



## **General Studies-1**

### **Buddha Jayanti:**

#### **Why in News?**

The Ministry of Culture, in collaboration with International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) will celebrate the auspicious Buddha Jayanti-2018 by showcasing various facets of Buddhist traditions.

In 2015, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi had announced that the Buddha Jayanti day will be commemorated and celebrated as an annual event by the nation.

#### **Buddhism and India:**

Buddhist thought has been integral to the Indian concept of Dharma, as Buddha is remembered most for his notion of Karuna (*Compassion*).

Buddhism has thrived in the Indian Himalayas, from Arunachal Pradesh in the east to Ladakh in the west.

Also, there are communities in India that trace their origin to the Shakya clan of Buddha and the Maurya clan of Samrat Ashok.

UN has also officially recognized the importance of this auspicious day in 1999, considering the contemporary relevance of Buddha's teachings of compassion and humanism in these modern times.

'Buddha dharma' is also the common thread running through many south Asian countries and connecting these countries and most others in Asia to India.

## **General Studies-2**

### **Adopt a Heritage Scheme:**

#### **Why in News?**

The Dalmia Bharat group, under the memorandum of understanding, would maintain the monument and build basic infrastructure around it and has committed a sum of ₹25 crore for the purpose over a period spanning five years.

#### **About The Project:**



In response to certain reports appearing in the media regarding Adopt a Heritage Scheme, the Ministry of Tourism has clarified that the "Adopt a Heritage: Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan", is a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), and State/UTs Governments.

The Project aims to develop synergy among all partners to effectively promote "responsible tourism".

It aims to involve public sector companies, private sector companies and corporate citizens/individuals to take up the responsibility for making our heritage and tourism more sustainable through **development, operation and maintenance of world-class tourist infrastructure and amenities at ASI/ State heritage sites and other important tourist sites in India.**

They would become '**Monument Mitras**' through the innovative concept of "**Vision Bidding**", where the agency with best vision for the heritage site will be given an opportunity to associate pride with their CSR activities.

They would also get limited visibility in the premises and the Incredible India website.

### **Benefits of Project:**

The aim is enhancement of tourist experience and promotion of the incredible heritage sites to bring them on tourism map.

The project primarily focusses on providing basic amenities that includes cleanliness, public conveniences, drinking water, ease of access for differently abled and senior citizens, standardized signage, illumination and advanced amenities such as surveillance system, night viewing facilities, tourism facilitation center and an enhanced tourism experience that will result in more tourist footfalls, both domestic and foreign.

### **General Studies-3**

#### **The Great Barrier Reef**

#### **Why in News?**

[Australia](#) pledged half-a-billion dollars to restore and protect the Great Barrier Reef on Sunday in what it said would be a game-changer for the embattled natural wonder.



The World Heritage-listed site, which attracts millions of tourists, is reeling from significant bouts of coral bleaching due to warming sea temperatures linked to climate change.

A study in the journal *Nature* said some 30 per cent of the reef's coral perished, the first of an unprecedented two successive years of coral bleaching along the 2,300-kilometre reef.

### **About the Reef:**

The **Great Barrier Reef** is the world's largest [coral reef](#) system composed of over 2,900 individual reef and 900 islands stretching for over 2,300 kilometres (1,400 mi) over an area of approximately 344,400 square kilometres (133,000 sq mi).

The reef is located in the [Coral Sea](#), off the coast of [Queensland, Australia](#).

The Great Barrier Reef can be seen from [outer space](#) and is the world's biggest single structure made by living organisms.

This reef structure is composed of and built by billions of tiny organisms, known as [coral polyps](#)

It supports a wide diversity of life and was selected as a [World Heritage Site](#) in 1981

[CNN](#) labelled it one of the [seven natural wonders of the world](#). The Queensland National Trust named it a state icon of Queensland.

### **US put India on Watch List**

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative has once again placed India on 'Priority Watch List' in its annual Special 301 Report on the state of intellectual property protection.

### **Observations of Report:**

The report has slammed the Indian Health Ministry for "creating uncertainty in the pharmaceutical market" by demanding that pharmaceutical companies provide details of how they were using the granted patents.

The report comes at a time when the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has demanded elimination of 'Form 27' — a statutory requirement unique



to India's patent law that mandates patent holders to declare how a monopoly is being exercised in the country.

The report called India's implementation of the patent act as restrictive. "Companies across different sectors remain concerned about narrow patentability standards, the potential threat of compulsory licensing and patent revocations, as well as overly broad criteria for issuing such licences and revocations under the India Patents Act," it says.

### **About the List:**

The **Special 301 Report** is prepared annually by the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) under Section 301 as amended of the Trade Act of 1974.

The reports identify trade barriers to U.S. companies and products due to the intellectual property laws, such as copyright, patents and trademarks, in other countries.

Each year the USTR must identify countries which do not provide "adequate and effective" protection of intellectual property rights or "fair and equitable market access to United States persons that rely upon intellectual property rights".

### **Nanotechnology and it's Application:**

Nanomotors and their applications in biomedicine have gained huge interest in recent times and now researchers from Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, have successfully shown how to move them around inside living cells.

The nanomotors can be used as a new imaging tool to study the organelles of the cell up-close.

The way the motor moves inside the cell and the hindered motion patterns can help us get a better understanding of the make-up of cells in the body.

"Since normal and cancerous cells have variations in the intracellular environment (pH, temperature, energy), scientists have planned to study the differences in the fluidity of the intracellular matrix using nanomotors."



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