



TATHASTU
Institute of Civil Services

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS



10th January, 2024



S.NO.	TOPIC
1.	MINORITY STATUS OF ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY
2.	2023 WAS WORLD'S HOTTEST YEAR ON RECORD
3.	PRELIMS POINTERS

MINORITY STATUS OF ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY

SOURCE: [INDIAN EXPRESS](#)

TAG: GS Paper II- **Government Policies & Interventions, Human Resource**

Mains Practice Question:

Q. Discuss the role of vocational education in addressing the skills gap and fostering employment opportunities in the current job market.

WHY IN NEWS?

- On 9th Jan 2024, Tuesday, a **seven-judge Bench of the Supreme Court** commenced **hearings on the Aligarh Muslim University's minority character**.
- This **longstanding dispute, dating back nearly 57 years**, has undergone multiple adjudications across various courts.

TIME LINE OF EVENTS:

- 1875: Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental (MOA) College established by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan** to address educational needs of Muslims in India.
- 1920:** MOA College transformed into Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) through the AMU Act. Assets of the former institution are transferred to AMU.
- 1951 Amendment:** Changes made to the AMU Act, replacing 'Lord Rector' with 'Visitor' (President of India), opening University Court membership to non-Muslims, and reallocating authority within AMU's bodies.
- 1967:** Supreme Court ruling in the S. Azeez Basha case questions the Muslim minority character of AMU. The court holds that AMU was neither established nor administered by the Muslim minority.
- 1981 Amendment:** Political response to protests leads to an amendment to the AMU Act, explicitly affirming its minority status. Section 2(l) and Subsection 5(2)(c) introduced, acknowledging AMU as an educational institution established by the Muslims of India.
- 2005:** AMU implements a 50% reservation for postgraduate medical courses for Muslim candidates.
- 2005 High Court Verdict:** Allahabad High Court overturns the reservation policy, nullifying the 1981 Act. The court reasons that AMU does not qualify as a minority institution based on the Supreme Court's earlier ruling.
- 2006:** Eight petitions, including one from the Union government, contest the High Court's decision before the Supreme Court.
- 2016:** The NDA government informs the Supreme Court about withdrawing the appeal filed by the government, expressing concerns about setting up a minority institution in a secular state.
- 2019:** A three-judge Bench refers the matter to a seven-judge Bench for further deliberation.

DISPUTE OVER AMU'S MINORITY STATUS

- ❖ **Origin of Dispute**
 - Dating back to 1967**, the dispute arose during the Supreme Court review of changes made in 1951 and 1965 to the **AMU Act of 1920**.
 - Amendments altered the university's governance**, shifting from **the Governor General to a 'Visitor' (President of India)**, opening **University Court membership to non-Muslims**, and **reallocating authority within AMU's bodies**.
- ❖ **Legal Challenge**
 - Petitioners argued that Muslims, as founders, had the right to manage AMU**, disputing the changes.



- Supreme Court ruling on **October 20, 1967**, stated **AMU was not established or managed by the Muslim minority.**
- ❖ **Court's Findings**
 - Highlighted that while Muslims could have established a university in 1920, government recognition of degrees necessitated an Act.
 - Emphasized the central Act's establishment for official degree recognition, not solely by the Muslim minority.
 - Noted that the university's administration involved non-Muslim authorities and election processes beyond exclusive Muslim participation in the University Court.

WHAT ARE MINORITY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS?

- ❖ **Minority Educational Institution** means a **private educational institution of its choice established and administered by a minority whether based on religion or language**, having the **right to do so under clause (1) of Article 30 of the Constitution of India.**
- ❖ **Constitutional Provision**
 - **Article 30(1) of the Constitution empowers religious and linguistic minorities to establish and administer educational institutions.**
 - **Ensures non-discriminatory aid from the Union government to 'minority' institutions, fostering the growth and development of minority communities.**
- ❖ **THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR MINORITY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ACT, 2004**
 - **The National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI) Act, 2004 has been enacted to safeguard the educational rights of the minorities enshrined in Article 30(1) of the Constitution.**
 - **The Commission is a quasi-judicial body and has been endowed with the powers of a Civil Court for the purpose of discharging its functions under the Act. The commission has three main roles namely adjudicatory, advisory and recommendatory.**

SPECIAL RIGHTS ENJOYED BY RELIGIOUS MINORITY INSTITUTIONS ARE:

1. **Under Art 30(1)(a)**, such institutions enjoy right to education as a Fundamental Right. In case the property is taken over by state, due compensation to be provided to establish institutions elsewhere.
2. **Under Article 15(5)**, they are not considered for reservation.
3. **Under Right to Education Act**, they are not required to provide admission to children in the age group of 6-14 years upto 25% of enrolment reserved for economically backward section of society.
4. **In St Stephens vs Delhi University case, 1992**, SC ruled that these institutions can have 50% seats reserved for minorities.
5. **In TMA Pai & others vs State of Karnataka & others 2002 case**, SC ruled that they can have separate admission process which is fair, transparent and merit based. They can also separate fee structure but should not charge capitation fee.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AMU

- ❖ **Foundational Institution**
 - **Sir Syed Ahmad Khan founded the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental (MOA) College in 1875.**
 - **Aims:** Overcoming educational backwardness among Muslims, preparing for government services, offering Western education alongside emphasis on Islamic theology, and advocating for women's education.
- ❖ **University Status**
 - **In 1920, the MOA College transformed into Aligarh Muslim University (AMU)**, encompassing all assets of the former institution.
 - **The AMU Act's title reflected the incorporation of a teaching and residential Muslim University at Aligarh.**



PERSISTENT DISPUTE OVER AMU'S MINORITY STATUS

- ❖ **Political Response to Protests**
 - SC's ruling in 1967 sparked nationwide Muslim protests, prompting political intervention in 1981.
 - Amendment to AMU Act introduced Section 2(l) and Subsection 5(2)(c), explicitly affirming the university's minority status as "an educational institution of their choice established by the Muslims of India."
- ❖ **Reservation Policy Challenge**
 - In 2005, AMU implemented a 50% reservation for postgraduate medical courses for Muslim candidates.
 - Allahabad High Court overturned this reservation in 2005, nullifying the 1981 Act. Court cited SC's verdict, denying AMU's qualification as a minority institution.
- ❖ **Legal Appeals**
 - Eight petitions, including the Union government's, contested the High Court's decision in 2006 before the Supreme Court.
 - In 2016, the NDA government withdrew the appeal, citing concerns about setting up a minority institution in a secular state.
- ❖ **Judicial Progression**
 - **February 2019:** Three-judge Bench referred the matter to a seven-judge Bench.
 - **Recent Developments:** Current seven-judge Bench, led by Chief Justice **DY Chandrachud**, commenced hearings on the case, continuing the deliberations.

CONCLUSION:

- The **protection of minorities stands as a crucial pillar in upholding a nation's civilizational values.** In a diverse and democratic country like India, these protections are vital. The framers of our constitution demonstrated deep sensitivity to the concerns and aspirations of minority groups. They ensured special safeguards within the fundamental rights section, aiming to instill a sense of confidence and security among these communities. These provisions were designed to foster an environment of inclusivity and equal opportunity for all, regardless of their minority status.

2023 WAS WORLD'S HOTTEST YEAR ON RECORD

SOURCE: [THE HINDU](#)

TAG: GS Paper II- **Government Policies & Interventions, Human Resource**

Mains Practice Question:

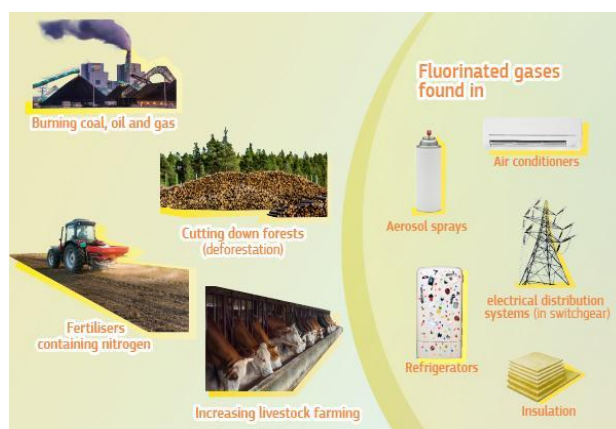
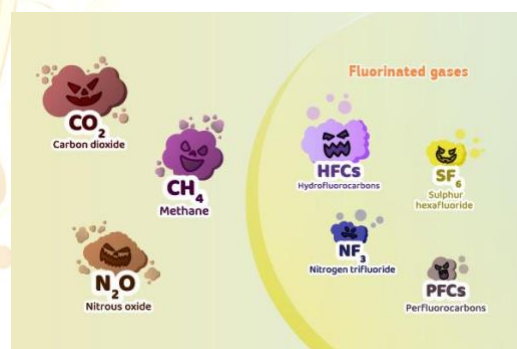
Q. Discuss the role of vocational education in addressing the skills gap and fostering employment opportunities in the current job market.

WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the **Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S)** declared **2023 the warmest year since records began in 1850, surpassing the previous record set in 2016.** This announcement indicated that **temperatures in 2023 likely exceeded any year-long period in at least the last 100,000 years.**
- Record-Breaking Temperature: 2023 was 1.48 degrees Celsius warmer** than the average of the pre-industrial levels of 1850-1900. This year also surpassed the previous record of 2016 by 0.17 degrees Celsius.
- Scientific Confirmation:** The announcement by **C3S and the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS)** corroborated earlier predictions made by the **World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)** in November, indicating that 2023 was on track to become the warmest year on record.

REASONS FOR 2023 BEING THE HOTTEST YEAR:

- Persistent Temperature Rise:** Records indicate an incessant surge in temperatures globally. Since June, every month in 2023 surpassed previous records for the respective months.
- Industrial Era Impact:** Human activities, particularly industrial-scale fossil fuel burning since the late 19th century, significantly contributed to this temperature increase.
- Greenhouse Gas Surge:** Increased levels of greenhouse gases like **carbon dioxide, methane, and water vapor effectively trap the Sun's energy within Earth's system, causing warming.** Human activities, notably burning fossil fuels since the industrial revolution, have significantly elevated these greenhouse gas concentrations.
- Paris Agreement Target:** The Paris Agreement's objective was to cap global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius to avert severe consequences. However, **2023 marked a consistent breach of this threshold on nearly half of the year's days.**
- Rising CO2 Emissions:** Despite climate targets set by governments and corporations, **carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions remained at record levels, reaching unprecedented highs in 2023.** The **burning of coal, oil, and gases by human activities** has led to unparalleled emissions of greenhouse gases. This surge has caused rapid and substantial warming, especially noticeable in recent decades.
- El Niño Influence:** The **El Niño weather phenomenon, characterized by warming of the eastern Pacific Ocean's surface,** contributed to elevated global temperatures in 2023.





IMPACTS AND CONSEQUENCES:

- **Extreme Weather Events:** Escalating temperatures aggravated extreme weather events, causing devastating heatwaves, fatal floods, and widespread wildfires in various regions across the globe.
- **Socioeconomic Ramifications:** Climate-related disasters led to substantial economic losses, such as the United States suffering numerous billion-dollar climate and weather-related disasters.
- **Agricultural Disruption:** Prolonged droughts affected crop yields, impacting soybean crops in Argentina and wheat production in Spain.
- **Exceeding the 1.5°C Threshold:** There's a chance that 2024 might breach the 1.5 degrees Celsius warming threshold across the entire calendar year for the first time. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) predicts a 66% chance of crossing this critical threshold between 2023 and 2027.
- **Escalating Climate Change Impacts:** A sustained breach of the 1.5-degree limit would intensify climate change impacts. This includes more frequent and severe droughts, heatwaves, and extreme rainfall events, significantly amplifying the socio-economic and environmental consequences worldwide.
- **Urgent Action Required:** To avert these severe outcomes, immediate steps are imperative. Cutting greenhouse gas emissions remains a crucial action, yet global efforts toward emission reductions have fallen short. Urgent and substantial measures are needed to mitigate climate change impacts and prevent further temperature escalation.

HOW DOES INDIA TAKEN A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE?

1. **International solar Alliance (ISA):** A solar power development project in collaboration with France. Launched in 2015, it's an alliance of the "sunshine countries" with an objective of efficient utilization of solar energy. The alliance was formed with the vision of reducing the dependence on non-renewable sources of energy like fossil fuels.
2. **One sun, one world, one grid project along with the United Kingdom: OSOWOG** is based on the vision of building and scaling inter-regional energy grids to share solar energy across the globe. It can be the solution to most of our global problems in the energy sector.
3. **Swachh Bharat mission:** The all-encompassing programme emphasized cleaning India and its cities and villages by providing toilets for every household.
4. **COP26 Glasgow summit:** The biggest and most important move by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on behalf of India committed;
 - a. To take India's non-fossil fuel energy capacity to 500 GW by 2030.
 - b. To bring down the carbon intensity of India by more than 45% by 2030.
 - c. India will achieve the target of net zero carbon emissions by 2070.

