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National and International News

<p>Sri Vijaya Puram</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Port Blair, the capital of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, will now be known as 'Sri Vijaya Puram.' • This decision was announced by Union Minister Amit Shah on September 13, 2024. <p>History and Origin:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The city was originally named after Archibald Blair, a naval surveyor and lieutenant in the Bombay Marine. • After the Revolt of 1857, Port Blair became a notorious penal colony for prisoners. <p>Connection with Imperial Cholas and Srivijaya:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chola Naval Expeditions: Historical records indicate that the Andaman Islands were used as a naval base by the Chola Emperor Rajendra I during his 11th-century invasion of the Srivijaya Empire in present-day Indonesia. • Srivijaya Campaign: The Cholas referred to the Andamans as 'Ma-Nakkavaram,' which later evolved into the name Nicobar. The Chola invasion of Srivijaya is a significant event, reflecting India's influence over Southeast Asia. • Aftermath: Rajendra I captured the Srivijayan king and looted treasures, including the jewelled war gate, marking the peak of Chola expansionism in Southeast Asia.
<p>Saarthi App</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On September 11, 2024, the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) introduced the Saarthi reference app. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saarthi aims to assist businesses in creating custom buyer-side applications with multilingual support. • This app is co-developed in collaboration with Bhashini, a language technology initiative. <p>Multilingual Features of Saarthi:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported Languages: Initially, Saarthi offers support in five languages: Hindi, English, Marathi, Bangla, and Tamil. • Future Expansion: There are plans to expand Saarthi's language offerings to all 22 languages supported by Bhashini. <p>Key Features:</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Real-time translation. • Transliteration. • Voice recognition.
INDUS-X Summit	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The third edition of the INDUS-X Summit concluded in California, United States. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organized jointly by the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) and Stanford University, the summit aimed to advance a joint defence innovation ecosystem, showcasing the commitment of both countries to foster innovation and strategic partnerships in the defence sector. <p>Summit Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announcement of a new challenge under INDUS-X. • Release of the INDUS-X Impact Report. • Launch of the official INDUS-X webpage on iDEX and DIU websites.
Gulf of Mexico	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 42% of crude oil production in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico was shut-in due to Hurricane Francine. • Natural Gas Production: About 53% of natural gas output from the region was also suspended. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Gulf of Mexico is a partially landlocked ocean basin located at the southeastern corner of North America. • It is connected to the Atlantic Ocean by the Straits of Florida between the U.S. and Cuba, and to the Caribbean Sea via the Yucatán Channel between Mexico and Cuba. • The gulf measures approximately 1,100 miles from east to west and 800 miles from north to south, covering an area of about 600,000 square miles. <p>Economic Importance: The Gulf of Mexico is a vital economic resource for the surrounding regions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petroleum Production: One of the most important offshore petroleum production regions in the world, making up one-sixth of the United States' total production. • Fishing Industry: Supports major American, Mexican and Cuban fishing industries. • Tourism: Renowned for its seafood markets, recreational fishing, and beach destinations
Tardigrades	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researchers have analyzed the first-ever discovered tardigrade



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fossils, which were found encased in amber and are estimated to be around 72 to 83 million years old.

- High-resolution 3D imaging of the fossils revealed details about their evolutionary history and survival traits.
- This study, published in Communications Biology, explores how tardigrades evolved their ability to survive extreme conditions, potentially aiding their survival during mass extinction events.

About:

- Tardigrades, or water bears, are renowned for their ability to survive extreme conditions.
- They achieve this by entering a state of cryptobiosis, which allows them to endure severe dehydration, temperature fluctuations, and even the vacuum of space.
- Habitat: Found in diverse environments, including marine, freshwater, and terrestrial ecosystems, tardigrades thrive in moist habitats like mosses and lichens.

Cryptobiosis: This unique state allows tardigrades to effectively suspend their metabolism during unfavorable conditions. When rehydrated, they can return to an active state within hours

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