

Pate painting

- Pate Painting (patachitra) is a traditional art form characterized by religious and social motifs and imageries. Pate is a Bangla word that evolved from the Sanskrit pitta meaning cloth. An artwork drawn on a piece of silk or cotton or any other fabric portraying traditional motifs of religion and society is called pat art. As an art form pat is very ancient
- Pate art is of two kinds art on a broad sheet of folded cloth and an eye-art on a short piece of fabric.
- The fabric in fact makes the base for pat art. Clay, cow dung, and some sticky elements are skillfully sprouted on the fabric.
- When dried, the fabric becomes tough but mellow enough for sustaining the stroke of the artist's brushes.
- Pate artists draw on it religious motifs, such as gods and goddesses, Puranic stories, slokas, etc.
- The pictures illustrate the religious and spiritual symbols the folk society likes
- A narrative type of folk painting is still being practiced by a particular chitrakar (Painter) community in West Bengal (India) and in Bangladesh.
- Its origin is unknown.

- The origin of the chitrakar community too remains a matter of speculation.

THE HINDU

Dark patterns

- The Department of Consumer Affairs and the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) recently held a joint consultation with stakeholders on the menace of 'dark patterns

What are dark patterns?

- Harry Brignull, a user experience researcher in the U.K., introduced the phrase 'dark pattern' in 2010 to characterise deceptive strategies used to trick clients.
- A dark pattern refers to a design or user interface technique that is intentionally crafted to manipulate or deceive users into making certain choices or taking specific actions that may not be in their best interest.
- It is a deceptive practice employed to influence user behavior in a way that benefits the company implementing it.
- For example, a common dark pattern is the "sneak into basket" technique used on e-commerce websites.
- When a user adds an item to their shopping cart, a dark pattern may be employed by automatically adding additional items to the cart without

the user's explicit consent or clear notification.

- This can mislead the user into purchasing more items than they intended, potentially increasing the company's sales but compromising the user's autonomy and decision-making.
- Major international authorities are acting and formulating rules to address the issue.
- The Department of Consumer Affairs and the ASCI have identified the issue and recently taken certain steps to handle the same.

THE HINDU

High Sea Treaty

- The UN adopted the Marine Biodiversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) or the High Seas Treaty.
- It became the third agreement to be approved under UNCLOS, after the 1994 and 1995 treaties, which established the International Seabed Authority and the Fish Stocks Agreement.

When did the process start?

- The idea of protecting the marine environment emerged in 2002. By 2008, the need for implementing an agreement was recognized, which led to the UNGA resolution in 2015 to form a Preparatory Committee to

create the treaty.

- The Committee recommended the holding of intergovernmental conferences (IGC) and after five prolonged IGC negotiations, the treaty was adopted in 2023.
- The treaty's objective is to implement international regulations to protect life in oceans beyond national jurisdiction through international cooperation.

What does the treaty entail?

- The treaty aims to address critical issues such as the increasing sea surface temperatures, overexploitation of marine biodiversity, overfishing, coastal pollution, and unsustainable practices beyond national jurisdiction.
- The first step is establishing marine protected areas to protect oceans from human activities through a "three quarterly majority vote," which prevents the decision from getting blocked by one or two parties.
- On the fair sharing of benefits from marine genetic resources, the treaty mandates sharing of scientific information and monetary benefits through installing a "clear house mechanism."
- Through the mechanism, information on marine protected

areas, marine genetic resources, and “area based management tools” will be open to access for all parties.

- This is to bring transparency and boost cooperation.
- The last pillar of the treaty is capacity building and marine technology
- The Scientific and Technical Body will also play a significant role in environmental impact assessment.
- The body will be creating standards and guidelines for assessment procedures, and helping countries with less capacity in carrying out assessments.

Who opposed the treaty?

- Many developed countries opposed the treaty as they stand by private entities which are at the forefront of advanced research and development in marine technology (patents relating to marine genetic resources are held by a small group of private companies).
- Russia and China also are not in favor of the treaty. Russia withdrew from the last stage of reaching a consensus in IGC-5, arguing that the treaty does not balance conservation and sustainability.

THE HINDU

Photophobia & Phonophobia

- Photophobia: Abnormal sensitivity

to light

- Phonophobia: Abnormal sensitivity to sound
- People with photophobia often complain of light being too bright or fluorescents being bothersome. Computer or device screens, outdoor sunlight, and glare can also negatively impact people with this symptom.
- Phonophobia similarly represents a strong intolerance to one's environment, specifically sound. Although the term may evoke the concept of fear, for those with chronic illness it generally represents a sensitivity to loud noises such as traffic, music or even talking.

THE HINDU

Mains

- B.R. Ambedkar observed: “I personally do not understand why religion should be given this vast, expansive jurisdiction so as to cover the whole of life and to prevent the legislature from encroaching upon that field. After all, what are we having this liberty for?”
- We are having this liberty order to reform our social system, which is so full of inequities, so full of inequalities, discrimination, and other things, which conflict with our fundamental rights. It is, therefore, quite impossible for anybody to

conceive that the personal law shall be excluded from the jurisdiction of the State.”

- The top court had observed in the Shah Bano case that “It is a matter of regret that Article 44 has remained a dead letter.”
- The Court had pointed out that a UCC would help the cause of national integration.
- The top court ruled that “ in the constitutional order of priorities, the right to religious freedom is to be exercised in a manner consonant with the vision underlying the provisions of Part III (Fundamental Rights)” Indian Young Lawyers Association case (2018)
- A UCC would eliminate discriminatory practices that deprive women of their rights and provide them with equal opportunities and protections.
- Personal laws should have a two-dimensional acceptance they should be constitutionally compliant and consistent with the norms of gender equality and the right to live with dignity.

THE HINDU
