Drishti IAS Presents...

PT SPRINT 2024

HISTORY
(March 2023 – March 2024)

Contents

Savitribai Phule

SAVITRIBAI PHULE
(03 January 1831 – 10 March 1897)

A 19th century social reformer who worked in the field of women education

EARLY LIFE

▶ Born in **Mali community (Maharashtra)**

▶ Aged 9 - married to 13 y/o Jyotirao Phule - an **extraordinary couple in India's social & educational history**

SOCIAL ENDEAVOURS

▶ **Individual**

- Published **Kavya Phule (1854)** & **Bavan Kashi Subodh Ratnakar (1892)**

- Started **Mahila Seva Mandal (1852)** - raise awareness about women's rights

- Wrote poem - **Go, Get Education** for oppressed communities

- Carried forward the **Satya Shodhak Samaj** after Jyotiba's death (1890)

▶ **With Jyotiba**

- Started a school for girls, Shudras and Ati-Shudras in Poona (1848) (India's **first school for women - started by Indians**)

- Opened **Native Female School (Pune)** and **The Society for Promoting the Education of Mahars, Mangs and Etceteras in 1850s**

- Started - **Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha** (Home for the **Prevention of Infanticide**) in their own house

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Lala Lajpat Rai

LALA LAJPAT RAI

28 January 1865 – 17 November 1928

BRIEF PROFILE

- Also called **Punjab Kesari**
- Influenced by **Swami Dayananda Saraswati** - joined **Arya Samaj** in Lahore
- **Lal-Bal-Pal trio** (extremist leaders) with **Bipin Chandra Pal** and **Bal Gangadhar** Tilak
- Involved with the **Hindu Mahasabha**

POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- 1907 - **Deported to Burma without trial** but returned due to lack of evidence
- 1917 - Founded **Home Rule League of America** (New York)
- 1920 - **Presided INC (special) session (Calcutta)** where Gandhiji moved the **Non-Cooperation resolution**
- 1920 - Elected (first) President of the **All India Trade Union Congress**
- 1926 - Elected **deputy leader** of the **Central Legislative Assembly**
- 1928 - Moved a resolution in the assembly **against Simon Commission**

SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- 1886 - Founded **DAV Movement**
- 1897 - Founded **Hindu Relief movement** (to help famine -stricken people and prevent them falling into the clutches of the missionaries)
- 1921 - Founded the **Servants of People Society** (to enlist, train national missionaries for the service of the motherland)

Note: Servants of People Society is different from Servants of Indian Society founded by GK Gokhale in 1905

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

- Institution -
  - 1894 - Co-founded **Punjab National Bank**
- Important Literary Works -
  - 1908 - **The Story of My Deportation**
  - 1915 - **Arya Samaj**
  - 1916 - **Young India, The United States of America: A Hindu's Impression**
  - 1917 - **England's Debt to India: A Historical Narrative of Britain's Fiscal Policy in India**
  - 1928 - **Unhappy India**

DEATH

- 1928 - Died of injuries due to the brutal **lathi-charge** by James Scott while leading a silent protest against Simon Commission in Lahore

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Shaheed Diwas

Why in News?

On January 30, 2023, **India observes Martyrs' Day or Shaheed Diwas to pay tribute to all the freedom fighters** who sacrificed their lives for the country. The day **is also marked as the death anniversary of the nation's 'Bapu', Mahatma Gandhi**.

➢ Martyrs' Day or Shaheed Diwas or Sarvodaya Day is **celebrated in India several times a year**.

What is there to Know about Shaheed Diwas?

➢ **In Remembrance Of:**

○ Mahatma Gandhi, who was born on October 2, 1869, was one of the most influential leaders of India and **played a significant role in the independence of the country**.

○ On this day in 1948 Mahatma Gandhi **was assassinated in the Birla House in New Delhi by Nathuram Godse**.

➢ **Way of Celebrating:**

○ India celebrates Martyrs' Day **by paying tribute to Mahatma Gandhi's Samadhi at Raj Ghat in Delhi**.

● The **President, Vice President**, Prime Minister, Defense Minister, and the three Service Chiefs (**Army, Air Force**, and **Navy**) pay their respects to the **'Father of the Nation'**.

Other Martyrs' Days in India: What are they?

Days	About
March 23	➢ On this day **Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev** Thapar were hanged to death by the British in Lahore Jail.
May 19	➢ It is **celebrated in Assam** to remember the people **who were killed by the state police** on May 19, 1961. ○ The day was designated as **Bhasha Shaheed Diwas or Language Martyrs' Day**.
July 13	➢ Jammu and Kashmir celebrates July 13 as **Kashmir Martyr's Day** to remember people who were killed, when **demonstrating against the rule of Maharaja Hari Singh** of Kashmir.
November 17	➢ **Odisha celebrates this day to remember famous freedom fighter Lala Lajpat Rai on his death anniversary.**
November 19	➢ **Jhansi celebrate this day**, the **birth anniversary of Rani Lakshmibai**, as Martyrs' Day. ○ The day celebrates the **contribution of all who passed away in the Revolt of 1857**.
November 24	➢ It is celebrated as Martyrs' Day **by the Sikh community** as it is the **death anniversary of ninth Sikh Guru Tegh Bahadur**. ○ He **resisted the forced conversions of non-Muslims** and was executed publicly in 1675 **by Mughal emperor Aurangzeb**.

Assam's Charaideo Moidams

Why in News?

The Centre has decided to nominate the **CharaideoMaidams** in Assam for the **UNESCO World Heritage Centre** this year.

➢ There is currently **no World Heritage Site** in the category of cultural heritage in **Northeast India.**

➢ The nomination of the CharaideoMaidams has attained significance at a time when the country is celebrating the **400ᵗʰ birth anniversary of Lachit Borphukan.**

Note:

What is CharaideoMaidams?

➤ The **CharaideoMaidams,**represents the late medieval (13th-19th century CE) **mound burial tradition** of the **Tai Ahom** community in Assam.

➤ It enshrines the mortal remains of the members of the Ahom royalty, who used to be buried with their **paraphernalia.**

   ○ After the 18th century, the **Ahom rulers adopted the Hindu method of cremation** and began entombing the cremated bones and ashes in a **Maidam at Charaideo.**

➤ Out of 386 Maidams or Moidams explored so far, **90 royal burials at Charaideo are the best preserved**, representative of and the most complete examples of mound burial tradition of the Ahoms.

What are the Key Facts About Ahom Kingdom??

➤ **About:**

   ○ Established in 1228 in the**Brahmaputra valley of Assam,**the Ahom kingdom retained its sovereignty for 600 years.

   ○ The kingdom was founded by **ChaolungSukapha**, a 13th century ruler.

   ○ The Ahoms ruled the land till the province was annexed to British India in **1826** with the signing of the **Treaty of Yandaboo.**

➤ **Political Setup:**

   ○ Ahoms created a new state by suppressing the older political system of the **bhuiyans (landlords).**

   ○ The Ahom state depended upon**forced labour.** Those forced to work for the state were called paiks.

➤ **Society:**

   ○ Ahom society was divided into **clans or khels**. A khel often controlled several villages.

   ○ Ahoms worshipped their own tribal gods, yet they accepted the Hindu religion and the Assamese language.

      ● However, the **Ahom kings did not completely give up their traditional beliefs** after adopting**Hinduism.**

➤ **Military Strategy:**

   ○ The full contingent of the Ahom Army consisted of **infantry, navy, artillery, elephantry, cavalry and spies**.

      ● The main war weapons consisted of bows and arrows, swords, Javelins discus, guns, match-locks and cannons.

   ○ The **Ahom soldiers were experts in guerilla fighting**. They also learnt the technique of **constructing boat bridges in the Brahmaputra.**

Who was Lachit Borphukan?

➤ Born on 24thNovember, 1622, Borphukan was known for his **leadership in the Battle of Saraighat, 1671** in which an attempt by **Mughal forces** to capture Assam was thwarted.

   ○ The battle of Saraighat was fought on the banks of the **Brahmaputra in Guwahati in 1671.**

   ○ It is considered as one of the greatest naval battles on a river which **resulted in the victory of Ahoms over the Mughals.**

➤ He was the inspiration behind strengthening **India's naval force and revitalising inland water transport** and creating infrastructure associated with it due to his great naval strategies.

➤ The **Lachit Borphukan gold medal** is awarded to the best cadet from the **National Defence Academy.**

   ○ The medal was instituted in 1999 to inspire **defence personnel to emulate Borphukan's heroism and sacrifices.**

Parakram Diwas 2023

Why in News?

On the Occasion of**Parakram Diwas (23rd January) 2023**, 21 unnamed islands of**Andaman and Nicobar**have been named after**Param Veer Chakra**awardees.

➤ Netaji's Memorial, a National Memorial dedicated to Netaji will be built on **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep.**

Note:

➢ **Parakram Diwas** is celebrated to commemorate the 126th **birth anniversary of freedom fighter Subhas Chandra Bose.**

What is the Purpose of Naming Islands?

➢ The islands named after Param Vir Chakra awardees will be the site of inspiration for generations to come. People are now visiting Andamans to learn India's history.

○ Param Vir Chakra is **India's highest military decoration awarded** for displaying distinguished acts of valour during wartime whether on land, at sea or in the air.

➢ It aims to pay tribute to Indian heroes, several of whom **had made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the sovereignty and integrity of India.**

➢ The islands have been named after Major Somnath Sharma, Subedar and Hony Captain (then Lance Naik) Karam Singh, Nayak Jadunath Singh, etc.

Note: Besides renaming Ross Islands Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Dweep in 2018, Neil Island and Havelock Island were also renamed Shaheed Dweep and Swaraj Dweep respectively.

Who was 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.

➢ **About:**

○ 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.**

➢ **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 PattabhiSitarammayya.** 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.

➢ **Indian National Army:**

○ He reached Japanese-controlled Singapore from Germany **in July 1943, issued from there his famous call, 'Delhi Chalo',** and announced the formation of the **Azad Hind Government and the Indian National Army** on **21st October 1943.**

○ 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.

○ The INA included both the Indian prisoners of war from Singapore and Indian civilians in South-East Asia. Its **strength grew to 50,000.**

○ The INA fought allied forces in 1944 inside the borders of India in Imphal and in Burma.

○ In November 1945, a British move to put the INA men on **trial immediately sparked massive demonstrations** all over the country.

Note:

NETAJI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE

BIRTH

- 23rd January 1897 (celebrated as 'Parakram Diwas')

  Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar is announced every year on 23 January to honour the selfless service rendered by individuals/organisations in India in disaster management.

EARLY LIFE

- Cleared the Indian Civil Services (ICS) examination (1919) but resigned later
- Considered Swami Vivekananda as his spiritual Guru
- Newspaper - Swaraj

POLITICAL LIFE IN CONGRESS (INC)

- Stood for unqualified Swaraj (self-governance)
- Actively participated in Salt Satyagraha (1930)
- Opposed Gandhi-Irwin Pact (1931) & suspension of Civil Disobedience Movement
- Won INC Presidential Elections at Haripura (1938) and Tripuri (1939)
- Resigned from INC (1939) due to ideological differences with Gandhiji
- Founded 'the Forward Bloc' party to consolidate the Political Left

INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY (INA)

- Reached Japan-controlled Singapore in July 1943, issued from there his famous slogan - 'Delhi Chalo'

  He also gave the slogan - 'Jai Hind'

- Announced the formation of Azad Hind Government and INA in Oct 1943
- INA fought allied forces (1944) in Imphal (India) and in Burma

  INA was first formed under Mohan Singh and Japanese Major Iwaichi Fujiwara. It comprised Indian prisoners of war of the British-Indian Army captured by Japan in Malay and Singapore.

DEATH

- Believably in 1945 when his plane crashed in Taiwan.

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Panini's Ashtadhyayi& Grammar's Greatest Puzzle

Why in News?

Recently, a Cambridge scholar Dr Rishi Rajpopat's has claimed to have solved **Sanskrit's biggest puzzle**—a grammar problem found in the **'Ashtadhyayi'**.

What is Ashtadhyayi?

➢ Written more than 2,000 years ago, **Ashtadhyayi or 'Eight Chapters', is an ancient text** written by the **scholar Panini towards the end of the 4th century BC**.

➢ It is a linguistic text that set the **standard for how Sanskrit was meant to be written** and spoken.

Note:

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- ➢ It delves deep into the **language's phonetics, syntax and grammar**, and also offers a 'language machine', where one can feed **in the root and suffix of any Sanskrit word**, and get **grammatically correct words** and sentences in return.
- ➢ The Ashtadhyayi laid down more than 4,000 grammatical rules.
  - ❍ Later Indian grammars such as the Mahabhasya of Patanjali (2nd century BC) and the Kasika Vritti of Jayaditya and Vamana (7th century AD), were **mostly commentaries on Panini.**

What was the Puzzle?

- ➢ **Confusing Rules:**
  - ❍ In Ashtadhyayi, there were **two or more of the rules of Grammar that could apply at the same time, causing confusion.**
  - ❍ To resolve this, Panini had provided a **'meta-rule' (a rule governing rules), which had historically been interpreted as-** In the event of a conflict between two rules of equal strength, the rule that comes later in the **serial order of the 'Ashtadhyayi' wins.**
  - ❍ However, it kept producing exceptions, for which **scholars had to keep writing additional rules.** This is where Dr Rishi Rajpopat's discovery came through.
- ➢ **Solution:**
  - ❍ The Scholar took a simpler approach, arguing that the **meta-rule has been wrongly interpreted throughout history**; what Panini actually meant was that for rules applying to the left and right sides of a word, **readers should use the right-hand side rule.**
  - ❍ Using this logic, Dr Rajpopat found that the **'Ashtadhyayi' could finally become an accurate 'language machine'**, producing **grammatically sound words and sentences almost every time**.
- ➢ **Significance:**
  - ❍ The discovery now makes it possible to construct millions of Sanskrit words using Panini's system—and since his grammar rules were exact and formulaic, they can act as a Sanskrit language algorithm that can be taught to computers.

Take 'mantra' and 'guru' as examples.