These are all examples that India is doing a great job in the direction of the development of the country and the entire world.

INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

1. **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC):**
 - a. A UN body assessing scientific aspects of climate change.
 - b. Provides policymakers with scientific assessments, adaptation, and mitigation options.
 - c. Complements the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
2. **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):**
 - a. Aims to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations to prevent climate system interference.
 - b. Adopted during the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, part of three Rio Conventions.
 - c. Established COPs (Conferences of the Parties) to address climate change.
3. **Kyoto Protocol:**
 - a. Adopted in 1997, aims to reduce emissions.



- b. Developed nations accountable for high emissions due to industrialization.
- c. Includes flexible mechanisms like Emission Trading and Clean Development Mechanism.
- 4. Paris Agreement:**
 - a. Signed in 2016, the first comprehensive climate agreement.
 - b. Aims to limit global temperature rise below 2°C, ideally aiming for 1.5°C.
 - c. Requires regular review of emission reduction efforts and financial support for developing countries.
- 5. REDD+:**
 - a. A mechanism to incentivize developing nations to reduce emissions from deforestation.
 - b. Financially values carbon stored in forests and promotes low-carbon pathways.
- 6. Mitigation and Adaptation:**
 - a. Emphasizes reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing carbon sinks.
 - b. Requires systemic changes in energy, land use, transport, and industry.
 - c. Calls for tripling emission reduction efforts and utilizing renewable energy.

WAY FORWARD

❖ Urging Wealthy Nations for Support:

- Wealthy or developed nations, historically responsible for higher greenhouse gas emissions due to industrialization, are urged to take more substantial steps in reducing emissions.
- This includes providing financial and technological assistance to developing countries to support their efforts in transitioning to cleaner energy sources and sustainable development.
- Assistance may come in the form of funding for renewable energy projects, technology transfers, and capacity-building initiatives.

❖ Upscaling Commitments in International Agreements:

- There's a call for increased ambition in commitments similar to those outlined in the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. This entails setting more stringent emission reduction targets.
- Encouraging countries, particularly developed ones, to review and enhance their emission reduction goals, aligning them with the latest scientific assessments and the urgency of the climate crisis.

❖ Maintaining Distinction Between Developed and Developing Nations:

- The principle of distinguishing between developed and developing nations regarding climate responsibilities, often referred to as "common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities" (CBDR-RC), remains a focal point.
- It stresses that while all nations share the responsibility to address climate change, developed nations should bear a more significant burden due to their historical contributions to emissions and greater economic capacity.
- This distinction guides discussions on financial support, technology transfer, and the level of commitments expected from each group of countries in international climate negotiations.



TOPIC

'World came close to the critical 1.5 degree Celsius limit in 2023'

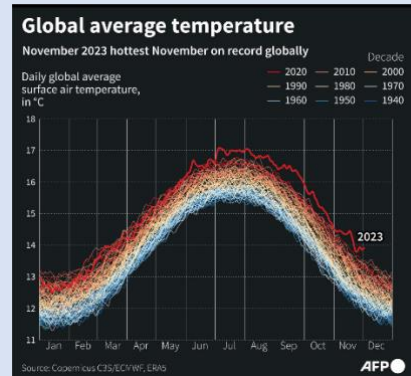
DESCRIPTION

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *Copernicus Climate Change Service reported a global temperature increase of 1.48 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels.*
- ❖ *2023 marked the hottest year on record, with Earth's surface temperature nearing the critical 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold.*

ABOUT THE 2023 CLIMATE REPORT

- ❖ **Warmest Year on Record:**
 - ☛ 2023 marked the **warmest year globally** since records began in 1850, surpassing the previous record in 2016.
 - ☛ EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) reported unprecedented temperatures, likely exceeding any period in the last 100,000 years.
- ❖ **Climate Milestones:**
 - ☛ **Record-breaking weather events characterized 2023**, including the hottest-ever month and daily global temperatures surpassing pre-industrial levels by over 2°C in November.
- ❖ **Global Temperature Details:**
 - ☛ Global average temperature for 2023 was **14.98°C, 0.17°C higher than the previous record in 2016.**
 - ☛ **Every day in 2023 exceeded 1°C above the pre-industrial level**, a first in recorded history.



CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

- ☛ **Nearly 50% of days were over 1.5°C warmer than the 1850-1900 level**, raising concerns about the proximity to catastrophic climate impacts.
- ☛ High ocean temperatures, **driven by greenhouse gas emissions and the El Niño phenomenon**, contributed to extreme global temperatures.
- ❖ **Ocean Temperature Rise:**
 - ☛ Oceans experienced persistently **high surface temperatures from April to December**, impacting global air temperatures.
 - ☛ **Rising greenhouse gas concentrations were a long-term factor**, while **El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)** events in 2023 further intensified the situation.
- ❖ **Antarctic and Arctic Changes:**
 - ☛ **Antarctic sea ice reached record lows for eight months in 2023.**
 - ☛ **Arctic sea ice extent hit the annual peak in March** among the four lowest for the time of the year.
- ❖ **Greenhouse Gas Levels:**
 - ☛ Greenhouse gas concentrations in 2023 reached record highs, with carbon dioxide **concentrations 2.4 ppm higher than in 2022.**



SQUARE KILOMETER ARRAY PROJECT

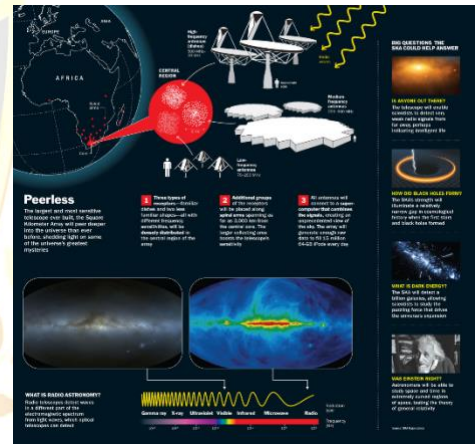
- ☛ The EU's commitment to **reduce emissions by 55% by 2030** faces challenges amid ongoing climate change impacts.
- ❖ **Paris Agreement and Temperature Breach:**
 - ☛ Potential breach of the **1.5 degrees Celsius limit in 2024** doesn't signify **failure** to meet Paris Agreement targets.
 - ☛ The agreement allows for a period of "**overshoot**," with the **possibility of temperature reduction afterward**.

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ **India officially joins the Square Kilometer Array (SKA) project**, a global initiative for the **world's largest radio telescope**.
- ❖ **Previously contributing, India now attains full member status**, involving signing an international treaty and financial commitment.

UNDERSTANDING SKA

- ❖ **About:**
 - ☛ **SKA is not a single large telescope** but a **collection of thousands of dish antennas** operating collectively.
 - ☛ The project **aims to create a vast effective area** for collecting radio waves, offering superior capabilities.
- ❖ **Operational Scale and Antenna Deployment:**
 - ☛ SKA involves thousands of **antennas in South Africa and Australia**, minimizing interference from Earth-based sources.
 - ☛ **Construction started in 2022**, and the first phase is **expected to conclude by the next year**.
- ❖ **Technology Advancements:**
 - ☛ SKA utilizes **high-end technologies in electronics, software, materials science, and computing**.
 - ☛ Intellectual properties **generated by SKA, though owned by the Observatory**, are accessible to member countries, offering learning opportunities.
- ❖ **Capacity Building and Training:**
 - ☛ Participation in SKA is anticipated to **expand India's science and technology base**.
 - ☛ Led by the **National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA)**, 22 institutions collaborate on SKA-related activities, including **research institutions, IITs, IISERs, universities, colleges, and private companies**.



SIGNIFICANCE FOR INDIA

- ❖ **Scientific and Technological Benefits for India:**
 - ☛ **Despite no facilities in India, SKA membership** provides scientific opportunities **similar to LHC and ITER**.
 - ☛ India gains **preferential access to SKA facilities**, fostering advancements in **radio astronomy**.
- ❖ **Areas of Research for India:**



