



04 June 2024

National and International News

<p>Postal Ballot</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The opposition recently urged the Election Commission to prioritize the counting of postal ballots before finalizing the counting of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). • They cited concerns over a guideline change implemented in 2019. <p>About Postal Ballot:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postal ballot voting enables eligible voters to submit their votes via mail, providing a convenient option for those unable to visit polling places in person. • Eligibility Criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Service Voters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Members of the armed forces. ■ Paramilitary forces personnel. ■ Government employees assigned to election duties away from home. ○ Electors on Election Duty: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Government officials. ■ Polling staff working at polling stations outside their home areas. ○ Preventive Detention: Electors under preventive detention orders during the election period. ○ Essential Service Workers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Authorized media personnel. ■ Railway and healthcare workers. ○ Absentee Voters: Individuals unable to vote in person due to work commitments, illness, or disability. ○ Senior Citizens and PwDs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Senior citizens aged 80 and above. ■ Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), applicable in the 2020 Delhi Assembly elections.
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PraVaHa

Why in news?

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has developed a sophisticated **Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) software** named **Parallel RANS Solver for Aerospace Vehicle Aero-thermo-dynamic Analysis (PraVaHa)**.
- This software was **developed at ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)**.

About PraVaHa:

- **Capabilities:**
 - Simulates external and internal flows on: Launch vehicles, Winged and non-winged re-entry vehicles.
- **Essential for initial aerodynamic design studies,** evaluating numerous configurations.
- **Significance**
 - Aerospace vehicles face severe aerodynamic and aerothermal loads during launch or re-entry.
 - Understanding airflow around aircraft, rocket bodies, or Crew Module (CM) is crucial for designing shape, structure, and Thermal Protection System (TPS).
- **Role of Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD):**
 - **Predicts aerodynamic and aerothermal loads.**
 - **Numerically solves conservation equations** of mass, momentum, and energy, along with the equation of state.
- **Application in Gaganyaan Program:**
 - **Used extensively for aerodynamic analysis** of human-rated launch vehicles:
 - HLVM3
 - Crew Escape System (CES)
 - Crew Module (CM)
 - Operational Capabilities
 - Simulates airflow for Perfect Gas and Real Gas conditions.



<p>"Bank Clinic" initiative</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA) has launched the "Bank Clinic" initiative to help bank customers with grievance redressal. <p>About "Bank Clinic" initiative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Objective: Assist bank customers with grievance redressal amid the rapid expansion of technology and RBI guidelines on retail banking.• Nature: Non-resolving advisory platform guiding customers on remedies available per RBI guidelines.• Registration: Customers register their complaints on the Bank Clinic website.• Response Time: Customers receive a reply within five working days.• Guidance Provided: Detailed remedies and relevant RBI guidelines for specific issues.• Additional Channel: Serves alongside the normal Banking Ombudsman process.• Goal: Ensure timely and effective redressal of customer issues.• Limitation: Guides customers but does not directly resolve queries.
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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

<p>Virus-like Particles (VLPs)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientists at the Institute of Advanced Virology (IAV), Thiruvananthapuram, made a significant advancement. • They developed a novel method for generating non-infectious Nipah virus-like particles (VLPs). • This development was achieved in a laboratory setting. <p>About Virus-like Particles (VLPs):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition: VLPs are molecules that resemble viruses but are non-infectious due to the absence of viral genetic material. • Use in Vaccines: VLPs are used to create vaccines for diseases such as HPV, hepatitis B, malaria, and more. • Mechanism: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ VLPs mimic real viral molecules, triggering an immune response without causing disease symptoms. ○ After the immune response, the body recognizes and can prevent future infections by the actual virus, providing immunity.
<p>Chang'e-6</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China's space agency announced a successful moon mission. • An uncrewed spacecraft landed on the far side of the moon. <p>About Chang'e-6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission Name: Chang'e-6 • Objective: First human sampling and return mission from the far side of the moon • Landing Site: South Pole-Aitken Basin on the back of the moon • Historical Context: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Marks the second successful mission to the far side of the moon ○ China first accomplished this with Chang'e-4 probe in 2019



