

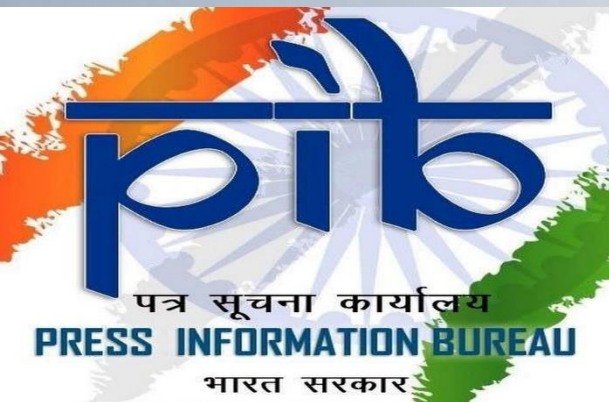


# CURRENT AFFAIRS



## WEEKLY ROUND-UP

- ✓ **PIB IN DETAIL**
- ✓ **AIR/RS/LSTV SUMMARIES**
- ✓ **NEWSPAPERS DAILY**



**02<sup>ND</sup> JULY TO 07<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2018**

## 37th WORLD UNESCO World HERITAGE SITE for India

- **37th site:** {Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai}
- ❑ **Mumbai city the second city in India after Ahmedabad to be inscribed on the World Heritage List.**
- ❑ **India now has overall 37 World Heritage Inscriptions with 29 Cultural, 07 Natural and 01 Mixed sites.**
- ❑ **India stands second largest in number after China in terms of number of World Heritage properties in ASPAC (Asia and Pacific) region, it is overall sixth in the world.**



**ART DECO**



**VICTORIAN GOTHIC**

## What is a World Heritage site?

A World Heritage site is classified as a natural or man-made area or a structure that is of international importance, and a space which requires special protection. These sites are officially recognised by the UN and the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation, also known as UNESCO. UNESCO believes that the sites classified as World Heritage are important for humanity, and they hold cultural and physical significance.

## Background:

In 1982, the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) announced, 18 April as the “World Heritage Day”, approved by the General Assembly of UNESCO in 1983, with the aim of enhancing awareness of the importance of the cultural heritage of humankind, and redouble efforts to protect and conserve the human heritage.



## **Sunil Mehta Committee**

### **Key pointers:**

- ❑ Sunil Mehta Committee – deals with faster resolution of stressed assets
- ❑ The committee has recommended the creation of an asset management company for the resolution of stressed loans worth more than ₹500 crore
- ❑ The committee had also laid out a plan to resolve SME loans within 90 days.

## **Bru people to get voting rights**

### **In news:**

- a) **More than 30,000 people belonging to the Bru community, who fled from Mizoram to Tripura in 1997 in the wake of inter-community violence, will be given voting rights.**
- b) **Remember tribe/community name – Reang tribe (known in Mizoram as Brus)**

## **INS Sahyadri**

- **INS Sahyadri is an indigenously built stealth frigate.**
- **It participated in trilateral Malabar war games with Japan and the U.S. off the Coast of Guam.**
- **It recently participated in RIMPAC and has been adjudged runner-up in an innovation competition.**
- **INS Sahyadri presented the ‘idea of integrating yoga into our daily life as technology for well-being during extended deployments for ships’.**
- **The idea was appreciated by representatives of participating countries.**

# Thanjavur painting and application of Raman spectroscopy

## About:

It was very tough to know whether the gold and gems used in Thanjavur painting were authentic or fake without ruining the painting. But with Raman spectroscopy, there is an easy way to tell without taking it apart.

Important value additions:

## About Thanjavur painting

- ❖ Thanjavur painting is a classical South Indian painting style (especially Thanjavur city of Tamil Nadu)
- ❖ It is characterised by rich, flat and vivid colors, simple iconic composition, glittering gold foils overlaid on delicate but extensive gessowork and inlay of glass beads and pieces or very rarely precious and semi-precious gems.
- ❖ Tanjore Painting of India devised during the 16th century, under the sovereignty of the Cholas.
- ❖ In Thanjavur paintings one can see the influence of Deccani, Vijayanagar, Maratha and even European or Company styles of painting.
- ❖ They are locally known as 'Palagai Padam' as it is mainly done on solid wood planks.
- ❖ It got GI tag by the Government of India in 2007-08.
- ❖ The theme of Tanjore Painting of Hindu Gods and Goddesses, along with saints.
- ❖ The distinctive features were aristocratic or religious figures adorned with jewellery and surrounded by elaborate architectural arches and doorways.
- ❖ Tanjore paintings are originally done on wood and are encrusted with semi-precious stones. Later the paintings were executed on glass. The glass paintings are coloured from outside inwards. The outlines and final touches have to be done first since the artist paints the picture from the reverse side of the glass.

