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18 January 2024

National & International News

<p>India, U.K. sign two deals</p>	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India and the United Kingdom signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for a bilateral international cadet exchange programme and a Letter of Arrangement (LoA) on defence collaboration in research and development. The LoA on R&D was signed between the Defence Research and Development Organisation and the U.K.'s Defence Science and Technology Laboratory.
<p>Sisal leaves</p> 	<p>Context</p> <p>Scientists at Stanford University are researching the use of sisal leaves to create a highly absorbent material that could replace cotton, wood pulp, and chemical absorbents in sanitary napkins.</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The absorption capacity of the sisal-based material is reported to be higher than that in commercial menstrual pads. The method developed by the researchers involves using a decorticator to mechanically separate the fibres from sisal leaves and employing a process inspired by termite guts to delignify the fibres. The study claims that the process uses no polluting or toxic chemicals and can be conducted on a small scale, making it environmentally sustainable.
<p>Chhattisgarh govt. launches scheme for Ayodhya visit</p>	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chhattisgarh has approved its Ram Lala Darshan (Ayodhya Dham) Yojana. Under the scheme, 20,000 eligible residents of the State would be taken to the holy city for pilgrimage every year.
<p>ILO on Unemployment</p> 	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per the International Labour Organisation (ILO)'s 'World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2024' report Global unemployment rate is set to increase in 2024 while growing social inequalities remain a concern. Joblessness and the jobs gap have both fallen below pre-pandemic levels but global unemployment will rise in 2024.



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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

'Minorities' Right to Open Institutions

Context

The Supreme Court observed that the right given to religious and linguistic minorities to establish and administer their own educational institutions under **Article 30(1) of the Constitution** was not intended to "ghettoize" them.

Key points

- The minority character of an educational institution is not lost if its founders, who belong to a particular minority community, chose administrators from other communities, including the majority group, to run the institution
- **Article 30 does not mandate** that the administration of a minority educational institution should be only by members of that community
- The provision confers on the minority the discretion to choose the administrators of the institution.

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