



28 February 2024

National and International News

Gaganyaan crew



Context:

- Four IAF pilots have been identified as potential crew members for the Gaganyaan mission, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi honored them with 'astronaut wings' during his visit to the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Thiruvananthapuram.

Key points:

- These pilots have undergone rigorous training both in Russia and at the ISRO Astronaut Training Facility in Bengaluru.
- In preparation for the crewed mission, ISRO is conducting various tests, including Integrated Air Drop tests, Test Vehicle Missions, and pad Abort Tests, with unmanned flights preceding the actual mission.
- Additionally, ISRO has unveiled plans to send astronauts to the moon by 2040.

Gaganyaan:

- The Gaganyaan Mission is India's ongoing endeavor to launch a three-day manned mission into Low Earth Orbit (LEO) at an altitude of 400 km, carrying a crew and safely returning them to Earth.
- The inaugural manned spaceflight is scheduled for 2024 (by the end of the year).
- Success in this mission will elevate India to join the elite group of nations—US, Russia, and China—with human spaceflight capabilities.

India Completes '10,000 Genome' Project

Context:

- The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has announced the completion of the '10,000 genome' project, aiming to create a reference database of whole-genome sequences from India.
- The United Kingdom, China, and the United States are among the countries that have programmes to sequence at least 1,00,000 of their genomes.




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	<p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project was launched in 2020. • India's 1.3 billion population comprises over 4,600 endogamous groups, leading to significant genetic diversity. • Over 20 institutions, including the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, and the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad, are involved in the project. <p>Aim:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project aims to gain deeper insights into India's population diversity, improve diagnostic methods and medical counseling, find genetic predispositions to disease, develop personalized drugs, improve gene therapy, and understand individual susceptibility to infectious diseases. <p>Definition: A genome is the complete set of genetic material within an organism. It contains all the information needed for the development, functioning, and reproduction of that organism.</p>
<p>India to have its own space station by 2035</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India is set to establish its own space station by 2035, as announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. • Emphasizing India's space ambitions, Modi mentioned plans for a crewed lunar mission by 2040, with an Indian astronaut landing on the moon using an Indian spacecraft during "Amrit Kaal." • PM described the Gaganyaan astronauts as not just individuals but embodiments of the nation's collective strength.
<p>Sweden joins NATO</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sweden has overcome the final obstacle to join NATO as Hungary has approved its accession. • Sweden's parliament approved NATO accession on, marking the end of its neutrality that endured two world wars and the Cold War.



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	<p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sweden's membership will also contribute resources like advanced submarines and Gripen fighter jets to NATO. • Russia's invasion of Ukraine accelerated support in Sweden for NATO membership, especially after Finland joined last year. • Turkey and Hungary, however, initially raised objections, with Turkey seeking tougher action against Kurdish militants in Sweden and Hungary expressing annoyance over Swedish criticism of its democracy under Orban. • Now the count of NATO countries has become 32. <p>NATO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The North Atlantic Treaty Organization was created in 1949 by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet Union. • NATO was the first peacetime military alliance the United States entered into outside of the Western Hemisphere.
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<p>Aegis Graham Bell Awards</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C-DOT, India's leading telecom Research and Development center, has received significant recognition by winning three awards at the 14th Annual Aegis Graham Bell Awards. • These awards highlight C-DOT's innovative telecom solutions developed and designed in India across various categories. <p>Awards:</p> <p>Innovation in AI: ASTR Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first award, jointly shared with Google India, was conferred upon C-DOT for its pioneering ASTR Project under the category "Innovation in AI." • This innovative solution is designed to analyze, identify, and eliminate fake/forged mobile connections, marking a significant stride towards ensuring a secure telecom environment. <p>Innovation in Social Good: CEIR Solution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C-DOT secured the second award in the category "Innovation in Social Good" for its groundbreaking CEIR (Central Equipment
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	<p>Identity Register) solution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEIR has revolutionized mobile security by detecting clone IMEIs, restricting the import of counterfeit mobile devices, and facilitating the blocking and tracing of lost or stolen phones. <p>Innovation in Telecom: Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) Product</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The third accolade was bestowed upon C-DOT in the category “Innovation in Telecom” for its Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) product. • This revolutionary solution ensures unparalleled security, marking a significant advancement in the field of telecommunications.
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Kerala Regional News

<p>National Science Day</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Science Day is celebrated in India on February 28th each year. • It commemorates the groundbreaking discovery of the Raman Effect by the renowned Indian physicist Sir C.V. Raman in 1928. • This remarkable work earned C.V Raman the prestigious Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930. • The purpose of National Science Day is to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote scientific awareness and inspire interest in science, especially among youth. 2. Recognize contributions of scientists to the field of science and technology. 3. Encourage scientific temper and a spirit of inquiry within society. <p>Theme 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The theme for National Science Day 2024 is “Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat.” <p>Did you Know?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first National Science Day was celebrated on February 28, 1987.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC), in 1986, asked the Government of India to announce February 28 as National Science Day
<p>NOWA (NIIST On-site Wastewater Technology)</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (CSIR-NIIST), a constituent laboratory of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in India, has made significant strides in developing sustainable solutions for treating organic wastewater. Their innovative technology, known as NOWA (NIIST On-site Wastewater Technology), has been successfully transferred to various entities for widespread implementation. <p>Key Features of NOWA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combined Anaerobic-Aerobic Process: NOWA utilizes a combined anaerobic-aerobic bioprocess that effectively breaks down organic contaminants in wastewater. Resource Recovery: This technology facilitates the recovery of valuable resources from wastewater, including biogas (for energy), treated water suitable for reuse, and biomanure. Compact Design: NOWA units are designed to be space-efficient, making them ideal for on-site installation in various settings. Sustainability: This eco-friendly solution addresses the growing challenge of organic wastewater pollution.
<p>PM to inaugurate hydrogen fuel cell ferry today</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PM Modi will virtually inaugurate India's first indigenously developed hydrogen fuel cell ferry today. The vessel, constructed by Cochin Shipyard Ltd, marks a significant step towards clean energy adoption in the maritime sector. This pilot project aims to showcase the potential of hydrogen fuel cell technology for sustainable water transportation.
<p>World NGO Day</p>	<p>Context:</p>



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- **World NGO Day** is an annual celebration held on **February 27th** to **acknowledge and appreciate** the **vital work of non-governmental organizations (NGOs)** around the world.
- The concept originated in **2010** and **gained official recognition in 2014**, with support from organizations like the **United Nations and the European Union**.

About:

- These organizations, also known as **charities, non-profits, or civil society organizations**, operate independently of government control and work in diverse areas like:
 1. **Humanitarian aid and disaster relief**
 2. **Environmental protection and sustainability**
 3. **Education and healthcare access**
 4. **Social justice and human rights advocacy**

Theme:

- The theme for the **2024 World NGO Day** is **'Building a Sustainable Future: The Role of NGOs in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).'**

KSUM flags potential for Kerala start-ups to do business with Africa

Context:

- The **Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM)** believes there's significant **potential for Kerala-based startups to explore business opportunities in Africa**.
- **KSUM's CEO, Anoop Ambika**, emphasized the importance of **better collaboration for Kerala startups to tap into the African market**.
- This suggests that **KSUM may be considering initiatives or programs** to facilitate connections and **partnerships between Kerala startups and African businesses**.

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