

# DAILY PT POINTERS

20<sup>th</sup> November, 2023



The Hindu: GS1-Art and Culture (Page 2)

## Devotees flock to over 1,000 artificial ponds for Chhath celebrations

Four-day festival to culminate today with ritual bath and prayers to Sun god; CM Kejriwal greets people, visits his constituency; celebrations banned on Yamuna banks due to pollution concerns

**Samridhi Tewari**

NEW DELHI

**T**housands of devotees offered prayers on Sunday at over 1,000 artificial ponds created by the Delhi government for Chhath Puja, a day before the four-day festival is to culminate with a ritual bath and prayers to Sun god.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal visited an artificial pond in his constituency New Delhi and interacted



- Chhath Puja began on November 17. During the festival, devotees fast and gather on the banks of rivers and ponds to offer prayers to Sun god.
- The festival is celebrated by the Purvanchali community — Bhojpuri-speaking people from eastern U.P., Bihar, and parts of Jharkhand.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

**The Hindu: GS3/Environment/Intellectual Property rights (Page 6)**

## Kerala to expand farming of GI-tagged Onattukara sesame



- Efforts are being made to expand the cultivation of geographical indication (GI)-tagged Onattukara sesame in Alappuzha district of Kerala.
- The Onattukara sesame is currently grown on around 600 hectares spread across 43 local bodies in the three districts of Alappuzha, Kollam and Pathanamthitta.

### Do you know?

- A geographical indication (GI) is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. In order to function as a GI, a sign must identify a product as originating in a given place.
- India, as a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), enacted the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999 has come into force with effect from 15th September 2003.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY



The Hindu: GSII / Polity and Governance (Page 10)

## The role of the Governor in legislature

What are the options before a Governor when they receive a Bill for assent from the State Legislative Assembly? Do Governors have powers of discretion and when can they use it? What have been the recommendations of the Sarkaria and Punchhi Commission?



- Tamil Nadu Governor R. N. Ravi has ‘withheld’ assent for certain Bills passed by its Legislative Assembly.
- Article 200 of the Constitution lays down that when a Bill, passed by a State Legislature, is presented to the Governor for their assent, they have four alternatives — may give assent to the Bill; may withhold assent to the Bill, that is, reject the Bill in which case the Bill fails to become law; may return the Bill (if it is not a Money Bill) for reconsideration of the State Legislature; or may reserve the Bill for the consideration of the President.
- As held by the Supreme Court in various cases including the *Shamsher Singh* case (1974), the Governor does not exercise their discretionary powers while withholding assent or returning a Bill to the State Legislature.
  - They are required to act as per the advice of the Council of Ministers
- The return of any Bill to State Legislature for reconsideration is also to be done based on ministerial advice.
- the Constitution does not lay down any time limit within which the Governor is required to make a decision.

The Hindu: Miscellaneous (Page 12)

## IMA, nurses' association honoured with Indira Gandhi Peace Prize

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development, 2022 was, on Sunday, jointly awarded to the Indian Medical Association and the Trained Nurses Association of India as representatives of the COVID-19 warriors in the country.

Former Vice-President Hamid Ansari presented the award to Sharad Kumar Agarwal, president, Indian Medical Association, and Roy K. George, president, Trained Nurses Association of India.

Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, who heads the Indira Gandhi Memorial



Former Vice-President Hamid Ansari, Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, with Dr. Sharad Kumar Agarwal and Dr. Roy K. George. ANI

for every doctor, nurse, paramedic and *karamchari* for their selfless service, unflinching dedication and perseverance.

Ms. Gandhi said the award, instituted in the

markable leaders of the 20th century, aims to honour women, men and institutions that have done exemplary work.

"The prize endeavours to promote the causes that

pioneered and worked for in her astonishing career," she said.

She added that the life of Indira Gandhi will stand out for her tremendous ability to fight against odds.

