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MAY 2024

HISTORY, ART & CULTURE



1. THIRUVALLUVAR1.RABINDRANATH TAGORE JAYANTI

- **Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti is celebrated to honour the birth anniversary of the esteemed Indian poet, novelist, and scholar, Rabindranath Tagore.**
- This year marks the **163rd birth anniversary** of Tagore, who was born on May 7, 1861.
- Tagore was the **first non-European and the first lyricist to win the Nobel Prize** for his poetry 'Gitanjali'.
- Notable works include 'Gitanjali', 'Ghare-Baire', 'Gora', 'Manasi', and 'Balaka'.
- Tagore also wrote the national anthems for India (Jana Gana Mana) and Bangladesh (Amar Shonar Bangla).
- **He founded Shantiniketan**, a hub for progressive education and nationalist ideas.
- Tagore, a vocal critic of British rule, advocated for Indian independence. After **the Jallianwala Bagh massacre**, he wrote a public letter to Lord Chelmsford, the Viceroy of India, protesting the atrocity and renounced his knighthood in protest.

2.FIFTY YEARS OF OPERATION SMILING BUDDHA

- On May 18th 1974, India conducted its landmark **first nuclear tests in Pokhran, Rajasthan**, as part of the 'Smiling Buddha 'operation.
- The Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) described the **test as a peaceful nuclear explosion.** The bomb was built by scientists at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre **(BARC)** in assistance with the Defence Research and Development Organisation **(DRDO).**
- It was the **first confirmed nuclear weapons test by a nation outside** the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. The test led to the formation of the **Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)** to control nuclear proliferation.
- After the test, India carried out one other subsequent nuclear test named **Pokhran-II in 1998.**

3.HAMPI VIRUPAKSHA TEMPLE

- Virupaksha Temple is located in Hampi in the Vijayanagara district of Karnataka, India. It is part of the Group of Monuments at Hampi, designated as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
- The temple is dedicated to **Lord Shiva**, known here as Virupaksha/Pampa pathi, as the consort of the local goddess Pampadevi.
- The Virupaksha Temple, significantly expanded during the **14th century Vijayanagara Empire**, was founded by **Harihara I** of the Sangama dynasty.
- The Virupaksha Temple showcases **Dravidian architecture** with grand gopurams, intricate carvings, pillared halls and a towering shikhara. The imposing 50-meter eastern gopuram, adorned with intricate carvings, serves as the main entrance.
- Virupaksha Temple complex is surrounded by **three gopuras (towers).** The imposing 9 stories, 50-meter eastern gopuram, adorned with intricate carvings, serves as the main entrance.

- **Hampi** was the empire's **capital city,** sits on the banks of the **Tungabhadra River**.

4.IKSHVAKU KINGDOM

- Archaeologists discovered a hoard of Ikshvaku-era lead coins during recent excavations at Phanigiri, Suryapet, Telangana.
- The Andhra Ikshvaku dynasty ruled the eastern **Krishna River valley** from their **capital Vijayapuri** (modern Nagarjunakonda) for over a century during the 3rd and 4th centuries CE.
- They are also known as the Ikshvakus of Vijayapuri and ruled parts of present-day Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- The Ikshvaku kings were Shaivites and performed Vedic rites, but Buddhism also flourished during their reign.
- **The dynasty's founder Vasishthiputra Chamtamula** rose to power after the decline of the Satavahana power. The **Rentala inscription**, dated to his 5th regnal year, calls him "Siri Cāṃtamūla". **The Kesanapalli inscription**, dated to his 13th regnal year, names him as the founder of the Ikshvaku dynasty.
- By the mid-4th century, the Pallavas had assumed control of the former Ikshvaku territory, potentially reducing the Ikshvaku rulers to vassal status.

5.PURI JAGANNATH TEMPLE

- The Shree Jagannath Temple of Puri is dedicated to Lord Jagannath, a form of **Vishnu**, in Puri in the state of **Odisha**.
- The present temple was rebuilt from the 10th century by **King Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva**, first of the Eastern Ganga dynasty.
- The Puri temple is renowned for its annual Ratha Yatra, where deities are pulled on ornate chariots. The wooden image of 3 deities is ceremonially replaced every 12-19 years.
- Vaishnava saints, such as Ramanujacharya, Madhvacharya, Nimbarkacharya, Vallabhacharya and Ramananda were closely associated with the temple.
- **Ramanuja** established the **Emar Matha** and **Adi Shankaracharya** established the **Govardhan Math**, which is the seat of one of the four Shankaracharyas.
- **Gaudiya Vaishnavism, founded by Chaitanya Mahaprabhu**, holds the Puri temple and its deity Jagannath in high regard.
- The temple is built in the **Kalinga style of** architecture, with the **Pancharatha** (Five chariots) type consisting of two anurathas, two konakas and one ratha.
- The main temple is a curvilinear temple, and crowning the top is the Neelachakra, an eight-spoked wheel of Vishnu. It is made out of Ashtadhatu, an alloy of eight metals.
- This is the first temple in the history of Kalingaan temple architecture where all the chambers like Jagamohana, Bhogamandapa and Natyamandapa were built along with the main temple.
- <u>Additional Information:</u>
- The Jagannath Temple in Puri is called the "**White Pagoda**".
- The temple is a **part of Char Dham** (Badrinath, Dwaraka, Puri, Rameswaram) pilgrimages.
- Jagannath Puri temple is called '**Yamanika Tirtha**' where, according to the Hindu beliefs, the power of 'Yama', the god of death has been nullified in Puri due to the presence of Lord Jagannath.

JUNE 2024

1.SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently did a 45-hour meditation at the Vivekananda Rock Memorial in Tamil Nadu's Kanniyakumari.

- **Birth:** Swami Vivekananda (born Narendranath Datta) was born on January 12, 1863, in Calcutta, British India.
- **Guru:** Chief disciple of Sri Ramakrishna and embraced monastic life after his guru's death in 1886.
- **Teachings:** Introduced Vedanta and Yoga to the West, emphasizing interfaith unity and the universal essence of the Vedas.
- **Global Recognition:** Rose to fame at the 1893 Parliament of Religions in Chicago with his speech starting, "Sisters and brothers of America."
- **Western Contributions:** Delivered lectures across the U.S. and Europe, founded Vedanta Societies in New York and San Francisco.
- **Indian Contributions:** Established Belur Math and founded the Ramakrishna Mission in 1897.
- **Major Works:** Authored *Raja Yoga*, *Karma Yoga*, *Bhakti Yoga*, *Jnana Yoga*, *My Master*, and *Lectures from Colombo to Almora*.
- **Death:** Passed away on July 4, 1902, at Belur Math, aged 39.
- **Legacy:** Famous for the quote, "Arise, awake, and stop not till the goal is reached"; his birthday is celebrated as National Youth Day in India.

2.OPERATION BLUE STAR

The 40th anniversary of Operation Blue Star was recently observed.

- Operation Blue Star was an **Indian Army operation conducted in 1984** in Punjab.
- The operation was **ordered by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi**, primarily to take control of the Harmandir Sahib Complex in Amritsar (popularly known as the Golden Temple).
- The operation aimed to capture Sikh leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and his group of supporters who had lodged at the Harmandir Sahib Temple Complex.

Events Leading to Operation Blue Star:

- Insurgency in Punjab had begun in the early eighties, largely for a **separate Sikh homeland called Khalistan.**
- Akali Dal, a regional political party in Punjab, had passed the **Anandpur Resolution** in 1973 which demanded more **autonomy to the states.**
- In 1982, Bhindranwale joined the Akali Dal and launched the Dharam Yudh Morcha to implement the Anandpur Resolution.
- Failing to get the Anandpur Resolution implemented, Bhindranwale declared his intention to carve out a semi-autonomous homeland for Sikhs in the Punjab region of India.

Impact:

- The operation was the biggest internal security operation till date at that time.
- The operation resulted in the death of Bhindranwale.
- **Few months post-Operation Blue Star, Indira Gandhi was assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards, followed by severe anti-Sikh riots in Delhi.**

3.RASH BEHARI BOSE

Birth anniversary of Rash Bihari Bose was celebrated recently.

- **Birth and Early Life:** Rash Behari Bose (25 May 1886 – 21 January 1945) was an Indian revolutionary leader who fought against British colonial rule.
- **Delhi-Lahore Conspiracy (1912):** Bose masterminded the failed assassination attempt on Viceroy Lord Hardinge in 1912, with Basant Biswas throwing a bomb at Hardinge's elephant during the capital's transfer to Delhi.
- **Ghadar Mutiny (1915):** Bose played a key role in organizing the Ghadar Mutiny to trigger a rebellion during WWI, but it failed and many revolutionaries were arrested; Bose escaped to Japan.
- **Indian Independence League:** He founded the Indian Independence League, later led by Subhas Chandra Bose, which became the Indian National Army (Azad Hind Fauj).
- **World War II:** Sided with Imperial Japan against Britain during WWII and was honored with the Order of the Rising Sun in 1943.

4.AHILYABAI HOLKER

On May 31, we celebrated the 300th birth anniversary of the Maratha queen Ahilya Bai Holkar — a great administrator and visionary with a spiritual inclination.

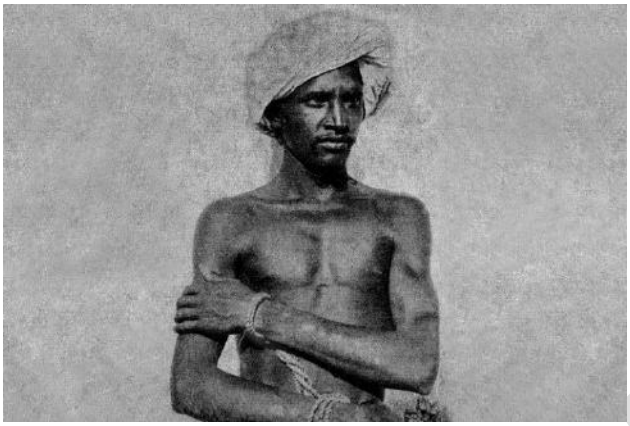
- Ahilyabai Holkar was the Holkar Queen of the **Malwa kingdom**.
- Ahilyabai Holkar, born on 31 May 1725 in Chondi, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra, was from a humble background, with her father Mankoji Rao Shinde teaching her to read and write.
- At age 8, she married **Khanderao Holkar**, son of Malhar Rao Holkar, the Lord of Malwa. After her husband's death, Malhar Rao took her under his wing, training her in military and administrative matters.
- Following the deaths of her father-in-law in 1766 and her son in 1767, Ahilyabai petitioned the Peshwa for permission to rule Malwa, which was granted despite some opposition from nobles.
- She ascended the throne on 11 December 1767 and ruled Malwa for 28 years, ensuring peace, prosperity, and stability.
- Under her reign, Maheshwar became a center of literature, music, art, and industry. She established a textile industry, making Maheshwari sarees famous.
- She is remembered for the **renovation of the Kashi Vishwanath Temple in 1780**, which remains one of her most notable contributions.
- Ahilyabai Holkar passed away on 13 August 1795, at the age of 70, and her legacy endures through the temples, Dharamshalas, and public works she initiated.

5.RAZIA SULTAN

- Razia Sultana, daughter of Sultan Iltutmish, ruled the Delhi Sultanate from 1236 to 1240, and was the first female Muslim ruler of the subcontinent and the only female ruler of Delhi.
- She rejected the title "Sultana" (meaning wife or mistress of a Sultan) and claimed the title "Sultan," which was unprecedented for a woman.
- Razia administered Delhi during 1231–1232 when her father was on the Gwalior campaign, and it is believed that he nominated her as his heir apparent after being impressed by her performance.
- After the death of Iltutmish, her half-brother Ruknuddin Firuz succeeded him, but his reign was marked by instability and a rebellion led by Razia, who deposed him in 1236.

- Razia faced resistance from Turkic nobles who initially supported her but later resented her due to her assertiveness and appointments of non-Turkic officers to key positions.
- She was deposed in April 1240 after ruling for less than four years, married a rebel leader, Ikhtiyaruddin Altunia, and attempted to regain the throne, but was defeated and killed by her half-brother Muizuddin Bahram in October 1240.

6.BIRSA MUNDA



- **Birsa Munda** was a folk hero and a tribal freedom fighter from the Munda tribe.
- He was born on November 15, 1875, in Ulihatu village in present-day Jharkhand.

Role in Freedom Struggle:

- He **led an Indian tribal mass movement in the Bihar and Jharkhand belts** in the early 19th century **against British colonisation.**
- He rallied the tribals to fight against the forceful land grabbing carried out by the British government.

Birsa Munda Revolt:

- The Birsa Munda revolt, also known as the **Munda Rebellion or Ulgulan** (meaning 'The Great Tumult'), was a significant tribal uprising against British colonial rule in India.
- It took place in the **late 19th century**, primarily in the Munda belt of Khunti, Tamar, Sarwada, and Bandgaon regions
- In response to the introduction of the Zamindari system in tribal areas, Birsa Munda declared "Ulgulan", or revolt, against the British and the Dikus (outsiders) in 1894.

Religious Influence:

- He created a faith called **'Birsait'** and propagated the principles of Hindu religion.
- Known as '**Dharti Abba' or the Earth Father**, Birsa Munda stressed the need for the tribals to study their own religion and not forget their cultural roots.

Legacy:

- His struggle against exploitation and discrimination against tribals led to the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act being passed in 1908.
- The act restricted the passing on of land from the tribal people to non-tribals.
- The state of Jharkhand was created on his birth anniversary in 2000.
- He died on June 9, 1900, at the age of 25.

7.NALANDA UNIVERSITY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the ancient Nalanda site after the inauguration of the new campus of Nalanda University in Rajgir, Bihar.

- Nalanda**,** an ancient centre of higher learning in **Bihar, India,** holds a remarkable history spanning from **427 to 1197 AD.**
- Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara holds **World Heritage Site status**.
- **Nalanda University was founded during the time of Gupta dynasty by Kumaragupta I** (also known as Kumaragupta the Great) in the early 5th century CE.

