



Drishti IAS Presents...



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203rd Anniversary of the Bhima-Koregaon Battle

Why in News

The **victory pillar** (also known as **Ranstambh** or **Jaystambh**) in Bhima-Koregaon village (Pune, Maharashtra) celebrated the **203rd anniversary of the Bhima-Koregaon battle of 1818** on **1st January, 2021**.

Key Points

- **About the Battle:**
 - Fought between the **Peshwa forces and the British** (comprising mainly of **Dalit soldiers**) in **1818**.
 - The **British troops defeated the Peshwa army**.
 - **Peshwa Bajirao II** had **insulted the Mahar community**, making the latter side with the English.
 - **Mahars** mostly speak Marathi and are officially designated **Scheduled Castes**.
 - It was one of the last battles of the **Third Anglo-Maratha War (1817-18)**, which ended the **Peshwa domination**.
- **The Victory Pillar Memorial:**
 - It was **erected by the British** in **Perne village** in the district **for the soldiers killed in the Koregaon Bhima battle**. It has attained **legendary stature** in **Dalit history**.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant

Why in News

Recently, a statue of **freedom fighter Govind Ballabh Pant** was unveiled at its new location (relocated from the Raisina Road Circle) on a roundabout at the **Pandit Pant Marg, New Delhi**.

Key Points

- **About Govind Ballabh Pant:**
 - He was the **Premier of United Provinces (1937-1939)**, **First Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh (1946-1954)** and **Union Home Minister (1955-1961)** and was a recipient of the highest civilian award, **the Bharat Ratna** in **1957**.
 - In **Kashipur**, he established an organization called **Prem Sabha**, that started working towards several reforms.

➤ Contribution in National Movement:

- **Govind Ballabh Pant** joined the Congress in **December 1921** and soon joined the **non-cooperation movement**.
- In **1930**, he was imprisoned for organizing a **Salt March** inspired by Gandhi's earlier actions.
- When in Government, he tried to bring in reforms which would do away with the **Zamindari system**.
- In **1942** he was arrested again, this time for signing the **Quit India resolution**.

Lala Lajpat Rai

Why in News

Recently, the Prime Minister paid tribute to **Lala Lajpat Rai** on his Jayanti.

- **Lala Lajpat Rai's birth anniversary is celebrated on 28th of January every year.**

Key Points

- **About Lala Lajpat Rai:**
 - He was also known as **'Punjab Kesari'** and **'Lion of Punjab'**.
 - Along with **Bipin Chandra Pal** and **Bal Gangadhar Tilak**, he formed the **Lal-Bal-Pal trio of extremist leaders**.
 - He was **influenced by Swami Dayananda Saraswati** and joined the **Arya Samaj** in **Lahore**.
 - He believed that the **ideals in Hinduism** combined with **nationalism** will lead to the establishment of a **secular state**.
 - He was also **involved with the Hindu Mahasabha**.
 - He **fought against untouchability**.
- **Contributions:**
 - **Political:**
 - He **joined the Indian National Congress (INC)** and participated in many political agitations in **Punjab**.
 - He was **opposed to the partition of Bengal**.
 - He **founded the Home Rule League of America in 1917** in **New York**.
 - He was also elected **President of the All India Trade Union Congress**.
 - He **supported the non-cooperation movement** of Gandhi at the **Nagpur session** of the Congress in **1920**.

- **Social:**
 - He founded **Hindu Relief movement in 1897** to provide help to the famine-stricken people.
 - He founded the **Servants of People Society in 1921.**
- **Important Literary Works:**
 - Young India
 - England's Debt to India
 - Evolution of Japan
 - India's Will to Freedom
 - Message of the Bhagavad Gita
 - Political Future of India
 - Problem of National Education in India
 - The Depressed Glasses
 - The travelogue 'United States of America'
- **Institutional:**
 - He founded the National **DAV Managing Committee** and co-founded the **Punjab National Bank in 1894.**
 - He was the **editor of the Arya Gazette**, which he had founded.

Assam's Jerenga Pothar and Dhekiajuli Town

Why in News

The Prime Minister visited two significant historical places in Assam.

- The first was Sivasagar's Jerenga Pothar, where 17th-century Ahom Princess Joymoti sacrificed her life.
- Second was Dhekiajuli town, associated with the Quit India Movement of 1942.

Key Points

- **Jerenga Pothar:**
 - Jerenga Pothar, an open field in Sivasagar town, is popularly connected to the **valour of 17th century Ahom princess Joymoti.**
 - Formerly known as Rangpur, Sivasagar was the seat of the powerful **Ahom dynasty**, who ruled **Assam for six centuries (1228-1826).**
 - Chaolung Sukapha founded the Ahom kingdom.
- **Dhekiajuli Town:**

- Dhekiajuli was home to **possibly the youngest martyr of the Indian freedom struggle.**
- On 20th September, 1942, as part of the **Quit India Movement**, processions of freedom fighters marched to various police stations across several towns in Assam.
 - These squads, which were known as '**Mrityu Bahini**', or death squads, had wide participation - including women and children - and set out to unfurl the tricolour atop police stations, seen as symbols of colonial power.
- The British administration came down heavily on them. In Dhekiajuli, at least 15 people were shot dead, three of them women, including the 12-year-old Tileswari Barua.
- Tileswari is considered as one of the youngest martyrs of India's freedom struggle.

Related News: General Lachit Borphukan of Ahom Kingdom

Centenary of the Chauri Chaura Incident

Why in News

On the occasion of the centenary of the Chauri Chaura incident, a **postage stamp was released by** the Prime Minister.

- Chauri Chaura is a town in Gorakhpur district of Uttar Pradesh.
- On **4th February, 1922**, this town witnessed a violent incident - a large crowd of peasants set on fire a police station that killed 22 policemen. Due to this incident **Mahatma Gandhi** called off the **Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-22).**

Key Points

- **Background (Launch of the Non-Cooperation Movement):**
 - On 1st August, 1920, Gandhi had launched the Non-Cooperation Movement against the government.
 - It involved using **swadeshi** and **boycott of foreign goods**, especially machine made cloth, and legal, educational and administrative institutions, "**refusing to assist a ruler who misrules**".
 - In the winter of **1921-22**, **volunteers of the Congress and the Khilafat Movement** were organised into a **national volunteer corps.**

Note:



- **Khilafat Movement** was a **pan-Islamic force in India that arose in 1919** in an effort to **salvage the Ottoman caliph as a symbol of unity among the Muslim community in India** during the British raj.
- The **Congress supported the movement** and Mahatma Gandhi sought to conjoin it to the Non-Cooperation Movement.
- **After the movement took a violent turn, Gandhiji decided to stop the Non-Cooperation Movement**
 - Leaders like Motilal Nehru and CR Das recorded their dismay at Gandhi's decision and decided to establish the **Swaraj Party**.

Maharaja Suheldev

Why in News

The Prime Minister has laid the **foundation stone of a Maharaja Suheldev memorial** and the development work of Chittaura lake in Uttar Pradesh's Bahraich district.

Key Points

- **About Maharaja Suheldev:**
 - He was the erstwhile ruler of Shravasti in Uttar Pradesh's (UP) Bahraich district, who ruled in the 11th century.
 - He is known in history for **waging guerrilla warfare against Mahmud Ghazni's large army**.
 - Suheldev was deeply moved by the loot and destruction of the magnificent Somnath temple by invader Mahmud Ghazni that he decided to gather heads of different communities like Tharu and Banjara as well as small kings to block the invasion.
 - His army **defeated and killed Ghazi Salar Masud**, the nephew of Mahmud Ghazni, at Bahraich.
 - Raja Suheldev **finds mention in 'Mirat-i-Masudi'**, a 17th century Persian-language historical account.
 - 'Mirat-i-Masudi' is the biography of Salar Masud, written by **Abd-ur-Rahman Chishti** during the reign of the Mughal emperor **Jahangir (1605–1627)**.
- **Chittaura Lake:**
 - The Chittaura Jheel is located in the Bahraich District near the village Chittaur in Uttar Pradesh.

- Teri Nadi, a small river originates from this lake which is a home to many migratory birds.
- Being a Hindu pilgrimage site, many fairs are held near this lake during **Kartik Purnima and Vasant Panchami**.
- There is an ashram where Muni Ashtwarka used to live and this site also witnessed the epic fight between Ghazi Salar Masud and Raja Suheldev in the year 1033.
- There is a temple complex with the statue of Raja Suheldev and a temple dedicated to Goddess Durga situated here.

Pagri Sambhal Movement

Why in News

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) is celebrating **23rd February as Pagri Sambhal Diwas**, honouring the **memory of Ajit Singh** - founder of the **Pagri Sambhal Movement of 1907**.

- Farmer unions, part of the ongoing protests in Delhi, claim that **farm laws** passed by Parliament will ultimately force them to sell their land to corporates. It was a similar complaint that fueled the farm protests in 1907.

Key Points

- **Pagri Sambhal Movement:**
 - **About:**
 - It was a successful farm agitation that **forced the British government to repeal three laws** related to agriculture back in 1907.
 - The **Punjab Land Alienation Act 1900**, the **Punjab Land Colonisation Act 1906** and the **Doab Bari Act 1907**.
 - These acts would **reduce farmers from owners to contractors of land**, and **gave the British government the right to take back the allotted land** if the farmer even touched a tree in his field without permission.
 - **Slogan:**
 - The slogan, **Pagdi Sambhal Jatta**, the name of the movement, was **inspired by the song by Banke Lal, the editor of the Jang Sayal newspaper**.
 - **Leader of the Agitation:**

- **Bhagat Singh's** uncle **Ajit Singh** was the force behind this agitation.
- Bhagat Singh's father Kishan Singh and uncle Ajit Singh, with their revolutionary friend Ghasita Ram, formed **Bharat Mata Society**, aiming to mobilise this unrest into a revolt against the British government.
 - Many young revolutionaries like Sufi Amba Prasad, Zia-ul-Haq, Lal Chand Falak, Din Dayal Banke, Kishan Singh and Lala Ram Saran Das were among the **members of Bharat Mata Society**.

➤ **Sardar Ajit Singh:**

○ **Birth:**

- Born on **23rd February, 1881** he was an **Indian revolutionary**, an Indian dissident and a **nationalist** during the colonial era.
- He was an **inspiration to Indian revolutionaries** and his nephew Bhagat Singh.

○ **Work:**

- He **openly criticised the colonial government** and was amongst the early protests in Punjab.
- With his brother Kishan Singh, **worked among the people** in famine-stricken regions like Barar (Madhya Pradesh) and Ahmedabad and in flood-and-earthquake-affected areas of Srinagar and Kangla in **1905**.
- He launched the **Bharat Mata Book Agency (part of Bharat Mata Society)**, which, because of its strident anti-government, propagandist publications, **attracted the attention of the British government**.
- He built a **network of solidarity** with people who were struggling for India's liberation in different parts of Europe. He also founded in this period the **Indian Revolutionary Association (Bharatiya Krantikari Sangh)**.

○ **Exile:**

- In May 1907, Sardar Ajit Singh along with **Lala Lajpat Rai** was **exiled to Mandalay in Burma**.
- However, due to great public pressure and apprehension of unrest in the Indian Army, **both of them were released in October 1907**.

○ **Escape:**

- In 1909, Sardar Ajit Singh along with Sufi Amba Prasad **escaped to Iran and lived in a self-imposed exile for 38 years**.

○ **Death:**

- In March 1947, he returned to India and **died on 15th August 1947, the day India gained independence at Dalhousie, Punjab**.

Mannathu Padmanabhan

Why in News

Recently, the Prime Minister paid tributes to **Mannathu Padmanabhan** on his Punya Tithi (Death Anniversary).

Key Points

➤ **About:**

- He was an Indian **social reformer** and **freedom fighter** from the south-western state of Kerala.
- Sardar K M Panicker called him '**Madan Mohan Malaviya** of Kerala'.

➤ **Political and Social Contribution:**

- He took part in the **Vaikom (1924)** and **Guruvayoor (1931)** temple-entry Satyagrahas and the anti-untouchability agitations.
 - **Vaikom Satyagraha** was a movement in Travancore (modern-day Kerala) for **temple entry of the depressed classes**. It took place near the Shiva Temple at Vaikom, Kottayam district, Kerala during 1924-25. Vaikom was at that time a part of the princely state of Travancore.
 - **Guruvayur Satyagraha** was a Satyagraha (non-violent protest) to allow entry for untouchables into the **Guruvayur Temple** in present Thrissur district, which was then part of Ponnani Taluk of Malabar district, now part of **Kerala**.
 - He became a member of the **Indian National Congress in 1946** and took part in the agitation against Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Iyer's administration in Travancore.
 - He was arrested for the **Indian Freedom Movement** on 14th June 1947.
 - He was instrumental in the formation of **Kerala Congress**, the **first regional party in India**.
- **Awards & Recognition:**
- He received **Padma Bhushan** in 1966.
 - He was honoured with the title **Bharata Kesari** by the President of India.

Morarji Desai

Why in News

Recently, the **125th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Morarji Desai** was observed (29th February 2021).

- He was the 4th Prime Minister (1977-79) and the first non-Congress Prime Minister of India.

Key Points

- **Contribution in Freedom Struggle:**
 - **Joined Congress:**
 - In 1930, when India was in the midst of the **Civil Disobedience Movement** launched by Mahatma Gandhi, Shri Desai, having lost his confidence in the British sense of justice, **decided to resign from Government service and to plunge into the struggle.**
 - He became a Member of the All India Congress Committee in 1931 and was Secretary of the Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee until 1937.
- **Political Career:**
 - In 1952, he became the **Chief Minister of Bombay.**
 - He joined the **Union Cabinet as Minister for Commerce and Industry** in November, 1956.
 - Desai was **arrested and detained on 26th June, 1975, when Emergency was declared.** He went on an indefinite hunger strike to support the **Nav Nirman movement of Gujarat.**
 - **Nav Nirman Andolan** was a socio-political movement in 1974 in Gujarat by students and middle-class people against economic crisis and corruption in public life.
 - He was later unanimously elected as Leader of the Janata Party in Parliament and was sworn in as the **Prime Minister of India on 24th March, 1977.**

Biju Patnaik

Why in News

The **birth anniversary of Biju Patnaik** was celebrated (5th March). He is remembered as a freedom fighter, an Indian politician, an aviator and a businessman.

Key Points

- **Brief Profile:**
 - Bijayananda Patnaik, popularly known as Biju Patnaik, was an ace pilot who joined the Royal Indian Air Force in 1936.
- **Role in Freedom Struggle:**
 - Biju Patnaik started his career as a freedom fighter in 1942. He **joined the Quit India Movement** under the guidance of Mahatma Gandhi to make India free.
 - He became a prominent leader of Congress and was engaged in the Quit India Movement with **Jay Prakash Narayan** and **Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia.**
 - He played a major role in **World War II** and the **Kashmir War of 1948** as a pilot in the Indian Air Force.
- **Role in Indonesian Freedom Struggle:**
 - On the request of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Biju Patnaik flew to Java and brought Sultan Sjahrir out of Dutch controlled territory in Indonesia for a meeting in Delhi.
 - For this act of bravery, he was given honorary citizenship in Indonesia and awarded the '**Bhoomi Putra**', the highest Indonesian award, rarely granted to a foreigner.
 - In 1996, the Biju Patnaik was awarded the highest Indonesian national award, the '**Bintang Jasa Utama**'.

Dandi March to Mark 75 Years of Independence

Why in News

The Prime Minister has flagged off a commemorative '**Dandi March**' (on 12th March) to launch the **celebrations of the 75th year of Independence - 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.**

Key Points

- **About the 2021 Dandi March:**
 - The padyatra is being undertaken by 81 marchers **from Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad to Dandi in Navsari**, a journey of 386 km. The march will **end after 25 days**, on 5th April 2021.
 - **Descendants of those who walked the Salt March (in 1930) will be honoured.**

- Big events will be organised at **six places** associated with Gandhi. These include **MK Gandhi's birthplace Porbandar**, along with **Rajkot, Vadodara, Bardoli (Surat), Mandvi (Kutch) and Dandi (Navsari)**.
- **Cultural programmes** are planned at **21 spots** on the route **at the nightly stops for the walkers**.
- **About the 1930 Dandi March:**
 - The Dandi March, also known as the **Salt March** and the **Dandi Satyagraha** was an act of **nonviolent civil disobedience** led by **Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi**.
 - The march lasted from **12th March, 1930 to 6th April, 1930** as a direct action campaign of tax resistance and nonviolent protest **against the British salt monopoly**.
 - On **12th March**, Gandhiji set out from Sabarmati with **78 followers on a 241-mile** march to the coastal town of **Dandi on the Arabian Sea**. There, Gandhi and his supporters were to defy British policy by making salt from seawater.
 - **Civil disobedience broke out all across India**, soon involving millions of Indians, and British authorities arrested more than 60,000 people. Gandhiji himself was arrested on 5th May, but the satyagraha continued without him.
 - In January 1931, Gandhiji was released from prison. He later met with Lord Irwin, the viceroy of India, and **agreed to call off the satyagraha in exchange for an equal negotiating role at a London conference** on India's future.
 - In August 1931, **Gandhiji travelled to the conference as the sole representative of the nationalist Indian National Congress**.
- **Effect of the Movement:**
 - Civil Disobedience in different forms continued in different provinces. Special stress was laid on the boycott of foreign goods.
 - In eastern India, **payment of chowkidari tax was refused**. This **no-tax campaign became very popular in Bihar**.
 - In Bengal, **J.N. Sengupta defied Government laws** by reading openly the books banned by the government.
 - **Defiance of forest laws** assumed a mass character in Maharashtra.
 - The movement had taken a fire hold in provinces of U.P., Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Assam.

➤ Significance:

- **Imports from Britain had fallen considerably**. For example, imports of cloth from Britain had fallen by half.
- The movement was **more widespread than the previous one**. Mass participation including **women, peasants, workers, students, urban elements like merchants, shopkeepers** provided the Congress a new all-India status.
- The support that the movement had garnered from the **poor and the illiterate both in the town and countryside** was remarkable.
- For **Indian women**, the movement was the most liberating experience to date and can truly be said to have marked their entry into the public space.
- Although the **Congress withdrew the Civil Disobedience in 1934**, the movement received global attention and marked a critically important stage in the progress of the anti-imperialist struggle.

Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia

Why in News

The Prime Minister of India paid tribute to Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia on his birth anniversary (23rd March).

Key Points

➤ Brief Profile:

- Indian politician and activist who was a prominent figure in socialist politics and in the movement towards Indian independence.
- Much of his career was devoted to combating injustice through the development of a distinctly Indian version of socialism.

➤ Lohia's Idea of Socialism:

- Lohia **identified five kinds of inequalities** that need to be fought against simultaneously:
 - Inequality between **man and woman**,
 - Inequality based on **skin colour**,
 - **Caste-based** inequality,
 - **Colonial rule** of some countries over others, and
 - **Economic** inequality.
- For him, the struggle against these five inequalities constituted five **revolutions**. He added two more revolutions to this list:

Note:



- **Revolution** for civil liberties against unjust encroachments on private life and
- **Revolution** for non-violence, for renunciation of weapons in favour of Satyagraha.



- These were the **seven revolutions or Sapta Kranti** which for Lohia was the ideal of socialism.
- **Pre-Independence Role:**
 - In 1934, he became actively involved in the **Congress Socialist Party (CSP)**, founded that year as a left-wing group within the Indian National Congress.
 - A vehement **opponent of Indian participation on the side of Great Britain in World War II (1939-45)**, he was arrested for anti-British remarks in 1939 and again in 1940.
- **Post-Independence Role:**
 - Lohia and other CSP members left the Congress in **1948**.
 - He became a member of the **Praja Socialist Party** upon its formation in **1952** and served as general secretary for a brief period, but internal conflicts led to his **resignation in 1955**.
 - He established a **new Socialist Party (1955)**, for which he became chairman as well as the editor of its journal, **Mankind**.
 - In **1963**, Lohia was elected to the **Lok Sabha**, where he was noted for his sharp criticism of government policies.
- Some of **his works** include: 'Wheel of History', 'Marx, Gandhi and Socialism', 'Guilty Men of India's Partition', etc.

