




5 December 2023

National and International News

<p>India not among 118 nations that pledged to push green energy</p>	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 118 countries pledged to triple renewable energy capacity by 2030 at COP-28. • India is notable for not signing the Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge. • China, with the largest renewable energy capacity, is also absent from the pledge. <p>Key point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge commitment aims for a global installed renewable energy generation capacity of 11,000 GW. • The pledge also targets doubling the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements to over 4% by 2030.
<p>SC directs Bihar govt. to remove encroachments near the Ganga</p> 	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Supreme Court has ordered the Bihar government to clear unauthorized constructions from the floodplains of the Ganga, especially in and around Patna. • The State shall also ensure no further construction takes place <p>Key impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illegal constructions on Ganga's floodplain produce waste, noise, and sewage. • Unauthorized structures harm biodiversity and threaten dolphins, a Schedule I species. • Permanent encroachments pose an environmental threat to the Ganga's habitat. • Deleterious impacts on biodiversity and dolphin survival are observed. • The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, designates dolphins as Schedule I species. • Urgent action is needed to address the destructive consequences of these unauthorized activities.
<p>World Malaria Report, 2023</p>	<p>Context</p> <p>In 2022, India accounted for 66% of malaria cases in the WHO Southeast Asia Region, noted the World</p>



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In facts & figures

- India saw a 30% reduction in cases in 2022, taking the total to 249 million that had a flood in 2022
- It accounted for 0.99% of global malaria deaths
- India reported 1.4% of the total malaria cases in 2022
- Globally, 5 million additional malaria cases were recorded
- Nigeria has the highest malaria burden with 26.8% of the global cases and 31.1% of the deaths
- The highest was in Pakistan (2.1 million)

The Indian EXPRESS

Design: Abhishek Mitra

Malaria Report, 2023, published by the **World Health Organization (WHO)**.

Key highlights

- Almost **46% of all cases** in the region were due to **Plasmodium vivax**, a protozoan parasite
- The WHO Southeast Asia Region accounted for **about 2% of malaria cases globally**,
- These malaria cases declined by 76% from 23 million in 2000 to about five million in 2022.
- Malaria case incidence in this region decreased by **83%**, (from about 18 cases per 1,000 population at risk in 2000 to about three cases per 1,000 population at risk in 2022)
- In 2022, there were an **estimated 249 million cases globally**, exceeding the pre-pandemic level of 233 million in 2019 by 16 million cases.

Centre approves fourth phase roll-out of GIAN scheme



GLOBAL INITIATIVE OF ACADEMIC NETWORKS (GIAN)

Context

The Education Ministry is gearing up to restart the fourth phase of the **Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN)**

About GIAN

- Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) in **Higher Education was launched in 2015**.
- It is a program of the Ministry of **Human Resource and Development**.
- GIAN taps **scientists and entrepreneurs** for higher education collaboration in India.
 - Goal:** Enhance academic resources, expedite quality reforms.
 - Focus on strengthening India's **scientific and technological capabilities**.

U.S., U.K., Australia defence chiefs tout deep space radar and AI in joint deal

Context

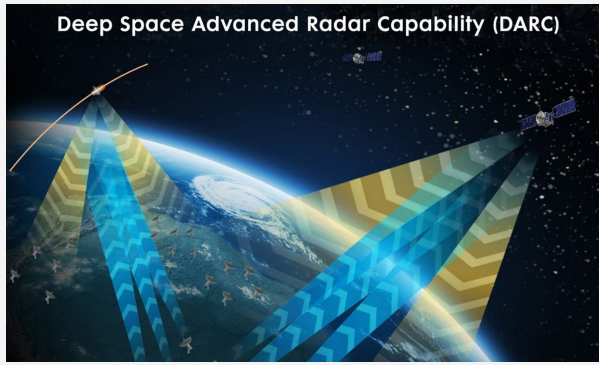
- U.S., Australia, and Britain defense chiefs meet in California.

Key Points:

- Emphasis on high-tech collaboration in **deep space radar, AI, and quantum computing**.
- Aim** is to strengthen forces against global threats, particularly from **China**.



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- Highlight on the "**Deep Space Advanced Radar Capability**" program development.
- Plans for radar detection sites in all three countries by the end of the decade.
- Sites will have the capability to peer **35,000 km into space**.

Kerala Regional News

<p>Thiruvananthapuram has been listed among 24 'out-of-the-box' cities worldwide</p>	<p>Context: As per a report by BCI Global:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thiruvananthapuram has been listed among 24 'out-of-the-box' cities worldwide for future business and software development. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study was led by Josefien Glaudemans, a partner at Netherlands-based BCI Global. • The 24 cities were selected from within three geographical areas: the Americas (US, Canada, Central and Latin America); EMEA (Europe, the Middle East, and Africa); and, APAC (Asia-Pacific, including India and China). • Eight locations from each of the three geographies were listed. • Kolkata and Thiruvananthapuram were the only Indian cities to make the list.
<p>Kerala's GST revenue goes up by 20 per cent in November</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerala's GST revenue saw a 20% jump in November when compared to the corresponding period last year • GST collection until October 2023 is 11.89% up from the previous year • Total VAT collection until October has however declined



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KGST revenue collections from petroleum and liquor sales saw 3.40% increase • The total tax revenue has also increased by 7.86%.
<p>International Day for Persons with Disabilities</p>  <p>International Day of Persons with Disabilities 3 DECEMBER</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Madithatu (In the Lap), a short film narrating the survival story of a disabled girl will be released on International Day for Persons with Disabilities • The film, Madithatu deals with sexual violence and social auditing faced by people with disabilities in society. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) is celebrated on December 3 every year. • The United Nations has promoted this day since 1992. • The day aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Promote understanding of disability issues ○ Mobilize support for the rights, dignity, and well-being of people with disabilities ○ Raise awareness about disability issues ○ Draw attention to the benefits of an inclusive and accessible society • The theme for the 2023 International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) is "United in action to rescue and achieve the SDGs for, with and by persons with disabilities".
<p>Thazhathangadi Juma Masjid</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Juma Masjid at Thazhathangadi, Kottayam, comprises an ancient palace building of remarkable architectural value. • It is contrary to mosques in India as they are typically characterized by minarets, domes, and arches. • Believed to have been constructed approximately 1,300 years ago, it stands as one of India's oldest and most significant mosques. • It is situated along the banks of the Meenachil river. • Despite the lack of documentary evidence, it is believed that Malik Bin Dinar and his nephew Malik Bin Habib, two Arab merchants who arrived in Kerala during the time of Prophet Muhammad, established the mosque.
<p>Redink Award for TNIE lensman</p>	<p>Context:</p>



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- B P Deepu, principal news photographer of The New Indian Express (TNIE), Thiruvananthapuram, has been selected for the Redink Awards 2023 under 'The Big Picture' category.
- The prestigious Redink Awards is instituted by the Mumbai Press Club
- The award carries a cash prize of Rs 50,000, a citation and a statuette.
- The award-winning photo showed Anie Prasad J P, Vellarada block panchayat member who is also the Youth Congress Thiruvananthapuram district secretary, being chased away by the police in front of the Secretariat.

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