In the sentence 'devāḥ prasannāḥ mantraiḥ' ('The Gods [devāḥ] are pleased [prasannāḥ] by the mantras [mantraiḥ]') we encounter 'rule conflict' when deriving mantraiḥ 'by the mantras'.

The derivation starts with 'mantra + bhis'. One rule is applicable to left part **mantra** and the other to right part **bhis**. We must pick the rule applicable to the right part '**bhis**', which gives us the correct form '**mantraiḥ**'.

And in the the sentence 'jñānaṁ dīyate guruṇā' ('Knowledge [jñānaṁ] is given [dīyate] by the guru [guruṇā]') we encounter rule conflict when deriving guruṇā 'by the guru'.

The derivation starts with '**guru + ā**'. One rule is applicable to left part '**guru**' and the other to right part '**ā**'.

We must pick the rule applicable to the right part '**ā**', which gives us the correct form '**guruṇā**'.

Who was Panini, the Father of Linguistics?

- ➢ Panini probably lived in the 4th century BC, the **age of the conquests of Alexander and the founding of the Mauryan Empire**, even though he has also been dated to the 6th century BC, the age of The **Buddha** and Mahavira.
- ➢ He likely lived in **Salatura (Gandhara),** which today would lie in **north-west Pakistan**, and was probably associated with the **great university at Taksasila**, which also produced **Kautilya and Charaka**, the ancient Indian masters of statecraft and medicine respectively.
- ➢ By the time Panini's great grammar, the 'Ashtadhyayi' was composed, Sanskrit had virtually reached its classical form — and developed little thereafter.
- ➢ Panini's grammar, which built on the work of many earlier grammarians, effectively **stabilised the Sanskrit language**.
- ➢ The earlier works had recognised the root as the basic element of a word, and had classified **some 2,000 monosyllabic roots which**, with the addition of prefixes, suffixes and inflexions, were thought to provide all the words of the language.

Note:

Sarojini Naidu (The Nightingale of India)

Why in News?

13th February marks the birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu. She was famously known as Bharatiya Kokila (The Nightingale of India).

➢ India celebrates Sarojini Naidu's birth anniversary as **National Women's Day.**

SAROJINI NAIDU
(February 13, 1879 - March 2, 1949)

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BRIEF PROFILE

○ A Political activist, Feminist, Poet
○ Known as Bharatiya Kokila (The Nightingale of India)

Her birth anniversary is observed as National Women's Day (13th February)

CONTRIBUTION TO INDIAN FREEDOM MOVEMENT

○ Joined the Indian National Movement in 1905 during the Partition of Bengal
○ First Indian Woman President of Indian National Congress in 1925 (preceded by the English feminist Annie Besant in 1917)
○ Accompanied Gandhi to London for the inconclusive second session of the Round Table Conference for Indian-British cooperation (1931)
○ A significant leader of Salt Satyagraha Movement (1930); Led Dharasana Satyagraha
○ Represented India at Various International Forums

OTHER CONTRIBUTION

○ A Renowned Poetess: The Golden Threshold (1905), The Bird of Time (1912), The Broken Wing (1912), In the Bazaars of Hyderabad (1912)
○ Advocated Women Rights: Member of the All India Women's Conference (founded in 1927)
○ India's First Woman Governor: She was appointed the governor of Uttar Pradesh after India achieved independence in 1947

" We want deeper sincerity of motive, a greater courage in speech and earnestness in action"

Who was Sarojini Naidu?

➢ **About:**

○ Sarojini Naidu, was an **Indian independence** activist, **poet, and politician**.

   ● She was born on **February 13, 1879, in Hyderabad, India.**

○ She joined the **Indian national movement** in the wake of **partition of Bengal in 1905.**

○ The British government lauded Sarojini Naidu with the **'Kaisar-i-Hind' Medal** for her service during the plague epidemic in India.

➢ **Contribution to Indian Freedom Movement:**

○ **First Indian Woman President of INC:** Naidu was elected as the **first Indian woman president of the** **Indian National Congress(INC)** in 1925**(Kanpur Session)** and continued to hold this position till **1928**.

   ● **Annie Besant** was the **first woman President of the INC** who presided it in 1917.

○ **Participated in Non-Cooperation Movement:** Naidu took part in the **Non-Cooperation Movement** launched by Gandhi in 1920 and **was arrested several times** for her involvement in various freedom activities.

Note:

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- **Lead Salt Satyagraha:** In 1930, Naidu was selected by Gandhi to lead the **Salt Satyagraha**, a **nonviolent protest against the British monopoly on salt production** in India.
  - On May 21, Sarojini Naidu led 2,500 marchers on the Dharasana Salt Works, some 150 miles north of Bombay.
- **Quit India Movement**: In 1942, Sarojini Naidu was arrested during the **"Quit India" movement** and was jailed for 21 months with Gandhiji.
- **Traveled Abroad to Raise Awareness**: Naidu traveled to different countries, including the **United States and the United Kingdom**, to raise awareness about India's struggle for independence and **to mobilize international support.**
  - She also **represented India at various international forums** and spoke about the Indian independence movement and **women's rights.**

- **Contribution as a Politician:**
  - **Second Round Table Conference:** She accompanied Gandhiji to London for the inconclusive **second session of the Round Table Conference** for **Indian–British cooperation (1931).**
  - **Governor of Uttar Pradesh**: After India gained independenc**e, Naidu was appointed as the governor of Uttar Pradesh,** becoming the **first woman to hold a governor's office in India.**

- **Other Contributions:**
  - **A Renowned Poetess**: Naidu was a renowned poetess and wrote in both English and Urdu.
    - Published in 1912, **'In the Bazaars of Hyderabad'** remains one of her **most popular poems.**
    - Her other works include "**The Golden Threshold (1905)", "The Bird of Time (1912)", and "The Broken Wing (1912)"**.
  - **Worked for Women's Empowerment:** Naidu was a strong advocate of women's rights and worked tirelessly to empower women in India.
    - She was also a member of the **All-India Women's Conference** and worked to improve the status of women in India.

- **Death:**
  - She died on **March 2, 1949, in Lucknow, India**.

ASI Discovers 1,300-yr-old Buddhist Stupa

Why in News?

Recently, the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** discovered a **1,300-year-old stupa** right in the middle of a **mining site in Odisha's Jajpur district** at a Khondalite mining site**.**

- It is the place from where Khondalite stones were supplied for the beautification project around the **12th Century** Shree**Jagannath Temple in Puri.**

What are the Findings of the ASI?

- The stupa could be 4.5-metre tall and initial assessment showed it may belong to the 7th or **8th century.**
- It was found at Parabhadi which is situated near**Lalitagiri**, a major Buddhist complex, having a large number of stupas and monasteries.
  - **Lalitgiri Buddhist site** is believed to be the most sacred among the **three sites (Lalitagiri, Ratnagiri and Udayagiri)** as it unearthed a massive stupa where a relic of Buddha was discovered inside a stone casket.

What are the Khondalite Stones?

- Khondalite is a type of **metamorphic rock that is found in the Eastern Ghats** region of India, particularly in the state of Odisha. It is named after the**Khondalite Group of rocks,** which is believed to have formed around 1.6 billion years ago during the Proterozoic era.
- Khondalite is primarily composed of **feldspar, quartz, and mica, and has a distinct pinkish-grey coloration.** It is commonly used as a decorative stone in construction and is particularly prized for its durability and resistance to weathering.
- Khondalite stones were widely used in ancient temple complexes. They are proposed to be used widely to maintain aesthetic value of some projects such as heritage security zone, Jagannath Ballav pilgrim centre, etc.

Note:

GAUTAM BUDDHA

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Believed to be 8ᵗʰ of the 10 incarnations of Lord Vishnu (Dashavatar)
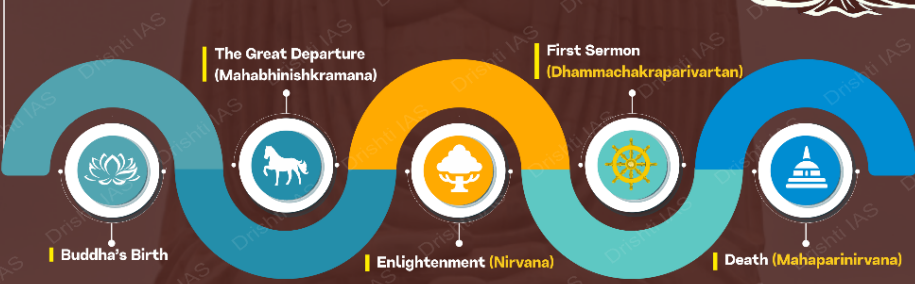
BIRTH
- Born as Siddhartha (563 BC)
- Birthplace - **Lumbini** (Nepal) near **Kapilavastu**

PARENTS
- Father - elected ruler of Kapilvastu; headed **Shakya republican clan**
- Mother - princess from **Koshalan dynasty**

IMPORTANT EVENTS

- The Great Departure (Mahabhinishkramana)
- First Sermon (Dhammachakraparivartan)
- Buddha's Birth
- Enlightenment (Nirvana)
- Death (Mahaparinirvana)

Buddha referred to himself as Tathagata (one who has thus come/gone) and has been addressed as Bhagavat (in Buddhist texts)

CONTEMPORARIES
- Vardhaman Mahavira
- Bimbisara
- Ajatshatru

OTHER IMPORTANT PLACES ASSOCIATED WITH BUDDHA
- **Bodh Gaya** (Enlightenment) (named Buddha after attaining enlightenment)
- **Sarnath** (first sermon)
- **Vaishali** (last sermon)
- **Kushinagara** (death place (487 BC))

What is Stupa?

➤ **About**: Stupas were burial mounds prevalent in India from the vedic period.

➤ **Architecture:** Stupas consist of a cylindrical drum with a circular **anda** and a **harmika** and a **chhatra** on the top.
  ○ **Anda:** Hemispherical mound symbolic of the mound of dirt used to cover Buddha's remains (in many stupas actual relics were used).
  ○ **Harmika:** Square railing on top of the mound.
  ○ **Chhatra:** Central pillar supporting a triple umbrella form.

➤ **Material Used:** The core of the stupa was made of **unburnt brick** while the outer surface was made by using **burnt bricks,** which were then covered with a thick layer of plaster and medhi and the toran were decorated with wooden sculptures.

➤ **Examples:**
  ○ **Sanchi Stupa** in Madhya Pradesh is the most famous of the Ashokan stupas.
  ○ **Piprahwa Stupa** in Uttar Pradesh is the oldest one.
  ○ **Stupas built after the death of Buddha:** Rajagriha, Vaishali, Kapilavastu, Allakappa, Ramagrama, Vethapida, Pava, Kushinagar and Pippalivana.
  ○ **Stupa at Bairat, Rajasthan:** Grand stupa with a circular mound and a circumambulatory path.

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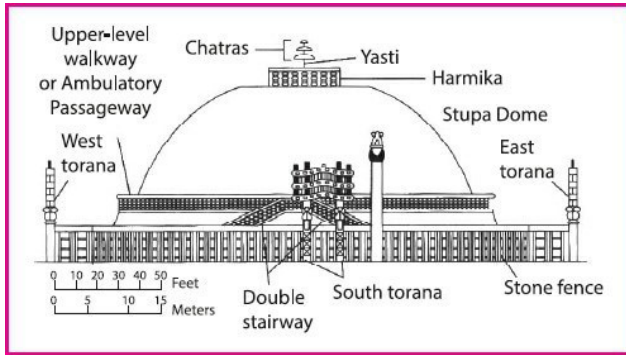
Dickinsonia Fossil

Why in News?

Fossils of an extinct species, Dickinsonia, that scientists reported in a **discovery from India's Bhimbetka Rock Shelters in 2021** have been found to be a false alarm.

- Researchers after a closer look at the site revealed the **Dickinsonia fossil** to really be wax smeared on a rock by a beehive.

What is Dickinsonia?

- *Dickinsonia* is an **extinct primitive animal** that inhabited seabeds around Australia, China, Russia, Ukraine, **in the Ediacaran period, 600-500 million years ago.** It was classified as an animal after discovery of cholesterol molecules in the fossils.

- It is believed to be **one of the earliest animals to have existed on earth**.

What are the Key Facts of Bhimbetka Rock Shelter?

- **History and Period Span:**
  - The Bhimbetka rock shelters are an **archaeological site in central India that spans the prehistoric Paleolithic** and Mesolithic periods, as well as the historic period.
  - It exhibits the **earliest traces of human life in India and evidence of Stone Age** starting at the site in Acheulian times.
  - It is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** that consists of seven hills and over 750 rock shelters distributed over 10 km.

- **Discovery:** The Bhimbetka rock shelters were founded by V S Wakankar in 1957.

- **Location:** It is located in Raisen District between Hoshangabad and Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh.
  - It is about 40 kilometres south-east of Bhopal in the foothills of the Vindhya Mountains.

- **Paintings:** Some of the Bhimbetka rock shelters feature prehistoric cave paintings and the earliest are about 10,000 years old (c. 8,000 BCE), corresponding to the Indian Mesolithic.
  - Most of these are done in red and white on the cave walls.
  - A multitude of themes were covered in this form of rock art and it depicted scenes like singing, dancing, hunting and other common activities of the people staying there.
    - The oldest of the cave paintings in Bhimbetka is believed to be **about 12,000 years ago.**

Keeladi Findings

Why in News?

Recently, the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** has submitted a detailed **report on the findings during the first two phases** of the digging at the **Sangam-era** site and their significance.

- Also, **the Keeladi Site Museum** is coming up in Sivaganga that would house significant ones of the **over 18,000 artefacts unearthed so far.**

What are the Keypoints about Keeladi?

- Keeladi is a tiny hamlet in the **Sivaganga district in south Tamil Nadu**. It is about **12 km south-east to the temple city of Madurai** and is located along the **Vaigai river**.

- The excavations here from 2015 prove that an **urban civilization existed in Tamil Nadu** in the **Sangam age** on the banks of the Vaigai river.

Note:

What are the Key Findings?

➢ In the **eight rounds of excavations**, including the **first three by the ASI**, over **18,000 artefacts** have been unearthed from the site and the unique artefacts will be on display at the museum to be opened soon.