Maharaja Chhatrasal

Why in News

The **Maharaja Chhatrasal Convention Centre** has been inaugurated at **Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh**.

- The Convention Centre, named after the legendary **Bundelkhand King Maharaja Chhatrasal**, was built under the **Swadesh Darshan scheme** of the Ministry of Tourism.

Khajuraho

- It is **one of the nineteen identified iconic destinations** in the country.
 - The Ministry of Tourism has framed '**Development of Iconic Tourist Destinations Scheme**', a Central Sector Scheme for development of nineteen identified iconic destinations in the country following a holistic approach.
- The **Khajuraho Group of Monuments** is listed as a **UNESCO world heritage site**.
 - The temples are famous for their **nagara-style architectural** symbolism and their **erotic sculptures**.
 - Most Khajuraho temples were **built between 885 AD and 1050 AD by the Chandela dynasty**.

Swadesh Darshan Scheme

- Swadesh Darshan, a **Central Sector Scheme**, was **launched in 2014 -15** for integrated development of theme based tourist circuits in the country.
 - Currently, there are **15 theme based circuits** - Buddhist, Coastal, Desert, Eco, Heritage, Himalayan, Krishna, North-east, Ramayana, Rural, Spiritual, Sufi, Tirthankara, Tribal and Wildlife.
 - Theme-based tourist circuits are developed on the principles of high tourist value, competitiveness and sustainability in an integrated manner to enrich tourist experience and enhance employment opportunities.
- Under the scheme, the Ministry of Tourism provides **Central Financial Assistance (CFA)** to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for infrastructure development of circuits.
- This scheme is envisioned to **synergise with other schemes** like **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Skill India, Make in India** etc. with the idea of positioning the tourism sector as a major engine for job creation, driving force for economic growth and building synergy with various sectors to enable tourism to realise its potential.

Shaheed Diwas

Why in News

Prime Minister of India paid tributes to **Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, Rajguru** on **Shaheed Diwas (23rd March)**.

Note:



- The Day is also known as **Martyrs' Day** or **Sarvodaya Day**.
- This Day should not be confused with the **Martyrs' Day** observed on **30th January**, the day **Mahatma Gandhi** was assassinated.

Key Points

- **About:**
 - Every year on **23rd March**, Shaheed Diwas is observed.
 - It was on this day that **Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru were executed by the British government** in 1931.
 - They were hanged to death for assassinating **John Saunders**, a British police officer in 1928. They had mistaken him for British police superintendent **James Scott**.
 - It was Scott who had ordered lathi charge, which eventually led to the death of **Lala Lajpat Rai**.
- **Bhagat Singh:**
 - Born as Bhaganwala on the **26th September, 1907**, **Bhagat Singh** grew up in a petty-bourgeois family of Sandhu Jats settled in the Jullundur Doab district of the **Punjab**.
 - He belonged to a generation that was to intervene between two decisive phases of the Indian national movement - the phase of the '**Extremism**' of **Lal-Bal-Pal** and the **Gandhian phase of nonviolent mass action**.
 - In **1924 in Kanpur**, he became a **member of the Hindustan Republican Association**, started by Sachindranath Sanyal a year earlier. The main organiser of the Association was Chandra Shekhar Azad and Bhagat Singh became very close to him.
 - In 1927, he was first arrested on charges of association with the Kakori Case, accused for an article written under the pseudonym Vidrohi (Rebel). He was also accused of being responsible for a bomb explosion at Lahore during the Dussehra fair.
 - In 1928, Bhagat Singh **changed the name of Hindustan Republican Association to Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)**. In 1930, when Azad was shot, the HSRA collapsed.
 - Naujawan Bharat Sabha replaced HSRA in Punjab.

Malerkotla:

The 23rd District of Punjab

Why in News

Recently, the Punjab government has announced the formation of **Malerkotla** as the **23rd district of the state**.

- Section 5 of the **Punjab Land Revenue Act, 1887** says the "State government may, by notification, vary the limits and alter the numbers of tehsils, districts and divisions into which the State is divided."

Key Points

- **History of Malerkotla:**
 - The Malerkotla is **former princely state** and only **Muslim-dominated town of Punjab**.
 - Historically, Malerkotla **owes its foundations in the 15th century to Sufi saint Sheikh Sadrauddin Sadar-i-Jahan**, also known as Haider Sheikh.
 - In 19th century, Malerkotla became one among the **cis-Sutlej states**.

Cis-Sutlej Sates

- The Cis-Sutlej states **were a group of small states in Punjab region in the 19th century**, lying between the Sutlej River on the north, the Himalayas on the east, the Yamuna River and Delhi District on the south, and Sirsa District on the west.
- The states were **called Cis- Sutlej by the British** because they were on the British, or southern, side of the Sutlej River.
- The Cis-Sutlej states **included Kaithal, Patiala, Jind, Thanesar, Malerkotla and Faridkot**.
- Under the threat of absorption into Sikh Maharaja Ranjit Singh's kingdom, they appealed to the British, who established dominance over them by the **Treaty of Amritsar with Ranjit Singh (1809)**.
- The **states survived until the independence of India (1947)**, at which time they were organised into the Patiala and East Punjab States Union (PEPSU).
- They subsequently were **absorbed into the Indian states of Punjab and Haryana**.

Creation of New District

- **Role of State:** The **power to create new districts or alter or abolish existing districts** rests with the **State governments**.

Note:



- This can **either be done through an executive order or by passing a law** in the State Assembly.
- Many States prefer the executive route by simply issuing a notification in the official gazette..
- **Role of Centre:** The Centre has **no role to play in the alteration of districts or creation of new ones**. States are free to decide.
- **Role of Home Ministry:** The Home Ministry comes into the picture **when a State wants to change the name of a district or a railway station**.
 - The State government's request is sent to other departments and agencies such as the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Intelligence Bureau, Department of Posts, Geographical Survey of India Sciences and the Railway Ministry seeking clearance.
 - A **no-objection certificate** may be issued after examining their replies.

Babu Jagjivan Ram

Why in News

Recently, the Prime Minister paid tributes to **freedom fighter and former Deputy Prime Minister Babu Jagjivan Ram** on his **113th birth anniversary**.

- Jagjivan Ram, **popularly known as Babuji**, was a national leader, a freedom fighter, a crusader of social justice, a champion of depressed classes and an outstanding Parliamentarian.

Key Points

- **Pre Independence Contributions:**
 - In **1931**, he became a member of the **Indian National Congress** (Congress Party).
 - He was instrumental in the foundation of the **All India Depressed Classes League**, an **organisation dedicated to attaining equality for untouchables, in 1934-35**.
 - He was a champion of **social equality and equal rights for the Depressed Classes**.
 - In 1935, he proposed at a session of the **Hindu Mahasabha** that drinking water wells and temples be open to untouchables.
 - In 1935, Babuji also **appeared before the Hammond Commission** at Ranchi and demanded, for the first time, **voting rights for the Dalits**.

- He was **jailed twice** in the early 1940s for his political activities associated with the **Quit India movement** against British rule.

Jyotirao Phule

Why in News

The '**Tika Utsav (vaccination festival)**', started on the **birth anniversary of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule** (11th April) will continue till the birth anniversary of **Babasaheb Ambedkar** on 14th April 2021.

- The aim of the four day festival is to vaccinate as many people as possible for the priority groups and zero wastage of **Covid-19** vaccine.
- **Jyotirao Phule was an Indian social activist, thinker, anti-caste social reformer and writer from Maharashtra**. He is also known as **Jyotiba Phule**.

Key Points

- **About Jyotirao Phule:**
 - His Ideology was based on: **Liberty; Egalitarianism; Socialism**.
 - **Major Publications:** Tritiya Ratna (1855); Powada: Chatrapati Shivajiraje Bhosle Yancha (1869); Gulamgiri (1873), Shetkarayacha Aasud (1881).
 - **Related Association:** Phule along with his followers formed **Satyashodhak Samaj in 1848** which meant 'Seekers of Truth' in order to attain equal social and economic benefits for the lower castes in Maharashtra.
 - **Municipal Council Member:** He was appointed commissioner to the Poona municipality and served in the position until 1883.
 - **Title of Mahatma:** He was bestowed with the title of Mahatma on 11th May, 1888 **by a Maharashtrian social activist Vithalrao Krishnaji Vandekar**.

Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

Why in News

The Prime Minister of India commemorated **102 years of the Jallianwala Bagh tragedy** that took the lives of hundreds of innocent Indians.

- Recently, on the occasion of **130th Foundation Day of the National Archives of India**, an exhibition

“Jallianwala Bagh” was inaugurated, to mark the **Jallianwala Bagh massacre centenary**.

Key Points

➤ About:

- The Jallianwala Bagh massacre took place on **13th April 1919 in Amritsar, Punjab**.
- The tragedy, also known as the **Massacre of Amritsar** exposed the inhuman approach of the British when the British troops under **General Reginald Edward Dyer** opened fire into an unarmed crowd.

➤ Preclude to the Event:

- The massacre of **April 1919 wasn't an isolated incident**, rather an incident that happened with a multitude of factors working in the background.
 - During **World War I (1914–18)** the British government of India enacted a series of **repressive emergency powers** that were intended to combat subversive activities.
 - The **Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act of 1919** popularly known as **Rowlatt Act (Black Act)** which was passed on 10th March, 1919, authorised the government to imprison or confine, **without a trial**, any person associated with seditious activities which led to nationwide unrest.
 - On 13th April 1919, a crowd of at least 10,000 men, women and children gathered in Jallianwala Bagh to request the release of **Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew and Dr. Satyapal**.
 - The two prominent leaders who were a symbol of Hindu-Muslim unity, organised a peaceful protest against the Rowlatt act. They were arrested and taken out of the city.
 - **Brigadier-General Dyer** on hearing about the meeting, deployed his troops and ordered them to open fire. The only exit to the park was sealed and indiscriminate firing took place killing hundreds of innocent civilians.
- #### ➤ Post Jallianwala Bagh Incident:
- The shooting was followed by the **proclamation of martial law in the Punjab** that included public floggings and other humiliations. Indian outrage grew as news of the shooting and subsequent British actions spread throughout the subcontinent.
 - The **Bengali poet and Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore renounced the knighthood** that he had received in 1915.

- Mahatma Gandhi gave up the title of **Kaiser-i-Hind**, bestowed by the British for his work during the **Boer War**.
- On October 14, 1919, the **Disorders Inquiry Committee** was formed to inquire about the massacre. It later came to be known as the **Hunter Commission** after the name of **chairman, Lord William Hunter**. It also had Indian members.
 - The Hunter Commission in 1920 censured Dyer for his actions and was directed to resign from his appointment as Brigade Commander.
- The Indian National Congress appointed its own non-official committee that included **Motilal Nehru, C.R. Das, Abbas Tyabji, M.R. Jayakar, and Gandhi** to look into the shootings.
- Gandhi soon began organising his first large-scale and sustained nonviolent protest (satyagraha) campaign, the **Non Cooperation Movement (1920–22)** which proved a step in the direction of ending the British rule of India 25 years later.

B R Ambedkar: **130th Birth Anniversary**

Why in News

The nation celebrated the **130th birth anniversary of B R Ambedkar** on 14th April 2021.

- Dr. Ambedkar was a **social reformer, jurist, economist, author, polyglot** (knowing or using several languages) orator, a **scholar** and **thinker of comparative religions**.

Key Points

➤ Brief Profile:

- He is known as the **Father of the Indian Constitution** and was **India's first Law Minister**.
- He was the **Chairman of the Drafting Committee** for the new Constitution.
- He was a **well-known statesman who fought for the rights of the Dalits** and other socially backward classes.

➤ Contributions:

- He led the **Mahad Satyagraha in March 1927 against Hindus** who were opposing the decision of the Municipal Board.
- He participated in **all three Round Table Conferences**.

Note:



- In 1932, Dr. Ambedkar signed the **Poona pact with Mahatma Gandhi**, which abandoned the idea of separate electorates **for the depressed classes** (Communal Award).
- His ideas before the **Hilton Young Commission** served as the foundation of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.
- **Shift to Buddhism:**
 - He **resigned** from the cabinet in **1951**, over differences on the **Hindu Code Bill**.
 - He **converted to Buddhism**. He died on **6th December 1956 (Mahaparinirvan Diwas)**.
 - **Chaitya Bhoomi** is a memorial to B R Ambedkar, located in Mumbai.
 - He was awarded India's highest civilian honour the **Bharat Ratna** in 1990.
- **Important Works:**
 - **Journals:**
 - Mooknayak (1920)
 - Bahishkrit Bharat (1927)
 - Samatha (1929)
 - Janata (1930)
 - **Books:**
 - Annihilation of Caste
 - Buddha or Karl Marx
 - The Untouchable: Who are They and Why They Have Become Untouchables
 - Buddha and His Dhamma
 - The Rise and Fall of Hindu Women
 - **Organisations:**
 - Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha (1923)
 - Independent Labor Party (1936)
 - Scheduled Castes Federation (1942)

Round Table Conferences

- **First Round Table Conference:** It was held in London on 12th November, 1930 but the Congress did not participate in it.
 - In March 1931, Mahatma Gandhi and Lord Irwin (Viceroy of India 1926-31) entered into a Pact, called **Gandhi-Irwin Pact**, by which the Congress called off the Civil Disobedience Movement and agreed to participate in the Round Table Conference.

- **Second Round Table Conference:** It was held in London on the 7th of September, 1931.
- **Third Round Table Conference:** It was held in London on the 17th of November, 1932 to consider the reports of various sub-committees appointed from time to time. It ultimately led to the **passage of Govt. of India Act, 1935**.
 - **The Congress did not participate** as most of the leaders were in jail.

400th Birth Anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur

Why in News

Sri Akhand Path was inaugurated at **Gurdwara Guru Ke Mahal**, the birthplace of the ninth Sikh guru, **Guru Tegh Bahadur**, to mark the 400th **Prakash Purab** (birth centenary) of the Guru.

Key Points

- **Guru Teg Bahadur (1621-1675):**
 - Guru Tegh Bahadur was the **ninth Sikh Guru**, often venerated as the '**Protector of Humanity**' (**Srisht-di-Chadar**) by the Sikhs.
 - His writings are **housed in the sacred text, 'Guru Granth Sahib,'** in the form of 116 poetic hymns.
 - In the year 1675, Guru Tegh Bahadur was **executed in Delhi** under the orders of the **Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb**.
- **Sikhism:**
 - The word '**Sikh**' in the Punjabi language means '**disciple**'. Sikhs are the disciples of God who **follow the writings and teachings of the Ten Sikh Gurus**.
 - Sikhs **believe in one God (Ek Onkar)**. They believe they should remember God in everything they do. This is called **simran**.
 - The Sikhs **call their faith Gurmat** (Punjabi: "the Way of the Guru"). According to Sikh tradition, **Sikhism was established by Guru Nanak** (1469–1539) and subsequently led by a succession of nine other Gurus.
 - The development of Sikhism was **influenced by the Bhakti movement and Vaishnava Hinduism**.
 - The **Khalsa upholds the highest Sikh virtues of commitment, dedication and a social conscience**.

- The Khalsa are men and women who have undergone the **Sikh baptism ceremony** and who strictly follow the **Sikh Code of Conduct and Conventions**.
- They wear the prescribed physical articles of the faith (**5K's**: **Kesh** (uncut hair), **Kangha** (a wooden comb), **Kara** (a iron bracelet), **Kachera** (cotton underpants) and **Kirpan** (an iron dagger)).
- Sikhism **condemns blind rituals such as fasting**, visiting places of pilgrimage, superstitions, worship of the dead, idol worship etc.
- **The Sikh Literature:**
 - The **Adi Granth** is believed by Sikhs to be the abode of the eternal Guru, and for that reason it is known to all Sikhs as the **Guru Granth Sahib**.
 - The **Dasam Granth** is controversial in the Panth because of questions concerning its authorship and composition.
- **Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee:**
 - Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, Amritsar, Punjab (India), an **apex democratically elected body of Sikhs residing all over the world** was established under a special Act of Parliament in 1925 to look after the religious affairs, cultural and historical monuments.

Ten Gurus of Sikh Religion

- **Guru Nanak Dev (1469-1539)**
 - He was the first guru of Sikh and the **founder of Sikh religion**.
 - He started the **GURU KA LANGAR**.
 - He was **contemporary of Babur**.
 - **Kartarpur corridor** was commemorated on the **550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev**.
- **Guru Angad (1504-1552)**
 - He invented the new script called **Guru-Mukhi** and popularized and expanded the system of Guru ka Langar.
- **Guru Amar Das (1479-1574)**
 - He introduced the ceremony of the **Anand Karaj Marriage**.
 - He **abolished the custom of Sati and Purdah system** among the Sikhs.
 - He was **contemporary of Akbar**.
- **Guru Ram Das (1534-1581)**

- He **founded Amritsar in 1577** on the land granted by Akbar.
- He **started the construction of Golden Temple/ Swarna mandir** at Amritsar.
- **Guru Arjun Dev (1563-1606)**
 - He **composed the Adi Granth** in 1604.
 - He led to the **completion of construction of Golden temple**.
 - He was acclaimed as **Shaheeden-de-Sartaj**.
 - He was **executed by Jahangir** on charges of helping prince Khusrau.
- **Guru Hargobind (1594-1644)**
 - He led to the transformation of the Sikh Community into a Military community. He is known as **"Soldier Saint"**.
 - He led to the establishment of **Akal Takht** and fortified the Amritsar City.
 - He **waged wars against Jahangir and Shah Jahan**.
- **Guru Har Rai (1630-1661)**
 - He was a man of peace thus devoted most of his life in maintaining peace with Aurangzeb and doing missionary work.
- **Guru Har Krishan 1656-1664)**
 - He was the youngest guru of all and was given the title of Guru at a very early age of 5.
 - He was summoned by Aurangzeb against anti-islamic blasphemy.
- **Guru Teg Bahadur (1621-1675)**
 - He **founded Anandpur Sahib**.
- **Guru Gobind Singh (1666-1708)**
 - He founded a warrior community known as **Khalsa** in 1699.
 - He introduced a new rite "Pahul".
 - He joined Bahadur Shah's as a noble.
 - He was the last Sikh Guru in human form and he passed the Guruship of Sikhs to the Guru Granth Sahib.

Birth Anniversary of Maharana Pratap

Why in News

The Prime Minister of India paid tributes to Maharana Pratap on his Jayanti.

Note:



Key Points

➤ Description:

- Rana Pratap Singh also known as **Maharana Pratap** was the **13th King of Mewar** and was the eldest son of **Udai Singh II**
 - Maharana Udai Singh II ruled the kingdom of Mewar, with his capital at Chittor.
 - Udai Singh II was also a founder of the city of Udaipur (Rajasthan).



➤ Battle of Haldighati:

- The Battle of Haldighati was fought in 1576 between Rana Pratap Singh of Mewar and Raja Man Singh of Amber who was the general of the Mughal emperor Akbar.
- Maharana Pratap fought a brave war, but was defeated by Mughal forces.
- It is said that Maharana Pratap's loyal horse named Chetak, gave up his life as the Maharana was leaving the battlefield.

➤ Reconquest:

- After 1579, the Mughal pressure relaxed over Mewar and Pratap recovered Western Mewar including Kumbhalgarh, Udaipur and Gogunda.
- During this period, he also built a new capital, Chavand, near modern Dungarpur.

Rabindranath Tagore

Why in News

The Prime Minister paid tribute to **Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore** on **160th Jayanti** on 7th May, 2021.

Key Points

➤ About:

- He was also referred to as '**Gurudev**', '**Kabiguru**', and '**Biswakabi**'.
- He is regarded as the outstanding creative artist of modern India and hailed by W.B Yeats, Rabindranath Tagore was a **Bengali poet, novelist, and painter**, who was highly influential in introducing Indian culture to the west.
- He was a **good friend of Mahatma Gandhi** and is said to have **given him the title of Mahatma**.

- He had always stressed that **unity in diversity** is the **only possible way for India's national integration**.
- He had spoken at the **World Parliament for Religions** in the years **1929 and 1937**.

