

CULTURE

World Heritage Nomination 2022-2023

Recently, the Union Ministry of Culture has nominated Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas temples for consideration as a World Heritage site for the year 2022-2023. The sacred ensembles of the Hoysalas, built in the 12th-13th centuries and represented by the three components of Belur, Halebid and Somnathapura in Karnataka. All these three Hoysala temples are protected monuments of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

- The 'Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala' have been on UNESCO's Tentative list since 15th April, 2014 and stand testimony to the rich historical and cultural heritage of India.
- Earlier, the UNESCO's World Heritage Centre (WHC) had agreed to publish Hindi descriptions of India's UNESCO World Heritage Sites on the WHC website.

What are the Features of Belur, Halebid, and Somnathapura temples ?

Chennakeshava Temple, Belur:

- Construction of the temple commenced in 1117 AD and took 103 years to complete.
- The temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu known as Chennakesava, which means beautiful (chenna) Vishnu (Keshava).
- The richly sculptured exterior of the temple narrates scenes from the life of Vishnu and his reincarnations and the epics, Ramayana, and Mahabharata.
- However, some of the representations of Shiva are also included.

Hoysaleswara Temple, Halebidu:

- The Hoysaleswara temple at Halebidu is the most exemplary architectural ensemble of the Hoysalas extant today.
- Built in 1121 CE during the reign of the Hoysala King, Vishnuvardhana Hoysaleswara.
- The temple, dedicated to Shiva, was sponsored and built by wealthy citizens and merchants of Dorasamudra.
- The temple is most well-known for the more than 240 wall sculptures that run all along the outer wall.
- Halebid has a walled complex containing three Jaina basadi (temples) of the Hoysala period as well as a stepped well.

Keshava Temple, Somanathapura:

- The Keshava temple at Somanathapura is another magnificent Hoysala monument, perhaps the last.
- This is a breathtakingly beautiful Trikuta Temple dedicated to Lord Krishna in three forms – Janardhana, Keshava and Venugopala.
- Unfortunately, the main Keshava idol is missing, and the Janardhana and Venugopala idols are damaged.

What are the Characteristics of Hoysala Architecture?

- Hoysala architecture is the building style developed under the rule of the Hoysala Empire between the 11th and 14th centuries, mostly concentrated in southern Karnataka.
- Hoysala temples are sometimes called hybrid or vesara as their unique style seems neither completely Dravida nor Nagara, but somewhere in between.
 1. The Hoysala temples have a basic Dravidian morphology but show strong influences of the Bhumija mode widely used in Central India, the Nagara traditions of northern and western India, and the Karnataka Dravida modes favoured by the Kalyani Chalukyas.
 2. Therefore, the Hoysala architects made considered and informed eclectic selections of features from other temple typologies which they further modified and then complemented with their own particular innovations.
 3. The result was the birth of a completely novel 'Hoysala Temple' form.
- The Hoysala temples, instead of consisting of a simple inner chamber with its pillared hall, contain multiple shrines grouped around a central pillared hall and laid out in the shape of an intricately-designed star (stellate-plan).
- Since they are made out of soapstone which is a relatively soft stone, the artists were able to carve their sculptures intricately. This can be seen particularly in the jewellery of the gods that adorn their temple walls.

What is a World Heritage Site?

About:

- Any of various areas or objects inscribed on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage List.

