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# CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS

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GS-1  
Sittannavasal a  
Jain heritage site

THE HINDU

## A Jain heritage site in T.N. battles the elements

With much of the art in Sittannavasal either damaged or vandalised, Archaeological Survey of India has undertaken conservation measures and also introduced digital checks to track public access

SPECIAL

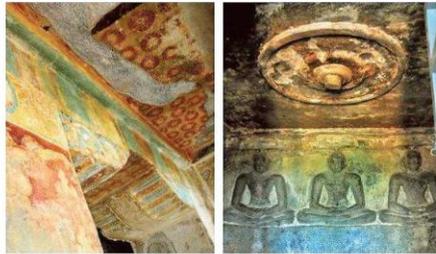
Nabha Nainar  
TIRUCHI

A small village in Pudukottai district of Tamil Nadu was a major centre of Jain influence for 1,000 years just before the Christian era. Sittannavasal is the name used synonymously for the hamlet and the hillock that houses the Arivar Kovil (temple of Arihats – Jains who conquered their senses), Ezhadipattam (a cavern with 17 polished rock beds), megalithic burial sites and the Navachunai tam (small mountain lake) with a submerged shrine.

This Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)-administered site, popular with youngsters and school excursion groups, is in need of better upkeep.

"Sittannavasal is the only place in Tamil Nadu where we can see Pandya paintings. At least three-fourths of the art is already damaged, so it is important to protect the site for future generations," R. Kalaikovan, founder of the Tiruchi-based Dr. M. Rajamanikam Centre for Historical Research, told *The Hindu*.

The artwork on the ceiling of the sanctum and the aridha mandapam of Arivar Kovil is an early example of post-Ajanta cave paintings of the fourth to sixth centu-



Fading away: The artwork at the Sittannavasal rock cave temple in Pudukottai, Tamil Nadu. M. MOORTHY

ries, done using the fresco-secco technique (a process that dispenses with preparation of the wall with wet plaster).

The ceiling paintings show 'bhavyas' (exalted souls who work to achieve moksha or spiritual liberation) enjoying themselves in a pool, full of lotuses; today much of it is obscured by patchy plastering. Faint outlines linger of dancing girls on the 'aridha mandapam' pillars. The pillars of the verandah (added by the Maharaja of Pudukottai in the 1900s), were brought from Kudumiyamalai. The colours are a mixture of plant dyes and mineral elements such as lime, lamp black, and clay pigments such as ochre for yellow and terre verte for the greyish-green tints.

Unrestricted public ac-



Sittannavasal is more precious because its paintings will be gone in another 50 years

S. SWAMINATHAN  
Author and history enthusiast

cess and general exposure to the elements have led to a gradual fading away of these paintings. At the Ezhadipattam, inscriptions have been vandalised beyond recognition.

CCTV cameras soon T. Arun Raj, Director, ASI, Tiruchi Circle, told *The Hindu* that periodic maintenance by way of repairs and chemical preservation (for restoring paintings) is being undertaken.

To stem the damage, the

ASI has introduced electronic ticketing that helps track visitor numbers. "The average footfall is around 200-300 a day. We are planning to increase the number of security guards besides installing closed circuit TV cameras soon," said Mr. Raj.

"Though there are many examples of Jain sites in Pudukottai district, Sittannavasal is more precious because its paintings will be gone in another 50 years. Perhaps recreating them outside in separate pavilions and limiting the shrines for research visits would be a better way to preserve them," said S. Swaminathan, a Chennai-based history enthusiast and former IIT professor, who has written a book on important heritage spots in Pudukottai.

### Context

Sittannavasal a small village in Pudukottai district of Tamil Nadu was a major centre of Jain influence for 1,000 years just before the Christian era.

# CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS



Sittanavasal is the name used synonymously for the hamlet and the hillock that houses the Arivar Kovil (temple of Arihats - Jains who conquered their senses), 'Ezhadipattam' (a cavern with 17 polished rock beds), megalithic burial sites and the Navachunai tarn (small mountain lake) with a submerged shrine.

