



INSIGHTSIAS

SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

INSTA PT 2020

EXCLUSIVE



INSIGHTSIAS

SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

ART AND CULTURE

May 2019 – February 2020

Table of Contents

Festivals / Celebrations	4
1. KUMBHABHISHEKAM	4
2. KAMBALA.....	4
3. JALLIKATTU	4
4. INDIAN HARVEST FESTIVALS.....	5
5. NUAKHAI: HARVESTING FESTIVAL OF ODISHA	5
6. 'ZO KUTPUI' FESTIVAL	5
7. WORLD HINDI DAY 2020	5
8. HORNBILL FESTIVAL	6
9. BATHUKAMMA	6
10. JAGANNATH RATH YATRA.....	6
11. 'KHARCHI PUJA' BEGINS IN TRIPURA.....	6
12. INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY	7
13. BUDDHA PURNIMA	7
14. THRISSUR POORAM.....	7
Monuments / Places / Statues / Temples.....	8
1. HAMPI	8
2. KONARK SUN TEMPLE	8
3. RAKHIGARHI	9
4. BIBI KA MAQBARA.....	9
5. GOTTIPROLU.....	10
6. VISHWA SHANTI STUPA.....	10
7. THOTLAKONDA MONASTERY.....	11
8. CHARDHAM HIGHWAY PROJECT	11
9. MARKANDESHWAR TEMPLE.....	11
10. MATA VAISHNO DEVI SHRINE	11
Events / Conferences	12
1. SURAJKUND INTERNATIONAL CRAFTS MELA.....	12
2. RASHTRIYA EKTA DIWAS.....	12
Dance / Music / Painting / Other Arts	14
1. CHINDU YAKSHAGANAM.....	14
2. PATOLA SAREES	14
3. PULIKALI	14
4. LADAKHI SHONDOL DANCE	14
Personalities	15
1. SKANDAGUPTA	15
2. GURU RAVIDAS	15
3. GURU GOBIND SINGH	16
4. SRI VEDANTA DESIKAN	16
5. BASAVANNA	16
6. SAVITRIBHAI PHULE	17

7.	DARA SHIKOH	17
8.	LORD CURZON	18
9.	LALA LAJPAT RAI.....	19
10.	SUBRAMANIYA BHARATHIYAR	20
11.	SHAM SINGH ATTARIWALA.....	20
12.	PT. MADAN MOHAN MALAVIYA.....	21
13.	SWAMI SHRADDHANAND	21
14.	MAHARAJA RANJIT SINGH	21
15.	MAHARAJA DULEEP SINGH	22
16.	RANI LAKSHMIBAI.....	22
17.	UDHAM SINGH.....	22
18.	THIRUVALLUVAR	23
19.	PARAMAHANSA YOGANANDA	23
20.	TIPU SULTAN	23
21.	VEER SAVARKAR	24
22.	FIROZ SHAH TUGHLAQ	25
23.	DADABHAI NAOROJI	25
24.	LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI.....	26
25.	ISHWAR CHANDRA VIDYASAGAR	26
26.	PERIYAR E. V. RAMASAMY	27

Awards / Institutions 28

1.	VARIOUS AWARDS	28
2.	JNANPITH AWARD.....	28
3.	SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARD	29
4.	MAHARSHI BADRAYAN VYAS SAMMAN' AWARDS	29
5.	SARASWATI SAMMAN	29
6.	SHANTI SWARUP BHATNAGAR PRIZE.....	30
7.	ASIATIC SOCIETY OF MUMBAI	30
8.	SANGEET NATAK AKADEMI.....	31

International Efforts / International Events..... 32

1.	UNESCO LIST OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE	32
2.	UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE	32

Historical Events 35

1.	TAANAJI MALUSARE AND THE BATTLE OF SINGHAGAD.....	35
2.	BHIMA-KOREGAON BATTLE.....	35
3.	PAIKA REBELLION	36
4.	MAHARAJA SURAJMAL AND THE THIRD BATTLE OF PANIPAT	36
5.	INDIAN HISTORY CONGRESS (IHC)	37
6.	ISLAMIC REVOLUTION	37
7.	BATTLE OF ÇANAKKALE	38
8.	SATNAMI REBELLION	38
9.	AZAD HIND GOVERNMENT.....	39
10.	QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT.....	39
11.	ROYAL INDIAN NAVY REVOLT.....	41

Government Initiatives	42
1. KALA KUMBH	42
2. INCREDIBLE INDIA CAMPAIGN.....	42
Language / Script / Incriptions.....	43
1. CLASSICAL LANGUAGE	43
2. BODO LANGUAGE	43
3. KILIKI LANGUAGE	44
4. BHARATI SCRIPT.....	44
5. SOUTH INDIA'S EARLIEST SANSKRIT INSCRIPTION FOUND IN AP	44
Miscellaneous	46
1. NATIONAL SCHOOL OF DRAMA	46
2. VAKATAKA DYNASTY	46
3. CHALUKYA DYNASTY	47
4. STUCCO SCULPTURE AND IKSHVAKU DYNASTY	48
5. SANGAM CIVILIZATION OLDER THAN THOUGHT	48
6. GALO COMMUNITY.....	48
7. RESERVATION OF SEATS FOR LIMBOO AND TAMANG COMMUNITIES.....	49
8. SAMADHI BUDDHA	49



INSIGHTSIAS
SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

Festivals / Celebrations

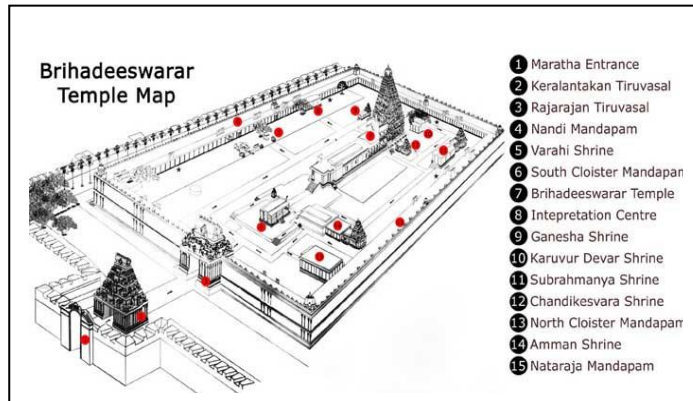
1. Kumbhabhishekam

The '**kumbhabhishekam**' (**consecration**) of the 1,010-year-old **Brihadeeswarar Temple or the Big Temple** was held at **Thanjavur**.

This enormously significant event was **held after 23 years**.

About Brihadishvara Temple:

- Built by emperor **Rajaraja Chola I** (985 CE -1015 CE).
- It has seen only five kumbhabhishekam ceremonies so far.
- As per the customs of Hinduism, '**kumbhabhishekam**' is **done once in 12 years**. According to the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) department, the temple had 'kumbhabhishekam' in 1010, 1729, 1843, 1980 and 1997.
- Located on the **banks of Kaveri river**, it is an exemplary example of a fully realised **Dravidian architecture**.
- It is called as **Dhakshina Meru (Meru of south)**.
- The temple is a part of the **UNESCO World Heritage Site** known as the "**Great Living Chola Temples**", along with the Chola dynasty era **Gangaikonda Cholapuram temple and Airavatesvara temple**.
- There are several shrines added to the temple by most of the following rulers such as the Pandyas, the Vijayanagara rulers and the Marathas, too.
- Brihadeshwara Temple is also the **first all-granite temple in the world**.



2. Kambala

- It is **traditional slush track buffalo race** held annually in **coastal districts of Karnataka** to entertain rural people of the area.
- Traditionally, it is sponsored by local **Tuluva landlords** and households in the coastal districts of Dakshina Kannada and Udipi of Karnataka and Kasaragod of Kerala.
- **Slushy/marshy paddy field track** is used for Kambala.
- Kambala in its traditional form is non-competitive, which is considered a **thanksgiving to the Gods** for protecting the animals from diseases.
- **The sports season** generally starts in November and lasts till March.
- **Why it has become controversial?** Over the years, it has however become an organised sport with animal rights activists claiming that the buffaloes run in the race due to fear of being beaten, which the organizers dismiss, saying no violence is involved and that several modifications had been made to ensure that it is an animal friendly event.



3. Jallikattu

- **Jallikattu** is a traditional event in which a bull, such as the **Pulikulam or Kangayam breeds**, is released into a crowd of



people, and multiple human participants attempt to grab the large hump on the bull's back with both arms and hang on to it while the bull attempts to escape.

- Participants hold the hump for as long as possible, attempting to bring the bull to a stop. In some cases, participants must ride long enough to remove flags on the bull's horns.
- *Jallikattu* is typically practised in the Indian state of **Tamil Nadu** as a part of **Pongal celebrations on Mattu Pongal day**, which occurs annually in January.
- Ancient Tamil Sangams described the practice as ***yeru thazhuvuthal***, literally 'bull embracing'.

4. Indian harvest festivals

Makar Sankranti: The festival of Makar Sankranti will be celebrated in Karnataka when the Sun enters the Makar zodiac and the days begin to lengthen compared to nights.

Pongal: In South India and particularly in Tamil Nadu, it's the festival of Pongal which is being celebrated over 4 days at harvest time.

Magha Bihu: In Assam and many parts of the North East, the festival of Magha Bihu is celebrated. It sees the first harvest of the season being offered to the gods along with prayers for peace and prosperity.

Uttarayan: Gujarat celebrates it in the form of the convivial kite festival of Uttarayan.

Maghi: In Punjab, Makar Sankranti is celebrated as Maghi. Bathing in a river in the early hours on Maghi is important.

Saaji: In Shimla District of Himachal Pradesh, Makara Sankranti is known as Magha Saaji. Saaji is the Pahari word for Sankranti, start of the new month. Hence this day marks the start of the month of Magha.

Kicheri: The festival is known as Kicheri in Uttar Pradesh and involves ritual bathing.

Outside India:

Shakrain is an annual celebration of winter in Bangladesh, observed with the flying of kites.

Maghe Sankranti is a Nepalese festival observed on the first of Magh in the Bikram Samwat Hindu Solar Nepali calendar (about 14 January).

5. Nuakhai: Harvesting festival of Odisha

- The **festival of nuakhai** is a festival to celebrate **newly harvested food by the farmers**.
- **Background:** The festival traces its origin to the Vedic period where the sages or Rishis used to talk about **Panchyajna**. One among them was **Pralambana yajna** which means the cutting of new crops and offering them to mother goddess as followed in Nuakhai festival.
- It is also called **Nuakhai Parab or Nuakahi Bhetghat**.

6. 'Zo Kutpui' festival

Mizoram govt organised '**Zo Kutpui**' globally to unify Mizo tribes.

- The **first festival would be held at Vangmun**, a hub town of Mizos in neighbouring Tripura.
- The event will see the presence of many important dignitaries from various Mizoram tribes and also witness cultural programmes and traditional songs from various Mizo tribes from Mizoram and other northeastern states.

The event **aims at re-unifying and strengthening brotherhood among different tribes of Mizo**.



7. World Hindi Day 2020

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

World Hindi Day was first observed on January 10, 2006. Since then, it is celebrated on January 10 every year.

World Hindi Day vs National Hindi Diwas:

National Hindi Diwas is **celebrated every year on September 14**. On that day in 1949, the constituent assembly adopted Hindi, written in Devanagari script, as the official language of the Union.

Focus: While the focus of the World Hindi Day is to promote the language at the global stage, the National Hindi Diwas, which is held across the country at a national level, marks adaptation of Hindi, written in Devanagari script as the official language.

8. Hornbill Festival

- Nagas celebrate this festival to revive, protect, sustain and promote the richness of the Naga heritage and traditions.
- It occurs during **1 – 10 December on an annual basis**.
- It is also called **the “Festival of Festivals”**.
- The festival pays tribute to **Hornbill**, the most admired and revered bird for the Nagas for its qualities of alertness and grandeur.
- It is organized by State Tourism and Art & Culture Departments and also supported by Union Government.

9. Bathukamma

- Telangana government recently celebrated the ‘**Festival of Flowers’ (Bathukamma)** for which the State is known.
- The festival was **traditionally celebrated by women across the state**.
- It is celebrated predominantly by the Telangana and some parts of Andhra Pradesh
- Every year this festival is celebrated as per Telugu version of Hindu calendar in the **Bhadrapada Amavasya**, also known as Mahalaya Amavasya, usually in September–October of Gregorian calendar.
- Bathukamma is celebrated for nine days during Durga Navratri.
- In Telugu, ‘Bathukamma’ means ‘Mother Goddess come Alive’.
- It is **the state festival of Telangana**.

**10. JAGANNATH RATH YATRA**

- Popularly known as the ‘**Festival of Chariots**’, Rath Yatra festival in honour of Puri’s Lord Jagannath is grand celebration.
- The festival is dedicated to **Lord Jagannath, his sister Goddess Subhadra and elder brother Balabhadra**.
- All the three deities of the temple – Jagannath, Subhadra and Balabhadra – **travel in three different chariots during this festival**. The chariots are called **Nandighosha, Taladhawaja, and Devadalana** respectively.
- **New chariots for all the three deities are constructed every year** using wood even if the architect of the chariots remain similar. **Four wooden horses are attached to each chariot**.

**11. ‘KHARCHI PUJA’ BEGINS IN TRIPURA**

- The annual “**Kharchi Puja**” and festival is meant to cleanse the sins of mortal souls.
- **Originally a Hindu tribals’ festivity**, it is now observed by all communities and religions.
- The festival **features 14 deities – Shiva, Durga, Vishnu, Laxmi, Saraswati, Kartik, Ganesha, Brahma, Abadhi (God of water), Chandra, Ganga, Agni, Kamdev and Himadri (Himalaya)**.

- In 2019 the Kharchi Puja mela was celebrated with the **theme of 'Nesha Mukta Tripura and Save Water'**.

12. International Yoga Day

- The International Yoga Day is celebrated every year on **June 21**. It was first introduced by the United Nations on June 21, 2015.
- The main **aim is to create an awareness worldwide on the importance of staying fit and healthy.**
- **Why was June 21 selected to be International Yoga Day?** June 21 is the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and has special significance in many parts of the world. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had proposed this date at the United Nations General Assembly 2014.
- **2019 Theme:** Yoga for Climate Action.



