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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ General Bipin Rawat, Chief of the Army Staff released a book on Paramveer Chakra Awardees - Paramveer Parwane. The book illustrates the bravery of Paramveer Chakra Awardees from 1947 to 1965 and is written by Dr Prabhakaran Jain published by Medha Books.
- ❖ General President-elect of Indian Science Congress Manoj Kumar Chakrabarti announced that the 106th edition of the Indian Science Congress (ISC) will be held in January 2019 at Barkatullah University, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. The theme for 2019 ISC will be “Future India: Science & Technology”.

TAMIL NADU

Sagar Kavach

- ❖ A comprehensive coastal security exercise, ‘Sagar Kavach’, to assess the preparedness of the police and other security agencies in the event of a terror attack began.
- ❖ The objective is to provide seamless sea-ward cover along the coast jointly by all security agencies from the coastal belt area line to the limit of territorial waters at 12 nautical miles.
- ❖ It is a joint exercise conducted in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and the Union Territory of Puducherry.
- ❖ The exercise is conducted half yearly with an objective to check coastal security mechanism and validate standard operating procedures.
- ❖ The two-day exercise was conducted by the State police, Indian Coast Guard and Navy.

NATIONAL

Ayushman Bharat

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the launch of the Ayushman Bharat — National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM), which was announced in the Budget.

- ❖ AB-NHPM will subsume the on-going centrally sponsored schemes — Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) and the Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS).
- ❖ AB-NHPM aims to target over 10 crore families belonging to poor and vulnerable population based on Socio Economic and Caste Census 2011 (SECC) database.

AYUSHMAN BHARAT Health Cover for All

The union cabinet has approved the Ayushman Bharat-National Health Protection Mission, also known as Modicare, that will provide ₹5 lakh health cover to the poorest 100 million families. Billed as the biggest healthcare scheme of its kind in the world, the government hopes to get it rolling soon.

BENEFITS	WHO IS ELIGIBLE
<p>₹5 LAKH health insurance per family per year</p> <p>Will cover existing diseases</p> <p>Pre- and post-hospitalisation expenses covered</p> <p>Defined transport allowance per hospitalisation</p> <p>Covers almost all secondary and many tertiary care procedures</p> <p>Small negative list of hospitalisation that's not covered</p>	<p>107.4 MILLION families likely to be eligible</p> <p>Those Identified as poor and vulnerable</p> <p>Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) data to be used</p> <p>No cap on family size or age</p>

CLAIM METHOD

- 1 Cashless benefits from any public/ pvt empanelled hospitals
- 2 Private hospitals will be empanelled online based on defined criteria
- 3 Beneficiary can approach any hospital across the country
- 4 NITI Aayog will develop an IT framework for cashless/paperless treatment

- ❖ States will be required to form State Health Agency (SHA) to implement scheme and at district level also, a structure for implementation of the scheme will be set up.
- ❖ The scheme will work in partnership with NITI Aayog to operationalise a robust, modular and interoperable IT platform which will involve a paperless and cashless transaction.



- ❖ For giving policy directions and fostering coordination between Centre and States, Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Mission Council (AB-NHPMC) will be set up at apex level. It will be chaired by Union Health and Family Welfare Minister.

Commission on sub-categorization of OBCs

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved second and final extension of term of Commission constituted to examine issue of Sub-categorization of Other Backward Classes in Central List for period of 12 weeks up to June, 2018.

All For 27%

Commission to be appointed under Article 340



Commission has to submit report within 12 weeks of its formation



Sub-categorisation recommended by now-defunct NCBC in 2011; parliamentary panels recommended it in 2012 and 2013

11 states introducing sub-categorisation in state services: Andhra, Telangana, Puducherry, Karnataka, Haryana, Jharkhand, Bengal, Bihar, Maharashtra, J&K and Tamil Nadu

- ❖ The Commission was constituted under article 340 of the Constitution with the approval of President on October 2, 2017.

- ❖ The Commission, headed by Justice (Retd.) G Rohini, commenced functioning on October 11, 2017 and has since interacted with all the States/UTs which have sub categorised OBCs and the State Backward Classes Commissions.
- ❖ The commission was tasked to
 - examine the extent of inequitable distribution of benefits of reservation among castes included in broad category of OBCs, especially with reference to OBCs included in the Central list.
 - take up exercise of identifying respective castes/sub-castes/communities synonyms in Central List of OBCs and classify them into their respective sub-categories.