Sittanavasal is considered by historians to be one of the oldest inhabited area, and a major centre of Jain influence.

The artwork on the ceiling of the sanctum and the *ardha mandapam* of Arivar Kovil is an early example of post-Ajanta cave paintings of the fourth to sixth centuries, done using the fresco-secco technique (a process that dispenses with preparation of the wall with wet plaster).

# CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS

## GS-2 Operation Megh Chakra

THE HINDU

### Operation Megh Chakra: 50 under CBI scanner over child pornography

Federal agency conducts pan-India searches after receiving inputs from Interpol's Singapore unit, which, in turn, got information from New Zealand authorities about the sale and circulation of child sexual abuse material online

Devesh K. Pandey  
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday conducted searches at 59 locations across 20 States and one Union Territory, as part of a pan-India drive against the circulation and sharing of child sexual abuse material. The operation code-named "Megh Chakra" was carried out following the inputs received from the Interpol's Singapore special unit based on the information received from the authorities in New Zealand.

The CBI has registered two cases alleging that a large number of Indian nationals were involved in the online circulation, downloading and trans-



Many Indians are allegedly involved in the online circulation of such material using cloud-based storage. GETTY IMAGES

mission of such material using cloud-based storage. Over 50 persons have come under the scanner.

The searches were carried out in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattis-

garh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa, Karnataka, Telangana and Tamil Nadu. The agency seized electronic devices belonging to the suspects.

A preliminary scrutiny of the devices using cyber-forensic tools allegedly re-

vealed that a huge quantity of child pornography material was stored in them. "The suspects are being questioned to identify the victims and the abusers," said an official, adding that the operation was one of the CBI-led global operations in recent times for a prompt response to online child sexual exploitation cases with international linkages.

The official said the operation sought to collate information from various law enforcement agencies in India, engage with the relevant law enforcement agencies globally and coordinate closely through the Interpol channels on the issue.

Last November, the agency had launched a similar exercise code-named

"Operation Carbon", searching the premises of suspects in 13 States and one Union Territory.

The previous operation was conducted at 76 locations. The persons named in the FIRs were booked under the relevant provisions of the IPC and the Information Technology Act, for allegedly being part of the syndicates that uploaded, circulated, sold and viewed such material.

The CBI had later decided to send requests to several countries for sharing and gathering information under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLATs) on those involved in the racket.

The probe had led to the identification of over 50 groups with more than 5,000 offenders

#### Context

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on September 24, 2022, conducted searches at 59 locations across 20 States and one Union Territory, as part of a pan-India drive against the circulation and sharing of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM).

The operation code-named "Megh Chakra" is being carried out following the inputs received from Interpol's Singapore special unit based on the information received from the authorities in New Zealand.

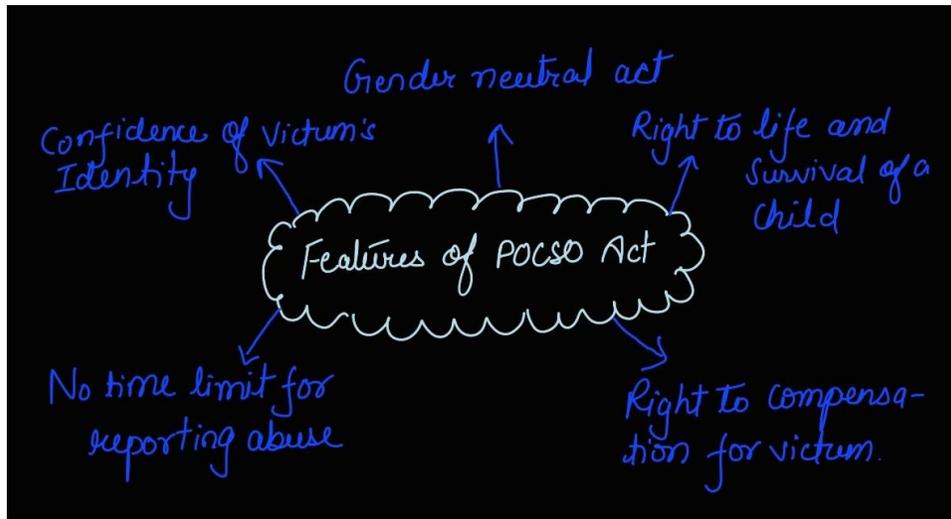
# CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS

A large number of Indian nationals were involved in the online circulation, downloading and transmission of the Child Sexual Abuse Material using cloud-based storage.