13. Buddha Purnima

- Buddha Purnima also known as **Vaishak Purnima** is the **birth anniversary of Gautama Buddha**. 2019 marks the 2,563rd birth anniversary of the Buddha.
- It is an important day charted by Buddhist monks and all followers of the message of Gautam Buddha.
- Interestingly, Buddha Purnima, celebrated in May every year, is even more special because the **Buddha's enlightenment and mahaparinirvan also happened during the Purnima in the month of May.**
- The world over, the day is observed through **dhana, sila and bhavana.**
- To mark the day that is also known as **Vesak**, in some countries such as Vietnam, China and Japan the Buddha's idol is bathed in water and flowers.

14. THRISSUR POORAM

- Known as the **festival of festivals**, Thrissur Pooram has a tradition of more than 200 years. This spectacular event 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.



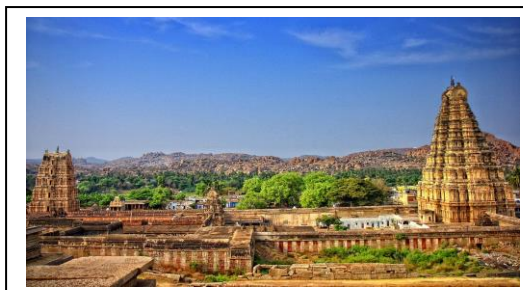
Monuments / Places / Statues / Temples

1. Hampi

Supreme Court backs move of Karnataka government to demolish restaurants near **Hampi site**. The court concluded that the constructions were in violation of **the Mysore Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act of 1961**.

About Hampi:

1. It is **a UNESCO world heritage site**.
2. It was **a part of the Mauryan Empire back in the third century BC**.
3. Hampi was **the capital city during the four different dynasties altogether** in the Vijayanagar city that came into existence in the year 1336 AD.
4. The Vijayanagara Empire reached unfathomable heights under the guidance of **King Krishnadeva Raya of the Tuluva Dynasty**.
5. '**Kishkindha Kaand**' in Ramayana has special significance concerning Hampi.
6. It is located near the **Tungabhadra river**.
7. By 1500 CE, **Hampi-Vijayanagara was the world's second-largest medieval-era city after Beijing, and probably India's richest at that time**, attracting traders from Persia and Portugal.
8. 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**.



2. Konark Sun Temple

A plan to restore and preserve the nearly 800-year-old **Konark Sun Temple in Odisha** would be drawn up soon.

About the Temple:

- 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.
- It was built by **King Narasimhadeva I**, the great ruler of **Ganga dynasty**.
- The temple is included in **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984** for its architectural greatness and also for the sophistication and abundance of sculptural work.
- The temple is perfect blend of **Kalinga architecture**, heritage, exotic beach and salient natural beauty.
- 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).
- 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).

- 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"**.
- It remains a major pilgrimage site for Hindus, who gather here every year for the **Chandrabhaga Mela** around the month of February.

3. Rakhigarhi

Centre is moving ahead with its plan to develop **Rakhigarhi** as a tourist hub and set up a museum.

Background:

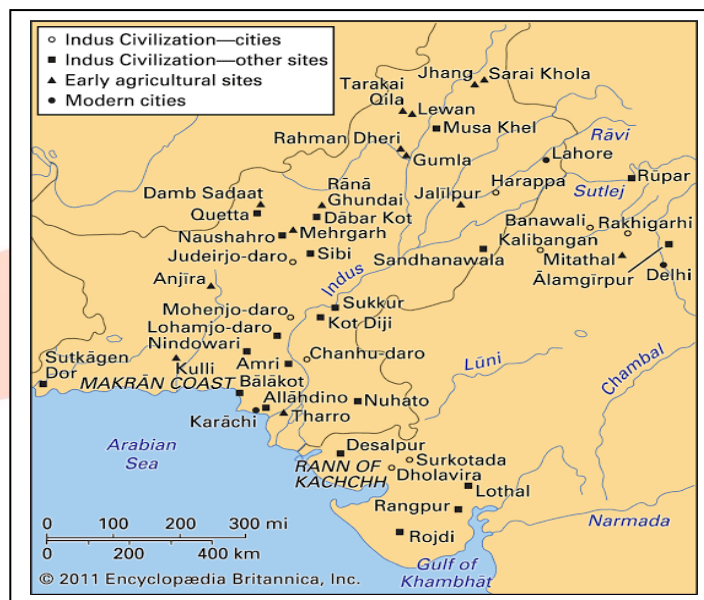
Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced the government's plan to fund five on-site museums, including the under-construction museum initiated by the Haryana government at Rakhigarhi, in her Budget speech on February 1.

Other sites mentioned in the Budget — Hastinapur in Uttar Pradesh, Shivsagar in Assam, Dholavira in Gujarat and Adichanallur in Tamil Nadu.

About Rakhigarhi:

Rakhigarhi, in Haryana, became an archaeological hotspot when Amarendra Nath, former director of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), undertook excavations at the site in 1997.

- The ASI team unearthed a fire altar, parts of a city wall, drainage structures as well as a hoard of semi-precious beads.
- Villagers subsequently began to see the significance of the terracotta shards that littered Rakhigarhi.
- It is a **5,000-year-old site** that showcases continuity from the Harappan age to the present times. The village also has havelis that are a couple of hundred years old.
- The site is located in **the Sarasvati river plain**, some 27 km from the seasonal **Ghaggar river**.
- In May 2012, **the Global Heritage Fund**, declared Rakhigarhi **one of the 10 most endangered heritage sites in Asia**.
- In January 2014, the discovery of additional mounds resulted in it becoming the **largest Indus Valley Civilization site**, overtaking Mohenjodaro (300 Hectares) by almost 50 hectares, resulting in almost 350 hectares.



4. Bibi Ka Maqbara

It is a tomb located in Aurangabad, Maharashtra.

- It was **commissioned in 1660 by the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb** in the memory of his first and chief wife Dilras Banu Begum.
- It is considered to be a symbol of Aurangzeb's **'conjugal fidelity'**.
- The structure, known as the **'Taj of the Deccan'** because of its striking resemblance to the Taj Mahal.



5. Gottiprolu

Excavation by Archaeological Survey of India in **Gottiprolu, Andhra Pradesh** indicate it as **a Trade Centre of Early Historic Period**.

Where is it?

Gottiprolu lies on **the right bank of a distributary of river Swarnamukhi** about eighty kilometers from Tirupati and Nellore.

What has been unearthed?

1. Among many other antiquities unearthed are **one life size Vishnu sculpture and a wide variety of pottery of the early centuries of current era**.
2. The excavation revealed **the presence of brick-built structures in different sizes and forms**.
3. The available brick sizes are comparable with the **Satavahana / Ikshvaku period** structures in Krishna valley.
4. On the basis of the brick size and associated findings **they can be placed anywhere between 2nd – 1st century BCE or little later (nearly 2000 years old)**.
5. Other interesting antiquity retrieved is **the molded female terracotta figurine with two hands lifted upwards**.
6. **Other major retrieved antiquities unearthed are** copper and lead coins, iron spear head, stone celts, terracotta beads, ear stud in semi precious stone and hopscotches.



6. Vishwa Shanti Stupa

Golden Jubilee of **Vishwa Shanti Stupa was** commemorated in **Rajgir recently**.

About Vishwa Shanti Stupa (World peace pagoda):

- Constructed atop **the Ratnagiri Hill**, it is **the world's highest peace pagoda**.
- Conceptualised by neo-Buddhist organisation **Nipponzan Myohoji and built by Japanese monk Fujii Guruji**.
- Built completely with marble, **the stupa comprises four golden statues of Lord Buddha** with each representing his life periods of birth, enlightenment, preaching and death.
- **There are 7 Peace Pagoda or Shanti Stupas in India**, other Stupas are Global Vipassana Pagoda Mumbai, Deekshabhoomi Stupa Nagpur and Buddha Smriti Park Stupa Patna.



About Rajgir:

- The **first Buddhist Council**, immediately after the **Mahaparinirvana** of Lord Buddha, was convened at this place which presently is called Rajgir.
- It was at the **Gridhakuta**, the hill of the vultures, where Buddha made **Bimbisara** convert to Buddhism.
- Rajgir is also known as **Panchpahari** as it is surrounded by five holy hills.
- The legend has it that the ancient city **Rajagriha** existed even before Lord Buddha attained enlightenment. It was **the ancient capital city of the Magadh rulers** until the 5th century BC when **Ajatashatru** moved the capital to **Pataliputra** (which is now known as Patna).
- **Lord Mahavira** too spent 14 years of his life at Rajgir and nearby areas.

7. Thotlakonda Monastery

The **mahastupa of the 2,000-year-old Buddhist heritage site of Thotlakonda**, reconstructed in 2016 by the state archaeology department, has collapsed during the recent torrential rainfall.

Key facts:

- **Thotlakonda Buddhist Complex** is situated near Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, India.
- Thotlakonda was well within the influence of ancient **Kalinga**, which was **an important source of dissemination of Buddhism to Sri Lanka and various parts of Southeast Asia**.
- The excavations have established **the existence of a Hinayana Buddhist complex which flourished 2000 years ago**.
- The excavations reveal **Satavahana dynasty** lead and **Roman silver coins** indicating foreign trade; terracotta tiles, stucco decorative pieces, sculptured panels, miniature stupa models in stone, and Buddha footprints were also found.
- The excavations also yielded **twelve inscriptions in the Brahmi script**.



8. Chardham highway project

- Supreme Court has cleared decks for Chardham highway project, which will connect four holy places of Uttarakhand through 900 km all-weather roads.

About Chardham project:

- The project involves developing and widening 900-km of national highways connecting the holy Hindu pilgrimage sites of; **Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri, and Yamunotri** at an estimated cost of Rs.12,000 crores.
- The highway will be called **Char Dham Mahamarg** (Char Dham Highway) and the highway construction project will be called as **Char Dham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojana** (Char Dham Highway Development Project).
- The roads will be widened from 12m to 24m and the project will involve construction of tunnels, bypasses, bridges, subways and viaducts.

9. Markandeshwar temple

- Known as the "**Khajuraho of Vidarbha**", the temple of Markandadeo is situated on the **bank of River Wainganga** in district Gadchiroli of Maharashtra.
- The temples belong to the **Nagara group of temples** of North India.
- On stylistic grounds, their date ranges in between 9- 12th centuries CE.
- The temples belong to **saiva, vaishnava** and **sakta** faith. Most of the temples have a simple plan, with ardhmandapa, mandapa, antarala and garbhagriha forming the component of the entire set up.



10. Mata Vaishno Devi shrine

Vaishno Devi Mandir is a Hindu temple located in Katra at the **Trikuta Mountains** within the Indian Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Events / Conferences

1. Surajkund International Crafts Mela

It is unique as it showcases the richness and diversity of the handicrafts, handlooms and cultural fabric of India, & is **the largest crafts fair in the world**.

- This is **34th time the** will be held at Faridabad.
- The Mela is **organized by the Surajkund Mela Authority & Haryana Tourism in collaboration with Union Ministries of Tourism, Textiles, Culture and External Affairs**.
- **Theme state:** For the 34th Surajkund International Crafts Mela-2020, the state of **Himachal Pradesh** has been chosen to be the Theme State.
- The main motto behind this festival is **to promote handicrafts, handlooms with the aid of craftsmen invited from all over the country**. So basically this craft festival is a platform for artists across the globe to showcase their culture and talent.

2. Rashtriya Ekta Diwas

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas was observed on **31st October** across the nation. It marks **the occasion of the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**.

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.

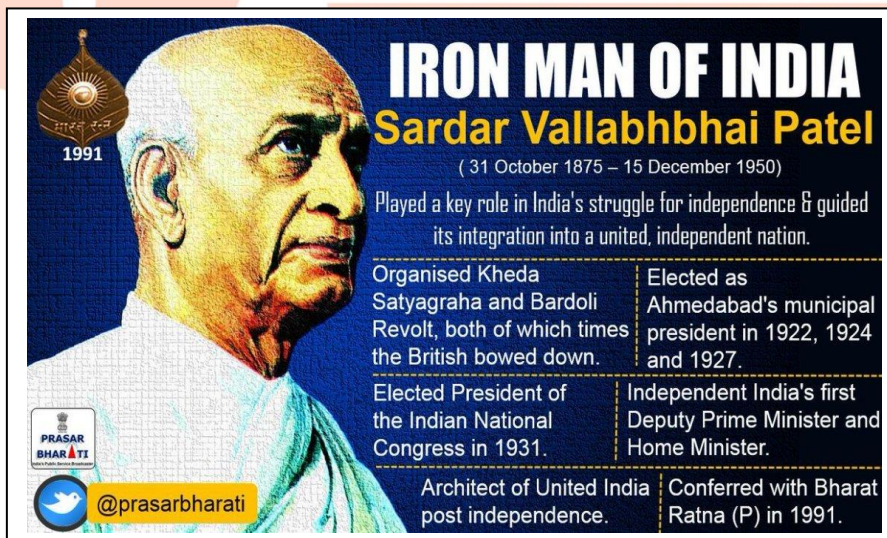
About Sardar Vallabhai Patel:

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:

- **1917-** Elected as **the Secretary of the Gujarat Sabha**, the Gujarat wing of the Indian National Congress.
- **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. His effort to bring together the farmers of his area brought him the title of **'Sardar'**.
- Supported **the non-cooperation Movement** launched by Gandhi and Patel toured the nation with him.
- **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.
- **1930-** Imprisoned for participating in the famous Salt Satyagraha movement initiated by Mahatma Gandhi.



- **1931**- Elected as *the President of Indian National Congress in its Karachi session* where the party deliberated its future path.
- 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.



INSIGHTSIAS
SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

Dance / Music / Painting / Other Arts

1. Chindu Yakshaganam

Chindu Yakshaganam, a.k.a Chindu Bhagavatam is a form of theatre practised by members of **the Chindu Madiga community**.

