



भारतीय जन संचार संस्थान
Indian Institute of Mass Communication



CRAFT: Center for Research in Art of Film and Television.)

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Dates:

27th April 2018- 27th May 2018.

Time:

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Fee Structure:

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Rs.15,000/- (Fifteen Thousand Rupees only)

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Index of the Expected Topics (10)

NATIONAL (part-1)

1.NATIONAL REGISTER OF CITIZEN

State of Assam published the first draft of updated National Register of Citizen (NRC).

About National Register of Citizen

- NRC contains the **names of bona fide Indian Citizens** (of Assam) that distinguish them from the foreigners. It is updated periodically.
- However, in Assam the updation could not be carried on since 1951 due to various political tensions such as Assam Movement of 1980s, the language movement and other ethnic movements.
- But after the Supreme Court judgment (2014), NRC is now being updated in a time bound manner to incorporate Assam Accord of 1985 in order to tackle the **issue of illegal immigration from Bangladesh**.

The NRC will include names of person or their descendants whose name appear in NRC 1951 or any of the Electoral Rolls up to the midnight of 24th March 1971.

2. CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Why in News?

The government is considering revisiting the **Malimath Committee report** on reforms in the criminal justice system (CJS).

Criminal Justice System

- It refers to the **agencies of government** charged with enforcing law, adjudicating crime, and correcting criminal conduct.
- It is composed of **three components**: police, courts, and prisons which are seen as interrelated, interdependent, and striving to achieve a unified goal.
- The Indian Penal Code (IPC) 1860, the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) 1973, along with parts of the Indian Evidence Act 1872, constitute **Indian**

criminal law. A large number of special and local laws take care of various other antisocial activities.

3.SCHEMES FOR NORTH EASTERN REGION

Why in News?

- Union Cabinet approved introduction of new Central Sector Scheme - **“North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme” (NESIDS)** from 2017-18.
- **Central Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme** and **Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR)** schemes were also approved for continuation till 2020.

Northeast Special Infrastructure Development Scheme

- It is a **central sector scheme** with **100% funding** by Union government launched to fill the gaps in creation of infrastructure under following sectors:-
- **Physical infrastructure** relating to water supply, power, connectivity and specially the projects promoting tourism;
- **Infrastructure of social sectors** of education and health.

4.INDIA AWARDED BY CITES

Why in news?

India has been awarded a certificate of commendation by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) for its effort to combat illegal wildlife trade.

More about the News

The award was given to **Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)** for its efforts in conducting and coordinating a species-specific wildlife enforcement operation- **Operation Save Kurma.**

Operation SaveKurma

- It was conducted to combat the proliferating illegal trade in live turtles and its parts from the country to destinations abroad.
- During the operation, approximately 16, 000 live turtles/tortoises were seized and released back into the wild.

5.CYCLONE OCKHI

Why in news

Recently, western coast of India was hit by the tropical cyclone Ockhi.

About Cyclone Ockhi

- It originated in the Bay of Bengal and intensified as it moved through the Arabian Sea, resulting into a cyclonic storm.
- Ockhi name is coined by Bangladesh, which means 'eye' in Bengali.
- According to Indian Metrological Department, It was a 'very severe cyclonic storm'.

6.HORNBILL FESTIVAL

Why in news?

The Hornbill festival was recently celebrated in **Nagaland** in early December

About The festival

- Named after the Hornbill, a revered bird of Nagaland, the festival is known to be a celebration of the indigenous tribes of Nagaland.
- It is organized by the State Tourism and Art & Culture Departments of Nagaland.
- The festival was first celebrated in 2000 and has been celebrated every year since then.
- It is a powerful presentation of the Naga culture through traditional music, dance, and sports shows.
- The celebration of the Hornbill festival also coincides with the Statehood Day of Nagaland.

7.CHABAHAR PORT

Why in news?

India sent its first consignment of wheat to Afghanistan through the **Chabahar port** in Iran.