The operation collated information from various law enforcement agencies in India, engage with the relevant law enforcement agencies globally and coordinate closely through the Interpol channels on the issue.

The CBI has send requests to several countries for sharing and gathering information under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLATs) on those involved in the racket.

The POCSO Act, 2019 defines Child Pornography as Any visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct involving a child which includes a photograph, video, digital or computer-generated image indistinguishable from an actual child.



# CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS

THE HINDU

## At DefExpo 2022, India-Africa defence dialogue on the anvil

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The forthcoming DefExpo 2022, scheduled to be held in Gandhinagar from October 18 to 22, will host the second edition of the India-Africa Defence Dialogue with invites extended to 53 African countries. A separate Indian Ocean Region plus (IOR+) conclave with participation of approximately 40 countries is also on the anvil, the Defence Ministry said on Saturday.

Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar reviewed the preparations of the Expo with Gujarat Chief Secretary Pankaj Kumar.

The Expo, earlier scheduled to be held in March, was postponed due to "logistical challenges" the Ministry had said.

For DefExpo 2022, In-

**The Expo earlier  
scheduled to be held  
in March was  
postponed due to  
'logistical challenges'**

dian companies, Indian subsidiaries of foreign Original Equipment Manufacturers, Division of company registered in India, exhibitor having joint venture with an Indian company will be considered as Indian participants, the Ministry said.

The theme of DefExpo 2022 is 'Path to Pride' and the aim is to showcase the might of the domestic defence industry, which is now powering 'Make in India, Make for the World' resolve of the Government and the nation at large, the statement said.

**GS-3**  
**DefExpo 2022**

### Context

DefExpo 2022, will host the second edition of the India-Africa Defence Dialogue with invites extended to 53 African countries. A separate Indian Ocean Region plus (IOR+) conclave with participation of approximately 40 countries is also on the anvil.

# CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS



The theme of DefExpo 2022 is 'Path to Pride' and the aim is to showcase the might of the domestic defence industry, which is now powering 'Make in India, Make for the World' resolve of the Government and the nation at large

India's defence and technology related exports touched the highest-ever figure of Rs 12,815 crore in the financial year 2021-22, a 54.1 per cent rise over the previous year.

The export was mainly to to the US, the Philippines and other Countries in South East Asia, West Asia and Africa.

# CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS

## GS-3 Sea turtle poaching declines

THE HINDU



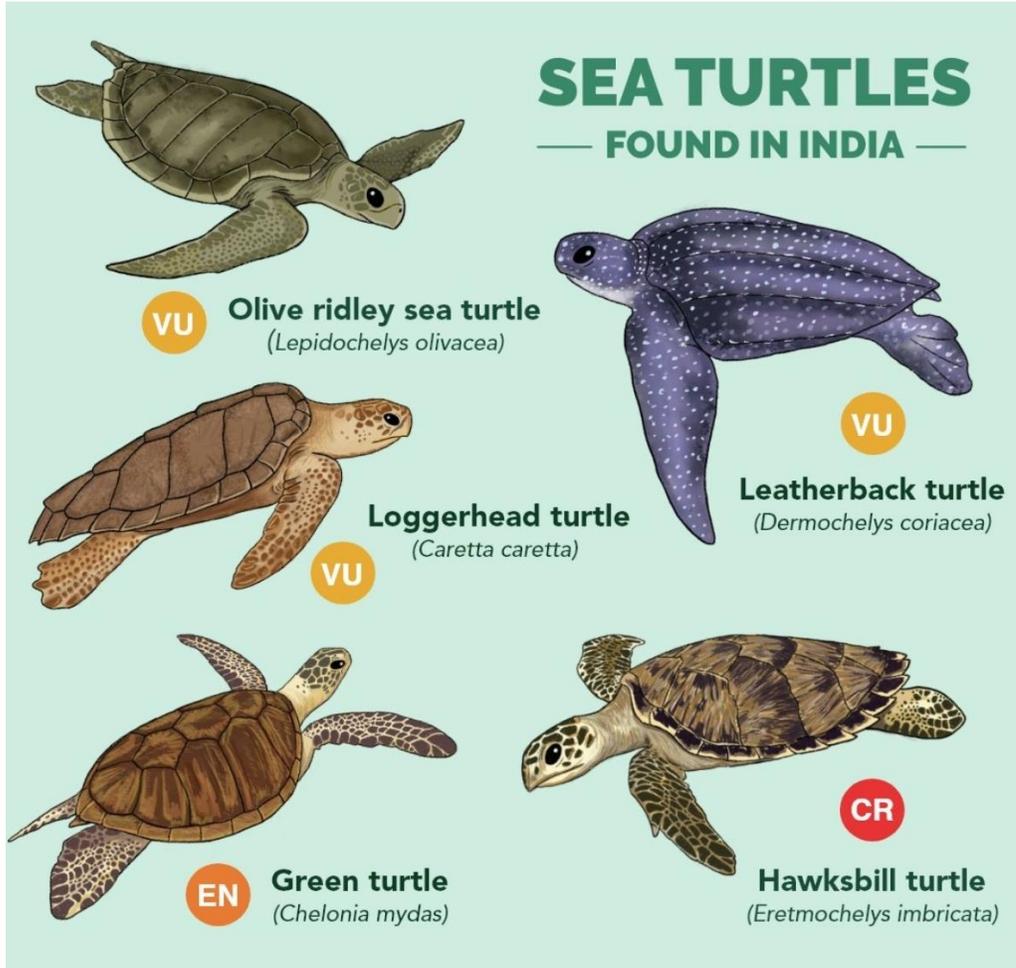
### Sea turtle poaching declined by 30% in the last decade

The first worldwide estimate of the number of adult sea turtles moved on the black market suggests that 1.1 million of the reptiles were illegally harvested between 1990 and 2020. But poaching is dropping sharply, and most populations worldwide are doing well. But researchers also found that the illegal catch has declined in the past decade – 2010 to 2020 – by nearly 30%, with some exceptions occurring in large, stable, and genetically stable diverse marine turtle populations.

### Context

Researchers have found that the illegal catching of sea turtle has declined in the past decade 2010 to 2020 by nearly 30%, with some exceptions occurring in large, stable, and genetically stable diverse marine turtle populations.

# CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS



There are five species of sea turtles in Indian waters:

- Leatherback
- Loggerhead
- Hawksbill
- Green
- Olive Ridley

# CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS

## Braille version of *Hemkosh* presented to PM Modi



Asomiya Pratidin Editor Jayanta Baruah (second from left) handing over a copy of the Braille version of the Hemkosh to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the presence of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and others, in New Delhi on Wednesday.

### STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Sept 21: The Braille version of the first Assamese language dictionary *Hemkosh*, which was released by Assam Governor Prof Jagdish Mukhi recently, was presented to the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi by the editor of *Asomiya Pratidin* Jayanta Baruah in New Delhi today.

The Braille version of *Hemkosh* has been conceptualised and published by Jayanta

Barua. Today, he handed over a copy of the dictionary to the Prime Minister in the presence of Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.

The Braille version of *Hemkosh* has approximately 10,000 pages and more than 15 volumes. The first phase of the edition contains chapters on *Swarabarna*, published in five volumes. The next phases are also under process of publica-

tion, a statement said.

Notably, *Hemkosh* was compiled by late Hemchandra Baruah in the last part of the 19th century, and it was published four years after his demise. The subsequent editions of the dictionary were published by the next generations of his family, particularly from the fourth edition to the 14th edition compiled and edited by late Debananda Baruah. The 15th edition of the dictionary has been

compiled under the leadership of Jayanta Baruah and is under publication.

