




25 January 2023

National and International News

<p><b>Turkiye ratifies Sweden's NATO membership</b></p>	<p><b>Context</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Turkiye's Parliament ratified Sweden's NATO membership after more than a year of delay.</li> <li>It has become the <b>32nd member of the security alliance</b></li> </ul> <p><b>About NATO</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Formed in 1949</b> with the signing of the <b>Washington Treaty</b>, NATO is a security alliance of 30 countries from North America and Europe.</li> <li>Recently, <b>Finland joined the alliance as 31st member.</b></li> <li>NATO's fundamental goal is to safeguard the Allies' freedom and security by political and military means.</li> <li>It is a <b>system of collective defence</b> where independent member states agree for mutual defence in case of any attack by external party.</li> <li><b>Article 5 of the Washington Treaty</b> states that an attack against one Ally is an attack against all.</li> <li>This article forms the core of the Alliance, a promise of collective defense.</li> <li><b>Headquarter - Brussels, Belgium.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>French President to attend 'shobha yatra' in Jaipur</b></p>	<p><b>Context</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 'shobha yatra', or public procession, in Jaipur is expected to be the high point of <b>French President Emmanuel Macron's visit to the pink city.</b></li> <li>Jaipur has been chosen by the Indian hosts as the first stopover for the French President</li> <li>He will be the chief guest at the Republic Day parade in New Delhi.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Centre releases three-drug regimen for treating leprosy</b></p>	<p><b>Context</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Union government has approved a new treatment regimen for leprosy, aiming at stopping its transmission at the <b>sub-national level by 2027.</b></li> <li>The WHO says leprosy is a chronic infectious disease caused by <b>Mycobacterium leprae.</b></li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The bacteria are transmitted via droplets from the nose and mouth during close and frequent contact with untreated cases.</li> <li>• Leprosy, reported from all the six WHO regions, is curable with multi-drug therapy (MDT).</li> <li>• The WHO's recommended treatment regimen consists of three drugs — <b>dapsone, rifampicin and clofazimine</b>. The combination is referred to as MDT. The duration of treatment is <b>six months for PB and 12 months for MB cases</b>. MDT kills the pathogen and cures the infection.</li> <li>• The majority of new cases detected are from Southeast Asia.</li> </ul>
<p><b>U.S. officials to come to India to discuss bilateral ties</b></p> 	<p><b>Context</b> Top U.S. diplomats will travel to Delhi to discuss bilateral issues, energy cooperation and possible dates for the Quad Summit with U.S.-Australia-Japan-India leaders</p> <p><b>About QUAD</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Quad is aimed at promoting <b>regional security and economic cooperation</b> in the Indo-Pacific region.</li> <li>• The four countries share a common interest in <b>maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific</b>, promoting democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, and countering China's expanding influence in the region.</li> <li>• The Quad has held several meetings at the ministerial and leaders' level to discuss issues such as maritime security, infrastructure development, and supply chain resilience.</li> <li>• The Quad is seen as a <b>mechanism for balancing China's influence</b> in the region, although its members have stressed that it is not a military alliance and is open to other countries who share their values and interests.</li> </ul>
<p><b>National Voters' Day</b></p>	<p><b>Context</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>National Voters' Day is celebrated every year in India on January 25</b> to encourage the country's voters to participate in the electoral process.</li> <li>• It not only encourages the youth to participate in the electoral process but also focuses on the fact that the right to vote is a basic right.</li> </ul>



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- This day also marks the foundation day of the Election Commission of India, i.e. 25th January 1950.
- This year, it is the 14th edition which is being celebrated.
- **Theme 2024 - 'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote For sure'**

### Did you Know?

- The **first-ever National Voters' Day** was celebrated on January 25, 2011

## Kerala Regional News

### National Voters' Day



### Context:

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- It not only encourages the youth to participate in the electoral process but also focuses on the fact that the right to vote is a basic right.
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### Kerala State Minorities Commission

### Context:

- The **Kerala State Commission for Minorities** has decided to join hands with the Kerala Knowledge Economy Mission to impart skill training to the marginalized among the minorities.
- The aim is to help about one lakh people gain employment this year (2024) by enhancing their skills



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<p><b>Skill development centres to come up in all districts under KASE</b></p> 	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kerala's skill development landscape is set for a major transformation with the Kerala Academy for Skills Excellence (KASE) establishing dedicated centres in all 14 districts.</li> <li>• This ambitious initiative aims to equip individuals with job-ready skills, enhancing employability and bridging the gap between talent and industry needs.</li> <li>• This was decided at a board meeting of the Kerala Academy for Skills Excellence (KASE) that was chaired by Minister for Labour V. Sivankutty</li> </ul>
<p><b>KSUM to transform Kerala into deep-tech start-up hub</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM), the state's entrepreneurial engine, is gearing up to propel Kerala into a thriving hub for deep-tech startups.</li> <li>• This ambitious mission aims to leverage the state's existing strengths in education, talent, and infrastructure to foster innovation in cutting-edge fields like AI, robotics,</li> </ul>
<p><b>Kerala govt to raise Rs 1130 cr via sale of bonds.</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Kerala government has decided to raise Rs 1,130 crore from the market through the sale of bonds.</li> <li>• The auction will be held on the Reserve Bank of India Core Banking Solution (EKuber) system on January 30.</li> <li>• These funds are to be mobilized for the development activities of the state.</li> </ul>

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