More about the Route

The sea route connects **Gujarat's Kandla port** to Chabahar from where the shipment will betaken to Afghanistan through a **land route**.

Importance of Chabahar Port

- **Bypassing Pakistan's resistance-** India has strategically circumvented Pakistan which has opened up new opportunities for trade and to Afghanistan and enhance trade and commerce between the three countries.
- **Connectivity with Europe and Central Asia-**
- When linked to the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), it would connect
- South Asia and Europe & Central Asia, which would provide Indian business better opportunities to expand in Central Asia.
- **Geostrategic location-** This port is located very close (around 100kms) to Pakistan's **Gwadar Port**, which has been developed by China. Thus, the location is strategic to balance theincreasing footprint of China in Asia through the policy of 'String of Pearls'.

8.RO-RO FERRY SERVICE LAUNCHED

Why in news?

Recently, **Ro-Ro** ('roll-on, roll-off) **Ferry Service** was launched in Gujarat between Ghogha and Dahej.

Ro-Ro Ferry Service

- It refers to vessels used to carry **wheeled cargo** like cars, trucks, semi-trailer trucks, trailers, and railroad cars, that are driven on (rolled on)

and off (rolled off) the ferry on their own wheels or using a platform vehicle.

- It has been launched by **Ministry of Shipping** as part of **Sagarmala Project**.
- It funded partly by **Gujarat Government** and partly under **Sagarmala Project**.
- It is also being proposed to be extended to other locations such as Gulf of Khambat and Gulf of Kutch.

9. BHARAT NET PROJECT

Why in news?

Recently, Government has announced that the first phase of Bharat Net Project will be completed by December 2017.

Bharat Net Project

- In 2011, **National Optical Fibre Network (now called Bharat Net Project)** was launched to provide broadband connectivity to **2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats** with an affordable broadband connectivity of 2 Mbps to 20 Mbps.
- It is being implemented by a **special purpose vehicle (SPV)** named **Bharat Broadband Network Ltd (BBNL)** set up under Companies Act.
- It is funded through **Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)** Bharat Net Project is also significant for generation of as much as 5 lakh jobs during the installation of Wi-Fi hot spots.
- Till now **Optical Fibre Cable** connectivity has been achieved in 1,03,275 Gram Panchayats (GPs) by laying fibre for 2,38,677 km.

10. INDIA-CHINA JOINT PROPOSAL: WTO

Why in news?

India and China had jointly submitted a proposal to the WTO, calling for the **elimination of total 'Aggregate Measurement of Support' (AMS) or 'Amber Box' subsidy.**

INTERNATIONAL (part-2) Index of the Expected Topics (10)

1. INDIA-ASEAN

Why in News?

3Recently a summit was held to mark the 25th anniversary of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-India Dialogue Relations and **Delhi Declaration** was signed.

RCEP

- It is a proposed free trade agreement between the members of the AEAN and the six states with which ASEAN has existing free trade agreements (Australia, People's Republic of China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, and New Zealand).
- The negotiations were launched in November 2012 at the ASEAN Summit in Cambodia.

Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025

- It was adopted during Vientiane Declaration in 2016 with a vision to achieve a seamlessly and comprehensively connected ASEAN that will promote competitiveness, inclusiveness, and a greater sense of Community.
- It will focus on five strategic areas to achieve this vision-
- Sustainable Infrastructure
- Digital Innovation
- Seamless logistics
- Regulatory excellence
- People Mobility

2. INDIA - ISRAEL

Why in News?

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu recently visited India.

Background

Both countries gained their independence from the UK within months of each other, but they headed in different directions for nearly four decades - India as a leader in the NAM maintained close relations to the Arab world and the Soviet Union; Israel established close ties with the US and Western Europe.

3. INDIA-MYANMAR

Why in news?

The government has approved the agreement between India and Myanmar on Land Border Crossing.