- It is **a form of entertainment in villages across Telangana**, with the artists skilfully depicting classic tales from the epics and entertaining the masses.
- The art form probably started when people enacted acts of hunting, wars and other acts of valour.
- The **Chindu community** has traditionally been **a nomadic community**.



2. Patola Sarees

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has inaugurated **a first Silk Processing Plant at Surendranagar in Gujarat**.

The plant would help to reduce the cost of production of silk yarn and increase the sale and availability of raw material for **Gujarati Patola Sarees locally**.

Key facts:

- Patola, the trademark saree of Gujarat, is considered to be very costly and worn only by royals or aristocrats.
- It is **a double ikat woven sari**, usually made from silk, made in Patan, Gujarat, India.
- The reason high cost of Patola sarees is that the silk yarn used to make them is purchased from Karnataka or West Bengal, where silk processing units are situated. This increases the cost of the fabric manifolds.
- It has received **a Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2013**.



3. Pulikali

- Also known as **Tiger Dance**, it is a **folk art of Kerala**, performed on the fourth day of Onam festival.
- **Artists wear a tiger mask, paint their bodies like tigers and dance to the rhythm of traditional percussion instruments** such as thakil, udukku and chenda.



4. Ladakhi Shondol Dance

- This dance has entered into the Guinness Book of World Records.
- It is known as the '**royal dance of Ladakh**'.
- It is famous dance which was earlier used to be **performed by artists for King of Ladakh on special occasion**.



Personalities

1. Skandagupta

Union home minister Amit Shah recently inaugurated an international seminar on the role of **Gupta dynasty emperor Skandagupta** at Banaras Hindu University in Varanasi.

The Gupta period is known as the golden period of ancient Indian history and **Skandagupta Vikramaditya is known as the Saviour of India as he successfully fought the battle against the invading Huns.**

Who is Skandagupta?

- He ascended the throne in 455 AD and ruled till 467 AD.
- During the 12-year rule, he not only defended the great culture of India but also from external aggression and defeated the Huns (**Bhitari pillar inscription**), who had invaded India from the north west.
- **By defeating Pushyamitras** during his initial years of ascendancy, Skandagupta proved his ability to rule and took upon himself the **title of Vikramaditya.**
- **The Junagadh rock**, which contains inscription of the earlier rulers Ashoka and Rudradaman, has an inscription engraved on the orders of Skandagupta's governor Parnadatta. **The inscription states that Skandagupta appointed governors of all provinces, including Parnadatta as the governor of Surashtra.**
- **Skandagupta issued five types of gold coins:** Archer type, King and queen type, Chhatra type, Lion-slayer type and Horseman type.
- **His silver coins are of four types:** Garuda type, Bull type, Altar type and Madhyadesha type.

2. Guru Ravidas

Sant Ravidas Jayanti was celebrated on **February 9th.**

- Guru Ravidas was a North Indian **mystic poet of the bhakti movement.**
- While the exact year of his birth is not known, it is believed that the saint was born in 1377 C.E.
- Guru Ravidas Jayanti is celebrated on **Magh Purnima**, which is the full moon day in the Hindu calendar month of Magha.
- The **Adi Granth of Sikhs, in addition to the Panchvani are the two of the oldest documented sources of the literary works of Guru Ravidas.**
- Notably, he **belonged to an untouchable caste and suffered a lot of atrocities as a result.** However, the saint chose to focus on spiritual pursuits and also penned several devotional songs which made a huge impact in the Bhakti movement during the 14th to 16th century CE.
- Ravidas' devotional songs were included in the Sikh scriptures, **Guru Granth Sahib.**
- The **Panch Vani text of the Dadupanthi** tradition within Hinduism also includes numerous poems of Ravidas.
- He is believed to be a **disciple of the bhakti saint-poet Ramananda** and a contemporary of the bhakti saint-poet **Kabir.**
- One of his famous disciples was the saint, **Mirabai.**
- Among Ravidas's moral and intellectual achievements were the conception of "**Begampura**", a city that knows no sorrow; and a society where caste and class have ceased to matter.



Guru Ravidas Teachings:

Guru Ravidas **spoke against the caste divisions** and spoke of removing them to promote unity. His teachings resonated with the people, leading to a religion being born called **the Ravidassia religion, or Ravidassia Dharam** based on his teachings.

He taught about *the omnipresence of God and said that a human soul is a particle of God* and hence Ravidas *rejected the idea that people considered lower caste cannot meet God*. He said in his teachings that the only way to meet God was to free the mind from the duality.

3. Guru Gobind Singh

- **Guru Gobind Singh** was *the 10th Sikh guru*.
- He was born at **Patna**, Bihar, India, on **December 22, 1666**. His birthday sometimes falls either in December or January or even both months in the Gregorian calendar. **The annual celebration of the Guru's birthday is based on the Nanakshahi calendar.**
- He became the Sikh guru at the age of nine, following the demise of father, **Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Sikh Guru.**
- He is known for his significant contributions to the Sikh religion, including **the introduction of the turban** to cover hair.
- He also founded **the principles of Khalsa or the Five 'K's**. They are: **Kesh** (uncut hair), **Kangha** (a wooden comb for the hair), **Kara** (an iron bracelet), **Kachera** (100% cotton tieable undergarment) (not an elastic one) and **Kirpan** (an iron dagger large enough to defend oneself).
- He is also responsible to establish **the highest order in the Sikh community.**
- Followers of the Sikh faith religiously follow **the morals and codes of discipline set up by Guru Gobind Singh.**
- He fought against the Mughals later in **battle of Muktsar in 1705.**
- He was assassinated in 1708.
- He named **Guru Granth Sahib**, the religious text of the Khalsas and the Sikhs, as the next Guru of the two communities.

4. Sri Vedanta Desikan

- A postage stamp has been released to commemorate **750th birth anniversary of Sri Vedanta Desikan** and his great philosopher's life and highly valued work.
- Sri Vedanta Desikan (1268–1369) was a **Sri Vaishnava guru/philosopher and one of the most brilliant stalwarts of Sri Vaishnavism in the post- Ramanuja period.**
- He was a poet, devotee, philosopher and master-teacher (desikan).
- He was **the disciple of Kidambi Appullar**, also known as **Aathreya Ramanujachariar**, who himself was of a master-disciple lineage that began with Ramanuja.
- He is considered to be avatar (incarnation) of the divine bell of **Venkateswara of Tirumalai** by the Vadakalai sect of Sri Vaishnavite.
- **Literary works:** Sri Sthothra Nidhi, Sri Paduka Sahasram, Rahasya Granthams, Sri Desika Prabandham, Kavyams.
- **Honors:** Sarvathanthra Swathanthrar, Kavitharkiga Simham, Vedanthachariar.

5. Basavanna

- 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, India.
- Basavanna spread social awareness through his poetry, popularly known as **Vachanaas**. Basavanna **rejected gender or social discrimination, superstitions and rituals.**
- 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.
- 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 Tamil Bhakti movement, particularly the **Shaiva Nayanars traditions**, over the 7th- to 11th-century.

- 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**.
- Basavanna is the first Kannadiga in whose honour a commemorative coin has been minted in recognition of his social reforms.
- In November 2015, the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi inaugurated the statue of Basavanna along the bank of the river Thames at Lambeth in London.

Basavanna and Sharana movement:

- 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.
- The **egalitarianism of Basavanna's Sharana movement** was too radical for its times.
- He set up the **Anubhava Mandapa**, where the Sharanas, drawn from different castes and communities, gathered and engaged in learning and discussions.
- 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.

6. Savitribhai Phule

- Born in **Naigaon in Maharashtra on January 3, 1831**, Phule is widely regarded as one of **India's first-generation modern feminists** for her significant contributions in ensuring equal education opportunities under the British raj.
- She became **the first female teacher in India in 1848** and opened **a school for girls along with her husband**, social reformer **Jyotirao Phule**.
- The two **also worked against discrimination based on caste-based identity**, something vehemently opposed by the orthodox sections of society in Pune.
- She went on to establish **a shelter for widows in 1854 which she further built on in 1864 to also accommodate destitute women and child brides cast aside by their families**.
- Phule also played a pivotal role in directing the work of **the Satyashodhak Samaj**, formed by her husband with the objective to achieve equal rights for the marginalised lower castes.
- Savitribai opened **a clinic in 1897 for victims of the bubonic plague** that spread across Maharashtra just before the turn of the century.
- She also set up **"Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha"**.
- In her honour, **University of Pune was renamed Savitribai Phule University in 2014**.

7. Dara Shikoh

- The Ministry of Culture recently set up a seven-member panel of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to locate the grave of **the Mughal prince Dara Shikoh (1615-59)**. He is believed to be buried somewhere in **the Humayun's Tomb complex in Delhi**, one of around 140 graves of the Mughal clan.

Who was Dara Shikoh?

- He was **the eldest son of Shah Jahan**.
- He was **killed after losing the war of succession against his brother Aurangzeb**.
- He is described as **a "liberal Muslim"** who tried to find commonalities between Hindu and Islamic traditions.
- He **translated into Persian the Bhagavad Gita as well as 52 Upanishads**.

According to the **Shahjahanama**, after Aurangzeb defeated Dara Shikoh, he brought the latter to Delhi in chains. His head was cut off and sent to Agra Fort, while his torso was buried in the Humayun's Tomb complex.

His legacy:

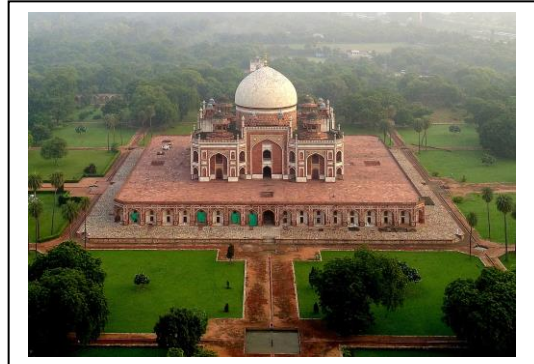
Dara Shikoh is described as **“one of the greatest free thinkers of that time”**.

- He realised **the greatness of the Upanishads and translated them**, which were earlier known only to a few upper caste Hindus. Translations from that Persian translation have inspired a lot of free thinkers of today, even inspiring the likes of former United States President Barack Obama.
- Some historians argue that if Dara Shikoh had ascended the Mughal throne instead of Aurangzeb, it could have saved thousands of lives lost in religious clashes. He was **the total antithesis of Aurangzeb**, in that he was deeply syncretic, warm-hearted and generous — but at the same time, he was also an indifferent administrator and ineffectual in the field of battle.

Challenges ahead for ASI:

No one knows where exactly Dara Shikoh was buried. All that is known is that it's a small grave in the Humayun's Tomb complex. Italian traveller **Niccolao Manucci** gave a graphic description of the day in **Travels of Manucci**, as he was there as a witness to the whole thing. That is the basis of the thesis.

Now, the ASI's biggest problem is that **most graves in the complex have no names**.



About Humayun's Tomb, Delhi:

This tomb, **built in 1570**, is of particular cultural significance as it was the first garden-tomb on the Indian subcontinent.

Commissioned by Humayun's first wife and chief consort, **Empress Bega Begum (also known as Haji Begum)**.

Humayun's garden-tomb is **an example of the charbagh** (a four quadrant garden with the four rivers of Quranic paradise represented), with pools joined by channels.

It is also called **the 'dormitory of the Mughals'** as in the cells are buried over 150 Mughal family members.

It is **a UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

Cultural Significance:

It represented a leap in Mughal architecture, and together with its accomplished Charbagh garden, typical of Persian gardens, but never seen before in India, it set a **precedent for subsequent Mughal architecture**. It is seen as a clear departure from the fairly modest mausoleum of his father, the first Mughal Emperor, Babur, called **Bagh-e Babur (Gardens of Babur)** in Kabul (Afghanistan).

8. Lord Curzon

Bengal Governor Tweets About "Iconic" **Lord Curzon** Table, Gets Trolled.

The table was apparently used by Lord Curzon to sign papers pertaining to **the Partition of Bengal in 1905**.

Who was Lord Curzon?

He was a true successor of **Lord Dalhousie**. He was great imperialist, authoritarian in temperament, ruthless in his ways and wanted to achieve too much at too great pace.

The time of his governorship (1899-1905), was the formative phase of Indian national movement. Thus he tried to strangle Indian nationalism and freedom movement by all fair and foul means.

Reactionary policies of Lord Curzon:

Through **Calcutta Corporation act 1899** he reduced the number of elected legislatures to deprive Indians from self-governance.

He looked at Indians with contempt and insulted and injured their feelings. He described **Bengalis as cowards, windbags, impracticable talkers and mere frothy patriots**. He even refused to meet to president of Indian national congress.

The biggest blunder he committed was **the partition of Bengal**. Although it was a political masterstroke to break growing Indian nationalism among Bengalis, it proved disastrous for British in longer term.

Impact of Curzon's reactionary policies:

Curzon by his impolitic utterances and imperialist designs brought political unrest in India to a bursting point. Curzon's imperialistic policies provoked reaction which in turn stung political life in India. Out of his tyranny was born a stronger sense of nationhood. Taken in this light Curzon proved to be a benefactor of India without intending to do so.

Reforms by Lord Curzon:

1. Educational:

To set the educational system in order, he instituted in 1902, **a Universities Commission** to go into the entire question of university education in the country.

On the basis of the findings and recommendations of the Commission, Curzon brought in **the Indian Universities Act of 1904**, which brought all the universities in India under the control of the government.

2. Scientific:

The Agriculture Research Institute in Pusa (Bihar – Bengal Presidency) was established.

3. Administrative:

He made **efforts for police reforms**, eliminating the corruption and to promote the economic development. He provided a revival to conservatism in India by refurbishing the main features of **Lord Mayo's policies**.

He instituted **a Police Commission in 1902** under the chairmanship of Sir Andrew Frazer. Curzon accepted all the recommendations and implemented them.

He set up **training schools for both the officers and the constables** and introduced provincial police service.

During Curzon regime, **the Northwest Frontier Province (NWFP)** was established which covered roughly the areas of upper course of River Indus.

4. Military:

Imperial cadet corps was set up which became an instrument for Indianisation of army later.

5. Other reforms:

He passed a law called **the Ancient Monuments Act, 1904** which made it obligatory on the part of the government and local authorities to preserve the monuments of archaeological importance and their destruction an offence.