## National Park in news:

### Bhitarkanika National Park-

#### Key points:

- a) Bhitarkanika National Park in Odisha.
- b) The Bhitarkanika National Park is one of the largest habitats of endangered estuarine crocodiles in the country.
- c) It is a prominent heronry (breeding ground for migratory birds) of the State.

#### About Saltwater crocodile

The saltwater crocodile, also known as the estuarine crocodile, is the largest of all living reptiles, as well as the largest riparian predator in the world.

As its name implies, this species of crocodile can live in marine environments, but usually resides in saline and brackish mangrove swamps, estuaries, deltas, lagoons, and lower stretches of rivers. They have the broadest distribution of any modern crocodile, ranging from the eastern coast of India throughout most of Southeast Asia and northern Australia.

**IUCN status:** Least Concerned.

### Gaming University

The UNESCO, specialised agency of United Nations, entered into an agreement with the Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board for the establishment of a gaming digital learning hub.

Visakhapatnam will soon have a Design university for gaming

The hub is seen as potential medium for creating around 50,000 jobs in 10 years.



## Common Service Centre

**The Common Service Center (CSC) Scheme is an integral part of “Digital India” initiative of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.**

CSCs are the access points for delivery of various electronic services to villages.

In addition to it, CSCs promote rural entrepreneurship, community participation and collective action for social change.

CSC e-Governance Services India Limited is a Special Purpose Vehicle (CSC SPV) incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 to monitor the implementation of the Common Services Centers Scheme.

Village Level Entrepreneur (VLE) under CSCs provide service to the rural consumer in villages.

Recent development – CSC SPV has entered into agreement with HDFC Bank.

This is to enable its three lakh Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) managing the Common Services Centers operate as Banking Correspondents of HDFC Bank.

They will support the Government initiative to promote financial inclusion and make banking services more accessible in rural areas.

HDFC Bank will support CSC SPV in converting 1000 identified villages into Digital Villages within this financial year.

**ISRO recently conducted the first ‘pad abort’ test critical for a future human space mission. The Pad Abort Test demonstrated the safe recovery of the crew module in case of any exigency at the launch pad.**

PAT (pad abort test) is the first in a series of tests to qualify a crew escape system technology of a manned mission in the future. It is an emergency escape measure to quickly pull the astronaut cabin along with crew out to a safe distance from launch vehicle during a launch abort.

**National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) recently added four species into the center's recovery Programme for critically endangered species. This decision will lead to targeted conservation of these species whose population is on the decline.**

The species are Northern River Terrapin, Clouded Leopard, Arabian Sea Humpback Whale and Red Panda.

- i. Terrapins have been exploited for illegal trade across borders, especially for its meat and carapace. Clouded leopard and Red Panda are facing habitat loss and poaching threat for their meat, medicine and pelts.
- ii. While the Northern River Terrapin is largely found in West Bengal, the clouded leopard is found in Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim and Assam while the Red Panda is largely found in Sikkim, western Arunachal Pradesh, North Bengal and parts of Meghalaya.
- iii. Arabian Sea Humpback Whale is facing threats from accidental entanglement in fishing gears, ship strikes and seismic explorations. Humpback whales migrate towards India's west coast from Oman and there have been several instances of these gargantuan species getting beached on Maharashtra's long coastline.

**Species recovery programme:**

- i. The species recovery programme of the Union Environment Ministry is implemented under Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats — a centrally sponsored umbrella scheme for management and conservation of parks, wildlife habitats and conservation.
- ii. Started in 2008-09, IDWH is meant for providing support to protected areas (national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, conservation reserves and community reserves except tiger reserves), protection of wildlife outside protected areas and recovery programmes for saving critically endangered species and habitats.



### **Sambal scheme:**

- a) It is a power bill waiver scheme and subsidised power scheme for labourers and poor families launched by the Madhya Pradesh Government.
- b) Under the scheme, the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families would be provided electricity at a cost of 200 rupees per month. The objective of this scheme to make sure that all the households have power facility in the state.