"Be it her political career where she challenged orthodoxy to introduce equity oriented, pro-poor policies; be it her fight to defeat hunger in an international environment that disliked self respecting sovereign states; be it her extraordinary work to quell divisive tendencies in India; be it her unparalleled role in the creation of a new nation to honour people's aspirations – she was a valiant crusader of peo-

- The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development, 2022 was, on Sunday, jointly awarded to the Indian Medical Association and the Trained Nurses Association of India as representatives of the COVID-19 warriors in the country.
- The Indira Gandhi Peace Prize is an annual prestigious award.
- It has been named after former Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi.
- It is being conferred every year since 1986 by Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust. It consists of a monetary award of `25 lakh along with a citation.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: Miscellaneous (Page 14)

*Nadajibir Notebook*, a deep dive into India's rivers, wins literary award in West Bengal



- A book on the rivers of India was recently honoured with a well-known literary award in West Bengal.
  - *Nadajibir Notebook* ('Notebook on Rivers'), a book in Bengali by writer and river scientist Supratim Karmakar, published in 2022, was honoured with the Namita Chattopadhyay Sahitya Samman 2023 on November 18 at the Bangla Akademi in Kolkata.
  - The book deals with issues concerning the rivers of India, their ecology, and the steps that can be taken for their rejuvenation.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

**The Hindu: Miscellaneous (Page 14)**

## Animation film on Ahom warrior chosen for IFFI 2023

RAHUL KARMAKAR

GUWAHATI



- IFFI is the only film festival in South Asia that is accredited by International Federation of Film Producers' Associations (FIAPF) in Competitive Feature Films Category.
- Since 2004, IFFI has moved to its permanent venue at Goa, where it is jointly organized each year by National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India and Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG).

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: Environment - GSIII (Page 22)

Chimaeras – hosts to multiple genotypes, and maybe human organs



- A genetic chimaera is a single organism composed of cells of more than one distinct genotype (or genetic makeup).
- The animal kingdom has several examples of varying degrees of chimerism
- Natural chimaeras among humans are well documented in the medical literature.
- They occur when the genetic material in one cell changes and gives rise to a clonal population of cells different from all the other cells.
- scientists reported successful generation of a live chimaera in non-human primates – species evolutionarily close to humans.
  - This is the first time scientists have succeeded in producing a live infant chimeric monkey
  - Researchers have attempted to grow full human organs inside the bodies of animals using induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) technology



# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: Environment - GSIII (Page 22)

## Freemartins: black sheep among cattle

Arkatapa Basu

From the number of subspecies to the five large kingdoms that scientists have to classify living things, nature doesn't want for diversity. Even when classifying the sexes, biological variations away from the 'norm', so to speak, have been recorded in both humans and animals. In animal husbandry, cattle that are born exhibiting characteristics of both sexes are called freemartins. Freemartins are sterile female cattle that result from the twinning of a male and a female within the same uterus. This phenomenon occurs in approximately 90% of such twin pregnancies in cattle. The key reason is the exchange of blood between the male and the female foetuses during



Freemartins are generally culled because they cannot reproduce. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

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- Freemartins are sterile female cattle that result from the twinning of a male and a female within the same uterus. This phenomenon occurs in approximately 90% of such twin pregnancies in cattle. The key reason is the exchange of blood between the male and the female foetuses during gestation.
- Genetically, freemartinism is attributed to the sharing of cells carrying the Y chromosome from the male twin with the female twin. This chromosome triggers the development of male reproductive organs in the male foetus, while the female foetus, affected by the presence of male hormones, experiences incomplete development of its reproductive system.
- The end result is that the freemartin has an underdeveloped or non-functional reproductive tract.
- In agricultural settings, because freemartins can't reproduce, farmers often identify them through physical and/or behavioural traits to cull them from the breeding herd to improve reproductive efficiency.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express: Art and Culture (Page 8)

## Pincode 110001: In bylanes of a Delhi village, 600-yr-old Khirki Masjid still holds its own

*According to the official website of Delhi Tourism, “A blend of both Hindu and Muslim architecture, the Khirki mosque is a perfect amalgamation of the two separated frontiers.”*



- Khirki Masjid, built by Khan-i-Jahan Junan Shah, the Prime Minister of Firoz Shah Tughlaq who ruled in the 14th century.
- According to the official website of Delhi Tourism, “A blend of both Hindu and Muslim architecture, the Khirki mosque is a perfect amalgamation of the two separated frontiers.”
- The mosque contains around 85 domes but the most striking aspect of the structure is the numerous windows or ‘khirki’ that dot the premises. The primary purpose of these windows was to provide light and air as a source of ventilation to the courtyard of the mosque.