World's first Trusted Digital Repository

- ❖ The National Cultural Audio-Visual Archives (NCAA) project of Ministry of Culture was certified as world's first Trusted Digital Repository as per ISO 16363:2012 standard.
- ❖ The certification was granted by Primary Trustworthy Digital Repository Authorisation Body Ltd. (PTAB), United Kingdom.

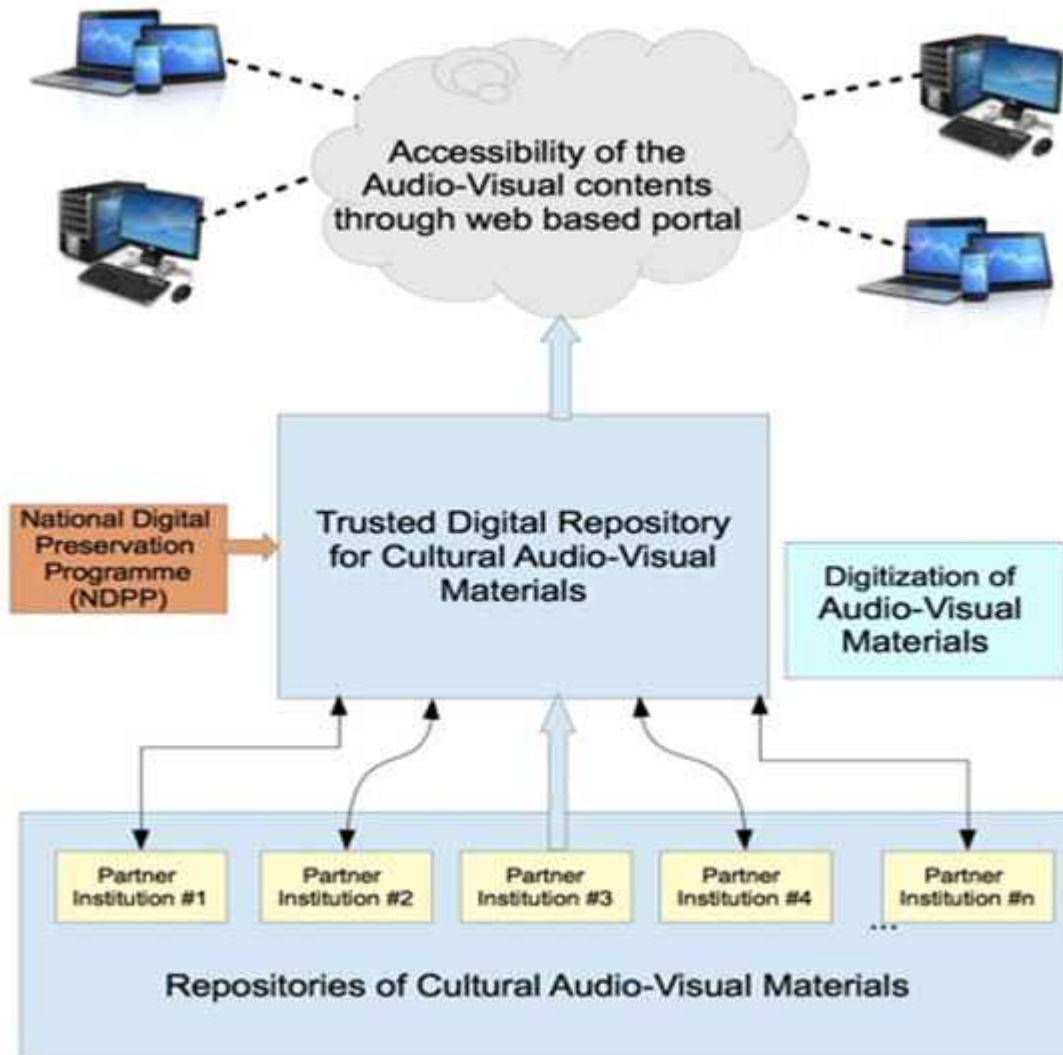
National Cultural Audio-visual Archives

- ❖ NCAA is implemented by Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).
- ❖ Its primary objective is to identify and preserve cultural heritage of India available in audio-visual form through process of digitization and make it accessible to the people.
- ❖ The digitization and metadata standards followed by the Project are in parity with international standards within the overall framework of the Open Archival Information System (OAIS) model.
- ❖ The digitization standards are in concordance with those prescribed by the International Association of Sound & Audio-visual Archives (IASA) and the metadata schema is extended Dublin Core, followed by galleries, libraries, archives and museums worldwide.

