




04 March 2024

National and International News

<p>Seizure of CNC Machines Bound for Pakistan at Nhava Sheva Port</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customs authorities at Nhava Sheva port recently intercepted a dual-use shipment on a vessel destined for Karachi, expressing suspicions regarding its potential utilization in Pakistan's nuclear initiatives. <p>About Nhava Sheva Port:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jawaharlal Nehru Port, also known as JNPT and Nhava Sheva Port, is the second largest container port in India after Mundra Port. • Operated by the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust Authority (JNPTA), it is located on the eastern shores of the Arabian Sea in Navi Mumbai, Raigad district, Maharashtra.
<p>Hanguls on the Path to Recovery</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The endangered hangul, a shy deer species native to Kashmir, is showing signs of recovery with a healthy mating season indicating a potential increase in numbers. • The official figure suggested there are 19.2 males per 100 females “which is much lower than the ideal ratio of 40-50 males per 100 females”. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hangul population declined sharply since 1947 but showed a steady increase from 183 in 2015 to 261 in 2021. • Conservation efforts include securing habitats, regulating traffic on highways, and identifying threats. • A captive-breeding facility has been set up to further protect the species. <p>About: Hangul, a subspecies of the Central Asian red deer, is primarily found in the dense riverine forests of the Valley and mountains of Jammu and Kashmir as well as northern Himachal Pradesh.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat: Dense riverine forests of the Valley and mountains of Jammu and Kashmir and northern



	<p>Himachal Pradesh.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threats: Rising pollution, poaching, habitat fragmentation due to land use, and climate change. • Impact of Human Activities: Studies indicate that human activities are major factors contributing to the decline in the Hangul population. • Conservation Status: The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has classified the Hangul as Critically Endangered in the Red Data Book. • Legal Protection: The animal is listed under Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
<p>Cabinet Approval for Semiconductor Plants</p> <p>Potential in India:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2019, India's semiconductor consumption hit US\$21 billion, showing a growth rate of 15.1%. • The country is expected to surpass USD 80 billion in semiconductor consumption by 2026 and USD 110 billion by 2030. • Leading semiconductor manufacturing nations are the USA, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, the 	<p>Context: The Union Cabinet approved three semiconductor plant proposals to strengthen India's semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem.</p> <p>Semiconductor Fab with 50,000 wfsm Capacity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: Dholera, Gujarat • Investment: Rs. 91,000 crore • Partnership: Tata Electronics Private Limited ("TEPL") and Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corp (PSMC), Taiwan • Technology Partner: PSMC, known for expertise in logic and memory foundry segments • Capacity: 50,000 wafer starts per month (WSPM) <p>Segments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High performance compute chips with 28 nm technology • Power management chips for EVs, telecom, defense, automotive, consumer electronics, display, power electronics, etc. <p>Semiconductor ATMP Unit in Assam:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: Morigaon, Assam • Investment: Rs. 27,000 crore • Company: Tata Semiconductor Assembly and Test Pvt Ltd ("TSAT") • Technology: Developing indigenous advanced semiconductor packaging technologies including flip chip and ISIP • Capacity: 48 million per day




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Netherlands, and emerging producers like Germany.

- **Segments:** Automotive, EVs, consumer electronics, telecom, mobile phones, etc.
- Semiconductor ATMP Unit for Specialized Chips:**
- **Location:** Sanand, Gujarat
 - **Investment:** Rs. 7,600 crore
 - **Partnership:** CG Power, Renesas Electronics Corporation (Japan), and Stars Microelectronics (Thailand)
 - **Technology Partner:** Renesas, a leading semiconductor company in specialized chips
 - **Capacity:** 15 million per day
 - **Segments:** Consumer, industrial, automotive, and power applications.

ADITI scheme



- Context:**
Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh unveiled the ADITI scheme at DefConnect 2024 to boost innovations in critical and strategic defence technologies.
- Key points:**
- **Scheme Name:** Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI)
 - **Purpose:** Develop critical and strategic defence technologies.
 - **Falls under:** iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence) framework.
 - **Period:** 2023-24 to 2025-26
 - **Focus:** Innovations in critical and strategic defence technologies from startups
 - **Grant Amount:** Up to **Rs 25 crore for research, development, and innovation** in defence technology
 - **Benefits:** Nurtures youth innovation and advances country's technology sector
 - **Technology Watch Tool:** To bridge gap between modern Armed Forces' needs and defence innovation ecosystem
 - **Challenges:** 17 challenges launched in the first edition for Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, and Defence Space Agency to develop latest technologies
 - **R&D Importance:** Need for self-reliance in technology development due to limitations of technology acquisition through offset and FDI
 - **Government's Support:** Reserved 75% of defence capital acquisition budget for purchases from local companies including MSMEs.



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<p>Shehbaz Sharif Becomes Pakistan's Prime Minister for the Second Time</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shehbaz Sharif, a leader of the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N), has been elected as Pakistan's Prime Minister for the second time. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> He secured 201 votes in the election held at the National Assembly, while his opponent Omar Ayub Khan of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) received only 92 votes. In his victory speech, Shehbaz Sharif emphasized his commitment to revive Pakistan's economy and eradicate terrorism. Shehbaz Sharif vowed to maintain cordial relations with neighboring countries based on principles of equality and not to involve Pakistan in any geopolitical "great game." While emphasizing the importance of improving ties with all nations, he also raised the Kashmir issue, urging for solidarity with the Kashmiri and Palestinian causes.
<p>India's 1st Green Hydrogen Plant in Stainless steel sector</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Union Minister for Steel and Civil Aviation, Sh. Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, inaugurated India's 1st Green Hydrogen Plant in Stainless Steel Sector virtually. The plant, located at Jindal Stainless Limited, Hisar, Haryana is a global milestone, being the world's first off-grid Green Hydrogen plant for the stainless steel industry. It is also the world's first Green Hydrogen plant with rooftop & floating solar. The project targets a significant reduction in carbon emissions, contributing to a sustainable future. This project is also a state-of-the-art green hydrogen facility with a target to reduce carbon emissions considerably by around 2,700 Metric Tonnes per annum and 54,000 tons of CO2 emissions over next two decades. The government encourages "green growth" and "green jobs" to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2070.

