

**THE GARBA DANCE FORM TO BE INSCRIBED ON UNESCO'S INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE LIST**

General Studies – Paper 1 (art and culture)

**Why in News?**

India has nominated **the Garba dance form** to be inscribed on UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage list. UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) Director **Eric Falt** said that after the inclusion of 'Durga Puja' on the UNESCO intangible cultural heritage representative last year, India has now nominated 'Garba' for 2022. A total of **14 elements from India** are inscribed on UNESCO'S list of Intangible Cultural Heritage and Humanity. These elements include music, dance, theatre, festivals, rituals, and storytelling.

**What is Garba?**

Garba, a form of dance, as well as a religious and social event. It originated in the villages of Gujarat, where it was performed in communal gathering places in the center of the village which was attended by the entire community. In Gujarat, it is celebrated with nine nights of dance as a form of worship and worship. Garba is also performed during social events like weddings and parties.

**What is UNESCO'S list of Intangible Cultural Heritage and Humanity**

The **UNESCO'S list of Intangible Cultural Heritage** was established in 2008 after the convention for the safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, 2003 came into effect. This list is made up of those intangible heritage elements that help to demonstrate the diversity of cultural heritage

**List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity from India**

Since 2008, 14 intangible cultural heritages from India have been listed by UNESCO. It includes-

- Sanskrit Theater of **Kudiyattam**, Kerala
- **Mudiyet**, a ritual theater and dance drama from Kerala
- Tradition of **Vedic Mantras**;
- '**Ram Leela**' (traditional performance of Ramayana)
- '**Ramman**' (a religious festival and ritual theater of Garhwal, Uttarakhand)
- **Kalbelia Folk Songs and Dances** of Rajasthan
- **Chhau Dance** (Classical dance of West Bengal and Odisha)

- **Buddhist chanting** of Ladakh
- **Sankirtana** (a ritual singing, drumming and dance of Manipur)
- **Traditional brass and copper craft of pottery** amidst the laughs of Jandiala Guru, Punjab
- **Yoga**
- **Nowruz**
- **Kumbh Mela**
- **Durga Puja** (represents the collective worship of the Hindu goddess Durga)

### **About UNESCO**

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was born on 16 November 1945. UNESCO has 195 Members and 8 Associate Members and is governed by the General Conference and the Executive Board.

## **INDIA- EGYPT 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF DIPLOMATIC TIES**

### **Syllabus – General Studies Paper 2 (International Relations)**

#### **Why In News**

Egypt released a postage stamp to commemorate the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations with India. Diplomatic relations between India and Egypt began when Egypt recognized India's independence on 18 August 1947, three days after India's independence. The two countries became even closer in the 1950s, which resulted in a historic friendship treaty in 1955. During the last couple of years, the traditionally strong bilateral relations enjoyed by the two countries have received an impetus with regular exchange of high-level meetings and contacts between the two sides.

#### **India-Egypt Relations**

- **History:**

-India's relations with Egypt began when the trade contacts between the two ancient civilizations grew along the **banks of the river Nile and the river Indus**.

-In **1955, Egypt under Gamal Abdel Nasser and India under Jawaharlal Nehru** became the founders of the **Non-Aligned Movement**.

-During the **1956 War**, Nehru stood supporting Egypt to the point of threatening to withdraw his country from the British Commonwealth.

- **Trade & Commerce:**

Egypt has traditionally been one of India's most important trading partners in the African continent.

The **India-Egypt Bilateral Trade Agreement** has been in operation since March 1978 and is based on the **Most Favoured Nation clause**.

#### **Major Egyptian exports to India include:**

Raw cotton, raw and manufactured fertilizers, oil and oil products, organic and non-organic chemicals, leather and iron products.



### **Major imports into Egypt from India are:**

Cotton yarn, sesame, coffee, herbs, tobacco and lentils.

Mineral fuel; vehicle parts; Ship, boat and floating structure; cuts of boneless bovine frozen meat; and Electrical machinery and parts are also exported from India.

There is a significant Indian presence in almost every field in Egypt.

- **Cultural Links:**

- **The Maulana Azad Centre for Indian Culture (MACIC)** was set up in Cairo in 1992
  - It aims to **promote cultural cooperation between the two countries**, through the implementation of the **Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP)**.
  - The Centre, in addition to popularizing Indian culture through **Hindi, Urdu and Yoga classes** and the screening of movies, also organizes cultural festivals.
- **'India by the Nile' festival:**
  - It is a cultural festival **celebrated annually in Egypt**.
  - It brings the essence of India through classical, contemporary, performing and visual arts, food and popular culture in a language that amalgamates diverse cultural and artistic strands.
  - The festival is produced by **Delhi-based M/S Teamwork Arts** and supported by **ICCR and the Egyptian Ministry of Culture**.