9. Lala Lajpat Rai

- **November 17** is the death anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai, the firebrand Indian nationalist leader affectionately called '**Punjab Kesari**'.
- Lala Lajpat Rai is remembered for his role during **the Swadeshi movement** and for his advocacy of education.
- He became **a follower of Dayanand Saraswati**, the founder of **the Arya Samaj**, and went on to become one of the society's leaders.
- He also helped found **the Punjab National Bank**.

- In 1885, Rai established *the Dayanand Anglo-Vedic School in Lahore* and remained a committed educationist throughout his life.
- 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.
- He founded *the Indian Home Rule League of America in New York City* in 1917.
- 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*.
- The patriot died at Lahore in 1928 after he was *attacked by police during a protest rally against the Simon Commission*.
- **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'.

The significance of his views for the freedom struggle are as follows:

- His views helped recognize the importance of **a united front against British**.
- The British efforts to divide India on communal lines as seen in the Acts of 1909 and 1919 was made clear to Indian leadership.
- His thoughts of cultural diversity were given post-independence by Nehru as **'Unity in Diversity'**.
- His idea of **people of all religions as true citizens of India**, combined with Gandhiji's ideas of inclusive fight against British led to Non-Cooperative movement linked with the Khilafat movement.

10. Subramaniya Bharathiyar

- He was a poet, freedom fighter and social reformer from Tamil Nadu.
- He was known as **Mahakavi Bharathiyar** and the laudatory epithet Mahakavi means a great poet.
- His **songs on nationalism and freedom of India** helped to rally the masses to support the Indian Independence Movement in Tamil Nadu.
- **"Kannan Pattu" "Nilavum Vanminum Katrum" "Panchali Sabatam" "Kuyil Pattu"** are examples of Bharathi's great poetic output.
- He published the sensational **"Sudesa Geethangal"** in 1908.

In 1949, he became **the first poet whose works were nationalised by the state government**.

Bharthi as a social reformer:

He was also **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.

11. Sham Singh Attariwala

174th death anniversary of Sikh General Sardar Sham Singh Attariwala was observed on Feb 10 2020.

- Sham Singh Attariwala (1790 - 1846) was **a general of the Sikh Empire**.
- Attariwala participated in many campaigns, including **the Battles of Multan, Kashmir and the Frontier Province**.
- Owing to his courage and influence over the Khalsa army, Sham Singh was nominated to **the Council of Regency** set up by Maharani Jind Kaur for the minor sovereign Maharaja Duleep Singh.

- During **the first Anglo-Sikh war**, he crossed the Sutlej, vowing to lay down his life rather than return in defeat.

12.Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya

- Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya was a freedom fighter and social reformer.
- He had served as **the President of the INC on four occasions**.
- He was awarded **the Bharat Ratna posthumously in 2014**.
- He was **the editor of a Hindi magazine, 'Hindusthan'**.
- He became the editor of **the 'Indian Opinion' in 1889**. He also started a Hindi weekly '**Abhyudaya**', an English daily '**Leader**', a Hindi newspaper '**Maryada**'.
- Pandit Malaviya was instrumental in founding **the Benares Hindu University in 1916**. He also became its Vice-Chancellor till 1939.
- He was **opposed to separate electorates to Muslims and the Lucknow Pact**.
- He was also **against the INC's participation in the Khilafat Movement**.
- He was a participant in **the Second Round Table Conference in 1931**.
- He started **the Ganga Mahasabha** to oppose construction of dams in the Ganga.
- He was also a social reformer who **opposed untouchability**. He worked for **the temple entry of Dalits at the Kalaram Temple at Nashik, Maharashtra**.
- He also founded the organisation **Shri Mathura Vrindavan Hasanand Gochar Bhoomi in Vrindavan**.

13.Swami Shraddhanand

On December 23, 1926, Arya Samaj missionary Swami Shraddhanand was assassinated by a man called Abdul Rashid.

Who was Swami Shraddhanand?

Born on February 22, 1856 at village Talwan in Jalandhar district in Punjab province. In the early 1880s, he came into contact with **Swami Dayanand, the founder of the Arya Samaj**. He wrote a book called "**Hindu Sangathan**". He called **untouchability a "curse" and a "blot"** on the reputations of the Hindus.

What is Arya Samaj?

It is **a Hindu reform movement** that was **founded by Dayanand Saraswati in 1875** in Bombay. The movement believes in **the infallible authority of the Vedas**.

The central objectives of Arya Samaj is to, "eradicate Ignorance (Agyan), Indigence or Poverty (Abhav) and Injustice (Anayay) from this earth.

Members of the Arya Samaj **believe in one God and reject the worship of idols**.

14.Maharaja Ranjit Singh

- A **statue of Ranjit Singh**, who ruled Punjab for almost four decades (1801-39), was recently inaugurated in **Lahore**.
- Ranjit Singh was born on November 13, 1780 in **Gujranwala**, now in Pakistan. At that time, Punjab was ruled by powerful chieftains who had divided the territory into **Misls**. Ranjit Singh overthrew the warring Misls and established a **unified Sikh empire after he conquered Lahore in 1799**.
- He was given the title **Lion of Punjab (Sher-e-Punjab)** because he stemmed the tide of Afghan invaders in Lahore, which remained his capital until his death.
- His **general Hari Singh Nalwa built the Fort of Jamrud at the mouth of the Khyber Pass**, the route the foreign rulers took to invade India.
- At the time of his death, **he was the only sovereign leader left in India**, all others having come under the control of the East India Company in some way or the other.

- He also **employed a large number of European officers**, especially French, to train his troops. He appointed **French General Jean Franquis Allard to modernise his army**. In 2016, the town of St Tropez unveiled the maharaja's bronze statue as a mark of respect.
- **Ranjit Singh's trans-regional empire spread over several states**. His empire included the former Mughal provinces of Lahore and Multan besides part of Kabul and the entire Peshawar. The boundaries of his state went up to Ladakh — Zorawar Singh, a general from Jammu, had conquered Ladakh in Ranjit Singh's name
- — in the northeast, Khyber pass in the northwest, and up to Panjnad in the south where the five rivers of Punjab fell into the Indus.
- During his regime, **Punjab was a land of six rivers, the sixth being the Indus**.
- The maharaja was **known for his just and secular rule**; both Hindus and Muslims were given powerful positions in his darbar.
- He turned Harimandir Sahib at Amritsar into the Golden Temple by covering it with gold.
- He is also credited with **funding Hazoor Sahib gurudwara** at the final resting place of Guru Gobind Singh in Nanded, Maharashtra.

15. Maharaja Duleep Singh

- He was **the last ruler of the Sikh empire, born to Maharaja Ranjit Singh in 1838 in Lahore**.
- In 1849, after the British defeated the Sikhs in the war, Singh was forced to sign a legal document that amended **the Treaty of Lahore**, requiring him to not only give up claims of sovereignty over the region, but also **the Koh-i-noor diamond**.
- In 1853, he **converted to Christianity, and settled in the UK in 1854**.

16. Rani Lakshmibai

About Rani Lakshmibai:

- Born on **November 19, 1828**, as **Manikarnika Tambe** in **Varanasi**.
- Rani was married to **the King of Jhansi, Raja Gangadhar Newalkar in 1842**.

The war between the British and Rani Lakshmibai:

- She had a son **Damodar Rao**, who died within four months of his birth. Following the death of the infant, her husband adopted a cousin's child **Anand Rao**, who was renamed **Damodar Rao** a day prior to the death of the Maharaja.
- **Lord Dalhousie** refused to acknowledge the child and applied **the Doctrine of Lapse**, and annexed the state. However, the Rani refused to accept the Lord Dalhousie's decision.
- This led to a fight between the two. The Rani of Jhansi gave a tough fight to the British during the two weeks siege of the city.
- The queen died while fighting a squadron of the 8th Hussars under **Captain Heneage**, on June 18, 1858, in **Kotah-ki-Serai near the Phool Bagh of Gwalior**.

What was the Doctrine of Lapse?

The Doctrine of Lapse was **an annexation policy followed widely by Lord Dalhousie** when he was India's Governor-General from 1848 to 1856.

- According to this, any princely state under the direct or indirect (as a vassal) control of the East India Company where the ruler did not have a legal male heir would be annexed by the company
- As per this, any adopted son of the Indian ruler could not be proclaimed as heir to the kingdom. This challenged the Indian ruler's long-held authority to appoint an heir of their choice.

17. Udham Singh

- **Udham Singh** was born in Sunam in Punjab's Sangrur district in 1899.
- He was a political activist who got associated with **the Ghadar Party** while in the US.

- In 1934, Singh made his way to London with the purpose of assassinating **O'Dwyer**, who in 1919 had been **the Lieutenant Governor of Punjab** and unsurprisingly, Singh considered O'Dwyer to be responsible for the massacre.
- **Instead of Dyer, who instructed his men to open fire at the crowd gathered in Jallianwala Bagh, O'Dwyer is considered to be the actual perpetrator**, since Dyer could not have executed it without his permission.
- On March 13, 1940 Singh shot O'Dwyer at a meeting of **the East India Association and the Royal Central Asian Society at Caxton Hill**.
- He was sentenced to death and was hanged on July 31, 1940 at Pentonville Prison.

What is Ghadar Party?

The multi-ethnic party was believed to have communist tendencies and was **founded by Sohan Singh Bhakna** in 1913.

Headquartered in California.

It was **committed to the ouster of the British from India**.

18. Thiruvalluvar

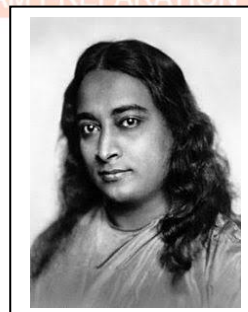
- Thiruvalluvar is **a celebrated Tamil poet and philosopher** whose contribution to Tamil literature is the **Thirukkural**, a work on ethics.
- He is thought to have lived sometime between **the 4th century BC and the 1st century BC**.
- The Tamil poet **Mamulanar** of the Sangam period mentioned that Thiruvalluvar was the greatest Tamil scholar.

19. Paramahansa Yogananda

Finance Minister Releases Commemorative Coin on **Paramahansa Yogananda to Mark his 125th Birth Anniversary**.

About Paramahansa Yogananda:

- Born in 1893, he was **an Indian monk, yogi and guru** who introduced millions to the teachings of meditation and Kriya Yoga through his organization **Self-Realization Fellowship (SRF) / Yogoda Satsanga Society (YSS) of India**.
- He is considered as **the "Father of Yoga in the West."**
- He was **the first major Indian teacher to settle in America, and the first prominent Indian to be hosted in the White House**.
- He published his book **Autobiography of a Yogi** in 1946.



What is Kriya Yoga?

The "science" of Kriya Yoga is the foundation of Yogananda's teachings.

Kriya Yoga is **"union (yoga) with the Infinite through a certain action or rite (kriya)**.

- The Kriya Yogi mentally directs his life energy to revolve, upward and downward, around the six spinal centers (medullary, cervical, dorsal, lumbar, sacral, and coccygeal plexuses) which correspond to the twelve astral signs of the zodiac, the symbolic Cosmic Man.
- One-half minute of revolution of energy around the sensitive spinal cord of man effects subtle progress in his evolution; that half-minute of Kriya equals one year of natural spiritual unfoldment.

20. Tipu Sultan

Who was Tipu Sultan?

He was **a ruler of the Kingdom of Mysore and the eldest son of Sultan Hyder Ali of Mysore**.

In the wider national narrative, Tipu has so far been seen as **a man of imagination and courage, a brilliant military strategist** who, in a short reign of 17 years, mounted the most serious challenge the Company faced in India.

Contributions of Tipu Sultan:

1. Fought **the first Anglo-Mysore War (1767-69)** at the age of 17 and subsequently, against the **Marathas and in the Second Anglo-Mysore War (1780-84)**.
2. He fought Company forces **four times** during 1767-99 and was killed defending his capital Srirangapatnam in **the Fourth Anglo Mysore War**.
3. Tipu **reorganised his army along European lines**, using new technology, including what is considered **the first war rocket**.
4. Devised **a land revenue system** based on detailed surveys and classification, in which **the tax was imposed directly on the peasant, and collected through salaried agents in cash**, widening the state's resource base.
5. **Modernised agriculture, gave tax breaks for developing wasteland, built irrigation infrastructure and repaired old dams, and promoted agricultural manufacturing and sericulture**. Built **a navy** to support trade.
6. Commissioned **a "state commercial corporation"** to set up factories.

21. Veer Savarkar

1. **Veer Savarkar** was born on May 28, 1883 in Bhagur, a city in Maharashtra's Nashik.
2. In his teenage, Savarkar formed a youth organization. Known as **Mitra Mela**, this organization was put into place to bring in national and revolutionary ideas.
3. He was **against foreign goods and propagated the idea of Swadeshi**. In 1905, he burnt all the foreign goods in a bonfire on Dussehra.
4. He championed **atheism and rationality** and also **disapproved orthodox Hindu belief**. In fact, he even dismissed cow worship as superstitious.
5. In his book, **The Indian war of Independence 1857**, Savarkar wrote about the guerilla warfare tricks used in 1857 Sepoy Mutiny.
6. The book was banned by Britishers, but **Madam Bhikaji Cama published** the book in Netherlands, Germany and France, which eventually reached many Indian revolutionaries.
7. He was arrested in 1909 on charges of plotting **an armed revolt against the Morle-Minto reform**.
8. He also **Worked on abolishment of untouchability** in Ratnagiri. Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar also compared his work to Lord Buddha.
9. He founded **the two-nation theory in his book 'Hindutva'** calling Hindus and Muslims two separate nations. In 1937, Hindu Mahasabha passed it as a resolution.
10. It was in year 1964, when Savarkar declared his wish to **attain Samadhi and started hunger-strike on February 1, 1966** and passed away on February 26, 1966. He believed that his purpose of life is solved as India has gained Independence.
11. In 2002, Port Blair airport at Andaman and Nicobar's Island was renamed after Veer Savarkar International Airport.