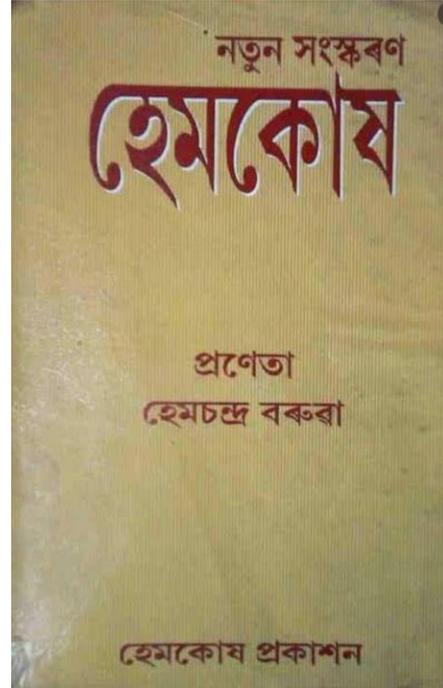
"This Braille version of *Hemkosh* would be the first full language dictionary in Braille, after Oxford. Jayanta Baruah has also pledged to donate copies of the dictionary to all the educational institutions for the visually-impaired students, universities, state and central libraries, as well as the national library," the statement added.

GS-1  
Braille version of  
Hemkosh

### Context

Jayanta Baruah, Chairman of the Pratidin Media Network of Assam, formally presented South-East Asia's first Braille dictionary, 'Hemkosh' to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.

# CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS



South--East Asia's first Braille dictionary is an Assamese dictionary, 'Hemkosh' which was also the first Assamese dictionary, edited by Hemchandra Baruah in the 19th century.

After more than 125 years, Braille version of 'Hemkosh' has been conceptualized.

Hemkosh is the first etymological dictionary of the Assamese language based on Sanskrit spellings, compiled by Hemchandra Barua.

It contained about 22,346 words. This dictionary still published by *Hemkosh Printers* is considered to be the "standard" reference of the Assamese orthography.

# CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS

## Editorial

### Soft power, the new race every country wants to win

THE HINDU

#### Soft power, the new race every country wants to win

“Soft power”, as American political scientist Joseph Nye Jr. said in the late 1980s, is a “power of attraction through culture, political ideas, and policies rather than coercion” that military hard power exhibits. This is now being reflected in increased interest, especially by smaller nations in the world, in investing more and doing well in elite sports as it is thought that success in international sporting events boosts a nation’s chances of attaining soft power.

So, it can be said that the golden period of Indian sports may have begun – the Tokyo Olympics and then the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games (CWG) are examples of a good performance. Neeraj Chopra who won an Olympic gold medal in men’s javelin throw is now a household name. At the CWG 2022, Indian athletes won 61 medals, including 22 golds. These medals not only provide pride to every Indian citizen but also demonstrate the country’s soft power on the global stage and encourage working towards the status of a great “geopolitical actor”.

#### A survey

Until recently there has been no empirical evidence whether performance in the Olympics or other world championships improved soft power or not.

When Dongfeng Liu (International Professor of Sport Management for the Shanghai campus of the Sport Business School) surveyed French citizens in 2020 (he was also International Professor, Sport Business School, France) on China’s performance in the Olympics and their impressions about China based on its rising medal count, he found that a country’s Olympic achievement has a positive effect on its national soft power.

He issued a caveat: as China is a communist country, there tends to be a prejudiced view of its



**Abhishek Srivastav**  
is Assistant Professor of Diplomacy and Disarmament, Centre for International Politics, Organization, and Disarmament, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

human rights record and the standing of its minorities, which does not result in a positive perception of China, or for that matter, even Russia or North Korea. It is very difficult for these countries to build “branding” for themselves. As India is a democratic country it may not have to worry about such factors. Even so, it might yet learn lessons from China’s case.

