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# INSTA PT 2021 EXCLUSIVE

## ART AND CULTURE

JUNE 2020 – MARCH 2021

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## Monuments / Places / Statues / Temples

### 1. Sattras

- Sattras are monastic institutions created as part of the 16th century Neo-Vaishnavite reformist movement started by Vaishnavite saint-reformer Srimanta Sankaradeva (1449-1596).
- These Sattras/Thans were established as centres of religious, social and cultural reforms in the 16th century across Assam.
- Sattras promulgate Sankaradeva's unique "worship through art" approach with music (borgeet), dance (xattriya) and theatre (bhauna).
- Each Sattrra has a naamghar (worship hall) as its nucleus and is headed by an influential "Sattradhikar". Monks, known as bhakats, are inducted into Sattras at a young age. They may or may not be celibate, depending on the kind of Sattrra they are inducted into.



#### What is Sankaradeva's philosophy?

- Sankaradeva propagated a form of Bhakti called eka-sharana-naam-dhrama, and espoused a society based on equality and fraternity, free from caste differences, orthodox Brahmanical rituals and sacrifices.
- His teaching focused on prayer and chanting (naam) instead of idol worship. His dharma was based on the four components of deva (god), naam (prayers), bhakats (devotees), and guru (teacher).

### 2. Konark Sun Temple

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is carrying out the conservation of the Sun Temple at Konark. The **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** has taken up the **Complete Solarisation of Konark sun temple and Konark town in Odisha**.

#### About the Temple:

1. Built in the 13th century, the Konark temple was conceived as a gigantic chariot of the Sun God, with 12 pairs of exquisitely ornamented wheels pulled by seven horses.
2. It was built by **King Narasimhadeva I**, the great ruler of Ganga dynasty.
3. The temple was included in **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 1984 for its architectural greatness and also for the sophistication and abundance of sculptural work.
4. The temple is a perfect blend of **Kalinga architecture, heritage, exotic beach and salient natural beauty**.
5. It is protected under **the National Framework of India by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act (1958) and its Rules (1959)**.
6. The Konark is **the third link of Odisha's Golden Triangle**. The first link is Jagannath Puri and the second link is Bhubaneswar (Capital city of Odisha).
7. This temple was also known as **'BLACK PAGODA'** due to its dark color and used as a navigational landmark by ancient sailors to Odisha. Similarly, the Jagannath Temple in Puri was called **the "White Pagoda"**.
8. It remains a major pilgrimage site for Hindus, who gather here every year for **the Chandrabhaga Mela around the month of February**.





### 3. Lingaraja Temple

**Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** seeks inquiry into demolitions by Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) around the 12th century **Lingaraj temple**.

#### What's the issue?

According to the ASI, it is the custodian of the Lingaraj shrine, which is protected under **the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act (AMASR Act)**.

Local municipal officials did not take permission before carrying out the demolitions.

According to the AMASR Act, the 100-metre area surrounding a monument is declared a prohibited zone and another 200 metres in the periphery a regulated area for construction, reconstruction, repairs and renovation work. Any construction or repair work in that periphery requires permission from the National Monument Authority and ASI.

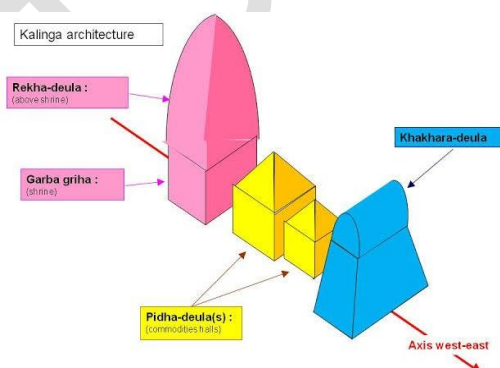


The **Odisha government** has announced to give a facelift to the **11th century Lingaraj Temple**, akin to its pre-350-year structural status.

- The efforts will be to **create a spiritual and ecological ambience in and around the Lingaraj Temple**.

#### About the temple:

- It is a temple dedicated to Shiva.
- Built by king Jajati Keshari of Soma Vansh.
- It is built in red stone and is a classic example of Kalinga style of architecture.
- Located to the north of the temple is Bindusagar Lake.
- The temple has images of Vishnu, possibly because of the rising prominence of Jagannath sect emanating from the Ganga rulers who built the Jagannath Temple in Puri in the 12th century.



#### Deula style:

The **Lingaraj Temple** is built in the **Deula style** that has four components **namely**, vimana (structure containing the sanctum), jagamohana (assembly hall), natamandira (festival hall) and bhoga-mandapa (hall of offerings), each increasing in the height to its predecessor.

### 4. Tulip garden

- Also known as the Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip garden, it is a tulip garden in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, India.
- It is the largest tulip garden in Asia spread over an area of about 30 ha (74 acres).
- The garden is located in the foothills of the Zaberwan range.



### 5. Charminar

No records of chilla (a small shrine) adjacent to Charminar, says the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). The ASI responded to a Right to Information query.

- Built by **Mohammed Quli Qutab Shah**, in 1591 to commemorate the end of the plague in the city.
- It is located in Hyderabad, Telangana
- Each minar stands on a lotus-leaf base, a special recurrent motif in Qutub Shahi buildings.
- It has also been officially incorporated as the **Emblem of Telangana** for the state of Telangana.
- The Charminar is situated on the east bank of **Musi river**.
- It is listed as an **archaeological and architectural treasure** on the official "List of Monuments" prepared by the Archaeological Survey of India.



## 6. Hampi

**Ministry of Tourism** had organised their webinar titled **Hampi- Inspired by the past; Going into the future** under **Dekho Apna Desh Webinar series**.

- Dekho Apna Desh Webinar Series is an effort to showcase India's rich diversity under **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat** programme.

### Hampi:

It was **the last capital** of the last great **Hindu Kingdom of Vijayanagar**. In 1336 CE, the **Vijayanagara Empire** arose from the ruins of the Kampili kingdom. It grew into one of the famed Hindu empires of South India that ruled for over 200 years.

It was **a part of the Mauryan Empire back in the third century BC**.

- It is a **UNESCO World Heritage site** now.
- Its name is derived from **Pampa** which is the old name of the **Tungabhadra River** on whose banks the city is built.
- The site used to be **multi-religious and multi-ethnic**; it included Hindu and Jain monuments next to each other.



### Architecture:

It has been described by UNESCO as an **"austere, grandiose site"** of more than 1,600 surviving remains of the last great Hindu kingdom in South India.

- The buildings here predominantly followed South Indian Hindu arts and architecture dating to **the Aihole-Pattadakal styles**, but the Hampi builders also used elements of **Indo-Islamic architecture** in the Lotus Mahal, the public bath and the elephant stables.
- The 15th Century **Virupaksha temple** is one of the oldest monuments of the town.
- **Hemkunta Hill**, south of the Virupaksha temple contains early ruins, **Jain temples and a monolithic sculpture of Lord Narasimha**, a form of Lord Vishnu.

**Vittal temple** built in the 16th Century, is now a **World Heritage monument**. The columns of the temple are so balanced that they have a musical quality.

## 7. Punjab- A historic perspective

DekhoApnaDesh Webinar series on "Punjab- A historic perspective".

### About Punjab:

Punjab is called as **'the land of Five Waters'** referring to the rivers Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Sutlej, and Beas.

- Much of the Frontier was occupied by **Maharaja Ranjit Singh** also known as **Sher-e-Punjab** in the early 19th century, and then **taken over by the East India Company** when it annexed the **Punjab in 1849**.

#### Important festivals of Punjab:

Teej, Lohri, Basant Panchami, Baisakhi and Hola Mahalla.

#### Golden Temple:

- It is a major pilgrimage destination for devotees from around the world.
- Construction of the **AmritSarovar** (pool of nectar) was **initiated by Guru Amar Das**, the third Guru, in 1570 and was **completed by Guru Ram Das**, the fourth Guru.
- In step with Sikhism's basic tenet of **universal brotherhood and all-inclusive ethos**, the **Golden Temple** can be accessed from **all directions**.



#### Prominent places mentioned:

**City of Fatehgarh Sahib:** The word "Fatehgarh", means "**Town of Victory**", and is so called because in 1710, Sikhs under the leadership of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur conquered the area and destroyed the mughal fort. Banda Singh Bahadur announced the establishment of Sikh rule in the city and an end to the tyranny of the Mughal rule which had spread terror and injustice.

**Virasat-e- Khalsa Museum:** It is an architectural marvel commemorating the 550-years of culture and tradition of Punjab and Sikhism and the Partition Museum-world's first museum on the largest human migration.

### 8. Patrika Gate in Jaipur

- The iconic gate has been **built by the Patrika Group of Newspapers**.
- It is built as a **monument under Mission Anupam** of the **Jaipur Development Authority** at **Jawaharlal Nehru Marg**.
- It **depicts the cultural and artistic heritage of different regions of Rajasthan**.



### 9. Nagara Architecture of Ayodhya's Ram Mandir

The grand temple at Rama Janmabhoomi in Ayodhya will follow the **Nagara style of temple architecture**.

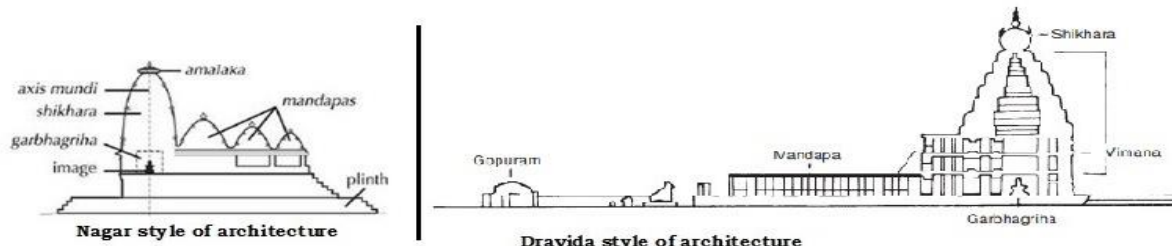
#### What is Nagara style of temple architecture?

The Nagara style of temple architecture is found in **northern India**.

- In the **Nagara style**, the temple is generally constructed on an upraised platform called **jagati**. **Mandapas** are present in front of the **Garbhagriha**. These are adorned with the **Shikhara**, the tallest one being above the **Garbhagriha**.
- Nagara style **doesn't usually have elaborate boundary walls or gateways**.
- Generally, **there is no water tank in the temple premises and the pradakshina patha is covered**.

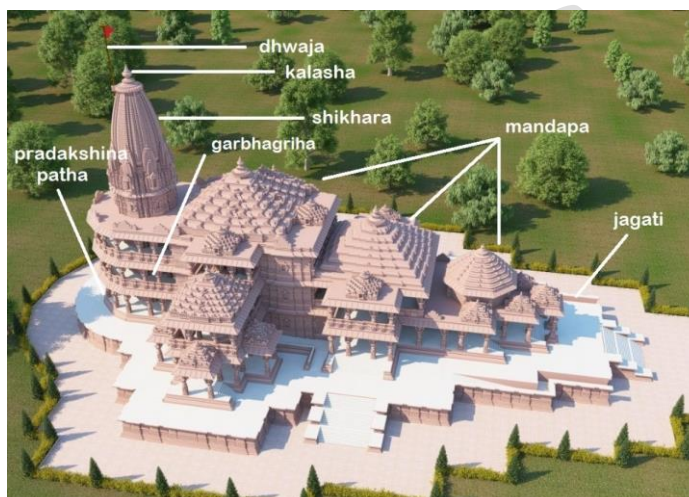


- The **garbhagriha** is always located directly under the tallest tower.



The basic form of a Hindu temple contains the following architectural elements:

1. **Garbhagriha** - the small room where the principle deity/deities of the temple reside
2. **Mandapa** - the portico or hall at the entrance of the temple generally designed to house a large number of people
3. **Shikhara** - the mountain like spire which can have different shapes from pyramidal to curvilinear
4. **Vahana** - the mount or vehicle of the main deity placed generally in line of sight from Garbhagriha



#### Subdivisions:

**Nagara school** is further subdivided into different schools based on region like Odisha, Khajuraho, Solanki etc.

### 10. Kodumanal

- Kodumanal is a village located in the Erode district in Tamil Nadu. It is located on the northern banks of Noyyal River, a tributary of the Cauvery.
- It was once a flourishing ancient trade city known as **Kodumanam**, as inscribed in **Patittrupathu of Sangam Literature**.
- It served as a trade-cum-industrial centre from 5<sup>th</sup> century BCE to 1<sup>st</sup> century BCE.
- The place is an important archaeological site, under the control of State Archaeological Department of Tamil Nadu.

#### Why in News?

The following things were found during the excavation at the site:

10 Pots and bowls placed outside three-chambered burial cists and inside the cairn-circle. This has thrown light on burial rituals and the concept of afterlife in **megalithic culture**.

**Other findings:** Animal skull, possibly of a wolf or a dog; precious stones; copper smelting units; potteries.

### 11. Pratihara style of architecture

A rare late ninth century stone statue of Lord Shiva, which was stolen from a temple in Rajasthan and smuggled to the UK, will be returned to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

**Key facts:**

- The stone **Nataraj/Natesha murti**, in "chatura pose with jatamakuta and trinetra" and almost four-foot-tall, is a rare depiction of Lord Shiva in **the Pratihara style**.
- It is a rare sandstone idol.
- It is originally from **the Ghateswara Temple at Baroli, Rajasthan**.

**Pratihara empire:**

The **Gurjara-Pratiharas**, also known as **the Pratihara Empire**, ruled much of Northern India from the mid-7th to the 11th century.

They were **instrumental in containing Arab armies moving east of the Indus River**.

**Nagabhata I defeated the Arab army** under Junaid and Tamin during the Caliphate campaigns in India.

**Architecture:**

Gurjara-Pratihara are known for their **sculptures, carved panels and open pavilion style temples**. The greatest development of their style of temple building was at **Khajuraho, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

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## Events / Conferences

### 1. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

The 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention was organized on 9th January 2021.

#### About PBD:

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is celebrated on **9th January** to mark the contribution of Overseas Indian community in the development of India.

- PBD Convention is the flagship event of the **Ministry of External Affairs** and provides an important platform to engage and connect with the overseas Indians.
- PBD conventions were **held every year since 2003**.
- **Since 2015**, its format has been revised to celebrate the PBD **once every two years**.

**The theme of 16th PBD Convention 2021:** "Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat".

#### Why PBD is celebrated on January 9?

January 9 was chosen as the day to celebrate this occasion since it was **on this day in 1915 that Mahatma Gandhi**, the greatest Pravasi, **returned to India from South Africa**, led India's freedom struggle and changed the lives of Indians forever.

