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Commissioner,

Department of Employment and Training.

ORGANIZATIONS FOR FINE ARTS, DANCE, DRAMA AND MUSIC

Archaeological Survey of India

- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is directly under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture and it is the foremost institution for archaeological researches conducted across India. It has been charged with preservation of the cultural heritage of our nation. Its focus is on the preservation of physical and tangible heritage that is accumulated in the ancient monuments and archaeological sites.
- The provisions of the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958*, guide ASI. Another major legislation that directs the working of the ASI, is the *Antiquities and Art Treasure Act, 1972*. This Act directs ASI to prevent the illegal export of Indian antiquities from our nation.
- Although the ASI is charged with the control over all heritage sites across the nation, for the smooth functioning, the entire country has been divided into 24 Circles, which concentrate on preservation of monuments under their jurisdiction. ASI employs many trained archaeologists, architects, conservators, epigraphists, etc.
- They have other institutions under their aegis like the *Museums, Excavation branches, Epigraphy branches, Building Survey Projects, Horticulture branch, Temple Survey Projects*, etc. One of the more specialised and one in the kind project by the ASI is their Underwater Archaeology Wing. The ASI also has several diplomas and degrees for studying archaeology from the Institute of Archaeology in New Delhi.

Crafts Council of India:

- The Crafts Council of India or CCI is a non-profit organisation that promotes activities to preserve and develop handicraft industry in India. Kamala Devi Chattopadhyay who wanted to help the craft persons to get regular work and recognition for their craft, established the CCI in 1976.

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- Although their headquarter is located in Chennai, they have over ten State Councils that are affiliated to the parent organisation. They achieved a global platform after being affiliated to the World Crafts Council.
 - Their main objective is to safeguard the interests of crafts personnel and to preserve craft traditions. Over the years they have established a series of shops that display the arts and crafts patronised by the Crafts Council.
 - This shop has been named 'Kamala' after the founder of the CCI. One of their current objectives is to find innovative ways to blend ancient handicraft techniques with contemporary ideas and demands.
 - The Craft Fair Council is the main body behind organising the All India Craft Fair. The Department of Culture and the Zonal Cultural Centres are responsible for organising craft fairs in their respective areas. They are also responsible for organising cultural events during the Republic Day celebrations every year.
 - Their responsibility is to ensure that the unique artistic traditions of various parts of India are represented in globally recognised platforms.

Indira Gandhi National Centre

- The late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, in memory of his mother Smt. Indira Gandhi, launched the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) in 1985.
- The functioning of the IGNCA was governed by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts Trust which was constituted and registered on 24 March 1987 at New Delhi. It has a Board of Trustees which meet frequently to decide the work of the Centre.
- IGNCA is headed by a Chairman who is assisted by an Executive Committee. They direct the functioning of the academic and administrative division.
- The IGNCA is an autonomous institution that concentrates on *research, conservation, display and dissemination* of arts. Although they concentrate on the visual and performing art, yet they also promote critical and creative literature.

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The IGNCA has six functional units as given hereunder

Units	Functions
Kala Nidhi	The multi-form library
Kala Kosa	Devoted mainly to the study and publication of fundamental texts in Indian languages.
Janapada Sampada	Engaged in lifestyle studies
Cultural Informatics	Apply technology-based tools for cultural preservation and propagation
Sutradhara	Administrative section that acts as a spine supporting and coordinating all the activities
Kala Darsana	The executive unit which transforms researches and studies emanating from the IGNCA into visible forms through exhibitions

- Their main objective is to be the major resource centre for the oral and visual art forms in India. They need to accumulate and preserve art and crafts. They need to conduct researches on arts and humanities and publish their findings in the form of reference works, glossaries, encyclopedia and dictionaries.
- They should also cultivate linkages and webs of interaction with different strata of the society and different communities and regions.

Centre for Cultural Resources and Training

- The Ministry of Culture, Government of India, has instituted the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT) for linking education with culture. It was established in 1979 at the behest of Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan and Smt. Kamala Devi Chattopadhyay. Although an autonomous body, CCRT has been mandated by the

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- government to strengthen the foundation of the nation by making education, culture based and meaningful.
- CCRT has its headquarters in New Delhi and three Regional Centres at Udaipur in the west, Hyderabad in the south and Guwahati in the north-east, to facilitate the widespread dissemination of Indian art and culture.
 - CCRT has a holistic approach towards education and they focus on the emotional, spiritual and cognitive development of children. They want to do this through reframing education and making it more meaningful.
 - CCRT not only focuses on the students but creates an awareness amongst teachers, principals and non-teaching/ administrative actors about the multiplicity of regional cultures and languages in India. This plurality has to be incorporated amongst the syllabus and enforced through new and innovative teaching methods.

