

DAILY PT POINTERS

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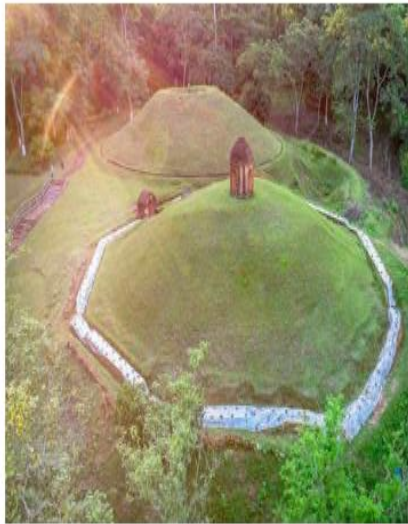
Royal burial mounds of the Ahom dynasty from Assam make it to UNESCO World Heritage List

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/GUWAHATI

The Charaideo Moidams, a 700-year-old mound-burial system of the Ahom dynasty from Assam, were added to the UNESCO World Heritage List on Friday, making them the 43rd property from India to be included in the prestigious index.

The announcement was made at the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee being held here.

“This historic recognition brings global attention to the unique 700-year-old mound-burial system of the Ahom kings at Charaideo, highlighting the rich cultural heritage of Assam and Bharat,” Union Minister for Culture and Tourism



An aerial view of the royal burial mounds built by the Ahom dynasty in Charaideo in eastern Assam. AP

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat told the media after the announcement.

Similar to the pyramids of Egypt, the Moidams are earthen burial mounds of

the members of the Ahom royalty whose 600-year rule was ended by the British takeover of the region.

The Ahoms adopted the Hindu method of crema-

tion after the 18th century and began entombing the cremated bones and ashes in a Moidam at Charaideo.

The highly venerated Moidams make the Charaideo district a tourist destination.

First from Northeast

The Moidams are the first from the northeastern States to be recognised as a World Heritage Site in the cultural category. Assam has two other such sites in the natural category - Kaziranga National Park and Manas National Park, both upgraded to tiger reserves.

“THIS IS HUGE. The Moidams make it to the #UNESCO World Heritage list under the category Cultural Property - a great win

for Assam. Thank You Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji, Members of the @UNESCO World Heritage Committee and to the people of Assam,” Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma wrote on X.

He said the Charaideo Moidam embodies the deep spiritual belief, rich civilisational heritage, and architectural prowess of Assam's Tai-Ahom community.

The Moidams were nominated as India's official entry in 2023.

Of the 386 Moidams explored so far, 90 royal burials at Charaideo are the best preserved, representative, and most complete examples of this tradition.

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- The Moidams are the first from the northeastern States to be recognised as a World Heritage Site in the cultural category.
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The Hindu-Defense(GSIII)-Page 9

PM defends Agnipath scheme on anniversary of Kargil War

The goal of Agnipath is to make the Army young and keep it continuously fit for war, says Modi as he slams Congress for opposing the scheme; he calls out Pakistan's support to proxy war in J&K

Peerzada Ashiq
KARGIL

Speaking on the 25th anniversary of the 1999 Kargil War, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday defended the Agnipath scheme and targeted the Opposition for its criticism of the scheme.

He also warned Pakistan of "a befitting reply" for its continuous support to terrorism and the proxy war in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The Agnipath scheme is an example of the necessary reforms done by the Army. For some people, the Army was meant for saluting politicians and parades. But the Army means the faith of 140 crore countrymen. The goal of Agnipath is to make the Army young, to keep the Army continuously fit for war," Mr. Modi said.

Referring to the Opposition's criticism of the Agnipath scheme, Mr. Modi said, "Unfortunately, people have made such a sensitive issue related to national security a subject of politics. These are the same people who weakened our Army by committing scams worth thousands of crores in the Army. These people never



In memoriam: Narendra Modi pays homage at the Kargil War Memorial on the occasion of Vijay Diwas, in Dras, on Friday. PTI

wanted the Army and the Indian Air Force (IAF) to be self-reliant. They never wanted Tejas to be introduced in the IAF."

Mr. Modi targeted the Congress for its failure to meet the demands of the armed forces in the past. "The Congress failed to meet the demands of forces, including the Army and the Air Force. These demands fell on the deaf ears in the past. There was a huge yearning for reforms. Our government took a step to listen to the forces and today we have a list of 5,000 weapons that are no longer being exported from outside," he said.

The Prime Minister also called out Pakistan's support to the proxy war in

Jammu and Kashmir and said the enemy would be given a befitting reply. The remarks came against the backdrop of growing terrorist attacks in the Jammu region.

"Pakistan has failed in all its nefarious attempts in the past. Pakistan, however, has not learnt from history. It is trying to keep itself relevant by supporting terrorism and proxy war. I am speaking from a place where the masters of terror can hear my voice directly. I want to tell these patrons of terrorism that their nefarious intentions will never succeed. Our soldiers will crush terrorism with full force and the enemy will be given a befitting reply," Mr. Modi said.

The Prime Minister paid homage to war heroes at the Kargil War Memorial at Dras in Kargil district.

Mr. Modi recalled the Indian Army's operations launched in the high-altitude peaks of the region. "India wanted peace but the enemy showed its dual face. Finally, falsehood got defeated. The victory in the Kargil War showed our commitment towards our nation and the valour of our brave forces. Our forces successfully executed the operation despite the extreme and challenging battle conditions," he said.

He said the land of Kargil was witness to the supreme sacrifices made by the bravehearts 25 years ago. "The names of those who offered their lives for this land will remain alive forever," he said.

