





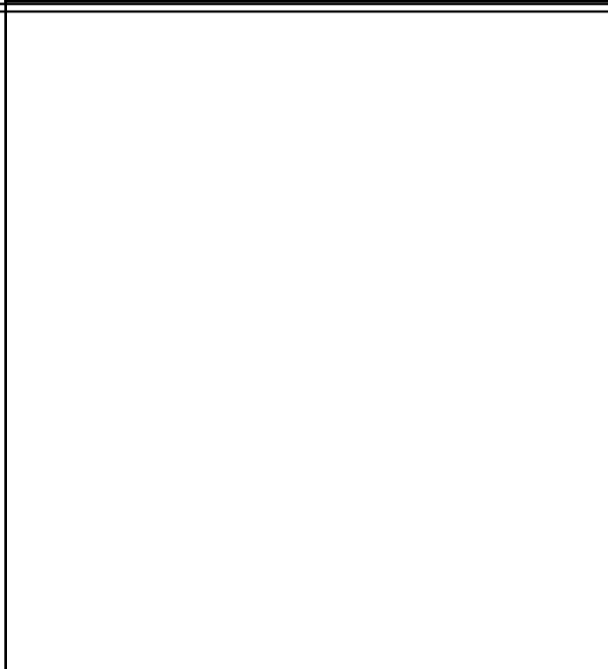
15 March 2024

National and International News

<p><b>Yaounde Declaration</b></p> 	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health ministers from <b>11 African countries met in Yaoundé, Cameroon, and pledged to end malaria deaths.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In <b>2022</b>, malaria cases globally rose significantly from <b>233 million in 2019 to 249 million.</b></li> <li>In Africa, cases increased from <b>218 million to 233 million during the same period.</b></li> <li>Africa accounts for <b>94% of global malaria cases and 95% of malaria-related deaths.</b></li> <li>In 2022, an estimated 580,000 deaths occurred in Africa due to malaria.</li> <li>According to the <b>2023 Africa Malaria Progress Report</b>, malaria incidence has declined by 7.6% and mortality by 11.3%, falling short of African Union's interim goals.</li> <li>The African Union aims to control and eliminate malaria by <b>2030.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Avaana Sustainability Fund</b></p> 	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SIDBI has secured <b>\$24.5 million from the Green Climate Fund (GCF)</b> for its Avaana Sustainability Fund (ASF), aimed at promoting sustainability and climate-focused startups and MSMEs.</li> <li>The funding was approved during the 38th meeting of the <b>GCF Board in Kigali, Rwanda.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Project Overview:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project is valued at <b>\$120 million and will support early-stage startups and MSMEs using technology-led innovations for sustainability and climate solutions in India.</b></li> <li>The ASF initiative aims to fund enterprises using technological innovations to address climate change challenges.</li> <li>It will aid in climate change mitigation, adaptation, and improving resilience in sectors vulnerable to climate impacts.</li> </ul> <p><b>Implementation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>SIDBI will work with stakeholders and</b></li> </ul>



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ministries, including the Department of Financial Services of the Ministry of Finance.

- The bank can anchor proposals from other entities and submit its own, supporting the development of MSMEs.

**Significance:**

- This is a pioneering move by SIDBI, representing the first such project anchored by the bank and aligning with India's commitments under the Paris Agreement.
- SIDBI, as an accredited and direct access entity with the GCF, will fund projects promoting low-carbon and climate-resilient development across India.

**Green Climate Fund:**

- The GCF is the largest climate fund globally, supporting developing countries in meeting their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) for global climate action.

Panel recommends simultaneous polls



**Context:**

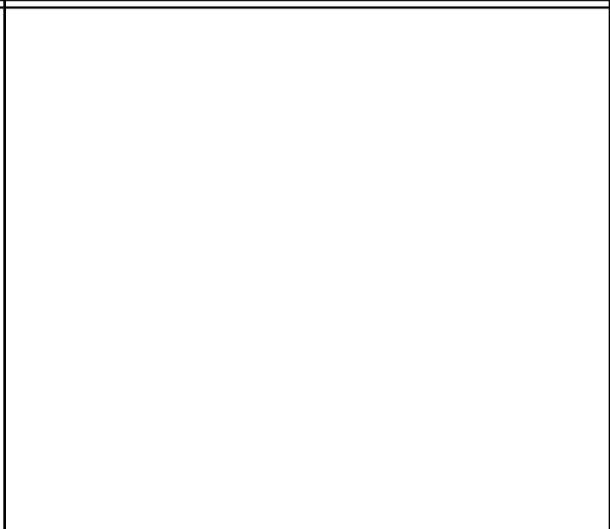
- The high-level committee headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind has recommended simultaneous elections.
- The recommendation involves a phased approach: Lok Sabha and State Assemblies first, followed by municipal and panchayat polls within 100 days of general elections.