➢ Unearthing of heaps of pottery suggest the **existence of a pottery making industry,** mostly made of locally available raw materials. Over **120 potsherds containing Tamil Brahmi inscriptions** have been found.

❍ Over a thousand inscribed potsherds, found at Keeladi and other sites **clearly suggest the long survival of the script.**

➢ Spindle whorls, copper needles, terracotta seal, hanging stones of the yarn, terracotta spheres and earthen vessels to hold liquid **suggest various stages of a weaving industry.** There also existed a **dyeing industry and a glass bead industry.**

➢ Gold ornaments, copper articles, semi-precious stones, shell bangles, ivory bangles and ivory combs **reflect the artistic, culturally rich and prosperous lifestyle** of the Keeladi people.

➢ Agate and carnelian beads **suggest import through commercial networks** while terracotta and ivory dice, **gamesmen and evidence of hopscotch have been unearthed revealing their pastime hobbies.**

Sangam Age

➢ The word 'Sangam' is the Tamil form of the Sanskrit word **Sangha** which means a group of persons or an association.

➢ The Tamil Sangam was an **academy of poets** who flourished in three different periods and in different places under the patronage of the **Pandyan kings.**

➢ The **Sangam literature** which was largely consolidated from the **third Sangam,** throws information on conditions of life of people around the beginning of the Christian era.

❍ It deals with the **secular matter** relating to the public and social activities like government, war charity, trade, worship, agriculture, etc.

❍ Sangam literature consists of the earliest Tamil works (such as the **Tolkappiyam**), the ten poems **(Pattupattu)**, the eight anthologies **(Ettutogai)** and the eighteen minor works **(Padinenkilkanakku)**, and the three epics.

Tamil-Brahmi Script:

➢ The Brahmi script was the earliest script that the Tamils used.

➢ In the late ancient and early medieval period, they started evolving a new angular script, called the **Grantha script,** from which the modern Tamil is derived.

Vaigai River:

➢ It is an **east-flowing river.**

➢ The Vaigai river basin is an important basin among the 12 basins lying between the **Cauvery and Kanyakumari.**

➢ This basin is bounded by the **Cardamom Hills and the Palani Hills** on the West and by **the Palk Strait and Palk Bay** on the East

Mutiny Memorial tells the Story of 1857 Revolt

Why in News?

Mutiny Memorial (New Delhi) was initially **built in 1863 to honour those who fought from the British side** during the **Revolt of 1857** but 25 years after Independence, they **re-dedicated it to the memory of those Indians who lost their lives fighting the British**.

➢ The monument has an indifferent **gothic design** with arched marble-backed recesses on all sides of the octagonal tower.

Who were the Leaders of Revolt?

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

Note:

Allahabad and Banaras	Maulvi Liyakat Ali	Colonel On-cell
Bihar	Kunwar Singh	William Taylor

What were the Impacts of the Revolt?

➢ **Direct Rule of the British Crown:** The Government of India Act, 1858, ended company rule in India and brought it under the direct rule of the British Crown.

  ○ **The India office** was created to handle the governance and the administration of the country.

➢ **Religious Tolerance:** It was promised, and due attention was paid to the customs and traditions of India. British support to religious reforms took a backseat.

➢ **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.

REVOLT OF 1857

The first expression of organised resistance against the East India Company (EIC), occurred when Lord Canning was Governor General of India (tenure - 1856-62)

Centre of Revolt	Leader	British Officials (suppressed the revolt)
Delhi	Bahadur Shah Zafar	John Nicholson
Lucknow	Begum Hazrat Mahal	Henry Lawrence
Kanpur	Nana Saheb	Sir Colin Campbell
Jhansi & Gwalior	Rani Lakshmibai & Tantia Tope	General Hugh Rose
Bareilly	Khan Bahadur Khan	Sir Colin Campbell
Bihar	Kunwar Singh	William Taylor
Allahabad & Banaras	Maulvi Liyakat Ali	Colonel Oncell

FAILURE OF REVOLT
- Limited uprising - princely states, southern provinces didn't join
- No effective leadership
- Limited resources - men, money and arms
- English-educated middle class, rich merchants, traders and zamindars of Bengal helped suppress the revolt

CONSEQUENCES
- EIC's rule in India ended
- Direct rule of British crown in India
- Viceroy replaced Governor General
- Doctrine of Lapse abolished - adoptive sons approved as legal heirs
- Ratio of British officers to Indian soldiers increased

CAUSES OF REVOLT
- Political - British expansion policy (Doctrine of Lapse)
- Military - Inferior treatment of Indian soldiers who mainly had farmer background
- Economic - Heavy tax imposition on farmers, stringent revenue collection ways, ruin of local industries by introducing British goods
- Socio-Religious - Rapidly spreading Western Civilisation, abolition of Sati pratha and female infanticide, introduction of western

Books written on the Revolt of 1857
- The Indian War of Independence by Veer Savarkar
- Rebellion, 1857: A Symposium by Puran Chand Joshi
- The Indian Mutiny of 1857 by George Bruce Malleson
- Great Mutiny by Christopher Hibbert
- Religion and Ideology of the Rebels of 1857 by Iqbal Hussain
- Excavation of Truth: Unsung Heroes of 1857 War of Independence by Khan Mohammad Sadiq Khan

Note:

drishti

Buddhism

BUDDHISM

Drishti IAS

ORIGIN

○ 6th century BC, based on the teachings of Gautam Buddha

MAIN FEATURES

○ **Essence –** Attainment of enlightenment (Nibbana)
○ **Supreme Deity –** None

PRINCIPLES

○ Avoid the extremes; follow Madhyam Marg (middle path)
○ Individualistic component (everyone is responsible for their own happiness)
○ 4 Noble Truths:
  • Dukkha (suffering)
  • Samudya (cause of suffering)
  • Nirodha (suffering could be ended)
  • Atthanga Magga (8-fold path to achieve this)
○ 8-Fold Path:
  • Right - view, intention, speech, action, livelihood, mindfulness, effort and concentration

BUDDHISM REJECTS

○ **Authenticity of Vedas**
○ **Concept of soul (atman)** (unlike Jainism)

MAJOR BUDDHIST TEXTS

○ **Sutta Pitaka** (main teachings of Buddha - Dhamma)
○ **Vinaya Pitaka** (rules of conduct for monks/nuns)
○ **Abhidhamma Pitaka** (philosophical analysis)
○ Other imp texts - **Divyavadana, Dipavamsa, Mahavamsa, Milind Panha**

Budhha's teachings were rehearsed, authenticated & divided in 3 Pitakas at the 1st Buddhist Council

These teachings were written down c. 25 BC in Pali

4 BUDDHIST COUNCILS

Buddhist Council	Patron	Venue	Chairman	Year
First	Ajatashatru	Rajgriha	Mahakashyapa	483 BC
Second	Kalashoka	Vaishali	Sabbakami	383 BC
Third	Ashoka	Patliputra	Mogaliputra	250 BC
Fourth	Kanishka	Kundalban (Kashmir)	Vasumitra	72 AD

Vaikom Satyagraha

Why in News?

As the year **2024 marks the centenary of the Vaikom Satyagraha**, Chief Minister of Kerala and Tamil Nadu jointly inaugurated the centenary celebrations.

Note:

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What is Vaikom Satyagraha?

➢ **Background:**
- The princely state of Travancore had a **feudal, militaristic, and ruthless system** of custom-ridden government, some of the most rigid, refined and ruthless social norms and customs were seen in Travancore.
  - Lower castes like the **Ezhavas and Pulayas** were considered polluting and various rules were in place to distance them from upper castes.
  - These included a prohibition, not just on temple entry, but even on walking on the roads surrounding temples.

➢ **Contribution of Leaders:**
- In 1923, Madhavan presented the issue as a resolution at the Kakinada meet of All India Congress Committee. Subsequently, it was taken up by the Congress Untouchability Committee formed by the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee in January 1924.
- Madhavan, K.P. Kesava Menon who was the then secretary of Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee and Congress leader and educationist **K. Kelappan (also known as Kerala Gandhi)** are considered **the pioneers of the Vaikom Satyagraha movement.**

➢ **Factors Leading to Satyagraha:**
- **Christian missionaries,** supported by the East India Company, had expanded their reach and many **lower castes converted to Christianit**y to escape the clutches of an oppressive system that continued to bind them.
- **Maharaja Ayilyam Thirunal,** took many **progressive reforms.**
  - Most important of these was the **introduction of a modern education** system with free primary education for all – **even lower castes.**
- Forces of capitalism and these reforms created new social hierarchies – which were not always congruent with traditional ones.

➢ **Beginning of Satyagraha:**
- **On March 30, 1924,** the **Satyagrahis walked** in procession towards the forbidden public roads. They were **stopped** 50 yards away from the place where a board cautioning the oppressed communities against walking on the roads (surrounding the **Vaikom Mahadeva temple**), was placed.

- Dressed in khadi and wearing khadi caps, **Govinda Panikkar (Nair), Bahuleyan (Ezhava)** and **Kunjappu (Pulaya),** defied the prohibitionary orders.
- The **police stopped them**. In protest, the three men sat on the road and were arrested.
- Then on, every day, three volunteers from three different communities were sent to walk on the prohibited roads.
  - Within a week, the **leaders of the movement were all arrested.**

➢ **Role of Women:**
- Periyar's wife **Nagammai** and sister **Kannammal**, played an unprecedented role in the fight.

➢ **Arrival of Gandhi:**
- **Gandhi arrived** at Vaikom in **March 1925**, held a series of discussions with leaders of various caste groups and met Maharani Regent at her Varkala camp.
- The Vaikom Satyagraha was **officially withdrawn on November 30, 1925** after consultations between Gandhi and W.H. Pitt (police commissioner of Travancore).
- A compromise was reached following the release of all prisoners and grant of access to roads.

➢ **Temple Entry Proclamation:**
- **In 1936,** the historic **Temple Entry Proclamation** was **signed** by the Maharaja of Travancore which removed the age-old ban on the entry of temples.

The Life and Legacy of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar
Why in News?

India Celebrates Birth Anniversary of **Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar** on April 14, 2023.

Who was Dr. BR Ambedkar?

➢ **About:**
- **Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar** was a prominent **Indian jurist, economist, social reformer, and politician.**
- He was born on **April 14, 1891** in **Mhow, Madhya Pradesh.**
  - His father, **Subedar Ramji Maloji Sakpal**, was a well-read person and follower of **Sant Kabir.**

➢ **Education:**
- Ambedkar earned his **Bachelor's degree from**

Bombay University and went on for further studies to **Columbia University in New York and London School of Economics.**

➢ **Contributions**:
○ In **1924**, he started an **Association for the welfare of the depressed classes** and in **1927,** he started the **Bahishkrit Bharat newspaper** to address the cause of the depressed classes.
○ He also led the **Mahad Satyagraha in March 1927**.
  • He participated in all three **Round Table Conferences.**
  • In **1932**, Dr. Ambedkar signed the **Poona pact** with **Mahatma Gandhi,** which abandoned the idea of separate electorates for the depressed classes **(Communal Award).**
  • In **1936,** he formed the **Independent Labour Party** to safeguard the interests of the depressed classes.
  • In 1942, Dr. Ambedkar was appointed to the **Executive Council of the Governor General of India as a Labour member** and elected to the **Constituent Assembly from Bengal in 1946.**
    ■ He was the **Chairman of Drafting Committee** and remembered as the **Father of the Indian Constitution.**
○ In 1947, Dr. Ambedkar became **Minister of Law in the first Cabinet of independent India.**
  • **He resigned from the cabinet in 1951,** over differences on the Hindu Code Bill.

➢ **Additional Details:**
○ Later in life, He **converted to Buddhism**. He passed away on **December 6, 1956, which is commemorated as Mahaparinirvan Diwas**
  • **Chaitya Bhoomi** is a memorial to B R Ambedkar, located in Mumbai.
○ He was also 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:**
  • BahishkritHitkarini Sabha (1923)
  • Independent Labor Party (1936)
  • Scheduled Castes Federation (1942)

Note:

Major Tribal Revolts in India

MAJOR TRIBAL REVOLTS IN INDIA

TRIBE (REVOLT)	REGION	YEAR	LEADER/S
Pahariya	Rajmahal Hills	1778	Raja Jagannath
Chuar (Jungle Mahal Rebellion)	Jungle Mahal (b/w Chota Nagpur & Bengal plains)	1798	Durjan/Durjol Singh, Madhab Singh, Raja Mohan Singh, Lachman Singh
Oraon and Munda (Tamar Revolt)	Tamar (Chhotanagpur)	1798; 1914-15	Bholanath Sahay/Singh (1798) Jatra Bhagat, Balram Bhagat (1914-15)
Ho and Munda	Singhbhum and Ranchi (Chhotanagpur region)	1820-37; 1890s	Raja of Parahat (Ho) Birsa Munda (1890s)
Ahom	Assam	1828-30	Gomdhar Konwar
Khasi	Hilly region b/w Jaintia and Garo hills	1830s	Nunklow ruler – Tirath Singh
Kol	Chhotanagpur (Ranchi, Singhbhum, Hazaribagh, Palamau)	1831	Buddho Bhagat
Santhals	Rajmahal Hills	1833; 1855-56	Sidhu Murmu and Kanhu Murmu
Khond	Orissa, Andhra Pradesh	1837-56	Chakra Bisnoi
Koya	Eastern Godavari track (Andhra) Rampa (Andhra)	1879-80; 1886 1916; 22-24	Tomma Sora, Raja Anantayyar Alluri Sitarama Raju (Rampa revolt)
Bhil	Western Ghats, Khandesh (MH), south Rajasthan	1817-19; 25; 31; 46 & 1913	Govind Guru (1913 Mangarh Massacre)
Gond	Adilabad (Telangana)	1940	Komrum Bheem

Ram Prasad Bismil

Why in News?

On 11th June 2023, **126th birth anniversary** of Ram Prasad Bismil was commemorated. Known for his revolutionary spirit and poetic prowess, Bismil played a significant role in the fight against British colonial rule.

What are the Key Points about Bismil?