- The sites are designated as having “outstanding universal value” under the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage 1972. The World Heritage Centre is the Secretariat to the 1972 Convention.
- It provides a framework for international cooperation in preserving and protecting cultural treasures and natural areas throughout the world.
- **There are three types of sites:** Cultural, Natural, and Mixed.
 1. Cultural heritage sites include hundreds of historic buildings and town sites, important archaeological sites, and works of monumental sculpture or painting. Example: Dholavira: a Harappan City.
 2. Natural heritage sites are restricted to those natural areas that have excellent ecological and evolutionary processes, unique natural phenomena, habitats of rare or endangered species etc. Example: Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area.
 3. Mixed heritage sites contain elements of both natural and cultural significance. Example: Khangchendzonga National Park.
- **No. of World Heritage Sites in India:** India has 40 world heritage sites, including 32 cultural properties, 7 natural properties and 1 mixed site. Dholavira: a Harappan City is the recent addition.
- **Nomination Process:** As per Operational Guidelines, 2019 of UNESCO, it is mandatory to put any monument/site on the Tentative List (TL) for one year before it is considered for the final nomination dossier.
 1. Once the nomination is done, it is sent to the World Heritage Centre (WHC), which will do the technical scrutiny of the same.
 2. Once the submission is made, UNESCO will communicate back by early March. After that the site evaluation will happen in September /October 2022 and the dossier will be taken up for consideration in July /August 2023.

ECONOMY

PM GatiShakti

Recently, the Minister of Finance presented the Union Budget 2022-23. This section deals with proposals related to ‘PM GatiShakti’.

What is PM GatiShakti?

About:

- PM GatiShakti National Master Plan for Multi-Modal Connectivity, launched in October 2021, is an initiative aimed at coordinated planning and execution of infrastructure projects. The objective is to bring down logistics costs.
- GatiShakti is a digital platform bringing development projects of 16 ministries, including railways and roadways, together for integrated planning and implementation.
- When launched, the GatiShakti scheme subsumed the Rs 110 lakh crore National Infrastructure Pipeline announced in 2019.

Focus Area for Budget 2022-23:

- Its scope will encompass the seven engines (Roads, Railways, Airports, Ports, Mass Transport, Waterways and Logistics Infrastructure).
- It will also include the infrastructure developed by the state governments as per the GatiShakti Master Plan.
- The touchstone of the Master Plan will be world-class modern infrastructure and logistics synergy among different modes of movement – both of people and goods – and location of projects.

What are the Major Proposals for PM GatiShakti?

Road Transport:

- PM GatiShakti Master Plan for Expressways will be formulated in 2022-23 to facilitate faster movement of people and goods.
- National Highways network to be expanded by 25,000 km in 2022-23. Rs. 20,000 crore to be mobilized for the expansion.

Seamless Multimodal Movement of Goods and People:

- The data exchange among all mode operators will be brought on Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP), designed for Application Programming Interface (API). This will provide real time information to all stakeholders, lead to efficient movement of goods through different modes, and improve international competitiveness.
- Open-source mobility stack, for organizing seamless travel of passengers will also be facilitated.

Multimodal Logistics Parks:

- Contracts for implementation of Multimodal Logistics Parks at four locations through PPP (Public-Private Partnerships) mode will be awarded in 2022-23.

Railways:

- Railways will develop new products and efficient logistics services for small farmers and Small and Medium Enterprises, besides taking the lead in integration of Postal and Railways networks to provide seamless solutions for movement of parcels.
- 'One Station-One Product' concept to help local businesses & supply chains.
- As a part of Atmanirbhar Bharat, 2,000 km of network will be brought under Kavach, the indigenous world-class technology for safety and capacity augmentation in 2022-23.
- 400 new-generation Vande Bharat Trains to be manufactured during the next three years.
- 100 PM GatiShakti Cargo Terminals for multimodal logistics facilities will be developed during the next three years.

Mass Urban Transport including Connectivity to Railways

- Innovative ways of financing and faster implementation will be encouraged for building metro systems of appropriate type at scale.
- Multimodal connectivity between mass urban transport and railway stations will be facilitated on priority.

Parvatmala: National Ropeways Development Programme:

- As a preferred ecologically sustainable alternative to conventional roads in difficult hilly areas, National Ropeways Development Programme will be taken up on PPP mode. The aim is to improve connectivity and convenience for commuters, besides promoting tourism.
- This may also cover congested urban areas, where conventional mass transit systems are not feasible.

