

# DAILY PT POINTERS

12<sup>th</sup> December, 2023



# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## The Hindu: GS2-Polity and Governance (Page 1)

### Supreme Court upholds the abrogation of Article 370, says it is a 'temporary provision' | LIVE updates

The CJI-led Constitution Bench said that Article 370 was enacted due to wartime conditions in J&K and served a transitional purpose

December 11, 2023 09:37 am | Updated 05:51 pm IST

THE HINDU BUREAU

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- The Supreme Court declared the abrogation to be a perfectly valid exercise of power by the President, ruling that Article 370 was meant to be a temporary provision
- The court held that J&K did not retain any internal sovereignty after its integration and that the concurrence of the State Government was not required to apply the Indian Constitution to the State.
- The court also directed the Election Commission of India to take steps to conduct elections to the J&K Legislative Assembly by September 30, 2024.
- Do you know ?
  - **Article 370:** (Special status of Jammu and Kashmir): Article 370 gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir in the Indian Union and restricted the Centre's legislative powers with respect to the state.
  - It gave the state legislature special powers to draft its own Constitution



## The Hindu: GS1-Society (Page 4)

### Happily never after: bachelor blues in Bihar as practice of *pakadwa vivah* persists

SPECIAL

**Amarnath Tewary**  
PATNA

Two weeks into his job as a schoolteacher, Gautam Kumar, in his late 20s, from Maheya-Malpur village, Vaishali district in Bihar, was allegedly kidnapped from his place of work and forcibly married at gunpoint on November 29. The case, registered in the local Patepur police station, made national headlines. Allegedly abducted by three or four persons, who forced him into an SUV at gunpoint, Mr. Kumar was found by the police the following day. The woman's father, Rajesh Rai, too was married by abduction, the investigating



**In troubled waters:** The newly wed bride and her kidnapped groom, Gautam Kumar. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

officer of the case, also the station house officer, Mohammed Hasan Sardar, said. Mr. Kumar is a victim of *pakadwa vivah* (marriage of a groom by abduction), a decades-old social evil that is also against the law. Bachelors, mostly in their 20s, and considered eligible in Bihar, can 'command' dowry of up to ₹25 lakh. The higher the caste



7,194 forced marriage cases were reported in the State from January to November in 2020; up to 10,925 in 2019; 10,310 in 2018; and 8,972 in 2017

**BIHAR CRIME RECORDS BUREAU**

and the better the job, the more the dowry.

According to State Crime Records Bureau, 7,194 forced marriage cases were reported in the State from January to November in 2020; up to 10,925 in 2019; 10,310 in 2018; and 8,972 in 2017. Records for 2021, 2022, and 2023 are unavailable, say the police. Mr. Kumar, who had re-

cently passed the Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) examination, and was teaching at Utkramit Madhya Vidyalaya at Repura village, 5 km away from his home village, is scarred. "They've ruined not one but two lives," he said. His school-going sister added, "He has panic attacks, and wakes up in fright late at night." His mother, Asha Devi, wants her son to be transferred from the school, because the family that allegedly coerced him into marriage lives there. "He is not safe there," she said.

Mr. Sardar said, "We have lodged a case under IPC Sections 363, 365 (both kidnapping and abduction), and 34 (criminal act by several persons in furtherance of a common in-

tervention), against five named accused persons, including the girl's father and his two brothers. We've arrested Brij Bhushan Rai (one of the brothers) and sent him to jail. We will arrest the other absconders too, soon."

This comes against the backdrop of the November 22 Patna High Court annulment of a decade-old forced marriage of an Army man, on the grounds that the ritual of *saptapadi* (seven steps) around a fire considered sacred, had not been performed. As per the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, most weddings conducted under this law can be considered legal if there is a record of *saptapadi* being performed.

The Army man, Ravi Kant, a resident of Ravra

village, Nawada district, recalls, "I was kidnapped from Ashok Dham temple in Lakhisarai district, where I had gone along with my uncle to offer prayers on June 30, 2013." He said he was taken to an unknown place at gunpoint and married to a woman. "I was threatened and beaten up by them, including the father of the woman Bipin Singh." He had been forced to apply *sindoor* (vermillion) on the head of the woman.

**Unaffordable dowry**

A combination of factors has resulted in *pakadwa vivah*. Bihar's per capita income for 2021-22 was ₹54,383, against the national average of ₹1,50,007, according to the latest Comptroller and Auditor

General report. It is hard for many to afford the dowry demanded. Bihar has the lowest literacy rate in India with 61.8% compared to the national literacy rate of 74.04%.