Kerala Regional News

<p>National Safety Day</p>	<p>Context:</p>
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- Observed annually on **March 4th**, **National Safety Day in India** is a significant event dedicated to **promoting safety awareness and preventing accidents**.
- It coincides with the **foundation day of the National Safety Council (NSC)**, established in **1966** to address **workplace safety concerns**.

Significance:

- Raises awareness about safety in workplaces, communities, and homes.
- Encourages adoption of safe practices and adherence to safety protocols.
- Serves as a platform for safety campaigns, rallies, and educational programs.

Theme:

- This year's theme is **'Focus on Safety Leadership for Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Excellence'**.

Did you Know?

- National Safety day was **first observed on March 4, 1972**, on the **foundation day of the council**.

Kerala leads in availing education loans, Rs 4.5k crore this fiscal

Context:

- Kerala has emerged as the **leading state in India in availing education loans during the current fiscal year (2023-24)**.
- As of December 2023, **students in Kerala have availed Rs 4,545 crore worth of education loans from public sector banks (PSBs)**, which is a significant **13.8% share** of the total education loans sanctioned by PSBs across the country.
- This represents a **substantial increase from Rs 1,610 crore in FY 2021**, reflecting a **growth of over 324%**.
- The number of loan accounts has also significantly risen, from **14,971 in FY 2021 to 34,398** at the end of **Q3 of FY 2024**.

NIT Calicut partners with Ananth Technologies for Satellite Research Centre

Context:

- The **National Institute of Technology Calicut (NITC)** and **Ananth Technologies Pvt Ltd (ATL)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to **establish a state-of-the-art satellite research centre at NIT Calicut**.
- This collaboration brings together academia and industry expertise, aiming to:

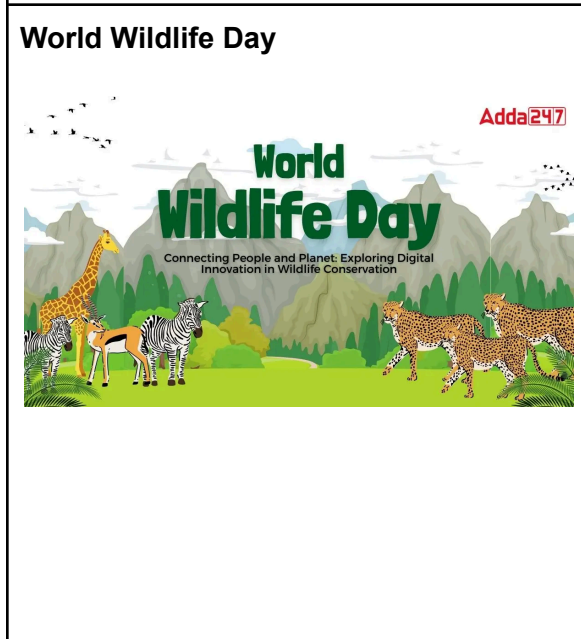


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1. Advance NITC's space research capabilities
 2. Foster innovation and learning among students and faculty
 3. Provide students with industry exposure through lectures, workshops, and potential job placements
- Key aspects of the partnership:**
- NITC will provide the infrastructure for the new centre.
 - ATL, a company with a strong presence in Indian space missions like Chandrayaan-3, will contribute its technical expertise and resources.
 - The collaboration will offer opportunities for research and development in satellite technology.

In a first, Kasaragod conducts 'election grama sabha' to update voter list


- Context:**
- In a **pioneering move** in the country, **Kasaragod has introduced 'election grama sabhas' to update voter list.**
 - Under this scheme, **all polling booths across the Kasaragod constituency will convene a grama sabha, where booth-level officers will read out the voter list.**
 - **Political party representatives and panchayat authorities** can raise complaints and identify corrections to be made.
 - Once the additions and exclusions are identified, forms 6, 7, and 8 are filled and submitted to the booth level officers (BLOs) for further action.



- Context:**
- **United Nations World Wildlife Day (WWD)** is celebrated every year on **March 3.**
 - It is a **global event** dedicated to **raising awareness** about the **diverse and magnificent wildlife on our planet.**
 - It highlights the **critical role these animals and plants play in maintaining healthy ecosystems** and supporting human well-being.
- About:**
- On **20 December 2013**, at its **68th session**, the **United Nations General Assembly**, in its resolution UN 68/205, decided to **proclaim 3 March, the international day of the adoption of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)** on the planet **raise awareness and**



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	<p>benefits fauna and flora in 1973, as World Wildlife Day.</p> <p>Theme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This year's theme is, "Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation." <p>Did you Know?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The commemoration was proposed by Thailand
<p>International HPV Awareness Day</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International HPV Awareness Day is marked annually on March 4 It was developed in 2018 by the International Papillomavirus Society (IPVS) It aims to raise awareness about the human papillomavirus (HPV), its associated cancers, and the available preventive measures. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection globally. While most people clear the virus naturally, certain HPV strains can lead to several cancers, including cervical, anal, and head and neck cancers.

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