



24-02-2024

Kashi Sansad Gyan Pratiyogita at BHU, Varanasi

Why in News?

- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the prize distribution ceremony of Sansad Sanskrit Pratiyogita at Swatantra Sabhagar, BHU, Varanasi on 23rd February 2024.



More About the News

- The Prime Minister awarded the winners of Kashi Sansad Gyan Pratiyogita, Kashi Sansad Photography Pratiyogita and Kashi Sansad Sanskrit Pratiyogita and also distributed books, uniform sets, music instruments and merit scholarships to Sanskrit students of Varanasi.
- He also visited Kashi Sansad Photography Pratiyogita gallery and interacted with the participants with their photograph entries on the theme of "Sanwanti Kashi".
- Kashi Sansad Sanskrit Pratiyogita and Kashi Sansad Gyan Pratiyogita are a part of such efforts where books, clothes and other necessary resources along with scholarships are being provided to thousands of youth who want to study Sanskrit.
- The Prime Minister said, "Among the

languages that have made the biggest contribution to the development of our knowledge, science and spirituality, Sanskrit is the most prominent. India is an idea, and Sanskrit is its chief expression. India is a journey, Sanskrit is the main chapter of its history. India is a land of unity in diversity, Sanskrit is its origin."

- The Prime Minister recalled a time when Sanskrit was the main language of research in Astronomy, math, medicine, literature, music and arts. India got its identity through these disciplines, he said. He said recitation of Vedas in Kashi and Kanchi are the notes of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'.

647th Birth Anniversary of Sant Guru Ravidas

Why in News?

- The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi on 23rd February 2024 addressed the 647th Birth Anniversary of Sant Guru Ravidas in Varanasi. At the Sant Guru Ravidas Janmasthan temple at Seer Govardhanpur near BHU, the Prime Minister inaugurated the newly installed statue of Sant Ravidas in adjoining Ravidas Park.
- He also inaugurated various development works around Sant Ravidas Janmasthan worth about Rs 32 crores and laid the



foundation stone for the Sant Ravidas Museum and beautification of the park worth about Rs 62 crore.

More About Sant Guru Ravidas

- Shri Guru Sant Ravidas Ji was a great Saint, philosopher, poet, social reformer, and follower of God in India during the 14th-15th century. He was one of the most famous and leading stars of the nirguna sampradaya (sant parampara) and was one of the prominent leaders of the North Indian Bhakti movement.
- Guru, Sant Ravidas Ji was born in Harijan caste in the Varanasi to Kalsa Devi Ji and Baba Santokh Dass Ji in the Seer Goverdhanpur village, Varanasi, U.P., India in the 15th century.
- Sant Ravidas Jayanti or birthday anniversary is celebrated every year on Magh Purnima on full moon day of Magh month with great enthusiasm and happiness all over India however; people in Varanasi celebrate this occasion like a memorable event and festival. It will be (647th) Sant Ravidas Jayanti in 2024 and will be celebrated on – 24th of February (Saturday).
- Later in his life, he became a great follower of Lord Rama and started following some names like Ram, Raghunath, Raja Ram Chanda, Krishna, Hari, Gobind, and etc in order to express his feeling towards God.
- Ravidas was a poet and was one of the most famous saints of the North Indian bhakti movement. He taught that everyone is equal in God's eyes, irrespective of their caste, gender, or social status.
- His egalitarian teachings made him a figure of veneration and pride among various scheduled classes, or Dalit (as untouchables are now known), social-reform movements of the 20th century.

The Raisina Dialogue

Why in News?

- The ninth edition of the Raisina Dialogue has been started from February 21 to

February 23rd, in New Delhi. The conference will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Greece's Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis will join the inauguration session as the chief guest.

The Raisina Dialogue

- The Raisina Dialogue is an annual conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics, which aims to address the most challenging issues faced by the world. The conference takes place in New Delhi



and is attended by people from political, business, media, and civil society backgrounds.

- The Dialogue is structured as a multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral discussion, involving heads of state, cabinet ministers and local government officials, who are joined by thought leaders from the private sector, media and academia.
- The conference is hosted by the Observer Research Foundation in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. This effort is supported by a number of institutions, organisations and individuals, who are committed to the mission of the conference.
- The theme of the 2024 edition is "Chaturanga: Conflict, Contest, Cooperate, Create."
- During the three-day conference, the participants has engaged with each other over six "thematic pillars". These include: "(I) Tech Frontiers: Regulations & Realities;

(ii) Peace with the Planet: Invest & Innovate; (iii) War & Peace: Armouries & Asymmetries; (iv) Decolonising Multilateralism: Institutions & Inclusion; (v) The Post 2030 Agenda: People & Progress; and (vi) Defending Democracy: Society & Sovereignty.

BHARAT TEX 2024 : India's Largest Global Textiles Mega Event

Why in News?

- Bharat Tex 2024 promises to be a tapestry of tradition and technology attracting the best and the brightest from the textile world. This unique platform is poised to showcase India's entire textile value chain and also highlight strengths in fashion, traditional crafts and sustainability initiatives.