China uses its superiority in elite sports to build “people-to-people” relations with other countries. For example, athletes from African countries such as Madagascar are trained in swimming, badminton, table tennis, etc. in China, which helps Beijing create a positive impact on a wider population and result in better formal relations as well. There is also China’s memorandum of understanding with countries such as Kenya so that Chinese runners can train with Kenyan athletes, as they are among the best in the world when it comes to long-distance running.

#### India’s tortoise-like walk

India’s medal tally in the Tokyo Olympics Games – seven – was its most decorated Olympic Games in Indian history. But there is no hiding the fact that India has one of the world’s poorest population-to-medal ratios when it comes to the Olympics. An article, “Indian Olympic medal winners: A comprehensive list” shows that India has won 35 medals at the Olympics since the 1900 edition. With a population of 1.3 billion-plus people, there are various reasons for India’s disappointing performance. Professional engagement in sports is hampered by the relatively low and scant exposure of Indians to sports at the elementary school level.

In September 2014, the Ministry of Sports launched the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) to improve India’s performance at the Olympics and Paralympics – there is extra monetary assistance and training from the best national and international coaches. India’s gradual success in sporting events is being attributed to these “policies.”

In 2016, a NITI Aayog report came up with a 20-point plan to improve India’s Olympics performance. The report said India still lacks a favourable atmosphere for sports to polish the skills of early-stage athletes. It recommended efforts to be made at the family, community to school, regional academies, State and national levels to improve things. Ensuring competent coaches, and having adequate funding and more sports academics still remain major issues even decades later. A reply in Parliament (2018) said that India spends only three paise per day per capita on sports. In contrast, China spends ₹6.1

per day per capita.

Mega sporting events generate viewership in their billions. So they provide a platform for countries to showcase their culture, values and tradition.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) claimed that the Tokyo Olympic Games was watched by over 3.05 billion people, a 74 per cent increase in digital viewers from Rio 2016. This proves that there is a great opportunity for India to use such events as a platform to enhance its soft power that relies on its cultural heritage.

The Government must also move quickly to separate politics from sports. Former players, rather than politicians, should be chosen to lead sports organisations.

#### Marching forward

Here are some recommendations for the Indian government to increase the country’s sporting performance and soft power.

First, India should concentrate on forging MoUs with nations that excel in specific sports. The aim should be to train Indian players overseas. For example, Australia and the United Kingdom can assist us in swimming given their standing here. When it comes to running, negotiating collaborative training agreements with African countries such as Kenya would be ideal. There should be no politics in seeking or even offering assistance. Take this example too: China has requested Indian assistance in improving cricket development in China (Changchun city).

Second, TOPS – China too also had a similar scheme – has demonstrated that focusing on a few sports is beneficial for a country such as India, which is striving to enhance its sporting abilities and standing. India needs to boost the number of athletes under TOPS – at least 500 athletes should train under the scheme to foster a competitive climate, in turn aiding performance.

Third, private investment needs to be harnessed to develop infrastructure. The better a country performs in sporting events the greater a sports person’s interest in their sports atmosphere. This also creates a huge market for private players to invest in. For example, leading corporate houses in India have already shown how their active participation and investment can improve sporting performance as a result of unique corporate sports programmes. The Government should also work on a public-private partnership (PPP) model to create basic sporting infrastructure, as recommended by NITI Aayog, at the district level so that talent can be captured at an early stage. Soft power is not an end but a means to an end.

“Soft power”, as American political scientist Joseph Nye Jr. said in the late 1980s, is a “power of attraction through culture, political ideas, and policies rather than coercion”.

It is reflected in increased interest, especially by smaller nations in the world, in investing more and doing well in elite sports as it is thought that success in international sporting events boosts a nation’s chances of attaining soft power.

