




30 May 2024

National and International News

<p>Magellan Mission</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientists' new study reveals volcanic activity on Venus. • The activity occurred from 1990 to 1992. • Venus exhibited signs of volcanism during the early '90s. <p>About Magellan Mission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch Date and Mission: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NASA's deep space mission launched on May 4, 1989, to explore Venus. ○ First interplanetary mission launched from the Space Shuttle. • Naming: Named after Ferdinand Magellan, the Portuguese explorer who first circumnavigated the Earth. • Primary Goal: To map the surface of Venus using radar imaging due to the planet's thick atmosphere obstructing visual observation.
<p>RBI's 3 new initiatives</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RBI Governor recently unveiled three major initiatives of the Reserve Bank: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pravaah Portal ○ Retail Direct Mobile App ○ FinTech Repository <p>About RBI's 3 new initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pravaah Portal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Purpose: A secure, centralized web-based platform for individuals or entities to seek authorizations, licenses, or regulatory approvals from the RBI. • Retail Direct Mobile App: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Purpose: Facilitate retail investors to open Retail Direct Gilt accounts with the RBI ○ Features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Allows retail investors to buy Government Securities (G-Secs) in primary auctions.



Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● FinTech: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Capture essential information about FinTech entities, their activities, and technology uses. ■ Provide a comprehensive understanding of the Indian FinTech sector for policymakers and industry participants. ○ Coverage: Includes both regulated and unregulated FinTech entities. ○ Management: Managed by the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), a wholly-owned subsidiary of RBI.
<p>Himalayan serow</p> 	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A Himalayan serow was recently spotted in the central part of Nameri National Park and Tiger Reserve. <p>About Himalayan serow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Appearance: Resembles a cross between a goat, a donkey, a cow, and a pig. ● Types: Several species of serows exist, all found in Asia. The Himalayan serow is a subspecies of the mainland serow (<i>Capricornis sumatraensis</i>). ● Diet: Herbivorous. ● Distribution: ● Regions: Found in eastern, central, and western Himalayas; not in the Trans Himalayan region. ● Conservation Status: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IUCN Red List: Vulnerable ○ CITES: Appendix I ○ The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I



Anopheles stephensi

Why in news?

- The spread of the mosquito species **Anopheles stephensi** across **Africa** exacerbates the continent's malaria burden, where 90% of the world's malaria deaths occur.

About Anopheles stephensi:

- **Native Region:** South Asia.
- **Disease Transmission:** Transmits both Plasmodium falciparum and P. vivax.
- **Comparison with African Vectors:** Unlike African malaria vectors, which are typically found in rural areas, **An. stephensi** thrives in urban environments.
- **Public Health Concerns:**
 - Poses a **significant threat in urban areas.**
 - The **invasion of An. stephensi into Africa threatens malaria elimination efforts**, especially with 42.5% of Africa's population living in urban areas.

Virupaksha temple



Why in news?

- A portion of the **Virupaksha temple** in Karnataka collapsed following torrential rains.

About Virupaksha temple:

- **Location:** Hampi, Karnataka.
- **Historical Significance:**
 - Part of the **Group of Monuments at Hampi**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
 - Built during the **Vijayanagara Empire** in the 7th century.
- **Deity:** Dedicated to **Lord Virupaksha**, a form of Shiva.
- **Architecture:**
 - **Dravidian style.**
 - Notable features include a **towering gopuram (entrance tower) approximately 50 meters high.**
 - Intricately **carved pillars and ornate ceilings.**