➢ **Birth:**
   ○ Bismil was born on 11th June 1897, in a village in Uttar Pradesh's Shahjahanpur district to Murlidhar and Moolmati.

➢ **About:**
   ○ Bismil joined the Arya Samaj (founded in 1875 by Dayanand Saraswati) and became a talented writer and poet, using pen names like **'Bismil' meaning 'wounded' or 'restless.'**

- 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.
  - He was 18 then and vented his anguish through his poem **'Mera Janm'.**
  - He **believed in revolutionary methods of freedom struggle** which were in contrast to **Gandhian methods.**
- **Contributions of Ram Prasad Bismil:**
  - **The Mainpuri Conspiracy:**
  - Bismil grew disillusioned with the moderate wing of the Congress Party and founded a revolutionary organization called '**Matrivedi'.**
  - In **1918**, Bismil and Dixit got involved in the Mainpuri Conspiracy in which they distributed prohibited literature.
    - On 28 January 1918, Bismil distributed two of his writings to people- a pamphlet titled **Deshwasiyonke Naam Sandesh (A Message to Countrymen) and Mainpuri ki Pratigya (Vow of Mainpuri).**
  - To collect funds for their parties **they looted government coffers on three occasions in 1918**
- **Founding the Hindustan Republican Association:**
  - In **1920**, he formed the **Hindustan Republican Association (HRA)** with Sachindra Nath Sanyal and Jadugopal Mukherjee.
  - The HRA's manifesto, largely penned by Bismil, **aimed to establish a federal Republic of United States of India** through an armed revolution.
- **The Kakori Train Action:**
  - The Kakori train robbery in **1925** was a major action of the HRA, aimed at acquiring funds for their activities and generating publicity.
  - 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.**

- **Poetry and Writing:**
  - Bismil's prolific writings, including patriotic verses in Hindi and Urdu, **inspired Indians to join the freedom struggle.**
  - His poems reflected concerns for societal issues and principles of equality and human dignity.
- **Advocacy for Hindu-Muslim Unity:**
  - Bismil's close friendship with fellow revolutionary poet Ashfaqullah Khan symbolized communal harmony.
  - In his last letter before his hanging, he **emphasized the need for Hindus and Muslims to unite for the nation's service.**
- **Death:**
  - He was **hanged on 19th December 1927** at Gorakhpur Jail.
  - He was cremated on the banks of river Rapti, and the site was rechristened as **Raj Ghat** later.

130ᵗʰ Year of Gandhiji's Satyagraha

Why in News?

On 7ᵗʰ June 2023, the **Indian Navy** participated in a commemorative event to mark the 130th Anniversary of the start of the struggle against apartheid, started by Mahatma Gandhi (**7ᵗʰ June 1893)** at the **Pietermaritzburg Railway Station near Durban, South Africa.**

- INS Trishul, a frontline warship of the Indian Navy visited Durban to commemorate the event.
- This visit also commemorates the **30-year re-establishment of diplomatic relations between India and South Africa.**
- In recognition of his contribution, Nelson Mandela, then President of South Africa, conferred **the Freedom of Pietermaritzburg** posthumously **on Mahatma Gandhi in a moving ceremony at Pietermaritzburg Railway Station on April 25, 1997.**

What were the Contributions of Gandhiji in South Africa?

- **Legal and Social Activism:**
  - Gandhi arrived in South Africa in 1893 to handle a **legal case but was inspired to fight for the rights of Indians** in the country.

Note:

- ○ He organized Indians in **Durban and founded the Natal Indian Congress in 1894** to advocate for voting rights for Indians.
- ○ He **confronted discrimination and racism** through his law practice, representing Indians and addressing their grievances.
- ○ He mobilized support for the welfare of Indians and **established the Transvaal British Indian Association in Johannesburg in 1903.**

➤ **Satyagraha and Passive Resistance:**
- ○ Gandhi launched his first Satyagraha (nonviolent resistance) campaign in Johannesburg in 1906 against **an ordinance that imposed restrictions on Asians.**
- ○ He organized mass meetings and encouraged civil disobedience to challenge discriminatory laws.
- ○ Gandhi faced imprisonment multiple times for his nonviolent protests, including the famous **Volkrust Satyagraha in 1913.**

➤ **Establishment of Communal Living:**
- ○ Gandhi founded the **Phoenix Settlement in Durban in 1904** as a community living experiment.
- ○ He established the Tolstoy Farm near Johannesburg in 1910 to prepare **Satyagrahis (followers of nonviolence).**
- ○ These initiatives aimed to foster self-reliance, promote communal harmony, and provide training in practical skills.

➤ **Mobilization of Indian Community:**
- ○ Gandhi's activism and leadership inspired the **Indian community to stand up against discriminatory** laws and regulations.
- ○ His methods of nonviolent resistance and civil disobedience had a significant impact on the **South African Native National Congress**, formed in 1912.
- ○ Gandhi's political **ideas and mobilization efforts played a role** in shaping the formation and direction of the South African independence movement.

➤ **Legal Reforms and Recognition of Indian Rights:**
- ○ Through his activism and negotiations, Gandhi compelled the South African government to **pass the Indian Relief Act in 1914.**
- ○ This act abolished several discriminatory laws and recognized the rights of Indians in South Africa.
- ○ Gandhi's efforts laid the **groundwork for future reforms and set a precedent** for nonviolent resistance in the struggle against oppression.

Purana Qila Excavation

Why in News?

The recent excavations by **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** at Purana Qila (Old Fort) in Delhi have revealed a continuous history spanning **over 2,500 years.** These excavations are aimed to **establish complete chronology of the site.**

➤ **Artifacts from various historical periods** have been discovered, which revealed **9 cultural levels** including Pre-Mauryan, Mauryan, Sunga, Kushana, Gupta, Post Gupta, Rajput, Sultanate, and Mughal.

➤ The plan is to showcase the findings in an **Open Air Site Museum at the fort.**

What are the Findings of the Excavation?

➤ **Shards of Painted Gray Ware Pottery:**
- ○ These pottery pieces are typically dated to the period of 1200 BC to 600 BC, indicating the existence of **human settlements** in the pre-**Mauryan era.**

Vaikuntha Vishnu Sculpture:

A 900-year-old sculpture of **Vaikuntha Vishnu,** belonging to the **Rajput period**, was discovered during the excavation.

➤ **Terracotta Plaque:**
- ○ A terracotta plaque depicting the **goddess Gaja Lakshm**i, dating back to the **Gupta period**, was found at the site.

➤ **Terracotta Ring Well:**
- ○ The remains of a well dating back 2,500 years from the **Mauryan period** were unearthed.

Sunga-Kushan Period Complex:

➤ The excavation revealed a well-defined **four-room**

Note:

complex from the Sunga-Kushan period, which dates back approximately 2,300 years.

➢ **Coins, Seals, and Copper Artifacts:**

❍ More than **136 coins, 35 seals and sealings**, and other copper artifacts were discovered at the site. These findings indicate the site's significance as a **center for trade activities.**

What is Purana Qila?

➢ Purana Qila is **one of the oldest forts** belonging to the Mughal era and the site is identified as **ancient settlement of Indraprastha (the capital of Pandavas).**

➢ The massive gateway and walls of Purana Qila **were built by Humayun in the 16th century** and the foundation was laid **for the new capital, Dinpanah.**

➢ The work was carried forward by **Sher Shah Suri,** who displaced Humayun.

➢ The major attractions inside the fort are the **Qila-i-Kuhna mosque** of Sher Shah Suri, **Sher Mandal** (a tower, which is traditionally associated with the death of Humayun), a stepwell and the remains of the extensive rampart, which has three gates.

➢ The unique features of **Indo-Islamic architecture** like **horseshoe-shaped arches, bracketed openings, marble inlay**, carving etc are very prominent in the structure.

❍ The mosque has an inscription which says, 'As long as there are people on this earth, may this edifice be frequented, and people will be happy in it.'

Rani Durgavati

Why in News?

Recently, the Madhya Pradesh government launched a six-day rally called the **Rani Durgavati Gaurav Yatra** to commemorate the life and **legacy of the 16th-century queen,** Rani Durgavati, who fought against the Mughals.

Who was Rani Durgavati?

➢ **About:**

❍ Rani Durgavati, born in 1524 in **Mahoba's Chandela dynasty** (present-day Uttar Pradesh, near the border with Madhya Pradesh), was a symbol of **India's self-determination**.

● Chandelas were known for building the famous **Khajuraho temples** in the 11th century.

❍ She married Dalpat Shah, the son of Gond King Sangram Shah, and ruled the kingdom of **Garha-Katanga** after the death of her husband in 1550 with great vigor and courage.

● The Kingdom of Garha-Katanga included the regions of **Narmada Valley and parts of Northern Madhya Pradesh.**

● Gond tribe **is a prominent tribe in central India** known for their rich cultural heritage and resilience.

❍ As per the government's documentation, **the queen and her generals managed the affairs of the kingdom for 16 years.**

➢ **The Mughal Attack on Garha-Katanga:**

❍ Rani Durgavati, the brave queen of Garha-Katanga, opposed the **Mughal Empire's expansion** in the mid-16th century.

❍ Rani Durgavati displayed strong leadership while fighting against **Akbar's commander Asaf Khan** and the neighboring Malwa Sultan Baz Bahadur. She initially triumphed in the battle against Asaf Khan's attack on her kingdom.

❍ However, the Mughals regrouped and overwhelmed her forces. Rather than surrendering, Rani Durgavati chose to sacrifice her life.

➢ **Legacy and Recognition:**

❍ Revered as a patriotic ruler who symbolized **India's self-determination**.

❍ Described as a combination of **beauty, grace, courage, and bravery** by Abul Fazl, the court historian of Akbar.

❍ Remembered for her sacrifices and as a defender of her culture.

Note:

Discovery of Ancient Maya City

Why in News?

Archaeologists in Mexico have made a significant discovery in the dense jungle of the **Yucatan Peninsula,** uncovering the remains of an **ancientMaya city.**

What are the Major Findings Related to Ancient Maya City?

➤ **About**:
  ❍ The **National Institute for Anthropology and History (INAH) inMexico** led the expedition to Ocomtún.
    ● The research team used **airborne laser scanning** to identify **pre-Hispanic structures throughout the region.**
  ❍ Named Ocomtun, **meaning "stone column" in the Yucatec Maya language**, this newly discovered city is **believed to have been a prominent centre in the central lowland region of the Yucatan Peninsula between 250 and 1000 AD.**
  ❍ It also provides invaluable insights into the **advanced societal and religious practices of the Maya civilization**, known for its **sophisticated mathematical calendars.**

➤ **Major Findings:**
  ❍ **Elevated Terrain:** One of the most surprising findings was an **elevated terrain surrounded bywetlands**, suggesting a unique and strategic settlement pattern.

  ❍ **Pottery: Pottery fragments** found at the site indicate that Ocomtún was **inhabited during the Late Classic period (600-900 A.D.)**
  ❍ **Central Altars**: It was discovered near the **La Riguena river,** possibly used for community rituals.
  ❍ Central altars suggest the **presence of community rituals, highlighting the spiritual and communal aspects of Maya life.**

➤ **Pre-Hispanic Ball Games:** It was played throughout the Maya region, representing a religious practice.
  ❍ Th**e game involved passing a rubber bal**l, symbolising the sun, through a stone hoop without using hands.

➤ **Decline of the City:** The site likely underwent significant changes between **800 and 1000 AD.**
  ❍ This period coincided with th**e decline and collapse of the Lowland Maya civilization,** which was marked by a **decline in population, urban centres, and political instability.**
  ❍ The fall of Ocomtún and other Maya cities was part of a **larger regional collapse, signifying a transformative period in Maya history.**

What is Maya Civilization?

➤ The Maya are an indigenous people of Mexico and Central America. Originating in the Yucatán, they rose to prominence around A.D. 250 in **present-day southern Mexico, Guatemala, northern Belize and western Honduras.**

➤ 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**.

➤ The Maya civilization was one of the most advanced and influential cultures.
  ❍ They developed complex systems of **writing, astronomy, mathematics, art,architecture, and religion.**
  ❍ They also built impressive cities with **pyramids, palaces, temples, and plazas.** However, many aspects of their history and culture remain mysterious and unknown.

What are the Other Major Ancient Civilizations?

➤ **The Indus Valley Civilization**- Northeast Afghanistan to Pakistan and northwest India
➤ The Mesopotamian Civilization- Iraq, Syria, and Turkey

➤ The Incan Civilization- Ecuador, Peru, and Chile
➤ The Aztec Civilization- Mexico
➤ The Persian Civilization- Iran
➤ The Ancient Greek Civilization- Greece
➤ The Ancient Egyptian Civilization- Egypt

What are the Key Facts of Mexico?

➤ Form of Government: Republic of federated states
➤ Capital: Mexico City
➤ Official Language: Spanish
➤ Money: Peso
➤ Major Mountain Ranges: Sierra Madre
➤ Major Rivers: Rio Grande, Yaqui

Mesolithic Rock Paintings Unearthed in Andhra Pradesh

Why in News?

Recently, a former archaeologist of **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** has discovered a **Mesolithic period** rock painting depicting a person tilling a piece of land in Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh.

➤ It was found while surveying the **lower River Krishna Valley** to ascertain the architectural features of shrines.

➤ Earlier, in 2018, archaeologists had uncovered prehistoric rock art estimated to be from the **Neolothic era, circa 1500-2000 BC**, on natural limestone formations near Dachepalli in Guntur district.

What are the Key Findings?

➤ **Natural Rock Shelters:**
  ○ The rock paintings were found **on the walls and ceilings of naturally formed caves on** a hillock in Orvakallu.
  ○ These caves served as **shelters for the prehistoric humans** who inhabited the area during that time.

➤ **Mesolithic Rock Paintings:**
  ○ Among the five caves explored, two stood out with **distinguished depictions of rock paintings.**
  ○ Executed by people of the Mesolithic Age, these paintings offer a **glimpse into the artistic abilities** and practices of that era.

