



22 November 2023

National and International News

<p>PM to open summit on Global South</p>	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prime Minister to inaugurate the second Voice of Global South Summit. • The summit will be arranged into 10 sessions with the inaugural and concluding sessions meant for the heads of states and governments. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event: Inauguration of the second Voice of Global South Summit by the Prime Minister. • Structure: The summit will have 10 sessions, including inaugural and concluding sessions for heads of states and governments. • Global South: Refers to countries mainly in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, often labelled as developing or underdeveloped. • Characteristics of Global South: These nations generally face higher levels of poverty, income inequality, and challenging living conditions. • Global North: Comprises wealthier nations, primarily located in North America and Europe, along with some in Oceania and other regions.
<p>PM Modi unveils DAKSHIN at Global South Summit</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PM Modi launched a global centre of excellence (DAKSHIN) dedicated to nations of the Global South at the inaugural session of the Second Voice of Global South Summit. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background: DAKSHIN initiative follows PM Modi's proposal at the first summit in January, showing India's commitment to the Global South. <p>India's Pledge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announcement of launching a satellite for weather and climate monitoring, as committed during the G20 Summit. • Emphasis on India's responsible use of technology, particularly in artificial intelligence; Announcement of AI Global Partnership Summit next month. <p>Do you know?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 200 G20 meetings in India focused on Global South concerns and inclusion of Global South topics in the New Delhi Leaders Declaration.



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- India played a crucial role in securing permanent G20 membership for the African Union.

Proposed criminal code gives more immunity to defence personnel



Context

The **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) Bill, 2023**, expected to replace the **Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC)**, provides further immunity to armed forces personnel.

Key points

- **Purpose:** The BNSS Bill, 2023, is intended to replace the existing Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).
- **Immunity to Armed Forces:** It provides additional immunity to armed forces personnel.
- **Sanction for Legal Action:** The bill stipulates that no case can be registered against armed forces personnel without the sanction of the Union or State government for acts performed in the line of duty.
- **Relation to AFSPA:** This provision is in addition to the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), which already grants significant powers to armed forces in disturbed areas.
- **AFSPA Powers:** Under AFSPA, armed forces have the authority to arrest or kill individuals contravening the law, conduct warrantless searches, and are protected from prosecution and legal suits without the Central government's sanction.
- **AFSPA Application:** Currently, AFSPA is applicable in parts of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, and the entirety of Jammu and Kashmir.

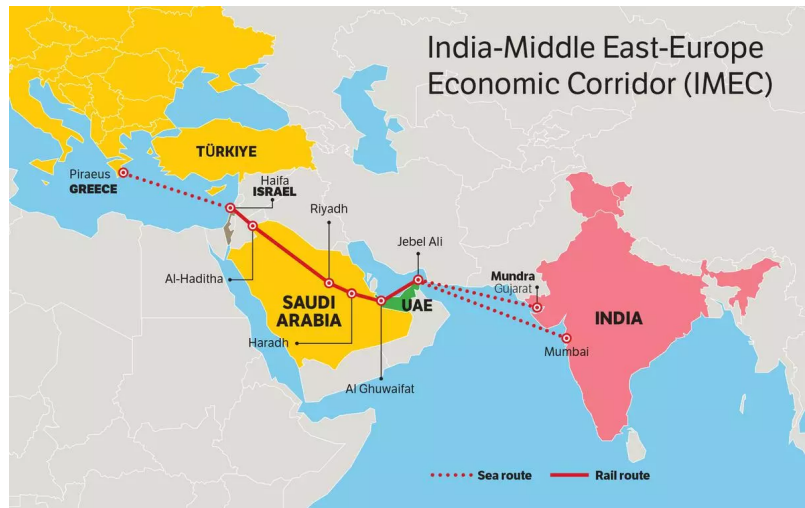
India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) Project

Key points:

- **Components:** The IMEC will include Railroad, Ship-to-Rail networks, and Road transport routes.



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Corridors:

- The East Corridor: Connecting India to the Arabian Gulf.
- The Northern Corridor: Connecting the Gulf to Europe.

Additional Infrastructure: The corridor will also encompass an electricity cable, a hydrogen pipeline, and a high-speed data cable.

Goals:

- To establish a comprehensive transportation network combining rail, road, and sea routes.
- To connect India, the Middle East, and Europe.
- To enhance transportation efficiency and reduce costs.
- To increase economic unity and generate employment.
- To reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions.

Expected Impact: The IMEC is anticipated to transform the integration of Asia, Europe, and the Middle East by bolstering trade and connectivity.

Greenhouse gases hit record high in 2022

Context

- The United Nations warned that Greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere hit new record highs in 2022, with no end in sight to the rising trend
- The **UN's World Meteorological Organization** said levels of the three main greenhouse gases — the climate-warming **carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide** — all broke records last year.