A large number of such cases go unreported for fear of violence and societal pressure. Districts like Begusarai, Lakhisarai, Munger, Khagaria, and Nawada in the State are considered hotbeds of *pakadwa vivah*.

Several Bollywood movies like national film award (2007) winner *Artadwand*, comedies *Jabari Jodi*, *Atrangi Re*, many television series like *Sab ki Jodi Wohi Banata Bhagyavilhataa*, and dramas like *Ghar ek Sapna*, *Do Qadam Door* are based on groom kidnapping and marriage.

- *pakadwa vivah* (marriage of a groom by abduction), a decades-old social evil that is also against the law. Bachelors, mostly in their 20s, and considered eligible in Bihar
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The Hindu: GS3-Economy (Page 5)

## Rythu Bandhu aid to be credited from next week in Telangana

**The Hindu Bureau**  
HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed the officials of the Finance and Agriculture Departments to start crediting the assured amounts under the Rythu Bandhu scheme into the farmers' accounts from Monday.

The Chief Minister, who reviewed the functioning of the Agriculture Department with senior officials on Monday, discussed about the implementation of Rythu Bandhu – farmers' investment support scheme –with senior officials. He ordered the officials concerned to start depositing the assistance into the accounts of farmers with immediate effect.

Interestingly, the Con-



The CM's decision would mean that the Rythu Bandhu of the previous government would continue for some more time.

The assurance would entail an additional burden of over ₹7,000 crore on the State exchequer at a time when the scope for raising additional resources appears to be remote.

After the meeting to assess the situation on the agriculture front, it has been decided to extend the

- Rythu Bandhu Scheme is proposed by Government of Telangana for providing Investment Support Agriculture and Horticulture crops by way of grant of Rs. 5,000/- per acre per farmer each season for purchase of inputs like Seeds, Fertilizers, Pesticides, Labour and other investments in the field operations of Farmer's choice for the crop season.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY



Indian Express: GSIII-Environment (Page 9)

## India-led Global River Cities Alliance launched at COP28

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

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The GRCA was launched at the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP28 in Dubai on Sunday.

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- The GRCA was launched at the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP28 in Dubai on Sunday.
- The launch of GRCA signifies a momentous step in global efforts towards river conservation and sustainable water management.



## Indian Express: Welfare Schemes-GS 2 (Page 21)

### LPG offtake under Ujjwala scheme up; cooking gas prices in India affordable than others: Puri

SUKALP SHARMA  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

THE AVERAGE per-capita consumption of cooking gas under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) has improved to 3.8 cylinder refills on an annualised basis in April-October from 3.01 refills for 2019-20 (FY20) and 3.71 in FY23, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri informed the Parliament on Monday. The minister also said that the government's measures to keep the fuel affordable for poor households have been effective in keeping its price cheaper than in neighbouring countries like Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The PMUY was launched in 2016 to provide poor households access to liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) as a cooking fuel and discourage the use of traditional



The PMUY was launched in 2016 to provide poor households access to liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). *File*

kitchen fuels like firewood and cow dung cakes, which are more polluting and pose health hazards. Over the years, the PMUY has emerged as a key welfare scheme of the Narendra Modi government.

"While a total of 3.09 crore PMUY consumers took refills in 2017-18, the number of PMUY beneficiaries taking refills has

gone up to 8.41 crore in 2022-23. More than 100.85 crore refills have been taken by PMUY beneficiaries in the last 3 years alone. Per capita consumption of PMUY beneficiaries has increased from 3.01 Refills/annum (in terms of 14.2-kg refill) during FY2019-20, to 3.71 Refills/annum during FY2022-23 and further to 3.8 refills in 2023-24 (till October

2023)," Puri informed the Rajya Sabha. It is worth noting that the number of LPG refills taken by non-PMUY domestic LPG consumers in FY23 stood at 6.65. Therefore, while the per-capita LPG consumption by PMUY beneficiaries has registered a growth in recent years, it still trails the average consumption levels of non-PMUY households.

In terms of affordability, the minister said that the government has been modulating the price of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) for domestic consumers in a bid to shield them from high price volatility in the international market. Prices of various fuels, including LPG, had shot up in the international market following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Prices of petroleum fuels in India are benchmarked to international benchmarks.

