

THEMATIC **#5** CURRENT AFFAIRS *for* IAS PRELIMS 2024

ART & CULTURE

THEME # 1

SOUL OF INDIA

- ◉ INDIAN ART FORMS
- ◉ ARCHITECTURE
- ◉ LITERATURE, SCULPTURES, PAINTING & LANGUAGE



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THEMATIC CURRENT AFFAIRS

UPSC CSE Prelims exam requires a candidate to link and interlink Current Affairs with the syllabus and the static concepts.

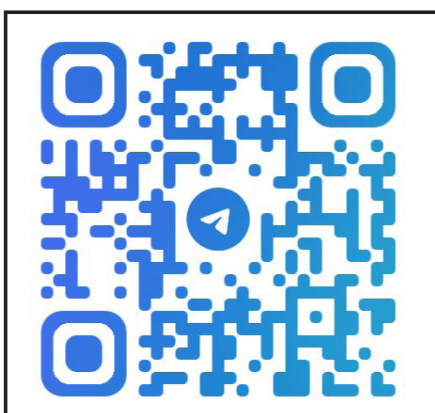
It's important to note that simply compiling current affairs won't suffice; it's crucial to learn how to utilize and link them effectively.

To aid in this process, we have categorized the entire UPSC prelims syllabus into actionable and easy-to-understand themes, and current affairs have been blended into these themes.

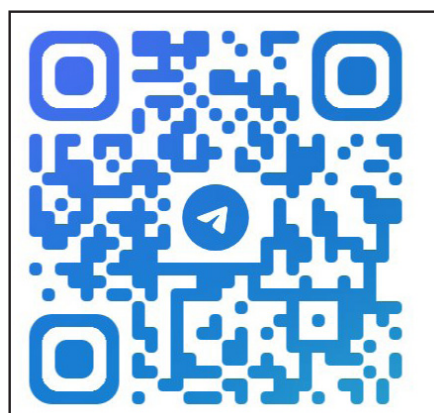
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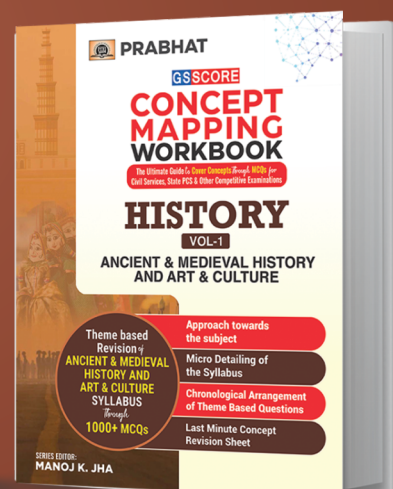
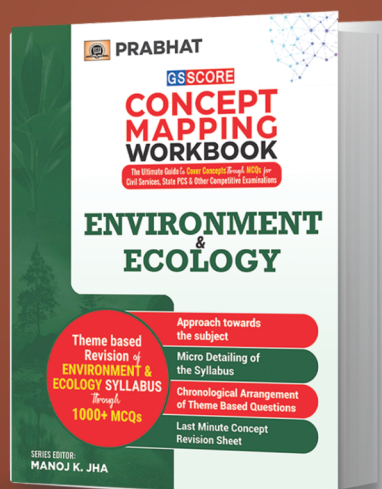
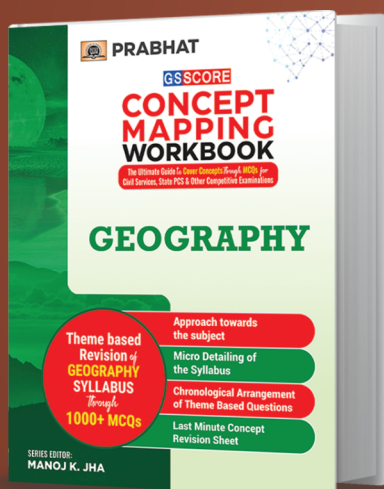
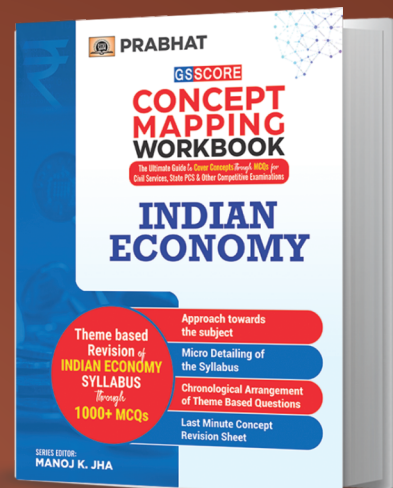
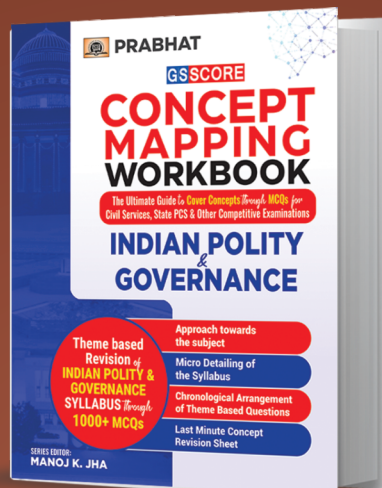
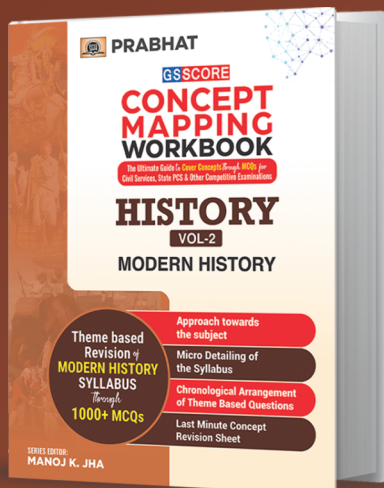
for **UPSC CSE &
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Coverage of Essential Concepts
through MCQs

Micro Detailing of the
Syllabus

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of Theme Based Questions

Last Minute Concept Revision
Sheet



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Indian Art forms


1. BHOJPATRA CALLIGRAPHY

CONTEXT

PM Modi praised women of Niti-Mana Valley in Uttarakhand during 'Mann ki Baat' for developing Bhojpatra calligraphy as a means of livelihood. It is being used by women of the valley to make beautiful artefact and souvenirs.

What is Bhoj Patra?

- Bhojpatra is the most commonly used herb in Asian times for the treatment.
- During the time of our acharya, its bark was used as paper.
- 'Bhoj Patra' is a part of the ancient heritage of Devbhoomi Uttarakhand.
- People stored information in a written form on the back of this plant because of this it is also called lekhy Patra which is used for writing.
- Since ancient times, our scriptures and books have been preserved on these **Bhojpatras**.
- The Mahabharata was also written on this **Bhojpatra**.

- 
- **Botanical name-** *Betula utilis*
 - **Family-** *Betulaceae*

Mana village is located in Uttarakhand. It is proximate to the **Indo-Tibetan border**.

2. MANDALA ART

CONTEXT

Although mandala art could be gaining in popularity in modern times, it has a long tradition behind it. Mandala art has carved a niche for itself in nearly all the religions of the world.

Background

- The art is believed to be rooted in Buddhism, appearing in the first century BC in India.
 - Over the next couple of centuries, Buddhist missionaries travelling along the Silk Road took it to other regions.
- In Hinduism, the mandala imagery first appeared in **Rig Veda (1500 – 500 BCE)**.



In Buddhism, the Sand Mandala painting originated in **Vajrayana Buddhism** for meditative purposes.

What is a Mandala?

- In the ancient Sanskrit language of Hinduism and Buddhism, mandala means “circle.”
- Traditionally, a mandala is a geometric design or pattern that represents the cosmos or deities in various heavenly worlds.
- A mandala is a spiritual and ritual symbol in Asian cultures.

Mandala in Hinduism & Buddhism:


- In Hindu philosophical systems, a mandala or ‘yantra’ is usually in the shape of a square with a circle at its centre.
- A traditional Buddhist mandala is a circular painting that is meant to help its creator discover their true self.
- **Significance of Mandala motifs:**
 - **Hinduism and Buddhism:** By entering the mandala and proceeding towards its centre, you are guided through the cosmic process of transforming the universe from one of suffering into one of joy and happiness.