Capacity Building for Infrastructure Projects:

- With technical support from the Capacity Building Commission, central ministries, state governments, and their infra-agencies will have their skills upgraded.
- This will ramp up capacity in planning, design, financing (including innovative ways), and implementation management of the PM GatiShakti infrastructure projects.

2. Inclusive Development

Recently, the Finance Minister presented the Union Budget 2022-23 in Parliament. In this section we will discuss the 'Inclusive Development' Pillar of the Budget 2022-23.

What is New for Agriculture & Food Processing?

Agriculture:

- Rs. 2.37 lakh crore direct payment to 1.63 crore farmers for procurement of wheat and paddy.
- Chemical-free Natural Farming will be promoted throughout the country, with a focus on farmers' lands in 5-km wide corridors along river Ganga, at the first stage.
- 2023 has been announced as the International Year of Millets. Support will be provided.
- A comprehensive scheme to increase domestic production of oilseeds will be implemented.
- For delivery of digital and hi-tech services to farmers, a scheme in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode will be launched.
- NABARD to facilitate funds with blended capital to finance startups for agriculture & rural enterprise.
- 'Kisan Drones' for crop assessment, digitization of land records, spraying of insecticides and nutrients.

Ken Betwa project:

- 1400 crore outlay for implementation of the Ken – Betwa link project. 9.08 lakh hectares of farmers' lands to receive irrigation benefits by Ken-Betwa link project.
- Draft DPRs (Detailed Project Reports) of five river links, namely Damanganga-Pinjal, Par-Tapi-Narmada, Godavari-Krishna, Krishna-Pennar and Pennar-Cauvery have been finalised.

Food Processing:

- For farmers to adopt suitable varieties of fruits and vegetables, and to use appropriate production and harvesting techniques, government will provide a comprehensive package with participation of state governments.

What is there for Industry & Skill Development?

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs):

- Udyam, e-shram, National Career Service and Atma Nirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping (ASEEM) portals to be interlinked.

- 130 lakh MSMEs provided with additional credit under Emergency Credit Linked Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) to be extended up to March 2023. Guarantee cover under ECLGS to be expanded by Rs. 50,000 Crore to total cover of Rs. 5 Lakh Crore.
- Rs 2 lakh Crore additional credit for Micro and Small Enterprises to be facilitated under the Credit Guarantee Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE).
- Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) programme with outlay of Rs 6000 Crore to be rolled out. This will help the MSME sector become more resilient, competitive and efficient.

Skill Development:

- Digital Ecosystem for Skilling and Livelihood (DESH-Stack e-portal) will be launched to empower citizens to skill, re skill or upskill through on-line training.
- Startups will be promoted to facilitate 'Drone Shakti' and for Drone-As-A-Service (DrAAS).

What About the Education & Health Sector?

Education:

- 'One class-One TV channel' programme of PM eVIDYA to be expanded to 200 TV channels.
- Virtual labs and skilling e-labs to be set up to promote critical thinking skills and simulated learning environment.
- High-quality e-content will be developed for delivery through Digital Teachers.
- Digital University for world-class quality universal education with personalised learning experience to be established.

Health:

- An open platform for the National Digital Health Ecosystem to be rolled out. National Tele Mental Health Programme for quality mental health counselling and care services to be launched.
- A network of 23 tele-mental health centres of excellence will be set up, with NIMHANS being the nodal centre and International Institute of Information Technology-Bangalore (IIITB) providing technology support.
- Integrated benefits to women and children through Mission Shakti, Mission Vatsalya, Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0. Two lakh anganwadis to be upgraded to Saksham Anganwadis.

What is there for Upgrading Basic Amenities?

Har Ghar, Nal Se Jal:

- Rs. 60,000 crore allocated to cover 3.8 crore households in 2022-23 under Har Ghar, Nal se Jal.

Housing for All:

- Rs. 48,000 crore allocated for completion of 80 lakh houses in 2022-23 under PM Awas Yojana.

Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East Region (PMDevINE):

- New scheme PM-DevINE launched to fund infrastructure and social development projects in the North-East.
- An initial allocation of Rs. 1,500 crore was made to enable livelihood activities for youth and women under the scheme.