#### Significance

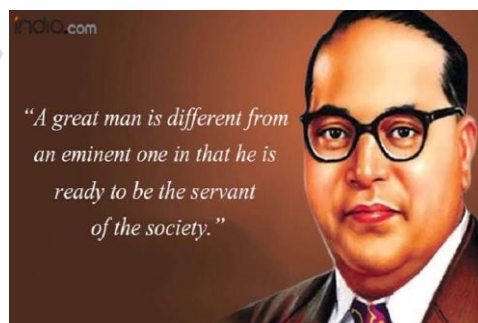
- These conventions provide **a platform to the overseas Indian community to engage with the government and people of the land of their ancestors** for mutually beneficial activities.
- These conventions are also **very useful in networking among the overseas Indian community** residing in various parts of the world and enable them to share their experiences in various fields.

### 2. Mahaparinirvan Divas

On December 6, the country observed Mahaparinirvan Diwas, which marks the death anniversary of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar.

#### What is Mahaparinirvan?

Parinirvan is one of the major principles and goals of Buddhism. The Sanskrit term (written in Pali as parinibbana) means "nirvana after death", which refers to the achievement of nirvana after the body dies. As per the Buddhist text, i.e. Mahaparinibbana Sutta, the death of Lord Buddha at the age of 80 is considered as the original Mahaparinirvan.



#### Why is BR Ambedkar linked to it?

Dr Ambedkar passed away on December 6, 1956, just a few days after completing his last work, **The Buddha and His Dhamma**.

- Because of his stature and contributions to the eradication of untouchability in India, he was considered to be a Buddhist guru.
- His followers and supporters believe that Ambedkar was as influential, pure and blessed as Lord Buddha. And this is the reason Ambedkar's death anniversary is referred to as Mahaparinirvan Divas.

### 3. Rashtriya Ekta Diwas

Observed on **31st October** across the nation.

- It marks the occasion of **the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**.

#### Background:

The government, in **2014**, decided to observe Sardar Patel Jayanti Day as Ekta Diwas. This occasion provides an opportunity to re-affirm the inherent strength and resilience of the nation to withstand the threats to its unity, integrity and security.

#### About Sardar Vallabhai Patel:

Sardar Patel is credited with **uniting all 562 princely states** in pre-independent India to build the Republic of India.

#### Role in the Indian National Movement:

1. 1917– Elected as the **Secretary of the Gujarat Sabha**, the Gujarat wing of the Indian National Congress.
2. 1918– Led a massive **“No Tax Campaign”** that urged the farmers not to pay taxes after the British insisted on tax after the floods in Kaira.
3. Supported the **non-cooperation Movement** launched by Gandhi and Patel toured the nation with him.
4. 1928– When the lands of farmers were seized after they refused to pay the extra tax to the government, Patel helped the farmers by striking a deal between the government and farmers’ representatives.
5. 1930– Imprisoned for participating in the famous **Salt Satyagraha** movement initiated by Mahatma Gandhi.
6. 1931– Elected as **the President of Indian National Congress in its Karachi session** where the party deliberated its future path.
7. Patel was also compelled to use coercion by launching **‘Operation Polo’** to liberate and integrate Hyderabad after the Nizam of Hyderabad entertained false hopes of either joining Pakistan or remaining independent.



#### Who gave him the title "Sardar"?

Women of Bardoli bestowed the title **‘Sardar’** on Vallabhbhai Patel, which means ‘a Chief or a Leader’.

#### Kevadia Tourism Circuit

PM Modi inaugurated 17 tourism projects around **the Statue of Unity (SoU)**, now called the **‘Kevadia Tourism Circuit’**.

#### Key points:

- **Kevadia** is a village in the tribal Narmada district. It is home to **the Sardar Sarovar Dam reservoir on the Narmada river**.
- **Kevadia circuit** covers 35 tourist spots including the Valley of Flowers, Vishwa Van, Cactus Garden, Butterfly Garden.

#### 4. Vijay Diwas 2020

Vijay Diwas or Victory Day is celebrated in India every year on **December 16** to commemorate the victory of the Indian armed forces over Pakistan in **the 1971 Indo-Pak War, also known as the Bangladesh Liberation War**.

- The India-Pakistan war began on December 16, 1971. It was one of the shortest wars (13 days) but saw one of the biggest surrenders.



**India's role in Bangladesh's creation:**

The 13-day Indo-Pak War was sparked by the rebellion in erstwhile East Pakistan against the government in Islamabad.

- Since March 1971, Bengali nationalists had been fighting a brutal crackdown by Pakistani forces on the civil and political rights of the Bengali population.
- Then Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had provided support to the Bangladesh cause for months but the Indian military formally engaged in a full-scale war with Pakistan on December 3.
- Soon, foreign pressure to end the war and mounting losses forced Islamabad to accept defeat, thereby granting Bangladesh full independence.

**Key outcomes:**

- Unilateral and unconditional surrender of the Pakistan Army and subsequent secession of East Pakistan into Bangladesh.
- It was the first war after World War II that India had won conclusively.



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## Dance / Music / Painting / Other Arts

### 1. Garba

- It is a famous folk dance of Gujarat. Garba refers to "Garba deep" which is an earthen pot with holes.
- It is a dance performed in a circular form by the village as well as urban women with rhythmic clapping.
- It is performed during the occasion of Navaratri, Sharad Purnima, Vasant Panchami, Holi, and other festival occasions.



### 2. Yakshagana

More than 900 Yakshagana scripts, including the ones printed in 1905 and 1907, have now been digitised and made available online for free, thanks to the voluntary community effort by some Yakshagana lovers who did it under the banner Yakshavahini, a registered trust.

#### Key facts:

1. Yakshagana is a traditional theatre form of Karnataka.
2. It is a temple art form that depicts mythological stories and Puranas.
3. It is performed with massive headgears, elaborate facial make-up and vibrant costumes and ornaments.
4. Usually recited in Kannada, it is also performed in Malayalam as well as Tulu (the dialect of south Karnataka).
5. It is performed with percussion instruments like chenda, maddalam, jagatta or chengila (cymbals) and chakratala or elathalam (small cymbals).



### 3. Talamaddale

- It is an ancient form of performance dialogue or debate performance in Southern India in the Karavali and Malnad regions of Karnataka and Kerala.
- The plot and content of the conversation is drawn from popular mythology but the performance mainly consists of an impromptu debate between characters involving sarcasm, puns, philosophy positions and humour.

#### How is it different from Yakshagana?

- Unlike the Yakshagana performance, in the conventional 'talamaddale,' the artists sit across in a place without any costumes and engage in testing their oratory skills based on the episode chosen.
- If music is common for both Yakshagana performance and 'talamaddale', the latter has only spoken word without any dance or costumes.
- Hence it is an art form minus dance, costumes and stage conventions.



### 4. Dhrupad

Dhrupad is the most ancient style of Hindustani classical music that has survived until today in its original form.

- The nature of Dhrupad music is spiritual. It does not seek to entertain, but to induce feelings of peace and spirituality in the listener.
- It is primarily a form of worship, in which offerings are made to the divine through sound or Nada.

- Dhrupad was **initially sung only in the temples**, the singer facing the Lord. From this early chanting, Dhrupad evolved into **a sophisticated classical form of music**.

#### Characteristics:

- It lays emphasis on **maintaining purity of the Raga**.
- The **language of Dhrupad changed from Sanskrit to Brij Bhasha** sometime between the 12th and the 16th century.

#### Genesis:

It is a form of devotional music that traces its origin to the ancient text of **SamVeda**. The SAM VEDA was chanted with the help of melody and rhythm called Samgana. Gradually this developed into other vocal style called '**Chhanda**' and '**Prabandha**' with introduction of verse and meter. The fusion of these two elements led to the emergence of Dhrupad.

#### Dhrupad during mediaeval times:

In medieval India, Dhrupad had mainly **thrived under the patronage of Mughal and Rajput kings**. Later it declined with the shift of interest in **Khayal**.

#### Performance:

Performance of Dhrupad is done in two parts viz. **the Alap and Bandish**. In the Alap, the singer uses syllables from Sanskrit Mantra which add texture to the notes. The Raga is slowly and methodically developed in a meditative mode.

### 5. Madhubani Paintings

- **Madhubani** means '**forest of honey**'.
- It is a style of **folk painting old enough to find mention in some of the ancient Indian texts** like the holy Ramayana.
- It is also known as **Mithila**, for its **origin, is said to be the Mithila region in Bihar**.
- Traditionally, the Madhubani paintings were **created using fingers and twigs, and items like matchsticks have come to be used in their creation in recent times**.
- This style of painting has been **traditionally done by the women of the region, though today men are also involved to meet the demand**.
- These paintings are **popular because of their tribal motifs and use of bright earthy colours**.



### 6. Zardozi art

**Zari work or Zardozi**, an art which is considered quite popular amongst embroiders and designers, survives in the narrow alleys of the Old Town of Bhopal.

**Zardozi prospered in India during the 17th century during the reign of the Mughal emperor Akbar. It came to India from Persia.**

Its literal translation, '**Zar**' means **gold** and '**dozi**' meaning **embroidery**. Thus, Zardozi come from the Persian term meaning '**embroidering with gold threads**.'

- In this embroidery, gold coils and beads are tucked onto fabric using a needle and thread.
- Metals like gold and silver are transformed into a zari (thin thread) that is used to adorn motifs onto rich fabrics like silk, velvet, organza, chiffon, etc.

**In 2013 the Geographical Indication Registry (GIR) accorded the Geographical Indication (GI) registration to the Lucknow Zardozi.**



## 7. Pochampally Ikat

- Pochampally Ikat or resist dyeing involves a sequence of tying and dyeing sections of bundled yarn to a predetermined colour scheme before weaving.
- During the Nizam era, they were exported to Burma (Myanmar) and West Asia and east Africa, where they were known as Asia rumals.
- The term 'Ikat' stems from the Malay-Indonesian expression, **mangikat**, meaning to bind, knot or wind.
- It has now been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) status.



## 8. Chendamangalam saree

- Chendamangalam is a small town near Ernakulam that stands at the crossroads of three rivers.
- The town was part of the ancient port complex of Muziris and known for its fine cotton spun here by **the Devanga Chettiars**, a community of weavers originally from Karnataka.
- The **GI-tagged Chendamangalam saree** is recognisable by its **puliyilakara border**, a thin black line that runs abreast with the sari's selvage.



## 9. Himachal Pradesh wants GI status for five products

These include- **Karsog Kulth, Thangi of Pangi, Chamba Metal Crafts, Chamba Chukh, and Rajmah of Bharmour.**

**How many registered GIs do Himachal currently have?**

- There are eight GI tags, that include four handicrafts (Kullu Shawl, Chamba Rumal, Kinnauri Shawl and Kangra Paintings), three agricultural products (Kangra Tea, Basmati and Himachali Kala Zeera) and one manufactured product (Himachali Chulli Oil).

## 10. Jaapi

- It is a conical hat made of bamboo and covered with dried tokou (a palm tree found in rainforests of Upper Assam) leaves.
- While it is most often used in official functions to felicitate guests, the landscape of rural Assam features a more utilitarian version, which farmers wear to protect themselves from the harsh weather, both sun and rain, while working in the fields.



## 11. Xorai

- Made of bell-metal, the xorai — essentially a tray with a stand at the bottom, with or without a cover — can be found in every Assamese household.
- While it is primarily used as an offering tray during prayers, or to serve tamale-paan (betel-nut) to guests, a xorai is also presented along with the jaapi and gamosa while felicitating someone.
- The bulk of xorais in Assam are made in the state's bell metal hub Sarthebari in Bajali district.



## 12. Gamosa

The Gamosa is an article of significance for the people of Assam. It is generally a white rectangular piece of cloth with primarily a red border on three sides and red woven motifs on the fourth.





- Assam has traditionally had two types of gamosas — the **uka** or plain kind used to wipe sweat or dry the body after a bath, and the **phulam**, which is decorated with floral motifs to be gifted as a memento or during festivals such as Bihu.

The gamosa's graph as a symbol of protest rose during the anti-foreigners Assam Agitation from 1979 to 1985. The extremist United Liberation Front of Asom too used the towel with "revolutionary" motifs.

### 13. Monpa handmade paper

- It is a 1000-year-old heritage art of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The art of making handmade paper originated among the Monpas over 1000 years ago.
- Gradually this art became an integral part of local custom and culture of Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The fine-textured handmade paper, which is called '**Mon Shugu**' in the local dialect, is integral to the vibrant culture of the local tribes in Tawang.
- The Monpa handmade paper is made from the bark of a local tree called '**Shugu Sheng**', which has medicinal values too.



### 14. Risa

- Risa is a customary hand woven cloth used by Tripura's indigenous tribal communities.
- It is one of the **three parts of customary Tripura female attire, the other two being the Rignai and Rikutu**.
- The Risa is used as a head gear, stole and female upper cloth or presented to honour a distinguished recipient.



### 15. Tholpavakkoothu

- It is also called as shadow puppetry, Nizhalkkoothu and Olakkoothu.
- It is a traditional temple art in Kerala having its roots in Palakkad and neighbouring regions.
- It used to be performed in the Bhadrakali temples of Palakkad, telling tales from the Ramayana.
- Accompanying instruments include Ezhupara, Chenda and Maddalam.
- The artists have to undergo several years of rigorous training to master this art form.
- The puppetry is staged on a special structure in temple premises called Koothumadam.



### 16. Kalarippayattu

- Kalaripayattu is a Martial art which originated as a style in Kerala during 3rd century BC to the 2nd century AD.
- The word kalari first appears in Sangam literature to describe both a battlefield and combat arena.
- It is also considered to be one of the oldest fighting system in existence.
- It is now practiced in Kerala, in contiguous parts of Tamil Nadu.
- Kalaripayattu techniques include a combination of steps (Chuvatu) and postures (Vadivu). Chuvatu literally means 'steps', the basic steps of the martial arts. Vadivu literally means



'postures' or stances are the basic characteristics of Kalaripayattu training. Named after animals, they are usually eight in number.

### 17. Four indigenous martial art forms included in Khelo India Youth Games

The Khelo India Youth games were launched in 2018 as a multidisciplinary grassroots event for under-17 years and under-21 years.

- Conducted annually, the best performers are given an annual scholarship of ₹5 lakh for eight years to prepare for international sporting events.

