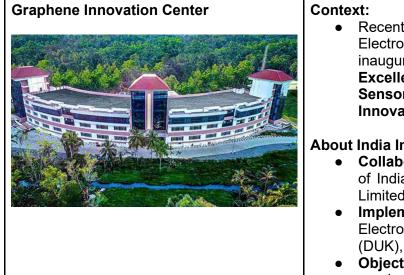




06 March 2024 National and International News



Recently, S Krishnan, Secretary of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), inaugurated two significant initiatives in Kerala: a Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Intelligent Internet of Things (IIoT) Sensors and India's first graphene center - the India Innovation Centre for Graphene (IICG).

About India Innovation Centre for Graphene (IICG):

- **Collaborative Initiative:** Funded by MeitY, the Government of India, the State Government of Kerala, and Tata Steel Limited, along with various industries.
- Implementing Partners: Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET), Digital University Kerala (DUK), and Tata Steel Limited.
- Objective: To explore the science and technology of graphene and other 2D materials, fostering partnerships between industry and academia for innovative research with practical applications.
- International Collaboration: Aims to attract leading international research on graphene to India and bridge the gap between scientific advancements and industrial applications.
- Facilities: Plans to establish facilities and acquire sophisticated equipment to support research aligned with industry needs.

Main Research Areas Include:

- Large-scale and large area single/few-layer graphene production in collaboration with Indian graphene industries.
- Nanoscale carbon and other 2D material composite technology.
- Research and development of graphene optoelectronic products such as graphene intelligent windows and touch screens.
- Development of graphene-based smart integrated devices on flexible/transparent substrates with energy storage capabilities.
- Exploration of graphene energy conversion devices like supercapacitors, fuel cells, and batteries.
- Advanced lithographic techniques for device fabrication.

Read about Graphene and its Properties





SC: No Immunity for MPs & MLAs Who Accept Bribe for Vote or Speech in the House	 Context: The Supreme Court overturned the 1998 PV Narasimha Rao judgment, which granted immunity to MPs and MLAs under Articles 105(2) and 194(2) of the Constitution for accepting bribes related to voting or speeches in the legislature.
	 Key points: Articles 105 and 194 of the Constitution grant powers and privileges to MPs and MLAs in the Parliament and legislative assemblies. These articles provide legal protection to lawmakers, ensuring their freedom of speech and protecting them from prosecution for their remarks or votes in the House.
	 1998 Judgment Overturned: The recent verdict overturns the 1998 judgment in the PV Narasimha Rao case. This case involved allegations that legislators of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha accepted bribes during a no-confidence motion in 1993. The Supreme Court, in a 3:2 majority ruling, had granted immunity to MPs and MLAs from prosecution in bribery cases if they fulfilled their end of the bargain. However, the recent decision nullifies this immunity.
	 Significance of the Verdict: This decision is crucial in combating cash-for-votes practices and preserving the integrity of electoral processes. Previously, MPs and MLAs could not be prosecuted for accepting bribes related to voting or speeches. Now, they can be prosecuted as soon as they accept a bribe, with no immunity provided by the House in such cases.





Vaccine Preventing Six Cancers	 Context: March 4: International HPV Awareness Day January: Cervical Cancer Awareness Month
	 Key points: Cervical cancer affects the cervix, the lower part of the uterus. HPV vaccination prevents cervical cancers. Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer among women globally. Over 300,000 women die from cervical cancer annually, about one every two minutes. Nine out of 10 women who die from cervical cancer live in lower- and middle-income countries. In India, cervical cancer is the second most common cancer after breast cancer. Around 500 million women above 15 in India are at risk of cervical cancer. Without action, cases and deaths from cervical cancer are expected to rise significantly by 2040. By 2040, India is estimated to have 191,347 new cases of cervical cancer, a 54% increase from 2020.
	 Cervical cancer is caused by certain types of papillomaviruses (HPV). Two major prevention strategies: HPV vaccination and screening for precancerous lesions.
	 WHO's Strategy by 2030: Targets: 90% of girls to be fully vaccinated with HPV vaccine by age 15. 70% of women screened for precancerous lesions by ages 35 and 45. 90% of women with detected pre-cancer or cancer lesions receive treatment. Emphasizes high-quality and equitable healthcare services.





International Centre for Audit of Local Governance (iCAL)	 Context: The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), Girish Chandra Murmu, has announced the establishment of the Supreme Audit Institution India's International Centre for Audit of Local Governance (iCAL) in Rajkot, Gujarat.
	 Significance: To enhance auditing of local governments, capacity building of auditors and local government employees is crucial to improve financial management practices and internal controls. Open communication with local government officials can facilitate the audit process, improve data accessibility, and foster cooperation in addressing audit findings. The establishment of iCAL aims to achieve these objectives. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG): The CAG is India's supreme audit institution, established in 1858 under Article 148 of the Constitution of India. It is known as the "Guardian of the Public Purse" and
	 operates independently. The duties and powers of the CAG are outlined in Article 149 and 150 of the Constitution.
	Appointment: The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India is appointed by the President of India.
	Removal: The CAG can only be removed by an address from both houses of parliament on the ground of proved misbehavior or incapacity.





Digital Intelligence Platform	Context: • Recently, Minister Chauhan launched the Department of Telecommunications (DoT)'s 'Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP)' and 'Chakshu facility on Sanchar Saathi portal.
	 About Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP): Developed by DoT, it's a secure platform for real-time intelligence sharing among stakeholders like Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), law enforcement agencies (LEAs), banks, social media platforms, etc. Contains information on detected misuse of telecom resources. Provides useful information to stakeholders. Acts as a repository for citizen-initiated requests on the Sanchar Saathi portal.
	 Chakshu - Citizen Centric Facility: Newest addition to Sanchar Saathi portal. Allows reporting of suspected fraud communications. Reports can include KYC expiry, updates to bank accounts/payment wallets/SIM cards/gas/electricity connections, sextortion, impersonation scams, disconnection of mobile numbers by DoT, etc. Victims of cyber-crime or financial fraud should report to the cyber-crime helpline 1930 or the Government of India's cybercrime website.

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