Vibrant Villages Programme:

- Border villages with sparse population, limited connectivity and infrastructure often get left out from the development gains. Such villages on the northern border will be covered under the new Vibrant Villages Programme.
- The activities will include construction of village infrastructure, housing, tourist centres, road connectivity, provisioning of decentralised renewable energy, direct to home access for Doordarshan and educational channels, and support for livelihood generation.

How is the Budget Promoting Digital Payments?

- Anytime – Anywhere Post Office Savings: In 2022, 100% of 1.5 lakh post offices will come on the core banking system enabling financial inclusion and access to accounts through net banking, mobile banking, ATMs, and also provides online transfer of funds between post office accounts and bank accounts.
- Digital Banking: It has been proposed to set up 75 Digital Banking Units (DBUs) in 75 districts of the country by Scheduled Commercial Banks.
- Digital Payments: The financial support for the digital payment ecosystem announced in the previous Budget will continue in 2022-23.

PRELIMS FACT

Indian Coast Guard

On 1st February 2022, Indian Coast Guard (ICG) celebrated its 46th Raising Day. ICG was established in August 1978 by the Coast Guard Act, 1978 as an independent Armed force of India.

- As the fourth largest Coast Guard in the world, it has played a significant role in securing the Indian coasts and enforcing regulations in the maritime zones of India.

What are the Functions of ICG?

Background:

- It is an Armed Force, Search and Rescue and Maritime Law Enforcement agency under the Ministry of Defence.
- It is headquartered in New Delhi.
- The concept of forming ICG came into being after the 1971 war.
- The blueprint for a multidimensional Coast Guard was conceived by the visionary Rustamji Committee.
- For effective command and control, the Maritime Zones of India are divided into five Coast Guard Regions, namely, North-West, West, East, North-East and Andaman & Nicobar, with the respective Regional Headquarters located at Gandhinagar, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Port Blair. .

Functions:

- Preventing Smuggling:** One of the primary duties of the ICG is prevention of smuggling through maritime routes.
 - It has jurisdiction over the territorial waters of India including contiguous zone and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
 - It is responsible for marine environment protection in maritime zones of India and is coordinating authority for response to oil spills in Indian waters.
- Aid to Civil Authority:** It has also rescued approximately 13,000 personnel till date during various 'Aid to Civil Authority' operations viz. assistance provided to civil authorities during floods, cyclones and other natural calamities; most recently during the recent floods in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Goa. It is also working in close coordination with Central and State agencies to put in place a robust coastal security mechanism.
- Maritime Security:** It is also collaborating with littoral countries to combat transnational maritime crimes and enhance maritime safety in its area of responsibility and in the Indian Ocean Region. Under SAGAR - Security and Growth for all in the Region & 'Neighbourhood First' policy, the ICG has nurtured professional relationships across oceans and established ties with countries in the Indian Ocean Region for Ocean Peacekeeping.
- Role in Disaster Management:** The ICG has successfully averted major ecological disasters and emerged as the 'First Responder' in the region. For example, by undertaking a major fire-fighting and pollution response operation off the Sri Lanka coast, the most recent being 'Sagar Aaraksha-II' onboard Chemical carrier MV X-Press Pearl.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns. Discuss the impact of Social media on young women in India? (150 Words)

Introduction

Today's era is the era of social media whose presence and active involvement has swiftly and widely spread the ideologies for women empowerment. Social media has become the agent of social change which helped and supported women's empowerment in various aspects such as mobilizing attention of global community towards women's rights and challenges discrimination and stereotypes across the globe. Social media has given platform to discuss issues and challenges of women through blogs, chats, online campaign, online discussion forums, and online communities which is mostly not disseminated or propagated by mainstream media.