Symbolism in Mandalas

Wheel with eight spokes (Dharmachakra)



The circular nature of a wheel works as an artistic representation of a perfect universe. The eight spokes represent the Eightfold Path of Buddhism, a summary of practices that lead to liberation and rebirth.

<p>Bell</p> 	<p>Bells represent openness and emptying of the mind to allow the entrance of wisdom and clarity.</p>
<p>Triangle</p> 	<p>When facing upward, triangles represent action and energy, and when facing downward, they represent creativity and the pursuit of knowledge.</p>
<p>Lotus flower</p> 	<p>A sacred symbol in Buddhism, the symmetry of a lotus depicts balance. As a lotus reaches up from underwater into the light, so too does a human reaching for spiritual awakening and enlightenment.</p>
<p>Sun</p> 	<p>A popular basis for modern mandala patterns, suns tend to represent the universe, often carrying meanings related to life and energy.</p>

3. DOKRA METAL CRAFT

CONTEXT

Lal Bazar, on the boundary with Jharkhand, is becoming a hub for **dokra metal craft**, in West Bengal.

About the Dokra metal craft:

- **Background:** It is an ancient tradition whose documented history is about 5,000 years old.

- There are many processes involved, for which seven to eight varieties of clay is required, apart from other raw material.
- Making *dokra* art is a difficult process. Each figurine takes about a month to make.

◎ **Key features:**

- Dokra (also spelt Dhokra) is **non-ferrous metal casting using the lost-wax casting technique**.
- This sort of metal casting **has been used in India for over 4,000 years and is still used**. One of the earliest known lost wax artefacts is the **dancing girl of Mohenjo-daro**.
- The lost wax technique for casting of copper based alloys **has also been found in China, Egypt, Malaysia, Nigeria, Central America, and other places**.
- Dhokra Damar tribes are the main traditional metal smiths of West Bengal and Odisha. Their technique of lost wax casting is named after their tribe, hence **Dhokra metal casting**.



Recently Adilabad Dokra from Telangana got Geographical Indication tag in 2018.

Dhokra Damar Tribes:

- ◎ The tribe extends from Jharkhand to West Bengal and Odisha; members are distant cousins of the **Chhattisgarh Dhokras**.
- ◎ A few hundred years ago, the **Dhokras of Central and Eastern India** travelled south as far as Kerala and north as far as Rajasthan and hence are now found all over India.
- ◎ Dhokra, or Dokra, a craft from Dwariapur, West Bengal, is popular.

4. KONDAPALLI TOYS, THE ART OF WOODEN HANDICRAFT ON 'DECLINE'

CONTEXT

Kondapalli in Andhra Pradesh is famous for toy-making, and many families eke out their livelihood with this 400-year-old art.

About Kondapalli Toys

- ◎ Kondapalli toys take their name from the suburban town of Vijayawada city – Kondapalli, of Krishna District in Andhra Pradesh.
- ◎ These toys are made of locally sourced **Ponuku wood softwood (Tella Poniki)**.



- ⦿ This 400-year-old art was registered as one of the **geographical indication handicraft** from
- ⦿ Andhra Pradesh as per **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection)**
- ⦿ **Act, 1999.**

- ⦿ These toys were one of the variety of toys assembled in the houses during the festivals of **Sankranti and Navratri** and is referred as **Bommala Kolu**.
- ⦿ The later step involves colouring with either oil or water-colours or vegetable dyes and enamel paints are applied based on the type of the toys.
- ⦿ The artisans live in Bommala Colony (translates to Toys Colony).
- ⦿ The families who make the toys are referred as **aryakshatriyas** (also known as nakarshalu), who the local people say find mention in the **Brahmanda Purana**, an ancient text.

5. UNESCO LISTS 50 ICONIC INDIAN TEXTILES

CONTEXT

UNESCO recently released a list of 50 exclusive and iconic heritage textile crafts of the country.

About

- ⦿ **Publication title:** 'Handmade for the 21st Century: Safeguarding Traditional Indian Textile'.
- ⦿ It lists the histories and legends behind the textiles, describes the complicated and secret processes behind their making, mentions the causes for their dwindling popularity, and provides strategies for their preservation.
- ⦿ Some of the textile are mentioned in the below given table.

Textile	State/Region
Toda embroidery and Sungadi	Tamil Nadu
Himroo weaves	Hyderabad
Bandha tie and dye weaving	Sambalpur in Odisha
Khes	Panipat, Haryana
Chamba rumals	Himachal Pradesh
Thigma or wool tie and dye	Ladakh
Awadh Jamdani	Varanasi
Ilkal and Lambadi or Banjara embroidery	Karnataka
Sikalnayakanpet Kalamkari	Thanjavur

Kunbi weaves	Goa
Mashru weaves and Patola	Gujarat
Himroo	Maharashtra
Garad-Koirial	West Bengal

6. INDIAN TRADITIONAL ARTWORK GIFTED TO WORLD LEADERS

CONTEXT

At the **G20 Summit**, the Prime Minister gifted India traditional artworks to world leaders.

The list

Mata Ni Pachedi

- It is a **handmade textile of Gujarat** meant to be an offering in the temples which house the **Mother Goddess**.
- It is a **religious textile folk art** featuring Mother Goddess at the centre and her stories and legends filling the remaining cloth.
- It is hand-painted, hand-spun cloth of rectangular shape, with natural colour.
- It was crafted by the nomadic community of **Waghri**.



Agate Bowls

- Gujarat** is known for its agate craft.
- The semi-precious stone formed of **chalcedonic-silica**, is found in underground mines of **Rajpipla and Ratanpur** in riverbeds and extracted to produce a variety of ornamental objects.
- The Agate bowl gifted to **French President Emmanuel Macron, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz from Kutch, Gujarat** can be seen in various contemporary designs as home decor objects and fashion jewellery.
- The healing powers attributed to agate stones have sustained the use of agate over centuries.



Patan Patola

- ◎ **The (Double Ikat) Patan Patola** textile woven by Salvi family in **Patan area** of **Northern Gujarat**.
- ◎ The **ancient art of double Ikat or Patola woven** in pure silk dates back to the 11th century.
- ◎ The Patola fabrics bear an equal intensity of colours and design on both sides.
- ◎ This peculiar quality has its origins in an intricate and difficult technique of dyeing or knot dyeing, known as '**bandhani**', on the warp and weft separately before weaving.
- ◎ Ikat weaves are also found in **Odisha's famous Sambalpuri sarees**, which, unlike Patola, are woven in cotton yarn too, as is the **Pochampally saree** from **Andhra Pradesh**.



Kinnauri Shawl

- ◎ The Kinnauri shawls has its roots in the ancient tradition of wool milling and textile manufacturing in the region.
- ◎ The designs show influence from **Central Asia and Tibet**.
- ◎ The shawls are made using the extra-weft technique of weaving producing the lift in the pattern formed.



Warli Art

- ◎ Warli is a **traditional art form of Maharashtra**.
- ◎ Its roots can be traced to as early as the **10th century A.D.**
- ◎ These paintings are distinctive with their vivid contrast expressions.
- ◎ These paintings are mainly dominated by **basic geometric shapes like circles, triangles and squares**.
- ◎ The central theme of the paintings are **scenes portraying hunting, fishing, farming, festival and dances, trees and animals** are used to surround the central theme.

Warli Tribe

- ◎ They are an indigenous tribe or Adivasis, living in the Mountainous as well as coastal areas of **Maharashtra-Gujarat border and surrounding areas**.
- ◎ They speak an **unwritten Warli language** which belongs to the **southern zone** of the **Indo-Aryan languages**.



Pithora Painting

- ⦿ The Pithora painting form is traditionally performed on walls inside the homes of the **Rathvas tribe**.
- ⦿ In times of difficulty, **Rathvas seek the guidance of Badva**, the chief priest or shaman of the village.
- ⦿ Badva performs readings based on the skills he has acquired through ancestral schooling, and recommends undertaking a vow to paint **Pithora** in the home in order to gain a boon from **Baba Pithora**.
- ⦿ The person who undertakes the vow is known as **Ghardhani**, or in simple terms, home owner.



