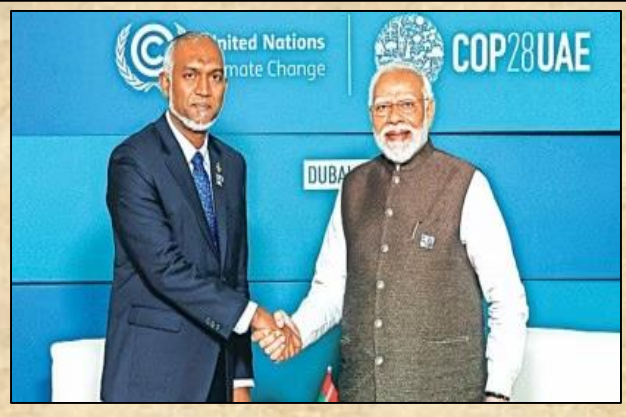
Hydrographic Survey Pact



- The Maldives government has decided to not renew an agreement with India that allowed India to conduct hydrographic surveys in Maldivian waters.

❖ Key Highlights

- ❑ The agreement was signed in 2019 during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the islands, when President Ibrahim Solih was in power.
- ❑ The new government of President Mohamed Muizzu had earlier this year requested that India should pull out its military personnel deployed in the country.

❖ About Hydrographic Survey Pact

- ❑ Hydrographic surveys are carried out by ships, which use methods such as sonar to understand the various features of a water body.
- ❑ These surveys help "map out water depth, the shape of the seafloor and coastline, the location of possible obstructions, and physical features of water bodies", to ensure the efficiency and safety of maritime transportation.

❖ India's Water Survey Pacts with Other Countries

- ❑ In 2021, India's oldest Hydrographic Survey ship, INS Sandhayak, was decommissioned.
- ❑ In its 40 years of service, it undertook more than 200 major hydrographic surveys along the Western and Eastern coasts of the Indian peninsula, and the Andaman Sea.
- ❑ It conducted surveys in neighbouring countries including Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and Bangladesh.
- ❑ Indian survey ships have assisted Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Maldives, Oman, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Tanzania in the past.

Social Stock Exchange (SSE)



- Social stock exchange (SSE) saw its first listing on Wednesday, with SGBS Unnati Foundation becoming the first entity to take this route to avail financing.
- The foundation, engaged in vocational training of youth raised Rs 1.8 crore from four investors
- The funds will be utilised for giving job training to around 10,000 graduates from government colleges.

❖ About Social Stock Exchange (SSE)

- ❑ SSE is a novel idea in India.
- ❑ A stock exchange of this kind is **intended to benefit the private and non-profit sectors** by directing more capital to them.
- ❑ During her Budget speech for the fiscal year 2019–20, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman first proposed the concept of SSE.
- ❑ The SSE would **function as a separate segment within the existing stock exchange** and help social enterprises raise funds from the public through its mechanism.
- ❑ It would serve as a medium for enterprises to seek finance for their social initiatives , acquire visibility and provide increased transparency about fund mobilisation and utilisation.
- ❑ Retail investors can only invest in securities offered by for-profit social enterprises (SEs) under the Main Board. In all other cases, only institutional investors and non-institutional investors can invest in securities issued by SEs.
- ❑ Countries like the **UK, Canada and Brazil have SSEs.**

❖ Eligibility for Listing on SSE

- ❑ Not-for-profit organisations (NPOs) and for-profit social enterprises with social intent and impact as their primary goal will be eligible to participate in the SSE.

❖ The social enterprises will have to engage in a social activity out of **16 broad activities** listed by the regulator. The eligible activities include-

- ❑ Eradicating hunger, poverty, malnutrition and inequality.
- ❑ Promoting healthcare, supporting education, employability and livelihoods.
- ❑ Gender equality empowerment of women and LGBTQIA communities.

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- Supporting incubators of social enterprise.

❖ According to Sebi's framework, **minimum issue size of ₹1 crore** and a minimum application size for subscription of ₹2 lakh are currently required for SSE.

❖ **Minimum Requirement**

- NPO needs to be registered as a charitable trust and should be registered for at least three years.
- Must have spent at least ₹50 lakh annually in the past financial year.
- Should have received a funding of at least ₹10 lakh in the past financial year.

Urbicide


(Latin: urbs: city + Latin: occido: to kill) as "city-killing"

➢ Targeting of Gaza's hospitals, bakeries, and schools by Israel is being considered as urbicide by several activists.

❖ **About Urbicide**

- Urbicide is a term which describes the deliberate wrecking or "killing" of a city, by direct or indirect means.
- literally translates (Latin: urbs: city + Latin: occido: to kill) as "city-killing".
- The term was first coined by the science fiction author Michael Moorcock in 1963 and later used by urban planners and architects to describe 20th century practices of urban restructuring in the United States.
- In the 1980s, scholars used the term to describe the extensive destruction of Balkan towns during the Yugoslavic wars from 1992 to 1996.
- This concept goes beyond merely destroying cities physically.
- It also eradicates memories, identities, and cultures embedded in a city's fabric.

Channapatna Toys



➢ Toys made in Channapatna have now become part of children's academic activities in Afghanistan.

➢ The Ministry of External Affairs sent some toys to Afghanistan some time ago as a friendly gesture.

