Farrukhabad** (Ganga banks)	Magh month (Jan–Feb)	Month-long holy bathing gathering akin to Prayagraj Kalpavas.
Shringi Rampur Mela	**Farrukhabad**	Kartik Purnima & Dussehra (दशहरा)	Held at the hermitage of sage Shringi Rishi (who performed King Dasharatha's Putrakameshti Yajna).
Kampil Mela	**Farrukhabad** (Kampilya)	Chaitra month	Sacred pilgrimage festival of the **Jain community** at the birthplace of 13th Tirthankara Vimalnath.
Parikrama / Chaurasi Kosi (कोसी)	**Sitapur** (Naimisharanya (नैमिषारण्य))	Phalguna month	Pilgrims walk the 84-kos sacred perimeter of Naimisharanya (the legendary forest of 88,000 sages).

Fair / Festival (Mela)	District / Venue	Sacred Occasion / Timing	Key Historical & Cultural Highlights
Devi Patan Mela	**Balrampur** (Tulsipur)	Chaitra Navratri	Celebrated at the Maa Pateshwari Devi Shaktipeeth (associated with Guru Gorakhnath).
Kalinjar (कालिंजर) Mela	**Banda** (Kalinjar Fort)	Kartik Purnima	Historic gathering at Neelkanth (नीलकंठ) Mahadev temple inside the impregnable fort of Kalinjar.
Kajli Mela (काजली मेला)	**Mahoba**	Shravan Purnima	Commemorates the historic victory of warrior brothers **Alha and Udal** over Prithviraj (पृथ्वीराज) Chauhan.
Gola Gokaran Nath (गोला गोकर्णनाथ) Mela	**Lakhimpur Kheri**	Chaitra / Mahashivratri	Known as *"Chhoti Kashi (काशी)"*; Shiva temple associated with Ravana's penance.
Soron Mela	**Kasganj** (Soron Sukar Kshetra)	Margashirsha (Nov–Dec)	Held at the site of Lord Vishnu's **Varaha (boar) avatar** on the banks of Haripadi Ganga.
Lathmar Holi (लाठमार होली)	**Mathura** (Barsana (बरसाना) & Nandgaon)	Phalguna Shukla Navami	Women of Barsana (Radha's village) playfully beat men of Nandgaon (Krishna (कृष्णा)'s village) with wooden sticks (*Lathis*).
Huranga (हुरंगा) Holi	**Mathura** (Dauji / Baldeo)	Day after Dulhendi	Celebrated at Dauji temple where women tear the clothes of men and whip them playfully.
Chhari-mar Holi	**Mathura** (Gokul)	Phalguna Shukla Dwadashi	Women playfully strike young boys with soft canes (*Chharis*).
Dhrupad (ध्रुपद) Mela	**Varanasi** (Tulsi Ghat)	February / Mahashivratri	3-day all-night pure classical musical festival dedicated exclusively to the archaic **Dhrupad style**.
Nakkataiyya (नककटैया)	**Varanasi** (Chetganj)	Karva Chauth (चौथ) night	Procession celebrating Lakshmana severing the nose of Surpanakha from the Ramayana (रामायण).
Ramayan Mela	**Ayodhya (अयोध्या) & Chitrakoot (चित्रकूट)**	Initiated by Ram Manohar Lohia	Conceived in 1961 by socialist leader Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia to celebrate composite folk culture.
Garhmukteshwar Mela	**Hapur** (Garh)	Kartik Purnima	Massive bathing fair on the Ganga; ancestral tarpan and large donkey/mule trade market.
Kakora Mela	**Badaun** (Ganga banks)	Kartik Purnima	Popularly revered as the **"Mini Kumbh of Rohilkhand"**.

6. Geographical Indications (GI Tags) & One District One Product (ODOP)

District	Registered GI Tag (भौगोलिक संकेत) Product(s)	Category & High-Yield Characteristics
Varanasi	**Banaras Brocades and Sarees**	World-famous handloom (हथकरघा) silk with gold/silver (रूपक) Zari.
Varanasi	**Gulabi Meenakari** (गुलाबी मीनाकारी)	Rare pink enamel metalwork on silver/gold jewellery.
Varanasi	**Wooden Lacquerware & Toys**	Lathe-turned traditional non-toxic wooden toys.
Varanasi	**Metal Repousse Craft**	Hand-embossed copper and brass temple sheets.
Varanasi	**Banarasi (बनारसी) Paan (Betel Leaf)**	Culturally iconic betel leaf preparation (GI Tag 2023).
Varanasi	**Banaras Langra Mango**	Distinct aromatic, greenish sweet mango variety.
Varanasi	**Ramnagar Bhanta (Brinjal)**	Giant round, sweet brinjal variety grown in Ramnagar.
Chandauli	**Adamchini Rice**	Aromatic non-basmati, slender indigenous rice variety.
Bhadohi	**Handmade Carpet of Bhadohi**	India's premier carpet export hub ("Carpet City").
Mirzapur	**Mirzapur Handmade Dari & Brassware**	Handwoven cotton/wool carpets and cast brass vessels.

