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National and International News

<p>Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)</p> 	<p>Context The Union government's scheme to provide 5 kg of free food grains every month to 80 crore Indians, which is slated to end this December, will be extended for another five years.</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) was introduced in 2020 as a pandemic relief measure, providing 5 kg of free foodgrains per beneficiary a month in addition to the 5 kg of subsidized foodgrains they were entitled to under the National Food Security Act. This is now being extended to another 5 years.
<p>De-induction of the IL-38</p> 	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The de-induction of the IL-38 aircraft was done recently. C-295 aircraft in the medium-range maritime patrol aircraft (MPA) can take its role in the future <p>About IL-38</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IL-38 is a maritime reconnaissance aircraft that was commissioned into the Indian Navy in 1977 and remained a formidable air asset throughout its service life for nearly 44 years. It was with the induction of IL 38 aircraft that the Navy moved into the arena of airborne Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance (LRMR) combined with long-range anti-submarine search and strike, anti-shipping strike, electronic signal intelligence, and distant SAR. The IL 38 is an all-weather aircraft with long endurance and substantial operating range. Having clocked nearly 10,000 hours of operational flying.
<p>India is set to open a new consulate in Seattle</p>	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of External Affairs has appointed its first Consul-General in the U.S. city, Seattle. This will be the sixth consulate in the U.S.
<p>Zika Virus</p>	<p>Context Five Karnataka villages come under surveillance after the Zika virus outbreak.</p>



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About Zika Virus

- It is a **mosquito-borne virus** that was first identified in the Zika Forest of Uganda in 1947.
- It is primarily transmitted to humans through the bite of infected Aedes mosquitoes, particularly **Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus**.
- It can also spread through sexual contact, blood transfusion, and from an infected mother to her baby during pregnancy or childbirth.
- This virus infection is usually mild, it can have serious consequences for pregnant women and their babies.
- **Infection during pregnancy can lead to birth defects** such as microcephaly, as well as other neurological disorders in the baby.
- It has also been linked to **Guillain-Barré syndrome**, a rare autoimmune disorder that can lead to muscle weakness and paralysis.
- **Treatment:** There is no specific treatment available for Zika virus infection or disease.

NCERT to introduce electoral literacy content in textbooks



Context

In a bid to address voter apathy among young Indians, the **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** will introduce and update textbooks to include content on electoral literacy

Key points

- The measures are part of a memorandum of understanding signed by the **Election Commission of India (EC) and the Education Ministry**.
- It is aimed at extending the EC's flagship **Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP)** in schools and colleges.
- The MoU aims to address issues such as voter apathy among urban and young Indians.

Did you know?

Almost **297 million of the 910 million electors** did not vote in the Lok Sabha election in 2019

NICED makes quick detection of drug-resistant H. pylori possible

Context

- A two-step PCR-based assay of a small region of the **Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori) bacteria** can help detect H. pylori infection and also identify clarithromycin-resistant bacteria and those which are drug-sensitive in six-seven hours



- This has been developed by a team of researchers from the **National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases (ICMR-NICED)**, Kolkata

Kerala Regional News

Kathakali



In News: Kalamandalam M P S Namboodiri is on a mission to publish a book to attract the younger generation to the complex, **colorful world of Kathakali**.

Key Points:

- The book's narration begins by breaking down kathakali into its basic components of **'Katha' (story) and 'kali' (performance)** so that children can understand that it is a game of storytelling," says Namboodiri, who was conferred the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2013**.

About Kathakali:

- Kathakali is a traditional dance-drama form that originated in **Kerala, India**.
- It is known for its elaborate costumes, stylized makeup, and symbolic hand gestures.
- Kathakali **stories are typically based on Hindu mythology, epics, and folktales**.

Kathakali performances are typically divided into **three parts:**

- The **first part** is the introduction, or **"pooja"**. It is a ritualistic offering to the gods and goddesses.
- The **second part** is the **main story**. This is where the dancers enact the story through dance, music, and dialogue.
- The **third part** is the conclusion, or **"epilogue"**. This is where the dancers summarize the story and leave the audience with a moral lesson.


Zika Virus

In News: Seven more court staff test positive for Zika virus in Kannur

- Seven more staff of the local courts functioning in the district court complex at Thalassery here tested positive for Zika Virus
- With this, the total number of cases in the district has gone up to eight.
- With the fresh cases, the health department has issued a high vigil and launched an intensive drive to eradicate mosquitoes in the region.



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	<p>Think:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read about Zika Virus
<p>Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram growing fast</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram are among the ten fastest-growing cities in India. • Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram have been featured in the report prepared by real estate services provider Cushman & Wakefield India which evaluated 17 second-tier cities. • Kerala is the only state with two fast-growing cities. • According to the report, the taste of Malayalees is rapidly changing from the view of independent houses to better apartments. • Kerala cities offer premium accommodation compared to metro cities. • Kerala's urbanization rate is higher than the national average. • Kerala is urbanizing faster than industrial states like Karnataka and Telangana
<p>Upset with controversy, ISRO chairman S Somanath withdraws publishing of his autobiography</p> 	<p>In News:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Displeased by the sudden controversies that clouded his new book, ISRO chairman S Somanath decided to withhold the release of his autobiography 'Nilavu kudicha Simhangaal' for the time being. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Somanath was forced into such a decision after controversies erupted following the revelation of strong infighting within ISRO for the chairman post.

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