Important contributions to the Indian freedom movement:

- In Pune, Savarkar founded the **"Abhinav Bharat Society"**.
- He was also involved in **the Swadeshi movement** and later joined Tilak's **Swaraj Party**. His instigating patriotic speeches and activities incensed the British Government. As a result the British Government withdrew his B.A. degree.
- In June 1906, Veer Savarkar, left for London to become Barrister. However, once in London, he united and inflamed the Indian students in England against British rule in India. 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.

- When the then British Collector of Nasik, A.M.T. Jackson was shot by a youth, Veer Savarkar finally fell under the net of the British authorities. He was implicated in the murder citing his connections with India House. Savarkar was arrested in London on March 13, 1910 and sent to India.
- 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.

22. Firoz Shah Tughlaq

Delhi's Feroz Shah Kotla stadium was renamed as Arun Jaitley Stadium after the former Finance Minister.

About Firoz Shah Tughlaq:

- Born in 1309 and ascended the throne of Delhi after the demise of his cousin Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq.
- He was the **third ruler of Tughlaq dynasty** that ruled over Delhi from 1320 to 1412 AD. **Tughlaq was in power from 1351 to 1388 AD.**
- He was the **one who started the imposition of Jaziya.**
- He provided the **principle of inheritance to the armed forces** where the officers were permitted to rest and send their children in army in their place. However, they were **not paid in real money but by land.**
- The British called him the '**father of the irrigation department**' because of the many gardens and canals that he built.

Contributions:

- established the **Diwan-i-Khairat** — office for charity.
- established the **Diwan-i-Bundagan** — department of slave
- established **Sarais** (rest house) for the benefits of merchants and other travellers
- adopted the **Iqtadari framework.**
- established **four new towns**, Firozabad, Fatehabad, Jaunpur and Hissar.
- established hospitals known as **Darul-Shifa, Bimaristan or Shifa Khana.**

Taxes imposed under Firoz Shah Tughlaq:

- **Kharaj:** land tax which was equal to one-tenth of the produce of the land.
- **Zakat:** two and a half per cent tax on property realized from the Muslims.
- **Kham:** one-fifth of the booty captured (four-fifth was left for the soldiers).
- **Jaziya:** levied on the non-Muslim subjects, particularly the Hindus. Women and children were, however, exempted from the taxes.
- Also **levied other taxes like the irrigation tax, garden tax, octroi tax and the sales tax.**

23. Dadabhai Naoroji

- Dadabhai Naoroji, the "**Grand Old Man of India**", who was among the first leaders who stirred national consciousness in the country.
- **Born in 1825 at Navsari**, in present-day Gujarat.

Key contributions:

- He was closely **involved with the Indian National Congress** in its early phase.
- He served as the **first Indian member of the British parliament.**
- His first agitation, in 1859, concerned **recruitment to the Indian Civil Service.**

- In 1865 and 1866, Naoroji helped found the **London Indian Society and the East India Association**. The two organisations sought to bring nationalist Indians and sympathetic Britons on one platform.
- As the **secretary of the East India Association**, Naoroji travelled in India to gather funds and raise national awareness.
- In 1885, Naoroji became a **vice-president of the Bombay Presidency Association**, was nominated to the Bombay legislative council by Governor Lord Reay, and helped form the Indian National Congress.
- He was **Congress president thrice, in 1886, 1893, and 1906**.
- In 1893, he helped form an **Indian parliamentary committee** to attend to Indian interests.
- In 1895, he became a member of the **royal commission on Indian expenditure**.
- Dadabhai Naoroji was among the key proponents of the '**Drain Theory**', disseminating it in his 1901 book '**Poverty and Un-British Rule in India**'.

What is Drain Theory?

- Imperial Britain was draining away India's wealth to itself through exploitative economic policies, including India's rule by foreigners; the heavy financial burden of the British civil and military apparatus in India; the
- exploitation of the country due to free trade; non-Indians taking away the money that they earned in India; and the interest that India paid on its public debt held in Britain.

24. Lal Bahadur Shastri

PM unveils Lal Bahadur Shastri statue at Varanasi airport.

Pre- independence:

- Lal Bahadur Shastri was born on **2nd October, 1904** at Mughalsarai, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- He was given the title "**Shastri**" meaning "**Scholar**" by Vidya Peeth as a part of his bachelor's degree award.
- He introduced a slogan "**Jai Jawan Jai Kisan**" and played a pivotal role in shaping India's future.
- He became a life member of the **Servants of the People Society (Lok Sevak Mandal)**, founded by Lala Lajpat Rai. There he started to work for the upliftment of backward classes, and later he **became the President of that Society**.
- He participated in the **non-cooperation movement and the Salt Satyagraha**.

Post- independence:

- He was the **second Prime Minister** of Independent India.
- In 1961, he was appointed as Home Minister, and he appointed the **Committee on Prevention of Corruption**.
- He created the famous "**Shastri Formula**" which consisted of the language agitations in Assam and Punjab.
- He promoted the **White Revolution**, a national campaign to increase milk production. He also promoted the **Green Revolution**, to increase the food production in India.
- In 1964, he signed an agreement with the Sri Lankan Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike, in concern with the status of Indian Tamils in Ceylon. This agreement is known as **Srimavo-Shastri Pact**.
- He was awarded the **Bharat Ratna** the India's highest civilian award posthumously in 1966.
- He signed **Tashkent Declaration** on 10 January, 1966 with the Pakistan President, Muhammad Ayub Khan to end the 1965 war.

25. Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar

- He was the 19th century intellectual.

- He was perhaps the first Indian reformer to put forward the issues of women.
- His Bengali primer, **Borno Porichoy**, remains, more than 125 years after his death in 1891, the introduction to the alphabet for nearly all Bengali children.
- He was a **polymath** who reconstructed the modern Bengali alphabet and initiated pathbreaking **reform in traditional upper caste Hindu society**.
- He studied Sanskrit grammar, literature, Vedanta philosophy, logic, astronomy, and Hindu law for more than 12 years at **Sanskrit College in Calcutta**, and received the title of **Vidyasagar — Ocean of Learning — at the age of just 21**.
- Privately, he studied English literature and philosophy and was appointed **principal of Sanskrit College** on January 22, 1851.

Reforms by Ishwar Chandra:

- The focus of his social reform was women — and he spent his life's energies trying to ensure an end to the practice of child marriage and initiate widow remarriage. He argued, on the basis of scriptures and old commentaries, in favour of the remarriage of widows in the same way as Roy did for the abolition of Sati.
- He launched a powerful attack on the practice of marrying off girls aged 10 or even younger, pointing to social, ethical, and hygiene issues, and rejecting the validity of the Dharma Shastras that advocated it. He showed that there was no prohibition on widows remarrying in the entire body of 'Smriti' literature (the Sutras and the Shastras).
- He campaigned against **polygamy**.
- On October 14, 1855, Vidyasagar presented a petition to the Government of India praying for early passing a law to remove all obstacles to the marriage of Hindu widows and to declare the issue of all such marriages to be legitimate.
- On July 16, 1856, **The Hindu Widows' Remarriage Act**, known as Act XV, was passed.

26. Periyar E. V. Ramasamy

- Born in 1879, Periyar is remembered for the **Self Respect Movement** to redeem the identity and self-respect of Tamils. He envisaged a **Dravida homeland of Dravida Nadu**, and launched a political party, **Dravidar Kazhagam (DK)**.
- He associated himself with the **Justice Party** and the Self Respect Movement.
- Periyar's fame spread beyond the Tamil region during the **Vaikom Satyagraha of 1924**, a mass movement to demand that lower caste persons be given the right to use a public path in front of the famous Vaikom temple.
- In the 1940s, Periyar launched **Dravidar Kazhagam**, which espoused an independent Dravida Nadu comprising Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu, and Kannada speakers.
- As a social reformer, he **focused on social, cultural and gender inequalities**, and his reform agenda questioned matters of faith, gender and tradition.
- He asked people to be rational in their life choices. He argued that women needed to be independent, not mere child-bearers, and insisted that they be allowed an equal share in employment.

Awards / Institutions

1. Various Awards

Bharat Ratna:

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

About Padma Awards:

- Padma Awards – one of the highest civilian Awards of the country, are conferred in three categories, namely, **Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri**.
- They were instituted in the year 1954.
- The Awards are given in various disciplines/ fields of activities, viz.- art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc.
- **Categories:**
 - **Padma Vibhushan** is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service;(it is a second degree honour).
 - **Padma Bhushan** is awarded for distinguished service of high order. (it is a third degree honour).
 - **Padma Shri** is awarded for distinguished service in any field. (it is a fourth degree honour).
- The awards are **announced on the occasion of Republic Day every year**. The award is normally not conferred posthumously. However, in highly deserving cases, the Government could consider giving an award posthumously if the demise of the person proposed to be honoured has been recent, say within a period of one year preceding the Republic Day on which it is proposed to announce the award.

2. Jnanpith Award

Renowned English fiction writer Amitav Ghosh was felicitated with **54th Jnanpith Award**. He is the **1st English language writer to become a Jnanpith laureate**.

Eminent Malayalam poet **Akkitham** has been chosen for **55th Jnanpith Award for the year 2019**. The Jnanpith Award is one of the prestigious literary honours in the country. The award was instituted in 1961.

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

Initially English language was not considered for the Award but after 49th Jnanpith Award, **English language was added to the list of languages for consideration**.

3. Sahitya Akademi Award

Sahitya Akademi announced its **annual Sahitya Akademi Awards 2019**.

About Sahitya Akademi Award:

- It **is a literary honour that is conferred annually on Indian writers for their outstanding works of literary merit** in any of the major Indian languages (24 languages, including the 22 listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution recognised by the Sahitya Akademi).
- It was **established in 1954**.
- The award **consists of a casket containing an engraved copper-plaque (designed by filmmaker Satyajit Ray), a shawl and cheque of Rs.1 Lakh**.

4. Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman' Awards

- The Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman distinction is conferred on **persons in recognition of their substantial contribution in the field of Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic, Pali, Prakrit, Classical Oriya, Classical Kannada, Classical Telugu and Classical Malayalam**.
- Introduced in the year 2002.
- **Eligibility:** Given to selected young scholars in the age group of 30 to 45 years.
- Carries a certificate of honour, a memento and a one-time cash prize of Rs.1 lakh.

Who was Maharshi Badrayan?

- He was an Indian philosopher about whom almost no personal details are reliably known.
- Badarayana is regarded as having written the basic text of the Vedanta system, the **Vedāntasūtra k.a. Brahmasūtra**.
- He is thus **considered the founder of the Vedānta system of philosophy**.
- The date of Badarayana and his Brahma Sutras is uncertain. Different scholars have dated the Brahma Sutras variously from 500 BCE to 450 BCE.

Brahma Sutras:

- The text systematizes and summarizes the philosophical and spiritual ideas in the Upanishads. It is one of the **foundational texts of the Vedānta school of Hindu philosophy**.

What is contains?

- The Brahma sutras consists of 555 aphoristic verses (sutras) in four chapters. These verses are primarily about the nature of human existence and universe, and ideas about the metaphysical concept of Ultimate Reality called Brahman.
- The first chapter discusses the metaphysics of Absolute Reality.
- The second chapter reviews and addresses the objections raised by the ideas of competing orthodox schools of Hindu philosophies as well as heterodox schools such as Buddhism and Jainism.
- The third chapter discusses epistemology and path to gaining spiritually liberating knowledge.
- The last chapter states why such a knowledge is an important human need.

5. SARASWATI SAMMAN

- **Eligibility:** Saraswati Samman is the annual award given to an outstanding literary work in any Indian language mentioned in Schedule VIII of the Constitution and published in 10 years preceding the specified award year.
- **Significance:** It is the highest recognition in the field of Indian literature in the country and carries a citation, a plaque and award money of ₹15 lakh.
- The award is **presented by the KK Birla Foundation**, a literary and cultural organisation that also gives the **Vyas Samman for Hindi, and Bihari Puraskar** for Hindi and Rajasthani writers of Rajasthan.

6. SHANTI SWARUP BHATNAGAR PRIZE

- President of India Ram Nath Kovind, presented Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prizes 2019, for outstanding **contributions in science and technology**.
- **What is it?** The award is named after the founder Director of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), the late Dr (Sir) Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar and is known as the **'Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) Prize for Science and Technology'**.
- The Prize is given each year for outstanding contributions to science and technology.
- **Nature of the Prize:** SSB Prizes, each of the value of Rs 5,00,000 (Rupees five lakh only), are awarded annually for notable and outstanding research, applied or fundamental, in the following disciplines:
 - (i) Biological Sciences, (ii) Chemical Sciences, (iii) Earth, Atmosphere, Ocean and Planetary Sciences, (iv) Engineering Sciences, (v) Mathematical Sciences, (vi) Medical Sciences and (vii) Physical Sciences.
- **Eligibility:**
- Any citizen of India engaged in research in any field of science and technology up to the age of 45 years. Overseas citizen of India (OCI) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) working in India are also eligible.
- The Prize is bestowed on a person who, in the opinion of CSIR, has made conspicuously important and outstanding contributions to human knowledge and progress – fundamental and applied – in the particular field of endeavour, which is his/her specialization.
- The Prize is awarded on the basis of contributions made through work done primarily in India during the five years preceding the year of the Prize.

7. Asiatic Society of Mumbai

- **Asiatic Society of Mumbai** has elected the **first woman president in the 215 years of its existence**.
- **Prof Vispi Balaporia** will now head the institution.

About Asiatic Society, Mumbai:

- It is a learned society whose activities include **conducting historical research**, awarding historians, and running an institute of post-graduate studies.
- Its library, home to over 1 lakh books, consists of rare manuscripts contributed to it by the East India Company, as well as generous donations.
- The Society offers Junior Fellowships for research and recommends scholars for the Tagore National Fellowship of the Ministry of Culture.
- The **Governor of Maharashtra is the Society's Chief Patron**.

It's evolution:

- It began journey in **1804 as the Literary Society of Bombay**.
- Founded by **Sir James Mackintosh**, a Scottish colonial administrator who had a keen interest in Oriental studies.
- In 1826, it became the **Mumbai arm of the London-based Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland** and came to be called **the Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society (BBRAS)**.
- In 1954, the institution was severed from its London parent and became **the Asiatic Society of Bombay**. In 2002, it acquired its present name.