➤ **Artistic Materials:**
  ○ The rock paintings were created **using natural white kaolin and red ochre pigments.**
  ○ **Ochre** is a **pigment composed of clay**, sand, and ferric oxide.
  ○ **Kaolinite** is a **soft, earthy, and usually white mineral** produced by the chemical weathering of aluminium silicate minerals like feldspar.
  ○ Over time, exposure to air and wind has **resulted in significant damage** to the paintings. However, some **sketches and outlines remain intact.**

➤ **Depicted Scenes:**
  ○ The rock paintings depict various scenes from the daily life of the **prehistoric communities**.
  ○ One painting portrays a man skillfully **catching a wild goat with his left hand while using a hook-like** implement to control it.
  ○ Another painting captures two couples with raised hands, while a child stands behind them, **possibly indicating communal activities** or rituals.

➤ **Agricultural Practices:**
  ○ A significant painting showcases a m**an holding a plough and appearing to till the land.** This depiction suggests a semi-settled life pattern where community members engaged in domesticating animals and cultivating crops, reflecting early agricultural practices.

Note:

Stone Ages

➢ **Palaeolithic (Old Stone) Age:**
  ○ Basically, a hunting and food gathering culture.
  ○ Palaeolithic tools include **sharpened stone, chopper, hand axe, scraper, spear**, bow and arrow, etc. and were generally made up of hard rock quartzite.
  ○ Rock paintings and **carvings found at Bhimbetka, Madhya Pradesh** reflect upon hunting as the main subsistence activity.
  ○ Palaeolithic age in India is divided **into three phases:**
    ● **Early or Lower Palaeolithic** (500,000 – 100,000 BC)
    ● **Middle Palaeolithic**(100,000 – 40,000 BC)
    ● **Upper Palaeolithic** (40,000 – 10,000 BC).

➢ **Mesolithic (Middle Stone) Age (10,000 BCE - 8000 BCE):**
  ○ The age is marked by transition from **Pleistocene period to Holocene period** and favorable changes in the climate.
  ○ The early period of Mesolithic age marks the **hunting, fishing and food gathering**.
  ○ **Domestication** of the animals **began** in this age.
  ○ The tools called **Microliths were smaller** and had **improved geometry** than the Palaeolithic age.

➢ **Neolithic (New Stone) Age (8000 BCE - 1000 BCE):**
  ○ Referred to as the **concluding phase of the Stone Age**, the age heralded the beginning of food production.
  ○ Sedentism (living in one place for a long time), use of pottery, and invention of crafts are characteristic features of the neolithic age.
  ○ The neolithic tools were c**omposed of heavy ground tools like pestles**, grinders, pounders and also axes and sickles.

➢ **Megalithic Culture:**
  ○ Megaliths refer to **large stone structures that were constructed** either as burial sites or as commemorative sites.
  ○ In India, archaeologists trace the majority of the megaliths to the **Iron Age (1500 BC to 500 BC)**, though some sites precede the Iron Age, extending up to 2000 BC.
  ○ Megaliths are spread across the Indian subcontinent. Majority of them are found in peninsular India, concentrated in the **states of Maharashtra** (mainly in Vidarbha), Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Alluri Sitarama Raju

Why in News?

Recently, the President of India attended the **closing ceremony** of the **125th Birth Anniversary of Alluri Sitarama Raju** in Hyderabad.

➢ The 125th ceremony of Alluri Sitha Rama Raju was a **year-long celebration of the birth anniversary** of the legendary freedom fighter. The ceremony was launched by the Prime Minister on July 4, 2022.

Who was Alluri Sitarama Raju?

➢ **About:**
  ○ Alluri Sitarama Raju was an Indian revolutionary who fought against the **British colonial rule in India**.
  ○ He led a **guerrilla campaign in the Eastern Ghats region** of present-day Andhra Pradesh, mobilizing the tribal people against the oppressive forest laws and policies of the British government.
  ○ He is widely regarded as a **hero of the jungle or Manyam Veerudu** by the local people for his **bravery and sacrifice**.

➢ **Early Life and Background:**
  ○ He was born on **4 July 1897 or 1898** in Pandrangi village, Visakhapatnam district, Andhra Pradesh.
  ○ He belonged to a **Telugu-speaking Kshatriya family.**

➢ **Rampa Rebellion (or Manyam Rebellion) of 1922-1924:**
  ○ Alluri Sitarama Raju joined the **Non-cooperation movement** led by **Mahatma Gandhi** and witnessed the **exploitation of tribal people** in the Eastern Ghats region by British authorities.
  ○ The tribal people practiced **podu or shifting cultivation**, which involved **clearing patches of forest land for agriculture and moving to another area after a few years.** This was their traditional

Note:

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and sustainable way of life, which also ensured their food security and cultural identity.

○ The **Madras Forest Act of 1882** imposed restrictions on the tribal people's movement and prohibited their collection of minor forest produce, forcing them into **low-wage labor for the forest department or contractors.**

○ Alluri Sitarama Raju **formed a guerrilla army and used Guerrilla warfare** to launch attacks on British police stations and outposts.

- Guerrilla warfare is a form of irregular warfare in which small groups of combatants use military tactics including **ambushes, sabotage, raids, petty warfare, hit-and-run tactics, and mobility, to fight a larger and less-mobile traditional military.**

○ He aimed to liberate the tribal people and drive the British out of the Eastern Ghats.

➢ **Death and Legacy:**

○ Alluri Sitarama Raju was captured and killed by British forces in Koyyuru village on 7 May 1924, marking the end of the Rampa Rebellion.

○ Alluri Sitarama Raju's life exemplified the **unity of society without discrimination based on caste and class.**

○ A **postal stamp** issued by the Government of India in 1986 featuring Alluri Sitarama Raju.

○ A biographical film titled **Alluri Seetharama Raju** was released in 1974.

bal gangadhar tilak
(23 July 1856 - 1 August 1920)

One of the earliest, most vocal proponents of complete independence (Swarajya)

Brief Profile

- Also known as **Lokmanya Tilak**
- **Mahatma Gandhi** called him **"The Maker of Modern India"**
- Educationist: A prolific writer and journalist
- Co-founded: **Deccan Education Society** (1884) and **Fergusson College** (1885)

Social and Political Contributions

- **Ideology:** A devout Hindu; used Hindu scriptures to rouse people
- **Role in INC:** Joined in 1890; Significant role in **Surat Split (1907)** - wanted by extremists to preside over Surat Session
- **Slogan:** "Swaraj is my birthright, and I shall have it!"
- **Lal-Bal- Pal Trio:** Led the extremist group with **Lala Lajpat Rai** and **Bipin Chandra Pal**

Contribution to Freedom Movement

- Propagated swadeshi movement
- Led the **Indian Home Rule Movement** with **Annie Besant**
- Founded All India Home Rule League in April 1916

Lucknow Pact (1916) - signed between **INC** headed by **Tilak** and **All-India Muslim League** headed by **Jinnah** for **Hindu-Muslim unity** in nationalist struggle

Literary Works

- Newspapers: "Kesari" (Marathi) and "The Maratha" (English)
- Books: Gita Rahasya (his Magnum Opus) and Arctic Home of the Vedas

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Red Fort: Venue for the India's Independence Day Celebration

Why in News?

As India proudly celebrated its **77th Independence Day**, the spotlight once again fell upon the **iconic Red Fort** in Delhi.

What are the Series of Events Associated with Red Fort?

➢ **Historical Significance of Red Fort:**
  ❍ **Under the Delhi Sultanate:** Delhi emerged as a pivotal capital during the Delhi Sultanate (1206-1506).
    ● **Babur, the founder of the Mughal dynasty**, termed **Delhi** the 'capital of all Hindustan' in the 16th century.
    ● Despite brief relocations (**Akbar** shifted his capital to Agra) the **Mughals, under Shah Jahan, reestablished Delhi as their capital with Shahjahanabad in 1648**, known today as **Old Delhi.**
➢ **Shah Jahan laid the foundation of his citadel, Lal-Qila or Red Fort.**
  ❍ **Symbolic Significance of the Mughal Emperor:** By the 18th century, the **Mughal Empire had lost most of its territories and power**.
    ● They were still regarded as symbolic rulers of India by some sections of society, **especially by those who opposed British colonialism.**
➢ The **1857 Rebellion** epitomized this connection, when people marched towards Red Fort and **declared the aged Bahadur Shah Zafar as their leader**.
➢ British Imperial Rule and Transformation of the Red Fort:
  ❍ **British Capture of Delhi:** After subduing the 1857 Rebellion, the British intended to **erase the Mughal legacy by demolishing Shahjahanabad.**
    ● While sparing the Red Fort, they stripped it of its grandeur, looted artworks, and replaced inner structures with British buildings.
    ● This transformation left an indelible mark of British imperial authority on the Red Fort.
  ❍ **Utilizing Symbolic Authority**: Britishers recognized Delhi's symbolic power.

● The **Delhi Durbar ceremonies** reinforced British dominance and proclaimed the monarch as the Emperor of India.
● In 1911, the **British moved their capital to Delhi**, constructing a new city that embodied the Indian ethos and centralized authority.

How Red Fort Became Venue for India's Independence Day Celebration?

➢ The **Indian National Army's** trials at the Red Fort in the 1940s elevated its **symbolism**. These trials sparked sympathy for the INA and **intensified nationalist sentiments against British rule,** reinforcing the Red Fort's role as a symbol of defiance.
➢ As India approached independence, Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, **decided to hoist the national flag at the Red Fort.**
  ❍ On August 15, 1947, Jawaharlal Nehru hoisted the National flag "Tiranaga" at **Princess Park,** followed by his historic "**Tryst with Destiny" speech at the Red Fort on August 16, 1947.**
  ❍ This was a **symbolic gesture of reclaiming the fort from British colonial rule and asserting India's sovereignty and identity**. It also marked the culmination of India's long and arduous struggle for freedom.
➢ **Since then,** every year on 15th August, the Prime Minister of India hoists the national flag and addresses the nation from the Red Fort.
  ● This tradition has become an integral part of India's Independence Day celebrations and reflects its pride and patriotism.

About Red Fort

➢ The Red Fort, so called because of the **red colour of the stone** largely used in it, is **octagonal on plan,** with two longer sides on the east and west.
➢ The fort is a masterpiece of Mughal architecture and a symbol of their cultural and artistic achievements. It was **designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2007.**
  ❍ Also, the fort is depicted on the reverse side of the new 500 rupee note.
➢ It is **currently under the management of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI),** which is responsible for its conservation and maintenance.
  ❍ The ASI has also installed various facilities for visitors, such as **museums, galleries, audio guides, light and sound shows, etc.**

Note:

India's Maritime History

Why in News?

A **21-meter-long ship, constructed using ancient stitched shipbuilding method** (Tankai method) is set to **embark on a voyage from Odisha to Bali in Indonesia in November 2025.**

➢ Manned by a crew from the **Indian Navy**, this project **not only showcases India's maritime tradition** but also **sheds light on its seafaring history.**

➢ This initiative is also in **harmony with the Ministry of Culture's Project Mausam**, which seeks to **reestablish maritime cultural ties** and foster cultural understanding among the **39 countries bordering the Indian Ocean.**

What is India's History of Maritime Trade?

➢ **Early Evidence of Maritime Trade:**

  ○ **Indus Valley and Mesopotamia**: The earliest known instances of people from the Indian subcontinent engaging in sea trade date back to **around 3300-1300 BCE.**

    ● The dock at **Lothal (in present-day Gujarat)**, shows the civilisation's deep understanding of the **workings of tides and winds.**

  ○ **Vedic and Buddhist References:** The Vedas, composed between 1500-500 BCE, contain **vivid tales of seafaring**.

    ● Additionally, the **Jataka Tales** and Tamil **Sangam literature,** spanning from 300 BCE to 400 CE, offer further insights into ancient Indian seafaring activities.

➢ **Intensification of Maritime Activity**: By the **1st century BCE**, movement through the deep seas intensified, partly driven by the **Roman Empire's demand for Eastern commodities**.

  ○ Harnessing the **power of monsoon winds** became crucial for completing long journeys, and **Roman commerce** played a significant role in promoting such voyages.

  ○ Romans acquired products from the **Coromandel Coast**– such as **horses, pearls, and spices.**

➢ **Diverse Boat-Building Traditions:** Ancient Indian boat-building traditions were **diverse and included the coir-sewn tradition of the Arabian Sea,** the **jong tradition of Southeast Asia,** and the **Austronesian tradition of outrigger boats.**

  ○ These traditions often employed stitching instead of nails for construction.

  ○ Different types of wood were used for shipbuilding, with **mangrove wood being ideal for dowels and teak for planks**, keels, stem, and stern posts.

    ● Evidence of these wood usages can be found in coastal communities and archaeological sites across the Indian Ocean.

➢ **India as the Center of Trade:** By the Common Era, the Indian Ocean had become a vibrant **"trade lake,"** with India at its heart:

  ○ **Western Trade Route: India connected to Europe through the Middle East** and Africa, with ports like **Bharuch and Muziris** serving as vital trade hubs.

  ○ **Eastern Trade Route**: Evidence of Indian artifacts in **Hepu, China,** dating back to the 3rd century BCE, suggests a **maritime route linking India to China and Malaysia.**

    ● **Tamralipti in Bengal** played a significant role in this trade.

  ○ These maritime networks **facilitated the movement of people from various backgrounds,** fostering cultural exchanges.

    ● Artifacts of Indian origin have been discovered as far as **Berenike in Egypt, including Hindu gods' representations** and inscriptions in Sanskrit.

India at the centre of a 'trade lake'
from Alexandria to Hepu

Note:

What is the Current Status of Maritime Transport in India?

➤ India is the **16th largest maritime country** in the world. Currently, Maritime transport in India handles **95% of the trade by volume and 68% by value.**

  ❍ **India is one of the world's top 5 ship recycling countries** and holds **30% share in the global ship recycling market**.

  ❍ India also owns over **30% global market share in the ship-breaking industry** and is home to the largest ship-breaking facility in the world at **Alang, Gujarat.**

➤ As of December 2021, India had a fleet strength with a **Gross tonnage (GT) of 13,011** thousand**.** However, the **Indian fleet is just 1.2% of the world's fleet in terms of capacity** and carries only 7.8% (for 2018-19) of India's EXIM trade **(Economic Survey 2021-2022).**

➤ In 2017, the government launched the ambitious **Sagar Mala Program** with the vision of port-led development and growth of logistics-intensive industries.