District	Registered GI Tag (भौगोलिक संकेत) Product(s)	Category & High-Yield Characteristics
Gorakhpur	**Gorakhpur Terracotta (पकी मिट्टी)**	Distinctive reddish, baked-clay animal figurines made by local Prajapati potters.
Kannauj (कन्नौज)	**Kannauj Perfume (Ittar)**	Ancient hydro-distillation method (*Deg-Bhapka*); "Perfume Capital of India".
Firozabad	**Firozabad Glass (Glassware)**	Bangle-making and glass blowing capital ("Suhag Nagari").
Moradabad	**Moradabad Metal Craft**	Hand-engraved brassware ("Peetal Nagari").
Khurja (Bulandshahr)	**Khurja Ceramic Pottery**	Glazed ceramic tiles, bowls, and sanitaryware.
Saharanpur	**Saharanpur Wood Carving**	Intricate floral wood carving on Sheesham and teak.
Lucknow	**Lucknow Chikan Craft**	Delicate hand-embroidery on muslin/cotton (36 stitches).
Lucknow	**Lucknow Zardozi (ज़रदोज़ी)**	Raised metallic thread gold/silver embroidery.
Aligarh	**Aligarh Locks & Hardware**	Premier lock manufacturing centre of India ("Tala (ताल) Nagari").
Hathras	**Hathras Hing (Asafoetida)**	Renowned compounded asafoetida processing hub.
Sambhal	**Sambhal Horn & Bone Craft**	Upcycled animal bone and buffalo-horn decorative cutlery.
Amroha	**Amroha Dholak**	Percussion instruments carved from natural mango/sheesham wood.
Baghpat	**Baghpat Home Furnishings**	Handloom cotton bedsheets and woven fabrics.
Barabanki	**Barabanki Handloom**	Traditional rural loom-woven fabrics.
Kalpi (Jalaun)	**Kalpi Handmade Paper**	Eco-friendly handmade paper from waste rags/cotton pulp.
Mahoba	**Mahoba Gaura Patthar Hastashilp**	Soft, radiant white pyrophyllite stone carvings.
Mainpuri	**Mainpuri Tarkashi**	Inlaying brass, copper, or iron wire into seasoned sheesham wood.
Ghazipur	**Ghazipur Wall Hanging**	Jute and cotton hand-knotted ornamental tapestries.
Siddharthnagar	**Kalanamak Rice**	Scented black-husk rice; revered as *"Buddha's Gift"*.
Pratapgarh	**Pratapgarh Aonla (Gooseberry)**	Leading Indian producer of processed gooseberry products.
Prayagraj	**Surkha Guava**	Renowned apple-colored, sweet red-pulped guava.
Muzaffarnagar	**Muzaffarnagar Gur (Jaggery)**	Largest jaggery trading market in Asia.
Nizamabad (Azamgarh)	**Nizamabad Black Pottery**	Fired under reduction in sawdust pits, yielding a lustrous black finish etched with silvery zinc-mercury foil.

Uttarakhand — Topic 1 — Folk Culture of UK

Quick Revision — Spine Only

Head	Key Fact
Aipan (Ritual Folk Art (लोक कला))	**Kumaon** (कुमाऊँ) floor/wall art made with **Geru** (गेरू) (red ochre) and **Biswar** (बिसवार) (white rice paste); **GI Tag (भौगोलिक संकेत) 2021**
Aipan Special Chauki	*Dhuli Arghya Chauki* (wedding ritual); *Lakshmi Padchinha* (Diwali (दिवाली) footprints)
Jagar Ritual	Shamanic spirit invocation; **Jagaria** (जगरिया) (singer/chanter) + **Dangariya** (डंगरिया) (spirit medium in trance)
Hiljatra (हिलजात्रा) Festival	**Pithoragarh (पिथौरागढ़) (Sor Valley)** agricultural festival; central iconic (साकार) figure: **Lakhia Bhoot** (लाखिया भूत)
Ramman (रम्माण) (UNESCO Heritage)	Celebrated at **Saloor-Dungra** (सलूर-डुंगरा) (Chamoli (चमोली)); inscribed on **UNESCO Intangible Heritage (अभौतिक विरासत) in 2009**
Ramman Deity & Masks	Dedicated to **Bhumiyal Devta** (भूमियाल देवता); 18 wooden masks (*Mukhota*: Dyot Pattar & Khyari Pattar)
Pawada (पावाड़ा) / Bhada	Heroic folk ballads narrating martial exploits of warriors (Madho Singh, Kafu Chauhan, Jeetu Bagdwal)
Khuded (खुदेड) Geet	Melancholy songs of newlywed brides longing for their maternal home (*Mait*)
Bair Songs	Intellectual lyrical duels and verbal poetic sparring between bards in Kumaon
Neoli Geet	Romantic lyrical folk songs of Kumaon expressing separation and love

Ramman: The UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage (2009)

Dimension	Factual & Epigraphic Details
Location & Community	**Saloor-Dungra village**, near Joshimath in **Chamoli district**. Managed by the Bhandari Rajput (राजपूत) community and Gram Sabha (ग्राम सभा).
UNESCO Recognition (मान्यता)	Inscribed on the **UNESCO Representative List (प्रतिनिधि) of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity** on **2 October 2009**.
Presiding Deity	**Bhumiyal Devta** (the local guardian earth deity); the festival culminates when the deity's idol shifts to a new villager's home for annual custody.
Two Categories of Masks	1. **Pattar (Dyot Pattar):** Sacred divine masks depicting **Lord Narsingh** (most revered), Rama, Sita (सीता), Lakshmana, and Hanuman. 2. **Khyari Pattar:** Comic and secular masks representing historical and social characters.
Celebrated Dance Acts	- **Mal-Nrit (Dance of the Wrestlers):** Depicts the combat between a Gorkha warrior and a local Garhwali warrior. - **Kurukhyo Dance:** Enacts the stealing of sheep by thieves and wild animals. - **Baniya-Baniyan Dance:** Humorous satire depicting a plains trader being robbed.
Musical Instruments	Rhythmic tempo provided by **Dhol-Damau** and high-pitched copper **Bhankoras**.

Classification of Uttarakhand Folk Songs (Geet)

Folk Song (सोंग) Genre	Linguistic Zone	Performance Occasion & Emotional Essence
Pawada / Bhada	Garhwal (गढ़वाल) & Kumaon	**Martial & Heroic Ballads:** Epic songs praising historical chivalry (e.g., Madho Singh Bhandari, Kafu Chauhan, Ranajita Pundir).