India- Myanmar Relations

- Bilateral Cooperation in Regional/ Sub-regional context: Myanmar's membership of ASEAN, BIMSTEC and Mekong Ganga Cooperation has introduced a regional/sub-regional dimension to bilateral relations and imparted an additional significance in the context of our "Act East" policy.
- While Myanmar has been supportive of India's stand to various international organizations India has also supported Myanmar's association with SAARC as an observer.
- Commercial Cooperation- India is the fifth largest trading partner of Myanmar. India is presently the tenth largest investor with major investments in oil & gas sector.
- Development Cooperation: India has provided grant In aid assistance including support for the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project; the Trilateral Highway Project; the Rhi-Tiddim road; supply of Bailey bridges, etc.

4. POLAR SILK ROAD

Why in News?

Recently, China has released its first official Arctic policy white paper, outlining its ambition for a Polar Silk Road.

Important aspects of the Policy

- Development of Arctic shipping routes which are likely to become important transport routes for international trade. It is referred to as “Polar Silk Road”.
- It is being termed as an expansion of “Belt and Road Initiative” (a trade and infrastructure strategy spanning Asia, Africa, Europe and now Latin America).
- China aims to participate in the exploration for and exploitation of oil, gas, mineral and other non-living resources in the Arctic as the region has an abundance of geothermal, wind, and other clean energy resources.
- China will start to utilize fisheries and other living resources and participate in conservation as the Arctic has the potential to become a new fishing ground in the future.
- China will support and encourage “its enterprises to cooperate with Arctic States in developing tourism in the region which is described as an “emerging Industry

5. IRANIAN PROTESTS

Why in news?

Recently there have been massive protests in Iranians across several cities.

Causes of the protests

A. Economic

Iran’s economy has not been able to diversify its economy (which is heavily dependent on oil exports) and promote entrepreneurship causing consistent rise of unemployment, inflation and decline in per capita income.

B. Political

- Iran has a **complex structure of government** and only few parts of it, like the legislature and the presidency, are elected. Fundamental authority rests with Supreme Leader Khamenei, an unelected cleric.

- Basic **rights to free expression and protest are tightly controlled**, and candidates who are seen as too subversive are barred from running for public office. Moreover there is political non-transparency and numerous cases of corruption.
- People specially youths look up for modern life style, more freedom and opportunities in place of conservative Islamic rule.
- There is a palpable disenchantment with Iran's heavy military expenditure in Syria and Yemen while Iran itself facing economic crisis at home.

6. US SPECIAL WATCH LIST

Why in news?

- US recently has placed Pakistan on a 'Special Watch List' while also withholding USD 1.15 billion military aid.
- US also announced re-designation of 10 countries as 'Countries of Particular Concern' (CPC).

7. RAISINA DIALOGUE

Why in news?

Recently, Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, inaugurated the third edition of the Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi.

About Raisina Dialogue

- It is a multilateral conference committed to addressing the most challenging issues facing the global community, held annually in New Delhi since 2016. It has emerged as India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-economics.
- Being a multilateral conference, it brings together global leaders in policy, business, media, civil society, defense and foreign policy.
- The conference is hosted by the Observer Research Foundation, an independent think tank, in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs of India.
- This year's theme is Managing Disruptive Transitions: Ideas, Institutions and Idioms.

8. INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE

Why in news?

International Solar Alliance has become a **treaty-based intergovernmental organization** on 6th Dec, which was marked as **Universal Energy Access Day**.

About ISA

- It was jointly **launched by India and France** in November 2015 in Paris on the side-lines of the UN Climate Conference (COP-21).
- Headquartered in India, its **secretariat** is located at **National Institute of Solar Energy, Gurugram, Haryana**.
- It would cater to large-scale deployment of solar energy through aggregation of demand, technology and innovation from solar rich countries lying fully or partially between the Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn.
- It expects to facilitate the addition of 1,000 GW of solar energy by 2030.
- As of date, 46 countries have signed and 19 countries have ratified the Framework Agreement of ISA.
- Three **programmes launched** by ISA are- Scaling Solar Applications for Agriculture Use, Affordable Finance a Scale, and Scaling Solar Mini-Grids.

