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International & National News

Karnataka to reduce burden of school bags by 50%



Context

- The Karnataka government has taken steps to reduce the burden of school bags by cutting 50% of textbooks for students of **classes I to X** from the **academic year 2024-25**
- Instead of providing textbooks once for the entire year, the state will give two books per year, divided into two parts, (**Summative Assessment**) **SA-1 and SA-2**.

Key points

- In 2019, a committee comprising education experts, pediatricians, doctors, legal advisers, and officials of the **Department of State Education Research and Training (DSERT)** conducted a study to reduce the school bag burden.
- They concluded that the weight of school bags for students of classes I to II could be **1.5 to 2 kg**.
- For classes 3 to 5, **the proposed range was 2 to 3 kg**, for classes 6 to 8, the **proposed range was 3 to 4 kg**, and for classes 9 and 10, the recommendation was 4 to 5 kg.

Geological Survey of India opens the first camp office in A.P

Context

- The **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** opened its first camp office for **Andhra Pradesh in Vijayawada**.
- Andhra Pradesh is one of the mineral-rich States.
- The new office will **help coordinate with the State government** on matters related to mineral exploration.

Touchscreen





- A touchscreen is a surface that combines two functions: **to receive inputs for a computer (say, tapping on an app) and to display the output (launching the app)**.
- Aside from smartphones, touchscreens are also found today in ATMs, various household appliances (including TVs and AC panels), e-readers, billing systems, and electronic voting machines.
- The touchscreen was **invented by an engineer named E.A. Johnson at the Royal Radar Establishment in Malvern, U.K., in 1965**
- The two most common types of touchscreens are **capacitive and resistive**
- Of these, capacitive touchscreens are used in smartphones and other portable 'information appliances'.



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<p>NaMo app</p>	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Prime Minister launched the “Jan Man Survey” on the NaMo app with exhaustive questions on the performance of his government and that of local representatives. The app is at the forefront of Mr. Modi’s digital interaction with people. It has more than two crore subscribers.
<p>No job quota for people with blood disorders</p>	<p>Context People with blood disorders such as thalassemia, hemophilia, and sickle cell disease are not eligible for reservation in government jobs under the Persons with Disabilities category.</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The three diseases were included on the list of disabilities under the Right to Persons with Disabilities Act of 2016 Under Section 34 of the law, “persons with blood disorders including Thalassemia are not eligible for reservation in jobs in government establishments”. A 4% quota in government jobs was available for those with no vision and low vision; no hearing and low hearing; locomotor disability, including cerebral palsy; leprosy cured; dwarfism; muscular dystrophy; autism, and intellectual disability; acid attack victims; and others.
<p>Volcano erupts in Southwest Iceland</p> 	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A volcano erupted close to an Iceland power plant after weeks of intense seismic activity southwest of Reykjavik. The eruption was only 3 km from the evacuated fishing port of Grindavik on the Reykjanes peninsula
<p>International Hockey Federation(FIH) annual awards</p> 	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian men’s hockey team midfielder Hardik Singh and women’s side captain Savita won the FIH Player of the Year and Goalkeeper of the Year (women) awards respectively. This is Hardik’s second big award after the Hockey India Balbir Singh Sr Award for Player of the Year 2022. This is Savita’s third consecutive FIH Women’s Goalkeeper of the Year award.



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NGC 2210



- The **densely packed globular cluster** is known as NGC 2210
- It is in the **Large Magellanic Cloud (LMC)**.
- The LMC is **about 157,000 light-years from Earth**, and is a satellite galaxy of the Milky Way, meaning that the two galaxies are gravitationally bound.

Photoreception



- Photoreception is the **activation of a biological process by light**.
- Most organisms, including humans, respond to light. Some animals react to light waves not perceived by humans.
- Vertebrates have **two types of photosensitive cells, rods and cones**, so called because of their shape.
- **The rods**, which are long and fat, contain large amounts of visual pigment and they mediate vision under dim illumination (scotopic vision).
- **The relatively small cone cells** mediate daylight vision (photopic vision) and colour sensation.
- The retinas of diurnal animals have localized areas with a high density of cone cells. (The eyes of most birds have two such areas.)
- In nocturnal animals, the retina is mainly made up of rod cells. **Rhodopsin, a photosensitive pigment** present in rods, is decolorized by photons (light particles) and slowly regenerated in the dark. This ensures better vision for them in dim light.

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