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National and International News

<p><b>Swachhata Pakhwada</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER)</b> has taken a significant <b>step towards promoting cleanliness and environmental sustainability</b> with the <b>launch of Swachhata Pakhwada</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Swachhata Pakhwada:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Initiative:</b> Swachhata Pakhwada is a <b>cleanliness campaign</b> initiated <b>by the Government of India</b>.</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> The campaign <b>aims to promote cleanliness and sanitation across the country</b>.</li> <li><b>Launch Year:</b> April <b>2016</b>.</li> <li><b>Duration:</b> The campaign <b>runs for a fortnight (14 days)</b> in different ministries and departments.</li> <li><b>Focus Areas:</b> Activities include <b>cleanliness drives, waste management, and spreading awareness about hygiene practices</b>.</li> <li><b>Involvement:</b> Various government departments, public sector undertakings (PSUs), and educational institutions actively participate in Swachhata Pakhwada.</li> <li><b>Monitoring:</b> Ministries and departments are required to upload action plans and achievements on the <b>Swachhata Pakhwada portal</b>.</li> <li><b>Themes:</b> Each ministry or department focuses on specific themes related to cleanliness and sanitation during their designated period.</li> <li><b>Impact:</b> The initiative aims to <b>instill a sense of responsibility towards cleanliness</b> and <b>contribute to the broader Swachh Bharat Abhiyan</b> (Clean India Mission).</li> </ul>
<p><b>PREFIRE Mission</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>NASA</b> is undertaking a <b>polar mission to enhance understanding of the Arctic and Antarctic regions</b>.</li> <li>The mission <b>aims to study how these regions are shedding heat upward into space</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>About PREFIRE Mission:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Polar Radiant Energy in the Far-InfraRed Experiment (PREFIRE) polar mission involves <b>twin satellites, each equipped with one instrument</b>.</li> <li>These <b>satellites measure the poles approximately six</b></li> </ul>



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	<p>hours apart.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The objective of the PREFIRE mission is to <b>reveal the full spectrum of heat loss from Earth’s polar regions for the first time</b>, which will help make climate models more accurate.</li> <li>• The aim of the PREFIRE mission is to <b>fill the gap in knowledge and provide data to improve predictions of climate change and sea level rise</b>.</li> <li>• The mission will <b>provide new information on how Earth’s atmosphere and ice influence the amount of heat being radiated out to space from the Arctic and Antarctic</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Digital Arrest</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There have been <b>increasing reports of “digital arrests” by cybercriminals</b>.</li> <li>• The <b>Central government has collaborated with Microsoft to tackle this issue</b>.</li> <li>• More than 1,000 Skype IDs have been blocked.</li> <li>• These IDs were used for online intimidation, blackmail, and extortion.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Digital Arrest:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cybercriminals</b> have employed a <b>new and innovative tactic to defraud victims and extort money</b>.</li> <li>• The <b>modus operandi involves fraudsters posing as law enforcement officials</b> such as police, Enforcement Directorate, CBI, etc.</li> <li>• They <b>manipulate victims into believing that they have committed some serious crime</b>.</li> <li>• In some cases, <b>victims are “digitally arrested” and forced to stay visible over Skype</b> or other video conferencing platforms until the criminals’ demands are met.</li> <li>• The <b>cybercriminals deceive the victim into believing that they are under ‘digital arrest’ and will be prosecuted if they do not pay a large sum of money</b>.</li> <li>• Often, the <b>cybercriminals trick the victims into self-arrest or self-quarantine</b>, making them believe that they are under ‘digital arrest’ and <b>cannot leave their house unless they pay up</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (LUPEX)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>India-Japan partnership</b> is planning a <b>joint moon mission called Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (LUPEX)</b>.</li> <li>• The primary objective of LUPEX is to <b>explore the lunar surface and search for subsurface water</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>About LUPEX:</b></p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Objective:</b> To explore the polar regions of the Moon, specifically <b>targeting the lunar poles.</b></li> <li>● <b>Mission Type:</b> Robotic exploration mission.</li> <li>● <b>Primary Goals:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Investigate the presence of water ice</b> and other volatiles in the lunar polar regions.</li> <li>○ <b>Study the topography, geology, and composition of the lunar poles.</b></li> <li>○ <b>Assess the suitability of these regions for future human exploration</b> and potential resource utilization.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>International Court of Justice (ICJ)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The United Nations' top court, the <b>International Court of Justice</b>, started <b>hearings on the Israeli military's incursion into Rafah.</b></li> <li>● The <b>hearings were initiated by</b> a request from <b>South Africa.</b></li> <li>● <b>South Africa alleges</b> that <b>Israel's military action</b> in its war with Hamas in Gaza <b>amounts to genocide.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>About ICJ:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Establishment:</b> The ICJ was <b>established in 1945</b> by the <b>Charter of the United Nations</b> and began its work in April 1946.</li> <li>● <b>Location:</b> It is <b>headquartered in the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands.</b></li> <li>● <b>Function:</b> The ICJ is the <b>principal judicial organ of the United Nations.</b> It <b>settles legal disputes between states</b> and <b>gives advisory opinions on international legal issues referred to it by the UN.</b></li> <li>● <b>Composition:</b> The court is <b>composed of 15 judges elected to nine-year terms</b> by the <b>United Nations General Assembly</b> and <b>Security Council. No two judges can be from the same country.</b></li> <li>● <b>Languages:</b> The official languages of the ICJ are <b>English and French.</b></li> <li>● <b>Jurisdiction:</b> The ICJ has jurisdiction in two types of cases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Contentious Cases:</b> Legal disputes between states submitted by them.</li> <li>○ <b>Advisory Opinions:</b> Legal questions referred to it by duly authorized international organs and agencies.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