Folk Song (सोंग) Genre	Linguistic Zone	Performance Occasion & Emotional Essence
Khuded Geet	Garhwal	**Songs of Separation & Yearning:** Sung by women in terraced fields expressing longing for their maternal home (*Mait*) and mother (*Boi*).
Mangal Geet	Garhwal & Kumaon	**Auspicious Ceremonial Songs:** Sung by professional elderly women (*Mangal-mukhi*) during weddings, thread ceremonies, and births.
Bair Geet	Kumaon	**Intellectual Folk Debates:** Competitive, improvised rhyming songs where two opposing bards challenge each other's mythological and worldly knowledge.
Neoli Geet	Kumaon	**Lyrical Romantic Poetry:** Expresses love, beauty of nature, and pangs of separation.
Jhumailo (झुमैलो)	Garhwal	**Spring Celebration:** Group songs welcoming the arrival of spring (*Basant*) and blossoming of *Buransh* (बुरांश) flowers.
Hurkiya Baul (हुड़किया बौल)	Kumaon	**Agrarian Paddy Songs:** Sung during paddy transplantation (*Ropai*) accompanied by the *Hurka* drum.

Confused Pairs & Common Traps

Confused Pair	Critical Distinction
Jagaria vs Dangariya	Jagaria = **singer/chanter of the Jagar**; Dangariya = **person possessed / medium**.
Ramman vs Ramlila	Ramman = **UNESCO mask dance-drama at Saloor-Dungra (Chamoli)**; Ramlila = pan-Indian dialogue play.
Aipan vs Rangoli	Aipan = **Kumaoni sacred ritual art on Geru with rice-paste Biswar (GI tagged)**; Rangoli = dry colored powders.
Hiljatra vs Nanda Raj Jat	Hiljatra = **Pithoragarh agricultural mask festival (Lakhia Bhoot)**; Nanda Raj Jat = **Chamoli 280 km 12-year yatra**.
Pawada vs Khuded	Pawada = **Heroic martial ballad**; Khuded = **Melancholy song longing for maternal home**.

Uttarakhand — Topic 2 — Dances, Music & Fairs

Quick Revision — Spine Only

Head	Cultural & Prelims Key
State Animal	**Alpine Musk Deer** (*Moschus chrysogaster* / Kasturi Mriga)
State Bird	**Himalayan Monal** (*Lophophorus impejanus* / Danfe)
State Tree	**Buransh** (बुरांश) (*Rhododendron arboreum*) — scarlet red flowers
State Flower	**Brahma Kamal** (ब्रह्मकमल) (*Saussurea obvallata* / local name: *Kaul Padma (पद्मा)*)
State Musical Instrument	**Dhol & Damau** (declared officially in **2015**)
State Butterfly	**Common Peacock** (*Papilio bianor*, declared 2016)
State Song (सोंग) (2016)	*"Uttarakhand Devbhumi Matribhumi"* (lyrics: Hemant Bisht; music: Narendra Singh Negi)
Nanda Devi (नंदा देवी) Raj Jat (नंदा देवी राज जात)	Celebrated every **12 years**; **280 km foot yatra** from **Nauti** to **Homkund** (त्रिशूल); 4-horned ram (*Khadu*)
Devidhura (देवीधुरा) Bagwal (बग्वाल) Fair	**Champawat** (चंपावत) (Barahi temple); historic (ऐतिहासिक) stone-pelting battle (*Pashan Yuddha*) on Raksha Bandhan
Jauljibi (जौलजीबी) Mela	**Pithoragarh** (पिथौरागढ़); confluence of Gori & Kali (काली) rivers; started 1914 by Gajendra Bahadur Pal
Chholiya (छोलिया) Dance	Ancient martial sword dance of **Kumaon** (कुमाऊँ) performed at Rajput (राजपूत) weddings
Langvir Nritya (लांगवीर नृत्य)	Acrobatic folk dance of **Garhwal** (गढ़वाल) where a male balances on top of a bamboo pole
Jhora (झोड़ा) & Chanchari	Circular community singing dances of Kumaon
Padma Shri 2025 (Social Work)	**Radha Bahin Bhatt** (Lakshmi Ashram, Kausani) (UKPCS 2025 Q53)

Master Table of Fairs (Melas) of Uttarakhand

Mela / Fair	District & Venue	Auspicious Date / Occasion	High-Yield Prelims Characteristics
Uttarayani Mela	**Bageshwar** (बागेश्वर) (Saryu-Gomti confluence)	Makar Sankranti (मकर संक्रांति) (January)	Historic cultural-trade fair; venue of 1921 Coolie-Begar register immersion.
Devidhura Bagwal	**Champawat** (Barahi Devi temple)	Raksha Bandhan (Shravan Purnima)	Traditional stone-throwing mela (*Pashan Yuddha*) between 4 *Khams*.
Jauljibi Mela	**Pithoragarh** (Gori-Kali confluence)	November (Makar Sankranti)	Started in 1914 by Gajendra Bahadur Pal of Askot; tri-junction trade (पण्याध्यक्ष) with Nepal & Tibet.
Purnagiri Mela	**Champawat** (Tanakpur)	Chaitra Navratri (नवरात्रि)	Dedicated to Goddess Purnagiri (Shaktipeeth where Sati's belly/nabhi fell).
Chaiti (चैती) Mela	**Kashipur** (Udham Singh Nagar (ऊधम सिंह नगर))	Chaitra Navratri	Held at **Maa Balsundari Temple** (Ujjain (उज्जैन) fort); patronized heavily by the **Buksa** tribe.
Bissu Mela	**Dehradun** (देहरादून) (Chakrata, Jaunsar-Bawar)	Baisakhi (बैसाखी)	Jaunsari tribal (आदिवासी) fair featuring the martial archery dance (*Thoda*).
Syaldey-Bikhauti	**Almora** (अल्मोड़ा) (Dwarahat)	Baisakhi	Traditional stick fight between rival clans (*Oda Bhentna* custom).
Somnath (सोमनाथ) Mela	**Almora** (Masi, Ramganga (रामगंगा) river)	Baisakhi month	Famous historic livestock and bullock-trading fair of Kumaon.
Vaikunth Chaturdashi	**Srinagar Garhwal** (Kamleshwar)	Kartik Shukla Chaturdashi	Women pray standing all night with burning lamps (*Khada Diya*) for progeny.

