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1. UNESCO Adds Three Indian Literary Gems to 'Memory of the World' Asia-Pacific Register (May 15, 2024)

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has added three significant Indian literary works to its "Memory of the World (MOW) Asia-Pacific Regional Register": The Ramcharitmanas (Rāmacaritamānasa), Panchatantra (Pañcatantra Fables), and Sahṛdayāloka-Locana.

An Overview of the News

- This decision was made at the 10th meeting of the Memory of the World Committee for Asia and the Pacific (MOWCAP), which took place in Ulaanbatar, Mongolia.
- During the 2024 cycle, the Asia-Pacific Member States included a total of 20 items from various countries, with three from India.
- Authored by Goswami Tulsidas, Pt. Vishnu Sharma, and Acharya Anandvardhan, respectively, these literary works hold significant cultural and historical importance.

IGNCA's Role and Representation:

- The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) played a pivotal role in ensuring the placement of The Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra, and Sahṛdayāloka-Locana in UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register.
- Prof. Ramesh Chandra Gaur, Dean (Administration) and Head of Department (HOD) at the Kala Nidhi Division of IGNCA in New Delhi, Delhi, effectively represented the three entries from India.
- IGNCA's participation marked its first-ever submission of nominations to the Regional Register since its inception in 2008, underscoring its commitment to preserving and promoting cultural heritage.

MOWCAP:

- MOWCAP, a regional arm of UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme (MOW), was inaugurated in 1998 at its inaugural General Meeting in Beijing, China.
- The committee administers the Asia-Pacific register of MOW documentary heritage, updating it every two years with new inscriptions.
- Its primary objective is to aid in the preservation and promotion of access to the documentary heritage of the Asia-Pacific region.
- MOWCAP's mission extends to raising awareness about the significance and presence of this heritage.
- It encompasses a membership of 43 countries spanning the Asia-Pacific region.

2. 6-year-old Indian girl Takshavi sets world record for lowest limbo skating (April 19, 2024)

6-year-old Takshavi Vaghan from Ahmedabad, Gujarat made the world record for lowest limb skating.

An Overview of the News

- On April 18, 2024, the remarkable 6-year-old prodigy from Ahmedabad, Gujarat, displayed extraordinary agility, effortlessly crossing a distance of 25 meters with a minimum clearance of only 16 cm (6.29 inches) from the ground.
- Guinness World Records (GWR) confirmed Takshavi's record and shared a video of his achievement.
- The video shows Takshavi completing the limbo skating challenge with ease.

Previous record holder: Manasvi Vishal

- Before Takshvi, the record for lowest limbo skating of more than 25 meters was held by Manasvi Vishal of Pune, India.
- Manasvi achieved this feat by covering a distance of 25 meters at a height of 16.5 centimeters from the ground.

3. Operation Indravati Begins: Evacuation of Indian Citizens from Haiti (March 23, 2024)

Operation Indravati was launched to evacuate Indian citizens from Haiti amid increasing gang violence.

An Overview of the News

- Armed gangs have attacked the suburbs of **Port-au-Prince**, prompting India to intervene.
- The evacuation plan includes relocating Indian nationals to the Dominican Republic.
- More than **15 Americans are being airlifted to Santo Domingo.**
- Haiti is facing a crisis exacerbated by gang violence following the **2010 earthquake.**
- Gangs are **carrying out attacks, burning police stations and spreading anarchy.**
- The airport was closed, prisoners were released, a state of emergency was declared, and a curfew was imposed.
- **Gang leader Jimmy Charizier** demanded the resignation of acting Prime Minister Ariel Henry. Ariel Henry announced his decision to step down but remained in power. Henry is currently in exile in Puerto Rico.

About Haiti:

- Haiti, located in the Caribbean, shares the island of Hispaniola with the **Dominican Republic** to its east.

- Despite ongoing efforts to recover from the devastating 2010 earthquake, Haiti has preserved many sites dating back to the early 19th century.
- These sites include the **Citadelle La Ferriere**, which sits atop a mountain and serves as a fortress.
- The **Sans-Souci Palace**, the Baroque former royal residence of **King Henry I**, is located in nearby ruins, offering a glimpse of Haiti's historic past.

Capital - **Port-au-Prince**

Official languages - **Haitian Creole, French**

Currency - **Haitian Gourde**

Continent - **North America**

4. Cricket star Deepak Chahar launches 'DNINE Sports' (Sept. 20, 2023)

Indian cricketer Deepak Chahar forayed into the sports equipment industry with the launch of DNINE Sports.

An Overview of the News

- Deepak Chahar has invested ₹2.5 crore in DNINE Sports.
- DNINE Sports aims **to revolutionize athletic gear, offering a wide range of products to suit the needs of athletes, including professional cricketers.**

Establishment and Founder:

- DNINE Sports was established under the entity **LCDC Athletics Pvt. Ltd.**
- **Deepak Chahar** and his father **Lokendra Singh Chahar** are the **co-founders of the company.**

Distribution Strategy:

- DNINE Sports adopts a multi-pronged distribution approach, encompassing both online and offline.
- The importance of **word-of-mouth marketing** in establishing a brand identity for DNINE Sports is emphasized.

