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1. The central panel rejects the inclusion of Muslim dynasties in the exhibitions (Jan. 30, 2023)

An exhibition on **Medieval Indian Dynasties** was organised by the **Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR)**, a division of the Union Ministry of Education and featured **50 different dynasties** in the exhibitions. **No Muslim dynasty** was shown in the exhibition.

An overview of the news

- The ICHR, organised the exhibition at **Lalit Kala Akademi** titled '**Glory of Medieval India: Manifestation of the unexplored - Indian dynasties, 8th-18th Centuries.**
- Minister of State Education **Dr Rajkumar Ranjan Singh** inaugurated the exhibition.
- Muslim dynasties like **Bahmani and Adil Shahi** were not part of the exhibition.
- On the question why Muslim dynasties are not part of the exhibition, ICHR member secretary **Professor Umesh Ashok Kadam** said that he does not consider Muslim dynasties as Indian dynasties.
- According to Kadam, Muslims came from the **Middle East** and did not have a direct connection with Indian culture.
- Although Islamic dynasties were undoubtedly a part of Indian history, Kadam argued that the past should not be dominated by the **Mughal or Sultanate dynasties.**
- Kadam said, "Islam and Christianity came to India in the medieval period and they uprooted the civilization and destroyed the knowledge system."
- According to the ICHR, the exhibition will soon be shown across the country with the intention of educating people about India's past.
- The exhibits depict **Ahom, Chola, Rathor, Yadav, Kakatiya** and other dynasties, highlighting their founders, capital cities, dates and architecture, art, culture of India.

Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR)

- It is an **autonomous body** of the **Central Ministry of Education.**
- It was established under **Societies Registration Act, 1860 in 1972.**
- It aims to bring historians together and provide a platform for exchange of views among them.
- Its other objectives are to promote, accelerate and coordinate research in history.
- It publishes a biannual Journal - **the Indian Historical Review**, and another journal **Itihas** in Hindi.
- Headquarters - **New Delhi**

2. Monument Mitra Scheme (Jan. 28, 2023)

The **Culture Ministry will launch a new version of the Monument Mitra scheme** by partnering with private industries for the maintenance of one thousand ASI monuments.

An overview of the news

- The revised scheme will be based on the Corporate Social Responsibility model and a new website with the names of all the heritage sites will also be launched.

Monument friend scheme

- The **Monument Mitra scheme was launched under the Ministry of Tourism.**
- **Recently** the Monument Mitra scheme was **shifted from Ministry of Tourism to Ministry of Culture.**
- The objective of the project is to develop monuments, heritage and tourist places across India by inviting corporate entities, public sector companies or individuals to 'adopt' them.

Other initiatives of the government related to heritage conservation:

- National Mission for Monuments and Antiquities, 2007
- Adopt Heritage: Your Heritage, Your Identity Project
- Project Mausam

3. Indian Railways to start 'Bharat Gaurav Deluxe AC Tourist Train' between Ayodhya to Janakpur (Jan. 14, 2023)

Indian Railways to start 'Bharat Gaurav Deluxe AC Tourist Train' between Ayodhya to Janakpur Indian Railways is going to run Bharat Gaurav Deluxe AC tourist train "Shri Ram-Janaki Yatra: Ayodhya to Janakpur", which will cover two most important pilgrimage sites of neighbouring India and Nepal, Ayodhya and Janakpur.

- The initiative aims to strengthen bilateral relations between India and Nepal and promote cultural ties between the two countries.
- This train will be operated by Railway's PSU - IRCTC.
- The state-of-the-art Bharat Gaurav Deluxe AC Tourist Train will depart from **Delhi on 17th February, 2023** for a 7 days all inclusive tour.
- The train will cover Ayodhya and Janakpur Dham (Nepal) as well as pilgrimage and heritage sites at Nandigram, Sitamarhi, Varanasi and Prayag.

- This tourist train can carry 156 tourists and will have 4 first AC coaches, 2 second AC coaches, a well-equipped pantry car and two rail restaurants.

- **Indo-Nepal Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train**

- **The first Indo-Nepal Bharat Gaurav tourism train was flagged off from Safdarjung Railway Station in Delhi in June 2022.**
- 500 Indian tourists travelled in this train.
- This unique idea was conceptualised by the Ministry of Railways.
- This train returned to Delhi after covering a distance of about 8000 kms in a journey of 18 days.
- The Bharat Gaurav train was run with the theme '**Dekho Apna Desh**'.

4. EC issues notification for filing nomination for 16th Vice-Presidential election (July 5, 2022)

The Election Commission has issued the notification on 5 July for filing the nomination for the 16th Vice-Presidential election.

