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National and International News

Khelo India Youth Games



Context

The Prime Minister will be the Chief Guest for the opening ceremony of the 6th Khelo India Youth Games 2023 which will be held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai.

Key Points:

- Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) are the **annual national level multidisciplinary grassroots games** in India held in January or February for two categories, namely under-17 years school students and under-21 college students.
- Every year **best 1,000 kids will be given an annual scholarship of ₹5 lakh** for 8 years to prepare them for the international sporting events.

About:

- This is the first time that **Khelo India Youth Games are being held in South India.**
- The Games will be played across four cities of Tamil Nadu, namely Chennai, Madurai, Trichy and Coimbatore from 19th to 31st January, 2024.
- The mascot for the games is **Veera Mangai.**
- **Rani Velu Nachiyar**, fondly called as Veera Mangai, was an Indian queen who waged a war against British colonial rule.
- The mascot **symbolises the valour and spirit of Indian women**, embodying the strength of women power.
- The logo for the games incorporates the figure of poet **Thiruvalluvar.**
- Over 5600 athletes will be participating in this edition of Khelo India Youth Games, spread across 13 days in 15 venues with **26 sporting disciplines, over 275 competitive events and 1 demo sport.**
- The 26 sporting disciplines is a diverse mix of conventional sports such as Football, Volleyball, Badminton etc. and traditional sports such as Kalaripayattu, Gatka, Thang ta, Kabaddi and Yogasana.
- **Silambam, a traditional sport of Tamil Nadu**, is being introduced as a demo sport for the first time in the history of Khelo India Youth Games.



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<p>Andhra becomes 2nd State to take up 'caste census'</p>	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Andhra Pradesh government kicked off its comprehensive caste census to enumerate all communities in the State • With this initiative, Andhra Pradesh has become the second State in the country after Bihar to take up a caste census.
<p>Warmer winter impacts coldest region of Ladakh</p>	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An unusually warm winter has impacted extreme winter sports like ice hockey and the 105-km Chadar trek in the cold desert mountains of Ladakh • It is considered the country's coldest place, where the minimum temperature can drop up to -40 degrees Celsius. • Ladakh is the only region where ice formation, not snow accumulation, is a common phenomenon. • This helps locals to prepare for national and international events.
<p>Defence Minister inaugurates 35 projects in border areas</p>	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates 29 bridges six roads constructed by the Border Roads Organisation • The event was organi- sed on the Dhak Bridge, a 93-metre-long bridge over Dhak Nallah • Eleven of the projects are in Jammu and Kashmir, nine in Ladakh, eight in Arunachal Pradesh, three in Uttarakhand, two in Sikkim and one each in Mizoram and Himachal Pradesh.
<p>Border Roads Organisation (BRO)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a statutory body under the ownership of the Ministry of Defence of the Government of India. • BRO develops and maintains road networks in India's border areas and friendly neighboring countries. • This includes infrastructure operations in 19 states and three union territories (including Andaman and Nicobar Islands) and neighboring countries such as Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, Tajikistan and Sri Lanka.
<p>Textbooks in regional languages</p>	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Union Education Ministry directed all school and higher education regulators such as the National Council of Educational Research and Training



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	<p>(NCERT) and the Indira Gandhi National Open University, the heads of Indian Institutes of Technology, Central Universities, and the National Institutes of Technologies, and the University Grants Commission to make study material available in regional languages for all courses in the next three years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study material for all courses under school and higher education would be made available digitally in languages included in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution
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Kerala Regional News

<p>Kerala issues PVC license & RC despite centre's call for smart card</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kerala state government has issued Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC) cards for license and RC (Registration Certificate), disregarding the central government's direction to provide the respective documents in the form of smart cards. • The state also levied Rs 200, a fixed charge for smart cards as directed by the centre, from the applicants while giving PVC cards, which cost only Rs 10 per piece. • The smart card had a chip embedded in it, which included complete details of the vehicle and the owner
<p>Kerala to transform urban landscape with Rs 100 crore waste reclamation initiative</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The local self-government department (LSGD) is gearing up to launch a Rs 100-crore project to reclaim legacy waste dumpsites in twenty towns across Kerala. • The project, which will be implemented in two phases, is being launched as part of the World Bank-aided Kerala Solid Waste Management Project. • The main objective of the Dumpsite Remediation Project is to retrieve around 60 acres of legacy dumpsites through biomining and bioremediation and convert



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	<p>the retrieved land into public utility spaces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kottarakkara, Kayamkulam, Koothattukulam, Kothamangalam, Muvattupuzha, North Paravur, Kalamassery, Vatakara, Kalpetta, Iritty, Koothuparamba and Kasaragod are the towns selected in the phase I.
<p>Artificial reef project launched off Vizhinjam coast</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A project to deploy artificial reefs in sea to enable sustainable fishing has been launched in the state with a pilot project at Vizhinjam • The installation of artificial reef units off the coasts of fishing villages in Kerala will help enhance the income of traditional fishermen.
<p>Kochi will become Asia's largest ship-repairing hub</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PM Modi said that the International Ship Repair Facility (ISRF) at Cochin Shipyard Ltd launched in Kerala will transform Kochi into Asia's largest ship-repair centre. • He said that Kochi has got the country's largest dry dock today. • Other projects like shipbuilding, ship repairing and LPG import terminal will also give momentum to development in Kerala and the southern region of the country.
<p>Solar power plant inaugurated at Autokast Ltd in Cherthala</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A two-megawatt solar power plant set up on the premises of Autokast Ltd, a ferrous foundry manufacturing unit in the public sector, at Thiruvizha near Cherthala was made operational recently. • It was inaugurated by Industries Minister P. Rajeeve.



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