Mela / Fair	District & Venue	Auspicious Date / Occasion	High-Yield Prelims Characteristics
Gend Mela	**Pauri (पौड़ी) Garhwal** (Dandmandi)	Makar Sankranti	Traditional football/leather ball (*Gend*) tussle between two territorial divisions.
Kumbh (कुंभ) & Ardh Kumbh	**Haridwar** (हरिद्वार) (Ganga (गंगा) river)	Every 12 & 6 years	Imperial ritual (कर्मकाण्ड) bathing gathering of Akharas and millions of pilgrims.

Folk Musical Instruments of Uttarakhand

Instrument Category	Name of Instrument	Physical Description & Performance Context
Avanaddha (अवनद्ध) *(Membranophone)*	**Dhol & Damau**	**Official State Musical Instrument (declared 2015)**. Dhol is a wooden barrel drum played with one stick and hand; Damau is a smaller copper bowl drum played with two thin sticks. Played by the *Auji / Dholi* masters.
Avanaddha *(Hourglass)*	**Hurka**	Small waist-drum held in hand and played with fingers; lead instrument in Kumaoni *Hurkiya Baul* (हुड़किया बौल) and ballads.
Sushira (सुषिर) *(Aerophone / Wind)*	**Bhankora**	Long, straight copper trumpet (about 3–4 feet long) blown exclusively in religious processions and *Deva-Karya*.
Sushira *(Wind / Horn)*	**Ransingha**	Curved S-shaped brass trumpet blown during martial parades, weddings, and royal entries.
Sushira *(Bagpipe)*	**Moshakbeen** (मोशकबीन)	Highland Scottish bagpipe adapted completely into Kumaoni and Garhwali wedding brass bands.
Ghana (घन) *(Idiophone)*	**Thali & Dor**	Bronze plate (*Kansi ki Thali*) struck with wooden sticks over an inverted brass jar (*Dor*) during *Jagar* (जागर) (shamanic rituals).

Confused Pairs & Common Traps

Confused Pair	Critical Distinction
Radha Bahin Bhatt vs Madhuri Barthwal	Radha Bahin Bhatt = **2025 Padma Shri (Social Work)**; Madhuri Barthwal = **2022 Padma Shri (Folk Music)**.
Pandav Nritya vs Pandavani	Pandav Nritya = **Garhwal ritual dance**; Pandavani = **Chhattisgarh ballad theatre (Teejan Bai)**.
Chholiya vs Chhapeli	Chholiya = **Martial sword dance** (Rajput weddings); Chhapeli = **Romantic duet with handkerchief/mirror**.
Devidhura vs Jauljibi	Devidhura = **Stone-pelting Bagwal mela** (Champawat); Jauljibi = **Gori-Kali confluence trade mela** (Pithoragarh).
Nanda Raj Jat Start vs End	Starts at **Nauti village**; ends at **Homkund** (distance: 280 km, every 12 years).
State Flower vs State Tree	State Flower = **Brahma Kamal**; State Tree = **Buransh** (Rhododendron).

Uttarakhand — Topic 3 — Heritage & Cultural Institutes

3. Master Directory: Central & State Research Institutes in Uttarakhand

3.1 Dehradun & Mussoorie Cluster

Institution	Location	Est. Year	High-Yield Prelims Profile & Mandate
Forest Research Institute (FRI)	Dehradun	**1906**	Founded as *Imperial Forest Research Institute*; magnificent Greco-Roman building inaugurated in 1929 by Viceroy (वायसराय) Lord Irwin; deemed university status since 1991. Six specialized museums inside.
Survey of India (SOI) HQ	Dehradun	**1767**	**Oldest scientific department of the Government of India** (originally founded under East India Company (कंपनी)); HQ shifted from Calcutta to Dehradun in **1942**. Apex national mapping agency.
Wildlife Institute of India (WII) (भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान)	Chandrabani, Dehradun	**1982**	Autonomous institution under MoEFCC (पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय); apex research institute for wildlife ecology (पारिस्थितिकी), tiger census, biodiversity monitoring, and habitat (वास स्थान) conservation.
Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS)	Dehradun	**1966**	Unit of the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**; established as the Indian Photo-interpretation Institute (IPI) with Dutch collaboration; premier training centre in geospatial tech.
Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG)	Dehradun	**1968**	Founded in Delhi by world-renowned geologist **Prof. D. N. Wadia**; shifted permanently to Dehradun in **1976**; autonomous DST institute dedicated to Himalayan tectonic evolution, glaciers, and seismology.
Indian Military Academy (IMA)	Dehradun	**1932**	Established on **1 October 1932** following the Chetwode Committee recommendations; inaugurated by Field Marshal Sir Philip Chetwode (*Chetwode Motto: "The safety, honour and welfare of your country come first, always and every time"*).
Indira Gandhi (गांधी) National Forest Academy (IGNFA)	Dehradun	**1987**	Formerly the Indian Forest College (1938); staff college responsible for training Indian Forest Service (IFS) probationers.
Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) HQ	Tel Bhavan, Dehradun	**1956**	National headquarters of India's premier Maharatna energy exploration enterprise; established under the Ministry of Petroleum.
CSWCRTI	Dehradun	**1974**	**Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute** (ICAR); pioneer in watershed management (वाटरशेड (जलग्रहण) प्रबंधन) and ravine reclamation.
LBSNAA	Mussoorie	**1959**	**Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration**; founded at Charleville Hotel; apex national training academy for IAS and All-India Civil Services officers.
Uttarakhand Bhasha Sansthan	Dehradun	**2009**	State language institute established for the promotion and preservation of Hindi, Sanskrit, Garhwali, Kumaoni, and Jaunsari dialects.

