




26 December 2023

National and International News

<p>Good governance Day</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good governance is observed annually on December 25. • The day aims to let the citizens, the students, who are the future of the country know about the government’s responsibilities and duties that it needs to fulfill. • The day is also celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of India’s former Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
<p>Veer Baal Divas</p>	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prime Minister will participate in a programme to pay homage to the courage and martyrdom of the sons of Guru Gobind Singh, the 10th and last Sikh ‘Guru’. • The Union government has organised many participative programmes across the country to mark the day which has been named “Veer Baal Divas”. • A digital exhibition detailing the life story and sacrifice of the ‘Sahibzades’ (martyred sons of Guru Gobind Singh) will also be displayed in schools and childcare institutions across the country. <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Prime Minister announced the observation of “Veer Baal Divas”, to mark the martyrdom of Guru Gobind Singh’s sons Sahibzadas Baba Zorawar Singh Ji and Baba Fateh Singh Ji. • Veer Baal Divas tells us what is India and its identity and every year, Veer Bal Divas will inspire us to recognise our past and make our future. • This will also remind everyone about the strength of our young generation
<p>United Nations High Commissioner</p>	<p>Context</p>



for Refugees (UNHCR)

The **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)** expressed gratitude to Indian authorities on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands for taking care of **142 Rohingya refugees**, whose boat was intercepted by coastal security agencies near **Shaheed Dweep**

About UNHCR

- The **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)** is a **United Nations agency** mandated to **aid and protect refugees, forcibly displaced communities, and stateless people**, and to assist in their voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement to a third country.
- It is **headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.**
- **UNHCR was created in 1950** to address the refugee crisis that resulted from World War II.
- The **1951 Refugee Convention** established the scope and legal framework of the agency's work, which initially focused on Europeans uprooted by the war.

India-ASEAN to rejig 15-year trade pact in early 2024



Context

- India and the ten-member **Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)** will begin negotiations to “modernise” their decade-and-a-half-old free trade agreement (FTA) to bring more balance in the pact currently weighed against New Delhi.
- New areas like labour, environment, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and gender, are likely to be kept out.
- India has long been pressing for a review of the **ASEAN India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITGA)**, which was signed in August 2009, as the pact resulted in disproportionate benefits for the ASEAN.

Did you know?

The 10-member ASEAN region accounted for **11.3% of India’s global trade in 2022-23**

About ASEAN

- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations is a **regional organization** which was established to promote political and social stability amid rising tensions among the Asia-Pacific’s post-colonial states.






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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The motto of ASEAN is “One Vision, One Identity, One Community”. • August 8th is observed as ASEAN Day. • ASEAN Secretariat – Indonesia, Jakarta. • The 10-member ASEAN includes Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia
<p>Tea Board issues order to growers on pesticide use</p>	<p>Context The Tea Board has asked tea estates and small tea growers across India to avoid using on their plantations chemicals or pesticides that have no label claim.</p> <p>About Tea Board of India</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Commerce that was set up in 1953 for the development of tea industry in India. It started functioning in 1954. • Its vision and mission is to make the country a leading producer of tea across the globe for which it established several programmes and schemes. • The Board is constituted of 31 members (including Chairman) drawn from Members of Parliament, tea producers, tea traders, tea brokers, consumers, and representatives of Governments from the principal tea producing states, and trade unions • The Board is reconstituted every three years. • The board has its headquarters located in Kolkata



Kerala Regional News

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<p>Two jumping spider species discovered from Kerala</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A team of researchers from Kerala and Tamil Nadu have discovered two new species of jumping spiders that belong to the genus Afraflacilla. • Only three species belonging to the genus had been hitherto discovered in the country. • Specimens of Afraflacilla kerala were spotted in Kuttanad and Irinjalakuda by researchers Nishi Babu of Kerala University and Rishikesh Tripathi of Christ College, Irinjalakuda • Specimens of Afraflacilla TN were spotted by M. Sampathkumar from Adavathur in Tiruchirappalli.
<p>Wayanad to host State-level 'Vayanolsavam'</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A First ever State-level 'Vayanolsavam' (reading festival) is to be organized by the Kerala State Library Council • It will be held at the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation Auditorium at Puthurvayal. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vayanolsavam, meaning "Reading Festival," is a vibrant celebration of literature and books held annually in Kerala • This festival aims to cultivate a love for reading and foster a culture of knowledge in the state. • It was initiated in 1990 by the Kerala State Library Department



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NITC designated as first Centre of Excellence in Urban Planning and Design



Context:

- The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has designated National Institute of Technology, Calicut (NITC) as the first Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Urban Planning and Design in the country.
- The institute bagged the recognition after submitting a comprehensive proposal under the leadership of the Department of Architecture and Planning (DAP)

Municipal council, corporation offices in Kerala to go paperless in 2024



Context:

- Municipal council and corporation offices in the state will go paperless from 2024
- All the services will be provided online using K-SMART (Kerala Solutions For Managing Administrative Reformation and Transformation) software
- K-SMART is developed for local self government institutions by the Information Kerala Mission.

Aranmula Kannadi



Context:

- The Aranmula Kannadi is a unique metal mirror handcrafted in the village of Aranmula in Kerala,
- It is made from a special alloy of copper and tin, creating a distinct reflective surface that is said to be distortion-free and capture the true essence of the person looking into it.
- It is crafted entirely by hand using a centuries-old technique passed down through generations of Vishwakarma families.
- It is associated with the Aranmula Parthasarathy Temple, where the first Aranmula Kannadi was gifted to the presiding deity.

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