❖ **About Channapatna Toys**

- Channapatna toys are a **particular form of wooden toys and dolls that are manufactured in the town of Channapatna** in the Ramanagara district of Karnataka state, India.
- This traditional craft is **protected as a geographical indication (GI)** under the World Trade Organization, administered by the Government of Karnataka.
- As a result of the popularity of these toys, Channapatna is known as the **Gombegala Ooru (toy-town) of Karnataka.** Traditionally, the work involved lacquering the wood of the Wrightia tinctoria tree, colloquially called Aale mara (ivory-wood).
- The greater prominence of the Channapatna toys can be traced to **patronage from Tipu Sultan.**
- The art underwent dramatic changes over the years.
- A man by the name of **Bavas Miyan undertook the responsibility to introduce Japanese doll making techniques** to improve production and reduce the effort that went into making each piece of toy.
- For nearly two centuries, **ivory-wood was the main wood** used in the making of these toys, though rosewood and sandalwood were also occasionally used.
- They are also painted in organic colours extracted from vegetables and plants and natural dyes, making the Channapatna Toys 100% chemical free.

Indira Gandhi Peace Prize

➢ The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2023 has been jointly awarded to Daniel Barenboim and Ali Abu Awwad.

➢ It was awarded to them for their efforts in bringing together the youth and peoples of Israel and the Arab World for a non-violent resolution of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

❖ **About Daniel Barenboim**

- He is an Argentine-born distinguished classical pianist and conductor, renowned for performing with and directing some of the leading orchestras in the world. Apart from his musical achievements, he is also known for his relentless endeavour in using music to foster harmony in West Asia.

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Daily Current Affairs : 16 December 2023

❖ About Ali Abu Awwad

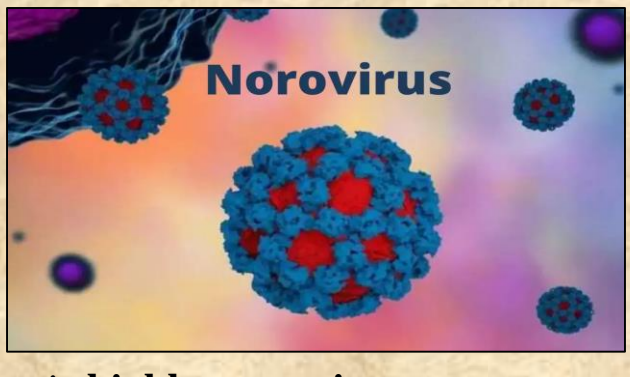


- He is an eminent Palestinian peace activist.
- He has been working tirelessly with the people of Palestine and Israel for a peaceful resolution of the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.
- Born in 1972, he was raised in a politically-active refugee family.
- He co-founded initiatives like Roots and Taghyeer.
- He is committed to non-violent action in line with Gandhian principles
- He emphasizes that non-violence is the art of practising humanity.

❖ The Indira Gandhi Prize

- Also known as Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development, is the prestigious award accorded annually by Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust.
- It has been given to individuals or organisations in recognition of creative efforts toward promoting international peace, development and a new international economic order; ensuring that scientific discoveries are used for the larger good of humanity, and enlarging the scope of freedom.
- The prize carries a cash award of 2.5 million Indian rupees and a citation.
- First awarded in 1986.

Norovirus



- The UK has been witnessing a steady increase in the number of norovirus in recent weeks.

❖ About Norovirus

- Norovirus has been **circulating among humans for over 50 years** and is thought to be one of the **primary causes of gastroenteritis.**
- It is commonly referred to as **'food poisoning' or a 'stomach bug'.** Norovirus is **highly contagious.**
- The virus is **estimated to kill 200,000 persons globally every year.**
- Most deaths are occurring among those below the **age of five years** and those over the **age of 65 years.**
- The virus is capable of **surviving low temperatures**, and outbreaks tend to be more common during the winter and in colder countries — that is why it is sometimes referred to as **"winter vomiting disease".**
- **Symptoms** : Norovirus leads to diarrhoea, vomiting, nausea, and abdominal pain.
  - Being a diarrhoeal disease, it can lead to dehydration, so drinking plenty of fluids is recommended.
- **Transmission** : Most outbreaks of this virus happen when infected people spread the virus to others through direct contact.
  - Food, water, and surfaces contaminated with norovirus can also cause outbreaks.

Stonehenge

- According to recent reports, Stonehenge faces the possibility of losing its status as a UNESCO World Heritage site if the A303 tunnel project proceeds.



❖ Key Highlights

- Efforts have recently emerged to oppose the construction of a two-mile road tunnel near the Great Circle of Stonehenge in the United Kingdom.
- This development raises concerns about the potential delisting of Stonehenge as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

❖ About Stonehenge

- **Location**: Stonehenge is situated on Salisbury Plain in England.
- The builder of Stonehenge remains unclear.
- The site has undergone modifications by various groups over different periods for ceremonial purposes.
- Archaeological evidence suggests that the initial alterations to the site were made by early Mesolithic hunter-gatherers. Stonehenge was constructed in six stages between 3000 and 1520 BCE.
- The site has been used for ceremonial purposes since about 8000–7000 BCE.
- Stonehenge is made from sarsen stones, a type of silicified sandstone found in England, and bluestones, a dolomite variation extracted from western Wales.
- The original purpose of Stonehenge is a subject of debate, with suggestions ranging from it being a Druid temple to a burial monument, a meeting place between chiefdoms, or even an astronomical "computer."

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