In a recent move, the Sports Ministry inducted **four indigenous martial art forms — Kalaripayattu of Kerala, Mallakhamb of Central India, Gatka of Punjab and Thang-ta of Manipur** — into the Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG).

#### **What is Mallakhamb?**

- It is a traditional form of gymnastics performed with a wooden pole (made of wood from sheesham or Indian rosewood and polished with castor oil), a cane, or a rope.
- Though Madhya Pradesh declared Mallakhamb the State sport only in 2013, it had been developed as a competitive sport since 1981, with rules and regulations introduced at the first National Championship that year.



#### **Gatka:**

It is a style of fighting with wooden sticks that originated in Punjab in the 15th Century. The bana and chola are worn for ritualistic performances but when performed as a sport, the practitioner wears track pants and T-shirt, and the stick is no longer the size of a man.



#### **Thang Ta:**

- It is a Manipuri art form.
- It combines ritual, demonstration and combat and involves a variety of dance forms and warrior drills.



#### **Kalaripayattu:**

- It is a Martial art which originated as a style in Kerala during 3rd century BC to the 2nd century AD.
- The word kalari first appears in Sangam literature to describe both a battlefield and combat arena.
- It is also considered to be one of the oldest fighting system in existence.



### 18. Australia's Oldest Aboriginal rock art

- A kangaroo painting created over 17,000 years ago by Aboriginal artists has been identified — with a little help from some ancient wasps — as Australia's oldest intact rock art.
- The two-metre-long (six-feet) artwork on the sloped ceiling of a rock shelter in Western Australia's Kimberley region was painted in an early naturalistic style, which often features life-sized renderings of animals.



## Festivals / Celebrations

### 1. Shigmo

Shigmo is the celebration of a 'rich, golden harvest of paddy' by the tribal communities of Goa. It is a vibrant celebration full of colour, song and dance rooted in Goan culture and traditions.

- Agricultural communities including the Kunbis, Gawdas and Velips celebrate the festival that also marks the onset of spring.
- Folk dances like Ghodemodini (a dance of equestrian warriors), Gopha and Phugadi are among the many dances performed by the participating communities.



### 2. Makaravilakku festival season

Makaravilakku is an annual festival held on Makar Sankranti in Kerala, at the shrine of Sabarimala. The festival includes the Thiruvabharanam (sacred ornaments of Ayyappan) procession and a congregation at the hill shrine of Sabarimala.

### 3. Aadi Mahotsav

- The virtual edition of the Aadi Mahotsav – Madhya Pradesh was held.
- The Aadi Mahotsav – A Celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Culture, Crafts, Cuisine and Commerce – was commenced in 2017.
- Aadi Mahotsav is a national tribal festival and a joint initiative of the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**, Government of India & **Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)**.
- The festival showcases traditional art and handicrafts and cultural heritage of the country.
- The festival was an attempt to familiarise the people with the rich and diverse craft, culture of the tribal communities across the country, in one place.

### 4. Tungabhadra Pushkaralu

- The **Tungabhadra Pushkaralu** is a 12-day festival held in honour of the Tungabhadra river.
- It is **celebrated when Jupiter enters Capricorn (Makar rashi)**.
- Its significance is very high as the **once in 12-year event is considered auspicious and a dip in the holy river is believed to get rid of one's sins**.

**Pushkaralu or Pushkaram** is a religious festival dedicated to the worship of 12 major rivers that flow across the country.

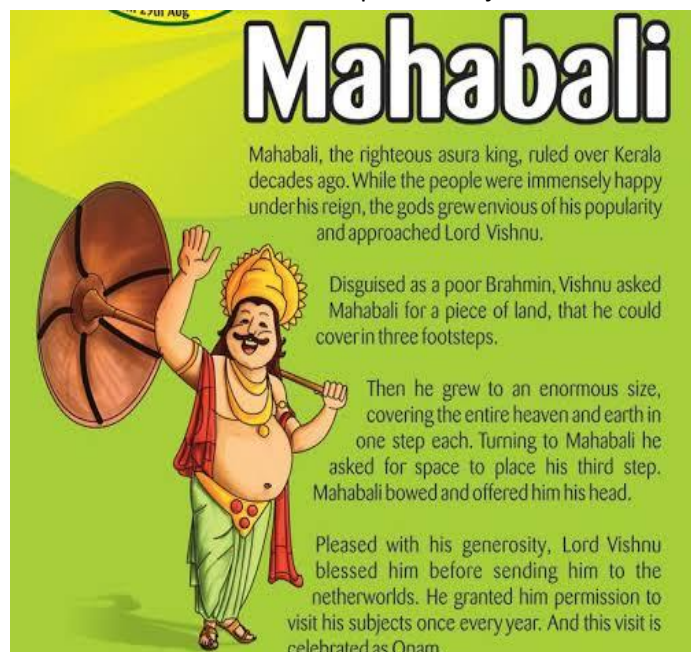
### 5. Onam

Onam is celebrated at the beginning of the month of **Chingam**, the first month of the solar Malayalam calendar (**Kollavarsham**). It falls in August or September each year.

- The festival is spread over 10 days and culminates with **Thiruvonam**, the most important day.

#### About the festival:

According to a popular legend, the festival is celebrated to welcome **King Mahabali**, whose spirit is said to visit Kerala at the time of Onam.





It is also celebrated as **the festival of paddy harvest**.

#### How is it celebrated?

During the festival, people take part in a variety of group activities such as **the Pookolam** (rangoli made with fresh flowers), **Vallam Kali** (boat race), **Pulikali** (tiger dance), **Kai Kottu Kali** (Onam dance), **Kummattikali** (mask dance) and various other activities.

### 6. Attukal Pongala fest

- 'Attukal Pongala' is one of **the largest religious congregations of women**.
- Preparing 'pongala' (a sweet offering) is considered an auspicious all-women ritual as part of the annual festival of the **Attukal Bhagavathy Temple, which is popularly known as the "Women's Sabarimala"**.
- **The Pongala festival commemorates the hospitality accorded by women in the locality to Kannagi**, the heroine of the Tamil epic **Silappadhikaram** while she was on her way to Kodungallur in Kerala, after destroying Madurai city to avenge the injustice to her husband Kovalan.
- **Attukal Temple is called the "Women's Sabarimala"** as only women perform rituals, just as predominantly men undertake the pilgrimage to the shrine of Lord Ayyappa.



### 7. Navroz

- Navroz is a **3,000-year-old Zoroastrian tradition**, a ritual celebration that signals **the start of Spring and the Persian new year**.
- In 1079 AD, an Iranian king named **Jalaluddin Malekshah** introduced the Navroz (New Year) festival **to generate revenue and collect taxes from people**.
- In India, **the Parsi community**, who follow Zoroastrianism, celebrate Navroz with full fervour.

### 8. Ambubachi Mela

- The festival symbolises **the fertility cult of goddess Kamakhya**.
- There is **no idol in the temple**, the goddess is worshipped in the form of a yoni-like stone over which a natural spring flows.
- Also known as **Siddha Kubjika**, the goddess is a Hindu tantric goddess of desire who evolved in the Himalayan hills. She is also identified as Kali and Maha Tripura.
- The festival is also known as **'Mahakumbh of the East'** as it draws lakhs of devotees from all over the world.



#### Social significance of the festival:

The ritualistic fair celebrating the goddess' period is one of the reasons why the taboo associated with menstruation is less in Assam compared with other parts of India. **The attainment of womanhood of girls in Assam** is celebrated with a ritual called **'Tuloni Biya'**, meaning small wedding. Ambubachi Mela serves as an occasion **to promote awareness on menstrual hygiene**.

#### Facts for Prelims:

Kamakhya, atop **Nilachal Hills in Guwahati**, is one of 51 shaktipeeths or seat of Shakti followers, each representing a body part of the Sati, Lord Shiva's companion.



## 9. Thrissur Pooram festival

- Known as **the festival of festivals**, Thrissur Pooram has a tradition of more than 200 years.
- It was started by **Sakthan Thampuran**, the erstwhile ruler of Kochi.
- Held on the **Moolam asterism in the Malayalam month of Medam** (April-May), festival related events take place at the **Vadakkumnathan** temple situated in the heart of Thrissur town and the adjoining Thekkinkadu ground.
- The pooram festival mainly happens between two groups representing the geographic divisions of **Paramekkavu and Thiruvambadi**. They will compete in their respective presentations of richly caparisoned elephants, traditional orchestra called panchavadyam, the swift and rhythmic changing of brightly coloured and sequined parasols called kudamattom and the dazzling fireworks in the early morning hours are the festival highlights.



## 10. Dhamma Chakra Day

The **Ministry of Culture** in partnership with **International Buddhist Confederation (IBC)** celebrated the Asadha Poornima on 4th July, 2020 as **Dharma Chakra Day**.

### Significance of the day:

It marks **Buddha's first teaching after attaining Enlightenment** to the first five ascetic disciples (**pañcavargika**) on the full-moon day of Asadha at '**Deer Park**', **Rishipatana** in modern-day Sarnath, near Varanasi.

- This teaching of Dhamma Cakka Pavattana Sutta (Pali) or Dharma Chakra Pravartana Sutra (Sanskrit) is also known as **the First Turning of Wheels of Dharma and comprised the Four Noble Truths and Noble Eightfold Path**.

The day is also known as **Esala Poya in Sri Lanka and Asanha Bucha in Thailand**.

- It is **the second most sacred day for Buddhists after the Buddha Poornima or Vesak**.

The day is also observed as **Guru Poornima by both Buddhists and Hindus** as a day to mark reverence to their Gurus.

## 11. Jallikattu

### What is Jallikattu?

- The bull-taming sport is popular in Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, Theni, Pudukkottai and Dindigul districts known as the Jallikattu belt.
- Jallikattu is celebrated in the second week of January, during the Tamil harvest festival, Pongal.
- A tradition over 2,000 years old, Jallikattu is a competitive sport as well as an event to honour bull owners who rear them for mating.
- It is **a violent sport in which contestants try to tame a bull for a prize**; if they fail, the bull owner wins the prize.

### Why is Jallikattu important in Tamil culture?

Jallikattu is considered **a traditional way for the peasant community to preserve their pure-breed native bulls**.

- At a time when cattle breeding is often an artificial process, conservationists and peasants argue that Jallikattu is a way to protect these male animals which are otherwise used only for meat if not for ploughing.

### Why has Jallikattu been the subject of legal battles?

1. Jallikattu first came under legal scrutiny in 2007 when the Animal Welfare Board of India and the animal rights group PETA moved petitions in the Supreme Court against Jallikattu as well as bullock cart races.
2. The Tamil Nadu government, however, worked its way out of the ban by passing a law in 2009, which was signed by the Governor.
3. In 2011, the Centre added bulls to the list of animals whose training and exhibition is prohibited.
4. In May 2014, the Supreme Court banned the bull-taming sport, ruling on a petition that cited the 2011 notification.

#### So, is it legal or banned now?

- In January 2017, massive protests erupted across Tamil Nadu against the ban, with Chennai city witnessing a 15-day-long Jallikattu uprising.
- The same year, the Tamil Nadu government released an ordinance amending the central Act and allowing Jallikattu in the state; this was later ratified by the President.
- PETA challenged the state move, arguing it was unconstitutional (Article 29(1)).
- In 2018, the Supreme Court referred the Jallikattu case to a Constitution Bench, where it is pending now.

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## Personalities

### 1. Tomar king Anangpal II

The government has recently formed a committee to popularise the legacy of 11th-century Tomar king, Anangpal II.

#### Who was Anangpal II?

1. Belonged to the Tomar dynasty that ruled parts of present-day Delhi and Haryana between the 8th and 12th centuries.
2. Anangpal Tomar II was succeeded by his grandson Prithviraj Chauhan, who was defeated by the Ghurid forces in the Battle of Tarain (present-day Haryana) after which the Delhi Sultanate was established in 1192.
3. The Tomar dynasty shifted its capital in the 8th century, to Dhillikapuri (Delhi) during the reign of Anangpal II.
4. He gave Delhi its present name and also repopulated it.
5. He built Lal Kot fort and Anangtal Baoli.



### 2. Basavanna

Foundation stone was laid for **the 'New Anubhava Mantapa' in Basavakalyan**, the place where 12th century poet-philosopher **Basavanna** lived for most of his life.

- The project will showcase **the 12th Century Anubhava Mantapa** (often referred to as the "first Parliament of the world") established by him in Basavakalyan, where philosophers and social reformers held debates.
- The building will adopt **the Kalyana Chalukya style of architecture**.

#### About Basavanna, his thoughts and contributions:

1. Basavanna was a 12th-century philosopher, statesman, Kannada poet and a social reformer during the reign of the Kalachuri-dynasty king Bijjala I in Karnataka,
2. Basavanna spread social awareness through his poetry, popularly known as Vachanaas.
3. Basavanna rejected gender or social discrimination, superstitions and rituals.
4. He introduced new public institutions such as the Anubhava Mantapa (or, the "hall of spiritual experience"), which welcomed men and women from all socio-economic backgrounds to discuss spiritual and mundane questions of life, in open.
5. As a leader, he developed and inspired a new devotional movement named Virashaivas, or "ardent, heroic worshippers of Shiva". This movement shared its roots in the ongoing Tamil Bhakti movement, particularly the Shaiva Nayanars traditions, over the 7th- to 11th-century.
6. Basava championed devotional worship that rejected temple worship and rituals led by Brahmins, and replaced it with personalized direct worship of Shiva through practices such as individually worn icons and symbols like a small linga.
7. Basaveshwara is the first Kannadiga in whose honour a commemorative coin has been minted in recognition of his social reforms.
8. In November 2015, the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi inaugurated the statue of Basaveshwara along the bank of the river Thames at Lambeth in London.

#### Basavanna and Sharana movement:

1. The Sharana movement he presided over attracted people from all castes, and like most strands of the Bhakti movement, produced a corpus of literature, the vachanas, that unveiled the spiritual universe of the Veerashaiva saints.
2. The egalitarianism of Basavanna's Sharana movement was too radical for its times.
3. He set up the Anubhava Mandapa, where the Sharanas, drawn from different castes and communities, gathered and engaged in learning and discussions.

4. Sharanas challenged the final bastion of the caste order: they organised a wedding where the bridegroom was from a lower caste, and the bride a Brahmin.

### 3. Sri Krishnadevaraya

The first-ever epigraphical reference to the date of death of Vijayanagar king Krishnadevaraya has been discovered at Honnenahalli in Tumakuru district in Karnataka.

- The inscription is written in Kannada.

