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UNESCO MEMORY REGIONAL REGISTER PROGRAMME



Manuscripts of the epic Mahabharata, Kalhana's historical chronicle Rajatarangini, and Kautilya's Arthashastra, have been inscribed on UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register.

- It was **launched by UNESCO in 1992**with the goal of preserving global documentary heritage and preventing what it called "collective amnesia."
- It aims to **safeguard rare documents, including manuscripts**, oral traditions, audio-visual content, and archive materials, of global and universal value.
- It is operating at international, regional, and national levels, the programme recognizes globally significant documents through the International Register.
- The MoW Register serves as a global compendium of such heritage, and **is updated biennially (every two years).**

Key Facts about Arthashastra:

- It is traditionally **attributed to Kautilya**, also known as Chanakya.
- It is a foundational work on **governance, administration, economics, diplomacy and military strategy.**
- Its detailed examination of **statecraft, taxation, law enforcement, intelligence networks** and public administration offers valuable insights into political organisation and the functioning of ancient Indian states.
- The text remains an important reference for scholars studying the history of political and economic thought.

Key Facts about Rajatarangini:

- It was composed by the **12th-century Kashmiri historian Kalhana**.

Cross And Climb

- It is widely regarded as one of the most important **historical chronicles of medieval India.**
- It was **written in Sanskrit**, it traces the history of Kashmir through successive dynasties, rulers, political developments and social transformations.
- Its significance lies in its attempt to present historical events through chronological narration, critical examination of sources and literary composition, making it an important resource for understanding **Kashmir's political and cultural past.**

CHINAR TREE



In a significant step towards preserving Kashmir's iconic natural heritage, around 30,000 Chinar trees across Jammu and Kashmir have been geo-tagged and digitally documented to strengthen their protection, conservation and monitoring.

- It is also known as **Oriental plane tree, maple tree** and locally it is called **Boueen.**
- **Chinar** is a distinctive feature of Kashmir's landscape and is found in almost every part of the Valley.
- The tree is believed to have **been introduced in Kashmir from Persia**.
- **Habitat:** Chinar trees characteristically grow in **Eastern Himalayas**. It spreads wide across a region of **cool climate with sufficient water**.

Key Facts about the Geotagging of Chinar

- A **QR-based digital plate** has been affixed to each **identified Chinar** using a specialised spring-enabled metal mechanism.
- By scanning the QR code, a **person can get required information** about the Chinar tree including its location, health, age and other relevant characteristics.
- The **Chinar tree is** a protected species under **J&K Preservation of Specified Trees Act, 1969** and even pruning requires official approval.

KOCHON PRIZE

Resource group for Education and Advocacy for Community Health (REACH), a not-for-profit organisation working to strengthen the tuberculosis (TB) response in India, has been awarded the Kochon Prize 2026.

- It was **established in 2006.**
- It is presented by **the Kochon Foundation,** an **independent Korean non-profit foundation**, in partnership with the **Stop TB Partnership.**
- It recognises **individuals and organisations** that have made significant **contributions to the fight against TB.**
- It consists of **cash prize of US$ 65,000.**
- Previous winners from India include **S. Chauhan** (2006), head of the **Revised National TB Control Programme**, the **Indian Council of Medical Research** (2017) **and Molbio Diagnostics** (2024).

Key Facts about Tuberculosis

- Tuberculosis (TB) is a bacterial infection **caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis,** which primarily affects the lungs but can also impact other body parts such as the abdomen, glands, bones, and nervous system.
- **Transmission:** It spreads **through airborne transmission,** mainly inhaling tiny droplets released from the coughs or sneezes of an infected person.

Treatment & Prevention

- **BCG Vaccine:** The Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccine provides moderate protection, mainly for severe TB in infants and children.

CENTRAL BUREAU OF NARCOTICS

- It is a central government organization dealing with **the international trade of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances, and Precursor Chemicals.**
- It works under the ambit of various **United Nations Conventions** and the provisions of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.
- **Nodal Ministry:** It works under the Department of Revenue (DoR), Ministry of Finance.
- **Headquarters:** Gwalior
- **Organization Structure:**
    - The **Narcotics Commissioner** is the head of the Central Bureau of Narcotics.
    - A **Deputy Narcotics Commissioner** is in-charge of each of the **three opium growing** States of **Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.**
    - The **Deputy Narcotics Commissioner** is assisted by the Assistant Narcotics Commissioner and District Opium Officers.
    - The **District Opium Officer** issues licences for cultivation of opium poppy as per the General Licencing Conditions notified by the Central Government.

Functions of Central Bureau of Narcotics:

- **Supervision over** licit cultivation of opium poppy in India
- **Preventive and enforcement** functions especially in the three poppy growing States.
- **Investigation of** cases under the NDPS Act, 1985 and filing of complaint in the Court.
- **Issue of licences** for manufacture of synthetic narcotic drugs.
- **Issuance of Export Authorisations**/ Import Certificate for export/ import of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.
- **Issuance of No Objection Certificate** (NOC) for import/ export of a select number of Precursor Chemicals.

