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International & National News

SC upholds repeal of J&K's special status



Context

- A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court **unanimously upheld the power of the President to repeal the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.**
- This was done under Article 370 of the Constitution, leading to the reorganization of the **full-fledged State into two Union Territories** and removing its privileges.

About the special status of J&K

- On **5th August 2019**, the President of India in the exercise of the powers conferred by Article 370(1) of the Constitution issued the **Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 2019.**
- Through this, the Government of India has made modifications to Article 370 itself (not revoked it).
- The **Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 2019** replaced the Presidential Order 1954.
- Subsequently, the **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019**, passed by Parliament divides the state of Jammu and Kashmir into two new Union Territories (UTs): **Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh.**
- This was further challenged in the Supreme Court.

Important articles:-

- Article 370 under Part XXI **empowers Jammu & Kashmir to have its own constitution.**
- It grants autonomous status to J&K.
- It restricts Parliament's legislative powers in respect of J&K.
- Article 35A, incorporated into the Constitution in 1954, **provides special rights and privileges to the citizens of the state.**
- Article 35A gives the Jammu & Kashmir Legislature full discretionary power to decide who the **'permanent residents' of the state are.**

Pakadwa vivah practice of Bihar

Context

Recently, the **Patna High Court** has nullified a forced marriage, commonly referred to as "**pakadwa vivah**," which occurred a decade ago.

About


- It is a **traditional practice in the state of Bihar.**
- In 'Pakadwa Vivah', neither the consent of the boy nor the girl is taken for marriage. **Boys are taken hostage by kidnapping or coaxing** and then married to a girl as per customs and traditions.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In this, the wishes of the boy and girl, who become bride and groom, have no importance
<p>Documentary on 'Naatu Naatu' lyricist wins award</p> 	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A documentary on Oscar award-winning lyricist Subhash Chandrabose has won an award at 12th Mumbai Shorts International Film Festival. He is famous for the 'Naatu Naatu' song from the Telugu movie RRR <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The documentary, produced and directed by senior journalist Chilkuri Sushil Rao was given a special mention award at the festival Mr. Chandrabose won the Oscar for Best Original Song at the 95th Academy Awards.
<p>Web browsers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Web browsers is an applications that people use to send and receive messages via the internet. In other words, the browser is a program that runs on your device, with its purpose being to fetch information in different formats from the internet and show it on the device. It also does the reverse, receiving your input (say, a click), translating it to code, and transmitting it to some other machine across the internet.
<p>Tata Power EV, IOCL to jointly set up over 500 charging points</p>	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tata Power EV Charging Solutions Ltd. and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) have signed a memorandum of understanding(MoU) It is to roll out fast and ultrafast electric vehicle(EV) charging points across the country. <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tata Power would install more than 500 EV charging points across multiple IOCL retail outlets to help alleviate range anxiety for EV owners travelling between cities. This will contribute to accessibility and inclusivity for a sustainable electric mobility future
<p>Loss of green cover in Cauvery basin</p>	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A paper published by scientists and researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru highlighted that natural vegetation on nearly 12,850 sq. km of land in the Cauvery basin was lost in the 50 years from 1965 to 2016.



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Key points

- Karnataka has lost much more than any other State in the basin.
- It accounts for **three-fourths** of the lost cover, while **Tamil Nadu's share is around one-fifth**.
- The natural vegetation cover went down by around **46%**
- The quantum of reduction of dense vegetation was 35% and that of degraded vegetation, 63%
- Areas that suffered adverse changes in the extent of forest cover include the **Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary, Bandipur National Park, Nagarhole National Park and the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary**.

New Chhattisgarh CM



Context

- **Vishnu Deo Sai** has been chosen as the new Chhattisgarh CM
- He will be **the first tribal leader** to hold the post.
- He is also **the first to hail from a region beyond the Other Backward Class-dominated** central plains in Chhattisgarh's 23-year-old history.

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