  ❍ India has currently **12 major and 200 non-major/ intermediate ports (under state government administration)**.

  ❍ **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust**is the largest major port in India, while **Mudra is the largest private port.**

➤ The **Maritime India Vision 2030** has identified over **150 initiatives to boost the Indian maritime sector.**

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's Wagh Nakh

Why in News?

Maharashtra's Cultural Affairs Ministry has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Victoria and Albert Museum in London to bring back **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's** legendary "**Wagh Nakh"** a formidable medieval weapon to the state.

➤ The MoU states that the antique weapon will be handed over to the Government of Maharashtra **on aloan basis for a period of three years**, during which it will be displayed in museums across the state.

What is the 'Wagh Nakh'?

➤ The 'wagh nakh,' literally translating to **'tiger claws,'** is a unique medieval dagger used across the **Indian subcontinent.**

  ❍ This fearsome weapon featured **four or five curved blades** affixed to a glove or a bar, designed for **personal defence or stealth attacks.**

  ❍ Its sharp blades were capable of slicing through skin and flesh with ease.

➤ **Chhatrapati Shivaji's Defense with the 'Wagh Nakh':**

  ❍ Chhatrapati Shivaji faced Afzal Khan, a Bijapur general assigned to stop Shivaji's strong campaigns in the Konkan. Khan suggested a peaceful meeting, but Shivaji, anticipating danger, came prepared.

  ● He concealed a 'wagh nakh' and wore chainmail (armour made from small metal rings) under his attire. When Khan attacked, Shivaji's 'wagh nakh' struck, resulting in Khan's death, ultimately securing Shivaji's victory.

What are the Key Points Related to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj?

➤ **Birth:**

  ❍ Born on 19th February 1630, at Shivneri Fort in Pune District, Maharashtra, he was the son of **Shahaji Bhonsle**, a Maratha general with jagirs in Pune and Supe under the Bijapur Sultanate, and **Jijabai**, a deeply religious woman who greatly influenced him.

Note:

➢ **Important Battles:**

Battle of Pratapgad, 1659	➢ 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	➢ Fought at a mountain pass in the vicinity of fortVishalgad, near the city of Kolhapur, Maharashtra, between the Maratha Sardar Baji Prabhu Deshpande and Siddi Masud of Adilshahi.
Sacking of Surat, 1664	➢ Fought near the city of Surat, Gujarat, between Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Inayat Khan, a Mughal captain.
Battle of Purandar, 1665	➢ Fought between the Mughal Empire and the Maratha Empire.
Battle of Sinhagad, 1670	➢ 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	➢ Bahadur Khan of the Mughal Empire defeated the Maratha army and took over Kalyan.
Battle of Sangamner, 1679	➢ Fought between the Mughal Empire and Maratha Empire. This was the last battle in which the Maratha King Shivaji fought.

➢ **Titles:**
  ❍ He took on the titles of **Chhatrapati,Shakakarta, Kshatriya Kulavantas and Haindava Dharmodhhaarak.**

➢ **Administration under Shivaji:**
  ❍ **Central Administration:**
    ● He established a centralised administration with a **council of eight ministers (Ashtapradhan)** who were directly responsible to him and advised him on various matters of the state.
    ● The **Peshwa**, also known as the **Mukhya Pradhan,** originally headed the advisory council of Raja Shivaji.
  ❍ **Provincial administration:**
    ● Shivaji divided his kingdom into **four provinces.** Each province was further divided into districts and villages. The village was the basic unit of administration and was governed by a Deshpande or Patel with the help of a village panchayat.
    ● Like the centre, there was a committee or council of eight ministers with **Sar-i- 'Karkun'** or the **'prantpati'** (Head of the province).
  ❍ **Revenue Administration:**
    ● Shivaji abolished the **Jagirdari System** and

replaced it with the **Ryotwari System,**and made changes in theposition of hereditary revenue officials which were 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.**

● **Chauth and Sardeshmukhi** were other sources of income.
    ■ Chauth amounted to 1/4th of the standard that 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 established an efficient army, **paying ordinary soldiers in cash** and high-ranking officials through jagir grants**(Saranjam).**
    ● His military included **infantry (Mavali foot soldiers)**, **cavalry (horse riders and equipment handlers)**, and a navy.

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○ Key roles included the **Sar-i-Naubat (Senapati) in charge of the army, Qiladars overseeing forts,Nayaks leading infantry units,Havaldars heading groups of five Nayaks,** and **Jumladars overseeing five Nayaks**.

➤ **Death:**

○ Shivaji passed away in **Raigad in 1680** and was cremated at the **Raigad Fort.** Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti is celebrated each year on **19ᵗʰ February** to remember and praise his courage, warfare tactics and administrative skills.

Mahatma Gandhi's 154ᵗʰ Birth Anniversary

Why in News?

On 2ⁿᵈ October,2023,<u>Mahatma Gandhi's</u>154ᵗʰ birth anniversary was celebrated across the nation to commemorate his principles and ideals that inspire the nation until the present times,

owing to the indispensable role played by him during the freedom struggle.

➤ His contributions to the freedom struggle earned him the epithet of **"Father of Nation"** which led to his portrait being featured on Indian legal banknotes.

➤ Being a multi-faceted personality, Mahatma Gandhi had **deep interest in music**, and he always **promoted safeguarding the environment.**

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi

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"The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong."

Brief Description
Birth: 2ⁿᵈ October 1869, Porbandar (Gujarat).
2ⁿᵈ October is observed as **International Day of Non-Violence.**
Profile: Lawyer, Politician, Social activist, Writer and led Nationalist Movement.
Father of the Nation (first called by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose).
Ideology: Believed in the ideas of non-violence, Truth, Honesty, Care for Mother Nature, Compassion, Welfare of Downtrodden etc.
Political Mentor: Gopal Krishna Gokhale.
Death: Shot dead by Nathuram Godse (30ᵗʰ January, 1948).
30ᵗʰ January is observed as **Martyrs' Day**
Nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize five times.

Gandhi in South Africa (1893-1915)
Used satyagraha against racist regime (Native Africans and Indians were discriminated).
Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is celebrated every year on 9ᵗʰ January, to commemorate his return from South Africa.

Contribution in India's Freedom Struggle
Small-scale movements like Champaran Satyagraha (1917)—First Civil Disobedience, Ahmedabad Mill Strike (1918)— First Hunger Strike, and Kheda Satyagraha (1918)—First Non-Cooperation.
Nationwide Mass Movements: Against Rowlatt Act (1919), Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-22), Civil Disobedience Movement (1930-34), Quit India Movement (1942).
Gandhi-Irwin Pact (1931): Between Gandhi and Lord Irwin that marked the end of a period of civil disobedience.
Poona Pact (1932): Between Gandhi and **B.R. Ambedkar;** this abandoned the idea of separate electorates for the depressed classes (Communal Award).

Books Written
Hind Swaraj, My Experiments with Truth (Autobiography)
Weeklies
Harijan, Navjivan, Young India, Indian Opinion.

Gandhi Peace Prize
is given by India for social, economic, and political transformation through Gandhian methods.

"Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony."

"You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty"

Note:

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How did Mahatma Gandhi Become a Permanent Feature on Legal Banknotes of India?

➢ **The origins of Gandhi's image on Indian currency:**
  ○ The portrait of Gandhi visible on banknotes is a cut-out of a photograph taken in 1946, where he is standing with **British politician Lord Frederick William Pethick-Lawrence.**
  ○ The photograph was selected as it had the most suitable expression of Gandhi smiling — the portrait is a mirror image of the cut-out.
  ○ According to **Section 25 of the RBI Act, 1934,** "the design, form and material of banknotes" shall be such as may be approved by the central government after consideration of the recommendations made by the central board.

➢ **Gandhi's first appearance on INR notes:**
  ○ Gandhi first featured on Indian currency in **1969,** when a special series was issued to commemorate his **100th birth anniversary**.
  ○ Then, in October **1987**, a series of Rs **500 currency notes**, featuring Gandhi, was launched.

➢ **Gandhiji, a permanent feature on banknotes:**
  ○ Gandhi was chosen because of his national appeal, **and in 1996**, a new 'Mahatma Gandhi Series' was launched by the RBI to replace the former Ashoka Pillar bank notes.
  ○ Several security features were also introduced, including a windowed security thread, latent image and intaglio features for the visually impaired.

Portuguese Coin

Why in News?

A farmer in North Goa's Nanoda Bamber village unearthed a pot that contained coins from a bygone era.

➢ Pot contained 832 copper coins, believed to have been minted in Goa around the **16th or 17th Century when it was under Portuguese rule.**

What was Characteristic of Portuguese Coinage in India?

➢ Portuguese **issued coins in gold and silver from Goa,** as well as copper, tin, and lead coins from other mints such as Cochin, Diu, and Damão.

➢ The **gold coins were called 'Cruzado' or 'Manoel'** and were issued in the same size, value, and weight. They had a cross on one side and the royal arms on the other.

➢ The **silver coins were called 'Meia-espera' and 'Espera'.**

➢ The copper coins were divided into various denominations such as '**Bazaruco', 'Leal', 'Tanga', 'Pardau', and 'Real'.**
  ○ The copper coins had various symbols such as a castle, a lion, a crown, a cross, and the king's name.

➢ The **tin and lead coins were mainly issued from Diu and Malacca** and were called 'Dinheiro'.
  ○ They had a crude design and were often irregular in shape and size. They had the king's name or initials on one side and a cross or a flower on the other.

INDO-PORTUGUESE COINS

What was India's Engagement with Portuguese in Goa?

➢ **Portuguese as a Traveller:** Vasco da Gama was the first Portuguese explorer to reach India by sea in 1498 at Calicut on the **Malabar Coast** and was welcomed by a local ruler Zamorin.

➢ **Portuguese as a Coloniser:** In 1505, **Francisco de Almeida became the first viceroy of Portuguese India** and established a base in Cochin. He also fought against the Zamorin of Calicut and the Mamluks of Egypt, who were rivals in the spice trade.
  ○ **Afonso de Albuquerque (**in 1510**)** captured Goa from the Bijapur Sultanate and made Goa the capital of the Portuguese State of India.

➢ **Colonial Rule of Portuguese:** The Portuguese rule in Goa lasted for about 450 years, from 1510 to 1961. During this period, Goa became a prosperous and cosmopolitan city, known as the **"Rome of the East".**

Note:

➢ **Liberation of Goa:** The **liberation of Goa** from Portuguese rule was achieved by the Indian government in December 1961, after a 36-hour military operation known as **Operation Vijay.**

➢ **Statehood to Goa:** In 1987, **Goa was granted statehood** by the Indian government, and became the 25th state of India.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad

Why in News?

Recently, the President of India has paid tributes to **Dr. Rajendra Prasad,** the first President of India on his birth anniversary.

Who Was Dr. Rajendra Prasad?

➢ Dr. Rajendra Prasad was born in Zeradei, Siwan, Bihar on 3rd December 1884.

➢ He was associated with **Mahatma Gandhi** during the **Champaran Satyagraha** (1917) in Bihar.

➢ Dr. Prasad reacted strongly to the **Rowlatt Act of 1918** and the **Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 1919.**

   ❍ He called for **non-cooperation** in Bihar as part of **Gandhi's non-cooperation movement.**

➢ Played a significant role in the **Salt Satyagraha** in Bihar in 1930, leading to his imprisonment.

➢ He officially **joined the Indian National Congress in 1911**, during its annual session held in Calcutta.

   ❍ Joined the Interim Government in 1946 as the Minister of Food and Agriculture. and gave the slogan of "Grow More Food".

➢ He served as the first President of India from January 26, 1950, when the country adopted its **constitution**, until May 13, 1962, holding the record for the longest-serving President.

➢ On January 26, 1950, he was elected India's First President. His tenure as the President for over 12 years makes him the **longest-serving President** in the history of India.

➢ Dr. Prasad was awarded the **Bharat Ratna in 1962**. He authored several books, including **"Satyagraha at Champaran," "India Divided,"** and his autobiography **"Atmakatha."**

➢ Passed away on February 28, 1963.
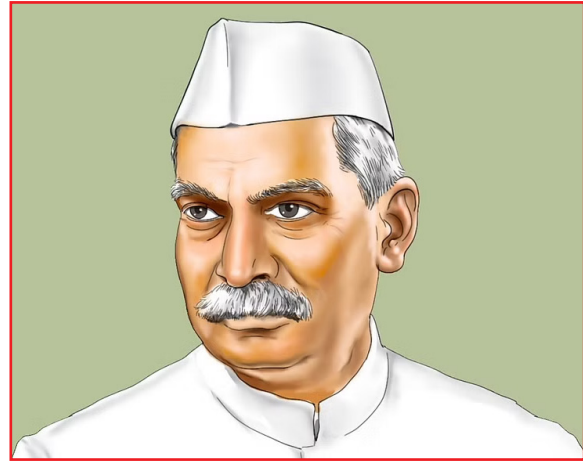
Hindustan Republican Association and the Kakori Train Action

Why in News?

Ninety-six years ago, in**December, 1927**, four revolutionaries of the **Indian independence movement** were hanged 2 years after the **Kakori Train Action,** in which members of the **Hindustan Republican Association (HRA)** had looted a train transporting money to the British treasury.

➢ It serves as a poignant reminder of their **sacrifice and bravery**, reigniting reflections on their pivotal roles in **shaping the course of India's fight for freedom**.

What are the Key Points Related to Hindustan Republican Association?

➢ **Background: Mahatma Gandhi** initiated the **Non-Cooperation Movement in 1920,** advocating non-violence and urging Indians to withdraw support from British activities in India.

   ❍ However, the **movement's trajectory shifted after the Chauri Chaura Incident in 1922,** where police firing led to protesters' deaths and a subsequent mob attack resulted in the death of policemen.

   ❍ Gandhi, despite internal dissent within the INC, abruptly halted the movement.

