



19 September 2023

National and International News

<p>Centre plans to recall RAF from Manipur</p>	<p>Context: The Union government is considering a phased withdrawal of the Rapid Action Force (RAF), a specialized anti-riot Central armed police force, from violence-hit Manipur.</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At present, 10 companies of the RAF are deployed in Manipur. • An internal report sent by the RAF highlights the crisis. • The report flags the injudicious use and inappropriate deployment of the RAF in high-risk areas, with the absence of senior police officers and magistrates at the scene of the incidents.
<p>Rapid Action Force (RAF)</p>	<p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rapid Action Force (RAF) is a specialised wing of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) to deal with riot and crowd control situations. • RAF was raised on 11 December 1991 with headquarters in New Delhi. • It became fully operational on 7 October 1992, to deal with riots, riot-like situations, crowd control, rescue and relief operations, and related unrest. • Its motto is “Serving Humanity with Sensitive Policing” • RAF battalions are based in various parts of the country in order to cut down response time and rush the teams in shortest possible time to counter an incident. • RAF is headed by an officer of the rank of Inspector-General of Police (IGP). • The RAF has a distinctive uniform with a blue-coloured camouflage pattern which symbolises peace.
<p>Nipah cases: Central team to carry out field investigations in Kozhikode</p>	<p>Context Gol’s Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), to carry out field investigations in Kozhikode district, Kerala.</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nipah is a zoonotic disease affecting both humans and animals. • The DAHD has directed the team to submit daily reports and advise the Animal Husbandry Department on measures for disease prevention. • The Central team will be joined by a team from the State Institute for Animal Diseases (SIAD), Palode. • the State Animal Husbandry department had stepped up surveillance in the livestock sector in view of the cases. • The department had also issued a set of guidelines for farmers and the public.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In pigs, for instance, the disease affects the respiratory system and the nervous system. • Steps were taken to identify pig farms near the epicentre of the outbreak and put them under surveillance for symptoms.
<p>India's goods exports shrink for the seventh successive month</p> <p>Concept: Trade Deficit</p>	<p>In news:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India's goods exports and also services exports are shrinking, while its imports have increased. • When a country imports more goods than what it exports, it would have a "deficit" on its trade account. In other words, more money is going out of the country than coming in via the trade of physical goods. Hence, India's current account deficit is likely to widen. <p>What is Trade Deficit?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simply put, trade deficit or negative balance of trade (BOT) is the gap between exports and imports. • When money spent on imports exceeds that spent on exports in a country, trade deficit occurs.
<p>India is at a pivotal moment in its health-care journey</p>	<p>Context India's non-communicable diseases (NCD) burden will be nearly \$4 trillion by 2030.</p> <p>Key points/data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infant mortality has improved by four times, maternal mortality has improved by seven times and the average life expectancy of an Indian is up nearly 30% from 55 years to over 70 now. • Today, India has world-class health-care infrastructure along with incredible clinical talent that delivers the best in class clinical outcomes at incredible scale and at a fraction of the global price. • India's expertise in highly specialised areas such as organ transplants, cardiology, oncology and more has made the country a fast-growing destination for medical value travel (MVT), not just for the price but also for the speed of access and the sheer quality of care. • AI expenditure in India is expected to reach \$11.78 billion by 2025. It is expected to add \$1 trillion to India's economy by 2035.
<p>Cheetah project on the right path of success: govt. Report</p>	<p>Context A government report was released on the completion of one year of the programme. It says that the project is on the right path to becoming a successful large carnivore conservation, translocation, and population-establishment endeavour. Four of the six criteria established for assessing the short-term success of India's cheetah reintroduction programme have already been met</p>



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Key points

- The Cheetah Action Plan, published last year, lists six short-term success criteria: survival of 50% of the introduced cheetahs for the first year; establishment of home ranges in the Kuno National Park; successful cheetah reproduction in the wild; survival of wild-born cheetah cubs past one year; successful first-generation breeding; and cheetah-based revenues contributing to community livelihoods.
- The report noted that the project achieved 50% survival; establishment of home ranges; birth of cubs; and direct revenue contributions to local communities through the engagement of cheetah trackers and indirect appreciation of land value in surrounding areas.

Kuno cheetahs to be released into the wild in winter with collars on

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The cheetahs in Kuno are likely to be released into the wild after the onset of winter, and they will have their collars fitted back on them

Key points

Kuno Palpur National Park:

- Kuno National Park lies in Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh in Central India near the Vindhyan Hills.
- With an area of 748 sq. km, the park is located within the larger Kuno Wildlife Division.
- Initially established as a wildlife sanctuary, it was only in 2018 that the government changed its status into a national park.
- Named after the Kuno River (One of the main tributaries of the Chambal River) that cuts across it, Kuno is primarily a grassland region.
- Flora and Fauna: The protected area of the forest is home to the jungle cat, Indian leopard, sloth bear, Indian wolf, striped hyena, golden jackal, Bengal fox and dhole, along with more than 120 bird species
- Kuno National Park was selected under 'Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India'.