➤ Contributions:

- He is said to have **composed over 2000 songs** and his songs and music are called '**Rabindra Sangeet**' with its own distinct lyrical and fluid style.
- He is responsible for modernising Bengali prose and poetry. His notable works include **Gitanjali, Ghare-Baire, Gora, Manasi, Balaka, Sonar Tori**. He is also remembered for his song '**Ekla Chalo Re**'.
 - He published his first poems aged 16 under the pen-name '**Bhanusimha**'.
- He not only gave the **national anthems for two countries, India and Bangladesh**, but also inspired a **Ceylonese student of his, to pen and compose the national anthem of Sri Lanka**.
- Besides all his literary achievements, he was also a philosopher and educationist who in **1921 established the Vishwa-Bharati University**, a university that challenged conventional education.

➤ Awards:

- In **1913** he was awarded the **Nobel Prize in Literature** for his work on Gitanjali.
 - He was the **first non-European** to receive the Nobel Prize.
- In 1915 he was awarded **knighthood** by the British King George V. In 1919, following the **Jallianwalla Bagh massacre** he renounced his Knighthood.

Gopal Krishna Gokhale

Why in News

The Prime Minister of India paid tribute to Gopal Krishna Gokhale on his Jayanti.

- Gopal Krishna Gokhale was a great social reformer and educationist who provided exemplary leadership to India's freedom movement.

Key Points

➤ Ideology:

- Gokhale worked towards **social empowerment**,



Note:



expansion of education, struggle for freedom in India for three decades and rejected the use of reactionary or revolutionary ways.

- **Role in Colonial Legislatures:**
 - At the Imperial legislature, Gokhale played a **key role in framing the Morley-Minto reforms of 1909**.
- **Role in INC:**
 - He was **associated with the Moderate Group of Indian National Congress** (joined in 1889).
 - He became **president of INC in 1905 in Banaras session**.
 - This was the time when bitter differences had arisen between his group of '**Moderates**' and the '**Extremists**' led by **Lala Lajpat Rai** and **Bal Gangadhar Tilak** among others. The two factions split at the Surat session of 1907.
- **Related Societies and Other Works:**
 - He **established the Servants of India Society in 1905** for the expansion of Indian education.
 - He was **also associated with the Sarvajanik sabha journal** started by Govind Ranade.
 - In 1908, Gokhale **founded the Ranade Institute of Economics**.
 - He started an English weekly newspaper, **The Hitavada** (The people's paper).
- **Mentor to Gandhi:**
 - As a liberal nationalist, he is **regarded by Mahatma Gandhi as his political guru**.
 - Gandhi wrote a book in Gujarati dedicated to the leader titled '**Dharmatma Gokhale**'.

Morley-Minto Reforms 1909

- The reforms included the **admission of Indians to the Secretary of State's council, to the viceroy's executive council**, and to the executive councils of Bombay and Madras, and the **introduction of an elected element into legislative councils** with provision for **separate electorates for Muslims**.
- The **legislative councils at the Centre and the provinces** were increased in size.
 - The Act increased the maximum **additional membership of the Imperial Legislative Council from 16 to 60**.
- **Indians were given membership** to the Imperial Legislative Council for the **first time**.
- **Satyendra P Sinha** was appointed the first Indian member of the **Viceroy's Executive Council**.

Veer Savarkar Jayanti

Why in News

On **28th May**, India paid tribute to the freedom fighter, **Vinayak Damodar Savarkar (Veer Savarkar)** on his **birth anniversary**.

- He was an Indian independence activist, politician, lawyer and writer.
- He is also known as **Swatantryaveer Savarkar**.

Key Points

- **Related Organisations and Work:**
 - Founded a secret society called **Abhinav Bharat Society**.
 - Went to the United Kingdom and was involved with organisations such as **India House** and the **Free India Society**.
 - He was the **president of Hindu Mahasabha from 1937 to 1943**.
 - Savarkar wrote a book titled '**The History of the War of Indian Independence**' in which he wrote about the guerilla warfare tricks used in **1857 Sepoy Mutiny**.
 - He also wrote the book '**Hindutva: who is hindu?**'.
- **Trial and Sentences:**
 - **Arrested in 1909** on charges of plotting an armed revolt against the **Morley-Minto reform (Indian Councils Act 1909)**.
 - Following the two trials, Savarkar was convicted and sentenced to **50-years imprisonment also known as Kala Pani** and transported in 1911 to the **Cellular Jail** in the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**.
- **Death:** He died on **26th February 1966** due to fasting on his own wish of death.

Abhinav Bharat Society (Young India Society)

- It was a secret society founded by **Vinayak Damodar Savarkar and his brother Ganesh Damodar Savarkar** in 1904.

India House

- It was **founded by Shyamji Kishan Verma in 1905** in London to promote nationalist views among Indian students in London.

Note:



Free India Society

- **Savarkar** went to London in 1906 and founded the Free India Society, based on the thoughts of the Italian nationalist Giuseppe Mazzini (Savarkar had written a biography of Mazzini).

Hindu Mahasabha

- **Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha** is one of the oldest organisations of India as it was **formed in 1907**. Eminent leaders **extended this Organisation in 1915 on ALL India basis**.
- The Eminent personalities who founded this Organisation and who presided over the ALL INDIA Sessions held include Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, Lal Lajpat Rai, Veer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, etc.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

Why in News

On the occasion of the anniversary of **Maratha king's coronation day (6th June)**, the Goa government has released a short film on Chhatrapati Shivaji.

Key Points

- Shivaji Maharaj displayed his military zeal for the first time in **1645** when as a teenager, he successfully **got control of the Torna Fort** which was under Bijapur.
 - He also acquired the **Kondana Fort**. Both these forts were under Adil Shah of Bijapur.
- **Important Battles:**

Battle of Pratapgad, 1659	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fought at the fort of Pratapgad near the town of Satara, Maharashtra, between the forces of the Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and the Adilshahi general Afzal Khan.
Battle of Pavan Khind, 1660	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fought at a mountain pass in the vicinity of fort Vishalgad, near the city of Kolhapur, Maharashtra, between the Maratha Sardar Baji Prabhu Deshpande and Siddi Masud of Adilshahi.
Sacking of Surat, 1664	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fought near the city of Surat, Gujarat, between Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Inayat Khan, a Mughal captain.
Battle of Purandar, 1665	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fought between the Mughal Empire and Maratha Empire.
Battle of Sinhagad, 1670	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fought on the fort of Sinhagad near the city of Pune, Maharashtra between Tanaji Malusare, a commander of Maratha ruler Shivaji Maharaj and Udaybhan Rathod, fortkeeper under Jai Singh I who was a Mughal Army Chief.
Battle of Kalyan, 1682-83	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bahadur Khan of the Mughal Empire defeated the Maratha army and took over Kalyan.
Battle of Sangamner, 1679	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fought between the Mughal Empire and Maratha Empire. This was the last battle in which the Maratha King Shivaji fought.

- **Conflict with Mughals:**

- Shivaji defeated a large force of **Shaista Khan (Aurangzeb's maternal uncle)** and the Bijapur army in Pune, 1659.
- In **1664**, the wealthy Mughal trading **port of Surat was sacked by Shivaji**.
- In June 1665, the **Treaty of Purandar** was signed between Shivaji and Raja Jai Singh I (representing Aurangzeb).
 - As per this treaty, many forts were relinquished to the Mughals and it was agreed that Shivaji would meet Aurangzeb at Agra. Shivaji also agreed to send his son Sambhaji as well.
- **Granted Title:**
 - He was crowned as the **king of the Marathas** on 6th June, 1674, at Raigad.
 - He took on the titles of **Chhatrapati, Shakakarta, Kshatriya Kulavantas and Haindava Dharmodh-harak**.
 - The **Maratha Kingdom** founded by Shivaji grew larger over time and became the dominant Indian power in the early 18th century.

Administration under Shivaji

- **Central Administration:**
 - It was founded by Shivaji for the sound system of administration which was greatly inspired from the **Deccan style of administration**.
 - Most of the administrative reforms were inspired from **Malik Amber reforms in Ahmednagar**.
 - The **King was the supreme head of state** who was assisted by a group of eight ministers known as the '**Ashtapradhan**'.
 - The **peshwa, also known as the mukhya pradhan**, originally headed the advisory council of the raja Shivaji.
- **Revenue Administration:**
 - Shivaji abolished the **Jagirdari System** and replaced it with **Ryotwari System**, and changes in the position of hereditary revenue officials which was popularly known as **Deshmukhs, Deshpande, Patils and Kulkarnis**.
 - Shivaji strictly supervised the **Mirasdars** who had hereditary rights in land.
 - The revenue system was patterned on the **Kathi system of Malik Amber** in which every piece of land was measured by Rod or Kathi.

Note:



- Chauth and Sardeshmukhi were other sources of income.
 - **Chauth** amounted to **1/4th of the standard** which was paid to Marathas as a safeguard against Shivaji's forces raiding Non-Maratha territories.
 - **Sardeshmukhi** was **an additional levy of 10%** demanded from areas outside of the kingdom.
- **Military Administration:**
 - Shivaji organised a disciplined and efficient army.
 - The ordinary soldiers were paid in cash, but the chief and military commander were paid through **jagir grants (Saranjam or Mokasa)**.
 - The army consists of Infantry i.e. Mavali foot soldiers, Cavalry i.e. Horse riders and equipment holders, Navy.

Ram Prasad Bismil

Why in News

Recently, the Ministry of Culture organised a special ceremony at Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh to mark the **birth anniversary** of freedom fighter **Ram Prasad Bismil**.

Key Points

- He was among the most **noteworthy Indian freedom fighters** who resisted British colonial forces till his last breath.
 - Joined the **Arya Samaj** founded by **Dayananda Saraswati in 1875**. This had a profound influence on him, he **often employed poetry** as his weapon of choice in the fight against the imperialist forces.
 - The ideals of a revolution first took root in his mind when he read about the death sentence awarded to **Bhai Parmanand, an Indian nationalist and Arya Samaj missionary**.
 - Believed that **freedom cannot be achieved without violence**, bloodshed, which meant his views were in stark contrast to **Mahatma Gandhi's** ideals of 'ahimsa'.
- **Contributions:**
 - **Organizations:**
 - Formed organisation **Matrivedi** and got in touch with **Genda Lal Dixit, a school teacher**.
 - Both shared revolutionary ideas and wanted to organise the youth of the country to fight the British government.

- Bismil was one of the chief founders of the **Hindustan Republican Association (HRA)** along with Sachindra Nath Sanyal and Jadugopal Mukherjee.
 - HRA was **founded in 1924** and its constitution was drafted chiefly by Bismil.
- **Major Cases:**
 - Was involved in the **Mainpuri Conspiracy of 1918** in which police found a few young people including Bismil selling books that were not prescribed by the government.
 - Published a pamphlet titled '**Deshwasiyo ke Naam**' and distributed it along with his poem '**Mainpuri ki Pratigya**'. To **collect funds for the parties, they looted government coffers**.
 - He **escaped arrest by jumping into the Yamuna River**.
 - In 1925, Bismil and his companions **Chandrasekhar Azad** and **Ashfaqulla Khan** decided to loot a train in **Kakori** near Lucknow.
 - They were successful in their attempt but were arrested alongside a dozen other HRA members within a month of the attack and tried under the **Kakori Conspiracy Case**.
 - The legal process lasted 18 months. **Bismil, Lahiri, Khan and Thakur Roshan Singh** were awarded death sentences.
- **Others:**
 - Attended the 1921 session of the **Indian National Congress** at Ahmedabad.
 - While lodged in Gorakhpur Central Jail, **Bismil went on a hunger strike demanding to be treated as a political prisoner**.
 - In Lucknow Central Jail, Bismil wrote his **autobiography**, considered as one of the finest works in Hindi literature and also the cult song "**Mera rang de Basanti chola**".

Bankim

Chandra Chattopadhyay

Why in News

Indian Prime Minister paid homage to Rishi Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay on his Jayanti on 27th June.

Key Points

➤ About:

- He was **one of the greatest novelists and poets of India**.
- He was **born on 27th June 1838 in the village of Kanthapura** in the town of North 24 Parganas, Naihati, present day **West Bengal**.
- He **composed the song Vande Mataram in Sanskrit**, which was a source of inspiration to the people in their freedom struggle.
- In 1857, there was a strong revolt against the rule of East India Company but Bankim Chandra Chatterjee continued his studies and passed his B.A. Examination in 1859.
 - The Lieutenant Governor of Calcutta appointed Bankim Chandra Chatterjee as Deputy Collector in the same year.
- He was in **Government service for thirty-two years** and retired in 1891.

➤ Contributions to India's Freedom Struggle:

- His **epic Novel Anandamath** - set in the background of the **Sanyasi Rebellion (1770-1820)**, when Bengal was facing a famine too - made Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay **an influential figure on the Bengali renaissance**.
 - He kept the people of Bengal intellectually stimulated through his literary campaign.
 - India got its national song, **Vande Mataram, from Anandamath**.
- He also **founded a monthly literary magazine, Bangadarshan, in 1872**, through which Bankim is credited with influencing the emergence of a Bengali identity and nationalism.
 - Bankim Chandra wanted the magazine to work as the medium of communication between the educated and the uneducated classes.
 - The **magazine stopped publication in the late 1880s**, but was **resurrected in 1901 with Rabindranath Tagore as its editor**.
 - While it carried Tagore's writings - including his first full-length novel Chokher Bali - the 'new' Bangadarshan retained its original philosophy, nurturing the nationalistic spirit.
 - During the **Partition of Bengal (1905)**, the magazine played a vital role in giving an outlet to the voices of protest and dissent. Tagore's

Amar Sonar Bangla - the national anthem of Bangladesh now - was first published in Bangadarshan.

➤ Other Literary Contributions:

- His **famous novels** include Kapalkundala (1866), Debi Choudhurani, Bishabriksha (The Poison Tree), Chandrasekhar (1877), Rajmohan's wife and Krishnakanter Will.

Sanyasi Rebellion

- The Sanyasi Uprisings took place in Bengal between the periods of **1770- 1820s**.
- The Sanyasis rose in rebellion after the great famine of 1770 in Bengal which caused acute chaos and misery.
- However, the immediate cause of the rebellion was the **restrictions imposed by the British upon pilgrims visiting holy places** among both Hindus and Muslims.

Indian Soldiers in Italy: World War II

Why in News

The Indian Chief of Army Staff (COAS) will inaugurate an **Indian Army Memorial** in the **Cassino town of Italy** during an official visit to the U.K. and Italy.

Key Points

- The memorial commemorates over **3,100 Commonwealth servicemen** who took part in the effort to **liberate Italy in World War II (1939-1945)**.
- **Indian Troops in WWII:**
 - The **Indian Army was the largest volunteer force during WWII**, with over **2.5 million (more than 20 lakh) Indians participating**.
 - These troops **fought the Axis powers (Germany, Italy and Japan) as part of the Allies**. They came from different source organizations such as:
 - **Indian Army:**
 - In the first half of the 1940s, **India was still under the British rule and the Indian Army fought in both world wars**. It comprised both Indian and European soldiers.
 - **East India Company Army and the British Army:**

- Apart from the Indian army there was the **East India Company Army** that also recruited both Indian and European soldiers and the **British Army**, which was also present in India.

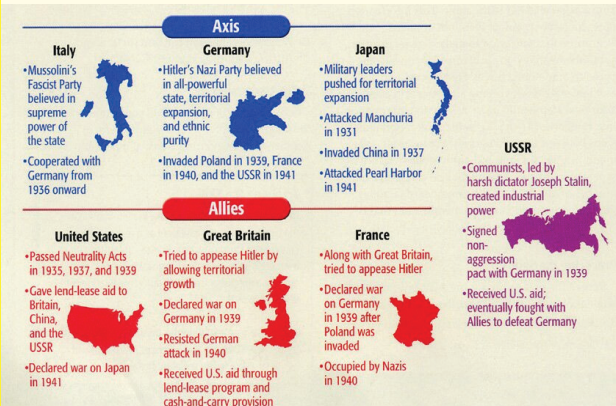
World War II

➤ About:

- It was a conflict that **involved virtually every part of the world** during the years 1939–45.
- It **ended six years and one day** after Germany's invasion of Poland on 1st September, 1939, sparked the 20th century's second global conflict.
- By the time it concluded on the deck of an American warship on 2nd September, 1945, **WW II had claimed the lives of an estimated 60-80 million people, approximately 3% of the world's population.**
- The **vast majority of those who died** were **civilians, including 6 million Jews killed in Nazi concentration camps** during the Holocaust.

➤ Principal Belligerents:

- **Axis powers** — Germany, Italy, and Japan.
- **Allies** — France, Great Britain, the United States, the Soviet Union, and, to a lesser extent, China.



➤ Causes of War:

- The impact of the Treaty of Versailles following **World War I (1914-18).**
- The worldwide economic depression.
- The rise of militarism in Germany and Japan.
- The failure of the **League of Nations.**

Italy in World War II

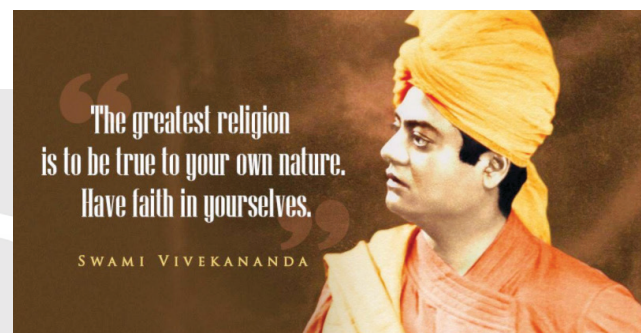
- Under Benito Mussolini, Italy had joined Nazi Germany in 1936 and in 1940 it entered WWII **against the Allies.**

- In 1943, **Mussolini was overthrown** and instead, **Italy declared war on Germany.**
- The **invasion of Italy by the Allies** coincided with an armistice that was made **with the Italians.**
- For two years during WWII, **Italy became one of the war's most "exhausting campaigns"** because they were facing a skilled and resolute enemy.

Swami Vivekananda

Why in News

Every year, 4th July is observed as the death anniversary of **Swami Vivekananda**, who is regarded as a one of the finest spiritual leaders and intellects India has produced.



Key Points

➤ About:

- **National Youth Day** is held every year to observe the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
- In 1893, upon the request of **Maharaja Ajit Singh of the Khatri State**, he took the name '**Vivekananda**.'

➤ Contributions:

- Introduced the world to the Indian philosophies of **Vedanta and Yoga.**
 - He **preached 'neo-Vedanta'**, an interpretation of Hinduism through a Western lens, and believed in combining spirituality with material progress.
- Laid the greatest emphasis on **education** for the **regeneration of our motherland.** Advocated a **man-making character-building education.**
- Best known for his **speech at the World Parliament of Religion in Chicago** in 1893.
- Spelt out the **four pathways of attaining moksha** from the worldly pleasure and attachment in **his books** - Raja-yoga, Karma-yoga, Jnana-yoga and Bhakti-yoga.

Note:



- **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** had called **Vivekananda** the “maker of modern India.”
- **Associated Organisations:**
 - He was the **chief disciple of the 19th-century mystic Ramakrishna Paramhansa** and established the **Ramakrishna Mission in 1897.**
 - Ramakrishna Mission is an organization which works in the area of value-based education, culture, health, women's empowerment, youth and tribal welfare and relief and rehabilitation.
 - In 1899, he **established the Belur Math**, which became his permanent abode.

Tipu Sultan

Why in News

Recently, naming a garden on **Tipu Sultan** in Mumbai sparked a controversy.