- **Initially dedicated to Buddhist studies, Nalanda evolved over time to encompass a diverse curriculum, including fine arts, medicine, mathematics, astronomy, politics, and the art of warfare.**
- Its sprawling campus featured eight separate compounds, ten temples, meditation halls, classrooms, serene lakes, and lush parks.
- Under the patronage of King Harsha, **Nalanda** flourished and reached its zenith
- Nalanda gained fame not only for its sheer size but also for its commitment to academic excellence. Its vast library, known as the **"Dharma Gunj,"** housed countless scrolls, manuscripts, and texts from different parts of the world. This library played a pivotal role in the dissemination of wisdom across borders.
- Nalanda was home to renowned scholars such as **Nagarjuna, Aryadeva, and Dharmapala,** whose contributions to Buddhism and other fields of study are still revered today.
- Nalanda faced its first major attack between 455-470 AD by the Hunas, a Central Asian tribal group, during the reign of Emperor Samudragupta of the Gupta Empire.
- The second attack occurred in the early 7th century by the emperor of Bengal, Goudas Rajvansh.
- The most brutal attack on Nalanda took place in 1193 AD by Bakhtiyar Khilji, which led to the university's destruction, and it was never rebuilt afterward.
- Over the next six centuries, Nalanda gradually faded into obscurity and was "discovered" by **Scottish surveyor Francis Buchanan-Hamilton in 1812,** later identified as the ancient Nalanda University by Sir Alexander Cunningham in 1861.

8.INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the 10th **International Day of Yoga** in Srinagar.

- The term "Yoga" originates from the Sanskrit word "yuj," which means to join or unite.
- Yoga aims to harmonize the mind, body, and soul, fostering a connection between individual consciousness and universal consciousness.
- The International Day of Yoga (IDY) is observed annually on June 21st.

Historical Background:

- India proposed the idea of IDY during the opening of the 69th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2014.
- The UN officially declared June 21st as IDY by passing a resolution in December 2014.
- The theme for International Yoga Day 2024 is **"Yoga for Self and Society".**
- This theme emphasizes the dual benefits of yoga practice: enhancing personal well-being and contributing to the betterment of society.

JULY 2025

1.PROJECT PARI (PUBLIC ART OF INDIA)

- Project PARI (Public Art of India) is **an initiative by the Ministry of Culture**, Government of India, **executed by Lalit Kala Akademi and the National Gallery of Modern Art.**
- **Its purpose is to bring forth public art that draws inspiration from millennia of artistic heritage** (lok kala/lok sanskriti) while incorporating modern themes and techniques.
- The **project features a diverse range of artwork inspired by traditional Indian art forms, including sculptures** that explore themes such as tributes to nature, ideas from Natyashastra, Gandhi ji, traditional Indian toys, hospitality, ancient knowledge, Naad (primeval sound), harmony of life, and Kalpataru (the divine tree).
- Notably, women artists play a significant role, showcasing Bharat's NARI SHAKTI through their substantial participation in the project.

2.NOUKA BAICH BOAT RACES

- **Nouka Baich is the traditional boat race of Bengal**, predominantly held in rural pockets of **West Bengal**, including Murshidabad, Nadia, North 24 Parganas, and South 24 Parganas.
- Historically male-dominated, recent years have seen increasing participation by women.
- **The races commence with the onset of the south-west monsoon, usually starting in the middle of the rainy season.**
- The **events continue until September**, with some races extending into October and November, depending on the region.
- Unlike Kerala's boat races, which typically feature a single type of boat, Bengal's races use various traditional boats.
- Chhip, Kaile Bachhari, Chande Bachhari, Chitoi, Sorpi, and Sorengi are commonly used boats in the races.
- Each boat type has unique design features and historical significance. For example, the Sorengi boat is over 90 feet long and designed to mimic natural forms.

Similar Festivals in India:

Nehru Trophy Boat Race (Kerala)
Aranmula Uthrattadi Vallamkali (Kerala)
Payippad Jalotsavam (Kerala)
Indira Gandhi Boat Race (Kerala)
Pongal Boat Race (Tamil Nadu)
Sithargal Boat Race (Tamil Nadu)
Hiyang Tannaba (Manipur)

3.KANWAR YATRA



- The Kanwar Yatra, also known as Kavad Yatra, is an annual pilgrimage undertaken by devotees of Lord Shiva.
- It typically **takes place in the month of Shravan (July or August)** according to the Hindu calendar.
- **Devotees,** known as Kanwarias or Bhole**, embark on this pilgrimage to fetch holy water from significant Hindu pilgrimage sites.**
- During this pilgrimage, **millions of devotees, known as Kanwariyas, travel to sacred places** like Haridwar, Gaumukh, Gangotri, Sultanganj, Prayagraj, Ayodhya, and Varanasi.
- **They carry containers of holy water** (called kanwars) **from the Ganga River and offer it at Shiva temples, including the 13 Jyotirlingas across India.**

4.NATIONAL MISSION ON CULTURAL MAPPING (NMCM)

- The **National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NMCM), was launched by the Ministry of Culture.**
- **The National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NMCM), officially approved in 2017, plays a pivotal role in preserving India's rich art and cultural heritage.**
- **This initiative involves identifying and mapping various cultural assets,** including art expressions, crafts, skills, wisdom traditions, and other cultural practices—whether oral, aural, visual, or kinetic.
- It provides a single platform for dissemination of knowledge in arts, and various welfare schemes of the Government for the art practitioners and enhancement of cultural resources.
- The above-mentioned objectives will be carried out with the help of three interlinked programmes.

Hamari Sanskriti Hamari Pahchan Abhiyan (National Cultural Awareness Abhiyan):

- This nationwide cultural awareness program aims to create a comprehensive database of cultural assets and resources.
- By mapping art forms, practices, and their practitioners, it contributes to cultural preservation and revitalization.

Sanskritik Pratibha Khoj Abhiyan (Nationwide Artist Talent Hunt/Scouting Program):

This initiative scouts and identifies talented artists across India.

Nurturing artistic talent enriches the nation's cultural landscape.

National Cultural Working Place (NCWP) Portal:

The NCWP, a centralized web portal, hosts data on cultural assets and various art forms.

It serves as a valuable resource for safeguarding and promoting cultural identities.

5.KALARIPPAYATTU

- **Kalaripayattu is a martial art based on ancient knowledge of the human body.**
- **It originated in Kerala** during 3nd century BC to the 2nd century AD.
- **It is now practised in Kerala and in some parts of Tamil Nadu.**

- **The place where this martial art is practised is called a 'Kalari'.** It is a Malayalam word that signifies a kind of gymnasium. Kalari literally means 'threshing floor' or 'battlefield'.
- The word Kalari first appears in the Tamil Sangam literature to describe both a battlefield and combat arena.
- It is considered to be one of the oldest fighting systems in existence.
- **It is also considered as the father of modern Kung - Fu.**



Four Stages of Payattu:

- **Maippayattu:** Body conditioning exercises.
- **Kolthari:** Use of wooden weapons.
- **Angathari:** Use of sharp metallic weapons.
- **Verumkai:** Bare-handed defence and attack.
- In 2016, **UNESCO recognized Kalaripayattu as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.**
- This acknowledgment highlights its importance in preserving cultural diversity and promoting traditional knowledge.

IASBABA

AUGUST 2025

1.NATIONAL CULTURE FUND (NCF)

The National Culture Fund (NCF) is a trust established by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India under the Charitable Endowment Act, 1890.

Objective:

- **The NCF aims to establish and nurture partnerships in the field of culture and heritage.**
- It collaborates with private and public sectors, government agencies, non-government organizations, private institutions, and foundations.
- This includes monuments, cultural traditions, and other aspects of our ancient glory.

Structure and Administration:

- The NCF is **managed by a Council and an Executive Committee.**
- **The Council, chaired by the Union Minister of Culture,** includes members from corporate, public sector, private foundations, and non-profit organizations.
- The Executive Committee, led by the Secretary, Ministry of Culture, executes policies and decisions.

Tax Benefits:Donations to the NCF are eligible for 100% tax benefit under Section 80G (ii) of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

2. VATTEZHUTHU

- **Vatteluttu was an alphasyllabic writing system of south India (Tamil Nadu and Kerala) and Sri Lanka used for writing the Tamil and Malayalam languages.**
- The name is thought to mean either 'rounded script,' 'northern script,' or 'chiseled script.'
- Vatteluttu first appeared in stone inscriptions in southern India around the 4th century AD
- It probably developed from the Tamil-Brahmi script; a variant of the Brahmi script used to write Old Tamil between from about the 3rd century BC until the 1st century AD.
- Vatteluttu was used to write Tamil and Malayalam in Tamil Nadu until the 9th century.
- In Kerala, it continued to be used until the 15th century.
- Over time, it evolved into the Malayalam script, incorporating some letters from the Grantha script.
- **Koleluttu:**Vatteluttu also gave rise to the Koleluttu script, used by Christians and Muslims in Kerala until the 19th century.

3. JHUMUR DANCE



- The **Jhumur dance** is a **traditional dance of the tea tribe communities of Assam.**
- It is **also found** in certain **parts of West Bengal.**
- Jhumur is typically performed during the Autumn season in Assam.
- It serves as a celebration during harvest festivals and other joyous occasions.
- **Performers:**Young girls take center stage in the Jhumur dance.Male members accompany them, maintaining the rhythm, vocals, and playing musical instruments.

- **Musical Accompaniment:**The rhythmic beat of the **Madal,** a popular two-headed hand drum, sets the tone for the dance.**Flutes** and a pair of **Taals** (cymbals) enhance the harmonious music.
- **Dance Movements:**The girls hold each other's waist and move their hands and legs forward and backward synchronously.

Significance:

- **Ritual Worship:** Sometimes it is performed as part of religious ceremonies.
- **Courting and Lovemaking**: At other times, it becomes a delightful expression of love and courtship.
- **Prayer for Rainfall:** The tea tribe communities use Jhumur to pray for much-needed rain.
- Originally, Jhumur was a means of recreation during the tedious phases of agricultural work.

4.BHARATANATYAM



- **Bharatanatyam is a classical dance form that originated in Tamil Nadu, India.**
- **It was initially performed by Devadasis (temple dancers) and was known as "Dasiattam."**
- References to Bharatanatyam can be found in ancient texts like Bharata Muni's "**Natya Shastra**" and Abhinaya Darpana by **Nandikesvara.**
- Ancient temples' stones and pillars depict Bharatanatyam poses, especially in the Chidambaram temple.
- **Bharatanatyam is accompanied by Carnatic music. The orchestra typically includes a vocalist, mridangam (percussion), violin, and flute.**
- **Performances often depict mythological stories, devotional themes, and classical poetry.**
- **Bharatanatyam is often performed solo, where one dancer portrays multiple roles within a single performance.**
- **Nritta, Natya, and Nritya are the essential elements define Bharatanatyam.**
    - **Nritta:** Pure dance movements, emphasizing rhythm and footwork.
    - **Natya:** Expressive storytelling through gestures and facial expressions.
    - **Nritya:** The harmonious blend of Nritta and Natya, creating aesthetic experiences.

The eight officially recognized classical dance forms in India, as identified by the Sangeet Natak Akademi

1. **Bharatanatyam:** Originating in **Tamil Nadu**, Bharatanatyam is characterized by intricate footwork, expressive hand gestures (mudras), and graceful movements.
2. **Kathak:** Hailing from **Northern India**, Kathak combines storytelling, rhythmic footwork, and pirouettes. It has both Hindu and Muslim influences.
3. **Kathakali:** A vibrant dance-drama from **Kerala**, Kathakali features elaborate makeup, costumes, and facial expressions to depict mythological stories.
4. **Kuchipudi:** From **Andhra Pradesh**, Kuchipudi emphasizes both dance and drama. It often includes fast footwork and graceful movements.
5. **Manipuri:** Originating in **Manipur**, this dance form is characterized by its gentle, flowing movements and devotion to Lord Krishna.
6. **Mohiniyattam:** Also from **Kerala**, Mohiniyattam is known for its lyrical and sensuous movements, performed by female dancers.

7. **Odissi:** Hailing from **Odisha**, Odissi combines fluid movements, sculpturesque poses, and intricate footwork.
8. **Sattriya:** Developed in **Assam**, Sattriya dance is associated with the Vaishnavite monasteries and celebrates Lord Krishna.

5.WORLD CRAFT CITY PROGRAMME (WCC)

- Srinagar has recently been added to the **World Craft Cities** list by the World Crafts Council (WCC), recognizing its rich craft traditions. Craftsmen of the region are excited about the possibility of new avenues opening up for them due to the inclusion.
- Jaipur, Malappuram, and Mysore are other Indian cities on the list.
- **The World Craft City Programme by the World Crafts Council (WCC) is an important initiative that recognizes cities for their exceptional craft traditions.**
- The programme was launched in 2014 by the World Crafts Council AISBL (WCC-International).
- It aims to recognize the pivotal role local authorities, craftspeople, and communities play in cultural, economic, and social development worldwide.
- **Recognition:** Cities are recognized for their unique and rich craft traditions.
- **Network:** Establishes a dynamic network of craft cities across the globe, aligning with the principles of the creative economy.

Indian Cities Recognized:

- **Jaipur:** Known for its jewellery, textiles, and blue pottery.
- **Malappuram:** Famous for its traditional woodcraft and handloom weaving.
- **Mysore:** Renowned for its silk sarees, sandalwood carvings, and inlay work.
- **Srinagar:** Srinagar, with a history of about 1,500 years, was a key Silk Route hub for arts, crafts, and trade. Notable crafts include Paper-Machie, walnut wood carving, carpets, Sozni embroidery, and Pashmina and Kani shawls.

Significance:

- **Cultural Preservation:** Helps in preserving and promoting traditional crafts.
- **Economic Impact:** Boosts local economies by attracting tourism and supporting artisans.

Global Recognition: Brings international attention to the craft traditions of recognized cities.

6.GEOGLYPH

The Maharashtra government has officially designated the **ancient geoglyphs** and petroglyphs in Ratnagiri as "protected monuments" under the Maharashtra Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1960.



