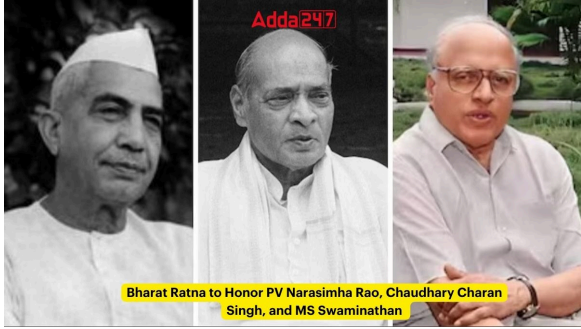






10 February 2024

National and International News

<p>Bharat Ratna Awardees Announced</p>  <p>Bharat Ratna to Honor PV Narasimha Rao, Chaudhary Charan Singh, and MS Swaminathan</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honor, will be conferred upon three notable figures: M.S. Swaminathan, P.V. Narasimha Rao, and Chaudhary Charan Singh. These individuals join the list of esteemed awardees, which includes L.K. Advani and Karpoori Thakur, making this year's tally the longest ever announced. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This year's announcement marks a record with five Bharat Ratna awardees, surpassing the previous highest count from 1999. Notably, four out of the five awards are being given posthumously.
<p>Legislative Changes in Jammu and Kashmir</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Rajya Sabha recently passed bills to include various communities into the Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Scheduled Castes (SC) lists in Jammu and Kashmir. Among the amendments, the Pahari ethnic group was added to the ST list, addressing the ongoing protests by the Gujjar-Bakarwal community. Additionally, the Bills incorporated the Paddari Tribe, Gadda Brahmin, and Koli communities into the ST list. The Valmiki community, along with its synonyms, was included in the SC list.
<p>Indian Ocean Conference</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 7th Indian Ocean Conference (IOC) 2024, was held on February 9-10, 2024, in Perth, Australia. It was attended by representatives from 40 countries and Foreign Ministers from various regional nations participated in the event. <p>Conference Objectives: The primary focus of the conference was to facilitate discussions on regional cooperation and propose</p>




	<p>solutions concerning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional security • Economic development • Environmental protection • Maritime safety within the Indian Ocean region. <p>Theme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The theme of the conference was "Towards a Stable and Sustainable Indian Ocean," emphasizing the importance of stability and sustainability in the region's geopolitical and environmental landscape. <p>About: IOC is an annual event fostering cooperation between countries bordering the Indian Ocean.</p>
<p>Aadi Mahotsav 2024</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The President inaugurated Aadi Mahotsav 2024, an annual National Tribal Festival held at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi. • Organized by TRIFED under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, this event showcases the rich diversity of India's tribal heritage. <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showcasing Talent: Aadi Mahotsav serves as a platform to showcase the extraordinary talent and craftsmanship of tribal artisans, displaying a vast array of tribal art, handicrafts, natural produce, and cuisine. • Empowerment: The festival aims to empower tribal communities by providing them with a direct market to sell their products, generate income, and gain recognition for their skills. • Celebrating Diversity: It's a celebration of the vibrant and diverse tribal culture, promoting awareness, understanding, and appreciation for their unique traditions and contributions to India's heritage. <p>TRIFED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India is a national level cooperative body under the administrative control of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India founded in 1987.
<p>DigiReady Certification (DRC) Portal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DRC portal is a collaborative effort between the Quality Council of India (QCI) and the Open



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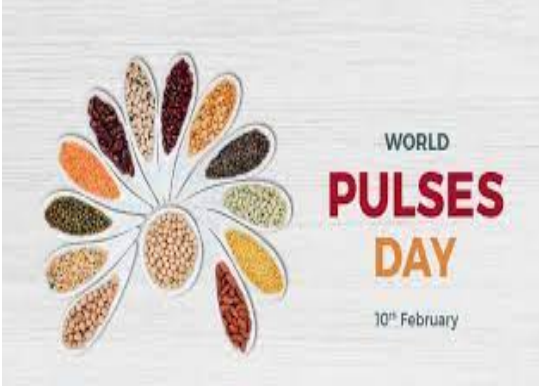
	<p>Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It aims to evaluate and certify the digital preparedness of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) for seamless integration as sellers on the ONDC platform.
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Kerala Regional News