Gulabi Minakari

- ⦿ Gulabi Meenakari and cufflink set were gifted to US President Joe Biden.
- ⦿ Gulabi MinaKari is one of the rarest crafts in India.
- ⦿ This art was brought to the **city of Varanasi by Persian enamellists** during the **Mughal era**.
- ⦿ Minakari is an art form from Persia and involves colouring the surface of metals by fusing different colours.
- ⦿ In **Varanasi**, it is practiced on jewellery and home decor items.
- ⦿ The **Meenakari of Varanasi** is part of its rich cultural heritage.
- ⦿ It was given a GI Tag in the year 2015.



7. NARASINGHAPETTAI NAGASWARAM BAGS GI TAG

CONTEXT

Nagaswaram made in **Narasinghapettai** in Thanjavur district has been granted the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** on the application filed by the Thanjavur Musical Instruments Workers Co-operative Cottage Industrial Society Ltd.

About Nagaswaram

- ⦿ Nagaswaram is a **wind instrument made of wood and metal**. It is a **conical double-reed aerophone** of southern India.

- There are **seven small holes** on top of the kuzhal and five below it.
- It is used in religious ceremonies.
- Nagaswaram is made of 'acha maram', a tree known for its sturdy features. Nagaswaram makers of Narasinghapettai buy old wooden pillars from the dismantled houses.

'Pari' Nagaswaram

- Narasinghapettai, a village near **Thiruvidadaimarudur**, has an inseparable place in the world of Carnatic music.
- Here live the families of artisans who excel in making the nagaswaram.
- It was N.G.N. Ranganatha Achari, who designed the 'pari' nagaswaram, now used by nagaswaram players, at the request of nagaswaram wizard Thiruvavaduthurai T.N. **Rajarathinam Pillai**.

8. FOLK ART FORMS OF ODISHA

CONTEXT

Odisha, one of the oldest states, is a region of temples with a long history. It boasts a rich culture and is one of the country's oldest civilizations.

List of famous art forms

- Home to over 52 craft skills, the state of Odisha is a powerhouse of vibrant arts and crafts.
- From the stone carvings that make up its famous temples to the **patachitra artworks of Lord Jagannath** to the colourful **pipli applique work**, this eastern Indian state has been home to a wide range of art and crafts for centuries.
- The state's heritage crafts include paintings, textiles, embroidery and tribal jewellery, with artefacts made from diverse materials such as stone, wood, metal, coir, clay, animal horns, feathers, sisal fibre, sabai grass, lacquer and more.

Art form	Description
Odisha Patachitra	Patachitra is a combination of the words 'Patta' (cloth/canvas) and 'Chitra' (image). This kind of Orissan art, which combines naturally extracted vivid colors, has a deep connection to Puri's temple traditions.
Talapatra	'Taali Oolas,' or palm-leaf manuscripts, have been a part of Indian tradition since the dawn of time. Tala Patra, a variant of Patachitra, is a fascinating storytelling technique utilized by Orissa's 'Chitrakars.'
Pipli Applique Work	It's simply a process of weaving colourful and appealing designs cut from one material onto another.

Stone Carving	The Sun Temples of Konark, Udayagiri, and Ratnagiri, as well as the temples of Jagannath, Lingaraj, and Mukteshwar, are examples of Odisha stone carving.
Papier Mache	Papier Mache literally translates to "paper pulp craft." Examples: Masks, lampshades, ornamental objects, and animals.
Dokra Art	Dokra, or dhokra, is a traditional art form. It is non-ferrous metal casting using the lost-wax casting technique.
Saura Painting	The Saura tribals of Odisha, India, are known for their Saura painting style of wall murals. These murals, also known as ikons (or ekons), have religious importance for the Saurus, India's oldest tribe.

9. BHARAT MANDAPAM

CONTEXT

The recently inaugurated **Bharat Mandapam**, which is going to host the G20 Summit in New Delhi, is a symbol of India's idea of '**the whole earth is one family**'.

About Bharat Mandapam:

- ◎ The **International exhibition-cum-convention Centre (IECC)** complex named **Bharat Mandapam** is located at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.
- ◎ The IECC complex is India's largest **MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions)** destination and features state-of-the-art facilities, including a **convention centre, exhibition halls, and an amphitheatre**.
- ◎ The architectural design of the convention centre incorporates elements from **India's traditional art and culture**, representing the nation's **rich heritage and modern achievements**.
- ◎ The term 'Bharat Mandapam' is derived from Lord Basaveshwara's concept of '**Anubhav Mantapa**,' which was a significant institution in the 12th century.
- ◎ Anubhav Mantapa is considered one of the earliest parliaments in human history, where poets and socio-spiritual reformers known as **Sharanas** discussed and deliberated on various reforms.
- ◎ The new complex is one of India's largest and among the world's biggest convention centres.



10. 'SENGOL' INSTALLED IN NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING

CONTEXT

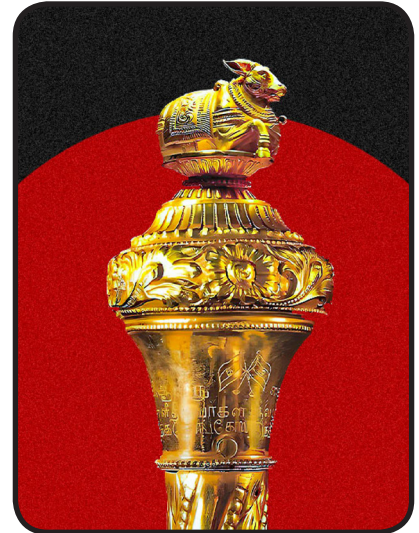
'Sengol', a historical sceptre from Tamil Nadu that was given to India's first president, Jawaharlal Nehru, to symbolise the handover of authority from the British, has been installed in the new Parliament building.

What is Sengol?

- Sengol was a significant part of coronation ceremonies during the Cholas period.
- It serves as a ceremonial spear or flagstaff featuring elaborate carvings and decorative elements.
- The Sengol is considered a sacred emblem of authority, representing the transfer of power between the two rulers.

How was it used during independence?

- Sengol was previously used as a symbolic transfer of power from the British rule to the citizens of independent India.
- The Sengol was received by late Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru on August 14, 1947.



11. THE ANCIENT ART FORM OF BHOOTA KOLA

CONTEXT

The ancient art form of **Bhoota Kola**, which gained mainstream popularity after the film Kantara, inspires anticipation and hope in **Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Kasaragod**.

About the culture

- The trained **Bhoota Kola performer**, in a possessed state, provides the answers to the community and is revered as the manifestation of God himself.
- The ritual performance that starts in the night goes on into the early hours of the morning.
- **Different forms:** Performed in the open air, the Bhoota Kola comes in the forms of **Panchuruli, Kallurutti, Koragajja** and so on.
- **Objective:** The Tuluvas, the people who speak the Tulu language, believe in animism and the Bhoota Kola is performed to invoke these spirits of Nature.

- ◉ **Tribe:** The traditional right to perform the kola belong to the **Nalike and Parava tribes** of the region.
- ◉ A typical **Bhoota Kola** season starts in January and extends to May.

How is different from Theyyam?

- ◉ Originally from **Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts of Karnataka** and the northern parts of **Kasaragod district**, the Bhoota Kola has striking similarities with Kerala's Theyyam, but have subtle differences too.
- ◉ **Costume:** The costumes of the Bhoota Kola are not as strikingly colourful as those of the Theyyam. The Bhoota Kola performer is bedecked in an attire entirely made of intricately woven palm leaves.
- ◉ **Face painting:** The elaborate face painting, however, is similar to Theyyam. The incantations the performer utters are in Tulu. The nema or kola (as the performance is called) usually involves aعرce dance accompanied by drums, music and other rituals.

Theyyam

- ◉ Theyyam, also known as Kaliyattam, is a ritual dance popular in north Kerala. It encompasses dance, mime and music.
- ◉ It exalts the beliefs of the ancient tribals who gave a lot of importance to the worship of heroes and the spirits of their ancestors.
- ◉ The ceremonious dance is accompanied by the chorus of such musical instruments as Chenda, Elathalam, Kurumkuzal and Veekkuchenda.
- ◉ There are over 400 separate Theyyams, each with their own music, style and choreography.
- ◉ The most prominent among these are **Raktha Chamundi, Kari Chamundi, Muchilottu Bhagavathi, Wayanadu Kulaven, Gulikan and Pottan**.



