



31 October 2023

National and International News

Bangladesh is building a memorial to honor Indian heroes of the 1971 war



Context

- A memorial to honor the Indian soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the **Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971** at Ashuganj in Bangladesh is in the advanced stages of completion.
- It will have the names of around 1,600 Indian soldiers inscribed on it.

Key points

- This will be the first memorial in Bangladesh to exclusively honour Indian soldiers from **the 1971 war**.
- The foundation stone for the memorial at **Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria** was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in March 2021.

IITM Pune demonstrates cloud seeding can produce rainfall

Context

A cloud seeding experiment carried out in **Solapur city**, was able to achieve an 18% relative enhancement in rainfall, which is approximately **8.67mm more** rainfall than usual.

Key points

- Solapur city falls on the **leeward side of the Western Ghats** and hence gets low rainfall
- It had **384 mm and 422 mm of total rainfall** during the period June to September 2018 and 2019, respectively
- The relative enhancement of accumulated rainfall was seen over two hours after seeding the clouds.
- This was done with the help of the **Cloud Aerosol Interaction and Precipitation Enhancement Experiment (CAIPEEX phase-4)**
- **Calcium chloride flare** was used for seeding the clouds.

Salt Consumption in India

Context

A recent report, a part of the national non-communicable disease monitoring survey, states that Indian men consume **8.9 grams**, and Indian women take in **7.1 grams** of salt on a daily basis



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	<p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The World Health Organization recommends 5 grams of salt in your diet every day. • The world average is 10.8 grams. • High salt intake causes disease in the kidney, brain, vasculature, and immune system. • High levels of sodium in the diet are also associated with conditions ranging from kidney stones to osteoporosis. • It is estimated that excessive salt contribution contributes to around five million deaths worldwide every year. <p>Did you know?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Yanomami people of the Amazon rainforest live a foraging lifestyle and eat a diet consisting of the root vegetable Cassava, plantains, fruit, fish, and an occasional tapir. • They use peppers for flavour, and no salt. • They consume less than one gram of salt a day yet stay supremely fit.
<p>Inflation to remain high in 2024</p>	<p>Context High inflation will dog the world economy next year, with three-quarters of more than 200 economists polled by Reuters.</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest rates will also remain higher for longer. • The latest poll resulted in 2024 growth downgrades and inflation upgrades for a majority of the 48 economies surveyed.
<p>PM discusses security situation in West Asia with Egypt President</p>	<p>Context The Prime Minister spoke to Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi to discuss the security and humanitarian situation in West Asia amid the Israel-Hamas conflict.</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The discussion indicates the importance that India attaches to the role of Egypt in ensuring humanitarian assistance to the Gaza Strip • On October 22 India sent humanitarian relief meant for Gaza to Egypt's El Arish air base. • However, much of the relief material that various countries have been sending to Gaza remained stuck inside Egypt because of intense military activity by Israel as well as due to the shortage of fuel for the trucks inside Gaza. • India abstained at the UN General Assembly during a resolution calling for a ceasefire in the fighting.



<p>Vision India 2047 document</p>	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government is in the midst of finalizing a national vision plan to make India a developed nation by 2047 • It is to ensure that the country does not slip into a middle-income trap that several countries have fallen into at similar stages of development. <p>About Document</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vision document will outline the structural changes and reforms needed to reach the objective of becoming a 30-trillion-dollar developed economy by 2047. • It will include government process re-engineering, and reforms and cut down on duplication of work by different ministries and departments. • It is also expected to have details about the country's global engagement in trade, investment, technology, capital, research, and development entities. • The document is also expected to outline which Indian companies would be global leaders and also the strategy for creating an ecosystem needed to achieve the goal. • It will also have details about creating human capital to achieve the vision, how to leverage the country's market size, and how to address regional disparities. • The vision document will also detail the roadmap where India will be in 2030 and 2047.
<p>Developed countries to overshoot carbon emissions goal, says study</p>	<p>Context</p> <p>The Delhi-based think tank Council for Energy Environment and Water (CEEW) published a study indicating that Developed countries — responsible for three-fourths of existing carbon emissions — will end up emitting 38% more carbon in 2030 than they have committed</p> <p>Key findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NDCs of developed countries already fall short of the global average reduction of emissions to 43% below 2019 levels that are needed to keep temperatures from rising above 1.5 degrees Celsius. • Instead, developed countries' collective NDCs only amount to a 36% cut. • Except for two countries — Belarus and Norway — none of the developed countries seem to be on the path to meeting their 2030 targets, though Japan and Kazakhstan are close, and are expected to miss their targets by only a single percentage point.



