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Important News: India

Hoysala Temples proposed to be listed under UNESCO World Heritage Sites



- The Union Culture Ministry announced that the **Hoysala Temples of Belur, Halebid and Somnathapura** in Karnataka have been finalised as India's nomination for consideration as **UNESCO World Heritage site for the year 2022-2023**.
- The 'Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala' are on **UNESCO's Tentative list** since 15th April, 2014 and represent one of the highest points of human creative genius and stand testimony to the rich historical and cultural heritage of our country.
- All these three Hoysala temples are protected monuments of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and therefore conservation and maintenance will be done by ASI.
- The sacred ensembles of the Hoysalas, built in the 12th-13th centuries and represented here by the three components of Belur, Halebid and Somnathapura, attest to the creativity and skill of the Hoysala artists and architects who built these masterpieces of a kind never seen before or since.
- The Hoysala temples have a basic Darvidian morphology but show strong influences of the Bhumiya mode widely used in Central India, the Nagara traditions of northern and western India, and the Karnataka Dravida modes favoured by the Kalyani Chalukyas.

India's UNESCO World Heritage Sites:

- The first sites to be inscribed were Ajanta Caves, Ellora Caves, Agra Fort, and Taj Mahal, of which all were inscribed in the 1983 session of the World Heritage Committee.
- The latest site to be inscribed is Dholavira, Gujarat in 2021.
- As of July 2021, 19 of the 36 States and union territories of India are home to the World Heritage Sites, with Maharashtra having the highest number of sites (5).
- At present, there are 40 World Heritage Sites located in India. Out of these, 32 are cultural, 7 are natural, and 1 is mixed (meeting both cultural and natural criteria), as determined by the organization's selection criteria.
- India has the sixth largest number of sites in the world.

Source: Indian Express

Important News: Awards

State Government announces Literary Award



- The Literary Awards to be given on behalf of the Marathi Language Department of the State Government to the writers who have done remarkable work in the field of literature was announced today.
- This year, the Vinda Karandikar Lifetime Achievement Award has been announced for veteran writer Bharat Sasane.
- The award consists of Rs. 5 lakhs in cash, badges and honors. The award was announced by Marathi Language Minister Subhash Desai.
- Mr. P. Bhagwat Award (2021) was announced to Lokvangmay Griha, Mumbai. The award consists of Rs 3 lakh in cash and a badge and honorarium.
- Dr. The Ashok Kelkar Marathi Language Study Award has been announced for Ramesh Varkhede. The award consists of a cash prize of Rs.
- Poet Mangesh Padgaonkar, Marathi Language Enhancer Award (2021, for individuals) Chandrakant Patil was declared.
- Dr. Ashok Kelkar, Marathi Language Study Award 2021 (for the organization) was announced to Marathi Studies Council Pune. The Poet Mangesh Padgaonkar Marathi Language Promotion Award 2021 (for the organization) was announced at the Center for Marathi Studies, Mumbai.

Source: Deshdoot

Important News: State

Chhattisgarh becomes 35th State/UT to implement One Nation One Ration Card plan



- **Chhattisgarh** has become the 35th State/UT to implement “**One Nation One Ration Card**” (ONORC) plan.
- Recently Department of Food & Public Distribution had reviewed the progress of States/UTs towards the implementation of “One Nation One Ration Card” (ONORC) plan and after successful testing of portability transactions, the Department has approved the integration of Chhattisgarh with the existing cluster of portability States/UTs under ONORC.
- Accordingly, the ONORC plan for nation-wide portability of the **National Food Security Act (NFSA)** ration cards has been enabled in the Chhattisgarh State from **2nd February 2022**.
- With the integration of Chhattisgarh, the ONORC plan is now operational in **35 States/UTs** covering almost **96.8%** NFSA population (about **77 Crore** NFSA beneficiaries) in the country.
- Since inception of the ONORC plan in August 2019, so far more than 56 Crore portability transactions have been recorded in the States/UTs under ONORC, delivering nearly total 100 LMT foodgrains through both inter-State and intra-State portability transactions equivalent to about Rs. 31,000 Crore in food subsidy.

Source: PIB

Important News: Defence

First sea sortie of fifth scorpene submarine 'Vagir'



- The fifth submarine of Project 75, Yard 11879, Indian Navy's Kalvari class commenced her sea trials on 01 Feb 22.
- The submarine was launched in Nov 2020 from the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL).
- The submarine would be named **Vagir**, after commissioning.
- The submarine will undergo intense trials of all its systems at sea, including propulsion systems, weapons and sensors.
- The submarine is scheduled for delivery to the Indian Navy in the year 2022 after completion of these trials.
- The six Kalvari-class submarines, designed by French company DCNS, are being built in India as part of the Indian Navy's Project-75.
- Two submarines of the ongoing Project-75 Scorpene programme at MDL - Kalvari and Khanderi - have been commissioned into the Indian Navy.
- The third submarine, Karanj, is in the last phase of sea trials.
- The fourth Scorpene, Vela, has started sea trials, while the sixth and last submarine, Vagsheer, is being readied.

Source: India Today

Important News: Appointment

Lt Gen Manoj Pande takes over as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff



- **Lt Gen Manoj Pande** took over as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff from Lt Gen CP Mohanty who superannuated on 31 January 2022.
- An alumnus of National Defence Academy, Lt Gen Manoj Pande was commissioned in December 1982 to the Corps of Engineers (The Bombay Sappers).
- The General Officer commanded an Engineer Regiment during Operation Parakram in the sensitive Pallanwala Sector along the Line of Control of Jammu and Kashmir.
- For his illustrious service he has been conferred with the award of Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Vishisht Seva Medal, the Chief of Army Staff Commendation and GOC-in-C Commendation twice.

Source: HT

Important News: Obituaries

Actor Ramesh Deo passes away



- Ramesh Dev, a veteran actor in Hindi and Marathi drama and film, died of a heart attack in Mumbai. He is undergoing treatment at Dhirubai Ambani Hospital.
- In 2013, he was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Pune International Film Festival.
- He had celebrated his 93rd birthday on January 30, just four days ago. Marathi and Hindi films are mourning his demise.
- He started his career in 1951 with the film Patlachi Por

- He started his career as an actor in 1956 with the movie 'Andhala Magato Ek Dola' directed by Raja Paranjape.
- He made his Bollywood debut in the 1962 film Aarti by Rajshri Productions.
- To date, Ramesh Dev has acted in more than 180 Marathi and Hindi films.

Source: Loksatta

Important News: Sports

Unnati Hooda, Kiran George win Odisha Open 2022 titles



- Indian teenager **Unnati Hooda** beat compatriot Smit Toshniwal to claim the women's singles title at the Odisha Open 2022 badminton tournament.
- The 14-year old Unnati is the youngest Indian to win the tournament.
- In men's singles, India's 21-year-old **Kiran George** beat Priyanshu Rajawat to emerge as the winner.
- The **2022 Odisha Open** was a BWF Super 100 tournament that took place at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium, Cuttack, Odisha, India.

Source: The Hindu

2022 Asian Games



19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022

- The **2022 Asian Games (19th edition)** will take place from September 10 to September 25, 2022, in Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China and there will be five co-host cities.
- The multi-sporting event will feature 40 sports with a total of 61 disciplines, including Olympic sports like swimming, archery, athletics, badminton, equestrian, fencing, football, hockey, judo, kabaddi, and much more.
- E-sports and breakdancing will debut in the 2022 Asian Games as full medal sports after being approved by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) this year, while Cricket will be back at Asian Games in T20 format after 11 years.

Source: TOI