THE MYSTERY OF THE INDUS SCRIPT

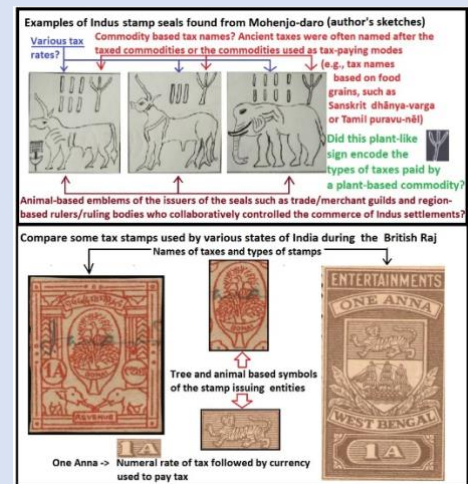
- ☛ Indian scientists plan to explore various **research areas using SKA**, such as **early universe evolution, galaxy formation, neutron star physics, and solar sciences.**
- ☛ Over 150 scientists, researchers, and **students from 30+ Indian institutions actively participate in SKA-related science activities.**
- ❖ **Historical Involvement in SKA:**
 - ☛ **India has been part of SKA since its inception in the 1990s**, contributing to design, development, and treaty negotiations.
 - ☛ The country's expertise in Telescope Manager software highlights its integral role in SKA operations.
- ❖ **Future SKA Regional Centre in India:**
 - ☛ **Plans include establishing an SKA regional center in India**, contributing to **global data processing, storage**, and accessibility for the scientific community.

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *The undeciphered Indus script, associated with the ancient Indus Valley Civilisation, has sparked century-long debates over its connections to Sanskrit, Dravidian roots, and its fundamental purpose, with recent research suggesting a primarily commercial function, contributing to the enduring mystery of the script's origins and its significance in understanding the ancient civilization.*

ABOUT THE IVC SCRIPT AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE

- ❖ **Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC):**
 - ☛ Flourished between **2600 BCE and 1900 BCE**, the IVC covered an **extensive area of about 800,000 square kilometers** in modern-day **Pakistan and north-western India**, making it **the most extensive urban culture** of its time.
- ❖ **Indus Script Inscriptions:**
 - ☛ The **script associated with the IVC is found on seal stones, terracotta tablets**, and occasionally on metal.
 - ☛ Inscriptions often consist of **pictograms**, sometimes accompanied by **animal or human motifs.**
- ❖ **Disagreement Over Symbols:**
 - ☛ Scholars have long debated the **number of symbols in the Indus script**, with varying **estimates from different researchers.**
 - ☛ Disagreement also exists over the **language basis of the script.**
- ❖ **Sanskrit and Dravidian Connections:**
 - ☛ Some scholars, like **SR Rao**, attempted to **connect the Indus script with Sanskrit**, while others, including **Asko Parpola**, argue for **Dravidian roots.**





- ☛ **Parpola's investigation, starting in 1964, suggested Dravidian origins using a logosyllabic script.**

FINDINGS OF RECENT RESEARCH

- ❖ **Undeciphered Script:**
 - ☛ The Indus Valley Civilisation's script **remains a mystery since the 1920s.**
- ❖ **Diverse Theories:**
 - ☛ Over 100 attempts to decode it, **theories range from Sanskrit to skepticism about it being a language.**
- ❖ **Mukhopadhyay's Insights:**
 - ☛ Recent research by Bahata Ansumali Mukhopadhyay suggests a **commercial purpose, not religious**, using symbolic conveyance.
- ❖ **Deciphering Complexity:**
 - ☛ Scholars divided on whether the script **represents a language, emphasizing the need for distinction.**
- ❖ **Literacy Debate:**
 - ☛ Since the early 2000s, a debate persists on **whether the script constitutes a language-based writing system.**

ANCIENT INDUS AND DRAVIDIAN CULTURAL RELATIONSHIP

- ❖ **Spatial and Temporal Gap:**
 - ☛ Acknowledges a **vast gap between ancient Indus Valley and contemporary Dravidian culture.**
- ❖ **Linguistic Hypothesis:**
 - ☛ **Hopes for linguistic similarities** if the Indus script is deciphered, suggesting **proto-Dravidian roots.**
- ❖ **Cultural Complexity:**
 - ☛ **Rejects distinct Aryan or Dravidian races**, highlighting the mixed cultural influences in modern Dravidian speakers.
- ❖ **Mixed Cultural Inheritance:**
 - ☛ **Proposes that the key to the Indus script is Vedic culturally**, with traits absorbed by Indo-Aryan civilization.
- ❖ **Bull Fight Tradition:**
 - ☛ **Draws parallels** between Indus Valley bullfighting **depictions and contemporary Dravidian bull chasing traditions.**
- ❖ **Cultural Transformation:**
 - ☛ **Acknowledges the complexity of tracing cultural and social traits** due to centuries of overlay and transformation.

