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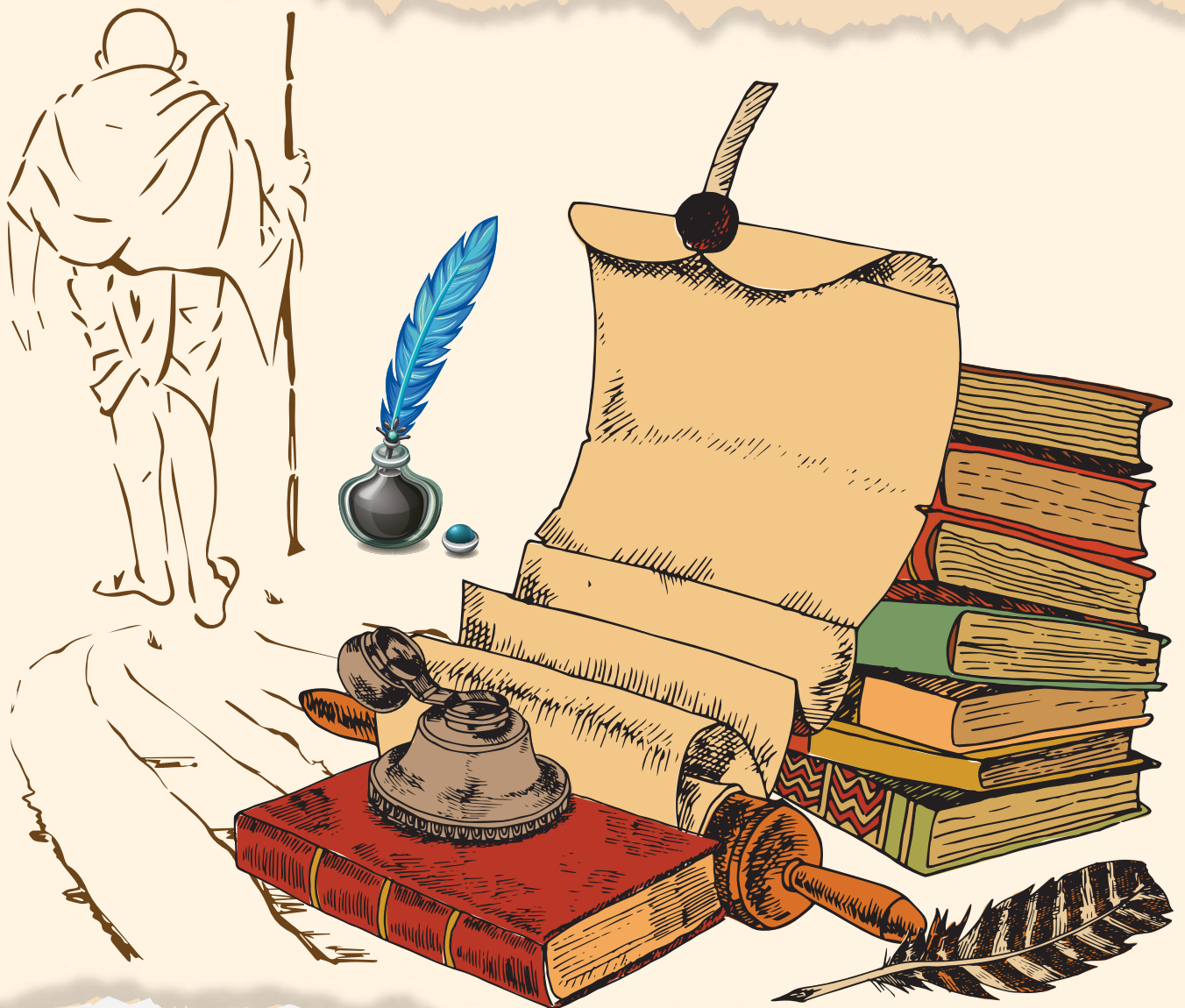
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HISTORY & CULTURE



01 History & Culture

World's first Palm-leaf Manuscript Museum in Kerala capital

- Kerala Chief Minister(CM) Pinarayi Vijayan has inaugurated the Palm leaf Manuscript Museum with modern audio-visual technology at the renovated Central Archives, Fort area in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- **Billed as the world's first palm leaf manuscript museum**, the facility is essentially a repository of curious nuggets of administrative, socio-cultural and economic facets of Travancore spanning a period of 650 years till the end of the 19th century, besides documents relating to territories of Kochi in the state's middle and Malabar further north
- The museum, which opened last week, has 187 manuscripts chronicling a mine of stories based entirely on primary sources: Documents written on cured and treated palm leaves consigned to the corners of the records rooms.