5. Union Minister Harsh Shanghvi grants Indian citizenship to 108 Pakistani migrants in Ahmedabad (Sept. 12, 2023)

On September 12, 2023, in Ahmedabad, Union Minister Harsh Shanghvi provided citizenship to 108 migrants from Pakistan.

An Overview of the News

- The right to grant Indian citizenship to minority communities from **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan** came through gazette notifications issued in **2016 and 2018**.
- The district collectors of Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, and Kutch in Gujarat are empowered to follow the process under the Citizenship Act for granting Indian citizenship.
- Ahmedabad District Collectorate has already granted Indian citizenship to about **1,149 Pakistani** Hindu immigrants.

About Citizenship Act

- Articles 5 to 11 under Part II of the Constitution address citizenship.
 - **Article 5** - Citizenship at the commencement of the Constitution
 - **Article 6** - Rights of citizenship of certain persons who have migrated to India from Pakistan
 - **Article 7** - Rights of citizenship of certain migrants to Pakistan
 - **Article 8** - Rights of citizenship of certain persons of Indian origin resident outside India
 - **Article 9** - Persons who voluntarily acquire the citizenship of a foreign State not to be citizens
 - **Article 10**- Continuance of rights of citizenship
 - **Article 11**- Parliament shall regulate by law the right of citizenship
- The Constitution recognizes those persons who became citizens of India upon its commencement on January 26, 1950.
- It lacks detailed provisions for acquiring or losing citizenship after commencement.
- The Constitution gives Parliament the right to make laws in matters related to citizenship.
- **Parliament enacted the Citizenship Act (1955) as the primary legal framework for citizenship.**
- Amendments to the Citizenship Act, including the repeal of the Commonwealth citizenship provision, were made through legislative acts such as the **Citizenship (Amendment) Act of 2003**.

6. India begins construction of world's highest combat airfield at Nyoma in Ladakh (Sept. 11, 2023)

The Border Roads Organization (BRO) is building the world's highest combat airfield at Nyoma in Ladakh.

An Overview of the News

- Defense Minister Rajnath Singh will lay the foundation stone of this project at Devak Bridge in Jammu on September 12, 2023.
- Nyoma, a major village in southern Ladakh, already hosts an Indian Air Force base and an Advanced Landing Ground (ALG), established in 1962.
- The altitude of Nyoma reaches an impressive 4,180 meters (13,710 ft) above sea level, making it one of the highest altitudes in the region.

Budget Allocation:

- The Central Government has consistently increased its budget allocation for the development of border infrastructure.
- Last year, around ₹12,340 crore was allocated, underscoring the government's commitment to strengthening India's border infrastructure.

Goals of India's infrastructure development:

- Lieutenant General Rajiv Chaudhary, who heads the BRO, is optimistic about India's rapid progress in developing border infrastructure.
- India aims to surpass China in this regard on the 3,488 km long Line of Actual Control (LAC) within the next two to three years.

About Ladakh

- Union Territory - **31 October 2019**
- Capitals - **Leh, Kargil**
- Lieutenant Governor - **B. D. Mishra**
- Member of Parliament - **Jamyang Tsering Namgyal**

7. GSV Vadodara and Airbus sign MoU (Sept. 8, 2023)

Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) Vadodara and Airbus signed an MoU for aerospace education and research. The aim is **to strengthen the Indian aviation sector through this partnership.**

An Overview of the News

- The MoU was signed by Rémi Maillard (President and Managing Director, Airbus India and South Asia) and Professor Manoj Chowdhary (Vice-Chancellor, Gati Shakti University).
- The signing ceremony was attended by Minister of Railways, Communications, Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnav, who also serves as the first Chancellor of Gati Shakti University.
- Jaya Verma Sinha, Chairperson and CEO, of the Railway Board and senior officials of the Railway Board, were also present.

Airbus' commitment to India:

- Airbus recognizes India as a key driver of global aviation and an important resource center.
- Airbus is committed to "Make in India" and increasing India's contribution to its global products.

Objectives of Industry-Academia Partnership:

- The partnership will involve co-development and co-delivery of sector-relevant skill courses and programs.
- It will also include joint research initiatives and industry experiences for faculty, internships, placements and scholarship programs for students.
- Through this collaboration, an estimated 15,000 students are expected to get job opportunities in Airbus' Indian operations.

Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV):

- GSV Vadodara was established in 2022 through an Act of Parliament.
- It is sponsored by the Ministry of Railways, Government of India, with the first chancellor being Shri Ashwini Vaishnav.
- **Focus and Mission of GSV:**
 - GSV focuses exclusively on the transportation and logistics sectors.
 - It aims to complement national developmental plans including PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan 2021 and National Logistics Policy 2022.
- **Educational Approach:**
 - GSV follows a demand-driven curriculum.
 - It leverages the state-of-the-art infrastructure of Centralized Training Institutes of Indian Railways.
 - The University aims to create a resource pool of professionals in technology, economics, management and policy through multidisciplinary education.
- **Industry Collaboration:**
 - GSV is an industry-driven and innovation-driven university.
 - It already has several collaborations with leading institutions and industries globally.

Airbus and Tata partnership:

- Airbus and Tata recently announced a partnership to set up a C295 aircraft facility in Vadodara, Gujarat.

8. 'Gujarat Declaration' outlining the outcome of the first WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit 2023 released (Sept. 5, 2023)

The World Health Organization (WHO) released the outcome document of the first WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit 2023 as the "Gujarat Declaration".

An Overview of the News

- The "Gujarat Manifesto" reaffirms the global commitment **to traditional medicine for health and wellness.**
- This emphasizes the need for rigorous scientific methods to understand and implement holistic and context-specific healthcare approaches.
- India, as the host of the WHO Global Center for Traditional Medicine in Gujarat, plays an important role in supporting Member States and taking forward the work agenda of the summit.
- **Key objectives** include enhancing evidence-based traditional complementary integrative medicine (TCIM), promoting standardized documentation, and establishing a global network of TCIM reference clinical centers.
- The declaration emphasizes leveraging digital health technologies, especially artificial intelligence, for digital resources related to TCIM.
- The summit was **organized by WHO** and **co-hosted by the Ministry of AYUSH in Gandhinagar, Gujarat on 17 - 18 August 2023.**

AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, Homeopathy):-

- The Ministry of AYUSH was established on **9 November 2014** to revive the knowledge of traditional Indian systems of medicine.
- It focuses on education and research in the fields of Ayurveda, Yoga Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy.
- AYUSH Minister - **Sarbananda Sonowal**

World Health Organization (WHO)

- It is a specialized agency of the United Nations.
- Established - **April 7, 1948**
- "World Health Day" - **7 April**
- Headquarters - **Geneva, Switzerland**
- Director General - **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus of Ethiopia**

9. Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers gets Navratna status (Sept. 3, 2023)

On September 2, 2023, Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (RCF) was conferred 'Navratna status' by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE).

An Overview of the News

- The 'Navratna Status' designation empowers RCF as one of the select groups of Public Sector Enterprises in India with significant financial autonomy.
- These companies can invest up to Rs 1000 crore in projects without approval from the central government.
- Before achieving 'Navratna status', RCF had earlier achieved 'Miniratna status' from the Department of Public Enterprises.
- Navratna companies are recognized as pillars of excellence in India's public sector and are known for their exceptional performance and significant contribution to the country's economy.
- These companies have substantial financial freedom, which allows them to make investment decisions for projects up to a specific limit without requiring government approval.
- Navratna companies fall under the category of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and are evaluated based on specific operational and financial parameters, including factors such as net profit, total cost of production, earnings per share, and cross-sector performance.

Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (RCF):-

- **Ownership:** Government-owned enterprise in India
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, India
- **Primary operations:** production of chemicals and fertilizers
- **Government Ministry:** Comes under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
- **Establishment:** Established in 1978 after the restructuring of the Fertilizer Corporation of India.
- **Product Portfolio:** Includes Urea and Complex Fertilizers (NPK) and Industrial Chemicals
- **Ranking:** Fourth largest producer of state-owned fertilizers in India
- **Urea Production:** 4th largest urea producer in India
- **Chairman and Managing Director:** S. C. Mudgerikar

10. MoU signed by Ministry and National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) (Aug. 30, 2023)

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the financial years 2023-24 and 2024-25.

An Overview of the News

- The collaboration aims to uplift sanitation workers, manual scavengers, waste pickers and their dependents across India.
- The MoU focuses on inclusive growth and effective fund allocation for targeted welfare programmes.
- The partnership emphasizes initiatives on protection, education, skill development, entrepreneurship and sustainable employment opportunities for these marginalized communities.
- NSKFDC, a premier organization dedicated to this purpose, will work closely with the Ministry to ensure transparent and effective utilization of the allocated funds.
- The goal is to combine expertise and resources for effective implementation of programs that empower these marginalized groups.

About NSKFDC

- **Establishment:** Incorporated on 24 January 1997
- **Managing Director:** Prabhat Kumar Singh
- **Affiliation:** Wholly owned by Government of India
- **Ministry:** Operates under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (M/O SJ&E)
- **Legal Status:** Registered as a non-profit company under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956
- **Function:** Active since October 1997, working for the upliftment of sanitation workers, sweepers and their dependents across India.
- **Mission:** Actively involved in the eradication of manual scavenging, a symbol of untouchability.
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