Some of these new methodologies suggested are

- To organise workshops to equip teachers with practical training and knowledge in crafts that can be taught as part of the school curriculum. These activities can range from classical dance to music and even varied art forms that showcase the diversity of Indian culture.
- To create a curriculum on Indian art and culture for teachers who would consequently teach them to the students.
- To create a library to house the scripts, digital photographs, audio and visual recordings, which would be culturally oriented educational aids and would focus on the arts and crafts of rural India and means to revive and keep them alive.
- The Government of India provides funds to CCRT to offer scholarships to students, teachers and artists helping them in their endeavour in interlinking education with culture. These scholarships are given to Young Artists, Junior and Senior Fellowships for deeper researches. They also organise the Cultural Heritage Young Leadership Programme that aims at promoting social values and community participation amongst the pro-active young people of India.

National Archives of India

- This is one of the oldest institutions that was created by the British to keep the administrative records pertaining to the Indian state. The idea of its establishment is attributed to the British Civil Auditor, Sandeman, who wanted a 'Grand Central Archive' to protect all the valuable records in 1860.
- The archive or the 'Imperial Records Department' (IRD) was first established in 1891 in the old British capital-Calcutta under the auspices of Prof. G.W. Forrest. The IRD was shifted to New Delhi in 1911 as the British changed the national capital from Calcutta to Delhi. After India gained its independence, the IRD was renamed as the National Archives of India (NAI).
- Soon after this rechristening, there was a change in the administrative set-up and a Director of the Archives headed the NAI. The archives were opened to the public for research in 1939. Furthermore, a Conservation Research Laboratory (CRL) was added to the archives in 1940 for the express purpose of conserving and preserving these important documents about Indian history.
- Slowly, the ambit of responsibility of the Archives was increased to include acquisition of the public records and private papers/collections that were added to the library. They also started research and reference programmes and formalised training for conservation. They also opened regional centres at Jaipur, Bhubaneswar and Puducherry.
- According to the Memorandum concerning the National Archives of India, issued by the Ministry of Culture, the main objectives of NAI are as given below:
 1. The vision that guides the National Archives of India is to help in the preservation of the Indian documentary cultural heritage and ensure that it is handed to the coming generations and they can be given greater access to the archival holdings.
 2. Their mission is to collect large amount of documents and to manage them scientifically. They also promote the administration and conservation of records in all the regional centres.
 3. They want to create and nurture closer relations between the archival institutions and archivists especially at the national and international level. Lastly, the NAI wants to develop a scientific temper amongst the archivists,

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custodians and users of the records about the rich documentary heritage of India.

Indian Council for Cultural Relations

- The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) is under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture and was established to conduct programmes that promote Indian culture on an international platform.
- Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, who firmly believed in promoting cultural exchanges with other countries and cultures, established it in 1950. ICCR focuses on the formulation and implementation of the programmes and policies that are deeply rooted in the external cultural relations between India and other nations. With globalisation, the platforms of cultural exchanges among nations have taken various forms.
- ICCR funds various programmes relating to visual and performing arts that are international in their appeal. They provide grants in support of programmes like the Jazz Festival in New Delhi, the North-East Music Festival in Guwahati, etc.
- The programmes are an integral way of establishing and developing relations with similar national and international organisations that focus in the field of culture.
- The major focus of ICCR is to promote international friendship, promote cultural exchange between nations, generate healthy competition and exchange, and in turn blend the new and old features of the Indian culture.

National Mission for Manuscripts

- The Archaeological Survey of India and the National Archives of India had encountered a large number of manuscripts that are the repositories of the ancient and medieval heritage of India. It is on their recommendation that the Government of India has ordered for the establishment of the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM).
- The foremost task of the NMM was to create the 'National Electronic Database'. This database has about one million manuscripts, which makes it the largest database of Indian manuscripts in the world. Another major task of the NMM was

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to conserve the manuscripts using indigenous and modern methods so as to preserve documents while retaining its ancient heritage.

Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage

- The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage or INTACH is a non-profit NGO, which was founded in 1984 in New Delhi. The primary purpose of the organisation was to spearhead awareness regarding our heritage and to take steps to conserve it.
- The organization has various branches that are called 'Chapters'. Currently, they have Chapters in about 170 Indian cities and several international ones too.
- The first governing council of the INTACH consisted of noted people like the former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, M.G.K Menon, Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan, Madhavrao Scindia etc.
- According to the Memorandum of Rules and Regulations of INTACH they are supposed to:
 1. Restore the monuments and ruins to their original state and then help with the subsequent management and sustenance of the monument.
 2. They have to create awareness amongst the masses about conservation of heritage property. They have to create awareness programs like awareness drive in schools, workshops for various groups about conservation etc.
 3. They are to create and support Heritage Walks that would cover major areas of historic cities and create awareness amongst the citizens about the living cultural heritage that surrounds them.
- They should specifically focus on monuments that fall out of the purview of the Archaeological survey of India and work with the local authorities in terms of preservation and maintenance.
- The work done by INTACH is appreciated and supported by various other governmental agencies and several foreign countries have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with them.
- The most famous example is the INTACH UK Trust that was established in 1987 through a bequest from the Charles Wallace foundation. They fund projects in India that focus on heritage conservation. They also help people reconcile tourism

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activities and conservation of monuments, as they are necessary both for the preservation of our culture and its dissemination to the world.

Sahitya Academi

- The Government of India established the “National Academy of Letters” or the Sahitya Academi in 1954.
- The primary function of this organisation was to work as a national organisation
 - to promote literary culture in India,
 - to foster and co-ordinate literature in all the Indian languages and
 - to overall promote the national unity of the country.

It is an autonomous organisation, which undertakes literary activities in over 24 Indian languages. Apart from the 22 languages that are mentioned in the Constitution of India, the Sahitya Academi gives recognition to two more languages: English and Rajasthani. They have several awards and fellowships that honor the great contribution made to linguistic development by writers.

- For the last few years their collective focus has shifted to the preservation of the Oral and tribal literature. Our ancient society and traditional knowledge was transferred as oral knowledge and that needs to be preserved for the coming generations.

Sangeet Natak Academi

- The Sangeet Natak Academi was the first national academy set up for the Arts by the Government of India in 1952. The first President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, inaugurated it.
- The major focus of the academy was to create a set-up for music, drama and dances of India. It was supposed to be the primary body for showcasing the performing arts in the country. They also had the ardent task of promoting the enormous intangible heritage of India as demonstrated through the forms of music, dance and drama.
- They are not only supposed to be the central agency to monitor the preservation of our cultural heritage but they need to collaborate with the State and Union territory governments to preserve and promote their culture on a national platform.



- The Sangeet Natak Academi also looks after several institutions, which focus primarily of either dance or music or drama. For example, they administer the National School of Drama that was set up in 1959 for focused work on dramatics in India. They also collaborate with international organizations like UNESCO to save the cultural heritage of India.
- Sangeet Natak Academi has launched a decade long project to work on the dance form of Koodiyattam.

They have several aims and objectives like:

- To promote research and performances in the fields of music, dance and drama.
- To encourage the establishment of centres for theatres, especially for regional theatres
- To promote teaching acting, study of stagecraft and play production and direction.
- To conduct and promote literature on Indian music, dance and drama.
- Special emphasis should be given to create handbooks and illustrated dictionaries that explain technical terms.
- To revive, promote and preserve the folk dance, music and drama especially community art, martial music and any other type of music.
- To foster cultural contacts with international community in the fields of dance, music and drama.

Lalit Kala Academy

- The National Academy of Art or the Lalit Kala Academy was set up by the Government of India in 1954 with the sole object to promote fine arts in India. The academy is an autonomous body that is funded by the Ministry of Culture.
- They focus on the encouragement and understanding of fine arts. Although they deal with national and international art, their focus is on the promotion and preservation of Indian art.
- Their main centre is in Delhi and they have Regional Centres in Chennai, Kolkata, Lucknow, Shimla, Shillong and Bhubaneswar. They organize national and

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international exhibitions and event showcasing the works of the artists patronized by the Lalit Kala Academy.

- Important exhibitions include the National Exhibition of Art, International Triennale India etc. They also have the task to preserve the long tradition of visual arts in India. They have established centres to preserve and document a permanent collection, which focuses on the modern and contemporary art in India. This collection features the art of many contemporary Indian legends.
- Apart from this they have also created an archive and a library that has a substantial art collection. They now have a conservation laboratory and are materially sound. They also try to promote visual culture by providing scholarships and grants to artists and art organizations.
- They give financial assistance and grants to deserving and needy artists. They also organise several functions that would bring the varied visual cultures of India together to get a panoramic view of Indian cultural heritage.

Questions :

1. Write a short note on Archaeological Survey of India.
2. Describe the CCRT
3. Give a short note on
 - i. Lalith Kala Academy
 - ii. Sangeet Natak Academy