



19 February 2024

National and International New

<p>Anti satellite weapons</p>	<p>Context: Russia is developing a new anti-satellite weapon, which the US finds concerning.</p> <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-satellite (ASAT) weapons are designed to disable or destroy satellites already in orbit. • This goes against the Outer Space Treaty, which prohibits damaging other parties' satellites and the harmful contamination of space. • Most ASAT weapons are kinetic, meaning they destroy satellites by colliding with them or detonating explosives nearby, creating debris that can remain in orbit for a long time. <p>Effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The principal threats from a space-based nuclear weapon are EMP(Electromagnetic pulse) and the release of charged particles, which can affect satellites around the point of detonation, including those of strategic allies and countries not involved in a conflict. • This can lead to the destruction of satellites and the creation of debris, potentially causing a "collisional cascade" that increases the amount of debris in orbit.
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Anti-Satellite Weapons

THREATENING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF SPACE ACTIVITIES

ANTI-SATELLITE (ASAT) WEAPONS are weapons that are designed to deceive, disrupt, deny, degrade, or destroy space systems.

Some ASAT weapons are designed to destroy satellites by hitting them with a high-speed missile, which can produce a massive amount of debris.

The destruction of a single 10-ton satellite can generate:

- 8-14 million objects 1mm-1cm in size
- 250-750,000 objects 1-10cm in size
- 5-15,000 objects >10cm in size

Source: Union of Concerned Scientists

All the Space Debris in Earth's Orbit

Untracked objects from all sources, by size and number of objects

- 130 million 1mm-1cm
- 36,500 1-10cm
- 1 million 10cm-10cm

The use of destructive ASAT weapons adds to the increasing amount of space debris in Earth's orbit.

Space debris can travel at up to 28,000km/h, posing an active threat to other objects in orbit.

Source: ESA

The Impact of Destructive ASAT Weapons

There are two types of destructive ASAT tests:

- Co-orbital**: Weapons that are placed into orbit and maneuver close to a target and attack it by various means, including direct collision, fragmentation, or using robotic arms.
- Direct-ascent (DA)**: Missiles that are launched from the Earth's surface or from the air to destroy a satellite target.

Types of Direct-ascent ASAT Weapons

- Russia: Nudol PK-100
- U.S.: SM-3
- China: SC-19
- India: PDV Mk II

Since 1959, there have been 80 ASAT tests carried out by four countries.

Year	U.S.	Russia/USSR	China	India
1959	1	0	0	0
1960s	10	0	0	0
1970s	1	0	0	0
1980s	1	0	0	0
1990s	0	0	0	0
2000s	0	0	0	0
2000s	0	0	0	0
2000-2001	0	0	0	0

Source: Secure World Foundation

Jnanpith Awards



Jnanpith honour for Gulzar and Sanskrit scholar Jagadguru Rambhadracharya

Context:

- The Jnanpith Awards, considered India's highest literary honor, were recently conferred upon **Gulzar and Sanskrit scholar Jagadguru Rambhadracharya**.
- The Jnanpith Award is presented annually since **1965** by **Bharatiya Jnanpith, established in 1944**, to recognize outstanding contributions to Indian literature.

Gulzar

- Gulzar, also known as **Sampoorn Singh Kalra**, is a **renowned Urdu poet**, Bollywood director, and writer, recognized for his contributions to Urdu literature and Hindi cinema.
- He has received numerous awards, including the **Sahitya Akademi Award, Dadasaheb Phalke Award, Padma Bhushan, and National Film Awards**.
- He won an **Oscar and Grammy for the song "Jai Ho"** from Slumdog Millionaire and has introduced a new genre in poetry called '**Triveni**'.

Jagadguru Rambhadracharya

- He is a Sanskrit scholar, Hindu spiritual leader, educator, and writer, known for founding and leading **Tulsi Peeth in Madhya Pradesh**.
- He has written over 240 books, including four epics, and is a polyglot speaking 22 languages.
- He received the **Padma Vibhushan in 2015**.
- He was born in 1950 in Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh.**