BHARAT TEX 2024 & GREAT SCHEME

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *The Ministry of Textiles is organizing a hackathon, "Fostering Innovations in Technical Textiles," under "BHARAT TEX 2024."*

BHARAT TEX 2024

- ❖ The hackathon aims to unleash **creativity in technical textiles and is scheduled for 26-29 Feb 2024.**
- ❖ It brings together **students, researchers, entrepreneurs, and industry professionals** to address real-world challenges in technical textiles.



- ❖ **National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM)**, a flagship scheme of the **Government of India**, sponsors and partners with the hackathon.

GREAT SCHEME FOR TECHNICAL TEXTILES:

- ❖ **Overview:**

- ☛ **Government Initiative:** The **Grant for Research and Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles (GREAT)** is a recent initiative by the **Ministry of Textiles** to boost **innovation and entrepreneurship** in the technical textiles sector.



- ❖ **Objectives:**

- ☛ **Financial Support:** Offers **grant-in-aid funding up to Rs 50 lakh for 18 months** to encourage innovation in specialized technical textiles areas.
- ☛ **Innovation Focus:** Aims to **nurture and promote innovation, facilitating** the transformation of research and prototypes into market-ready technologies.

- ❖ **Key Features:**

- ☛ **Collaboration:** Partnerships with leading institutions like IITs, NITs, and Textiles Research Associations to provide support and guidance.
- ☛ **Incubator Support:** Emphasis on collaborating with incubators, allowing startups to **receive grants without equity expectations**.

INTERNATIONAL PURPLE FESTIVAL - GOA 2024

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *The **International Purple Festival in Goa**, which commenced on **January 8, 2024**, is making headlines as a **collaborative effort between various governmental bodies** to celebrate and **empower Persons with Disabilities**.*
- ❖ *The festival, inaugurated by **Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant and Union Minister Shri**.*

INTERNATIONAL PURPLE FESTIVAL

- ❖ **Purpose:**

- ☛ Celebration and **empowerment of Persons with Disabilities**.

- ❖ **Organizers:**

- ☛ Office of the **State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Directorate of Social Welfare (Government of Goa)**, and **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India)**.

- ❖ **Key Initiatives:**

- ☛ Launch of **India's first cloud-based IVRS** for Disability Information Line (DIL).
- ☛ Release of the **Purple Fest Playbook** outlining accessibility actions.

- ❖ **Anthem:**



MUSAL FOLK DANCE

- ☛ **Purple Anthem 'Dhumal,'** symbolizing unity and inclusivity.
- ❖ **Purple Rain Finale:**
 - ☛ Concluding performances, including the international Mando, traditional Goan folk dance **Mussal**, and classical dance **'Saraswati Vandana.'**

WHY IN NEWS?

- ☛ *The conclusion of the International Purple Festival with the vibrant Purple Rain showcased a **diverse array of performances**, including **Mando by visually impaired children**, traditional **Goan folk dance Mussal**, classical dance **'Saraswati Vandana,'** and a captivating performance by Hema Sardesai.*
- ☛ *The festival, **celebrated in Goa**, signifies a **collaborative effort for the empowerment and celebration of Persons with Disabilities**, elevating inclusivity and artistic expression.*

MUSAL FOLK DANCE IN CHANDOR, GOA

- ❖ **Harvest Tradition:**
 - ☛ Musal dance **performed during harvest time**, with origins dating back to the **11th century**.
- ❖ **Historical Significance:**
 - ☛ Dance dedicated to **Chandreshwar Bhutnath**, recounting the **myth and history of Chandrapur**, the ancient capital of Goa.
- ❖ **Concerns for Tradition:**
 - ☛ Village head expresses **worry about the decreasing number of eligible dancers**, hinting at the potential loss of cultural heritage.
- ❖ **Survival Against Adversities:**
 - ☛ Tradition persisted through **Muslim and Portuguese invasions**, including the **destruction of Chandranath temple** and conversion to Christianity.
- ❖ **Annual Commemoration:**
 - ☛ Villagers annually **recount this tragic history during the harvest season through the Musal dance**.
- ❖ **Cultural Resilience:**
 - ☛ Despite adversities, the people of Chandor **refuse to forget their history**, preserving and **performing the Musal dance each year**.

