

## ***Indian Culture And Heritage***

### **Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival**

#### **In News**

- **Arunachal Pradesh** has declared the **Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival (PPHF)–the state’s only conservation festival, as a “state festival”**.
- The first ever PPHF was held in 2015, it was started with a number of objectives in mind—to recognise the role played by the resident Nyishi tribe in conserving hornbills in the Pakke Tiger Reserve (PTR), to devise alternative sources of income for a region that relies on hunting and logging, and to tell the rest of the country about the wonders of the PTR and its surrounding areas.
- As part of the festival, visitors are treated to cultural programmes, food stalls, plays, sightseeing, river and village walks, bird-watching, screenings of short films as well as local tribal sports and dances. It has also helped in creating awareness on nature conservation.

### **Makarvilakku Festival**

#### **In News**

- Amid the ongoing agitation over the entry of women of menstruating age into the Sabarimala temple following the recent order of the Supreme Court has come the **Makarvilakku festival, the most important event in the two-month-long annual festival season**.
- Makara jyothi is a star that appears in the sky on Makara Samkramam, when the Sun moves from Dhanu rasi (Sagittarius) to Makaram rasi (Capricorn) on the first day of the Malayalam month of Makaram, which is on January 14 (Makara Sankranti) this year.
- In the evening, the sacred ornaments of Lord Ayyappa, who is believed to have lived at Pandalam palace (some 80 km away), would be brought to Sabarimala shrine from the palace in a procession. The erstwhile royal family of Pandalam is the custodian of the ornaments.
- **Makara vilakku is a light lit at Ponnambalamedu**, a plateau across the Sabarimala shrine. **It is believed that Lord Ayyappa asserts himself as the Makarajyothi to bless his devotees**. The light, believed to have celestial origins, is shown three times by the chief priest of Pamba temple. Pamba is the base station of Sabarimala.
- The ritual is performed after the Sirius star appears in the sky. It was performed by the Malaya araya tribals in the past. When the Travancore Devaswom Board took over the administration of the temple in the early 1950s, the tribal community lost that right.
- The TDB expects two to three lakh pilgrims at the hill shrine to witness the most auspicious event in the festival calendar.

### **World Hindi Day**

#### **In News**

- World Hindi Day was recently celebrated on 10<sup>th</sup> January, marking the anniversary of first World Hindi Conference which was held in 1975 by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.
- World Hindi Day was first observed on January 10, 2006. Since then, it is celebrated on January 10 every year.

**World Hindi Day vis a vis National Hindi Diwas**

- National Hindi Diwas is celebrated every year on September 14. On that day in 1949, the constituent assembly adopted Hindi, written in Devanagari script, as the official language of the Union, while the focus of the World Hindi Day is to promote the language at the global stage.
- The first World Hindi Conference was held in Nagpur with Mauritius prime minister Seewoosagur Ramgoolam as the chief guest. Also, persons of Indian origin and non-residential Indians in many countries organise events to commemorate the day to spread the greatness of the language.

**Lesser Known Facts About The Hindi Language**

- The word Hindi originated from the Persian word Hind, which means the land of the Indus river.
- Hindi is the first language of around 430 million people around the world.
- Apart from India, the language is also spoken in Nepal, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, Fiji and Mauritius. **Hindi and Nepalese share the same script - Devanagari.**
- In linguistic terms, **Hindi belongs to the Indo-Iranian sub-family of the Indo-European family of language.**
- Hindi has been influenced and enriched by Turkish, Arabic, Persian, English and Dravidian (ancient South India) languages.
- The **earliest form of Hindi was called 'Apabhramsa'**, which was an offspring of Sanskrit. In 400 AD, poet Kalidas wrote Vikramorvashiyam in Apabhramsa.
- Hindi is one of the seven Indian languages that can be used to make web URLs.

**Panj Tirath****In News**

- The provincial Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government in northwest **Pakistan has declared the ancient Hindu religious site of Panj Tirath in Peshawar as national heritage.**
- Panj Tirath, which **got its name from the five pools of water present there**, also contains a temple and a lawn with date palm trees. The five pools of the heritage site now come under the ambit of Chacha Yunus Park and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- It is **believed that Pandu, a mythical king in the Mahabharata, belonged to this area** and Hindus used to come to these pools for bathing during the month of Karteek and worship for two days under the trees.
- The **site was damaged during the reign of the Afghan Durrani dynasty in 1747**, however it was restored by local Hindus during the period of Sikh rule in 1834 and worship started again.
- The government also announced a fine of up to Rs 2 million and five years imprisonment for anyone found guilty of damaging the historic site.
- The archaeology directorate asked the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to clear the site of encroachment and allow archaeologists to carry out much needed preservation work.

**World Capital of Architecture****In News**

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has recognised **Rio de Janeiro as the 'World Capital of Architecture' for 2020.**

- This is the first time the heritage body has made such a distinction. It is a new initiative that UNESCO established in November 2018, with the International Union of Architects (UIA) – a non-governmental agency that represents the world's architects.
- Having defeated Paris and Melbourne, Rio was selected to host the 27th edition of the World Congress of the International Union of Architects (UIA) in July 2020, an event that happens every three years. For the 2020 series in Rio, the theme will be "All the worlds. Just one world".
- As the World Capital, Rio will become an international forum for debates about pressing global challenges from the perspectives of culture, cultural heritage, urban planning and architecture.
- The aim is to create new synergies between culture and architecture in an increasingly urban world, in which cities are hubs for ideas, trade, culture, science and social development in particular.
- Connecting culture and architecture is essential to create inclusive, productive and sustainable cities and communities for all.
- The idea is to ensure that these cities are also perceived as open and creative spaces for exchange, invention and innovation.

#### About UNESCO

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) based in Paris.
- Its declared purpose is to contribute to peace and security by promoting international collaboration through educational, scientific, and cultural reforms in order to increase universal respect for justice, the rule of law, and human rights along with fundamental freedom proclaimed in the United Nations Charter.
- It runs a number of initiatives to protect city's cultural heritage through architecture. This includes listings of World Heritage Sites, which landmarks areas of importance.
- It is the successor of the League of Nations' International Committee on Intellectual Cooperation.

#### SANJHI –MUJH MEIN KALAKAR

##### In News

- Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA) the National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama has launched the **second phase of the Web Campaign ‘SANJHI –MUJH MEIN KALAKAR’ an initiative to document and promote the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) and diverse cultural traditions of the country** by direct public-participation.
- The literal meaning of the term **SANJHI is “to share” and “to partner”**, and the cultural traditions of the country has developed and prospered on the notions of harmony.
- The second phase of this campaign, SANJHI –MUJH MEIN KALAKAR, has its main focus area- the folk, traditional, customary, socially events and ritualistic art forms- woven as a cultural fabric around the harvest festival season of January.
- It is celebrated all across the country with different names viz. Makar Sankranti, Pongal, Lohri, Bhogali Bihu, Torgya, Uttarayan, Attukkal Pongal etc.
- It intends to bring forth such forms that are aligned with the domains of intangible cultural heritage as per the Convention of Safeguarding the ICH under UNESCO:
  - Oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of intangible cultural heritage;
  - Performing arts;

- Social practices, rituals and festive events;
- Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe;
- Traditional craftsmanship
- The Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA) is the nodal agency of the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India to coordinate the matters related to Intangible Cultural Heritage and various UNESCO Conventions addressing cultural diversity and promotion and dissemination of multifarious cultural traditions and expressions of the country.