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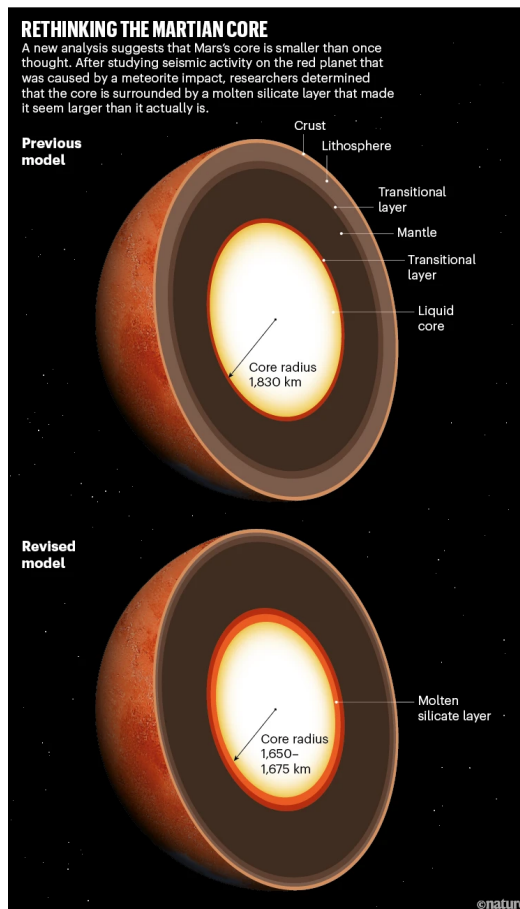
Studies provide insight into the internal structure of Mars

Context

- Mars's **liquid iron core** is likely to be surrounded by a **fully molten silicate layer**, according to a pair of studies published in **Nature**.
- These results offer a new interpretation of the interior of Mars, suggesting **its core is smaller and denser than previously proposed**.

Key points

- InSight Mars Lander used **SEIS(Seismic Experiment for Interior Structure)** to record Mars's seismic waves.
- SEIS data in 2021 suggested a **large, low-density core on Mars**.
- The core has more lighter elements than expected.
- Mars's core is surrounded by a **150 km-thick layer of molten rock**.
- The core's smaller radius implies higher density than earlier thought.
- SEIS data challenged previous core density estimates.





Kerala Regional News

KSRTC to include farm produce in courier service to boost income

In News:

- In an attempt to rescue itself from the financial crisis that it is in, the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has decided to include **agricultural produce in its courier service.**

Key Points:

- Currently, the daily income from the corporation's courier service which was launched four months ago has crossed Rs 1 lakh.
- The **plan to transport farmers' produce in passenger buses** has been envisaged to increase the earnings per day to Rs 15 lakh.

'Aarattu' celebrated at PadmanabhaSwamy Temple

In News: 'Aarattu' celebrated with ceremonial elegance at PadmanabhaSwamy Temple

- The 'Aarattu' festival was traditionally celebrated at the Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram with ceremonial elegance and splendor.

Key Points:

- The uniqueness of the 'Arattu' at Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple is that the **head of the royal family of the erstwhile Travancore kingdom still escorts the idols of deities** during the procession donning his traditional attire

About Arattu festival:

- Aarattu is a Hindu festival celebrated in Kerala, India.
- It is a ritual bath of the idol of a deity in a river or a temple tank.
- The Aarattu festival is celebrated at many temples in Kerala, but the most famous Aarattu is the one celebrated at the **Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram.**
- The Aarattu festival at the Sree PadmanabhaSwamy Temple is **celebrated twice a year**, once in the months of October-November and again in March-April.
- The festival lasts for **ten days**, and the **Aarattu ceremony takes place on the last day.**
- On the day of the Aarattu ceremony, the idol of the deity is taken in a grand procession to the Shankumugham Beach. The idol is then placed on a golden palanquin and carried into the sea. The priest then dips the idol in the sea three times.





