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31 October 2023

International & National News

Bangladesh is building a memorial to honour Indian heroes of the 1971 war



Context

- A memorial to honour the Indian soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the **Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971** at Ashuganj in Bangladesh is in the advanced stages of completion.
- It will have the names of around 1,600 Indian soldiers inscribed on it.

Key points

- This will be the first memorial in Bangladesh to exclusively honour Indian soldiers from **the 1971 war**.
- The foundation stone for the memorial at **Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria** was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in March 2021.

IITM Pune demonstrates cloud seeding can produce rainfall

Context

A cloud seeding experiment carried out in **Solapur city**, was able to achieve an 18% relative enhancement in rainfall, which is approximately **8.67mm more** rainfall than usual.

Key points

- Solapur city falls on the **leeward side of the Western Ghats** and hence gets low rainfall
- It had **384 mm and 422 mm of total rainfall** during the period June to September 2018 and 2019, respectively
- The relative enhancement of accumulated rainfall was seen over two hours after seeding the clouds.
- This was done with the help of the **Cloud Aerosol Interaction and Precipitation Enhancement Experiment (CAIPEEX phase-4)**
- **Calcium chloride flare** was used for seeding the clouds.

Salt Consumption in India

Context

A recent report, a part of the national non-communicable disease monitoring survey, states that Indian men consume **8.9 grams**, and Indian women take in **7.1 grams** of salt on a daily basis

Key points

- The World Health Organization recommends **5 grams of salt** in your diet every day.
- The world average is **10.8 grams**.
- High salt intake causes disease in the kidney, brain, vasculature, and immune system.
- High levels of sodium in the diet are also associated with conditions ranging from kidney stones to osteoporosis.
- It is estimated that excessive salt contribution contributes to around five million deaths worldwide every year.



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	<p>Did you know?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Yanomami people of the Amazon rainforest live a foraging lifestyle and eat a diet consisting of the root vegetable Cassava, plantains, fruit, fish and an occasional tapir. • They use peppers for flavour, and no salt. • They consume less than one gram of salt a day yet stay supremely fit.
<p>Inflation to remain high in 2024</p>	<p>Context High inflation will dog the world economy next year, with three-quarters of more than 200 economists polled by Reuters.</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest rates will also remain higher for longer. • The latest poll resulted in 2024 growth downgrades and inflation upgrades for a majority of the 48 economies surveyed.
<p>PM discusses the security situation in West Asia with Egypt's President</p>	<p>Context Prime Minister spoke to Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi to discuss the security and humanitarian situation in West Asia amid the Israel-Hamas conflict.</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The discussion indicates the importance that India attaches to the role of Egypt in ensuring humanitarian assistance to the Gaza Strip • On October 22 India sent humanitarian relief meant for Gaza to Egypt's El Arish airbase. • However, much of the relief material that various countries have been sending to Gaza remained stuck inside Egypt because of intense military activity by Israel as well as due to the shortage of fuel for the trucks inside Gaza. • India abstained at the UN General Assembly during a resolution calling for a ceasefire in the fighting.
<p>Vision India 2047 document</p>	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government is in the midst of finalizing a national vision plan to make India a developed nation by 2047 • It is to ensure that the country does not slip into a middle-income trap that several countries have fallen into at similar stages of development. <p>About Document</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vision document will outline the structural changes and reforms needed to reach the objective of becoming a 30-trillion-dollar developed economy by 2047. • It will include government process re-engineering, and reforms and cut down on duplication of work by different ministries and departments. • It is also expected to have details about the country's global engagement in trade, investment, technology, capital, research and development entities.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The document is also expected to outline which Indian companies would be global leaders and also the strategy for creating an ecosystem needed to achieve the goal. • It will also have details about creating human capital to achieve the vision, how to leverage the country's market size and how to address regional disparities. • The vision document will also detail the roadmap where India will be in 2030 and in 2047.
<p>Developed countries to overshoot carbon emissions goal, says study</p>	<p>Context The Delhi-based think tank Council for Energy Environment and Water (CEEW) published a study indicating that Developed countries — responsible for three-fourths of existing carbon emissions — will end up emitting 38% more carbon in 2030 than they have committed</p> <p>Key findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NDCs of developed countries already fall short of the global average reduction of emissions to 43% below 2019 levels that is needed to keep temperatures from rising above 1.5 degrees Celsius. • Instead, developed countries' collective NDCs only amount to a 36% cut. • Except for two countries — Belarus and Norway — none of the developed countries seem to be on the path to meet their 2030 targets, though Japan and Kazakhstan are close, and are expected to miss their targets by only a single percentage point.
<p>Studies provide insight into the internal structure of Mars</p>	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mars's liquid iron core is likely to be surrounded by a fully molten silicate layer, according to a pair of studies published in Nature. • These results offer a new interpretation of the interior of Mars, suggesting its core is smaller and denser than previously proposed. <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • InSight Mars Lander used SEIS(Seismic Experiment for Interior Structure) to record Mars's seismic waves. • SEIS data in 2021 suggested a large, low-density core on Mars. • The core has more lighter elements than expected. • Mars's core is surrounded by a 150 km-thick layer of molten rock. • The core's smaller radius implies higher density than earlier thought. • SEIS data challenged previous core density estimates.



