

Art & Culture

Charaideo Moidams: A UNESCO World Heritage Site

Context: The Charaideo Moidams in Assam, serving as royal burial grounds for the Ahom dynasty, have been recently inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

This bestows international recognition on the historically significant site located approximately 30 km from Sivasagar in eastern Assam.



Moidams: Unique Burial Structures

- ❖ Moidams are distinctive tumuli (artificial mounds) constructed over the tombs of Ahom kings.
- ❖ While Charaideo houses the Ahom royal moidams, similar structures can be found across eastern Assam.
- ❖ Each moidam typically comprises a vaulted chamber, a hemispherical mound, and a tower (chow chali) surrounded by an octagonal wall.

- ❖ The Ahom people, with Tai origins, practiced burial rites unlike the prevalent Hindu cremation customs.
- ❖ Moidams often contained additional elements beyond the deceased, including funerary objects, servants, animals, and even wives, reflecting their unique burial traditions influenced by ancient Egyptian practices.

Historical Significance of Charaideo

- ❖ Charaideo, translating to "shining town on a hill" in Tai Ahom, was the initial capital of the Ahom kingdom established by King Sukaphaa in 1253 AD.
- ❖ The site retains its historical and cultural prominence, serving as a testament to the Ahom kingdom's legacy.

Awards in News

Rajbhasha Gaurav Samman 2023-24

Context: Visakhapatnam Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) lauded by TOLIC for Hindi promotion efforts. Awarded Rajbhasha Gaurav Samman for 2023-24 at NTPC event.



Appreciation and Guidance

- ❖ TOLIC Chairman Atul Bhatt commends committee's work and increased Hindi usage.
- ❖ Acknowledges PSUs' achievement of 2022-23 Regional Official Language Award.
- ❖ Anirban Kumar Biswas emphasizes adherence to government's Official Language implementation guidelines.
- ❖ Dr. Rita Trivedi promotes utilization of Hindi learning resources.

Rajbhasha Gaurav Samman Overview

- ❖ Established in 1986 to promote Hindi and regional languages.
- ❖ Recognizes exceptional contributions in Hindi language usage across sectors.
- ❖ Includes citation and cash prize for awardees.
- ❖ Open to both public and private sector institutions.

Science & Technology

India's Push for 6G Technology

Context: India's Department of Telecommunications (DoT) announced in July 2024 a strategic initiative to accelerate 6G technology development within the country. In collaboration with IIT Roorkee and IIT Mandi, the project focuses on creating "Cell-Free" 6G Access Points, laying the foundation for future mobile communication advancements.



Partnership for Technological Advancement

- ❖ The collaboration with C-DOT and leading Indian Institutes of Technology is pivotal to India's 6G journey.
- ❖ The core objective of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to develop essential access points for establishing robust 6G networks.

Cell-Free Massive MIMO Technology

- ❖ Traditional mobile networks operate on a cell-based design. In contrast, "Cell-Free" Massive MIMO technology employs numerous distributed access points working in unison across a specific area.
- ❖ This innovative approach promises several advantages:
 - **Enhanced Connectivity:** Eliminates dead zones and ensures seamless coverage.
 - **Improved Signal Strength:** Delivers stronger and more reliable signals.
 - **Faster Data Speeds:** Provides significantly faster data speeds, especially in high-density areas.
- ❖ This groundbreaking project positions India at the forefront of communication technology, paving the way for a future defined by 6G capabilities.

International News

India-US Cultural Property Agreement

Context: India and the United States signed a significant Cultural Property Agreement on July 26, 2024, aimed at strengthening cooperation in protecting cultural heritage. This agreement represents a major step forward in combating the illicit trade of cultural property and facilitating the return of stolen artifacts to their rightful owners.



Key Objectives

The agreement seeks to achieve two primary goals:

- ❖ **Justice:** Ensuring the return of Indian cultural property to its country of origin.
- ❖ **Cultural Exchange:** Promoting a deeper understanding and appreciation of Indian culture globally.

Key Participants and Background

- ❖ The agreement was signed by Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, India's Minister of Culture, along with US Ambassador Eric Garcetti and Indian Union Culture Secretary Govind Mohan.
- ❖ This milestone followed nearly two years of collaborative efforts and negotiations between experts from both countries.

International Context

- ❖ This agreement aligns with the broader framework of the UNESCO Convention of 1970, which focuses on combating the illicit trade of cultural property.
- ❖ The US currently holds a network of 29 bilateral cultural property agreements, reflecting its global commitment to safeguarding cultural heritage.



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