Kerala Regional News

<p>Antarctic Treaty</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting, also known as the Antarctic Parliament, began on May 20 in Kochi, Kerala, and will continue until May 30. • The meeting will cover various topics related to Antarctica, with a focus on increasing tourism and its implications. <p>About Antarctic Treaty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment: Signed on December 1, 1959, and entered into force on June 23, 1961. • Purpose: To ensure that Antarctica is used exclusively for peaceful purposes and to prevent any military activity on the continent. • Key Provisions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Peaceful Use: Prohibits military activity, such as the establishment of military bases, maneuvers, and weapon testing. ○ Scientific Cooperation: Promotes international scientific cooperation, including the exchange of research plans and personnel. ○ Environmental Protection: Preserves the natural environment of Antarctica and its dependent ecosystems. ○ Territorial Claims: Freezes territorial sovereignty claims and does not recognize, dispute, or establish any new claims. ○ Nuclear Activity: Bans nuclear explosions and the disposal of radioactive waste. • Membership: Initially signed by 12 countries; as of now, over 54 countries have acceded to the treaty.
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Right to Information (RTI)
Act

Why in news?

- The **State Information Commission** has stated that **Kerala Bank is required to provide information** to the public under the **Right to Information (RTI) Act**.

About Right to Information (RTI) Act:

- **Enactment:** The RTI Act was enacted by the Parliament of India in **2005**.
- **Objective:** To **promote transparency and accountability** in the working of every public authority.
- **Public Authorities Covered:** Includes all constitutional authorities, including the executive, legislature, and judiciary, as well as any institution or body established or constituted by an act of Parliament or a state legislature.
- **Right to Information:** Citizens have the right to request information from any public authority, which is required to reply expeditiously or within thirty days.
- **Public Information Officer (PIO):** Each public authority must appoint PIOs to process requests.



Digitisation of Rajaraja Varma's diaries

Why in news?

- Kerala Archives department to digitise Rajaraja Varma's diaries.

Key Points:

- **Historical Significance:** The diaries of M Rajaraja Varma, the Travancore Devaswom Commissioner in the 1920s, provide a rare opportunity to explore significant socio-cultural and religious events in Kerala.
- **Key Event Chronicled:** The diaries notably include entries about the Vaikom Satyagraha.
- **Digital Access:** The diaries will be digitized and made available to researchers to prevent deterioration and enhance accessibility.

About Vaikom Satyagraha:

- **Objective:** To secure the rights of lower-caste people to use the roads surrounding the Vaikom Temple in Kerala.
- **Location:** Vaikom, Kerala.
- **Background:** The temple and its surrounding roads were restricted to upper-caste Hindus, denying lower-caste individuals access.
- **Key Figures:**
 - **K. Kelappan:** Led the initial protest.
 - **Mahatma Gandhi:** Supported the movement and visited Vaikom.
 - **Periyar E.V. Ramasamy:** Played a significant role in the movement's success.
 - **T. K. Madhavan:** Instrumental in organizing the satyagraha.



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<p>Extreme Poverty Eradication Programme (EPEP)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A study by the Centre for Socio-Economic and Environment Studies revealed that Kerala's Extreme Poverty Eradication Programme (EPEP), implemented through Kudumbashree, excludes around 18% of extremely poor households with only male members. <p>About EPEP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective: To eradicate extreme poverty in Kerala by 2025. Launch Date: October 2022. Target Population: Approximately 64,000 extremely poor families identified across the state. Key Features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holistic Approach: Focuses on providing housing, food security, healthcare, education, and employment. Collaborative Effort: Involves multiple government departments, local self-government institutions, and NGOs. Customization: Tailored interventions based on the specific needs of each family. Monitoring and Evaluation: Regular tracking and assessment to ensure the effectiveness of the interventions.
<p>NavAlt</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A solar-electric boat named "Limo," fully manufactured in Kochi by NavAlt Solar and Electric Boats, will be introduced in Ayodhya for tourists and pilgrims. This boat is the eighth green-fuel vessel built by NavAlt to be delivered outside Kerala. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NavAlt, which previously launched India's first solar ferry "Aditya" in 2017, has built multiple solar-electric boats, including the largest one, "Indra," for the Kerala State Water Transport Department. NavAlt has been recognized with over 20 accolades, including the World's Best Startup in Mobility and Transportation (2023).



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