12. KARNATAKA'S LAMBANI CRAFT

CONTEXT

As part of the **third G20 culture working group (CWG)** meeting in Hampi, a **Guinness world record** was created for the '**largest display of Lambani items**'.

About Lambani craft:

- ◉ The Lambani embroidery is an intricate form of textile embellishment characterised by colourful threads, mirror-work and stitch patterns practised in several villages of Karnataka such as **Sandur, Keri Tanda, Mariyammanahalli, Kadirampur, Sitaram Tanda, Bijapur and Kamalapur**.



- The **Lambani craft tradition** involves stitching together small pieces of discarded fabric to create a beautiful fabric.
- The sustainable practice of patch-work is seen in many **textile traditions of India** and around the world.
- The embroidery traditions of the Lambanis are shared in terms of technique and aesthetics with textile traditions across **Eastern Europe, West, and Central Asia**.

LIST OF SOME IMPORTANT CRAFTS IN INDIA	
Kondapalli Dolls	Andhra Pradesh
Bamboo and cane Craft	Arunachal Pradesh
Madhubani Painting	Bihar
Wall Paintings	Chhattisgarh
Lavo Mandri	Goa
Zari Work	Gujarat
Bidriware	Karnataka
Durries Weaving	Madhya Pradesh
Pattachitra	Odisha
Kantha	West Bengal
Kutch Embroidery	Gujarat
Chikankari	Uttar Pradesh
Kashmiri Shawls	Jammu and Kashmir

The Lambani Community:

- It is a community that loves to adorn. They wear clothes that have a lot of **thread embroidery, buttons, shells, sequins, silver beads, etc.**
- Not only their clothes, but their homes are interestingly styled, too.
- The Lambanis have multiple colours on their walls, which are also decorated with artworks and art styles.
- The Banjaras speak '**Gor Boli**' — also called '**Lambadi**'.
- Since it has no script, it is written either in **Devanagari or in the local languages, like Telugu or Kannada**.
- Many people belonging to this tribal group are **bilingual or multilingual**.

13. RUDRAGIRI HILLOCK UNIQUE RAMAYANA FRESCO

CONTEXT

Recently, a **painting from Kakatiya-era** drawn in a natural rock shelter on the **Rudragiri hillock** depicts several evidences from **the Ramayana**.

- ⦿ The site unveils a combination of **prehistoric rock paintings** from the Mesolithic period and exquisite artwork from the **Kakatiya dynasty**.

About Rudragiri caves:

- ⦿ Rudragiri hillock is located in the village of Orvakallu, in **Guntur district** of Andhra Pradesh.
- ⦿ The shelters are found in the hillock which earlier was served as **living quarters** for people during the **Mesolithic age around 5000 B.C.**, and they bear witness to the **luminous rock paintings** of that era.
- ⦿ Interestingly, two natural caves at the southern end of the hillock also exhibit exceptional murals from the renowned **Kakatiya kingdom**.



Findings from the site:

- ⦿ The first cave, starting from the **southern end of the hillock**, presents a narrative mural portraying the intense battle between the Vanara brothers, **Vali and Sugriva**.
- ⦿ In the middle cave, a grand sketch of Hanuman, accompanied by sacred symbols of the **conch (Sankha)** and the **fire altar (Yagna Vedi)** is present. Hanuman is depicted carrying the **Sanjivani hill** in his right hand, symbolising his mission to **save Lakshmana's life**.
- ⦿ The third cave houses the **prehistoric rock paintings** from the Mesolithic era.

The Kakatiya Dynasty:

- ⦿ Kakatiyas is a dynasty from Andhra Pradesh that flourished in the **12th century CE**. The Kakatiya dynasty ruled from **Warangal (Telangana)** from **CE 1083-1323**.
- ⦿ They were known for the **construction of a network of tanks for irrigation** and drinking water and thereby gave a big boost to the overall development of the region.
- ⦿ The Delhi Sultanate's **Alauddin Khilji** invaded the Kakatiya region in 1303, which resulted in disaster for the Turks.
- ⦿ The Kakatiya army put up a brave fight against **Ulugh Khan's** second assault in 1323, but they were ultimately overcome.



- ◎ **Architecture:** A distinctive architectural style was also developed during the Kakatiya era; notable examples include the Warangal Fort, the **Thousand Pillar Temple** in Hanamkonda, the Ramappa Temple in Palampet, and the **Kota Gullu in Ghanpur**.
- ◎ **Inscriptions,** including about **1,000 stone inscriptions** and **12 copper-plate inscriptions,** provide a lot of information about the Kakatiya era.

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Architecture

1. LEPAKSHI MURALS IN VEERABHADRASWAMY TEMPLE

CONTEXT

A team of G-20 delegates visited the **Lepakshi Sri Veerabhadraswamy temple**.

About Lepakshi Temple:

- Lepakshi temple is located in Andhra Pradesh, built during the era of the **Vijayanagara Empire**.
- The temple is famous for its three shrines, which are dedicated to-
 - Lord Vishnu
 - Lord Shiva
 - Lord Veerabhadra

Mural Painting

- Lepakshi Veerabhadra Temple complex has **India's highest sculptural wealth and mural paintings**.
- **Asia's biggest mural painting**-Veerabhadra Swamy (measuring 24x18 feet), a hanging pillar in the dancing hall and the biggest monolithic bull in the country.



- The Veerabhadra Temple was constructed by two brothers, **Viranna and Virupanna**.
- **Architectural style:** The temple is built in the **Vijayanagar architectural style** and has beautiful sculptures adorning the walls.
- It is one of the finest & oldest temples in India.
- It is situated atop the **Kurmasailam (tortoise-shaped) hill**.
- There is a huge **Nandi bull** made from a single granite stone.

- Lepakshi has many **murals from the Vijayanagara Era** and the famous sculpture of the **snake on the Nagalinga**.
- The original structure is said to have been built by **Sage Agastya** and finds mention in the **Skanda Purana** as one of the **108 Saivaite pilgrimage** centres of ancient India.
- The entire temple complex was believed to be rebuilt by **Virupanna, and his brother Veeranna** under the rule of **Vijayanagara king Achyuta Devaraya**.
- The main shrine, the 70-pillared **nrutya mantapa**, the detailed and beautiful carvings on them depicts gods and artists playing musical instruments and dancers in various poses and mudras.
- The high ceiling is filled with long panels of fresco paintings.

2. DIGITALISING ANCIENT INSCRIPTIONS

CONTEXT

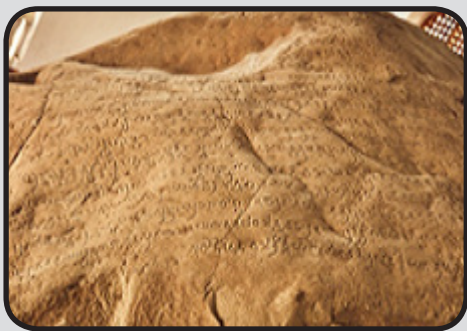
The **Union Budget 2023** highlighted the government's efforts for digitisation in the country, including a **digital library** for children and adolescents for preserving ancient inscriptions.

About the initiative

- It will facilitate the availability of quality books in different **languages, genres and at different levels**.
- **Objective:** The government will also try to inculcate a culture of reading by collaborating with NGOs, which will provide age-appropriate reading material to everyone.
- **Key features:**
 - The **National Book Trust** and **Children's Book Trust** will also participate in the digitising event.
 - The library would be "device-agnostic".
 - A specialized repository will be made in a **digital epigraphy museum** by the digitization of **one lakh ancient inscriptions** in the first stage.
- **Bharat Shared Repository of Inscriptions (Bharat SHRI)** will be set up in a **digital epigraphy museum**.

