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National and International News

Temple Discoveries in Telangana: Unveiling the Chalukya Kingdom's Reach



Context:

- Despite the nearly 500 km distance between Mudimanikyam in Telangana and Badami in Karnataka, recent archaeological findings reveal that **Mudimanikyam, a Village in Nalgonda District, was once under the rule of the Badami Chalukyas.**

Key points:

- Archaeologists unearthed **two temples on the river bank and five within the village.**
- Additionally, they found an **inscription** dating back to the reign of the Badami Chalukyas, who ruled from **543 AD to 750 AD.**
- Temples reflect the **cosmopolitan nature of the Deccan region**, where multiple religions coexisted.
- Alongside the Brahmanical religion, there was room for **Buddhism and Jainism**, demonstrating the religious diversity of the time.
- Even after the fall of the kingdom, which once governed present-day **Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh**, the region maintained a vibrant community of devotees worshipping **Hindu deities Vishnu and Shiva.**
- The farthest known boundaries of the Chalukya Badami kingdom were previously identified as the **Jogulamba temples at Alampur and the submerged Yeleswaram sites.**
- These new discoveries extend the historical reach of the kingdom.

Chalukyas:
Period

- The Chalukya dynasty was a Hindu dynasty that ruled large parts of southern and central India between the **6th and the 12th centuries.**

They ruled as three related yet individual dynasties:





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	<p>Badami Chalukyas: Ruled from Vatapi (modern Badami) in Karnataka, from the middle of the 6th century.</p> <p>Eastern Chalukyas: Became an independent kingdom in the eastern Deccan after the death of Pulakeshin II. They ruled from Vengi until about the 11th century.</p> <p>Western Chalukya Empire: Descendants of the Badami Chalukyas, they emerged in the late 10th century and ruled from Kalyani (modern-day Basavakalyan) until the end of the 12th century.</p> <p>Architecture: Vesara Style: The Chalukyas invented the Vesara style while constructing structural temples. This style is a hybrid of Nagara and Dravida styles.</p> <p>Distinctive Features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chalukya architecture has both cave temple design and structured temple design. • Chalukya architects used the stellate plan or northern stepped diamond plan for architectural design.
<p>Surrogacy rules</p> <p>Surrogacy (Regulation) Act 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Act aims to regulate surrogacy in India, ensure ethical practices, prevent exploitation, and safeguard the rights of intending parents, surrogate mothers, and born children. • It permits altruistic surrogacy only and outlines specific criteria for surrogate mothers and intending parents. • The Act also mandates registration for all surrogacy clinics, informed consent from the surrogate mother, and prohibits certain practices. • It establishes National and State Surrogacy Boards to oversee and regulate surrogacy practices. • Violations of the Act can lead to 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Union government modified the Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules, 2022, on February 21, allowing married couples to use donor eggs or sperm for surrogacy, a relief for those with medical issues. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surrogacy, a process where a woman (the surrogate mother) carries and delivers a baby for a couple (the intended parents), is a complex and evolving field. • It involves two main types: traditional surrogacy, where the surrogate mother is also the biological mother of the baby, and gestational surrogacy, where an embryo created through in vitro fertilization (IVF) is implanted in the surrogate mother's uterus, making her not genetically related to the baby. • In India, surrogacy has seen significant changes, with the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021, coming into effect. This Act prohibits commercial surrogacy and allows altruistic surrogacy, where a woman can voluntarily act as a surrogate for intended parents without any



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<p>imprisonment of up to 10 years and a fine of up to Rs. 10 lakhs.</p>	<p>monetary compensation except for medical expenses and insurance.</p>
<p>First Lunar Landing by a PRIVATE FIRM</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 24th February, 2024, a significant milestone in the field of Science and Technology was achieved when the Odysseus lander, built by Intuitive Machines, successfully landed on the moon. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This achievement marks the return of the United States to the lunar surface for the first time since the closure of NASA's Apollo program in 1972. The successful landing by Intuitive Machines marks a significant milestone in space exploration, demonstrating the growing capabilities of the private sector in lunar missions. With more planned missions in the future, the moon continues to be a focal point for exploration and scientific discovery.
<p>CE-20 engine</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) achieved a notable accomplishment on February 21 by declaring the successful human-rating of the CE-20 rocket engine. This homegrown cryogenic engine, designed to propel the GSLV Mk III (currently known as LVM-3) launch vehicle, signifies a crucial progression in India's space exploration efforts, especially with regard to the forthcoming Gaganyaan mission. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ISRO has developed three cryogenic engines: KVD-1, CE-7.5, and CE-20. The CE-20 engine, using the gas-generator cycle, is easier to build and test compared to the CE-7.5 engine, which uses the staged-combustion cycle. Despite the CE-7.5 engine's higher fuel-use efficiency, the CE-20 engine achieves a higher maximum thrust, making it ideal for



the LVM-3 launch vehicle and the Gaganyaan mission.