- The process of filing nominations for the Vice Presidential election to be held on August 6 will start from July 5 and will continue till July 19.
- The scrutiny of nomination papers will be held on July 20 and the last date for withdrawal of nominations is July 22.
- The term of current Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu ends on August 10.
- The election is held according to the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote and voting is by secret ballot.

- **About Vice-President**

- The post of Vice President of India is modelled on the lines of the US Vice President.
- The post of Vice President in India is considered to be the second highest post in the country.
- Article 63 of the Indian Constitution mentions the office of the Vice-President.
- He is the ex-officio Speaker of the Rajya Sabha (Article 64).
- He is not a member of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
- The Vice President is indirectly elected by an Electoral College.
- The Electoral college consists of both elected and nominated members from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
- The Electoral College does not include the members of the state legislative assemblies.

- The Vice President holds the position for five years.
- He can resign his office before five years by submitting his resignation to the President.
- A formal impeachment is not required for his removal.
- First Vice President of india – Dr. S. Radhakrishnan (1952)
- Present Vice President of india – Venkaiah Naidu (Since 2017)

5. Karnataka's Sini Shetty is Femina Miss India World 2022 (July 4, 2022)

Sini Shetty from Karnataka was crowned Femina Miss India World 2022 at the grand finale of VLCC Femina Miss India on July 3.

• First runner-up

- In the ceremony held at the Jio World Convention Centre, Rubal Shekhawat from Rajasthan became the Femina Miss India 2022 first runner-up.

• Second runner-up

- Shinata Chauhan from Uttar Pradesh was declared Femina Miss India 2022 second runner-up.

• Jury panel

- Actors Neha Dhupia, Dino Morea and Malaika Arora, designers Rohit Gandhi and Rahul Khanna, choreographer Shiamak Davar and former cricketer Mithali Raj were member of the jury panel.

• Sini Shetty

- The 21-years old Sini Shetty was born in Mumbai and holds a bachelor's degree in accounting and finance.
- At present, she is pursuing a professional course called Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA).
- She is also a trained Bharatnatyam dancer.
- Sini Shetty will now present India at the prestigious 71st Miss World pageant.
- She was crowned Femina Miss India World 2022 by her predecessor Miss India 2020, Manasa Varanasi from Telangana.

• Femina Miss India

- Miss India or Femina Miss India is a national beauty pageant in India that selects representatives to participate in Miss World every year.
- It is organized by Femina, a women's magazine published by The Times Group.
- Since 2013, Femina has also organized Miss Diva as a separate contest, with its representatives competing in Miss Universe.

- In addition to Miss Diva, the organization organizes a contest every two years to select an Indian representative for Mr. World.
- The first Miss India was Pramila (Esther Victoria Abraham) of Calcutta, who won in 1947.

6. 'One Health' pilot project launched in Bengaluru (June 30, 2022)

On June 28, 2022, the Ministry of Dairying and Animal Husbandry launched the 'One Health' pilot project in Bengaluru.

- “One Health Pilot Project” was launched by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as implementation partners.
- This health project is being implemented in Uttarakhand and Karnataka.
- The One Health pilot project will bring together stakeholders from human, animal and environmental health to develop solutions to prevent future zoonotic disease outbreaks such as the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The success of this pilot project will help the Centre develop a national 'One Health' roadmap.
- The roadmap will be equipped with better feedback mechanisms and management.
- It will also incorporate world best practices.
- **About Confederation of Indian Industry**
- CII is a non-governmental advocacy group and trade association.
- Its headquarter is in New Delhi.
- This association was established in 1895.
- It engages with other leaders in business, academia, political and society in shaping industry, regional and global agendas.
- It is a membership based organisation.

7. India and Britain to launch joint Commonwealth Diplomatic Academy program (June 28, 2022)

Recently a joint India-UK Commonwealth Diplomatic Academy program was announced by the Foreign Ministers of UK and India.

- It aims to equip diplomats from all Commonwealth member states with the expertise and skills required to deal with emerging challenges that have a global impact.

- This Academy event will be held in New Delhi.
- This was announced during the 26th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held in Rwanda, East Africa from 24 to 25 June.
- The academy will be meant to jointly promote the values of the Commonwealth.
- **About the United Kingdom or Britain -**
- The United Kingdom is a constitutional monarchy and unitary state consisting of four countries: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.
- It is governed by a parliamentary system whose government sits in the capital, London.
- It was the first industrialised country in the world.
- The United Kingdom is one of three countries in the world that do not have a well-organised constitution.
- The United Kingdom is today the sixth largest economy in the world based on market exchange rates and the third in Europe after Germany and France.
- Queen Elizabeth II
- Prime Minister - Boris Johnson
- Currency - Pound Sterling

8. "Global Liveability Index" 2022 (June 27, 2022)

Austria's capital Vienna has been ranked first as the world's most livable city in the annual Global Liveability Index released by The Economist magazine.