Body

Positive impacts of social media in the lives of women

- Social media is easily accessible and it's also the meeting point of today's internet savvy audience.
- Women's rights**
 - A concrete relationship definitely exists between social media and women's rights
 - Social media has opened doors and made everything available for everybody everywhere, thus eliminating gates and gatekeeping of any sort.
 - Intrinsically, women's rights violations and women's rights movements have been quickly capitalized on social media's unparalleled awareness-raising potential.
 - Social media has become a tool for women to campaign against issues like gender stereotyping, gender suppression etc.
- Curbing violence against women**
 - Internet and social media can enable activists and others to challenge myths and stereotypes as well as create new forums for the perpetuation of violence against women.

2. Hashtag movements to end violence and discrimination against
 3. Social media is a strong platform to discuss and share views, experiences to channelize hashtag movements to stop sexual violence and discrimination against
 4. It is a new frontier to organise campaign or rally by women's rights activists to come forward and fight for gender
 5. Through social media, women across the globe are connected and supporting each other such as lawmakers, politicians, business owners for gender equality.
 6. Twitter's hashtag function in particular allows women to easily follow issues that matter to them and forge coalitions based upon shared concerns, from immediate personal needs to calls for large-scale social change. E.g: #MeToo movement, #SelfieWithDaughter etc.
- **Women Entrepreneurs**
 1. Social media is becoming one of the most powerful tools where women can start new companies, venture or start-up as they can contact and converse with customers and consumers directly.
 2. Female entrepreneurs can do marketing through social media which is very cost effective and can be easily channelized.
 3. Social media with the help of new technology pave the ground for millions of people to find online jobs for themselves or create businesses for others globally.
 4. For instance, Shradha Sharma is the Founder and Chief Editor at Yourstory.com, which is an online media platform for start-ups and It is India's leading online media technology which has narrated more than 20,000 stories in 12 Indian languages of entrepreneurs which reaches to more than 10 million readers very month.
 - **Making the voices heard**
 1. In digital platforms, the cost of participating for a cause or in a protest is cheaper. This encourages more people to participate and force governments to pay heed.
 2. While women still remain underrepresented, social media provides a level playing field by allowing individual voices from a wider range of backgrounds to be heard, with or without the traditional power.
 3. It fills up the lacunae presented by the traditional media, where women receive only 38% of by-lines.
 - **Global Communities**
 1. Female-based communities are evolving in a way that cuts through particular companies and physical limitations and connects female players throughout industries and geographies.
 2. Because the internet bypasses so many barriers that separate us, women who were formerly isolated can now access high-profile players in their field and, conversely, build an accessible, highly visible platform for self-promotion.
 3. Women have historically had a more difficult time capitalizing concepts and proposals, but the interplay of social media and crowdfunding is turning that paradigm on its head.
 4. For instance, In July of 2020, women took to Instagram to post black-and-white pictures of themselves with the caption "#challengeaccepted". Women who participated in the challenge would nominate another woman and tag them in the post of their selfie, challenging them to post a black-and-white picture of themselves and nominate someone else.
 - **Breaking barriers**
 1. Social media breaks cultural barriers, legal restrictions, economic barriers and more, enabling the better representation of women from across the globe, even from countries following misogynistic systems.
 2. It has played a critical role during the pandemic in enabling the continuation of activism even amid the lockdown and social distancing.

Negative impacts of social media on women

- Women are the most vulnerable to cyber abuse like online harassment.
- Increased attention of women in social media often makes them the target of repressive activities. This results in gendered barriers for women online as in public places.
- Online offences are often normalised due to the difficulty in tracing offenders and the complexity and inaccessibility of the justice delivery mechanisms
- This creates mistrust of the public towards the justice system, leading to the further marginalisation of women.
- In this backdrop, social media has become a tool for the rapists to threaten their victims to not report the crime.

