

UPSC Daily Current Affairs | Prelim Bits 30-07-2024

National Culture Fund

The Union Minister for Culture recently discussed the National Culture Fund's functioning in the Lok Sabha session.

- The National Culture Fund (NCF) is a trust that facilitates donor institutions in supporting the **protection, restoration, conservation, and development** of India's tangible and intangible cultural heritage in partnership with the government.
- **Nodal Ministry-** Ministry of Culture.
- **Establishment-** As a Trust under the Charitable Endowment Act, 1890 in 1996.
- **Objectives-** Manage and utilize the Fund for the conservation, maintenance, promotion, protection, preservation, and enhancement of monuments.
- Provide training and support the development of specialists and cultural administrators.
- Expand existing museums and build new ones to **create or accommodate special galleries.**
- Document cultural expressions and forms that are becoming obsolete or facing extinction.
- **Composition-** The NCF is managed by a Governing Council chaired by the Minister of Culture, with up to **25 members** to set policies.
- An Executive Committee led by the Secretary of Culture, with up to 11 members, executes these policies.
- **Role of NCF-** NCF partners with Corporations, NGOs, etc., to implement heritage preservation projects, allowing donors to specify project details, locations, and implementing agencies.
- To prevent delays in PPP projects, the Project Implementation Committee, led by the Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India or Ministry of Culture officials, regularly monitors progress.
- NCF accepts donations from **Corporations, PSUs, Trusts, and Individuals** for maintaining and preserving centrally protected monuments and cultural projects.
- Donors must comply with the terms and conditions of the MoU for each

project.

References

[PIB | National Culture Fund](#)

Humayun's Tomb

The Union Minister of Culture and Tourism recently inaugurated the Humayun's Tomb World Heritage Site Museum in New Delhi.

- The tomb is an exemplary piece of **Mughal architecture** and it was the **1st garden tomb** on the Indian subcontinent.
- **Construction-** Commissioned by **Bega Begum in 1569-70 and completed in 1572.**
- **Architect-** Designed by **Mirak Mirza Ghiyas** and his son, Sayyid Muhammad, Persian architects chosen by Bega Begum.
- **Design-** Represents the synthesis of Persian and Indian architectural styles, a hallmark of Mughal architecture.
- **Cultural Influence-** Humayun's Tomb inspired the construction of several later Mughal structures, including the Taj Mahal.
- **UNESCO World Heritage Site-** It was listed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1993** for its cultural importance and exceptional Mughal architecture.



- **Humayun's Tomb World Heritage Site Museum** - The Museum is a facility of the Archaeological Survey of India designed and built in collaboration with the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC).

Humayun

- Humayun, born Nasir-ud-Din Muhammad Humayun was the second Mughal Emperor.
- He was the son of Babur, the founder of the Mughal Empire, and the father of Akbar the Great.
- **Born-** March 6, 1508
- **Place of Birth-** Kabul, Afghanistan
- **Died-** January 1556, Delhi
- Humayun played a key role in the development of Mughal painting by bringing Persian artists like ***Mir Sayyid Ali and Abdal Samad*** to India.
- **Architectural Achievements-** He founded ***Dinapanah***, built the Jamali mosque, and started Humayun's Tomb, completed later by his wife, Hamida Banu Begum.

References

[PIB | Humayun's Tomb World Heritage Site Museum](#)

Appointment of Governor

Recently, the President appointed new Governors for Rajasthan, Telangana, Maharashtra, Punjab, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Assam, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh.

- **Constitutional Provision-** Article 153 of the Indian Constitution mandates a Governor for each State.
- A 1956 amendment allows the same person to be Governor for multiple States.
- **Appointment Procedure-** Article 155 specifies that the President appoints the Governor by warrant under their hand and seal.
- According to Article 156, the Governor serves at the President's pleasure, typically for five years.
- **Central Government Influence-** The President, acting on the advice of the Prime Minister and Union Council of Ministers, effectively appoints and can remove the Governor.
- **Eligibility Criteria-** Articles 157 and 158 require the Governor to be:
 - An Indian citizen,
 - At least 35 years old,
 - Not a member of Parliament or state legislature and
 - Not holding any other office of profit.

Relationship with State Government

- **Advisory Role-** The Governor, as per Article 163, acts on the advice of the state's Council of Ministers, headed by the Chief Minister, except when exercising discretionary functions.
- **Powers and Significance-** The Governor has significant powers, including assent to state Bills, determining legislative majorities, and calling parties to prove their majority in case of a hung verdict.

References

[The Indian Express | Governors](#)

Report on Currency and finance

Recently, the Reserve Bank of India released its Report on Currency and Finance (RCF) for the year 2023-24, highlighting India's role in the global digital revolution.

Highlights of the report

- India is at the forefront of global digital transformation.
- **Economic contribution-** The digital economy currently accounts for a **tenth of India's GDP** and is expected to constitute a fifth of India's GDP by 2026 based on growth rates observed over the past decade.
- **Internet penetration-** In 2023, internet penetration in India reached **55%**, with an increase of 199 million internet users over the past three years.
- **Data affordability-** India has the **lowest cost per gigabyte (GB)** of data globally, averaging ₹13.32 (US\$ 0.16) per GB.
- **Mobile data consumption-** India has one of the highest mobile data consumption rates in the world, with an average per-user, per-month mobile data consumption of 24.1 GB in 2023.
- **Smartphone users-** India has about 750 million smartphone users, a number expected to reach approximately **one billion by 2026**.
- **Smartphone manufacturing-** India is on track to become the **second-largest** smartphone manufacturer within the next five years.
- **Startup ecosystem-** India has the world's **third-largest** startup ecosystem, with over 1.4 lakh startups and more than 100 unicorns.
- **Global rankings-** India ranks first in biometric-based identification (Aadhaar) and real-time payments volume and second in telecom subscribers.
- **FinTech and digital payments-** India has embraced financial technology (FinTech) by speeding up digital payments comprising biometric identification, UPI, mobile connectivity, digital lockers, and consent-based data sharing.

References

1. [The Hindu | India at forefront of digital revolution](#)
2. [The Indian Express | RBI report](#)