





02 November 2023

National and International News

<p>The Indian Railways' revenue problem</p>	<p>Context The Indian Railways (IR) has been on a spending spree with respect to capital expenditure (capex), particularly after the government merged its rail budget with the main budget.</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Its operating ratio, which is the ratio of ordinary working expenses to the gross traffic receipts, has shown no improvement. • A lower ratio implies better profitability and surplus for capital investment. • The problem is that the IR's freight segment is profitable whereas the passenger segment makes huge losses. <p>Did you know? The 11 commodities in the IR's transport basket account for 90% of tonnage and revenue, of which coal is around 45% and iron ore and cement are around 10% each.</p>
<p>Police stations to install DNA systems</p> 	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In April 2022, the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act (CrPI) was passed by Parliament. • The Act enables police and central investigating agencies to collect, store and analyse physical and biological samples including retina and iris scans of arrested persons. <p>About NAFIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police across States have been trained to record finger impressions through the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS). • NAFIS is under the NCRB • It is a separate project that was launched in 2022. • It assigns a unique ten-digit National Fingerprint Number (NFN) to all suspects arrested by the police. • State police have their own fingerprint database. • NAFIS integrates the data on a common platform, enabling the police to run a countrywide search to match fingerprint impressions lifted from a crime scene.
<p>Merely liking a post not an offence under IT Act: Allahabad HC</p>	<p>Context The Allahabad High Court held in a recent judgment that liking a post on Facebook or X (formerly Twitter) cannot be punishable under Section 67 of the Information Technology</p>



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	<p>Act because it does not amount to “publishing or transmitting” the post</p>
<p>Dark pattern sales by airlines, online agents deemed ‘cybercrime’</p> 	<p>Context The practices by airlines and online travel agents that entail tricking consumers into making unintended purchases — such as paying for seats — while booking flight tickets according to one government official is called a “cybercrime”</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is considered as a dark pattern • A dark pattern is one where an entity nudges consumers to buy products they didn’t intend to, which is an unfair trading practice, and can constitute a cybercrime
<p>Sensex sinks 1.4% to 4-month low on geopolitical</p>	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The benchmark S&P BSE Sensex extended losses to a sixth session, sliding 1.4% to its lowest close in four months as investors turn skittish amid mounting geopolitical tensions over the possibility of the Israel-Hamas conflict widening across the oil-rich West Asian region • The rising U.S. bond yields that could signal more capital outflows from emerging markets. <p>About Sensex</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The benchmark index of the Bombay Stock Exchange in India is known as the Sensex. • The Sensex Index comprises 30 of the BSE’s largest and most actively traded stocks, and it serves as a barometer for the Indian economy. • It is market capitalization-weighted and float-adjusted. • The Sensex is re-evaluated two times a year, one in June and the next in December. • It is the oldest stock index, established in 1986 by one of the leading index producers, Standard & Poor’s (S&P) in India. • The Sensex was used by analysts and investors to track India’s economic cycles as well as the growth and decline of specific sectors.
<p>UN chief Guterres meets Nepal Prime Minister</p>	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres met Nepal



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- Prime Minister **Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'**
- This was his **first official visit** to the Himalayan nation.
 - He urged that developed countries must step up to support sustainable development, and help developing economies, including Nepal, to tackle the climate crisis.

Kerala Regional News

Ezhuthachan award given to S K Vasanthan



In News:

- Noted academic, history researcher and writer **Professor S K Vasanthan** has been chosen for the prestigious **Ezhuthachan award**

Key Points:

- It is the highest literary honor given by the state government for lifetime **contributions to Malayalam literature**.
- The award carries a purse of Rs 5 lakh, a citation, and a statuette.
- Professor Vasanthan has made noticeable contributions to **various fields including essays, short stories, novels, Kerala history, and translation works**
- His **major works include: Kerala Samskara Charithra Nikhandu, Nammal Nadanna Vazhikal, Padinjaran Kavyameemamsa and Sahithya Samvadangal.**

About Ezhuthachan Award:

- The Ezhuthachan Puraskaram was **instituted in 1993**.
- The **first recipient** of the award was **Sooranad Kunjan Pillai**, a renowned Malayalam scholar and critic.
- The Ezhuthachan Puraskaram is given to a writer for their overall contribution to Malayalam literature.
- The award jury considers all genres of writing, including poetry, fiction, drama, non-fiction, and criticism.

Young Malayali earth scientist

In News:


- **Vishnu Nandan**, a young earth research scientist from Thiruvananthapuram is living amidst extreme weather conditions for days to undergo an **Antarctic ice Study**.

Key Points:

- Having first set foot on the continent in 2013, the 36-year-old's job is to monitor **polar sea ice decline** to study global climate change using radar satellite data.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of his regular work, he and his team would go on field expeditions to deploy radar sensors that scan the surface of sea ice, much like a radar satellite, which is a high-risk affair. There the temperature often plummets to -50 degrees Celsius.
<p>CM Pinarayi Vijayan vows to make Kerala a global brand</p> 	<p>In News:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set to be the biggest initiative to celebrate the state's unique features and to showcase the Kerala model of development before the world, Keraleeyam 2023 got off to an exhilarating start in the state capital. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On its 68th foundation day, the state launched a comprehensive mission 'Keraleeyam' to showcase its achievements over the last six decades with the objective of shaping the state for its journey towards a New Keralam. Keraleeyam is an opportunity to take pride in the real essence of Kerala and to shout it out to the world.
<p>30k families in Kerala shrug off 'extremely poor' status</p>	<p>In News:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Six-and-a-half decades after its formation, Kerala achieved a major milestone towards ensuring zero poverty with the government declaring that nearly half of the 64,006 families identified as 'extremely poor' in the state have moved up in status. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The status report brought out by the local self-government department (LSGD) said 30,658, or 47.89%, of the 64,006 families moved out of poverty in the first phase. Now, the state has around 33,000 extremely poor families, with multidimensional poverty at 0.55%. As per the report, the state plans to uplift 26,547 of the remaining families by next November to attain 90% extreme poverty eradication and make it zero by November 2025.
<p>Person in News: Leela Omchery</p>	<p>In News:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eminent singer, musicologist, and writer Leela Omchery, 94, passed away in New Delhi <p>Key Points:</p>



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- Proficient in Carnatic, Hindustani, Sopanam and folk music, she was honored with **Padma Shri in 2008**.
- Leela was born on May 31, 1929, in Kanyakumari district, now in Tamil Nadu.
- She had served as a **professor at Kamuakara** School of Music, Dance and Research Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, and later as professor and principal of Trikala Gurukulam in New Delhi.

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