Ancient Inscriptions:

Junagarh Rock inscription



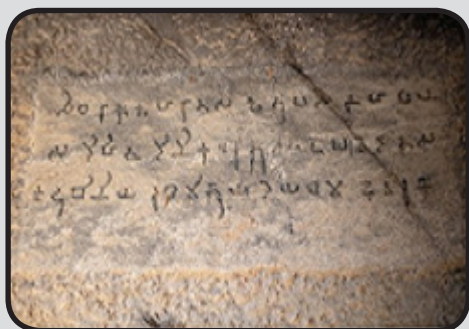
- The **Junagarh Rock inscription** of Rudradaman is considered as an early example of chaste Sanskrit, written in mid second century AD.
- It mentions that one of Chandragupta Maurya's governors, Pushyagupta, was responsible for building a dam on **Sudarshana Lake** near Girnar in Kathiawar.
- From another inscription of Skandgupta we came to know that this very dam was repaired during his reign, almost **800 years** after it was built.

Mahrauli Inscription / Garuda Pillar



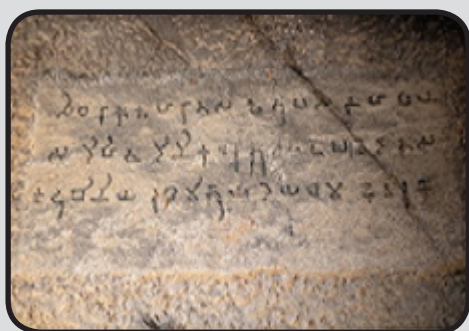
- The **Mahrauli Iron Pillar** was originally placed on a hill near the Beas and was brought to Delhi by a King of Delhi.
- This pillar credits Chandragupta with conquest of the Vanga Countries by his battling alone against the confederacy of the enemies united against him.
- It also credits him for **conquest of Vakatkas** in a fight that ran across seven mouths of Sindhu.
- This pillar was established **by Chandragupta-II** of Gupta dynasty as *Vishnupada* in the honor of Lord Vishnu.

Allahabad Pillar Inscription (Prayag Prasasti)



- This was issued by **Samudragupta** and was composed by Harisena.
- It is written in very simple and refined Sanskrit in ***Champu kavya style***. It lists achievements of Samudragupta.
- This Inscription is a eulogy of Samudragupta and mentions about the conquests of Samudragupta and boundaries of the Gupta Empire.
- As per this inscription, Samudragupta defeated 9 kings in North, 12 Kings in South, reduced all the **Atavika states** to vassalage.
- It also mentions that more than five states in the frontier states surrendered and accepted his suzerainty. He had close contact with the kingdom of Ceylon and South East Asian colonies.
- The eulogy of Harisena describes him as hero of 100 battles.
- He performed **Ashvamedha Yajna**, this has been testified by a seal of Samudragupta bearing a Horse.

Nasik Inscription



- The achievements of **Gutamiputra Satkarni** were mentioned in Nasik Inscription that was composed by his mother Gautami Balasri.
- The **Nasik Prasasti** describes Gautamiputra as the ruler of the **Aparanta, Anupa, Saurashtra, Kukura, Akara and Avanti** and defeated the Saka King Nahapana and restored the prestige of his dynasty by reconquering a large part of the former dominions of the Satavahanas.

Nanaghat Inscription



- The **Nasik and Nanaghat** inscriptions are the major sources that give detailed information about the **Satavahana Empire**.
- The Nasik inscription was made by Gautami Balasari and Nanaghat inscription was issued by **Naganika**.

3. BUDDHIST MONASTERY COMPLEX AT BHARATPUR OF BENGAL

CONTEXT

Recent excavations at Bharatpur in **West Bengal's Paschim Bardhaman district** have revealed the presence of a **Buddhist monastery**.

About the site:

- The last excavation at the site was taken place **about fifty years** back in the 1970s.
- At that time black and red ware pottery belonging to the **Chalcolithic Age** was recovered with a Buddhist stupa.
- The recent excavations have revealed the presence of an extended monastery complex at the site.

Key findings:

- Recent excavations have revealed the presence of a Buddhist monastery.
- According to experts, the Buddhist sites in the State are the presence of a large stupa along with a monastery complex and black and red ware pottery from the Chalcolithic or Copper Age.
- In the 1970s, **five beautiful seated sculptures** of the Buddha in **Bhumisparsha Mudra**.
- These miniature sculptures, each about 30 cm in height, were most likely used for worship in the monastery.



Bhumisparsa Mudra is the gesture of hand showing five fingers of the right hand towards the earth symbolising the Buddha's enlightenment.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY DISCOVERS 1200-YEAR-OLD MINIATURE STUPAS

CONTEXT

Patna circle of the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** has discovered two 1200-year-old miniature votive stupas during landscaping activities.

About

- ⦿ **Location:** It has been found near **Sarai Tila** mound within the premises of '**Nalanda Mahavihara**', a world heritage site in Nalanda district in the state.
- ⦿ The stupas, carved from stone, depict Buddha figures.

What are stupas?

- ⦿ A Stupa is a hemispherical structure which **symbolizes the burial mound of Buddha**.
- ⦿ It rose to prominence after the advent of Buddhism and peaked during **Ashoka's reign**.
- ⦿ Stupas evolved as **Chorten in Tibet and pagodas in East Asia**.

Nalanda Mahavihara site:

- ⦿ The Nalanda Mahavihara site comprises the archaeological remains of a monastic and scholastic institution dating from the **3rd century BCE to the 13th century CE**.
- ⦿ It includes stupas, shrines, viharas (residential and educational buildings) and important art works in stucco, stone and metal.

Importance of stupas

- ⦿ **Religious importance –**
 - **Relic repository:** In the beginning stupas were built to venerate and safeguard relics and remains of Buddha.
 - **Sacred place:** Along with monasteries (*viharas*) later, stupas were included in chaityas, which is a prayer hall.
 - **Circumambulation path:** an important Buddhist ritual around the path surrounding it.
 - **The object of veneration–** it is believed that relics of buddhas body were buried within the stupas
- ⦿ **Philosophical–**
 - **Meditation:** It is an important place for meditation.
 - **Commemorative:** In the Tibetan tradition, stupas were built to celebrate the life events of the Buddha.
- ⦿ **Symbolic:** The stupas encapsulate the teachings and ideology of Buddha
 - **Dhamek stupa at Sarnath marks the spot** where the Buddha gave his first sermon after attaining enlightenment, revealing his Eightfold Path leading to nirvana.

- ◎ **Historical:** Provide information about the various dynasties who ruled India. Eg :
 - **Mauryas:** Bairat stupa , Sanchi stupa , Bharhut stupa etc
 - **Sathavahanas:** Amaravati stupa etc
- ◎ **Architectural –**
 - **Oldest stone structures:** The stupas at Sanchi and Bharhut are one of the oldest stone structures in India.
 - **Inclusion of text in narrative panels–** at Bharhut (Queen Maya’s dream)
 - **Use of marble–** at Amravati stupa
 - **Taxila excavations reveal stupas with Boddhisatva images,** Gandhara influence and patronage of Kanishka.

5. PRESIDENT INAUGURATES ‘PRASAD’ PROJECT AT SRISAILAM

CONTEXT

President of India Droupadi Murmu inaugurated ‘**PRASAD**’ project at the tourism facilitation centre in the pilgrim town of Srisailam in Andhra Pradesh.

About the Project:

- ◎ PRASAD stands for **Philanthropic Relief, Altruistic Service and Development.**
- ◎ PRASAD is a global charitable organization committed to uplifting the lives of economically disadvantaged people around the world. Our programs in India, Mexico, and the United State impact thousands of people annually.
- ◎ It takes a holistic approach. Because the most vulnerable people face numerous hardships, addressing just one area of need isn’t adequate.

Srisailam Temple

- ◎ **Srisailam Temple** also known as **Bhramaramba Mallikarjuna Temple** is situated in the Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh.
- ◎ The temple is on the top of the **Nallamala hills**, on the banks of River Krishna.
- ◎ The Lingam of the presiding deity **Lord Mallikarjuna Swamy** is one of the **12 Jyotirlingas** dedicated to Lord Shiva.
- ◎ It is also one of the most important **Shaivite** pilgrimage sites in India.



- There are two separate temple complexes present inside – one is in dedication to **Lord Mallikarjuna** while the other one is for **Goddess Bhramarambha**.
- Mention of Srisailem hills can be traced to the Nasik inscription of the Satavahana King **Vasisthiputra Pulumavi** in the **1st century AD**.
- The **Ikshavakus** Kingdom ruled Srisailem from AD200 – 300.

