





15 January 2023

National and International News

<p>Reconstitution of EPFO governing body</p>	<p>Context The Union government reconstituted the Central Board of Trustees (CBT) of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) by excluding representatives of the Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC), All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) and All India United Trade Union Centre (AIUTUC) from the panel.</p> <p>About EPFO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) was established by an act of Parliament of India. • It aims to provide social security to workers working in India. • It came into force by the Employee Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provision Act, 1952. • EPFO comes under the control of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India.
<p>India's oldest living city</p> 	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A joint study by five prominent institutions(Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Physical Research Laboratory, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and Deccan College) was done. • It has found evidence of a cultural continuity in Vadnagar in present-day Gujarat even after the collapse of the Harappan civilisation, thus making it likely that the "Dark Age" was a myth. <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They found evidence of a human settlement that is as old as 800 BCE contemporary to late-Vedic/pre-Buddhist Mahajanapadas or oligarchic republics • The study also indicates that the rise and fall of different kingdoms during the 3,000-year period and recurrent invasions of India by central Asian warriors were driven by severe changes in climate like rainfall or droughts. • The period between the collapse of the Indus



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	<p>Valley Civilisation and the emergence of the Iron Age and cities such as Gandhar, Koshal, and Avanti is often depicted as a Dark Age by archaeologists.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If true, then it suggests a cultural continuity in India for the last 5500 years and the Dark Age may be a myth
<p>Prabha Atre</p> 	<p>Context Legendary classical singer and Padma Vibhushan recipient Prabha Atre passes away.</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She was born in September 1932 in Pune, Maharashtra • She has won the Padma Shri in 1990, the Padma Bhushan in 2002 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2022. • She received her training in classical music from Sureshbabu Mane, a prominent exponent of the Kirana gharana. • She was equally proficient in different classical genres, be it khyal, tarana, thumri, dadra, ghazal and bhajan, citing the influence of Ustad Amir Khan (founder of the Indore gharana) for khyal and Bade Ghulam Ali Khan (Kasur gharana) for thumri.
<p>Genocide Convention</p>	<p>Context Recently, South Africa had moved the ICJ, invoking the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 1948, against Israel, accusing it of committing genocide during its ongoing military campaign in Gaza.</p> <p>About</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Genocide Convention, 1948, was the first human rights treaty to be adopted by the UN General Assembly. • It primarily arose from a commitment to ‘never again’ allow mass killing of people such as the Holocaust. • South Africa’s case is based upon Article II which says genocide means acts such as killing members of a national, racial, ethnic or religious group; causing serious bodily and mental harm to the members of the group; and



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	<p>deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has also accused Israel of causing hunger, dehydration, and starvation in Gaza by impeding sufficient humanitarian assistance, cutting off water, food, fuel, and electricity, and failing to provide shelter or sanitation to Palestinians in Gaza, including its 1.9 million internally displaced people.
<p>South India leads in pension enrolment</p>	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South India currently has the highest number of National Pension System (NPS) private sector enrolments • Some 31% of private sector enrolments comprising NPS corporate and NPS All Citizen so far this financial year were from the Southern region. • Southern region's share in enrolment in NPS Corporate in FY24 is 39% and for All Citizen it is 29% • Also, some 36% of women participation in NPS Corporate subscriber base came from the Southern region, again highest in the country.

Kerala Regional News

<p>Indian Army Day</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every year on January 15th, India celebrates Army Day, a day to honor the dedication and sacrifice of the brave men and women who safeguard our nation. • This day marks the historic event of Lieutenant General Kodandera M. Cariappa taking over as the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army on January 15, 1949.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This day serves as a source of inspiration for young people, showcasing the values of patriotism, courage, and resilience. “In Service of the Nation” will be the theme for Indian Army Day in 2024
<p>One out of 10 new vehicles in Kerala is electric</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a promising trend, consumers in Kerala are increasingly embracing electric vehicles (EVs). As per data, out of the 7,57,114 vehicles registered in the state in 2023, an impressive 75,650 were electric The districts leading the way are: Ernakulam, Thiruvananthapuram, Thrissur, Kozhikode, and Kollam. In 2022, the total number of EVs registered in Kerala stood at 39,620.
<p>Veeramanidasan to receive Harivarasanam award today</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tamil playback singer P.K.Veeramanidasan will receive this year’s Harivarasanam award at the Sannidhanam auditorium. The award comprises a purse of ₹1,00,000 and a citation. Mr. Veeramanidasan has sung over 6,000 devotional songs in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Sanskrit. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Harivarasanam Award is instituted by the Kerala government to acknowledge distinguished personalities who have enriched the cultural landscape with their dedication to interfaith harmony, social equality, and creative pursuits.
<p>State’s draft animation policy aims at creating 50,000 jobs by 2029</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Kerala government’s draft Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR) policy aims at driving the inception and expansion of 250 such companies and creation of 50,000 new jobs in the sector by 2029. Through this, the State also expects to account for 10% of India’s export revenues in the AVGC-XR industry.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kerala Startup Mission also aims at incubating around 150 start-ups in the sector by that year. • The State government is planning to set up a Centre of Excellence (CoE) in AVGC-XR that will be the cornerstone of the ecosystem in the State.
<p>Alappuzha district panchayat forms 500-member palliative care team</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Alappuzha district panchayat has formed a 500-member palliative care volunteer team to ensure better care and support to bedridden patients in the district. • A five-day training programme for the volunteers was inaugurated by Alappuzha district panchayat president K.G. Rajeshwari • Alappuzha was the first district panchayat in the State to constitute a strong palliative care volunteer team.

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