#### As per the inscription:

- Krishnadevaraya, one of the greatest emperors of India who ruled from the South, died on October 17, 1529, and incidentally this day was marked by a lunar eclipse.
- A village named Honnenahalli in Tumakuru was gifted for conducting worship to the god Veeraprasanna Hanumantha of Tumakuru.



#### About Vijayanagar ruler Krishnadevaraya:

- He was an emperor of the Vijayanagara Empire who reigned from **1509–1529**.
- He belonged to **Tuluva Dynasty**.
- Krishna Deva Raya earned the titles **Kannada Rajya Rama Ramana, Andhra Bhoja and Mooru Rayara Ganda**.
- He became the dominant ruler of the peninsula of India by **defeating the Sultans of Bijapur, Golconda, the Bahmani Sultanate and the Raja of Odisha**.
- The great south Indian mathematician **Nilakantha Somayaji** also lived in the Empire of Krishnadevaraya.
- Portuguese travellers **Domingo Paes and Fernao Nuniz** also visited the Vijayanagara Empire during his reign.

### 4. Purandara Dasa

- Purandara Dasa (1484–1564) was a **Haridasa**, great devotee of Lord Krishna and a saint.
- He was a **disciple of the celebrated Madhwa philosopher-saint Vyasatirtha**, and a **contemporary of yet another great Haridasa, Kanakadasa**.
- Purandaradasa was **the pioneer who blended the rich musical streams, namely the Dravidian and Aryan music, into a single stream known as Carnatic music**.
- Prior to his initiation to Haridasa tradition, **Purandara Dasa was a rich merchant and was called as Srinivasa Nayaka**.



#### Contributions to Indian Music:

1. He formulated the basic lessons of teaching Carnatic music by **structuring graded exercises known as Svaravalis and Alankaras**
2. He introduced the **raga Mayamalavagowla** as the first scale to be learnt by beginners in the field – a practice that is still followed today.
3. He also composed **Gitas (simple songs) for novice students**.
4. He is noted for composing **Dasa Sahithya, as a Bhakti movement vocalist, and a music scholar**.

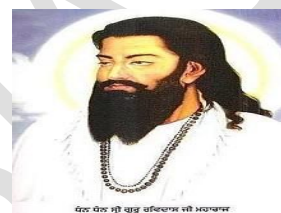
#### Social reforms:



1. Purandara Dasa tried to reform existing practices in the society, and preached to others in the local language, Kannada by singing devotional songs. Most of his keertanas deals with **social reform and pinpoints defects found in the society.**
2. It teaches **complete self-surrender and unadulterated love towards Lord Krishna**, the Supreme.
3. The philosophy of Bhakti in Purandara Dasa's compositions stems from **the essential teachings of the realistic-pluralistic Madhwa Philosophy of Vaishnavism.**
4. Purandara Dasa **fought the evils of casteism through his songs.** In his song **aavakulavaadarenu aavanadarenu aatma bhavavariyada mele** he wonders what is the use if one does not understand the spirit of humanism whatever caste or status one might be accredited to.
5. According to Purandara Dasa **there were no inequalities among men and women.** Both of them had same rights and obligations in their conduct of everyday life as well as observation of pity.
6. He made some forceful expressions on **untouchability, which was dogging society.**

### 5. Sant Ravidasji

- He was a poet-saint of the Bhakti movement in northern India.
- Founder of the **Ravidassia sect.**
- He taught against caste-based discrimination.
- Some of the devotional verses he composed have been included in **the Guru Granth Sahib.**



### 6. Lachit Borphukan

- He was a **commander in the Ahom kingdom.**
- Known for his leadership in **the 1671 Battle of Saraighat** that thwarted a drawn-out attempt by Mughal forces under the command of Ramsingh I to take over Ahom kingdom.
- The **battle of Saraighat** was fought on the banks of the Brahmaputra in Guwahati.
- The **National Defence Academy (NDA)**, ever since 1999 has been conferring the best passing out cadet with **the Lachit Borphukan gold medal.**

#### Background:

During the last phase of **the Battle of Saraighat**, when the Mughals attacked the Assamese forces through the river in Saraighat, many Assamese soldiers began losing their will to fight. It was Lachit's clarion call to all the soldiers that made them fight till their last breath, ultimately resulting in the defeat of the Mughals.

### 7. Ayya Vaikunda Swamikal

Ayya Vaikunda Swamikal (1809-1851) was a great thinker and social reformer of the 19th century.

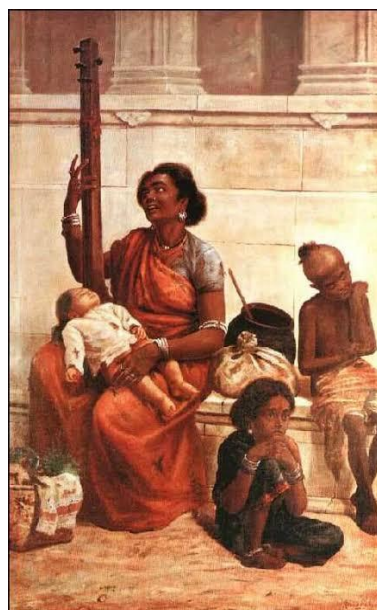
- He lived in **the princely kingdom of Travancore in the early decades of the 19th century.**
- Founded '**Samathwa Samajam**', an early socio-reform movement in India (1836).
- He was **the first to install a mirror for worshipping in South India.**
- He was the exponent of a new path of spiritual thoughts named '**Ayya Vazhi**'.
- He said, '**One caste, One religion, One clan, One world, One God**'.
- He led an agitation known as **the Mel Mundu Samaram.**

### 8. Raja Ravi Varma

April 29 is the birth anniversary of the famed Indian painter **Raja Ravi Varma (1848-1906).**

**Key contributions:**

- He is remembered for **giving Indians their western, classical representations of Hindu gods and goddesses.**
- Varma's humanised depiction of Hindu pantheon travelled beyond the surfaces of costly canvases, and into the prayer and living rooms of working-class homes.
- He achieved this by making affordable lithographs, which were **accessible even to the poor.**
- Ravi Varma **first started a press in Mumbai and later shifted it to a place near Lonavala.**

**Awards he won:**

- His 1873 painting, **Nair Lady Adorning Her Hair**, won Varma prestigious awards including **Governor's Gold Medal** when it was presented in the Madras Presidency, and Certificate of Merit at an exhibition in **Vienna.**
- In 1904, the British colonial government awarded Varma with **the Kaiser-i-Hind Gold Medal.** In 2013, a crater on the planet Mercury was named in his honour.

**His prominent works include:**

A Family of Beggars, A Lady Playing Swarbat, Arjuna and Subhadra, Damayanti Talking to a Swan, Jatayu (a bird devotee of Lord Rama), Lady Lost in Thought, Shakuntala.

**9. Tatya Tope**

Also known as **Ramachandra Pandurang Tope**, he was one of the most notable **Indian freedom fighters and a general in the Rebellion of 1857.**

- Born in 1814 in Nashik, Maharashtra, Tatya Tope was the only son of Pandurang Rao Tope and his wife Rukhmabai
- Tatya Tope was an intimate friend and the right hand of Nana Sahib, the adopted son of Peshwa
- In May 1857, Tatya Tope won the battle over the Indian troops of the East India Company at Kanpur
- He forced **General Windham** to retreat from the city of Gwalior.
- He **collaborated with Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi** to seize Gwalior.

Tatya Tope was defeated by **Sir Colin Campbell** (later Baron Clyde) on December 6, 1857. He was hanged on April 18, 1859, in General Meade's camp at Shivpuri.

**10. Birsa Munda**

Birth anniversary of Birsa Munda was observed on **November 15th.**

- In recognition of his impact on the national movement, the state of Jharkhand was created on his birth anniversary in 2000.

**Who was he?**

Birsa Munda was a folk hero and a tribal freedom fighter hailing from the Munda tribe. He was a spearhead behind the Millenarian movement that arose in the Bihar and Jharkhand belt in the 19th century under the British colonisation. He is also known as **'Dharti Abba' or the Earth Father.**



*Birsa Munda led the Ulgulan (resistance by Adivasis) against the British capture of land and forests in present day Jharkhand. This movement (1899-1900) won legal protection of land rights and banned forced labour. Millions of Adivasis commemorate his birth anniversary each year.*

**Birsait:**

Bisra wanted to reform the tribal society and so, he urged them to let go of beliefs in witchcraft and instead, stressed on the importance of prayer, staying away from alcohol, having faith in God and observing a code of conduct. Based on these, he started **the faith of 'Birsait'**.

**Achievements:**

Bisra started a movement called '**Ulgulan**', or '**The Great Tumult**'. His struggle against the exploitation and discrimination against tribals led to a big hit against the British government in the form of **the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act being passed in 1908**. The act restricted the passing on of land from the tribal people to non-tribals.

**11.Jyotirao Phule**

**Jyotirao Phule was born in 1827** in Satara district of Maharashtra.

Phule was given **the title of Mahatma** on May 11, 1888, by **Vithalrao Krishnaji Vandekar**, a Maharashtrian social activist.

**Social reforms and key contributions:**

1. His work is related mainly to eradication of untouchability and caste system, emancipation and empowerment of women, reform of Hindu family life.
2. Along with his wife, **Savitribai Phule**, he is regarded as pioneers of women's education in India.
3. The couples were the first native Indians to open **the first indigenously-run school for girls in India in August 1848 at Pune in Maharashtra**.
4. Later, the Phules started **schools for children from the then untouchable castes such as Mahar and Mang**.
5. In 1863, he opened **a home for pregnant Brahmin widows to give birth in a safe and secure place**.
6. He opened **an orphanage home to avoid infanticide**. In this regard, he is believed to be the first Hindu to start an orphanage for the unfortunate children.
7. In 1868, Jyotirao decided to construct **a common bathing tank** outside his house to exhibit his embracing attitude towards all human beings and wished to dine with everyone, regardless of their caste.
8. **In 1873**, Phule founded the **Satyashodhak Samaj, or the Society of Seekers of Truth**, for the rights of depressed classes, to denounce the caste system and to spread rational thinking.

**His famous works:**

Tritiya Ratna (1855), Gulamgiri (1873), Shetkarayacha Aasud, or Cultivator's Whipcord (1881), Satyashodhak Samajokt Mangalashtakasah Sarva Puja-vidhi (1887).

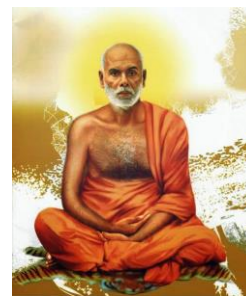
**12.Sree Narayana Guru**

Narayana Guru (1856 – 1928) was a social reformer. He has been credited with **transforming the social fabric of Kerala and changing the beliefs of keralites in ways unimaginable at that point in time**.

He was born into **an Ezhava family**, which faced much social injustice in the caste-ridden society of Kerala.

**Social reform movements:**

- He rejected casteism, and promoted new values of spiritual freedom and social equality.
- He stressed the need for the spiritual and social upliftment of the downtrodden by their own efforts through the establishment of temples and educational institutions.
- He denounced the superstitions that clouded the fundamental Hindu cultural convention of caste.
- He preached the **'oneness' of humanity**, crossing the boundaries of caste and creed.
- In 1888, **he installed an idol of siva at Aravippuram in Kerala** in his effort to show that the consecration of god's image was not a monopoly of the brahmins. This is popularly known as **Aravippuram movement**.
- In one temple he consecrated at **Kalavancode**, he kept mirrors instead of idols. This symbolised his message that the divine was within each individual.
- He also founded an **Advaita Ashram in Kalady**.
- He also lent his support to the **Vaikom Satyagraha** which was aimed at temple entry in Travancore for the lower castes. **Mahatma Gandhi met Guru during this time.**



#### Important literary works:

He contributed many important literary works, the most influential being **Atmopadesa Satakam** which he composed in 1897.

### 13. Mahatma Ayyankali

Born on August 28th, 1863 in a small village in **the princely state of Travancore**, now within the south of the modern-day nation of Kerala,

He was a **leader of an anti-caste movement** and fought for basic rights including access to public spaces and entry to schools.

- **Mahatma Gandhi** called Ayyankali as **'Pulaya king'**. Indira Gandhi described him as **'India's greatest son'**.

#### His contributions to Dalit developments:

- Ayyankali in **1893 rode an ox-cart challenging the 'ban' on untouchables from accessing public roads** by caste-Hindus.
- He also led a rally to assert the rights of 'untouchables' at Balaramapuram. The walk Ayyankali took came to be known as **'walk for freedom' and the consequent riots as 'Chaliyar riots'**.
- Ayyankali efforts **influenced many changes that improved social wellbeing of those people, who are today referred to as Dalits**.
- Ayyankali became a stated protestor for **Pulayar rights**. Because of the protests led through Ayyankali, in 1907 **a decree turned into issued to confess students from the untouchable network to government schools**.
- Inspired by **Sree Narayana Guru, a social reformer from Ezhava caste**, Ayyankali started **Sadhu Jana Paripalana Sangham** (association for the protection of the poor) which later raised funds to start their own schools.

### 14. Pingali Venkayya

He was born on **August 2, 1876**, in **Andhra Pradesh**.

- He is also known as **'Jhanda Venkaiah'**.

Pingali Venkayya was a **freedom fighter and the designer of the Indian National Tricolour**. The national flag that we see today was based upon his design.

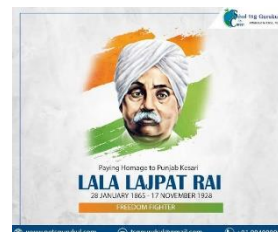
#### The evolution of Indian National Flag:



1. Between 1918 and 1921, Venkayya raised the issue of having an own flag in every session of the Congress.
2. Acknowledging the need for a national flag, Gandhi asked Venkayya to design a fresh one at the national congress meeting in 1921.
3. Initially, Venkayya came up with saffron and green colours, but it later evolved with a spinning wheel at the centre and a third colour-white.
4. The flag was officially adopted by the Indian National Congress in 1931.