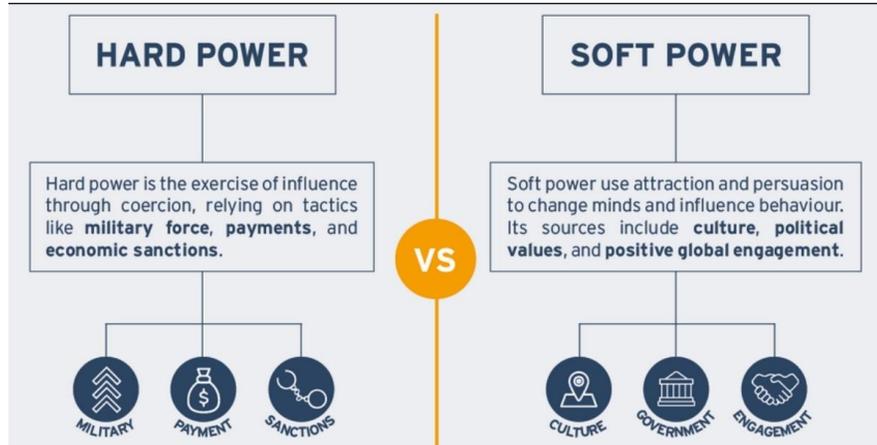
China uses its superiority in elite sports to build “people-to-people” relations with other countries. For example, athletes from African countries such as Madagascar are trained in swimming, badminton, table tennis, etc.



REUTERS



# CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS



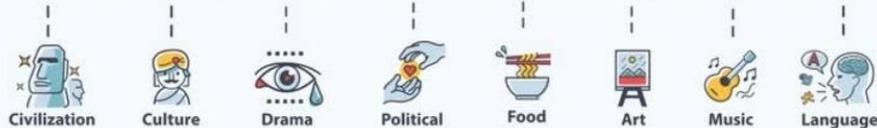
In 2016, a NITI Aayog report came up with a 20-point plan to improve India's Olympics performance. It recommended efforts to be made at the family, community to school, regional academies, State and national levels to improve things.

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Third, private investment needs to be harnessed to develop infrastructure. The better a country performs in sporting events the greater a sports person's interest in their sports atmosphere.

## SOFT POWER





# CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS

1. With reference to Chausath Yogini Temple situated near Morena, consider the following statements:

1. It is a circular temple built during the reign of Kachchhapaghata Dynasty.
2. It is the only circular temple built in India.
3. It was meant to promote the Vaishnava cult in the region.
4. Its design has given rise to a popular belief that it was the inspiration behind the Indian Parliament building.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 and 3 Only
- (c) 1 and 4
- (d) 2, 3 and 4

2. Consider the following pairs:

(Historical Place) (Well-known for)

1. Burzahom : Rock-cut shrines
2. Chandra-Ketugarh : Terracotta art
3. Ganeshwar : Copper artefacts

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 2 and 3



# CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS

3. In reference to the history of ancient India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Mitakshara was the civil law for upper castes and Dayabhaga was the civil law for lower castes.

2. In the Mitakshara system, the sons can claim right to the property during the lifetime of the father, whereas in the Dayabhaga system, it is only after the death of the father that the sons can claim right to the property.

3. The Mitakshara system deals with the matters related to the property held by male members only of a family, whereas the Dayabhaga system deals with the matters related to the property held by both male and female members of a family.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 Only
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) 3 Only

4. With reference to the history of India, consider the following pairs:

- 1. Aurang — In-charge of treasury of the State
- 2. Banian — Indian agent of the East India Company
- 3. Mirasidar — Designated revenue payer to the State

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3



# CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS

5. Consider the following events in the history of India:

1. Rise of Pratiharas under King Bhoja
2. Establishment of Pallava power under Mahendravarman-I
3. Establishment of Chola power by Parantaka-I
4. Pala dynasty founded by Gopala

What is the correct chronological order of the above events, starting from the earliest time?

- (a) 2-1-4-3
- (b) 3-1-4-2
- (c) 2-4-1-3
- (d) 3-4-1-2

Q1. Evaluate the nature of the Bhakti Literature and its contribution to Indian culture.



# CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS

**Answers for 24-09-22 PYQs are:**

**Q1-a**

**Q2-a**

**Q3-d**

**Q4-d**

**Q5-d**