



23 October 2023

National and International News

Gaganyaan test flight successful



Context

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully completed its first test flight to demonstrate a crew escape system for the Gaganyaan mission

About Gaganyaan

- Gaganyaan project envisages **demonstration of human spaceflight capability** by launching a crew of 3 members to an orbit of 400 km for a 3 days mission and bring them back safely to earth.
- It is part of the **Indian Human Spaceflight Programme (IHSP)**, which was initiated (in 2007) by the ISRO to develop the technology needed to launch crewed orbital spacecraft into low earth orbit (LEO).
- Launch **Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3/GSLV Mk3) rocket** - is identified as the launch vehicle for the Gaganyaan mission.
- **India's heaviest rocket** consists of a solid stage, liquid stage, and cryogenic stage.
- Upon its completion, India will become the **fourth nation**, after the US, Russia, and China, to undertake a manned spaceflight mission.

Project Udbhav



Context

An ambitious effort for the integration of India's "ancient strategic acumen" into the contemporary military domain was launched under Project Udbhav, by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

About Project

- The project's objective is to synthesize ancient wisdom with contemporary military practices and forge a unique and holistic approach to address modern security challenges
- Project Udbhav was launched at the first **Indian Military Heritage Festival (IMHF)** being organized by the USI.
- It is a collaboration between **the Army** and the **United Service Institution of India (USI)**

Dogra architecture

Context

Dogra architecture gets a revival at J&K's Maharaj Gunj



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- **Objective:** To restore the historical splendor of the market, which has declined due to encroachments and deviations.
- **Significance:** To highlight the distinctive architectural features of the Dogra monarchs who ruled Kashmir between 1846 and 1947.
- **Scope:** The project will cover the market itself, as well as gurdwaras, mosques, temples, tombs, and ancient sanctuaries in the area.
- **Benefits:** The project is expected to draw attention to Srinagar's rich cultural past and boost tourism.

About Dogra Architecture:

- **Dogra architecture** is a unique style of architecture that developed in the **Jammu and Kashmir region of India** during the rule of the Dogra dynasty.
- It is a blend of various architectural styles, including **Rajput, Mughal, and European**.
- Dogra architecture is known for its ornate carvings, intricate designs, and use of local materials, such as **sandstone and marble**.
- The fine examples of Jammu architects are **Mubarak Mandi, Bahu Fort, Jasrota Palace, and Billawar Palace**, these all buildings were made by kings, the Dogra rulers of Jammu.
- These palaces have, **“mihrab” type of door and arch-shaped terraces**, and with doors on the top, but Mubarak mandi domes are clear examples of blend of shikhara and dome style.
- The **sandstones and pebbles**, which are found in bulk in the Jammu kandi belt, are used very benevolently for beautification.

Paintbrush Swift Butterfly



Context

The paintbrush swift has been photographed and documented for the first time in Himachal Pradesh’s Chamba district.

About Butterfly

- It is a butterfly species of the **Hesperiidae family**.
- It was first described by **lepidopterist Frederic Moore** more than 145 years ago.
- It is identified based on two separated spots in the upper forewing cell.
- The species’ larvae feed on bamboo and some other grass species.
- **Habitat:** Its habitat is distributed in **northeast, central, and south India, and is rare in Uttarakhand**.



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- Threats: Habitat loss and scarcity of larval host plants are major causes of the decline in the butterfly population. An increase in pesticide use, deforestation, and climate change.
- This species is legally protected in India under **Schedule IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.**

Bharat Tex to prop India as global textiles powerhouse



Context

Bharat Tex 2024 Expo, to be held from February 26-29 next year, will position India as a truly global textiles powerhouse

Key points

- The event has been conceptualized as the **biggest textile fair in the world** in terms of exhibition area.
- It showcases India's capabilities as a **reliable supplier of textile products** spanning the entire value chain under one roof.
- The expo will be held in the newly-inaugurated **Bharat Mandapam and Yashobhoomi Complexes.**

Ayodhya to be UP's 1st Model Solar City

Context

The state is pouring heavy investment into developing the temple town as the first model solar city.

About Saubhagya(Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana) Scheme:

- It was launched in **October 2017** focusing on last-mile connectivity and electricity connections to all the unelectrified households in the country.
- It is a concurrent program to **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti.**
- The objective of the Scheme is to Provide last mile connectivity and electricity connection to all un-electrified households in rural areas.

Kerala Regional News

Asian Games winners from Kerala to get cash awards

In News: Asian Games winners from Kerala to get cash awards

Key Points:

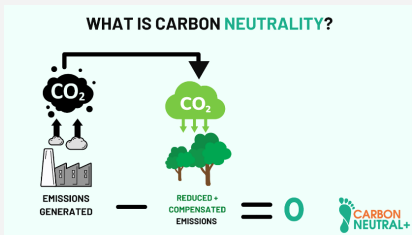
- The gold, silver, and bronze medal winners will get Rs 25 lakh, Rs 19 lakh, and Rs 12.5 lakh, respectively.
- Winning **12 medals for the country**, which included **four gold, six silver, and two bronze medals**, this was the all-time best performance of athletes from the state in the Asian Games.



Think:

- Read about Asian Games 2023

Carbon neutrality: Kerala has an edge, says expert



In News:

- Kerala has an edge over other states to **achieve zero-emission status**, said Prof Kadambot Siddique.

Key Points:

- Kerala can achieve carbon neutrality by identifying and reducing its carbon emission sources, especially in **agriculture and transportation**.
- The state can offset its emissions by planting fruit trees and using bio-organic manure to **reduce fertilizer usage**.
- Kerala's existing advantages, such as its **30% forest cover**, good rainfall, and non-coal power plants, will help it achieve carbon neutrality.
- Achieving carbon neutrality will not be easy, but it is essential for protecting the **environment and ensuring a sustainable future for Kerala**.

'Bsafe', a handy tool to ward off cyber threats



In News: 'Bsafe', a handy tool to ward off cyber threats

- **Kerala Police's 'Bsafe'** could help the public in dealing with fraudulent mobile applications and phone numbers.

Key Points:

- Its **BScan feature** scans Android apps and analyzes their permissions.
- BSafe can **help people who are being threatened and harassed by cyber fraudsters** behind loan apps.
- BSafe will show users when an app takes additional permissions during an update.
- It's being improved to provide users with feedback on apps.

Keraleeyam 2023



In News:

- A sum of Rs 27 crore will be spent by the Kerala government on **'Keraleeyam 2023'**

Key Points:

- It is an ambitious event that aims to showcase the **state's strengths and potentials before the world**.
- All the expenses are subject to audit.
- The government has also directed the use of government facilities for accommodation as much as possible.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Kerala Assembly passed a resolution to rename the state "Keralam".
Chief priests of Sabarimala and Malikapuram temples	<p>In News:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">P.N Mahesh Namboothiri, a native of Puthillath mana, Muvattupuzha has been selected as the chief priest (melshanthi) of the Sabarimala Sree Ayyappa temple. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The selection was done through a draw of lotsP.G Murali, a Thrissur native, was named the Malikappuram chief priest.

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