### 15. Lala Lajpat Rai

1. Rai is remembered for his role during **the Swadeshi movement and for his advocacy of education.**
2. He became a follower of Dayanand Saraswati, the founder of Arya Samaj and went on to become one of the society's leaders.
3. He also helped found **the Punjab National Bank.**
4. In 1885, Rai established **the Dayanand Anglo-Vedic School** in Lahore and remained a committed educationist throughout his life.
5. Rai, Tilak, and Bipin Chandra Pal (called Lal-Bal-Pal) fervently advocated the use of Swadeshi goods and mass agitation in the aftermath of the controversial **Partition of Bengal in 1905 by Lord Curzon.**
6. He founded **the Indian Home Rule League of America in New York City in 1917.**
7. He was elected President of the Indian National Congress during its Special Session in Kolkata in 1920, which saw **the launch of Mahatma Gandhi's Non-cooperation Movement.**
8. The patriot died at Lahore in 1928 after he was attacked by police during a protest rally against the Simon Commission.
9. **His important works include:** 'The Arya Samaj', 'Young India', 'England's Debt to India', 'Evolution of Japan', 'India's Will to Freedom', 'Message of the Bhagwad Gita', 'Political Future of India', 'Problem of National Education in India', 'The Depressed Glasses', and the travelogue 'United States of America'.



### 16. Gopal Krishna Gokhale

Gopal Krishna Gokhale was born on **9 May 1866**. Gopal Krishna Gokhale was an **Indian political leader, a social reformer during the Indian Independence Movement and Mahatma Gandhi's political mentor.**

Gokhale **campaigned for Indian self-rule and also social reform.** He was the **leader of the moderate faction of the Congress party** that advocated reforms by working with existing government institutions

#### Contributions of GK Gokhale in freedom movement of India:

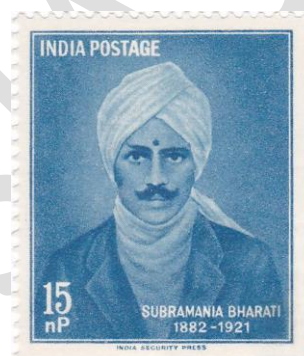
1. He gave budget speeches as a member of **the Imperial Legislative Council.**
2. He contributed articles to **the English weekly Mahratta.**
3. He served as **Secretary of the Deccan Education Society.**
4. After being given charge of the **Bombay Provincial Conference in 1893, he was elected to the Senate of the Bombay University.**
5. He visited Ireland and arranged for **Irish nationalist Alfred Webb to serve as the President of the Indian National Congress in 1894.**
6. As a member of **the Pune Municipality**, twice elected its president, Gokhale continued to strive to solve the problems of the poor, and those who came to him with grievances.



7. Gokhale also published a daily newspaper entitled **Jnanaprakash**, which allowed him to voice his reformist views on politics and society.
8. He was later elected to **the Council of India of the Governor-General of India in 1903**.
9. He was appointed as **the Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire in 1904 New Year's Honours List**.
10. In 1905, he founded **the Servants of India Society**, which trained people to be selfless workers so they could work for the common good of the people. He was also elected as **the President of the Indian National Congress**.
11. He was instrumental in the formation of **the Minto-Morley Reforms of 1909**, which eventually became law.
12. Gokhale was **a mentor to both Mohammed Jinnah and Mahatma Gandhi**. Mahatma Gandhi even wrote a book called, '**Gokhale, My Political Guru**'. His core beliefs about the importance of political liberty, social reform and economic progress for all Indians are still relevant to our times.

### 17. Subramaniya Bharathiyar

- C. Subramaniya Bharathi was born on **11th December 1882**, in Ettayapuram village of Tirunelveli District in **Tamil Nadu**.
- He was **a poet, freedom fighter and social reformer from Tamil Nadu**.
- He was known as **Mahakavi Bharathiyar**.
- **His songs on nationalism and freedom of India** helped to rally the masses to support the Indian Independence Movement in Tamil Nadu.
- **Literary works:** "Kannan Pattu" "Nilavum Vanminum Katrum" "Panchali Sabatham" "Kuyil Pattu".
- He published the sensational **"Sudesa Geethangal" in 1908**.
- Sometime in mid-1908, Bharati began to serialise **Gnanaratham** in his political weekly, India.
- In 1949, he became **the first poet whose works were nationalised by the state government**.



#### **Bharthi as a social reformer:**

He was **against caste system**. He declared that there were only two castes-men and women and nothing more than that. Above all, he himself had removed his sacred thread.

He **condemned certain Shastras that denigrated women**. He believed in the equality of humankind and criticised many preachers for mixing their personal prejudices while teaching the Gita and the Vedas.

### 18. Veer Savarkar

#### **Who is Veer Savarkar?**

Born on May 28, 1883 in Bhagur, a city in Maharashtra's Nashik.

#### **Nationalism and social reforms:**

- Formed a youth organization- **Mitra Mela**, this organization was put into place to bring in national and revolutionary ideas.
- He was against foreign goods and propagated the idea of Swadeshi.
- He championed **atheism and rationality** and also disapproved orthodox Hindu belief. In fact, he even dismissed cow worship as superstitious.
- Vinayak Savarkar was a president of **Hindu Mahasabha** from 1937 to 1943.
- When congress ministries offered resignation on 22nd oct 1939, Hindu mahaasabha under his leadership cooperated with Muslim league to form government in provinces like Sindh, Bengal and NWFP.
- In Pune, Savarkar founded **the "Abhinav Bharat Society"**.
- He joined Tilak's **Swaraj Party**.

- He founded **the Free India Society**. The Society celebrated important dates on the Indian calendar including festivals, freedom movement landmarks, and was dedicated to furthering discussion about Indian freedom.
- He believed and advocated the use of arms to free India from the British and created a network of Indians in England, equipped with weapons.

#### Important works:

1. In his book, **The History of the war of Indian Independence**, Savarkar wrote about the guerilla warfare tricks used in 1857 Sepoy Mutiny.
2. The book was banned by Britishers, but **Madam Bhikaji Cama published the book in Netherlands, Germany and France**, which eventually reached many Indian revolutionaries.
3. He was **arrested in 1909 on charges of plotting an armed revolt against the Morle-Minto reform**.
4. In 2002, **Port Blair airport at Andaman and Nicobar's Island was renamed after Veer Savarkar International Airport**.

### 19. Bal Gangadhar Tilak

#### Key points:

- His famous declaration **"Swaraj is my birthright, and I shall have it"** served as an inspiration for future revolutionaries during India's struggle for freedom.
- The British Government termed him as **the "Father of Indian Unrest"** and his followers bequeathed upon him the title of '**Lokmanya**' meaning he who is revered by the people.

#### Ideology:

- Tilak joined **the Indian National Congress in 1890**. He soon started **vocalizing his strong opposition to the moderate views of the party on self-rule**.
- He maintained that **simple constitutional agitation in itself was futile against the British**. This subsequently made him **stand against the prominent Congress leader, Gopal Krishna Gokhale**.
- He wanted **an armed revolt to broom-away the British**. Following the partition of Bengal by Lord Curzon, Tilak wholeheartedly **supported the Swadeshi (Indigenous) movement and Boycott of British goods**.
- Due to this fundamental difference in outlook, Tilak and his supporters came to be known as **the extremist wing of INC**.
- Tilak's endeavours were **supported by fellow nationalists Bipin Chandra Pal of Bengal and Lala Lajpat Rai of Punjab**.
- He was a great reformer and throughout his life he advocated **the cause of women education and women empowerment**.
- Tilak proposed Grand celebrations on '**Ganesh Chaturthi**' and '**Shivaji Jayanti**'. He envisioned these celebrations inciting a sense of unity and inspiring nationalist sentiment among Indians.

#### Protests and Imprisonment:

- Tilak protested against the oppressive nature of the British efforts and wrote provocative articles on it in his newspapers on **the epidemic of Plague in Pune and adjacent regions**.
- His article **inspired the Chapekar brothers** and they carried out assassination of Commissioner Rand and Lt. Ayerst on June 22, 1897. As a result of this, **Tilak was imprisoned for 18 months on Sedition charges for inciting murder**.
- He openly **supported the revolutionaries Khudiram Bose and Prafulla Chaki's efforts to assassinate Chief Presidency Magistrate in 1908**. He continued to write during his years of imprisonment and the most prominent of which is **Gita Rahasya**.

#### Tilak and All India Home Rule League:

- Deciding to re-unite with his fellow nationalists, Tilak founded **the All India Home Rule League in 1916** with Joseph Baptista, Annie Besant and Muhammad Ali Jinnah.
- He **rejoined the INC but could not bring about reconciliation between the two opposite-minded factions.**

#### Newspapers:

- Bal Gangadhar Tilak published two newspapers – '**Mahratta**' (English) and '**Kesari**' (Marathi).
- Tilak fearlessly published reports about the havoc caused by famine and plague and the government's utter irresponsibility and indifference about '**Famine Relief fund**'.

#### Education:

- As a founding father of **the Deccan Education Society** created in 1884.
- The Society established **the Fergusson College in 1885 for post-secondary studies.** Tilak taught mathematics at Fergusson College.

### 20. Govind Ballabh Pant

- Pant was **born on 10 September 1887** in what is now **Uttarakhand, at Almora.**
- In **Kashipur**, he established an organisation called **Prem Sabha** that started working towards several reforms.
- He also **saved a school from shutting down due to non-payment of taxes** to the British government.

#### Offices he held:

##### Before independence:

1. In December 1921, he was **elected to the Legislative Assembly of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh**, which he later renamed Uttar Pradesh.
2. He was elected as a candidate of **the Swaraj Party from Nainital.**
3. In the 1937 provincial elections held under the Government of India Act, 1935, Pant was appointed premier. He served the post till 1939, when all Congress ministers resigned after the British committed India to the Second World War of its own accord.
4. In the United Provinces election held in 1946, Pant was once again appointed the premier.

##### After independence:

- **First chief minister of Uttar Pradesh.**
- He served as **India's home minister from 1955 to 1961.** It was during his tenure that **states were reorganised on linguistic lines.**

#### Key contributions:

- During his tenure, he raised several important issues like the need to abolish the zamindari system and championed the cause of forest preservation.
- He also worked to protect farmers from excessive rents levied by the British government.
- He **encouraged many cottage industries** in the country and raised his voice against the coolie-beggar law, which forced porters to transport the heavy luggage of British officials without any payment.
- Following Gandhi's footsteps, Pant also **organised a massive salt movement** in the United Provinces. In May 1930, he was arrested and held at Dehradun jail.
- He also protested **against the Simon Commission.**
- Pant was always **against a separate electorate for minorities**, saying the step would further divide communities.

#### Awards and Honours:

In 1957, Pant was awarded India's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna.



## 21. Mannathu Padmanabhan

- He was an Indian social reformer and freedom fighter from Kerala.
- He lived from January 2, 1878 - February 25, 1970.
- He took part in anti-untouchability agitations and advocated opening temples for people of all castes.
- He also participated in the Vaikom Satyagraha.
- He is also known for his founding of the Nair Service Society (NSS).

## 22. Dr. Radhakrishnan

**Teacher's Day** is observed annually on **September 5**.

- The day commemorates the birth anniversary of **Dr. Radhakrishnan**.

**About Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan:**

He was born on **September 5, 1888** in **Thiruthani, Tamil Nadu**.

- He was **India's first Vice President and second President**.



**His Philosophy and Literary works:**

- His book, '**The Philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore**' attracted global attention to Indian philosophy.
- His philosophy was grounded in **Advaita Vedanta**.
- He **defended Hinduism against "uninformed Western criticism"** and played a major role in the formation of contemporary Hindu identity.
- **His other works include** Indian Philosophy, (1923-27), The Philosophy of the Upanishads (1924), An Idealist View of Life (1932), Eastern Religions and Western Thought (1939), and East and West: Some Reflections (1955).

**Positions held, Awards and honours:**

- He was awarded **the Bharat Ratna**, India's highest civilian award, in 1954.
- He received a **knighthood in 1931** and **honorary membership of the British Royal Order of Merit in 1963**.
- He was elected **chairman of UNESCO's executive board in 1948**.
- He was one of the founders of **Helpage India**, a renowned NGO for elderly underprivileged in India.
- He had also formed **the Krishnarpan Charity Trust** along with Ghanshyam Das Birla and some other social workers in the pre-independence era.
- He was **the first Indian to hold a chair at the University of Oxford** - the Spalding Professor of Eastern Religion and Ethics (1936-1952)
- In 1930, he was appointed **Haskell lecturer in Comparative Religion at the University of Chicago**.

## 23. Khudiram Bose

- **Born in 1889**, Bose is highly regarded in Bengal for his fearless spirit.
- Unlike other leaders like Subhash Chandra Bose, however, **Khudiram's legacy has been largely limited to Bengal**.
- In 1905, when Bengal was partitioned, he actively participated in protests against the British.
- At the age of 15, Bose joined **the Anushilan Samiti**, an early 20th century organisation that propounded revolutionary activities in Bengal.



- The deciding moment of Bose's life came in 1908 when he along with another revolutionary, **Prafulla Chaki** were assigned the task of assassinating the district magistrate of Muzaffarpur, **Kingsford**.

## 24. Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore

### Early life:

- Popularly known as '**Gurudev**'.
- Tagore was primarily known as a writer, poet, playwright, philosopher and aesthetician, music composer and choreographer, founder of a unique educational institution - **Visva- Bharati** and a painter.
- Tagore began writing poetry at the age of eight years old and **at 16 years of age, Tagore released his first collection of poems under the pen name 'Bhanusimha'**.
- He had spoken at **the World Parliament for Religions in the years 1929 and 1937**.

### Contributions:

- He wrote **the National Anthems of India and Bangladesh**.
- He left his imprint on art and played a role in transforming its practices and ushering into modernism.
- Between 1928 and 1940, Rabindranath painted more than 2000 images. He never gave any title to his paintings.
- **Expressionism** in European art and **the primitive art of ancient cultures** inspired him.

### Awards:

In **1913**, he became **the first Indian to receive a Nobel Prize in Literature** for his novel '**Geetanjali**'.

### Role in the freedom struggle:

- He denounced **British imperialism**, yet he **did not fully support or agree with Gandhi and his Non-cooperation Movement**.
- He viewed British rule as **a symptom of the overall "sickness" of the social "disease" of the public**.
- In his writings, he also voiced his support of Indian nationalists.
- Rabindranath Tagore wrote the song **Banglar Mati Banglar Jol (Soil of Bengal, Water of Bengal)** to unite the Bengali population after Bengal partition in 1905.
- He also wrote the famed '**Amar Sonar Bangla**' which helped ignite a feeling of nationalism amongst people.
- He started **the Rakhi Utsav** where people from Hindu and Muslim communities tied colourful threads on each other's wrists.
- Tagore **rejected violence from the British as well and renounced the knighthood** that had been given to him by **Lord Hardinge in 1915** in protest of **the violent Amritsar massacre in which the British killed at least 1526 unarmed Indian citizens**.
- The cornerstone of Tagore's beliefs and work is the idea that **anti-colonialism cannot simply be achieved by rejecting all things British, but should consist of incorporating all the best aspects of western culture into the best of Indian culture**.