➢ **Foundation:** The decision to halt Non-Cooperation Movement disillusioned a group of young men who founded the **Hindustan Republican Association (HRA).**

Note:

- ○ **Ram Prasad Bismil and Ashfaqulla Khan**, both of whom had a flair for poetry, were among the group's founders. Others included **Sachindra Nath Bakshi** and trade unionist **Jogesh Chandra Chatterjee.**
- ○ Figures such as **Chandra Shekhar Azad** and **Bhagat Singh** also joined the HRA.
- ➤ **Manifesto:** Their manifesto released on **1st January, 1925,** was titled **Krantikari (Revolutionary).** It proclaimed the revolutionary party's aim: to establish a **federal Republic of the United States of India** through an organized, armed revolution.
  - ○ It **characterized the revolutionaries as neither terrorists nor anarchists**, rejecting terrorism for its own sake while considering it as a potent retaliatory measure when necessary.
- ➤ **HRA's Vision**: They envisioned a **republic grounded in universal suffrage** and socialist principles, prioritizing the abolition of systems enabling human exploitation.
- ➤ **Evolution of HRA:** HRA transformed into the **Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) in 1928** due to a shift toward socialist ideologies, broadening its focus from political independence to encompass socio-economic equality.
  - ○ Led by figures like **Bhagat Singh**, the HSRA merged nationalist aspirations with socialist principles, altering the trajectory of India's freedom struggle.

What was the Kakori Train Action Incident?

- ➤ The **train robbery at Kakori was the HRA's first major action**, in August 1925. The **Number 8 Down Train** ran between **Shahjahanpur and Lucknow**.
- ➤ As the train approached Kakori, a revolutionary **(Rajendranath Lahiri)** pulled the emergency chain to stop the train and overpowered the guard. The train was **carrying treasury bags containing government funds** that were to be deposited in the British treasury in Lucknow.
  - ○ The revolutionaries planned to rob this money, which **they believed legitimately belonged to Indians anyway.**
  - ○ Their objective was **both to fund the HRA and garner public attention** for their work and mission.
- ➤ The British authorities launched a **harsh crackdown**, leading to the arrest of numerous HRA members.
  - ○ Among the forty arrested individuals, **four received death sentences (Rajendranath**

Lahiri on 17th December and **Ashfaqullah Khan, Ram Prasad Bismil, Thakur Roshan Singh** on 19th December**)** and others faced lengthy imprisonments.

- ○ **Chandrashekhar Azad** was the only prominent HRA leader who managed to evade capture.

Republic Day 2024

Why in News?

India celebrated its **75th Republic Day** on 26th January 2024. The day is a celebration of the **Constitution,** and building India as a republic instead of a colony or dominion of any nation.

What are the Key Highlights of the Republic Day 2024?

- ➤ **French Contingent:**
  - ○ The French military contingent participated in the Republic Day parade. The contingent belonged to the **Corps of French Foreign Legion.**
    - ● The French Foreign Legion is an **elite military corps that is open to foreigners** who want to serve in the French Army.
  - ○ It was the second time the French armed forces participated in India's Republic Day celebrations.
    - ● In 2016, French troops became the first foreign military contingent to participate in the Republic Day parade.
  - ○ The 75th Republic Day Parade at **Kartavya Path** showcased the themes of **'Viksit Bharat'** and **'Bharat- Loktantra ki Matruka',** emphasising a women-centric focus.
  - ○ The Republic Day parade showcased India's military prowess and cultural diversity, with a special emphasis on **Nari Shakti or women's empowerment.**
    - ● For the first time, **an all-women tri-services contingent participated** in the parade.
- ➤ **NCC Contingents:**
  - ○ The **National Cadet Corps (NCC)** Directorate Maharashtra contingent secures the **Prime Minister's Banner at the Republic Day Camp 2024** for the **third consecutive year.**
    - ● **The Prime Minister's Banner** is a prestigious award given to the **best performing NCC state**

Note:

contingentat the Republic Day Camp, which is an annual event where NCC cadets from all over India showcase their skills and talents.

➤ **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar:**

❍ **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar** are conferred on children with exceptional abilities and outstanding achievement in the fields of bravery, art & culture, sports, science & technology, innovation and social service.

➤ **Veer Gatha 3.0:**

❍ The third edition of Project Veer Gatha was organised as a part of Republic Day Celebrations 2024 to inspire and spread awareness among children about the gallant deeds and **sacrifices of the Armed Forces.**

➤ **Anant Sutra:**

❍ The 75th Republic Day parade featured a unique installation called **"Anant Sutra,"** which **showcased sarees and drapes from all over India**. As a tribute to the country's weaving and embroidery arts, as well as the women of India.

➤ **Beating Retreat Ceremony 2024:**

❍ The **Beating Retreat ceremony** took place on 29th January 2024 at Vijay Chowk in Delhi. The ceremony is a military tradition that marks the end of Republic Day celebrations.

❍ The ceremony features music bands from the **Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF)** playing 31 Indian tunes.

What are Key Highlights of the Tableaus on Republic Day 2024?

➤ **Ministry of Culture's Tableau:**

❍ The tableau-themed **'Bharat: Mother of Democracy' has bagged the first prize** among tableaus that were part of the 75th Republic Day parade.

● It showcased the **evolution of democracy from ancient India to modern times,** using anamorphic technique.

➤ **Defence Research and Development Organisation:**

❍ The **DRDO** tableau was themed **"Self-reliance in Defence Technology".**

❍ The DRDO-developed systems and subsystems that were displayed on the tableau: are Missiles like **Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile (MPATGM),Anti-Satellite (ASAT) Missile,** and

Agni-5Surface-to-Surface Ballistic Missile,Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS), Naval Anti-Ship Missile–Short Range (NASM-SR), **Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'HELINA',Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM),Astra,Light Combat Aircraft 'Tejas'**, 'Uttam' Active Electronically Scanned Array Radar (AESAR), **Advanced Electronic Warfare System 'Shakti'**, Cyber Security systems, Command Control Systems and the Semiconductor Fabrication Facility.

➤ **Army Tableau:**

❍ The Indian Navy tableau depicted the imposing **indigenously built aircraft carrier INS Vikrant** and INS Delhi, INS Kolkata and INS Shivalik, the **LCA, the ALH** and the **Kalvari-class submarine.**

➤ **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways:**

❍ **Sagarmala programme** and **Nari Shakti**in the maritime sector were showcased in the tableau.

➤ **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research**

❍ The **purple revolution** unfolding in the**lavender fields** of Bhaderwah in Jammu and Kashmir found a proud place on the tableau of the **CSIR.**

➤ **Indian Space Research Organisation:**

❍ The tableau featured the landing of the**Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft near the south pole of the Moon** and the**Aditya L-1 mission.**

● The lunar landing site of the spacecraft which was named **Shiv Shakti Point** was also featured.

❍ The tableau illustrated future missions such as **Gaganyaan** and Bhartiya Antariksh Stationamong others.

➤ **Arunachal Pradesh:**

❍ The state's tableau showcased its**SingchungBugun Village Community Reserve,** a 17 square kilometre biodiversity hotspot created in 2017 to protect the **BugunLiocichla, a critically endangered bird**.

● The BugunLiocichla is named after the Buguns community.

❍ Tableau was led by the**Bugun folk dance.**

➤ **Manipur:**

❍ Manipur's tableau showcased**the women-run Ima Keithel, also known as the Mother's Market.**

● The 500-year-old Ima Keithel is the **only market in the world run entirely by women**.

Note:

○ The Manipur tableau at the parade featured a woman weaving clothes using an **"Eyong" loom- a traditional loom from Manipur.**

➤ **Madhya Pradesh:**

○ The tableau showed the **first woman fighter pilot of the Indian Air Force, Avani Chaturvedi** of Madhya Pradesh's Rewa district.

○ It also featured the **Badal Mahal gate** and weavers of the globally renowned Chanderi, Maheshwari and Bagh print sarees.

● The gate is said to have been built during the rule of **Sultan Mahmud Shah Khilji, the King of Malwa,**

● The tableau featured **India's Millet Mission ambassador and 'Millet Woman of India Lahari Bai**.

➤ **Chhattisgarh:**

○ The tableau depicted the ancient tribal form of **Parliament in Bastar known as "Muria Darbar".** It also depicted a place called **"Limau Raja"**, situated in Bade Dongar, the ancient capital of Bastar.

➤ **Ladakh:**

○ The tableau depicted a **high hill in Ladakh, with the world's highest motorable road at Umling-La pass.**

➤ **Tamil Nadu:**

○ The tableau highlighted the historical significance of the **Kudavolai electoral system**, which emerged during the **10th-century Chola era** and marked an early stride towards democracy.

○ It also featured a scale model of the **Vaikunda Perumal Temple** in Uthiramerur where the **Kudavolai system** is practised, showcasing its integration into the local culture.

➤ **Odisha:**

○ The state's tableau featured a heritage hut of **Raghurajpur village**, where women play a pivotal role in crafting **Pattachitra and masks.**

● **'Odisha Pattachitra' masks** are handcrafted from **leftover paper's Papier Mache paste**.

● The **"War Horse of Konark Temple"** symbolised Odisha's rapid progress in shaping a developed India.

➤ **Meghalaya:**

○ The state's tableau featured a **unique freshwater scuba diving site** along the **Umngot River in Dawki.**

○ The tableau celebrated community-led cleanliness initiatives in **Mawlynnong, Asia's cleanest village.**

○ It also highlighted the state's rich reserve, displaying its flora, and endemic **species like the clouded leopard.**

➤ **Rajasthan:**

○ The tableau promoted the state's tourism potential, with the **"ghoomar" dance** and decorated camel icon.

● Ghoomar, a traditional **Bhil tribe folk dance, is a** symbol of **womanhood**.

○ A statue of **Meera Bai was** displayed in the tableau, She was a great devotee of Lord Krishna and a Hindu poetess of the 16th century.

➤ **Telangana:**

○ The tableau honoured the legacy of tribal freedom fighters like **Komaram Bheem, Ramji Gond and Chityalallamma (Chakalillamma).**

● **Bheem and Ramji advocated for the freedom**, dignity, and rights of indigenous tribal communities. They employed **guerrilla warfare tactics** to spread a powerful message of empowerment and justice.

➤ **Uttar Pradesh:**

○ Tableau symbolically represented the consecration ceremony that took place in **Ayodhya,** with an artistic model depicting Lord Ram in a young avatar (Ram Lalla).

● It also depicted the first-ever operational high-speed **regional rapid transit system (RRTS)** of the country.

● The tableau displayed the **world's fourth-largest international airport, Jewar Airport**.

● A group of women artists accompanying the tableau perform traditional dances **'Charkula' and 'Wadhwa,** popular in the Braj region.

➤ **Gujarat:**

○ The tableau was based on the theme **Dhordo: Global Identity of Gujarat's Border Tourism.**

● Dhordo, located on India's western tip, is the gateway to the **Rann of Kutch.**

● Women dressed in traditional attire played **garba** along the tableau.

➤ **Maharashtra:**

○ **Shivaji Maharaj's** establishment of 'self-rule' and respect for women in his 'kingdom of the people' formed the highlight of Maharashtra's tableau.

Note:

➢ **Haryana:**
  ○ The tableau highlighted the state's ambitious **"Mera Parivar-Meri Pehchan"** scheme.
  ○ It also highlighted the benefits of the **'Parivar Pehchan Patra'** through a phone call such as the seamless procurement of ration, agricultural subsidies for farmer families, scholarships for young students, and pensions for the elderly.
➢ **Jharkhand:**
  ○ The tableau showcased the skill of tribal women in the production of **Tasar silk** with depictions of **Tasar moth rearing**, **cocoon production**, weaving and the modern journey of Tasar garments from design to global distribution.
    ● Jharkhand "jhumar" folk dance was performed.

What is the History of Republic Day?

➢ **About:**
  ○ Republic Day commemorates the adoption of the Constitution of India on 26th January 1950, and the country's transition to a republic which came into effect on 26th January 1950.
    ● The constitution was adopted by the **Constituent Assembly of India on 26th November 1949** and came into effect on 26th January 1950.
  ○ The Constitution of India repealed the **Indian Independence Act 1947 and Government of India Act 1935** when it became effective on 26th January 1950. India ceased to be a **dominion of the British Crown** and became a **sovereign, democratic republic with a constitution.**
➢ History:
  ○ Declaration of Poorna Swaraj:
    ● The **Lahore Session of the Indian National Congress (INC) in December 1929** passed the historic **"Poorna Swaraj" resolution,** calling for total **self-rule/sovereignty and complete independence from British rule.**
➢ The Declaration of Independence was officially promulgated on **26th January 1930,** and the Congress urged Indians to celebrate **"independence"** on that day.
  ○ Republic Day in Post-Independence India:
    ● From 1930 to 1947, **26th January was celebrated as "Independence Day" or "Poorna Swaraj Day."**
    ● India gained independence on **15th August 1947,** leading to a **reevaluation of the significance of Republic Day.**

● The selection of **26th January for the promulgation of India's new constitution** was ideal due to its existing nationalist significance and alignment with the **"Poorna Swaraj" declaration.**

> **Note:**
> ➢ **On Republic Day every year,** the President of India, who is the **head of state, 'unfurls' the tricolour,** while **on Independence Day** (August 15), the prime minister, who **heads the Union government, 'hoists' the national flag.**
>   ○ While the two terms are often used interchangeably, these represent different techniques of presenting the tricolour.
>   ○ **On 26th January,** the flag is **folded or rolled, and attached to the top of a pole.** It is then unveiled ('unfurled') by the President, who does so without pulling it up.
>   ● 'Unfurling' is a symbolic gesture to **renew the commitment to principles laid down in the Constitution,** highlighting India's shift from being a British colony to becoming a sovereign, democratic Republic.
>   ○ **On 15th August,** on the other hand, the **flag, positioned at the bottom of the pole, is raised ('hoisted')** by the prime minister, from the bottom to the top.
>   ● Hoisting symbolises the rise of a new nation; patriotism, and freedom, from colonial rule.