<p>National Deworming Day</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Deworming Day (NDD) is observed annually on February 10th in India It aims to make every child in the country "worm-free." It was launched in 2015, and the initiative targets children aged 1-19 years, both enrolled and non-enrolled in schools, through platforms like schools and Anganwadi centers. Theme of National Deworming Day 2024 is "Eliminate STH: Invest in a healthier future for children" It revolves around public health, with a specific focus on preventing and controlling parasitic worm infections, particularly in children <p>Significance:</p> <p>Reduces worm infections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soil-transmitted helminths (intestinal worms) are prevalent in India, leading to health issues like anemia, malnutrition, impaired cognitive development, and reduced school attendance. NDD tackles this by mass deworming children. <p>Improves overall health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By eliminating worms, NDD improves children's overall health, nutritional status, and quality of life, contributing to better educational outcomes and future potential.
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<p>World Pulses Day</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2018, the United Nations General Assembly declared February 10 as World Pulses Day. • This day was established to emphasize the importance of pulses in mitigating global food challenges, improving human health, and improving soil health. • This includes dry edible seeds like lentils, chickpeas, beans, and dry peas. • The theme for World Pulses Day 2024 is 'Pulses: Nourishing soil and people.' • This theme emphasizes the positive impact of pulses on both soil health and human nutrition. <p>Did you Know?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burkina Faso proposed the observance of World Pulses Day. • The Year 2016 was declared as the International Year of Pulses. • India is the largest producer of pulses in the world
<p>World Peace Summit begins on February 10</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The World Peace Summit will be held here on February 10 and 11 as part of the United Nations Religious Harmony Week. • It will be inaugurated with the Summit on the theme 'Unity, Power of Peace and Redefining Sustainable Development of Humanity'. • The summit is being organized under the joint auspices of United Religious Initiative (URI) South India Region, World Yoga Community New York, Interfaith Dialogue for Sustainable Development Goals (IRD4SDG), Santhigiri Ashram, University of Madras and Cosmic Community Centre. • The two-day event will discuss the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. • Apart from presentations and panel discussions aimed at interfaith harmony and world peace, religious harmony prayers and various cultural programs will be held.
<p>Bharat Ratna awardees</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soumya Swaminathan, former Chief Scientist and Deputy Director General at the WHO, has welcomed the Centre's decision to bestow Bharat Ratna on her father M.S. Swaminathan



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former prime ministers P V Narasimha Rao and Charan Singh were also awarded the Bharat Ratna award along with MS Swaminathan <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. M.S. Swaminathan's recent posthumous conferment of the prestigious Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award, is a well-deserved recognition of his transformative contributions to the nation's agricultural landscape. • Widely known as the "Father of the Green Revolution," his visionary leadership and tireless efforts ushered in a period of unprecedented agricultural growth, ensuring food security for millions. • PV Narsimha Rao liberalized policies and revolutionized the economy • Charan Singh was a champion of farmers. • He was a Jat leader from western Uttar Pradesh and was one of the pioneers of the anti-Congress politics at a time when the Congress was the hegemonic political force. <p>Did you Know?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of India had instituted two civilian awards - Bharat Ratna and Padma Vibhushan - in 1954. • The latter had three classes namely Pahela Varg, Dusra Varg and Tisra Varg. • These were subsequently renamed as Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri through a presidential notification on January 8, 1955.
<p>Kerala gears up for India's first genomics-based infectious diseases test</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerala, in collaboration with IIT Bombay, is launching India's first on-site genomics test for infectious diseases. • IIT-Bombay-based HaystackAnalytics and NIMS Medicity at Neyyattinkara here are collaborating to introduce 'infexn™' -- the genomics test for diagnosing infectious diseases. • This test utilizes genome sequencing technology for faster and more accurate diagnoses. • The partnership between HaystackAnalytics (IIT Bombay) and NIMS Medicity (Kerala) marks a significant advancement in medical diagnostics.



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