8. Sangeet Natak Akademi

- The Sangeet Natak Akademi – **India’s national academy for music, dance and drama** – is the **first National Academy of the arts set-up by the Republic of India**. It was created by a **resolution** of Government of India.
- It was set up in 1952.
- The academy functions as the apex body of the performing arts in the country to **preserve and promote the vast cultural heritage of India** expressed in music, dance and drama.
- It also works with governments and art academies in states and territories of the country.
- The academy Renders advice and **assistance to the government of India in the task of formulating and implementing policies and programmes** in the field. It carries a part of the responsibilities of the state for fostering cultural contacts between regions in the country, as well as between India and the world.
- The **Akademi Awards** are the **highest national recognition conferred on eminent artists**. Each year the Academy awards Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships, **Ratna Sadsya**, to distinguished individuals for their contribution to the field of arts, music, dance and theatre. Ustad Bismillah Khan award is given to young artists for their talent in the fields of music, dance and drama.
- The **Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar** is conferred **upon artists below the age of 40 years**.



INSIGHTSIAS
SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

International Efforts / International Events

1. UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage

UNESCO has recognised *the “Nuad” Thai massage* as part of its *Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity*.

- The form of massage is **one among over 20 elements that have been inscribed in the list**. The other elements include Irish harping, Portugal’s Carnival of Podence, traditional Turkish archery and Slovakia’s wire craft and art.

About UNESCO’s List of Intangible Cultural Heritage:

The list is made up of those *intangible heritage elements that help demonstrate diversity of cultural heritage and raise awareness about its importance*.

The list was *established in 2008 when Convention for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage came into effect*.

UNESCO maintains three lists under its “Intangible Cultural Heritage” banner: the list of intangible cultural heritage in need of urgent safeguarding, the list of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity and the register of good safeguarding practices.

Some of the criteria for inclusion in the representative list are if the inscription of the element will ensure visibility and awareness of it and if the element has been nominated after having “the widest possible participation” of the community, group or individuals concerned and with their free, prior and informed consent.

From India the Intangible Cultural Heritages added into this list include:

1. Tradition of Vedic chanting.
2. Ramlila, the traditional performance of the Ramayana.
3. Kutiyattam, Sanskrit theatre.
4. Ramman, religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas.
5. Mudi yettu, ritual theatre and dance drama of Kerala.
6. Kalbelia folk songs and dances of Rajasthan.
7. Chhau dance.
8. Buddhist chanting of Ladakh: recitation of sacred Buddhist texts in the trans-Himalayan Ladakh region, Jammu and Kashmir.
9. Sankirtana, ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur.
10. Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, Punjab.
11. Yoga.
12. Nawrouz.
13. Kumbh Mela.

2. UNESCO world heritage site

- The World Heritage Committee inscribed seven cultural sites on UNESCO’s World Heritage List.

These sites include:

- **Burial Mounds (Bahrain):** The burial mounds are evidence of the Early Dilmun civilization, around the 2nd millennium BCE, during which Bahrain became a trade hub, whose prosperity enabled the inhabitants to develop an elaborate burial tradition applicable to the entire population.
- **Budj Bim Cultural Landscape (Australia):** Composed of channels, dams and weirs, they are used to contain floodwaters and create basins to trap, store and harvest the kooyang eel (*Anguilla australis*), which has provided the population with an economic and social base for six millennia.

- **Archaeological Ruins of Liangzhu City (China):** Located in the Yangtze River Basin on the south- eastern coast of the country, the archaeological ruins of Liangzhu (about 3300-2300 BCE) reveal an early regional state with a unified belief system based on rice cultivation in Late Neolithic China.
- **Jaipur City, Rajasthan (India):** The fortified city of Jaipur, in India's northwestern state of Rajasthan was founded in 1727 by Sawai Jai Singh II. Unlike other cities in the region located in hilly terrain, Jaipur was established on the plain and built according to a grid plan interpreted in the light of Vedic architecture.
- **Ombilin Coal Mining Heritage of Sawahlunto, (Indonesia):** Built for the extraction, processing and transport of high-quality coal in an inaccessible region of Sumatra, this industrial site was developed by the Netherlands' colonial government from the late 19th to the beginning of the 20th century with a workforce recruited from the local population and supplemented by convict labour from Dutch- controlled areas.
- **Moju-Furuichi Kofun Group: Mounded Tombs of Ancient Japan (Japan):** Located on a plateau above the Osaka Plain, this property includes 49 kofun (old mounds in Japanese). These kofun have been selected from a total of 160,000 in Japan and form the richest material representation of the Kofun period, from the 3rd to the 6th century CE. They demonstrate the differences in social classes of that period and reflect a highly sophisticated funerary system.
- **Megalithic Jar Sites in Xiengkhouang — Plain of Jars (Lao People's Democratic Republic):** The Plain of Jars, located on a plateau in central Laos, gets its name from more than 2,100 tubular-shaped megalithic stone jars used for funerary practices in the Iron Age.
- India gets its **38th UNESCO World HERITAGE SITE** as Pink City Jaipur.
- With Successful inscription of Jaipur City, **India has 38 world heritage sites, that include 30 Cultural properties, 7 Natural properties and 1 mixed site.**

UNESCO world heritage site:

- A UNESCO World Heritage Site is a **place that is listed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** as of special **cultural or physical significance**.
- The list is maintained by the **international World Heritage Programme administered by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee**, composed of 21 UNESCO member states which are elected by the General Assembly.
- Each World Heritage Site **remains part of the legal territory of the state** wherein the site is located and UNESCO considers it in the interest of the international community to preserve each site.

Selection of a site:

- 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** (such as an ancient ruin or historical structure, building, city, complex, desert, forest, island, lake, monument, mountain, or wilderness area). It may **signify a remarkable accomplishment of humanity, and serve as evidence of our intellectual history on the planet.**

Legal status of designated sites:

- UNESCO designation as a World Heritage Site provides prima facie evidence that such culturally sensitive sites are legally protected pursuant to the Law of War, under the **Geneva Convention**, its articles, protocols and customs, together with other treaties including the **Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and international law.**

What are endangered sites?

- A site may be added to the List of World Heritage in Danger **if there are conditions that threaten the characteristics for which the landmark or area was inscribed on the World Heritage List.** Such problems may involve armed conflict and war, natural disasters, pollution, poaching, or uncontrolled urbanization or human development.
- This danger list is intended to **increase international awareness of the threats and to encourage counteractive measures.**
- **Review:** The state of conservation for each site on the danger list is reviewed on a yearly basis, after which the committee may request additional measures, delete the property from the list if the threats have ceased or consider deletion from both the List of World Heritage in Danger and the World Heritage List.



INSIGHTSIAS
SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

Historical Events

1. Taanaji Malusare and the Battle of Singhagad

Taanaji Malusare was a Maratha military leader and a close aide of Chhatrapati Shivaji.

Hailing from the Malusare clan, Taanaji is popularly remembered for **the Battle of Singhagad that took place in the year 1670.**

In the battle, **Taanaji fought against Udaybhan Rathore, a formidable Rajput warrior**, who was put in charge of **Fort Kandhana (later named Singhagad) by Jai Singh.**

Battle of Singhagad, 1670:

In the year 1665, **the Treaty of Purandar** was signed between Jai Singh and Shivaji.

Amongst several demands, the treaty had required the Maratha ruler to give up **Fort Kandhana** to the Mughals.

After it was taken over by the Mughals, **the fort was guarded by Rajput, Pathan and Arab troop guards and was said to be impenetrable.**

This deeply disturbed and enraged Shivaji's mother **Rajmata Jijabai**. Upon knowing this, Shivaji entrusted Taanaji, the only man he could think of capable of reconquering the fort Kondhana at any cost.

Outcomes of the battle:

- Even though the attack by Taanaji took the Mughals by surprise, the latter nonetheless outnumbered the Marathas.
- The two clashed for long. Malusare was gravely wounded in the fight and died.
- Enraged by the death of their general, the Marathas fought under the leadership of his brother, Suryaji Malusare, and eventually vanquished the enemy.
- The fort was renamed as Singhagad (lion's fort) by Shivaji to honour Tanaji.

2. Bhima-Koregaon battle

202nd anniversary of **the Bhima-Koregaon battle of 1818** was observed on January 1, 2020.

About the Bhima- Koregaon battle:

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

Outcomes of the battle:

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

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.

3. Paika Rebellion

President Ram Nath Kovind recently laid the foundation of a memorial dedicated to *the 1817 Paika Rebellion*.

Who are Paikas?

Recruited since the 16th century by *kings in Odisha* from a variety of social groups *to render martial services in return for rent-free land (nish-kar jagirs) and titles*.

They were the traditional *land-owning militia of Odisha and served as warriors*.

How the rebellion began?

When armies of the East India Company overran most of Odisha in 1803, the Raja of Khurda lost his primacy and the power and prestige of the Paikas went on a decline. So, they rebelled back.

- The British were not comfortable with these aggressive, warlike new subjects and set up a *commission under Walter Ewer* to look into the issue.
- The commission recommended that the hereditary rent-free lands granted to the Paikas be taken over by the British administration and this recommendation was zealously adhered to. *They revolted against the British*.
- *Bakshi Jagabandhu Bidyadhar Mohapatra Bharamarbar Raj*, the highest-ranking military general of *King of Khorda Mukund Dev II*, led the Paikas to join the uprising.
- However, the rebellion also had several **other underlying causes** – like the rise in the price of salt, abolition of the cowrie currency for payment of taxes and an overtly extortionist land revenue policy.

Outcome:

Although initially the Company struggled to respond they managed to put down the rebellion by May 1817. Many of the Paik leaders were hung or deported. Jagabandhu surrendered in 1825.

Nationalist movement or a peasant rebellion?

The Paika Rebellion is one among the peasant rebellions that took place in India when the British East India Company was expanding its military enterprise. Because these uprisings violently clashed with European colonialists and missionaries on many occasions, their resistance is sometimes seen as the first expression of resistance against colonial rule — and therefore considered to be “nationalist” in nature.

SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

4. Maharaja Surajmal and the third battle of Panipat

Who is Maharaja Surajmal?

Born in *1707 in the kingdom of Bharatpur, Rajasthan*, he ruled in the 18th century and was the son of *the Jat chieftain Badan Singh*.

He is described as “a strong leader who harried the Mughal empire in the anarchic period of its decline, consolidated the kingdom with its capital at Bharatpur and used the resources gained to build forts and palaces.

Some of the important monuments include *the palace at Deeg and the Bharatpur Fort*”.

The third battle of panipat- what, why and how?

- 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?

- After the death of Mughal Emperor *Aurangzeb*, there was a sudden rise of the Marathas and all 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.

- 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**.
- **Abdali** planned to attack the Marathas when his son was driven out of Lahore.
- By the end of 1759, Abdali with his **Afghan tribes** reached Lahore as well as Delhi and defeated the smaller enemy garrisons.
- The two armies fought at Karnal and Kunjpura where the entire Afghan garrison was killed or enslaved.
- 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.
- Smaller battles continued through months and forces from both the sides amassed for the final assault. But food was running out for the Marathas.

Impact and outcomes:

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.

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**.

Additional facts- Other major battles fought at Panipat:

- **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.
- **The Second Battle of Panipat, in 1556**, cemented Mughal rule when Akbar fought off a threat from the king Hemu 'Vikramaditya'.

5. Indian History Congress (IHC)

Recently, the 80th session of **the Indian History Congress (IHC)** was held at Kannur, Kerala. It called upon political and administrative authorities **to pursue the constitutional duty of promoting composite culture, which is vital to promoting the territorial unity of India**.

What is Indian History Congress?

Founded in 1935, the Indian History Congress (IHC) is **the largest association of professional historians in South Asia**.

- It has about 35000 members of which over 2000 delegates participate in its session every year.
- It has been holding its sessions very regularly from its inception and publishing its proceedings every year since 1935.
- Its main objective is to **promote secular and scientific writing of history**.

Origin:

The **Bharata Itihasa Samshodhaka Mandala (BISM)** organised **an All India Congress in 1935 to celebrate its silver jubilee** in Pune. As an outcome, **the Indian History Congress (IHC)** was thus born with about 50 delegates.

The **Bharata Itihasa Samshodhaka Mandala (BISM)** was founded by **Vishwanath Kashinath Rajwade** in 1910 in Pune with the support of **K C Mehendale**.

6. Islamic Revolution

Iran celebrates **1979 Islamic Revolution**.

About Islamic Revolution:

Also called **Iranian Revolution**, it was **a popular uprising in Iran in 1978–79** that resulted in the toppling of the monarchy on February 11, 1979, and led to the establishment of an Islamic republic.

Reasons advanced for the revolution include:

1. A backlash against Western imperialism.
2. the 1953 Iranian coup d'état.
3. a rise in expectations created by the 1973 oil revenue windfall.
4. an overly ambitious economic program.
5. anger over a short, sharp economic contraction in 1977–78.
6. other shortcomings of the previous regime.

Outcomes:

Following the Iranian Revolution of 1979, the Islamic Republic was formed under Khomeini's rule. The U.S. Embassy in Iran was taken over by a group of Muslim students and 52 U.S. diplomats and citizens were taken hostage on November 4, 1979. This event came to be known as **the Iran Hostage Crisis**.

7. Battle of Çanakkale

The **Battle of Çanakkale, also known as the Gallipoli campaign or the Dardanelles campaign**, is considered to be one of the bloodiest of World War I, during which **the Ottoman army faced off against the Allied forces**, leading to the slaughter of tens of thousands of soldiers on both sides. It was an **unsuccessful attempt by the Allied Powers to control the sea route from Europe to Russia during World War I**.

- The campaign began with a failed naval attack by British and French ships on the Dardanelles Straits in February–March 1915 and continued with a major land invasion of the Gallipoli Peninsula on April 25, involving British and French troops as well as divisions of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC).
- Lack of sufficient intelligence and knowledge of the terrain, along with a fierce Turkish resistance, hampered the success of the invasion.

Key outcomes and significance:

The campaign was considered **a great Ottoman victory**.