**Key points:**

- The committee submitted an extensive report, spanning 18,000 pages, to President Droupadi Murmu, but a concise 321-page version is available to the public.
- The 22nd Law Commission is also examining the issue and likely to recommend the same from the 2029 general election cycle.
- The suggested method involves setting an 'Appointed Date' after each general election, initiating a new electoral cycle for synchronizing elections.
- State Assemblies formed post 'Appointed Date' would conclude before subsequent general elections, aligning with the Lok Sabha election cycle.
- Fresh Lok Sabha elections might occur in case of a hung House or no-confidence motion, but the House's tenure would be limited to the unexpired term of the preceding full term.
- Constitutional amendments to Articles 83 and




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172 are proposed, requiring no ratification by the States.

- Amendments to **Article 324A and Article 325** are recommended for panchayat and municipality elections and the preparation of a common electoral roll and voter ID cards, necessitating ratification by the States.
- The committee aims to **ease the burden on various stakeholders caused by frequent elections and suggests a mechanism for restoring the cycle of simultaneous elections.**
- Recommendations aim for minimal amendments to the Constitution and have garnered support from 32 out of 47 political parties contacted, including the BJP and the National People's Party.

**Oldest 'Dead Galaxy' Discovered by James Webb Telescope**



**Context:**

- Astronomers using the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) have found the oldest known **"dead" galaxy.**
- Named **JADES-GS-z7-01-QU, it ceased star formation when the universe was just 5% of its current age.**

**Significance:**

- This discovery surpasses **prior findings by approximately 500 million years.**
- It marks the earliest instance of a **"dead" galaxy.**
- Astrophysicist Tobias Looser likens its star formation pattern to James Dean's sudden halt, post a rapid burst of activity.
- Despite ample gas availability in the early universe, **star formation abruptly stopped.**

**Characteristics:**

- **Estimated to contain 100 million to one billion stars.**
- Comparable in size to the Small Magellanic Cloud but devoid of ongoing star formation.
- Existing stars **will expire without replacement, leading to a color shift from blue to yellow to red.**

**Potential Causes:**

- Researchers speculate on **reasons for cessation, including the influence of a supermassive black hole or gas depletion.**
- The JWST's advanced capabilities enabled a snapshot observation, leaving open the possibility of resumed star formation.



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About James Webb Space Telescope:

- Launched in **December 2021**, it's the most potent space telescope constructed to date.
- Tailored for **infrared astronomy**, it explores **objects beyond the reach of the Hubble Space Telescope**.
- Primarily aims to **study the earliest stars and galaxies, providing insights into the universe's infancy**.
- Its inaugural image was captured in **July 2022**, leading to numerous discoveries, including ancient galaxies.

Kochrab Ashram



Context:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the redeveloped **Kochrab Ashram in Ahmedabad, Gujarat**, marking the **94th anniversary of the Dandi March**.
- Kochrab Ashram was Gandhi's first home in India after returning from South Africa in **1915**.
- Modi also revealed the master plan for the Rs 1,200 crore Gandhi Ashram Memorial and Precinct Development Project.

Future Plans for Gandhi Ashram Memorial

- The master plan aims to expand the ashram to 55 acres, restoring and conserving 36 buildings, including Gandhi's residence, Hriday Kunj.
- It includes new structures for administration facilities, visitor amenities, interactive workshops, and public utilities.
- An orientation center, a library, and archive buildings will be built to safeguard and disseminate Gandhi's ideas.

Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary



Context:

- The Supreme Court stopped the **Assam government from withdrawing a 26-year-old notification that established the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, known for its significant rhino population**.
- The Supreme Court stated that revoking a notification for a wildlife sanctuary requires permission from the **National Board of Wildlife**. It clarified that its order does not hinder efforts to protect the rights of forest dwellers.