3.2 Haridwar (हरिद्वार) & Roorkee Cluster

Institution	Location	Est. Year	High-Yield Prelims Profile & Mandate
IIT Roorkee	Roorkee	**1847**	**Oldest technical institution in Asia**; founded as *Thomason College of Civil Engineering* by Lt. Gov. James Thomason; renamed University of Roorkee in 1949 (independent India's first engineering university); declared 7th IIT on **21 September 2001**.
Central Building Research Institute (CBRI)	Roorkee	**1947**	Constituent laboratory of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR); develops earthquake-resistant low-cost housing technologies and structural (संरचनात्मक) retrofitting.

Institution	Location	Est. Year	High-Yield Prelims Profile & Mandate
National Institute of Hydrology (NIH)	Roorkee	**1978**	Apex autonomous R&D organisation under the Ministry of Jal Shakti (शक्ति); investigates surface runoff, groundwater hydrology, and glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs).
Gurukul (गुरुकुल) Kangri (गुरुकुल कांगड़ी) Vishwavidyalaya	Haridwar	**1902**	Founded on **4 March 1902** by **Swami (स्वामी) Shraddhanand** (Mahatma Munshi Ram) on Vedic gurukul lines; deemed university status in 1962; famous for ancient Vedic studies, Ayurveda, and indigenous sciences.
Uttarakhand Sanskrit University	Haridwar	**2005**	State university established for higher research and dissemination of Sanskrit literature, Vedic mathematics, and ritual philosophy.

3.3 Nainital, Bhimtal & Mukteshwar Cluster

Institution	Location	Est. Year	High-Yield Prelims Profile & Mandate
ARIES	Manora Peak, Nainital	**1954**	**Aryabhatta Research Institute of Observational Sciences**; established at Varanasi in 1954, shifted to Manora Peak (Nainital) in **1955**; operates the world-class **3.6m Devasthal Optical Telescope** (Asia's largest ground-based optical telescope).
Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI)	Mukteshwar (Nainital)	**1893**	Established in **1893** by **Dr. Alfred Lingard** as the *Imperial Bacteriological Laboratory* (shifted from Pune (पुणे)); developed world-saving vaccines for Rinderpest (cattle plague), anthrax, and swine fever. Main campus later expanded to Izatnagar (Bareilly).
Directorate of Coldwater Fisheries (DCFR)	Bhimtal (Nainital)	**1987**	Premier ICAR national research body for hill aquaculture, breeding of Golden Mahseer (*Tor putitora*), and trout culture. *(Exam Trap: Located in Bhimtal, NOT Haldwani)*.
Uttarakhand Administrative Academy (ATI)	Nainital	**1988**	Formerly UP State Administrative Academy (1974); premier academy for training state civil service (UKPCS / SDM / DSP) officers. Named as *Dr. R.S. Tolia Uttarakhand Academy of Administration*.
High Court of Uttarakhand	Nainital	**2000**	Established on **9 November 2000** alongside the creation of the state; seated in the historic (ऐतिहासिक) colonial Gothic building constructed by Sir Antony MacDonnell in 1900.

3.4 Almora & Udham Singh Nagar Cluster

Institution	Location	Est. Year	High-Yield Prelims Profile & Mandate
GBPUAT Pantnagar	Pantnagar (US Nagar)	**1960**	**Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology**; inaugurated on **17 November 1960** by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru; India's first agricultural university, designed on US Land-Grant model; hailed as the *"Cradle of India's Green Revolution"*.
VPKAS	Almora	**1924**	**Vivekananda (विवेकानंद) Parvatiya Krishi Anusandhan Sansthan**; founded in 1924 by the world-famed plant physiologist **Prof. Boshi Sen** (disciple of Sir J.C. Bose and Swami Vivekananda) as Vivekananda Laboratory in Kolkata; transferred to Almora in 1936; taken over by ICAR in 1974.
G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (पर्यावरण) (NIHE)	Kosi-Katarmal, Almora	**1988**	Autonomous apex institute under MoEFCC; focal agency for environmental impact assessment, alpine biodiversity conservation, and sustainable mountain development.
Uday Shankar Academy of Dance and Drama	Almora	**2003**	Established to perpetuate the legacy of legendary cultural maestro Uday Shankar, who ran his famed India Cultural Centre at Almora (1938–1944).

3.5 Higher Alpine & Specialized Institutes

Institution	Location	Est. Year	High-Yield Prelims Profile & Mandate
Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (NIM)	Uttarkashi (उत्तरकाशी)	**1965**	Established on **14 November 1965** to commemorate Pt. Nehru's passion for the mountains; premier mountaineering institute in India; trained legendary climbers including Bachendri Pal.
Herbal Research and Development Institute (HRDI)	Mandal, Gopeshwar (Chamoli)	**1989**	Apex state nodal agency under AYUSH for in-situ (स्थान पर) conservation (स्व-स्थाने संरक्षण), germplasm banking, and commercial cultivation of high-altitude rare Himalayan herbs (Kutki (कुटकी), Jatamansi (जटामांसी), Keeda Jadi (कीड़ा जड़ी) / Cordyceps).
HAPPRC	Srinagar (Garhwal)	**1979**	**High Altitude Plant Physiology Research Centre** at Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University; researches cold-tolerance genetics of alpine medicinal flora (वनस्पति).

