

2020



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# CURRENT AFFAIRS

**INDIAN CULTURE AND  
HISTORICAL EVENTS**

27<sup>th</sup> January - 1<sup>st</sup> February



BusinessLine



## 1. Bharat Parv 2020

### Why in News?

The annual event Bharat Parv was celebrated from 26th to 31st January, 2020 in New Delhi.

### Key Points:

- **Objective:** To encourage Indians to visit different tourist places of India and to inculcate the spirit of '**Dekho Apna Desh**'.
- Theme for the Year 2020: '**Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat**' and '**Celebrating 150 Years of Mahatma**'.
- It is organised by the **Ministry of Tourism**.
- It includes:
  - Highlights of the Republic Day Parade Tableaux,
  - Performances by the Armed Forces Bands,
  - Theme pavilions of different States and Central Ministries and
  - Cultural performances from different regions of the country.

## 2. Suryanarayana Temple

### Why in News?

Thousands of devotees took darshan of Suryanarayana Swamy at the famous sun temple at Arasavilli on the occasion of **Ratha Saptami** on February 1.

### Ratha Saptami

- Ratha Saptami or Rathasapthami is a Hindu festival that falls on the seventh day (Saptami) in the bright half (Shukla Paksha) of the Hindu month Maagha.
  - In India's national civil calendar, Maagha is the eleventh month of the year.
  - It corresponds with January/February in the Gregorian calendar.
- It is symbolically represented in the form of the Sun God Surya turning his Ratha (Chariot) drawn by seven horses (representing seven colours) towards the northern hemisphere, in a north-easterly direction.
- It also marks the birth of Surya and hence celebrated as Surya Jayanti (the Sun-god's birthday).

### Suryanarayana Temple, Arasavalli

- Suryanarayana Temple is a 7<sup>th</sup>-century AD Sun Temple at Arasavalli in Andhra Pradesh, India.
- It is believed that the temple was built by king Devendra Varma, ruler of the Kalinga Dynasty.
- This temple is considered as one of the oldest sun temples in India and is one of the most popular tourist attractions in the town.

## Kalinga

- Kalinga is a historical region of India.
- It is generally defined as the eastern coastal region between the Mahanadi and the Godavari rivers, although its boundaries have fluctuated with the territory of its rulers.
  - The core territory of Kalinga now encompasses a large part of Odisha and northern part of Andhra Pradesh.
- The Kalingas have been mentioned as a major tribe in the legendary text Mahabharata.
- In the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BCE, the region came under Mauryan control as a result of the Kalinga War.
- It was subsequently ruled by several regional dynasties whose rulers bore the title Kalingadhipati ("Lord of Kalinga").
  - These dynasties included
    - Mahameghavahana
    - Vasishtha
    - Mathara
    - Pitrbhakta
    - Shailodbhava
    - Somavamshi
    - Eastern Ganga

### 3. Relics of Vakataka Dynasty Decoded

#### Why in News?

Recent 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**.

#### Key Findings

- It is the **first time clay sealings have been excavated** from Nagardhan.
  - The oval-shaped sealing 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.
- **Copper plates** issued by Queen Prabhavatigupta have also been found.
  - The copperplate issued by Queen Prabhavatigupta 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**, 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.

## Vakataka Dynasty

- It originated in the **central Deccan** in the mid-3rd century to 5th century CE.
- Its empire is believed to have extended from Malwa and Gujarat in the north to the Tungabhadra in the south and from the Arabian Sea in the west to the Bay of Bengal in the east.
- The Vakataka rulers followed the **Shaiva sect of Hinduism**.
- **Animal rearing** was one of the main occupations of the people.
- **Nagardhan** served as the capital of the Vakataka kingdom.
- The rock-cut Buddhist **viharas and chaityas of Ajanta Caves** were built under the patronage of **Vakataka king, Harishena**.

## Queen Prabhavatigupta

- Prabhavatigupta was the chief queen of the **Vakataka king Rudrasena II** and took over as queen after the sudden death of her husband.
- She was the daughter of **Chandragupta II of the Gupta Dynasty**, who was the then ruler of North India.
- She ruled for about 10 years until her son **Pravarasena II** succeeded.

## 4. Martyr's Day

### Why in News?

The Prime Minister of India paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, Father of the Nation, on his 72<sup>nd</sup> Death Anniversary at Gandhi Smriti, New Delhi.

- **Martyr's Day is observed on 30th January** every year to honour the contributions made by the **Mahatma Gandhi** and other brave martyrs.
- **23rd March is also observed as Martyr's Day** to pay tribute to three revolutionaries of India namely **Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru and Sukhdev Thapar**.

## Mahatma Gandhi

- Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was born on October 2, 1869, at Porbandar in Gujarat and died on January 30, 1948, at Gandhi Smriti, New Delhi.
- He was assassinated by Nathuram Godse in the Birla House during his evening prayers.
- **Major freedom movements under Gandhi:**
  - Champaran Satyagraha (1917)
  - Kheda Satyagraha (1918)
  - Ahmedabad Mill Strike (1918)
  - Non Cooperation Movement (1920)
  - Civil disobedience Movement (1930)
  - Quit India Movement (1942)

## 5. Gatka Martial Art

- Gatka is a **weapon based martial art form** performed by the Sikhs of **Punjab**.
  - The name ‘Gatka’ refers to the one whose freedom belongs to grace.
- Gatka features the **skillful use of weapons**, including stick, Kirpan, Talwar and Kataar.
- The attack and defence in this art form is determined by the various positions of hands and feet and the nature of weapon used.
- Gatka is believed to have originated when the 6<sup>th</sup> Sikh Guru **Hargobind** **adopted ‘Kirpan’ for self-defence** during the Mughal era.
- Later, in the 17th century, **Guru Gobind Singh**, known as the master of weaponry, developed it further.
- A style of stick fighting between two or more practitioners, Gatka is a toned-down version of the deadlier Shastar Vidya.
  - The sharp swords of Shastar Vidya have been replaced by wooden sticks (soti) and shields (farri) in Gatka.
  - All moves are made to the beats of the Dhol and Nagara, both percussion instruments.
- Today, it is used to showcase self-defence and fighting skills and is open to people of all faiths and communities.
  - Over 100 traditional weapons, besides swords, are used.
  - In daily practice wooden sticks are the norm.

### Different Martial Art forms in India

Martial Arts	State
Kalaripayattu	Kerala
Silambam	Tamil Nadu
Thang-ta and Sarit Sarak	Manipur
Cheibi Gad-ga	Manipur
Pari-khanda	Bihar
Thoda	Himachal Pradesh
Mardani Khel	Maharashtra
Inbuan Wrestling	Mizoram

## 6. Nagoba Jatara

### Why in News?

A month long Nagoba Jatara festival has recently ended in Telangana.

### Nagoba Jatara

- It is a **tribal festival** held in Adilabad district, **Telangana**, India.
- It is celebrated by the Boigutta branch of **Mesaram clan of Gond tribes** of the aboriginal Raj Gond and Pardhan tribes.
- It starts in Pushya masam.
- During the festival, the maha puja of serpent god Nagoba is held.
- The **Gusadi Dance** performance by dancers from the Gond tribe is a major special attraction of the event.
- Tribal people from Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh belonging to the Mesram clan offer prayers at the festival.

  
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