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Indian Express: IR – GSII (Page 15)

## What is the BDS movement, led by Palestinian groups against Israel?

The movement was launched in 2005 by more than 170 Palestinian groups to garner international support for Palestinian people's rights. What are its aims and how does the Israeli govt view it? We explain.

- The movement was launched in 2005 by more than 170 Palestinian groups to garner international support for Palestinian people's rights.
- it describes itself as an “inclusive, anti-racist human rights movement that is opposed on principle to all forms of discrimination, including anti-semitism and Islamophobia.”
- It draws inspiration from the South African anti-apartheid movement. BDS urges “nonviolent pressure on Israel until it complies with international law” to meet three demands on Israel:
  - Ending its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands and dismantling the Wall.
  - Recognizing the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality.
  - Respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN Resolution 194.”

## Indian Express: Economy-GSIII (Page 17)

### 'Women accorded top priority under PM Mudra Yojana scheme'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 25

UNION FINANCE and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday said women entrepreneurs are accorded first priority under the Centre's flagship Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana scheme which offers financial assistance to beneficiaries.

Distributing sanction letters to beneficiaries under the PM SVANidhi Se Samridhhi programme which offers loans to street vendors, here, she said officials of the municipalities should identify the uncovered street vendors and help them avail benefits of this scheme.

SVANidhi Se Samridhhi is an additional component of the PMSVANidhi scheme to facili-

tate access to eight Central government schemes to eligible PM SVANidhi beneficiaries and their family members for their holistic development and socio-economic upliftment.

Recalling the launch of Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile Trinity, Sitharaman said that through JAM Trinity, an AADHAR card was provided to a beneficiary, after which he or she can open a bank account and, directly, the financial aid from the Centre has been transferred to the accounts of a beneficiary, thereby avoiding 'middlemen'.

The Union Minister referred to former PM and late Rajiv Gandhi's comment that if the Centre gives away Rs 100 to a beneficiary, he receives only Rs 15 and the remaining Rs 85 goes to 'middlemen and others'.

"He (Rajiv Gandhi) himself has mentioned this and after assuming office in 2014, in order to ensure that a beneficiary directly receives the financial assistance given to him by the Centre, Prime Minister Narendra Modi advised us to use technology so that the beneficiary is able to know whatever amount he has received directly, thereby middlemen can be avoided," she said.

"The opening of bank accounts to serve the beneficiary was conducted like a mass movement to attain full coverage of the scheme across the country," she added.

On the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana scheme, Sitharaman said it was introduced to provide loans through banks particularly to empower women entrepreneurs.

- Under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), collateral-free institutional credit up to Rs. 10 lakh is provided by Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) i.e. Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs).
- Any individual, who is otherwise eligible to take a loan and has a business plan for small business enterprise can avail loan under the Scheme.
- S/he can avail loans for income generating activities in the manufacturing, trading, services sector and also for activities allied to agriculture across three loan products, viz. Shishu (loans up to Rs. 50,000), Kishore (loans above Rs. 50,000 and up to Rs. 5 lakh) and Tarun (loans above Rs. 5 lakh and up to Rs. 10 lakh).
- "MUDRA is a refinancing Institution. MUDRA does not lend directly to the micro entrepreneurs / individuals. Mudra loans under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) can be availed of from nearby branch office of a bank, NBFC, MFIs etc

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## PIB: Health (GSII)

WHO and the Ministry of Ayush signed the Traditional and Complementary Medicine 'Project Collaboration Agreement'

Posted On: 18 NOV 2023 5:30PM by PIB Delhi



- The Ministry of Ayush and World Health Organization (WHO) have signed Traditional and Complementary Medicine 'Project Collaboration Agreement' late last night in Geneva.
- The main objective of this agreement is to standardize Traditional and Complementary Medical Systems, integrate their quality and safety aspects into the National Health System, and disseminate them at the international level.
- Through this cooperation agreement, efforts will be made to connect Traditional and Complementary Medical Systems with the mainstream of the National Health System.
- To fulfil this objective, Traditional Medicine Global Strategy 2025-34 will be prepared by WHO with the support of the Ministry of Ayush.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## PIB: Art and Culture (GSI)

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh visits Singapore on his way back home following two-day Indonesia tour

- The Raksha Mantri also offered prayers at the Sri Srinivasa Perumal temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu, which is among the oldest Hindu temples in Singapore dating back to 1855.