

DAILY PT POINTERS

8th December, 2023



The Hindu: GS1-History (Page 1)

Centre-approved board praising Tagore put up at Santiniketan to mark UNESCO world heritage tag

Bishwanath Ghosh
KOLKATA

Visva-Bharati University has finally replaced the controversial plaques commemorating UNESCO's world heritage tag to Santiniketan with a board approved by the Centre.

It was in mid-September that Santiniketan, founded by Debendranath Tagore and home to Visva-Bharati, the university set up by his son Rabindranath, was accorded the heritage status. Soon, plaques came up marking the site, but bore only the names of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is the Chancellor, and (the then) Vice-Chancellor Bidyut Chakrabarty.

The move kicked up a



Earlier, plaques marking the heritage site had names of PM and V-C but not Tagore.

and the Vice-Chancellor purely for authentication.

In late November, texts in Hindi and English, drafted by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and approved by the Union Ministry of Education, were sent to Visva-Bharati for correction and for Bengali translation. The university

him with superlatives that the committee had to tone it down. "Tagore's name, for example, was prefixed with the word 'great'. Now Tagore himself wouldn't have approved of it," a source told *The Hindu*.

The new board states, "Santiniketan continues to stand as a beacon of inter-cultural dialogue and artistic expression, nurturing the spirit of innovation and harmony. It remains a testament to Rabindranath Tagore's vision of an abode where the world makes its home in a single nest, resonating with the timeless pursuit of knowledge and unity in diversity."

Footnote

To possibly avoid contro-

Santiniketan

- Established in West Bengal in 1901 by the renowned poet and philosopher Rabindranath Tagore, Santiniketan was a residential school and centre for art based on ancient Indian traditions and a vision of the unity of humanity transcending religious and cultural boundaries.
 - A 'world university' was established at Santiniketan in 1921, recognizing the unity of humanity or "Visva Bharati"
- Santiniketan has been inscribed on UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites during the ongoing 45th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- Santiniketan is India's 41st UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The Hindu: GS2-Polity and Governance (Page 5)

Hatti community announces protest on December 16

Press Trust of India
NAHAN

An organisation of the Hatti community in Himachal Pradesh will organise a protest march on December 16 to press their demand for the implementation of a law giving the Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to the community, its leader announced on Thursday.

The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Second Amendment) Act, 2023, granting the ST status to the Hatti community,

was enacted four months ago, however the State government is not implementing it under the pressure of a Cabinet Minister, Kendriya Hatti Samiti general secretary Kundan Singh Shastri told journalists at Paonta Sahib.

Mr. Shastri called upon Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu to intervene and implement the Hatti tribal status law immediately "in the interest of Hatti youths who are being deprived of their right of reservation in the ongoing recruitments".

- The Hattis are a close-knit community who take their name from their traditional occupation of selling home-grown crops, vegetables, meat, and wool at small-town markets known as 'haats'. Hatti men traditionally don a distinctive white headgear on ceremonial occasions.
- The Hatti homeland straddles the Himachal-Uttarakhand border in the basin of the Giri and Tons rivers, both tributaries of the Yamuna
- They even still follow the **Khumbli** – the **traditional council** despite the establishment of the panchayat system.
- The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Second Amendment) Act, 2023, granting the ST status to the Hatti community, was enacted four months ago, however the State government is not implementing it .

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



The Hindu: GS3-S&T (Page 14)

Regulating deepfakes and AI in India

Why are deepfakes dangerous? How are deepfakes being used to spread misinformation in political campaigns? What are the international best practices? What should be the regulatory response according to experts?

EXPLAINER

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:

Last month a video featuring actor Rashmika Mandanna went viral on social media, sparking a combination of shock and horror among netizens. The seconds-long clip, which featured Mandanna's likeness, was manipulated using deepfake technology. Deepfakes are digital media, video, audio, and images, edited and manipulated using Artificial Intelligence (AI). Since they incorporate hyper-realistic digital falsification, they can potentially be used to damage reputations and undermine trust in democratic institutions. This phenomenon has forayed into political messaging as well, a concern in the run-up to the general elections next year.



THE GIST

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In May last year, a deepfake of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy asking his countrymen to lay down their weapons went viral after cybercriminals hacked into a Ukrainian television channel.