TRIFED (TRIBAL COOPERATIVE MARKETING DEVELOPMENT FEDERATION OF INDIA)



- It is a **national-level cooperative body** under India's **Ministry of Tribal Affairs,** Government of India.
- It is dedicated to the socio-economic development of tribal communities through the **marketing development of tribal products.**
- It was **established** in **1987** and **registered under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984.**
- **Mandate**: Bringing about the **socio-economic development of the tribals** of the country by **institutionalizing** the **trade of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) & Surplus Agricultural Produce (SAP) collected/cultivated by them.**
- TRIFED has been entrusted by the Government of India to **implement** its **proposed Minimum Support Price Scheme for Minor Forest Produce.**
- TRIFED has its **head office in New Delhi** and 14 regional offices across the country.
- **Objectives**:
    - To develop the socio-economic welfare of the tribal community.
    - To act as a **facilitator and service provider** for the tribal community to **uplift production.**
    - **Provide training** to enhance artistic skills with modern technology to meet the requirements of the global market.
    - To increase the **promotion of tribal art and crafts** for a stable livelihood.
    - To **identify target groups** to **monitor and evaluate** the process and activities and **provide input to the Ministry.**
    - The approach involves **capacity building** of the tribal people through **sensitization, formation of Self Help Groups (SHGs)**, and imparting training to

them for undertaking a particular activity, **exploring marketing possibilities** in national as well as international markets, creating **opportunities for marketing tribal products** on a sustainable basis, and creating a brand.

- **Retail Marketing:**
  - TRIFED has been doing the retail marketing of tribal products under the **brand name of TRIBES INDIA.**
  - TRIFED promotes and creates a sustainable market through **retail outlets, exhibitions such as Aadishilp, Aadichitra, OCTAVE**; international fairs; and e-marketing.

PM VISHWAKARMA SCHEME

It is a **Central Sector Scheme** launched by the **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** in **2023**.

- It aimed at providing **holistic and end-to-end support to artisans and craftspeople** through **access to collateral-free credit, skill training, modern tools, incentives for digital transactions,** and **market linkage support.**
- **Objective**: Promoting the socio-economic empowerment of artisans, strengthening traditional crafts, and ensuring sustainable livelihoods.
- **Time period: Five years (FY 2023-24 to FY 2027-28).**
- **Implementing Agency:** The scheme is conjointly implemented by the following Ministries/Departments:
  - **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME).**
  - **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).**
  - **Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance (MoF).**
- **Eligibility and Coverage:**

- The **applicant** should be an **artisan or craftsperson** working with hands and tools.
- The applicant should be **engaged in an unorganized sector on a self-employment basis.**
- The applicant should be engaged in one of the **18 family-based traditional trades** mentioned in the scheme, such as **Boat Maker, Armourer, Blacksmith,** Hammer and Tool Kit Maker, etc.
- The minimum age of the applicant should be **18 years.**
- The applicant should **not have availed loans under similar** credit-based **schemes** in the past 5 years.
- Exclusions: A person in government service and their family members shall not be eligible.

- **Features**:
  - **Recognition:** Recognition of artisans and craftspeople through **PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card.**
  - **Skill Upgradation**: **Basic Training of 5-7 days** and **Advanced Training of 15 days** or more, with a **stipend** of R **500 per day;**
  - **Toolkit Incentive:** A toolkit incentive of **upto Rs. 15,000 in the form of e-vouchers** at the beginning of Basic Skill Training.
  - **Credit Support: Collateral-free 'Enterprise Development Loans' of upto Rs. 3 lakh in two tranches** of Rs. 1 lakh and Rs. 2 lakh at a **concessional rate of interest** fixed at **5%.**
  - **Incentive for Digital Transaction**: ₹ 1 per transaction for a maximum of up to 100 transactions (monthly)
  - **Marketing Support:** The **National Committee for Marketing (NCM)** will provide services such as **Quality Certification, Branding and Promotion,** e-commerce Linkage, Trade Fair Advertising, Publicity and Other Marketing Activities.

Cross And Climb

EXERCISE RAHAT MITRA



Recently, India and Myanmar commenced exercise, 'RAHAT MITRA', in Chennai.

- It is the first **bilateral Tri-Services** Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise conducted between **India and Myanmar.**

Theme: 'Together for Humanity, Stronger through Partnership'

Aim: The exercise aims to **strengthen bilateral cooperation**, foster mutual trust and enhance coordination between the Defence Forces of both nations.

Major Activities & Highlights:

• Multi-Domain Drills: Included coordinated land, sea, and air emergency response demonstrations.

• Service Capabilities: Showcased Army flood/dewatering operations, naval search-and-rescue using INS Sukanya and INS Bitra, and IAF casualty evacuations via ALH helicopters alongside Chennai Military Hospital triage efforts.

Participating Contingents: It brings together **personnel from all three services of both countries,** reflecting their shared commitment to humanitarian cooperation and regional disaster response.

- It is coordinated under the aegis of the **Indian Navy.**
- It provides an important platform for the **Indian and Myanmar Defence Forces** to engage in professional exchanges, share experiences and enhance interoperability in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief operations.

Significance: The exercise reflects India's commitment to its 'Neighbourhood First' policy and the strategic vision of MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions).

Cross And Climb

BAHAMAS



Recently, Bahamas joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as its 116th member.

- **Location:** It is an **archipelagic country** comprising coral islands, islets and cays situated in the **northwest of West Indies in West Atlantic Ocean.**

Capital City: Nassau

Geographical Features of Bahamas:

- **Topography:** The islands were mostly created by the **disintegration of coral reefs and seashells**, and low scrub covers much of their surfaces.
- **Climate:** The Bahamas has a **subtropical marine climate** characterized by year-round warm temperatures, moderate rainfall, and cooling trade winds.
- **Islands:** New Providence, San Salvador and Great Inagua
- **Mountain: Mount Alvernia**, also known locally as Como Hill, is the highest point
- **Strategic Significance:** The strategic location of the islands commands the gateway to the **Gulf of Mexico**, the **Caribbean Sea, and the entire Central American region.**

Cross And Climb