- **A geoglyph refers to a design that is drawn on the earth.**
- Geoglyphs **are typically formed of durable elements of the landscape, such as stones, gravel, or earth.**

- A geoglyph is usually longer than four metres.
- Geoglyphs are difficult to see or even identify on the ground but are easily appreciated when seen from the sky.

Different types of Geoglyphs

- **Positive Geoglyphs:** These are created by arranging and aligning materials on the ground to form specific shapes or patterns. Petroforms, which use boulders or stones, fall into this category. Positive geoglyphs can be quite intricate and are often best appreciated from an aerial perspective.
- **Negative Geoglyphs**: In contrast, negative geoglyphs involve removing part of the natural ground surface to create distinct patterns. Similar to petroglyphs (which are carvings on rock surfaces), negative geoglyphs reveal differently coloured or textured ground. They can be found in various landscapes around the world.
- **Arborglyphs:** These unique geoglyphs rely on living plants. By carefully seeding and nurturing specific vegetation, people create designs that become visible over time. The patience required for arborglyphs is remarkable, as the design gradually emerges as the plants grow.
- **Chalk Giants:** These geoglyphs are carved into hillsides, exposing the underlying bedrock. The Uffington White Horse and the Cerne Giant in southern England are excellent examples of chalk giants.
- **Petroglyphs**: Petroglyphs are fascinating **rock carvings created by removing part of a rock surface** through incising, pecking, carving, or abrading.

IASBABA

SEPTEMBER 2025

1. NILGIRI MOUNTAIN RAILWAY



- The Nilgiri Mountain Railway (NMR) is a historic railway in Tamil Nadu, India, connecting Mettupalayam and Udhagamandalam (Ooty) in the Nilgiri Hills.
- Recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2005, the NMR was proposed in the 1850s, with construction starting in 1891 and completed in 1908.
- The redevelopment of the 125-year-old Coonoor station is now threatening the heritage value of this UNESCO site.
- It was recognized for being a living example of technology transfer and an
- outstanding feat of 19th-century engineering.

2. SARAGARHI DAY

- September 12 marks the 127th anniversary of the Battle of Saragarhi, one of the most heroic last stands in military history.
- In his book, *The 36th Sikhs in the Tirah Campaign 1897-98*, former Punjab CM and military historian Capt Amarinder Singh writes that the soldiers, knowing they faced certain death, did not hesitate at the start of the battle.
- Saragarhi was a communication tower between Fort Lockhart and Fort Gulistan in the North West Frontier Province (now Pakistan). On September 12, 1897, 21 soldiers from the 36th Sikh Regiment and a non-combatant, Daad, defended it against 8,000–15,000 tribal fighters. Despite being outnumbered and having limited ammunition, they held their ground.
- Sepoy Gurmukh Singh sent distress signals, but reinforcements never arrived. Gurmukh Singh and other soldiers continued fighting, with Daad killing five attackers before dying.
- The 21 soldiers were awarded the Indian Order of Merit, but Daad was excluded. The British built an obelisk in their honor, and gurdwaras were commissioned. Saragarhi Day is observed annually in Punjab.

3. GREAT STUPA OF SANCHI



- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar recently visited the replica of Sanchi's East Gate at the Humboldt Forum museum in Berlin.
- This 1:1 reproduction, unveiled in December 2022, mirrors the original red sandstone gateway.
- ***Historical Background:***
- Commissioned by Emperor Ashoka in the 3rd century BCE to enshrine Buddha's relics.
- Initially a brick structure, later reinforced with stone slabs during the Shunga period (2nd century BCE).

- The Satavahana dynasty added the ornate gateways (toranas) in the 1st century BCE.

Architectural Features:

- **Hemispherical Dome (Anda):** Represents the heavens enclosing the earth.
- **Harmika:** Square railing symbolizing the gods' abode.
- **Chattra:** Three-tiered umbrella denoting the Three Jewels of Buddhism.
- **Medhi:** Circular terrace for circumambulation.
- **Vedika:** Low enclosing wall with four toranas at cardinal points.
- **Toranas:** Elaborately carved gateways depicting Buddha's life, Jataka tales, and donor inscriptions, including Vidisha's ivory workers.

Cultural & Religious Significance:

- Symbolizes Buddha's **parinirvana** (final nirvana).
- Major **Buddhist pilgrimage site** since ancient times.

Rediscovery & Preservation:

- Rediscovered in **1818** by British General Henry Taylor.
- Excavated and restored by **Alexander Cunningham** in the 19th century.
- Declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1989**.

Other Notable Monuments at Sanchi:

- Additional **stupas, temples, monasteries, and pillars**.
- The **Ashoka Pillar**, known for its exquisite carvings and inscriptions.

4.HARAPPAN CIVILISATION



- In **1924**, John Marshall announced the discovery of the **Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC)** after archaeologists **Daya Ram Sahni** and **Rakhal Das Banerji** unearthed **Harappa** (1921-22) and **Mohenjo-daro** (1922), respectively.
- Their findings—seals, pottery, beads, and copper artifacts—revealed striking similarities, leading Marshall to identify a previously unknown ancient civilisation.

Extent & Phases

- The IVC thrived from **3200 BCE to 1500 BCE**, divided into:
  - **Early Phase (3200-2600 BCE)**
  - **Mature Phase (2600-1900 BCE)**
  - **Late Phase (1900-1500 BCE)** (decline and collapse)
- Spanning **1.5 million sq. km**, major sites include **Mohenjo-daro, Harappa, Ganweriwala** (Pakistan), **Rakhigarhi, and Dholavira** (India). Over **2,000 sites** exist, with **1,500 in India** and **500 in Pakistan**, extending as far south as **Daimabad (Maharashtra)**.

Distinctive Features

- **Indus Script** (undeciphered)
- **Stamp seals** with inscriptions and motifs
- **Standardised weights** (binary & decimal systems)

- **Burnt brick architecture** (1:2:4 ratio)
- **Advanced craftsmanship**, including micro-drilled carnelian beads

- **Significance of Discovery**
  - **Pushed back South Asian history** by 3,000 years, disproving earlier notions that settled life began only in the 6th century BCE.
  - **Revealed an ancient maritime trade network** between the IVC, Mesopotamia, and Egypt (~3000 BCE).
- **Origins & Legacy**
  - The **roots of IVC trace back to Mehrgarh (~8000 BCE, Pakistan)**. Scholar **Iravatham Mahadevan** asserted it was **pre-Aryan and non-Aryan**, while **R.S. Bisht**, who excavated **Dholavira**, reinforced its deep historical connections.

5. THIRUVALLUVAR

- PM Modi announced the establishment of a **Thiruvalluvar Chair** at the University of Houston to promote Tamil studies.
- Thiruvalluvar, a revered Tamil poet and philosopher, is best known for the **Tirukkural**, one of Tamil literature's greatest classics.
- **Key Points:**
- **Birth:** Likely between the 4th century BCE and 5th century CE, believed to be from Mylapore, Chennai.
- **Tirukkural:** A collection of 1,330 couplets covering **ethics**, **politics**, **economics**, and **love**, divided into **Aram** (virtue), **Porul** (wealth), and **Inbam** (love). Its universal themes focus on honesty, integrity, and compassion.
- **Cultural Impact:** Thiruvalluvar is celebrated for his philosophical and ethical contributions, with memorials like a 133-foot statue in Kanyakumari.

IASBABA

OCTOBER 2025

1. ROSH HASHANAH

- **Meaning & Timing:**
  - **"Head of the Year"** in Hebrew, marking the **Jewish New Year**.
  - Celebrated on **Tishrei 1-2** (seventh month of the Hebrew calendar).
- **Significance:**
  - Commemorates **the world's creation** and starts the **10 Days of Awe** leading to **Yom Kippur**.
  - A time for **reflection, repentance, and renewal**.
  - Believed to be when **God judges and inscribes fates** in the Book of Life.

2. CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

- **New Additions (Oct 3, 2024):**
  - Classical Language Status Granted to Five More Languages.
- **Existing Classical Languages:**
  - Tamil (2004), Sanskrit (2005), Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, and Odia.
- **Approval Process:**
  - Determined by the **Linguistics Expert Committee** with members from the **Home and Culture Ministries**, Sahitya Akademi, and linguistic experts.
- **Criteria:**
  - **Antiquity:** Early texts must date back **1,500–2,000 years**.
  - **Literary Heritage:** Must have a **rich body of ancient texts** valued by generations.
  - **Knowledge Texts:** Should include **prose, poetry, inscriptions, and epigraphs**.
  - **Distinct Evolution:** The classical form may be **different from its modern version**.
- **Benefits:**
  - **International awards** for eminent scholars.
  - **Centre of Excellence** for research.
  - **UGC Chairs in Central Universities** to promote the language.

3. INTERNATIONAL ABHIDHAMMA DIVAS

- Celebrated annually on **Sharad Purnima** (Full moon of Ashwin month).
- Marks **Lord Buddha's descent** from **Tāvatiṃsa-devaloka** to **Sankassiya, Uttar Pradesh** after teaching the **Abhidhamma** to deities, including his mother.
- The **Asokan Elephant Pillar** at Sankisa commemorates this event.
- Recognized to highlight the **philosophical significance** of the **Abhidhamma Pitaka**, part of Theravada Buddhism's **Tripitaka** scriptures.
- **What is Abhidhamma?**
  - **One of the three divisions** of the **Tripitaka**, along with **Sutta Pitaka** and **Vinaya Pitaka**.
  - **Meaning**: "Abhi" = **higher**, "Dhamma" = **doctrine** → **"Higher Teaching"**.
  - **Content**: Explores **mind, matter, time, space**, and **mental phenomena** in an **analytical framework**.

IASBABA

- **Purpose**: Offers **deep insights into consciousness, perception, karma, and rebirth**, unlike the Sutta Pitaka's **practical discourses**.
- **Structure**: Composed of **seven books** systematically analyzing **mental and physical phenomena**.
- **Philosophical Focus**: Explains **dependent origination (cause-effect), ethical action, and thought processes**.

4. MERA HOU CHONGBA FESTIVAL

- **Celebrated in**: **Manipur** to foster unity among **Meiteis, Nagas, and Kukis**.
- **Symbolism**: Strengthens the **ancestral bond** between hill and valley communities.
- **Key Highlights**
  - **Date**: Observed on the **full moon day of Mera month** (Meitei lunar calendar, October).
  - **Main Venue**: **Kangla Fort, Imphal** – a significant cultural site.
- **Rituals & Festivities**
  - **Traditional dances, music, and gift exchanges** between hill and valley people.
- **Key rituals**:
  - **Mera Men Tongba** – lighting of a sacred fire.
  - **Yenkhong Tamba** – symbolic rituals for unity.
  - **Prayers for peace, prosperity, and cultural harmony**.

5. SOHRAI PAINTING



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented a **Sohrai painting** to Russian President **Vladimir Putin** at the **BRICS summit**.
- **Sohrai painting** is a traditional art from **Hazaribagh district, Jharkhand**, recognized under **One District One Product**. It is practiced by indigenous women of communities like **Kurmi**, **Santal**, and **Munda**.
- **History**: Originating from **ancient rock art**, Sohrai dates back to the **Meso-chalcolithic period** (9000-5000 BCE). The name "Sohrai" comes from the **Mundari** word "Soroi," meaning "to lash with a stick." It is created during the **Sohrai festival** after the harvest, coinciding with **Diwali**.

- **Characteristics**:
  - **Themes**: Nature motifs like **elephants**, **peacocks**, and **deer**.
  - **Colors**: Natural pigments—**red** from iron oxide, **black** from manganese clay, and **white** from kaolin.
  - **Process**: The art is created by coating mud walls with soil and dung, applying white clay, and using **fingers** and **sticks** to make patterns.
  - It is protected by a **GI tag** to maintain its authenticity.

NOVEMBER 2025

1. RAIGAD FORT



➢ Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed Raigad Fort as the theme for this year's Rashtriya Ekta Diwas.

➢ Located in Maharashtra's Sahyadri range at 820 meters, Raigad is an isolated massif shaped by the Kal and Gandhari rivers. British historian Grant Duff compared it to the Rock of Gibraltar.

➢ **Historical Significance:**

➢ Captured from Chandrarao More in 1656, it became Shivaji Maharaj's capital.

➢ His **coronation** as Chhatrapati took place here on June 6, 1674.

➢ His **Samadhi** is at Raigad, where he passed in 1680.

➢ Known as **Durgaraj**, it is among 12 forts nominated for UNESCO heritage.

➢ **Key Features:**
  - ➢ **Defense:** Steep 1,500-ft cliffs.
  - ➢ **Royal Complex:** Includes Rajsadar (court), Ranivasa (Queens' quarters), Naqqarkhana (band room).

➢ **Notable Sites:**
  - **Rajsadar:** Court of Shivaji Maharaj.
  - **Holicha Mal:** Festival ground with Shirkai Devi Temple.
  - **Jagadishwar Temple:** Active Shiva temple.
  - **Shivaji's Samadhi:** Octagonal platform with a canopy.

2. KALKA-SHIMLA RAILWAY



Overview:

➢ A **narrow-gauge railway** connecting **Kalka (Haryana)** to **Shimla (Himachal Pradesh)**.

➢ Renowned for its **scenic route** through the **Shivalik Himalayas**.

➢ **UNESCO World Heritage Site (2008)** under "Mountain Railways of India," along with **Darjeeling** and **Nilgiri Mountain Railways**.

➢ ***Historical Significance:***
  - ➢ Built during **British rule** (1903) to improve access to Shimla, the **summer capital** of British India.
  - ➢ Constructed by the **Delhi-Umbala-Kalka Railway Company**, showcasing **hill railway technology**.

➢ ***Engineering Marvels:***
  - ➢ Features **103 tunnels** and **864 bridges**, highlighting exceptional **mountain engineering**.
  - ➢ **Barog Tunnel (Tunnel No. 33)** is the **longest**, spanning over **1 km**.
  - ➢ Sharp **zig-zag curves** and a **1:33 gradient** allow smooth navigation on steep terrains.

