

2020



drishti

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

**INDIAN CULTURE AND  
HISTORICAL EVENTS**

30<sup>th</sup> Dec 2019 - 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020



BusinessLine



## 1. 202<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Bhima-Koregaon Battle

### Why in News?

The victory pillar (also known as Ransthamb) in Bhima-Koregaon village (Pune district of Maharashtra) is to celebrate the 202<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Bhima-Koregaon battle of 1818 on January 1, 2020.

- In 2018, incidents of violence were registered during the celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bhima-Koregaon Battle.

### Historical Background

- A battle was fought in Bhima Koregaon between the Peshwa forces and the British on January 1, 1818.
- The victory pillar was erected by the East India Company in memory of Dalit (Mahar) soldiers who fought.
- The British army, which comprised mainly of Dalit soldiers, fought the upper caste-dominated Peshwa army. The British troops defeated the Peshwa army.
- Peshwa Bajirao II had insulted the Mahar community and terminated them from the service of his army. This caused them to side with the English against the Peshwa's numerically superior army.
- The defeat of Peshwa army was considered to be a victory against caste-based discrimination and oppression.
- It was one of the last battles of the Third Anglo-Maratha War, which ended the Peshwa domination.
- Babasaheb Ambedkar's visit to the site on January 1, 1927, revitalised the memory of the battle for the Dalit community, making it a rallying point and an assertion of pride.

## 2. Savitribai Phule

### Why in News?

The Birth Anniversary of Indian Social Reformer Savitribai Phule is celebrated on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

- She was born on January 3, 1831.

### Savitribai Phule

- Savitribai along with her husband Jyotirao Phule founded the first India's girls' school called **Bhide Wada** in Pune in 1848.
- She is considered as the first female teacher of India.
- She played a vital role in improving women's rights in the country that is why she is regarded as "**Mother of Indian Feminism**".
- In 1852, she started the **Mahila Seva Mandal** to raise awareness about women's rights.

- Savitribai Phule set up “**Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha (Child-killing Prohibition Home)**” in 1853.
- She along with her husband also founded **Satyashodhak Samaj (Truth-seekers' Society)** in **1873** that supported inter-caste marriages, education and increased social rights and political access for underprivileged groups.
- They initiated the practice of **Satyashodhak marriage**, in which no dowry was taken.
- Savitribai Phule was also a prolific author and poet.
- She published Kavya Phule in 1854 and Bavan Kashi Subodh Ratnakar in 1892, and also a poem entitled "Go, Get Education".
- Even after the death of Jyotirao Phule in 1890, she carried on the legacy of his Satyashodhak.
- She died while serving people suffering from bubonic plague in Maharashtra in 1897.
- As a tribute to her sheer courage and pioneering efforts in the field of women's education, social reform and gender equality, Maharashtra government had renamed Pune University as Savitribai Phule University.
- India Post also had released a stamp in honour of Savitribai on March 10, 1998.

### 3. Sangeeta Kala Nidhi

#### Why in News?

Recently, S. Sowmya was conferred with the Sangita **Kalanidhi Award**.

#### Sangita Kalanidhi Award

- The award is conferred by the Madras Music Academy.
- It is considered the highest award in the field of Carnatic music.
- The award comprises a gold medal and a birudu Patra (citation).

#### Madras Music Academy

- Music Conference held along with All India Congress Session in Madras (1927) laid the idea of a **Madras Music Academy**.
- Thus, it is an offshoot of INC madras session, 1927.
- It plays an important role in promoting Carnatic Music.

#### Carnatic music

- Carnatic music is a system of music commonly associated with southern India including the states:
  - Andhra Pradesh
  - Telangana
  - Karnataka
  - Kerala

- Tamil Nadu
- It is also present in Sri Lanka.
- It is one of two main genres of Indian classical music that evolved from ancient Hindu traditions, the other genre being Hindustani music, which emerged as a distinct form because of Persian and Islamic influences in northern India.

