

INDIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE, HISTORY**Khon Ramlila**

The Culture Department of Uttar Pradesh government is going to organise the country's first training and performance programme of world famous KHON Ramlila in collaboration with Thailand government.

About:

- Region: KHON Ramlila is a masked form of Ramlila art of Thailand.
- Features: it's a form of masked dance depicting the scenes of Ramlila. It has no dialogues and background voices narrate the whole story of Ramayana. It is also famous for its beautiful attire and golden masks.
- Recognition: It is included in the list of UNESCO's Intangible cultural heritage.

Rangdum Monastery

The Archaeological Survey of India is planning to declare the Rangdum Monastery located in Ladakh (Kargil district) as a monument of national importance.

- The move aims to look into the opportunities for expansion of tourism in the Ladakh region in the backdrop of the decision to split Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories.
- The Central government is looking at bringing more monuments present in this region under its direct protection and therefore it made this monastery a Centrally-protected site.

Rangdum Monastery

- It is the 18th century built monastery that is situated at an altitude of 4,031 m. at the head of the Suru Valley, in Ladakh.
- Suru Valley is drained by the Suru River which is a tributary of the Indus River.
- Rangdum Monastery is a Tibetan Buddhist monastery belonging to the Gelugpa sect.

GOVERNANCE- WELFARE SCHEMES, E-GOVERNANCE, SERVICES ETC.**Food Safety Mitra (FSM) Scheme**

On the occasion of World Food Day, Union Health Minister launched Food Safety Mitra Scheme, Eat Right Jacket and Eat Right Jhola.

Food Safety Mitra Scheme:

- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has introduced scheme of Food Safety Mitra (FSM) through which it plans to engage motivated individuals with the food safety ecosystem at ground level.
- A FSM is an individual professional certified by FSSAI who assists in compliances related to FSS Act, Rules & Regulations with three avatars- Digital Mitra, Trainer Mitra and Hygiene Mitra depending upon their respective roles and responsibilities.
- Eat Right Jhola: During the event, the Minister also launched Eat Right Jhola which is a reusable, washable and bio-degradable bag.
- Eat Right Jacket: Eat Right Smart Jacket has been introduced to giving an identity to Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) staff to ensure transparent inspection. It's embedded with an RFID tag and QR code. It is linked to software to capture entry of inspection staff into premise for monitoring.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS- BILATERAL, GROUPINGS, ORGANISATIONS**South Asia Economic Focus, Making (De) Centralization Work**

World Bank released its report titled 'South Asia Economic Focus, Making (De) Centralization Work,' a twice-a-year regional economic update.

About:

- In line with a global downward trend, growth in South Asia is projected to slow to 5.9% in 2019, down 1.1 percentage points from April 2019 estimates.
- Bangladesh has become the second-fastest growing economy in South Asia after Bhutan. In Bangladesh, the real GDP growth is estimated at 8.1 per cent in 2019, up from 7.9 per cent in 2018. The country's growth is projected at 7.2 per cent in 2020 and 7.3 per cent in 2021.
- In India, growth is projected to fall to 6.0 this fiscal year. Growth is then expected to gradually recover to 6.9 per cent in fiscal year 2021 and to 7.2 per cent in the following year.
- Pakistan's growth rate is projected to deteriorate further to a mere 2.4 per cent this fiscal year, as monetary policy remains tight, and the planned fiscal consolidation will compress domestic demand, it said.
- Decentralisation in South Asia has yet to deliver on its promises and, if not properly managed, can degenerate into fragmentation.

INDIAN ECONOMY

20th Livestock Census

Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has released the 20th Livestock Census report.

About:

- The Livestock Census has been conducted in the country periodically since 1919-20. The Livestock Census covers all domesticated animals and its headcounts.
- The 20th Livestock Census was conducted in participation with all States and Union Territories. The enumeration was done both in rural and urban areas.
- Various species of animals (Cattle, Buffalo, Mithun, Yak, Sheep, Goat, Pig, Horse, Pony, Mule, Donkey Camel, Dog, Rabbit and Elephant)/poultry birds (Fowl, Duck, Emu, Turkeys, Quail and other poultry birds) possessed by the households, household enterprises/non-household enterprises and institutions have been counted at their site.

The following are the key results of the 20th Livestock Census:

- The total Livestock population is 535.78 million in the country showing an increase of 4.6% over Livestock Census-2012
- Total Bovine population (Cattle, Buffalo, Mithun and Yak) is 302.79 Million in 2019 which shows an increase of about 1% over the previous census.
- The total number of cattle in the country in 2019 is 192.49 million showing an increase of 0.8 % over previous Census.
- The Female Cattle (Cows population) is 145.12 million, increased by 18.0% over the previous census (2012).
- The total buffaloes in the country is 109.85 million showing an increase of about 1.0% over previous Census.
- The Indigenous/Non-descript female cattle population has increased by 10% in 2019 as compared to previous census. The population of the total Exotic/Crossbred Cattle has increased by 26.9 % in 2019 as compared to previous census.
- The total milch animals (in-milk and dry) in cows and buffaloes is 125.34 million, an increase of 6.0 % over the previous census.

- The total sheep in the country is 74.26 million in 2019, increased by 14.1% over previous Census.
- The Goat population in the country in 2019 is 148.88 million showing an increase of 10.1% over the previous census.
- The total Pigs in the country is 9.06 Million in the current Census, declined by 12.03% over the previous Census.
- The other livestock including mithun, yak, horses, ponies, mule, donkeys, camel together contribute around 0.23% of the total livestock and their total count is 1.24 million.
- The total poultry in the country is 851.81 million in 2019, registered an increase of 16.8% in the total poultry.
- The backyard poultry has increased by around 46% as compared to previous Census. The total birds in the backyard poultry in the country is 317.07 million.
- The total Commercial Poultry in the country is 534.74 million in 2019, increased by 4.5% over previous Census.