Tulu likely to get second official language status from Karnataka

- 'The Karnataka government is likely to make Tulu the second official language of the state after Kannada
- A committee has been already constituted regarding it and it will soon submit the report to the state government
- The demand to declare Tulu as the second official language is longstanding and in 2008, former CM BS Yediyurappa also said that Tulu will be declared as the official language
- **Apart from Kannada and Tulu, languages like Kodava, Byari and Koraga are also spoken in different areas of the state**
- Currently, there are 22 official languages in India which include Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Santhali, Maithili and Dogri

Lavani Dance

- 'NCP leader Ajit Pawar has directed members of his party to not organise raunchy public shows in the name of Lavani, a folk song-and-dance performance that is popular in Maharashtra
- Lavani became well known outside Maharashtra — throughout India and even outside the country — following its use in popular media such as cinema
- Over the past few years, with the explosion in the use of social media, short clips of dances have become very popular
- There are several sub-genres of Lavani, of which the most popular is the Shringarik (erotic) kind, in which the lyrics are often teasing, with sensuous dance steps and delicate gestures employed to convey erotic meaning

Banjara Dharmaguru Santh Sevalal Maharaj Jayanti

- For the first time ever, the year long commemoration of birth anniversary of Santh Sevalal Maharaj , the Spiritual & Religious Leader of Banjara Community is being celebrated by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India
- Like every year, this year also Banjaras from all over the country are gathering in Delhi to celebrate this birth anniversary
- A special train has also been run from Karnataka, in which more than 2500 people of the Banjara community of Karnataka, Telangana, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh have reached Delhi
- **Santh Sevalal Maharaj** was born on 15 February 1739 at Surgondankoppa in Shivamogga district of Karnataka
- He is considered a social reformer and spiritual teacher of the Banjara community.

Vedic Heritage portal

- The Indra Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) has recently launched the Vedic Heritage Portal, a digital repository of vedic knowledge and traditions from across the country
- This portal is the result of a seven-year effort and an estimated cost of Rs 5 crore
- The Vedic Heritage Portal is a one-stop solution for researchers and others who seek information about the Vedic heritage of India
- It was launched by Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy during the

IGNCA's 36th Foundation Day celebrations

- The Vedic Heritage portal now has audio-visual recordings of the four Vedas. These recordings contain over 18,000 mantras of the four Vedas, with a total duration of over 550 hours

Vaikom Satyagraha

- The Tamil Nadu government is planning to hold year-long events to commemorate the Vaikom Satyagraha
- **Vaikom Satyagraha** was a historic non-violent movement against untouchability and caste discrimination in the country
- The Satyagraha took place between March 30, 1924 and November 23, 1925 and also marked the start of temple entry movements across India
- The movement was spearheaded by Congress leader T.K. Madhavan, as an opposition against social injustice
- The Congress Untouchability Committee decided to start the movement at the Mahadeva temple in Vaikom, because of the temple board's extremely stringent rules regarding entry
- On March 30, 1924, the Satyagrahis walked towards the forbidden public roads in Vaikom. They were stopped by the police

Hakki-Pikki tribes

- 'Thousands of Indians are stranded in Sudan, which has been witnessing violence since last weekend
- Out of these nationals, more than 100 belong to the Hakki Pikki tribe from Karnataka
- They are a nomadic tribe living across western and southern India. Hakki means 'bird' in Kannada, and Pikki translates to 'catchers'
- Traditionally, a tribe of bird catchers and hunters, who mostly lived in forest areas, the members now dwell in Karnataka's Mysuru, Davangere, Kolar, Hassan and Shivamogga districts
- Hakki Pikkis are a matriarchal community where the groom gives dowry to the bride's family
- Hakki Pikkis were displaced from forests and resettled around Bengaluru, Mysuru, Mandya and borders of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

Thirunelli temple

- 'The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) has urged the government to conserve the historically significant structures, including the 600-year-old 'Vilakkumadom
- It is also referred to as **the 'Kashi of the South'** and is considered as an important pilgrimage center for Hindus
- It is located at the confluence of three rivers – Papanasini, the holy river, which is believed to have the power to wash away sins, Kudamurutti, and Koothappuzha
- The temple structure has a history dating back to the 15th century AD, and stories related to the architecture and style of the temple are associated with it