More About Bharat Tex 2024

- Celebrating the seamless fusion of culture and business and honoring the intricate legacy that defines India - BHARAT TEX 2024 – is a global textile mega event organised by a consortium of 11 Textile Export Promotion Councils and supported by the Ministry of Textiles is scheduled from February 26-29 in New Delhi.
- Being organised by a consortium of 11 Textile Export Promotion Councils and supported by the Ministry of Textiles, Bharat Tex is built on the twin pillars of trade and investment and with an overarching focus on sustainability and resilient supply chains.
- An exhibition spread across nearly 22 lakh sq ft of area and encompassing the entire textile value chain, will help position India as a global powerhouse in textiles, showcasing its capabilities and generating momentum

throughout the entire Indian textiles ecosystem.

- The Bharat Tex exhibition features Apparel, Home Furnishings, Floor Coverings, Fibres, Yarns, Threads, Fabrics, Carpets, Silk, Textiles based Handicrafts, Technical Textiles and many more. It will also have a retail High Street focusing on India's fashion retail market opportunities.
- A specially curated pavilion in Bharat Tex narrates the story of Indian textiles as an unbroken continuum – from the past to present to the future.
- The event is a perfect example of collaboration among all the value chain players represented by 11 Export Promotion Councils, covering the entire value chain from farm to end products.

Valinath Mahadev Temple in Mahesana, Gujarat

Why in News?

- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi performed pooja and darshan at Valinath Mahadev Temple in Mahesana Gujarat 22nd February 2024.

More About Valinath Mahadev Temple

- The consecration ceremony was done on the auspicious occasion of Guru Pushya Amrit Siddhi Yoga in the presence of many saints and ascetics who will be coming from all across the country.
- The history of Valinath Mahadev Mandir is quite fascinating and magnificent. It is said that worship of Lord Valinath has been ongoing here since the time of the Mahabharata period. The faith of the local people is deeply connected with this divine Shivdham.
- The Rabari community of North Gujarat holds a great reverence for Valinath Mahadev. During the cycle of time, amidst adverse circumstances, the Valinath Mahadev Mandir gradually deteriorated, and there came a time when the temple was buried under the earth.

- An ancient manuscript titled Kanhadde Prabandha, penned centuries ago by Padmanatha, also mentions the temple of Valinath Mahadev in the Darbha forest of Rupen Kantha.
- According to the locals, the antiquity, religious significance, and historical importance of the Valinath Mahadev temple, which serves as the focal point of faith for people of all castes, have been upheld by every ruler and chief minister even after independence.

Multiple Key Initiatives for Cooperative Sector

Why in News?

- In a major step to strengthen the cooperative sector of the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of multiple key initiatives for the Cooperative sector on 24th February, 2024 at 10:30 AM at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.



More About the News

- Prime Minister will inaugurate the pilot project of 'World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector', which is being done in 11 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) of 11 States.
- This initiative aims to seamlessly integrate PACS godowns with the food grain supply chain, fortifying food security and fostering economic development in the country with a collaborative effort supported by NABARD and spearheaded by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

- This initiative is being implemented through convergence of various existing schemes like the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), Agriculture Marketing Infrastructure (AMI), etc. to enable PACS participating in the project to avail subsidies and interest subvention benefits for undertaking infrastructure development.
- This initiative involves transitioning all functional PACS onto a unified Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) based national software, ensuring seamless integration and connectivity. By linking these PACS with NABARD through State Cooperative Banks and District Central Cooperative Banks, the project aims to enhance the operation efficiency & governance of PACS, thus benefiting crores of small & marginal farmers.

Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)

- PACS are the grass root level arms of the short-term co-operative credit structure. PACS deals directly with the rural (agricultural) borrowers, give those loans and collect repayments of loans given and also undertake distribution and marketing functions.
- They occupy a predominant position in the co-operative credit structure and form its base. It serves as the final link between the ultimate borrowers on the one hand and the higher financing agencies, namely the Scheduled Commercial Banks, and the RBI/NABARD on the other hand.



- By strengthening Primary Agriculture Credit Societies, governments and stakeholders aim to improve the overall state of agriculture, uplift rural communities, and promote inclusive economic growth. These efforts can contribute to poverty reduction, food security, and sustainable development in agrarian economies.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)

- NABARD is India's apex development bank, established in 1982 under an Act of Parliament to promote sustainable and equitable agriculture and rural development.
- In its journey of more than four decades, the premier development financial institution has transformed lives in Indian villages through agri-finance, infrastructure development, banking technology, promotion of microfinance and rural entrepreneurship through SHGs & JLGs and more.

- It continues to aid in nation building through participative financial and non-financial interventions, innovations, technology and institutional development in rural areas.
- Based on the recommendation of the B. Sivaraman Committee Report, the creation of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) was approved by the Parliament through Act 61 of 1981. This unique development financial institution was created to focus on credit related issues linked with rural development
- With this intent, the agricultural credit functions of RBI and refinance functions of the then Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation (ARDC) was transferred to NABARD. It was dedicated to the service of the nation on 05 November 1982.



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