



06 March 2024

National and International News

Graphene Innovation Center



Context:

- Recently, S Krishnan, Secretary of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), inaugurated two significant initiatives in Kerala: a **Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Intelligent Internet of Things (IIoT) Sensors** and India's first graphene center - the **India Innovation Centre for Graphene (IICG)**.

About India Innovation Centre for Graphene (IICG):

- **Collaborative Initiative:** Funded by MeitY, the Government of India, the State Government of Kerala, and Tata Steel Limited, along with various industries.
- **Implementing Partners:** Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET), Digital University Kerala (DUK), and Tata Steel Limited.
- **Objective:** To explore the science and technology of graphene and other 2D materials, fostering partnerships between industry and academia for innovative research with practical applications.
- **International Collaboration:** Aims to attract leading international research on graphene to India and bridge the gap between scientific advancements and industrial applications.
- **Facilities:** Plans to establish facilities and acquire sophisticated equipment to support research aligned with industry needs.

Main Research Areas Include:

- Large-scale and large area single/few-layer graphene production in collaboration with Indian graphene industries.
- Nanoscale carbon and other 2D material composite technology.
- Research and development of graphene optoelectronic products such as graphene intelligent windows and touch screens.
- Development of graphene-based smart integrated devices on flexible/transparent substrates with energy storage capabilities.
- Exploration of graphene energy conversion devices like supercapacitors, fuel cells, and



	<p>batteries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advanced lithographic techniques for device fabrication.</li> </ul> <p>Read about Graphene and its Properties</p>
<p><b>SC: No Immunity for MPs &amp; MLAs Who Accept Bribe for Vote or Speech in the House</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Supreme Court overturned the <b>1998 PV Narasimha Rao judgment, which granted immunity to MPs and MLAs under Articles 105(2) and 194(2)</b> of the Constitution for accepting bribes related to voting or speeches in the legislature.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Articles 105 and 194 of the Constitution grant powers and privileges to MPs and MLAs in the Parliament and legislative assemblies.</li> <li>These articles <b>provide legal protection to lawmakers, ensuring their freedom of speech and protecting them from prosecution for their remarks or votes in the House.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>1998 Judgment Overturned:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The recent verdict overturns the 1998 judgment in the PV Narasimha Rao case.</li> <li>This case involved allegations that legislators of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha accepted bribes during a no-confidence motion in 1993.</li> <li>The Supreme Court, <b>in a 3:2 majority ruling, had granted immunity to MPs and MLAs</b> from prosecution in bribery cases if they fulfilled their end of the bargain. However, the recent decision nullifies this immunity.</li> </ul> <p><b>Significance of the Verdict:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This decision is <b>crucial in combating cash-for-votes practices and preserving the integrity of electoral processes.</b></li> <li>Previously, MPs and MLAs could not be prosecuted for accepting bribes related to voting or speeches.</li> <li>Now, they can be prosecuted as soon as they accept a bribe, with no immunity provided by the House in such cases.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Vaccine Preventing Six Cancers</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>March 4: International HPV Awareness Day</li> <li>January: Cervical Cancer Awareness Month</li> </ul>



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### Key points:

- Cervical cancer affects the cervix, the lower part of the uterus.
- HPV vaccination prevents cervical cancers.
- Cervical cancer is the **fourth most common cancer among women globally**.
- Over 300,000 women die from cervical cancer annually, about one every two minutes.
- Nine out of 10 women who die from cervical cancer live in lower- and middle-income countries.
- In India, cervical cancer is the second most common cancer after breast cancer.
- Around 500 million women above 15 in India are at risk of cervical cancer.
- Without action, cases and deaths from cervical cancer are expected to rise significantly by 2040.
- **By 2040, India is estimated to have 191,347 new cases of cervical cancer, a 54% increase from 2020.**

### Prevention Strategies:

- Cervical cancer is caused by certain types of **papillomaviruses (HPV)**.
- Two major prevention strategies: **HPV vaccination and screening for precancerous lesions**.

### WHO's Strategy by 2030:

#### Targets:

- **90% of girls** to be fully vaccinated with HPV vaccine by age 15.
- **70% of women** screened for precancerous lesions by ages 35 and 45.
- **90% of women** with detected pre-cancer or cancer lesions receive treatment.
- Emphasizes high-quality and equitable healthcare services.

### International Centre for Audit of Local Governance (iCAL)

#### Context:

- The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), Girish Chandra Murmu, has announced the establishment of the Supreme Audit Institution India's **International Centre for Audit of Local Governance (iCAL)** in Rajkot, Gujarat.

