




04 January 2024

National and International News

<p><b>Nritya Kalanidhi award</b></p> 	<p><b>Context</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Classical dancer and choreographer <b>Vasanthalakshmi Narasimhachari</b> was presented with the 'Nritya Kalanidhi' award at the <b>17th Dance Festival of the Music Academy</b></li> <li>The festival stands as a testament to the Academy's commitment to musical education and cultural preservation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Kerala's Internet cable project</b></p>	<p><b>Context</b> Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the <b>Kochi–Lakshadweep submarine optical fibre cable project</b>.</p> <p><b>Key points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was implemented at a <b>cost of ₹1,072 crore</b></li> <li>It will connect the islands to high-speed internet for the first time, after years of relying on limited satellite bandwidth.</li> <li>The undersea cable link <b>"will ensure 100 times faster Internet for the people of Lakshadweep"</b></li> <li>Kavaratti, Lakshadweep's capital, will be connected along with the islands of Agatti, Amini, Kadmat, Chetlet, Kalpeni, Minicoy, Androth, Kiltan, Bangaram and Bitra</li> <li>The cables have been laid by the <b>state-owned telco BSNL</b>, while the project was executed by the <b>Japanese firm NEC</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Silambattam</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>martial dance of Tamil Nadu</b> is called Silambattam.</li> <li>The <b>dancers do mock combat with various weapons</b>, such as sticks, clubs, sword, horns, daggers etc, one kind of weapon at a time.</li> <li>The mock combat is done in pairs.</li> </ul>



- The drum music for the dance is provided by **Sendai Melam**, i.e. group of three to four drummers playing the drum Sendai in unison.

**Health Ministry survey on Antibiotics**

**Context**

- A Health Ministry survey was released.
- It highlights that Over half of the almost 10,000 patients surveyed recently were given antibiotics to prevent infection, rather than to treat it, amid growing concerns about the rise in resistance to antibiotics
- As much as **94% of the patients** surveyed were given antibiotics before the confirmation of a definitive medical diagnosis of the precise cause of infection.

**About Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)**

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has identified antimicrobial resistance (AMR) as one of the top threats to public health.
- It is a **natural phenomenon as bacteria evolve, making drugs used to treat infections less effective.**
- One of the main drivers for the development of antibiotic resistance is the excessive and inappropriate use of antibiotics.

**About National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)**

- The NCDC is the **nodal agency for India's national programme on AMR** containment, of which one of the key components is the surveillance of antibiotic usage.
- To achieve this goal, it has established the **National Antibiotic Consumption Network (NAC-NET)** through which network sites compile data on antibiotic consumption in their respective health facilities and send it to the NCDC.

**GSAT-20**

**Context**

**NewSpace India Ltd. (NSIL)**, the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation, will launch **GSAT-20 (renamed GSAT-N2)**, on board SpaceX's Falcon-9 rocket



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Key points

- The GSAT-20 is a **high-throughput Ka-band satellite (HTS)**, which will be fully owned, operated and funded by the NSIL.
- GSAT-20 offers **Ka-Ka band HTS capacity with 32 beams** having pan-India coverage, including the Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands.
- The satellite, **weighing 4,700 kg, offers an HTS capacity of nearly 48 Gpbs** and has been specifically designed to meet the demanding service needs of remote and unconnected regions.

Kerala Regional News

PM Modi arrives in Kerala



Context:

- **PM Modi visited Thrissur district in Kerala to attend a women's conference on Jan . 3, 2024**
- The event, titled "**Sthree Shakthi Modikk Oppam**" (**Empower Women with Modi**), was a massive affair, drawing over 2 lakh women from across the state.
- **PM Modi's address focused on the achievements of his government in women empowerment, highlighting initiatives like the passage of the Women's Reservation Bill and various welfare schemes.**
- He **emphasized the importance of women's participation in India's progress** and reiterated his commitment to **ensuring their equal rights and opportunities.**


Lymphedema clinic for breast cancer survivors to be opened in Kannur

Context:

- The **Kannur Malabar Cancer Care Society (MCCS) is launching a lymphedema specialty clinic, the first-of-its-kind facility in the State which aims to treat limb swelling, a common issue after breast cancer treatment.**
- **Dr. M.V. Pillai, a globally recognised cancer specialist and professor at Thomas Jefferson**



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	<p>University, USA, will inaugurate the clinic on January 5.</p> <p><b>About:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lymphedema is a chronic condition that causes lymphatic fluid to build up in tissues, leading to swelling.</b></li> <li>• <b>The lymphatic system is a network of vessels and nodes that helps drain fluid and waste products from tissues back into the bloodstream.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Neenu Mohan bags Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Media Award</b></p> 	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mathrubhumi Wayanad Staff Correspondent Neenu Mohan, clinched the prestigious Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Media Award for her series titled 'Ariyapedathoru Vamshahathya' in the print media.</b></li> <li>• <b>The award is given by Kerala Government to outstanding news reports on issues pertaining to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Kerala witnesses sharp fall in revenue from land transactions</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The revenue from land transactions met a sharp decline in the ongoing financial year, while a substantial amount of income continues to reach the treasury from all other departments and sources.</b></li> <li>• <b>The decline is seen because of 20 per cent increase in the fair value of land, which was declared in the last State budget</b></li> <li>• <b>Along with this, the steep rise in the permit fee for building construction has significantly impacted the real estate sector.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Kochi Corporation opens food testing lab</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Kochi Corporation, in a significant step towards ensuring food safety in the city, has recently opened a mobile food testing lab.</b></li> <li>• <b>This initiative aims to provide prompt and efficient testing of various food items for contaminants and ensure the quality of food consumed by the citizens of Kochi.</b></li> <li>• <b>The lab is housed in a specially designed vehicle, making it highly mobile and capable of reaching different parts of the city easily.</b></li> </ul>



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- It is equipped with advanced instruments and trained personnel to conduct a wide range of tests on food items

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