Key Points

- **Brief Profile:**
 - Tipu Sultan was **Haidar Ali's son** and a great warrior, also known as the **Tiger of Mysore.**
 - He was a **well educated man** fluent in Arabic, Persian, Kanarese and Urdu.
 - Tipu **introduced a number of administrative innovations** during his rule, including his **coinage**, a new **Mauludi lunisolar calendar**, and a **new land revenue system** which initiated the **growth of Mysore silk industry.**
 - Embracing **western military methods** like artillery and rockets **alongside traditional Indian weapons** including war elephants, he ensured his forces could **overwhelm his Indian rivals and match the British armies** sent against him.
- **Maintenance of Armed Forces:**
 - He organised **his army on the European model** with Persian words of command.
 - Though he took the **help of the French officers to train his soldiers**, he never allowed them (French) to develop into a pressure group.
 - He was well **aware of the importance of a naval force.**
 - In 1796, he set up a **Board of Admiralty and planned** for a fleet of 22 battleships and 20 large frigates.

- He **established three dockyards** at Mangalore, Wajedabad and Molidabad. However, **his plans did not fructify.**
- **Role in Anglo-Mysore Wars:**
 - **The British saw Haidar and Tipu as ambitious, arrogant and dangerous** – rulers who had to be controlled and crushed.
 - **Four wars were fought** with Mysore (**1767-69, 1780-84, 1790-92 and 1799**).
 - **1767-69:** Treaty of Madras.
 - **1780-84:** Treaty of Mangalore.
 - **1790-92:** Treaty of Seringapatam.
 - **1799:** Subsidiary Alliance.
 - **Only in the last – the Battle of Seringapatam** – did the Company ultimately win a victory. **Tipu Sultan was killed** defending his capital Seringapatam.
 - **Mysore was placed under the former ruling dynasty of the Wodeyars** and a **subsidiary alliance** was imposed on the state.
- **Other Related Points:**
 - He was **also a patron of science and technology** and is credited as the ‘**pioneer of rocket technology**’ in India.
 - He wrote a **military manual (Fathul Mujahidin)** explaining the operation of rockets.
 - Tipu was a **great lover of democracy** and a **great diplomat** who gave his **support to the French soldiers** at Seringapatam in setting up a **Jacobin Club in 1797.**
 - Tipu himself became a **member of the Jacobin Club** and allowed himself to be called **Citizen Tipu.**
 - He **planted the Tree of Liberty** at Seringapatam.

Subsidiary Alliance

- In 1798, **it was introduced by Wellesley** in India, the ruler of the allying **Indian state was compelled to pay a subsidy** for the maintenance of British army in return for getting protection from the British against their enemies.
- Those native princes or rulers **who would enter into the Subsidiary Alliance were not free to declare war** against any other power or enter into negotiations **without the consent of the British.**
- The Subsidiary Alliance was a policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of the allied state, but this was a promise seldom kept by the British.

Note:



- The payment of the arbitrarily-fixed and artificially-bloated subsidy invariably disrupted the economy of the state and impoverished its people.
- On the other hand, the **British could now maintain a large army** at the cost of the Indian states.
 - They controlled the defence and foreign relations of the protected ally, and had a powerful force stationed at the very heart of his lands.
- Lord Wellesley **signed his first Subsidiary Treaty with the Nizam of Hyderabad** in 1798.
- The **Nawab of Avadh** was forced to sign a Subsidiary Treaty in 1801.
- **Peshwa Baji Rao II (Maratha)** signed the Subsidiary Treaty at Bassein in 1802.

Rana Punja Bhil

Why in News

Recently, a **dispute has erupted** in Rajasthan over the **hoisting of a flag** on the statue of **Rana Punja Bhil**, a historical figure considered as a hero by the tribal Bhil community.

- After the **Amargarh fort dispute**, this is the second issue in Rajasthan within a month.

Key Points

- **About Rana Punja Bhil:**
 - He was a contemporary of **16th century ruler of Mewar, Maharana Pratap**.
 - He is considered to be a **significant character** who **bolstered the strength of Pratap** during his battles with **Mughal emperor Akbar**.
 - When **Maharana Pratap was readying for the battle with Akbar**, the tribal Bhil community voluntarily came to his assistance and at the time the Bhil army was commanded by Punja.
 - Owing to his status as a commander, he was **bestowed the title of Rana**.
- **Bhil community:**
 - **About:**
 - The Bhil are **one of the largest tribal groups**, living in **Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan**.

- They are the **biggest tribe in Rajasthan**.
- They are classified as **scheduled tribes** in Rajasthan.
- The **name is derived from the word 'billu'**, which means bow.
- **Bhil women** wear traditional saris while men are dressed in long frocks and pyjamas. The woman put on heavy ornaments made of silver, brass along with rosaries of beads and silver coins and earrings.
- **Importance of the Community:**
 - The Bhil are known to be **excellent archers** coupled with **deep knowledge about their local geography**.
 - Traditionally, experts in **guerrilla warfare**, most of them today are **farmers and agricultural labourers**. They are also skilled sculptors.
 - They have **exercised significant influence** in the **Mewar region** and throughout the past, the Rajput rulers of the region have forged alliances with the tribal group.

Other Tribes in Rajasthan

- **Sahariyas:**
 - Sahariyas are one of the **most backward Rajasthanani tribes**.
- **Minas:**
 - Minas is the **second biggest tribe** in Rajasthan.
 - They are known to be the inhabitants of Indus Valley Civilization.
- **Gadiya Lohars:**
 - Gadiya Lohars are known to be a **small Rajput Rajasthan tribe**.
- **Garasias:**
 - Garasias are another small Rajput Rajasthan tribe.
- **Others:**
 - There are other Rajasthan tribes also, which include **Kathodi (found in Mewar region), Sansi and Kanjar**.

Quit India Movement

Why in News

On **8th Aug 2021**, India completed **79 years of Quit India Movement** also known as **August Kranti**.

Note:



Key Points

➤ About:

- On **8th August 1942**, **Mahatma Gandhi** gave a clarion call to end the British rule and **launched the Quit India Movement at the session of the All-India Congress Committee in Mumbai**.
- Gandhiji gave the call **"Do or Die"** in his speech delivered **at the Gowalia Tank Maidan**, now popularly known as **August Kranti Maidan**.
- **Aruna Asaf Ali** popularly known as the **'Grand Old Lady'** of the Independence Movement is known for **hoisting the Indian flag** at the Gowalia Tank Maidan in Mumbai during the Quit India Movement.
- The **slogan 'Quit India'** was **coined by Yusuf Meherally**, a socialist and trade unionist who also served as Mayor of Mumbai.
 - Meherally had **also coined the slogan "Simon Go Back"**.

➤ Causes:

- **Failure of Cripps Mission:** The immediate cause for the movement was the collapse of Cripps Mission.
 - **About:** Under **Stafford Cripps**, the mission was sent to resolve the Indian question of a new constitution and self-government.
 - It failed because it **offered India not complete freedom** but the **Dominion Status to India**, along with the partition.
- Involvement of India in World War II without prior consultation with the leaders:
 - The British assumption of unconditional support from India to the British in **World War II** was not taken well by the **Indian National Congress**.
- **Prevalence of anti-British Sentiment:**
 - The **anti-British sentiments** and **demand for full-independence** had gained popularity among Indian masses.

➤ Demands:

- The demand was **to end the British rule in India** with immediate effect to get the cooperation of Indians in World War-II against fascism.

Successes of the Movement

➤ Rise of Future Leaders:

- Underground activities were taken by leaders that included Ram Manohar Lohia, J.P. Narayan, Aruna Asaf Ali, Biju Patnaik, Sucheta Kriplani, etc which later emerged as prominent leaders.

➤ Women Participation:

- Women took active participation in the movement. Female leaders like Usha Mehta helped set up an underground radio station which led to the awakening about the movement.

➤ Rise of Nationalism:

- A **greater sense of unity and brotherhood** emerged due to the Quit India Movement. Many students dropped out of schools and colleges, people gave up their jobs and withdrew money from the banks.

➤ Paved the way for Independence:

- While the **Quit India campaign was crushed in 1944**, with the British refusing to grant immediate independence, saying it could happen only after the war had ended, they came to the important realization that India was ungovernable in the long run due to the cost of World War II.
- It **changed the nature of political negotiations with British**, ultimately paving the way for India's independence.

Failure of the Movement

➤ Brutal Repression:

- The **movement saw violence** at some places which was not premeditated.
- The movement was **violently suppressed by the British** – people were shot, lathi-charged, villages burnt and enormous fines imposed.
- Over 1,00,000 people were arrested and the government resorted to violence in order to crush the agitation.

➤ Lack of Support:

- **Muslim League, the Communist Party of India and the Hindu Mahasabha did not support the movement.** The Indian bureaucracy also did not support the movement.
 - The League was not in favour of the British leaving India without partitioning the country first.
 - The Communist party supported the British since they were allied with the Soviet Union.
 - The Hindu Mahasabha openly opposed the call for the Quit India Movement and boycotted it officially under the apprehension that the movement would create internal disorder and would endanger internal security during the war.

Note:



- Meanwhile, Subhas Chandra Bose, organised the **Indian National Army** and the Azad Hind government from outside the country.
- Many **Congress members like C Rajagopalachari resigned** from the provincial legislature as they did not favour Mahatma Gandhi's idea.

Abanindranath Tagore

Why in News

The **year-long celebrations marking 150 years of Abanindranath Tagore** will be started soon, with a host of online workshops and talks paying tributes to the leading light of the **Bengal School of Art**.

Key Points

- **About:**
 - He was a nephew of **Rabindranath Tagore**.
 - In his youth, Abanindranath received training in European and Academic style from European artists.
 - However, during the last decade of the 19th century, he **developed a distaste for European naturalism** (which represented things closer to the way one sees them - inspired by the principles of natural science).
 - He **leaned towards painting images with historic or literary allusions**. He drew **inspiration from Mughal miniatures**.
 - Another source of inspiration came from the **visit of the Japanese philosopher and aesthetician Okakura Kakuzo to Kolkata in 1902**.
- **Contribution to Indian Freedom Struggle:**
 - In the **last decades of the nineteenth century**, a new art movement emerged which received its primary stimulus from the growing nationalism in India.
 - In Bengal, a **new group of nationalist artists** gathered around Abanindranath Tagore.
 - He was arguably the first major exponent of an artistic idiom that sought to **modernise the Mughal and the Rajput styles** in order to **counter the influence of Western models of art under the colonial regime**.
 - Though many of the paintings of this new trend primarily focused on **themes of Indian mythology and cultural heritage**, they are important sources

for studying the modern art movement in India and for the art historians.

- His unique interpretation of **swadeshi themes created a new awakening** and heralded a revival of Indian art.
- He was the creator of the **iconic 'Bharat Mata' painting**.
- **Victoria Memorial Hall** is the custodian of the **Rabindra Bharati Society** collection, the single-largest collection of works by the artist.

Bengal School of Painting

- It is also called the **Renaissance School or the Revivalist School**, as it represented the **first modern movement of Indian art**.
- It **rediscovered the glories of Indian art** and consciously tried to produce what it considered a truly Indian art inspired by the creations of the past.
- Its **leading artist was Abanindranath Tagore** and its **theoretician was E.B. Havell**, the principal of the Calcutta School of Art.

Moplah Rebellion

Why in News

Recently, a political leader claimed that the **Moplah rebellion**, also known as the **Mappila riots, of 1921** was one of the first manifestations of the **Taliban** mindset in India.

Key Points

- **Moplahs/Mappilas:**
 - The name Mappilla (lit. son-in-law; anglicized form Moplah) is given to **Malayali-speaking Muslims who reside along the entire length of the Malabar Coast of northern Kerala**.
 - By 1921, the **Moplahs formed the largest and fastest growing community in Malabar**. With a population of one million, **32% of that of Malabar as a whole**, the Moplahs were concentrated in South Malabar.
- **Background:**
 - In the sixteenth century when Portuguese traders arrived on the Malabar coast, they noted the **Mappilas to be a mercantile community concentrated in urban centres** and fairly segregated from the local Hindu population.

- However, with the **rise in Portuguese commercial power, the Mappilas found themselves a competitor** and increasingly started moving inland in search of new economic opportunities.
- The **shifting of the Mappilas led to a clash of religious identities** both with the local Hindu population and the Portuguese.

➤ The Revolt:

- **Fuelled by the fiery speeches by Muslim religious leaders and anti-British sentiments**, the Mopillahs launched a **violent rebellion**. Numerous acts of violence were reported and a series of persecutions were committed both against the British and the Hindu landlords.
- While there are some who call it a **case of religious fanaticism**, there are others who look at it as an instance of **struggle against British authority**, and then there are others who perceive the Malabar rebellion to be a **peasant revolt against unfair practices of the landlords**.
- While historians continue to debate on the matter, the broad consensus on the episode notes it to have started off as a **struggle against political power, which later took on a communal colour**.
 - Most of the **landlords were Namboodiri Brahmins** while most of the tenants were Mapillah Muslims.
 - The riots led to the mass **killings of over 10,000 Hindus**, raping of women, forced religious conversions, destruction or damage of nearly 300 temples, loot and arson of properties worth crores of rupees and burning of houses belonging to the Hindus.

➤ Reasons:

- **Non-Cooperation & Khilafat Movement:**
 - The trigger of the uprising came from the **Non-Cooperation Movement** launched by the Congress in 1920 along with the **Khilafat agitation**.
 - The **anti-British sentiment fuelled by these agitations** affected the Muslim Mapillahs.
- **New Tenancy Laws:**
 - After the death of **Tipu Sultan** in 1799 in the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War, Malabar had come under British authority as part of the Madras Presidency.

- The **British had introduced new tenancy laws** that tremendously favoured the landlords known as Janmis and instituted a far more exploitative system for peasants than before.
- The **new laws deprived the peasants of all guaranteed rights to the land**, share in the produce they earlier got and in effect rendered them landless.

Major Pre-Independence Agrarian Revolts

- **Santhal Rebellion (1855-56)**- The Santhals take global pride in the Santhal rebellion where over 1,000 Santhals and **leaders of Sidho and Kanho Murmu** rose against domination and battled against the vast East India Company (The Britishers).
- **Indigo Revolt (1859-60)**- It was a **revolt by the farmers against British planters** who had forced them to grow indigo under terms that were greatly unfavourable to the farmers.
- **Pabna Uprisings (1872-1875)**- It was a **resistance movement against the oppression of the zamindars**. It originated in the Yusufshahi pargana, which is now the Sirajganj district within greater Pabna, Bangladesh.
- **Deccan Riots (1875)**- The Deccan peasants uprising was directed mainly **against the excesses of the Marwari and Gujarati money lenders**. The ryots suffered heavy taxation under the **Ryotwari system**. The land revenue was also raised by 50% in 1867.
- **Pagri Sambhal Movement (1907)**- It was a successful farm agitation that forced the British government to repeal three laws related to agriculture. **Bhagat Singh's** uncle Ajit Singh was the force behind this agitation.
- **Peasant Movement in Oudha (1918-1922)**- It was **led by Baba Ramchandra**, a Sanyasi, who had earlier been to Fiji as an indentured laborer. He led a peasant's movement in Awadh against Talukdars and Landlords. He **demanding reduction of rent, abolition of Begar and the boycott of landlords**.
- **Champaran Movement (1917-18)**- The peasantry on the indigo plantations in the Champaran district of Bihar was **excessively oppressed by the European planters** and compelled to grow indigo on at least 3/20th of their land and sell it at prices fixed by the planters. In 1917, **Mahatma Gandhi reached Champaran and defied the orders of district officials for leaving Champaran**.

Note:



- **Peasant Agitation in Kheda (1918)**- It was chiefly directed **against the Government**. In 1918, the crops failed in the Kheda district of Gujarat but the **government refused to remit land revenue and insisted on its full collection**. Gandhiji along with **Sardar Vallabhai Patel** supported the peasants and advised them to withhold payment of revenues till their demand for its remission was met.
- **Moplah Rebellion (1921)**- The Moplahs were the Muslim tenants inhabiting the Malabar region where most of the landlords were Hindus. Their **grievances centred around lack of security of tenure, high rents, renewal fees and other oppressive exactions**. The Moplah movement merged with the ongoing Khilafat agitation.
- **Bardoli Satyagraha (1928)**- It was a movement in the independence struggle **led by Sardar Vallabhai Patel for the farmers of Bardoli against the unjust raising of taxes**.

Maharaja Ranjit Singh

Why in News

Recently, the statue of **Maharaja Ranjit Singh** which was installed in 2019, vandalised by a member of radical outfit **Tehrik-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP)**, a religious organisation at the Lahore Fort in Pakistan's Punjab province.

Key Points

- **Contribution:**
 - He was the founder of the **Sikh Empire by overthrowing Misls**.
 - **Misls** refers to the **sovereign states of the Sikh Confederacy** that rose during the **18th century in the Punjab region** in the northern part of the Indian subcontinent after the collapse of the **Mughal Empire**.
 - He ruled the **northwest Indian subcontinent** in the early half of the **19th century**.
 - He was given the title **Lion of Punjab (Sher-e-Punjab)** for his success in freeing Lahore (his capital) from the Afghan invaders.
 - Ranjit Singh's **trans-regional empire (spread over several states)** 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 — in the **northeast, Khyber pass (route the foreign rulers took to invade India)** in the northwest, and up to Panjnad in the south where the five rivers of Punjab fell into the Indus.

➤ Legacy:

- 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.

➤ International Recognition:

- In 2016, the town of **St Tropez in France unveiled the maharaja's bronze statue** as a mark of respect.
- His throne is displayed prominently at the **Victoria and Albert Museum in London**.
- In 2018, London hosted an **exhibition that focused on the history of the Sikh Empire and the international relations forged by the Maharaja**.

Thamirabarani Civilisation: Tamil Nadu

Why in News

The **Thamirabarani civilisation in Tamil Nadu** is at least **3,200 years old**, reveals **carbon dating** done on organic material retrieved from archeological excavations in **Sivakalai, Thoothukudi district**.

Key Points

- **Thamirabarani River:**
 - The **shortest river in the state (Tamil Nadu)**, the Thamirabarani starts in **Pothigai hills of the Western Ghats in the Ambasamudram taluk**, flows through Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi districts and **empties at Korkai (Tirunelveli district) into the Gulf of Mannar (Bay of Bengal)**.
- **Significance of the Findings:**
 - It could **lead to evidence** that there was a **city civilisation (Porunai River (Thamirabarani) civilization) in south India as long back as 3,200 years ago**, the later part of the **Indus Valley Civilisation**.

Note:



V.O. Chidambaram Pillai

Why in News

Recently, the Prime Minister paid tribute to V. O. Chidambaram Pillai, the legendary freedom fighter on his **150th birth anniversary**.

- He was popularly known as **Kappalottiya Tamilar** (The Tamil Helmsman) and **Sekkizuththa Semmal** (scholarly gentry who suffered at the oil press).

Key Points

- **Vallinayagam Olaganathan Chidambaram Pillai (VOC)** was born **5th September 1872** to an eminent lawyer Olaganathan Pillai and Paramyee Ammai in Ottapidaram, Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu.
- **Entry in Politics:**
 - VOC entered politics in **1905 following the partition of Bengal**.
 - Towards the end of 1905, VOC visited Madras and was drawn closer to the **Swadeshi Movement** initiated by **Bal Gangadhar Tilak** and **Lala Lajpat Rai**.
 - VOC was **drawn towards Ramakrishna Mission** and came into contact with Subramania Bharati and the Mandayam family.
 - It was not until the **arrival of VOC at Tuticorin (Present day Thoothukudi)** that the **Swadeshi movement** in Tirunelveli district began to gather force and momentum.
- **Role Played in Freedom Movement:**
 - By **1906**, VOC won the support of merchants and industrialists in Tuticorin and Tirunelveli for the idea of **establishing a Swadeshi merchant shipping outfit** by the name of the **Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company (SSNCo)**.
 - He **established many institutions** like Swadeshi Prachar Sabha, Dharmasanga Nesavu Salai, National Godown, Madras Agro-Industrial Society Ltd and Desabimana Sangam.
 - VOC and Siva were aided in their efforts by a number of Tirunelveli-based lawyers, who formed **an organisation called the Swadeshi Sangam, or 'National Volunteers'**.
 - The nationalist movement acquired a secondary character with the **beginning of the Tuticorin Coral Mills strike (1908)**.