INational Maritime Heritage Complex in Lothal

- 'Under the Sagarmala programme, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is developing a National Maritime Heritage Complex, a world-class facility at Lothal, Gujarat
- NMHC would be developed as an international tourist destination, where the maritime heritage of India from ancient to modern times would be showcased and an edutainment approach using the latest technology would be adopted to spread awareness about India's maritime heritage
- The unique feature of NMHC is the recreation of ancient Lothal city, which is one of the prominent cities of the ancient Indus valley civilization dating to 2400 BC
- Apart from that, the evolution of India's Maritime Heritage during various eras would be exhibited through various galleries

PM shares article on revival of Kashmir's centuries-old 'Namda' craft

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has shared an article on his twitter handle over revival of Kashmir's centuries-old Namda craft
- Mr. Modi said, he is delighted that Kashmir's centuries-old Namda craft is reviving and now reaching global shores after years
- He said this is a testament to Indian artisans' skills and resilience. The Prime Minister added that this revival is

great news for India's rich heritage

- **Namda craft is widely thought to have originated in the 11th century during the reign of Mughal emperor Akbar**
- Namda craft is a rug made of sheep wool through a felting technique instead of the normal weaving process.

Tankai method

- 'The Ministry of Culture and the Indian Navy have joined hands to revive and preserve a 2000-year-old technique of shipbuilding
- The technique is known as 'Tankai' method or the "stitched shipbuilding method
- The Indian Navy will oversee the implementation and execution of the entire project
- As custodians of maritime security and experts in the field, the Indian Navy's involvement ensures "seamless project management and adherence to the highest standards of safety and precision
- The stitched ship holds significant cultural value in India, given its historical importance and the preservation of traditional craftsmanship
- The project aims at leveraging the expertise of the remaining traditional shipwrights in India and showcase their exceptional craftsmanship.

'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day

- The 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day' or 'Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas' is observed on August 1
- This day was announced by the Prime Minister in 2021 to remember all those who lost their lives due to the partition of the nation and were uprooted from their origins
- The partition caused one of the largest migrations in human history, affecting about 20 million people
- Millions of families had to abandon their ancestral villages/towns/cities and were forced to start anew as refugees
- **About 6 million non-Muslims moved out from what had become West Pakistan and another 6.5 million Muslims moved out from the Indian part of Punjab, Delhi, etc., into West Pakistan**
- The number of migrants from Sind in November 1947 was 2,50,000, which rose exponentially and reached 4,78,000 in January 1948 and 10,00,000 in June 1948.

Operation Jericho

- The use of air power in Mizoram in 1966 has become a hot topic of discussion after Prime Minister Narendra Modi mentioned it in the Lok Sabha while replying to the no confidence motion recently
- Operation Jericho, led by the Mizo National Front, was initiated as a response to the decision of the Centre to state
- IAF played a critical role by conducting air operations against rebel-held positions
- The airtation another Assam Rifles battalion in the Mizo Hills, alongside existing security forces
- attacks, utilizing aircraft like Toofani and Hunters, helped the Army regain control of strategically important areas
- Flight lieutenant SK Sareen and Group Captain Jasper Bouche received commendations, with references to their roles in the Mizo operations

Kolkata Metro to join elite club of London, Moscow, Istanbul, says Centre

- Kolkata Metro Railway is all set to embark on a groundbreaking transformation as it transitions from its conventional steel Third Rail system to a cutting-edge composite aluminium third rail system
- Aligning itself with the exclusive league of elite global metros in cities like London, Moscow, Berlin, Munich and Istanbul, which have already embraced this innovative technology
- The advantages of the aluminium composite third rail over its steel counterpart are significant
- Firstly, it reduces resistive current loss due to its lower resistance, resulting in improved traction voltage levels
- Secondly, this transition promises capital investment savings, with one less Traction Substation required for a 10-km corridor, translating to an estimated savings of approximately ₹210 crores for a 35-km metro corridor

Rabindranath Tagore's Santiniketan in Birbhum gets UNESCO's World Heritage List tag

- Santiniketan, the cultural and educational hub founded by Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore, has earned a coveted spot on UNESCO's World Heritage List
- Santiniketan's inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List is a testament to its cultural and educational