6. FIRST PHASE OF THE 'SHRI MAHAKALESWAR CORRIDOR' INAUGURATED

CONTEXT

Prime Minister inaugurated the first phase of the 'Shri Mahakaleswar Corridor' in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh.

About Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga

- The temple is located in the historical city of **Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh, India**. It is situated on the banks of the holy river, **Shipra**.
- Mahakal is the **only Jyotirlinga facing south**; the **rest face east**. That is because the south is believed to be the **direction of death**.
- The Jyotirlingas, or shrines, are believed to be the most sacred abodes of Shiva.
- Style:-**The Mahakaleshwar temple has been built in **Maratha, Bhumija and Chalukya** architectural styles.
- Origin:** The time of origin of the temple may be assigned to the pre-historic period as the Puranas say it was first established by **Prajapita Brahma**.



Other jyotirlinga sites:

- Somnath in Gujarat
- Dwarka's Nageswar in Gujarat
- Mallikarjuna at Srisailem in Andhra Pradesh
- Omkareshwar in Madhya Pradesh
- Kedarnath in Uttarakhand
- Bhimashankar in Maharashtra
- Triambakeshwar in Maharashtra
- Aurangabad's Grishneshwar in Maharashtra
- Viswanath at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh
- Baidyanath Temple in Jharkhand's Deoghar
- Rameshwar at Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu

What are Jyotirlingas?

- Jyotirlinga* means 'column or pillar of light'.
- The '*stambha*' symbol represents that there is no beginning or end.

About Ujjain:

- The city of Ujjain was also one of the primary centres of learning for Hindu scriptures, called **Avantika** in the **6th and 7th centuries BC**.

- Astronomers and mathematicians such as **Brahmagupta** and **Bhaskaracharya** also made Ujjain their home.
- According to **Surya Siddhanta (4th century)**, which is one of the earliest available texts on Indian astronomy, Ujjain is geographically situated at the **intersection of zero meridians of longitude (Madhyarekha) and the Tropic of Cancer (Karkavrutta) intersect.**

7. INDIA RESTORING ANGKOR WAT TEMPLE COMPLEX

CONTEXT

Addressing the **Kashi Tamil Sangamam** on the subject ‘**contribution of temples in society and nation building**’ External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar stated that the **Angkor Wat temple complex in Cambodia** is being restored by India because our civilisation is not limited to India, but is spread across countries.

About Angkor Wat:

- Angkor Wat, temple complex at Angkor, Cambodia, is a vast religious complex comprising more than a thousand buildings.
- **Built by: King Suryavarman II** (reigned 1113–c. 1150) in the 12th century.
- **Type:** Buddhist temple complex
- It was originally dedicated to the **Hindu god Vishnu** before becoming a Buddhist temple by the end of the 12th century.
- **Architecture:** -Angkor Wat is the world’s largest religious structure, covering some 400 acres (160 hectares), and marks the high point of Khmer architecture.
- **Stylistic elements:** The original, lotus bud-shaped towers, half-galleries, axial galleries, connecting enclosures and cruciform terraces.



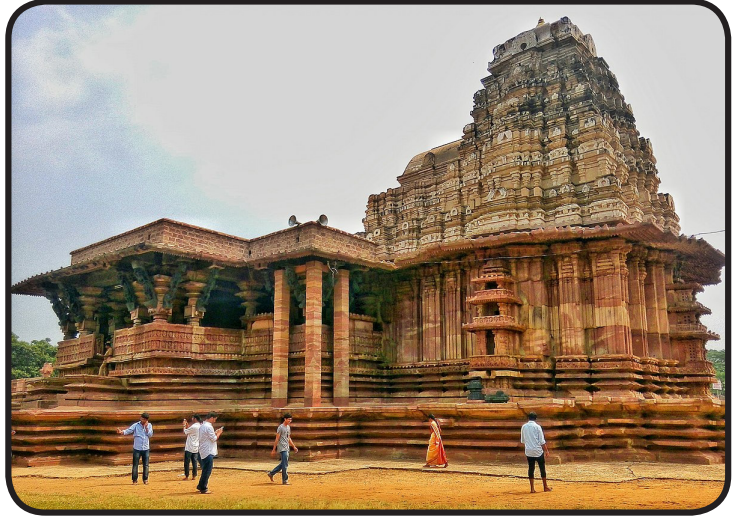
8. HERITAGE CAMP AT RAMAPPA TEMPLE

CONTEXT

A 12-day World Heritage Volunteers (WHV) Camp-2022 **was organised under the aegis of the** Warangal-based Kakatiya Heritage Trust **at the historic Ramappa temple in Palampet of Mulugu district.**

About Ramappa Temple

- ◎ **Ramappa Temple, also known as the Rudreshwara (Lord Siva) temple,** is a UNESCO World Heritage Site located in the state of **Telangana**.
- ◎ It lies in a **valley in Palampet village of Venkatapur Mandal of Mulugu district**, a tiny village long past its days of glory in the **13th and 14th centuries**.
- ◎ An inscription in the temple dates it to the **year 1213 CE** and says it was built by a **Kakatiya General Recharla Rudra Deva**, during the period of the **Kakatiya ruler Ganapati Deva**.
- ◎ This temple was constructed by **Kakatiya king Ganapati Deva's general Recharla Rudra**.
- ◎ Kakatiya Dynasty was the South Indian dynasty that ruled Andhra Pradesh in India from 1083 CE to 1323 CE.
- ◎ **Ramalingeswara Swamy** is the presiding deity of this temple.
- ◎ **Marco Polo**, during his visit to the Kakatiya Empire, allegedly called the temple **"the brightest star in the galaxy of temples"**.



Architecture

- ◎ The temple complexes of **Kakatiyas** have a distinct style, technology, and decoration exhibiting the influence of the **Kakatiyan sculptor**.
- ◎ The foundation is built with the **"Sandbox technique"**, the flooring is granite, and the pillars are basalt.
- ◎ The lower part of the temple is **red sandstone** while the **white Gopuram** is built with light bricks that reportedly float on water.
- ◎ The Kakatiya temples, **dedicated mostly to Shiva**, reveal in their construction a happy blending of the styles of North India and South India which influenced the political life of the Deccan.
- ◎ They adopted both the **North Indian Nagara Bhumiya style and the South Indian Dravida style**.
- ◎ The most important of these temples are those at **Palampet (Ramappa temple), Hanamkonda (Thousand Pillared temple)** and the temples in the Warangal fort including the big ruined temple complex — **Swayambhunadha temple**.

9. ASI FINDS BUDDHIST CAVES, & TEMPLES IN MP

CONTEXT

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has reported 20 Buddhist caves, ranging from the 2nd Century BC to 5th Century BC, at **Madhya Pradesh's Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve**.

About

- ◎ The Buddhist religious artefacts found in the **region of Baghelkhand** are of the **Mahayana sect** of Buddhism.
- ◎ This is also the **first time Bandhavgarh has been explored** since archaeologist NP Chakravarti **last explored it in 1938**.
- ◎ **Key Findings:** Some of the **key findings** are
 - board games
 - monolith depicting the ten avatars of Vishnu
 - a votive stupa
 - **Two Shaiva Math belonging to the Kalachuri period**
 - Chaitya-shaped doors, coins, stampage and as many as 46 new sculptures which were never seen before
 - Fragments of a Buddhist pillar dating to the 2nd or 3rd Century BC
 - Over 24 Brahmi inscriptions, dating to 2nd Century to 5th Century BC
- ◎ The inscriptions mention sites such as **Mathura and Kaushambi, and Pavata, Vejabharada and Sapatanaairikaa**.
 - The kings they mention include **Bhimsena, Pothasiri and Bhattadeva**.
 - Also part of the findings is 26 ancient temples and remains from the Kalachuri period.
 - The team also found evidence of 19 water bodies.
 - Remains of the Gupta period, such as door jambs and carvings from 4th to 5th century BC were documented during the exploration.

The **Kalachuri dynasty**, which spread over parts of **Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh**, is also associated with the earliest **Ellora and Elephanta cave monuments**.

About Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve:

- ◎ Bandhavgarh National Park is located in the **Umaria district of Madhya Pradesh**.
- ◎ Bandhavgarh was declared a **national park in 1968** and then became **Tiger Reserve in 1993**.
- ◎ **Historical Significance:** Its mention can be found in the ancient books of the '**Narad Pancharatra**' and the '**Shiv Purana**' that this place is being associated with Ramayana.
- ◎ The park derives its name from the most prominent hillock of the area, which was said to be given by **Hindu Lord Rama to his brother Lakshmana** to keep a watch on Lanka. Hence the name Bandhavgarh (Sanskrit: Brother's Fort).
- ◎ The Bandhavgarh Fort is a **great masterpiece** of "**Treta Yuga**" (one of the ages of mankind in Hinduism).
- ◎ It was ruled by major dynasties including **Sengars**, the **Kalchuris**, and the **Baghels** (believed to rule the regions for the longer period).

10. HOYSALA TEMPLE

CONTEXT

The Sacred Ensembles of the **Hoysala** — the Hoysala temples of **Belur, Halebid and Somananthpura** in Karnataka — has been finalised as India's nomination for consideration as **UNESCO's World Heritage for 2022-23**.

About Hoysala Architecture

- Hoysala architecture is the building style developed under the rule of the **Hoysala Empire** between the **11th and 14th centuries**, mostly concentrated in southern Karnataka.
- Hoysala temples are sometimes called **hybrid or vesara** as their unique style seems between **Dravida and Nagara styles**.
- The Hoysala temples contain multiple shrines grouped around a central **pillared hall** and laid out in the shape of an intricately-designed star.
- They are made out of **soapstone** which is a relatively soft stone.
- They are easily distinguishable from other medieval temples by their highly original star-like **ground-plans and a profusion of decorative carvings**.

Halebidu, the once-prosperous capital

- Halebidu was the imperial capital of the Hoysala Empire.
- Located in the middle of a valley east of the **Western Ghats**, and surrounded by low-lying mountains, **Halebidu** is a well-connected region.

11. MANDYA'S HOYSALA LEGACY

CONTEXT

There are a number of **Hoysala temples** scattered across the Mandya district. Some of these temples are located in Maddur, Basaralu, Hosaholalu, Kikkeri, Nagamangala and Thonnur.

About

- **Lakshminarayana Temple** at Hosaholalu, built by the Hoysala King Vira Someshwara, which dates back to 1250 AD.
 - It is a trikuta structure (three shrines) and its central shrine has an imposing shikara (superstructure).
 - The main deity is Nambi Narayana, believed to be consecrated by the great saint Ramanuja himself.
 - To the left of the main deity is a north-facing shrine of Lakshmi Narasimha. The peculiarity of this idol is that Prahalada is depicted near the feet of Narasimha.

- ◎ **Mallikarjuna Temple:** The temple was consecrated in 1235 by **Harihara Nayaka** under the rule of the **Hoysala King Veera Narasimha II**.
 - This Temple is a **small trikuta structure** but houses numerous sculptures of excellent quality.
 - It is one of the few temples in which the Hoysala crest of Sala slaying the lion is preserved on top of the tower (sukhanasi).
 - Even the kalasa on top of the shrine is intact. A beautiful pillared-entrance on the south leads to the Temple.
- ◎ **Saumyakeshava Temple at Nagamangala:** Built on a four-feet-high star-shaped jagati, this Temple is also a trikuta structure. The main shrine, facing the east, houses a beautifully carved idol of Saumyakeshava, a form of Vishnu.

Hoysala Empire

- ◎ The Hoysala Empire ruled parts of southern India between the 10th and 14th centuries.
- ◎ The capital of the Hoysalas was initially located at **Belur** but was later moved to **Halebidu**.
- ◎ The reign of the Hoysala Empire led to the development of **South Indian art, architecture, and religion**, and its legacy lies mainly in the **Hoysala architecture**.
- ◎ Numerous temples have survived the ravages of times to give testament to Hoysala art and culture.
 - Some of the notable temples built during the Hoysala Empire are the **Chennakesava Temple at Belur, the Hoysaleswara Temple at Halebidu, the Chennakesava Temple at Somanathapura, the temples at Arasikere, Amruthapura, Belavadi, Nuggehalli, Hosaholalu, Aralaguppe, Korvangla, Haranhalli, Mosale and Basaralu**

12. KANHERI CAVE

CONTEXT

Recently, the Union Minister for Tourism inaugurated a group of tourist amenities at Kanheri Caves.

About Kanhagiri Caves

- ◎ Kanhagiri in ancient inscriptions literally means **Black Mountain**.
- ◎ The Kanheri Caves are a group of caves and rock-cut monuments in the forests of the **Sanjay Gandhi National Park in Mumbai**.
- ◎ These caves hold immense historical and architectural significance.
- ◎ The sculptures exhibited within the caves showcase the influential architectural style of Buddhism that emerged between the **1st century BCE and the 10th century CE**.
- ◎ This establishment was also connected with many trade centres, such as the ports of **Sopara, Kalyan, Nasik, Paithan and Ujjain**.

Literature, Sculptures, Painting and Language

1. J & K'S BASOHLI PAINTINGS GET GI TAG

CONTEXT

Recently, the **Basholi (Basoli) paintings** received the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** following approval of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Jammu.

About

- Basholi painting is a reputed school of **miniature paintings**.
- The Basohli painting of Kathua is the **first independent GI-tagged product** from Jammu region.
- Basohli painting, school of **Pahari miniature painting** that flourished in the **Indian hill states** during the late 17th and the 18th centuries, known for its bold vitality of colour and line.



Basholi is a town in **Kathua district** in the state of **Jammu and Kashmir**, India.

Key features:

- These paintings known for its vivid, evocative colors, bold lines, and deep-set facial patterns.
- It was founded by **Raja Bhupat Pal** in the 16th century.
- Basholi paintings are considered as the **first school of Pahari paintings**, many of which have evolved into the much more detailed and widespread **style of Kangra painting school**.

Geographical Indication (GI) tag:

- ⦿ The GI is a form of **intellectual property right** that identifies goods originating from a specific geographical location and having distinct nature, quality and characteristics.
- ⦿ The Geographical Indication is recognised by the **World Trade Organization**.
- ⦿ India became a signatory to this convention, when, as a member of WTO, it enacted the Geographical Indications (Registration and Protection) Act, of 1999, which came into effect on September 15, 2003.

Paintings in India:

- ⦿ **Principles of Indian Paintings:**
- ⦿ **Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism** were three new religions that emerged in India, and they all provided important sources of inspiration for artists.
- ⦿ The development of Indian Paintings has been significantly influenced by various factors, including India's deep-rooted history and culture.
- ⦿ In the famous paintings of India, spiritual themes, noble ideals, and common beliefs are depicted.
- ⦿ In the **third century AD**, Vatsyayana wrote about the **six main shadanga or principles of Indian painting** in his work Kamasutra. These were:
 - **Various Forms:** Rupabheda
 - **Emotional immersion:** Lavanyayoganam
 - **Combining colours to simulate modelling effects:** Varnikabhanga
 - **The proportion of the object or subject:** Pramanam
 - **The portrayal of the subject's likelihood:** Sadrisyan
 - **The use of colour to create lustre and gleam:** Bhava

Miniature Indian Paintings:

- ⦿ When India first came into contact with the Islamic civilization, miniature painting finally reached its full potential.
- ⦿ Indian painting underwent a new stage of development during the Mughal Empire when the workshops were created at the Imperial court.
- ⦿ From there, artworks like illustrated manuscripts, book miniatures, portraiture, celebratory or genre scenes, and many others spread throughout India.
- ⦿ **Key features of miniature paintings:**
 - Miniature Indian paintings are characterized by small and detailed paintings.
 - Human figures are mostly seen in side profiles, bulging eyes, slim waists, pointed noses, etc.

Some famous miniature paintings include:

- ⦿ Ragamala (1680 AD)
- ⦿ Bhairavi Ragini Painting
- ⦿ **Bani Thani** (Monalisa of India) by Nihâl Chand and Radha and Krishna of Kishangarh
- ⦿ Gita Govind, Palm Leaf Painting

- Different colours were used for different characters, and various bases were used.
- Often painted on paper, clothes, palm leaves, etc.
- The characteristics of Miniature painting varied in different regions of the country.

2. CHOLA ERA IDOLS

CONTEXT

Recently, the **Idol Wing-CID** has submitted documents to U.S. officials through the Central government to retrieve **six exquisite Chola-Era bronze idols**.