### What freedom meant for Tagore?

"Freedom" does not simply mean political freedom from the British; True freedom means the ability to be truthful and honest with oneself otherwise autonomy loses all of its worth.

## 25. Abanindranath Tagore

National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi organised the virtual tour titled “The Great Maestro | Abanindranath Tagore” to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Abanindranath Tagore on 7th August 2020.

### About Abanindranath Tagore:

Abanindranath Tagore, the nephew of Rabindranath Tagore, was one of the most prominent artists of Bengal school of art in India. He was the first major supporter of swadeshi values in Indian art.

The contribution of Abanindranath Tagore towards Indian art and culture are:

### Bengal School of Art:

- He first created the ‘Indian Society of Oriental Art’ and later went on to establish Bengal school of art.
- He believed that Indian art and its art forms gave importance to spirituality as opposed to the West which stressed on materialism, thus rejecting it.
- His idea of modernizing Mughal and Rajput paintings eventually gave rise to modern Indian painting, which took birth at his Bengal school of art.
- Most of his works revolved around Hindu philosophy.
- In his later works, Abanindranath started integrating Chinese and Japanese calligraphic traditions into his style. The intention behind this move was to construct an amalgamation of the modern pan-Asian artistic tradition and the common elements of Eastern artistic and spiritual culture.



### Famous paintings are:

Bharat Mata, The Passing of Shah Jahan (1900), My Mother (1912–13), Fairyland illustration (1913), Journey's End (circa 1913).

### Literature:

- Abanindranath is also regarded as a proficient and accomplished writer.
- Most of his literary works were meant for children. Some of his books like ‘BudoAngla’, ‘KhirerPutul’ and ‘Rajkahini’ are best examples of Bengali children’s literature.
- William Rothenstein helped Rabindranath Tagore to publish his work ‘Gitanjali’ in English.
- Arabian Nights series was one of his notable works.

## 26. Bhagat Singh

113th birth anniversary celebrated on 28th September, 2020.

### About Bhagat Singh:

Born in September, 1907.

**Gandhi's influence:** Initially, he supported Mahatma Gandhi and the Non-Cooperation Movement. However, when Gandhi withdrew the movement in the wake of the Chauri Chaura incident, Bhagat Singh turned to revolutionary nationalism.

### Associations he was associated with:

- In 1924 in Kanpur, he became a member of the Hindustan Republican Association, started by Sachindranath Sanyal a year earlier.
- In 1925, Bhagat Singh returned to Lahore and within the next year he and his colleagues started a militant youth organisation called the Naujawan Bharat Sabha.
- In 1928, he was associated with the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) along with Sukhdev, Chandrashekhar Azad and others.

- Bhagat Singh and Sukhdev also organized the **Lahore Students Union** for open, legal work among the students.

#### Revolutionary activities he was involved in:

- Lahore Conspiracy case.
- 1929 Central Assembly Bombing Case.

#### Bhagat Singh Execution:

Bhagat Singh was arrested and charged in the Saunders murder case, along with Rajguru, Sukhdev and others.

The trio was ordered to be

hanged on 24 March 1931 but the sentence was carried out a day earlier at the Lahore Jail.

- **23rd March** is observed as 'Martyrs' Day' or 'Shaheed Diwas' or 'Sarvodaya Day' in honour of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev.



#### Political ideology:

His azaadi freedom was not limited to the expelling of the British; instead he desired azaadi from poverty, azaadi from untouchability, azaadi from communal strife, and azaadi from every form of discrimination and exploitation.

### 27. Chandra Shekhar Azad

- Born on July 23, 1906, at **Bhavra, Alirajpur District in present-day Madhya Pradesh**.
- He took part in **non-cooperation movement** when he was 15.
- After the suspension of the **non-cooperation movement in 1922** by Gandhi, Azad joined **Hindustan Republican Association (HRA)**.
- HRA was later reorganised as **the Hindustan Socialist Republican Army (HSRA) in 1928**.
- Azad was involved in **the 1925 Kakori Conspiracy**.
- He died at **Azad Park in Allahabad on 27th February 1931**.
- **Other cases Azad was involved in include** the 1926 attempt to blow up the viceroy's train, and the shooting of J P Saunders in 1928. Saunders was assassinated to avenge the death of Lala Lajpat Rai.

#### Why he is called "Azad"?

He was arrested because of his **participation in the non-cooperation movement**. When produced by the magistrate, **he proudly announced his name as 'Azad'**, his father's name as '**Swatantrata**' and his place of dwelling as '**Jail**'. It was from then on that the name '**Azad**' stuck to him.

### 28. Patricia Mountbatten

A diamond bracelet and jewelled decorative elephants from Jaipur are some of the Indian heirlooms that made up a collection of 350 personal items belonging to Patricia Mountbatten, which fetched over £5.6 million at Sotheby's auction in London.

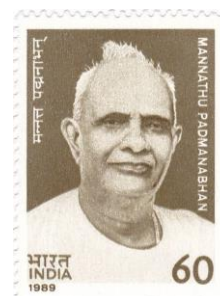
- Patricia Edwina Victoria Mountbatten was the Second Countess Mountbatten of Burma and had a strong royal connection as the great-great-granddaughter of Queen Victoria and first cousin to Prince Philip, the 99-year-old husband of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II.
- She was the eldest daughter of Lord Louis Mountbatten — the last Viceroy of India.





## 29. Mannathu Padmanabhan

- Mannathu Padmanabhan (1878 – 1970) was an Indian social reformer and freedom fighter from Kerala.
- He took part in anti-untouchability agitations and advocated opening temples for people of all castes.
- He also participated in the Vaikom Satyagraha.
- He is also known for his founding of the Nair Service Society (NSS).



## Awards / Institutions

### 1. Gandhi Peace Prize

- The father of the nation of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the former Sultan of Oman, the late Qaboos bin Said Al Said, was awarded the Gandhi Peace Prize for 2020 and 2019, respectively.
- They were selected by the jury, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and comprising the Chief Justice of India, the leader of the single largest Opposition party in the Lok Sabha, Lok Sabha Speaker and founder of Sulabh International.

#### About the Gandhi Peace Prize:

- Instituted in the year 1995 on the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- This annual award is given to individuals and institutions for their contributions towards social, economic and political transformation through non-violence and other Gandhian methods.
- The award carries a cash prize of Rs 1 crore, a citation and a Plaque as well as an exquisite traditional handicraft/handloom item.
- It is open to all persons regardless of nationality, creed, race or sex.

### 2. Jnanpith award

55<sup>th</sup> Jnanpith award announced in November 2019 was handed over to poet **Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri**.



#### About the Award:

The Jnanpith Award is one of the prestigious literary honours in the country.

**Instituted** in 1961.

**Eligibility:** Any Indian citizen who writes in any of the official languages of India is eligible for the honour.

- English language was added to the list of languages for consideration after the 49th Jnanpith Award.

## International Efforts / International Events

### 1. Declaration Of World Heritage Sites By UNESCO

Ministry of Culture said:

1. **'Dholavira: A Harappan City'** has been submitted for nomination of World Heritage Site in 2019-2020.
2. Nomination dossiers of **'Santiniketan, India'** and **'Sacred Ensemble of Hoysalas'** have been submitted to UNESCO for the year 2021-22 cycle.

At present, India has **38 World Heritage Properties**. Of these, 30 are 'cultural', 7 are 'Natural', and One is classified as 'Mixed'.

**India has 42 sites listed under Tentative List** which is a pre-requisite condition for inscription as World Heritage Site.

#### Cultural (30)

Agra Fort (1983)  
 Ajanta Caves (1983)  
 Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara at Nalanda, Bihar (2016)  
 Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi (1989)  
 Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park (2004)  
 Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus) (2004)  
 Churches and Convents of Goa (1986)  
 Elephanta Caves (1987)  
 Ellora Caves (1983)  
 Fatehpur Sikri (1986)  
 Great Living Chola Temples (1987,2004)  
 Group of Monuments at Hampi (1986)  
 Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram (1984)  
 Group of Monuments at Pattadakal (1987)  
 Hill Forts of Rajasthan (2013)  
 Historic City of Ahmadabad (2017)  
 Humayun's Tomb, Delhi (1993)  
 Jaipur City, Rajasthan (2019)  
 Khajuraho Group of Monuments (1986)  
 Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya (2002)  
 Mountain Railways of India (1999,2005,2008)  
 Qutub Minar and its Monuments, Delhi (1993)  
 Rani-ki-Vav (the Queen's Stepwell) at Patan, Gujarat (2014)  
 Red Fort Complex (2007)  
 Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka (2003)  
 Sun Temple, Konârak (1984)  
 Taj Mahal (1983)  
 The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier, an Outstanding Contribution to the Modern Movement (2016)  
 The Jantar Mantar, Jaipur (2010)  
 Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai (2018)

#### Natural (7)

Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area (2014)  
 Kaziranga National Park (1985)  
 Keoladeo National Park (1985)  
 Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (1985)  
 Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks (1988,2005)  
 Sundarbans National Park (1987)  
 Western Ghats (2012)

**Mixed (1)**

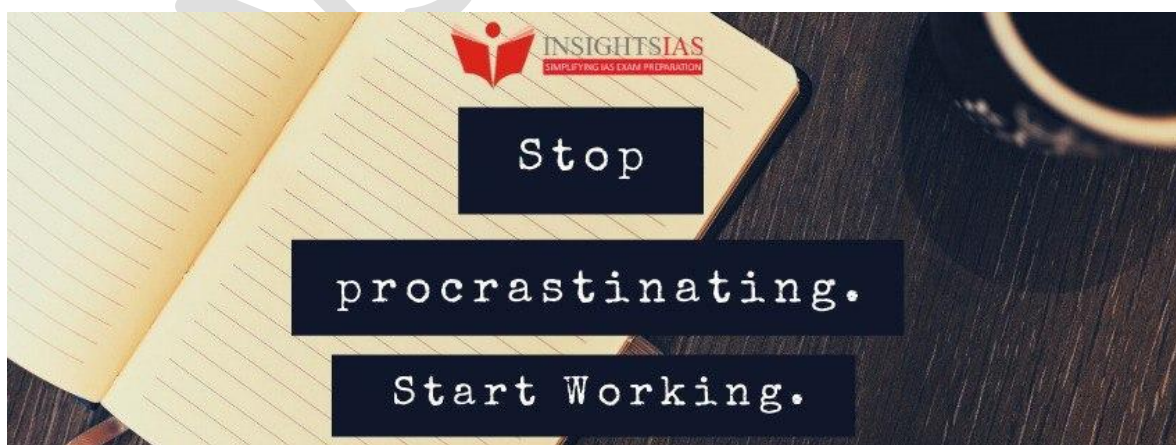
Khangchendzonga National Park (2016)

**What is a World Heritage site?**

- A World Heritage site is classified as a natural or man-made area or a structure that is of international importance, and a space which requires special protection.
- These sites are officially recognised by the UN and the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation, also known as UNESCO.
- UNESCO believes that the sites classified as World Heritage are important for humanity, and they hold cultural and physical significance.

**Key facts:**

1. The list is maintained by the international World Heritage Programme administered by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, composed of 21 UNESCO member states which are elected by the General Assembly.
2. Each World Heritage Site remains part of the legal territory of the state wherein the site is located and UNESCO considers it in the interest of the international community to preserve each site.
3. To be selected, a World Heritage Site must be an already classified landmark, unique in some respect as a geographically and historically identifiable place having special cultural or physical significance.



## Historical Events

### 1. Kakatiya Dynasty

Kakati temple built by **Kakatiya ruler Ganapati Deva** in Dharanikota (Andhra Pradesh) converted into an **abode of local Goddess 'Balusulamma'**.

#### Key points:

- The **presiding deity** at this 13th century temple was Kakati Devi, the tutelary deity of Kakatiya rulers.
- Ganapati Deva is **the first king who introduced the worship of Kakati Devi into the coastal region of Andhra and outside the dominions of his kingdom.**
- **Architectural significance** of the temple: The ceiling bears decorations of lotus medallions and no sikhara on its top. These architectural features are totally akin to their counterparts found in shrines at Hanamkonda and Warangal fort etc.

#### About kakatiya dynasty-Key facts:

The **12th and the 13th centuries** saw the emergence of the Kakatiyas.

They were at first **the feudatories of the Western Chalukyas** of Kalyana, ruling over a small territory near Warangal.

- The dynasty saw powerful leaders like **Ganapathi Deva and Rudramadevi.**
- **Prataparudra I**, also known as **Kakatiya Rudradeva**, was the son of the Kakatiya leader Prola II. It was under his rule that the Kakatiyas declared sovereignty. He ruled the kingdom till 1195 A.D.
- It was under the rule of Prataparudra I that **usage of Telugu language in inscriptions began.**
- Before the establishment of **Orugallu/Warangal as the capital, Hanamakonda** was the first capital of the Kakatiyas.
- The great **Italian traveller Marco Polo** visited the Kakatiya Kingdom sometime during Rudramadevi's tenure as the ruler of the Kakatiya Dynasty and made note of her administrative style; admiring her extensively.



#### Art and architecture:

- The iconic **Kakatiya Thoranam** was built by Rudramadevi's father in the 12th Century. This ornate arch is said to have many similarities with the gateways at the Sanchi Stupa and is also the emblem of Telangana.
- The scenic **Pakhal lake** in Warangal was built by Ganapathi Deva.
- The **1000 pillar temple** in Warangal was built during the Kakatiya Rule and is another example to the exquisite Kakatiya Architecture.
- The **Koh-i-Noor Diamond**, which is now among the jewels set in the British Crown, was mined and first owned by the Kakatiya Dynasty.

#### Society:

Under the Kakatiya rule, **the caste system was not rigid** and in fact, it was not given much significance socially. Anyone could take up any profession and people were not bound to an occupation by birth.



The Kakatiya rule finally came to an end in 1323 A.D. when **Warangal was conquered by the Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq**, the then Sultan of Delhi.

## 2. 1761 Battle of Panipat

Two other major battles had been fought on the Panipat plains:

1. The **First Battle of Panipat, in 1526**, laid the foundation of the Mughal Empire in India after its first ruler, Babur, ended the Delhi Sultanate, which at the time was led by the Lodi dynasty.
2. The **Second Battle of Panipat, in 1556**, cemented Mughal rule when Akbar fought off a threat from the king Hemu 'Vikramaditya'.