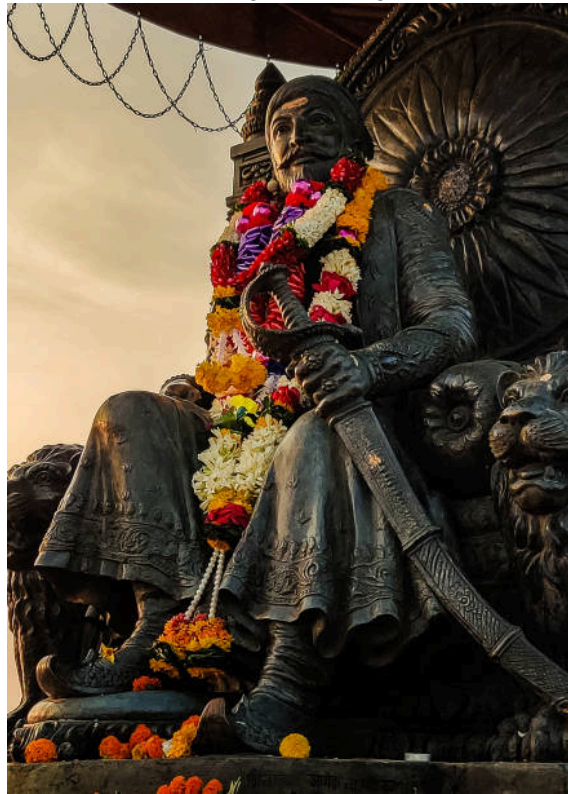


	<p>Award Details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The award carries a cash prize of ₹11 lakh, a statue of Vagdevi, and a citation. • This is the second time it has been awarded for Sanskrit and the fifth time for Urdu.
<p>GSLV-F14/INSAT-3DS</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) fully funded the satellite INSAT-3DS, which was successfully launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, using the GSLV-F14 launch vehicle. <p>Aim and objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INSAT-3DS aims to enhance India's meteorological services, complementing the existing INSAT-3D and INSAT-3DR satellites. • It will improve monitoring of the Earth's surface, atmosphere, oceans, and environment, enhancing data collection, dissemination, and satellite-aided search and rescue services. • This initiative will advance weather, climate, and ocean-related observations and services in India, contributing to disaster mitigation and preparedness. <p>Specification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on ISRO's I-2k bus platform, INSAT-3DS has a lift-off mass of 2,275 kilograms. • It is equipped with state-of-the-art payloads, including an imager payload with a six-channel optical radiometer for Earth imaging, a 19-channel sounder payload for atmospheric information, and communication payloads such as a data relay transponder and a satellite-aided search and rescue transponder. • Indian industries have played a significant role in the development of INSAT-3DS.
<p>YUVIKA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has initiated a special program named "Young Scientist Programme" or "YUva Vigyani KARYakram" (YUVIKA) tailored for school children. • The primary aim of this endeavor is to provide fundamental knowledge in Space Science, Technology, and Applications to young learners, exposing them to the latest advancements in these fields.



- ISRO has designed this program with the motto of "Catch them young," acknowledging that the youth are pivotal for the future of space exploration and technology in our nation.
- YUVIKA also endeavors to inspire more students to pursue careers in **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)**.
- Since its inception in 2019, YUVIKA has been successfully conducted in 2019, 2022, and 2023, attracting increasing participation each year.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj



Context:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid his tributes to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj on his **394th birth anniversary who was born on 19th Feb in 1630.**

About:

- Shivaji Bhonsale I, also known as Chhatrapati Shivaji, was an Indian ruler and a member of the **Bhonsle Maratha clan.**
- He established the Maratha Empire by carving out a region from the declining **Adilshahi sultanate of Bijapur.**
- In 1674, he was formally crowned as the Chhatrapati of his realm at **Raigad Fort.**
- He established the **Council of Eight Ministers, or Ashta Pradhan Mandal**, which included positions like the Peshwa (Prime Minister) for general administration, the Amatya for finance, and the Sumtant or Dabir for foreign affairs.

Recent contributions by Gol:

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi unveiled the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Rajkot Fort, Sindhudurg, Maharashtra.
- The Maharashtra government has designated February 19 as a holiday to commemorate Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's birth, known as **Shivaji Jayanti.**



Kerala Regional News

<p>GIFT City project in Kochi</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ambitious GIFT City (Global Industrial Finance and Trade) project in Kochi, Kerala, aims to create a major financial and trade hub in the state. <p>Land Acquisition and Compensation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land acquisition is crucial for the project's progress and nearly 30-35% of the required land has already been acquired. Remaining acquisition awaits funding allocation from Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB). Landowners are likely to receive compensation by April 2024 <p>Project Significance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GIFT City is expected to transform Kochi into a major financial center. Attract knowledge-based industries and foreign investments. Create jobs and boost the local economy. Serve as a hub for fintech firms and US-based companies.
<p>State looking to achieve 100% physical literacy in 10 years: CM</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kerala CM said that the State has set an ambitious goal of achieving cent per cent physical literacy in 10 years to which yoga can contribute significantly <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CM also said that a project to set up 1,000 Ayush yoga clubs across local bodies in the State was on the anvil to impart yoga training to at least 20 individuals in a ward at a time Schemes involving a total outlay of ₹18.65 crore were also being implemented to improve the infrastructure of yoga health centres under the Ayush Mission and as part of State-level schemes <p>What is "physical literacy"?</p>



Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It encompasses developing fundamental movement skills, understanding the benefits of physical activity, and incorporating it into daily life. This includes activities like running, jumping, swimming, and basic yoga postures.
<p>Italian delegation lauds gender diversity in Kerala's IT ecosystem</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A recent visit by a delegation from the Venice-based Soft Power Club to Kerala, resulted in praise for the state's IT ecosystem, particularly its emphasis on gender diversity. <p>The delegation was impressed by: Women's inclusion in the workforce:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kerala boasts a significantly higher number of female IT professionals compared to the national average. This achievement was attributed to the state's strong focus on women's empowerment initiatives. <p>Supportive work environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The delegation found the atmosphere at Technopark, Kerala's premier IT hub, to be vibrant and inclusive, fostering a positive work experience for all genders. <p>Sustainable and inclusive IT ecosystem: The delegation commended Kerala's efforts to build an IT sector that prioritizes both economic growth and social responsibility, including gender equality.</p>
<p>Free Ground Music Festival concludes</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The inaugural edition of Kochi's Free Ground Music Festival concluded on Sunday. Hundreds of music enthusiasts, mostly youth from across the state, had assembled at Bolgatty to participate in the two-day event. This event aims to be a "traveling festival" with a "visionary biennial project," featuring international locations in future editions.
<p>Kerala will introduce scheme to bring back students leaving state</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kerala CM announced a special scheme to encourage students who leave the state for higher education to return. The announcement came during the first event of his statewide interactive program, "Mukhamukham," held in Kozhikode.



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- The aim is to transform Kerala into a higher education hub of international standards, not just for attracting students but also for retaining talent.
- This initiative comes amidst concerns about brain drain from Kerala, where many talented students pursue higher education elsewhere and often don't return.
- The CM also emphasized a complete overhaul of the education sector, including a four-year degree program and credit for extracurricular achievements.

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