- ***Tourist & Cultural Importance:***
  - Famous **toy trains** offer **panoramic views** of **hills, valleys, and pine forests**.
  - A major attraction, often called the **"crown jewel" of Himachal tourism**.

3. KUMBH MELA

- Kumbh Mela is a **major Hindu pilgrimage**, held **four times in 12 years** at **rotating riverbank sites**:
- **Prayagraj** (Ganges-Yamuna-Sarasvati confluence)
- **Haridwar** (Ganges)
- **Nashik** (Godavari)
- **Ujjain** (Shipra)
- ***Timing & Significance***
  - Determined by the **astrological positions** of the **Sun, Moon, and Jupiter**.
  - The **ritual dip** in sacred waters is believed to **purify sins**, free souls from rebirth, and lead to **Moksha (liberation)**.
- ***Recognition***
  - In **2017**, UNESCO listed **Kumbh Mela** as an **intangible cultural heritage of humanity**.

4. NATIONAL EDUCATION DAY (NED) AND MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD

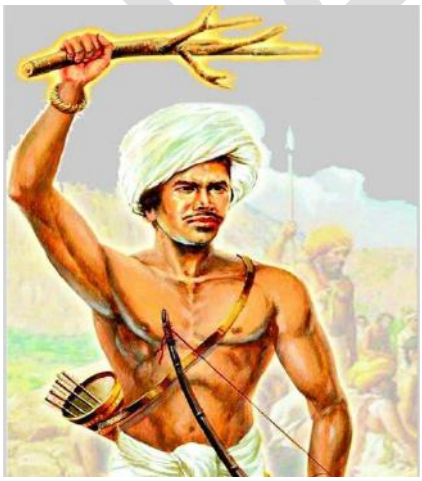
- **National Education Day** is observed on **November 11**, commemorating **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad's** contributions to India's education system. The Government of India declared it in **September 2008**.
- ***Early Life & Journalism***
  - **Born on November 11, 1888**, in Mecca, Saudi Arabia; moved to India in 1890.
  - Founded **Urdu weekly Al-Hilal (1912)**, promoting **anti-colonialism and Hindu-Muslim unity**.
  - Launched **Al-Balagh** after **Al-Hilal was banned**; later **imprisoned in 1916**.
  - Wrote **India Wins Freedom** (autobiography) and **Ghubar-e-Khatir** (prison letters).
- ***Role in the Indian Independence Movement***
  - Joined **Indian National Congress** in the 1920s.
  - Supported the **Khilafat Movement**, aligning with Gandhi's **Hindu-Muslim unity vision**.
  - Actively participated in the **Non-Cooperation Movement**, facing multiple imprisonments.
  - Became the **youngest Congress President (1923)** and held the position again **(1940-1946)**.
  - Opposed **India's partition**, advocating for **Hindu-Muslim coexistence**.
- ***Contributions to Education***
  - Became **India's first Minister of Education (1947-1958)**.
  - Established **AICTE, UGC, IIT Kharagpur, ICCR, Sahitya Academy, Lalit Kala Academy, Sangeet Natak Academy, and CSIR**.
  - Focused on **universal primary education, adult literacy, rural education, and vocational training**.

5. MAHARAJA RANJIT SINGH



- **Birth & Rise to Power:**
- Born on **November 13**, Ranjit Singh established a **unified Sikh Empire** in **1799** after conquering **Lahore**.
- He overthrew local chieftains ruling in **Misls** and was titled **Sher-e-Punjab** for resisting **Afghan invasions**.
- **Empire & Boundaries:**
- His empire included **Lahore, Multan, parts of Kabul, and Peshawar**.
- Extended up to **Ladakh in the northeast, Khyber Pass in the northwest, and Panjnad in the south**.
- Under him, Punjab was known as the **land of six rivers**, including the **Indus**.
- **Religious Contributions:**
  - Balanced his role as a **Sikh ruler** while protecting **Hindus and Muslims**.
  - Rebuilt the **Golden Temple** in **marble (1809) and gold (1830)**.
  - Donated **a tonne of gold** to plate the **Kashi Vishwanath Temple**.
- **Military Modernization:**
  - Modernized the **Sikh army** with **European military tactics**.
  - Hired **French and Italian** officers who had served **Napoleon**.
  - Formed the **Fauj-i-Khas** led by **General Ventura and General Allard**, later joined by **Auguste Court and Paolo Avitabile**.
- **Anglo-Sikh Wars & British Takeover:**
  - After his death in **1839**, the **British East India Company** expanded near Punjab.
  - The **First Anglo-Sikh War (1845–46)** ended in **Sikh defeat** and the loss of **Jammu and Kashmir**.
  - In **1849**, the British defeated the **Khalsa Army**, exiling **10-year-old Maharaja Duleep Singh** to London.

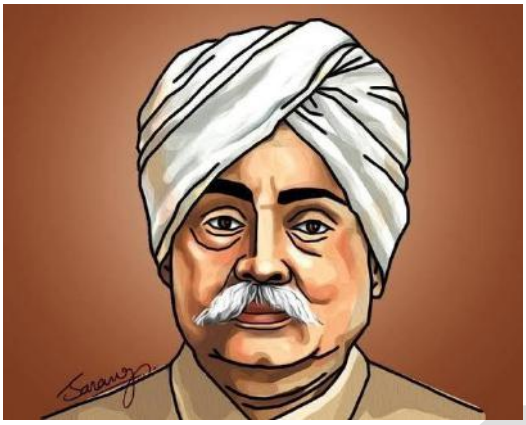
6. BIRSA MUNDA



- **150th Birth Anniversary:** Celebrated by PM Modi.
- **Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas:** November 15, declared in 2021 to honor his contributions.
- **Early Life**
- **Born:** November 15, 1875, in **Ulihatu, Jharkhand**.
- **Community: Munda Tribe**, known for distinct socio-cultural traditions.
- **Role as a Tribal Leader**
- **Freedom Fighter & Reformer:** Led the **Munda Rebellion (Ulgulan, 1899–1900)** against British rule and the zamindari system.
- **Objective: Protect tribal lands, end forced labor (beth begari), and restore autonomy.**
- **Religious & Social Reforms**

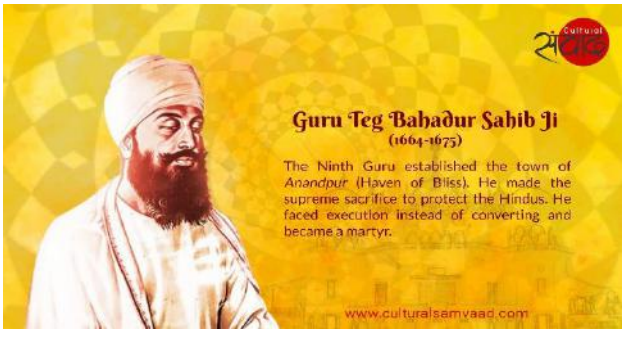
- **Monotheism:** Rejected superstitions, idol worship, and missionary influence.
- **Cultural Revival:** Encouraged the Munda community to preserve their identity.
- **"Dharti Aba" (Father of the Earth):** Advocated for unity and self-governance.
- **Arrest & Legacy**
- **Arrested: 1900**, during the rebellion.
- **Died: June 9, 1900, Ranchi Jail**, at 25, under mysterious circumstances.
- **Jharkhand State:** Formed on **November 15, 2000**, as a tribute to his legacy.

7. LALA LAJPAT RAI



- **Born:** January 28, 1865, in **Dhudike, Punjab** (now in **Moga district, India**).
- **Died:** November 17, 1928, due to **injuries from police lathi charge** during a protest against the **Simon Commission**.
- ***Political Role:***
- Early **Indian National Congress (INC) member** and key leader in the **extremist phase** of the freedom movement.
- Opposed the **Partition of Bengal (1905)**.
- **Swadeshi Movement:** Advocated **boycott of foreign goods** and promoted **indigenous industries**.
- Led a **non-violent protest in Lahore (1928)** against the **Simon Commission**.
- Declared: **"Every blow on my body will be a nail in the coffin of British imperialism."**
- ***Books Authored:***
- *Unhappy India*
- *The Political Future of India*
- *The Problem of National Education in India*
- *England's Debt to India*
- *The Story of My Deportation*
- ***Journalism & Social Reforms:***
- Edited nationalist newspapers like *The People* and *The Punjabee*.
- Fought against **untouchability** and **caste discrimination**.
- Promoted **women's education** and **Arya Samaj principles** for social reform.

8. GURU TEGH BAHADUR



- Guru Tegh Bahadur, the **ninth Sikh Guru**, was **executed by Aurangzeb** in **1675** for opposing religious persecution. **Gurdwara Sis Ganj Sahib** in **Chandni Chowk, Delhi**, marks the site of his martyrdom.
- **Life & Contributions:**
- **Born (1621):** Son of **Guru Hargobind** and **Mata Nanki**.
- **Family:** Married **Mata Gujri**; father of **Guru Gobind Singh** (10th Sikh Guru).

- **Hymns:** Composed **115 hymns** included in the **Guru Granth Sahib**.
- **Anandpur Sahib:** Founded as a **center for Sikh learning and culture**.
- **Religious Freedom:** Defended the rights of **Hindus** against **forced conversions** by Aurangzeb.

- **Martyrdom:**
  - **Kashmiri Brahmin Kirpa Das** sought the Guru's help against forced conversions.
  - **The Guru challenged Aurangzeb**, offering himself instead.
  - **Executed on November 11, 1675,** after refusing to convert to Islam.
  - **Beheaded in Chandni Chowk** along with three companions.
  - **Gurdwara Sis Ganj** was built on the execution site in **1783**.
- **Commemoration Date:**
  - **Originally observed on November 11**.
  - **Now commemorated on November 24** following adjustments under the **Nanakshahi calendar**.

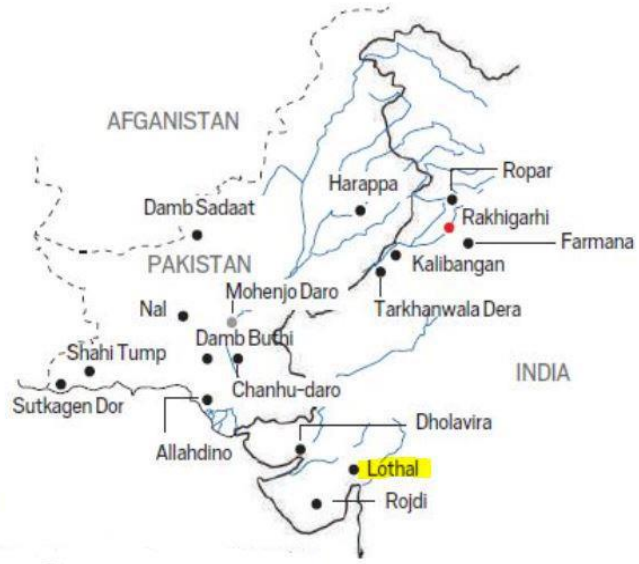
IASBABA

DECEMBER 2025

1. HORNBILL FESTIVAL

- **Organized annually by the Government of Nagaland** from **December 1st to 10th**. The **first edition** was held in **December 2000**.
- **Venue** – Hosted at **Kisama Heritage Village**, located **12 km from Kohima** in the **Southern Angami region**.
- **Named after the Hornbill bird**, the festival celebrates **Naga culture, heritage, cuisine, and customs**.
- **Brings together all 17 Naga tribes**, providing a platform for unity and cultural exchange.
- **Features vibrant performances**, including **traditional dances, war cries, and storytelling through music**.
- **Warriors in ceremonial attire**, adorned with **hornbill feathers, boar tusks, and colorful woven sashes**, create a **visually striking spectacle**.

2. LOTHAL



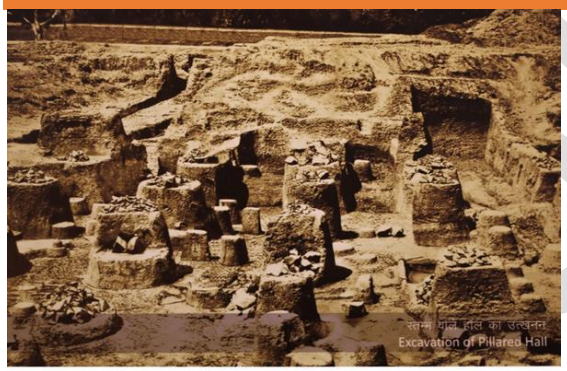
- **Lothal, a key Indus Valley site**, is known for **advanced engineering**, including the **world's oldest dockyard** with a **water-locking mechanism**.
- Artefacts like **bead necklaces, copper axes, and fish-hooks** suggest **maritime trade** with **Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Persia**.
- **Location & Discovery**
- **One of the southernmost Indus sites**, Lothal is in **Gujarat's Bhāl region**, between the **Sabarmati and Bhogavo rivers**.
- **Founded around 2200 BCE**, it was discovered in **1954** by **archaeologist S.R. Rao**, who identified the **dockyard**.
- **Archaeological Findings**
  - The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** confirms **Lothal had the world's earliest known dock**, once connected to the **Sabarmati River**.
  - **Seals, warehouses, and stone anchors** indicate it was a **maritime trade hub**.
  - Some scholars, like **Lawrence S. Leshnik (1968)**, argued the dock was actually a **water reservoir**, but recent **IIT Gandhinagar research** supports its **dockyard existence**.
- **Rise & Decline**
- Lothal **flourished between 2400–1900 BCE**, with a peak **population of 15,000** in the **late 3rd millennium BCE**.
- It was **rebuilt multiple times** but eventually declined due to **catastrophic flooding** and the **Sabarmati River changing course**.

3. NANDALAL BOSE



- **Born**: **December 3, 1882, in Munger, Bihar**
- **Mentor**: **Abanindranath Tagore**
- **Art Style**: Developed a unique **"Indian style"** of painting, blending **Japanese Nihonga**, **Mughal & Rajasthani miniatures**, **palm-leaf manuscripts**, and **Ajanta murals**.
- **Role**: Became **Principal of Kala Bhavan, Santiniketan** in 1922.
- **Notable Works**:
- *Yama and Savitri* (1913)
- *Kirat-Arjuna*
- **Impact**: Revived India's artistic traditions weakened by **British colonial rule**, contributing to cultural and national identity.
- **Legacy**:
- **Died**: 1966, in Santiniketan, West Bengal.
- **Honors**: Awarded **Padma Vibhushan**.
- **Collections**: Over **6,800 works** housed in the **National Gallery of Modern Art**.
- **Recognition**: **Archaeological Survey of India** declared his works as **"art treasures"** under the **Antiquities and Art Treasures Act (1972)**.