9. MALDIVES AND CHINA

Why in news?

Maldives has signed its first ever **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** with China.

About the FTA

The FTA is expected to exempt over 95 percent of bilateral trade flows from tariffs while enhancing cooperation in areas including finance, medicine, tourism, and fishing.

However, there are concerns that –

- The FTA was rushed through Parliament in a record one hour without any debate and there was a lack of public disclosure.

- Sino-Maldivian trade balance remains considerably in favour of China, and there are concerns that the FTA will further **increase the deficit** and push Maldives towards a **debt trap like Sri Lank**

10. QUADRILATERAL MEETING

Why in News?

India has accepted an invitation to join the Japan-proposed, U.S.- endorsed plan for a “Quadrilateral” grouping including Australia to provide alternative debt financing for countries in the Indo-Pacific.

What is Quadrilateral?

- It is an informal strategic dialogue and not a military alliance like the NATO.
- It is seen as a strategic deterrence as well as a mechanism to provide more and better options to regional powers.

ECONOMY (part-3) Index of the Expected Topics (10)

1.WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE 11

Why in news?

- The Eleventh Ministerial Conference (MC11) took place in December 2017 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- However, the members failed to agree to a ministerial declaration at the end of MC11.

2.METHANOL ECONOMY

Why in News?

Recently, government has stressed the need to adopt “**Methanol**” as an **alternate to fossil fuel** and bedrock for **energy security**.

Background

- Country’s 90% of demand of methanol is met by the import due to **lack of domestic production unit** and availability of cheaper methanol in international market.
- India imports 99% of its methanol from Iran and Saudi Arabia where methanol is produced from easy and cheaply available natural gas.
- China is the leading producer of Methanol in the world.
- India has the 5th largest coal reserves (feedstock of methanol) which can be utilised for methanol and DME (Dimethyl ether) production.

Need of Methanol

Huge fossil consumption: India is the 6th highest consumer of fossil fuel and would become 3rd largest consumer by 2030. Adoption of methanol will minimise fossil consumption e.g. Methanol will reduce 20% diesel consumption by next 5-7 years.

Reducing import Bill of crude oil and other petroleum products to the tune of over 5000 Crores annually in next 3 years.

Environment: Fossil fuels increase GHG Emissions. Methanol on the other hand produces no particulate matter, no soot, almost nil SOX and NOX emissions.

3. FINANCE COMMISSION

Why in News?

- The Union cabinet recently approved the setting up of the 15th Finance Commission (FC) with N.K. Singh as its Chairman.
- It has been asked to submit its report by 30 October 2019. About the Finance Commission
- Article 280 of the Constitution provides for a FC as a quasi-judicial body.
- It is constituted by the President every 5th year or at such earlier time as he considers necessary.
- Recommendations made by the FC are only advisory in nature.
- The Constitution empowers the FC to go beyond the core issues of how to divide taxes vertically between centre and the states on the one hand and horizontally between states on the other.

- It also allows FC to make broader recommendations in the interests of sound finance.

4. NORTH EAST RURAL LIVELIHOOD PROJECT

Why in news?

Recently, Union Minister of State for Development of North-Eastern Region (DoNER) talked about North East Rural Livelihood Project as an exclusive "Rural Livelihood" scheme for the Northeast

North East Rural Livelihood Project

- It is a central sector externally aided multi-state project which was launched in 2012 with World Bank assistance.
- It is being implemented in four states – Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim with an aim of assisting over 10,000 Self Help Groups which would further benefit over 3 lakh households.
- The project has four major components namely – Social empowerment, Economic empowerment, Partnership development and management and Project Management

5.EASE OF DOING BUSINESS: WORLD BANK

Why in news?

Recently, **World Bank** has released Ease of Doing Business report for 2018, which placed India at 100th rank out of 190 countries.

6.ECONOMIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

Why in news?

Government has announced the constitution of a five member Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) under the chairmanship of Bibek Debroy (member NitiAayog).