- Such platforms are used by harassers to silence women who strive to break the misogynistic social norms.
- A study revealed that a third of the surveyed women stopped opinionating online due to the fear of abusers.
- Online trolling is now going beyond the digital realm, leading to cases like suicides.
- An international survey found that 20% of women being harassed offline believe that those attacks were connected to online abuse they receive.
- Some are even vulnerable to stalkers because of their online presence. This is especially prevalent in regions where law enforcement is weak, patriarchy is strong and online trolling is commonplace.
- Fake profiles are often created for sully victims' reputation.
- In recent years, the internet has become a tool to discriminate against women, with a high prevalence of hate campaigns across the world. E.g. Revenge porn.
- With the worldwide restrictions due to the pandemic pushing more people online, cases of online gender abuse have escalated.

Measures needed:

- **Government level:**
 1. National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal shall be designated as the national portal under-reporting requirements in the POCSO Act in case of electronic material
 2. Union Government shall be empowered through its designated authority to block and/or prohibit all websites/intermediaries that carry child sexual abuse material
 3. Law enforcement agencies should be permitted to brake end to end encryption to trace distributors of child pornography.
 4. A cybercrime portal was launched in 2018 to enable citizens to report obscene contents.
 5. Cyber police stations and cybercrime cells were set up in each state for reporting and investigating cybercrime cases.
- **Use of Artificial intelligence:**
 1. Tools can be developed which can analyse the behaviour of every internet user. So it can help prevent the user from falling into cyber bullying.
 2. Developing some mobile applications that can alert parents if the child is under threat of cyber bullying.
 3. Prevent malware attacks by tying up with antivirus agencies.
- **Multipronged approach to handle cases:** Need to handle the cases of cyber bullying through multipronged approach such as counselling through Psychiatrist, approaching police, etc.

Way forward:

- Social media platforms have moral obligations to safeguard their users.
- They must strive towards ensuring transparent and efficient reporting systems so that people can use them to curb cyberbullying.
- Making social media platforms accountable
- Countermeasures against online trolling must be encompassed within the women empowerment policies
- Online women-specific crime reporting unit must be set up for quicker disposal for complaints regarding targeted harassment of women users of social media.
- Increasing political representation of women for removing societal inequality, discrimination and misogyny
- The cybercrimes in social media platforms are mainly addressed under the IPC provisions that deal with conventional offences like sexual harassment, privacy violation etc.
- They are largely inefficient in dealing with techno-motivated crimes, which have more impact on victims than those traditional offences due to the lack of justice.
- Therefore, the cybercrimes under the IT Act must be repealed and IPC must be modified to cover all cybercrimes, including those currently covered under the IT Act.

Conclusion:

As part of a knowledge society in the new media era, social media considerably contribute to women empowerment by offering information and education that presents women users with strategies offering better informed decision making from anywhere and everywhere which may not be possible otherwise.

DAILY QUIZ

Q1. He was a North Indian mystic poet of the bhakti movement. His Jayanti is celebrated on Magh Purnima and one of his famous disciples was the saint, Mirabai. He was

- (a) Kabir Das

- (b) **Guru Ravidas**
- (c) Ramananda
- (d) Chaitanya Mahaprabhu

Q2. Electricity Market Report is published by which of the following?

- a. World Economic Forum
- b. International Telecommunication Union
- c. International Renewable Energy Agency
- d. **International Energy Agency**

Q3. Consider the following statements:

1. The United Nations Charter established six main organs of the United Nations, including the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).
2. The Security Council has the power to make decisions that member states are then obligated to implement under the Charter.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. **Both 1 and 2**
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

Q4. On India's 75th Independence Day, Prime Minister announced that the Centre will launch 'PM Gati Shakti Master Plan', what is Gati Shakti Master Plan?

- a. A centrally-sponsored and funded Road and Highways project of the Government of India.
- b. An Indian labour law and social security measure that aims to guarantee the 'right to work'.
- c. An Indian initiative to undertake the deep ocean exploration focused on India's exclusive economic zones and continental shelf.
- d. **A Rs. 100 lakh-crore project for developing 'holistic infrastructure' in India.**

Q5. The one and a half degree channel lies closest to which of the following countries?

- a. Indonesia
- b. India
- c. **Maldives**
- d. Sri Lanka