- Deepfake are digital media which are created by altering media — images, video, or audio using technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine learning, thereby blurring the lines between fiction and reality.
- Although they have clear **benefits** in **education**, **film production**, **criminal forensics**, and **artistic expression**, they can also be used to **exploit people**, **sabotage** elections and spread large-scale misinformation.
- India lacks specific laws to address **deepfakes** and AI-related crimes but **Section 66E of the Information Technology Act, 2000** (IT Act) is applicable in cases of **deepfake crimes** that involve the capture, publication, or transmission of a person's images in mass media thereby violating their privacy. Similarly, **Section 66D of the IT Act** punishes individuals who use communication devices or computer resources with malicious intent, leading to impersonation or cheating. Further, **Sections 67, 67A, and 67B of the IT Act** can be used to prosecute individuals for publishing or transmitting deep fakes that are obscene or contain any sexually explicit acts.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

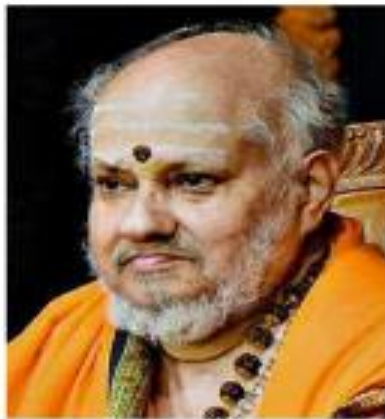
The Hindu: GSII-Polity and Governance (Page 18)

SC makes video on Kesavananda Bharati judgment available

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

A nearly five-minute video produced by the Supreme Court in 10 Indian languages gives a concise history of the Kesavananda Bharati judgment, a verdict that has stood sentinel to the basic features of the Constitution such as secularism, religious freedom and federalism for 50 long years.

The historic judgment delivered on April 24, 1973, by a Supreme Court Bench of 13 judges, the largest in the court's history till date,



Kesavananda Bharati

bate in 2023 when Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankar criticised the Basic Structure doctrine for diluting parliamentary sovereignty.

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- The historic judgment delivered on April 24, 1973, by a Supreme Court Bench of 13 judges, the largest in the court's history till date, propounded the Basic Structure doctrine.
- The judges, on a wafer-thin majority of 7:6, had declared that Parliament cannot amend or abrogate the fundamental features or the "soul" of the Constitution, including the rule of law and independence of the judiciary.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: GS2-IR (Page 20)

EU tells China 'differences' must be addressed; Italy pulls out of BRI pact

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BEIJING

EU President Ursula von der Leyen told Chinese leader Xi Jinping on Thursday that the bloc and its biggest trading partner must address their differences, in the first in-person EU-China summit in over four years.

Underlining Beijing's challenges in getting Europe onside, news broke on the eve of the summit that Italy — the bloc's third-largest economy — had withdrawn from its vast Belt and Road infrastructure initiative. Meanwhile, China slammed what it called the "smearing" of its Belt and Road infrastructure project.

China and the EU have ramped up diplomatic engagement this year in an attempt to repair ties.

In opening remarks, Ms. Von der Leyen, flanked by European Council President Charles Michel and EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, told Mr. Xi "there are clear imbalances and differences that we must address".

"At times our interests coincide," she said, pointing to EU-China cooperation on artificial intelligence and climate change. "When they do not, we need to address and responsibly manage the concerns that we have," she said.



- the Giorgia Meloni-led government in Italy has formally withdrawn from the China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), four years after signing the pact
- The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), previously known as the One Belt One Road Initiative, a mammoth infrastructure project launched by China in 2013.
- China aims to recreate its medieval Silk Road.
 - China wants to build infrastructure such as ports, bridges and rail lines in over 150 countries spanning Asia, Africa and Europe.
 - While China claims it is solely an economic initiative, not many countries, including India, are willing to buy that argument.
 - The countries opposing the project fear this could a China-centered sphere of influence and lead to "debt traps".

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express: IR-GSII / Economy-GSIII



Russia, Saudi urge OPEC+ powers to join oil cuts after Putin-MbS meet

REUTERS
MOSCOW, DECEMBER 7

SAUDI ARABIA and Russia, the world's two biggest oil exporters, on Thursday called for all OPEC+ members to join an agreement on output cuts for the good of the global economy only days after a fractious meeting of the producers' club.

Hours after Russian President Vladimir Putin went to Riyadh in a hastily arranged visit to meet Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the Kremlin released a joint Russian-Saudi statement about the conclusion of their discussions.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Russia and other allies agreed last week to new voluntary cuts of about 2.2 million barrels per day (bpd), led by Saudi Arabia and Russia rolling over their voluntary cuts of 1.3 million bpd. "In the field of energy, the two sides commended the close cooperation between them and the successful efforts of the OPEC+ countries in enhancing the stability of global oil markets," said the statement released by the Kremlin.