Manufacture and other operations in warehouse (No. 2) regulations, 2019

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs has launched a programme to strengthen Make in India.

About:

- Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs has launched a programme to attract investments into India and strengthen Make in India through manufacture and other operations under bond scheme, of Customs Act, 1962. The Section enables conduct of manufacture and other operations in a customs bonded warehouse.
- The scheme has been modernized with clear and transparent procedures, simplified compliance requirements ICT-based documentation and account keeping, by issue of Manufacture and Other Operations in Warehouse Regulations 2019.

The main features of the scheme are as below –

- A single application cum approval form prescribed for uniformity of practice. The jurisdictional Commissioner of Customs will function as a single point of approval to set up and oversee the operations of such units.
- No geographical limitation on where such units can be set up.
- The unit can import goods (both inputs and capital goods) under a customs duty deferment program. The duties are fully remitted if the processed goods are exported.
- There will be no interest liability and units will benefit through improved liquidity.
- GST compliant goods can be procured from the domestic market for use in manufacture and other operations in a section 65 unit.
- A single digital account has been prescribed for ease of doing business and easy compliance.
- The scheme would also enable efficient capacity utilization, as there is no limit on quantum of clearances that can be exported or cleared to the domestic market.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Sometimes later becomes never. So do it now.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns- Animal farming in India is largely pursued as a complementary activity or supplementary activity where livestock is integrated in the farming activity. Examine the role of livestock rearing in Indian economy.

Ans

The agricultural system of India is predominantly a Mixed Farming model, which involves growing of crops as well as raising livestock. According to the 19th Livestock Census (2012), India has the world's largest livestock population. As of 2012, the contribution of livestock to Agricultural GDP is 25.6% and to the national GDP is 4.11%.

It plays an important role in the national economy and in the socio-economic development of the country. It also plays an important role in the rural economy as supplementing family incomes and generating gainful employment in the rural sector, particularly among the landless labourers, small and marginal farmers and women's.

Role of livestock rearing in Indian Economy

- **Farmers' Economy:** The farmers in India maintain mixed farming system, i.e. a combination of crop and livestock where the output of one enterprise becomes the input of another enterprise thereby realize the resource efficiency. The livestock serve the farmers in different ways:
- **Income:** Livestock contributed 16% to the income of small farm households as against an average of 14% for all rural households. From selling milk of cows and buffaloes; sell and purchase of animals- cattle, goat, sheep, camels, etc. also ensure profit realisation to farmers at the time of need.
- **Employment:** Livestock provides livelihood to two-thirds of rural community. It also provides employment to about 9 % of the population in India.
- **Food:** Livestock products such as milk, meat and eggs are an important source of animal protein to the members of the livestock owners.
- **Social security:** The animals offer social security to the owners in terms of their status in the society. The families especially the landless which own animals are better placed than those who do not.
- **Draft Animal:** The bullocks are the backbone of Indian agriculture. The farmers especially the marginal and small depend upon bullocks for ploughing, carting and transport of both inputs and outputs.

- **Dung:** In rural areas dung is used for several purposes which include fuel (dung cakes), fertilizer (farm yard manure), and plastering material (poor man's cement).
- **Poverty alleviation:** Animal rearing has important role in reducing rural poverty. Incidence of rural poverty is less in states like Punjab, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Gujarat, and Rajasthan where livestock accounts for a sizeable share of agricultural income as well as employment.
- **Nutritional Security:** Livestock provides a number of products- milk and dairy products, eggs, meat, etc. that have high nutritional value than grains. Thus, the overall nutritional security is also safeguarded through animal rearing.
- **Gender Equity:** Animal husbandry promotes gender equity. More than three-fourth of the labour demand in livestock production is met by women. The share of women employment in the livestock sector is around 90% in Punjab and Haryana where dairying is a prominent activity and animals are staffed.
- **Inclusive Growth:** Livestock is more equitable than that of land. Small farmers possess more than half of the country's cattle as against 24% of land.

Conclusion

- However, India's livestock sector has many challenges- low productivity, animal diseases such as Foot and Mouth disease, lack of finance, socio-cultural conflicts regarding cattle trading (cow slaughter).
- The extent to which the pro-poor potential of livestock can be harnessed would depend on how technology, institutions, policies and financial support address the constraints of the sector.
- Government initiatives such as National Livestock Mission, Rashtriya Gokul Mission, etc. if implemented in letter and spirit would bring desirable result for the livestock sector.

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQS

1. With reference to the 'Livestock Census' in India, consider the following statements:
 1. It is conducted every 5 years to cover all domesticated animals and their headcounts.
 2. The 20th census has been conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) **1 only**
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
2. Consider the following statements:
 1. FSSAI is an autonomous statutory body under the administrative control of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
 2. FSSAI will conduct training and certification programme for the Food Safety Mitras.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) **2 only**
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
3. With reference to the KHON Ramlila, consider the following statements:
 1. It is a masked form of Ramlila art of Sri Lanka.
 2. It is included in the list of UNESCO's Intangible cultural heritage.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) **2 only**
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
4. With reference to the 'South Asia Economic Focus, Making (De) Centralization Work', consider the following statements:
 1. It is released by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
 2. Bhutan has become the second-fastest growing economy in South Asia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) **Neither 1 nor 2**
5. Manufacture and Other Operations in Warehouse Regulations 2019 was launched by which of the following agencies?

(a) **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs**
(b) Central Board of Direct Taxes.
(c) Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries
(d) Food Corporation of India