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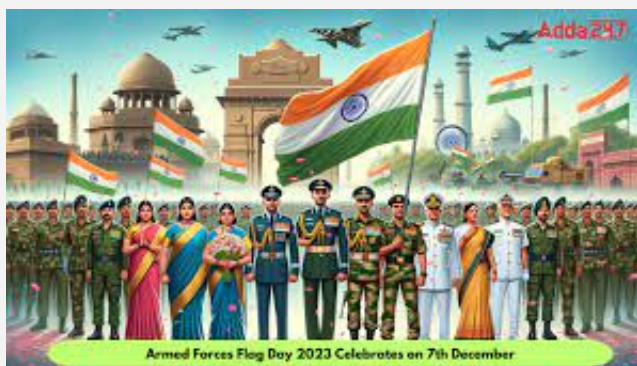


## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

07 December 2023

### National and International News

#### Armed Forces Flag Day



- Armed Forces Flag Day on **December 7** honors soldiers, sailors, and airmen for safeguarding borders and ensuring peace at the cost of their lives.
- Armed Forces Flag Day, established on **August 28, 1949**, serves as a remembrance and fundraising initiative by the **Ministry of Defence**.
- Citizens contribute by purchasing badges and stickers on this day, with funds aimed at improving armed forces personnel's lives.
- Funds raised are crucial for providing better facilities and resources to selfless soldiers, sailors, and airmen.

#### India backs UN resolution against Israel for not leaving Syrian Golan

##### Context

- India has voted in favour of a draft resolution in the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** that expressed deep concern over Israel not withdrawing from the **Syrian Golan**.
- The Syrian Golan is a region in **southwest Syria** that was occupied by Israeli forces on June 5, 1967.
- The resolution also stressed the **illegality of the Israeli settlement** construction in the Golan.

#### Muslim student strength in higher education fell by 1.79 lakh in 2020-21

##### Context

Report based on analysis of UDISE+ and AISHE data shows:

- Muslim student enrolment in higher education (18-23 age group) **dropped over 8.5% in 2020-21**.
- This Reflects a significant decline in educational participation among Muslim youth.

##### Key points

- While 21 lakh Muslim students enrolled for higher education in 2019-20, the **number fell to 19.21 lakh in 2020-21**.
- The enrolment percentage of Muslim students in Classes 11 and 12 is lower than



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	<p>that in the previous classes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The States such as <b>Bihar and Madhya Pradesh</b> have relatively low Gross Enrolment Ratio for Muslim students</li> <li><b>Assam (29.52%) and West Bengal (23.22%)</b> recorded high dropout rates among Muslim students, while <b>Jammu and Kashmir</b> recorded 5.1% and <b>Kerala</b> 11.91%.</li> </ul>
Major oil and gas firms pledge to go carbon neutral by 2050	<p><b>Context</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Several oil and gas companies have committed to become net zero — or carbon neutral — by 2050, according to the 28th Conference of Parties (COP-28) president-designate <b>Sultan Al Jaber</b></li> <li>The <b>International Energy Agency (IEA)</b> estimates that oil and gas operations account for <b>around 15% of total energy-related emissions globally</b>, or about 5.1 billion tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.</li> </ul>
Five Indian weightlifters to take part in IWF Grand Prix II	<p><b>Context</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Five Indian weightlifters will be representing the country at the <b>International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) Grand Prix II Weightlifting</b> competition starting in Doha.</li> <li>The event is a <b>qualifier for the 2024 Paris Olympics</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India will be sending a total of five lifters, including two women.</li> <li><b>Ajith Narayan and Achinta Sheuli</b> will be in the men's 73 kg.</li> <li><b>Mirabai Chanu</b> will be attending the event for a weigh-in.</li> <li><b>Bindyarani Devi</b> will figure in the non-Olympic women's 55kg weight division while <b>Gurdeep Singh</b> will be in action in the +109kg, another non-Olympic weight division.</li> </ul>



Kerala Regional News

<p>Union govt receives 26 proposals to develop new cities</p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs</b> has received <b>26 proposals</b> from <b>21 states</b>, including <b>Kerala</b>, to develop new cities in view of urban expansion</li> <li>It was said that the <b>15th Finance Commission</b> has allocated <b>Rs 8,000 crore</b> for the performance-based challenge fund for the incubation of new cities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Proposals received from Kerala are:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Aerocity, Kannur</b></li> <li><b>OAGC Neopolis – The New City, Pallipuram Ernakulam</b></li> </ol> <p>Other proposals received are from cities such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ayodhya (UP)</li> <li>Jagiroad (Assam)</li> <li>New MOPA Ayush City, Pernem (Goa)</li> <li>GIFT city expansion (Gujarat)</li> <li>Pakyong (Sikkim),</li> <li>Thirumazhisai (Tamil Nadu) etc.,</li> </ol>
<p>Forest department freezes further proceedings on Chinnakanal reserve</p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>forest department</b> has decided to <b>freeze further proceedings on the declaration of 364.89 hectares of land at Chinnakanal in Idukki as forest reserve</b>, considering the protest launched by residents.</li> <li>It was <b>clarified that no human settlement will be affected as only the forest land leased out to Hindustan Newsprint Ltd (HNL) for raising captive plantations will be converted into reserve forest.</b></li> </ul>
<p>No plans to relax net borrowing ceiling for states</p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Union government</b> informed that it has <b>no plans to relax the existing terms on net borrowing ceiling for state governments, including Kerala</b></li> </ul>





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	<p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Kerala government</b> has requested for an <b>additional borrowing equivalent to 1% of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)</b> over and above the <b>borrowing ceiling fixed for 2023-24</b>.</li> <li>However, under <b>Article 293(3) of the Constitution</b>, the Union government applies a common yardstick while fixing the annual borrowing limit of all the state</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mathruyanam scheme</b></p> 	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Health Minister Veena George</b> has announced <b>implementation of Mathruyanam scheme in state</b></li> <li>This scheme <b>offers free transportation for mothers and newborns from government hospitals</b> to their homes after delivery,</li> <li>The scheme has been <b>implemented in 101 government hospitals</b> where childbirth takes place.</li> <li>This program will <b>benefit all families, regardless of APL and BPL</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Finger dance-inspired therapy cheers up differently abled in Kerala</b></p> 	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Mind Moves</b>, an initiative spearheaded by <b>Kochi resident and finger dance exponent Imthiyas Aboobacker</b>, is poised to make a positive impact on the lives of persons with disabilities, as well as their parents and teachers, by offering comprehensive training programmes.</li> <li><b>Engaging in playful activities and learning narratives through finger movements</b>, the students of <b>Smrithi School for Children with Special Needs</b> found joy in the simplicity of these exercises.</li> </ul>

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