Confused Pairs & Common Traps

Concept A	Concept B	Difference / Trap Clarification
Coldwater Fisheries (DCFR)	**Fisheries Directorate**	Coldwater Fisheries sits at **Bhimtal** — **not Haldwani**! (Planted error in UKPCS 2025 Q54).
IVRI Mukteshwar (1893)	**IVRI Izatnagar (1898)**	Historical foundation & vaccine discovery = **Mukteshwar (UK)**; later main plains campus = **Bareilly (UP)**.
VPKAS Almora	**NIHE Kosi-Katarmal**	VPKAS = **Agriculture / Boshi Sen (1924)**; NIHE = **Himalayan Environment (1988)**. Both are in Almora district.
Shyamdas & Hardas (1658)	**Mola Ram (1743–1833)**	Shyamdas & Hardas = **Founders/Immigrants under Prithvipati Shah**; Mola Ram = **Great-grandson & supreme master**.
Valley of Flowers + Nanda Devi	**Kaziranga / Mountain Railways**	VoF + Nanda Devi = **Inside Uttarakhand** (One WHS); Kaziranga & Mountain Railways = **Outside Uttarakhand**.
Tasbirdar	**Mansabdar**	Tasbirdar = **Royal court post of painter/portraitist in Garhwal court**; Mansabdar = **Mughal military rank**.
IIT Roorkee foundation	**IIT status year**	Established in **1847** as Thomason College; converted to 7th IIT in **2001**.
FRI Main Building	**FRI Foundation**	Founded in **1906**; grand Greco-Roman building inaugurated in **1929** by Lord Irwin.

Uttarakhand — Topic 4 — Personalities, Literature & Press

1. History of Press & Journalism in Uttarakhand

Newspaper / Periodical	Year	Place of Publication	Founder / Editor	Historical Significance & Prelims Traps
The Hills	**1842**	**Mussoorie** (मसूरी)	**John Mckinnon**	**First newspaper published in Uttarakhand** and entire North Indian hill region. Printed in English at the *Mussoorie Press*. Ceased in 1850; restarted 1860 by Dr. Small.
The Mofussilite	1845	Meerut (मेरठ) / Mussoorie	**John Lang (लांग)**	Prominent Anglo-Indian newspaper; John Lang was Rani Lakshmibai (रानी लक्ष्मीबाई)'s British legal counsel.
Samay Vinod	**1868**	**Nainital** (नैनीताल)	**Jay Datt Joshi**	**First Hindi/Urdu bilingual fortnightly newspaper** of Uttarakhand. Printed at *Jaswant Press*, Nainital.
Almora Akhbar	**1871**	**Almora** (अल्मोड़ा)	**Buddhi Ballabh Pant**	Sponsored by **Almora Debating Club** (est. 1870). Munshi Imdad Ali, Jivananda Joshi also edited. In **1913, Badridatt Pandey** took over, transforming it into a fiery anti-colonial paper. **Banned in March 1918** by Deputy Commissioner Lomas for reporting on a British officer shooting a pregnant cow.
Garhwal Samachar	**1902**	**Dugadda (Pauri (पौड़ी))**	**Girija Datt Naithani**	First newspaper dedicated to Garhwal region; printed at Gorkha Press; folded within two years due to financial scarcity.
Garhwali	**1905**	**Dehradun**	**Girija Datt Naithani / Tara Datt Gairola**	Organ of **Garhwal Hitkarini Sabha (सभा)**; later edited by **Chandramohan Raturi** and **Vishambhar Datt Chandola** (hailed as "Father of Journalism in Garhwal").
Shakti	**1918**	**Almora**	**Badridatt Pandey**	Weekly launched on **15 October 1918 (Vijayadashami)** immediately following the ban of *Almora Akhbar*. Flagship voice of the Kumaon freedom struggle and anti-begar agitation.
Tarun Bharat	**1922**	**Lansdowne**	**Barrister Mukandi Lal** (लैंसडाउन)	Inspired by Giuseppe Mazzini's "Young Italy" movement. Radical nationalist tone.
Swadhin Praja	**1930**	**Almora**	**Victor Mohan Joshi**	Fearless nationalist organ; suspended multiple times under British Press Ordinances for backing the Salt (लवणाध्यक्ष) Satyagraha (सत्याग्रह).
Samta	**1934**	**Almora**	**Munshi Hari Prasad Tamta**	**First Dalit (Shilpkar) weekly newspaper** of Uttarakhand. Spearheaded anti-untouchability and Arya Samaj-led Shilpkar reform movements.
Prajabandhu	1922	Ranikhet	**Jiva (जीव) Nand Joshi**	Campaigned on civic issues, hill peasant distress, and local governance in Almora.
Karmabhoomi	**1939**	**Lansdowne**	**Bhairav Datt Dhulia & Bhakt Darshan**	Voice of Congress and nationalist struggle in Garhwal; actively guided the Quit India (भारत छोड़ो) Movement of 1942.
Yugvani	**1947**	**Dehradun**	**Bhagwati Prasad Panthari & Gopeshwar Kothiyal**	Launched on 15 August 1947; chronicled the **Tehri Praja Mandal** struggle against the monarchy (राजतंत्र) and integration into the Indian Union.
Uttaronthan	1957	Almora	**Jyotiram Kandpal**	Gandhian development and post-independence hill issues.