Kerala Regional News

<p><b>Unnathi Startup City programme</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>second batch of the Unnathi Startup City programme is set to begin.</b></li> <li>• <b>Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) has invited expressions of interest from ST community entrepreneurs for the funding scheme under the Unnathi programme.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>About Unnathi Startup City programme:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Unnathi Startup City programme is a <b>joint initiative of the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development department.</b></li> <li>• The programme is <b>designed to promote innovators, entrepreneurs, and start-ups from Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities.</b></li> <li>• Unnathi, <b>works towards the betterment of the lesser privileged sections, focusing on the educational, professional, and entrepreneurial advancement of the SC/ST youth.</b></li> <li>• The <b>Unnathi Startup City is proposed to be developed in the capital to provide incubation facilities and support for entrepreneurial ventures</b> promoted by members of SC/ST communities in multiple sectors.</li> <li>• <b>Eligibility:</b> Individuals, groups and ST start-ups registered under the KSUM are eligible to apply for the loan-based funding programme, of which <b>80% of the amount will be sanctioned by the Scheduled Tribes Development department.</b></li> <li>• The <b>remaining 20% of the investment amount can be taken from the Kerala State Scheduled Tribes Corporation or bank.</b></li> <li>• The project will be implemented through the <b>Kerala Empowerment Society.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Kerala State Heat Action Plan, first published in 2020, is currently being revised and updated.</b></li> <li>• The <b>revision aims to make the plan more relevant, comprehensive, and inclusive.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The updated plan, referred to as the <b>Kerala State HAP 2.0.</b></li> <li>• The <b>Kerala State Disaster Management Authority</b></li> </ul>



	<p>(KSDMA), which drafted the original plan, is responsible for its revision.</p> <p><b>About KSDMA:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Established:</b> KSDMA was established under the <b>Disaster Management Act, 2005.</b></li> <li>• <b>Function:</b> The primary function of KSDMA is to <b>formulate disaster management policies, plans, and guidelines for the state of Kerala.</b></li> <li>• <b>Chairperson:</b> The <b>Chief Minister of Kerala</b> is the <b>ex-officio Chairperson</b> of KSDMA.</li> <li>• <b>Vice-Chairperson:</b> The Vice-Chairperson is the <b>Minister for Revenue and Disaster Management.</b></li> <li>• <b>Executive Committee:</b> The Authority has an Executive Committee <b>headed by the Chief Secretary of Kerala.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Operation Clean</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Ernakulam Rural police</b> have registered <b>145 cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act</b> in the past six months.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These cases were registered under the drive <b>Operation Clean</b>, a <b>strategic campaign aimed at identifying and neutralising major threats and players associated with organised crime.</b></li> <li>• The campaign prioritised <b>action against smuggling, peddling, and consumption of drugs.</b></li> <li>• The campaign was launched as a <b>continuation of ‘Yodhav,’ a project launched by the State Police in 2022</b> to eliminate the production, use, and trafficking of drugs in Kerala.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Vizhinjam port</b></p> 	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A seminar on <b>‘Port Development and Employment’</b> inaugurated.</li> <li>• This seminar was organised in connection with the <b>58th State conference of the Kerala Gazetted Officers’ Association (KGOA).</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Vizhinjam port</b>, once operational, will set the <b>stage for the development of various ports</b> across the State, including Kollam.</li> <li>• It was suggested that the <b>State should make extensive preparations for the opening of the port.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>About Vizhinjam International Seaport:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Vizhinjam International Seaport is a significant port development project in <b>Thiruvananthapuram,</b></li> </ul>



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	<p><b>Kerala.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is India's first deep-water container transshipment port.</li> <li>The port is designed to cater primarily to container transshipment, multi-purpose, and break bulk cargo.</li> <li>The port is being developed in a landlord model with a <b>Public Private Partnership</b> component on a <b>design, build, finance, operate, and transfer (DBFOT)</b> basis.</li> <li>The port is strategically located just <b>10 nautical miles from the busy international shipping route</b> connecting Europe, the Persian Gulf, and the Far East.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Kerala Anti-social Activities (Prevention) Act (KAAPA)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Kochi City police</b> have externed two habitual offenders under the <b>Kerala Anti-social Activities (Prevention) Act (KAAPA)</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>About KAAPA:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Purpose:</b> The Kerala Anti-social Activities (Prevention) Act (KAAPA) is <b>aimed at preventing and controlling anti-social activities</b> in the state of <b>Kerala</b>.</li> <li><b>Enactment Year:</b> KAAPA was enacted in the year <b>2007</b>.</li> <li><b>Scope:</b> The act targets <b>habitual offenders and individuals involved in anti-social activities</b>, including criminal activities that disrupt public order.</li> <li><b>Preventive Detention:</b> KAAPA allows for the preventive detention of individuals deemed to be involved in anti-social activities. This means <b>individuals can be detained without trial for a specified period to prevent them from committing further crimes</b>.</li> <li><b>Detention Period:</b> Initially, an individual can be detained for <b>up to 6 months</b>. This period can be <b>extended up to one year with the approval of the Advisory Board</b>.</li> <li><b>Advisory Board:</b> An Advisory Board, consisting of a <b>retired High Court judge and two other members</b>, reviews detention orders and decides on the necessity of extending the detention period.</li> </ul>

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