About

- ⊙ These idols went missing from the **Arthanareeswarar Temple, Veeracholapuram in Kallakurichi district** in Tamil Nadu the 1960s.
 - **Arthanareeswarar Temple is a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva.**
 - Presiding deity is called **Arthanareeswarar** and mother is called as **Anubhambikai**.
 - The temple is situated on the banks of **Manimutharu River**.
 - The temple was constructed during the 12th century AD by **Chola king Rajendra Chola**.

Chola Dynasty

- ⊙ The reign of the Cholas began in the 9th century when they defeated the Pallavas to come into power.
- ⊙ This rule stretched over for over **five long centuries** until the 13th century.
- ⊙ The Early periods of the Chola rule saw the **onset of the Sangam literature**.

3. TULU, AND KODAVA SPEAKERS DEMAND PRIORITY FOR THEIR LANGUAGES

CONTEXT

Speakers of Tulu and Kodava have opposed the draft of the **Kannada Language Comprehensive Development Bill, 2022**, which aims to ensure the “extensive use and propagation” of the Kannada language.

Kannada Language Comprehensive Development Bill, 2022

- ⊙ **R. Bannurmath-headed committee** prepared the draft of the Kannada Language Comprehensive Development Bill, 2022.

- ⦿ The Bill only gives importance to Kannada and to the use of English for administrative purposes like communication with the Union government or in courts etc.
- ⦿ There is no mention of Kodava and Tulu in the bill.
- ⦿ The Bill provides for penalties for violations of rules, with fines prescribed for various offenses.

Tulu

- ⦿ Tulu is a **Dravidian language** spoken mainly in two coastal districts **Dakshina Kannada** and **Udupi of Karnataka and Kasaragod district** of Kerala.
- ⦿ As per the 2011 Census report, there are 18,46,427 Tulu-speaking people in India.
- ⦿ People have been demanding it to give official language status and include it in the eighth schedule.

Kodava

- ⦿ The Kodava is an endangered **Dravidian language** and it is spoken in the **Kodagu district** in Southern Karnataka, India.
- ⦿ The 2011 Census of India, for a total of 113,857 persons who identified one of these languages as their mother tongue.

4. KASHI- TAMIL SANGAM

CONTEXT

Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the month-long Kashi Tamil Sangamam in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

- ⦿ This programme is an initiative by Government of India as a part of “**Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav**” and to uphold the Spirit of **Ek Bharat Sreshtha Bharat**.

Kashi in Hindu mythology

- ⦿ Kashi is known to be derived from ‘Kasha’, the name of an ancient king, whose dynasty later produced the famous legendary **king Dividasa of Kashi**.
- ⦿ The Kashi Khand of the **Skanda Purana** explains Kashi to be the name of the place where the light of Shiva shines most brilliantly.

EK BHARAT SHRESHTHA BHARAT

- ⦿ **Announced in:** 2015.
- ⦿ **Aim:** to actively enhance interaction between people of diverse cultures living in different States and UTs in India, with the objective of promoting greater mutual understanding among them.
- ⦿ **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Education

KASHI TAMIL SANGAMAM

- ⦿ **Background:** Civilisational connection between India’s North and South.
- ⦿ **Aim:** To bring the two knowledge and cultural traditions (of the North and South) closer,

- ⦿ Create an understanding of our shared heritage and deepen the people-to-people bond between the regions.
- ⦿ Organized by the **Ministry of Education** in collaboration with other ministries like Culture, Textiles, Railways, Tourism, Food Processing, Information & Broadcasting etc. and the Government of Uttar Pradesh.
- ⦿ Sync with **National Education Policy (NEP), 2020's** emphasis on integrating the wealth of Indian Knowledge Systems with modern systems of knowledge.
- ⦿ **Implementing agencies:** IIT Madras and Banaras Hindu University (BHU)

5. KUSHANS

CONTEXT

Recently, the coins used in the **Kushana Empire** have been found with images consisting of God and Goddesses and are considered the first to use the image of '**Goddess Lakshmi**' on their coins.

Background

- ⦿ Coinage with images of gods and goddesses dates back to Kushans.
- ⦿ The Coinage of India began anywhere between the early **1st millennium BCE to the 6th century BCE** and consisted mainly of **copper and silver coins** in its initial stage.
- ⦿ The coins of this period were '**Karshapanas**' or '**Pana**'.
- ⦿ The kingdoms that minted their own coins were; **Gandhara, Kuntala, Kuru, Magadha, Panchala, Shakya, Surasena, Surashtra, and Vidarbha, etc.**
- ⦿ The **Vijayanagara kings** also used coinage with Hindu idols.
- ⦿ Harihara –II (1377-1404) introduced coins that had **Brahma-Saraswati, Vishnu-Lakshmi, and Shiva-Parvati.**
- ⦿ The tradition of minting coins to win the confidence of local people continued when the **French and Dutch** minted coins showing **Vishnu** between 1715 and 1774 and **Goddess Kali** till the late 17th century.

Do you know?

- ⦿ The tradition of '**Indian coinage**' in the 2nd millennium evolved with **Indo Islamic** rule in India
- ⦿ and the British Raj in the **19th century.**

The Kushana Empire:

- ⦿ **Kushanas** were descended from the **Yuezhi**, a people that ruled over most of the northern Indian subcontinent, Afghanistan, and parts of Central Asia during the first three centuries of the Common Era.


- ◎ The Yuezhi conquered Bactria in the **2nd century BCE** and divided the country into five chiefdoms, one of which was that of the **Kushans (Guishuang)**.
- ◎ Under **Kaniska I (flourished 1st century CE)** and his successors, the **Kushan kingdom** reached its height.
- ◎ It was acknowledged as one of the four great **Eurasian powers** of its time (the others being China, Rome, and Parthia).
- ◎ The Kushans were instrumental in spreading Buddhism in Central Asia and China and in developing **Mahayana Buddhism** and the **Gandhara and Mathura schools of art**.


6. MISCELLANEOUS

Other types of art forms in India


Art Form	State	Description
Gond Art	Madhya Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◎ The Gond tribe of Madhya Pradesh is known for making paintings inspired by Urban Culture. ◎ Gond is a mixture of folk tales and legends from the community and has depictions of nature's elements and deities. ◎ Objects like charcoal, coloured dirt, plant sap, leaves, and even cow dung are used to create vibrant colours like red, blue, yellow, orange, etc.
Rajput Paintings	Rajasthan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◎ The painting that oozed out of the royal courts of Rajasthan in the 18th century is now well-known all over the country. ◎ The Rajput paintings are based on Lord Krishna and the epics of Ramayana and Mahabharata. ◎ The bold lines and hue paint on paper, ivory, or silk make them look fascinating. Though the paintings are static they appear to depict a scene or a story.
Kalamkari Art	Andhra Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◎ There are two types of Kalamkari Paintings; Srikalahasti, which is the freehand drawing style, and Machilipatnam, which is the block-printing technique. ◎ These paintings are made using natural colours and materials available in nature.
Madhubani Painting	Bihar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◎ Traditionally it was only practiced with natural dyes and colours on walls and floors, but nowadays, it can be seen on canvas, paper, and wooden frames. The Brahmin and Kayastha communities are experts in this art form.

Kalighat Painting	West Bengal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kalighat painting is native to Kolkata. The artisans of the Patua community used to paint around the Kalighat temple, hence the art got its name from there.
Aipan Art	Uttarakhand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Born in the Kumaon region of Uttarakhand, Aipan is a ritualistic and spiritual form of art. Special symbols are made to depict certain rituals in a Pooja, ceremony, and havans (yagnas).
Kalamezhuthu Art	Kerala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In this craft, a painting is made on the floor with coloured powders from materials such as rice powder, turmeric, and henna.
Chittara Art	Karnataka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chittara is a folk art of Karnataka. It uses delicate patterns and solid colours to represent various stories and figures. It is mostly practiced by the women of the Devaru community.
Rogan Art	Gujarat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rogan Art (Oil-based) is an exquisite art form practiced in the Nirona Village of Gujarat. Castor oil is heated for 12 hours and cast in cold water to give it a paint-like texture. ● Then it is mixed with stone pigments to form different colours. ● These colours are then used on a cloth to draw, particularly representing nature.






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