2. Uttarakhand Literature, Famous Books & Authors

2.1 Classical & Historical Treatises

Book / Chronicle	Author	High-Yield Content & Exam Details
Himalayan Gazetteer (12 volumes)	**E. T. Atkinson** (Edwin Thomas Atkinson)	Published between 1882–1886 as part of *The Gazetteer of the North-Western Provinces*. The definitive colonial encyclopedic source for Himalayan history, flora (वनस्पति), fauna (प्राणीजात), and ethnography.
Garhwal Ka Itihas (1928)	**Pandit Harikrishna Raturi**	First comprehensive modern history of Garhwal written by a native scholar (Dewan of Tehri State). Covers Parmar dynasty genealogy, administration, and social customs.
Kumaon Ka Itihas (1937)	**Badridatt Pandey**	Written during his imprisonment in **Bareilly Central Jail**; detailed history of Chand dynasty, Gorkha invasion, British period, and folk traditions.
Uttarakhand Ka Itihas (12 volumes)	**Dr. Shiv Prasad Dabral 'Charan'**	Encyclopedic magnum opus written from his study at Dogadda (Pauri). Dabral earned the title *"Encyclopedia of Uttarakhand"* for this monumental research.
Garhwal: Ancient and Modern (1916)	**Rai (राई) Bahadur Pati Ram**	First scholarly historical work on Garhwal written in English by an Indian scholar; detailed survey of shrines, Badrinath-Kedarnath pilgrimage, and folkways.
Manodaya Kavya (काव्य)	**Bharat Kavi (Jyotik Rai)**	Sanskrit epic composed during the reign of Parmar ruler **Raja (राजा) Man Shah** (Garhwal); provides valuable historical dynastic chronology.
Fatehshah Prakash	**Kaviraj Sukhdev Mishra / Ramchandra**	Eulogizes the military conquests and golden courtly era of Parmar ruler **Fateh Shah** of Srinagar Garhwal.
Vrit Kaumudi	**Matiram**	Celebrated Hindi court poet of Fateh Shah; dedicated treatises on poetics and prosody to the king.
Sabhassar (7 volumes)	**Raja Sudarshan Shah**	Poetic masterwork in Brajbhasha written in 1828 by the founder of Tehri State; preserved at Tehri.
Gadhrajvansh Kavya *(गढ़राजवंश काव्य)*	**Mola Ram** (मोला राम)	Historical poetry composed in Brajbhasha by the iconic (साकार) Srinagar court painter-poet; documents Parmar royal events.
Aryon Ka Mool Niwas Sthan: Himalaya	**Bhajan Singh 'Singh'**	Propounds the thesis that the original homeland of the Vedic Aryans was the Central Himalayan belt.
British Garhwal Gazetteer (1910)	**H. G. Walton**	Colonial gazetteer covering topography, forests, revenue, and tribes of Pauri, Chamoli (चमोली), and Rudraprayag (रुद्रप्रयाग) areas.

3. Master Table: Personalities, Sobriquets & Titles

Personality	Well-Known Title / Sobriquet	Key Achievements, Roles & Prelims Identification
Badridatt Pandey	**Kumaon Kesari** (कुमाऊँ केसरी)	Leader of 1921 Coolie-Begar movement; editor of *Almora Akhbar* & *Shakti*; author of *Kumaon Ka Itihas*.
Anusuya Prasad Bahuguna	**Garh Kesari** (गढ़ केसरी)	Mainstay of Indian National Congress in Garhwal; founded Garhwal Youth League (1921); active in non-cooperation (असहयोग) and salt satyagraha.
Indramani Badoni	**Uttarakhand Gandhi** (उत्तराखंड के गांधी)	Born Akhori (Tehri); veteran social leader, master of Kedar Nritya (नृत्य); fasted unto death in 1994 demanding separate Uttarakhand state.
Dr. Shiv Prasad Dabral	**Charan / Encyclopedia of Uttarakhand**	Renowned historian, archaeologist, and geographer of Dugadda; authored the exhaustive 12-volume *Uttarakhand Ka Itihas*.
Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant	**Himalaya Putra** (हिमालय पुत्र)	**Conferred Bharat Ratna in 1957** (only Bharat Ratna awardee from Uttarakhand). First Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh (उत्तर प्रदेश); Union Home Minister.
Pandit Nain Singh Rawat	**The Pundit / Geographer-Explorer**	Native of Milam (Johar Valley, Pithoragarh (पिथौरागढ़)); secretly mapped trade (पण्याध्यक्ष) routes to Lhasa & Tibet by counting strides with rosary beads; awarded Royal Geographical Society Patron's Gold Medal in 1876; postal stamp issued 2004.

Personality	Well-Known Title / Sobriquet	Key Achievements, Roles & Prelims Identification
Kishan Singh Rawat	**A-K (Cartographer-Explorer)**	Brother of Nain Singh Rawat; surveyed Tibet, Aksai Chin, and Western Mongolia for the Survey of India.
Gaura Devi	**Chipko Mata** (चिपको माता)	Head of Reni village Mahila Mangal Dal; led 27 village women on **26 March 1974** hugging trees to stop contractors from felling forest.
Kalyan Singh Rawat	**Father of Maiti Movement** (मैती आंदोलन)	Biology teacher at Gwaldam who initiated the **Maiti Movement (1994)**, where a bride and groom plant an oak/fruit sapling at their wedding.
Sachidanand Bharti	**Pani Rakho Movement Hero**	Initiated water conservation and check-dam construction (*Chal-Khal* (चाल-खाल)) in Ufrainkhal (Pauri Garhwal) to regenerate degraded hill springs.
Vijay Jardhari	**Beej Bachao Andolan (बीज बचाओ आंदोलन) Hero**	Revived native indigenous Himalayan crops (Barahnaja (बारहनाजा) system: 12 mixed crops) at Jardhar village (Tehri).
Sunderlal Bahuguna	**Vrikshamitra** (वृक्षमित्र)	Environmentalist; coined *"Ecology (पारिस्थितिकी) is permanent economy"*; spearheaded anti-Tehri Dam (दाम -) movement; awarded **Padma Vibhushan (पद्म विभूषण) in 2009**.
Chandi Prasad Bhatt (चंडी प्रसाद भट्ट)	**Pioneer of Chipko Movement (चिपको आंदोलन)**	Founded Dasholi Gram Swarajya (स्वराज्य) Mandal (DGSM, 1964, Gopeshwar); awarded **Ramon Magsaysay Award (1982)** and **Gandhi Peace Prize (2013)**.
Deep Joshi	**Magsaysay Awardee for Rural Development**	Co-founder of PRADAN (Professional Assistance for Development Action); received **Ramon Magsaysay Award in 2009**.
Madho Singh Bhandari	**Garbh-Bhanjan** (गर्भ-भंजन)	Fabled general of Raja Mahipat Shah of Garhwal (early 17th century); sacrificed his son to build the historic (ऐतिहासिक) Maletha canal (Pauri).
Mahipat Shah	**Garbh-Bhanjan** (गर्भ-भंजन)	The fierce warrior king of Garhwal known for aggressive border campaigns in Doti and Tibet.
Kafu Chauhan	**Veer Shiromani**	Chieftain of Upgarh who defiantly resisted King Ajaypal of Garhwal; famously uttered: *"I may lose my head, but I will never bow it!"*
Veer Chandra Singh Garhwali	**Hero of Peshawar Incident**	Born Meusora (Pauri); Havildar-Major in 2/18 Royal Garhwal Rifles who gave the *"Cease Fire!"* command at Qissa Khwani Bazaar on 23 April 1930.
Kalu Mahara (Mehra)	**First Freedom Fighter of Uttarakhand**	Led secret society *Krantiveer* in Kali (काली) Kumaon (Champawat (चंपावत)) during the 1857 Revolt; attacked British outpost at Lohaghat.
Bachendri Pal	**Everest Heroine**	Born Nakuri village (Uttarkashi); **first Indian woman to summit Mount Everest (23 May 1984)**; Padma Bhushan (2019).
Radha Bahin Bhatt	**Padma Shri 2025 (Social Work)**	Veteran Sarvodaya leader; head of Lakshmi Ashram, Kausani; recognized for lifelong women empowerment and environment (पर्यावरण) protection.
Dr. Yashwant Singh Katoch	**Historian & Author**	Celebrated historian of Garhwal; author of *Madhya Himalaya Ka Puratattva*; awarded Padma Shri.
Dr. Madhuri Barthwal	**Padma Shri 2022 (Folk Music)**	First female music composer of All India Radio Nazibabad; documented and preserved disappearing Garhwali folk instruments and tunes.
Basanti Devi	**Padma Shri 2022 (Social Work / Environment)**	Spearheaded the community-led resurrection of the drying **Kosi (कोसी) River** in Kumaon and women's rights against domestic abuse.

