

## GS PAPER 1

### ***Indian Culture And Heritage – Aug'18***

#### **International Buddhist Conclave 2018**

##### **In News**

- The **International Buddhist Conclave (IBC) 2018** held in India saw participation from **29 countries** having significant Buddhist population.
- The **biennial Conclave** was organized by the **Ministry of Tourism** in collaboration with the State Governments of Maharashtra, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.
- **Japan** was the partner country.
- The 4 days Conclave was held at New Delhi and Ajanta (Maharashtra), followed by site visits to Rajgir, Nalanda and Bodhgaya (Bihar) and Sarnath (UP).
- The aim of the Conclave was to **boost tourism** to the Buddhist sites in the country and **cultivate friendly ties** with countries and communities interested in Buddhism.
- The theme of the conclave was “**Buddha Path – The Living Heritage**”.
- During the conclave, The President of India also launched the Ministry of Tourism **website on important Buddhist sites - indiathelandofbuddha.in**.

#### **INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage)**

##### **In News**

- **INTACH** has called for transforming heritage buildings in Rajasthan into “economic assets” for the society. Economic benefits could be derived from these properties as an alternative to paying for their upkeep on a regular basis.
- It has launched an exercise for mapping of natural heritage in Thar desert with the participation of local communities for modern planning.
- **INTACH** is a **non-profit charitable organization** working for conserving the cultural heritage of India.
- In 1984, INTACH was established as a Registered Society under the **Societies' Registration Act, 1860**. It is **Headquartered in New Delhi**.
- In 2007, UNESCO granted INTACH a ‘**special consultative status**’.

#### **11<sup>th</sup> World Hindi Conference**

##### **In News**

- The 11<sup>th</sup> World Hindi Conference was held in **Port Louis** (capital of Mauritius) *with the theme “Hindi World and Indian Culture (Hindi Vishwa Aur Bharatiya Sanskriti)”*.
- **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** is the nodal Ministry of the conference.
- The **1<sup>st</sup> World Hindi Conference** was held in 1975 in **Nagpur**, with a pledge to develop, enhance and conserve Hindi language in its original form. To commemorate this event, every year 10<sup>th</sup> January is being observed as **World Hindi Day**.

- MEA has also established a **World Hindi Secretariat in Mauritius** for working towards recognition of Hindi at the United Nations as an Official Language.

### **Project Navlekha**

#### **In News**

- At the fourth 'Google for India' event, Google unveiled **Project Navlekha** to bring India's 135,000 Indic language publications online in a hassle-free manner.
- Navlekha, which means '**a new way to write**' in Sanskrit, will allow local publishers who do not have websites (around 90%) to make their offline content fit for online publishing in less than a minute.
- It comprises a tool that uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) to render any PDF containing Indian language content into editable text, making it easy for print publishers to create mobile-friendly web content.
- The platform will first be rolled out to Hindi publications and will later be extended to other Indic languages.
- Google will offer free hosting, a branded domain for the first three years, and AdSense (its ad platform) support so that publishers can start monetizing their content immediately.

### **Seva Bhoj Yojana**

#### **In News**

- The Ministry of Culture has launched a new scheme namely **Seva Bhoj Yojana** with a total outlay of Rs. 325 Crores for financial years 2018-19 and 2019-20.
- The scheme envisages to reimburse the Central Government share of CGST and IGST on Food/Prasad/Langar offered by Religious/Charitable Institutions **to reduce the financial burden of such charitable or religious institutions** who provide food free of cost without any discrimination to public/ devotees.
- The GST is not levied on food served, but is charged on the purchase of raw material used to prepare the food.
- The scheme applies to only those charitable or religious institutions — temple, gurdwara, mosque, church, dharmik ashram, dargah, and monasteries — that have been **in existence for at least 3 years** before applying for grant, and who **serve free food to at least 5,000 people a month**.