### **About the Third Battle of Panipat, fought in 1761:**

- Fought between **Maratha forces and invading armies of Afghan general Ahmed Shah Abdali of Durrani Empire** in 1761.
- Abdali was supported by two Indian allies— **the Rohillas Najib-ud-daulah**, Afghans of the Doab region and **Shuja-ud-Daula- the Nawab of Awadh**.

### **How it started?**

1. After the death of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb, there was a sudden rise of the Marathas. The Marathas reversed all his territorial gains in the Deccan and conquered a considerable part of India.
2. The decline was hastened by the invasion of India by Nader Shah, who also took away Takht-i-Taus (the Peacock Throne) and the Kohinoor Diamond in 1739.
3. Abdali planned to attack the Marathas when his son was driven out of Lahore.
4. By the end of 1759, Abdali with his Afghan tribes reached Lahore as well as Delhi and defeated the smaller enemy garrisons.
5. The two armies fought at Karnal and Kunjpura where the entire Afghan garrison was killed or enslaved.
6. The massacre of the Kunjpura garrison infuriated Durrani to such an extent that he ordered for crossing the river at all costs to attack the Marathas.
7. Smaller battles continued through months and forces from both the sides amassed for the final assault. But food was running out for the Marathas.

### **Outcomes:**

1. The Marathas were defeated in the battle, with 40,000 of their troops killed, while Abdali's army is estimated to have suffered around 20,000 casualties.
2. It marked a loss of prestige for the Marathas, who lost their preeminent position in north India after this war, paving the way for British colonial power to expand here.
3. The Marathas lost some of their most important generals and administrators, including Sadashivrao and heir-apparent Vishwasrao of the Peshwa household, Ibrahim Khan Gardi, Jankojirao Scindia, and Yashwantrao Puar.

## 3. Bhima Koregaon Battle

- A battle was fought in Bhima Koregaon, a district in Pune with a strong historical Dalit connection, between the Peshwa forces and the British on January 1, 1818.
- The British army, which comprised mainly of Dalit soldiers, fought the upper caste-dominated Peshwa army. The British troops defeated the Peshwa army.

### **Outcomes of the battle:**

- The victory was seen as a win against caste-based discrimination and oppression. Peshwas were notorious for their oppression and persecution of Mahar dalits. The victory in the battle over Peshwas gave dalits a moral victory a victory against caste-based discrimination and oppression and sense of identity.

- However, the divide and rule policy of the British created multiple fissures in Indian society which is even visible today in the way of excessive caste and religious discrimination which needs to be checked keeping in mind the tenets of the Constitution.

#### Why Bhima Koregaon is seen as a Dalit symbol?

- The battle has come to be seen as a symbol of Dalit pride because a large number of soldiers in the Company force were the Mahar Dalits. Since the Peshwas, who were Brahmins, were seen as oppressors of Dalits, the victory of the Mahar soldiers over the Peshwa force is seen as Dalit assertion.
- On 1 January 1927, B.R. Ambedkar visited the memorial obelisk erected on the spot which bears the names of the dead including nearly two dozen Mahar soldiers. The men who fought in the battle of Koregaon were the Mahars, and the Mahars are Untouchables.

#### 4. Patharughat uprising

- Twenty-five years before the Jallianwallah Bagh massacre, more than a hundred peasants fell to the bullets of the British on January 28, 1894 in Assam.
- The unarmed peasants were protesting against the increase in land revenue levied by the colonial administration, when the military opened fire.
- Today a "martyrs column" stands where the incident took place — Patharughat, a small village in Assam's Darrang district, 60km northeast of Guwahati.



#### What led to the Patharughat uprising?

- After the British annexation of Assam in 1826, surveys of the vast lands of the state began. On the basis of such surveys, the British began to impose land taxes, much to the resentment of the farmers.
- In 1893, the British government decided to increase agricultural land tax reportedly by 70- 80 per cent. Up until then the peasants would pay taxes in kind or provide a service in lieu of cash.
- In Patharughat, despite these gatherings being democratic, the British perceived them as "breeding grounds for sedition" and opened fire.

#### Why was the incident significant?

For the larger Assamese community, Patharughat comes second only to the **Battle of Saraighat**, when the Ahoms defeated the Mughals in 1671.

#### 5. Mapilla rebellion

The **Mapilla rebellion or Moplah Rebellion (Moplah Riots) of 1921** was the culmination of a series of riots by Moplahs (Muslims of Malabar) in the 19th and early 20th centuries **against the British and the Hindu landlords in Malabar (Northern Kerala).**

- The year **2021 will mark the 100th year anniversary of the uprising.**

#### Causes and outcomes of the revolt:

- The resistance which started against the British colonial rule and the feudal system later ended in communal violence between Hindus and Muslims.
- **Gandhiji along with Shaukat Ali**, the leader of the Khilafat movement in India, visited Calicut in August 1920 to **spread the combined message of non-cooperation and Khilafat among the residents of Malabar.**
- In response to Gandhiji's call, a **Khilafat committee** was formed in Malabar and the Mappilas, under their religious head **Mahadum Tungal of Ponnani** who pledged support to the non-cooperation movement.

- Most of tenants' grievances were related to the security of tenure, high rents, renewal fees and other unfair exactions of the landlords.
- The **British government responded with much aggression**, bringing in Gurkha regiments to suppress it and imposing martial law.

#### Wagon Tragedy:

A noteworthy event of the British suppression was the wagon tragedy when approximately 60 Mappila prisoners on their way to prison, were suffocated to death in a closed railway goods wagon.

### 6. Jallianwala incident

On April 13, 1919, British forces opened fire on unarmed Indians at **Jallianwala Bagh killing hundreds of people**.

#### About the incident:

- April 13, 1919, It was **Baisakhi that day**, a harvest festival popular in Punjab and parts of north India. Local residents in Amritsar decided to hold a meeting that day to discuss and protest against the confinement of **Satya Pal and Saifuddin Kitchlew**, two leaders fighting for Independence, and implementation of **the Rowlatt Act**, which armed the British government with powers to detain any person without trial.
- The **crowd had a mix of men, women and children**. They all gathered in a park called the Jallianwala Bagh, walled on all sides but for a few small gates, against the orders of the British. The protest was a peaceful one, and the gathering included pilgrims visiting the Golden Temple who were merely passing through the park, and some who had not come to protest.
- While the meeting was on, Brigadier-**General Reginald Edward Harry Dyer**, ordered soldiers to open fire on the crowd. Many tried in vain to scale the walls to escape. Many jumped into the well located inside the park.

#### Outcomes:

1. Considered '**The Butcher of Amritsar**' in the aftermath of the massacre, **General Dyer was removed from command and exiled to Britain**.
2. **Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi**, as a sign of condemnation, renounced their British Knighthood and Kaiser-i-Hind medal respectively.
3. In 1922, the infamous **Rowlett Act was repealed by the British**.

To keep in mind this significance of this place, a trust was founded in 1920 to build a memorial site at Jallianwala Bagh. **American architect, Benjamin Polk**, built the memorial site which was inaugurated by the then President of India, **Rajendra Prasad** on 13 April 1961.

## 7. Chauri Chaura incident

February 4th 2021 marks hundred years of the Chauri Chaura incident that had led to Mahatma Gandhi calling off the Non-cooperation Movement.

### What is Chauri Chaura incident?

- The incident occurred at Chauri Chaura in the Gorakhpur district of the United Province, (modern Uttar Pradesh) in British India.
- During this incident, a large group of protesters, participating in the Non-cooperation movement, clashed with police, who opened fire.
- The demonstrators attacked and set fire to a police station in retaliation, killing all of its occupants.
- In response to this, Mahatma Gandhi, who was strictly against violence, halted the Non-cooperation Movement on the national level on 12 February 1922, as a direct result of this incident.

**NON CO-OPERATION MOVEMENT**

" NCM opened a new chapter in the history of the Freedom Movement in India. It was the beginning of the Gandhian Movement against the British "

**About the Movement**

- \* The movement led by Mahatma Gandhi and INC, was the first nationwide mass protest in the history of Indian Independence.
- \* It stretched from September 1920 to February 1922.
- \* It was aimed to resist British rule in India through "Ahimsa".
- \* Gandhi assured that Swaraj would be achieved in one year if his Non-Cooperation programme was fully implemented.

**Background**

**ROWLER ACT**

- During World War I, British imposed censorship on the press and permitted detention without trial.
- Rowlett recommended that British to continue these rules even after the war ended.

**JALLIANWALA BAGH MASSACRE**

- The Movement took a hike after the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre in 1919, when the British officer General Dyer, led a troop and killed 400 innocent Indians including women, children & elderly.

**SHIMLA CONFERENCE**

- The World War I had ended with the defeat of Ottoman Turkey. And there were rumours that a harsh peace treaty was going to be imposed on Ottoman emperor (Khalifa). To defend the Khalifa's temporal powers, a Khilafat Committee was formed in Bombay in March 1919.

" After a series of these events, Gandhiji realised that there was no prospect of getting any fair treatment at the hands of British, so he planned to withdraw the nation's co-operation from the British.. "

**Phases of Movement**

- The movement was to be nonviolent and to begin with surrender of titles and boycott of civil services, courts, army, police and legislative councils, schools & foreign goods and eventually, refusing to pay taxes.
- Non-cooperation was agreed to by the INC at Calcutta in September 1920 and launched that December.
- In 1921 the British, confronted with a united Indian front for the first time, was visibly shaken, but a revolt by the Muslim Moplahs of Kerala in August 1921 and a number of violent outbreaks alarmed moderate opinion.
- After an angry mob murdered police officers in the village of Chauri-chaura in February 1922, Gandhiji himself called-off the movement.

**Consequences**

- The movement marked the transition of Indian nationalism from a middle-class to a mass basis.
- The status of Self-government was not achieved in one year as promised by Mahatma Gandhi.
- The NCM was no doubt suspended but it has served a unique purpose in the process of the reorganisation of the Congress from top to bottom.
- With the movement, nationalist sentiments reached every nook & corner of the country and politicised everyone.
- It was this politicisation and activation of millions of men and women which imparted a revolutionary character to the national movement.

## 8. Salt Satyagraha

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has flagged off the foot march to re-enact the historic Mahatma Gandhi-led Salt March, while launching the 'Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav', the government's initiative to mark 75 years of India's Independence.

### About the 75th anniversary celebrations:

To be continued till August 15, 2023 under five themes of the celebrations as the guiding force for moving forward, keeping dreams and duties as the inspiration. The themes are:

1. Freedom Struggle.
2. Ideas at 75.
3. Achievements at 75.
4. Actions at 75.
5. Resolves at 75.



**About the Salt Satyagraha:**

On March 12, 1930, Mahatma Gandhi embarked a historic Salt March from Sabarmati Ashram in Gujarat's Ahmedabad to the village of Dandi in the state's coastal area to protest against the steep tax the British levied on salt.



- The Salt March began on March 12, 1930 and continued till April 6, 1930.
- It was a 24-day Salt March, which was non-violent in nature, is historically significant as **it led to the mass Civil Disobedience Movement**.
- Upon reaching the seashore in Dandi, Mahatma Gandhi broke the law by producing illegal salt.

**Why Gandhiji chose Salt Satyagraha to start the civil disobedience movement?**

- In every Indian household, salt was indispensable, yet people were forbidden from making salt even for domestic use, compelling them to buy it from shops at a high price.
- The state monopoly over salt was deeply unpopular; by making it his target, Gandhiji hoped to mobilise a wider discontent against British rule.
- Salt was chosen to symbolize the start of civil disobedience movement because salt was deemed as something on which each Indian had the basic right.

**9. Subhash Chandra Bose**

Subhash Chandra Bose had unfurled the Tricolour in Port Blair on 30th December, 1943.

**Background:**

Bose had arrived in Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands in 1943 after Japan handed them over to his **Azad Hind government**. Japan had captured the islands during the second world war.

**About Azad Hind Government:**

- Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose had announced the establishment of the provisional government of Azad Hind in occupied Singapore in **1943**.
- Known as **Arzi Hukumat-e-Azad Hind**, it was **supported by the Axis powers of Imperial Japan, Nazi Germany, the Italian Social Republic, and their allies**.
- He had launched a struggle to free India from British rule under the banner of **the provisional government-in exile** during the latter part of the Second World War.

- The Azad Hind government had its own court, civil code and currency.
- Its provisional capital was Port Blair, while its capital-in-exile was Rangoon and Singapore.

**Who were part of this?**

Under his provisional government, the Indians living abroad had been united. The Indian National Army drew ex- prisoners and thousands of civilian volunteers from the Indian expatriate population in Malaya (present-day Malaysia) and Burma (now Myanmar).

- Under the provisional government, Bose was the head of the state, the prime minister and the minister for war and foreign affairs.
- Captain Lakshmi headed the women's organisation while S A Ayer headed the publicity and propaganda wing.
- Revolutionary leader Rash Behari Bose was designated as the supreme advisor.

The Union Culture Ministry has announced that **January 23, birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose**, would be celebrated as **"Parakram Divas"**, day of courage, every year.

- 2021 was the 125th birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose.

**Key Points related to Subhash Chandra Bose:**

1. Subhash Chandra Bose was twice elected **President of the Indian National Congress, (1938-Haripur and 1939-Tripuri).**

He resigned from the Congress Presidentship in 1939 and organised **the All India Forward Bloc** a faction within the Congress in Bengal.

**10.1947 pact on Gorkha soldiers**

- Following **the Anglo-Nepalese War of 1814-16**, the British decided to recruit Gorkha soldiers in 1815.
- After India's Independence in 1947, the question of allotting the 10 regiments of Gorkha soldiers was settled by **the Britain-India-Nepal Tripartite Agreement.**
- The agreement **divided the Gorkha Regiments of the British Empire between India and the United Kingdom.**
- It also assured that **the Gorkha soldiers of Nepal while serving in the British military will draw perks and privileges equivalent to their counterparts.**

**Gorkhas in the British Army:**

Currently, **the Gorkhas comprise up to 3% of the British Army, and in 2015 completed 200 years of service there.**

- Regarded as fierce and loyal, the Gorkhas are held in high esteem in the British Army. They are enlisted not only in the infantry, but also in the engineering corps and as logisticians.
- Their signature weapon, **the khukri**, famous for the inwardly curved shape of its blade and its legendary utility, forms part of the Gorkha regimental insignia in Britain as well as in India.
- **Queen Elizabeth II of Britain** is guarded by two personal Gurkha officers.

