



18 March 2024

National and International News

ULLAS Initiative



Context:



- The Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education, Government of India, is conducting the **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT)** under the **ULLAS - Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram** on 17th March 2024, across 23 states.

About:

- Government of India has approved a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme "**ULLAS (Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society)**" for the period FYs 2022-2027 to cover all the aspects of Education For All (erstwhile termed as Adult Education) to **align with National Education Policy 2020**.
- **The objectives of the scheme** is to impart not only Foundational Literacy and Numeracy but also to cover other components which are necessary for a citizen of 21 st century such as
 - **Critical Life Skills** (including financial literacy, digital literacy,
 - **commercial skills, health care and awareness, child care and education, and family welfare**);
 - **Vocational Skills Development** (with a view towards obtaining local employment);
 - **Basic Education** (including preparatory, middle, and secondary stage equivalency)
 - and Continuing Education (including engaging holistic adult education courses in arts, sciences, technology, culture, sports, and recreation, as well as other topics of interest or use to local learners, such as more advanced material on critical life skills).
- The scheme will be implemented through **volunteerism through online mode**.
- The scheme will cover **non-literates of the age group of 15 years and above in all state/UTs in the country**.
- The **ULLAS app**, available on both Android and




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	<p>iOS, was launched to provide a user-friendly and interactive digital gateway for learners to access diverse learning resources through the DIKSHA portal of NCERT.</p> <p>Read about DIKSHA portal.</p>
<p>EXERCISE LAMITIYE – 2024</p>  <p>Indian Army contingent departing for the joint military exercise "Exercise Lamitiye – 2024"</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian Army contingent left for Seychelles to partake in the tenth edition of the Joint Military Exercise “Lamitiye-2024” with the SDF(Seychelles Defence Forces). Lamitiye, translating to 'Friendship' in Creole, is a biennial event held in Seychelles since 2001. 45 personnel from the Gorkha Rifles of the Indian Army and SDF each will join the exercise. <p>Aim:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance interoperability in Sub-conventional Operations in Semi-Urban environments under Chapter VII of the UN Charter on Peace Keeping Operations. Foster cooperation and interoperability during Peace Keeping Operations. Strengthen bilateral military relations and exchange skills, experiences, and good practices.
<p>Grievance Redressal Assessment Index</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <p>The Ministry of Home Affairs has consistently ranked among the top 10 ministries in 2023-24 in the Grievance Redressal Assessment Index (GRAI), performing well in all 15 specified indicators.</p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) conceived and designed GRAI. Objective: GRAI aims to offer a comparative view of organizations and highlight their strengths and areas for improvement in grievance redressal mechanisms. Parameters: A comprehensive index was used to rank based on four dimensions: Efficiency, Feedback, Domain, and Organizational Commitment. Data Source: Data from the Centralised Public Grievance Redressal and Management System (CPGRAMS) <p>CPGRAMS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centralized Public Grievance Redress and



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	<p>Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) is an online platform available to the citizens 24x7 to lodge their grievances to the public authorities on any subject related to service delivery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a single portal connected to all the Ministries/Departments of Government of India and States. • Every Ministry and States have role-based access to this system. CPGRAMS is also accessible to the citizens through standalone mobile application downloadable through Google Play store and mobile application integrated with UMANG.
<p>Pandavula Gutta</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently, Pandavula Gutta has been officially recognized as the sole Geo-heritage site in Telangana. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located in the Jayashankar Bhupalpally district, this geological marvel predates the Himalayan hills. • Discovered in 1990, it boasts numerous prehistoric habitation sites, showcasing a rich history from the mesolithic to medieval times. • The site is renowned for its abundance of paintings, rock shelters, and evidence of human habitation. • The cave paintings, in green, red, yellow, and white pigments, feature geometrical designs and impressions. • These paintings provide a unique insight into prehistoric rock art, found on cave walls, ceilings, and boulders. • Noteworthy depictions in the rock art include various wildlife such as bison, antelope, tiger, and leopard. • Additionally, symbols like the swastika, along with shapes such as circles and squares, and weapons like bows, arrows, swords, and lances, are present. <p>Geo heritage site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geo-heritage sites, like Pandavula Gutta, are geologic features with significant scientific, educational, cultural, or aesthetic value. • They may feature textbook geologic landscapes, unique rock or mineral types, rare fossils, or other geologic characteristics relevant to education and research.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Such sites can also hold cultural or historical significance, with landscapes that played a role in past events. • Aesthetically, these sites can be visually captivating due to their geologic features or processes, often attracting tourists and providing economic benefits to the local area.
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Kerala Regional News

<p>Kerala Animal Husbandry dept. plans to register 'Thenmala Kullan' as indigenous breed</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerala's Animal Husbandry department is taking steps to conserve and officially recognize the 'Thenmala Kullan' dwarf cow as a unique indigenous breed. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The department has identified some Thenmala Kullan in Arippa and Thenmala areas for further study by the Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (KVASU). • Thenmala Kullan are known for their small size, hump, and adaptation to local forest-based fodder. • While they produce A2 milk, the quantity is low, and these cows are primarily raised for calves and manure. • Registering as an indigenous breed requires meeting criteria set by the National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR) which includes physical characteristics and genetic makeup.
<p>International Paragliding Festival concludes</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The four-day International Paragliding Festival at Wagamon in Idukki concluded on March 17. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local competitor Jobin Sebastian from Enthayar secured a commendable third-place finish. • Sushanth Thakor (Himachal Pradesh) and Aman Thapa (Nepal) clinched the top positions. <p>About:</p>



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- The price for the first prize is ₹1.5 lakh, while the second prize winner takes away ₹1 lakh, and the third prize winner gets ₹50,000.

Global Recycling Day



Context:

- Global Recycling Day is an annual event on March 18 that helps to acknowledge that recycling is a key part of a circular economy that helps to protect the environment and Earth's natural resources

History:

- It was the brainchild of the Bureau of International Recycling, with the first announcement coming in 2015 by its president, Ranjit Singh Baxi.
- The inaugural celebration followed a few years later in 2018.
- The day is now recognized by the United Nations as well.

About:

- The year 2024 marks the 7th Global Recycling Day
- Global Recycling Day 2024 focuses on the theme #RecyclingHeroes.
- It's a call to recognize individuals and initiatives making a positive impact through recycling.

ISRO Chief receives award

Context:

- The 14th Karikkakathamma Award was given to S. Somanath, Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- The award was instituted by the Karikkakam Sree Chamundi Temple Trust in connection with the annual festival at the temple.

About:

- The Karikkakathamma Award is given in connection with the temple's annual festival.
- It recognizes distinguished individuals for their achievements.

Ordnance Factories Day

Context:



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- **Ordnance Factories Day** is celebrated on **March 18th** every year in India.
- It commemorates the **establishment of the first Ordnance Factory in Cossipore, Kolkata, in 1801.**

About:

- The day highlights the **contributions of the Ordnance Factories Board (OFB) to India's self-reliance in defense equipment.**
- The OFB is a crucial organization **under the Ministry of Defence.**
- It is responsible for manufacturing a **wide range of weaponry and ammunition for the Indian Armed Forces.**
- Often referred to as the **"Fourth Arm of Defence",** the OFB plays a vital role in national security.

Theme:

- Ordnance Factories Day 2024 theme is **"Operational Efficiency, Readiness, and Mission Accomplishment in the Maritime Domain".**

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