- In Turkey, it is regarded as a defining moment in the history of the state, a final surge in the defence of the motherland as the Ottoman Empire retreated.
- The struggle formed **the basis for the Turkish War of Independence and the declaration of the Republic of Turkey eight years later**.
- The campaign is often considered to be the beginning of Australian and New Zealand **national consciousness**- April 25, anniversary of the Gallipoli landings, is observed as ANZAC Day, the day of national remembrance for the war dead.

8. Satnami Rebellion

Who are Satnamis?

1. Originally, they were **a militant sect of Hindu Worshipers**.
2. Founded by a saint named "**Birbhan**" in 1657 in Narnaul in Haryana.
3. The major religious activity of this sect is **to chant and meditate the true names (Sat-Nam) of God**, specially Rama and Krishna.
4. This sect is **thought to be an offshoot of Ravidasi sect** and comprised of lower strata of the Hindu society, particularly, leather workers, sweepers, carpenters, Goldsmiths etc.
5. The followers of this sect kept their heads shaven (thus called **Mundiyas**) and abstained from liquor and meat.
6. The religious granth of the Satnamis is called **Pothi**.

The revolt of 1672:

- In 1672, they rebelled against the mighty Mughal Empire.
- The revolt triggered when a Mughal soldier killed a Satnami. The Satnamis killed the soldier in revenge and in turn Mughal soldiers were sent.
- Satnamis attacked Narnaul, the main township in the area and destroyed the Mughal garrison. **They even set up their own administration.**
- Next, they marched towards Shahjahanabad (old Delhi), armed with the latest European-designed muskets that their leader had taught them to make.
- The rebellion was **crushed when Aurangzeb himself took personal command** and sent 10,000 troops with artillery to crush the Satnamis.

Other reasons for the revolt:

The killing of the youth may have been the immediate trigger, the reasons for the revolt were to do with the growth of the Satnami sect. The entrenched caste structure of the era forced marginalised groups to join the fold and they protested against the high taxation policies. Their rise was seen as a threat by the supporters of the Mughal administration, the upper castes.

9. Azad Hind Government

Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose had announced the establishment of the provisional government of Azad Hind in occupied Singapore in 1943.

1. 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.**
2. With this, Bose 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.**

Why was it set up?

Bose was convinced that **armed struggle was the only way to achieve independence for India.** Under his provisional government, **the Indians living abroad had been united.** The Indian National Army drew ex-prisoners and thousands of civilian volunteers from the Indian expatriate population in Malaya (present-day Malaysia) and Burma (now Myanmar).

The formation:

October 21, 1943: Announced the setting up of the provisional government on the battlefield of Singapore which was once the bulwark of the British Empire.

Under the provisional government:

1. Bose was **the head of the state, the prime minister and the minister for war and foreign affairs.**
2. **Captain Lakshmi** headed the women's organisation.
3. **S A Ayer** headed the publicity and propaganda wing.
4. **Rash Behari Bose** was designated as the supreme advisor.

The provisional government was also formed in the Japanese-occupied Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The islands were reoccupied by the British in 1945.

How it came to an end?

Bose's death was seen as the end to the Azad Hind movement. The Second World War, also ended in 1945 with the defeat of the Axis powers.

10. Quit India movement

- 77th anniversary of Quit India movement was observed on August 8th, 2019. Every year 8 August is celebrated in India as **August Kranti Din.**

What is Quit India Movement?

- It was in 1942 when the world was going through the havoc caused by World War II. India too was facing the heat and **after the Cripps Mission had failed**, and **on 8 August 1942, Mahatma Gandhi made a Do or Die call** through the Quit India movement. Large protests and demonstrations were held all over the country.
- However, as the movement didn't get too much support from the outside, it was crushed and the British refused to grant immediate Independence, saying that it could happen only after the war had ended.

Who started Quit India Movement?

- The Quit India movement was **started by Mahatma Gandhi in 1942** but drew protests from the All-India Congress Committee demanding what Gandhi called was "**An Orderly British Withdrawal**" from India.
- This forced the British to act immediately and soon all the senior INC leaders were imprisoned without trial within hours of Gandhi's speech.

Other key facts:

- Several national leaders like **Mahatma Gandhi, Abdul Kalam Azad, Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel were arrested**.
- The **Congress was declared an unlawful association**, leaders were arrested and its offices all over the country were raided and their funds were frozen.
- **The first half of the movement was peaceful** with demonstrations and processions. The peaceful protest was carried till Mahatma Gandhi's release.
- **The second half of the movement was violent** with raids and setting fire at post offices, government buildings and railway stations. **Lord Linlithgow adopted the policy of violence**.
- The British had the support of the Viceroy's Council (which had a majority of Indians), the All India Muslim League, the princely states, the Indian Imperial Police, the British Indian Army, the Hindu Mahasabha and the Indian Civil Service. The only outside support came from the Americans, as President Franklin D. Roosevelt pressured Prime Minister Winston Churchill to give in to some of the Indian demands.

The significance of the movement can be highlighted as follows:

- The **movement was carried forward without the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, or any other leader**, all of whom were jailed on its commencement.
- All sections of people participated in huge numbers.
- **Decentralized command** was the prime significance of this movement.
- The British began to seriously think about the issue of Indian independence after seeing the upsurge among the masses. **It changed the nature of political negotiations with British empire** in 1940s which ultimately paved the way of India's independence.
- The slogan of '**Do or Die**' remains the most **Krantikari slogan** to this day.
- **It is also a symbol of political betrayal**. Muslim League, Hindu Mahasabha, Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh (RSS) and even the undivided Communist party opposed Gandhi as well as his call for complete civil disobedience.

However, some of the drawbacks were:

- Use of violent methods by the volunteers and participants.
- The movement was crushed in a relatively short period of time by the British.
- Lack of leadership did not lead to well-coordinated guidance and progress of the movement, with the intensity restricted to a few pockets.

11. Royal Indian Navy revolt

The **Royal Indian Navy revolt (also called the Royal Indian Navy mutiny or Bombay mutiny)** encompasses a total strike and subsequent revolt by Indian sailors of the Royal Indian Navy on board ship and shore establishments at Bombay harbour on 18 February 1946.

While the immediate trigger was the **demand for better food and working conditions**, the agitation soon turned into a **wider demand for independence from British rule**.

From the initial flashpoint in Bombay, the revolt spread and found **support throughout British India**, from Karachi to Calcutta. The **mutiny was repressed with force by British troops** and Royal Navy warships. **Only the Communist Party supported the strikers; the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League condemned it.**



INSIGHTSIAS
SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

Government Initiatives

1. Kala Kumbh

- With an objective **to promote Geographical Indication (GI) crafts and heritage of India**, the **Ministry of Textiles** is organising Kala Kumbh – **Handicrafts Thematic Exhibition** in various parts of the country through the Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts).
- The exhibitions are sponsored by **the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH)**. EPCH was established under Companies Act in the year 1986-87 and is **a non-profit organisation**, with an object to promote, support, protect, maintain and increase the export of handicrafts.

2. Incredible India Campaign

- The **Incredible India “Find the Incredible You”** campaign released globally by the **Ministry of Tourism** during 2018-19 has been declared winner of the **PATA (Pacific Asia Travel Association) Gold Award 2019** in the “Marketing – Primary Government Destination” category.
- The campaign strategy was to shift the focus from the external experience of tourist destinations to the internal experience of travelers themselves.
- PATA Gold Awards are given to **tourism industry organizations and individuals** making outstanding contribution towards the successful promotion of the travel industry throughout the Asia Pacific Region.
- Founded in 1951, the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) is a not-for profit association that is internationally acclaimed for acting as a catalyst for the responsible development of travel and tourism to, from and within the Asia Pacific region.



INSIGHTSIAS
SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

Language / Script / Inscriptions

1. Classical language

At the recently concluded 93rd edition of the Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Sammelan, a resolution was passed demanding the declaration of **Marathi as a 'Classical' language**.

What are 'Classical' languages in India?

Currently, **six languages enjoy the 'Classical' status**: Tamil (declared in 2004), Sanskrit (2005), Kannada (2008), Telugu (2008), Malayalam (2013), and Odia (2014).

How are they classified?

Guidelines for declaring a language as 'Classical' are:

1. High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years.
2. A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers.
3. The literary tradition be original and not borrowed from another speech community.
4. The classical language and literature being distinct from modern, there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.

How are the Classical languages promoted? Various benefits:

1. Two major annual international awards for scholars of eminence in classical Indian languages.
2. A Centre of Excellence for studies in Classical Languages is set up.
3. The University Grants Commission is requested to create, to start with at least in the Central Universities, a certain number of Professional Chairs for the Classical Languages so declared.

2. Bodo language

Bodo language is one of **the key thrust areas in the Bodo Accord** which was signed recently.

Bodo language- Key facts:

- Estimated to have 1.5 million speakers (Census 2011), Bodo is listed in **the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution**.
- It is spoken in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya, and West Bengal.
- While Bodo is **officially written in the Devanagiri script**, the language has a history of having been written in at least three different scripts — until **in 1974, the Government recognised Devanagari as its official script**. In the first decade of the 20th century, Bodos started writing in **the Assamese/Bangla script**. **Then they also used Roman Script**.
- In the pre-13th century era, **it was called Deodhai**.

Promises in the accord regarding Bodo language:

- It was only in 2003, under the then Bodo Accord, that the language was listed in the Eighth Schedule. And it was the first tribal language to be included in the Eight Schedule.
- In **Assam, it has enjoyed the status of official associate language** in undivided Goalpara district since 1986.
- Now the 2020 Accord makes Bodo the **associate official language throughout Assam**.
- The new Accord also promises to establish **a separate directorate for Bodo medium schools, provincialise schools and colleges in the BTAD** (Bodoland Territorial Autonomous District) and establish **a Cultural Complex-cum-Centre of Excellence** in Kokrajhar for protection and promotion of the language.

3. KiliKi language

On **International Mother Language Day (February 21)**, an official website of **KiLiKi language** has been launched.

About Kiliki language:

The new speech was invented for the terrifying warrior tribe called **Kalakeya** in the two-part Baahubali franchise.

It now has evolved into a **language with script grammar and more than 3000 words for everyday communication**.

It is **considered as the world's easiest language**.

This fictional language was **created by popular lyricist and screenwriter Madhan Karky**.

About International Mother Language Day:

- Observed every year on **21st February since 2000 to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism**.
- The idea to celebrate International Mother Language Day was **the initiative of Bangladesh**.
- It was approved at **the UNESCO General Conference (1999)** and has been observed throughout the world since 2000.
- The United Nations General Assembly had proclaimed **2008 as the International Year of Languages**.
- The Ministry of Human Resource and Development along with educational institutions and language institutions is celebrating the day as **the Matribhasha Diwas in the country**.

4. Bharati Script

Researchers from IIT Madras have developed **a unified script for nine Indian languages**, named **the Bharati Script**.

Now, going a step further, developed **a method for reading documents in Bharati script** using a multi-lingual **optical character recognition (OCR) scheme**.

What is Optical Character Recognition (OCR) scheme?

1. It involves first separating (or segmenting) the document into text and non-text.
2. The text is then segmented into paragraphs, sentences words and letters.
3. Each letter has to be recognised as a character in some recognisable format such as ASCII or Unicode.
4. The letter has various components such as the basic consonant, consonant modifiers, vowels etc.

What is Bharati Script?

It is **an alternative script for the languages of India** developed by a team at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Madras lead by Dr. Srinivasa Chakravarthy.

The scripts that have been integrated include Devnagari, Bengali, Gurmukhi, Gujarati, Oriya, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Tamil.

Vowels										
ॠ	ॡ	ॢ	ॣ	।	॥	०	ॠ	ॡ	ॢ	ॣ
अ	आ	इ	ई	उ	ऊ	ऋ	ॠ	ऌ	ॡ	ॢ
अ	आ	इ	ई	उ	ऊ	ऋ	ॠ	ऌ	ॡ	ॢ
a	ā	i	ī	u	ū	r̥	r̄	l̥	l̄	ḷ
।	॥	ॠ	ॡ	ॢ	ॣ	।	॥	ॠ	ॡ	ॢ
ए	ऐ	०	ॠ	अं	अँ	अः				
ए	ऐ	०	ॠ	अं	अँ	अः				
e	ē	o	ai	oḥ	au	aṃ	ah			
Consonants										
ॠ	ॡ	ॢ	ॣ	।	॥	०	ॠ	ॡ	ॢ	ॣ
क	ख	ग	घ	ङ	च	छ	ज	झ	ञ	ट
क	ख	ग	घ	ङ	च	छ	ज	झ	ञ	ट
ka	kha	ga	gha	ṅa	ca	cha	ja	jha	ña	ṭa
ॠ	ॡ	ॢ	ॣ	।	॥	०	ॠ	ॡ	ॢ	ॣ
ट	ठ	ड	ड़	ण	त	थ	द	ध	न	ॠ
ट	ठ	ड	ड़	ण	त	थ	द	ध	न	ॠ
ṭa	ṭha	ḍa	ḍha	ṇa	ta	tha	da	dha	na	ṙa
ॠ	ॡ	ॢ	ॣ	।	॥	०	ॠ	ॡ	ॢ	ॣ
प	फ	ब	भ	म	य	र	ळ	ल	ॠ	ॡ
प	फ	ब	भ	म	य	र	ळ	ल	ॠ	ॡ
pa	pha	ba	bha	ma	ya	ra	ṛa	la	ṙa	ṛa
ॠ	ॡ	ॢ	ॣ	।	॥	०	ॠ	ॡ	ॢ	ॣ
श	ष	स	ह	ॠ	ॡ	ॢ	ॣ	।	॥	०
ॠ	ॡ	ॢ	ॣ	।	॥	०	ॠ	ॡ	ॢ	ॣ
श	ष	स	ह	ॠ	ॡ	ॢ	ॣ	।	॥	०
ṣa	ṣa	sa	ha	ṙa	ṙa	ṛa	ṛa	ṛa	ṛa	ṛa
ॠ	ॡ	ॢ	ॣ	।	॥	०	ॠ	ॡ	ॢ	ॣ
ॠ	ॡ	ॢ	ॣ	।	॥	०	ॠ	ॡ	ॢ	ॣ
ṙa	ṙa	ṛa	ṛa	ṛa	ṛa	ṛa	ṛa	ṛa	ṛa	ṛa
ṛa	r̄ha	r̄a	yya							

5. South India's earliest Sanskrit Inscription found in AP

The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** has discovered **the earliest Sanskrit inscription in South India**.