4. MAURYAN EMPIRE



The site at Kumhrar, before being covered up in 2004–05, displayed stumps and pits where 80 sandstone pillars once stood, supporting the Buddhist assembly hall. (Special arrangement)

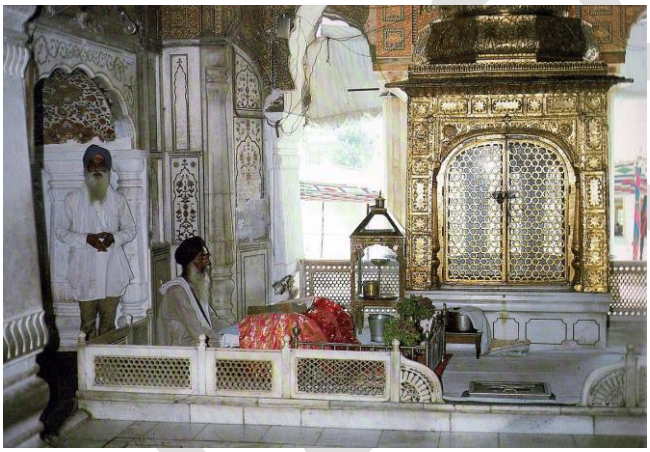
- The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** has restarted excavations at **Kumhrar Park**, uncovering remains of an **80-pillar Buddhist assembly hall** from the **Mauryan era**.
- In **2004-2005**, rising groundwater levels led ASI to **cover the site** with soil. Now, after **20 years**, the pillars are being uncovered, linking **Pataliputra (Mauryan capital)** to **modern-day Patna**.
- Historians believe **Emperor Ashoka** held the **Third Buddhist Council** here to unify the Buddhist sangha.

- **Mauryan Empire: Key Figures**
  - ***Chandragupta Maurya (322–297 BCE)***
  - **Founded** the **Mauryan Empire** after overthrowing the **Nanda Dynasty** with **Chanakya's help**.
  - **Unified** most of **India** under **centralized administration**.
  - Defeated **Seleucus Nicator (305 BCE)**, gaining **Afghanistan and Baluchistan**.
  - Later **became a Jain monk**.
  - ***Bindusara (297–273 BCE)***
  - **Expanded the empire** into **southern India** (except Tamil Nadu & Kerala).
  - Maintained **diplomatic ties** with **Hellenistic rulers**.

- Called **Amitraghata** ("Slayer of Enemies") in Greek records.
- ***Ashoka the Great (268–232 BCE)***
- Expanded the empire to its **largest extent**.
- After the **Kalinga War (261 BCE)**, embraced **Buddhism** and promoted it across **Asia**.
- Convened the **Third Buddhist Council** at **Pataliputra**.
- Issued the **Edicts of Ashoka**, spreading **Dhamma (righteousness)**.

- **Administration & Economy**
  - **Capital**: **Pataliputra** (modern Patna).
  - **Centralised governance** with **provincial governors**.
  - **Revenue system** based on **land tax**.
  - **Strong army** with a **spy network**.
  - **Economic growth** supported by **trade, commerce,** and **a well-maintained road system** like the **Grand Trunk Road**.
- **Decline of the Mauryan Empire**
  - **Weak successors** after **Ashoka** led to **decentralization**.
  - The empire collapsed in **185 BCE** after **Brihadratha**, the last Mauryan ruler, was **assassinated by Pushyamitra Shunga**, who founded the **Shunga Dynasty**.

5. AKAL TAKHT



- **Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) President Sukhbir Singh Badal** was attacked at the **Golden Temple entrance** while performing **punishment duty**.
- The **Akal Takht** had ordered this religious punishment for alleged **misrule** during **SAD's tenure (2007–2017)**.
- **Akal Takht: Historical Significance**
- **Established in 1606** by **Guru Hargobind** after the execution of **Guru Arjan Dev**.
- Served as a **governance platform** where Guru Hargobind issued the first **Hukamnama**, urging Sikhs to contribute **horses and weapons**.
- The **12-foot-high platform** symbolized defiance against **Mughal rule** under **Emperor Jahangir**.
- Became a **Sikh assembly center** after the **execution of Banda Singh Bahadur (1716)**, where Sikhs gathered for **Sarbat Khalsa** on **Baisakhi and Diwali**.

- **Jathedar Appointment**
  - Originally, **Sarbat Khalsa** appointed the **Jathedar** of **Akal Takht**.
  - Under British rule, the **Darbar Sahib committee** influenced appointments.
  - After the **Sikh Gurdwaras Act (1925)**, the **Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC)** took over.
  - Today, **SGPC** manages Sikh gurdwaras in **Punjab, Himachal Pradesh,** and **Chandigarh**.

- **Akal Takht's Religious Authority**
  - The **Jathedar** is the **highest religious and temporal authority** for Sikhs.
  - Any Sikh can be **summoned, tried, and sentenced** by the **Akal Takht**, but only those who **voluntarily accept** its authority.
  - **Historical case**: **Akali Phoola Singh** once **summoned Maharaja Ranjit Singh**, punishing him with **public flogging** for a moral transgression.

6. ASHTALAKSHMI MAHOTSAV

- **Event**: A three-day festival (Dec 6-8) at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, celebrating the **eight Northeastern states**.
- **Objectives**
  - **Cultural Showcase**: Highlights **traditions, arts, crafts, and agriculture** of the region.
  - **Economic Growth**: Encourages **investment, collaboration, and sustainable development**.
- **Key Features**
  - **Thematic Exhibitions**: State-specific pavilions on **textiles, tourism, agriculture, and handicrafts**.
  - **Live Art Displays**: Demonstrations of **traditional crafts**, a **GI product zone**, and exhibits of **Eri & Muga silk**.
  - **Fashion & Performances**: Fusion **fashion shows** and **cultural dances** like Assam's **Bihu** and Nagaland's **war dance**.
  - **Technical Sessions**: Talks on **sustainable fashion, handloom, and investment prospects**.
- **Significance**
  - **Cultural Heritage**: Celebrates Northeast India as **"Ashtalakshmi"**, symbolizing **eight forms of prosperity**.
  - **Economic Boost**: Supports artisans through **on-spot sales and bulk orders**.

7. MAHAPARINIRVAN DIWAS

- **Date**: Observed annually on **December 6** to mark the **death anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar**.
- **Significance**: Inspired by **Buddhist teachings**, his followers consider his passing as **Mahaparinirvan**, symbolizing liberation from the cycle of life and death.
- **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar: A Legacy of Social Reform**
  - **Born**: April 14, 1891, in **Mhow, Madhya Pradesh**.
  - **Social Justice**: Fought against **caste discrimination**, advocating **reservations in education, employment, and politics**.
  - **Media & Activism**: Launched **Mooknayaka (Leader of the Silent)** newspaper and founded **Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha (1923)** to promote education and economic upliftment.
- **Key Movements**:
  - **Mahad March (1927)**: Fought for Dalit access to public water.
  - **Kalaram Temple Entry Movement (1930)**: Challenged caste restrictions in temples.
  - **Poona Pact (1932)**: Secured **reserved seats** for Dalits in place of separate electorates.
  - **Contributions to India's Development**

- **Economic Policies**:
  - Inspired the **Finance Commission of India**.
  - Laid the foundation for the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934**.
  - Helped establish **Employment Exchanges**.
- **Infrastructure Vision**:
  - Spearheaded projects like **Damodar Valley Project, Hirakud Dam, and Sone River Project**.
  - Advocated for the **National Power Grid System**.
- **Architect of the Indian Constitution**:
  - As **Chairman of the Drafting Committee**, he played a **key role in shaping India's Constitution**.
  - **Enduring Impact**
  - Dr. Ambedkar's **vision for social equality, economic progress, and constitutional law** cements his legacy as a **nation-builder**, committed to a **just and inclusive India**.

8. THEYYAM

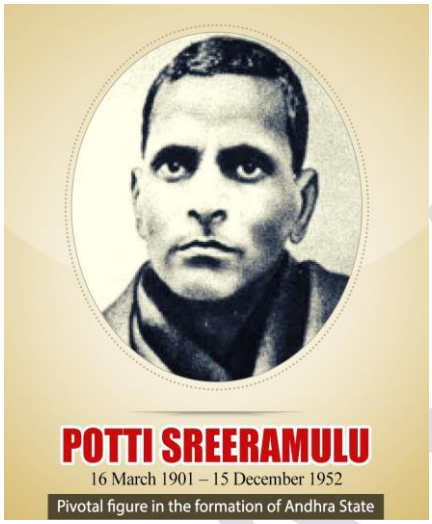
- **Book**: *Theyyam: Indian Folk Ritual Theatre* by **K. K. Gopalakrishnan** offers an insider's view of **Theyyam**, a ritualistic dance form from **Kerala**.
- **About Theyyam**
  - **Region**: Primarily performed in **northern Kerala** and parts of **Karnataka**.
  - **Origins**: Rooted in **Kolathunadu (North Malabar), Kerala**.
  - **Meaning**: Derived from *"Daivam"*, meaning **God**.
  - **Season**: Runs from **October to June**.
- **Key Features**
  - **Ritual Art**: A mix of **dance, music, and mime**, worshipping deities and ancestral spirits.
  - **Costumes**: Vibrant attire, **elaborate makeup**, and majestic headgear.
  - **Music**: Accompanied by **Chenda, Elathalam, Kurumkuzal,** and **Veekkuchenda**.
  - **Varieties**: Includes **Muchilottu Bhagavathi Theyyam, Kuttichathan Theyyam**, and **Gulikan Theyyam**.
- **Performers**
  - **Men**: Traditionally performed by men from different communities.
  - **Women**: **Devakkoothu Theyyam** is the only form performed by women at **Thekkumbad Kulom temple**.
- **Significance**
  - **Spiritual**: People believe Theyyam performers embody deities, seeking **blessings and guidance**.
  - **Cultural Heritage**: Preserves **tribal traditions and beliefs** of North Malabar.
- **Performance Venues**
  - **Sacred Spaces**: Held in **temples and sacred groves (kavus)** in **Kasaragod, Kannur, and Wayanad**.
  - **Annual Events**: Draw **large crowds** at major temples.

9. VAIKOM SATYAGRAHA

- A **social reform movement** in **Kerala** (1924) against **caste-based discrimination**.
- **Goal**: Securing **temple entry rights** and **equal access to public spaces** for all castes.
- **Location**: **Vaikom, Kottayam district**, Kerala.

- **Issue**
  - **Lower castes** were denied access to roads around the **Vaikom Mahadeva Temple**.
  - The protest aimed to **challenge untouchability** and ensure **equal rights**.
- **Key Events**
- **Launch (March 30, 1924)**:
  - Led by **SNDP movement** under **Sree Narayana Guru's** ideals.
  - Key leaders: **T.K. Madhavan, K. Kelappan, A.K. Gopalan**.
  - Supported by the **Indian National Congress**.
- **Role of Mahatma Gandhi**:
  - Advocated **non-violence**, dialogue, and public awareness.
- **Outcome**:
  - **1925**: Three out of four roads opened for all castes.
  - **1936**: **Temple Entry Proclamation** allowed **full access**, including the **eastern road and temple** entry.

10. POTTI SRIRAMULU



Born: March 16, 1901, in **Padamatipalli, Madras Presidency** (now Nellore, Andhra Pradesh).

- **Education**: Studied **sanitary engineering** at **Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute, Bombay**.
- **Career**: Worked at **Great Indian Peninsular Railway** before joining **Gandhi's Sabarmati Ashram (1931)**.
- **Role in Independence Movement**
- **Salt Satyagraha (1930)**: Participated and **imprisoned**.
- **Quit India Movement (1942)**: Actively involved, jailed multiple times.
- **Village Development**: Worked on **reconstruction projects** in Rajkot and Komaravolu (Andhra Pradesh).

- **Social Reforms**
  - **Dalit Rights**: Advocated for **temple entry** and **social equality**.
  - **Protests**: Organized **fasts** to demand **Dalit access** to religious sites.
- **Struggle for Andhra State**
  - **Hunger Strike**: Began fasting on **October 19, 1952**, demanding a **separate Telugu state**.
  - **Death**: Passed away after **58 days** on **December 15, 1952**.
  - **Impact**: His sacrifice led to the formation of **Andhra State on October 1, 1953**.
- **Legacy**
  - **State Reorganization**: Inspired India's **linguistic state reorganization**.
  - **Remembrance**: Honored as **"Amarajeevi" (Immortal Being)** for his sacrifice and dedication.

11. VARMAM THERAPY

- **Varmam Therapy**, or **Varma Kalai**, is an **ancient Indian healing practice** from the **Siddha system of medicine**.

- It involves **stimulating vital points** (varmam) to **restore energy balance** and **treat ailments**.
- **Key Aspects:**
  - **Vital Points:** The body has **108 varmam points** at nerve, muscle, bone, and joint intersections.
- **Techniques:**
  - **Thadaval Murai:** Massage at specific points.
  - **Adangal Murai:** Applying pressure in patterns.
  - **Thiravukol Murai:** Opening blocked energy channels for instant relief.
  - **Uses:**
    - **Neurological Disorders:** Helps with **nerve weakness and paralysis**.
    - **Musculoskeletal Issues:** Treats **arthritis, back pain, and cervical spondylosis**.
- **Origins & Revival:**
  - Attributed to **sage Agastya**, who documented and passed it down generations.
  - **Prevalent in Tamil Nadu and Kerala**, with growing interest in **modern healthcare integration**.