Kerala Regional News

<p>Star classification system for toddy shop</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a significant move aimed at modernizing the toddy shop industry in Kerala, the Kerala Tourism Development Corporation (KTDC) is set to implement a new star classification system. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Star Classification System: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new system categorizes toddy shops into three tiers based on their size: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three cents, Five cents, and 50 cents. The Excise Department will oversee the classification process, with the star status determining the permissible distance from various establishments. This initiative aims to streamline operations, enhance customer experience, and create a more equitable environment for toddy shops in Kerala.
<p>Kerala State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (K-SOTTO)</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Kerala State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (K-SOTTO) has faced criticism for its inaction regarding unauthorized organ donations. <p>About K-SOTTO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment: K-SOTTO was established to streamline and regulate organ and tissue transplantation in Kerala. Objective: The primary goal is to ensure ethical, transparent, and efficient organ and tissue transplantation. Coordination: It acts as a coordinating body for organ donation and transplantation activities in the state. Awareness Programs: K-SOTTO conducts various awareness campaigns to promote organ donation among the public.



Pachathuruthu project

Why in the news?

- The **Pachathuruthu project** will help Kerala achieve the **Net Zero Carbon Kerala target**, set for **2050**.

About Pachathuruthu project:

- **Developing Agency:** Haritha Kerala Mission.
- **Scale:** **1,000** pachathuruths (**green spaces**) to be developed.
- **Participating Entities**
 - MGNREGS (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme)
 - Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme
 - Social Forestry Department
 - Agriculture Department
 - State Medicinal Plants Board Kerala
 - Kerala Forest Research Institute
 - Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden & Research Institute (JNTBGRI)
 - Forestry College
- **Inception:** June 5, **2019**, on six cents of land at Vengode in Pothencode panchayat.
- **Growth:** Expanded to 2,950 pachathuruths covering 856.23 acres in five years.
- **Project Goals:**
 - **Protect sacred groves and mangroves.**
 - **Plant shade trees** with public participation.
 - **Set up pachathuruths in every ward** of 91 grama panchayats and a municipality.



Konkani language

Why in the news?

- Society in Kerala's Mattancherry on a mission to keep **Konkani** alive.

Key points:

- The **minority Konkani group in Mattancherry has roots in Goa and parts of Maharashtra.**
- Preserving their **language, which dates back to approximately 500 BC**, is vital to them.
- Elder Konkani speakers initiated the **Konkani Kavi Sangam** a decade ago.

About Konkani language:

- **Origin and Classification:**
 - Konkani is an **Indo-Aryan language** belonging to the **Indo-European language family.**
 - It is **primarily spoken along the western coast of India**, especially in the states of **Goa, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Kerala.**
- **Historical Significance:**
 - Konkani has a rich literary tradition with **works dating back to the 13th century.**
 - It has been **influenced by various languages** due to historical trade and colonial presence, including **Portuguese, Arabic, and Kannada.**
- **Official Status:**
 - Konkani is one of the **22 scheduled languages of India** recognized by the Indian Constitution.
 - It is the **official language of the state of Goa.**



Chelavoor Venu

Why in the news?

- Film critic, writer, and film society activist **Chelavoor Venu** passed away.

About Chelavoor Venu:

- Born on March 1, **1944**, in **Chelavoor village** near **Kozhikode**.
- **Wrote his first movie review** for 'Umma' in Class VIII, published in **Chandrika Weekly**.
- **Political Involvement:** Drawn to **Left-wing politics** during student years and **involved in state leadership of Left-wing student and youth organizations**.
- **Journalism Career:**
 - Began with the **biweekly literary and cultural magazine 'Yuvabhavana'** in 1965.
 - Worked as a scriptwriter for **Kozhikode Akashvani** on a contract basis.
 - **Launched the sports magazine 'Stadium'** in 1967.
 - **Launched the psychology magazine 'Psycho'** in 1969, a celebrated chapter in Malayalam journalism.

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