Top Indian chess player

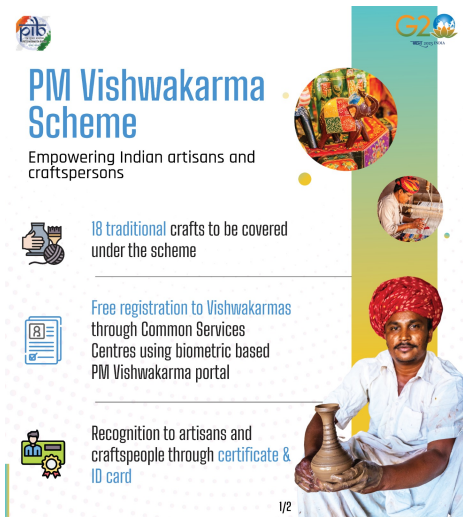


1. D. Gukesh
2. Praggnanandhaa
3. Arjun Erigaisi
4. Nihal sarin



Kerala Regional News

PM Vishwakarma Yojana



PM Vishwakarma Scheme
Empowering Indian artisans and craftspersons

- 18 traditional crafts to be covered under the scheme
- Free registration to Vishwakarmas through Common Services Centres using biometric based PM Vishwakarma portal
- Recognition to artisans and craftspeople through certificate & ID card

In News: PM Vishwakarma to support and protect traditional artisans, says Jaishankar

- The PM VishwaKarma Project, will play an important role in providing support to people engaged in traditional crafts, says External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.
- He said that the Vishwakarmas had left a clear mark on preserving the culture and traditions of the country through their crafts.

Key Points:

- The Vishwakarma Yojana is a pioneering scheme designed to uplift individuals skilled in traditional craftsmanship, particularly from the Other Backward Classes (OBC) community.
- This scheme, named after the divine architect and craftsman Vishwakarma, seeks to preserve and enhance the guru-shishya parampara (teacher-pupil tradition) of passing down skills within families engaged in various artisanal trades.

Vazhamuttom school to be center of excellence





In News: ₹11.3-cr project to make Vazhamuttom school center of excellence

- A ₹11.3-crore project will be implemented to transform Government High School, Vazhamuttom into a center of excellence.
- The project would be implemented in three phases
- By the end of the third phase, the 75,000-sq ft multi-storey building will have 37 classrooms, seven staff rooms, one seminar hall, five utility rooms, two soft play rooms, 18 toilets, and lift facilities

Key Points:

- Government High School Vazhamuttom is a government-run secondary school in Vazhamuttom, Thiruvananthapuram district, Kerala.
- It is affiliated to the Kerala State Education Board and offers classes from 8 to 12.
- The school offers a variety of subjects, including English, Malayalam, Mathematics, Science, Social Science, Hindi, Sanskrit, Computer Science, and Physical Education.



<p>Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA)</p> 	<p>In News: KSDMA recommends drought mitigation steps for Kerala</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) has recommended initiating drought mitigation measures in the State. • Despite above normal rainfall in September (till 17), the monsoon deficit is still hovering around 40%. • Commissioner, Disaster Management, has recommended measures such as following a '3R' (Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle) approach for water security with priority accorded to villages lacking perennial water resources <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) is a statutory non-autonomous body constituted under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 (Central Act 53 of 2005). • It is chaired by the Chief Minister of Kerala and has ten members, including the Chief Secretary, the Additional Chief Secretary (Revenue and Disaster Management), and three technically competent non-ex-officio members.
<p>Cochin University of Science and Technology (Cusat)</p> 	<p>In News: Cusat in Kerala to connect with public through Akashvani Kochi FM 102.3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The research and academic advancements made by the Cochin University of Science and Technology (Cusat) will now be available for listeners of the Akashvani Kochi FM 102.3. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The initiative is aimed at disseminating research findings and academic publications of the university among the public. • It forms part of the efforts to popularize its infrastructural and academic achievements among people from various walks of life.
<p>Kalolsavam, the Kerala State School Arts Festival</p>	<p>In News: Kalolsavam, Kerala State School Arts Festival, to be held in Kollam from January 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State School Arts Festival will be held in Kollam district from January 4 to 8.



Key Points:

- Kalolsavam, the Kerala State School Arts Festival, is one of the largest and most prestigious school arts festivals in the world.
- It is a week-long event that is held every year in a different district in Kerala.
- Over 10,000 students from schools across the state participate in the festival, competing in a wide range of events, including classical and folk dances, music, drama, literature, and visual arts.



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