Details

The EAC-PM is an **independent body** to give advice on economic and related issues to the Government of India, specifically to the Prime Minister.

7.OIL DISCOVERY IN ARABIAN SEA

Why in news ?

Recently, State-owned **Oil and Natural Gas Corp. (ONGC)** has made a significant oil discovery to the west of its prime Mumbai High fields in the Arabian sea.

Highlight ?

- The discovery in the well WO-24-3 is estimated to hold an in-place **reserve of about 20 million tonnes.** ?
- Mumbai High, India's biggest oil field, currently produces 205,000 barrels of oil per day (just over 10 million tonnes per annum). ?
- The new find, which comes almost 50 years after ONGC began production in Mumbai High, will help the company maintain production levels from the basin for a longer time than currently estimated.

8.INDIA THIRD IN NUCLEAR POWER INSTALLATIONS

Why in news?

According to the **World Nuclear Industry Status Report 2017**, India is third in the world in the number of nuclear reactors being installed, while China tops the list.

Highlight

Global nuclear power generation increased by 1.4% in 2016 due to a 23% increase in China, although the share of nuclear energy in electricity generation in the world is stagnated at 10.5%.

9.WEF GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS INDEX

Why in news?

India has been ranked the 40th most competitive economy, slipping one place from last year's ranking, on the recently released **World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Index (GCI)**.

10.GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Why in news?

- On July 1st the regime of GST has started.

- Before it, GST Council finalized the tax rates for almost all taxable products & services and also brought all states on board and drafted 5 bills related to GST
 - Parliament has passed 4 bills related to GST, to be implemented pan India - The Central GST Bill 2017, The Integrated GST Bill 2017, The Union Territory GST Bill 2017, The GST (Compensation to the States) Bill 2017
 - Draft State GST bill was forwarded to States & all States including Jammu & Kashmir have already passed the state GST bill.
-

Background

- In 2004, Vijay Kelkar recommended GST to replace indirect tax structure.
 - In 2011, a bill was introduced but it was stuck in the tussle over the compensation to states.
 - Recently, various issues related to GST caps, compensation, powers & responsibilities of GST Council were resolved.
 - Later a **four-slab structure** of GST - 5% (on basic necessities), 12%, 18% and 28% (on luxury goods) was decided.
 - Recently government gave a description about **reverse charge mechanism** under GST where liability to pay tax is of recipient of goods & services rather than the supplier when goods or services have been received from an unregistered person. GST Council has specified **12 categories of services for reverse charge** that include radio taxi, services by an individual advocate or firm of advocates etc.
-

MISCELLANEOUS (Part-4) Index of the Expected Topics (10)

1. NATIONAL KNOWLEDGE NETWORK

Why in News?

India has excluded Pakistan from the list of SAARC member countries with which it will be connecting its National Knowledge Network (NKN).

2. NATIONAL YEAR OF MILLETS

Why in News?

- Recently, government has approved 2018 as the 'National Year of Millets' to boost the agro-industry and production of the cereal.

3. UMANG APP

Why in news?

Government has recently launched UMANG or Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance app.

Highlight

- It aims to build a common, unified platform and mobile app to facilitate single point of access for government services (centre, state and utility services) through mobile.
- It is a multi-utility app and integrates with other core government services of Aadhaar, DigiLocker, Rapid Assessment System, and Bharat Bill Payment System etc. and supports 13 Indian languages
- It has been developed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and National eGovernance Division (NeGD)

4. COASTAL ECONOMIC ZONE

Why in News?

- Recently, government has given the approval for setting up India's first mega coastal economic zone (CEZ) at Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT) in Maharashtra. More on News
- The CEZ will stretch along north Konkan region spread across Nashik, Thane, Mumbai, Pune and Raigarh.
- This is the part of setting up of 14 mega CEZs under the National Perspective Plan of the Sagarmala Programme.

5. GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION

Why in news?