**Insta Fact:**

The **Indian Army Chief** is granted the honorary post of a **General in the Nepal Army.**

**11.Punnapara-Vayalar revolt**

A report to **the Indian Council for Historical Research (ICHR)** has suggested dropping the Communist martyrs of **Punnapra-Vayalar, Karivelloor and Kavumbayi agitations** from the list of martyrs of India's Independence struggle.

**About Punnapara-Vayalar revolt:**

It was an organized working class uprising in the Princely State of Travancore, British India against the Prime Minister, C. P. Ramaswami Iyer and the state.

**The objectives of the revolt were:**

1. To overthrow the exploitative diwan of Travancore.
2. To liberate the working class from unjust taxation and exploitation of the establishment.

**The significances of this revolt were:**

- (a) It was a unique agitation where the working class rose against government.
- (b) It saw the people of all classes up in arms against a common tyrant hence it dissolved class and religion distinction and induced unity among people.
- (c) It resulted in establishing democracy in the region and also gave a decisive turn to the politics of the state.

**Implications of the revolt:**

- Historians maintain this was a **proper struggle against the declaration of 'Independent Travancore' by the then Travancore.**

- T K Varghese Vaidyan, a leader of the struggle, had gone on record saying it was a rehearsal for a larger revolution with the ultimate objective of establishing a **"Communist India"**.

## 12. Independence Day

**Pre- Independence- the call for Poorna Swaraj:**

- In 1929, when Jawaharlal Nehru as Congress President gave the call for **'Poorna Swaraj'** or **total independence from British colonial rule, January 26** was chosen as the Independence Day.
- Congress party continued to celebrate it 1930 onwards, till India attained independence and January 26, 1950, was chosen as the **Republic Day** – the day India formally became a sovereign country and was no longer a British Dominion.

**How did August 15 become India's Independence Day?**

**Lord Mountbatten** had been given a **mandate by the British parliament to transfer the power by June 30, 1948**. If he had waited till June 1948, in **C Rajagopalachari's** memorable words, **there would have been no power left to transfer**.

Mountbatten thus advanced the date to August 1947. By advancing the date, he said he was ensuring that there will be no bloodshed or riot.

- Based on Mountbatten's inputs **the Indian Independence Bill was introduced in the British House of Commons on July 4, 1947**, and passed within a fortnight. **It provided for the end of the British rule in India, on August 15, 1947**, and the establishment of the Dominions of India and Pakistan, which were allowed to secede from the British Commonwealth.

**Why Mountbatten chose August 15, 1947?**

Because it was **the second anniversary of Japan's surrender**.

## 13. KHALISTAN MOVEMENT

It is the fight for a separate Sikh state and owes its origins to **the Punjabi Suba Movement**. The Akali Dal – a Sikh-dominated political party – sought to create a separate Sikh Suba or Province.

- When **the States Reorganization Commission**, constituted to assess the demand for separate states by linguistic groups, made its recommendations, it rejected the Akali Dal's demand.
- The state was trifurcated into Punjabi-majority Punjab, Hindi-majority Haryana and the Union Territory of Chandigarh. Some hilly regions of the state were merged into Himachal Pradesh.

**WHAT WAS THE ANANDPUR SAHIB RESOLUTION?**

Shiromani Akali Dal adopted this resolution. This would serve as a blueprint for the party's future agenda. The resolution demanded autonomy for the state of Punjab, identified regions that would be part of a separate state, and sought the right to frame its own internal constitution.

## Government Initiatives

### 1. Development of Iconic Tourist Destinations Scheme

Tourism Ministry, in association with Madhya Pradesh Tourism and India Convention Promotion Bureau organized 'MICE (MICE – Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) Roadshow – Meet in India' at **Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh**.

#### About the Scheme:

- It is a central sector scheme for the development of identified iconic destinations in the country following a holistic approach.
- The objective of the scheme is to boost the tourism influx in India and serve as a model for other tourism sites.
- The nodal agency for the scheme is the Tourism Ministry while other ministries such as civil aviation, railways, etc. are also involved.
- The identified tourist sites to be developed as iconic destinations under the scheme are Taj Mahal & Fatehpur Sikri (Uttar Pradesh), Ajanta Caves & Ellora Caves (Maharashtra), Humayun's Tomb, Red Fort & Qutub Minar (Delhi), Colva Beach (Goa), Amer Fort (Rajasthan), Somnath, Dholavira & Statue of Unity (Gujarat), Khajuraho (MP), Hampi (Karnataka), Mahabalipuram (Tamil Nadu), Kaziranga (Assam), Kumarakom (Kerala), Konark (Odisha) and Mahabodhi Temple (Bihar).



#### About Khajuraho temples:

- Khajuraho Temples are among the most beautiful medieval monuments in the country. These temples were built by the Chandella ruler between AD 900 and 1130.
- They are world-wide known for their erotic sculptures. The first recorded mention of the Khajuraho temples is in the accounts of Abu Rihan al Biruni in AD 1022 and the Arab traveler Ibn Battuta in AD 1335.
- The Khajuraho group of temples were built together but were dedicated to two religions, Hinduism and Jainism, suggesting a tradition of acceptance and respect for diverse religious views among Hindus and Jains in the region.

### 2. 'Adopt a Heritage' project

The Scheme was launched on World Tourism Day i.e. 27th September, 2017.

- This project is a key initiative of Ministry of Tourism in close collaboration with Ministry of Culture and Archeological Survey of India (ASI), to develop the heritage sites / monuments and making them tourist-friendly to enhance the tourism potential and their cultural importance in a planned and phased manner.

#### How it works?

The project plans to entrust heritage sites/monuments and other tourist sites to private sector companies, public sector companies and individuals for the development of tourist amenities. The project aims to develop synergy among all partners.

#### Who are Monument Mitras?

Successful bidders selected for adopting heritage sites / monuments by the Oversight and Vision Committee shall be called as Monument Mitras. The basic and advanced amenities of the tourist destinations would be provided by them.

- They would also look after the operations and the maintenance of the amenities. The 'Monument Mitras' would associate pride with their CSR activities.



**Significance of this project:**

Adopt a Heritage project is meant to address the challenges that the Archaeological Survey of India and other government bodies are facing in operating tourism infrastructure at heritage sites.

- By allowing private players to build, operate and maintain “tourist-friendly” and “world class amenities at these sites, the expectation is that the project will boost domestic and international tourism.

**3. Tharu tribals**

The Uttar Pradesh government has embarked upon a scheme to take the unique culture of its ethnic **Tharu tribe** across the world.

The scheme involves creating homestays. The idea is to offer tourists an experience of living in **the natural Tharu habitat, in traditional huts made of grass collected mainly from the forests.**

**Who are the Tharu people?**

- The community belongs to **the Terai lowlands**, amid the Shivaliks or lower Himalayas. Most of them are forest dwellers, and some practice agriculture.
- The word tharu is believed to be derived from sthvir, meaning followers of **Theravada Buddhism**.
- The Tharus live in both India and Nepal. In the Indian terai, they live mostly in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar.
- **Tharu women have stronger property rights** than is allowed to women in mainstream North Indian Hindu custom.

**4. DekhoApnaDesh**

**Ministry of Tourism** organised the 50th webinar titled “Cultural heritage of Hyderabad” under DekhoApnaDesh series.

**What is DekhoApnaDesh series?**

The **Ministry of Tourism** is organizing the DekhoApnaDesh webinars with an objective **to create awareness about and promote various tourism destinations of India** – including the lesser known destinations and lesser known facets of popular destinations.

- It also promotes spirit of **Ek Bharat Sreshtha Bharat**.

**Key facts:**

- Hyderabad is popularly known as **the "City of Pearls" and the "City of Nizams"**.
- Muhammad QuliQutb Shah established Hyderabad in 1591 to extend the capital beyond the fortified Golconda.
- In 1687, the city was annexed by the Mughals. In 1724, Mughal governor NizamAsaf Jah I declared his sovereignty and founded the AsafJahi dynasty, also known as the Nizams.
- Hyderabad served as **the imperial capital of the AsafJahis from 1769 to 1948**.

**Important cultural sites of Hyderabad highlighted in the session:**

1. **Golconda Fort, Hyderabad:** Built by **the Kakatiya dynasty** in the 13th century.
2. **Chowmahalla Palace:** Once the seat of the AsafJahi Dynasty. It has bagged **the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Merit Award for Culture Heritage Conservation**.
3. **Charminar:** The monument was erected when QuliQutab Shah shifted his capital from Golcondo to Hyderabad.
4. **Mecca Masjid:** Completed by **Aurangazeb** in 1693. The bricks used here are believed to be from Mecca, and hence the name.
5. **Warangal Fort:** This fort appears to have existed since at least the 12th century when it was the capital of the Kakatiya dynasty.

## 5. National School of Drama

- It is one of the foremost **theatre training institutions in the world and the only one of its kind in India.**
- Set up by **the Sangeet Natak Akademi** as one of its constituent units in 1959.
- In 1975, it became an independent entity and was registered as an autonomous organization under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860, fully financed by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.
- **Bharat Rang Mahotsav, or the 'National Theatre Festival'**, established in 1999, is the annual theatre festival of National School of Drama (NSD), held in New Delhi, today it is acknowledged as the largest theatre festival of Asia, dedicated solely to theatre.

## Language / Script / Inscriptions

### 1. Rare Renati Chola era inscription unearthed

This rare inscription was unearthed from a remote village of Kadapa district in Andhra Pradesh.

- It was assigned to **the 8th Century A.D.**, when the region was under **the rule of the Chola Maharaja of Renadu.**

#### Who were Renati Cholas?

- The Telugu Cholas of Renadu (also called as Renati Cholas) ruled over **Renadu region, the present day Cuddapah district.**
- They were **originally independent**, later **forced to the suzerainty of the Eastern Chalukyas.**
- They had the unique honour of **using the Telugu language in their inscriptions** belonging to the 7th and 8th centuries.
- The earliest of this family was **Nandivarman (500 AD)** who claimed descent from **the family of Karikala and the Kasyapa gotra.**
- **Their territory extended** over the whole of Cuddapah district and the adjoining areas of Anantapur, Kurnool and Chittoor districts.

#### Chola Local Administration:

- The most important feature of the Chola administration was **the local administration at districts, towns and villages level.**
- **Uttaramerur inscriptions** speak much about the Chola administration.
- **Village autonomy** was the most unique feature of Chola administrative system.
- **Nadu** was one of the important administrative units of the Cholas. Nadus had representative assemblies. The **heads of the Nadus were called Nattars.**
- The **council of Nadu was called Nattavai.**

#### Variyams:

Village Assemblies carried on village administration effectively with the help of **variyaams**. The **male members of the society were the members of these variyams.**

## Miscellaneous

### 1. khujli ghar

- It is a cramped, triangular cage made from the logs of an indigenous tree that irritates the skin.
- It is a traditional form of punishment that seeks to check crime.
- Some villages in Nagaland are trying to revive this form of punishment.
- Such itchy cages are referred to as khujli ghar in Nagamese. But each Naga community has its own name. The Aos, one of the major tribes of Nagaland, call it **Shi-ki** that means flesh-house.
- The cage is made of the logs of **Masang-fung**, a local tree that people avoid because of the irritation it causes.



### 2. Cattle, buffalo meat residue found in Indus Valley vessels

A new study has found **the presence of animal products, including cattle and buffalo meat, in ceramic vessels dating back about 4,600 years at seven Indus Valley Civilisation sites in present-day Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.**

#### Key findings:

- About 50-60% of domestic animal bones found at Indus Valley sites come from cattle/ buffalo.
- The high proportions of cattle bones may suggest a cultural preference for beef consumption across Indus populations, supplemented by the consumption of mutton/ lamb.
- Lipid residues in Indus pottery show a dominance of animal products in vessels, such as the meat of non-ruminant animals like pigs, ruminant animals like cattle or buffalo and sheep or goat, as well as dairy products.

### 3. Evidence of dairy production in the Indus Valley Civilisation

For the first time it's been proved scientifically that **dairy production was in place in the Indus Valley civilization in 2500 BCE, and the earliest known evidence of dairy production.**

- The results were based on **molecular chemical analysis of residue in shards of pottery found** at the archaeological site of **Kotada Bhadli** located in Gujarat.
- Of the 59 samples studied, 22 showed the presence of dairy lipids.

#### Key findings from a latest study:

- **Dairy production in India began as far back as in the 3rd millennium BCE** and may have been a **factor behind sustaining the Indus Valley Civilisation.**
- Through a process called **stable isotope analysis**, the researchers were also able to identify **the type of ruminant used for dairy**, and concluded that these were **cattle, like cows and buffalo, rather than goats and sheep.**
- **Industrial level of dairy exploitation:** The Harappans did not just use dairy for their household. The large herd indicates that milk was produced in surplus so that it could be exchanged and there could have been some kind of trade between settlements. This could have given rise to an industrial level of dairy exploitation.

#### Why these findings are significant? What can we learn from them?

When we talk about Harappans, we always refer to the metropolitan cities and the big towns. But we have no idea of **the parallel economy — agro-pastoral or rural.**

We know they had great urban planning, trading systems, jewellery making. But we don't have any idea **how the common masters were living during the Harappan times**, their lifestyle and how they were contributing in the larger network.

**How was the study carried out?- Carbon isotope studies:**

**Molecular analysis techniques** were used to study the residues from ancient pottery.

1. Pots are porous. So as soon as we put any liquid form of food, it will absorb it.
2. But, **the pot preserves the molecules of food such as fats and proteins.**
3. Using techniques like C16 and C18 analysis we can **identify the source of lipids.**



**Point to note:**

2020 marks **100 years of discovery of Indus Valley Civilisation.**

#### 4. Avadhanam

The Vice President Shri M Venkaiah Naidu has observed that 'avadhanam' as a literary feat has greatly contributed to the Telugu language's glorious tradition.

- 'Avadhanam' is an exciting literary performance that involves solving tricky literary posers, improvising poems and tests a person's capability of performing such multiple tasks simultaneously.
- It originated as a Sanskrit literary process and is revived by poets in Telugu and Kannada in modern times.

#### 5. GI tag for Kashmir Saffron

The **Saffron cultivated in the Kashmir valley** has received Geographical Indication Tag.

- It is **long, thick and has natural deep red colour**. Also, it has **high aroma and is processed without adding any chemicals**.
- The colour of the saffron is unique due to the high quantity of **crocin**. It has a rich flavour because of **safranal and the bitterness is due to the presence of picrocrocin**.
- The Kashmir Saffron is the only saffron in the world that is grown at an altitude of 1,600 metres.
- **The saffron available in Kashmir is of three types:** Lachha Saffron', 'Mongra Saffron' and 'Guchhi Saffron'.