Key points

- The **2015 Paris Agreement** saw countries agree to cap global warming at “well below” 2° C above average levels measured between 1850 and 1900 — and 1.5° C if possible.



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- The global mean temperature in 2022 was **1.15° C above the 1850-1900 average**.

NASA, ISRO prepare to launch joint space mission

Context

The **NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR)** is set to be launched in the first quarter of 2024 after a few tests, particularly those related to vibration

About NISAR:

- NISAR is a **Low Earth Orbit (LEO)** observatory jointly developed by NASA and ISRO.
- It is an **SUV-size satellite** weighing 2,800 kilograms.
- It consists of both **L-band and S-band synthetic aperture radar (SAR)** instruments, which makes it a dual-frequency imaging radar satellite.
- NISAR will be the first satellite mission to use two different radar frequencies (L-band and S-band) to measure changes in our planet's surface.
- SAR is **capable of penetrating clouds** and can collect data day and night regardless of the weather conditions.
- NASA has provided the L-band radar, GPS, a high-capacity solid-state recorder to store data, and a payload data subsystem. ISRO has provided the S-band radar, the GSLV launch system, and spacecraft.
- It also consists of a large 39-foot stationary **antenna reflector** made of a gold-plated wire mesh which will be used to focus “the radar signals emitted and received by the upward-facing feed on the instrument structure.
- It will **measure Earth’s changing ecosystems**, dynamic surfaces, and ice masses, providing information about biomass, natural hazards, sea level rise, and groundwater.
- NISAR will **observe Earth’s land and ice-covered surfaces** globally with 12-day regularity on ascending and descending passes.



Kerala Regional News

First Che International Chess Festival

Context:

- The Che International Chess Festival is a five-day event held in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India.**
- The festival is organised by the **Government of Kerala** and features a variety of chess events, including a young talents tournament, a Kerala vs **Cuba team match**, and simultaneous exhibition matches.
- The main attraction of the festival is the match between India's number 3 and 7 ranked players, **GM R Praggnanandhaa and GM Nihal Sarin.**

Expansion of Water Metro Operations to Ashtamudi Lake



Context:

- Buoyed by the success in **Kochi, the Water Metro** is considering expanding its operations to **Ashtamudi lake**, following a request from Kollam Corporation.
- **The National Transportation Planning and Research Centre (Natpac)** officials have identified three potential routes for the ferry service: **Munroe Island, Alappuzha, and Varkala.**

Key Points:

- A pre-feasibility study conducted in collaboration with Natpac and Water Metro officials supports the suitability of Ashtamudi lake for the service.
- The proposed first phase is between **Kollam Boat Jetty and Munroe Island.**
- The Water Metro aims to attract tourists and enhance **connectivity to Kundra IT park** and nearby panchayats.
- Ashtamudi lake is considered conducive for the service due to its **natural depth, pollution-free environment, and calm waters.**

Malayalam writer P Valsala passes away



Context:

- Valsala has won many accolades including **Sahitya Akademi Award and Ezhuthachchan Award**
- **Nellu** is her Famous novel.
- **Ramu Karyatt** has made a movie with the same name.
- She also won the **Kerala Sahitya Award for Nizhalurangunna Vazhikal.**
- Agneyam, Gauthaman, Palayam, Chaver Aralikkilam, Thakarefia Kontumell Namdevuelt and Vilapam are her other major works.



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<p>Major rivers of Kerala</p>	<p>Periyar River:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Originating in the Western Ghats, the Periyar is one of the longest rivers in Kerala. • It flows through the central part of the state, covering a distance of about 244 kilometres. • The Periyar River is significant for the Periyar National Park, which is one of the prominent wildlife sanctuaries in Kerala. <p>Bharathapuzha (Nila):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bharathapuzha, also known as the Nila River, is the second-longest river in Kerala. • It flows through the central part of the state and has a length of approximately 209 kilometres. • The river is culturally significant, and its basin is often referred to as the "Cultural Capital of Kerala" due to its rich heritage.
<p>Dance forms of Kerala</p>	<p>Context:</p> <p>Kathakali:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Style: Kathakali is a highly stylized classical dance-drama known for its elaborate makeup, colourful costumes, and intricate expressions. • Themes: Typically, Kathakali depicts stories from Indian epics like the Mahabharata and Ramayana. The characters are larger than life, and the performances often involve elaborate facial expressions and dramatic gestures. <p>Mohiniyattam:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Style: Mohiniyattam is a graceful dance form characterised by fluid movements and subtle expressions. It is often performed solo by women. • Themes: The themes of Mohiniyattam often revolve around devotion and love. The dance form draws inspiration from the graceful movements of the mythical enchantress Mohini, a female avatar of Lord Vishnu.

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