- Even prior to **Gandhiji's Champaran Satyagraha (1917)**, VOC took up the cause of the working class in Tamil Nadu, and thus he is a **forerunner to Gandhiji in this respect**.
- VOC, along with other leaders, resolved to take out a mammoth procession on the morning of **9th March 1908** to celebrate the **release of Bipin Chandra Pal from jail and to hoist the flag of Swaraj**.
- **Writings:** Meyyaram (1914), Meyyarivu (1915), Anthology (1915), Thirukural with literary notes of Manakudavar (1917), Tholkappiam with literary notes of Ilampooranar (1928), Autobiography (1946).

Acharya Vinoba Bhave

Why in News

Recently, the Prime Minister paid rich tributes to **Acharya Vinoba Bhave** on his birth Anniversary.

Key Points

- One of **India's best-known social reformers** and a widely venerated disciple of **Mohandas K. (Mahatma) Gandhi**. Founder of the **Bhoodan Yajna ("Land-Gift Movement")**.
- **Association with Gandhi:**
 - Attracted towards the **principles and ideologies of Mahatma Gandhi** and considered Gandhi his guru, from both a **political and spiritual point of view**.
 - Abandoned his high school studies in 1916 to join **Gandhi's ashram (ascetic community) at Sabarmati, near Ahmedabad**.
 - Gandhi's teachings led **Bhave to a life of austerity** dedicated to improving Indian village life.
- **Role in Freedom Struggle:**
 - Took part in programs of **non-cooperation** and especially the **call for use of Swadeshi goods** instead of foreign imports.
 - In 1940, he was chosen as the **first Individual Satyagrahi** (an Individual standing up for Truth instead of a collective action) against British Raj by Gandhi in India.
 - Bhave was imprisoned several times during the 1920s and '30s and served a five-year prison sentence in the '40s for leading nonviolent resistance to British rule. He was given the **honorific title acharya ("teacher")**.

➤ **Role in Social Work:**

- Worked tirelessly towards **eradicating social evils** like inequality.
- Influenced by the examples set by Gandhi, he took up the cause of people who were **referred to as Harijans by Gandhi**.
- He **adopted the term Sarvodaya from Gandhi** which simply means "Progress for All".
 - The Sarvodaya movement under him implemented various programs during the 1950s, the chief among which is the **Bhoodan Movement**.

➤ **Bhoodan Movement:**

- In the year 1951, the Harijans of the **Pochampalli village of Telangana** requested him to provide them with **around 80 acres of land to make a living**.
- Vinoba asked the landlords of the village to come forward and save the Harijans. and a landlord got up and offered the required land. This incident added a **new chapter in the history of sacrifices and non-violence**.
- It was the beginning of the **Bhoodan (Gift of the Land) movement**.
- The **movement continued for thirteen years** and Vinoba toured the **length and breadth of the country**, a total distance of 58741 Km.
- He was successful in collecting around 4.4 million acres of land, of which around 1.3 million was distributed among poor landless farmers.
- The movement attracted admiration from all over the world and was commended for being the only experiment of his kind to incite voluntary social justice.

➤ **Literary Work:**

- His important books include: Swarajya Sastra, Geeta Pravachane, Teesri Shakti or The Third Power etc.

➤ **Awards:**

- Vinoba Bhave was the **first international figure to receive the Ramon Magsaysay Award** in 1958. He was **awarded Bharat Ratna** posthumously in 1983.

Udham Singh

Why in News

Amid criticism of the renovated **Jallianwala Bagh** memorial, some people raise questions over the statue of **Shaheed Udham Singh** installed at the Bagh.

Key Points

➤ **About:**

- Born in Sunam in Punjab's Sangrur district in 1899, also referred to as **Shaheed-i-Azam Sardar Udham Singh** which means 'Great Martyr'.
- He is regarded as one of the foremost revolutionaries of the **Indian Freedom Struggle**.
- Following the **Jallianwala Massacre** on 13th April 1919, he got profoundly **involved in revolutionary activities** and politics. He was deeply influenced by **Bhagat Singh**.
- He joined the **Ghadar Party** in 1924 to organise overseas Indians with the purpose of overthrowing colonial rule.
- On **13th March, 1940, Singh shot Michael O'Dwyer** instead of **General Dyer** at a meeting of the East India Association and the Royal Central Asian Society at Caxton Hill.
 - General Dyer, who ordered open firing on people protesting against the **Rowlatt Act**.
- He was **sentenced to death and was hanged on 31st July, 1940** at Pentonville Prison in London.

➤ **Ghadar Party:**

- It was an **Indian revolutionary organisation**, with the aim to **liberate India from British rule**.
 - 'Ghadar' – also written as 'Ghadr' in English – is an **Urdu word for rebellion**.
- The party was **formed in the United States in 1913, by migrant Indians, mostly Punjabis**. However, the party also included Indians from all parts of India.
 - Motive was to wage a **nationwide armed struggle against British colonialism** in India.

Battle of Saragarhi

Why in News

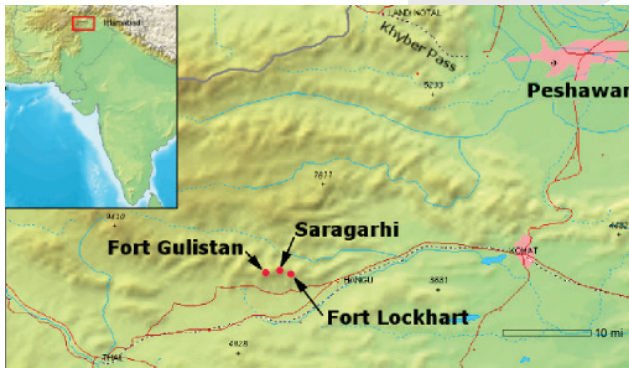
Recently, **12th September** marked the **124th anniversary of the Battle of Saragarhi**.

Key Points

- The Battle of Saragarhi is considered **one of the finest last stands in the military history of the world**.
- **Saragarhi** was the **communication tower between Fort Lockhart and Fort Gulistan**. The two forts in the rugged **North West Frontier Province (NWFP)**, now

in Pakistan, were built by **Maharaja Ranjit Singh** but renamed by the British.

- Saragarhi helped to link up the two important forts which housed a large number of British troops in the rugged terrain of NWFP.
- **Twenty-one soldiers were pitted against over 8,000 Afridi and Orakzai tribals** but they managed to hold the fort for seven hours.
- Though Saragarhi was usually manned by a platoon of 40 soldiers, on that fateful day, it was being held by only 21 soldiers from 36th Sikh Regiment (now 4th Sikh in Indian Army) and a **non-combatant called Daad**, a Pashtun who did odd jobs for the troops.
- Though heavily outnumbered, the soldiers of 36th Sikhs, **led by Havildar Ishar Singh**, fought till their last breath, killing 200 tribals and injuring 600.
- In 2017, the Punjab government decided to observe Saragarhi Day on 12th September as a holiday.
- Even today the **Khyber Scouts** regiment of the Pakistani army mounts a guard and salutes the Saragarhi memorial close to Fort Lockhart.



Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh

Why in News

Recently, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of **Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh (1886-1979) State University** in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh.

Key Points

- **Brief Profile: Born in Hathras (UP) in 1886**, he was a **freedom fighter, revolutionary, writer, social reformer, and internationalist**.
- He was well versed in eight different languages and practised different religions.

- **Promoted Education:** In **1909**, he gave up his own residence in Mathura to be converted into a technical school named **Prem Mahavidyalaya**.
 - It is said to have been the **country's first polytechnic**.
- **Contribution to the Freedom Struggle:**
 - In **1913**, he took part in **Gandhi's** campaign in **South Africa**.
 - He established a **"Provisional Government of India (Bagh-e-Babur)"** in **Kabul** in the middle of **World War-I in 1915**.
 - He declared himself **president**, and his fiery fellow revolutionary **Maulana Barkatullah of Bhopal**, **prime minister**, of the Provisional Government.
 - He is said to have **met Vladimir Lenin in 1919**, two years after the Bolshevik Revolution (in Russia).
 - In **1925**, he **went on a mission to Tibet and met the Dalai Lama**. He was primarily on an unofficial economic mission on behalf of Afghanistan, but he also wanted to expose the British brutalities in India.
 - The Raja **finally returned to India a year before Independence**, and immediately began work with Mahatma Gandhi.
- **Others:**
 - In **1929**, he launched the **World Federation** (which later became the force behind the **United Nations**) in **Berlin**. He was **nominated for the 1932 Nobel Peace Prize**.
 - In free India, he diligently **pursued his ideal of panchayati raj**.
 - He **entered Lok Sabha** as an Independent candidate from Mathura in **1957**.

Gupta Period

Temple Remains Found: UP

Why in News

Recently, the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** discovered remains of an ancient temple dating back to the **Gupta period (5th century)** in **Bilsarh village** in Uttar Pradesh's **Etah district**.

- The Bilsarh site was **declared 'protected' in 1928 by the ASI**.

Note:



Key Points

➤ About:

- Two pillars were excavated on which there is an inscription about **Kumaragupta I**, the powerful ruler of Gupta dynasty, in 'sankh lipi' (conch script or shell script) typical of the 5th century AD.
 - The **Guptas were the first to build structural temples**, distinctly different from the ancient rock-cut temples.
- The inscription was **deciphered as Mahendraditya** which was the **title of king Kumargupta I** who had even conducted **ashwamedh yagya** during his rule.
 - The **statue of a horse having similar inscription** is at the state museum in **Lucknow**.
 - **Ashvamedha Yagya** is a horse sacrifice ritual followed by the Srauta tradition of Vedic religion.
- The discovery becomes significant since only two other structural temples from the Gupta age have been found so far — **Dashavatara Temple (Deogarh)** and **Bhitargaon Temple (Kanpur Dehat)**.

➤ Shankhalipi Script:

- Also called "**shell-script**" is found in inscriptions across north-central India and dates to between the **4th and 8th centuries**.
 - Both **Shankhalipi and Brahmi are stylised scripts** used primarily for names and signatures.
 - The inscriptions consist of a **small number of characters**, suggesting that the shell inscriptions are **names or auspicious symbols** or a combination of the two.
- It was **discovered in 1836** on a brass trident in Uttarakhand's Barahat by English scholar **James Prinsep**.
- **Prominent sites with shell inscriptions:** Mundeshwari Temple (Bihar), the **Udayagiri Caves** (Madhya Pradesh), Mansar (Maharashtra) and some of the cave sites of Gujarat and Maharashtra.
 - These **inscriptions are also reported in Indonesia's Java and Borneo**.

➤ Kumaragupta-I:

- He was the **Successor of Chandragupta-II** and had a long reign from **414 to 455 A.D.**
- He performed the Asvamedha Yajna which was confirmed by **Asvamedha coins**. The discovery of **his 1395 coins confirms his extension towards the South**.

- His period is also regarded as **forming part of the Golden Age of the Guptas**.
- Towards the middle of the fifth century A.D. The reign of the Kumaragupta-I was **disturbed by the revolt of Pushyamitra tribe** and the invasion of the **Hunas**.
 - His greatest achievement was his **repulsing the attack of the Pushyamitra**.
- After the death of Kumaragupta-I **Skandagupta succeeded in 455 A.D.** and reigned from **455 to 467 A.D.**

Gupta Empire

➤ About:

- The Gupta Empire stretched across **northern, central and parts of southern India** between **320 and 550 CE**.
- The period is noted for its achievements in the **arts, architecture, sciences, religion, and philosophy**.
- **Chandragupta I (320 – 335 CE)** started a **rapid expansion** of the Gupta Empire and soon established himself as the **first sovereign ruler of the empire**.
- It marked the **end of 500 hundred years of domination of the provincial powers** and resulting disquiet that began with the **fall of the Mauryas**.
- It began a period of overall prosperity and growth that continued for the next two and half centuries which came to be **known as a Golden Age in India's history**.

➤ Governance:

- The efficiency of their **martial system was well known**. The large kingdom was divided into smaller **pradesha** (provinces).

➤ Trade:

- **Gold and silver coins** were issued in great numbers which is a general indicator of the health of the economy.
- Trade and commerce flourished both within the country and outside. **Silk, cotton, spices, medicine, priceless gemstones, pearl, precious metal and steel** were exported by sea.

➤ Religion:

- They were devout **Vaishnava (Hindus who worship the Supreme Creator as Vishnu)** themselves, yet that did not prevent them from being **tolerant towards the believers of Buddhism and Jainism**.

Note:



➤ **Literature:**

- Poet and playwright **Kalidasa** created such epics as *Abhijnanasakuntalam*, *Malavikagnimitram*, *Raghuvansha* and *Kumarsambhaba*. **Harishena** composed *Allahabad Prasasti*, **Sudraka** wrote *Mricchakatika*, **Vishakhadatta** created *Mudrarakshasa* and **Vishnusharma** penned *Panchatantra*.
- **Varahamihira** wrote *Brihatsamhita* and also contributed to the fields of astronomy and astrology. Genius mathematician and astronomer **Aryabhata** wrote *Surya Siddhanta* which covered several aspects of geometry, trigonometry and cosmology. **Shanku** devoted himself to creating texts about Geography.

➤ **Architecture:**

- The finest examples of painting, sculpture and architecture of the period can be found in **Ajanta, Ellora, Sarnath, Mathura, Anuradhapura** and **Sigiriya**.

Shyamji Krishna Varma

Why in News

The Prime Minister paid tributes to **revolutionary freedom fighter Shyamji Krishna Varma** on his birth anniversary (4th October).

Key Points

- Shyamji Krishna Varma was **born** on 4th October, 1857 in **Mandvi town of Kachchh district of Gujarat**.
- He was **an expert in Sanskrit and other languages**.
 - His deep knowledge of the Sanskrit language caught the attention of **Monier Williams**, a professor of the subject in Oxford University.
- He was inspired by **Bal Gangadhar Tilak**, **Swami Dayanand Saraswati** and **Herbert Spencer**.
- He **founded the Indian Home Rule Society, India House and The Indian Sociologist** in London.
 - Indian Home Rule Society and the India House worked towards **inspiring youngsters in Britain** to take up revolutionary activities against their own representatives in India.
 - The monthly Indian Sociologist became an outlet for **nationalist ideas** and through the **Indian Home Rule Society**, he criticised the British rule in India.

- Varma became the **first President of Bombay Arya Samaj**. He **inspired Veer Savarkar** who was a member of India House in London. Varma also served as the **Divan of a number of states** in India.
 - Swami Dayanand Saraswati was the founder of the Hindu reform organisation Arya Samaj.
- He was a **barrister in London**, when in 1905, he was barred from practising law by the Inner Temple following **charges of sedition** for writing against the colonial government.
 - The move was significant as the **Honourable Society of the Inner Temple** is one of the **four professional associations for barristers** and judges in London.
 - He was **posthumously reinstated by the Inner Temple in 2015** after the Inn's governing council noted that Varma "did not receive an entirely fair hearing".
- In the face of criticism by the British, Varma **shifted his base from England to Paris** and continued his movement.
- After the outbreak of the **Second World War (1939-45)**, however, he **moved to Geneva in Switzerland** and spent the rest of his life there. He died on 30th March, 1930.

Gandhi Jayanti

Why in News

2nd October, 2021 marked the **152nd birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi**.

- India also pays tribute to **Lal Bahadur Shastri** on the same day every year.

Key Points

- **Brief Profile:** Lawyer, politician, social activist, and writer who became the leader of the nationalist movement against the British rule of India.
- **Satyagrah:** In South Africa (1893-1915), he had successfully fought the racist regime with a novel method of mass agitation, which he called satyagraha.
 - The idea of satyagraha emphasised the power of truth and the need to search for truth with non-violence.
 - The **International Day of Non-Violence is observed on 2nd October**, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi.

Note:



- **Gandhi Peace Prize** is given for social, economic and political transformation through non-violence and other **Gandhian methods**.
- **Return to India:** He returned to India from South Africa on 9th January 1915.
 - **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)** is celebrated on 9th January every year to mark the contribution of the Overseas Indian community in the development of India.
- **Satyagraha Movements in India:** Mahatma Gandhi believed that the dharma of non-violence could unite all Indians.
 - In 1916 he travelled to Champaran in Bihar to inspire the peasants to struggle against the oppressive plantation system.
 - In 1917, he organised a satyagraha to support the peasants of the Kheda district of Gujarat. Affected by crop failure and a plague epidemic, the peasants of Kheda could not pay the revenue, and were demanding that **revenue collection be relaxed**.
 - In 1918, he went to Ahmedabad to organise a satyagraha movement **amongst cotton mill workers**.
 - In 1919, he decided to launch a nationwide satyagraha against the proposed **Rowlatt Act (1919)**.
 - The Act gave the government enormous powers to repress political activities, and allowed detention of political prisoners without trial for two years.
 - On 13th April, 1919 the infamous **Jallianwalla Bagh incident** took place. Seeing violence spread, Mahatma Gandhi called off the movement (18th April, 1919).
- **Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-22):** At the Calcutta session of the Congress in September 1920, he convinced other leaders of the need to start a non-cooperation movement in support of Khilafat as well as for swaraj.
 - At the **Congress session at Nagpur in December 1920**, the Non-Cooperation programme was adopted.
 - In February 1922, Mahatma Gandhi decided to withdraw the Non-Cooperation Movement after the **Chauri-Chaura incident**.
- **The Salt March:** In 1930, Gandhiji declared that he would lead a march to break the salt law.
 - He marched from Gandhi's ashram in Sabarmati to the Gujarati coastal town of Dandi, where they broke the government law by gathering natural salt found on the seashore, and boiling sea water to produce salt.
- This marked the beginning of the Civil Disobedience Movement.
- **Civil Disobedience Movement:**
 - In 1931, Gandhi accepted a truce (the **Gandhi-Irwin Pact**), called off civil disobedience, and agreed to attend the Second Round Table Conference in London as the sole representative of the Indian National Congress.
 - After returning from London, Mahatma Gandhi relaunched the Civil Disobedience Movement. For over a year, the movement continued, but by 1934 it lost its momentum.
- **Quit India Movement:**
 - With the outbreak of **World War II (1939-45)**, the nationalist struggle in India entered its last crucial phase.
 - The failure of the mission of Stafford Cripps, a British cabinet minister who went to India in March 1942 with an offer that Gandhi found unacceptable, the British equivocation on the transfer of power to Indian hands, and the encouragement given by high British officials to conservative and communal forces promoting discord between Muslims and Hindus impelled Gandhi to demand in the summer of 1942 an immediate British withdrawal from India—what became known as the Quit India Movement.
- **Social Work:**
 - He worked for the upliftment of untouchables and gave them a new name 'Harijan' meaning the children of God.
 - In September 1932, B.R. Ambedkar negotiated the **Poona Pact** with Mahatma Gandhi.
 - His symbol of **self-reliance - the spinning wheel** - became a popular symbol of the Indian Independence Movement.
 - He **played a key role in pacifying people and averting the Hindu-Muslim riots** as tensions rose before and during the partition of the country.
 - He founded the **Hindustani Prachar Sabha in 1942** at Wardha in Maharashtra. The aim of the organisation was to promote Hindustani, a link language between Hindi and Urdu.

- **Books Written:** Hind Swaraj, My Experiments with Truth (Autobiography)

Republics in Ancient India

Why in News

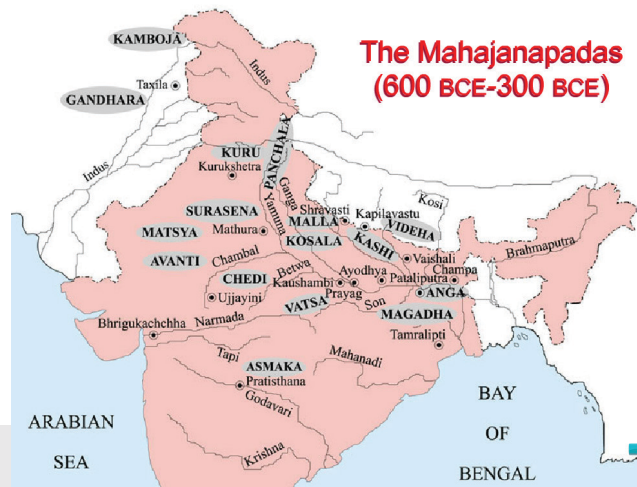
Recently, while addressing the **United Nations General Assembly**, the Prime Minister made an important historical point that **India is not just the world's largest democracy, but also the Mother of Democracy.**

- There is evidence of the existence of **proto forms of democracy and republicanism** in ancient India.