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State's tally of Ramsar sites to rise to 7

In News:

- Four wetlands of Kerala will soon be vying with some other sites across the country to make it to the **100 Ramsar sites in the country.**
- Presently there are **75 sites in India.**

Key Points:

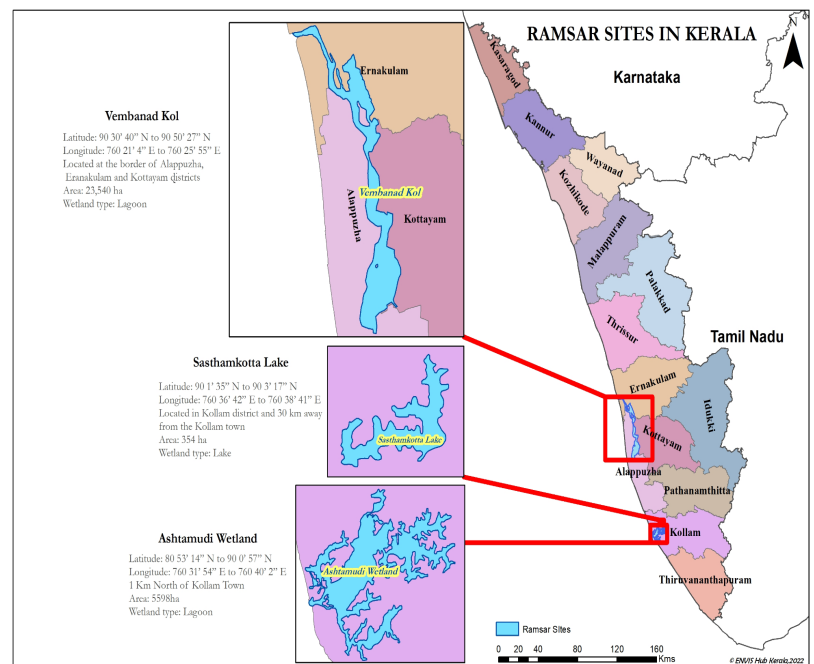
- The technical committee of the state wetland authority, Kerala (SWAK) has cleared the draft proposal to nominate
 - **Vellayani and Akkulam-Veli** in Thiruvananthapuram,
 - **Kottooli** in Kozhikode and the
 - **Kattampally-Valapattanam-Kuppam** wetland in **Kannur** as Ramsar sites of international importance.

Key facts:

- The three existing Ramsar sites in Kerala are: **Vembanad Lake, Ashtamudi Lake, and Sasthamkotta Lake.**

About Ramsar Sites:

- The **Ramsar Convention is an international treaty** for the conservation and sustainable utilization of wetlands, recognizing the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands and their economic, cultural, scientific, and recreational value.





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Indian Panorama 2023

In News: Indian Panorama 2023 announces official selection for 54th IFFI; **The Vaccine War, The Kerala Story, Kantara, Gulmohar make it to the list**

- Indian Panorama announced the selection of 25 feature films and 20 non-feature films for the 54th IFFI.

Key Points:

- The selected films will be showcased at the festival to be held from November 20 to November 28 in Goa.
- The Indian Panorama **organized by the National Film Development Corporation, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**, Government of India, selects the feature and non-feature films of cinematic, thematic, and aesthetic excellence according to the regulations of Indian Panorama.

About Indian Panorama:

- Indian Panorama is a section of the **International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** that showcases the best of Indian cinema from the previous year.
- The section was **introduced in 1978** and has since been a platform for Indian filmmakers to showcase their work to a global audience.
- **Indian Panorama films are selected by a jury of experts from a wide range of Indian languages and regions.**
- The films are judged on their artistic merit, cinematic excellence, and thematic relevance.
- The selected films are screened at the IFFI and compete for several awards, **including the Golden Lotus Award for Best Feature Film.**

State's caravan tourism sputters

In News: State's caravan tourism sputters a year after launch

- God's Own Country's ambitious caravan tourism is struggling to go places a year after it helped Kerala cruise into TIME magazine's "50 extraordinary" ecotourism hotspots in the world, with visitors apparently finding the rates too hot to touch.
- Instead of tourists signing up to enjoy travel in luxury caravans, it is patients, film production units, and wedding planners who are doing so, often for a day or two

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