- This is also ***an earliest epigraphic evidence (Epigraphy is the study of ancient inscriptions) for the Saptamatrika cult.***
- The discovery was made in ***Chebrolu village in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh.***

About the inscriptions found:

- It is ***in Sanskrit and in Brahmi characters.***
- It was ***issued by Satavahana king Vijaya in 207 A.D.***
- The inscription records construction of a prasada (temple), a mandapa (a pavilion for public rituals) and consecration of images on southern side of temple by a person named ***Kartika*** for merit of king at ***temple of Bhagavathi (Goddess) Saktimatruka (Saptamatrika) at Tambrepe (which is the ancient name of Chebrolou).***
- ***Chebrolu inscription*** of Satavahana king Vijaya ***issued in his 5th regnal year (207 A.D.)*** is also ***the earliest datable Sanskrit inscription from South India so far.*** Until now the ***Nagarjunakonda inscription of Ikshavaku king Ehavala Chantamula issued in his 11th regnal year (4th century A.D.)*** was considered the earliest Sanskrit inscription in South India.

Who are Saptamatrikas?

They are ***a group of seven female deities*** worshipped in Hinduism as personifying the energy of their respective consorts.

They are Brahmani (wife of Brahma), Maheshvari (wife of Shiva), Kaumari (wife of Kumara), Vaishnavi (wife of Vishnu), Varahi (wife of Varaha, or the boar, an avatar [incarnation] of Vishnu), Indrani (wife of Indra), and Chamunda, or Yami (wife of Yama).

There are references of Saptamatrika worship in early ***Kadamba copper plates as well as early Chalukyas and Eastern Chalukya copper plates.***

Satavahanas:

- They are an ancient Indian dynasty based In the Deccan.
- They established their independent rule after the decline of the Mauryas.
- Their rule lasted for about 450 years.
- They were also known as the ***Andhras.***
- The ***Puranas and the Nasik and Nanaghad inscriptions*** remain important sources for the history of Satavahanas.
- ***The Satavahana kingdom mainly comprised the present-day*** Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. At different times, their rule extended to parts of modern Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Karnataka. The dynasty had different capital cities at different times, including Pratihthana (Paithan) and Amaravati (Dharanikota).
- The ***founder*** of the Satavahana dynasty was Simuka.
- The greatest ruler of the Satavahana dynasty was ***Gautamiputra Satakarni.***
- They ***patronized Buddhism and Brahmanism.***

Miscellaneous

1. National School of Drama

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**.

2. Vakataka Dynasty

Archaeological excavations at Nagardhan, near Nagpur, have provided concrete evidence on the life, religious affiliations and trade practices of **the Vakataka dynasty** and also about the Vakataka rule under **Queen Prabhavatigupta**.

About findings and their significance:

- An oval-shaped **sealing** has been traced. It belongs to the period when **Prabhavatigupta was the queen of the Vakataka dynasty**.
- It bears her name in **the Brahmi script**, along with the depiction of a conch.
- The presence of the **conch**, **scholars say, is a sign of the Vaishnava affiliation** that the Guptas held.
- A **copper plate issued by Queen Prabhavatigupta** has also been found. It starts with a **genealogy of the Guptas**, mentioning the **Queen's grandfather Samudragupta and her father Chandragupta II**.
- Since the Vakataka people traded with Iran and beyond through the Mediterranean Sea, scholars suggest that **these sealings could have been used as an official royal permission issued from the capital city**. Besides, these were used on documents that sought mandatory royal permissions.



Who was Queen Prabhavatigupta?

- The **Vakataka rulers were known to have forged several matrimonial alliances with other dynasties of their times**. One of the key alliances was with **Prabhavatigupta of the mighty Gupta dynasty**, which was then ruling north India.
- After marrying Vakataka king **Rudrasena II**, Prabhavatigupta enjoyed the position of **Chief Queen**.
- Scholars say Queen Prabhavatigupta was among a handful of women rulers in India to have reigned over any kingdom during ancient times. Also, there had been no evidence so far of any successor female ruler within the Vakataka dynasty, the researchers suggest.
- She ruled for about 10 years until her son **Pravarasena II** succeeded.
- She had a **pivotal role in propagation of Vaishnava practices in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra**.

About Vakataka dynasty:

1. Ruled parts of **Central and South India between the third and fifth centuries**.
2. Rule extended from **the southern edges of Malwa and Gujarat in the north to the Tungabhadra River in the south as well as from the Arabian Sea in the west to the edges of Chhattisgarh in the east**.

3. They were the most important *successors of the Satavahanas in the Deccan and contemporaneous with the Guptas in northern India.*
4. They were *Shaivite rulers.*
5. *Nagardhan* served as *a capital of the Vakataka kingdom.*
6. *The elephant god* was a commonly worshipped deity in those times.
7. *Animal rearing* was one of the main occupations. *Remains of seven species of domestic animals* — cattle, goat, sheep, pig, cat, horse and fowl — have been traced.
8. The rock-cut Buddhist *viharas and chaityas of Ajanta Caves* (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) were built under the patronage of Vakataka emperor, *Harishena.*

3. Chalukya Dynasty

Inscriptions found on an ancient temple at Huligemmana Kolla near *Pattadakalu in Karnataka* indicate that the place may have once been the royal burial site of the Chalukya dynasty.

Background:

There are eleven temples with lingas and a tower developed during the Chalukya dynasty and another linga without the tower, which has an inscription on it stating that it served as the funerary casket-bearing shrine of *Vikramaditya-II*. This inscription claims the spot served as a royal burial site.

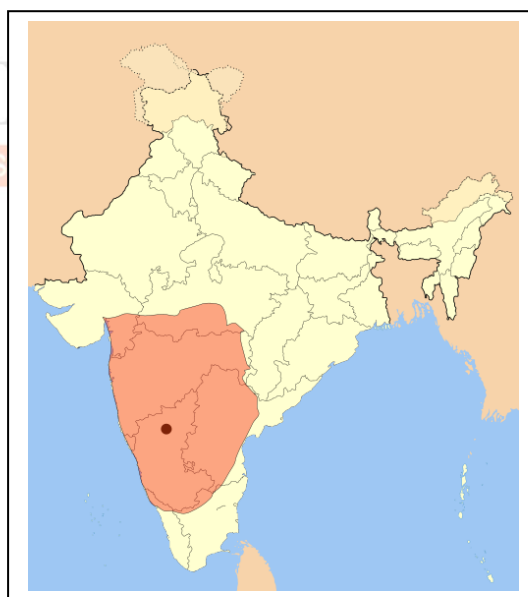
Popular belief was that these temples are a depiction of the holy Jyotirlinga. It is now found that these temples are nothing but the graves of the Chalukyan royal family.

Who are Chalukyas?

Ancient dynasty who ruled large parts of southern and central India between *the 6th and the 12th centuries.*

During this period, they ruled as three related yet individual dynasties:

- The earliest dynasty, known as the "**Badami Chalukyas**", ruled from Vatapi (modern Badami) from the middle of the 6th century.
- After the death of Pulakeshin II, the **Eastern Chalukyas** became an independent kingdom in the eastern Deccan. They ruled from Vengi until about the 11th century.
- The **Western Chalukyas**, of 10th century ruled from Kalyani (modern Basavakalyan) until the end of the 12th century.



Art and Architecture:

They built **cave temples depicting both religious and secular themes.** The temples had beautiful mural paintings also.

- The temples under the Chalukyas are a good example of *the Vesara style of architecture.* This is also called the **Deccan style or Karnataka Dravida or Chalukyan style.** It is a combination of Dravida and Nagara styles.
- **Pattadakal:** is a UNESCO World Heritage site. There are ten temples here – 4 in Nagara style and 6 in Dravida style. **Virupaksha temple and Sangameshwara Temple** are in Dravida style. **Papanatha temple** is in Nagara style.

Facts for prelims:

- Pattadakal is a complex of 7th and 8th century CE Hindu and Jain temples in northern Karnataka.
- Located on the west bank of the **Malaprabha River.**

- The monument is a protected site under Indian law and is managed by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
- Other names this place was known by were Kisuvolal meaning "valley of red soil", Raktapura meaning "city of red", and Pattada-Kisuvolal meaning "red soil valley for coronation".

4. STUCCO SCULPTURE AND IKSHVAKU DYNASTY

- Indian archaeologists recently unearthed a **rare life-sized stucco sculpture from a Buddhist site at Phanigiri in Suryapet, Telangana.**

Key facts:

- It is the biggest stucco sculpture found so far in India. It is about 1.73 metres in height and 35 cm in width.
- It represents a **Bhodhisattva in Jathaka Chakra.**
- It was created nearly 1,700 years ago by craftsmen at Phanigiri at peak of **Ikshvaku dynasty.**

Who is Bhodhisattva?

- A bodhisattva is a **Buddhist deity who has attained the highest level of enlightenment**, but who delays their entry into Paradise in order to help the earthbound. The bodhisattva, known in Sanskrit as **Avalokiteśvara**, takes both male and female form and is associated with the qualities of mercy and compassion

The Ikshvaku dynasty:

- As per Puranic literature, it was founded by **king Ikshvaku**. It is also known as **Sūryavaṁśa (the Solar dynasty)**.
- Important Personalities belonging to this dynasty includes: Lord Rama, Twenty-two out of twenty-four Jain Tirthankara, and according to Buddhist texts, Prince Siddhartha also belonged to this dynasty.

5. Sangam Civilization Older than Thought

- Carbon samples collected from **Keezhadi, the Sangam-era site**, have been found to belong to 580 BC, according to accelerator **mass spectrometry dating results**.
- This suggests that the urbanisation of Vaigai plains happened earlier than thought – around the 6th century BC.

Key findings and revelations:

- **Tamil Brahmi script originated in the 6th century BC.** People were either literate or at least knew the art of writing as early as the 6th century BC.
- **Literate society:** Tamil Brahmi letters found were inscribed when the pot was wet or after the pot became dry. This clearly suggests literacy levels in the 6th century BC.
- **Agrarian society that reared cattle:** Skeletal fragments of cow/ox, buffalo, sheep, goat, nilgai, blackbuck, wild boar and peacock were found.
- **Good quality materials used for building:** The brick and roof tiles contained more than 80% silica mixed with 7% lime while lime plaster possessed 97% of lime.
- **High standard of living:** Long walls, Well-laid floors along with roof tiles in a collapsed state, iron nails fastened to the poles and rafters prove a high standard of living during the Sangam age.

6. Galo Community

- At about 1.5 lakh people, the Galos are one of the 26 **major communities of Arunachal Pradesh.**
- The Galos belong to the **Tani group** inhabiting Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, besides Tibet.
- They **trace their common origin to a primeval ancestor, Abotani.**

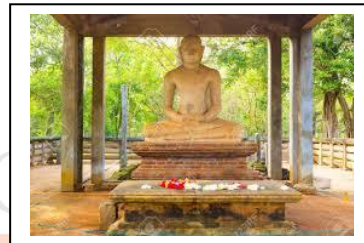
- They have a system of **prefixing the second syllable of a father's name to that of a son**, who passes on the suffix in his name to his son. Hence they can trace the names of ancestors from the first syllable or prefix of our names.
- **Mopin** is the main festival in Galos which is celebrated for the prosperity of the villages
- The Galos perform **Popir dance**.

7. Reservation of seats for Limboo and Tamang communities

- A proposal for reservation of seats for **Limboo** and **Tamang** communities in **Sikkim Legislative Assembly** is under consideration of the Government of India.
- **Article 371F(f) and Article 332** of the Constitution of India govern reservation of seats in the Legislative Assembly of Sikkim and the issue of seat reservation for Limboo and Tamang communities is being considered under these provisions of Constitution of India.
- The **Limbu** are **Kirati people** indigenous and native to the Himalayan Limbuwan region of the Indian subcontinent, in what is now modern-day Eastern Nepal, Northern Sikkim, India and Western Bhutan.
- The **Tamang** are the **largest Tibetic ethnic group of Nepalis and Indian Gorkhas**.
- Traditionally **Buddhist** by religion. Indian Tamangs are also a significant number in Sikkim and Darjeeling. Peculiar to Tamang people are **complex marriage restrictions within the community**.

8. Samadhi Buddha

The **Samadhi Buddha** is a famous statue situated at **Mahamevnāwa Park in Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka**. The Buddha is depicted in the position of the **Dhyana Mudra**, the posture of meditation associated with his **first Enlightenment**. This statue is 7 feet 3 inches in height and carved from dolomite marble.



Bhumisparsha Mudra
Touching the earth as Gautama did, to invoke the earth as witness to the truth of his words.



Varada Mudra
Fulfillment of all wishes; the gesture of charity.



Dhyana Mudra
The gesture of absolute balance, of meditation. The hands are relaxed in the lap, and the tips of the thumbs and fingers touch each other. When depicted with a begging bowl this is a sign of the head of an order.



Abhaya Mudra
Gesture of reassurance, blessing, and protection. "Do not fear."



Dharmachakra Mudra
The gesture of teaching usually interpreted as turning the Wheel of Law. The hands are held level with the heart, the thumbs and index fingers form circles.



Vitarka Mudra
Intellectual argument, discussion. The circle formed by the thumb and index finger is the sign of the Wheel of Law.



Tarjani Mudra
Threat, warning. The extended index finger is pointed at the opponent.



Namaskara Mudra
Gesture of greeting, prayer, and adoration. Buddhas no longer make this gesture because they do not have to show devotion to anything.



Jnana Mudra
Teaching. The hand is held at chest level and the thumb and index finger again form the Wheel of Law.



Karana Mudra
Gesture with which demons are expelled.



Ksepana Mudra
Two hands together in the gesture of 'sprinkling' the nectar of immortality.



Uttarabodhi Mudra
Two hands placed together above the head with the index fingers together and the other fingers intertwined. The gesture of supreme enlightenment.