5. Sports, Adventure & National Achievements

Sports Personality	Sport / Discipline	Native District	Major Career Milestones & Honours
Bachendri Pal	Mountaineering	Uttarkashi (Nakuri)	First Indian woman to reach Mount Everest summit (23 May 1984); Padma Shri (1984), Padma Bhushan (2019).

Sports Personality	Sport / Discipline	Native District	Major Career Milestones & Honours
Jaspal Rana	Pistol Shooting	Uttarkashi / Dehradun	"Golden Boy" of Indian shooting; multiple Asian Games and Commonwealth Gold medallist; Arjuna Award (1994), Dronacharya Award (2020).
Lakshya Sen	Badminton	Almora	Commonwealth Games 2022 Gold medallist; World Championship bronze (कांस्य); Arjuna Award (2022); reached semi-finals at Paris Olympics 2024.
Unmukt Chand	Cricket	Pithoragarh	Captained the Indian U-19 Cricket World Cup-winning team in 2012.
Rishabh Pant	Cricket	Roorkee (Haridwar (हरिद्वार))	India's premier wicket-keeper batsman; member of T20 World Cup 2024 winning team.
Ekta Bisht	Cricket	Almora	First international woman cricketer from Uttarakhand; slow left-arm orthodox bowler; Arjuna Award recipient.
Sneha Rana	Cricket	Dehradun (Sinaula)	All-rounder for the Indian Women's National Cricket Team.
Manish Rawat	Race Walking	Chamoli	Represented India at 2016 Rio Olympics (finished 13th in 20 km walk).
Chirag Sen	Badminton	Almora	International badminton player; brother of Lakshya Sen.
Harshwanti Bisht	Mountaineering	Pauri Garhwal	Scaled Nanda Devi (नंदा देवी); first woman elected as **President of the Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF)**; Arjuna Award.
38th National Games (2024-25)	Multi-sport event	**Uttarakhand (Host State)**	State-wide venues: Dehradun, Rishikesh (ऋषिकेश), Haridwar, Haldwani, Rudrapur.

Confused Pairs & Exam Traps

Concept A	Concept B	Critical Distinction (UKPCS Traps)
The Hills (1842)	**Samay Vinod (1868)**	*The Hills* = **First newspaper in UK (English, Mussoorie)**; *Samay Vinod* = **First vernacular (Hindi/Urdu, Nainital)**.
Almora Akhbar (1871)	**Shakti (1918)**	*Almora Akhbar* = **Debating club paper, banned 1918**; *Shakti* = **Started by B.D. Pandey on Vijayadashami 1918 after ban**.
Garhwal Samachar (1902)	**Garhwali (1905)**	*Garhwal Samachar* = **Dugadda (short-lived)**; *Garhwali* = **Dehradun (Garhwal Union flagship paper)**.
Kumaon Kesari	**Garh Kesari**	*Kumaon Kesari* = **Badridatt Pandey**; *Garh Kesari* = **Anusuya Prasad Bahuguna**.
Uttarakhand Gandhi	**Himalaya Putra**	*Uttarakhand Gandhi* = **Indramani Badoni**; *Himalaya Putra* = **Govind Ballabh Pant**.
Garbh-Bhanjan (General)	**Garbh-Bhanjan (King)**	General = **Madho Singh Bhandari**; King = **Raja Mahipat Shah**.
Darban Singh Negi	**Gabar Singh Negi**	Darban Singh = **Festubert (1914)**; Gabar Singh = **Neuve-Chapelle (1915, Chamba fair)**.
Major Somnath Sharma	**Major Shaitan Singh**	Somnath Sharma = **1947 Badgam (1st PVC)**; Shaitan Singh = **1962 Rezang La (PVC)**.
Radha Bahin Bhatt (2025)	**Madhuri Barthwal (2022)**	Radha Bahin Bhatt = **Social Work (Padma Shri 2025)**; Madhuri Barthwal = **Folk Music (Padma Shri 2022)**.
Chandi Prasad Bhatt	**Deep Joshi**	Both Ramon Magsaysay awardees — Bhatt = **Chipko/DGSM (1982)**; Deep Joshi = **PRADAN/Rural (2009)**.