- 140 cities of the world have been assessed in this index.
- The cities in this list have been ranked on the basis of many factors including political and social stability, crime, access to education and healthcare.
- Delhi (112) topped the 6 South Asian cities followed by Mumbai (117).
- Pakistan's financial capital Karachi and Bangladesh's capital Dhaka were ranked among the least livable cities in the world.
- The Chinese capital Beijing is at number 71.
- Damascus, the capital of Syria, is ranked at the bottom of the list.
- **Top 10 Cities -**
- 1. Vienna (Austria)
- 2. Copenhagen (Denmark)
- 3. Calgary (Canada)
- 4. Zurich (Switzerland)

- 5. Vancouver (Canada)
- 6. Geneva (Switzerland)
- 7. Frankfurt (Germany)
- 8. Toronto (Canada)
- 9. Amsterdam (Netherlands)
- 10. Osaka (Japan)

9. 'Chief Minister Bal Gopal Yojana' will be implemented in Rajasthan (June 25, 2022)

On the initiative of Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, the 'Mukhyamantri Bal Gopal Yojana' has been approved for the children of class 1 to 8 in the state.

- **IMPORTANT FACTS -**
- Under the scheme, milk will be provided to the children of class 1 to 8 in the state two days a week.
- Under the scheme, about 69 lakh 21 thousand children studying in government schools will be provided milk prepared from powder, twice a week, on Tuesdays and Fridays.
- If these days are a holiday, milk will be made available on the next academic day. 150 ml milk will be distributed to children of classes 1 to 5 and 200 ml to children of classes 6 to 8.
- The scheme was announced in the state budget for the financial year 2022-23.
- With the implementation of this scheme, there will be an improvement in the nutritional level of children from class 1 to 8, enrollment and attendance in government schools will increase and dropout of students will also be stopped.
- For this, powder milk will be procured from Rajasthan Co-operative Dairy Federation and district wise allocation of powder milk will be done through Mid-Day Meal Commissionerate.
- Doorstep delivery of powdered milk will be done to the schools as per the allocation by RCDF itself.
- **Other major schemes of Rajasthan -**
- Prashasan gaon ke sang abhiyan
- Chief Minister Anupriti Coaching Scheme
- Chief Minister Kisan Mitra Energy Scheme
- Smile on Wheels Project
- Ghar Ghar Aushadhi Scheme

Chief Minister Chiranjeevi Yojana

10. J&K to host G20 summit in 2023 (June 24, 2022)

The summit of the G-20, an influential grouping of the world's major economies, will be organised by the Government of India in 2023 in Jammu and Kashmir next year.

- 20 countries including China, USA, Canada, Germany, Turkey will participate in this conference.
- India will chair the G20 from December 1, 2022 and will host the G20 leaders' summit for the first time in the year 2023.
- The Government of India has approved the formation of a committee for all coordination of the G-20 Summit to be held in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The chairman of this committee will be the Principal Secretary of the Housing and Urban Development Department of the Union Territory.
- Along with this, the members of the committee will include Commissioner Secretary (Transport), Administrative Secretary (Tourism), Administrative Secretary (Hospitality and Protocol) and Administrative Secretary (Culture).
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been leading India's representation at the G20 summit since 2014.
- India has been a part of the G-20 group since 1999. At the same time, from 1 December 2021 to 30 November 2024, India is also a part of the G-20 Troika.
- Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal was appointed Sherpa of India for G20.

• G-20 Group

- Group of 20 or G-20 is a multilateral organisation which was set up in 1999.
- It consists of the world's major developed and developing countries.
- It consists of 19 countries and the European Union. The member countries are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.
- The presidency of the G20 rotates every year among its members, with the country that holds the presidency working together with its predecessor and successor, also known as Troika, to ensure the continuity of the agenda. Currently Italy, Indonesia, and India are the Troika countries.
- Italy was the President of the G-20 in 2021. Indonesia is the President for 2022 and India will be the President in 2023.
- The first Summit meeting of the leaders of the G-20 was held in 2008 at Washington, United States.
- The G20 has no permanent secretariat.

- G-20 members constitute 60% of the world population, 80% of the World economy and
- 75% of world trade.