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts

- ❖ It is nodal agency for data bank on art, humanities and cultural heritage.
- ❖ It also has been identified by UNESCO as nodal agency for development of regional databases for South and South East Asian countries on art, cultural heritage and life-styles.

National Cultural Audio-visual Archives (NCAA)



Schematic Diagram

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

BIRAC

- ❖ The Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) celebrated its 6th Foundation Day on 20th March, 2018.
- ❖ The Theme for the year 2018 is ‘Sustaining Innovation – A Market Driven Pathway’.
- ❖ BIRAC is not-for-profit Public-sector Enterprise (PSE) set up by Department of Bio-Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology to empower emerging biotech industry to undertake strategic research and innovation. It is basically industry academia interface.
- ❖ The event saw the announcement of the preliminary winners of the SoCH (Solutions for Community Health) awards.
- ❖ SoCH (Solutions for Community Health) award is an innovation challenge award which was launched on the MyGov portal in September 2017.

STATES

‘Religious Minority’ status for Lingayat

- ❖ The state cabinet of Karnataka has decided to recognise Lingayat as a ‘religious minority’ and include the Veerashaivas who follow Basavanna as a group within the community, approving recommendations of the HN Nagamohan Das Committee.
- ❖ Now the proposal will be sent to the Union Government for the final approval.

Lingayat - Veerashaivas

- ❖ Lingayat, a distinct Shaivite religious tradition, are followers of the 12th-century poet-philosopher-social reformer Basaveshwara who rebelled against established Hindu tradition by defying the caste system and Vedic rituals.
- ❖ The people of the community are strict monotheists, they worship only one God, namely, Linga (Shiva) in the form of ishtalinga.
- ❖ They consider themselves different from Veerashaivas, also a Shaivite religious tradition, who adhere to the Vedas and support the caste system.
- ❖ While the Veerashaivas think the community was an ancient religion established by Shiva and Basavanna was one of its saints.

- ❖ Though the community (Lingayat) constitutes 17% of the total population in Karnataka, they are dominant in close to 100 of the 224 assembly seats, mostly in North Karnataka.
- ❖ There have been nine chief ministers from the community.



Historical Background

- ❖ Though the movement for a separate religious tag for the Lingayat was started as far back as 1942, it was resurrected in 2017 by Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah
- ❖ In December 2017, a seven-member expert committee - HN Nagamohan Das Committee - was formed by the Karnataka government to study five separate demands, three of which were for a separate minority religion status for Lingayat.
- ❖ While one representation demanded minority status for both Veerashaiva and Lingayat considering them the same, another demanded it only for the Lingayat as it considers Veerashaivas to be Hindus.
- ❖ The committee submitted its report on March 2, 2018 recommending 'Religious Minority' status for the Lingayat community.

- ❖ It concluded that there is enough evidence to differentiate Lingayat religion from Hindu religion and also added that Veerashaivas - another sect looking to get religious minority status, too can be part of the larger umbrella of 'Lingayat religion'.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Water Day - 22 March

- ❖ The World Water Day (WWD) is observed every year on 22 March to spread message of preservation and rational consumption of water.
- ❖ The theme for this year is 'Nature for Water'. It explores how nature can be used to overcome the water challenges of the 21st century.
- ❖ It focuses attention on importance of universal access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities in developing countries.
- ❖ The first World Water Day was celebrated on 22 March 1993.
- ❖ The WWD was first formally proposed in Agenda 21 of United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992.
- ❖ Later, United Nations General Assembly accepted recommendation of UNCED and instituted this day by adopting a resolution in December 1992.

International Day of Forests - 21 March

- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution (A/RES/67/200) on 21 December 2012, which declared that 21 March of each year is to be observed as the International Day of Forests.
- ❖ The theme for each International Day of Forests is chosen by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. The Theme for the year 2018 is “Forests and Sustainable Cities”.
- ❖ This global celebration of forests provides a platform to raise awareness of the importance of all types of woodlands and trees and celebrate the ways in which they sustain and protect us.

World Poetry Day - 21 March

- ❖ World Poetry Day is Held every year on 21 March and it celebrates one of humanity’s most treasured forms of cultural and linguistic expression and identity.
- ❖ A decision to proclaim 21 March as World Poetry Day was adopted during UNESCO’s 30th session held in Paris in 1999.
- ❖ One of the main objectives of the Day is to support linguistic diversity through poetic expression and to offer endangered languages the opportunity to be heard within their communities.