The Russian version used the word "join" while an English translation of the statement, also released by the Kremlin, used



Vladimir Putin; Mohammed bin Salman. Reuters

PUTIN EYES 5TH TERM, POLLS ON MARCH 17

Moscow: Russian lawmakers on Thursday set the date of the country's 2024 presidential election for March 17, moving Vladimir Putin a step closer to a fifth term in office. Members of the Federation Council, Russia's upper house of parliament, voted unanimously to approve a decree setting the date. **AP**

such an explicit public remark from the Kremlin and the kingdom about "joining" cuts appeared to be an attempt to send a message to members of the OPEC+ club who had not cut or not cut enough.

The biggest member of OPEC excluded from the cuts is Iran, the economy of which has been

- The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is a permanent, intergovernmental Organization, created at the Baghdad Conference on September 10–14, 1960, by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.
 - OPEC's objective is to co-ordinate and unify petroleum policies among Member Countries, in order to secure fair and stable prices for petroleum producers; an efficient, economic and regular supply of petroleum to consuming nations; and a fair return on capital to those investing in the industry.
- OPEC formed the so-called OPEC+ coalition with 10 of the world's major non-OPEC oil-exporting nations, including Russia, at the end of 2016.
 - OPEC+ represents around 40% of world oil production and its main objective is to regulate the supply of oil to the world market.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



Indian Express: Polity and Governance-GSII (Page 8)

Release Centre's aid to SDRF in advance, PM tells MHA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 7

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi has directed the Ministry of Home Affairs to release in advance the second instalment of the Centre's contribution to the SDRF — Rs 493.60 crore to Andhra Pradesh and Rs 450 crore to Tamil Nadu — in view of the floods caused by cyclone Michaung, Union Minister Amit Shah said.

In a post on X, Shah said the PM has also approved the first urban flood mitigation project of Rs 561.29 crore for 'Integrated Urban Flood Management activities for Chennai Basin Project' under the National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF), which also includes central assistance of Rs 500 crore.

The severe cyclonic storm Michaung has affected Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Though the extent of damage is

varied, many areas of these states have been inundated, affecting standing crops, the minister said.

"To help the state governments with the management of relief necessitated by the cyclonic storm, PM @narendramodi ji directed the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to release in advance the central share of the 2nd instalment of SDRF (State Disaster Response Fund) of Rs 493.60 crore to Andhra Pradesh and Rs 450 crore to Tamil Nadu," he said.

The central government had already released the first instalment of the same amount to the two states, he added. "I pray for the safety and well-being of all those affected. We stand with them in this crucial hour and will ensure the situation normalises at the earliest," Shah said.

Michaung left behind a trail of destruction in Andhra Pradesh, damaging 770-km roads, uprooting trees and killing livestock.

- The State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), constituted under Section 48 (1) (a) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005
- It is the primary fund available with State Governments for responses to notified disasters.
- The Central Government contributes 75% of SDRF allocation for general category States/UTs and 90% for special category States/UTs (NE States, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir).
- The annual Central contribution is released in two equal installments as per the recommendation of the Finance Commission.
- SDRF shall be used only for meeting the expenditure for providing immediate relief to the victims.
- **Disaster (s) covered under SDRF:** Cyclone, drought, earthquake, fire, flood, tsunami, hailstorm, landslide, avalanche, cloudburst, pest attack, frost and cold waves.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express: IR-GSII



ARTICLE 99 OF UN CHARTER

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres invoked the rarely used provision over the crisis in Gaza

RISHIKA SINGH
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 7

AMID ISRAEL'S relentless assaults on the Gaza Strip, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has invoked Article 99 of the UN Charter to call for a ceasefire.

Guterres wrote on X: "Facing a severe risk of collapse of the humanitarian system in Gaza, I urge the Council to help avert a humanitarian catastrophe & appeal for a humanitarian ceasefire to be declared."

What is Article 99 of the UN Charter?

The UN Charter is the founding document of the United Nations. It empowers the UN to take action in a range of situations. Article 99 states: "The Secretary-General may bring to the attention of the Security Council any matter which in his opinion may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security." The Security Council is one of the principal organs of the UN, with five permanent member countries and 10 non-permanent ones.

A 1945 report of the Preparatory Commission of the UN said of Article 99: "...The responsibility it confers upon the Secretary-General will require the exercise of the highest qualities of political judgment, tact and integrity." The UNSC president is obligated to call a meeting following its invocation.