Recently, Geographical Indication (GI) registry granted GI tag to:

- Stone sculptures of Mamallapuram
- Etikoppaka toys.
- Banglarrosogulla (West Bengal)

6.SC COLLEGIUM PROCEEDINGS IN PUBLIC DOMAIN

Why in news?

Recently Supreme Court Collegium has decided to put all its recommendations in Public Domain indicating the reasons for which it has decided to recommend or reject names for appointment, transfer or elevation to the High Courts and the Supreme Court.

Background

Issues in Collegium system:-

- **Nepotism**
- **Opaqueness** in its proceedings
- **Lack of Permanent commission** to handle appointments resulting in inefficiencies and large number of vacant positions in courts.

National Judicial Appointment Commission Act which was supposed to replace collegium system was struck down by Supreme Court.

7. E-SAMIKSHA

Why in news?

Central government departments have been asked to work out specific targets to be achieved by 2022 which will be monitored by PM under **e-Samiksha platform**.

E-Samiksha

- E-Samiksha is an **online monitoring and compliance mechanism** developed by Cabinet Secretariat with technical help from National Informatics Centre.
- It is used for **tracking the progress on projects** & policy initiatives and followup actions of various ministries by cabinet secretary and Prime Minister on a **real-time basis**.

- An **E-Patrchar** facility has been launched which sends meeting notices and agendas, circulars, letters, etc. through e-mail and SMS, thus promoting the maxim of '**Minimum Government and Maximum governance**'.
- E-Samiksha portal is designed to **enhance efficiency, bring transparency, increase accountability, and improve the communication** between Government to Government, Business to Government and vice versa.

8. THE KURDISH INDEPENDENCE REFERENDUM

Why in news?

Iraq's Kurds voted in a referendum on support for independence.

- The referendum, while non-binding, is a symbolic milestone in the Kurds' decades-long struggle to achieve statehood.
- Kurdistan is a **proto-state** located in the north of Iraq and constitutes the country's only autonomous region.
- The region is officially governed by the **Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG)**, with the capital being Erbil.

Who are Kurds?

- The Kurds are widely recognized to be the **largest stateless national group** in the world.
- Kurdistan is home to numerous languages, religions and political factions and is known for its **strong cultural unity**.
- After World War I, Britain and France carved up the Ottoman Empire, leaving the **Kurds scattered** mainly over four countries: Iraq, Iran, Turkey and Syria.

9. BHARATMALA PROJECT

Why in news?

Recently, Cabinet cleared Bharatmala project for construction of 24,800 Km of highway connecting **western and eastern part** of the country.

Bharatmala Project [?](#)

- It will undertake programs for improvement in Economic Corridors, Inter Corridors and Feeder Routes, National Corridor Efficiency Improvement,

Border and International connectivity roads, Coastal and Port connectivity roads and Green-field expressways. [?]

- It has been envisaged as an umbrella program that will subsume unfinished parts of NHDP. [?]
- It will undertake development of national highways, state highways and along with some state roads. [?]
- It will start in Gujarat and Rajasthan, followed by Punjab and subsequently traversing the Himalayan belt through Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, parts of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and then to Mizoram. [?]
- It will be funded through market borrowings, central road funds, monetizing government-owned road assets, and budgetary allocation. [?]
- The main agencies that will implement the program are National Highways Authority of India, National Highway and Industrial Development Corporation and state public works departments. For tough terrains assistance will be taken from Border Road Organisation.

10. MEENAKSHI TEMPLE GETS 'CLEANEST ICONIC PLACE' TAG

Why in news?

MeenakshiSundareswarar Temple in Madurai has been adjudged the best 'Swachh Iconic Place' (clean place) in India.

More about the news [?]

- The Swachh Iconic Places is an initiative under the Swachh Bharat Mission. [?]
- The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation will be the coordinating Ministry for this initiative, in association with the Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Tourism and the concerned State governments.
- Under **Swachh Iconic place** Initiative government will undertake a special clean-up initiative focused on 100 iconic heritages, spiritual and cultural places in the country.
- All Iconic Sites have designated PSUs for financial and technical support.

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