Read more about Cryogenic Engines.

Kerala Regional News

<p>PM Modi to dedicate three ISRO facilities to nation</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PM Modi will review the progress of the Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme and dedicate three facilities of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to the nation during a visit to the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) in Thiruvananthapuram on February 27 • He will dedicate the Trisonic Wind Tunnel established at the VSSC, integration facilities for the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) set up at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, and the Semi-cryogenic Integrated Engine and Stage Test Facility (SIET) at the ISRO Propulsion Complex in Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaganyaan, meaning "celestial vehicle" in Sanskrit, is India's ambitious human spaceflight program. • It aims to launch a crewed spacecraft carrying up to three astronauts into low Earth orbit for a mission lasting up to seven days.
<p>Upgradation of Kalamandalam into cultural university</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kalamandalam, a renowned institution dedicated to Indian classical arts, is on track to become a full-fledged cultural university. <p>Road Map:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative framework: The Kerala Legislative Assembly is expected to soon present a bill to establish the university as a public institution. This legal foundation is crucial for its official recognition. • Governance structure: Similar to other universities recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the cultural university will have a senate and



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	<p>an academic council, responsible for academic oversight and policymaking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed planning: A comprehensive roadmap is being developed, outlining aspects like curriculum design, faculty recruitment, infrastructure expansion, and potential collaborations with other institutions. <p>Aim:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Offer a wider range of academic programs in various art forms. 2. Foster deeper research and scholarship in cultural studies. 3. Contribute significantly to the preservation and promotion of Indian cultural heritage.
<p>Attappadi school's initiatives help tribal students go places</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A government school in Attappadi, India, is taking innovative steps to empower its tribal students. • This school, catering to the Irula tribe, aims to broaden their horizons by: • "Orumichu" Program: This initiative, in collaboration with various departments, improves reading and writing skills through community engagement. • Exposure Trips: By organizing trips like the recent visit to Kochi, students gain firsthand experiences and learn about the modern world. • "Selfie Program": This program encourages regular studies by motivating students to document their learning through selfies. • These efforts are not only enhancing the students' education but also equipping them with the confidence and knowledge to "go places" in life.
<p>PM inaugurates NIV Kerala unit</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PM Modi virtually inaugurated the National Institute of Virology (NIV) Kerala Unit, at Kuravanthodu in Alappuzha <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This development is part of the government's initiative to strengthen India's public health infrastructure and research capabilities, particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. • The new NIV unit will focus on viral research specific to the region, including studies on emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases. • This will not only contribute to Kerala's healthcare preparedness but also benefit the entire nation.



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Demand to reopen tourist places in Wayanad intensifies

Context:

- **Tourist attractions** managed by the forest department in **Wayanad**, have been **closed since February 17th** due to **safety concerns following a wild elephant attack**.
- The closure has caused **significant disruption to tourism**, with businesses and guides reporting cancellations and lost income.

Wayanad:

- The name **Wayanad** is derived from **Vayal Nadu** which means the **land of paddy fields**.
- It is a picturesque plateau situated at a height between **700 meters and 2100 meters** above the mean sea level nested among the **mountains of the Western Ghats on the Eastern portion of North Kerala and on the sides of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka States**.
- Established in **1973**, the **Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary** is contiguous to the protected area network of **Nagarhole and Bandipur of Karnataka on the north-east and Mudimalai of Tamil Nadu on the south-east**.
- Rich in bio-diversity, the sanctuary is an integral part of the **Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve**, Which has been established with the specific objective of conservating the biological heritage of the region. Consisting entirely of notified reserve, the sanctuary is very rich in **fauna and flora**.
- **This area is renowned with having world's largest recorded population of Asian Elephants and Tigers**.

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