### **Stree Swabhiman**

- a) Stree Swabhiman is an initiative under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology for promoting women's menstrual health and hygiene.
- b) Under this initiative, CSC SPV will provide access to affordable, reliable and modern (eco-friendly) sanitary napkins to adolescent girls and women in rural areas.
- c) Under this initiative, semi-automatic and manual sanitary napkin manufacturing units will be set up at CSC for producing sanitary napkins.
- d) HDFC Bank will also support CSC SPV by funding Stree Swabhiman Sanitary Napkin Manufacturing Units.

### **"cVigil" app**

- a) Election Commission launched an Android-based mobile application named "cVigil".
- b) The app will help citizens to share proof of malpractices by political parties, their candidates and activists when the Model Code of Conduct is in force.

## leprosy awareness

### Leprosy on rise:

India earned an honourable mention in a new WHO report on neglected tropical diseases (NTD), it is also one of the handful of countries around the world that have shown an increase in leprosy cases.

The number of leprosy cases in India went up from 1,25,785 to 1,27,326 between 2014 and 2015.

### About Leprosy:

Leprosy is a chronic infectious disease caused by *Mycobacterium leprae*, an acid-fast, rod-shaped bacillus.

The disease mainly affects the skin, the peripheral nerves, mucosa of the upper respiratory tract, and the eyes.

Leprosy is curable and treatment in the early stages can prevent disability.

Leprosy is curable with multidrug therapy (MDT).

Leprosy is transmitted via droplets, from the nose and mouth, during close and frequent contacts with untreated cases.

### In news:

Recently, Supreme Court directed the government to create awareness that leprosy is curable and not contagious.

SC ordered All India Radio and Doordarshan to air programmes nationally as well as regionally in the States.

Persons suffering from leprosy deserved the empathy from authorities as well as the society at large. They deserved to be treated with equality.

### National Leprosy Eradication Programme

It is a centrally sponsored Health Scheme of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India with the objective to arrest the disease activity in all the known cases of leprosy through early diagnosis and treatment.

## Khan Prahari

- i. It is a mobile application is launched by Ministry of Coal for tracking illegal mining.
- ii. It is a tool for reporting any activity taking place related to illegal coal mining like rat hole mining, pilferage etc.
- iii. Citizens can upload geo-tagged photographs of the incident along with textual information directly to the system.

## Regional Rural Banks (RRB)

- i. RRBs were set up with the objective to provide credit to the small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, artisans and small entrepreneurs in rural areas for development of productive activities.
- ii. RRBs are jointly owned by Government of India, the concerned State Government and Sponsor Banks with the issued capital in the ratio of 50:15:35 respectively.
- iii. Union cabinet has recently approved the extension of the scheme of recapitalization of RRBs for the next 3 years upto 2019-20.
- iv. This will enable the RRBs to maintain the minimum prescribed Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of 9 per cent.
- v. The scheme of Recapitalization of RRBs started in FY 2010-11 and was extended twice in the year 2012-13 and 2015-16.



## Koala bear

- i. Recently, an international team of scientists has successfully sequenced the whole genome of Koala bear.
- ii. It is a tree-dwelling marsupial of coastal eastern Australia.
- iii. They have exceptional parental care and strange eating habits that they enjoy the leaves of eucalyptus that would be toxic or even fatal to most mammals.
- iv. They are born after just 34-36 days of gestation without an immune system and spend almost six months developing in the pouch.
- v. It is listed as “Vulnerable” under IUCN’s Red Data Book.

## MOVE: Global Mobility Summit

- i. India’s first ever mobility summit will be organised by NITI Aayog, in collaboration with various ministries and industry partners.
- ii. It will be held in New Delhi in the month of September, 2018.
- iii. The summit will give impetus for vehicle electrification, renewable energy integration, job growth and speed up India’s transition to a clean energy economy.
- iv. It will see participation from major global players offering first-hand perspective on automotive solutions, upcoming trends in the logistics sector.
- v. The conclave would include panel discussions featuring global CEOs and transport ministers from across the world.
- vi. It will see participation from countries like Netherlands, Slovakia, USA, UK, Netherlands, China, South Korea, Australia etc.
- vii. NITI Aayog has also been working towards evolving a National Strategy for Transforming Mobility.