Parakram Diwas 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the Prime Minister (PM) of India has participated in **Parakram Diwas (23rd January 2024) Celebrations** at Red Fort to mark the birth anniversary of **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.**

➢ The PM has also launched **Bharat Parv (organised by the Ministry of Tourism),** a nine-day event to showcase India's rich diversity and **exhibit different cultures.**
➢ On the Occasion of Parakram Diwas, the Centre has announced **Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar-2024,** to honor the invaluable contribution rendered by individuals and organisations in the field of Disaster Management.

What is Parakram Diwas?

➢ Initiated in 2021, Parakram Diwas is an annual celebration in India commemorating the **birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose**.

➢ The term **"Parakram"** translates to courage or valour in Hindi, reflecting the strong and courageous spirit of Netaji and those who fought for India's freedom.

➢ The celebrations **typically include various events and activities that highlight the historical significance** of Netaji's role in the freedom struggle.

➢ The comprehensive **celebration is being organised by the Ministry of Culture** in collaboration with its allied institutions such as the **Archaeological Survey of India,** National School of Drama, Sahitya Akademi, and the National Archives of India.

➢ As part of the program, the event will host a rich array of activities that delve into the profound legacy of **Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and the Azad Hind Fauj.**

○ **Marking Netaji's 125th birth anniversary, in 2022, the hologram was installed**, near India Gate, where a statue of King George V had stood till its removal in 1968.

● Later the **hologram of Netaji replaced by a grand statue**on 8ᵗʰ September 2022 near India Gate in New Delhi.

NETAJI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE

BIRTH
- 23rd January 1897 (celebrated as 'Parakram Diwas')

Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar is announced every year on 23 January to honour the selfless service rendered by individuals/organisations in India in disaster management.

EARLY LIFE
- Cleared the Indian Civil Services (ICS) examination (1919) but resigned later
- Considered Swami Vivekananda as his spiritual Guru
- Newspaper - Swaraj

POLITICAL LIFE IN CONGRESS (INC)
- Stood for unqualified Swaraj (self-governance)
- Actively participated in Salt Satyagraha (1930)
- Opposed Gandhi-Irwin Pact (1931) & suspension of Civil Disobedience Movement
- Won INC Presidential Elections at Haripura (1938) and Tripuri (1939)
- Resigned from INC (1939) due to ideological differences with Gandhiji
- Founded 'the Forward Bloc' party to consolidate the Political Left

INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY (INA)
- Reached Japan-controlled Singapore in July 1943, issued from there his famous slogan - 'Delhi Chalo'

He also gave the slogan - 'Jai Hind'

- Announced the formation of Azad Hind Government and INA in Oct 1943
- INA fought allied forces (1944) in Imphal (India) and in Burma

INA was first formed under Mohan Singh and Japanese Major Iwaichi Fujiwara. It comprised Indian prisoners of war of the British-Indian Army captured by Japan in Malay and Singapore.

DEATH
- Believably in 1945 when his plane crashed in Taiwan.

Drishti IAS

Note:

What is Subhash Chandra Bose AapdaPrabandhanPuraskar?

➢ **Field Recognised:**

○ The Government of India instituted Subhash Chandra Bose AapdaPrabandhanPuraskaar **(SCBAPP) to recognise the excellent work done by the individuals and institutions in the field of disaster management.**

➢ **Administered By:**

○ <u>National Disaster Management Authority</u> (NDMA was established under the Ministry of Home Affairs under the Disaster Management Act, 2005).

➢ **Award:**

○ The awards are **announced on the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose on 23rd January every year.**

○ In addition to a certificate, these awards **carry a cash award of Rs. 51 lakhs** for an Institution and **Rs. 5 lakhs for an Individual.**

○ The Institution has to utilize the cash prize for Disaster Management related activities only.

➢ **Eligibility:**

○ Only Indian nationals and Indian institutions can apply for the award.

○ The nominated individual or institution should have worked in any area of disaster management like Prevention, Mitigation, Preparedness, Rescue, Response, Relief, Rehabilitation, Research, Innovation or early warning in India.

➢ **SCBAPP- 2024:** The **60 Parachute Field Hospital, Uttar Pradesh,** has been selected **for the Subhash Chandra Bose AapdaPrabandhan Puraskar-2024** for its excellent **work in disaster management**, particularly in providing medical assistance during various natural calamities and crises, both nationally and internationally.

○ The **hospital's work during** events like the Uttarakhand floods (2013), **Nepal Earthquake (2015), and the Turkey and Syria earthquake (2023)** is highlighted as examples of its exceptional service.

Rani Chennamma

Why in News?

Commemorating 200 years of Rani Chennamma's rebellion against the <u>British East India Company</u>, several social groups across India have organised a national campaign, **Naanoo Rani Chennamma (I am Rani Chennamma too)** on 21st February.

➢ The Campaign is trying to invoke Chennamma's memory to show that women can be the vanguards of safeguarding dignity and justice. Rani Chennamma's bravery is an inspiration to the women of the country.

➢ Her stride and quick thinking to safeguard her homeland can be seen as a testament to her commitment and dedication to protecting her kingdom.

Who was Rani Chennamma?

➢ **About:**

○ Chenamma was born on 23rd October 1778, in Kagati, a small village in present-day Belagavi district in Karnataka.

○ At the age of 15, she married Raja Mallasarja of Kittur, who ruled the province until 1816.

○ After Mallasarja's death in 1816, his eldest son, ShivalingarudraSarja, ascended the throne. But it wasn't long before Shivalingarudra's health started deteriorating.

○ Kittur needed an **heir apparent to survive.** However, Shivalingarudra had no natural heir and Chennamma too had lost her son.

○ Before his death in 1824, Shivalingarudra adopted a child, **Shivalingappa**, as the successor. However, the <u>British East India Company</u> refused to recogniseShivalingappa as the successor of the kingdom under the **'Doctrine of Lapse'.**

● **Under the doctrine,** any princely state without a natural heir would collapse and would be annexed by the Company.

○ **John Thackery, the British official** at Dharwad, launched an attack on **Kittur in October 1824.**

➢ **Battle Against British:**

○ In 1824, a fleet of 20,000 British soldiers was

positioned on the foothills of the Kittur fort as they attempted to invade the former princely state of Karnataka.

○ But Rani Chennamma retaliated and killed a British official to protect and safeguard her homeland.

○ Trained in martial arts and military tactics, she was a **formidable leader.**

○ She led her army into battle, **employing guerrilla warfare tactics to surprise the British forces.**

● The conflict lasted several days, but ultimately, the British prevailed due to their superior firepower.

➢ **Legacy:**

○ Despite her capture and imprisonment in Bailhongal Fort (Belagavi, Karnataka), Rani Chennamma's spirit remained unbroken.

○ Her rebellion inspired countless others to stand up against British rule. She became a symbol of courage and defiance.

○ In 2007, the Indian government honoured her by i**ssuing a postage stamp in her name.**

○ Several Kannada **lavanis or folk songs** are recited that fondly remember Rani Chennamma as a protector and guardian.

● Lavani is a vibrant and expressive folk art form that has its roots in the cultural heritage of Maharashtra, but it has also found a place in certain parts of Karnataka. The word "**Lavani" is derived from the Marathi term "lavanya,"** which means beauty.

● Lavani is a combination of traditional song and dance, performed to the rhythmic beats of the Dholki, a percussion instrument.

What is the 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.

○ As per this, any adopted son of the Indian ruler could 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.).

Sabarmati Ashram Redevelopment Project

Why in News?

Recently, on the **94th anniversary of the Dandi March,** the Prime Minister of India laid the foundation for the Sabarmati Ashram Redevelopment Project in **Ahmedabad.**

➢ The Sabarmati Ashram Redevelopment Project is a Rs 1,200 crore initiative to restore, conserve, and rebuild the original **Sabarmati Ashram founded by Mahatma Gandhi.**

What is the Historical Significance of the Sabarmati Ashram?

➢ **Establishment:**

○ Founded in 1917 by Mahatma Gandhi, the Sabarmati Ashram is situated on the **western bank of the Sabarmati River**, near the village of Juna Vadaj in Ahmedabad.

● Gandhi set up five settlements during his lifetime, two in South Africa (**Phoenix Settlement** in Natal, and **Tolstoy Farm** outside Johannesburg), and three in India.

● Gandhi's first Ashram in India was established in the**Kochrab area of Ahmedabad** in 1915, and the others are **Sabarmati Ashram (Ahmedabad),** and **Sevagram Ashram (in Wardha).**

○ It is currently managed by the Sabarmati Ashram Preservation and Memorial Trust (SAPMT).

➢ **Role in India's Independence Movement:**

○ The ashram served as a base for **Gandhi's socio-political activities** and experiments with truth and non-violence.

● It witnessed the launch of several seminal movements, including the **Dandi March in 1930.**

○ Apart from the Dandi March, Gandhiji also launched the **Champaran Satyagraha (1917),**the**Ahmedabad mills strike and Kheda Satyagraha (1918**), the **Khadi movement (1918)**, the **Rowlatt Act and Khilafat Movements (1919),**and the **Non-Cooperation movement (1920)** while living in Sabarmati.

○ **Vinoba Bhave** lived in a cottage at Sabarmati Ashram called "Vinoba Kutir".

Note:

What is the Dandi March?

- ➢ **Origins:**
  - ○ The tradition of **making salt in India dates back to ancient times,** primarily carried out by farmers, who were often referred to as **salt farmers.**
    - Over time, **salt became a commercial commodity**, and the British imposed a salt tax, making it a symbol of **colonial exploitation.**
  - ○ Mahatma Gandhi recognized the **salt tax as a particularly oppressive** measure and saw it as an opportunity to mobilise the masses in a **non-violent protest against British rule.**
  - ○ On March 2, 1930, Mahatma Gandhi wrote a letter to **Lord Irwin, the Viceroy of India,** informing him of his intention to break the salt law as an act of civil disobedience.
  - ○ The Dandi March, also known as the **Salt Satyagraha or Salt March,** marked a pivotal moment in the country's fight for independence from British colonial rule.
- ➢ **Dandi March:**
  - ○ The Dandi March commenced from the **Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad on March 12, 1930,** with Mahatma Gandhi leading.
    - The 24-day march spanned four districts and passed through 48 villages.
  - ○ On April 6, 1930, Gandhi symbolically broke the salt law by picking up a handful of salt from the shores of Dandi, starting the civil disobedience movement against the British salt monopoly.
    - Gandhi chose 6 April to start the mass breaking of the salt laws for a symbolic reason - it was the first day of National Week, which began in **1919 when Gandhi planned the national hartal (strike)** against the **Rowlatt Act.**

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi

"The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong."

Brief Description
Birth: 2nd October 1869, Porbandar (Gujarat).
2nd October is observed as **International Day of Non-Violence.**
Profile: Lawyer, Politician, Social activist, Writer and led Nationalist Movement.
Father of the Nation (first called by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose).
Ideology: Believed in the ideas of non-violence, Truth, Honesty, Care for Mother Nature, Compassion, Welfare of Downtrodden etc.
Political Mentor: Gopal Krishna Gokhale
Death: Shot dead by Nathuram Godse (30th January, 1948).
30th January is observed as **Martyrs' Day**
Nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize five times.

Gandhi in South Africa (1893-1915)
Used satyagraha against racist regime (Native Africans and Indians were discriminated).
Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is celebrated every year on 9th January, to commemorate his return from South Africa.

Contribution in India's Freedom Struggle
Small-scale movements like Champaran Satyagraha (1917)—First Civil Disobedience, Ahmedabad Mill Strike (1918)— First Hunger Strike, and Kheda Satyagraha (1918)—First Non-Cooperation.
Nationwide Mass Movements: Against Rowlatt Act (1919), Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-22), Civil Disobedience Movement (1930-34), Quit India Movement (1942).
Gandhi-Irwin Pact (1931): Between Gandhi and Lord Irwin that marked the end of a period of civil disobedience.
Poona Pact (1932): Between Gandhi and **B.R. Ambedkar;** this abandoned the idea of separate electorates for the depressed classes (Communal Award).

Books Written
Hind Swaraj, My Experiments with Truth (Autobiography)
Weeklies
Harijan, Navjivan, Young India, Indian Opinion.

Gandhi Peace Prize
is given by India for social, economic, and political transformation through Gandhian methods.

"Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony."

"You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty"

Note:

MAJOR CIVILISATIONS OF THE WORLD

MESOPOTAMIA, 4000–3500 BC

- Modern-day Iraq and parts of **Iran, Syria, Kuwait,** and **Turkey,** between **Tigris** and **Euphrates Rivers**
- Known as **Fertile Crescent/Cradle of civilization**
- Diverse collection of cultures bound by their script, gods, and views on women
- **Highly esteemed education system** (law, medicine, and astrology, reflecting rich cultural and religious landscape)
- Both **men and women were involved in diverse occupations**
- **Cities built around ziggurats,** step-pyramid temples, honoured their patron deity
- Cities, made of **sun-dried brick,** were the world's first

ANCIENT EGYPT, 3100 BC

- Set along fertile **Nile River**
- Most known for **pyramids, tombs, and mausoleums** practice of mummification to prepare corpses for afterlife
- Left legacy of monumental writing and mathematics systems
- Civilization **ended in 332 BC** with Alexander the Great's conquest

INDUS VALLEY CIVILISATION, 3300 BC

- Located in modern-day **India, Afghanistan, and Pakistan**
- Relatively peaceful compared to other ancient civilizations, with little evidence of widespread warfare
- **Organised city planning,** complete with **uniform baked-brick homes,** a grid structure, and drainage, sewage, and water supply systems
- **Declined around 1800 BC,** actual reasons behind demise still debated (theories propose Aryan invasion or climatic & natural factors for decline)

ANCIENT CHINA, 2000 BC

- Protected by the Himalayan Mountains, Pacific Ocean, and Gobi Desert, and **situated between Yellow and Yangtze rivers**
- Flourished in isolation from invaders and other foreigners for centuries
- Generally divided into four dynasties—**Xia, Shang, Zhou, and Qin** - ancient China was ruled by a succession of emperors
- Credited with developing the **decimal system, abacus, and sundial,** as well as **the printing press**
- Mobilised populations to build massive infrastructure projects (like Egyptians)

Drishti IAS

Note:

Key Points

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Summary

Key Points

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Summary