He pledged that India will defeat every challenge that comes in the way of development of Ladakh or J&K.

"It will be five years since Article 370 was abolished in August. J&K is starting at a bright future, talking about big dreams. Besides infrastructure development, the tourism sector is also growing rapidly in Ladakh and J&K."

- **PM defends Agnipath scheme on anniversary of Kargil War**
- The Government had launched Agnipath scheme on June 15, 2022 to recruit both male and female aspirants into 'below the officer's rank' cadre of the three services for a period of four years as Agniveers.
- Candidates between the age group of 17.5 to 21 years are eligible to apply for the scheme.
- These Agniveers would undergo optimised basic military training and specialised trade training followed by up-skilling courses, as required.

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India, U.S. sign agreement to protect cultural heritage

India and the U.S. on Friday signed a cultural property agreement aimed at enhancing cooperation to protect cultural heritage of both countries. Cultural property agreements prevent illegal trade of cultural property and simplify the process by which looted and stolen antiquities may be returned to their country of origin. The U.S.-India Cultural Property Agreement was signed by U.S. Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti and Union Culture Secretary Govind Mohan in the presence of Minister of Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, the U.S. Embassy said. With this, India joins the ranks of 29 existing U.S. bilateral cultural property agreement partners.

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HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu—Art and Culture (GSI)



A worker walks on scaffolding at the archaeological site of the Saint Hilarion Monastery in central Gaza Strip. AFP

4th century Gaza monastery put on endangered site list

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

The Saint Hilarion complex, one of the oldest monasteries in the West Asia, has been put on the UNESCO list of World Heritage sites in danger due

- The Saint Hilarion complex, one of the oldest monasteries in the West Asia, has been put on the UNESCO list of World Heritage sites in danger due to the war in Gaza.
- UNESCO said the site, which dates back to the fourth century, had been put on the endangered list at the demand of Palestinian authorities and cited the “imminent threats”
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HEADLINES OF THE DAY



Air-Disaster Management –GSIII

Ministry of Home Affairs

India assumes the Chair of Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC)

Under Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, India is playing a global and regional leadership role in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

India has taken a number of global initiatives in DRR, especially establishing an international Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)

Posted On: 26 JUL 2024 3:10PM by PIB Delhi

- National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), has taken over the Chair of Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) from People Republic of China for the year 2024-25 in Bangkok, Thailand on Thursday, 25th July 2024.
- ADPC is an autonomous International Organization for cooperation in and implementation of disaster risk reduction and building climate resilience in Asia and the Pacific region.
- India and eight neighbouring countries viz. Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand are the founding members of ADPC.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB—Economy

Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

India's First Integrated Agri-Export Facility to come up at Jawaharlal Nehru Port, Mumbai

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal approves Rs.284.19 Crore PPP Project to Revolutionize Agri-Logistics and Reduce Wastage

This facility will address inefficiencies in logistics, reduce multiple handlings, and extend the shelf life of agricultural products

New Facility to Empower Farmers, Boost Job Opportunities, and Enhance Export Capacity

This is a significant step towards empowering our farmers and boosting India's agricultural sector: Shri Sarbananda Sonowal

Posted On: 26 JUL 2024 10:57AM by PIB Delhi

- India's first Integrated Agri-Export Facility will come up at Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai to bolster the country's agricultural export and import capabilities
- It will streamline logistics, reduce wastage, and provide better prices for agricultural products. He said, this is a significant step towards empowering the farmers and boosting India's agricultural sector.
- The facility will cater to exports of prominent items like non-basmati rice, maize, spices, onion, and wheat.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air–Governance–GSII

PM Modi To Chair 9th Governing Council Meeting Of NITI Aayog In New Delhi Today



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair the 9th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre, New Delhi.
- The theme of this year’s meeting is “Viksit Bharat@2047,” with a central focus on making India a developed nation. The meeting will discuss the approach paper for the Vision Document on Viksit Bharat.
- the Governing Council meeting aims to foster participative governance and collaboration between the Centre and State Governments, enhancing the quality of life for both rural and urban populations.
- The Prime Minister is the Chairperson of NITI Aayog.
 - Other attendees will include Chief Ministers and Lieutenant Governors of States and Union Territories, Union Ministers as Ex-officio Members and Special Invitees, and the Vice Chairman and Members of NITI Aayog.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air–Economy(GSIII)

RBI Issues Prompt Corrective Action Framework For UCBs



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a prompt corrective action (PCA) framework for primary (urban) co-operative banks to give more focus on larger UCBs that require more intensive monitoring by optimal utilisation of supervisory resources.
- The PCA framework will replace the supervisory action framework (SAF) established as an early intervention tool to improve weak UCBs.
- the PCA framework had been suitably harmonised with similar frameworks applicable to scheduled commercial banks and non-banking financial companies, with suitable modifications considering the underlying principle of proportionality.
- the revised framework seeks to provide flexibility to design entity-specific supervisory action plans based on the assessment of risks on a case-by-case basis. RBI said that the hard-coded limit of ₹25,000 for restrictions on capital expenditure by UCBs under SAF has been dispensed with.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air-IR(GSII)

NSA Ajit Doval Represents India At 4th Annual BIMSTEC Security Chiefs Meeting In Naypyitaw



National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval met his Myanmar counterpart Admiral Moe Aung on the sidelines of the BIMSTEC grouping's meeting.

- BIMSTEC (The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) constitutes a unique link between South and South-East Asian countries with five members from South Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka) and two members from South-East Asia (Myanmar & Thailand).