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National and International 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 abrogate special status of Jammu and Kashmir.**
- This was done under Article 370 of the Constitution, leading to the reorganization of the **full fledged State to two Union Territories** and the removal of its privileges.

About 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** has replaced the **Presidential Order of 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.**



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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.
- In this, the wishes of the boy and girl, who become bride and groom, have no importance

Documentary on 'Naatu Naatu' lyricist wins award



Context

- 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

Key points

- 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.

Web browsers

- Web browsers is an application 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.

Tata Power EV, IOCL to jointly set up over 500 charging points

Context

- 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



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country.

### Key points

- 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

### Loss of green cover in Cauvery basin



### Context

- 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.

### 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

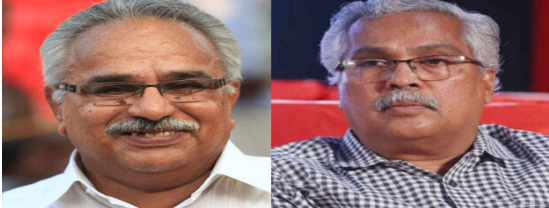



### Context

- **Vishnu Deo Sai** has been chosen as 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 23year old history.



Kerala Regional News

<p><b>Binoy Viswam elected as CPI state secretary</b></p> 	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following the <b>demise of Kanam Rajendran</b>, <b>CPI has appointed national secretariat member Binoy Viswam as its state secretary.</b></li> <li>• The assignment is <b>temporary.</b></li> <li>• Party's national general secretary D Raja informed that the <b>state executive elected Binoy Viswam unanimously.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Mavelikara to mark centenary of tryst with its Buddha statue</b></p> 	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central Travancore has many Buddhist remains.</li> <li>• Buddhist relics are found mainly in <b>Mavelikara, Kunnathur, Karunagappally, and Ambalapuzha taluks.</b></li> <li>• Following the decline of Buddhism, its culture was imbibed by other religions.</li> <li>• The then king of Mavelikara, <b>Uday Varma Thampuran</b>, constructed a pagoda to set up the statue of Buddha that was unearthed from the river bank.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Number of devotees to Sabarimala increased</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Kerala CM</b> directed to make more <b>coordinated arrangements</b> in view of the <b>increase in the number of devotees to Sabarimala</b></li> </ul> <p><b>About:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sabarimala</b> is a legendary pilgrimage site <b>dedicated to Lord Ayyappa.</b></li> <li>• Its devotees, known as <b>Ayyappans</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>New winged visitor arrives in Ernakulam</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A <b>new winged guest</b>, known as <b>Taiga Flycatcher (Ficedula albicilla)</b> is the <b>418th bird species</b> to visit Ernakulam so far.</li> <li>• The little bird was <b>spotted for the first time on November 21 near Pookkattupadi</b> in Ernakulam</li> </ul>





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- Taiga Flycatchers hail from the region between eastern Russia (Eastern Europe) and eastern Siberia (Kamchatka province).

### Did you Know?

- The Malayalam name of the bird is Chemkandan Pata Pidian.

### Govt to return excessive fee collected for RTI response



### Context:

- The **State Information Commission** has asked the government to return **excessive fee collected for RTI response**
- SIC said that the **government's instruction to charge a higher fee contravened the RTI Act.**

### About:

- The **Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005**, is a landmark legislation in India that **empowers citizens to access information held by public authorities.**
- It **promotes transparency, accountability, and reduces corruption** in governance.

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