#### Significance:

- To enhance **auditing of local governments**, capacity building of auditors and local government employees is crucial to improve financial management practices and internal controls.
- **Open communication with local government**



	<p>officials can facilitate the audit process, <b>improve data accessibility, and foster cooperation in addressing audit findings.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The establishment of iCAL aims to achieve these objectives.</li> </ul> <p><b>The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CAG is India's supreme audit institution, established in 1858 under Article 148 of the Constitution of India.</li> <li>• It is known as the "Guardian of the Public Purse" and operates independently.</li> <li>• The duties and powers of the CAG are outlined in Article 149 and 150 of the Constitution.</li> </ul> <p><b>Appointment:</b> The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India is appointed by the President of India.</p> <p><b>Removal:</b> The CAG can only be removed by an address from both houses of parliament on the ground of proved misbehavior or incapacity.</p>
<p><b>Digital Intelligence Platform</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recently, Minister Chauhan launched the Department of Telecommunications (DoT)'s <b>'Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP)'</b> and <b>'Chakshu facility on Sanchar Saathi portal.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>About Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed by DoT, it's a <b>secure platform for real-time intelligence sharing among stakeholders like Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), law enforcement agencies (LEAs), banks, social media platforms, etc.</b></li> <li>• Contains information on detected misuse of telecom resources.</li> <li>• Provides useful information to stakeholders.</li> <li>• Acts as a <b>repository for citizen-initiated requests on the Sanchar Saathi portal.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Chakshu - Citizen Centric Facility:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newest addition to <b>Sanchar Saathi portal.</b></li> <li>• <b>Allows reporting of suspected fraud communications.</b></li> <li>• Reports can include KYC expiry, updates to bank accounts/payment wallets/SIM cards/gas/electricity connections, sextortion, impersonation scams, disconnection of mobile numbers by DoT, etc.</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victims of cyber-crime or financial fraud should report to the cyber-crime helpline 1930 or the Government of India's cybercrime website.</li> </ul>
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Kerala Regional News

<p><b>K-Smart disposes of 85% applications received in 2 months</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>K-Smart, the online service delivery system in Kerala, has demonstrated impressive efficiency.</b></li> <li>• <b>Since its launch two months ago, the platform has handled a total of 6 lakh applications, with a remarkable 85% of them being successfully disposed of.</b></li> <li>• <b>This swift resolution highlights K-Smart's potential to streamline government services and improve citizen experience.</b></li> <li>• <b>Out of 42,100 birth registration applications submitted through KSMART since January 1, a total of 37,100 applications have been approved till now, while 16,810 out of 20,800 death certificate applications have been cleared.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>About:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>K-SMART, short for Kerala Smart Mission, is a government initiative aiming to revolutionize local self-governance in the state.</b></li> <li>• <b>This citizen-centric platform provides a one-stop solution for various government services, accessible through a mobile app and web portal</b></li> <li>• <b>Launched in January 2024, K-SMART empowers individuals and service providers to interact with the government seamlessly.</b></li> <li>• <b>It offers a wide range of services, including:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Applying for and tracking the status of various services (birth certificates, property tax, etc.)</li> <li>2. Lodging and tracking grievances</li> <li>3. Accessing essential government information</li> <li>4. K-SMART promotes transparency, efficiency, and responsiveness, aiming to simplify citizen interactions with the government.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
<p><b>V. Hari Nair sworn in as Chief Information Commissioner</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>V. Hari Nair was sworn in as Chief Information Commissioner (CIC).</b></li> </ul>



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- Governor Arif Mohammed Khan administered the oath of office to Mr. Nair at a function held at the Raj Bhavan.

About:

- The duty of the CIC is to inquire into complaints from any person relating to access to information under the control of public authorities and to decide appeals against the decision of designated appellant officers.
- Section 12(6) of the RTI Act 2005 provides that Chief Information Commissioner or an Information Commissioner shall not be a Member of Parliament or Member of the Legislature of any State or Union Territory

First phase of 'twinning' of the international terminal completed

Context:

- The first phase of the "twinning" project at the Thiruvananthapuram International Airport's (T-2) international terminal has been successfully completed.
- This involves creating a digital replica of the physical terminal using Building Information Modelling (BIM) and a Scan to BIM strategy.
- This digital twin will be instrumental in various aspects of the terminal's management, including:
  - Improved facility management
  - Enhanced planning and design
  - Streamlined operations

Projects worth ₹684 crore carried out in Thiruvananthapuram Corporation

Context:

- Kerala CM announced the completion of projects worth ₹684 crore undertaken by the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation under the Smart City Mission.
- These projects aim to improve the city's infrastructure and quality of life for residents.

Kudumbashree's Lunch Bell launched in city



Context:

- Kudumbashree, the women-led poverty alleviation mission in Kerala, launched its "Lunch Bell" initiative in Thiruvananthapuram.
- This program delivers fresh, home-cooked lunches to offices in the city.

Key Points:

- Initial Phase: Targets select locations around government offices, banks, and other institutions.
- Delivery: Lunches packed in steel boxes will be delivered by Kudumbashree members and need to be returned.



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- **Ordering:** Orders can be placed through Kudumbashree's "Pocket Mart" app.
- **Options:** Vegetarian meals cost ₹60, while non-vegetarian options with egg/fish are ₹99.
- **Expansion:** The program will expand to other areas of Thiruvananthapuram in two months and later to Ernakulam.
- This initiative aims to provide healthy and affordable lunch options while empowering women through employment and entrepreneurship.

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