



12 December 2023

National and International News

International Universal Health Coverage Day



- The United Nations proclaimed **12 December** as **International Universal Health Coverage Day (UHC Day)**
- International Universal Health Coverage Day **aims to raise awareness of the need for strong and resilient health systems** and universal health coverage with multi-stakeholder partners.
- The theme for this year's Universal Health Coverage Day 2023 is - **Health For All: Time for action.**
- This is basically to call for specific actions that focus on health systems resilience.

New climate draft on global stocktake



Context

- The latest draft of the Global Stocktake has linked **the tripling of renewable energy capacity with a “phase-out”**, or a time-bound ending, of the use of fossil fuels.
- It is one of the key documents being negotiated at the **UN’s climate summit in Dubai** recently.

Key points

- It is ensuring that the increase in **renewable energy capacity is strategically implemented to displace fossil fuel-based energy**, thereby significantly reducing global reliance on non-renewable and high-emission energy sources
- The latest draft also does away with the clause calling for a **“just and orderly phase-out of fossil fuel”**
- This has now been replaced with four pointed options demanding that fossil fuels — **responsible for 80% of greenhouse gas emissions** — be phased out in such a way that global temperatures do not rise **more than 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2100**, and energy companies become fossil fuel-free by mid-century.
- Unchanged from an earlier version of the text is




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	<p>the clause on a “rapid phase-out of unabated coal power”.</p> <p>Did you know? At the COP-26 in Glasgow two years ago, on the insistence of India and backed by the United States and China, the world had agreed to “phase down” but not “phase out” coal.</p>
<p>India Art, Architecture, and Design Biennale</p> 	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prime Minister recently highlighted that India's re-emergence to a pre-eminent position in the field of art and architecture would benefit all of humanity It was done at the inauguration of the maiden India Art, Architecture, and Design Biennale at the Red Fort. <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India is working to develop a modern system on the lines of similar cultural events in cities like Venice, London, and Sao Paulo The cultural spaces which are being built in Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, and Varanasi would enrich the cities culturally The biennale has exhibitions on seven themes — Doors of India, Gardens of India, Baolis (stepwells) of India, Temples of India, Architectural Wonders of Independent India, Indigenous Design, and Women in Architecture and Design. The exhibitions have been designed in both physical and digital forms accompanied by interactive installations.
<p>New study on fixed dose combination' problem</p>	<p>Context A group of academics from India, Qatar and the United Kingdom recently published a worrying new study in the Journal of Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice on the volume of unapproved and even banned fixed dose combination (FDC) of antibiotics that are being sold in India.</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using sales data of the pharmaceutical industry, the study documents that in the year 2020, 60.5% FDCs of antibiotics (comprising 239 formulations) were unapproved and another



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	<p>9.9% (comprising 39 formulations) were being sold despite being banned in the country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many of these unapproved or banned FDCs contain antibiotics is alarming because of the increasing prevalence of antibacterial microbial resistance (AMR) in India.
Fixed dose combination (FDC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed dose combination (FDC) are combinations of one or more known drugs and can be useful in the treatment of some diseases since the combination can improve patient compliance. For instance, if a patient has to take three different medications for a particular treatment, she may forget to take one. But if all three medications are combined into one tablet or one syrup, the chance of her forgetting to take one or two of the drugs is reduced. For diseases such as AIDS, it is well documented that FDCs have proven to be very useful in improving patient compliance, which at the end of day improves treatment outcomes. <p>Issues with the FDC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All drugs have side effects and when formulated together, there is a possibility that the active ingredient or even the excipients (inactive ingredients) may affect the way that each drug functions One such law is the Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO), under which the government fixes the prices of individual drugs. Since drug combinations were traditionally not covered under the DPCO, the pharmaceutical industry decided that making FDCs provided an easy way to escape the remit of the DPCO. Pharmaceutical companies in India use these FDCs to escape liability under multiple laws without much concern for public health.





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Kerala Regional News

<p>Ezhavas and backward classes - Not included in collegium list</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The backward classes including Ezhavas and Christians are not represented in the final list prepared by the collegium to appoint High Court judges The list was prepared by a collegium comprising Chief Justice Ashish J Desai and others The list will be scrutinized by the Supreme Court Collegium and recommended to the Union Law Ministry. <p>Did you Know?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Collegium System is a method for appointing judges in India.
<p>Laksham Veedu scheme</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The scheme announced by the government last year to convert the outdated twin houses under the Laksham Veedu scheme is yet to start Laksham Veedu (meaning "One Lakh Homes") was a pioneering housing scheme launched in 1972 by the Government of Kerala under the Chief Ministership of C. Achutha Menon. It aimed at providing affordable housing to the underprivileged and landless population of the state.
<p>Govt allots Rs 247 cr for coastal project</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Govt allots Rs 247 cr for coastal project running from Kovalam to Bekal 1275 families will be rehabilitated as part of the West Coast Road. Rehabilitation will be carried out by the Kerala Nirmithi Kendra. Rs. 5000 will be allowed as rent for six months until providing compensation for the acquired land. The people living on the banks of the Varkala, TS Canal and Vettoor Gram Panchayat will be rehabilitated through the Life Mission project. <p>Think:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read about Life Mission Project



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“Somnium” to be adapted into Mohiniyattam



Context:

- World's oldest science fiction novel 'Somnium,' is poised to be adapted into Kerala's classical dance form Mohiniyattam.
- It is a renowned 17th-century German scientist Johannes Kepler's novel
- The adaptation, titled 'Nilakkanavu' (Moonlit Chronicle), is set to debut at the national dance-music festival Samanwayam 2023 in Palakkad

Navakerala Sadas to begin in Kottayam

Context:

- The Nava Kerala Sadass, a State-wide public outreach programme by the LDF government, will start in Kottayam district.

Key points of the program:

- Aims to connect with citizens and address their concerns directly.
- Ministers will hold public meetings and interact with various sections of society.
- Initiatives and schemes of the government will be showcased.

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