Key Points

- **Vedic Governance:** The Vedas describe at least **two forms of republican governance**:
 - **Monarchy:** The first would consist of elected kings. This has always been seen as an early form of democracy.
 - **Republics:** The second form is that of rule without a monarch, with power vested in a council or sabha.
 - The membership of such sabhas was not always determined by birth, but they often **comprised people who had distinguished themselves by their actions.**
 - There is even a hint of the **modern bicameral system of legislatures**, with the **sabha** often sharing power with the **samiti**, which was made up of **common people.**
 - The **vidhaata**, or the assembly of people for debating policy, military matters and important issues impacting all, has been mentioned more than a hundred times in the **Rig Veda.** Both **women and men** took part in these deliberations.
- **Buddhist Canons:**
 - The **Buddhist** Canon, both in **Sanskrit** (in which much of Mahayana Buddhist literature was written) and in **Pali** (in which much of Hinayana literature was written) has extensive reference to republics in India, e.g. the **Lichchavi city of Vaishali.**
 - It also describes in detail Vaishali's rivalry with neighbouring Magadha, which was a monarchy. Had the Lichchavis won, the trajectory of governance may well have been non-monarchical in the Subcontinent.

- **The Mahanibbana Sutta** (Pali Buddhist work) and the **Avadaana Shatak** (a Sanskrit Buddhist text of the second century A.D) also mention that certain areas were under a republican form of government.
- Buddhist and Jain texts list **16 powerful states or mahajanapadas of the time.**



- **Kautilya's Arthashastra:**
 - Other sources appear in the **Ashtadhyayi of Panini, the Arthashastra of Kautilya, etc.**
 - **Elements of State by Kautilya:** Any state is thought of as composed of seven elements. The first three are swami or the king, amatya or the ministers (administration) and janapada or the people.
 - The king must function on the advice of the **amatyas** for the good of the people.
 - The ministers are appointed from amongst the people (the Arthashastra also **mentions entrance tests**).
 - As per the Arthashastra, in the **happiness and benefit of his people lies the happiness and benefit of the King.**

Bhaskarabda: A Luni-Solar Calendar

Why in News

Recently, the Assam Government has announced that **Bhaskarabda, a Luni-Solar Calendar** will be used as an official calendar.

- Presently, the official calendar of Assam government makes use of the **Saka calendar and the Gregorian calendar.**

Note:



- However, the **Bhaskarabda calendar will also be used** from now onwards.

Key Points

➤ About:

- Bhaskarabda, an era counted from the date of the ascension of a **7th century local ruler Bhaskar Varman**.
- It is based on **both the phases of the moon and the solar year**.
- It began when **Bhaskaravarman was crowned ruler of the Kamarupa kingdom**.
 - He was a contemporary and political ally of northern Indian ruler **Harshavardhana**.
- The **gap between Bhaskarabda and Gregorian is 593 years**.

➤ Type of Calendars:

○ Solar:

- Any dating system **based on the seasonal year of approximately 365 1/4 days**, the time it takes the Earth to revolve once around the Sun.

○ Lunar:

- Any dating system **based on a year consisting of synodic months**—i.e., complete cycles of phases of the Moon.

○ Luni-Solar:

- In the lunisolar calendar **months are lunar but years are solar**, it was used in the early civilizations of the **whole Middle East** and in Greece.

➤ Bhaskarvarman (600–650):

- He belonged to the **Varman dynasty** and was the **ruler of Kamarupa Kingdom**.
 - **Kamarupa** was one of the most advanced kingdoms in India under Bhaskaravarman. Kamarupa was the first historical kingdom of Assam.
- His name has been immortalised in the accounts of the **Chinese Buddhist pilgrim, Xuanzang**, who visited Kamarupa during his reign.

Classification of calendars in India

➤ Vikram Samvat (Hindu lunar calendar):

- It dates back to 57 B.C where **57 B.C. is the zero year**.
- Introduced by **King Vikramaditya** to mark his victory over the **Saka rulers**.
- It is a lunar calendar as it is **based on the movement of the moon**.

- Every year is divided into 12 months and each month is divided into two phases.
 - The **bright half is called the Shuklapaksha** (15 days). It starts with the new moon and ends with a full moon.

- The **dark half is called the Krishnapaksha** (15 days). It starts with the full moon and ends with a new moon.

- The month begins with the dark half. There are 354 days in a year.

- Hence **every third and fifth year in a cycle of five years** has 13 months (the 13th month is called Adhik Mass).

➤ Saka Samvat (Hindu Solar calendar):

- The zero year of Saka Samvat is 78 A.D.

- It was started by **Saka rulers to mark their victory over Kushanas**.

- It is a solar calendar, any dating system based on the seasonal year of approximately 365 1/4 days, the time it takes the Earth to revolve once around the Sun.

- It was adopted by the Government of India as the **official calendar in the year 1957**.

- Every year has 365 days.

➤ Hijri calendar (Islamic lunar calendar):

- The zero year is 622 A.D.

- It was initially **started and followed in Saudi Arabia**.

- Every year has **12 months and 354 days**.

- The **first month is called Muharram**.

- Ninth month is called **Ramzaan**.

- During this month, Muslims observe a fast for the purification of souls. The morning breakfast is called Shehri and evening food is called Iftar.

➤ Gregorian calendar (Scientific solar calendar):

- The Gregorian calendar is used as the civil calendar.

- It began to be **used from 1582**.

- It is named after **Pope Gregory XIII**, who introduced the calendar.

- It substituted the earlier Julian calendar because the Julian calendar had a **miscalculation regarding leap year**.

- The Julian year had 365.25 days.

- He is **known for his alliance with Harshavardhana against Shashanka**, the first major ruler of Bengal (Karnasuvarna).

Mount Manipur and Anglo-Manipur War

Why in News

Recently, the Union government has **renamed Mount Harriet of Andaman and Nicobar (A&N) Islands to Mount Manipur**.

Key Points

- **About:**
 - Mount Harriet, the **third-highest island peak** in A&N Islands, where **Manipur's Maharaja Kulachandra Singh** and 22 other freedom fighters were **imprisoned during the Anglo-Manipuri war (1891)**.
 - It has been renamed in a tribute to those freedom fighters of Manipur.
 - Manipur celebrates **Khongjom Day on 23rd April** in commemoration of the freedom fighters of Anglo-Manipuri War.
- **Anglo-Manipuri War:**
 - **Background:**
 - In **1886**, when Surchandra inherited the throne from his father Chandrakirti Singh, the **kingdom of Manipur was not under British rule** but had links with the crown through different treaties.
 - However, **Surchandra's ascension to the throne was controversial** and his **younger brothers - Kulachandra, Tikendrajit - revolted** against him.
 - The **1890 coup by the rebel faction removed Surchandra, and proclaimed Kulachandra**, the next oldest brother, **the king**. Surchandra fled to Calcutta **seeking British help** to reinstate him.
 - **British Imposition:**
 - The British **dispatched James Quinton**, the Chief Commissioner of Assam, **with an army to Manipur**. His mission was to recognise Kulachandra as the king **under the condition that they be allowed to arrest the coup leader Crown Prince Tikendrajit** and deport him from Manipur.

- This aggressive imposition of British law in a sovereign state was rejected by the king, **precipitating the Anglo-Manipuri War of 1891**.

○ Culmination:

- In the **first phase of the war**, the British surrendered and their officers - including Quinton - were executed in public.
- In the **second phase**, the British attacked Manipur from three sides, and finally **captured the Kangla Fort in Imphal**.
 - Prince Tikendrajit and four others were hanged by the British, while Kulachandra, along with 22 others, were deported to the Andaman Islands.
- Despite their victory, it had led to the death of five important officers.
 - In India, it was viewed as being part of the general uprising against British rule in the country, soon after the **Revolt of 1857**.
- The **war led to Manipur officially becoming a princely state** under the indirect rule of the British crown.

Azad Hind Formation Anniversary

Why in News

The anniversary of the formation of the **Azad Hind Government** is celebrated on **21st October** every year.

- The day marks the **announcement of India's first independent provisional government** named Azad Hind Government.

Key Points

- On **21st October 1943**, **Subhash Chandra Bose** announced the **formation of the Provisional Government of Azad Hind (Free India) in Singapore**, with himself as the Head of State, Prime Minister and Minister of War.
- The Provisional Government not only enabled Bose to negotiate with the Japanese on an equal footing but also **facilitated the mobilisation of Indians in East Asia to join and support the Indian National Army (INA)**.

- The struggle for independence was carried on by Subhash Chandra Bose from abroad. He found the **outbreak of the Second World War** (1939-45) to be a convenient opportunity to strike a blow for the freedom of India.
- Bose had been put **under house arrest in 1940** but he managed to **escape to Berlin** on 28th March, 1941. The Indian community there **acclaimed him as the leader (Netaji)**. He was **greeted with 'Jai Hind'** (Salute to the motherland).
- In **1942**, the **Indian Independence League was formed** and a decision was taken to form the Indian National Army (INA) for the liberation of India.
- On an invitation from Ras Bihari Bose, Subhash Chandra Bose **came to East Asia on 13th June, 1943**. He was made **president of the Indian Independence League and the leader of the INA** popularly called '**Azad Hind Fauj**'.
 - The **INA was first formed under Mohan Singh and Japanese Major Iwaichi Fujiwara** and comprised Indian prisoners of war of the British-Indian Army captured by Japan in the Malayan (present-day Malaysia) campaign and at Singapore.
 - In **November 1945**, a British move to put the **INA men on trial** immediately sparked massive demonstrations all over the country.
- He gave the famous **battle cry 'Chalo Dilli'**. He promised independence to Indians saying, 'tum mujhe khoon do, main tumhe Azadi dunga' (You give me blood, I will give you freedom).

Subhash Chandra Bose

➤ Birth:

- Subhas Chandra Bose was born on **23rd January 1897**, in Cuttack, Orissa **Division, Bengal Province**, to Prabhavati Dutt Bose and Janakinath Bose.
 - His Jayanti is celebrated as '**Parakram Diwas**' on 23rd January.

➤ Education and Early Life:

- In 1919, he had **cleared the Indian Civil Services (ICS) examination**. Bose, however, resigned later.
- He was highly **influenced by Vivekananda's teachings** and considered him as his spiritual Guru.



- His **political mentor was Chittaranjan Das**.
 - He worked as the editor for Das's newspaper, Forward, and later started **his own newspaper, Swaraj**.
- **Association with Congress:**
 - He stood for **unqualified swaraj (independence)**, and **opposed the Motilal Nehru Report** which spoke for dominion status for India.
 - He actively **participated in the Salt Satyagraha of 1930** and vehemently **opposed** the suspension of **Civil Disobedience Movement** and signing of the **Gandhi-Irwin Pact in 1931**.
 - In the 1930s, he was closely **associated with left politics** in Congress along with **Jawaharlal Nehru and M.N. Roy**.
 - Bose **won the congress presidential elections at Haripura in 1938**.
 - **Again in 1939 at Tripuri**, he won the presidential elections against Gandhi's candidate Pattabhi Sitaramayya. Due to ideological differences with Gandhi, Bose resigned and left congress. Rajendra Prasad was appointed in his place.
 - He founded a **new party, 'the Forward Bloc'**. The purpose was to consolidate the political left and major support base in his home state Bengal.

Adi Shankaracharya

Why in News

Recently, the Prime Minister has unveiled a **12-foot statue of Adi Shankaracharya at Kedarnath (Uttarakhand)**.

Key Points

➤ About:

- Known as **Adi Shankara**, born 11th May 788 AD, at Kaladi near Kochi, Kerala.
 - Took Samadhi at the age of 33, at Kedar tirth.
- He was a devotee of Shiva.
- Propounded the **Doctrine of Advaita (Monism)** and wrote many commentaries on the Vedic canon (Upanishads, Brahma Sutras and Bhagavad Gita) in Sanskrit.
- He was opposed to **Buddhist philosophers**.

➤ Major Work:

Note:



- Brahmasutrabhasya (Bhashya or commentary on the Brahma Sutra).
- Bhaja Govindam Stotra.
- Nirvana Shatakam.
- Prakaran Granths.
- **Other Contributions:**
 - Was **responsible for reviving Hinduism in India** to a great extent when Buddhism was gaining popularity.
 - Established four Mathas in the four corners of India at **Shingeri, Puri, Dwaraka and Badrinath**—for propagation of Sanathana Dharma.
- **Advaita Vedanta:**
 - It articulates a philosophical position of radical nondualism, a revisionary worldview which it derives from the ancient Upanishadic texts.
 - According to Advaita Vedantins, the Upanishads reveal a fundamental principle of nonduality termed 'brahman', which is the reality of all things.
 - Advaitins understand **brahman as transcending individuality and empirical plurality**. They seek to establish that **the essential core of one's self (atman) is brahman**.
 - The fundamental thrust of Advaita Vedanta is that the atman is pure non-intentional consciousness.
 - It is one without a second, nondual, infinite existence, and numerically identical with brahman.

Abul Kalam Azad: National Education Day

Why in News

Every year, **11th November** is celebrated as **National education day**, which commemorates the **birth anniversary of independent India's first education minister, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad**.

Key Points

- **Birth:** Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, **originally named Muhiyuddin Ahmad**, was born on **11th November 1888 in Mecca, Saudi-Arabia**.
- Azad was a **brilliant debater**, as indicated by his name - "Abul Kalam" which literally means "Lord of Dialogues".

- **Brief Profile:**
 - He donned many hats of being a **journalist, freedom fighter, politician, and educationist**.
- **Contributions (Pre-Independence):**
 - He was a **proponent of Hindu Muslim unity, opposed to Partition**.
 - In **1912**, he started a **weekly journal in Urdu called Al-Hilal** which played an important role in forging Hindu-Muslim unity after the bad blood created between the two communities in the aftermath of **Morley-Minto reforms (1909)**.
 - Under the 1909 reforms, the **provision of separate electorates for Muslims was resented by Hindu**.
 - Maulana Abul Kalam Azad then **started another weekly called Al-Balagh** with the same mission of propagating Indian nationalism and revolutionary ideas based on Hindu-Muslim unity.
 - In **1916**, the **government banned this paper too** and expelled Maulana Abul Kalam Azad from Calcutta and exiled him to Bihar from where he was released after the **First World War 1920**.
 - Azad **supported the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-22)** started by Gandhiji and **entered the Indian National Congress in 1920**.
 - In **1923**, he was **elected as the president of Indian National Congress**.
 - Maulana Azad was **arrested in 1930 for violation of the salt laws** as part of **Gandhiji's Salt Satyagraha**. He was put in Meerut jail for a year and a half.
 - He **again became the president of Congress in 1940** and remained in the post till 1946.
- **An Educationist:**
 - In the field of education, Maulana Azad had been an **uncompromising exponent of universalism**, a truly liberal and humanitarian educational system.
 - Azad's ideal was a **fusion of the Eastern and Western concepts of man**, to create a fully integrated personality. Whereas the Eastern concept dwelt on spiritual excellence and individual salvation, the Western concept laid stress on worldly achievements and social progress.
 - He was **one of the founding members of the Jamia Millia Islamia University**, originally established at Aligarh in the United Provinces in 1920.

Note:



- **His Works:** Basic Concept of Quran, Ghubar-e-Khatir, Dars-e-Wafa, India Wins Freedom, etc.
- **Contributions (Post-Independence):**
 - In 1947, he became the **first education minister of free India and remained at this post till his death in 1958**. In his tenure, he did tremendous work for the upliftment of the country.
 - The first IIT, IISc, School of Planning and Architecture and the University Grants Commission were established under his tenure as the education minister.
 - **Indian Council for Cultural Relations**, for introduction of Indian culture to other nations.
 - Following **three academics** were formed:
 - **Sahitya Academy** for development of literature;
 - **Sangeet Natak Academy** for the development of Indian music and dance;
 - **Lalit Kala Academy** for the development of painting.
- Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was posthumously awarded India's highest civilian honour, **Bharat Ratna** in 1992.

Great Ancient Kings: Alexander & Chandragupta

Why in News

Recently, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister said that **Chandragupta Maurya** had defeated **Alexander** and yet, it is the latter whom historians have chosen to call **great**.

- Alexander was referred to as great by early historians. Similarly in Indian history, 'great' has been used for the emperors **Ashoka, Rajaraja and Rajendra Chola, and Akbar**, among others.
- The Chola emperors **Rajaraja I (985-1014)** and **Rajendra I (1014-1044)** built **strong navies** that conquered the Maldives, and reached Sri Lanka and several countries of Southeast Asia across the Bay of Bengal.

Alexander (356-323 BC)

- **About:**
 - Alexander was **born in 356 BC at Pella in ancient Greece**, and succeeded his father, king Phillip II, to the throne at the age of 20.
 - Over the next 10 years, Alexander led campaigns across large parts of West Asia and North Africa.

- In **330 BC, he defeated Darius III in the decisive battle of Gaugamela**, and after a long campaign in Bactria in the region of the Amu Darya north of today's Afghanistan, he crossed the Hindu Kush and entered the Kabul valley.



- **Indian Campaign:**
 - In **326/327 BC, Alexander crossed the Indus**, the farthest frontier of the old Persian empire, and began his Indian campaign that lasted about two years.
 - The king of Taxila surrendered to Alexander, but **beyond the Jhelum he was challenged by the legendary warrior** whom Greek sources have identified as **Porus**.
 - In the **battle of Hydaspes** that followed, Alexander won, but following his famous interview with Porus — during which the wounded king is said to have demanded that the invading emperor treat him “as befits a king” — was impressed enough to return to the captive Porus his kingdom, and to **leave him in charge of Punjab when the Greek army ultimately retreated**.
- **Retreat:**
 - After the defeat of Porus, Alexander wished to march on into the heartland of the Gangetic basin — but **upon reaching the Beas, the last of the five rivers of Punjab, his generals refused to go further**.
 - Alexander was forced to turn back, and **he followed the Indus southward to its delta, where he sent part of his army to Mesopotamia by sea**, while leading the other part overland along the Makran coast.

Note:



- He reached Susa in Persia in 324 BC, and in the following year, died in the ancient city of Babylon, to the south of today's Baghdad.
- His aborted Indian campaign notwithstanding, **Alexander is believed to have died undefeated in any battle** — seemingly fulfilling the prophecies that he would conquer the entire world.
- At the time Alexander turned back from the threshold of India, his army was tired and homesick, they had wearied of fighting in the heavy Indian monsoon, and it is possible they were **intimidated by stories of two great armies** that lay in wait for them ahead:
 - That of the **Nandas of Magadha** (c. 362 BC-321 BC), comprising, according to Greek writers, at least 20,000 cavalry, 200,000 infantry, and 3,000 war elephants.
 - And the **Gangaridai empire** corresponds to what is today West Bengal and parts of Bangladesh.

Chandragupta

➤ About:

- Chandragupta Maurya was the **architect of the Mauryan empire (321 B.C - 185 B.C) that controlled the plains of both the Indus and the Ganga**, and which stretched until the eastern and western oceans.
 - With Pataliputra at its imperial centre, the **Mauryan Empire for the first time unified most of South Asia**.
- Greek and Indian sources agree that **Chandragupta overthrew the unpopular last king of the Nandas, Dhana Nanda**, and occupied his capital, Pataliputra.
 - **Chandragupta** is said to have been a **protege of the Brahmin philosopher Kautilya** who, having been insulted by the Nanda king, bore a grudge against him.
 - **Chanakya, also known as Kautilya and Vishnugupta**, to whom is attributed the legendary **Arthashastra**, the pioneering Indian treatise on political science, statecraft, military strategy, and economy.
- Buddhist texts say **Chandragupta Maurya belonged to the kshatriya Moriya clan associated with the Shakyas**.
 - Brahmanical texts, however, refer to the **Mauryas as shudras and heretics**.