Nowhere safe in Gaza: Guterres Reuters

Occupied Palestine Territory." Guterres said that he has repeatedly condemned the October 7 Hamas attacks that led to more than 1,200 deaths.

Since Israel's military operation began, more than 15,000 people — 40% of whom were children — have been killed. The collapse of Gaza's healthcare system, difficulties in extending humanitarian relief, and issues of displacement were mentioned — a result of the "constant bombardment by the Israel Defense Forces".

"Nowhere is safe in Gaza," he wrote. "This is urgent. The civilian population must be spared from greater harm. With a humanitarian ceasefire, the means of survival can be restored, and humanitarian assistance can be delivered in a safe and timely manner..."



What is Article 99 of the UN Charter?

- The UN Charter is the founding document of the United Nations. Based on the powers conferred through it, the UN can take action on a wide variety of issues.
- The Charter is considered an international treaty, meaning UN Member States are "bound by it". However, in practice, there is little that member countries can be forced to do.
- Article 99 states: "The Secretary-General may bring to the attention of the Security Council any matter which in his opinion may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security."

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB: Culture-GSI

Prime Minister's Office



PM extends Hanukkah greetings

Posted On: 07 DEC 2023 7:55PM by PIB Delhi

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has extended Hanukkah greetings to Jewish people in India and around the world. He tagged the post to Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel.

The Prime Minister posted on X:

"Hanukkah Sameach! I extend my warmest greetings to our Jewish friends in India and around the world on the occasion of Hanukkah. May this festival bring peace, hope and brightness in everybody's lives. [@netanyahu](#)"

**Narendra Modi** 
[@narendramodi](#) [Follow](#)

Hanukkah Sameach! I extend my warmest greetings to our Jewish friends in India and around the world on the occasion of Hanukkah. May this festival bring peace, hope and brightness in everybody's lives. [@netanyahu](#)

7:24 PM · Dec 7, 2023

- Hanukkah (Chanukah) is **the Jewish eight-day, wintertime “festival of lights.”**

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB: Culture-GSI/Governance-GSII

Deadline for Submission of Applications for “Adopt a Heritage 2.0” Program –
December 31, 2023

Posted On: 07 DEC 2023 6:02PM by PIB Delhi



- ASI had launched the “Adopt a Heritage 2.0” programme on 4th September 2023.
- The programme seeks collaboration with the private/public sector companies / trusts / societies / NGOs etc. through their CSR funding who intend to provide, develop, and maintain ‘amenities’ at centrally protected monuments and sites.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB: Culture-GSI/Governance-GSII

Ministry of Culture launched Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar Project

for cultural mapping and documentation of villages across India

Posted On: 07 DEC 2023 3:04PM by PIB Delhi



- Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar Project is a pan-India initiative of the Ministry of Culture under National Mission on Cultural Mapping
- The MGMD seeks to compile comprehensive information detailing the life, history, and ethos of Indian villages and to make the same available to virtual and real-time visitors. Under the MGMD, information is collected under seven broad categories as given below-
- Arts and Crafts Village
- Ecologically Oriented Village
- Scholastic Village linked with Textual and Scriptural Traditions of India
- Epic Village linked with Ramayana, Mahabharata and/or Puranic legends and oral epics
- Historical Village linked with Local and National History
- Architectural Heritage Village

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB: GS2-IR/GS3-S&T

Research Symposium at the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence – GPAI 2023

Theme: Advancing Responsible AI in Public-Sector Applications

Posted On: 07 DEC 2023 5:20PM by PIB Delhi



- The Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) is a multi-stakeholder initiative which aims to bridge the gap between theory and practice on AI by supporting cutting-edge research and applied activities on AI-related priorities.
- Launched in June 2020 with 15 members, today GPAI's membership has expanded to 28 member countries and the European Union.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB: Miscellaneous

Mascot 'Ujjwala' creates celebratory atmosphere for first-ever Khelo India Para Games

The start of Khelo India Para Games, aims to extend its impact by identifying and supporting talented para-athletes: Shri Anurag Singh Thakur

Press Release: 07 DEC 2023 00:00 PM by PIB Delhi



- the 1st edition of Khelo India Para Games 2023 is being organized from 10th -17th December 2023 across 3 venues in the city of Delhi across 7 sports Disciplines (Para Archery, Par Athletics, Para Badminton, Para Table Tennis, Para Powerlifting, CP Football, Para Shooting) with the approximate participation of 1500 athletes, 200 Technical Officials, 150 Volunteers, 350 Support Staff, 300 escorts & 20 classifiers from 36 States and UTs.