12. THRISSUR POORAM

- The **Supreme Court** stayed the **Kerala High Court's** impractical restrictions on parading elephants during **Thrissur Pooram**.
- The HC had mandated a **three-metre distance between elephants** and **banned processions on public roads from 9 AM to 5 PM**.
- **Thrissur Pooram: The Festival of Festivals**
  - A **grand Hindu temple festival** held **annually** in **Thrissur, Kerala**.
  - Introduced in the **18th century** by **Maharaja Sakthan Thampuran** to unify regional temple celebrations.
  - Takes place at **Vadakkunnathan Temple** in **April or May** (Pooram star in Medam month).
- **Key Attractions:**
  - **Elephant Procession (Kudamattam):**
    - Caparisoned elephants carry deities in a grand parade.
    - The **umbrella-changing ceremony** (Kudamattam) atop elephants is a highlight.
  - **Panchavadyam:**
    - A traditional ensemble of **five percussion instruments** played in harmony.
  - **Fireworks Display:**
    - Famous for its **spectacular competitive fireworks** at the festival's climax.

13. TANSEN

- **Eminent tabla player** and **Padma Shri awardee** Pt. Swapan Chaudhuri received the **Rashtriya Tansen Samman**, the highest national award in Indian classical music, instituted by the **Madhya Pradesh government**.
- ***About Tansen:***
  - **Birth:** Born as **Ramtanu Pandey** in **1500 CE, Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh)**.
  - **Training:** Learned music under **Swami Haridas**, mastering **Dhrupad**.
  - **Early Career:**

- Served in **Raja Man Singh Tomar's** court in **Gwalior**.
- Later performed in **Raja Ramchandra Singh's** court in **Rewa**.
- ***Tansen & Akbar's Court:***

➢ Joined **Emperor Akbar's court in 1562** as one of the **Navratnas (Nine Gems)**.

➢ Famous for **Megh Malhar**, believed to bring rain, and **Raga Deepak**, said to ignite flames.

➢ Akbar honored him with the title **"Miyan"**, signifying great respect.

➢ ***Contributions to Music:***

➢ Innovated several **new ragas**, including:

- **Miyan ki Todi**
- **Miyan ki Malhar**
- **Miyan ki Sarang**

➢ Considered the **father of modern Hindustani classical music**.

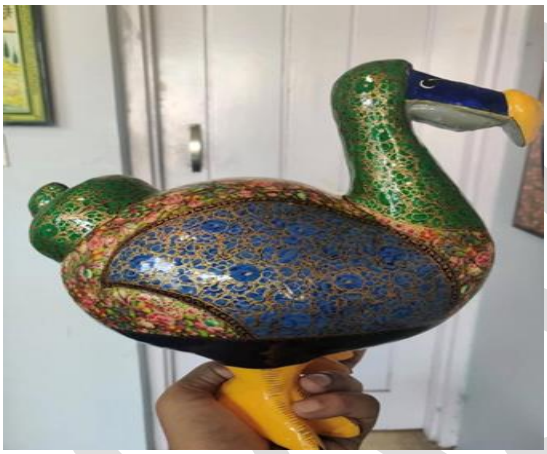
➢ His musical lineage led to the **Senia Gharana**, shaping classical traditions.

➢ ***Legacy:***

➢ Passed away in **1589 in Gwalior**.

➢ His influence remains central to **Hindustani classical music**.

14. KASHMIRI PAPIER-MÂCHÉ



➢ **Kashmiri papier-mâché** is a centuries-old craft from **Jammu and Kashmir**, known for its **vibrant colors and intricate designs**.

➢ Introduced in the **15th century** by **King Zain-ul-Abidin**, it flourished under **Mughal patronage**.

➢ The name comes from the French term **"papier-mâché,"** meaning **"chewed paper."**

➢ **Making Process**

➢ **Raw Material:** Waste paper is **soaked, pulped, and molded** into shapes.

➢ **Lacquer Work:** Layers of **glue and adhesive** enhance durability.

➢ **Painting:** Hand-painted using **natural pigments** in **floral or geometric patterns**.

➢ **Varnishing:** Polished for a **glossy finish**.

➢ This craft is **deeply rooted in Kashmiri culture** and enjoys **Geographical Indication (GI) protection** under the **GI Act, 1999**.

15. BELGAUM CONGRESS SESSION



Mahatma Gandhi at the historic Congress session in Belagavi in 1924. In the foreground is Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. | Photo Credit: The Hindu Archives

➢ **Historic Session:** The **1924 Belgaum Congress session**, the **only one chaired by Mahatma Gandhi**, was commemorated on **December 26 in Belagavi, Karnataka**.

➢ **Significance:**

➢ **Gandhi's Leadership:** Marked his **only presidency** of the **All India Congress Session**, strengthening his influence within the party.

➢ **Unity Resolution:** Emphasized **Hindu-Muslim unity** as a crucial element in the freedom struggle.

➢ **Grassroots Focus:** Advocated for **khadi promotion**, **boycotting foreign goods**, and **strengthening village industries**.

➢ **Strategic Shift:** Held after Gandhi's **release from prison**, the session reassessed the **non-cooperation movement's direction**.

➢ **Key Reforms:** Reduced **Congress membership fees by 90%** and urged members to work beyond political freedom, tackling **social evils like untouchability**.

➢ **Special Conferences:** Sessions were held on **untouchability, khadi, village industries, student movements, municipal administration, and linguistic state formation**.

16. 100 YEARS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA

Major revolts supported by CPI

Revolt	Details
Telangana People's Revolt (1946–1951)	Armed struggle in the Telangana region **launched by the Communist Party** and **the Kisan Sabha for abolishing landlordism.**
Tebhaga Struggle (1946–1949)	**Communist Party** led **All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS)** spearheaded the movement in West Bengal demanding a threefold division of produce (tebhaga)– ➤ 2/3rd to tenant farmers (bargadars) ➤ 1/3rd to the sublandlords (jotedars)
Punnapra-Vayalar Struggle (1946)	Led by the Communist Party, coir workers, farm workers, and other sections of the working class in **Allapuzha (now Kerala)** against the **dewan** running the state in **brutal and autocratic manner** and **refusing to merge with India**
Tripura Tribals Struggle (1948–1950)	**Tripura Upjati Ganamukti Parishad,** in association with **AIKS,** led a massive movement of tribal peasants in the name of **Gana Shiksha Andolan** and against **land alienation,** the **"titun" system** and other demands.
Revolt of the Warlis, Maharashtra (1945–47)	Initiated and organized by Communist Party led by the **communist woman leader Godavari Parulaker** in Thane district of Maharashtra, against the **inhuman exploitation of Warli Adivasis by landlords.**
Other revolts with influence of CPI	Surma Valley Struggle (1936–1948), RIN Mutiny (1946)

➢ ***Foundation & Early Leaders***

➢ Founded on **December 26, 1925**, in **Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh**.

➢ Inspired by the **RussiaAn Revolution (1917)**.

➢ Key figures: **M.N. Roy, Abani Mukherji, and Mohammad Shafiq**.

- ***Role in the Freedom Struggle***
  - Strongly **anti-colonial**, demanding **Purna Swaraj (complete independence)**.
  - Faced British repression through **Kanpur, Meerut, and Peshawar conspiracy cases**.
  - Did not support the **Quit India Movement (1942)** due to **Soviet Union's alliance with Britain** during **World War II**.
- ***Contributions to Social Justice***
  - Advocated **secularism** and opposed **caste and patriarchy**.
  - First organization to **deny membership** to those in **communal groups**.
- ***Post-Independence Role***
  - Continued activism, notably in the **Telangana Rebellion** and other **social movements**.

IASBABA

JANUARY 2025

1. THIRUVALLUVAR

- **Thiruvalluvar**, also known as **Valluvar**, is one of Tamil culture's most revered figures. His **exact birth date and birthplace** remain uncertain, but he is believed to have lived between **4th century BCE and 1st century CE**. Some sources suggest he was born in **Mylapore (Chennai)**, while others claim **Kanyakumari**.
- **Tirukkural: His Magnum Opus**
  - Thiruvalluvar authored the **Tirukkural**, a **timeless Tamil literary masterpiece** with **1,330 couplets** covering **ethics, politics, and love**.
  - The text is divided into **three sections**:
  - **Aram (Virtue)** – Ethical living and moral values (**Dharma**).
  - **Porul (Wealth)** – Governance, economy, and leadership (**Artha**).
  - **Inbam (Love)** – Human relationships and personal fulfillment (**Kama**).
- The **Tirukkural** transcends **religion, caste, and time**, offering **universal wisdom**.
- **Legacy & Influence**
  - The **Thiruvalluvar Statue (133 feet)** in **Kanyakumari** represents the **133 chapters** of the **Tirukkural**.
  - His teachings have influenced **Tamil literature, Indian philosophy, and global ethical thought**.
  - **Tirukkural** has been translated into **multiple languages**, highlighting its universal relevance.

2. KHWAJA MOINUDDIN CHISHTI

- ***Early Life & Journey***
  - **Born in Sistan (modern-day Iran)** in **1142**, he traveled through **Baghdad, Mecca, and Medina** before settling in **Ajmer, India**, in the early **13th century**.
- ***Teachings & Philosophy***
  - **Universal Brotherhood**: Advocated **equality** beyond caste, creed, or religion.
  - **Compassion for the Poor**: Dedicated to helping the **downtrodden**.
  - **Spiritual Unity**: Encouraged **love for God**, **self-purification**, and a **harmonious society**.
- ***Legacy & Influence***
  - **Popularized the Chishti Order** in India, promoting **simplicity, humility, and service**.
  - **Disciples** like **Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki** and **Nizamuddin Auliya** continued his mission.
- ***Ajmer Sharif Dargah***
  - His **shrine in Ajmer, Rajasthan**, is a **major pilgrimage site**.
  - The **annual Urs festival** marks his **death anniversary**, attracting **devotees of all faiths**.

3. SREE NARAYANA GURU

- ***Early Life***
  - **Born in 1856** in **Chempazhanthy, Travancore**, into an **Ezhava family** (a historically oppressed caste).
- ***Philosophy & Teachings***
  - **Oneness of Humanity**: Preached *"One Caste, One Religion, One God for Mankind."*
  - **Spiritual Inclusivity**: Emphasized **inner purity** over rituals and rejected caste divisions.
  - **Education & Social Reform**: Advocated **education** as a tool for **empowerment**.

IASBABA

- **Literary Contributions**: Composed **spiritual hymns** like *Atmopadesa Shatakam* and *Daiva Dasakam* to spread his message.

- ***Major Contributions***
  - **Aruvippuram Shiva Temple (1888)**: Challenged **Brahmanical temple monopoly**.
  - **SNDP Yogam (1903)**: Established to fight **caste discrimination**.
  - **Sivagiri Ashram (1904)**: Became a **spiritual & educational center**.
  - **Advaita Ashram, Aluva (1913)**: Promoted **Advaita philosophy** and social reform.
  - **Vaikom Satyagraha (1924–1925)**: Played a key role in the **temple entry movement**.
  - **Kalavancode Temple (1927)**: Installed a **mirror instead of an idol**, symbolizing **self-realization**.

4. SAVITRIBAI PHULE

- On her **194th birth anniversary** (January 3), we remember **Savitribai Phule**, a pioneering social reformer born in **Naigaon, Maharashtra (1831)**.
- A **Dalit woman** from the **Mali community**, she was married at **10 years old** to **Jyotirao Phule**, who later educated her. The couple supported each other, breaking numerous social barriers.
- **Key Contributions**
  - **Education Pioneer**: In **1848**, she and Jyotirao founded **India's first girls' school** in **Bhidewada, Pune**. They later opened more schools for **girls, Shudras, and Ati-Shudras**, despite opposition from **nationalists like Bal Gangadhar Tilak**.
  - **Support for Widows**: They established **Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha** (Home for the Prevention of Infanticide) for **pregnant widows**, inspired by a widow's tragic infanticide case.
  - **Social Reforms**: She advocated **inter-caste marriages, widow remarriage**, and the eradication of **child marriage, sati, and dowry**.
  - **Satyashodhak Samaj (1873)**: The couple founded this **anti-caste organization** promoting **social equity**. They introduced **Satyashodhak Marriage**, which rejected Brahmanical rituals and emphasized **education and equality**.
  - **Breaking Traditions**: After Jyotirao's **death (1890)**, she **carried the titve** (earthen pot) and led his **funeral procession**, defying norms.
  - **Literary Contributions**: She published **Kavya Phule (1854)** and **Bavan Kashi Subodh Ratnakar (1892)**, using poetry to promote social reform.
  - **Relief Work & Sacrifice**: During the **1896 famine** and **1897 Bubonic plague**, she actively helped victims. She succumbed to the **plague on March 10, 1897**, after taking a sick child to the hospital.
  - Savitribai Phule's **legacy of courage, compassion, and education** continues to inspire generations.

5. GURU GOBIND SINGH

- **Became Guru at Nine** after his father, **Guru Tegh Bahadur**, was **martyred by Aurangzeb** for refusing to convert to Islam.
- **Introduced the Five K's**, the **Five Articles of Faith** in Sikhism:
  - **Kesh** (uncut hair), **Kangha** (wooden comb), **Kara** (iron/steel bracelet), **Kirpan** (sword), **Kacchera** (short breeches).
- **Credited with the Dasam Granth**, an important Sikh scripture.

- **Declared Guru Granth Sahib as the eternal Guru of Sikhs** before his death in **1708**.
- **Establishment of the Khalsa & Panj Piare (1699)**
  - Founded **Khalsa** on **Baisakhi**, asking for **five volunteers** willing to sacrifice their lives.
  - These **five baptised Sikhs**, called **Panj Piare**, formed the **nucleus of the Khalsa**.
  - The **title Panj Piare** now applies to any group of **five initiated Sikhs**.
- **Battles & Conflict**
  - **Fought Mughals and hill rajas** to defend Sikhism.
  - **Lost all four sons**—two **killed in battle**, two **executed by Mughals**.
  - **Supported Bahadur Shah I** in the **Battle of Jajau (1707)** after Aurangzeb's death.
- **Assassination (1708)**
  - **Stabbed in Nanded, Maharashtra**, by a **Pashtun on orders of Nawab Wazir Khan of Sirhind**.
  - Despite medical efforts, his **wounds reopened**, leading to his death on **October 7, 1708**.