#### 4. Odissi

##### Why in News?

- Odissi dance is one of the eight classical dances of India.
- Evolution:
  - The dance has its origin in the temples.
  - The carvings found at the **Udayagiri Monastery** denote that Odissi was patronised as early as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century BCE.
  - The classical music and dance form of Odisha was prefixed with “Odissi” by noted Odia poet **Kabichandra Kalicharan Pattanayak**, who was the centre of the cultural revival of Odisha post-independence, to retain its distinct identity.
- Technique and theme:
  - Odissi closely follows the tenets laid down by the **Natya Shastra**.
  - Facial expressions, hand gestures and body movements are used to suggest a certain feeling, an emotion or one of the nine rasas.
  - The torso movement is very important and is **a unique feature of the Odissi style**. With the lower half of the body remaining static, the torso moves from one side to the other along the axis passing through the centre of the upper half of the body.
  - Odissi dance deals largely with the love theme of Radha and Krishna.
  - An Odissi orchestra essentially consists of a pakhawaj player (usually the Guru himself), a singer, a flutist, a sitar or violin player and a manjira player.

#### 5. Makaravilakku in Sabarimala

##### Why in News?

The Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala was recently opened for the annual Makaravilakku festival.

##### About Makaravilakku Festival

- Makaravilakku is a light lit at **Ponnambalamedu**, a plateau across the Sabarimala shrine.
- The light, believed to have celestial origins, is shown three times by the chief priest of **Pamba temple**.

- Pamba is the base station of Sabarimala.
- This ritual had been done by **Malaya araya tribals** in the past.
- When the **Travancore Devaswom Board** took over the administration of the temple in the early 1950s, the tribal community lost that right.
- In the evening, the sacred ornaments of **Lord Ayyappa**, who is believed to have lived at **Pandalam palace**, would be brought to Sabarimala shrine from the palace in a procession.
  - The erstwhile royal family of Pandalam is the custodian of the ornaments.

## 6. Patola Saree

### Why in News?

- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) inaugurated the first “Patola Saree” production unit in Gujarat.
- This will help to cut down the cost of silk yarn production and also will increase the sale of raw material for Patola sarees.
  - Currently, the raw material silk yarn is purchased from **Karnataka or West Bengal**, where silk processing units are situated.

### Patola Saree

- Patola is a double ikat woven sari, usually made from silk, made in Patan, Gujarat, India.
- It has received a **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** in 2013.
- They are highly expensive and were once worn only by royal aristocratic families..
- The Patola silk was founded by the Salvi caste (Scheduled) in the states of Maharashtra and Karnataka.
- Patola-weaving is a closely guarded family tradition.
- They moved to Gujarat in the 12<sup>th</sup> century in order to acquire patronage of Rajputs.
- Patola are usually woven in Surat, Ahmedabad and Patan. But velvet patola styles are majorly made in Surat.

### Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)

- KVIC is a statutory body formed by the Government of India, under the Act of Parliament, 'Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956'.
- It is an apex organisation under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, with regard to khadi and village industries within India.
- Head Office: Mumbai

## **7. Nirmal Fort and Udasi Mutt**

### **Why in News?**

Nirmal Fort and Udasi mutt in Nirmal Town in Adilabad district of Telangana are undergoing ruination.

### **Nirmal Fort**

- Nirmal is a prominent town in the Adilabad district.
- The region was ruled by Kakatiyas, Chalukyas, the Qutub Shahis and Nizams who have contributed immensely to the growth of cultural heritage.
- Nirmal Fort, also called the Shamgarh fort, was built by the French.
- It is renowned for the wooden toy industry and Nirmal Plates that depict miniature paintings and floral design.

### **Udasi Mutt**

- The Udasi mutt in Nirmal town was built around 1822 in the Deccan by Dewan Chandulal, who was the Prime Minister for Nizam, Asaf Jah III, a follower of the Udasi sect of ascetics which was based on the teachings of Guru Nanak's elder son Sri Chand.
- Followers of Sri Chand established mutts at all the places visited by Guru Nanak.
- The mutt in Nirmal Town was built during Guru Nanak's second Udasi between 1511 CE and 1513 CE.
  - To spread the "real message of God" Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji travelled in all four direction – North, East, West and South, these long travels are known as the "Four Udasis".
  - Udasis were the missionary travels of Guru Nanak, the second one covering Sri Lanka and the Deccan, including Vijayawada and Guntur in Andhra Pradesh, and Hyderabad and Nirmal in Telangana.



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