About:

- Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary is known for holding






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	<p>the highest density of <b>Greater One Horned Rhinoceros in the country.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Sanctuary consists of the Rajamayong Reserve Forest and Pobitora Reserve Forest. The Rajamayong hills harbor several species including Leopard, Capped Langur, Porcupine, Pangolin, etc.</li> <li>• Often called '<b>Mini Kaziranga,</b>' it shares similar landscape and vegetation with its renowned counterpart.</li> <li>• Approximately <b>72% of Pobitora's area comprises a wet savannah dominated by Arundo donax and Saccharum grasses, with the rest covered by water bodies.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>About One-Horned Rhino:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>IUCN Red List Status:</b> Vulnerable.</li> <li>• <b>Habitat:</b> Mainly found in <b>Assam, West Bengal, and Uttar Pradesh.</b></li> <li>• Assam is home to an estimated <b>2,640 rhinos in four protected areas: Pobitora Wildlife Reserve, Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park, Kaziranga National Park, and Manas National Park.</b></li> </ul>
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## Kerala Regional News

<p><b>World Kidney Day</b></p>  <p>The poster features a teal background with a red heart in the center, held by two hands. A stethoscope is draped around the heart. The text 'WORLD KIDNEY DAY 2024' is at the top, and '14TH MARCH' is on a red ribbon below it. There are white plus signs scattered around. The Adda247 logo is in the top right corner.</p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>World Kidney Day is observed</b> each year on the <b>second Thursday of March (which was March 14th, 2024)</b></li> <li>• It is a <b>global campaign to raise awareness about kidney health.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Theme:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The theme for the 2024 campaign is '<b>Kidney Health For All.</b>'</li> <li>• This theme focuses on the <b>increasing burden of chronic kidney disease and achieving optimal kidney care</b> to overcome these challenges at different levels.</li> </ul> <p><b>About:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World Kidney Day <b>first took place in 2006.</b></li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was established by the International Society of Nephrology and the International Federation of Kidney Foundations with the goal of raising awareness about the importance of kidney health and reducing the impact of kidney disease.</li> <li>The first year's slogan was "Are Your Kidneys OK?"</li> </ul>
<p><b>Kerala government to adopt mitigation steps to address man-animal conflicts</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kerala is taking steps to address the growing problem of man-animal conflict.</li> <li>The government plans a multi-pronged approach including:</li> </ul> <p><b>Habitat improvement:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restoring wildlife corridors and ensuring access to food and water within forests to reduce animals venturing into human settlements.</li> </ul> <p><b>Physical barriers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Building fences like those using beehives to deter animals without harming them.</li> </ul> <p><b>Community awareness:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educating people on living alongside wild animals and safe practices to minimize conflict.</li> <li>These efforts aim to ensure the safety of both humans and wildlife.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Amid national downturn, Kerala's startup ecosystem grew 15% in 2023</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>While India's startup scene faced a slowdown in 2023, Kerala's startup ecosystem saw a surprising 15% growth in funding compared to 2022.</li> <li>This positive growth stands out against national leaders like Karnataka which witnessed a massive 72% decline.</li> </ul> <p><b>About:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kerala's startups raised \$33.2 million in 2023, a significant increase from the previous year's \$28.9 million.</li> <li>This growth places Kerala as the 11th ranked startup hub in India, with a total funding of \$354 million so far.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Global recognition for Kerala govt's 'Sneharamam' project</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In a great achievement, the 'Sneharamam' government project, launched with an aim of making Kerala more greener, is recognised by the World Records Union.</li> </ul> <p><b>About:</b></p>



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- The project involved converting **garbage dump sites into parks**.
- As part of the project, carried out jointly by the State Government's Higher Education Department and the National Service Scheme (NSS), **around 3,000 garbage dump sites across the state were converted into 'Sneharamam' Parks for the public.**
- The State Government's Higher Education Department and the National Service Scheme (NSS) worked together on the project.

World Consumer Rights Day



Context:

- World Consumer Rights Day is an **annual event held on March 15th.**
- It's a day to **raise awareness about consumer rights and empower consumers around the world.**

Theme 2024:

- This year's theme is **"Fair and Responsible AI for Consumers"**.
- It focuses on the **impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on consumers and the need for ethical and transparent practices.**

History:

- Inspired by a **1962 speech by President John F. Kennedy** on consumer rights, the consumer movement began **marking World Consumer Rights Day in 1983.**

Significance:

- The day promotes **informed consumer choices, fights against unfair business practices, and educates consumers about their rights.**

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