6. TASHKENT DECLARATION

- The **1965 war** began when **Pakistan launched an undeclared offensive in Jammu and Kashmir** in August, assuming India was weak after its **1962 loss to China**.
- On **September 1**, Pakistan attacked **Akhnoor (Jammu)**. In response, **India launched a counteroffensive across the Punjab border** under **PM Lal Bahadur Shastri's approval**.
- **Tashkent Declaration (January 10, 1966)**
  - A **peace agreement** signed between **India and Pakistan** to end the war.
  - Mediated by the **Soviet Union**, with **Premier Alexei Kosygin** leading negotiations in **Tashkent, USSR** (now Uzbekistan).
  - Signed by **Indian PM Lal Bahadur Shastri** and **Pakistani President Ayub Khan**.
- **Key Provisions**
  - **Troop Withdrawal** – Both sides agreed to **return to pre-war positions (before August 5, 1965)**.
  - **Non-Interference** – Pledged **not to meddle in each other's internal affairs**.
  - **Diplomatic & Economic Relations** – Agreed to restore **trade, communications, and cultural exchanges**.
  - **Respect for Sovereignty** – Committed to **maintaining peace and territorial integrity**.
  - **Peaceful Dispute Resolution** – Vowed to **resolve conflicts without force**.
  - **POW Repatriation** – Ensured **humane treatment and return of prisoners of war**.

7. RAKHIGARHI

- **Key Finding**: A well-engineered stadium and a marketplace suggest economic activity and centralized authority.
- **Period**: Belongs to the **Mature Harappan phase**.
- **About Rakhigarhi**
  - **Location**: Hisar district, Haryana.
  - **Largest Harappan Site**: Spans **350 hectares**, surpassing Mohenjo-daro.
  - **Urban Planning**: Organized streets, drainage systems, and multi-roomed houses.

- **Artifacts**: Jewelry, pottery, terracotta seals, shell bangles, and copper tools.
- **Burials**: Skeletons with burial goods and head ornaments.
- **Granary**: Indicates structured storage and trade.

- **DNA Findings**
  - Suggests **Harappans were indigenous** with no major steppe pastoralist ancestry.
  - Supports **indigenous development** of the Indus Valley Civilization.
- **Cultural Significance**
  - **Bead-making, pottery, and metallurgy** showcase craftsmanship.
  - **Seal impressions** indicate trade links with **Mesopotamia and beyond**.

8. GANGASAGAR MELA

- **Event & Location**: Held annually at **Sagar Island** in **West Bengal's South 24 Parganas**, where the **Hooghly River (a Ganges distributary) meets the Bay of Bengal**.
- **Significance**: One of the **largest religious gatherings**, where pilgrims take a **holy dip** and offer prayers at the **Kapil Muni Temple**.
- **Festival Timing**: Coincides with **Makar Sankranti**, marking the **Sun's transition into Capricorn**.
- **2024 Context**: This year, Gangasagar Mela aligned with **Maha Kumbh in Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Geographical & Environmental Aspects**
  - **Sundarbans Delta**: Part of the **world's largest delta**.
  - **Challenges**: Faces threats from **sea-level rise, cyclones, and erosion**.
  - Gangasagar remains a **spiritually significant yet environmentally vulnerable** pilgrimage site.

9. KUKA MARTYRS' DAY

- Punjab CM **Bhagwant Mann** paid tribute at **Namdhari Shaheed Smarak, Malerkotla**, marking **Kuka Martyrs' Day**.
- **Who are the Namdharis?**
  - **Namdharis (Kukas)** were a **Sikh sect** founded by **Satguru Ram Singh** in **1857, Ludhiana**.
  - Known for their **high-pitched recitation** of Gurbani ("Kook" means scream/cry).
  - **Opposed British rule**, boycotted **foreign goods, British services, and education**.
  - Advocated **social reforms**, especially **against alcohol and meat consumption**.
  - By the **1870s**, their resistance led to clashes with **British officials & loyal natives**.
- **The Events of January 1872**
  - **January 13**: 200 **Namdharis**, led by **Hira Singh & Lehna Singh**, protested **cow slaughter** in Malerkotla.
  - **January 15**: Clashed with British officials & attacked **Malaudh Fort, Ludhiana** (under a British ally).
  - **January 17-18**: In **retaliation**, British official **John Lambert Cowan** ordered the brutal **execution of 66 Kukas**.
    - They were **placed before cannons and blown up**.
- **Aftermath**:
  - **Satguru Ram Singh** and other leaders were **exiled to Rangoon (Burma)**, never to return.
  - Namdharis believe **Ram Singh is still alive** and will return, mourning his absence by **wearing white**.

10. MAHA KUMBH

- **Listed by UNESCO** as the **largest peaceful gathering** of pilgrims.
- **2025 Footfall Estimate: 450 million**, nearly **twice** Uttar Pradesh's population.
- **Kumbh Mela Overview**
  - **Meaning:** "Kumbh" (Sanskrit) means **pitcher**.
  - **Rotation Cycle (Every 3 years):** Held at **Prayagraj, Haridwar, Ujjain, and Nashik**.
  - **Planetary Alignment:** Based on the positions of **Sun and Jupiter**.
  - **Types of Kumbh:**
    - **Ardh Kumbh (6 years):** Held in **Haridwar & Prayagraj**.
    - **Purna Kumbh (12 years):** Held in **all four cities**.
    - **Maha Kumbh (144 years):** Held **only in Prayagraj**, considered most auspicious.
- **Mythological Significance**
  - **Origin: Drops of Amrit (immortality nectar)** fell at these sites during **Samudra Manthan** (churning of the ocean).
  - **Main Ritual: Holy dip** in sacred rivers to **wash away sins** and **attain moksha** (liberation).
- **Religious & Cultural Aspects**
  - **Historical Roots:** Religious texts link Kumbh's origins to **Adi Shankaracharya (8th century)**.
  - **Akharas (Monastic Orders):**
    - Established by **Shankaracharya** to **unite ascetics** for religious discourse.
    - **13 Akharas:** Nirvani, Atal, Niranjani, Anand, Juna, Awahan, Agni, Nirmohi, Digambar Ani, Nirvani Ani, and two **Udasin Akharas** (Naya & Bada), along with the **Nirmala Akhara**.
  - **Newest Akhara: Kinnar (Transgender) Akhara**, founded in 2015 by **Laxmi Narayan Tripathi**.

11. NETAJI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE

- Born in **1897 in Cuttack** to an **upper-class Bengali family**.
- Studied at **Presidency College & Scottish Church College, Kolkata**.
- Cleared **Indian Civil Services (ICS) exam in 1920** but resigned in 1921.
- **Role in Congress**
  - Elected **Congress President in 1938 (Haripura session)**, pushing for **Swaraj as a national demand**.
  - Re-elected in **1939**, defeating **Gandhi-backed Pattabhi Sitaramayya**.
  - Resigned after facing opposition and formed the **Forward Bloc** to unite the **radical-left**.
- **Arrest & Black Hole Monument**
  - **Arrested in 1940** before launching a campaign against the **Black Hole of Calcutta monument**.
  - First to call **Gandhi "Father of the Nation"** in a **1944 Azad Hind Radio** address from **Singapore**.
- **The INA & Bose's Leadership**
  - **Indian National Army (INA) formed on February 17, 1942**, with **Indian PoWs captured by Japan**.
  - Bose took charge on **July 4, 1943**, in **Singapore**.
  - Gave the call of **"Delhi Chalo"**, leading the INA into **Imphal & Kohima** in 1944, but the campaign failed.
  - **Retreated in 1945** as the British recaptured **Burma**.

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- After Japan's surrender, Bose planned to stay but was persuaded to leave.
- **Died in a plane crash in August 1945**.

12. ETIKOPPAKA BOMMALU

- **Etikoppaka Bommalu**, the traditional wooden toys from Andhra Pradesh, were showcased in the **state's award-winning tableau** at the **Republic Day parade** in New Delhi on **January 26, 2025**. The **jury awarded it third place**, earning widespread appreciation.
- **Learning Corner:**
  - **Etikoppaka Bommalu** are **handcrafted wooden toys** from **Etikoppaka village, Andhra Pradesh**.
  - Made from **Ankudu wood (Wrightia tinctoria)**, which is **soft and easy to carve**.
  - Coated with **natural lacquer** extracted from trees.
  - Colored using **vegetable and mineral dyes**, making them **eco-friendly and safe**.
  - This **400-year-old craft** follows the **turnwood technique**, using **lathe and hand tools**.
  - **Received a Geographical Indication (GI) Tag in 2017** under the handicrafts category

13. LALA LAJPAT RAI

- Lala Lajpat Rai (1865–1928) was a prominent nationalist leader, social reformer, and freedom fighter.
- While studying at Lahore, he was influenced by the Hindu reformist movement of Swami Dayanand Saraswati, became a member of the Arya Samaj Lahore (founded 1877), and **founder-editor of the Lahore-based *Arya Gazette*.**
- He was elected President of the Indian National Congress in the Calcutta Special Session of 1920.
- In 1921, he founded ***Servants of the People Society***, a non-profit welfare organisation.
- **Lal-Bal-Pal Trio:**
- Alongside Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Bipin Chandra Pal, he formed the extremist faction of the Indian National Congress (INC).
- **Swadeshi Movement:**
- Promoted indigenous industries and self-reliance, laying the groundwork for economic nationalism.
- **Opposition to British Policies:**
- Criticized the Rowlatt Act (1919) and supported the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920–22).
- **Protest Against Simon Commission (1928):**
- Led a peaceful demonstration in Lahore against the Simon Commission (1927), which excluded Indian representation.
- **Lathi Charge:** Sustained severe injuries during a police lathi charge and died on November 17, 1928. His martyrdom galvanized revolutionary movements.
- **Impact:** Bhagat Singh and HSRA avenged his death by killing British officer J.P. Saunders.
- **Social and Educational Reforms:**
- Arya Samaj: Active member; promoted Hindu unity, education, and social upliftment.
- Institutions Associated:
  - **Punjab National Bank (1894)**
  - **Dayanand Anglo-Vedic (DAV) Schools**

- Lala Lajpat Rai was also associated with ***Lakshmi Insurance Company*****,** which was later merged with LIC during the nationalization of life insurance in 1956.
- **Advocate for Social Justice:**

➢ Campaigned against untouchability and caste discrimination.

➢ Authored books like ***Young India*** **(1916)**, critiquing British rule, and ***The Story of My Deportation*** **(1908)**, documenting his exile to **Mandalay (Burma**) in 1907. Other works include ***Unhappy India*** and ***England's Debt to India***.

14. NAGOBA JATARA

➢ Nagoba Jatara, the pilgrimage event of the **Mesram clan Adivasi Gonds**, commenced on the night of January 28 at Keslapur village in the tribal heartland of Indervelli mandal, Adilabad district, Telangana. This festival is a significant cultural and religious gathering for the Gond community.

➢ **Overview of Nagoba Jatara**

➢ **Significance:** Nagoba Jatara is one of the largest tribal festivals in South India, celebrated primarily by the Gond tribe, especially the Mesram clan.

➢ **Location:** The festival takes place in Keslapur village, situated in the Adilabad district of Telangana.

➢ **Timing:** It is typically celebrated in January or February during the Hindu Pushya Masam (winter season).

➢ **Cultural and Religious Aspects**

- ➢ **Deity:** The festival is dedicated to Nagoba, a serpent deity worshipped by the Gond community. It symbolizes unity and renewal of ties among Gond clans.
- ➢ **Participants:** Members of the Mesram clan and Pardhans from various regions, including Maharashtra and Central India, gather to participate in this annual mega holy feast.

➢ **Rituals and Events**

- ➢ **Holy Water Ritual:** Elder members collect holy water from the Godavari River before the festival, which is used for purification rituals at the temple.
- ➢ **Nagoba Darshan & Puja:** Worship of the Nagoba deity is performed by Mesram priests, where devotees offer coconuts, jaggery, and prayers for blessings.
- ➢ **Persa Pen Ceremony:** A special ritual honoring the ancestors of the Gond tribes.
- ➢ **Gusadi Dance:** Traditional dance performed by Gond men wearing peacock feathers and tribal attire, showcasing their rich cultural heritage.

➢ **Importance**

- ➢ Nagoba Jatara serves not only as a religious observance but also as a platform for social cohesion among tribal communities. It draws thousands of devotees and visitors, highlighting the unique traditions and customs of indigenous tribal groups. The festival plays a crucial role in preserving cultural identity amidst modern challenges.

FEBUARY 2025

1. CHHATRAPATI SHIVAJI

- **Born:** 19th Feb 1630, Shivneri Fort, Maharashtra
- **Father:** Shahaji Bhonsle (General under Bijapur Sultanate)
- **Mother:** Jijabai (instilled values)
- **Mentor:** Dadoji Kondadev (trained in administration and warfare)
- **Establishment of Swarajya:**
- Started capturing forts at 16 years old
- **Torna Fort (1645):** First fort captured
- **Raigad Fort:** Later made capital
- **Conflict with Bijapur Sultanate:**
- **Afzal Khan (1659):** Killed during a personal meeting
- **Battle of Pratapgad (1659):** Defeated Bijapur forces
- Continued expanding against Adilshahi
- **Conflict with Mughals:**
- **Shaista Khan (1660–1663):** Mughal governor; Shivaji attacked him in Pune, cut off his fingers
- **Sack of Surat (1664):** Raided rich Mughal trading city
- **Treaty of Purandar (1665):** Surrendered 23 forts, retained 12
- **Escape from Agra (1666):** Escaped Aurangzeb's custody by hiding in fruit baskets
- **Coronation:** 6th June 1674 at Raigad Fort, declared Chhatrapati
- **Administration and Governance:**
- **Ashta Pradhan (Council of Eight Ministers):**
  - Peshwa (Prime Minister): Moropant Trimbak Pingle; Amatya (Finance Minister); Sacheev (Secretary); Mantri (Intelligence Minister); Senapati (Military Chief); Sumant (Foreign Affairs Minister); Nyayadhish (Chief Justice); Panditrao (Religious Head)
  - **Revenue System:**
- **Chauth:** 1/4th of revenue from neighboring regions
- **Sardeshmukhi:** Additional 1/10th levy
- **Military Reforms:**
- Built a strong navy (bases at Sindhudurg, Vijaydurg)
- Mastered **Guerrilla Warfare (Ganimi Kava)**
- Constructed coastal forts for naval defense
- **Death:**
- 3rd April 1680, Raigad Fort

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2. DHIMSA DANCE



➢ The tribals of Neelabanda (Rolugunta mandal) and Sompurambandha (Ravikamatham mandal) in Anakapalle district, Andhra Pradesh, celebrated the arrival of electricity after 77 years of independence. They marked this milestone with a joyful performance of the traditional **Dhimsa dance**, showcasing their cultural heritage.