FULL REPORT ON  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

- The PMUY was launched in 2016 to provide poor households access to liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) as a cooking fuel and discourage the use of traditional kitchen fuels like firewood and cow dung cakes, which are more polluting and pose health hazards.
- The target to release 8 crore connections under PMUY Phase-I was achieved in September, 2019. To cover the remaining poor households, PMUY phase-2 (Ujjwala 2.0) was launched in August 2021
  - The beneficiaries are identified either from Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC) list or from seven other identified categories such as Scheduled Caste(SC) Households, Scheduled Tribe(ST) Households, Most Backward Classes (MBC), Beneficiaries of PM Awas Yojana (Gramin), Beneficiaries of Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Forest Dwellers, Resident of islands/ river islands, Tea garden / ex-tea garden workers or Poor households not covered under the above categories.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## PIB: S&T-GSIII

Prime Minister's Office



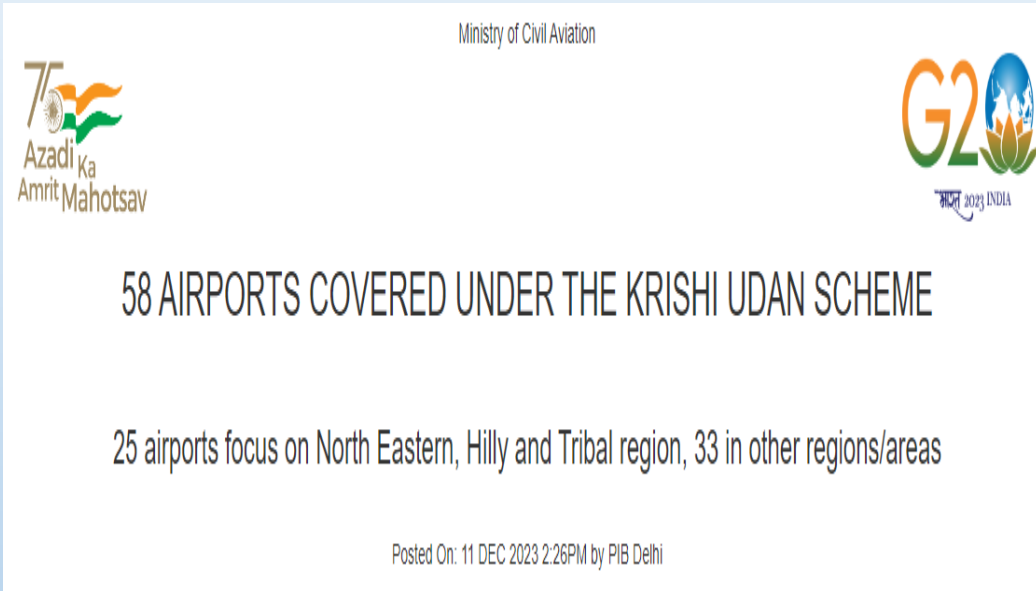
PM to inaugurate the annual Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) summit on 12th December

India is hosting the three-day annual GPAI summit from 12th to 14th December 2023 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi

- GPAI is a multi-stakeholder initiative with 29 member-countries, which aims to bridge the gap between theory and practice on AI by supporting cutting-edge research and applied activities on AI-related priorities.
  - India is the lead chair of GPAI in 2024.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## PIB: Economy-GSIII



- Krishi Udan Scheme was launched in August 2020 on international and national routes to assist farmers in transporting agricultural products to help improve their value realization.
- Krishi Udan Scheme 2.0 was announced on 27 October 2021 mainly focusing on transporting perishable food products from the hilly areas, North Eastern States and tribal areas.
- The scheme primarily covers 25 airports focusing on North Eastern, Hilly and Tribal region besides 33 airports in other regions/areas.



# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## PIB: Environment-GSIII

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change



Indian Forest & Wood Certification Scheme launched to promote Sustainable Management of forests and agroforestry

Posted On: 11 DEC 2023 6:04PM by PIB Delhi



- The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has launched the Indian Forest & Wood Certification Scheme.
- This national forest certification scheme offers voluntary third-party certification designed to promote sustainable forest management and agroforestry in the country.
- The scheme includes forest management certification, tree outside forest management certification, and chain of custody certification.
- The Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme, will be overseen by the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Council, which will act as a multistakeholder advisory body

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## PIB: Art and Culture-GSI



- Krishnaveni Sangeetha Neerajanam is being organized by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India in association with Ministry of Culture, Sangeet Natak Akademi and State Government of Andhra Pradesh at Vijayawada from 10-12 December, 2023.
- This three-day classical music extravaganza will host a variety of activities, including classical music performances by renowned musicians, exhibition and sale of regional cuisine, local handicrafts and handlooms.