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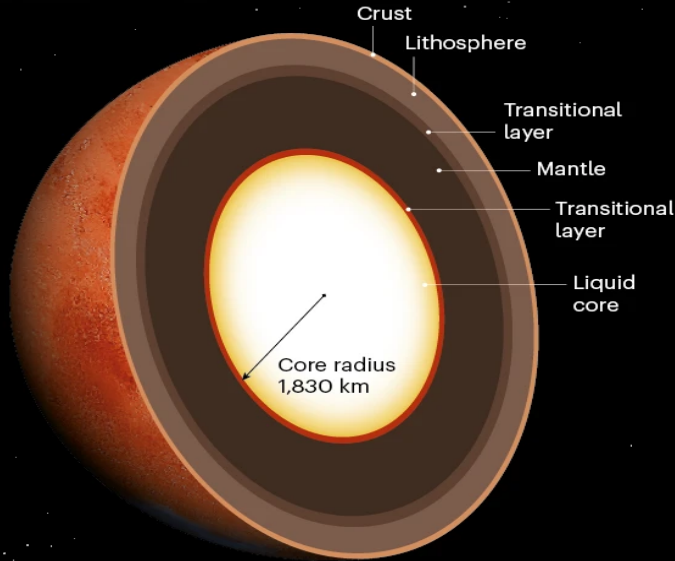


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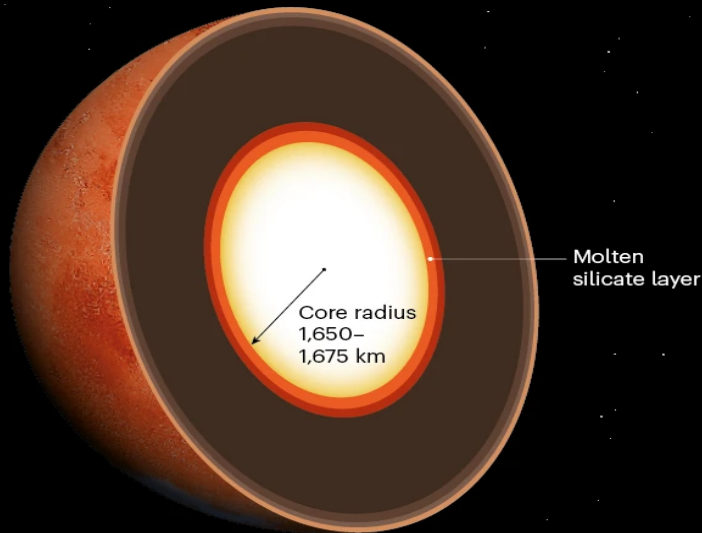
RETHINKING THE MARTIAN CORE

A new analysis suggests that Mars's core is smaller than once thought. After studying seismic activity on the red planet that was caused by a meteorite impact, researchers determined that the core is surrounded by a molten silicate layer that made it seem larger than it actually is.

Previous model



Revised model



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