➢ **Dhimsa Dance**: A traditional dance performed primarily by the Porja caste women and other tribal communities in Andhra Pradesh.

➢ **Origin**: The dance originated in Odisha's Koraput district but is now iconic in the Visakhapatnam area, especially around the Araku Valley and Borra Caves.

➢ **Key Features of Dhimsa Dance**:

➢ **Participants**: Groups of 15-20 women form a chain, moving in sync, while men play musical instruments.

➢ **Formation**: Dancers form circular patterns that grow larger as the dance progresses. The movements involve synchronized footwork and hand gestures.

➢ **Occasions**: Performed during festivals, weddings, and community events.

➢ **Musical Accompaniment**: Instruments like the dappu, tudumu, mori, kiridi, and jodukommulu are played by men.

➢ **Attire**: Dancers wear bright, earthy-toned clothes like green, red, and yellow, and adorn tribal ornaments.

➢ **Variations**: Several styles exist, including Bhag Dhimsa, Natikari Dhimsa, Kunda Dhimsa, and Boda Dhimsa.

3. DAYANAND SARASWATI

➢ **12th February** marked the 201st birth anniversary of **Dayanand Saraswati**. In 2023, India celebrated his 200th birth anniversary with year-long events. **Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan**, India's second President, called him "a maker of modern India."

➢ **Born**: February 12, 1824, in Morbi, Gujarat.

➢ **Founder of Arya Samaj**: Established in 1875, it played a key role in social reforms, promoting Vedic teachings and a united Hindu society.

➢ **Beliefs**:

- Rejected idolatry and ritualistic traditions in Hinduism.
- Advocated for women's education, opposed child marriage, and condemned untouchability.
- Promoted worship of one Supreme God and Vedic rituals.
- Wrote **Satyarth Prakash** (1875), emphasizing a return to Vedic principles.
- Advocated for cow protection and founded the **Gaurakshini Sabha** in 1882.

➢ **Legacy**: After his death in 1883, his followers established the **Dayanand Anglo Vedic (DAV) School** in Punjab to blend modern education with Hindu culture. **Philosophy**:

➢ His **ten principles of Arya Samaj** emphasized actions for the benefit of humanity, rejecting individualism and idol worship.

➢ He advocated for **caste reform**, claiming caste should be based on talents, not heredity.

➢ Strongly opposed untouchability and supported **Vedic education** for all castes.

➢ Campaigned for **women's education** and against **child marriage**.

4. SAROJINI NAIDU

➢ **Sarojini Naidu** is honored on **February 13**, her birth anniversary, as **National Women's Day** in India for her contributions to women's rights.

➢ **Born**: 1879 in Hyderabad to Bengali parents.

➢ **Died**: 1949.

➢ Naidu was an **Indian independence activist**, **poet**, and the first woman to serve as **President of the Indian National Congress (INC)**. She was also known as the **Nightingale of India** for her literary works.

➢ **Key Contributions**:

➢ **Role in the Freedom Movement**:

- Joined **INC** in 1905 during the Bengal Partition movement.
- Advocated for **women's rights**, education, and social reforms.
- Actively participated in the **Non-Cooperation** (1920–22) and **Civil Disobedience Movements** (1930).
- Took part in the **Salt Satyagraha** (1930) and was arrested.

➢ **Political Achievements**:

- First woman **President of INC** (1925), advocating self-rule and equality.
- First **Indian woman Governor** (1947) of the United Provinces (now Uttar Pradesh).
- Member of the **Constituent Assembly**.

➢ **Literary Contributions**:

- Famous works include *The Golden Threshold* (1905), *The Bird of Time* (1912), and *The Broken Wing* (1917).

5. DOKRA ARTWORK



➢ **Dhokra Art** is an ancient Indian metal casting tradition that dates back over **4,000 years** to the **Indus Valley Civilization**. Known for its **lost-wax casting technique**, it creates non-ferrous metal artifacts with primitive simplicity, folk motifs, and robust forms.

➢ The term "Dhokra" comes from the **Dhokra Damar tribes** of West Bengal and Odisha, traditional metalsmiths whose craftsmanship traces back to the Indus Valley. The famous **"Dancing Girl"** bronze statue from Mohenjo-Daro is an early example of lost-wax casting.

➢ **Geographical Spread**: Dhokra art spread across India over centuries, with each region adding its own cultural elements to the craft.

➢ **The Lost-Wax Casting Process:**

➢ **Core Creation**: A clay core is shaped to outline the desired artifact.

➢ **Wax Modeling**: The clay core is covered with beeswax, sculpted to include intricate designs.

➢ **Mold Formation**: Layers of fine clay are applied over the wax model, and the assembly is heated to melt and drain the wax, leaving a hollow mold.

➢ **Metal Casting**: Molten metal (usually **brass** or **bronze**) is poured into the mold. Once cooled, the clay mold is broken open, revealing the metal artifact, which is then polished and finished.

➢ **Cultural and Artistic Significance:**

➢ **Product Range**: Dhokra artisans create figurines of deities, animals, humans, as well as functional items like lamps, jewelry, and utensils.

➢ **Design Aesthetics**: The art is known for its rustic charm, with motifs reflecting tribal folklore, nature, and daily life, often with elongated forms and intricate patterns.

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6. KALYANA CHALUKYAS



➢ Three new **Kannada inscriptions** from the **Kalyana Chalukya era** were discovered at **Kankal village**, Pudur mandal, Vikarabad, Telangana.

➢ **Background:**

➢ The **Kalyana Chalukyas**, also called the **Western Chalukyas**, ruled much of the western Deccan from the **10th to 12th centuries CE**.

➢ They succeeded the **Badami Chalukyas** and were later replaced by the **Hoysalas, Kakatiyas,** and **Yadavas**.

➢ **Key Features of the Kalyana Chalukya Rule:**

➢ **Founder and Capital**:

- Founded by **Tailapa II** in **973 CE** after overthrowing the Rashtrakutas.
- Capital was **Manyakheta**, later moved to **Kalyani** (modern-day Basavakalyan in Karnataka).

➢ **Political and Military Expansion**:

- Engaged in conflicts with the **Cholas**, **Rashtrakutas**, and **Kalachuris**.
- Expanded across **Karnataka**, parts of **Maharashtra**, **Andhra Pradesh**, and **Telangana**.
- **Vikramaditya VI** (1076-1126 CE) is considered the greatest ruler.

➢ **Administration and Governance**:

- Centralized monarchy with efficient provincial governance.
- **Agrahara system**: Land grants to Brahmins and temples.
- Local self-government in **village assemblies** (Sabhas and Mahasabhas).

➢ **Art and Architecture**:

- Developed the **Western Chalukyan style** of architecture.
- Built ornate temples, including **Kasivisvesvara Temple** (Lakkundi) and **Mallikarjuna Temple** (Kuruvatti).

➢ **Cultural Patronage**:

- Supported **Kannada** and **Sanskrit literature**.
- Notable scholars: **Ranna** (Kannada poet) and **Bilhana** (author of **Vikramankadeva Charita**).
- Supported **Shaivism, Jainism,** and **Vaishnavism**.

➢ **Decline**:

- Weakened by internal revolts and external attacks.
- Eventually overthrown by the **Kakatiyas**, **Yadavas**, and **Hoysalas**.

7. RAMAKRISHNA PARAMAHMSA

➢ Sri Ramakrishna Paramahamsa, born Gadadhar Chattopadhyay on February 18, 1836, in Kamarpukur, West Bengal, was one of the world's most influential religious figures.

➢ **Early Life and Spiritual Journey:**

➢ Ramakrishna became the priest of the Dakshineswar Kali Temple near Kolkata at age 20.

➢ He developed deep devotion to Goddess Kali, whom he regarded as the Divine Mother, and engaged in intense spiritual practices.

➢ **Core Teachings and Impact:**

➢ **Oneness of God:** He believed all religions lead to the same ultimate truth and that God can be realized through any sincere spiritual path.

- **Divine Motherhood:** He spoke of God as the Divine Mother, emphasizing love, compassion, and devotion.
- **Renunciation and Detachment:** Ramakrishna advocated detachment from material desires and living a simple, spiritual life.
- **Service to Humanity:** He taught that serving humanity is a form of worship, as God resides in all beings.
- **Harmony of Religions:** His famous saying, "As many faiths, so many paths," emphasized religious unity.
- **Spiritual Realization Over Rituals:** He stressed the importance of direct spiritual experiences over rigid rituals, promoting a more inclusive spirituality.

8. BATHOUSIM

- The Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) government in Assam has recently made 'Bathouism' an official option in the religion section of application forms, including those for educational institutions and documents like birth and death certificates.
- **Bathouism:**
- Bathouism is the traditional religion of the Bodo people in Assam, Northeast India.
- "Bathou" combines "Ba" (five) and "thou" (profound), symbolizing the five core elements: air, fire, earth, water, and ether. These are believed to form the universe, with Bathoubwrai, the supreme deity, as their creator.
- **Core Beliefs and Practices:**
- **Supreme Deity:** Bathoubwrai is omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent. While unseen, this deity is symbolized by the sijou plant (Euphorbia splendens), which represents Bathoubwrai. The sijou plant is planted in the northeast corner of courtyards, forming a sacred altar called **sijousali**.
- **Altars and Symbolism:** The sijousali is surrounded by a bamboo fence made of eighteen pairs of bamboo strips, each representing a minor god or goddess, reflecting the religion's pantheon.
- **Five Principles:** The five elements—air, fire, earth, water, and ether—are fundamental to Bathouism and are integral to the creation and sustenance of life. This concept mirrors the 'Panchabhuta' in other Indian philosophies.

9. BATTLE OF KARNAL AND DECLINE OF MUGHALS

- The **Battle of Karnal**, on **February 24, 1739**, saw **Persian emperor Nadir Shah** defeat **Mughal emperor Muhammad Shah Rangila's** forces in under three hours.
- **Context**: Nadir Shah's army, much smaller than the Mughal forces, crushed them in a swift battle. After the victory, he sacked **Delhi**, the Mughal capital, and took treasures including the **Peacock Throne** and the **Koh-i-noor diamond**.
- The **Mughal Empire's decline** was due to **structural weaknesses**, not just weak emperors.
- **Key Factors**:
- **Excessive Tax Burden**: Heavy taxation led to peasant revolts, causing a vicious economic cycle. (Irfan Habib)
- **Mughal Nobility**: An overgrown nobility created inefficiency and corruption. (M. Athar Ali)
- **Religious Alienation**: Aurangzeb's oppressive policies against minorities led to discontent. (Jadunath Sarkar)
- **Nadir Shah's Invasion**:
- The Mughal Empire was already struggling with various challenges, such as from the **Marathas, Ahoms, Jats**, and **Sikhs**.

- In **1738**, Nadir Shah, a military genius and leader of the **Afsharid dynasty**, set his sights on India after conquering **Kandahar**. He crossed the **Khyber Pass**, the traditional route for invaders, and met the Mughal army in **Karnal** (now in **Haryana**).
- **The Battle & Aftermath**:
- The Mughal army, 300,000 strong, with 2,000 elephants and 3,000 cannons, faced Nadir Shah's 55,000-strong, disciplined, and modern army.
- The Mughals were routed quickly, and Muhammad Shah was captured. Nadir Shah's forces plundered Delhi, massacring thousands and seizing vast wealth.
- Nadir Shah returned the territories but took the treasures accumulated over eight generations of Mughal conquests.
- After the invasion, the Mughal Empire's decline continued, eventually leading to **British control** in **1857**.

10. ANCIENT INDIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO SCIENCE

- **Indian Origin of Zero**:
- In the 6th and 7th centuries C.E., Indian mathematician Brahmagupta defined zero and explored its properties. He also introduced the concept of negative numbers.
- **Decimal System**:
- The decimal numeral system was discovered in India. Arabs referred to mathematics as "the Indian art" (hindisat).
- **Kanad's Atomic Theory**:
- The 6th-century scientist Kanad proposed that the universe is made up of indivisible, indestructible particles (kanas), similar to the modern atomic theory.
- **Earthquake Cloud Theory**:
- Varahamihira, in his *Brihat Samhita*, connected earthquakes to planetary influence, undersea activities, underground water, unusual cloud formations, and animal behavior.
- **Position of Nine Planets**:
- Aryabhata was the first to describe the positions of nine planets and their revolutions around the Sun. He also contributed to the place value system.
- **Cyclic Method for Algebra**:
- Bhaskaracharya introduced the Chakrawat Method (Cyclic Method) in his book *Siddanta Shiromani* to solve algebraic equations.
- **Medicine**:
- Charak, in *Charak Samhita*, described numerous diseases, their causes, and treatments. He emphasized digestion, metabolism, and immunity as crucial for health.
- **Metallurgy**:
- The Iron Pillar of Delhi showcases ancient India's advanced metallurgy, particularly in corrosion resistance. Wootz steel, known for its durability, originated in India.
- **Surgery**:
- Sushruta, known as the "Father of Surgery," made significant contributions to surgery, especially cosmetic surgery. His work, *Sushruta Samhita*, shows his expertise in surgical techniques and human anatomy.
- **Yoga**:
- Patanjali's *Yoga Sutras* systematically present the science of Yoga.