➤ Movement to North-West:

- He moved north-west to occupy the power vacuum left by the retreat of Alexander's army.
- These areas fell to him rapidly, **until he reached the Indus. Here he paused as the Greek Seleucus Nicator** — the successor to Alexander — had fortified his hold on the area.
 - Consequently, "Chandragupta moved to central India for a while, but 305 BC saw him back in the north-west, **involved in a campaign against Selucus**", in which he was successful.
- By the **peace treaty that was negotiated in 303 BC**, some Seleucid territories that today would cover **eastern Afghanistan, Balochistan, and Makran were ceded to the Maurya**.
- Some matrimonial alliances followed as well, and during the campaign and afterward, there was considerable **cultural contact between the Mauryans and the Greeks**.
- With the treaty of 303 BC, **the routes and nodal points of the north-west region shifted from Persian-Hellenistic to Mauryan control**.



Paika Rebellion: 1817

Why in News

Recently, the Centre has said that the **Paika rebellion cannot be called the first War of Independence**.

- It has also been suggested that it would be included as a **case study in the Class 8 National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) history textbook**.
- For the first time in 2017, the **Odisha state cabinet had passed a proposal to formally urge the centre**

Note:



to declare the Paika rebellion as the first war of Independence.

- In 2018 the Government released the **commemorative coin and postage stamp** in memory of the Paika Rebellion.

Key Points

➤ About:

- The Paikas (pronounced “paiko”, literally ‘foot soldiers’), were a class of military retainers had been recruited since the 16th century by kings in Odisha from a variety of social groups to render martial services in return for hereditary rent-free land (nish-kar jagirs) and titles.
- When the British arrived they were peasant militias of the Gajapati ruler Mukund Dev II, of Odisha.

➤ Paika Rebellion\Revolt:

- The Paika Bidroha (Paika Rebellion) of 1817 took place nearly 40 years before the first sepoy mutiny.
- Bakshi Jagabandhu Bidyadhar Mohapatra Bharamarbar Rai, the highest-ranking military general of Mukund Dev II, and erstwhile holder of the lucrative Rodanga estate, led an army of Paikas to join the uprising of the Kondhs. They confronted the British on 2nd April 1817.
 - The Paikas were supported by the rajas, zamindars, village heads and ordinary peasants. The rebellion quickly spread to different parts of the province.
- Government buildings in Banapur were set on fire, policemen killed and the British treasury looted.
- Over the next few months, the revolt continued but was eventually overpowered by the British army. Bidyadhar was imprisoned in 1825 and died while still in jail four years later.

C Rajagopalachari

Why in News

Recently, C. Rajagopalachari is remembered on his 143rd birth anniversary.

- He is remembered for his contributions to the freedom struggle, administrative and intellectual prowess.

Key Points

➤ About:

- Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, popularly known as Rajaji, was born on December 10th in 1878.
- He became the chairperson of the municipality of Salem in 1917 and served there for two years.
- In 1955, he was honoured with India's highest civilian award Bharat Ratna.

➤ Political Career:

○ Pre-independence:

- He joined the Indian National Congress and acted as a legal advisor.
- He was elected as the first premier of the Madras Presidency in 1937.
- In 1939, Rajagopalachari took a step to abolish untouchability and caste prejudice and issued the Madras Temple Entry Authorisation and Indemnity Act.
- At the time of Partition, he was appointed as the Governor of West Bengal.
- In 1947, during the absence of Lord Mountbatten, the last British viceroy and independent India's first Governor General, Rajagopalachari was temporarily chosen to hold the office.
 - Therefore he was the last governor general of India.

➤ Post-independence:

- Rajagopalachari took over as the chief minister of Madras in April 1952.
- During his tenure as the chief minister of Madras, he actively participated in reforming the education system and bringing changes in the society.
 - He also made Hindi a compulsory language in Tamil schools.
 - His move led to protests against him, following which Rajagopalachari resigned as the CM.
- He was a social conservative but advocated a free market economy.
 - He wanted to reintroduce the Varna system into society.
 - He believed in the significance of religion for society.
- Rajagopalachari was made Home Affairs Minister after the death of Sardar Patel in 1950.
- In 1959, he resigned from the Indian National Congress and founded the Swatantra Party.

➤ Role in Freedom Struggle:

Note:



- **Non-Cooperation Movement:** He met **Mahatma Gandhi** for the first time in 1919 in Madras (now Chennai) and participated in Gandhi's **Non-Cooperation Movement**.
 - He was also **jailed for two years in Vellore in 1920**.
 - After his release, he opened his own ashram to promote **Gandhi's principles of Hindu-Muslim harmony** and the **abolition of untouchability**.
 - He was also a proponent of khadi.
- **Vaikom Satyagraha:** He was also involved in the **Vaikom Satyagraha** movement against untouchability
- **Dandi March:** When Gandhi led the **Dandi March** to break the salt law in 1930, Rajagopalachari carried out a similar march at **Vedaranyam** in the **Madras Presidency**.
 - He also became the editor of Gandhi's newspaper, **Young India**.
- **Quit India Movement:** During the **Quit India Movement**, Rajagopalachari opposed Gandhi.
 - He was of the view that the British were going to leave the country eventually, so launching another Satyagraha was not a good decision.
- **Literary Contributions:**
 - He wrote a **Tamil translation of the Ramayana**, which was later published as Chakravarthi Thirumagan.
 - The book won the **Sahitya Akademi Award** in Tamil language in 1958.

Indo-Pak War: 1971

Why in News

Recently, **National Cadet Corps** (NCC) has announced to conduct 'Azadi ki Vijay Shrankhla aur Sanskritiyon ka Mahasangam' event as part of **Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav (75th Anniversary of India's Independence)**.

- Under **Azadi ki Vijay Shrankhla** program, the bravehearts of the **Indo-Pakistan 1971 War** are being honoured at 75 locations throughout the country.

Key Points

- **Timeline of India-Pakistan War 1971:**
 - **Political Imbalance:** In the 1950s the centralised Pakistani state was run undemocratically by a

military-bureaucratic oligarchy dominated by West Pakistan.

- Under this system, **Bengalis had no political say**. But West Pakistan dominance was challenged in 1970 during general elections.
- **Landslide Victory of Awami League:** East Pakistan's **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Awami League** had a clear overall majority, enough to become the prime minister.
 - However, west Pakistan was not willing to let a leader from its eastern provincial wing rule the country.
- **Cultural Differences:** The then West Pakistan (present Pakistan), under the leadership of Yahya Khan, **started a brutal assault on the people of East Pakistan** (present Bangladesh) who were demanding freedom because of the language and cultural differences between the two regions.
 - After political negotiations failed, the Pakistani army under General Yahya Khan decided to start the crackdown.
- **Operation Searchlight:** West Pakistan kicked in operation searchlight across the whole of East Pakistan on **March 26, 1971**.
 - This resulted in **millions of Bangladeshis fleeing to India**, mainly West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura.
 - West Bengal, in particular, was massively burdened by the onrush of the refugees and the state appealed to the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and her government for assistance for food and shelter.
- **Indo-Bangla Cooperation:** With the subsequent bravery of the Indian Army coupled with the spirited fight put up by **Mukti Bahini** — the Bangladeshi guerilla resistance movement consisting of the Bangladeshi military, paramilitary and civilians — defeated the Pakistani forces.
- **Defeat of Pakistani Military:** On December 16, 1971, Lt Gen Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi, the Chief Martial Law Administrator of East Pakistan and Commander of Pakistan Army forces located in East Pakistan **signed the Instrument of Surrender**.
 - Over **93,000 Pakistani troops surrendered** to the Indian forces and Bangladesh Liberation forces making it the largest surrender since World War II.

Note:



- The intervention brought a conclusion to the war in **13 short days and led to the birth of a new nation.**

1857 Uprising

Why in News

A memorial-museum is being built by the Haryana government at Ambala to honour the martyrs of the **1857 uprising**.

- The objective of constructing a war memorial in Ambala is to **immortalise the bravery of those unsung heroes** who never got credit for scripting the first revolt (against the British).
- It will also highlight **Haryana's contribution to the freedom struggle** with a special emphasis on revolt incidents at Ambala.

Key Points

- **About the 1857 Revolt:**
 - It was the first expression of organised resistance against the British East India Company
 - It began as a **revolt of the sepoys of the British East India Company's army** but eventually secured the participation of the masses.
 - The revolt is known by several names: **the Sepoy Mutiny** (by the British Historians), **the Indian Mutiny**, **the Great Rebellion** (by the Indian Historians), **the Revolt of 1857**, **the Indian Insurrection**, and **the First War of Independence** (by **Vinayak Damodar Savarkar**).
- **Causes of Revolt:**
 - **Political Cause:**
 - **British policy of expansion:** The political causes of the revolt were the British policy of expansion through the **Doctrine of Lapse** and direct annexation.
 - A large number of Indian rulers and chiefs were dislodged, thus arousing fear in the minds of other ruling families who apprehended a similar fate.
 - By applying the doctrine of lapse, **Dalhousie annexed** the States of **Satara** (1848 A.D.), **Jaitpur**, and **Sambalpur** (1849 A.D.), **Baghat** (1850 A.D.), **Udaipur** (1852 A.D.), **Jhansi** (1853 A.D.), and **Nagpur** (1854 A.D.)

Revolt in Haryana

- **Centre of Revolt:** According to the historian **KC Yadav**, the 1857 uprising actually started in Ambala, and not Meerut as popularly believed.
 - He had documented his findings in his book titled '**The Revolt of 1857 in Haryana**'.
- **Important Leaders:** Rao Tula Ram in Ahirwal, Gaffur Ali and Harsukh Rai in Palwal, Dhanu Singh in Faridabad, Nahar Singh in Ballabhgarh etc. were the important leaders of revolt in Haryana.
- **Battles Fought:** Many battles were fought by the rulers of the states and by the farmers also, sometimes defeating the British army.
 - Some of the most important battles were fought at **Sirsa, Sonipat, Rohtak** and **Hissar**.
 - In Sirsa the famous **battle of Chormar** was fought.
- **Social and Religious Cause:**
 - The rapidly spreading Western Civilisation in India was alarming concerns all over the country.
 - The **abolition of practices like sati and female infanticide**, and the legislation legalizing **widow remarriage**, were believed as threats to the established social structure.
 - Introducing western methods of education was directly challenging the orthodoxy for Hindus as well as Muslims
- **Economic Cause:**
 - In rural areas, peasants and zamindars were infuriated by the **heavy taxes on land** and the **stringent methods of revenue collection** has led to the losing the lands that peasants had held for generations.
 - Large numbers of **sepoys belonged to the peasantry class** and had family ties in villages, so the grievances of the peasants also affected them.
 - After the Industrial Revolution in England, there was an **influx of British manufactured goods** into India, which ruined industries, particularly the textile industry of India
 - Indian handicraft industries had to compete with cheap machine-made goods from Britain.
- **Military Causes:**
 - **Indian sepoys formed more than 87% of the British troops** in India but were considered inferior to British soldiers.

Note:



- An Indian sepoy was paid less than a European sepoy of the same rank.
- They were required to serve in areas far away from their homes.
- In 1856 Lord Canning issued the **General Services Enlistment Act** which **required that the sepoys must be ready to serve even on British land across the sea.**
- **Immediate Cause:**
 - The Revolt of 1857 eventually broke out over the incident of greased cartridges.
 - A rumour spread that the **cartridges of the new Enfield rifles were greased with the fat of cows and pigs.**
 - Before loading these rifles the sepoys had to bite off the paper on the cartridges.
 - Both Hindu and Muslim sepoys refused to use them.

Centres of Revolt, Leadership and Suppression		
Places of Revolt	Indian Leaders	British Officials who suppressed the revolt
Delhi	Bahadur Shah II	John Nicholson
Lucknow	Begum Hazrat Mahal	Henry Lawrence
Kanpur	Nana Saheb	Sir Colin Campbell
Jhansi & Gwalior	Lakshmi Bai & Tantia Tope	General Hugh Rose
Bareilly	Khan Bahadur Khan	Sir Colin Campbell
Allahabad and Banaras	Maulvi Liyakat Ali	Colonel Ocell
Bihar	Kunwar Singh	William Taylor

Cause of Failure of Revolt

- **Limited Uprising:** The revolt was mainly confined to the Doab region.
- The large princely states, **Hyderabad, Mysore, Travancore, and Kashmir**, as well as the smaller ones of **Rajputana**, did not join the rebellion
- The southern provinces did not take part in it.
- **No Effective Leadership:** The rebels lacked an effective leader. Although Nana Saheb, Tantia Tope and Rani Lakshmi Bai were brave leaders, they could not offer effective leadership to the movement as a whole.
- **Limited Resources:** The rebels lacked resources in terms of men and money. The English, on the other hand, received a steady supply of men, money and arms in India.
- **No Participation of the Middle Class:** The English educated middle class, the rich merchants, traders and zamindars of Bengal helped the British to suppress the revolt.

Outcome of Revolt

- **End of Company Rule:** The revolt marked the end of the East India Company's rule in India.
 - Lord Canning at a **Durbar in Allahabad** announced that Indian administration was taken over by Queen Victoria, which, in effect, meant the British Parliament.
- **Religious Tolerance:** It was promised and due attention was paid to the customs and traditions of India.
- **Administrative Change:** The Governor General's office was replaced by that of the Viceroy.
 - The rights of Indian rulers were recognised.
 - The Doctrine of Lapse was abolished.
 - The right to adopt sons as legal heirs was accepted.
- **Military Reorganisation:** The ratio of British officers to Indian soldiers increased but the armoury remained in the hands of the English. It was arranged to end the dominance of the Bengal army.

Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya

Why in News

Recently, the Prime Minister has paid tributes to Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya on his Jayanti.

Key Points

- **Brief Profile:**
 - He was a **great educationist, pioneer, an eloquent rhetorician**, and a national leader.
 - He was given the **title of 'Mahamana'** by **Mahatma Gandhi** and the second President of India, **Dr. S. Radhakrishnan** gave him the status of a '**Karmayogi**'.
- **Role in Freedom Struggle:**
 - In the freedom struggle, he was midway between the Liberals and the Nationalists, the Moderates and the Extremists, as the followers of **Gokhale** and **Tilak** were respectively called.

Note:



- In 1930, when **Mahatma Gandhi** launched the **Salt Satyagraha and the Civil Disobedience Movement**, he participated in it and courted arrest.

➤ Contributions:

- Remembered for his **role in ending the Indian indenture system**, especially in the Caribbean.
 - Indentured labour was a **system of bonded labour** that was instituted following the abolition of slavery in 1833.
 - Indentured labour were recruited to work on sugar, cotton and tea plantations, and rail construction projects in British colonies in West Indies, Africa and SouthEast Asia.
 - Apprehensive of the possibility of the British completely damming the flow of Ganga at Bhimgoda in Haridwar, he **set up the Ganga Mahasabha in 1905**.
 - He was a **social reformer and a successful legislator**, serving as a member of the Imperial Legislative Council for 11 years (1909–20).
 - **Popularized the term 'Satyamev Jayate'**. However, the phrase originally belongs to the **Mundaka Upanishad**. The term now is the national motto of India.
 - **Devnagri was introduced in the British-Indian courts** because of Malviya's efforts with the British government.
 - Worked immensely for **Hindu-Muslim unity**. He is known to have given **famous speeches on communal harmony**.
 - He was expelled from the Brahmin community for expressing his views on caste discrimination and Brahmanical patriarchy.
 - He **helped establish the Hindu Mahasabha ("Great Society of Hindus")** in 1915.
 - He **founded the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in 1916**.
- #### ➤ Journalist:
- As a journalist, he started a **Hindi weekly, Abhyudaya in 1907** and made it a daily in 1915 and also **Hindi monthly, Maryada in 1910**.
 - He started an **English daily- Leader in 1909**.
 - Malaviya was the **editor of Hindi weekly, the Hindustan and Indian Union**.
 - He was also the **Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Hindustan Times** for many years.

➤ Awards and Honours:

- In 2014, he was posthumously conferred with **Bharat Ratna**, the country's highest civilian award.
- In 2016, the Indian Railways started the Varanasi-New Delhi Mahamana Express in the leader's honour.

Rani Lakshmibai

Why in News

Recently, the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister has announced that the **Jhansi Railway Station** in Uttar Pradesh will be known as **Veerangana Lakshmibai Railway Station**.

Key Points

➤ Role in India's Struggle for Independence:

- Rani Lakshmibai was **one of the brave warriors of India's struggle for Independence**.
- In 1853, when the Maharaja of Jhansi died, Lord Dalhousie refused to acknowledge the child and **applied the Doctrine of Lapse, and annexed the state**.
- Rani Lakshmibai **fought bravely against the British** so as to save her empire from annexation. She died fighting on the battlefield on **17th June 1858**.
- When the **Indian National Army** started its first female unit (in 1943), it was named after the **valiant queen of Jhansi**.

Doctrine of Lapse

- It 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** that was under the **direct or indirect control of the East India Company** where the ruler did not have a legal male heir would be annexed by the company.
 - Thus, any **adopted son of the Indian ruler would not be proclaimed as heir** to the kingdom.
- By applying the doctrine of lapse, Dalhousie annexed the States of:
 - Satara (1848 A.D.),
 - Jaitpur, and Sambalpur (1849 A.D.),
 - Baghat (1850 A.D.),
 - Udaipur (1852 A.D.),

- Jhansi (1853 A.D.), and
- Nagpur (1854 A.D.)

Procedure For Changing the Name

- An **executive order passed with simple majority by the State legislature is required to rename** any village, town, city or a station, while an amendment of the Constitution with majority in Parliament is needed for changing the name of a state.
- It is noteworthy that the **Union Home Ministry gives a green signal** to the proposal to change the name of any railway station or place after getting no objection from the Ministry of Railways, Department of Posts, and Survey of India.

Maya Civilization

Why in News

According to a new study the Maya civilization may have had access to nearly 500 **drought** resistant edible plants.

- The mystery behind Maya civilization's sudden fall from glory still eludes us. Scientists have long suspected that **drought pushed its people towards starvation**.
- The Maya people faced starvation because of their **dependence on drought-sensitive crops** such as corn, beans and squash.

Key Points

- **About:**
 - The Maya are an **indigenous people of Mexico and Central America** who have continuously inhabited the lands comprising modern-day Yucatan, Quintana Roo, Campeche, Tabasco, and Chiapas in Mexico and southward through Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador and Honduras.
 - The Maya civilization **originated in the Yucatan Peninsula**. Known for its monumental architecture and an advanced understanding of mathematics and astronomy.
 - The rise of the Maya began about 250 CE, and what is known to archaeologists as the Classic Period of Mayan culture **lasted until about 900 CE**. At its height, Mayan civilization **consisted of more than 40 cities, each with a population between 5,000 and 50,000**.



- But then, suddenly, between 800 and 950 CE, many of the southern cities were abandoned. This period is called the collapse of the Classic Maya civilisations, puzzling modern-day scientists.
- **Special Features:**
 - As early as 1500 BCE the Maya had settled in villages and had developed an agriculture based on the cultivation of **corn (maize), beans, and squash**; by 600 CE **cassava (sweet manioc)** was also grown.
 - They began to build **ceremonial centres**, and by 200 CE these had developed into cities containing temples, pyramids, palaces, courts for playing ball, and plazas.
 - The **ancient Maya quarried immense quantities of building stone** (usually limestone), which they cut by using harder stones such as chert. They practiced mainly slash-and-burn agriculture, but they used advanced techniques of irrigation and terracing. They also **developed a system of hieroglyphic writing and highly sophisticated calendrical and astronomical systems**.
 - The Maya made paper from the inner bark of wild fig trees and wrote their hieroglyphs on books made from this paper. Those books are called **codices**.
 - The Maya also developed an elaborate and beautiful tradition of **sculpture and relief carving**.
 - **Architectural works and stone inscriptions** and reliefs are the chief sources of knowledge about the early Maya.

Note:



Other Ancient Civilizations

- **The Incan Civilization-** Ecuador, Peru, and Chile
- **The Aztec Civilization-** Mexico
- **The Roman Civilization-** Rome
- **The Persian Civilization-** Iran
- **The Ancient Greek Civilization-** Greece
- **The Chinese Civilization-** China
- **The Ancient Egyptian Civilization-** Egypt
- **The Indus Valley Civilization-** Northeast Afghanistan to Pakistan and northwest India
- **The Mesopotamian Civilization-** Iraq, Syria, and Turkey

Kohima War Cemetery

Why in News

Recently, the United Kingdom-based **Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC)** has listed five sites with unusual features. These sites are associated with **World War I** and **World War II**.

- Nagaland capital Kohima is included in the list because of the **Kohima War Cemetery**.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

- **CWGC is an intergovernmental organisation of six member-states** (Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, South Africa, United Kingdom) who **ensure the men and women who died in the wars will never be forgotten**.
- It was **formed in 1917** as the Imperial War Graves Commission. However the present name was given in 1960.
- Its headquarters is situated in **Maidenhead, UK**.

Key Points

- **About:**
 - Nagaland's capital Kohima probably has the **only cemetery on earth that sports a tennis court**.
 - The Kohima War Cemetery is one of **23,000 World War graves across the continents maintained by the CWGC**.
- **Formation of the Cemetery:**
 - On 3rd April 1944, a **Japanese force of 15,000** attacked Kohima and its 2,500-strong force.

- It led to two weeks of difficult, bloody fighting as the defending forces were pushed back to the former house of the British Deputy Commissioner.
- The **lawn of this house had a tennis court** where the British officers played for recreation.
- The surviving defenders, encamped around the garden tennis court, prepared for their final stand. As the Japanese forces prepared to attack, they were attacked in turn by the lead tanks of a relief force, saving the defenders and pushing the attackers back.
- Despite this setback, the Japanese force continued to fight for Kohima before they were finally forced to withdraw in May 1944.
- **Those who had fallen in the defence of Kohima were buried on the battlefield, which later became a permanent CWGC cemetery**, with further burials from the surrounding areas.
- **Designer Colin St. Clair Oakes incorporated the tennis court** into the design of the cemetery.
- **Other Cemeteries in the List:**
 - World War I **"crater cemeteries"** – **Zivy Crater and Litchfield Crater** – in the Pas de Calais region in France.
 - **Nicosia (Waynes Keep) Cemetery** or the "cemetery in no man's land" in Cyprus.

Significance of Kohima in World War II

- Present-day Nagaland and adjoining Manipur **comprised the only theatre of World War II in the Indian subcontinent**.
- In 1944, following hard fighting in the Burmese jungle, the Japanese forces in the region pushed across the Chindwin River and into India. In their path was the Fourteenth Army, made up of forces from across the Commonwealth.
- This invasion hinged upon two key points, (Manipur capital) Imphal and Kohima. Defeat for the Fourteenth Army here meant that the Japanese could strike further into India.
- **Kohima was of key strategic importance**, at the highest point of the pass through the jungle mountains to Dimapur, now Nagaland's commercial hub adjoining Assam.
- The fall of Dimapur would have meant leaving the Allied defenders of Imphal at the mercy of the Japanese soldiers fighting alongside **Subhash Chandra Bose's Indian National Army**.

Note:





World War II

➤ About:

- It was a **conflict that involved virtually every part of the world during the years 1939–45**.
- It ended six years and one day after Germany's invasion of Poland on 1st September, 1939, sparked the 20th century's second global conflict.
- By the time it concluded on the deck of an American warship on 2nd September, 1945, WW II had claimed the lives of an **estimated 60-80 million people, approximately 3% of the world's population**.
- The vast majority of those who died were civilians, including **6 million Jews killed in Nazi concentration camps during the Holocaust**.

➤ Principal Belligerents:

- **Axis powers**—Germany, Italy, and Japan.
- **Allies**—France, Great Britain, the United States, the Soviet Union, and, to a lesser extent, China.

Maharaja Surajmal

Why in News?

Recently, the Prime Minister has paid tributes to **Maharaja Surajmal** on his Jayanti.

Who was Maharaja Surajmal?

- He ruled in the **18th century** and was the son of the Jat chieftain Badan Singh.

- He was a **great leader, a great fighter, a great diplomat and a great statesman** of his time.
- He was described as **“the Plato of the Jat people”** and by a modern writer as the **“Jat Odysseus”**, because of his political sense, steady intellect and clear vision.
- He united various factions of Hindus and Muslims and kept them together.
- He took care of the **historical monuments built by the kings of other religions** and employed people according to their abilities in higher posts, irrespective of their races.
- He believed that **humanity is the only religion of man**.
- He visualized **“India as one nation”** and devoted his life in forging national integration.
- Maharaja Surajmal considered **farmers as the most important section of the society** and had a lot of respect for them.
 - He personally **identified the problems of the farmers** and introduced reforms to rectify them.
- Some institutions that have been named after him include the **Maharaja Surajmal Institute of Technology and Maharaja Surajmal Brij University**, Bharatpur.
- It is believed that the **Maharaja died in battle in December of 1763** beside the Hindon river, after being ambushed by the army of Mughal chief Najib-ad-Dawlah.

What is the relation between Maharaja Surajmal and the third Battle of Panipat?

- The **Third Battle of Panipat** was fought between the **Marathas and the invading armies** of Afghan general **Ahmed Shah Abdali** in 1761.
- The battle, fought about 90 km north of Delhi, was won by the Afghans and left about 40,000 troops of the Marathas dead.
 - Maharaja Surajmal was among those **who played key roles in the battle**.
- After the battle, the **Marathas lost their preeminent position in north India**, which ultimately paved the way for British colonial powers to take over.

Philosopher-saint Ramanujacharya

Why in News?

The Prime Minister will inaugurate the **Statue of**

Note:



Equality, a statue of **Ramanujacharya**, on the outskirts of Hyderabad, Telangana.

- India is celebrating his 1,000th birth anniversary as the '**Festival of Equality**', upholding the view that the world is one family, '**vasudhaiva kutumbakam**,'"

What Are the Basic Facts About Statue?

- It is a 216-feet tall statue, which is made of '**panchaloha**', a combination of five metals: gold, silver, copper, brass, and zinc.
- It is **among one of the tallest metallic statues** in sitting position in the world.
- The statue is mounted on a **54-feet high base building named 'Bhadra Vedi'**. It has floors devoted for a **vedic digital library and research center, ancient Indian texts, a theater, an educational gallery** detailing many works of Sri Ramanujacharya.

Who was Ramanujacharya?

- Born in 1017 in **Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu**, Ramanujacharya is revered as a **Vedic philosopher and social reformer**.
- He was named Lakshmana at the time of his birth. He was also referred to as Ilaya Perumal which means the radiant one.
- He traveled across India, advocating **equality and social justice**.
- He revived the **Bhakti movement**, and his preachings inspired other Bhakti schools of thought. He is considered to be the inspiration for **poets like Annamacharya, Bhakta Ramdas, Thyagaraja, Kabir, and Meerabai**.
- He is famous as the chief proponent of **Vishishtadvaita subschool of Vedānta**.
 - VishishtAdvaita (literally "Advaita with uniqueness; qualifications") is a **non-dualistic school of Vedanta philosophy**.
 - It is non-dualism of the qualified whole, in which **Brahman alone is seen as the Supreme Reality**, but is characterized by multiplicity.
- He went on to **write nine scriptures known as the navaratnas**, and composed numerous commentaries on Vedic scriptures.
 - Ramanuja's most important writings include his commentary on the **Vedanta Sutras (the Sri Bhasya, or "True Commentary")**, and his commentary on the

Bhagavad-Gita (the Gitabhasya, or "Commentary on the Gita").

- His other writings include the **Vedārtha Samgraha ("Summary of the Meaning of the Veda")**, the **Vedantasara ("Essence of Vedanta")**, and **Vedantadipa ("Lamp of Vedanta")**.
- He has also **stressed the need of being in tune with nature and not to over-exploit**.

Why is it called the Statue of Equality?

- Ramanuja was an **advocate of social equality among all sections of people centuries ago**, and encouraged **temples to open their doors to everyone irrespective of caste or position in society** at a time when people of many castes were forbidden from entering them.
- He took education to those **who were deprived of it**. His greatest contribution is the propagation of the **concept of "vasudhaiva kutumbakam", which translates as "all the universe is one family"**.
- He traveled across **India for several decades, propagating his ideas of social equality and universal brotherhood from temple podiums**.
- He embraced the socially marginalized and condemned, and **asked royal courts to treat them as equals**.
- He spoke of universal salvation through devotion to God, compassion, humility, equality, and mutual respect, **which is known as Sri Vaishnavam Sampradaya**.
- Ramanujacharya **liberated millions from social, cultural, gender, educational, and economic discrimination with the foundational conviction that every human is equal** regardless of nationality, gender, race, caste, or creed.

Maharishi

Dayanand Saraswati Jayanti

Why in News?

Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati Jayanti is celebrated every year to mark the birth anniversary of the **Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati**.

Who was Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati?

- **Birth:**
 - He was earlier named **Mool Shankar Tiwari** as he was **born during Mool Nakshatra**.

- He wandered as an **ascetic for fifteen years (1845-60)** in search of truth.
- Dayananda's views were published in his famous work, **Satyarth Prakash (The True Exposition)**.
- **Contribution to the Society:**
 - He was an **Indian philosopher, social leader and founder of the Arya Samaj**.
 - Arya Samaj is a **reform movement of Vedic dharma** and he was the **first to give the call for Swaraj** as "**India for Indian**" in 1876.
 - The **first Arya Samaj unit** was formally set up by him at **Mumbai (then Bombay) in 1875** and later the **headquarters of the Samaj were established at Lahore**.
 - His vision of India included a **classless and casteless society**, a united India (**religiously, socially and nationally**), and an India free from foreign rule, with Aryan religion being the common religion of all.
 - He took inspiration from the Vedas and considered them to be '**India's Rock of Ages**', the infallible and the true original seed of Hinduism. He gave the slogan "**Back to the Vedas**".
 - He subscribed to the **Vedic notion of chaturvarna system** in which a person was **not born in any caste** but was identified as a **brahmin, kshatriya, vaishya or shudra** according to the occupation the person followed.
- **Contribution to the Education System:**
 - He introduced a **complete overhaul of the education system** and is often considered as **one of the visionaries of modern India**.
 - The **DAV (Dayanand Anglo Vedic) schools** came into existence in 1886 to realise the vision of Swami Dayanand Saraswati.
 - The **first DAV School** was established at Lahore with Mahatma Hansraj as the headmaster.

What is Arya Samaj?

- It aims to **reestablish the Vedas**, the earliest Hindu scriptures, as revealed truth. He rejected all later accretions to the Vedas as degenerate but, in his own interpretation, included much post-Vedic thought.
- During the 1920s and early 1930s **tension grew around a number of issues**. Muslims were angered by "**music-before-mosque**", by the **cow protection movement**, and by the efforts of the Arya Samaj

to bring back to the Hindu fold (**shuddhi**) those who had recently converted to Islam.

- The Arya Samaj has always had its **largest following in western and northern India**.
- The Samaj **opposes worship of murtis (images), animal sacrifice, shraddha** (rituals on behalf of ancestors), basing caste upon birth rather than upon merit, **untouchability, child marriage**, pilgrimages, priestly craft, and temple offerings.
- It upholds the **infallibility of the Vedas, the doctrines of karma** (the accumulated effect of past deeds) and samsara (the process of death and rebirth), the sanctity of the cow, the importance of the samskaras (individual sacraments), the efficacy of Vedic oblations to the fire, and programs of social reform.
- It has **worked to further female education and intercaste marriage**; has built missions, orphanages, and homes for widows; has established a network of schools and colleges; and has undertaken famine relief and medical work.

Statehood Day of Arunachal Pradesh

Why in News?

Recently, the Prime Minister of India extended his wishes to the people of **Arunachal Pradesh** on its **36th Statehood Day**.

- Through the **55th amendment to the Indian Constitution in 1986**, Arunachal Pradesh became the 24th state of the Indian Union on 20th February, 1987.

What do we Know about Arunachal Pradesh?

- **Historical Background:** During the British Colonial Rule, until 1972, the state was named as the **North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA)**.
 - On 20th January, 1972, it became a Union Territory and was named Arunachal Pradesh. It was **granted statehood by the State of Arunachal Pradesh Act, 1986**.
- **Geographical location:** The state was formed out of Assam in the year 1987.
 - In the west, **Arunachal Pradesh is bordered by Bhutan** and in the north falls the **Tibetan region of China**.

Note:





- In the Southeastern region falls **Nagaland and Myanmar** and to the southwestern region falls **Assam**.
- **Demography:** The capital of Arunachal Pradesh is **Itanagar**.
 - The total literacy rate of the state (as per Census 2011) is **65.38%** with male literacy rate being 72.55% and for females, it is 57.70%.
 - The Sex Ratio of the states is 938 female per 1000 male (National: 943)
 - The state is home to 26 major tribes, there are more than 100 sub-tribes, many of them are still unexplored. About 65% of the population of the state is tribals.
- **Biodiversity:**
 - **State Animal:** Mithun (also known as Gayal)
 - **State Bird:** Hornbill
 - It is also home to the **Dihang Dibang Biosphere Reserve**.
- **Protected Areas:**
 - **Namdapha National Park**
 - Mouling National Park
 - Sessa Orchid Sanctuary
 - Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary
 - **Pakke Tiger Reserve**

- **Tribals of Arunachal:** The significant tribal groups include **Monpas, Nyishis, Apatanis, Noctes and Sherdukpens**.
 - **Monpas:** They are believed to be the only nomadic tribe of northeast, inhabit the West Kameng and Tawang districts, are essentially Buddhists who follow the Mahayana sect.
 - **Apatanis:** They practice pre-Aryan beliefs, which is evident from their worship of trees, rocks and plants amongst other things. They mainly practise bamboo cultivation.
 - **Noctes:** Found in the Tirap district, they follow Theravada Buddhism and Animism.
 - **Sherdukpens:** A small tribal group, they are one of the most progressive tribes that can be found in Arunachal Pradesh practising agriculture, fishing and rearing of livestock. Although they have adopted Buddhism, most of their practices still remain pre-Buddhist and more Animistic.
 - **Nyishis:** They are the most populous tribe of Arunachal Pradesh and are mainly involved in shifting cultivation and produce rice, millet, cucumber, etc.

Statehood Day of Mizoram

Why in News?

Recently, the Prime Minister of India extended his wishes to the people of **Mizoram** on its **36th Statehood Day** (20th February).

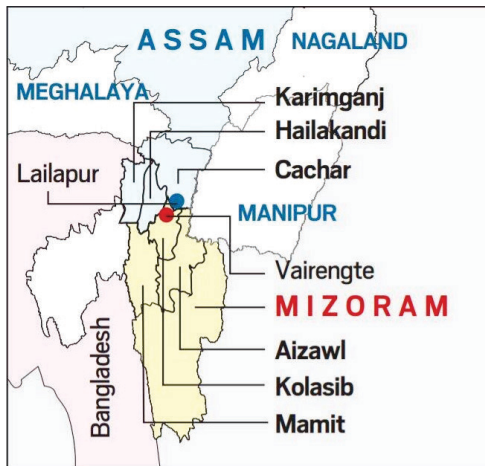
- The formalisation of Mizoram State took place on 20th February, 1987 after the 53rd Amendment of the Indian Constitution, 1986.

What do we know about Mizoram?

- **Historical background:** The Mizo hills area became the **Lushai Hills district** within Assam at the time of independence. Further, in 1954 it was renamed the Mizo Hills District of Assam.
 - Mizoram was granted the **status of a Union Territory in 1972** after signing an accord with the moderates of the **Mizo National Front (MNF)**.
 - The Union Territory of Mizoram was conferred the status of a full state in 1986 after signing of a memorandum of settlement (**Mizoram Peace Accord**) between the Central government and the MNF.

Note:





➤ Geographical Location:

- **International Border:** Myanmar and Bangladesh
- **State Border:** Tripura (northwest), Assam (north) and Manipur (northeast).

➤ Demography: Mizoram population in 2022 is estimated to be **1.27 Million** and is the **second least populous state in India** after Sikkim.

- The Sex Ratio is **975 female per 1000 male** (National: 943).
- The Literacy rate of the state is **91.58 %** (National: 74.04%).

➤ Biodiversity: According to **India State of Forest Report (ISFR), 2021** Mizoram has the **maximum forest cover as a percentage** of their own geographical area at (84.53%) from the **North eastern region of the country**.

- **State Animal:** Saza (serow)
- **State Bird:** Vavu (Hume Bartailed Pheasant).

➤ Protected Areas:

- **Dampa Tiger Reserve**
- Murlen National Park
- Phawngpui National Park
- Ngengpui Wildlife Sanctuary
- Tawi Wildlife Sanctuary

➤ Tribals: It has the **highest concentration (percentage) of tribal population** among the north-eastern states of India.

- Mizos consisting of 5 major and 11 minor tribes known as Awzia. The 5 major tribes include: **Lushei, Ralte, Hmar, Paihte and Pawi**.
- The Mizos are a close- knit society with no class distinction and discrimination on grounds of sex, status or religion.

- Mizos are agriculturists, practise "**Jhum Cultivation**" or slash- and- burn system of cultivation.

➤ Festivals and Dance: The Mizos have two main festivals- **Mim Kut and Chapchar Kut**.

- **Mim Kut:** It is a Maize festival that is celebrated during the months of August and September, after the harvest of maize.
- **Chapchar Kut:** It is a Spring Festival, most popular and celebrated after completion of the task of jungle clearing for "jhum" operations.
- The most colourful and distinctive dance of the Mizo is called **Cheraw**. Long bamboo staves are used for this dance, therefore many people call it 'Bamboo Dance'.

Goa's Liberation Struggle

Why in News

Recently, the **liberation of Goa** became a **controversial topic** during the political campaign in the election of Goa.

- In **1962**, Goa was liberated from **Portuguese rule**, 15 years after India attained freedom in 1947. Goa, not becoming independent immediately after independence was because of a **variety of complex factors**.
- Goa was liberated on **19th December 1961 (Statehood Day of Goa)** by swift Indian military action that lasted less than two days.

What is the Timeline of Integration of Goa into the Indian Union?

- Relations between **India and Portugal** began amicably in 1947 after India's independence and diplomatic relations were established in 1949.
- Bilateral relations however went into decline after 1950 over Portugal's refusal to surrender its enclaves of **Goa, Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli** on India's west coast.
 - **Daman & Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli** were integrated into India in **1961**.
- Portugal had changed its constitution in 1951 to claim Goa **not as a colonial possession, but as an overseas province**.
 - The move was apparently aimed at making Goa a part of the newly formed **North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)** military alliance.

Note:





- It was intended to invoke the collective security clause of the treaty, in the event of an attack by India.

- By 1955, the two nations had **cut off diplomatic relations**, triggering a crisis which **precipitated the liberation of Goa by Indian military forces**, ending Portuguese rule over **Indian enclaves in 1961**.
- In 1961, after the failure of diplomatic efforts with the Portuguese, the Indian Government launched

Operation Vijay and annexed Daman and Diu and Goa with the Indian mainland on 19th December.

- It brought an end to **451 years of Portuguese overseas provincial governance in Goa**.

What are the Salient Features of Goa's Geography?

➤ About:

- Goa is located on the **southwestern coast of India** within the region known as the **Konkan**, and geographically separated from the Deccan highlands by the **Western Ghats**.

➤ Capital:

- Panji.

➤ Official Language:

- Konkani which is one of the 22 languages from the **Eight Schedule**.

➤ Borders:

- It is surrounded by **Maharashtra** to the north and **Karnataka** to the east and south, with the **Arabian Sea** forming its western coast.

➤ Geography:

- The **highest point of Goa** is **Sonsogor**.
- Goa's seven **major rivers** are the **Zuari**, **Mandovi**, **Terekhol**, **Chapora**, **Galgibag**, **Kumbarjua canal**, **Talpona** and the **Sal**.
- Most of Goa's **soil cover** is made up of **laterites**.

➤ Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks:

- Dr. Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary
- **Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary**
- **Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary**
- **Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary**
- **Bhagwan Mahaveer Sanctuary**
- Mollem National Park



Note:



Key Points

Details

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Summary

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Summary